

Linear Regulator Series

BA1117 Dropout Voltage

This application note provides design values of the "Dropout voltage" that are necessary for designing circuits. From the operating temperature and output current of the target specification, check the maximum value of the input/output voltage difference in the next page and use it as the circuit design value. The values listed in this material are "design reference values" that are necessary for designing devices, and the values are not guaranteed. Check the latest data sheet for the guaranteed values.

What is dropout voltage

The dropout voltage is the difference between the input and output voltages that is necessary for the stabilizing operation of a linear regulator. When the input voltage approaches the output voltage, stabilizing operation cannot be maintained and the output starts dropping in proportion to the input. The voltage at which this situation starts, i.e., the difference between the input and output voltages that is necessary for the stabilizing operation, is referred to as the dropout voltage (Figure 1).

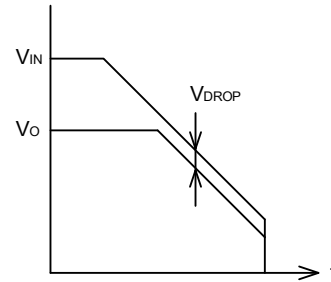


Figure 1. Dropout voltage

Figure 2 shows the relation between the input and output voltages and the dropout voltage. The dropout voltage varies with the circuit configuration of ICs. Compared with a standard linear regulator, an LDO has a smaller dropout voltage. Simply stated, the operation can be performed with the input voltage closer to the output voltage as the dropout voltage is smaller. On the other hand, the dropout voltage is not important in an application where 5 V is generated from 12 V.

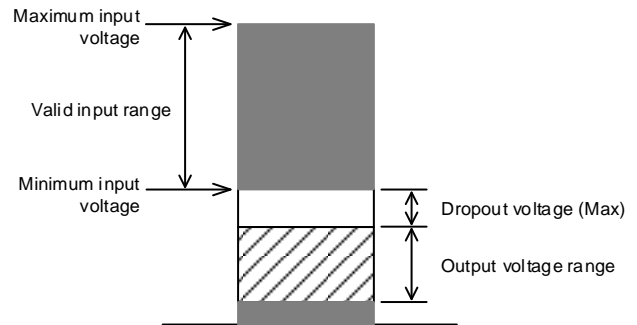


Figure 2. Relation between the input and output voltages

For example, Figure 3 shows the relation between the output current and temperature. It can be said that the dropout voltage is a parameter that varies with the output current and temperature. Therefore, if only the specifications at ordinary temperature are considered in the design, the circuit may not work at low temperature.

Study of dropout voltage and characteristics

The minimum value of the input voltage is determined by adding the output voltage to the dropout voltage at the load current to be used. At this time, the operation can work as DC, but the control performance is degraded. When there are fluctuations in the load, a large current cannot be supplied in a short period of time from input to output, as the dropout voltage is small. In other words, the load responsiveness will slow down. The slowness in responsiveness will also show up as a degradation in the PSRR characteristics. If only the minimum voltage amount of the dropout voltage is secured in order to focus on efficiency, the expected characteristics of the LDO will not be achieved. Increase the input voltage until the high-speed load responsiveness and PSRR performance is achieved, and find a trade-off between efficiency and each characteristic.

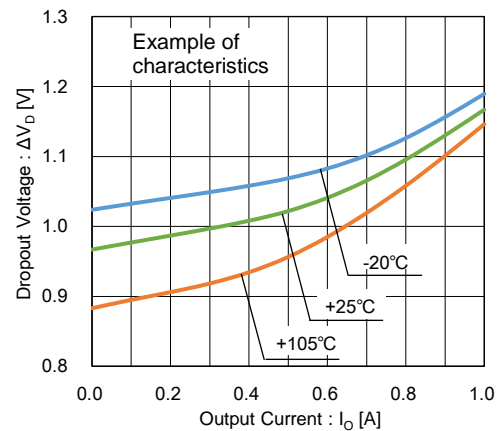
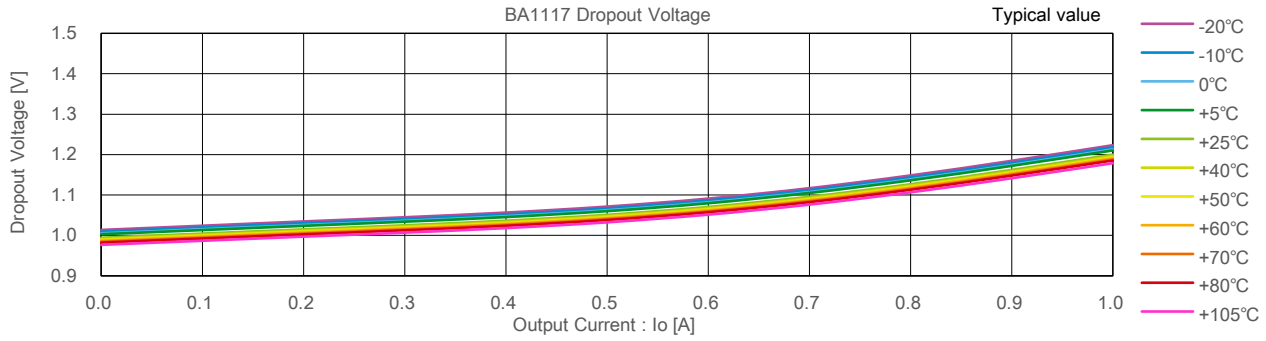


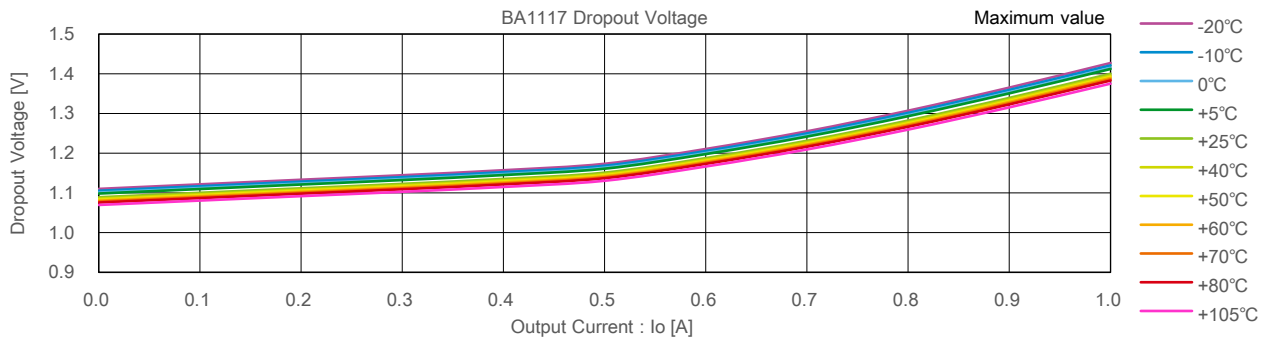
Figure 3. Relation with the output current and temperature

Typical value



I _o [A]	Dropout Voltage Typical Value [V]										
	-20°C	-10°C	0°C	+5°C	+25°C	+40°C	+50°C	+60°C	+70°C	+80°C	+105°C
0.1m	1.014	1.009	1.005	1.003	0.994	0.991	0.989	0.987	0.984	0.982	0.977
0.1	1.024	1.020	1.015	1.013	1.005	1.001	0.999	0.997	0.995	0.992	0.987
0.2	1.035	1.030	1.026	1.024	1.015	1.012	1.009	1.007	1.005	1.003	0.997
0.3	1.045	1.041	1.036	1.034	1.025	1.022	1.019	1.017	1.015	1.013	1.007
0.4	1.057	1.052	1.048	1.045	1.037	1.033	1.031	1.028	1.026	1.024	1.018
0.5	1.071	1.067	1.062	1.060	1.051	1.048	1.045	1.043	1.041	1.038	1.032
0.6	1.091	1.086	1.082	1.080	1.070	1.067	1.064	1.062	1.060	1.057	1.051
0.7	1.117	1.112	1.107	1.105	1.096	1.092	1.090	1.087	1.085	1.082	1.076
0.8	1.148	1.144	1.139	1.136	1.127	1.123	1.120	1.118	1.115	1.113	1.107
0.9	1.185	1.180	1.175	1.172	1.162	1.158	1.156	1.153	1.151	1.148	1.142
1.0	1.223	1.218	1.213	1.210	1.200	1.196	1.193	1.191	1.188	1.185	1.179

Maximum value



I _o [A]	Dropout Voltage Maximum Value [V]										
	-20°C	-10°C	0°C	+5°C	+25°C	+40°C	+50°C	+60°C	+70°C	+80°C	+105°C
0.1m	1.110	1.105	1.101	1.098	1.089	1.085	1.083	1.081	1.078	1.076	1.070
0.1	1.122	1.117	1.112	1.110	1.100	1.097	1.094	1.092	1.089	1.087	1.081
0.2	1.133	1.128	1.124	1.121	1.112	1.108	1.105	1.103	1.101	1.098	1.092
0.3	1.144	1.140	1.135	1.132	1.123	1.119	1.117	1.114	1.112	1.109	1.103
0.4	1.157	1.152	1.147	1.145	1.135	1.131	1.129	1.126	1.124	1.121	1.115
0.5	1.173	1.168	1.163	1.161	1.151	1.147	1.145	1.142	1.140	1.137	1.131
0.6	1.211	1.205	1.200	1.198	1.188	1.184	1.181	1.178	1.176	1.173	1.167
0.7	1.255	1.250	1.245	1.242	1.231	1.227	1.224	1.222	1.219	1.216	1.209
0.8	1.307	1.301	1.296	1.293	1.282	1.278	1.275	1.272	1.269	1.267	1.259
0.9	1.365	1.359	1.354	1.351	1.339	1.335	1.332	1.329	1.326	1.323	1.315
1.0	1.427	1.421	1.415	1.412	1.400	1.395	1.392	1.389	1.386	1.383	1.375

These values are “design reference values” that are necessary for circuit design, and the values are not guaranteed. Check the latest data sheet for the guaranteed values.

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