



# Application Note PV88080-Dynamic Voltage Control (DVC)

**AN-PV-006** 

#### **Abstract**

Dynamic Voltage Control (DVC) facilitates the increase or decrease of power rail voltages dynamically as the load increases on a processor. This functionality saves system power when the loading is low while allowing increased processor clocking when the system needs it. This application note illustrates the use of DVC using the PV88080 PMIC.



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# **Contents**

Ab	Abstract	
Сс	Contents	2
Fiç	Figures	2   2   2   3   3   3   3   4   4   5   5   5   5   5   5   5   5
Та	Tables	2
1	1 Terms and Definitions	3
2	2 References	3
3	3 Introduction	4
4	4 DVC	4
	4.1 DVC Setting - LVBuck Converter	5
	4.2 DVC Setting - HVBuck Controller	10
5	5 Conclusions	12
	Revision History	13
Fig Fig Fig Fig Fig Fig Fig Fig Fig Fig	Figure 3: PV88080 DVC Up Transition Measurement Example Figure 4: PV88080 DVC Down Transition Measurement Example Figure 5: Dialog GUI - BUCKx_CONF0[6:0] Figure 6: Dialog GUI - BUCKx_CONF3[7:6] Figure 7: DVC Step-Up with 1.5625 mV/µs Slew Rate Figure 8: DVC Step-Down with 1.5625 mV/µs Slew Rate Figure 9: DVC Step-Up with 12.5 mV/µs Slew Rate Figure 10: DVC Step-Down with 12.5 mV/µs Slew Rate Figure 11: Sending 0xD8 to BUCK1_CONF0in Dialog GUI Figure 12: DVC Step-Down from 1.2 V to 1.15 V Figure 13: Sending 0xE0 to BUCK1_CONF0 in Dialog GUI Figure 14: DVC Step-Up from 1.15 V to 1.2 V	5 
Fig Fig	Figure 15: Sending 0xC8 to HVBUCK in Dialog GUI  Figure 16: DVC Step-Down from 1.05 V to 1.0 V  Figure 17: Sending 0xD2 to HVBUCK in Dialog GUI  Figure 18: DVC Step-Up from 1.0 V to 1.05 V  Tables	11 11
Та	Table 1: LVBuck1 Output Voltage Region	5
Ta	Table 2: LVBuck2/3 Output Voltage Region	6
Ta Ta	Table 3: LVBuck1 Output Voltage - Region 1 Table 4: HVBuck Output Voltage	8 10
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# 1 Terms and Definitions

GUI Graphical User Interface
HVBuck High Voltage Buck Converter
LVBuck Low Voltage Buck Converter

# 2 References

[1] S. Mittal, "A survey of techniques for improving energy efficiency in embedded computing systems", IJCAET, 6(4), 440–459, 2014.

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#### 3 Introduction

The power consumed by processor cores is proportional to the operating frequency and to supply voltage. DVC is used to optimize performance, power consumption, and thermal performance of processor devices. DVC increases voltage to increase processor performance, and decreases voltage to save power. This technique, initially used in laptops and mobile devices [1], is now becoming prevalent in tethered systems.

#### 4 DVC

Traditionally, a mount of resistor divider and MOSFET, as shown in Figure 1, is used to change the divide ratio for adjusting the output voltage of the converter. It needs many components and control signals, and therefore, also a large layout area. The PV88080 provides DVC, which supports adaptive adjustment of the supply voltage dependent on the processor load, via direct register write in the I<sup>2</sup>C interface. This simplifies the schematic, as shown in Figure 2. The DVC slew rate is also adjustable in the I<sup>2</sup>C to minimize the overshoot when the output voltage overshoot level is not acceptable. For examples of how the PV88080 DVC minimizes overshoot and undershoot, see Figure 3 and Figure 4.

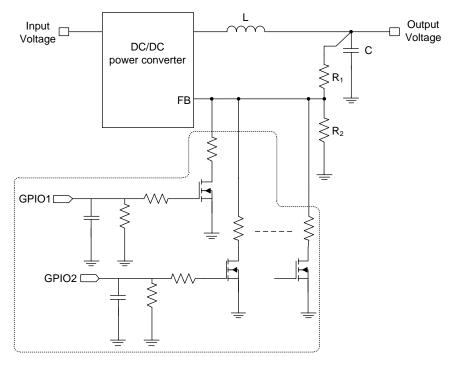


Figure 1: Traditional DVC Solution

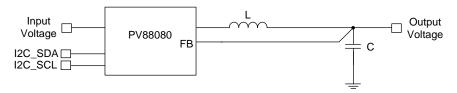


Figure 2: PV88080 Simplified Block Diagram for One Buck Stage

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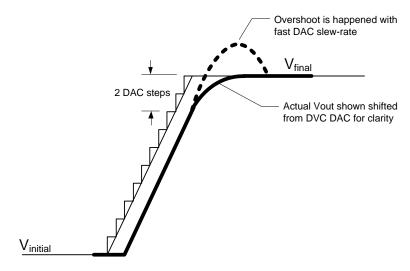


Figure 3: PV88080 DVC Up Transition Measurement Example

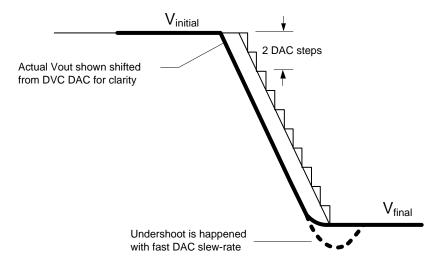


Figure 4: PV88080 DVC Down Transition Measurement Example

## 4.1 DVC Setting - LVBuck Converter

The LVBuck converters support DVC. The output voltage range of LVBUCK1 is 0.75 V to 3.3 V, and 0.9 V to 3.6 V for LVBucks 2 and 3, see Table 1 and Table 2. The typical core processor voltage is in region 1.

The target voltage is programmable to suit specific processor requirements and can be set in register BUCKx CONF0[6:0] using **Dialog Semiconductor**'s graphical user interface (GUI), see Figure 5.

Table 1: LVBuck1 Output Voltage Region

Region	Min (V)	Max (V)	Step (mV)
1	0.75	1.39375	6.25
2	1.4	2.19375	6.25
3	1.2	2.7875	12.5
4	2.8	3.3	12.5



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Table 2: LVBuck2/3 Output Voltage Region

Region	Min (V)	Max (V)	Step (mV)
1	0.9	1.39375	6.25
2	1.4	2.19375	6.25
3	1.2	2.7875	12.5
4	2.8	3.6	12.5



Figure 5: Dialog GUI - BUCKx\_CONF0[6:0]

The DVC slew rate is adjustable to prevent overshoot or undershoot on the output voltage by setting register Buckx\_CONF3[7:6] in the GUI, see Figure 6. Generally, higher slew rates are more likely to cause overshoot or undershoot. Figure 7 to Figure 10 show the DVC waveform with different slew rates. The overshoot and undershoot caused by faster slew rates are shown in Figure 9 and Figure 10.

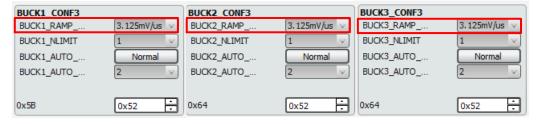


Figure 6: Dialog GUI - BUCKx\_CONF3[7:6]

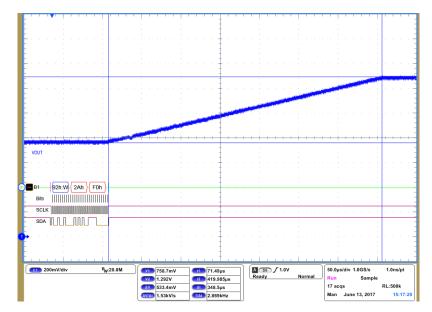


Figure 7: DVC Step-Up with 1.5625 mV/µs Slew Rate



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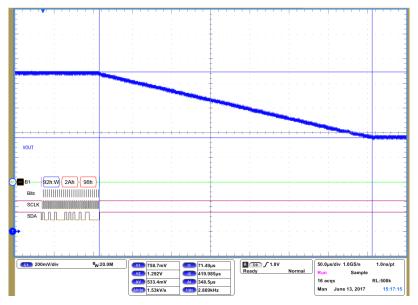


Figure 8: DVC Step-Down with 1.5625 mV/µs Slew Rate

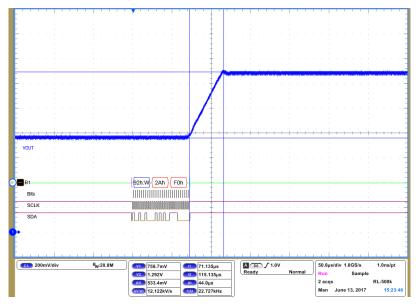


Figure 9: DVC Step-Up with 12.5 mV/µs Slew Rate

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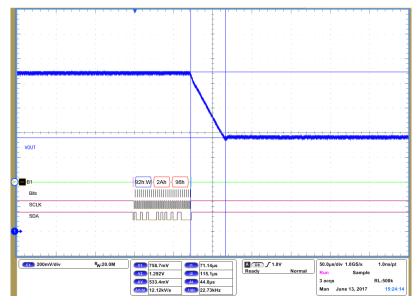


Figure 10: DVC Step-Down with 12.5 mV/µs Slew Rate

For example, a processor is supplied by the LVBuck1 for the typical 1.2 V core voltage. The LVBuck1 output voltage is in region 1, see Table 3. In idle mode, the core voltage of the process is 1.15 V to save power. The slew rate is set to 3.125mV/µs to prevent overshoot. Sending the command 0xD8 to BUCK1\_CONF0(0x2A) in the I²C interface, as shown in Figure 11, results in the desired DVC stepdown, see Figure 12. The output voltage is set back to 1.2 V by sending the 0xE0 command to BUCK1\_CONF0(0x2A), see Figure 13 and Figure 14.

Table 3: LVBuck1 Output Voltage - Region 1

Name

Address

Itallio				
0x002A BUCK1_CO		NF0		
Field name Bits		Description		
	[7]	BUCK1	Enable	
		Value	Description	
		0x0	0:Disabled	
		0x1	1:Enabled	
	[6:0]	Buck1 T	arget Voltage. Vout = 0.6 + 0.00625 * VBuck1[6:0]	
		Value	Description	
		0x18	V <sub>OUT</sub> = 0.6 + 0.00625 * 24 = 0.75 V	
		0x7F	V <sub>OUT</sub> = 0.6 + 0.00625 * 127 = 1.39375 V	
	BUCK	BUCK1_CO	BUCK1_CONF0    Bits   Descript	



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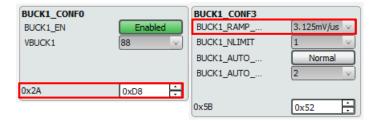


Figure 11: Sending 0xD8 to BUCK1\_CONF0in Dialog GUI

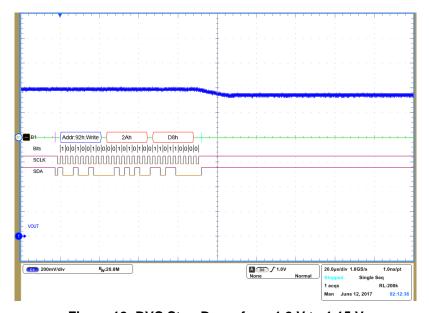


Figure 12: DVC Step-Down from 1.2 V to 1.15 V



Figure 13: Sending 0xE0 to BUCK1\_CONF0 in Dialog GUI

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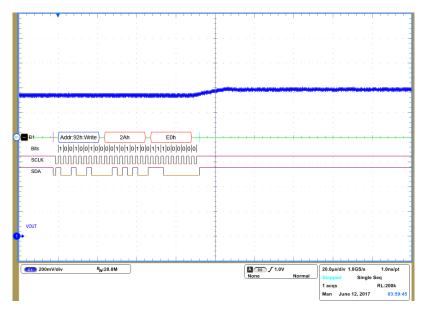


Figure 14: DVC Step-Up from 1.15 V to 1.2 V

# 4.2 DVC Setting - HVBuck Controller

The HVBUCK controller supports DVC in the 0.8 V to 1.275 V output voltage range with 5 mV, see Table 4. Set register HVBUCK\_CONF1[7:0] to the target voltage according to the processor requirement. The HVBUCK DVC slew rate is also adjustable to prevent overshoot or undershoot on the output voltage by setting register HVBuck\_CONF2[3:1].

For example, a processor is supplied by the HVBUCK for the typical 1.05 V core voltage. In idle mode, the core voltage of the process is 1.0 V to save power. The slew rate is set to 3.125 mV/µs to prevent overshoot. Sending the commend 0xC8 to HVBUCK\_CONF1(0x33) in the I²C interface, as shown in Figure 15, results in the desired DVC step-down, see Figure 16. The output voltage is set back to 1.05 V by sending the commend 0xD2 to HVBUCK\_CONF1(0x33), see Figure 17 and Figure 18.

**Table 4: HVBuck Output Voltage** 

Name

Address

0x0033	HVBL	JCK_C	ONF1	
Field name		Bits	Description	
			HVBuck	Target Voltage. V <sub>OUT</sub> = 0.005 * VBuck1[6:0]
		[7:0]	Value	Description
VHVBUCK	CK		0xA0	V <sub>OUT</sub> = 0.005 * 160 = 0.8V
			0xFF	V <sub>OUT</sub> = 0.005 * 255 = 1.275 V



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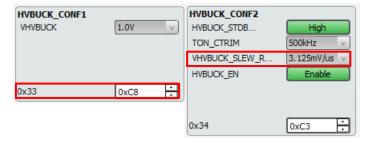


Figure 15: Sending 0xC8 to HVBUCK in Dialog GUI

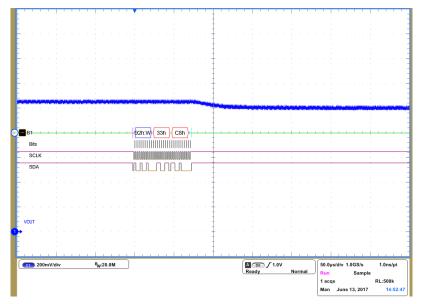


Figure 16: DVC Step-Down from 1.05 V to 1.0 V

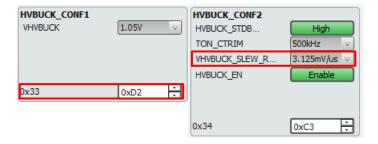


Figure 17: Sending 0xD2 to HVBUCK in Dialog GUI



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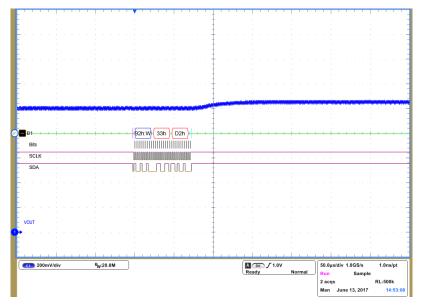


Figure 18: DVC Step-Up from 1.0 V to 1.05 V

# 5 Conclusions

Both the LVBUCK and HVBUCK in PV88080 support DVC function. The flexible DVC slew rate prevents overshoot and undershoot in different applications. The I<sup>2</sup>C interface provides a standard and flexible way to control this feature.



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# **Revision History**

Revision	Date	Description
1.0	17-Aug-2017	Initial version.



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# **Contacting Dialog Semiconductor**

United Kingdom (Headquarters)

Dialog Semiconductor (UK) LTD Phone: +44 1793 757700

Germany

Dialog Semiconductor GmbH Phone: +49 7021 805-0

The Netherlands

Dialog Semiconductor B.V. Phone: +31 73 640 8822

Email:

enquiry@diasemi.com

Application Note

North America

Dialog Semiconductor Inc. Phone: +1 408 845 8500

Japan

Dialog Semiconductor K. K. Phone: +81 3 5425 4567

Taiwan

Dialog Semiconductor Taiwan Phone: +886 281 786 222

Web site:

www.dialog-semiconductor.com

ngapore

Dialog Semiconductor Singapore Phone: +65 64 8499 29

Hong Kong

Dialog Semiconductor Hong Kong Phone: +852 3769 5200

Korea

Dialog Semiconductor Korea Phone: +82 2 3469 8200 China (Shenzhen)

Dialog Semiconductor China Phone: +86 755 2981 3669

China (Shanghai)

Dialog Semiconductor China Phone: +86 21 5424 9058

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