Model 340 Temperature Controller

Features

- Operates down to 100 mK with appropriate NTC RTD sensors
- Two sensor inputs; expandable to ten sensor inputs
- Supports diode, RTD, capacitance, and thermocouple sensors
- Sensor excitation current reversal eliminates thermal EMF errors
- Two autotuning control loops: 100 W and 1 W
- IEEE-488 and RS-232C interfaces, analog outputs, digital I/O, and alarm relays

Product Description

The Model 340 is our most advanced temperature controller and offers unsurpassed resolution, accuracy, and stability for temperature measurement and control applications to as low as 100 mK. Operating with diodes, platinum RTDs, and negative temperature coefficient (NTC) resistor sensors, the Model 340 is expandable to ten sensor inputs or to operate with thermocouple or capacitance sensors. It has two control loops, with the first loop powered to 100 W.

Sensor Inputs

The Model 340 features two inputs with high-resolution 24-bit analog-to-digital converter and low noise circuit design, providing temperature readings with resolution as low as 0.1 mK at 4.2 K. Sensors are optically isolated from other instrument functions for quiet and repeatable sensor measurements.

Appropriate sensor excitation and input gain can be selected from the front panel. An autorange mode keeps the power in NTC resistors low to reduce self-heating as sensor resistance changes by many orders of magnitude. Automatic current reversal with rounded square wave excitation for NTC resistors eliminates the effect of thermal EMF.

Standard temperature response curves for silicon diodes, platinum RTDs, and many thermocouples are included. Up to twenty 200-point CalCurves™ for Lake Shore calibrated sensors or user curves can be loaded into non-volatile memory via a computer interface or the instrument front panel. CalCurves™ can be installed at the factory when purchased with a Model 340, or they can be field installed using the data card slot. A built-in SoftCal™*¹* algorithm can also be used to generate curves for silicon diodes and platinum RTDs, for storage as user curves.

¹ The Lake Shore SoftCal™ algorithm for silicon diode and platinum RTD sensors is a good solution for applications that need more accuracy than a standard sensor curve but do not warrant traditional calibration. SoftCal™ uses the predictability of a standard curve to improve the accuracy of an individual sensor around a few known temperature reference points.

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Temperature Control

The Model 340 offers two proportional-integral-derivative (PID) control loops. A PID control algorithm calculates control output based on temperature setpoint and feedback from the control sensor. Wide tuning parameters accommodate most cryogenic cooling systems and many small high-temperature ovens. Control output is generated by a high-resolution digital-toanalog converter for smooth continuous control. The user can manually set the PID values or the autotuning feature of the Model 340 can automate the tuning process.

The main heater output for the Model 340 is a well-regulated variable DC current source. Heater output is optically isolated from other circuits to reduce interference and ground loops. Heater output can provide up to 100 W of variable DC power to control Loop 1. Features have been added to the Model 340 to minimize the possibility of overheating delicate sensors and wiring in cryostats. These features include setpoint temperature limit, heater current range limit, internal heater diagnostics, and a fuse in the heater output wiring. The Model 340 also has the ability to run a second independent control loop, intended to reduce the temperature gradients in one cooling system rather than to run two different cooling systems.

The setpoint ramp feature allows smooth, continuous changes in setpoint. This feature permits faster experiment cycles, since data can be taken as the system is changing in temperature. It can also be used to make a more predictable approach to a setpoint temperature. The zone feature can automatically change control parameter values for operation over a large temperature range. Values for ten different temperature zones can be loaded into the instrument, which will select the next appropriate zone value on setpoint change.

The Model 340 can run a set of instrument instructions called an internal program. Each program represents the temperature changes needed to conduct a user's experiment. The setpoint can be changed or ramped up and down, and other controller parameters can be programmed. For simple experiments the internal program eliminates the need for computer control. It is also common for the internal program to be used along with the computer interface so the computer is not slowed down by temperature control overhead.

Several math features are included to improve usability and aid in setting up experiments. It is often useful to have reading filters and maximum and minimum calculations easily available on the front panel. The Model 340 also computes a linear equation on reading data to allow flexibility in how the display represents experimental inputs.

Interface

The Model 340 can be fully involved in computer-controlled experiments. It is equipped with IEEE-488 and RS-232C interfaces. Either interface can send settings to the Model 340 and collect reading data from it. Even the analog outputs, relays, and Digital I/O can be controlled by computer interface.

The Model 340 has several features to make it more valuable as part of a larger measuring system. Two analog voltage outputs can be used to report a voltage that is proportional to the temperature of an input. The outputs can be controlled manually as a voltage source for any other application. Two relays can be used with the alarm setpoints in latching mode for error detection, or in nonlatching mode for simple on and off control. Digital I/O can be used with an external scanner or manually.

Configurable Display

The Model 340 includes a graphic LCD with fluorescent backlight display that is fully configurable and can display up to eight readings.

This shows a variation of the display with a large loop 1 heater output graphic bar where the PID parameters are not displayed, but the heater output is more prominent.

		READING DISPLAY FORMAT	<more></more>
Input Displays: 8			
Disel: A Dise3: B Disp5: C Dise7: Đ	SENSOR MAX TEMP с Ř ALEMPT	Dise2: A Dise4: B Dise6: Dise8: Ð	TEMP К LINEAR TEMP

The user can display 1 to 8 readings from any of the available inputs. The units available are the sensor units of mV, V, Ω*, k*Ω*, nF, or temperature units of °C or K. Results of the math feature can also be selected.*

The user can select the sensor type, and the controller will automatically select the sensor units, excitation, and range. If 'special' type is selected, the user can choose any available excitation and input range.

Additional Inputs Available For Model 340

The following optional inputs are available for the Model 340. Only one can be installed at a time, and the standard inputs stay in the instrument and remain fully functional. Calibration for the option is stored on the card so it can be installed in the field without recalibration.

3462 Dual Standard Input Option Card

Adds two standard inputs to the Model 340, appearing on the display as C and D. The card has separate A/Ds and excitation for each sensor. A microprocessor on the card manages the A/D and communication with the Model 340. Allows the Model 340 to read four sensors and use any of them as a control sensor.

3464 Dual Thermocouple Input Option Card

Adds two new thermocouple inputs to the Model 340, appearing on the display as C and D. The card has separate A/Ds and excitation for each sensor. A microprocessor on the card manages the A/D and communication with the Model 340. Thermocouple inputs range from cryogenic temperature to 1000 °C, with built-in room temperature compensation. Curves for thermocouple types E, K, and AuFe 0.07% vs. Cr are included. The user can add other types.

3465 Single Capacitance Input Option Card

Adds a new capacitance input to the Model 340, appearing on the display as C. The card has separate A/D and excitation for the sensor. A microprocessor on the card manages the A/D and communication with the Model 340. The 3465 is intended to control temperature in strong magnetic fields using a Lake Shore Model CS-501 capacitance temperature sensor.

3468 Eight Channel Input Option Card

Adds eight sensor inputs to the Model 340. The optional inputs are broken into two groups of four and appear on the display as C1–C4 for Input C, D1–D4 for Input D. The 3468 includes two A/D converters, one for each group of four inputs, and individual excitation for each sensor. Each input group must use the same sensor type, but the two groups can be different. The multiplexed inputs provide new readings for all eight inputs twice each second. The 3468 inputs are not recommended for temperature control because the reading rate is too slow to allow good stability.

A variety of sensor types are supported by the Model 3468, but not as many as the standard inputs. Diode and platinum configurations have similar specifications to the standard inputs, reduced only slightly to account for multiplexing. However, the NTC RTD configuration is quite different than the standard inputs. The option has a limited resistance range of 7.5 k Ω with a fixed current excitation of 10 μ A. This limitation significantly reduces the low temperature range of the inputs. The option also does not support current reversal to reduce the effect of thermal EMF voltages. The original standard inputs remain fully functional allowing the Model 340 to measure 10 sensors when the option is installed.

Sensor Temperature Range (sensors sold separately)

Silicon diodes are the best choice for general cryogenic use from 1.4 K to above room temperature. Diodes are economical to use because they follow a standard curve and are interchangeable in many applications. They are not suitable for use in ionizing radiation or magnetic fields.

Cernox™ thin-film RTDs offer high sensitivity and low magnetic field-induced errors over the 0.3 K to 420 K temperature range. Cernox sensors require calibration.

Platinum RTDs offer high uniform sensitivity from 30 K to over 800 K. With excellent reproducibility, they are useful as thermometry standards. They follow a standard curve above 70 K and are interchangeable in many applications.

- *⁴ Low temperature limited by input resistance range*
- *⁵ Low temperature specified with self-heating error:* ≤ *5 mK*
- *⁶ Low temperature specified with self-heating error:* ≤ *12 mK*

² Single excitation current may limit the low temperature range of NTC resistors

³ Non-HT version maximum temperature: 325 K

Sensor Selection

Typical Sensor Performance – *see Appendix F for sample calculations of typical sensor performance*

⁷ Typical sensor sensitivities were taken from representative calibrations for the sensor listed

⁸ Control stability of the electronics only, in an ideal thermal system

⁹ Non-HT version maximum temperature: 325 K

¹⁰ Accuracy specification does not include errors from room temperature compensation

Specifications Input Specifications

¹¹ Control stability of the electronics only, in an ideal thermal system

¹² Current source error has negligible effect on measurement accuracy

¹³ Diode input excitation current can be set to 1 mA –

refer to the Model 331 user manual for details

¹⁴ Current source error is removed during calibration

¹⁵ Accuracy specification does not include errors from room temperature compensation

Thermometry

Sensor Input Configuration

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Heater Output Specifications

Loop 1 Full Scale Heater Power at Typical Resistance

Front Panel

Interfaces IEEE-488.2 interface

Extending Temperature Controller Heater Power

It is often necessary to extend the heater power of a cryogenic temperature controller to conduct experiments above room temperature. This diagram illustrates a practical way to increase the control output of the Model 340 to several hundred watts. A programming resistor, R_{pqm} , is placed across the controller's heater output current source. As the heater output current changes, a changing voltage is generated across R_{nom} . That voltage is used to program a large external power supply. R_{pgm} should be chosen so that a low current range of the controller can be used. The control output of loop 2 on the Model 340 is a voltage, thus it can be connected directly to the external power supply without R_{nom} .

3003 Heater Output Conditioner

The heater output conditioner is a passive filter which further reduces the already low Model 340 heater output noise. The typical insertion loss for the Model 3003 is 20 dB at or above line frequency, and >40 dB at or above double line frequency. A 144 mm $W \times 72$ mm H \times 165 mm D $(5.7 \text{ in} \times 2.8 \text{ in} \times 6.5 \text{ in})$ panel mount enclosure houses this option, and it weighs 1.6 kg (3.5 lb).

Ordering Information

