PWM Step−up DC−DC Controller

The NCP1450A series are PWM step−up DC−DC switching controller that are specially designed for powering portable equipment from one or two cells battery packs. The NCP1450A series have a driver pin, EXT pin, for connecting to an external transistor. Large output currents can be obtained by connecting a low ON−resistance external power transistor to the EXT pin. The device will automatically skip switching cycles under light load condition to maintain high efficiency at light loads. With only six external components, this series allows a simple means to implement highly efficient converter for large output current applications.

Each device consists of an on−chip Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) oscillator, PWM controller, phase−compensated error amplifier, soft−start, voltage reference, and driver for driving external power transistor. Additionally, a chip enable feature is provided to power down the converter for extended battery life.

The NCP1450A device series are available in the TSOP−5 package with five standard regulated output voltages. Additional voltages that range from 1.8 V to 5.0 V in 100 mV steps can be manufactured.

Features

- High Efficiency 86% at $I_O = 200$ mA, $V_{IN} = 2.0$ V, $V_{OUT} = 3.0$ V 88% at $I_O = 400$ mA, $V_{IN} = 3.0$ V, $V_{OUT} = 5.0$ V
- Low Startup Voltage of 0.9 V typical at $I_O = 1.0$ mA
- Operation Down to 0.6 V
- Five Standard Voltages: 1.9 V, 2.7 V, 3.0 V, 3.3 V, 5.0 V with High Accuracy $\pm 2.5%$
- Low Conversion Ripple
- High Output Current up to 1000 mA $(3.0 \text{ V} \text{ version at } V_{IN} = 2.0 \text{ V}, L = 10 \mu\text{H}, C_{OUT} = 220 \mu\text{F})$
- Fixed Frequency Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) at 180 kHz
- Chip Enable Pin with On−chip 150 nA Pullup Current Source
- Low Profile and Micro Miniature TSOP−5 Package
- Pb−Free Packages are Available

Typical Applications

- Personal Digital Assistant (PDA)
- Electronic Games
- Portable Audio (MP3)
- Digital Still Cameras
- Handheld Instruments

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xxx =Specific Device Marking $A =$ Assembly Location $Y = Year$ = Work Week W = Pb−Free Package

(Note: Microdot may be in either location)

ORDERING INFORMATION

See detailed ordering and shipping information in the ordering information section on page [3 of this data sheet.](#page-2-0)

Figure 1. Typical Step−up Converter Application

Figure 2. Representative Block Diagram

PIN FUNCTION DESCRIPTION

ORDERING INFORMATION (Note 1)

†For information on tape and reel specifications, including part orientation and tape sizes, please refer to our Tape and Reel Packaging Specifications Brochure, BRD8011/D.

1. The ordering information lists five standard output voltage device options. Additional devices with output voltage ranging from 1.8 V to 5.0 V in 100 mV increments can be manufactured. Contact your ON Semiconductor representative for availability.

MAXIMUM RATINGS

values (not normal operating conditions) and are not valid simultaneously. If these limits are exceeded, device functional operation is not implied, Maximum ratings are those values beyond which device damage can occur. Maximum ratings applied to the device are individual stress limit damage may occur and reliability may be affected.

2. This device series contains ESD protection and exceeds the following tests: Human Body Model (HBM) ±2.0 kV per JEDEC standard: JESD22–A114. Machine Model (MM) ±200 V per JEDEC standard: JESD22–A115.

3. Latchup Current Maximum Rating: ±150 mA per JEDEC standard: JESD78.

4. Moisture Sensitivity Level (MSL): 1 per IPC/JEDEC standard: J−STD−020A.

5. V_{SET} means setting of output voltage.
6. This parameter is guaranteed by design.

7. CE pin is integrated with an internal 150 nA pullup current source.

Response

Response

Figure 69. NCP1450ASNXXT1 No Load Input Current vs. Input Voltage (Using MOSFET)

Figure 70. NCP1450ASNXXT1 No Load Input Current vs. Input Voltage (Using BJT)

Components Supplier

DETAILED OPERATING DESCRIPTION

Operation

The NCP1450A series are monolithic power switching controllers optimized for battery powered portable products where large output current is required.

The NCP1450A series are low noise fixed frequency voltage−mode PWM DC−DC controllers, and consist of startup circuit, feedback resistor divider, reference voltage, oscillator, loop compensation network, PWM control circuit, and low ON resistance driver. Due to the on−chip feedback resistor and loop compensation network, the system designer can get the regulated output voltage from 1.8 V to 5.0 V with 0.1 V stepwise with a small number of external components. The quiescent current is typically 93 µA (V_{OUT} = 2.7 V, f_{OSC} = 180 kHz), and can be further reduced to about 1.5 µA when the chip is disabled (V_{CE} < 0.3 V).

The NCP1450A operation can be best understood by referring to the block diagram in Figure [2](#page-1-0). The error amplifier monitors the output voltage via the feedback resistor divider by comparing the feedback voltage with the reference voltage. When the feedback voltage is lower than the reference voltage, the error amplifier output will decrease. The error amplifier output is then compared with the oscillator ramp voltage at the PWM controller. When the ramp voltage is higher than the error amplifier output, the high−side driver is turned on and the low−side driver is turned off which will then switch on the external transistor; and vice versa. As the error amplifier output decreases, the high−side driver turn−on time increases and duty cycle increases. When the feedback voltage is higher than the reference voltage, the error amplifier output increases and the duty cycle decreases. When the external power switch is on, the current ramps up in the inductor, storing energy in the magnetic field. When the external power switch is off, the energy stored in the magnetic field is transferred to the output filter capacitor and the load. The output filter capacitor stores the charge while the inductor current is higher than the output current, then sustains the output voltage until the next switching cycle.

As the load current is decreased, the switch transistor turns on for a shorter duty cycle. Under the light load condition, the controller will skip switching cycles to reduce power consumption, so that high efficiency is maintained at light loads.

Soft Start

There is a soft start circuit in NCP1450A. When power is applied to the device, the soft start circuit first pumps up the output voltage to approximately 1.5 V at a fixed duty cycle. This is the voltage level at which the controller can operate normally. In addition to that, the startup capability with heavy loads is also improved.

Oscillator

The oscillator frequency is internally set to 180 kHz at an accuracy of $\pm 20\%$ and with low temperature coefficient of 0.11% /°C.

Regulated Converter Voltage (VOUT)

The V_{OUT} is set by an integrated feedback resistor network. This is trimmed to a selected voltage from 1.8 V to 5.0 V range in 100 mV steps with an accuracy of ± 2.5 %.

Compensation

The device is designed to operate in continuous conduction mode. An internal compensation circuit was designed to guarantee stability over the full input/output voltage and full output load range.

Enable/Disable Operation

The NCP1450A series offer IC shutdown mode by chip enable pin (CE pin) to reduce current consumption. When voltage at pin CE is equal or greater than 0.9 V, the chip will be enabled, which means the controller is in normal operation. When voltage at pin CE is less than 0.3 V, the chip is disabled, which means IC is shutdown.

Important: DO NOT apply a voltage between 0.3 V to 0.9 V to pin CE as this is the CE pin's hysteresis voltage range. Clearly defined output states can only be obtained by applying voltage out of this range.

APPLICATION CIRCUIT INFORMATION

Step−up Converter Design Equations

The NCP1450A PWM step−up DC−DC controller is designed to operate in continuous conduction mode and can be defined by the following equations. External components values can be calculated from these equations, however, the optimized value should obtained through experimental results.

NOTES:

- D On–time duty cycle
- IL − Average inductor current
- I_{PK} Peak inductor current
- DIR Delta inductor current to average inductor current ratio
- IO − Desired dc output current
- V_{IN} Nominal operating dc input voltage
- V_{OUT} Desired dc output voltage
- V_D Diode forward voltage
- V_S Saturation voltage of the external transistor switch
- $_{\Delta Q}$ Charge stores in the C_{OUT} during charging up
- ESR − Equivalent series resistance of the output capacitor

Design Example

It is supposed that a step−up DC−DC controller with 3.3 V output delivering a maximum 1000 mA output current with 100 mV output ripple voltage powering from a 2.4 V input is to be designed.

Design parameters:

 V_{IN} = 2.4 V V_{OUT} = 3.3 V $I_{\rm O} = 1.0 \text{ A}$ V_{pp} = 100 mV $f = 180$ kHZ

 $DIR = 0.2$ (typical for small output ripple voltage) Assume the diode forward voltage and the transistor saturation voltage are both 0.3 V. Determine the maximum steady state duty cycle at $V_{IN} = 2.4 V$:

$$
D = \frac{3.3 \text{V} + 0.3 \text{V} - 2.4 \text{V}}{3.3 \text{V} + 0.3 \text{V} - 0.3 \text{V}} = 0.364
$$

Calculate the maximum inductance value which can generate the desired current output and the preferred delta inductor current to average inductor current ratio:

$$
L \leq \frac{(3.3 \text{V} + 0.3 \text{V} - 2.4 \text{V})(1 - 0.364)^2}{180000 \text{Hz} \times 1 \text{A} \times 0.2} = 13.5 \mu \text{H}
$$

Determine the average inductor current and peak inductor current:

$$
I_L = \frac{1}{1 - 0.364} = 1.57A
$$

IPK = 1.57A (1 + $\frac{0.2}{2}$) = 1.73A

ÁÉ ÁTÁT A TERMINE A T Calculate the delta charge stored in the output capacitor

$$
\Delta Q = \frac{(1.57A - 1A)(1 - 0.364)}{18000 Hz} = 2.01 \,\mu\text{C}
$$

output ripple voltage:

$$
C_{\text{OUT}} > \frac{2.01 \mu C}{100 mV - (1.57 A - 1 A) \times 0.15 \Omega} = 138.6 \mu F
$$

Therefore, a Tantalum capacitor with value of 150μ F to 220 μ F and ESR of 0.15 Ω can be used as the output capacitor. However, according to experimental result, 220 µF output capacitor gives better overall operational stability and smaller ripple voltage.

External Component Selection

Inductor Selection

The NCP1450A is designed to work well with a 6.8 to 12μ H inductors in most applications 10μ H is a sufficiently low value to allow the use of a small surface mount coil, but large enough to maintain low ripple. Lower inductance values supply higher output current, but also increase the ripple and reduce efficiency.

Higher inductor values reduce ripple and improve efficiency, but also limit output current.

The inductor should have small DCR, usually less than 1Ω , to minimize loss. It is necessary to choose an inductor with a saturation current greater than the peak current which the inductor will encounter in the application.

Diode

The diode is the largest source of loss in DC−DC converters. The most importance parameters which affect their efficiency are the forward voltage drop, V_D , and the reverse recovery time, trr. The forward voltage drop creates a loss just by having a voltage across the device while a current flowing through it. The reverse recovery time generates a loss when the diode is reverse biased, and the current appears to actually flow backwards through the diode due to the minority carriers being swept from the P−N junction. A Schottky diode with the following characteristics is recommended:

Small forward voltage, $V_F < 0.3$ V

Small reverse leakage current

Fast reverse recovery time/switching speed

Rated current larger than peak inductor current,

 $I_{\text{rated}} > I_{\text{PK}}$

Reverse voltage larger than output voltage,

 $V_{\text{reverse}} > V_{\text{OUT}}$

Input Capacitor

The input capacitor can stabilize the input voltage and minimize peak current ripple from the source. The value of the capacitor depends on the impedance of the input source used. Small Equivalent Series Resistance (ESR) Tantalum or ceramic capacitor with a value of 10μ F should be suitable.

Output Capacitor

The output capacitor is used for sustaining the output voltage when the external MOSFET or bipolar transistor is switched on and smoothing the ripple voltage. Low ESR capacitor should be used to reduce output ripple voltage. In general, a 100 µF to 220 µF low ESR (0.10 Ω to 0.30 Ω) Tantalum capacitor should be appropriate.

External Switch Transistor

An enhancement N−channel MOSFET or a bipolar NPN transistor can be used as the external switch transistor.

For enhancement N−channel MOSFET, since enhancement MOSFET is a voltage driven device, it is a

more efficient switch than a BJT transistor. However, the MOSFET requires a higher voltage to turn on as compared with BJT transistors. An enhancement N−channel MOSFET can be selected by the following guidelines:

- 1. Low ON–resistance, $R_{DS(on)}$, typically < 0.1 Ω .
- 2. Low gate threshold voltage, $V_{GS(th)}$, must be < V_{OUT} , typically < 1.5 V, it is especially important for the low V_{OUT} device, like $V_{\text{OUT}} = 1.9$ V.
- 3. Rated continuous drain current, I_D , should be larger than the peak inductor current, i.e. $I_D > I_{PK}$.
- 4. Gate capacitance should be 1200 pF or less.

For bipolar NPN transistor, medium power transistor with continuous collector current typically 1 A to 5 A and $V_{CE(sat)}$ < 0.2 V should be employed. The driving capability is determined by the DC current gain, H_{FE}, of the transistor and the base resistor, Rb; and the controller's EXT pin must be able to supply the necessary driving current.

Rb can be calculated by the following equation:

$$
Rb = \frac{VOUT - 0.7}{lb} - \frac{0.4}{l IEXTHI}
$$

$$
lb = \frac{lPK}{HFE}
$$

Since the pulse current flows through the transistor, the exact Rb value should be finely tuned by the experiment. Generally, a small Rb value can increase the output current capability, but the efficiency will decrease due to more energy is used to drive the transistor.

Moreover, a speed−up capacitor, Cb, should be connected in parallel with Rb to reduce switching loss and improve efficiency. Cb can be calculated by the equation below:

$$
Cb \leq \frac{1}{2\pi \times Rb \times f_{\text{OSC}} \times 0.7}
$$

It is due to the variation in the characteristics of the transistor used. The calculated value should be used as the initial test value and the optimized value should be obtained by the experiment.

An evaluation board of NCP1450A has been made in the small size of 89 mm x 51 mm. The artwork and the silk screen of the surface−mount evaluation board PCB are shown in Figures 71 and 72. Please contact your

ON Semiconductor representative for availability. The evaluation board schematic diagrams are shown in Figures [73](#page-20-0) and [74.](#page-20-0)

Figure 71. NCP1450A PWM Step−up DC−DC Controller Evaluation Board Silkscreen

Figure 72. NCP1450A PWM Step−up DC−DC Controller Evaluation Board Artwork (Component Side)

Figure 73. NCP1450A Evaluation Board Schematic Diagram 1 (Step−up DC−DC Converter Using External MOSFET Switch)

Figure 74. NCP1450A Evaluation Board Schematic Diagram 2 (Step−up DC−DC Converter Using External Bipolar Transistor Switch)

PCB Layout Hints

Grounding

One point grounding should be used for the output power return ground, the input power return ground, and the device switch ground to reduce noise. In Figure 73, e.g.: C2 GND, C1 GND, and IC1 GND are connected at one point in the evaluation board. The input ground and output ground traces must be thick enough for current to flow through and for reducing ground bounce.

Power Signal Traces

Low resistance conducting paths should be used for the power carrying traces to reduce power loss so as to improve efficiency (short and thick traces for connecting the inductor L can also reduce stray inductance), e.g.: short and thick traces listed below are used in the evaluation board:

- 1. Trace from TP1 to L1
- 2. Trace from L1 to anode pin of D1
- 3. Trace from cathode pin of D1 to TP3

Output Capacitor

The output capacitor should be placed close to the output terminals to obtain better smoothing effect on the output ripple.

Switching Noise Decoupling Capacitor

 A 0.1 µF ceramic capacitor should be placed close to the OUT pin and GND pin of the NCP1450A to filter the switching spikes in the output voltage monitored by the OUT pin.

PACKAGE DIMENSIONS

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NOTES:

- 1. DIMENSIONING AND TOLERANCING PER
- ANSI Y14.5M, 1982. 2. CONTROLLING DIMENSION: MILLIMETER. 3. MAXIMUM LEAD THICKNESS INCLUDES LEAD FINISH THICKNESS. MINIMUM LEAD THICKNESS IS THE MINIMUM THICKNESS OF BASE MATERIAL.
- 4. A AND B DIMENSIONS DO NOT INCLUDE MOLD FLASH, PROTRUSIONS, OR GATE BURRS.

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SOLDERING FOOTPRINT*

*For additional information on our Pb−Free strategy and soldering details, please download the ON Semiconductor Soldering and Mounting Techniques Reference Manual, SOLDERRM/D.

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