Technical Information

High Accuracy, High Technology : The Perfect Choice! ITB 300-S / IT 400-S / IT 700-S Current Transducers





High Accuracy, High Technology: The Perfect Choice ! ITB 300-S / IT 400-S / IT 700-S Current Transducers. by Stéphane Rollier

Certain Power Electronics applications require high performance in accuracy, drift or response time that it is necessary to switch to high technologies to achieve them. The validation of equipment is often made through recognised laboratories using highly accurate and performance test benches supported by high-tech subassemblies, including extremely accurate current transducers. These transducers are still in need today for such traditional applications, but are more and more requested to be part of high performance industrial applications, namely: medical equipment, metering or accessories for measuring equipment. It has been a great challenge for LEM to produce a transducer with high performance and costs appealing to the market target, but as a leader in current measurement for more than 30 years, the goal has been achieved.

To achieve the required accuracy performance, LEM's IT current transducers do not use Hall generators but are based on Fluxgate technology, an established technology LEM has used for many years. This is a proven high technology at the heart of several LEM current and voltage transducers families. Today, LEM uses different versions of Fluxgate technologies, each version providing different levels of performances and costs matching to the customer's requirements. For the IT range building, the IT Fluxgate technology applied is certainly the most efficient. Thanks to it, we can speak about accuracy by using ppm (part per million) of the nominal value which is quite representative of the performances reached.

IT FluxgateTechnology Principle

For accurate measurement of DC currents, the methods used since the beginning of the 20th century consist in compensating the flux (Φp) created in a core by the Ip current to be measured by an opposing flux (Φc) created by an Ic current flowing through a known number of turns Nc, to obtain (Figure 1) :

 $\Phi p - \Phi c = 0$ or Np.lp - Nc.lc = 0 (Np : Number of primary turns) To obtain an accurate measurement, it is necessary to have a highly accurate device to measure precisely the condition $\Phi = 0$. The aim is to uncover a current transducer with the following characteristics:

- Excellent linearity,
- Outstanding long-term stability,
- Low residual noise,
- High frequency response,
- High reliability.



Fig 1. IT Fluxgate Technology Principle.

Operation principle

To achieve exceptional compensation of the two opposing magnetic fluxes ($\Phi p - \Phi c = 0$), a detector capable of accurately measuring $\Phi = 0$ must be available, in other words, the detector must supply the greatest possible output signal for the smallest measured flux variations.

• The hysteresis cycles of the magnetic cores have a form comparable to the one represented in figure 2 (more or less square according to the type of material used),

• Observing B = f(H) on the magnetization curve, notice that for a given H1 field a $\Delta B1$ variation



Fig 2. Hysteresis cycles of the magnetic cores.

corresponds to Δ H1. But, also observe that later along the cycle, for another given H2 field, for the same variation Δ B2 = Δ B1, the Δ H2 variation must be much greater. The detection of the zero flux (Φ =0) is based on this phenomenon,

• When injecting a square wave voltage (figure 3a) into a winding, wound on a core, until the magnetic circuit starts to become saturated, a current (figure 3b) is created; This current flowing through a measuring resistor will provide a systematic voltage relative to zero with peak values +Up = -Up,



Fig 3. Square wave voltage (3a); Current created (3b); Asymmetry of the created current (3c).

• When a DC current flows through the aperture of the core, the path of the hysteresis cycle is then shifted causing asymmetry of the current produced by the square wave voltage (figure 3c) and leading to a measured voltage at the terminals of the resistor where I+UpI >I-UpI. By using peak detection to measure +Up and -Up and by comparing the two peak values, the variations of the flux in the core are thus detected as normally $\Phi = 0$ when I+UpI = I-UpI. As soon as the flux varies, an error voltage I+UpI - I-UpI is supplied to a power amplifier that drives a current into a compensation winding until $\Phi = 0$, thus I+UpI = I-UpI.

Figure 4 shows a very simplified base circuit for the compensation of a DC current.

If the primary current Ip = 0, the Ic compensation current will be equal to 0. When Ip varies, the flux varies. Therefore, we detect an error I+UpI -I-UpI which controls the power amplifier to send out an Ic compensation current until $\Phi = 0$, thus:

$$Nc x lc = Np x lp$$

The Ic current flows through a resistor, allowing for proportional voltage measurement.



Fig 4. Simplified base circuit for DC current compensation.



Fig 5. Solution against voltage peaks re-injection.

The accuracy of the measurement will not only depend on the accuracy of the measuring resistor but also very much on the sensitivity of the flux detector. However, in spite of the DC measurement function accuracy, there are some drawbacks to this DC measurement system (Figure 5) :

1. As the winding "S" of the flux detector is coupled with the compensation winding "C", the voltage peaks, corresponding to the frequency of the applied square wave voltage, are re-injected into the compensation winding and into the measurement resistor,

2. The system's response frequency should be quite low due to the low scanning voltage frequency of the flux detector,

3. We recommend only to apply primary current to the transducer after powering up the current transducer. Failing to do so will result in oscillation on the output, and a delayed lock-on to the primary current. For IT models, it will further more result in an offset in the order of \pm 50 ppm. To compensate for these inconveniences, the magnetic portion of the transducer is realised as schematically represented in figure 6:

• We can see that the winding S for the flux detection is directly coupled with the compensation winding C. However, the flux induced by the



Fig 6. The various windings used and their arrangements.



Fig 7. Compensation loop diagram.

square wave voltage, injected into the S winding, may be practically cancelled out when a second S' winding is mounted on a separate core (identical to S) into the compensation winding C. C will not see the flux created by the peaks since the flux generated by S' is opposed to the one created by S (Figures 5 and 6),

• A fourth winding W, on a core and also installed in the compensation winding C is used to measure the alternating components. It is connected to a system allowing the power amplifier to compensate the flux produced by the alternate high frequency components which are not detected by the low frequency flux detector.

The diagram of the compensation loop is shown in figure 7.

The simplified overall diagram is shown in figure 8 and can be directly deduced from the diagram, figure 7. The saturation detector is activated when the DC flux detector is not at zero.



Fig 8. IT and ITB operation principle: simplified overall diagram.

This technology offers many benefits:



Picture 1. IT 400-S & IT 700-S models.

Parameter	Linearity	Initial offset	Thermal offset	Overall accuracy
Model	of I _{PN}	at +25°C	drift	at +25°C, % of I _{PN}
ITB 300-S	0.001%	+/- 0.1 mA	1 μA/K	+/- 0.05
IT 400-S	3 ppm	30 ppm of I _{PN}	0.5 ppm of I _{PN} /K	+/- 0.0033
IT 700-S	3 ppm	50 ppm of I _{PN}	0.5 ppm of I _{PN} /K	+/- 0.0053

The IT/ITB series transducers offer very high accuracy based on superior resolution (better than 0.05 ppm for IT 400-S and IT 700-S models). This technology provides galvanic isolation for current measurement of all types of waveforms including DC, AC, mixed and complex.

Three models emerged from this technology to cover two market driven requirements: One issued by the laboratories and one by industrial applications. IT 400-S and IT 700-S models are more dedicated for the first category and ITB 300-S is rather for the second one. All three have been designed to operate from a bipolar +/-15 VDC power supply.

IT 400-S and IT 700-S (Picture 1)

Specified for 400 A_{RMS} and 700 A_{RMS} nominal respectively, they operate in a temperature range from + 10 to + 50°C, making them ideal for applications such as high-precision power supplies and highperformance gradient amplifiers for MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) including medical equipment such as medical X-Ray imaging and also calibration test benches in laboratories and test departments. LEM IT transducers can also be used as interfaces for power analyzers when high accuracy is required.

Thanks to their primary aperture, they accommodate round primary conductors of 26 and 30 mm diameter respectively. In addition to their normal current output, the transducers offer an output indicating the transducer state (opened or closed contacts) and an external LED showing the normal operation. This output is provided by an integrated opto-coupler and an integrated relay for the IT 400-S and the IT 700-S, respectively.

When the two models are operating normally (current less than 110% of the nominal value), this output is activated (ON-state) and the contacts are normally closed. When the current goes above 110% of the nominal value (overload situation: fault level), the contacts are opened (OFF-state). Possible currents and voltages for these special outputs are indicated into the respective data sheets.



ITB 300-S (Picture 2)

Specified for 300 A_{RMS} nominal, it operates in an extended operating temperature range from - 40 to + 85°C, compared to the + 10 to + 50°C of the IT models, allowing its use in a wider range of applications including high precision power supplies, medical equipment, calibration units, precise and high stability inverters, power analyzers and metering. The round primary aperture accommodates primary conductors up to 21.5 mm diameter.

Similar to the two previous IT models, the ITB 300-S offers an additional output indicating the transducer state. However, the output is an integrated open collector transistor to be associated with an external relay. During normal operation, the output is active or a closed contact. When an operation considered as not normal occurs (fault level), the output or contact is opened. For example, this could happen during overload conditions (> 3000 A, longer than 10 ms) or when the transducer malfunctions.

This model at the opposite of IT models is suitable for industrial and railway applications complying with EN 50178 and EN 50155 standards.

Although the ITB uses the same technology as the IT current transducers, it is nevertheless proposed at a lower price while offering a level of performance, just slightly lower than other members of the family.



Fig 9. ITB 300-S : 3000 A pK applied with a di/dt=150A/ms-Rm=10W.



Fig 10. ITB 300-S: 1000 A pK applied with a di/dt=150A/ms.



Fig 11. IT 400-S : 2000 A pK applied with a di/dt=100A/ms-Rm=10W.



Fig 13. IT 700-S: 3500 A pK applied with a di/dt=100A/ms-Rm=2.5W.



Fig 14. IT 700-S : 3500 A pK applied with a di/dt=100A/ms-Rm=2.5W.

Performance in Overload Conditions

All three models have a high capability against current overloads: 5 times the nominal current for the IT models and up to 10 times the nominal current for the ITB 300-S with a max duration of 100 ms and 10 ms, respectively (Figures 9 and 10 for ITB 300-S / Figures 11 and 12 for IT 400-S / Figures 13 and 14 for IT 700-S).

As you can notice it, at 5 x I_{PN} , thanks to the current transformer effect, the IT 400-S and IT 700-S can measure correctly the primary overcurrent if the duration does not exceed 0.8 ms and 1 ms respectively (with a di/dt of 100 A/µs) (the specifications given into the data sheets can not be guaranteed for this measurement). The products (current x time) are roughly 2000 A.t x 0.8 ms = 1600 and 3500 A.t x 1 ms for IT 400-S and IT 700-S respectively and beyond these values, the magnetic saturations occur.

With ITB 300-S, this is the same thing, the transducer can easily follow during a short period of time a current of 1000 A peak, and, even 3000 A peak (during 1 ms) with a di/dt of 150 A/ μ s, thanks to its current transformer effect (the specifications given into the data sheet can not be guaranteed for these measurements).

Execution of an auto-reset system occurs after the overload. A few seconds are then required to reset the transducers back to their normal operation state (please see the previous figures).

The ITB 300-S allows peak measurements up to +/- 450 A, conforming to the specifications in the datasheet.

When using the IT models, the sensors are fully operational until 110 % of their nominal value and will not be damaged but, under these conditions (> 100%), the specifications given into their data sheets can not be guaranteed.

Advice for Installation

To reduce the level of output noise, LEM recommends to make a connection between pin 4, the electrostatic shield and the cable shield external to the transducers (IT 400-S and IT 700-S).

To avoid disturbances coming from adjacent external conductors, it is also advised to locate these conductors at a certain minimum distance from the products. For IT 400-S and IT 700-S, distances of 75 mm and 70 mm respectively, from the center of the transducer's apertures. This has been defined as a minimum distance before locating adjacent conductors potentially affecting the performance.

All three transducers are equipped with an electrostatic shield built inside the case to ensure the best immunity against the external electrostatic fields. A shielded output cable and plug are nevertheless advised to be used to ensure maximum immunity.

Common Mode Transient Behavior (dv/dt)

Fast voltage changes during commutation of power semiconductors lead to disturbances of components within the current transducer. These disturbances are due to the capacitive currents generated between the primary conductor and the electronic circuit of the transducer and are superimposed to the output transducer signal.

IT and ITB models can nearly be defined as being insensitive to dv/dt. Indeed, a voltage change of 5 kV (ITB













Fig 23. Frequency and phase response of the ITB 300-S (300A peak sinusoidal).

This performance contributes amply to wide bandwidths (Figures 21, 22 & 23).

Standards

The transducers are all CE marked, in accordance with the European EMC Directive 89/336/EEC and thus, satisfy the derived local EMC regulations. They also conform to EN 61010-1 for the safety requirements.

Conclusion

Each of these compact models allows a dual mounting possibility, horizontal or vertical, making them really versatile to the various applications. The LEM IT/ITB transducers provide an analogue current output burdened by an external precision resistor, a resistor selected in a way not to corrupt the transducers performances.

IT or ITB products can bring the required solution to industrial, traction or laboratory applications. Often, the requirements are to get highly accurate transducers but less expensive and with some performances less "accurate" but still of a high level and more adapted to the industrial world. This is exactly the "raison d'être" of the ITB 300-S model.

A two-year warranty is proposed for all these models.

LEM - At the heart of power electronics.



High Accuracy and Stability Current Transducers

ITB 300-S	
IT 400-S	I _{PN}
IT 700-S	I _{PN}

J	=	300	Α
J	=	400	Α
•	=	700	Α



CE

For the electronic measurement of currents : DC, AC, pulsed..., with a galvanic isolation between the primary circuit (high power) and the secondary circuit (electronic circuit).

El	ectrical data						
Primar r.m.s. I _{PN} (A	ry nominal current)	Primary current measuring range I _P (A) @ ± 15 V		Туре		N (
3 4 7	00 00 00	± 450 ± 400 ± 700		ITB 300-S IT 400-S IT 700-S			
				ITB 300-S	IT 400-S	IT 700-S	
Î _P R _M I _{SN} V _C I _C	Max overload ca Measuring resist @ $V_c = \pm 15 V$ Secondary nomin Conversion ratio Supply voltage (Current consump	pability ¹⁾ ance nal r.m.s. current (± 5 %) ption @ ± 15 V	R _{M min} R _{M max}	$ \begin{array}{c} \pm 3000/10\text{ms} \\ 0 \\ 5 \\ 1 \\ 150 \\ 1 : 2000 \\ \pm 15 \\ < \pm 90 + \text{I}_{\text{s}} \end{array} $	$\begin{array}{c} \pm 2000/100 \text{ms} \\ 0 \left(T_{\text{A}} = \pm 10\pm 50^{\circ}\text{C} \\ 10 \left(I_{\text{P}} = \pm 400\text{A} \right) \\ 200 \\ 1 : 2000 \\ \pm 15 \\ < \pm 50 + I_{\text{s}} \end{array} \right)$	$\begin{array}{c} \pm 3500/100 \text{ms} \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 2.5 \\ 1_p = \pm 7004 \\ 400 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 750 \\ \pm 15 \\ < \pm 70 + 1_s \end{array}$	A 50°C Δ mA V mA
	Accuracy - D	Dynamic perform	ance data				
Х _G Е	Overall accuracy Linearity error ²⁾	$\mathbf{V} \otimes \mathbf{I}_{PN}$, $\mathbf{T}_{A} = 25^{\circ}C$		<± 0.05 <0.001 % Max	<±0.0033 <3 Max	<±0.0053 <3 Max	% ppm
l _o TCl _o t _r di/dt f	Offset current @ Offset current dri Response time @ di/dt accurately for Frequency band	$I_{P} = 0, T_{A} = 25^{\circ}C$ ift temperature coeffici 2 90 % of I_{PN}^{3} ollowed width	ent	± 0.1 mA <1 μA/K <1 μs >100 DC 100 ⁴⁾	<30 ²⁾ <0.5 ²⁾ <250 >100 DC 100 ⁵⁾	<50 ²⁾ <0.5 ²⁾ <250 >100 DC 100 ⁶⁾	ppm / K ppm / K ns A / μs kHz
	General data	3			l	1	
T _A T _S R _S m	Ambient operatir Ambient storage Secondary coil re Mass Standards UL 94 Classificat	ng temperature temperature esistance tion		-40 +85 -45 +85 31@ +85°C 0.49 EN 50178 : 1997 EN 50155 : 2001 VO	+10 +50 -20 +85 51.2 @ +50°C 0.5 VO	+10 +50 -20 +85 22.3 @ +50°C 0.8 VO	°C °C ; Ω kg

Notes : 1) Transducer may needs a few seconds to comeback to «Normal operation» state when autoreset system is running.

⁴⁾ -3 dB with limited amplitude.

 $^{\rm 5)}\,$ 10 A sinusoidal, -0.6 dB, 5 Ω as measuring resistor.

²⁾ Refer to nominal.

 $^{\rm 6)}\,$ 10 A sinusoidal, -0.5 dB, 2.5 Ω as measuring resistor.

³⁾ With a di/dt \geq 100 A / μ s.

LEM reserves the right to carry out modifications on its transducers, in order to improve them, without previous notice.



ls	Isolation characteristics		IT 400-S	IT 700-S	
\mathbf{V}_{d}	R.m.s. voltage for AC isolation test, 50 Hz, 1 mn	5.3 ⁷⁾	5 ⁷⁾	5 ⁷⁾	k۷
$\hat{\mathbf{V}}_{w}$	Impulse withstand voltage 1.2/50 µs	10.8	8	8	kvbc kV
V _e	R.m.s. voltage for partial discharge extinction @ 10 pC	Min 2.2 ⁹⁾ Min	Min 1.52 Min	Min 1.51 Min	kV
dCp	Creepage distance	12.2 ¹⁰⁾	11	9	mm
dCI CTI	Clearance distance Comparative Tracking Index (Group I)	12.2 ¹⁰⁾ 600	11 600	9 600	mm V

Application examples

According to EN 50178 and CEI 61010-1 standards and following conditions :

- Overvoltage category OV3

- Pollution degree PD2

- Heterogeneous field.

	EN 50178			IEC 61010-1			
dCp, dCl, $\hat{\mathbf{V}}_{w}$	Rated isolation voltage			Nominal voltage			
Model	ITB 300-S	IT 400-S	IT 700-S	ITB 300-S	IT 400-S	IT 700-S	
Single Isolation	1600 V	1420 V	1140 V	2000 V	2000 V	1600 V	
Reinforced isolation	880 V	800 V	660 V	770 V	650 V	500 V	

Notes: 7) Between primary and secondary + shield.

⁸⁾ Between secondary and shield.

⁹⁾ Test carried out with a busbar Ø 19 mm centered in the through-hole. With a busbar Ø 21.5 mm (contact between busbar and housing) the min value is reduced to 1 kV.

¹⁰⁾ See outline drawing.

Features

- Closed loop (compensated) current transducer using fluxgate technology
- D-Sub 9 pole male output interface connector
- Output indicates the transducer state
- LED shows normal operation (IT 400-S & IT 700-S).

Advantages

- Excellent linearity
- · High accuracy over high bandwidth
- Very low output noise
- Very low offset drift
- Optimized response time
- No insertion losses
- High immunity to external interference
- Current overload capability
- Autoreset after overload ¹⁾.

Applications

- High precision power supplies
- Calibration unit
- Precise and high stability inverters
- Energy measurement
- Medical equipment
- High performance gradient amplifiers for MRI.

Application domain

• Industrial & Traction (ITB 300-S)



This transducer must be used in electric/electronic equipment with respect to applicable standards and safety requirements in accordance with the following manufacturer's operating instructions.

Caution, risk of electrical shock



When operating the transducer, certain parts of the module can carry hazardous voltage (eg. primary busbar, power supply).

- Ignoring this warning can lead to injury and/or cause serious damage. This transducer is a built-in device, whose conducting parts must be inaccessible after installation.
- A protective housing or additional shield could be used.
- Main supply must be able to be disconnected.

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Dimensions ITB 300-S (in mm. 1 mm = 0.0394 inch)



Ø < 21.5

Recommended fastening torquePrimary through hole

• All mounting recommendations are given for a standard mounting : Screws with flat and spring washers

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Ø < 26

Ø < 30

mm





Dimensions IT 400-S (in mm. 1 mm = 0.0394 inch)





Remarks

- I_s is positive when I_p flows in the direction of the arrow.
- Temperature of the primary conductors should not exceed 100°C (ITB 300-S) / 65°C (IT 400-S & IT 700-S).
- Transducer needs to be connected with a shielded secondary cable to comply with EN 50155 standard (ITB 300-S).

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