

Power supply ground loops DEWESoft®

USER MANUAL

Power supply ground loops V21-1



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2. About this document

This is the application note about the power supply ground loops.

2.1. Legend

The following symbols and formats will be used throughout the document.



Important

It gives you important information about the subject.
Please read carefully!



Hint

It gives you a hint or provides additional information about a subject.



Example

Gives you an example of a specific subject.

3. Overview

Ground loops in signal lines are well known in data acquisition systems. Measurement errors, higher noise or even damage of the DAQ-System or the connected sensors are the result of these GND-Loops.

But what about the power supply? Are GND-loops possible there as well? Yes, it is exactly the same at non isolated power supply concepts! Care must be taken when supplying multiple devices – even if each device itself has a correct over-voltage and reverse polarity protection like the complete DAQ-System series from Dewesoft (like Sirius, DEWE-43...).

This is the price for higher efficiency and wider input range of non isolated power supplies.

4. Detailed description

4.1. Supply topology

The picture below shows a typical configuration. A sensor and the DAQ-System are supplied out by the same DC power supply (e.g. the vehicle on board network). You can see that the GND is connected from two points: The main current flows along the blue thick line ("high current path"), to the load and back. But the GND of both devices are also connected together, through the sensor output and DAQ input.

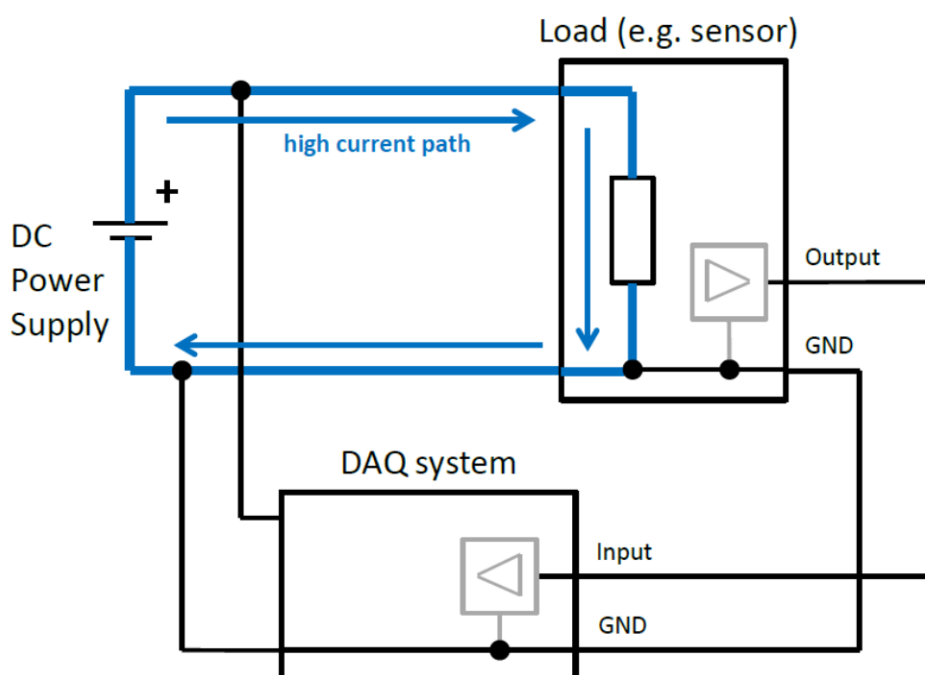


Image 1: A typical sensor supply configuration



Hint

In general, this supply configuration is also valid connecting two DAQ systems together. The additional connection may be also something else than the sensor input: e.g. be the common GND of the data path (USB-GND) or the common GND of the sync bus.

4.2. Error case with broken GND cable

You can imagine what will happen when the “high-current path” is open. The current will flow a different way. Now the return supply path of the sensor is routed through the GND of the sensor input from the DAQ device.

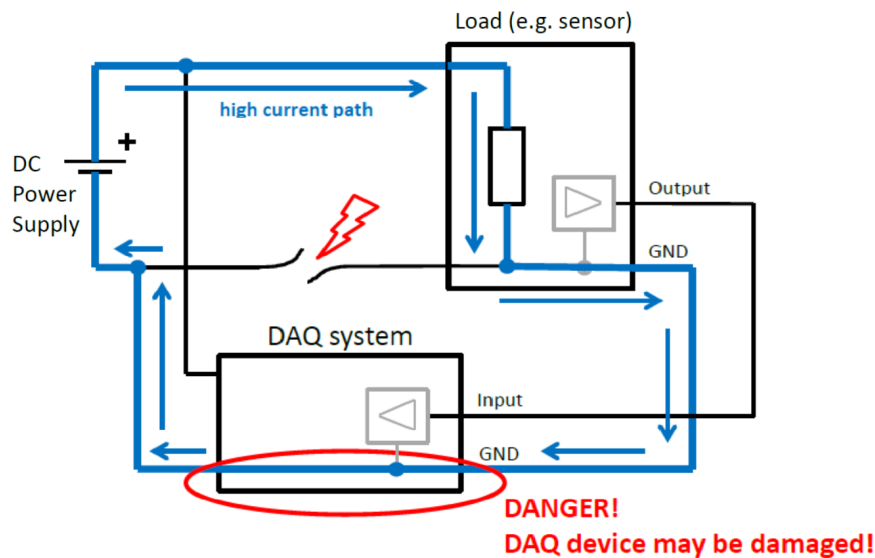


Image 2: Error case with broken GND cable



Important

Usually the internal circuitry is not capable of driving this high current. So the DAQ device may be damaged.

4.3. Error case with not symmetric supply line resistor

In practice the supply wiring is more complicated like shown in this basic diagram. A cable brake on the supply line is for sure the worst case. But also line resistances in the supply lines combined with different supply current levels will cause unintentional current flow through the DAQ-system like shown below.

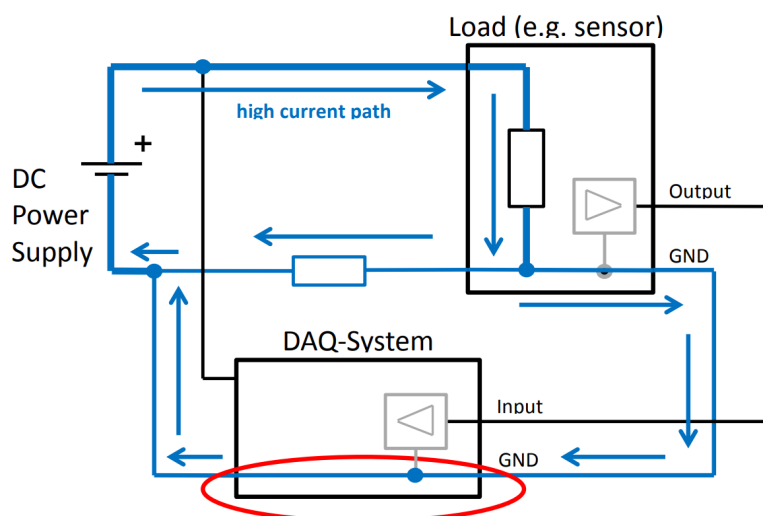


Image 3: Asymmetric supply line

5. Solution

5.1. Supply protection box

An external fuse in the GND line solves this problem already. If the current through the supply line is too high, the fuse will blow. Therefore no damage on the DAQ-system or the sensor may happen.

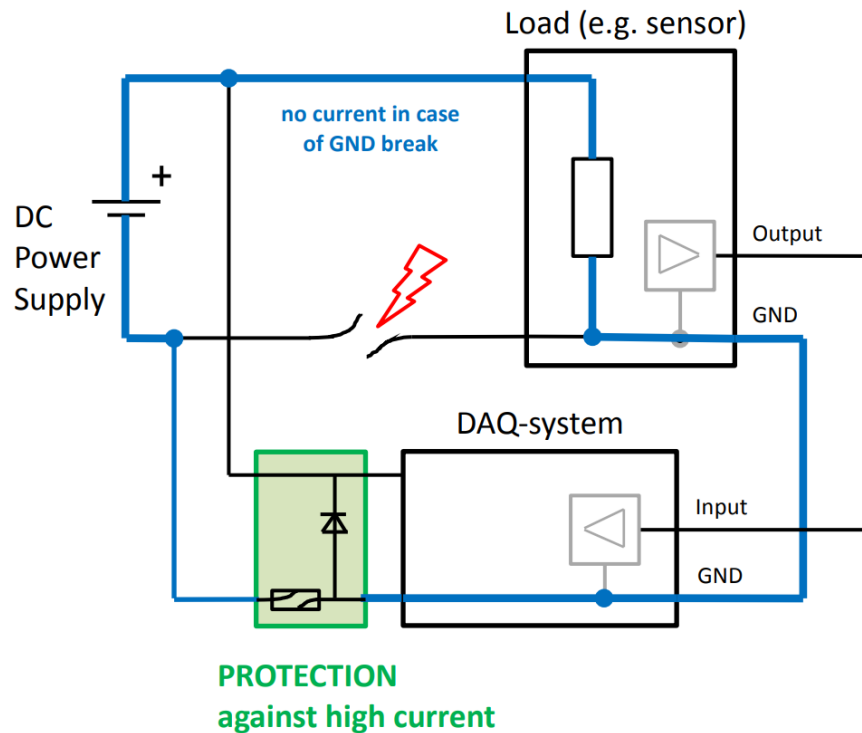


Image 4: The external fuse in the GND line

In addition the supply protection box provides reverse polarity protection. The current is shorted over the diode (failure current does not flow through the sensor) and will blow up the fuse.

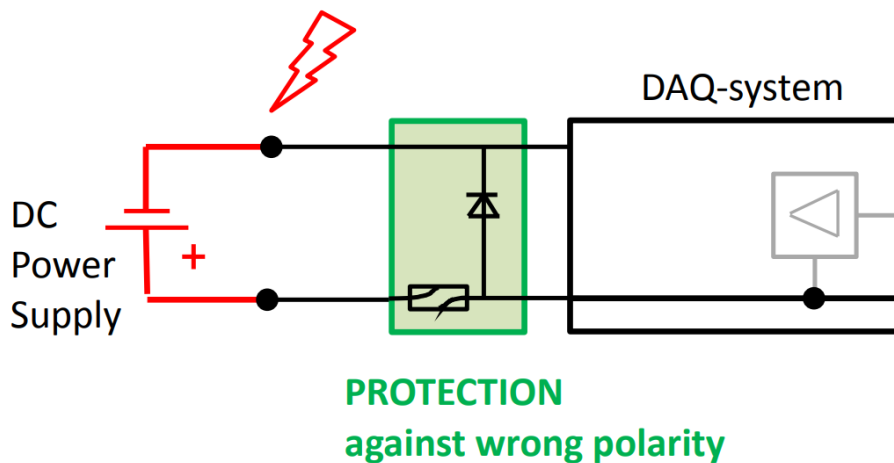


Image 5: Reverse polarity protection

5.2. Isolated power supply

Another way of protecting the DAQ device is the usage of the “DS isoPower 75W”. This box includes a DC/DC converter which galvanically isolates the power supply input of the DAQ System (the example shows the DEWE-43 V). Due to the isolation, no error current is possible through the supply line.



Image 6: Galvanically isolated power supply

The final result is the same: reverse polarity protection of the supply line.



Hint

This isolated power supply device is useful only with an older hardware. All new Dewesoft devices have the power supply input isolated.

DEWE-43 Hardware revisions:

DEWE-43 V	Initial version
DEWE-43 A	Added isolated CAN ports
DEWE-43 A ISO-POWER	Added isolated power supply

6. Warranty information

Notice

The information contained in this document is subject to change without notice.

Note:

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The copy of the specific warranty terms applicable to your Dewesoft product and replacement parts can be obtained from your local sales and service office. To find a local dealer for your country, please visit <https://dewesoft.com/support/distributors>.

Calibration

Every instrument needs to be calibrated at regular intervals. The standard norm across nearly every industry is annual calibration. Before your Dewesoft data acquisition system is delivered, it is calibrated. Detailed calibration reports for your Dewesoft system can be requested. We retain them for at least one year, after system delivery.

Support

Dewesoft has a team of people ready to assist you if you have any questions or any technical difficulties regarding the system. For any support please contact your local distributor first or Dewesoft directly.

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Europe Tel.: +386 356 25 300
Web: <http://www.dewesoft.com>
Email: Support@dewesoft.com
The telephone hotline is available Monday to Friday from 07:00 to 16:00 CET (GMT +1:00)

Service/repair

The team of Dewesoft also performs any kinds of repairs to your system to assure a safe and proper operation in the future. For information regarding service and repairs please contact your local distributor first or Dewesoft directly on <https://dewesoft.com/support/rma-service>.

Restricted Rights

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7. Safety instructions

Your safety is our primary concern! Please be safe!

Safety symbols in the manual



Warning

Calls attention to a procedure, practice, or condition that could cause the body injury or death



Caution

Calls attention to a procedure, practice, or condition that could possibly cause damage to equipment or permanent loss of data.

General Safety Instructions



Warning

The following general safety precautions must be observed during all phases of operation, service, and repair of this product. Failure to comply with these precautions or with specific warnings elsewhere in this manual violates safety standards of design, manufacture, and intended use of the product. Dewesoft GmbH assumes no liability for the customer's failure to comply with these requirements.

All accessories shown in this document are available as an option and will not be shipped as standard parts.

Environmental Considerations

Information about the environmental impact of the product.

Product End-of-Life Handling

Observe the following guidelines when recycling a Dewesoft system:

System and Components Recycling

Production of these components required the extraction and use of natural resources. The substances contained in the system could be harmful to your health and to the environment if the system is improperly handled at its end of life! Please recycle this product in an appropriate way to avoid unnecessary pollution of the environment and to keep natural resources.



This symbol indicates that this system complies with the European Union's requirements according to Directive 2002/96/EC on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). Please find further information about recycling on the Dewesoft web site www.dewesoft.com

 Restriction of Hazardous Substances

This product has been classified as Monitoring and Control equipment and is outside the scope of the 2002/95/EC RoHS Directive. However, we take care of our environment and the product is lead-free.

General safety and hazard warnings for all Dewesoft systems

Safety of the operator and the unit depend on following these rules.

- Use this system under the terms of the specifications only to avoid any possible danger.
- Read your manual before operating the system.
- Observe local laws when using the instrument.
- DO NOT touch internal wiring!
- DO NOT use higher supply voltage than specified!
- Use only original plugs and cables for harnessing.
- You may not connect higher voltages than rated to any connectors.
- The power cable and connector serve as Power-Breaker. The cable must not exceed 3 meters, the disconnect function must be possible without tools.
- Maintenance must be executed by qualified staff only.
- During the use of the system, it might be possible to access other parts of a more comprehensive system. Please read and follow the safety instructions provided in the manuals of all other components regarding warning and security advice for using the system.
- With this product, only use the power cable delivered or defined for the host country.
- DO NOT connect or disconnect sensors, probes or test leads, as these parts are connected to a voltage supply unit.
- Ground the equipment: For Safety Class 1 equipment (equipment having a protective earth terminal), a non-interruptible safety earth ground must be provided from the mains power source to the product input wiring terminals.
- Please note the characteristics and indicators on the system to avoid fire or electric shocks. Before connecting the system, please read the corresponding specifications in the product manual carefully.

- The inputs must not, unless otherwise noted (CATx identification), be connected to the main circuit of category II, III and IV.
- The power cord separates the system from the power supply. Do not block the power cord, since it has to be accessible for the users.
- DO NOT use the system if equipment covers or shields are removed.
- If you assume the system is damaged, get it examined by authorized personnel only.
- Adverse environmental conditions are Moisture or high humidity Dust, flammable gases, fumes or dissolver Thunderstorm or thunderstorm conditions (except assembly PNA) Electrostatic fields, etc.
- The measurement category can be adjusted depending on module configuration.
- Any other use than described above may damage your system and is attended with dangers like short-circuiting, fire or electric shocks.
- The whole system must not be changed, rebuilt or opened.
- DO NOT operate damaged equipment: Whenever it is possible that the safety protection features built into this product have been impaired, either through physical damage, excessive moisture, or any other reason, REMOVE POWER and do not use the product until the safe operation can be verified by service-trained personnel. If necessary, return the product to Dewesoft sales and service office for service and repair to ensure that safety features are maintained.
- If you assume a more riskless use is not provided anymore, the system has to be rendered inoperative and should be protected against inadvertent operation. It is assumed that a more riskless operation is not possible anymore if the system is damaged obviously or causes strange noises. The system does not work anymore. The system has been exposed to long storage in adverse environments. The system has been exposed to heavy shipment strain.
- Warranty void if damages caused by disregarding this manual. For consequential damages, NO liability will be assumed!
- Warranty void if damage to property or persons caused by improper use or disregarding the safety instructions.
- Unauthorized changing or rebuilding the system is prohibited due to safety and permission reasons (CE).
- Be careful with voltages >25 VAC or >35 VDC! These voltages are already high enough in order to get a perilous electric shock by touching the wiring.
- The product heats during operation. Make sure there is adequate ventilation. Ventilation slots must not be covered!
- Only fuses of the specified type and nominal current may be used. The use of patched fuses is prohibited.
- Prevent using metal bare wires! Risk of short circuit and fire hazard!
- DO NOT use the system before, during or shortly after a thunderstorm (risk of lightning and high energy over-voltage). An advanced range of application under certain conditions is allowed with therefore designed products only. For details please refer to the specifications.
- Make sure that your hands, shoes, clothes, the floor, the system or measuring leads, integrated circuits and so on, are dry.
- DO NOT use the system in rooms with flammable gases, fumes or dust or in adverse environmental conditions.
- Avoid operation in the immediate vicinity of high magnetic or electromagnetic fields, transmitting antennas or high-frequency generators, for exact values please refer to enclosed specifications.
- Use measurement leads or measurement accessories aligned with the specification of the system only. Fire hazard in case of overload!

- Do not switch on the system after transporting it from a cold into a warm room and vice versa. The thereby created condensation may damage your system. Acclimatise the system unpowered to room temperature.
- Do not disassemble the system! There is a high risk of getting a perilous electric shock. Capacitors still might be charged, even if the system has been removed from the power supply.
- The electrical installations and equipment in industrial facilities must be observed by the security regulations and insurance institutions.
- The use of the measuring system in schools and other training facilities must be observed by skilled personnel.
- The measuring systems are not designed for use in humans and animals.
- Please contact a professional if you have doubts about the method of operation, safety or the connection of the system.
- Please be careful with the product. Shocks, hits and dropping it from already- lower level may damage your system.
- Please also consider the detailed technical reference manual as well as the security advice of the connected systems.
- This product has left the factory in safety-related flawlessness and in proper condition. In order to maintain this condition and guarantee safety use, the user has to consider the security advice and warnings in this manual.

EN 61326-3-1:2008

IEC 61326-1 applies to this part of IEC 61326 but is limited to systems and equipment for industrial applications intended to perform safety functions as defined in IEC 61508 with SIL 1-3.

The electromagnetic environments encompassed by this product family standard are industrial, both indoor and outdoor, as described for industrial locations in IEC 61000-6-2 or defined in 3.7 of IEC 61326-1.

Equipment and systems intended for use in other electromagnetic environments, for example, in the process industry or in environments with potentially explosive atmospheres, are excluded from the scope of this product family standard, IEC 61326-3-1.

Devices and systems according to IEC 61508 or IEC 61511 which are considered as “operationally well-tried”, are excluded from the scope of IEC 61326-3-1.

Fire-alarm and safety-alarm systems, intended for the protection of buildings, are excluded from the scope of IEC 61326-3-1.

Documentation version history

Version	Date	Notes
V20-1	29-12-2020	New template