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# NCP1238

## Fixed Frequency Current Mode Controller for Flyback Converters

The NCP1238 is a new generation of the NCP12xx fixed-frequency current-mode controllers featuring Dynamic Self-Supply (DSS), pin-to-pin compatible with the previous generation.

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 its proprietary Soft-Skip™ mode combined with frequency foldback, the controller exhibits excellent efficiency in light load condition while still achieving very low standby power consumption. This Soft-Skip feature also dramatically reduces the risk of acoustic noise, which enables the use of inexpensive transformers and capacitors in the clamping network.

Internal frequency jittering, ramp compensation, and a versatile latch input make this controller an excellent candidate for converters where ruggedness and components cost are the key constraints.

In addition, the controller includes a new high voltage circuitry that combines a startup current source and a brown-out / line OVP detector able to sense the input voltage either from the rectified ac line or the dc filtered bulk voltage.

Finally, due to a careful design, the precision of critical parameters is well controlled over the entire temperature range ( $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $+125^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), enabling easier design and increased safety (e.g.  $\pm 5\%$  for the peak current limit,  $\pm 7\%$  for the oscillator).

### Features

- Timer-Based Overload Protections with Auto-Recovery (Option B) or Latched (Option A) Operation
- High-Voltage Current Source with DSS with Built-in Brown-out and Line Overvoltage Protections
- Fixed-Frequency Current-Mode Operation with Built-in Ramp Compensation
- Frequency Jittering for a Reduced EMI Signature
- Adjustable Overpower Compensation
- Latch-off Input for Severe Fault Conditions, with Direct Connection of an NTC for Overtemperature Protection (OTP)
- Protection Against Winding Short-Circuit
- Frequency Foldback transitioning into Soft-Skip for Improved Performance in Standby
- 65 kHz Oscillator (100 kHz and 133 kHz Versions Available Upon Request)

- $V_{CC}$  Operation up to 28 V
- Increased Precision on Critical Parameters
- $\pm 1.0$  A Peak Drive Capability
- 4.0 ms Soft-Start
- Internal Thermal Shutdown with Hysteresis
- These Devices are Pb-Free, Halogen Free/BFR Free and are RoHS Compliant\*

### Typical Applications

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

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



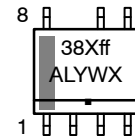
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### MARKING DIAGRAM



SOIC-7  
CASE 751U



38Xff = Specific Device Code  
X = A or B  
ff = 65, 00, or 33  
A = Assembly Location  
L = Wafer Lot  
Y = Year  
W = Work Week  
▪ = Pb-Free Package

### ORDERING INFORMATION

See detailed ordering and shipping information in the package dimensions section on page 37 of this data sheet.

# NCP1238

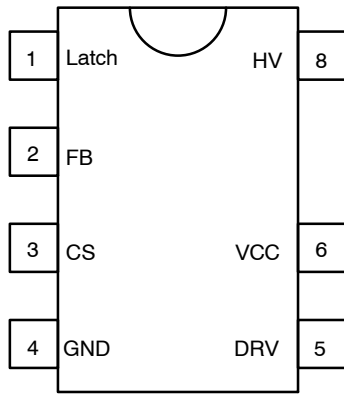


Figure 1. Pinout

## TYPICAL APPLICATION EXAMPLE

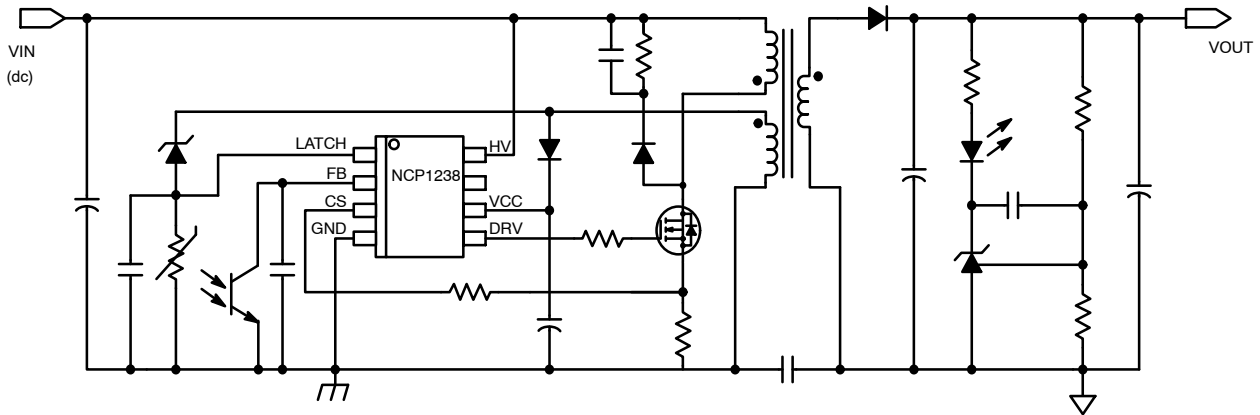


Figure 2. Typical Application

### 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	A pull-down optocoupler controls the output regulation.
3	CS	Current Sense	Senses the primary current for current-mode operation, and provides a mean for overpower compensation adjustment.
4	GND	–	IC ground
5	DRV	Drive Output	Drives an external MOSFET
6	V <sub>CC</sub>	V <sub>CC</sub> Input	This supply pin accepts up to 28 Vdc
8	HV	High-Voltage Pin	Connects to the bulk capacitor or the rectified AC line to perform the functions of Dynamic Self-Supply and brown-out / line overvoltage detections

SIMPLIFIED INTERNAL BLOCK SCHEMATIC

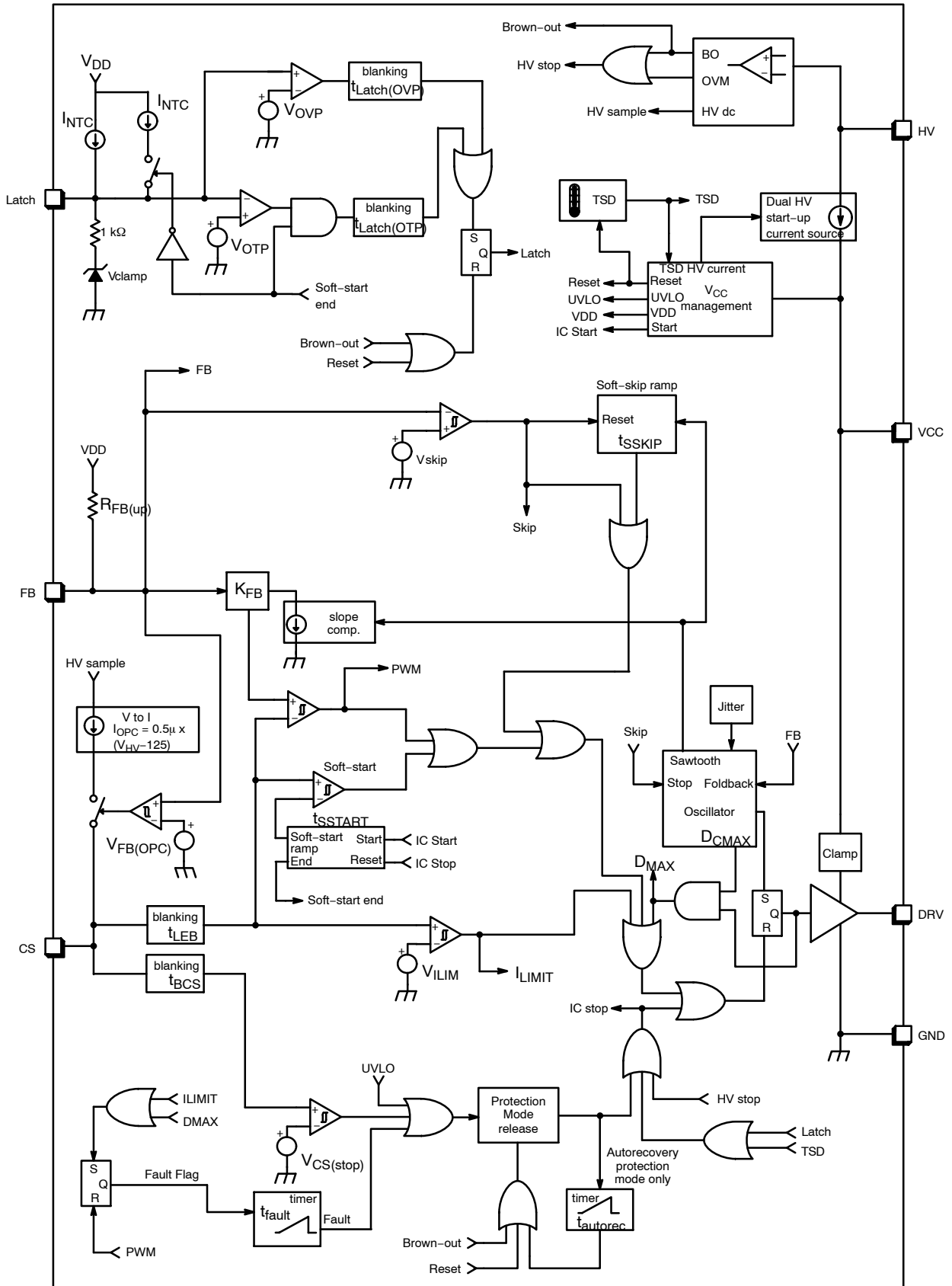


Figure 3. Simplified Internal Block Schematic

# NCP1238

## MAXIMUM RATINGS

Rating	Symbol	Value	Unit
Supply Pin (pin 6) (Note 1) Voltage range Current range	$V_{CCMAX}$ $I_{CCMAX}$	-0.3 to 28 $\pm 30$	V mA
High Voltage Pin (pin 8) (Note 1) Voltage range Current range	$V_{HVMAX}$ $I_{HVMAX}$	-0.3 to 500 $\pm 20$	V mA
Driver Pin (pin 5) (Note 1) Voltage range Current range	$V_{DRVMAX}$ $I_{DRVMAX}$	-0.3 to 20 $\pm 1500$	V mA
All other pins (Note 1) Voltage range Current range	$V_{MAX}$ $I_{MAX}$	-0.3 to 10 $\pm 10$	V mA
Thermal Resistance Junction-to-Air, low conductivity PCB (Note 2) Junction-to-Air, medium conductivity PCB (Note 3) Junction-to-Air, high conductivity PCB (Note 4)	$R_{\theta JA}$	162 147 125	$^{\circ}C/W$
Temperature Range Operating Junction Temperature Storage Temperature Range	$T_{JMAX}$ $T_{STRGMAX}$	-40 to +150 -60 to +150	$^{\circ}C$
ESD Capability Human Body Model (HBM) per JEDEC standard JESD22, Method A114E (All pins except HV) Machine Model (MM) per JEDEC standard JESD22, Method A115A		2000 200	V

Stresses exceeding Maximum Ratings may damage the device. Maximum Ratings are stress ratings only. Functional operation above the Recommended Operating Conditions is not implied. Extended exposure to stresses above the Recommended Operating Conditions may affect device reliability.

1. This device contains latch-up protection and exceeds 100 mA per JEDEC Standard JESD78
2. As mounted on a 80 x 100 x 1.5 mm FR4 substrate with a single layer of 100 mm<sup>2</sup> of 1 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.
3. As mounted on a 80 x 100 x 1.5 mm FR4 substrate with a single layer of 100 mm<sup>2</sup> 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.
4. As mounted on a 80 x 100 x 1.5 mm FR4 substrate with a single layer of 650 mm<sup>2</sup> of 1 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.

# NCP1238

**ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS** (For typical values  $T_J = 25^\circ\text{C}$ , for min/max values  $T_J = -40^\circ\text{C}$  to  $+125^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $V_{HV} = 120\text{ V}$ ,  $V_{CC} = 11\text{ V}$  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		$V_{HV(\text{min})}$	-	-	60	V
Current flowing out of $V_{CC}$ pin @ $V_{HV} = 60\text{ V}$	$V_{CC} = 0\text{ V}$ $V_{CC} = V_{CC(\text{on})} - 0.5\text{ V}$	$I_{\text{start1}}$ $I_{\text{start2}}$	0.2 4	0.5 8	0.8 12	mA
Off-state leakage current	$V_{HV} = 500\text{ V}$	$I_{\text{start(off)}}$	-	25	50	$\mu\text{A}$

## 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 level		$V_{CC(\text{off})}$	8.5	9.5	10.5	V
Blanking duration on $V_{CC(\text{min})}$ and $V_{CC(\text{off})}$ detection	Guaranteed by design	$t_{UVLO(\text{blank})}$	7	10	13	$\mu\text{s}$
$V_{CC}$ decreasing level at which the internal logic resets		$V_{CC(\text{reset})}$	4.0	5.2	6.5	V
$V_{CC}$ level for $I_{\text{START1}}$ to $I_{\text{START2}}$ transition		$V_{CC(\text{inhibit})}$	0.4	0.65	0.9	V
Internal current consumption (Note 5)	DRV open, $V_{FB} = 3\text{ V}$	ICC1	2.0	2.5	3.0	mA
	$C_{\text{drv}} = 1\text{ nF}$ , $V_{FB} = 3\text{ V}$	ICC2	2.3	3.3	4.3	
	Off mode (skip or before startup)	ICC3	0.9	1.2	1.5	
	Fault mode (fault or latch)	ICC4	0.4	0.7	1.0	

## BROWN-OUT AND LINE OVERVOLTAGE

Brown-out threshold voltage	$V_{HV}$ going up $V_{HV}$ going down	$V_{HV(\text{start})}$ $V_{HV(\text{stop})}$	104 97	112 105	120 113	V
Timer duration for line cycle drop-out		$t_{HV}$	43	61	79	ms
Overvoltage threshold	$V_{HV}$ going up $V_{HV}$ going down	$V_{HV(\text{OV1})}$ $V_{HV(\text{OV2})}$	400 395	430 425	460 455	V
Blanking duration on line overvoltage detection		$t_{OV(\text{blank})}$	-	250	-	$\mu\text{s}$

## OSCILLATOR

Oscillator frequency		$f_{\text{OSC}}$	60	65	70	kHz
Maximum duty ratio		$D_{\text{MAX}}$	75	80	85	%
Frequency jittering amplitude, in percentage of $F_{\text{OSC}}$	Guaranteed by design	$A_{\text{jitter}}$	$\pm 4$	$\pm 6$	$\pm 8$	%
Frequency jittering modulation frequency	Guaranteed by design	$F_{\text{jitter}}$	85	125	165	Hz

## OUTPUT DRIVER

Rise time, 10% to 90% of $V_{CC}$	$V_{CC} = V_{CC(\text{min})} + 0.2\text{ V}$ , $C_{\text{DRV}} = 1\text{ nF}$	$t_{\text{rise}}$	-	22	34	ns
Fall time, 90% to 10% of $V_{CC}$	$V_{CC} = V_{CC(\text{min})} + 0.2\text{ V}$ , $C_{\text{DRV}} = 1\text{ nF}$	$t_{\text{fall}}$	-	22	34	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, $V_{\text{DRV}} = V_{CC}$	$I_{\text{DRV}(\text{source})}$ $I_{\text{DRV}(\text{sink})}$	- -	1000 1000	- -	mA
Clamping Voltage (Maximum Gate Voltage)	$V_{CC} = V_{CC(\text{max})} - 0.2\text{ V}$ , DRV high	$V_{\text{DRV}(\text{clamp})}$	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	$V_{\text{DRV}(\text{drop})}$	-	-	1	V

5. Internal supply current only, current in FB pin not included (current flowing through GND pin only).

# NCP1238

**ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS** (For typical values  $T_J = 25^\circ\text{C}$ , for min/max values  $T_J = -40^\circ\text{C}$  to  $+125^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $V_{HV} = 120\text{ V}$ ,  $V_{CC} = 11\text{ V}$  unless otherwise noted)

Characteristics	Test Condition	Symbol	Min	Typ	Max	Unit
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## CURRENT SENSE

Input Bias Current	$V_{CS} = 0.7\text{ V}$	$I_{bias}$	-	0.02	-	$\mu\text{A}$
Maximum Internal Current Setpoint	$V_{FB} > 3.5\text{ V}$	$V_{ILIM}$	0.665	0.7	0.735	V
Threshold for Immediate Fault Protection Activation		$V_{CS(stop)}$	0.95	1.05	1.15	V
Propagation Delay from $V_{ILIM}$ 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
Leading Edge Blanking Duration for $V_{CS(stop)}$		$t_{BCS}$	90	120	150	ns
Slope of the Compensation Ramp		$S_{comp(65kHz)}$	-	-32.5	-	$\text{mV} / \mu\text{s}$
Soft-Start Duration	From 1 <sup>st</sup> pulse to $V_{CS} = V_{ILIM}$	$t_{SSTART}$	2.8	4.0	5.2	ms

## OVERPOWER COMPENSATION

$V_{HV}$ to $I_{OPC}$ Conversion Ratio		$K_{OPC}$	-	0.5	-	$\mu\text{A} / \text{V}$
Current flowing out of CS pin	$V_{HV} = 125\text{ V}$ $V_{HV} = 162\text{ V}$ $V_{HV} = 325\text{ V}$ $V_{HV} = V_{HV(OV2)} - 5\text{ V}$	$I_{OPC(125)}$ $I_{OPC(162)}$ $I_{OPC(325)}$ $I_{OPC(max)}$	- - - 102	0 52 104 120	- - - 138	$\mu\text{A}$
FB voltage above which $I_{OPC}$ is applied		$V_{FB(OPC)}$	1.50	1.65	1.80	V
FB voltage below which $I_{OPC} = 0$		$V_{FB(OPCE)}$	-	1.25	-	V
Refresh period for dc operation		$t_{WD}$	25	35	45	ms

## FEEDBACK

Internal Pull-up Resistor	$T_J = 25^\circ\text{C}$	$R_{FB(up)}$	15	20	25	$\text{k}\Omega$
$V_{FB}$ to Internal Current Setpoint Division ratio		$K_{FB}$	4.7	5.0	5.3	-
Internal Pull-up Voltage on the FB pin		$V_{FB(ref)}$	4.3	5.0	5.7	V

## OVERCURRENT PROTECTION

Fault Timer Duration	From CS reaching $V_{ILIMIT}$ to DRV stop	$t_{fault}$	64	78	98	ms
Autorecovery Mode Latch-off Time Duration		$t_{autorec}$	1.0	1.4	1.8	s

## FREQUENCY FOLDBACK

Feedback Voltage Threshold below which frequency foldback starts		$V_{FB(fold)}$	1.3	1.4	1.5	V
Minimum Switching Frequency	$V_{FB} = V_{skip(in)} + 0.2\text{ V}$	$f_{OSC(min)}$	21	27	31	kHz
Threshold below which the frequency foldback is finished and the controller switches at $f_{OSC(min)}$		$V_{FB(endfold)}$	-	1.0	-	V

## 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
Soft-Skip Duration	From 1 <sup>st</sup> pulse to $V_{CS} = V_{FB(fold)} / K_{FB}$	$t_{SSKIP}$	-	100	-	$\mu\text{s}$

5. Internal supply current only, current in FB pin not included (current flowing through GND pin only).

# NCP1238

**ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS** (For typical values  $T_J = 25^\circ\text{C}$ , for min/max values  $T_J = -40^\circ\text{C}$  to  $+125^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $V_{HV} = 120\text{ V}$ ,  $V_{CC} = 11\text{ V}$  unless otherwise noted)

Characteristics	Test Condition	Symbol	Min	Typ	Max	Unit
<b>LATCH-OFF INPUT</b>						
High Threshold	$V_{Latch}$ going up	$V_{OVP}$	2.37	2.5	2.63	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	$V_{Latch} = 0\text{ V}$	$I_{NTC}$ $I_{NTC(SSTART)}$	78 156	91 182	104 208	$\mu\text{A}$
Blanking Duration on High Latch Detection		$t_{Latch(OVP)}$	40	55	70	$\mu\text{s}$
Blanking Duration on Low Latch Detection		$t_{Latch(OTP)}$	-	400	-	$\mu\text{s}$
Clamping Voltage	$I_{Latch} = 0\text{ mA}$ $I_{Latch} = 1\text{ mA}$	$V_{clamp0(Latch)}$ $V_{clamp1(Latch)}$	1.0 1.8	1.2 2.3	1.4 2.8	V
<b>TEMPERATURE SHUTDOWN</b>						
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	$^\circ\text{C}$

5. Internal supply current only, current in FB pin not included (current flowing through GND pin only).



TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

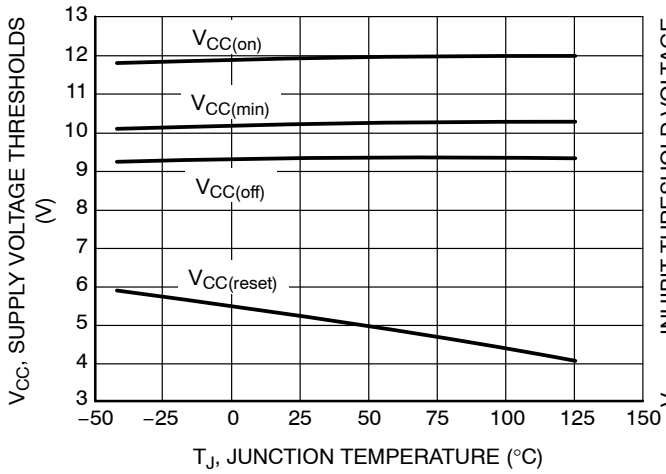


Figure 4. Supply Voltage Thresholds vs. Junction Temperature

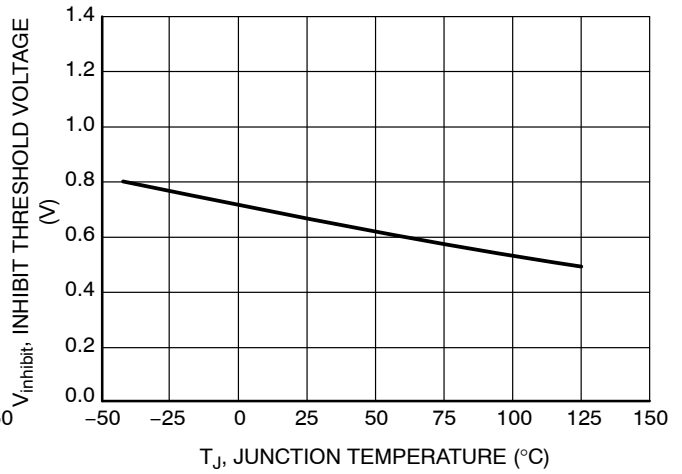


Figure 5. Inhibit Threshold Voltage vs. Junction Temperature

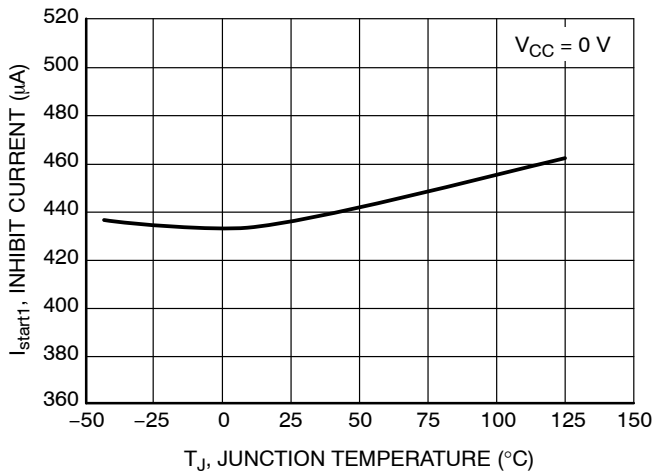


Figure 6. Inhibit Current vs. Junction Temperature

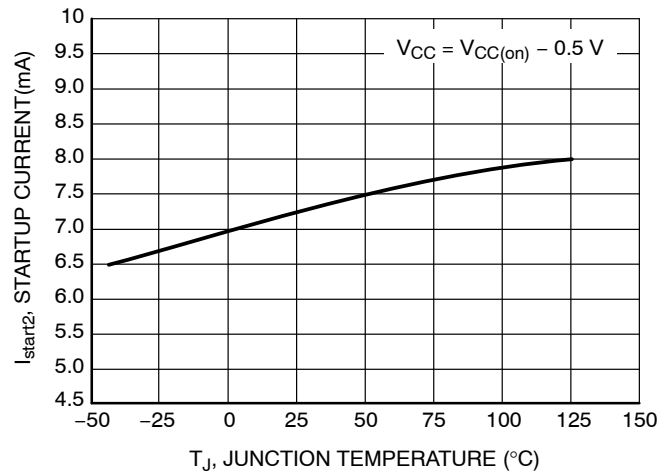


Figure 7. Startup Current vs. Junction Temperature

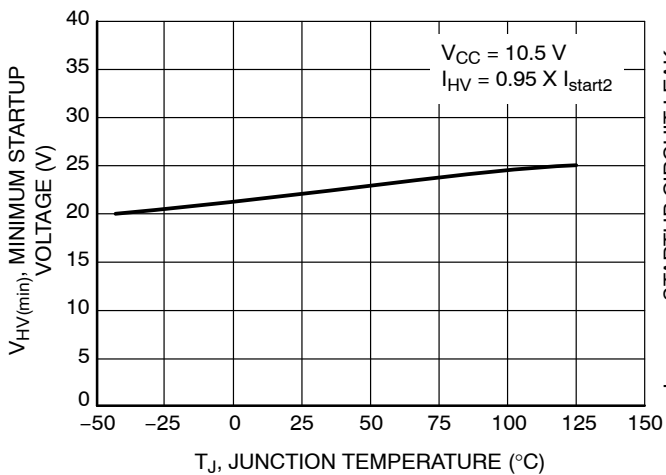


Figure 8. Minimum Startup Voltage vs. Junction Temperature

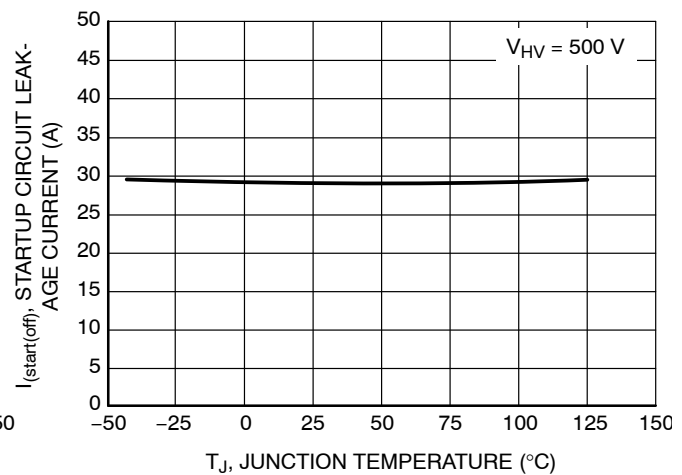


Figure 9. Startup Circuit Leakage Current vs. Junction Temperature

TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

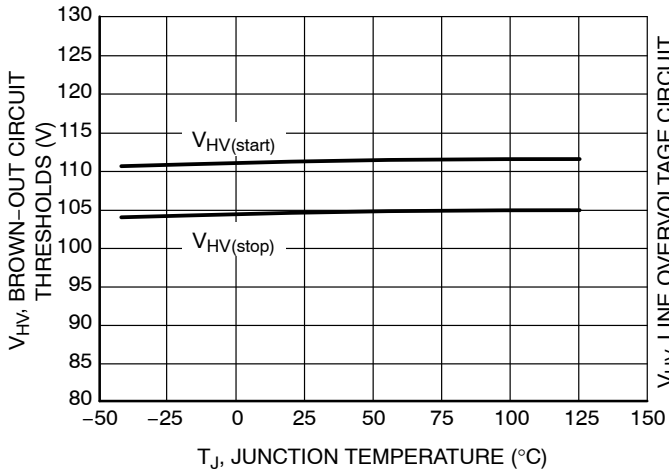


Figure 10. Brown-Out Circuit Thresholds vs. Junction Temperature

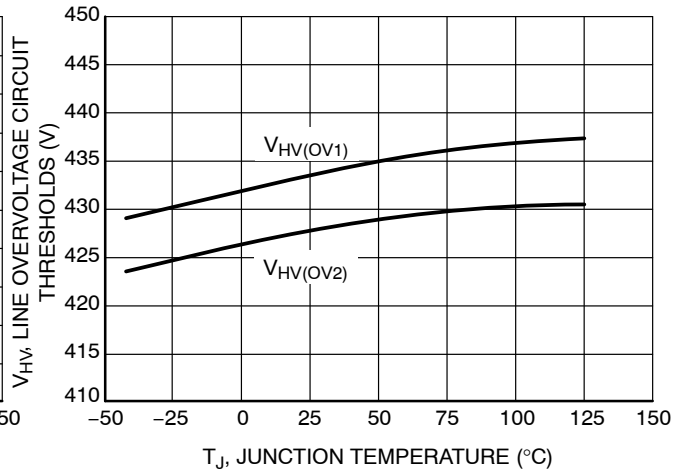


Figure 11. Line Overvoltage Circuit Thresholds vs. Junction Temperature

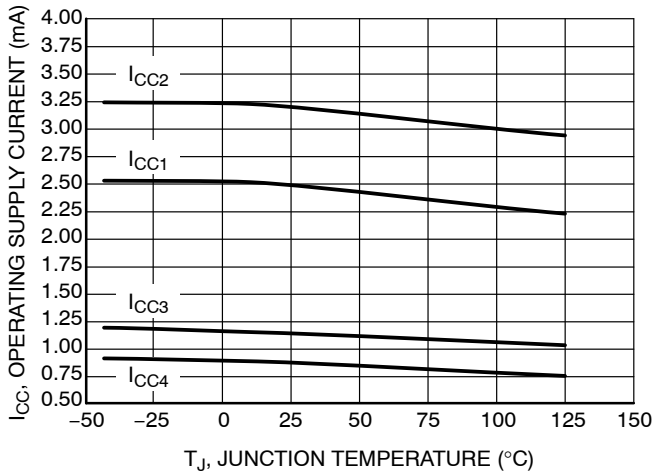


Figure 12. I<sub>CC</sub> Supply Currents vs. Junction Temperature

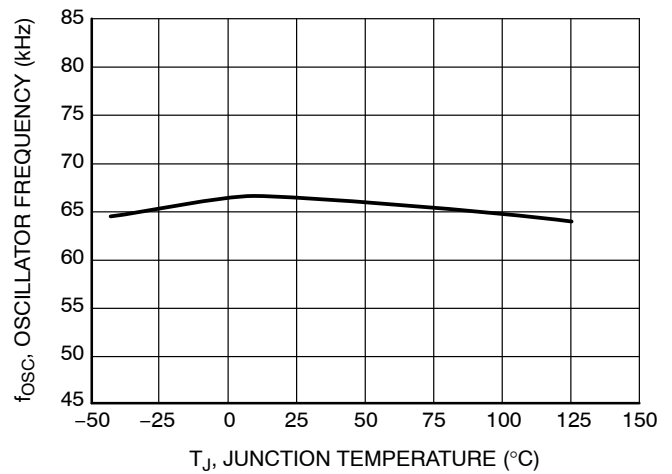


Figure 13. Oscillator Frequency vs. Junction Temperature

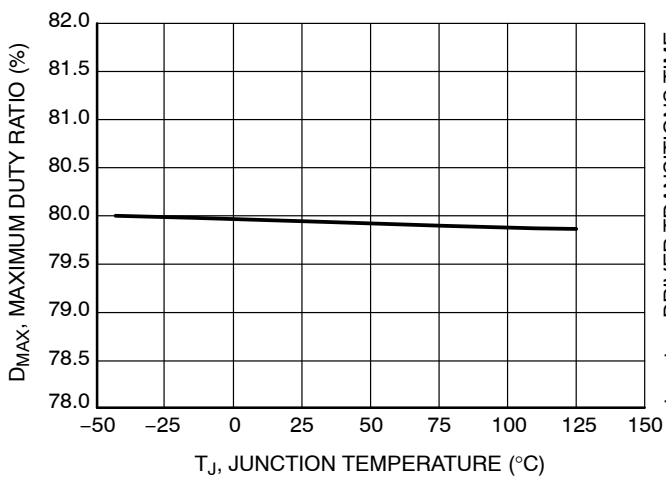


Figure 14. Maximum Duty Ratio vs. Junction Temperature

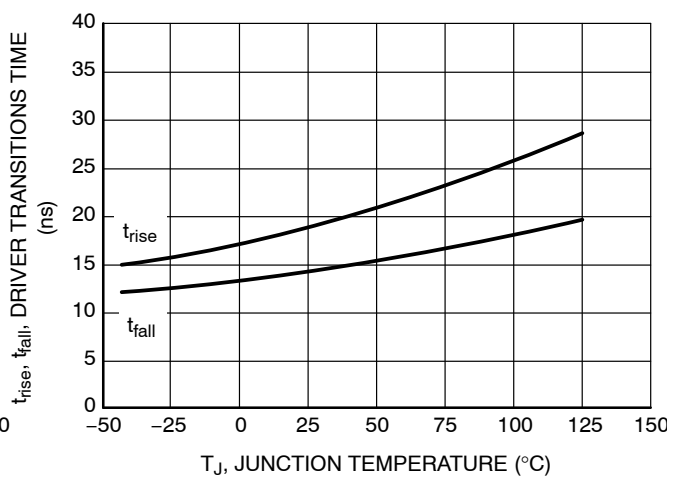


Figure 15. Driver Transitions Time vs. Junction Temperature

TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

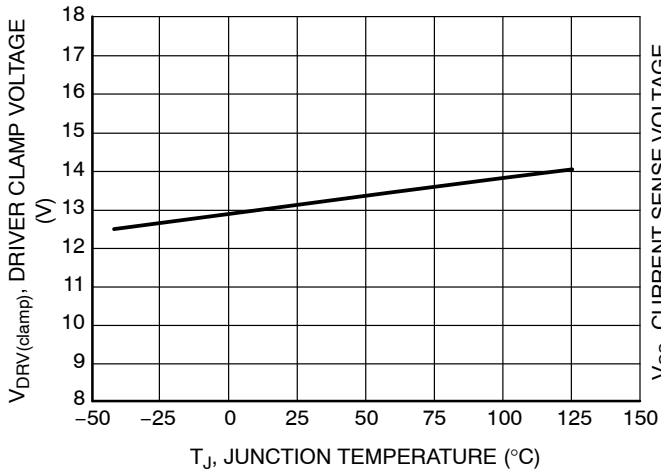


Figure 16. Driver Clamp Voltage vs. Junction Temperature

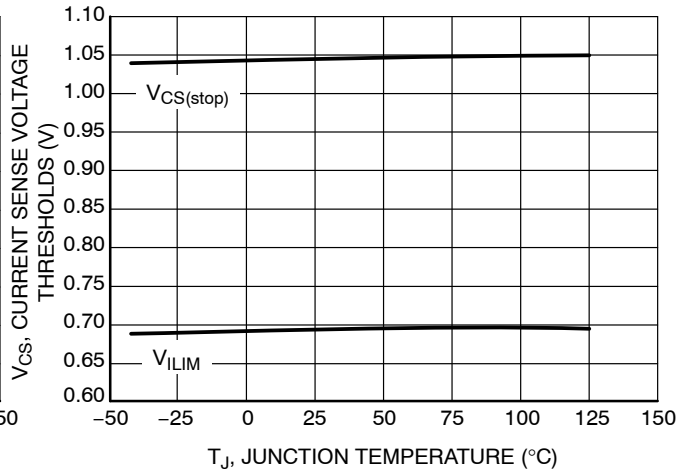


Figure 17. Current Sense Voltage Thresholds vs. Junction Temperature

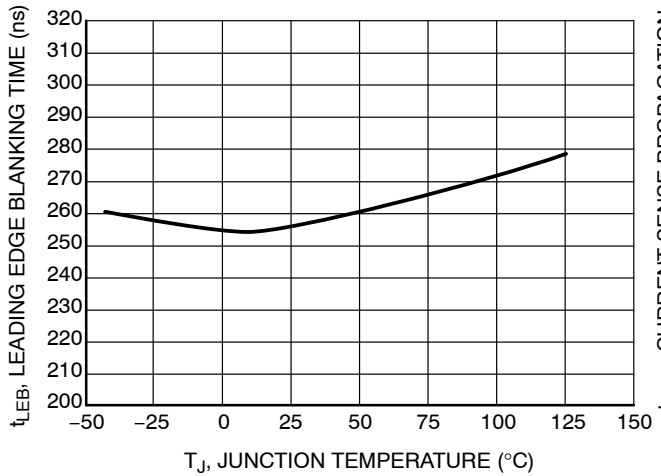


Figure 18. Leading Edge Blanking Time vs. Junction Temperature

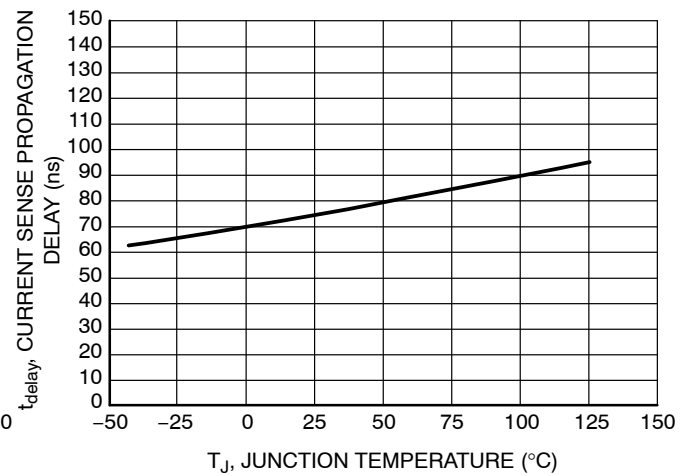


Figure 19. Current Sense Propagation Delay vs. Junction Temperature

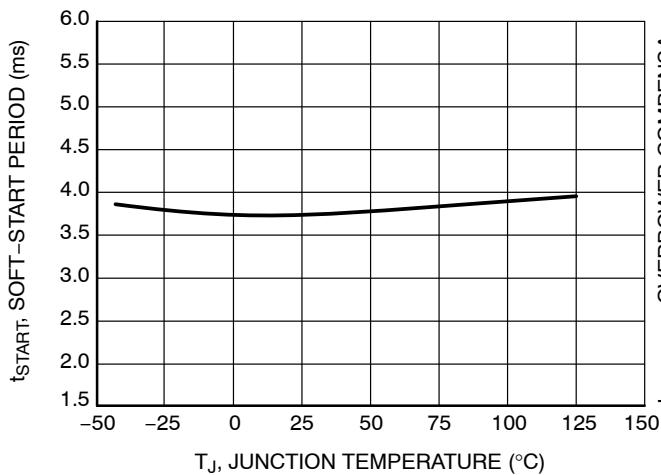


Figure 20. Soft-Start Period vs. Junction Temperature

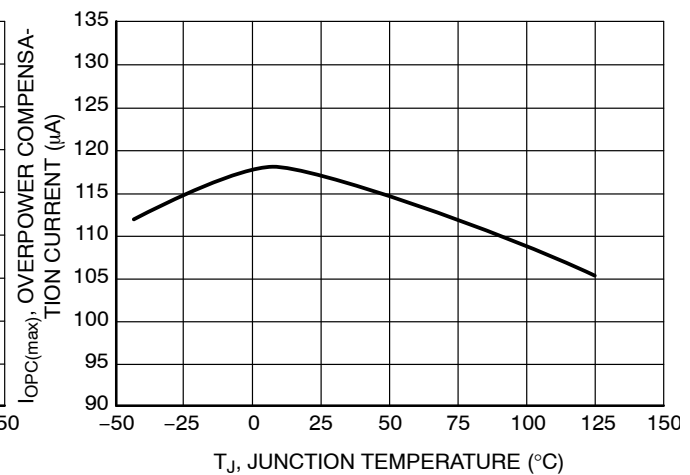


Figure 21. Overpower Compensation Current vs. Junction Temperature

TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

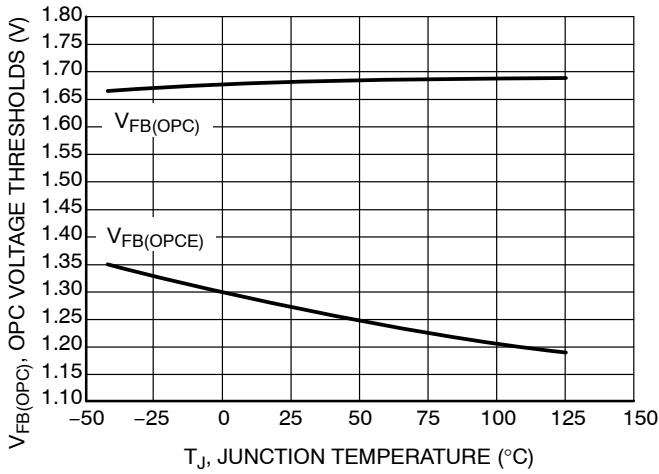


Figure 22. OPC FB Thresholds vs. Junction Temperature

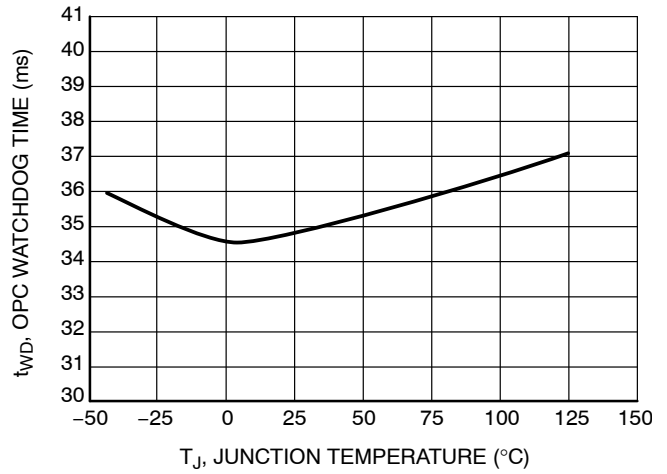


Figure 23. OPC Watchdog Time Thresholds vs. Junction Temperature

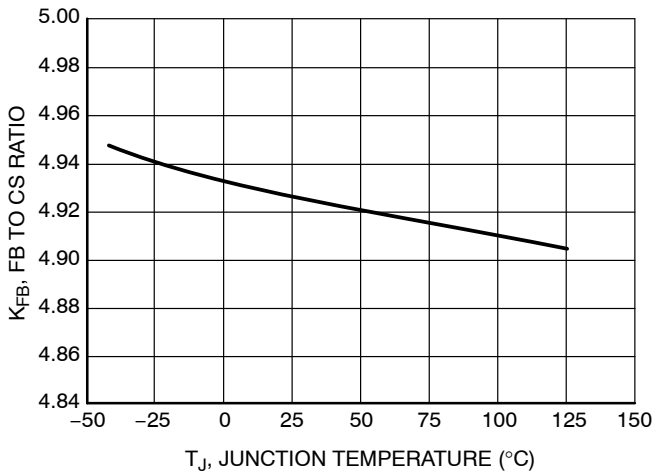


Figure 24. FB to CS Ratio vs. Junction Temperature

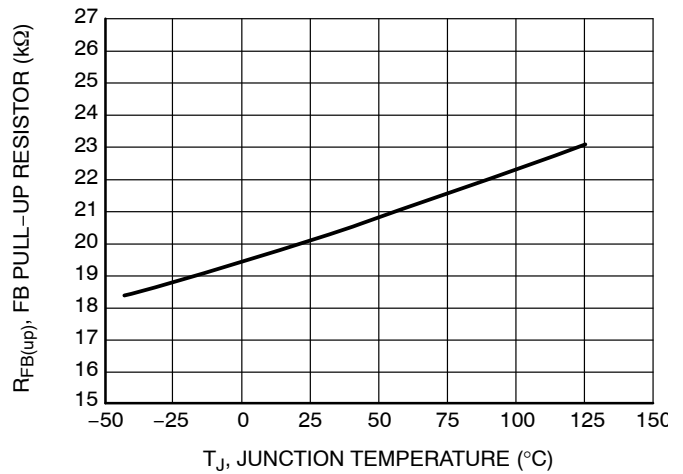


Figure 25. FB Pull-up Resistor vs. Junction Temperature

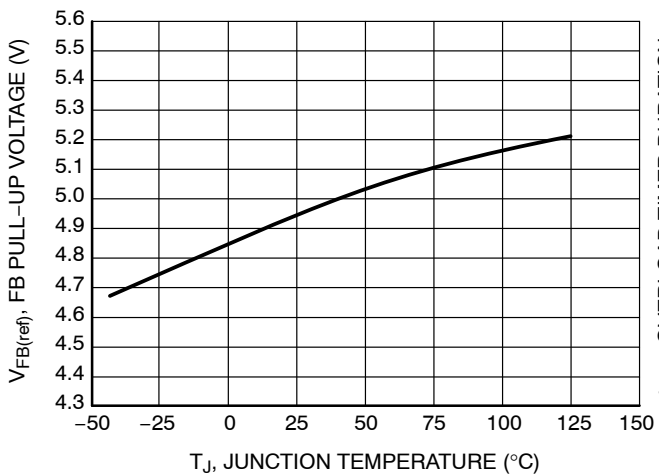


Figure 26. FB Pull-up Voltage vs. Junction Temperature

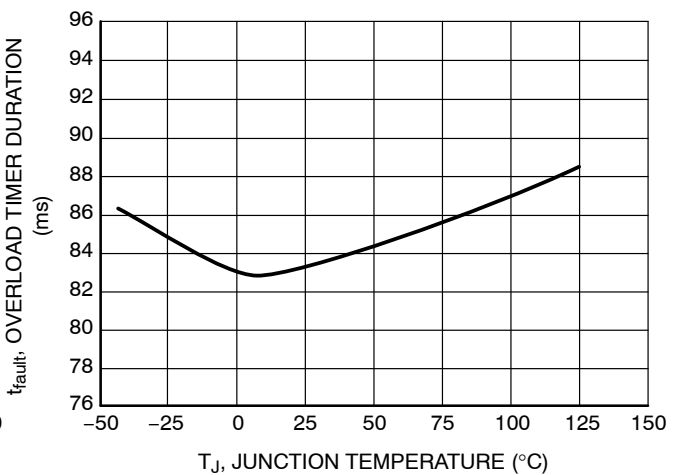


Figure 27. Overload Timer Duration vs. Junction Temperature

TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

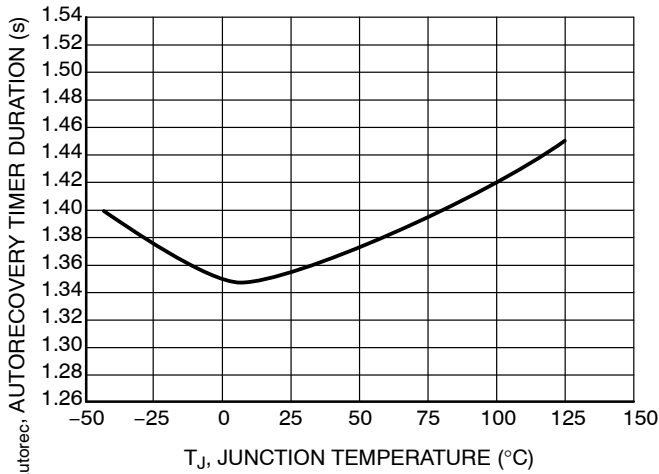


Figure 28. Autorecovery Timer Duration vs. Junction Temperature

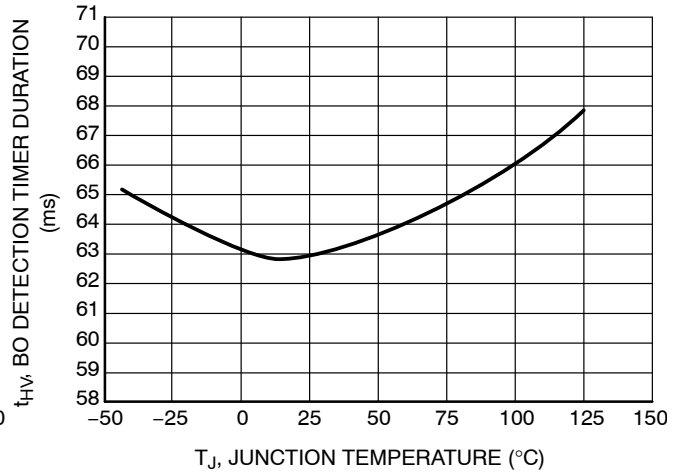


Figure 29. Brown-Out Detection Timer Duration vs. Junction Temperature

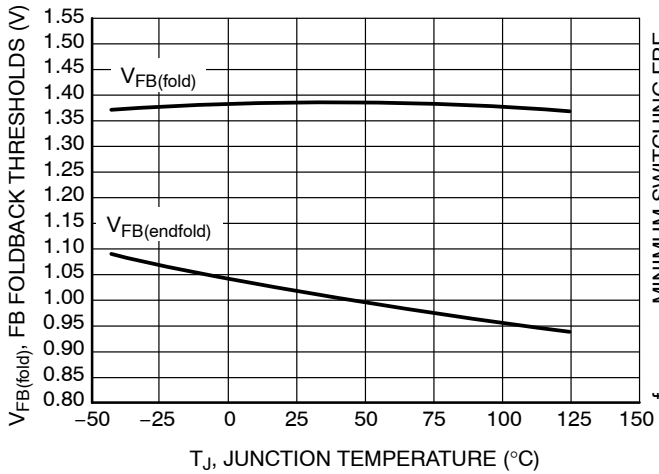


Figure 30. FB Thresholds for Frequency Foldback vs. Junction Temperature

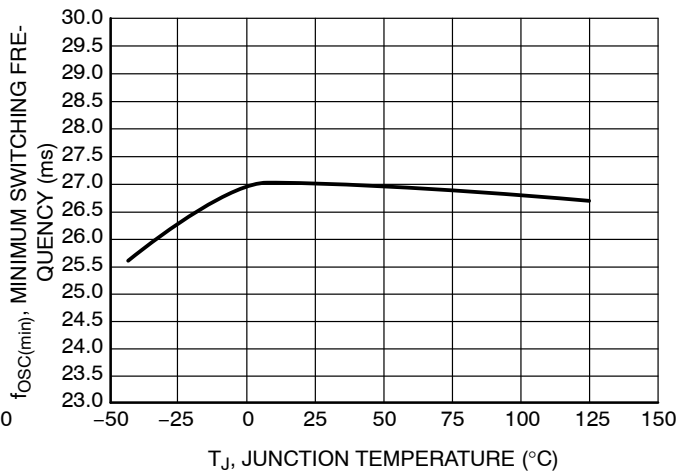


Figure 31. Minimum Switching Frequency vs. Junction Temperature

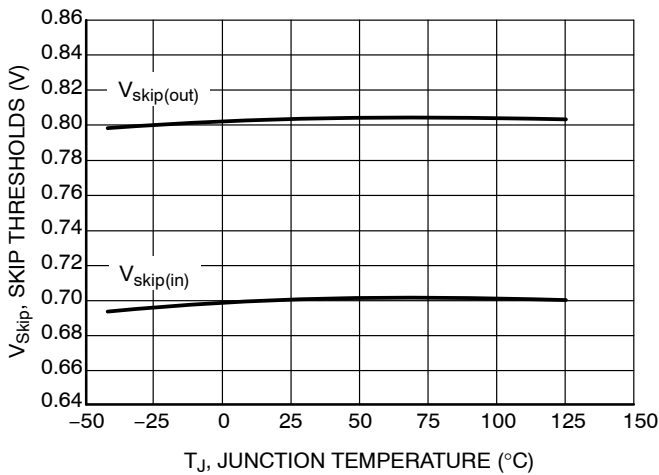


Figure 32. Skip Thresholds vs. Junction Temperature

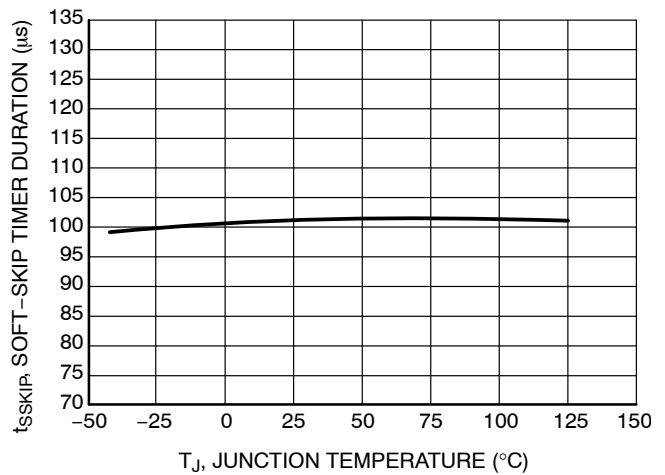


Figure 33. Soft-Skip Timer Duration vs. Junction Temperature

TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

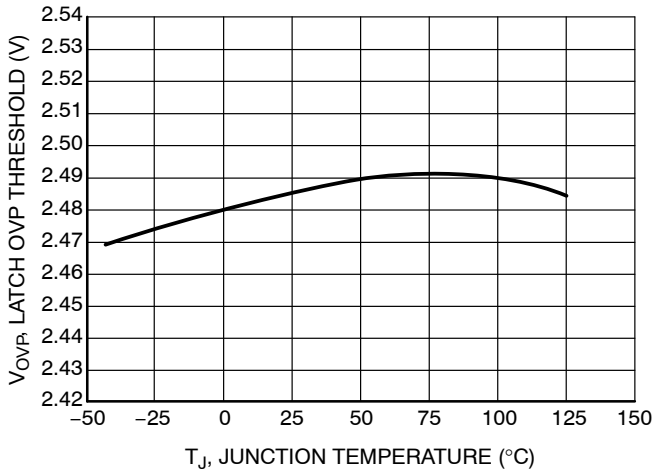


Figure 34. Latch OVP Threshold vs. Junction Temperature

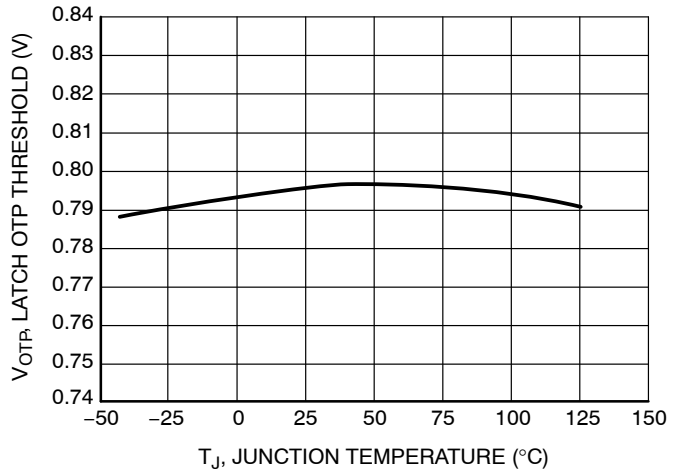


Figure 35. Latch OTP Threshold vs. Junction Temperature

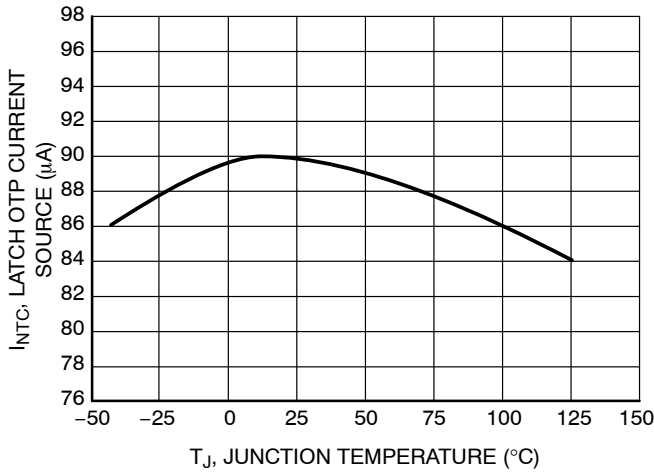


Figure 36. Latch OTP Current Source vs. Junction Temperature

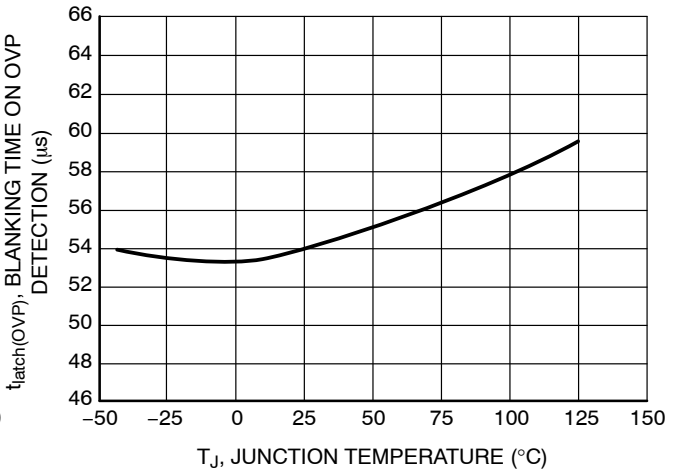


Figure 37. Blanking Time on OVP Detection vs. Junction Temperature

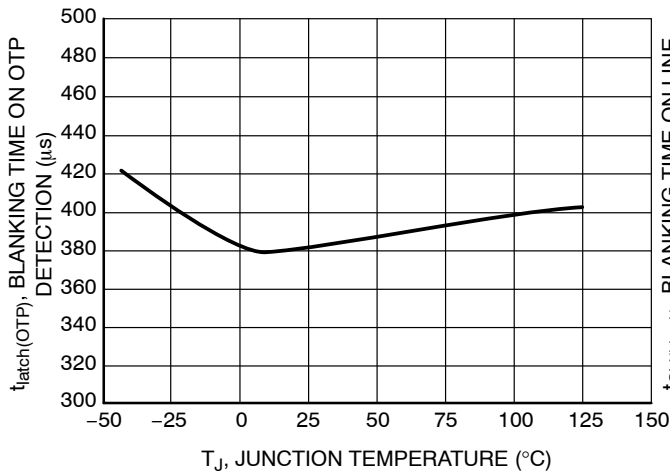


Figure 38. Blanking Time on OTP Detection vs. Junction Temperature

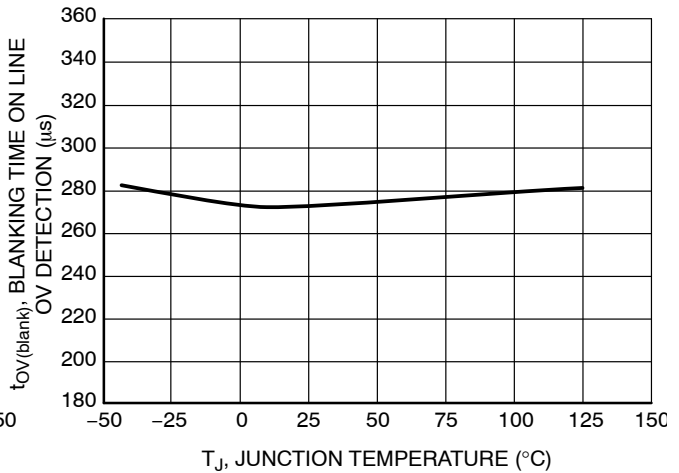
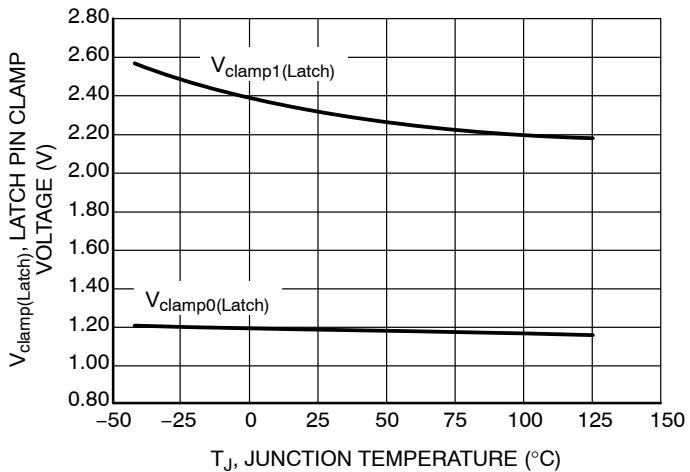


Figure 39. Blanking Time on Line OV Detection vs. Junction Temperature

# NCP1238

## TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS



**Figure 40. Latch Pin Clamp Voltage vs. Junction Temperature**

## APPLICATION INFORMATION

## Introduction

The NCP1238 includes all of the 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 remains first order if in DCM, which eases the design of the feedback loop. The controller can also be used in CCM with a wide input voltage range due to its fixed ramp compensation that prevents the appearance of sub-harmonic oscillations in most of the applications.
- Fixed-Frequency Oscillator with Jittering:** The NCP1238 is available in various frequency options to fit any application. The internal oscillator features a low-frequency jittering that helps to pass the EMI requirements by spreading out the energy content of frequency peaks in quasi-peak and average mode.
- Latched / Autorecovery Timer-Based Overcurrent Protection:** The overcurrent protection depends only on the FB signal, enabling it 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 unplugged then restarted in order to resume operation, even if the overload condition disappears), and autorecovery on the B version. The timer's 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, which enables to detect winding short circuits.
- High Voltage Startup Current Source with Brown-Out and Line Overvoltage Detections:** Due to On Semiconductor's Very High Voltage technology, the NCP1238 can directly be connected to the high input voltage. The startup current source ensures a clean startup while ensuring low losses when it is off, and the Dynamic Self-Supply (DSS) restarts the startup current source to supply the controller if the  $V_{CC}$  supply transiently drops. The high voltage pin also features a high-voltage sensing circuitry, which is able to turn the controller off if the input voltage is too low (brown-out condition) or too high (line overvoltage). This protection works either with a DC input voltage or a rectified AC input voltage, and is independent of the high voltage ripple. It uses a peak detector synchronized with line frequency, or with the internal watchdog timer if the HV pin is tied to a dc voltage.

- Adjustable Overpower Compensation:** The high voltage sensed on the HV pin is converted into a current to add to 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 Soft-Skip mode for light load operation:** In order to ensure a high efficiency in all load conditions, the NCP1238 implements a frequency foldback (the switching frequency is lowered to reduce switching losses) for light load condition; and a Soft-Skip (disabled in case of fast load transients) for extremely low load condition.
- Extended  $V_{CC}$  range:** The NCP1238 accepts a supply voltage as high as 28 V, making the design of the power supply easier.
- Clamped Driver Stage:** Despite the high 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 NCP1238 can be latched off by an increasing voltage applied to its Latch pin (typically an overvoltage) or by a decreasing one, and an NTC can be directly connected to the latch pin thanks to the precise internal current source.
- Soft-Start:** At every startup the peak current is gradually increased during 4 ms to minimize the stress on power components.
- Temperature Shutdown:** The NCP1238 is internally protected against self-heating: if the die temperature is too high, the controller shuts all circuitries down (including the HV startup current source), allowing the silicon to cool down before attempting to restart. This ensures a safe behavior in case of failure.

## Typical Operation

- Startup:** The HV startup current source ensures the charging of the  $V_{CC}$  capacitor up to the startup threshold  $V_{CC(on)}$ , until the input voltage is high enough (above  $V_{HV(start)}$ ) to enable the switching. The controller then delivers pulses, starting with a soft-start period  $t_{SSTART}$  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 decoupling capacitor on the Latch pin.
- Normal operation:** As long as the feedback voltage is within the regulation range, the NCP1238 runs at a fixed frequency (with jittering) in current-mode control, where the peak current (sensed on the CS pin)



is set by the voltage on the FB pin. A fixed ramp compensation is applied internally to prevent sub-harmonic oscillations from occurring. The  $V_{CC}$  must be supplied by an external source (such as an auxiliary winding), as the startup current source cannot permanently supply the controller without overheating.

- Light load operation:** When the FB voltage decreases below  $V_{FB(fold)}$ , typically corresponding to a load of 16% 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 disabled in light load operation.
- No load operation:** When the FB voltage decreases below  $V_{skip(in)}$ , typically corresponding to a load of 1% 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, allowing to minimize the power dissipation under extremely low load conditions. In order to avoid audible noise, the peak current is gradually increased during the  $t_{SSKIP}$  duration while exiting the skip mode (Soft-Skip function). In case of abrupt load increase during Soft-Skip mode, the soft-skip portion is bypassed and the peak current needed for regulation is directly applied.  $V_{CC}$  can be maintained between  $V_{CC(on)}$  and  $V_{CC(min)}$  by the DSS.
- Overload:** The NCP1238 features a timer-based overload detection, solely dependent on the feedback information: as soon as the internal peak current setpoint hits the  $V_{ILIM}$  clamp, the internal overload timer starts to count. When the timer times out, 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 if a brown-out event occurs or  $V_{CC}$  is reset).
- Brown-out:** The NCP1238 features on its HV pin a true AC line monitoring circuitry which includes minimum startup threshold, brown-out protection, and overvoltage protection. All of these circuits are autorecovery and operate independently of any ripple on the input voltage. They can even work with an unfiltered, rectified AC input. All thresholds are fixed, but they are designed to fit most of the standard ac-dc conversion applications.
- Latch-off:** When the Latch input is pulled up (typically by an overvoltage condition), or pulled low (typically by an overtemperature condition, using the provided current source with an NTC), the controller latches off. The latch is released when a brown-out condition occurs, or when  $V_{CC}$  decreases below  $V_{CC(reset)}$ .

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**High-Voltage Current Source (Dynamic Self-Supply)  
with Built-in Brown-out Detection**

The NCP1238 HV pin can be connected either to the rectified bulk voltage, or to the ac line through a rectifier.

**Startup**

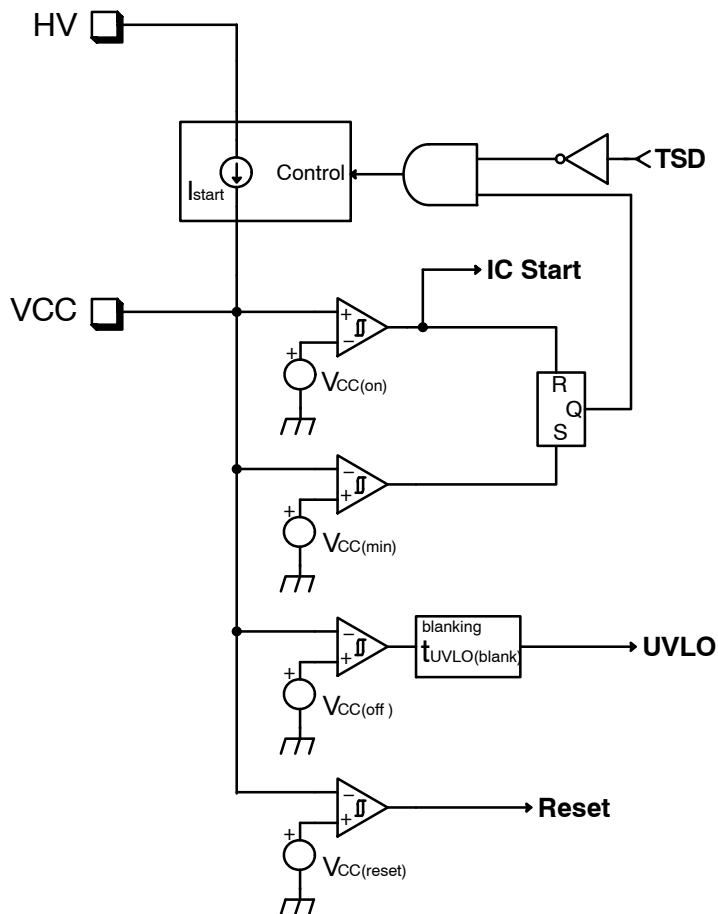


Figure 41. HV Startup Current Source Functional Schematic

At startup, 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  $V_{CC(on)}$ . It turns on again when  $V_{CC}$  reaches  $V_{CC(min)}$ . This sequence repeats until the input voltage is high enough to ensure a proper startup, i.e. when  $V_{HV}$  reaches  $V_{HV(start)}$ . The switching actually starts the next time  $V_{CC}$  reaches  $V_{CC(on)}$ , as shown in Figure 5.

Even though the DSS is able to maintain the  $V_{CC}$  voltage between  $V_{CC(on)}$  and  $V_{CC(min)}$  by turning the HV startup

current source on and off, it can only be used in light load conditions, otherwise the power dissipation on the die would be too high. 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 a brown-out condition, or to prevent the controller from stopping during load transients when the  $V_{CC}$  might drop below  $V_{CC(off)}$ .

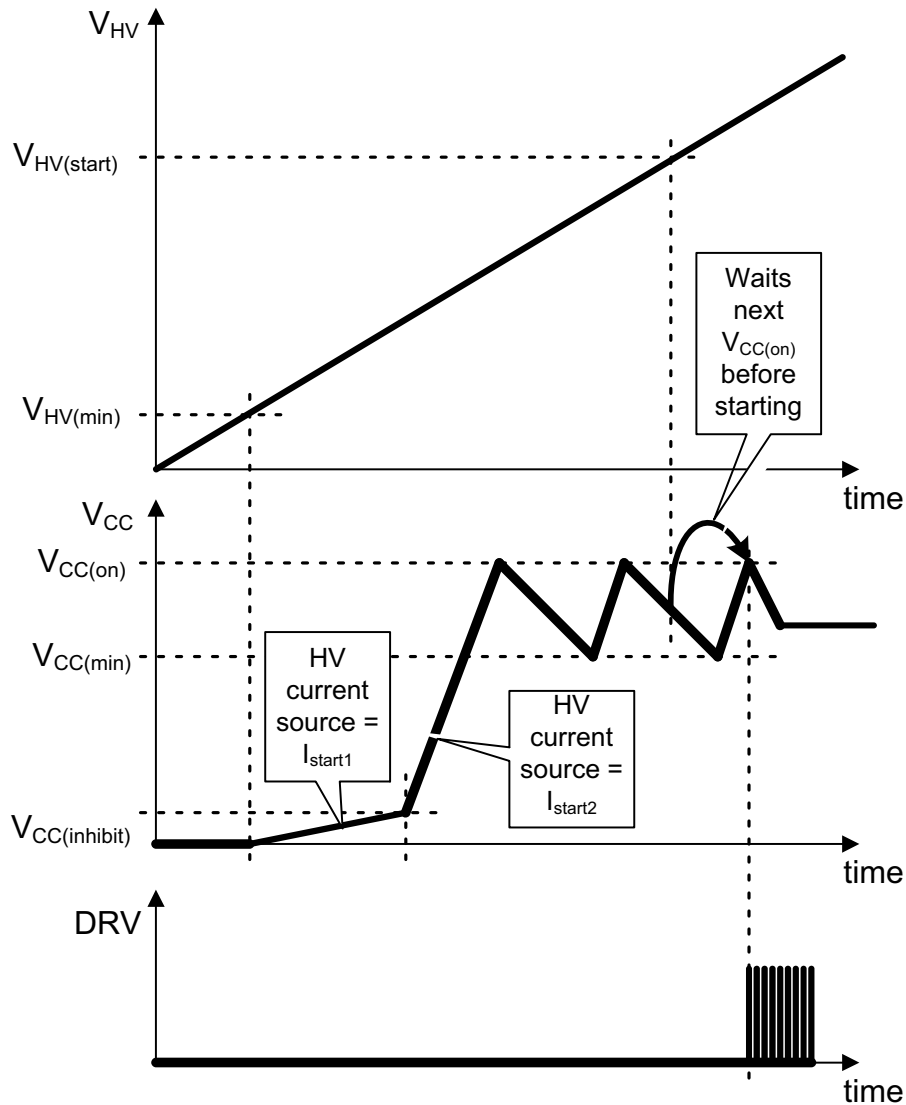


Figure 42. Startup Timing Diagram

To reduce the power dissipation in case the  $V_{CC}$  pin is shorted to GND (in case of  $V_{CC}$  capacitor failure, or external pulldown on  $V_{CC}$  to disable the controller), the startup current is lowered when  $V_{CC}$  is below  $V_{CC(inhibit)}$ .

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 always turns on and off to maintain  $V_{CC}$  between  $V_{CC(min)}$  and  $V_{CC(on)}$ .

**Brown-out and Line Overvoltage**

When the input voltage goes below  $V_{HV(stop)}$ , a brown-out condition is detected, and the controller stops. The HV current source alternatively turns on and off to maintain  $V_{CC}$  between  $V_{CC(on)}$  and  $V_{CC(min)}$  until the input voltage is back above  $V_{HV(start)}$ .

The same situation occurs when an overvoltage is detected on the ac line, i.e. when the input voltage goes above  $V_{HV(OV)}$ : the controller stops, and resumes normal operation when the overvoltage condition has gone.

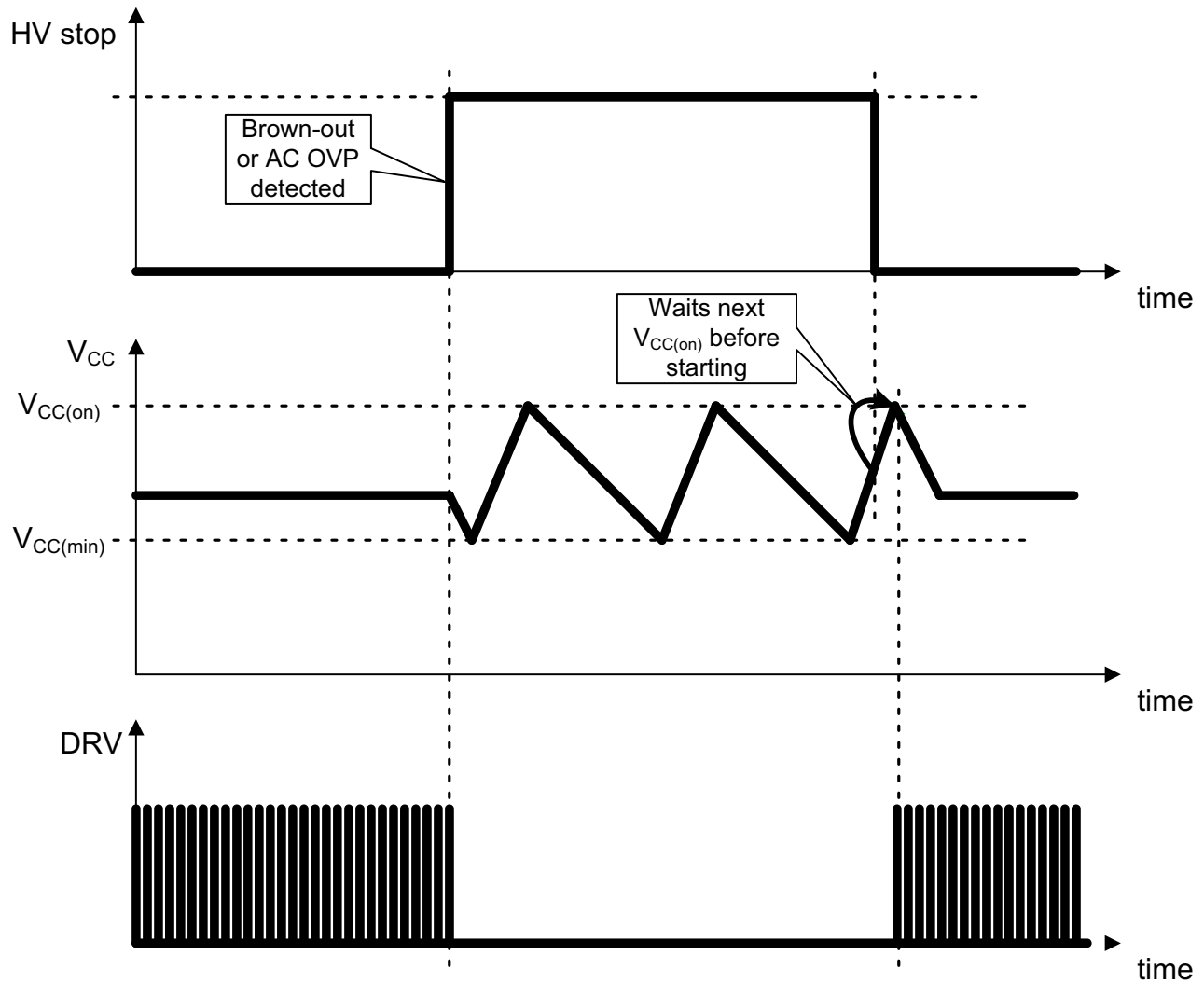


Figure 43. Brown-out or Line Overvoltage Timing Diagram

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When  $V_{HV}$  crosses the  $V_{HV(start)}$  threshold, the controller can start immediately. When it crosses  $V_{HV(stop)}$ , it triggers

a timer of duration  $t_{HV}$ : this ensures that the controller doesn't stop in case of line cycle drop-out.

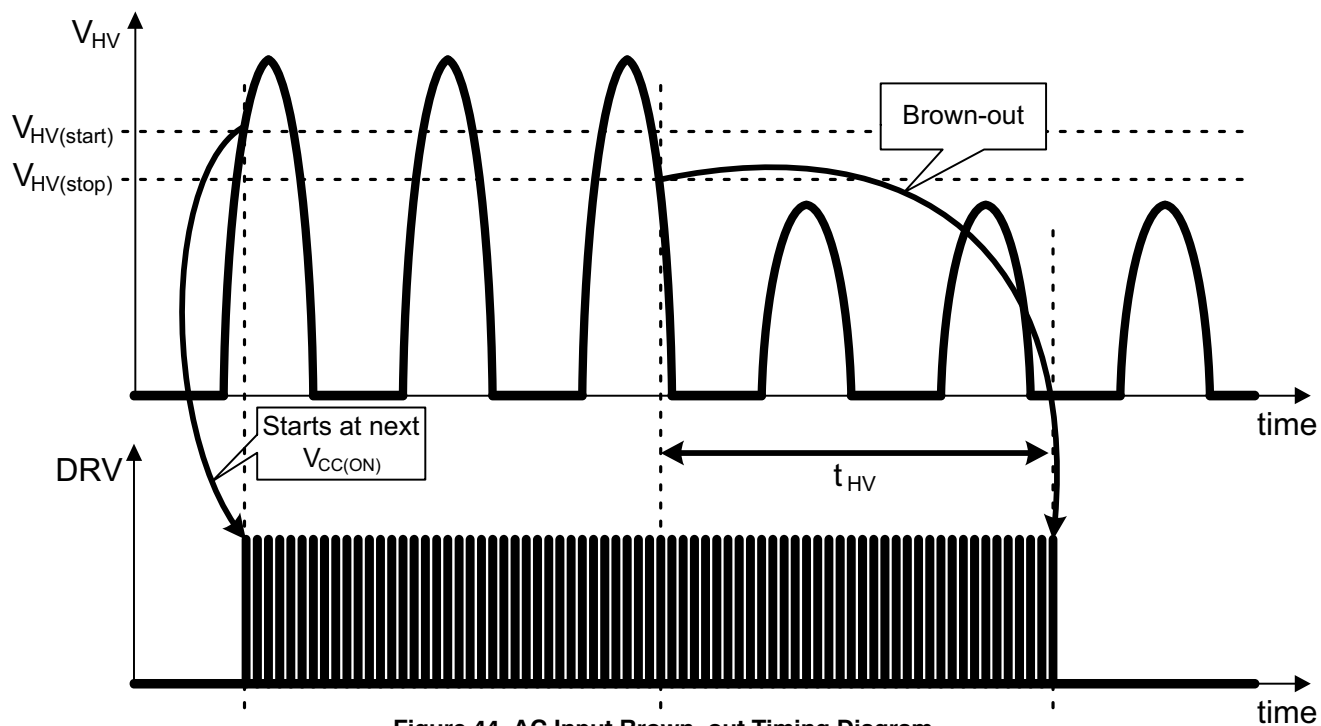


Figure 44. AC Input Brown-out Timing Diagram

The same scheme is used for the Line OVP, except that this time the controller must not stop instantaneously when the input voltage goes above  $V_{HV(OV1)}$ . In order to be

insensitive to spikes and voltage surges a blanking circuit is inserted after the output of the comparator, with a duration of  $t_{OV(blank)}$ .

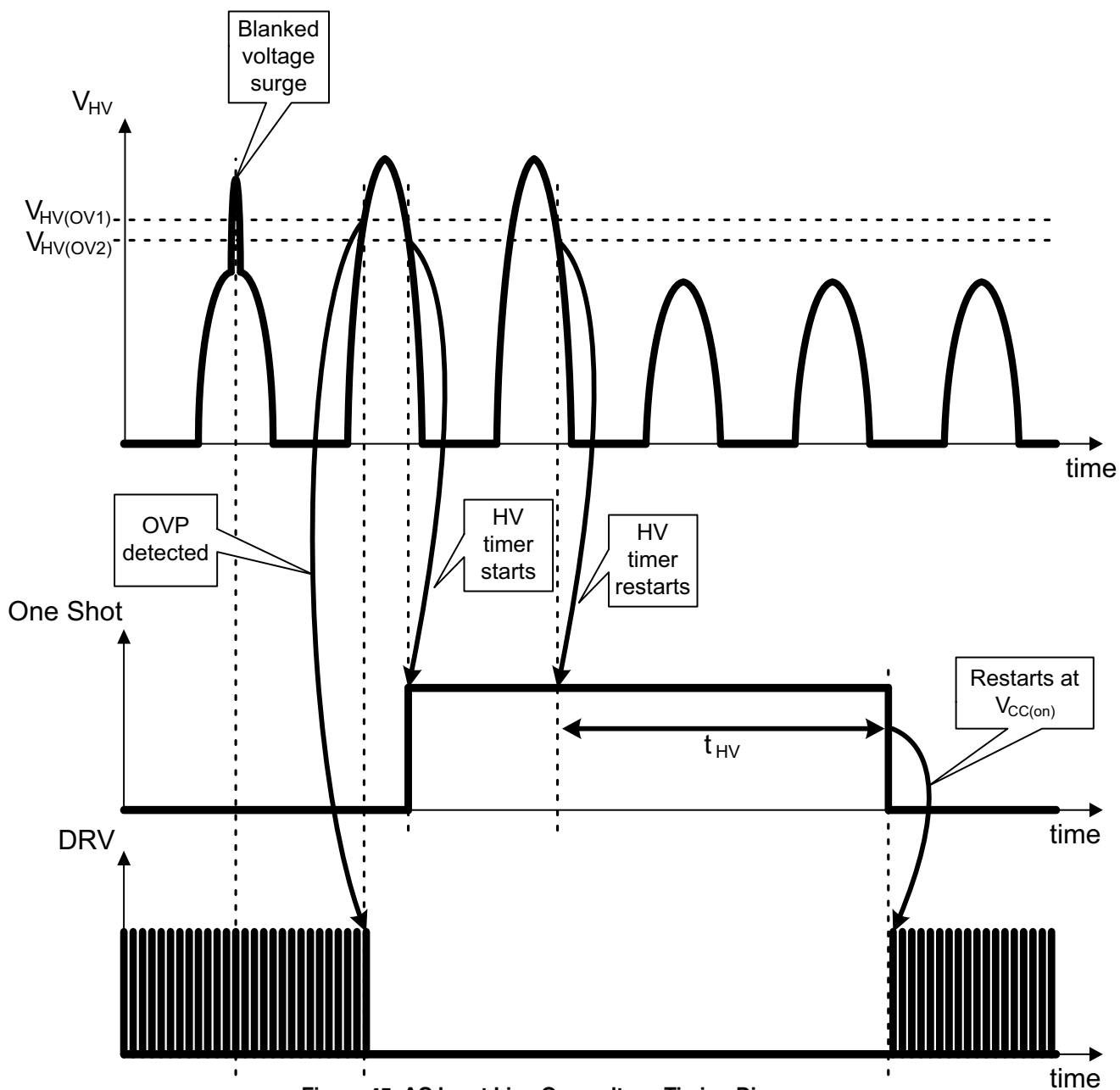


Figure 45. AC Input Line Overvoltage Timing Diagram

**Oscillator with Maximum Duty Ratio and Frequency Jittering**

The NCP1238 includes an oscillator that sets the switching frequency with an accuracy of  $\pm 7\%$ . The maximum duty ratio of the DRV pin is 80% (typical), with an accuracy of  $\pm 7\%$ .

In order to improve the EMI signature, the switching frequency jitters around its nominal value, with a triangle-wave shape.

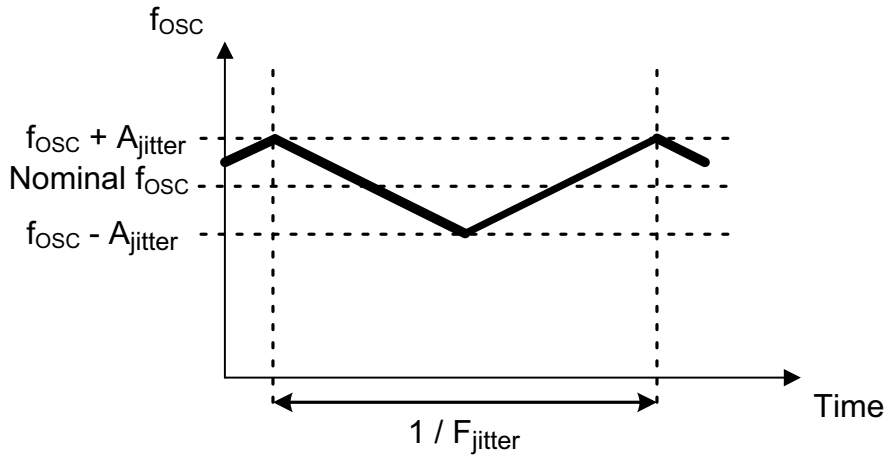


Figure 46. Frequency Jittering

**Clamped Driver**

The supply voltage for the NCP1238 can be as high as 28 V, but most of the MOSFETs that will be connected to the DRV pin cannot tolerate a gate-to-source voltage greater than 20 V on their gate. The driver pin is therefore clamped safely below 16 V.

This driver has a typical current capability of  $\pm 1.0$  A.

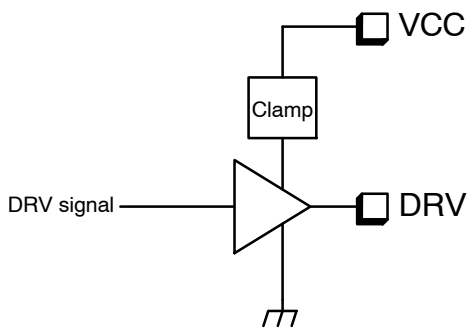


Figure 47. Clamped Driver

CURRENT-MODE CONTROL WITH OVERPOWER COMPENSATION AND SOFT-START

Current Sensing

NCP1238 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.  $V_{CS}$  is applied to

one input of the PWM comparator through the LEB block. On the other input the FB voltage divided by  $K_{FB}$  sets the threshold: when  $V_{CS}$  reaches this threshold, the output driver is turned off.

The maximum value for the peak current,  $V_{ILIM}$ , is set by a dedicated comparator.

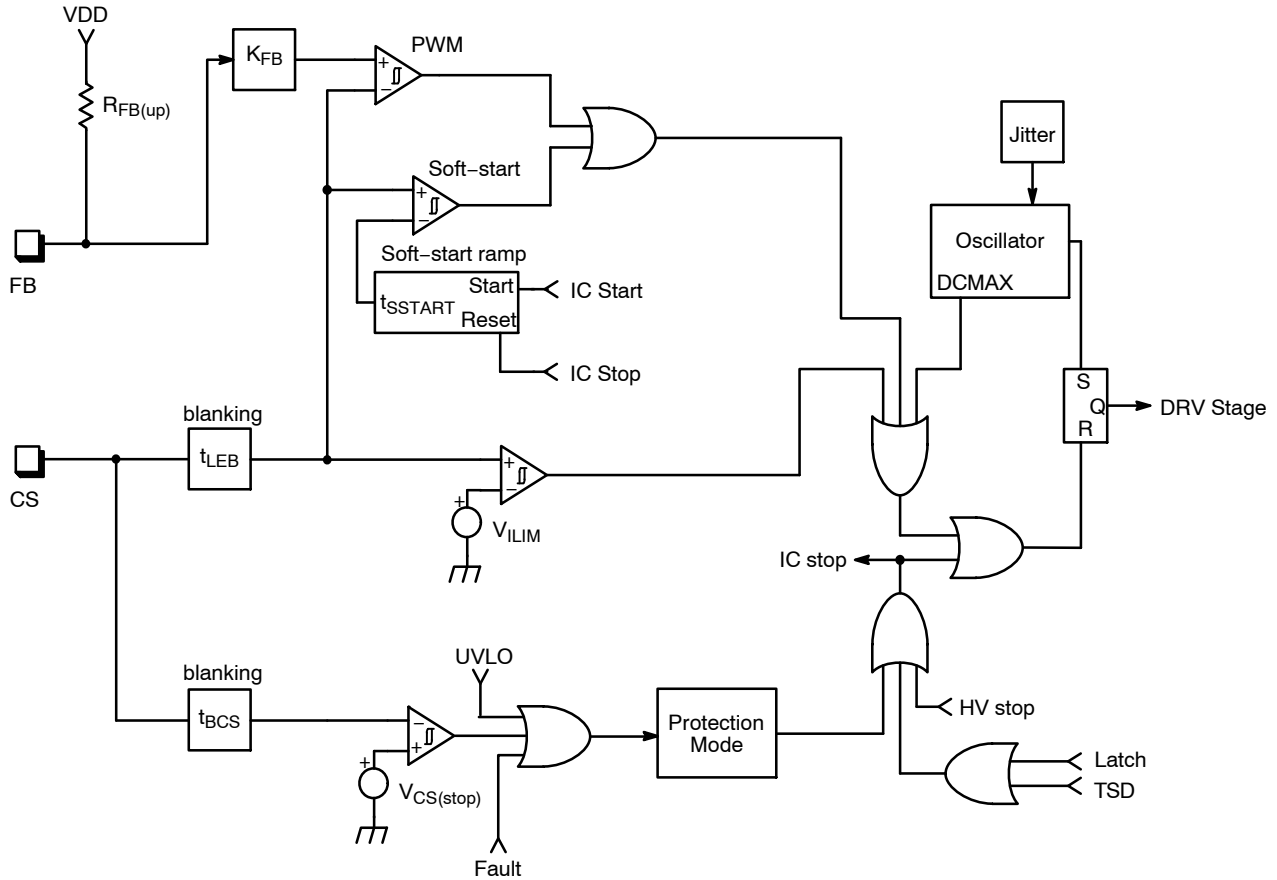


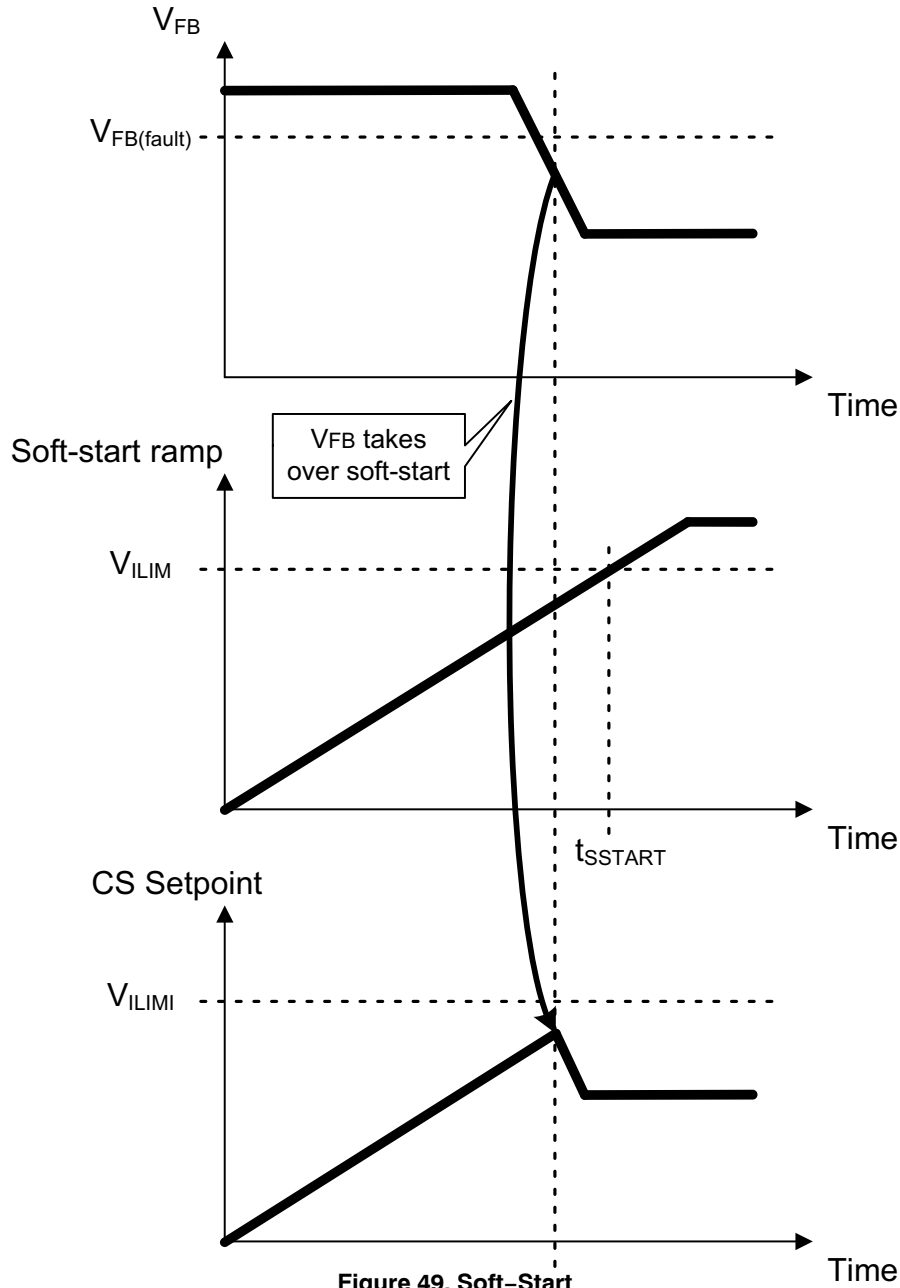
Figure 48. Current Sense Block Schematic



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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).



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. In order to protect against this, an additional comparator is included, that senses when  $V_{CS}$  reaches  $V_{CS(stop)} (= 1.5 \times V_{ILIM})$ . As soon as this comparator toggles, the controller immediately enters the protection mode (latched or autorecovery according to the chosen option).

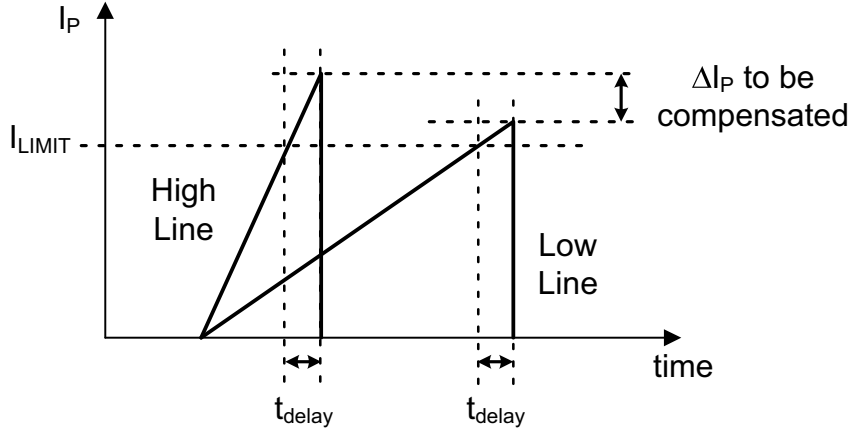
**Compensation for Overpower Detection**

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

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

(in discontinuous conduction mode).

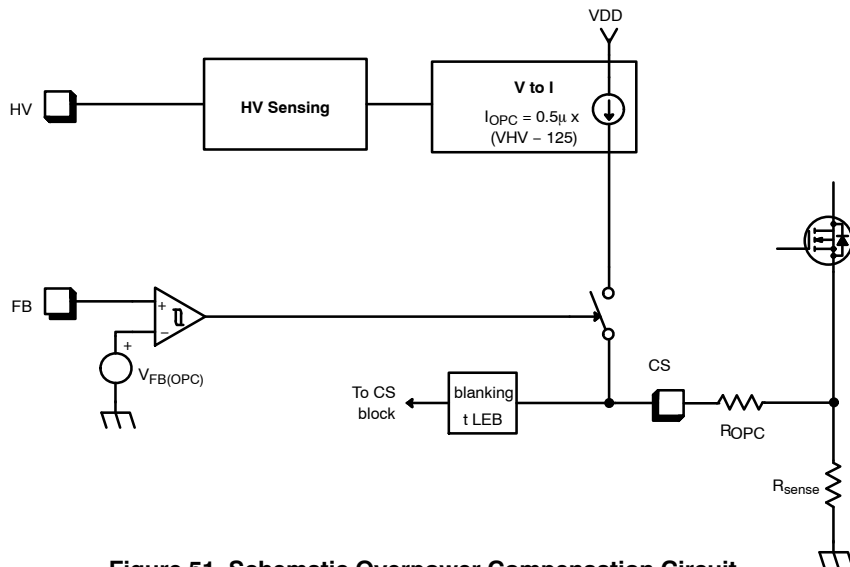
Unfortunately, due to the inherent propagation delay of the logic, the actual peak current is higher at high input voltage than at low input voltage, as shown in Figure 50. This leads to a significant difference in the maximum output power delivered by the power supply.



**Figure 50. Line Compensation for True Overpower Protection**

To compensate this and have an accurate overpower protection, an offset proportional to the input voltage is added to the CS signal by turning on an internal current source ( $I_{OPC}$ ): by adding an external resistor ( $R_{OPC}$ ) 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  $R_{OPC}$  resistor.

Since in light load conditions this offset is in the same order of magnitude as the current sense signal, it must be removed. Therefore the compensation current is only added when the FB voltage is higher than  $V_{FB(OPC)}$ , as shown in Figure 52.



**Figure 51. Schematic Overpower Compensation Circuit**