

LM3407 350 mA, Constant Current Output Floating Buck Switching Converter for High Power LEDs

General Description

The LM3407 is a constant current output floating buck switching converter designed to provide constant current to high power LEDs. The device is ideal for automotive, industrial and general lighting applications. The LM3407 has an integrated power N-MOSFET that makes the application solution compact and simple to implement. An external 1% thick-film resistor allows the converter output voltage to adjust as needed to deliver constant current within 10% accuracy to a serially connected LED string of varying number and type. Converter switching frequency is adjustable from 300 kHz to 1 MHz. The LM3407 features a dimming input to enable LED brightness control by Pulse Width Modulation (PWM). Additionally, a separate enable pin allows for low power shutdown. An exposed pad eMSOP-8 package provides excellent heat dissipation and thermal performance. Input UVLO and output open-circuit protection ensure a robust LED driver solution.

Features

- Input operating range 4.5V to 30V
- **■** Output voltage range: $0.1V_{IN}$ to $0.9V_{IN}$
- Accurate constant current output
- Cycle-by-Cycle current limit
- Independent device enable (CMOS compatible) and PWM dimming control
- Converter switching frequency adjustable from 300 kHz to 1 MHz
- No external control loop compensation required
- Supports ceramic and low ESR output capacitors
- Input Under Voltage Lock Out (UVLO)
- Thermal shutdown protection
- eMSOP-8 Package

Applications

- **LED Driver**
- Constant Current Source
- **Automotive Lighting**
- **General Illumination**
- Industrial Lighting

Typical Application

Connection Diagram

Top View 8-Lead Plastic eMSOP-8 Package Mini SOIC Exp Pad (MUY08A)

Ordering Information

Pin Descriptions

Electrical Characteristics $V_{IN} = 12V$ unless otherwise indicated. Typical and limits appearing in plain type apply for T_A = T_J = 25°C (Note 4). Limits appearing in **boldface** type apply over full Operating Temperature Range. Datasheet min/max specification limits are guaranteed by design, test, or statistical analysis.

Note 1: Absolute Maximum Ratings are limits beyond which damage to the device may occur. Operating Ratings are conditions under which operation of the device is intended to be functional. For guaranteed specifications and test conditions, see the Electrical Characteristics.

Note 2: The human body model is a 100pF capacitor discharged through a 1.5kΩ resistor into each pin.

Note 3: θ_{JA} of 50°C/W with thermal pad, EP soldered to a minimum of 2 square inches of 1 oz. Copper on the top or bottom PCB layer.

Note 4: Typical specification represent the most likely parametric norm at 25°C operation.

Note 5: V_{CC} provides self bias for the internal gate drive and control circuits. Device thermal limitations limit external loading to the pin.

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Typical Performance Characteristics Unless otherwise specified, all curves shown are taken in typical application at V_{IN} = 12V, T_A = 25°C, and I_{LED} = 350 mA (driving two power LEDs).

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Simplified Functional Block Diagram FS VCC VIN **VCC VIN** VCC regulator Clock Generator SD. LX 36 UVLO \blacktriangleright DIM Set ΛΛΛ **DIM** Q1 Slope Compensation **SWITCH DIM CONTROL ISNS** Reset 400 kΩ **PWM** Comparator 3.61 Waveform shaping and EA $3.6V$ Average $5 \mu A$ gm **Current Sense** EN 198mV **GND**

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LM3407

Functional Description

OVERVIEW

The LM3407 is a constant current output floating buck switching converter with wide input voltage range and low feedback current sense reference voltage. These characteristics make the LM3407 an efficient solution to provide constant current to high power LEDs. The device is ideal for automotive, industrial and general lighting applications where high power LEDs are used as the lighting source. The LM3407 has an integrated power N-MOSFET that makes the application solution compact and simple to implement. An external 1% thick-film resistor allows the converter output voltage to adjust as needed to deliver constant current within 10% accuracy to a serially connected LED string of varying number and type. Converter switching frequency is adjustable from 300 kHz to 1 MHz. The LM3407 features a dimming input to enable LED brightness control by Pulse Width Modulation (PWM). Additionally, a separate enable pin allows for low power shutdown. An exposed pad eMSOP-8 package provides excellent heat dissipation and thermal performance. Input UVLO and output open-circuit protection ensure a robust LED driver solution.

FLOATING BUCK SWITCHING CONVERTER

The LM3407 is designed for floating buck configuration. Different from conventional buck converters, a low side power N-MOSFET is used. The floating buck configuration simplifies the driver stage design and reduces the die size of the power

MOSFET. Additionally, the connections of the power diode, inductor and output capacitor are switched to ground with a ground referenced power switch, Q1. The extraction of inductor current information can be easily realized by a simple current sensing resistor. These benefits combine to provide a high efficiency, low cost, and reliable solution for LED lighting applications.

The operation of the LM3407 constant current output floating buck converter is explained below. With the internal switch Q1 turned ON, current flows through the inductor L1 and the LED array. Energy is also stored in the magnetic field of the inductor during the ON cycle. The current flowing through R_{ISNS} during the ON cycle is monitored by the Average Current Sensing block. The switch will remain ON until the average inductor current equals $198mV / R_{ISNS}$. When the switch is turned OFF, the magnetic field starts to collapse and the polarity of the inductor voltage reverses. At the same time, the diode is forward biased and current flows through the LED, releasing the energy stored in the inductor to the output. True average output current is achieved as the switching cycle continuously repeats and the Average Current Sensing block controls the ON duty cycle. A constant current output floating buck converter only works in Continuous Conduction Mode (CCM); if the converter enters Discontinuous Conduction Mode (DCM) operation, the current regulation will deteriorate and the accuracy of LED current cannot be maintained. The operating waveforms for the typical application circuit are shown in *[Figure 1](#page-7-0)*.

FIGURE 1. Operating Waveforms of a Floating Buck Converter

PULSE LEVEL MODULATION (PLM)

The LM3407 incorporates the innovative Pulse Level Modulation technique. With an external 1% thick film resistor connected to the ISNS pin, the converter output voltage can adjust automatically as needed to deliver constant current within 10% accuracy to a serially connected LED string of different number and type. Pulse Level Modulation is a novel method to provide precise constant current control with high efficiency. It allows the use of low side current sensing and facilitates true average output current regulation regardless

of the input voltage and inductor value. Pulse Level Modulation can be treated as a process that transforms a trapezoidal pulse chain into a square pulse chain with an amplitude equal to the center of inductor current ramp. *[Figure 2](#page-8-0)* shows the waveform of the converter in steady state. In the figure, I_{11} is the inductor current and I_{LX} is the switch current into the LX pin. V_{ISNS} is the voltage drop across the current sensing resistor $\widetilde{R}_{\text{ISNS}}$. V_{MSL} is the center of the inductor current ramp and is a reference pulse that is synchronized and has an identical pulse width to V_{ISNS} .

FIGURE 2. LM3407 Switching Waveforms

The switching frequency and duty ratio of the converter equal:

$$
D = \frac{t_{ON}}{t_{ON} + t_{OFF}}
$$

and

 $f_{SW} = \frac{1}{t_{ON} + t_{OFF}}$

By comparing the area of V_{ISNS} and V_{RP} over the ON period, an error signal is generated. Such a comparison is functionally equivalent to comparing the middle level of I_{SMS} to V_{BP} during the ON-period of a switching cycle. The error signal is fed to a PWM comparator circuit to produce the PWM control pulse to drive the internal power N-MOSFET. *Figure 3* shows the implementation of the PWM switching signal. The error signal is fed to a PWM comparator circuit to produce the PWM control pulse to drive the internal power N-MOSFET. *Figure 3* shows the implementation of the PWM switching signal.

In closed loop operation, the difference between V_{MSL} and V_{RP} is reflected in the changes of the switching duty cycle of the power switch. This behavior is independent of the inductance of the inductor and input voltage because for the same set of I_{OUT} * R_{ISNS} , ON time, and switching period, there exists only one V_{MSL}. [Figure 4](#page-9-0) shows two sets of current sense signals named \bar{V}_{ISNS1} and V_{ISNS2} that have identical frequencies and duty cycles but different shapes of trapezoidal waveforms, each generating identical PWM signals.

FIGURE 3. Pulse-Level Transformation

When V_{MSL} is higher than V_{REF} , the peak value of V_{RP} , the switching duty cycle of the power switch will be reduced to lower V_{MSL} . When V_{MSL} is lower than the peak value of V_{RP} , the switching duty cycle of the power switch will be increased to raise V_{MSL} . For example, when I_{OUT} is decreased, V_{MSL} will become lower than V_{REF} . In order to maintain output current regulation, the switching duty cycle of the power switch will be increased and eventually push up V_{MSL} until V_{MSL} equals V_{REF} . Since in typical floating buck regulators V_{MSL} is equal to I_{OUT} * R_{ISNS} , true average output current regulation can be achieved by regulating V_{MSL} . *[Figure 5](#page-9-0)* shows the waveforms of V_{ISMS} and V_{BP} under closed loop operation.

FIGURE 4. Implementation of the PWM Switching Signal

FIGURE 5. Waveforms of VISNS and VRP Under Closed Loop Operation

INTERNAL VCC REGULATOR

The LM3407 has an internal 4.5V linear regulator. This regulated voltage is used for powering the internal circuitry only and any external loading at the VCC pin is not recommended. The supply input (V_{IN}) can be connected directly to an input voltage up to 30V. The VCC pin provides voltage regulated at 4.5V for $V_{IN} \leq 6V$. For 4.5V $\leq V_{IN} \leq 6V$, VIN pin will be connected to VCC pin directly by an internal bypassing switch. For stability reason, an external capacitor C_{VCC} with at least 680 nF (1 µF recommended) must be connected to the VCC pin.

CLOCK GENERATOR

The LM3407 features an integrated clock generator to control the switching frequency of the converter, f_{SW} . An external resistor R_{FS} , connected to the FS pin and ground, determines the switching frequency. The oscillator frequency can be set in the range of 300 kHz to 1 MHz. The relationship between the frequency setting resistance and the oscillator frequency is described in the Application Information Section.

PWM DIMMING OF LED STRING

Dimming of LED brightness is achieved by Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) control of the LED current. Pulse Width Modulation control allows LED brightness to be adjusted while still maintaining accurate LED color temperature. The LM3407 accepts an external PWM dimming signal at the DIM pin. The signal is buffered before being applied to the internal switch control block responsible for controlling the ON/OFF of the power switch, Q1. The DIM pin is internally pulled low by a resistor and no LED current will be available when the DIM pin is floating or shorted to ground. Functionally, the DIM pin can also be used as an external device disable control. Device switching will be disabled if the DIM pin is not connected or tied to ground.

LOW POWER SHUTDOWN MODE

The LM3407 comes with a dedicated device enable pin, EN, for low power shutdown of the device. By putting the device in shutdown mode, most of the internal circuits will be disabled and the input current will reduced to below typically 50µA. The EN pin is internally pulled high by a 5µA current source. Connecting the EN pin to ground will force the device to enter low power shutdown mode. To resume normal operation, leave the EN pin open or drive with a logic high voltage.

INPUT UNDER-VOLTAGE LOCK-OUT (UVLO)

The LM3407 incorporates an input Under-Voltage Lock-Out (UVLO) circuit with hysteresis to keep the device disabled when the input voltage (V_{1N}) falls below the Lock-Out Low threshold, 3.4V typical. During the device power-up, internal circuits are held inactive and the UVLO comparator monitors the voltage level at the VIN pin continuously. When the VIN

pin voltage exceeds the UVLO threshold, 3.6V typical, the internal circuits are then enabled and normal operation begins.

Application Information

SWITCHING FREQUENCY SELECTION

The selection of switching frequency is based on the consideration of the conversion efficiency, size of the passive components, and the total solution cost. In general, increasing the switching frequency will allow the use of smaller external components but will decrease the conversion efficiency. Thus, the selection of switching frequency is a compromise between the system requirements and may vary from design to design. The LM3407 switching frequency can be set in the range from 300 kHz to 1 MHz by adjusting the value of R_{FS} . The switching frequency is inversely proportional to the value of R_{FS} . In order to guarantee good operation stability, a resistor with 1% tolerance between 40 kΩ and 96 kΩ and with good thermal stability is suggested.

The switching frequency is estimated by the expression below:

$$
f_{SW} = \frac{40 \text{ Meg}}{R_{FS}} + 40 \text{ in kHz}
$$

In the equation, f_{SW} is the oscillator frequency and R_{FS} is the frequency setting resistance. The above equation is only valid for oscillator frequencies in the range of 300 kHz to 1 MHz, so the frequency setting resistance will be in the range of about 40 kΩ to 150 kΩ.

LED CURRENT SETTING

The LED current setting is important to the lifetime, reliability, and color temperature of the LED string. The LED current should be properly selected according to the characteristics of the LED used. Over-driving the LED array can cause the color temperature to shift and will shorten the lifetime of the LEDs. The output current of the LM3407 can be set by R_{ISNS} , which is calculated from the following equation:

$$
R_{ISNS} = \frac{0.198V}{I_{OUT}}
$$

To ensure the accuracy of the output current, a resistor with 1% tolerance should be used for R_{ISNS} . It is also important for the designer to ensure that the rated power of the resistor is not exceeded with reasonable margin. For example, when I_{OUT} is set to 350 mA, the total power dissipation on R_{ISNS} in steady state is $(0.35A)^2$ x 0.565 Ω , which equals 69 mW, indicating a resistor of 1/8W power rating is appropriate.

INPUT AND OUTPUT CAPACITORS

The input capacitor supplies instantaneous current to the LM3407 converter when the internal power switch Q1 turns ON. The input capacitor filters the noise and transient voltage from the input power source. Using low ESR capacitors such as ceramic and tantalum capacitors is recommended. Similar to the selection criteria for the output capacitor, ceramic capacitors are the best choice for the input to the LM3407 due to their high ripple current rating, low ESR, and relatively small size compared to other types. A 4.7 µF X7R ceramic capacitor for the input capacitor is recommended

The output capacitor C_{OUT} is used to reduce LED current ripple, filter noise, and smooth output voltage. This capacitor

should have low ESR and adequate capacitance. Excessively large output capacitances create long enable and disable times, which is particularly significant when a high dimming frequency is used. Since the loading and input conditions differ from design to design, a 2.2 µF X7R ceramic capacitor is a good initial selection. A DC voltage rating equal to or higher than twice the forward voltage of the LED string is recommended.

 C_{OUT} is optional and can be omitted for applications where small brightness variation is acceptable. Omitting C_{OUT} also helps reduce the cost and board size of the converter. With the absence of C_{OUT} , the LED forward current equals the inductor current. In order to ensure proper operation of the converter the peak inductor current must not exceed the rated forward current of the LEDs. Otherwise the LEDs may be damaged.

SELECTION OF INDUCTOR

In order to achieve accurate constant current output, the LM3407 is required to operate in Continuous Conduction Mode (CCM) under all operating conditions. In general, the magnitude of the inductor ripple current should be kept as small as possible. If the PCB size is not limited, higher inductance values result in better accuracy of the output current. However, in order to minimize the physical size of the circuit, an inductor with minimum physical outline should be selected such that the converter always operates in CCM and the peak inductor current does not exceed the saturation current limit of the inductor. The ripple and peak current of the inductor can be calculated as follows:

Inductor Peak to Peak Ripple Current:

$$
I_{L(ripple)} = \left[V_{IN} - (n \times V_F) - 0.198 \left(1 + \frac{1}{R_{ISNS}} \right) \right] \times (n \times V_F)
$$

$$
L \times V_{IN} \times f_{SW}
$$

Peak Inductor Current:

$$
I_{L(\text{peak})} = \frac{0.198}{R_{\text{ISNS}}} + \frac{I_{L(\text{triple})}}{2}
$$

where η is the number of LEDs in a string and V_F is the forward voltage of one LED.

The minimum inductance required for the specific application can be calculated by:

$$
L_{min} = \left[V_{IN} - (n \times V_F) - 0.198 \times \left(1 + \frac{1}{R_{ISNS}} \right) \right] \times (R_{ISNS} \times n \times V_F)
$$

0.197 x V_{IN} x f_{SW}

For applications with no output capacitor in place, the magnitude of the inductor ripple current should not be more than 20% of the average inductor current, which is equivalent to the output current, I_{OUT} . However, in some situations the physical size of the required inductor may be too large and thus not allowed. The output capacitor can help absorb this current ripple to significantly reduce the ripple component along the LED string. With an output capacitor C_{OUT} in place, the magnitude of the inductor ripple current can be relaxed to 80% of the output current. *[Figure 6](#page-11-0)* illustrates the relationship between I_{OUT} , $I_{\text{L(peak)}}$, and $I_{\text{L(ripple)}}$.

FIGURE 6. Relationship between IOUT, IL(peak) and IL(ripple)

Table 1 provides the suggested inductance of the inductor for 500 kHz and 1 MHz switching frequency operation with $C_{\text{OUT}} = 4.7 \mu F$ and $I_{\text{L(ripple)}} = 0.8 \times I_{\text{OUT}}$

FREE-WHEELING DIODE

The LM3407 is a non-synchronous floating buck converter that requires an external free-wheeling diode to provide a path for recirculating current from the inductor to the LED array when the power switch is turned OFF. Selecting the freewheeling diode depends on both the output voltage and current. The diode must have a rated reverse voltage higher than the input voltage of the converter and a peak current rating higher than the expected maximum inductor current. Using a schottky diode with a low forward voltage drop can reduce power dissipation and enhance conversion efficiency.

PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD DESIGN

Since the copper traces of PCBs carry resistance and parasitic inductance, the longer the copper trace, the higher the resistance and inductance. These factors introduce voltage and current spikes to the switching nodes and may impair circuit performance. To optimize the performance of the LM3407, the rule of thumb is to keep the connections between components as short and direct as possible. Since true average current regulation is achieved by detecting the average switch current, the current setting resistor R_{ISNS} must be located as close as possible to the LM3407 to reduce the parasitic inductance of the copper trace and avoid noise pickup. The connections between the LX pin, rectifier D1, inductor

L1, and output capacitor C_{OUT} should be kept as short as possible to reduce the voltage spikes at the LX pin. It is recommended that C_{VCC} , the output filter capacitor for the internal linear regulator of the LM3407, be placed close to the VCC pin. The input filter capacitor C_{IN} should be located close to L1 and the cathode of D1. If C_{IN} is connected to the VIN pin by a long trace, a 0.1µF capacitor should be added close to VIN pin for noise filtering. In normal operation, heat will be generated inside the LM3407 and may damage the device if no thermal management is applied. For more details on switching power supply layout considerations see Application Note AN-1149: Layout Guidelines for Switching Power Supplies.

FIGURE 7. Typical Application Schematic for 6 LEDs

FIGURE 8. Typical Application Schematic for 1 LED

Physical Dimensions inches (millimeters) unless otherwise noted

Notes

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Notes

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