
EVLSTNRG-1KW: 1 kW SMPS digitally controlled multiphase interleaved converter using the STNRG388A

Introduction

This application note describes the characteristics and features of the EVLSTNRG-1KW evaluation board, intended for evaluation of the STNRG388A digital controller in offline power conversion applications such as EV battery chargers, UPS and industrial power supplies.

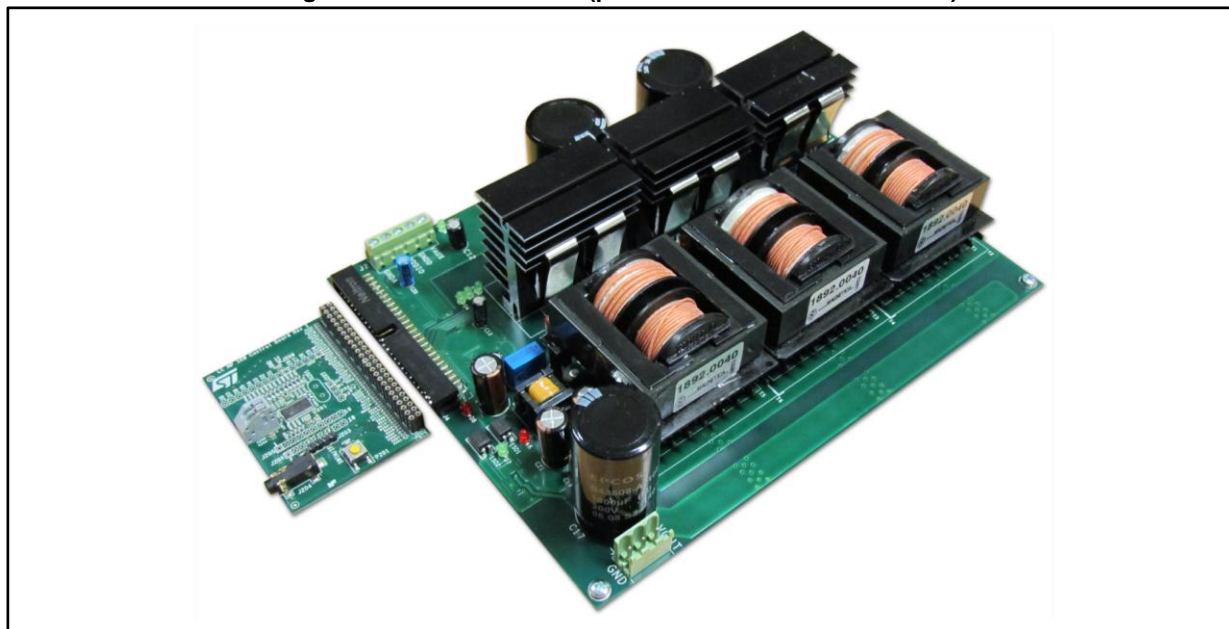
The EVLSTNRG-1KW architecture is based on a multiphase interleaved DC-DC converter using the half-bridge SAB (“single active bridge”) topology supporting more than 1000 W of power. The evaluation board can be easily scaled up to 3 kW with 400 V of maximum output voltage.

The interleaved topology balances the power through 3 parallel stages. Also, the solution delivers high efficiency during the whole load range by enabling one, two or three stages depending on the load.

The STNRG388A power conversion dedicated peripherals (SMEDs) offer the flexibility to drive the interleaved power stages while guaranteeing correct phase realignment during the activation and deactivation of each stage.

Thanks to the digital core of the STNRG388A, it is also possible to monitor, control and debug the EVLSTNRG-1KW board via a convenient HyperTerminal control.

Figure 1: EVLSTNRG-1KW (power board and control board)



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1 Main characteristics and circuit description

The main features of the SMPS are:

- Input voltage range: 350-420 Vdc
- Full-load power: 1000 W
- CC/CV output regulation
- Output voltage regulation: $133\text{ V} \pm 2.5\%$
- Output current regulation: $7.5\text{ A} \pm 5\%$
- Minimum output current for each phase without burst mode: approx. 1 A
- Maximum output current for each phase: 2.5 A
- Interleaving architecture
- Standby consumption with no load: 425 mW
- Efficiency: above 90% from 1% to full load
- Peak efficiency: 96.5% at full load
- Safety: according to EN60950
- Power board size: 20.7x16.5 mm, 50 mm max component height from PCB
- Control board size: 6.9x5 mm, vertical mounting
- Power board PCB: double layer, 35 μm , mixed PTH/SMT
- Control board PCB: double layer, 35 μm , mixed PTH/SMT
- System configurable through UART I/F
- Status LEDs for protection features and active phases
- Firmware version: 1.1

The circuit board is composed of two sections:

1. A 3 W flyback-topology auxiliary supply based on the Viper06H high-voltage switcher for offline applications. This auxiliary converter delivers 15 V/0.1 A for the primary side to supply drivers and control logic and $\pm 7.5\text{ V}/0.1\text{ A}$ on the secondary side to supply the analog feedback compensation.
2. The main converter is composed of three half-bridge SAB converters controlled by the STNRG388A digital controller which manages output power by changing the switching frequency and enabling or disabling phases.

The drive function for the discrete MOSFETs of the main converter is provided by the L6391. This dedicated companion driver also integrates smart shutdown functions with an internal analog comparator to quickly trigger several protection features. A precise reference voltage reduces the auxiliary supply voltage to provide the STNRG388A up to 30 mA at 3.3 V.

1.1 HB SAB converter features

- Frequency control with min. & max. frequency limitation
- Fixed dead-time
- Digital voltage feed-forward
- High phase shift precision
- Phase shedding to increase efficiency at low loads
- CC/CV compensation with single feedback signal
- 2 brownout levels and minimum startup voltage
- Protection features:
 - 2-level overcurrent protection
 - Redundant overvoltage protection
 - Auxiliary voltage fault on secondary side
- soft-start and soft-stop after a 1st level OCP event

- Configurable auto-restart delay after a 2nd level OCP event

1.2 Flyback converter features

- Fixed switching frequency (115 kHz) with frequency jittering
- CCM – DCM operation according to mains voltage and load amount

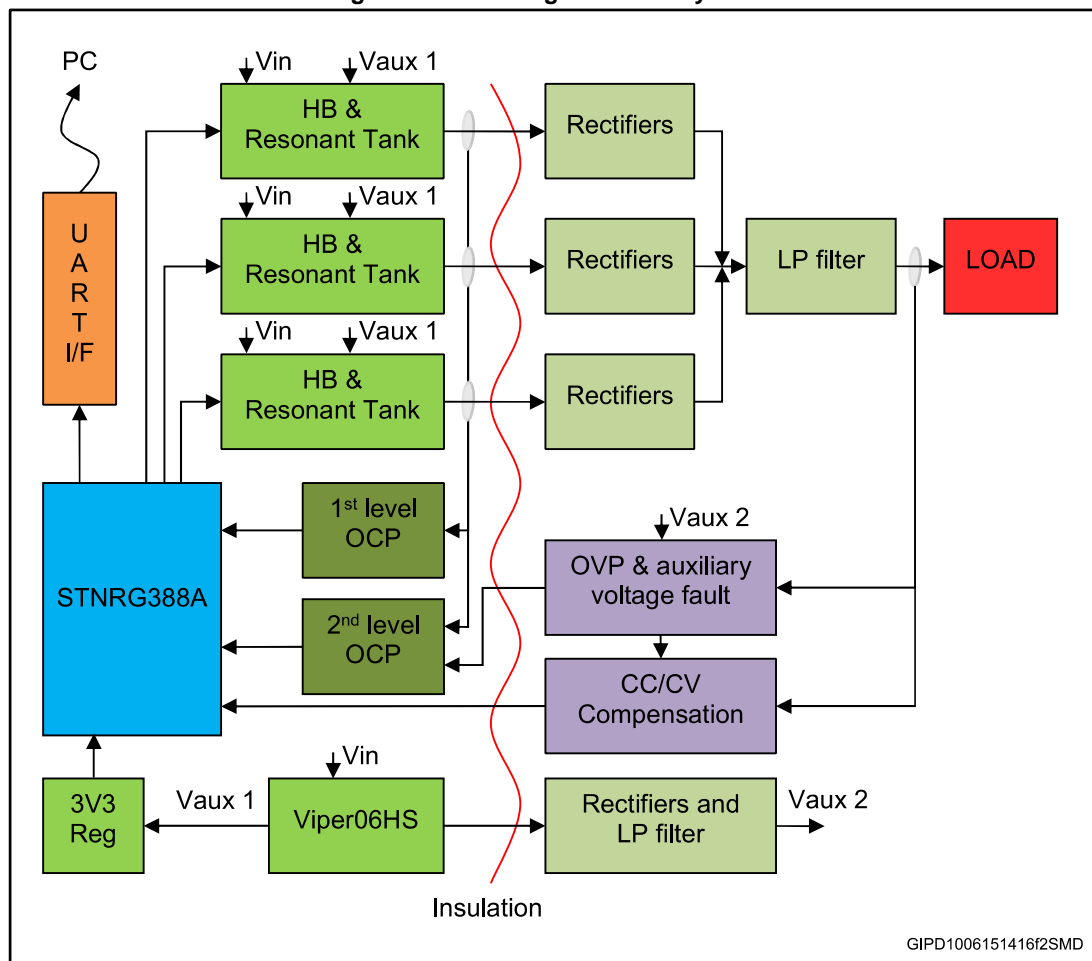
1.3 Related documents

For complete information regarding the STNRG388A digital controller, please refer to the STNRG388A datasheet.

1.4 Block diagram

The overall system architecture is summarized in diagram below.

Figure 2: Block diagram of the system



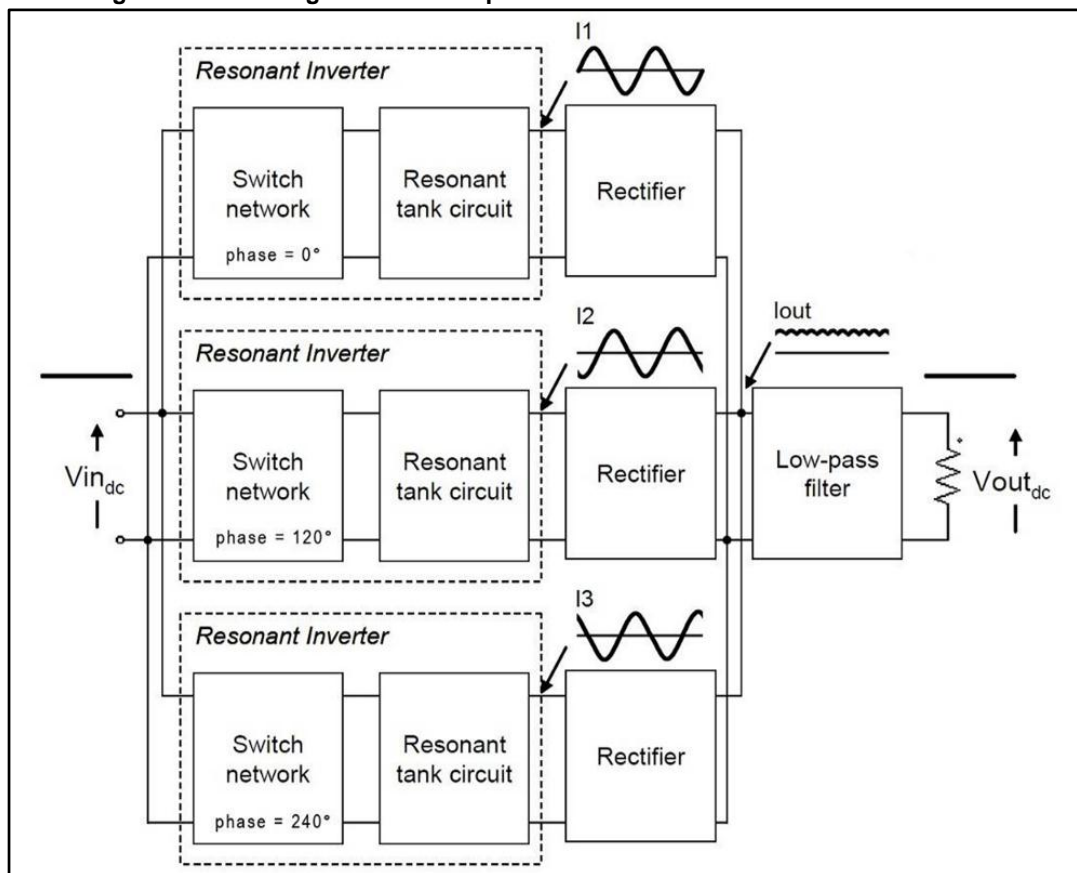
2 Board description

2.1 Power board

The power board is designed with 3 identical DC-DC converters, using the HB-SAB topology. A single converter is designed to handle a third of the total output power. The three modules are connected after the secondary rectifiers, adding the output current before being filtered by the output capacitor. Thus, each module handles a third of the total output current, while the output voltage of each module is equal to the maximum.

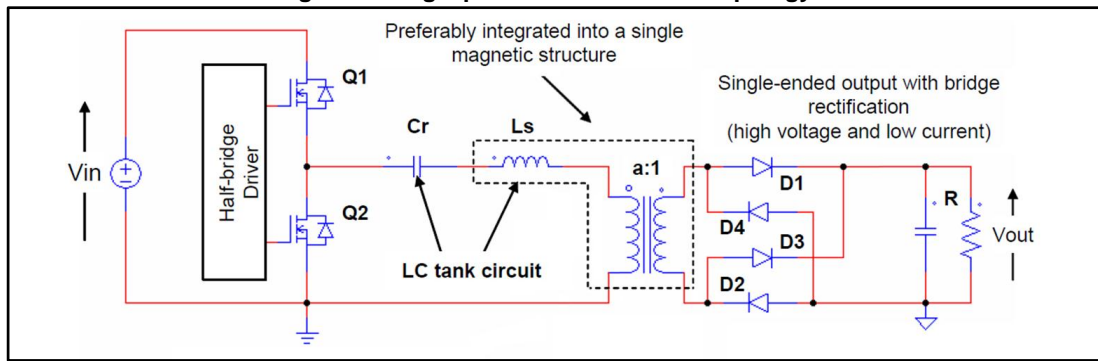
To increase the benefits of this multi-phase topology, every phase switches with the same frequency, but with a phase shift of 120° with respect to the others. With this configuration, the total ripple current across the output capacitor is reduced. The block diagram below clearly illustrates this concept.

Figure 3: Block diagram of a multi-phase interleaved DC-DC resonant converter



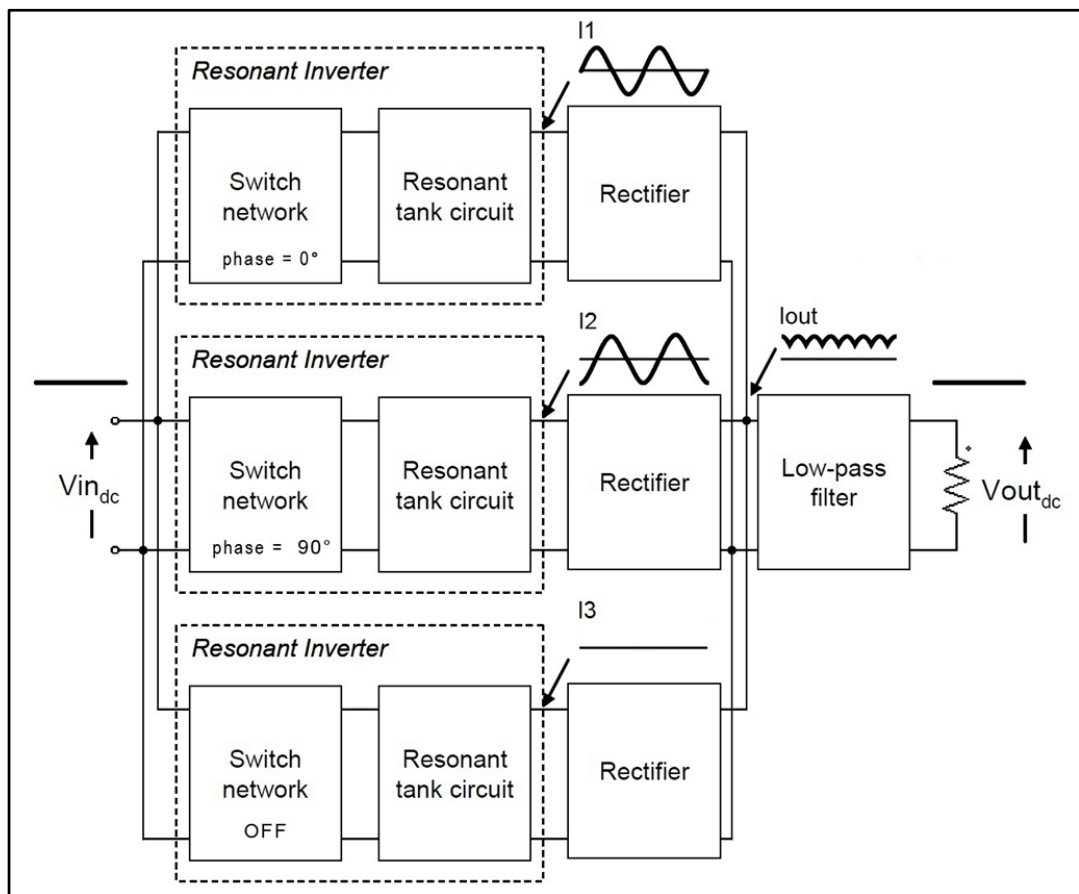
In the half-bridge SAB topology, the frequency of the square wave applied to resonant tank is always far from the self-resonant frequency. With this condition, inductive mode is always guaranteed, but in order to have ZVS on the MOS transistor, the resonant tank current must be sufficient to discharge the total capacitance on the half-bridge node. On the contrary, the topology cannot work under zero load unless in burst mode because the output power and switching frequency are inversely proportional. The schematic view of a single phase of the half-bridge SAB converter is shown in [Figure 4: "Single phase of the HB-SAB topology"](#).

Figure 4: Single phase of the HB-SAB topology



In order to increase efficiency, or when frequency control is not sufficient to handle the output power, one or more phases must be disabled to regulate the output current: this is known as “phase shedding”. The control board manages this situation by keeping one or two phases active to regulate the output current. To reduce output current ripple across the output capacitor when two phases are active, the phase shift must be set to 90° eliminate current ripple, as shown in [Figure 5: "Block diagram of a multi-phase interleaved DC-DC resonant converter with 2 phases active"](#).

Figure 5: Block diagram of a multi-phase interleaved DC-DC resonant converter with 2 phases active



On the primary side, the L6391 drivers are used to manage the half-bridge topology. These devices allow the use of only one pin to handle the high-side and low-side MOS transistors,

adding a fixed dead time before switching from one to the other. They also have a standby/shutdown pin, which is useful for disabling the driver externally, and an internal comparator usually connected to the current sense, to intelligently shut down the driver when overcurrent protection is triggered.

There are two overcurrent protection levels on the primary side: the first, managed by the control board, is triggered when the total average current exceeds a preset value; the second, managed by the power board hardware, is triggered and latched when the resonant tank peak current exceeds a safe value set in the hardware. This condition is both sent to the control board and connected to the internal comparator of the L6391 so as to immediately disable the drivers when this situation occurs.

Three transformers are used to isolate the primary from the secondary side, making the modules independent.

On the secondary side, full bridge rectifiers rectify the secondary current; then each current is added to the others and filtered by the output capacitor. A TSM1013A constant voltage and constant current controller is used for CC/CV control via sense resistors for the output current and divider resistors for the output voltage. Through an optocoupler, a single feedback signal is passed to the primary side, which goes directly to the control board in order to achieve closed-loop control. Another optocoupler is dedicated to providing overvoltage protection and auxiliary voltage fault information to the primary side. When the OVP is triggered, however, the information is latched and passed with the optocoupler used for the feedback, in order to achieve redundant protection even when the dedicated optocoupler fails.

The VIPER06HS is used to supply primary and secondary side components. On the primary side, a 3.3 V linear regulator also supplies the control board and the 3.3 V signal.

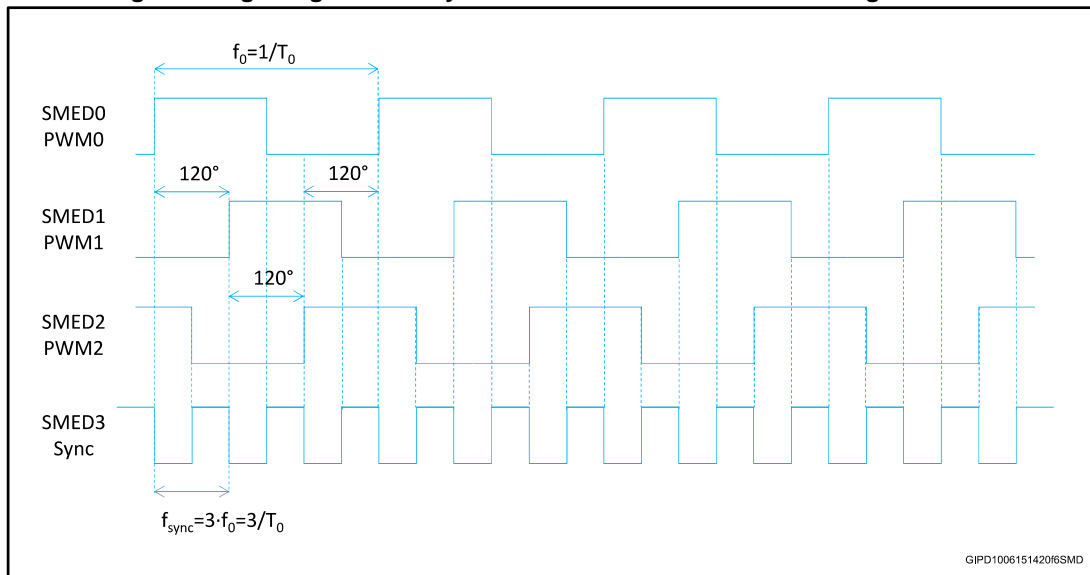
With a 50-pin connector, all relevant signals are sent to the control board to implement a closed-loop system and to handle all events coming from the power board.

2.2 Control board

The core of the control board is the high performance STNRG388A digital controller for power conversion applications, featuring 6 state machine event driver peripheral with independent programmable PWM output pulse generator, 4 analog comparators, 8 channels with 10-bit resolution A/D converters, and 12 multi-function GPIO pins.

It is programmed to generate 3 PWM signals with 50% duty cycle and the same frequency, but with a phase shift of 120°, sent to the L6391 half-bridge driver. Phase shift accuracy is guaranteed by the implemented architecture. With f_0 the half-bridge frequency, one SMED switching at $3 \cdot f_0$ is used to synchronize the other 3 SMEDs. Synchronization is performed on the edges of the triple-frequency PWM signal, ensuring that phase shift between one SMED and another is always 120°, as shown in [Figure 6: "Signals generated by the STNRG388A to handle half-bridge drivers"](#). Also, frequency adjustments are done by changing the switching frequency of the synchronization SMED, making control as safe and easy as possible.

Figure 6: Signals generated by the STNRG388A to handle half-bridge drivers



Moreover, each SMED is sensitive to the high level signal of the previous SMED to prevent switching noise desynchronizing the system.

The feedback signal is sampled and used to modify the switching frequency of the synchronization SMED and, therefore, of the half-bridges.

When the system is in CC regulation, all the phases must be kept enabled to reduce the output current ripple.

Conversely, when the system is in CV regulation, if output current decreases, the control board must disable one or more phases (known as "phase shedding") in order to maintain high efficiency. When at a rated output power, the overall efficiency at 3 active phases is less than the same for 2 active phases, the control board disables one phase and configures the remaining two active phases with a phase shift of 90° . This new phase shift is useful to limit output current ripple.

During phase shedding, the system is reorganized: the synchronization SMED switches at twice f_0 , while the other two SMEDs are reconfigured on-the-fly to switch with a phase shift of 90° .

To maintain high efficiency if the output current again decreases, the system passes to only one active phase or to zero phases when it is not possible to regulate output voltage with one phase switching at the maximum frequency. This implements shallower or deeper burst-mode depending on the load. Vice versa, when load increases towards the maximum current, the system is reconfigured to work with 1 phase or 2 phases at 90° or 3 phases at 120° .

Also, the input voltage is sampled and used to handle brownout conditions and to perform digital voltage feed-forward, in order to obtain a feedback signal that is independent of the input voltage and only related to the output power, to handle phase shedding directly from this signal.

Two brownout threshold levels can be set in the firmware. This enhancement depends strictly on the SAB topology. In fact, when the system operates at maximum power, the minimum input voltage threshold is 350 V, as per specification. This threshold is also the first brownout threshold level. However, when the power is less than the maximum, the system can probably regulate the output even if the input voltage is less than this value. Thus, a second brownout threshold level below 350 V is set. If this second threshold is

exceeded, the system shuts down immediately. But if the system is in the first level brownout condition and the control loop does not require more power than what the system can supply, the system is not stopped and the output continues to be regulated.

One analog comparator is used to sense the sum of the average resonant tank current and sense the first level OCP: if this happens, the control increases the frequency in an attempt to remove the first level OCP signal. This procedure is called soft stop because the control system linearly increases the frequency towards the maximum.

The second level OCP is connected to a digital input, because the threshold is hardware set. When this occurs, the control board shuts down all active phases, disabling the MOSFET drivers. However, it is important to remember that the L6391 internal comparator already shuts down the driver when the control board senses this condition.

When the system starts up, a safe soft-start is implemented: the system starts with only one phase active, at the maximum frequency. The frequency decreases roughly linearly to the minimum in order to approximate a linear output power increase. If the minimum frequency is reached and control requires more power, the phase shedding procedure is called and additional phases are activated until the power required by the control loop is the same as the soft-start power. Here, the soft-start procedure is shut down and the control loop is closed.

After a first level OCP event, to avoid dangerous frequency steps if the system returns directly from a soft-stop procedure to the closed loop control, the soft-start procedure is also invoked in order to allow the system to gradually recover regulation.

UART is used to connect the control board to a PC, to view or set numerous system parameters using HyperTerminal or equivalent software, including 1st level OCP thresholds, phase shedding thresholds, maximum and minimum switching frequencies, current switching frequencies, feedback signals, input voltage brownout thresholds, etc.

UART can also be used to open the control loop and manage feedback signals directly from the command line, which is useful to set thresholds or to observe how the system works in certain conditions.

All changed parameters are saved only to RAM and are lost after a system reset. There are some commands to store them in the EEPROM memory, or to recall them after they have been changed. After a system reset, parameters are always loaded from EEPROM; an 8-bit CRC ensures that this process is performed correctly, otherwise default system parameters are loaded.

UART can also be used to check system status (OCP, active phases, brownout, open-loop mode, etc.), either with a user request or through an auto-trace of working conditions. Auto-trace can be configured individually for the most important parameters.

3 Use of the STNRG388A

3.1 Resource allocation

The following is a list of the STNRG388A resources used to implement the system control algorithm:

- **SMED0**: used as PWM for the 1st phase; in this document, PWM signal is called PWM0.
- **SMED1**: used as PWM for the 3rd phase; in this document, PWM signal is called PWM2.
- **SMED2**: used as PWM for the 2nd phase; in this document, PWM signal is called PWM1.
- **SMED5**: used to synchronize all above SMEDs; in this document, PWM signal is called SYNC.
- **DIGIN0**: used to acquire 2nd level OCP, OVP and auxiliary voltage fault from the secondary side.
- **DIGIN1**: connected to SMED2 output, for synchronization.
- **DIGIN2**: connected to SMED5 output, for synchronization.
- **DIGIN3**: connected to SMED5 output, for synchronization.
- **GPIO0**: UART TX signal.
- **GPIO1**: UART RX signal.
- **GPIO2**: enable for the half-bridge driver of the 1st phase.
- **GPIO3**: enable for the half-bridge driver of the 2nd phase.
- **GPIO4**: enable for the half-bridge driver of the 3rd phase.
- **GPIO5**: primary auxiliary voltage on/off signal for half-bridge drivers.
- **CPP1**: used to sense the total average primary current for 1st level OCP detection.
- **CPP2**: used for primary auxiliary voltage brownout during startup phase.
- **CPP3**: used to wake up the STNRG388A during the burst mode operation, connected to the feedback signal from the secondary side.
- **ADC0**: used to sample feedback signal and realize closed loop control and phase shedding.
- **ADC1**: used to sample input voltage.



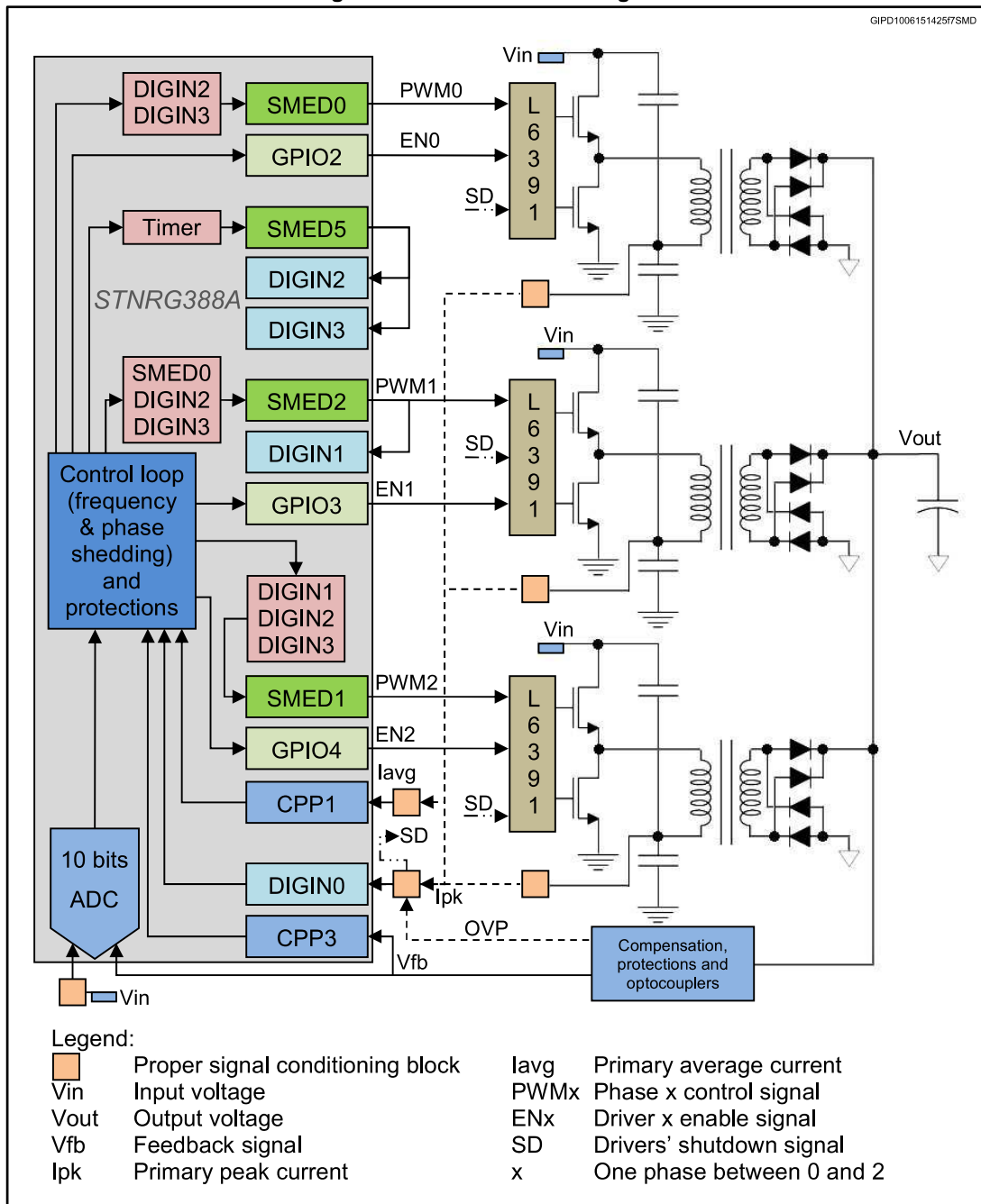
In the STNRG388A documents, PWM_x is used to refer to SMED_x output. This convention is not used in this document. Here, PWM_x refers to the single control signal for the half-bridge driver, where “x” is one of the three phases (0, 1 or 2).

3.2 Schematic block diagram

The complete block diagram of the system with a simplified schematic view is shown in [Figure 7: "Schematic block diagram"](#).

The primary auxiliary voltage as well as GPIO5 and CPP2 used to manage this voltage are not shown in this diagram, but in the STNRG388A device block.

Figure 7: Schematic block diagram



3.3 Protection features and dedicated algorithms

Many protection features and dedicated algorithms are implemented in the STNRG388A code. The most important are described here.

The UART interface can be used to modify some protection parameters and to track the status of the system. For further information, please refer to [Section 6: "UART interface"](#).

When the converter is switched off for 2nd level OCP, OVP, or 2nd level brownout, a red LED on the primary side is switched on to indicate that the converter is currently shut down.

3.3.1 Soft-start procedure

A soft-start procedure is always called after a power-on-reset, after having executed the soft-stop procedure, or when certain settings are modified through the UART interface.

The soft-start procedure ensures that the system catches the regulation safely. The procedure monitors the feedback signal from the secondary side and decreases the output frequency almost linearly. When the frequency that the procedure would impose is lower than that requested by the feedback signal, the soft-start procedure ends and the loop is closed. The feedback signal is then used to set the switching frequency of the half-bridges.

3.3.2 Soft-stop procedure after a 1st level OCP

A soft-stop procedure is called after a 1st level OCP. If this condition occurs, the system tries to recover overcurrent protection by increasing the output frequency. When the overcurrent protection elapses, the soft-start procedure is invoked in order to catch the regulation gradually.

Usually, if phase shedding thresholds are set correctly and the 1st level OCP threshold is high enough, the 1st level OCP procedure is never called. There are only two cases where the 1st level OCP protection is triggered: the first is when the system is working in open-loop mode for a number of active phases or by a feedback signal, described in [Section 6.1.12: "openloop"](#). In this condition, the user can manage the number of active phases and/or the feedback signal directly using the terminal software through the UART interface, and the average current for which each phase can exceed the 1st level OCP threshold, triggering the protection.

The second case occurs when the control loop has not yet closed: this can happen during the startup phase or when the output passes from open circuit to a short circuit. In these cases, neither the output voltage nor the output current are regulated and the system tries to recover by setting a very low switching frequency. This can trigger the protection, depending on the thresholds set.

1st level OCP thresholds differ for the number of active phases and can be set using the UART interface.

3.3.3 Auto-restart feature after a 2nd level OCP

If the primary current exceeds a safe hardware set value, the 2nd level OCP is triggered and the system is immediately shut down. The STNRG388A keeps all phases switched off for a time delay settable through the UART interface with the `ocp2delay` command. After that, the system is auto-restarted. For more information about how to set the time delay, please refer to [Section 6: "UART interface"](#), in particular [Section 6.1.11: "ocp2delay"](#).

3.3.4 Redundant and latched OVP

If the output voltage exceeds a hardware set threshold, the overvoltage protection is triggered and the information is passed to the primary side through an optocoupler. The redundant protection through the feedback optocoupler ensures that the system shuts down all the phases even if the dedicated optocoupler fails. In any case, the protection is latched at the secondary side and it is necessary to recycle the input voltage to restart the system. A red LED on the secondary side is switched on when the protection is triggered.

3.3.5 Auxiliary voltage fault on secondary side

The same optocoupler for the OVP is used to sense the auxiliary voltage on the secondary side. If the auxiliary voltage on the secondary side is not ready or there is a fault, the protection keeps the system switched off. This protection is not latched.

A green LED on the secondary side is switched on as soon as the auxiliary voltage on the secondary side is ready. This is switched off if an overvoltage protection event occurs.

3.3.6 Input voltage brownouts

There are two levels of input voltage brownout: the 1st brownout level occurs if the input voltage falls below a set value (350 V by default, in order to respect the minimum input voltage specification). This condition only sets an internal signaling bit. The bit is reset after a hysteresis of 5 V.

The 2nd level brownout threshold is 300 V by default. If the input voltage falls below this voltage, the system shuts down immediately and waits for the input voltage to rise higher than the startup threshold.

If the input voltage is between the two thresholds, the system runs normally but has less power capability. If the feedback signal requests less power than the maximum the system can source under these conditions, the system sources that power as normal. But, if the feedback signal requests more power than the maximum the system can source with that input voltage, the system shuts down and enters the same situation as if the 2nd brownout level was reached.

Both input voltage brownout thresholds can be set using the UART interface.



Depending on phase shedding thresholds, if the system is working between the two brownout levels, it could jump between different active phases to keep the output regulated. This is normal because it has less power capability and the switching frequency must be lower than the minimum to keep the output regulated with the same number of active phases. In any case, the 1st level brownout condition is supposed to be a transient situation.

3.3.7 Startup voltage

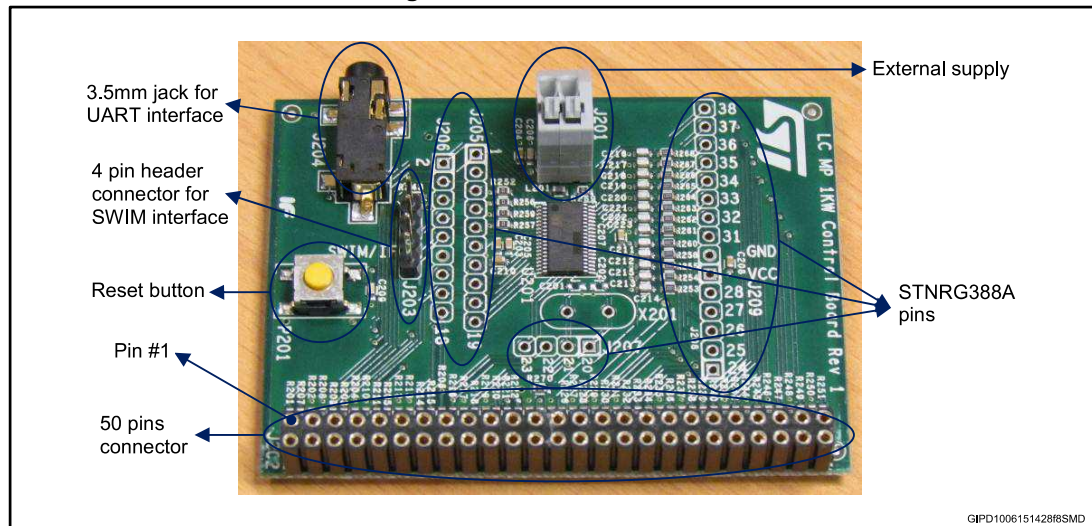
After a power-on reset, a system reset, or a 2nd level brownout condition, the system does not start unless the input voltage is higher than the startup threshold. This voltage is higher than the 1st level brownout threshold. The default value of the startup voltage is 380 V and can be modified using the UART interface.

4 STNRG388A control board

4.1 Description

The STNRG388A control board shown in [Figure 8: "Control board view"](#) is designed to provide maximum flexibility when using it with new designs.

Figure 8: Control board view



The most relevant signals are routed through the 50-pin connector: 8 ADC inputs, each with an analog ground; 4 analog comparators, 3 with analog grounds and 1 with external reference; 5 SMED outputs, 3 digital inputs and 6 GPIOs, with 8 digital grounds; divided power supply for digital and analog sections, each with its own ground.

The entire connector can be decoupled by the STNRG388A pins and the default configuration can be easily changed. In fact, each pin has an easily-removable 0 Ω resistor in series. Also, interconnections made inside the board (output of the synchronization SMED with digital inputs DIG2 and DIG3, and PWM1 with DIG1) have the same 0 Ω resistors in series in order to decouple them easily for new new designs.

In order to remove high frequency noise, each analog input has a low pass filter in series.

A reset push button is installed to reset the STNRG388A asynchronously. There is also the possibility to install a quartz oscillator if it is necessary to implement high precision temporization in other applications.

All STNRG388A pins are accessible with 2.54 mm pin header connectors, to facilitate checking their value with a probe.

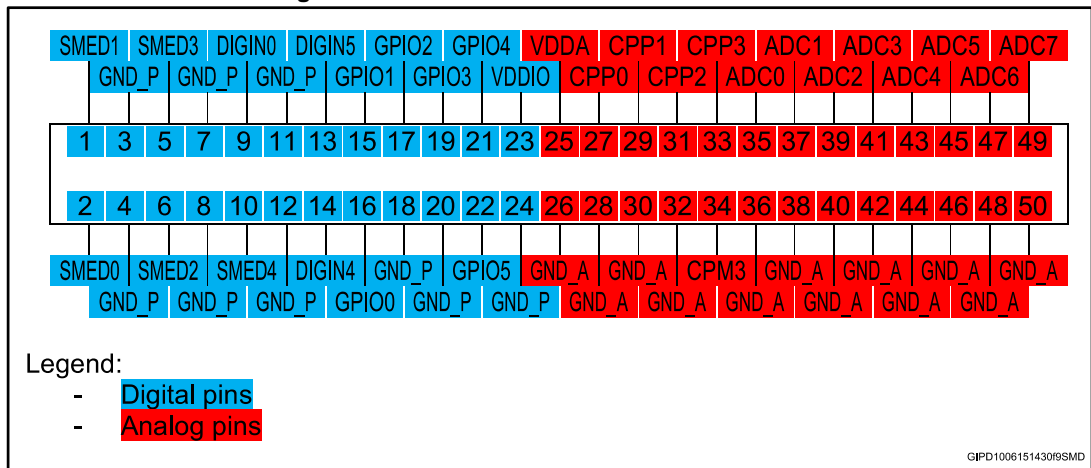
In order to program the STNRG388A, a SWIM interface is accessible with a 2.54 mm 4-pin header connector.

A 3.5 mm jack connector is installed to connect the UART interface to a personal computer, to manage and configure the STNRG388A. Finally, a power supply connector is present to all external supply.

4.2 Pinout

The connector pinout is shown in [Figure 9: "Pinout of the control board connector"](#).

Figure 9: Pinout of the control board connector

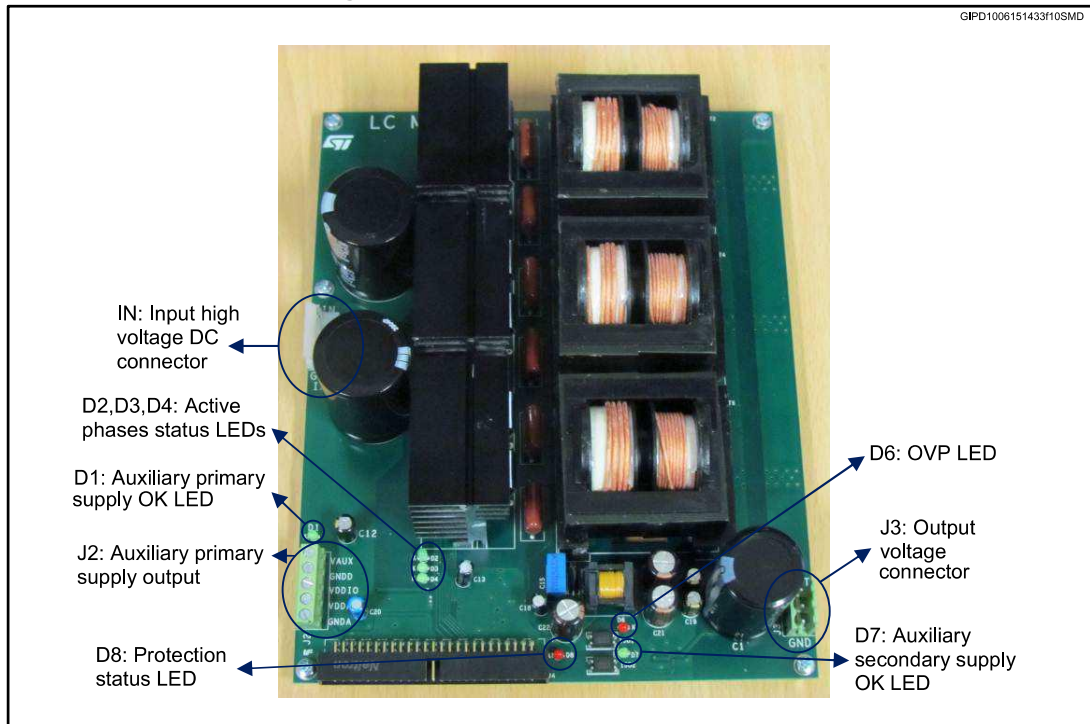


As can be observed, analog and digital pins are divided in the connector in order to reduce interference between analog and digital signals.

5 Functional check

Referring to [Figure 10: "Top view of the power board"](#), from top-left to bottom-left we have the input voltage connector (marked "IN"), the auxiliary primary supply OK LED (D1), the active phase status LED (D2, D3 and D4) the auxiliary primary power supply output (J2"), and the protection status LED (D8). On the right-hand side, the OVP LED (D6), the output voltage connector (J3) and the auxiliary secondary supply OK LED (D7).

Figure 10: Top view of the power board



First, the STNRG388A control board must be connected to the power board through the 50-pin connector. Then, after having connected the board through the input voltage connector (IN) to the HV-DC bus (maximum 450 V) and having powered up the board, the system starts if the input voltage is higher than the input voltage startup threshold. The integrated VIPER regulator starts operating if the input voltage is higher than about 45 V and regulates all the auxiliary supplies. Both the auxiliary supply OK LEDs (D1 and D7) must switch on after having powered up the VIPER regulator. The auxiliary primary supply output connector J2 can be used to monitor the auxiliary primary supply.

Through LEDs D2, D3 and D4, the actual number of active phases can be monitored.

If for any reason the board switches off, the protection status LED D8 switches on to indicate that the board is currently in a protection state: this can be 2nd level brownout protection, 2nd level overcurrent protection, or overvoltage protection on the secondary side. In the last case, the OVP LED D6 on the secondary side also switches on to indicate that the overvoltage protection is triggered (and latched) and the input voltage must be recycled to restart the board. Also, when the OVP LED switches on, the auxiliary secondary supply OK LED D7 switches off.

[Figure 11: "Three active phases with 120° of phase shift"](#), [Figure 12: "Two active phases with 90° of phase shift"](#) and [Figure 13: "One active phase"](#) show the SMED outputs for the three phase shedding configurations.

In particular:

- channel 1 shows the output of SMED0 (PWM0)
- channel 2 shows the output of SMED2 (PWM1)
- channel 3 shows the output of SMED1 (PWM2)
- channel 4 shows the output of SMED5 (SYNC)



When one of the three PWM is disabled, the respective MOS driver is also disabled, otherwise the low side MOS will be kept on.

Figure 11: Three active phases with 120° of phase shift

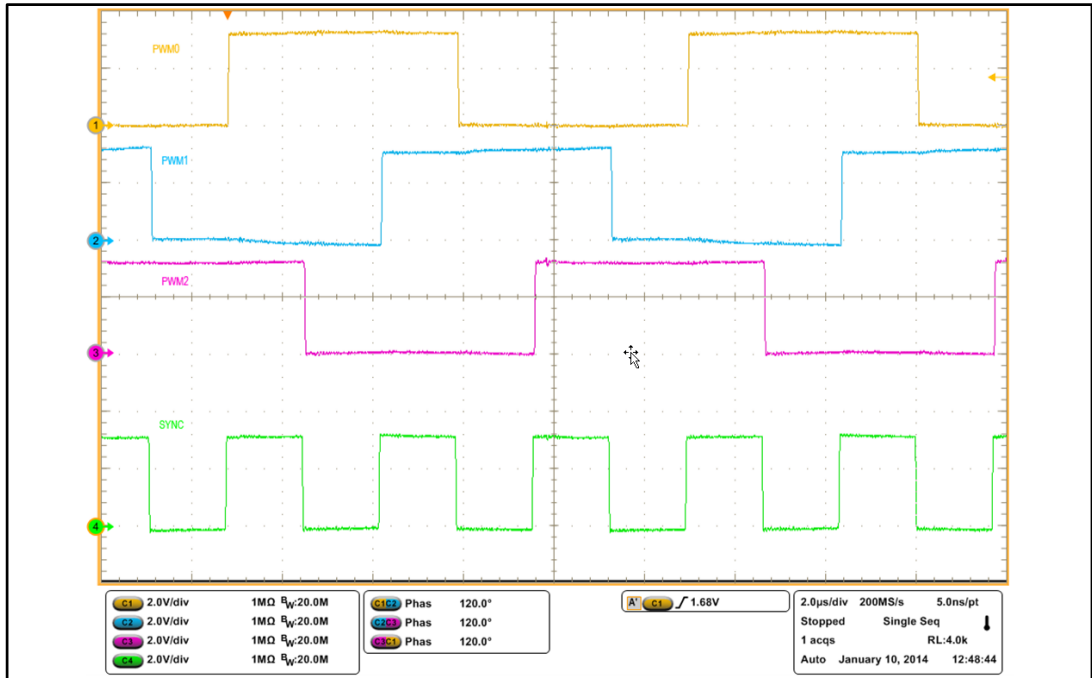


Figure 12: Two active phases with 90° of phase shift

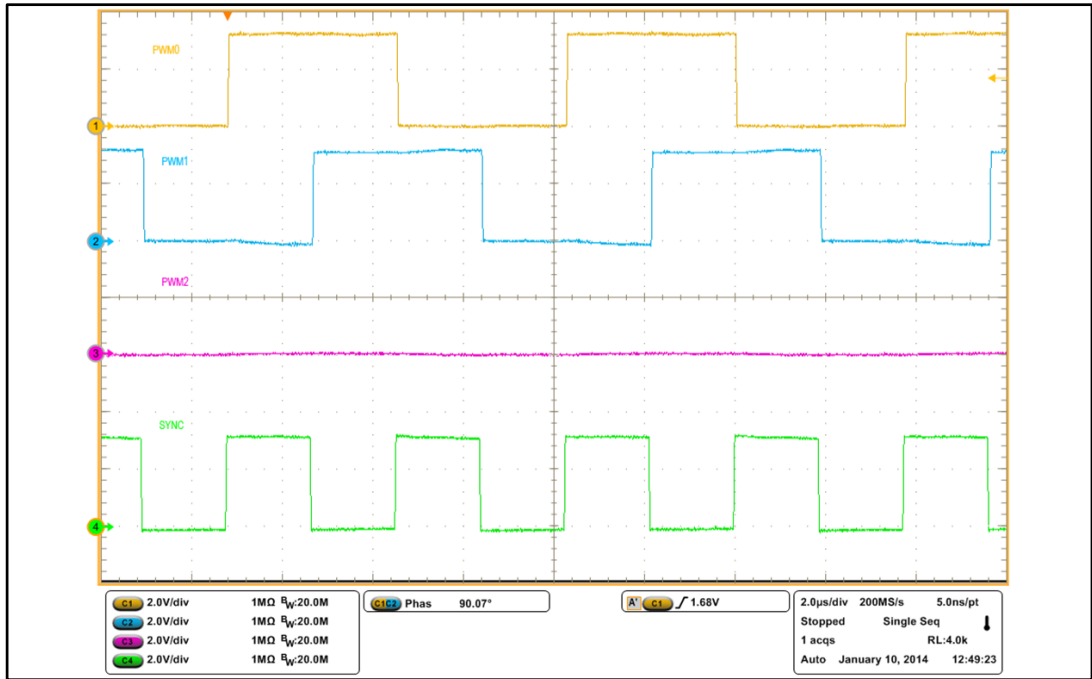


Figure 13: One active phase

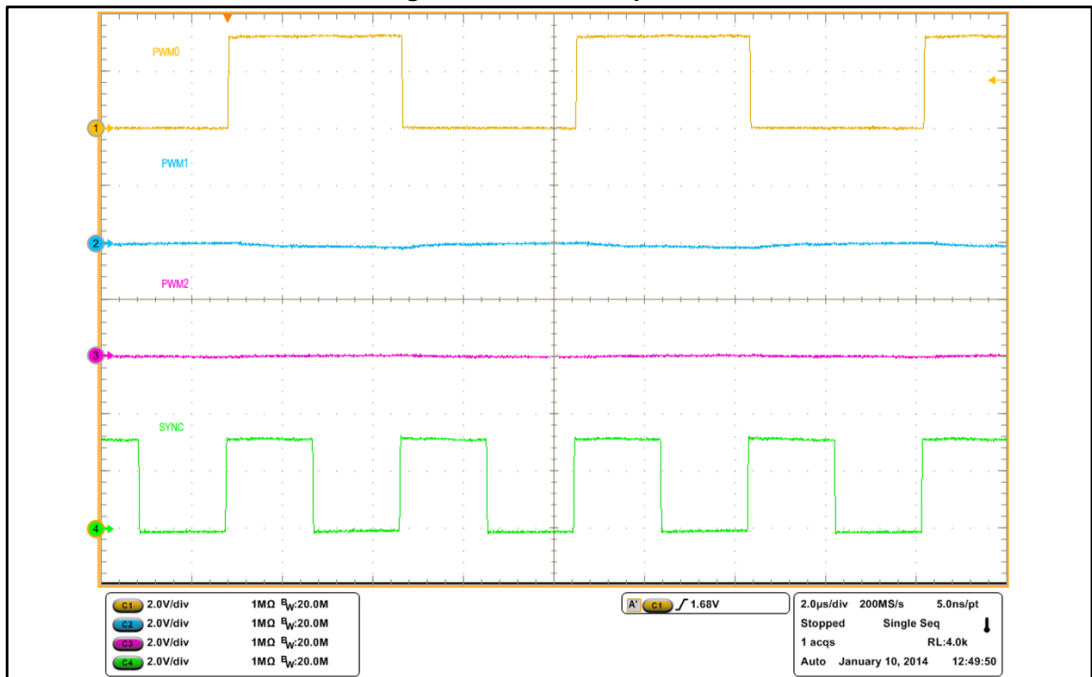


Figure 14: "Resonant stage waveforms" shows the waveforms for a single phase half-bridge SAB converter. Channel 1 shows the half-bridge node, Channel 2 shows the low-side gate voltage referred to ground, Channel 3 shows the high-side gate voltage referred to the half-bridge node, and channel 4 shows the current flowing into the LC tank.

Figure 14: Resonant stage waveforms

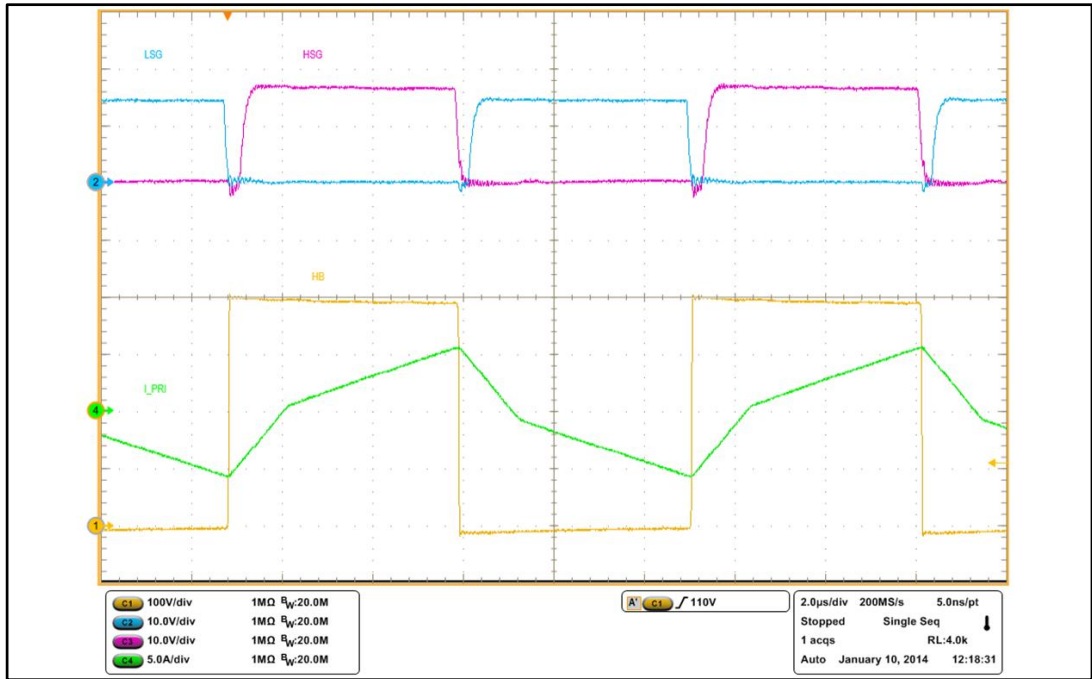
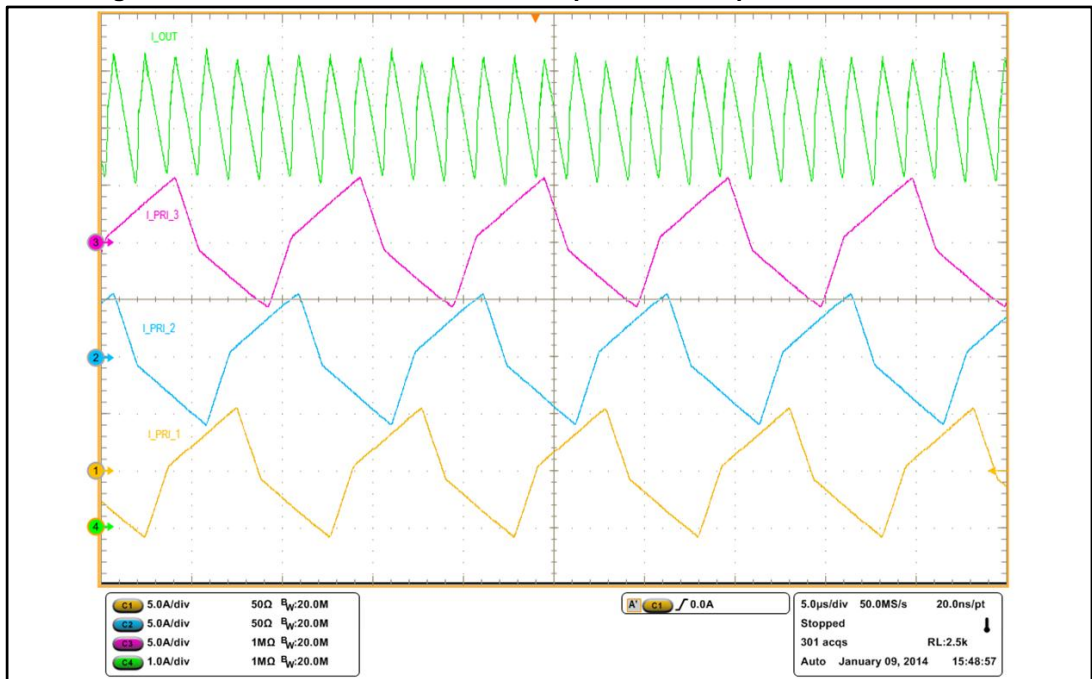


Figure 15: "Resonant tank current for each phase and output current, at full load" shows the three currents flowing through each LC tank and the output current before being filtered by the output capacitor, at full load condition.

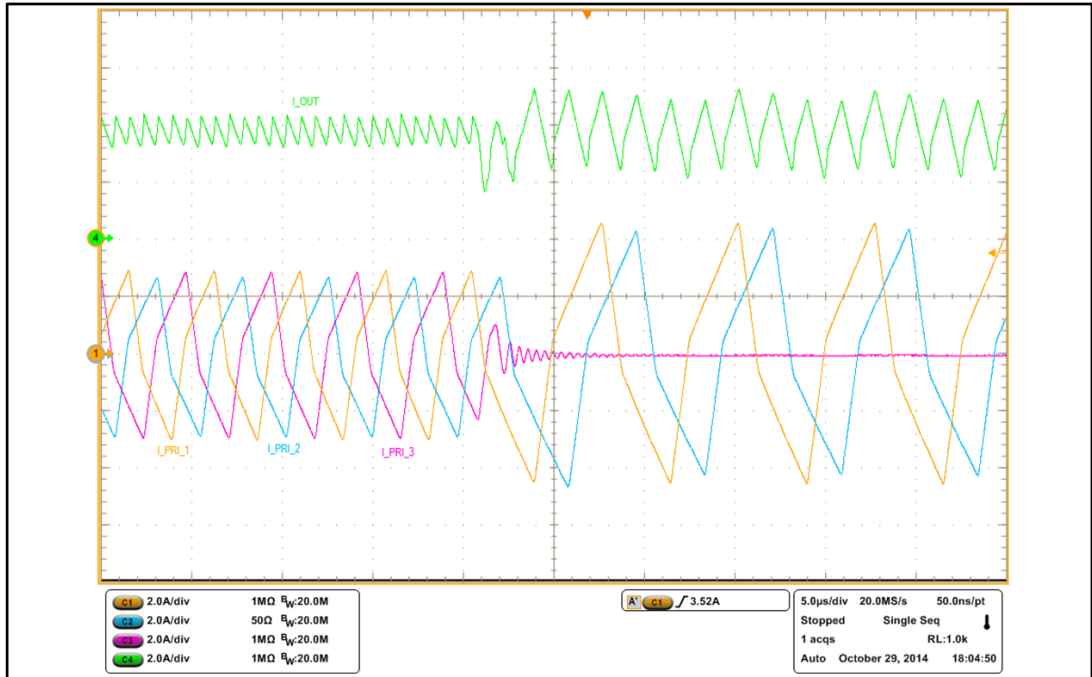
Figure 15: Resonant tank current for each phase and output current, at full load



The phase shedding procedure is shown in the following graphs from [Figure 16: "Phase shedding, from 3 to 2 active phases"](#) to [Figure 19: "Phase shedding, from 2 to 3 active"](#)

phases". The first three channels show the primary current for each phase in sequence. Channel 4 shows the total output current, before being filtered by the output capacitor.

Figure 16: Phase shedding, from 3 to 2 active phases



As can be observed, after shedding, the switching frequency is immediately changed in order to reach maximum continuity on the output current.

Figure 17: Phase shedding, from 2 to 1 active phases

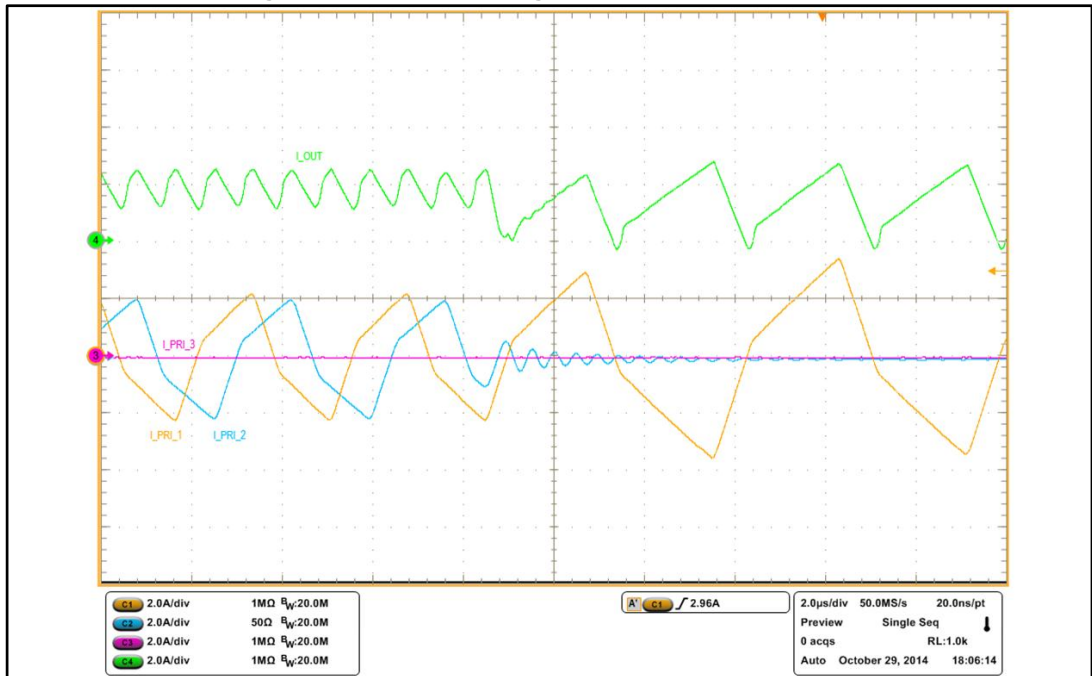


Figure 18: Phase shedding, from 1 to 2 active phases

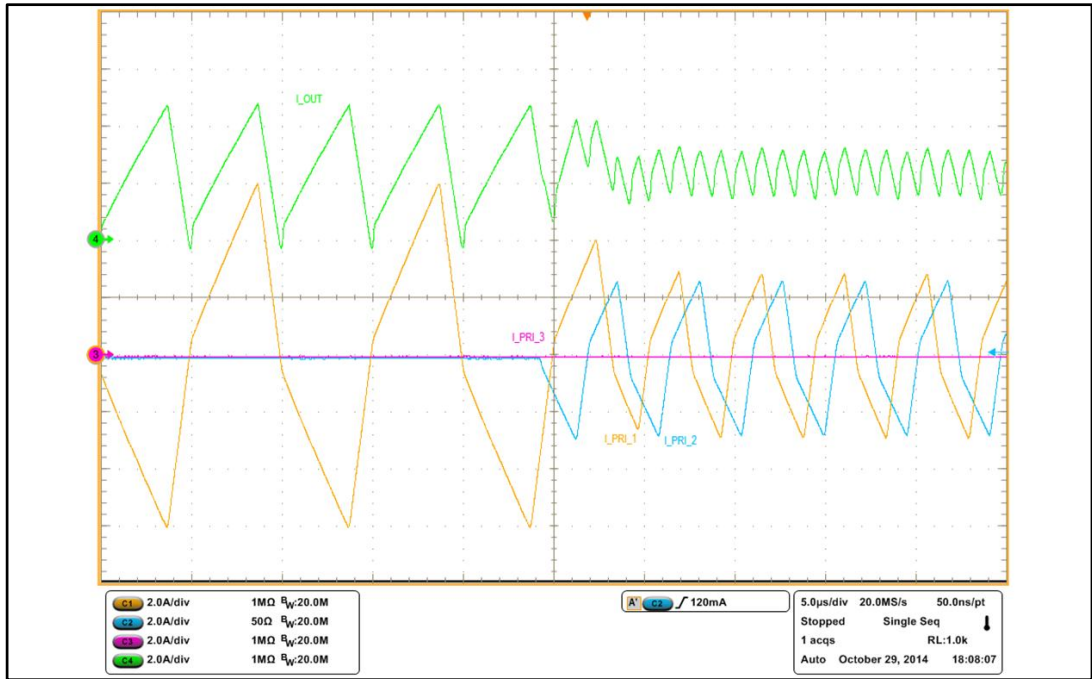
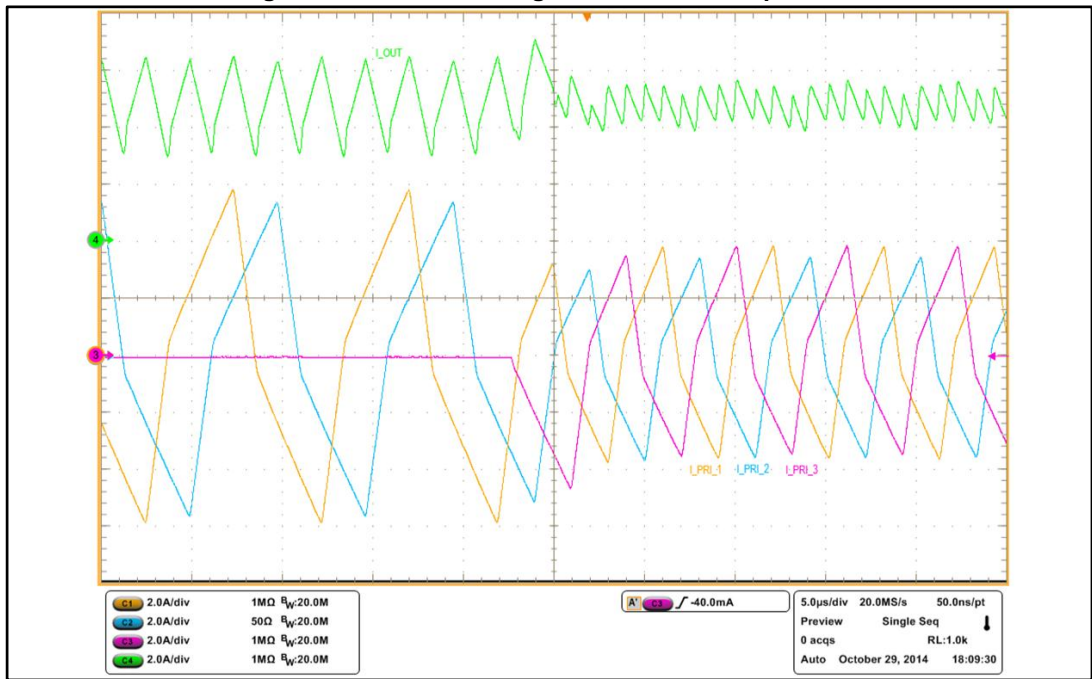
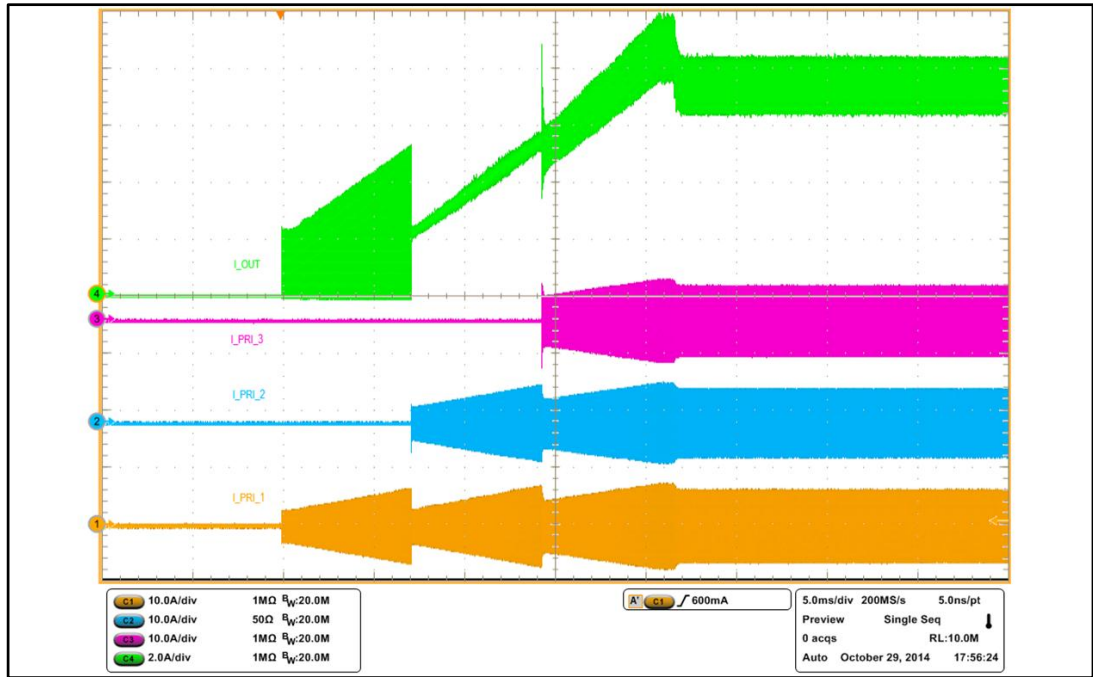


Figure 19: Phase shedding, from 2 to 3 active phases



The next two graphs show the full and no-load startup, with the soft-start feature: channels 1, 2 and 3 show the three primary currents, channel 4 shows the total output current before being filtered in [Figure 20: "Full load startup; primary currents and output current"](#), and the output voltage in [Figure 21: "No-load startup; primary currents and output voltage"](#).

Figure 20: Full load startup; primary currents and output current



As can be observed, thanks to the soft-start feature, the output frequency is decreased linearly to allow a linear increase in the output current, until either the output current or the output voltage reaches the regulation. During startup, the 1st level OCP may be triggered, because the output voltage and the output current are not regulated.

Figure 21: No-load startup; primary currents and output voltage

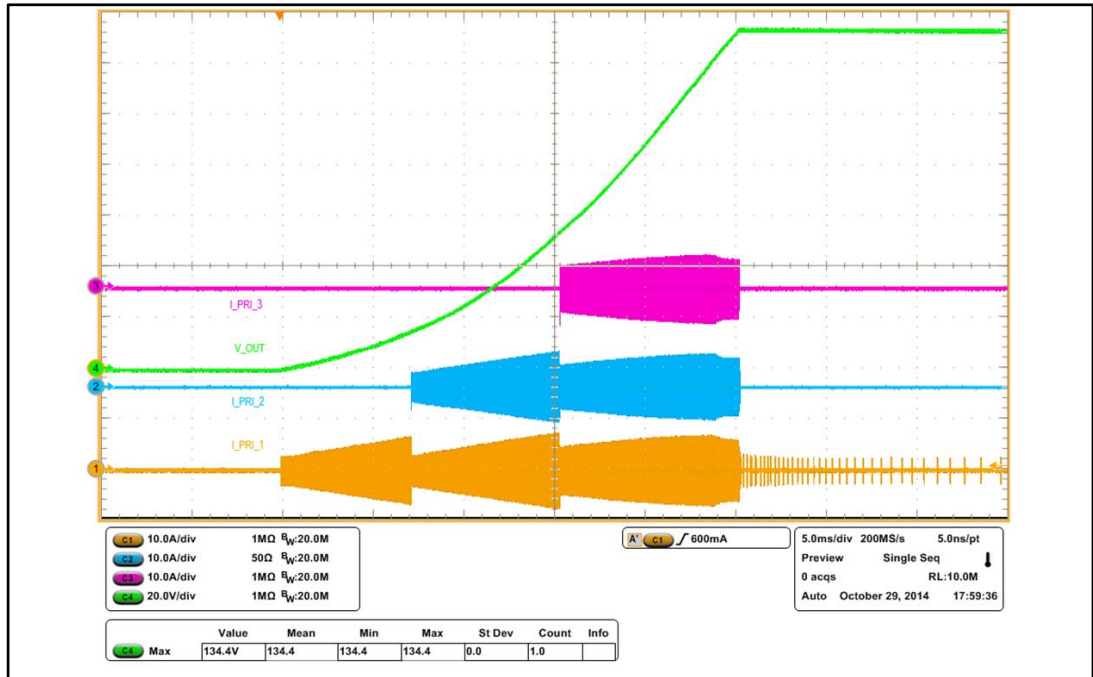


Figure 22: "Soft-stop after a 1st level OCP with threshold sets to 8 (0.65 V)" and Figure 23: "Soft-stop after a 1st level OCP with threshold sets to 10 (0.82 V)" show the soft-stop feature after a 1st level OCP.

The OCP is simulated enabling the open loop control mode for a number of active phases, setting 2 active phases and executing a load transition from 3.75 A to 7.4 A. In these conditions, the system cannot supply 7.4 A with 2 active phases, so the 1st level OCP is triggered and the protection is activated.

As can be observed, the switching frequency increases linearly to decrease the current linearly, until the internal analog comparator, which senses the overcurrent protection, switches off. Then the soft-start procedure linearly increases the frequency and the output current becomes regulated on the 1st level OCP threshold, until the feedback signal request for lower power.

The 1st level overcurrent protection acts as if the system is controlled by the average of the primary current. The current level is set using the UART interface through the `ocp1ph2` command, described in [Section 6.1.9: "ocp1ph2"](#). [Figure 22: "Soft-stop after a 1st level OCP with threshold sets to 8 \(0.65 V\)"](#) and [Figure 23: "Soft-stop after a 1st level OCP with threshold sets to 10 \(0.82 V\)"](#) only differ on the threshold set: in the first graph the internal level is set to 8 (which corresponds to a voltage threshold of 0.65 V), while it is set to 10 (or 0.82 V) in the latter. As can be observed, the average of the primary current and hence the total output current are different and depend proportionally on the threshold settings.

Figure 22: Soft-stop after a 1st level OCP with threshold sets to 8 (0.65 V)

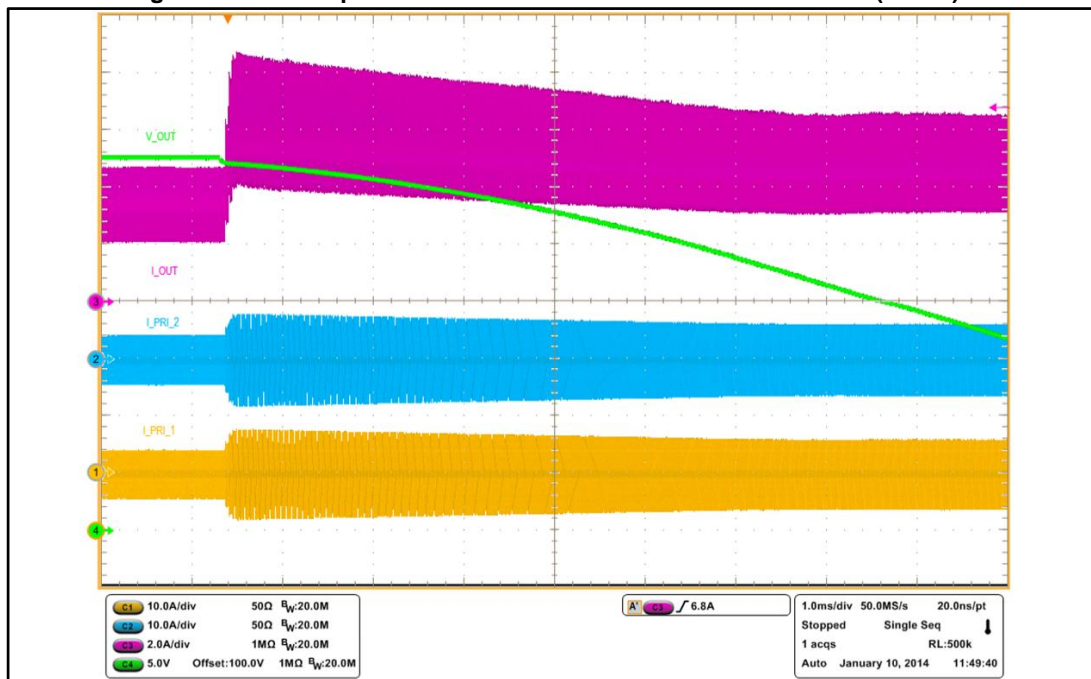


Figure 23: Soft-stop after a 1st level OCP with threshold sets to 10 (0.82 V)

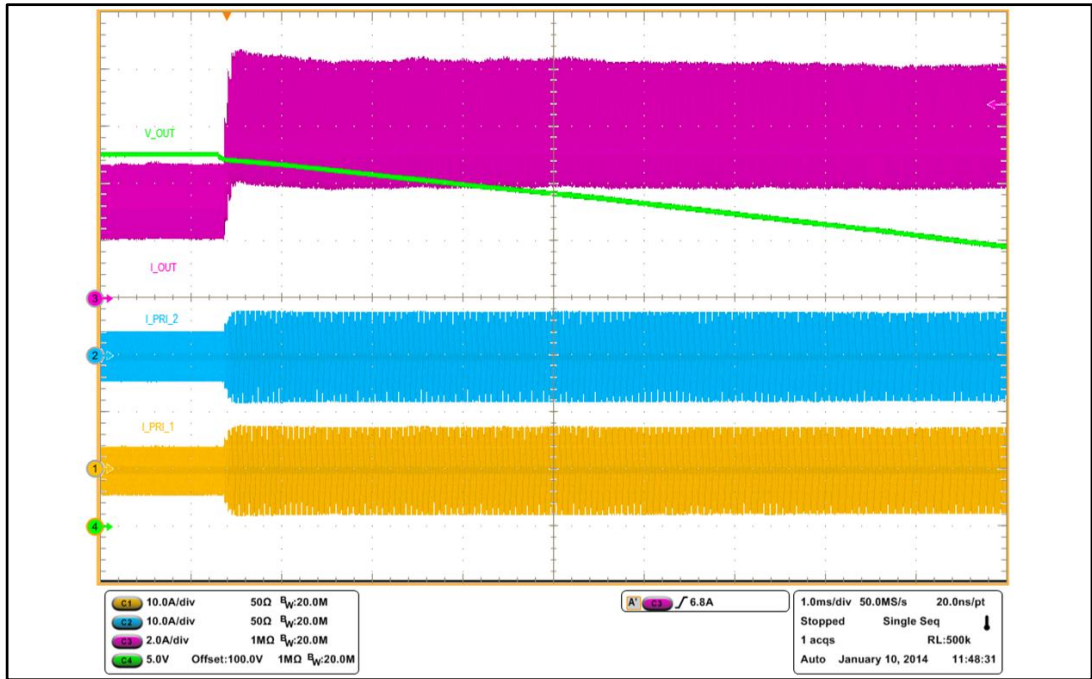


Figure 24: "No-load operation" shows no-load operation when the system goes into a deep burst mode.

In particular, the currents on the resonant tanks during burst and the output voltage are shown.

Figure 24: No-load operation

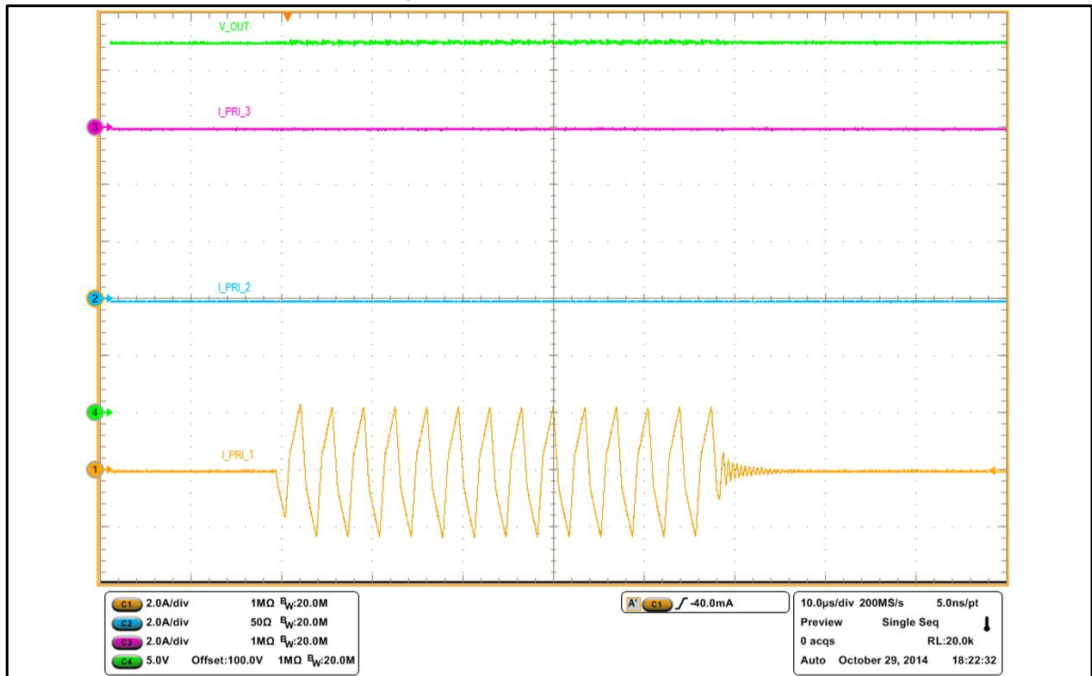


Figure 25: "Load transition between 7.5 A and 0.15 A of output current" shows the load transition between full load (7.5 A) and 0.15 A current. Channel 4 shows the output voltage drops during these transitions.

Figure 25: Load transition between 7.5 A and 0.15 A of output current

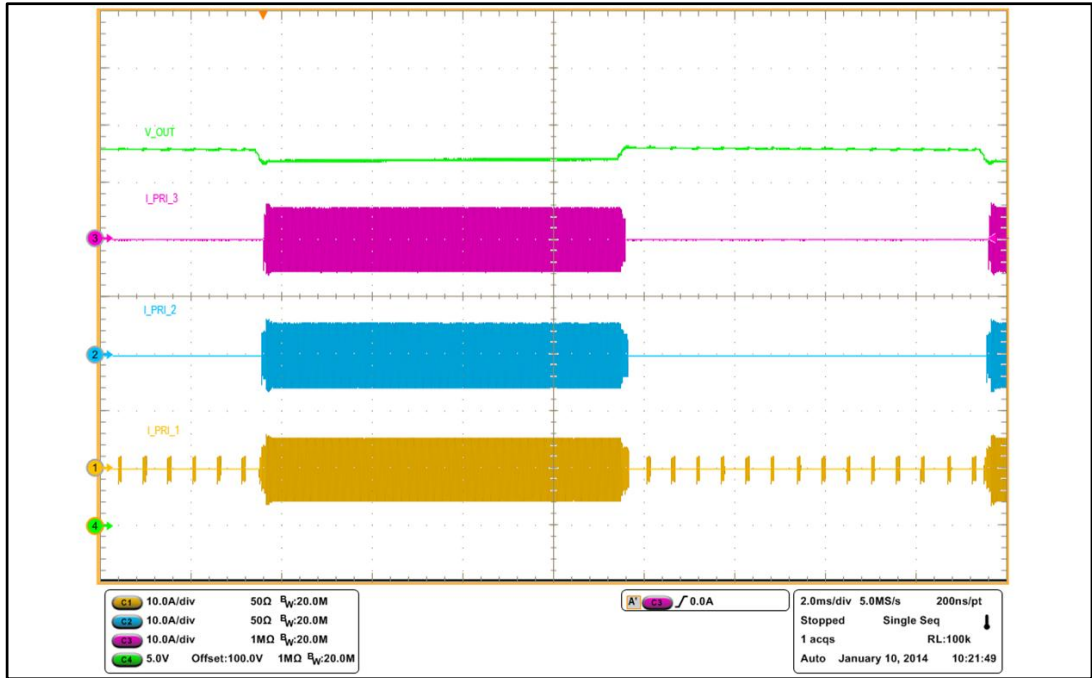


Figure 26: "Zero to full load transition" and Figure 27: "Zero to full load transition – current detail" show the behavior of the system when the load switches from zero to full when the system is working in CV mode. Channel 4 shows the output voltage and its drop during this transition.

Figure 27: "Zero to full load transition – current detail" shows a detailed view of the currents: the system switches from zero to all phases active in less than 100 μs.

Figure 26: Zero to full load transition

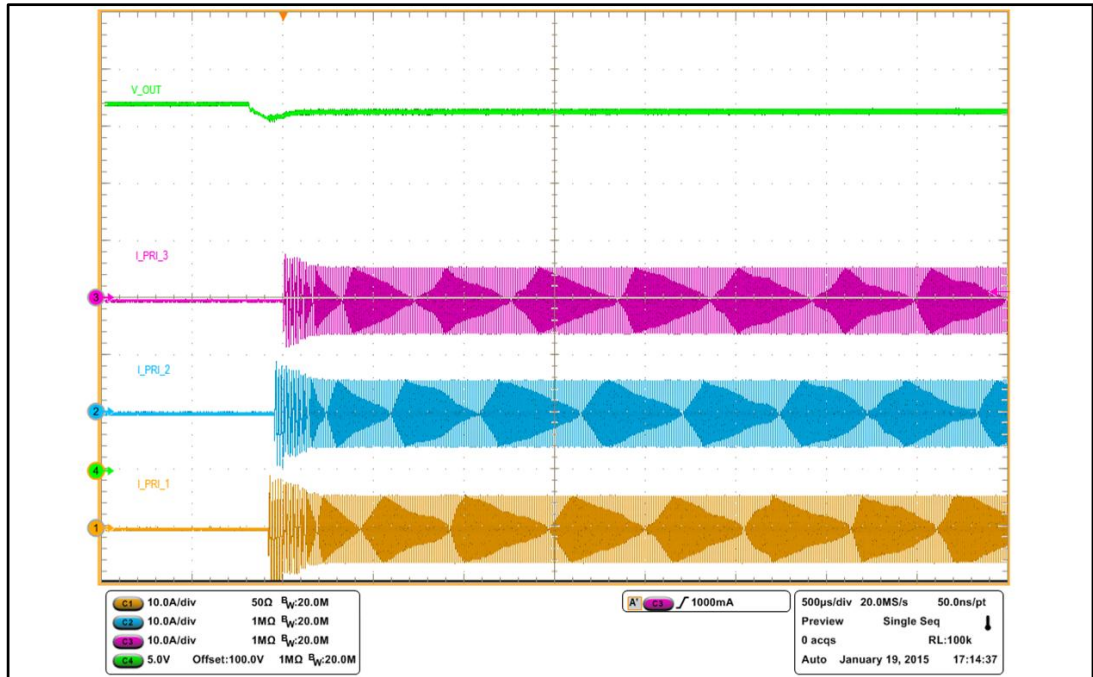
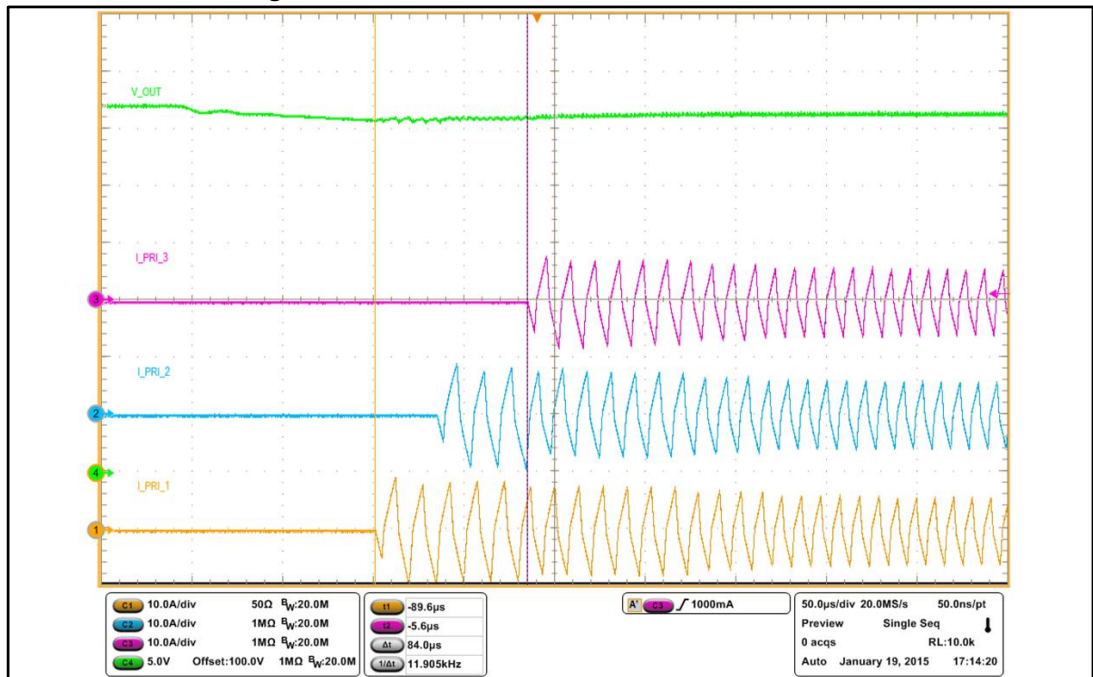


Figure 27: Zero to full load transition – current detail



The last two figures show the behavior of the system when the load switches from full to zero when the system is working in CV mode. In particular [Figure 28: "Full to zero load transition"](#) shows a full view of the three primary currents and the output voltage, [Figure 29: "Full to zero load transition – current detail"](#) shows a detailed view when the phases switch off. Similar to switch-on, the system can switch off all phases in less than 50 µs.

Figure 28: Full to zero load transition

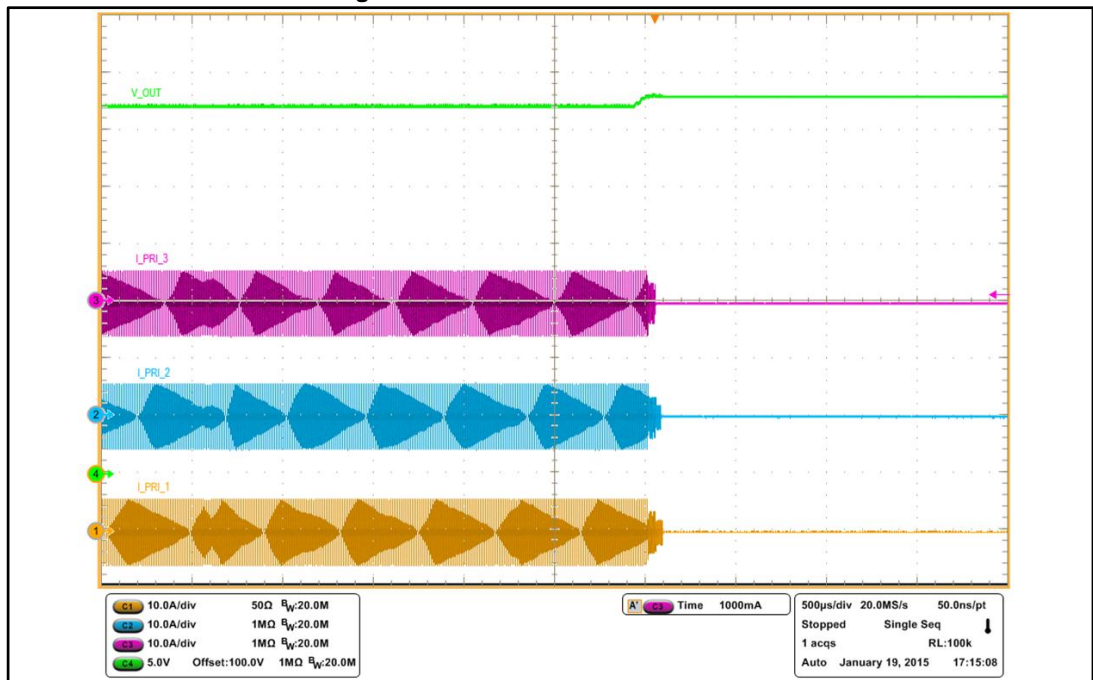
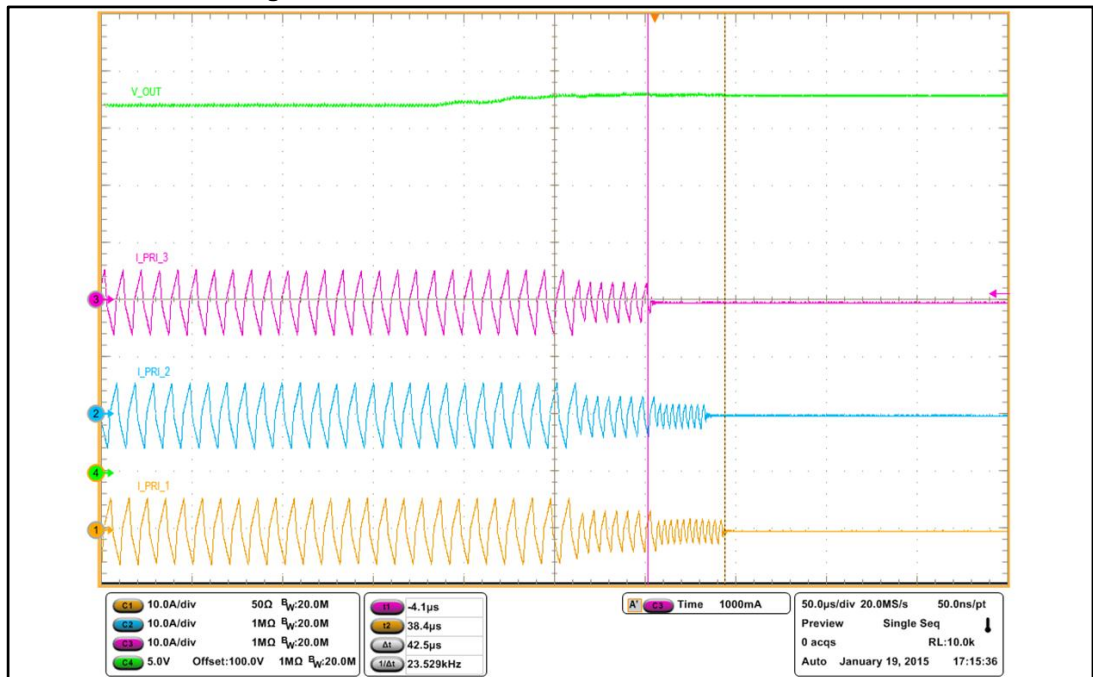


Figure 29: Full to zero load transition – current detail



6 UART interface

The UART interface can be used to monitor and set many internal signals and external thresholds.

To do so, a USB-to-TTL serial cable (3.3 V) with a 3.5 mm jack output must be used.

To have the control over the user interface, the operator must connect a terminal emulation client program (e.g. HyperTerminal) to the serial interface provided by the application.

The serial interface has the following fixed configuration:

- 115200 bps
- 8 bit data
- no parity
- no flow control
- no echo

After power on or hardware/software reset, the application displays a version message followed by the input prompt.

The initial prompt may vary based on different code versions; [Figure 30: "Initial prompt"](#) displays the initial prompt of the revision available as of the writing of this document.

Figure 30: Initial prompt

```
HB-SAB Multi-phase DC/DC converter with STRNG388A
Version 1.1

Type help for list of command

                STATUS UPDATE:
                2nd LEVEL Brownout = true

CMD> _
```



When the system is in low power consumption mode, no communications through the UART interface are handled. Set a minimum load of 1 A or keep the system in 2nd level brownout if you want communicate safely with the UART interface. Please refer to [Section 6.1.18: "setthmin"](#) to understand how to disable the low power consumption mode and keep the UART interface enabled in every load condition.

The following general rules apply to all command input sequences:

- all commands are typed in lowercase letters; only the command to reset the entire system can be uppercase or lowercase
- the backspace character (ASCII code 0x08) may be used to cancel typed characters
- the Ctrl C character (ASCII code 0x03) may be used to cancel typed input and to restart a new input prompt
- all numbers, unless explicitly indicated otherwise, are entered in decimal format

- the arrow keys have no editing capability
- input lines are terminated by a carriage return (ASCII code 0x0D)

The application also has a simple online help feature that may be used to as a reference for the syntax of available commands.

The help command has the two following formats:

- help
- help cmd_name

The first format displays the list of all the available commands with their syntax in short form; an example is shown in *Figure 31: “help” command* for the help command.

The second format displays a more complete syntax of the specified command in a long format; an example is shown in *Figure 32: “help help” command* for the online help of the help command itself.

Figure 31: “help” command

```

CMD> help

    Available commands:

    checkrange [enable/disable]
    currfreq
    help       [cmd_name]
    lpm        [enable/disable]
    maxfreq    [kHz]
    minfreq    [kHz]
    nphases    [number]
    ocp1ph1    [b] [V/number]
    ocp1ph2    [b] [V/number]
    ocp1ph3    [b] [V/number]
    ocp2delay  [sec]
    openloop   [nphases, vfb] [enable/disable]
    RESETsystem
    reseteprom
    resteedata [0/1]
    seteedata
    setthmax   [set numPH numFB]
    setthmin   [set numPH numFB]
    softstart  [enable/disable]
    status
    threshold  [v] [a/g/number]
    trace      [enable/disable] [all, nphases, ocp1, ocp2, softstart,
    bo1, bo2, halt]

    vfb        [v/trace]
    vfbol      [number/vfb/set]
    vff        [enable/disable]
    vin        [b] [trace]
    vinbo1     [V]
    vinbo2     [V]
    vinstart   [V]
    vers

CMD> _
    
```


Figure 32: "help help" command

```
CMD> help help

Syntax: help [cmd_name]
Without arguments prints the list of available commands
If cmd_name is present, prints help on specific command

CMD> _
```

Several available commands may have one or more parameters. As a general rule, if the command is entered without parameter(s), it displays the current setting of the parameter, while if entered with parameter(s), it modifies the current settings.

All parameters have default values that are automatically initialized at absolute first system power on and are stored permanently in the EEPROM data. Permanently means that their values are maintained across hardware resets and power-on resets.

At power on or hardware reset, the values of all parameters stored in EEPROM data are automatically copied to their corresponding RAM locations for run-time usage.

Whenever the user modifies a parameter using the appropriate command, the parameter value is changed only in the RAM location for immediate run-time usage, while the EEPROM copy remains unaltered. At the next hardware reset or power-on reset, the value in RAM location is restored from EEPROM data.

To modify a parameter permanently, the user must use the `seteedata` command that copies the RAM location values into the corresponding EEPROM data.

Parameters stored in EEPROM include:

- Maximum and minimum switching frequency limits
- Phase shedding thresholds
- 1st level OCP thresholds for each number of active phases
- Auto-restart delay after a 2nd level OCP
- 1st and 2nd brownout levels for input voltage
- Startup threshold for input voltage

6.1 Commands

This section describes the format and the function of all the available commands. For each command there is a short description of the command and the syntax to be used. Some commands also have a default value at system startup: depending on the command, this value can be edited and saved in EEPROM. Finally, there is a long description with additional information about the command.

Commands are sorted in alphabetical order to simplify the search.

The full list of available commands can always be displayed with the `help` command without any parameter, as previously shown in [Figure 31: "'help" command](#)".

6.1.1 checkrange

Output frequency range check

Syntax: `checkrange [enable/disable]`

Default: enabled

The output frequency range check ensures that the total output frequency (feedback signal plus the input voltage feed-forward correction) does not exceed the minimum and maximum frequency set in the system with `minfreq` and `maxfreq` commands respectively. Disabling this function, the output frequency is not software limited, so use it at your own risk.

Without parameters, the command shows the current status of the function.

With the first parameter, it enables or disables the output frequency range check.



In order to disable this function, a second prompt requests confirmation.

6.1.2 **currfreq**

Current half-bridge switching frequency

Syntax: `currfreq`

The command displays the current switching frequency of the half-bridges in kHz.

6.1.3 **help**

Online help

Syntax: `help [cmd_name]`

The command, when called without parameters, displays the list of all available commands with their syntax in short form.

If a valid command name is passed as a parameter, the command displays the syntax of the selected command and a short description of the command function.

6.1.4 **lpm**

Low-power consumption mode

Syntax: `lpm [enable/disable]`

The low-power mode command changes the minimum threshold for phase shedding when 0 phases are active. If the feedback signal crosses this threshold, the system goes to low power consumption mode, in order to decrease global power consumption. The command sets this threshold 3 steps minus the minimum threshold for phase shedding when 1 phase is active.

When called without parameters, this command shows whether the low-power mode is enabled or disabled.

The parameter passed enables or disables the low-power mode.



When the system is in low power consumption mode, no communications through UART interface are handled. Disable the low-power mode in order to use the UART interface even when no phases are active.

6.1.5 **maxfreq**

Maximum half-bridge switching frequency

Syntax: `maxfreq [kHz]`

Default: 290.9 kHz.

Range: between the minimum switching frequency and 400 kHz.

Parameter saved in EEPROM.

When called without parameters, the command shows the maximum switching frequency of the half-bridges, when the output frequency range check is enabled.

If a parameter is passed, the command sets the maximum switching frequency of the half-bridges, when the output frequency range check is enabled. The parameters must be a fixed point value with 1 digit precision expressed in kHz and in a range between the minimum switching frequency (accessible through the `minfreq` command) and 400 kHz.

6.1.6 **minfreq**

Minimum half-bridge switching frequency

Syntax: `minfreq [kHz]`

Default: 66.6 kHz.

Range: between 58 kHz and the maximum switching frequency.

Parameter saved in EEPROM.

When called without parameters, the command shows the minimum switching frequency of the half-bridges, when the output frequency range check is enabled.

If a parameter is passed, the command sets the minimum switching frequency of the half-bridges, when the output frequency range check is enabled. The parameters must be a fixed point value with 1 digit precision expressed in kHz and in range between 58 kHz and the maximum switching (accessible through the `maxfreq` command).

It also changes the maximum threshold for phase shedding when 3 phases are active.

6.1.7 **nphases**

Number of active phases

Syntax: `nphases [number]`

Default (in open loop working mode for `nphases`): 0

Range: 0-3

When called without parameters, the command shows the current number of active phases.

If a parameter is passed, the command sets the number of active phases when the open loop working mode for a number of active phases is enabled. It must be an integer value, in the range between 0 and 3.

6.1.8 **ocp1ph1**

1st level OCP threshold when 1 phase is active

Syntax: `ocp1ph1 [b] [V/number]`

Default: 5 [bit] or 0.41 V

Range: 2-15 [bit] or 0.16-1.23 V

Parameter saved in EEPROM.

The command displays and sets the threshold for the 1st level OCP when 1 phase is active.

The first parameter `b` select if the threshold is shown/set in bit (parameter `b` passed) or volt (no `b` parameter).

If the second parameter is present, the threshold is set to the passed value: it must be an integer number between 2 and 15 if the threshold is set in bit or a fixed point value with 2 digit precision and in the range between 0.16 V and 1.23 V if it is set in volts.

6.1.9 **ocp1ph2**

1st level OCP threshold when 2 phases are active

Syntax: `ocp1ph2 [b] [V/number]`

Default: 10 [bit] or 0.82 V

Range: 2-15 [bit] or 0.16-1.23 V

Parameter saved in EEPROM.

The command displays and sets the threshold for the 1st level OCP when 2 phases are active.

For parameter details, please refer to the `ocp1ph1` command.

6.1.10 **ocp1ph3**

1st level OCP threshold when 3 phases are active

Syntax: `ocp1ph3 [b] [V/number]`

Default: 14 [bit] or 1.14 V

Range: 2-15 [bit] or 0.16-1.23 V

Parameter saved in EEPROM.

The command displays and sets the threshold for the 1st level OCP when 3 phases are active.

For parameter details, please refer to the `ocp1ph1` command.

6.1.11 **ocp2delay**

Auto-restart delay after a 2nd level OCP

Syntax: `ocp2delay [sec]`

Default: 5 sec

Range: 0 sec – 320.00 sec

Parameter saved in EEPROM.

The command displays and sets the auto-restart delay after a 2nd level OCP. When a 2nd level OCP occurs, the system shuts down all the phases and restarts automatically after a fixed delay settable through this command, with 10 ms of precision. Please note that the total delay after the OCP event has a fixed hardware delay of about 500 ms, not considered in this command.

6.1.12 **openloop**

Open loop working mode

Syntax: `openloop [nphases/vfb] [enable/disable]`

Default: disabled for `nphases` and `vfb`

The `openloop` command opens the control loop coming from the secondary side and lets the system use internal variables to manage the output power. Opening the control loop, little or no output power modifications are done on the external feedback signal variations, so use it at your own risk.

If the control loop is opened, the 1st level OCP could be triggered if the average current exceeds the internal thresholds. In these conditions, the soft-stop routine takes control of the HB switching frequency until the OCP elapses, even if the control-loop is opened. Please refer to [Section 6.1.19: "softstart"](#) to understand how to disable the 1st level OCP procedure.

There are three kinds of open loop implemented:

- If the command is called without parameters, it shows the current status of the system regarding the open loop working mode.
- If only the first parameter is specified, it shows the current status of the system regarding the open loop working mode for that parameter.
- If both parameters are specified, it enables or disables (depending on second parameter) the open loop working mode for the first parameter specified.
- If only the second parameter is specified, it enables or disables (depending on this parameter) the open loop working mode for both nphases and vfb.



In order to enable this function, a second prompt requests confirmation.

6.1.13 RESETsystem

Software reset

Syntax: `RESETsystem`

The command generates a software system reset. The uppercase and lowercase characters must match. All unsaved data in EEPROM will be lost, so use it at your own risk.



In order to generate a software system reset, a second prompt requests confirmation.

6.1.14 reseteeprom

Reset EEPROM to default

Syntax: `reseteeprom`

The command resets the EEPROM to system default. In any case, no changes are performed on current working parameters: to do so, the `resteedata` command must be used, or a system reset must be generated.

Parameters modified with this command are listed at the beginning of this section.



In order to reset EEPROM to system default, a second prompt requests confirmation.

6.1.15 **resteedata**

Restore data from EEPROM

Syntax: `resteedata [0/1]`

The command restores data from EEPROM and updates current parameters. These are listed at the beginning of this section.

The parameter passed selects which profile for phase shedding must be loaded from EEPROM: with 0, the default phase shedding thresholds at system startup are loaded; with 1, maximum and minimum phase shedding thresholds are loaded.

Without parameters, profile 0 will be used.



In order to restore data from EEPROM, a second prompt requests confirmation.

6.1.16 **seteedata**

Store data in EEPROM

Syntax: `seteedata`

The command stores current parameters in EEPROM. These parameters are listed at the beginning of this section. For phase shedding thresholds, these are always saved on profile 0, overwriting stored values.



In order to store data into EEPROM, a second prompt requests confirmation.

6.1.17 **setthmax**

Set maximum threshold for phase shedding

Syntax: `setthmax [set numPH numFB]`

The command sets the maximum threshold for feedback signal when shedding from “n” to “n+1” phases.

If the command is executed without the optional part, the number of phases “n” which threshold will be set is always the current number of active phases when command is executed.

The feedback signal used to set the threshold depends on system configuration: if the open loop working mode for vfb is not enabled, the external feedback signal will be used; vice-versa, the internal one will be used to set threshold.

The user can specify the number of phases and the value of the feedback signal (in bits), using the optional part of the command and specifying them after the `set` extension.

A minimum hysteresis of 5 bits between phase shedding thresholds is required to set a new threshold. The interface will prompt if this condition is not satisfied.

6.1.18 **setthmin**

Set minimum threshold for phase shedding

Syntax: `setthmin [set numPH numFB]`

The command sets the minimum threshold for feedback signal when shedding from “n” to “n-1” phases.

If the command is executed without the optional part, the number of phases “n” which threshold will be set is always the current number of active phases.

The feedback signal used to set threshold depends on system configuration: if the open loop working mode for vfb is not enabled, the external feedback signal will be used; vice-versa, the internal one will be used to set the threshold.

The user can specify the number of phases and the value of the feedback signal (in bits), using the optional part of the command and specifying them after the `set` extension.

A minimum hysteresis of 5 bits between phase shedding thresholds is required to set a new threshold. The interface will prompt if this condition is not satisfied.

6.1.19 **softstart**

Soft-start and soft-stop after 1st level OCP procedures

Syntax: `softstart [enable/disable]`

Default: enabled

The command acts to show the status, enable or disable both soft-start and soft-stop procedures.

Without parameters, the command shows the current status of the functions.

With the first parameter, it enables or disables both soft-start and soft-stop procedures.

Disabling these procedures, the system always starts using the external feedback signal: this could generate high spikes during startup, which can trigger the 2nd level OCP. Also a soft-stop routine after a 1st level OCP will be disabled, so use it at your own risk.



In order to disable this function, a second prompt requests confirmation.

6.1.20 **status**

Show system status

Syntax: `status`

The command displays the current status of the system. [Figure 33: "status" command](#) shows all parameters monitored by the status command.

Figure 33: "status" command

```
CMD> status

System status:
Active phases = 3
1st level OCP = false
2nd level OCP = false
Soft start = false
1st level Brownout = false
2nd level Brownout = false
Request for Halt Mode = false
Open-loop working mode for vfb: disabled
Open-loop working mode for nphases: disabled
Voltage feed-forward: enabled
Output frequency range check: enabled
Soft start routine: enabled

CMD> _
```

6.1.21 threshold

Phase shedding thresholds

Syntax: `threshold [v] [a/g/number]`

Parameters saved in EEPROM.

The command displays thresholds for phase shedding in bits (default) or volts (with `v` as first parameter). These thresholds are referred to the feedback signal.

Without a second parameter, maximum and minimum thresholds are displayed for current number of active phases.

If the second parameter is a number, maximum and minimum thresholds are displayed for that number of active phases.

If the second parameter is `a`, the thresholds for all phases in text mode will be displayed.

If the second parameter is `g`, the thresholds for all phases in graphics mode will be displayed.

Figure 34: "'threshold g' and 'threshold v g' commands" shows an example of graphics mode for thresholds displaying both in bits and in volts.

As can be observed, in graphics mode, the current active feedback signal is also displayed, internal or external depending on whether open loop working mode for vfb is enabled or disabled respectively.

Figure 34: “threshold g” and “threshold v g” commands

<pre> CMD> threshold v g Thresholds for phase shedding in V 1.25 3 max - 1.12 2 max - 0.61 0.50 - 3 min --> 1 max - 0.46 0.42 - 2 min Vfb - 0.40 - Vfb 0 max - 0.32 0.31 - 1 min <-- 0.31 - 0 min 0 CMD> _ </pre>	<pre> CMD> threshold g Thresholds for phase shedding 1023 3 max - 920 2 max - 503 409 - 3 min --> 1 max - 380 344 - 2 min Vfb - 328 - Vfb 0 max - 260 255 - 1 min <-- 254 - 0 min 0 CMD> _ </pre>
---	---

6.1.22 trace

Global status tracing

Syntax: trace [enable/disable] [all, nphases, ocp1, ocp2, softstart, bo1, bo2, halt]

Default: enabled for ocp1, ocp2, softstart, bo1, bo2; disabled for nphases, halt.

The command enables or disables the tracing function of many global status parameters. These are:

- nphases number of active phases
- ocp1 1st level OCP
- ocp2 2nd level OCP
- softstart soft-start request
- bo1 1st brownout level
- bo2 2nd brownout level
- halt halt mode request for low power consumption
- all all parameters listed above

If the trace for a parameter is enabled, a STATUS UPDATE prompts if that parameter changes.

Without parameters, the command prints if the trace is enabled or disabled. If enabled, it prints also for which parameters it is.

With only the first parameter, it enables or disables the global status trace. If disabled, the system keeps in memory which parameters are selected to be traced, in case the user decides to enable it again.

With the second parameter also (first parameter mandatory), it enables or disables the tracing function for selected parameters. These could be in any order and separated by a space.



Tracing the number of active phases and the halt mode request, the UART interface can have a large load during burst mode, because phases changes very fast from 0 to 1 and vice-versa. Also, during halt mode, the STNRG388A is completely shut down and the UART interface is not handled.

6.1.23 vfb

External feedback signal

Syntax: `vfb [v/trace]`

The command displays the current external feedback signal in bits (default) or volts (with `v` parameter), only if the system is not in a 2nd brownout level condition.

With `trace` parameter, the value in bits of the external feedback signal is continuously displayed until a key is pressed. No tracing function for the value expressed in volts is implemented.



During this tracing, no `STATUS UPDATE` will be prompted, even if tracing of global status parameters is enabled.

6.1.24 vfbol

Internal feedback signal for open loop working mode for `vfb`

Syntax: `vfbol [number/vfb/set]`

Default: 255

Range: 0-1023

The `vfbol` command is used to display or set the current internal feedback signal. This value is used to override the external feedback signal when the system is in open loop working mode for `vfb`.

Without parameters, the current value of the internal feedback signal will be displayed.

If the parameter is a valid integer number between 0 and 1023, the internal feedback signal will be set at that value.

If the parameter is `vfb`, the internal feedback signal will be set at the current value of the external one.

If the parameter is `set`, `u/d` keys can be used to increase or decrease the signal with 1 bit of resolution, until another key is pressed. In order to use this procedure, open loop working mode for `vfb` must be enabled. Please note that during this procedure, no `STATUS UPDATE` will be prompted, even if tracing of global status parameters is enabled.

In any case, if open loop working mode for `nphases` is disabled, the current number of active phases and phase shedding thresholds will be displayed and updated if the open

loop feedback variable exceeds these thresholds. This situation is shown in [Figure 35](#): “*vfbol set*” command”.

Figure 35: “vfbol set” command

```
CMD> vfbol set
Use u/d to increase or decrease Vfb open-loop variable
Press any other key to exit

Active phases = 1; Th Max = 390; Th Min = 255; Vfb open-loop = 309_
```

6.1.25 vff

Input voltage feed-forward

Syntax: `vff [enable/disable]`

Default: enabled

The input voltage feed-forward applies a correction to the output frequency depending on the instantaneous input voltage. This ensures that the feedback signal is at least independent from input voltage variations and allows using its information to manage phase shedding.

Without parameters, the command shows the current status of the input voltage feed-forward.

With a parameter, it enables or disables the input voltage feed-forward



In order to disable this function, a second prompt requests confirmation.

6.1.26 vin

Input voltage

Syntax: `vin [b] [trace]`

The command shows the input voltage of the converter in volts (default) or in bits (with `b` parameter).

With `trace` parameter, the value in volts or bits of the input voltage is continuously displayed until a key is pressed.



During this tracing, no `STATUS UPDATE` will be prompted, even if tracing of global status parameters is enabled.

6.1.27 vinbo1

1st level brownout threshold

Syntax: `vinbo1 [V]`

Default: 350 V

Range: between 2nd level brownout and startup voltage

Parameter saved in EEPROM.

When called without a parameter, this command shows the 1st level brownout threshold.

If a parameter is passed, the command sets the 1st level brownout thresholds at that value, expressed in volts. The parameter must be an integer number in the range between the 2nd level brownout threshold (accessible through `vinbo2` command) and the startup voltage (accessible through `vinstart` command).

For further information about differences between 1st and 2nd brownout levels, please refer to [Section 3.3.6: "Input voltage brownouts"](#).

6.1.28 **vinbo2**

2nd level brownout threshold

Syntax: `vinbo2 [V]`

Default: 300 V

Range: between 250V and 1st level brownout

Parameter saved in EEPROM.

When called without a parameter, this command shows the 2nd level brownout threshold.

If a parameter is passed, the command sets the 2nd level brownout thresholds at that value, expressed in volts. The parameter must be an integer number in the range between 250 V and the 1st level brownout threshold (accessible through `vinbo1` command).

For further information about differences between 1st and 2nd brownout levels, please refer to [Section 3.3.6: "Input voltage brownouts"](#)

6.1.29 **vinstart**

Minimum startup voltage

Syntax: `vinstart [V]`

Default: 380 V

Range: between 1st level brownout and 450 V

Parameter saved in EEPROM.

When called without parameters, this command shows the threshold for the minimum startup voltage.

If a parameter is passed, the command sets the minimum startup voltage at that value, expressed in volts. The parameter must be an integer number in the range between the 1st level brownout threshold (accessible through `vinbo1` command) and 450 V.

6.1.30 **vers**

Current firmware version

Syntax: `vers`

The command only displays the current firmware version.

6.2 **How to set phase shedding thresholds**

The following procedure describes how to set phase shedding thresholds using the UART interface.

- Set the DC input voltage to the nominal value of the PFC output and keep enabled the input voltage feed-forward.
- Keep the control loop closed and set the desired load when the system is in constant voltage (CV) mode. Be aware that no checks are performed if the system is working in CC or CV mode.
- Check through the UART interface that the system is working with the desired number of active phases for which you want to set phase shedding thresholds, using the `status` command.
- Execute the `setthmax` or `setthmin` command in order to set the maximum threshold (when shedding from n to $n+1$ phases) or minimum threshold (when shedding from n to $n-1$ phases) respectively.
- Read all the warnings that appear. If there are no errors, the interface shows a summary of the current status and the new phase shedding threshold. Answer “yes” to confirm the new threshold or anything else to discard, and press enter.

This procedure always works if the new threshold is lower (for `setthmax`) or higher (for `setthmin`) than current threshold. This is always true when default phase shedding thresholds are loaded from the profile 1 of the EEPROM and no changes are performed on maximum and minimum switching frequencies. If this condition is not satisfied, the system has already changed the number of active phases before reaching the new threshold.

For example, if the maximum threshold for shedding from 2 to 3 phases is when output current is 3 A and the new desired threshold is 4 A, when the load is set to 4 A, the system is working with 3 active phases. To avoid this, the open loop working mode can be used. In this example, opening the control loop only for the number of active phases (through complex command `openloop nphases enable`), the system can be manually set with 2 active phases even with a 4 A load.



Please note that each phase can source a maximum current of 2.5 A, so 4 A is below the maximum current capability for 2 active phases.

Now, the `setthmax` command can be executed and the new threshold will be set when shedding from 2 to 3 active phases.

Also, the open loop working mode for the feedback signal can be used to set the threshold. In this case, when one of the commands to set the phase shedding threshold is executed, the value of the `vfbol` variable is used to set the new threshold. This second procedure is useful when the user already knows the new shedding threshold. However, in this case, it is easier to use the `set` extension of the two commands, specifying the number of phases and the value in bits of the feedback signal, without keeping the system control loop open.

Always check the warnings that appear to ensure that values entered have been correctly interpreted by the system.

We recommend:

- Using one of the two commands with input voltage feed-forward disabled; the input voltage must be set at 350 V.
- A minimum of 5 bits of hysteresis of the feedback signal must be introduced to avoid bouncing between active phase numbers; the command execution prompts for this and stops the settings editing procedure if this condition is not asserted.
If `n_ph` is the current number of active phases; depending on the command executed, the system checks 3 conditions and stops the setting procedure if at least one is not verified.

For the `setthmax` command, the new threshold must be:

1. higher than the minimum threshold for n_ph+1 phases plus 5 bits of hysteresis
2. lower than the maximum threshold for n_ph+1 phases minus 5 bits of hysteresis
3. higher than the maximum threshold for n_ph-1 phases plus 5 bits of hysteresis

For the `setthmin` command, the new threshold must be:

1. lower than the maximum threshold for n_ph-1 phases minus 5 bits of hysteresis
2. higher than the minimum threshold for n_ph-1 phases plus 5 bits of hysteresis
3. lower than the minimum threshold for n_ph+1 phases minus 5 bits of hysteresis

When 0 or 3 phases are active, some checks are skipped.

- To change the maximum threshold for 3 active phases, the `minfreq` command must be used. This threshold is used to determine the maximum output power capability when the system is operating in the 1st brownout level condition.
- To change the minimum threshold for 0 active phases, the `lpm` command must be used. This threshold is used to allow the system to go into HALT mode during no or very low load conditions.



When a threshold is changed, the new value is only stored in RAM. To store the parameter in EEPROM and recall it after a reset, use the `seteedata` command.

Incorrect phase shedding thresholds can render the system unstable, so change them at your own risk.

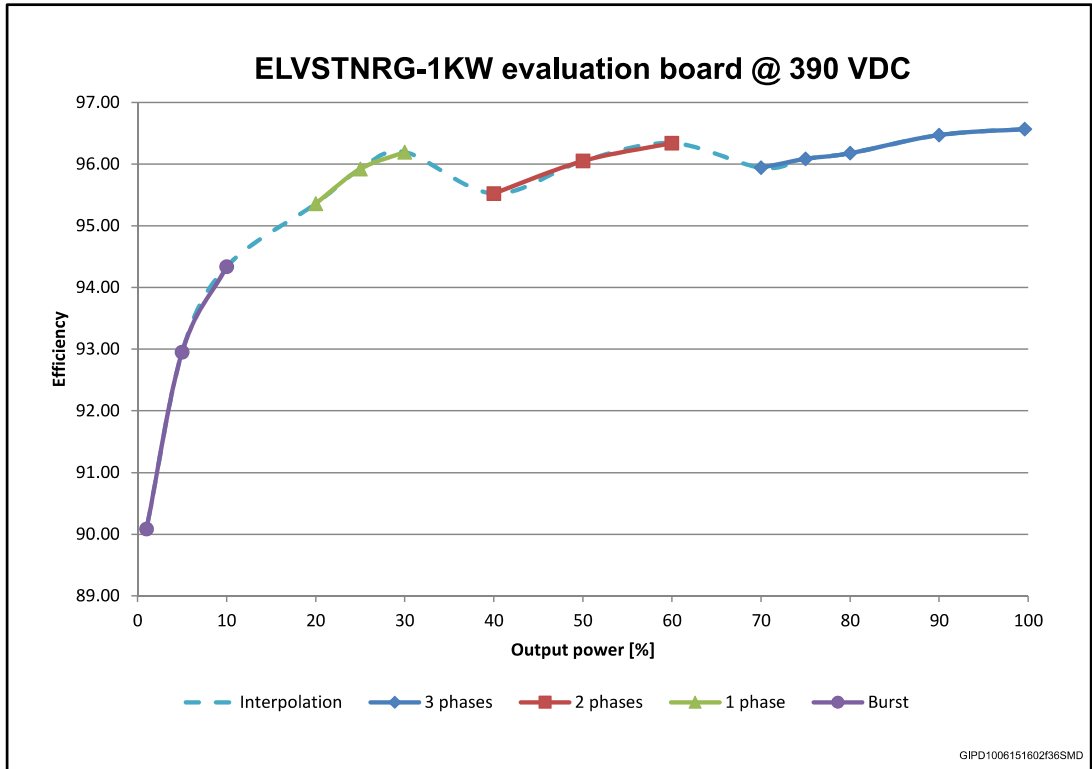
7 Efficiency measurements

Table 1: "Overall efficiency measured at 390 Vdc of input voltage" shows the overall efficiency readings at 390 Vdc input voltage and the same data is depicted *Figure 36: "Graph of the overall efficiency of the system"* in order to fully appreciate the benefits of the interleaved architecture.

Table 1: Overall efficiency measured at 390 Vdc of input voltage

Load [%]	Number of phases	I _{out,meas} [A]	V _{out,meas} [V]	P _{out,calc} [W]	P _{in,meas} [W]	Efficiency [%]
100%	3	7.47	132.676	991.09	1026.30	96.57
90%	3	6.75	132.676	895.56	928.31	96.47
80%	3	6	132.678	796.07	827.71	96.18
75%	3	5.625	132.674	746.29	776.69	96.09
70%	3	5.25	132.677	696.55	726.02	95.94
60%	2	4.5	132.679	597.06	619.73	96.34
50%	2	3.75	132.678	497.54	518.00	96.05
40%	2	3	132.677	398.03	416.68	95.52
30%	1	2.25	132.677	298.52	310.33	96.20
25%	1	1.875	132.678	248.77	259.35	95.92
20%	1	1.5	132.676	199.01	208.70	95.36
10%	Burst	0.75	132.678	99.51	105.48	94.34
5%	Burst	0.375	132.678	49.75	53.53	92.95
1%	Burst	0.075	132.675	9.95	11.05	90.08

Figure 36: Graph of the overall efficiency of the system



GIPD1006151602f36SMD

8 Appendix

8.1 Schematic diagrams

Figure 37: Power board schematic diagram – power section and feedback

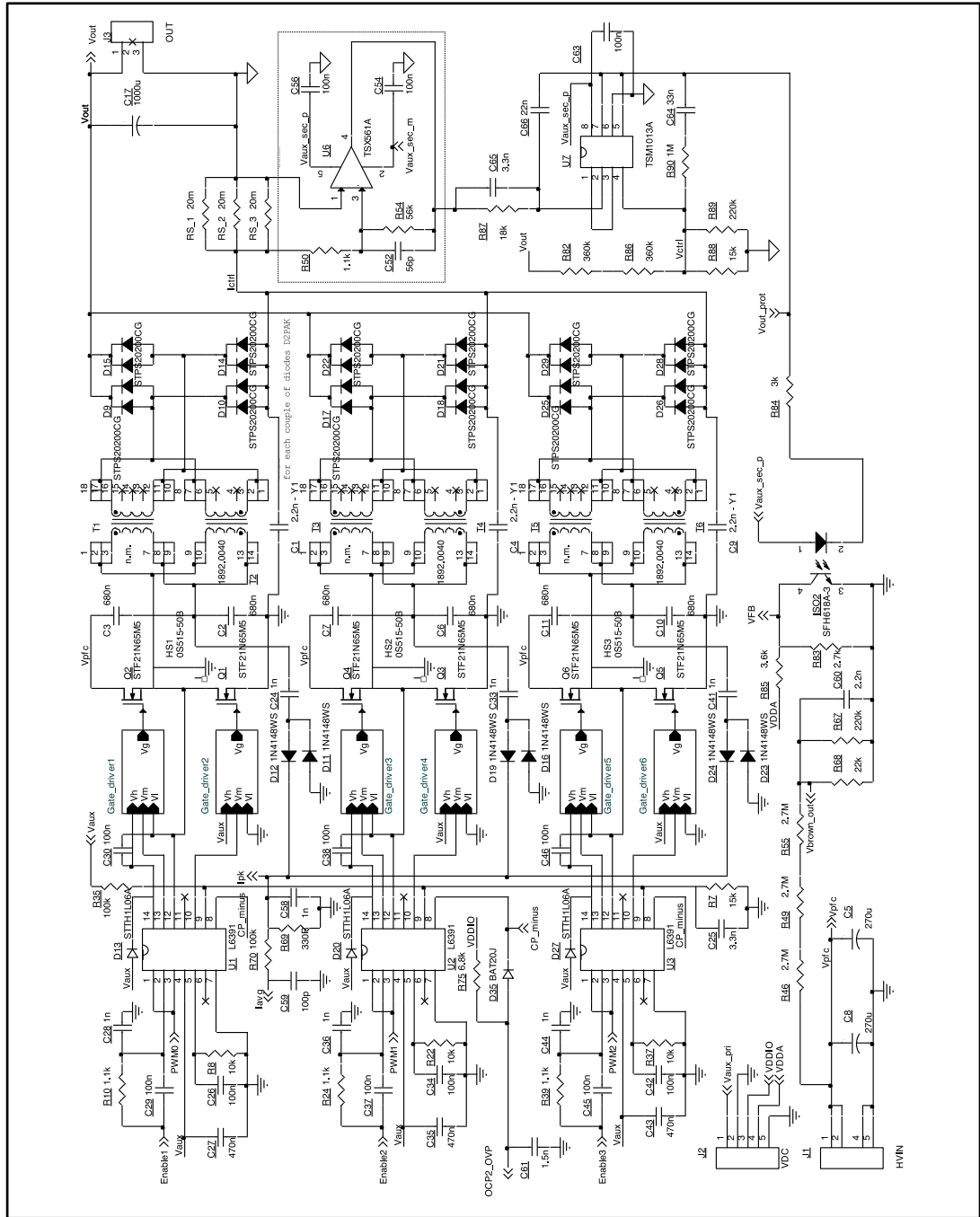


Figure 38: Power board schematic diagram – auxiliary supply and protections

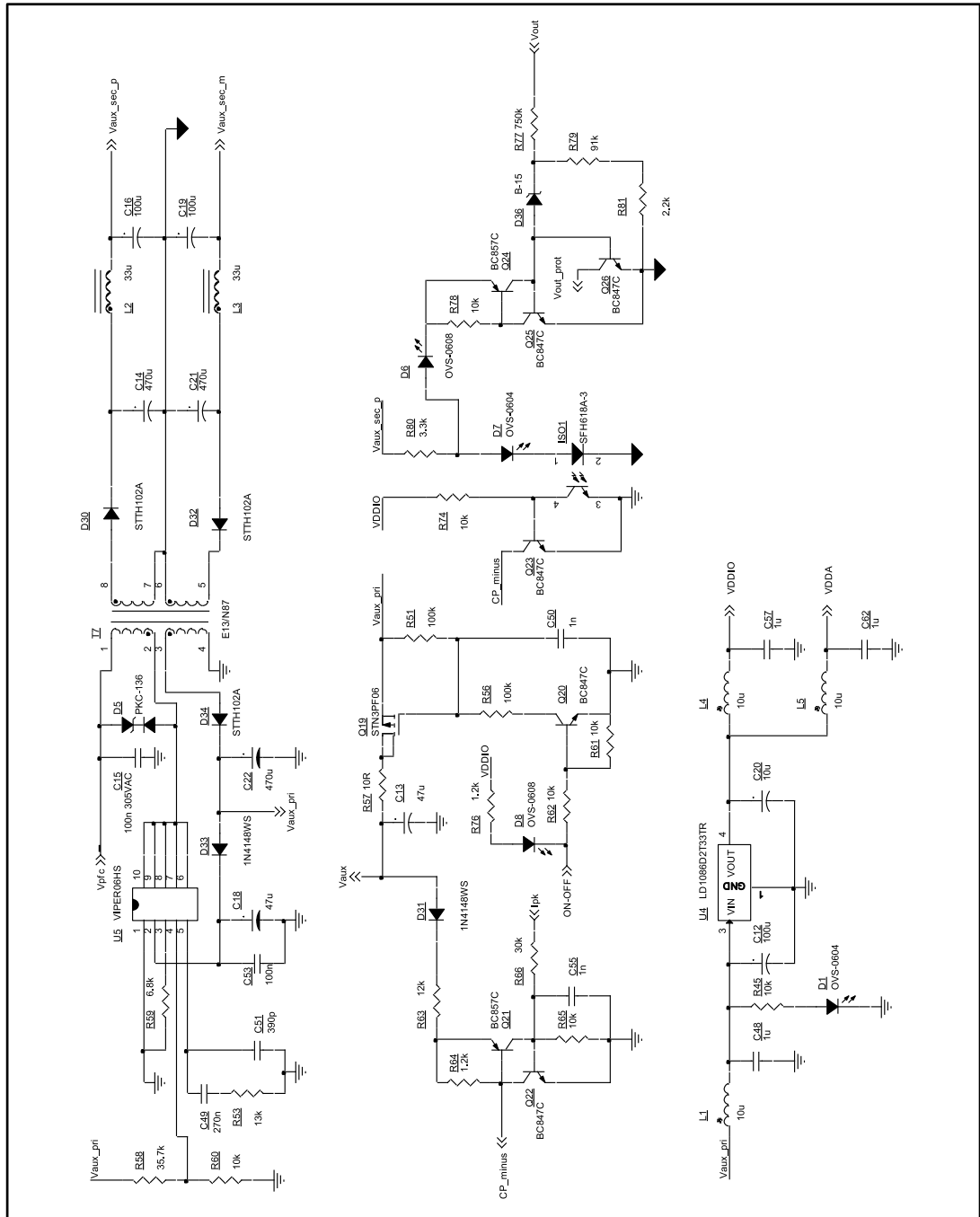


Figure 39: Power board schematic diagram – connector to control board

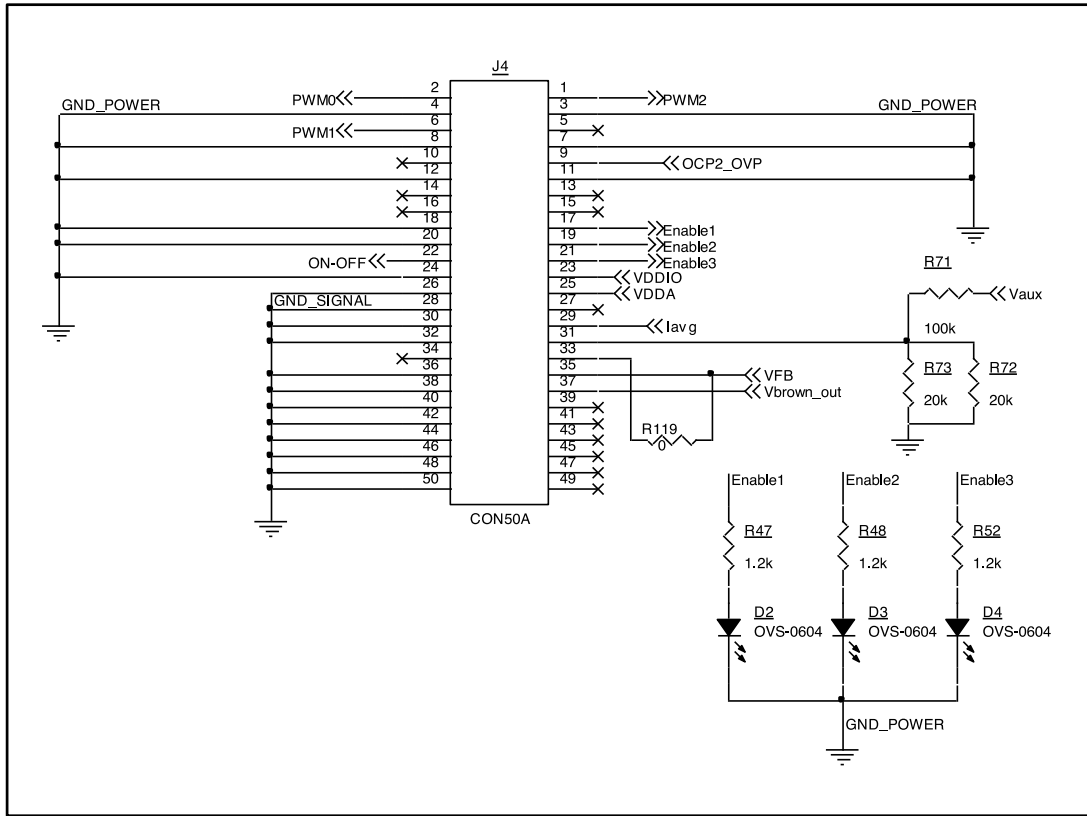


Figure 40: Power board schematic diagram – gate driver sub-circuit

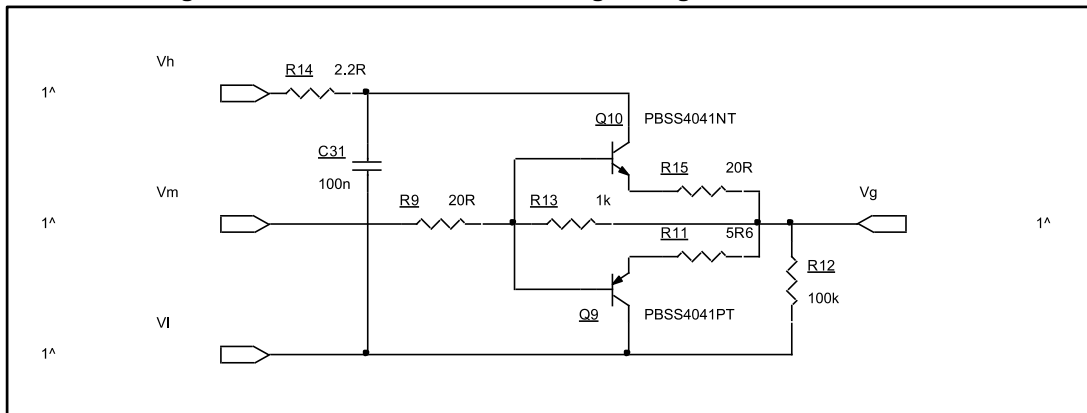
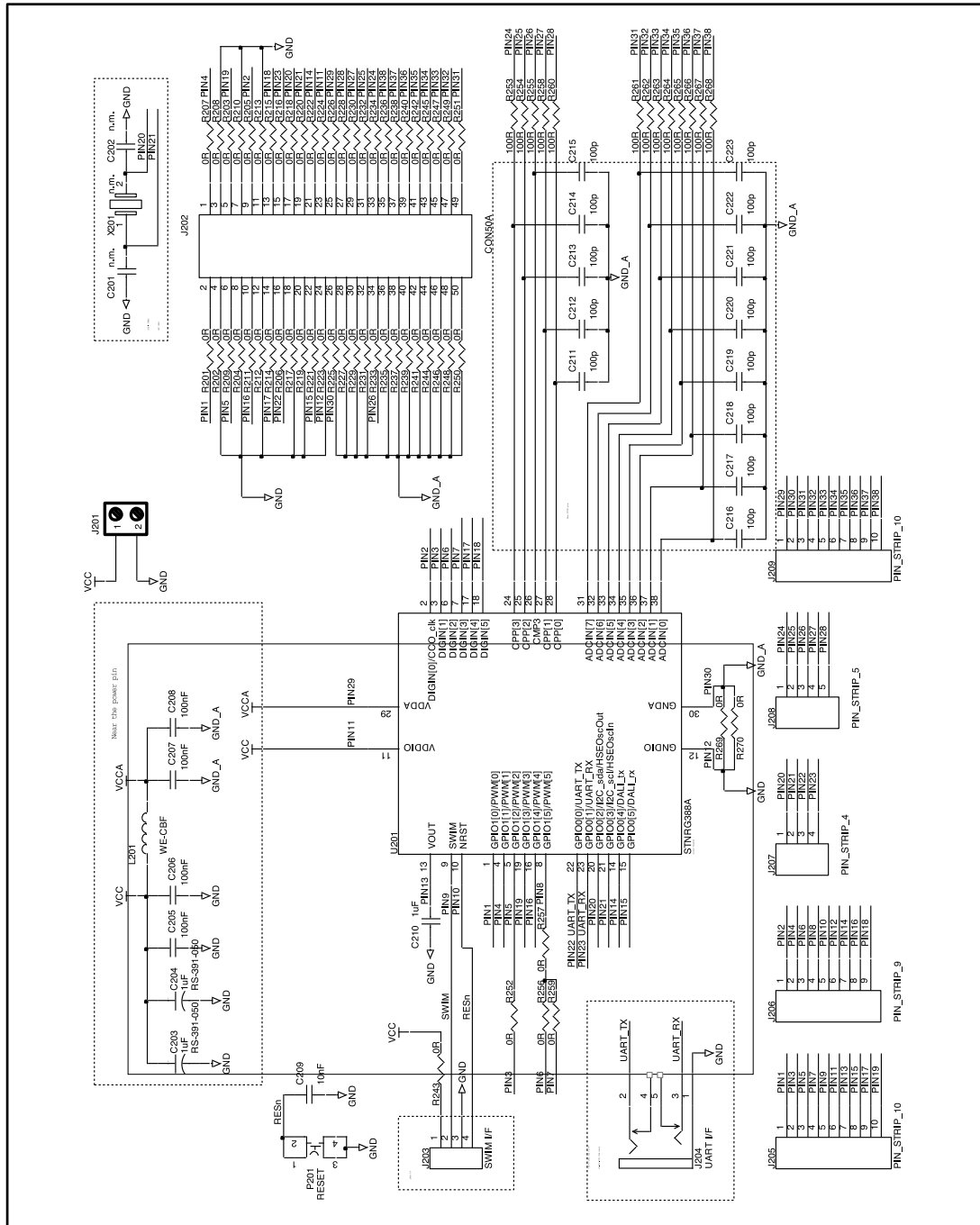


Figure 41: Control board schematic diagram



8.2 HB-SAB power transformer specification

8.2.1 General description and characteristics

- Application type: consumer, home appliance
- Transformer type: open
- Coil former: horizontal type, 8x2 + 7 pins, one slot
- Max. temp. rise: 80 °C
- Max. operating ambient temperature: 50 °C

- Mains insulation: acc. to EN60065

8.2.2 Electrical characteristics

- Converter topology: half bridge, resonant
- Core type: ETD49-PC40 or equivalent
- Min. operating frequency: 70 kHz
- Max. operating frequency: 275 kHz
- Primary inductance: 1.6 mH min at 1 kHz - 0.25 V ⁽¹⁾
- Leakage inductance: 65.1 μ H at 100 kHz - 0.25 V ⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ measured between pins 10-14

⁽²⁾ measured between pins 10-14 with secondary winding shorted

Figure 42: HB-SAB power transformer overall drawing

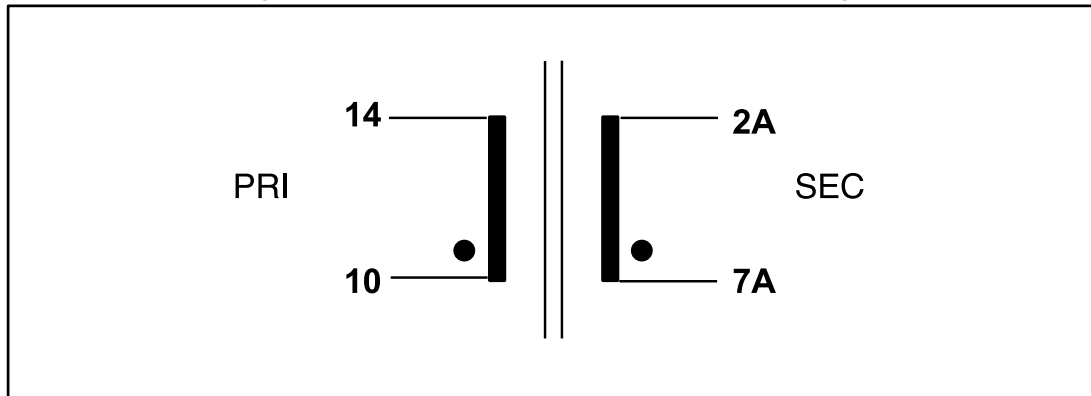


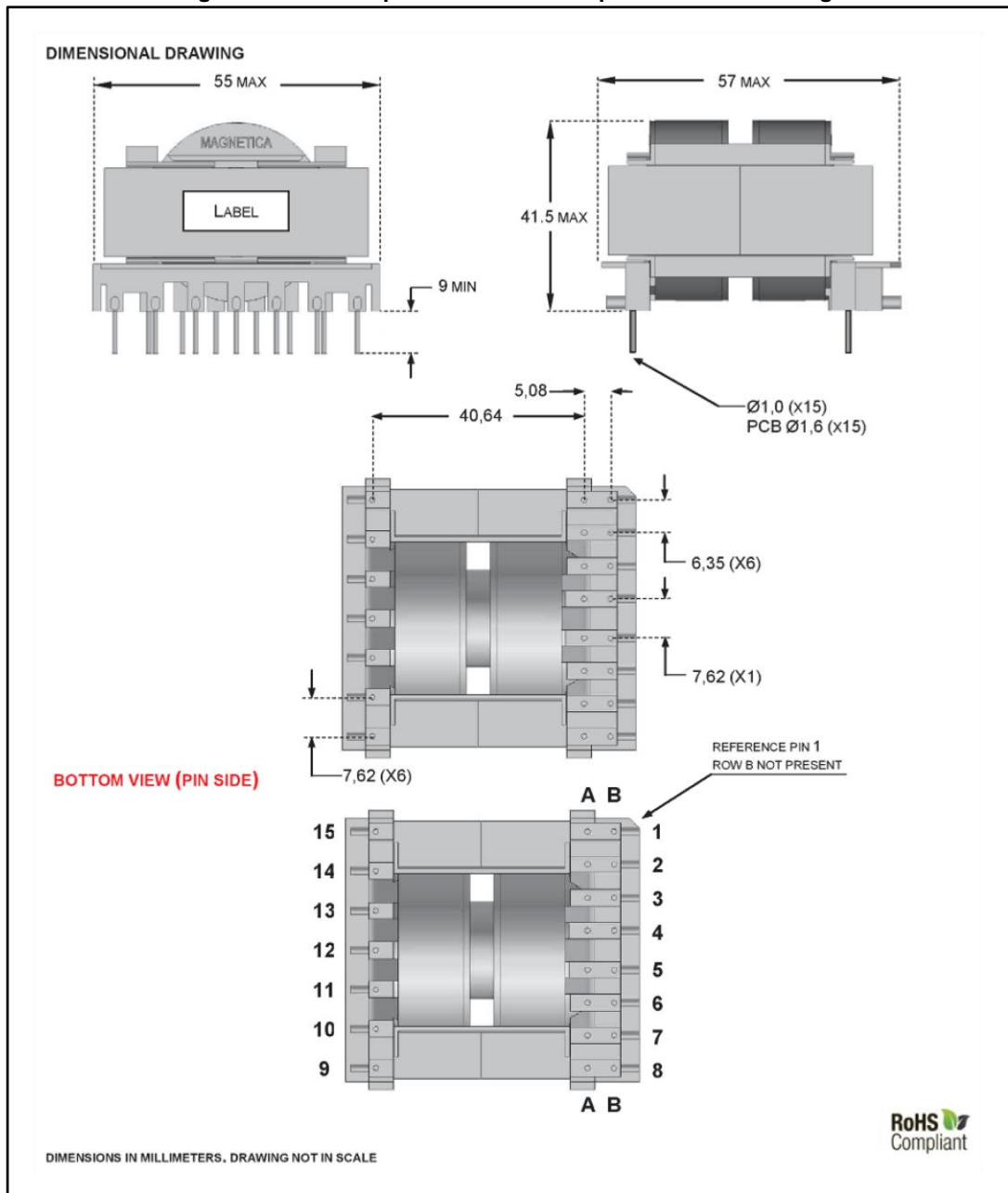
Table 2: HB-SAB power transformer winding characteristics

Pins	Winding	DC resistance	Number of turns	Wire type
10 – 14	Primary	35 m Ω	35	LITZ – 90 x ϕ 0.1 mm
2A – 7A	Secondary	87 m Ω	29	LITZ – 60 x ϕ 0.1 mm

8.2.3 Mechanical aspect and pin numbering

- Maximum height from PCB: 41.5 mm
- Coil former type: horizontal, 8x2 + 7 pins (pins #11, 12, 15 on primary side and row B on secondary side are removed)
- Pin distance: see drawing
- Row distance: see drawing

Figure 43: HB-SAB power transformer specification – drawing



8.2.4 Manufacturer

- Magnetica
- Transformer P/N: 1892.0040, rev. 0.0

8.3 Auxiliary flyback transformer specification

8.3.1 General description and characteristics

- Application type: consumer, home appliance
- Transformer type: open
- Coil former: horizontal type, 4+4 pins

- Max. temp. rise: 45 °C
- Max. operating ambient temperature: 85 °C
- Mains insulation: acc. to EN60065

8.3.2 Electrical characteristics

- Converter topology: flyback, CCM/DCM mode
- Core type: E13/7/4 or equivalent
- Typ. operating frequency: 115 kHz
- Primary inductance: 3.9 mH $\pm 20\%$ at 1 kHz - 0.25 V ⁽¹⁾
- Leakage inductance: 68 μ H at 10 kHz - 0.25 V ⁽²⁾
- Saturation peak current: 0.17 A
- Operating maximum peak current: 0.13 A

⁽¹⁾ measured between pins 1-2

⁽²⁾ measured between pins 1-2 with pin 2-3-4-5-6-7-8 shorted

Figure 44: Auxiliary flyback transformer overall drawing

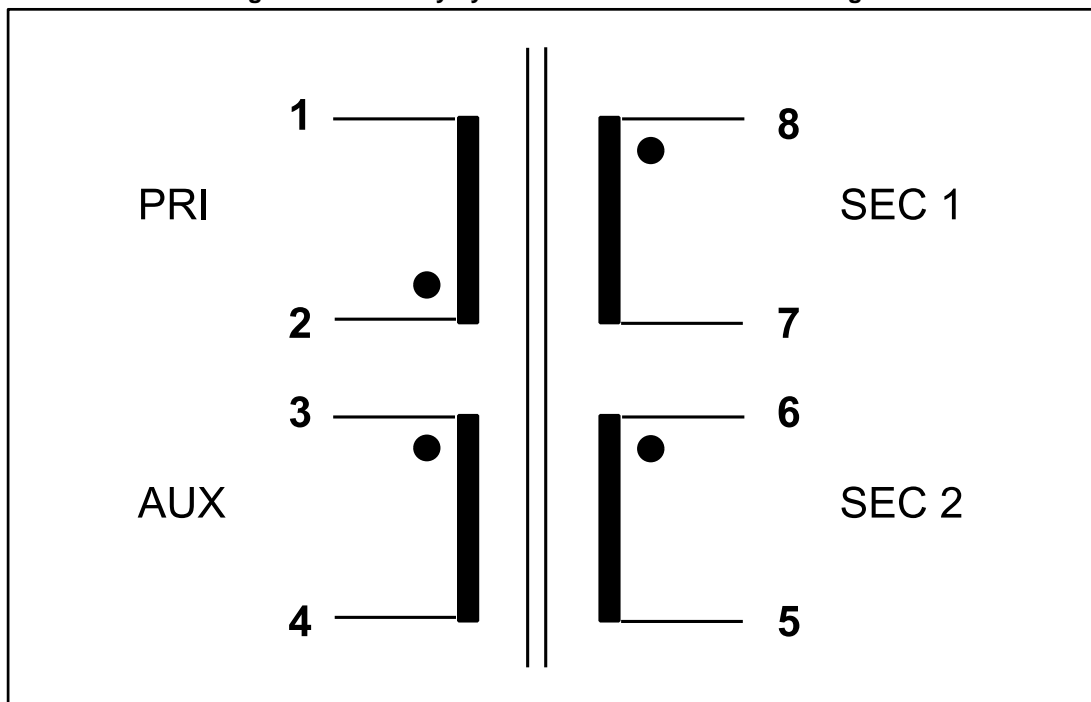


Table 3: Auxiliary flyback transformer winding characteristics

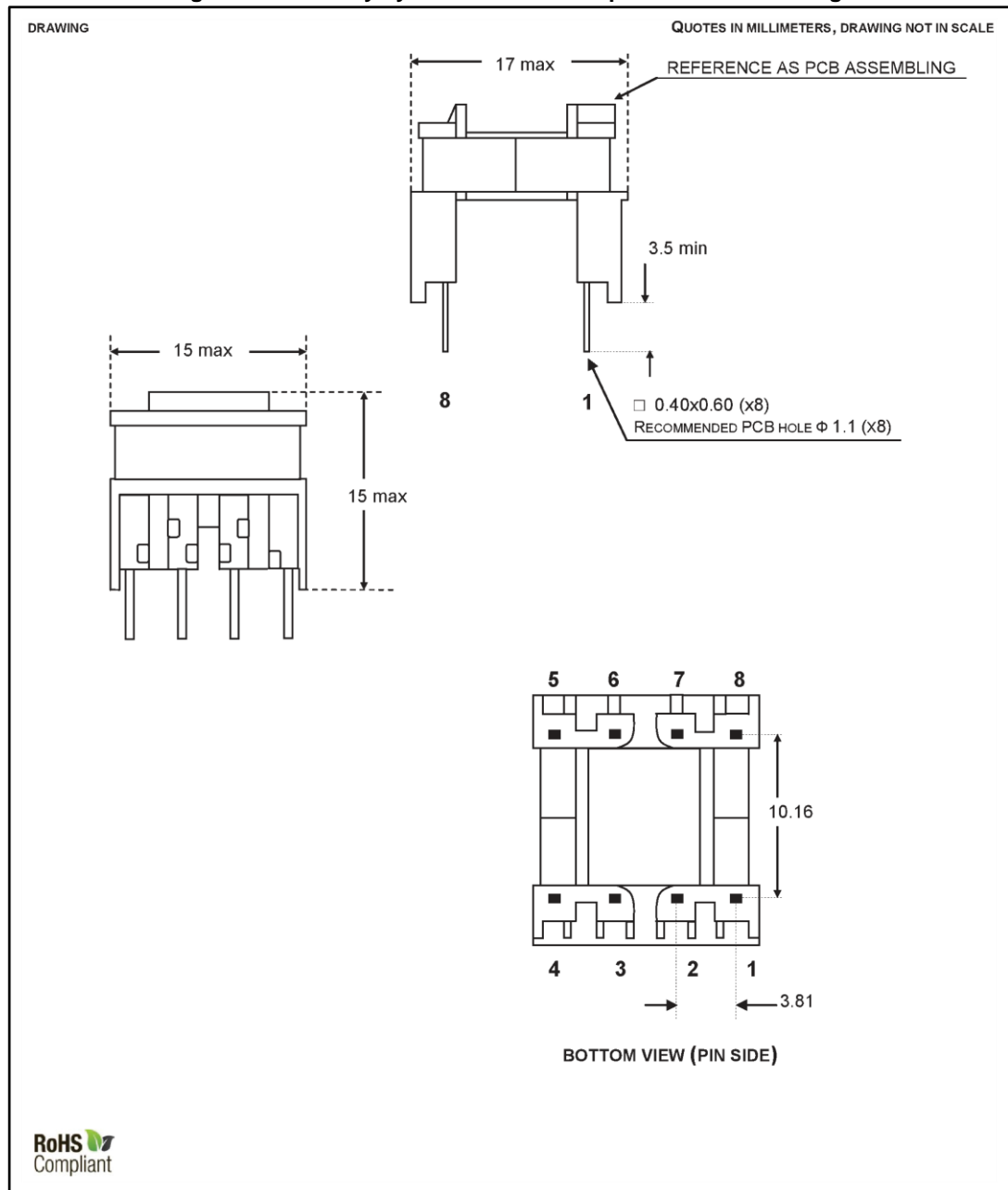
Pins	Winding	DC resistance	Number of turns	Wire type
1 – 2	Primary	6.44 Ω	212	G2 – $\phi 0.10$ mm
3 – 4	Auxiliary	454 m Ω	35	G2 – $\phi 0.10$ mm
5 – 6	Secondary	270 m Ω	18	Tex-E – $\phi 0.2$ mm
7 – 8	Secondary	267 m Ω	18	Tex-E – $\phi 0.2$ mm

8.3.3 Mechanical aspect and pin numbering

- Maximum height from PCB: 15 mm
- Coil former type: horizontal, 4+4 pins

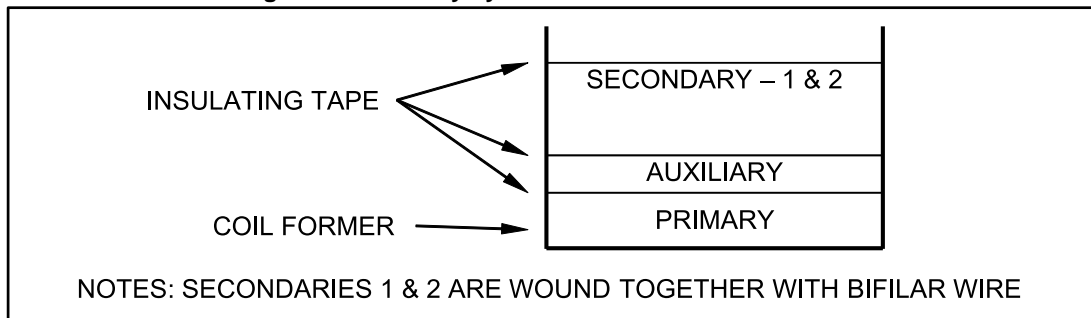
- Pin distance: 3.81 mm
- Row distance: 10.16 mm

Figure 45: Auxiliary flyback transformer specification – drawing



RoHS
Compliant

Figure 46: Auxiliary flyback transformer construction



8.3.4 Manufacturer

- Magnetica
- Transformer P/N: 1921.0049, rev. 0.1

8.4 Bill of materials

Table 4: Bill of materials

Item	Reference	Part type / part value	Case style / package	Description	Supplier
1	C1, C4, C9	2.2n - Y1	pitch 10mm	Ceramic Y1 capacitor - DE1E3KX222M	MURATA
2	C2, C3, C6, C7, C10, C11	680nF	18.1 x 7.5 x 12.1mm	Metallized polypropylene film capacitor - ECWF2W684JA	Panasonic
3	C5, C8	270 μ F	30 x 40mm	Aluminum electrolytic capacitor - EETHC2W271DA	Panasonic
4	C12, C16, C19	100 μ F	6.3 x 11mm	YXF - Miniature aluminum electrolytic capacitor - 20%	Rubycon
5	C13, C18	47 μ F	5 x 11mm	YXF - Miniature aluminum electrolytic capacitor - 20%	Rubycon
6	C14, C21, C22	470 μ F	10 x 16mm	YXF - Miniature aluminum electrolytic capacitor - 20%	Rubycon
7	C15	100nF 305VAC	13 x 6 x 12mm	Polypropylene film capacitors - 10%	AVX
8	C17	1000 μ F	24 x 45mm	Aluminum electrolytic capacitor - B43508A2108M000	EPCOS

Item	Reference	Part type / part value	Case style / package	Description	Supplier
9	C20	10 μ F	5 x 11mm	YXF - Miniature aluminum electrolytic capacitor - 20%	Rubycon
10	C23, C26, C30, C31, C32, C34, C38, C39, C40, C42, C46, C47	100nF	0805	X7R - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
11	C24, C33, C41	1nF	1206	X7R - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
12	C25	3.3nF	0805	X7R - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
13	C27, C35, C43	470nF	0805	X7R - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
14	C28, C36, C44	1nF	0805	X7R - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
15	C29, C37, C45	100nF	0805	X7R - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
16	C48, C57, C62	1 μ F	0805	X7R - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
17	C49	270nF	0805	X7R - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
18	C50, C55	1nF	0805	X7R - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
19	C51	390pF	0805	X7R - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
20	C52	56pF	1206	C0G (NP0) - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
21	C53	100nF	0805	X7R - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
22	C54, C56	100nF	0805	X7R - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
23	C58	1nF	0805	C0G (NP0) - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
24	C59	100pF	0805	C0G (NP0) - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
25	C60	2.2nF	0805	X7R - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
26	C61	1.5nF	0805	C0G (NP0) - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX

Item	Reference	Part type / part value	Case style / package	Description	Supplier
27	C63	100nF	0805	X7R - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
28	C64	33nF	0805	X7R - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
29	C65	3.3nF	0805	C0G (NP0) - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
30	C66	22nF	0805	C0G (NP0) - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
31	D1, D2, D3, D4, D7	Green	T-1 (3mm)	TH green LED - HLMP-Y802-F0000	AVAGO TECHNOLOGIES
32	D5	PKC-136	DO-15	Peak clamp	STMicroelectronics
33	D6, D8	Red	T-1 (3mm)	TH red LED - HLMP-Y651-G0000	AVAGO TECHNOLOGIES
34	D9, D10, D14, D15, D17, D18, D21, D22, D25, D26, D28, D29	STPS20200CG	D2PAK	High voltage power Schottky rectifier	STMicroelectronics
35	D11, D12, D16, D19, D23, D24, D31, D33	1N4148WS	SOD-323	SMD diode	
36	D13, D20, D27	STTH1L06A	SMA	SMD Turbo 2 ultrafast high voltage rectifier	STMicroelectronics
37	D30, D32, D34	STTH102A	SMA	SMD high efficiency ultrafast diode	STMicroelectronics
38	D35	BAT20J	SOD-323	SMD ultra low leakage current Schottky diode	STMicroelectronics
39	D36	B-15	MiniMELF	Zener diode - TZMB15 - 2%	VISHAY
40	HS1, HS2, HS3	0S515-50B	50 x 30 x 45mm	Heat sink	AAVID THERMALLOY
41	ISO1, ISO2	SFH618A-3	DIP-4	Optocoupler, single channel	VISHAY
42	J1	HVIN	5 pin	HV DC input connector - 26-60-4050	MOLEX
43	J2	VDC	5 pin	LV primary DC connector - 1729157	PHOENIX CONTACT

Item	Reference	Part type / part value	Case style / package	Description	Supplier
44	J3	OUT	3 pin	Output voltage screw connector - MSTBVA2,5/3-G-5,08 and MSTB2,5/3-ST-5,08	PHOENIX CONTACT
45	J4	CON50A	2 x 25pin - male	50 pins connector	
46	L1, L4, L5	10 μ F	1008	SMD inductor - ELJPC100KF - 10%	ELJPC100KF
47	L2, L3	33 μ F	1812	SMD inductor - B82432T1333K000 - 10%	EPCOS
48	Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4, Q5, Q6	STF21N65M5	TO-220FP	MDmesh V power MOSFET	STMicroelectronics
49	Q7, Q9, Q11, Q13, Q15, Q17	PBSS4041PT	SOT-23	SMD PNP general purpose amplifier	
50	Q8, Q10, Q12, Q14, Q16, Q18	PBSS4041NT	SOT-23	SMD NPN general purpose amplifier	
51	Q19	STN3PF06	SOT223	P-channel power Mosfet	STMicroelectronics
52	Q20, Q22, Q23, Q25, Q26	BC847C	SOT23	General purpose NPN	
53	Q21, Q24	BC857C	SOT23	General purpose PNP	
54	RS_1, RS_2, RS_3	20m Ω	1206	SMD resistor - 1%	BC COMPONENTS
55	R1, R11, R16, R25, R30, R40, R119	0R0	0805	SMD resistor - 5%	BC COMPONENTS
56	R2, R13, R17, R27, R31, R42	1k Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 5%	BC COMPONENTS
57	R3, R14, R20, R28, R34, R43	2.2R	0805	SMD resistor - 5%	BC COMPONENTS
58	R4, R12, R18, R26, R32, R35, R41, R51, R56, R70, R71	100k Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 5%	BC COMPONENTS
59	R5, R15, R19, R29, R33, R44	20R	0805	SMD resistor - 5%	BC COMPONENTS
60	R6, R9, R21, R23, R36, R38	10R	1206	SMD resistor - 5%	BC COMPONENTS
61	R7	15k Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 5%	BC COMPONENTS

Item	Reference	Part type / part value	Case style / package	Description	Supplier
62	R8, R22, R37	6.2k Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 1%	BC COMPONENTS
63	R10, R24, R39	1.1k Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 1%	BC COMPONENTS
64	R45, R61, R62, R60, R65, R78,	10k Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 5%	BC COMPONENTS
65	R46, R49, R55	2.7M Ω	1206	SMD resistor - 1%	BC COMPONENTS
66	R47, R48, R52, R64, R76	1.2k Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 5%	BC COMPONENTS
67	R50	1.1k Ω	1206	SMD resistor - 1%	BC COMPONENTS
68	R53	13k Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 1%	BC COMPONENTS
69	R54	56k Ω	1206	SMD resistor - 1%	BC COMPONENTS
70	R57	10R	0805	SMD resistor - 5%	BC COMPONENTS
71	R58	35.7k Ω	1206	SMD resistor - 1%	BC COMPONENTS
72	R59, R75	6.8k Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 5%	BC COMPONENTS
73	R63	12k Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 5%	BC COMPONENTS
74	R66	30k Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 1%	BC COMPONENTS
75	R67, R89	220k Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 1%	BC COMPONENTS
76	R68	22k Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 1%	BC COMPONENTS
77	R69	330R	0805	SMD resistor - 5%	BC COMPONENTS
78	R72, R73	20k Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 5%	BC COMPONENTS
79	R74	10k Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 5%	BC COMPONENTS
80	R77	750k Ω	1206	SMD resistor - 1%	BC COMPONENTS
81	R79	91k Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 1%	BC COMPONENTS
82	R80	3.3k Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 5%	BC COMPONENTS

Item	Reference	Part type / part value	Case style / package	Description	Supplier
83	R81	2.2k Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 1%	BC COMPONENTS
84	R82, R86	360k Ω	1206	SMD resistor - 1%	BC COMPONENTS
85	R83	2.7k Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 5%	BC COMPONENTS
86	R84	3k Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 5%	BC COMPONENTS
87	R85	3.6k Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 5%	BC COMPONENTS
88	R87	18k Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 1%	BC COMPONENTS
89	R88	15k Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 1%	BC COMPONENTS
90	R90	1M Ω	0805	SMD resistor - 1%	BC COMPONENTS
91	T1, T3, T5	n.m.	ETD44	HB transformer	Magnetica
92	T2, T4, T6	1892.0040	ETD49	HB transformer	Magnetica
93	T7	1921.0049	E13	AUX supply transformer	Magnetica
94	U1, U2, U3	L6391	SO-14	High-voltage high and low side driver	STMicroelectronics
95	U4	LD1086D2T33TR	D2PAK	3V3 linear regulator	STMicroelectronics
96	U5	VIPER06HS	SSO10	Fixed frequency Viper 4W high voltage converter	STMicroelectronics
97	U6	TSX561A	SOT23-5	Single op-amp	STMicroelectronics
98	U7	TSM1013A	MiniSO-8	Constant voltage and constant current controller	STMicroelectronics
99	C201, C202	n.m.	0603	C0G (NP0) - SMD ceramic capacitor	AVX
100	C203, C204, C210	1 μ F	0603	Y5V - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
101	C205, C206, C207, C208	100nF	0603	X7R - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
102	C209	10nF	0603	X7R - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
103	C211, C212, C213, C214, C215	100pF	0603	C0G (NP0) - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX

Item	Reference	Part type / part value	Case style / package	Description	Supplier
104	C216, C217, C218, C219, C220, C221, C222, C223	100pF	0603	X7R - SMD ceramic capacitor - 10%	AVX
105	J201	DC in		2 pin WAGO connector	
106	J202	CON50A	2 x 25 pin - female	50 pin connector	
107	J203	SWIM I/F	4 pin	PCB header single row	
108	J204	UART I/F		3.5mm jack connector	
109	J205	PIN_STRIP_10	10 pin	PCB header single row	
110	J206	PIN_STRIP_9	9 pin	PCB header single row	
111	J207	PIN_STRIP_4	4 pin	PCB header single row	
112	J208	PIN_STRIP_5	5 pin	PCB header single row	
113	J209	PIN_STRIP_10	10 pin	PCB header single row	
114	L201	WE-CBF	0603	SMD EMI suppression ferrite bead - 74279262	WE
115	P201	RESET		Push button	

Item	Reference	Part type / part value	Case style / package	Description	Supplier
116	R201, R202, R203, R204, R205, R206, R207, R208, R209, R210, R211, R212, R213, R214, R215, R216, R217, R218, R219, R220, R221, R222, R223, R224, R225, R226, R227, R228, R229, R230, R231, R232, R233, R234, R235, R236, R237, R238, R239, R240, R241, R242, R243, R244, R245, R246, R247, R248, R249, R250, R251, R252, R256, R257, R259, R269, R270	0R	0603	SMD resistor - 5%	BC COMPONENTS
118	R253, R254, R255, R258, R260, R261, R262, R263, R264, R265, R266, R267, R268	100R	0603	SMD resistor - 5%	BC COMPONENTS
119	U201	STNRG388A	TSSOP38	STNRG388A	STMicroelectronics
120	X201	n.m.		XTAL 16MHz	

9 Revision history

Table 5: Document revision history

Date	Version	Changes
23-Sep-2015	1	Initial release.

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