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# **pyTempico**

***Release 1.2.0***

**Tausand Electronics**

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PyTempico is a Python library developed by Tausand Electronics, with Joan Amaya and David Guzman as the lead developers. It enables seamless interaction with Tempico TP1004 devices, facilitating data communication and control. The library relies on key modules such as hid and pyserial for efficient device connectivity. For more information, visit [tausand.com](https://tausand.com)

Release 1.2.0



## PYTEMPICO PACKAGE

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Core class and methods for PyTempico library.

To use with Tausand Electronics' Time-to-Digital Converters (TDCs) of the family *Tausand Tempico*.

### 1.1 TempicoDevicesSearch class

**class** `pyTempico.core.TempicoDevicesSearch`

A class for discovering Tempico devices.

This class provides methods to search for Tempico devices in a network or connected system.

#### **findDevices()**

Finds and verifies whether a device with the given VID and PID is a Tempico device.

This function takes the Vendor ID (VID) and Product ID (PID) as inputs, converts them to integers, and attempts to open the device using these values. It then checks if the manufacturer and product strings match the expected values for a Tempico device.

#### **Parameters**

- **vid\_s** (*str*) – The Vendor ID (VID) of the device in string format.
- **pid\_s** (*str*) – The Product ID (PID) of the device in string format.

**Returns** *True* if the device is a Tempico, *False* otherwise.

**Return type** `bool`

#### **getVidPid(vid\_pid\_information)**

Extracts the Vendor ID (VID) and Product ID (PID) from a string and returns them as a tuple.

This function processes a string that contains the VID and PID information in the format 'VID:PID=xxxx:yyyy'. It splits the string and retrieves the VID and PID values, returning them as a tuple of strings.

**Parameters** **vid\_pid\_information** (*str*) – A string containing the VID and PID information.

**Returns** A tuple containing the VID and PID as strings (vid, pid).

**Return type** tuple

**tryOpenDevices**(vid\_s, pid\_s)

Finds and verifies whether a device with the given VID and PID is a Tempico device.

This function takes the Vendor ID (VID) and Product ID (PID) as inputs, converts them to integers, and attempts to open the device using these values. It then checks if the manufacturer and product strings match the expected values for a Tempico device.

**Parameters**

- **vid\_s** (str) – The Vendor ID (VID) of the device in string format.
- **pid\_s** (str) – The Product ID (PID) of the device in string format.

**Returns** *True* if the device is a Tempico, *False* otherwise.

**Return type** bool

**verifyPyTempico**(tuple\_vid\_pid)

Verifies whether the connected device is a Tempico device.

This function checks if the device's Vendor ID (VID) and Product ID (PID) match the values corresponding to a Tempico device. It returns *True* if the device is identified as a Tempico, and *False* otherwise.

**Parameters** **tuple\_vid\_pid** (tuple) – A tuple containing the VID and PID of the device.

**Returns** *True* if the device is a Tempico, *False* otherwise.

**Return type** bool

## 1.2 TempicoDevice class

**class** pyTempico.core.TempicoDevice(com\_port)

Tausand Tempico TDC device object.

To create an object of the TempicoDevice class, it is required to send as parameter the desired com\_port. For example,

```
>>> my_tempico_device_object = pyTempico.TempicoDevice('COM5')
```

To modify or access attributes, **please use methods**. For example,

```
>>> my_tempico_device_object.getIdn()
```

To access attributes of a particular channel, use methods of the TempicoChannel class through attributes ch1, ch2, ch3, ch4 of this class. For example, to get average cycles on channel 2,

```
>>> my_tempico_device_object.ch2.getAverageCycles()
```

Changing attributes without using methods, do not change the actual parameters in the device.

Accessing attributes without using methods, returns values registered in local memory, that may not be updated.

To begin a measurement and read its results, use methods *measure()* and *fetch()*.

**id\_tempico\_device**

Unique identifier of the TausandDevice object.

**Type** int



- ch1**  
Object of the TempicoChannel class linked to TDC in channel 1 (input A).  
**Type** *TempicoChannel*
- ch2**  
Object of the TempicoChannel class linked to TDC in channel 2 (input B).  
**Type** *TempicoChannel*
- ch3**  
Object of the TempicoChannel class linked to TDC in channel 3 (input C).  
**Type** *TempicoChannel*
- ch4**  
Object of the TempicoChannel class linked to TDC in channel 4 (input D).  
**Type** *TempicoChannel*
- device**  
Serial port object.  
**Type** *Serial*
- idn**  
Identification string.  
**Type** *str*
- number\_of\_channels**  
number of stop inputs of the device.  
**Type** *int*
- number\_of\_runs**  
Number of measurement runs of the TDCs in TempicoDevice.  
**Type** *int*
- port**  
Serial port string.  
**Type** *str*
- threshold**  
Threshold voltage on the rising edge of start and stops inputs of TDCs in the TempicoDevice.  
**Type** *float*
- abort()**  
Cancels an ongoing measurement on the TempicoDevice.  
  
This function sends a cancel command to the TempicoDevice to stop any measurement currently in progress. It ensures that all measurement processes are halted and the device is ready for a new operation or safely turned off.  
  
This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice.  
  
**Parameters (none) –**
- close()**  
Ends (closes) a connection with a TausandDevice.  
  
It is recommended to close connection at the end of a routine, to free the device's port for future use.  
  
**Parameters (none) –**

**closeTempico()**

Ends (closes) a connection with a TausandDevice.

Same as method `close()`.

**Parameters (none)** –

**convertReadDataToFloatList**(*data\_string*)

Converts a string with a read dataset message issued by a TempicoDevice, into an float 2D-list.

The dataset of a TempicoDevice is in the following format:

```
[[ch,run,start_s,stop_ps1,...,stop_psN],...,[ch,run,start_time_us,stop_ps1,...,  
↪stop_psN]]
```

where

- ‘ch’ indicates the TDC channel,
- ‘run’ goes from 1 to NumberOfRuns,
- ‘start\_s’ is the epoch timestamp of start pulse, in seconds, with microseconds precision; this value overflows (go back to zero) after  $2^{32}$  seconds,
- ‘stop\_ps1’ is the measured precision timelapse between start and the 1st stop pulse, in picoseconds,
- ‘N’ is the NumberOfStops.

Every value in the dataset is converted to a float.

**Parameters** **data\_string** (*str*) – dataset message to convert.

**Returns** dataset message converted.

**Return type** list(float)

**convertReadDataToNumberList**(*data\_string*)

Converts a string with a read dataset message issued by a TempicoDevice, into an number of number 2D-list (integer or float).

The dataset of a TempicoDevice is in the following format:

```
[[ch,run,start_s,stop_ps1,...,stop_psN],...,[ch,run,start_time_us,stop_ps1,...,  
↪stop_psN]]
```

where

- ‘ch’ (int) indicates the TDC channel,
- ‘run’ (int) goes from 1 to NumberOfRuns,
- ‘start\_s’ (float) is the epoch timestamp of start pulse, in seconds, with microseconds precision; this value overflows (go back to zero) after  $2^{32}$  seconds,
- ‘stop\_ps1’ (int) is the measured precision timelapse between start and the 1st stop pulse, in picoseconds,
- ‘N’ (int) is the NumberOfStops.

Every value in the dataset is either an integer or a float.

**Parameters** **data\_string** (*str*) – dataset message to convert.

**Returns** dataset message converted.

**Return type** list(number)

**decrementThresholdVoltage()**

Reduces the threshold voltage on the rising edge of start and stops inputs of TDCs in the TempicoDevice.

To validate the actual threshold voltage applied, method [getThresholdVoltage\(\)](#) should be called.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice.

**Parameters (none)** –

**disableChannel(channel)**

Disables the specified TempicoChannel.

By default, channels are enabled.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice, and delegates the disabling operation to the selected TempicoChannel. If the channel is invalid, the function does nothing.

To validate the status of the channel, method [isEnabled\(\)](#) may be used.

This version belongs to the TempicoDevice class and requires specifying the channel number or label ('A'–'D') to access and configure the corresponding TempicoChannel.

**Parameters channel (int or str)** – Channel identifier. Accepted values are: - 1 or 'A' or 'a' - 2 or 'B' or 'b' - 3 or 'C' or 'c' - 4 or 'D' or 'd'

**enableChannel(channel)**

Enables the specified TempicoChannel.

By default, channels are enabled.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice, and delegates the enabling operation to the selected TempicoChannel. If the channel is invalid, the function does nothing.

To validate the status of the channel, method [isEnabled\(\)](#) may be used.

This version belongs to the TempicoDevice class and requires specifying the channel number or label ('A'–'D') to access and configure the corresponding TempicoChannel.

**Parameters channel (int or str)** – Channel identifier. Accepted values are: - 1 or 'A' or 'a' - 2 or 'B' or 'b' - 3 or 'C' or 'c' - 4 or 'D' or 'd'

**fetch()**

Reads the most recent measurement data set form a TempicoDevice.

The dataset of a TempicoDevice is in the following format:

```
[[ch,run,start_s,stop_ps1,...,stop_psN],...,[ch,run,start_time_us,stop_ps1,...,
↪stop_psN]]
```

where

- 'ch' (int) indicates the TDC channel,
- 'run' (int) goes from 1 to NumberOfRuns,
- 'start\_s' (float) is the epoch timestamp of start pulse, in seconds with microsecond resolution. This value overflows (go back to zero) after 2<sup>32</sup> seconds,
- 'stop\_ps1' (int) is the measured precision timelapse between start and the 1st stop pulse, in picoseconds,
- 'N' (int) is the NumberOfStops.

Every value in the dataset is either an integer or a float number.

If no measurement has been done, the device may respond with an empty dataset. To make a new measurement, method `measure()` must be used.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice.

**Parameters (none)** –

**Returns** measured dataset.

**Return type** list(number)

#### **getAverageCycles(channel)**

Returns the average cycles of the specified TempicoChannel.

By default, average cycles = 1 (no multi-cycle averaging).

If the connection is established with the TempicoDevice, this function delegates the query to the selected channel object and retrieves its average cycles value. If the connection is not open, or the channel is invalid, the function returns -1.

This version belongs to the TempicoDevice class and requires specifying the channel number or label ('A'–'D') to access the corresponding TempicoChannel.

**Parameters channel (int or str)** – Channel identifier. Accepted values are: - 1 or 'A' or 'a' - 2 or 'B' or 'b' - 3 or 'C' or 'c' - 4 or 'D' or 'd'

**Returns** Number of average cycles, or -1 if the channel is invalid.

**Return type** integer

#### **getBaudRate()**

Returns the TempicoDevice baud rate.

**Parameters (none)** –

**Returns** baud rate.

**Return type** int

#### **getDateTime(convertToDatetime=False)**

Returns the number of seconds since the Tempico device was powered on, based on its internal clock. If the device has been synchronized, the seconds count corresponds to the system time of the host PC.

This function sends the *DTIME?* command to the device, reads the response, and parses it into a float representing the elapsed time in seconds. If the device does not respond correctly, the function returns -1.

The timestamp resolution is in microseconds (µs), and the count starts from power-up by default. Synchronization with the PC time must be previously configured on the device, otherwise the value is relative to the device's uptime.

**Parameters**

- **convertToDatetime (bool, optional)** – If True, the value is returned as a
- **False. (datetime object. Default is)** –

**Returns**

**Elapsed time in seconds since the device was powered on** or synchronized with the PC clock. Returns -1 if no valid response is received.

**Return type** float

#### **getFirmware()**

Returns the TempicoDevice firmware version.

**Parameters (none)** –

**Returns** firmware version.

**Return type** str

#### **getIdn()**

Returns the TempicoDevice identification string.

If the connection is established with the TempicoDevice, this function request the device for the string. If not, the most recent read string is returned.

**Parameters (none)** –

**Returns** identification string.

**Return type** str

#### **getLastStart(convertToDatetime=False)**

Returns the datetime of the last start event registered by the TempicoDevice.

If the connection is established with the TempicoDevice, this function requests the device for the last start timestamp using the ‘DTIME:LStart?’ command. If not, the value -1 is returned.

The returned value corresponds to the timestamp of the most recent start event. If no start has occurred yet, the device returns 0. If *convertToDatetime* is set to True, the value is returned as a datetime object instead of a float.

**Parameters**

- **convertToDatetime** (*bool*, *optional*) – If True, the value is returned as a
- **False.** (*datetime object. Default is*) –

**Returns** Timestamp of the last start event, either as a float (Unix timestamp) or as a datetime object if *convertToDatetime* is True. Returns -1 if the value could not be retrieved.

**Return type** float or datetime

#### **getLastSync(convertToDatetime=False)**

Returns the datetime of the last synchronization performed on the TempicoDevice.

If the connection is established with the TempicoDevice, this function requests the device for the last synchronization timestamp using the ‘DTIME:LSYNc?’ command. If not, the value -1 is returned.

The returned value corresponds to the timestamp of the most recent synchronization with the host system. If no synchronization has occurred yet, the device returns 0. If *convertToDatetime* is set to True, the value is returned as a datetime object instead of a float.

**Parameters**

- **convertToDatetime** (*bool*, *optional*) – If True, the value is returned as a
- **False.** (*datetime object. Default is*) –

**Returns** Timestamp of the last synchronization event, either as a float (Unix timestamp) or as a datetime object if *convertToDatetime* is True. Returns -1 if the value could not be retrieved.

**Return type** float or datetime

#### **getMaximumDatetime(convertToDatetime=False)**

Returns the maximum datetime value allowed by the TempicoDevice.

If the connection is established with the TempicoDevice, this function requests the device for the maximum allowed date using the ‘DTIME:MAXimum?’ command. If not, the value -1 is returned.

The returned value corresponds to the latest timestamp that can be set on the device without causing an error. If *convertToDatetime* is set to True, the value is returned as a datetime object instead of a float.

**Parameters**

- **convertToDatetime** (*bool*, *optional*) – If True, the value is returned as a
- **False.** (*datetime object. Default is*) –

**Returns** Maximum allowed datetime, either as a float (Unix timestamp) or as a datetime object if convertToDatetime is True.

**Return type** float or datetime

**getMinimumDatetime**(*convertToDatetime=False*)

Returns the minimum datetime value allowed by the TempicoDevice.

If the connection is established with the TempicoDevice, this function requests the device for the minimum allowed date using the 'DTIME:MINimum?' command. If not, the value -1 is returned.

The returned value corresponds to the earliest timestamp that can be set on the device without causing an error. If *convertToDatetime* is set to True, the value is returned as a datetime object instead of a float.

**Parameters**

- **convertToDatetime** (*bool*, *optional*) – If True, the value is returned as a
- **False.** (*datetime object. Default is*) –

**Returns** Minimum allowed datetime, either as a float (Unix timestamp) or as a datetime object if convertToDatetime is True.

**Return type** float or datetime

**getMode**(*channel*)

Returns the measurement mode of the specified TempicoChannel.

By default, mode = 1.

If the connection is established with the TempicoDevice, this function delegates the query to the selected channel object and retrieves its current measurement mode. If the connection is not open, or the channel is invalid, the function returns -1.

This version belongs to the TempicoDevice class and requires specifying the channel number or label ('A'-'D') to access the corresponding TempicoChannel.

**Parameters** **channel** (*int or str*) – Channel identifier. Accepted values are: - 1 or 'A' or 'a' - 2 or 'B' or 'b' - 3 or 'C' or 'c' - 4 or 'D' or 'd'

**Returns**

Mode. Possible values are:

- 1: Short measurement range. Start-stop times from 12ns to 500ns.
- 2: Large measurement range. Start-stop times from 125ns to 4ms.

Returns -1 if the channel is invalid.

**Return type** integer

**getNumberOfRuns**()

Returns the number of measurement runs of the TDCs in TempicoDevice.

By default, number of runs = 1 (single measurement).

If the connection is established with the TempicoDevice, this function request the device for the value. If not, the most recent value is returned.

**Parameters** (**none**) –

**Returns** Number of number of runs.

**Return type** integer

#### **getNumberOfStops(channel)**

Returns the expected number of stop pulses for the specified TempicoChannel.

By default, number of stops = 1 (single start → single stop).

The TDC must receive all the expected number of stops to register them as a valid measurement; otherwise, the measurements are discarded.

If the connection is established with the TempicoDevice, this function delegates the query to the selected channel object and retrieves its number of stops. If the connection is not open, or the channel is invalid, the function returns -1.

This version belongs to the TempicoDevice class and requires specifying the channel number or label ('A'–'D') to access the corresponding TempicoChannel.

**Parameters channel** (*int* or *str*) – Channel identifier. Accepted values are: - 1 or 'A' or 'a' - 2 or 'B' or 'b' - 3 or 'C' or 'c' - 4 or 'D' or 'd'

**Returns** Number of stops, or -1 if the channel is invalid.

**Return type** integer

#### **getSerialNumber()**

Returns the serial number of the connected TempicoDevice.

This function searches for the serial number associated with the current COM port used by the device. If the connection is established, it queries the list of available serial ports to match the active one and extract its serial number.

If the connection is not open, a message is printed and an empty string is returned.

**Parameters (none)** –

**Returns** Serial number of the device, or empty string if not found or if the connection is not open.  
e.g: "TP1004-220500"

**Return type** string

#### **getSettings()**

Reads the current settings form a TempicoDevice.

The response for settings query on a TempicoDevice is in the following format:

```
CH1:ACYC 1;CH1:ENAB 1;CH1:NST 1;...;CH4:STOP:MASK 0;NRUN 1;THR 1.00
```

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice.

**Parameters (none)** –

**Returns** device settings.

**Return type** str

#### **getStartEdge(channel)**

Returns the edge type used on start pulses of the specified TempicoChannel.

By default, start edge = 'RISE'.

If the connection is established with the TempicoDevice, this function delegates the query to the selected channel object and retrieves its configured start edge type. If the connection is not open, or the channel is invalid, the function returns -1.

This version belongs to the TempicoDevice class and requires specifying the channel number or label ('A'-'D') to access the corresponding TempicoChannel.

**Parameters** **channel** (*int or str*) – Channel identifier. Accepted values are: - 1 or 'A' or 'a' - 2 or 'B' or 'b' - 3 or 'C' or 'c' - 4 or 'D' or 'd'

**Returns**

Start edge type. Possible values are:

- 'RISE': TDC timing starts on a rising edge of the start pulse.
- 'FALL': TDC timing starts on a falling edge of the start pulse.

Returns -1 if the channel is invalid.

**Return type** string or int

**getStopEdge(channel)**

Returns the edge type used on stop pulses of the specified TempicoChannel.

By default, stop edge = 'RISE'.

If the connection is established with the TempicoDevice, this function delegates the query to the selected channel object and retrieves its configured stop edge type. If the connection is not open, or the channel is invalid, the function returns -1.

This version belongs to the TempicoDevice class and requires specifying the channel number or label ('A'-'D') to access the corresponding TempicoChannel.

**Parameters** **channel** (*int or str*) – Channel identifier. Accepted values are: - 1 or 'A' or 'a' - 2 or 'B' or 'b' - 3 or 'C' or 'c' - 4 or 'D' or 'd'

**Returns**

Stop edge type. Possible values are:

- 'RISE': TDC timing ends on a rising edge of the stop pulse.
- 'FALL': TDC timing ends on a falling edge of the stop pulse.

Returns -1 if the channel is invalid.

**Return type** string or int

**getStopMask(channel)**

Returns the stop mask time (in microseconds) of the specified TempicoChannel.

By default, stop mask = 0 (no masking).

The stop mask defines the period after receiving a start pulse during which stop pulses are ignored. This helps eliminate unwanted noise or early pulses.

If the connection is established with the TempicoDevice, this function delegates the query to the selected channel object and retrieves its current stop mask time. If the connection is not open, or the channel is invalid, the function returns -1.

This version belongs to the TempicoDevice class and requires specifying the channel number or label ('A'-'D') to access the corresponding TempicoChannel.

**Parameters** **channel** (*int or str*) – Channel identifier. Accepted values are: - 1 or 'A' or 'a' - 2 or 'B' or 'b' - 3 or 'C' or 'c' - 4 or 'D' or 'd'

**Returns** Stop mask time in microseconds, or -1 if the channel is invalid.

**Return type** integer



**getTempicoChannel(channel)**

Returns the TempicoChannel object corresponding to the specified channel.

This function allows selecting a channel by its number (1–4) or label ('A'–'D'). If the input is valid, it returns the corresponding TempicoChannel instance. If the input is invalid, an error message is printed and -1 is returned.

**Parameters**

- **channel** (*int or str*) – Channel identifier. Accepted values are:
- 'a' (- 1 or 'A' or) –
- 'b' (- 2 or 'B' or) –
- 'c' (- 3 or 'C' or) –
- 'd' (- 4 or 'D' or) –

**Returns** The corresponding TempicoChannel object if the input is valid, or -1 if the channel is invalid.

**Return type** *TempicoChannel* or int

**getThresholdVoltage()**

Returns the threshold voltage on the rising edge of start and stops inputs of TDCs in the TempicoDevice.

Start and stop inputs are coupled to 50 ohms.

By default, threshold voltage = 1.00V (recommended for TTL>2.5V).

All inputs are 5V tolerant.

Gate input. This parameter does not have effect on the gate input. Gate input accepts 3.3V TTL and 5V TTL signals.

- When gate is disconnected, system is enabled.
- When gate is connected to 0V, system is disabled.
- When gate is connected to 3.3V/5V, system is enabled.

If the connection is established with the TempicoDevice, this function request the device for the value. If not, the most recent value is returned.

**Parameters (none)** –

**Returns** start and stop inputs threshold voltage.

**Return type** float

**incrementThresholdVoltage()**

Increases the threshold voltage on the rising edge of start and stops inputs of TDCs in the TempicoDevice.

To validate the actual threshold voltage applied, method [getThresholdVoltage\(\)](#) should be called.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice.

**Parameters (none)** –

**isEnabled(channel)**

Returns whether the specified TempicoChannel is enabled.

By default, channels are enabled.

If the connection is established with the TempicoDevice, this function delegates the query to the selected channel object and retrieves its current enable status. If the connection is not open, or the channel is invalid, the function returns -1.

This version belongs to the TempicoDevice class and requires specifying the channel number or label ('A'–'D') to access and query the corresponding TempicoChannel.

**Parameters** **channel** (*int or str*) – Channel identifier. Accepted values are: - 1 or 'A' or 'a' - 2 or 'B' or 'b' - 3 or 'C' or 'c' - 4 or 'D' or 'd'

**Returns** True if the channel is enabled, False if disabled, or -1 if the channel is invalid.

**Return type** bool or int

#### **isOpen()**

Returns if a TDC TempicoDevice connection is established (open).

**Parameters** (**none**) –

**Returns** True when TempicoDevice connection is open.

**Return type** bool

#### **isPendingReadMessage()**

Determines if a pending message is available to be read in a TempicoDevice serial port.

**Parameters** (**none**) –

**Returns** True, when a pending message is found.

**Return type** bool

#### **measure()**

Begins a measurement sequence and reads its dataset from a TempicoDevice.

The dataset of a TempicoDevice is in the following format:

```
[[ch,run,start_s,stop_ps1,...,stop_psN],...,[ch,run,start_time_us,stop_ps1,...,  
↪stop_psN]]
```

where

- 'ch' (int) indicates the TDC channel,
- 'run' (int) goes from 1 to NumberOfRuns,
- 'start\_s' (float) is the epoch timestamp of start pulse, in seconds with microsecond resolution. This value overflows (go back to zero) after  $2^{32}$  seconds,
- 'stop\_ps1' (int) is the measured precision timelapse between start and the 1st stop pulse, in picoseconds,
- 'N' (int) is the NumberOfStops.

Every value in the dataset is either an integer or a float number.

If measurement cannot be completed within timeout, the device may respond with an incomplete or empty dataset. In this case, to obtain a complete dataset, the method [fetch\(\)](#) may be called later.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice.

**Parameters** (**none**) –

**Returns** measured dataset.

**Return type** list(number)

#### **open()**

Establishes (opens) a connection with a TausandDevice.

It is mandatory to establish a connection with this method before to be able to send/to receive data to/from the device.

**Parameters (none)** –

#### **openTempico()**

Establishes (opens) a connection with a TausandDevice.

Same as method [open\(\)](#).

**Parameters (none)** –

#### **readIdnFromDevice()**

Returns the TempicoDevice identification string, by requesting it to the device.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice. As an alternative, method [getIdn\(\)](#) may be used.

**Parameters (none)** –

**Returns** identification string.

**Return type** str

#### **readMessage()**

Reads pending messages sent by a TempicoDevice from its serial port.

If no message is received, it waits the port timeout, typically 1s.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice.

**Parameters (none)** –

**Returns** read message.

**Return type** str

#### **reset()**

Sends a reset command to the TempicoDevice.

Applying a reset clears all the settings of the TempicoDevice and its TempicoChannels to their default values.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice.

**Parameters (none)** –

#### **selfTest()**

Performs a self-test on the TempicoDevice hardware.

This function initiates a self-diagnostic test on the TempicoDevice to verify its hardware integrity. If the self-test is successful, it prints the message “Self test passed. Device is working properly.” If the self-test fails, it prints the message “Self test failed. Device may have a problem.”, indicating a potential issue with the hardware that may require further investigation or support.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice.

**Parameters (none)** –

**Returns** None

#### **setAverageCycles(channel, averageCycles)**

Modifies the average cycles of the specified TempicoChannel.

By default, average cycles = 1 (no multi-cycle averaging).

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice, and delegates the configuration to the selected TempicoChannel. If the channel is invalid, the function does nothing.

This version belongs to the TempicoDevice class and requires specifying the channel number or label ('A'–'D') to access and configure the corresponding TempicoChannel.

**Parameters**

- **channel** (*int or str*) – Channel identifier. Accepted values are: - 1 or 'A' or 'a' - 2 or 'B' or 'b' - 3 or 'C' or 'c' - 4 or 'D' or 'd'
- **averageCycles** (*int*) – Desired average cycles for the TDC. Valid values are: 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128.

**setDateTime**(*timeStampDateTime=None*)

Sets the internal clock of the Tempico device to a specified timestamp or to the current system time.

Sends a *DTIME <timestamp>* command using either the provided *timeStampDateTime* or the current time in Unix format with microsecond precision. If no response is received from the device, the function verifies the update by comparing timestamps.

**Parameters**

- **timeStampDateTime** (*float, optional*) – Unix timestamp (in seconds) to set
- **provided** (*on the device. If not*) –
- **used.** (*the current system time is*) –

**Returns** None

**setMaximumDatetime**(*maximumDateTime*)

Sets the maximum datetime value allowed by the TempicoDevice.

If the connection is established with the TempicoDevice, this function sends the 'DTIME:MAXimum <timestamp>' command to update the maximum allowed timestamp. If the device accepts the value, it should return a confirmation response. If no response is received, the value is validated by re-reading it from the device.

---

**Note:** This feature may not yet be implemented in the Tempico firmware.

---

**Parameters** **maximumDateTime** (*float*) – New maximum timestamp to configure on the device.

**Returns** None

**setMinimumDatetime**(*minimumDateTime*)

Sets the minimum datetime value allowed by the TempicoDevice.

If the connection is established with the TempicoDevice, this function sends the 'DTIME:MINimum <timestamp>' command to update the minimum allowed timestamp. If the device accepts the value, it should return a confirmation response. If no response is received, the value is validated by re-reading it from the device.

**Parameters** **minimumDateTime** (*float*) – New minimum timestamp to configure on the device.

**Returns** None

**setMode**(*channel, mode*)

Modifies the measurement mode of the specified TempicoChannel.

By default, mode = 1. Possible values are:

- 1: Short measurement range. Start-stop times from 12ns to 500ns.
- 2: Large measurement range. Start-stop times from 125ns to 4ms.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice, and delegates the configuration to the selected TempicoChannel. If the channel is invalid, the function does nothing.

This version belongs to the TempicoDevice class and requires specifying the channel number or label ('A'-'D') to access and configure the corresponding TempicoChannel.

#### Parameters

- **channel** (*int or str*) – Channel identifier. Accepted values are: - 1 or 'A' or 'a' - 2 or 'B' or 'b' - 3 or 'C' or 'c' - 4 or 'D' or 'd'
- **mode** (*int*) – Desired measurement mode for the TDC. Valid values are 1 or 2.

#### setNumberOfRuns(*number*)

Modifies the number of measurement runs of the TDCs in TempicoDevice.

By default, number of runs = 1 (single measurement).

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice.

**Parameters** **number** (*int*) – desired number of runs for every TDC. Valid values are from 1 to 1000.

#### setNumberOfStops(*channel, numberOfStops*)

Modifies the expected number of stop pulses of the specified TempicoChannel.

By default, number of stops = 1 (single start → single stop).

The TDC must receive all the expected number of stops to register them as a valid measurement; otherwise, the measurements are discarded. For extending the valid time range, consider using measurement mode 2.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice, and delegates the configuration to the selected TempicoChannel. If the channel is invalid, the function does nothing.

This version belongs to the TempicoDevice class and requires specifying the channel number or label ('A'-'D') to access and configure the corresponding TempicoChannel.

#### Parameters

- **channel** (*int or str*) – Channel identifier. Accepted values are: - 1 or 'A' or 'a' - 2 or 'B' or 'b' - 3 or 'C' or 'c' - 4 or 'D' or 'd'
- **numberOfStops** (*int*) – Desired number of stops for the TDC. Valid values are from 1 to 5.

#### setStartEdge(*channel, startEdge*)

Sets the edge type used on start pulses of the specified TempicoChannel.

By default, start edge = 'RISE'. Possible values are:

- 'RISE': TDC timing starts on a rising edge of the start pulse.
- 'FALL': TDC timing starts on a falling edge of the start pulse.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice, and delegates the configuration to the selected TempicoChannel. If the channel is invalid, the function does nothing.

This version belongs to the TempicoDevice class and requires specifying the channel number or label ('A'-'D') to access and configure the corresponding TempicoChannel.

#### Parameters

- **channel** (*int or str*) – Channel identifier. Accepted values are: - 1 or 'A' or 'a' - 2 or 'B' or 'b' - 3 or 'C' or 'c' - 4 or 'D' or 'd'
- **startEdge** (*str or int*) – Desired start edge type for the TDC. Accepted values are 'RISE', 1, 'RIS' or 'FALL', 0, 'FAL'.

**setStopEdge**(*channel, stopEdge*)

Sets the edge type used on stop pulses of the specified TempicoChannel.

By default, stop edge = 'RISE'. Possible values are:

- 'RISE': TDC timing ends on a rising edge of the stop pulse.
- 'FALL': TDC timing ends on a falling edge of the stop pulse.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice, and delegates the configuration to the selected TempicoChannel. If the channel is invalid, the function does nothing.

This version belongs to the TempicoDevice class and requires specifying the channel number or label ('A'–'D') to access and configure the corresponding TempicoChannel.

**Parameters**

- **channel** (*int or str*) – Channel identifier. Accepted values are: - 1 or 'A' or 'a' - 2 or 'B' or 'b' - 3 or 'C' or 'c' - 4 or 'D' or 'd'
- **stopEdge** (*str or int*) – Desired stop edge type for the TDC. Accepted values are 'RISE', 1, 'RIS' or 'FALL', 0, 'FAL'.

**setStopMask**(*channel, stopMask*)

Modifies the stop mask time of the specified TempicoChannel.

By default, stop mask = 0 (no masking).

The stop mask defines the period (in microseconds) after receiving a start pulse during which stop pulses are ignored. This can help suppress unwanted noise or early signals.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice, and delegates the configuration to the selected TempicoChannel. If the channel is invalid, the function does nothing.

This version belongs to the TempicoDevice class and requires specifying the channel number or label ('A'–'D') to access and configure the corresponding TempicoChannel.

**Parameters**

- **channel** (*int or str*) – Channel identifier. Accepted values are: - 1 or 'A' or 'a' - 2 or 'B' or 'b' - 3 or 'C' or 'c' - 4 or 'D' or 'd'
- **stopMask** (*int*) – Desired stop mask time in microseconds. Valid values are from 0 to 4000.

**setThresholdVoltage**(*desired\_voltage*)

Changes the threshold voltage on the rising edge of start and stops inputs of TDCs in the TempicoDevice.

Start and stop inputs are coupled to 50 ohms.

By default, threshold voltage = 1.00V (recommended for TTL>2.5V).

All inputs are 5V tolerant.

Gate input. This parameter does not have effect on the gate input. Gate input accepts 3.3V TTL and 5V TTL signals.

- When gate is disconnected, system is enabled.
- When gate is connected to 0V, system is disabled.

- When gate is connected to 3.3V/5V, system is enabled.

To validate the actual threshold voltage applied, method `getThresholdVoltage()` should be called.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice.

**Parameters** `desired_voltage` (*float*) – desired start and stop inputs threshold voltage. Valid parameters are MINimum|MAXimum|DOWN|UP or a number from 0.90 to 1.60.

#### **setThresholdVoltageToMaximum()**

Sets to the maximum valid value the threshold voltage on the rising edge of start and stops inputs of TDCs in the TempicoDevice.

To validate the actual threshold voltage applied, method `getThresholdVoltage()` should be called.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice.

**Parameters** (*none*) –

#### **setThresholdVoltageToMinimum()**

Sets to the minimum valid value the threshold voltage on the rising edge of start and stops inputs of TDCs in the TempicoDevice.

To validate the actual threshold voltage applied, method `getThresholdVoltage()` should be called.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice.

**Parameters** (*none*) –

#### **waitAndReadMessage(wait\_time\_ms=1)**

Waits the specified time, and then reads pending messages sent by a TempicoDevice from its serial port, if any.

If no message is received, it does not wait for a port timeout.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice.

**Parameters** `wait_time_ms` (*int*, *optional*) – Waiting time, in milliseconds. Defaults to 1.

**Returns** read message.

**Return type** str

#### **writeMessage(message)**

Writes a message to a TempicoDevice in its serial port.

If a response is expected after writing a message, the `readMessage()` method should be called afterwards to obtain the response.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice.

**Parameters** `message` (*str*) – message to be sent.

## 1.3 TempicoChannel class

**class** `pyTempico.core.TempicoChannel(id_device, ch_num)`

Single channel on a Tempico Device.

To modify or access attributes, **please use methods**. For example, to get average cycles on channel 2,

```
>>> my_tempico_device_object.ch2.getAverageCycles()
```

Changing attributes without using methods, do not change the actual parameters in the device.

Accessing attributes without using methods, returns values registered in local memory that may not be updated.

**id\_tempico\_channel**

Unique identifier for a TempicoChannel object.

**Type** int

**id\_tempico\_device**

Identifier of the TausandDevice linked to this TempicoChannel object.

**Type** int

**average\_cycles**

Average cycles.

**Type** int

**channel\_number**

Number of the channel in the device (1=A, 2=B,...).

**Type** int

**enable**

True when the channel is enabled.

**Type** bool

**mode**

Measurement mode. 1|2.

- 1: Short measurement range. Start-stop times from 12ns to 500ns.
- 2: Large measurement range. Start-stop times from 125ns to 4ms.

**Type** int

**number\_of\_stops**

Number of stop pulses expected after a start pulse arrives. 1..5.

**Type** int

**parent\_tempico\_device**

Pointer reference to parent object of TempicoDevice() class.

**Type** *TempicoDevice*

**start\_edge**

Edge type on the start pulse used to begin timing. RISE|FALL.

**Type** str

**stop\_edge**

Edge type on the stop pulses used to end timing. RISE|FALL.

**Type** str

**stop\_mask**

Time that stop pulses are ignored after receiving a start pulse on the TDC. Value in microseconds. 0..4000.

**Type** int

**disableChannel()**

Disables a TDC TempicoChannel.



By default, channels are enabled.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice of the TempicoChannel.

To validate the status of the channel, method *isEnabled()* may be used.

**Parameters (none)** –

#### **enableChannel()**

Enables a TDC TempicoChannel.

By default, channels are enabled.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice of the TempicoChannel.

To validate the status of the channel, method *isEnabled()* may be used.

**Parameters (none)** –

#### **getAverageCycles()**

Returns the average cycles of the TDC TempicoChannel.

By default, average cycles = 1 (no multi-cycle averaging).

If the connection is established with the TempicoDevice, this function request the device for the value. If not, the most recent value is returned.

**Parameters (none)** –

**Returns** Number of average cycles.

**Return type** integer

#### **getMode()**

Returns the measurement mode of the TDC TempicoChannel.

By default, mode = 1.

If the connection is established with the TempicoDevice, this function request the device for the value. If not, the most recent value is returned.

**Parameters (none)** –

**Returns**

Mode. Possible values are,

- 1: Short measurement range. Start-stop times from 12ns to 500ns.
- 2: Large measurement range. Start-stop times from 125ns to 4ms.

**Return type** integer

#### **getNumberOfStops()**

Returns the expected number of stop pulses of the TDC TempicoChannel.

By default, number of stops = 1 (single start -> single stop).

The TDC must receive all the expected number of stops to register them as a valid measurement; otherwise, the measurements are discarded.

If the connection is established with the TempicoDevice, this function request the device for the value. If not, the most recent value is returned.

**Parameters (none)** –

**Returns** Number of stops.

**Return type** integer

### **getStartEdge()**

Returns the edge type used on start pulses of the TDC TempicoChannel.

By default, start edge = 'RISE'.

If the connection is established with the TempicoDevice, this function request the device for the value. If not, the most recent value is returned.

**Parameters (none)** –

#### **Returns**

start edge type. Possible values are,

- 'RISE': TDC timing starts on a rising edge of the start pulse.
- 'FALL': TDC timing starts on a falling edge of the start pulse.

**Return type** string

### **getStopEdge()**

Returns the edge type used on stop pulses of the TDC TempicoChannel.

By default, stop edge = 'RISE'.

If the connection is established with the TempicoDevice, this function request the device for the value. If not, the most recent value is returned.

**Parameters (none)** –

#### **Returns**

stop edge type. Possible values are,

- 'RISE': TDC timing ends on a rising edge of the stop pulse.
- 'FALL': TDC timing ends on a falling edge of the stop pulse.

**Return type** string

### **getStopMask()**

Returns the time that stop pulses are ignored after receiving a start pulse on the TDC TempicoChannel. In microseconds.

By default, stop mask = 0 (no masking).

If the connection is established with the TempicoDevice, this function request the device for the value. If not, the most recent value is returned.

**Parameters (none)** –

**Returns** stop mask time, in microseconds.

**Return type** integer

### **isEnabled()**

Returns if a TDC TempicoChannel is enabled.

By default, channels are enabled.

If the connection is established with the TempicoDevice, this function request the device for the value. If not, the most recent value is returned.

**Parameters (none)** –

**Returns** True, when TDC channel is enabled.

**Return type** bool

**setAverageCycles**(*number*)

Modifies the average cycles of the TDC TempicoChannel.

By default, average cycles = 1 (no multi-cycle averaging).

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice of the TempicoChannel.

**Parameters** *number* (*int*) – desired average cycles for the TDC. Valid values are 1|2|4|8|16|32|64|128.

**setMode**(*number*)

Modifies the measurement mode of the TDC TempicoChannel.

By default, mode = 1. Possible values are,

- 1: Short measurement range. Start-stop times from 12ns to 500ns.
- 2: Large measurement range. Start-stop times from 125ns to 4ms.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice of the TempicoChannel.

**Parameters** *number* (*int*) – desired measurement mode for the TDC. Valid values are 1 or 2.

**setNumberOfStops**(*number*)

Modifies the expected number of stop pulses of the TDC TempicoChannel.

By default, number of stops = 1 (single start -> single stop).

The TDC must receive all the expected number of stops to register them as a valid measurement; otherwise, the measurements are discarded. For extending the valid time range, consider using measurement mode 2.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice of the TempicoChannel.

**Parameters** *number* (*int*) – desired number of stops for the TDC. Valid values are from 1 to 5.

**setStartEdge**(*edge\_type*)

Sets the edge type used on start pulses of the TDC TempicoChannel.

By default, start edge = 'RISE'. Possible values are,

- 'RISE': TDC timing starts on a rising edge of the start pulse.
- 'FALL': TDC timing starts on a falling edge of the start pulse.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice of the TempicoChannel.

**Parameters** *edge\_type* (*str*) – desired start edge type for the TDC. Valid values are 'RISE', 1, 'FALL', 0.

**setStopEdge**(*edge\_type*)

Sets the edge type used on stop pulses of the TDC TempicoChannel.

By default, stop edge = 'RISE'. Possible values are,

- 'RISE': TDC timing ends on a rising edge of the stop pulse.
- 'FALL': TDC timing ends on a falling edge of the stop pulse.

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice of the TempicoChannel.

**Parameters** *edge\_type* (*str*) – desired stop edge type for the TDC. Valid values are 'RISE', 1, 'FALL', 0.

**setStopMask**(*stop\_mask\_in\_us*)

Modifies the time that stop pulses are ignored after receiving a start pulse on the TDC TempicoChannel.

By default, stop mask = 0 (no masking).

This function requires that a connection is established with the TempicoDevice of the TempicoChannel.

**Parameters** **stop\_mask\_in\_us** (*int*) – desired stop mask for the TDC, in microseconds. Valid values are from 0 to 4000.

## EXAMPLES

## 2.1 readSettingsExample.py

readSettingsExample

Created on Tue May 7 09:49 2024

Connects to a Tausand Tempico device and reads its settings.

**Instructions:**

- before running this example, pyTempico package must be installed.
- change 'my\_port' to your corresponding port.
- run.

@author: David Guzman at Tausand Electronics

[dguzman@tausand.com](mailto:dguzman@tausand.com)

<https://www.tausand.com>

## 2.2 writeSettings.py

writeSettings

Created on Tue Jul 14 16:42 2025

This example connects to a Tausand Tempico device and demonstrates how to read and modify its basic settings, including average cycles, number of stops, and stop mask — both using direct channel access and the main device interface.

**Instructions:**

- Make sure the pyTempico package is installed.
- Replace 'COM5' with the appropriate serial port for your Tempico device.
- Run the script.

Author: Joan Amaya, Tausand Electronics Email: [jamaya@tausand.com](mailto:jamaya@tausand.com) Website: <https://www.tausand.com>

## 2.3 dateTimeExample.py

dateTimeExample

This script demonstrates how to connect to a Tausand Tempico device and perform several operations related to time management and measurement flow.

Steps: - Open connection to the device. - Reset and configure channels. - Read and synchronize time. - Modify allowed datetime range. - Perform a measurement.

You do **not** need a connected signal to run this example.

Instructions: 1. Ensure *pyTempico* is installed. 2. Replace 'COM5' with your Tempico port. 3. Run the script.

Author: Joan Amaya, Tausand Electronics

## 2.4 singleMeasureExample.py

singleMeasureExample

Created on Tue May 7 09:23 2024

Connects to a Tausand Tempico device, starts a measurement and reads the results.

### Instructions:

- before running this example, pyTempico package must be installed.
- change 'my\_port' to your corresponding port.
- connect signals to your Tempico Device. If no signals are measured, this example will return an empty data array. \* run.

@author: David Guzman at Tausand Electronics

[dguzman@tausand.com](mailto:dguzman@tausand.com)

<https://www.tausand.com>

## 2.5 modeTwoMeasureExample.py

modeTwoMeasureExample

Created on Tue May 7 11:42 2024

Connects to a Tausand Tempico device, changes settings to measure only in channel 1 in mode 2 (125ns-4ms mode). Then, starts a measurement and reads the results.

### Instructions:

- before running this example, pyTempico package must be installed.
- change 'my\_port' to your corresponding port.
- connect signals to your Tempico Device. If no signals are measured, this example will return an empty data array. \* run.

@author: David Guzman at Tausand Electronics  
dguzman@tausand.com  
<https://www.tausand.com>

## 2.6 numberOfRunsMeasureExample.py

numberOfRunsMeasureExample

Created on Tue Jul 14 16:42 2025

Example script for measuring with a Tausand Tempico device using Mode 2 (125 ns – 4 ms range) on Channel 1.

This example connects to the Tempico device, configures it to only enable Channel 1, sets the measurement mode to Mode 2, and adjusts the number of runs (measurements) to 1000. It then starts a single measurement operation and reads the resulting data.

The key feature demonstrated here is the use of *setNumberOfRuns(1000)*, which tells the device to internally perform 1000 measurements in response to a single call to *measure()*. This is ideal for bulk acquisition workflows where multiple time intervals are collected automatically.

### Instructions:

- Make sure the *pyTempico* package is installed.
- Replace 'COM5' with the serial port corresponding to your device.
- Connect appropriate start/stop signals to the Tempico device.
- Run the script. If no signals are present, the measurement will return an empty array.

Author: Joan Amaya, Tausand Electronics Email: [jamaya@tausand.com](mailto:jamaya@tausand.com) Website: <https://www.tausand.com>

## 2.7 numberOfStopsMeasureExample.py

numberOfStopsMeasureExample

Created on Tue Jul 14 16:42 2025

Example script for measuring with a Tausand Tempico device using Mode 2 (125 ns – 4 ms range) on Channel 1, with multiple stops per measurement.

This example connects to the Tempico device, enables only Channel 1, sets the measurement mode to Mode 2, and changes the number of stops to 5. It then starts a measurement and prints the result.

The key feature demonstrated here is the use of *setNumberOfStops(5)*, which configures the device to collect **5 stop events** after a single start signal during each measurement cycle. This is useful for analyzing multiple photon arrivals or signal repetitions after a common trigger.

### Instructions:

- Make sure the *pyTempico* package is installed.
- Replace 'COM5' with the serial port corresponding to your device.
- Connect a periodic signal to the **start input**, and the signal to be measured to the stop input of Channel 1.
- Run the script. If no signals are received, the measurement will return an empty array.

Author: Joan Amaya, Tausand Electronics Email: [jamaya@tausand.com](mailto:jamaya@tausand.com) Website: <https://www.tausand.com>





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