ARG81400

Multi-Output Regulator with Buck or Buck/Boost Pre-Regulator, Synchronous Buck, 5x LDO Outputs, Watchdog, and SPI

FEATURES AND BENEFITS DESCRIPTION

- A2-SIL™ compliant—device features for safety-critical systems
- Automotive AEC-Q100 qualified
- Wide input voltage range, 3.8 to 40 V_{IN} operating range, 50 V_{IN} maximum
- Buck or buck/boost pre-regulator (VREG)
- Adjustable 1.25 to 3.3 V synchronous buck
- Frequency dithering and controlled slew rate helps reduce EMI/EMC
- Four internal linear regulators with foldback short-circuit protection, 3.3 V (3V3) and three 5 V (V5CAN, V5A, and V5B)
- One internal 5 V linear regulator (V 5 P) with foldback short-circuit and short-to-supply protection
- Power-on reset signal indicating a fault on the synchronous buck, 3V3 or V5A regulator outputs (NPOR)
- Window watchdog timer with fail-safe features
- Dual bandgaps for increased safety coverage and fault detection, BGVREF, BGFAULT
- Control and diagnostic reporting through a serial peripheral interface (SPI)
- Logic enable input (ENB) for microprocessor control
- Ignition enable input (ENBAT) with status indicator output
- OV and UV protection for all output rails
- Pin-to-pin and pin-to-ground short tolerant at every pin

APPLICATIONS

Provides system power (for microcontroller/DSP, CAN, sensors, etc.) in:

- Industrial applications
- Electronic power steering (EPS)
- Advanced braking systems (ABS)
- Transmission control units (TCU)
- Emissions control modules
- Other automotive applications

PACKAGE

Not to scale

38-Pin eTSSOP (suffix LV)

The ARG81400 is rated up to 50 V input and provides six total outputs. There are five LDOs and a post regulated DC/ DC switcher to power MCUs, as well as a watchdog and SPI. Designed for high-temperature operation, the ARG81400 is ideal for automotive and industrial applications.

The device uses a buck or buck/boost pre-regulator to efficiently feed five linear regulators— 3.3 V / 90 mA, 5 V / 200 mA, 5 V / 30 mA, 5 V / 55 mA, and 5 V /100 mA (short-to-supply protected)—and an adjustable output, 600 mA synchronous buck.

Enable inputs to the ARG81400 include a logic level (ENB) and a high-voltage (ENBAT). The ARG81400 also provides flexibility with disable function of the individual 5 V rails through a serial peripheral interface (SPI).

Diagnostic outputs from the ARG81400 include a power-onreset output (NPOR), an ENBAT status output, and a fault flag output to alert the microprocessor that a fault has occurred. The microprocessor can read fault status through SPI. Dual bandgaps, one for regulation and one for fault checking, improve safety coverage and fault detection.

The ARG81400 contains a Window Watchdog timer with a programmable detect period of 250, 500, 1000, or 2000 μs. The watchdog timer enters an active state after NPOR transitions high and the processor has exercised the WD Test routine. The watchdog can be put into flash mode or be reset via secure SPI commands.

Protection features include undervoltage and overvoltage on all output rails. In case of a shorted output, all linear regulators feature foldback overcurrent protection. In addition, the V5P output is protected from a short-to-supply event. Both switching regulators include pulse-by-pulse current limit, hiccup mode short-circuit protection, LX short-circuit protection, missing asynchronous diode protection (VREG only), and thermal shutdown.

The ARG81400 is supplied in a low-profile (1.2 mm maximum height) 38-lead eTSSOP package (suffix "LV") with exposed power pad.

ARG81400 Simplified Block Diagram

SELECTION GUIDE

[1] Contact Allegro for additional packing options.

SPECIFICATIONS

ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS [2]

[2] Stresses beyond those listed in this table may cause permanent damage to the device. The absolute maximum ratings are stress ratings only, and functional operation of the device at these or any other conditions beyond those indicated in the Electrical Characteristics table is not implied. Exposure to absolute-maximum-rated conditions for extended periods may affect device reliability.

[3] The higher ENBAT ratings (-13 V and 50 V) are measured at node "A" in the following circuit configuration:

THERMAL CHARACTERISTICS: May require derating at maximum conditions; see application information

[4] Additional thermal information available on the Allegro website.

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TYPICAL SCHEMATICS

Buck-Boost Mode Using a Series Diode for Reverse-Battery Protection (D_{IN})

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Functional Block Diagram Modifications for Buck Only Mode

Functional Block Diagram Using a PMOS FET for Reverse-Battery Protection Instead of a Series Schottky Diode (D_{IN})

Functional Block Diagram Using an NMOS FET for Reverse-Battery Protection Instead of a Series Schottky Diode (D_{IN})

Package LV, 38-Pin eTSSOP Pinout Diagram

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS – GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS [1]: Valid at 3.8 V [4] ≤ VIN ≤ 36 V, –40°C ≤ TA = TJ ≤ 150°C, unless otherwise specified

[1] For input and output current specifications, negative current is defined as coming out of the node or pin (sourcing), positive current is defined as going into the node or pin (sinking).

[2] Ensured by design and characterization, not production tested.

[3] Specifications at 25°C or 85°C are guaranteed by design and characterization, not production tested.

[4] The lowest operating voltage is only valid if the conditions $V_{VIN} > V_{VIN,STAT}$ and $V_{VCP} - V_{VIN} > VCP_{UV,H}$ and V_{VREG} > VREG_{UV.H} are satisfied before VIN is reduced.

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS – BUCK AND BUCK-BOOST PRE-REGULATOR SPECIFICATIONS [1]: Valid at 3.8 V [4] ≤ VIN ≤ 36 V, –40°C ≤ TA = TJ ≤ 150°C, unless otherwise specified

[1] For input and output current specifications, negative current is defined as coming out of the node or pin (sourcing), positive current is defined as going into the node or pin (sinking).

[2] Ensured by design and characterization, not production tested.

[3] Specifications at 25°C or 85°C are guaranteed by design and characterization, not production tested.

[4] The lowest operating voltage is only valid if the conditions $V_{VIN} > V_{VIN, START}$ and $V_{VCP} - V_{VIN} > VCP_{UV,H}$ and $V_{VREG} > VREG_{UV,H}$ are satisfied before VIN is reduced.

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS – BUCK AND BUCK-BOOST PRE-REGULATOR SPECIFICATIONS (continued) [1]: Valid at 3.8 V [4] ≤ **VIN** ≤ 36 **V**, -40 °C ≤ $T_A = T_J$ ≤ 150°C, unless otherwise specified

[1] For input and output current specifications, negative current is defined as coming out of the node or pin (sourcing), positive current is defined as going into the node or pin (sinking).

^[2] Ensured by design and characterization, not production tested.

[3] Specifications at 25°C or 85°C are guaranteed by design and characterization, not production tested.

[4] The lowest operating voltage is only valid if the conditions $V_{VIN} > V_{VIN,STAT}$ and $V_{VCP} - V_{VIN} > VCP_{UV,H}$ and V_{VREG} > VREG_{UV,H} are satisfied before VIN is reduced.

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS – ADJUSTABLE SYNCHRONOUS BUCK REGULATOR [1]:

Valid at 3.8 V [4] ≤ VIN ≤ 36 V, –40°C ≤ TA = TJ ≤ 150°C, unless otherwise specified

[1] For input and output current specifications, negative current is defined as coming out of the node or pin (sourcing), positive current is defined as going into the node or pin (sinking).

[2] Ensured by design and characterization, not production tested.

[3] Specifications at 25°C or 85°C are guaranteed by design and characterization, not production tested.

[4] The lowest operating voltage is only valid if the conditions V_{VIN} > V_{VIN,START} and V_{VCP} – V_{VIN} > VCP_{UV,H} and V_{VREG} > VREG_{UV,H} are satisfied before VIN is reduced.

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS – ADJUSTABLE SYNCHRONOUS BUCK REGULATOR (continued) [1]: Valid at 3.8 V $[4]$ ≤ **VIN** ≤ 36 **V**, -40 °C ≤ T_A = T_J ≤ 150°C, unless otherwise specified

[1] For input and output current specifications, negative current is defined as coming out of the node or pin (sourcing), positive current is defined as going into the node or pin (sinking).

^[2] Ensured by design and characterization, not production tested.

[3] Specifications at 25°C or 85°C are guaranteed by design and characterization, not production tested.

[4] The lowest operating voltage is only valid if the conditions $V_{VIN} > V_{VIN,STAT}$ and $V_{VCP} - V_{VIN} > VCP_{UV,H}$ and V_{VREG} > VREG_{UV,H} are satisfied before VIN is reduced.

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS – LINEAR REGULATOR SPECIFICATIONS [1]: Valid at 3.8 V [4] ≤ VIN ≤ 36 V, –40°C ≤ TA = TJ ≤ 150°C, unless otherwise specified

[1] For input and output current specifications, negative current is defined as coming out of the node or pin (sourcing), positive current is defined as going into the node or pin (sinking).

[2] Ensured by design and characterization, not production tested.

[3] Specifications at 25°C or 85°C are guaranteed by design and characterization, not production tested.

[4] The lowest operating voltage is only valid if the conditions $V_{VIN} > V_{VIN,STATART}$ and $V_{VCP} - V_{VIN} > VCP_{UV,H}$ and $V_{VREG} > VREG_{UV,H}$ are satisfied before VIN is reduced.

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS – CONTROL INPUTS $[1]$ **: Valid at 3.8 V⁴ ≤ VIN ≤ 36 V, –40°C ≤ T_A = T_J ≤ 150°C, unless otherwise specified**

[1] For input and output current specifications, negative current is defined as coming out of the node or pin (sourcing), positive current is defined as going into the node or pin (sinking).

[2] Ensured by design and characterization, not production tested.

[3] Specifications at 25°C or 85°C are guaranteed by design and characterization, not production tested.

[4] The lowest operating voltage is only valid if the conditions V_{VIN} > $V_{VIN,STATART}$ and V_{VCP} - V_{VIN} > VCP_{UV,H} and V_{VREG} > VREG_{UV,H} are satisfied before VIN is reduced.

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS – DIAGNOSTIC OUTPUTS [1]: Valid at 3.8 V [4] ≤ VIN ≤ 36 V, –40°C ≤ TA = TJ ≤ 150°C, unless otherwise specified

[1] For input and output current specifications, negative current is defined as coming out of the node or pin (sourcing), positive current is defined as going into the node or pin (sinking).

[2] Ensured by design and characterization, not production tested.

[3] Specifications at 25°C or 85°C are guaranteed by design and characterization, not production tested.

[4] The lowest operating voltage is only valid if the conditions $V_{VIN} > V_{VIN,STATART}$ and $V_{VCP} - V_{VIN} > VCP_{UV,H}$ and $V_{VREG} > VREG_{UV,H}$ are satisfied before VIN is reduced.

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS – DIAGNOSTIC OUTPUTS (continued) [1]: Valid at 3.8 V [4] ≤ VIN ≤ 36 V, –40°C ≤ TA = TJ ≤ 150°C, unless otherwise specified

[1] For input and output current specifications, negative current is defined as coming out of the node or pin (sourcing), positive current is defined as going into the node or pin (sinking).

[2] Ensured by design and characterization, not production tested.

[3] Specifications at 25°C or 85°C are guaranteed by design and characterization, not production tested.

[4] The lowest operating voltage is only valid if the conditions V_{VIN} > V_{VIN,START} and V_{VCP} – V_{VIN} > VCP_{UV,H} and V_{VREG} > VREG_{UV,H} are satisfied before VIN is reduced.

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS – WINDOW WATCHDOG TIMER (WWDT) [1]: Valid at 3.8 V [4] ≤ VIN ≤ 36 V, –40°C ≤ TA = TJ ≤ 150°C, unless otherwise specified

[1] For input and output current specifications, negative current is defined as coming out of the node or pin (sourcing), positive current is defined as going into the node or pin (sinking).

^[2] Ensured by design and characterization, not production tested.

[3] Specifications at 25°C or 85°C are guaranteed by design and characterization, not production tested.

[4] The lowest operating voltage is only valid if the conditions V_{VIN} > $V_{VIN,START}$ and V_{VCP} - V_{VIN} > VCP_{UV,H} and V_{VREG} > VREG_{UV,H} are satisfied before VIN is reduced.

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS – COMMUNICATIONS INTERFACE [1]: Valid at 3.8 V [4] ≤ VIN ≤ 36 V, –40°C ≤ TA = TJ ≤ 150°C, unless otherwise specified

[1] For input and output current specifications, negative current is defined as coming out of the node or pin (sourcing), positive current is defined as going into the node or pin (sinking).

[2] Ensured by design and characterization, not production tested.

[3] Specifications at 25°C or 85°C are guaranteed by design and characterization, not production tested.

[4] The lowest operating voltage is only valid if the conditions $V_{VIN} > V_{VIN,STAT}$ and $V_{VCP} - V_{VIN} > VCP_{UV,H}$ and $V_{VREG} > VREG_{UV,H}$ are satisfied before VIN is reduced.

Figure 1: Serial Interface Timing X = don't care; Z = high-impedance (tri-state)

X = DON'T CARE

EN = ENBAT + ENB

 $MPOR = VCC_UV + VCP_UV + BGI_UV + BG2_UV + TSD + VCP_OV$ (latched) + $D1_{MISSING}$ (latched) + $I_{LIM, LX1}$ (latched)

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STARTUP TIMING DIAGRAM

All outputs start to decay $EN_{td,FILT}$ seconds after ENB and ENBAT are low.

Time for outputs to drop to zero, t_{OUT,FALL}, various for each output and depends on load current and capacitance. NPOR falls when 3V3, Sync Buck or V5A reaches its UV point.

Figure 3: Shutdown Timing Diagram

Table 2: Summary of Fault Mode Operation

Continued on next page...

[Table 2](#page-21-1): Summary of Fault Mode Operation (continued)

Continued on next page...

[Table 2](#page-21-1): Summary of Fault Mode Operation (continued)

Figure 4: Hiccup Mode Operation with VREG or Synchronous Buck Shorted to GND (RLOAD < 50 mΩ)

Figure 5: Hiccup Mode Operation with VREG or Synchronous Buck Overloaded (R_{LOAD} ≈ 0.5 Ω)

FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTION

Overview

The ARG81400 pre-regulator can be configured as a buck converter or buck-boost. Buck-boost is suitable for when applications need to work with extremely low battery voltages. This pre-regulator generates a fixed 5.35 V and can deliver up to 1.2 A to power the internal or external post-regulators. These post-regulators generate the various voltage levels for the end system.

The ARG81400 includes six internal post-regulators: five linear regulators and one adjustable output synchronous buck regulator.

Pre-Regulator

The pre-regulator incorporates an internal high side buck switch and a boost switch gate driver. An external freewheeling diode and LC filter are required to complete the buck converter. By adding a MOSFET and boost diode the pre-regulator can now maintain all outputs with input voltages down to 3.8 V.

The pre-regulator provides many protection and diagnostic functions:

- 1. Pulse-by-pulse and hiccup mode current limit
- 2. Undervoltage and overvoltage detection and reporting
- 3. Shorted switch node to ground
- 4. Open freewheeling diode protection
- 5. High voltage rating for load dump

Bias Supply

The bias supply (VCC) is generated by an internal linear regulator. This supply is the first rail to start up. Most of the internal control circuitry is powered by this supply. The bias supply includes some unique features to ensure safe operation of the ARG81400. These features include:

- 1. Input voltage undervoltage lockout
- 2. Output undervoltage detection and reporting
- 3. Overcurrent and short-circuit limit
- 4. Dual input, VIN and VREG, for low battery voltage operation
- 5. Short protection of the series pass device. If the internal linear regulator shorts to VIN this protection will ensure that the ARG81400 enters a safe mode.

Charge Pump

A charge pump doubler provides the voltage necessary to drive high-side n-channel MOSFETs in the pre-regulator and linear regulators. Two external capacitors are required for charge pump operation. During the first cycle of the charge pump action the flying capacitor, between pins CP1 and CP2, is charged either from VIN or VREG, whichever is highest. During the second cycle the voltage on the flying capacitor charges the VCP capacitor. The VCP minus VIN voltage is regulated to around 6.6 V

The charge pump incorporates some safety features:

- 1. Undervoltage and overvoltage detection and reporting
- 2. Overcurrent safe mode protection

Bandgap

Dual bandgaps are implemented within the ARG81400. One bandgap is dedicated to the voltage regulation loops within each of the regulators, VCC, VCP, VREG and the six post-regulators. The second is dedicated to the monitoring function of all the regulators undervoltage and overvoltage. This improves safety coverage and fault reporting from the ARG81400.

Should the regulation bandgap fail, then the outputs will be out of specification and the monitoring bandgap will report the fault.

If the monitoring bandgap fails, the outputs will remain in regulation, but the monitoring circuits will report the outputs as out of specification and trip the fault flag.

The bandgap circuits include two other bandgaps that are used to monitor the undervoltage state of the main bandgaps.

Enable

Two Enable pins are available on the ARG81400. A high signal on either of these pins enables the regulated outputs of the ARG81400. One Enable (ENB) is logic-level compatible. The second enable (ENBAT), is battery-level rated and can be connected to the ignition switch through a resistor.

A logic-level battery enable status (ENBATS) pin provides the user with a low-level signal of what the ENBAT input is doing.

Synchronous Buck

The ARG81400 integrates both the high-side and low-side switches necessary for implementing a synchronous buck converter. It is powered by the pre-regulator output. A 1.25 V feedback pin is provided to allow adjustment of the output from 1.25 to 3.3 V. A simple voltage divider sets the output voltage. If 1.25 V is required, then no divider is necessary and the converter output can be connected directly to the feedback pin. If the synchronous buck converter is configured as 1.25 V, then a minimum load of 100 µA is required. This can either be the system load or an additional 10 kΩ from 1.25 V output to ground.

The synchronous buck requires an LC filter on its switch node to compete the regulation function.

Protection and safety functions provided by the synchronous buck are:

- 1. Pulse-by-pulse and hiccup mode current limit
- 2. Undervoltage and overvoltage detection and reporting
- 3. Shorted switch node to ground
- 4. Open feedback pin protection
- 5. Shorted high-side switch protection, OVP shuts down preregulator

Linear Regulators

The ARG81400 has five linear regulators, one 3.3V, three 5V and one protected 5V.

All linear regulators provide the following protection features:

- 1. Current limit with foldback
- 2. Undervoltage and overvoltage detection and reporting

The protected 5 V regulator includes protection against connection to the battery voltage. This makes this output most suitable for powering remote sensors or circuitry where short-to-battery is possible.

The pre-regulator powers these linear regulators which reduces power dissipation and temperature.

Fault Detection and Reporting

There is extensive fault detection within the ARG81400, as discussed previously. There are two fault reporting mechanisms used by the ARG81400: through hardwired pins and through a serial communications interface (SPI).

Two hardwired pins on the ARG81400 are used for fault reporting. The first pin, NPOR, reports on the status of the 3V3, the V5A, and synchronous buck outputs. This signal goes low if

either of these outputs is out of regulation. The second pin, FFn (Active Low fault flag), reports on all other faults. FFn goes low if a fault within the ARG81400 exists. The FFn pin can be used by the processor as an alert to check the status of the ARG81400 via SPI and see where the fault occurred.

The ARG81400 also includes a diagnostic pin, DIAG, to aid system debugging in the event of a failure. A series of pulses with 50% duty cycle will be sent to this pin. Their frequency will indicate what fault occurred within the ARG81400.

Startup Self-Test

The ARG81400 includes self-test which is performed during the startup sequence. This self-test verifies the operation of the undervoltage and overvoltage detect circuits for the main outputs.

In the event the self-test fails, the ARG81400 will report the failure through SPI.

Undervoltage Detect Self-Test

The undervoltage (UV) detectors are verified during startup of the ARG81400. A voltage that is higher than the undervoltage threshold is applied to each UV comparator; this should cause the relative undervoltage fault bit in the diagnostic registers to change state. If the diagnostic UV register bits change state, the corresponding verify register bits will latch high. When the test of all UV detectors is complete, the verify register bits will remain high if the test passed. If any UV bits in the verify registers after test are not set high, then the verification has failed. The following UV detectors are tested: VREG, 3V3, V5A, V5B, V5P, V5CAN, and the synchronous buck.

Overvoltage Detect Self-Test

The overvoltage (OV) detectors are verified during startup of the ARG81400. A voltage is applied to each OV comparator that is higher than the overvoltage threshold; this should cause the relative overvoltage fault bit in the diagnostic registers to change state. If the diagnostic OV register bits change state, the corresponding verify register bits will latch high. When the test of all OV detectors is complete, the verify register bits will remain high if the test passed. If any OV bits in the verify registers after test are not set high, then the verification has failed. The following OV detectors are tested: VREG, 3V3, V5A, V5B, V5P, V5CAN,

and the synchronous buck.

Overtemperature Shutdown Self-Test

The overtemperature shutdown (TSD) detector is verified on startup of the ARG81400. A voltage is applied to the comparator that is lower than the overtemperature threshold, and should cause the general fault flag to be active and an overtemperature fault bit, TSD, to be latched in the Verify Result register 0. When the test is complete, the general fault flag will be cleared and the overtemperature fault will remain in the Verify Result register 0 until reset. If the TSD bit is not set, then the verification has failed.

Power-On Enable Self-Test

The ARG81400 also incorporates continuous self-testing of the power-on enable (POE) output. It compares the status of the POE pin with the internal demanded status. If they differ for any reason, an FFn is set and the POE_OK in SPI diagnostic register goes low.

Watchdog

The watchdog circuit within the ARG81400 will monitor a temporal signal from a processor for its period between pulses. If the signal does not meet the requirements, the ARG81400 watchdog will put the system into a safe state. It does this by setting the power-on enable (POE) pin Low, removing enabling function of ENB pin for the ARG81400 and disabling the V5CAN output. See [Figure 6](#page-28-0) for a simplified block diagram of the watchdog circuit.

The watchdog function (see [Figure 7](#page-29-0)) uses two timers and two counters to validate the incoming temporal signal. The user has some ability to program the counters and timer windows through SPI.

The first counter counts the rising edges of the temporal signal. If the correct count is completed after the minimum timer expires and before the maximum timer expires, then the second (valid) counter is incremented. Once the valid counter has incremented the programmed number of counts, the watchdog issues a watchdog OK (WD_IN_OK) signal. This signal, along with NPOR, 3V3 enable, synchronous buck enable, and nERROR, enables the POE.

If the edge count reaches its final value before the minimum timer or after the maximum timer expires, the valid counter decrements. Once the valid counter reaches zero, the watchdog fault signal issues a fault has occurred. The POE is driven low; after a timeout period, the V5CAN output is disabled, and after a further timeout, enabling of the ARG81400 via the ENB pin is no longer possible.

If insufficient edges are received before the maximum timer

expires, the valid counter decrements and the minimum and maximum counters are reset and start to count again. If an edge is subsequently received the timers reset once again to synchronize on the incoming pulses. The valid counter is not decremented in this instance (see cases C and G on pages 32 and 36, respectively.)

The number of edge counts, valid counts, and timer windows can be programmed through SPI. The min and max timer nominal values in milliseconds are calculated by the following equations:

$$
t_{WD,MIN} = k_{EDGE} \times WD_IN_PERIOD_MIN
$$

 $t_{WDMAX} = k_{EDGE} \times WD$ *IN_PERIOD_MAX*

where k_{EDGE} is the edge count number programmed through SPI (default is 2),

WD_IN_PERIOD_MIN is the min timer value in microseconds programmed in SPI, and

WD_IN_PERIOD_MAX is the min timer value in microseconds programmed in SPI.

Tolerance on $t_{WD,MIN}$ and $t_{WD,MAX}$ is related to the system clock tolerance, $f_{SVS,TOL}$ in %, by the following equations:

$$
MAX_TOL = \frac{100}{100 - f_{SYS,TOL}} - 1 = +4.1\%
$$

$$
MIN_TOL = \frac{100}{100 + f_{SYS,TOL}} - 1 = -3.8\%
$$

The watchdog also has provision to be placed in "flash mode". While in flash mode the watchdog keeps the POE signal low but does not disable the V5CAN or the ENB function. This is required should the processor need to be re-flashed. Flash mode is accessed through secure SPI commands. To exit "flash mode", the watchdog must be restarted via separate secure SPI commands. If the ARG81400 has not lost power during flash mode, then the watchdog will restart with the previous configuration. If power was lost during flash mode, then the watchdog configuration will be reset to default.

On startup, the watchdog (WD_IN) must receive a series of valid and qualified pulse trains, per the programmed EDGE_COUNT and VALID_COUNT registers, followed by a series of invalid qualified pulses. Once a second series of valid and qualified pulses are received before the power supply disable time $(t_{PS\ DISABLE})$ expires, then the watchdog enters the active state and the WD \overline{F} signal on SPI becomes active (see [Figure 6\)](#page-28-0). During the test state, WD F is not active and FFn does not alert a watchdog fault. When the watchdog is waiting for the second series of pulse on WD_IN, it sets the valid counter to one half its programmed value. This aids

in speeding up startup of a system using the ARG81400. Once the WD_IN pulses have met all criteria and POE is released, then the valid counter reverts to its correct programmed value. If the second series of pulses is not received before the $t_{PS\;DISABLE}$ time, then the watchdog will enter watchdog fault mode. It will set the POE signal low, disable the V5CAN, and after t_{ANTI} LATCHUP remove enable control via ENB.

If the watchdog has indicated invalid WD_IN pulses, it latches the POE signal low. Once the power supply disable time $(t_{PS,DISABLE})$ expires, then the watchdog will disable the V5CAN. After the anti-latchup timeout, t_{ANTI} $_{\text{LATCHUP}}$, then the watchdog will remove Enable control via the ENB pin. The only way to prevent this would be to restart the watchdog either through SPI or shutting down and restarting the ARG81400.

The processor can restart the watchdog by using a secure SPI command.

Figure 6: Watchdog Block Diagram

Figure 7 A-H: WATCHDOG VALID SIGNAL TIMING DIAGRAMS

CASE A: EDGE = 2, VALID = 2, WD_IN OK

CASE B: EDGE = 2, VALID = 2, WD_IN STUCK HIGH

CASE C: EDGE = 2, VALID = 2, WD_IN SLOW

CASE D: EDGE = 2, VALID = 2, WD_IN FAST

CASE E: EDGE = 1, VALID = 2, WD_IN OK

CASE F: EDGE = 1, VALID = 2, WD_IN STUCK HIGH

CASE G: EDGE = 1, VALID = 2, WD_IN SLOW

CASE H: EDGE = 1, VALID = 2, WD_IN FAST

Figure 8: Watchdog Timing at Startup

SERIAL COMMUNICATION INTERFACE

The ARG81400 provides the user with a three-wire synchronous serial interface that is compatible with SPI (Serial Peripheral Interface). A fourth wire can be used to provide diagnostic feedback and readback of the register content.

The serial interface timing requirements are specified in the electrical characteristics table and illustrated in the Serial Interface Timing diagram [\(Figure 1\)](#page-18-1). Data is received on the SDI terminal and clocked through a shift register on the rising edge of the clock signal input on the SCK terminal. STRn is normally held high, and is only brought low to initiate a serial transfer. No data is clocked through the shift register when STRn is high, allowing multiple SDI slave units to use common SDI, SCK and SDO connections. Each slave then requires an independent STRn connection.

When 16 data bits have been clocked into the shift register, STRn must be taken high to latch the data into the selected register. When this occurs, the internal control circuits act on the new data and the Diagnostic register is reset.

If there are more than 16 rising edges on SCK or if STRn goes high and there are fewer than 16 rising edges on SCK, the write will be cancelled without writing data to the registers. In addition, the Diagnostic register will not be reset and the SE (serial error) bit will be set to indicate a data transfer error.

Diagnostic information or the contents of the configuration and control registers are output on the SDO terminal MSB first, while STRn is low, and changes to the next bit on each falling edge of SCK. The first bit, which is always the FF (fault flag) bit from the Diagnostic register, is output as soon as STRn goes low.

Each of the programmable (configuration and control) registers has a write bit, WR (bit 10), as the first bit after the register address. This bit must be set to 1 to write the subsequent bits into the selected register. If WR is set to 0, then the remaining data bits (bits 9 to 0) are ignored. The state of the WR bit also determines the data output on SDO. If WR is set to 1 then the Diagnostic register is output. If WR is set to 0, then the contents of the register selected by the first five bits is output. In all cases, the first bit output on SDO will always be the FF bit from the Diagnostic Register.

The ARG81400 has 12 register banks. Bit <15:11> represents the register address for read and write. Bit <10> detects the read and write operation: for write operation, $Bit \le 10$ = 1, and for read operation, bit value is logic low. Bit <9> is an unused bit. Maximum data size is eight bits so Bit<8:1> represents the data word. The last bit in a serial transfer, $Bit < 0$, is a parity bit that is set to ensure odd parity in the complete 16-bit word. Odd parity means that the total number of 1s in any transmission should always be an odd number. This ensures that there is always at least one bit

Pattern at SDI Pin

Pattern at SDO Pin after SDI Read

set to 1 and one bit set to 0, and allows detection of stuck-at faults on the serial input and output data connections. The parity bit is not stored but generated on each transfer.

Register data is output on the SDO terminal MSB first, while STRn is low, and changes to the next bit on each falling edge of the SCK. The first bit which is always the FF bit from the status register, is output as soon as STRn goes low.

If there are more than 16 rising edges on SCL, or if STRn goes high and there are fewer than 16 rising edges on SCK, then the write will be cancelled without writing data to the registers. In addition, the diagnostic register will not be reset; the SE bit will be set to indicate a data transfer error

SDI: Serial data logic input with pull-down. 16-bit serial word, input MSB first.

SCK: Serial clock logic input with pull-down. Data is latched in from SDI on the rising edge of SCL. There must be 16 rising edges per write and SCK must be held high when STRn changes.

STRn: Serial data strobe and serial access enable logic input with pull-up. When STRn is high, any activity on SCK or SDI is ignored and SDO is high impedance, allowing multiple SDI slaves to have common SDI, SCK, and SDO connections.

SDO: Serial data output. High impedance when STRn is high. Output bit 15 of the status register, the fault flag (FF), as soon as STRn goes low.

Register Mapping

STATUS REGISTERS

The ARG81400 provides 3 status registers. These registers are read-only. They provide real-time status of various functions within the ARG81400.

These registers report on the status of all six system rails. They also report on internal rail status, including the charge pump, VREG, VCC, and VDD rails. The general fault flag and watchdog fault state are found in these status registers.

The logic that creates the power-on enable and power reset status are reported through these registers.

CONFIGURATION REGISTERS

The ARG81400 allows configuration of the window watchdog period, timing, and pulse validation parameters. The window watchdog is programmable to accept a clock with a period of either 250, 500, 1000, or 2000 us.

An edge counter increments on every rising edge received at WD_IN. The EDGE_COUNT register stores the number of edges that must occur after the minimum timer has expired and before the maximum timer has expired. The valid counter increments upwards on a successful edge count or decrements on an unsuccessful edge count. Once the valid counter reaches the VALID_ COUNT upward counts, the pulses on WD_IN are considered valid and the watchdog fault, WD_F, goes low.

The number of watchdog edges counted before incrementing the valid counter can be selected. This also sets the timer value. The minimum and maximum timers can be adjusted from nominal in 0.6% steps. The number of positive counts before the valid signal state changes can also be set.

EDGE_COUNT [0:1], 2-bit integer to set the number of edges before the valid counter is incremented.

WD IN PERIOD MIN [0:2], 3-bit integer to adjust the minimum timer nominal value in 0.6% steps.

WD_IN_PERIOD_MAX [0:2], 3-bit integer to adjust the maximum timer nominal value in 0.6% steps.

VALID COUNT [0:1] 2-bit integer to set the number of up counts on the valid counter before declaring a valid pulse train on WD_IN.

The watchdog configuration registers can be written to at any time. The watchdog will update during either hunt states when it receives the first pulse on WD_IN, as shown in [Figure 8](#page-37-0) WD update. If the user wants to change the watchdog configuration after the hunt states, then a WD_RESTART is required.

The ARG81400 uses frequency dithering for the two switching regulators to help reduce EMC noise. The user can disable this feature through the SPI. Default is enabled.

DIAGNOSTIC REGISTERS

There are multiple diagnostic registers in the ARG81400. These registers can be read to evaluate the status of the ARG81400. The high-level registers will tell which area a fault has occurred. Logic high on a data bit in this register implies that no fault has occurred. The following are monitored by these registers.

- All six outputs
- ARG81400 bias voltage
- Charge pump voltage
- Pre-regulator voltage
- **Overtemperature**
- Watchdog output
- Shorts on LX pins or open diode on pre-regulator

Note some of these faults will cause the ARG81400 to shut down, which might shutdown the microprocessor monitoring the SPI. In

this event, the only way to read the fault would be to have alternative power to the microprocessor so it can read the registers. If VCC of the ARG81400 shuts down, all stored register information is lost and the registers revert back to default values.

Other diagnostic registers store more detail on each fault; these include:

- Overvoltage on a particular output or internal rail
- Undervoltage on a particular output or internal rail
- Overcurrent on a rail

The diagnostic registers are latch registers and will hold data if a fault has occurred but recovered. So during startup, these registers will record a UV event on all outputs. On first read, these UV events will be reported. It is recommended to reset these registers after startup to ensure full fault reporting. These registers are reset by writing a 1 to them.

DISABLE REGISTER

The disable register provides the user control of the 5 V outputs. Two bits must be set high to disable an output. If only one bit is high, then the outputs remain on. Note V5CAN requires a watch-

Register Map

dog reset to re-enable its output. Set register 0x06 bit 0 and bit 4 to 0; issue watchdog reset through register 0x07.

WATCHDOG MODE KEY REGISTER

At times it may be necessary to re-flash or restart the processor. To do this, the user must put the watchdog into "Flash Mode" or "restart. This is done writing a sequence of key words to the "watchdog_mode_key" register. If the correct word sequence is not received, then the sequence must restart.

Once flash is complete, the processor must send the restart sequence of key words for the watchdog to exit "Flash Mode". If VCC has not been removed from the ARG81400, the watchdog will restart with the current configuration.

VERIFY RESULT REGISTERS

On every startup, the ARG81400 performs a self-test of the UV and OV detect circuits. This test should cause the diagnostic registers to toggle state. If the diagnostic register successfully changes state, the verify result register will latch high. Upon completion of startup, the system's microprocessor can check the verify result registers to see if the self-test passed.

Register Types:

RO = Read-Only RW = Read or Write RW1C = Read or Write 1 to clear WO = Write-Only

0X00. STATUS REGISTER 0:

Address 00000

Read-only register

Data

FF [D7]: Fault flag. $0 =$ no fault, $1 =$ fault

POE_OK [D6]: Power-on enable signal matches what ARG81400 is demanding, $0 =$ fault, 1 = no fault

VCC_OK [D5]: Internal VCC rail is OK, $0 =$ fault, $1 =$ no fault

VDD OK [D4]: Internal VDD rail is OK, $0 =$ fault, $1 =$ no fault

V5P OK [D3]: Protected 5V rail is OK, $0 =$ fault, $1 =$ no fault

V5B OK [D2]: 5V rail B is OK, $0 =$ fault, 1 = no fault

V5A_OK [D1]: 5V rail A is OK, $0 =$ fault, 1 = no fault

V5CAN_OK [D0]: CAN bus 5V rail is OK, $0 =$ fault, $1 =$ no fault

0X01. STATUS REGISTER 1:

Address 00001

Read-only register

Data

NPOR OK [D6]: NPOR signal matches what ARG81400 is demanding, $0 =$ fault, $1 =$ no fault

WD F [D5]: Watchdog is active, $0 =$ watchdog off or no fault, $1 =$ watchdog fault

TSD_OK [D4]: Thermal shutdown status, $0 =$ overtemperature event, 1 = temperature OK

VCP OK [D3]: Charge pump rail is OK, $0 =$ fault, $1 =$ no fault

VREG_OK [D2]: Pre-regulator voltage is OK, $0 =$ fault, $1 =$ no fault

3V3 OK [D1]: 3.3 V rail is OK, $0 =$ fault, 1 = no fault

BUCK OK [D0]: Synchronous buck adjustable rail is OK, $0 =$ fault, $1 =$ no fault

0X02. STATUS REGISTER 2:

Address 00010

Read-only register

Data

CLK Hi $[D7]$: Indicates if watchdog clock input is stuck high, $0 = CLK$ is not stuck high, $1 =$ clock is stuck high

CLK Lo [D6]: Indicates if watchdog clock input is stuck low, $0 = CLK$ is not stuck low, $1 =$ clock is stuck low

NPOR S [D5]: Power-on reset internal logic status, $0 = \text{NPOR}$ is low, $1 = \text{NPOR}$ is high

POE S [D4]: Power-on enable internal logic status, $0 = POE$ is low, $1 = POE$ is high

ENBATS $[D3]$: Battery-enable status, reports the status of the high-voltage enable pin ENBAT on the ARG81400, $0 =$ ENBAT is low, $1 =$ ENBAT is high

WD state \bar{x} [D2:D0]: Shows the state that the watchdog is currently in, see table for the different states.

0X03. DIAGNOSTIC REGISTER 0:

Address 00011

Read register, write 1 to clear

Data

V5A OV [D7]: 5 V rail A overvoltage occurred, $0 = \text{raid OK}$, 1 = overvoltage occurred V5A_UV [D6]: 5 V rail A undervoltage occurred, $0 = \text{raid OK}$, $1 = \text{undervoltage}$ occurred V5CAN OV [D5]: 5 V CAN bus rail overvoltage occurred, $0 = \text{tail OK}$, $1 = \text{overvoltage}$ occurred V5CAN UV [D4]: 5 V CAN bus rail undervoltage occurred, $0 = \text{raid OK}$, 1 = undervoltage occurred V5P_OV [D3]: Protected 5 V rail overvoltage occurred, $0 = \text{raid OK}$, 1 = overvoltage occurred V5P_UV [D2]: Protected 5 V rail undervoltage occurred, $0 = \text{raid OK}$, 1 = undervoltage occurred V5B OV [D1]: 5 V rail B overvoltage occurred, $0 = \text{tail OK}$, 1 = overvoltage occurred V5B UV [D0]: 5 V rail B undervoltage occurred, $0 = \text{tail OK}$, 1 = undervoltage occurred

0X04. DIAGNOSTIC REGISTER 1:

Address 00100

Read register, write 1 to clear

Data

VDD_OV [D7]: Internal VDD rail overvoltage occurred, $0 = \text{raid OK}$, $1 = \text{overvoltage}$ occurred

VDD UV [D6]: Internal VDD rail undervoltage occurred, $0 = \text{raid OK}$, $1 = \text{undervoltage}$ occurred

VREG OV [D5]: Pre-regulator voltage rail overvoltage occurred, $0 = \text{raid OK}$, $1 = \text{overvoltage}$ occurred

VREG UV [D4]: Pre-regulator voltage rail undervoltage occurred, $0 = \text{raid OK}$, 1 = undervoltage occurred

3V3 OV [D3]: 3.3 V rail overvoltage occurred, $0 = \text{raid OK}$, $1 = \text{overvoltage}$ occurred

3V3 UV [D2]: 3.3 V rail undervoltage occurred, $0 = \text{raid OK}$, 1 = undervoltage occurred

BUCK OV [D1]: Synchronous buck adjustable voltage rail overvoltage occurred, $0 = \text{raid OK}$, $1 = \text{overvoltage occurred}$

BUCK UV [D0]: Synchronous buck adjustable voltage rail undervoltage occurred, $0 = \text{raid OK}$, $1 = \text{undervoltage occurred}$

0X05. DIAGNOSTIC REGISTER 2:

Address 00101

Read register, write 1 to clear

Data

LX2 OK [D6]: Adjustable synchronous buck switch node is OK, $0 =$ fault on LX2, $1 =$ LX2 is working correctly LX1 OK [D5]: Pre-regulator switch node is OK, $0 =$ fault on LX1, $1 =$ LX1 is working correctly D1_OK [D4]: Pre-regulator freewheeling diode is OK, $0 =$ diode is open circuit, $1 =$ diode is working correctly VCC_UV [D2]: Internal VCC rail undervoltage occurred, $0 = \text{raid OK}$, $1 = \text{undervoltage}$ occurred VCP_OV [D1]: Charge pump voltage rail overvoltage occurred, $0 = \text{raid OK}$, $1 = \text{overvoltage occurred}$ VCP_UV [D0]: Charge pump voltage rail undervoltage occurred, $0 = \text{raid OK}$, 1 = undervoltage occurred

0X06. OUTPUT DISABLE REGISTER:

Address 00110

Read or write register

Data

V5P DIS [D7:D3]: Disable protected 5 V output, $11 =$ disabled, $x0 =$ enabled, $0x =$ enabled

V5A DIS [D6:D2]: Disable 5 V rail A output, $11 =$ disabled, $x0 =$ enabled, $0x =$ enabled

V5B_DIS [D5:D1]: Disable 5 V rail B output, $11 =$ disabled, $x0 =$ enabled, $0x =$ enabled

V5CAN DIS [D4:D0]: Disable 5 V CAN bus rail, $11 =$ disabled, $x0 =$ enabled, $0x =$ enabled; A watchdog reset is required to re-enable V5CAN if it was disabled.

0X07. WATCHDOG MODE KEY REGISTER:

Address 00111

Write register

Data

KEY [D7:D0]: Three 8-bit words must be sent in the correct order to enable flash mode or restart the watchdog. If an incorrect word is received, then the register resets and the first word has to be resent.

0X08. CONFIGURATION REGISTER 0:

Address 01000

Read or write register

Data

WD_PER [D7:D6]: 2-bit word to select the nominal incoming watchdog period

WD_MAX [D5:D3]: 3-bit word to adjust the watchdog maximum timer set point

WD_MIN [D2:D0]: 3-bit word to adjust the watchdog minimum timer set point

0X09. CONFIGURATION REGISTER 1:

Address 01001

Read or write register

Data

DITH DIS [D4]: This bit allows the user to disable the dither function for the switching converters, $0 =$ dither enabled, $1 =$ dither disabled.

VALID [D3:D2]: 2-bit counter to set the number of counts before a valid watchdog signal is set or reset.

EDGE [D1:D0]: 2-bit counter to set the number of edges to count before incrementing the VALID counter. The EDGE value also sets the minimum and maximum nominal timers. The minimum and maximum timers will be based on the number of edge counts plus the delta stored in WD_MIN and WD_MAX.

0X0A. VERIFY RESULT REGISTER 0:

Address 01010

Read register, write 1 to clear

Data

V5A_OV_OK [D7]: 5 V rail A overvoltage self-test passed, $0 =$ test failed, 1 = test passed V5A_UV_OK [D6]: 5 V rail A undervoltage self-test passed, $0 =$ test failed, 1 = test passed V5CAN OV OK [D5]: 5 V CAN bus rail overvoltage self-test passed, $0 =$ test failed, 1 = test passed V5CAN UV OK [D4]: 5 V CAN bus rail undervoltage self-test passed, $0 =$ test failed, 1 = test passed V5P_OV_OK [D3]: Protected 5V rail overvoltage self-test passed, $0 =$ test failed, 1 = test passed V5P_UV_OK [D2]: Protected 5V rail undervoltage self-test passed, $0 =$ test failed, 1 = test passed V5B OV OK [D1]: 5V rail B overvoltage self-test passed, $0 =$ test failed, $1 =$ test passed V5B_UV_OK [D0]: 5V rail B undervoltage self-test passed, $0 =$ test failed, 1 = test passed

0X0B. VERIFY RESULT REGISTER 1:

Address 01011

Read register, write 1 to clear

Data

BIST_PASS [D7]: Self-test status, $0 =$ self-test failed, $1 =$ self-test passed

TSD_OK [D6]: Thermal shutdown circuit passed self-test, $0 =$ test failed, 1 = test passed

VREG_OV_OK [D5]: Pre-regulator voltage rail overvoltage self-test passed, $0 =$ test failed, 1 = test passed

VREG_UV_OK [D4]: Pre-regulator voltage rail undervoltage self-test passed, $0 =$ test failed, 1 = test passed

3V3 OV OK [D3]: 3.3 V rail overvoltage self-test passed, $0 =$ test failed, 1 = test passed

3V3 UV OK [D2]: 3.3 V rail undervoltage self-test passed, $0 =$ test failed, 1 = test passed

BUCK_OV_OK [D1]: Synchronous buck adjustable voltage rail overvoltage self-test passed, $0 =$ test failed, 1 = test passed

BUCK_UV_OK [D0]: Synchronous buck adjustable voltage rail undervoltage self-test passed, $0 =$ test failed, $1 =$ test passed

DESIGN AND COMPONENT SELECTION

The following section briefly describes the component selection procedure for the ARG81400.

Setting up the Pre-Regulator

This section discusses the component selection for the ARG81400 pre-regulator. It covers the charge pump circuit, inductor, diodes, boost MOSFET, and input and output capacitors. It will also cover soft-start and loop compensation.

Charge Pump Capacitors

The charge pump requires two capacitors: a 1 μ F connected from pin VCP to VIN and 0.22 µF connected between pins CP1 and CP2 These capacitors should be a high-quality ceramic capacitors, such as an X5R or X7R, with a voltage rating of at least 16 V.

PWM Switching Frequency

The switching frequency of the ARG81400 is fixed at 2.2 MHz nominal. The ARG81400 includes a frequency foldback scheme that starts when V_{IN} is greater than 18 V. Between 18 V and 36 V, the switching frequency will foldback from 2.2 MHz typical to 1 MHz typical. The switching frequency for a given input voltage above 18 V and below 36 V is:

$$
f_{SW} = 3.4 - \frac{1.2}{18} \times V_{IN} (MHz)
$$
 (1)

Figure 9: Typical Switching Frequency versus Input Voltage

Pre-Regulator Output Inductor (L1)

For peak current mode control, it is well known that the system will become unstable when the duty cycle is above 50% without adequate Slope Compensation (S_E) . However, the slope compensation in the ARG81400 is a fixed value. Therefore, it is important to calculate an inductor value so the falling slope of the inductor current (S_F) will work well with the ARG81400's slope compensation.

Equation [\(2\)](#page-48-1) can be used to calculate a range of values for the output inductor for the buck-boost. In equation [\(2\),](#page-48-1) slope compensation can be found in the Electrical Characteristic table, V_F is the asynchronous diodes forward voltage, S_E is in A/ μ s, and L will be in μ H:

$$
\frac{(VREG + V_F)}{S_{EI}} \le L1 \le \frac{2 \times (VREG + V_F)}{S_{EI}} \tag{2}
$$

If equation [\(2\)](#page-48-1) yields an inductor value that is not a standard value, then the next closest available value should be used. The final inductor value should allow for 10%-20% of initial tolerance and 20%-30% for inductor saturation.

Due to topology and frequency switching of the ARG81400 preregulator, the inductor ripple current varies with input voltage per [Figure 10](#page-48-2) below:

Figure 10: Typical Peak Inductor Current versus Input Voltage for 0.8 A Output Current and 10 µH Inductor

The inductor should not saturate given the peak operating current during overload. Equation [\(3\)](#page-49-1) calculates this current. In equation [\(3\),](#page-49-1) V_{INMAX} is the maximum continuous input voltage, such as 16 V, and V_F is the asynchronous diode forward voltage.

$$
I_{PEAKI} = 4.77 A - \frac{S_{EI} \times (VREG + V_F)}{0.9 \times f_{SW} \times (V_{IN,MAX} + V_F)}
$$
(3)

After an inductor is chosen, it should be tested during output overload and short-circuit conditions. The inductor current should be monitored using a current probe. A good design should ensure the inductor or the regulator are not damaged when the output is shorted to ground at maximum input voltage and the highest expected ambient temperature.

Inductor ripple current can be calculated using equation [\(4\)](#page-49-2) for buck mode, and equation [\(5\)](#page-49-3) for buck-boost mode.

$$
\Delta I_{LI} = \frac{(V_{IN} - VREG) \times VREG}{f_{SW} \times LI \times V_{IN}} \tag{4}
$$

$$
\Delta I_{B/B} = \frac{V_{IN} \times D_{BOOST}}{f_{SW} \times L1}
$$
 (5)

where D_{BOOST} (in %) = 112 – 11.7 × V_{IN}, and 3 V < V_{IN} < 8.5 V.

Pre-Regulator Output Capacitors

The output capacitors filter the output voltage to provide an acceptable level of ripple voltage. They also store energy to help maintain voltage regulation during a load transient. The voltage rating of the output capacitors must support the output voltage with sufficient design margin.

The output voltage ripple (ΔV_{OUT}) is a function of the output capacitors parameters: C_O , ESR_{CO} , ESL_{CO} .

$$
\Delta V_{OUT} = \Delta I_L \times ESR_{CO} +
$$

\n
$$
\frac{V_{IN} \times V_{OUT}}{LI} \times ESL_{CO} +
$$

\n
$$
\frac{\Delta I_{L1}}{8 \times f_{SW} \times C_O}
$$
 (6)

The type of output capacitors will determine which terms of equation [\(6\)](#page-49-4) are dominant. For ceramic output capacitors, the ESR_{CO} and ESL_{CO} are virtually zero, so the output voltage ripple will be dominated by the third term of equation [\(6\).](#page-49-4)

$$
\Delta VREG = \frac{\Delta I_{L1}}{8 \times f_{SW} \times C_O} \tag{7}
$$

To reduce the voltage ripple of a design using ceramic output capacitors, simply increase the total capacitance, reduce the inductor current ripple (i.e. increase the inductor value), or increase the switching frequency.

The transient response of the regulator depends on the number and type of output capacitors. In general, minimizing the ESR of the output capacitance will result in a better transient response. The ESR can be minimized by simply adding more capacitors in parallel or by using higher quality capacitors. At the instant of a fast load transient (di/dt), the output voltage will change by the amount:

$$
\Delta VREG = \Delta I_{LOAD} \times ESR_{CO} + \frac{di}{dt} \times ESL_{CO}
$$
 (8)

After the load transient occurs, the output voltage will deviate from its nominal value for a short time. This time will depend on the system bandwidth, the output inductor value, and output capacitance. Eventually, the error amplifier will bring the output voltage back to its nominal value.

The speed at which the error amplifier will bring the output voltage back to its setpoint will depend mainly on the closed-loop bandwidth of the system. A higher bandwidth usually results in a shorter time to return to the nominal voltage. However, a higher bandwidth system may be more difficult to obtain acceptable gain and phase margins. Selection of the compensation components $(R₇, C₇, C_p)$ are discussed in more detail in the Compensation Components section of this datasheet.

Ceramic Input Capacitors

The ceramic input capacitor(s) must limit the voltage ripple at the VIN pin to a relatively low voltage during maximum load. Equation 8 can be used to calculate the minimum input capacitance,

$$
C_{\text{IN}} \geq \frac{I_{\text{VREG,MAX}} \times 0.25}{0.90 \times f_{\text{SW}} \times 50 \text{ mV}} \tag{9}
$$

where $I_{VREG, MAX}$ is the maximum current from the pre-regulator,

$$
I_{VREG,MAX} = I_{LINEAR} + I_{AUX} + \frac{6.7 \times I_{SYNC_BUCK}}{V_{SYNC_BUCK}} + 20 mA \quad (10)
$$

where I_{LINEAR} is the sum of all the internal linear regulators output currents, I_{AUX} is any extra current drawn from the VREG output to power other devices external to the ARG81400, I_{SYNC} $_{\text{Buck}}$ and V_{SYNC} $_{\text{Buck}}$ are the output current and voltage of the synchronous buck converter.

.

A good design should consider the dc-bias effect on a ceramic capacitor—as the applied voltage approaches the rated value, the capacitance value decreases. The X5R and X7R type capacitors should be the primary choices due to their stability versus both DC bias and temperature. For all ceramic capacitors, the DC bias effect is even more pronounced on smaller case sizes so a good design will use the largest affordable case size.

Also for improved noise performance, it is recommended to add smaller sized capacitors close to the input pin and the D1 anode. Use a 0.1μ F 0603 capacitor.

Buck-Boost Asynchronous Diode (D1)

The highest peak current in the asynchronous diode (D1) occurs during overload and is limited by the ARG81400. Equation 3 can be used to calculate this current.

The highest average current in the asynchronous diode occurs when V_{IN} is at its maximum, $D_{\text{BOOST}} = 0\%$, and $D_{\text{BUCK}} = \text{mini}$ mum (10%),

$$
I_{AVG} = 0.9 \times I_{VREG,MAX} \tag{11}
$$

where $I_{VREG,MAX}$ is calculated using equation [\(10\).](#page-49-5)

Boost MOSFET (Q1)

The RMS current in the boost MOSFET $(Q1)$ occurs when V_{IN} is at its minimum and both the buck and boost operate at their maximum duty cycles (approximately 64% and 58%, respectively),

$$
I_{QI,RMS} = \sqrt{D_{BOOST} \times \left(\left(I_{PEAKI} - \frac{\Delta I_{B/B}}{2} \right)^2 + \frac{\Delta I_{B/B}}{12} \right)}
$$
(12)

where $\Delta I_{\text{B/B}}$ and I_{PEAK1} are derived using equations [\(3\)](#page-49-1) and [\(5\),](#page-49-3) respectively.

Boost Diode (D2)

In buck mode, this diode will simply conduct the output current. However, in buck-boost mode, the peak currents in this diode may increase a lot. The ARG81400 limits the peak current to the value calculated using equation [\(3\).](#page-49-1) The average current is simply the output current.

Pre-Regulator Soft-Start and Hiccup Mode Timing (C_{SS1})

The soft-start time of the buck-boost converter is determined by the value of the capacitance at the soft-start pin, C_{SS1} .

If the ARG81400 is starting into a very heavy load, a very fast

soft-start time may cause the regulator to exceed the pulse-bypulse overcurrent threshold. This occurs because the total of the full load current, the inductor ripple current, and the additional current required to charge the output capacitors ($I_{CO} = C_O \times$ $V_{\text{OUT}}/t_{\text{SS}}$) is higher than the pulse-by-pulse current threshold, as shown in [Figure 11](#page-50-1).

Figure 11: Output Current (I_{CO}) during Startup

To avoid prematurely triggering hiccup mode the soft start time, t_{SS1} , should be calculated according to equation 13,

$$
t_{ssi} = VREG \times \frac{C_o}{I_{co}}
$$
 (13)

where V_{OUT} is the output voltage, C_{O} is the output capacitance, $I_{\rm CO}$ is the amount of current allowed to charge the output capacitance during soft-start (recommend $0.1 \text{ A} < I_{\text{CO}} < 0.3 \text{ A}$). Higher values of I_{CO} ensure that hiccup mode is not falsely triggered. Allegro recommends starting the design with an I_{CO} of 0.1 A and increasing it only if the soft-start time is too slow.

Then CSS1 can be selected based on equation [\(14\),](#page-50-2)

$$
C_{ssi} > \frac{ISSI_{sv} \times t_{ssi}}{0.8}
$$
 (14)

If a non-standard capacitor value for C_{SSI} is calculated, the next larger value should be used.

The voltage at the soft-start pin will start from 0 V and will be charged by the soft-start current, $ISS1_{SUI}$. However, PWM switching will not begin instantly because the voltage at the soft-start pin must rise above the soft-start offset voltage (VSS 1_{OFFS}). The soft-start delay ($t_{\text{SSI.DELAY}}$) can be calculated using equation [\(15\),](#page-50-3)

$$
t_{SSI,DELAY} = C_{SSI} \times \frac{VSSI_{OFFS}}{ISSI_{SU}}
$$
 (15)

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When the ARG81400 is in hiccup mode, the soft-start capacitor sets the hiccup period. During a startup attempt, the soft-start pin charges the soft-start capacitor with $ISS1_{SU}$ and discharges the same capacitor with $ISS1_{\rm HIC}$ between startup attempts.

Pre-Regulator Compensation Components (R_Z, C_Z, C_P)

Although the ARG81400 can operate in buck-boost mode at low input voltages, it still can be considered a buck converter when looking at the control loop. The following equations can be used to calculate the compensation components.

Figure 12: ARG81400 Compensation Components

First, we need to select the target crossover frequency for our final system. While we are switching at over 2 MHz, the crossover is governed by the required phase margin. Since we are using a type II compensation scheme, we are limited to the amount of phase we can add. Hence, we select a crossover frequency, f_C , in the region of 55 kHz. The total system phase will drop off at higher crossover frequencies. The R_Z selection is based on the gain required at the crossover frequency and can be calculated by the following simplified equation:

$$
R_Z = \frac{8.56 \times \pi \times f_C \times C_O}{gm_{\text{power}} \times gm_{\text{EAI}}}
$$
(16)

The series capacitor, C_Z , along with the resistor, R_Z , set the location of the compensation zero. This zero should be placed no lower than ¼ the crossover frequency and should be kept to a minimum value. Equation [\(17\)](#page-51-1) can be used to estimate this capacitor value.

$$
C_Z > \frac{4}{2\pi \times R_Z \times f_C} \tag{17}
$$

Determine if the second compensation capacitor (C_P) is required. It is required if the ESR zero of the output capacitor is located at less than half of the switching frequency or the following relationship is valid:

$$
\frac{1}{2\pi \times C_O \times ESR_{CO}} < \frac{f_{SW}}{2} \tag{18}
$$

If this is the case, then add the second compensation capacitor (C_P) to set the pole at the location of the ESR zero. Determine the C_p value by the equation:

$$
C_P = \frac{C_{OUT} \times ESR}{R_Z} \tag{19}
$$

Finally, we take a look at the combined bode plot of both the control-to-output and the compensated error amp—see the red curves shown in [Figure 13](#page-51-2). Careful examination of this plot shows that the magnitude and phase of the entire system are simply the sum of the error amp response (blue) and the control to output response (green). As shown in [Figure 13,](#page-51-2) the bandwidth of this system (f_C) is 50 kHz, the phase margin is 71.5 degrees, and the gain margin is 30 dB.

Synchronous Buck Component Selection

Similar design methods can be used for the synchronous buck, however, the complexity of variable input voltage and boost operation are removed.

Setting the Output Voltage, RFB1 and RFB2

If the output of the synchronous buck is connected directly to the FB pin, then the output will be regulated to V_{FB} or 1.25 V nominal. The OV pin should also be connected to the output to provide open feedback protection.

The ARG81400 also allows the user to program the output voltage. This is achieved by adding a resistor divider from its output to ground and connecting the center point to FB, see [Figure 14](#page-52-1) below.

A second divider, ROV1 and ROV2, using the same values as RFB1 and RFB2 respectively, should be connected to the OV pin of the ARG81400 as shown in [Figure 14.](#page-52-1)

Figure 14: Programing the ARG81400 Synchronous Buck Output

The resistors can be selected based on the following equation, set $R_{FB2} = R_{OV2} = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$. V_{SYNC_BUCK} is the required output voltage.

$$
R_{FBI} = R_{OVI} = \frac{V_{SYNC_BUCK}}{V_{FB}} \times R_{FB2} - R_{FB2}
$$
 (20)

Synchronous Buck Output Inductor (L2)

Equation 21 can be used to calculate a range of values for the output inductor for the synchronous buck regulator. In equation 21, slope compensation S_{E2} be found in the electrical characteristic table.

$$
\frac{V_{STNC_BUCK}}{S_{E2}} \le L2 \le \frac{2 \times V_{STNC_BUCK}}{S_{E2}} \tag{21}
$$

If equation [\(21\)](#page-52-2) yields an inductor value that is not a standard value, then the next closest available value should be used. The final inductor value should allow for 10%-20% of initial tolerance and 20%-30% for inductor saturation.

Figure 15: Typical Peak Inductor Current versus Input Voltage for 0.18 A Output Current and 10 µH Inductor

The inductor should not saturate given the peak current at overload according to equation 22. The synchronous buck uses the same switching frequency, f_{SW} , as the pre-regulator.

$$
I_{PEAK2} = 1.02 A - \frac{S_{E2} \times V_{SYNC\text{ BUCK}}}{0.9 \times f_{SW} \times VREG}
$$
 (22)

After an inductor is chosen, it should be tested during output short-circuit conditions. The inductor current should be monitored using a current probe. A good design should ensure the inductor or the regulator are not damaged when the output is shorted to ground at maximum input voltage and the highest expected ambient temperature.

Once inductor value is known the ripple current can be calculated:

$$
\Delta I_{L2} = \frac{(VREG - V_{SINC_BUCK}) \times V_{SINC_SINC}}{f_{SW} \times L2 \times VREG}
$$
(23)

Synchronous Buck Output Capacitors

Similar criteria as the pre-regulator can be used in selecting the output capacitors. Ceramic output capacitors should be used so for a given output voltage ripple the minimum output capacitor value can be calculated using equation [\(24\)](#page-52-3).

$$
C_O \ge \frac{\Delta I_{L2}}{8 \times f_{SW} \times \Delta V_{SYNC_BUCK}}
$$
 (24)

Synchronous Buck Compensation Components

Again, similar techniques as used with the pre-regulator can be used to compensate the synchronous buck.

For the synchronous buck, we select a crossover frequency, f_C , in the region of 50 kHz. The R_Z selection is based on the gain required at the crossover frequency, and can be calculated by the following simplified equation:

$$
R_Z = \frac{V_{SINC_BUCK} \times 2\pi \times f_C \times C_O}{V_{FB} \times g m_{POWER2} \times g m_{EA2}}\tag{25}
$$

The series capacitor, C_Z , along with the resistor, R_Z , set the location of the compensation zero. This zero should be placed no lower than ¼ the crossover frequency and should be kept to a minimum value. Equation [\(26\)](#page-53-1) can be used to estimate this capacitor value

$$
C_Z > \frac{4}{2\pi \times R_Z \times f_C} \tag{26}
$$

Determine if the second compensation capacitor (C_p) is required. It is required if the ESR zero of the output capacitor is located at less than half of the switching frequency or the following relationship is valid:

$$
\frac{1}{2\pi \times C_0 \times ESR_{CO}} < \frac{f_{SW}}{2} \tag{27}
$$

If this is the case, then add the second compensation capacitor (C_P) to set the pole at the location of the ESR zero. Determine the C_p value by the equation:

$$
C_P = \frac{C_{OUT} \times ESR}{R_Z} \tag{28}
$$

Finally, we take a look at the combined bode plot of both the control-to-output and the compensated error amp—see the red curves shown in [Figure 16](#page-53-2). The bandwidth of this system (f_C) is 51 kHz, the phase margin is 75° , and the gain margin is > 30 dB.

Figure 16: Bode Plot of the Complete System (red curve) R_Z = 2.74 k Ω , C_Z = 4.7 nF, C_P = 10 pF L_O = 10 µH, $\overline{C_O}$ = 10 µF Ceramic

Synchronous Buck Soft-Start and Hiccup Mode Timing

The soft-start time of the synchronous buck is determined by the value of the capacitance at the soft-start pin, C_{SS2} .

If the ARG81400 is starting into a very heavy load, a very fast soft-start time may cause the regulator to exceed the pulse-bypulse overcurrent threshold. To avoid prematurely triggering hiccup mode, the soft-start time, t_{SS2} , should be calculated according to equation [\(29\),](#page-53-3)

$$
t_{\text{ss2}} = V_{\text{SYNC_BUCK}} \times \frac{C_o}{I_{co}}
$$
 (29)

Where $V_{\text{SYNC-BUCK}}$ is the output voltage, C_O is the output capacitance, I_{CO} is the amount of current allowed to charge the output capacitance during soft-start (recommend 20 mA \leq I_{CO} \leq 30 mA). Higher values of I_{CO} result in faster soft-start time and lower values of I_{CO} ensure that hiccup mode is not falsely triggered. We recommend starting the design with an I_{CO} of 20 mA and increasing it only if the soft-start time is too slow.

Then C_{SS2} can be selected based on equation [\(30\),](#page-53-4)

$$
C_{\rm SS2} > \frac{ISS2_{\rm SU} \times t_{\rm SS1}}{0.8} \tag{30}
$$

If a non-standard capacitor value for C_{SS2} is calculated, the next larger value should be used.

The voltage at the soft-start pin will start from 0 V and will be

charged by the soft-start current, $ISS2_{SU}$. However, PWM switching will not begin instantly because the voltage at the soft-start pin must rise above the soft-start offset voltage (VSS2_{OFFS}). The soft start delay ($t_{SS2,DELAY}$) can be calculated using equation [\(31\)](#page-54-1),

$$
t_{SS2,DELAY} = C_{SS2} \times \frac{VSS2_{OFFS}}{ISS2_{SU}}
$$
 (31)

When the ARG81400 is in hiccup mode, the soft-start capacitor sets the hiccup period. During a startup attempt, the soft-start pin charges the soft-start capacitor with $ISS2_{SU}$ and discharges the same capacitor with $ISS2_{HIC}$ between startup attempts.

Linear Regulators

The five linear regulators only require an ceramic capacitor to ensure stable operation. The capacitor can be any value between 1 and 15 μF. A 2.2 μF capacitor per regulator is recommended.

Also, since the V5P is used to power remote circuitry, its load can include long cables. The inductance of these cables may cause negative spikes on the V5P pin if a short occurs. It is recommended to use a small diode to clamp this negative spike. A MSS1P5 is recommended.

Internal Bias (VCC)

The internal bias voltage should be decoupled at the VCC pin using a 1 μF ceramic capacitor. It is not recommended to use this pin as a source.

Signal Pins (NPOR, ENBATS, FFn, POE, DIAG)

The ARG81400 has many signal level pins. The NPOR, FFn, and ENBATS are open-drain outputs and require external pull-up resistors. The DIAG and POE signals are push-pull outputs and do not require external pull-up resistors.

PCB LAYOUT RECOMMENDATIONS

The input ceramic capacitors must be located as close as possible to the VIN pins. In general, the smaller capacitors (0402, 0603) must be placed very close to the VIN pin. The larger capacitors should be placed within 0.5 inches of the VIN pin. There must not be any vias between the input capacitors and the VIN pins.

The pre-regulator input ceramic capacitors, ARG81400 VIN and LX1, and asynchronous diode (D1), must be routed on one layer. This loop should be as small as possible, see below. The snubber (RN1 and CN1) should be placed close to D1. A single star point ground connected to the ground plane using multiple vias is recommended.

The pre-regulator output inductor (L1) should be located close to the LX1 pins. The LX1 trace widths (to L1, D1) should be relatively wide and preferably on the same layer as the IC.

The pre-regulators output ceramic capacitors should be located near the VREG pin. There must be 1 or 2 smaller ceramic capacitors as close as possible to the VREG pin.

The synchronous buck output inductor should be located near the LX2 pins. The trace from the LX2 pins to the output inductor (L2) should be relatively wide and preferably on the same layer as the IC.

The two synchronous buck feedback resistors (RFB1, RFB2) must be located near the FB pin. The output capacitors should be located near the load. The output voltage sense trace (to RFB1) must connect at the load for the best regulation, trace A in figure below goes to load.

The two charge pump capacitors must be placed as close as possible to VCP and CP1/CP2.

The ceramic capacitors for the LDOs (3V3, V5A, V5B, V5P, and V5CAN) must be placed near their output pins. The V5P output must have a 1 A / 40 V Schottky diode (D3) located very close to its pin to limit negative voltages.

The VCC bypass capacitor must be placed very close to the VCC pin.

The COMP network for both buck regulators (CZx, RZx, CPx) must be located very close to the COMPx pin.

The thermal pad under the ARG81400 must connect to the ground plane(s) with multiple vias.

The boost MOSFET (Q1) and the boost diode (D2) must be placed very close to each other. Q1 should have thermal vias to a polygon on the bottom layer. Also, there should be "local" bypass capacitors from D2 anode to Q1 source.

INPUT/OUTPUT STRUCTURES (to be confirmed)

Figure 30: Package LV, 38-Pin eTSSOP

Revision History

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