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Enhanced, High-Efficiency Power Factor Controller

The NCP1611 is designed to drive PFC boost stages based on an innovative *Current Controlled Frequency Fold-back (CCFF)* method. In this mode, the circuit classically operates in *Critical* conduction *M*ode (*CrM*) when the inductor current exceeds a programmable value. When the current is below this preset level, the NCP1611 linearly decays the frequency down to about 20 kHz when the current is null. *CCFF* maximizes the efficiency at both nominal and light load. In particular, the stand-by losses are reduced to a minimum.

Like in *FCCrM* controllers, internal circuitry allows near–unity power factor even when the switching frequency is reduced. Housed in a SO–8 package, the circuit also incorporates the features necessary for robust and compact PFC stages, with few external components.

Features

- Near-Unity Power Factor
- Critical Conduction Mode (CrM)
- Current Controlled Frequency Fold–back (CCFF): Low Frequency Operation is Forced at Low Current Levels
- On-time Modulation to Maintain a Proper Current Shaping in CCFF Mode
- Skip Mode Near the Line Zero Crossing
- Fast Line / Load Transient Compensation (Dynamic Response Enhancer)
- Valley Turn on
- High Drive Capability: -500 mA / +800 mA
- V_{CC} Range: from 9.5 V to 35 V
- Low Start–up Consumption
- A Version: Low V_{CC} Start–up Level (10.5 V), B Version: High V_{CC} Start–up level (17.0 V)
- Line Range Detection
- Configurable for Low Harmonic Content across Wide Line/Load Range
- EN61000–3–2 Class C Compliant across Wide Load Range for Dimmable Light Ballasts
- This is a Pb–Free Device

Safety Features

- Non-latching, Over-Voltage Protection
- Brown–Out Detection
- Soft-Start for Smooth Start-up Operation (A version)
- Over Current Limitation
- Disable Protection if the Feedback Pin is Not Connected
- Thermal Shutdown



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ORDERING INFORMATION

See detailed ordering and shipping information in the package dimensions section on page 28 of this data sheet.

- Low Duty–Cycle Operation if the Bypass Diode is Shorted
- Open Ground Pin Fault Monitoring
- Saturated Inductor Protection
- Detailed Safety Testing Analysis (Refer to Application Note AND9064/D)

Typical Applications

- PC, TV, Adapters Power Supplies
- LED Drivers and Light Ballasts (including dimmable versions)
- All Off-Line Applications Requiring Power Factor Correction



Figure 1. Typical Application Schematic

MAXIMUM RATINGS TABLE

Symbol	Pin	Rating	Value	Unit
V _{CC}	7	Power Supply Input	-0.3, + 35	V
V _{CONTROL}	1	V _{CONTROL} pin (Note 1)	–0.3, V _{CONTROL} MAX (*)	V
V _{sense}	2	V _{sense} pin (Note 5)	-0.3, +10	V
FFcontrol	3	FFcontrol pin	-0.3, +10	V
CS/ZCD	4	Input Voltage Current Injected to pin 4 (Note 4)	-0.3, +35 +5	V mA
DRV	6	Driver Voltage (Note 1) Driver Current	–0.3, V _{DRV} (*) –500, +800	V mA
FB	8	Feedback pin	-0.3, +10	V
Ρ _D R _{θJA}		Power Dissipation and Thermal Characteristics Maximum Power Dissipation @ T _A = 70°C Thermal Resistance Junction to Air	550 145	mW °C/W
Т _Ј		Operating Junction Temperature Range	-40 to +125	°C
T _{Jmax}		Maximum Junction Temperature	150	°C
T _{Smax}		Storage Temperature Range	-65 to 150	°C
T _{Lmax}		Lead Temperature (Soldering, 10s)	300	°C
ESD _{HBM}		ESD Capability, HBM model (Note 2)	> 2000	V
ESD _{MM}		ESD Capability, Machine Model (Note 2)	> 200	V

Stresses exceeding those listed in the Maximum Ratings table may damage the device. If any of these limits are exceeded, device functionality Stresses exceeding those listed in the Maximum Ratings table may damage the device. If any of these limits are exceeded, device functional should not be assumed, damage may occur and reliability may be affected.
1. "V_{CONTROL}MAX" is the pin1 clamp voltage and "V_{DRV}" is the DRV clamp voltage (V_{DRVhigh}). If V_{CC} is below V_{DRVhigh}, "V_{DRV}" is V_{CC}.
2. This device(s) contains ESD protection and exceeds the following tests: Human Body Model 2000 V per JEDEC Standard JESD22–A114E Machine Model Method 200 V per JEDEC Standard JESD22–A115–A

3. This device contains latch-up protection and exceeds 100 mA per JEDEC Standard JESD78.

4. Maximum CS/ZCD current that can be injected into pin4



5. Recommended maximum V_{sense} voltage for optimal operation is 4.5 V.

FYPICAL ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS	(Conditions: V _{CC} =	= 15 V, T _. from –40°C	to +125°C, unle	ess otherwise specified)
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Symbol	Rating	Min	Тур	Max	Unit
START-UP AND SU	JPPLY CIRCUIT				
V _{CC(on)}	Start–Up Threshold, V _{CC} increasing:				V
	A version B version	9.75 15.80	10.50 17.00	11.25 18.20	
Vcc(off)	Minimum Operating Voltage, Voc falling	8.50	9.00	9.50	V
Vec(in)		0.00	0.00	0.00	v
VCC(HYST)	A version	0.75	1.50	-	v
	B version	6.00	8.00	-	
I _{CC(start)}	Start–Up Current, V_{CC} = 9.4 V	-	20	50	μΑ
I _{CC(op)1}	Operating Consumption, no switching (V _{sense} pin being grounded)	-	0.5	1.0	mA
I _{CC(op)2}	Operating Consumption, 50 kHz switching, no load on DRV pin	-	2.0	3.0	mA
CURRENT CONTRO	DLLED FREQUENCY FOLD-BACK				
T _{DT1}	Dead–Time, <i>V_{FFcontrol}</i> = 2.60 V (Note 6)	-	-	0	μs
T _{DT2}	Dead–Time, <i>V_{FFcontrol}</i> = 1.75 V	14	18	22	μs
T _{DT3}	Dead-Time, V _{FFcontrol} = 1.00 V	32	38	44	μs
I _{DT1}	FFcontrol pin current, $V_{sense} = 1.4$ V and $V_{control}$ maximum	180	200	220	μΑ
I _{DT2}	FFcontrol pin current, $V_{sense} = 2.8$ V and $V_{control}$ maximum	110	135	160	μΑ
V _{SKIP-H}	FFcontrol pin Skip Level, V _{FFcontrol} rising	-	0.75	0.85	V
V _{SKIP–L}	FFcontrol pin Skip Level, V _{FFcontrol} falling	0.55	0.65	-	V
V _{SKIP-HYST}	FFcontrol pin Skip Hysteresis		-	-	mV
GATE DRIVE		I		-	
T _R	Output voltage rise-time @ $C_L = 1 \text{ nF}$, 10-90% of output signal	-	30	-	ns
T _F	Output voltage fall-time @ C_L = 1 nF, 10-90% of output signal	_	20	-	ns
R _{OH}	Source resistance	-	10	-	Ω
R _{OL}	Sink resistance	-	7.0	-	Ω
ISOURCE	Peak source current, $V_{DRV} = 0$ V (guaranteed by design)	-	500	-	mA
I _{SINK}	Peak sink current, V_{DRV} = 12 V (guaranteed by design)	-	800	-	mA
VDRVIow	DRV pin level at V_{CC} close to $V_{CC(off)}$ with a 10 k Ω resistor to GND	8.0	_	_	V
VDBVhigh	DRV pin level at $V_{CC} = 35$ V ($R_l = 33$ k Ω , $C_l = 1$ nF)	10	12	14	V
REGULATION BLO	CK				
VREE	Feedback Voltage Reference:				V
	from 0°C to 125°C	2.44	2.50	2.54	
		2.42	2.50	2.04	
IEA		-	±20	-	μΑ
G _{EA}	Error Amplifier Gain	110	220	290	μS
V _{CONTROL}	V _{control} Pin Voltage – @ V _{FB} = 2 V	_	4.5	_	V
	$-\textcircled{0}^{\prime}V_{FB}^{B} = 3 \text{ V}$	-	0.5	-	
V _{OUT} L / V _{REF}	Ratio (V _{OUT} Low Detect Threshold / V _{REF}) (guaranteed by design)	95.0	95.5	96.0	%
H _{OUT} L / V _{REF}	Ratio (V_{OUT} Low Detect Hysteresis / V_{REF}) (guaranteed by design)	-	-	0.5	%
I _{BOOST}	V _{control} Pin Source Current when (V _{OUT} Low Detect) is activated	180	220	250	μA
CURRENT SENSE	AND ZERO CURRENT DETECTION BLOCKS	•	-	-	-
V _{CS} (th)	Current Sense Voltage Reference	450	500	550	mV

 There is actually a minimum dead-time that is the delay between the core reset detection and the DRV turning on (T_{ZD} parameter of the "Current Sense and Zero Current Detection Blocks" section).

Symbol	Rating	Min	Тур	Max	Unit
CURRENT SENS	SE AND ZERO CURRENT DETECTION BLOCKS				
T _{LEB,OCP}	Over-Current Protection Leading Edge Blanking Time (guaranteed by design)	100	200	350	ns
T _{LEB,OVS}	"Overstress" Leading Edge Blanking Time (guaranteed by design)	50	100	170	ns
T _{OCP}	Over–Current Protection Delay from $V_{CS/ZCD} > V_{CS(th)}$ to DRV low $(dV_{CS/ZCD} / dt = 10 \text{ V/}\mu\text{s})$	-	40	200	ns
V _{ZCD(th)H}	Zero Current Detection, V _{CS/ZCD} rising	675	750	825	mV
V _{ZCD(th)L}	Zero Current Detection, V _{CS/ZCD} falling	200	250	300	mV
V _{ZCD(hyst)}	Hysteresis of the Zero Current Detection Comparator	375	500	-	mV
R _{ZCD/CS}	V _{ZCD(th)H} over V _{CS(th)} Ratio	1.4	1.5	1.6	_
V _{CL(pos)}	CS/ZCD Positive Clamp @ $I_{CS/ZCD} = 5 \text{ mA}$	-	15.6	-	V
I _{ZCD(bias)}	CS/ZCD Pin Bias Current, $V_{CS/ZCD}$ = 0.75 V	0.5	-	2.0	μΑ
I _{ZCD(bias)}	CS/ZCD Pin Bias Current, V _{CS/ZCD} = 0.25 V	0.5	_	2.0	μΑ
T _{ZCD}	$(V_{CS/ZCD} < V_{ZCD(th)L})$ to (DRV high)	-	60	200	ns
T _{SYNC}	Minimum ZCD Pulse Width	-	110	200	ns
T _{WDG}	Watch Dog Timer	80	200	320	μs
T _{WDG(OS)}	Watch Dog Timer in "OverStress" Situation	400	800	1200	μs
T _{TMO}	Time-Out Timer	20	30	50	μs
I _{ZCD(gnd)}	Source Current for CS/ZCD pin impedance Testing	_	250	-	μA
STATIC OVP					
D _{MIN}	Duty Cycle, V _{FB} = 3 V, V _{control} Pin Open	-	-	0	%
ON-TIME CONT	ROL				
T _{ON(LL)}	Maximum On Time, $V_{sense} = 1.4$ V and $V_{control}$ maximum (CrM)	22	25	29	μs
T _{ON(LL)2}	On Time, $V_{sense} = 1.4$ V and $V_{control} = 2.5$ V (CrM)	10.5	12.5	14.0	μs
T _{ON(HL)}	Maximum On Time, $V_{sense} = 2.8$ V and $V_{control}$ maximum (CrM)	7.3	8.5	9.6	μs
T _{ON(LL)(MIN)}	Minimum On Time, V_{sense} = 1.4 V (not tested, guaranteed by characterization)	-	-	200	ns
T _{ON(HL)(MIN)}	Minimum On Time, V_{sense} = 2.8 V (not tested, guaranteed by characterization)	-	-	100	ns
FEED-BACK OV	VER AND UNDER-VOLTAGE PROTECTIONS (OVP AND UVP)				
R _{softOVP}	Ratio (Soft OVP Threshold, <i>V_{FB}</i> rising) over <i>V_{REF}</i> (<i>V_{softOVP}/V_{REF}</i>) (guaranteed by design)	104	105	106	%
R _{softOVP(HYST)}	Ratio (Soft OVP Hysteresis) over V _{REF} (guaranteed by design)	1.5	2.0	2.5	%
R _{fastOVP2}	Ratio (Fast OVP Threshold, V_{FB} rising) over V_{REF} ($V_{fastOVP}/V_{REF}$) (guaranteed by design)	106	107	108	%
R _{UVP}	Ratio (UVP Threshold, V_{FB} rising) over V_{REF} (V_{UVP}/V_{REF}) (guaranteed by design)	8	12	16	%
R _{UVP(HYST)}	Ratio (UVP Hysteresis) over V _{REF} (guaranteed by design)	-	-	1	%
(I _B) _{FB}	FB Pin Bias Current @ $V_{FB} = V_{OVP}$ and $V_{FB} = V_{UVP}$	50	200	450	nA
BROWN-OUT P	ROTECTION AND FEED-FORWARD				
V _{BOH}	Brown–Out Threshold, V _{sense} rising	0.96	1.00	1.04	V
V _{BOL}	Brown–Out Threshold, V _{sense} falling	0.86	0.90	0.94	V
V _{BO(HYST)}	Brown–Out Comparator Hysteresis	60	100	-	mV
T _{BO(blank)}	Brown-Out Blanking Time	35	50	65	ms
I _{CONTROL(BO)}	V _{control} Pin Sink Current, V _{sense} < V _{BOL}	40	50	60	μΑ

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There is actually a minimum dead-time that is the delay between the core reset detection and the DRV turning on (T_{ZD} parameter of the "Current Sense and Zero Current Detection Blocks" section).

TYPICAL ELECTRICA	_ CHARACTERISTICS (Conditions	: $V_{CC} = 15 \text{ V}, \text{ T}_{J} \text{ from } -40^{\circ}\text{C} \text{ to}$	+125°C, unless otherwise specified)
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Symbol	Rating	Min	Тур	Max	Unit	
BROWN-OUT PR	OTECTION AND FEED-FORWARD			-	-	
V _{HL}	V _{HL} Comparator Threshold for Line Range Detection, V _{sense} rising		2.2	2.3	V	
V _{LL}	Comparator Threshold for Line Range Detection, Vsense falling	1.6	1.7	1.8	V	
V _{HL(hyst)}	Comparator Hysteresis for Line Range Detection		500	600	mV	
T _{HL(blank)}	Blanking Time for Line Range Detection		25	35	ms	
I _{BO(bias)}	Brown–Out Pin Bias Current, $V_{sense} = V_{BOH}$	-250	-	250	nA	
THERMAL SHUTDOWN						
T _{LIMIT}	Thermal Shutdown Threshold	-	150	-	°C	

 There is actually a minimum dead-time that is the delay between the core reset detection and the DRV turning on (T_{ZD} parameter of the "Current Sense and Zero Current Detection Blocks" section).

Thermal Shutdown Hysteresis

H_{TEMP}

°C

50

DETAILED PIN DESCRIPTION

Pin Number	Name	Function
1	V _{CONTROL}	The error amplifier output is available on this pin. The network connected between this pin and ground adjusts the regulation loop bandwidth that is typically set below 20 Hz to achieve high Power Factor ratios. Pin1 is grounded when the circuit is off so that when it starts operation, the power increases slowly to provide a soft-start function.
2	V _{SENSE}	A portion of the instantaneous input voltage is to be applied to pin 2 in order to detect brown-out conditions. If V_{pin2} is lower than 0.9 V for more than 50 ms, the circuit stops pulsing until the pin voltage rises again and exceeds 1.0 V. This pin also detects the line range. By default, the circuit operates the "low-line gain" mode. If V_{pin2} exceeds 2.2 V, the circuit detects a high-line condition and reduces the loop gain by 3. Conversely, if the pin voltage remains lower than 1.7 V for more than 25 ms, the low-line gain is set. Connecting the pin 2 to ground disables the part once the 50 ms blanking time has elapsed.
3	FF _{CONTROL}	This pin sources a current representative to the line current. Connect a resistor between pin3 and ground to generate a voltage representative of the line current. When this voltage exceeds the internal 2.5 V reference (V_{REF}), the circuit operates in critical conduction mode. If the pin voltage is below 2.5 V, a dead-time is generated that approximately equates [66 μ s x (1 - (V_{pin3}/V_{REF})]. By this means, the circuit forces a longer dead-time when the current is small and a shorter one as the current increases. The circuit skips cycles whenever V_{pin3} is below 0.65 V to prevent the PFC stage from operating near the line zero crossing where the power transfer is particularly inefficient. This does result in a slightly increased distortion of the current. If superior power factor is required, offset pin 3 by more than 0.75 V offset to inhibit the skip function.
4	CS / ZCD	This pin monitors the MOSFET current to limit its maximum current. This pin is also connected to an internal comparator for Zero Current Detection (ZCD). This comparator is designed to monitor a signal from an auxiliary winding and to detect the core reset when this voltage drops to zero. The auxiliary winding voltage is to be applied through a diode to avoid altering the current sense information for the on-time (see application schematic).
5	Ground	Connect this pin to the PFC stage ground.
6	Drive	The high–current capability of the totem pole gate drive $(-0.5/+0.8 \text{ A})$ makes it suitable to effectively drive high gate charge power MOSFETs.
7	Vcc	This pin is the positive supply of the IC. The circuit starts to operate when V_{CC} exceeds 10.5 V (A version, 17.0 V for the B version) and turns off when V_{CC} goes below 9.0 V (typical values). After start–up, the operating range is 9.5 V up to 35 V. The A version is preferred in applications where the circuit is fed by an external power source (from an auxiliary power supply or from a downstream converter). Its maximum start–up level (11.25 V) is set low enough so that the circuit can be powered from a 12 V rail. The B version is optimized for applications where the PFC stage is self–powered.
8	Feedback	This pin receives a portion of the PFC output voltage for the regulation and the Dynamic Response Enhancer (DRE) that drastically speeds–up the loop response when the output voltage drops below 95.5% of the desired output level. V_{pin8} is also the input signal for the (non–latching) Over–Voltage (OVP) and Under–Voltage (UVP) comparators. The UVP comparator prevents operation as long as V_{pin8} is lower than 12% of the reference voltage (V_{REF}). A soft OVP comparator gradually reduces the duty–ratio when V_{pin8} exceeds 105% of V_{REF} . If despite of this, the output voltage still increases, the driver is immediately disabled if the output voltage exceeds 107% of the desired level (fast OVP). A 250 nA sink current is built–in to trigger the UVP protection and disable the part if the feedback pin is accidentally open.



Figure 2. Block Diagram





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Falling) vs. Temperature

Rising) vs. Temperature





TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS

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Detection Comparator vs. Temperature









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TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS

DETAILED OPERATING DESCRIPTION

Introduction

The NCP1611 is designed to optimize the efficiency of your PFC stage throughout the load range. In addition, it incorporates protection features for rugged operation. More generally, the NCP1611 is ideal in systems where cost–effectiveness, reliability, low stand–by power and high efficiency are key requirements:

- Current Controlled Frequency Fold-back: the NCP1611 is designed to drive PFC boost stages in so-called Current Controlled Frequency Fold-back (CCFF). In this mode, the circuit classically operates in Critical conduction Mode (CrM) when the inductor current exceeds a programmable value. When the current is below this preset level, the NCP1611 linearly reduces the frequency down to about 20 kHz when the current is zero. CCFF maximizes the efficiency at both nominal and light load. In particular, stand-by losses are reduced to a minimum. Similarly to FCCrM controllers, an internal circuitry allows near-unity power factor even when the switching frequency is reduced.
- Skip Mode: to further optimize the efficiency, the circuit skips cycles near the line zero crossing when the current is very low. This is to avoid circuit operation when the power transfer is particularly inefficient at the cost of current distortion. When superior power factor is required, this function can be inhibited by offsetting the "FFcontrol" pin by 0.75 V.
- Low Start-up Current and large V_{CC} range (B version): The start-up consumption of the circuit is minimized to allow the use of high-impedance start-up resistors to pre-charge the V_{CC} capacitor. Also, the minimum value of the UVLO hysteresis is 6 V to avoid the need for large V_{CC} capacitors and help shorten the start-up time

without the need for too dissipative start–up elements. The A version is preferred in applications where the circuit is fed by an external power source (from an auxiliary power supply or from a downstream converter). Its maximum start–up level (11.25 V) is set low enough so that the circuit can be powered from a 12–V rail. After start–up, the high V_{CC} maximum rating allows a large operating range from 9.5 V up to 35 V.

- Fast Line / Load Transient Compensation (Dynamic Response Enhancer): since PFC stages exhibit low loop bandwidth, abrupt changes in the load or input voltage (e.g. at start-up) may cause excessive over or under-shoot. This circuit limits possible deviations from the regulation level as follows:
 - The NCP1611 linearly decays the power delivery to zero when the output voltage exceeds 105% of its desired level (soft OVP). If this soft OVP is too smooth and the output continues to rise, the circuit immediately interrupts the power delivery when the output voltage is 107% above its desired level.
 - The NCP1611 dramatically speeds-up the regulation loop when the output voltage goes below 95.5% of its regulation level. In A version, this function is enabled only after the PFC stage has started-up to allow normal soft-start operation to occur.
- Safety Protections: the NCP1611 permanently monitors the input and output voltages, the MOSFET current and the die temperature to protect the system from possible over-stress making the PFC stage extremely robust and reliable. In addition to the OVP protection, these methods of protection are provided:

- Maximum Current Limit: the circuit senses the MOSFET current and turns off the power switch if the set current limit is exceeded. In addition, the circuit enters a low duty-cycle operation mode when the current reaches 150% of the current limit as a result of the inductor saturation or a short of the bypass diode.
- Under–Voltage Protection: this circuit turns off when it detects that the output voltage is below 12% of the voltage reference (typically). This feature protects the PFC stage if the ac line is too low or if there is a failure in the feedback network (e.g., bad connection).
- Brown–Out Detection: the circuit detects low ac line conditions and stops operation thus protecting the PFC stage from excessive stress.
- Thermal Shutdown: an internal thermal circuitry disables the gate drive when the junction

temperature exceeds 150° C (typically). The circuit resumes operation once the temperature drops below approximately 100° C (50° C hysteresis).

• Output Stage Totem Pole: the NCP1611 incorporates a -0.5 A / +0.8 A gate driver to efficiently drive most TO220 or TO247 power MOSFETs.

NCP1611 Operation Modes

As mentioned, the NCP1611 PFC controller implements a Current Controlled Frequency Fold–back (CCFF) where:

- The circuit operates in classical Critical conduction Mode (CrM) when the inductor current exceeds a programmable value.
- When the current is below this preset level, the NCP1611 linearly reduces the operating frequency down to about 20 kHz when the current is zero.





As illustrated in Figure 59, under high load conditions, the boost stage is operating in CrM but as the load is reduced, the controller enters controlled frequency discontinuous operation.

Figure 60 details the operation. A voltage representative of the input current ("current information") is generated. If this signal is higher than a 2.5 V internal reference (named "Dead–Time Ramp Threshold" in Figure 60), there is no dead–time and the circuit operates in CrM. If the current information is lower than the 2.5 V threshold, a dead–time is inserted that lasts for the time necessary for the internal ramp to reach 2.5 V from the current information floor. Hence, the lower the current information is, the longer the dead–time. When the current information is 0.75 V, the dead–time is approximately $45 \,\mu$ s.

To further reduce the losses, the MOSFET turns on is stretched until its drain-source voltage is at its valley. As illustrated in Figure 60, the ramp is synchronized to the drain-source ringing. If the ramp exceeds the 2.5 V threshold while the drain-source voltage is below V_{in} , the ramp is extended until it oscillates above V_{in} so that the drive will turn on at the next valley.



<u>Top:</u> CrM operation when the current information exceeds the preset level during the demagnetization phase <u>Middle:</u> the circuit re-starts at the next valley if the sum (ramp + current information) exceeds the preset level during the dead-time, while the drain-source voltage is high

Bottom: the sum (ramp + current information) exceeds the preset level while during the dead-time, the drain-source voltage is low. The circuit skips the current valley and re-starts at the following one.

Figure 60. Dead-Time Generation

Current Information Generation

The "FFcontrol" pin sources a current that is representative of the input current. In practice, I_{pin3} is built by multiplying the internal control signal (V_{REGUL}, i.e., the internal signal that controls the on–time) by the sense voltage (pin 2) that is proportional to the input voltage. The multiplier gain (K_m of Figure 61) is three times less in high–line conditions (that is when the "LLine" signal from the brown–out block is in low state) so that I_{pin3} provides a voltage representative of the input current across resistor R_{FF} placed between pin 3 and ground. Pin 3 voltage is the current information.



Figure 61. Generation of the Current Information

Skip Mode

As illustrated in Figure 61, the circuit also skips cycles near the line zero crossing where the current is very low. A comparator monitors the pin 3 voltage ("*FFcontrol*" voltage) and inhibits the drive when V_{pin3} is lower than a 0.65 V internal reference. Switching resumes when V_{pin3} exceeds 0.75 V (0.1 V hysteresis). This inhibits circuit operation when the power transfer is particularly inefficient at the expense of slightly increased current distortion. When superior power factor is needed, this function can be inhibited offsetting the "FFcontrol" pin by 0.75 V. The skip mode capability is disabled whenever the PFC stage is not in nominal operation (as dictated by the "pfcOK" signal – see block diagram and "pfcOK Internal Signal" Section).

The circuit does not abruptly interrupt the switching when V_{pin3} goes below 0.65 V. Instead, the signal V_{TON} that controls the on-time is gradually decreased by grounding the V_{REGUL} signal applied to the V_{TON} processing block (see Figure 9). Doing so, the on-time smoothly decays to zero in three to four switching periods typically. Figure 62 shows the practical implementation.



Figure 62. CCFF Practical Implementation

CCFF maximizes the efficiency at both nominal and light load. In particular, the stand-by losses are reduced to a minimum. Also, this method avoids that the system stalls between valleys. Instead, the circuit acts so that the PFC stage transitions from the n valley to (n + 1) valley or vice versa from the n valley to (n - 1) cleanly as illustrated by Figure 63.



Figure 63. Clean Transition Without Hesitation Between Valleys

NCP1611 On-time Modulation

Let's analyze the ac line current absorbed by the PFC boost stage. The initial inductor current at the beginning of each switching cycle is always zero. The coil current ramps up when the MOSFET is *on*. The slope is (V_{IN}/L) where L is the coil inductance. At the end of the on–time (t_1) , the inductor starts to demagnetize. The inductor current ramps down until it reaches zero. The duration of this phase is (t_2) .

In some cases, the system enters then the dead-time (t_3) that lasts until the next clock is generated.

One can show that the ac line current is given by:

$$I_{in} = V_{in} \left[\frac{t_1(t_1 + t_2)}{2TL} \right]$$
 (eq. 1)



Where $T = (t_1 + t_2 + t_3)$ is the switching period and V_{in} is the ac line rectified voltage.

In light of this equation, we immediately note that I_{in} is proportional to V_{in} if $[t_1 (t_1 + t_2) / T]$ is a constant.



Figure 64. PFC Boost Converter (left) and Inductor Current in DCM (right)

The NCP1611 operates in voltage mode. As portrayed by Figure 8, the MOSFET on–time t_1 is controlled by the signal V_{ton} generated by the regulation block and an internal ramp as follows:

$$t_1 = \frac{C_{ramp} \cdot V_{ton}}{I_{ch}}$$
 (eq. 2)

The charge current is constant at a given input voltage (as mentioned, it is 3 times higher at high line compared to its value at low line). C_{ramp} is an internal capacitor.

The output of the regulation block ($V_{CONTROL}$) is linearly transformed into a signal (V_{REGUL}) varying between 0 and 1 V. (V_{REGUL}) is the voltage that is injected into the PWM section to modulate the MOSFET duty-cycle. The NCP1611 includes some circuitry that processes (V_{REGUL}) to form the signal (V_{ton}) that is used in the PWM section (see Figure 9). (V_{ton}) is modulated in response to the dead-time sensed during the precedent current cycles, that is, for a proper shaping of the ac line current. This modulation leads to:

$$V_{ton} = \frac{T \cdot V_{REGUL}}{t_1 + t_2} \qquad (eq. 3)$$

or

$$V_{ton} \cdot \frac{t_1 + t_2}{T} = V_{REGUL}$$

Given the low regulation bandwidth of the PFC systems, $(V_{CONTROL})$ and then (V_{REGUL}) are slow varying signals. Hence, the $(V_{ton} \bullet (t_1 + t_2) / T)$ term is substantially constant. Provided that in addition, (t_1) is proportional to (V_{ton}) , Equation 1 leads to: $(I_{in} = k \bullet V_{in})$, where k is a constant. More exactly:

$$\begin{split} I_{in} &= k \cdot V_{in} \\ \text{where : } k &= \text{constant} = \left[\frac{1}{2L} \cdot \frac{V_{\text{REGUL}}}{\left(V_{\text{REGUL}}\right)_{\text{max}}} \cdot t_{\text{on,max}} \right] \end{split}$$

Where $t_{on max}$ is the maximum on-time obtained when V_{REGUL} is at its $(V_{REGUL})_{max}$ maximum level. The

parametric table shows that $t_{on max}$ is equal to 25 µs (T_{ON(LL)}) at low line and to 8.3 µs (T_{ON(HL)}) at high line (when pin2 happens to exceed 2.2 V with a pace higher than 40 Hz – see BO 25 ms blanking time).

The input current is then proportional to the input voltage. Hence, the ac line current is properly shaped.

One can note that this analysis is also valid in the CrM case. This condition is just a particular case of this functioning where $(t_3=0)$, which leads to $(t_1+t_2=T)$ and $(V_{TON}=V_{REGUL})$. That is why the NCP1611 automatically adapts to the conditions and transitions from DCM and CrM (and vice versa) without power factor degradation and without discontinuity in the power delivery.

Hence, we can re-write the above equation as follows:

$$I_{in} = \frac{V_{in} \cdot T_{ON(LL)}}{2 \cdot L} \cdot \frac{V_{REGUL}}{(V_{REGUL})max}$$

at low line.

$$I_{in} = \frac{V_{in} \cdot T_{ON(HL)}}{2 \cdot L} \cdot \frac{V_{REGUL}}{(V_{REGUL}) max}$$

at high line.

From these equations, we can deduce the expression of the average input power:

$$\mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{in},\mathsf{avg}} = \frac{\left(\mathsf{V}_{\mathsf{in},\mathsf{rms}}\right)^2 \cdot \mathsf{V}_{\mathsf{REGUL}} \cdot \mathsf{T}_{\mathsf{ON(LL)}}}{2 \cdot \mathsf{L} \cdot \left(\mathsf{V}_{\mathsf{REGUL}}\right)_{\mathsf{max}}}$$

at low line

$$\mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{in},\mathsf{avg}} = \frac{\left(\mathsf{V}_{\mathsf{in},\mathsf{rms}}\right)^2 \cdot \mathsf{V}_{\mathsf{REGUL}} \cdot \mathsf{T}_{\mathsf{ON(HL)}}}{2 \cdot \mathsf{L} \cdot \left(\mathsf{V}_{\mathsf{REGUL}}\right)_{\mathsf{max}}}$$

at high line

Where (V_{REGUL})_{max} is the 1 V V_{REGUL} maximum value.

Hence, the maximum power that can be delivered by the PFC stage is:

$$(\mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{in},\mathsf{avg}})_{\mathsf{max}} = \frac{(\mathsf{V}_{\mathsf{in},\mathsf{rms}})^2 \cdot \mathsf{T}_{\mathsf{ON}(\mathsf{LL})}}{2 \cdot \mathsf{L}}$$

at low line

$$(P_{in,avg})_{max} = \frac{(V_{in,rms})^2 \cdot T_{ON(HL)}}{2 \cdot L}$$

at high line



Figure 65. PWM circuit and timing diagram.



Figure 66. V_{TON} Processing Circuit. The integrator OA1 amplifies the error between V_{REGUL} and IN1 so that on average, $(V_{TON} * (t_1+t_2)/T)$ equates V_{REGUL}.

Remark:

The " V_{ton} processing circuit" is "informed" when a condition possibly leading to a long interruption of the drive activity (functions generating the STOP signal that disables the drive – see block diagram – except OCP, i.e., OVP, OverStress, SKIP, staticOVP and OFF). Otherwise, such situations would be viewed as a normal dead–time phase and V_{ton} would inappropriately over–dimension V_{ton} to compensate it. Instead, as illustrated in Figure 66, the V_{ton} signal is grounded leading to a short soft–start when the circuit recovers.

Regulation Block and Output Voltage Control

A trans–conductance error amplifier (OTA) with access to the inverting input and output is provided. It features a typical trans–conductance gain of 200 μ S and a maximum capability of ±20 μ A. The output voltage of the PFC stage is typically scaled down by a resistors divider and monitored by the inverting input (pin 8). Bias current is minimized (less than 500 nA) to allow the use of a high impedance feed–back network. However, it is high enough so that the pin remains in low state if the pin is not connected.

The output of the error amplifier is brought to pin 1 for external loop compensation. Typically a type 2 network is applied between pin1 and ground, to set the regulation bandwidth below about 20 Hz and to provide a decent phase boost.

The swing of the error amplifier output is limited within an accurate range:

- It is forced above a voltage drop (V_F) by some circuitry.

- It is clamped not to exceed 4.0 V + the same V_F voltage drop.

Hence, V_{pin1} features a 4 V voltage swing. V_{pin1} is then offset down by (V_F) and scaled down by a resistors divider before it connects to the " V_{TON} processing block" and the PWM section. Finally, the output of the regulation block is a signal (" V_{REGUL} " of the block diagram) that varies between 0 and a top value corresponding to the maximum on–time.

The V_F value is 0.5 V typically.



Figure 67. a) Regulation Block Figure (left), b) Correspondence Between V_{CONTROL} and V_{REGUL} (right)

Given the low bandwidth of the regulation loop, abrupt variations of the load, may result in excessive over or under-shoot. Over-shoot is limited by the Over-Voltage Protection connected to pin 8.

The NCP1611 embeds a "*dynamic response enhancer*" circuitry (DRE) that contains under–shoots. An internal comparator monitors the feed–back (V_{pin8}) and when V_{pin8} is lower than 95.5% of its nominal value, it connects a 200 µA current source to speed–up the charge of the compensation network. Effectively this appears as a 10x increase in the loop gain.

In A version, DRE is disabled during the start–up sequence until the PFC stage has stabilized (that is when the "pfcOK" signal of the block diagram, is high). The resulting slow and gradual charge of the pin1 voltage ($V_{CONTROL}$) softens the soft start–up sequence. In B version, DRE is enabled during start–up to speed–up this phase and allow for the use of smaller V_{CC} capacitors.

The circuit also detects overshoot and immediately reduces the power delivery when the output voltage exceeds 105% of its desired level. The NCP1611 does not abruptly interrupt the switching. Instead, the signal V_{TON} that controls the on-time is gradually decreased by grounding

the V_{REGUL} signal applied to the V_{TON} processing block (see Figure 66). Doing so, the on-time smoothly decays to zero in four to five switching periods typically. If the output voltage still increases, a second comparator immediately disables the driver if the output voltage exceeds 107% of its desired level.

The error amplifier OTA and the OVP, UVP and DRE comparators share the same input information. Based on the typical value of their parameters and if ($V_{out,nom}$) is the output voltage nominal value (e.g., 390 V), we can deduce:

- Output Regulation Level: Vout,nom
- Output UVP Level: V_{out,uvp} = 12% x V_{out,nom}
- Output DRE Level: V_{out,dre} = 95.5% x V_{out,nom}
- Output Soft OVP Level: V_{out,sovp} = 105% x V_{out,nom}
- Output Fast OVP level: V_{out,fovp} = 107% x V_{out,nom}

Current Sense and Zero Current Detection

The NCP1611 is designed to monitor the current flowing through the power switch. A current sense resistor (R_{sense}) is inserted between the MOSFET source and ground to generate a positive voltage proportional to the MOSFET current (V_{CS}). The V_{CS} voltage is compared to a 500 mV internally reference. When V_{CS} exceeds this threshold, the