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NCP1234

Fixed Frequency Current Mode Controller for Flyback Converters

The NCP1234 is a new fixed-frequency current-mode controller featuring Dynamic Self-Supply (DSS). This device is pin-to-pin compatible with the previous NCP12xx families.

The DSS function greatly simplifies the design of the auxiliary supply and the V_{CC} capacitor by activating the internal startup current source to supply the controller during transients.

Due to frequency foldback, the controller exhibits excellent efficiency in light load condition while still achieving very low standby power consumption. Internal frequency jittering, ramp compensation, and a versatile latch input make this controller an excellent candidate for converters where components cost is the key constraints.

It features a timer-based fault detection that ensures the detection of overload independently of an auxiliary winding, and an adjustable compensation to help keep the maximum power independent of the input voltage.

Finally, due to a careful design, the precision of critical parameters is well controlled over the entire temperature range (-40°C to $+125^{\circ}\text{C}$).

Features

- Fixed-Frequency Current-Mode Operation with Built-In Ramp Compensation
- 65 kHz or 100 kHz Oscillator Frequency version
- Frequency Foldback then Skip Mode for Maximized Performance in Light Load and Standby Conditions
- Timer-Based Overload Protection with Latched (option A) or Auto-Recovery (option B) Operation
- High-voltage Current Source with Dynamic Self-Supply, Simplifying the Design of the V_{CC} Capacitor
- Frequency Modulation for Softened EMI Signature, including during Frequency Foldback mode
- Adjustable Overpower Compensation
- Latch-off Input for Severe Fault Conditions, Allowing Direct Connection of an NTC for Overtemperature Protection (OTP)
- V_{CC} Operation up to 28 V, with Overvoltage Detection
- ± 500 mA Peak Source/Sink Current Drive Capability
- 4.0 ms Soft-Start
- Internal Thermal Shutdown
- Pin-to-Pin Compatible with the Existing NCP12xx Series
- These Devices are Pb-Free, Halogen Free/BFR Free and are RoHS Compliant



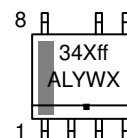
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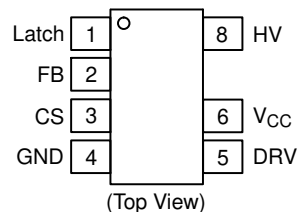
SOIC-7
CASE 751U

MARKING DIAGRAM



34Xff = Specific Device Code
X = A or B
ff = 65 or 100
A = Assembly Location
L = Wafer Lot
Y = Year
W = Work Week
▪ = Pb-Free Package

PIN CONNECTIONS



ORDERING INFORMATION

See detailed ordering and shipping information in the package dimensions section on page 32 of this data sheet.

Typical Applications

- AC-DC Adapters for Notebooks, LCD, and Printers
- Offline Battery Chargers
- Consumer Electronic Power Supplies
- Auxiliary/Housekeeping Power Supplies

NCP1234

TYPICAL APPLICATION EXAMPLE

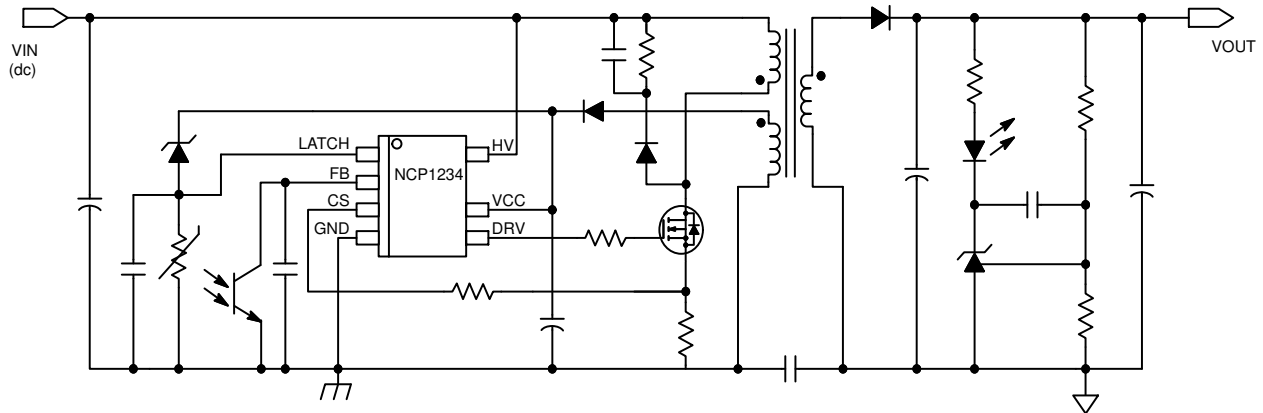


Figure 1. Flyback Converter Application Using the NCP1234

PIN FUNCTION DESCRIPTION

Pin No	Pin Name	Function	Pin Description
1	LATCH	Latch-Off Input	Pull the pin up or down to latch-off the controller. An internal current source allows the direct connection of an NTC for over temperature detection
2	FB	Feedback	An optocoupler collector to ground controls the output regulation.
3	CS	Current Sense	This Input senses the Primary Current for current-mode operation, and Offers an overpower compensation adjustment.
4	GND		IC Ground
5	DRV	Drive output	Drives external MOSFET
6	V _{CC}	V _{CC} input	This supply pin accepts up to 28 Vdc, with overvoltage detection
8	HV	High-voltage pin	Connects to the bulk capacitor or the rectified AC line to perform the functions of Start-up Current Source and Dynamic Self-Supply

NCP1234

SIMPLIFIED INTERNAL BLOCK SCHEMATIC

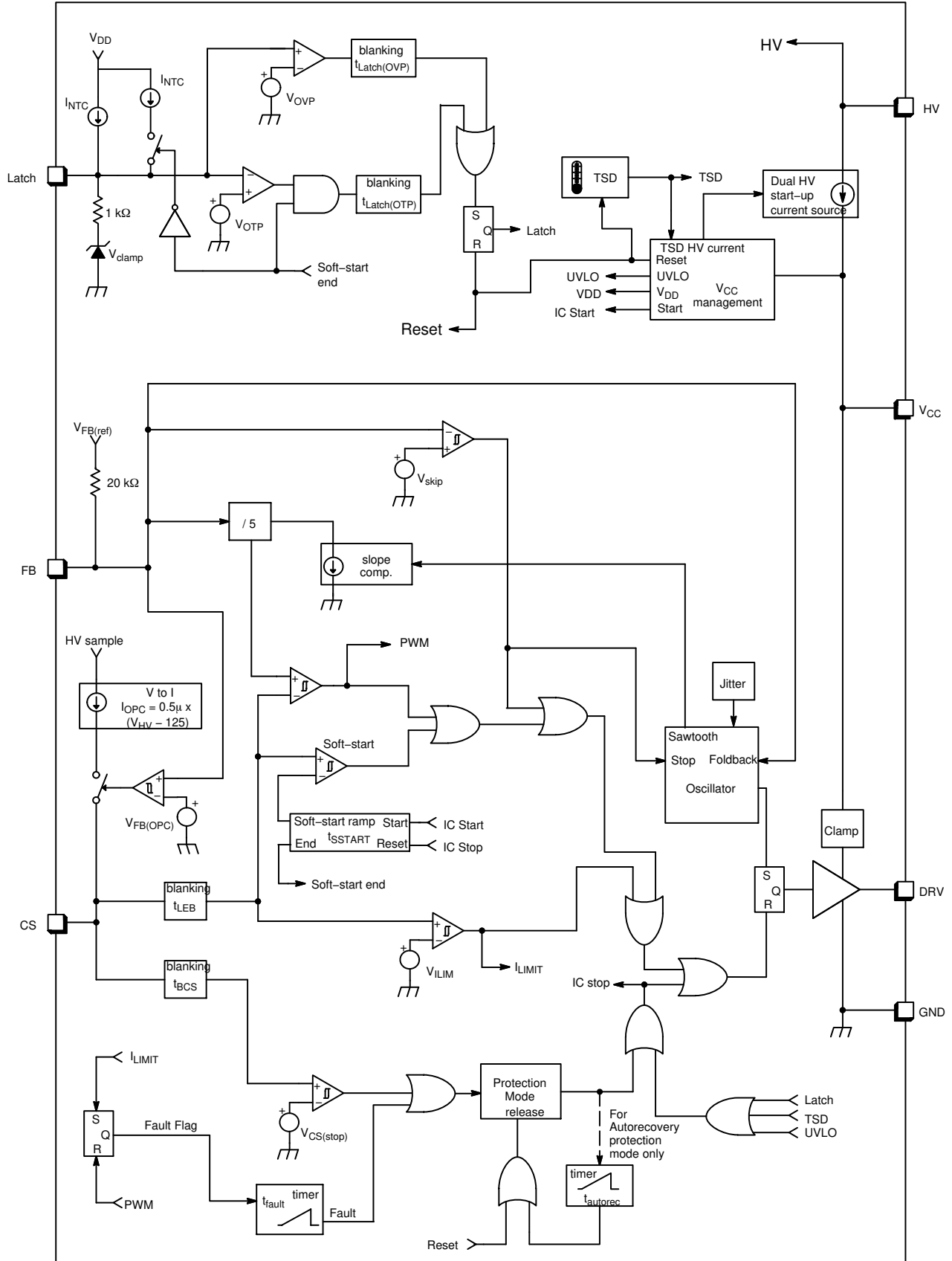


Figure 2. Simplified Internal Block Schematic

NCP1234

MAXIMUM RATINGS

Rating	Symbol	Value	Unit
Supply Pin (pin 6) (Note 2) Voltage range Current range	V_{CCMAX} I_{CCMAX}	-0.3 to 28 ±30	V mA
High Voltage Pin (pin 8) (Note 2) Voltage range Current range	V_{HVMAX} I_{HVMAX}	-0.3 to 500 ±20	V mA
Driver Pin (pin 5) (Note 2) Voltage range Current range	V_{DRVMAX} I_{DRVMAX}	-0.3 to 20 ±1000	V mA
All other pins (Note 2) Voltage range Current range	V_{MAX} I_{MAX}	-0.3 to 10 ±10	V mA
Thermal Resistance SOIC-7 Junction-to-Air, low conductivity PCB (Note 3) Junction-to-Air, medium conductivity PCB (Note 4) Junction-to-Air, high conductivity PCB (Note 5)	$R_{\theta J-A}$	162 147 115	°C/W
Temperature Range Operating Junction Temperature Storage Temperature Range	T_{JMAX} $T_{STRGMAX}$	-40 to +150 -60 to +150	°C
ESD Capability (Note 1) Human Body Model (All pins except HV) Machine Model		2000 200	V

Stresses exceeding those listed in the Maximum Ratings table may damage the device. If any of these limits are exceeded, device functionality should not be assumed, damage may occur and reliability may be affected.

- This device series contains ESD protection and exceeds the following tests:
Human Body Model 2000 V per JEDEC standard JESD22, Method A114E
Machine Model Method 200 V per JEDEC standard JESD22, Method A115A
- This device contains latch-up protection and exceeds 100 mA per JEDEC Standard JESD78
- As mounted on a 80 x 100 x 1.5 mm FR4 substrate with a single layer of 50 mm² of 2 oz copper traces and heat spreading area. As specified for a JEDEC 51-1 conductivity test PCB. Test conditions were under natural convection or zero air flow.
- As mounted on a 80 x 100 x 1.5 mm FR4 substrate with a single layer of 100 mm² of 2 oz copper traces and heat spreading area. As specified for a JEDEC 51-2 conductivity test PCB. Test conditions were under natural convection or zero air flow.
- As mounted on a 80 x 100 x 1.5 mm FR4 substrate with a single layer of 650 mm² of 2 oz copper traces and heat spreading area. As specified for a JEDEC 51-3 conductivity test PCB. Test conditions were under natural convection or zero air flow.

NCP1234

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (For typical values $T_J = 25^\circ\text{C}$, for min/max values $T_J = -40^\circ\text{C}$ to $+125^\circ\text{C}$, $V_{HV} = 125\text{ V}$, $V_{CC} = 11\text{ V}$ unless otherwise noted)

Characteristics	Test Condition	Symbol	Min	Typ	Max	Unit
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HIGH VOLTAGE CURRENT SOURCE

Minimum voltage for current source operation		$V_{HV(\text{min})}$	–	30	40	V
Current flowing out of V_{CC} pin	$V_{CC} = 0\text{ V}$ $V_{CC} = V_{CC(\text{on})} - 0.5\text{ V}$	I_{start1} I_{start2}	0.2 3	0.5 6	0.8 9	mA
Off-state leakage current	$V_{HV} = 500\text{ V}$	$I_{\text{start(off)}}$	–	25	50	μA

SUPPLY

Turn-on threshold level, V_{CC} going up HV current source stop threshold		$V_{CC(\text{on})}$	11.0	12.0	13.0	V
HV current source restart threshold		$V_{CC(\text{min})}$	9.5	10.5	11.5	V
Turn-off threshold		$V_{CC(\text{off})}$	8.5	9.5	10.5	V
Overvoltage threshold		$V_{CC(\text{ovp})}$	25	26.5	28	V
Blanking duration on $V_{CC(\text{off})}$ and $V_{CC(\text{ovp})}$ detection		$t_{VCC(\text{blank})}$	7	10	13	μs
V_{CC} decreasing level at which the internal logic resets		$V_{CC(\text{reset})}$	3.6	5.0	6.0	V
V_{CC} level for I_{START1} to I_{START2} transition		$V_{CC(\text{inhibit})}$	0.4	1.0	1.6	V
Internal current consumption (Note 6)	DRV open, $V_{FB} = 3\text{ V}$, 65 kHz DRV open, $V_{FB} = 3\text{ V}$, 100 kHz $C_{\text{drv}} = 1\text{ nF}$, $V_{FB} = 3\text{ V}$, 65 kHz $C_{\text{drv}} = 1\text{ nF}$, $V_{FB} = 3\text{ V}$, 100 kHz Off mode (skip or before start-up) Fault mode (fault or latch)	I_{CC1} I_{CC1} I_{CC2} I_{CC2} I_{CC3} I_{CC4}	1.2 1.3 1.9 2.2 0.67 0.4	1.8 1.9 2.5 2.9 0.9 0.7	2.2 2.3 3.2 3.6 1.13 1.0	mA

OSCILLATOR

Oscillator frequency		f_{OSC}	60 92	65 100	70 108	kHz
Maximum duty cycle		D_{MAX}	75	80	85	%
Frequency jittering amplitude, in percentage of F_{OSC}		A_{jitter}	± 4	± 6	± 8	%
Frequency jittering modulation frequency		F_{jitter}	85	125	165	Hz

OUTPUT DRIVER

Rise time, 10% to 90% of V_{CC}	$V_{CC} = V_{CC(\text{min})} + 0.2\text{ V}$, $C_{\text{DRV}} = 1\text{ nF}$	t_{rise}	–	40	70	ns
Fall time, 90% to 10% of V_{CC}	$V_{CC} = V_{CC(\text{min})} + 0.2\text{ V}$, $C_{\text{DRV}} = 1\text{ nF}$	t_{fall}	–	40	70	ns
Current capability	$V_{CC} = V_{CC(\text{min})} + 0.2\text{ V}$, $C_{\text{DRV}} = 1\text{ nF}$ DRV high, $V_{\text{DRV}} = 0\text{ V}$ DRV low, $V_{\text{DRV}} = V_{CC}$	$I_{\text{DRV(source)}}$ $I_{\text{DRV(sink)}}$	– –	500 500	– –	mA
Clamping voltage (maximum gate voltage)	$V_{CC} = V_{CC(\text{max})} - 0.2\text{ V}$, DRV high, $R_{\text{DRV}} = 33\text{ k}\Omega$, $C_{\text{load}} = 220\text{ pF}$	$V_{\text{DRV(clamp)}}$	11	13.5	16	V
High-state voltage drop	$V_{CC} = V_{CC(\text{min})} + 0.2\text{ V}$, $R_{\text{DRV}} = 33\text{ k}\Omega$, DRV high	$V_{\text{DRV(drop)}}$	–	–	1	V

6. internal supply current only, current in FB pin not included (current flowing in GND pin only).

NCP1234

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (For typical values $T_J = 25^\circ\text{C}$, for min/max values $T_J = -40^\circ\text{C}$ to $+125^\circ\text{C}$, $V_{HV} = 125\text{ V}$, $V_{CC} = 11\text{ V}$ unless otherwise noted)

Characteristics	Test Condition	Symbol	Min	Typ	Max	Unit
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FEEDBACK

Internal pull-up resistor	$T_J = 25^\circ\text{C}$	$R_{FB(up)}$	15	20	25	$k\Omega$
V_{FB} to internal current setpoint division ratio		K_{FB}	4.7	5	5.3	–
Internal pull-up voltage on the FB pin		$V_{FB(ref)}$	4.3	5	5.7	V

CURRENT SENSE

Input Bias Current	$V_{CS} = 0.7\text{ V}$	I_{bias}	–	0.02	–	μA
Maximum internal current setpoint	$V_{FB} > 3.5\text{ V}$	V_{ILIM}	0.66	0.7	0.74	V
Propagation delay from V_{limit} detection to DRV off	$V_{CS} = V_{ILIM}$	t_{delay}	–	80	110	ns
Leading Edge Blanking Duration for V_{ILIM}		t_{LEB}	190	250	310	ns
Threshold for immediate fault protection activation		$V_{CS(stop)}$	0.95	1.05	1.15	V
Leading Edge Blanking Duration for $V_{CS(stop)}$		t_{BCS}	90	120	150	ns
Slope of the compensation ramp		$S_{comp(65kHz)}$ $S_{comp(100kHz)}$	– –	–32.5 –50	– –	$\text{mV} / \mu\text{s}$
Soft-start duration	From 1 st pulse to $V_{CS} = V_{ILIM}$	t_{SSTART}	2.8	4.0	5.2	ms

OVERPOWER COMPENSATION

V_{HV} to I_{OPC} conversion ratio		K_{OPC}	–	0.54	–	$\mu\text{A} / \text{V}$
Current flowing out of CS pin	$V_{HV} = 125\text{ V}$ $V_{HV} = 162\text{ V}$ $V_{HV} = 325\text{ V}$ $V_{HV} = 365\text{ V}$	$I_{OPC(125)}$ $I_{OPC(162)}$ $I_{OPC(325)}$ $I_{OPC(365)}$	– – – 105	0 20 110 130	– – – 150	μA
FB voltage above which I_{OPC} is applied	$V_{HV} = 365\text{ V}$	$V_{FB(OPCF)}$	2.12	2.35	2.58	V
FB voltage below which is no I_{OPC} applied	$V_{HV} = 365\text{ V}$	$V_{FB(OPCE)}$	–	2.15	–	V
Watchdog timer for dc operation		$t_{WD(OPC)}$	–	32	–	ms
HV sampling level		$V_{HVsample}$	–	92	–	V

OVERCURRENT PROTECTION

Fault timer duration	From CS reaching V_{ILIMIT} to DRV stop	t_{fault}	98	128	168	ms
Autorecovery mode latch-off time duration		$t_{autorec}$	0.85	1.00	1.35	s

FREQUENCY FOLDBACK

Feedback voltage threshold below which frequency foldback starts		$V_{FB(foldS)}$	1.8	2.0	2.2	V
Feedback voltage threshold below which frequency foldback is complete		$V_{FB(foldE)}$	1.22	1.35	1.48	V
Minimum switching frequency	$V_{FB} = V_{skip(in)} + 0.2$	$f_{OSC(min)}$	22	27	32	kHz

SKIP-CYCLE MODE

Feedback voltage thresholds for skip mode	V_{FB} going down V_{FB} going up	$V_{skip(in)}$ $V_{skip(out)}$	0.63 0.72	0.7 0.80	0.77 0.88	V
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NCP1234

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (For typical values $T_J = 25^\circ\text{C}$, for min/max values $T_J = -40^\circ\text{C}$ to $+125^\circ\text{C}$, $V_{HV} = 125\text{ V}$, $V_{CC} = 11\text{ V}$ unless otherwise noted)

Characteristics	Test Condition	Symbol	Min	Typ	Max	Unit
LATCH-OFF INPUT						
High threshold	V_{Latch} going up	V_{OVP}	2.35	2.5	2.65	V
Low threshold	V_{Latch} going down	V_{OTP}	0.76	0.8	0.84	V
Current source for direct NTC connection During normal operation During soft-start	$V_{Latch} = 0\text{ V}$	I_{NTC} $I_{NTC(SSTART)}$	65 130	95 190	105 210	μA
Blanking duration on high latch detection	65 kHz version 100 kHz version	$t_{Latch(OVP)}$	35 25	50 35	70 45	μs
Blanking duration on low latch detection		$t_{Latch(OTP)}$	–	350	–	μs
Clamping voltage	$I_{Latch} = 0\text{ mA}$ $I_{Latch} = 1\text{ mA}$	$V_{clamp0(Latch)}$ $V_{clamp1(Latch)}$	1.0 2.0	1.2 2.4	1.4 3.0	V
TEMPERATURE SHUTDOWN						
Temperature shutdown	T_J going up	T_{TSD}	135	150	165	$^\circ\text{C}$
Temperature shutdown hysteresis	T_J going down	$T_{TSD(HYS)}$	20	30	40	$^\circ\text{C}$

TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

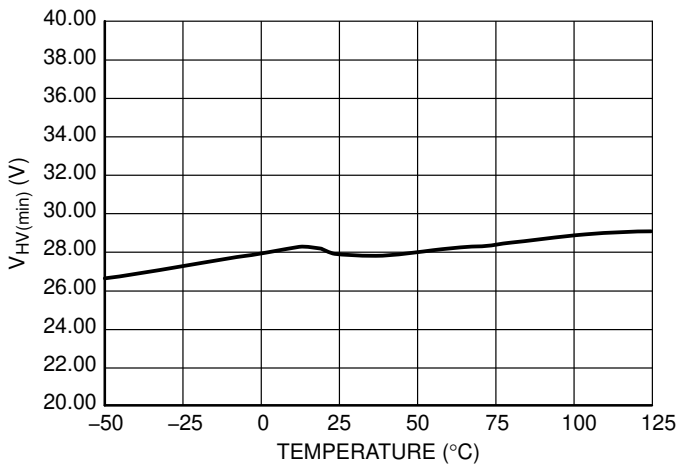


Figure 3. Minimum Current Source Operation
V_{HV(min)}

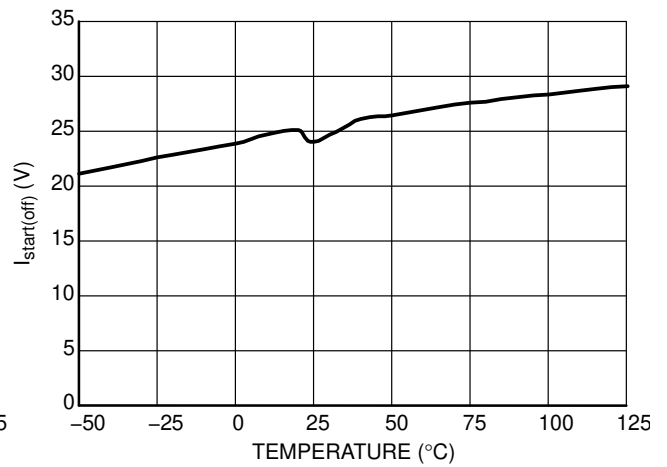


Figure 4. Off-State Leakage Current I_{start(off)}

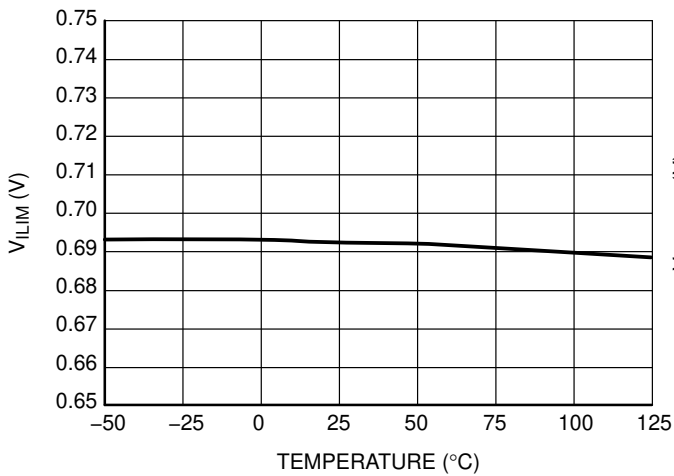


Figure 5. Maximum Internal Current Setpoint
V_{ILIM}

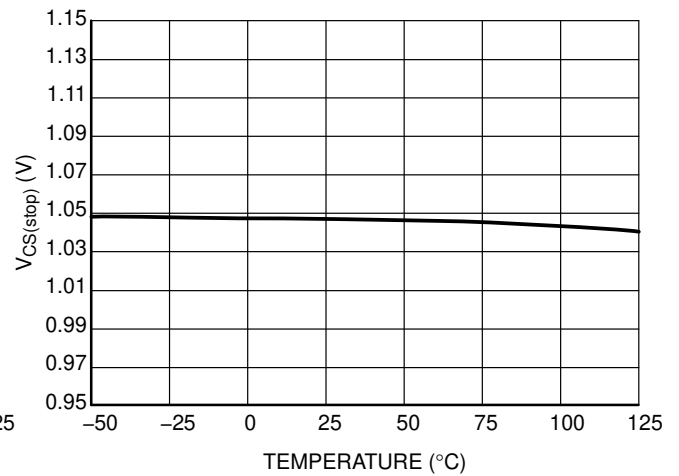


Figure 6. Threshold for Immediate Fault Protection Activation V_{CS(stop)}

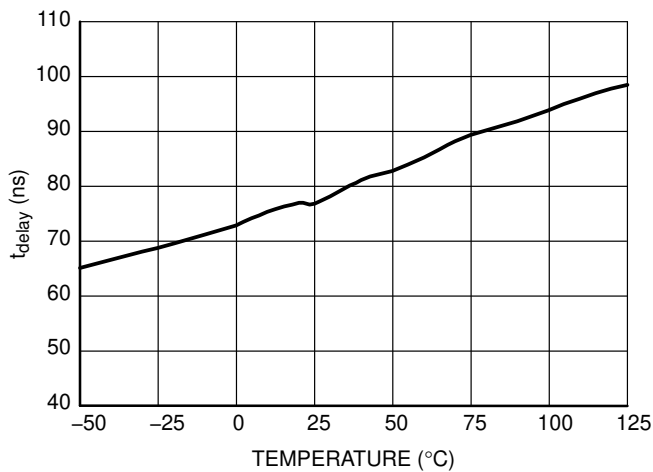


Figure 7. Propagation Delay t_{delay}

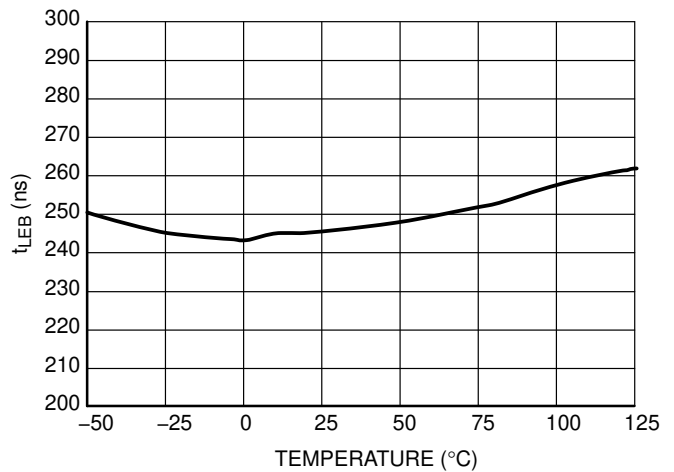


Figure 8. Leading Edge Blanking Duration t_{LEB}

TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

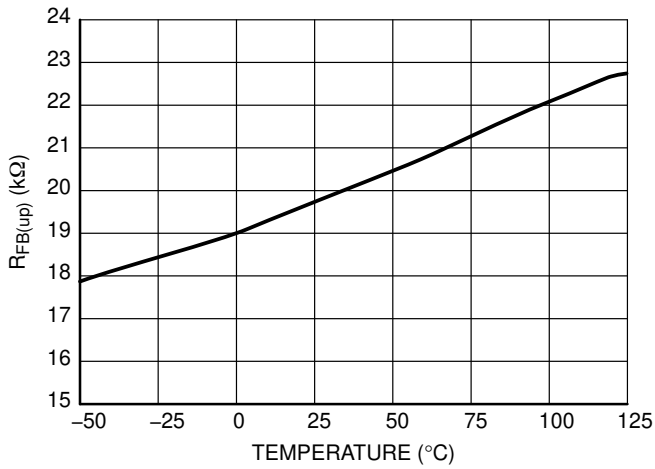


Figure 9. FB Pin Internal Pull-up Resistor $R_{FB(up)}$

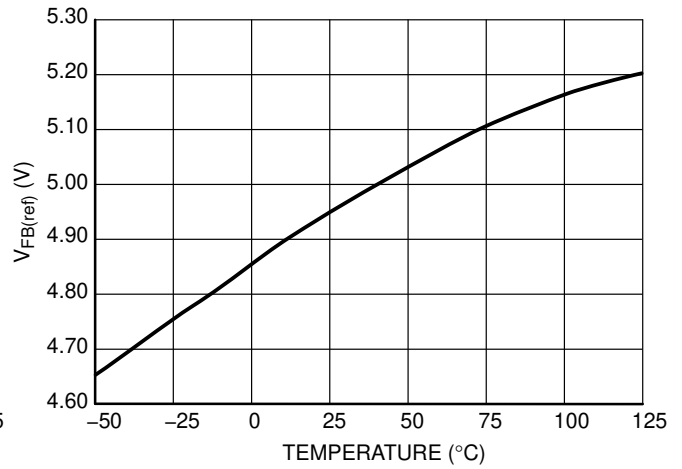


Figure 10. FB Pin Open Voltage $V_{FB(ref)}$

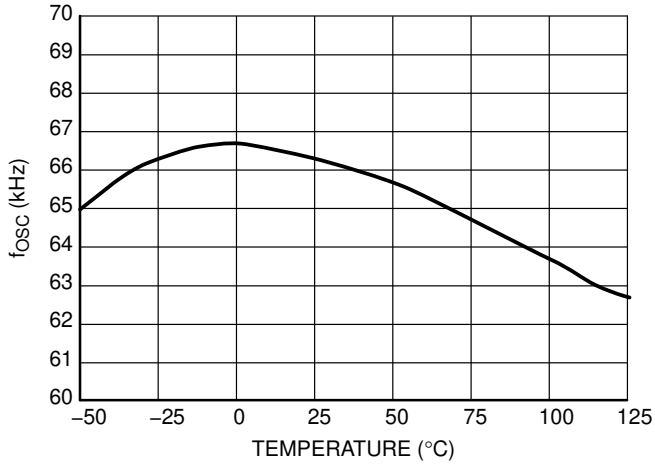


Figure 11. Oscillator Frequency f_{osc}

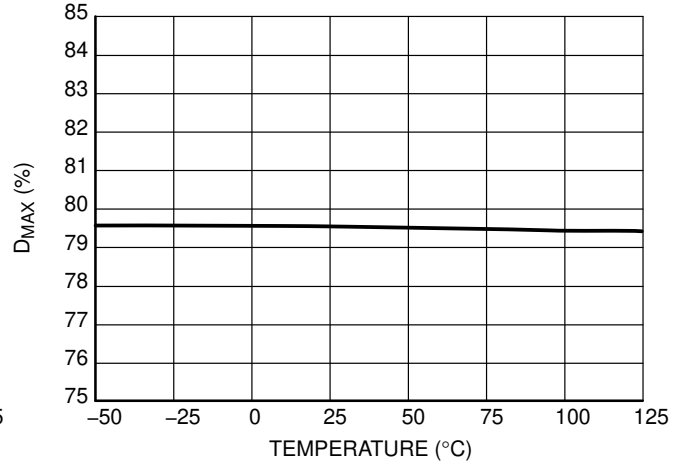


Figure 12. Maximum Duty Cycle D_{MAX}

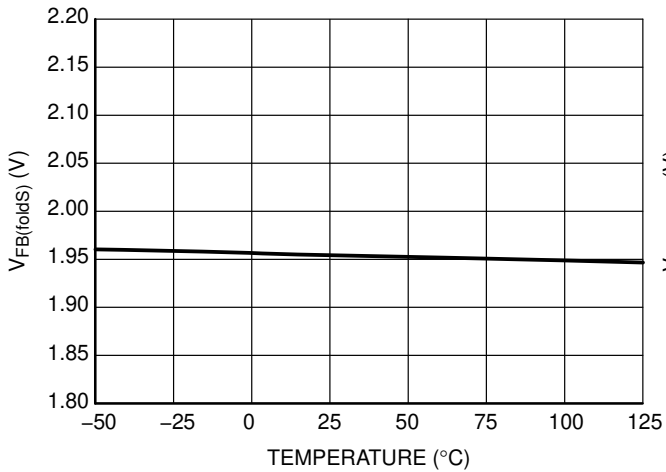


Figure 13. FB Pin Voltage Below Which Frequency Foldback Starts $V_{FB(foldS)}$

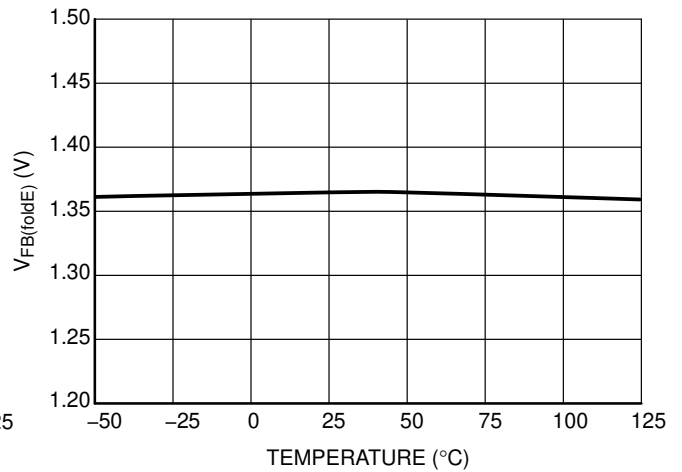


Figure 14. FB Pin Voltage Below Which Frequency Foldback is Complete $V_{FB(foldE)}$

TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

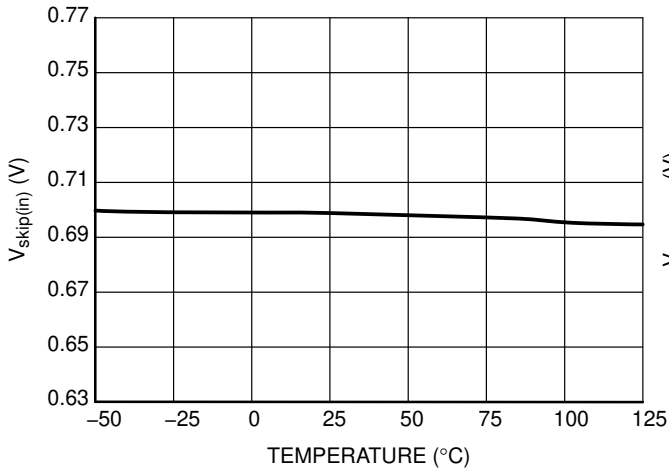


Figure 15. FB Pin Skip-in Level $V_{skip(in)}$

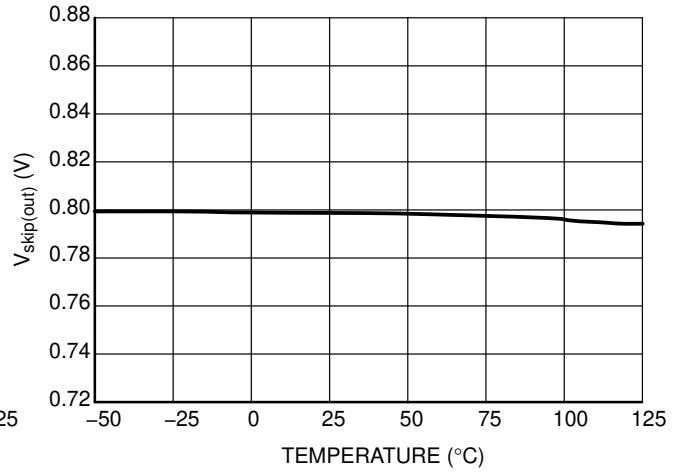


Figure 16. FB Pin Skip-out Level $V_{skip(out)}$

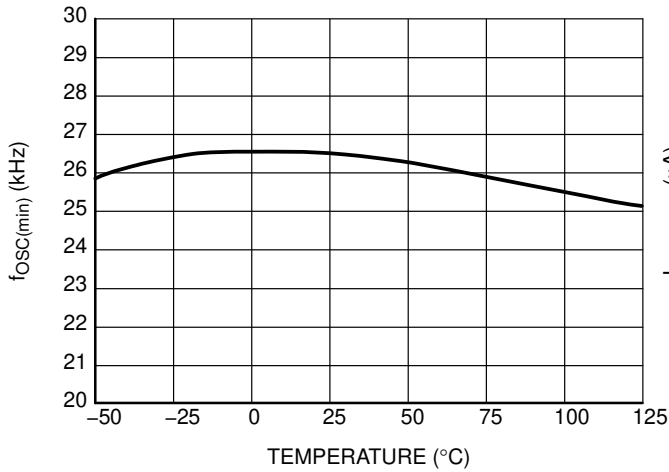


Figure 17. Minimum Switching Frequency $f_{osc(min)}$

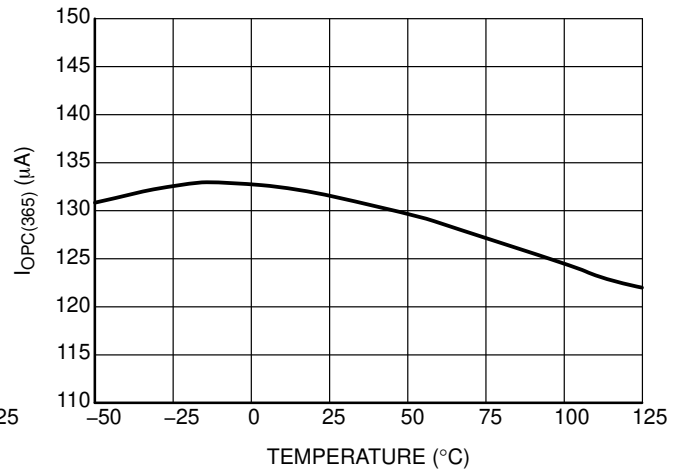


Figure 18. Maximum Overpower Compensating Current $I_{opc(365)}$ Flowing Out of CS Pin

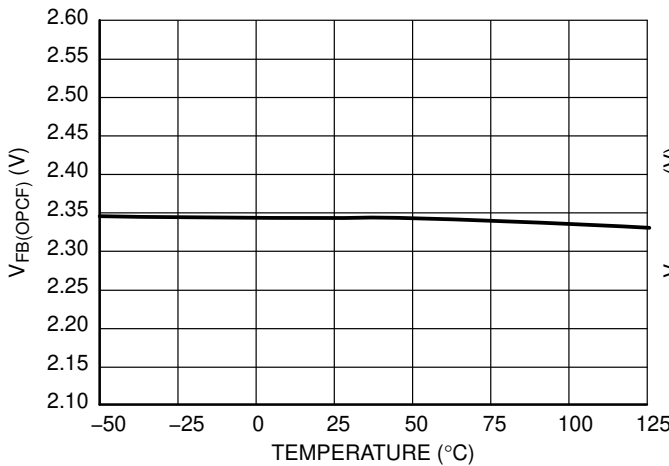


Figure 19. FB Pin Level $V_{FB(OPCF)}$ Above Which is the Overpower Compensation Applied

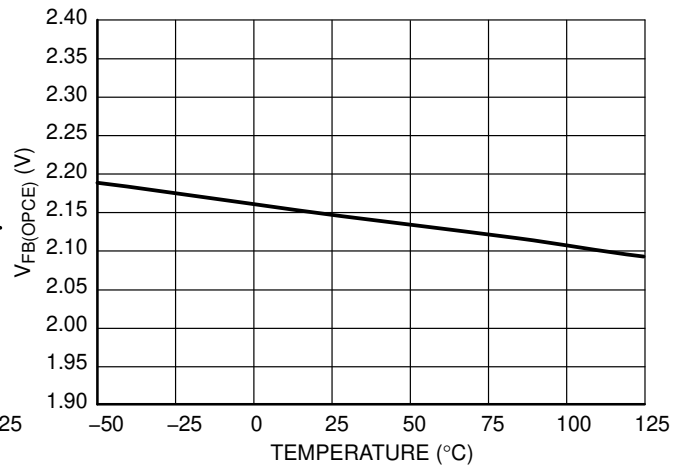


Figure 20. FB Pin Level $V_{FB(OPCE)}$ Below Which is No Overpower Compensation Applied

TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

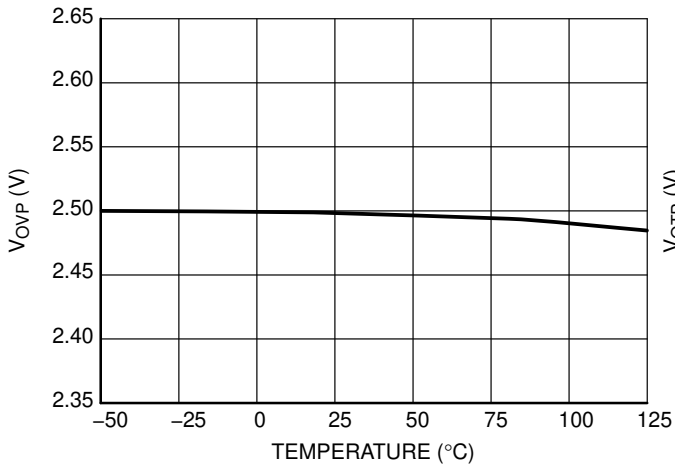


Figure 21. Latch Pin High Threshold V_{OVP}

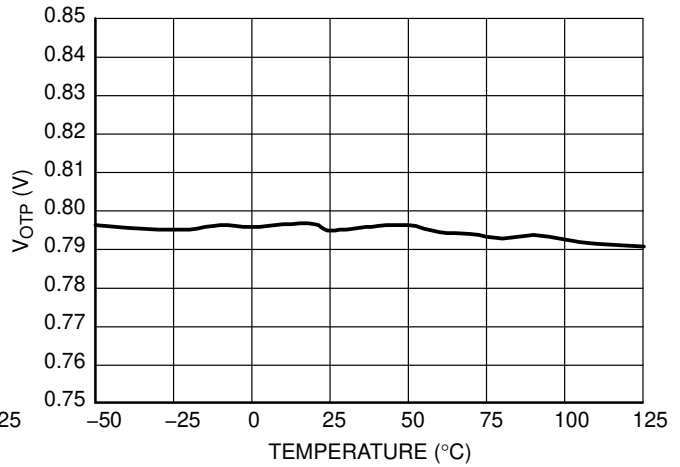


Figure 22. Latch Pin Low Threshold V_{OTP}

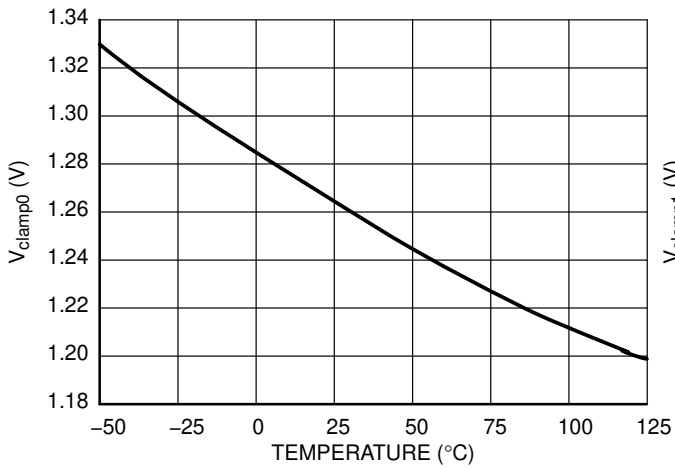


Figure 23. Latch Pin Open Voltage V_{clamp0}

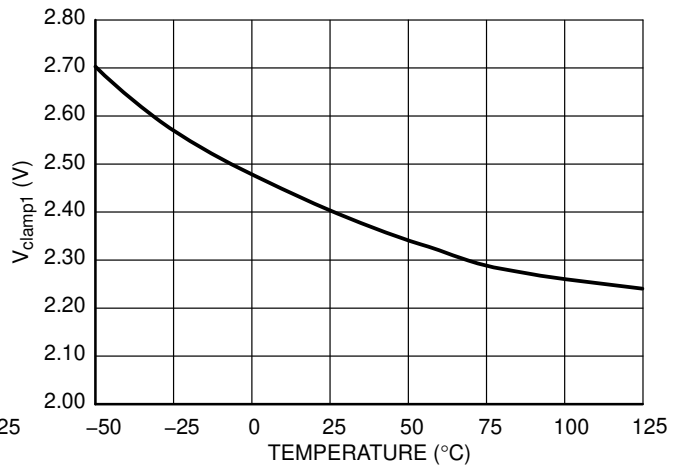


Figure 24. Latch Pin Voltage V_{clamp1} (Latch-off Pin is Sinking 1 mA)

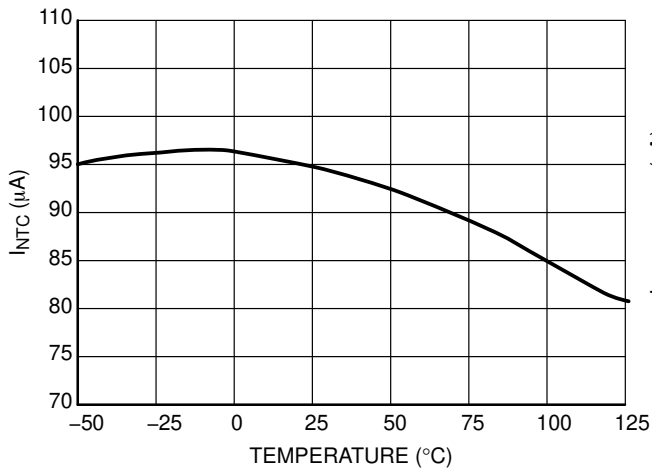


Figure 25. Current I_{NTC} Sourced from the Latch Pin, Allowing Direct NTC Connection

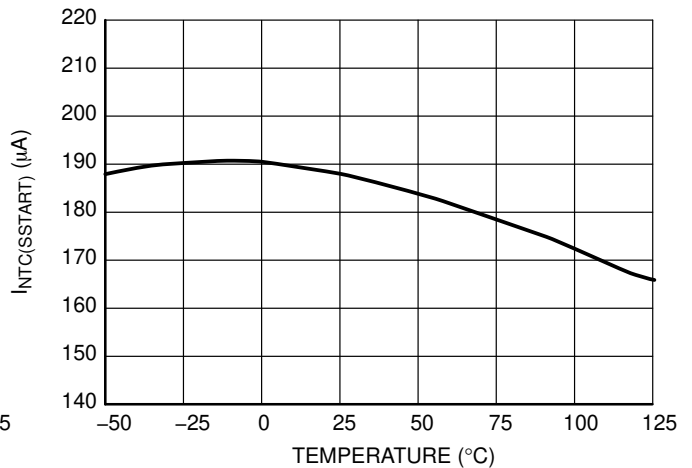


Figure 26. Current $I_{NTC(SSSTART)}$ Sourced from the Latch Pin, During Soft-Start

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Introduction

The NCP1234 includes all necessary features to build a safe and efficient power supply based on a fixed-frequency flyback converter. It is particularly well suited for applications where low part count is a key parameter, without sacrificing safety.

- Current-Mode Operation with slope compensation:** The primary peak current is permanently controlled by the FB voltage, ensuring maximum safety: the DRV turn-off event is dictated by the peak current setpoint. It also ensures that the frequency response of the system stays a first order if in DCM, which eases the design of the FB loop. The controller can be also used in CCM applications with a wide input voltage range thanks to its fixed ramp compensation that prevents the appearance of sub-harmonic oscillations in most applications.
- Fixed-Frequency Oscillator with Jittering:** The NCP1234 is available in different frequency options to fit any application. The internal oscillator features a low-frequency jittering that helps passing the EMI limits by spreading out the energy content of frequency peaks in quasi-peak and average mode of measurement.
- Latched Timer-Based Overload Protection:** The overload protection depends only on the FB signal, making it able to work with any transformer, even with very poor coupling or high leakage inductance. The protection is fully latched on the A version (the power supply has to be stopped then restarted in order to resume operation, even if the overload condition disappears), and autorecovery on the B version. The timer duration is fixed. The controller also enters the same protection mode if the voltage on the CS pin reaches 1.5 times the maximum internal setpoint (allows to detect winding short-circuits).
- High Voltage Start-Up Current Source:** Thanks to ON Semiconductor's Very High Voltage technology, the NCP1234 can directly be connected to the high input voltage. The start-up current source ensures a clean start-up while ensuring low losses when it is off, and the Dynamic Self-Supply (DSS) restarts the start-up current source to supply the controller if the V_{CC} supply transiently drops.
- Adjustable Overpower Compensation:** The high input voltage sensed on the HV pin is converted into a current to build on the current sense voltage an offset proportional to the input voltage. By choosing the value of the resistor in series with the CS pin, the amount of compensation can be adjusted to the application.
- Frequency foldback then skip mode for light load operation:** In order to ensure a high efficiency under all load conditions, the NCP1234 implements a frequency

foldback for light load condition and a skip mode for extremely low load condition. The switching frequency is decreased down to 27 kHz to reduce switching losses.

- Extended VCC range:** The NCP1234 accepts a supply voltage as high as 28 V, with an overvoltage threshold $V_{CC(ovp)}$ (typically 26.5 V) that latches the controller off.
- Clamped Driver Stage:** Despite the high maximum supply voltage, the voltage on DRV pin is safely clamped below 16 V, allowing the use of any standard MOSFET, and reducing the current consumption of the controller.
- Dual Latch-off Input:** The NCP1234 can be latched off by 2 ways: The voltage increase applied to its Latch pin (typically an overvoltage) or by a decrease this voltage. Thanks to the internal precise pull-up current source a NTC can be directly connected to the latch pin. This NTC will provide an overtemperature protection by decreasing its resistance and consequently the voltage at Latch pin,
- Soft-Start:** At every start-up the peak current is gradually increased during 4.0 ms to minimize the stress on power components.
- Temperature Shutdown:** The NCP1234 is internally protected against self-overheating: if the die temperature is too high, the controller shuts all circuitries down (including the HV start-up current source), allowing the silicon to cool down before attempting to restart. This ensures a safe behavior in case of failure.

Typical Operation

- Start-up:** The HV start-up current source ensures the charging of the V_{CC} capacitor up to the start-up threshold $V_{CC(on)}$, until the input voltage is high enough (above $V_{HV(start)}$) to allow the switching to start. The controller then delivers pulses, starting with a soft-start period $t_{SSSTART}$ during which the peak current linearly increases before the current-mode control takes over. During the soft-start period, the low level latch is ignored, and the latch current is double, to ensure a fast pre-charge of the Latch pin decoupling capacitor.
- Normal operation:** As long as the feedback voltage is within the regulation range and V_{CC} is maintained above $V_{CC(min)}$, the NCP1234 runs at a fixed frequency (with jittering) in current-mode control. The peak current (sensed on the CS pin) is set by the voltage on the FB pin. Fixed ramp compensation is applied internally to prevent sub-harmonic oscillations from occurring.
- Light load operation:** When the FB voltage decreases below $V_{FB(foldS)}$, typically corresponding to a load of

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33% of the maximum load (for a DCM design), the switching frequency starts to decrease down to $f_{OSC(min)}$. By lowering the switching losses, this feature helps to improve the efficiency in light load conditions. The frequency jittering is enabled in light load operation as well.

- **No load operation:** When the FB voltage decreases below $V_{skip(in)}$, typically corresponding to a load of 2% of the maximum load, the controller enters skip mode. By completely stopping the switching while the feedback voltage is below $V_{skip(out)}$, the losses are further reduced. This allows minimizing the power dissipation under extremely low load conditions. As the skip mode is entered at very light loads, for which the peak current is very small, there is no risk of audible noise. V_{CC} can be maintained between $V_{CC(on)}$ and $V_{CC(min)}$ by the DSS, if the auxiliary winding does not

provide sufficient level of V_{CC} voltage under this condition.

- **Overload:** The NCP1234 features timer-based overload detection, solely dependent on the feedback information: as soon as the internal peak current setpoint hits the V_{ILIM} clamp, an internal timer starts to count. When the timer elapses, the controller stops and enter the protection mode, autorecovery for the B version (the controller initiates a new start-up after $t_{autorec}$ elapses), or latched for the A version (the latch is released only if V_{CC} is reset).
- **Latch-off:** When the Latch input is pulled up (typically by an over-voltage condition), or pulled down (typically by an over-temperature condition, using the provided current source with an NTC), the controller latches off. The latch is released when the V_{CC} is reset.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

High-Voltage Current Source

The NCP1234 HV pin can be connected either to the rectified bulk voltage, or to the ac line through a rectifier.

However, the overpower compensation will work correctly only if the HV pin is connected to the bulk voltage.

Start-up

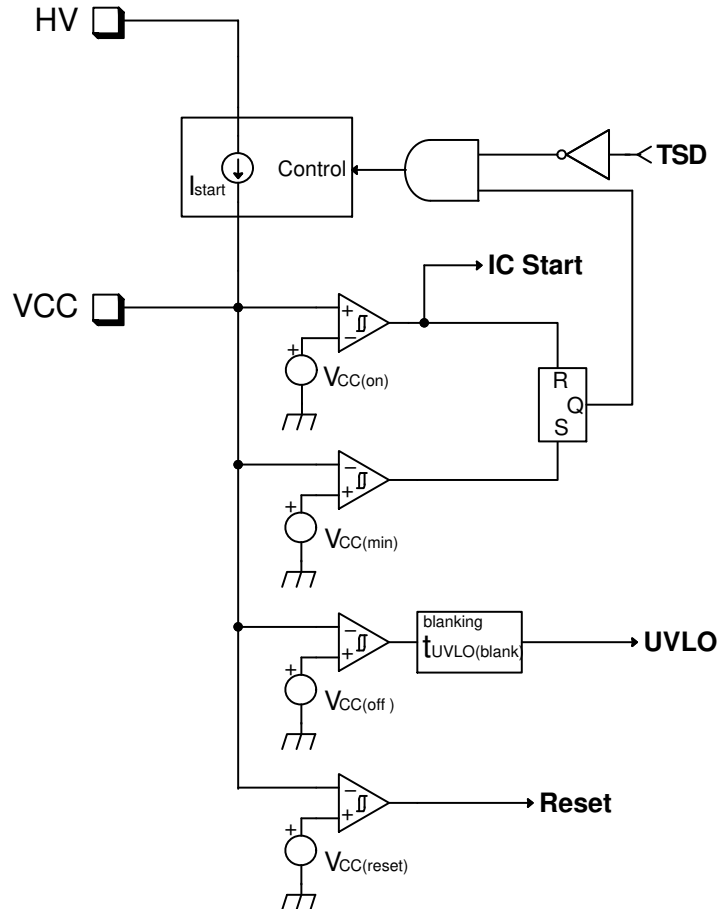


Figure 27. HV Start-up Current Source Functional Schematic

At start-up, the current source turns on when the voltage on the HV pin is higher than $V_{HV(min)}$, and turns off when V_{CC} reaches $V_{CC(on)}$, then turns on again when V_{CC} reaches $V_{CC(min)}$, until V_{CC} is supplied by an internal source. The controller actually starts the next time V_{CC} reaches $V_{CC(on)}$.

Even though the DSS is able to maintain the V_{CC} voltage between $V_{CC(on)}$ and $V_{CC(min)}$ by turning the HV start-up current source on and off, it can only be used in light load

condition, otherwise the power dissipation on the die would be too much. As a result, an auxiliary voltage source is needed to supply V_{CC} during normal operation.

The DSS is useful to keep the controller alive when no switching pulses are delivered, e.g. in latch condition, or to prevent the controller from stopping during load transients when the V_{CC} might drop.

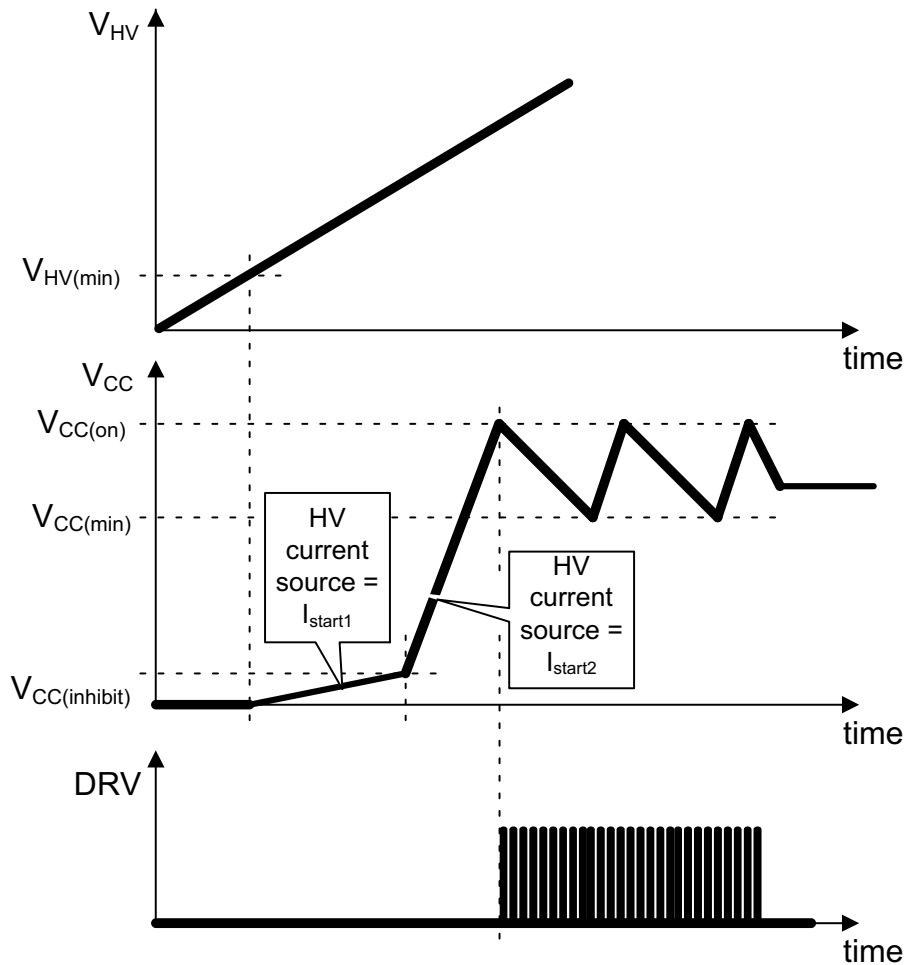


Figure 28. Start-up Timing Diagram

For safety reasons, the start-up current is lowered when V_{CC} is below $V_{CC(inhibit)}$, to reduce the power dissipation in case the V_{CC} pin is shorted to GND (in case of V_{CC} capacitor failure, or external pull-down on V_{CC} to disable the controller).

There are only two conditions for which the current source doesn't turn on when V_{CC} reaches $V_{CC(min)}$: the voltage on HV pin is too low (below $V_{HV(min)}$), or a thermal shutdown condition (TSD) has been detected. In all other conditions, the HV current source will always turn on and off to maintain V_{CC} between $V_{CC(min)}$ and $V_{CC(on)}$.

When the application is turned off, the input capacitor quickly discharges, and the output starts to fall out of

regulation. At the same time, V_{CC} drops, but because there is no voltage anymore on the HV pin, the DSS isn't able to turn on. As a result, V_{CC} drops even more and reach the $V_{CC(off)}$ threshold, that turns the controller off, and resets the internal fault timer, to prevent any unwanted latch-off and allow a fast restart in case of a short OFF/ON sequence.

As soon as the application is turned back on, the HV start-up current source starts to charge the V_{CC} capacitor. Note that the threshold at which V_{CC} discharges has no influence on the ability of the controller to restart. The switching then turns on when V_{CC} reaches $V_{CC(on)}$, without additional delay or "hiccup". The case of a fast OFF/ON sequence is described at Figure 29.

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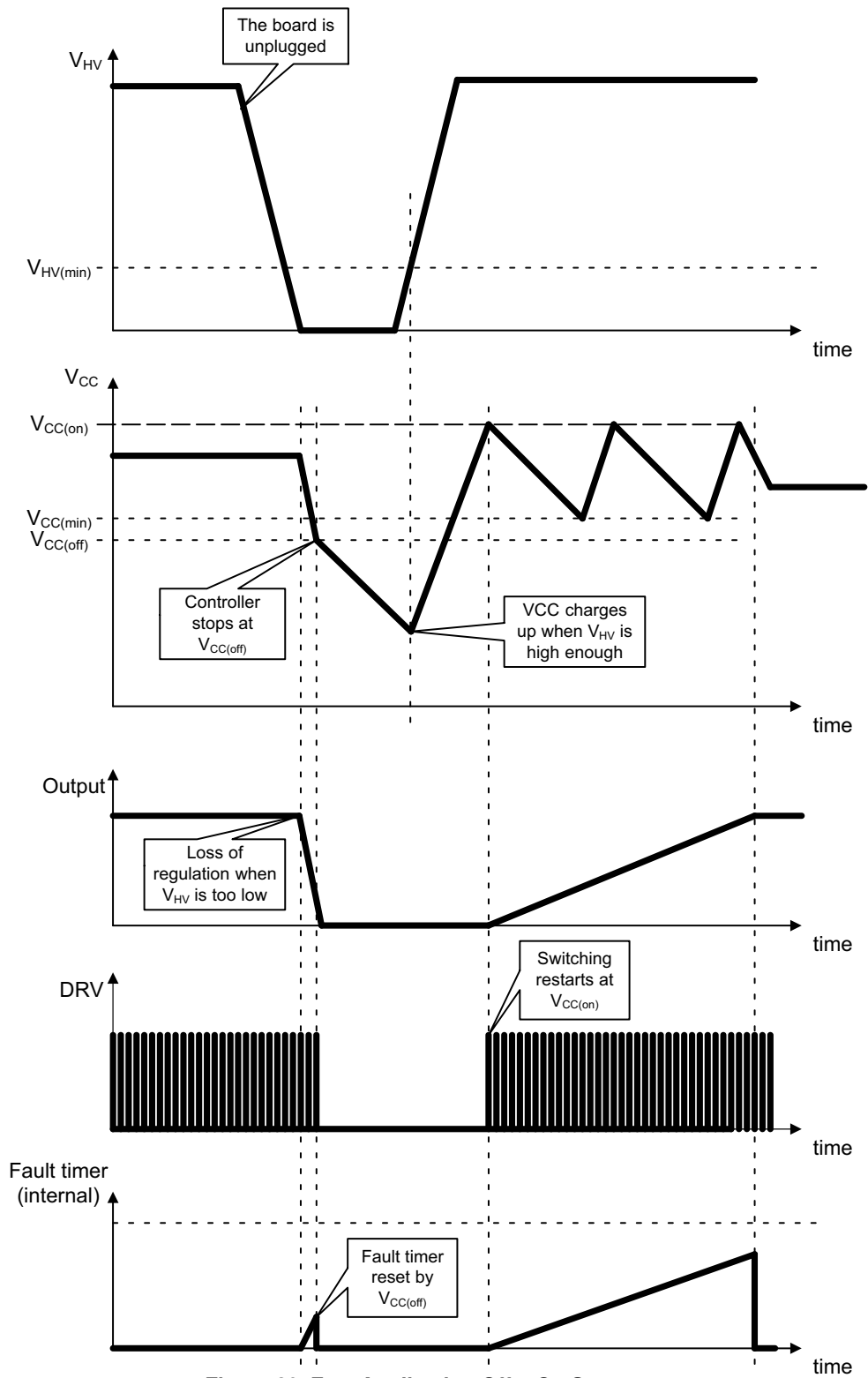


Figure 29. Fast Application Off – On Sequence

Oscillator with Maximum Duty Cycle and Frequency Jittering

The NCP1234 includes an oscillator that sets the switching frequency with an accuracy of $\pm 7\%$. Two frequency options can be ordered: 65 kHz and 100 kHz. The maximum duty cycle of the DRV pin is 80%, with an accuracy of $\pm 7\%$.

In order to improve the EMI signature, the switching frequency jitters $\pm 6\%$ around its nominal value, with a triangle-wave shape and at a frequency of 125 Hz. This frequency jittering is active even when the frequency is decreased to improve the EMI in light load condition.

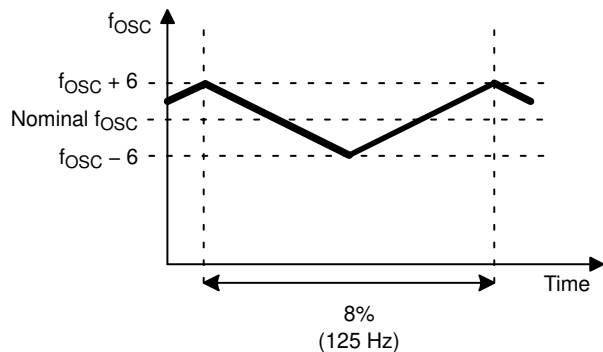


Figure 30. Frequency Jittering

Clamped Driver

The supply voltage for the NCP1234 can be as high as 28 V, but most of the MOSFETs that will be connected to the DRV pin cannot accept more than 20 V on their gate. The driver pin is therefore clamped safely below 16 V. This driver has a typical current capability of ± 500 mA.

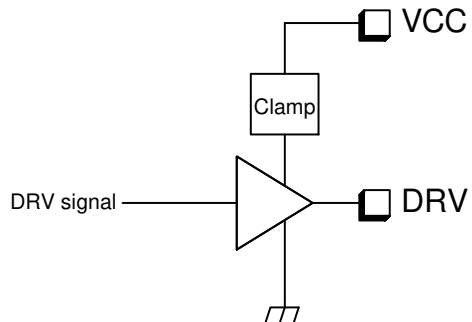


Figure 31. Clamped Driver

CURRENT-MODE CONTROL WITH OVERPOWER COMPENSATION AND SOFT-START

Current sensing

NCP1234 is a current-mode controller, which means that the FB voltage sets the peak current flowing in the inductance and the MOSFET. This is done through a PWM comparator: the current is sensed across a resistor and the resulting voltage is applied to the CS pin. It is applied to one

input of the PWM comparator through a 250 ns LEB block. On the other input the FB voltage divided by 5 sets the threshold: when the voltage ramp reaches this threshold, the output driver is turned off.

The maximum value for the current sense is 0.7 V, and it is set by a dedicated comparator.

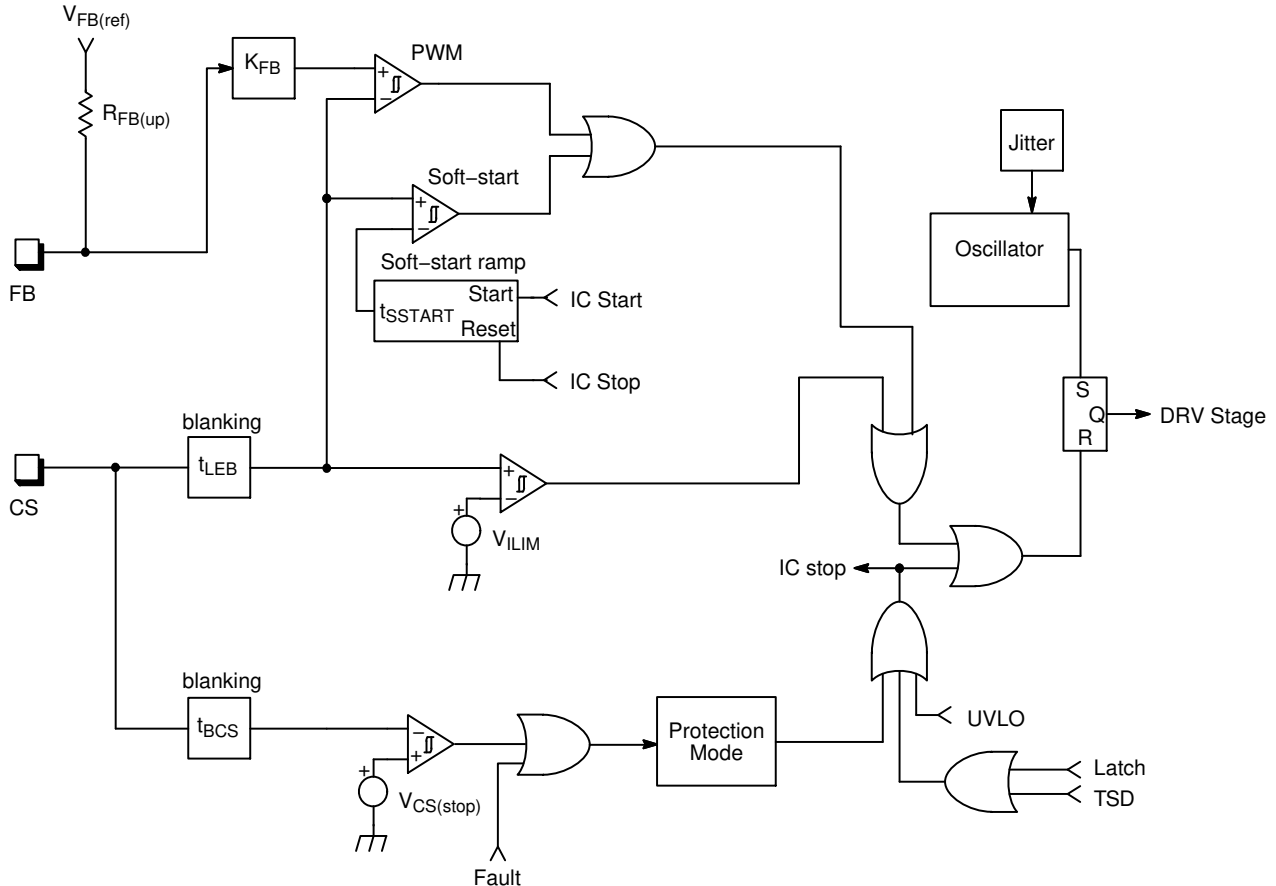


Figure 32. Current Sense Block Schematic

Each time the controller is starting, i.e. the controller was off and starts – or restarts – when V_{CC} reaches $V_{CC(on)}$, a soft-start is applied: the current sense setpoint is linearly increased from 0 (the minimum level can be higher than 0 because of the LEB and propagation delay) until it reaches V_{ILIM} (after a duration of t_{SSTART}), or until the FB loop

imposes a setpoint lower than the one imposed by the soft-start (the 2 comparators outputs are OR'ed). The soft-start ramp signal is generated by the D/A converter in the NCP1234, that's why there are observable 15 discrete steps instead the truly linearly increasing current setpoint ramp.

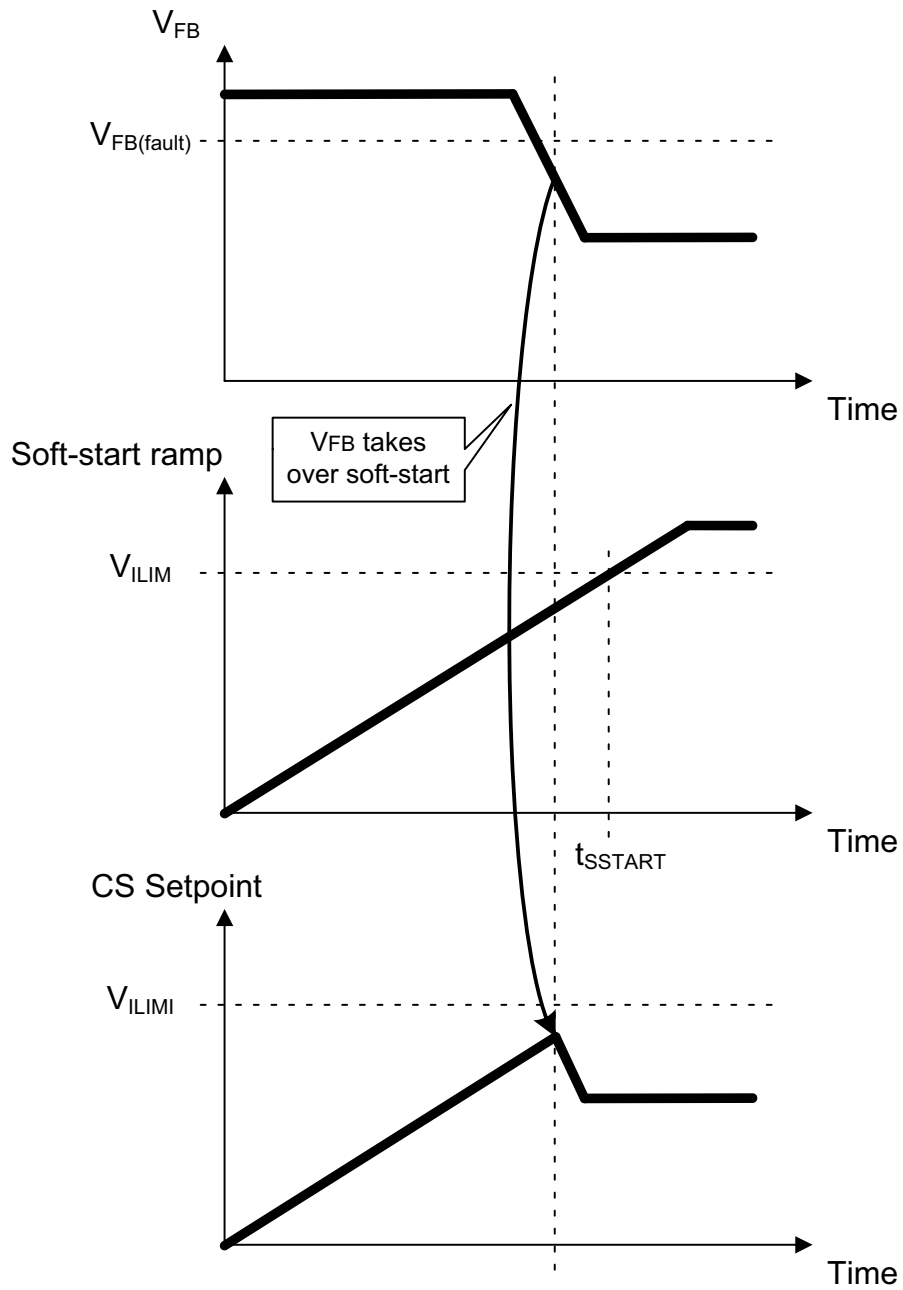


Figure 33. Soft-Start

Under some conditions, like a winding short-circuit for instance, not all the energy stored during the *on* time is transferred to the output during the *off* time, even if the on time duration is at its minimum (imposed by the propagation delay of the detector added to the LEB duration). As a result, the current sense voltage keeps on increasing above V_{ILIM} , because the controller is blind during the LEB blanking time. Dangerously high current can grow in the system if nothing is done to stop the controller. That's what the additional comparator, that senses when the current sense voltage on CS pin reaches $V_{CS(stop)} (= 1.5 \times V_{ILIM})$, does: as soon as this comparator toggles, the controller immediately enters the protection mode (latched or autorecovery according to the chosen option).

Overpower compensation

The power delivered by a flyback power supply is proportional to the square of the peak current in the discontinuous conduction mode:

$$P_{OUT} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \eta \cdot L_p \cdot F_{SW} \cdot I_p^2 \quad (\text{eq. 1})$$

Unfortunately, due to the inherent propagation delay of the logic, the actual peak current is higher at high input voltage than at low input voltage, leading to a significant difference in the maximum output power delivered by the power supply.

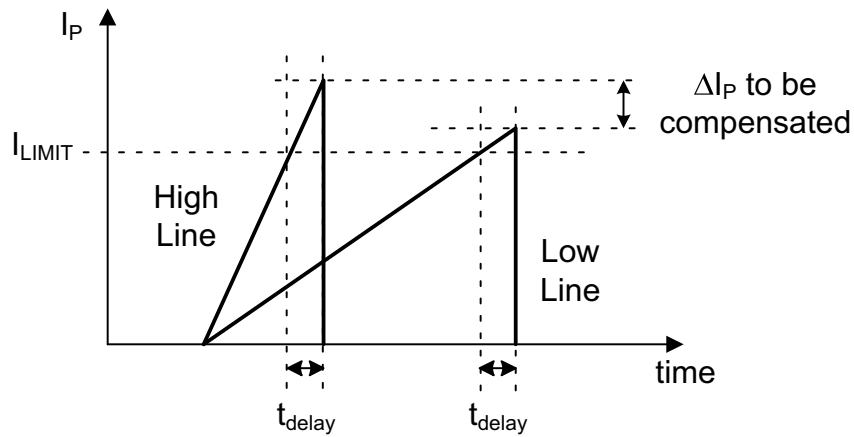


Figure 34. Line Compensation for True Overpower Protection

To compensate this and have an accurate overpower protection, an offset proportional to the input voltage is added on the CS signal by turning on an internal current source: by adding an external resistor in series between the sense resistor and the CS pin, a voltage offset is created across it by the current. The compensation can be adjusted by changing the value of the resistor.

But this offset is unwanted to appear when the current sense signal is small, i.e. in light load conditions, where it

would be in the same order of magnitude. Therefore the compensation current is only added when the FB voltage is higher than $V_{FB(OPCE)}$.

However, because the HV pin can be connected to an ac voltage, there is needed an additional circuitry to read or at least closely estimate the actual voltage on the bulk capacitor.

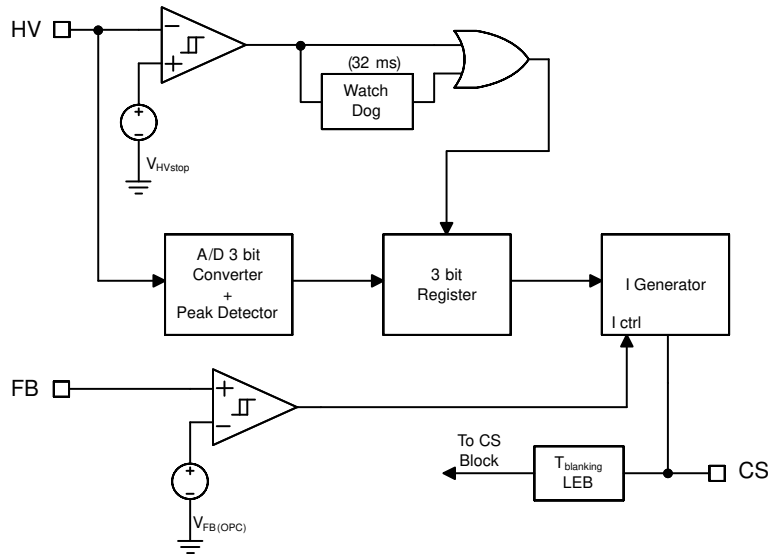


Figure 35. Schematic Overpower Compensation Circuit

A 3 bit A/D converter with the peak detector senses the ac input, and its output is periodically sampled and reset, in order to follow closely the input voltage variations. The sample and reset events are given by the $V_{HVsample}$ comparator used for sampling detection for the AC line

input. If only the DC high voltage input is used, no reset signal is generated by the $V_{HVsample}$ condition and the 32 ms watch dog is used to generate the sampling events for sampling the DC input high voltage line.

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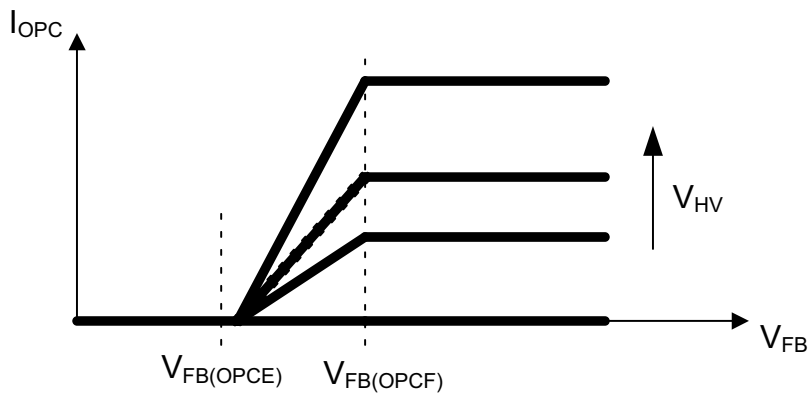


Figure 36. Overpower Compensation Current Relation to Feedback Voltage and Input Voltage

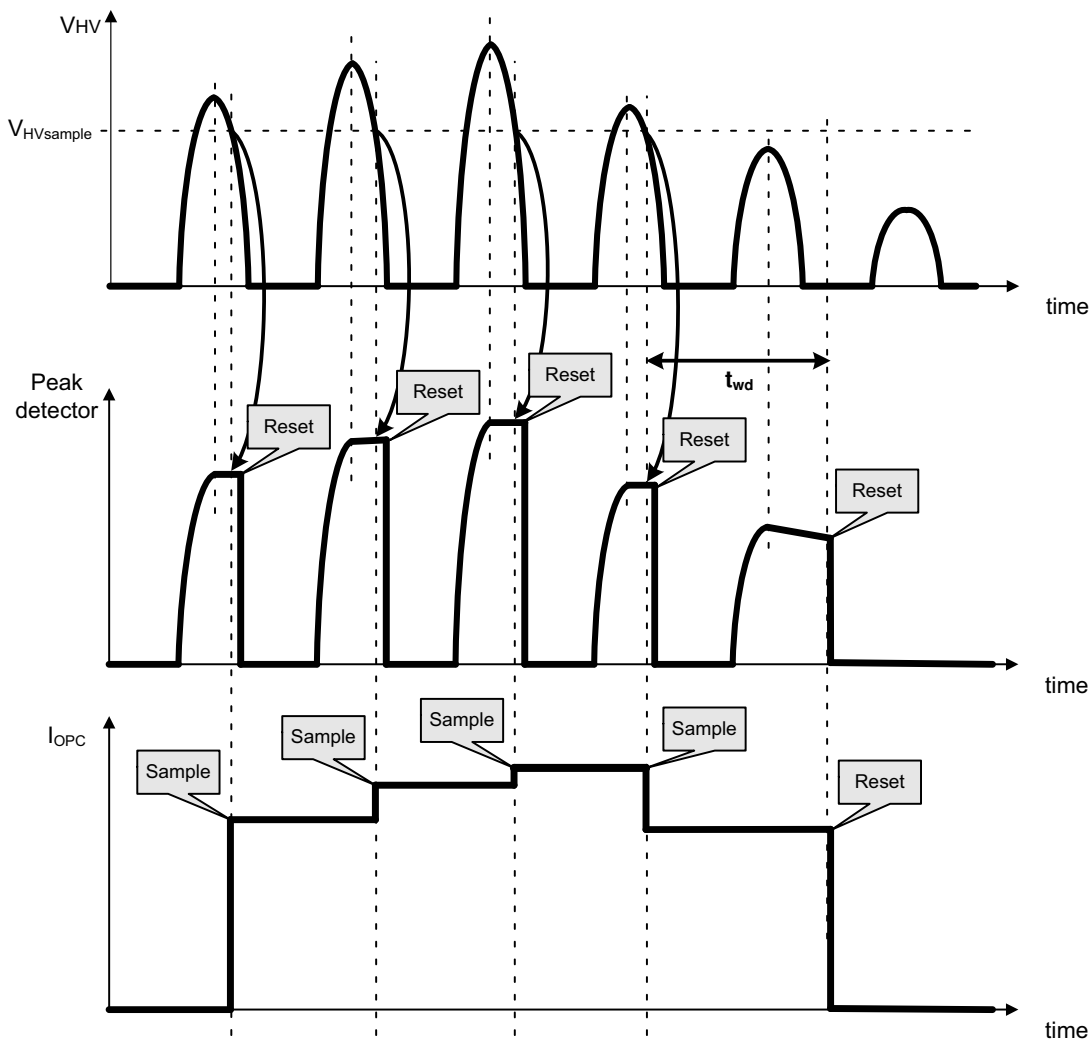


Figure 37. Overpower Compensation Current if the HV Pin is Connected to AC Voltage

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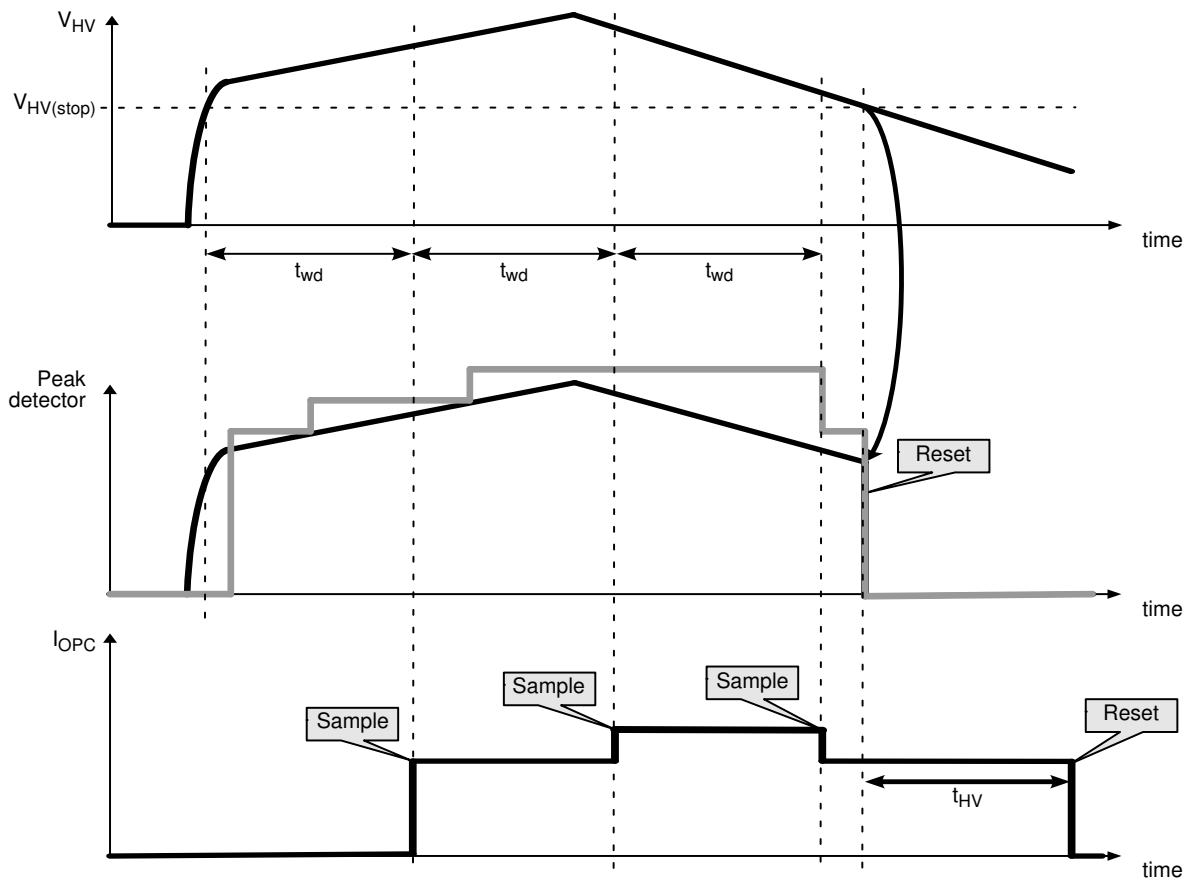


Figure 38. Overpower Compensation if the HV Pin is Connected to DC Voltage

Feedback with Slope Compensation

The ratio from the FB voltage to the current sense setpoint is 5, meaning that the FB voltage corresponding to V_{ILIM} is

3.5 V. There is a pull-up resistor of 20 k Ω from FB pin to an internal reference.

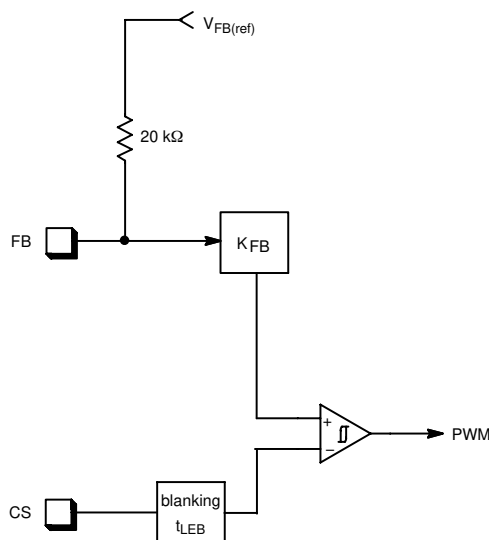


Figure 39. FB Circuitry

In order to allow the NCP1234 to operate in CCM with a duty cycle above 50%, a fixed slope compensation is internally applied to the current-mode control. The slope

appearing on the internal voltage setpoint for the PWM comparator is $-32.5 \text{ mV}/\mu\text{s}$ typical for the 65 kHz version, and $-50 \text{ mV}/\mu\text{s}$ for the 100 kHz version.

Overcurrent protection with Fault timer

When an overcurrent occurs on the output of the power supply, the FB loop asks for more power than the controller can deliver, and the CS setpoint reaches V_{ILIMIT} . When this event occurs, an internal t_{fault} timer is started: once the timer times out, DRV pulses are stopped and the controller is either

latched off (latched protection, version A), or it enters an autorecovery mode (version B). The timer is reset when the CS setpoint goes back below V_{ILIMIT} before the timer elapses. To provide maximum output power at the low input line voltages the fault timer is not started if the driver signal is reset by the max duty cycle.

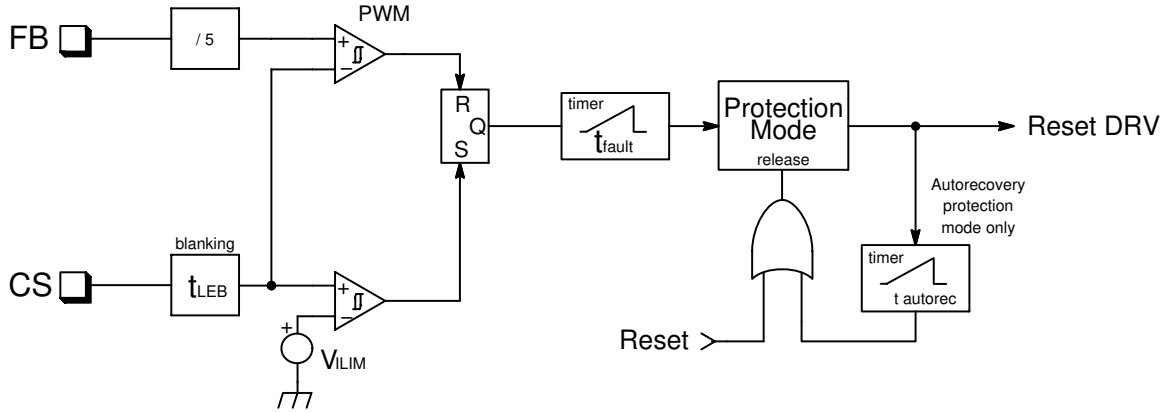


Figure 40. Timer-Based Overcurrent Protection

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In autorecovery mode, the controller tries to restart after t_{autorec} . If the fault has gone, the supply resumes operation; if not, the system starts a new burst cycle.

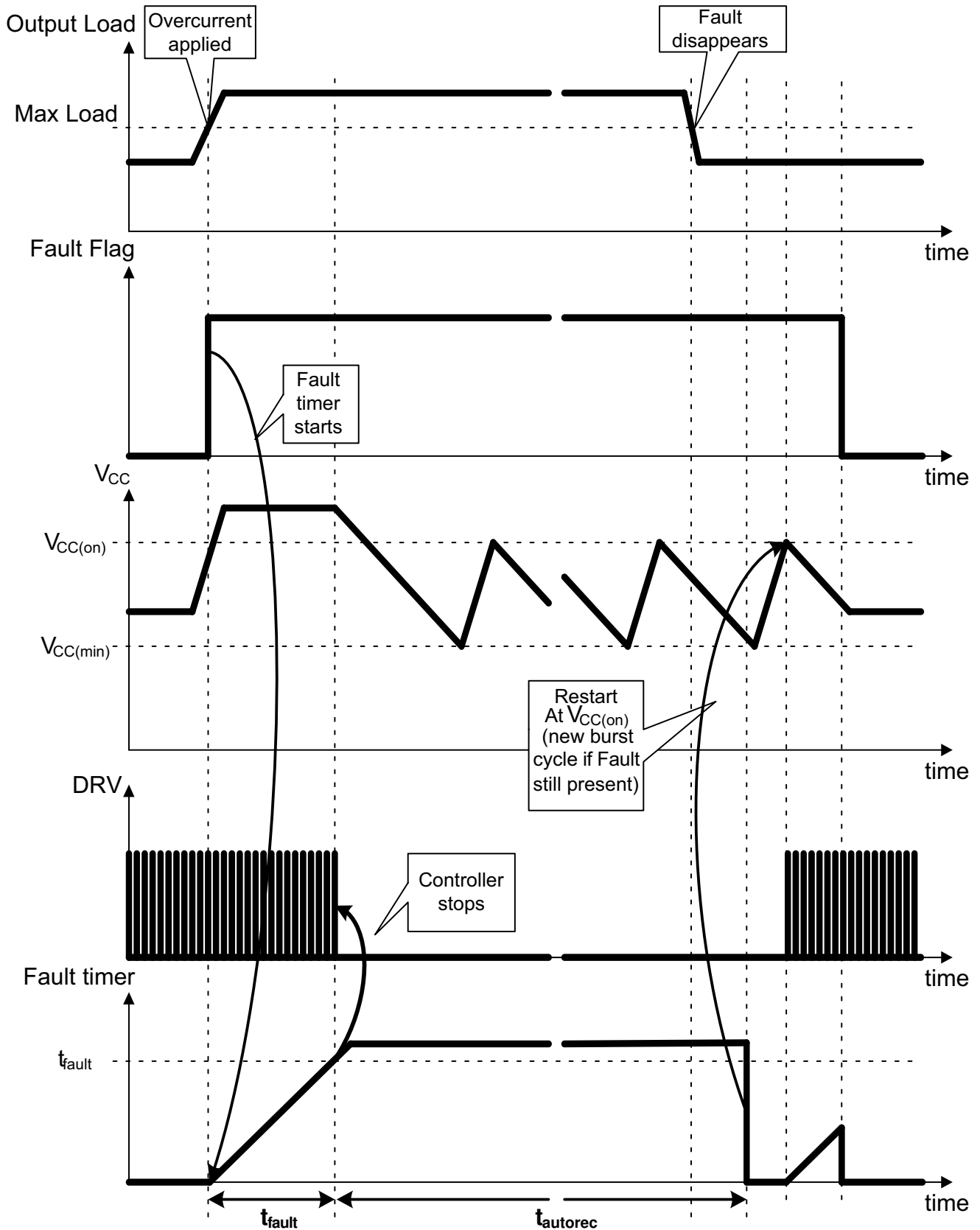


Figure 41. Autorecovery Timer-Based Protection Mode

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In the latched version, the controller can restart only if a V_{CC} reset occurs, which in a real application can only

happen if the power supply is unplugged from the mains line.

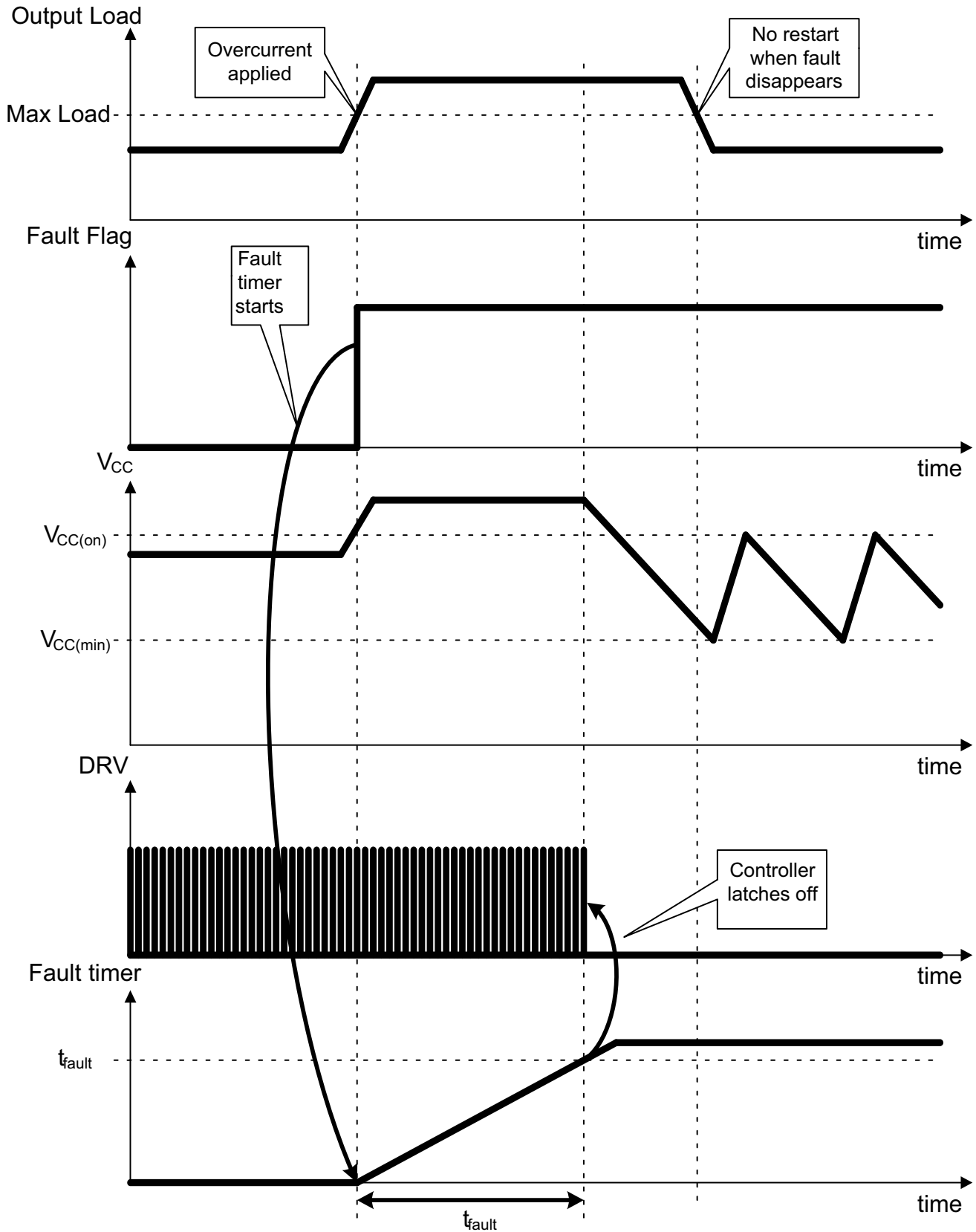


Figure 42. Latched Timer-Based Overcurrent Protection