

FEATURES

- Matched Gain ±0.1dB
- Matched Phase ±0.2° at 100MHz
- ⁿ **Channel Separation 80dB at 100MHz**
- 1.3GHz –3dB Bandwidth; Fixed Gain of 10V/V (20dB)
- \blacksquare IMD₃ = –76dBc at 100MHz, 2V_{P-P}
- Equivalent OIP₃ = 42dBm at 100MHz
- 1nV/ \sqrt{Hz} Internal Op Amp Noise
- 6.2dB Noise Figure
- Differential Inputs and Outputs
- \blacksquare Rail-to-Rail Output Swing
- 40mA Supply Current (120mW) per Amplifier
- 1V to 1.6V Output Common Mode Voltage, **Adjustable**
- DC- or AC-Coupled Operation
- 20-Lead 3mm \times 4mm \times 0.75mm QFN Package

APPLICATIONS

- Differential ADC Driver
- Single Ended to Differential Conversion
- **F** IF Sampling (Diversity) Receivers
- \blacksquare Broadband I/Q Amplifiers
- Satellite Communications

TYPICAL APPLICATION

Matched Dual Amplifiers with Output Common Mode Biasing

DESCRIPTION Dual Matched 1.3GHz Differential Amplifiers/ADC Drivers

The LTC®6421-20 is a dual high speed differential amplifier targeted at processing signals from DC to 140MHz. The part has been specifically designed to drive 12-, 14- and 16-bit ADCs with low noise and low distortion, but can also be used as a general-purpose broadband gain block.

The LTC6421-20 is easy to use, with minimal support circuitry required. The output common mode voltage is set using an external pin, independent of the inputs, which eliminates the need for transformers or AC-coupling capacitors in many applications. The gain is internally fixed at $20dB$ (10V/V).

The LTC6421-20 saves space and power compared to alternative solutions using IF gain blocks and transformers. The LTC6421-20 is packaged in a compact 20-lead 3 mm \times 4mm QFN package and operates over the -40° C to 85°C temperature range.

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ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

PIN CONFIGURATION

ORDER INFORMATION

Consult LTC Marketing for parts specified with wider operating temperature ranges. *The temperature grade is identified by a label on the shipping container. Consult LTC Marketing for information on non-standard lead based finish parts.

For more information on lead free part marking, go to:<http://www.linear.com/leadfree/> For more information on tape and reel specifications, go to:<http://www.linear.com/tapeandreel/>

SELECTOR GUIDE

DC ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS The \bullet denotes the specifications which apply over the full operating

temperature range, otherwise specifications are at T_A = 25°C. V⁺ = 3V, V⁻ = 0V, +IN = -IN = V_{OCM} = 1.25V, $\overline{\textsf{ENABLE}}$ = 0V, No R_L unless **otherwise noted.**

AC ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The \bullet denotes the specifications which apply over the full operating temperature range, otherwise specifications are at $T_A = 25^{\circ}$ C. V⁺ = 3V, V⁻ = 0V, V_{OCM} = 1.25V, \overline{ENABLE} = 0V, No R_L unless otherwise **noted.**

Note 1: Stresses beyond those listed under Absolute Maximum Ratings may cause permanent damage to the device. Exposure to any Absolute Maximum Rating condition for extended periods may affect device reliability and lifetime.

Note 2: Input pins (+IN, –IN) are protected by steering diodes to either supply. If the inputs go beyond either supply rail, the input current should be limited to less than 10mA.

Note 3: The LTC6421C and LTC6421I are guaranteed functional over the operating temperature range of –40°C to 85°C.

Note 4: The LTC6421C is guaranteed to meet specified performance from 0°C to 70°C. It is designed, characterized and expected to meet specified performance from –40°C to 85°C but is not tested or QA sampled at these temperatures. The LTC6421I is guaranteed to meet specified performance from –40°C to 85°C.

Note 5: Input and output baluns used. See Test Circuit A.

Note 6: Measured using Test Circuit B. $R_1 = 87.5\Omega$ on each output. **Note 7:** Since the LTC6421-20 is a feedback amplifier with low output impedance, a resistive load is not required when driving an AD converter. Therefore, typical output power is very small. In order to compare the LTC6421-20 with amplifiers that require 50 Ω output load, the output voltage swing driving a given R_L is converted to OIP₃ and P_{1dB} as if it were driving a 50Ω load. Using this modified convention, 2V_{P-P} is by definition equal to 10dBm, regardless of actual R_L.

Note 8: Channel separation (the inverse of crosstalk) is measured by driving a signal into one input, while terminating the other input. Channel separation is the ratio of the resulting output signal at the driven channel to the channel that is not driven.

Note 9: Not production tested. Guaranteed by design and by correlation to production tested parameters.

Note 10: The output swing range is at least 2V_{P-P} differential even when sourcing or sinking 20mA. Tested at $V_{OCM} = 1.5V$.

TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

Equivalent Output Third Order Intercept vs Frequency

Channel Separation vs Frequency

PIN FUNCTIONS

+INA, –INA, –INB, +INB (Pins 1, 2, 5, 6): Differential Inputs of A and B channel respectively.

V– (Pins 3, 4, 13, 14, 21): Negative Power Supply. All four pins, as well as the exposed back, must be connected to same voltage/ground.

ENABLEA, ENABLEB (Pins 9, 18): Logic inputs. If low, the amplifier is enabled. If high, the amplifier is disabled and placed in a low-power shutdown mode, making the amplifier outputs high impedance. These pins are internally separate. These pins should not be left floating.

V+ A , V+ B (Pins 15, 20, 7, 12): Positive Power Supply (Normally tied to 3V or 3.3V). Supply pins of A and B channels are internally separate. Bypass each pin with 1000pF and 0.1μF capacitors as close to the pins as possible.

–OUTA, +OUTA, –OUTB, +OUTB (Pins 16, 17, 11, 10): Differential Outputs of channels A and B respectively.

V_{OCMA}, V_{OCMB} (Pins 19, 8): These pins set the output common mode voltage for the respective channel. They are internally separate. A 0.1μF external bypass capacitor is recommended.

Exposed Pad (Pin 21): V–. The Exposed Pad must be connected to same voltage/ground as pins 3, 4, 13, 14.

BLOCK DIAGRAM

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Circuit Operation

Each of the two channels of the LTC6421-20 is composed of a fully differential amplifier with on chip feedback and output common mode voltage control circuitry. Differential gain and input impedance are set by 100Ω/1000Ω resistors in the feedback network. Small output resistors of 12.5 Ω improve the circuit stability over various load conditions.

The LTC6421-20 is very flexible in terms of I/O coupling. It can be AC- or DC-coupled at the inputs, the outputs or both. If the inputs are AC-coupled, the input common mode voltage is automatically biased close to V_{OCM} and thus no external circuitry is needed for bias. The LTC6421-20 provides an output common mode voltage set by $V_{\Omega CM}$, which allows driving an ADC directly without external components such as a transformer or AC coupling capacitors. The input signal can be either single-ended or differential with only minor differences in distortion performance.

Input Impedance and Matching

The differential input impedance of the LTC6421-20 is 200 $Ω$. If a 200 $Ω$ source impedance is unavailable, then the differential inputs may need to be terminated to a lower value impedance, e.g. 50Ω, in order to provide an impedance match for the source. Several choices are available. One approach is to use a differential shunt resistor (Figure 1). Another approach is to employ a wide band transformer (Figure 2). Both methods provide a wide band impedance match. The termination resistor or the transformer must be placed close to the input pins in order to minimize the reflection due to input mismatch. Alternatively, one could apply a narrowband impedance match at the inputs of the LTC6421-20 for frequency selection and/or noise reduction.

Figure 1. Input Termination for Differential 50Ω **Input Impedance Using Shunt Resistor**

Figure 2. Input Termination for Differential 50Ω **Input Impedance Using a 1:4 Balun**

Referring to Figure 3, LTC6421-20 can be easily configured for single-ended input and differential output without a balun. The signal is fed to one of the inputs through a matching network while the other input is connected to the same matching network and a source resistor. Because the return ratios of the two feedback paths are equal, the two outputs have the same gain and thus symmetrical swing. In general, the single-ended input impedance and termination resistor R_T are determined by the combination of R_S , R_G and R_F. For example, when R_S is 50 Ω , it is found that the single-ended input impedance is 202 Ω and R_T is 66.5 Ω in order to match to a 50Ω source impedance.

The LTC6421-20 is unconditionally stable. However, the overall differential gain is affected by both source impedance and load impedance as follows:

$$
A_V = \left| \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}} \right| = \frac{2000}{R_S + 200} \cdot \frac{R_L}{25 + R_L}
$$

Output Impedance Match

The LTC6421-20 can drive an ADC directly without external output impedance matching. Alternatively, the differential output impedance of 25 Ω can be matched to a higher value impedance, e.g. 50Ω , by series resistors or an LC network.

Output Common Mode Adjustment

The output common mode voltage is set by the $V_{\Omega CM}$ pin, which is a high impedance input. The output common mode voltage is capable of tracking $V_{\Omega CM}$ in a range from 1V to 1.6V. The bandwidth of V_{OCM} control is typically 15MHz, which is dominated by a low pass filter connected to the V_{OCM} pin and is aimed to reduce common mode noise generation at the outputs. The internal common mode feedback loop has a –3dB bandwidth of 300MHz, allowing fast rejection of any common mode output voltage disturbance. The V_{OCM} pin should be tied to a DC bias

Figure 3. Input Termination for Single-Ended 50Ω **Input Impedance**

voltage with a 0.1μF bypass capacitor. When interfacing with A/D converters such as the LTC22xx families, the V_{OCM} pin can be connected to the V_{CM} pin of the ADC.

Driving A/D Converters

The LTC6421-20 has been specifically designed to interface directly with high speed A/D converters. The back page of this data sheet shows the LTC6421-20 driving an LTC2285, which is a dual 14-bit, 125Msps ADC.

The V_{OCM} pins of the LTC6421-20 are connected to the V_{CM} pins of the LTC2285, which provide a DC voltage level of 1.5V. Both ICs are powered from the same 3V supply voltage.

The inputs to the LTC6421-20 can be configured in various ways, as described in the Input Impedance and Matching section of this data sheet. The outputs of the LTC6421-20 may be connected directly to the analog inputs of an ADC, or a simple lowpass or bandpass filter network may be inserted to reduce out-of-band noise.

Test Circuits

Due to the fully-differential design of the LTC6421 and its usefulness in applications with differing characteristic specifications, two test circuits are used to generate the information in this data sheet. Test Circuit A is DC1299, a two-port demonstration circuit for the LTC6420/LTC6421 family. The schematic and silkscreen are shown in Figure 4. This circuit includes input and output transformers (baluns) for single-ended-to-differential conversion and impedance transformation, allowing direct hook-up to a 2-port network analyzer. There are also series resistors at the output to avoid loading the amplifier directly with a 50Ω load. Due to the input and output transformers, the –3dB bandwidth is reduced from 1.3GHz to approximately 1.1GHz.

Test Circuit B uses a 4-port network analyzer to measure S-parameters and gain/phase response. This removes the effects of the wideband baluns and associated circuitry, for a true picture of the >1GHz S-parameters and AC characteristics.

Figure 4a. Top Silkscreen of DC1299 (Test Circuit A)

Figure 4b. Demo Circuit 1299 Schematic (Test Circuit A)

TYPICAL APPLICATIONS

Test Circuit B, 4-Port Measurements (Only the Signal-Path Connections Are Shown)

Parallel ADC Drivers to Reduce Wideband Noise

PACKAGE DESCRIPTION

UDC Package

4. DIMENSIONS OF EXPOSED PAD ON BOTTOM OF PACKAGE DO NOT INCLUDE

MOLD FLASH. MOLD FLASH, IF PRESENT, SHALL NOT EXCEED 0.15mm ON ANY SIDE

5. EXPOSED PAD SHALL BE SOLDER PLATED

6. SHADED AREA IS ONLY A REFERENCE FOR PIN 1 LOCATION

ON THE TOP AND BOTTOM OF PACKAGE

REVISION HISTORY (Revision history begins at Rev B)

STARTED BY LINEAR