Simple ways to improve your operation and measurement capabilities

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Agilent Technologies

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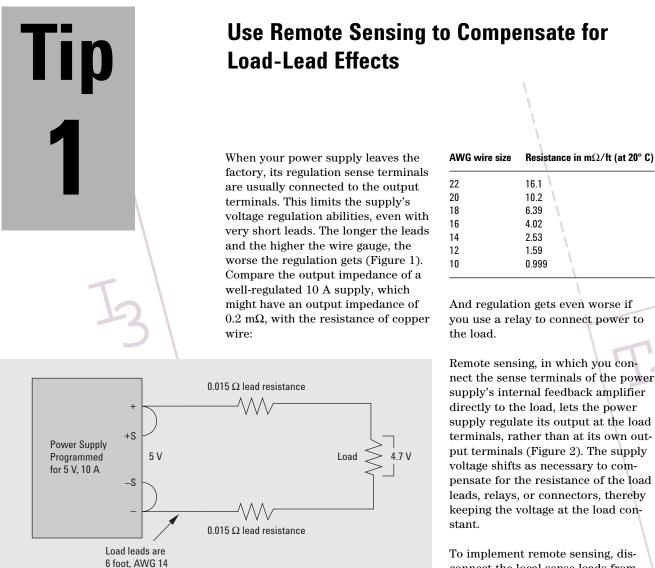


Figure 1: The effects of six feet of AWG 14-gauge leads without remote sensing

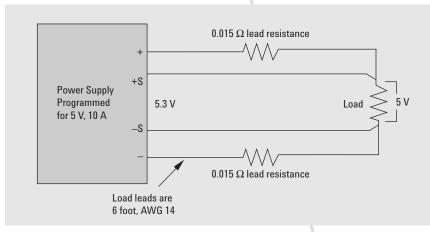


Figure 2: Using remote sensing to correct the lead-load problem

connect the local sense leads from the output terminals. Use twisted two-wire shielded cable to connect the power supply sensing terminals to the sense points on the load. (Don't use the shield as one of the sensing conductors.) Connect one end of the shield to ground and leave the other end unconnected.

Sensing currents are typically less than 10 mA, and as a general rule, you should keep the voltage drop in the sense leads to less than 20 times the power supply temperature coefficient (usually stated in  $mV/^{\circ}C$ ). This is easy to achieve with readily available shielded two-wire cable.

### **Charge and Discharge Batteries in Less Time**

Using a power supply in constantcurrent mode (Figure 1) is a simple way to recharge batteries, and it also lets you achieve 100% charge levels. On the downside, this method is slow, taking as long as 14-16 hours because the charging current is only a fraction of the battery's amp/hour rating.

Pulse charging, also called transient mode, shortens the charging time, yet still charges the battery to over 90% capacity (Figure 2). The electronic load acts as a switch, providing the current pulses. (Note that you can also use an electronic load to program constant-current charging.) Figure 3 shows a typical pulse-charging current waveform. To simulate battery drain, you can also program the electronic load to discharge batteries with either constant or pulse current waveforms. In some cases, pulse discharging does a better job of mimicking a product's energy-saving features. Simulating cellular phone battery discharge, for instance, is complex due to the phone's various operating modes standby, dialing, and talking. You can create the necessary tri-level discharge current wave-form shown in Figure 4 using the electronic load.

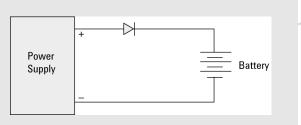


Figure 1: Constant current charging is simple and effective, but it can be very slow. (The diode prevents the battery from discharging through the power supply if the supply voltage drops below the battery voltage.)

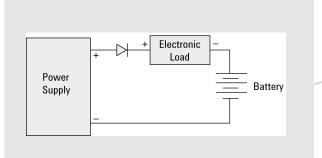


Figure 2: Pulse charging using an electronic load is much faster, while still achieving 90% recharge.

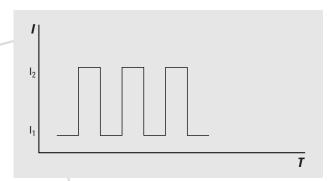


Figure 3: A typical pulse charging waveform created with an electronic load

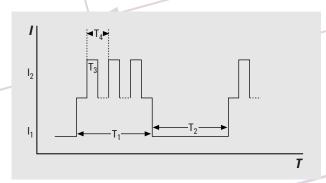


Figure 4: A complex waveform that simulates the energy-saving features in portable, battery-powered products

### Increase Safety with Remote Disable Feature

Remote disable offers a safe way to shut down a power supply to respond to some particular operating condition or to protect system operators (in response to a cabinet door being opened unexpectedly or someone pushing a panic button, for instance).

Remote inhibit (RI) is an input to the power supply that disables the output when the RI terminal is pulled low (Figure 1). Shorting the normally open switch turns off the supply's output. You could also use a logic chip with an open collector transistor output instead of the switch. Figure 1 also shows the discrete fault indicator (DFI), which you can use to signal an operator or other components in the system whenever the power supply detects a user-defined fault.

Almost any operating condition can create a DFI signal. For example, to generate a DFI signal when the load draws excessive current, enable the over current protection (OCP) mode, program the unit to generate a DFI signal when it enters constant current mode, then program the maximum current the load normally draws. If the load current exceeds the maximum. the DFI output goes low, disables the power supply, and informs the operator of the over-current condition (or performs another user-defined function), without tying up the system bus or interrupting the system controller.

You can daisy chain DFI and RI as shown in Figure 2. If one supply detects a fault, all supplies in the system are disabled. Using this approach, you can chain together an unlimited number of supplies.

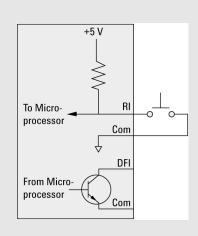


Figure 1. Remote inhibit and discrete fault indicator schematic

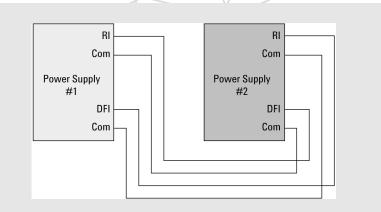


Figure 2. Daisy-chained DFI and RI

### Eliminate Noise from Low-Level Measurements

Noise in low-level measurements can come from a number of different sources, and it's easier to eliminate noise than to filter it. Check these noise sources:

### 1. Power Supply

Starting with a low-noise supply is naturally a great way to keep noise out of your measurements. Linear power supplies have lower commonmode noise currents, and generally operate at low frequency. However, you can use switch-mode supplies successfully if their specifications include a low common-mode current. As a rule of thumb, common-mode current over 20-30 mA is likely to cause trouble. Keep reading for hints on how to minimize the problem.

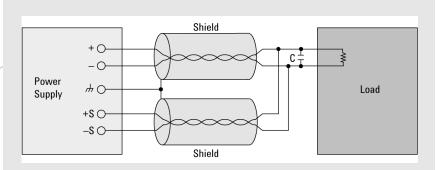


Figure 1: Minimizing radiated pick-up with twisted shield leads for both output and remote sense leads

### 2. DUT to Power Supply Connections

Minimize conducted noise by eliminating ground loops. Ideally, there should be only one connection to ground. In rack systems, where multiple ground points are inevitable, separate the dc distribution path from other conductive paths that carry ground currents. If necessary, float the power supply (don't connect either terminal directly to ground).

Minimize radiated pick-up (both electric and magnetic) by using twisted shielded conductors for the output and remote sense leads. To make sure the shield doesn't carry current, connect the shield to ground at one end only, preferably the single-point ground on the supply (Figure 1).

Minimize the power supply's commonmode noise current by equalizing the impedance to ground from the plus and minus output terminals. Also equalize the DUT's impedance to ground from the plus and minus input terminals. Magnetic coupling or capacitive leakage provide a return path for noisy ground loop current at higher frequencies. To balance the DUT's impedance to ground for your test frequencies, use a common-mode choke in series with the output leads and a shunt capacitor from each lead to ground.

### 3. Current Variations to the DUT

Rapid changes in the DUT's current demand cause voltage spikes. To prevent this, add a bypass capacitor close to the load. The capacitor should have a low impedance at the highest testing frequencies. Avoid imbalances in load lead inductance; direct connections to the DUT, such as twisted shielded pair, are your best bet.



Under light or no load conditions, a power supply's output capacitor discharges slowly. If you're using the supply as a static voltage source, this is not problematic, but when you're making tests at varying voltage levels, slow discharge means slow tests.

Down programming circuits in power supplies rapidly decrease the output voltage, reducing discharge times by hundreds of milliseconds. Agilent Technologies power supplies use two types of down programming circuits:

 In Figure 1, an FET is placed across the output terminals. Whenever the output voltage is higher than the programmed value, the FET activates and discharges the output capacitor. The FET can sink currents ranging from 10% to 20% of the supply's output current rating. The maximum load at low voltages is limited to the On resistance of the FET plus the series monitoring resistor, resulting in a slight degradation of the down programming current near zero volts. • In Figure 2, the down programmer lies between the power supply's positive terminal and a negative source. This configuration pulls the output completely down with no degradation near zero.

Some power supplies, such as the Agilent 662xA and 663xB series, can sink currents equal to their full output current rating. In the 663xB series, this sink current is programmable, so you can use the supply both as a programmable source and load– very useful in applications such as charging and discharging batteries.

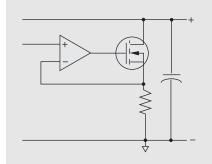


Figure 1: A down programming circuit with an FET across the output terminals

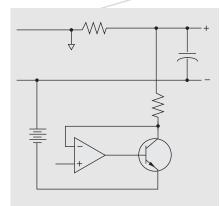


Figure 2: A down programmer situated between power supply's positive output and a negative source

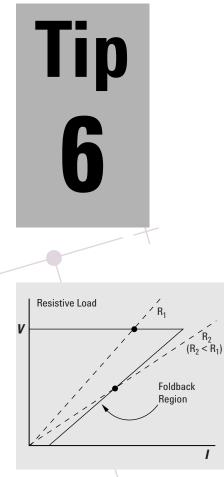


Figure 1: Foldback behavior in constant resistance mode

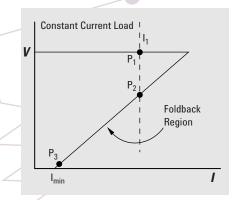


Figure 2: Foldback behavior for constant current load

### Ensure Proper Power-up with Foldback Supplies

Foldback power supplies protect connected equipment by reducing excess current (and thus output voltage) along a foldback path. When testing foldback power supplies using an electronic load, you need to take steps to be sure the power supply starts properly.

When using an electronic load in constant resistance mode, the current increases as the resistance decreases,  $R_1$  to  $R_2$ , until the current limit is reached; after that, the supply reduces its output current along the foldback path (Figure 1).

For constant current load, the power supply operates in constant voltage mode while the electronic load operates in constant current mode. When the power supply starts up, its output voltage is zero, and the electronic load tries to satisfy the programmed current value (I<sub>1</sub>) by decreasing the load resistance. The power supply interprets the low load value as an over-current condition, and immediately folds back to a stable operating point (P<sub>2</sub> or P<sub>3</sub> in Figure 2, depending on the power supply's startup characteristics). To alleviate this problem, program the electronic load to a value below the current limit foldback point  $(I_{min})$ . This value can be close to zero on many supplies. After applying power to the source, increase the load's current limit to the desired value.

For power supplies that don't require a minimum load current at all times, you can initially program the load in constant resistance mode. Then, when the power supply reaches its nominal operating voltage, switch the electronic load to constant current mode. (During the transition, the load momentarily goes to zero.)



### **Connect Power Supplies in Series or Parallel for Higher Output**

Connecting two or more power supplies in series (Figure 1) provides higher voltages, but observe these precautions:

- Never exceed the floating voltage rating of any of the supplies.
- Never subject any of the power supplies to negative voltages.

Program each power supply independently. If two supplies are used, program each one for 50% of the total output voltage. If three supplies are used, program each supply for about 33% of the total output voltage. Set the current limit of each supply to the maximum that the load can safely handle. Connecting two or more power supplies in parallel (Figure 2) provides higher currents, but again, observe these precautions:

- One unit must operate in constant voltage (CV) mode and the other(s) in constant current (CC) mode.
- The output load must draw enough current to keep the CC unit(s) in CC mode.

Program the current limit of each unit to its maximum value and program the output voltage of the CV unit to a value slightly lower than the CC unit(s). The CC units supply the maximum output current that they have been set to and drop their output voltage until it matches the voltage of the CV unit, which supplies only enough current to fulfill the total load demand.

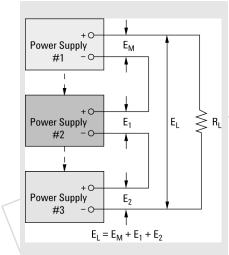


Figure 1: Connecting units in series

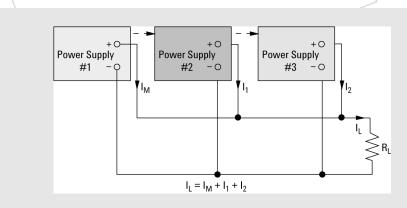


Figure 2: Connecting units in parallel

### **Use Your Power Supply to Measure Pulsed** Current

To adequately specify the power source for products that exhibit pulsed and dynamic current loading (such as digital cellular phones and hard drives), you need to evaluate both the peak and dc averages current draws.

You could use an oscilloscope to monitor a shunt or a current probe, but this approach raises issues with voltage drops, ground loops, common mode noise, space, and calibration.

As a simpler and cheaper alternative, use a power supply with built-in measurement capabilities. The Agilent 66312A and 66332A dynamic measurement dc sources store up to 4,096 data points at sample intervals from 15.6 ms to 31,200 s. Like an oscilloscope, they acquire pre- and posttrigger buffer data by crossing a user-set threshold. These dynamic measurement capabilities are illustrated in an Agilent VEE program output panel (Figure 1).

In Figure 2, note the SCPI commands in the "Set Up Source," "Measure," and "Enter Array" blocks. (You can use these commands in other programming environments as well.) Note that "MEAS" can be used in place of "FETC" to cause an immediate trigger. Obtain subsequent measurement parameters from the same data by using "FETC."

Measure

WRITE TEXT ":SENS:FUNC V"CURRV"" EOL WRITE TEXT ":SENS:CURR:DET ACDC" EOL

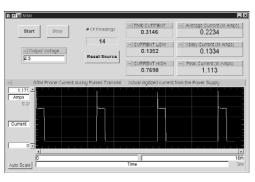


Figure 1. An Agilent VEE program that makes parametric measurements and captures the pulse current loading of a digital cellular phone

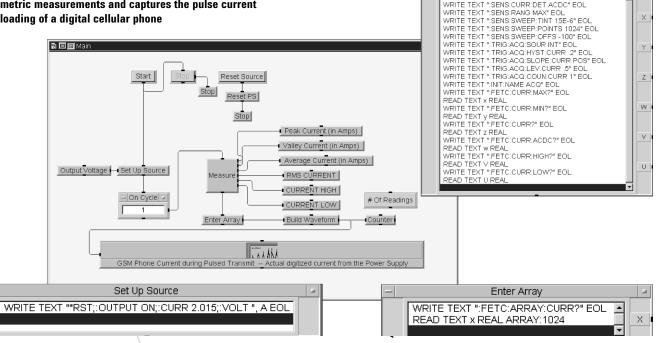


Figure 2. Block flow diagram of the Agilent VEE program, showing program details

### Characterize Inrush Current with an AC Power Source/Analyzer

The inrush current characteristics of ac-dc switch mode power supplies vary with the turn-on phase of the voltage cycle. Usually, these power supplies have input capacitors that draw high peaks of inrush current as they charge from the rectified ac line at turn-on. Characterizing inrush current versus turn-on phase can provide some important design insights:

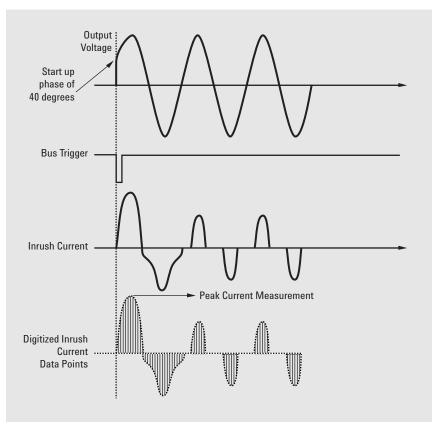


Figure 1: An inrush current measurement at 40° using Agilent 6800 series ac power source/analyzers

- Uncover component stresses
- Check to see if a product produces ac mains disturbances that interact with other products connected to the same branch circuit
- Select proper fuses and circuit breakers

However, this can be a challenging measurement because you have to synchronize the current digitization and peak current measurement with the startup phase of the voltage. Worst case inrush currents occur near the voltage cycle's peak and when the ac input capacitor of the DUT is fully discharged at startup. Therefore, you must perform tests at incremental voltage startup phases from around 40° to 90° (Figure 1) and let the DUT's ac input capacitor discharge between tests.

A traditional test setup includes an ac source with programmable phase capability and an output trigger port, a digital oscilloscope, and a current probe. However, using an advanced ac power source/analyzer such as the Agilent 6800 series ac power source/analyzers is easier because they have built-in generation, current waveform digitization, peak current measurement, and synchronization capabilities that let you perform inrush current characterization without cabling and synchronizing separate instruments.

### Use a Power Supply to Measure DUT Supply Current

Accurately measuring DUT supply currents above 10 A is beyond the range of the typical DMM in ammeter mode. You could use an external shunt and the DMM's voltage mode, but using the power supply itself is a better solution. Many supplies include an accurate measurement system, including a shunt. Using the power source's shunt to take current or voltage measurements at the DUT can be as simple as sending a MEAS command.

The following table shows the level of measurement accuracy you can expect with a good-quality supply:

	Output level	Typical accuracy				
	Full	0.1% to 0.5%				
	10% of full output	0.5% to 1%				
L	1% of full output	near 10%				

While the advantages of using the power source to measure high currents is clear, using it to measure low currents may not be as obvious. A system DMM has 0.01% to 0.1% accuracy, although this doesn't include other possible errors that can affect the measurement, such as cabling. In contrast, the power supply accuracy figures in the table include all applicable factors. A good system DMM can measure current down to the picoamp level, but you rarely need to measure DUT supply currents this low. In most cases, the toughest measurement will involve current draw by a batterypowered device in sleep mode (such as a cellular phone), where measuring 1-10 mA with reasonable accuracy is usually all you need.

Most power supplies' current readback performs well between full scale and 10% of full scale. Newer power sources, such as the Agilent 66000A modular power system, offer full scale accuracy of 0.06% at 16 A and 3.8% accuracy at 160 mA. You can also choose a power supply with multiple range readback. The 663XA series can measure as low as 2.5  $\mu$ A and offers accuracy of 5.1% at 50  $\mu$ A (with full-scale accuracy of 0.2%).

Also, keep in mind that while ac sources offer many current measurement options, including rms, newer dc sources, such as the 66312A and 66332A, provide rms peak measurements as well (see Tip 8).

### **POWER** products that do more and demand less

Agilent Technologies' "one-box" philosophy means we pack more and more capability into the power products themselves, in some cases giving you a rack's worth of capability in a single box. By offering more, these products demand less from you-fewer instruments, less rack space, simpler test setups, and lower cost of ownership.



### **Dynamic measurement dc supplies**

The Agilent 66312A and 66332A are the first power supplies with instantaneous peak measurement capability, so you no longer need a scope or high-speed digital voltmeter to test devices that draw pulsed current.

- Precision current measurement-as low as 0.6 µA
- Dynamic voltage measurements ٠ accurate to 0.03% + 5 mV
- Dynamic current measurements accurate to 0.6% + 1 mA (66312A)



### Solar array simulator

The Agilent E4350A solar array simulator mimics the output characteristics of a satellite's solar panels. It's also a great example of our ability to create unique power solutions to meet unique application challenges.

- Simulate I-V curves of a solar array under various conditions
- · Operate the system in three different modes for maximum flexibility
- Available as individual power modules or as a turnkey system customized to your needs



### Autoranging dc supplies

The Agilent 6030-series autoranging supplies are a flexible, convenient solution when you need to test a wide range of devices with a single supply or test devices with a variety of operating points.

- · Choose from six models with power ratings from 200 W to 1 kW
- All models offer Agilent's one-box solution with built-in readback
- Current ranges from 2 to 120 A; voltage ranges from 6.7 to 500 V

Dynamic measurement dc suppl Model	66312A	66332A				
Voltage	0 to 20 V	0 to 20 V				
Current	0 to 2 A	0 to 5 A				
Maximum power	40W	100W				
Solar array simulator						
Model	E4350A					
Voltage	0 to 60 V					
Current	0 to 8 A					
Maximum power	450W					
Auto-ranging supplies						
Model	6033A	6038A	6030A	6031A	6032A	6035A
Voltage	0 to 20 V	0 to 60 V	0 to 200 V	0 to 20 V	0 to 60 V	0 to 500 V
Current	0 to 30 A	0 to 10 A	0 to 17 A	0 to 120 A	0 to 50 A	0 to 5 A
Maximum output power at any						
valid combination of V and I	200 W	200 W	1000 W	1000 W	1000 W	1000 W

### Dynamic measurement de sunnlies

### Power you can count on year after year

We've been a leader in the power products business for more than three decades because engineers like you know they can count on Agilent performance, reliability and value. Even our least-expensive dc supplies offer low ripple and noise with tight load and line regulation. Our highprecision products give you the exact power levels you need, with accurate readback measurements to match. Plus, every product you see here is covered by a three-year warranty.

To learn more about these power solutions, please use the reply card or visit our Web site at www.agilent.com/find/power. For immediate service, call one of the engineers at Agilent at 800-452-4844.

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### Single-output dc supplies

These supplies will clean up your ATE power without cleaning out your budget. Not only do you buy more performance with the Agilent 6600series, their one-box integration means you'll buy less equipment overall, too.

- Clean, reliable dc power from 40 W to 5 kW
- Designed for fast, easy system integration
- Built-in V & I readback for one-box convenience

Single-output dc supplies					
40 W and 100 W	6612B	6632B	6633B	6634B	
Voltage	0 to 20 V	0 to 20 V	0 to 50 V	0 to 100 V	
Current	0 to 2 A	0 to 5 A	0 to 2 A	0 to 1 A	
	6541A*	6542A*	6543A*	6544A*	6545A*
200 W	6641A	6642A	6643A	6644A	6645A
Output voltage	0 to 8 V	0 to 20 V	0 to 35 V	0 to 60 V	0 to 120 V
Output current (40° C)	0 to 20 A	0 to 10 A	0 to 6 A	0 to 3.5 A	0 to 1.5 A
Maximum current (50° C)	18.0 A	9.0 A	5.4 A	3.2 A	1.4 A
Maximum current (55° C)	17.0 A	8.5 A	5.1 A	3.0 A	1.3 A
	6551A*	6552A*	6553A*	6554A*	6555A*
500 W	6651A	6652A	6653A	6654A	6655A
Output voltage	0 to 8 V	0 to 20 V	0 to 35 V	0 to 60 V	0 to 120 V
Ouput current (40° C)	0 to 50 A	0 to 25 A	0 to 15 A	0 to 9 A	0 to 4 A
Maximum current (50° C)	45.0 A	22.5 A	13.5 A	8.1 A	3.6 A
Maximum current (55° C)	42.5 A	21.3 A	12.8 A	7.7 A	3.4 A
	6571A*	6572A*	6573A*	6574A*	6575A*
2 kW	6671A	6672A	6673A	6674A	6675A
Output voltage	0 to 8 V	0 to 20 V	0 to 35 V	0 to 60 V	0 to 120 V
Output current	0 to 220 A	0 to 100 A	0 to 60 A	0 to 35 A	0 to 18 A
5 kW	6680A	6681A	6682A	6683A	6684A
Voltage	0 to 5 V	0 to 8 V	0 to 21 V	0 to 32 V	0 to 40 V
Current (derated linearly					
1%/° C to 55° C)	0 to 875 A	0 to 580 A	0 to 240 A	0 to 160 A	0 to 128 A
•					

\* Economy versions with identical specifications, but without GPIB.

### Power products that do more and demand less



### **Multiple-output dc supplies**

The Agilent 6620-series' multiple outputs and integrated I & V readback dramatically simplify the job of system integration and maintenance. Plus, the 6625A, 6626A, 6628A and 6629A models offer the precision of 14-bit dual range programming and readback.

- Choose 2, 3, or 4 independent, isolated outputs
- Precision programming and readback
- Built-in readback for one-box convenience and value



### Modular power system

With rack space at a premium, the Agilent 66000 modular power system's growing popularity is no surprise. A single mainframe can hold up to eight modules, and you can choose from six modules with voltage ranges up to 200 V and current ranges up to 16 A.

- High power density—up to eight supplies in seven inches of rack space
- Low noise, stable power
- High accuracy programming and readback



### **Electronic Loads**

Agilent's integrated electronic loads help you save time, money, and rack space while delivering precise control and all the capabilities you need for analyzing dc power sources and devices. Use the programable pulse waveform generator or use analog programming to simulate real-life load conditions.

- Ideal for evaluating dc power sources and power components
- Lower costs while improving ease of use and test quality
- Single-input and modular units with proven record of reliability

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Multiple-output dc supplies Model	40-W output	40-W output	80-W output	80-W output		
wouer	40-99 output	40-W output				
Low-range volts, amps	0 to 7 V, 0 to 5 A	0 to 20 V, 0 to 2 A	0 to 7 V, 0 to 10 A	0 to 20 V, 0 to 4 A		
High-range volts, amps	0 to 20 V, 0 to 2 A	0 to 50 V, 0 to 0.8 A	0 to 20 V, 0 to 4 A	0 to 50 V, 0 to 2A		
Output combinations for each model (tota	al number of outputs)					
6621A (2)		_	2	_		
6622A (2)	_	_	_	2		
6623A (3)	1	1	1	_		
6624A (4)	2	2	_	_		
6627A (4)	_	4	_	_		

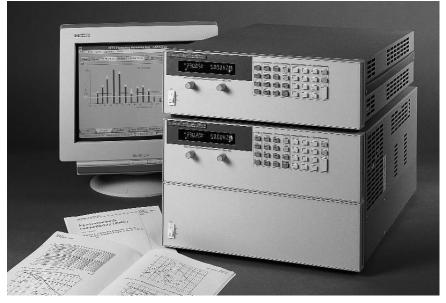
Precision multiple-o	utput supplies						
Model			25-W outpu	50-W output			
Output power	Output range	Low	range	High range	Low ra	ange	High range
	Output volts	0 to	7 V	0 to 50 V	0 to 16	6 V	0 to 50 V or 0 to 16 V
	Output amps	0 to	15 mA	0 to 500 mA	0 to 20	)0 mA	0 to 1 A or 0 to 2 A
Output combinations fo	r each model (to	tal number of out	puts)				
6625A (2)			1			1	
6626A (4)			2			2	
6628A (2)			0			2	
6629A (4)			0			4	
Modular power system	ems						
Model		66101A	66102A	66103A	66104A	66105A	66106A
Output ratings at 40° C							
Output voltage		0 to 8 V	0 to 20 V	0 to 35 V	0 to 60 V	0 to 120 V	0 to 200 V
Output current		0 to 16 A	0 to 7.5 A	0 to 4.5 A	0 to 2.5 A	0 to 1.25 A	0 to 0.75 A
Maximum power		128 W	150 W	157.5 W	150 W	150 W	150 W
Electronic Loads							
Model		6060B, 60502B	6063B, 60503B	60501B	60504B	60507	
Input voltage		3-60 V	3-240 V	3-60 V	3-150 V	3-150 V	
Maximum power		300 W	250 W	150 W	600W	500 W	



### AC power source/analyzers

From avionics to uninterruptible power supplies, customers are demanding products that can use power efficiently while handling all kinds of ac line disturbances. To make sure your products meet these growing expectations, test them with the Agilent 6800-series ac power source/analyzers.

- The fast, easy way to generate both clean and distorted ac power for product testing
- A complete solution in a single, compact, tightly integrated box with graphical user interface
- Built-in 16-bit power analyzer precisely measures all important parameters



### Harmonic/flicker test systems

The Agilent 6840-series harmonic/ flicker test systems transform an expensive headache into a competitive advantage. Instead of sending prototypes out to a test lab and waiting for the results, you can now afford to do your own compliance testing—whenever and wherever you need.

- Compliance-level testing of IEC low-frequency emission standards
- An inexpensive, integrated solution that is easier to install, use, and maintain
- Advanced diagnostics go beyond simple pass/fail to help you modify designs quickly

We've combined a precision ac source with built-in power analysis, flickermeter, complete testing and reporting software, and our in-depth knowledge of the IEC standards. The result is much less expensive and easier to maintain than traditional testers built from separate instruments.

The 6840 test system is easy to set up and the graphical software is easy to use, so you don't need to be a compliance expert to get dependable results. You'll have both real-time and off-line data analysis and review, plus report generation and data archiving for thorough test documentation.

### AC Power Source/analyzers

Model	6811A	6812A	6813A	6814B	6834B	
Max power	375 VA	750 VA	1750 VA	3000 VA	4500 VA	
# of phases	1	1	1	1	1/3	
Harmonic flicker test systems						
Model	6841A	6842A	6843A			
Max power	750 VA	1750 VA	4800 VA			
# of phases	1	1	1			

For more information, please use the reply card inside, visit our Web site at www.agilent.com/find/power, or call Agilent at 800-452-4844.

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