

Objective

The objective of this application note is to demonstrate 1) the use of the X4023x family of devices to automate linearization techniques in manufacturing of sensor circuits, 2) the use of Intersil's Windows/LabVIEW driver software for prototyping and manufacturing of these circuits. This application note references examples from the application note AN135 "Sensor Circuits and Digitally Controlled Potentiometers" to demonstrate the concepts herein.

Description

This application note will describe techniques using the X4023x family of devices to automate linearization of a temperature sensor and pressure sensor circuit. A typical X4023x device contains two voltage monitors, two digitally-controlled potentiometers, voltage good logic outputs, general purpose EEPROM, and a fault detection register. In addition, programming of the device is achieved via 2-wire bus. This application note will provide examples of how these functions can be used for zero offset and full scale adjustments and how to monitor critical voltages for automated calibration in manufacturing. Table 1 provides a summary of the functions available in the X4023x family. Figure 1 depicts a conceptual block diagram of areas where the X4023x can be used in sensor signal conditioning circuits. Further details are provided for specific examples below.

TABLE 1. X4023X FAMILY SELECTOR GUIDE

X=	256 TAP	100 TAP	64 TAP
1		1	1
3	1		
5	1		
7	1		1
9	1	1	

PRTD Signal Conditioning Circuit

Figure 2A depicts a simplified example of a PRTD (platinum resistance temperature detector) is a bridge circuit whose output is amplified by a high performance instrumentation amplifier (IA). Amongst the problems associated with this traditional approach is the lack of variability to account for sensor variations, lack of a linearization scheme, and the high cost of the instrumentation amplifier.

The PRTD temperature response consist of resistance variation of the order of only tenths of Ω/C . Hence strict attention must be paid to the effects of the transducer lead wire resistance. Table 2 lists the design consideration required.

TABLE 2. DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS OF PRTD CIRCUITS (SOURCE: INTERSIL APPLICATION NOTE 135)

DESIGN CONSIDERATION	NOTES
Magnitude of the excitation current must also be severely limited	Excessive I^2R PRTD power dissipation will cause unacceptable large self-heating measurement errors
Low excitation currents and small resistance changes means PTRTD signal will be in the order of tens of $\mu V/C$	Requirement of stable high gain DC amplification in the signal chain
PRTD temperature coefficient is only 'reasonably' invariant with temperature and, as a result, the PRTD's response is significantly non-linear	Accurate measurement of temperature over wide range depends on the provision for linearization of the PRTD signal

Figure 2B provides a solution to these design considerations using Intersil's X4023x. The results provide a precision thermometer with an output span and span that is tunable using two digitally-controlled potentiometers. Current excitation of the PRTD is sourced by the 2.5V voltage reference VR1 via R1. The DCP1 (digitally controlled potentiometer of the X4023x) provides for automated adjustment of the thermometer scale factor and span. Voltage monitor VMON2 monitors the current excitation by tracking the voltage.

The VMON2 pin can be programmed to monitor voltages between 1.2V to 4.7V at an accuracy of $\pm 50mV$ over temperature. So for instance VMON2 is programmed to monitor 2.5V to within 50mV. Once this voltage node reaches that trip point, the X4023x issues a "voltage good" signal (using the V2Fail signal pin) and also registers the "voltage good" status into the fault detection register. This allows for automated tuning of the scale adjust circuit. By using the voltage monitors and status pins (V3Fail output), the XDCP can be incremented or decremented in a control loop via 2-wire bus (SDA and SCL pins) until the desired excitation current is reached. This can be done in literally 100's of milliseconds. Thus saving on manufacturing calibration time and cost. Note: Intersil offers additional programming software that can be used for computer-driven manufacturing systems (See Windows-LabVIEW™ software later in the application note).

A1 is a noninverting amplifier with a gain of 100 which scales up the raw 100mV/C PRTD temperature signal to 0.01V/C. The DCP2 network implements a high resolution zero adjustment. Each increment in DCP2's (for the 256-tap options of the X4023x) setting will result in a 200mV shift in A1's output which is equivalent to a 0.02C zero adjustment. Again, VMON3 voltage monitor is used to monitor the output of the A1 amplifier. Hence automated zero adjustments can

be achieved by monitoring the VMON3 voltage while incrementing or decrementing DCP2. By using the voltage monitors and status pins (V2Fail output), the XDCP can be incremented or decremented in a control loop via 2-wire bus (SDA and SCL pins) until the desired A1 output voltage is reached. Similarly, this can be done in literally 100's of milliseconds.

The net result of the combination of A1 and the associated circuit is a signal conditioning, precision temperature sensor that is compatible with full automation of the calibration process using the X4023x.

Programmable Pressure Transducer Circuit

This silicon piezoresistive-bridge pressure transducer (SPPT) must be supported by appropriate signal conditioning and calibration circuits. The signal conditioning circuit must also include stable, high resolution, preferably non-interactive, zero and span trims. The automation of the calibration of the sensor circuit is an enormous benefit in the production environment. Figure 3A employs a bridge that is current-biased and two amplifiers and Intersil's X4023x (two digitally controlled potentiometers and two voltage monitors for zero and full scale (gain) adjustments (for more details See Intersil Application Note 135).

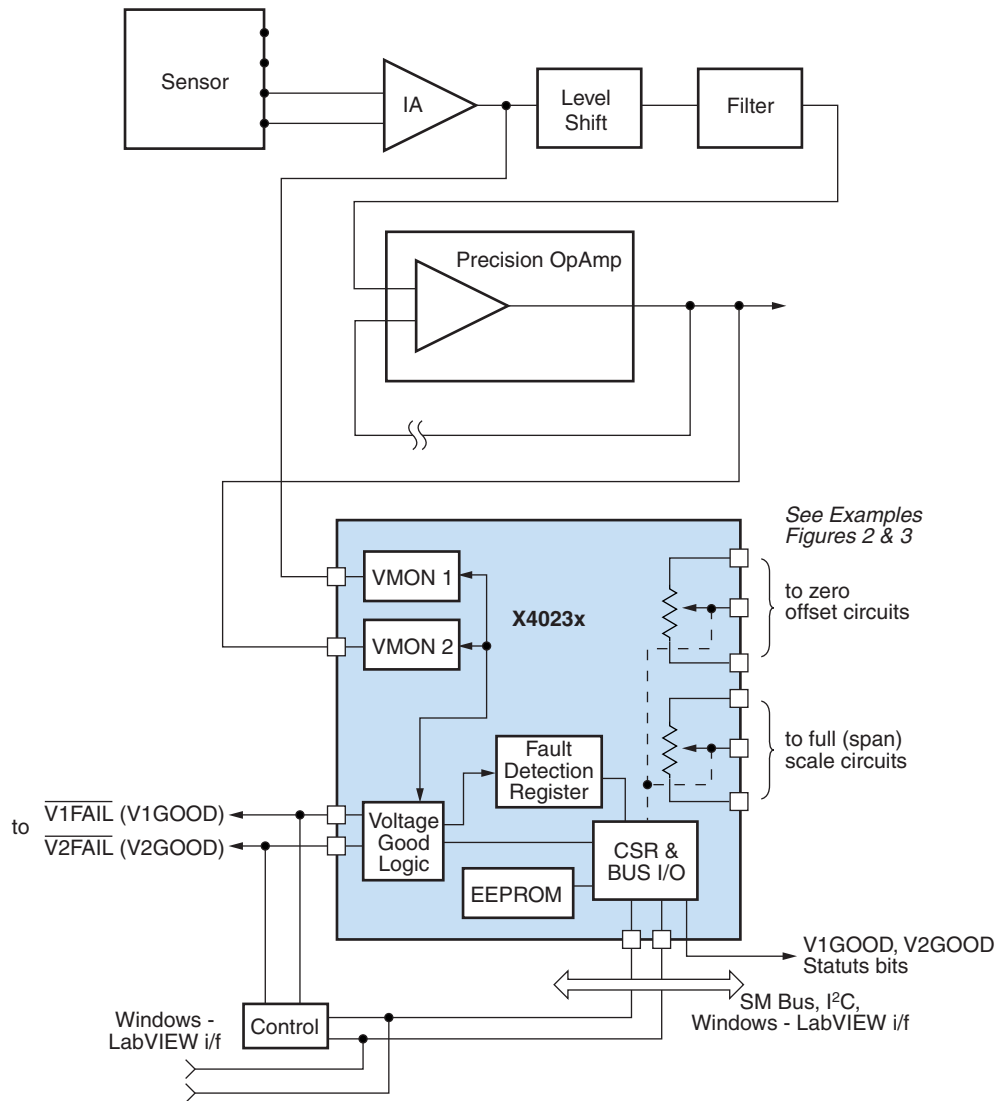


FIGURE 1. X4023 USED IN SMART SENSOR SIGNAL CONDITIONING

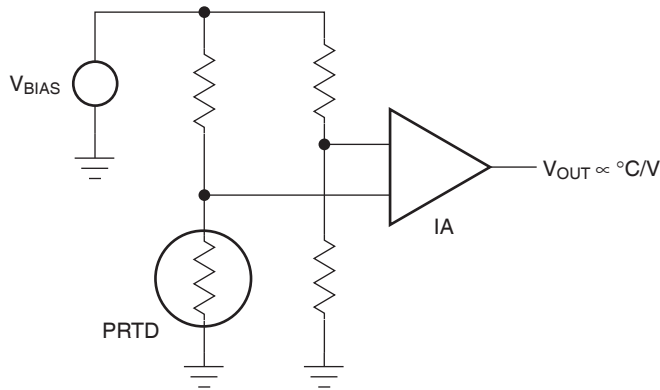


FIGURE 2A.

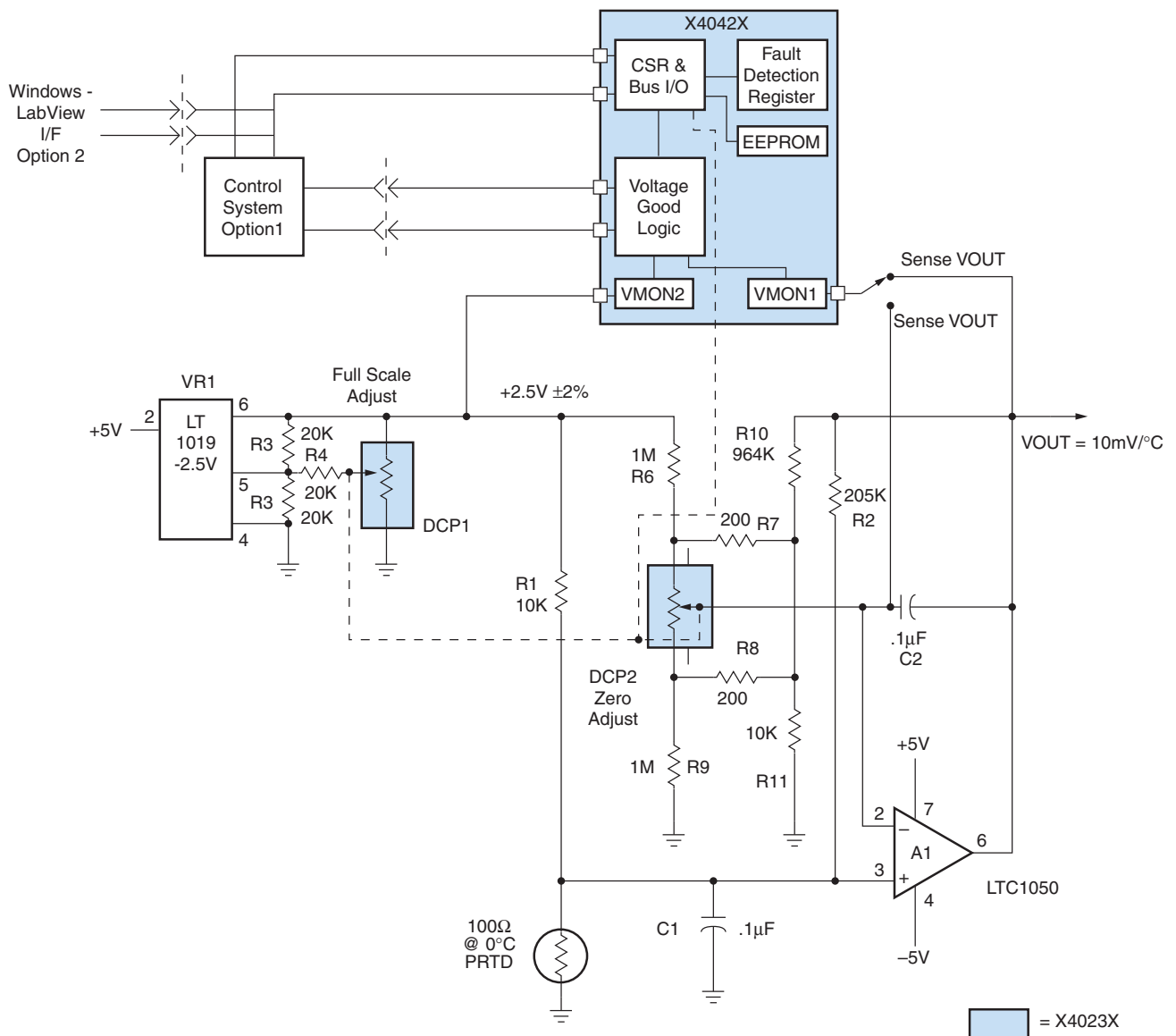


FIGURE 2B. TEMPERATURE SENSOR SIGNAL CONDITION USING X4023X

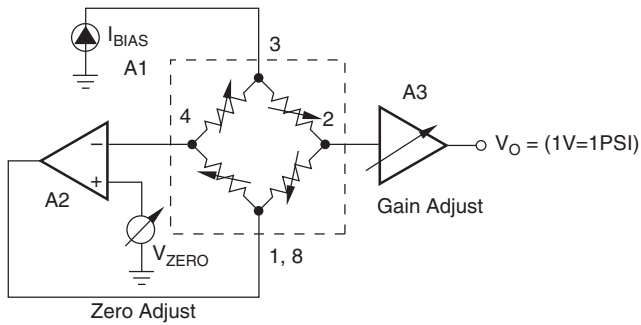


FIGURE 3A. SIMPLE TEMPERATURE SENSOR DIAGRAM

Figure 3B provides a detail circuit of the pressure transducer signal conditioning circuit. Amplifier, A2, and the Intersil X4023x provide zero offset adjustment. To accomplish this, the bridge excitation voltage is programmably attenuated by the R2, R3, R4, R5 network applied to DCP1 (digitally controlled potentiometer). The range for zero adjustment is now a function of DCP used in a voltage divider configuration and the voltage range applied to the end terminals of the DCP1 (zero adjustments will range in the millivolts). VMON3 is used to monitor the bridge excitation voltage at the output of A2. Once this voltage node reaches a VMON3 trip point, the X4023x issues a “voltage good” signal (using the V3Fail signal pin) and also registers the “voltage good” status into the fault detection register. This allows for automated tuning of the zero adjust circuit. Hence automated zero adjustments can be achieved by monitoring the VMON3 voltage while incrementing or decrementing DCP1. By using the voltage monitors and status pins (V3Fail output), the XDCCP can be incremented or decremented in a control loop via 2-wire bus (SDA and SCL pins) until the desired A2 output voltage is reached. This can be done in literally 100’s of milliseconds.

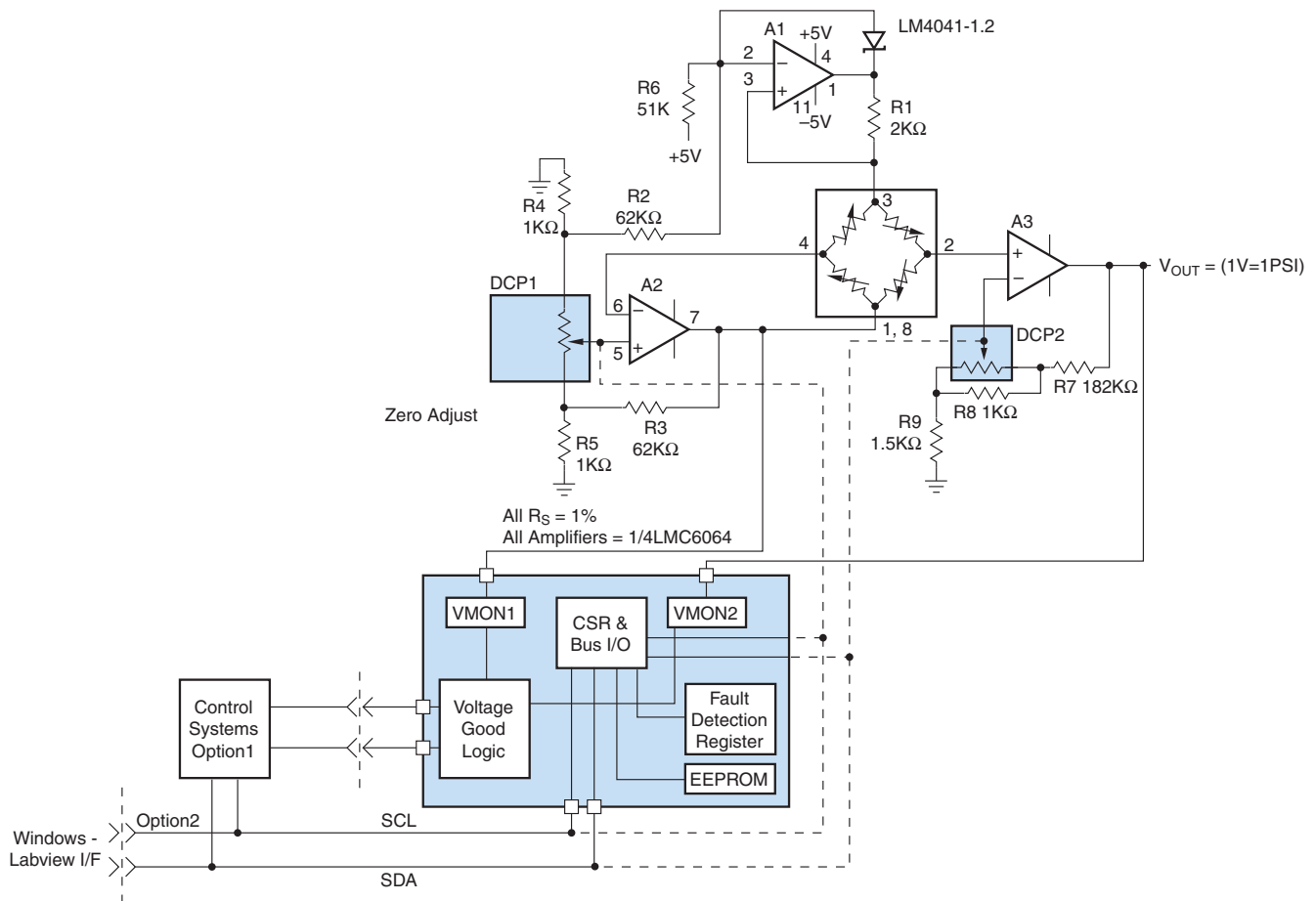


FIGURE 3B. PRESSURE TRANSDUCER SIGNAL CONDITION USING X4023X

Boosting the ~10mV/psi bridge signal by 100x to a convenient 1V/psi output level is the job of the A3 non-inverting amplifier via its feedback and calibration network consisting of R7 through R9 and DCP2 Bridge bias is provided by the A1 circuit which uses voltage reference D1 and current-sense resistor R1 to generate a constant-current bridge drive. Again, VMON2 voltage monitor is used to monitor the output of the A3 amplifier. Hence automated scale (span) adjustments can be achieved by monitoring the VMON2 voltage while incrementing or decrementing DCP2. By using the voltage monitors and status pins (V2Fail output), the XDCCP can be incremented or decremented in a control loop via 2-wire bus (SDA and SCL pins) until the desired A3 output voltage is reached. Similarly, this can be done in literally 100's of milliseconds.

The signal conditioned precision pressure sensor is compatible with full automation of the calibration process using the X4023x.

Using Windows-LabVIEW Software to Automate Signal Conditioning in a Manufacturing Environment

To prototype the sensor signal conditioning circuit it will be required to program the digital potentiometers and monitor the key voltage level points in the circuit, Intersil offers a software programming tool that uses a standard computer with Windows 98/NT/2000 interface. The X4023x devices use a 2-wire (I2C like serial bus) interface. Through this interface, the digital potentiometer, voltage monitors status, and general purpose EEPROM memory are accessible. Intersil's Windows-LabVIEW interface, is a software tool that can be used to send serial commands to the X4023x to program the digital potentiometer, voltage monitors status, and general purpose EEPROM memory. All of the commands are selectable and can be programmed individual via standards Window interface. Once the commands are executed (by executing a RUN or RUN Macro instruction), LabVIEW drivers emulate the command and send the 2-wire serial data stream via an available parallel port to the device under test. A typical serial bus instruction takes 100ms to 200ms to complete. The sensor signal condition circuit calibration, specifically, zero offset and gain span can be completed in 100's of milliseconds!!! This tool is provided to Intersil's customers for FREE and is downloadable from Intersil's website at www.intersil.com.

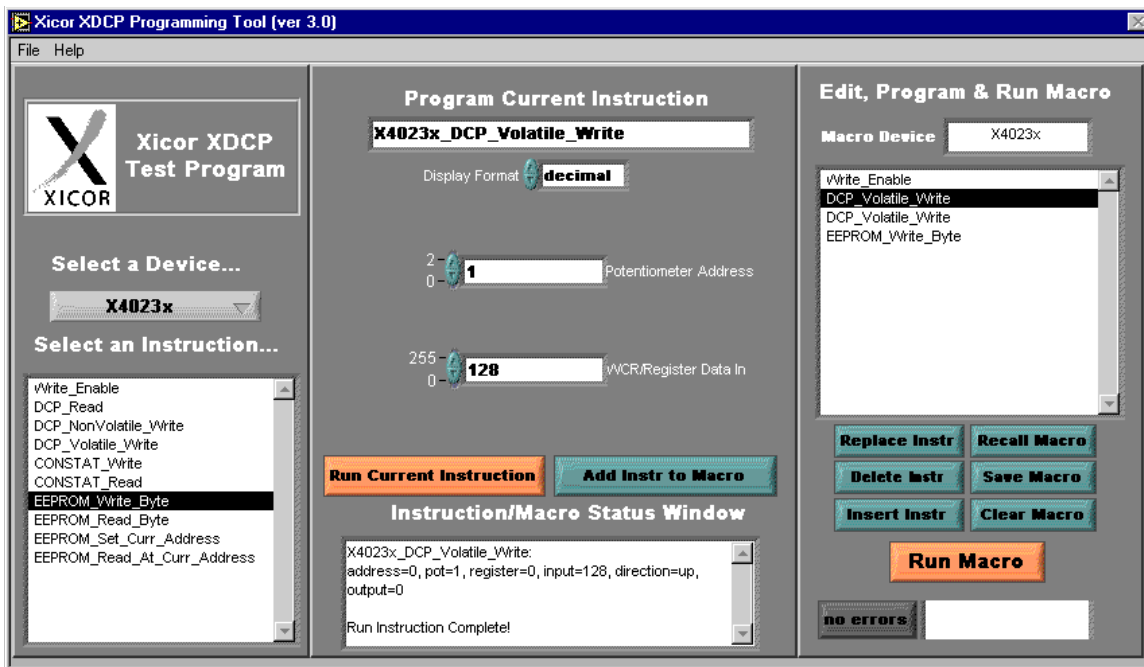


FIGURE 4. X4023X PROGRAMMING SOFTWARE

For example, a typical instruction set to calibrate the zero offset could be as follows: (See Table 3).

Note the above algorithm would require six additional pins in the sensor signal condition circuit, namely, SDA and SCL (serial bus interface pins) and two voltage monitor pins (V1MON and V2MON) and two status pins (V2FAIL and V3FAIL). If pin count and form-factor are of critical concern, this the interface can be reduced to four pins: SDA, SCL, V1MON, and V2MON. Using a four pin approach would require an additional command to check for V2FAIL and V3FAIL pins via the CONSTAT (Control Status) register of the X4023x. Bits V2FS and V3FS of the CR register are latched, volatile flag bits which indicate the status of the Voltage Monitor reset output

pins V2FAIL and V3FAIL. Consequently, a typical instruction set to calibrate the zero offset could be as follows:(See Table 4).

Conclusions

The X4023x offers both the circuits and programming software to automate calibration of sensor signal conditioning circuits for low cost mass production. Zero offset and gain span calibration can be done in 100's of milliseconds. The programming interface can be done in 4 or 6 pins while the digital interface is isolated from the analog sections of the X4023x thus providing for highly reliable designs and environmental integrity.

TABLE 3.

COMMAND SENT I2C	COMMENTS	BOARD MEASUREMENTS (SERVO)
DCP_Volatile_Write	Set up initial potentiometer wiper position and continue to send this command with different wiper positions until the desire voltage is attained	The actual zero offset voltage is measured via the X4023x voltage monitor pin and pulls the V2FAIL signal pin low if the measured voltage has not reached the desired voltage
DCP_Nonvolatile_Write	Save the optimum wiper position to EEPROM memory so on power up position is restored	Once the V2FAIL signal goes HIGH this indicates that the desire voltage has been reached (within a level of accuracy). Stop incrementing / decrementing the wiper since the desired zero offset has been achieved

TABLE 4.

COMMAND SENT I2C	COMMENTS	BOARD MEASUREMENTS (SERVO)
DCP_Volatile_Write	Set up initial potentiometer wiper position and continue to send this command with different wiper positions until the desire voltage is attained	The actual zero offset voltage is measured via the X4023x voltage monitor pin and pulls the V2FAIL signal pin low if the measured voltage has not reached the desired voltage
Constat_READ	Read the V2FS (and V3FS) voltage monitor status bits. Increment the wiper (DCP_Volatile_Write) if the desired voltage is not reached.	
DCP_Nonvolatile_Write	Save the optimum wiper position to EEPROM memory so on power up position is restored	Once the V2FAIL signal goes HIGH this indicates that the desire voltage has been reached (within a level of accuracy). Stop incrementing / decrementing the wiper since the desired zero offset has been achieved

Notice

1. Descriptions of circuits, software and other related information in this document are provided only to illustrate the operation of semiconductor products and application examples. You are fully responsible for the incorporation or any other use of the circuits, software, and information in the design of your product or system. Renesas Electronics disclaims any and all liability for any losses and damages incurred by you or third parties arising from the use of these circuits, software, or information.
2. Renesas Electronics hereby expressly disclaims any warranties against and liability for infringement or any other claims involving patents, copyrights, or other intellectual property rights of third parties, by or arising from the use of Renesas Electronics products or technical information described in this document, including but not limited to, the product data, drawings, charts, programs, algorithms, and application examples.
3. No license, express, implied or otherwise, is granted hereby under any patents, copyrights or other intellectual property rights of Renesas Electronics or others.
4. You shall not alter, modify, copy, or reverse engineer any Renesas Electronics product, whether in whole or in part. Renesas Electronics disclaims any and all liability for any losses or damages incurred by you or third parties arising from such alteration, modification, copying or reverse engineering.
5. Renesas Electronics products are classified according to the following two quality grades: "Standard" and "High Quality". The intended applications for each Renesas Electronics product depends on the product's quality grade, as indicated below.
"Standard": Computers; office equipment; communications equipment; test and measurement equipment; audio and visual equipment; home electronic appliances; machine tools; personal electronic equipment; industrial robots; etc.
"High Quality": Transportation equipment (automobiles, trains, ships, etc.); traffic control (traffic lights); large-scale communication equipment; key financial terminal systems; safety control equipment; etc.
Unless expressly designated as a high reliability product or a product for harsh environments in a Renesas Electronics data sheet or other Renesas Electronics document, Renesas Electronics products are not intended or authorized for use in products or systems that may pose a direct threat to human life or bodily injury (artificial life support devices or systems; surgical implantations; etc.), or may cause serious property damage (space system; undersea repeaters; nuclear power control systems; aircraft control systems; key plant systems; military equipment; etc.). Renesas Electronics disclaims any and all liability for any damages or losses incurred by you or any third parties arising from the use of any Renesas Electronics product that is inconsistent with any Renesas Electronics data sheet, user's manual or other Renesas Electronics document.
6. When using Renesas Electronics products, refer to the latest product information (data sheets, user's manuals, application notes, "General Notes for Handling and Using Semiconductor Devices" in the reliability handbook, etc.), and ensure that usage conditions are within the ranges specified by Renesas Electronics with respect to maximum ratings, operating power supply voltage range, heat dissipation characteristics, installation, etc. Renesas Electronics disclaims any and all liability for any malfunctions, failure or accident arising out of the use of Renesas Electronics products outside of such specified ranges.
7. Although Renesas Electronics endeavors to improve the quality and reliability of Renesas Electronics products, semiconductor products have specific characteristics, such as the occurrence of failure at a certain rate and malfunctions under certain use conditions. Unless designated as a high reliability product or a product for harsh environments in a Renesas Electronics data sheet or other Renesas Electronics document, Renesas Electronics products are not subject to radiation resistance design. You are responsible for implementing safety measures to guard against the possibility of bodily injury, injury or damage caused by fire, and/or danger to the public in the event of a failure or malfunction of Renesas Electronics products, such as safety design for hardware and software, including but not limited to redundancy, fire control and malfunction prevention, appropriate treatment for aging degradation or any other appropriate measures. Because the evaluation of microcomputer software alone is very difficult and impractical, you are responsible for evaluating the safety of the final products or systems manufactured by you.
8. Please contact a Renesas Electronics sales office for details as to environmental matters such as the environmental compatibility of each Renesas Electronics product. You are responsible for carefully and sufficiently investigating applicable laws and regulations that regulate the inclusion or use of controlled substances, including without limitation, the EU RoHS Directive, and using Renesas Electronics products in compliance with all these applicable laws and regulations. Renesas Electronics disclaims any and all liability for damages or losses occurring as a result of your noncompliance with applicable laws and regulations.
9. Renesas Electronics products and technologies shall not be used for or incorporated into any products or systems whose manufacture, use, or sale is prohibited under any applicable domestic or foreign laws or regulations. You shall comply with any applicable export control laws and regulations promulgated and administered by the governments of any countries asserting jurisdiction over the parties or transactions.
10. It is the responsibility of the buyer or distributor of Renesas Electronics products, or any other party who distributes, disposes of, or otherwise sells or transfers the product to a third party, to notify such third party in advance of the contents and conditions set forth in this document.
11. This document shall not be reprinted, reproduced or duplicated in any form, in whole or in part, without prior written consent of Renesas Electronics.
12. Please contact a Renesas Electronics sales office if you have any questions regarding the information contained in this document or Renesas Electronics products.
(Note 1) "Renesas Electronics" as used in this document means Renesas Electronics Corporation and also includes its directly or indirectly controlled subsidiaries.
(Note 2) "Renesas Electronics product(s)" means any product developed or manufactured by or for Renesas Electronics.

(Rev.4.0-1 November 2017)



SALES OFFICES

Renesas Electronics Corporation

<http://www.renesas.com>

Refer to "<http://www.renesas.com/>" for the latest and detailed information.

Renesas Electronics America Inc.

1001 Murphy Ranch Road, Milpitas, CA 95035, U.S.A.
Tel: +1-408-432-8888, Fax: +1-408-434-5351

Renesas Electronics Canada Limited

9251 Yonge Street, Suite 8309 Richmond Hill, Ontario Canada L4C 9T3
Tel: +1-905-237-2004

Renesas Electronics Europe Limited

Dukes Meadow, Millboard Road, Bourne End, Buckinghamshire, SL8 5FH, U.K
Tel: +44-1628-651-700, Fax: +44-1628-651-804

Renesas Electronics Europe GmbH

Arcadiastrasse 10, 40472 Düsseldorf, Germany
Tel: +49-211-6503-0, Fax: +49-211-6503-1327

Renesas Electronics (China) Co., Ltd.

Room 1709 Quantum Plaza, No.27 ZhichunLu, Haidian District, Beijing, 100191 P. R. China
Tel: +86-10-8235-1155, Fax: +86-10-8235-7679

Renesas Electronics (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.

Unit 301, Tower A, Central Towers, 555 Langao Road, Putuo District, Shanghai, 200333 P. R. China
Tel: +86-21-2226-0888, Fax: +86-21-2226-0999

Renesas Electronics Hong Kong Limited

Unit 1601-1611, 16/F., Tower 2, Grand Century Place, 193 Prince Edward Road West, Mongkok, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Tel: +852-2265-6688, Fax: +852 2886-9022

Renesas Electronics Taiwan Co., Ltd.

13F, No. 363, Fu Shing North Road, Taipei 10543, Taiwan
Tel: +886-2-8175-9600, Fax: +886 2-8175-9670

Renesas Electronics Singapore Pte. Ltd.

80 Bendemeer Road, Unit #06-02 Hyflux Innovation Centre, Singapore 339949
Tel: +65-6213-0200, Fax: +65-6213-0300

Renesas Electronics Malaysia Sdn.Bhd.

Unit 1207, Block B, Menara Amcorp, Amcorp Trade Centre, No. 18, Jln Persiaran Barat, 46050 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia
Tel: +60-3-7955-9390, Fax: +60-3-7955-9510

Renesas Electronics India Pvt. Ltd.

No.777C, 100 Feet Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore 560 038, India
Tel: +91-80-67208700, Fax: +91-80-67208777

Renesas Electronics Korea Co., Ltd.

17F, KAMCO Yangjae Tower, 262, Gangnam-daero, Gangnam-gu, Seoul, 06265 Korea
Tel: +82-2-558-3737, Fax: +82-2-558-5338