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APPLICATION NOTE 4284

External Temperature Sensor Calibration for the MAX16031/MAX16032 System Monitors

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Abstract: The MAX16031/MAX16032 system monitors support external diode-connected transistors to sense remote temperatures. Diode-connected transistors exhibit temperature-dependent characteristics, which can be measured using a simple process. These characteristics are slightly different depending on the type of transistor; therefore, a calibration process needs to be performed before the MAX16031/MAX16032 can produce accurate temperature readings.

The MAX16031/MAX16032 EEPROM-configurable system monitors are designed to monitor voltages, temperatures, and current in complex systems. These EEPROM-configurable devices allow enormous flexibility in selecting operating ranges; upper and lower limits for temperature, voltage, and current; fault output configuration; and operating modes with the capability of storing these values within the device.

The MAX16031 monitors up to eight voltages, three temperatures (one internal/two external remote temperature diodes), and a single current. The MAX16032 monitors up to six voltages and two temperatures (one internal/one remote temperature diode). Each of these monitored parameters is multiplexed into the ADC and written to its respective register that can be read back through the SMBus™ and JTAG interfaces.

Calibration parameters located in the EEPROM for the external temperature sensors must be set by the customer, as they are dependant upon the type of diode used in the application circuit. This application note provides a procedure for calibrating the external temperature sensors. A general, two-current method for measuring temperature is presented briefly, followed by the specific two-current implementation used by the MAX16031/MAX16032. Also provided is a specific calibration procedure that uses a diode-connected 2N3904 transistor as an example.

Temperature Sensing Review

All semiconductor devices exhibit temperature dependencies. Of special interest is the IV curve of a forward-biased PN junction, which depends heavily on temperature. The following diode equation models this behavior:

$$I = I_S \left[e^{\left(\frac{qV_{BE}}{nkT} \right)} - 1 \right]$$

Eq. 1

where T is the temperature measured in Kelvins, n is the diode ideality factor, k is Boltzmann's constant (1.38e-23), q is the charge of an electron (1.6e-19), V_{BE} is the base-emitter voltage, I_S is the reverse saturation current, and I is the diode current.

A simple, yet accurate way to sense the temperature is to force two different currents through a diode and take the voltage difference between the base emitter voltages for each current. This cancels out the dependency on I_S and makes the relationship between the base-emitter voltage difference and temperature quite linear. The following equation shows how this works for two currents, I_H and I_L.

$$\Delta V_{BE} = n \frac{kT}{q} \times \ln\left(\frac{I_H}{I_L}\right) \quad \text{Eq. 2}$$

where ΔV_{BE} is the difference in base-emitter voltages at both currents, I_H is the higher forcing current, and I_L is the lower forcing current. The other parameters remain the same from before. Solving for T and converting to degrees Celsius yields the following:

$$T(^{\circ}\text{C}) = \Delta V_{BE} \frac{q}{nk \times \ln\left(\frac{I_H}{I_L}\right)} - 273 \quad \text{Eq. 3}$$

This equation shows that the temperature is directly proportional to ΔV_{BE} with a ratio determined by physical constants, the diode ideality factor, and the ratio of the two sensing currents.

MAX16031/MAX16032 Temperature Sensing

The MAX16031/MAX16032 measure the temperature of the external temperature diodes using the two-current technique discussed in the last section. After scaling and converting ΔV_{BE} to a digital code, the device subtracts a fixed code representing the -273.15 degree offset. The resulting number is the temperature in degrees Celsius with a resolution of 0.5°.

The temperature-sensing circuitry requires calibration to compensate for different diode ideality factors. There are two calibration values required for each external temperature sensor in the MAX16031/MAX16032: a gain and an offset.

A gain value, stored in r19h[7:2] (sensor 1) and r4Fh[5:0] (sensor 2) controls the I_H current (the I_L current is fixed at 6μA). **Table 1** shows the bit weights for each gain register bit. For example, the value 110000b corresponds with an I_H of 84μA.

Table 1. Gain Register Bit Weights

r19h[7:2], r4Fh[5:0] Bit	I _H Value Added to 80μA (μA)	
	Logic '1'	Logic '0'
0	+0.25	0.0
1	+0.25	0.0
2	+0.5	0.0
3	+1.0	0.0
4	0.0	+2.0
5	+4.0	0.0

The offset value, located in r1Bh[7:5] (sensor 1) and r4Dh[6:4] (sensor 2), gets added to the temperature conversion result to compensate for offset errors. **Table 2** shows the possible offset values.

Table 2. Offset Register Values

r1Bh[7:5], r4Dh[6:4] Value	Offset (°C)
100	+8
101	+6
110	+4
111	+2
000	0
001	-2
010	-4
011	-6

When using the MAX16031 evaluation kit (EV kit), the software provides convenient access to each calibration register through the **Temperature Settings** dialog shown in **Figure 1**. From the **Current and Temperature** tab (seen in **Figure 2**), click the blue **External Temperature 1** or **External Temperature 2** link to access the settings dialog for each temperature-monitoring channel.

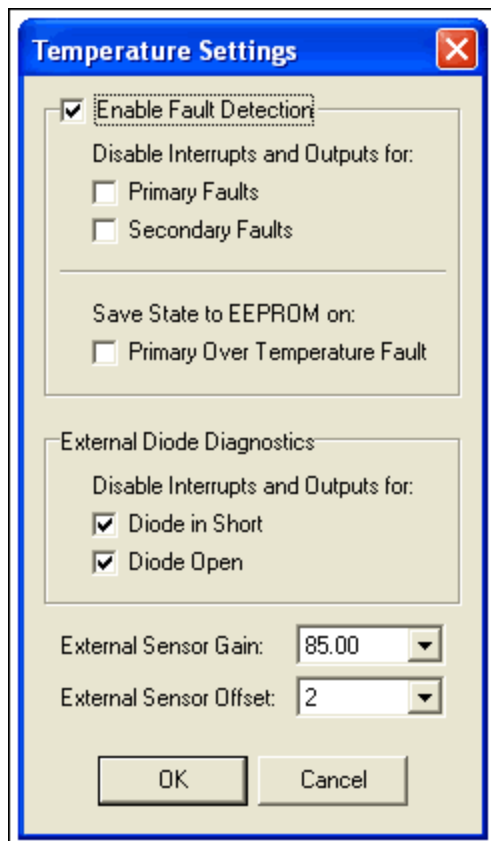


Figure 1. Temperature Settings dialog.

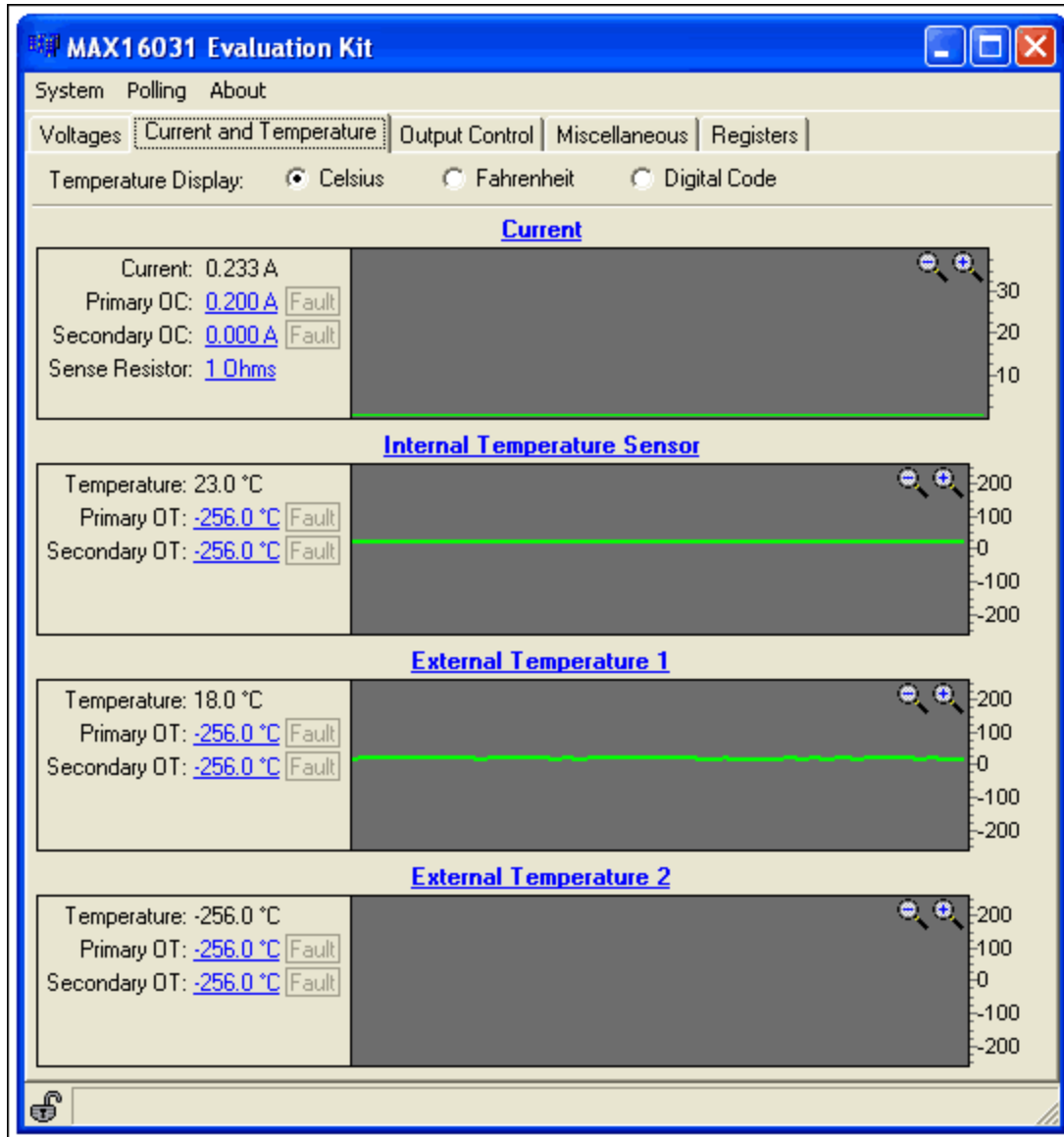


Figure 2. Current and Temperature tab.

During the calibration procedure, as well as during normal operation, it is very helpful to enable the built-in digital temperature sensor filter. In the EV kit software, choose a center frequency from the **Temp sense filter time constant** dropdown list located in the **Miscellaneous** tab. This corresponds with register r5Bh[6:4], which is described in **Table 3**.

Table 3. Temperature Sensor Digital Filter

r5Bh[6:4] Value	Cutoff Frequency (Hz)
000	Filter Disabled
001	2.53
010	5.06
011	10.1
100	20.2
101	40.5
110	81
111	162

Calibration Procedure

To calibrate the temperature-sensor circuit of the MAX16031/MAX16032, data needs to be taken at two different temperatures. The temperatures should be widely separated for best results. For simplicity, the first temperature may be +25°C. For better accuracy, the second temperature should be higher than room temperature rather than lower; a good value is +85°C. For the best accuracy, data should be taken at -40°C and +85°C. The following MAX16031 example takes calibration data at +25°C and +85°C, and uses a Fairchild 2N3904 transistor in the diode-connected configuration—the collector and base shorted together.

For best results, the sensor being calibrated should be immersed in a nonconductive fluid in a temperature-controlled bath. The example uses Fluorinert™ FC-77, although other fluids such as mineral oil may also work. If such equipment is not available, a commercially-available toaster oven may suffice if the sensor is attached to a metal object with a large thermal mass—this increases temperature stability during calibration. Use an accurate thermocouple with good thermal coupling to the sensor in order to measure the temperature.

Use the following procedure to gather the calibration data:

1. Make sure the offset register is set to zero.
2. Set the temperature to the low value (in this example, +25°C), allowing enough time for stabilization.
3. Set the gain register to 80µA.
4. Record the digital value returned by the MAX16031.
5. Repeat step 4 for every possible gain register value.
6. Set the temperature to the high value (in this example, +85°C), allowing enough time for stabilization.
7. Repeat steps 3, 4, and 5.

Several simple calculations should be performed once the data is collected. For each temperature collected from the MAX16031, calculate the error value:

$$T_{ERR} = T_{MAX16031} - T_{MEASURED} \quad \text{Eq. 4}$$

Then, calculate the difference between each error value for a single gain value:

$$\Delta = T_{ERR_85} - T_{ERR_25} \quad \text{Eq. 5}$$

Table 4 shows the example calibration data. The columns **Gain Reg Code** and **Gain Value (μA)** show the gain register setting as both a hex code and as the equivalent current source value. The **T_{MAX16031} (°C)** column shows the readings obtained from the MAX16031 temperature-conversion-result registers for each gain setting at both the low temperature (+25°C) and the high temperature (+85°C). The **T_{ERR} (°C)** column lists the error (difference) between the temperatures recorded by the MAX16031 and the actual, measured temperatures. The **Δ (°C)** column lists the differences between the error values recorded at the high temperature and the low temperature.

Table 4. Example Calibration Data

Gain Reg Code	Gain Value (μA)	T _{MAX16031} (°C)		T _{ERR} (°C)		Δ (°C)
		+25	+85	+25	+85	
0x10	80	17.5	75	-7.5	-10	-2.5
0x12	80.25	17.5	75.5	-7.5	-9.5	-2
0x14	80.5	17.5	76	-7.5	-9	-1.5
0x16	80.75	18	76.5	-7	-8.5	-1.5
0x18	81	18.5	76.5	-6.5	-8.5	-2
0x1A	81.25	18.5	77	-6.5	-8	-1.5
0x1C	81.5	19	77.5	-6	-7.5	-1.5
0x1E	81.75	19.5	78	-5.5	-7	-1.5
0x0	82	20	78.5	-5	-6.5	-1.5
0x2	82.25	20	79	-5	-6	-1
0x4	82.5	20.5	79	-4.5	-6	-1.5
0x6	82.75	21	79.5	-4	-5.5	-1.5
0x8	83	21	80	-4	-5	-1
0xA	83.25	21.5	80.5	-3.5	-4.5	-1
0xC	83.5	22	81	-3	-4	-1
0xE	83.75	22.5	81.5	-2.5	-3.5	-1
0x30	84	22.5	82	-2.5	-3	-0.5
0x32	84.25	23	82	-2	-3	-1
0x34	84.5	23	82.5	-2	-2.5	-0.5
0x36	84.75	23.5	83	-1.5	-2	-0.5
0x38	85	24	83.5	-1	-1.5	-0.5
0x3A	85.25	24.5	83.5	-0.5	-1.5	-1
0x3C	85.5	24.5	84	-0.5	-1	-0.5
0x3E	85.75	25	84.5	0	-0.5	-0.5
0x20	86	25.5	85	0.5	0	-0.5
0x22	86.25	25.5	85	0.5	0	-0.5
0x24	86.5	26	85.5	1	0.5	-0.5
0x26	86.75	26.5	86	1.5	1	-0.5
0x28	87	26.5	86.5	1.5	1.5	0
0x2A	87.25	27	87	2	2	0
0x2C	87.5	27.5	87	2.5	2	-0.5

0x2E	87.75	28	87.5	3	2.5	-0.5
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The next task is to find the gain and offset calibration parameters. Examine the Δ ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) column and find the cells with the values closest to zero. In this case, two rows for gain settings of 87 and 87.25 contain zero. This corresponds to a slope of zero, meaning there is negligible gain error. Next, examine the **TERR** ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) values for these rows and choose the row containing error values that can be subtracted out using the offset register. In the example, the row with an offset error of 2 is chosen so that the offset register value of '001' can cancel it out.

The values obtained for the offset and gain registers may now be loaded into the EEPROM configuration registers of the MAX16031 monitor used in the application circuit. The same values can be used every time, resulting in reasonable accuracy.

To increase the accuracy, the gain parameter can be programmed in circuit for each unit at board test time. Place an accurate thermocouple near the device and measure the temperature. Adjust the gain register contents until the MAX16031 temperature matches the measured temperature.

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Related Parts

MAX16031	EEPROM-Based System Monitors with Nonvolatile Fault Memory	Free Samples
MAX16032	EEPROM-Based System Monitors with Nonvolatile Fault Memory	Free Samples

More Information

For Technical Support: <http://www.maximintegrated.com/support>

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