High Efficiency, Synchronous, 4-Switch Buck-Boost Controller

FEATURES

- **Single Inductor Architecture Allows V_{IN} Above, Below or Equal to V_{OUT}**
- **Wide V_{IN} Range: 4V to 36V Operation**
- **Synchronous Rectification: Up to 98% Efficiency**
- **Current Mode Control**
- **±1% Output Voltage Accuracy: 0.8V < V_{OUT} < 30V**
- Phase-Lockable Fixed Frequency: 200kHz to 400kHz
- Power Good Output Voltage Monitor
- Internal LDO for MOSFET Supply
- Quad N-Channel MOSFET Synchronous Drive
- V_{OUT} Disconnected from V_{IN} During Shutdown
- Adjustable Soft-Start Current Ramping
- Foldback Output Current Limiting
- Selectable Low Current Modes
- Output Overvoltage Protection
- Available in 24-Lead SSOP and Exposed Pad (5mm × 5mm) 32-Lead QFN Packages

APPLICATIONS

- Automotive Systems
- Telecom Systems
- DC Power Distribution Systems
- High Power Battery-Operated Devices
- Industrial Control

DESCRIPTION

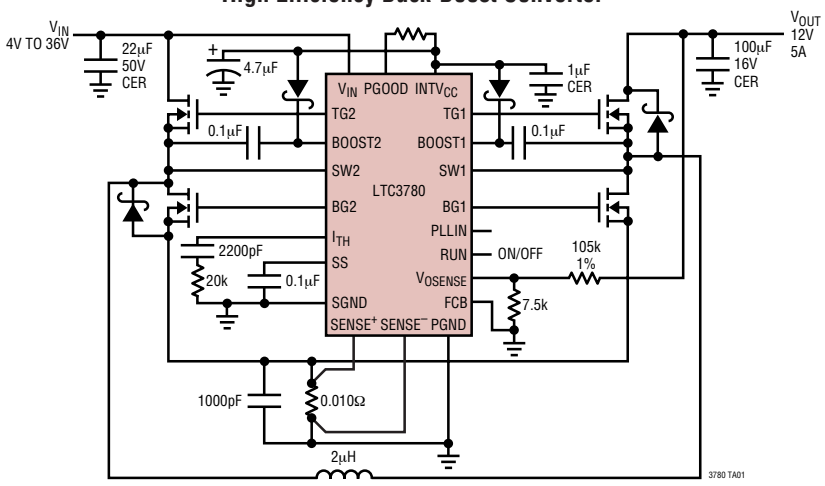
The LTC®3780 is a high performance buck-boost switching regulator controller that operates from input voltages above, below or equal to the output voltage. The constant frequency current mode architecture allows a phase-lockable frequency of up to 400kHz. With a wide 4V to 30V (36V maximum) input and output range and seamless transfers between operating modes, the LTC3780 is ideal for automotive, telecom and battery-powered systems.

The operating mode of the controller is determined through the FCB pin. For boost operation, the FCB mode pin can select among Burst Mode® operation, Discontinuous mode and Forced Continuous mode. During buck operation, the FCB mode pin can select among Skip-Cycle mode, Discontinuous mode and Forced Continuous mode. Burst Mode operation and Skip-Cycle mode provide high efficiency operation at light loads while Forced Continuous mode and Discontinuous mode operate at a constant frequency.

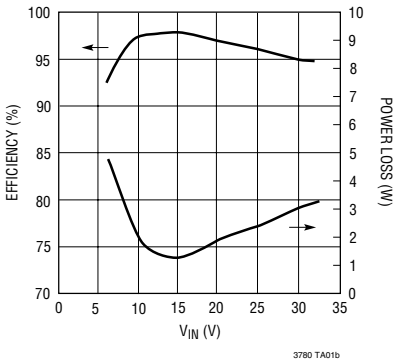
Fault protection is provided by an output overvoltage comparator and internal foldback current limiting. A Power Good output pin indicates when the output is within 7.5% of its designed set point.

TYPICAL APPLICATION

High Efficiency Buck-Boost Converter



Efficiency and Power Loss
V_{OUT} = 12V, I_{LOAD} = 5A

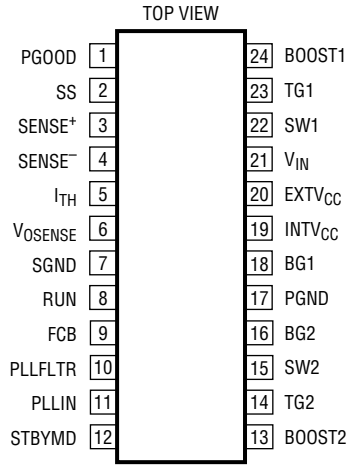


ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS (Note 1)

Input Supply Voltage (V_{IN}) ..... –0.3V to 36V
Topside Driver Voltages
(BOOST1, BOOST2) ..... –0.3V to 42V
Switch Voltage (SW1, SW2) ..... –5V to 36V
$INTV_{CC}$, $EXTV_{CC}$, RUN, SS, (BOOST – SW1),
(BOOST2 – SW2), PGOOD ..... –0.3V to 7V
PLLIN Voltage ..... –0.3V to 5.5V
PLLFLTR Voltage ..... –0.3V to 2.7V
FCB, STBYMD Voltages ..... –0.3V to $INTV_{CC}$
I_{TH}, V_{OSENSE} Voltages ..... –0.3V to 2.4V

Peak Output Current <10ms (TG1, TG2, BG1, BG2) .. 3A
$INTV_{CC}$ Peak Output Current 40mA
Operating Temperature Range (Note 7)
LTC3780E ..... –40°C to 85°C
LTC3780I ..... –40°C to 85°C
Junction Temperature (Note 2) ..... 125°C
Storage Temperature Range ..... –65°C to 125°C
Lead Temperature (Soldering, 10 sec)
SSOP Only ..... 300°C

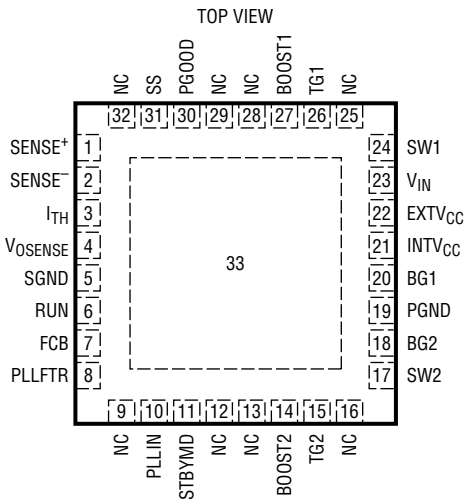
PACKAGE/ORDER INFORMATION



G PACKAGE
24-LEAD PLASTIC SSOP
T_{JMAX} = 125°C, θ_{JA} = 130°C/W

ORDER PART NUMBER

LTC3780EG
LTC3780IG



UH PACKAGE
32-LEAD (5mm × 5mm) PLASTIC QFN
T_{JMAX} = 125°C, θ_{JA} = 34°C/W
EXPOSED PAD (PIN 33) IS SGND
(MUST BE SOLDERED TO PCB)

ORDER PART NUMBER

LTC3780EUH
LTC3780IUH

UH PART MARKING

3780
3780I

Consult LTC Marketing for parts specified with wider operating temperature ranges.

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The ● indicates specifications which apply over the full operating temperature range, otherwise specifications are at T_A = 25°C. V_{IN} = 15V unless otherwise noted.

SYMBOL	PARAMETER	CONDITIONS		MIN	TYP	MAX	UNITS
Main Control Loop							
V_{OSENSE}	Feedback Reference Voltage	I_{TH} = 1.2V (Note 3)	●	0.792	0.800	0.808	V
$I_{VOSENSE}$	Feedback Pin Input Current	(Note 3)			–5	–50	nA
$V_{LOADREG}$	Output Voltage Load Regulation	(Note 3)					
		ΔI_{TH} = 1.2V to 0.7V	●		0.1	0.5	%
		ΔI_{TH} = 1.2V to 1.8V	●		–0.1	–0.5	%

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The ● indicates specifications which apply over the full operating temperature range, otherwise specifications are at T_A = 25°C. V_{IN} = 15V unless otherwise noted.

SYMBOL	PARAMETER	CONDITIONS		MIN	TYP	MAX	UNITS
$V_{REF(LINEREG)}$	Reference Voltage Line Regulation	V_{IN} = 4V to 30V, I_{TH} = 1.2V (Note 3)			0.002	0.02	%/V
$g_{m(EA)}$	Error Amplifier Transconductance	I_{TH} = 1.2V, Sink/Source = 3µA (Note 3)			0.32		mS
$g_{m(GBW)}$	Error Amplifier GBW				0.6		MHz
I_Q	Input DC Supply Current Normal Standby Shutdown Supply Current	(Note 4) V_{RUN} = 0V, V_{STBYMD} > 2V V_{RUN} = 0V, V_{STBYMD} = Open			 2400 1500 55	 70	 µA µA µA
V_{FCB}	Forced Continuous Threshold			0.76	0.800	0.84	V
I_{FCB}	Forced Continuous Pin Current	V_{FCB} = 0.85V		–0.30	–0.18	–0.1	µA
$V_{BINHIBIT}$	Burst Inhibit (Constant Frequency) Threshold	Measured at FCB Pin			5.3	5.5	V
UVLO	Undervoltage Reset	V_{IN} Falling	●		3.8	4	V
V_{OVL}	Feedback Overvoltage Lockout	Measured at V_{OSENSE} Pin		0.84	0.86	0.88	V
I_{SENSE}	Sense Pins Total Source Current	V_{SENSE}^- = V_{SENSE}^+ = 0V			–380		µA
$V_{STBYMD(START)}$	Start-Up Threshold	V_{STBYMD} Rising		0.4	0.7		V
$V_{STBYMD(KA)}$	Keep-Alive Power-On Threshold	V_{STBYMD} Rising, V_{RUN} = 0V			1.25		V
DF MAX, BOOST	Maximum Duty Factor	% Switch C On			99		%
DF MAX, BUCK	Maximum Duty Factor	% Switch A On (in Dropout)			99		%
$V_{RUN(ON)}$	RUN Pin On Threshold	V_{RUN} Rising		1	1.5	2	V
I_{SS}	Soft-Start Charge Current	V_{RUN} = 2V		0.5	1.2		µA
$V_{SENSE(MAX)}$	Maximum Current Sense Threshold	Boost: V_{OSENSE} = V_{REF} – 50mV Buck: V_{OSENSE} = V_{REF} – 50mV	● ●	 –95	160 –130	185 –150	mV mV
$V_{SENSE(MIN,BUCK)}$	Minimum Current Sense Threshold	Discontinuous Mode			–6		mV
TG1, TG2 t_r	TG Rise Time	C_{LOAD} = 3300pF (Note 5)			50		ns
TG1, TG2 t_f	TG Fall Time	C_{LOAD} = 3300pF (Note 5)			45		ns
BG1, BG2 t_r	BG Rise Time	C_{LOAD} = 3300pF (Note 5)			45		ns
BG1, BG2 t_f	BG Fall Time	C_{LOAD} = 3300pF (Note 5)			55		ns
TG1/BG1 t_{1D}	TG1 Off to BG1 On Delay, Switch C On Delay	C_{LOAD} = 3300pF Each Driver			80		ns
BG1/TG1 t_{2D}	BG1 Off to TG1 On Delay, Synchronous Switch D On Delay	C_{LOAD} = 3300pF Each Driver			80		ns
TG2/BG2 t_{3D}	TG2 Off to BG2 On Delay, Synchronous Switch B On Delay	C_{LOAD} = 3300pF Each Driver			80		ns
BG2/TG2 t_{4D}	BG2 Off to TG2 On Delay, Switch A On Delay	C_{LOAD} = 3300pF Each Driver			80		ns
Mode Transition 1	BG1 Off to BG2 On Delay, Switch A On Delay	C_{LOAD} = 3300pF Each Driver			90		ns
Mode Transition 2	BG2 Off to BG1 On Delay, Synchronous Switch D On Delay	C_{LOAD} = 3300pF Each Driver			90		ns

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The ● indicates specifications which apply over the full operating temperature range, otherwise specifications are at T_A = 25°C. V_{IN} = 15V unless otherwise noted.

SYMBOL	PARAMETER	CONDITIONS		MIN	TYP	MAX	UNITS
$t_{ON(MIN,BOOST)}$	Minimum On-Time for Main Switch in Boost Operation	Switch C (Note 6)			200	240	ns
$t_{ON(MIN,BUCK)}$	Minimum On-Time for Synchronous Switch in Buck Operation	Switch B (Note 6)			180	220	ns
Internal V_{CC} Regulator							
V_{INTVCC}	Internal V_{CC} Voltage	7V < V_{IN} < 30V, V_{EXTVCC} = 5V	●	5.7	6	6.3	V
$\Delta V_{LDO(LOADREG)}$	Internal V_{CC} Load Regulation	I_{CC} = 0mA to 20mA, V_{EXTVCC} = 5V			0.2	2	%
V_{EXTVCC}	$EXTV_{CC}$ Switchover Voltage	I_{CC} = 20mA, V_{EXTVCC} Rising	●	5.4	5.7		V
$\Delta V_{EXTVCC(HYS)}$	$EXTV_{CC}$ Switchover Hysteresis				200		mV
ΔV_{EXTVCC}	$EXTV_{CC}$ Switch Drop Voltage	I_{CC} = 20mA, V_{EXTVCC} = 6V			150	300	mV
Oscillator and Phase-Locked Loop							
f_{NOM}	Nominal Frequency	$V_{PLLFLTR}$ = 1.2V		260	300	330	kHz
f_{LOW}	Lowest Frequency	$V_{PLLFLTR}$ = 0V		170	200	220	kHz
f_{HIGH}	Highest Frequency	$V_{PLLFLTR}$ = 2.4V		340	400	440	kHz
R_{PLLIN}	PLLIN Input Resistance				50		kΩ
I_{PLLLPF}	Phase Detector Output Current	$f_{PLLIN} < f_{OSC}$ $f_{PLLIN} > f_{OSC}$			–15 15		µA µA
PGOOD Output							
ΔV_{FBH}	PGOOD Upper Threshold	V_{OSENSE} Rising		5.5	7.5	10	%
ΔV_{FBL}	PGOOD Lower Threshold	V_{OSENSE} Falling		–5.5	–7.5	–10	%
$\Delta V_{FB(HYST)}$	PGOOD Hysteresis	V_{OSENSE} Returning			2.5		%
V_{PGL}	PGOOD Low Voltage	I_{PGOOD} = 2mA			0.1	0.3	V
I_{PGOOD}	PGOOD Leakage Current	V_{PGOOD} = 5V				±1	µA

Note 1: Absolute Maximum Ratings are those values beyond which the life of a device may be impaired.

Note 2: T_J for the QFN package is calculated from the temperature T_A and power dissipation P_D according to the following formula:

$T_J = T_A + (P_D \bullet 34°C/W)$

Note 3: The IC is tested in a feedback loop that servos V_{ITH} to a specified voltage and measures the resultant V_{OSENSE}.

Note 4: Dynamic supply current is higher due to the gate charge being delivered at the switching frequency.

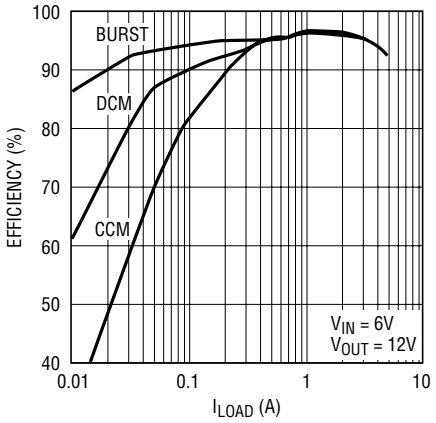
Note 5: Rise and fall times are measured using 10% and 90% levels. Delay times are measured using 50% levels.

Note 6: The minimum on-time condition is specified for an inductor peak-to-peak ripple current ≥ 40% of I_{MAX} (see minimum on-time considerations in the Applications Information section).

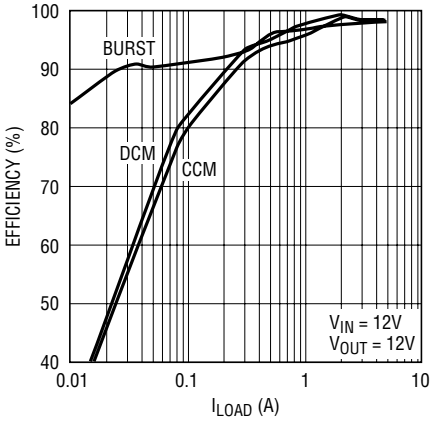
Note 7: The LTC3780E is guaranteed to meet performance specifications from 0°C to 85°C. Performance over the –40°C to 85°C operating temperature range is assured by design, characterization and correlation with statistical process controls. The LTC3780I is guaranteed and tested over the –40°C to 85°C operating temperature range.

TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS T_A = 25°C unless otherwise noted.

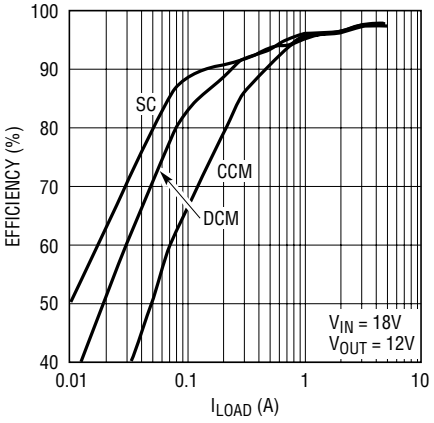
Efficiency vs Output Current (Boost Operation)



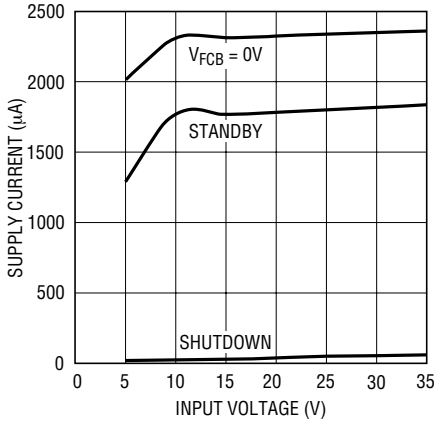
Efficiency vs Output Current



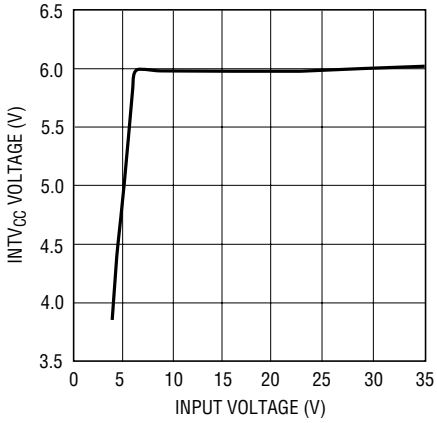
Efficiency vs Output Current (Buck Operation)



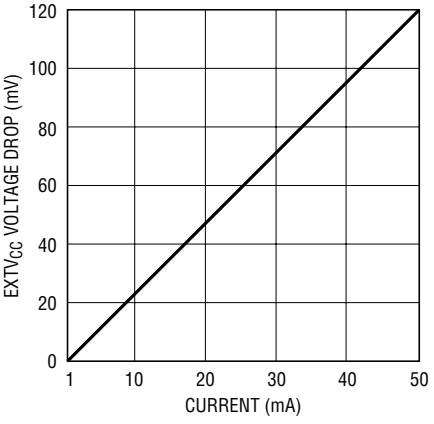
Supply Current vs Input Voltage



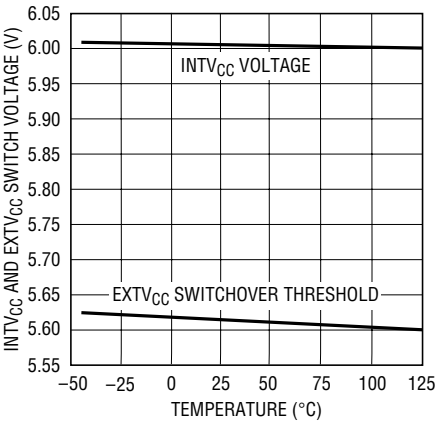
Internal 6V LDO Line Regulation



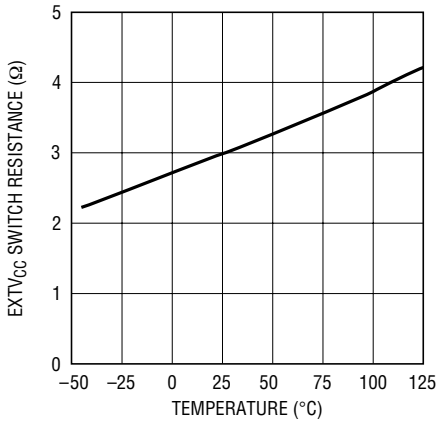
$EXTV_{CC}$ Voltage Drop



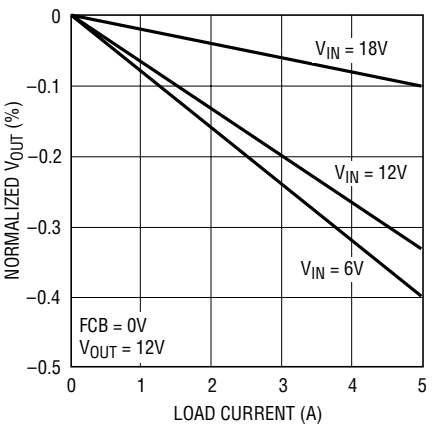
$INTV_{CC}$ and $EXTV_{CC}$ Switch Voltage vs Temperature



$EXTV_{CC}$ Switch Resistance vs Temperature

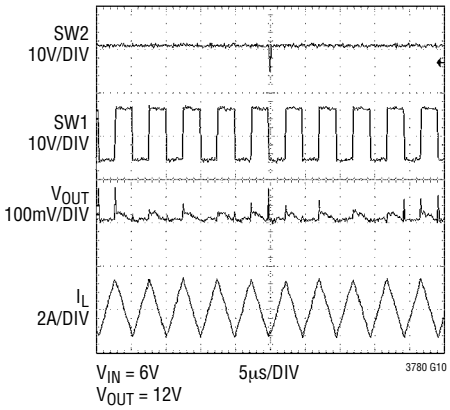


Load Regulation

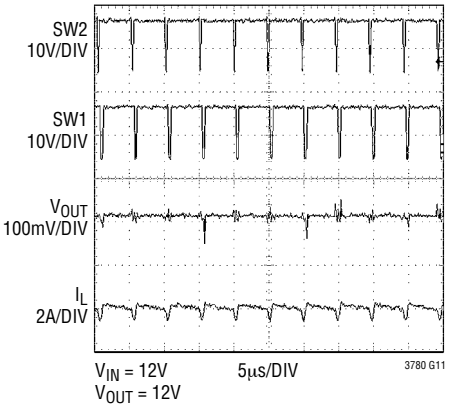


TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS T_A = 25°C unless otherwise noted.

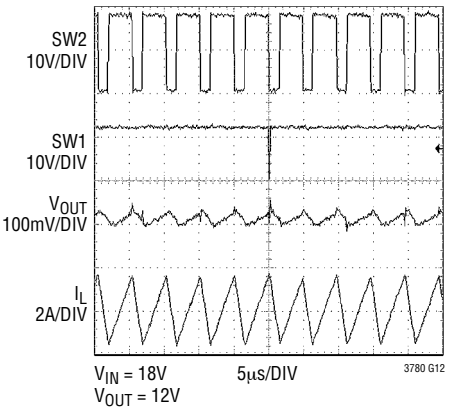
Discontinuous Current Mode (V_{IN} = 6V, V_{OUT} = 12V)



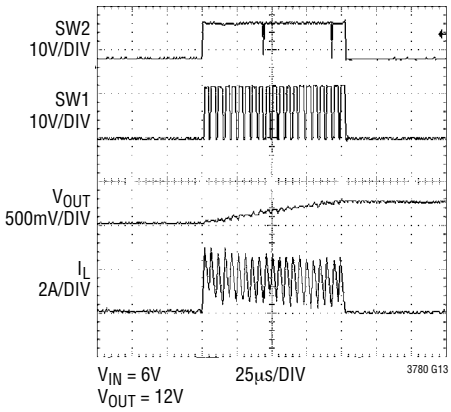
Continuous Current Mode (V_{IN} = 12V, V_{OUT} = 12V)



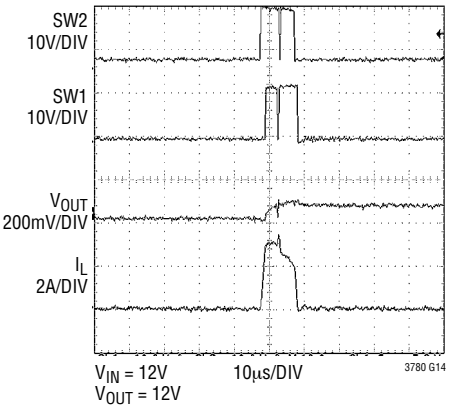
Continuous Current Mode (V_{IN} = 18V, V_{OUT} = 12V)



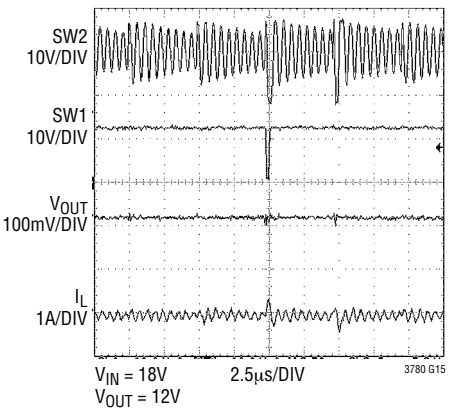
Burst Mode Operation (V_{IN} = 6V, V_{OUT} = 12V)



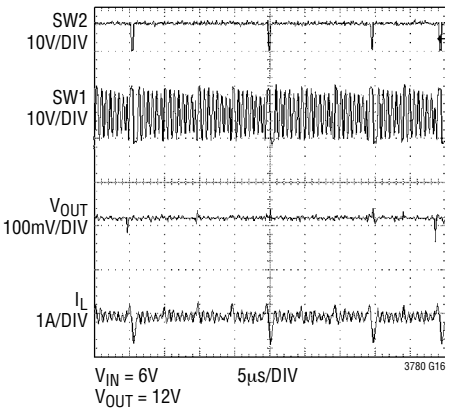
Burst Mode Operation (V_{IN} = 12V, V_{OUT} = 12V)



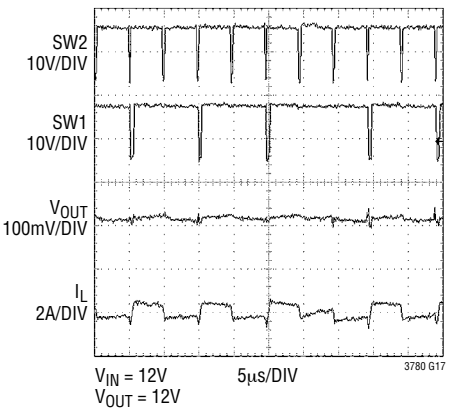
Skip Cycle Mode (V_{IN} = 18V, V_{OUT} = 12V)



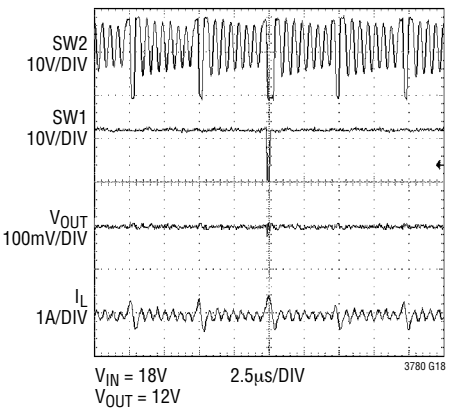
Discontinuous Current Mode (V_{IN} = 6V, V_{OUT} = 12V)



Discontinuous Current Mode (V_{IN} = 12V, V_{OUT} = 12V)

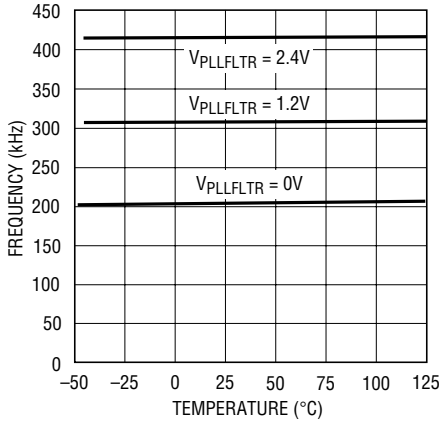


Discontinuous Current Mode (V_{IN} = 18V, V_{OUT} = 12V)

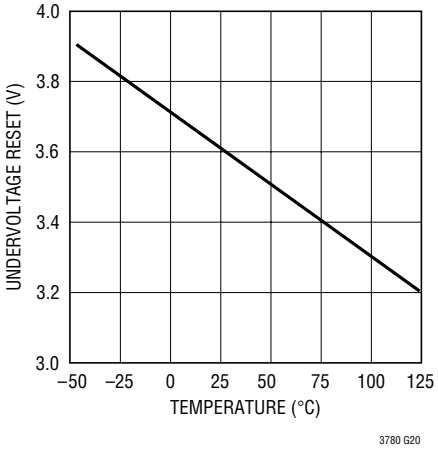


TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS T_A = 25°C unless otherwise noted.

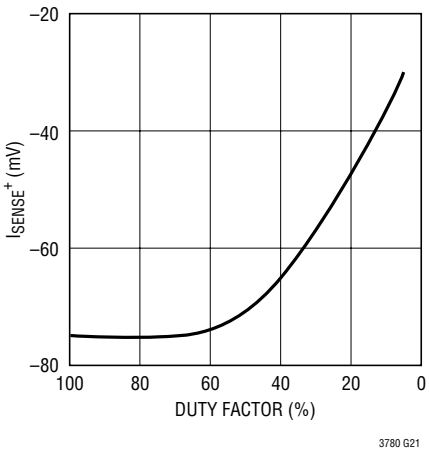
Oscillator Frequency vs Temperature



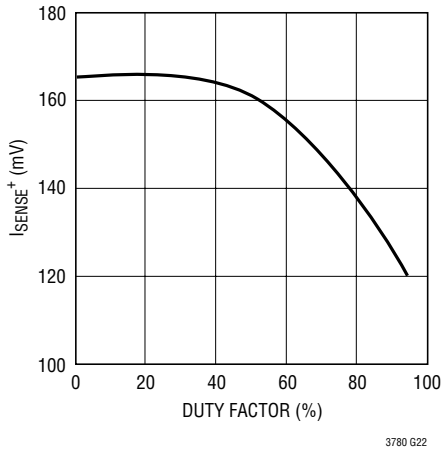
Undervoltage Reset vs Temperature



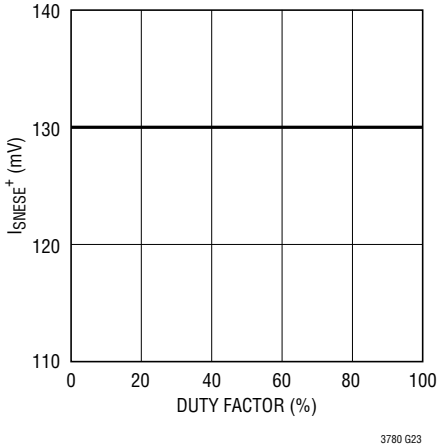
Minimum Current Sense Threshold vs Duty Factor (Buck)



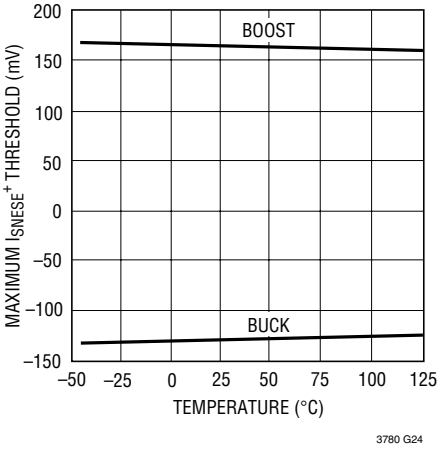
Maximum Current Sense Threshold vs Duty Factor (Boost)



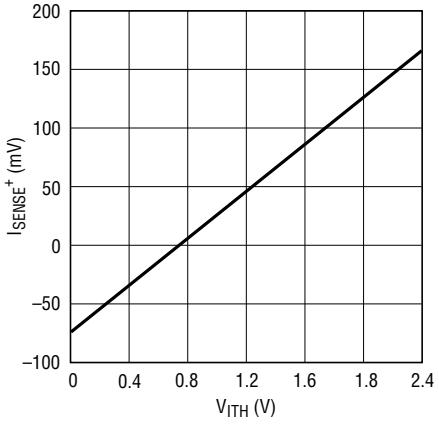
Maximum Current Sense Threshold vs Duty Factor (Buck)



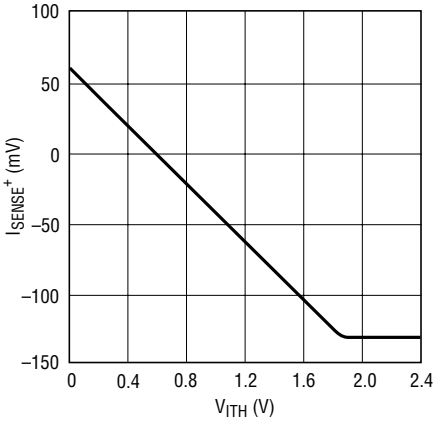
Minimum Current Sense Threshold vs Temperature



Peak Current Threshold vs V_{ITH} (Boost)

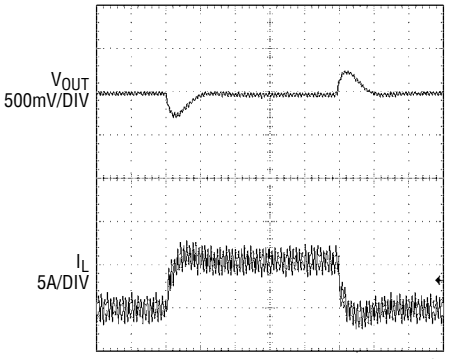


Valley Current Threshold vs V_{ITH} (Buck)



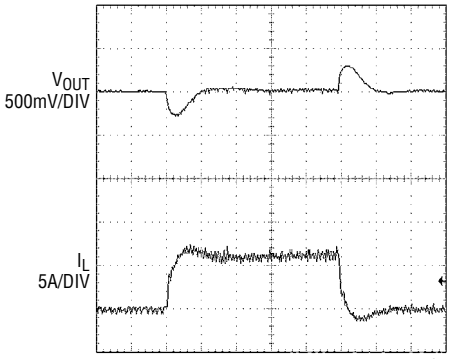
TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS T_A = 25°C unless otherwise noted.

Load Step



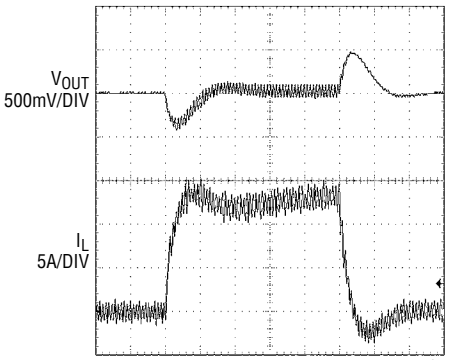
V_{IN} = 18V 200µs/DIV
V_{OUT} = 12V
LOAD STEP: 0A TO 5A
CONTINUOUS MODE

Load Step



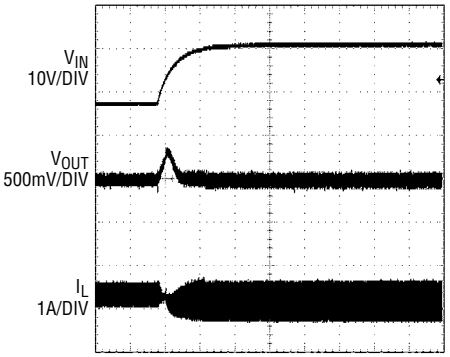
V_{IN} = 12V 200µs/DIV
V_{OUT} = 12V
LOAD STEP: 0A TO 5A
CONTINUOUS MODE

Load Step



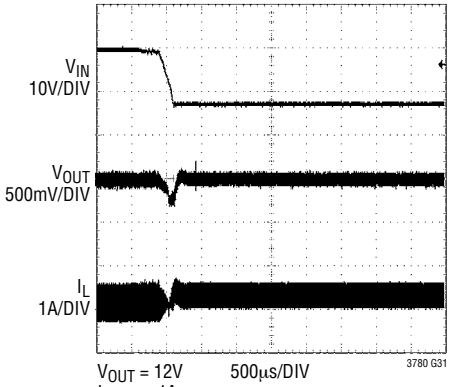
V_{IN} = 6V 200µs/DIV
V_{OUT} = 12V
LOAD STEP: 0A TO 5A
CONTINUOUS MODE

Line Transient



V_{OUT} = 12V 500µs/DIV
I_{LOAD} = 1A
V_{IN} STEP: 7V TO 20V
CONTINUOUS MODE

Line Transient



V_{OUT} = 12V 500µs/DIV
I_{LOAD} = 1A
V_{IN} STEP: 20V TO 7V
CONTINUOUS MODE

PIN FUNCTIONS (SSOP/QFN)

PGOOD (Pin 1/Pin 30): Open-Drain Logic Output. PGOOD is pulled to ground when the output voltage is not within ±7.5% of the regulation point.

SS (Pin 2/Pin 31): Soft-start reduces the input power sources' surge currents by gradually increasing the controller's current limit. A minimum value of 6.8nF is recommended on this pin.

SENSE+ (Pin 3/Pin 1): The (+) Input to the Current Sense and Reverse Current Detect Comparators. The I_{TH} pin voltage and built-in offsets between SENSE– and SENSE+ pins, in conjunction with R_{SENSE}, set the current trip threshold.

SENSE– (Pin 4/Pin 2): The (–) Input to the Current Sense and Reverse Current Detect Comparators.

I_{TH} (Pin 5/Pin 3): Current Control Threshold and Error Amplifier Compensation Point. The current comparator threshold increases with this control voltage. The voltage ranges from 0V to 2.4V.

PIN FUNCTIONS (SSOP/QFN)

V_{OSENSE} (Pin 6/Pin 4): Error Amplifier Feedback Input. This pin connects the error amplifier input to an external resistor divider from V_{OUT}.

SGND (Pin 7/Pin 5): Signal Ground. All small-signal components and compensation components should connect to this ground, which should be connected to PGND at a single point.

RUN (Pin 8/Pin 6): Run Control Input. Forcing the RUN pin below 1.5V causes the IC to shut down the switching regulator circuitry. There is a 100k resistor between the RUN pin and SGND in the IC. Do not apply >6V to this pin.

FCB (Pin 9/Pin 7): Forced Continuous Control Input. The voltage applied to this pin sets the operating mode of the controller. When the applied voltage is less than 0.8V, the forced continuous current mode is active. When this pin is allowed to float, the burst mode is active in boost operation and the skip cycle mode is active in buck operation. When the pin is tied to $INTV_{CC}$, the constant frequency discontinuous current mode is active in buck or boost operation.

PLLFLTR (Pin 10/Pin 8): The Phase-Locked Loop's Low-pass Filter is Tied to This Pin. Alternatively, this pin can be driven with an AC or DC voltage source to vary the frequency of the internal oscillator.

PLLIN (Pin 11/Pin 10): External Synchronization Input to Phase Detector. This pin is internally terminated to SGND with 50kΩ. The phase-locked loop will force the rising bottom gate signal of the controller to be synchronized with the rising edge of the PLLIN signal.

STBYMD (Pin 12/Pin 11): LDO Control Pin. Determines whether the internal LDO remains active when the controller is shut down. See Operation section for details. If the STBYMD pin is pulled to ground, the SS pin is internally pulled to ground, preventing start-up and thereby providing a single control pin for turning off the controller. Decouple this pin with 0.1μF if not tied to a DC potential.

BOOST2, BOOST1 (Pins 13, 24/Pins 14, 27): Boosted Floating Driver Supply. The (+) terminal of the bootstrap capacitor C_A and C_B (Figure 11) connects here. The BOOST2 pin swings from a diode voltage below $INTV_{CC}$ up to V_{IN} + $INTV_{CC}$. The BOOST1 pin swings from a diode voltage below $INTV_{CC}$ up to V_{OUT} + $INTV_{CC}$.

TG2, TG1 (Pins 14, 23/Pins 15, 26): Top Gate Drive. Drives the top N-channel MOSFET with a voltage swing equal to $INTV_{CC}$ superimposed on the switch node voltage SW.

SW2, SW1 (Pins 15, 22/Pins 17, 24): Switch Node. The (–) terminal of the bootstrap capacitor C_A and C_B (Figure 11) connects here. The SW2 pin swings from a Schottky diode (external) voltage drop below ground up to V_{IN}. The SW1 pin swings from a Schottky diode (external) voltage drop below ground up to V_{OUT}.

BG2, BG1 (Pins 16, 18/Pins 18, 20): Bottom Gate Drive. Drives the gate of the bottom N-channel MOSFET between ground and $INTV_{CC}$.

PGND (Pin 17/Pin 19): Power Ground. Connect this pin closely to the source of the bottom N-channel MOSFET, the (–) terminal of CV_{CC} and the (–) terminal of C_{IN} (Figure 11).

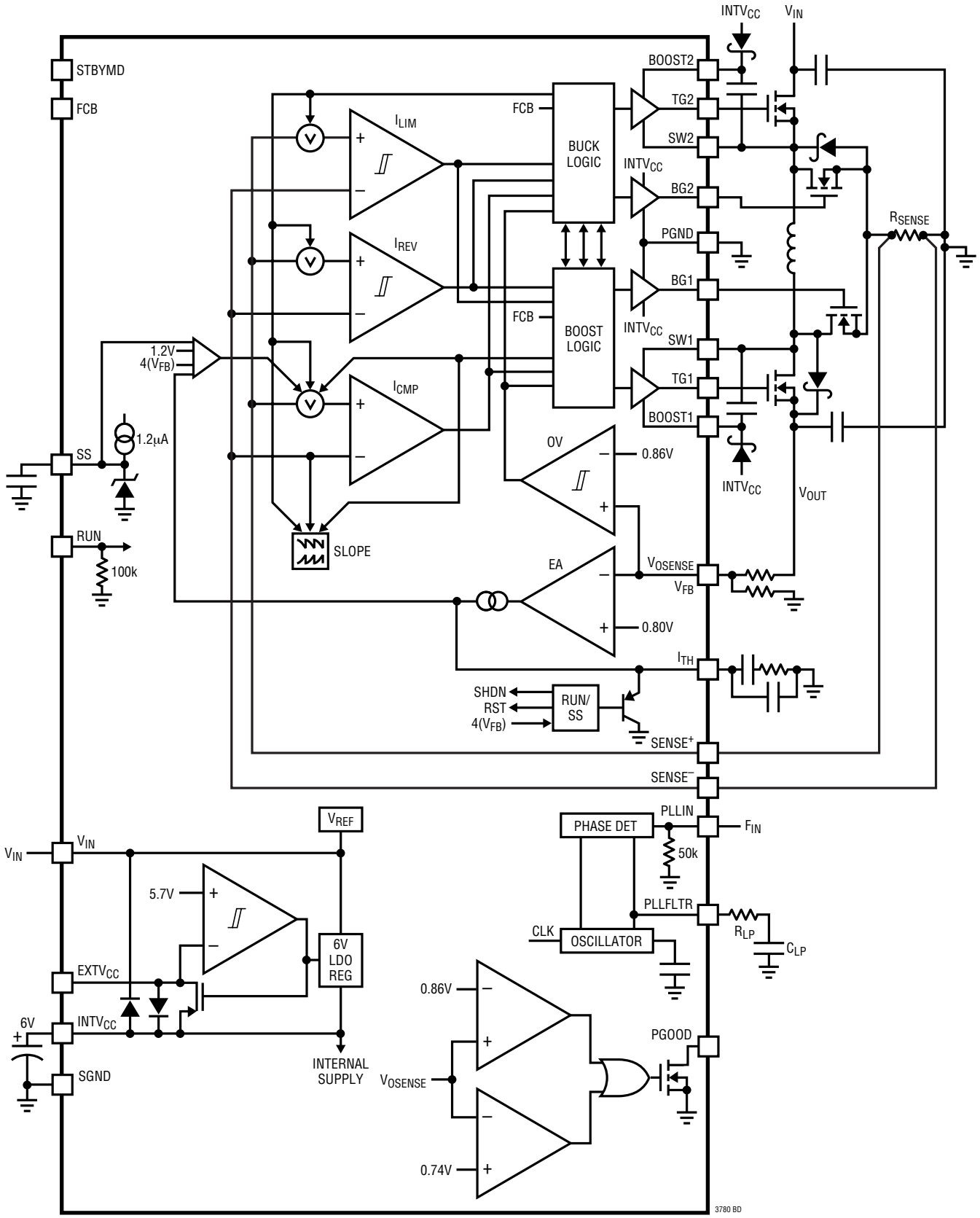
$INTV_{CC}$ (Pin 19/Pin 21): Internal 6V Regulator Output. The driver and control circuits are powered from this voltage. Decouple this pin to ground with a minimum of 4.7μF low ESR tantalum or ceramic capacitor.

$EXTV_{CC}$ (Pin 20/Pin 22): External V_{CC} Input. When $EXTV_{CC}$ exceeds 5.7V, an internal switch connects this pin to $INTV_{CC}$ and shuts down the internal regulator so that the controller and gate drive power is drawn from $EXTV_{CC}$. Do not exceed 7V at this pin and ensure that $EXTV_{CC} < V_{IN}$.

V_{IN} (Pin 21/Pin 23): Main Input Supply. Decouple this pin to SGND with an RC filter (1Ω, 0.1μF).

Exposed Pad (Pin 33, QFN Only): This pin is SGND and must be soldered to PCB ground.

BLOCK DIAGRAM



OPERATION

MAIN CONTROL LOOP

The LTC3780 is a current mode controller that provides an output voltage above, equal to or below the input voltage. The LTC proprietary topology and control architecture employs a current-sensing resistor in Buck or Boost modes. The sensed inductor current is controlled by the voltage on the I_{TH} pin, which is the output of the amplifier EA. The V_{OSENSE} pin receives the voltage feedback signal, which is compared to the internal reference voltage by the EA.

The top MOSFET drivers are biased from floating booststrap capacitors C_A and C_B (Figure 11), which are normally recharged through an external diode when the top MOSFET is turned off. Schottky diodes across the synchronous switch D and synchronous switch B are not required, but provide a lower drop during the dead time. The addition of the Schottky diodes will typically improve peak efficiency by 1% to 2% at 400kHz.

The main control loop is shut down by pulling the RUN pin low. When the RUN pin voltage is higher than 1.5V, an internal 1.2μA current source charges soft-start capacitor C_{SS} at the SS pin. The I_{TH} voltage is then clamped to the SS voltage while C_{SS} is slowly charged during start-up. This "soft-start" clamping prevents abrupt current from being drawn from the input power supply.

POWER SWITCH CONTROL

Figure 1 shows a simplified diagram of how the four power switches are connected to the inductor, V_{IN}, V_{OUT} and GND. Figure 2 shows the regions of operation for the LTC3780 as a function of duty cycle D. The power switches are properly controlled so the transfer between modes is continuous. When V_{IN} approaches V_{OUT}, the Buck-Boost region is reached; the mode-to-mode transition time is typically 200ns.

Buck Region ($V_{IN} > V_{OUT}$)

Switch D is always on and Switch C is always off during this mode. At the start of every cycle, Synchronous Switch B is turned on first. Inductor current is sensed when Synchronous Switch B is turned on. After the sensed inductor current falls below the reference voltage, which is proportional to V_{ITH}, Synchronous Switch B is turned off

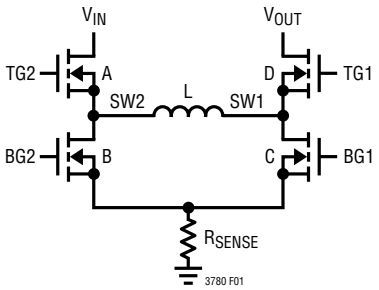


Figure 1. Simplified Diagram of the Output Switches

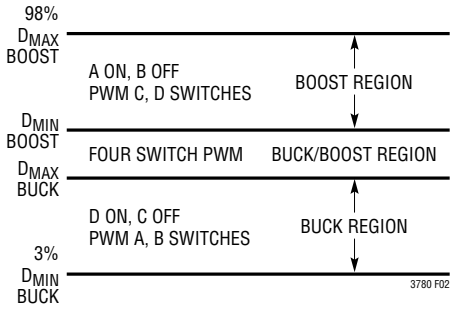


Figure 2. Operating Mode vs Duty Cycle

OPERATION

and Switch A is turned on for the remainder of the cycle. Switches A and B will alternate, behaving like a typical synchronous buck regulator. The duty cycle of switch A increases until the maximum duty cycle of the converter in Buck mode reaches D_{MAX_BUCK}, given by:

$$D_{MAX\_BUCK} = (1 - D_{BUCK\text{-}BOOST}) \bullet 100\%$$

where $D_{BUCK\text{-}BOOST}$ = duty cycle of the Buck-Boost switch range:

$$D_{BUCK\text{-}BOOST} = (200ns \bullet f) \bullet 100\%$$

and f is the operating frequency in Hz.

Figure 3 shows typical Buck mode waveforms. If V_{IN} approaches V_{OUT}, the Buck-Boost region is reached.

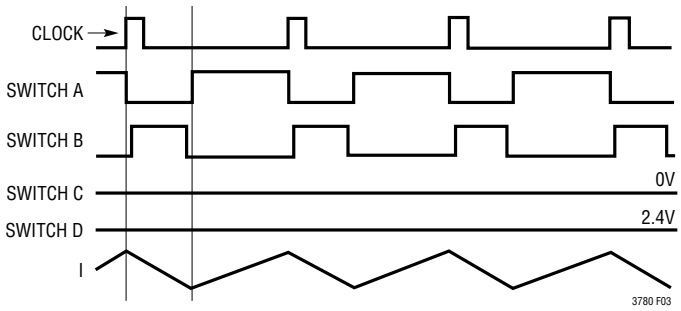
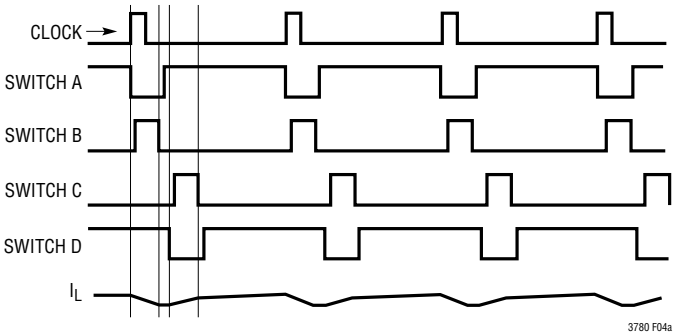
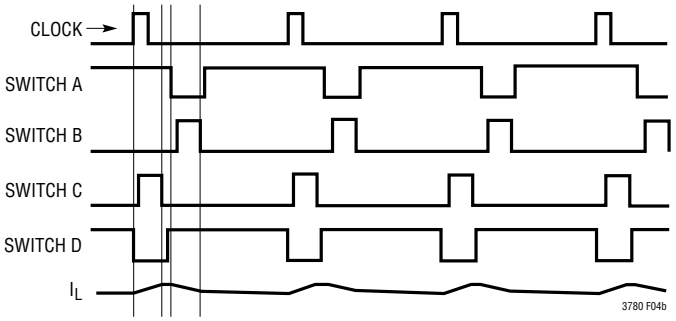


Figure 3. Buck Mode ($V_{IN} > V_{OUT}$)



(4a) Buck-Boost Mode ($V_{IN} \geq V_{OUT}$)



(4b) Buck-Boost Mode ($V_{IN} \leq V_{OUT}$)

Figure 4. Buck-Boost Mode

Buck-Boost ($V_{IN} \cong V_{OUT}$)

When V_{IN} is close to V_{OUT}, the controller is in Buck-Boost mode. Figure 4 shows typical waveforms in this mode. Every cycle, if the controller starts with Switches B and D turned on, Switches A and C are then turned on. Finally, Switches A and D are turned on for the remainder of the time. If the controller starts with Switches A and C turned on, Switches B and D are then turned on. Finally, Switches A and D are turned on for the remainder of the time.

Boost Region ($V_{IN} < V_{OUT}$)

Switch A is always on and Synchronous Switch B is always off in Boost mode. Every cycle, Switch C is turned on first. Inductor current is sensed when Synchronous Switch C is turned on. After the sensed inductor current exceeds the reference voltage which is proportional to V_{ITH}, Switch C is turned off and Synchronous Switch D is turned on for the remainder of the cycle. Switches C and D will alternate, behaving like a typical synchronous boost regulator.

OPERATION

The duty cycle of Switch C decreases until the minimum duty cycle of the converter in Buck mode reaches D_{MIN_BOOST}, given by:

$$D_{MIN\_BOOST} = (D_{BUCK\text{-}BOOST}) \bullet 100\%$$

where $D_{BUCK\text{-}BOOST}$ is the duty cycle of the Buck-Boost switch range:

$$D_{BUCK\text{-}BOOST} = (200ns \bullet f) \bullet 100\%$$

and f is the operating frequency in Hz.

Figure 5 shows typical boost mode waveforms. If V_{IN} approaches V_{OUT}, the Buck-Boost region is reached.

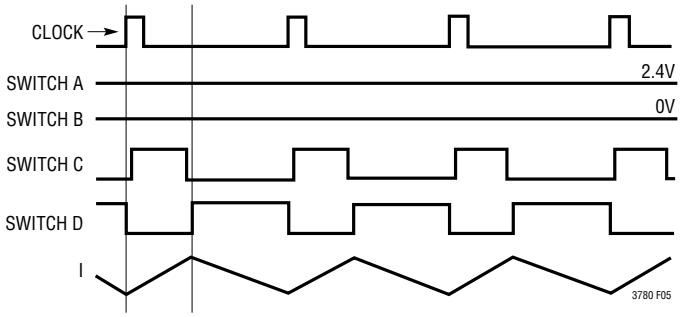


Figure 5. Boost Mode (V_{IN} < V_{OUT})

LOW CURRENT OPERATION

The FCB pin is a multifunction pin providing two functions: 1) to provide regulation for a secondary winding by temporarily forcing continuous PWM operation in Buck mode and 2) to select among three modes for both buck and boost operations by accepting a logic input. Figure 6 shows the different modes.

FCB PIN	BUCK MODE	BOOST MODE
0V to 0.75V	Force Continuous Mode	Force Continuous Mode
0.85V to 5V	Skip-Cycle Mode	Burst Mode Operation
>5.3V	DCM with Constant Freq	DCM with Constant Freq

Figure 6. Different Operating Modes

When the FCB pin voltage is lower than 0.8V, the controller behaves as a continuous, PWM current mode synchronous switching regulator. In Boost mode, Switch A is always on. Switch C and Synchronous Switch D are alternately turned on to maintain the output voltage independent of direction of inductor current. Every ten cycles, Switch A is forced off for about 300ns to allow C_A to recharge. In Buck mode, Synchronous Switch D is always on. Switch A and Synchronous Switch B are alternately turned on to maintain the output voltage independent of direction of inductor current. Every ten cycles, Synchronous Switch D is forced off for about 300ns to allow C_B to recharge. This is the least efficient operating mode at light load, but may be desirable in certain applications. In this mode, the output can source or sink current. The sunk current will be forced back into the main power supply potentially boosting the input supply to dangerous voltage levels—BEWARE!

When the FCB pin voltage is below V_{INTVCC} – 1V, but greater than 0.8V, the controller enters Burst Mode operation in Boost operation or enters Skip-Cycle mode in Buck operation. During Boost operation, Burst Mode operation sets a minimum output current level before inhibiting the switch C and turns off Synchronous Switch D when the inductor current goes negative. This combination of requirements will, at low currents, force the I_{TH} pin below a voltage threshold that will temporarily inhibit turn-on of power switches C and D until the output voltage drops. There is 100mV of hysteresis in the burst comparator tied to the I_{TH} pin. This hysteresis produces output signals to the MOSFETs C and D that turn them on for several cycles, followed by a variable "sleep" interval depending upon the load current. The maximum output voltage ripple is limited to 3% of the nominal DC output voltage as determined by a resistive feedback divider. During buck operation, Skip-Cycle mode sets a minimum positive inductor current level. When inductor current is lower than this level, Synchronous Switch B is kept off. In every cycle, the body

OPERATION

diode of Synchronous Switch B or the Schottky diode, which is in parallel in with Synchronous Switch B, is used to discharge inductor current. As a result, some cycles will be skipped when the output load current drops below 1% of the maximum designed load in order to maintain the output voltage.

When the FCB pin voltage is tied to the $INTV_{CC}$ pin, the controller enters constant frequency Discontinuous Current mode (DCM). For Boost operation, Synchronous Switch D is held off whenever the I_{TH} pin is below a threshold voltage. In every cycle, Switch C is used to charge inductor current. After the output voltage is high enough, the controller will enter continuous current Buck mode for one cycle to discharge inductor current. In the following cycle, the controller will resume DCM Boost operation. For Buck operation, constant frequency Discontinuous Current mode sets a minimum negative inductor current level. Synchronous Switch B is turned off whenever inductor current is lower than this level. At very light loads, this constant frequency operation is not as efficient as Burst Mode operation or Skip-Cycle, but does provide lower noise, constant frequency operation.

FREQUENCY SYNCHRONIZATION AND FREQUENCY SETUP

The phase-locked loop allows the internal oscillator to be synchronized to an external source via the PLLIN pin. The phase detector output at the PLLFLTR pin is also the DC frequency control input of the oscillator. The frequency ranges from 200kHz to 400kHz, corresponding to a DC voltage input from 0V to 2.4V at PLLFLTR. When locked, the PLL aligns the turn on of the top MOSFET to the rising edge of the synchronizing signal. When PLLIN is left open, the PLLFLTR pin goes low, forcing the oscillator to its minimum frequency.

$INTV_{CC}/EXTV_{CC}$ POWER

Power for all power MOSFET drivers and most internal circuitry is derived from the $INTV_{CC}$ pin. When the $EXTV_{CC}$ pin is left open, an internal 6V low dropout linear regulator supplies $INTV_{CC}$ power. If $EXTV_{CC}$ is taken above 5.7V, the 6V regulator is turned off and an internal switch is turned on, connecting $EXTV_{CC}$ to $INTV_{CC}$. This allows the $INTV_{CC}$ power to be derived from a high efficiency external source.

POWER GOOD (PGOOD) PIN

The PGOOD pin is connected to an open drain of an internal MOSFET. The MOSFET turns on and pulls the pin low when the output is not within ±7.5% of the nominal output level as determined by the resistive feedback divider. When the output meets the ±7.5% requirement, the MOSFET is turned off and the pin is allowed to be pulled up by an external resistor to a source of up to 7V.

FOLDBACK CURRENT

Foldback current limiting is activated when the output voltage falls below 70% of its nominal level, reducing power waste. During start-up, foldback current limiting is disabled.

INPUT UNDERVOLTAGE RESET

The SS capacitor will be reset if the input voltage is allowed to fall below approximately 4V. The SS capacitor will attempt to charge through a normal soft-start ramp after the input voltage rises above 4V.

OPERATION

OUTPUT OVERVOLTAGE PROTECTION

An overvoltage comparator guards against transient overshoots (>7.5%) as well as other more serious conditions that may overvoltage the output. In this case, Synchronous Switch B and Synchronous Switch D are turned on until the overvoltage condition is cleared or the maximum negative current limit is reached. When inductor current is lower than the maximum negative current limit, Synchronous Switch B and Synchronous Switch D are turned off, and Switch A and Switch C are turned on until the inductor current reaches another negative current limit. If the comparator still detects an overvoltage condition, Switch A and Switch C are turned off, and Synchronous Switch B and Synchronous Switch D are turned on again.

SHORT-CIRCUIT PROTECTION AND CURRENT LIMIT

Switch A on-time is limited by output voltage. When output voltage is reduced and is lower than its nominal level, Switch A on-time will be reduced.

In every Boost mode cycle, current is limited by a voltage reference, which is proportional to the I_{TH} pin voltage. The maximum sensed current is limited to 160mV. In every Buck mode cycle, the maximum sensed current is limited to 130mV.

STANDBY MODE PIN

The STBYMD pin is a three-state input that controls circuitry within the IC as follows: When the STBYMD pin is held at ground, the SS pin is pulled to ground. When the pin is left open, the internal SS current source charges the SS capacitor, allowing turn-on of the controller and activating necessary internal biasing. When the STBYMD pin is taken above 2V, the internal linear regulator is turned on independent of the state on the RUN and SS pins, providing an output power source for “wake-up” circuitry. Decouple the pin with a small capacitor (0.1μF) to ground if the pin is not connected to a DC potential.

APPLICATIONS INFORMATION

Figure 11 is a basic LTC3780 application circuit. External component selection is driven by the load requirement, and begins with the selection of R_{SENSE} and the inductor value. Next, the power MOSFETs are selected. Finally, C_{IN} and C_{OUT} are selected. This circuit can be configured for operation up to an input voltage of 36V.

R_{SENSE} Selection and Maximum Output Current

R_{SENSE} is chosen based on the required output current. The current comparator threshold sets the peak of the inductor current in Boost mode and the maximum inductor valley current in Buck mode. In Boost mode, the maximum average load current is:

$$I_{OUT(MAX,BOOST)} = \frac{160mV \bullet V_{IN}}{R_{SENSE} \bullet V_{OUT}} - \frac{\Delta I_L}{2}$$

where ΔI_L is peak-to-peak inductor ripple current. In Buck mode, the maximum average load current is:

$$I_{OUT(MAX,BUCK)} = \frac{130mV}{R_{SENSE}} + \frac{\Delta I_L}{2}$$

Figure 7 shows how the load current ($I_{MAXLOAD} \bullet R_{SENSE}$) varies with input and output voltage

Allowing a margin for variations in LTC3780 and external component values yields:

$$R_{SENSE} = \frac{2 \bullet 160mV \bullet V_{IN}}{2 \bullet I_{OUT(MAX,BOOST)} \bullet V_{OUT} + \Delta I_{L(BOOST)}}$$

Selection of Operation Frequency

The LTC3780 uses a constant frequency architecture and has an internal voltage controlled oscillator. The switching frequency is determined by the internal oscillator capacitor. This internal capacitor is charged by a fixed current plus an additional current that is proportional to the voltage applied to the PLLFLTR pin. The frequency of this oscillator can be varied over a 2-to-1 range. The PLLFLTR pin can be grounded to lower the frequency to 200kHz or tied to 2.4V to yield approximately 400kHz. When PLLIN is left open, the PLLFLTR pin goes low, forcing the oscillator to minimum frequency.

A graph for the voltage applied to the PLLFLTR pin vs frequency is given in Figure 8. As the operating frequency is increased the gate charge losses will be higher, reducing efficiency. The maximum switching frequency is approximately 400kHz.

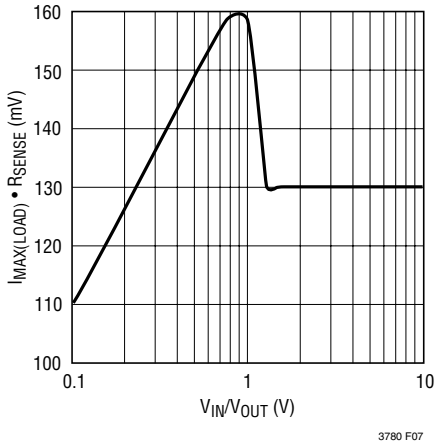


Figure 7. Load Current vs V_{IN}/V_{OUT}

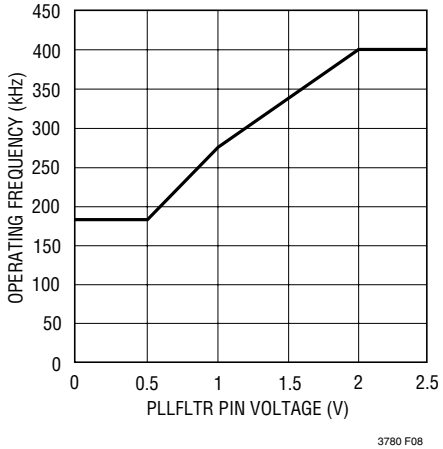


Figure 8. Frequency vs PLLFLTR Pin Voltage

APPLICATIONS INFORMATION

Inductor Selection

The operating frequency and inductor selection are interrelated in that higher operating frequencies allow the use of smaller inductor and capacitor values. The inductor value has a direct effect on ripple current. The inductor current ripple ΔI_L is typically set to 20% to 40% of the maximum inductor current. For a given ripple the inductance terms are as follows:

$$L_{BOOST} > \frac{V_{IN(MIN)}^2 \bullet \left(V_{OUT} - V_{IN(MIN)}\right) \bullet 100}{f \bullet I_{OUT(MAX)} \bullet \%\,Ripple \bullet V_{OUT}^2} H,$$

$$L_{BUCK} > \frac{V_{OUT} \bullet \left(V_{IN(MAX)} - V_{OUT}\right) \bullet 100}{f \bullet I_{OUT(MAX)} \bullet \%\,Ripple \bullet V_{IN(MAX)}} H$$

where:

f is operating frequency, Hz

% Ripple is allowable inductor current ripple, %

$V_{IN(MIN)}$ is minimum input voltage, V

$V_{IN(MAX)}$ is maximum input voltage, V

V_{OUT} is output voltage, V

$I_{OUT(MAX)}$ is maximum output load current

For high efficiency, choose an inductor with low core loss, such as ferrite and molypermalloy (from Magnetics, Inc.). Also, the inductor should have low DC resistance to reduce the I^2R losses, and must be able to handle the peak inductor current without saturating. To minimize radiated noise, use a toroid, pot core or shielded bobbin inductor.

C_{IN} and C_{OUT} Selection

In Boost mode, input current is continuous. In Buck mode, input current is discontinuous. In Buck mode, the selection of input capacitor C_{IN} is driven by the need to filter the input square wave current. Use a low ESR capacitor sized to handle the maximum RMS current. For Buck operation, the input RMS current is given by:

$$I_{RMS} \approx I_{OUT(MAX)} \bullet \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}} \bullet \sqrt{\frac{V_{IN}}{V_{OUT}} - 1}$$

This formula has a maximum at $V_{IN} = 2V_{OUT}$, where $I_{RMS} = I_{OUT(MAX)}/2$. This simple worst-case condition is commonly used for design because even significant deviations do not offer much relief. Note that ripple current ratings from capacitor manufacturers are often based on only 2000 hours of life which makes it advisable to derate the capacitor.

In Boost mode, the discontinuous current shifts from the input to the output, so C_{OUT} must be capable of reducing the output voltage ripple. The effects of ESR (equivalent series resistance) and the bulk capacitance must be considered when choosing the right capacitor for a given output ripple voltage. The steady ripple due to charging and discharging the bulk capacitance is given by:

$$Ripple\,(Boost,Cap) = \frac{I_{OUT(MAX)} \bullet \left(V_{OUT} - V_{IN(MIN)}\right)}{C_{OUT} \bullet V_{OUT} \bullet f} V$$

$$Ripple\,(Buck,Cap) = \frac{I_{OUT(MAX)} \bullet \left(V_{IN(MAX)} - V_{OUT}\right)}{C_{OUT} \bullet V_{IN(MAX)} \bullet f} V$$

where C_{OUT} is the output filter capacitor.

The steady ripple due to the voltage drop across the ESR is given by:

$\Delta V_{BOOST,ESR} = I_{L(MAX,BOOST)} \bullet ESR$

$\Delta V_{BUCK,ESR} = I_{L(MAX,BUCK)} \bullet ESR$

Multiple capacitors placed in parallel may be needed to meet the ESR and RMS current handling requirements. Dry tantalum, special polymer, aluminum electrolytic and ceramic capacitors are all available in surface mount packages. Ceramic capacitors have excellent low ESR characteristics but can have a high voltage coefficient. Capacitors are now available with low ESR and high ripple current ratings such as OS-CON and POSCAP.

Power MOSFET Selection and Efficiency Considerations

The LTC3780 requires four external N-channel power MOSFETs, two for the top switches (Switch A and D, shown in Figure 1) and two for the bottom switches

APPLICATIONS INFORMATION

(Switch B and C shown in Figure 1). Important parameters for the power MOSFETs are the breakdown voltage $V_{BR,DSS}$, threshold voltage $V_{GS,TH}$, on-resistance $R_{DS(ON)}$, reverse transfer capacitance C_{RSS} and maximum current $I_{DS(MAX)}$.

The drive voltage is set by the 6V $INTV_{CC}$ supply. Consequently, logic-level threshold MOSFETs must be used in LTC3780 applications. If the input voltage is expected to drop below 5V, then the sub-logic threshold MOSFETs should be considered.

In order to select the power MOSFETs, the power dissipated by the device must be known. For Switch A, the maximum power dissipation happens in Boost mode, when it remains on all the time. Its maximum power dissipation at maximum output current is given by:

$$P_{A,BOOST} = \left(\frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}} \bullet I_{OUT(MAX)}\right)^2 \bullet \rho_T \bullet R_{DS(ON)}$$

where ρ_T is a normalization factor (unity at 25°C) accounting for the significant variation in on-resistance with temperature, typically about 0.4%/°C as shown in Figure 9. For a maximum junction temperature of 125°C, using a value $\rho_T = 1.5$ is reasonable.

Switch B operates in Buck mode as the synchronous rectifier. Its power dissipation at maximum output current is given by:

$$P_{B,BUCK} = \frac{V_{IN} - V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}} \bullet I_{OUT(MAX)}^2 \bullet \rho_T \bullet R_{DS(ON)}$$

Switch C operates in Boost mode as the control switch. Its power dissipation at maximum current is given by:

$$P_{C,BOOST} = \frac{(V_{OUT} - V_{IN})V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}^2} \bullet I_{OUT(MAX)}^2 \bullet \rho_T \bullet R_{DS(ON)} + k \bullet V_{OUT}^3 \bullet \frac{I_{OUT(MAX)}}{V_{IN}} \bullet C_{RSS} \bullet f$$

where C_{RSS} is usually specified by the MOSFET manufacturers. The constant k, which accounts for the loss caused by reverse recovery current, is inversely proportional to the gate drive current and has an empirical value of 1.7.

For Switch D, the maximum power dissipation happens in Boost mode, when its duty cycle is higher than 50%. Its maximum power dissipation at maximum output current is given by:

$$P_{D,BUCK} = \frac{V_{IN}}{V_{OUT}} \bullet \left(\frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}} \bullet I_{OUT(MAX)}\right)^2 \bullet \rho_T \bullet R_{DS(ON)}$$

For the same output voltage and current, Switch A has the highest power dissipation and Switch B has the lowest power dissipation unless a short occurs at the output.

From a known power dissipated in the power MOSFET, its junction temperature can be obtained using the following formula:

$$T_J = T_A + P \bullet R_{TH(JA)}$$

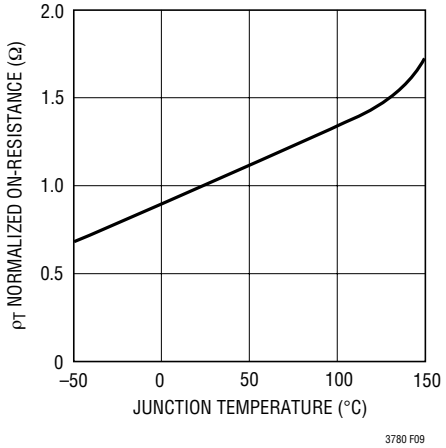


Figure 9. Normalized $R_{DS(ON)}$ vs Temperature

APPLICATIONS INFORMATION

The $R_{TH(JA)}$ to be used in the equation normally includes the $R_{TH(JC)}$ for the device plus the thermal resistance from the case to the ambient temperature ($R_{TH(JC)}$). This value of T_J can then be compared to the original, assumed value used in the iterative calculation process.

Schottky Diode (D1, D2) Selection and Light Load Operation

The Schottky diodes D1 and D2 shown in Figure 1 conduct during the dead time between the conduction of the power MOSFET switches. They are intended to prevent the body diode of Synchronous Switches B and D from turning on and storing charge during the dead time. In particular, D2 significantly reduces reverse recovery current between Switch D turn-off and Switch C turn-on, which improves converter efficiency and reduces Switch C voltage stress. In order for the diode to be effective, the inductance between it and the synchronous switch must be as small as possible, mandating that these components be placed adjacently.

In Buck mode, when the FCB pin voltage is $0.85 < V_{FCB} < 5V$, the converter operates in Skip-Cycle mode. In this mode, Synchronous Switch B remains off until the inductor peak current exceeds one-fifth of its maximum peak current. As a result, D1 should be rated for about one-half to one-third of the full load current.

In Boost mode, when the FCB pin voltage is higher than 5.3V, the converter operates in Discontinuous Current mode. In this mode, Synchronous Switch D remains off until the inductor peak current exceeds one-fifth of its maximum peak current. As a result, D2 should be rated for about one-third to one-fourth of the full load current.

In Buck mode, when the FCB pin voltage is higher than 5.3V, the converter operates in constant frequency Discontinuous Current mode. In this mode, Synchronous Switch B remains on until the inductor valley current is lower than the sense voltage representing the minimum negative inductor current level (V_{SENSE} = –5mV). Both Switch A and B are off until next clock signal.

In Boost mode, when the FCB pin voltage is $0.85 < V_{FCB} < 5.3V$, the converter operates in Burst Mode operation. In this mode, the controller clamps the peak inductor current to approximately 20% of the maximum inductor current. The output voltage ripple can increase during Burst Mode operation.

$INTV_{CC}$ Regulator

An internal P-channel low dropout regulator produces 6V at the $INTV_{CC}$ pin from the V_{IN} supply pin. $INTV_{CC}$ powers the drivers and internal circuitry within the LTC3780. The $INTV_{CC}$ pin regulator can supply a peak current of 40mA and must be bypassed to ground with a minimum of 4.7µF tantalum, 10µF special polymer or low ESR type electrolytic capacitor. A 1µF ceramic capacitor placed directly adjacent to the $INTV_{CC}$ and PGND IC pins is highly recommended. Good bypassing is necessary to supply the high transient current required by MOSFET gate drivers.

Higher input voltage applications in which large MOSFETs are being driven at high frequencies may cause the maximum junction temperature rating for the LTC3780 to be exceeded. The system supply current is normally dominated by the gate charge current. Additional external loading of the $INTV_{CC}$ also needs to be taken into account for the power dissipation calculations. The total $INTV_{CC}$ current can be supplied by either the 6V internal linear regulator or by the $EXTV_{CC}$ input pin. When the voltage applied to the $EXTV_{CC}$ pin is less than 5.7V, all of the $INTV_{CC}$ current is supplied by the internal 6V linear regulator. Power dissipation for the IC in this case is $V_{IN} \bullet I_{INTVCC}$, and overall efficiency is lowered. The junction temperature can be estimated by using the equations given in Note 2 of the Electrical Characteristics. For example, LTC3780 V_{IN} current is limited to less than 24mA from a 24V supply when not using the $EXTV_{CC}$ pin as:

$$T_J = 70°C + 24mV \bullet 24V \bullet 95°C/W = 125°C$$

Use of the $EXTV_{CC}$ input pin reduces the junction temperature to:

$$T_J = 70°C + 24mV \bullet 6V \bullet 95°C/W = 84°C$$

To prevent maximum junction temperature from being exceeded, the input supply current must be checked operating in continuous mode at maximum V_{IN}.

APPLICATIONS INFORMATION

$EXTV_{CC}$ Connection

The LTC3780 contains an internal P-channel MOSFET switch connected between the $EXTV_{CC}$ and $INTV_{CC}$ pins. When the voltage applied to $EXTV_{CC}$ rises above 5.7V, the internal regulator is turned off and a switch connects the $EXTV_{CC}$ pin to the $INTV_{CC}$ pin thereby supplying internal power. The switch remains closed as long as the voltage applied to $EXTV_{CC}$ remains above 5.5V. This allows the MOSFET driver and control power to be derived from the output when ($5.7V < V_{OUT} < 7V$) and from the internal regulator when the output is out of regulation (start-up, short-circuit). If more current is required through the $EXTV_{CC}$ switch than is specified, an external Schottky diode can be interposed between the $EXTV_{CC}$ and $INTV_{CC}$ pins. Ensure that $EXTV_{CC} \leq V_{IN}$.

The following list summarizes the three possible connections for $EXTV_{CC}$:

1. $EXTV_{CC}$ left open (or grounded). This will cause $INTV_{CC}$ to be powered from the internal 6V regulator at the cost of a small efficiency penalty.
2. $EXTV_{CC}$ connected directly to V_{OUT} ($5.7V < V_{OUT} < 7V$). This is the normal connection for a 6V regulator and provides the highest efficiency.
3. $EXTV_{CC}$ connected to an external supply. If an external supply is available in the 5.5V to 7V range, it may be used to power $EXTV_{CC}$ provided it is compatible with the MOSFET gate drive requirements.

Output Voltage

The LTC3780 output voltage is set by an external feedback resistive divider carefully placed across the output capacitor. The resultant feedback signal is compared with the internal precision 0.800V voltage reference by the error amplifier. The output voltage is given by the equation:

$$V_{OUT} = 0.8V \bullet \left(1 + \frac{R2}{R1}\right)$$

Topside MOSFET Driver Supply (C_A, D_A, C_B, D_B)

Referring to Figure 11, the external bootstrap capacitors C_A and C_B connected to the BOOST1 and BOOST2 pins supply the gate drive voltage for the topside MOSFET Switches A and D. When the top MOSFET Switch A turns on, the switch node SW2 rises to V_{IN} and the BOOST2 pin rises to approximately V_{IN} + INTVcc. When the bottom MOSFET Switch B turns on, the switch node SW2 drops to low and the boost capacitor C_B is charged through D_B from $INTV_{CC}$. When the top MOSFET Switch D turns on, the switch node SW1 rises to V_{OUT} and the BOOST1 pin rises to approximately V_{OUT} + $INTV_{CC}$. When the bottom MOSFET Switch C turns on, the switch node SW1 drops to low and the boost capacitor C_A is charged through D_A from $INTV_{CC}$. The boost capacitors C_A and C_B need to store about 100 times the gate charge required by the top MOSFET Switch A and D. In most applications a 0.1μF to 0.47μF, X5R or X7R dielectric capacitor is adequate.

Run Function

The RUN pin provides simple ON/OFF control for the LTC3780. Driving the RUN pin above 1.5V permits the controller to start operating. Pulling RUN below 1.5V puts the LTC3780 into low current shutdown. Do not apply more than 6V to the RUN pin.

Soft-Start Function

Soft-start reduces the input power sources' surge currents by gradually increasing the controller's current limit (proportional to an internally buffered and clamped equivalent of V_{ITH}).

An internal 1.2μA current source charges up the C_{SS} capacitor. As the voltage on SS increases from 0V to 2.4V, the internal current limit rises from $0V/R_{SENSE}$ to $150mV/R_{SENSE}$. The output current limit ramps up slowly, taking 1.5s/μF to reach full current. The output current thus ramps up slowly, eliminating the starting surge current required from the input power supply.

$$T_{IRMP} = \frac{2.4V}{1.2\mu A} \bullet C_{SS} = \left(1.5s/\mu F\right) \bullet C_{SS}$$

Do not apply more than 6V to the SS pin.

APPLICATIONS INFORMATION

The Standby Mode (STBYMD) Pin Function

The Standby mode (STBYMD) pin provides several choices for start-up and standby operational modes. If the pin is pulled to ground, the SS pin is internally pulled to ground, preventing start-up and thereby providing a single control pin for turning off the controller. If the pin is left open or decoupled with a capacitor to ground, the SS pin is internally provided with a starting current, permitting external control for turning on the controller. If the pin is connected to a voltage greater than 1.25V, the internal regulator ($INTV_{CC}$) will be on even when the controller is shut down (RUN pin voltage < 1.5V). In this mode, the onboard 6V linear regulator can provide power to keep-alive functions such as a keyboard controller.

FCB Pin Regulates Secondary Winding in Buck Mode

In Buck mode, the FCB pin can be used to regulate a secondary winding or as a logic level input. Continuous operation is forced when the FCB pin drops below 0.8V. During continuous mode, current flows continuously in the transformer primary. The secondary winding(s) draw current only when Switch B and Switch D are on in Buck mode. When primary load currents are low and/or the V_{IN}/V_{OUT} ratio is low, the Synchronous Switch B may not be on for a sufficient amount of time to transfer power from the output capacitor to the secondary load. Forced continuous operation will support secondary windings if there is sufficient synchronous switch duty factor. Thus, the FCB input pin removes the requirement that power must be drawn from the auxiliary windings. With the loop in continuous mode, the auxiliary outputs may nominally be loaded without regard to the primary output load.

The secondary output voltage V_{SEC} is normally set as shown in Figure 10 by turns ratio N of the transformer:

$$V_{SEC} \approx (N + 1) \bullet V_{OUT}$$

However, if the controller goes into Burst Mode operation and halts switching due to a light primary load current, then V_{SEC} will drop. An external resistive divider from V_{SEC} to the FCB pin sets a minimum voltage $V_{SEC(MIN)}$:

$$V_{SEC(MIN)} \approx 0.8 \bullet \left(1 + \frac{R6}{R5}\right)$$

If the V_{SEC} drops below this level, the FCB voltage forces temporary continuous switching operation until V_{SEC} is again above its minimum.

In order to prevent erratic operation if no external connections are made to FCB pin, the FCB pin has a 0.18μA internal current source pulling the pin high. Include this current when choosing resistor values R5 and R6.

Fault Conditions: Current Limit and Current Foldback

The maximum inductor current is inherently limited in a current mode controller by the maximum sense voltage. In Boost mode, maximum sense voltage and the sense resistance determines the maximum allowed inductor peak current, which is:

$$I_{L(MAX,BOOST)} = \frac{160mV}{R_{SENSE}}$$

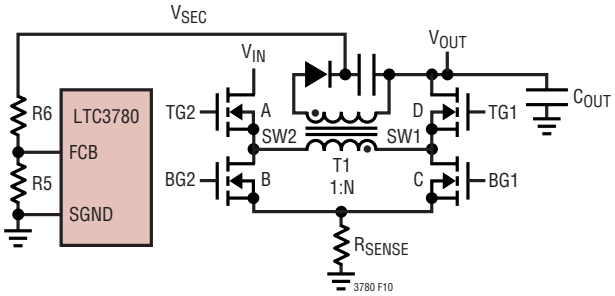


Figure 10. Secondary Output Loop

APPLICATIONS INFORMATION

In Buck mode, maximum sense voltage and the sense resistance determines the maximum allowed inductor valley current, which is:

$$I_{L(MAX,BUCK)} = \frac{130mV}{R_{SENSE}}$$

To further limit current in the event of a short circuit to ground, the LTC3780 includes foldback current limiting. If the output falls by more than 30%, then the maximum sense voltage is progressively lowered to about one third of its full value.

Fault Conditions: Overvoltage Protection

A comparator monitors the output for overvoltage conditions. The comparator (OV) detects overvoltage faults greater than 7.5% above the nominal output voltage. When the condition is sensed, Switches A and C are turned off, and Switches B and D are turned on until the overvoltage condition is cleared. During an overvoltage condition, a negative current limit (V_{SENSE} = –60mV) is set to limit negative inductor current. When the sensed current inductor current is lower than –60mV, Switch A and C are turned on, and Switch B and D are turned off until the sensed current is higher than –20mV. If the output is still in overvoltage condition, Switch A and C are turned off, and Switch B and D are turned on again.

Efficiency Considerations

The percent efficiency of a switching regulator is equal to the output power divided by the input power times 100%. It is often useful to analyze individual losses to determine what is limiting the efficiency and which change would produce the most improvement. Although all dissipative elements in circuit produce losses, four main sources account for most of the losses in LTC3780 circuits:

1. DC I^2R losses. These arise from the resistances of the MOSFETs, sensing resistor, inductor and PC board traces and cause the efficiency to drop at high output currents.
2. Transition loss. This loss arises from the brief amount of time Switch A or Switch C spends in the saturated region during switch node transitions. It depends upon the input voltage, load current, driver strength and MOSFET capacitance, among other factors. The loss is significant at input voltages above 20V and can be estimated from:

   $$\text{Transition Loss} \approx 1.7A^{-1} \bullet V_{IN}^2 \bullet I_{OUT} \bullet C_{RSS} \bullet f$$

   where CR_{SS} is the reverse transfer capacitance.
3. $INTV_{CC}$ current. This is the sum of the MOSFET driver and control currents. This loss can be reduced by supplying $INTV_{CC}$ current through the $EXTV_{CC}$ pin from a high efficiency source, such as an output derived boost network or alternate supply if available.
4. C_{IN} and C_{OUT} loss. The input capacitor has the difficult job of filtering the large RMS input current to the regulator in Buck mode. The output capacitor has the more difficult job of filtering the large RMS output current in Boost mode. Both C_{IN} and C_{OUT} are required to have low ESR to minimize the AC I^2R loss and sufficient capacitance to prevent the RMS current from causing additional upstream losses in fuses or batteries.
5. Other losses. Schottky diode D1 and D2 are responsible for conduction losses during dead time and light load conduction periods. Inductor core loss occurs predominately at light loads. Switch C causes reverse recovery current loss in Boost mode.

When making adjustments to improve efficiency, the input current is the best indicator of changes in efficiency. If you make a change and the input current decreases, then the efficiency has increased. If there is no change in input current, then there is no change in efficiency.

Design Example

As a design example, assume V_{IN} = 5V to 18V (12V nominal), V_{OUT} = 12V (5%), $I_{OUT(MAX)}$ = 5A and f = 400kHz.

APPLICATIONS INFORMATION

Tie the PLLFLTR pin to $INTV_{CC}$ for 400kHz operation. The inductance value is chosen first based on a 30% ripple current assumption. In Buck mode, the ripple current is:

$$\Delta I_{L,BUCK} = \frac{V_{OUT}}{f \bullet L} \bullet \left(1 - \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}}\right)$$

The highest value of ripple current occurs at the maximum input voltage. In Boost mode, the ripple current is:

$$\Delta I_{L,BOOST} = \frac{V_{IN}}{f \bullet L} \bullet \left(1 - \frac{V_{IN}}{V_{OUT}}\right)$$

The highest value of ripple current occurs at $V_{IN} = V_{OUT}/2$.

A 6.8µH inductor will produce 13% ripple in Boost mode (V_{IN} = 6V) and 29% ripple in Buck mode (V_{IN} = 18V).

The R_{SENSE} resistor value can be calculated by using the maximum current sense voltage specification with some accommodation for tolerances.

$$R_{SENSE} = \frac{2 \bullet 160mV \bullet V_{IN}}{\left(2 \bullet I_{OUT(MAX,BOOST)} + \Delta I_{L,BOOST}\right) \bullet V_{OUT}}$$

Select an R_{SENSE} of 10mΩ.

Output voltage is 12V. Select R1 as 20k. R2 is:

$$R2 = \frac{V_{OUT} \bullet R1}{0.8} - R1$$

Select R2 as 280k. Both R1 and R2 should have a tolerance of no more than 1%.

Next, choose the MOSFET switches. A suitable choice is the Siliconix Si4840 ($R_{DS(ON)}$ = 0.009Ω (at V_{GS} = 6V), C_{RSS} = 150pF, θ_{JA} = 40°C/W).

The maximum power dissipation of Switch A occurs in Boost mode when Switch A stays on all the time. Assuming a junction temperature of T_J = 150°C with $\rho_{150°C}$ = 1.5, the power dissipation at V_{IN} = 5V is:

$$P_{A,BOOST} = \left(\frac{12}{5} \bullet 5\right)^2 \bullet 1.5 \bullet 0.009 = 1.94W$$

Double-check the T_J in the MOSFET with 70°C ambient temperature:

T_J = 70°C + 1.94W • 40°C/W = 147.6°C

The maximum power dissipation of Switch B occurs in Buck mode. Assuming a junction temperature of T_J = 80°C with $\rho_{80°C}$ = 1.2, the power dissipation at V_{IN} = 18V is:

$$P_{B,BUCK} = \frac{18 - 12}{12} \bullet 5^2 \bullet 1.2 \bullet 0.009 = 135mW$$

Double-check the T_J in the MOSFET at 70°C ambient temperature:

T_J = 70°C + 0.135W • 40°C/W = 75.4°C

The maximum power dissipation of Switch C occurs in Boost mode. Assuming a junction temperature of T_J = 110°C with $\rho_{110°C}$ = 1.4, the power dissipation at V_{IN} = 5V is:

$$P_{C,BOOST} = \frac{(12 - 5) \bullet 12}{5^2} \bullet 5^2 \bullet 1.4 \bullet 0.009 + 2 \bullet 12^3 \bullet \frac{5}{5} \bullet 150p \bullet 400k = 1.08W$$

Double-check the T_J in the MOSFET at 70°C ambient temperature:

T_J = 70°C + 1.08W • 40°C/W = 113°C

The maximum power dissipation of Switch D occurs in Boost mode when its duty cycle is higher than 50%. Assuming a junction temperature of T_J = 100°C with $\rho_{100°C}$ = 1.35, the power dissipation at V_{IN} = 5V is:

$$P_{D,BUCK} = \frac{5}{12} \bullet \left(\frac{12}{5} \bullet 5\right)^2 \bullet 1.35 \bullet 0.009 = 0.73W$$

Double-check the T_J in the MOSFET at 70°C ambient temperature:

T_J = 70°C + 0.73W • 40°C/W = 99°C

C_{IN} is chosen to filter the square current in Buck mode. In this mode, the maximum input current peak is:

$I_{IN,PEAK(MAX,BUCK)}$ = 5 • (1 + 29%) = 6.5A

APPLICATIONS INFORMATION

A low ESR (10mΩ) capacitor is selected. Input voltage ripple is 65mV.

C_{OUT} is chosen to filter the square current in Boost mode. In this mode, the maximum output current peak is:

$$I_{OUT,PEAK(MAX,BUCK)} = \frac{12}{5} \bullet 5 \bullet (1 + 13\%) = 13.6A$$

A low ESR (5mΩ) capacitor is suggested. This capacitor will limit output voltage ripple to 68mV.

PC Board Layout Checklist

The basic PC board layout requires a dedicated ground plane layer. Also, for high current, a multilayer board provides heat sinking for power components.

- The ground plane layer should not have any traces and it should be as close as possible to the layer with power MOSFETs.
- Place C_{IN}, Switch A, Switch B and D2 in one compact area. Place C_{OUT}, Switch C, Switch D and D1 in one compact area.
- Use immediate vias to connect the components (including the LTC3780's SGND and PGND pins) to the ground plane. Use several large vias for each power component.
- Use planes for V_{IN} and V_{OUT} to maintain good voltage filtering and to keep power losses low.
- Flood all unused areas on all layers with copper. Flooding with copper will reduce the temperature rise of power components. Connect the copper areas to any DC net (V_{IN} or GND).

When laying out the printed circuit board, the following checklist should be used to ensure proper operation of the LTC3780. These items are also illustrated in Figure 11.

- Segregate the signal and power grounds. All small signal components should return to the SGND pin at one point which is then tied to the PGND pin close to the sources of Switch B and Switch C.
- Place Switch B and Switch C as close to the controller as possible, keeping the PGND, BG and SW traces short.
- Keep the high dV/dT SW1, SW2, BOOST1, BOOST2, TG1 and TG2 nodes away from sensitive small-signal nodes.
- The path formed by Switch A, Switch B, D2 and the C_{IN} capacitor should have short leads and PC trace lengths. The path formed by Switch C, Switch D, D1 and the C_{OUT} capacitor also should have short leads and PC trace lengths.
- The output capacitor (–) terminals should be connected as close as possible the (–) terminals of the input capacitor.
- Connect the $INTV_{CC}$ decoupling capacitor C_{VCC} closely to the $INTV_{CC}$ and PGND pins.
- Connect the top driver boost capacitor C_A closely to the BOOST1 and SW1 pins. Connect the top driver boost capacitor C_B closely to the BOOST2 and SW2 pins.
- Connect the input capacitors C_{IN} and output capacitors C_{OUT} close to the power MOSFETs. These capacitors carry the MOSFET AC current in Boost and Buck mode.
- Connect V_{OSENSE} pin resistive dividers to the (+) terminals of C_{OUT} and signal ground. A small V_{OSENSE} decoupling capacitor should be as close as possible to the LTC3780 SGND pin. The R2 connection should not be along the high current or noise paths, such as the input capacitors.
- Route $SENSE^-$ and $SENSE^+$ leads together with minimum PC trace spacing. The filter capacitor between $SENSE^+$ and $SENSE^-$ should be as close as possible to the IC. Ensure accurate current sensing with Kelvin connections at the SENSE resistor.
- Connect the I_{TH} pin compensation network close to the IC, between I_{TH} and the signal ground pins. The capacitor helps to filter the effects of PCB noise and output voltage ripple voltage from the compensation loop.

APPLICATIONS INFORMATION

- Connect the $INTV_{CC}$ decoupling capacitor close to the IC, between the $INTV_{CC}$ and the power ground pins. This capacitor carries the MOSFET drivers' current peaks. An additional 1µF ceramic capacitor placed immediately next to the INTVcc and PGND pins can help improve noise performance substantially.

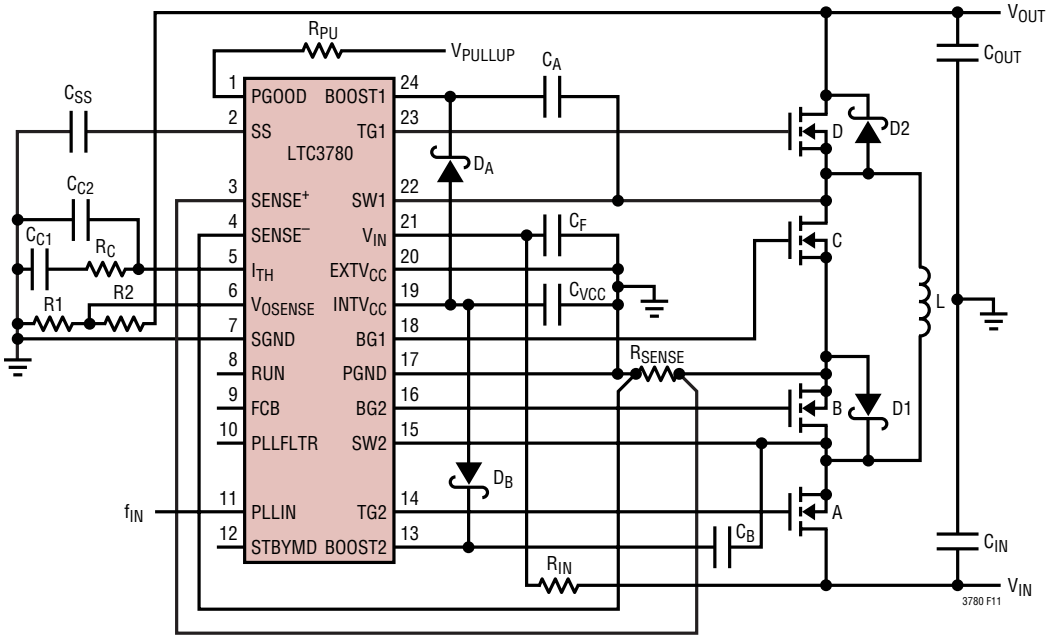
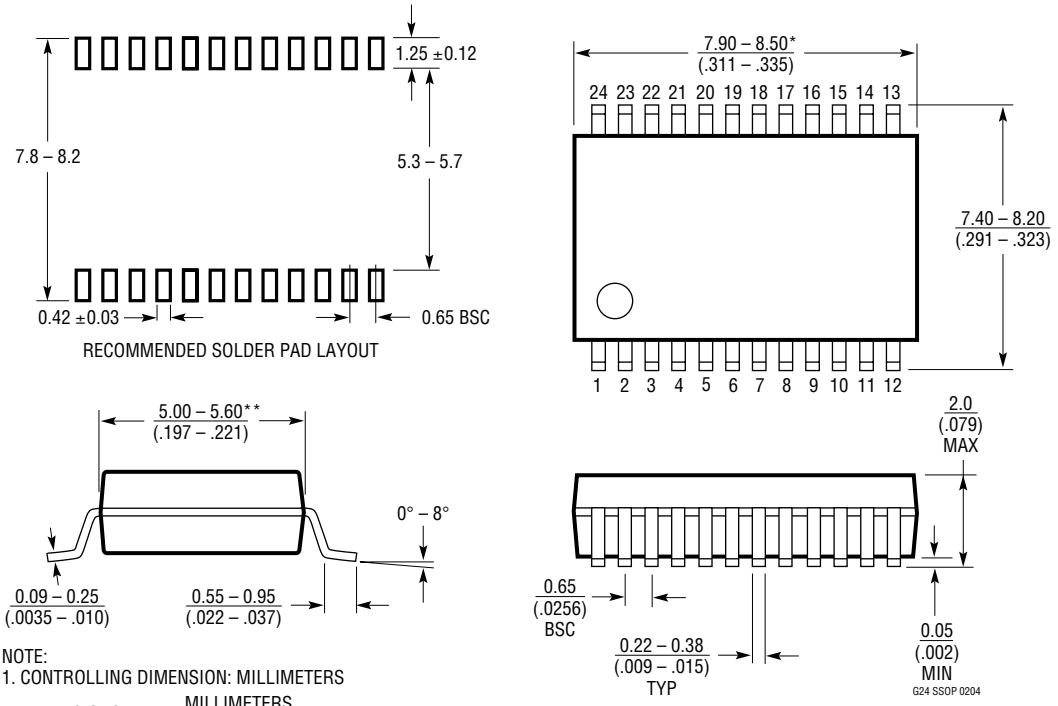


Figure 11. LTC3780 Layout Diagram

PACKAGE DESCRIPTION

G Package
24-Lead Plastic SSOP (5.3mm)
(Reference LTC DWG # 05-08-1640)



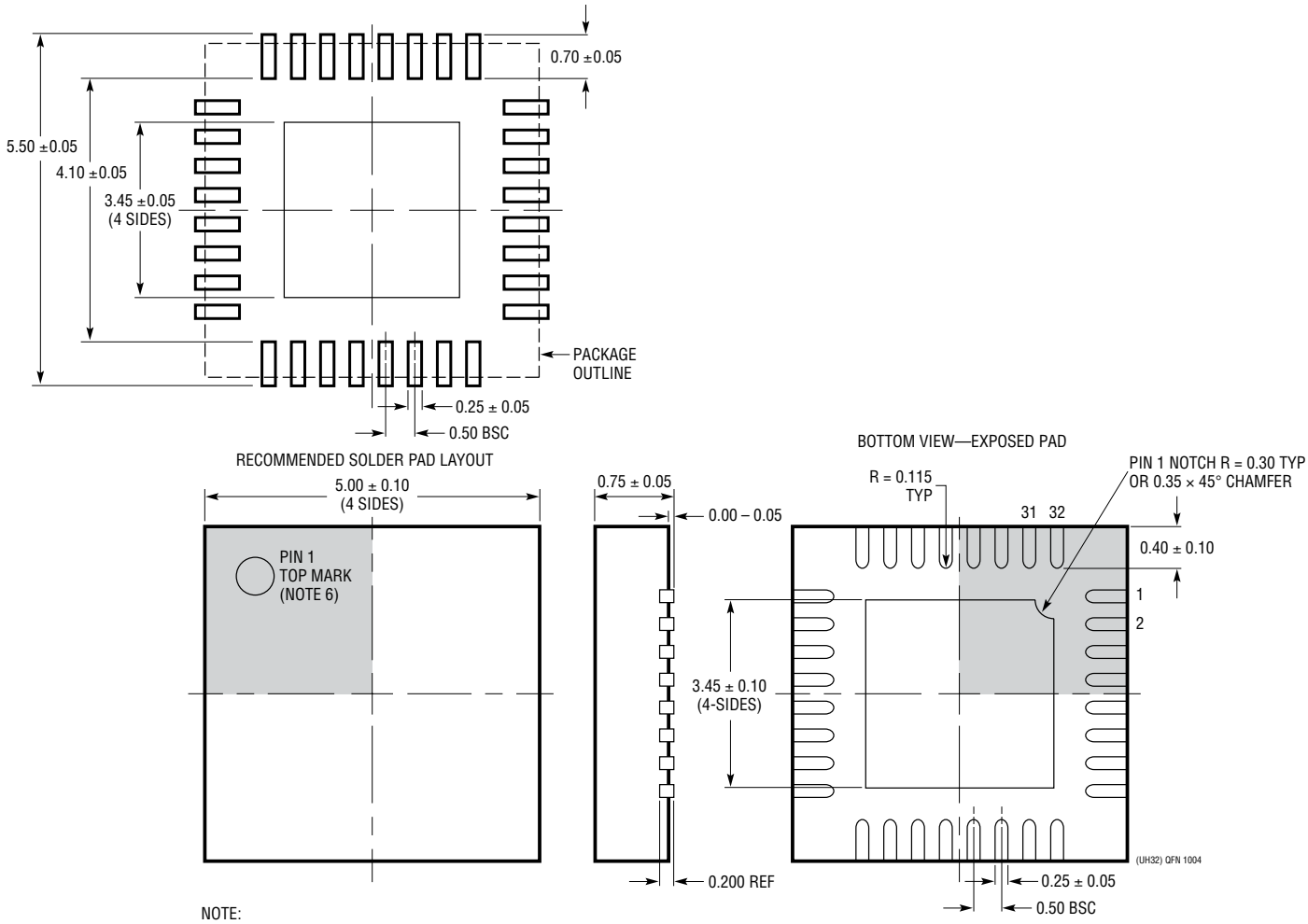
NOTE:
1. CONTROLLING DIMENSION: MILLIMETERS
2. DIMENSIONS ARE IN $\frac{\text{MILLIMETERS}}{\text{(INCHES)}}$
3. DRAWING NOT TO SCALE

*DIMENSIONS DO NOT INCLUDE MOLD FLASH. MOLD FLASH SHALL NOT EXCEED .152mm (.006") PER SIDE

**DIMENSIONS DO NOT INCLUDE INTERLEAD FLASH. INTERLEAD FLASH SHALL NOT EXCEED .254mm (.010") PER SIDE

PACKAGE DESCRIPTION

UH Package
32-Lead Plastic QFN (5mm × 5mm)
(Reference LTC DWG # 05-08-1693)



NOTE:
1. DRAWING PROPOSED TO BE A JEDEC PACKAGE OUTLINE M0-220 VARIATION WHHD-(X) (TO BE APPROVED)
2. DRAWING NOT TO SCALE
3. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETERS
4. DIMENSIONS OF EXPOSED PAD ON BOTTOM OF PACKAGE DO NOT INCLUDE MOLD FLASH. MOLD FLASH, IF PRESENT, SHALL NOT EXCEED 0.20mm ON ANY SIDE
5. EXPOSED PAD SHALL BE SOLDER PLATED
6. SHADED AREA IS ONLY A REFERENCE FOR PIN 1 LOCATION ON THE TOP AND BOTTOM OF PACKAGE

TYPICAL APPLICATION

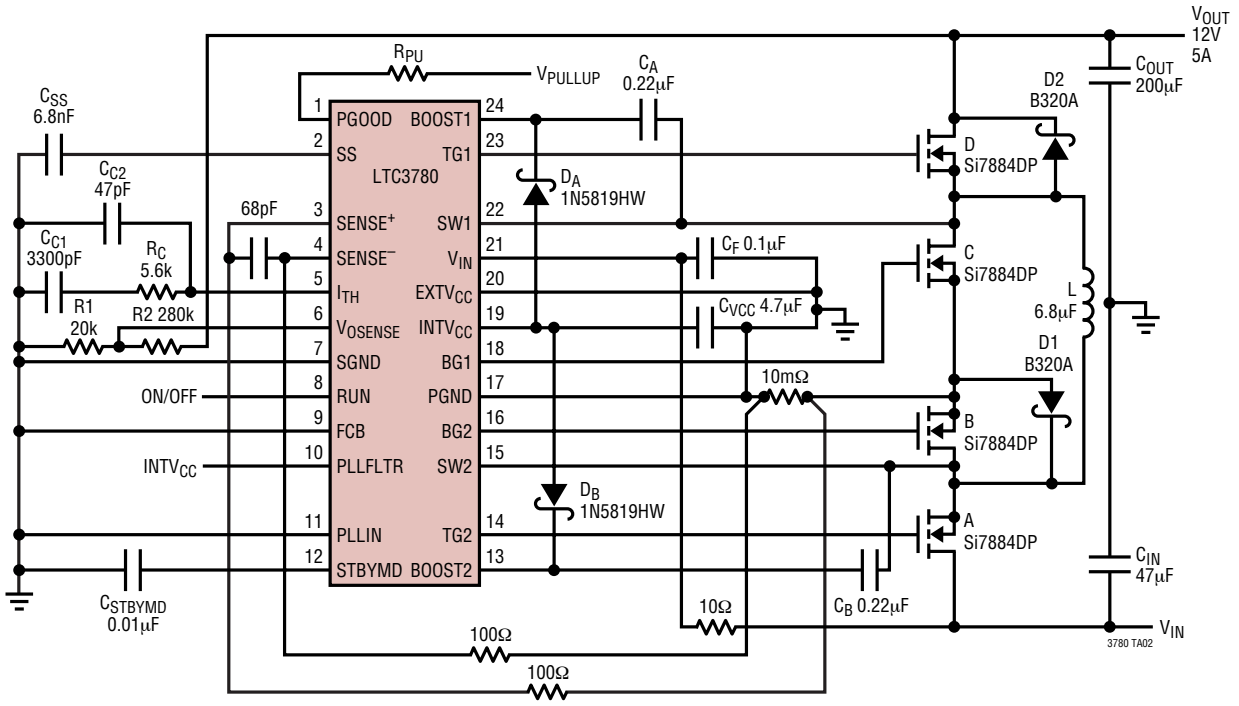


Figure 12. LTC3780 12V/3A, Buck-Boost Regulator

RELATED PARTS

PART NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
LT1074HV/LT1076HV	Monolithic 5A/2A Step-Down DC/DC Converters	V_{IN} up to 60V, TO-220 and DD Packages
LT1339	High Power Synchronous DC/DC Controller	V_{IN} up to 60V, Drivers 10,000pF Gate Capacitance, $I_{OUT} \leq 20A$
LTC1702A	Dual, 2-Phase Synchronous DC/DC Controller	550kHz Operation, No R_{SENSE}, $3V \leq V_{IN} \leq 7V$, $I_{OUT} \leq 20A$
LTC1735	Synchronous Step-Down DC/DC Controller	$3.5V \leq V_{IN} \leq 36V$, $0.8V \leq V_{OUT} \leq 6V$, Current Mode, $I_{OUT} \leq 20A$
LTC1778	No R_{SENSE} Synchronous DC/DC Controller	$4V \leq V_{IN} \leq 36V$, Fast Transient Response, Current Mode, $I_{OUT} \leq 20A$
LT1956	Monolithic 1.5A, 500kHz Step-Down Regulator	$5.5V \leq V_{IN} \leq 60V$, 2.5mA Supply Current, 16-Pin SSOP
LT3010	50mA, 3V to 80V Linear Regulator	$1.275V \leq V_{OUT} \leq 60V$, No Protection Diode Required, 8-Lead MSOP
LT3430/LT3431	Monolithic 3A, 200kHz/500kHz Step-Down Regulator	$5.5V \leq V_{IN} \leq 60V$, 0.1Ω Saturation Switch, 16-Pin SSOP
LT3433	Monolithic Step-Up/Step-Down DC/DC Converter	$4V \leq V_{IN} \leq 60V$, 500mA Switch, Automatic Step-Up/Step-Down, Single Inductor
LTC®3443	Monolithic Buck-Boost Converter	$2.4V \leq V_{IN} \leq 5.5V$, 96% Efficiency, 600kHz Operation, 2A Switch
LTC3703	100V Synchronous DC/DC Controller	V_{IN} up to 100V, 9.3V to 15V Gate Drive Supply

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