

Low Voltage, High Accuracy Temperature Monitor with I²C Interface

NCT218

The NCT218 is a dual-channel digital thermometer and undertemperature/overtemperature alarm, intended for use in thermal management systems requiring low power and size. The NCT218 operates over a supply range of 1.4 V to 2.75 V making it possible to use it in a wide range of applications including low power devices.

The NCT218 can measure the temperature of a remote thermal diode accurate to $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ and the ambient temperature accurate to $\pm 1.75^{\circ}\text{C}$. The device operates over a wide temperature range of -40°C to $+125^{\circ}\text{C}$.

The NCT218 includes series resistance cancellation, where up to 500 Ω (typical) of resistance in series with the temperature monitoring diode can be automatically cancelled from the temperature result, allowing noise filtering. The NCT218 has a configurable ALERT output and overtemperature shutdown THERM pin.

Communication with the NCT218 is accomplished via the I²C interface which is compatible with industry standard protocols. Through this interface the NCT218s internal registers may be accessed. These registers allow the user to read the current temperature from both the local (ambient) and remote channels, change the configuration settings and adjust each channels limits.

An ALERT output signals when the on-chip or remote temperatures are out of range. The THERM output is a comparator output that can be used to shut down the system if it exceeds the programmed limit. The ALERT output can be reconfigured as a second THERM output, if required.

Features

- Small DFN Package
- On-Chip and Remote Temperature Sensor
- Low Voltage Operation: 1.4 V to 2.75 V
- Low Quiescent Current:
 - ♦ 44 μA Normal Mode (max)
 - ♦ 20 μA Shutdown (max)
- Power Saving Shutdown Mode
- Operating Temperature Range of -40°C to 125°C
- Series Resistance Cancellation up to 500 Ω
- Low D- bias for Operation with Low Voltage Processors
- 2-wire I²C Serial Interface
- Programmable Over/Undertemperature Limits
- These are Pb-Free Devices

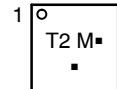
Applications

- Smart Phones, Tablet PCs, Satellite Navigation, Smart Batteries

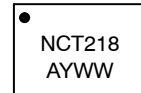
MARKING DIAGRAMS



DFN8
MT SUFFIX
CASE 511BU



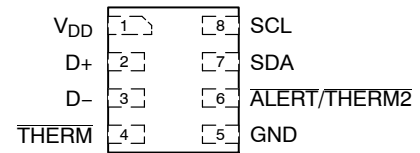
WLCSP8
CASE 567DH



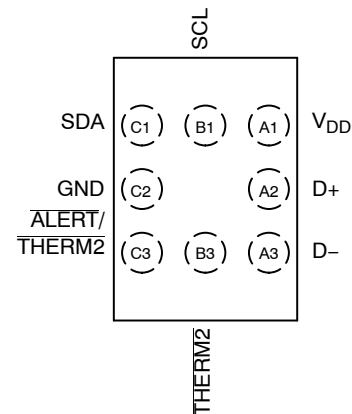
M = Date Code
AY = Assembly year
WW = Work Week
▪ = Pb-Free Device

(Note: Microdot may be in either location)

PIN ASSIGNMENTS



DFN8
(Top View)



WLCSP8
(Top View)

ORDERING INFORMATION

See detailed ordering and shipping information on page 16 of this data sheet.

NCT218

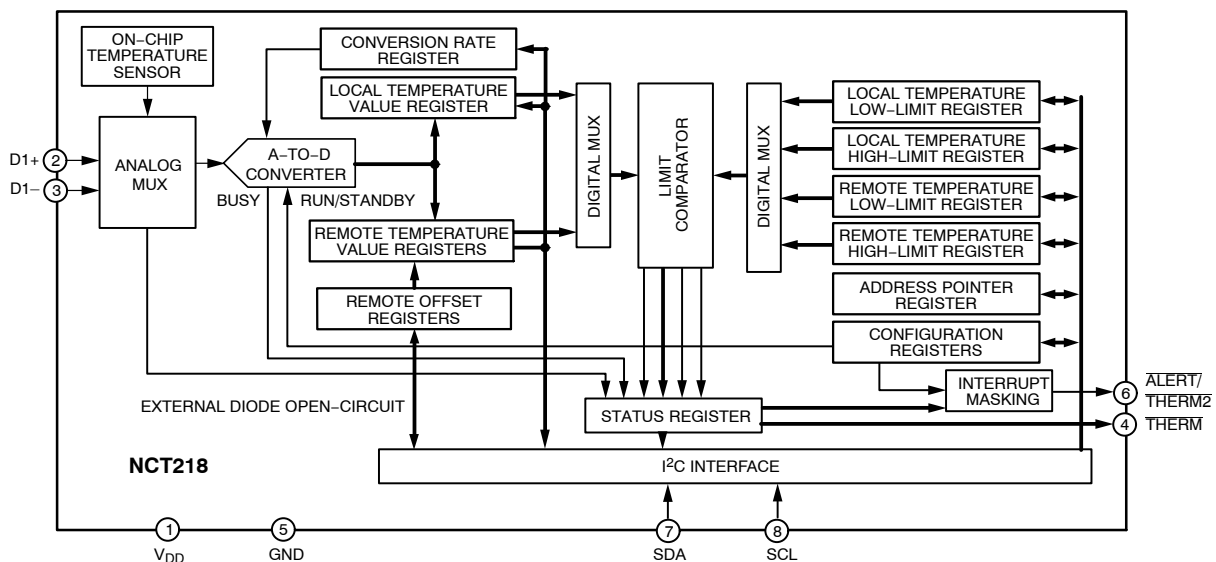


Figure 1. Functional Block Diagram

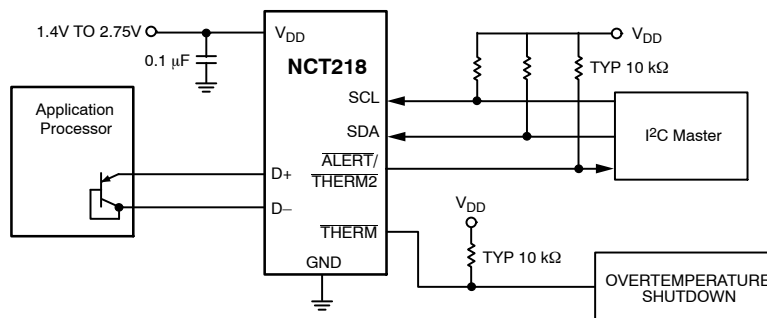


Figure 2. Typical Application Circuit

Table 1. PIN FUNCTION DESCRIPTION – DFN PACKAGE

Pin No.	Pin Name	Description
1	V _{DD}	Positive Supply, 1.4 V to 2.75 V
2	D1+	Positive Connection to Remote 1 Temperature Sensor.
3	D1–	Negative Connection to Remote 1 Temperature Sensor.
4	THERM	Open–Drain Output. Can be used to throttle a CPU clock in the event of an overtemperature condition. Requires pullup resistor to V _{DD} . Active low output.
5	GND	Supply Ground Connection.
6	ALERT/THERM2	Open–Drain Logic Output used as Interrupt. This can also be configured as a second THERM output. Requires pullup resistor to V _{DD} . Active low output.
7	SDA	Logic Input/Output, I ² C Serial Data. Requires pullup resistor to V _{DD} .
8	SCL	Logic Input, I ² C serial clock. Requires pullup resistor to V _{DD} .

Table 2. ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS (Note 1)

Rating	Symbol	Value	Unit
Supply Voltage (V_{DD}) to GND	V_{DD}	-0.3, +3	V
D+		-0.3 to $V_{DD} + 0.25$	V
D- to GND		-0.3 to +0.6	V
SCL, SDA, ALERT, THERM		-0.3 to +5.25	V
Input current on D-		± 1	mA
Input current on SDA, THERM	I_{IN}	-1, +50	mA
Maximum Junction Temperature	$T_{J(max)}$	150.7	°C
Operating Temperature Range	TOP	-40 to 125	°C
Storage Temperature Range	T_{STG}	-65 to 160	°C
ESD Capability, Human Body Model (Note 2)	ESD _{HBM}	2000	V
ESD Capability, Machine Model (Note 2)	ESD _{MM}	100	V

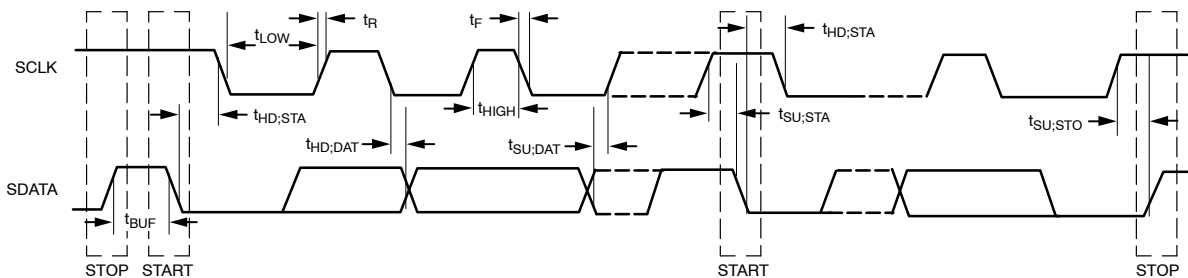
Stresses exceeding those listed in the Maximum Ratings table may damage the device. If any of these limits are exceeded, device functionality should not be assumed, damage may occur and reliability may be affected.

1. Refer to ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS and APPLICATION INFORMATION for Safe Operating Area.
2. This device series incorporates ESD protection and is tested by the following methods:
ESD Human Body Model tested per AEC-Q100-002 (EIA/JESD22-A114)
ESD Machine Model tested per AEC-Q100-003 (EIA/JESD22-A115)

Table 3. I²C TIMING – 400 kHz

Parameter (Note 3)	Symbol	Min	Typ	Max	Unit
Clock Frequency	f_{SCLK}	10		400	kHz
Clock Period	t_{SCLK}	2.5			μs
SCL High Time	t_{HIGH}	0.6			μs
SCL Low Time	t_{LOW}	1.3			μs
Start Setup Time	$t_{SU;STA}$	0.6			μs
Start Hold Time (Note 4)	$t_{HD;STA}$	0.6			μs
Data Setup Time (Note 5)	$t_{SU;DAT}$	100			ns
Data Hold Time (Note 6)	$t_{HD;DAT}$			0.9	μs
SCL, SDA Rise Time	t_r			300	ns
SCL, SDA Fall Time	t_f			300	ns
Stop Setup Time	$t_{SU;STO}$	0.6			μs
Bus Free Time	t_{BUF}	1.3			μs
Glitch Immunity	t_{SW}			50	ns

3. Guaranteed by design, but not production tested.
4. Time from 10% of SDA to 90% of SCL.
5. Time for 10% or 90% of SDA to 10% of SCL.
6. A device must internally provide a hold time of at least 300 ns for the SDA signal to bridge the undefined region of the falling edge of SCL.

**Figure 3. I²C Timing Diagram**

NCT218

Table 4. ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

($T_A = T_{MIN}$ to T_{MAX} , $V_{DD} = 1.6$ V to 2.75 V. All specifications for -40°C to $+125^{\circ}\text{C}$, unless otherwise noted.)

Parameter	Test Conditions	Min	Typ	Max	Unit
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TEMPERATURE SENSOR

Measurement Range		-40		+125	$^{\circ}\text{C}$
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REMOTE SENSOR ACCURACY

$V_{DD} = 1.6$ V to 2.75 V $T_A = 25^{\circ}\text{C}$ to 85°C	$T_D = -40^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $+125^{\circ}\text{C}$			± 1	$^{\circ}\text{C}$
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LOCAL SENSOR ACCURACY

$V_{DD} = 1.6$ V to 2.75 V	$T_A = 25^{\circ}\text{C}$ to 85°C $T_A = -40^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $+125^{\circ}\text{C}$			± 1.75 ± 3	$^{\circ}\text{C}$
Remote Sensor Source Current	High Level Middle Level Low Level		200 75 12.5		μA
D- Voltage			0.2		V
ADC Resolution			10		Bits
Conversion time			60		ms
Temperature Resolution			0.25		$^{\circ}\text{C}$
Series Resistance Cancelled	Per thermal input pin – 300 Ω total at 25°C		500		Ω
Undervoltage Lockout Threshold			1.32		V
Power-On Reset Threshold			0.9		V

POWER REQUIREMENTS

Supply Voltage		1.4		2.75	V
Quiescent Current (I_{DD})	$I^2\text{C}$ inactive – 0.0625 Conversions/Sec Rate, 1.8 V V_{DD} $I^2\text{C}$ active, 400 kHz		15 30	44	μA
Standby Current (I_{STBY})	$I^2\text{C}$ inactive $I^2\text{C}$ active, 400 kHz		1 10	20	μA

DIGITAL INPUT/OUTPUT

Input Logic Levels	V_{IH}	$0.7 \times V_{DD}$		2.75	V
	V_{IL}	-0.5		$0.3 \times V_{DD}$	V
Input Current	$0 < V_{IN} < 2.75$ V			1	μA
Output Logic Levels V_{OL} SDA, ALERT, THERM	$V_{DD} > 2$ V, $I_{OL} = 3$ mA	0		0.4	V
	$V_{DD} < 2$ V, $I_{OL} = 3$ mA	0		$0.2 \times V_{DD}$	V

Product parametric performance is indicated in the Electrical Characteristics for the listed test conditions, unless otherwise noted. Product performance may not be indicated by the Electrical Characteristics if operated under different conditions.

Theory of Operation

The NCT218 is a local and remote temperature sensor and over/under temperature alarm, with the added ability to automatically cancel the effect of 500 Ω (typical) of resistance in series with the temperature monitoring diode. When the NCT218 is operating normally, the on-board ADC operates in a free running mode. The analog input multiplexer alternately selects either the on-chip temperature sensor to measure its local temperature or the remote temperature sensor. The ADC digitizes these signals and the results are stored in the local and remote temperature value registers.

The local and remote measurement results are compared with the corresponding high, low, and THERM temperature limits, stored in eight on-chip registers. Out-of-limit comparisons generate flags that are stored in the status register. A result that exceeds the high temperature limit or the low temperature limit causes the ALERT output to assert. The ALERT output also asserts if an external diode fault is detected. Exceeding the THERM temperature limits causes the THERM output to assert low. The ALERT output can be reprogrammed as a second THERM output.

The limit registers are programmed and the device controlled and configured via the serial I²C. The contents of any register are also read back via the I²C. Control and configuration functions consist of switching the device between normal operation and standby mode, selecting the temperature measurement range, masking or enabling the ALERT output, switching Pin 6 between ALERT and THERM2, and selecting the conversion rate.

Series Resistance Cancellation

Parasitic resistance to the D+ and D- inputs to the NCT218, seen in series with the remote diode, is caused by a variety of factors, including PCB track resistance and track length. This series resistance appears as a temperature offset in the remote sensor's temperature measurement. This error typically causes a 0.5°C offset per ohm of parasitic resistance in series with the remote diode.

The NCT218 automatically cancels the effect of this series resistance on the temperature reading, giving a more accurate result, without the need for user characterization of this resistance. The NCT218 is designed to automatically cancel typically up to 150 Ω of resistance. By using an advanced temperature measurement method, this process is transparent to the user. This feature permits resistances to be added to the sensor path to produce a filter, allowing the part to be used in noisy environments. See the section on Noise Filtering for more details.

Temperature Measurement Method

A simple method of measuring temperature is to exploit the negative temperature coefficient of a diode, measuring the base emitter voltage (V_{BE}) of a transistor operated at constant current. However, this technique requires calibration to null the effect of the absolute value of V_{BE} , which varies from device to device.

The technique used in the NCT218 measures the change in V_{BE} when the device operates at three different currents. Previous devices used only two operating currents, but it is the use of a third current that allows automatic cancellation of resistances in series with the external temperature sensor. Figure 4 shows the input signal conditioning used to measure the output of an external temperature sensor. This figure shows the external sensor as a substrate transistor, but it can equally be a discrete transistor. If a discrete transistor is used, the collector is not grounded but is linked to the base. To prevent ground noise interfering with the measurement, the more negative terminal of the sensor is not referenced to ground, but is biased above ground by an internal resistor at the D- input. C1 may be added as a noise filter (a recommended maximum value of 1000 pF). However, a better option in noisy environments is to add a filter, as described in the Noise Filtering section. See the Layout Considerations section for more information on C1.

To measure ΔV_{BE} , the operating current through the sensor is switched among three related currents. As shown in Figure 4, $N1 \times I$ and $N2 \times I$ are different multiples of the current, I . The currents through the temperature diode are switched between I and $N1 \times I$, giving ΔV_{BE1} ; and then between I and $N2 \times I$, giving ΔV_{BE2} . The temperature is then calculated using the two ΔV_{BE} measurements. This method also cancels the effect of any series resistance on the temperature measurement.

The resulting ΔV_{BE} waveforms are passed through a 65 kHz low-pass filter to remove noise and then to a chopper-stabilized amplifier. This amplifies and rectifies the waveform to produce a dc voltage proportional to ΔV_{BE} . The ADC digitizes this voltage producing a temperature measurement. To reduce the effects of noise, digital filtering is performed by averaging the results of 16 measurement cycles for low conversion rates. At rates of 16-, 32- and 64-conversions/second, no digital averaging occurs. Signal conditioning and measurement of the internal temperature sensor are performed in the same manner.

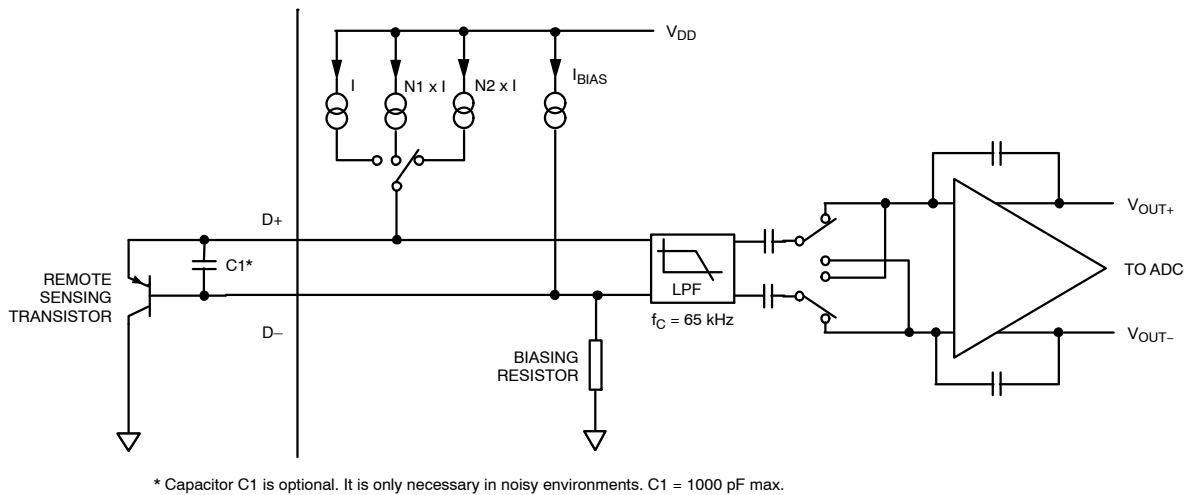


Figure 4. Input Signal Conditioning

Temperature Measurement Results

The results of the local and remote temperature measurements are stored in the local and remote temperature value registers and compared with limits programmed into the local and remote high and low limit registers.

The local temperature value is in Register 0x00 and has a resolution of 1°C. The external temperature value is stored in two registers, with the upper byte in Register 0x01 and the lower byte in Register 0x10. Only the two MSBs in the external temperature low byte are used giving the external temperature measurement a resolution of 0.25°C. Table 5 lists the data format for the external temperature low byte.

Table 5. EXTENDED TEMPERATURE RESOLUTION (Remote Temperature Low Byte)

Extended Resolution	Remote Temperature Low Byte
0.00°C	0 000 0000
0.25°C	0 100 0000
0.50°C	1 000 0000
0.75°C	1 100 0000

When reading the full external temperature value, read the LSB first. This causes the MSB to be locked (that is, the ADC does not write to it) until it is read. This feature ensures that the results read back from the two registers come from the same measurement.

Temperature Measurement Range

The temperature measurement range for both internal and external measurements is, by default, 0°C to +127°C. However, the NCT218 can be operated using an extended temperature range. The extended measurement range is -64°C to +191°C. Therefore, the NCT218 can be used to measure the full temperature range of an external diode, from -55°C to +150°C.

The extended temperature range is selected by setting Bit 2 of the configuration register to 1. The temperature range is 0°C to 127°C when Bit 2 equals 0. A valid result is available in the next measurement cycle after changing the temperature range.

In extended temperature mode, the upper and lower temperature that can be measured by the NCT218 is limited by the remote diode selection. The temperature registers can have values from -64°C to +191°C. However, most temperature sensing diodes have a maximum temperature range of -55°C to +150°C. Above +150°C, they may lose their semiconductor characteristics and approximate conductors instead. This results in a diode short. In this case, a read of the temperature result register gives the last good temperature measurement. Therefore, the temperature measurement on the external channel may not be accurate for temperatures that are outside the operating range of the remote sensor.

It should be noted that although both local and remote temperature measurements can be made while the part is in extended temperature mode, the NCT218 itself should not be exposed to temperatures greater than those specified in the absolute maximum ratings section. Further, the device is only guaranteed to operate as specified at ambient temperatures from -40°C to +125°C.

Temperature Data Format

The NCT218 has two temperature data formats. When the temperature measurement range is from 0°C to 127°C (default), the temperature data format for both internal and external temperature results is binary. When the measurement range is in extended mode, an offset binary data format is used for both internal and external results. Temperature values are offset by 64°C in the offset binary data format. Examples of temperatures in both data formats are shown in Table 6.

**Table 6. TEMPERATURE DATA FORMAT
(Temperature High Byte)**

Temperature	Binary	Offset Binary (Note 1)
-55°C	0 000 0000 (Note 2)	0 000 1001
0°C	0 000 0000	0 100 0000
+1°C	0 000 0001	0 100 0001
+10°C	0 000 1010	0 100 1010
+25°C	0 001 1001	0 101 1001
+50°C	0 011 0010	0 111 0010
+75°C	0 100 1011	1 000 1011
+100°C	0 110 0100	1 010 0100
+125°C	0 111 1101	1 011 1101
+127°C	0 111 1111	1 011 1111
+150°C	0 111 1111 (Note 3)	1 101 0110

1. Offset binary scale temperature values are offset by 64°C.
2. Binary scale temperature measurement returns 0°C for all temperatures < 0°C.
3. Binary scale temperature measurement returns 127°C for all temperatures > 127°C.

The user can switch between measurement ranges at any time. Switching the range likewise switches the data format. The next temperature result following the switching is reported back to the register in the new format. However, the contents of the limit registers do not change. It is up to the user to ensure that when the data format changes, the limit registers are reprogrammed as necessary. More information on this is found in the Limit Registers section.

NCT218 Registers

The NCT218 contains 22, 8-bit registers in total. These registers store the results of remote and local temperature measurements, high and low temperature limits, and configure and control the device. See the Address Pointer Register section through the Consecutive ALERT Register section of this data sheet for more information on the NCT218 registers. Additional details are shown in Table 7 through Table 11. The entire register map is available in Table 12.

Address Pointer Register

The address pointer register itself does not have, nor does it require, an address because the first byte of every write operation is automatically written to this register. The data in this first byte always contains the address of another register on the NCT218 that is stored in the address pointer register. It is to this register address that the second byte of a write operation is written, or to which a subsequent read operation is performed.

The power-on default value of the address pointer register is 0x00. Therefore, if a read operation is performed immediately after power-on, without first writing to the address pointer, the value of the local temperature is returned because its register address is 0x00.

Temperature Value Registers

The NCT218 has three registers to store the results of local and remote temperature measurements. These registers can only be written to by the ADC and can be read by the user over the I²C. The local temperature value register is at Address 0x00.

The external temperature value high byte register is at Address 0x01, with the low byte register at Address 0x10. The power-on default for all three registers is 0x00.

Configuration Register

The configuration register is Address 0x03 at read and Address 0x09 at write. Its power-on default is 0x00. Only four bits of the configuration register are used. Bit 0, Bit 1, Bit 3, and Bit 4 are reserved; only zeros should be written to these.

Bit 7 of the configuration register masks the ALERT output. If Bit 7 is 0, the ALERT output is enabled. This is the power-on default. If Bit 7 is set to 1, the ALERT output is disabled. This applies only if Pin 6 is configured as ALERT. If Pin 6 is configured as THERM2, then the value of Bit 7 has no effect.

If Bit 6 is set to 0, which is power-on default, the device is in operating mode with ADC converting. If Bit 6 is set to 1, the device is in standby mode and the ADC does not convert. The I²C does, however, remain active in standby mode; therefore, values can be read from or written to the NCT218 via the I²C. The ALERT and THERM output are also active in standby mode. Changes made to the register in standby mode that affect the THERM or ALERT outputs cause these signals to be updated.

Bit 5 determines the configuration of Pin 6 on the NCT218. If Bit 5 is 0 (default), then Pin 6 is configured as a ALERT output. If Bit 5 is 1, then Pin 6 is configured as a THERM2 output. Bit 7, the ALERT mask bit, is only active when Pin 6 is configured as an ALERT output. If Pin 6 is set up as a THERM2 output, then Bit 7 has no effect.

Bit 2 sets the temperature measurement range. If Bit 2 is 0 (default value), the temperature measurement range is set between 0°C to +127°C. Setting Bit 2 to 1 sets the measurement range to the extended temperature range (-64°C to +191°C).

Table 7. CONFIGURATION REGISTER BIT ASSIGNMENTS

Bit	Name	Function	Power-On Default
7	MASK1	0 = <u>ALERT</u> Enabled 1 = <u>ALERT</u> Masked	0
6	RUN/STOP	0 = Run 1 = Standby	0
5	<u>ALERT</u> / <u>THERM2</u>	0 = <u>ALERT</u> 1 = <u>THERM2</u>	0
4, 3	Reserved		0
2	Temperature Range Select	0 = 0°C to 127°C 1 = Extended Range	0
1, 0	Reserved		0

Conversion Rate Register

The conversion rate register is Address 0x04 at read and Address 0x0A at write. The lowest four bits of this register are used to program the conversion rate by dividing the internal oscillator clock by 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, 256, 512, 1024 to give conversion times from 15.5 ms (Code 0x0A) to 16 seconds (Code 0x00). For example, a conversion rate of eight conversions per second means that beginning at 125 ms intervals, the device performs a conversion on the internal and the external temperature channels.

The conversion rate register can be written to and read back over the I²C. The higher four bits of this register are unused and must be set to 0. The default value of this register is 0x08, giving a rate of 16 conversions per second. Use of slower conversion times greatly reduces the device power consumption.

Table 8. CONVERSION RATES

Code	Conversion/Second	Time (Seconds)
0x00	0.0625	16
0x01	0.125	8
0x02	0.25	4
0x03	0.5	2
0x04	1	1
0x05	2	500 m
0x06	4	250 m
0x07	8	125 m
0x08	16	62.5 m
0x09	32	31.25 m
0x0A	64	15.5 m
0x0B to 0xFF	Reserved	

Limit Registers

The NCT218 has eight limit registers: high, low, and THERM temperature limits for both local and remote temperature measurements. The remote temperature high and low limits span two registers each, to contain an upper and lower byte for each limit. There is also a THERM hysteresis register. All limit registers can be written to, and read by over I²C. See Table 12 for details of the limit register addresses and their power-on default values.

When Pin 6 is configured as an ALERT output, the high limit registers perform a > comparison, while the low limit registers perform a ≤ comparison. For example, if the high limit register is programmed with 80°C, then measuring 81°C results in an out-of-limit condition, setting a flag in the status register. If the low limit register is programmed with 0°C, measuring 0°C or lower results in an out-of-limit condition.

Exceeding either the local or remote THERM limit asserts THERM low. When Pin 6 is configured as THERM2, exceeding either the local or remote high limit asserts THERM2 low. A default hysteresis value of 10°C is

provided which applies to both THERM channels. This hysteresis value can be reprogrammed to any value after powerup (Register Address 0x21).

It is important to remember that the temperature limits data format is the same as the temperature measurement data format. Therefore, if the temperature measurement uses default binary, then the temperature limits also use the binary scale. If the temperature measurement scale is switched, however, the temperature limits do not automatically switch. The user must reprogram the limit registers to the desired value in the correct data format. For example, if the remote low limit is set at 10°C with the default binary scale, the limit register value is 0000 1010b. If the scale is switched to offset binary, the value in the low temperature limit register needs to be reprogrammed to 0100 1010b.

Status Register

The status register is a read-only register at Address 0x02. It contains status information for the NCT218. When Bit 7 of the status register is high, it indicates that the ADC is busy converting. The other bits in this register flag the out-of-limit temperature measurements (Bit 6 to Bit 3, and Bit 1 to Bit 0) and the remote sensor open circuit (Bit 2).

If Pin 6 is configured as an ALERT output, the following applies: If the local temperature measurement exceeds its limits, Bit 6 (high limit) or Bit 5 (low limit) of the status register asserts to flag this condition. If the remote temperature measurement exceeds its limits, then Bit 4 (high limit) or Bit 3 (low limit) asserts. Bit 2 asserts to flag an open circuit condition on the remote sensor. These five flags are NOR'ed together, so if any of them is high, the ALERT interrupt latch is set and the ALERT output goes low.

Reading the status register clears the five flags, Bit 6 to Bit 2, provided the error conditions causing the flags to be set have gone away. A flag bit can be reset only if the corresponding value register contains an in-limit measurement or if the sensor is good.

The ALERT interrupt latch (output) is reset by either reading the status register or by issuing the device with an ARA. In order for either of the above to work the error condition must have gone away.

When Flag 1 and/or Flag 0 are set, the THERM output goes low to indicate that the temperature measurements are outside the programmed limits. The THERM output does not need to be reset, unlike the ALERT output. Once the measurements are within the limits, the corresponding status register bits are automatically reset and the THERM output goes high. The user may add hysteresis by programming Register 0x21. The THERM output is reset only when the temperature falls to limit value minus the hysteresis value.

When Pin 6 is configured as THERM2, only the high temperature limits are relevant. If Flag 6 and/or Flag 4 are set, the THERM2 output goes low to indicate that the temperature measurements are outside the programmed limits. Flag 5 and Flag 3 have no effect on THERM2. The behavior of THERM2 is otherwise the same as THERM.

Table 9. STATUS REGISTER BIT ASSIGNMENTS

Bit	Name	Function
7	BUSY	1 when ADC is converting
6	LHIGH (Note 4)	1 when local high temperature limit is tripped
5	LLOW (Note 4)	1 when local low temperature limit is tripped
4	RHIGH (Note 4)	1 when remote high temperature limit is tripped
3	RLOW (Note 4)	1 when remote low temperature limit is tripped
2	OPEN (Note 4)	1 when remote sensor is an open circuit
1	RTHRM	1 when remote THERM limit is tripped
0	LTHRM	1 when local THERM limit is tripped

4. These flags stay high until the status register is read or they are reset by POR unless Pin 6 is configured as THERM2. Then, only Bit 2 remains high until the status register is read or is reset by POR.

Offset Register

Offset errors can be introduced into the remote temperature measurement by clock noise or when the thermal diode is located away from the hot spot. To achieve the specified accuracy on this channel, these offsets must be removed.

The offset register can also be used to nullify the effect of varying n_f , the non-ideality factor of the remote sensing diode. By default the NCT218 is trimmed to operate with an n_f value of 1.008 but the offset register allows other diodes to be used without affecting the temperature result.

The offset value is stored as a 10-bit, twos complement value in Register 0x11 (high byte) and Register 0x12 (low byte, left justified). Only the upper two bits of Register 0x12 are used. The MSB of Register 0x11 is the sign bit. The minimum, programmable offset is -128°C , and the maximum is $+127.75^{\circ}\text{C}$. The value in the offset register is added to, or subtracted from, the measured value of the remote temperature.

The offset register powers up with a default value of 0°C and has no effect unless the user writes a different value to it.

Table 10. SAMPLE OFFSET REGISTER CODES

Offset Value	0x11	0x12
-128°C	1000 0000	00 00 0000
-4°C	1111 1100	00 00 0000
-1°C	1111 1111	00 00 0000
-0.25°C	1111 1111	10 00 0000
0°C	0000 0000	00 00 0000
$+0.25^{\circ}\text{C}$	0000 0000	01 00 0000
$+1^{\circ}\text{C}$	0000 0001	00 00 0000
$+4^{\circ}\text{C}$	0000 0100	00 00 0000
$+127.75^{\circ}\text{C}$	0111 1111	11 00 0000

One-Shot Register

The one-shot register is used to initiate a conversion and comparison cycle when the NCT218 is in standby mode, after which the device returns to standby. Writing to the one-shot register address (0x0F) causes the NCT218 to perform a conversion and comparison on both the internal and the external temperature channels. This is not a data register as such, and it is the write operation to Address 0x0F that causes the one-shot conversion. The data written to this address is irrelevant and is not stored.

Consecutive ALERT Register

The value written to this register determines how many out-of-limit measurements must occur before an ALERT is generated. The default value is that one out-of-limit measurement generates an ALERT. The maximum value that can be chosen is 4. The purpose of this register is to allow the user to perform some filtering of the output. This is particularly useful at the fastest three conversion rates, where no averaging takes place. This register is at Address 0x22.

Table 11. CONSECUTIVE ALERT REGISTER CODES

Register Value	Number of Out-of-Limit Measurements Required
yxxx 000x	1
yxxx 001x	2
yxxx 011x	3
yxxx 111x	4

Note: x = don't care bits, and y = Bus timeout bit.
Default = 0. See interface section for more information.

Table 12. LIST OF REGISTERS

Read Address (Hex)	Write Address (Hex)	Name	Power-On Default
Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Address Pointer	Undefined
00	Not Applicable	Local Temperature Value	0000 0000 (0x00)
01	Not Applicable	External Temperature Value High Byte	0000 0000 (0x00)
02	Not Applicable	Status	Undefined
03	09	Configuration	0000 0000 (0x00)
04	0A	Conversion Rate	0000 1000 (0x08)
05	0B	Local Temperature High Limit	0101 0101 (0x55) (85°C)
06	0C	Local Temperature Low Limit	0000 0000 (0x00) (0°C)
07	0D	External Temperature High Limit High Byte	0101 0101 (0x55) (85°C)
08	0E	External Temperature Low Limit High Byte	0000 0000 (0x00) (0°C)
Not Applicable	0F (Note 1)	One-Shot	
10	Not Applicable	External Temperature Value Low Byte	0000 0000 (0x00)
11	11	External Temperature Offset High Byte	0000 0000 (0x00)
12	12	External Temperature Offset Low Byte	0000 0000 (0x00)
13	13	External Temperature High Limit Low Byte	0000 0000 (0x00)
14	14	External Temperature Low Limit Low Byte	0000 0000 (0x00)
19	19	External THERM Limit	0110 1100 (0x6C) (108°C)
20	20	Local THERM Limit	0101 0101 (0x55) (85°C)
21	21	THERM Hysteresis	0000 1010 (0x0A) (0x10°C)
22	22	Consecutive ALERT	0000 0001 (0x01)
FE	Not Applicable	Manufacturer ID	0001 1010 (0x1A)
FF	Not Applicable	Die Revision Code	0xXX

SERIAL INTERFACE

Control of the NCT218 is carried out via the I²C compatible serial interface. The NCT218 is connected to this bus as a slave device, under the control of a master device.

The NCT218 has a bus timeout feature. When this is enabled, the bus times out after typically 25 ms of no activity. After this time, the NCT218 resets the SDA line back to its idle state (high impedance) and waits for the next start condition. However, this feature is not enabled by default. Bit 7 of the consecutive alert register (Address = 0x22) should be set to enable it.

Addressing the Device

In general, every I²C device has a 7-bit device address, except for some devices that have extended 10-bit addresses. When the master device sends a device address over the bus, the slave device with that address responds. The NCT218 is available with one device address, 0x4C.

The serial bus protocol operates as follows:

1. The master initiates data transfer by establishing a start condition, defined as a high to low transition on the serial data line SDA, while the serial clock line SCL remains high. This indicates that an address/data stream is going to follow. All slave peripherals connected to the serial bus respond to the start condition and shift in the next eight bits, consisting of a 7-bit address (MSB first) plus a read/write (R/W) bit, which determines the direction of the data transfer i.e. whether data is written to, or read from, the slave device. The peripheral with the address corresponding to the transmitted address responds by pulling the data line low during the low period before the ninth clock pulse, known as the acknowledge bit. All other devices on the bus now remain idle while the selected device waits for data to be read from or written to it. If the R/W bit is a zero then the master writes to the slave device. If the R/W bit is a one then the master reads from the slave device.
2. Data is sent over the serial bus in sequences of nine clock pulses, eight bits of data followed by an acknowledge bit from the receiver of data. Transitions on the data line must occur during the low period of the clock signal and remain stable during the high period, since a low-to-high transition when the clock is high can be interpreted as a stop signal.
3. When all data bytes have been read or written, stop conditions are established. In write mode, the master pulls the data line high during the tenth clock pulse to assert a stop condition. In read mode, the master overrides the acknowledge bit by pulling the data line high during the low period

before the ninth clock pulse. This is known as no acknowledge. The master takes the data line low during the low period before the tenth clock pulse, then high during the tenth clock pulse to assert a stop condition.

To write data to one of the device data registers, or to read data from it, the address pointer register must be set so that the correct data register is addressed. The first byte of a write operation always contains a valid address that is stored in the address pointer register. If data is to be written to the device, the write operation contains a second data byte that is written to the register selected by the address pointer register.

This procedure is illustrated in Figure 5. The device address is sent over the bus followed by R/W set to 0. This is followed by two data bytes. The first data byte is the address of the internal data register to be written to, which is stored in the address pointer register. The second data byte is the data to be written to the internal data register.

When reading data from a register there are two possibilities.

- If the address pointer register value of the NCT218 is unknown or not the desired value, it is first necessary to set it to the correct value before data can be read from the desired data register. This is done by writing to the NCT218 as before, but only the data byte containing the register read address is sent, because data is not to be written to the register see Figure 5. A read operation is then performed consisting of the serial bus address, R/W bit set to 1, followed by the data byte read from the data register see Figure 7.
- If the address pointer register is known to be at the desired address, data can be read from the corresponding data register without first writing to the address pointer register and the bus transaction shown in Figure 6 can be omitted.

Notes:

- It is possible to read a data byte from a data register without first writing to the address pointer register. However, if the address pointer register is already at the correct value, it is not possible to write data to a register without writing to the address pointer register because the first data byte of a write is always written to the address pointer register.
- Some of the registers have different addresses for read and write operations. The write address of a register must be written to the address pointer if data is to be written to that register, but it may not be possible to read data from that address. The read address of a register must be written to the address pointer before data can be read from that register.

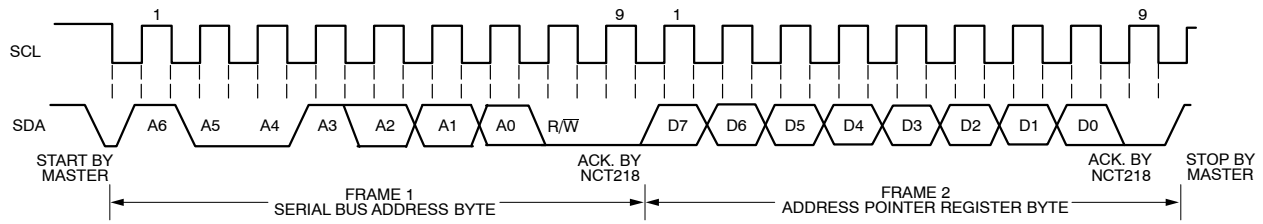


Figure 5. Writing to the Address Pointer Register

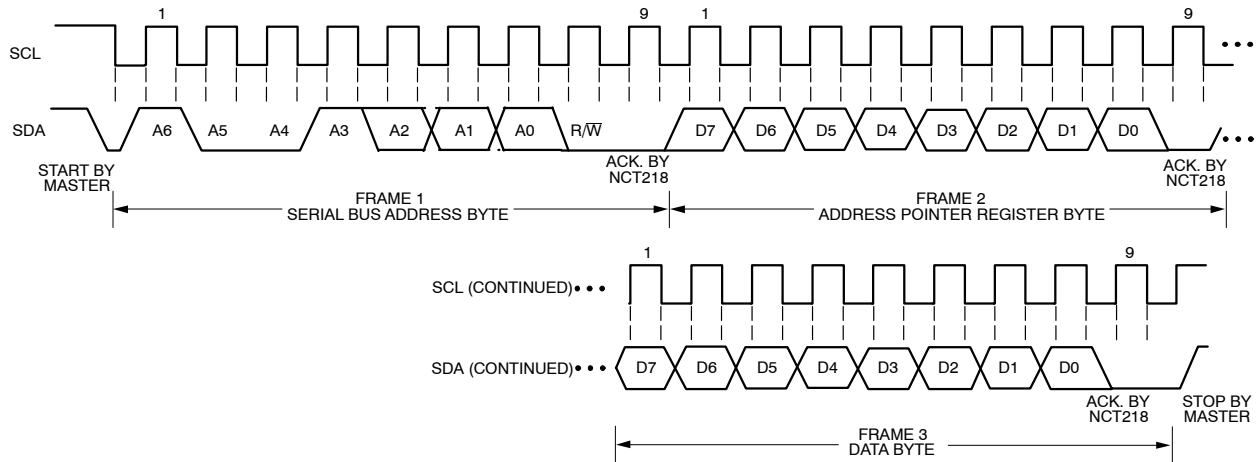


Figure 6. Writing a Register Address to the Address Pointer Register, then Writing a Single Byte of Data to a Register

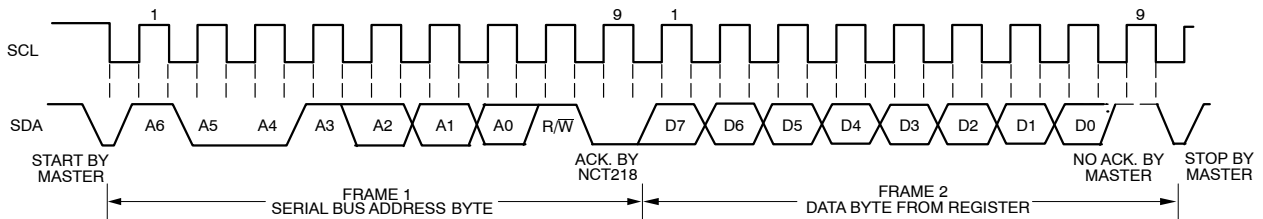


Figure 7. Reading a Byte of Data from a Register

ALERT Output

This is applicable when Pin 6 is configured as an $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ output. The $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ output goes low whenever an out-of-limit measurement is detected, or if the remote temperature sensor is open circuit. It is an open-drain output and requires a pullup resistor to V_{DD} . Several $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ outputs can be wire-OR'ed together, so that the common line goes low if one or more of the $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ outputs goes low.

The $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ output can be used as an interrupt signal to a processor, or as an $\overline{\text{SMBALERT}}$. Slave devices on the bus cannot normally signal to the bus master that they want to talk, but the $\overline{\text{SMBALERT}}$ function allows them to do so.

One or more $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ outputs can be connected to a common $\overline{\text{SMBALERT}}$ line that is connected to the master. When the $\overline{\text{SMBALERT}}$ line is pulled low by one of the devices, the following procedure occurs (see Figure 8):

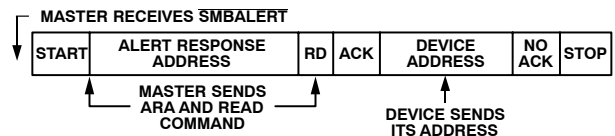


Figure 8. Use of $\overline{\text{SMBALERT}}$

1. $\overline{\text{SMBALERT}}$ is pulled low.
2. Master initiates a read operation and sends the alert response address (ARA = 0001 100). This is a general call address that must not be used as a specific device address.
3. The device whose $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ output is low responds to the alert response address and the master reads its device address. As the device address is seven bits, an LSB of 1 is added. The address of the device is now known and it can be interrogated in the usual way.
4. If more than one device's $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ output is low, the one with the lowest device address takes

priority, in accordance with normal bus arbitration. Once the NCT218 has responded to the alert response address, it resets its $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ output, provided that the error condition that caused the $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ no longer exists. If the $\overline{\text{SMBALERT}}$ line remains low, the master sends the ARA again, and so on until all devices whose $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ outputs were low have responded.

Low Power Standby Mode

The NCT218 can be put into low power standby mode by setting Bit 6 of the configuration register. When Bit 6 is low, the NCT218 operates normally. When Bit 6 is high, the ADC is inhibited, and any conversion in progress is terminated without writing the result to the corresponding value register. However, the I²C is still enabled. Power consumption in the standby mode is reduced to 12 μA if there is no bus activity.

When the device is in standby mode, it is possible to initiate a one-shot conversion of both channels by writing to the one-shot register (Address 0x0F), after which the device returns to standby. It does not matter what is written to the one-shot register, all data written to it is ignored. It is also possible to write new values to the limit register while in standby mode. If the values stored in the temperature value registers are outside the new limits, an $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ is generated, even though the NCT218 is still in standby.

Sensor Fault Detection

At its D+ input, the NCT218 contains internal sensor fault detection circuitry. This circuit can detect situations where an external remote diode is either not connected or incorrectly connected to the NCT218. A simple voltage comparator trips if the voltage at D+ exceeds $V_{DD} - 300\text{ mV}$ (typical), signifying an open circuit between D+ and D-. The output of this comparator is checked when a conversion is initiated. Bit 2 of the status register (open flag) is set if a fault is detected. If the $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ pin is enabled, setting this flag causes $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ to assert low.

If the user does not wish to use an external sensor with the NCT218, tie the D+ and D- inputs together to prevent continuous setting of the open flag.

The NCT218 Interrupt System

The NCT218 has two interrupt outputs, $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ and $\overline{\text{THERM}}$. Both have different functions and behavior. $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ is maskable and responds to violations of software programmed temperature limits or an open-circuit fault on the external diode. $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ is intended as a fail-safe interrupt output that cannot be masked.

If the external or local temperature exceeds the programmed high temperature limits, or equals or exceeds the low temperature limits, the $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ output is asserted low. An open-circuit fault on the external diode also causes $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ to assert. $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ is reset when serviced by a master reading its device address, provided the error condition has gone away and the status register has been reset.

The $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ output asserts low if the external or local temperature exceeds the programmed $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ limits. $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ temperature limits should normally be equal to or greater than the high temperature limits. $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ is reset automatically when the temperature falls back within the $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ limit. A hysteresis value can be programmed; in which case, $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ resets when the temperature falls to the limit value minus the hysteresis value. This applies to both local and remote measurement channels. The power-on hysteresis default value is 10°C, but this can be reprogrammed to any value after powerup.

The hysteresis loop on the $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ outputs is useful when $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ is used, for example, as an on/off controller for a fan. The user's system can be set up so that when $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ asserts, a fan is switched on to cool the system. When $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ goes high again, the fan can be switched off. Programming a hysteresis value protects from fan jitter, where the temperature hovers around the $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ limit, and the fan is constantly switched.

Table 13. $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ HYSTERESIS

$\overline{\text{THERM}}$ Hysteresis	Binary Representation
0°C	0 000 0000
1°C	0 000 0001
10°C	0 000 1010

Figure 9 shows how the $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ and $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ outputs operate. The $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ output can be used as a $\overline{\text{SMBALERT}}$ to signal to the host via the I²C that the temperature has risen. The user can use the $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ output to turn on a fan to cool the system, if the temperature continues to increase. This method ensures that there is a fail-safe mechanism to cool the system, without the need for host intervention.

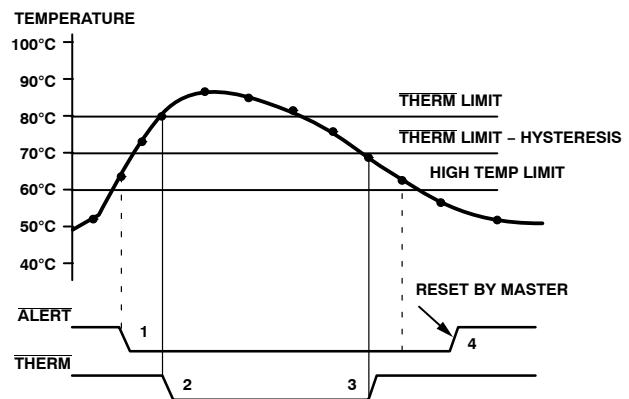


Figure 9. Operation of the $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ and $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ Interrupts

- If the measured temperature exceeds the high temperature limit, the $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ output asserts low.
- If the temperature continues to increase and exceeds the $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ limit, the $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ output asserts low. This can be used to throttle the CPU clock or switch on a fan.

- The $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ output deasserts (goes high) when the temperature falls to THERM limit minus hysteresis. The default hysteresis value is 10°C.
- The $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ output deasserts only when the temperature has fallen below the high temperature limit, and the master has read the device address and cleared the status register.
- Pin 6 on the NCT218 can be configured as either an $\overline{\text{ALERT}}$ output or as an additional $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ output.
- $\overline{\text{THERM2}}$ asserts low when the temperature exceeds the programmed local and/or remote high temperature limits. It is reset in the same manner as $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ and is not maskable.
- The programmed hysteresis value also applies to $\overline{\text{THERM2}}$.

Figure 10 shows how $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ and $\overline{\text{THERM2}}$ operate together to implement two methods of cooling the system. In this example, the $\overline{\text{THERM2}}$ limits are set lower than the $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ limits. The $\overline{\text{THERM2}}$ output is used to turn on a fan. If the temperature continues to rise and exceeds the $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ limits, the $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ output provides additional cooling by throttling the CPU.

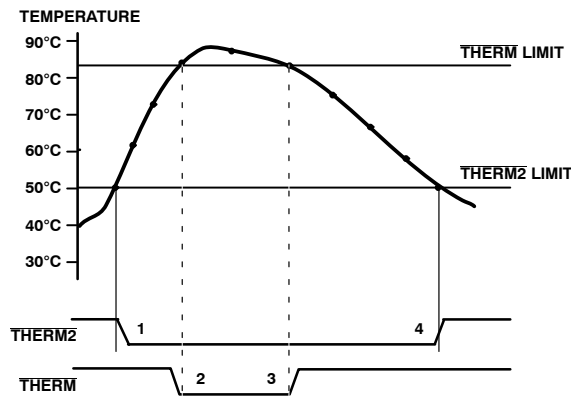


Figure 10. Operation of the $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ and $\overline{\text{THERM2}}$ Interrupts

- When the $\overline{\text{THERM2}}$ limit is exceeded, the $\overline{\text{THERM2}}$ signal asserts low.
- If the temperature continues to increase and exceeds the $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ limit, the $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ output asserts low.
- The $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ output deasserts (goes high) when the temperature falls to $\overline{\text{THERM}}$ limit minus hysteresis. In Figure 10, there is no hysteresis value shown.
- As the system cools further, and the temperature falls below the $\overline{\text{THERM2}}$ limit, the $\overline{\text{THERM2}}$ signal resets. Again, no hysteresis value is shown for $\overline{\text{THERM2}}$.

Both the external and internal temperature measurements cause THERM and THERM2 to operate as described.

Application Information

Noise Filtering

For temperature sensors operating in noisy environments, the industry standard practice was to place a capacitor across the D+ and D- pins to help combat the effects of noise. However, large capacitances affect the accuracy of the temperature measurement, leading to a recommended maximum capacitor value of 1,000 pF. Although this capacitor reduces the noise, it does not eliminate it, making it difficult to use the sensor in a very noisy environment.

The NCT218 has a major advantage over other devices when it comes to eliminating the effects of noise on the external sensor. The series resistance cancellation feature allows a filter to be constructed between the external temperature sensor and the part. The effect of any filter resistance seen in series with the remote sensor is automatically cancelled from the temperature result.

The construction of a filter allows the NCT218 and the remote temperature sensor to operate in noisy environments. Figure 11 shows a low-pass R-C-R filter, where R = 100 Ω and C = 1 nF. This filtering reduces both common-mode and differential noise.

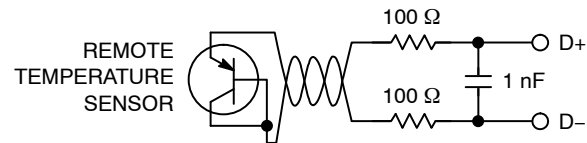


Figure 11. Filter Between Remote Sensor and NCT218 Factors Affecting Diode Accuracy

Remote Sensing Diode

The NCT218 is designed to work with substrate transistors built into processors or with discrete transistors. Substrate transistors are generally PNP types with the collector connected to the substrate. Discrete types are either PNP or NPN transistors connected as diodes (base–shorted to collector). If an NPN transistor is used, the collector and base are connected to D+ and the emitter to D-. If a PNP transistor is used, the collector and base are connected to D- and the emitter to D+.

To reduce the error due to variations in both substrate and discrete transistors, consider several factors:

- The ideality factor, nF, of the transistor is a measure of the deviation of the thermal diode from ideal behavior. The NCT218 is trimmed for an nF value of 1.008. The following equation may be used to calculate the error introduced at a temperature, T (°C), when using a transistor whose nF does not equal 1.008. Consult the processor data sheet for the nF values.

$$\Delta T = (nF - 1.008)/1.008 \times (273.15 \text{ Kelvin} + T)$$

To factor this in, the user writes the ΔT value to the offset register. It is then automatically added to, or subtracted from, the temperature measurement.

- Some CPU manufacturers specify the high and low current levels of the substrate transistors. The high current level of the NCT218, I_{HIGH} , is 200 μA , I_{MID} is 75 μA and the low level current, I_{LOW} , is 12.5 μA . If the NCT218 current levels do not match the current levels specified by the CPU manufacturer, it may become necessary to remove an offset. The CPU data sheet should advise whether this offset needs to be removed and how to calculate it. This offset is programmed to the offset register. It is important to note that if more than one offset must be considered, the algebraic sum of these offsets must be programmed to the offset register.

Thermal Inertia and Self-Heating

Accuracy depends on the temperature of the remote sensing diode and/or the internal temperature sensor being at the same temperature as that being measured. Many factors can affect this. Ideally, place the sensor in good thermal contact with the part of the system being measured. If it is not, the thermal inertia caused by the sensor's mass causes a lag in the response of the sensor to a temperature change. In the case of the remote sensor, this should not be a problem since it is either a substrate transistor in the processor or a small package device, such as the SOT-23, placed in close proximity to it. The on-chip sensor, however, is often remote from the processor and only monitors the general ambient temperature around the package. How accurately the temperature of the board and/or the forced airflow reflects the temperature to be measured dictates the accuracy of the measurement. Self-heating due to the power dissipated in the NCT218 or the remote sensor causes the chip temperature of the device or remote sensor to rise above ambient. However, the current forced through the remote sensor is so small that self-heating is negligible.

Layout Considerations

Digital boards can be electrically noisy environments, and the NCT218 is measuring very small voltages from the remote sensor, so care must be taken to minimize noise induced at the sensor inputs. Take the following precautions:

- Place the NCT218 as close as possible to the remote sensing diode. Provided that the worst noise sources, that is, clock generators, data/address buses, and CRTs are avoided, this distance can be 4 inches to 8 inches.
- Route the D+ and D- tracks close together, in parallel, with grounded guard tracks on each side. To minimize inductance and reduce noise pickup, a 5 mil track width

and spacing is recommended. Provide a ground plane under the tracks, if possible.



Figure 12. Typical Assignment of Signal Tracks

- Try to minimize the number of copper/solder joints that can cause thermocouple effects. Where copper/solder joints are used, make sure that they are in both the D+ and D- path and at the same temperature.
- Thermocouple effects should not be a major problem as 1°C corresponds to about 200 mV, and thermocouple voltages are about 3 mV/°C of temperature difference. Unless there are two thermocouples with a big temperature differential between them, thermocouple voltages should be much less than 200 mV.
- Place a 0.1 μF bypass capacitor close to the VDD pin. In extremely noisy environments, place an input filter capacitor across D+ and D- close to the NCT218. This capacitance can effect the temperature measurement, so ensure that any capacitance seen at D+ and D- is, at maximum, 1,000 pF. This maximum value includes the filter capacitance, plus any cable or stray capacitance between the pins and the sensor diode.
- If the distance to the remote sensor is more than 8 inches, the use of twisted pair cable is recommended. A total of 6 feet to 12 feet is needed. For really long distances (up to 100 feet), use a shielded twisted pair, such as the Belden No. 8451 microphone cable. Connect the twisted pair to D+ and D- and the shield to GND close to the NCT218. Leave the remote end of the shield unconnected to avoid ground loops. Because the measurement technique uses switched current sources, excessive cable or filter capacitance can affect the measurement. When using long cables, the filter capacitance can be reduced or removed.

Power Supply Rise Time

When powering up the NCT218 you must ensure that the power supply voltage rises above 1.32 in less than 5 ms. If a rise time of longer than this occurs then power-on-reset will be caused and yield unpredictable results.

NCT218

Table 14. ORDERING INFORMATION

Device Number	Package Type	Shipping [†]
NCT218MTR2G	WDFN8 (Pb-Free)	3000 / Tape & Reel
NCT218FCT2G	WLCSP8 (Pb-Free)	3000 / Tape & Reel

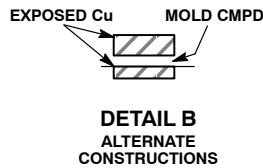
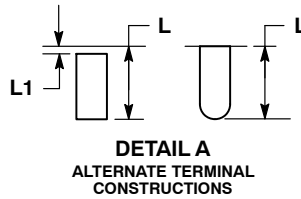
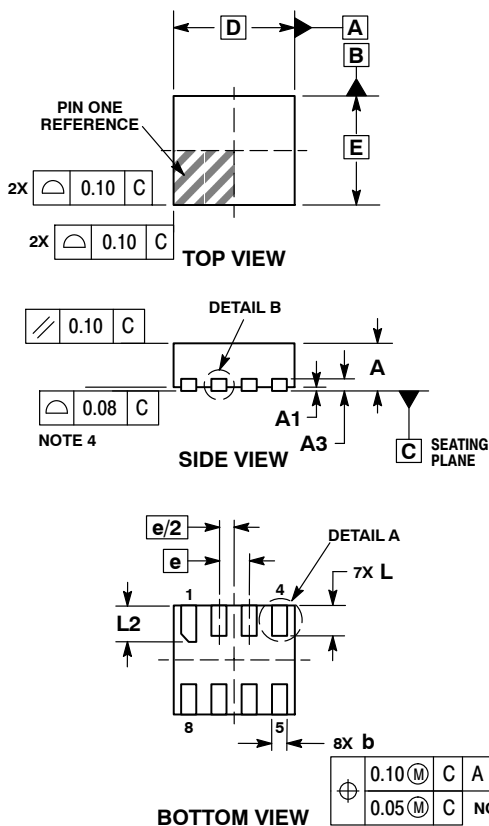
[†]For information on tape and reel specifications, including part orientation and tape sizes, please refer to our Tape and Reel Packaging Specifications Brochure, BRD8011/D.



SCALE 4:1

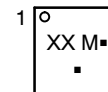
WDFN8 2x1.8, 0.5P
CASE 511BU
ISSUE O

DATE 18 JAN 2012


NOTES:

1. DIMENSIONING AND TOLERANCING PER ASME Y14.5M, 1994.
2. CONTROLLING DIMENSION: MILLIMETERS.
3. DIMENSION b APPLIES TO PLATED TERMINAL AND IS MEASURED BETWEEN 0.15 AND 0.20 MM FROM TERMINAL TIP.
4. COPLANARITY APPLIES TO THE EXPOSED PAD AS WELL AS THE TERMINALS.

DIM	MILLIMETERS	
	MIN	MAX
A	0.70	0.80
A1	0.00	0.05
A3	0.20 REF	
b	0.20	0.30
D	2.00 BSC	
E	1.80 BSC	
e	0.50 BSC	
L	0.45	0.55
L1	---	0.15
L2	0.55	0.65

GENERIC MARKING DIAGRAM*


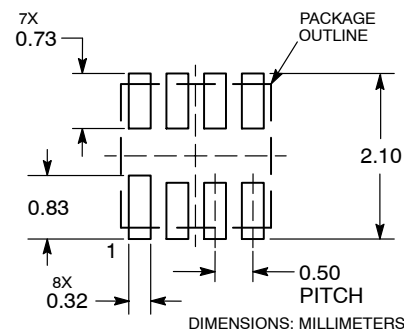
XX = Specific Device Code

M = Date Code

▪ = Pb-Free Device

(Note: Microdot may be in either location)

*This information is generic. Please refer to device data sheet for actual part marking. Pb-Free indicator, "G" or microdot "▪", may or may not be present.

RECOMMENDED SOLDERING FOOTPRINT*


*For additional information on our Pb-Free strategy and soldering details, please download the **onsemi** Soldering and Mounting Techniques Reference Manual, SOLDERM/D.

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DESCRIPTION:	WDFN8, 2X1.8, 0.5 P	PAGE 1 OF 1

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