

apogee

INSTRUMENTS

OWNER'S MANUAL

QUANTUM SENSOR

Models SQ-512 and SQ-515
(including SS models)



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CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

EU Declaration of Conformity

This declaration of conformity is issued under the sole responsibility of the manufacturer:

Apogee Instruments, Inc.
721 W 1800 N
Logan, Utah 84321
USA

for the following product(s):

Models: SQ-512, SQ-515
Type: Quantum Sensor

The object of the declaration described above is in conformity with the relevant Union harmonization legislation:

2014/30/EU Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Directive
2011/65/EU Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS 2) Directive

Standards referenced during compliance assessment:

EN 61326-1:2013 Electrical equipment for measurement, control and laboratory use – EMC requirements
EN 50581:2012 Technical documentation for the assessment of electrical and electronic products with respect to
the restriction of hazardous substances

Please be advised that based on the information available to us from our raw material suppliers, the products manufactured by us do not contain, as intentional additives, any of the restricted materials including cadmium, hexavalent chromium, lead, mercury, polybrominated biphenyls (PBB), polybrominated diphenyls (PBDE).

Further note that Apogee Instruments does not specifically run any analysis on our raw materials or end products for the presence of these substances, but rely on the information provided to us by our material suppliers.

Signed for and on behalf of:
Apogee Instruments, May 2018



Bruce Bugbee
President
Apogee Instruments, Inc.

INTRODUCTION

Radiation that drives photosynthesis is called photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) and is typically defined as total radiation across a range of 400 to 700 nm. PAR is often expressed as photosynthetic photon flux density (PPFD): photon flux in units of micromoles per square meter per second ($\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$, equal to microEinsteins per square meter per second) summed from 400 to 700 nm (total number of photons from 400 to 700 nm). While Einsteins and micromoles are equal (one Einstein = one mole of photons), the Einstein is not an SI unit, so expressing PPFD as $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ is preferred.

Sensors that measure PPFD are often called quantum sensors due to the quantized nature of radiation. A quantum refers to the minimum quantity of radiation, one photon, involved in physical interactions (e.g., absorption by photosynthetic pigments). In other words, one photon is a single quantum of radiation.

Typical applications of quantum sensors include incoming PPFD measurement over plant canopies in outdoor environments or in greenhouses and growth chambers, and reflected or under-canopy (transmitted) PPFD measurement in the same environments.

Apogee Instruments SQ series quantum sensors consist of a cast acrylic diffuser (filter), photodiode, and signal processing circuitry mounted in an anodized aluminum housing, and a cable to connect the sensor to a measurement device. SQ-500 series quantum sensors are designed for continuous PPFD measurement in indoor or outdoor environments. SQ series sensors output an analog signal that is directly proportional to PPFD. The analog signal from the sensor is directly proportional to radiation incident on a planar surface (does not have to be horizontal), where the radiation emanates from all angles of a hemisphere.

SENSOR MODELS

This manual covers quantum sensor models SQ-512 and SQ-515, which provide a voltage signal. Additional models are covered in their respective manuals.

Model	Signal
SQ-512	0-2.5 V
SQ-515	0-5 V
SQ-500	Self-powered
SQ-520	USB
SQ-521	SDI-12
SQ-522	Modbus



Sensor model number and serial number are located near the pigtail leads on the sensor cable. If you need the manufacturing date of your sensor, please contact Apogee Instruments with the serial number of your sensor.

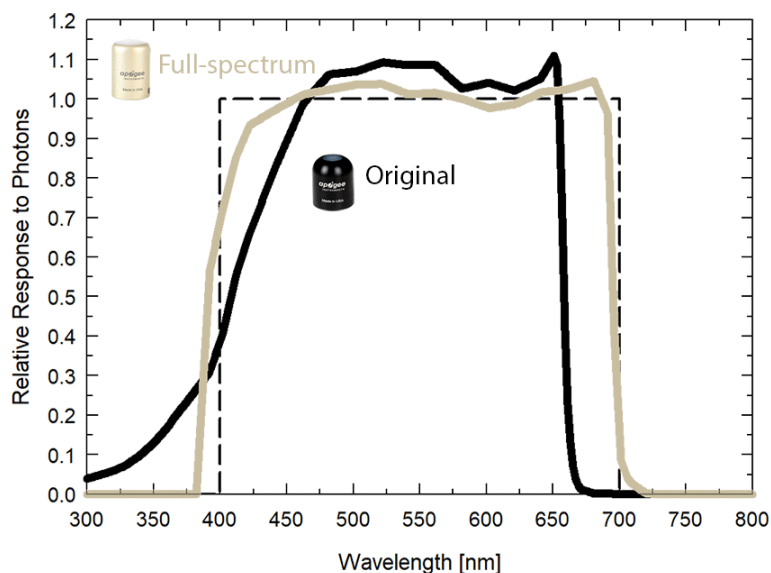
SPECIFICATIONS

	SQ-512	SQ-515
Power Supply	3.3 to 24 V DC, current draw at 12 V is 57 μ A	5.5 to 24 V DC, current draw at 12 V is 57 μ A
Sensitivity	0.625 mV per μ mol m ⁻² s ⁻¹	1.25 mV per μ mol m ⁻² s ⁻¹
Calibration Factor (Reciprocal of Sensitivity)	1.6 μ mol m ⁻² s ⁻¹ per mV	0.8 μ mol m ⁻² s ⁻¹ per mV
Calibration Uncertainty	\pm 5 % (see calibration Traceability below)	
Measurement Range	0 to 4000 μ mol m ⁻² s ⁻¹	
Measurement Repeatability	Less than 1 % (up to 4000 μ mol m ⁻² s ⁻¹)	
Calibrated Output Range	0 to 2.5 V	0 to 5 V
Long-term Drift (Non-stability)	Less than 2 % per year	
Non-linearity	Less than 1 % (up to 4000 μ mol m ⁻² s ⁻¹)	
Response Time	Less than 1 ms	
Field of View	180°	
Spectral Range	389 to 692 nm \pm 5 nm (wavelengths where response is greater than 50 %)	
Spectral Selectivity	Less than 10 % from 412 to 682 \pm 5 nm (see Spectral Response below)	
Directional (Cosine) Response	\pm 2 % at 45° zenith angle, \pm 5 % at 75° zenith angle (see Directional Response below)	
Azimuth Error	Less than 0.5 %	
Tilt Error	Less than 0.5 %	
Temperature Response	-0.11 \pm 0.04 % C ⁻¹ (see Temperature Response below)	
Uncertainty in Daily Total	Less than 5 %	
Detector	Blue-enhanced silicon photodiode	
Housing	Anodized aluminum body with acrylic diffuser	
IP Rating	IP68	
Operating Environment	-40 to 70 C; 0 to 100 % relative humidity; can be submerged in water up to depths of 30 m	
Dimensions	24 mm diameter; 37 mm height	
Mass	100 g (with 5 m of lead wire)	
Cable	5 m of shielded, twisted-pair wire; TPR jacket; pigtail lead wires; stainless steel (316), M8 connector located 25 cm from sensor head	

Calibration Traceability

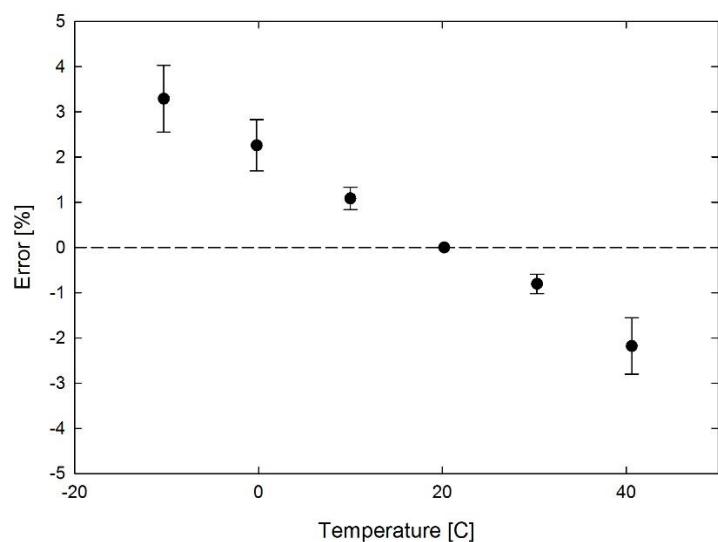
Apogee Instruments SQ-500 series quantum sensors are calibrated through side-by-side comparison to the mean of four transfer standard quantum sensors under a reference lamp. The reference quantum sensors are recalibrated with a quartz halogen lamp traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

Spectral Response



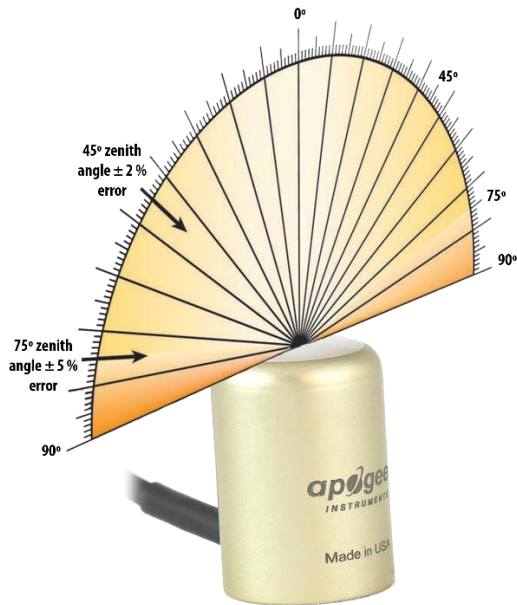
Mean spectral response measurements of six replicate Apogee SQ-100 (original) and SQ-500 (full-spectrum) series quantum sensors. Spectral response measurements were made at 10 nm increments across a wavelength range of 300 to 800 nm in a monochromator with an attached electric light source. Measured spectral data from each quantum sensor were normalized by the measured spectral response of the monochromator/electric light combination, which was measured with a spectroradiometer.

Temperature Response

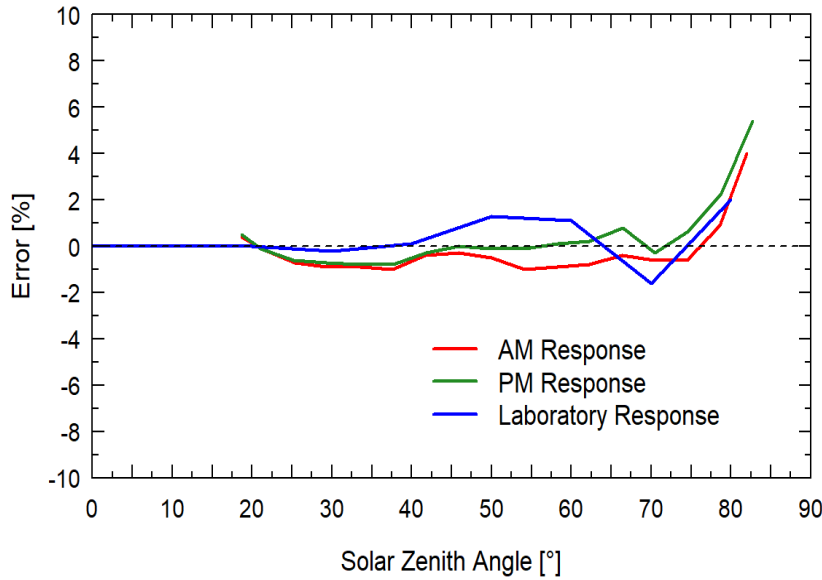


Mean temperature response of ten SQ-500 series quantum sensors (**errors bars represent two standard deviations above and below mean**). Temperature response measurements were made at 10 C intervals across a temperature range of approximately -20 to 50 C in a temperature controlled chamber under a fixed, broad spectrum, electric lamp. At each temperature set point, a spectroradiometer was used to measure light intensity from the lamp and all quantum sensors were compared to the spectroradiometer. The spectroradiometer was mounted external to the temperature control chamber and remained at room temperature during the experiment.

Cosine Response



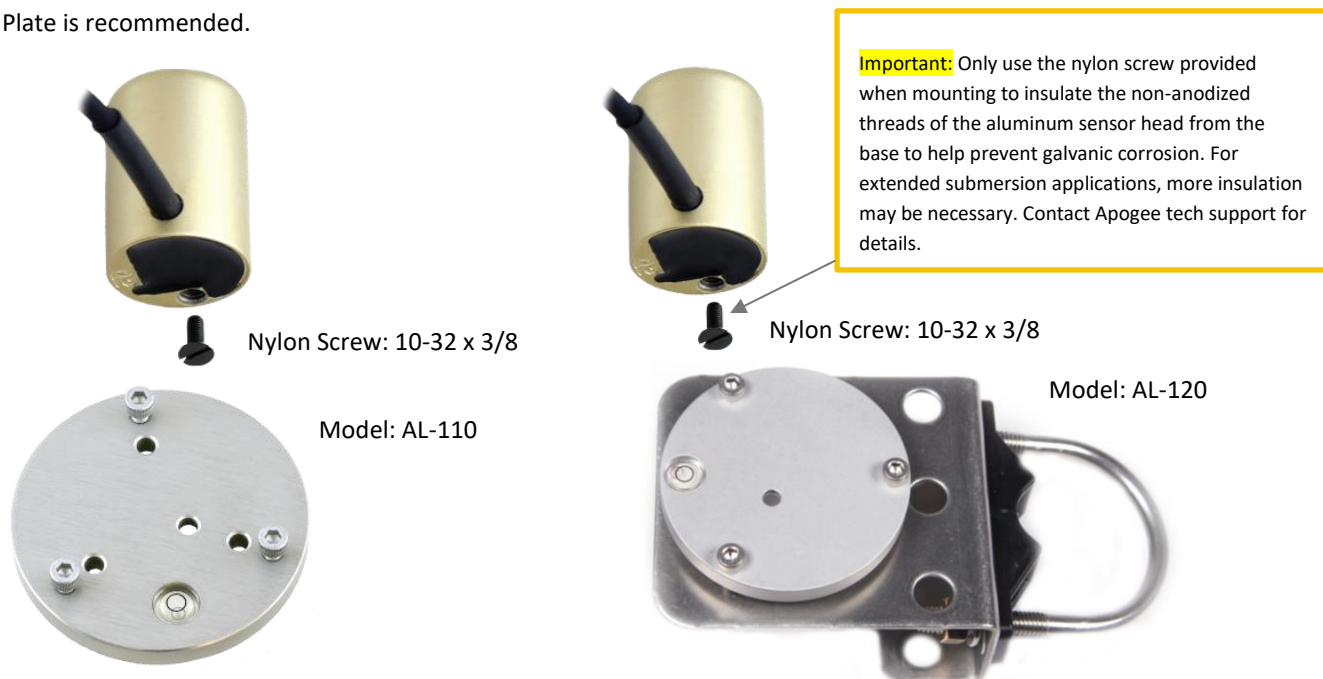
Directional, or cosine, response is defined as the measurement error at a specific angle of radiation incidence. Error for Apogee SQ-500 series quantum sensors is approximately $\pm 2\%$ and $\pm 5\%$ at solar zenith angles of 45° and 75°, respectively.



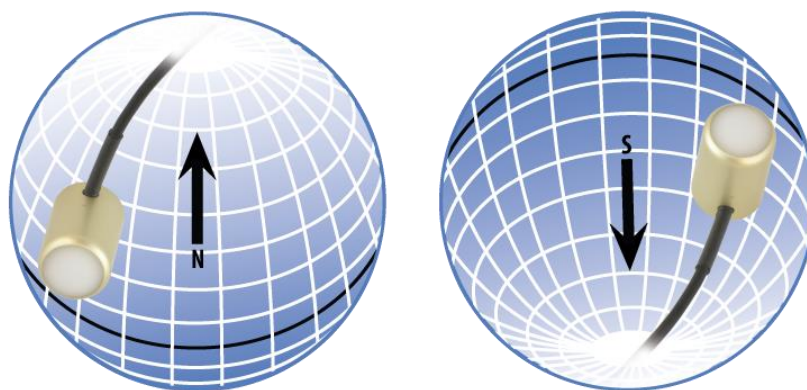
Mean cosine response of seven apogee SQ-500 quantum sensors. Cosine response measurements were made on the rooftop of the Apogee building in Logan, UT. Cosine response was calculated as the relative difference of SQ-500 quantum sensors from the mean of replicate reference quantum sensors (LI-COR models LI-190 and LI-190R, Kipp & Zonen model PQS 1).

DEPLOYMENT AND INSTALLATION

Mount the sensor to a solid surface with the nylon mounting screw provided. To accurately measure PPFD incident on a horizontal surface, the sensor must be level. An Apogee Instruments model AL-100 Leveling Plate is recommended to level the sensor when used on a flat surface or being mounted to surfaces such as wood. To facilitate mounting on a mast or pipe, the Apogee Instruments model AL-120 Solar Mounting Bracket with Leveling Plate is recommended.



To minimize azimuth error, the sensor should be mounted with the cable pointing toward true north in the northern hemisphere or true south in the southern hemisphere. Azimuth error is typically less than 0.5 %, but it is easy to minimize by proper cable orientation.



In addition to orienting the cable to point toward the nearest pole, the sensor should also be mounted such that obstructions (e.g., weather station tripod/tower or other instrumentation) do not shade the sensor. **Once mounted, the green cap should be removed from the sensor.** The green cap can be used as a protective covering for the sensor when it is not in use.

CABLE CONNECTORS

Apogee started offering in-line cable connectors on some bare-lead sensors in March 2018 to simplify the process of removing sensors from weather stations for calibration (the entire cable does **not** have to be removed from the station and shipped with the sensor).

The ruggedized M8 connectors are rated IP68, made of corrosion-resistant marine-grade stainless-steel, and designed for extended use in harsh environmental conditions.

Instructions

Pins and Wiring Colors: All Apogee connectors have six pins, but not all pins are used for every sensor. There may also be unused wire colors inside the cable. To simplify datalogger connection, we remove the unused pigtail lead colors at the datalogger end of the cable.

If you ever need a replacement cable, please contact us directly to ensure ordering the proper pigtail configuration.

Alignment: When reconnecting your sensor, arrows on the connector jacket and an aligning notch ensure proper orientation.

Disconnection for extended periods: When disconnecting the sensor for an extended period of time from a station, protect the remaining half of the connector still on the station from water and dirt with electrical tape or other method.

Tightening: Connectors are designed to be firmly finger-tightened only. There is an O-ring inside the connector that can be overly compressed if a wrench is used. Pay attention to thread alignment to avoid cross-threading. When fully tightened, 1-2 threads may still be visible.



Inline cable connectors are installed 30 cm from the head (pyranometer pictured)



A reference notch inside the connector ensures proper alignment before tightening.



When sending sensors in for calibration, only send the short end of the cable and half the connector.



Finger-tighten firmly

OPERATION AND MEASUREMENT

Connect the sensor to a measurement device (meter, datalogger, controller) capable of measuring and displaying or recording a millivolt signal (an input measurement range of approximately 0-2.5 V (SQ-512) or 0-5 V (SQ-515) is required to cover the entire range of PPFd from the sun). In order to maximize the measurement resolution and signal-to-noise ratio, the signal input range of the measurement device should closely match the output range of the quantum sensors. The amplification circuit requires a power supply of 5.5 to 24 V DC. NOTE: To prevent sensor damage, **DO NOT connect the sensor to a power source greater than 24 VDC.**

VERY IMPORTANT: Apogee changed all wiring colors of our bare-lead sensors in March 2018 in conjunction with the release of inline cable connectors on some sensors. To ensure proper connection to your data device, please note your serial number or if your sensor has a stainless-steel connector 30 cm from the sensor head then use the appropriate wiring configuration below.



Sensor Calibration

Apogee amplified quantum sensor models have a standard PPFD calibration factor of exactly:

SQ-512: 1.6 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ per mV

SQ-515: 0.8 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ per mV

Multiply this calibration factor by the measured mV signal to convert sensor output to PPFD in units of $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$:

Calibration Factor (0.8 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ per mV) * Sensor Output Signal (mV) = PPFD ($\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$)

$$0.8 \quad * \quad 2500 \quad = \quad 2000$$



Example of PPFD measurement with an Apogee quantum sensor. Full sunlight yields a PPFD on a horizontal plane at the Earth's surface of approximately $2000 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$. This yields an output signal of 2500 mV for the 0-5 V option or an output signal of 1250 mV for the 0-2.5 V option. The signal is converted to PPFD by multiplying by the calibration factor.

SQ-512 Sensor Output: 1250 mV
Conversion Factor: 1.6 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ per mV

SQ-515 Sensor Output: 2500 mV
Conversion Factor: 0.8 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ per mV

Spectral Error

The combination of diffuser transmittance, interference filter transmittance, and photodetector sensitivity yields spectral response of a quantum sensor. A perfect photodetector/filter/diffuser combination would exactly reproduce the defined plant photosynthetic response to photons (equal weighting to all photons between 400 and 700 nm), but this is challenging in practice. Mismatch between the defined plant photosynthetic response and sensor spectral response results in spectral error when the sensor is used to measure radiation from sources with a different spectrum than the radiation source used to calibrate the sensor (Federer and Tanner, 1966; Ross and Sulev, 2000).

Spectral errors for PPFD measurements made under different radiation sources were calculated for the SQ-100 and SQ-500 series quantum sensors using the method of Federer and Tanner (1966). This method requires PPFD weighting factors (defined plant photosynthetic response), measured sensor spectral response (shown in Spectral Response section on page 7), and radiation source spectral outputs (measured with a spectroradiometer). Note, this method calculates spectral error only and does not consider calibration, cosine, and temperature errors. Spectral error data (listed in table below) indicate errors typically less than 5 % for sunlight in different conditions (clear, cloudy, reflected from plant canopies, transmitted below plant canopies) and common broad spectrum electric lamps (cool white fluorescent, metal halide, high pressure sodium), but larger errors for different mixtures of light emitting diodes (LEDs) for the SQ-100 series. Spectral errors for the SQ-500 series sensors are smaller than those for SQ-100 series sensors because the SQ-500 spectral response is a closer match to the defined plant photosynthetic response.

Spectral Errors for PPFD and YPFD Measurements with Apogee SQ Series Quantum Sensors

Radiation Source (Error Calculated Relative to Sun, Clear Sky)	SQ-100 Series PPFD Error [%]	SQ-500 Series PPFD Error [%]
Sun (Clear Sky)	0.0	0.0
Sun (Cloudy Sky)	1.4	0.5
Reflected from Grass Canopy	5.7	0.0
Transmitted below Wheat Canopy	6.4	1.1
Cool White Fluorescent (T5)	0.0	2.2
Metal Halide	-3.7	3.1
Ceramic Metal Halide	-6.0	1.9
High Pressure Sodium	0.8	2.2
Blue LED (448 nm peak, 20 nm full-width half-maximum)	-12.7	3.0
Green LED (524 nm peak, 30 nm full-width half-maximum)	8.0	5.2
Red LED (635 nm peak, 20 nm full-width half-maximum)	4.8	0.2
Red LED (668 nm peak, 20 nm full-width half-maximum)	-79.1	-1.9
Red, Blue LED Mixture (84 % Red, 16 % Blue)	-65.3	-1.2
Red, White LED Mixture (79 % Red, 21 % Blue)	-60.3	-0.8
Cool White Fluorescent LED	-4.6	2.2

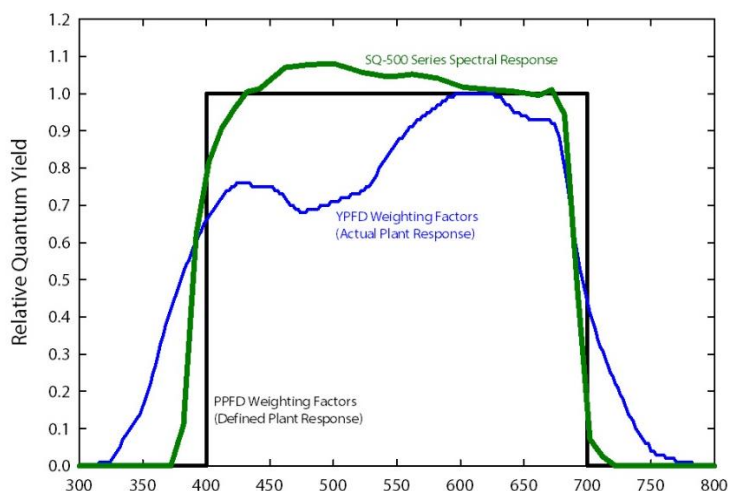
Quantum sensors can be a very practical means of measuring PPFD and YPFD from multiple radiation sources, but spectral errors must be considered. The spectral errors in the table above can be used as correction factors for individual radiation sources.

Federer, C.A., and C.B. Tanner, 1966. Sensors for measuring light available for photosynthesis. *Ecology* 47:654-657.

Ross, J., and M. Sulev, 2000. Sources of errors in measurements of PAR. *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology* 100:103-125.

Yield Photon Flux Measurements

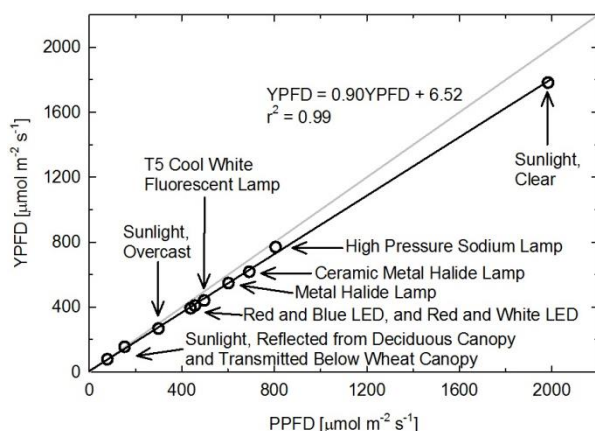
Photosynthesis in plants does not respond equally to all photons. Relative quantum yield (photosynthetic efficiency) is dependent on wavelength (blue line in figure below) (McCree, 1972a; Inada, 1976). This is due to the combination of spectral absorptivity of plant leaves (absorptivity is higher for blue and red photons than green photons) and absorption by non-photosynthetic pigments. As a result, photons in the wavelength range of approximately 600-630 nm are the most efficient.



Radiation weighting factors for PPFD (black line, defined plant response to radiation), YPFD (blue line, measured plant response to radiation), and Apogee SQ-500 Series Quantum Sensors (green line, sensor sensitivity to different wavelengths of radiation).

One potential definition of PAR is weighting photon flux density [$\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$] at each wavelength between 300 and 800 nm by relative quantum yield and summing the result. This is defined as yield photon flux density (YFPD) [$\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$] (Sager et al., 1988). There are uncertainties and challenges associated with this definition of PAR. Measurements used to generate the relative quantum yield data were made on single leaves under low radiation levels and at short time scales (McCree, 1972a; Inada, 1976). Whole plants and plant canopies typically have multiple leaf layers and are generally grown in the field or greenhouse over the course of an entire growing season. Thus, actual conditions plants are subject to are likely different than those the single leaves were in when measurements were made by McCree (1972a) and Inada (1976). In addition, relative quantum yield shown in figure above is the mean from twenty-two species grown in the field (McCree, 1972a). Mean relative quantum yield for the same species grown in growth chambers was similar, but there were differences, particularly at shorter wavelengths (less than 450 nm). There was also some variability between species (McCree, 1972a; Inada, 1976).

McCree (1972b) found that equally weighting all photons between 400 and 700 nm and summing the result, defined as photosynthetic photon flux density (PPFD) [$\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$], was well correlated to photosynthesis, very similar to correlation between YFPD and photosynthesis. As a matter of practicality, PPFD is a simpler definition of PAR. At the same time as McCree's work, others had proposed PPFD as an accurate measure of PAR and built sensors that approximated the PPFD weighting factors (Biggs et al., 1971; Federer and Tanner, 1966). Correlation between PPFD and YFPD measurements for several radiation sources is very high (figure below). As an approximation, $\text{YFPD} = 0.9\text{PPFD}$. As a result, almost universally PAR is defined as PPFD rather than YFPD, although YFPD has been used in some studies. The only radiation sources shown (figure below) that don't fall on the regression line are the high pressure sodium (HPS) lamp, reflection from a plant canopy, and transmission below a plant canopy. A large fraction of radiation from HPS lamps is in the red range of wavelengths where the YFPD weighting factors are at or near one. The factor for converting PPFD to YFPD for HPS lamps is 0.95, rather than 0.90. The factor for converting PPFD to YFPD for reflected and transmitted photons is 1.00.



Correlation between photosynthetic photon flux density (PPFD) and yield photon flux density (YFPD) for multiple different radiation sources. YFPD is approximately 90 % of PPFD. Measurements were made with a spectroradiometer (Apogee Instruments model PS-200) and weighting factors shown in previous figure were used to calculate PPFD and YFPD.

Biggs, W., A.R. Edison, J.D. Eastin, K.W. Brown, J.W. Maranville, and M.D. Clegg, 1971. Photosynthesis light sensor and meter. *Ecology* 52:125-131.

Federer, C.A., and C.B. Tanner, 1966. Sensors for measuring light available for photosynthesis. *Ecology* 47:654-657.

Inada, K., 1976. Action spectra for photosynthesis in higher plants. *Plant and Cell Physiology* 17:355-365.

McCree, K.J., 1972a. The action spectrum, absorptance and quantum yield of photosynthesis in crop plants. *Agricultural Meteorology* 9:191-216.

McCree, K.J., 1972b. Test of current definitions of photosynthetically active radiation against leaf photosynthesis data. *Agricultural Meteorology* 10:443-453.


Sager, J.C., W.O. Smith, J.L. Edwards, and K.L. Cyr, 1988. Photosynthetic efficiency and phytochrome photoequilibria determination using spectral data. *Transactions of the ASAE* 31:1882-1889.

MAINTENANCE AND RECALIBRATION


Moisture or debris on the diffuser is a common cause of low readings. The sensor has a domed diffuser and housing for improved self-cleaning from rainfall, but materials can accumulate on the diffuser (e.g., dust during periods of low rainfall, salt deposits from evaporation of sea spray or sprinkler irrigation water) and partially block the optical path. Dust or organic deposits are best removed using water, or window cleaner and a soft cloth or cotton swab. Salt deposits should be dissolved with vinegar and removed with a soft cloth or cotton swab. **Never use an abrasive material or cleaner on the diffuser.**

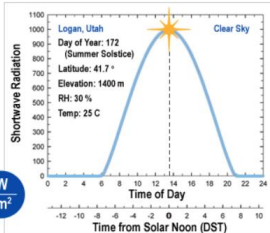
The Clear Sky Calculator (www.clearskycalculator.com) can be used to determine the need for quantum sensor recalibration. It determines PPFD incident on a horizontal surface at any time of day at any location in the world. It is most accurate when used near solar noon in spring and summer months, where accuracy over multiple clear and unpolluted days is estimated to be $\pm 4\%$ in all climates and locations around the world. For best accuracy, the sky must be completely clear, as reflected radiation from clouds causes incoming radiation to increase above the value predicted by the clear sky calculator. Measured values of PPFD can exceed values predicted by the Clear Sky Calculator due to reflection from the sides and edges of clouds. This reflection increases the incoming radiation. The influence of high clouds typically shows up as spikes above clear sky values, not a constant offset greater than clear sky values.

To determine recalibration need, input site conditions into the calculator and compare PPFD measurements to calculated PPFD values for a clear sky. If sensor PPFD measurements over multiple days near solar noon are consistently different than calculated values (by more than 6%), the sensor should be cleaned and re-leveled. If PPFD measurements are still different after a second test, email calibration@apogeeinstruments.com to discuss test results and possible return of sensor(s) for recalibration.



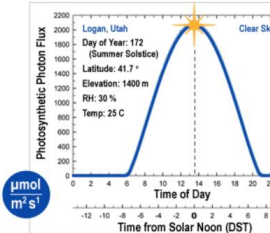
This calculator determines the intensity of radiation falling on a horizontal surface at any time of the day in any location in the world. The primary use of this calculator is to determine the need for recalibration of radiation sensors. It is most accurate when used near solar noon in the summer months.

This site developed and maintained by: 



MODEL FOR PYRANOMETER

SHORTWAVE RADIATION




MODEL FOR QUANTUM SENSOR

PHOTOSYNTHETIC PHOTON FLUX

■ Apogee Instruments Product Notification Letter

Homepage of the Clear Sky Calculator. Two calculators are available: one for quantum sensors (PPFD) and one for pyranometers (total shortwave radiation).



FOR QUANTUM SENSORS

HOME

- For best accuracy, comparison should be made on clear, non-polluted, summer days within one hour of solar noon.
- Enter input parameters in the blue cells at right. Definitions are shown below.
- Sensor must be level and perfectly clean. Enter your measured solar radiation in the blue "Measured PPF" cell at far right.
- Difference between the model and your sensor is shown in the yellow "DIFFERENCE FROM MODEL" cell at right.
- Run the model on replicate days. Contact Apogee for recalibration if the measured value is more than 5 % different than the estimated value. You will be contacted within two business days.

For a discussion on model accuracy and sensitivity of input parameters, [CLICK HERE](#).

INPUT AND OUTPUT DEFINITIONS

Latitude = latitude of the measurement site [degrees]; for southern hemisphere, insert as a negative number; info may be obtained from <http://itouchmap.com/latlong.html>

Longitude = longitude of the measurement site [degrees]; expressed as positive degrees west of the standard meridian in Greenwich, England (e.g. 74° for New York, 260° for Bangkok, Thailand, and 358° for Paris, France).

Input Parameters for Estimating Photosynthetic Photon Flux (PPF):

Latitude = °

Longitude = °

Longitude₀ = °

Elevation = m

Day of Year = (6 min = 0.1 hr)

Daylight Savings = + hr

Air Temperature = C

Relative Humidity = %

Output from Model:

Model Estimated PPF = $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$

Measured PPF = $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$

DIFFERENCE FROM MODEL = -2.3 %

CONTACT APOGEE FOR RECALIBRATION

Name:


E-mail:

Phone:

Serial #:

Comments:

Please include all requested information.

This site is developed and maintained by: 

calibration@apogee-inst.com

Clear Sky Calculator for quantum sensors. Site data are input in blue cells in middle of page and an estimate of PPFD is returned on right-hand side of page.

TROUBLESHOOTING AND CUSTOMER SUPPORT

Independent Verification of Functionality

Apogee SQ-512 and SQ-515 quantum sensors provide an amplified voltage output that is proportional to incident PPFD. A quick and easy check of sensor functionality can be determined using a DC power supply and a voltmeter. Power the sensor with a DC voltage by connecting the positive voltage signal to the red wire from the sensor and the negative (or common) to the black wire from the sensor. Use the voltmeter to measure across the white wire (output signal) and black wire. Direct the sensor head toward a light source and verify the sensor provides a signal. Increase and decrease the distance from the sensor head to the light source to verify that the signal changes proportionally (decreasing signal with increasing distance and increasing signal with decreasing distance). Blocking all radiation from the sensor should force the sensor signal to zero.

Compatible Measurement Devices (Dataloggers/Controllers/Meters)

SQ-500 series quantum sensors are calibrated with a standard calibration factor of $1.6 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ per mV (SQ-512) or $0.8 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ per mV (SQ-515), yielding a sensitivity of 0.6 mV per $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ (SQ-512) or 1.3 mV per $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ (SQ-515). Thus, a compatible measurement device (e.g., datalogger or controller) should have resolution of at least 0.6 mV (SQ-512) or 1.3 mV (SQ-515) in order to provide PPFD resolution of $1 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$.

An example datalogger program for Campbell Scientific dataloggers can be found on the Apogee webpage at <http://www.apogeeinstruments.com/downloads/>.

Zero Offset Error

With the use of certain dataloggers it is possible for to measure a non-zero voltage (zero offset) when the sensor output should be zero (no photons incident on diffuser). This offset can be corrected by applying the necessary correction offset in the datalogger program. To test if a zero offset exists, connect the sensor to the datalogger in question, cover the sensor head completely with a thick black cloth to block all photons, and allow the reading to stabilize. If an offset exists, connect the sensor lead wires to a DC power supply and an independent measurement instrument, such as a voltmeter, cover the sensor head completely to block all photons, and allow the reading to stabilize. If the offset still exists, contact Apogee customer support to recalibrate the sensor. If the offset does not exist, program the datalogger to take into account the offset attributed by the datalogger in question.

Cable Length

When the sensor is connected to a measurement device with high input impedance, sensor output signals are not changed by shortening the cable or splicing on additional cable in the field. Tests have shown that if the input impedance of the measurements device is greater than 1 mega-ohm there is negligible effect on the calibration, even after adding up to 100 m of cable. All Apogee sensors use shielded, twisted pair cable to minimize electromagnetic interference. For best measurements, the shield wire must be connected to an earth ground. This is particularly important when using the sensor with long lead lengths in electromagnetically noisy environments.

Modifying Cable Length

See Apogee webpage for details on how to extend sensor cable length: <http://www.apogeeinstruments.com/how-to-make-a-weatherproof-cable-splice/>.

Unit Conversion Charts

Apogee SQ series quantum sensors are calibrated to measure PPFD in units of $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$. Units other than photon flux density (e.g., energy flux density, illuminance) may be required for certain applications. It is possible to convert the PPFD value from a quantum sensor to other units, but it requires spectral output of the radiation source of interest. Conversion factors for common radiation sources can be found in the Knowledge Base on the Apogee website (<http://www.apogeeinstruments.com/knowledge-base/>; scroll down to Quantum Sensors section). A spreadsheet to convert PPFD to energy flux density or illuminance is also provided in the Knowledge Base on the Apogee website (<http://www.apogeeinstruments.com/content/PPFD-to-Illuminance-Calculator.xls>).

RETURN AND WARRANTY POLICY

RETURN POLICY

Apogee Instruments will accept returns within 30 days of purchase as long as the product is in new condition (to be determined by Apogee). Returns are subject to a 10 % restocking fee.

WARRANTY POLICY

What is Covered

All products manufactured by Apogee Instruments are warranted to be free from defects in materials and craftsmanship for a period of four (4) years from the date of shipment from our factory. To be considered for warranty coverage an item must be evaluated either at our factory or by an authorized distributor.

Products not manufactured by Apogee (spectroradiometers, chlorophyll content meters) are covered for a period of one (1) year.

What is Not Covered

The customer is responsible for all costs associated with the removal, reinstallation, and shipping of suspected warranty items to our factory.

The warranty does not cover equipment that has been damaged due to the following conditions:

1. Improper installation or abuse.
2. Operation of the instrument outside of its specified operating range.
3. Natural occurrences such as lightning, fire, etc.
4. Unauthorized modification.
5. Improper or unauthorized repair.

Please note that nominal accuracy drift is normal over time. Routine recalibration of sensors/meters is considered part of proper maintenance and is not covered under warranty.

Who is Covered

This warranty covers the original purchaser of the product or other party who may own it during the warranty period.

What We Will Do

At no charge we will:

1. Either repair or replace (at our discretion) the item under warranty.
2. Ship the item back to the customer by the carrier of our choice.

Different or expedited shipping methods will be at the customer's expense.

How To Return An Item

1. Please do not send any products back to Apogee Instruments until you have received a Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA) number from our technical support department by calling (435) 792-4700 or by submitting an online RMA form at www.apogeeinstruments.com/tech-support-recalibration-repairs/. We will use your RMA number for tracking of the service item.
2. Send all RMA sensors and meters back in the following condition: Clean the sensor's exterior and cord. Do not modify the sensors or wires, including splicing, cutting wire leads, etc. If a connector has been attached to the cable end, please include the mating connector – otherwise the sensor connector will be removed in order to complete the repair/recalibration.
3. Please write the RMA number on the outside of the shipping container.
4. Return the item with freight pre-paid and fully insured to our factory address shown below. We are not responsible for any costs associated with the transportation of products across international borders.
5. Upon receipt, Apogee Instruments will determine the cause of failure. If the product is found to be defective in terms of operation to the published specifications due to a failure of product materials or craftsmanship, Apogee Instruments will repair or replace the items free of charge. If it is determined that your product is not covered under warranty, you will be informed and given an estimated repair/replacement cost.

Apogee Instruments, Inc.
721 West 1800 North Logan, UT
84321, USA

OTHER TERMS

The available remedy of defects under this warranty is for the repair or replacement of the original product, and Apogee Instruments is not responsible for any direct, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages, including but not limited to loss of income, loss of revenue, loss of profit, loss of wages, loss of time, loss of sales, accrual of debts or expenses, injury to personal property, or injury to any person or any other type of damage or loss.

This limited warranty and any disputes arising out of or in connection with this limited warranty ("Disputes") shall be governed by the laws of the State of Utah, USA, excluding conflicts of law principles and excluding the Convention for the International Sale of Goods. The courts located in the State of Utah, USA, shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any Disputes.

This limited warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights, which vary from state to state and jurisdiction to jurisdiction, and which shall not be affected by this limited warranty. This warranty extends only to you and cannot be transferred or assigned. If any provision of this limited warranty is unlawful, void or unenforceable, that provision shall be deemed severable and shall not affect any remaining provisions. In case of any inconsistency between the English and other versions of this limited warranty, the English version shall prevail.

This warranty cannot be changed, assumed, or amended by any other person or agreement.

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