ZZ ZX ZZ 10-Bit, 40MHz, Current/Voltage-Output DACs

General Description

The MAX5181 is a 10-bit, current-output digital-to-analog converter (DAC) designed for superior performance in signal reconstruction or arbitrary waveform generation applications requiring analog signal reconstruction with low distortion and low-power operation. The MAX5184 provides equal specifications, with on-chip precision resistors for voltage-output operation. The MAX5181/MAX5184 are designed for a 10pVs glitch operation to minimize unwanted spurious signal components at the output. An on-board 1.2V bandgap circuit provides a well-regulated, low-noise reference that can be disabled for external reference operation.

The devices are designed to provide a high level of signal integrity for the least amount of power dissipation. They operate from a single 2.7V to 3.3V supply. Additionally, these DACs have three modes of operation: normal, low-power standby, and full shutdown, which provides the lowest possible power dissipation with a 1µA (max) shutdown current. A fast wake-up time (0.5µs) from standby mode to full DAC operation facilitates power conservation by activating the DAC only when required.

The MAX5181/MAX5184 are available in 24-pin QSOP packages and are specified for the extended (-40°C to +85°C) temperature range. Additionally, the MAX5184 is also available in a 24-pin TQFN with exposed pad (EP) and is specified for the extended $(-40^{\circ}C \text{ to } +85^{\circ}C)$ temperature range. For lower resolution, 8-bit versions, refer to the MAX5187/MAX5190 data sheet.

> Applications Signal Reconstruction

Arbitrary Waveform Generators (AWGs) Direct Digital Synthesis Imaging Applications

Features

- ♦ **2.7V to 3.3V Single-Supply Operation**
- ♦ **Wide Spurious-Free Dynamic Range: 70dB at fOUT = 2.2MHz**
- ♦ **Fully Differential Output**
- ♦ **Low-Current Standby or Full Shutdown Modes**
- ♦ **Internal 1.2V, Low-Noise Bandgap Reference**
- ♦ **Small 24-Pin QSOP and Thin QFN Packages**

Ordering Information

*EP = Exposed pad.

+Denotes a lead(Pb)-free/RoHS-compliant package.

/V denotes an automotive qualified part.

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For pricing, delivery, and ordering information, please contact Maxim Direct at 1-888-629-4642, or visit Maxim's website at www.maxim-ic.com.

ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

Stresses beyond those listed under "Absolute Maximum Ratings" may cause permanent damage to the device. These are stress ratings only, and functional operation of the device at these or any other conditions beyond those indicated in the operational sections of the specifications is not implied. Exposure to absolute maximum rating conditions for extended periods may affect device reliability.

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

(AV_{DD} = DV_{DD} = 3V, V_{AGND} = V_{DGND} = 0V, f_{CLK} = 40MHz, I_{FS} = 1mA, 400 Ω differential output, C_L = 5pF, T_A = T_{MIN} to T_{MAX}, unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at $T_A = +25^{\circ}C$.)

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Note 1: Excludes reference and reference resistor (MAX5184) tolerance.

(AVDD = DVDD = 3V, VAGND = VDGND = 0V, IFS = 1mA, 400^Ω differential output, CL = 5pF, TA = +25°C, unless otherwise noted.)

Typical Operating Characteristics

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MAX5181/MAX5184

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Typical Operating Characteristics (continued)

(AVDD = DVDD = 3V, VAGND = VDGND = 0V, IFS = 1mA, 400^Ω differential output, CL = 5pF, TA = +25°C, unless otherwise noted.)

vs. OUTPUT FREQUENCY

SPURIOUS-FREE DYNAMIC RANGE vs. FULL-SCALE OUTPUT CURRENT

Pin Description

Detailed Description

The MAX5181/MAX5184 are 10-bit digital-to-analog converters (DACs) capable of operating with clock speeds up to 40MHz. Each converter consists of separate input and DAC registers, followed by a current source array capable of generating up to 1.5mA full-scale output current (Figure 1). An integrated 1.2V voltage reference and control amplifier determine the data converters' full-scale output currents/voltages. Careful reference design ensures close gain matching and excellent drift characteristics. The MAX5184's voltage output operation features matched 400Ω on-chip resistors that convert the current-array current into a voltage.

Internal Reference and Control Amplifier

The MAX5181/MAX5184 provide an integrated 50ppm/°C, 1.2V, low-noise bandgap reference that can be disabled and overridden by an external reference voltage. REFO serves either as an external reference input or an integrated reference output. If REN is connected to DGND, the internal reference is selected and REFO

provides a 1.2V output. Due to its limited 10µA output drive capability, REFO must be buffered with an external amplifier, if heavier loading is required.

The MAX5181/MAX5184 also employ a control amplifier designed to regulate simultaneously the full-scale output current (IFS) for both outputs of the devices. The output current is calculated as follows:

$IFS = 8 \times IREF$

where I_{REF} is the reference output current (I_{REF} = VREFO/RSET) and IFS is the full-scale output current. RSET is the reference resistor that determines the amplifier's output current on the MAX5181 (Figure 2). This current is mirrored into the current source array, where it is equally distributed between matched current segments and summed to valid output current readings for the DACs.

The MAX5184 converts this output current into a differential output voltage (VOUT) with two internal, groundreferenced 400Ω load resistors. Using the internal 1.2V reference voltage, the MAX5184's integrated

Figure 1. Functional Diagram

reference output-current resistor (RSET = 9.6kΩ) sets IREF to 125µA and IFS to 1mA.

External Reference

To disable the MAX5181/MAX5184's internal reference, connect REN to DV_{DD}. A temperature-stable, external reference may now be applied to drive the REFO pin to set the full-scale output (Figure 3). Choose a reference capable of supplying at least 150µA to drive the bias circuit that generates the cascode current for the current array. For improved accuracy and drift performance, choose a fixed output voltage reference such as the 1.2V, 25ppm/°C MAX6520 bandgap reference.

Standby Mode

To enter the lower-power standby mode, connect digital inputs PD and DACEN to DGND. In standby, both the reference and the control amplifier are active with the current array inactive. To exit this condition, DACEN must be pulled high with PD held at DGND. The MAX5181/MAX5184 typically require 50 µs to wake up and let both outputs and the reference settle.

Shutdown Mode

For lowest power consumption, the MAX5181/MAX5184 provide a power-down mode in which the reference, control amplifier, and current array are inactive and the DAC

supply current is reduced to 1µA. To enter this mode, connect PD to DV_{DD}. To return to active mode, connect PD to DGND and DACEN to DV_{DD}. About 50us are required for the parts to leave shutdown mode and settle to their outputs' values prior to shutdown. Table 1 lists the power-down mode selection.

Timing Information

Figure 4 shows a detailed timing diagram for the MAX5181/MAX5184. With each high transition of the clock, the input latch is loaded with the digital value set by bits D9 through D0. The content of the input latch is then shifted to the DAC register, and the output updates at the rising edge of the next clock.

Outputs

The MAX5181 output is designed to supply full-scale output currents of 1mA into 400 $Ω$ loads in parallel with a capacitive load of 5pF. The MAX5184 features integrated 400Ω resistors that restore the array current to proportional, differential voltages of 400mV. These differential output voltages can then be used to drive a balun transformer or a low-distortion, high-speed operational amplifier to convert the differential voltage into a single-ended voltage.

Figure 2. Setting I_{FS} with the Internal 1.2V Reference and the Control Amplifier

Table 1. Power-Down Mode Selection

 $X = Don't care.$

Figure 3. MAX5181/MAX5184 with External Reference

Applications Information

Static and Dynamic Performance Definitions

Integral Nonlinearity

Integral nonlinearity (INL) (Figure 5a) is the deviation of the values on an actual transfer function from either a best-straight-line fit (closest approximation to the actual transfer curve) or a line drawn between the endpoints of the transfer function once offset and gain errors have been nullified. For a DAC, the deviations are measured every single step.

Differential Nonlinearity

Differential nonlinearity (DNL) (Figure 5b) is the difference between an actual step height and the ideal value of 1LSB. A DNL error specification of less than 1LSB guarantees no missing codes and a monotonic transfer function.

Figure 4. Timing Diagram

Offset Error

Offset error (Figure 5c) is the difference between the ideal and the actual offset point. For a DAC, the offset point is the step value when the digital input is zero. This error affects all codes by the same amount and can usually be compensated by trimming.

Gain Error

Gain error (Figure 5d) is the difference between the ideal and the actual full-scale output voltage on the transfer curve, after nullifying the offset error. This error alters the slope of the transfer function and corresponds to the same percentage error in each step.

Settling Time

Settling time is the amount of time required from the start of a transition until the DAC output settles its new output value to within the converter's specified accuracy.

Digital Feedthrough

Digital feedthrough is the noise generated on a DAC's output when any digital input transitions. Proper board layout and grounding will significantly reduce this noise, but there will always be some feedthrough caused by the DAC itself.

Total Harmonic Distortion

Total harmonic distortion (THD) is the ratio of the RMS sum of the input signal's first four harmonics to the fundamental itself. This is expressed as:

$$
\text{THD} = 20 \times \log \left(\frac{\sqrt{(V_2^2 + V_3^2 + V_4^2 + V_5^2)}}{V_1} \right)
$$

where V_1 is the fundamental amplitude, and V_2 through V5 are the amplitudes of the 2nd- through 5th-order harmonics.

Spurious-Free Dynamic Range

Spurious-free dynamic range (SFDR) is the ratio of RMS amplitude of the fundamental (maximum signal component) to the RMS value of the next-largest distortion component.

Differential to Single-Ended Conversion

The MAX4108 low-distortion, high-input bandwidth amplifier may be used to generate a voltage from the array current output of the MAX5181. The differential voltage across OUTP and OUTN is converted into a single-ended voltage by designing an appropriate operational amplifier configuration (Figure 6).

I/Q Reconstruction in a QAM Application

The low-distortion performance of two MAX5181/ MAX5184s supports analog reconstruction of in-phase (I) and quadrature (Q) carrier components typically used in quadrature amplitude modulation (QAM) architectures where two separate buses carry the I and Q data. A QAM signal is both amplitude (AM) and phase modulated, created by summing two independently modulated carriers of identical frequency but different phase (90° phase difference).

In a typical QAM application (Figure 7), the modulation occurs in the digital domain, and two DACs such as the MAX5181/MAX5184 may be used to reconstruct the analog I and Q components.

The I/Q reconstruction system is completed by a quadrature modulator that combines the reconstructed components with in-phase and quadrature carrier frequencies and then sums both outputs to provide the QAM signal.

Using the MAX5181/MAX5184 for Arbitrary Waveform Generation

Designing a traditional arbitrary waveform generator (AWG) requires five major functional blocks (Figure 8a): clock generator, counter, waveform memory, DAC for waveform reconstruction, and output filter. The waveform memory contains the sequentially stored digital replica of the desired analog waveforms. This memory shares a common clock with the DAC.

Figure 5a. Integral Nonlinearity Figure 5b. Differential Nonlinearity

Figure 5c. Offset Error Figure 5d. Gain Error

For each clock cycle, a counter adds one count to the address for the waveform memory. The memory then loads the next value to the DAC, which generates an analog output voltage corresponding to that data value. A DAC output filter can either be a simple or complex lowpass filter, depending on the AWG requirements for waveform function and frequencies. The main limitations of the AWG's flexibility are DAC resolution and dynamic performance, memory length, clock frequency, and the filter characteristics.

Although the MAX5181/MAX5184 offer high-frequency operation and excellent dynamics, they are suitable for relaxed requirements in resolution (10-bit AWGs). To increase an AWG's high-frequency accuracy, tempera-

Figure 6. Differential to Single-Ended Conversion Using a Low-Distortion Amplifier

Figure 7. Using the MAX5181/MAX5184 for I/Q Signal Reconstruction

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MAX5181/MAX5184

MAX5181/MAX5184

Figure 8b. Direct Digital Synthesis AWG

ture stability, wide-band tuning, and past phase-continuos frequency switching, the user may approach a direct digital synthesis (DDS) AWG (Figure 8b). This DDS loop supports standard waveforms that are repetitive, such as sine, square, TTL, and triangular waveforms. DDS allows for precise control of the data-stream input to the DAC. Data for one complete output waveform cycle is sequentially stored in a RAM. As the RAM addresses are changing, the DAC converts the incoming data bits into a corresponding voltage waveform. The resulting output signal frequency is proportional to the frequency rate at which the RAM addresses are changed.

Grounding and Power-Supply Decoupling

Grounding and power-supply decoupling strongly influence the MAX5181/MAX5184's performance. Unwanted digital crosstalk may couple through the input, reference, power-supply, and ground connections, which may affect dynamic specifications like SNR or SFDR. In addition, electromagnetic interference (EMI) can either couple into or be generated by the MAX5181/ MAX5184. Therefore, grounding and power-supply decoupling guidelines for high-speed, high-frequency applications should be closely followed.

First, a multilayer PC board with separate ground and power-supply planes is recommended. High-speed signals should be run on controlled impedance lines

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directly above the ground plane. Since the MAX5181/ MAX5184 have separate analog and digital ground buses (AGND and DGND, respectively), the PC board should also have separate analog and digital ground sections with only one point connecting the two. Digital signals should run above the digital ground plane, and analog signals should run above the analog ground plane.

Both devices have two power-supply inputs: analog V_{DD} (AV_{DD}) and digital V_{DD} (DV_{DD}). Each AV_{DD} input should be decoupled with parallel 10µF and 0.1µF ceramic-chip capacitors. These capacitors should be as close to the pin as possible, and their opposite ends should be as close as possible to the ground plane. The DV_{DD} pins should also have separate 10µF and 0.1µF capacitors adjacent to their respective pins. Try to minimize analog load capacitance for proper operation. For best performance, bypass with low-ESR 0.1µF capacitors to AV_{DD}.

The power-supply voltages should also be decoupled with large tantalum or electrolytic capacitors at the point they enter the PC board. Ferrite beads with additional decoupling capacitors forming a pi network can also improve performance.

Pin Configurations (continued) Chip Information

SUBSTRATE CONNECTED TO AGND

Package Information

For the latest package outline information and land patterns, go to **www.maxim-ic.com/packages**. Note that a "+", "#", or "-" in the package code indicates RoHS status only. Package drawings may show a different suffix character, but the drawing pertains to the package regardless of RoHS status.

Revision History

Maxim cannot assume responsibility for use of any circuitry other than circuitry entirely embodied in a Maxim product. No circuit patent licenses are implied. Maxim reserves the right to change the circuitry and specifications without notice at any time.

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