

52 W low-cost two-stage LED driver based on ICL5102

A PFC + open-loop LCC design with tight LED current spread

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About this document

Scope and purpose

ICL5102 is an integrated combo controller IC designed to drive and control the boost PFC + resonant half-bridge (HB) topology (LLC/LCC) in combination. The superior performance of its THD optimizer in the PFC part makes it very suitable for LED lighting applications. Infineon's proprietary coreless transformer-based high-side MOSFET driver enables a robust HB drive at high operating frequency.

This work demonstrates a highly efficient low-cost non-dimmable PFC + LCC LED driver based on ICL5102. Thanks to the integrated, robust and efficient HB MOSFET driver, the LCC stage is designed at high operating frequency (up to 250 kHz) to realize an integrated resonant transformer at lower cost. In this non-dimmable design, open-loop control is implemented for further cost reduction. The LCC resonant tank is designed in a particular manner for a tight LED current tolerance (±10 percent), over a wide temperature range and with most IC and component tolerance taken into account. This is of great importance in the open-loop product design.

This report documents the experimental test results of this 52 W open-loop LCC demonstration board and LED current spread analysis.

Intended audience

This document is intended for technical experts who intend to use this ICL5102 demonstration board, either for their own applications and ICL5102 function tests, or as a reference for a new ICL5102-based product development.

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About this document

1 IC introduction

ICL5102 is an integrated combo IC designed to drive and control the boost PFC + resonant HB topology (LLC/LCC) in combination. Its high-voltage version, ICL5102HV, can handle 980 V (maximum value) on the halfbridge part, which is the highest voltage rating on the market so far. The pin maps of ICL5102 and ICL5102HV are given in **[Figure 1.](#page-2-1)** Thanks to Infineon's proprietary coreless transformer technology, ICL5102/HV's high-side MOSFET driver is very robust against dV/dt and negative voltage peak in the middle point of the half-bridge, and generates low loss at high operating frequency.

Figure 1 Pin maps of (a) ICL5102 and (b) ICL5102HV

The other key features of ICL5102 are summarized as follows:

Key features:

- Integrated two-stage combo controller allowing for reduced number of external components, optimized Bill of Materials (BOM) and form factor.
- PFC controller with Critical Conduction Mode (CrCM) and Discontinuous Conduction Mode (DCM).
- Resonant HB controller with fixed or variable switching frequency control.
- Maximum 500 kHz HB switching frequency and soft-start frequency up to 1.3 MHz.
- Resonant HB burst mode (BM) ensures power limitation and low standby power of less than 300 mW.
- Supports universal AC input voltage.
- Supports excellent system efficiency.
- THD optimization ensuring low harmonic distortion down to 30 percent nominal load.

Protection mechanisms:

- Input brown-out protection.
- PFC bus overvoltage protection (OVP).
- PFC overcurrent protection (OCP).
- Output OVP, OCP/short-circuit protection.
- Output overpower/overload protection (OPP).
- HB capacitive mode protection.
- Overtemperature protection (OTP).

2 Board description

This 52 W demonstration board is developed for non-dimmable applications with 198 V AC \sim 264 V AC input voltage and 52 V ~ 20 V LED voltage range. The output current is selectable with a two-channel switch. The system architecture of this design is shown in **[Figure 2](#page-3-1)**.

Key features of this non-dimmable demonstration board are:

- Low system cost realized with open-loop LCC design and resonant inductor integrated within the LCC transformer.
- LED current tolerance is tightly controlled across a wide temperature range and standard component spread.
- High system efficiency from a dedicated LCC resonant tank design principle for in this non-dimmable application.
- High LCC operating frequency.

2.1 Electrical specifications

[Table 1](#page-4-1) lists the key electrical specifications of this demonstration board.

Table 1 Key electrical specifications

 \overline{a}

¹ IC junction temperature

² IC junction temperature

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2.2 Schematic and layout

The following figures illustrate the schematic and layout of the board, respectively. On the top side of this single-sided PCB only through-hole components are placed. The copper thickness is 70 µm (2 oz).

Figure 3 Shematic

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Board description

2.3 Board setup

Figure 5 Board setup

3 Electrical performance

This reference board is designed to be a non-dimmable LED driver, with three selectable output current settings that can be configured by a mechanical switch. One important design target is to guarantee the LED current spread is less than or equal to 10 percent over a wide temperature range and a wide LED voltage range within the given component spread. The specified operating area is given in **[Figure 6](#page-8-2)**.

Figure 6 Driver operating windows

The electrical performance of the system, the PFC and and the LCC are presented below. Additonally, the LED current spread analysis is also conducted.

3.1 System performance

The system performance in steady-state at three current settings is presented below. They cover the system efficiency at different conditions (Figures 7 and 8), power factor and THD (Figures 9 and 10) and harmonics at two current settings (Figures 11 and 12). The efficiency at maximum load and 230 V AC reaches 92.5 percent.

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Electrical performance

Figure 11 Harmonics measurement at 1000 mA setting

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Electrical performance

Figure 12 Harmonics measurement at 780 mA setting

The measured LED current at various LED voltages at three current settings is plotted in **[Figure 13](#page-10-1)**. These measurements are conducted at a room temperature of 23°C.

Figure 13 LED current at various LED voltage and current settings

3.2 Startup behavior

This part presents the startup behavior of the driver at various input voltages and loads.

The V_{cc} pull-up resistors and V_{cc} capacitor are selected such that the startup time in the worst case is less than 500 ms (see **[Figure 14](#page-11-1)**).

Figure 14 Startup time at (a) 264 V AC and (b) 198 V AC with maximum load

The PFC startup waveforms are given in **[Figure 15](#page-11-2)**. At low mains voltage, the boost inductor current is designed to be clamped to avoid inductor saturation.

Figure 15 PFC startup behavior at (a) 264 V AC and (b) 198 V AC

3.3 Steady-state

The key waveforms of the PFC and LCC at various input voltages and LED voltages in three current settings are measured and given below in from **[Figure 16](#page-12-0)** to **[Figure 19](#page-14-0)**.

At 264 V AC and 1000 mA current setting, the PFC operates in CrCM across the full LED voltage range. The average operating frequency of LCC is around 190 kHz.

Figure 16 Steady-state waveform at 264 V AC with 1000 mA LED current

At 264 V AC and 880 mA current setting, the PFC operates in CrCM across most of the LED voltage range. At 20 V LED, the PFC operates in DCM (see **[Figure 17c](#page-12-1)**) with the minimum operating frequency 17 kHz.

Figure 17 Steady-state waveform at 264 V AC with 880 mA LED current

At 264 V AC and 780 mA current setting, the PFC operates in CrCM across most of the LED voltage range. At 20 V and 23 V LED, the PFC operates in DCM (see **[Figure 18c](#page-13-0)** and **[Figure 18d](#page-13-0)**) with the minimum operating frequency of 16 kHz at 20 VLED.

Figure 18 Steady-state waveform at 264 V AC with 780 mA LED current

With 230 V AC and 198 V AC input, the PFC always operates in CrCM across the full load range (see **[Figure 19](#page-14-0)**).

Figure 19 Steady-state waveform at 230 V AC (a, b, c) and 198 V AC (d, e, f)

The PFC operating frequency at mains peak with 20 V and 52 V LED load is measured and presented in **[Table 2](#page-15-2)** and **[Table 3](#page-15-3)**, respectively.

Table 3 PFC frequency at mains peak with 52 V LED load

The LCC operating frequencies measured at different power settings are listed in **[Table 4](#page-15-4)**.

Table 4 LCC operating frequency at different LED voltage and current settings

3.4 Protections

This section presents the results of brown-out protection and OVP.

3.4.1 Brown-out protection

[Figure 20](#page-15-5) shows that the driver triggers brown-out protection when the input voltage drops to 182 V AC and the driver recovers operation at 196 V AC.

Figure 20 Brown-out protection

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Electrical performance

3.4.2 Output OVP

[Figure 21](#page-16-2) shows the output OVP when the 52 V LED is disconnected and reconnected. The auto-recovery time is around 500 ms after OVP pin voltage hits 2.5 V.

Figure 21 Output OVP

3.5 LED current spread analysis

To reduce the cost of the non-dimmable driver design, open-loop control is one solution that omits the expensive optocoupler used in closed-loop control. However, the LED current spread should be well constrained for a consistent light flux.

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Electrical performance

Figure 22 LED current feed-forward compensation from a LED voltage sensing network

If the operating frequency is set only by the resistors R_{BM} and R_{RFx} (see **[Figure 22](#page-17-0)**), the output current will be dependent on the LED voltage. The dashed curve in **[Figure 23](#page-18-0)** shows that lower LED voltage results in a higher LED current, and the influence of varied LED voltage easily deviates the current beyond 10 percent specified tolerance, even without considering the component spread. To limit the LED current dependency on the LED voltage range in the open-loop design, a feed-forward compensation on LED current is implemented by a LED voltage sensing network (see **[Figure 22](#page-17-0)**). Here, an auxiliary winding must be tightly coupled to the secondary windings so as to obtain the accurate LED voltage information. In the integrated LCC transformer of this design, a two-segmented bobbin is utilized for sufficient leakage inductance. The auxiliary winding with a triple isolated wire is wound in the bobbin segment containing two secondary windings and ends back in the segment with the primary winding. In **[Figure 22](#page-17-0)**, D1, R1 and C1 form a network to rectify the AC voltage and damp possible oscillation from parasitic inductance and capacitance. Three subsequent resistors, R2, R3 and R4, tune the frequency sensitivity to the measured LED voltage. Here, R2 is 18 times R3 and R4, which is calculated from the LED maximum voltage and the choice of turns ratio between the secondary winding and the auxiliary winding. R_{OVP} value is much smaller than R2 and R3, which is just slightly tuned for the correct OVP detection.

Simulation has been carried out to investigate the sensitivity of LED current to the LED voltage, in terms of R_{RD} value. Here, R2 = R3 = R_{RD}. To reach the specified LED current, the set frequency (f_{set}) formed only by R_{BM} and R_{RFx} is settled at 160 kHz, 195 kHz and 225 kHz, which can be switched by a mechanical switch. **[Figure 23](#page-18-0)** and **[Figure](#page-18-1) [24](#page-18-1)** plot the simulated sensitivity at different set frequencies in relation to the R_{RD} value. Conclusions from these simulations are:

- 1. The LED sensing network is able to effectively reduce the sensitivity of LED voltage on LED current.
- 2. **R**_{RD} = 11 **kΩ** is the best choice to flatten the LED current sensitivity over the current settings. The best R_{RD} value can be different only if single current setting is used in the application.

Figure 23 LED current sensitivity simulation in relation to R_{RD} **value -** f_{set} **= 160 kHz**

Figure 24 LED current sensitivity simulation in relation to R_{RD} **value (a)** f_{set} **= 195 kHz and (b) fset = 225 kHz**

[Figure 25](#page-19-0) shows the validity of the simulations above.

Based on the verified simulation model, the LED current spread has been analyzed based on key component tolerances listed in **[Table 5](#page-19-1)**. The assumption made here is that all component tolerances follow a normal distribution pattern.

In the following analysis, the leakage inductances of the transformer are catergorized into three groups: ±5 percent, ±7 percent and ±10 percent. ±5 percent represents a typical inductance tolerance when a discrete inductor is used as the resonance inductor, while ±10 percent represents the typical tolerance where an integrated LCC transformer is implemented. When special care is taken in an integrated transformer design (for example, the windings take a integer number of layers which avoids the leakage inductance variance due to the winding movement in the half-full layer), the leakage inductance can be controlled more tightly than ±10 percent, therefore, ±7 percent is also considered here. The leakage inductance of 50 integrated transformer

samples haven't been tested. Their average inductance, maximum and minimum values and 3-sigma spread have been measured and calculated. **[Table 6](#page-20-0)** presents the statistics of these 50 integrated transformers, where the 3-sigma tolerance of the leakage inductance is 2.84 percent and 1.91 percent for two secondary windings. These transformers are from one product lot. We assume that this value is 7 percent when the lot number increases.

Table 6 Statistics of the leakage inductance of 50 integrated LCC transformer samples

* Measured from primary with one secondary winding shorted and the other one open

** Calculated by 3x standard deviation/average value * 100 percent

To minimize the LED current spread over the frequency spread caused by the controller IC, the LCC resonance tank must be designed in a special way before the tolerance analysis. The general principle is to make the current gain curve (as a function of frequency) as flat as possible. Here, since this is a non-dimmable design, we do not need to think about the maximum frequency that IC can support at the dimming case.

The selected LCC resonance tank parameters are shown below:

Table 7 LCC resonance tank parameters

In the Monte Carlo simulation, 1600 runs have been done for each current setting and each Ls tolerance group to explore the entired defined tolerance range. The LED current points are plotted in **[Figure 26](#page-21-0)** in terms of the actual LCC frequency and in three different output current settings and full LED voltage range, where the series resonant current tolerances are defined to be ± 10 percent, ± 7 percent and ± 5 percent with 3 σ deviation. In **[Figure 26](#page-21-0)**, the actual LCC frequency spread can be also found. For 1000 mA setting, the LCC frequency is mostly below 210 kHz.

 Green: 1000 mA setting, **red**: 880 mA setting, **blue**: 780 mA setting

Figure 26 LED current points in 1600 Monte Carlo simulation runs in specified component tolerance range i[n Table 5.](#page-19-1)

The LED current spread with different series inductance tolerance groups and three current settings are analysed and shown in **[Table 8](#page-21-1)**. These results show that when Ls = ±7 percent, the LED current spread is successfully controlled within ±10 percent defined in the specification. Note that ±10 percent is normally the typical tolerance of the leakage inductance of a wire-wound transformer, while ±5 percent is a typical inductance of a discrete inductor.

* IC frequency spread here is ±5 percent because the switching frequencies are below 210 kHz

** In this setting, the specified LED voltage is down to 26 V

[Figure 27](#page-22-0) shows the simulated LED current distribution at three current settings, where all component tolerances listed in **[Table 5](#page-19-1)** have been considered in the Monte Carlo simulation.

and (c) 780 mA current settings

Thermal performance

4 Thermal performance

[Figure 28](#page-23-1) shows the infrared picture of the board at nominal input and full load, namely 230 V AC input and 100 mA/52 V LED, with 23°C room temperature and free air condition.

Figure 28 Thermal at nominal condition: 230 V AC, 52 V_{LED} and 1000 mA (23°C room temperature and **free air)**

[Figure 29\(a\)](#page-23-2) shows the thermal situation when the input is maximum (264 V AC) with full load. The boost MOSFET reaches 72.6°C. **[Figure 29\(b\)](#page-23-2)** shows the temperature profile when the input is 264 V AC. Here, the load is low with 880 mA, 23 V_{LED}, but the PFC operates in DCM, similar to [Figure 17\(c\)](#page-12-1).

Figure 29 Worst thermal case (23°C room temperature and free air)

5 EMI

The figures below show the conducted EMI at 1 A, 52 V_{LED} and 0.78 A, 26 V_{LED} . In the latter case, the PFC runs in DCM.

Magnetic component datasheets

6 Magnetic component datasheets

The datasheets of the common-mode EMI filter, boost inductor and LCC transformer are given below.

Common mode filter (L10):

Magnetic component datasheets

Boost inductor (L7):

LCC transformer (T300A):

Electronics BOM

7 Electronics BOM

The BOM is shown below.

Revision history

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