

LMP848x Precision 76V High-Side Current Sense Amplifiers With Voltage Output

1 Features

- Typical values: $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$
- Bidirectional or unidirectional sensing
- Common mode voltage range: 4.0V to 76V
- Supply voltage range: 4.5V to 76V
- Fixed gains: 20, 60, and 100V/V
- Gain accuracy: $\pm 0.1\%$
- Offset: $\pm 80\mu\text{V}$
- Bandwidth (–3dB): 270kHz
- Quiescent current: $< 100\mu\text{A}$
- Buffered high-current output: $> 5\text{mA}$
- Input bias current: $7\mu\text{A}$
- PSRR (DC): 122dB
- CMRR (DC): 124dB
- Temperature range: -40°C to 125°C

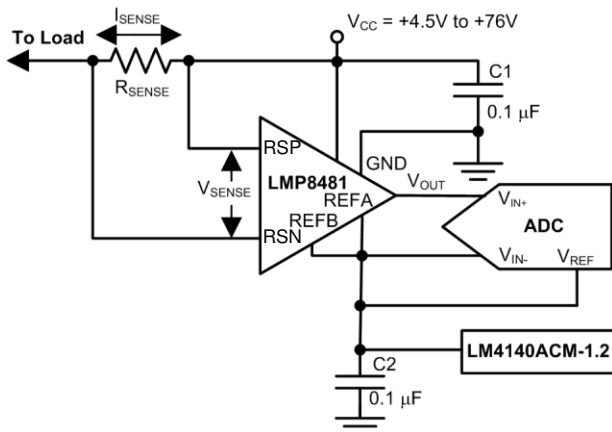
2 Applications

- High-side current sense
- Vehicle current measurement
- Telecommunications
- Motor controls
- Laser or LED drivers
- Energy management
- Solar panel monitoring

3 Description

The LMP8480 and LMP8481 are precision high-side current sense amplifiers that amplify a small differential voltage developed across a current sense resistor in the presence of high input common-mode voltages. These amplifiers are designed for bidirectional (LMP8481) or unidirectional (LMP8480) current applications and accept input signals with common-mode voltage range from 4V to 76V with a bandwidth of 270kHz. Because the operating power supply range overlaps the input common-mode voltage range, the LMP848x can be powered by the same voltage that is being monitored. This benefit eliminates the need for an intermediate supply voltage to be routed to the point of load where the current is being monitored, resulting in reduced component count and board space.

The LMP848x family consists of fixed gains of 20, 60, and 100 for applications that demand high accuracy over temperature. The low-input offset voltage allows the use of smaller sense resistors without sacrificing system error. The wide operating temperature range of -40°C to 125°C makes the LMP848x an ideal choice for automotive, telecommunications, industrial, and consumer applications. The LMP8480 and LMP8481 are pin-for-pin replacements for the MAX4080 and MAX4081, offering improved offset voltage, wider reference adjust range and higher output drive capabilities. The LMP8480 and LMP8481 are available in a 8-pin VSSOP package.



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Typical Application Schematic

Device Information

PART NUMBER	PACKAGE ⁽¹⁾	BODY SIZE (NOM)
LMP8480	VSSOP (8)	3.00mm x 3.00mm
LMP8481	VSSOP (8)	3.00mm x 3.00mm

(1) For all available packages, see the orderable addendum at the end of the datasheet.



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4 Device Comparison Table

DEVICE NAME	GAIN	POLARITY
LMP8480-T	x20	Unidirectional
LMP8480-S	x60	Unidirectional
LMP8481-T	x20	Bidirectional or unidirectional
LMP8481-S	x60	Bidirectional or unidirectional
LMP8481-H	x100	Bidirectional or unidirectional

5 Pin Configuration and Functions

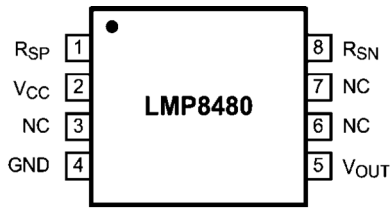


Figure 5-1. LMP8480 VSSOP Package 8 Pins Top View

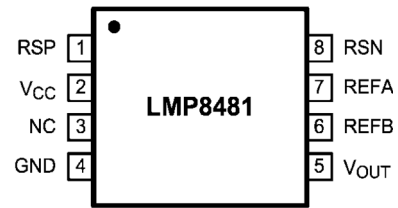


Figure 5-2. LMP8481 VSSOP Package 8 Pins Top View

Table 5-1. Pin Functions

PIN		I/O	DESCRIPTION	
NO.	NAME			
1	R _{SP}	I	Positive current sense input	
2	V _{CC}	P	Positive supply voltage	
3	NC	—	No connection – not internally connected	
4	GND	P	Ground	
5	V _{OUT}	O	Output	
6	NC or REFB	I	LMP8480: no connection	LMP8481: reference voltage “B” input
7	NC or REFA	I	LMP8480: no connection	LMP8481: reference voltage “A” input
8	R _{SN}	I	Negative current sense input	

6 Specifications

6.1 Absolute Maximum Ratings

over operating free-air temperature range (unless otherwise noted)^{(1) (2) (3)}

		MIN	MAX	UNIT
Supply voltage (V_{CC} to GND)		-0.3	85	V
R_{SP} or R_{SN} to GND		-0.3	85	V
V_{OUT} to GND		-0.3 to the lesser of ($V_{CC} + 0.3$) or +20		V
V_{REF} pins (LMP8481 only)	Other V_{REF} pin tied to ground	-0.3	12	V
	Applied to both V_{REF} pins tied together	-0.3	6	
Differential input voltage		-85	85	V
Current into output pin		-20 ⁽⁴⁾	20	mA
Current into any other pins		-5 ⁽⁴⁾	5	mA
Operating temperature		-40	125	°C
Junction temperature		-40	150	°C
Storage temperature		-65	150	°C

- (1) The maximum power dissipation must be derated at elevated temperatures and is dictated by $T_{J(MAX)}$, θ_{JA} , and the ambient temperature, T_A . The maximum allowable power dissipation $P_{D(MAX)} = (T_{J(MAX)} - T_A) / \theta_{JA}$ or the number given in [Absolute Maximum Ratings](#), whichever is lower.
- (2) If Military/Aerospace specified devices are required, contact the Texas Instruments Sales Office/Distributors for availability and specifications.
- (3) Stresses beyond those listed under [Absolute Maximum Ratings](#) may cause permanent damage to the device. These are stress ratings only, and functional operation of the device at these or any other conditions beyond those indicated under [Recommended Operating Conditions](#) is not implied. Exposure to absolute-maximum-rated conditions for extended periods may affect device reliability.
- (4) When the input voltage (V_{IN}) at any pin exceeds power supplies ($V_{IN} < GND$ or $V_{IN} > V_S$), the current at that pin must not exceed 5 mA, and the voltage (V_{IN}) has to be within the [Absolute Maximum Ratings](#) for that pin. The 20-mA package input current rating limits the number of pins that can safely exceed the power supplies with current flow to four pins.

6.2 ESD Ratings

		VALUE	UNIT
$V_{(ESD)}$ Electrostatic discharge	Human-body model (HBM), per ANSI/ESDA/JEDEC JS-001 ⁽¹⁾	±2000	V
	Charged-device model (CDM), per JEDEC specification JESD22-C101 ⁽²⁾	±750	

- (1) JEDEC document JEP155 states that 500-V HBM allows safe manufacturing with a standard ESD control process.
- (2) JEDEC document JEP157 states that 250-V CDM allows safe manufacturing with a standard ESD control process.

6.3 Recommended Operating Conditions

Expected normal operating conditions over free-air temperature range (unless otherwise noted)⁽¹⁾

		MIN	MAX	UNIT
Supply voltage (V_{CC})		4.5	76	V
Common mode voltage		4.0	76	V
Reference input (LMP8481 only)	V_{REFA} and V_{REFB} tied together	-0.3 to the lesser of ($V_{CC} - 1.5$) or +6		V
	Single V_{REF} pin with other V_{REF} pin grounded	-0.3 or +12 where the average of the two V_{REF} pins is less than the lesser of ($V_{CC} - 1.5$) or +6		

- (1) Exceeding the [Recommended Operating Conditions](#) for extended periods of time may effect device reliability or cause parametric shifts.

6.4 Thermal Information

THERMAL METRIC ⁽¹⁾		LMP8480, LMP8481	UNIT
		DGK (VSSOP)	
		8 PINS	
R _{θJA}	Junction-to-ambient thermal resistance	185	°C/W

(1) For more information about traditional and new thermal metrics, see the [Semiconductor and IC Package Thermal Metrics](#) application report.

6.5 Electrical Characteristics

unless otherwise specified, all limits specified for at T_A = 25°C, V_{CC} = 4.5 V to 76 V, 4.5 V ≤ V_{CM} ≤ 76 V, R_L = 100 kΩ, V_{SENSE} = (V_{RSP} – V_{RSN}) = 0 V⁽¹⁾

PARAMETER		TEST CONDITIONS		MIN ⁽²⁾	TYP ⁽³⁾	MAX ⁽²⁾	UNIT
V _{OS}	Input offset voltage (RTI)	V _{CC} = V _{RSP} = 48 V, ΔV = 100 mV	T _A = 25°C –40°C ≤ T _A ≤ 125°C		±80	±265	μV
						±900	
TCV _{OS}	Input offset voltage drift ⁽⁴⁾				±6		μV/°C
I _B	Input bias current ⁽⁵⁾	V _{CC} = V _{RSP} = 76 V, per input			6.3		μA
		V _{CC} = V _{RSP} = 76 V, per input, –40°C ≤ T _A ≤ 125°C				12	
I _{LEAK}	Input leakage current	V _{CC} = 0, V _{RSP} = 86 V, both inputs together			0.01		μA
		V _{CC} = 0, V _{RSP} = 86 V, both inputs together, –40°C ≤ T _A ≤ 125°C				2	
V _{SENSE} (MAX)	Differential input voltage across sense resistor ⁽⁶⁾	V _{CC} = 16	-T version, –40°C ≤ T _A ≤ 125°C -F version, –40°C ≤ T _A ≤ 125°C -S version, –40°C ≤ T _A ≤ 125°C -H version, –40°C ≤ T _A ≤ 125°C			667 267 222 133	mV
A _V	Gain	-T version			20		V/V
		-T version, –40°C ≤ T _A ≤ 125°C		19.8		20.2	
		-S version			60		
		-S version, –40°C ≤ T _A ≤ 125°C		59.5		60.5	
		-H version			100		
		-H version, –40°C ≤ T _A ≤ 125°C		99.2		100.8	
	Gain error	V _{CC} = V _{RSP} = 48 V	T _A = 25°C –40°C ≤ T _A ≤ 125°C			±0.6% ±0.8%	
DC PSRR	DC power supply rejection ratio	V _{RSP} = 48 V, V _{CC} = 4.5 V to 76 V			122		dB
		V _{RSP} = 48 V, V _{CC} = 4.5 V to 76 V, –40°C ≤ T _A ≤ 125°C		100			
DC CMRR	DC common mode rejection ratio	V _{CC} = 48 V, V _{RSP} = 4.5 V to 76 V			124		dB
		V _{CC} = 48 V, V _{RSP} = 4.5 V to 76 V, –40°C ≤ T _A ≤ 125°C		100			
		V _{CC} = 48 V, V _{RSP} = 4 V to 76 V			124		
CMVR	Input common mode voltage range	CMRR > 100 dB, –40°C ≤ T _A ≤ 125°C		4		76	V
R _{OUT}	Output resistance / load regulation	V _{SENSE} = 100 mV			0.1		Ω
V _{OMAX}	Maximum output voltage (headroom) (V _{OMAX} = V _{CC} – V _{OUT})	V _{CC} = 4.5 V, V _{RSP} = 48 V, V _{SENSE} = +1 V, I _{OUT} (sourcing) 500 μA			230	500	mV

6.5 Electrical Characteristics (continued)

unless otherwise specified, all limits specified for at $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$, $V_{CC} = 4.5\text{ V to }76\text{ V}$, $4.5\text{ V} \leq V_{CM} \leq 76\text{ V}$, $R_L = 100\text{ k}\Omega$, $V_{SENSE} = (V_{RSP} - V_{RSN}) = 0\text{ V}$ ⁽¹⁾

PARAMETER	TEST CONDITIONS	MIN ⁽²⁾	TYP ⁽³⁾	MAX ⁽²⁾	UNIT	
V _{OMIN}	Minimum output voltage	V _{CC} = V _{RSP} = 48 V, V _{SENSE} = -1 V, I _{OUT} (sinking) = 10 μA	3			mV
		V _{CC} = V _{RSP} = 48 V, V _{SENSE} = -1 V, I _{OUT} (sinking) = 10 μA , -40°C ≤ T _A ≤ 125°C		15		
		V _{CC} = V _{RSP} = 4.5 V, V _{SENSE} = -1 V, I _{OUT} (sinking) = 10 μA	3			
		V _{CC} = V _{RSP} = 48 V, V _{SENSE} = -1 V, I _{OUT} (sinking) = 100 μA	18			
		V _{CC} = V _{RSP} = 48 V, V _{SENSE} = -1 V, I _{OUT} (sinking) = 100 μA , -40°C ≤ T _A ≤ 125°C		55		
		V _{CC} = V _{RSP} = 4.5 V, V _{SENSE} = -1 V, I _{OUT} (sinking) = 100 μA	18			
V _{OLOAD}	Output voltage with load	V _{CC} = 28 V, V _{RSP} = 28 V, V _{SENSE} = 600 mV, I _{OUT} (sourcing) = 500 μA	12		V	
V _{OLREG}	Output load regulation	V _{CC} = 20, V _{RSP} = 16 V, V _{OUT} = 12, $\Delta I_L = 200\text{ nA to }8\text{ mA}$	0.001%			
I _{CC}	Supply current	V _{OUT} = 2 V, R _L = 10 M Ω , V _{CC} = V _{RSP} = 76 V	88		μA	
		V _{OUT} = 2 V, R _L = 10 M Ω , V _{CC} = V _{RSP} = 76 V, -40°C ≤ T _A ≤ 125°C		155		
BW	-3-dB bandwidth	R _L = 10 M Ω , C _L = 20 pF	270		kHz	
SR	Slew rate ⁽⁷⁾	V _{SENSE} from 10 mV to 80 mV, R _L = 10 M Ω , C _L = 20 pF	1		V/ μs	
e _{ni}	Input referred voltage noise	f = 1 kHz	95		nV/ $\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$	
t _{SETTLE}	Output settling time to 1% of final value	V _{SENSE} = 10 mV to 100 mV and 100 mV to 10 mV	20		μs	
t _{PU}	Power-up time	V _{CC} = V _{RSP} = 48 V, V _{SENSE} = 100 mV, output to 1% of final value	50		μs	
t _{RECOVERY}	Saturation recovery time	Output settles to 1% of final value, the device does not experience phase reversal when overdriven	50		μs	
C _{LOAD}	Max output capacitance load	No sustained oscillations	500		pF	

- (1) *Electrical Characteristics* table values apply only for factory testing conditions at the temperature indicated. Factory testing conditions result in very limited self-heating of the device such that $T_J = T_A$. **No** specification of parametric performance is indicated in the electrical tables under conditions of internal self-heating where $T_J > T_A$.
- (2) All limits are specified by testing, design, or statistical analysis.
- (3) Typical values represent the most likely parametric norm at the time of characterization. Actual typical values can vary over time and also depend on the application and configuration. The typical values are not tested and are not ensured on shipped production material.
- (4) Offset voltage temperature drift is determined by dividing the change in V_{OS} at the temperature extremes by the total temperature change.
- (5) Positive bias current corresponds to current flowing into the device.
- (6) This parameter is specified by design and/or characterization and is not tested in production.
- (7) The number specified is the average of rising and falling slew rates and measured at 90% to 10%.

6.6 Typical Characteristics

unless otherwise specified, $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$, $V_{CC} = 4.5\text{ V to }76\text{ V}$, $4.5\text{ V} < V_{CM} < 76\text{ V}$, $R_L = 100\text{ k}\Omega$, $V_{SENSE} = (V_{RSP} - V_{RSN}) = 0\text{ V}$, for all gain options

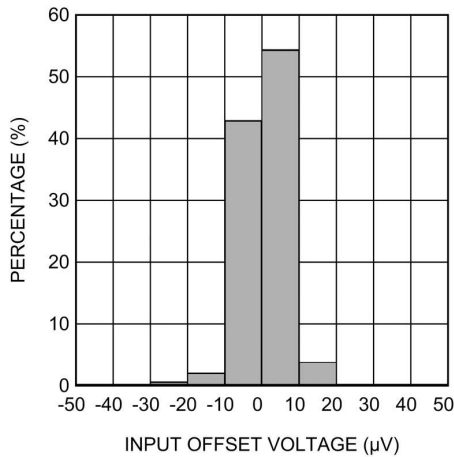


Figure 6-1. Offset Voltage Histogram

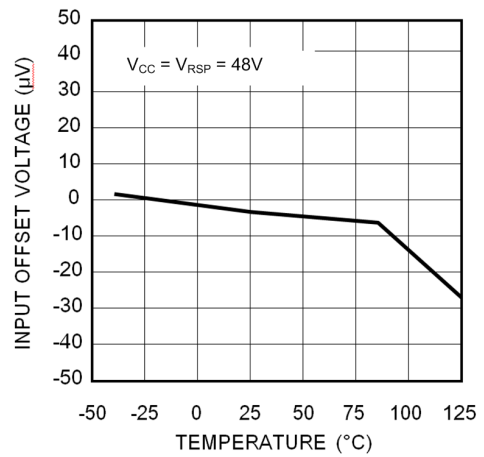


Figure 6-2. Typical Offset Voltage vs Temperature

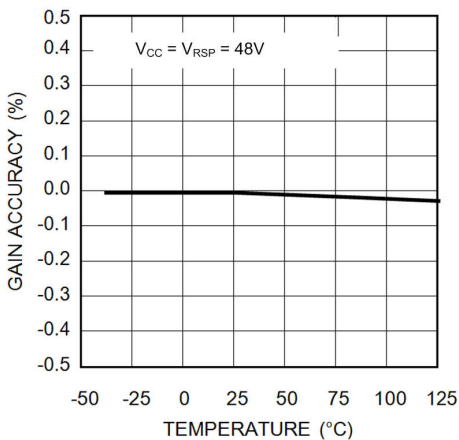


Figure 6-3. Typical Gain Accuracy vs Temperature

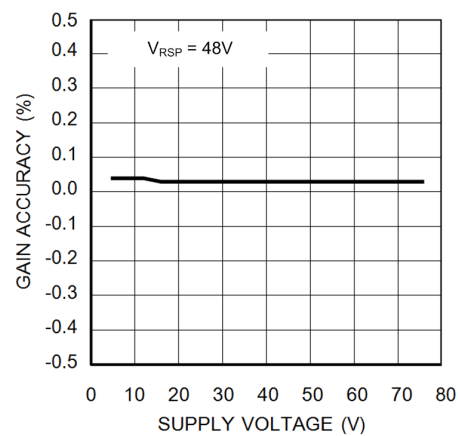


Figure 6-4. Typical Gain Accuracy vs Supply Voltage

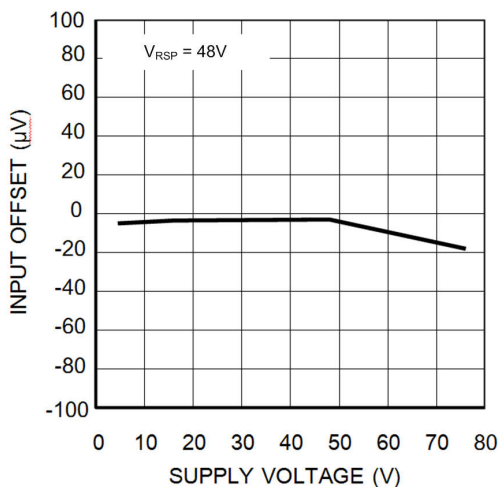


Figure 6-5. Typical Offset Voltage vs Supply Voltage

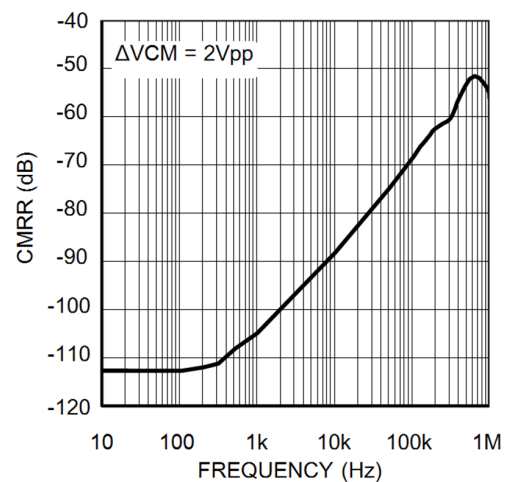


Figure 6-6. AC Common-Mode Rejection Ratio vs Frequency

6.6 Typical Characteristics (continued)

unless otherwise specified, $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$, $V_{CC} = 4.5\text{ V to }76\text{ V}$, $4.5\text{ V} < V_{CM} < 76\text{ V}$, $R_L = 100\text{ k}\Omega$, $V_{SENSE} = (V_{RSP} - V_{RSN}) = 0\text{ V}$, for all gain options

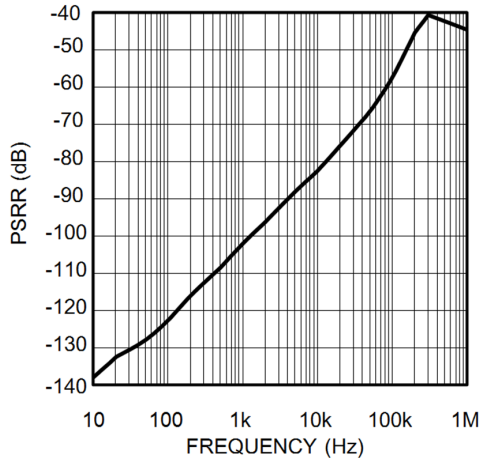


Figure 6-7. AC Power Supply Rejection Ratio vs Frequency

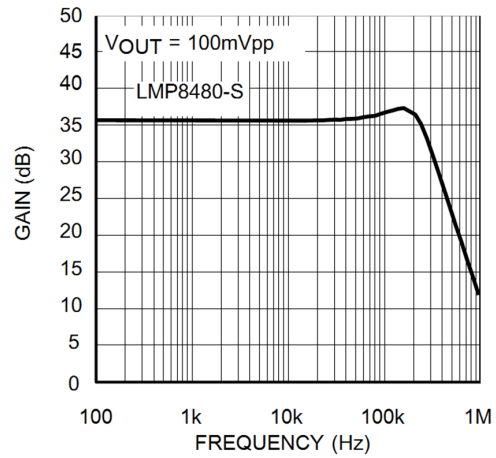


Figure 6-8. Small Signal Gain vs Frequency

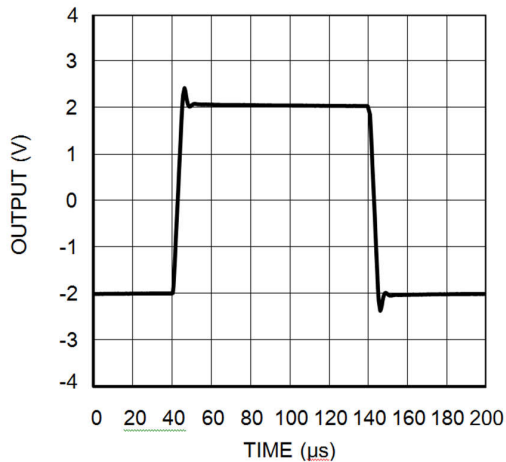


Figure 6-9. Large Signal Pulse Response

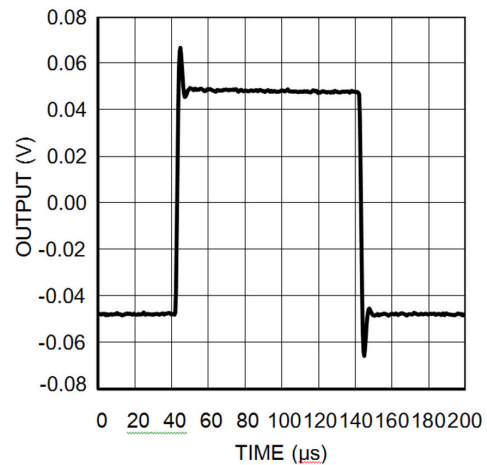


Figure 6-10. Small Signal Pulse Response

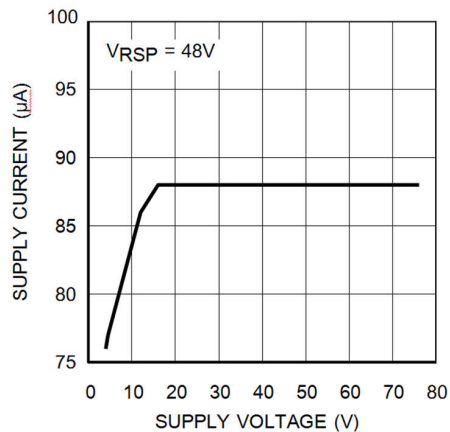


Figure 6-11. Supply Current vs Supply Voltage

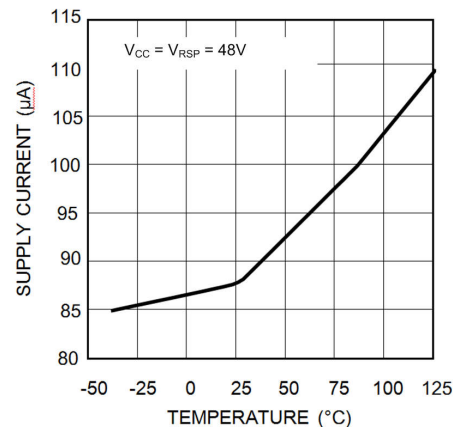


Figure 6-12. Supply Current vs Temperature

6.6 Typical Characteristics (continued)

unless otherwise specified, $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$, $V_{CC} = 4.5\text{ V to }76\text{ V}$, $4.5\text{ V} < V_{CM} < 76\text{ V}$, $R_L = 100\text{ k}\Omega$, $V_{SENSE} = (V_{RSP} - V_{RSN}) = 0\text{ V}$, for all gain options

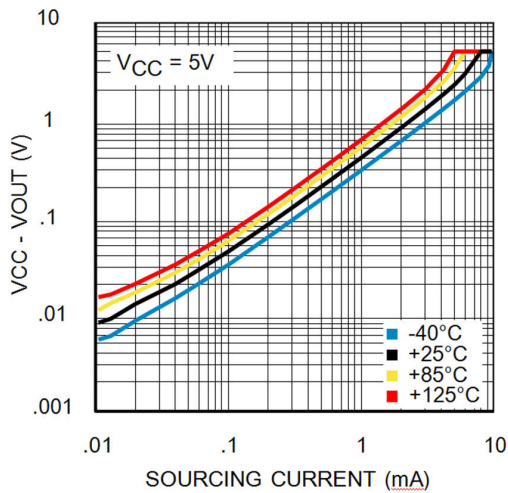


Figure 6-13. Saturated Output Sourcing Current at 4.5 V

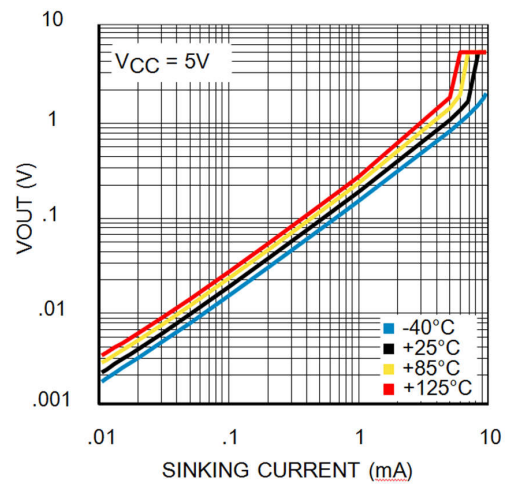


Figure 6-14. Saturated Output Sinking Current at 4.5 V

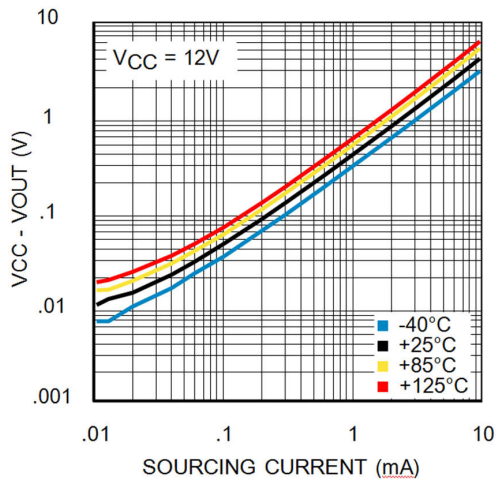


Figure 6-15. Saturated Output Sourcing Current at 12 V

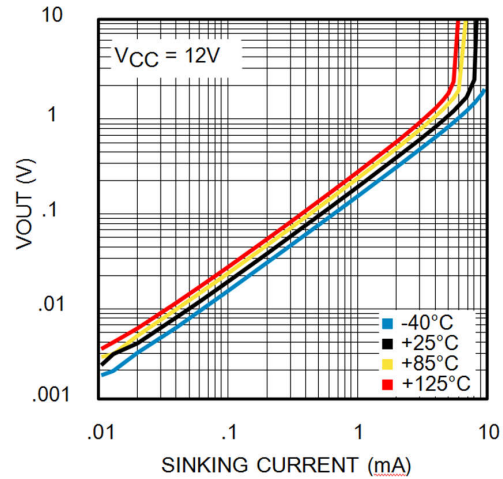


Figure 6-16. Saturated Output Current Sinking at 12 V

7 Detailed Description

7.1 Overview

The LMP8480 and LMP8481 are single-supply, high-side current sense amplifiers with available fixed gains of x20, x60 and x100. The power supply range is 4.5 V to 76 V, and the common-mode input voltage range is capable of 4.0-V to 76-V operation. The supply voltage and common-mode range are completely independent of each other, which causes the LMP848x supply voltage to be extremely flexible because the LMP848x supply voltage can be greater than, equal to, or less than the load source voltage, and allows the device to be powered from the system supply or the load supply voltage.

The LMP8480 and LMP8481 supply voltage does not have to be larger than the load source voltage. A 76-V load source voltage with a 5-V supply voltage is perfectly acceptable.

7.1.1 Theory of Operation

The LMP8480 and LMP8481 are comprised of two main stages. The first stage is a differential input current to voltage converter, followed by a differential voltage amplifier and level-shifting output stage. Also present is an internal 14-V low-dropout regulator (LDO) to power the amplifiers and output stage, as well as a reference divider resistor string to allow the setting of the reference level.

As [Figure 7-2](#) illustrates, the current flowing through R_{SENSE} develops a voltage drop called V_{SENSE} . The voltage across the sense resistor, V_{SENSE} , is then applied to the input R_{SP} and R_{SN} pins of the amplifier.

Internally, the voltage on each input pin is converted to a current by the internal precision thin-film input resistors R_{GP} and R_{GN} . A second set of much higher value V_{CM} sense resistors between the inputs provide a sample of the input common-mode voltage for internal use by the differential amplifier.

V_{SENSE} is applied to the differential amplifier through R_{GP} and R_{GN} . These resistors change the input voltage to a differential current. The differential amplifier then servos the resistor currents through the MOSFETs to maintain a zero balance across the differential amplifier inputs.

With no input signal present, the currents in R_{GP} and R_{GN} are equal. When a signal is applied to V_{SENSE} , the current through R_{GP} and R_{GN} are imbalanced and are no longer equal. The amplifier then servos the MOSFETS to correct this current imbalance, and the extra current required to balance the input currents is then reflected down into the two lower 400-k Ω *tail* resistors. The difference in the currents into the tail resistors is therefore proportional to the amplitude and polarity of V_{SENSE} . The tail resistors, being larger than the input resistors for the same current, then provide voltage gain by changing the current into a proportionally larger voltage. The gain of the first stage is then set by the tail resistor value divided by R_G value.

The differential amplifier stage then samples the voltage difference across the two 400-k Ω tail resistors and also applies a further gain-of-five and output level-shifting according to the applied reference voltage (V_{REF}).

The resulting output of the amplifier will be equal to the differential input voltage times the gain of the device, plus any voltage value applied to the two V_{REF} pins.

The resistor values in the schematic are ideal values for clarity and understanding. [Table 7-1](#) shows the actual values used that account for parallel combinations and loading. This table can be used for calculating the effects of any additional external resistance.

The LMP8480 is identical to the LMP8481, except that both the V_{REF} pins are grounded internally.

Table 7-1. Actual Internal Resistor Values

GAIN OPTION	R_{GP} AND R_{GN} (Each)	$R_{VCMSENSE}$ (Each)	R_{TAIL} (Each)	DIFFERENTIAL AMP FB (Each)	V_{REFx} RESISTORS (Each)
20x	98.38 k	491.9 k	393.52 k	1967.6 k	98.38 k
60x	32.793 k	172.165 k	393.52 k	1967.6 k	98.38 k
100x	19.676 k	98.38 k	393.52 k	1967.6 k	98.38 k

7.2 Functional Block Diagrams

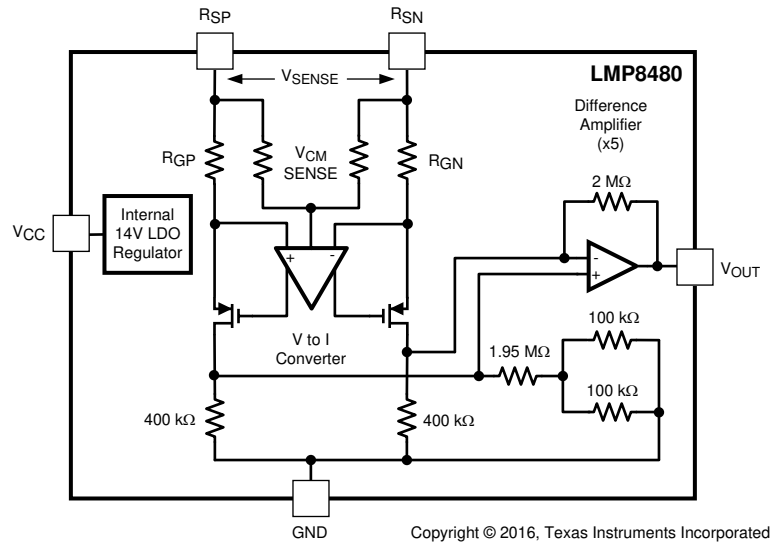


Figure 7-1. LMP8480 Block Diagram

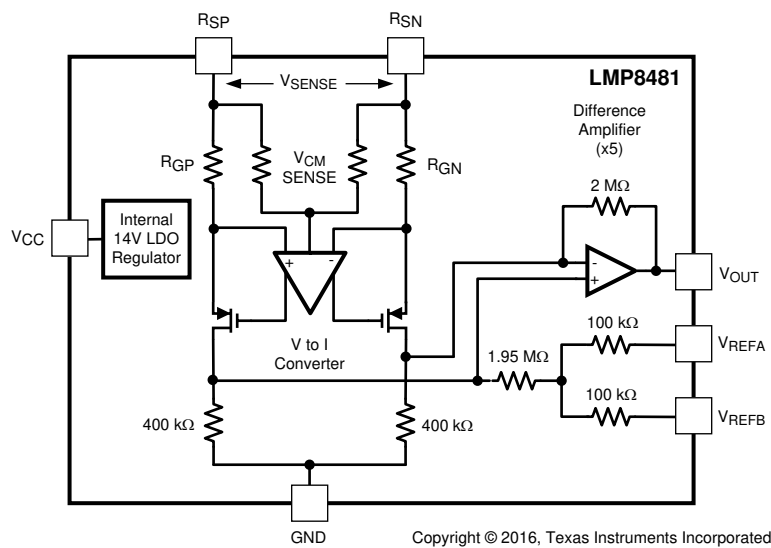


Figure 7-2. LMP8481 Block Diagram

7.3 Feature Description

7.3.1 Basic Connections

Figure 7-3 through Figure 7-6 show the basic connections for several different configurations.

Figure 7-3 shows the basic connections for the LMP8480 for unidirectional applications. The output is at zero with zero sense voltage.

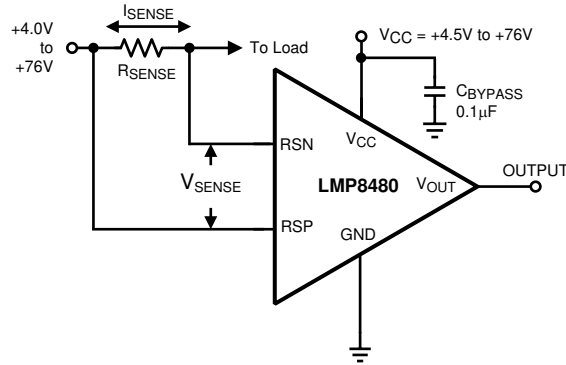


Figure 7-3. LMP8480 Basic Connections (Unidirectional)

Figure 7-4 shows the basic connections for the LMP8481 for bidirectional applications using an external reference input. At zero input voltage, the output is at the applied reference voltage (V_{REF}), moving positive or negative from the zero reference point.

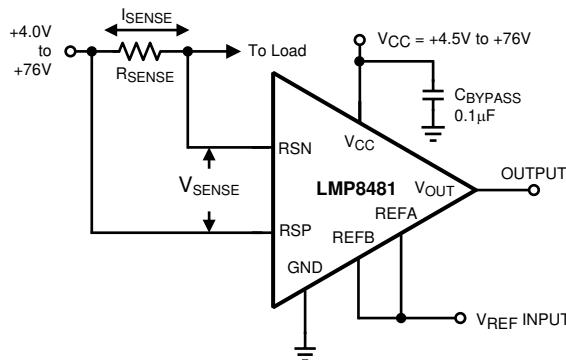


Figure 7-4. LMP8481 Basic Connections for External 1:1 V_{REF} Input (Bidirectional)

Figure 7-5 shows the basic connections for the LMP8481 for bidirectional applications centering the output at one-half the applied V_{REF} or V_{CC} voltage. If V_{REFA} is connected to V_{CC} , then the output zero point is $V_{CC} / 2$. If V_{REFA} is connected to the ADC V_{REF} line, then the zero output is at mid-scale for the ADC.

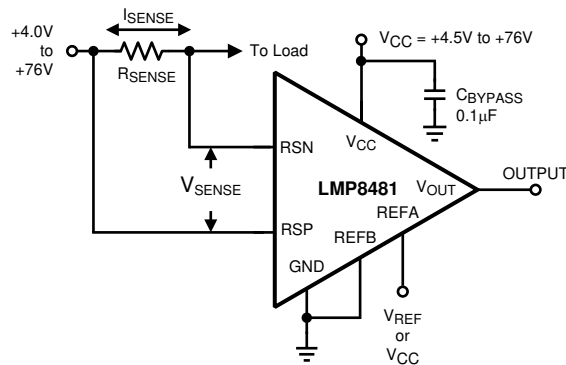


Figure 7-5. LMP8481 Basic Connections for Mid-Bias ($V_{REF} / 2$) Input (Bidirectional)

Figure 7-6 shows the how to connect the LMP8481 for unidirectional applications, thus making the LMP8481 equivalent to the LMP8480 in Figure 7-3.

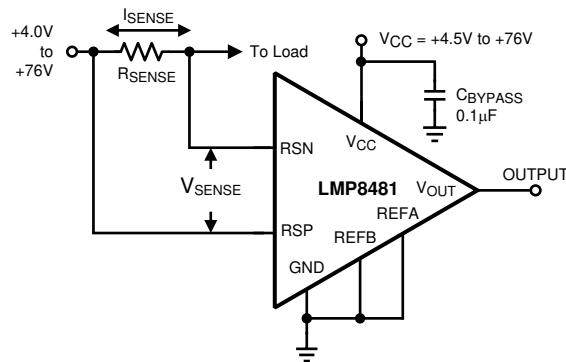


Figure 7-6. LMP8481 Connections for Unidirectional Configuration (Equivalent to LMP8480 Unidirectional)

7.3.2 Selection of the Sense Resistor

The accuracy of the current measurement depends heavily on the accuracy of the shunt resistor R_{SENSE} . The value of R_{SHUNT} depends on the application and is a compromise between small-signal accuracy, maximum permissible voltage drop, and allowable power dissipation in the current measurement circuit.

The use of a 4-terminal or Kelvin sense resistor is highly recommended; see the [Layout Guidelines](#) section.

For best results, the value of the resistor is calculated from the maximum expected load current I_{LMAX} and the expected maximum output swing V_{OUTMAX} , plus a few percent of headroom. See the [Maximum Output Voltage](#) section for details about the maximum output voltage limits.

High values of R_{SENSE} provide better accuracy at lower currents by minimizing the effects of amplifier offset. Low values of R_{SENSE} minimize load voltage loss, but at the expense of accuracy at low currents. A compromise between low current accuracy and load circuit losses must generally be made.

The maximum V_{SENSE} voltage that must be generated across the R_{SENSE} resistor is shown in [Equation 1](#):

$$V_{SENSE} = V_{OUTMAX} / A_V \quad (1)$$

Note

The maximum V_{SENSE} voltage must be no more than 667 mV.

From this maximum V_{SENSE} voltage, the R_{SENSE} value can be calculated from [Equation 2](#):

$$R_{SENSE} = V_{SENSE} / I_{LMAX} \quad (2)$$

Take care not exceed the maximum power dissipation of the resistor. The maximum sense resistor power dissipation is shown in [Equation 3](#):

$$P_{RSENSE} = V_{SENSE} \times I_{LMAX} \quad (3)$$

Using a 2-3x minimum safety margin is recommended in selecting the power rating of the resistor.

7.3.3 Using PCB Traces as Sense Resistors

While it may be tempting to use a known length of PCB trace resistance as a sense resistor, it is not recommended.

The temperature coefficient of copper is typically 3300-4000 ppm/°K, and can vary over PCB process variations and require measurement correction (possibly requiring ambient temperature measurements).

A typical surface mount sense resistor tempco is in the 50 ppm to 500 ppm/°C range offering more measurement consistency and accuracy over the copper trace. Special low-tempco resistors are available in the 0.1 to 50 ppm range, but at a higher cost.

7.3.4 V_{REFA} and V_{REFB} Pins (LMP8481 Only)

The voltage applied to the V_{REFA} and V_{REFB} pins controls the output zero reference level. Depending on how the pins are configured, the output reference level can be set to GND, or $V_{CC} / 2$, or external $V_{REF} / 2$, or the average of two different input references.

The reference inputs consist of a pair of divider resistors with equal values to a common summing point, V_{REF}' , as shown in Figure 7-7. Assuming V_{SENSE} is zero, the output is at the same value as V_{REF}' .

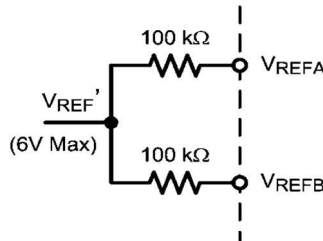


Figure 7-7. V_{REF} Input Resistor Network

V_{REF}' is the voltage at the resistor tap-point that is directly applied to the output as an offset. With the two V_{REF} inputs tied together, the output zero voltage has a 1:1 ratio relationship with V_{REF}' .

$$V_{OUT} = ((V_{RSP} - V_{RSN}) \times Av) + V_{REF}' \quad (4)$$

Where:

$$V_{REF}' = V_{REFA} = V_{REFB} \text{ (Equal Inputs)} \quad (5)$$

or:

$$V_{REF}' = (V_{REFA} + V_{REFB}) / 2 \text{ (Different Inputs)} \quad (6)$$

7.3.4.1 One-to-One (1:1) Reference Input

To directly set the reference level, the two inputs are connected to the external reference voltage. The applied V_{REF} is reflected 1:1 on the output, as shown in Figure 7-8.

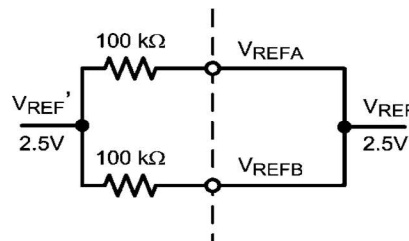


Figure 7-8. Applying 1:1 Direct Reference Voltage

7.3.4.2 Setting Output to One-Half V_{CC} or external V_{REF}

For mid-range operation, V_{REFB} must be tied to ground and V_{REFA} can be tied to V_{CC} or an external A/D reference voltage. The output is set to one-half the reference voltage. For example, a 5-V reference results in a 2.5-V output zero reference.

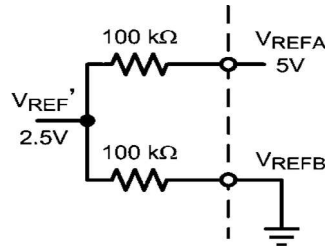


Figure 7-9. Applying a Divided Reference Voltage

$$V_{REF} = (V_{REFA} - V_{REFB}) / 2 \quad (7)$$

When the reference pins are biased at different voltages, the output is referenced to the average of the two applied voltages.

The reference pins must always be driven from clean, stable sources, such as A/D reference lines or clean supply lines. Any noise or drifts on the reference inputs are directly reflected in the output. Take care if the power supply is used as the reference source so as to not introduce supply noise, drift or sags into the measurement.

Different resistor divider ratios can be set by adding external resistors in series with the internal 100-k Ω resistors, though the temperature coefficient (tempco) of the external resistors may not tightly track the internal resistors and there are slight errors over temperature.

The LMP8480 is identical to the LMP8481, except that both the V_{REF} pins are grounded internally. The LMP8481 can replace the LMP8480 if both V_{REF} pins are grounded.

7.3.5 Reference Input Voltage Limits (LMP8481 Only)

The maximum voltage on either reference input pin is limited to V_{CC} or 12 V, whichever is less.

The average voltage on the two V_{REF} pins, and thus the actual output reference voltage level, is limited to a maximum of 1.5 V below V_{CC} , or 6 V, whichever is less. Beware that supply voltages of less than 7.5 V have a diminishing V_{REF} maximum.

Both V_{REFA} and V_{REFB} can both be grounded to provide a ground referenced output (thus functionally duplicating the LMP8480).

Note that there can be a dynamic error in the V_{REF} to output level matching of up to 100 μ V/V. Normally this error is not an issue for fixed references, but if the reference voltage is dynamically adjusted during operation, this error must be taken into account during calibration routines. This error varies in both amplitude and polarity part-to-part, but the slope is generally linear.

7.3.6 Low-Side Current Sensing

The LMP8480 and LMP8481 are not recommended for low-side current sensing at ground level. The voltage on either input pin must be a minimum of 4.0 V above the ground pin for proper operation. The output level may not be valid for common-mode voltages below 4 V. This minimum voltage requirement must be taken into consideration for monitoring or feedback applications where the load-supply voltage can dip below 4 V or be switched completely off.

7.3.7 Input Series Resistance

Because the input stage uses precision resistors to convert the voltage on the input pin to a current, any resistance added in series with the input pins changes the gain. If a resistance is added in series with an input, the gain of that input does not track that of the other input, causing a constant gain error.

TI does not recommend using external resistances to alter the gain because external resistors do not have the same thermal matching as the internal thin film resistors.

If resistors are purposely added for filtering, resistance must be added equally to both inputs and the user must be aware that the gain changes slightly. See the end of the [Theory of Operation](#) section for the internal resistor values. External resistances must be kept below 10 Ω.

7.3.8 Minimum Output Voltage

The amplifier output cannot swing to exactly 0 V. There is always a minimum output voltage set by the output transistor saturation and input offset errors. This voltage creates a minimum output swing around the zero current reading resulting from the output saturation. The user must be aware of this output swing when designing any servo loops or data acquisition systems that may assume 0 V = 0 A. If a true zero is required, use the LMP8481 with a VREF set slightly above ground (> 50 mV); see the [Swinging Output Below Ground](#) section for a possible solution to this issue.

7.3.9 Swinging Output Below Ground

If a negative supply is available, a pulldown resistor can be added from the output to the negative voltage to allow the output to swing a few millivolts below ground. Adding a pulldown resistor allows the ADC to resolve true zero and recover codes that normally are lost to the negative output saturation limit.

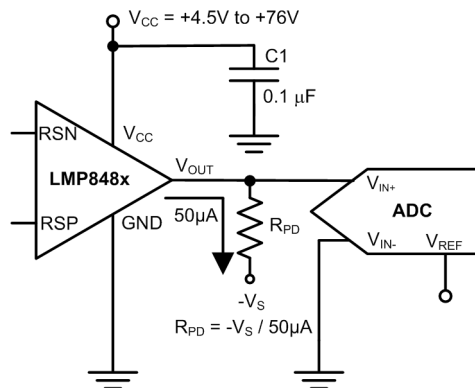


Figure 7-10. Output Pulldown Resistor Example

A minimum of 50 μA must be sourced (pulled) from the output to a negative voltage. The pulldown resistor can be calculated from:

$$R_{PD} = -V_S / 50 \mu A \quad (8)$$

For example, if a –5-V supply is available, use a pulldown resistor of 5 V / 50 μA = 100 kΩ. Adding this resistor allows the output to swing to approximately 10 mV below ground.

This technique can also reduce the maximum positive swing voltage. Do not forget to include the parallel loading effects of the pulldown any output load. Exceeding –100 mV on the output is not recommended. Source currents greater than 100 μA must be avoided to prevent self-heating at high-supply voltages. Pulldown resistor values must not be so low as to heavily load the output during positive output excursions. This mode of operation is not directly specified and is not ensured.

7.3.10 Maximum Output Voltage

The LMP8481 has an internal precision 14-V low-dropout regulator that limits the maximum amplifier output swing to approximately 250 mV below V_{CC} or 13.7 V (whichever is less). This regulator effectively clamps the maximum output to slightly less than 13.7 V even with a V_{CC} greater than 14 V; see [Typical Application With a Resistive Divider](#) section for more information.

7.4 Device Functional Modes

7.4.1 Unidirectional vs Bidirectional Operation

Unidirectional operation is where the load current only flows in one direction (V_{SENSE} is always positive). Application examples are PA monitoring, non-inductive load monitoring, and laser or LED drivers. Unidirectional operation allows the output zero reference to be true zero volts on the output. The LMP8480 is designed for unidirectional applications where the setting of VREF is not required; see the [Unidirectional Application With the LMP8480](#) section for more details.

Bidirectional operation is where the load current can flow in both directions (V_{SENSE} can be positive or negative). Application examples are battery-charging or regenerative motor monitoring. The LMP8481 is designed for bidirectional applications and has a pair of VREF pins to allow the setting of the output zero reference level (V_{REF}); see the [Unidirectional Application With the LMP8480](#) section for more details.

8 Application and Implementation

Note

Information in the following applications sections is not part of the TI component specification, and TI does not warrant its accuracy or completeness. TI's customers are responsible for determining suitability of components for their purposes, as well as validating and testing their design implementation to confirm system functionality.

8.1 Application Information

The LMP848x amplifies the voltage developed across a current-sensing resistor when current passes through it. Flexible offset inputs allow adjusting the functionality of the output for multiple configurations, as discussed throughout this section.

8.1.1 Input Common-Mode and Differential Voltage Range

The input common-mode range, where common-mode range is defined as the voltage from ground to the voltage on R_{SP} input, must be in the range of 4.0 V to 76 V. Operation below 4.0 V on either input pin introduces severe gain error and nonlinearities.

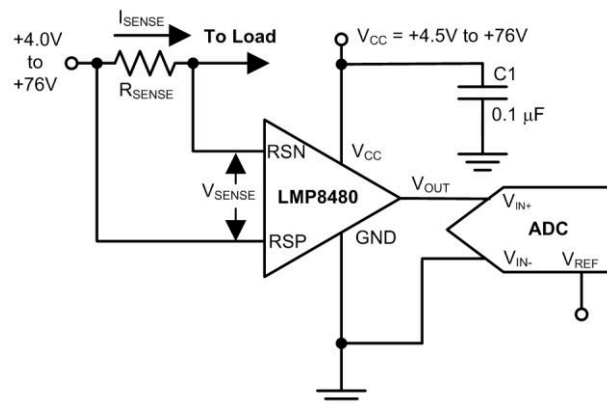
The maximum differential voltage (defined as the voltage difference between R_{SP} and R_{SN}) must be 667 mV or less. The theoretical maximum input is 700 mV ($14\text{ V} / 20$).

Taking the inputs below 4 V does not damage the device, but the output conditions during this time are not predictable and are not ensured.

If the load voltage (V_{cm}) is expected to fall below 4 V as part of normal operation, preparations must be made for invalid output levels during this time.

8.2 Typical Applications

8.2.1 Unidirectional Application With the LMP8480



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Figure 8-1. Unidirectional Application with the LMP8480

8.2.1.1 Design Requirements

The LMP8480 is designed for unidirectional current sense applications. The output of the amplifier is equal to the differential input voltage times the fixed device gain.

8.2.1.2 Detailed Design Procedure

The output voltage can be calculated from [Equation 9](#):

$$V_{OUT} = (V_{RSP} - V_{RSN}) \times A_V \quad (9)$$

Note that the minimum zero reading is limited by the lower output swing and input offset. The LMP8480 is functionally identical to the LMP8481, but with the V_{REFA} and V_{REFB} nodes grounded internally. The LMP8481 can replace the LMP8480 if both the V_{REF} inputs (pins 6 and 7) are grounded.

8.2.1.3 Application Curve

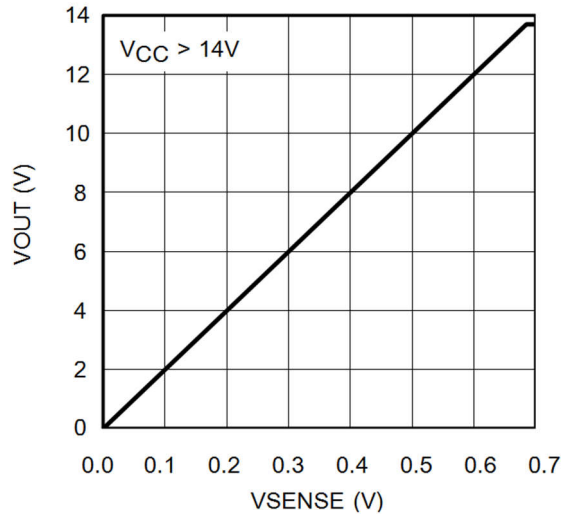
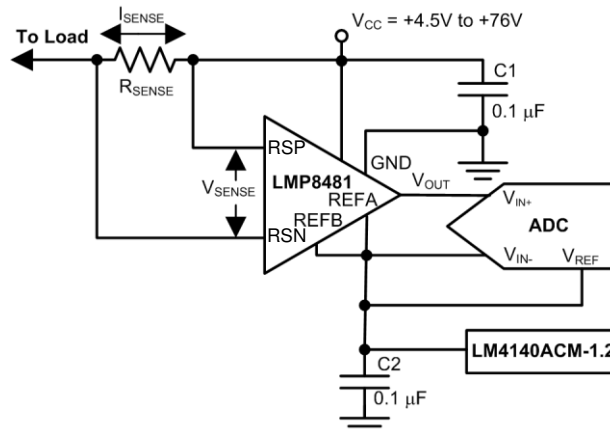


Figure 8-2. Unidirectional Transfer Function for Gain-of-20 Option

8.2.2 Bidirectional Current Sensing Using the LMP8481



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Figure 8-3. Bidirectional Current Sensing Using the LMP8481

8.2.2.1 Design Requirements

Bidirectional operation is required where the measured load current can be positive or negative. Because V_{SENSE} can be positive or negative, and the output cannot swing negative, the zero output level must be level-shifted above ground to a known zero reference point. The LMP8481 allows for the setting this reference point.

8.2.2.2 Detailed Design Procedure

The V_{REFA} and V_{REFB} pins set the zero reference point. The output zero reference point is set by applying a voltage to the REFA and REFB pins; see the [Unidirectional Application With the LMP8480](#) section. The [VREFA and VREFB Pins \(LMP8481 Only\)](#) section describes the output transfer function with a 1.2-V reference applied to the gain-of-20 option.

8.2.2.3 Application Curve

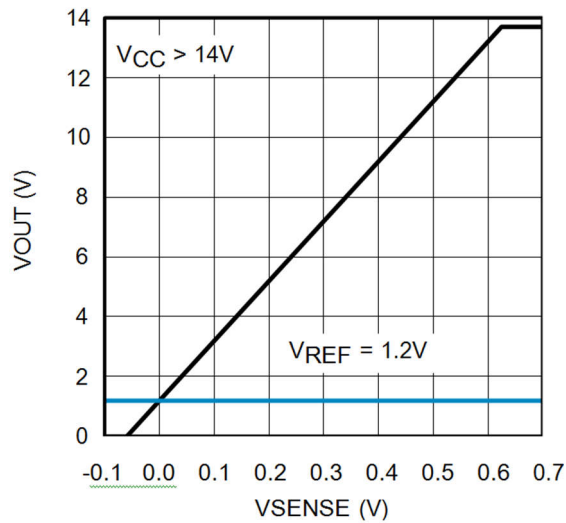
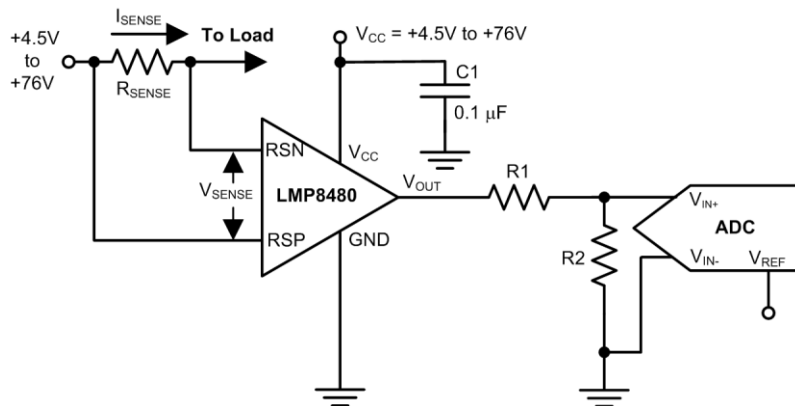


Figure 8-4. Bidirectional Transfer Function Using a 1.2-V Reference Voltage

8.2.3 Typical Application With a Resistive Divider

Take care if the output is driving an A/D input with a maximum A/D maximum input voltage lower than the amplifier supply voltage because the output can swing higher than the planned load maximum resulting from input transients or shorts on the load and overload or possibly damage the A/D input.

A resistive attenuator, as shown in [Figure 8-5](#), can be used to match the maximum swing to the input range of the A/D converter.



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Figure 8-5. Typical Application With Resistive Divider Example

9 Power Supply Recommendations

9.1 Power Supply Decoupling

In order to decouple the LMP848x from ac noise on the power supply, TI recommends using a 0.1- μF bypass capacitor between the V_{CC} and GND pins. This capacitor must be placed as close as possible to the supply pins. In some cases, an additional 10- μF bypass capacitor can further reduce the supply noise.

Do not forget that these bypass capacitors must be rated for the full supply and load source voltage. TI recommends that the working voltage of the capacitor (WVDC) be at least two times the maximum expected circuit voltage.

10 Layout

10.1 Layout Guidelines

The traces leading to and from the sense resistor can be significant error sources. With small value sense resistors ($< 100\text{ m}\Omega$), any trace resistance shared with the load current can cause significant errors.

The amplifier inputs must be directly connected to the sense resistor pads using Kelvin or 4-wire connection techniques. The traces must be one continuous piece of copper from the sense resistor pad to the amplifier input pin pad, and ideally on the same copper layer with minimal vias or connectors. These recommendations can be important around the sense resistor if any significant heat gradients are being generated.

To minimize noise pickup and thermal errors, the input traces must be treated as a differential signal pair and routed tightly together with a direct path to the input pins. The input traces must be run away from noise sources, such as digital lines, switching supplies or motor drive lines. Remember that these traces can contain high voltage, and must have the appropriate trace routing clearances.

Because the sense traces only carry the amplifier bias current (approximately 7 μA at room temperature), the connecting input traces can be thinner, signal level traces. Excessive resistance in the trace must also be avoided.

The paths of the traces must be identical, including connectors and vias, so that these errors are equal and cancel.

The sense resistor heats up when the load increases. When the resistor heats up, the resistance generally goes up, which causes a change in the readings. The sense resistor must have as much heatsinking as possible to remove this heat through the use of heatsinks or large copper areas coupled to the resistor pads. A reading drifting over time after turn-on can usually be traced back to sense resistor heating.

10.2 Layout Example

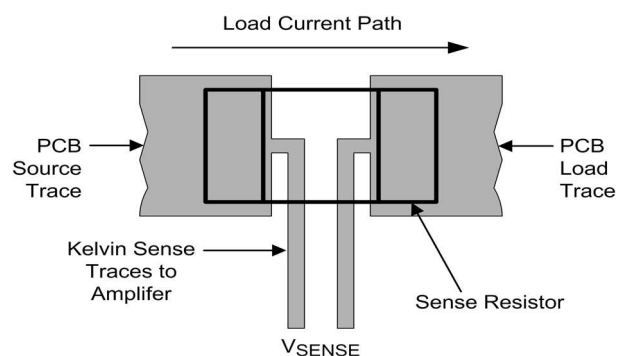


Figure 10-1. Kelvin or 4-Wire Connection to the Sense Resistor

11 Device and Documentation Support

11.1 Device Support

11.1.1 Development Support

[LMP8480/1 PSPICE Model](#)

[LMP8480/1 TINA Reference Design](#)

[TINA-TI SPICE-Based Analog Simulation Program](#)

[LMP8480/1 Evaluation Boards product pages](#)

[LMP8480/1 Evaluation Board Manual](#)

11.2 Receiving Notification of Documentation Updates

To receive notification of documentation updates, navigate to the device product folder on [ti.com](#). Click on *Notifications* to register and receive a weekly digest of any product information that has changed. For change details, review the revision history included in any revised document.

11.3 Support Resources

[TI E2E™ support forums](#) are an engineer's go-to source for fast, verified answers and design help — straight from the experts. Search existing answers or ask your own question to get the quick design help you need.

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11.5 Electrostatic Discharge Caution



This integrated circuit can be damaged by ESD. Texas Instruments recommends that all integrated circuits be handled with appropriate precautions. Failure to observe proper handling and installation procedures can cause damage.

ESD damage can range from subtle performance degradation to complete device failure. Precision integrated circuits may be more susceptible to damage because very small parametric changes could cause the device not to meet its published specifications.

11.6 Glossary

[TI Glossary](#) This glossary lists and explains terms, acronyms, and definitions.

12 Revision History

NOTE: Page numbers for previous revisions may differ from page numbers in the current version.

Changes from Revision E (February 2017) to Revision F (May 2026) Page

- Updated the numbering format for tables, figures, and cross-references throughout the document..... 1
-

Changes from Revision D (April 2016) to Revision E (February 2017) Page

- Deleted last Features bullet 1
 - Deleted LMP8480-H row from *Device Comparison Table* 3
 - Changed REFA to REFB and REFB to REFA for pins 6 and 7, respectively, in *Pin Functions* table..... 4
 - Deleted NCQ column from *Thermal Information* table..... 6
 - Changed bidirectional to unidirectional is description of Figure 22 in *Basic Connections* section 13
-

Changes from Revision C (September 2015) to Revision D (April 2016) Page

- Changed *Typical Application Schematic*: swapped RSN and RSP labels..... 1
 - Changed conditions of *Electrical Characteristics* table 6
 - Added unit to R_{OUT} parameter in *Electrical Characteristics* table 6
 - Changed first paragraph of *Overview* section 11
-

Changes from Revision B (December 2014) to Revision C (September 2015) Page

- Deleted WSON package option for LMP8480 and LMP8481 1
 - Deleted -F version (50x gain) for LMP8480 and LMP8481..... 3
 - Deleted WSON package options for LMP8480 and LMP8481 4
-

Changes from Revision A (August 2012) to Revision B (December 2014) Page

- Added *Pin Configuration and Functions* section, *ESD Ratings* table, *Feature Description* section, *Device Functional Modes*, *Application and Implementation* section, *Power Supply Recommendations* section, *Layout* section, *Device and Documentation Support* section, and *Mechanical, Packaging, and Orderable Information* section 1
-

13 Mechanical, Packaging, and Orderable Information

The following pages include mechanical, packaging, and orderable information. This information is the most current data available for the designated devices. This data is subject to change without notice and revision of this document. For browser-based versions of this data sheet, refer to the left-hand navigation.

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