

18-Channel Smart Lowside Switch TLE6244X

Application Note

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Automotive Power



Never stop thinking.

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18-Channel Smart Lowside Switch TLE6244X

Application Note

Version 1.0

Automotive Power



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TLE6244X

Revision History:2005-5V1.0

Previous Version:none

1 Overview

Modern Engine Management/Powertrain Systems call for highly integrated intelligent Power Semiconductors under respect of today's and tomorrow's environmental and safety regulations. The growing number of loads must be driven in an intelligent way in combination with real-time fault monitoring. These requirements demand that protection and fault diagnostics be present in the module to meet emission regulations and maintain system reliability.

The TLE6244X is a 18-fold Low-Side Switch in Smart Power Technology (SPT). The device is protected by embedded protection functions, provides Serial Peripheral Interface (SPI) and can be used in PWM applications. It is particularly suitable for applications in engine management and powertrain systems. It has following features:

Features:

- o Short Circuit Protection
- o Over-temperature Protection
- o Over-voltage Protection
- o 16 bit Serial Data Input and Diagnostic Output (2 bits/Channel. acc. SPI Protocol)
- o Direct Parallel Control of 16 Channels for PWM Applications
- o Low Quiescent Current
- o Input pins Compatible with 3.3V and 5V Microcontrollers
- o Electrostatic Discharge (ESD) Protection

1.1 Detailed Block Diagram TLE6244X

The TLE6244X detailed block diagram is shown in Figure 1. The SPI is present to provide the interface for diagnosis and configuration. All power stages can be controlled by SPI interface. Channel 1-16 have parallel input, which can be used in PWM applications.

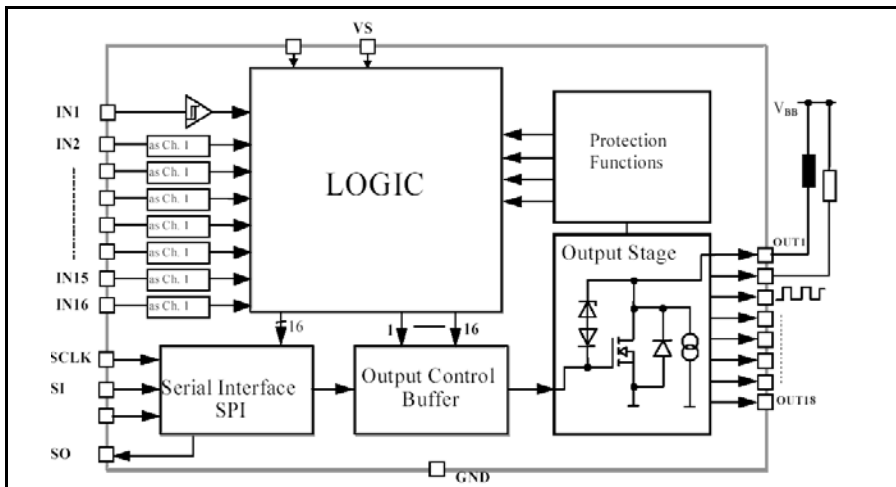


Figure 1 TLE6244 Block Diagram

1.2 Features of the Power Stages

The power stages have different features to meet the requirements of various applications. For example, OUT 1-6 are optimized for injector management in a 6 cylinder engine. They have a higher clamping voltage than the other 12 channels, which allows precise control of injectors. Table 1 below gives an overview of the output clamping voltages and other key characteristics.

	Nominal Current	$R_{on,max}$ at $T_J = 25^\circ C$	static current limitation enabled by SPI	Clamping
OUT1, 2, 5, 6	2.2A	400m Ω	-	70V
OUT3, OUT4	2.2A	380m Ω	-	70V
OUT7, OUT8	1.1A	780m Ω	-	45V
OUT9, OUT10	2.2A	380m Ω	X	45V
OUT11...OUT14	2.2A	380m Ω	-	45V
OUT15, OUT16	3.0A	280m Ω	X	45V
OUT17, OUT18 *)	1.1A	780m Ω	X	45V

*) only serial control possible (via SPI)

Table 1 Features of the Power Stages

2 Basic Channel Operation

In this section some basic concept and special features of TLE6244X will be introduced in order to facilitate the understanding of the device.

2.1 Non-inverting and Inverting Channels

All channels of TLE6244X except channel 8, have their IN pins connected to an internal pull-up current source. They work with a non-inverting logic. In the off state, an open input pin (high due to internal pull up) of the affiliated channel corresponds to a high at their output pins as shown in Figure 2. To turn on a desired channel its input pin should be pulled low (low active). Channel 8 is the only inverting channel on the TLE6244X. A logical low signal at its input pin means a battery potential at its output pin (high active) and vice versa.

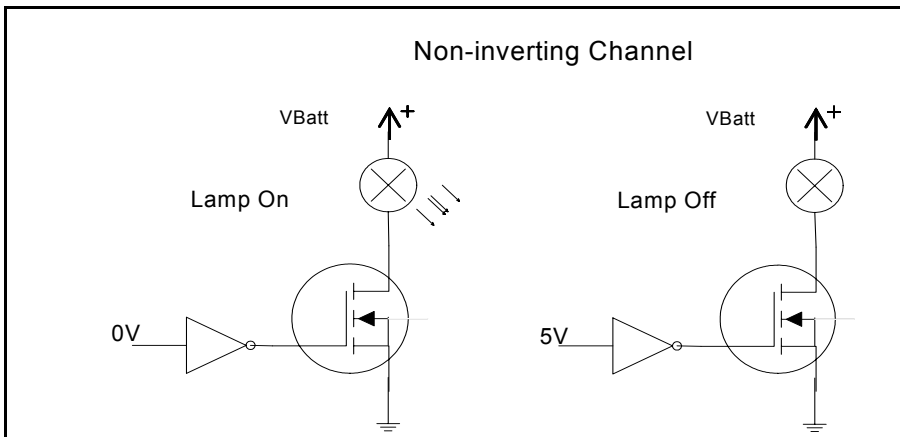


Figure 2 Logic of Non-inverting Channel

2.2 Channel Configuration

When the TLE6244X is powered up or reset, the default channel control mode is SPI. If channels should be controlled by PWM or μ sec bus mode the device must be reconfigured by SPI. The default status bits of all registers upon reset are given in the TLE 6244X datasheet.

2.2.1 Channel Control Mode Possibilities

MUX_REG1, 2 and BMUX bit prescribe the control mode of the device as shown in Figure 3. Following control mode is available:

- a) SPI mode
- b) Parallel mode (PWM capable)
- c) μ sec bus mode

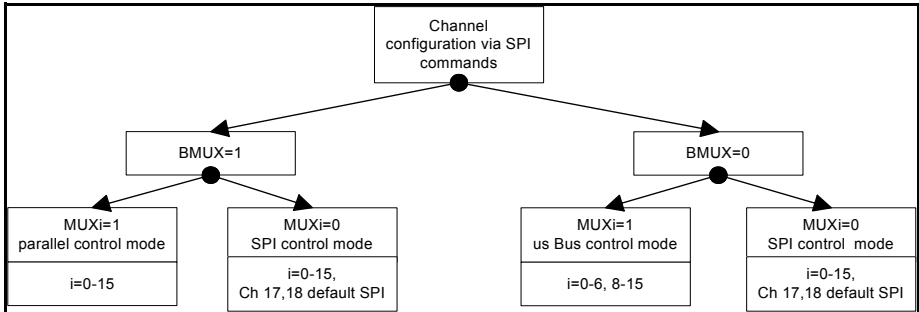


Figure 3 Channel Control Mode Configurations

In SPI mode, the state of the power stages are determined by the value of corresponding SCONx bits. Please note that channel 8 cannot be controlled by μ sec bus and channel 17,18 can only be controlled by SPI. There are no IN17/18 and MUX17/18 in the device.

2.2.2 μ sec-bus Configuration and Port Expander Function

μ sec-bus is another unique feature TLE6244X provides. It works up to 16MHz, which provides the possibility to control channel 1...7,9...16 in serial control mode with very high frequency. Using μ sec-bus system engineer can save microcontroller I/O ports significantly, which are always a bottleneck in system design.

When channels are configured into the μ sec Bus control mode, existing IN pins 1-5 and 9-15 (IN6, IN7, IN16 are used for μ sec interfacing) can be used for port expansion. In other words, signals of interest from another source/device which requires a level read-out (H/L) can be determined via these IN pins by reading the INP_REG1,2 registers. When setting BMUX= 0 for μ sec bus mode, the internal pull up current sources at input pins are disabled except for IN6, 7, 16. Please note the bit IN8 of INP_REG represents the inverted status of input pin IN8.

3 Driving Loads

3.1 Switching Capacitive Load

For loads with capacitive behavior, such as a lamp when being switched on, the inrush current can be eight or ten times of the steady state value. Channel 9,10,15...18 have internal current limitation function. When driving capacitive load, the internal current limitation of the these channels limits the current as depicted in Figure 4.

Figure 4 shows the switching of a lamp with a nominal current of around 2A, The 'inrush current' here is limited to around 3.3A. In this example channel 9 is used and it's Static Current Limitation is activated through SPI.

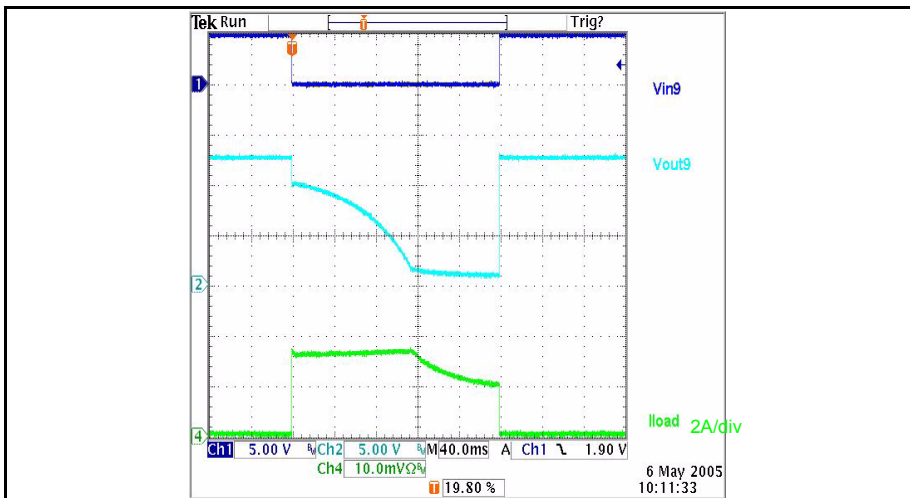


Figure 4 Switching of a Bulb

The output characteristics of this channel is shown in Figure 5. As the inrush current is detected by the device, the device will actively reduce the V_{GS} in order to limit the load current at $I_{D(lim)}$. The operating point then moves along the curve in the direction shown by the arrow, until the nominal current at $V_{DS} = I_{D(NOM)} \times R_{ON}$ is reached. **Please pay attention that it is not recommended to use the device to drive a load in this situation, the current limitation function is used as protection feature only and not as a function for normal operation.**

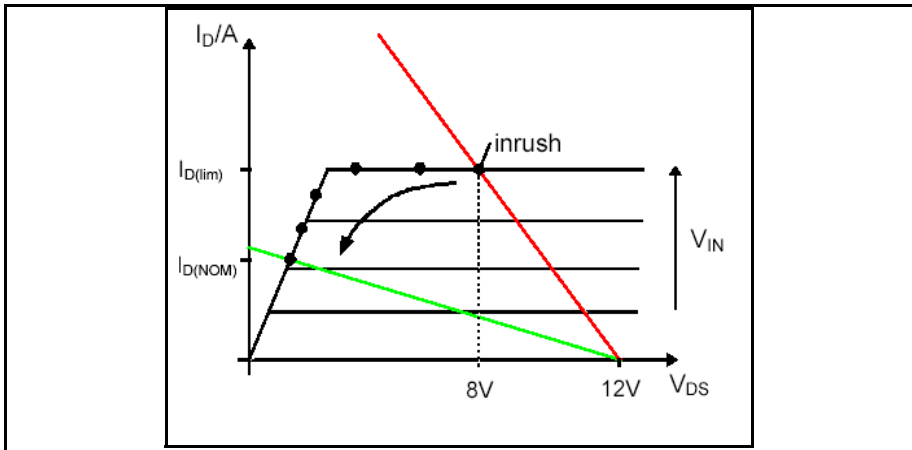


Figure 5 Operation Point of DMOS during Current Limitation

3.2 Switching of Inductive Loads: Over-voltage Protection

Figure 6 shows switching of an inductance with channel 9. As channel 9 switches off, the voltage at OUT9 is clamped at about 45V. In driving inductive load no external diode is necessary as V_{DS} is limited by device itself.

Each channel has an active zener-diode clamp between drain and gate, which protects the device against over-voltage, while driving an inductive load. As shown in Figure 7,

Reducing the gate voltage of the DMOS causes the drain voltage to increase. When this voltage reaches the clamping voltage, the zener diode conducts. This allows the gate of the DMOS to remain charged. The DMOS will remain on in linear operation for a short while to discharge the magnetic energy of the load. In this case the clamping energy is an important point, which should be taken into account in real application. For example datasheet 3.5.8.3 gives the detailed information regarding the maximum clamping energy for channel 1-6 in different situations.

Channel 1-6 have higher clamping voltage of typical 70V, which are optimal for injector management. High clamping voltage enable precise switch-off of loads. The more precisely the injector can be shut off, the more accurate is the quantity of fuel injected, and thus the more accurate the control of fuel consumption and emissions.

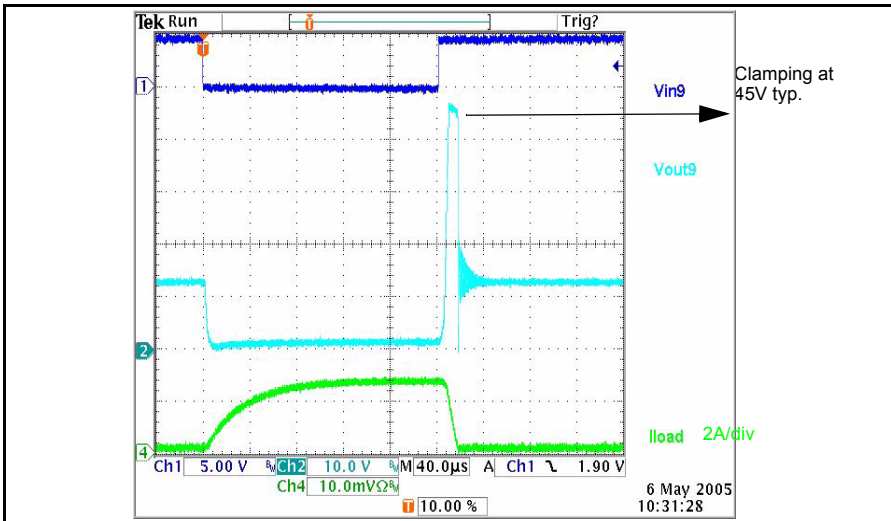


Figure 6 Switching an Inductive Load

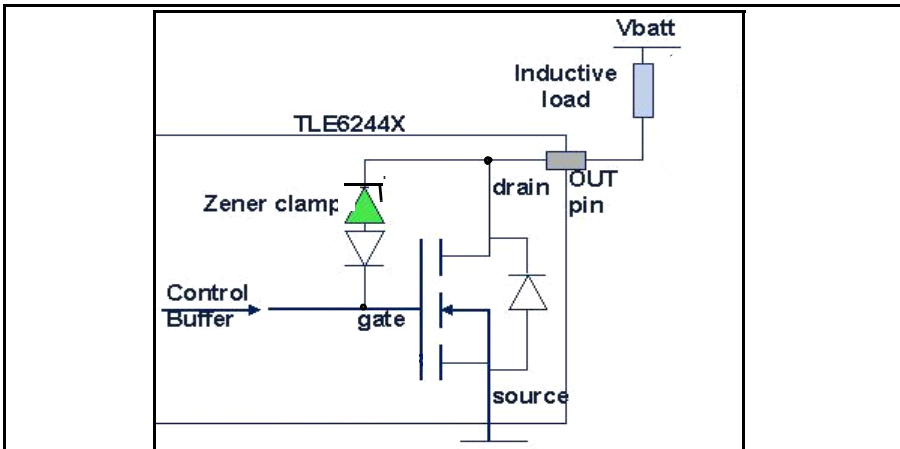


Figure 7 Active Zener Clamp when Switching Inductive Load

4 Fault Detection

Each channel of TLE6244X can distinguish four fault conditions:

- 1) Short-circuit to U_{Batt} (SCB)
- 2) Open Load (OL)
- 3) Short-circuit to Ground (SCG)
- 4) Over Temperature (OT)

Each fault is coded into 2 bits, which are stored in the diagnostic registers, DIA_REG1...5. They can be read out by the microcontroller through the SPI interface.

4.1 SPI Interface

The serial SPI interface establishes a communication link between TLE6244X and the system microcontroller. All fault information can be read out through SPI. In this section SPI function will be discussed with several examples.

The TLE6244X has a 16-bit SPI. The TLE6244X is selected by the SPI master by an active slave select signal at CS and by the first two bits of the SPI instruction. SI is the data input (Serial In), SO the data output (Serial Out). Via SCK (Serial Clock Input) the SPI clock is provided by the master. The change at output (SO) is forced by the rising edge of the SCK signal. The input signal (SI) is sampled on the falling edge of the SCK signal. The TLE6244X SPI is so called "inter frame response", which sends the response in the same frame while the normal SPI sends SPI response in the next frame. Furthermore the SPI of TLE6244X is not daisy chain capable, it can not be used in daisy chain application.

The TLE6244X always operates in slave mode whereas the controller provides the master function. A SPI communication starts with a SPI instruction sent from the controller to TLE6244X. During a write cycle the controller sends the data after the SPI instruction, beginning with the MSB. During a reading cycle, after having received the SPI instruction, TLE6244X sends the corresponding data to the controller, also starting with the MSB.

The SPI interface of TLE6244X has two access format: WRITE-access and READ-access. Figure 8 shows an example of WRITE-access with WR_CONFIG command. The first 8 bits of SI are 00101110, which is WR_CONFIG command. The last 8 bits are 00000010, which sets BMUX bit to 1(parallel inputs INx enabled) and channel 9,10,15,16,17,18 to be Static Current Limit mode. The first 8 bits of SO are check byte, and the last 8 bits of SO are always 0 during WRITE-access. Detailed information regarding SPI instructions please refer to TLE6244X datasheet.

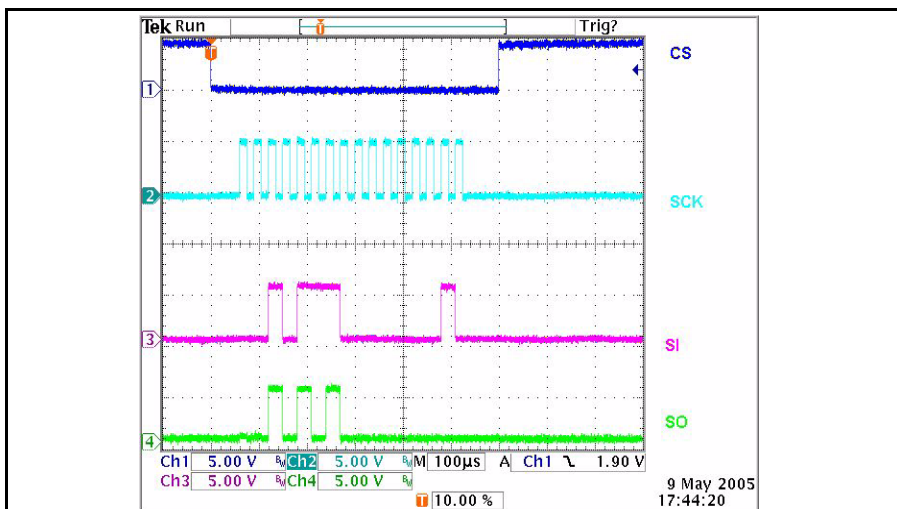


Figure 8 SPI Command WR_CONFIG

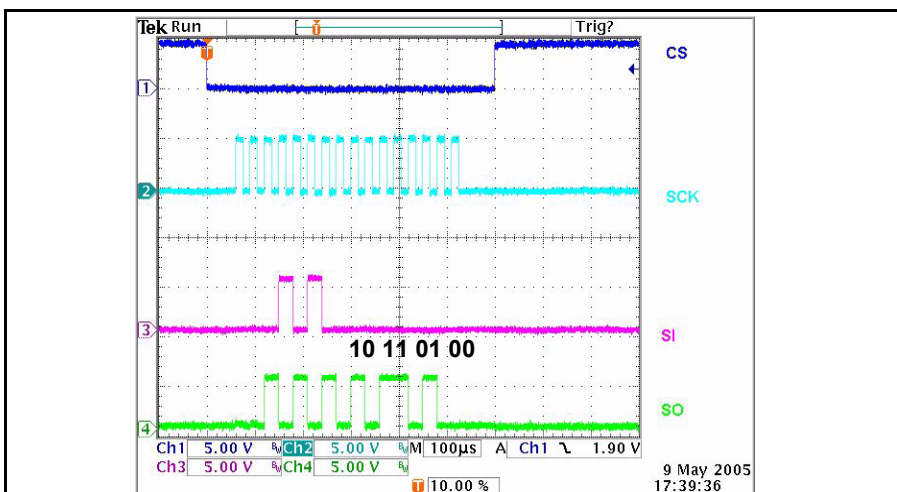


Figure 9 SPI Command RD_DIA3

Figure 9 is an example of READ-access with RD_DIA3 command. RD_DIA3 command read the diagnostics of channel 9-12, fault of one channel is coded into 2 bits. In this

Fault Detection

example channel 9 is in Short to GND situation, channel 10 is in open load condition, channel 11 is in Normal Operation condition and channel 12 is in Short to Battery condition, which are shown in Figure 10.

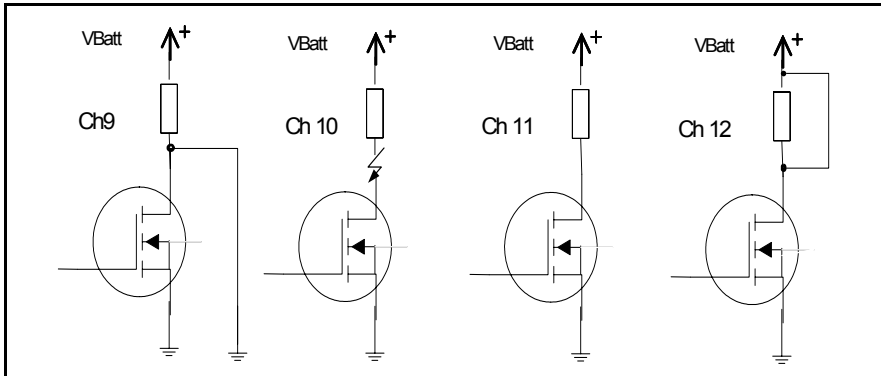


Figure 10 Fault Condition of Channel 9-12

As shown in Figure 9 the first 8 bits of SI are 00010100, which is RD_DIA3 command. The last 8 bits of SI during READ-access are always 0. The first 8 bits of SO are check byte, and the last 8 bits of SO give fault information of the channel 9,10,11,12 as shown in Table 2.

Channel	Fault bits	Fault
9	00	Short to GND
10	01	Open Load
11	11	Normal Operation
12	10	Short to Battery

Table 2 SPI Diagnostics Information

INFINEON provides a TLE6244X Demoboard together with PC-software “Printer Port SPI interface”. This software is included on the CD that comes with the board. The SPI communication can be done with the included Printer Port SPI software. Based on this software the PC acts as the SPI master, the TLE6244X as SPI slave. The software generates the SPI signals CS, CLK and SI according to user program to control the device and reads the signal SO sent by the TLE6244X.

The user interface of the SPI software is shown in Figure 11

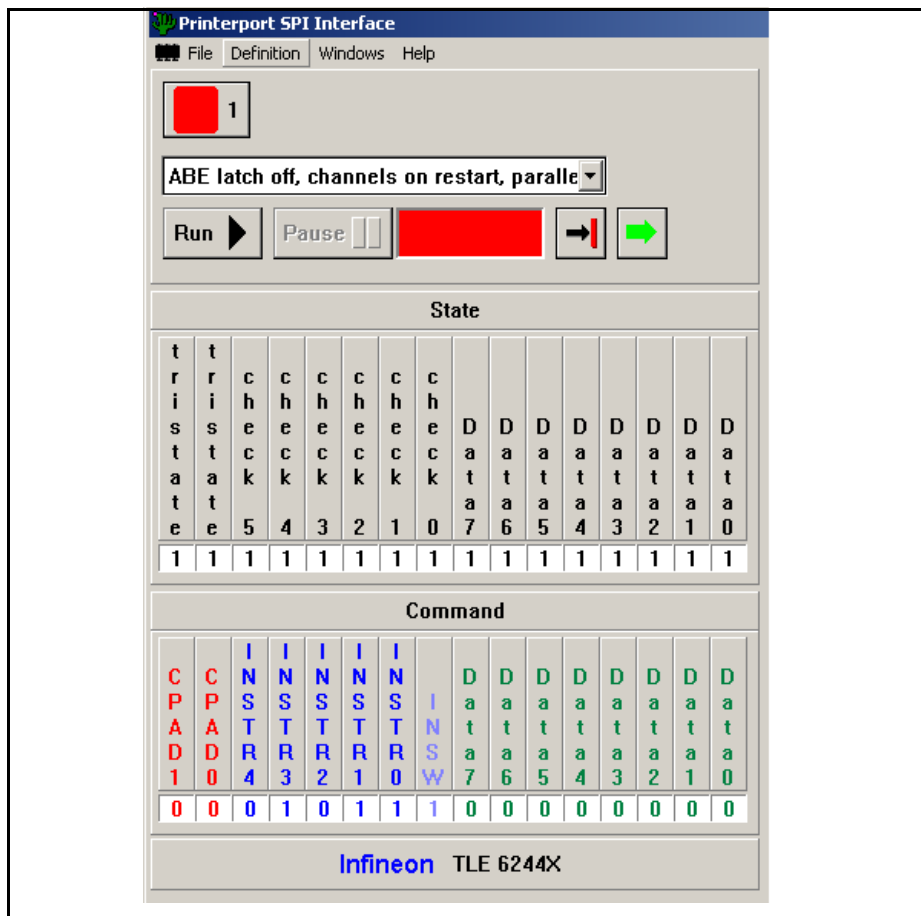


Figure 11 User Interface of Printer Port SPI Interface

4.2 Short to Battery (SCB)

The resistor R (shown in Figure 12) is used for detecting SCB. When OV/SCB occurs, a very high current flows across R. The comparator detects a SCB failure and the device switches off the affected channel. This feature is available for all channels, channel 9, 10, 15-18 have additional static current limitation feature, which will be discussed in section 4.7. In this section, all discussion are based on the assumption that the static current limitation is disabled via SPI command.

Fault Detection

OV/SCB failures can only be detected when the channel is in on state. SPI register DIA_REGx will have its corresponding bits set to HL to inform the controller that this power stage has encountered an OV/SCB. When the fault is removed, the bits will not be cleared until SPI command DEL_DIA resets the bits to "Power stage OK" (HH). Toggling the input will also turn the corresponding channel on.

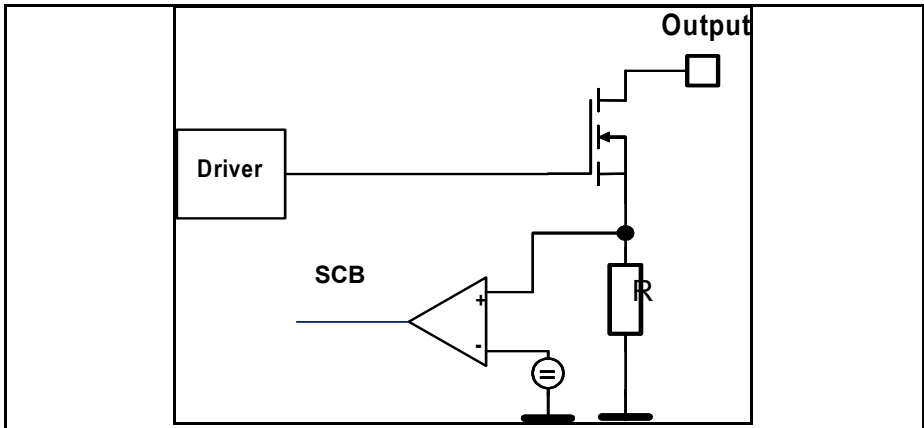


Figure 12 SCB Detection Scheme

4.3 Open Load (OL)

Open Load fault is only detectable when the channel is in off state. When OUTx is opened or its voltage drops to approximately $V_{DS(OL)} = 5V$ threshold, comparator 1 in Figure 13, detects an open load (OL) fault. Subsequently, CS1 (current sink), CS2 and Comp2 function together to bias the drain to typical 3.5V. This voltage is biased at the drain to keep it well above the shorted to ground threshold voltage ($V_{DS(SCG)} = 2.7V$ typ.). This is essential to differentiate between Open Load(OL) and Short to GND(SCG) faults. After fault filtering time corresponding bits DIA_REGx are set to LH respectively.

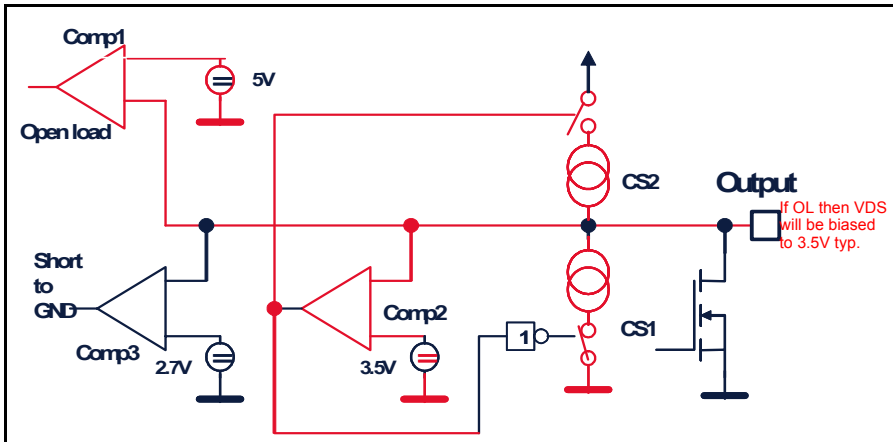


Figure 13 OL Detection Scheme

4.4 Short to Ground (SCG)

SCG is also detectable when the channel is in off state. Referring to Figure 14 below, this fault causes the drain voltage drops below the biased voltage of 3.5V. Comparator 2 changes its status to de-activate CS1 and activate CS2 (current source). This will pull the drain below 2.7V. It is detected by comparator 3 and signal a SCG fault. After a fault filtering time the corresponding bits DIA_REGx will be set to LL.

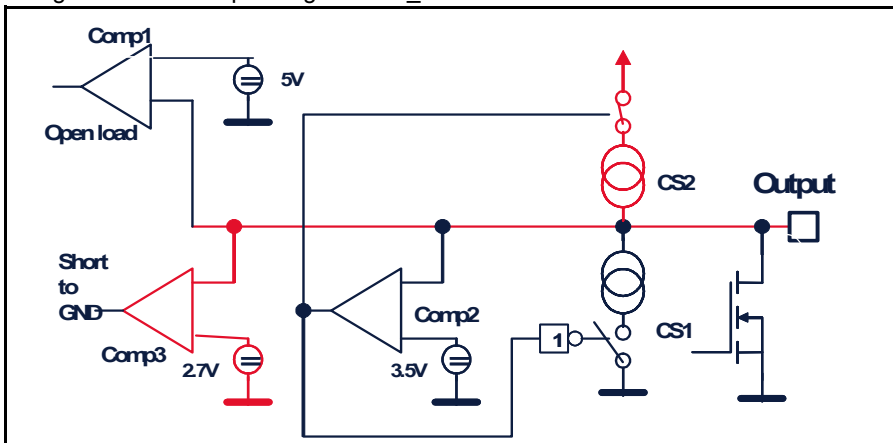


Figure 14 SCG Detection Scheme

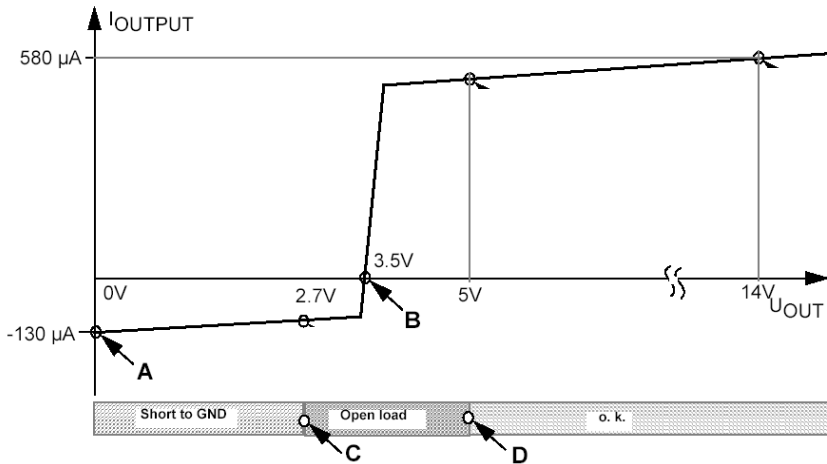


Figure 15 Diagnostic Thresholds

Figure 15 shows the diagnostic thresholds, point B is biased voltage in Open Load situation. Point C is Short to GND threshold and point D is Open Load threshold.

4.5 Over-temperature Detection

High operating ambient temperature, a channel consistently supplying current close to its limit and shorted conditions are some contributing factors leading to a temperature rise above the over-temperature detection limit.

For channels with Static Current Limitation (SCL) enabled by SPI when experiencing over-temperature condition TLE6244X will toggle the affected outputs with a low duty cycle PWM to avoid critical chip temperature. For channels without the SCL enabled, over-temperature conditions will cause the channel to shut down. Channels experiencing over-temperature will have their corresponding diagnostic bits set to HL and Bit 4 (STATUS4) of STATCON_REG will be set to low.

4.6 Differentiate a Channel between SCB and OT Fault

An over-temperature (OT) fault set the corresponding diagnostic bits of the affected channels to LH as well as the STATUS4 bit of the STATCOM_REG to L. If the user wishes to differentiate which channel has an OT instead of a SCB fault (carrying the same diagnostic bits), the flow chart shown in Figure 16 offers a simple approach to differentiate. This flow chart is only applicable when the SCL function is disabled.

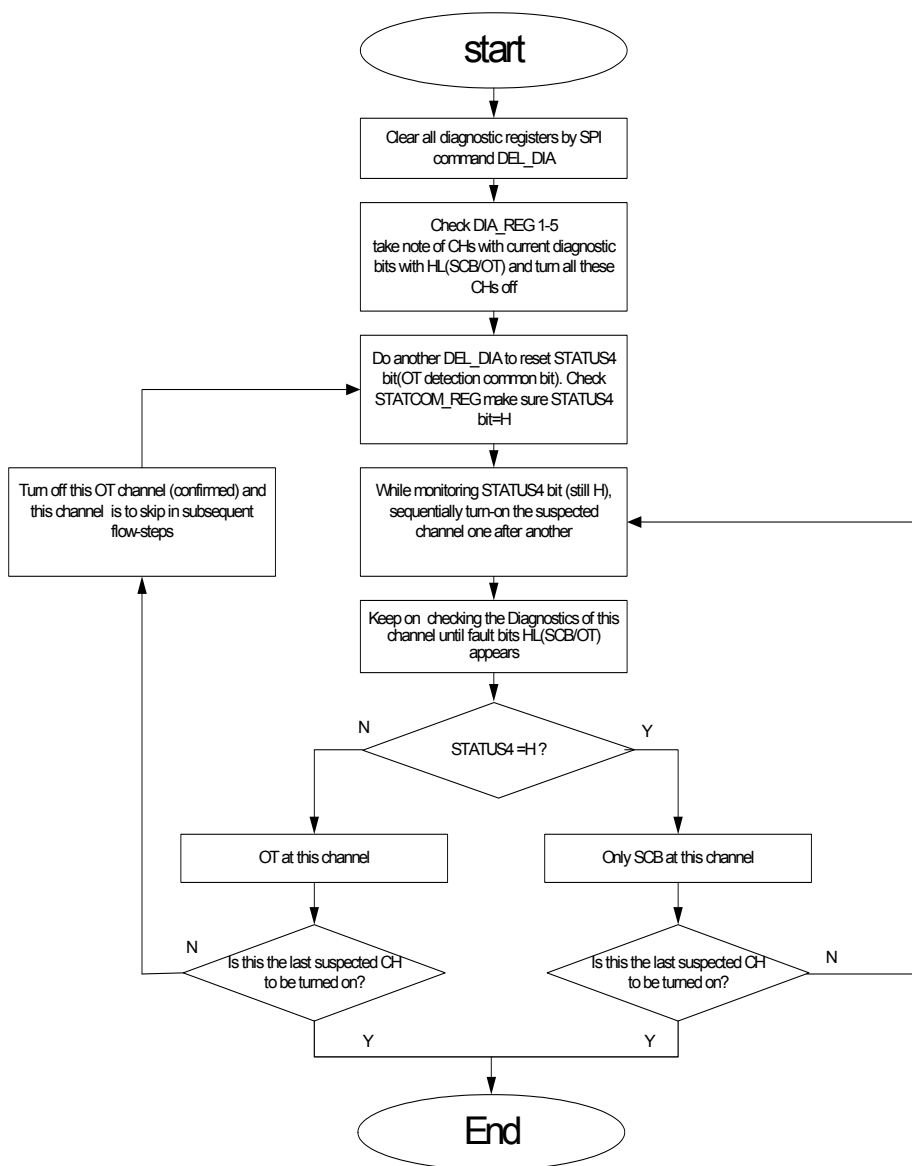


Figure 16 Differentiate a Channel between SCB and OT Fault

4.7 Static Current Limitation (SCL)

As mentioned before channels 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18 have static current limitation capability. If the connected loads are undergoing a high current exceeding the current limit of these channels, SCB diagnostic bits will still be set as a warning but the output stages will not be switched off if the current limitation capability of the channels has been enabled via SPI. The output current is limited to a predefined value for that channel (e.g. datasheet 3.5.3 gives detailed current limit values for channel 1-6). if the channel reaches over-temperature threshold the output will be changed into a low duty cycle PWM as shown in Figure 17.

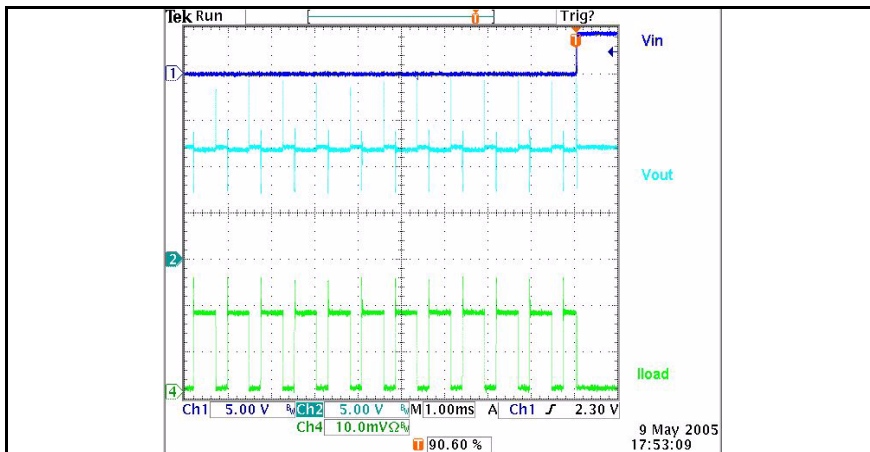


Figure 17 Channel 9 in Overcurrent(SCL Enabled)

If the SCL function is disabled, the channel will switch off when the current exceeds the current limitation longer than fault filter time as shown in Figure 18.

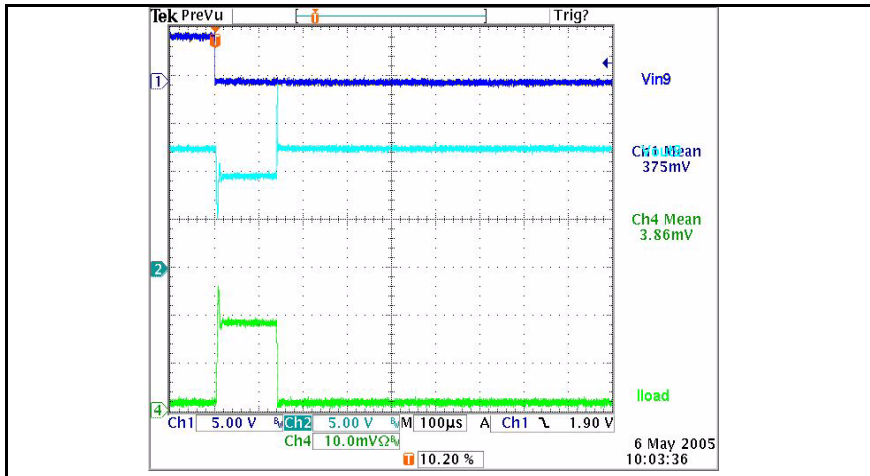


Figure 18 Channel 9 undergoing Overcurrent(SCL Disabled)

5 VDD Monitoring

The VDD monitoring feature provides a device supply-supervision function. This feature ensures that the TLE6244X is adequately supplied within the permissible range of 4.5-5.5V to carry out its operations reliably. If the voltage is not within the permissible range longer than fault filter time, $\overline{\text{ABE}}$ pin would respond by going low, causing all output stages to be turned off. Channel 8 remains on while in parallel mode down to typical $\text{VDD}=3.5\text{V}$. This feature guarantee channel 8 functions correctly even in cranking of the engine. A VDD over-voltage (OV) condition will also turn off channel 8. When $\overline{\text{ABE}}$ goes low (valid for VDD over/under voltage condition), STATUS 2 bit of the STATCOM_REG register will go low. To distinguish if there is a over- or an under-voltage condition at VDD, STATUS0 bit goes low for a overvoltage at VDD pin and STATUS1 goes low for a undervoltage at VDD pin. . Here $\overline{\text{ABE}}$ is behaving as a status flag for VDD if VDD goes out of its permissible limits. The $\overline{\text{ABE}}$ pin can be used to disable the other devices on the same system when the VDD goes out of permissible range.

Instead of being used as a status flag, the $\overline{\text{ABE}}$ pin can be used as an additional reset pin. Applying a low voltage to this pin causes all outputs, except OUT8 if it is under parallel control, to be switched off. Thus the host microcontroller can disable the outputs, even though VDD is in its range. Turning the power stages back on using the $\overline{\text{ABE}}$ pin is only possible when VDD remains within its limits.

6 An Example

As mentioned before the default control mode of the device is SPI mode, in this section an example is given showing how to set the channel 9 in parallel control mode to drive a capacitive load like a bulb.

After power up correctly the following step should be followed:

Step 1 Power up the system correctly and note that the $\overline{\text{ABE}}$ and RES pin should be both connected to 5V.

Step 2 Switch off the latch function for overvoltage at VDD with command WR_STATCON, setting CONFIG0(bit5) to 0, shown in Figure 19. This step is optional. Because unexpected Over Voltage fault will be latched and the channel can not be turned on again, this step will make it easier in the first try. In a real application with stable power supply this step is not necessary.

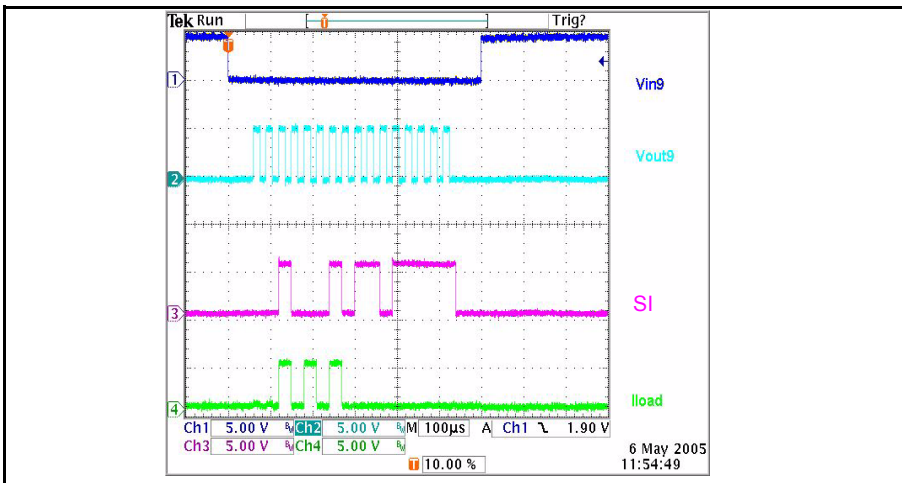


Figure 19 Switching off the Latch Function of Overvoltage at VDD Pin

Step 3 Configure channel 9 to parallel control mode with command WR_MUX2, setting the MUX8(bit0) to 1, shown in Figure 20.

Step 4 Enable SCL function of channel 9 with command WR_CONFIG, setting O9-SCB (bit 4) to 0, shown in Figure 21.

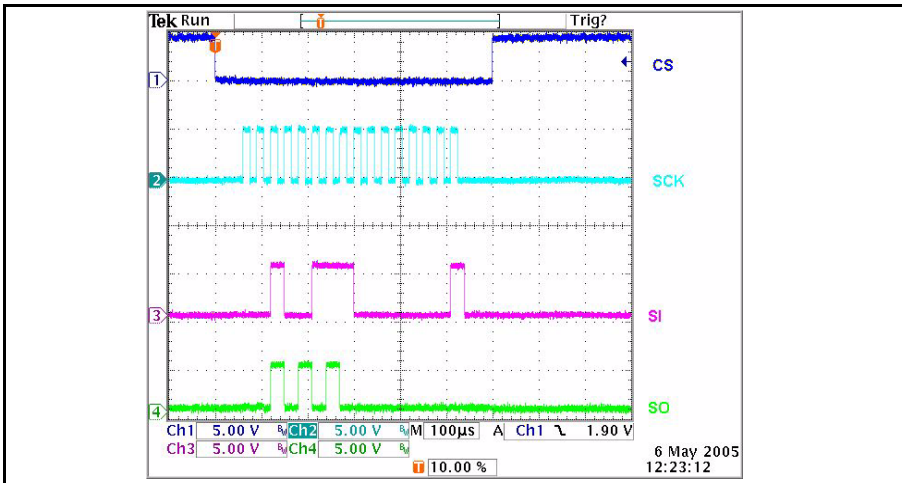


Figure 20 Set Channel 9 to Parallel Control Mode

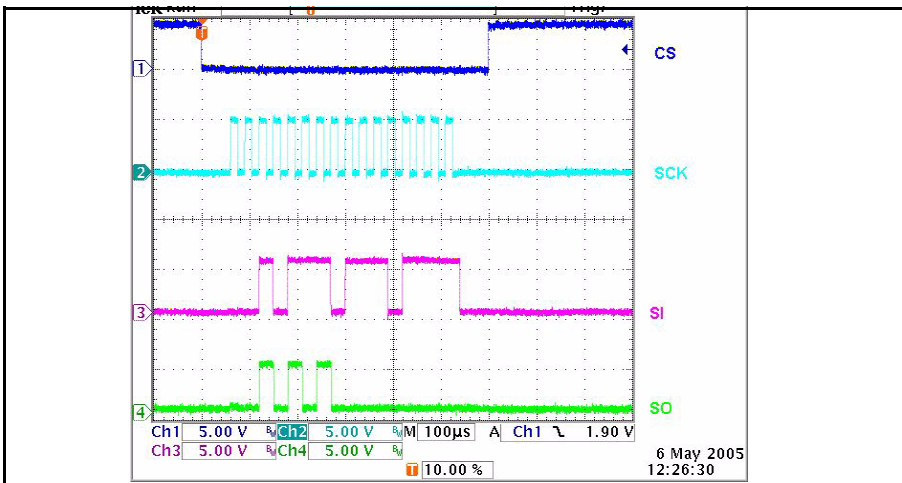


Figure 21 Enable SCL Function of Channel 9

After above four steps the channel 9 can be used to drive a capacitive load like a bulb in parallel control mode.

7 Conclusion

The TLE6244X is an integrated 18-channel low-side switch which combines both power and logic in one single chip based on INFINEON Smart Power Technology (SPT). The device features on-chip fault diagnostics for detailed error detection to increase system reliability. 16-bit SPI interface provides a flexible configuration and communication link between the system microcontroller and TLE6244X. All these unique features and flexibility enable wide applications of TLE6244X in automotive systems especially Powertrain/Enginemanegment systems.

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