

DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING REGULATED CURRENT TO AN ELECTRICAL LOAD

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a driver system. In particular the invention
5 relates to switch-mode power supply devices operable in continuous
conduction mode and will be described in this context.

BACKGROUND

The following discussion of the background to the invention is intended to
facilitate an understanding of the present invention only. It should be
10 appreciated that the discussion is not an acknowledgement or admission that
any of the material referred to was published, known or part of the common
general knowledge of the person skilled in the art in any jurisdiction as at the
priority date of the invention.

Switched mode power supplies are often utilized for driving one or more
15 applications. In particular, Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) lamps are often
driven by controller circuits. As LEDs are sensitive to current and voltage
fluctuations, one of the most important objectives for LED controller circuits is
to provide appropriate current to drive the LEDs under supply voltage or load
variations.

20 Many LED switched-mode based controllers involve the use of electronic
switches such as MOSFET as a means for regulating the current input to the
LEDs. As such, the control of the frequency and on/off time for switching is an
important parameter to consider in all switched-mode based controllers.

There exists an on-going need to improve switching control of LED drivers to
25 achieve one or more of the following:-

- i. reduction in overall component count such as capacitor(s);

- ii. reduction in form factor of each component; and/or
- iii. proper over-voltage/short circuit protection.

In addition, there also exists a need to move away from secondary voltage feedback type controls as it places an undesirable burden on the transformer or inductive transfer elements.

It is thus an object of the invention to overcome, or at least ameliorate in part, one or more of the aforementioned problems.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a device for providing regulated current to an electrical load comprising a current controller operable at predetermined intervals (clock cycles) to receive a desired input reference voltage; and a feedback voltage obtained from an electronic switch; wherein the current controller is operable to compare the feedback voltage with the desired input reference voltage and provide regulated current to the electrical load based on calculation of the switch off time of the electronic switch at each clock cycle; the calculation of the switch off time operable to achieve a continuous-conduction-mode (CCM) for the device under normal operating conditions.

Preferably, the electronic switch is a MOSFET.

Preferably, the feedback voltage is measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle and compared with a maximum operation voltage V_{refh} via a voltage comparator.

Preferably, the feedback voltage is measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle and compared with a minimum operation voltage V_{refl} via a voltage comparator.

Preferably, the feedback voltage is measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle and compared with a safety voltage value V_{ocp} via a voltage comparator.

- 5 Preferably, for a single stage flyback convertor configuration the current controller determines the regulated current I_{LED} based on the mathematical expression

$$I_{LED} = \frac{T_{OFF} \left(\frac{V_{fbh}}{R_1} + \frac{V_{fbm}}{R_1} \right)}{2T}$$

Where T is the period of each clock cycle; T_{OFF} is the switch-off period at each clock cycle; R_1 is the MOSFET source resistor; V_{fbh} is highest feedback voltage measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle;

- 10 and V_{fbm} is determined based on the following mathematical expression:-

$$V_{fbm} = \frac{T_{on}V_{fbl} - T_wV_{fbh}}{T_{on} - T_w}$$

where T_{ON} is the MOSFET switch on time at each switching period, T_w is the time from the MOSFET switch on signal to the lowest feedback voltage V_{fbl} measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle; and T_w is the time from the MOSFET switch on signal to the voltage V_{fbl} trigger point.

- 15 Preferably, for a single stage forward structure, push-pull configuration or DC to DC hysteretic controller, the current controller determines the regulated current I_{LED} based on the mathematical expression

$$I_{LED} = \frac{\frac{V_{fbm}}{R_1} + \frac{V_{fbh}}{R_1}}{2}$$

- 20 where R_1 is the MOSFET source resistor; V_{fbh} is highest feedback voltage measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle;

and V_{fbm} is determined based on the following mathematical expression:-

$$V_{fbm} = \frac{T_{on} V_{fbl} - T_w V_{fbh}}{T_{on} - T_w}$$

where T_{ON} is the MOSFET switch on time at each switching period, T_w is the time from the MOSFET switch on signal to the lowest feedback voltage V_{fbl} measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle; and T_w is a
5 predetermined time parameter.

Preferably, for a single stage flyback convertor configuration the voltage across the electrical load V_{LOAD} is determined based on the following mathematical expression

$$V_{load} = \frac{V_{IN} T_{ON} N_S}{T_{OFF} N_P}$$

10 where N_P is the primary winding number and N_S is the secondary winding number of the transfer inductor (or transformer) in the flyback convertor configuration.

Preferably, for a single stage forward structure, push-pull configuration or DC
15 to DC hysteretic controller, the voltage across the electrical load V_{LOAD} is determined based on the following mathematical expression

$$V_{LOAD} = \frac{V_{IN}}{T_{OFF}} T$$

Where T is the period of the clock cycle.

Preferably, the input voltage V_{IN} is used to shape the input current I_{IN} based
20 on the following mathematical expression $I_{IN} = \alpha V_{IN}$

Where α is a multiplier.

Preferably, the input voltage V_{IN} is used to shape the input current I_{IN} based on the following mathematical expression

$$I_{IN} = \alpha V_{IN}$$

Where α is a multiplier.

In accordance with a second aspect of the invention there is a method for providing regulated current to an electrical load comprising the steps of receiving from a current controller a desired input reference voltage and a
 5 feedback voltage obtained from an electronic switch at predetermined intervals; wherein the current controller is operable to compare the feedback voltage with the desired input reference voltage and provide regulated current to the electrical load based on calculation of the switch off time of the
 10 electronic switch at each of the predetermined interval; the calculation of the switch off time operable to achieve a continuous-conduction-mode (CCM) for the device under normal operating conditions.

Preferably, the electronic switch is a MOSFET.

Preferably, the feedback voltage is measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle and compared with a maximum operation voltage V_{refh} via a
 15 voltage comparator.

Preferably, the feedback voltage is measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle and compared with a minimum operation voltage V_{refl} via a voltage comparator.

Preferably, the feedback voltage is measured at the source of the MOSFET at
 20 each clock cycle and compared with a safety voltage value V_{ocp} via a voltage comparator.

Preferably, for a single stage flyback convertor configuration the current controller determines the regulated current I_{LED} based on the mathematical expression

$$I_{LED} = \frac{T_{OFF} \left(\frac{V_{fbh}}{R_1} + \frac{V_{fbm}}{R_1} \right)}{2T}$$

Where T is the period of each clock cycle; T_{OFF} is the switch-off period at each clock cycle; R_1 is the MOSFET source resistor; V_{fbh} is highest feedback voltage measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle;

and V_{fbm} is determined based on the following mathematical expression:-

$$V_{fbm} = \frac{T_{on}V_{fbl} - T_wV_{fbh}}{T_{on} - T_w}$$

- 5 where T_{ON} is the MOSFET switch on time at each switching period, T_w is the time from the MOSFET switch on signal to the lowest feedback voltage V_{fbl} measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle; and T_w is the time from the MOSFET switch on signal to the voltage V_{fbl} trigger point.

- 10 Preferably, for a single stage forward structure, push-pull configuration or DC to DC hysteretic controller, the current controller determines the regulated current I_{LED} based on the mathematical expression

$$I_{LED} = \frac{\frac{V_{fbm}}{R_1} + \frac{V_{fbh}}{R_1}}{2}$$

where R_1 is the MOSFET source resistor; V_{fbh} is highest feedback voltage measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle;

- 15 and V_{fbm} is determined based on the following mathematical expression:-

$$V_{fbm} = \frac{T_{on}V_{fbl} - T_wV_{fbh}}{T_{on} - T_w}$$

where T_{ON} is the MOSFET switch on time at each switching period, T_w is the time from the MOSFET switch on signal to the lowest feedback voltage V_{fbl} measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle; and T_w is a predetermined time parameter.

Preferably, for a single stage flyback convertor configuration, the voltage across the electrical load V_{LOAD} is determined based on the following mathematical expression

$$V_{load} = \frac{V_{IN} T_{ON} N_S}{T_{OFF} N_P}$$

- 5 where N_P is the primary winding number and N_S is the secondary winding number of the transfer inductor (or transformer) in the flyback convertor configuration.

- 10 Preferably, for a single stage forward structure, push-pull configuration or DC to DC hysteretic controller, the voltage across the electrical load V_{LOAD} is determined based on the following mathematical expression

$$V_{LOAD} = \frac{V_{IN}}{T_{OFF}} T$$

Where T is the period of the clock cycle.

- 15 Preferably, the input voltage V_{IN} is used to shape the input current I_{IN} based on the following mathematical expression

$$I_{IN} = \alpha V_{IN}$$

Where α is a multiplier.

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Where α is a multiplier.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a circuit block diagram for an AC to DC single stage flyback convertor configuration in accordance with an embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 2 is a graph illustrating the relationship between the voltage at the electronic switch and time; and

Fig. 3 is a circuit block diagram for a DC to DC hysteretic controller in accordance with another embodiment of the invention.

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Other arrangements of the invention are possible and, consequently, the accompanying drawings are not to be understood as superseding the generality of the preceding description of the invention.

15 PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

In the context of the description, continuous-conduction-mode (CCM) is referred to the operation mode where electrical voltage and electrical current in the energy transfer inductor (or transformer) never goes to zero between switching cycles. This is contrasted with the discontinuous-conduction-mode (DCM) where the electrical voltage and current goes to zero during part of the switching cycle.

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Throughout the specification, unless otherwise stated, reference to 'voltage' and 'current' refers to electrical voltage and electrical current.

In accordance with an embodiment of the invention and with reference to Fig.

1 there is a LED driver 10 implemented as a single stage flyback convertor configuration. The LED driver 10 has a primary side comprising V.A.C mains 20, a controller circuit 30, an electronic switch 40, and a secondary side comprising the LED load 90.

25

V.A.C. mains 20 comprise rectification circuitries such as bridge rectifiers necessary for the conversion of AC voltage and current to DC voltage and current. The rectified AC input from the VAC mains 20 are fed into the controller circuit 30 for processing.

30

Controller circuit 30 is operable to control the switching time of electronic switch 40 at regular intervals (each interval may correspond with a pre-defined switching cycle) for regulating the electrical voltage and/or current provided to the LED load 90. Controller circuit 30 is typically an integrated circuit (IC) and
5 more preferably, an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) which may be programmed using one or more of the following hardware description language (HDL) such as Verilog, VHDL, or other hardware description language as known to a person skilled in the art.

The electronic switch 40 is typically a metal–oxide–semiconductor field-effect transistor (MOSFET). The source of the MOSFET switch 40 is connected in
10 series with one end of a resistor R1, while the other end of the resistor R1 connected to electrical ground. The value of the resistor R1 is important to determine the output current I_{LED} selected for the LED, as will be mathematically expressed in equation (1) below.

15 The controller circuit 30 is programmed and configured to receive five inputs; i.e.

(a.) Input voltage V_{IN} ;

(b.) A V_{fbh} voltage value measured at the source of the MOSFET 40 at each switching cycle and compared with the maximum operation voltage allowable
20 V_{refh} via a voltage comparator;

(c.) A V_{fbl} voltage value measured at the source of the MOSFET 40 at each switching cycle and compared with the minimum operation voltage allowable V_{refl} via a voltage comparator;

(d.) A V_{ocp} voltage value measured at the source of the MOSFET 40 at each
25 switching cycle and compared with a safety voltage value V_{ocp} via a voltage comparator; and

(e.) One or more timer counter(s) for determining the clock cycles and switching time period of the MOSFET 40.

With the described five inputs, controller circuit 30 comprises a digital algorithm (programmable using ASIC) to implement the following equation (1) so as to determine the current I_{LED} to be provided to the LED load 90:-

$$I_{LED} = \frac{T_{OFF} \left(\frac{V_{fbh}}{R_1} + \frac{V_{fbm}}{R_1} \right)}{2T} \quad (1)$$

Where T is the period of the switching cycle and T_{OFF} is the switch-off period at each clock cycle.

The voltage value V_{fbm} is calculated using the following equation (2) mathematically expressed as:-

$$V_{fbm} = \frac{T_{ON} V_{fbl} - T_w V_{fbh}}{T_{ON} - T_w} \quad (2)$$

where T_{ON} is the MOSFET 40 transistor switch on time at each switching period, T_w is the time from the MOSFET 40 switch on signal to the V_{fbl} trigger point; and T_w is dependent on the MOSFET 40 hardware used. The T_w is needed because the system is prone to switching noise between the switching on and off of the MOSFET 40. Inserting the value T_w in the algorithm is akin to factoring a delay where the LED driver system reaches a stable operating condition such that a more precise measure can be done.

The voltage across the LED load 90 is calculated based on equation (3) mathematically expressed as:-

$$V_{LED} = \frac{V_{IN} T_{ON} N_S}{T_{OFF} N_P} \quad (3)$$

Where N_P is the primary winding number and N_S is the secondary winding number of the transfer inductor (or transformer) T1.

An analogue to digital convertor (ADC) 32 may be added to convert the rectified AC output into a digital input voltage signal V_{IN} . In addition to receiving V_{IN} , controller circuit 30 may also be operable to receive dimmer

input V_{DIM} from another ADC 34. For a non-dimmable version of the controller circuit 30, the output of V_{DIM} will be hard wired internally using hardware description language code.

5 The operation of the controller circuit 30 is described as follows with reference to equations (1) and (2) as well as Fig.2.

In equation (2), the switch on time T_{ON} of the MOSFET 40 is obtained based on the time from which the MOSFET 40 is triggered at V_{fbl} to the time where the voltage reaches the correct value (i.e. the V_{refl} , based on comparison with V_{fbh}) and the current is at V_{fbl}/R_1 . The comparator toggles and the time taken
10 between the MOSFET source voltage from V_{fbl} to V_{fbh} is stored in to an internal register as T_{ON} .

The switch off time of the MOSFET 40 T_{OFF} is being set or predetermined at each clock cycle by the controller 30 via the ASIC digital algorithm. The predetermined T_{OFF} time ensures that the LED driver 10 operates at a
15 continuous mode. The T_{OFF} time is adjusted based on the following rules (pseudo-codes):-

- (i.) If, after T_W time, the output of the comparator of V_{fbl} with the V_{refl} is at a low state, the T_{OFF} time is decreased.
- (ii.) If, after T_W time, the output of the comparator of V_{fbl} with the V_{refl} is at a
20 high state, the T_{OFF} time is increased.

It should be appreciated that T_W should ideally approximate 0 for an operation under CCM. Practically, however, the value of T_w will never be 0 due to noise generated by the electronic switch 40 during the initial switch-on period of the electronic switch 40 and therefore equation (2) serves to take into account the
25 value of T_w and the corresponding voltage V_{fbm} at the onset of the switching period.

At each clock cycle, after the MOSFET is switched off, the value of T_{OFF} is increased or decreased in order to maintain the overall system in a continuous mode. It is to be appreciated based on equation (3), that the adjustment of

T_{OFF} time depends on the LED load, input voltage V_{IN} , T_{ON} time and N_S/N_P ratio of the transfer inductor (or transformer) T1.

In order to avoid errors on the current measure the V_{fbm} point should be computed using equation (1) and (2) as described.

5

In accordance with another embodiment and with reference with Fig. 3 there is a LED driver 100 implemented as a single stage DC to DC hysteretic controller. The LED driver 100 comprises DC input 200, controller circuit 300, an electronic switch 400, and a secondary side comprising the LED load 900.

10 The DC input 200 is fed into the controller circuit 300 for processing.

Controller circuit 300 is operable to control the switching time of electronic switch 400 at regular intervals (each interval may correspond with a pre-defined switching cycle) for regulating the electrical voltage and/or current provided to the LED load 900. Controller circuit 300 is typically an integrated circuit (IC) and more preferably, an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) which may be programmed using one or more of the following hardware description language (HDL) such as Verilog, VHDL, or other hardware description language as known to a person skilled in the art.

15

The electronic switch 400 is typically a metal-oxide-semiconductor field-effect transistor (MOSFET). The source of the MOSFET switch 400 is connected in series with one end of a resistor R1, while the other end of the resistor R1 connected to electrical ground. The value of the resistor R1 is important to determine the output current I_{LED} selected for the LED, as already mathematically expressed in equation (1) below.

20

25 The controller circuit 300 is programmed and configured to receive five inputs; i.e.

(a.) Input voltage V_{IN} ;

(b.) A V_{fbh} voltage value measured at the source of the MOSFET 400 at each switching cycle and compared with the maximum operation voltage allowable

30 V_{refh} via a voltage comparator;

(c.) A V_{fb1} voltage value measured at the source of the MOSFET 400 at each switching cycle and compared with the minimum operation voltage allowable V_{ref1} via a voltage comparator;

(d.) A V_{ocp} voltage value measured at the source of the MOSFET 400 at each switching cycle and compared with a safety voltage value V_{ocp} via a voltage comparator; and

(e.) One or more timer counter(s) for determining the clock cycles and switching time period of the MOSFET 400.

With the described five inputs, controller circuit 300 comprises a digital algorithm (programmable using ASIC) to implement the following equation (4) so as to determine the current I_{LED} to be provided to the LED load 900:-

$$I_{LED} = \frac{\frac{V_{fbm}}{R1} + \frac{V_{fbh}}{R1}}{2} \quad (4)$$

Where V_{fbm} is calculated based on equation (2). It is to be appreciated that the method could be applied to forward structure and push-pull configuration. The voltage of across the LED load 900 is based on V_{LED} as calculated using equation (3).

It is to be appreciated that equation (3) is advantageous in that it allows computation of the voltage in a flyback structure without the need of any feedback from the LED loads 90, 900 at the secondary side. Such an arrangement or configuration avoids the use of opto-couplers when an isolated configuration is used.

In any or all of the described embodiments, the value of input voltage V_{IN} may be used to shape the input current I_{IN} . This is done using a multiplication of V_{IN} by a multiplier variable α . The multiplier variable α may be adjusted at each clock cycle by the digital algorithm. This is based on the fact that for different output power the voltage is multiplied by different factor to obtain the necessary I_{LED} .

The multiplier variable α may be stored in the ASIC for the adjustment of current I_{IN} . The higher the value of multiplier α , the higher the current I_{IN} . The multiplier α may also be used to fix the comparator voltages V_{refl} and V_{refh} .

As an example, if the multiplier value α is set to a value of 1, voltages V_{refh} and V_{refl} are set to track the input voltage V_{IN} and is thus in phase with the input signal coming from the AC mains. This is useful because the power factor correction compensation is directly accounted for by the ASIC controller's system algorithm. In a flyback structure the input current is pulsed, the pulse corresponding to the MOSFET 40, 400 switch on time. The integration of these pulses allows a skilled person to compute the input current I_{IN} . If this input current I_{IN} is in phase with the input A.C. signal a high value of PFC like 0.98 could be achieved.

In another embodiment, instead of a linear relationship between V_{IN} and I_{IN} , compensation curve could be implemented in the α parameter. A quadratic relationship is mathematically expressed in equation (5).

$$I_{IN} = \alpha V_{IN}^2 \quad (5)$$

Higher order relationship between I_{IN} and V_{IN} may also be possible.

This compensation curve can be stored in an internal ROM of the controller 30, 300. In some configurations the current I_{IN} is in the centre of the input AC main voltage, where the voltage is higher in order to obtain better power factor or to be compliant with other electrical specification (e.g. distortion level, level of acceptable ripple in the current) which may be adjusted at each clock cycle by the digital algorithm.

The value of the multiplier variable α may be increased or decreased following the output voltage changes according to equation (3).

An example is if $\alpha = 2$, based on the relationship depicted in equation (5) a double of the output current is achieved. This allows us to compensate input voltage variation, output loading and allow us to have dimming capability.

It is to be further appreciated that in the case of a boost structure, equation (3) may be modified as:-

$$V_{LED} = \frac{V_{IN}}{T_{OFF}} T \quad (3a)$$

In another embodiment of the invention, the controller 30 may be used to implement a voltage based control instead of a current based control. In particular, equation (3) and equation (3a) may be made the subject for the voltage control.

Some of the non-exhaustive example applications of the described embodiments may be as follows:-

- i. Isolated switched mode power supply (SMPS) for voltage regulation. For example for standard isolated 5V power supply connected to the mains;
- ii. Isolated battery charger. As the voltage and current are known values, the drivers may be utilized as a good battery charger in an isolated configuration and without opto-couplers;
- iii. Analog signal transmission; and
- iv. Audio signal transmission for power amplifier.

It should be appreciated by the person skilled in the art that the above invention is not limited to the embodiments described. In particular, the following modifications and improvements may be made without departing from the scope of the present invention:

- Although the embodiments are described with reference to LED loads 90, 900, it is to be appreciated that the device may be used to provide regulated current to other types of electrical loads including laptops, computer devices etc.
- The ASIC controller circuit 30, 300 may be implemented having a 12-bit resolution.

It should be further appreciated by the person skilled in the art that features and modifications as discussed in each embodiments above, not being

alternatives or substitutes unless expressly stated, may be combined to form yet other embodiments that fall within the scope of the invention described.

The Claims Defining the Invention are as Follows:

1. A device for providing regulated current to an electrical load comprising
 a current controller operable at predetermined intervals (clock cycles)
 to receive:-

- 5 i. a desired input reference voltage; and
- ii. a feedback voltage obtained from an electronic switch;

wherein the current controller is operable to compare the feedback voltage
 with the desired input reference voltage and provide regulated current to the
 electrical load based on calculation of the switch off time of the electronic
 10 switch at each clock cycle; the calculation of the switch off time operable to
 achieve a continuous-conduction-mode (CCM) for the device under normal
 operating conditions.

2. A device according to claim 1, wherein the electronic switch is a MOSFET.

3. A device according to claim 2, wherein the feedback voltage is measured at
 15 the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle and compared with a
 maximum operation voltage V_{refh} via a voltage comparator.

4. A device according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the feedback voltage is
 measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle and compared
 with a minimum operation voltage V_{refl} via a voltage comparator.

20 5. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the
 feedback voltage is measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock
 cycle and compared with a safety voltage value V_{ocp} via a voltage comparator.

6. A device according to claim 1 to claim 4, wherein for a single stage flyback
 convertor configuration the current controller determines the regulated current
 25 I_{LED} based on the mathematical expression

$$I_{LED} = \frac{T_{OFF} \left(\frac{V_{fbh}}{R_1} + \frac{V_{fbm}}{R_1} \right)}{2T}$$

Where T is the period of each clock cycle; T_{OFF} is the switch-off period at each clock cycle; R_1 is the MOSFET source resistor; V_{fbh} is highest feedback voltage measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle;

and V_{fbm} is determined based on the following mathematical expression:-

$$V_{fbm} = \frac{T_{on}V_{fbl} - T_wV_{fbh}}{T_{on} - T_w}$$

- 5 where T_{ON} is the MOSFET switch on time at each switching period, T_w is the time from the MOSFET switch on signal to the lowest feedback voltage V_{fbl} measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle; and T_w is the time from the MOSFET switch on signal to the voltage V_{fbl} trigger point.

7. A device according to claim 1 to claim 4, wherein for a single stage forward
10 structure, push-pull configuration or DC to DC hysteretic controller, the current controller determines the regulated current I_{LED} based on the mathematical expression

$$I_{LED} = \frac{\frac{V_{fbm}}{R_1} + \frac{V_{fbh}}{R_1}}{2}$$

- 15 where R_1 is the MOSFET source resistor; V_{fbh} is highest feedback voltage measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle;

and V_{fbm} is determined based on the following mathematical expression:-

$$V_{fbm} = \frac{T_{on}V_{fbl} - T_wV_{fbh}}{T_{on} - T_w}$$

where T_{ON} is the MOSFET switch on time at each switching period, T_w is the time from the MOSFET switch on signal to the lowest feedback voltage V_{fbl}

measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle; and T_w is a predetermined time parameter.

8. A device according to claim 6 wherein the voltage across the electrical load V_{LOAD} is determined based on the following mathematical expression

$$5 \quad V_{load} = \frac{V_{IN} T_{ON} N_S}{T_{OFF} N_P}$$

where N_P is the primary winding number and N_S is the secondary winding number of the transfer inductor (or transformer) in the flyback convertor configuration.

10 9. A device according to claim 7, wherein the voltage across the electrical load V_{LOAD} is determined based on the following mathematical expression

$$V_{LOAD} = \frac{V_{IN}}{T_{OFF}} T$$

Where T is the period of the clock cycle.

10. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the input
15 voltage V_{IN} is used to shape the input current I_{IN} based on the following mathematical expression $I_{IN} = \alpha V_{IN}$

Where α is a multiplier.

11. A device according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the input voltage
20 V_{IN} is used to shape the input current I_{IN} based on the following mathematical expression

$$I_{IN} = \alpha V_{IN}$$

Where α is a multiplier.

12. A method for providing regulated current to an electrical load comprising the steps of

receiving from a current controller a desired input reference voltage and a feedback voltage obtained from an electronic switch at predetermined intervals;

5 wherein the current controller is operable to compare the feedback voltage with the desired input reference voltage and provide regulated current to the electrical load based on calculation of the switch off time of the electronic switch at each of the predetermined interval; the calculation of the switch off time operable to achieve a continuous-conduction-mode (CCM) for the device under normal operating conditions.

10 13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the electronic switch is a MOSFET.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the feedback voltage is measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle and compared with a maximum operation voltage V_{refh} via a voltage comparator.

15 15. The method according to claim 13 or 14, wherein the feedback voltage is measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle and compared with a minimum operation voltage V_{refl} via a voltage comparator.

16. The method according to any one of claims 12 to 15, wherein the feedback voltage is measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock
20 cycle and compared with a safety voltage value V_{ocp} via a voltage comparator.

17. The method according to claim 12 to claim 15, wherein for a single stage flyback convertor configuration the current controller determines the regulated current I_{LED} based on the mathematical expression

$$I_{LED} = \frac{T_{OFF} \left(\frac{V_{fbh}}{R_1} + \frac{V_{fbm}}{R_1} \right)}{2T}$$

Where T is the period of each clock cycle; T_{OFF} is the switch-off period at each clock cycle; R_1 is the MOSFET source resistor; V_{fbh} is highest feedback voltage measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle;

and V_{fbm} is determined based on the following mathematical expression:-

$$V_{fbm} = \frac{T_{on}V_{fbl} - T_wV_{fbh}}{T_{on} - T_w}$$

- 5 where T_{ON} is the MOSFET switch on time at each switching period, T_w is the time from the MOSFET switch on signal to the lowest feedback voltage V_{fbl} measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle; and T_w is the time from the MOSFET switch on signal to the voltage V_{fbl} trigger point.

18. The method according to claim 12 to claim 15, wherein for a single stage
10 forward structure, push-pull configuration or DC to DC hysteretic controller, the current controller determines the regulated current I_{LED} based on the mathematical expression

$$I_{LED} = \frac{\frac{V_{fbm}}{R_1} + \frac{V_{fbh}}{R_1}}{2}$$

- where R_1 is the MOSFET source resistor; V_{fbh} is highest feedback voltage
15 measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle;

and V_{fbm} is determined based on the following mathematical expression:-

$$V_{fbm} = \frac{T_{on}V_{fbl} - T_wV_{fbh}}{T_{on} - T_w}$$

- where T_{ON} is the MOSFET switch on time at each switching period, T_w is the time from the MOSFET switch on signal to the lowest feedback voltage V_{fbl} measured at the source of the MOSFET at each clock cycle; and T_w is a
20 predetermined time parameter.

19. The method according to claim 17 wherein the voltage across the electrical load V_{LOAD} is determined based on the following mathematical expression

$$V_{load} = \frac{V_{IN} T_{ON}}{T_{OFF}} \frac{N_S}{N_P}$$

5 where N_P is the primary winding number and N_S is the secondary winding number of the transfer inductor (or transformer) in the flyback convertor configuration.

10 20. The method according to claim 18, wherein the voltage across the electrical load V_{LOAD} is determined based on the following mathematical expression

$$V_{LOAD} = \frac{V_{IN}}{T_{OFF}} T$$

Where T is the period of the clock cycle.

15 21. The method according to any one of claims 12 to 20, wherein the input voltage V_{IN} is used to shape the input current I_{IN} based on the following mathematical expression

$$I_{IN} = \alpha V_{IN}$$

Where α is a multiplier.

20 22. The method according to any one of claims 12 to 20, wherein the input voltage V_{IN} is used to shape the input current I_{IN} based on the following mathematical expression

$$I_{IN} = \alpha V_{IN}$$

Where α is a multiplier.