

STDRIVEG611

Datasheet

High voltage and high-speed half-bridge gate driver for GaN power switches

Product status link [STDRIVEG611](https://www.st.com/en/product/STDRIVEG611?ecmp=tt9470_gl_link_feb2019&rt=ds&id=DS14457)

Features

- High voltage rail up to 600 V
- dV/dt transient immunity ±200 V/ns
- Driver with separated sink and source path for optimal driving:
	- 2.4 A and 1.2 $Ω$ sink
		- 1.0 A and 3.7 $Ω$ source
- High-side and low-side linear regulators for 6 V gate driving voltage
- Fast high-side startup time: 5 µs
- 45 ns propagation delay, 15 ns minimum output pulse
- High switching frequency (> 1 MHz)
- Embedded 600 V bootstrap diode
- Full support of GaN hard-switching operation
- Comparator for overcurrent detection with Smart Shutdown
- UVLO function on VCC, V_{HS} , and V_{LS}
- Separated logic inputs and shutdown pin
- Fault pin for overcurrent, overtemperature and UVLO reporting
- Stand-by function for low consumption mode
- Separated PGND for Kelvin source driving and current shunt compatibility
- 3.3 V to 20 V compatible inputs with hysteresis and pull-down

Applications

- Motor driver for home appliances, pumps, and compressors
- Factory automation, servo, and industrial drives
- E-bikes and power tools
- Class D audio amplifiers
- DC/DC and resonant converters, PFC, battery charger and adapters

Description

The [STDRIVEG611](https://www.st.com/en/product/STDRIVEG611?ecmp=tt9470_gl_link_feb2019&rt=ds&id=DS14457) is a high-voltage half-bridge gate driver for N-channel Enhancement Mode GaN.

The high-side driver section is designed to stand a voltage rail up to 600 V and can be easily supplied by the integrated bootstrap diode.

High current capability, short propagation delay with excellent delay matching, and integrated LDOs make the STDRIVEG611 optimized for driving high-speed GaN.

The STDRIVEG611 features supply UVLOs tailored to hard switching applications, interlocking to avoid cross-conduction conditions and an overcurrent comparator with SmartSD.

The input pins extended range allows easy interfacing with controllers. A standby pin allows to reduce the power consumption during inactive periods or burst mode.

The STDRIVEG611 operates in the industrial temperature range, -40 °C to 125 °C.

The device is available in a compact QFN 4x5x1 mm package with 0.5 mm pitch.

1 Block diagram

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Figure 1. STDRIVEG611 block diagram

2 Typical application schematics

Figure 2. Typical application schematic

Figure 3. Typical motor control application schematic with slow dV/dt

3 Pin description

Figure 4. STDRIVEG611 pin connection

Table 1. STDRIVEG611 pin list

4 Device ratings

4.1 Absolute maximum ratings

Stresses above the absolute maximum ratings listed in Table 2 may cause permanent damage to the device. Exposure to maximum rating conditions for extended periods may affect device reliability. All voltages referred to ground pins unless otherwise specified.

Table 2. Absolute maximum ratings

1. VLS = VVCCL-PGND, VHS = VVCCH-OUT, VBO = VBOOT-OUT.

2. The internal low-side and high-side voltage regulators are not intended to be connected to external load nor voltage sources.

3. Range estimated by characterization on a limited number of samples, not tested in production.

4. High voltage pin 18 vs. GND has 1500 V rating

4.2 Recommended operating conditions

All voltages referred to ground pins unless otherwise specified. The junction temperature must be maintained within recommended operating conditions with proper thermal design.

Table 3. Recommended operating conditions

1. VBOOT = VBOOT-GND must be ≥ 5 V to propagate high-side commands.

2. VBO = 20 V, VCC = 10.7 V

3. X7R, 16 V, Ceramic capacitor having ESR lower or equal to 50 mΩ.

4. X7R, 50 V, Ceramic capacitor having ESR lower or equal to 50 mΩ.

5. Actual limit depends on power dissipation constraints.

4.3 Thermal data

Table 4. Thermal data

1. The thermal resistance is obtained simulating the device mounted on a 2s2p (4 layer) FR4 board according to JESD51-7 without PCB thermal vias.

2. The thermal resistance is obtained simulating the device mounted on a 1s0p (1 layer) FR4 board according to JESD51-3.

5 Electrical characteristics

Testing conditions: T_J = 25 °C, VCC = V_{BO} = SD/OD = STBY = 12 V, FLT = floating, RONL = VCCL, RONH = VCCH, OUT = PGND = CIN = GND, CVCCH = CVCCL = 47 nF (X7R,16 V), CBOOT = 47 nF (X7R, 50 V). All voltages referred to GND, unless otherwise specified.

Table 5. Electrical characteristics

STDRIVEG611
Electrical characteristics **Electrical characteristics**

STDRIVEG611
Electrical characteristics **Electrical characteristics**

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1. Not tested in production: value by characterization on a limited number of samples.

2. $MT = max$ (| t_{Don_L} - t_{Doff_L} |, | t_{Don_H} - t_{Doff_H} |, | t_{Doff_L} - t_{Don_H} |, | t_{Doff_H} - t_{Don_L} |)

5.1 Characterization figures

6 Device description

6.1 Device structure

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Figure 10 is a simplified version of the block diagram of STDRIVEG611. It consists of basic structures described in the following sections.

Figure 10. STDRIVEG611 simplified block diagram

6.1.1 Logic section

This section receives the input signals, manages the system protections (UVLOs, comparator and overtemperature), and transfers the input pulses to relevant drivers through level shifters. It is electrically referred to the GND pin and supplied by the VCC pin.

6.1.2 Low-side driver

This block receives input pulses from the logic section through the level shifter and provides driving action to the low-side GaN transistor.

It is electrically referred to PGND, that must be connected to the source (preferably Kelvin) of the low-side GaN transistor.

GaN V_{GS} sink current can be tuned with the R_{GATE} resistor placed between the OUTL and GaN gate. Source current can be tuned with the R_{ON} resistor between VCCL and RONL. Sink path impedance is the sum of R_{GATE} and driver R_{SI}, while source path impedance is the total of R_{ON} , R_{GATE} , and driver R_{SO} . Tuning R_{ON} is typically done to adjust hard turn-on dV/dt. Tuning R_{GATE} is typically done to eventually dump V_{GS} ringing at turn-off, to adjust hard turn-off dV/dt while avoiding induced turn-on at high-side hard turn-on.

Low-side driver circuitry is supplied by VCC, while an integrated voltage regulator tightly stabilizes the supply voltage of the output stage of the driver (V_{LS}) . A UVLO comparator interrupts the half-bridge activity if the regulator's output voltage is insufficient for a proper GaN's driving. See [Section 6.4.2](#page-16-0) for a detailed LS UVLO protection description.

The low-side driver has been designed to allow the use of current sense resistors without affecting the applied V_{GS} voltage.

6.1.3 High-side driver

This block receives input pulses from the logic section through the level shifter and provides driving action to the high-side GaN transistor.

It is electrically referred to OUT, that must be connected to the source connection (preferably Kelvin) of the highside GaN transistor.

GaN V_{GS} sink current can be tuned with the R_{GATE} resistor placed between the OUTH and GaN gate. Source current can be tuned with the R_{ON} resistor between VCCH and RONH. Sink path impedance is the sum of R_{GATE} and driver R_{SI} , while source path impedance is the total of R_{ON} , R_{GATE} and driver R_{SO} . Tuning R_{ON} is typically done to adjust hard turn-on dV/dt. Tuning R_{GATE} is typically done to eventually dump V_{GS} ringing at turn-off, to adjust hard turn-off dV/dt while avoiding induced turn-on at low-side hard turn-on.

High-side driver circuitry is supplied by the voltage present at the BOOT pin, while an integrated fast startup voltage regulator tightly stabilizes the supply voltage of the output stage of the driver (V_{HS}) . A UVLO comparator interrupts the high-side GaN activity if the regulator's output voltage is insufficient for a proper GaN's driving. See [Section 6.4.4](#page-17-0) for detailed HS UVLO protection description.

This section includes an equivalent bootstrap diode, synchronous with low-side on-time, that generates floating supply voltage (V_{BO}), starting from VCC voltage.

6.1.4 Comparator and smart shutdown

The embedded comparator, typically used for overcurrent detection, immediately turns off both GaNs once CIN input exceeds the threshold. The event is signaled to SD/OD and FLT pins.

The smart shutdown (SmartSD) feature allows to automatically keep the switches off for the desired time to cool down the GaN devices while the controller reacts to the overcurrent FLT signal.

6.2 Truth table and control inputs

The STDRIVEG611 has four logic inputs to control the high-side and low-side power transistors.

- LIN: low-side driver input, active high;
- HIN: high-side driver inputs, active high.
- STBY: standby input, active low;
- \overline{SD}/OD : shutdown input, active low.

An open drain output is there (\overline{FLT}) to communicate externally the operating status of the device. The SD/OD pin is also used as an output for the comparator with SmartSD disable time function (see [Section 6.6](#page-18-0)).

Table 6 summarizes the different IC operating modes depending on the Input pin configurations. Output pin configuration and IC consumption is also reported.

Table 6. Truth table

1. Forced low from the internal open-drain when CIN > CINth.

The logic inputs have internal pull-down resistors to set a defined logic level even in case of high-Z on signal lines. As a result, the transistors are set to off in the case of unconnected input pins.

The front-end of logic inputs consists of a comparator having a fixed threshold and defined hysteresis to guarantee precise and robust level detection. The input pins can accept an input voltage up to 20 V independently from VCC voltage level.

Propagation delays between LIN and HIN input pins to OUTL and OUTH are matched to obtain the best symmetry and minimum pulse width distortion.

The minimum duration of the pulse that can be transferred from LIN and HIN to OUTL and OUTH is t_{INmin}; shorter pulses may be blanked.

The FLT open drain pin signals standby, UVLO (VCC and VCCL), overcurrent, and overtemperature status. An external pull-up resistor or source current is required to raise the FLT pin signal. The maximum pull-up voltage is 20 V, independent from VCC. When unused, this pin must be connected to GND.

The $\overline{\text{STBY}}$ pin is intended to activate standby mode to reduce the IC consumption during long-lasting inactive times or between burst modes. The description of this mode is reported in [Section 6.5.](#page-18-0)

6.3 Gate driving outputs and gate resistors

The STDRIVEG611 has a gate driver output architecture enabling turn-on and turn-off impedance differentiation to tune dV/dt and dI/dt avoiding turn-off diode usage. Diode avoidance for turn-on/off differentiation has several benefits:

- bill of material (BOM) reduction;
- gate loop inductance minimization due to smaller geometrical gate loop;
- more effective and faster turn-off with increased induced turn-on margin thanks to diode V_F drop removal.

Effective turn-off is crucial with GaN switches due to low V_{GSth} and turn-off diode is typically not recommended especially with unipolar gate driving (no negative V_{GS} while off).

Similarly to STDRIVEG600 (classic separated output architecture), with the STDRIVEG611 (single gate output architecture) the gate turn-on/off currents can be tuned by external resistors, but those resistors are arranged in different way.

Figure 11. Gate driver output and gate resistor tuning for differentiated turn-on/off

Turn-off path goes through R_{GATE} , so the user shall increase R_{GATE} to slow down turn-off speed.

Increasing R_{GATE} will slow down also turn-on speed since turn-on path goes through R_{GATE} and R_{ON} . The user shall increase R_{ON} to further slowdown turn-on speed.

Thus, turn-on impedance can be only equal or higher than turn-off, as typically found in all applications to avoid induced turn-on phenomenon.

As rule-of-thumb when migrating from "classic" separated output architectures:

- $R_{GATE} \approx R_{OFF(old)}$
- $R_{ON} \approx R_{ON(old)} R_{GATE}$

In power conversion applications, depending on gate charge, turn-off resistor (R_{GATE}) is typically in the range of 1 to 5 Ω while turn-on resistance sum (R_{GATE} + R_{ON}) is typically in the range of 5 to 300 Ω.

6.3.1 Gate driving network for slow hard-off dV/dt (motor control applications)

While several applications, typically power conversion, tends to make desirable high dV/dt to minimize switching losses, some others, notably motor control ones, could require limiting dV/dt at the expense of higher switching losses.

The main reasons to limit dV/dt in motor control applications are:

- EMI control: to pass regulatory emission masks.
- Motor winding reliability: especially in high voltage applications with long cables, voltage overshoots on motor poles/winding could generate partial discharge phenomena reducing winding lifetime.
- Ball bearing reliability: winding parasitic capacitance to the rotor will generate current peaks during dV/dt toward chassis earth. If those currents flow through classic steel ball bearings, those current can flute bearing rollers and bearing races reducing lifetime.

Typically, the EMI point is the bottleneck to limit dV/dt even if the absence of diode recovery with GaN is now pushing higher the dV/dt limit; motor winding and ball bearing issues are seldom, typically found when pushing further dV/dt limit thanks to shorter cables or with specific motors.

Hard turn-on dV/dt reduction is an easy task by simply increasing R_{ON} resistor.

Hard turn-off dV/dt is generally proportional to load parasitic capacitance (the higher the motor parasitic capacitance, the slower the dV/dt). Depending on motor parasitic capacitance and load current, could be required to slow down turn-off.

In resonant applications, hard-off dV/dt reduction is typically done by adding a discrete capacitor in parallel to GaN C_{DS}. However, adding this capacitor in hard switching applications leads to increase hard-on switching losses loosing some GaN benefits.

In motor control applications with MOSFETs, hard turn-off slow down is typically done by increasing the turn-off resistor. However with GaN this could easily lead to induced turn-on phenomenon unless a specific gate driving network is used as the following one.

Figure 12. Hard-off dV/dt limiting gate driving network

While the GaN is off and during dV/dt generated by the companion GaN, C_{GD} charges C_{GS}. If R_{GATE} has a high value, due to requirement to slow down hard-off dV/dt, V_{GS} could easily exceed V_{GSth} leading to induced turn-on phenomenon.

The higher the C_{GD}/C_{GS} ratio and the lower the V_{GSth}, the most likely the induced turn-on could occur.

Adding the C_{GM} capacitor, the overall C_{GD}/C_{GS} ratio decreases avoiding the induced turn-on phenomenon and enabling hard-off dV/dt reduction increasing R_{GATE}.

The C_{GM} capacitor required to use this technique depends on several factors like GaN characteristics, bus voltage and load current but, as a rule-of-thumb, it is in the range around 3-5 times Q_{GS}/V_{GSth} .

6.4 Supply rails, LDOs, UVLO protections, and bootstrap diode

The STDRIVEG611 is supplied by two rails: VCC, referred to GND, and BOOT referred to OUT. Integrated LDOs generate supply voltages for low-side and high-side output stages (V_{LS} and V_{HS}). Undervoltage circuitries monitor VCC, V_{LS} and V_{HS} .

An integrated bootstrap diode is there to generate floating supply voltage for the high-side structure.

6.4.1 VCC supply structure and relevant UVLO protection

The VCC pin supplies the logic circuit, the input structure of the low-side driver and the integrated bootstrap structure (D_{BOOT}). Low-ESR ceramic capacitors must be connected as close as possible between VCC and GND (100 nF typ., X7R).

A bulk capacitor is recommended on VCC to deliver the impulsive bootstrap current to charge $V_{\rm BO}$. A single VCC rail electrolytic capacitor is typically sufficient even with multiple drivers on board while using only the integrated bootstrap diode and the electrolytic capacitor is not too far.

Dedicated bigger low-ESR ceramic VCC capacitors are otherwise recommended, also in the case of an optional external bootstrap diode to minimize VCC dips. An external bootstrap diode could be required for those applications requiring a faster high-side startup time (such as burst mode).

Undervoltage protection is available on the VCC supply pin. A hysteresis sets the turn-off threshold.

When VCC voltage reaches the V_{CCthON} threshold, the device enters normal operation: if V_{LS} is above UVLO level and the $\overline{\text{STBY}}$ pin is high, the FLT pin is released and the device sets drivers output according to actual input pins; high-side driver supply state is not monitored, therefore the high-side driver generates driving levels when V_{HS} is above UVLO level.

When VCC voltage goes below the V_{CChOFF} threshold, both high-side and low-side gate driver outputs are forced low and the FLT pin is forced low to signal the state to remote controllers.

The minimum VCC voltage that the STDRIVEG611 requires to be able to force the $\overline{\text{FLT}}$ pin low is $V_{VCC-FLT}$.

In hard switching applications, during deadtime and load current flowing out from the OUT node, low-side GaN is in reverse conduction mode (as a freewheeling diode) and the OUT pin becomes negative with several volts below GND.

GaN transistors do not have an intrinsic body diode, which have the benefit of 0 nC recovery charge, but have worse reverse conduction characteristics in respect to MOSFETs. This could lead to two drawbacks if not properly addressed:

- higher GaN dissipation during deadtime, that should be minimized.
- deeper static below-GND voltage on OUT node during deadtime; this could bring BOOT lower than the recommended operating range (BOOT-GND min. 5 V), increasing high-side hard turn-on propagation delay.

To help ensure BOOT in the recommended operating range in hard switching applications (while current is freewheeling in low-side GaN), the VCC supply has a relatively high UVLO threshold. This helps charging and achieving the V_{BO} > (low-side GaN reverse conduction drop +5 V) recommended range in almost all conditions.

Operating with VCC higher than the typical value could be required only in very limited cases where extreme hard switching current transient with very high GaN reverse conduction voltage is foreseen.

6.4.2 VLS supply structure and relevant UVLO protection

The integrated VCCL regulator reduces the input VCC voltage to a regulated $V_1 \leq (6 \text{ V typ.})$ to drive the gate with a stable and optimized V_{GS} voltage.

Low-side regulator input is VCC pin; regulator output is VCCL pin, referred to PGND. Low-ESR ceramic capacitors must be connected as close as possible between VCCL and PGND (C_{VCCL} min. 47 nF, X7R, 16 V) to obtain a clean supply voltage. A slightly higher C_{VCL} could be required to minimize V_{LS} ripple when driving high GaN Q_G .

Under recommended operating conditions, VCCL regulator can provide an average current of 10 mA.

A UVLO on V_{LS} is there to prevent unsafe operations of low-side GaN.

When V_{LS} voltage reaches the V_{LShON} threshold, the device enables the low-side driver normal operation: if no other protection is active, FLT pin is released, and the device sets low-side driver output according to actual input pins and high-side driver output according to actual input pins.

When V_{LS} voltage goes below the V_{LDthOFF} threshold, both high-side and low-side gate driver outputs are forced low and the FLT pin is forced low to signal this condition to the remote controllers.

6.4.3 Bootstrap diode

The STDRIVEG611 integrates a bootstrap diode structure connected between VCC and BOOT pins, to supply the high-side floating supply voltage $V_{\text{BOOT-OUT}}$ (or shortly V_{BO}). A very low ESR ceramic capacitor (C_{BOOT} to be selected between 47 nF and 3.3 µF, X7R, 50 V) must be placed as close as possible between the BOOT and OUT pins.

The internal bootstrap structure is synchronous with the low-side to reduce the voltage drop between VCC and V_{BO} to almost zero volts. Its turn-on resistance is reported in the electrical characteristics table as R_{DBOOT} . This integrated structure is characterized by a very low recovery charge and current.

The bootstrap DC characteristics are detailed in Figure 13.

Figure 13. Typical bootstrap diode characteristics

The final voltage drop between VCC and V_{BO} depends on multiple factors like duty cycle, operating frequency, GaN gate charge, GaN leakage, temperature, etc. In case the voltage on V_{RO} is not sufficient for a proper VCCH regulator operation, either increasing the VCC value or using an external bootstrap diode can obtain a correct V_{BO} voltage.

Motor control applications typically do not require an external bootstrap diode but it is allowed in case of specific needs as fast high-side start-up or large bootstrap capacitor to allow very long high side turn-on time.

It is recommended to place a resistor $R_{BOOT} \ge 2.2 \Omega$ in series with the above mentioned external bootstrap diode to limit the amount of peak charging current. In cases of high side not-zero-current hard switching applications (as motor control), the external bootstrap diode could be subject to high peak current during dead time and peak recovery current at high side turn-on, leading to strong emissions. A higher R_{BOOT} or using the internal bootstrap structure with no recovery current is preferable in these cases. Refer to [Section 7.1.1](#page-21-0) for further details.

Even if a low R_{ROT} resistor is allowed, it is know that a low value resistor could increase radiated noise; so it is worth properly selecting the C_{BOOT} capacitor based on applicative requirements. With the same start-up time, the smaller C_{BODT} capacitor the higher R_{BODT} minimum resistance or even no external diode requirement. Moreover, the internal bootstrap diode has better dynamic characteristics compared to a discrete one.

6.4.4 VHS supply structure and relevant UVLO protection

The energy stored in the C_{BODT} capacitor supplies the input circuitry of the high-side driver.

The integrated fast startup VCCH regulator reduces the input V_{BO} voltage to a regulated V_{HS} (VCCH-OUT = 6 V typ.) to drive the gate with a stable and optimized V_{GS} voltage.

The fast startup features a minimized wake-up time especially during intermittent operation (burst mode).

High-side regulator input is the BOOT pin; regulator output is the VCCH pin, referred to OUT. Low-ESR ceramic capacitor must be connected as close as possible between VCCH and OUT (C_{VCCL} min. 47 nF, X7R, 16 V) to obtain a clean supply voltage. A slightly higher C_{VCCH} could be required to minimize V_{HS} ripple when driving high GaN Q_G , but the lower the C_{VCCH} the faster the startup time.

Under recommended operating conditions, VCCH regulator can provide an average current of 10 mA.

A UVLO on V_{HS} is there to prevent unsafe operations of low-side GaN.

When V_{HS} voltage reaches the V_{HSthON} threshold, the high-side driver is enabled to accept turn-on/off commands from the input logic block.

When V_{HS} voltage goes below the $V_{HSthOFF}$ threshold, high-side gate driver output is forced low.

 V_{HS} UVLO status is not signaled on the \overline{FLT} pin and the low-side driver continues to operate according to inputs and other protections.

6.5 Standby

The STDRIVEG611 is designed to reduce the current consumption of both the logic portion and low-side driver when the $\overline{\text{STBY}}$ pin is pulled to GND. Low-side and high-side output are immediately set low to leave the halfbridge in a three-state, while the $\overline{\text{FLT}}$ pin is forced low, and consumption is reduced if the $\overline{\text{STBY}}$ pin is pulled to GND. The overtemperature and the comparator protections are disabled in this operating condition.

Setting the $\overline{\text{STBY}}$ pin high, the device wakes up and operation is restored: the $\overline{\text{FLT}}$ pin is released while driver's outputs are set according to inputs, providing that relevant UVLOs are not active, within t_{WU} .

Figure 14. Standby timings

6.6 Comparator with SmartSD

The STDRIVEG611 integrates a comparator committed to the fault sensing function.

The comparator input can be connected to an external shunt resistor in order to implement a simple overcurrent detection function with an automatic OFF-time mechanism (Smart Shutdown) providing the possibility to increase the disable time after the fault event up to an arbitrary value without increasing the delay time of the protection. The comparator has an internal voltage reference CIN_{th} connected to the inverting input, while the non-inverting input is available on the CIN pin. The output signal of the comparator is filtered from glitches shorter than $t_{\text{ClNfilter}}$ and then fed to the Smart Shutdown logic.

The \overline{SD}/OD is connected to a timing capacitor C_{OD} and a pull-up to determine the output disable time of the fault event.

When an overcurrent is detected, gates are immediately turned off, the FLT pin is forced low to signal the state to the controller, the \overline{SD}/OD pin discharges C_{OD} down to V_{SSD} and then the external pull-up charges it again. Once C_{OD} reaches V_{ih} , the gate driving restarts and \overline{FLT} is released.

Figure 15. Smart Shutdown timing waveforms

An approximation of the disable time is given by:

SMART SHUTDOWN CIRCUIT automatic off time

6.7 Thermal shutdown

The STDRIVEG611 provides a thermal shutdown protection feature.

When, during active mode, the junction temperature reaches the T_{TSD} temperature threshold, the device turns the driver outputs off to leaves the half-bridge in 3-state and signals this condition forcing the FLT pin low. The status of all the input pins is ignored.

When the junction temperature is lower than T_{TSD} - T_{HYS} , the device operation is restored and the \overline{FLT} pin is released.

Figure 16. Thermal shutdown behavior

The overtemperature detection is inactive when the device is operating in standby mode or in VCC UVLO to minimize consumption. On standby mode exit or VCC UVLO exit, overtemperature requires t_{TSD} to protect against overtemperature.

7 PCB, BOM, and layout recommendations

7.1 PCB suggestions

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This section lists some tips to facilitate the PCB routing of the STDRIVEG611.

7.1.1 External BOM values selection and placement

A list of recommended value ranges for some key components are reported.

The bulk capacitors required for VCC, VCCL, VCCH, and BOOT must be placed as close as possible to relevant pins and relevant references. Such capacitors must be low ESR/ESL ceramic components having rated voltages that are almost twice the maximum operating voltages to overcome the well-known value modulation versus bias voltage.

The eventual external bootstrap diode is typically not required in motor control applications but is possible. In case of external diode use, a series resistor with a value of ≥ 2.2 Q (10 Q in case of large C_{BOOT}) is recommended to minimize the bootstrap diode peak current, EMI generation and supply rail spike generation. In case an external bootstrap diode is used, the C_{BOOT} capacitor must be placed on the PCB in such a way that the negative terminal is put as close as possible to the OUT pin: this arrangement ensures that the charging current flows in the shortest track possible. In the case of overcurrent comparator use, the user should consider the bootstrap current sums with the load current through the low-side: undesired overcurrent events could be generated especially with low R_{ROT} values.

Turn-on resistors (RONx) need to be placed close to the IC to minimize the length of the track connected to the RONx pin.

Table 7. External BOM summary

To speed-up start-up time, the user shall minimize C_{BOOT} and C_{VCCH} values. Most power conversion applications are optimized using $C_{\text{BOOT}} = C_{\text{VCCx}} = 47$ nF. Most motor control applications (depending on gate load) are optimized when using C_{VCCx} = 47 to 100 nF and C_{BOOT} = 100 to 470 nF.

A larger C_{BOOT} capacitor could be rarely required in specific applications if a very long high side on-time is required. On all other applications is recommended to keep C_{BOOT} small to avoid increasing start-up time, the potential need of the additional external bootstrap diode, the diode dissipation. In extreme cases, as in all gate driver applications, excessive C_{BODT} and small C_{VCC} can lead to VCC drops due to charge sharing when lowside turns on, detected by the VCC UVLO.

PGND must be connected to the low-side GaN (Kelvin if available) source, which creates the path to GND through the optional current shunt resistor. So, PGND shall not be directly connected to GND to avoid shorting the Kelvin connection and reducing its benefits.

OUT must be connected to the high-side GaN (Kelvin if available) source. GaN main source and Kelvin source shall not be shorted together externally to best exploit the Kelvin benefits.

VCCL and VCCH are the output access to the internal voltage regulator: forcing these pins to external voltage regulators may result in unrecoverable damage of the IC.

7.1.2 Gate resistors

The most critical layout part in a GaN design is the gate driving loop: parasitic inductance must be minimized. The path between OUTx \rightarrow R_{GATE} resistor \rightarrow GaN gate \rightarrow GaN (Kelvin) source \rightarrow PGND/OUT must be minimized. Using 0603 or smaller SMD resistors is recommended also as creating a small copper plane connected to PGND/OUT under the gate routing path to minimize loop inductance.

Turn-on gate resistors must be placed as close as possible to VCCH, RONH and VCCL, RONL pins.

7.1.3 Noise reduction

To minimize the noise generation during normal operation of typical applications, a few simple steps can be followed:

- 1. Connect signal GND to current shunt cold pole (or low-side source if shunt is not present) with a single star point. Signal ground consists of controller GND and signal GND of the STDRIVEG611.
- 2. If a shunt resistor is necessary, this component should have very small ELS and be placed as close as possible to the low-side source and the STDRIVEG611. A cheap alternative to a low ESL resistor consists of the parallel of multiple smaller resistors (for example, 3x 0603 SMD resistors have similar ESL of a 1020 package shunt resistor and is much lower than a 2010 standard package). On motor control applications, with low dV/dt and dI/dt, the requirement can be relaxed, but small SMD shunt resistors are still recommended to minimize ESL to remain in the recommended operating conditions range.
- 3. In the case of motor control (low dV/dt) applications requiring slowing down hard off dV/dt, a capacitor in parallel to GaN gate could be required. Place the capacitor as close as possible to the GaN pins. If ringing is observed, a resistor in series to these capacitors helps dumping ringing.
- 4. The OUT pin could be high frequency switching: it is preferable to be routed very closely to the load (in case of transformer or inductor) minimizing the overlap with any other nets. This avoids undesired parasitic capacitance and noise generation.
- 5. Components connected to BOOT, VCCH, RONH, and OUTH floats together with the OUT node. They must be placed as close as possible to the listed pins minimizing the overlap with other nets.
- 6. Keep current loops as small as possible. A high voltage ceramic capacitor connected between high voltage bus and power ground and placed as close as possible to GaN devices facilitates the reduction of such loops. In multiphase applications, a ceramic capacitor is recommended for each half-bridge. In high dV/dt hard switching applications, the high voltage ceramic capacitor ground return should be routed preferably just under, or at least beside, the low-side and high-side GaN to minimize loop inductance, ringing, and noise generation. The use of the first inner layer just under the GaN pads is the most effective. Proper dielectric thickness must be selected for the insulation between the two layers. A core foil, instead of prepreg, between the two layers is often used to ensure a more constant thickness in the PCB production process.

8 Package information

To meet environmental requirements, ST offers these devices in different grades of [ECOPACK](https://www.st.com/ecopack) packages, depending on their level of environmental compliance. ECOPACK specifications, grade definitions, and product status are available at: [www.st.com.](http://www.st.com) ECOPACK is an ST trademark.

8.1 QFN 4 x 5 x 1 mm, 18 leads, 0.5 mm pitch, package information

Table 8. QFN 4 x 5 x 1 mm, 18 leads, 0.5 mm pitch, package dimensions

Note: Package outline exclusive of metal burr dimensions.

Note: Co-planarity applies to leads, corner leads and die attach pad.

Figure 18. QFN 4 x 5 x 1 mm, 18 leads, 0.5 mm pitch, package outline

BOTTOM VIEW

8.2 Suggested footprint

The STDRIVEG611 footprint for the PCB layout is usually defined based on several design factors such as assembly plant technology capabilities and board component density. For easy device usage and evaluation, STMicroelectronics provides the following footprint design, which is suitable for the largest variety of PCBs.

The following footprint indicates the copper area that should be free from the solder mask, while the copper area could extend beyond the indicated areas for device pins, especially GND, PGND, and OUT pins, which is beneficial for thermal and stray inductance minimization purposes.

A copper area connected to GND pins aids thermal dissipation, is useful to shield the input signal, and creates a low inductance, good return path for supplying capacitor currents.

A copper area connected to PGND and OUT pins running below the related components can minimize gate loop inductance for optimal gate driving and improves the return path for supply capacitor currents. A PCB layout example is available with the STDRIVEG611 evaluation board.

Figure 19. QFN 4 x 5 x 1 mm, 18 leads, 0.5 mm pitch, suggested footprint

9 Ordering information

Table 9. Order code

Revision history

Table 10. Document revision history

Contents

STDRIVEG611 Contents

List of tables

List of figures

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