ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

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 in the operational sections of the specifications is not implied. Exposure to absolute maximum rating conditions for extended periods may affect device reliability.

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS—MAX4460/MAX4461

(V_{DD} = 5V, V_{CM} = 0V, V_{DIFF} = V_{IN+} - V_{IN-} = 50mV to 100mV for G = 1, 20mV to 100mV for G = 10, 2mV to 48mV for G =100, <code>MAX4460</code> is configured for G = 10, R_L = 200kΩ to GND, $TA = +25^{\circ}C$, unless otherwise noted.)

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS—MAX4460/MAX4461 (continued)

 $(V_{DD} = 5V, V_{CM} = 0V, V_{DIFF} = V_{IN+} - V_{IN-} = 50mV$ to 100mV for G = 1, 20mV to 100mV for G = 10, 2mV to 48mV for G =100, <code>MAX4460</code> is configured for G = 10, R_L = 200kΩ to GND, $TA = +25^{\circ}C$, unless otherwise noted.)

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS—MAX4460/MAX4461

(V_{DD} = 5V, V_{CM} = 0V, V_{DIFF} = V_{IN+} - V_{IN-} = 50mV to 100mV for G = 1, 20mV to 100mV for G = 10, 2mV to 48mV for G = 100, MAX4460 is configured for G = 10, RL = 200k Ω to GND, **T A = TMIN to TMAX**, unless otherwise noted.)

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS—MAX4460/MAX4461 (continued)

 $(V_{DD} = 5V, V_{CM} = 0V, V_{DIFF} = V_{IN+} - V_{IN-} = 50mV$ to 100mV for G = 1, 20mV to 100mV for G = 10, 2mV to 48mV for G = 100, MAX4460 is configured for G = 10, RL = 200k Ω to GND, **T A = TMIN to TMAX**, unless otherwise noted.)

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS—MAX4462

(V_{DD} = 5V, V_{SS} = 0V, V_{CM} = V_{REF} = V_{DD}/2, R_L = 100kΩ to V_{DD}/2, **T_A = +25°C**, unless otherwise noted. V_{DIFF} = V_{IN+} - V_{IN-} = -100mV to +100mV for G = 1 and G = 10, -20mV to +20mV for G = 100.)

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS—MAX4462 (continued)

(V_{DD} = 5V, V_{SS} = 0V, V_{CM} = V_{REF} = V_{DD}/2, R_L = 100kΩ to V_{DD}/2, **T_A = +25°C**, unless otherwise noted. V_{DIFF} = V_{IN+} - V_{IN-} = -100mV to $+100$ mV for $G = 1$ and $G = 10$, -20 mV to $+20$ mV for $G = 100$.)

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS—MAX4462

(V_{DD} = 5V, V_{SS} = 0V, V_{CM} = V_{REF} = V_{DD}/2, R_L = 100kΩ to V_{DD}/2, **Tд = ТміN to Тмдх**, unless otherwise noted. V_{DIFF} = $V_{\text{IN+}}$ - V_{IN} = -100mV to +100mV for G = 1 and G = 10, -20mV to +20mV for G = 100.) (Note 5)

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS—MAX4462 (continued)

(V_{DD} = 5V, V_{SS} = 0V, V_{CM} = V_{REF} = V_{DD}/2, R_L = 100kΩ to V_{DD}/2, **Tд = ТміN to Тмдх**, unless otherwise noted. V_{DIFF} = $V_{\text{IN+}}$ - $V_{\text{IN-}}$ = -100mV to +100mV for G = 1 and G = 10, -20mV to +20mV for G = 100.) (Note 5)

Note 1: Offset Voltage is measured with a best straight-line (BSL) method (see *A User Guide to Instrumentation Amplifier Accuracy Specifications* section).

Note 2: IN+ and IN- are gates to CMOS transistors with typical input bias current of 1pA. CMOS leakage is so small that it is impractical to test and guarantee in production. Limits shown are guaranteed by design. However, devices are functionally screened during production testing to eliminate defective units.

Note 3: Output swing high is measured only on G = 100 devices. Devices with G = 1 and G = 10 have output swing high limited by the range of VREF, VCM, and VDIFF (see *Output Swing* section).

Note 4: Short-circuit duration limited to 1s (see *Absolute Maximum Ratings)* .

Note 5: SOT23 and TDFN units are 100% production tested at +25°C. Limits over temperature are guaranteed by design.

 -100 mV to $+100$ mV for G = 1 and G = 10, -20 mV to $+20$ mV for G = 100.)

(V_{DD} = 5V, V_{SS} = 0V, V_{IN}+ = V_{IN-} = V_{REF} = V_{DD}/2, R_L = 100kΩ to V_{DD}/2, T_A = +25°C, unless otherwise noted. V_{DIFF} = V_{IN+} - V_{IN-} =

MAX4460/MAX4461/MAX4462 MAX4460/MAX4461/MAX4462

Typical Operating Characteristics (continued)

MAX4462H

(V_{DD} = 5V, V_{SS} = 0V, V_{IN}+ = V_{IN-} = V_{REF} = V_{DD}/2, R_L = 100kΩ to V_{DD}/2, T_A = +25°C, unless otherwise noted. V_{DIFF} = V_{IN+} - V_{IN-} = -100 mV to $+100$ mV for $G = 1$ and $G = 10$, -20 mV to $+20$ mV for $G = 100$.)

MAX4460/MAX4461/MAX4462 Z9ÞÞXAM/I9ÞÞXAM/09ÞÞXAM

MAX4460/MAX4461/MAX4462 *MAX4460/MAX4461/MAX4462*

(V_{DD} = 5V, V_{SS} = 0V, V_{IN}+ = V_{IN-} = V_{REF} = V_{DD}/2, R_L = 100kΩ to V_{DD}/2, T_A = +25°C, unless otherwise noted. V_{DIFF} = V_{IN+} - V_{IN-} = -100 mV to $+100$ mV for G = 1 and G = 10, -20 mV to $+20$ mV for G = 100.)

Pin Descriptions

Functional Diagrams

Figure 1. Functional Diagrams

Detailed Description

The MAX4460/MAX4461/MAX4462 family of instrumentation amplifiers implements Maxim's proprietary indirect current-feedback design to achieve a precision specification and excellent gain-bandwidth product. These new techniques allow ground-sensing capability combined with an ultra-low input current and an increased common-mode rejection.

The differential input signal is converted to a current by an input transconductance stage. An output transconductance stage converts a portion of the output voltage (equal to the output voltage divided by the gain) into another precision current. These two currents are subtracted and the result is fed to a loop amplifier with a class AB output stage with sufficient gain to minimize errors (Figure 1).

The MAX4461U/T/H and MAX4462U/T/H have factorytrimmed gains of 1, 10, and 100, respectively. The MAX4460 has an adjustable gain, set with an external pair of resistors between pins OUT, FB, and GND (Figure 2).

The MAX4462U/T/H has a reference input (REF) which is connected to an external reference for bipolar operation of the device. The range for VREF is 0.1V to (VDD -1.7V). For full output-swing capability, optimal performance is usually obtained with $V_{REF} = V_{DD}/2$.

The MAX4460/MAX4461/MAX4462 operate with singlesupply voltages of 2.85V to 5.25V. It is possible to use the MAX4462U/T/H in a dual-supply configuration with up to ±2.6V at V_{DD} and Vss, with REF connected to ground.

Figure 2. MAX4460 External Resistor Configuration

The MAX4461U/T/H has a shutdown feature to reduce the supply current to less than 1µA. The MAX4461U/ T/H output is internally referenced to ground, making the part suitable for unipolar operations.

The MAX4460 has an FB pin that can be used to externally set the gain through a pair of resistors (see *Setting the Gain* (MAX4460) section). The MAX4460 output is internally referenced to ground, making the part suitable for unipolar operations.

Input Common-Mode and Output Reference Ranges

MAX4460/MAX4461/MAX4462 have an input commonmode range of 100mV below the negative supply to 1.7V below the positive supply.

The output reference voltage of MAX4462U/T/H is set by REF and ranges from 100mV above the negative supply to 1.7V below the positive supply. For maximum voltage swing in a bipolar operation, connect REF to $V_{DD}/2$.

The output voltages of the MAX4460 and MAX4461U/ T/H are referenced to ground. Unlike the traditional three-op-amp configuration of common instrumentation amplifiers, the MAX4460/MAX4461/MAX4462 have ground-sensing capability (or to V_{SS} in dual-supply configuration) in addition to the extremely high input impedances of MOS input differential pairs.

Input Differential Signal Range

The MAX4460/MAX4461/MAX4462 feature a proprietary input structure optimized for small differential signals. The unipolar output of the MAX4460/MAX4461 is nominally zero-for-zero differential input. However, these devices are specified for inputs of 50mV to 100mV for the unity-gain devices, 20mV to 100mV for gain of 10 devices, and 2mV to 48mV for gain of 100 devices. The MAX4460/MAX4461 can be used with differential inputs approaching zero, albeit with reduced accuracy.

The bipolar output of the MAX4462 allows bipolar input ranges. The output voltage is equal to the reference voltage for zero differential input. The MAX4462 is specified for inputs of ± 100 mV for the unity gain and gain of 10 devices, and ±20mV for gain of 100 devices. The gain of 100 devices (MAX4462H) can be operated beyond 20mV signal provided the reference is chosen for unsymmetrical swing.

Output Swing

The MAX4460/MAX4461/MAX4462 are designed to have rail-to-rail output voltage swings. However, depending on the selected gain and supply voltage (and output reference level of the MAX4462), the rail-torail output swing is not required.

For example, consider the MAX4461U, a unity-gain device with its ground pin as the output reference level. The input voltage range is 0 to 100mV (50mV minimum to meet accuracy specifications). Because the device is unity gain and the output reference level is ground, the output only sees excursions from ground to 100mV.

Devices with higher gain and with bipolar output such as the MAX4462, can be configured to swing to higher levels. In these cases, as the output approaches either supply, accuracy may degrade, especially under heavy output loading.

Shutdown Mode

The MAX4461U/T/H features a low-power shutdown mode. When the $\overline{\text{SHDN}}$ pin is pulled low, the internal transconductance and amplifier blocks are switched off and supply current drops to typically less than 0.1µA (Figure 1).

In shutdown, the amplifier output is high impedance. The output transistors are turned off, but the feedback resistor network remains connected. If the external load is referenced to GND, the output drops to approximately GND in shutdown. The output impedance in shutdown is typically greater than 100kΩ. Drive SHDN high or connect to V_{CC} for normal operation.

A User Guide to Instrumentation Amplifier Accuracy Specifications

As with any other electronic component, a complete understanding of instrumentation amplifier specifications is essential to successfully employ these devices in their application circuits. Most of the specifications for these differential closed-loop gain blocks are similar to the well-known specifications of operational amplifiers. However, there are a few accuracy specifications that could be confusing to first-time users. Therefore, some explanations and examples may be helpful.

Accuracy specifications are measurements of closeness of an actual output response to its ideal expected value. There are three main specifications in this category:

- Gain error
- Gain nonlinearity error
- Offset error

In order to understand these terms, we must look at the transfer function of an ideal instrumentation amplifier. As expected, this must be a straight line passing through origin with a slope equal to the ideal gain (Figure 3). If the ideal gain is equal to 10 and the extreme applied input voltages are -100mV and +100mV, then the value of the output voltages are -1V and +1V, respectively. Note that the line passes through the origin and therefore a zero input voltage gives a zero output response.

The transfer function of a real instrumentation amplifier is quite different from the ideal line pictured in Figure 3. Rather, it is a curve such as the one indicated as the typical curve in Figure 4, connecting end points A and B.

Figure 3. Transfer Function of an Ideal Instrumentation Amplifier (Straight Line Passing Through the Origin)

Looking at this curve, one can immediately identify three types of errors.

First, there is an obvious nonlinearity (curvature) when this transfer function is compared to a straight line. More deviation is measured as greater nonlinearity error. This is explained in more detail below.

Second, even if there was no nonlinearity error, i.e., the actual curve in Figure 4 was a straight line connecting end points A and B, there exists an obvious slope deviation from that of an ideal gain slope (drawn as the "ideal" line in Figure 4). This rotational error (delta slope) is a measure of how different the actual gain (G_A) is from the expected ideal gain (G_{I)} and is called gain error (GE) (see the equation below).

Third, even if the actual curve between points A and B was a straight line (no nonlinearity error) and had the same slope as the ideal gain line (no gain error), there is still another error called the end-point offset error (OE on vertical axis), since the line is not passing through the origin.

Figure 5 is the same as Figure 4, but the ideal line (CD) is shifted up to pass through point E (the Y intercept of end-points line AB).

This is done to better visualize the rotational error (GE), which is the difference between the slopes of end points line AB and the shifted ideal line CD.

Mathematically:

$$
GE(%) = 100 \times (Ga - GI) / GI
$$

Figure 4. Typical Transfer Function for a Real Instrumentation Amplifier

Figure 5. Typical Transfer Function for a Real Instrumentation Amplifier (Ideal Line (CD) Is Shifted by the End-Points Offset (OE) to Visualize Gain Error)

The rotational nature of gain error, and the fact that it is pivoted around point E in Figure 5, shows that gainerror contribution to the total output voltage error is directly proportional to the input voltage. At zero input voltage, the error contribution of gain error is zero, i.e., the total deviation from the origin (the expected zero output value) is only due to end-points OE and nonlinearity error at zero value of input (segment EZ on the vertical axis).

The nonlinearity is the maximum deviation from a straight line, and the end-point nonlinearity is the deviation from the end-point line. As shown in Figure 5, it is likely that two nonlinearities are encountered, one positive and the other a negative nonlinearity error, shown as NL+ and NL- in Figure 5.

Generally, NL+ and NL- have different values and this remains the case if the device is calibrated (trimmed) for end-points errors (which means changing the gain of the instrumentation amplifier in such a way that the slope of line AB becomes equal to that of CD, and the offset becomes trimmed such that OE vanishes to zero). This is an undesirable situation when nonlinearity is of prime interest.

The straight line shown in Figure 6 is in parallel to endpoints line AB and has a Y intercept of OS on the vertical axis. This line is a shifted end-points line such that the positive and negative nonlinearity errors with respect to this line are equal. For this reason, the line is called the best straight line (BSL). Maxim internally trims the MAX4460/MAX4461/MAX4462 with respect to this line (changing the gain slope to be as close as possible to the slope of the ideal line and trimming the offset such that OS gets as close to the origin as possible) to minimize all the errors. The total accuracy error is still the summation of the gain error, nonlinearity, and offset errors.

As an example, assume the following specification for an instrumentation amplifier:

> $Gain = 10$ $GE = 0.15%$ Offset $(BSL) = 250 \mu V$ $NL = 0.05%$ V_{DIF} (input) = -100mV to +100mV

What is the maximum total error associated with the GE, offset (BSL), and NL? With a differential input range of -0.1V to +0.1V and a gain of 10, the output voltage assumes a range of -1V to +1V, i.e., a total full-scale range of 2V.

Figure 6. To Minimize Nonlinearity Error, the MAX4460/MAX4461/ MAX4462 are Internally Trimmed to Adjust Gain and Offset for the Best Straight Line so NL- = NL+

The individual errors are as follows:

 $GE = (0.15\%)$ (10) (100mV) = 1.5mV Offset $(BSL) = (250 \mu V) (10) = 2.5 mV$ $NL = (0.05\%)$ (2V) = 1mV Maximum Total Error = $1.5mV + 2.5mV + 1mV$ $= 5mV$

So, the absolute value of the output voltage, considering the above errors, would be at worst case between 0.995V to 1.005V. Note that other important parameters such as PSRR, CMRR, and noise also contribute to the total error in instrumentation applications. They are not considered here.

IVI A XI*IV*I

Applications Information

Setting the Gain (MAX4460)

The MAX4460 gain is set by connecting a resistivedivider from OUT to GND, with the center tap connected to FB (Figure 2). The gain is calculated by:

$Gain = 1 + R2 / R1$

Because FB has less than 100pA IB, high-valued resistors can be used without significantly affecting the gain accuracy. The sum of resistors (R1 + R2) near 100k Ω is a good compromise. Resistor accuracy directly affects gain accuracy. Resistor sum less than 20k Ω should not be used because their loading can slightly affect output accuracy.

Capacitive-Load Stability

The MAX4460/MAX4461/MAX4462 are capable of driving capacitive loads up to 100pF.

Applications needing higher capacitive drive capability may use an isolation resistor between OUT and the load to reduce ringing on the output signal. However this reduces the gain accuracy due to the voltage drop across the isolation resistor.

Output Loading

For best performance, the output loading should be to the potential seen at REF for the MAX4462 or to ground for the MAX4460/MAX4461.

REF Input (MAX4462)

The REF input of the MAX4462 can be connected to any voltage from ($VSS + 0.1V$) to ($VDD - 1.7V$). A buffered voltage-divider with sink and source capability works well to center the output swing at V_{DD}/2. Unbuffered resistive dividers should be avoided because the 100k Ω (typ) input impedance of REF causes amplitude-dependent variations in the divider's output.

Bandgap references, either series or shunt, can be used to drive REF. This provides a voltage and temperature invariant reference. This same reference voltage can be used to bias bridge sensors to eliminate supply voltage ratiometricity. For proper operation, the reference must be able to sink and source at least 25µA.

In many applications, the MAX4462 is connected to a CODEC or other device with a reference voltage output. In this case, the receiving device's reference output makes an ideal reference voltage. Verify the reference output of the device is capable of driving the MAX4462's REF input.

Power-Supply Bypass and Layout

Good layout technique optimizes performance by decreasing the amount of stray capacitance at the instrumentation amplifier's gain-setting pins. Excess capacitance produces peaking in the amplifier's frequency response. To decrease stray capacitance, minimize trace lengths by placing external components as close to the instrumentation amplifier as possible. For best performance, bypass each power supply to ground with a separate 0.1µF capacitor.

Microphone Amplifier

The MAX4462's bipolar output, along with its excellent common-mode rejection ratio, makes it suitable for precision microphone amplifier applications. Figure 7 illustrates one such circuit. In this case, the electret microphone is resistively biased to the supply voltage through a 2.2k Ω pullup resistor. The MAX4462 directly senses the output voltage at its noninverting input, and indirectly senses the microphone's ground through an AC-coupling capacitor. This technique provides excellent rejection of common-mode noise picked up by the microphone lead wires. Furthermore, ground noise from distantly located microphones is reduced.

The single-ended output of the MAX4462 is converted to differential through a single op amp, the MAX4335. The op amp forces the midpoint between OUT+ and OUT- to be equal to the reference voltage. The configuration does not change the MAX4662T's fixed gain of 10.

Figure 7. Differential I/O Microphone Amplifier

Typical Application Circuits (continued)

MAXIM

Ordering Information (continued)

+*Denotes lead-free package.*

**EP = Exposed paddle.*

Chip Information

TRANSISTOR COUNT: 421 PROCESS: BiCMOS

Pin Configurations

Package Information

(The package drawing(s) in this data sheet may not reflect the most current specifications. For the latest package outline information, go to **www.maxim-ic.com/packages**.)

Note: MAX446_ _ETT+T uses TDFN package option T633-2.

Package Information (continued)

(The package drawing(s) in this data sheet may not reflect the most current specifications. For the latest package outline information, go to **www.maxim-ic.com/packages**.)

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