

Half Bridge Driver Generates 100V, 10A, 4μs Pulses

Description

Lightning causes a large current spike when it strikes a telephone line. The output of a DSL driver could be destroyed by this surge current. To ensure robust operation, protection circuitry is used and the output of the driver needs to be tested to the "worst case" standard of 4kV. However, communication companies commonly use primary and secondary sets of protection circuitry so the actual assault on the line driver is reduced. DSL drivers must be tested to quantify what the output can withstand without failure. Since

equipment that simulates the power in a lightning strike is not readily available, Figure 1 presents a circuit that combines a 5V trigger with a high-voltage supply to generate the power needed to test the resilience of a DSL driver's output.

Two MOSFETs, Q₁ and Q₂, are driven alternatively by pulses 1 and 2 through a half-bridge driver, the HIP2100. The half-bridge driver uses a charge pump and level shifters to provide larger pulses at its output pins, 3 and 8.

Schematic

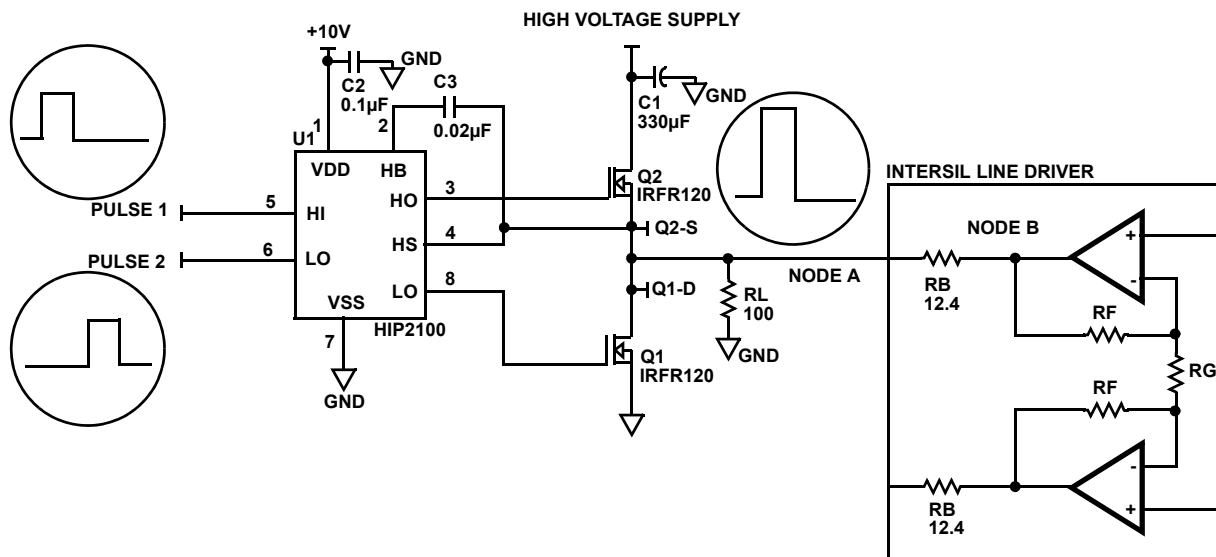


FIGURE 1. CIRCUIT DIAGRAM OF HIGH VOLTAGE, HIGH CURRENT PULSE GENERATOR WITH HIP2100

Figure 2 displays the time domain output of the power surge circuit. The top trace is displayed with 50V/division showing approximately 90V_{P-P}. With 20V_{P-P} appearing on the amplifier side of the series backmatch resistor (and on the lower trace in Figure 2), the voltage drop allows calculation of the surge current and power.

Current and Power Calculations

$$(90V - 20V) / 12.4 = 5.6A \quad (\text{EQ. 1})$$

$$20V \times 5.6A = 112W \quad (\text{EQ. 2})$$

The current forced into the output of the amplifier causes a reverse bias of the PN junction of the transistors at the output stage. The reverse bias break down for the transistors at the output stage for each amplifier will depend on design and process. Some designers guarantee a maximum of 1A allowed surge current before the loss of regulation of the transistor. Better DSL line drivers can withstand surge currents up to 2.5A. For a DSL line driver to withstand anything above 2.5A is exceptional. Therefore, this circuit will adequately test the resilience of the line driver.

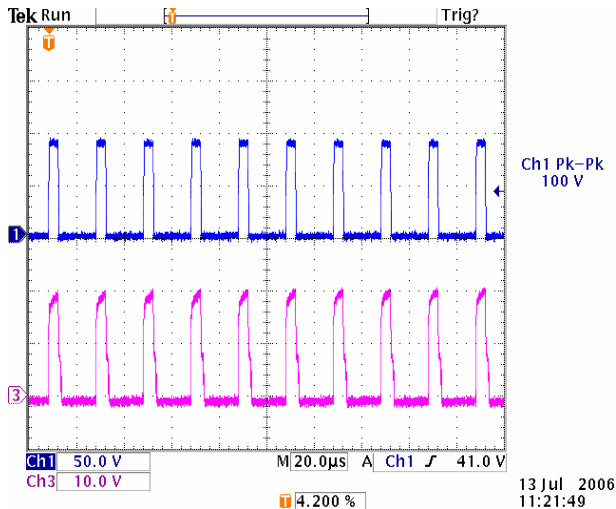


FIGURE 2. OUTPUT OF THE HIGH VOLTAGE, HIGH CURRENT PULSE GENERATOR

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Renesas Electronics America Inc.
1001 Murphy Ranch Road, Milpitas, CA 95035, U.S.A.
Tel: +1-408-432-8888, Fax: +1-408-434-5351

Renesas Electronics Canada Limited
9251 Yonge Street, Suite 8309 Richmond Hill, Ontario Canada L4C 9T3
Tel: +1-905-237-2004

Renesas Electronics Europe Limited
Dukes Meadow, Millboard Road, Bourne End, Buckinghamshire, SL8 5FH, U.K
Tel: +44-1628-651-700, Fax: +44-1628-651-804

Renesas Electronics Europe GmbH
Arcadiastrasse 10, 40472 Düsseldorf, Germany
Tel: +49-211-6503-0, Fax: +49-211-6503-1327

Renesas Electronics (China) Co., Ltd.
Room 1709 Quantum Plaza, No.27 ZhichunLu, Haidian District, Beijing, 100191 P. R. China
Tel: +86-10-8235-1155, Fax: +86-10-8235-7679

Renesas Electronics (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.
Unit 301, Tower A, Central Towers, 555 Langao Road, Putuo District, Shanghai, 200333 P. R. China
Tel: +86-21-2226-0888, Fax: +86-21-2226-0999

Renesas Electronics Hong Kong Limited
Unit 1601-1611, 16/F., Tower 2, Grand Century Place, 193 Prince Edward Road West, Mongkok, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Tel: +852-2265-6688, Fax: +852-2886-9022

Renesas Electronics Taiwan Co., Ltd.
13F, No. 363, Fu Shing North Road, Taipei 10543, Taiwan
Tel: +886-2-8175-9600, Fax: +886-2-8175-9670

Renesas Electronics Singapore Pte. Ltd.
80 Bendemeer Road, Unit #06-02 Hyflux Innovation Centre, Singapore 339949
Tel: +65-6213-0200, Fax: +65-6213-0300

Renesas Electronics Malaysia Sdn.Bhd.
Unit 1207, Block B, Menara Amcorp, Amcorp Trade Centre, No. 18, Jln Persiaran Barat, 46050 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia
Tel: +60-3-7955-9390, Fax: +60-3-7955-9510

Renesas Electronics India Pvt. Ltd.
No.777C, 100 Feet Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore 560 038, India
Tel: +91-80-67208700, Fax: +91-80-67208777

Renesas Electronics Korea Co., Ltd.
17F, KAMCO Yangjae Tower, 262, Gangnam-daero, Gangnam-gu, Seoul, 06265 Korea
Tel: +82-2-558-3737, Fax: +82-2-558-5338