



Figure 1. Physical photo of TEC5V4A-NT

FEATURES

- High Efficiency: $\geq 90\%$
- Maximum Output Current: 4A
- Maximum Output Voltage: $V_{VPS} - 0.2V$
- Actual Object Temperature Monitoring
- High Stability: $0.01^{\circ}C$
- High Precision
- High Reliability
- Zero EMI
- Compact Size
- 100 % lead (Pb)-free and RoHS compliant

DESCRIPTION

The TEC5V4A-NT is an electronic module designed for driving TECs (Thermo-Electric Coolers) with high stability in regulating the object temperature, high energy efficiency, zero EMI, and small package. Figure 1 is the photo of an actual TEC5V4A-NT.

The module provides interface components for users to configure desired object temperature range, i.e. set-point temperature range; maximum voltage across TEC, i.e. maximum TEC voltage; and the compensation network. The compensation network compensates the high order thermal load and thus stabilizes the temperature control loop.

It provides these functions: thermistor T-R curve linearization, temperature measurement and monitoring, temperature control loop status indication, TEC voltage monitoring, power up delay, and shut down.

The TEC5V4A-NT comes with a high stability low noise 3.0V voltage reference which can be used for setting the desired object temperature by using a POT (Potentiometer) or a DAC (Digital to Analog Converter). When using this reference for setting the set-point temperature, the set-point temperature error is independent of this reference voltage. This is because the internal temperature measurement network also uses this voltage as the reference, the errors in setting the temperature and measuring the temperature cancel with each other, setting the object temperature with higher stability. This reference can also be utilized by an ADC (Analog to Digital Converter), for the same reason, the measurement error will also be independent of the reference voltage, resulting in a more accurate measurement.

Figure 1 is the photo of the actual TEC5V4A-NT controller. Figure 2 is the real size top view of the controller showing the pin names and locations with the actual size. TECA1 pin functions are shown in Table 1.

Warning: This controller module can only be soldered manually on the board by a solder iron of $< 310^{\circ}C$ ($590^{\circ}F$), it cannot go through a reflow oven process.

The TEC5V4A-NT is packaged in a 6 sided metal enclosure, which blocks EMIs (Electro-Magnetic Interferences) to prevent the controller and other electronics from interfering with each other.

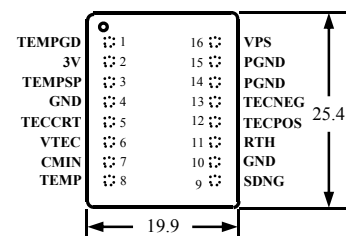


Figure 2. Pin names and locations



SPECIFICATIONS

Table 1. Pin Function Descriptions

Pin #	Pin Name	Type	Description
1	TEMPGD	Digital output	<p>Temperature good indication. It is pulled high when the set-point temperature and the actual desired object temperature are $<0.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ in temperature difference when the set-point temperature range is 20°C; or $<3\text{mV}$ in voltage difference between the voltages of TEMP and TEMPSP nodes. On this pin, there is an internal pull up resistor of $10\text{k}\Omega$ tied to the VPS rail. When going low, this pin is pulled down by an open drain FET with a resistance of 250Ω @ $V_{\text{VPS}} = 5\text{V}$.</p> <p>*A 100nF capacitor to GND needs to be added to this TEC controller manufactured before March 27th, 2012. Otherwise, there will be an interference of $V_{\text{P-P}} = 200\text{mV}$, $f = 500\text{kHz}$.</p>
2	3VR	Analog output	Reference voltage output, 3V. It can be used by a POT or DAC for setting the set-point temperature voltage on the TEMPSP pin and/or a DAC for measuring the temperature through the TEMP pin. The maximum sourcing current capability is 1.5mA and the maximum sinking is 4mA with a stability of $<50\text{ppm}/^{\circ}\text{C}$ max.
3	TEMPSP	Analog input	Object set-point temperature input port. It is internally tied by a $4.99\text{M}\Omega$ resistor to the half value of the reference voltage, 1.5V. The open circuit voltage of this pin is thus 1.5V, corresponding to a set-point temperature of 25°C by using the default temperature network (with the set-point temperature range being from 15°C to 35°C). It is highly recommended to set this pin's voltage by using the controller's voltage reference. The lower limit of the setting voltage for this pin is 0.1V. Setting this pin to a $<0.1\text{V}$ voltage may cause the controller over cooling the object. This pin can also be set to a voltage that is about 0.2V away from the VPS rail. For example, when $V_{\text{VPS}} = 5\text{V}$, this pin can be set up to $V_{\text{VPS}} - 0.1\text{V}$, corresponding to approximately 50°C in temperature when the default temperature network is in place, see the curve shown in Figure 8. This pin can be set by using a POT or DAC. When the set-point temperature needs to be at 25°C , leave this pin unconnected.
4	GND	Ground	Signal ground for the POT, ADC, DAC and the thermistor, see Figure 4.
5	TECCRT	Both analog input and output	<p>TEC control voltage. It can be left unconnected or used to control the TEC voltage directly. Set TECCRT between 0V to V_{VPS}, the voltage across TEC will be:</p> <p>TEC voltage = $V_{\text{VPS}} - 2 \times V_{\text{TECCRT}}$. It can also be used to configure the maximum voltage cross the TEC: Max. TEC voltage = $V_{\text{VPS}} \times R_{\text{m}} / (R_{\text{m}} + 10\text{k})$, where R_{m} is the resistance of the two resistors one between TECCRT to GND and the other between TECCRT to VPS, see Figure 4.</p>
6	VTEC	Analog output	TEC voltage indication. TEC voltage = $[\text{max. TEC voltage}] \times [V_{\text{VPS}} - 2 \times V_{\text{VTEC}}] / V_{\text{VPS}}$. When TECCRT is used to control the TEC voltage directly, measure TECCRT to derive the TEC voltage instead, and use this formula: TEC voltage = $V_{\text{VPS}} - 2 \times V_{\text{TECCRT}}$. The maximum driving current of pin VTEC is 30mA and the output voltage swing is 0V to V_{VPS} .
7	CMIN	Analog input	Compensation input pin for the thermal control loop. Leave it open in production. When prototyping, use this pin with a tuner on the evaluation board, TECEV104 (produced by ATI) to tune the compensation network to match the characteristics of the thermal load.
8	TEMP	Analog output	Actual object temperature. It swings from 0V to V_{VPS} .
9	SDNG	Digital input	Shut down control. When pulled low, it shuts down the controller. Leave it open or pull it high to activate the controller. The threshold voltage is 0.8V. This pin is internally pulled up by a resistor of $100\text{k}\Omega$ to V_{VPS} . The threshold voltages of this pin are:



			before shuts down, the quiescent current is about 45mA; when going down, $V_{SDNG}=1.36V$ shuts down the TECNEG output stage and the quiescent current becomes 26mA; $V_{SDNG} = 0.8V$ shuts down TECPOS output stage and the quiescent current becomes 6mA; when going up, $V_{SDNG}=1.0V$ activates the TECPOS output stage and the quiescent current goes back to 26mA; $V_{SDNG}=1.37V$ activates the TECNEG output stage and the quiescent current goes back to the full normal value of 45mA. The maximum input voltage range allowed on this pin is from 0V to 6V.
10	GND	Ground	Signal ground, internally connected to Pin 4 GND. Can be used for connecting the thermistor
11	RTH	Analog input	Inverting input to error amplifier.
12	TECPOS	Analog power output	Connects to TEC positive terminal.
13	TECNEG	Analog power output	Connects to TEC negative terminal.
14	PGND	Power ground	Power ground for connecting to the power supply.
15	PGND	Power ground	Power ground for connecting to the power supply, internally connected with pin 14.
16	VPS	Power input	Positive power supply rail. The value is 5V.

Table 2. Characteristics ($T_{ambient}=25^{\circ}C$)

Parameter	Test Condition	Value	Unit/Note
Object* temp. stability vs. ambient temp	$V_{VPS}=5V, R_{LOAD}=1.2\Omega$	0.0002	$^{\circ}C/^{\circ}C$
Object temp. vs. set-point offset	$T_{AMBIENT}$ is $0 \sim 50^{\circ}C$, set-point temp. is $15^{\circ}C \sim 35^{\circ}C$	$\pm 0.1^{\circ}C$ or $\pm 15mV$	
Object temp. response time	≤ 0.1 to the set-point temperature at a $1^{\circ}C$ step	< 5	s
Efficiency	$V_{VPS}=5V, R_{LOAD}=1.2\Omega$	$\geq 90\%$	
Max. output current	$V_{VPS}=5V, R_{LOAD}=1.2\Omega$	4	A
Max. output voltage	$V_{VPS}=5V, R_{LOAD}=1.2\Omega$	$0 \sim (V_{VPS}-0.2)$	V
PWM frequency		500	kHz
Power supply voltage		4.75 ~ 5.25 (Typically 5)	V
Set-point temp.** control voltage	$V_{VPS}=5V, R_{LOAD}=1.2\Omega$	$0.1 \sim V_{VPS}$	V
Default set-point temp. range***	$V_{VPS}=3V$	15 ~ 35	$^{\circ}C$
Operating temp. range	$V_{VPS}=5V, R_{LOAD}=1.2\Omega$	-40 ~ 85	$^{\circ}C$
Storage temp. range		-55 ~ 125	$^{\circ}C$

* Object temperature refers to the actual cold side temperature of the TEC, on which the target is mounted.

** Set-point temperature is the temperature desired to have on the target.

*** Can be customized to any range according to the requirement.

**** This TEC controller can only drive the TECs having $> 1\Omega$ impedance, which equals V_{MAX}/I_{MAX} .

***** After many experiments, according to the parameter and the figuring method of R_{LOAD} , we advise customers to use R_{LOAD} of 1.2Ω .

BLOCK DIAGRAM

The block diagram of the controller is shown in Figure 3.

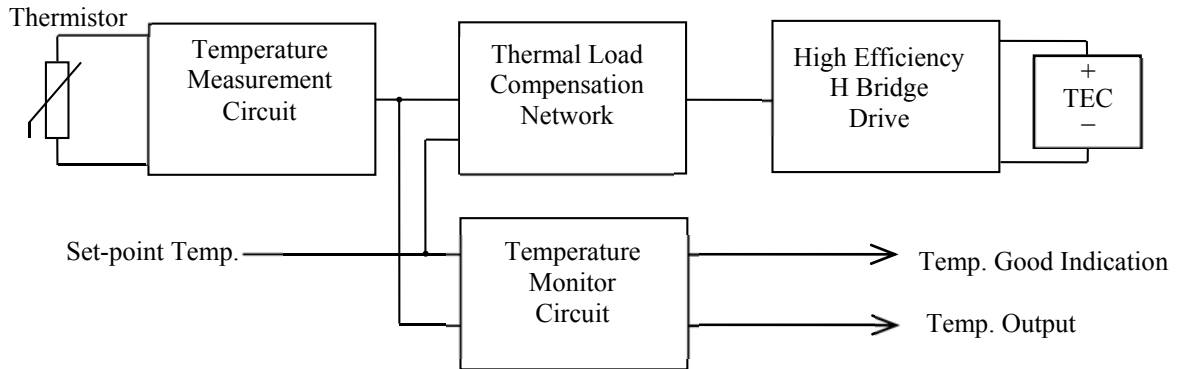


Figure 3. TEC Controller Block Diagram

APPLICATIONS

TEC controller connections are shown in Figure 4.

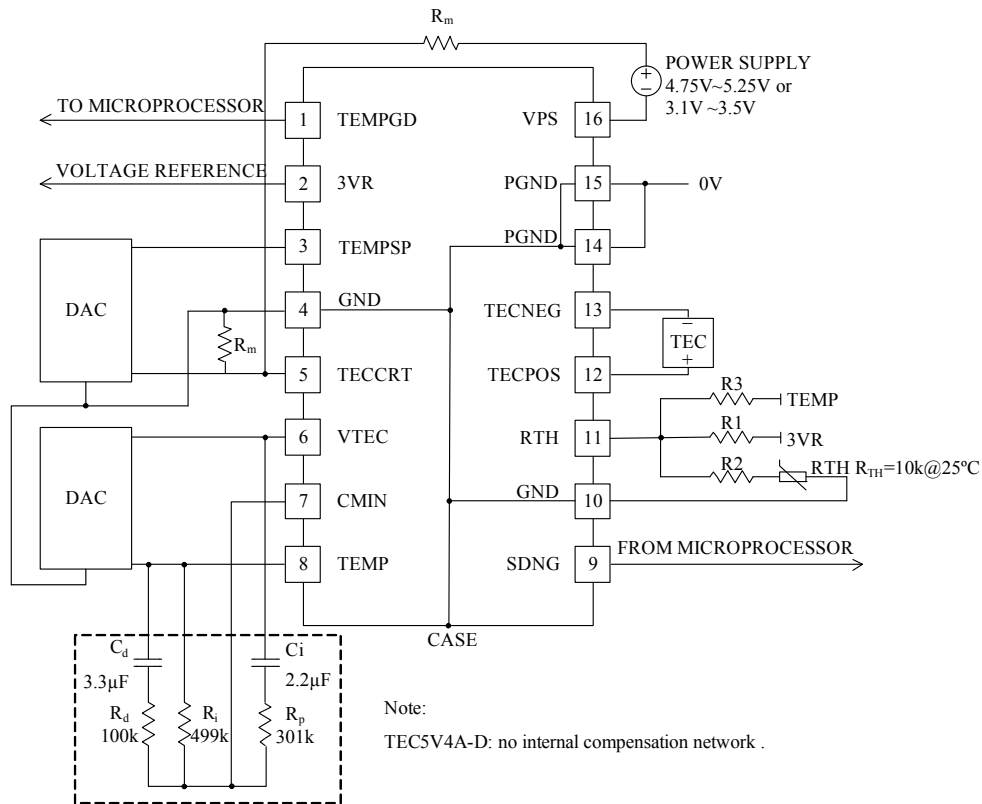


Figure 4. TEC controller connections

If you want to use this TEC controller for other applications not discussed here, such as using it with wave locker controllers, please consult us. The same as to other customizations, such as setting the **TEMPSP** by using a voltage source swings above 3V and/or V_{VPS} .

The TEC controller doesn't come with a default temperature setting network, which allows you to specify the temperature range by using the external resistors, R1, R2 and R3.



Note: This TEC controller doesn't come with an internal compensation network and we don't recommend using internal compensation network either. The compensation network is made of 5 components: 3 resistors and 2 capacitors and the values of the components in the network are the default values shown in Figure 4. Implementing the network externally is highly recommended since it can be modified for driving different thermal load and/or the thermal load characteristics is not certain or fixed at the early design stage.

Using TEC Controllers for Driving A Heater

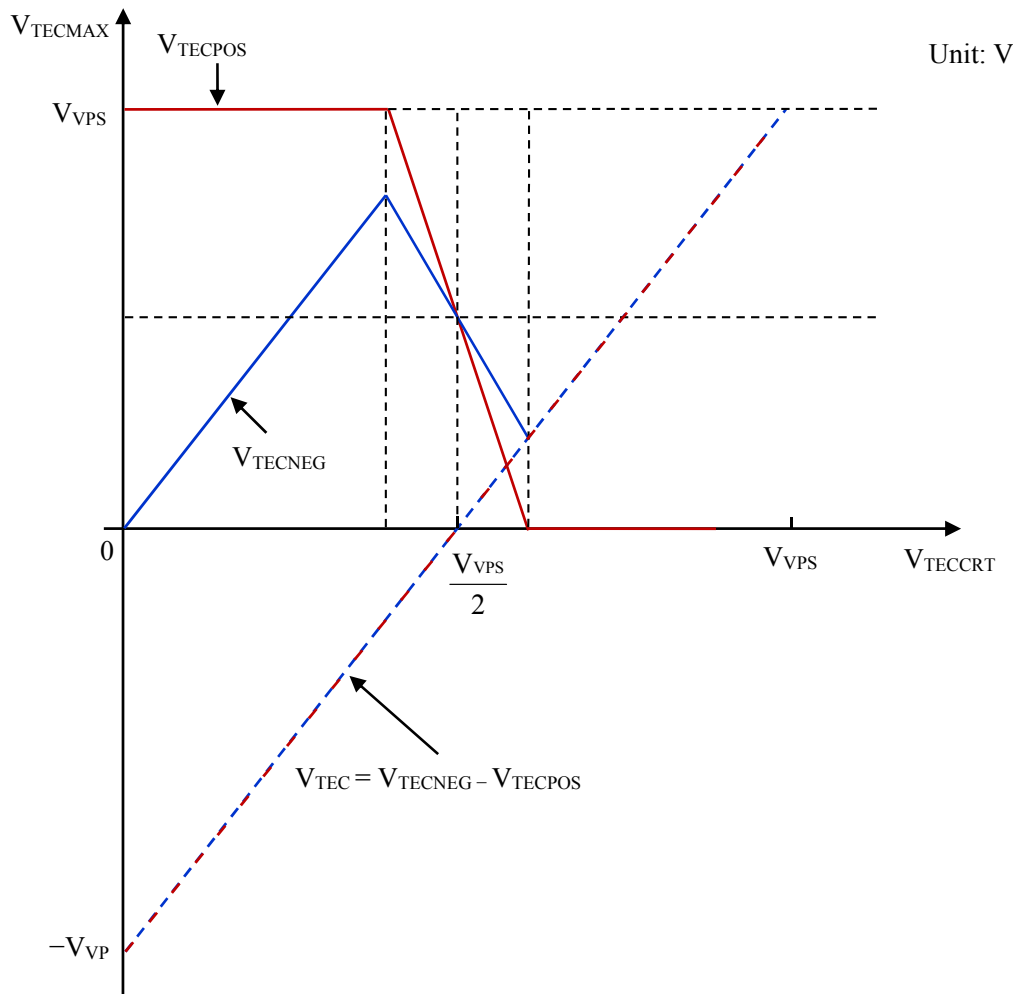


Figure 5. $V_{TEC\text{MAX}}$ & $V_{TEC\text{CRT}}$

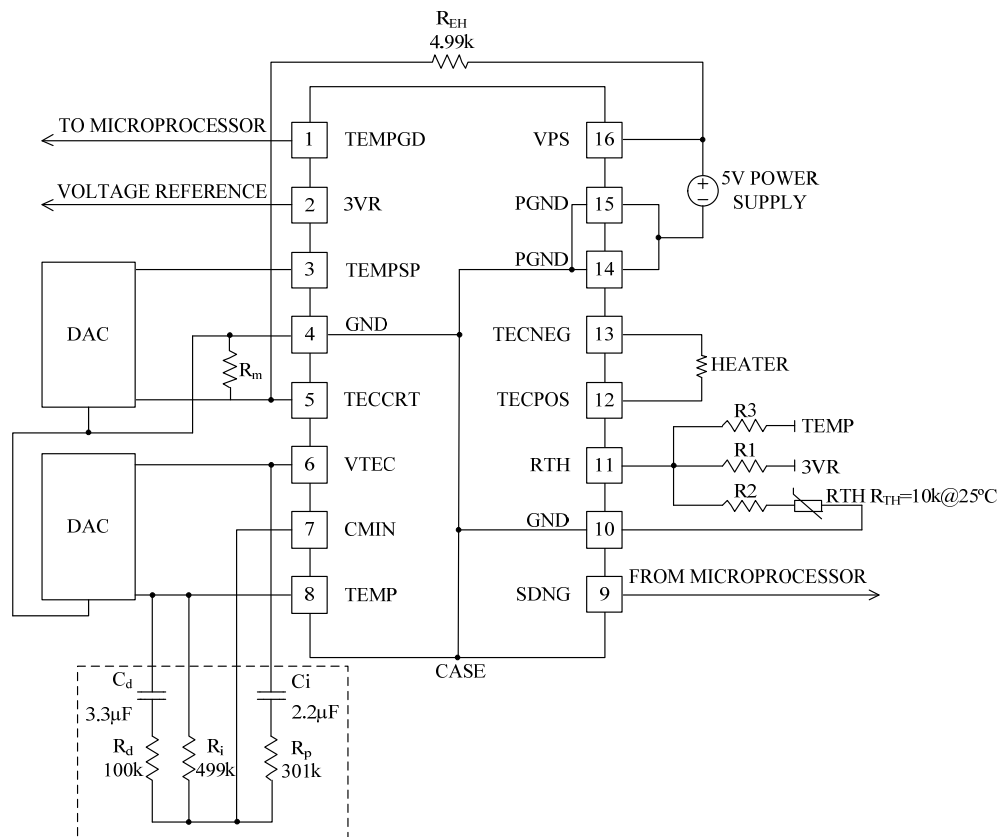


Figure 6. Driving A Heater for $<3.3V @ \leq 3A$

TEMPGD INTERNAL CIRCUIT

When temperature difference between the actual temperature and the set-point temperature $< 0.1^\circ C$, the pull-up resistor R_1 of TEMPGD is 130Ω ; When temperature difference between the actual temperature and the set-point temperature $> 0.1^\circ C$, the pull-down resistor R_2 of TEMPGD is 15Ω . See Figure 7.

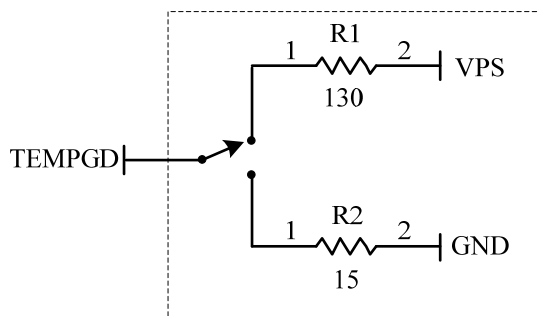


Figure 7. Internal Equivalent Circuit on TEMPGD Pin

MECHANICAL DIMENSIONS

Dimensions of the DIP package controller is shown in Figure 8.

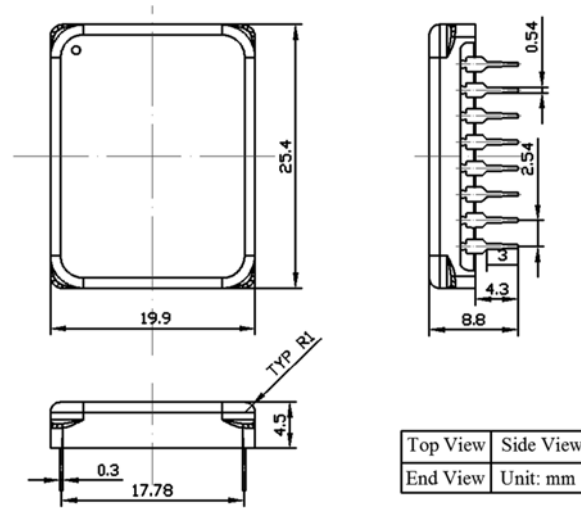


Figure 8. Dimensions of the DIP package controller of TEC5V4A-NT

ORDERING INFORMATION

Table 3.

Part #	Description
TEC5V4A-NT	TEC controller without a default temperature setting network TEMP=On@SDNG=0

Table 4. Unit Price

Quantity	1 – 9pcs	10 - 49pcs	50 - 199pcs	200 - 499pcs	≥500pcs
TEC5V4A-NT	\$78	\$75	\$72	\$69	\$65

WARNING: Both the surface mount and the through hole types of modules can only be soldered manually on the board by a solder iron of < 310°C (590°F), they cannot go through a reflow oven process.

NOTE: The power supply may have overshoot, when happens, it may exceed the maximum allowed input voltage, 6V, of the controller and damage the controller permanently. To avoid this from happening, do the following:

1. Connect the controller solid well with the power supply before turning on the power.
2. Make sure that the power supply has sufficient output current. It is suggested that the power supply can supply 1.2 to 1.5 times the maximum current the controller requires.
3. When using a bench top power supply, set the current limit to >1.5 times higher than the maximum current the controller requires.

SPECIAL NOTE

If you experience a high current spike when you change TEMPSP voltage quickly by a large amount, such as > 0.1V, a capacitor of 1uF can be added between TECCRT and GND. For TEC controllers manufactured after Nov. 10, 2015, there is no such a problem.



NOTICE

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