Introduction

AC-DC converters designed for a wide variety of applications, from computer adapters to server and telecom systems, require high efficiency over the entire load range of operation and across the universal mains input voltage range. Given the demand for more efficient, smaller adapters, their design is becoming more challenging and new conversion approaches, rather than the standard designs based on analog ICs, have been investigated. In particular, while the standard approach is based on the use of a boost type PFC and a regulation stage, both of which controlled using analog PWM regulators, the new, fully digital approach relies on the use of microcontrollers to control both the PFC and the DC-DC stage. This approach is increasingly being used for high density, high efficiency power electronics systems.

This application note focuses on the design of STEVAL-ISA147V3, a 500 W AC-DC switch mode power supply with full digital control based on the STM32 family of microcontrollers. The system consists of two power stages: an input semi-bridgeless power factor corrector (SBPFC) controlled by an STM32F051K8 and a regulation stage implemented with an LLC half-bridge with synchronous rectification (SR), controlled by an STM32F334C8 microcontroller. The operating principles, main features and design choices are discussed. Details regarding the main components used for the implementation of both the power and control stages are also provided.
Contents

1 System overview ................................................................. 5

2 Bridgeless PFC stage ......................................................... 7
   2.1 Operating principle ............................................................ 7
   2.2 Semi-bridgeless PFC design .............................................. 10
   2.3 PFC control algorithm ...................................................... 13
   2.4 PFC firmware overview .................................................. 15

3 LLC DC-DC converter design ............................................. 20
   3.1 LLC converter firmware overview and control algorithm .......... 26

4 Experimental characterization ............................................ 31

5 Schematic diagrams ........................................................... 37

6 Conclusions ...................................................................... 43

7 References ........................................................................ 44

8 Revision history ............................................................... 45
List of tables

Table 1: 500 W AC-DC converter specifications ................................................................. 6
Table 2: Specifications of the 500 W Bridgeless PFC .......................................................... 11
Table 3: Function names and tasks of the PFC firmware ..................................................... 17
Table 4: Microcontroller resources for PFC digital control implementation .................... 19
Table 5: Main specifications of the LLC converter ............................................................... 21
Table 6: LLC converter parameters .................................................................................... 25
Table 7: LLC firmware tasks ............................................................................................... 29
Table 8: Efficiency measurements at 120 VAC ................................................................. 31
Table 9: Efficiency measurements at 230 VAC ................................................................. 31
Table 10: DSMPS power factor and current THD% at 120 VAC ....................................... 32
Table 11: DSMPS power factor and current THD% at 230 VAC ....................................... 32
Table 12: Document revision history ................................................................................. 45
List of figures

Figure 1: STEVAL-ISA147V3 evaluation board................................................................. 1
Figure 2: 500 W digital power supply: block diagram .................................................. 5
Figure 3: Basic scheme of a bridgeless PFC converter. .................................................. 7
Figure 4: Semi-bridgeless PFC with addition of diodes D3 and D4 ................................. 8
Figure 5: Current path during positive half-cycle when M1 is ON ............................... 8
Figure 6: Current path during positive half-cycle when M1 is OFF ............................. 9
Figure 7: Current path during negative half-cycle when M2 is ON ............................ 9
Figure 8: Current path during negative half-cycle when M2 is OFF .......................... 10
Figure 9: PFC control scheme block diagram .............................................................. 13
Figure 10: variation of the Kg parameter with the input PFC voltage ....................... 15
Figure 11: PFC firmware state machine overview ....................................................... 16
Figure 12: Timer 1 utilization for PFC PWM generation and ADC conversion trigger .................................................. 18
Figure 13: ADC utilization and acquisition sequence .................................................. 18
Figure 14: Basic schematic of the LLC DC-DC converter ............................................. 20
Figure 15: Resonant tank gain at full load, half load, no load .................................... 24
Figure 16: Block diagram of the LCC converter control .............................................. 26
Figure 17: STM32F334x ADC1 and ADC2 utilization .................................................. 27
Figure 18: ADC1 and ADC2 injected acquisition sequence and trigger events .......... 28
Figure 19: HRTIM timing configuration ...................................................................... 28
Figure 20: LLC firmware structure overview .............................................................. 29
Figure 21: STM32F334x internal comparator configuration for overcurrent protection .................................................. 30
Figure 22: PFC inductor current at 120 V input, full load ............................................ 32
Figure 23: PFC inductor current at 230 V input, full load ........................................... 32
Figure 24: PFC circuit efficiency ................................................................................ 33
Figure 25: PFC input current power factor ................................................................. 33
Figure 26: PFC inductor L2 (blue) and L1 (green) current and MOSFET Q1 drain voltage (purple) at 120 V, 60 Hz input, full load .............................................................................. 33
Figure 27: PFC inductor L1 (green) L2 (blue) and current and MOSFET Q2 drain voltage (purple) at 120 V, 60 Hz input, full load .............................................................. 33
Figure 28: PFC inductor L2 (blue) and L1 (green) current and MOSFET Q1 drain voltage (purple) at 230 V, 50 Hz input, full load .............................................................. 34
Figure 29: PFC inductor L1 (green) L2 (blue) and current and MOSFET Q2 drain voltage (purple) at 230 V, 50 Hz input, full load .............................................................. 34
Figure 30: LLC converter, MOSFET Q12 Gate signal (yellow), drain current (blue), drain voltage (purple) at full load (42 A output) .......................................................................................... 34
Figure 31: LLC converter, MOSFET Q12 Gate signal (yellow), drain current (blue), drain voltage (purple) at no load .................................................................................................................. 34
Figure 32: LLC switching frequency vs. output current ................................................. 35
Figure 33: LLC converter efficiency ........................................................................... 35
Figure 34: Load transition from 10% to 90% max load (max load=42 A) with 120 V, 60 Hz AC input .............................................................. 35
Figure 35: Load transition from 90% to 10% max load (max load=42 A) with 120 V, 60 Hz AC input .............................................................. 35
Figure 36: Repetitive dynamic load variation 10% to 90% max load ............................ 36
Figure 37: Startup at full load (42 A), 230 V, 50 Hz input voltage; PFC bus voltage (yellow), 12 V output (purple); output current (green and blue) .......................................................... 36
Figure 38: Input current waveform at full load, 120 VAC ........................................... 36
Figure 39: Input current waveform at full load, 230 VAC .......................................... 36
Figure 40: STEVAL-ISA147V3 circuit schematic (1 of 6) ............................................ 37
Figure 41: STEVAL-ISA147V3 circuit schematic (2 of 6) ............................................ 38
Figure 42: STEVAL-ISA147V3 circuit schematic (3 of 6) ............................................ 39
Figure 43: STEVAL-ISA147V3 circuit schematic (4 of 6) ............................................ 40
Figure 44: STEVAL-ISA147V3 circuit schematic (5 of 6) ............................................ 41
Figure 45: STEVAL-ISA147V3 circuit schematic (6 of 6) ............................................ 42
System overview

The block diagram of the 500 W digital AC-DC converter is shown in the following figure. A two-stage architecture is generally implemented in this type of application.

The first block, from left to right, is the EMI filter. In a standard AC-DC topology, the EMI filter is connected to the input of a diode bridge rectifier, which is then connected to the input of a PFC stage. However, this 500 W AC-DC implementation uses the so-called bridgeless PFC topology which has the advantage of lower conduction losses and higher efficiency by eliminating the need for the diode rectifier stage. This choice also has the advantage of reducing component count with respect to a standard PFC.

The input stage is typically controlled using an outer voltage loop for bus voltage regulation and an inner control loop to shape the current according to a sinusoidal waveform. The outer loop adjusts the current reference in order to maintain a regulated bus voltage independently from the load or input voltage variations. The output isolation and regulation stage is implemented using a half-bridge LLC topology operated with constant duty cycle and variable frequency control.

The DC-DC stage performs voltage step-down using an HF transformer with a primary-to-secondary turns ratio chosen to maintain good efficiency and regulation in the entire operating range. The transformer is supplied with a square wave voltage generated by the primary side active switches. On the secondary side this voltage waveform is rectified and then smoothed by the output filter. While on the primary side switching losses are reduced thanks to zero voltage switching (ZVS), on the secondary side synchronous rectification (SR) is used to ensure low conduction losses. The overall effect of these design choices is high system efficiency, in line with the stringent requirements of the power supply industry.
The system is controlled by two microcontrollers from the STM32 product family. On the primary side, an STM32F051K8 controls the bridgeless PFC by sampling the current of the two MOSFETs, the input AC voltage and the output bus voltage. Two control signals, PWM1 and PWM2, are then generated to drive two power switches. On the secondary side, an STM32F334C8 microcontroller samples the output voltage and adjusts the frequency of the LLC bridge control signals to ensure stable operation in the overall load range. In addition, two channels of the ADC are used to sample the rising and falling edges of the drain-to-source voltage of the SR MOSFETs. The two microcontrollers exchange information about the status of the input and output power stage via bidirectional serial communication.

Both the power stage and control stage are supplied by an offline flyback circuit which provides a suitable regulated voltage to the microcontrollers, the gate drive ICs and signal conditioning circuits.

The table below summarizes the 500 W digital power supply main specifications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Input AC voltage</td>
<td>95 V\textsubscript{AC} up to 264 V\textsubscript{AC}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input AC frequency</td>
<td>45 Hz up to 65 Hz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output voltage</td>
<td>12 V DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFC output voltage</td>
<td>430 V DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output power</td>
<td>500 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFC switching frequency</td>
<td>60 kHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC-DC switching frequency</td>
<td>70 kHz up to 130 kHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HF transformer isolation</td>
<td>4 kV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak efficiency</td>
<td>93.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooling</td>
<td>Forced air cooling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input short-circuit protection</td>
<td>10 A fuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output short-circuit protection</td>
<td>Managed by STM32F334C8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input under/overvoltage</td>
<td>Managed by STM32F051K8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input under/overfrequency</td>
<td>Managed by STM32F051K8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus DC under/overvoltage</td>
<td>Managed by STM32F051K8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output under/overvoltage</td>
<td>Managed by STM32F334C8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overtemperature protection</td>
<td>Managed by STM32F051K8 (primary) and STM32F334C8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The converter accepts universal input voltage and produces a 12 V regulated output. The continuous power rating of the unit is 500 W. Natural convection is used up to 300 W. Above this power level a cooling fan is activated to provide forced air cooling. The ambient operating temperature range is 0 °C to 50 °C.

The intermediate high-voltage DC bus is regulated at 430 V by the PFC which draws sinusoidal input current from the AC input maintaining high power factor and low current total harmonic distortion (THDI%). The LLC circuit converts this high DC voltage to low DC voltage proving isolation (4 kV) by means of an HF transformer, and high efficiency thanks to ZVS. Input and output current and voltage protection are also provided together with overtemperature protection.
2 Bridgeless PFC stage

2.1 Operating principle

The bridgeless PFC is a high efficiency topology characterized by the absence of the diode bridge rectifier and by the use of only two semiconductors in the current conduction path during any operating interval. The basic scheme of the bridgeless PFC boost converter is shown in Figure 3: "Basic scheme of a bridgeless PFC converter." The boost inductor is connected directly to the input AC source and split between line and neutral connection. Each inductor is connected to the drain of a power MOSFET and to the anode of a fast switching diode. The cathodes of the two diodes are connected to the output filter capacitor which is then parallel connected to the load.

The operation of this circuit is very similar to that of a standard PFC. More in detail, during the positive half-cycle of the input voltage, the boost converter composed of L1, M1, D1 and C1 is active, while during the negative half-cycle of the input voltage the boost converter composed of L2, M2, D2, and C2 is active.

Although this circuit has a reduced component count and higher efficiency compared to traditional PFC topologies, it has some drawbacks which limit its use in such a configuration. The main one is that the AC source is not referenced to the PFC ground. As a consequence, some difficulties in input voltage and inductor current sensing are introduced. Common mode EMI filtering can also be an issue related to this circuit.

A variant of the bridgeless PFC, known as semi-bridgeless PFC, is characterized by the addition of two diodes, D3 and D4, is shown in Figure 4: "Semi-bridgeless PFC with addition of diodes D3 and D4". The purpose of these diodes is to keep the negative phase connected to the PFC ground, thus resolving the EMI filtering issue mentioned above for the bridgeless topology.

Figure 3: Basic scheme of a bridgeless PFC converter.
The operating principle is briefly described as follows:

**Positive half-cycle**

- The input voltage diode D3 is off and D4 conducts the current returning to the source. MOSFET M1 is switched ON and OFF while MOSFET M2 is idle.
- When MOSFET M1 is ON the current flows as highlighted in Figure 5: "Current path during positive half-cycle when M1 is ON".
- When MOSFET M1 is OFF the current flows as highlighted in Figure 6: "Current path during positive half-cycle when M1 is OFF".
- The return path of current is offered by the parallel of diode D4 and the body diode of M2.
Figure 6: Current path during positive half-cycle when M1 is OFF

Negative half-cycle

Figure 7: Current path during negative half-cycle when M2 is ON.

- Diode D4 is OFF and diode D3 conducts the current returning to the source. In this case M2 is switched ON and OFF while M1 is idle.
- When M2 is ON current flows as shown in Figure 7: "Current path during negative half-cycle when M2 is ON ".
- When M2 is OFF, the current flows as shown in Figure 8: "Current path during negative half-cycle when M2 is OFF"
- The return path of the current is offered by the parallel of diode D3 and the body diode of M1.
Figure 8: Current path during negative half-cycle when M2 is OFF

Note that in the previous analysis it has been supposed that during the positive and negative half-cycles one of the two MOSFETs is switching and the other is idle. There are actually two additional control strategies besides the one mentioned above.

In the first, during the positive half-cycle of the input voltage M1 is switched ON and OFF while M2 is kept ON. During the negative half-cycle of the voltage, M2 is switched ON and OFF while M1 is kept ON. This control strategy allows the return current to flow across the channel of the MOSFET rather than across the body diode and, therefore, some improvement in efficiency is possible.

In the second, both MOSFETs are controlled synchronously, with the same PWM signal applied to each gate. Again, the benefit is lower power dissipation when current flows through the MOSFET during the return phase. In addition, only one driver can be used for both MOSFETS.

Due to these advantages, the PFC topology chosen for the 500 W digital power supply implementation described in this application note is the semi-bridgeless PFC with synchronous control.

### 2.2 Semi-bridgeless PFC design

The practical implementation of the proposed 500 W bridgeless boost PFC rectifier is detailed in this section. The converter is designed to operate in DCM. In low and medium power applications, discontinuous and critical conduction mode are often used to obtain numerous benefits such as reduced switching losses, low diode reverse recovery current and small inductor size.
The PFC was designed starting from the specifications shown in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Input AC voltage</td>
<td>90 VAC up to 264 VAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input AC frequency</td>
<td>45 Hz up to 65 Hz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output voltage</td>
<td>12 V DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFC output voltage</td>
<td>430 V DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output power</td>
<td>500 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFC switching frequency</td>
<td>60 kHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficiency</td>
<td>&gt;95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The design steps are reported as follows:

- **Maximum input RMS current value**
  
  Considering the minimum input voltage and the minimum desired converter efficiency, the maximum RMS value of the input current can be calculated.
  
  Equation 1
  
  \[ I_{in,RMS,max} = \frac{P_{out}}{\eta \cdot V_{in,RMS,min}} = 5.84 A \]

- **Maximum input peak current value**
  
  Equation 2
  
  \[ I_{in,pk,max} = \sqrt{2} \cdot I_{in,RMS,max} = 8.24 A \]

- **Boost inductor value**
  
  The inductance value of the two input chokes has to be carefully selected in order to ensure DCM operation across the universal input voltage range and load range. This is guaranteed if the inductor is selected according to:
  
  Equation 3
  
  \[ L < \frac{M - 1}{4 \cdot M^3} \cdot R \cdot T = 95 \mu H \]

  Where \( M = \frac{V_{out}}{V_{in}} \) is the converter voltage gain, \( R = \frac{V_{out}}{P_{out}} \) is the load resistance and \( T \) is the switching period. Note that in equation 3 the minimum value of peak input voltage has been considered for the calculation of the value of the input inductors.

  Two 100 \( \mu \)H, 10 A RMS inductor chokes, characterized by a 33 m\( \Omega \) DC resistance have been selected for this application. The peak-current rating of the inductor must be well above the expected peak current of the converter to avoid core saturation. A gapped ferrite with core material characterized by low core losses at the design switching frequency of 60 kHz has been used.

- **Inductor peak current**
  
  The inductor peak current can be calculated as:
  
  Equation 4
  
  \[ I_{L,peak} = \frac{V_{in,pk.min}}{L} \cdot t_{on,max} = 18.9 A \]
Equation 5

\[ D_{\text{max}} = \frac{t_{\text{on, max}}}{T_s} = 0.9 \]

Where it is assumed that the duty cycle is limited to a maximum of 0.9

- **Power MOSFET selection**

The choice of power semiconductors is fundamental to meet the efficiency requirements of the application. In a boost PFC, when the switch is on the current is equal to the inductor current. The peak current calculated in equation 4 is also the peak current of the switch. When the switch is off, the drain-to-source voltage is the output voltage. Therefore, the MOSFET is selected with a rated voltage greater than the output voltage and rated current greater than the maximum inductor current. Since the boost PFC operated in DCM is mainly affected by conduction losses, it is very important to use a power MOSFET with low drain-to-source resistance in order to ensure high efficiency. The output voltage of the device value is chosen according to:

Equation 6

\[ V_{d_{\text{mos}}} > 1.3 \cdot V_{\text{out}} > 559 \, V \]

To meet the design requirements, the STP42N60M2-EP-channel power MOSFET has been used for M1 and M2. This device is characterized by a minimum breakdown voltage of 650 V and a maximum on resistance of 87 mΩ at 25 °C. The total gate charge is 55 nC.

- **Rectifier diodes selection**

The average diode current can be calculated as:

Equation 7

\[ I_D = \frac{P_{\text{out}}}{V_{\text{out}}} = 1.16 \, A \]

Two STPSC1006D 600 V, 10 A diodes are used as rectifier diodes. The forward voltage drop at 1.16 A is about 0.75 V at T_j=150 °C.

- **Output capacitor selection**

The output capacitor bank value is selected to limit the output voltage ripple to 1% of the nominal output voltage. Equation 8 has been chosen to define the value of the output capacitor bank:

Equation 8

\[ C_{\text{out}} = \frac{P_{\text{out}}}{2 \omega \Delta V_0 V_0} = 430 \, \mu F \]

Where \( \omega \) is the mains angular frequency and \( \Delta V_0 \) is the output voltage ripple. Four 450 V, 100 \( \mu \)F electrolytic capacitors from Vishay have been parallel connected on the PFC output. In addition, a 600 V, 560 nF ceramic capacitor with low ESR and ESL is connected in parallel to the each electrolytic capacitor.

- **Input filter capacitors**

The need for a high power factor introduces a limit on the maximum capacitance that can be placed across the line. The maximum capacitance is a function of how much phase shift that can be tolerated. This phase shift angle can be calculated using:

Equation 9

\[ \theta = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{\omega \cdot V_{\text{in, max}} \cdot C_{\text{in}}}{I_{\text{in}}} \right) \]
Choosing $C_{in}=3 \mu F$ the total displacement is $7^\circ$.

- Current sensing

The current flowing across each power switch is sensed by means of CTs. These are placed between the inductor and the MOSFET. Due to this placement, only the rising part of the inductor current is available to the control algorithm. The current signal is always sampled at the mid-point of the gate control PWM. Then, the current samples could be digitally corrected in order to calculate the average inductor current. In fact, contrary to the CCM case, when the PFC is in DCM the current sensed at the mid-point of the MOSFET triangular current waveform is no longer equal to the inductor average current.

The CT must withstand the peak current calculated in equation 4. The selected current sense transformer is the 53040C from Murata. This is characterized by a magnetizing turns ratio of 40.

### 2.3 PFC control algorithm

This section contains an overview of the PFC digital average current-mode control method in discontinuous conduction mode (DCM). This control method allows good input current shaping in terms of harmonic distortion (low THD) and synchronization with input voltage (PF close to one). The proposed control technique estimates the average value of the inductor current in each switching cycle. The average inductor current can be precisely estimated by the digital controller modifying the sampling instant within the switching period and calculating a correction factor. Sampling the inductor current more than once in a switching cycle, with a high-performance A/D converter, also helps to achieve a precise average inductor current estimation.

The control is implemented by means of a conventional current sensing circuit and a 32-bit microcontroller, the STM32F051K8 from the STM32 family, which features a fast 12-bit A/D converter. As in traditional average current mode control implementations, this algorithm uses two control loops: an outer voltage loop, performed at 100 Hz providing the regulation of the bus voltage output at the reference value (430 V) and an inner current loop, performed at 20 kHz, to ensure that the input current follows a sinusoidal reference in phase with the input voltage. While the voltage control is achieved with a single linear regulator, the current control is based on a PI controller plus a feed-forward controller.

![Figure 9: PFC control scheme block diagram](image)
A block diagram of the control scheme is shown in Figure 9: "PFC control scheme block diagram". The average inductor current is forced to follow the reference current, which is proportional to a rectified sinusoidal voltage synchronized to the input voltage and reconstructed by a lookup table, so that unity power factor is achieved. The lookup table provides the sinusoidal values in a $[0^\circ, 90^\circ]$ range with 1.15 fixed-point format (1 bit for the integer part and 15 bits for the decimal part), with the amplitude given by the output of the voltage PI regulator.

The STM32 microcontroller calculates the duty cycle in every three switching cycles based on the error between the feedback current and the reference current values. The two switches are then controlled with these duty cycle values to achieve unity power factor and sinusoidal input current waveform. The whole digital average current mode control includes:

1. bus voltage and MOSFETs current sampling
2. voltage error calculation
3. voltage PI regulation
4. reference current calculation
5. current error calculation
6. current PI regulation
7. duty cycle feed-forward generation
8. final duty cycle computation.

The final calculated duty cycle value is therefore composed of two terms: an open loop, feed-forward term, which depends on the instantaneous input and output voltage values, and a closed loop term which depends on the applied load. The input voltage value of the feed-forward term is obtained by means of the same lookup table used to calculate input voltage amplitude and phase. This choice is effective for noise reduction and for compensation of sampling delays.

Considering only half the period of the input sinusoid, the expression of the duty cycle for the boost converter in CCM is:

Equation 10

$$d(t) = 1 - \frac{V_{in}|\sin \omega t|}{V_o}$$

where $V_o$ is the output bus voltage, and $V_{in} \sin \omega t$ is the mains voltage. However, this converter is designed to work in DCM and therefore the correct expression of the duty cycle is:

Equation 11

$$d(t) = D \cdot \sqrt{1 - \frac{V_{in}|\sin \omega t|}{V_o}}$$

where $D$ is the constant duty cycle in absence of modulation. Since the implementation of this formula is quite complex, the feed-forward duty cycle term has been calculated using the following expression:

Equation 12

$$d(t) = K_{ff} \cdot \left(1 - m \cdot \frac{V_{in}|\sin \omega t|}{V_o}\right)$$

Where $K_{ff}$ is a gain depending on the load and the input voltage and $m$ is a constant modulating index.
The gain $k_f$ increases with load and decreases with input voltage. Since the output of the PI voltage regulator depends on the load, the expression chosen for feed-forward duty cycle gain is the following:

Equation 13

$$K_{ff} = K_g \frac{V_{Pout}}{V_{in}}$$

where $V_{in}$ is the amplitude of mains voltage, $V_{Pout}$ is the output of the voltage PI regulator and $k_g$ is a gain that varies with the input voltage amplitude according to the diagram shown in the following figure.

Figure 10: variation of the $K_g$ parameter with the input PFC voltage

### 2.4 PFC firmware overview

The execution of the PFC firmware is based on the implementation of a state machine made up of six states. The diagram in Figure 11: "PFC firmware state machine overview" provides an overview of the firmware architecture. As soon as the microcontroller is supplied, all the peripherals are configured and the firmware is in PFC IDLE state. Here the system waits for the AC mains insertion and verifies that no faults are present. If no faults are detected, the new state is PFC INIT. In this state the integral terms of PI regulators are reset and the PM8834 (PFC MOSFET driver) is enabled. The PFC output reference voltage is initialized to the last sampled value. After this, the new state is PFC START, where the output voltage ramp function is executed. When the ramp is completed and the output voltage is equal to 430 V DC, the LLC L6491 driver is enabled and a serial command is sent to the secondary microcontroller to confirm that the PFC startup is completed. Then, the feed-forward duty cycle control is enabled and the next state is PFC ON. If in any of the above states a fault condition is verified the system is forced into PFC STOP state.
The possible faults are:

- Input voltage under/overfrequency (F< 45 Hz; F>65 Hz)
- Input under/over voltage (Vin< 95 V RMS; Vin>264 V RMS)
- Bus DC undervoltage (320 V)
- Bus overvoltage (Vbus>470 V)

In any of these cases both the PFC and LLC PWM modulation are disabled. The MOSFET driver enabling signal is low and the system is in PFC WAIT state for 5 seconds before the system enters the PFC IDLE state.

If during PFC operation, the bus voltage is greater than 450 V but lower than 470 V, the PFC operates in BURST MODE. In this case, the PFC is forced into the STOP state and only the PFC modulation is disabled while the LLC converters continue to operate. The WAIT state is bypassed and the system is forced into IDLE state. The PWM modulation is re-enabled when the PFC bus voltage is below 430 V.

As described above, the control firmware performs several tasks, with different timings and priorities to ensure both output voltage regulation and input current regulation. The main tasks and functions are summarized in Table 3: "Function names and tasks of the PFC firmware", together with the execution time and priority level.
Table 3: Function names and tasks of the PFC firmware

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Execution frequency</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADC1_COMP_IRQHandler()</td>
<td>Current control loop Sinusoidal reference calc. Input voltage sign detection Average of last 3 current samples</td>
<td>20 kHz 60 kHz 60 kHz 60 kHz</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIM14_IRQHandler()</td>
<td>Voltage control loop Update control parameters</td>
<td>100 Hz</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIM6_DAC_IRQHandler()</td>
<td>Computing of Vac frequency and amplitude</td>
<td>2 kHz</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>main()</td>
<td>Fault checks State machine Serial communication LED</td>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After the initialization of the main peripherals such as system clock, ADC, DMA, timers, UART and I/O ports, which are executed in the main loop, the fault check function and serial communication tasks are performed. These tasks have lower priority level compared to those executed in specific interrupts.

As soon as the 500 W power supply is connected to the mains supply, the PFC is in idle state and a fault check routine is executed to ensure that no fault conditions are present. During this phase, the input voltage amplitude and frequency are calculated in order to verify that the mains parameters are within the converter specified operating window. In this case, the PM8834 gate driver, used to drive the two PFC MOSFETs, is enabled and the main PFC control algorithm is performed. A soft-start routine is first executed to linearly increase the DC bus voltage up to 400 V. When the soft-start is completed, the primary STM32F051K8 microcontroller sends the information of the correct PFC status to the secondary STM32F334x microcontroller, via serial communication. After having sent this information, the primary microcontroller starts the control loop routine, updating the control regulator parameters and enabling a second voltage ramp-up to increase the bus voltage to 430 V.

The algorithm for the computation of the input voltage amplitude and frequency is performed when the update event of timer 6 (TIM6) occurs (every 500 µs). The voltage control loop is executed every 10 ms when the update event of timer 14 (TIM14) occurs. Also, the calculation of new feed-forward duty cycle control parameters is triggered by the same event.

The current control loop is the highest priority task and is performed when the interrupt of the ADC end of conversions is triggered. All the acquisitions are synchronized with timer 1 (TIM1) which generates the output PWM signals (CH1 and CH2 of TIM1) as shown in Figure 12: "Timer 1 utilization for PFC PWM generation and ADC conversion trigger". A single sampling in single period technique is adopted.
The switch current is sensed at the midpoint of the PWM ON time which corresponds to the average inductor current in CCM. A sample correction algorithm can be implemented to take into account DCM operation. This is generally done, when necessary, to improve the input current THD. The ADC samples the MOSFET current first, either across MOS1 or MOS2, depending on the sign of input voltage sine waveform. Then, the input voltage is sampled and immediately after the output bus voltage is sampled. The acquired samples are then transferred into a buffer by DMA, keeping CPU resources free for other operations. The acquisition sequence (which depends on the sign of the input voltage) and ADC channels utilization is shown in Figure 13: "ADC utilization and acquisition sequence".

If a fault condition occurs, the PWMs are stopped, the PFC gate driver is disabled and a serial message is sent to the secondary side microcontroller in order to stop the LLC control algorithm.
The following table summarizes the resources required for the implementation of the digital control of the 500 W semi-bridgeless PFC.

### Table 4: Microcontroller resources for PFC digital control implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signal</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>MCU resource</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Input voltage</td>
<td>Analog</td>
<td>ADC1 CH8</td>
<td>12 bit (1MSPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output voltage</td>
<td>Analog</td>
<td>ADC1 CH9</td>
<td>12 bit (1MSPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOS1 current</td>
<td>Analog</td>
<td>ADC1 CH1</td>
<td>12 bit (1MSPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOS2 current</td>
<td>Analog</td>
<td>ADC1 CH0</td>
<td>12 bit (1MSPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADC trigger</td>
<td>Digital</td>
<td>TIM1 CH4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gate drive 1</td>
<td>Digital</td>
<td>TIM1 CH1 (PWM1)</td>
<td>Dres=0.125% at 60kHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gate drive 2</td>
<td>Digital</td>
<td>TIM2 CH2 (PWM2)</td>
<td>Dres=0.125% at 60kHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RS232-RX</td>
<td>Digital</td>
<td>UART1 (PB10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RS232-TX</td>
<td>Digital</td>
<td>UART1 (PB6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temp. sense</td>
<td>Analog</td>
<td>ADC1 (CH6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LED</td>
<td>Digital</td>
<td>GPI/O (PB2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PM8831 enable/disable</td>
<td>Digital</td>
<td>GPI/O (PA12)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L6491 enable/disable</td>
<td>Digital</td>
<td>GPI/O (PF1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3 LLC DC-DC converter design

The purpose of the DC-DC stage is to step the PFC output voltage down to 12 V. The topology used for this conversion stage, the LLC half-bridge, is shown in Figure 14: “Basic schematic of the LLC DC-DC converter”. The power stage of the LLC converter is formed by the input and output capacitors C2 and C3, MOSFETs M3, M4, transformer T1 and resonant capacitor Cr. The resonant inductor Lr and the magnetizing inductor Lm depicted in Figure 14: “Basic schematic of the LLC DC-DC converter” are integrated in the high frequency transformer. The output rectification stage is implemented with two MOSFETs, M5 and M6, used to exploit the advantages of synchronous rectification. The main advantages of the LLC topology are:

- ZVS at turn-on for the primary side switches
- ZCS at turn off for the secondary side switches
- Very good load regulation

The main drawback is the high sensitivity to input voltage variations which requires some design trade-offs to optimize the circuit in a wide input voltage range. The specifications used for this design are reported in Table 5: “Main specifications of the LLC converter”.

Figure 14: Basic schematic of the LLC DC-DC converter
Table 5: Main specifications of the LLC converter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Input voltage</td>
<td>420 V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum input voltage</td>
<td>400 V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum input voltage</td>
<td>440 V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominal output voltage</td>
<td>12 V DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficiency</td>
<td>&gt;96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output power</td>
<td>500 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switching frequency</td>
<td>80 kHz at full load, 420 V DC Input</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum switching frequency</td>
<td>90 kHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stray capacitance</td>
<td>350 pF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dead time</td>
<td>350 ns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The voltage gain of the LLC converter resonant tank can be expressed as:

Equation 14

\[
M(f_n, \lambda, Q) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\left(1 + \lambda - \frac{\lambda}{f_n^2}\right)^2 + Q^2 \left(f_n - \frac{1}{f_n}\right)^2}}
\]

where:

\( \lambda = \frac{L_r}{L_m} \) is the ratio between the resonant tank inductance and the transformer magnetizing inductance;

\( f_n = \frac{f_s}{f_r} \) is the normalized frequency ratio between the switching frequency and the resonant frequency;

\( Q = \frac{1}{R_{ac} \sqrt{\frac{L_r}{C_r}}} \) is the quality factor;

\( R_{ac} = \frac{8n^2V_{out}}{\pi^2P_{out}} \) is the equivalent load resistance.

Under no-load conditions (Q=0) equation 14 can be written as:

Equation 15

\[
M_{OL}(f_n, \lambda) = \frac{1}{\left(1 + \lambda - \frac{\lambda}{f_n^2}\right)^2}
\]

In this operating condition a second resonant frequency can be defined:

Equation 16

\[
f_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi \sqrt{\left(L_m + L_r\right)C_r}} = f_r \cdot \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{1 + \lambda}}
\]
Or in normalized form

Equation 17

\[ f_{n,0} = \frac{f_0}{f_r} = \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{1 + \lambda}} \]

In fact, in no-load conditions (the rectifier is not conducting) the total primary inductance (magnetizing plus leakage inductance) resonates with the capacitor. At this frequency the no-load gain characteristic tends to infinity.

For an infinite value of the normalized frequency the no-load gain \( M_{OL} \) tends to \( M_\infty \):

Equation 18

\[ M_\infty = \frac{1}{1 + \lambda} \]

The design steps are summarized in the following part of this document:

- **Transformer turns ratio:**
  This is calculated assuming that the required gain at nominal input voltage is unitary:

  Equation 19

  \[ M_{\text{nom}} = \frac{V_{\text{out}}}{V_{\text{in, nom}}} = 1 \rightarrow n = \frac{V_{\text{in, nom}}}{2V_{\text{out}}} = \frac{420}{2 \cdot 12} = 17.5 \]

  The transformer turns ratio has been chosen equal to 18.

- **Calculation of minimum and maximum voltage gain (assuming 5% margin):**

  Equation 20

  \[ M_{\text{min}} = 2n \frac{V_{\text{out}}}{V_{\text{in, max}}} \cdot 0.9 = 2 \cdot 18 \cdot \frac{12}{440} \cdot 0.95 = 0.93 \]

  \[ M_{\text{max}} = 2n \frac{V_{\text{out}}}{V_{\text{in, min}}} \cdot 1.1 = 2 \cdot 18 \cdot \frac{12}{400} \cdot 1.05 = 1.13 \]

- **Maximum input current**

  Equation 21

  \[ I_{\text{in, max}} = \frac{P_{\text{out}}}{0.96 \cdot V_{\text{in, min}}} = 1.3 \text{ A} \]

- **Equivalent load resistance**

  Equation 22

  \[ R_{ac} = \frac{8 \cdot n^2 \cdot V_{\text{out}}^2}{\pi^2 \cdot P_{\text{out}}} = 75.71 \Omega \]

- **Calculation of maximum normalized operating frequency:**

  Equation 23

  \[ f_{n,\text{max}} = \frac{f_{\text{max}}}{f_r} = 1.125 \]
• Inductance ratio:

\[ \lambda = \frac{L_r}{L_m} = \frac{1 - M_{\text{min}}}{M_{\text{max}}} \cdot \frac{f_{n,\text{max}}^2}{f_{n,\text{max}}^2 - 1} = 0.34 \]

• Calculation of the maximum value of Q to operate in ZVS at full load and minimum input voltage

\[ Q_{ZVS1} = \frac{\lambda}{M_{\text{max}}} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{1}{\lambda} \cdot \frac{M_{\text{max}}^2}{M_{\text{max}}^2 - 1}} = 0.82 \rightarrow \text{choose } Q_{ZVS2} = 0.8 \]

• Calculation of the maximum Q value to work in the ZVS with no-load condition and maximum input voltage:

\[ Q_{ZVS2} = \frac{2}{\pi} \cdot \frac{\lambda \cdot f_{n,\text{max}}}{(\lambda + 1) \cdot f_{n,\text{max}}} \cdot \frac{t_d}{R_{ac} \cdot C_{ZVS}} = 3.2 \]

\[ Q_{ZVS} \leq \min(Q_{ZVS1}, Q_{ZVS2}) \]

The value of \( Q_{ZVS} \) is chosen equal to \( Q_{ZVS1} \).

• Calculation of resonant tank components:

\[ Z_0 = Q_{ZVS} \cdot R_{ac} = 62.4 \ \Omega \]

\[ C_r = \frac{1}{2 \cdot \pi \cdot f_r \cdot Z_0} = 31.8 \ \text{nF} \]

\[ L_r = \frac{Z_0}{2 \cdot \pi \cdot f_r} = 124.2 \ \mu\text{F} \]

\[ L_m = \frac{L_r}{\lambda} = 361 \ \mu\text{H} \]

• Resonant Tank

The selected values differ from the calculations as a result of the efficiency optimization process done at an input voltage of 430 V DC (selected output PFC voltage). The resonant tank values are:

\[ C_r=30 \ \text{nF} \]
\[ L_r=140 \ \mu\text{H} \]
\[ L_m=500 \ \mu\text{H} \]
The transformer has been designed to integrate both the series inductance \( L_r \) and the magnetizing inductance \( L_m \). The resonant capacitance is realized by parallel connection of two 15 nF, 1 kV polypropylene capacitors. With the values reported above, the resulting resonant tank gain is depicted in the following picture.

**Figure 15: Resonant tank gain at full load, half load, no load**

The frequency at full load and 430 V DC input is 77.7 kHz. The minimum operating frequency at full load and minimum input voltage is 68.3 kHz. The maximum operating frequency is obtained with no load and maximum input voltage and is equal to 96.3 kHz.

- **Half-bridge MOSFETs selection:**

The power MOSFETs used on the primary side of the LLC converter have 600 V breakdown voltage and drain current of 11.3 A at 100 °C case temperature and 0.188 Ω maximum drain-to-source resistance.

The part number of this device is STP25N60M2-EP, characterized by using the MDmesh™ M2 EP technology which ensures very low on-resistance and optimal switching performance making them ideal for this application.

The breakdown voltage is selected considering the following equation:

Equation 28

\[
V_{br} \geq 1.2V_{in,\text{max}} = 540 \text{ V}
\]

where 20% derating is considered.
• SR MOSFETs selection:

The power MOSFETs used on the secondary side for synchronous rectification are characterized by 60 V breakdown voltage and 185 A drain current at 100 °C PCB temperature. They feature extremely low drain-to-source resistance, ideal to keep secondary side conduction losses low thanks to the 7th generation of STRipFET™ DeepGATE™ technology. The part number is STL220N6F7 which is packaged in a Power Flat 5x6. Two of these devices are parallel-connected on each side of the rectifier circuit in order to minimize conduction losses.

The LLC converter parameters resulting from the design are summarized in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Magnetizing inductance</td>
<td>500 µH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resonant inductance</td>
<td>140 µH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transformer turns ratio</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resonant capacitor</td>
<td>30 nF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resonant frequency</td>
<td>77.7 kHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum switching frequency</td>
<td>96.3 kHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum switching frequency</td>
<td>68.3 kHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input voltage operating range</td>
<td>400 V to 440 V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output voltage</td>
<td>12 V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary side MOSFETs</td>
<td>STP25N60M2-EP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SR MOSFETs</td>
<td>STL220N6F7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.1 LLC converter firmware overview and control algorithm

The LLC firmware is implemented on the secondary side MCU which is the STM32F334x, a 32-bit microcontroller from the STM32 family. The control strategy generates the gate signals for both primary and secondary side MOSFETs in order to ensure precise output voltage regulation at 12 V DC.

The secondary side MOSFETs are used to reduce the conduction losses produced by standard output rectifier diodes. The SR MOSFETs are properly controlled by the MCU implementing a synchronous rectification control strategy which improves the efficiency and compensates for delays caused by hardware components and parasitic elements.

The block diagram of the control scheme is shown below.

Figure 16: Block diagram of the LLC converter control

A simple voltage control loop, based on the use of a PI regulator whose input is the error between the reference voltage and LLC converter output voltage, is adopted.

The STM32F334x high resolution timer HRTIM generates the driving signal pattern to control the primary and secondary MOSFETs. The HRTIM is specifically designed to drive power conversion systems. It is characterized by a modular architecture and can generate up to ten digital signals with either independent or coupled waveforms.

The HRTIM has timing measure capabilities and links to built-in ADC and DAC converters. It features light load management mode and is able to handle various fault schemes for safe shutdown purposes. The HRTIM can be partitioned into several sub modules:

- The master timer
- The timing units (timer A to timer E)
- The output stage
- The burst mode controller
- An external event and fault signal conditioning logic
- The system interface
The HRTIM is configured as follows to drive the LLC stage with synchronous rectification:

- The master timer is used for synchronization of Timer A, C and D
- Timer C is used for primary half-bridge modulation
- Timer A and Timer D are used for secondary synchronous rectification
- Timer C is configured in half mode and drives two complimentary outputs CHC1 and CHC2 with 50% duty cycle and a suitable dead time.

Timer A output CHA1 and Timer D output CHD1 are used to generate the two synchronous rectification MOSFET modulation signals. The ON and OFF time of each driving signal generated by Timer A and Timer D is dynamically adjusted and depends on the drain-to-source voltage of the synchronous rectification MOSFETs. These voltages are acquired by two 5 MHz ADC converters, namely ADC1 and ADC2. The utilization of the two A/D converters is shown in the following figure.

![Figure 17: STM32F334x ADC1 and ADC2 utilization](image)

The hardware is configured to acquire some other measurements such as heatsink temperature, auxiliary power supply output voltage, LLC transformer primary current and its average value.

ADC1 CH1 acquisition is triggered by the update event of the master timer, while CH2 and CH3 acquisitions are triggered by either timer A or timer C compare events. Similarly, ADC2 CH2 and CH3 are triggered by either timer C or timer D compare events. The injected acquisition sequence and trigger events are shown in Figure 18: "ADC1 and ADC2 injected acquisition sequence and trigger events" while the HRTIM timing configuration is shown in Figure 19: "HRTIM timing configuration".
The voltage control loop consists of a standard PI regulator and is executed at the update event of the master timer. The regulator output is the new value of the primary MOSFET driving signal period in terms of number of clock cycles (new value of HRTIM_MPER register). In this way, the frequency can vary from 70.3 kHz up to 130 kHz, while the duty cycle is fixed at 50%. Together with the period, the new rising and falling edges of the SR signals are calculated. The calculation includes a blanking time to take into account the opto-isolator delay and the delay due to the sampling and acquisition of SR MOSFETs drain-to-source voltage.

The SR control algorithm tries to maintain the two drain-to-source voltage ADC samples (each drain-to-source voltage is sensed twice) under/above a reference value to detect the correct turn-on and turn-off of SR MOSFETs. If the first and second samples are not under/above the preset reference value, the on-time is made longer or shorter.
The LLC converter firmware structure and its main tasks are highlighted in Figure 20: “LLC firmware structure overview” and, Table 7: “LLC firmware tasks” respectively.

**Figure 20: LLC firmware structure overview**

![LLC firmware structure overview](image)

**Table 7: LLC firmware tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Execution frequency</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HRTIM_MASTER_IRQHandler()</td>
<td>Voltage control loop</td>
<td>HRTIM master frequency</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Synchronous rectification</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Burst mode</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRTIM_TimerC_IRQHandler()</td>
<td>Output short-circuit</td>
<td>Comparator trigger</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>protection</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USART1_IRQHandler()</td>
<td>Acquisition of PFC status</td>
<td>On acquisition</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>main()</td>
<td>State machine</td>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Serial communication</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Temperature check</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The STM32F334xx devices embed 3 comparators that can be used either as standalone devices (all terminals are available on I/Os) or combined with the timers. They can be used for a variety of functions such as wakeup from low-power mode triggered by an analog signal, analog signal conditioning and cycle-by-cycle current control loop when combined with the DAC and a PWM output from a timer.

In this design an internal comparator is used to implement the output overcurrent protection. The configuration is shown in Figure 21: “STM32F334x internal comparator configuration for overcurrent protection” where the inverting pin of the microcontroller internal comparator COMP2 is connected to CH1 of DAC1 and the non-inverting pin is connected to the output of the current sense circuit used to measure the LLC converter primary current.
When the sensed current is higher than the preset threshold, a fault event is generated to set the Timer C output channels in idle state. In addition, the HRTIM Timer C interrupt is generated to set the state machine in LCC_STOP state. After such an event, the state is updated to LLC_WAIT and, after this, the new state is LLC_OFF. If no faults are detected the LLC converter can be started again after the PFC bus voltage ramp-up.

Burst mode operation is implemented for light load management. The main purpose is to increase the efficiency of the converter by reducing the number of transitions on the outputs and the associated switching losses. The STM32F334C8 burst mode controller allows having the outputs alternatively in IDLE and RUN state, by hardware, so that some switching periods are skipped with a programmable periodicity and duty cycle.

The burst mode operation is enabled when the output of the voltage control PI regulator is lower than a predefined threshold (switching period) corresponding to a switching frequency of 115 kHz. Similarly, it is disabled when the PI regulator output is greater than a threshold corresponding to 110 kHz. In this way, the output voltage is regulated at 12 V ± 100 mV during no-load and light load operation.
4 Experimental characterization

This section includes the validation results of the 500 W digital power supply design. It includes the efficiency and power quality test results at different input voltage values and the main waveforms of the two converters.

The power supply efficiency measured at different mains voltages, namely 120 VAC and 230 VAC, is shown in Table 8: "Efficiency measurements at 120 VAC" and Table 9: "Efficiency measurements at 230 VAC".

The efficiency was measured in the following conditions:

1. The board was operated at half load for 30 minutes.
2. The efficiency results were taken in the following output load points: 6 A, 12 A, 18 A, 24 A, 28 A, 34 A, 42 A.
3. The input and output voltages were measured directly at the input and output connectors of the board.
4. All the measurements were taken using the Voltech PM6000 Universal Power Analyzer.
5. The power measurements do not take into account the power consumption of the fan which will be activated above 300 W.
6. The board was tested with open frame at an ambient temperature of 25 °C.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VIN (V)</th>
<th>PIN (W)</th>
<th>VOUT (V)</th>
<th>IOUT (A)</th>
<th>POOUT (W)</th>
<th>Efficiency (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>81.84</td>
<td>12.07</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>72.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>156.67</td>
<td>12.03</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>144.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td>233.08</td>
<td>12.01</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>216.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>2.60</td>
<td>310.67</td>
<td>12.02</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>288.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td>363.90</td>
<td>12.03</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>337.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>3.71</td>
<td>443.76</td>
<td>11.99</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>409.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>4.61</td>
<td>551.78</td>
<td>12.01</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>505.69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VIN (V)</th>
<th>PIN (W)</th>
<th>VOUT (V)</th>
<th>IOUT (A)</th>
<th>POOUT (W)</th>
<th>Efficiency (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>230</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>80.22</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>72.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>230</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>155.04</td>
<td>12.04</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>144.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>230</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>231.23</td>
<td>12.01</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>216.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>230</td>
<td>1.37</td>
<td>307.69</td>
<td>12.04</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>288.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>230</td>
<td>1.59</td>
<td>359.98</td>
<td>12.03</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>336.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>230</td>
<td>1.94</td>
<td>440.10</td>
<td>11.99</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>410.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>230</td>
<td>2.40</td>
<td>545.60</td>
<td>12.01</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>505.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The peak efficiency is obtained at 230 VAC input is equal to 93.2%. For 120 VAC input the peak efficiency is reduced to 92% due to higher input to output voltage ratio.
Experimental characterization

Table 10: “DSMPS power factor and current THD% at 120 VAC” and Table 11: “DSMPS power factor and current THD% at 230 VAC” report the measurement of current THD% and power factor both at 120 V and 230 VAC input voltage. It can be noted that the total harmonic distortion is still low even for high input voltage values. The power factor is close to unity for both low and high input voltage values.

Table 10: DSMPS power factor and current THD% at 120 VAC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output load at 120 V AC</th>
<th>PF</th>
<th>THD%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 A</td>
<td>0.965</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 A</td>
<td>0.984</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 A</td>
<td>0.992</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 A</td>
<td>0.994</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 A</td>
<td>0.996</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34 A</td>
<td>0.996</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42 A</td>
<td>0.997</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 11: DSMPS power factor and current THD% at 230 VAC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output load at 230 V AC</th>
<th>PF</th>
<th>THD%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 A</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>13.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 A</td>
<td>0.925</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 A</td>
<td>0.964</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 A</td>
<td>0.977</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 A</td>
<td>0.983</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34 A</td>
<td>0.986</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42 A</td>
<td>0.989</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
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</table>

The PFC inductor currents are shown together with the input voltage in Figure 22: “PFC inductor current at 120 V input, full load” and Figure 23: “PFC inductor current at 230 V input, full load”. It is possible to highlight that only one branch of the bridgeless PFC circuit is switching during each half period of the input voltage.
The PFC efficiency in the whole operating range is highlighted in Figure 24: "PFC circuit efficiency" and is as high as 98%. The power factor for 120 V and 230 V AC input is depicted in Figure 25: "PFC input current power factor" for an output load varying from 70 W up to 500 W. In this operating range the power factor is always higher than 0.9.

Figure 24: PFC circuit efficiency

Figure 25: PFC input current power factor

Figure 26: "PFC inductor L2 (blue) and L1 (green) current and MOSFET Q1 drain voltage (purple) at 120 V, 60 Hz input, full load" and Figure 27: "PFC inductor L1 (green) L2 (blue) and current and MOSFET Q2 drain voltage (purple) at 120 V, 60 Hz input, full load" show the inductor currents and PFC MOSFETs drain-to-source voltage at full load for 120 V operation. Figure 28: "PFC inductor L2 (blue) and L1 (green) current and MOSFET Q1 drain voltage (purple) at 230 V, 50 Hz input, full load" and Figure 29: "PFC inductor L1 (green) L2 (blue) and current and MOSFET Q2 drain voltage (purple) at 230 V, 50 Hz input, full load" show the same waveforms for 230 V operation. In both cases the PFC is operating in DCM.

The LLC converter main switching waveforms are shown in Figure 30: "LLC converter, MOSFET Q12 Gate signal (yellow), drain current (blue), drain voltage (purple) at full load (42 A output)" and Figure 31: "LLC converter, MOSFET Q12 Gate signal (yellow), drain current (blue), drain voltage (purple) at no load" for full load and no-load operation, respectively. The MOSFET current is negative before the device is turned on thus providing zero voltage switching.
The switching frequency at full load and nominal input voltage is 77 kHz while during no-load operation the burst mode is enabled and the switching frequency can vary in the 115-130 kHz range. The operating switching frequency for different load currents is reported in Figure 32: "LLC switching frequency vs. output current", while Figure 33: "LLC converter efficiency" shows the LLC converter efficiency in whole operating range at nominal input voltage.
The impact on the power supply regulated 12 V output voltage when the load is increased from 10% to 90% of the nominal value is shown in Figure 34: "Load transition from 10% to 90% max load (max load=42 A) with 120 V, 60 Hz AC input", Figure 35: "Load transition from 90% to 10% max load (max load=42 A) with 120 V, 60 Hz AC input" and Figure 36: "Repetitive dynamic load variation 10% to 90% max load". In every case the output voltage is tightly regulated and the steady state operation is restored in less than 5 ms.
The typical converter waveforms at startup are shown in Figure 37: “Startup at full load (42 A), 230 V, 50 Hz input voltage; PFC bus voltage (yellow), 12 V output (purple); output current (green and blue)”. The bus DC voltage is initially regulated at 400 V. As soon as the output current has reached the steady state value, the bus DC voltage is increased to 430 V.

Finally, Figure 38: "Input current waveform at full load, 120 VAC" and Figure 39: "Input current waveform at full load, 230 VAC" show the input current waveforms at 120 V and 230 VAC input at full load.
Figure 40: STEVAL-ISA147V3 circuit schematic (1 of 6)
Figure 41: STEVAL-ISA147V3 circuit schematic (2 of 6)
Figure 42: STEVAL-ISA147V3 circuit schematic (3 of 6)
Figure 43: STEVAL-ISA147V3 circuit schematic (4 of 6)
Figure 44: STEVAL-ISA147V3 circuit schematic (5 of 6)
Figure 45: STEVAL-ISA147V3 circuit schematic (6 of 6)
6 Conclusions

This application note describes the design of a 500 W fully digital switch mode power supply. The system is based on a two-stage architecture consisting of a semi-bridgeless PFC circuit and an LLC half-bridge DC-DC stage. The control architecture is designed around two 32-bit MCUs from the STM32 family of microcontrollers. The control algorithm for both the PFC and the LLC converters is highlighted throughout the document. The experimental evaluation shows that high efficiency (93.2%), near unity power factor, and low THD% can be achieved under wide input voltage and load current conditions thanks to the performance of the ST products used and to the implementation of suitable control strategies on high-performance 32-bit microcontrollers.
7 References

- AN2450: LLC resonant half-bridge converter design guideline
- High frequency transformer for 500 W LLC converter: Magnetica 1892.0039
- Inductor chokes for 500 W bridgeless PFC: Yujing Technologies 11999-126H400210 QP-3930H
8 Revision history

Table 12: Document revision history

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Revision</th>
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<td>12-Oct-2016</td>
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<td>Initial release.</td>
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