Designing Battery Charger using GAIA Converter 150W DC/DC Converter

- **Easy schematics to design battery charger**

1- Subject

A battery charger is a device used to put energy into a battery by forcing an electric current trhough it. The charge current depends upon the technology and capcity of the battery being charged.

There are 4 main battery technology types :
- Lead Acid battery
- Nickel Cadmium (NiCd) battery
- Nickel MetalHybrid (NiMH) battery
- Lithium (Li-Ion or Li-Poly) battery

Old battery technology requires simple charging system with constant current while many new battery technologies (NiCd, NiMH , Lithium) require sophisticated charging and monitoring systems to preserve their high performance and to extend their life.

So basically there are 2 types of battery chargers
- simple charger
- advanced charger

A simple charger works by connecting a constant DC power source to the battery.

An advanced charger can monitor different battery parameters such as voltage, temperature, time under charge, overvoltage, ... to determine the optimum charge current.

2- Designing a Battery Charger with DC/DC converter

DC/DC converter used as bulk power element can regulate the output current and provide optimized battery charger solutions with very high efficiency and small size.

GAIA Converter describes in the application note different solutions to design battery chargers with it's range of 150W DC/DC Converter : the MGDM-150 family.

The MGDM-150 family of modules enables designers to easily build battery charging system using standard available parts. With its wide range of outputs from 3.3V up to 28Vdc, the MGDM-150 series offers designers a simple, cost-effective solution to battery charging for all major battery types.

The MGDM-150 module provides an output current monitoring signal (Share) and a very large voltage outputs trimming range and is ideal for applications involving standard input and output voltages.

The MGDM-150 series allows also to set independently the output voltage and the charge current.

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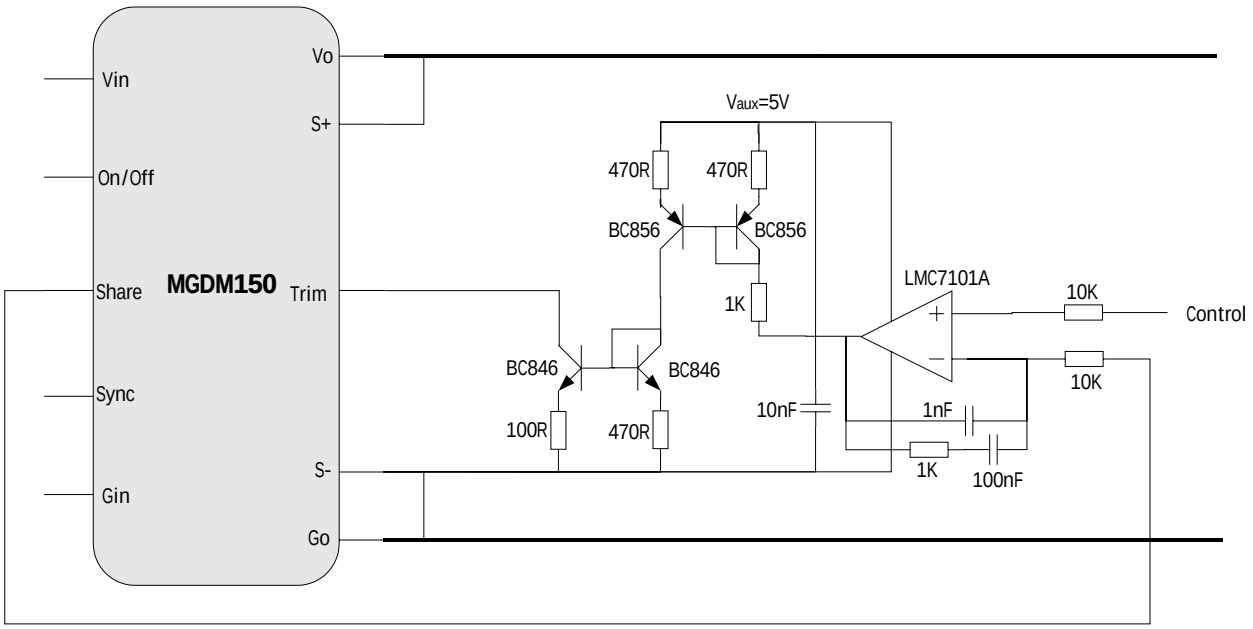
3- Designing a Basic Battery Charger

3-1 Setting the battery voltage:

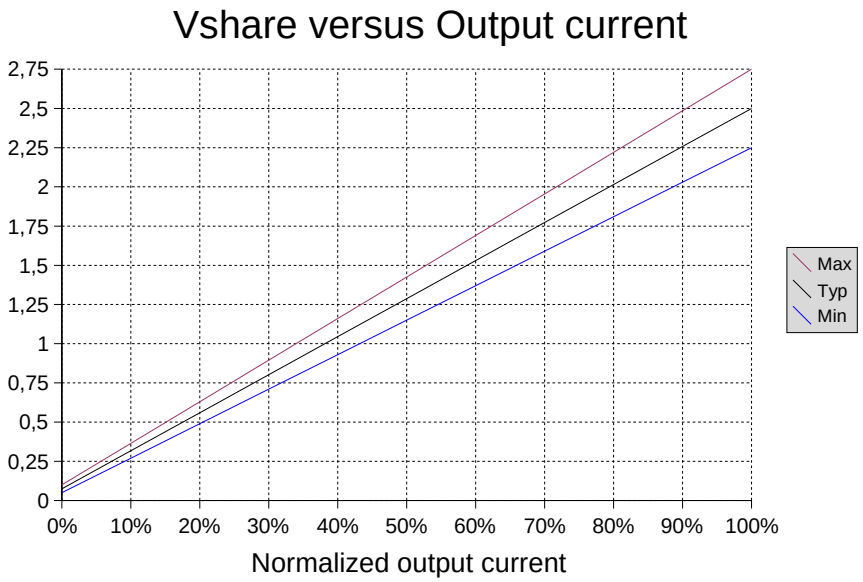
The battery voltage can be set by using the "Trim" function as it is recommended in the datasheet.

3-2 Setting the charge current:

The figure hereunder shows a basic charging circuit with a single MGDM-150 module providing a nominal output voltage corresponding to the voltage of the battery charged.

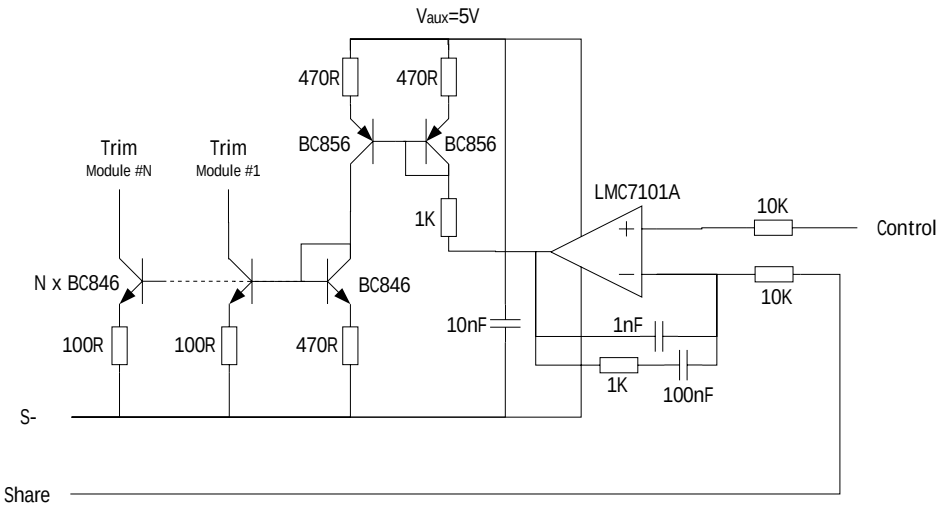


The charge current can be programmed from 0 to maximum (Io_{nom}) by applying a «Control» voltage from 0 to maximum 3V. To determine the «Control» voltage required to produce a particular charge current, use the typical curve given in figure 2. It gives the relation between the output current monitoring voltage «Share» and the output current.



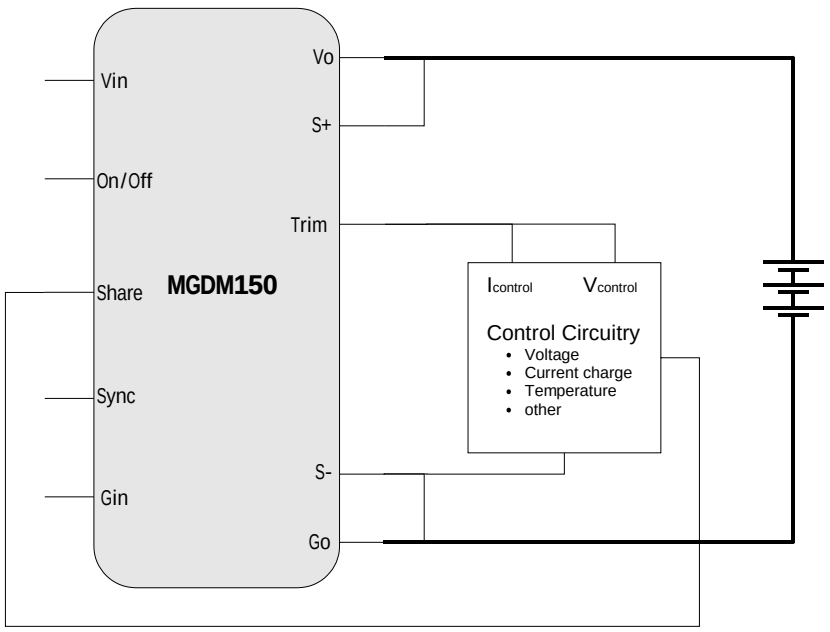
3- High Power Battery Charger

The MGDM-150 series offers the possibility to easily build high power battery charging system able to deliver more than 150W by parallelized several converters. Figure below shows the circuit required to control the charge current with “n” modules.



3- Advanced Battery Charger

Many new battery technologies require sophisticated charging and monitoring systems to preserve their high performance and to extend their life.
The MGDM-150 Module serves as an ideal building block for constructing an advanced battery management system, which typically incorporates a microprocessor-based control circuit that is easily adapted for a variety of battery chemistries and monitoring functions. (See Figure below).
To maintain the optimum charge on the battery, the control circuit independently adjusts the output voltage and charge current in response to conditions during the charge: the battery's voltage, current, temperature and pressure, and other pertinent parameters.



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