CLC425 Ultra Low Noise Wideband Op Amp

Literature Number: SNOS820G

OBSOLETE July 15, 2009

Ultra Low Noise Wideband Op Amp

General Description

The CLC425 combines a wide bandwidth (**1.9GBW**) with a very low input noise (1.05nV/ \sqrt{Hz} , 1.6pA/ \sqrt{Hz}) and low dc errors (100µV V_{OS}, 2µV/°C drift) to provide a very precise, wide dynamic range op amp offering closed-loop gains of ≥10.

Singularly suited for very wideband high gain operation, the CLC425 employs a traditional voltage feedback topology providing all the benefits of balanced inputs, such as low offsets and drifts, as well as a 96dB open loop gain, a 100dB CMRR and a 95dB PSRR.

The CLC425 also offers great flexibility with its externally adjustable supply current, allowing designers to easily choose the optimum set of power, bandwidth, noise and distortion performance. Operating from ±5V power supplies, the CLC425 defaults to a 15mA quiescent current, or by adding one external resistor, the supply current can be adjusted to less than 5mA.

The CLC425's combination of ultra low noise, wide gain bandwidth, high slew rate and low dc errors will enable applications in areas such as medical diagnostic ultrasound, magnetic tape & disk storage, communications and opto-electronics to achieve maximum high frequency signal-to-noise ratios.

Enhanced Solutions (Military/Aerospace)

SMD Number: 5962-93259

Space level versions also available.

For more information, visit http://www.national.com/mil

Features

- 1.9GHz gain-bandwidth product
- 1.05nV//Hzinput voltage noise
-
-
- 350V/us slew rate
- 15mA to 5mA adjustable supply current
- Gain range ± 10 to $\pm 1,000$ V/V
- Evaluation boards & simulation macromodel
- 0.9dB NF @ R_s = 700Ω

Applications

- Instrumentation sense amplifiers
- Ultrasound pre-amps
- Magnetic tape & disk pre-amps
- Photo diode transimpedance amplifiers
- Wide band active filters
- Low noise figure RF amplifiers
- Professional audio systems
- Low noise loop filters for PLLs

Frequency (Hz)

1270853

- 0.8pA \sqrt{Hz} @ I_{CC} \leq 5mA
- 100µV input offset voltage, 2µV/°C drift

Connection Diagrams

Ordering Information

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Absolute Maximum Ratings (Note [1\)](#page-4-0)

If Military/Aerospace specified devices are required, please contact the National Semiconductor Sales Office/ Distributors for availability and specifications.

Supply Voltage (V_{CC}) $\pm 7V$

Operating Temperature Range −40°C to +85°C Storage Temperature Range −65°C to +150°C Lead Solder Duration (+300°C) 10 sec ESD rating (human body model) 1000V

Operation Ratings

Electrical Characteristics

A_V= +20, V_{CC} = ±5V, R_g = 26.1Ω, R_L = 100Ω, R_f = 499Ω; unless specified

Note 1: "Absolute Maximum Ratings" are those values beyond which the safety of the device cannot be guaranteed. They are not meant to imply that the devices should be operated at these limits. The table of "Electrical Characteristics" specifies conditions of device operation.

Note 2: Max/min ratings are based on product characterization and simulation. Individual parameters are tested as noted. Outgoing quality levels are determined from tested parameters.

Note 3: AJ-level: spec. is 100% tested at +25°C, sample at 85°C.

Typical Performance Characteristics

1270801

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Distortion vs. Gain & ICC (V^O 1 = VPP f^O = 3MHz)

1270826

Frequency (Hz)

 $1M$

 $I_{\text{CC}} = 8.5 \text{ mA}$

 $= 5.0 \text{ mA}$

29

26 23 20

100k

1270827

10M

Application Division

FIGURE 1. Non-Inverting Amplifier Configuration

Introduction

The CLC425 is a very wide gain bandwidth, ultra low noise voltage feedback operational amplifier which enables application areas such as medical diagnostic ultrasound, magnetic tape & disk storage and fiber-optics to achieve maximum high frequency signal-to-noise ratios. The set of characteristic plots located in the "Typical Performance" section illustrates many of the performance trade offs. The following discussion will enable the proper selection of external components in order to achieve optimum device performance.

Bias Current Cancellation

In order to cancel the bias current errors of the non-inverting configuration, the parallel combination of the gain setting (R_g) and feedback (R_f) resistors should equal the equivalent source resistance (R_{seq}) as defined in Figure 1. Combining this constraint with the non-inverting gain equation also seen in Figure 1, allows both R_{f} and R_{g} to be determined explicitly from the following equations:

$$
R_f = A_V R_{\text{seq}} \text{ and } R_g = R_f/(A_V - 1).
$$

Typical DC Errors vs. Temperature

When driven from a 0 Ω source, such as that from the output of an op amp, the non-inverting input of the CLC425 should be isolated with at least a 25Ω series resistor.

As seen in Figure 2, bias current cancellation is accomplished for the inverting configuration by placing a resistor $(\mathsf{R}_{\mathsf{b}})$ on the non-inverting input equal in value to the resistance seen by the inverting input $(R_f(R_g+_s))$. R_b is recommended to be no less than 25 Ω for best CLC425 performance. The additional noise contribution of R_b can be minimized through the use of a shunt capacitor.

FIGURE 2. Inverting Amplifier Configuration

Total Input Noise vs. Source Resistance

In order to determine maximum signal-to-noise ratios from the CLC425, an understanding of the interaction between the amplifier's intrinsic noise sources and the noise arising from its external resistors is necessary.

[Figure 3](#page-10-0) describes the noise model for the non-inverting amplifier configuration showing all noise sources. In addition to the intrinsic input voltage noise (e_n) and current noise (i_n = i_n ₊ = i_{n−}) sources, there also exists thermal voltage noise $(e_t = \sqrt{Hz}4kTR)$

associated with each of the external resistors. Equation 1 provides the general form for total equivalent input voltage noise density (e_{ni}) . Equation 2 is a simplification of Equation 1 that assumes

FIGURE 3. Non-inverting Amplifier Noise Model

$$
e_{ni} = \sqrt{e_{ni}^{2} + (i_{n+}R_{Seq})^{2} + 4kTR_{Seq} + (i_{n-} (R_{f}||R_{g}))^{2} + 4kT(R_{f}||R_{g})}
$$
\n(1)

 R_f R_g = R_{seq} for bias current cancellation. Figure 4 illustrates the equivalent noise model using this assumption. Figure 5 is a plot of e_{ni} against equivalent source resistance (R_{seq}) with all of the contributing voltage noise source of Equation 2 shown. This plot gives the expected e_{ni} for a given (R_{seq}) which assumes $\mathsf{R}_{\mathsf{f}}\,\mathsf{R}_{\mathsf{g}}\!\!=\!\!\mathsf{R}_{\mathsf{seq}}$ for bias current cancellation. The total equivalent output voltage noise (e_{n0}) is e_{ni}*A_v.

$$
\mathbf{e}_{ni} = \sqrt{\mathbf{e}_n^2 + 2(\mathbf{i}_n \mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{S} \in \mathbb{Q}})^2 + 4 \mathbf{k} \mathbf{T}(\mathbf{2} \mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{S} \in \mathbb{Q}})}
$$

As seen in Figure 5, e_{ni} is dominated by the intrinsic voltage noise (e_n) of the amplifier for equivalent source resistances below 33.5Ω. Between 33.5Ω and 6.43kΩ, e_{ni} is dominated by the thermal noise ($e_t = \sqrt{Hz}4kTR_{seq}$) of the external resistor. Above 6.43kΩ, e_{ni} is dominated by the amplifier's current noise ($\sqrt{Hz2i_nR_{seq}}$). The point at which the CLC425's voltage noise and current noise contribute equally occurs for R_seq =464 Ω (i.e., e_n/√Hz2i_n). As an example, configured with a gain of +20V/V giving a -3dB of 90MHz and driven from an R_{seq} =25 Ω , the CLC425 produces a total equivalent input noise voltage ($e_{ni} \times \sqrt{Hz}$ 1.57*90MHz) of 16.5µ V_{rms} .

FIGURE 5. Voltage Noise Density vs. Source Resistance

If bias current cancellation is not a requirement, then $R_f R_g$ does not need to equal R_{sea} . In this case, according to Equation 1, R_FQ should be as low as possible in order to minimize noise. Results similar to Equation 1 are obtained for the in-verting configuration of [Figure 2](#page-9-0) if R_seq is replaced by R_b and R_{g} is replaced by $\mathsf{R}_{\mathsf{g}}\text{-}\mathsf{R}_{\mathsf{s}}$. With these substitutions, Equation 1 will yield an e_{ni} referred to the non-inverting input. Referring e_{ni} to the inverting input is easily accomplished by multiplying e_{ni} by the ratio of non-inverting to inverting gains.

Noise Figure

Noise Figure (NF) is a measure of the noise degradation caused by an amplifier.

NF = 10LOG
$$
\left\{\frac{S_i / N_i}{S_o / N_o}\right\}
$$
 = 10LOG $\left\{\frac{e_{ni}^2}{e_t^2}\right\}$ (3)

The Noise Figure formula is shown in Equation 3. The addition of a terminating resistor R_T , reduces the external thermal noise but increases the resulting NF. The NF is increased because R_{T} reduces the input signal amplitude thus reducing the input SNR.

$$
F = 10 \text{LOC} \left(\frac{{e_n}^2 + {i_n}^2 \left(R_{Seq} + (R_f || R_g)^2 \right) + 4kTR_{Seq} + 4kT (R_f || R_g)}{4kTR_{Seq}} \right)
$$
(4)

The noise figure is related to the equivalent source resistance $(\mathsf{R}_\mathsf{seq})$ and the parallel combination of R_{f} and $\mathsf{R}_{\mathsf{g}}.$ To minimize noise figure, the following steps are recommended:

 \bullet Minimize $\mathsf{R}_{\mathsf{f}}\,\mathsf{R}_{\mathsf{g}}$

N

 \bullet Choose the Optimum $\mathsf{R}_\mathsf{S}\left(_{\mathsf{OPT}}\right)$

 R_{OPT} is the point at which the NF curve reaches a minimum and is approximated by:

R_{OPT} ≊e_n/i_n

[Figure 6](#page-11-0) is a plot of NF vs R_{s} with $\mathsf{R}_{\mathrm{f}}\mathsf{R}_{\mathrm{g}}$ =9.09(A_v=+10). The NF curves for both Unterminated and Terminated systems are shown. The Terminated curve assumes $\mathsf{R}_{\mathsf{s}}\text{=} \mathsf{R}_{\mathsf{T}}.$ The table indicates the NF for various source resistances including R_s = R_{OPT}

(2)

FIGURE 6. Noise Figure vs. Source Resistance

Supply Current Adjustment

The CLC425's supply current can be externally adjusted downward from its nominal value by adding an optional resistor $(\mathsf{R}_{\mathsf{p}})$ between pin 8 and the negative supply as shown in Figure 7. Several of the plots found within the plot pages demonstrate the CLC425's behavior at different supply currents. The plot labeled "l_{cc} vs R_p " provides the means for selecting $\mathsf{R}_\textsf{p}$ and shows the results of standard IC process variation which is bounded by the 25°C curve.

FIGURE 7. External Supply Current Adjustment

Non-Inverting Gains Less Than 10V/V

Using the CLC425 at lower non-inverting gains requires external compensation such as the shunt compensation as shown in Figure 8. The quiescent supply current must also be reduced to 5mA with R_p for stability. The compensation capacitors are chosen to reduce frequency response peaking to less than 1dB. The plot in the "Typical Performance" section labeled "differential gain and Phase" shows the video performance of the CLC425 with this compensation circuitry.

FIGURE 8. External Shunt Compensation

Inverting Gains Less Than 10V/V

The lag compensation of Figure 9 will achieve stability for lower gains. Placing the network between the two input terminals does not affect the closed-loop nor noise gain, but is best used for the inverting configuration because of its affect on the non-inverting input impedance.

FIGURE 9. External Lag Compensation

Single-Supply Operation

The CLC425 can be operated with single power supply as shown in Figure 10. Both the input and output are capacitively coupled to set the dc operating point.

FIGURE 10. Single Supply Operation

Low Noise Transimpedance Amplifier

The circuit of [Figure 11](#page-12-0) implements a low-noise transimpedance amplifier commonly used with photo-diodes. The transimpedance gain is set by R_f . The simulated frequency

response is shown in Figure 12 and shows the influence C_f has over gain flatness. Equation 4 provides the total input current noise density (i_{ni}) equation for the basic transimpedance configuration and is plotted against feedback resistance (R_f) showing all contributing noise sources in Figure 13. This plot indicates the expected total equivalent input current noise density (i_{ni}) for a given feedback resistance (R_f) . The total equivalent output voltage noise density (e_{no}) is i_{ni}*R_f.

FIGURE 12. Transimpedance Amplifier Frequency Response

$$
i_{ni} = \sqrt{i_n^2 + \left(\frac{e_n}{R_f}\right)^2 + \frac{4kT}{R_f}}
$$
(5)

Very Low Figure Amplifier

The circuit of Figure 14 implements a very low Noise Figure amplifier using a step-up transformer combined with a CLC425 and a CLC404. The circuit is configured with a gain of 35.6dB. The circuit achieves measured Noise Figures of less than 2.5dB in the 10-40MHz region, 3rd order intercepts exceed +30dB for frequencies less than 40MHz and gain flatness of 0.5dB is measured in the 1-50MHz passbands. Application Note OA-14 provides greater detail on these low Noise Figure techniques.

FIGURE 14. Very Noise Figure Amplifier

Low Noise Integrator

The CLC425 implements a deBoo integrator shown in Figure 15. Integration linearity is maintained through positive feedback. The CLC425's low input offset voltage and matched inputs allowing bias current cancellation provide for very precise integration. Stability is maintained through the constraint on the circuit elements.

FIGURE 15. Low Noise Integrator

High-Gain Sallen-Key Active Filters

The CLC425 is well suited for high gain Sallen-Key type of active filters. [Figure 16](#page-13-0) shows the 2ndorder Sallen-Key low pass filter topology. Using component predistortion methods as discussed in OA-21 enables the proper selection of components for these high-frequency filters.

FIGURE 16. Sallen-Key Active Filter Topology

Low Noise Magnetic Media Equalizer

The CLC425 implements a high-performance low noise equalizer for such applications as magnetic tape channels as shown in Figure 17. The circuit combines an integrator with a bandpass filter to produce the low noise equalization. The circuit's simulated frequency response is illustrated in Figure 18.

FIGURE 17. Low Noise Magnetic Media Equalizer

FIGURE 18. Equalizer Frequency Response

Low-Noise Phase-Locked Loop Filter

The CLC425 is extremely useful as a Phase-Locked Loop filter in such applications as frequency synthesizers and data synchronizers. The circuit of Figure 19 implements one possible PLL filter with the CLC425.

FIGURE 19. Phase-Locked Loop Filter

Decreasing the Input Noise Voltage

The input noise voltage of the CLC425 can be reduced from its already low $1.05nV/\sqrt{Hz}$ by slightly increasing the supply current. Using a 50kΩ resistor to ground on pin 8, as shown in the circuit of [Figure 14](#page-12-0), will increase the quiescent current to ≈17mA and reduce the input noise voltage to

Printed Circuit Board Layout

Generally, a good high-frequency layout will keep power supply and ground traces away from the inverting input and output pins. Parasitic capacitances on these nodes to ground will cause frequency response peaking and possible circuit oscillation, see OA-15 for more information. National suggests the CLC730013-DIP, CLC730027-SOIC, or CLC730068-SOT evaluation board as a guide for high frequency layout and as an aid in device testing and characterization.

Notes

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