

Supporting High-Voltage Common Mode Using Instrumentation Amplifier



Shotaro Sakai, Ahmed Noeman

Introduction

Supporting high-voltage common-mode input in the range of ± 30 V is a common requirement for programmable logic controller (PLC) analog input modules. One way to support high-common mode is with signal passive scaling in front of instrumentation amplifier similar to the circuit shown in [Figure 1](#).

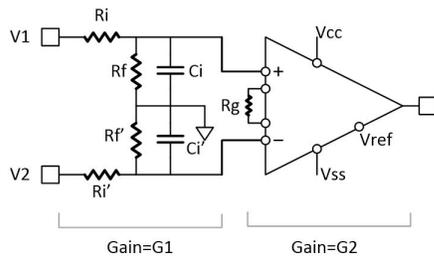


Figure 1. Passive scaling plus instrumentation amplifier

An instrumentation amplifier similar to INA826 can be used along with matched resistors. The gain of this circuit is represented as:

$$G_1 = \frac{R_f}{R_f + R_i} \quad (1)$$

$$G_2 = 1 + \frac{49.4k}{R_G} \quad (2)$$

When examining the performance of this circuit with $G_1=0.249$, and $G_2=4.01$, for example, overall unity gain is achieved for the interface. These gains can be achieved with 0.1% standard resistors $R_f=249$ k Ω , $R_i=750$ k Ω , $R_G=16.4$ k Ω .

Common-Mode Range

With the aforementioned values, input voltages of the amplifier are

$$V_- = G_1 V_1 = G_1 \left(V_{CM} - \frac{V_i}{2} \right) \quad (3)$$

$$V_+ = G_1 V_2 = G_1 \left(V_{CM} + \frac{V_i}{2} \right) \quad (4)$$

Where V_i and V_{CM} are the differential input and common-mode input voltages respectively.

$$V_i = V_2 - V_1 \quad (5)$$

If V_i range of ± 10 V is assumed, we can determine the V_{CM} range given the input voltages derived above. The instrumentation amplifier valid input range is complex to calculate, and depends on power supply levels and gain.

We can use [Figure 2](#) function in TI's [Analog engineer's calculator](#) tool as shown in [Figure 2](#) to quickly calculate the common-mode range assuming bipolar supply of ± 15 V and $V_{ref}=0$. Using the tool shows V_{cm} at the amplifier input limits are 9.05 V and -10.7 V, by calculating back the input terminal common-mode range we come to the following values: -42.9 V to +36.3 V

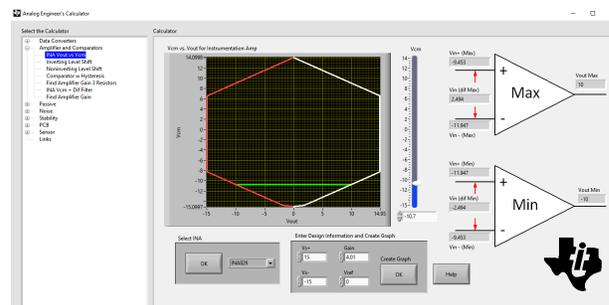


Figure 2. Common-mode input range calculator for instrumentation amplifiers

Input Impedance

Input impedance of the circuit in [Figure 1](#) is:

$$R_{in} \Big|_{SE} = R_f + R_i \quad (6)$$

$$R_{in}|_{DIFF} = 2 \times R_{in}|_{SE} \quad (7)$$

With chosen resistor values, 1 MΩ, and 2 MΩ respectively.

Offset Error

While input impedance is determined only by front-end, both front-end and the ADC are affecting other parameters like offset and gain errors. Figure 3 shows the front-end connected to the simultaneous sampling ADS8588S.

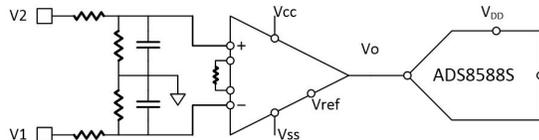


Figure 3. Front-end connected to ADS8588S

Using the sum of squares, we can calculate the overall offset of the signal chain at the input of the ADC as:

$$V_{OS} = \sqrt{V_{OS}|_{Amp}^2 + V_{OS}|_{ADC}^2} \quad (8)$$

Where ADC offset is input-referred, and amplifier offset is output-referred. Both ADC and amplifier offsets and offset drifts are found in respective data sheets. Figure 4 shows the offset and offset drift distribution for INA826.

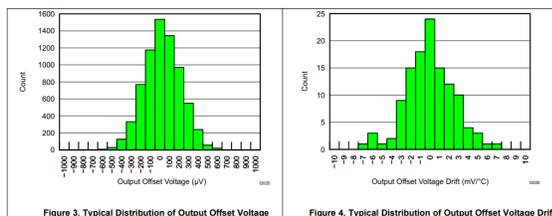


Figure 4. Offset characteristics of INA826

Initial offset can be eliminated using calibration, while offset drift contributes to uncompensated offset error over temperature. At low gains, output offset dominates the instrumental amplifier offset. INA826 offset typical value is 200 μV, and drift value is about 2 μV/°C, this leads to ±0.12 mV over -40 °C to 85 °C.

ADC8588S features a typical offset of 150 μV and a negligible offset drift of 0.3 ppm/°C. The applying offset equation above we get a typical RMS total offset of 250 μV and 2 μV/°C. It's worth noting that worst-case offset values are way above this. However, the worst-case values are too pessimistic and typical values are much more realistic.

CM-related Offset Error

When CM voltage is added to a zero-input voltage, another component of offset is introduced due to the input resistors mismatch which is dependent on the common-mode gain.

$$G_{CM} = G_1 \cdot \alpha \cdot \frac{\Delta R}{R} \quad (9)$$

Where ΔR/R is the resistor tolerance, and α is equals 4 in case of worst-case calculation, and 0.33 for the typical case. CM-induced offset error can be calculated by multiplying this gain by the common-mode range.

$$V_{OS}|_{CM} = CMR \cdot G_{CM} \quad (10)$$

Using 0.1% resistors, and a CMR=±35 V, $V_{OS}|_{CM} = \pm 2.9$ mV. This shows that whenever CM is present, it dominates the offset error. This type of offset error cannot be eliminated by calibration.

Gain Error

For the full chain, gain error consists of three components: resistors, amplifier, and ADC

$$\epsilon_G = \sqrt{\epsilon_{G1}^2 + \epsilon_{G2}^2 + \epsilon_{G_ADC}^2} \quad (11)$$

The resistors gain error ϵ_{G1} can be estimated using Monte-Carlo simulation based on the given resistor tolerance (0.1%). The simulation results show a three-sigma value of (0.125%). The amplifier typical intrinsic gain error is 0.03% according to data sheet, so the amplifier gain error will be dominated by gain setting resistor R_g tolerance (0.1%). The ADC typical gain error is ±4 LSB=0.01% which is negligible. Substituting these values, we get 0.16% as overall gain error. This translates to 16 mV gain error in case of 10 V input range.

In case of non-zero common mode, the CM-related offset error would appear as gain error, by adding both values, the full-scale error would be close to 19 mV or 0.19%.

Signal Bandwidth

The signal goes over three subsequent filters through the signal chain.

1. The RC filter of the front-end.
2. The bandwidth of the INA826.
3. The bandwidth of the ADS8588S.

Combining these filters leads to an overall bandwidth of 21 kHz. This bandwidth will result in a 0.01% linear settling time of 70 μs.

1. RC filter of 750 kΩ and 1pF differential input impedance has 212 kHz of bandwidth
2. INA826 bandwidth is about 700 kHz
3. ADS8588 has an integrated filter with 24-kHz bandwidth

Full-scale Error

At full-scale input, in addition to non-zero common-mode several errors are added to get the full-scale error.

$$\varepsilon_{FS} = \varepsilon_{G1} + V_{OS}|_{CM} \quad (12)$$

Common-Mode Rejection Ratio

It can be proven that CMRR due to resistor mismatch (R_f and $R_{\bar{f}}$, R_i and $R_{\bar{i}}$) equals:

$$CMRR_R = \frac{(G_1 + 1)}{\alpha \cdot \frac{\Delta R}{R}} \quad (13)$$

Typical value calculation leads to $CMRR_R = 3784$ (71.5dB).

Test Results

The analog signal chain shown in [Figure 3](#) is put under test to validate calculations presented in this article. Note that some statistical parameters like offset error cannot be really validated using a single device sample.

Table 1. Measured results for AIN@25°C

Parameter	Measured value	Unit
Vos	-0.35	mV
Vos cm (±20V)	2.3 to 3.0	mV
ε _G	±0.01	%FSR
ε _{FS}	-0.4 to +0.12	%FSR
BW	21.2	kHz
t _{settle}	155	us
CMRR	77	dB
Cross talk	-48	dB
3rd HD	-109	dB

[Table 1](#) shows the measured parameters of few input channels attached to one ADC. Measured results to a great extent matches our previous calculation. The settling time is higher than calculated probably due to non-linear settling effect. Gain error is also lower than calculated, which might be attributed to limited sampling. The techniques introduced in this document can also be applied to the instrumentation amplifiers listed in [Table 2](#).

Table 2. TI instrumentation amplifiers

Related devices	Description
INA818	Low power (350 μA), high precision (35 μV), low noise 36 V instrumentation amp with over-voltage protection (gain pins 1, 8)
INA819	Low power (350 μA), high precision (35 μV), low noise 36 V instrumentation amp with over-voltage protection (gain pins 2, 3)- Tiny 3x3mm package available
INA821	Wide bandwidth (4.7 MHz), low noise (7 nV/√Hz), high precision (35 μV) 36 V instrumentation amp with over-voltage protection- Tiny 3x3mm package available
INA849	Ultra-low noise (1 nV/√Hz), high speed (35 V/μs, 28 MHz), high precision (35 μV) 36 V instrumentation amplifier. Fixed gain of 2,000 version available (INA848).
INA333	Micro-power (50 μA), Zero-Drift (25 μV, 0.1 μV/°C), low voltage instrumentation amplifier. Tiny 3x3mm package available

References

1. Texas Instruments, [Difference Amplifier \(subcontractor\) Circuit](#), Analog Engineer's Circuit: Amplifiers.
2. Texas Instruments, [16-bit 8-Channel PLC Analog Input Module with High Voltage CM support](#), application brief.

IMPORTANT NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER

TI PROVIDES TECHNICAL AND RELIABILITY DATA (INCLUDING DATA SHEETS), DESIGN RESOURCES (INCLUDING REFERENCE DESIGNS), APPLICATION OR OTHER DESIGN ADVICE, WEB TOOLS, SAFETY INFORMATION, AND OTHER RESOURCES "AS IS" AND WITH ALL FAULTS, AND DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES, EXPRESS AND IMPLIED, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR NON-INFRINGEMENT OF THIRD PARTY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.

These resources are intended for skilled developers designing with TI products. You are solely responsible for (1) selecting the appropriate TI products for your application, (2) designing, validating and testing your application, and (3) ensuring your application meets applicable standards, and any other safety, security, regulatory or other requirements.

These resources are subject to change without notice. TI grants you permission to use these resources only for development of an application that uses the TI products described in the resource. Other reproduction and display of these resources is prohibited. No license is granted to any other TI intellectual property right or to any third party intellectual property right. TI disclaims responsibility for, and you will fully indemnify TI and its representatives against, any claims, damages, costs, losses, and liabilities arising out of your use of these resources.

TI's products are provided subject to [TI's Terms of Sale](#) or other applicable terms available either on ti.com or provided in conjunction with such TI products. TI's provision of these resources does not expand or otherwise alter TI's applicable warranties or warranty disclaimers for TI products.

TI objects to and rejects any additional or different terms you may have proposed.

Mailing Address: Texas Instruments, Post Office Box 655303, Dallas, Texas 75265
Copyright © 2022, Texas Instruments Incorporated