



# **XTR106**

# **4-20mA CURRENT TRANSMITTER with Bridge Excitation and Linearization**

### **FEATURES**

- **LOW TOTAL UNADJUSTED ERROR**
- **2.5V, 5V BRIDGE EXCITATION REFERENCE**
- **5.1V REGULATOR OUTPUT**
- **LOW SPAN DRIFT:** ±**25ppm/**°**C max**
- **LOW OFFSET DRIFT: 0.25**µ**V/**°**C**
- **HIGH PSR: 110dB min**
- **HIGH CMR: 86dB min**
- **WIDE SUPPLY RANGE: 7.5V to 36V**
- **14-PIN DIP AND SO-14 SURFACE-MOUNT**

## **DESCRIPTION**

The XTR106 is a low cost, monolithic 4-20mA, twowire current transmitter designed for bridge sensors. It provides complete bridge excitation (2.5V or 5V reference), instrumentation amplifier, sensor linearization, and current output circuitry. Current for powering additional external input circuitry is available from the  $V_{REG}$  pin.

The instrumentation amplifier can be used over a wide range of gain, accommodating a variety of input signal types and sensors. Total unadjusted error of the complete current transmitter, including the linearized bridge, is low enough to permit use without adjustment in many applications. The XTR106 operates on loop power supply voltages down to 7.5V.

Linearization circuitry provides second-order correction to the transfer function by controlling bridge excitation voltage. It provides up to a 20:1 improvement in nonlinearity, even with low cost transducers.

The XTR106 is available in 14-pin plastic DIP and SO-14 surface-mount packages and is specified for the  $-40^{\circ}$ C to  $+85^{\circ}$ C temperature range. Operation is from  $-55^{\circ}$ C to  $+125^{\circ}$ C.

## **APPLICATIONS**

- **PRESSURE BRIDGE TRANSMITTER**
- **STRAIN GAGE TRANSMITTER**
- **TEMPERATURE BRIDGE TRANSMITTER**
- **INDUSTRIAL PROCESS CONTROL**
- **SCADA REMOTE DATA ACQUISITION**
- **REMOTE TRANSDUCERS**
- **WEIGHING SYSTEMS**
- **ACCELEROMETERS**





## **SPECIFICATIONS**

At  $T_A$  = +25°C, V+ = 24V, and TIP29C external transistor, unless otherwise noted.



✻ Specification same as XTR106P, XTR106U.

NOTES: (1) Describes accuracy of the 4mA low-scale offset current. Does not include input amplifier effects. Can be trimmed to zero. (2) Does not include initial error or TCR of gain-setting resistor, R<sub>G</sub>. (3) Increasing the full-scale input range improves nonlinearity. (4) Does not include Zero Output initial error. (5) Voltage measured with respect to I<sub>RET</sub> pin. (6) See "Linearization" text for detailed explanation. V<sub>FS</sub> = full-scale V<sub>IN</sub>.



### **PIN CONFIGURATION**



### **ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS(1)**



NOTE: (1) Stresses above these ratings may cause permanent damage. Exposure to absolute maximum conditions for extended periods may degrade device reliability.

## **ELECTROSTATIC DISCHARGE SENSITIVITY**

This integrated circuit can be damaged by ESD. Burr-Brown 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.

### **PACKAGE/ORDERING INFORMATION**



NOTES: (1) For detailed drawing and dimension table, please see end of data sheet, or Appendix C of Burr-Brown IC Data Book. (2) Models with a slash (/) are available only in Tape and Reel in the quantities indicated (e.g., /2K5 indicates 2500 devices per reel). Ordering 2500 pieces of "XTR106U/2K5" will get a single 2500-piece Tape and Reel. For detailed Tape and Reel mechanical information, refer to Appendix B of Burr-Brown IC Data Book.

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**XTR106**

### **FUNCTIONAL DIAGRAM**



BURR-BROWN<sup>®</sup> **XTR106**

### **TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CURVES**

At  $T_A = +25$ °C, V+ = 24V, unless otherwise noted.















**XTR106**



### **TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CURVES (CONT)**

At  $T_A = +25^{\circ}C$ ,  $V_+ = 24V$ , unless otherwise noted.















### **TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CURVES (CONT)**

At  $T_A = +25$ °C, V+ = 24V, unless otherwise noted.











REFERENCE AC LINE REJECTION vs FREQUENCY



**XTR106**



## **TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CURVES (CONT)**

At  $T_A = +25^{\circ}C$ ,  $V_+ = 24V$ , unless otherwise noted.







### **APPLICATIONS INFORMATION**

Figure 1 shows the basic connection diagram for the XTR106. The loop power supply,  $V_{PS}$ , provides power for all circuitry. Output loop current is measured as a voltage across the series load resistor,  $R_L$ . A 0.01 $\mu$ F to 0.03 $\mu$ F supply bypass capacitor connected between  $V+$  and  $I<sub>O</sub>$  is recommended. For applications where fault and/or overload conditions might saturate the inputs, a 0.03µF capacitor is recommended.

A 2.5V or 5V reference is available to excite a bridge sensor. For 5V excitation, pin 14 ( $V_{REF}$ 5) should be connected to the bridge as shown in Figure 1. For 2.5V excitation, connect pin 13 ( $V_{RFF}$ 2.5) to pin 14 as shown in Figure 3b. The output terminals of the bridge are connected to the instrumentation amplifier inputs,  $V_{IN}^+$  and  $V_{IN}^-$ . A 0.01 $\mu$ F capacitor is shown connected between the inputs and is recommended for high impedance bridges (> 10kΩ). The resistor  $R_G$  sets the gain of the instrumentation amplifier as required by the full-scale bridge voltage,  $V_{FS}$ .

Lin Polarity and  $R_{\text{LIN}}$  provide second-order linearization correction to the bridge, achieving up to a 20:1 improvement in linearity. Connections to Lin Polarity (pin 12) determine the polarity of nonlinearity correction and should be connected either to  $I_{\text{RET}}$  or  $V_{\text{REG}}$ . Lin Polarity should be connected to  $V_{REG}$  even if linearity correction is not desired.  $R_{LIN}$  is chosen according to the equation in Figure 1 and is dependent on  $K_{LIN}$  (linearization constant) and the bridge's nonlinearity relative to  $V_{FS}$  (see "Linearization" section).

The transfer function for the complete current transmitter is:

$$
I_{O} = 4mA + V_{IN} \bullet (40/R_{G})
$$
 (1)

$$
V_{IN}
$$
 in Volts,  $R_G$  in Ohms

where  $V_{\text{IN}}$  is the differential input voltage. As evident from the transfer function, if no R<sub>G</sub> is used (R<sub>G</sub> =  $\infty$ ), the gain is zero and the output is simply the XTR106's zero current.

A negative input voltage,  $V_{IN}$ , will cause the output current to be less than 4mA. Increasingly negative  $V_{IN}$  will cause the output current to limit at approximately 1.6mA. If current is being sourced from the reference and/or  $V_{REG}$ , the current limit value may increase. Refer to the Typical Performance Curves, "Under-Scale Current vs  $I_{REF} + I_{REG}$ " and "Under-Scale Current vs Temperature."

Increasingly positive input voltage (greater than the fullscale input,  $V_{FS}$ ) will produce increasing output current according to the transfer function, up to the output current limit of approximately 28mA. Refer to the Typical Performance Curve, "Over-Scale Current vs Temperature."

The  $I_{\text{RET}}$  pin is the return path for all current from the references and  $V_{REG}$ . I<sub>RET</sub> also serves as a local ground and is the reference point for  $V_{REG}$  and the on-board voltage references. The  $I_{\text{RET}}$  pin allows any current used in external circuitry to be sensed by the XTR106 and to be included in the output current without causing error. The input voltage range of the XTR106 is referred to this pin.



FIGURE 1. Basic Bridge Measurement Circuit with Linearization.



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### **EXTERNAL TRANSISTOR**

External pass transistor,  $Q_1$ , conducts the majority of the signal-dependent 4-20mA loop current. Using an external transistor isolates the majority of the power dissipation from the precision input and reference circuitry of the XTR106, maintaining excellent accuracy.

Since the external transistor is inside a feedback loop its characteristics are not critical. Requirements are:  $V_{\text{CEO}} = 45V$ min,  $\beta$  = 40 min and P<sub>D</sub> = 800mW. Power dissipation requirements may be lower if the loop power supply voltage is less than 36V. Some possible choices for  $Q_1$  are listed in Figure 1.

The XTR106 can be operated without an external pass transistor. Accuracy, however, will be somewhat degraded due to the internal power dissipation. Operation without  $Q_1$ is not recommended for extended temperature ranges. A resistor ( $R = 3.3k\Omega$ ) connected between the I<sub>RET</sub> pin and the E (emitter) pin may be needed for operation below 0°C without  $Q_1$  to guarantee the full 20mA full-scale output, especially with V+ near 7.5V.



FIGURE 2. Operation without External Transistor.

#### **LOOP POWER SUPPLY**

The voltage applied to the XTR106, V+, is measured with respect to the  $I_0$  connection, pin 7. V+ can range from 7.5V to 36V. The loop supply voltage,  $V_{PS}$ , will differ from the voltage applied to the XTR106 according to the voltage drop on the current sensing resistor,  $R_L$  (plus any other voltage drop in the line).

If a low loop supply voltage is used,  $R_L$  (including the loop wiring resistance) must be made a relatively low value to assure that V+ remains 7.5V or greater for the maximum loop current of 20mA:

$$
R_L \max = \left(\frac{(V+) - 7.5V}{20mA}\right) - R_{WRING}
$$
 (2)

It is recommended to design for  $V+$  equal or greater than 7.5V with loop currents up to 30mA to allow for out-ofrange input conditions. V+ must be at least 8V if 5V sensor excitation is used and if correcting for bridge nonlinearity greater than  $+3\%$ .

The low operating voltage (7.5V) of the XTR106 allows operation directly from personal computer power supplies (12V ±5%). When used with the RCV420 Current Loop Receiver (Figure 8), load resistor voltage drop is limited to 3V.

#### **BRIDGE BALANCE**

Figure 1 shows a bridge trim circuit  $(R_1, R_2)$ . This adjustment can be used to compensate for the initial accuracy of the bridge and/or to trim the offset voltage of the XTR106. The values of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  depend on the impedance of the bridge, and the trim range required. This trim circuit places an additional load on the  $V_{REF}$  output. Be sure the additional load on  $V_{REF}$  does not affect zero output. See the Typical Performance Curve, "Under-Scale Current vs  $I_{REF} + I_{REG}$ ." The effective load of the trim circuit is nearly equal to  $R_2$ . An approximate value for  $R_1$  can be calculated:

$$
R_1 \approx \frac{5V \bullet R_B}{4 \bullet V_{TRIM}} \tag{3}
$$

where,  $R_B$  is the resistance of the bridge.

 $V_{TRIM}$  is the desired ±voltage trim range (in V).

Make  $R_2$  equal or lower in value to  $R_1$ .

#### **LINEARIZATION**

Many bridge sensors are inherently nonlinear. With the addition of one external resistor, it is possible to compensate for parabolic nonlinearity resulting in up to 20:1 improvement over an uncompensated bridge output.

Linearity correction is accomplished by varying the bridge excitation voltage. Signal-dependent variation of the bridge excitation voltage adds a second-order term to the overall transfer function (including the bridge). This can be tailored to correct for bridge sensor nonlinearity.

Either positive or negative bridge non-linearity errors can be compensated by proper connection of the Lin Polarity pin. To correct for positive bridge nonlinearity (upward bowing), Lin Polarity (pin 12) should be connected to  $I_{\text{RET}}$  (pin 6) as shown in Figure 3a. This causes  $V_{REF}$  to increase with bridge output which compensates for a positive bow in the bridge response. To correct negative nonlinearity (downward bowing), connect Lin Polarity to  $V_{REG}$  (pin 1) as shown in Figure 3b. This causes  $V_{REF}$  to decrease with bridge output. The Lin Polarity pin is a high impedance node.

If no linearity correction is desired, both the  $R_{\text{LIN}}$  and Lin Polarity pins should be connected to  $V_{REG}$  (Figure 3c). This results in a constant reference voltage independent of input signal. **R<sub>LIN</sub>** or Lin Polarity pins should not be left open **or connected to another potential.**

 $R_{\text{LIN}}$  is the external linearization resistor and is connected between pin 11 and pin 1 ( $V_{REG}$ ) as shown in Figures 3a and 3b. To determine the value of  $R_{LIN}$ , the nonlinearity of the bridge sensor with constant excitation voltage must be known. The XTR106's linearity circuitry can only compensate for the parabolic-shaped portions of a sensor's nonlinearity. Optimum correction occurs when maximum deviation from linear output occurs at mid-scale (see Figure 4). Sensors with nonlinearity curves similar to that shown in



Figure 4, but not peaking exactly at mid-scale can be substantially improved. A sensor with a "S-shaped" nonlinearity curve (equal positive and negative nonlinearity) cannot be improved with the XTR106's correction circuitry.

The value of  $R_{\text{LIN}}$  is chosen according to Equation 4 shown in Figure 3.  $R_{LIN}$  is dependent on a linearization factor,  $K<sub>LN</sub>$ , which differs for the 2.5V reference and 5V reference. The sensor's nonlinearity term, B (relative to full scale), is positive or negative depending on the direction of the bow.

A maximum ±5% non-linearity can be corrected when the 5V reference is used. Sensor nonlinearity of +5%/–2.5% can be corrected with 2.5V excitation. The trim circuit shown in Figure 3d can be used for bridges with unknown bridge nonlinearity polarity.

Gain is affected by the varying excitation voltage used to correct bridge nonlinearity. The corrected value of the gain resistor is calculated from Equation 5 given in Figure 3.









FIGURE 3. Connections and Equations to Correct Positive and Negative Bridge Nonlinearity.

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When using linearity correction, care should be taken to insure that the sensor's output common-mode voltage remains within the XTR106's allowable input range of 1.1V to 3.5V. Equation 6 in Figure 3 can be used to calculate the XTR106's new excitation voltage. The common-mode voltage of the bridge output is simply half this value if no common-mode resistor is used (refer to the example in Figure 3). Exceeding the common-mode range may yield unpredicatable results.

For high precision applications (errors  $\langle 1\% \rangle$ , a two-step calibration process can be employed. First, the nonlinearity of the sensor bridge is measured with the initial gain resistor and  $R_{LIN} = 0$  ( $R_{LIN}$  pin connected directly to  $V_{REG}$ ). Using the resulting sensor nonlinearity, B, values for  $R_G$  and  $R_{LM}$ are calculated using Equations 4 and 5 from Figure 3. A second calibration measurement is then taken to adjust  $R_G$  to account for the offsets and mismatches in the linearization.

### **UNDER-SCALE CURRENT**

The total current being drawn from the  $V_{REF}$  and  $V_{REG}$ voltage sources, as well as temperature, affect the XTR106's under-scale current value (see the Typical Performance Curve, "Under-Scale Current vs  $I_{REF} + I_{REG}$ ). This should be considered when choosing the bridge resistance and excitation voltage, especially for transducers operating over a wide temperature range (see the Typical Performance Curve, "Under-Scale Current vs Temperature").

#### **LOW IMPEDANCE BRIDGES**

The XTR106's two available excitation voltages (2.5V and 5V) allow the use of a wide variety of bridge values. Bridge impedances as low as 1kΩ can be used without any additional circuitry. Lower impedance bridges can be used with the XTR106 by adding a series resistance to limit excitation current to  $\leq$  2.5mA (Figure 5). Resistance should be added



FIGURE 4. Parabolic Nonlinearity.



FIGURE 5. 350 $\Omega$  Bridge with x50 Preamplifier.



to the upper and lower sides of the bridge to keep the bridge output within the 1.1V to 3.5V common-mode input range. Bridge output is reduced so a preamplifier as shown may be needed to reduce offset voltage and drift.

### **OTHER SENSOR TYPES**

The XTR106 can be used with a wide variety of inputs. Its high input impedance instrumentation amplifier is versatile and can be configured for differential input voltages from millivolts to a maximum of 2.4V full scale. The linear range of the inputs is from 1.1V to 3.5V, referenced to the  $I_{\text{RET}}$ terminal, pin 6. The linearization feature of the XTR106 can be used with any sensor whose output is ratiometric with an excitation voltage.

### **ERROR ANALYSIS**

Table I shows how to calculate the effect various error sources have on circuit accuracy. A sample error calculation for a typical bridge sensor measurement circuit is shown (5k $\Omega$  bridge,  $V_{REF} = 5V$ ,  $V_{FS} = 50$ mV) is provided. The results reveal the XTR106's excellent accuracy, in this case 1.2% unadjusted. Adjusting gain and offset errors improves circuit accuracy to 0.33%. Note that these are worst-case errors; guaranteed maximum values were used in the calculations and all errors were assumed to be positive (additive). The XTR106 achieves performance which is difficult to obtain with discrete circuitry and requires less board space.



TABLE I. Error Calculation.



### **REVERSE-VOLTAGE PROTECTION**

The XTR106's low compliance rating (7.5V) permits the use of various voltage protection methods without compromising operating range. Figure 6 shows a diode bridge circuit which allows normal operation even when the voltage connection lines are reversed. The bridge causes a two diode drop (approximately 1.4V) loss in loop supply voltage. This results in a compliance voltage of approximately 9V—satisfactory for most applications. A diode can be inserted in series with the loop supply voltage and the V+ pin as shown in Figure 8 to protect against reverse output connection lines with only a 0.7V loss in loop supply voltage.

### **OVER-VOLTAGE SURGE PROTECTION**

Remote connections to current transmitters can sometimes be subjected to voltage surges. It is prudent to limit the maximum surge voltage applied to the XTR106 to as low as practical. Various zener diode and surge clamping diodes are specially designed for this purpose. Select a clamp diode with as low a voltage rating as possible for best protection. For example, a 36V protection diode will assure proper transmitter operation at normal loop voltages, yet will provide an appropriate level of protection against voltage surges. Characterization tests on three production lots showed no damage to the XTR106 with loop supply voltages up to 65V.

Most surge protection zener diodes have a diode characteristic in the forward direction that will conduct excessive current, possibly damaging receiving-side circuitry if the loop connections are reversed. If a surge protection diode is used, a series diode or diode bridge should be used for protection against reversed connections.

### **RADIO FREQUENCY INTERFERENCE**

The long wire lengths of current loops invite radio frequency interference. RF can be rectified by the sensitive input circuitry of the XTR106 causing errors. This generally appears as an unstable output current that varies with the position of loop supply or input wiring.

If the bridge sensor is remotely located, the interference may enter at the input terminals. For integrated transmitter assemblies with short connection to the sensor, the interference more likely comes from the current loop connections.

Bypass capacitors on the input reduce or eliminate this input interference. Connect these bypass capacitors to the  $I_{\text{RET}}$ terminal as shown in Figure 6. Although the dc voltage at the  $I_{\text{RET}}$  terminal is not equal to 0V (at the loop supply,  $V_{PS}$ ) this circuit point can be considered the transmitter's "ground." The  $0.01 \mu$ F capacitor connected between V+ and  $I_0$  may help minimize output interference.



FIGURE 6. Reverse Voltage Operation and Over-Voltage Surge Protection.





FIGURE 7. Thermocouple Low Offset, Low Drift Loop Measurement with Diode Cold-Junction Compensation.



FIGURE 8. ±12V-Powered Transmitter/Receiver Loop.

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