

General Description

The MAX3801 is a +3.3V adaptive cable equalizer designed for coaxial and twin-axial cable point-to-point communications applications. The equalizer includes differential CML data inputs and outputs, a loss-of-signal (\overline{LOS}) output, and a cable integrity monitor (CIM) output.

The adaptive cable equalizer is capable of equalizing differential or single-ended signals at data rates up to 3.2Gbps. It automatically adjusts to attenuation caused by skin-effect losses of up to 30dB at 1.6GHz. The equalizer effectively extends the usable length of copper cable in high-frequency interconnect applications.

The MAX3801 is available in a 24-pin QFN package with exposed pad and consumes only 125mW at +3.3V.

Applications

High-Speed Links in Communications and Data Systems

Backplane and Interconnect Applications

SDH/SONET Transmission Equipment

_Features

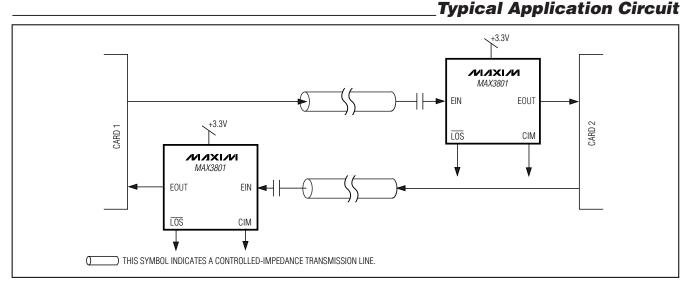
- Single +3.3V Operation
- Typical Power Dissipation = 125mW at +3.3V
- Data Rates Up to 3.2Gbps
- Equalizer Automatically Adjusts for Different Cable Lengths
- 0dB to 30dB Equalization at 1.6GHz (3.2Gbps)
- ♦ Loss-of-Signal (LOS) Indicator
- Cable Integrity Monitor (CIM)
- On-Chip Input and Output Terminations
- Low External Component Count
- ♦ Operating Temperature Range = 0°C to +85°C
- ESD Protection on Inputs and Outputs

Ordering Information

| PART | TEMP RANGE | PIN- PACKAGE | PACKAGE CODE | |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| MAX3801UGG | 0°C to +85°C | 24 QFN | G2444-1 | |
| MAX3801UTG | 0°C to +85°C | 24 Thin QFN | T2444-2 | |
| MAX3801UTG+ | 0°C to +85°C | 24 Thin QFN | T2444-2 | |

+Denotes lead-free package.

Pin Configuration appears at end of data sheet.



Maxim Integrated Products 1

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

ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

| Supply Voltage, V _{CC} | 0.5V to +6.0V |
|--|---------------------------|
| Voltage at LOS, CIM+, CIM | |
| Voltage at EIN+, EIN | |
| Current Out of EOUT+, EOUT | 25mA |
| Continuous Power Dissipation (T _A | = +85°C) |
| 24-Lead QFN-EP (derate 25.1mV | V/°C above +85°C) .1630mW |

| Operating Ambient Temperature Range | 0°C to +85°C |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Storage Temperature Range | ·55°C to +150°C |
| Lead Temperature (soldering, 10s) | +300°C |

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

DC ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

(V_{CC} = +3.14V to +3.46V, T_A = 0°C to +85°C. Typical values are at V_{CC} = +3.3V and T_A = +25°C, unless otherwise noted.)

| PARAMETER | SYMBOL | CONDITIONS | MIN | ТҮР | MAX | UNITS |
|---|-----------------------|--|------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Supply Current | Icc | Includes external load current | | 37 | 60 | mA |
| INPUT SPECIFICATIONS | | | | | | |
| Minimum Cable Input (Differential) | | 3.2Gbps, 30dB cable loss at 1.6GHz (Note 1) | | 650 | 700 | MV _{P-P} |
| Maximum Cable Input (Differential) | | | | 1100 | | mV _{P-P} |
| Input Impedance | | Single-ended | 40 | 53 | 62.5 | Ω |
| OUTPUT SPECIFICATIONS | OUTPUT SPECIFICATIONS | | | | | |
| Output Voltage (Differential) | | (Note 2) | 500 | | 1000 | mV _{P-P} |
| Output Impedance | | Single-ended | 50 | 65 | 75 | Ω |
| Voltage at CIM Output (Differential) | VCIM | No external load, VCIM = (VCIM+) - (VCIM-) | -0.5 | | +0.5 | VP-P |
| Voltage at CIM Output (Single-Ended) | Vcim+, Vcim- | No external load | 0.5 | | V _{CC} - 0.5 | V |
| Voltage at LOS | | Output high (Note 3) | 2.4 | | | v |
| | | Output low (Note 3) | | | 0.4 | |
| Output Common-Mode Voltage | | Each output DC-coupled 50 $\!\Omega$ to V_{CC} | | V _{CC} - 0.2 | | V |

AC ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

(V_{CC} = +3.14V to +3.46V, $T_A = 0^{\circ}C$ to +85°C. Typical values are at V_{CC} = +3.3V and $T_A = +25^{\circ}C$, unless otherwise noted.) (Note 4)

| PARAMETER | SYMBOL | CONDITIONS | MIN | ТҮР | MAX | UNITS |
|-----------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Maximum Input Data Rate | | | 3.2 | | | Gbps |
| Residual Jitter (Note 5) | | 0dB cable loss (Note 6) | | 120 | 240 | |
| | | 24dB cable loss (Note 6) | | 140 | 240 | mUlp_p |
| | | 30dB cable loss (Note 6) | | 100 | 200 | |
| Output Edge Speed | | 20% to 80% | | 64 | 90 | ps |
| Input Return Loss (Single-Ended) | | ≤3.2GHz | | 15 | | dB |
| Output Return Loss (Single-Ended) | | ≤3.2GHz | | 15 | | dB |
| Equalization Compensation | | 1.6GHz (skin-effect losses only) | 30 | | | dB |
| Equalization Time Constant | | | | 5 | | μs |

Note 1: Minimum cable input for LOS to assert high.

Note 2: Input voltage within specification limits, 50 $\!\Omega$ to V_{CC} at each output.

Note 3: $100k\Omega$ load to ground.

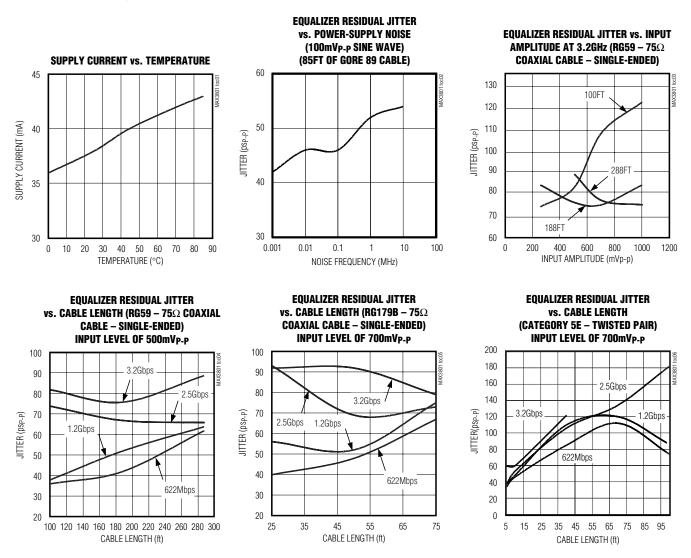
Note 4: AC electrical characteristics are guaranteed by design and characterization.

Note 5: Includes random jitter and deterministic jitter.

Note 6: Differential cable input voltage = 700mV_{P-P}, 3.2Gbps 2¹³ - 1PRBS with 100 consecutive ones and 100 consecutive zeros substituted. Cable loss is due to skin effect only.

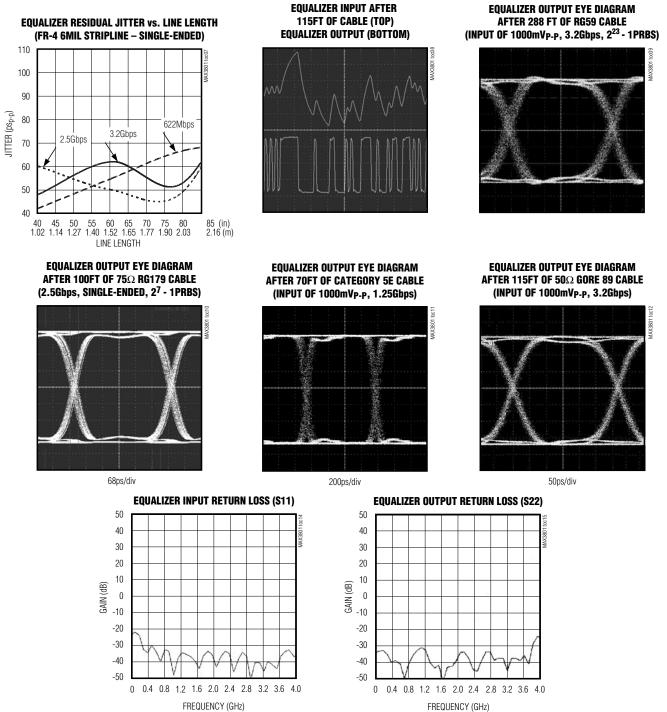
Typical Operating Characteristics

(V_{CC} = +3.3V, all jitter measurements done at 3.2Gbps, 700mV cable input with 2¹³ - 1 PRBS pattern with 100 consecutive ones and 100 consecutive zeros substituted, T_A = +25°C. **Note:** Test pattern produces near worst-case jitter results. Results vary with pattern, unless otherwise noted.)



Typical Operating Characteristics (continued)

(V_{CC} = +3.3V, all jitter measurements done at 3.2Gbps, 700mV cable input with 2^{13} - 1 PRBS pattern with 100 consecutive ones and 100 consecutive zeros substituted, T_A = +25°C. **Note:** Test pattern produces near worst-case jitter results. Results vary with pattern, unless otherwise noted.)





| PIN | NAME | FUNCTION |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---|
| 1, 3, 7, 12, 16, 18, 19, 24 | GND | Ground |
| 2, 4, 8, 11, 17, 20, 23 | Vcc | Power Supply |
| 5 | CIM- | Negative Cable Integrity Monitor (CIM) Output |
| 6 | CIM+ | Positive Cable Integrity Monitor (CIM) Output |
| 9 | EOUT- | Negative Equalizer Output, CML |
| 10 | EOUT+ | Postive Equalizer Output, CML |
| 13, 14 | N.C. | No connection. Leave unconnected. |
| 15 | LOS | Equalizer Loss-of-Signal Output, Active-Low |
| 21 | EIN+ | Postive Equalizer Input, CML |
| 22 | EIN- | Negative Equalizer Input, CML |
| EP | Exposed Pad | Ground. The exposed pad must be soldered to the circuit board ground for proper thermal and electrical operation. |

Detailed Description

The adaptive cable equalizer accepts differential CML input data at rates up to 3.2Gbps and is capable of equalizing differential or single-ended signals. It automatically adjusts to attenuation levels of up to 30dB at 1.6GHz (because of skin-effect losses in copper cable). The equalizer consists of a CML input buffer, a loss-of-signal detector, a flat response amplifier, a skin-effect compensation amplifier, a current-steering network, a dual power-detector feedback loop, an output limiting amplifier, and a CML output buffer (Figure 1).

General Theory of Operation

The shape of the power spectrum of a random bit stream can be described by the square of the sinc function, where sinc f = $(\sin \pi f) / \pi f$. For sufficiently long bit patterns (nonrandom bit streams), sinc²(f) is a good approximation. From the shape of the sinc²(f) function, we can estimate the ratio of the power densities at any two frequencies. The MAX3801 adaptive equalizer employs this principle by incorporating a feedback loop that continuously monitors the power at two frequencies and dynamically adjusts the equalizer to maintain the correct power ratio.

CML Input and Output Buffers

Pin Description

The input and output buffers are implemented using current-mode logic (CML). Equivalent circuits are shown in Figures 2 and 3. For details on interfacing with CML, refer to Maxim application note HFAN-1.0, Introduction to LVDS, PECL, and CML.

Flat Response and Skin-Effect Compensation Amplifiers

The buffered input waveform is fed equally to two amplifiers—the flat response amplifier and the skineffect compensation amplifier. The flat response amplifier has a constant gain over the entire frequency range of the device, and the skin-effect compensation amplifier has a gain characteristic that approximates the inverse of the skin-effect attenuation inherent in copper cable. The skin-effect attenuation, in dB per unit length, is proportional to the square root of the frequency. The output currents from the two amplifiers are supplied to the current-steering network. Note that, when LOS asserts low, equalization is minimized.

Current-Steering Network

The function of the current-steering network is to combine adjustable quantities of the output currents from the flat response and skin-effect compensation ampli-



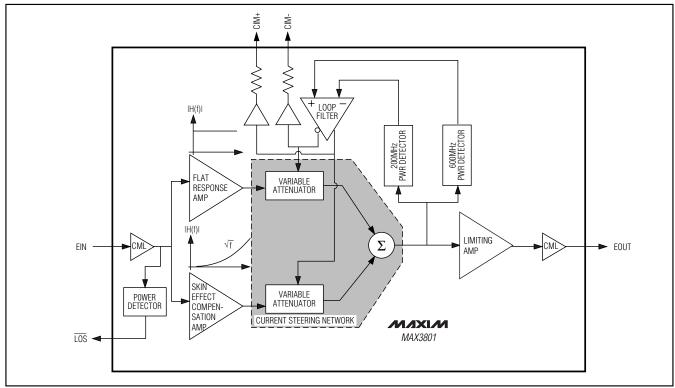


Figure 1. Functional Diagram

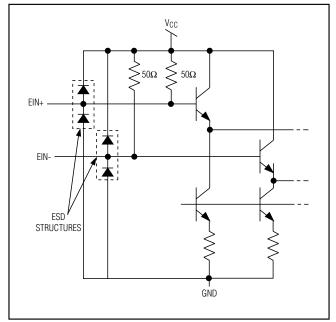


Figure 2. CML Input Equivalent Circuit

ESD STRUCTURES 62.50 62.50 EOUT+ EOUT-EOUT-EOUT-

Figure 3. CML Output Equivalent Circuit

fiers to achieve a desired current ratio. The ratio adjustment is controlled by the dual power-detector feedback loop.

The current-steering network is implemented with two variable attenuators that feed into a current-summing node. The variable attenuators attenuate the output currents of the flat response and skin-effect compensation amplifiers under control of the dual power-detector feedback loop. The outputs of the two attenuators are combined at the summing node and then fed to the output limiting amplifier and the feedback loop.

Dual Power-Detector Feedback Loop

The output of the current-steering network is applied to the inputs of two frequency-specific power detectors. One of the power detectors is tuned to 200MHz, and the other is tuned to 600MHz. The outputs of the two power detectors are applied to the inverting (200MHz power detector) and noninverting (600MHz power detector) inputs of the differential loop amplifier. The differential outputs of the loop amplifier control the variable attenuators in the current-steering network.

Output Limiting Amplifier

The output limiting amplifier amplifies the signal from the current-steering network to achieve the specified output voltage swing.

Applications Information

Refer to Maxim application note HFAN-10.0, *Equalizing Gigabit Copper Cable Links with the MAX3800* (available at www.maxim-ic.com) for additional applications information.

Cable Integrity Monitor (CIM)

The differential CIM output current is directly proportional to the output current of the loop amplifier (which controls the current-steering network—see the *Detailed Description*). This is an analog current output that indicates the amount of equalization being applied. A convenient way to monitor the CIM current is to connect a 100k Ω resistor from each of the CIM outputs to ground, and then measure the voltage at the CIM pins.

The amount of equalization (and thus the CIM output level) is affected by various factors, including cable type, cable length, signal bandwidth, etc.

Loss-of-Signal (LOS) Output

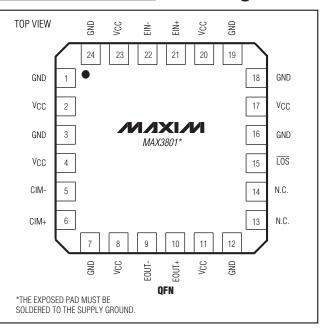
Loss-of-signal is indicated by the LOS output. A low level on LOS indicates that the equalizer input signal power has dropped below a threshold. The LOS output indicates a loss of signal. When the equalizer no longer detects a signal from the channel, the LOS output goes low. When there is sufficient input voltage to the channel (typically greater than 650mV), LOS is high. The LOS output is suitable for indicating problems with the transmission link caused by, for example, a broken cable, a defective driver, or a lost connection to the equalizer.

Single-Ended Operation

For single-ended operation of the equalizer, connect the unused input to ground through a series combination of a capacitor (of equal value to other AC-coupling capacitors) and a 50Ω resistor. Note that the MAX3801 is specified for differential operation. The effective range of equalization for single-ended use is approximately 4dB to 30dB at 1.6GHz.

Layout Considerations

The MAX3801's performance significantly can be affected by circuit-board layout and design. Use good high-frequency design techniques, including minimizing ground inductance and using fixed-impedance transmission lines for the high-frequency data signals. Place power-supply decoupling capacitors as close as possible to V_{CC}.

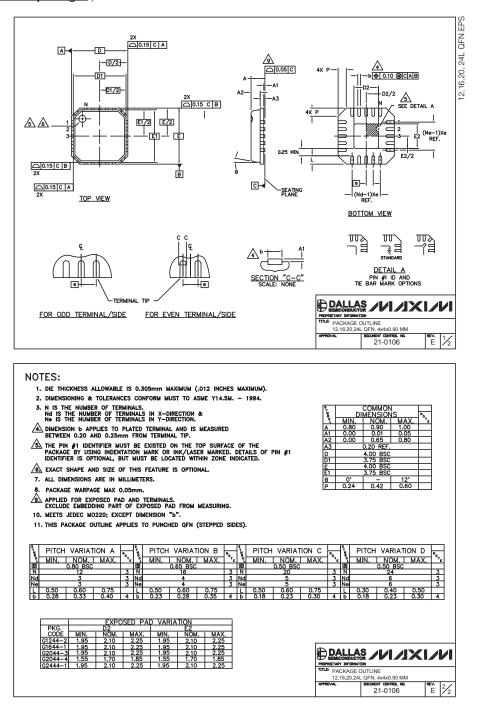


Pin Configuration

M/IXI/M

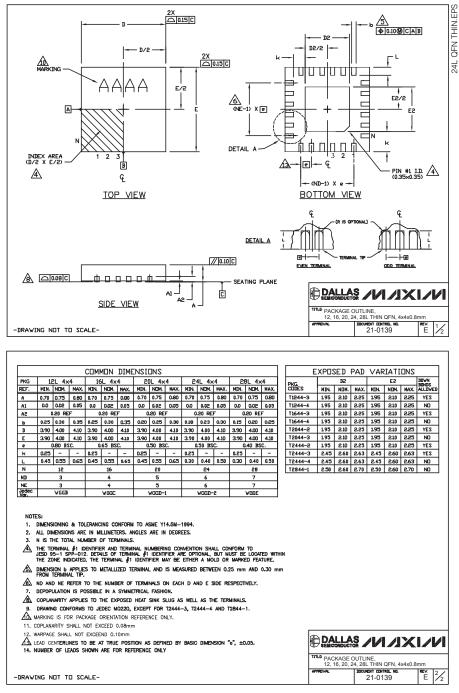
Package Information

(The package drawing(s) in this data sheet may not reflect the most current specifications. For the latest package outline information, go to **www.maxim-ic.com/packages**.)



Package Information (continued)

(The package drawing(s) in this data sheet may not reflect the most current specifications. For the latest package outline information, go to **www.maxim-ic.com/packages**.)



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