1 Introduction

The LM3406HV is a buck regulator controlled current source designed to drive a series string of high power, high brightness LEDs (HBLEDs) such as the Luxeon™ K2 Emitter at forward currents of up to 1.5A. The converter’s output voltage adjusts as needed to maintain a constant current through the LED array.

Figure 1. Complete Circuit Schematic
2 Circuit Performance

The LM3406HV circuit and BOM that come pre-installed on the evaluation board are optimized to run from an input voltage of 24V, but the circuit can operate from a wide input voltage range of 6.0V to 75V. The current output ranges from 0.35A to 1.5A. Figure 2 shows the program jumper settings used to program currents of 0.35A, 0.7A, 1A, and 1.5A.

![Figure 2. Setting Output Current, J2](image)

The LM3406HV is a step-down regulator with an output voltage range extending from a $V_{O\text{-MIN}}$ of 200 mV (the reference voltage) to a $V_{O\text{-MAX}}$ determined by the ratio of the minimum off time (typically 230 ns) to the switching frequency. The regulator can maintain the output current through any number of LEDs as long as the combined forward voltage of the array does not exceed $V_{O\text{-MAX}}$. $V_{O\text{-MAX}}$ can be calculated with the following formula:

$$V_{O\text{-MAX}} = V_{IN\text{-MIN}} \times (1 - f_{SW} \times t_{OFF\text{-MIN}})$$

For example, if $V_{IN}$ is 24V ±10%, then $V_{IN\text{-MIN}}$ is 21.6V. For a switching frequency of 500 kHz the maximum output voltage for the converter is $21.6 \times (1 - (5 \times 10^5) \times (230 \times 10^{-9})) = 19.1V$. Output voltage is calculated with the following formula:

$$V_o = n \times V_f + 0.2V$$

where

- $n$ is the number of series-connected LEDs
- $V_f$ is the forward voltage of each LED
- 0.2V represents the voltage across the current sense resistor

For InGaN LEDs (white, blue, blue-green) $V_f$ is typically 3.5V, and with a limit of $(19.1 - 0.2) = 18.9V$ the LM3406HV could drive as many as five in series. For AlInGaP LEDs (red, orange, amber) $V_f$ is typically 2.5V, so a $V_{O\text{-MAX}}$ of 18.9V would allow as many as seven to be driven in series.

3 Connecting the LED Array

The LM3406HV Evaluation Board includes test posts for connecting the LED/LED Array. Connect the open anode of the array to LED+ and the cathode of the array to CS/LED-. Keep the leads from the board to the LED(s) as short as possible to minimize inductance.

4 Setting the LED Current

The default forward current $I_f$ delivered to the LED array when no program jumper is installed on J2 is 0.35A, set by resistor R6. The higher LED currents are set when the program jumper puts resistors R4, R5 or R7 in parallel with R6. For users that wish to program a current other than one of the four default levels, or for users who want the best accuracy at a given current, the program jumper J2 should be removed, and R6 changed according to the following equation:
This resistor should be rated to handle the power dissipation of the LED current. For example, the closest 5% tolerance resistor to set an LED current of 0.35A is 0.56Ω. In steady state this resistor will dissipate \((0.35^2 \times 0.56) = 69\) mW, indicating that a resistor with a 1/8W rating is more than capable of dissipating the power.

5 Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) Dimming

The **DIM1** terminal on the PCB provides an input for a logic-level pulse width modulation signal for dimming of the LED array. In order to fully enable and disable the LM3406HV the PWM signal should have a maximum logic low level of 0.8V and a minimum logic high level of 2.2V. Graphical representations of minimum and maximum PWM duty cycle are illustrated in Figure 3. The interval \(t_0\) represents the delay from a logic high at the DIM pin to the rise in output current. The quantities \(t_{SU}\) and \(t_{SD}\) represent the time needed for the output current to slew up to steady state and slew down to zero, respectively. It is important to note that \(t_0\) is a property of the LM3406HV and remains fixed in all applications. The slew rates \(t_{SU}\) and \(t_{SD}\) are a function of the external circuit parameters \(V_{IN}\), \(V_{OUT}\), \(I_F\), inductance (L) and the LM3406HV parameter \(t_{OFF-MIN}\). Response times for a circuit driving three white LEDs at 1A from 24V are shown in the Typical Performance Characteristics section, but the user should test every new circuit to determine the actual PWM dimming response.

The logic of **DIM1** is active low, hence the LM3406HV will deliver regulated output current when the voltage at **DIM1** is high, and the current output is disabled when the voltage at **DIM1** is low. Connecting a constant logic low will disable the output. Note that an internal pullup ensures that the LM3406HV is enabled if the DIM pin is open-circuited. The **DIM1** function disables only the power MOSFET, leaving all other circuit blocks functioning to minimize the converter response time, \(t_0\).

The **DIM2** terminal provides a second method for PWM dimming by connecting to the gate of MOSFET **Q1** through the driver **U5**. **Q1** provides a parallel path for the LED current. Shunting the output current through a parallel MOSFET reduces the PWM dimming delays because the inductor current remains continuous, providing faster response time for higher frequency and/or greater resolution in the PWM dimming signal. The trade-off in this method is that the full current flows through **Q1** while the LED is off, resulting in lower efficiency. The LM3406HV evaluation board includes an output capacitor to reduce output current ripple which is not initially populated, but the drawback of this output capacitor if used is that it causes significant delays when using parallel MOSFET dimming. The output capacitor should be removed to take full advantage of parallel MOSFET dimming.

\[
R.35 = 0.2 / I_F
\]
6 2 Wire Input Dimming

The LM3406HV evaluation board has been designed for 2 wire dimming for systems that present a square wave input voltage for dimming purposes. A diode, D2, separates the VIN pins from the VINS pin. When the input voltage at VINS falls to 70% or less of the voltage at VIN the device stops switching and enters dim mode. The capacitors C1 and C2 hold up the voltage at the VIN pins during this time so that the LM3406HV is enabled and responds quickly when the voltage at VINS again exceeds 70% of the voltage at VIN.

7 Low Power Shutdown

The LM3406HV can be placed into a low power shutdown (typically 240 µA) by grounding the OFF* terminal. During normal operation this terminal should be left open-circuit.

8 Output Open Circuit

The LM3406HV will begin to operate as soon as VIN is greater than 6V and the DIM and RON pins are not grounded. If the regulator is powered and enabled but no LED array is connected, the output voltage will rise to V_in. The output of the circuit is rated to 50V (beyond the maximum input voltage) and will not suffer damage, however care should be taken not to connect an LED array if the output voltage is higher than the target forward voltage of the LED array in steady state.

If the LEDs are disconnected or one of the LEDs fails open-circuit while the LM3406HV is operating, the output voltage will experience a surge as the current in the output inductor seeks a discharge path. The output capacitor (if present) can absorb some of this energy, however circuits with little or no output capacitance can experience a voltage spike that exceeds the rating of the VOUT pin. The evaluation board uses a 10 kΩ resistor in series with the VOUT pin to limit current flowing into the pin. Alternatively, a diode connected from V_in to V_O as shown in Figure 4 will clamp the spike to V_in plus a diode drop and is included on the evaluation board.

![Figure 4. Schottky Diode Protection for Open-Circuit](image-url)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Part Number</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Vendor</th>
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<tr>
<td>U1</td>
<td>LM3406HV</td>
<td>Buck LED Driver</td>
<td>TSSOP-14</td>
<td>75V, 1.5A</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>NSC</td>
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<tr>
<td>U5</td>
<td>FDC6333C</td>
<td>MOSFET N-CH/P-CH</td>
<td>SSOT-6</td>
<td>30V, 2.5A</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fairchild Semiconductor</td>
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<td>D1</td>
<td>B1100-13-F</td>
<td>Schottky Diode</td>
<td>SMA</td>
<td>100V, 1A</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Diodes Inc.</td>
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<td>D2, D3</td>
<td>MBRS3100T3G</td>
<td>Schottky Diode</td>
<td>SMC</td>
<td>100V, 3A</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>ON Semiconductor</td>
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<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>SI4464DY-E3</td>
<td>MOSFET</td>
<td>SOIC-8</td>
<td>200V, 1.7A</td>
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<td>Vishay</td>
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<td>C2</td>
<td>C5750X7R2A475M</td>
<td>Capacitor</td>
<td>2220</td>
<td>4.7 µF, 100V</td>
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<td>TDK</td>
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<td>0.022 µF, 16V</td>
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<td>0.1 µF, 16V</td>
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<td>C6</td>
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<td>Capacitor</td>
<td>1812</td>
<td>OPEN</td>
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<td>L1</td>
<td>MSS1038–333MLB</td>
<td>Inductor</td>
<td>MSS1038</td>
<td>33 µH, 1.8A</td>
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<td>Vishay</td>
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<td>10 kΩ 1%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Resistor</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>R7</td>
<td>ERJ-6RQFR62V</td>
<td>Resistor</td>
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<td>0.62 Ω 1%</td>
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<td>Panasonic</td>
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<tr>
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<td>CRCW06031R00FNEA</td>
<td>Resistor</td>
<td>0603</td>
<td>1 Ω 1%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Vishay</td>
</tr>
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<td>CS/LED- , DIM1, DIM2, DPWR, GND2, LED+, OFF* , SW</td>
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<td>Terminal</td>
<td>Keystone 1598–2</td>
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<td>Keystone</td>
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<td>VIN, GND</td>
<td>575–8</td>
<td>Terminal</td>
<td>575–8</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Keystone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10 Typical Performance Characteristics

\( V_{IN} = 24\text{V}, \ I_F = 1\text{A}, \ T_A = 25°C \), and the load consists of three InGaN LEDs in series unless otherwise noted.
Typical Performance Characteristics

Switching Frequency vs Number of InGaN LEDs in Series

Switching Frequency vs \( V_{IN} \)

Switch Node and Output Current (DC Coupled)

Output Current (AC Coupled)

DIM1 Response (Rising)

DIM1 Response (Falling)
Figure 5. Top Layer and Top Overlay
Figure 6. Bottom Layer and Bottom Overlay
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