

Monitoring NTC Thermistor Circuit With Single-Ended ADC



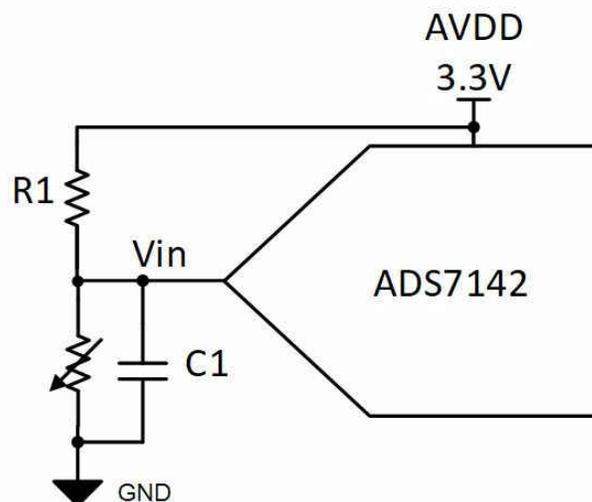
Input	ADC Input	Digital Output ADS7042
VinMin	210 mV	0x105
VinMax	3.09 V	0xEF8

Power Supplies
AVDD
3.3 V

Design Description

This document describes how to design a circuit to directly monitor temperature using a thermistor with a successive approximation register (SAR) analog-to-digital (ADC). This temperature sensing circuit monitors a temperature range from -25°C to 100°C using a negative temperature coefficient (NTC) thermistor in series with a resistor to form a voltage-divider. This voltage divider has the effect of producing an output voltage that is inversely related to the monitored temperature. The source voltage to the resistor divider is the analog power supply (AVDD) to the analog to digital converter, ADS7142, which, for this device, is also the reference. By connecting the resistor divider to the reference input, AVDD, the measurements will be ratiometric which will ensure that variations in the reference voltage will not impact the overall accuracy. The capacitor in parallel with the input resistor is used to support ADC input settling performance.

Thermistors are used to monitor temperature in applications such as [appliances](#), [wireless environmental sensors](#), and [smoke and heat detectors](#). In these applications, the thermistor voltage changes slowly thus it is not necessary to sample at high sampling rates. This means that there is no need for a driving input amplifier to condition the input voltage. A similar circuit design, [Driving SAR directly without a front-end buffer circuit](#), explains how to measure introduced drift from external components which can prove to be helpful in these applications.



Specifications

Specification	Calculated	Simulated
Sampling Rate	< 10 kHz	10 kHz, settling to ½ LSB
Temperature range	-25°C to 100°C	-25°C to 100°C
ADC input range	210 mV to 3.09 V	212 mV to 3.09 V

Design Notes

1. Create a resistor divider topology with NTC thermistor as the second component of the resistor divider. Using this configuration will cause the ADC input voltage to decrease with an increase in temperature. The input voltage will increase as the temperature decreases or the input voltage will decrease as the temperature increases.
2. R1 in the resistor divider is designed based on the temperature range monitored. Use the thermistor resistance tolerance as a guideline for choosing the tolerance of R1. Typically, a 1% tolerance resistor is sufficient to match the thermistor tolerance, but a better performing resistor will be needed if stringent requirements are present. The equation used to calculate the value of R1 is provided in the following component section.
3. The capacitor in parallel, C1 with the NTC is implemented to help support ADC input settling within the acquisition phase of the ADC sampling rate. The capacitor affects the start-up time of the system as it will take longer to charge larger capacitors.

Component Selection

1. Select a thermistor to best fit the application requirements needed. When selecting the thermistor, take into consideration the Beta value (B), a common parameter found in the device data sheet. The B value is specified across a given temperature range and represents the change of the resistance of the thermistor across that specified temperature range. The NTC selected in this example is a 100 kΩ at 25°C with a B(25/85) value of 3977.
2. The expected extrema resistances the NTC will experience need to be calculated to select R1. The value of R1 will create a more linear voltage versus temperature relation. The following equation is used to find the NTC resistance based on temperature; calculations require temperature to be in Kelvin.

$$R_{\text{NTC}} = R_{@298.15\text{K}} \cdot e^{B \left(\frac{1}{T} - \frac{1}{298.15\text{K}} \right)}$$

where

- R_{NTC} is the thermistor resistance (Ω) at temperature T
- $R_{@298.15\text{K}}$ is the thermistor resistance (Ω) measured at 25°C given in the data sheet
- B is the thermistor B value from data sheet in Kelvin (K)
- T is the temperature in Kelvin (K) that the thermistor is at ($0^\circ\text{C} + 273.15 = \text{K}$).

Temperature range in Kelvin:

- $T_{\text{min}} = -25^\circ\text{C} + 273.15 = 248.15\text{K}$
- $T_{\text{max}} = 100^\circ\text{C} + 273.15 = 373.15\text{K}$

Thermistor resistance values:

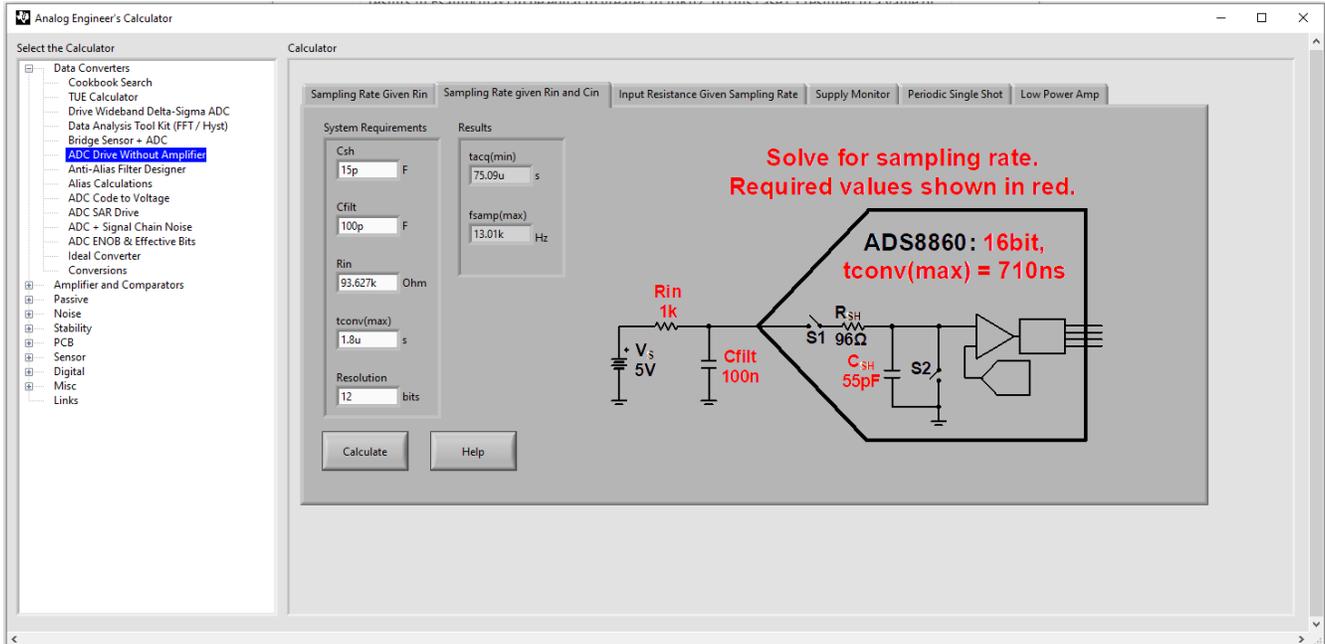
- $R_{\text{min}} = R_{@373.15\text{K}} = 100\text{k}\Omega \cdot e^{3977(1/373.15\text{K} - 1/248.15\text{K})} = 6.849\text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_{\text{max}} = R_{@248.15\text{K}} = 100\text{k}\Omega \cdot e^{3977(1/248.15\text{K} - 1/248.15\text{K})} = 1,469.744\text{ k}\Omega$

3. Calculate the value of R1, using the expected minimum and maximum NTC resistances. The closest resistor value is 100 kΩ.

$$R_1 = \sqrt{R_{@373.15\text{K}} \cdot R_{@248.15\text{K}}} = \sqrt{6.849\text{ k}\Omega \cdot 1,469.744\text{ k}\Omega} = 100.333\text{ k}\Omega$$

4. Select the capacitor value. Base the capacitor value on the sampling rate the ADC will operate at since the capacitor functionality is to support ADC input settling performance. In this case the target sample rate is 10 kHz, with the max conversion time 1.8 μs .

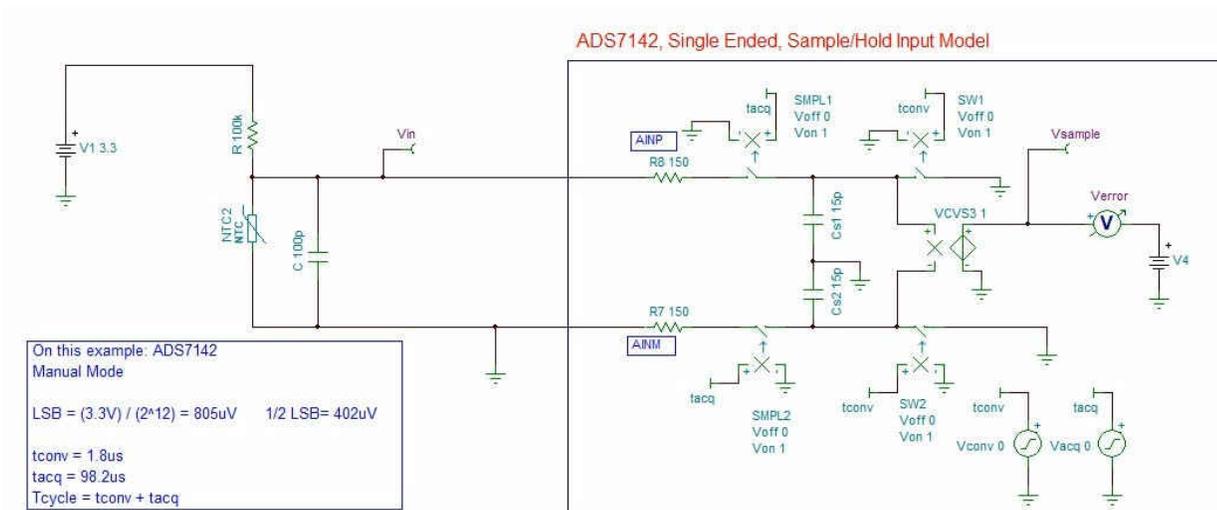
Using the [Analog Engineer Calculator](#) can help design this value based on the operation of the system and values from the ADC data sheet. Within the calculator tool, select *Data Converters > ADC Drive Without Amplifier*, then select the *Sampling Rate Given Rin and Cin* tab. Use this tool to solve for C1 based on the calculated sampling rate achievable, $F_{\text{samp(max)}}$. Within this window, enter the ADC sample-and-hold capacitor, 15pF, the parallel equivalent of the resistor divider at the worst-case settling scenario which is when the NTC is at the max resistive value, 93.627k Ω , the max conversion time, 1.8 μs , and the ADC resolution, 12. The initial Cfilt value entered should be 20 \times the ADC sample-and-hold capacitor, in this case 15 pF \cdot 20 = 300 pF. Entering this value results in the maximum sample rate to be less the desired 10 kHz. From here, decrease Cfilt to a value that results in $F_{\text{samp(max)}}$ to be equal to or greater than 10 kHz. In this case, C1 resulted to a value of 100 pF.



- Run transient simulations to verify NTC performance across temperature and input settling within the acquisition time to be within half an LSB.

Design Simulation Model

The following schematic of the first order model of ADS7142 was built using the steps explained in [TI Precision Labs –ADS: Building the SAR ADC model](#) in TINA SPICE. The ADC sampling rate is set at 10 kHz.



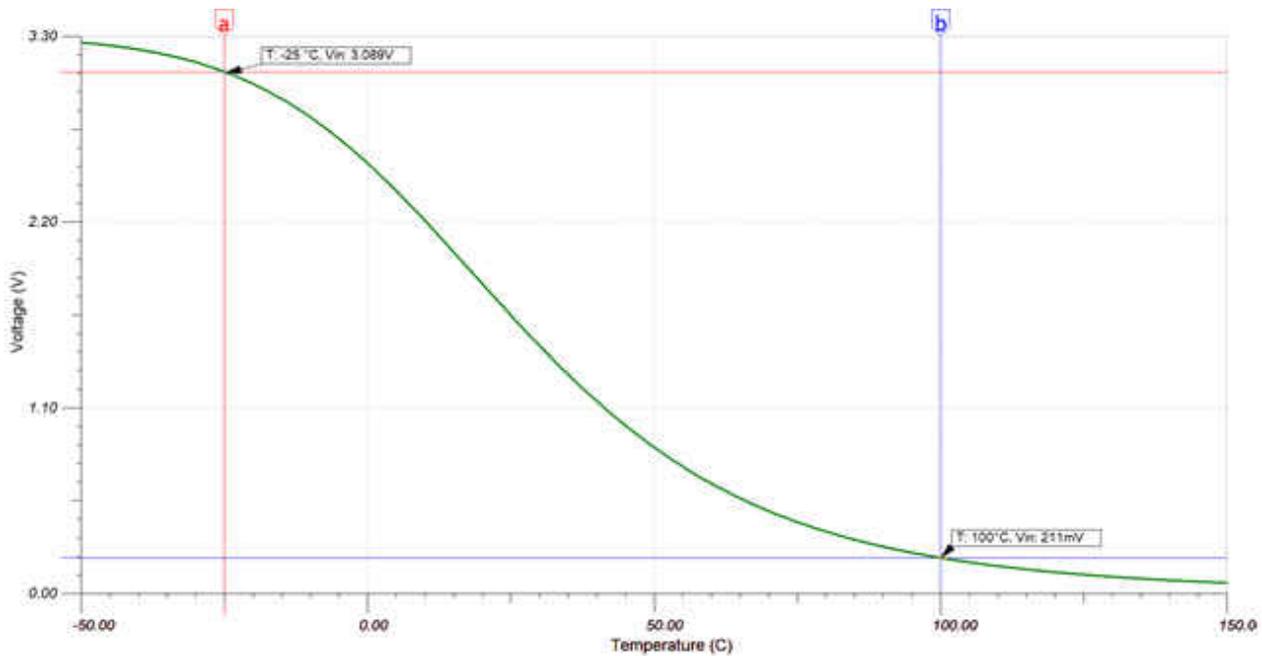
Temperature Transfer Characteristics

The linear NTC voltage range for the desired temperature range of -25°C to 100°C is within the ADC input range and uses 87% of the ADC full scale range. The following equation is used to solve for the temperature measurement based on the resistor divider measured by the ADC. This does not include system calibration or system tolerances.

$$T = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{298.15K} + \frac{1}{B} \cdot \ln\left(\frac{V_o R_1}{R_{@298.15K}(V_{AVDD} - V_o)}\right)}$$

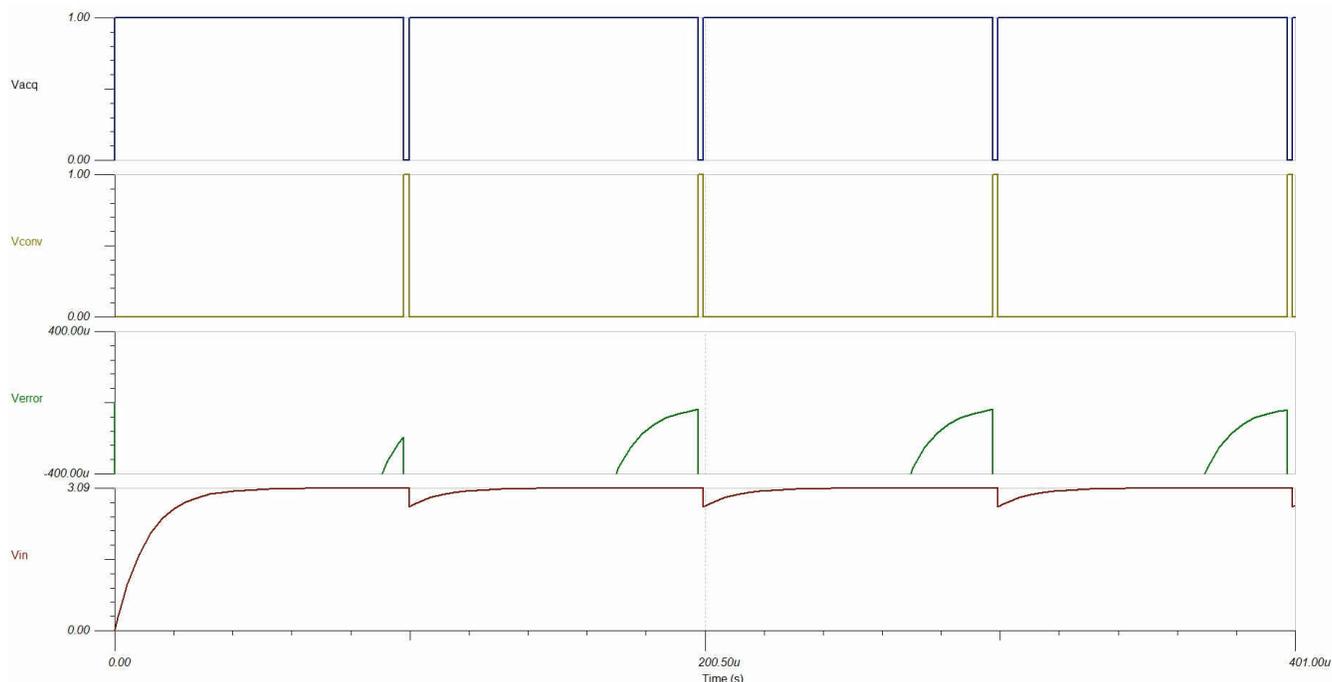
where:

- T is the temperature in Kelvin (K) ($^{\circ}\text{C} + 273.15 = \text{K}$)
- V_o is the resistor divider output voltage measured by the ADC
- B is the thermistor B value of the NTC in Kelvin (K), in this case 3977
- $R_{@298.15K}$ is the thermistor resistance (Ω) at 25°C , in this case 100 k Ω
- V_{AVDD} is the reference voltage and source voltage to the divider, in this case, 3.3 V
- R_1 is 100 k Ω



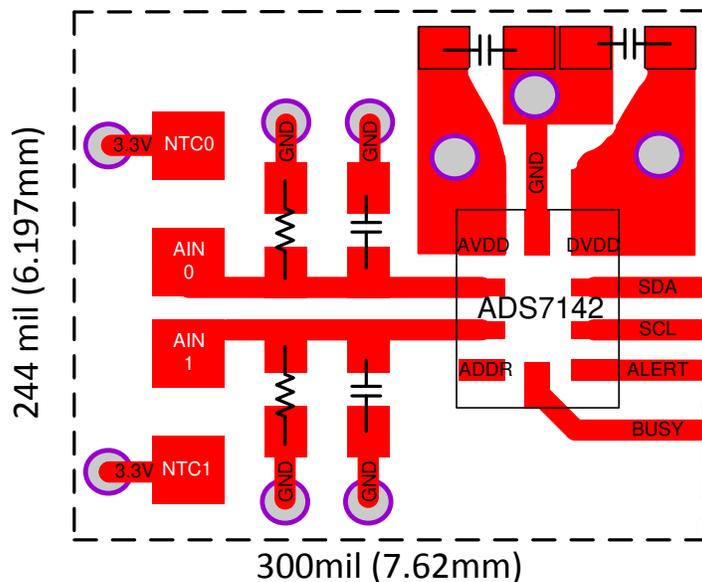
Transient DC Input Start-Up and Settling

Expected start-up time varies by the NTC resistance state. The following graph displays the maximum resistance value the NTC will experience, as this is the worst-case scenario for ADC input settling. The Verror graph shows that the input settling error is less than half of an LSB, $\pm 402 \mu\text{V}$, at the end of each acquisition period. See [TI Precision Labs: Drive ADC Input](#) for an explanation of ADC settling.



Small Layout

The ADS7142 is a dual-channel I2C ADC in a small X2QFN package size of 1.5 mm × 2 mm. The following image is a system-level solution using the ADS7142 with two NTCs connected at each analog input, though each input can monitor different types of sensors.



Design Featured Devices

Device	Key Features	Link	Other Possible Devices
ADS7142 ⁽¹⁾	12-bit resolution, I2C, autonomous monitor, dual-channel single-ended input, small package size: 1.5 mm × 2 mm	ADS7142	http://www.ti.com/adcs
ADS7042 ⁽¹⁾	12-bit resolution, SPI, 1MSPS sample rate, single-ended input, AVDD, Vref input range 1.6 V to 3.6 V	ADS7042	http://www.ti.com/adcs

(1) The ADS7142 and ADS7042 use AVDD as the reference input. Use a high-PSRR LDO, such as the TPS7A47 as the power supply.

Design References

See [Analog Engineer's Circuit Cookbooks](#) for TI's comprehensive circuit library.

Link to Key Simulation Files

<https://www.ti.com/lit/zip/sbac283>

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