Multiple-Phase Controller with SVID Interface for Desktop and Notebook CPU Applications

The NCP81142 Multi−Phase buck solution is optimized for Intel® VR12.5 compatible CPUs with user configurations of 4/3/2/1 phases. The controller combines true differential voltage sensing, differential inductor DCR current sensing, input voltage feed−forward, and adaptive voltage positioning to provide accurately regulated power for both Desktop and Notebook applications. The control system is based on Dual−Edge pulse−width modulation (PWM) combined with DCR current sensing providing the fastest initial response to dynamic load events at reduced system cost. It has the capability to shed to single phase during light load operation and can auto frequency scale in light load conditions while maintaining excellent transient performance.

High performance operational error amplifiers are provided to simplify compensation of the system. Patented Dynamic Reference Injection further simplifies loop compensation by eliminating the need to compromise between closed−loop transient response and Dynamic VID performance. Patented Total Current Summing provides highly accurate digital current monitoring.

Features

- Meets Intel VR12.5 Specifications
- Current Mode Dual Edge Modulation for Fastest Initial Response to Transient Loading
- High Performance Operational Error Amplifier
- Digital Soft Start Ramp
- Dynamic Reference Injection
- Accurate Total Summing Current Amplifier
- Dual High Impedance Differential Voltage and Total Current Sense Amplifiers
- Phase−to−Phase Dynamic Current Balancing
- "Lossless" DCR Current Sensing for Current Balancing
- True Differential Current Balancing Sense Amplifiers for Each Phase
- Adaptive Voltage Positioning (AVP)
- Switching Frequency Range of 290 kHz 590 kHz
- Startup into Pre−Charged Loads While Avoiding False OVP

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ORDERING INFORMATION

See detailed ordering and shipping information in the package dimensions section on page [19](#page-18-0) of this data sheet.

- Power Saving Phase Shedding
- Vin Feed Forward Ramp Slope
- Over Voltage Protection (OVP) & Under Voltage Protection (UVP)
- Over Current Protection (OCP)
- VR−RDY Output with Internal Delays
- These are Pb−Free Devices

Applications

• Desktop and Notebook Processors

Figure 1. Block Diagram for NCP81142

NCP81142 PIN DESCRIPTIONS

NCP81142 PIN DESCRIPTIONS

ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

ELECTRICAL INFORMATION

*All signals referenced to GND unless noted otherwise.

THERMAL INFORMATION

*The maximum package power dissipation must be observed.

1. JESD 51−5 (1S2P Direct−Attach Method) with 0 LFM

2. JESD 51−7 (1S2P Direct−Attach Method) with 0 LFM

Unless otherwise stated: -40° C < T_A < 100°C; V_{CC} = 5 V; C_{VCC} = 0.1 µF

[3.](#page-8-0) Guaranteed by design or characterization data, not in production test.

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3. Guaranteed by design or characterization data, not in production test.

STATE TRUTH TABLE

Figure 3.

General

The NCP81142 is a four phase dual edge modulated multiphase PWM controller, designed to meet the Intel VR12.5 specifications with a serial SVID control interface. It is designed to work in notebook, desktop, and server applications.

Serial VID interface (SVID)

For SVID Interface communication details please contact Intel Inc.

BOOT VOLTAGE PROGRAMMING

The NCP81142 has a Vboot voltage that can be externally programmed. The Boot voltage for the NCP81142 is set using VBOOT pin on power up. A 10uA current is sourced from the VBoot pin and the resulting voltage is measured. This is compared with the thresholds in table below. This value is set on power up and cannot be changed after the initial power up sequence is complete.

BOOT VOLTAGE TABLE

Remote Sense Amplifier

A high performance high input impedance true differential amplifier is provided to accurately sense the output voltage of the regulator. The VSP and VSN inputs should be connected to the regulator's output voltage sense points. The remote sense amplifier takes the difference of the output voltage with the DAC voltage and adds the droop voltage to

$$
V_{\text{DIFOUT}} = (V_{\text{VSP}} - V_{\text{VSN}}) + (1.3 \text{ V} - V_{\text{DAC}}) + (V_{\text{DROOP}} - V_{\text{CSREF}})
$$

This signal then goes through a standard error compensation network and into the inverting input of the error amplifier. The non−inverting input of the error amplifier is connected to the same 1.3 V reference used for the differential sense amplifier output bias.

High Performance Voltage Error Amplifier

The Remote Sense Amplifier output is applied to a Type 3 compensation network formed by the error amplifier and external tuning components. The non−inverting input of the error amplifier is connected to the same reference voltage used to bias the Remote Sense Amplifier output. The integrating function of the Type 3 feedback compensation is performed internally and does not require external capacitor Cf1 (see below).

Compensation

Initial tuning should be based on traditional Type 3 compensation. When ideal Type 3 component values have been determined, the closest setting for the internal integrator is should be chosen based on the following table and Rin value used.

Rin1 = 1k, Rf = 3k IN NEW CONTROLLER

Rin1 = 1k, Rf = 5k IN NEW CONTROLLER

Rin1 = 1k, Rf = 7.5k IN NEW CONTROLLER

Rin1 = 1k, Rf = 10k IN NEW CONTROLLER

Rin1 = 1k, Rf = 10k IN NEW CONTROLLER

Optimization of the traditional Type 3 compensation should be rechecked using the closest Type 3 Cf1 equivalent in order to determine if readjustment of other component values is needed.

Differential Current Feedback Amplifiers

Each phase has a low offset differential amplifier to sense that phase current for current balance. The inputs to the CSNx and CSPx pins are high impedance inputs. It is recommended that any external filter resistor RCSN does not exceed 10 $\mathrm{k}\Omega$ to avoid offset issues with leakage current. It is also recommended that the voltage sense element be no less than $0.5 \text{ m}\Omega$ for accurate current balance. Fine tuning of this time constant is generally not required. The individual phase current is summed into the PWM comparator feedback this way current is balanced via a current mode control approach.

Total Current Sense Amplifier

The NCP81142 uses a patented approach to sum the phase currents into a single temperature compensated total current signal. This signal is then used to generate the output voltage droop, total current limit, and the output current monitoring functions. The total current signal is floating with respect to CSREF. The current signal is the difference between CSCOMP and CSREF. The Ref(n) resistors sum the signals from the output side of the inductors to create a low impedance virtual ground, the capacitor is used to ensure that the CSREF voltage signal integrity. The amplifier actively filters and gains up the voltage applied across the inductors to recover the voltage drop across the inductor series resistance (DCR). Rth is placed near an inductor to sense the temperature of the inductor. This allows the filter time constant and gain to be a function of the Rth NTC resistor and compensate for the change in the DCR with temperature.

The DC gain equation for the current sensing:

$$
V_{\text{CSCOMP}-\text{CSREF}} = \frac{\text{Rcs2} + \frac{\text{Rcs1}^{\text{TRth}}}{\text{Rcs1} + \text{Rth}}}{\text{Rph}} * (\text{Iout}_{\text{Total}} * \text{DCR})
$$

Set the gain by adjusting the value of the Rph resistors. The DC gain should be set to the output voltage droop. If the voltage from CSCOMP to CSREF is less than 100 mV at ICCMAX then it is recommend increasing the gain of the CSCOMP amp. This is required to provide a good current signal to offset voltage ratio for the ILIMIT pin. When no droop is needed, the gain of the amplifier should be set to provide ~100mV across the current limit programming resistor at full load. The values of Rcs1 and Rcs2 are set based on the 100k NTC and the temperature effect of the inductor and should not need to be changed. The NTC should be placed near the closest inductor. The output voltage droop should be set with the droop filter divider.

The pole frequency in the CSCOMP filter should be set equal to the zero from the output inductor. This allows the circuit to recover the inductor DCR voltage drop current signal. Ccs1 and Ccs2 are in parallel to allow for fine tuning of the time constant using commonly available values. It is best to fine tune this filter during transient testing.
 $F_z = \frac{DCR@25°C}{}$

$$
F_z = \frac{DCR@25^{\circ}C}{2 \cdot PI \cdot L_{Phase}}
$$

Programming the Current Limit

The current limit thresholds are programmed with a resistor between the ILIMIT and CSCOMP pins. The ILIMIT pin mirrors the voltage at the CSREF pin and mirrors the sink current internally to IOUT (reduced by the IOUT Current Gain) and the current limit comparators. The 100% current limit trips if the ILIMIT sink current exceeds $10 \mu A$ for 50 μ s. The 150% current limit trips with minimal delay if the ILIMIT sink current exceeds $15 \mu A$. Set the value of the current limit resistor based on the CSCOMP−CSREF voltage as shown below.

$$
R_{LIMIT} = \frac{\frac{\text{Res2} + \frac{\text{Res1} + \text{Rth}}{\text{Res1} + \text{Rth}} \times \left(\text{Iout}_{LIMIT} \times \text{DCR}\right)}{10 \mu} \text{ or } R_{LIMIT} = \frac{\text{IV}_{\text{CSCOMP}-\text{SREF@}} \text{IUMIT}}{10 \mu}
$$

Programming IOUT

The IOUT pin sources a current in proportion to the ILIMIT sink current. The voltage on the IOUT pin is monitored by the internal A/D converter and should be scaled with an external resistor to ground such that a load equal to ICCMAX generates a 2 V signal on IOUT. A pull–up resistor from 5 V V_{CC} can be used to offset the IOUT signal positive if needed.

$$
R_{IOUT} = \frac{2.0 \text{ V} * R_{LIMIT}}{10 * \frac{Rcs^2 + \frac{Rcs1 * Rth}{Rcs1 + Rth} * (Iout_{ICC_MAX} * DCR)}{Rph}}
$$

Programming ICC_MAX

A resistor to Ground is monitored on startup and this sets the ICC_MAX value. 10 μ A is sourced from these pins to generate a voltage on the program resistor. The resistor value should be no less than 10k.

$$
ICC_MAX = \frac{R * 10 \mu A * 256 A}{2 V}
$$

Programming TSENSE

A temperature sense inputs are provided. A precision current is sourced out the output of the TSENSE pin to generate a voltage on the temperature sense network. The voltage on the temperature sense input is sampled by the internal A/D converter. A 100k NTC similar to the VISHAY ERT−J1VS104JA should be used. Rcomp1 is mainly used for noise. See the specification table for the thermal sensing voltage thresholds and source current.

Precision Oscillator

A programmable precision oscillator is provided. The clock oscillator serves as the master clock to the ramp generator circuit. This oscillator is programmed by a resistor to ground on the ROSC pin. The oscillator frequency range is between 280 kHz to 650 kHz on the NCP81142 The graph below lists the resistor options and associated frequency setting.

NCP81142 Operating Frequency vs. R_{osc}

Figure 9. NCP81142 Rosc vs. Frequency

The oscillator generates triangle ramps that are 0.5~2.5 V in amplitude depending on the VRMP pin voltage to provide input voltage feed forward compensation. The ramps are equally spaced out of phase with respect to each other.

Programming the Ramp Feed−Forward Circuit

The ramp generator circuit provides the ramp used by the PWM comparators. The ramp generator provides voltage feed−forward control by varying the ramp magnitude with respect to the VRMP pin voltage. The VRMP pin also has a 4 V UVLO function. The VRMP UVLO is only active after the controller is enabled. The VRMP pin is high impedance input when the controller is disabled.

The PWM ramp time is changed according to the following,

 $\rm V_{\rm RAMPpk{\leftrightharpoons}pkPP} = 0.1$ * $\rm V_{\rm VRMP}$

PWM Comparators

The noninverting input of the comparator for each phase is connected to the summed output of the error amplifier (COMP) and each phase current $(I_L*DCR*Phase Balance Gain Factor)$. The inverting input is connected to the oscillator ramp voltage with a 1.3 V offset. The operating input voltage range of the comparators is from 0 V to 3.0 V and the output of the comparator generates the PWM output.

During steady state operation, the duty cycle is centered on the valley of the sawtooth ramp waveform. The steady state duty cycle is still calculated by approximately Vout/Vin. During a transient event, the controller will operate in a hysteretic mode with the duty cycles pull in for all phases as the error amp signal increases with respect to all the ramps.

PHASE DETECTION SEQUENCE

During start−up, the number of operational phases and their phase relationship is determined by the internal circuitry monitoring the CSN Pins. Normally, NCP81142 operates as a 4-phase Vcore PWM controller. Connecting CSN4 pin to V_{CC} programs 3−phase operation, connecting CSN2 and CSN4 pin to V_{CC} programs 2−phase operation, connecting CSN2, CSN3 and CSN4 pin to V_{CC} programs 1–phase operation. Prior to soft start, while ENABLE is high, CSN4 to CSN2 pins sink approximately 50 μ A. An internal comparator checks the voltage of each pin versus a threshold of 4.5 V. If the pin is tied to V_{CC} , its voltage is above the threshold. Otherwise, an internal current sink pulls the pin to GND, which is below the threshold. PWM1 is low during the phase detection interval, which takes 30 us. After this time, if the remaining CSN outputs are not pulled to V_{CC} , the 50 μ A current sink is removed, and NCP81142 functions as normal 4 phase controller. If the CSNs are pulled to V_{CC} , the 50 μ A current source is removed, and the outputs are driven into a high impedance state.

The PWM outputs are logic−level devices intended for driving fast response external gate drivers such as the NCP5901 and NCP5911 .Because each phase is monitored independently, operation approaching 100% duty cycle is possible. In addition, more than one PWM output can be on at the same time to allow overlapping phases.

PROTECTION FEATURES

Under voltage Lockouts

There are several under voltage monitors in the system. Hysteresis is incorporated within the comparators. NCP81142 monitors the VCC Shunt supply. The gate driver monitors both the gate driver V_{CC} and the BST voltage. When the voltage on the gate driver is insufficient it will pull DRON low and prevents the controller from being enabled. The gate driver will hold DRON low for a minimum period of time to allow the controller to hold off it's startup sequence. In this case the PWM is set to the MID state to begin soft start.

Gate Driver UVLO Restart

Soft Start

Soft start is implemented internally. A digital counter steps the DAC up from zero to the target voltage based on the predetermined rate in the spec table. The PWM signals will start out open with a test current to collect data on phase count and for setting internal registers. After the configuration data is collected, if the controller is enabled the PWMs will be set to 2.0 V MID state to indicate that the drivers should be in diode mode. DRON will then be asserted. As the DAC ramps the PWM outputs will begin to fire. Each phase will move out of the MID state when the first PWM pulse is produced. When the controller is disabled the PWM signal will return to the MID state.

Over Current Latch− Off Protection

The NCP81142 compares a programmable current−limit set point to the voltage from the output of the current−summing amplifier. The level of current limit is set with the resistor from the ILIM pin to CSCOMP. The current through the external resistor connected between ILIM and CSCOMP is then compared to the internal current limit current I_{CL} . If the current generated through this resistor into the ILIM pin (Ilim) exceeds the internal current−limit threshold current (I_{CI}), an internal latch-off counter starts, and the controller shuts down if the fault is not removed after 50 µs (shut down immediately for 150% load current) after which the outputs will remain disabled until the V_{CC} voltage or EN is toggled.

On startup a clim1/clim2 current limit protection is enabled once the output voltage has exceeded 250 mV or if the internal DAC voltage has increased above 300 mV, this allow for protection again a Vout short to ground. This is necessary because the voltage swing of CSCOMP cannot go below ground. This limits the voltage drop across the DCR through the current balance circuitry.

The over–current limit is programmed by a resistor on the ILIM pin. The resistor value can be calculated by the following equation:

$$
R_{ILIM} = \frac{I_{LIM} * DCR * R_{CS}/R_{PH}}{I_{CL}}
$$

Where $I_{CL} = 10 \mu A$

Figure 12.

Under Voltage Monitor

The output voltage is monitored at the output of the differential amplifier for UVLO. If the output falls more than 300mV below the DAC−DROOP voltage the UVLO comparator will trip sending the VR_RDY signal low.

Over Voltage Protection

The output voltage is also monitored at the output of the differential amplifier for OVP. During normal operation, if the output voltage exceeds the DAC voltage by 400 mV, the VR_RDY flag goes low, and the DAC will be ramped down to 0 V. At the same time, the high side gate drivers are all turned off and the low side gate drivers are all turned on until the voltage falls to new DAC voltage 0.2 V. The part will stay in this mode until the V_{CC} voltage or EN is toggled.

During start up, the OVP threshold is set to 2.9 V. This allows the controller to start up without false triggering the OVP.

ORDERING INFORMATION

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

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