

Programmable voltage output with sense connections circuit

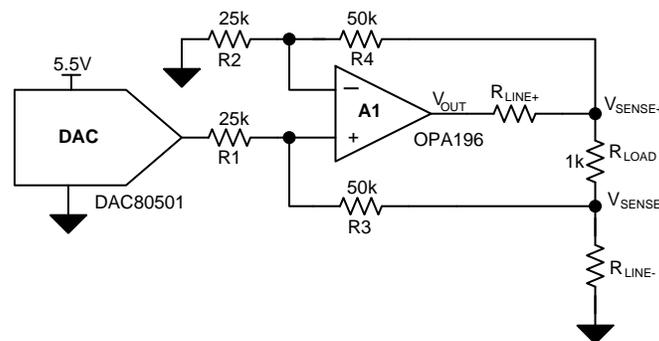
Garrett Satterfield

Design Goals

DAC Output Voltage	Output Voltage V_{LOAD}	Minimum Load Resistance R_{LOAD}	Maximum Line Resistance Compensation	Error
0V–5V	0V–10V	1k Ω	+25% of R_{LOAD}	<0.25% FSR

Design Description

The programmable voltage output with sense connections circuit provides a precise voltage across a load, compensating for parasitic series resistance. The amplifier A1 uses feedback from the high-side and low-side of the attached load to accurately regulate the voltage between V_{SENSE+} and V_{SENSE-} . The digital-to-analog converter (DAC) output and discrete resistors set the voltage across the load. This circuit is used in applications where additional line resistance may be present and must be compensated for by increasing the output voltage to deliver the correct voltage to the load. Common end equipment that use this circuit include [PLC Analog Output Modules](#), [Memory and Semiconductor Test Equipment](#), [Spectroscopy](#), and [Data Acquisition \(DAQ\) Cards](#).



Design Notes

1. Select a DAC with low total unadjusted error (TUE) and with the required resolution for the application. A DAC with integrated reference, like the DAC80501 device, can be used to minimize components and solution size.
2. Choose a high-voltage amplifier, with rail-to-rail output to ensure sufficient output swing to drive the load and line resistance. The amplifier should have low offset voltage and offset voltage drift so it does not significantly contribute to output error.
3. Resistor mismatch directly contributes to gain error at the output. Use resistors with 0.05% tolerance or better and low thermal drift.
4. For correct compensation of additional line resistance the ratio of R2:R4 must match the ratio of R3:R1 as closely as possible.
5. The amplifier supply voltage is chosen based on the required output voltage, additional line resistance, and amplifier output swing at maximum load current.
6. To reduce error at zero-scale a negative voltage can be supplied to the amplifier.

Design Steps

1. The transfer function for V_{OUT} based on DAC voltage and resistor values is:

$$V_{LOAD} = \frac{R3}{R1} \cdot V_{DAC} ; \frac{R3}{R1} = \frac{R4}{R2}$$

2. A 50-k Ω resistance is chosen for R3. A relatively large value should be selected to reduce the current in the feedback paths. R1 is then calculated:

$$R1 = \frac{V_{DAC,FS}}{V_{LOAD,FS}} \cdot R3 = \frac{5V}{10V} \cdot 50k\Omega = 25k\Omega$$

3. R4 and R2 are chosen equal to R3 and R1, respectively.
4. Calculate the maximum load current based on the minimum load resistance and full scale V_{LOAD} . The maximum load current impacts the amplifier output voltage swing and the additional line resistance the circuit can compensate.

$$I_{LOAD,max} = \frac{V_{LOAD,FS}}{R_{LOAD,min}} = \frac{10V}{1k\Omega} = 10mA$$

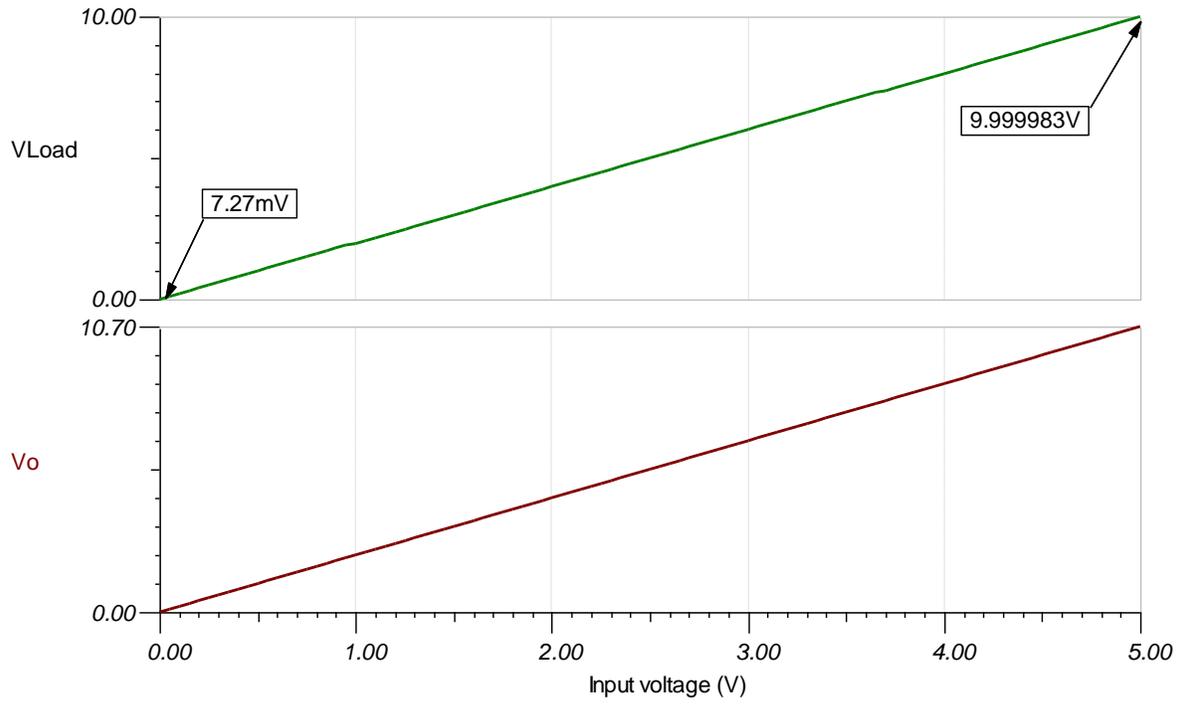
5. The required V_{CC} voltage is calculated to drive 25% additional load resistance and still maintain voltage regulation across R_{LOAD} . $V_{O,rail}$ is the approximate amplifier output swing from $V+$ at a 10-mA load current.

$$V_{CC,min} = V_{O,rail} + 0.25 \cdot R_{LOAD,min} \cdot I_{LOAD,max} + V_{LOAD,FS} = 500mV + 250\Omega \cdot 10mA + 10V = 13V$$

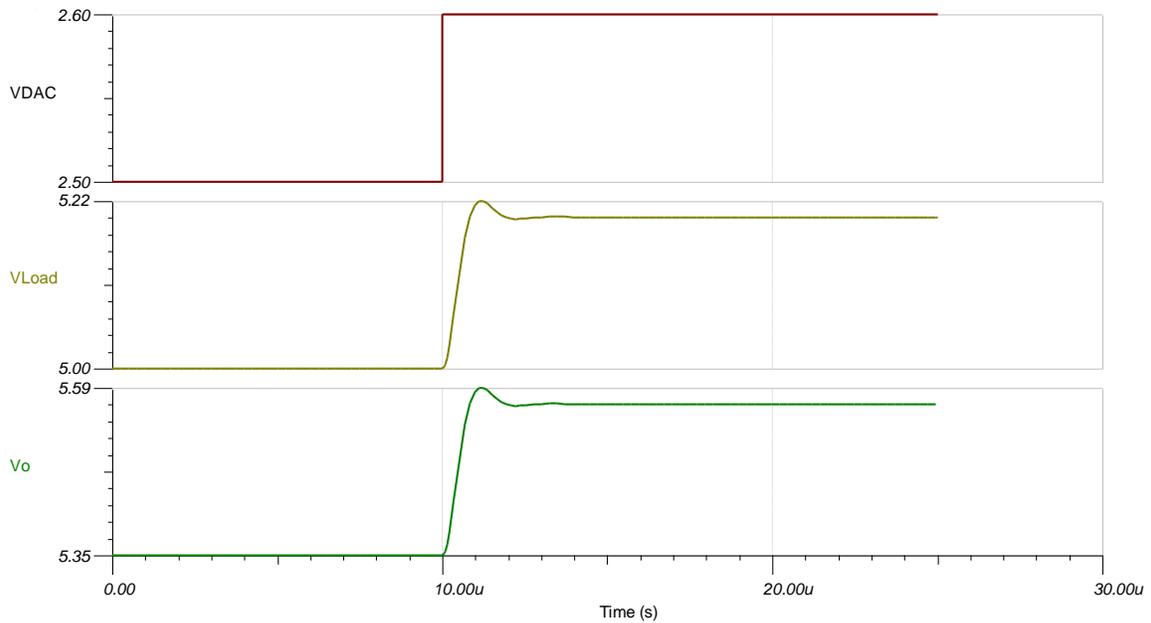
6. The output error can be approximated based on the DAC TUE, amplifier offset voltage, resistor tolerance, and reference initial accuracy using root sum square (RSS) analysis.

$$\text{Output TUE}(\%FSR) = \sqrt{TUE_{DAC}^2 + \left(\frac{V_{OS}}{FSR} \cdot 100\right)^2 + 4 \cdot R_{Tol}^2 + Accuracy_{Ref}^2} = \sqrt{0.1^2 + \left(\frac{100\mu V}{5V} \cdot 100\right)^2 + 4 \cdot 0.05^2 + 0.1^2} = 0.173\%$$

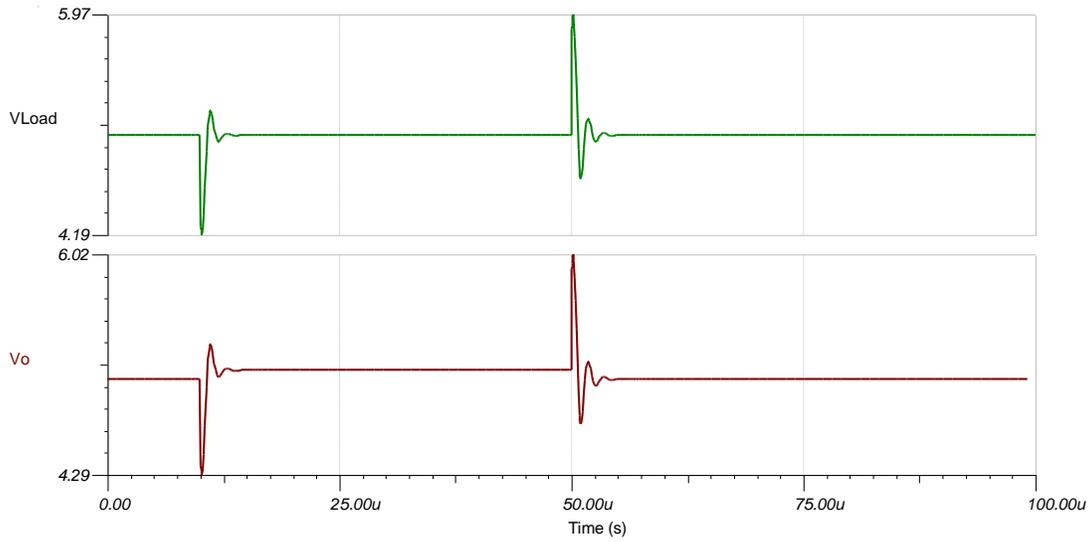
DC Transfer Characteristic



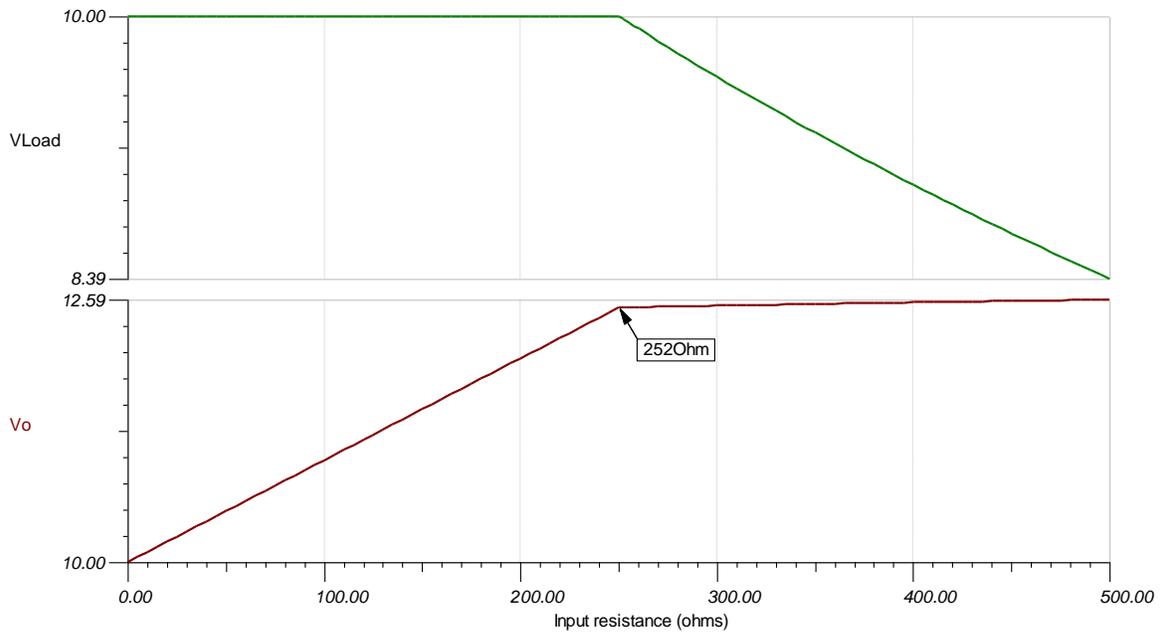
Small-Signal Step Response



Load Transient 10-kΩ to 5-kΩ R_{LOAD}



Maximum Additional Line Resistance at Amplifier V_{CC} = 13V



Devices

Device	Key Features	Link	Other Possible Devices
DACs			
DAC80501	16-bit resolution, 1-LSB INL, single-channel, voltage output DAC with 5ppm/°C internal reference	http://www.ti.com/product/DAC80501	http://www.ti.com/pdacs
DAC81416	16-bit resolution, 1-LSB INL, 16-channel ±20-V high-voltage output DAC with 5ppm/°C internal reference	http://www.ti.com/product/DAC81416	http://www.ti.com/pdacs
DAC80508	16-bit resolution, 1-LSB INL, octal-channel, voltage output DAC with 5ppm/°C internal reference	http://www.ti.com/product/DAC80508	http://www.ti.com/pdacs
Op Amps			
OPA196	Low-offset (100µV), Low-drift, rail-to-rail I/O, 2.25-V to 36-V supply	http://www.ti.com/product/OPA196	http://www.ti.com/opamps
TLV170	Cost-sensitive, rail-to-rail output, 2.7-V to 36-V supply	http://www.ti.com/product/TLV170	http://www.ti.com/opamps
OPA192	Precision, ultra-low offset (5µV) and drift, rail-to-rail I/O, 4.5-V to 36-V supply	http://www.ti.com/product/OPA192	http://www.ti.com/opamps

Links to Key Files

See [Analog Engineer's Circuit Cookbooks](#) for TI's comprehensive circuit library.

Download source files for [Programmable Voltage Output with Sense Connections](#) – <http://www.ti.com/lit/zip/sbac228>.

For direct support from TI Engineers use the E2E community: e2e.ti.com.

Other Links

Learn more about how to design with precision DACs in our [Precision DAC Learning Center](#).

Learn more about TI's precision DAC portfolio and find additional technical resources: <http://www.ti.com/data-converters/dac-circuit/precision/overview.html>.

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