

LTM4609

### **FEATURES**

- Single Inductor Architecture Allows V<sub>IN</sub> Above, **Below or Equal to VOUT**
- **n** Wide V<sub>IN</sub> Range: 4.5V to 36V<br>Nide Vour Range: 0.8V to 34
- Wide V<sub>OUT</sub> Range: 0.8V to 34V
- **n** I<sub>OUT</sub>: 4A DC (10A DC in Buck Mode)<br>Dubling 98% Efficiency
- **Up to 98% Efficiency**
- <sup>n</sup> **Current Mode Control**
- Power Good Output Signal
- **n** Phase-Lockable Fixed Frequency: 200kHz to 400kHz
- <sup>n</sup> **Ultrafast Transient Response**
- Current Foldback Protection
- Output Overvoltage Protection
- Small, Low Profile Surface Mount LGA Package  $(15$ mm  $\times$  15mm  $\times$  2.8mm)

### **APPLICATIONS**

- Telecom, Servers and Networking Equipment
- Industrial and Automotive Equipment
- High Power Battery-Operated Devices

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### **DESCRIPTION** µModule Regulator

The LTM<sup>®</sup>4609 is a high efficiency switching mode buckboost power supply. Included in the package are the switching controller, power FETs and support components. Operating over an input voltage range of 4.5V to 36V, the LTM4609 supports an output voltage range of 0.8V to 34V, set by a resistor. This high efficiency design delivers up to 4A continuous current in boost mode (10A in buck mode). Only the inductor, sense resistor, bulk input and output capacitors are needed to finish the design.

Buck-Boost DC/DC

The low profile package enables utilization of unused space on the bottom of PC boards for high density point of load regulation. The high switching frequency and current mode architecture enable a very fast transient response to line and load changes without sacrificing stability. The LTM4609 can be frequency synchronized with an external clock to reduce undesirable frequency harmonics.

Fault protection features include overvoltage and foldback current protection. The DC/DC μModule® regulator is offered in a small thermally enhanced 15mm  $\times$  15mm  $\times$ 2.8mm LGA package. The LTM4609 is Pb-free and RoHS compliant.

### **TYPICAL APPLICATION**

**30V/2A Buck-Boost DC/DC μModule Regulator with 5V to 36V Input**



#### **Efficiency and Power Loss vs Input Voltage**





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### **ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS PIN CONFIGURATION**

**(Note 1)**



**(See Table 6 Pin Assignment)**



### **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.

For more information on lead free part marking, go to: http://www.linear.com/leadfree/

This product is only offered in trays. For more information go to: http://www.linear.com/packaging/

### **ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS** The  $\bullet$  denotes the specifications which apply over the full operating

temperature range, otherwise specifications are at  $T_A = 25^\circ \text{C}$  (Note 2), V<sub>IN</sub> = 12V. Per typical application (front page) configuration.





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**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: The LTM4609E is guaranteed to meet specifications from 0°C to 85°C. Specifications over the -40°C to 85°C operating temperature range are assured by design, characterization and correlation with statistical process controls. The LTM4609I is guaranteed over the –40°C to 85°C operating temperature range. The LTM4609MP is tested and guaranteed over the –55°C to 125°C operating junction temperature range. High junction temperature degrade operating lifetimes; operating lifetime is derated for junction temperature greater than 125°C.

**Note 3:** See Application Note 100.

**Note 4:** The LTM4609 is tested in a feedback loop that servos V<sub>COMP</sub> to a specified voltage and measures the resultant  $V_{FB}$ .

**Note 5:** Turn-on and turn-off time are measured using 10% and 90% levels. Transition delay time is measured using 50% levels.

**Note 6:** 100% test at wafer level only.

**Note 7:** Absolute Maximum Rating of –5V on SW1 and SW2 is under transient condition only.



4609 G03

4609 G06

### **TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS (Refer to Figure 18)**







4609 G07

### **TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS**



2x 180μF ELECTROLYTIC CAPS 2x 12mΩ SENSING RESISTORS



OUTPUT CAPS: 4x 22μF CERAMIC CAPS AND 2x 180μF ELECTROLYTIC CAPS 2x 12mΩ SENSING RESISTORS

Start-Up with 32V<sub>IN</sub> to 12V<sub>OUT</sub> at  $I_{OUT} = 5A$ 



OUTPUT CAPS: 4x 22μF CERAMIC CAPS AND 2x 180μF ELECTROLYTIC CAPS 2x 12mΩ SENSING RESISTORS

**Short Circuit with 6V<sub>IN</sub> to 12V<sub>OUT</sub>** at  $I_{OUT} = 4A$ 



OUTPUT CAPS: 4x 22μF CERAMIC CAPS AND 2x 180μF ELECTROLYTIC CAPS 2x 12mΩ SENSING RESISTORS

#### **Short Circuit with 32V<sub>IN</sub> to 12V<sub>OUT</sub>** at  $I_{OUT} = 5A$



2x 180µF ELECTROLYTIC CAPS 2x 12mΩ SENSING RESISTORS

#### **Short Circuit with 12V<sub>IN</sub> to 34V<sub>OUT</sub>** at  $I_{OUT} = 2A$



2x 47µF 50V ELECTROLYTIC CAPS 2x 15mΩ SENSING RESISTORS



### **PIN FUNCTIONS**

**V<sub>IN</sub>** (Bank 1): Power Input Pins. Apply input voltage between these pins and PGND pins. Recommend placing input decoupling capacitance directly between  $V_{\text{IN}}$  pins and PGND pins.

**V<sub>OUT</sub>** (Bank 5): Power Output Pins. Apply output load between these pins and PGND pins. Recommend placing output decoupling capacitance directly between these pins and PGND pins.

**PGND (Bank 6):** Power Ground Pins for Both Input and Output Returns.

**SW1, SW2 (Bank 4, Bank 2):** Switch Nodes. The power inductor is connected between SW1 and SW2.

**RSENSE (Bank 3):** Sensing Resistor Pin. The sensing resistor is connected from this pin to PGND.

**SENSE+ (Pin A4):** Positive Input to the Current Sense and Reverse Current Detect Comparators.

**SENSE– (Pin A5):** Negative Input to the Current Sense and Reverse Current Detect Comparators.

**EXTV<sub>CC</sub>** (Pin F6): External V<sub>CC</sub> Input. When EXTV<sub>CC</sub> exceeds 5.7V, an internal switch connects this pin to  $INTV_{CC}$  and shuts down the internal regulator so that the controller and gate drive power is drawn from  $EXTV_{CC}$ . Do not exceed 7V at this pin and ensure that  $EXTV_{CC}$  <  $V_{IN}$ 

**INTV<sub>CC</sub>** (Pin F5): Internal 6V Regulator Output. This pin is for additional decoupling of the 6V internal regulator.

**PLLIN (Pin B9):** External Clock Synchronization Input to the Phase Detector. This pin is internally terminated to SGND with a 50k resistor. The phase-locked loop will force the rising bottom gate signal of the controller to be synchronized with the rising edge of PLLIN signal.

**PLLFLTR (Pin B8):** The lowpass filter of the phase-locked loop is tied to this pin. This pin can also be used to set the frequency of the internal oscillator with an AC or DC voltage. See the Applications Information section for details.

**SS (Pin A6):** Soft-Start Pin. Soft-start reduces the input surge current from the power source by gradually increasing the controller's current limit.

**STBYMD (Pin A10):** LDO Control Pin. Determines whether the internal LDO remains active when the controller is shut down. See Operations section for details. If the STBYMD pin is pulled to ground, the SS pin is internally pulled to ground to disable start-up and thereby providing a single control pin for turning off the controller. An internal decoupling capacitor is tied to this pin.

**V<sub>FB</sub>** (Pin B6): The Negative Input of the Error Amplifier. Internally, this pin is connected to  $V_{\text{OUT}}$  with a 100k precision resistor. Different output voltages can be programmed with an additional resistor between  $V_{FB}$  and SGND pins. See the Applications Information section.

**FCB (Pin A9):** Forced Continuous Control Input. The voltage applied to this pin sets the operating mode of the module. When the applied voltage is less than 0.8V, the forced continuous current mode is active in boost operation and the skip cycle mode is active in buck operation. When the pin is tied to  $INTV_{CC}$ , the constant frequency discontinuous current mode is active in buck or boost operation. See the Applications Information section.

**SGND (Pin A7):** Signal Ground Pin. This pin connects to PGND at output capacitor point.

**COMP (Pin B7):** Current Control Threshold and Error Amplifier Compensation Point. The current comparator threshold increases with this control voltage. The voltage ranges from 0V to 2.4V.

**PGOOD (Pin B5):** Output Voltage Power Good Indicator. Open drain logic output that is pulled to ground when the output voltage is not within  $\pm$ 7.5% of the regulation point.

**RUN (Pin A8):** Run Control Pin. A voltage below 1.6V will turn off the module. There is a 100k resistor between the RUN pin and SGND in the module. Do not apply more than 6V to this pin. See the Applications Information section.



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### **SIMPLIFIED BLOCK DIAGRAM**



**Figure 1. Simplified LTM4609 Block Diagram** 

### **DECOUPLING REQUIREMENTS** TA = 25°C. Use Figure 1 configuration.





### **OPERATION**

#### **Power Module Description**

The LTM4609 is a non-isolated buck-boost DC/DC power supply. It can deliver a wide range output voltage from 0.8V to 34V over a wide input range from 4.5V to 36V, by only adding the sensing resistor, inductor and some external input and output capacitors. It provides precisely regulated output voltage programmable via one external resistor. The typical application schematic is shown in Figure 18.

The LTM4609 has an integrated current mode buck-boost controller, ultralow  $R_{DS(ON)}$  FETs with fast switching speed and integrated Schottky diodes. With current mode control and internal feedback loop compensation, the LTM4609 module has sufficient stability margins and good transient performance under a wide range of operating conditions and with a wide range of output capacitors. The operating frequency of the LTM4609 can be adjusted from 200kHz to 400kHz by setting the voltage on the PLLFLTR pin.

Alternatively, its frequency can be synchronized by the input clock signal from the PLLIN pin. The typical switching frequency is 400kHz.

The Burst Mode® and skip-cycle mode operations can be enabled at light loads to improve efficiency, while the forced continuous mode and discontinuous mode operations are used for constant frequency applications. Foldback current limiting is activated in an overcurrent condition as  $V_{FB}$ drops. Internal overvoltage and undervoltage comparators pull the open-drain PGOOD output low if the output feedback voltage exits the  $\pm 7.5$ % window around the regulation point. Pulling the RUN pin below 1.6V forces the controller into its shutdown state.

If an external bias supply is applied on the  $EXTV_{CC}$  pin, then an efficiency improvement will occur due to the reduced power loss in the internal linear regulator. This is especially true at the higher end of the input voltage range.

# **APPLICATIONS INFORMATION**

The typical LTM4609 application circuit is shown in Figure 18. External component selection is primarily determined by the maximum load current and output voltage. Refer to Table 3 for specific external capacitor requirements for a particular application.

#### **Output Voltage Programming**

The PWM controller has an internal 0.8V reference voltage. As shown in the Block Diagram, a 100k internal feedback resistor connects  $V_{\text{OUT}}$  and  $V_{FB}$  pins together. Adding a resistor  $R_{FB}$  from the  $V_{FB}$  pin to the SGND pin programs the output voltage:

$$
V_{OUT} = 0.8 V \bullet \frac{100 k + R_{FB}}{R_{FB}}
$$





### **Operation Frequency Selection**

The LTM4609 uses current mode control architecture at constant switching frequency, which is determined by the internal oscillator's capacitor. This internal capacitor is charged by a fixed current plus an additional current that is proportional to the voltage applied to the PLLFLTR pin. The PLLFLTR pin can be grounded to lower the frequency to 200kHz or tied to 2.4V to yield approximately 400kHz. When PLLFLTR is left open, the PLLFLTR pin goes low, forcing the oscillator to its minimum frequency.

A graph for the voltage applied to the PLLFLTR pin vs frequency is given in Figure 2. As the operating frequency increases, the gate charge losses will be higher, thus the efficiency is lower. The maximum switching frequency is approximately 400kHz.

#### **FREQUENCY SYNCHRONIZATION**

4609fb The LTM4609 can also be synchronized to an external source via the PLLIN pin instead of adjusting the voltage on the PLLFLTR pin directly. The power module has a phase-



locked loop comprised of an internal voltage controlled oscillator and a phase detector. This allows turning on the internal top MOSFET for locking to the rising edge of the external clock. A pulse detection circuit is used to detect a clock on the PLLIN pin to turn on the phase-lock loop. The input pulse width of the clock has to be at least 400ns, and 2V in amplitude. The synchronized frequency ranges from 200kHz to 400kHz, corresponding to a DC voltage input from 0V to 2.4V at PLLFLTR. During the start-up of the regulator, the phase-lock loop function is disabled.



**Figure 2. Frequency vs PLLFLTR Pin Voltage**

### **Low Current Operation**

To improve efficiency at low output current operation, LTM4609 provides three modes for both buck and boost operations by accepting a logic input on the FCB pin. Table 2 shows the different operation modes.





When the FCB pin voltage is lower than 0.8V, the controller behaves as a continuous, PWM current mode synchronous switching regulator. When the FCB pin voltage is below  $V_{\text{INTVCC}} - 1$ V, but greater than 0.85V, where  $V_{\text{INTVCC}}$  is 6V, the controller enters Burst Mode operation in boost operation or enters skip-cycle mode in buck operation. During boost operation, Burst Mode operation is activated if the load current is lower than the preset minimum output current level. The MOSFETs will turn on for several cycles, followed by a variable "sleep" interval depending upon the load current. During buck operation, skip-cycle mode sets a minimum positive inductor current level. In this mode, some cycles will be skipped when the output load current drops below 1% of the maximum designed load in order to maintain the output voltage.

When the FCB pin voltage is tied to the  $INTV_{CC}$  pin, the controller enters constant frequency discontinuous current mode (DCM). For boost operation, if the output voltage is high enough, the controller can enter the continuous current buck mode for one cycle to discharge inductor current. In the following cycle, the controller will resume DCM boost operation. For buck operation, constant frequency discontinuous current mode is turned on if the preset minimum negative inductor current level is reached. At very light loads, this constant frequency operation is not as efficient as Burst Mode operation or skip-cycle, but does provide low noise, constant frequency operation.

### **Input Capacitors**

In boost mode, since the input current is continuous, only minimum input capacitors are required. However, the input current is discontinuous in buck mode. So the selection of input capacitor  $C_{IN}$  is driven by the need of filtering the input square wave current.

For a buck converter, the switching duty-cycle can be estimated as:

$$
D = \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}}
$$

Without considering the inductor current ripple, the RMS current of the input capacitor can be estimated as:

$$
I_{CIN(RMS)} = \frac{I_{OUT(MAX)}}{\eta} \cdot \sqrt{D \cdot (1 - D)}
$$

In the above equation,  $\eta$  is the estimated efficiency of the power module.  $C_{IN}$  can be a switcher-rated electrolytic aluminum capacitor, OS-CON capacitor or high volume ceramic capacitors. Note the capacitor ripple current ratings are often based on temperature and hours of life.



This makes it advisable to properly derate the input capacitor, or choose a capacitor rated at a higher temperature than required. Always contact the capacitor manufacturer for derating requirements.

#### **Output Capacitors**

In boost mode, the discontinuous current shifts from the input to the output, so the output capacitor  $C_{\text{OUT}}$  must be capable of reducing the output voltage ripple.

For boost and buck modes, the steady ripple due to charging and discharging the bulk capacitance is given by:

$$
V_{RIPPLE,BOOST} = \frac{I_{OUT(MAX)} \cdot (V_{OUT} - V_{IN(MIN)})}{C_{OUT} \cdot V_{OUT} \cdot f}
$$

$$
V_{RIPPLE,BUCK} = \frac{V_{OUT} \cdot (V_{IN(MAX)} - V_{OUT})}{8 \cdot L \cdot C_{OUT} \cdot V_{IN(MAX)} \cdot f^2}
$$

The steady ripple due to the voltage drop across the ESR (effective series resistance) is given by:

$$
V_{ESR,BUCK} = \Delta I_{L(MAX)} \cdot ESR
$$
  

$$
V_{ESR,BOOST} = I_{L(MAX)} \cdot ESR
$$

The LTM4609 is designed for low output voltage ripple. The bulk output capacitors defined as  $C<sub>OIIT</sub>$  are chosen with low enough ESR to meet the output voltage ripple and transient requirements.  $C<sub>OUT</sub>$  can be the low ESR tantalum capacitor, the low ESR polymer capacitor or the ceramic capacitor. Multiple capacitors can be placed in parallel to meet the ESR and RMS current handling requirements. The typical capacitance is 300µF. Additional output filtering may be required by the system designer, if further reduction of output ripple or dynamic transient spike is required. Table 3 shows a matrix of different output voltages and output capacitors to minimize the voltage droop and overshoot at a current transient.

### **Inductor Selection**

The inductor is chiefly decided by the required ripple current and the operating frequency. The inductor current ripple  $\Delta I_1$  is typically set to 20% to 40% of the maximum inductor current. In the inductor design, the worst cases in continuous mode are considered as follows:

$$
L_{\text{BOOST}} \ge \frac{V_{\text{IN}}^2 \cdot (V_{\text{OUT}(\text{MAX})} - V_{\text{IN}})}{V_{\text{OUT}(\text{MAX})}^2 \cdot f \cdot I_{\text{OUT}(\text{MAX})} \cdot \text{Ripple%}}
$$
  

$$
L_{\text{BUCK}} \ge \frac{V_{\text{OUT}} \cdot (V_{\text{IN}(\text{MAX})} - V_{\text{OUT}})}{V_{\text{IN}(\text{MAX})} \cdot f \cdot I_{\text{OUT}(\text{MAX})} \cdot \text{Ripple%}}
$$

where:

ƒ is operating frequency, Hz

Ripple% is allowable inductor current ripple, %

 $V_{\text{OUT} (MAX)}$  is maximum output voltage, V

 $V_{IN(MAX)}$  is maximum input voltage, V

 $V_{OIII}$  is output voltage, V

 $I_{\text{OUT} (MAX)}$  is maximum output load current, A

The inductor should have low DC resistance to reduce the I<sup>2</sup>R losses, and must be able to handle the peak inductor current without saturation. To minimize radiated noise, use a toroid, pot core or shielded bobbin inductor. Please refer to Table 3 for the recommended inductors for different cases.

### **RSENSE Selection and Maximum Output Current**

R<sub>SENSE</sub> is chosen based on the required inductor current. Since the maximum inductor valley current at buck mode is much lower than the inductor peak current at boost mode, different sensing resistors are suggested to use in buck and boost modes.

The current comparator threshold sets the peak of the inductor current in boost mode and the maximum inductor valley current in buck mode. In boost mode, the allowed maximum average load current is:

$$
I_{OUT(MAX,BOOST)} = \left(\frac{160mV}{R_{SENSE}} - \frac{\Delta I_L}{2}\right) \bullet \frac{V_{IN}}{V_{OUT}}
$$

where Δl<sub>L</sub> is peak-to-peak inductor ripple current.



In buck mode, the allowed maximum average load current is:

$$
I_{OUT(MAX,BUCK)} = \frac{130mV}{R_{SENSE}} + \frac{\Delta I_L}{2}
$$

The maximum current sensing  $R_{\text{S FNSF}}$  value for the boost mode is:

$$
R_{\text{SENSE}(\text{MAX}, \text{BOOST})} = \frac{2 \cdot 160 \text{mV} \cdot V_{\text{IN}}}{2 \cdot I_{\text{OUT}(\text{MAX}, \text{BOOST})} \cdot V_{\text{OUT}} + \Delta I_{\text{L}} \cdot V_{\text{IN}}}
$$

The maximum current sensing  $R_{\rm SENSE}$  value for the buck mode is:

$$
R_{\text{SENSE}(\text{MAX}, \text{BUCK})} = \frac{2 \cdot 130 \text{mV}}{2 \cdot I_{\text{OUT}(\text{MAX}, \text{BUCK})} - \Delta I_L}
$$

A 20% to 30% margin on the calculated sensing resistor is usually recommended. Please refer to Table 3 for the recommended sensing resistors for different applications.

### **Soft-Start**

The SS pin provides a means to soft-start the regulator. A capacitor on this pin will program the ramp rate of the output voltage. A 1.7μA current source will charge up the external soft-start capacitor. This will control the ramp of the internal reference and the output voltage. The total soft-start time can be calculated as:

$$
t_{SOFFSTART} = \frac{2.4V \cdot C_{SS}}{1.7\mu A}
$$

When the RUN pin falls below 1.6V, then soft-start pin is reset to allow for proper soft-start control when the regulator is enabled again. Current foldback and force continuous mode are disabled during the soft-start process. The softstart function can also be used to control the output ramp up time, so that another regulator can be easily tracked. Do not apply more than 6V to the SS pin.

### **Run Enable**

The RUN pin is used to enable the power module. The pin can be driven with a logic input, not to exceed 6V.

The RUN pin can also be used as an undervoltage lockout (UVLO) function by connecting a resistor from the input supply to the RUN pin. The equation:

$$
V_UUVLO = \frac{R1 + R2}{R2} \cdot 1.6V
$$

### **Power Good**

The PGOOD pin is an open drain pin that can be used to monitor valid output voltage regulation. This pin monitors  $a \pm 7.5$ % window around the regulation point.

#### **COMP Pin**

This pin is the external compensation pin. The module has already been internally compensated for most output voltages. A spice model is available for other control loop optimization.

#### **Fault Conditions: Current Limit and Overcurrent Foldback**

LTM4609 has a current mode controller, which inherently limits the cycle-by-cycle inductor current not only in steady state operation, but also in transient. Refer to Table 3.

To further limit current in the event of an overload condition, the LTM4609 provides foldback current limiting. If the output voltage falls by more than 70%, then the maximum output current is progressively lowered to about 30% of its full current limit value for boost mode and about 40% for buck mode.

### **Standby Mode (STBYMD)**

The standby mode (STBYMD) pin provides several choices for start-up and standby operational modes. If the pin is pulled to ground, the SS pin is internally pulled to ground, preventing start-up and thereby providing a single control



pin for turning off the controller. If the pin is left open or decoupled with a capacitor to ground, the SS pin is internally provided with a starting current, permitting external control for turning on the controller. If the pin is connected to a voltage greater than 1.25V, the internal regulator (INTV $_{\text{CC}}$ ) will be on even when the controller is shut down (RUN pin voltage <1.6V). In this mode, the onboard 6V output linear regulator can provide power to keep-alive functions such as a keyboard controller.

### **INTV<sub>CC</sub>** and **EXTV**<sub>CC</sub>

An internal P-channel low dropout regulator produces 6V at the INTV<sub>CC</sub> pin from the V<sub>IN</sub> supply pin. INTV<sub>CC</sub> powers the control chip and internal circuitry within the module.

The LTM4609 also provides the external supply voltage pin  $EXT_{CC}$ . When the voltage applied to  $EXT_{CC}$  rises above 5.7V, the internal regulator is turned off and an internal switch connects the  $\text{EXTV}_{\text{CC}}$  pin to the INTV<sub>CC</sub> pin thereby supplying internal power. The switch remains closed as long as the voltage applied to  $EXTV_{CC}$  remains above 5.5V. This allows the MOSFET driver and control power to be derived from the output when  $(5.7V < V<sub>OIII</sub> < 7V)$  and from the internal regulator when the output is out of regulation (startup, short-circuit). If more current is required through the  $EXTV_{CC}$  switch than is specified, an external Schottky diode can be interposed between the  $EXTV_{CC}$  and  $INTV_{CC}$  pins. Ensure that  $EXTV_{CC} \leq V_{IN}$ .

The following list summarizes the three possible connections for  $EXTV_{CC}$ :

- 1. EXTV $_{\text{CC}}$  left open (or grounded). This will cause INTV $_{\text{CC}}$ to be powered from the internal 6V regulator at the cost of a small efficiency penalty.
- 2. EXTV<sub>CC</sub> connected directly to  $V_{\text{OUT}}$  (5.7V <  $V_{\text{OUT}}$  < 7V). This is the normal connection for a 6V regulator and provides the highest efficiency.
- 3. EXTV $_{CC}$  connected to an external supply. If an external supply is available in the 5.5V to 7V range, it may be used to power  $EXTV_{CC}$  provided it is compatible with the MOSFET gate drive requirements.

#### **Thermal Considerations and Output Current Derating**

In different applications, LTM4609 operates in a variety of thermal environments. The maximum output current is limited by the environmental thermal condition. Sufficient cooling should be provided to ensure reliable operation. When the cooling is limited, proper output current derating is necessary, considering ambient temperature, airflow, input/output condition, and the need for increased reliability.

The power loss curves in Figures 5 and 6 can be used in coordination with the load current derating curves in Figures 7 to 14 for calculating an approximate  $\theta_{JA}$  for the module. Column designation delineates between no heat sink, and a BGA heat sink. Each of the load current derating curves will lower the maximum load current as a function of the increased ambient temperature to keep the maximum junction temperature of the power module at 115°C allowing a safe margin for the maximum operating temperature below 125°C. Each of the derating curves and the power loss curve that corresponds to the correct output voltage can be used to solve for the approximate  $\theta$ <sub>JA</sub> of the condition. A complete explanation of the thermal characteristics is provided in the thermal application note for the LTM4609.

#### **DESIGN EXAMPLES**

#### **Buck Mode Operation**

As a design example, use input voltage  $V_{IN}$  = 12V to 36V,  $V_{\text{OUT}}$  = 12V and  $f$  = 400kHz.

Set the PLLFLTR pin at 2.4V or more for 400kHz frequency and connect FCB to ground for continuous current mode operation. If a divider is used to set the frequency as shown in Figure 16, the bottom resistor R3 is recommended not to exceed 1kΩ.

To set the output voltage at 12V, the resistor  $R_{FB}$  from  $V_{FB}$ pin to ground should be chosen as:

$$
R_{FB} = \frac{0.8V \cdot 100k}{V_{OUT} - 0.8V} \approx 7.15k
$$

To choose a proper inductor, we need to know the current ripple at different input voltages. The inductor should be chosen by considering the worst case in the practical operating region. If the maximum output power P is 120W at buck mode, we can get the current ripple ratio of the current ripple  $\Delta I_1$  to the maximum inductor current  $I<sub>L</sub>$  as follows:

$$
\frac{\Delta I_L}{I_L} = \frac{(V_{IN} - V_{OUT}) \cdot V_{OUT}^2}{V_{IN} \cdot L \cdot f \cdot P}
$$

Figure 3 shows the current ripple ratio at different input voltages based on the inductor values: 2.5μH, 3.3μH, 4.7μH and 6μH. If we need about 40% ripple current ratio at all inputs, the 4.7μH inductor can be selected.

At buck mode, sensing resistor selection is based on the maximum output current and the allowed maximum sensing threshold 130mV.

$$
R_{\text{SENSE}} = \frac{2 \cdot 130 \text{mV}}{2 \cdot (P / V_{\text{OUT}}) - \Delta I_L}
$$

Consider the safety margin about 30%, we can choose the sensing resistor as  $9mΩ$ .



**Figure 3. Current Ripple Ratio at Different Inputs for Buck Mode**

For the input capacitor, use a low ESR sized capacitor to handle the maximum RMS current. Input capacitors are required to be placed adjacent to the module. In Figure 16, the 10μF ceramic input capacitors are selected for their ability to handle the large RMS current into the converter. The 100μF bulk capacitor is only needed if the input source impedance is compromised by long inductive leads or traces.

For the output capacitor, the output voltage ripple and transient requirements require low ESR capacitors. If assuming that the ESR dominates the output ripple, the output ripple is as follows:

$$
\Delta V_{OUT(P-P)} = ESR \bullet \Delta I_L
$$

If a total low ESR of about 5mΩ is chosen for output capacitors, the maximum output ripple of 21.5mV occurs at the input voltage of 36V with the current ripple at 4.3A.

#### **Boost Mode Operation**

For boost mode operation, use input voltage  $V_{IN} = 5V$  to 12V,  $V_{OIII}$  = 12V and  $f$  = 400kHz.

Set the PLLFLTR pin and  $R_{FR}$  as in buck mode.

If the maximum output power P is 50W at boost mode and the module efficiency  $\eta$  is about 90%, we can get the current ripple ratio of the current ripple  $\Delta I_1$  to the maximum inductor current  $I_1$  as follows:

$$
\frac{\Delta I_L}{I_L} = \frac{(V_{OUT} - V_{IN}) \cdot V_{IN}^2 \eta}{V_{OUT} \cdot L \cdot f \cdot P}
$$





**Figure 4. Current Ripple Ratio at Different Inputs for Boost Mode**

Figure 4 shows the current ripple ratio at different input voltages based on the inductor values: 1.5μH, 2.5μH, 3.3μH and 4.7μH. If we need 30% ripple current ratio at all inputs, the 3.3μH inductor can be selected.

At boost mode, sensing resistor selection is based on the maximum input current and the allowed maximum sensing threshold 160mV.

$$
R_{\text{SENSE}} = \frac{2 \cdot 160 \text{mV}}{2 \cdot \frac{\text{P}}{\text{N} \cdot V_{\text{IN}(\text{MIN})}} + \Delta I_{\text{L}}}
$$

Consider the safety margin about 30%, we can choose the sensing resistor as  $8m\Omega$ .

For the input capacitor, only minimum capacitors are needed to handle the maximum RMS current, since it is a continuous input current at boost mode. A 100μF capacitor is only needed if the input source impedance is compromised by long inductive leads or traces.

Since the output capacitors at boost mode need to filter the square wave current, more capacitors are expected to achieve the same output ripples as the buck mode. If assuming that the ESR dominates the output ripple, the output ripple is as follows:

 $\Delta V_{\text{OUT(P-P)}} = \text{ESR} \cdot I_{\text{L}(\text{MAX})}$ 

If a total low ESR about 5mΩ is chosen for output capacitors, the maximum output ripple of 70mV occurs at the input voltage of 5V with the peak inductor current at 14A.

An RC snubber is recommended on SW1 to obtain low switching noise, as shown in Figure 17.

#### **Wide Input Mode Operation**

If a wide input range is required from 5V to 36V, the module will work in different operation modes. If input voltage  $V_{IN}$  = 5V to 36V,  $V_{OUT}$  = 12V and  $f$  = 400kHz, the design needs to consider the worst case in buck or boost mode design. Therefore, the maximum output power is limited to 60W. The sensing resistor is chosen at  $8m\Omega$ , the input capacitor is the same as the buck mode design and the output capacitor uses the boost mode design. Since the maximum output ripple normally occurs at boost mode in the wide input mode design, more inductor ripple current, up to 150% of the inductor current, is allowed at buck mode to meet the ripple design requirement. Thus, a 3.3μH inductor is chosen at the wide input mode. The maximum output ripple voltage is still 70mV if the total ESR is about 5mΩ.

Additionally, the current limit may become very high when the module runs at buck mode due to the low sensing resistor used in the wide input mode operation.

#### **Safety Considerations**

The LTM4609 modules do not provide isolation from  $V_{IN}$  to  $V<sub>OUT</sub>$ . There is no internal fuse. If required, a slow blow fuse with a rating twice the maximum input current needs to be provided to protect each unit from catastrophic failure.



#### **Table 3. Typical Components (ƒ = 400kHz)**









#### **Table 3. Typical Components (ƒ = 400kHz) Continued**





\*Maximum load current is based on the Linear Technology DC1198A at room temperature with natural convection. Poor board layout design may decrease the maximum load current.

### **(Power Loss includes all external components) TYPICAL APPLICATIONS**











Figure 7. 5V<sub>IN</sub> to 16V<sub>OUT</sub> without Heat Sink **Figure 8. 5V<sub>IN</sub> to 16V<sub>OUT</sub> with Heat Sink** 



Figure 9. 5V<sub>IN</sub> to 30V<sub>OUT</sub> without Heat Sink **Figure 10. 5V<sub>IN</sub> to 30V<sub>OUT</sub> with Heat Sink** 















Figure 13. 36V<sub>IN</sub> to 20V<sub>OUT</sub> without Heat Sink **Figure 14. 36V<sub>IN</sub> to 20V<sub>OUT</sub> with Heat Sink** 



### **APPLICATIONS INFORMATION**

#### **Table 4. Boost Mode**



#### **Table 5. Buck Mode**





 $^\star$ The results of thermal resistance from junction to ambient  $\theta_{\sf J A}$  are based on the demo board DC 1198A. Thus, the maximum temperature on board is treated as the junction temperature (which is in the μModule for most cases) and the power losses from all components are counted for calculations. It has to be mentioned that poor board design may increase the  $\theta_{JA}$ .



#### **Layout Checklist/Example**

The high integration of LTM4609 makes the PCB board layout very simple and easy. However, to optimize its electrical and thermal performance, some layout considerations are still necessary.

- Use large PCB copper areas for high current path, including  $V_{IN}$ , R<sub>SENSE</sub>, SW1, SW2, PGND and  $V_{OUT}$ . It helps to minimize the PCB conduction loss and thermal stress.
- Place high frequency input and output ceramic capacitors next to the  $V_{IN}$ , PGND and  $V_{OUT}$  pins to minimize high frequency noise
- Route SENSE<sup>-</sup> and SENSE<sup>+</sup> leads together with minimum PC trace spacing. Avoid sense lines passing through noisy areas, such as switch nodes.
- Place a dedicated power ground layer underneath the unit.
- To minimize the via conduction loss and reduce module thermal stress, use multiple vias for interconnection between the top layer and other power layers
- Do not put vias directly on pads, unless the vias are capped.
- Use a separated SGND ground copper area for components connected to signal pins. Connect the SGND to PGND underneath the unit.

Figure 15. gives a good example of the recommended layout.



**KELVIN CONNECTIONS TO RSENSE** 

**Figure 15. Recommended PCB Layout**





**Figure 16. Buck Mode Operation with 12V to 36V Input**



**Figure 17. Boost Mode Operation with 5V to 12V Input with Low Switching Noise (Optional)**





**Figure 18. Wide Input Mode with 5V to 36V Input, 12V at 4A Output**



**Figure 19. 32V at 2A Design**





**Figure 20. Two-Phase Parallel, 12V at 8A Design**



### **PACKAGE DESCRIPTION**





### **REVISION HISTORY (Revision history begins at Rev B)**







### **PACKAGE DESCRIPTION**





# **RELATED PARTS**



