

# Under the Hood: Full-Scale and Dynamic Range Considerations of Current Sense Amplifiers



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## ABSTRACT

Current sense amplifiers operating in single-supply mode do not come with infinite sensing range. The full-scale range of any amplifier is ultimately bounded by the supply voltage, while the offset voltage also influences what realistic measurements are achievable on the lower end based on the accuracy requirements of the design. During design, a healthy balance must be struck between operating power loss and signal integrity, and this ultimately limits the full-scale range of the amplifier, dependent on the acceptable error tolerance of the design. This application note discusses the reasons for these limitations, and presents simulated topologies for the purposes of potentially expanding this range. Tradeoffs and potential challenges of these designs are also discussed.

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## Trademarks

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## 1 Dynamic Range (DR) and Full-Scale Range (FSR)

As applications continue to become more advanced in scope, designers find themselves needing to monitor greater ranges of current in their designs. From the scaling of high-power applications requiring the need for high current flow, to the advancement of semiconductor content allowing resolutions to be successfully measured down into the nanoamp range, designers are constantly looking for methods and topologies that allow them to achieve wider ranges of measurement.

There are several ways to define the range of an application, and these may be *referred* to either the input or the output of a certain device. In general, the ratio of largest-to-smallest input measurement range able to be measured by a device in an application is known as the dynamic range of the application, while the largest measurable quantity is called the full-scale range. Full-scale range is often used to describe the maximum value attainable in an analog-to-digital converter (ADC) design. For example, a current sense amplifier looking to achieve 5-A to 25-A measurement range would have a dynamic range of 5:1, and would have a full scale input range of 25 A. Full scale; however, could also refer to the highest possible output achievable by the amplifier, commonly referred to as the full-scale output range.

For current sense amplifier designs, the objective in the simplest sense, is to transduce a current signal range through a shunt resistor into a voltage range, and provide a chosen gain that will map that signal to the maximum output voltage range capable with the amplifier. For most current sense amplifiers, the output range able to be utilized spans from a few millivolts above ground to a few millivolts below the supply rail (although for optimal results, linear operating range of the amplifier should also be considered). This straightforward design plan begins to break down; however, as the DR of the application grows wider. From here, each design aspect can be discussed to understand the tradeoffs made and how the DR is affected.

When designing with a current sense amplifier, several degrees of freedom exist to form the design, with the typical equation relating the current measured in the shunt to the output of the amplifier given as [Equation 1](#):

$$V_{\text{OUT}} = I_{\text{LOAD}} \times R_{\text{SHUNT}} \times \text{GAIN} \quad (1)$$

Observe from [Equation 1](#) that there are essentially three options presented to the designer to help form their design: the magnitude of the supply voltage, the gain option chosen, and the sizing of the shunt resistor.

- *Supply Voltage*

In designs where wide DR is necessary, maximization of the supply voltage is recommended to provide the widest output range possible for the design, although downstream circuitry may also influence this choice. Supplying a  $V_S$  lower than the recommended maximum directly reduces the dynamic range possible for a single device.

- *Gain*

Choosing an amplifier with larger gain is typically a tradeoff: this allows more signal integrity to be generated for a smaller signal against the offset voltage (larger gain choices also lead to increased resolution when digitizing the signal), thus reducing error in the lower region. However, this larger gain also results in more rapid maximization of the output of the amplifier, or in short, the size of the allowable dynamic range becomes smaller. Therefore, gain increase is typically more useful in precision range designs, where the dynamic range of measurement is reasonably small, or with amplifiers whose supply voltage range may also be extended to support the output on the higher end.

As an example, consider a system utilizing INA293 with a 5-V supply, where the desired range of the design is from 20 mA to 1 A. Disregarding common-mode rejection ratio (CMRR), if the designer were to implement a 200-m $\Omega$  shunt, the generated shunt voltage at the 20-mA condition is 4 mV, and, according to the [Current Sense Amplifier Comparison and Error Tool](#), the error for the A1 variant at this point is 3.86%. Assuming better accuracy is needed, consider a step up to the A2 variant, which, for the same measurement case, now reduces the error to 2.12%. The tradeoff to this device migration, however, is that by stepping up to the higher gain, the design has diminished the maximum allowable range of which the amplifier can measure. In this case, while the error at the lower bound was reduced, this also invalidates the design, as 1 A is no longer an achievable measurement, with the A2 device reaching saturation at 485 mA for a 200-m $\Omega$  shunt, as demonstrated in [Equation 2](#) and [Equation 3](#).

$$I_{LOAD,MAX, A1} = \frac{V_{OUT,MAX}}{GAIN \times R_{SHUNT}} = \frac{4.85 V}{20 \frac{V}{V} \times 200 m\Omega} = 1.2125 A \quad (2)$$

$$I_{LOAD,MAX, A2} = \frac{V_{OUT,MAX}}{GAIN \times R_{SHUNT}} = \frac{4.85 V}{50 \frac{V}{V} \times 200 m\Omega} = 0.485 A \quad (3)$$

Therefore, for wider ranges of measurement that are the subject of this paper, it is observed that smaller gains allow for maximization of dynamic range, so A1 variants are typically chosen for these types of designs. This example is summarized in [Table 1-1](#).

**Table 1-1. Gain Change Effects Summary**

Part Number	Gain (V/V)	Error at 20 mV (%)	Maximum Meas. Load (A)
INA293A1	20	3.86	1.2125
INA293A2	50	2.12	.485

- **Shunt Resistor**

The shunt resistor is the final aspect that needs to be considered in the given system. The challenge of shunt resistor design is optimizing error at the low end versus shunt power loss at the high end. For a specific current point, Ohm's law is clear, to generate additional voltage signal against the offset voltage, the resistance of the shunt resistor must increase. This, however, comes at the expense of resistance losses in the form of heat, which in many cases may become a challenge to manage successfully for a given design.

Take for example, an arbitrary, high-current application design using the INA240 to measure a maximum current of 100 amps. Taking the swing limitations of the INA240 into account, and assuming that the device is powered by a supply of 5 V, the maximum worst-case output the INA240 is capable of delivering is 4.8 V, and assuming the A1 variant (GAIN = 20 V/V) is used, the maximum possible shunt able to be designed in is:

$$R_{SHUNT, MAX} = \frac{V_{OUT, MAX}}{GAIN \times I_{LOAD, MAX}} = \frac{4.8 V}{20 \frac{V}{V} \times 100 A} = 2.4 m\Omega \quad (4)$$

This result shows that up to a 2.4-mΩ shunt may be chosen without risking device saturation (although some margin from the rail is typically advised), but this does not necessarily mean that this is the optimal shunt for the design. While on paper, this shunt choice maximizes signal integrity of the load under measurement, the power dissipated in the shunt at the maximum current level is 24 W.

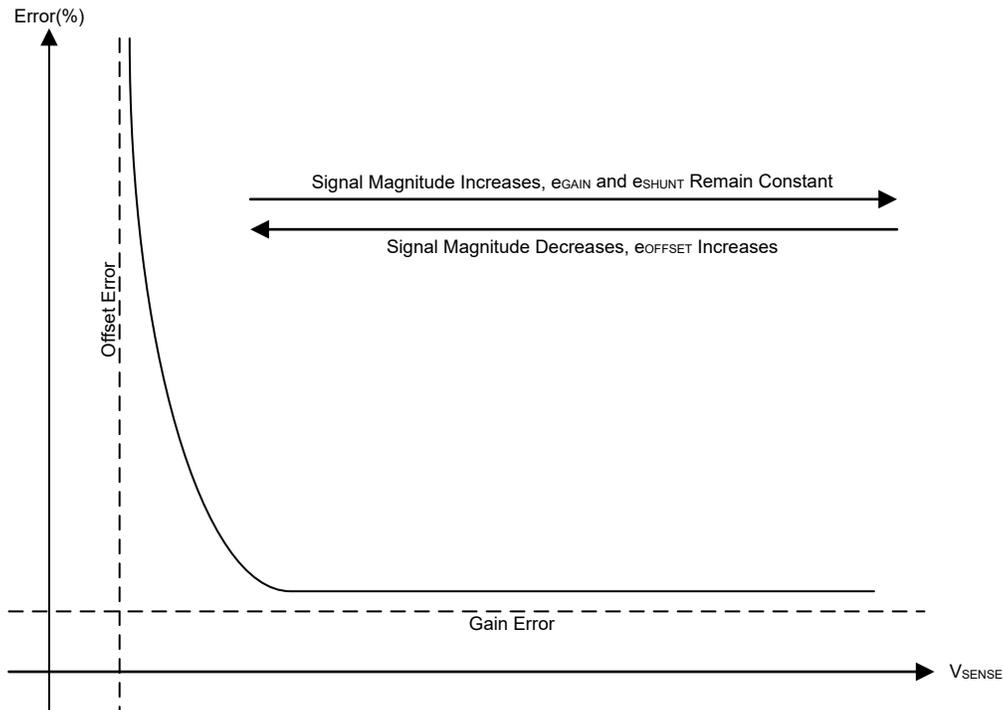
$$P_{LOSS, SHUNT} = I_{LOAD}^2 \times R_{SHUNT} = (100 A)^2 \times 2.4 m\Omega = 24 W \quad (5)$$

Finally, as per the last example, the needed dynamic range may also be examined, as if a larger gain may be chosen while still capturing the necessary measurement range, the shunt may be reduced by this same factor.

For many applications, this has the potential to exceed the limits of manageable heat in the system, and the choice of the shunt needs to be revisited, rather than designing in this value. The alternative here is to select a shunt smaller in magnitude than the calculated maximum, as choosing a smaller shunt proportionally reduces the power consumed at the expense of signal integrity, that is, not utilizing the full scale output range achievable by the device. This also reduces the signal integrity of measurements at the lower end, leading to increased error where the offset of the amplifier has the potential to encroach on the accuracy of the measurement.

## 2 Error Over the Full Scale Range

At the lower end of the measurement range, the signal transduced by the shunt will suffer from greater influence of the offset voltage inherent to the amplifier. This results in an inverse proportionally increasing error as the measurement tends towards zero. Dependent on the shunt resistor chosen for the measurement maximum, it may even be found that the measurement at the lower bound is completely dominated by the offset voltage, and is effectively unusable due to the magnitude of the error. [Current Sense Amplifier Error Curve Characteristics](#) shows a generic error curve for a current sense amplifier, and the two dominating behaviors of the error curve as you move in each direction along the error curve.



**Figure 2-1. Current Sense Amplifier Error Curve Characteristics**

As the measured signal diminishes, the proportion of the signal compared to the offset voltage of the device grows smaller, and offset error increasingly dominates the measurement, eventually rendering the measurement unacceptable in terms of error. As the signal grows and approaches the output limit of the amplifier, the voltage offset becomes a less important factor. However, constant error terms such as gain error and the tolerance error of the chosen shunt produce a y-axis asymptote that serves as a *best case* error measurement of the signal. For root sum square approximations that are often used to calculate total error, these static values become the dominant contribution at full scale, and result in a minimum limit achievable in terms of error.

## 3 Expansion of DR

A challenge that then arises from the limitations discussed in [Section 1](#) is designing to a dynamic range that is often not easily achieved via the use of a single device.

The first potential option to be explored is that DR can be expanded via calibration. However, this is often not feasible due to scalability concerns. Typically then, for analog devices, what must be done in such a use case is the design of two (or more) separate amplifiers to effectively break up the DR into sections that are achievable by each of the individual stages in the design.

In this section, the design of one such topology for the INA190 is presented, for a use case of 10  $\mu\text{A}$  to 100 mA, with a 24-V common-mode voltage, and a supply voltage of 5 V. The goal of the design is to achieve < 5% error at any given point on the measurement curve.

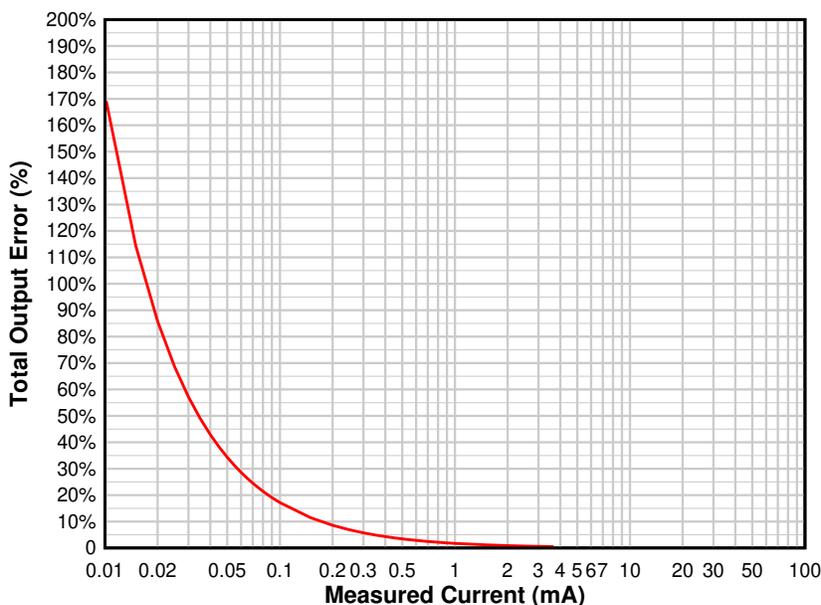
### 3.1 Unsuccessful Design With a Single Device

When designing amplifiers into the microamp range, one design aspect that must be considered is the input bias currents of the amplifier. As these currents will ultimately flow through the shunt to enter the IN– leg of the amplifier, the designer is restricted to amplifiers that exhibit input bias currents far less than the minimum desired measurement point. As such, the best choice from the TI portfolio for a design needing to measure microamps is the INA190, which has a worst-case bias current magnitude of 3 nA, which should minimize the impact of this error on the lower range. The sheer magnitude of this dynamic range (10000:1) presents an issue, however.

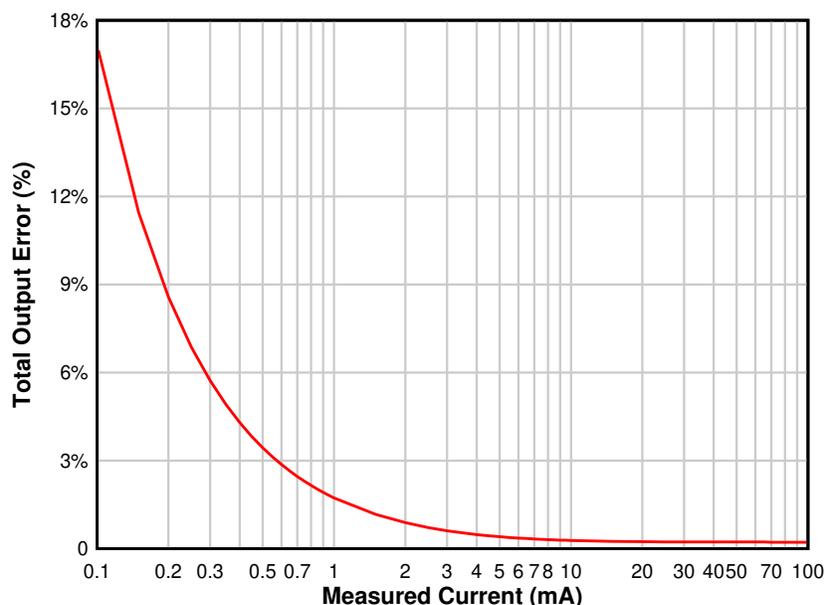
For the INA190, the maximum output achievable due to worst-case swing-to-rail limitation is 4.96 V, and thus for a 100-mA maximum measurement, the maximum possible calculated shunt is 1.984 Ω.

$$R_{SHUNT, \max} = \frac{V_{OUT, \max}}{GAIN \times I_{LOAD, \max}} = \frac{4.96 \text{ V}}{25 \times 100 \text{ mA}} = 1.984 \Omega \tag{6}$$

For the given conditions, [Figure 3-1](#) gives the overall output error curve for the design utilizing this shunt, while [Figure 3-2](#) examines the error curve only down to 0.1 mA, for better granularity.



**Figure 3-1. Total Output Error (%) Over Measurement Range,  $R_{SHUNT} = 1.984 \Omega$ , 10  $\mu\text{A}$  to 100 mA, Ideal Shunt Tolerance**



**Figure 3-2. Total Output Error (%) Over Measurement Range,  $R_{SHUNT} = 1.984 \Omega$ , 100  $\mu\text{A}$  to 100 mA, Ideal Shunt Tolerance**

From the latter curve, it is observed that the utilization of this device alone cannot satisfy the error specification of the design. The error becomes greater than 5% around 300  $\mu\text{A}$ , above the needed design minimum of 10  $\mu\text{A}$ . At this lower design end, for the current selections, effectively no signal integrity remains, resulting in > 150% error at 10  $\mu\text{A}$ . This is made slightly worse once an actual E96 or E192 shunt value is chosen, along with its shunt tolerance error taken into consideration.

As a single device is incapable of achieving the needed error specification over the design range, the range may be broken down into separate pieces, where each individual stage is responsible for a portion of the range in which the desired specification is achievable. While many various topologies exist, the following topology utilizes two shunt resistors in series to break the range up into two separate measurement areas. A P-channel MOSFET acts as a virtual short across the larger of these resistors when biased, establishing the following shunt resistor conditions:

1. When the PFET is OFF, the total shunt resistance is the combined total of  $R_{SHUNT,1}$  and  $R_{SHUNT,2}$ .
2. When the PFET is ON, it acts as a virtual short to  $R_{SHUNT,1}$ , and instead contributes approximately the  $R_{DS(ON)}$  of the FET to the shunt measurement (the true contribution is  $R_{DS(ON)}$  in parallel with  $R_{SHUNT,1}$ ). The design may choose to treat the worst-case  $R_{DS(ON)}$  of the FET as contributed error to  $R_{SHUNT,2}$ , or the designer may choose to include the nominal  $R_{DS(ON)}$  of the FET to the proposed shunt resistance, thereby reducing the tolerance error to the observed difference between the nominal and worst-case  $R_{DS(ON)}$  of the chosen FET.

To implement such a design on the high side requires a few additional components, to ensure that the PFET is able to be biased in the proper regions given that the voltage at the source of the FET is roughly that of the common mode of the design. This is achieved with a 2N3904 BJT transistor, a 5.1-V Zener diode, and several resistors. The pullup resistor in tandem with the BJT sets the gate voltage of the FET to  $V_{CM} = 24 \text{ V}$  when the BJT is unbiased, and the Zener diode forces the gate voltage to 5 V beneath  $V_{CM}$  when the BJT is biased on, thus placing the PFET into forward operation. [INA901 Schematic](#), [4 Decade Measurement](#) shows the proposed design.

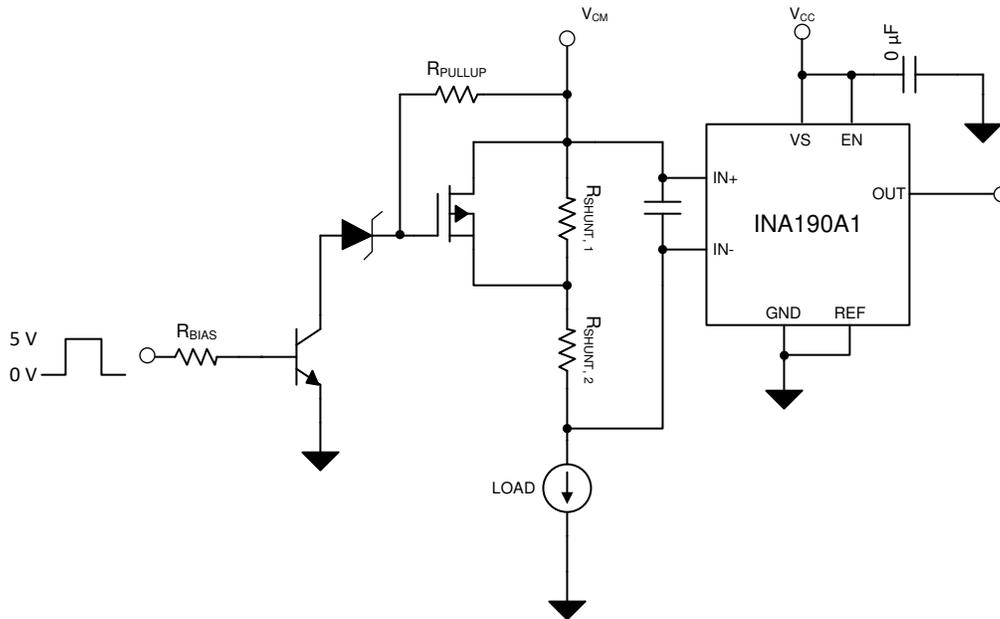


Figure 3-3. INA901 Schematic, 4 Decade Measurement

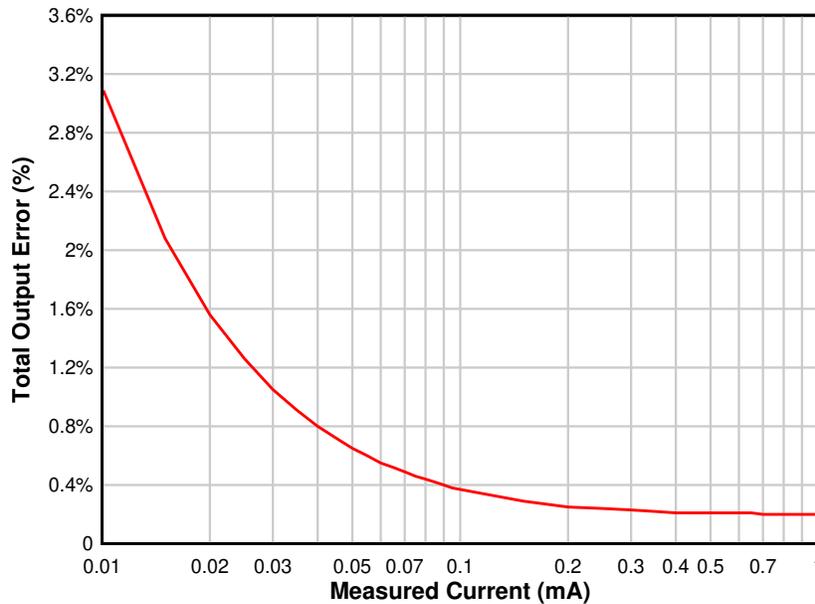
Utilization of such a topology does not come without its share of challenges. First, resistor choices must be made that do not cause undue harm to the load due to burden voltage of the chosen shunt resistors. Also, distortion effects may manifest during turn on and turn off times of the switch network, making the measurement unreliable during these transitions. Finally, as the FET must be controlled and keep track of which state it is in, logic is required for the use of such a topology. This is discussed in [Section 4](#).

The design procedure is provided in the following steps:

1. **Bound the Upper Region:** Begin by designing a shunt to the full output range of the chosen amplifier, taking power considerations into account. As calculated earlier, the maximum possible shunt for the upper region as designed in the previous section was 1.984 Ω. As it was determined that this level of dynamic range for a single device for the specified accuracy is unacceptable, the goal is then to create a second design for the lower portion of the design, and then stitch these two together via the turn on voltage of the FET. Therefore, select a point on the output curve that will serve as the transition point between the two regions. Ensure that the point selected continues to meet the desired specification with some margin. As observed in [Total Output Error \(%\) Over Measurement Range, R<sub>SHUNT</sub> = 1.984 Ω, 100 μA to 100 mA, Ideal Shunt Tolerance](#), at 1 mA, the expected total error before shunt selection is < 2%, so this point is chosen as the cutoff point. As 1.984 Ω is not a standard resistor value, the closest standard value, rounding down, of 1.96 Ω is chosen.
2. **Design the Lower Region:** Using the lower bound of the upper region chosen in [step 1](#), set this as the full scale input of the device, and recalculate a second *total* shunt value for this region.

$$R_{SHUNT, \max} = \frac{V_{OUT, \max}}{GAIN \times I_{LOAD, \max}} = \frac{4.96 \text{ V}}{25 \times 1 \text{ mA}} = 198.4 \Omega \quad (7)$$

This calculation shows, for this region, up to a 198.4-Ω shunt may be used. Selecting a value lower than 198.4-Ω is typically recommended. This value allows headroom for sizing, as well as hysteresis for more stable transition through both regions, if necessary. For convenience, 100 Ω is chosen here as the value of the lower range. Examining this value for the lower region, [Total Output Error \(%\) Over Measurement Range, R<sub>SHUNT</sub> = 100 Ω, 10 μA to 1 mA, Ideal Shunt Tolerances](#) presents the expected total output error for this resistance.



**Figure 3-4. Total Output Error (%) Over Measurement Range,  $R_{SHUNT} = 100 \Omega$ , 10  $\mu\text{A}$  to 1 mA, Ideal Shunt Tolerance**

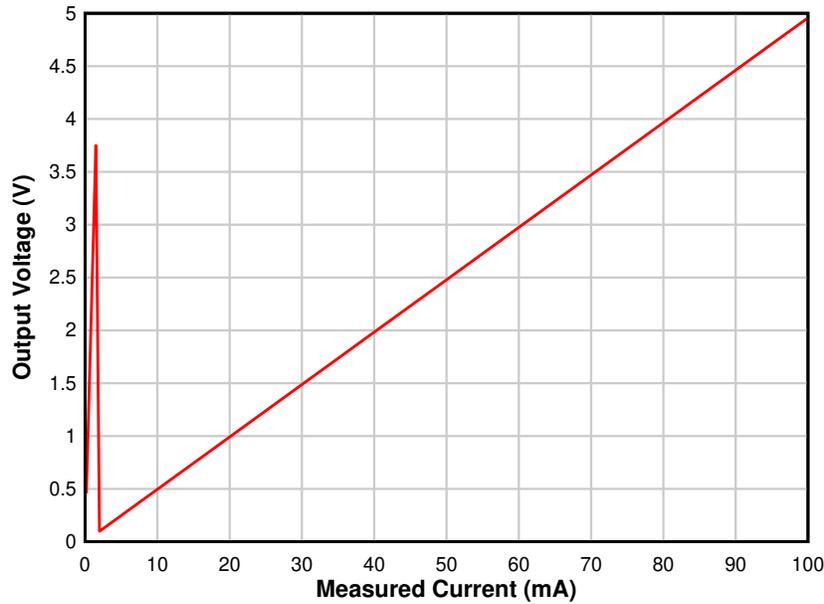
3. *Choose the FET:* Ideally, a FET needs to be chosen with the smallest possible  $R_{DS(ON)}$  available. A challenge exists here in that typically, FETs with smaller  $R_{DS(ON)}$  values achieve this through larger substrates, so smaller values may be harder to achieve for space-constrained applications. For this design, a CSD22206W P-channel FET is chosen, with a maximum  $R_{DS(ON)}$  of 5.7 m $\Omega$  (4.7 m $\Omega$  typical) for  $V_{GS} = -4.5 \text{ V}$ .
4. *Confirm the Upper Shunt Value:* For each of the design states, there is a combination of two elements that make up the shunt value of the design. When the FET is OFF, the elements are both  $R_{SHUNT, 1}$  and  $R_{SHUNT, 2}$  in series. As logic is used in such a design, the true nominal value may be programmed in logic, and the error is simply the worst-case tolerance values of the two resistors. As these resistors are in series and their values summed, provided the same tolerance value is chosen for both resistors, the worst-case tolerance error is simply the chosen tolerance value.
5. *Confirm the Lower Shunt Value:* When the FET is ON, the  $R_{DS(ON)}$  becomes the dominant contributing upper element, and the total shunt is this value in series with  $R_{SHUNT, 2}$ . Repeating the previous step for this region, it is found that the nominal shunt value for the lower region is the sum of  $R_{SHUNT, 2}$  and the typical  $R_{DS(ON)}$  of the FET, or 1.9647  $\Omega$ . This is still less than the calculated maximum of 1.984  $\Omega$ , so is a valid choice. While the tolerance of the  $R_{DS(ON)}$  is large in comparison to the resistance value of the FET, the overall contribution to the total resistance value is small, and therefore does not cause excessive error, as shown in [Equation 8](#) and [Equation 9](#).

$$R_{SHUNT, MAX} = R_{SHUNT, 2, MAX} + R_{DS(ON), MAX} = 1.962 \Omega + 0.0057 \Omega = 1.9677 \Omega \quad (8)$$

$$e_{SHUNT} = \frac{e_{SHUNT, ACTUAL} - e_{SHUNT, IDEAL}}{e_{SHUNT, IDEAL}} \times 100\% = \frac{3 \text{ m}\Omega}{1.9647 \Omega} \times 100\% = 0.153\% \quad (9)$$

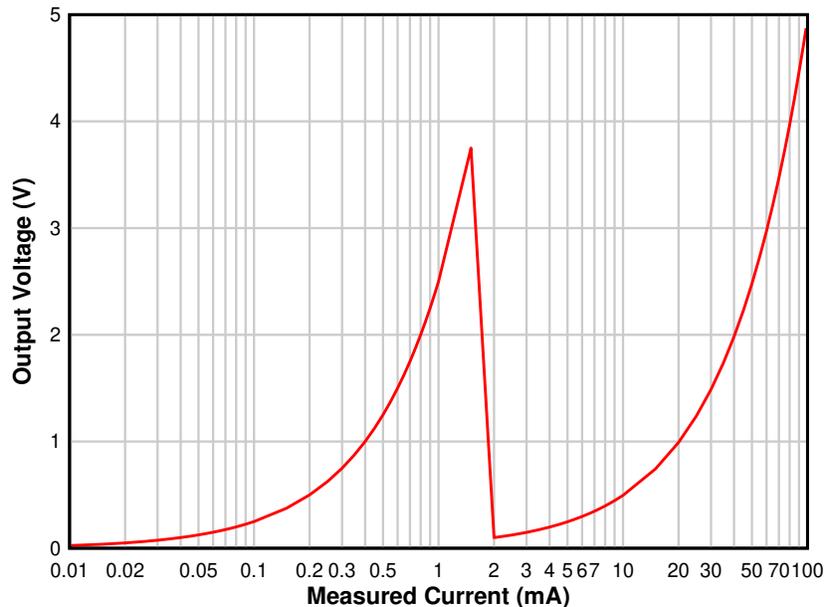
6. *If Desired, Establish Hysteresis:* If necessary, hysteretic set points may also be used to ensure stability of the FET transition point. The decision was made here to set hysteretic points at 1 mA and 1.5 mA to ensure smooth transition in the FET. This is discussed further in [Control of the FET](#).

[Output Voltage \(V\) Over Measurement Range, 10  \$\mu\text{A}\$  to 100 mA](#) shows the output range of the resulting design. Note that this curve shows the P-channel activation occurring at the 1.5 mA mark, in line with the previously-mentioned hysteretic forward point.



**Figure 3-5. Output Voltage (V) Over Measurement Range, 10  $\mu$ A to 100 mA**

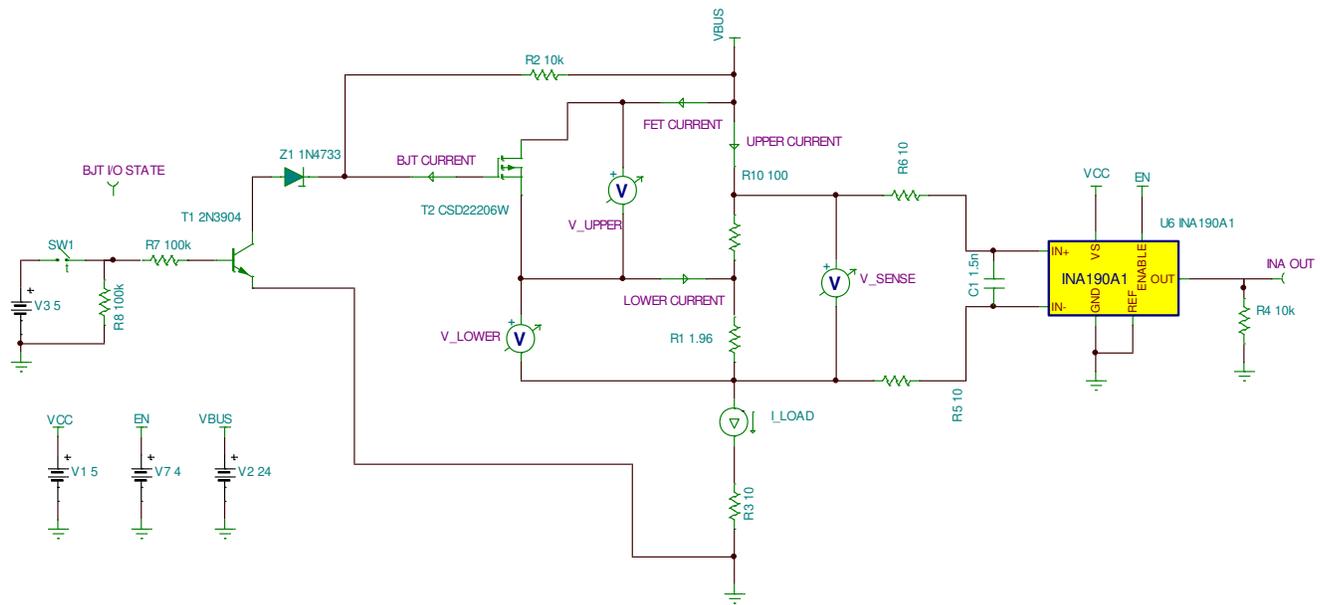
One important aspect to pay attention to is the actual decades of current measurement specified. While examining the full range of a current sense amplifier, it often may seem foolish to a new designer that such a small amount of the actual sensing range is dedicated to one of the sections designed, but [Output Voltage \(V\) Over Measurement Range, 10  \$\mu\$ A to 100 mA, Log Scale](#) shows the same data as in [Figure 3-5](#), with the x-axis now logarithmically based:



**Figure 3-6. Output Voltage (V) Over Measurement Range, 10  $\mu$ A to 100 mA, Log Scale**

The observation made viewing the range in log base is that each of these divisions occupies approximately the same proportional amount from a *decades of measurement* perspective, around 2 decades being handled per device. Various devices may be able to handle more or less by themselves, often dictated mainly by the worst-case offset voltage of the device.

The design was then simulated in TINA-TI to confirm the design expectations. [INA190 Wide Measurement Schematic](#) shows the simulation, along with measurement points.



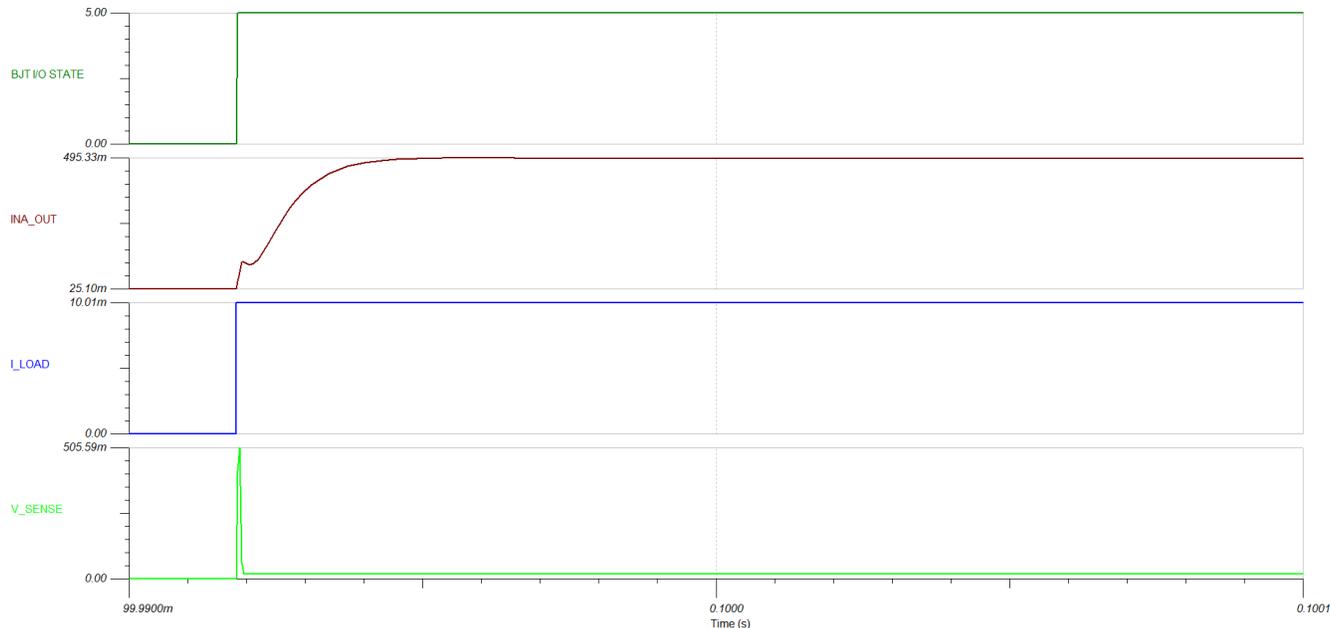
**Figure 3-7. INA190 Wide Measurement Schematic**

For the simulation, DC analysis was performed to examine expected outputs across the range. [Table 3-1](#) lists the expected DC output for the circuit. Note that TINA-TI spice models contain typical parameters, so error at lower bounds is more in line with typical performance rather than worst case.

**Table 3-1. TINA-TI DC Simulation Error Analysis**

Load Current	FET Status	Sense Voltage	INA Output Voltage, Actual	INA Output Voltage, Ideal(V)	Error (%)
10 $\mu$ A	OFF	995.65 $\mu$ V	25.102 mV	24.9 mV	0.85
20 $\mu$ A	OFF	1.991 mV	49.99 mV	49.8 mV	0.42
50 $\mu$ A	OFF	4.978 mV	124.656 mV	124 mV	0.17
75 $\mu$ A	OFF	7.467 mV	186.876 mV	187 mV	0.11
100 $\mu$ A	OFF	9.956 mV	249.1 mV	249 mV	0.08
200 $\mu$ A	OFF	19.912 mV	497.98mV	498 mV	0.04
500 $\mu$ A	OFF	49.779 mV	1.245 V	1.24 V	0.01
750 $\mu$ A	OFF	74.669 mV	1.867 V	1.87 V	0.01
1 mA	OFF	99.558 mV	2.489 V	2.49 V	0.01
2 mA	ON	3.943 mV	98.790 mV	98.6 mV	0.21
5 mA	ON	9.837 mV	246.118 mV	246 mV	0.08
7.5 mA	ON	14.748 mV	368.890 mV	369 mV	0.05
10 mA	ON	19.66 mV	491.663 mV	491 mV	0.04
20 mA	ON	39.304 mV	982.753 mV	983 mV	0.02
50 mA	ON	98.238 mV	2.456 V	2.46 V	0.01
75 mA	ON	147.35 mV	3.684 V	3.68 V	0.01
100 mA	ON	196.461 mV	4.911 V	4.91 V	0.01

For AC response, a time-based step response signal was utilized along with a time-based switch to mimic the transition of the GPIO pin controlling the gate. In implementation, this logic transition is performed via GPIO, using the digitized output as a feedback to keep track in logic, and would also exhibit some amount of delay. Note that as shown in *Step Response (10-mVPP Input Step)* of the *INA190 Bidirectional, Low-Power, Zero-Drift, Wide Dynamic Range, Precision Current-Sense Amplifier With Enable* data sheet, approximately 40  $\mu\text{s}$  is needed for the INA190 output to settle to steady state. *INA190 4-Decade Design Dynamic Response* exhibits the values required for the INA190 output to settle to steady state.



**Figure 3-8. INA190 4-Decade Design Dynamic Response**

As expected, observe that there is some amount of distortion as the FET activates and changes the effective resistance between states.

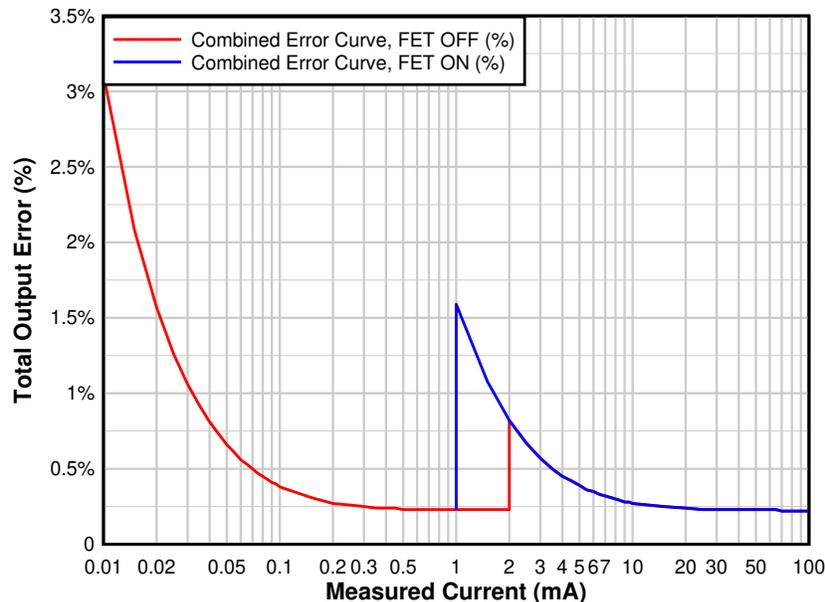
## 4 Control of the FET

When designing a multiple-range topology, logic is typically required in such a design, as the gate controls of the P-channel FETs used to move from range to range must be known, and kept track of for robust system performance and protection. The reason for this is that the output signal of the current sense amplifier is repetitive from range to range. For example, consider the output point of 3 V in the design. Output of 3 V is achievable in either of the designed ranges, corresponding to 1.2 mA in the lower region, and 61.1 mA in the upper region. From a steady-state perspective, the solution necessary is simple: take the state of the P-channel gate into account via the state of the pin controlling the gate, and code the system to decipher the measurement via the appropriate shunt resistance value held in memory.

This scenario becomes more complicated, however, during initialization of the system. The recommended solution is to always begin in the highest state, and then through comparison of the signal in logic, step down to the appropriate range. The importance of this approach is that resistance values of lower ranges may have unintended effects with the current draw of the upper range, potentially leading to overpower or brownout effects on the system as the burden voltage becomes dominant against the load voltage of the line.

Finally, dependent on the volatility of the current signal under measurement, as well as the nominal operating ranges, it may be necessary to design hysteresis into the measurement loop to prevent unintended jitter in the measurement algorithm. While the spread of values is typically application dependent, [Total Output Error \(%\) Over Measurement Range, 10µA to 100mA, with Hysteresis](#) shows an exaggerated error curve, where the system transitions to the upper range when the load becomes larger than 1.5 mA, but does not return to the lower state until the current falls below

1 mA. Regardless of state, observe that the worst-case total error remains below 5%, and practically below 3%, for the totality of the range, thus satisfying the original design specification.



**Figure 4-1. Total Output Error (%) Over Measurement Range, 10 µA to 100 mA, With Hysteresis**

## 5 Conclusion

Dynamic range is an important factor to consider when designing a current sense amplifier to a given error specification. Analysis of the amplifier is streamlined when examining the error of the total dynamic range at the maximum shunt possible, as if the design is incapable of achieving accuracy needs at this point, then no shunt choice beneath the maximum will work, regardless of power considerations, and additional steps are needed to ensure a successful design.

The topology presented in this paper is in no way exhaustive, and is only one of many different ways to expand the dynamic range of a current sensing design. In addition to MOSFETs, many additional options may be investigated, such as multiplexers, load switches, and more. However, each of these unique circuits come with potential challenges that must be taken into account to achieve this style of design, and the current range of the application is often the deciding factor.

In addition to analog output options, digital options are also a good point of investigation for such design needs. As the total system is typically integrated into these devices, including digitization of the data, they may be trimmed to where the offset voltage is optimized. The latest families of these devices, such as the INA228 and INA229, are often capable of handling up to five decades of measurement on their own, as they have 20 bits of resolution.

Finally, take care when implementing split dynamic range topologies to ensure robust performance. As the currents often being sensed in systems are direct loads, designers must ensure that the switching scheme introduced does not result in a "break before make" arrangement, where power to the load line may be lost. Also, pay attention to the burden voltage of the sense resistors for the same reasons.

## 6 References

- Texas Instruments, [INA240 –4-V to 80-V, Bidirectional, Ultra-Precise Current Sense Amplifier With Enhanced PWM Rejection](#) Data Sheet

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