

# Power Supply Design Seminar

Switch-mode power converter  
compensation made easy

Authors

Louis Diana

Robert Sheehan



# Agenda



**Introduction**

**Feature presentation**

**Live Q&A session**

Enter questions into chat at any time

---



# 2025 Power Supply Design Seminar



## Webinar Series

April 30	Common mistakes in DC/DC converters and how to fix them
May 28	Survey of resonant converter topologies
June 25	<b>Power Factor Correction (PFC) circuit basics</b>
July 30	Power-conversion techniques for complying with automotive emissions requirements
August 27	Switch-mode power converter compensation made easy
September 24	Constructing your power supply – layout considerations

**Last Wednesday of every month  
8:00AM & 8:00PM (US Central Time Zone)**



# Welcome to the PSDS 2025 webinar series!



## The history of Power Supply Design Seminar

- In 1977 Bob Mammano, the “Father of PWM Industry,” started the seminar
- 47+ years
- 26+ seminars
- 100+ technical topics
- 50,000+ customers
- A comprehensive archive of white papers, presentations and videos



### *Power supply industry legends associated with PSDS:*

Bob Mammano, Lloyd Dixon, Bill Andreycak, Robert Kollman, Laszlo Balogh

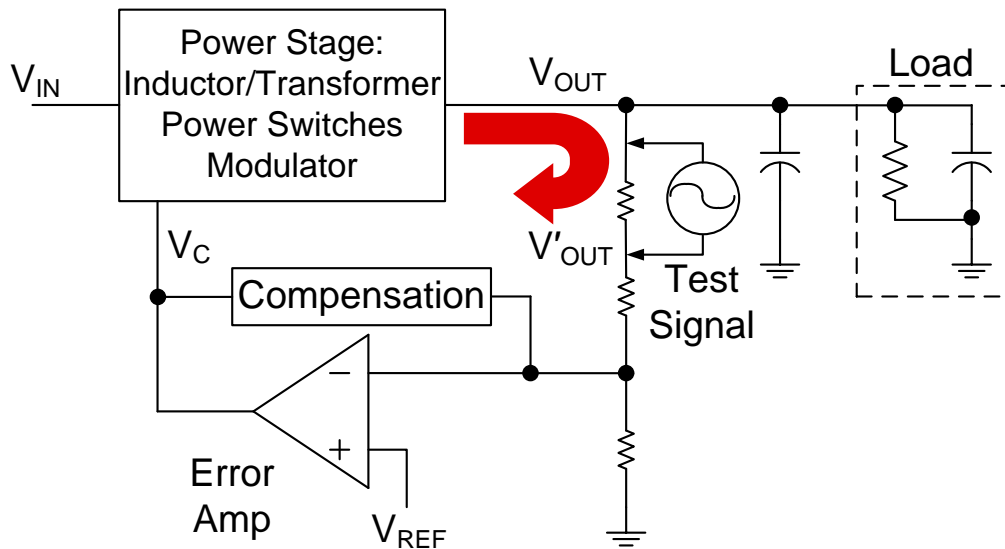
[WWW.TI.COM/PSDS](http://WWW.TI.COM/PSDS) for all prior content

# Agenda

- Compensation design and objective
- Explanation of poles and zeros
- Power stage characteristics
- Error amplifier and transconductance amplifier
- Isolated feedback with opto-coupler
- Compensation examples
- Circuit limitations and other issues

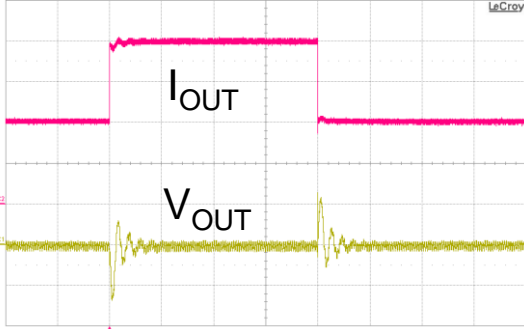
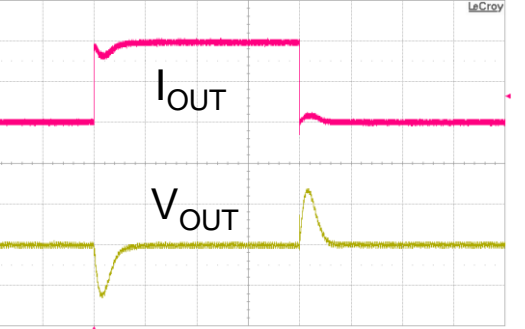
# Compensation design and objectives

Why do we need feedback and why do we need compensation?

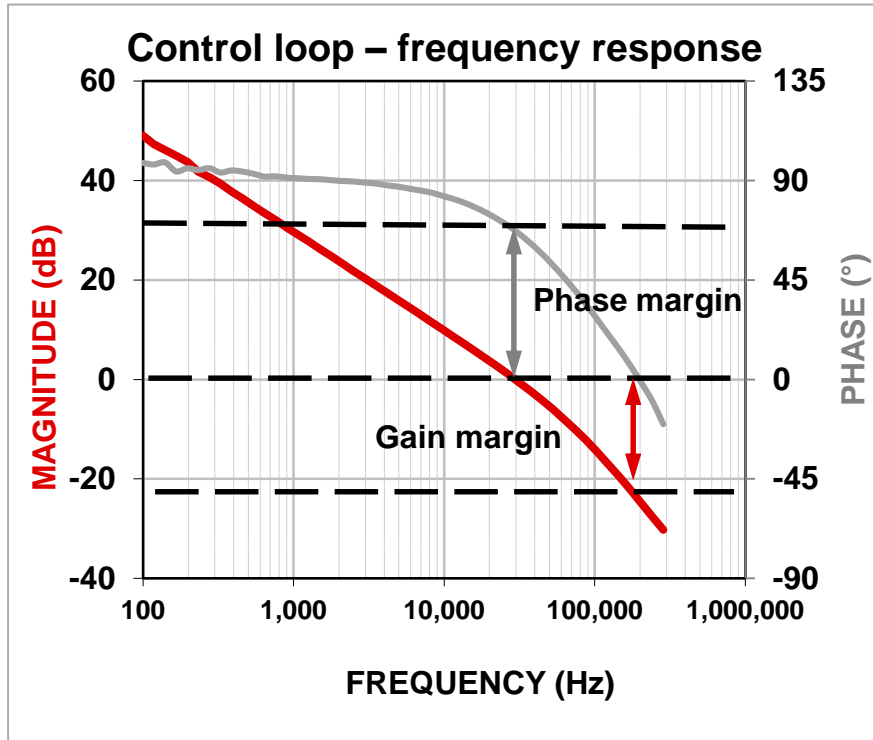


- Feedback is needed to regulate the output voltage
- The control loop bandwidth influences the response time

# Control loop response

Poor transient response	Objective	Good transient response
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Response is under-damped causing oscillatory behavior</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Maximize crossover frequency for fastest transient response</li><li>Adjust compensation for best setting behavior</li></ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Response is well damped with good setting behavior</li></ul>

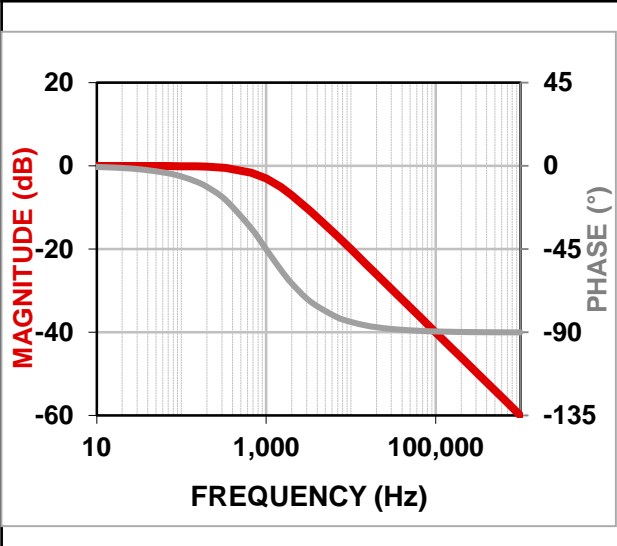
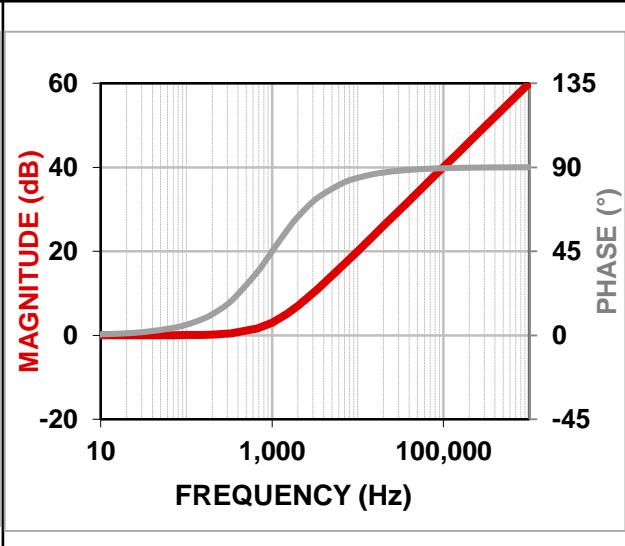
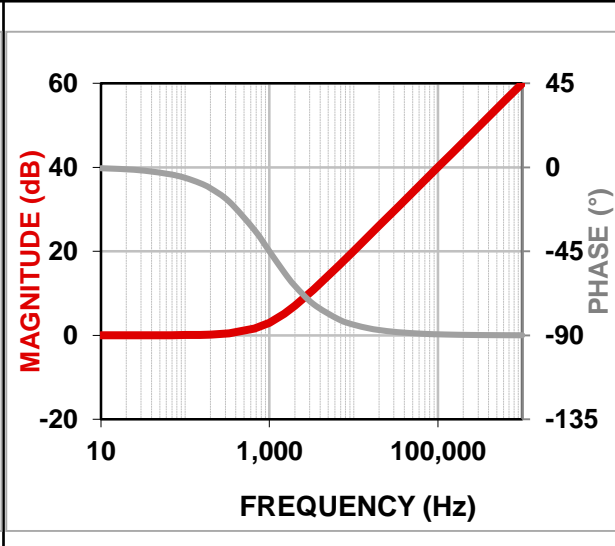
# Phase margin and gain margin



## Phase margin and stability

- Sufficient phase margin needed to prevent oscillation (45° min.)
- Gain margin goal of 10 dB min.
- Slope of -20dB/decade when passing through 0 dB
- Bandwidth rule of thumb is 1/5 to 1/10 of switching frequency

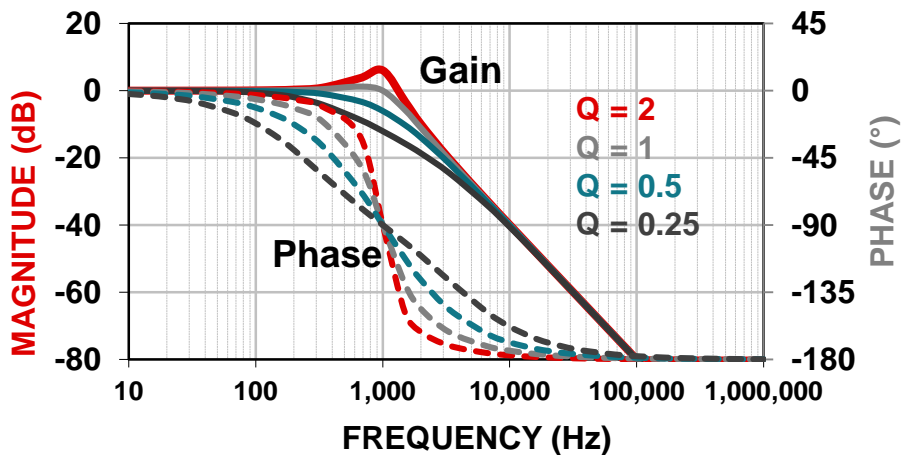
# Poles, zeros and right-half-plane zeros

Pole	Zero	Right-half-plane zero
$H(s) = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_P}}$	$H(s) = \frac{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_Z}}{1}$	$H(s) = \frac{1 - \frac{s}{\omega_Z}}{1}$
		

# Complex conjugate pole and ESR zero

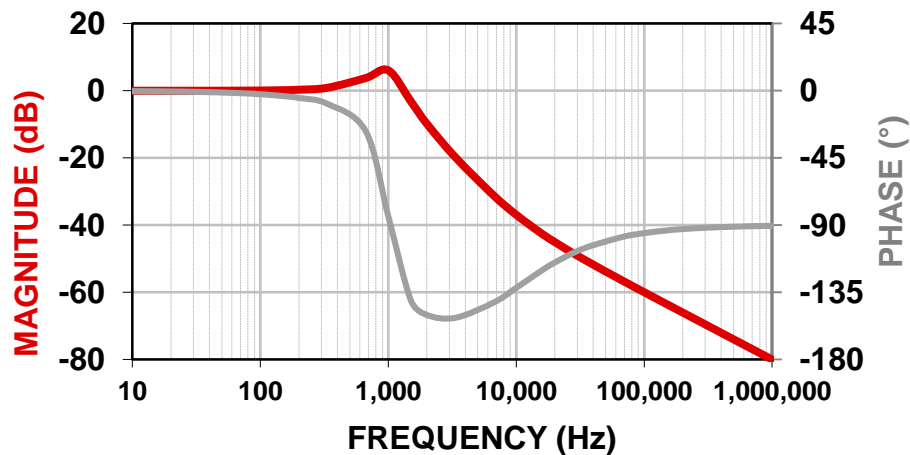
Complex conjugate pole

$$H(s) = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{s}{Q_0 \cdot \omega_0} + \frac{s^2}{\omega_0^2}}$$



With ESR zero

$$H(s) = \frac{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_Z}}{1 + \frac{s}{Q_0 \cdot \omega_0} + \frac{s^2}{\omega_0^2}}$$



# Control methods and operating modes

## Control methods

- Voltage-mode control
- Current-mode control

## Operating modes

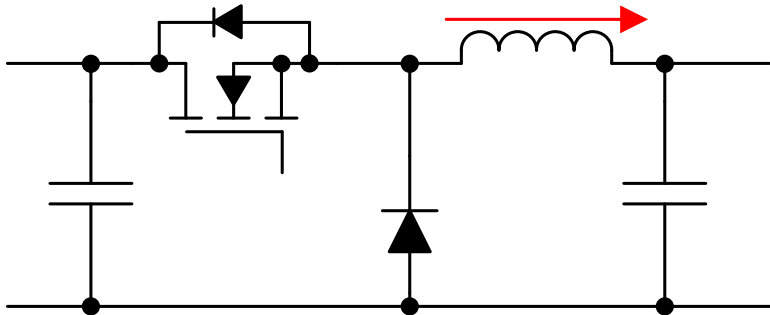
- Fixed frequency
- Continuous conduction-mode (CCM)

## Switching frequency and period

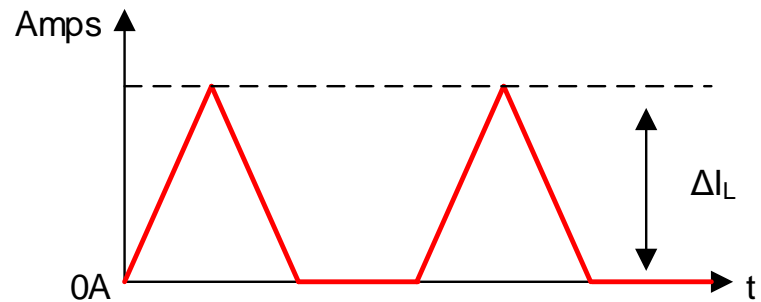
- Switching frequency –  $f_{sw}$
- Switching period –  $T$

$$T = \frac{1}{f_{sw}}$$

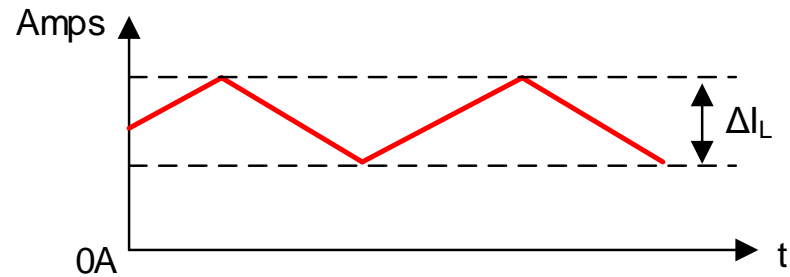
# DCM vs CCM



## Discontinuous Conduction Mode (DCM)

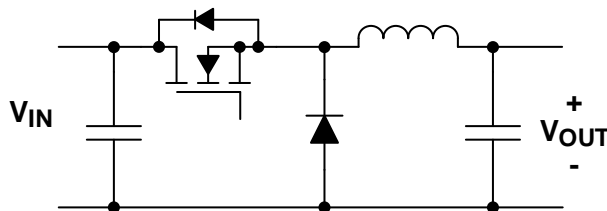


## Continuous Conduction Mode (CCM)



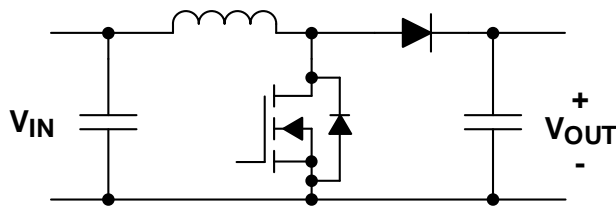
# Buck, boost, and buck-boost derived topologies

Buck, forward, push-pull, bridge



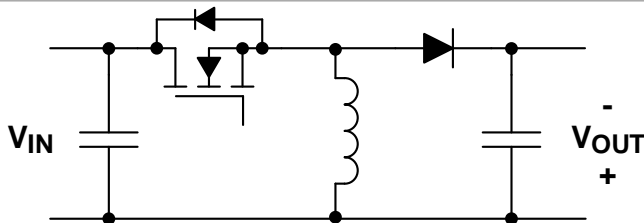
$$V_{OUT} = V_{IN} \times D$$

Boost



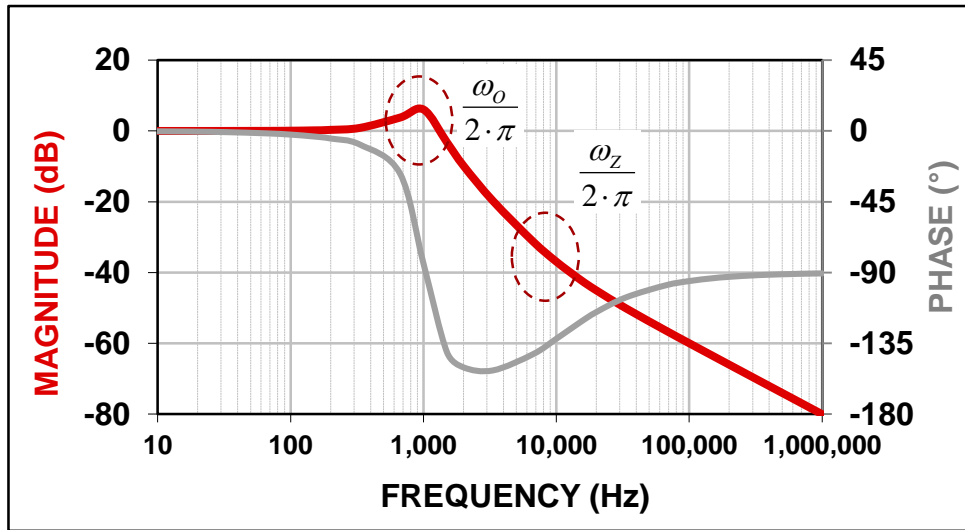
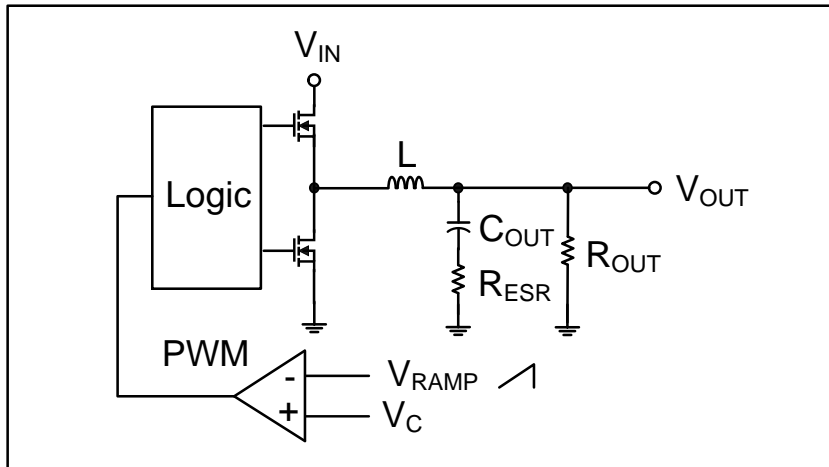
$$V_{OUT} = V_{IN} \times \frac{1}{1 - D}$$

Buck-boost, SEPIC, flyback



$$V_{OUT} = V_{IN} \times \frac{D}{1 - D}$$

# Voltage-mode buck power stage



$$A_{VC} = \frac{V_{IN}}{V_{RAMP}}$$

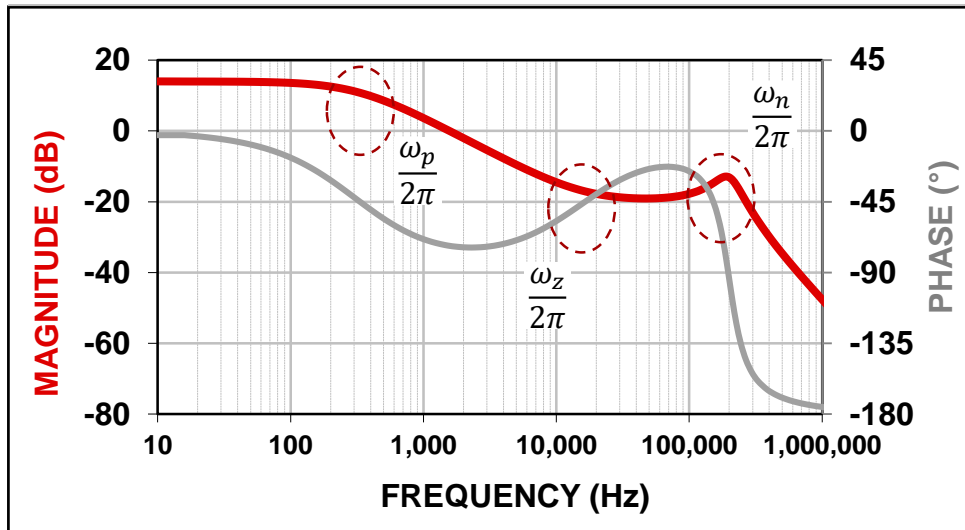
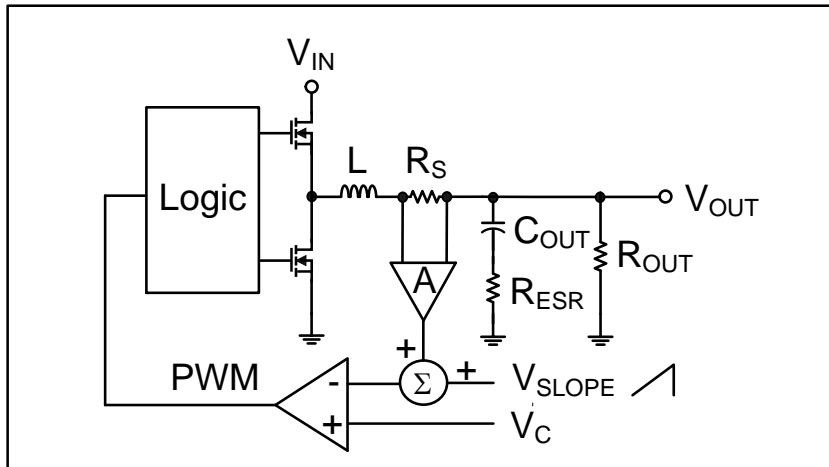
$$\omega_o = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L \cdot C_{OUT}}}$$

$$Q_o = \frac{R_{OUT}}{\sqrt{L/C_{OUT}}}$$

$$\omega_z = \frac{1}{R_{ESR} \cdot C_{OUT}}$$

$$\frac{\hat{v}_{OUT}}{\hat{v}_C} = A_{VC} \cdot \frac{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_z}}{1 + \frac{s}{Q_o \cdot \omega_o} + \frac{s^2}{\omega_o^2}}$$

# Current-mode buck power stage



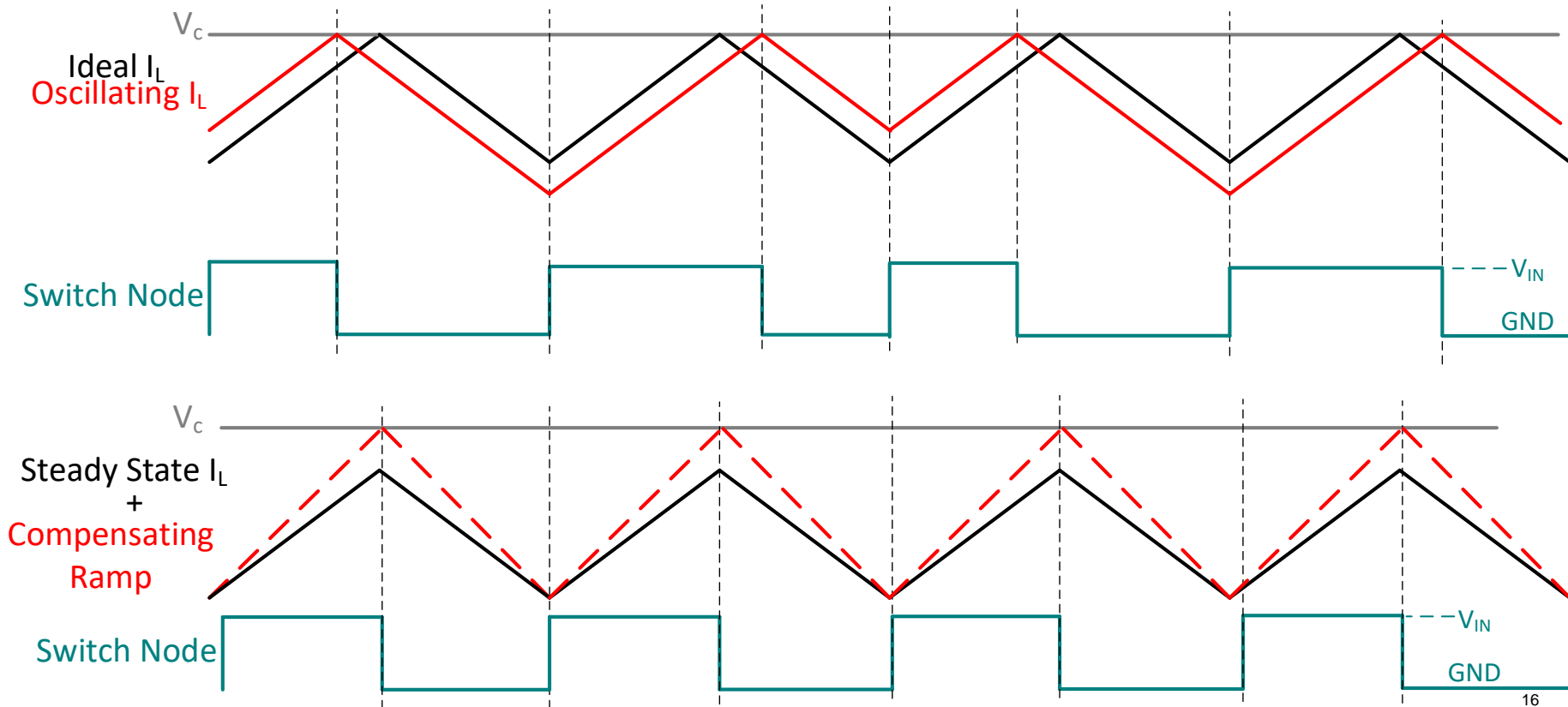
$$\omega_p \approx \frac{1}{C_{out} \cdot R_{out}} \quad \omega_z = \frac{1}{R_{ESR} \cdot C_{out}}$$

$$A_{VC} \approx \frac{R_{out}}{R_i} = \frac{R_{out}}{A \cdot R_S} \quad F_h(s) = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_n \cdot Q_p} + \left(\frac{s}{\omega_n}\right)^2}$$

$$\omega_n = \frac{\omega_{fsw}}{2} \quad \text{at } D = 0.5$$

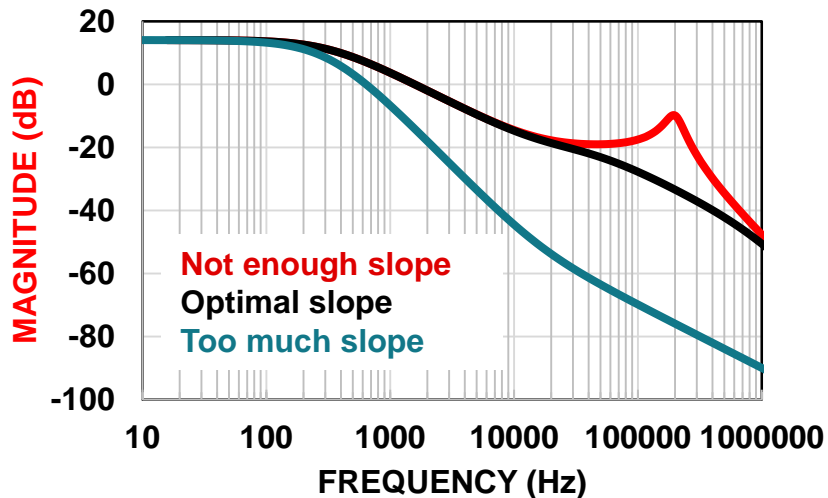
$$\frac{\hat{v}_{out}}{\hat{v}_c} \approx A_{VC} \cdot \frac{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_z}}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_p}} \cdot F_h(s)$$

# Why is slope compensation needed?



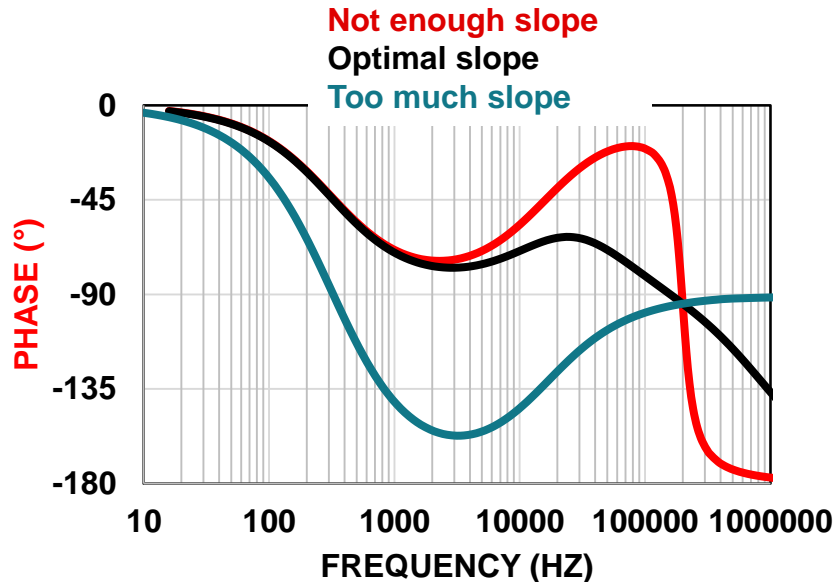
# Impact of Slope Compensation

## Gain

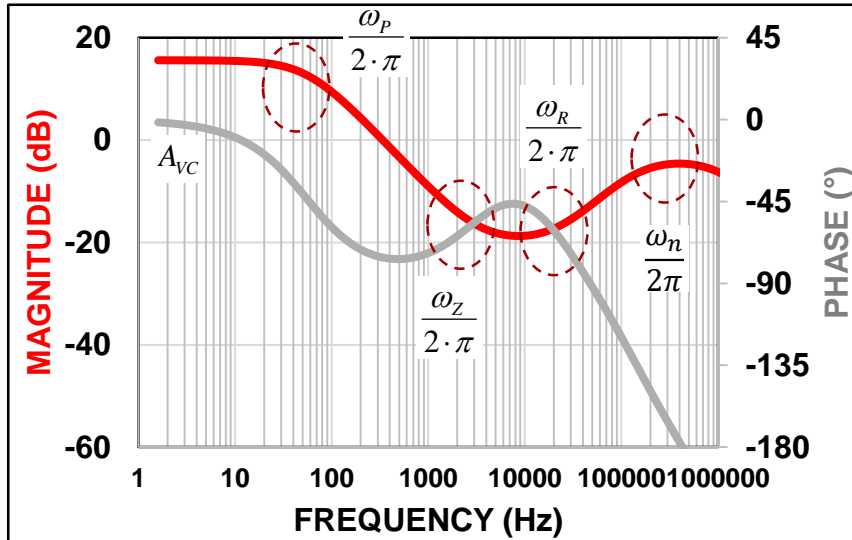
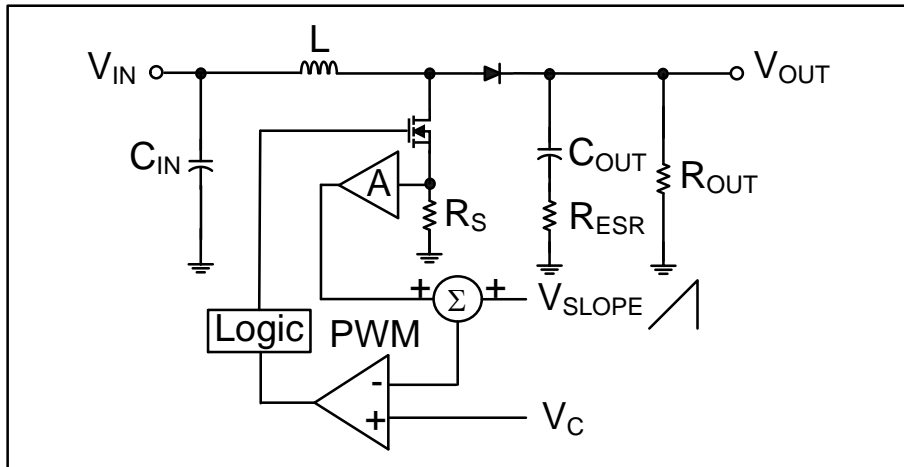


\*gain curves normalized to 14 dB DC gain

## Phase



# Current-mode boost power stage



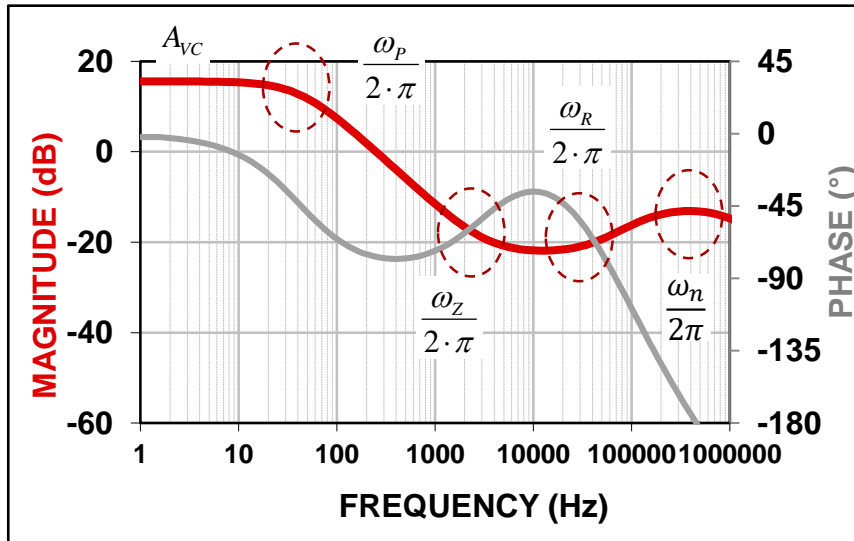
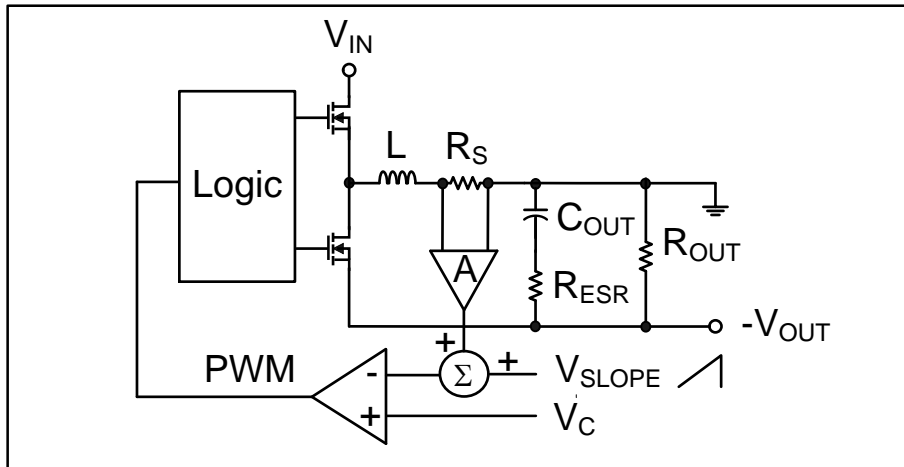
$$R_i = A \cdot R_s \quad \omega_r \approx \frac{R_{out} \cdot (1 - D)^2}{L} \quad \omega_n = \frac{\omega_{fsw}}{2}$$

$$A_{VC} \approx \frac{R_{out} \cdot (1 - D)}{R_i} \quad \omega_z = \frac{1}{R_{ESR} \cdot C_{OUT}} \quad \text{at } D = 0.5$$

$$\omega_p \approx \frac{2}{C_{OUT} \cdot R_{OUT}} \quad F_h(s) = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_n \cdot Q_p} + \left(\frac{s}{\omega_n}\right)^2}$$

$$\frac{\hat{v}_{out}}{\hat{v}_c} \approx A_{VC} \cdot \frac{\left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_z}\right) \left(1 - \frac{s}{\omega_r}\right)}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_p}} \cdot F_h(s)$$

# Current-mode buck-boost power stage



$$R_i = A \cdot R_s$$

$$\omega_r \approx \frac{R_{out} \cdot (1 - D)^2}{L \cdot D}$$

$$A_{VC} \approx \frac{R_{out} \cdot (1 - D)}{(1 - D) \cdot R_i}$$

$$\omega_z = \frac{1}{R_{ESR} \cdot C_{OUT}}$$

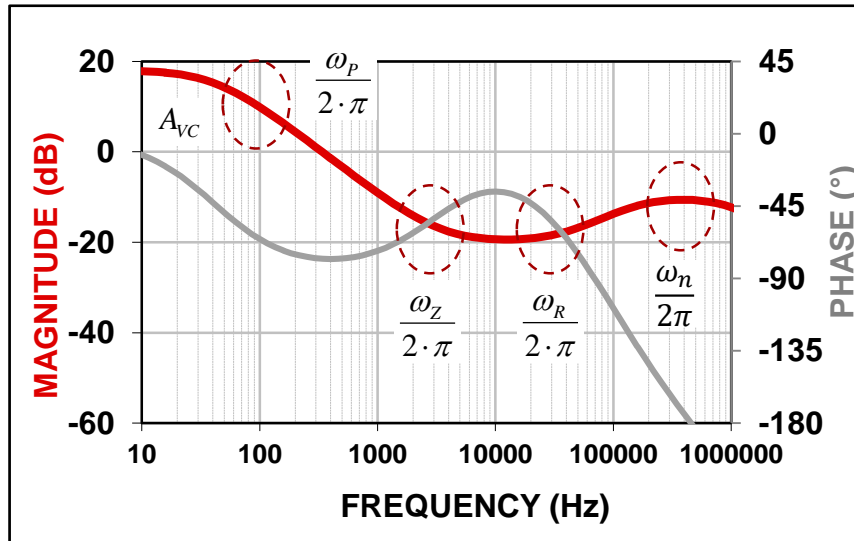
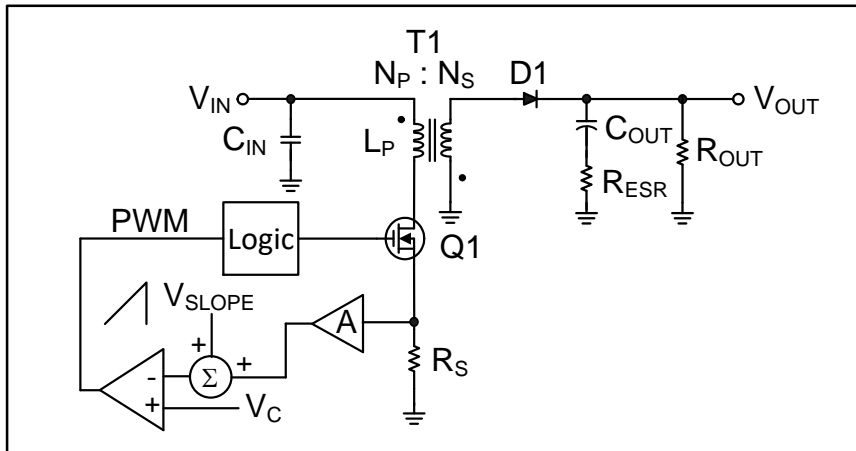
at  $D = 0.5$

$$\omega_p \approx \frac{1 + D}{C_{OUT} \cdot R_{OUT}}$$

$$F_h(s) = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_n \cdot Q_p} + \left(\frac{s}{\omega_n}\right)^2}$$

$$\frac{\hat{v}_{out}}{\hat{v}_c} \approx A_{VC} \cdot \frac{\left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_z}\right) \left(1 - \frac{s}{\omega_r}\right)}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_p}} \cdot F_h(s)$$

# Current-mode flyback power stage



$$R_i = A \cdot R_s$$

$$\omega_r \approx \frac{R_{out} \cdot (1 - D)^2}{L \cdot D}$$

$$A_{VC} \approx \frac{R_{out} \cdot (1 - D)}{(1 - D) \cdot R_i} \cdot \frac{N_p}{N_s}$$

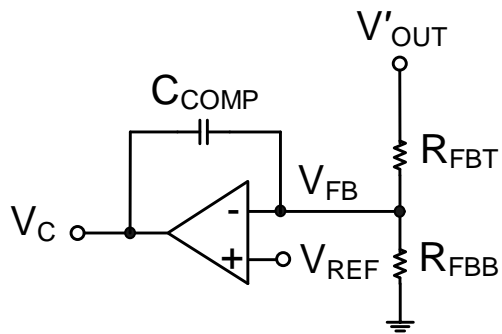
$$\omega_z = \frac{1}{R_{ESR} \cdot C_{OUT}} \quad \text{at } D = 0.5$$

$$\omega_p \approx \frac{1 + D}{C_{OUT} \cdot R_{OUT}}$$

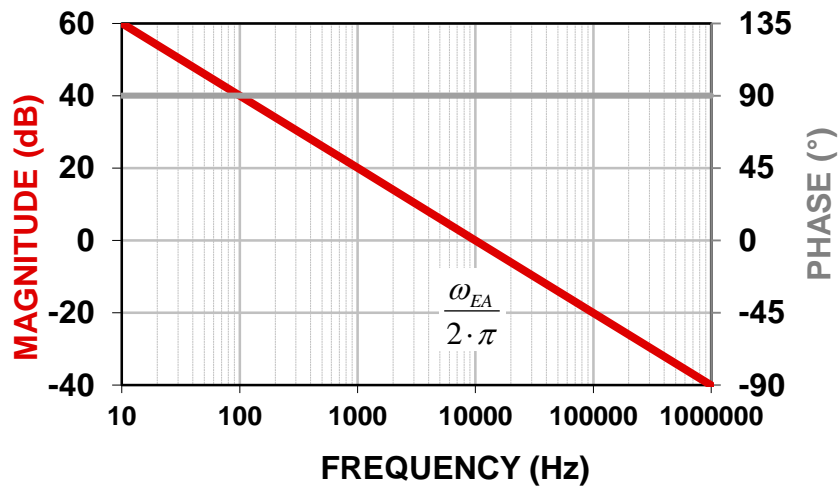
$$F_h(s) = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_n \cdot Q_p} + \left(\frac{s}{\omega_n}\right)^2}$$

$$\frac{\hat{v}_{out}}{\hat{v}_c} \approx A_{VC} \cdot \frac{\left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_z}\right) \left(1 - \frac{s}{\omega_r}\right)}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_p}} \cdot F_h(s)$$

# Type I error amplifier

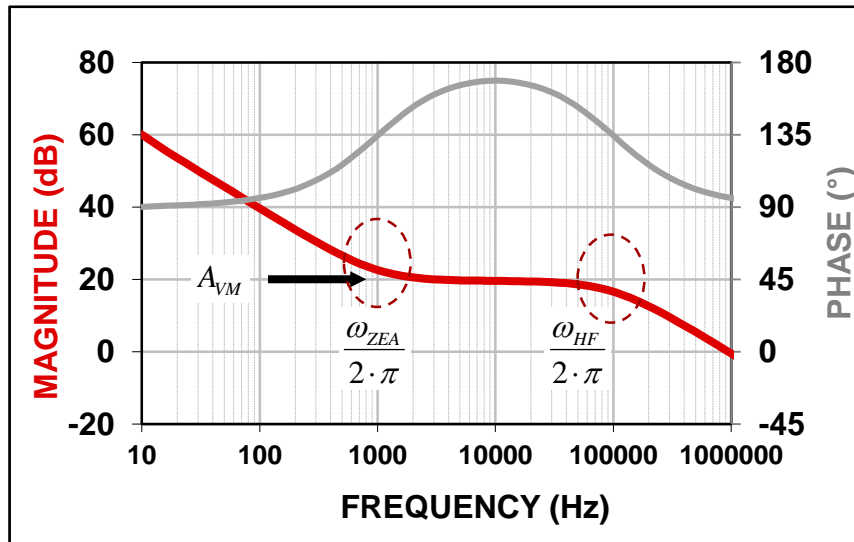
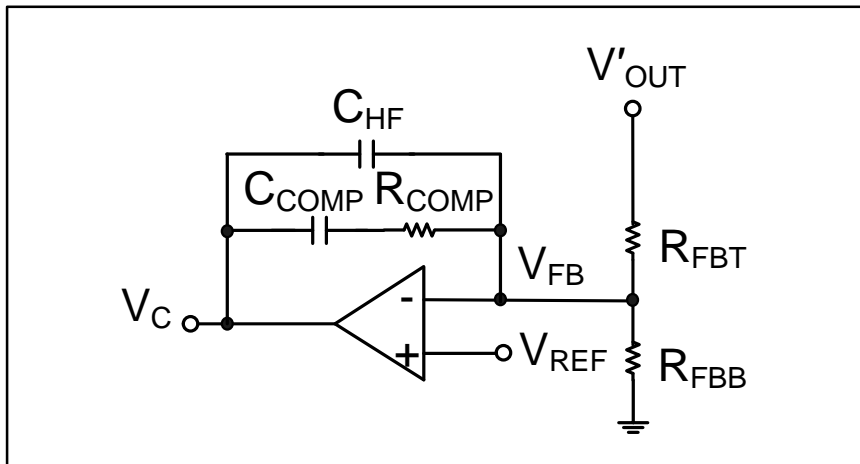


$$\omega_{EA} = \frac{1}{R_{FBT} \cdot C_{COMP}}$$



$$\frac{\hat{v}_C}{\hat{v}'_{OUT}} \approx -\frac{\omega_{EA}}{s}$$

# Type II error amplifier

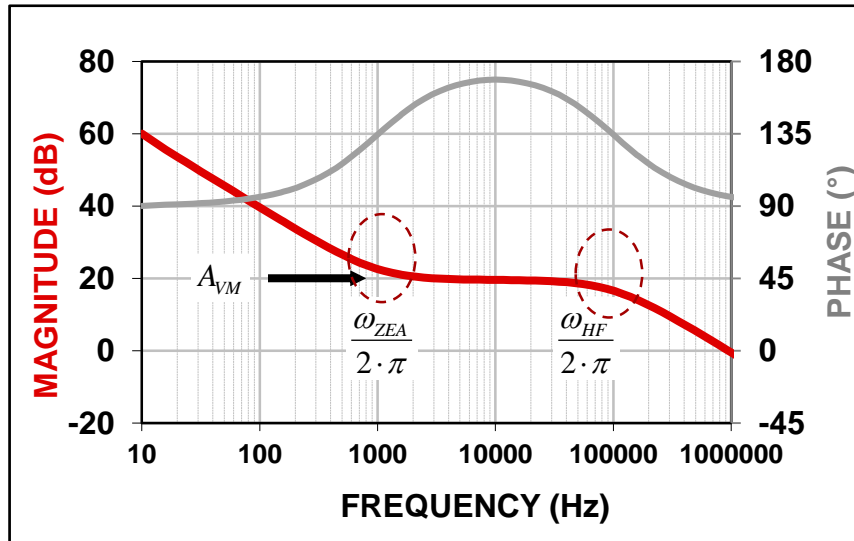
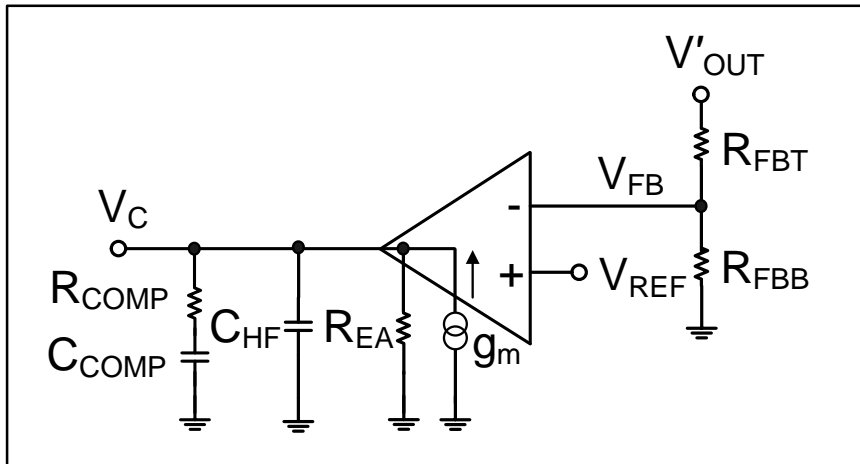


$$A_{VM} \approx \frac{R_{COMP}}{R_{FBT}} \quad \omega_{HF} \approx \frac{1}{R_{COMP} \cdot C_{HF}}$$

$$\omega_{ZEA} = \frac{1}{R_{COMP} \cdot C_{COMP}} \quad \text{Assumption: } C_{COMP} \gg C_{HF}$$

$$\frac{\hat{v}_c}{\hat{v}'_{out}} \approx - \frac{A_{VM} \cdot \omega_{ZEA}}{s} \cdot \frac{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{ZEA}}}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{HF}}}$$

# Type II transconductance amplifier



$$A_{VM} = K_{FB} \cdot g_m \cdot R_{COMP}$$

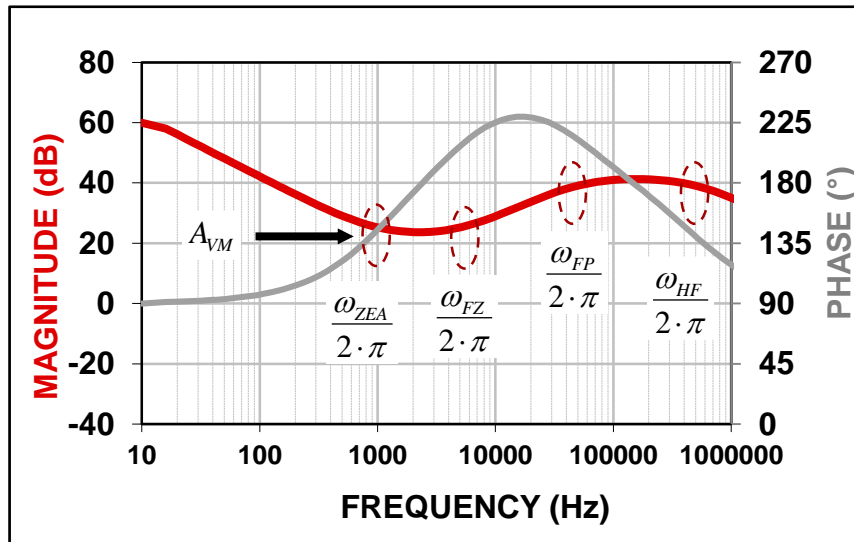
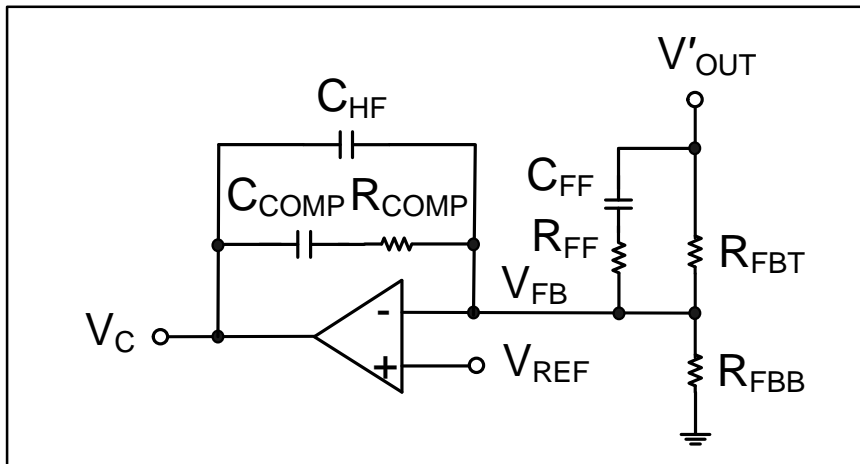
$$\omega_{ZEA} = \frac{1}{R_{COMP} \cdot C_{COMP}} \quad K_{FB} = \frac{R_{FBB}}{R_{FBB} + R_{FBT}}$$

$$\omega_{HF} \approx \frac{1}{R_{COMP} \cdot C_{HF}} \quad A_{OL} = g_m \cdot R_{EA}$$

Assumptions:  $C_{COMP} \gg C_{HF}$  &  $R_{EA} \gg R_{COMP}$

$$\frac{\hat{v}_c}{\hat{v}'_{out}} \approx - \frac{A_{VM} \cdot \omega_{ZEA}}{s} \cdot \frac{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{ZEA}}}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{HF}}}$$

# Type III error amplifier



$$A_{VM} \approx \frac{R_{COMP}}{R_{FBT}} \quad \omega_{ZEA} = \frac{1}{R_{COMP} \cdot C_{COMP}} \quad \omega_{FP} = \frac{1}{R_{FF} \cdot C_{FF}}$$

$$\omega_{FZ} \approx \frac{1}{R_{FBT} \cdot C_{FF}} \quad \omega_{HF} \approx \frac{1}{R_{COMP} \cdot C_{HF}}$$

Assumptions:  $C_{COMP} \gg C_{HF}$  &  $R_{FBT} \gg R_{FF}$

$$\frac{\hat{v}_c}{\hat{v}'_{out}} \approx -\frac{A_{VM} \cdot \omega_{ZEA}}{s} \cdot \frac{\left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{ZEA}}\right) \cdot \left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{FZ}}\right)}{\left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{FP}}\right) \cdot \left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{HF}}\right)}$$





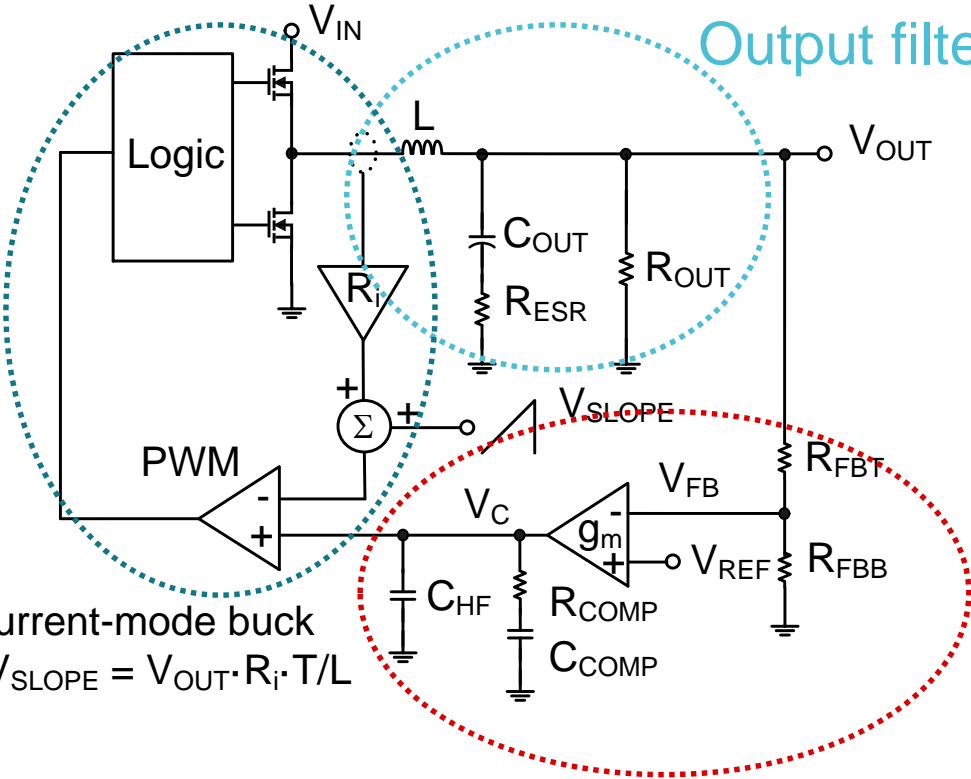
# Current-mode buck

Modulator

$$D = \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}}$$

$$D' = \frac{V_{IN} - V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}}$$

Peak current-mode buck  
Optimal  $V_{SLOPE} = V_{OUT} \cdot R_i \cdot T/L$



Output filter

Error amplifier

# Current-mode buck compensation strategy

- Choose a value for  $R_{FBT}$  based on bias current and power dissipation
- Find the modulator transconductance in A/V
- Pick target bandwidth, typically  $f_{SW}/10$ :  
$$\omega_C = 2 \cdot \pi \cdot f_C$$
- Find the mid-band gain  $A_{VM}$  to achieve target bandwidth
- Set  $\omega_{ZEA}$  equal to 1/10 the target crossover frequency:  
$$\omega_{ZEA} = \omega_C/10$$
- Set  $\omega_{HF}$  equal to the ESR zero frequency:  
$$\omega_{HF} = \omega_Z$$

$$G_m(\text{mod}) = \frac{1}{R_i}$$

$$A_{VM} = \frac{\omega_C \cdot C_{OUT}}{G_m(\text{mod})}$$

$$R_{COMP} = A_{VM} \cdot R_{FBT} \text{ (op amp)}$$

$$R_{COMP} = \frac{A_{VM}}{g_m \cdot K_{FB}} \text{ (g}_m \text{ amp)}$$

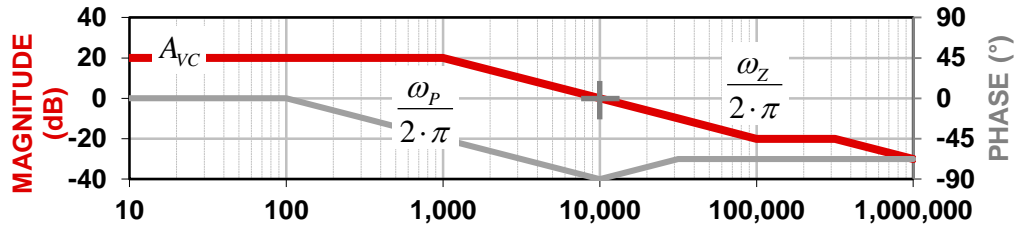
$$C_{COMP} = \frac{1}{\omega_{ZEA} \cdot R_{COMP}}$$

$$C_{HF} = \frac{1}{\omega_{HF} \cdot R_{COMP}}$$

# Current-mode buck compensation results

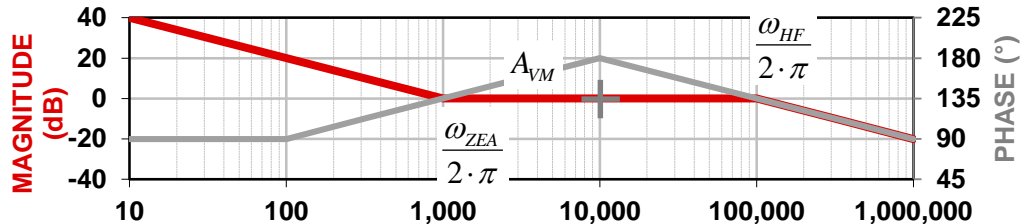
## Power stage

$$\frac{\hat{v}_{out}}{\hat{v}_c} \approx A_{VC} \cdot \frac{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_z}}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_p}} \cdot F_h(s)$$



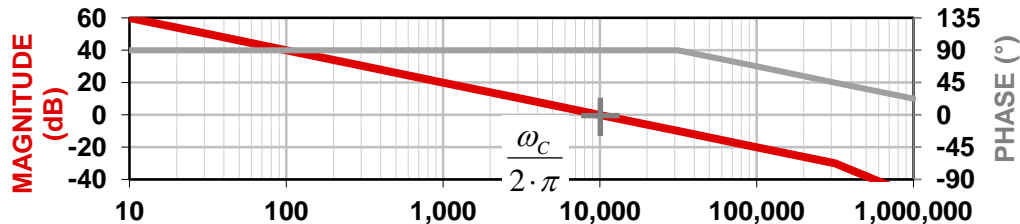
## Error amplifier

$$\frac{\hat{v}_c}{\hat{v}'_{OUT}} \approx -A_{VM} \cdot \frac{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{ZEA}}}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{HF}}}$$



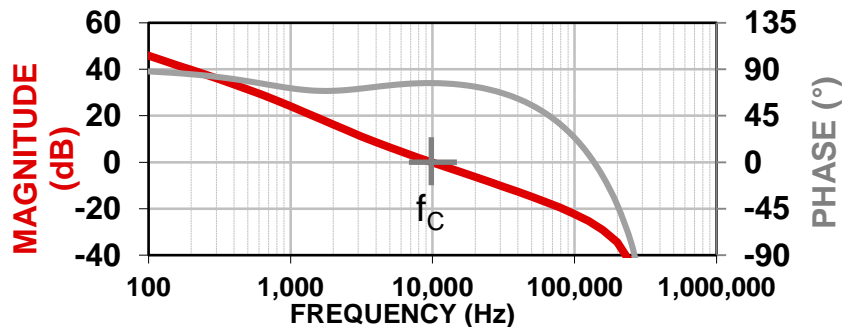
## Control loop

$$\frac{\hat{v}_{OUT}}{\hat{v}'_{OUT}} = \frac{\hat{v}_{OUT}}{\hat{v}_c} \cdot \frac{\hat{v}_c}{\hat{v}'_{OUT}}$$

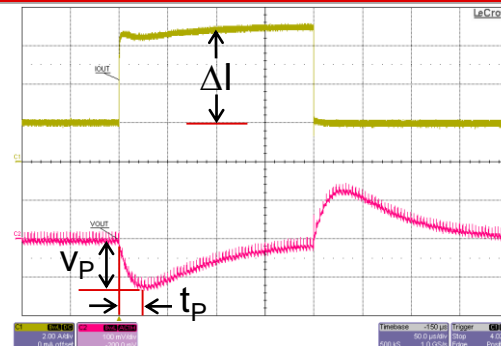


# Bandwidth vs transient response

## Current-mode bandwidth



## Current-mode transient response



With no ESR, slew rate or duty cycle limiting:

$$t_p = \frac{1}{4 \cdot f_c}$$

$$t_p = \frac{1}{4 \cdot 10\text{kHz}} = 25\mu\text{s}$$

Current-mode single pole approximation:

$$V_P = \frac{\Delta I}{2 \cdot \pi \cdot f_c \cdot C_{OUT}}$$

$$V_P = \frac{5\text{A}}{2 \cdot \pi \cdot 10\text{kHz} \cdot 440\mu\text{F}} = 180\text{mV}$$

Current-mode critically damped:

$$V_P = \frac{\Delta I}{e \cdot \pi \cdot f_c \cdot C_{OUT}}$$

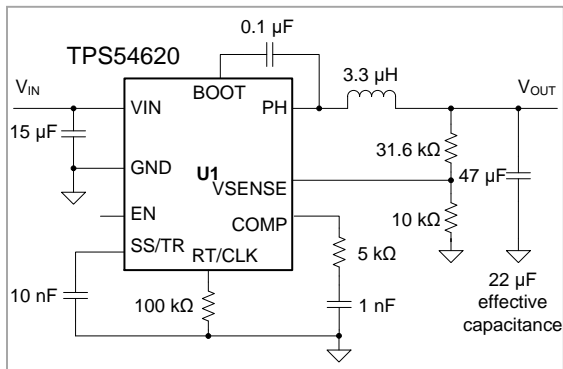
$$V_P = \frac{5\text{A}}{e \cdot \pi \cdot 10\text{kHz} \cdot 440\mu\text{F}} = 130\text{mV} \text{ shown above}$$

Voltage-mode:

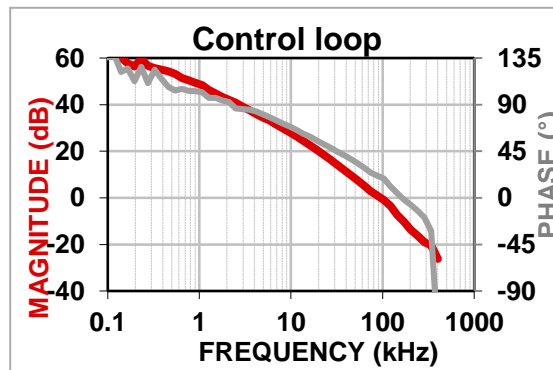
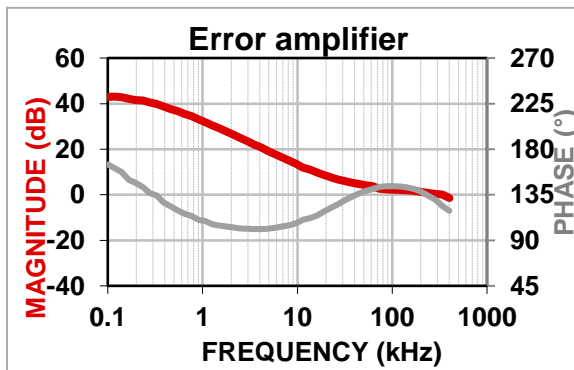
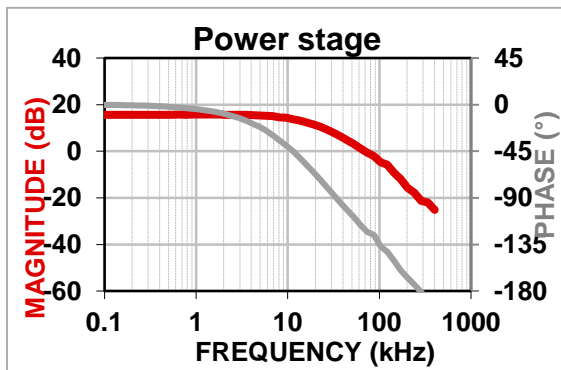
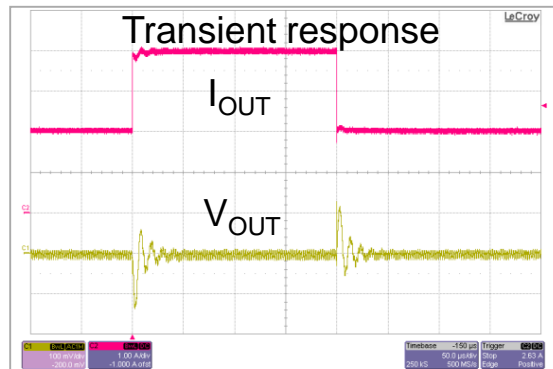
$$V_P = \frac{\Delta I}{8 \cdot f_c \cdot C_{OUT}}$$

$$V_P = \frac{5\text{A}}{8 \cdot 10\text{kHz} \cdot 440\mu\text{F}} = 140\text{mV}$$

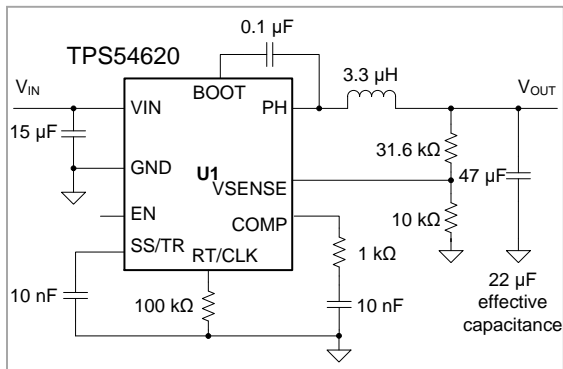
# Switching regulator with poor compensation



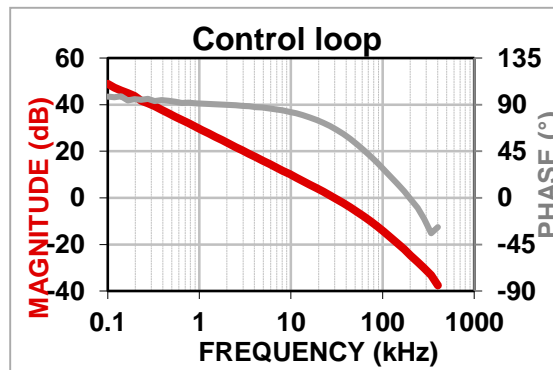
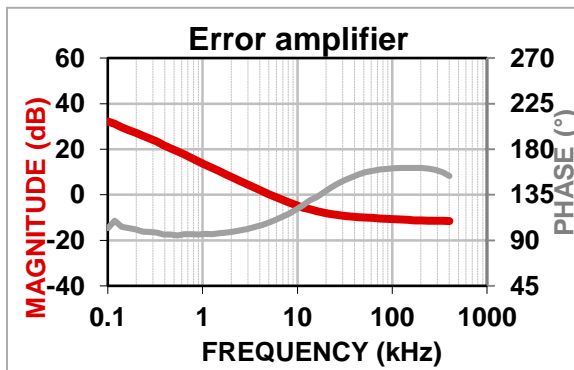
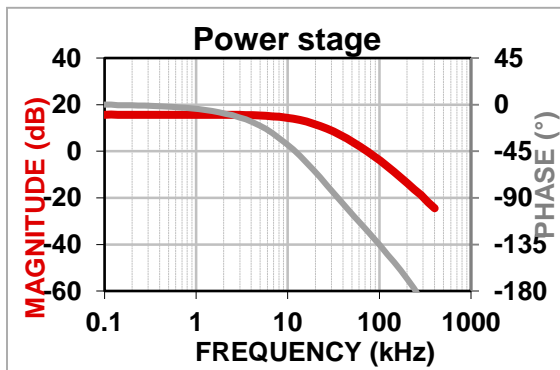
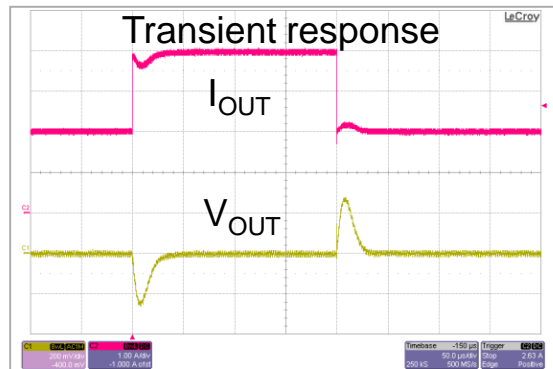
- Power stage: phase at  $-180^\circ$  indicates high internal slope compensation
- Error amplifier: zero appears high and mid-band gain is 3 dB
- Control loop:  $f_C$  is 95 kHz with only  $20^\circ$  phase margin



# Switching regulator with revised compensation

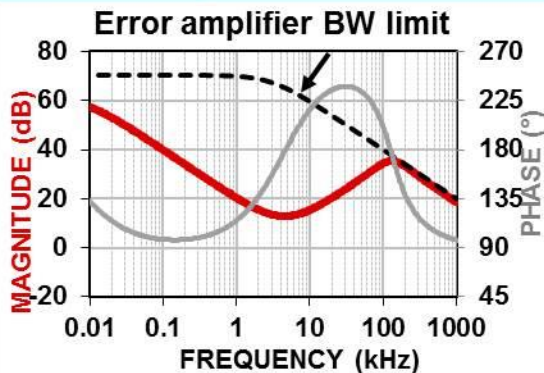


- Power stage: cannot change slope compensation
- Error amplifier: decrease  $R_{\text{COMP}}$  and rescale  $C_{\text{COMP}}$
- Control loop: now  $f_C$  is 30 kHz with  $67^\circ$  phase margin



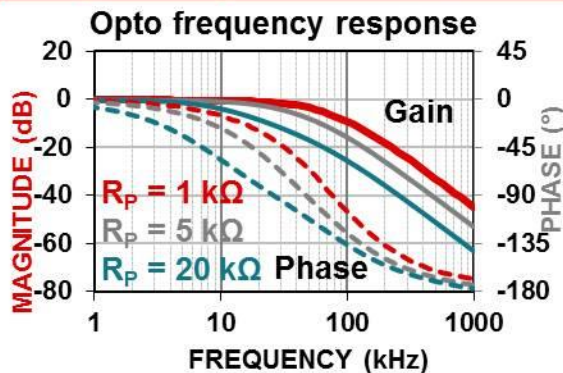
# Practical limitations

## Error amplifier bandwidth



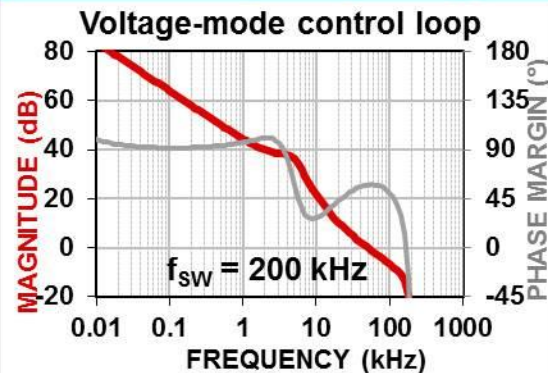
- Error amp BW can limit maximum  $f_c$
- Wider BW op amp needed for voltage-mode due to Type III compensation

## Optocoupler bandwidth



- Resistance seen by output transistor forms a pole in kHz range
- More of an issue for forward topologies at higher  $f_c$

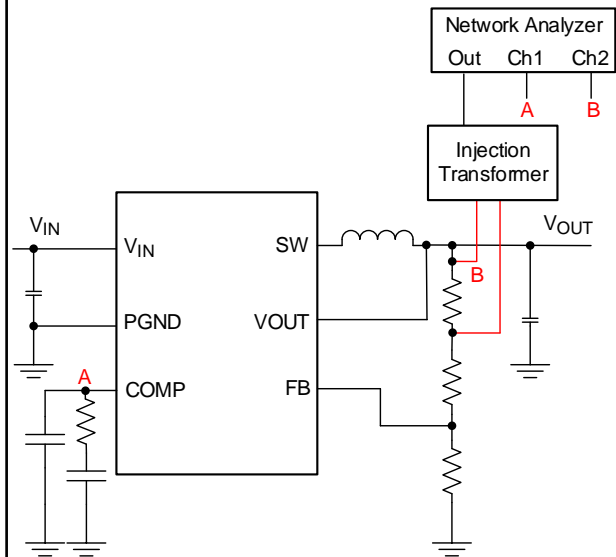
## Switching frequency



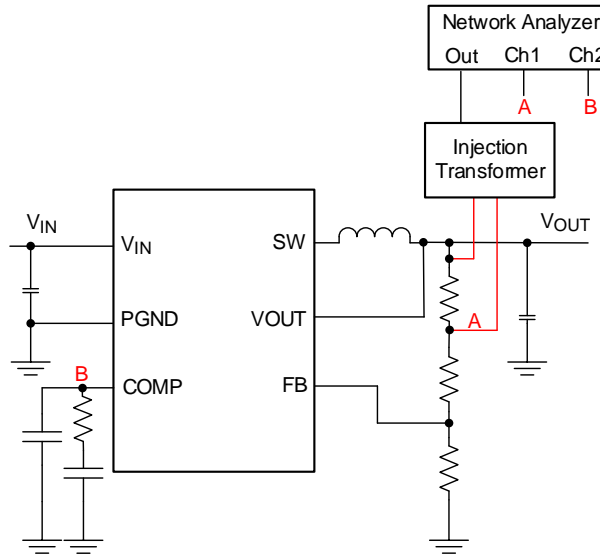
- Maximum  $f_c$  is a fraction of  $f_{sw}$
- Rule of thumb is 1/5 to 1/10 of  $f_{sw}$

# Measuring transfer functions

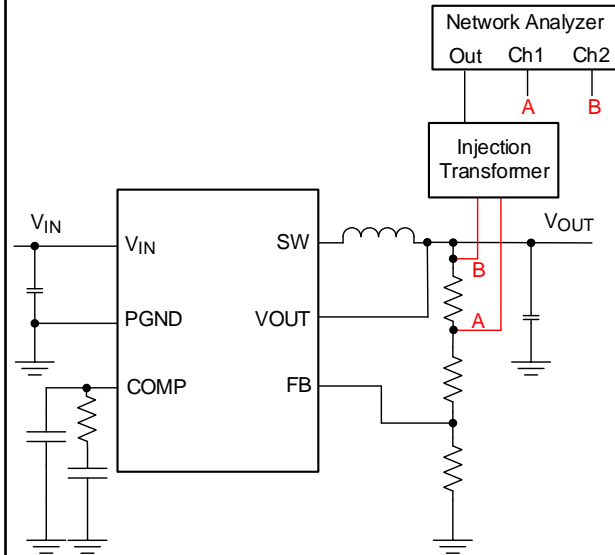
## Power stage



## Compensator

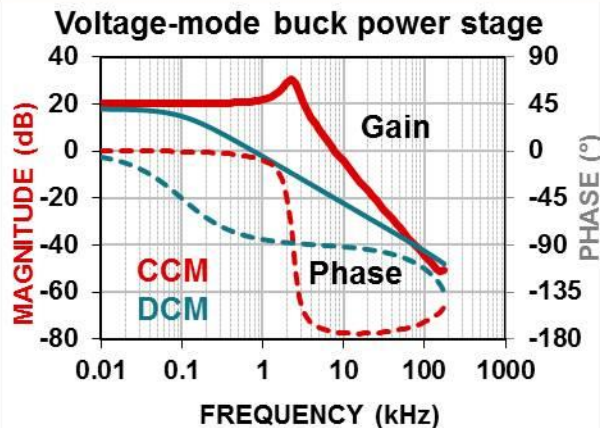
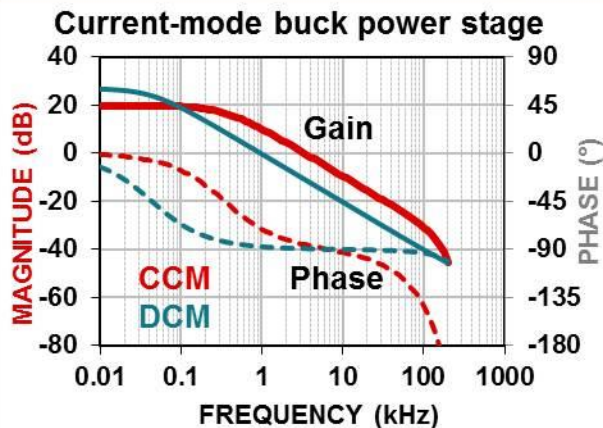


## Closed loop



# DCM vs CCM characteristics

## Discontinuous vs. continuous conduction-mode



- DCM causes a reduction in loop bandwidth compared to CCM
- Generally, if the loop is stable in CCM, it will be stable in DCM

## DCM duty cycle

- Buck

$$D = \sqrt{\frac{2 \cdot L \cdot f_{SW} \cdot I_{OUT} \cdot V_{OUT}}{V_{IN} \cdot (V_{IN} - V_{OUT})}}$$

- Boost

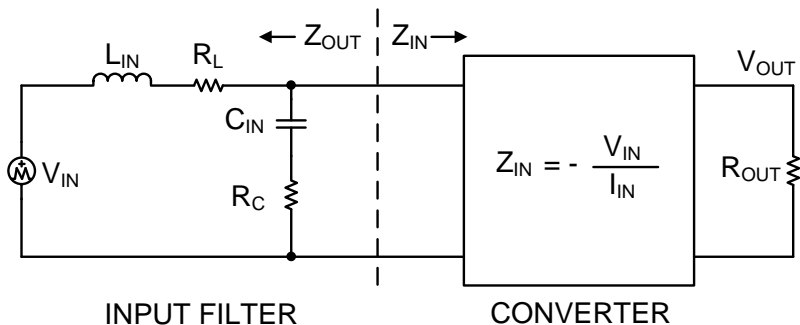
$$D = \frac{\sqrt{2 \cdot L \cdot f_{SW} \cdot I_{OUT} \cdot (V_{OUT} - V_{IN})}}{V_{IN}}$$

- Buck-boost

$$D = \frac{\sqrt{2 \cdot L \cdot f_{SW} \cdot I_{OUT} \cdot V_{OUT}}}{V_{IN}}$$

# Filter considerations

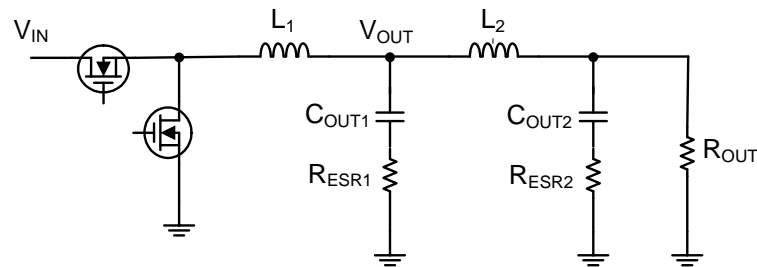
## Input filter stability



For stability: Filter  $Z_{OUT} \ll$  Converter  $Z_{IN}$

- Characteristic impedance  $Z_S = \sqrt{\frac{L_{IN}}{C_{IN}}}$
- Damping factor 
$$\zeta = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \left( \frac{R_L + R_C}{Z_S} + \frac{Z_S}{Z_{IN}} \right)$$

## Second stage filters



- Capacitors: make  $C_{OUT1}$  smaller than  $C_{OUT2}$
- Inductors: make  $L_2$  smaller than  $L_1$
- Resonance: make second stage filter resonance 3 times  $f_C$
- Damping: make second stage filter damped to a Q of 1

# Summary

- Identify poles and zeros of the power stage
- Select appropriate compensation network based on control mode and topology
- Tune compensation and loop gain to achieve required loop bandwidth and transient response

# Resources and references

- [“Closing the Feedback Loop”](#) by Lloyd Dixon, SEM300
- [“Current-Mode Control of Switching Power Supplies”](#) by Lloyd Dixon, SEM400
- [“The Right-Half-Plane Zero -- A Simplified Explanation”](#) by Lloyd Dixon, SEM500
- [“Isolating the Control Loop”](#) by Robert Mammano, SEM700
- [“Control Loop Design”](#) by Lloyd Dixon, SEM800
- [“Control Loop Cookbook”](#) by Lloyd Dixon, SEM1100
- [“A New Small-Signal Model for Current-Mode Control”](#) by Ray Ridley
- [“Current-Mode Control Modeling”](#) by Ray Ridley
- [“Designing Stable Control Loops”](#) by Dan Mitchell and Bob Mammano, SEM1400
- [“Current-Mode Modeling – Reference Guide”](#) by Robert Sheehan, SNVA542
- [“Understanding and Applying Current-Mode Control Theory”](#) by Robert Sheehan, SNVA555
- [“Frequency Compensation and Power Stage Design for Buck Converters to Meet Load Transient Specifications”](#) by S. Bag, R. Sheehan, et al., APEC 2014
- [Power Tips: Compensating Isolated Power Supplies](#) by Brian King
- [Practical Feedback Loop Analysis for Current-Mode Boost Converter](#) by SW Lee

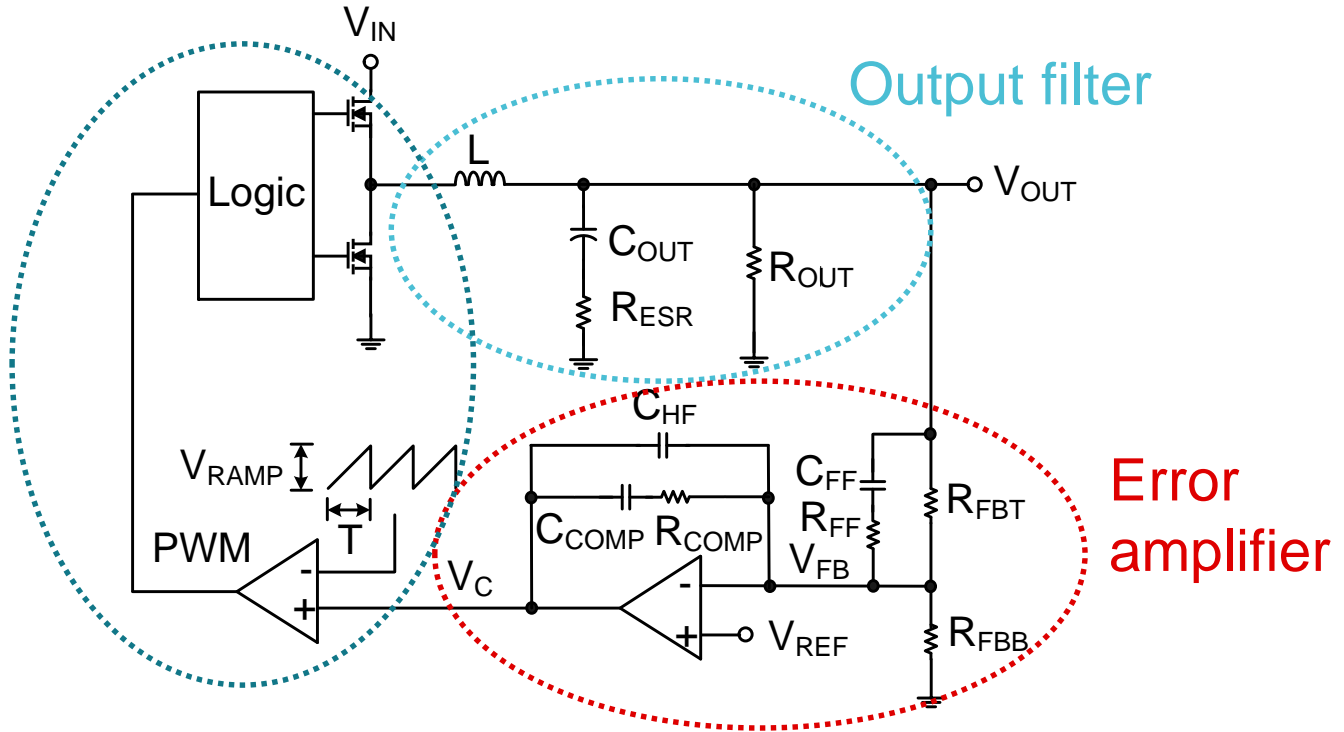
# Appendix

# Voltage-mode buck

Modulator

$$D = \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}}$$

$$D' = \frac{V_{IN} - V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}}$$



# Voltage-mode buck compensation strategy

- Choose a value for  $R_{FBT}$  based on bias current and power dissipation
- Pick target bandwidth, typically  $f_{SW}/10$ :  
$$\omega_C = 2 \cdot \pi \cdot f_C$$
- Find the mid-band gain  $A_{VM}$  to achieve target bandwidth
- Set  $\omega_{ZEA}$  and  $\omega_{FZ}$  equal to the output filter complex conjugate pole  $\omega_O$ :  
$$\omega_{ZEA} = \omega_{FZ} = \omega_O$$
- Set  $\omega_{FP}$  equal to the output filter zero  $\omega_Z$ :  
$$\omega_{FP} = \omega_Z$$
- Set  $\omega_{HF}$  equal to half the switching frequency:  
$$\omega_{HF} = 2 \cdot \pi \cdot f_{SW}/2$$

$$A_{VM} = \frac{\omega_C}{A_{VC} \cdot \omega_O}$$

$$R_{COMP} = A_{VM} \cdot R_{FBT}$$

$$C_{COMP} = \frac{1}{\omega_{ZEA} \cdot R_{COMP}}$$

$$C_{FF} = \frac{1}{\omega_{FZ} \cdot R_{FBT}}$$

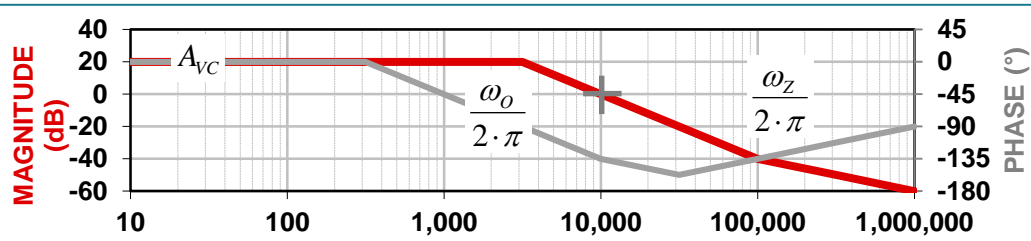
$$R_{FF} = \frac{1}{\omega_{FP} \cdot C_{FF}}$$

$$C_{HF} = \frac{1}{\omega_{HF} \cdot R_{COMP}}$$

# Voltage-mode buck compensation results

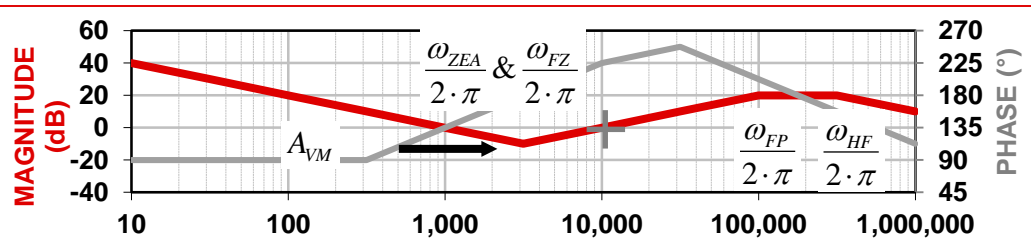
## Power stage

$$\frac{\hat{v}_{OUT}}{\hat{v}_C} \approx A_{VC} \cdot \frac{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_Z}}{1 + \frac{s}{Q_o \cdot \omega_o} + \frac{s^2}{\omega_o^2}}$$



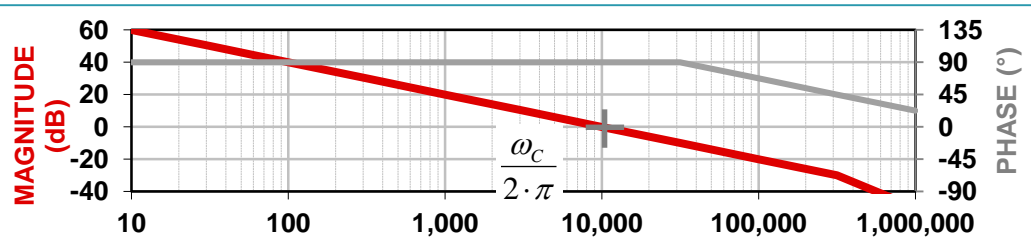
## Error amplifier

$$\frac{\hat{v}_C}{\hat{v}'_{OUT}} \approx -A_{VM} \cdot \frac{\left(1 + \frac{\omega_{ZEA}}{s}\right) \cdot \left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{FZ}}\right)}{\left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{FP}}\right) \cdot \left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{HF}}\right)}$$



## Control loop

$$\frac{\hat{v}_{OUT}}{\hat{v}'_{OUT}} = \frac{\hat{v}_{OUT}}{\hat{v}_C} \cdot \frac{\hat{v}_C}{\hat{v}'_{OUT}}$$



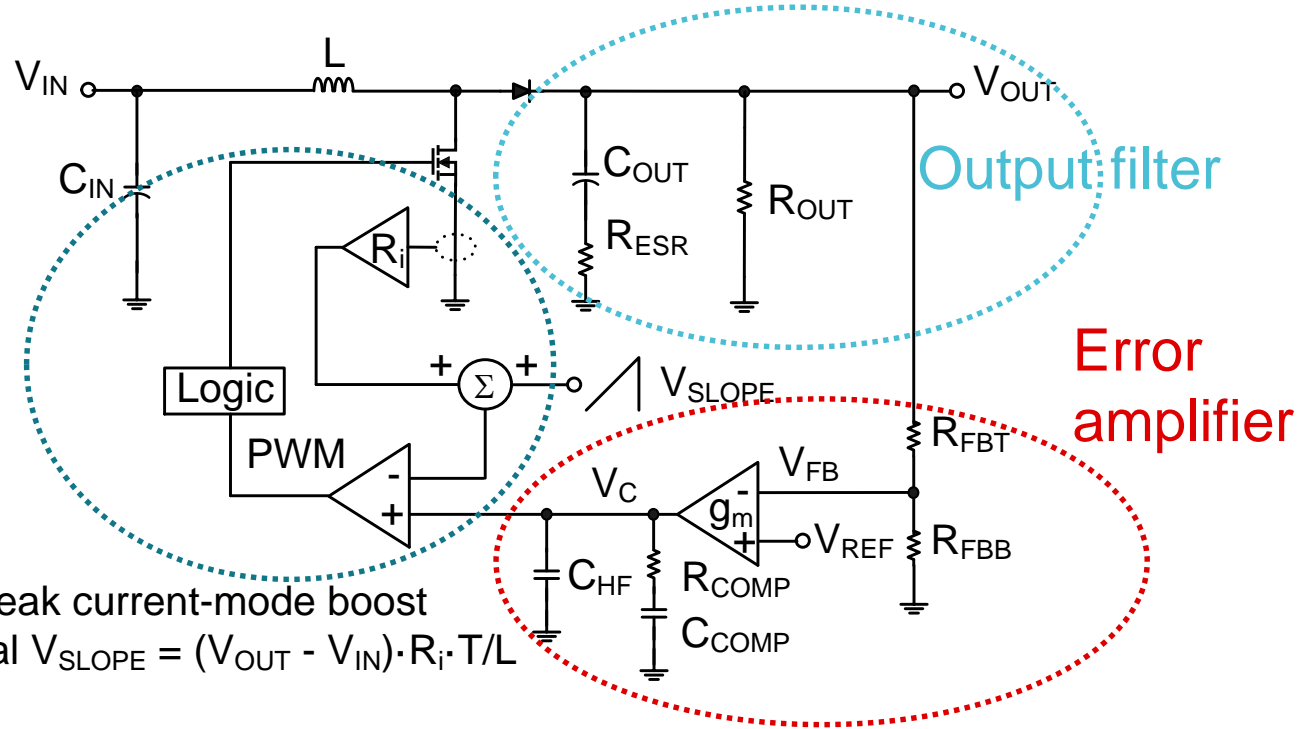
# Current-mode boost

Modulator

$$D = \frac{V_{OUT} - V_{IN}}{V_{OUT}}$$

$$D' = \frac{V_{IN}}{V_{OUT}}$$

Peak current-mode boost  
 Optimal  $V_{SLOPE} = (V_{OUT} - V_{IN}) \cdot R_i \cdot T/L$



# Current-mode boost compensation strategy

- Choose a value for  $R_{FBT}$  based on bias current and power dissipation
- Find the modulator transconductance in A/V
- Find the RHPZ frequency at minimum input voltage and maximum load current
- Set the target bandwidth to 1/4 of the RHPZ frequency:  
 $\omega_C = 2 \cdot \pi \cdot f_C = \omega_R/4$
- Find the mid-band gain  $A_{VM}$  to achieve target bandwidth
- Set  $\omega_{ZEA}$  equal to 1/10 the target crossover frequency:  
 $\omega_{ZEA} = \omega_C/10$
- Set  $\omega_{HF}$  equal to the lower of the RHP or ESR zero frequency:  
 $\omega_{HF} = \omega_R$  or  $\omega_Z$

$$G_m(\text{mod}) = \frac{D'}{R_i}$$

$$\omega_R = \frac{R_{OUT} \cdot D'^2}{L}$$

$$A_{VM} = \frac{\omega_C \cdot C_{OUT}}{G_m(\text{mod})}$$

$$R_{COMP} = A_{VM} \cdot R_{FBT} \text{ (op amp)}$$

$$R_{COMP} = \frac{A_{VM}}{g_m \cdot K_{FB}} \text{ (g}_m \text{ amp)}$$

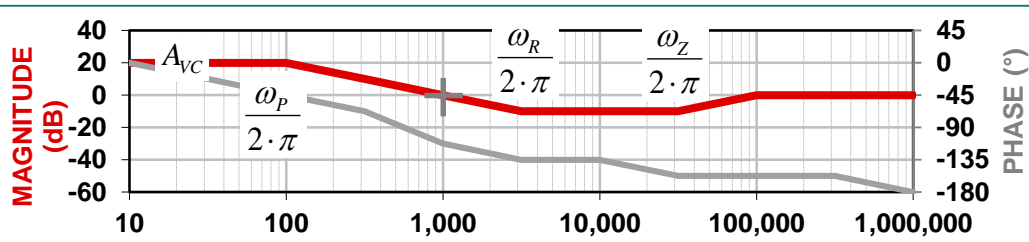
$$C_{COMP} = \frac{1}{\omega_{ZEA} \cdot R_{COMP}}$$

$$C_{HF} = \frac{1}{\omega_{HF} \cdot R_{COMP}}$$

# Current-mode boost compensation results

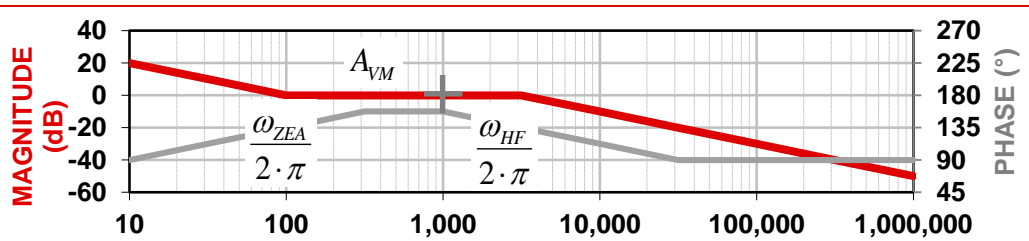
## Power stage

$$\frac{\hat{v}_{out}}{\hat{v}_c} \approx A_{VC} \cdot \frac{\left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_z}\right) \left(1 - \frac{s}{\omega_r}\right)}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_p}} \cdot F_h(s)$$



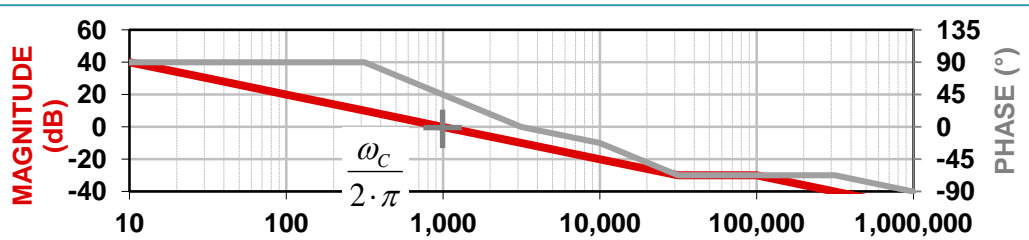
## Error amplifier

$$\frac{\hat{v}_c}{\hat{v}'_{OUT}} \approx -A_{VM} \cdot \frac{1 + \frac{\omega_{ZEA}}{s}}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{HF}}}$$



## Control loop

$$\frac{\hat{v}_{OUT}}{\hat{v}'_{OUT}} = \frac{\hat{v}_{OUT}}{\hat{v}_c} \cdot \frac{\hat{v}_c}{\hat{v}'_{OUT}}$$



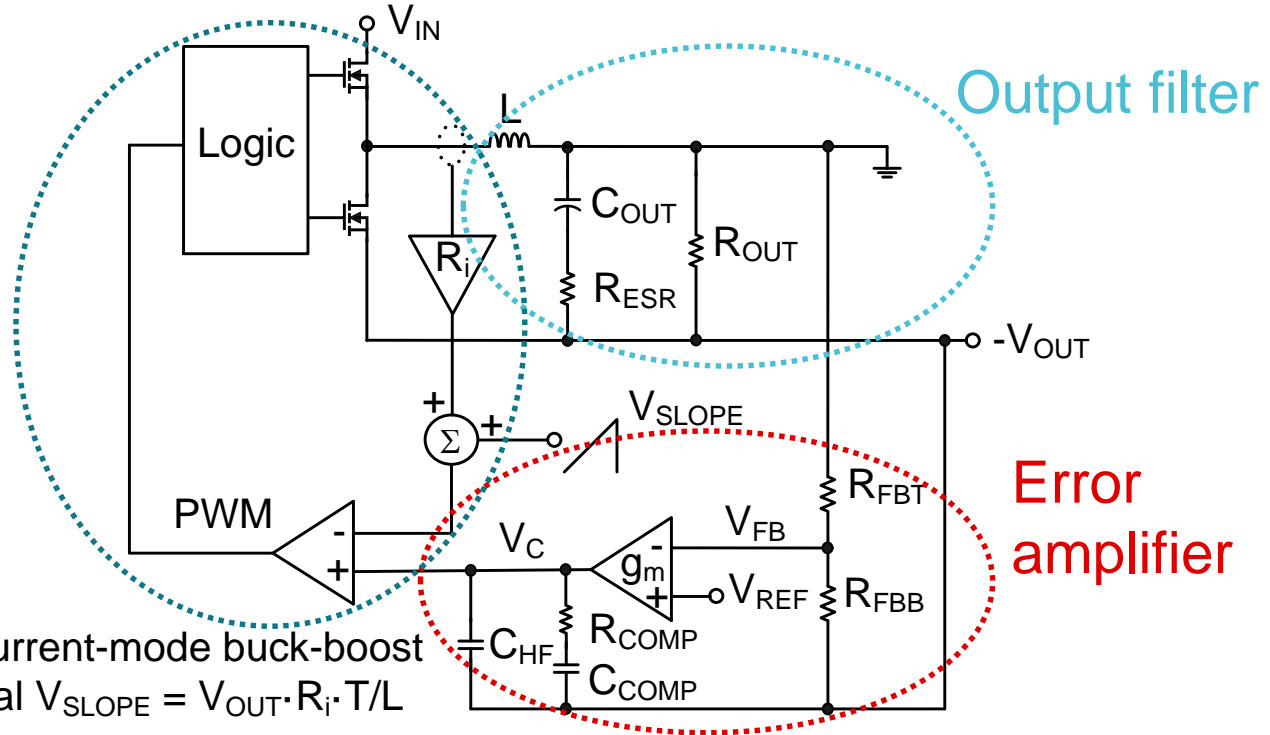
# Current-mode buck-boost

Modulator

$$D = \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN} + V_{OUT}}$$

$$D' = \frac{V_{IN}}{V_{IN} + V_{OUT}}$$

Peak current-mode buck-boost  
Optimal  $V_{SLOPE} = V_{OUT} \cdot R_i \cdot T/L$



# Current-mode buck-boost compensation strategy

- Choose a value for  $R_{FBT}$  based on bias current and power dissipation
- Find the modulator transconductance in A/V
- Find the RHPZ frequency at minimum input voltage and maximum load current
- Set the target bandwidth to 1/4 of the RHPZ frequency:  
 $\omega_C = 2 \cdot \pi \cdot f_C = \omega_R/4$
- Find the mid-band gain  $A_{VM}$  to achieve target bandwidth
- Set  $\omega_{ZEA}$  equal to 1/10 the target crossover frequency:  
 $\omega_{ZEA} = \omega_C/10$
- Set  $\omega_{HF}$  equal to the lower of the RHP or ESR zero frequency:  
 $\omega_{HF} = \omega_R$  or  $\omega_Z$

$$G_m(\text{mod}) = \frac{D'}{R_i}$$

$$\omega_R = \frac{R_{OUT} \cdot D'^2}{L \cdot D}$$

$$A_{VM} = \frac{\omega_C \cdot C_{OUT}}{G_m(\text{mod})}$$

$$R_{COMP} = A_{VM} \cdot R_{FBT} \text{ (op amp)}$$

$$R_{COMP} = \frac{A_{VM}}{g_m \cdot K_{FB}} \text{ (g}_m \text{ amp)}$$

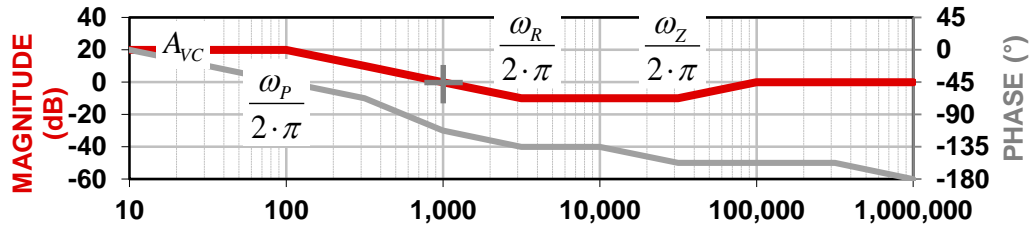
$$C_{COMP} = \frac{1}{\omega_{ZEA} \cdot R_{COMP}}$$

$$C_{HF} = \frac{1}{\omega_{HF} \cdot R_{COMP}}$$

# Current-mode buck-boost compensation results

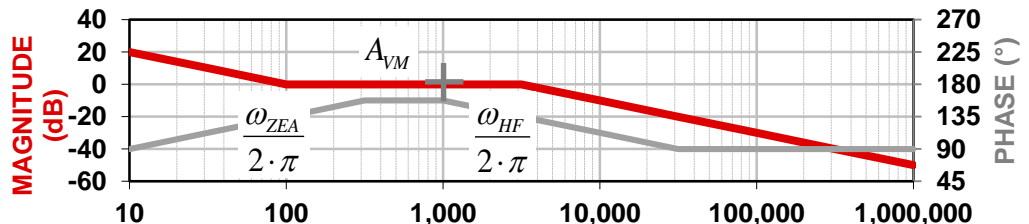
## Power stage

$$\frac{\hat{v}_{out}}{\hat{v}_c} \approx A_{VC} \cdot \frac{\left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_z}\right) \left(1 - \frac{s}{\omega_r}\right)}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_p}} \cdot F_h(s)$$



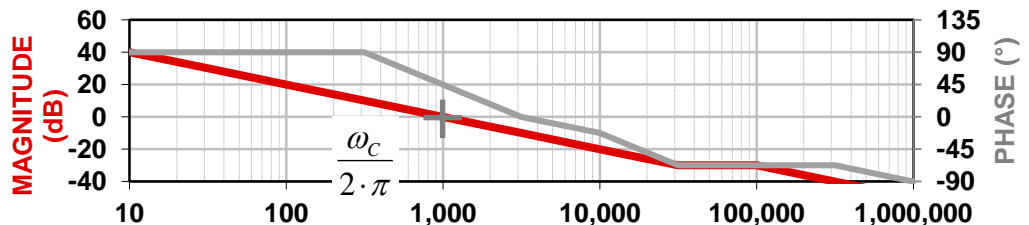
## Error amplifier

$$\frac{\hat{v}_c}{\hat{v}'_{OUT}} \approx -A_{VM} \cdot \frac{1 + \frac{\omega_{ZEA}}{s}}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{HF}}}$$



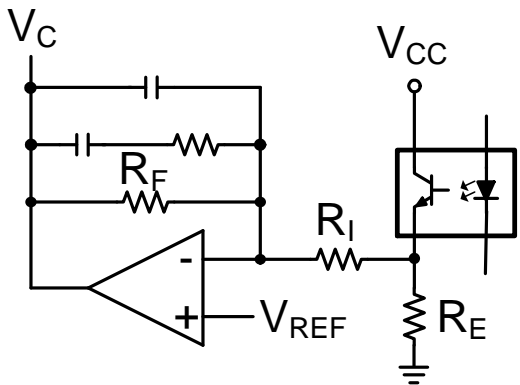
## Control loop

$$\frac{\hat{v}_{OUT}}{\hat{v}'_{OUT}} = \frac{\hat{v}_{OUT}}{\hat{v}_c} \cdot \frac{\hat{v}_c}{\hat{v}'_{OUT}}$$



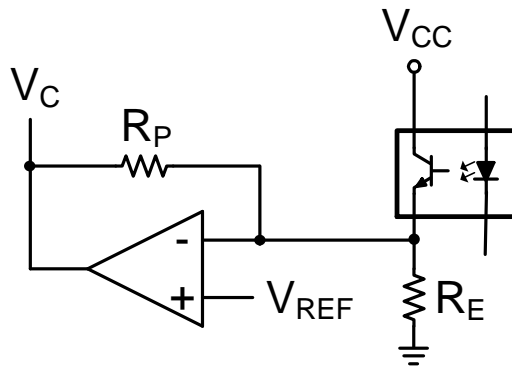
# Primary side compensation

## Primary side compensation



- Uses primary side inverting amplifier to implement frequency compensation

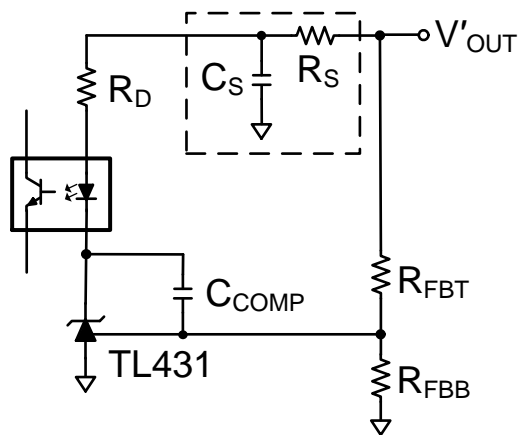
## High bandwidth configuration



- Opto emitter is at virtual ground of  $V_{REF}$
- This minimizes pole due to opto parasitic capacitance

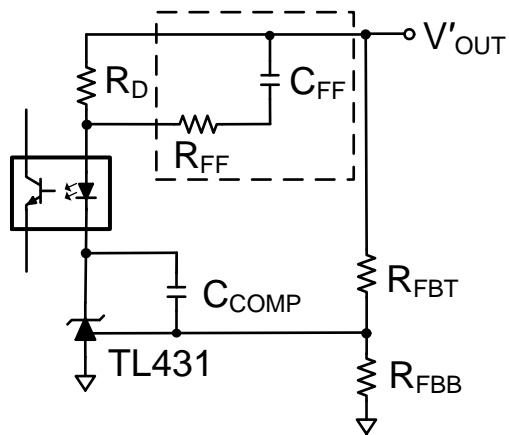
# Secondary side compensation

## ESR zero compensation



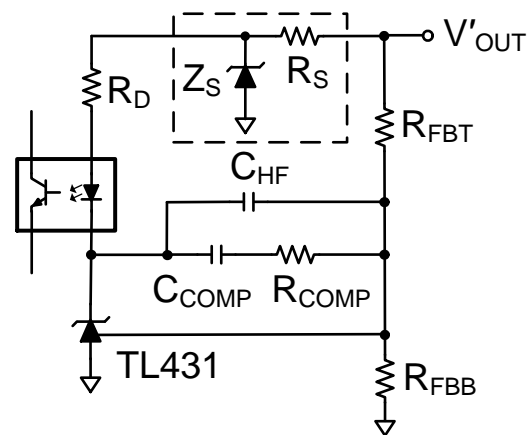
- An RC pole to the opto can be used to cancel the output capacitor ESR zero

## Phase boost



- Feed-forward across  $R_D$  adds phase boost for increased bandwidth

## Zener bias



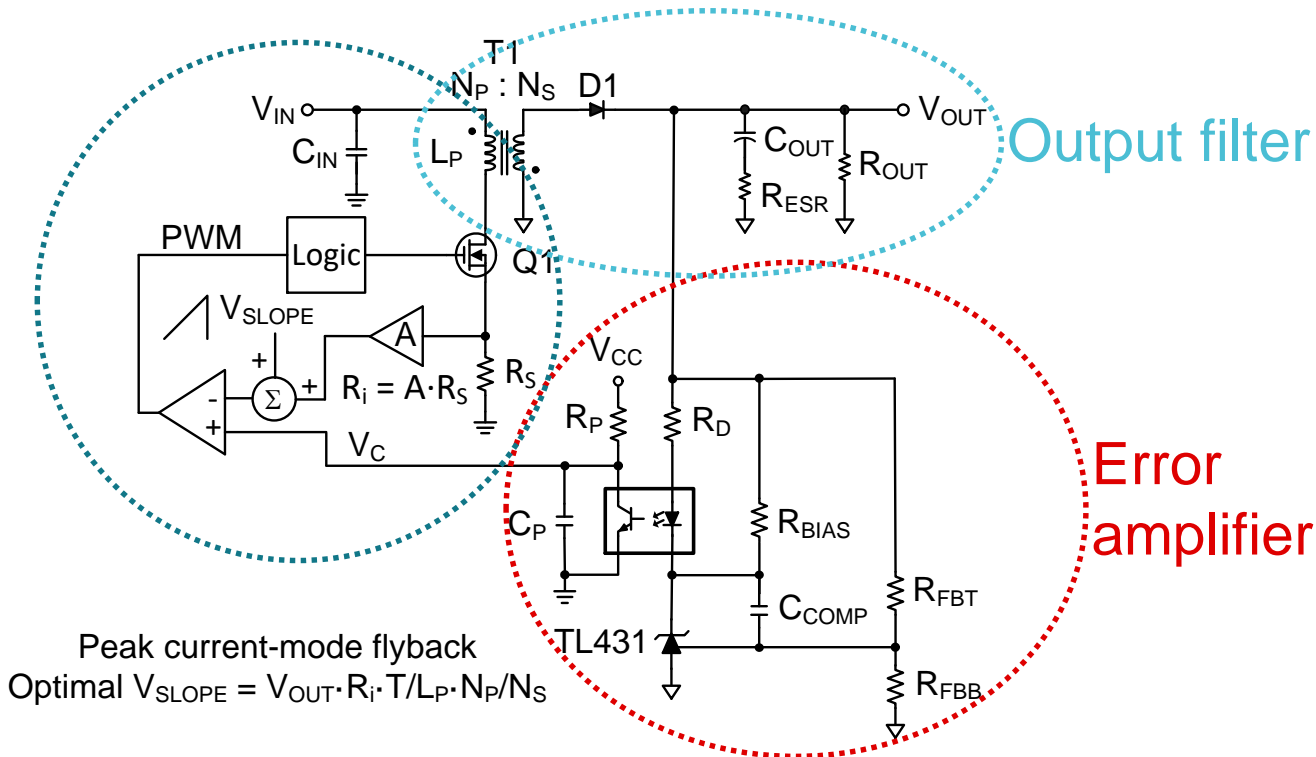
- Zener bias for  $R_D$  eliminates the high frequency feedback path for secondary-side compensation

# Isolated current-mode flyback

## Modulator

$$D = \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN} \cdot \frac{N_S}{N_P} + V_{OUT}}$$

$$D' = \frac{V_{IN}}{V_{IN} + V_{OUT} \cdot \frac{N_P}{N_S}}$$



# Current-mode flyback compensation strategy

- Choose a value for  $R_{FBT}$  based on bias current and power dissipation
- Find the modulator transconductance in A/V
- Find the RHPZ frequency at minimum input voltage and maximum load current
- Set the target bandwidth to 1/4 of the RHPZ frequency:  
 $\omega_C = 2 \cdot \pi \cdot f_C = \omega_R/4$
- Find the mid-band gain  $A_{VM}$  to achieve target bandwidth  
Adjust  $R_D$ ,  $R_P$  and  $C_{OUT}$  as required
- Set  $\omega_{ZEA}$  equal to 1/10 the target crossover frequency:  
 $\omega_{ZEA} = \omega_C/10$
- Set  $\omega_{HF}$  equal to the lower of the RHP or ESR zero frequency:  
 $\omega_{HF} = \omega_R$  or  $\omega_Z$

$$G_m(\text{mod}) = \frac{D'}{R_i} \cdot \frac{N_p}{N_s}$$

$$\omega_R = \frac{R_{OUT} \cdot D'^2}{L_p \cdot D} \cdot \left( \frac{N_p}{N_s} \right)^2$$

$$A_{VM} = \frac{\omega_C \cdot C_{OUT}}{G_m(\text{mod})}$$

$$R_D = CTR \cdot \frac{R_p}{A_{VM}}$$

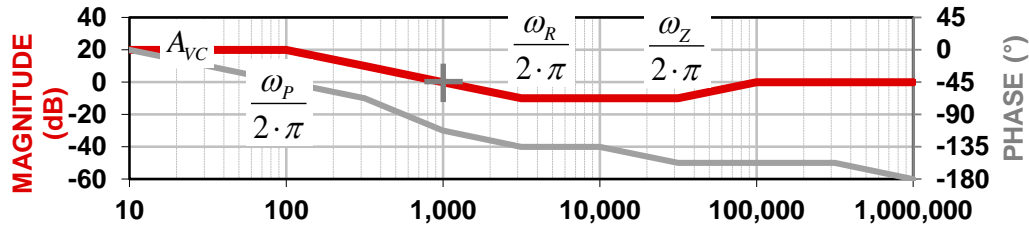
$$C_{COMP} = \frac{1}{R_{FBT} \cdot \omega_{ZEA}}$$

$$C_P = \frac{1}{R_p \cdot \omega_{HF}}$$

# Current-mode flyback compensation results

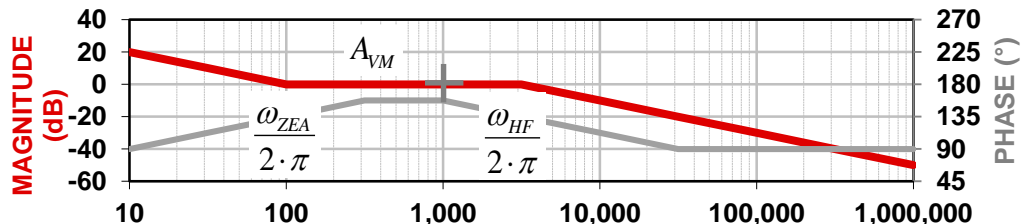
## Power stage

$$\frac{\hat{v}_{out}}{\hat{v}_c} \approx A_{VC} \cdot \frac{\left(1 + \frac{s}{\omega_z}\right) \left(1 - \frac{s}{\omega_r}\right)}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_p}} \cdot F_h(s)$$



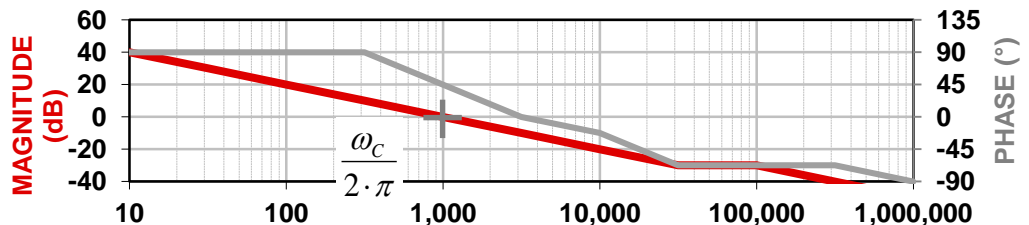
## Error amplifier

$$\frac{\hat{v}_c}{\hat{v}'_{OUT}} \approx -A_{VM} \cdot \frac{1 + \frac{\omega_{ZEA}}{s}}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_{HF}}}$$



## Control loop

$$\frac{\hat{v}_{OUT}}{\hat{v}'_{OUT}} = \frac{\hat{v}_{OUT}}{\hat{v}_c} \cdot \frac{\hat{v}_c}{\hat{v}'_{OUT}}$$





© Copyright 2025 Texas Instruments Incorporated. All rights reserved.

This material is provided strictly “as-is,” for informational purposes only, and without any warranty.  
Use of this material is subject to TI’s **Terms of Use**, viewable at [TI.com](https://www.ti.com)

## IMPORTANT NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER

TI PROVIDES TECHNICAL AND RELIABILITY DATA (INCLUDING DATA SHEETS), DESIGN RESOURCES (INCLUDING REFERENCE DESIGNS), APPLICATION OR OTHER DESIGN ADVICE, WEB TOOLS, SAFETY INFORMATION, AND OTHER RESOURCES "AS IS" AND WITH ALL FAULTS, AND DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES, EXPRESS AND IMPLIED, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR NON-INFRINGEMENT OF THIRD PARTY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.

These resources are intended for skilled developers designing with TI products. You are solely responsible for (1) selecting the appropriate TI products for your application, (2) designing, validating and testing your application, and (3) ensuring your application meets applicable standards, and any other safety, security, regulatory or other requirements.

These resources are subject to change without notice. TI grants you permission to use these resources only for development of an application that uses the TI products described in the resource. Other reproduction and display of these resources is prohibited. No license is granted to any other TI intellectual property right or to any third party intellectual property right. TI disclaims responsibility for, and you will fully indemnify TI and its representatives against, any claims, damages, costs, losses, and liabilities arising out of your use of these resources.

TI's products are provided subject to [TI's Terms of Sale](#) or other applicable terms available either on [ti.com](https://www.ti.com) or provided in conjunction with such TI products. TI's provision of these resources does not expand or otherwise alter TI's applicable warranties or warranty disclaimers for TI products.

TI objects to and rejects any additional or different terms you may have proposed.

Mailing Address: Texas Instruments, Post Office Box 655303, Dallas, Texas 75265

Copyright © 2025, Texas Instruments Incorporated