# RENESAS

# DATASHEET

## ISL62771

## Multiphase PWM Regulator for AMD Fusion™ Mobile CPUs Using SVI 2.0

FN8321 Rev 4.00 November 18, 2015

The **ISL62771** is fully compliant with AMD Fusion SVI 2.0 and provides a complete solution for microprocessor and graphics processor core power. The ISL62771 controller supports two Voltage Regulators (VRs) with three integrated gate drivers. The Core VR supports 2-, or 1-phase configurations while the Northbridge VR supports 1-phase operation. The two VRs share a serial control bus to communicate with the AMD CPU and achieve lower cost and smaller board area compared with two-chip solutions.

The PWM modulator is based on Intersil's Robust Ripple Regulator R3™ Technology. Compared to traditional modulators, the R3 modulator can automatically change switching frequency for faster transient settling time during load transients and improved light-load efficiency.

The ISL62771 has several other key features. Both outputs support DCR current sensing with single NTC thermistor for DCR temperature compensation or accurate resistor current sensing. Both outputs utilize remote voltage sense, adjustable switching frequency, OC protection and power-good.

## Applications

- AMD fusion CPU/GPU and APU core power
- Notebook computers

## Related Literature

• **[TB497](http://www.intersil.com/content/dam/Intersil/documents/tb49/tb497.pdf)**, "Disabling the North Bridge Regulator on the ISL62771"

## <span id="page-0-0"></span>Features

- Supports AMD SVI 2.0 serial data bus interface
	- Serial VID clock frequency range 100kHz to 25MHz
- Dual output controller with integrated drivers
- Precision voltage regulation
	- 0.5% system accuracy over-temperature
	- 0.5V to 1.55V in 6.25mV steps
	- Enhanced load line accuracy
- Supports multiple current sensing methods
	- Lossless inductor DCR current sensing
	- Precision resistor current sensing
- Programmable 1- or 2-phase for the core output
- Adaptive body diode conduction time reduction
- Superior noise immunity and transient response
- Output current and voltage telemetry
- Differential remote voltage sensing
- High efficiency across entire load range
- Programmable VID offset and droop on both outputs
- Programmable switching frequency for both outputs
- Excellent dynamic current balance between phases
- Protection: OCP/WOC, OVP, PGOOD and thermal monitor
- Small footprint 40 Ld 5x5 TQFN package
	- Pb-free (RoHS compliant)

## Core Performance







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<span id="page-2-0"></span>Simplified Application Circuit for Mid-Power CPUs

FIGURE 3. TYPICAL APPLICATION CIRCUIT USING DCR SENSING

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## <span id="page-3-0"></span>Simplified Application Circuit for Low Power CPUs [1+1 Configuration]



<span id="page-3-1"></span>



## <span id="page-4-0"></span>Simplified Application Circuit for Low Power CPUs [1+1 Configuration]



<span id="page-4-1"></span>

## <span id="page-5-0"></span>Block Diagram



FIGURE 6. BLOCK DIAGRAM



## <span id="page-6-0"></span>Pin Configuration



## <span id="page-6-1"></span>Pin Descriptions



November 18, 2015



## Pin Descriptions (Continued)





<span id="page-8-4"></span>

## Pin Descriptions (Continued)

## <span id="page-8-0"></span>Ordering Information



NOTES:

<span id="page-8-1"></span>1. Add "-T" suffix for tape and reel. Please refer to **TB347** for details on reel specifications.

<span id="page-8-3"></span>2. These Intersil Pb-free plastic packaged products employ special Pb-free material sets, molding compounds/die attach materials and 100% matte tin plate plus anneal (e3 termination finish, which is RoHS compliant and compatible with both SnPb and Pb-free soldering operations). Intersil Pb-free products are MSL classified at Pb-free peak reflow temperatures that meet or exceed the Pb-free requirements of IPC/JEDEC J STD-020.

<span id="page-8-2"></span>3. For Moisture Sensitivity Level (MSL), please see device information page for **ISL62771**. For more information on MSL please see tech brief [TB363](http://www.intersil.com/content/dam/Intersil/documents/tb36/tb363.pdf).



### <span id="page-9-0"></span>Absolute Maximum Ratings Thermal Information



<span id="page-9-1"></span>

### <span id="page-9-2"></span>Recommended Operating Conditions



*CAUTION: Do not operate at or near the maximum ratings listed for extended periods of time. Exposure to such conditions may adversely impact product reliability and result in failures not covered by warranty.*

#### NOTES:

- <span id="page-9-4"></span>4.  $\theta_{JA}$  is measured in free air with the component mounted on a high effective thermal conductivity test board with "direct attach" features. See Tech Brief [TB379](http://www.intersil.com/content/dam/Intersil/documents/tb37/tb379.pdf).
- <span id="page-9-5"></span>5. For  $\theta_{\text{JC}}$ , the "case temp" location is the center of the exposed metal pad on the package underside.

<span id="page-9-3"></span>**Electrical Specifications** Operating Conditions:  $V_{DD}$  = 5V,  $T_A$  = -40°C to +100°C,  $f_{SW}$  = 300kHz, unless otherwise noted. Boldface limits apply across the operating temperature range, -40°C to +100°C.

<span id="page-9-6"></span>



**Electrical Specifications** Operating Conditions:  $V_{DD}$  = 5V,  $T_A$  = -40 °C to +100 °C,  $f_{SW}$  = 300kHz, unless otherwise noted. Boldface limits apply across the operating temperature range, -40°C to +100°C. (Continued)



<span id="page-10-0"></span>

**Electrical Specifications** Operating Conditions:  $V_{DD}$  = 5V,  $T_A$  = -40 °C to +100 °C,  $f_{SW}$  = 300kHz, unless otherwise noted. Boldface limits apply across the operating temperature range, -40°C to +100°C. (Continued)



NOTE:

<span id="page-11-1"></span>6. Compliance to datasheet limits is assured by one or more methods: production test, characterization and/or design.

## <span id="page-11-0"></span>Gate Driver Timing Diagram



FIGURE 7. GATE DRIVER TIMING DIAGRAM



## <span id="page-12-0"></span>Theory of Operation

## <span id="page-12-1"></span>Multiphase R3™ Modulator

The ISL62771 is a multiphase regulator implementing two voltage regulators, CORE VR and Northbridge (NB) VR, on one chip controlled by AMD's SVI2 protocol. The CORE VR can be programmed for 1- or 2-phase operation. The Northbridge VR only supports 1-phase operation. Both regulators use the Intersil patented R3™ (Robust Ripple Regulator) modulator. The R3™ modulator combines the best features of fixed frequency PWM and hysteretic PWM while eliminating many of their shortcomings. [Figure 8](#page-12-2) conceptually shows the multiphase R3™ modulator circuit and **Figure 9** shows the operation principles.



#### FIGURE 8. R3™ MODULATOR CIRCUIT

<span id="page-12-2"></span>Inside the IC, the modulator uses the master clock circuit to generate the clocks for the slave circuits. The modulator discharges the ripple capacitor  $C_{rm rm}$  with a current source equal to  $g_{m}V_{o}$ , where  $g_{m}$  is a gain factor.  $C_{rm}$  voltage  $V_{CRM}$  is a sawtooth waveform traversing between the VW and COMP voltages. It resets to VW when it hits COMP and generates a one-shot master clock signal. A phase sequencer distributes the master clock signal to the slave circuits. In this example, the CORE VR is in 3-phase mode, the master clock signal is distributed to the three phases and the Clock 1~3 signals will be 120° out-of-phase. If the Core VR is in 2-phase mode, the master clock signal is distributed to Phases 1 and 2 and the Clock1 and Clock2 signals will be 180° out-of-phase. If the Core VR is in 1-phase mode, the master clock signal will be distributed to Phase 1 only and be the Clock1 signal.



#### <span id="page-12-3"></span>FIGURE 9. R3™ MODULATOR OPERATION PRINCIPLES IN STEADY STATE

Each slave circuit has its own ripple capacitor  $C_{rs}$ , whose voltage mimics the inductor ripple current. A  $g_m$  amplifier converts the inductor voltage into a current source to charge and discharge  $C_{rs}$ . The slave circuit turns on its PWM pulse upon receiving the clock signal and the current source charges C<sub>rs</sub>. When C<sub>rs</sub> voltage  $V_{Crs}$  hits VW, the slave circuit turns off the PWM pulse and the current source discharges C<sub>rs</sub>.

Since the controller works with  $V_{\text{crs}}$ , which are large amplitude and noise-free synthesized signals, it achieves lower phase jitter than conventional hysteretic mode and fixed PWM mode controllers. Unlike conventional hysteretic mode converters, the error amplifier allows the ISL62771 to maintain a 0.5% output voltage accuracy.

[Figure 10](#page-13-3) shows the operation principles during load insertion response. The COMP voltage rises during load insertion, generating the master clock signal more quickly, so the PWM pulses turn on earlier, increasing the effective switching frequency. This allows for higher control loop bandwidth than conventional fixed frequency PWM controllers. The VW voltage rises as the COMP voltage rises, making the PWM pulses wider. During load release response, the COMP voltage falls. It takes the master clock circuit longer to generate the next master clock signal so the PWM pulse is held off until needed. The VW voltage falls as the COMP voltage falls, reducing the current PWM pulse width. This kind of behavior gives the ISL62771 excellent response speed.

The fact that all the phases share the same VW window voltage, also ensures excellent dynamic current balance among phases.





<span id="page-13-3"></span>FIGURE 10. R3™ MODULATOR OPERATION PRINCIPLES IN LOAD INSERTION RESPONSE

## <span id="page-13-0"></span>Diode Emulation and Period Stretching

The ISL62771 can operate in Diode Emulation (DE) mode to improve light-load efficiency. In DE mode, the low-side MOSFET conducts when the current is flowing from source-to-drain and does not allow reverse current, thus emulating a diode. [Figure 11](#page-13-4) shows that when LGATE is on, the low-side MOSFET carries current, creating negative voltage on the phase node due to the voltage drop across the ON-resistance. The ISL62771 monitors the current by monitoring the phase node voltage. It turns off LGATE when the phase node voltage reaches zero to prevent the inductor current from reversing the direction and creating unnecessary power loss.



FIGURE 11. DIODE EMULATION

<span id="page-13-4"></span>If the load current is light enough (see  $Figure 11$ ), the inductor current reaches and stays at zero before the next phase node pulse and the regulator is in Discontinuous Conduction Mode (DCM). If the load current is heavy enough, the inductor current will never reach 0A and the regulator is in CCM, although the controller is in DE mode.

[Figure 12](#page-13-5) shows the operation principle in diode emulation mode at light load. The load gets incrementally lighter in the three cases from top to bottom. The PWM on-time is determined by the VW window size and therefore is the same, making the inductor current triangle the same in the three cases. The ISL62771 clamps the ripple capacitor voltage  $V_{CRS}$  in DE mode to make it mimic the inductor current. It takes the COMP voltage longer to hit V<sub>CRS</sub>, naturally stretching the switching period. The inductor current triangles move farther apart such that the inductor current average value is equal to the load current. The reduced switching frequency helps increase light-load efficiency.



FIGURE 12. PERIOD STRETCHING

## <span id="page-13-5"></span><span id="page-13-1"></span>Channel Configuration

Individual PWM channels of the Core VR can be disabled by connecting the ISENx pin of the channel not required to +5V. For example, placing the controller in a 1+1 configuration as shown in [Figure 3 on page 3](#page-2-1) requires ISEN2 of the Core VR to be tied to +5V. This disables Channel 2 of the Core VR. ISEN1 must be tied through a 10kΩ resistor to GND to prevent this pin from pulling high and disabling the channel. Connecting ISEN1 to +5V will disable the Core VR output.

## <span id="page-13-2"></span>Power-On Reset

Before the controller has sufficient bias to guarantee proper operation, the ISL62771 requires a +5V input supply tied to VDD and VDDP to exceed the VDD rising Power-On Reset (POR) threshold. Once this threshold is reached or exceeded, the ISL62771 has enough bias to check the state of the SVI inputs once ENABLE is taken high. Hysteresis between the rising and the falling thresholds assure the ISL62771 does not inadvertently turn off unless the bias voltage drops substantially (see "Electrical Specifications" on [page 10](#page-9-6)). Note that VIN must be present for the controller to drive the output voltage.





**Interval 1 to 2: ISL62771 waits to POR.**

**Interval 2 to 3: SVC and SVD are externally set to pre-Metal VID code.**

**Interval 3 to 4: ENABLE locks pre-Metal VID code. Both outputs soft-start to this level.**

**Interval 4 to 5: PGOOD signal goes HIGH, indicating proper operation.**

**Interval 5 to 6: PGOOD and PGOOD\_NB high is detected and PWROK is taken high. The ISL62771 is prepared for SVI commands.**

**Interval 6 to 7: SVC and SVD data lines communicate change in VID code.**

**Interval 7 to 8: ISL62771 responds to VID-ON-THE-FLY code change and issues a VOTF for positive VID changes.**

**Post 8: Telemetry is clocked out of the ISL62771.**

FIGURE 13. SVI INTERFACE TIMING DIAGRAM: TYPICAL PRE-PWROK METAL VID START-UP

## <span id="page-14-4"></span><span id="page-14-0"></span>Start-Up Timing

With the controller's VDD POR threshold exceeded and  $V_{IN}$  voltage present, the start-up sequence begins when ENABLE exceeds the logic high threshold. [Figure 14](#page-14-2) shows the typical start-up timing of Core and Northbridge VRs. The ISL62771 uses a digital soft-start to ramp up the DAC to the voltage programmed by the Metal VID. PGOOD is asserted high at the end of the ramp-up. Similar results occur if ENABLE is tied to VDD, with the soft-start sequence starting 8ms after VDD crosses the POR threshold.

<span id="page-14-1"></span>

After the soft-start sequence, the ISL62771 regulates the output voltages to the pre-PWROK metal VID programmed, see [Table 5](#page-18-4)  [on page 19.](#page-18-4) The ISL62771 controls the no load output voltage to an accuracy of ±0.5% over the range of 0.75V to 1.55V. A differential amplifier allows voltage sensing for precise voltage regulation at the microprocessor die.



<span id="page-14-2"></span>FIGURE 14. TYPICAL SOFT-START WAVEFORMS



<span id="page-14-3"></span>FIGURE 15. DIFFERENTIAL SENSING AND LOAD LINE IMPLEMENTATION



As the load current increases from zero, the output voltage droops from the VID programmed value by an amount proportional to the load current, to achieve the load line.

The ISL62771 can sense the inductor current through the intrinsic DC Resistance (DCR) of the inductors, as shown in [Figures 3](#page-2-1) and [5,](#page-4-1) or through resistors in series with the inductors as shown in **[Figure 4](#page-3-1)**. In both methods, capacitor  $C_n$  voltage represents the total inductor current. An amplifier converts  $C_n$ voltage into an internal current source with the gain set by resistor R<sub>i</sub>, see <u>Equation 1</u>. This ISUM current is used for load line implementation, current monitoring on the IMON pins and overcurrent protection.

$$
I_{\text{sum}} = \frac{V_{\text{Cn}}}{R_i}
$$
 (EQ. 1)

[Figure 15](#page-14-3) shows the load line implementation. The ISL62771 drives a current source ( $I<sub>drop</sub>$ ) out of the FB pin, as described by [Equation 2.](#page-15-2)

$$
I_{\text{drop}} = \frac{5}{4} \times I_{\text{sum}} = \frac{5}{4} \times \frac{V_{\text{Cn}}}{R_i}
$$
 (EQ. 2)

When using inductor DCR current sensing, a single NTC element is used to compensate the positive temperature coefficient of the copper winding, thus sustaining the load line accuracy with reduced cost.

 $I<sub>droom</sub>$  flows through resistor  $R<sub>droom</sub>$  and creates a voltage drop as shown in **Equation 3**.

$$
V_{\text{drop}} = R_{\text{drop}} \times I_{\text{drop}}
$$
 (EQ. 3)

V<sub>droop</sub> is the droop voltage required to implement load line. Changing  $R_{drop}$  or scaling  $I_{drop}$  can change the load line slope. Since I<sub>sum</sub> sets the overcurrent protection level, it is recommended to first scale I<sub>sum</sub> based on OCP requirement, then select an appropriate  $R_{\text{droop}}$  value to obtain the desired load line slope.

### <span id="page-15-0"></span>Differential Sensing

[Figure 15](#page-14-3) also shows the differential voltage sensing scheme. VCC<sub>SENSE</sub> and VSS<sub>SENSE</sub> are the remote voltage sensing signals from the processor die. A unity gain differential amplifier senses the VSS<sub>SENSE</sub> voltage and adds it to the DAC output. The error amplifier regulates the inverting and noninverting input voltages to be equal as shown in **Equation 4:** 

$$
\text{VCC}_{\text{SENSE}} + \text{V}_{\text{drop}} = \text{V}_{\text{DAC}} + \text{VSS}_{\text{SENSE}} \tag{EQ. 4}
$$

Rewriting **[Equation 4](#page-15-4)** and substituting **Equation 3** gives **[Equation 5.](#page-15-5)** The exact equation required for load line implementation.

$$
\text{VCC}_{\text{SENSE}} - \text{VSS}_{\text{SENSE}} = \text{V}_{\text{DAC}} - \text{R}_{\text{drop}} \times \text{I}_{\text{drop}}
$$
 (EQ.5)

The VCC<sub>SENSE</sub> and VSS<sub>SENSE</sub> signals come from the processor die. The feedback is an open circuit in the absence of the processor. As [Figure 15](#page-14-3) shows, it is recommended to add a "catch" resistor to feed the VR local output voltage back to the compensator and to add another "catch" resistor to connect the VR local output ground

to the RTN pin. These resistors, typically 10Ω~100Ω, provide voltage feedback if the system is powered up without a processor installed.

### <span id="page-15-1"></span>Phase Current Balancing



<span id="page-15-7"></span>FIGURE 16. CURRENT BALANCING CIRCUIT

<span id="page-15-9"></span><span id="page-15-6"></span><span id="page-15-2"></span>The ISL62771 monitors individual phase average current by monitoring the ISEN1 and ISEN2 voltages. [Figure 16](#page-15-6) shows the recommended current balancing circuit for DCR sensing. Each phase node voltage is averaged by a low-pass filter consisting of R<sub>isen</sub> and C<sub>isen</sub> and is presented to the corresponding ISEN pin. R<sub>isen</sub> should be routed to the inductor phase-node pad in order to eliminate the effect of phase node parasitic PCB DCR. [Equations 6](#page-15-7) and [7](#page-15-8) give the ISEN pin voltages:

$$
V_{\text{ISBN1}} = (R_{\text{dcr1}} + R_{\text{pcb1}}) \times I_{\text{L1}}
$$
\n(EQ. 6)

<span id="page-15-8"></span><span id="page-15-3"></span>
$$
V_{\text{ISEN2}} = (R_{\text{dcr2}} + R_{\text{pcb2}}) \times I_{\text{L2}} \tag{EQ.7}
$$

Where  $R_{\text{dcr1}}$  and  $R_{\text{dcr2}}$  are inductor DCR;  $R_{\text{ncb1}}$  and  $R_{\text{ncb2}}$  are parasitic PCB DCR between the inductor output side pad and the output voltage rail; and  $I_{L1}$  and  $I_{L2}$  are inductor average currents.

The ISL62771 adjusts the phase pulse-width relative to the other phases to make  $V_{\text{ISEN1}} = V_{\text{ISEN2}}$ , thus to achieve  $I_{\text{L1}} = I_{\text{L2}}$ , when  $R_{\text{dcr1}} = R_{\text{dcr2}}$  and  $R_{\text{pcb1}} = R_{\text{pcb2}}$ .

Using the same components for L1 and L2 provides a good match of  $R_{dcr1}$  and  $R_{dcr2}$ . Board layout determines  $R_{pcb1}$  and  $R_{\text{ncb2}}$ . It is recommended to have a symmetrical layout for the power delivery path between each inductor and the output voltage rail, such that  $R_{pcb1} = R_{pcb2}$ .

<span id="page-15-4"></span>

<span id="page-15-10"></span><span id="page-15-5"></span>FIGURE 17. DIFFERENTIAL-SENSING CURRENT BALANCING **CIRCUIT** 

Sometimes it is difficult to implement symmetrical layout. For the circuit shown in **Figure 16**, asymmetric layout causes different  $R_{\text{ncb1}}$  and  $R_{\text{ncb2}}$  values, thus creating a current imbalance. [Figure 17](#page-15-10) shows a differential sensing current balancing circuit recommended for ISL62771. The current sensing traces should be routed to the inductor pads so they only pick up the inductor DCR voltage. Each ISEN pin sees the average voltage of two sources: its own, phase inductor phase-node pad and the other phase inductor output side pad. **Equations 8** and  $9$ give the ISEN pin voltages:

$$
V_{\text{ISEN1}} = V_{1p} + V_{2n}
$$
 (EQ. 8)

$$
V_{\text{ISEN2}} = V_{1n} + V_{2p} \tag{Eq. 9}
$$

The ISL62771 will make  $V_{\text{ISEN1}} = V_{\text{ISEN2}}$  as shown in **[Equation 10:](#page-16-2)** 

$$
V_{1p} + V_{2n} = V_{1n} + V_{2p}
$$
 (Eq. 10)

Rewriting **[Equation 10](#page-16-2)** gives **[Equation 11](#page-16-3):** 

<span id="page-16-3"></span>
$$
V_{1p} - V_{1n} = V_{2p} - V_{2n}
$$
 (EQ. 11)

Therefore:

$$
R_{\text{dcr1}} \times I_{L1} = R_{\text{dcr2}} \times I_{L2}
$$
 (EQ. 12)

Current balancing ( $I_{L1} = I_{L2}$ ) is achieved when  $R_{dcr1} = R_{dcr2}$ . R<sub>pcb1</sub>and R<sub>pcb2</sub> do not have any effect.

Since the slave ripple capacitor voltages mimic the inductor currents, the R3™ modulator can naturally achieve excellent current balancing during steady state and dynamic operations. [Figure 18](#page-16-4) shows the current balancing performance of the evaluation board with load transient of 12A/51A at different rep rates. The inductor currents follow the load current dynamic change with the output capacitors supplying the difference. The inductor currents can track the load current well at a low repetition rate, but cannot keep up when the repetition rate gets into the hundred-kHz range, where it is out of the control loop bandwidth. The controller achieves excellent current balancing in all cases installed.

<span id="page-16-2"></span><span id="page-16-1"></span><span id="page-16-0"></span>

<span id="page-16-4"></span>FIGURE 18. CURRENT BALANCING DURING DYNAMIC OPERATION. CH1: I<sub>L1</sub>, CH2: I<sub>LOAD</sub>, CH3: I<sub>L2</sub>, CH4: I<sub>L3</sub>



### <span id="page-17-0"></span>Modes of Operation



<span id="page-17-5"></span>

The Core VR can be configured for 2- or 1-phase operation. [Table 1](#page-17-5) shows Core VR configurations and operational modes, programmed by the ISEN2 pin status and the PSL0\_L and PSL1\_L commands via the SVI 2 interface, see Table 8 on [page 22.](#page-21-3)

For a 1-phase configuration, tie the ISEN2 pin to 5V. In this configuration, only Phase 1 is active.

For 2-phase configurations, the Core VR operates in 2-phase CCM with PSI0\_L and PSI\_L both high. If PSI0\_L is taken low via the SVI 2 interface, the Core VR sheds Phase 2 and the Core VR enters 1-phase DE mode. When both PSI0 L and PSI1 L are taken low, the Core VR continues to operate in the 1-phase DE mode.

In a 1-phase configuration, the Core VR operates in 1-phase CCM and enters 1-phase DE when PSI0\_L is taken low and continues to operate in this mode when both PSI0\_l and PSI1\_L are taken low.

The Core VR can be disabled completely by connecting ISEN1 to +5V.

ISL62771 Northbridge VR operates in 1-phase CCM.

[Table 2](#page-17-6) shows the Northbridge VR operational modes, which are programmed by the PSI0\_L and PSI1\_L bits of the SVI 2 command.

<span id="page-17-6"></span>



The Northbridge VR operates in 1-phase CCM and enters 1-phase DE when PSI0\_L goes low and remains in this mode of operation when both PSI0\_L and PSI1\_L are low.

The Core and Northbridge VRs have an overcurrent threshold of 1.5V on IMON and IMON\_NB respectively and this level does not vary based on channel configuration. See "Overcurrent" on [page 23](#page-22-3) for more details.

## <span id="page-17-1"></span>Dynamic Operation

Core VR and Northbridge VR behave the same during dynamic operation. The controller responds to VID-on-the-fly changes by slewing to the new voltage at a fixed slew rate. During negative VID transitions, the output voltage decays to the lower VID value at the slew rate determined by the load.

The R3™ modulator intrinsically has voltage feed-forward. The output voltage is insensitive to a fast slew rate input voltage change.

## <span id="page-17-2"></span>Adaptive Body Diode Conduction Time Reduction

In DCM, the controller turns off the low-side MOSFET when the inductor current approaches zero. During on-time of the low-side MOSFET, phase voltage is negative and the amount is the MOSFET  $r_{DS(ON)}$  voltage drop, which is proportional to the inductor current. A phase comparator inside the controller monitors the phase voltage during on-time of the low-side MOSFET and compares it with a threshold to determine the zero crossing point of the inductor current. If the inductor current has not reached zero when the low-side MOSFET turns off, it will flow through the low-side MOSFET body diode, causing the phase node to have a larger voltage drop until it decays to zero. If the inductor current has crossed zero and reversed the direction when the low-side MOSFET turns off, it will flow through the high-side MOSFET body diode, causing the phase node to have a spike until it decays to zero. The controller continues monitoring the phase voltage after turning off the low-side MOSFET. To minimize the body diode-related loss, the controller also adjusts the phase comparator threshold voltage accordingly in iterative steps such that the low-side MOSFET body diode conducts for approximately 40ns.

## <span id="page-17-3"></span>Resistor Configuration Options

The ISL62771 uses the COMP and COMP\_NB pins to configure some functionality within the IC. Resistors from these pins to GND are read during the first portion of the soft-start sequence. The following sections outline how to select the resistor values for each of these pins to correctly program the output voltage offset of each output and switching frequency used for both VRs.

## <span id="page-17-4"></span>VR Offset Programming

A positive or negative offset is programmed for the Core VR using a resistor to ground from the COMP pin and the Northbridge in a similar manner from the COMP\_NB pin. [Table 3](#page-18-5) provides the resistor value to select the desired output voltage offset. The 1% tolerance resistor value shown in the table must be used to program the corresponding Core or NB output voltage offset. The MIN and MAX tolerance values provide margin to insure the 1% tolerance resistor will be read correctly.



#### <span id="page-18-5"></span>TABLE 3. COMP AND COMP\_NB OUTPUT VOLTAGE OFFSET **SELECTION**



## <span id="page-18-0"></span>CCM Switching Frequency

The Core and Northbridge VR switching frequency is set by the programming resistor on COMP\_NB. When the ISL62771 is in Continuous Conduction Mode (CCM), the switching frequency is not absolutely constant due to the nature of the R3™ modulator. As explained in the ["Multiphase R3™ Modulator" on page 13](#page-12-1), the effective switching frequency increases during load insertion and decreases during load release to achieve fast response. Thus, the switching frequency is relatively constant at steady state. Variation is expected when the power stage condition, such as input voltage, output voltage, load, etc. changes. The variation is usually less than 10% and does not have any significant effect on output voltage ripple magnitude. [Table 4](#page-18-6) defines the switching frequency based on the resistor value used to program the COMP\_NB pin. Use the previous table related to COMP\_NB to determine the correct resistor value in these ranges to program the desired output offset and switching frequency configuration.



<span id="page-18-6"></span>

The controller monitors SVI commands to determine when to enter power-saving mode, implement dynamic VID changes and shut down individual outputs.

## <span id="page-18-1"></span>AMD Serial VID Interface 2.0

The on-board Serial VID Interface 2.0 (SVI 2) circuitry allows the AMD processor to directly control the Core and Northbridge voltage reference levels within the ISL62771. Once the PWROK signal goes high, the IC begins monitoring the SVC and SVD pins for instructions. The ISL62771 uses a Digital-to-Analog Converter (DAC) to generate a reference voltage based on the decoded SVI value. See **Figure 13** for a simple SVI interface timing diagram.

## <span id="page-18-2"></span>Pre-PWROK Metal VID

Typical motherboard start-up begins with the controller decoding the SVC and SVD inputs to determine the pre-PWROK Metal VID setting (see [Table 5\)](#page-18-4). Once the ENABLE input exceeds the rising threshold, the ISL62771 decodes and locks the decoded value into an on-board hold register.

<span id="page-18-4"></span>

<b>SVC</b>	<b>SVD</b>	<b>OUTPUT VOLTAGE</b> $\mathbf w$
		1.1
		1.0
		0.9
		0.8

TABLE 5. PRE-PWROK METAL VID CODES

The internal DAC circuitry begins to ramp Core and Northbridge VRs to the decoded pre-PWROK Metal VID output level. The digital soft-start circuitry ramps the internal reference to the target gradually at a fixed rate of  $10mV/\mu s$ . The controlled ramp of all output voltage planes reduces inrush current during the soft-start interval. At the end of the soft-start interval, the PGOOD and PGOOD\_NB outputs transition high, indicating both output planes are within regulation limits.

If the ENABLE input falls below the enable falling threshold, the ISL62771 tri-states both outputs. PGOOD and PGOOD\_NB are pulled low with the loss of ENABLE. The Core and Northbridge VR output voltages decay, based on output capacitance and load leakage resistance. If bias to VDD falls below the POR level, the ISL62771 responds in the manner previously described. Once VDD and ENABLE rise above their respective rising thresholds, the internal DAC circuitry reacquires a pre-PWROK metal VID code and the controller soft-starts.

## <span id="page-18-3"></span>SVI Interface Active

Once the Core and Northbridge VRs have successfully soft-started and PGOOD and PGOOD\_NB signals transition high, PWROK can be asserted externally to the ISL62771. Once PWROK is asserted to the IC, SVI instructions can begin as the controller actively monitors the SVI interface. Details of the SVI Bus protocol are provided in the "AMD Serial VID Interface 2.0 (SVI2) Specification". See AMD publication #48022.

Once a VID change command is received, the ISL62771 decodes the information to determine which VR is affected and the VID target is determined by the byte combinations in [Table 6](#page-19-2). The internal DAC circuitry steps the output voltage of the VR commanded to the new VID level. During this time, one or more of the VR outputs could be targeted. In the event either VR is

commanded to power-off by serial VID commands, the PGOOD signal remains asserted.

If the PWROK input is deasserted, then the controller steps both the Core and the Northbridge VRs back to the stored pre-PWROK metal VID level in the holding register from initial soft-start. No attempt is made to read the SVC and SVD inputs during this time. If PWROK is reasserted, then the ISL62771 SVI interface waits for instructions.

If ENABLE goes low during normal operation, all external MOSFETs are tri-stated and both PGOOD and PGOOD\_NB are pulled low. This event clears the pre-PWROK metal VID code and forces the controller to check SVC and SVD upon restart, storing the pre-PWROK metal VID code found on restart.

A POR event on VCC during normal operation shuts down both regulators and both PGOOD outputs are pulled low. The pre-PWROK metal VID code is not retained. Loss of VIN during operation will typically cause the controller to enter a fault condition on one or both outputs. The controller will shut down both Core and Northbridge VRs and latch off. The pre-PWROK metal VID code is not retained during the process of cycling ENABLE to reset the fault latch and restart the controller.

## <span id="page-19-0"></span>VID-on-the-Fly Transition

Once PWROK is high, the ISL62771 detects this flag and begins monitoring the SVC and SVD pins for SVI instructions. The microprocessor follows the protocol outlined in the following sections to send instructions for VID-on-the-fly transitions. The ISL62771 decodes the instruction and acknowledges the new VID code. For VID codes higher than the current VID level, the ISL62771 begins stepping the commanded VR outputs to the

new VID target at the fixed slew rate of 10mV/µs. Once the DAC ramps to the new VID code, a VID-on-the-Fly Complete (VOTFC) request is sent on the SVI lines.

When the VID codes are lower than the current VID level, the ISL62771 checks the state of power state bits in the SVI command. If power state bits are not active, the controller begins stepping the regulator output to the new VID target. If the power state bits are active, the controller allows the output voltage to decay and slowly steps the DAC down with the natural decay of the output. This allows the controller to quickly recover and move to a high VID code if commanded. The controller issues a VOTFC request on the SVI lines once the SVI command is decoded and prior to reaching the final output voltage.

VOTFC requests do not take priority over telemetry per the AMD SVI 2 specification.

### <span id="page-19-1"></span>SVI Data Communication Protocol

The SVI WIRE protocol is based on the  $I^2C$  bus concept. Three wires [serial clock (SVC) and serial data (SVD) and telemetry (SVT)], carry information between the AMD processor (master) and VR controller (slave) on the bus. The master initiates and terminates SVI transactions and drives the clock, SVC, during a transaction. The AMD processor is always the master and the voltage regulators are the slaves. The slave receives the SVI transactions and acts accordingly. Mobile SVI WIRE protocol timing is based on high-speed mode  $I^2C$ . See AMD publication #48022 for additional details.

<span id="page-19-2"></span>

#### TABLE 6. SERIAL VID CODES



NOTE: \*Indicates a VID not required for AMD Family 10h processors. Loosened AMD requirements at these levels.



FIGURE 19. SVD PACKET STRUCTURE

### <span id="page-21-5"></span><span id="page-21-0"></span>SVI Bus Protocol

The AMD processor bus protocol is compliant with SMBus send byte protocol for VID transactions. The AMD SVD packet structure is shown in **Figure 19**. The description of what each bit of the three bytes that make up the SVI command are shown in [Table 7.](#page-21-6) During a transaction, the processor sends the start sequence followed by each of the three bytes, which end with an optional acknowledge bit. The ISL62771 does not drive the SVD line during the ACK bit. Finally, the processor sends the stop sequence. After the ISL62771 has detected the stop, it can then proceed with the commanded action from the transaction.

TABLE 7. SVD DATA PACKET

<span id="page-21-6"></span>

### <span id="page-21-1"></span>Power States

SVI2 defines two power state indicator levels, see [Table 8](#page-21-3). As processor current consumption is reduced, the power state indicator level changes to improve VR efficiency under low power conditions.

For the Core VR operating in 2-phase mode, when PSI0\_L is asserted, Channel 2 is tri-stated and Channel 1 enters diode emulation mode to boost efficiency. When PSI0\_L and PSI1\_L are asserted low, the Core VR continues to operate in this mode. For the 1-Phase Northbridge VR, when PSI0\_L is asserted, Channel 1 enters diode emulation mode to boost efficiency. When PSI0\_L and PSI1\_L are asserted low, the Northbridge VR continues to operate in this fashion.

It is possible for the processor to assert or deassert PSI0\_L and PSI1\_L out of order. PSI0\_L takes priority over PSI1\_L. If PSI0\_L is deasserted while PSI1\_L is still asserted, the ISL62771 will return the selected VR back full channel CCM operation.

#### TABLE 8. PSIO\_L, PSI1\_L AND TFN DEFINITION

<span id="page-21-3"></span>

## <span id="page-21-2"></span>Dynamic Load Line Slope Trim

The ISL62771 supports the SVI2 ability for the processor to manipulate the load line slope of the Core and Northbridge VRs independently using the serial VID interface. The slope manipulation applies to the initial load line slope. A load line slope trim will typically coincide with a VOTF change. See [Table 9](#page-21-4) for more information about the load line slope trim feature of the ISL62771.

#### TABLE 9. LOAD LINE SLOPE TRIM DEFINITION

<span id="page-21-4"></span>



### <span id="page-22-0"></span>Dynamic Offset Trim

The ISL62771 supports the SVI2 ability for the processor to manipulate the output voltage offset of the Core and Northbridge VRs. This offset is in addition to any output voltage offset set via the COMP resistor reader. The dynamic offset trim can disable the COMP resistor programmed offset of either output when "Disable All Offset" is selected.

#### TABLE 10. OFFSET TRIM DEFINITION



## <span id="page-22-1"></span>**Telemetry**

The ISL62771 can provide voltage and current information through the telemetry system outlined by the AMD SVI2 specification. The telemetry data is transmitted through the SVC and SVT lines of the SVI 2 interface.

Current telemetry is based on a voltage generated across a 133kΩ resistor placed from the IMON pin to GND. The current flowing out of the IMON pin is proportional to the load current in the VR. The I<sub>sum</sub> current defined in the "Voltage Regulation and [Load Line Implementation" on page 15](#page-14-1) provides the base conversion from the load current to the internal amplifier created I<sub>sum</sub> current. The I<sub>sum</sub> current is then divided down by a factor of 4 to create the IMON current, which flows out of the IMON pin. The  $I_{sum}$  current will measure 35 $\mu$ A when the load current is at full load based on a droop current designed for 45µA at the same load current. The difference between the I<sub>sum</sub> current and the droop current is provided in **Equation 2**. The IMON current will measure 11.25µA at full load current for the VR and the IMON voltage will be 1.2V. The load percentage, which is reported by the IC is based on this voltage. When the load is 25% of the full load, the voltage on the IMON pin will be 25% of 1.2V or 0.3V.

The SVI interface allows the selection of no telemetry, voltage only, or voltage and current telemetry on either or both of the VR outputs. The TFN bit along with the Core and Northbridge domain selector bits are used by the processor to change the functionality of telemetry, see **Table 11** for more information.



<span id="page-22-4"></span>

## <span id="page-22-2"></span>Protection Features

Core VR and Northbridge VR both provide overcurrent, current-balance, undervoltage and overvoltage fault protections. The controller also provides over-temperature protection. The following discussion is based on Core VR and also applies to the Northbridge VR.

### <span id="page-22-3"></span>**Overcurrent**

The IMON voltage provides a means of determining the load current at any moment in time. The Overcurrent Protection (OCP) circuitry monitors the IMON voltage to determine when a fault occurs. Based on the previous description in the "Voltage [Regulation and Load Line Implementation" on page 15,](#page-14-1) the current, which flows out of the IMON pin, is proportional to the ISUM current. The ISUM current is created from the sensed voltage across Cn, which is a measure of the load current based upon the sensing element selected. The IMON current is generated internally and is  $1/4$  of the ISUM current. The EDC or IDD $_{\text{spike}}$ current value for the AMD CPU load is used to set the maximum current level for droop and the IMON voltage of 1.2V, which indicates 100% loading for telemetry. The ISUM current level at maximum load, or IDD<sub>spike</sub> is 36µA and this translates to an IMON current level of 9µA. The IMON resistor is 133kΩ and the 9µA flowing through the IMON resistor results in a 1.2V level at maximum loading of the VR.

The overcurrent threshold is 1.5V on the IMON pin. Based on a 1.2V IMON voltage equating to 100% loading, the additional 0.3V provided above this level equates to a 25% increase in load current before an OCP fault is detected. The EDC or IDD<sub>spike</sub> current is used to set the 1.2V on IMON for full load current. So the OCP level is 1.25x the EDC or IDD<sub>spike</sub> current level. This additional margin above the EDC or IDD<sub>spike</sub> current allows the AMD CPU to enter and exit the IDD<sub>spike</sub> performance mode without issue unless the load current is out of line with the IDD<sub>spike</sub> expectation, thus the need for overcurrent protection.

When the voltage on the IMON pin meets the overcurrent threshold of 1.5V, this triggers an OCP event. Within 2µs of detecting an OCP event, the controller asserts VR\_HOT\_L low to communicate to the AMD CPU to throttle back. A fault timer begins counting while IMON is at or above the 1.5V threshold. The fault timer lasts 7.5µs to 11µs and then flags an OCP fault. The controller then tri-states the active channels and goes into shutdown. PGOOD is taken low and a fault flag from this VR is sent to the other VR and it is shutdown within 10µs. If the IMON voltage drops below the 1.5V threshold prior to the fault timer count finishing, the fault timer is cleared and VR\_HOT\_L is taken high.

The ISL62771 also features a way-overcurrent [WOC] feature, which immediately takes the controller into shutdown. This protection is also referred to as fast overcurrent protection for short-circuit protection. If the IMON current reaches 15µA, WOC is triggered. Active channels are tri-stated and the controller is placed in shutdown and PGOOD is pulled low. There is no fault timer on the WOC fault, the controller takes immediate action. The other controller output is also shutdown within 10µs.

### <span id="page-23-0"></span>Current Balance

The controller monitors the ISENx pin voltages to determine current-balance protection. If the ISENx pin voltage difference is greater than 9mV for 1ms, the controller will declare a fault and latch off.

## <span id="page-23-1"></span>Undervoltage

If the VSEN voltage falls below the output voltage VID value plus any programmed offsets by -325mV, the controller declares an undervoltage fault. The controller deasserts PGOOD and tri-states the power MOSFETs.

## <span id="page-23-2"></span>**Overvoltage**

If the VSEN voltage exceeds the output voltage VID value plus any programmed offsets by +325mV, the controller declares an overvoltage fault. The controller deasserts PGOOD and turns on the low-side power MOSFETs. The low-side power MOSFETs remain on until the output voltage is pulled down below the VID set value. Once the output voltage is below this level, the lower gate is tri-stated. If the output voltage rises above the overvoltage threshold again, the protection process is repeated. when all power MOSFETs are turned off. This behavior provides the maximum amount of protection against shorted high-side power MOSFETs while preventing output ringing below ground.

## <span id="page-23-3"></span>Thermal Monitor [NTC, NTC\_NB]

The ISL62771 features two thermal monitors, which use an external resistor network that includes an NTC thermistor to monitor motherboard temperature and alert the AMD CPU of a thermal issue. [Figure 20](#page-23-4) shows the basic thermal monitor circuit on the Core VR NTC pin. The Northbridge VR features the same thermal monitor. The controller drives a 30µA current out of the NTC pin and monitors the voltage at the pin. The current flowing out of the NTC pin creates a voltage that is compared to a warning threshold of 640mV. When the voltage at the NTC pin falls to this warning threshold or below, the controller asserts VR\_HOT\_L to alert the AMD CPU to throttle back load current to stabilize the motherboard temperature. A thermal fault counter begins counting toward a minimum shutdown time of 100µs. The thermal fault counter is an up/down counter, so if the voltage at the NTC pin rises above the warning threshold, it will count down and extend the time for a thermal fault to occur. The warning threshold does have 20mV of hysteresis.

If the voltage at the NTC pin continues to fall down to the shutdown threshold of 580mV or below, the controller goes into shutdown and triggers a thermal fault. The PGOOD pin is pulled low and tri-states the power MOSFETs. A fault on either side will shutdown both VRs.



<span id="page-23-4"></span>FIGURE 20. CIRCUITRY ASSOCIATED WITH THE THERMAL MONITOR FEATURE OF THE ISL62771

As the board temperature rises, the NTC thermistor resistance decreases and the voltage at the NTC pin drops. When the voltage on the NTC pin drops below the over-temperature trip threshold, then VR\_HOT is pulled low. The VR\_HOT signal is used to change the CPU operation and decrease power consumption. With the reduction in power consumption by the CPU, the board temperature decreases and the NTC thermistor voltage rises. Once the over-temperature threshold is tripped and VR\_HOT is taken low, the over-temperature threshold changes to the reset level. The addition of hysteresis to the over-temperature threshold prevents nuisance trips. Once both pin voltages exceed the over-temperature reset threshold, the pull-down on VR\_HOT is released. The signal changes state and the CPU resumes normal operation. The over-temperature threshold returns to the trip level.

[Table 12](#page-23-5) summarizes the fault protections.



<span id="page-23-5"></span>



### <span id="page-24-0"></span>Fault Recovery

All of the previously described fault conditions can be reset by bringing ENABLE low or by bringing VDD below the POR threshold. When ENABLE and VDD return to their high operating levels, the controller resets the faults and soft-start occurs.

## <span id="page-24-1"></span>Interface Pin Protection

The SVC and SVD pins feature protection diodes, which must be considered when removing power to VDD and VDDIO, but leaving it applied to these pins. Figure  $21$  shows the basic protection on the pins. If SVC and/or SVD are powered but VDD is not, leakage current will flow from these pins to VDD.



<span id="page-24-4"></span>FIGURE 21. PROTECTION DEVICES ON THE SVC AND SVD PINS

## <span id="page-24-2"></span>Key Component Selection

## <span id="page-24-3"></span>Inductor DCR Current-Sensing Network



FIGURE 22. DCR CURRENT-SENSING NETWORK

<span id="page-24-5"></span>[Figure 22](#page-24-5) shows the inductor DCR current-sensing network for a 2-phase solution. An inductor current flows through the DCR and creates a voltage drop. Each inductor has two resistors in  $R_{sum}$ and  $R_0$  connected to the pads to accurately sense the inductor current by sensing the DCR voltage drop. The  $R_{sum}$  and  $R_0$ resistors are connected in a summing network as shown and feed the total current information to the NTC network (consisting of  $R_{ntcs}$ ,  $R_{ntc}$  and  $R_p$ ) and capacitor  $C_n$ .  $R_{ntc}$  is a negative temperature coefficient (NTC) thermistor, used to temperature compensate the inductor DCR change.

The inductor output side pads are electrically shorted in the schematic but have some parasitic impedance in actual board layout, which is why one cannot simply short them together for the current-sensing summing network. It is recommended to use  $10~10<sub>Q</sub>$  to create quality signals. Since R<sub>o</sub> value is much smaller than the rest of the current sensing circuit, the following analysis ignores it.

The summed inductor current information is presented to the capacitor  $C_n$ . **Equations 13** through  $17$  describe the frequency domain relationship between inductor total current  $I_0(s)$  and  $C_n$ voltage V<sub>Cn</sub>(s):

<span id="page-24-6"></span>
$$
V_{Cn}(s) = \left(\frac{R_{ntonet}}{R_{ntenet} + \frac{R_{sum}}{N}} \times \frac{DCR}{N}\right) \times I_0(s) \times A_{cs}(s)
$$
 (EQ. 13)

$$
R_{ntenet} = \frac{(R_{ntcs} + R_{ntc}) \times R_p}{R_{ntcs} + R_{ntc} + R_p}
$$
 (Eq. 14)

<span id="page-24-8"></span>
$$
A_{cs}(s) = \frac{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_L}}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{\text{SBS}}}}
$$
(EQ. 15)

$$
\omega_{\rm L} = \frac{\text{DCR}}{\rm L} \tag{Eq. 16}
$$

<span id="page-24-7"></span>
$$
\omega_{\text{Sns}} = \frac{1}{\frac{R_{\text{student}} \times \frac{R_{\text{sum}}}{N}}{R_{\text{ntonet}} \times C_{\text{n}}}}
$$
(EQ. 17)

Where N is the number of phases.

Transfer function  $A_{cs}(s)$  always has unity gain at DC. The inductor DCR value increases as the winding temperature increases, giving higher reading of the inductor DC current. The NTC R<sub>ntc</sub> value decrease as its temperature decreases. Proper selection of  $R_{sum}$ ,  $R_{ntcs}$ ,  $R_p$  and  $R_{ntc}$  parameters ensures that  $V_{Cn}$ represents the inductor total DC current over the temperature range of interest.

There are many sets of parameters that can properly temperature-compensate the DCR change. Since the NTC network and the  $R_{\text{sum}}$  resistors form a voltage divider,  $V_{\text{cn}}$  is always a fraction of the inductor DCR voltage. It is recommended to have a higher ratio of  $V_{cn}$  to the inductor DCR voltage so the droop circuit has a higher signal level to work with.

A typical set of parameters that provide good temperature compensation are: R<sub>sum</sub> = 3.65kΩ, R<sub>p</sub> = 11kΩ, R<sub>ntcs</sub> = 2.61kΩ and  $R_{\text{ntc}}$  = 10kΩ (ERT-J1VR103J). The NTC network parameters may need to be fine-tuned on actual boards. One can apply full load DC current and record the output voltage reading immediately; then record the output voltage reading again when the board has reached the thermal steady state. A good NTC network can limit the output voltage drift to within 2mV. It is recommended to follow the Intersil evaluation board layout and



current sensing network parameters to minimize engineering time.

 $V_{\text{Cn}}(s)$  also needs to represent real-time  $I_{\text{o}}(s)$  for the controller to achieve good transient response. Transfer function  $A_{cs}(s)$  has a pole  $\omega_{\textsf{SNS}}$  and a zero  $\omega_{\textsf{L}}$ . One needs to match  $\omega_{\textsf{L}}$  and  $\omega_{\textsf{SNS}}$  so  $A_{cs}(s)$  is unity gain at all frequencies. By forcing  $\omega_L$  equal to  $\omega_{\text{Sns}}$ and solving for the solution, **Equation 18** gives Cn value.

$$
C_n = \frac{L}{\frac{R_{\text{student}} \times \frac{R_{\text{sum}}}{N}}{R_{\text{ntenet}} + \frac{R_{\text{sum}}}{N}} \times DCR}
$$
(EQ. 18)

For example, given N = 2,  $R_{sum}$  = 3.65k $\Omega$ ,  $R_p$  = 11k $\Omega$ ,  $R_{ntcs}$  = 2.61kΩ,  $R_{ntc}$  = 10kΩ, DCR = 0.88mΩ and L = 0.36μH, **[Equation 18](#page-25-1)** gives  $C_n = 0.294 \mu F$ .

Assuming the compensator design is correct, [Figure 23](#page-25-2) shows the expected load transient response waveforms if  $C_n$  is correctly selected. When the load current I<sub>core</sub> has a square change, the output voltage  $V_{\text{core}}$  also has a square response.

If C<sub>n</sub> value is too large or too small,  $V_{Cn}(s)$  does not accurately represent real-time  $I_0(s)$  and worsens the transient response. Figure  $24$  shows the load transient response when  $C_n$  is too small. V<sub>core</sub> sags excessively upon load insertion and may create a system failure. [Figure 25](#page-25-3) shows the transient response when  $C_n$  is too large.  $V_{core}$  is sluggish in drooping to its final value. There is excessive overshoot if load insertion occurs during this time, which may negatively affect the CPU reliability.



#### <span id="page-25-2"></span>FIGURE 23. DESIRED LOAD TRANSIENT RESPONSE WAVEFORMS



<span id="page-25-0"></span>FIGURE 24. LOAD TRANSIENT RESPONSE WHEN  $C_n$  IS TOO SMALL



<span id="page-25-3"></span><span id="page-25-1"></span>FIGURE 25. LOAD TRANSIENT RESPONSE WHEN  $C_n$  IS TOO LARGE



FIGURE 26. OUTPUT VOLTAGE RINGBACK PROBLEM

<span id="page-25-5"></span>

#### <span id="page-25-4"></span>FIGURE 27. OPTIONAL CIRCUITS FOR RINGBACK REDUCTION

[Figure 26](#page-25-5) shows the output voltage ringback problem during load transient response. The load current  $i_0$  has a fast step change, but the inductor current  $i<sub>L</sub>$  cannot accurately follow. Instead,  $i<sub>L</sub>$  responds in first-order system fashion due to the nature of the current loop. The ESR and ESL effect of the output capacitors makes the output voltage  $V_0$  dip quickly upon load current change. However, the controller regulates  $V_0$  according to the droop current  $i_{\text{droop}}$ , which is a real-time representation of  $i_{\text{L}}$ ; therefore, it pulls  $V_0$  back to the level dictated by  $i_L$ , causing the ringback problem. This phenomenon is not observed when the output capacitor has very low ESR and ESL, as is the case with all ceramic capacitors.

[Figure 27](#page-25-4) shows two optional circuits for reduction of the ringback.  $C_n$  is the capacitor used to match the inductor time constant. It usually takes the parallel of two (or more) capacitors to get the desired value. [Figure 27](#page-25-4) shows that two capacitors  $(C_{n,1}$  and  $C_{n,2}$ ) are in parallel. Resistor R<sub>n</sub> is an optional component to reduce the  $V_0$  ringback. At steady state,



 $C_{n,1}$  + C<sub>n.2</sub> provides the desired C<sub>n</sub> capacitance. At the beginning of  $i_0$  change, the effective capacitance is less because  $R_n$ increases the impedance of the  $C_{n,1}$  branch. As **Figure 24** shows,  $V_0$  tends to dip when  $C_n$  is too small and this effect reduces the  $V_0$  ringback. This effect is more pronounced when  $C_{n,1}$  is much larger than  $C_{n,2}$ . It is also more pronounced when  $R_n$  is bigger. However, the presence of  $R_n$  increases the ripple of the  $V_n$  signal if  $C_{n,2}$  is too small. It is recommended to keep  $C_{n,2}$  greater than 2200pF.  $R_n$  value usually is a few ohms.  $C_{n,1}$ ,  $C_{n,2}$  and  $R_n$  values should be determined through tuning the load transient response waveforms on an actual board.

R<sub>ip</sub> and C<sub>ip</sub> form an R-C branch in parallel with R<sub>i</sub>, providing a lower impedance path than R<sub>i</sub> at the beginning of i<sub>o</sub> change. R<sub>ip</sub> and C<sub>ip</sub> do not have any effect at steady state. Through proper selection of  $R_{ip}$  and C<sub>ip</sub> values, i<sub>droop</sub> can resemble i<sub>o</sub> rather than i<sub>L</sub> and V<sub>o</sub> will not ring back. The recommended value for R<sub>ip</sub> is 100Ω. C<sub>ip</sub> should be determined through tuning the load transient response waveforms on an actual board. The recommended range for C<sub>ip</sub> is 100pF~2000pF. However, it should be noted that the R<sub>ip</sub> -C<sub>ip</sub> branch may distort the i<sub>droop</sub> waveform. Instead of being triangular as the real inductor current, i<sub>droop</sub> may have sharp spikes, which may adversely affect i<sub>droop</sub> average value detection and therefore may affect OCP accuracy. User discretion is advised.

### <span id="page-26-0"></span>Resistor Current-Sensing Network



FIGURE 28. RESISTOR CURRENT-SENSING NETWORK

<span id="page-26-2"></span>[Figure 28](#page-26-2) shows the resistor current-sensing network for a 2-phase solution. Each inductor has a series current sensing resistor,  $R_{\text{sen}}$ .  $R_{\text{sum}}$  and  $R_0$  are connected to the  $R_{\text{sen}}$  pads to accurately capture the inductor current information. The R<sub>sum</sub> and  $R_0$  resistors are connected to capacitor  $C_n$ .  $R_{sum}$  and  $C_n$ form a filter for noise attenuation. [Equations 19](#page-26-3) through [21](#page-26-4) give the  $V_{Cn}(s)$  expression.

<span id="page-26-3"></span>
$$
V_{Cn}(s) = \frac{R_{sen}}{N} \times I_0(s) \times A_{Rsen}(s)
$$
 (Eq. 19)

$$
A_{\text{Rsen}}(s) = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{\text{SBS}}}}
$$
(EQ. 20)

<span id="page-26-4"></span>
$$
\omega_{\text{Rsen}} = \frac{1}{\frac{R_{\text{sum}}}{N} \times C_n}
$$
 (EQ. 21)

Transfer function  $A_{Rsen}(s)$  always has unity gain at DC. Current-sensing resistor  $R_{sen}$  value does not have significant variation over-temperature, so there is no need for the NTC network.

The recommended values are  $R_{\text{sum}} = 1 \text{k}\Omega$  and  $C_n = 5600 \text{pF}$ .

### <span id="page-26-1"></span>Overcurrent Protection

Refer to [Equation 2](#page-15-2) on [page 16](#page-15-2) and [Figures 22](#page-24-5), *[26](#page-25-5)* and [28;](#page-26-2) resistor R<sub>i</sub> sets the I<sub>sum</sub> current, which is proportional to droop current and IMON current. Tables  $1$  and  $2$  show the internal OCP threshold based on the IMON pin voltage. Since the R<sub>i</sub> resistor impacts both the droop current and the IMON current, fine adjustments to I<sub>droop</sub> will require changing the R<sub>comp</sub> resistor.

For example, the OCP threshold is 1.5V on the IMON pin, which equates to an IMON current of 11.25µA using a 133kΩ IMON resistor. The corresponding ISUM current is 45µA, which results in an  $I_{\text{droom}}$  of 56.25µA. At full load current,  $I_{\text{omax}}$ , the ISUM current is  $36\mu A$  and the resulting  $I<sub>droom</sub>$  is 45 $\mu A$ . The ratio of the ISUM current at OCP relative to full load is 1.25. Therefore, the OCP current trip level is 25% higher than the full load current.

For inductor DCR sensing, **Equation 22** gives the DC relationship of  $V_{cn}(s)$  and  $I_0(s)$ :

<span id="page-26-5"></span>
$$
V_{\text{Cn}} = \left(\frac{R_{\text{ntenet}}}{R_{\text{ntenet}} + \frac{R_{\text{sum}}}{N}} \times \frac{\text{DCR}}{N}\right) \times I_0
$$
 (EQ. 22)

Substitution of **[Equation 2](#page-15-2)2** into **Equation 2** gives **[Equation 23:](#page-26-6)** 

<span id="page-26-6"></span>
$$
I_{\text{drop}} = \frac{5}{4} \times \frac{1}{R_i} \times \frac{R_{\text{ntenet}}}{R_{\text{ntenet}} + \frac{R_{\text{sum}}}{N}} \times \frac{DCR}{N} \times I_0
$$
 (EQ. 23)

Therefore:

<span id="page-26-7"></span>
$$
R_{i} = \frac{5}{4} \times \frac{R_{ntenet} \times DCR \times I_{o}}{N \times (R_{ntenet} + \frac{R_{sum}}{N}) \times I_{drop}}
$$
 (EQ. 24)

Substitution of **Equation 14** and application of the OCP condition in **Equation 24** gives **[Equation 25:](#page-26-8)** 

<span id="page-26-8"></span>
$$
R_{i} = \frac{5}{4} \times \frac{\frac{(R_{ntcs} + R_{ntc}) \times R_{p}}{R_{ntcs} + R_{ntc} + R_{p}} \times DCR \times I_{omax}}{N \times \left(\frac{(R_{ntcs} + R_{ntc}) \times R_{p}}{R_{ntcs} + R_{ntc} + R_{p}} + \frac{R_{sum}}{N}\right) \times I_{droomax}}
$$
(EQ. 25)



Where I<sub>omax</sub> is the full load current and I<sub>droopmax</sub> is the corresponding droop current. For example, given  $N = 2$ ,  $R_{\text{sum}} = 3.65$ kΩ,  $R_{\text{p}} = 11$ kΩ,  $R_{\text{ntcs}} = 2.61$ kΩ,  $R_{\text{ntc}} = 10$ kΩ, DCR = 0.88m $\Omega$ ,  $I_{omax}$  = 50A and  $I_{droopmax}$  = 45µA. [Equation 25](#page-26-8) gives R<sub>i</sub> = 466Ω.

For resistor sensing, [Equation 26](#page-27-3) gives the DC relationship of  $V_{cn}(s)$  and  $I_{o}(s)$ .

$$
V_{\text{Cn}} = \frac{R_{\text{sen}}}{N} \times I_0
$$
 (Eq. 26)

Substitution of **[Equation 2](#page-15-2)6** into **Equation 2** gives **[Equation 27](#page-27-4):** 

$$
I_{\text{drop}} = \frac{5}{4} \times \frac{1}{R_i} \times \frac{R_{\text{sen}}}{N} \times I_0
$$
 (EQ. 27)

Therefore:

$$
R_{i} = \frac{5}{4} \times \frac{R_{sen} \times I_{o}}{N \times I_{drop}}
$$
 (EQ. 28)

Substitution of **Equation 28** and application of the OCP condition in **Equation 24** gives **[Equation 29:](#page-27-6)** 

$$
R_{i} = \frac{5}{4} \times \frac{R_{sen} \times I_{omax}}{N \times I_{droomax}}
$$
 (EQ. 29)

Where  $I_{omax}$  is the full load current and  $I_{droomax}$  is the corresponding droop current. For example, given  $N = 2$ ,  $R<sub>sen</sub> = 1mΩ$ ,  $I<sub>omax</sub> = 50A$  and  $I<sub>droopmax</sub> = 45µA$ , **[Equation 29](#page-27-6)** gives  $R_i$  = 694Ω.

#### <span id="page-27-0"></span>Load Line Slope

See **Figure 15** for load line implementation.

For inductor DCR sensing, substitution of **[Equation 23](#page-26-6)** into [Equation 3](#page-15-3) gives the load line slope expression in [Equation 30:](#page-27-2)

$$
LL = \frac{V_{\text{droop}}}{I_0} = \frac{5}{4} \times \frac{R_{\text{droop}}}{R_i} \times \frac{R_{\text{ntenet}}}{R_{\text{ntonet}} + \frac{R_{\text{sum}}}{N}} \times \frac{DCR}{N}
$$
(EQ. 30)

For resistor sensing, substitution of **[Equation 27](#page-27-4)** into **Equation 3** gives the load line slope expression in **Equation 31**:

$$
LL = \frac{V_{\text{drop}}}{I_0} = \frac{5}{4} \times \frac{R_{\text{sen}} \times R_{\text{drop}}}{N \times R_i}
$$
 (EQ. 31)

Substitution of **Equation 24** and rewriting **Equation 30**, or substitution of **Equation 28** and rewriting **[Equation 31](#page-27-7)**, gives the same result as in **[Equation 32](#page-27-8):** 

$$
R_{\text{drop}} = \frac{I_0}{I_{\text{drop}}} \times LL \tag{Eq. 32}
$$

One can use the full-load condition to calculate  $R_{\text{droom}}$ . For example, given  $I_{omax}$  = 50A,  $I_{droomax}$  = 45µA and LL = 2.1m $\Omega$ , [Equation 32](#page-27-8) gives R<sub>droop</sub> = 2.33kΩ.

It is recommended to start with the  $R_{\text{droom}}$  value calculated by [Equation 32](#page-27-8) and fine-tune it on the actual board to get accurate load line slope. One should record the output voltage readings at no load and at full load for load line slope calculation. Reading the output voltage at lighter load instead of full load will increase the measurement error.

#### <span id="page-27-1"></span>Compensator

[Figure 23](#page-25-2) shows the desired load transient response waveforms. [Figure 29](#page-27-9) shows the equivalent circuit of a Voltage Regulator (VR) with the droop function. A VR is equivalent to a voltage source (= VID) and output impedance  $Z_{out}(s)$ . If  $Z_{out}(s)$  is equal to the load line slope LL, i.e., a constant output impedance, then in the entire frequency range,  $V_0$  will have a square response when i<sub>o</sub> has a square change.

<span id="page-27-3"></span>

FIGURE 29. VOLTAGE REGULATOR EQUIVALENT CIRCUIT

<span id="page-27-9"></span><span id="page-27-5"></span><span id="page-27-4"></span>Intersil provides a Microsoft Excel-based spreadsheet to help design the compensator and the current sensing network so that VR achieves constant output impedance as a stable system.

<span id="page-27-6"></span>A VR with active droop function is a dual-loop system consisting of a voltage loop and a droop loop, which is a current loop. However, neither loop alone is sufficient to describe the entire system. The spreadsheet shows two loop gain transfer functions, T1(s) and T2(s), that describe the entire system. **[Figure 30](#page-27-10)** conceptually shows T1(s) measurement set up and **Figure 31** conceptually shows T2(s) measurement set up. The VR senses the inductor current, multiplies it by a gain of the load line slope, adds it on top of the sensed output voltage and then feeds it to the compensator. T1 is measured after the summing node and T2 is measured in the voltage loop before the summing node. The spreadsheet gives both T1(s) and T2(s) plots. However, only T2(s) can actually be measured on an ISL62771 regulator.

<span id="page-27-7"></span><span id="page-27-2"></span>

<span id="page-27-10"></span><span id="page-27-8"></span>

T1(s) is the total loop gain of the voltage loop and the droop loop. It always has a higher crossover frequency than T2(s), therefore has a higher impact on system stability.



T2(s) is the voltage loop gain with closed droop loop, thus having a higher impact on output voltage response.

Design the compensator to get stable T1(s) and T2(s) with sufficient phase margin and an output impedance equal to or smaller than the load line slope.



FIGURE 31. LOOP GAIN T2(s) MEASUREMENT SET-UP

### <span id="page-28-2"></span><span id="page-28-0"></span>Current Balancing

Refer to **[Figure 16](#page-15-6)** through [22](#page-24-5) for information on current balancing. The ISL62771 achieves current balancing through matching the ISEN pin voltages. R<sub>isen</sub> and C<sub>isen</sub> form filters to remove the switching ripple of the phase node voltages. It is recommended to use a rather long R<sub>isen,</sub> C<sub>isen</sub> time constant, such that the ISEN voltages have minimal ripple and represent the DC current flowing through the inductors. Recommended values are  $R_s = 10kΩ$  and  $C_s = 0.22μF$ .

### <span id="page-28-1"></span>Thermal Monitor Component Selection

The ISL62771 features two pins, NTC and NTC\_NB, which are used to monitor motherboard temperature and alert the AMD CPU if a thermal issue arises. The basic function of this circuitry is outlined in the ["Thermal Monitor \[NTC, NTC\\_NB\]" on page 24](#page-23-3). [Figure 32](#page-28-3) shows the basic configuration of the NTC resistor,  $R_{NTC}$ and offset resistor,  $R<sub>S</sub>$ , used to generate the warning and shutdown voltages at the NTC pin.



FIGURE 32. THERMAL MONITOR FEATURE OF THE ISL62771

<span id="page-28-3"></span>As the board temperature rises, the NTC thermistor resistance decreases and the voltage at the NTC pin drops. When the voltage on the NTC pin drops below the thermal warning threshold of 0.64V, then VR\_HOT\_L is pulled low. When the AMD CPU detects VR\_HOT\_L has gone low, it will begin throttling back load current on both outputs to reduce the board temperature.

If the board temperature continues to rise, the NTC thermistor resistance will drop further and the voltage at the NTC pin could drop below the thermal shutdown threshold of 0.58V. Once this threshold is reached, the ISL62771 shuts down both Core and Northbridge VRs indicating a thermal fault has occurred prior to the thermal fault counter triggering a fault.

Selection of the NTC thermistor can vary depending on how the resistor network is configured. The equivalent resistance at the typical thermal warning threshold voltage of 0.64V is defined in [Equation 33.](#page-28-4)

<span id="page-28-4"></span>
$$
\frac{0.64V}{30\mu A} = 21.3k\Omega
$$
 (EQ.33)

The equivalent resistance at the typical thermal shutdown threshold voltage of 0.58V required to shutdown both outputs is defined in [Equation 34](#page-28-5).

<span id="page-28-5"></span>
$$
\frac{0.58V}{30\mu\text{A}} = 19.3k\Omega
$$
 (EQ. 34)

The NTC thermistor value correlates to the resistance change between the warning and shutdown thresholds and the required temperature change. If the warning level is designed to occur at a board temperature of +100°C and the thermal shutdown level at a board temperature of +105°C, then the resistance change of the thermistor can be calculated. For example, a Panasonic NTC thermistor with  $B = 4700$  has a resistance ratio of 0.03939 of its nominal value at +100°C and 0.03308 of its nominal value at +105°C. Taking the required resistance change between the thermal warning threshold and the shutdown threshold and dividing it by the change in resistance ratio of the NTC thermistor at the two temperatures of interest, the required resistance of the NTC is defined in **Equation 35.** 

<span id="page-28-6"></span> $(21.3k\Omega - 19.3k\Omega)$  $\frac{(21.3852 - 19.3852)}{(0.03939 - 0.03308)}$  = 317kΩ (EQ. 35)



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The closest standard thermistor to the value calculated with B = 4700 is 330kΩ. The NTC thermistor part number is ERTJ0EV334J. The actual resistance change of this standard thermistor value between the warning threshold and the shutdown threshold is calculated in **[Equation 36.](#page-29-2)** 

 $(330k\Omega \cdot 0.03939) - (330k\Omega \cdot 0.03308) = 2.082k\Omega$  (EQ. 36)

Since the NTC thermistor resistance at +105°C is less than the required resistance from **Equation 34**, additional resistance in series with the thermistor is required to make up the difference. A standard resistor, 1% tolerance, added in series with the thermistor will increase the voltage seen at the NTC pin. The additional resistance required is calculated in [Equation 37](#page-29-3).

$$
19.3k\Omega - 10.916k\Omega = 8.384k\Omega
$$
 (EQ. 37)

The closest standard 1% tolerance resistor is 8.45kΩ.

The NTC thermistor is placed in a hot spot on the board, typically near the upper MOSFET of Channel 1 of the respective output. The standard resistor is placed next to the controller.

## <span id="page-29-0"></span>Layout Guidelines

### <span id="page-29-1"></span>PCB Layout Considerations

### POWER AND SIGNAL LAYERS PLACEMENT ON THE PCB

As a general rule, power layers should be close together, either on the top or bottom of the board, with the weak analog or logic signal layers on the opposite side of the board. The ground-plane layer should be adjacent to the signal layer to provide shielding.

### COMPONENT PLACEMENT

There are two sets of critical components in a DC/DC converter; the power components and the small signal components. The power components are the most critical because they switch large amount of energy. The small signal components connect to sensitive nodes or supply critical bypassing current and signal coupling.

The power components should be placed first and these include MOSFETs, input and output capacitors and the inductor. It is important to have a symmetrical layout for each power train, preferably with the controller located equidistant from each power train. Symmetrical layout allows heat to be dissipated equally across all power trains. Keeping the distance between the power train and the control IC short helps keep the gate drive traces short. These drive signals include the LGATE, UGATE, PGND, PHASE and BOOT.

<span id="page-29-2"></span>When placing MOSFETs, try to keep the source of the upper MOSFETs and the drain of the lower MOSFETs as close as thermally possible (see [Figure 33\)](#page-29-4). Input high-frequency capacitors should be placed close to the drain of the upper MOSFETs and the source of the lower MOSFETs. Place the output inductor and output capacitors between the MOSFETs and the load. High-frequency output decoupling capacitors (ceramic) should be placed as close as possible to the decoupling target (microprocessor), making use of the shortest connection paths to any internal planes. Place the components in such a way that the area under the IC has less noise traces with high dV/dt and di/dt, such as gate signals and phase node signals.

<span id="page-29-3"></span>

#### <span id="page-29-4"></span>FIGURE 33. TYPICAL POWER COMPONENT PLACEMENT

[Table 13](#page-30-0) shows layout considerations for the ISL62771 controller by pin.

<span id="page-30-0"></span>

#### TABLE 13. LAYOUT CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE ISL62771 CONTROLLER



### TABLE 13. LAYOUT CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE ISL62771 CONTROLLER (Continued)





#### TABLE 13. LAYOUT CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE ISL62771 CONTROLLER (Continued)



## <span id="page-33-0"></span>Revision History

The revision history provided is for informational purposes only and is believed to be accurate, but not warranted. Please go to web to make sure you have the latest revision.



## <span id="page-33-1"></span>About Intersil

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