

Technical documentation





**[INA851](https://www.ti.com/product/INA851)** [SBOS999A](https://www.ti.com/lit/pdf/SBOS999) – MARCH 2022 – REVISED OCTOBER 2022

**INA851 Precision, Low-Noise, Fully Differential Output Instrumentation Amplifier With Attenuating Gain and Output Clamping**

#### **1 Features**

<span id="page-0-0"></span>**TEXAS** 

**INSTRUMENTS** 

- Gain programmable from  $G = 0.2$  to 10,000 by using external resistor
- Fully differential outputs with integrated clamping
- Low offset voltage: 10 µV (typ), 35 µV (max)
- Low offset drift:  $0.1 \mu V$ °C (typ),  $0.3 \mu V$ °C (max)
- Low input bias current: 5 nA (typ)
- Input stage noise: 3.2 nV/√Hz, 0.8 pA/√Hz
- Wide bandwidth: 22 MHz at  $G = 0.2$ , 15 MHz at  $G = 1$
- Common-mode rejection: 106 dB (min) at G = 10, 120 dB (min) at 100 ≤ G ≤ 1000
- Power supply rejection: 110 dB (min) at  $G = 1$
- Supply current: 6 mA (typ)
- Input overvoltage protection to  $±40$  V beyond supplies
- Supply range:
	- Single supply: 8 V to 36 V
	- $-$  Dual supply:  $±4$  V to  $±18$  V
- Specified temperature range: –40°C to +125°C
- Tiny package: 16-pin VQFN

#### **2 Applications**

- [Analog input module](https://www.ti.com/solution/analog-input-module)
- **[Flow transmitter](https://www.ti.com/solution/flow-transmitter)**
- **LCD** test
- [Electrocardiogram \(ECG\)](https://www.ti.com/solution/electrocardiogram-ecg)
- [Surgical equipment](https://www.ti.com/solution/surgical-equipment)
- [Oscilloscope \(DSO\)](https://www.ti.com/solution/oscilloscope)
- **[Weigh scale](https://www.ti.com/solution/weigh-scale)**
- [Semiconductor test](https://www.ti.com/solution/semiconductor-test)

#### **3 Description**

The INA851 is the industry's first high-precision instrumentation amplifier with fully differential outputs. This device is optimized to drive inputs of modern high performance analog-to-digital converters (ADCs) with fully differential inputs. The INA851 operates over a very-wide, single-supply or dual-supply range. The output stage gain can be set to either 0.2 or to 1 by shorting or floating two pins. A single external resistor sets any input stage gain from 1 to 10,000.

Compared to other amplifiers in the same class, the INA851 offers very-low input bias current and low input-referred current noise as a result of superbeta input transistors. A state-of-the-art manufacturing process provides exceptionally low voltage noise, input offset voltage, and offset voltage drift. Additional circuitry protects the device inputs against overvoltage up to ±40 V beyond the power-supply voltages.The device outputs feature built-in clamping circuitry to protect the ADC or downstream device against overdrive damage.

The device is designed for operation from either an 8-V minimum single or ±4-V dual supply, and a maximum of 36-V single or ±18 V dual supply.

**Package Information**



(1) For all available packages, see the package option addendum at the end of the data sheet.





### **Table of Contents**





### **4 Revision History**

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



<span id="page-2-0"></span>

#### **5 Related Products**





### <span id="page-3-0"></span>**6 Pin Configuration and Functions**



#### **Figure 6-1. RGT (16-Pin VQFN) Package, Top View**

#### **Table 6-1. Pin Functions**



<span id="page-4-0"></span>

#### **7 Specifications**

#### **7.1 Absolute Maximum Ratings**

over operating free-air temperature range (unless otherwise noted) $(1)$ 



(1) Operation outside the *Absolute Maximum Ratings* may cause permanent device damage. *Absolute Maximum Ratings* do not imply functional operation of the device at these or any other conditions beyond those listed under *Recommended Operating Conditions*. If used outside the *Recommended Operating Conditions* but within the *Absolute Maximum Ratings*, the device may not be fully functional, and this may affect device reliability, functionality, performance, and shorten the device lifetime.

(2) Short-circuit to  $V_S / 2$ .

(3) Keep operation below 1% duty cycle of device lifecycle.

#### **7.2 ESD Ratings**



(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.

#### **7.3 Recommended Operating Conditions**

over operating free-air temperature range (unless otherwise noted)



(1) See also [INA851 Calculator Tool](https://www.ti.com/tool/download/INA851-INPUT-OUTPUT-RANGE-DESIGN-CALC).



#### <span id="page-5-0"></span>**7.4 Thermal Information**



(1) For more information about traditional and new thermal metrics, see the [Semiconductor and IC Package Thermal Metrics](https://www.ti.com/lit/pdf/SPRA953) application report.

#### **7.5 Electrical Characteristics**





#### **7.5 Electrical Characteristics (continued)**





#### **7.5 Electrical Characteristics (continued)**



<span id="page-8-0"></span>

#### **7.5 Electrical Characteristics (continued)**

at T<sub>A</sub> = 25°C, V<sub>S</sub> = ±15 V, V<sub>ICM</sub> = V<sub>OCM</sub> = midsupply, V<sub>CLAMP+</sub> = V<sub>S+</sub>, V<sub>CLAMP-</sub> = V<sub>S-</sub>, G = G<sub>IN</sub> = G<sub>OUT</sub> = 1 V/V, and R<sub>L</sub> = 10 kΩ (unless otherwise noted)



(1) Offset voltages are uncorrelated. Total offset voltage, referred-to-input (RTI): V<sub>OS</sub> = √[V<sub>OSI</sub> <sup>2</sup> + (V<sub>OSO(Gout1 or <sub>Gout0.2)</sub> / G<sub>IN</sub>)<sup>2</sup>]. See more</sub> details on *Offset Voltage* section.

(2) Offset drifts are uncorrelated. Offset drift, referred-to-input (RTI): ΔV<sub>OS(RTI)</sub> =  $\sqrt{[\Delta V_{\rm OSI}^2 + (\Delta V_{\rm OSO}/G_{\rm IN})^2]}$ .

(3) Specified by design.

(4) Specified by characterization.

(5) Input voltage range of the instrumentation amplifier input stage. The valid input range depends on the common-mode voltage, differential voltage, gain, and V<sub>OCM</sub>. See also the *Input Common-Mode Range* section.

(6) The values specified for G > 1 do not include the effects of the external gain-setting resistor,  $R_G$ .<br>(7)  $e_{NO}$  refers to output stage noise referred to the input of the FDA. See also the *Noise Equivalent I* 

 $(7)$  e<sub>NO</sub> refers to output stage noise referred to the input of the FDA. See also the *Noise Equivalent Model* section.<br>(8) See also the *Input Protection* section.

See also the *Input Protection* section.

(9) See also the *Typical Characteristics* section.

(10) See also the *Output Clamping* section.



#### <span id="page-9-0"></span>**7.6 Typical Characteristics**





#### **7.6 Typical Characteristics**

at T<sub>A</sub> = 25°C, V<sub>S</sub> = ±15 V, V<sub>ICM</sub> = V<sub>OCM</sub> = midsupply, V<sub>CLAMP+</sub> = V<sub>S+</sub>, V<sub>CLAMP−</sub> = V<sub>S−</sub>, G = G<sub>IN</sub> = G<sub>OUT</sub> = 1 V/V, and R<sub>L</sub> = 10 kΩ (unless otherwise noted)



### **Table 7-1. Table of Graphs (continued)**



<span id="page-11-0"></span>

<span id="page-12-0"></span>

at T<sub>A</sub> = 25°C, V<sub>S</sub> = ±15 V, V<sub>ICM</sub> = V<sub>OCM</sub> = midsupply, V<sub>CLAMP+</sub> = V<sub>S+</sub>, V<sub>CLAMP-</sub> = V<sub>S-</sub>, G = G<sub>IN</sub> = G<sub>OUT</sub> = 1 V/V, and R<sub>L</sub> = 10 kΩ (unless otherwise noted)



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<span id="page-13-0"></span>

<span id="page-14-0"></span>



<span id="page-15-0"></span>

<span id="page-16-0"></span>



<span id="page-17-0"></span>at T<sub>A</sub> = 25°C, V<sub>S</sub> = ±15 V, V<sub>ICM</sub> = V<sub>OCM</sub> = midsupply, V<sub>CLAMP+</sub> = V<sub>S+</sub>, V<sub>CLAMP-</sub> = V<sub>S-</sub>, G = G<sub>IN</sub> = G<sub>OUT</sub> = 1 V/V, and R<sub>L</sub> = 10 kΩ (unless otherwise noted)



<span id="page-18-0"></span>

at T<sub>A</sub> = 25°C, V<sub>S</sub> = ±15 V, V<sub>ICM</sub> = V<sub>OCM</sub> = midsupply, V<sub>CLAMP+</sub> = V<sub>S+</sub>, V<sub>CLAMP-</sub> = V<sub>S-</sub>, G = G<sub>IN</sub> = G<sub>OUT</sub> = 1 V/V, and R<sub>L</sub> = 10 kΩ (unless otherwise noted)



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<span id="page-19-0"></span>

<span id="page-20-0"></span>





#### <span id="page-21-0"></span>**8 Detailed Description**

#### **8.1 Overview**

The INA851 is a monolithic, precision instrumentation amplifier that incorporates a current-feedback input stage and a four-resistor, fully differential amplifier output stage. The schematic in Figure 8-1 shows how the differential input voltage is buffered by  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$ , and is forced across  $R_G$ , which causes a signal current to flow through  $R_G$ ,  $R_1$ , and  $R_2$ . The fully differential amplifier,  $A_3$ , removes the common-mode component of the input signal and refers the output signal to the VOCM pin. The V<sub>BE</sub> and voltage drop across R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> produce output voltages on  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  that are approximately 0.8 V less than the input voltages.



**Figure 8-1. Detailed Schematic**

<span id="page-22-0"></span>

#### **8.2 Functional Block Diagram**



#### **8.3 Feature Description**

#### **8.3.1 Adjustable Gain Setting**

Figure 8-2 shows that the INA851 input-stage gain is set by a single external resistor  $(R_G)$  connected between the RG pins. The gain of the output stage can be set to a unity gain of 1 V/V by floating the G02+ and G02– pins, or to an attenuating gain of 0.2 V/V by shorting those pins to the respective OUT+ and OUT– pins.





If the output stage is in the unity gain configuration, the value of  $R<sub>G</sub>$  is selected according to the following equation:

$$
G = \left(1 + \frac{6k\Omega}{R_G}\right) \tag{1}
$$

When OUT+ is shorted to G02+ (pin 11 to pin 12) and OUT– is shorted to G02– (pin 9 to pin 10) so that the output stage is in the attenuating configuration, the gain equation becomes:

$$
G = 0.2 \times \left(1 + \frac{6k\Omega}{R_G}\right) \tag{2}
$$

[Table 8-1](#page-23-0) lists several commonly used gains and resistor values, as well as the additional gain error that is contributed by the gain resistors. The 6-kΩ term in the gain equation is a result of the sum of the two internal 3-kΩ feedback resistors. These on-chip resistors are laser-trimmed to accurate absolute values. The accuracy and temperature coefficients of these resistors are included in the gain accuracy and drift specifications of the <span id="page-23-0"></span>INA851. The 5-kΩ and 1.25-kΩ resistors used in the output stage are ratiometrically matched to achieve stable 1-V/V and 0.2-V/V gain terms; although, the resistor values can shift up to 15%, depending on production.



#### **Table 8-1. Commonly Used Gains and Resistor Values**

As shown in [Figure 8-2](#page-22-0) and explained in more detail in [Section 9.4,](#page-39-0) make sure to connect low-ESR, 0.1-µF ceramic bypass capacitors between each supply pin and ground, and to place these capacitors as close as possible to the device pins.

#### *8.3.1.1 Gain Drift*

The stability and temperature drift of external gain setting resistor  $R_G$  also affects gain. The contribution of  $R_G$  to gain accuracy and drift is determined from [Equation 1.](#page-22-0) The best gain drift of 5 ppm/℃ (maximum) is achieved when the INA851 uses G = 1 in the input stage, without  $R_G$  connected. In this case, gain drift is limited by the mismatch of the temperature coefficient of the integrated resistors in fully differential amplifier  $A_3$ . When the output stage is in attenuating gain mode (OUT− shorted to G02− and OUT+ shorted to G02+), both the 1.25-kΩ and the 5-kΩ resistors contribute mismatch, as do the traces between the G02x and OUTx pins. Only the 5-kΩ resistors contribute mismatch when the output stage is in unity gain mode (with G02− and G02+ floating).

At input stage gains greater than 1, gain drift increases as a result of the individual drift of the 3-kΩ resistors in the feedback of  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ , relative to the drift of external gain resistor  $R_G$ . The low temperature coefficient of the internal feedback resistors improves the overall temperature stability of applications using input-stage gains greater than 1 V/V over alternate solutions. The low resistor values required for high gain make wiring resistance an important consideration. Sockets add to the wiring resistance and contribute additional gain error (such as a possible unstable gain error) at gains of approximately 20 or greater. To maintain stability, avoid parasitic capacitance of more than a few picofarads at the  $R_G$  connections. Careful matching of any parasitics on the  $R_G$ pins maintains optimal CMRR over frequency.



#### **8.3.2 Offset Voltage**

Low offset voltage is one of the key parameters for an instrumentation amplifier (INA). In a current-feedback INA, this error source is classified in three stages: input, output, and intermediate. The input-stage dc offset  $(V_{OSI})$  is mainly caused by the mismatch of the input transistors Q1 and Q2, (see [Figure 8-1\)](#page-21-0). The output-stage dc offset  $(V<sub>OSO</sub>)$  is caused partially by the mismatch of the output amplifier A3. In the INA851, A3 is a fully-differential amplifier and gained up by the noise gain of the circuit  $(1 + R_5 / R_3)$ . An additional intermediate stage offset contribution error adds to  $V_{OSO}$  that is caused by the mismatch of the current mirrors in the front end (through R1 and R2).

Unlike typical instrumentation amplifiers that incorporate a difference amplifier (A3) with a fixed output gain, the INA851 has two different output gain stages that subsequently contribute differently to  $V_{OSO}$ ; see Gaussian distributions for G =  $G<sub>OUT</sub>$  = 1 V/V in [Figure 7-3](#page-11-0) and for G =  $G<sub>OUT</sub>$  = 0.2 V/V in [Figure 7-4](#page-11-0).

The following equation calculates the total offset voltage error referred to the input:

$$
V_{OS} = \sqrt{V_{OSI}^2 + \left(\frac{V_{OSO}(G_{OUT} = 1 \text{ or } G_{OUT} = 0.2)}{G_{IN}}\right)^2}
$$
(3)

#### **8.3.3 Input Common-Mode Range**

The linear input voltage range of the INA851 input circuitry extends within 2.5 V (maximum) of both power supplies, and maintains excellent common-mode rejection throughout this range. The valid input common-mode range is a function of the input common-mode voltage, input differential voltage, gain, and output common-mode voltage.

The common-mode range is best calculated using the *[INA851 Input-Output Range Design Calculator](https://www.ti.com/tool/download/INA851-INPUT-OUTPUT-RANGE-DESIGN-CALC)* .

The common-mode range for the most common operating conditions are shown in Figure 8-3 to [Figure 8-9](#page-25-0).



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**Figure 8-7. Input Common-Mode Voltage vs Output Figure 8-8. Input Common-Mode Voltage vs Output Voltage, High Gains**

**Voltage, High Gains**





#### **8.3.4 Input Protection**

The inputs of the INA851 device are individually protected for voltages up to ±40 V beyond the power supply rails. For example, a condition of  $V_{S-}$  = -55 V on one input and  $V_{S+}$  = 55 V on the other input does not cause damage. Internal circuitry on each input provides low series impedance under normal signal conditions. Figure 8-10 shows that if the input is overloaded, the protection circuitry limits the input current to a value of approximately 16 mA.



**Figure 8-10. Input Current During an Overvoltage Condition**

Figure 8-11 shows that during an input overvoltage condition, current flows through the input protection diodes into the power supplies. If the power supplies are unable to sink current, then place Zener diode clamps (ZD1 and ZD2 in Figure 8-11) on the power supplies to provide a current pathway to ground.



**Figure 8-11. Input Current Path During an Overvoltage Condition**

If an input stage gain greater than  $G_{\text{IN}}$  = 1 V/V is implemented, where a gain resistor is present across the RG pins, the inputs are still well protected against overvoltage conditions; however, make sure that the input differential voltage limitations of the INA851 are not exceeded. For example, a condition of  $(V_{S+}) + 40 V$  on both inputs does not cause damage. However, a condition of  $(V_{S-})$  – 40 V on one input and  $(V_{S+})$  + 40 V on the other input can cause damage. Precautions can include the use of external resistors in series with each of the inputs.



#### **8.3.5 Output Clamping**

The INA851 features a unique output clamping function that protects the downstream device against damage that results from inadvertent over-driving. Usually the downstream device is an ADC that typically operates at a lower supply voltage than the INA851.

To implement this function, use the VCLAMP+ and VCLAMP– pins to limit the supply voltage range of the differential output drive amplifier. For typical operation, use a low-impedance connection from the pins to the power supplies of the ADC. For proper operation of the clamp circuitry, set the V<sub>S+</sub> or V<sub>S-</sub> supply voltages at least 1.5 V beyond the respective  $V_{CLAMP+}$  and  $V_{CLAMP-}$  clamping voltages. In addition, for the output driver to function correctly, the  $V_{CLAMP+}$  and  $V_{CLAMP-}$  voltages must be at least 3 V apart. If the output clamping functionality is not desired, short the VCLAMP+ and VCLAMP– pins to the amplifier VS+ and VS– supply pins.

The output driver operates up to the  $V_{CLAMP+}$  or  $V_{CLAMP-}$  limits without experiencing distortion. When the clamping function is in use the output voltage is clamped at approximately 600 mV beyond the clamp voltage.), so that the device output spans the full input range of the ADC. However, if the predriver output swings beyond the  $V_{CLAMP+}$  or  $V_{CLAMP-}$  voltage, the output driver begins to run out of headroom as a result of the clamped supply voltage, shown in Figure 8-12.

The output is unable to swing greater than approximately 500 mV beyond the  $V_{CLAMP+}$  or  $V_{CLAMP-}$  voltage (at zero load), helping prevent or reduce damage to the ADC from overvoltage conditions.

The linear operation becomes distorted when the driver load becomes higher than 20 mA, see [Figure 8-13](#page-28-0).



**Figure 8-12. Simplified Schematic of Output Driver Clamping Structure**

#### **Note**

Be aware that instead of providing an immediate *hard-stop* voltage limit, the output driver is not clamped until  $V_{CLAMP+}$  or  $V_{CLAMP-}$  voltage has been exceeded, and the driver starts to run out of headroom. This configuration prevents distortion of the amplifier output when operating near the  $V_{\text{CI AMP+}}$  and  $V_{\text{CI AMP-}}$  rails. However, the output voltage exceeds  $V_{\text{CI AMP+}}$  and  $V_{\text{CI AMP-}}$  by several hundreds of millivolts before the clamps turn on strongly. When used in conjunction with several tens of ohms of resistance between the amplifier output and ADC input pins (commonly implemented as part of a low-pass filter for proper ADC acquisition), output clamping helps severely diminish any potential damage to the ADC that can otherwise result.

<span id="page-28-0"></span>



**Figure 8-13. Output Voltage With Output Clamping Enabled** 

The VCLAMP+ pin features a fail-safe against power-up sequencing issues between the INA851 and a downstream device. For example, a condition of  $V_{(CLAMP+)} + 10$  V on this pin does not cause damage. Therefore, the ADC supply can safely turn on while the INA851 supply is still off or just beginning to turn on. In this case, the current draw through the VCLAMP+ pin is limited to a safe value of typically 3 mA.

#### **8.3.6 Low Noise**

An output noise calculation helps design a low-noise circuit to drive high-precision ADC applications and optimize the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR).

Figure 8-14 shows a simplified noise model for the INA851. The  $e_{NO}$  noise refers to the input resistor network of the FDA. This term incorporates the thermal noise of the internal feedback resistors, and the interaction of the internal current noise density of the output stage with the internal feedback resistors.



**Figure 8-14. Simplified Noise Model for the INA851**

The internal feedback resistor network is considered in the  $e_{NO}$  specification; therefore, the calculation of the total input-referred noise,  $e_{N(RTI)}$ , is simplified to the following equation:

$$
e_{N(RTI)} = \sqrt{e_{NI}^2 + \left(\frac{e_{NO(G_{OUT}} = 1 \text{ or } G_{OUT} = 0.2)}{G_{IN}}\right)^2}
$$
(4)

The total output-referred noise,  $e_{N(RTO)}$ , multiplies directly by the output stage gain,  $G_{OUT}$ , by  $G_{OUT}$  = 0.2 V/V or  $G<sub>OUT</sub> = 1$  V/V respectively, as shown in the following equation:

$$
e_{N(RTO)} = \sqrt{(e_{NIX} \times G_{IN} \times 0.2 \text{ V/V or 1 V/V})^2 + (e_{NO(G_{OUT} = 1 \text{ or } G_{OUT} = 0.2) \times 0.2 \text{ V/V or 1 V/V})^2}
$$
(5)

#### **8.4 Device Functional Modes**

The INA851 has a single functional mode and operates when the power-supply voltage is greater than 8 V (±4 V). The maximum power-supply voltage for the INA851 is 36 V (±18 V).



#### <span id="page-29-0"></span>**9 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.

#### **9.1 Application Information**

#### **9.1.1 Output Common-Mode Pin**

The output voltage of the INA851 is developed with respect to the voltage on the output common-mode pin, VOCM. The starting point for most designs is to assign an output common-mode voltage for the INA851. For ac-coupled signal paths, this voltage is often the default midsupply voltage, so as to retain the most available output swing around the voltage centered at  $V_{OCM}$ . For dc-coupled signal paths, set this voltage between a minimum of  $V_{S+}$  – 2.5 V and maximum of  $V_{S-}$  + 2.5 V. For precision ADC applications, this voltage is typically the input common mode voltage of the ADC.

The voltage at the VOCM pin is internally buffered to bias the fully differential output amplifier, eliminating the need for an additional external V<sub>OCM</sub> buffer. While the buffer input is high-ohmic, the VOCM pin also connects through internal 500-kΩ resistors to V<sub>CLAMP+</sub> and V<sub>CLAMP-</sub>, which sets the output common-mode voltage to midsupply in the event that the pin is floating.

While the  $V_{OCM}$  buffer has high small-signal bandwidth, be aware that large-signal steps with fast edges at the VOCM pin cause delays in the output. For best tracking between the buffer input and output signals, use rise times of 200 ns or greater for large steps.

#### **9.1.2 Output-Stage Gain Selection and Noise-Gain Shaping**

In the default unity-gain configuration, the INA851 fully differential amplifier output stage uses 5-kΩ feedback resistors between the OUT+ and OUT– outputs and the inverting and noninverting inputs, respectively. However, the INA851 also features internal 1.25-kΩ feedback resistors between those inputs and the G02+ and G02– pins. By shorting the G02+ pin to the OUT+ pin, and the G02– pin to the OUT– pin, the amplifier is placed in an attenuating gain of 0.2 V/V.

Additionally, access directly to the inverting and noninverting inputs of the fully differential amplifier is provided through the FDA\_IN– and FDA\_IN+ pins, respectively. This option allows circuit designers to add external feedback capacitors in parallel with the internal feedback resistors to implement noise filtering or noise-gain shaping techniques. These pins can also be used to implement customized attenuating gains for the output stage. Do not treat these pins as outputs, nor use the pins to source or sink current.

#### **Note**

These pins are internally disconnected on preliminary samples of the INA851; these pins will be connected to the aforementioned internal nodes in the final device release.



#### **9.1.3 Input Bias Current Return Path**

The input impedance of the INA851 is very high at approximately 1 GΩ. However, a path must be provided for the input bias current of both inputs. This input bias current is typically 5 nA. High input impedance means that this input bias current changes very little with varying input voltage.

For proper operation, input circuitry must provide a path for input bias current. Figure 9-1 shows various provisions for an input bias current path. Without a bias current path, the inputs float to a potential that exceeds the common-mode range of the INA851, and the input amplifiers saturate. If the differential source resistance is low, the thermocouple example in Figure 9-1 shows that the bias current return path can connect to one input. With a higher source impedance, using two equal resistors provides a balanced input with the possible advantages of a lower input offset voltage as a result of bias current and better high-frequency common-mode rejection.

For more details about why a valid input bias current return path is necessary, see the *[Importance of Input Bias](https://www.ti.com/lit/pdf/SBOA503) [Current Return Paths in Instrumentation Amplifier Applications](https://www.ti.com/lit/pdf/SBOA503)* application report.



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**Figure 9-1. Providing an Input Common-Mode Current Path**



#### **9.1.4 Thermal Effects due to Power Dissipation**

The INA851 dissipates approximately 180 mW of power under quiescent conditions at a ±15-V supply voltage. The internal resistor network and output load drive causes an additional power dissipation that depends on the input signal. The small silicon area of the INA851 causes the internal circuitry to experience temperature gradients that can adversely affect the electrical performance.

Precision parameters, such as offset voltage, linearity, common-mode rejection ratio, and total harmonic distortion, can be impacted as a result of these thermal effects in the silicon. The thermal gradient particularly affects the performance of low-frequency input signals with higher gains (> 10) and large output voltage variation. Figure 9-2 shows that the thermal effect can be minimized by lowering the supply voltage, if the application permits.

To properly dissipate heat from the INA851, connect the thermal pad with sufficient thermal vias to a large copper plane that is connected to the negative supply, VS–. A thorough PCB layout is of key importance (see also [Section 9.4\)](#page-39-0).



**Figure 9-2. Linearity vs Supply Voltage for G = 1000**

<span id="page-32-0"></span>

#### **9.2 Typical Applications**

#### **9.2.1 Three-Pin Programmable Logic Controller (PLC)**

Figure 9-3 shows a three-pin programmable-logic controller (PLC) design for the INA851. This PLC reference design accepts inputs of  $\pm 10$  V or  $\pm 20$  mA. The output is a differential voltage of  $\pm 4.95$  V with a V<sub>OCM</sub> of 2.5 V (or 25 mV to 4.975 V on OUT+ and OUT−) to be measured by the [ADS8920B](https://www.ti.com/product/ADS8920B) SAR ADC.



**Figure 9-3. PLC Input with INA851 (±10 V, 4 mA to 20 mA)**

#### *9.2.1.1 Design Requirements*

For this application, the design requirements are as follows:

- 4-mA to 20-mA input with less than 20-Ω burden
- $±20$ -mA input with less than 20- $Ω$  burden
- ±10-V input with impedance of approximately 100 kΩ
- Maximum 4-mA to 20-mA or ±20-mA burden voltage equal to ±0.4 V
- Output range within 0 V to 5 V

#### *9.2.1.2 Detailed Design Procedure*

There are two modes of operation for the circuit shown in Figure 9-3: current input and voltage input. This design requires  $R_1 \gg R_2 \gg R_3$ . Given this relationship, the following equation calculates the current input mode transfer function.

$$
V_{\text{OUT}} = V_{\text{DIFF}} \times G = -(I_{\text{IN}} \times R_3) \tag{6}
$$

where

- $V_{OUT}$  represents the differential voltage at the INA851 outputs in current input mode.
- $V_{\text{DIFF}}$  represents the differential voltage at the INA851 inputs.
- G represents the total gain of the INA851
- $I_{IN}$  is the input current to the PLC.



The following equation shows the transfer function for the voltage input mode:

$$
V_{OUT} = V_{DIFF} \times G = -\left(V_{IN} \times \left(\frac{R_2}{R_2 + R_1}\right)\right)
$$
\n(7)

where

- $V_{\text{OUT}}$  represents the differential voltage at the INA851 outputs in voltage input mode.
- $V_{\text{IN}}$  is the input voltage to the PLC.

The voltages on the output pins of the INA851 follow the relationships in Equation 8 and Equation 9.

$$
V_{\text{OUT}} = V_{\text{DIFF}} \times \frac{G}{2} + V_{\text{OCM}} \tag{8}
$$

$$
V_{\text{OUT}} = -V_{\text{DIFF}} \times \frac{G}{2} + V_{\text{OCM}} \tag{9}
$$

R<sub>1</sub> sets the input impedance of the voltage input mode. The minimum typical input impedance is 100 kΩ. The R<sub>1</sub> value is 100 kΩ because increasing the R<sub>1</sub> value also increases noise. The value of R<sub>3</sub> must be extremely small compared to R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub>. A 20-Ω value is selected for R<sub>3</sub> because that resistance value is much smaller than R<sub>1</sub> and yields an input voltage of ±400 mV when operated in current mode (±20 mA).

Use Equation 10 to calculate R<sub>2</sub> given V<sub>DIFF</sub> = ±400 mV, V<sub>IN</sub> = ±10 V, and R<sub>1</sub> = 100 kΩ.

$$
V_{\text{DIFF}} = V_{\text{IN}} \times \frac{R_2}{R_1 + R_2} \rightarrow R_2 = \frac{R_1 \times V_{\text{DIFF}}}{V_{\text{IN}} - V_{\text{DIFF}}} = 4.167 \text{ k}\Omega
$$
\n(10)

The value obtained from Equation 10 is not a standard 0.1% value; therefore, 4.17 kΩ is selected. R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> also use 0.1% tolerance resistors to minimize error.

Use Equation 11 to calculate the gain of the instrumentation amplifier.

$$
G = \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{DIFF}} = \frac{4.95 \text{ V}}{400 \text{ mV}} = 12.375 \text{ V/V}
$$
\n(11)

[Equation](#page-22-0) 12 calculates the gain-setting resistor value using the INA851 gain equation for  $G<sub>OUT</sub> = 1$  V/V (Equation [1](#page-22-0)).

$$
R_G = \frac{6 k \Omega}{G - 1} = \frac{6 k \Omega}{12.375 - 1} = 527.473 \Omega
$$
\n<sup>(12)</sup>

Use a standard 0.1% resistor value of 530  $\Omega$  for this design.

The [ADS8920B](https://www.ti.com/product/ADS8920B) is selected because of the differential input, 1-MSPS sampling rate, and integrated reference buffer. Implement the antialiasing R-C-R filter using two 47.4-Ω resistors, a COG or NPO-type 510-pF differential capacitor, and two ceramic 51-pF common-mode capacitors. The [REF5050](https://www.ti.com/product/REF5050) is selected to create a 5-V reference voltage for the ADC. Use well-matched precision resistors to create a voltage divider that generates a stable 2.5-V V<sub>OCM</sub> reference. Connect the VCLAMP+ and VCLAMP− pins of the INA851 to the supplies of the ADC to protect against overdrive damage in the event of a fault. Consider implementing a TVS diode from the ADC supply to GND for additional protection, and include 100-nF decoupling capacitors between the amplifier and ADC supplies and GND.

#### *9.2.1.3 Application Curves*

[Figure 9-4](#page-34-0) and [Figure 9-5](#page-34-0) show typical characteristic curves for the circuit in [Figure 9-3](#page-32-0).

<span id="page-34-0"></span>



#### **9.2.2 20-Bit, 1-MSPS ADS8900B Driver Circuit With FDA Noise Filter**

The application circuit in Figure 9-6 shows the schematic of a complete input and reference driver circuit for the [ADS8900B](https://www.ti.com/product/ADS8900B), a 20-bit, precision, 1-MSPS, successive approximation register (SAR), analog-to-digital converter (ADC). This circuit is used to measure the driving capability of the INA851 with the ADS8900B ADC.

To test the complete dynamic range of the circuit, the common-mode voltage  $V_{\text{OCM}}$  of the input of the ADC is established at a value of  $V_{REF}$  / 2.

To exclude noise caused by supply voltage, the test circuit uses the [TPS7A4700](https://www.ti.com/product/TPS7A4700), a low-noise 4-µVRMS, RF LDO voltage regulator, to generate the 5.2-V supply rail.

For  $V_{OCM}$ , the circuit uses the [REF5050,](https://www.ti.com/product/REF5050) a low-noise, low-drift, 5-V reference, a 20k-20k voltage divider to establish VREF/2 and an additional RC filter (10 Ω, 150 pF) into the VOCM pin. See also the [ADS8900EVM-](https://www.ti.com/lit/pdf/SBAU269)[PDK user's guide.](https://www.ti.com/lit/pdf/SBAU269)







#### *9.2.2.1 Design Requirements*

The requirements for the application driving the ADS8900B ADC are listed in the following table.



#### **Table 9-1. Design Parameters**

To eliminate ground loops, unwanted parasitic effects, and distortion, use appropriate PCB layout and grounding techniques (see also [Section 9.4](#page-39-0)).

#### *9.2.2.2 Application Curves*

Table 9-2 show the typical signal-to-noise (SNR) and total harmonic distortion (THD) of the INA851 driving the ADS8900B SAR ADC at full-scale range and at different gain configurations. The RC filter combination ( $R_{\text{FII}}$ ,  $C_{FII}$ ) shown in [Figure 9-6](#page-34-0) helps attenuate the nonlinear charge kickback of the ADC and optimize for best THD performance. The combination of the RC filter and the feedback capacitor  $C_{FB}$  allow for the best trade-off between harmonic distortion and maintaining stability of the FDA. Low voltage-coefficient C0G capacitors are used everywhere in the signal path  $(C_{FB}, C_{FH})$  for the low-distortion properties.

For other bandwidth requirements, adjust the feedback capacitor accordingly, and verify the circuit performance using a SPICE simulation using the [INA851 TINA-TI™ SPICE Model.](https://www.ti.com/lit/zip/sbomc52) The amplifier output voltage must settle within the ADC bit accuracy during the ADC acquisition time window. Verify the desired circuit is stable; that is, the FDA has more than a 45º phase margin.

<b>INPUT AMPLITUDE</b> (Vpk)	$RG$ RESISTOR $(\Omega)$	$G_{IN}$ (V/V)	$G_{\text{OUT}}(VN)$	SNR (dB)	THD (dB)	<b>ENOB (Bits)</b>
23.7378	None		0.2	100.7	$-117.3$	16.42
4.7476	None			100.6	$-122.7$	16.41
0.2374	316	20		99.1	$-112.0$	16.10
0.0475	60.4	100		91.1	$-99.0$	14.64

**Table 9-2. INA851 + ADS8900B FFT Data Summary**



#### **9.2.3 24-Bit, 200 kSPS, Delta-Sigma ADS127L11 ADC Driver Circuit With FDA Noise Filter**

The application circuit in Figure 9-9 shows an schematic for a 24-bit-precision, 200-kSPS, delta-sigma, ADC. The circuit is used to measure the driving capacity of the INA851 with the [ADS127L11](https://www.ti.com/product/ADS127L11) ADC.

The ADS127L11 ADC offers two digital filters to optimize for ac applications (wideband filter) or dc applications (Sinc4 filter). [Application Curves](#page-37-0) shows measurement results in both filter settings. For detailed design procedure to operate the ADS127L11 ADC, see the [ADS127L11EVM-PDK evaluation module.](https://www.ti.com/lit/pdf/SBAU351)



**Figure 9-9. Driving the Delta-Sigma ADC ADS127L11** 

#### *9.2.3.1 Design Requirements*

The design requirements for the application driving the ADS127L11 ADC are listed in the following table.



**Table 9-3. Design Parameters**

(1) A trade-off must be considered between THD, frequency response and drift. The differential current drift into the ADC can interact with this filter resistors and result in higher drift errors. However, low resistance degrades the phase margin of the INA851. For low drift applications, keep R<sub>FIL</sub> < 50 Ω.



<span id="page-37-0"></span>For optimized linearity and THD performance, use good printed circuit board (PCB) layout practice. For proper heat dissipation of the INA851, connect the thermal pad to a plane or a large copper pour at the bottom connected to VS– (see also [Section 9.4.2](#page-40-0)).

#### *9.2.3.2 Application Curves*

Table 9-4 and [Table 9-5](#page-38-0) show the typical signal-to-noise (SNR) and total harmonic distortion (THD) of the INA851 driving the ADS127L11 delta-sigma ADC at full-scale range and at different gain configurations.

The RC filter combination is dimensioned such to help attenuate the nonlinear charge kickback and optimize for best THD performance. The ADC requires a low impedance input for lowest distortion performance; however, driving heavier loads degrades the phase margin of the INA851. Use a feedback capacitor ( $C_{FB}$ ) in the range of 47 pF to 100 pF to optimize for stability versus THD performance. Low voltage-coefficient C0G capacitors are used everywhere in the signal path ( $C_{FB}$ ,  $C_{DIFF}$ ,  $C_{CM}$ ) for their low distortion properties.

For other bandwidth requirements, adjust the feedback capacitor accordingly and verify the circuit performance using a SPICE simulation using [INA851 TINA-TI™ SPICE Model.](https://www.ti.com/lit/zip/sbomc52) Confirm that the desired circuit is stable; that is, the FDA has more than a 45º phase margin.



#### **Table 9-4. INA851 + ADS127L11 (Sinc4 Filter) FFT Data Summary**



<span id="page-38-0"></span>









#### <span id="page-39-0"></span>**9.3 Power Supply Recommendations**

The nominal performance of the INA851 is specified with a supply voltage of  $\pm$ 15 V, and V<sub>ICM</sub> and V<sub>OCM</sub> at midsupply. The device also operates using power supplies from  $\pm 4$  V (8 V) to  $\pm 18$  V (36 V) and non-midsupply input and output common-mode voltages with excellent performance.

#### **9.4 Layout**

#### **9.4.1 Layout Guidelines**

Attention to good layout practices is always recommended. For best operational performance of the device, use good printed circuit board (PCB) layout practices:

- To avoid converting common-mode signals into differential signals and thermal electromotive forces (EMFs), make sure that both input paths are symmetrical and well-matched for source impedance and capacitance.
- As shown in [Figure 9-14,](#page-40-0) keep the external gain resistor close to the RG pins to keep the loop inductance as low as possible and to avoid a potential parasitic coupling path. Even slight mismatch in parasitic capacitance at the gain setting pins can degrade CMRR over frequency. In applications that implement gain switching using switches or PhotoMOS<sup>®</sup> relays to change the value of  $R_G$ , select the component so that the switch capacitance is as small as possible, and most importantly, so that capacitance mismatch between the RG pins is minimized.
- Noise can propagate into analog circuitry through the power pins of the device and of the circuit as a whole. Bypass capacitors reduce the coupled noise by providing low-impedance power sources local to the analog circuitry.
	- Connect low-ESR, 0.1-µF ceramic bypass capacitors between each supply pin and ground, placed as close as possible to the device. A single bypass capacitor from V+ to ground is applicable for singlesupply applications.
- To reduce parasitic coupling, run the input traces as far away as possible from the supply or output traces. If these traces cannot be kept separate, crossing the sensitive trace perpendicular to the noisy trace is much better than in parallel.
- Leakage on the FDA\_IN+ and FDA\_IN– pins can cause in a dc offset error in the output voltages. Additionally, excessive parasitic capacitance at these pins can result in decreased phase margin and affect the stability of the output stage. If these pins are not used to implement deliberate capacitive feedback, follow best practices to minimize leakage and parasitic capacitance. Consider implementing *keep-out* areas in any ground planes that lie immediately below the pins.
- Minimize the number of thermal junctions. Ideally, the signal path is routed within a single layer without vias.
- Keep sufficient distance from major thermal energy sources (circuits with high power dissipation). If not possible, place the device so that the effects of the thermal energy source on the high and low sides of the differential signal path are evenly matched.
- Solder the thermal pad to the PCB. For the INA851 to properly dissipate heat, connect the thermal pad to a plane or large copper pour that is electrically connected to VS–, even for low-power applications.
- Keep the traces as short as possible.

<span id="page-40-0"></span>

#### **9.4.2 Layout Example**





**Figure 9-14. Example Schematic and Associated PCB Layout**



#### <span id="page-41-0"></span>**10 Device and Documentation Support 10.1 Device Support**

#### **10.1.1 Development Support**

#### *10.1.1.1 PSpice® for TI*

[PSpice](https://www.ti.com/tool/PSPICE-FOR-TI)<sup>®</sup> for TI is a design and simulation environment that helps evaluate performance of analog circuits. Create subsystem designs and prototype solutions before committing to layout and fabrication, reducing development cost and time to market.

#### *10.1.1.2 TINA-TI™ Simulation Software (Free Download)*

TINA-TI™ simulation software is a simple, powerful, and easy-to-use circuit simulation program based on a SPICE engine. TINA-TI simulation software is a free, fully-functional version of the TINA™ software, preloaded with a library of macromodels, in addition to a range of both passive and active models. TINA-TI simulation software provides all the conventional dc, transient, and frequency domain analysis of SPICE, as well as additional design capabilities.

Available as a [free download](http://www.ti.com/tool/tina-ti) from the [Design tools and simulation](https://www.ti.com/design-resources/design-tools-simulation.html) web page, TINA-TI simulation software offers extensive post-processing capability that allows users to format results in a variety of ways. Virtual instruments offer the ability to select input waveforms and probe circuit nodes, voltages, and waveforms, creating a dynamic quick-start tool.

#### **Note**

These files require that either the TINA software or TINA-TI software be installed. Download the free TINA-TI simulation software from the [TINA-TI™ software folder.](http://www.ti.com/tool/tina-ti)

#### **10.2 Documentation Support**

#### **10.2.1 Related Documentation**

For related documentation see the following:

- Texas Instruments, *[Comprehensive Error Calculation for Instrumentation Amplifiers](https://www.ti.com/lit/pdf/SBOA341)* application note
- Texas Instruments, *[Importance of Input Bias Current Return Paths in Instrumentation Amplifier Applications](https://www.ti.com/lit/pdf/SBOA503)*  [application note](https://www.ti.com/lit/pdf/SBOA503)

#### **10.3 Receiving Notification of Documentation Updates**

To receive notification of documentation updates, navigate to the device product folder on [ti.com.](https://www.ti.com) Click on *Subscribe to updates* 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.

#### **10.4 Support Resources**

TI E2E™ [support forums](https://e2e.ti.com) 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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<span id="page-42-0"></span>

#### **10.6 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.

#### **10.7 Glossary**

[TI Glossary](https://www.ti.com/lit/pdf/SLYZ022) This glossary lists and explains terms, acronyms, and definitions.

#### **11 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.



#### **PACKAGING INFORMATION**



**(1)** The marketing status values are defined as follows:

**ACTIVE:** Product device recommended for new designs.

**LIFEBUY:** TI has announced that the device will be discontinued, and a lifetime-buy period is in effect.

**NRND:** Not recommended for new designs. Device is in production to support existing customers, but TI does not recommend using this part in a new design.

**PREVIEW:** Device has been announced but is not in production. Samples may or may not be available.

**OBSOLETE:** TI has discontinued the production of the device.

<sup>(2)</sup> RoHS: TI defines "RoHS" to mean semiconductor products that are compliant with the current EU RoHS requirements for all 10 RoHS substances, including the requirement that RoHS substance do not exceed 0.1% by weight in homogeneous materials. Where designed to be soldered at high temperatures, "RoHS" products are suitable for use in specified lead-free processes. TI may reference these types of products as "Pb-Free".

RoHS Exempt: TI defines "RoHS Exempt" to mean products that contain lead but are compliant with EU RoHS pursuant to a specific EU RoHS exemption.

Green: TI defines "Green" to mean the content of Chlorine (CI) and Bromine (Br) based flame retardants meet JS709B low halogen requirements of <=1000ppm threshold. Antimony trioxide based flame retardants must also meet the <=1000ppm threshold requirement.

**(3)** MSL, Peak Temp. - The Moisture Sensitivity Level rating according to the JEDEC industry standard classifications, and peak solder temperature.

**(4)** There may be additional marking, which relates to the logo, the lot trace code information, or the environmental category on the device.

**(5)** Multiple Device Markings will be inside parentheses. Only one Device Marking contained in parentheses and separated by a "~" will appear on a device. If a line is indented then it is a continuation of the previous line and the two combined represent the entire Device Marking for that device.

**(6)** Lead finish/Ball material - Orderable Devices may have multiple material finish options. Finish options are separated by a vertical ruled line. Lead finish/Ball material values may wrap to two lines if the finish value exceeds the maximum column width.

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**TEXAS** 

#### **TAPE AND REEL INFORMATION**

**STRUMENTS** 





#### **QUADRANT ASSIGNMENTS FOR PIN 1 ORIENTATION IN TAPE**







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### **PACKAGE MATERIALS INFORMATION**

www.ti.com 31-Oct-2022



\*All dimensions are nominal



## **GENERIC PACKAGE VIEW**

# **VQFN - 1 mm max height**<br>PLASTIC QUAD FLATPACK - NO LEAD



Images above are just a representation of the package family, actual package may vary.<br>Refer to the product data sheet for package details.





## **PACKAGE OUTLINE**

### **RGT0016C** VQFN - 1 mm max height

PLASTIC QUAD FLATPACK - NO LEAD



#### NOTES:

- 1. All linear dimensions are in millimeters. Any dimensions in parenthesis are for reference only. Dimensioning and tolerancing per ASME Y14.5M.
- 2. This drawing is subject to change without notice.
- 3. The package thermal pad must be soldered to the printed circuit board for thermal and mechanical performance.



## **EXAMPLE BOARD LAYOUT**

### **RGT0016C VQFN - 1 mm max height**

PLASTIC QUAD FLATPACK - NO LEAD



4. This package is designed to be soldered to a thermal pad on the board. For more information, see Texas Instruments literature number SLUA271 (www.ti.com/lit/slua271).

5. Vias are optional depending on application, refer to device data sheet. If any vias are implemented, refer to their locations shown on this view. It is recommended that vias under paste be filled, plugged or tented.



## **EXAMPLE STENCIL DESIGN**

### **RGT0016C VQFN - 1 mm max height**

PLASTIC QUAD FLATPACK - NO LEAD



NOTES: (continued)

6. Laser cutting apertures with trapezoidal walls and rounded corners may offer better paste release. IPC-7525 may have alternate design recommendations.



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