

Improving the Accuracy of the TC1066/TCM1617/TC1068 Thermal Diode Temperature Sensor IC

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INTRODUCTION

The TC1066/TCM1617/TC1068 is optimized for use with modern CPUs and ASICs that have integrated thermal diodes on-chip. This temperature proportional signal is acquired remotely via the D+ and D- inputs. It also has an on-board solid state sensor for acquiring the temperature of its own die (usually ambient temperature).

Any temperature sensing circuit will have some finite error components. Normally, for digital temperature sensors, it is fairly convenient to factor out, via software compensation, any systematic errors. For example, if it is known that the sensor will read +2.5°C high under a certain electrical or thermal condition, the user can apply a consistent offset in software to correct for it. This application note will show how to apply a compensation scheme to the TC1066/TCM1617/TC1068 to improve its accuracy under certain conditions.

SOFTWARE COMPENSATION

In a typical application, it may be possible that the TC1066/TCM1617/TC1068 die temperature is significantly lower than that of the remote P-N junction diode. This would be true if the TC1066/TCM1617/TC1068 is mounted on a PC motherboard a significant distance away from the CPU. Such a condition can increase the error associated with the external diode. This error manifests itself as an offset to the *remote* temperature reading. Depending on the magnitude of the temperature delta, it is possible to subtract the induced error and produce an accurate result. In the case of the TC1066/TCM1617/TC1068 (rev. 01), the relationship of error vs. delta is described below.

$$T_{ERR-REMOTE} = 0.0855 \times (T_{REMOTE-READ} - T_{LOCAL-READ}) - 0.4$$

Where $T_{REMOTE-READ}$ is the raw data read for the remote or external sensor. $T_{LOCAL-READ}$ is the raw data read for the local or internal sensor.

After $T_{ERR-REMOTE}$ is calculated for any given set of readings, it should be subtracted from $T_{REMOTE-READ}$ to arrive at the corrected remote temperature.

$$T_{REMOTE-CORRECTED} = T_{REMOTE-READ} - T_{ERR-REMOTE}$$

TC1066/TCM1617/TC1068

Unlike some competing devices, the TC1066/TCM1617/TC1068 has a provision for detecting its presence, identity, and hardware revision. This is accomplished via the MFR_ID and MFR_REV registers (see TC1066/TCM1617/TC1068 datasheet). The MFR_ID register will contain 01010100b (ASCII for "T"). The MFR_REV register will contain 00000001b for rev. 01. This application note applies to hardware **revision 01 only**. Future revisions of the TC1066/TCM1617/TC1068 may not require this compensation scheme. However, it will not require software updates in the host system if MFR_REV is checked.

Also, if alternative temperature sensor devices are to be used in the same system, the MFR_ID (unique to Microchip) can differentiate between them and the TC1066/TCM1617/TC1068 and the host software can branch accordingly.

RECOMMENDATIONS

With this software compensation scheme it is possible to obtain remote sensing performance that is superior to that specified in the datasheet. Additionally, if this socket is multiple sourced, the software has a means to differentiate and apply the compensation scheme only to those applicable versions (Microchip TC1066/TCM1617/TC1068) which can benefit.

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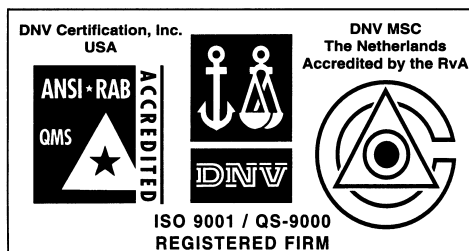
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