OWNER'S MANUAL

EPAR SENSOR

Model SQ-618

Rev: 30-Mar-2022

APOGEE INSTRUMENTS, INC. | 721 WEST 1800 NORTH, LOGAN, UTAH 84321, USA
TEL: (435) 792-4700 | FAX: (435) 787-8268 | WEB: APOGEEINSTRUMENTS.COM

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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-618
Type: ePAR 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
2015/863/EU	Amending Annex II to Directive 2011/65/EU (RoHS 3)

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 lead (see note below), mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls (PBB), polybrominated diphenyls (PBDE), bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), butyl benzyl phthalate (BBP), dibutyl phthalate (DBP), and diisobutyl phthalate (DIBP). However, please note that articles containing greater than 0.1 % lead concentration are RoHS 3 compliant using exemption 6c.

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 we rely on the information provided to us by our material suppliers.

Signed for and on behalf of:
Apogee Instruments, March 2022

Bruce Bugbee
President
Apogee Instruments, Inc.

INTRODUCTION

Radiation that drives photosynthesis is called photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) and, historically, is defined as total radiation across a range of 400 to 700 nm. PAR is almost universally quantified as photosynthetic photon flux density (PPFD) in units of micromoles per square meter per second (µmol m^{-2} 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). However, ultraviolet and far-red photons outside the defined PAR range of 400-700 nm can also contribute to photosynthesis and influence plant responses (e.g., flowering).

Data from recent studies indicate that far-red photons synergistically interact with photons in the historically defined PAR range of 400-700 nm to increase photochemical efficiency in leaves (Hogewoning et al., 2012; Murakami et al., 2018; Zhen and van Iersel, 2017; Zhen et al., 2019). Measurements from whole plants and plant canopies indicate adding far-red photons (using far-red LEDs with peaks near 735 nm and outputting photons across a range of about 700-750 nm) to radiation sources outputting photons in the 400-700 nm range increases canopy photosynthesis equal to the addition of the same number of photons in the 400-700 nm range for multiple species, and C3 and C4 photosynthetic pathways, but far-red photons alone are photosynthetically inefficient and result in minimal photosynthesis (Zhen and Bugbee, 2020a; Zhen and Bugbee, 2020b).

This research suggests that far-red photons drive canopy photosynthesis with similar efficiency as photons in the traditional PAR range when they are acting synergistically with photons in the 400-700 nm range, meaning when far-red photons are added to radiation sources outputting 400-700 nm photons. Thus, far-red photons need to be included in the definition of PAR (Zhen et al., 2021).

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. Sensors that function like traditional quantum sensors but measure a wider range of wavelengths can be thought of as an 'extended range' quantum sensor.

Typical applications of traditional 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. The extended photosynthetically active radiation (ePAR) sensor detailed in this manual uses a detector that is sensitive to radiation from 383-757 nm ± 5 nm, which allows it to measure photons from Far-red.

Apogee Instruments SQ-600 series ePAR sensors consist of a cast acrylic diffuser (filter), photodiode, and signal processing circuitry mounted in an anodized aluminum housing. A cable to connect the sensor to a measurement device is also included. SQ-600 series ePAR sensors are designed for continuous photon flux density measurements in indoor or outdoor environments. The SQ-618 sensors output a digital signal using Modbus RTU protocol over RS-232 or RS-485.

Hogewoning et al. 2012. Photosynthetic Quantum Yield Dynamics: From Photosystems to Leaves. *The Plant Cell*, 24: 1921–1935.

Murakami et al. 2018. A Mathematical Model of Photosynthetic Electron Transport in Response to the Light Spectrum Based on Excitation Energy Distributed to Photosystems. *Plant Cell Physiology*. 59(8): 1643–1651.

Zhen and Van Iersel. 2017. Far-red light is needed for efficient photochemistry and photosynthesis. *Journal of Plant Physiology.* 209: 115–122.

Zhen et al. 2019. Far-red light enhances photochemical efficiency in a wavelength-dependent manner. *Physiologia Plantarum.* 167(1):21-33.

Zhen and Bugbee. 2020a. Far-red photons have equivalent efficiency to traditional photosynthetic photons: Implications for redefining photosynthetically active radiation. *Plant Cell and Environment*. 2020; 1–14.

Zhen and Bugbee. 2020b. Substituting Far-Red for Traditionally Defined Photosynthetic Photons Results in Equal Canopy Quantum Yield for CO_2 Fixation and Increased Photon Capture During Long-Term Studies: Implications for Re-Defining PAR. *Frontiers in Plant Science.* 11:1-14.

Zhen et al. 2021. Why Far-Red Photons Should Be Included in the Definition of Photosynthetic Photons and the Measurement of Horticultural Fixture Efficacy. *Frontiers in Plant Science.* 12:1-4.

SENSOR MODELS

This manual covers the Modbus RTU communication protocol, ePAR sensor model SQ-618 (in bold below). Additional models are covered in their respective manuals.

Model	Signal
SQ-610	Self-powered
SQ-612	0-2.5 V
SQ-614	4-20 mA
SQ-615	0-5 V
SQ-616	USB
SQ-617	SDI-12
SQ-618	**Modbus**

A sensor's model number and serial number are located on the bottom of the sensor. If the manufacturing date of a specific sensor is required, please contact Apogee Instruments with the serial number of the sensor.

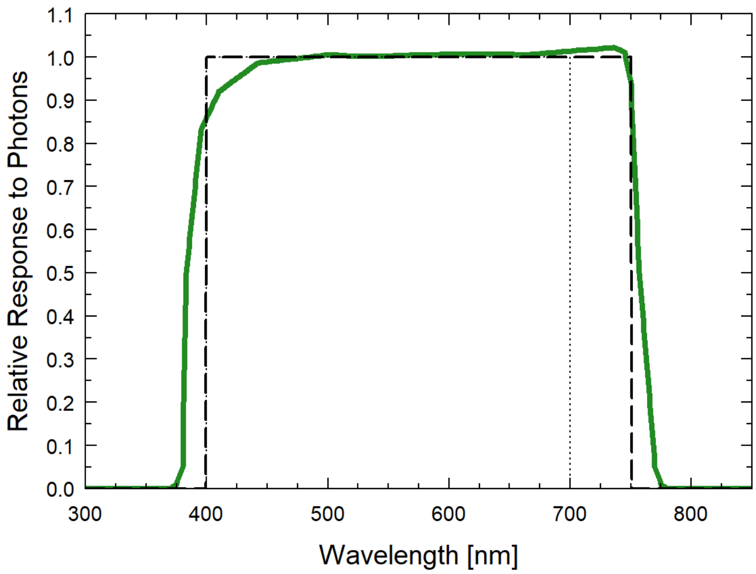
SPECIFICATIONS

	SQ-618-SS
Input Voltage	5.5 to 24 V DC
Average Max Current Draw	RS-232 37 mA; RS-485 quiescent 37 mA, active 42 mA
Calibration Factor	Custom for each sensor and stored in the firmware
Calibration Uncertainty	± 5 % (see calibration Traceability below)
Measurement Repeatability	Less than 1 % (up to 4000 µmol m^{-2} s^{-1})
Long-term Drift (Non-stability)	Less than 2 % per year
Non-linearity	Less than 1 % (up to 4000 µmol m^{-2} s^{-1})
Field of View	180°
Spectral Range	383 to 757 nm ± 5 nm (wavelengths where response is greater than 50 %)
Directional (Cosine) Response	± 2 % at 45° zenith angle, ± 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 ± 0.04 % per C (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	30.5 mm diameter, 37 mm height
Mass (with 5 m of cable)	140 g
Cable	5 m of shielded, twisted-pair wire; TPR jacket (high water resistance, high UV stability, flexibility in cold conditions); pigtail lead wires; stainless steel (316), M8 connector

Calibration Traceability

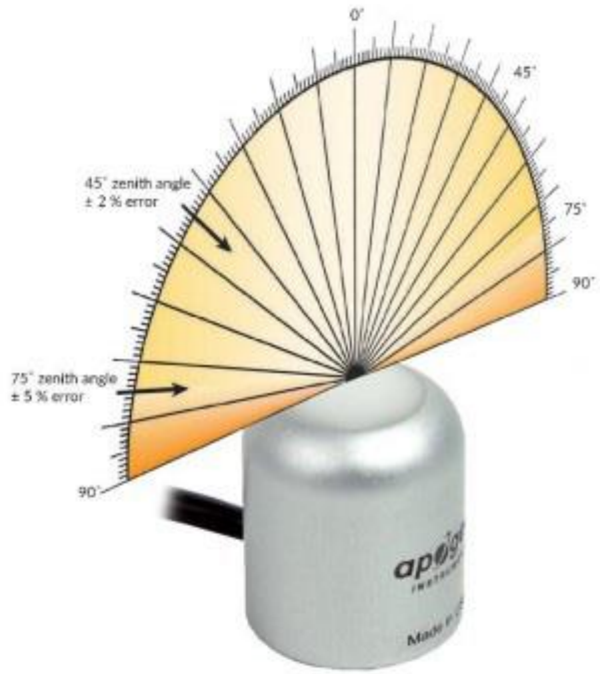
Apogee Instruments SQ-600 series ePAR sensors are calibrated through side-by-side comparison to the mean of four transfer standard sensors under a reference lamp. The transfer standard sensors are recalibrated with a quartz halogen lamp traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

Spectral Response

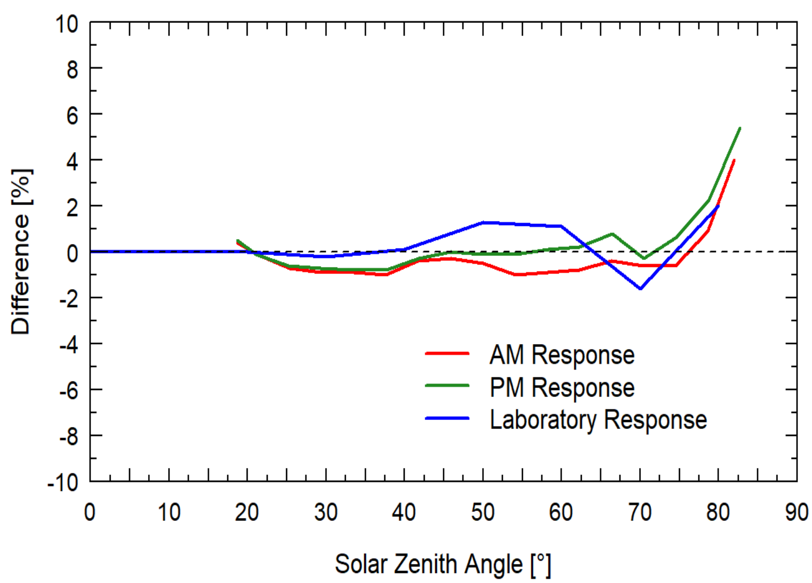


Mean spectral response measurements of four replicate Apogee SQ-600 series ePAR Sensors. Incremental spectral response measurements were made at 10 nm increments across a wavelength range of 370 to 800 nm in a monochromator with an attached electric light source. Measured spectral data from each quantum sensor were refined and normalized by comparing measured spectral response of the monochromator/electric light combination to measured spectral differences from a quantum sensor reference.

Cosine Response



Directional, or cosine, response is defined as the measurement error at a specific angle of radiation incidence. Error for Apogee SQ-600 series ePAR Sensor is approximately ± 2 % and ± 5 % at solar zenith angles of 45° and 75°, respectively.



Mean directional (cosine) response of seven Apogee series quantum sensors. Directional response measurements were made on the rooftop of the Apogee building in Logan, Utah. Directional response was calculated as the relative difference of quantum sensors from the mean of replicate reference quantum sensors (LI-COR models LI-190 and LI-190R, Kipp & Zonen model PQS 1). Data were also collected in the laboratory using a reference lamp and positioning the sensor at varying angles.

DEPLOYMENT AND INSTALLATION

Mount the sensor to a solid surface with the nylon mounting screw provided. To accurately measure photon flux density incident on a horizontal surface, the sensor must be level. An Apogee Instruments model AL-100 leveling plate is recommended for this purpose. To facilitate mounting on a cross arm, an Apogee Instruments model AL-120 mounting bracket is recommended.

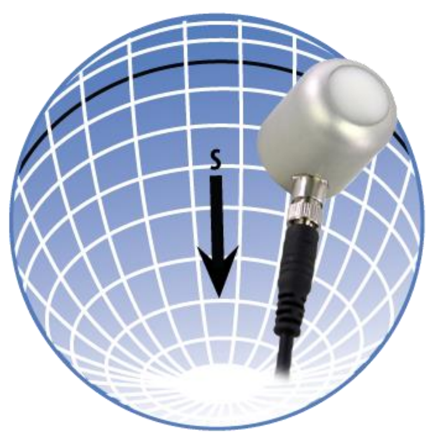
Nylon Screw: 10-32 x 3/8

Model: AL-100

Nylon Screw: 10-32 x 3/8

Model: AL-120

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 blue cap should be removed from the sensor.** The blue cap can be used as a protective covering for the sensor when it is not in use.

CABLE CONNECTORS

Apogee offers cable connectors 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.

Cable connectors are attached directly to the head.

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 a replacement cable is required, please contact Apogee directly to ensure ordering the proper pigtail configuration.

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

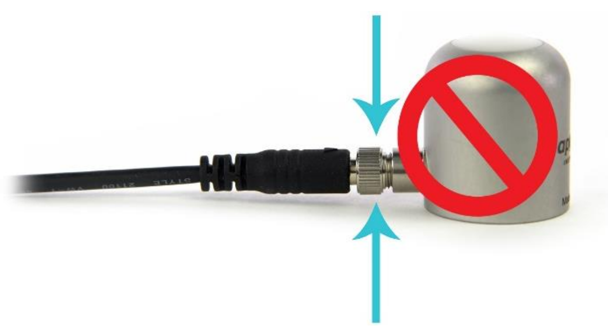
Alignment: When reconnecting a sensor, arrows on the connector jacket and an aligning notch ensure proper orientation.

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.

When sending sensors in for calibration, only send the sensor head.

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.

WARNING: Do **not** tighten the connector by twisting the black cable or sensor head, only twist the metal connector (yellow arrows).

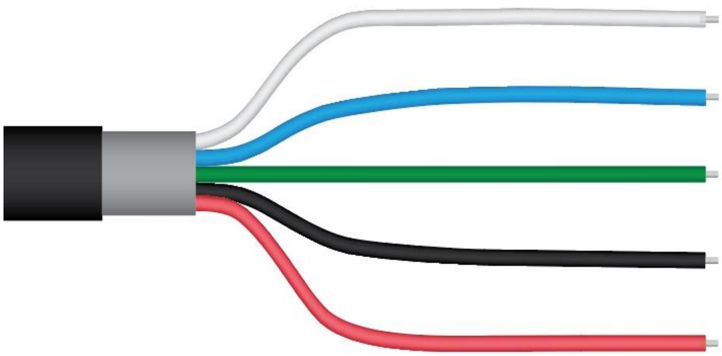


Finger-tighten firmly

OPERATION AND MEASUREMENT

The SQ-618 ePAR sensor has a Modbus output, where extended photosynthetically active radiation (ePAR) is returned in digital format. Measurement of SQ-618 ePAR sensors requires a measurement device with a Modbus interface that supports the Read Holding Registers (0x03) function.

Wiring



White: RS-232 RX / RS-485 Positive

Blue: RS-232 TX / RS-485 Negative

Green: Select (Switch between RS-232 and RS-485)

Black: Ground

Red: Power +12 V

The Green wire should be connected to Ground to enable RS-485 communication, or it should be connected to 12 V power for RS-232 communication. Text for the White and Blue wires above refers to the port that the wires should be connected to.

Sensor Calibration

All Apogee Modbus ePAR sensors (model SQ-618) have sensor-specific calibration coefficients determined during the custom calibration process. Coefficients are programmed into the sensors at the factory.

Modbus Interface

The following is a brief explanation of the Modbus protocol instructions used in Apogee SQ-618 ePAR sensors. For questions on the implementation of this protocol, please refer to the official serial line implementation of the Modbus protocol: http://www.modbus.org/docs/Modbus_over_serial_line_V1_02.pdf (2006) and the general Modbus protocol specification: http://www.modbus.org/docs/Modbus_Application_Protocol_V1_1b3.pdf (2012). Further information can be found at: http://www.modbus.org/specs.php

Overview

The primary idea of the Modbus interface is that each sensor exists at an address and appears as a table of values. These values are called Registers. Each value in the table has an associated index, and that index is used to identify which value in the table is being accessed.

Sensor addresses

Each sensor is given an address from 1 to 247. Apogee sensors are shipped with a default address of 1. If using multiple sensors on the same Modbus line, the sensor's address will have to be changed by writing the Slave Address register.

Register Index

Each register in a sensor represents a value in the sensor, such as a measurement or a configuration parameter. Some registers can only be read, some registers can only be written, and some can be both read and written. Each register exists at a specified index in the table for the sensor. Often this index is called an address, which is a separate address than the sensor address, but can be easily confused with the sensor address.

However, there are two different indexing schemes used for Modbus sensors, though translating between them is simple. One indexing scheme is called one-based numbering, where the first register is given the index of 1, and is thereby accessed by requesting access to register 1. The other indexing scheme is called zero-based numbering, where the first register is given the index 0, and is thereby accessed by requesting access to register 0. Apogee Sensors use zero-based numbering. However, if using the sensor in a system that uses one-based numbering, such as using a CR1000X logger, adding 1 to the zero-based address will produce the one-based address for the register.

Register Format:

According to the Modbus protocol specification, Holding Registers (the type registers Apogee sensors contain) are defined to be 16 bits wide. However, when making scientific measurements, it is desirable to obtain a more precise value than 16 bits allows. Thus, several Modbus implementations will use two 16-bit registers to act as one 32-bit register. Apogee Modbus sensors use this 32-bit implementation to provide measurement values as 32-bit IEEE 754 floating point numbers.

Apogee Modbus sensors also contain a redundant, duplicate set of registers that use 16-bit signed integers to represent values as decimal-shifted numbers. It is recommended to use the 32-bit values, if possible, as they contain more precise values.

Communication Parameters:

Apogee Sensors communicate using the Modbus RTU variant of the Modbus protocol. The default communication parameters are as follows:

Slave address: 1
Baudrate: 19200
Data bits: 8
Stop bits: 1
Parity: Even
Byte Order: Big-Endian (most significant byte sent first)

The baudrate and slave address are user configurable. **Valid slave addresses are 1 to 247. Since the address 0 is reserve as the broadcast address, setting the slave address to 0 will set the slave address to 1.** (This will also reset factory-calibrated values and should **NOT** be done by the user unless otherwise instructed.)

Read only registers (function code 0x3).

Float Registers	
0 1	calibrated output µmol m^{-2} s^{-1}
2 3	detector millivolts
4 5	immersed output µmol m^{-2} s^{-1}
6 7	solar output µmol m^{-2} s^{-1}
8 9	Reserved for Future Use
10 11	device status (1 means device is busy, 0 otherwise)
12 13	firmware version
Integer Registers	
40	calibrated output µmol m^{-2} s^{-1} (shifted one decimal point to the left)
41	detector millivolts (shifted one decimal point to the left)
42	immersed output µmol m^{-2} s^{-1} (shifted one decimal point to the left)
43	solar output µmol m^{-2} s^{-1} (shifted one decimal point to the left)
44	Reserved for Future Use
45	device status (1 means device is busy, 0 otherwise)
46	firmware version (shifted one decimal point to the left)

Read/Write registers (function codes 0x3 and 0x10).

Float Registers	
16 17	slave address
18 19	model number*
20 21	serial number*
22 23	baudrate (0 = 115200, 1 = 57600, 2 = 38400, 3 = 19200, 4 = 9600, any other number = 19200)
24 25	parity (0 = none, 1 = odd, 2 = even)
26 27	number of stopbits
28 29	multiplier*
30 31	offset*
32 33	immersion factor*
34 35	solar multiplier*
36 37	running average
38 39	heater status
Integer Registers	
48	slave address
49	model number*
50	serial number*
51	baudrate (0 = 115200, 1 = 57600, 2 = 38400, 3 = 19200, 4 = 9600, any other number = 19200)
52	parity (0 = none, 1 = odd, 2 = even)
53	number of stopbits
54	multiplier (shifted two decimal points to the left)*
55	offset (shifted two decimal points to the left)*
56	immersion factor (shifted two decimal points to the left)*
57	solar multiplier (shifted two decimal points to the left)*
58	running average
59	heater status

***Registers marked with an asterisk (*) cannot be written to unless a specific procedure is followed. Contact Apogee Instruments to receive the procedure for writing these registers**

Packet Framing:

Apogee sensors use Modbus RTU packets and tend to adhere to the following pattern:

Slave Address (1 byte), Function Code (1 byte), Starting Address (2 bytes), Number of Registers (2 bytes), Data Length (1 byte, optional) Data (n bytes, optional)

Modbus RTU packets use the zero-based address when addressing registers.

For information on Modbus RTU framing, see the official documentation at http://www.modbus.org/docs/Modbus_Application_Protocol_V1_1b3.pdf

Example Packets:

An example of a data packet sent from the controller to the sensor using function code 0x3 reading register address 0. Each pair of square brackets indicates one byte.

[Slave Address][Function][Starting Address High Byte][Starting Address Low Byte][No of Registers High Byte][No of Registers Low Byte][CRC High Byte][CRC Low Byte]

0x01 0x03 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x02 0xC4 0x0B

An example of a data packet sent from the controller to the sensor using function code 0x10 writing a 1 to register 26. Each pair of square brackets indicates one byte.

[Slave Address][Function][Starting Address High Byte][Starting Address Low Byte][No of Registers High Byte][No of Registers Low Byte][Byte Count][Data High Byte][Data Low Byte][Data High Byte][Data Low Byte][CRC High Byte][CRC Low Byte]

0x01 0x10 0x00 0x1A 0x00 0x02 0x04 0x3f 0x80 0x00 0x00 0x7f 0x20.

Spectral Error

Quantum sensors are the most common instrument for measuring PPFD, because they are about an order of magnitude lower cost the spectroradiometers, but spectral errors must be considered. The spectral errors in the table below can be used as correction factors for individual radiation sources.

Spectral Errors for PPFD Measurements with Apogee SQ-610 Series ePAR Sensors

Radiation Source (Error Calculated Relative to Sun, Clear Sky)	SQ-610 Series PPFD Error [%]
Sun (Clear Sky)	2.5
Sun (Cloudy Sky)	2.6
Cool White Fluorescent (T5)	-0.5
Metal Halide	0.7
Ceramic Metal Halide	0.3
Mogul Base HPS	0.3
Dual-ended HPS	0.6
Cool White LED	-1.0
Warm White LED	-0.4
Blue LED (442 nm)	-2.7
Cyan LED (501 nm)	-0.7
Green LED (529 nm)	-0.7
Amber LED (598 nm)	-0.4
Red LED (666 nm)	-0.3
Far Red LED (737 nm)	4.5

Immersion Effect Correction Factor

When a radiation sensor is submerged in water, more of the incident radiation is backscattered out of the diffuser than when the sensor is in air (Smith, 1969; Tyler and Smith, 1970). This phenomenon is caused by the difference in the refractive index for air (1.00) and water (1.33) and is called the immersion effect. Without correction for the immersion effect, radiation sensors calibrated in air can only provide relative values underwater (Smith, 1969; Tyler and Smith, 1970). Immersion effect correction factors can be derived by making measurements in air and at multiple water depths at a constant distance from a lamp in a controlled laboratory setting.

Apogee SQ-610 series ePAR sensors have an immersion effect correction factor of 1.25. This correction factor should be multiplied by PPFD measurements made underwater to yield accurate PPFD.

Further information on underwater measurements and the immersion effect can be found on the Apogee webpage (http://www.apogeeinstruments.com/underwater-par-measurements/).

Smith, R.C., 1969. An underwater spectral irradiance collector. Journal of Marine Research 27:341-351.

Tyler, J.E., and R.C. Smith, 1970. Measurements of Spectral Irradiance Underwater. Gordon and Breach, New York, New York. 103 pages.

MAINTENANCE AND RECALIBRATION

Blocking of the optical path between the target and detector can cause low readings. Occasionally, accumulated materials on the diffuser of the upward-looking sensor can block the optical path in three common ways:

1. Moisture or debris on the diffuser.
2. Dust during periods of low rainfall.
3. Salt deposit accumulation from evaporation of sea spray or sprinkler irrigation water.

Apogee Instruments upward-looking sensors have a domed diffuser and housing for improved self-cleaning from rainfall, but active cleaning may be necessary. 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 cloth or cotton swab. **Salt deposits cannot be removed with solvents such as alcohol or acetone.** Use only gentle pressure when cleaning the diffuser with a cotton swab or soft cloth to avoid scratching the outer surface. The solvent should be allowed to do the cleaning, not mechanical force. **Never use abrasive material or cleaner on the diffuser.**

It is recommended that sensors be recalibrated every two years. See the Apogee webpage for details regarding return of sensors for recalibration (http://www.apogeeinstruments.com/tech-support-recalibration-repairs/).

TROUBLESHOOTING AND CUSTOMER SUPPORT

Independent Verification of Functionality

If the sensor does not communicate with the datalogger, use an ammeter to check the current drain. It should be near 37 mA when the sensor is powered. Any current drain significantly greater than approximately 37 mA indicates a problem with power supply to the sensors, wiring of the sensor, or sensor electronics.

Compatible Measurement Devices (Dataloggers/Controllers/Meters)

Any datalogger or meter with RS-232/RS-485 that can read/write float or integer values.

An example datalogger program for Campbell Scientific dataloggers can be found at https://www.apogeeinstruments.com/content/Quantum-Modbus.CR1.

Cable Length

All Apogee sensors use shielded cable to minimize electromagnetic interference. For best communication, 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.

RS-232 Cable Length

If using an RS-232 serial interface, the cable length from the sensor to the controller should be kept short, no longer than 20 meters. For more information, see section 3.3.5 in this document: http://www.modbus.org/docs/Modbus_over_serial_line_V1_02.pdf

RS-485 Cable Length

If using an RS-485 serial interface, longer cable lengths may be used. The trunk cable can be up to 1000 meters long. The length of cable from the sensor to a tap on the trunk should be short, no more than 20 meters. For more information, see section 3.4 in this document: http://www.modbus.org/docs/Modbus_over_serial_line_V1_02.pdf

Troubleshooting Tips

- Make sure to use the green wire to select between RS-232 and RS-485.
- Make sure that the sensor is wired correctly (refer to wiring diagram).
- Make sure the sensor is powered by a power supply with a sufficient output (e.g., 12 V).
- Make sure to use the appropriate kind of variable when reading Modbus registers. Use a float variable for float registers and an integer variable for integer registers.
- Make sure the baudrate, stop bits, parity, byte order, and protocols match between the control program and the sensor. Default values are:
    - Baudrate: 19200
    - Stop bits: 1
    - Parity: Even
    - Byte order: ABCD (Big-Endian/Most Significant Byte First)
    - Protocol: RS-232 or RS-485

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 by Apogee.

Products not manufactured by Apogee (spectroradiometers, chlorophyll content meters, EE08-SS probes) 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, use, 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 another party who may own it during the warranty period.

What Apogee Will Do
At no charge Apogee 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 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. Call (435) 245-8012 or email techsupport@apogeeinstruments.com with questions.

2. For warranty evaluations, 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. ***Note:*** *When sending back sensors for routine calibration that have Apogee's standard stainless-steel connectors, you only need to send the sensor with the 30 cm section of cable and one-half of the connector. We have mating connectors at our factory that can be used for calibrating the sensor.*

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.

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

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.

PRODUCTS BEYOND THE WARRANTY PERIOD

For issues with sensors beyond the warranty period, please contact Apogee at techsupport@apogeeinstruments.com to discuss repair or replacement options.

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 data, loss of wages, loss of time, loss of sales, accruement 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 by 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