

# apogee

## INSTRUMENTS

### OWNER'S MANUAL

## USB QUANTUM SENSOR

Model SQ-520

(formerly gold)



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Owner’s Manual .....                       | 1  |
| Certificate of Compliance .....            | 3  |
| Introduction.....                          | 4  |
| Sensor Models .....                        | 5  |
| Specifications.....                        | 6  |
| Deployment and Installation .....          | 9  |
| Software Installation .....                | 9  |
| Operation and Measurement.....             | 11 |
| Windows Software .....                     | 14 |
| Mac Software .....                         | 19 |
| Maintenance and Recalibration .....        | 25 |
| Troubleshooting and Customer Support ..... | 27 |
| Return and Warranty Policy .....           | 28 |

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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-520  
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 Apogee Instruments from the raw material suppliers, the products manufactured by Apogee Instruments 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 analyze raw materials or end products for the presence of these substances, but relies on the information provided by the material suppliers.

Signed for and on behalf of:  
Apogee Instruments, July 2019



Bruce Bugbee  
President  
Apogee Instruments, Inc.

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## INTRODUCTION

Radiation that drives photosynthesis is called photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) and is typically defined as total radiation between 400 and 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 quantitated 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.

The acronym PPF is also widely used and refers to the photosynthetic photon flux. The acronyms PPF and PPFD refer to the same parameter. The two terms have co-evolved because there is not a universal definition of the term "flux". Some physicists define flux as per unit area per unit time. Others define flux only as per unit time. We have used PPFD in this manual because we feel that it is better to be more complete and possibly redundant.

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 measurements in indoor or outdoor environments. The sensor is potted solid with no internal air space. The signal from the sensor is directly proportional to radiation incident on a flat surface where the radiation comes from all angles of a hemisphere.

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## SENSOR MODELS

This manual covers the USB quantum sensor model SQ-520. Additional models are covered in their respective manuals.

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



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

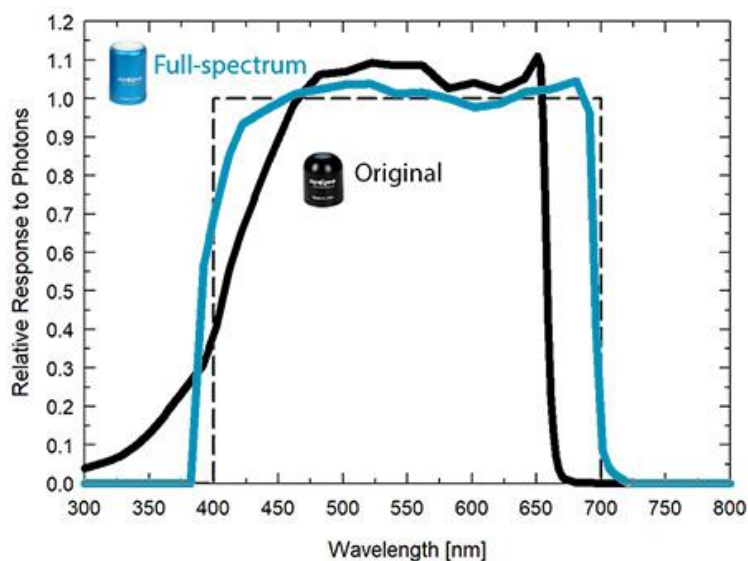
## SPECIFICATIONS

| SQ-520                             |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Resolution                         | 0.1 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  |
| Calibration Factor                 | Custom for each sensor and stored in the firmware   |
| Calibration Uncertainty            | $\pm 5\%$ (see calibration Traceability below)  |
| Measurement Range                  | 0 to 4000 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  |
| Measurement Repeatability          | Less than 0.5 %   |
| Long-term Drift<br>(Non-stability) | Less than 2 % per year  |
| Non-linearity                      | Less than 1 % (up to 4000 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ )                          |
| Response Time                      | Software updates every second   |
| 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)<br>Response   | $\pm 2\%$ at 45° zenith angle, $\pm 5\%$ at 75° zenith angle (see Cosine Response below)  |
| Temperature Response               | -0.11 $\pm$ 0.04 % per C (see Temperature Response below)                                 |
| Azimuth Error                      | Less than 0.5 %   |
| Tilt Error                         | Less than 0.5 %   |
| 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                               | Sensor head weighs 90 g   |
| USB Cable                          | 4.5 m (15 ft)   |
| Current Draw (when<br>Logging)     | 61 mA   |

### Calibration Traceability

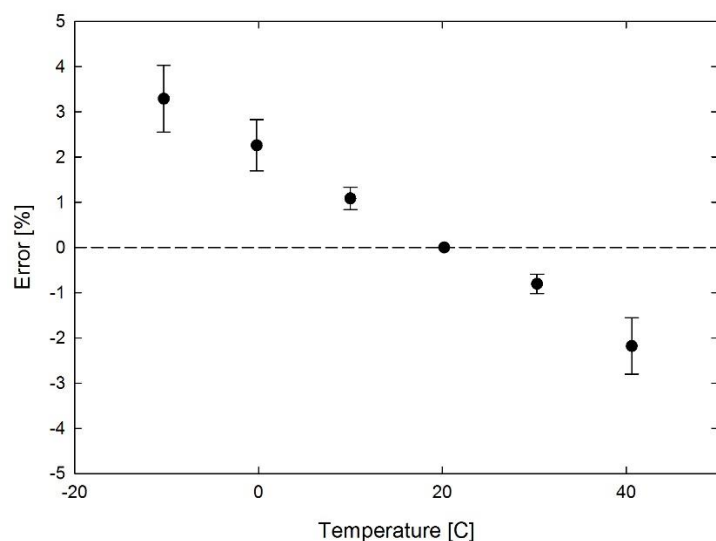
Apogee Instruments SQ-500 series quantum sensors are calibrated through side-by-side comparison to the mean of four transfer standard quantum sensors under a reference lamp. The reference quantum sensors are recalibrated with a quartz halogen lamp traceable to the National Institute of Standards and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

## Spectral Response



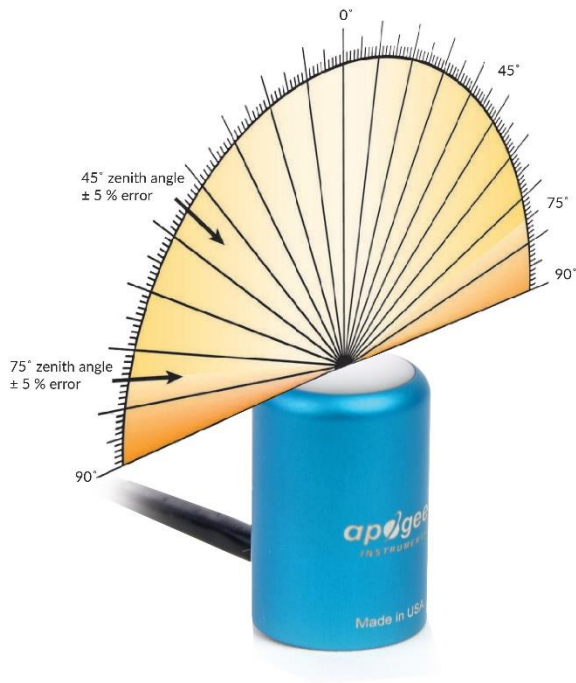
Mean spectral response measurements of six replicate Apogee SQ-100 (original) and SQ-500 (full-spectrum) series quantum sensors. Spectral response measurements were made at 10 nm increments across a wavelength range of 300 to 800 nm in a monochromator with an attached electric light source. Measured 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

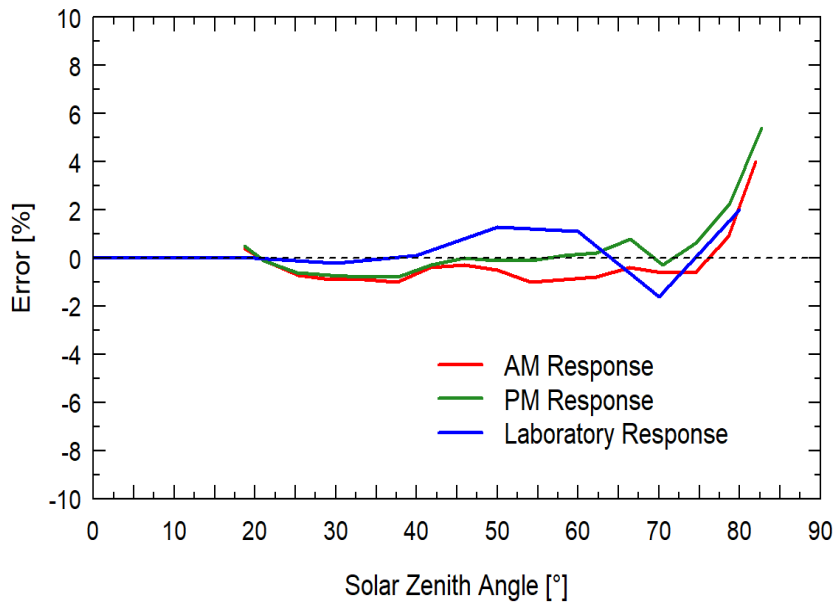


Mean temperature response of ten SQ-500 series quantum sensors (**errors bars represent two standard deviations above and below mean**). Temperature response measurements were made at 10 C intervals across a temperature range of approximately -20 to 50 C in a temperature controlled chamber under a fixed, 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 ± 2 % and ± 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).

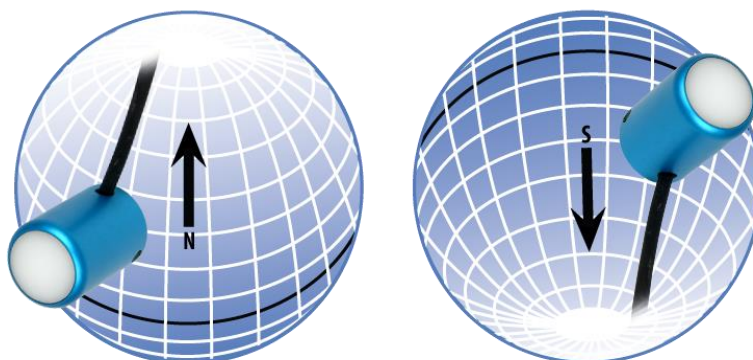


## DEPLOYMENT AND INSTALLATION

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 for this purpose. To facilitate mounting on a cross arm, an Apogee Instruments model AM-110 mounting bracket 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.



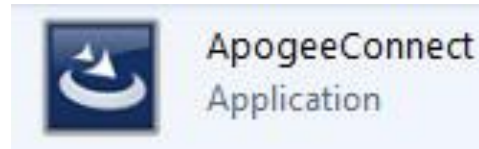
In addition to orienting the cable to point toward the nearest pole, the sensor should also be mounted such that obstructions (e.g., weather station tripod/tower or other instrumentation) do not shade the sensor. **Once mounted, the green cap should be removed from the sensor.** The green cap can be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

## SOFTWARE INSTALLATION

The most recent version of ApogeeConnect software can be downloaded at

<http://www.apogeeinstruments.com/downloads/>.

**Installing the software on a PC (Windows compatible, XP and later)**



1. Double click on the installer package:
2. On the 'Welcome' screen, please click 'Next' to continue.
3. Select the radio button next to "I Agree" to the UELA... and click 'Next' to continue.
4. On the 'Ready to Install the Program' screen, click 'Install' to continue.
5. Click 'Finish' to complete the installation. There are shortcuts on your desktop and in your start bar.

**Installing the software on a Mac (Mac compatible, 10.10 and later)**



ApogeeConnect.pkg

1. Double click on the installer package
2. On the 'Introduction' screen, please click 'Continue' to proceed.
3. Select 'Continue' on the 'Read Me' screen to continue, this screen contains a history of updates made to the ApogeeConnect software versions.
4. Select 'Continue' on the 'License' screen to receive a prompt to agree to the terms of the software license agreement. Click 'Agree' to continue once you receive the prompt.
5. On the 'Installation Type' screen, click 'Install' to install the software. You can change the location the software installs to by clicking 'Change Install Location...'. \*Note: You may be prompted for an administrator password at this time. If you are, proceed by entering your respective password and clicking 'Install Software'.
6. Once you receive the message "The installation was successful." on the 'Summary' screen click 'Close'. Your software is now ready to be used.

## OPERATION AND MEASUREMENT

### 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<br>PPFD Error [%] | SQ-500 Series<br>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                             |

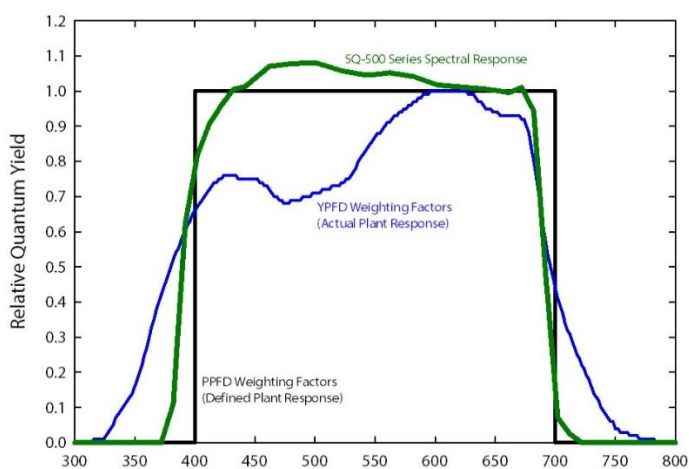
Quantum sensors can be a very practical means of measuring PPFD and YPFD from multiple radiation sources, but spectral errors must be considered. The spectral errors in the table above can be used as correction factors for individual radiation sources.

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

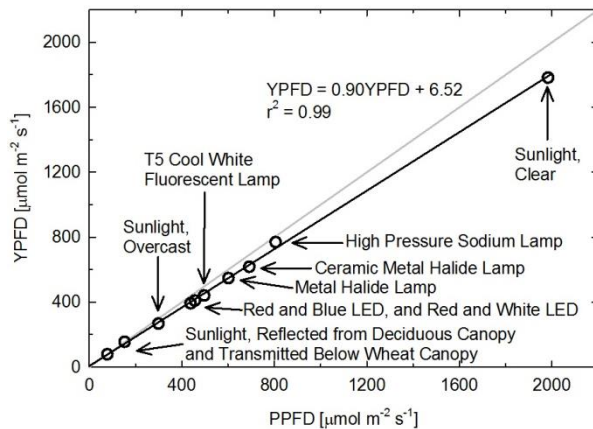
Photosynthesis in plants does not respond equally to all photons. Relative quantum yield (photosynthetic efficiency) is dependent on wavelength (blue line in figure below) (McCree, 1972a; Inada, 1976). This is due to the combination of spectral absorptivity of plant leaves (absorptivity is higher for 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 (YPFD) [ $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ] (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 YPFD 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 YPFD measurements for several radiation sources is very high (figure below). As an approximation,  $\text{YPFD} = 0.9\text{PPFD}$ . As a result, almost universally PAR is defined as PPFD rather than YPFD, although YPFD 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 YPFD weighting factors are at or near one. The factor for converting PPFD to YPFD for HPS lamps is 0.95, rather than 0.90. The factor for converting PPFD to YPFD 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.

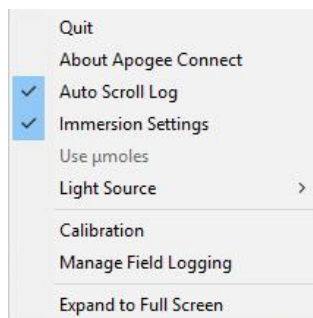
McCree, K.J., 1972a. The action spectrum, absorptance and quantum yield of photosynthesis in crop plants. *Agricultural Meteorology* 9:191-216.

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.

### Underwater Measurements and Immersion Effect

When a quantum sensor that was calibrated in air is used to make underwater measurements, the sensor reads low. This phenomenon is called the immersion effect and happens because the refractive index of water (1.33) is greater than air (1.00). The higher refractive index of water causes more light to be backscattered (or reflected) out of the sensor in water than in air (Smith,1969; Tyler and Smith,1970). As more light is reflected, less light is transmitted through the diffuser to the detector, which causes the sensor to read low. Without correcting for this effect, underwater measurements are only relative, which makes it difficult to compare light in different environments.



The SQ-520 sensor has an immersion effect correction factor of 1.32. The immersion effect correction factor can be automatically applied to SQ-520 measurements by turning on the immersion setting in the settings option of the ApogeeConnect software, as pictured. Once you are finished making your underwater measurements simply uncheck the immersion setting in the software to turn it off and continue making measurements in air like normal.

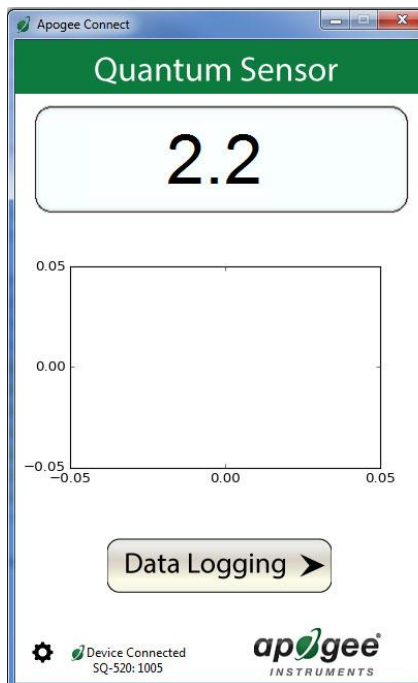
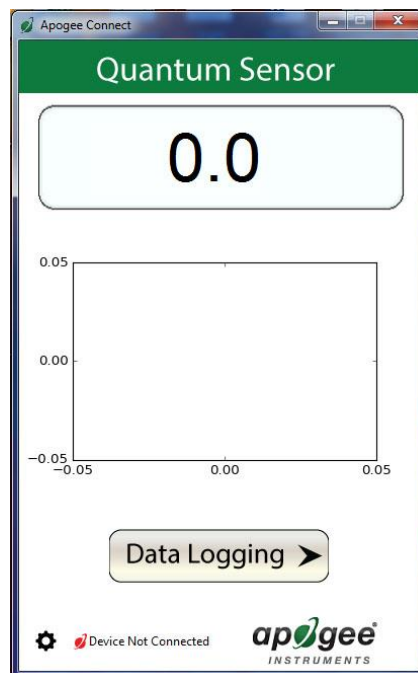
When making underwater measurements, only the sensor and cable can go in the water. The USB connector is not waterproof and must not get wet.

Further information on underwater measurements and the immersion effect can be found at <http://www.apogeeinstruments.com/underwater-par-measurements/>.

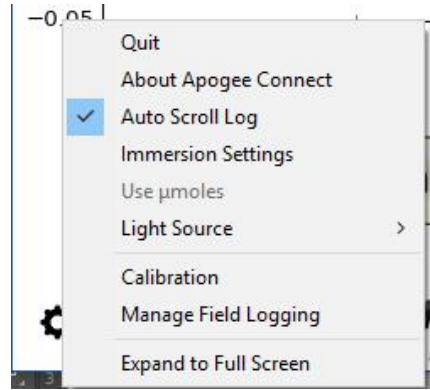
## WINDOWS SOFTWARE

When the SQ-520 sensor is not plugged into the USB port, the software will display a message in the lower left corner, "Device Not Connected," indicating it cannot establish communication with the sensor.

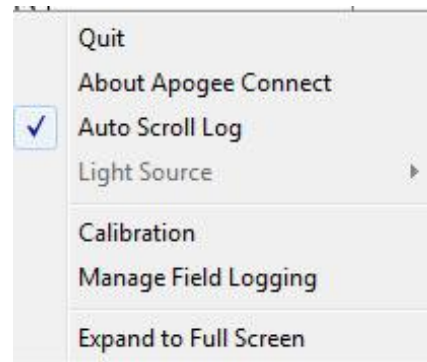
Plug the sensor into a USB port and allow some time for the sensor to automatically establish communication with the software. Once established, the message in the lower left corner will display "Device Connected-Model: SN ####" and real-time PAR readings will update on the screen. Moving the sensor closer to a light source should increase the readings, while blocking all light from the sensor should drop the reading to zero.



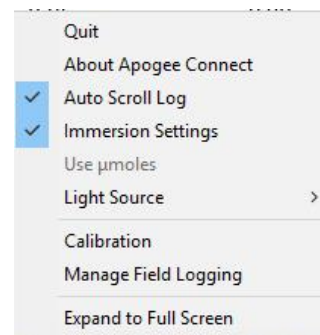
Click the **'Settings'** icon to display the software options.



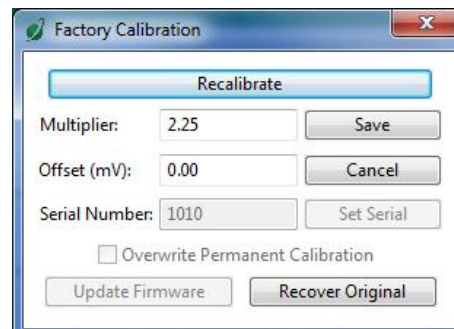
Note **'Light Source'** is not a selectable option. The SQ-520 is calibrated for all light sources, therefore, this function is not necessary for the SQ-520. The function is designed to give increased accuracy for the SQ-420.



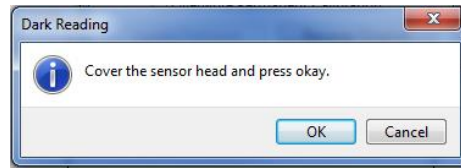
Clicking **'Immersion Setting'** will automatically apply the sensor's immersion effect correction factor of 1.08 to the sensor measurements. This setting should be used when the sensor is being used to take measurements underwater.



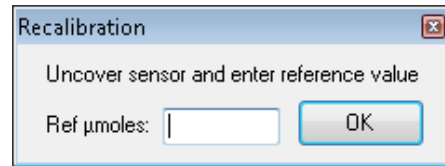
Clicking **'Calibration'** will display the factory calibrated multiplier and offset values. These values are saved in firmware and can be recovered by clicking the 'Recover Original' button. Deriving a new calibration multiplier and offset is accomplished by clicking the 'Recalibrate' button. This is applicable if users want to calibrate the sensor to their own specific light source. Note that a reference PAR value of the light source is required to complete a recalibration.



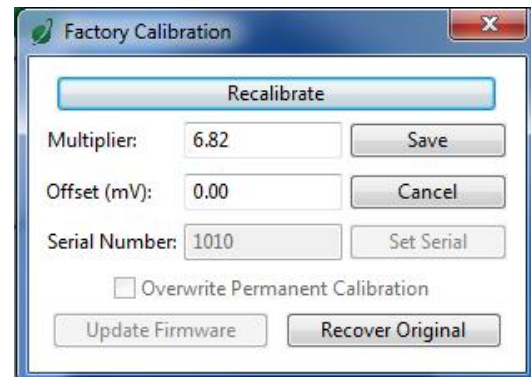
After clicking the 'Recalibrate' button the user will be prompted to cover the sensor. Place a dark cap over the sensor and wait for the real-time PAR reading to settle at zero. Click OK.



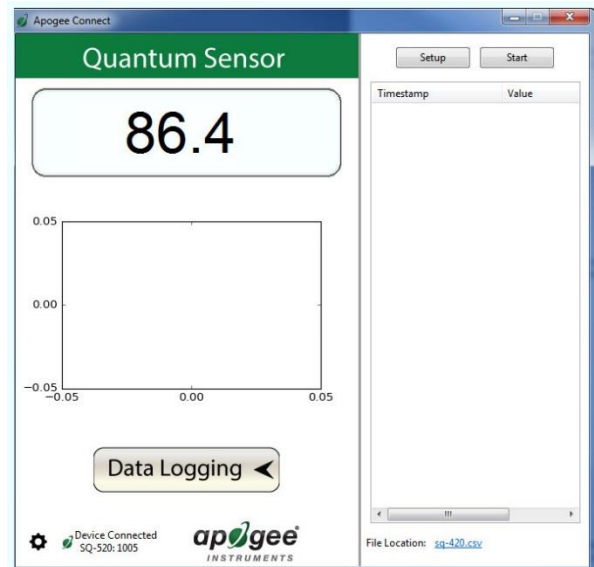
Uncover the sensor and wait for the PAR reading to settle *before* entering the reference value. Click OK.



The multiplier and offset values will automatically calculate and update in the appropriate field. Be sure to click 'Save' to retain the new multiplier and offset.

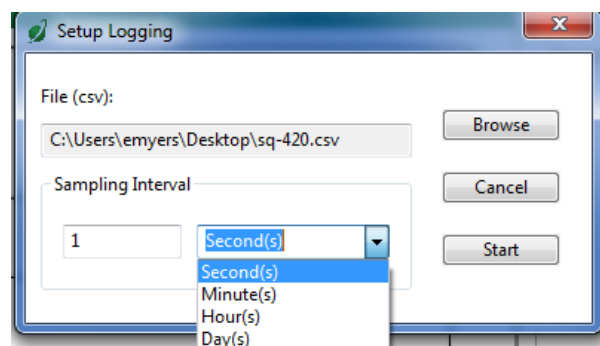


Clicking 'Data Logging' will allow the user to log interval measurements in a csv file while the software is open and communicating with the sensor.



Click 'Setup' and the Setup Logging window appears. Click the 'Browse' button to create or select a csv file.

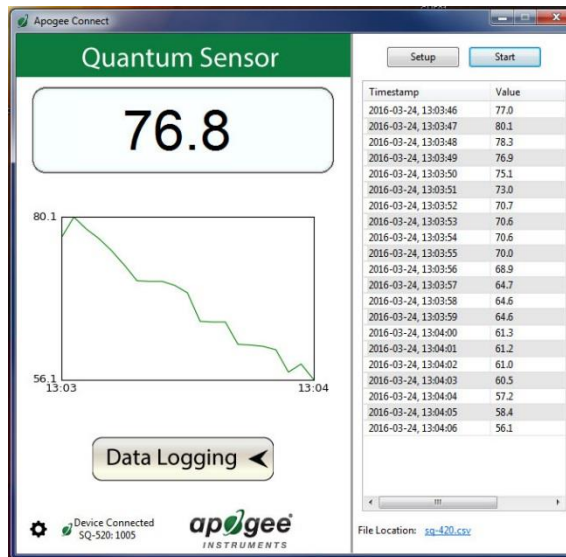
Select the desired sampling interval. Note that 1 second is the minimum interval allowed. Click 'Start'.



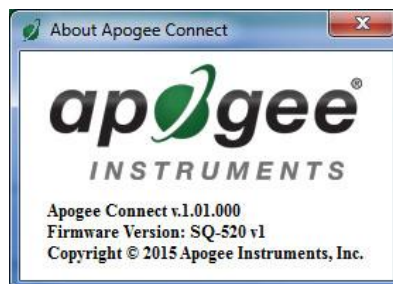


The data logging window will start to update at the specified sampling interval and display the Timestamp, Light Source, and Data Value. At the same time, data will be written to the csv file. Note that if the csv file is open in another program new data will not be saved to it.

The data logging window can be closed without affecting logged data by clicking the 'Data Logging' button. The 'Stop' button must be clicked to end data logging.



The about screen tells you the software and firmware versions. These can be used to help troubleshoot if problems arise.



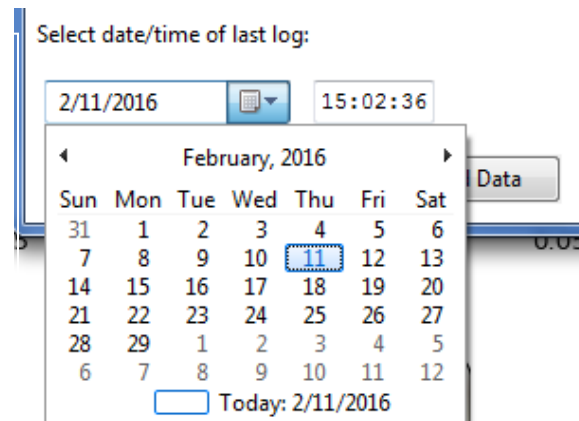
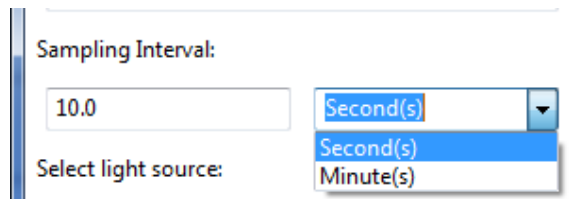
'Manage Field Logging' is used to setup the SQ-520 for use in the field. When the SQ-520 is supplied power from a USB power source (plug or select batteries) it will log data which you can retrieve. Choose the interval that data is saved as well as the interval that data is sampled and the light source used. The shortest sampling interval is 1 second. The longest sampling or logging interval is 1440 minutes (1 day). Click 'Load Settings' to see current settings and 'Save Settings' to save the settings you want to the sensor. Note: If you don't click save the sensor won't change the settings.

The 'Manage Field Logging' window contains the following settings:

- Logging Interval (Minutes): 1.00
- Sampling Interval: 10.0, Second(s)
- Select light source: Electric
- Buttons: Load Settings, Save Settings
- Select date/time of last log: 2/11/2016, 14:52:33
- Buttons: Erase Logged Data, Get Logged Data

Set the sampling interval in minutes or seconds. The sampling interval is how often a measurement is taken and logging interval is how often the data is saved. The logged data is the average of the samples. The logging interval must be evenly divided by the sampling interval. For example if the logging interval is 5 minutes and the sampling interval is 2 minutes it causes an error. But a sampling interval of 1 minute is acceptable.

Before clicking 'Get Logged Data' it is important to set the time of the last logged data point. This is used to back calculate the timestamps for the remaining data points. If you just unplugged the sensor and plugged it into the computer the preloaded day and time should be sufficient.

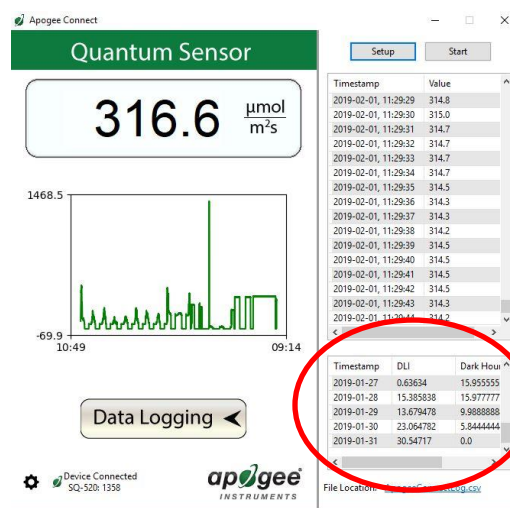


Click 'Get Logged Data' to save the data to your computer. You will be asked where you want to save the data.



Click 'Erase Data' to erase all the saved data. This can't be undone.

When the software is open and logging data from sensor models SQ-420 and SQ-520, it will calculate daily light integral (DLI) in moles and Dark Hours in hours each day at 12:00 AM using PAR values collected during the previous 36 hours. The Dark Hours value is calculated using the "Darkness Threshold" setting. The number of continuously logged PAR values less than the Darkness Threshold are counted and multiplied by the logging interval to calculate the number of Dark Hours. This represents the longest continuous duration of darkness, not the total duration of darkness.

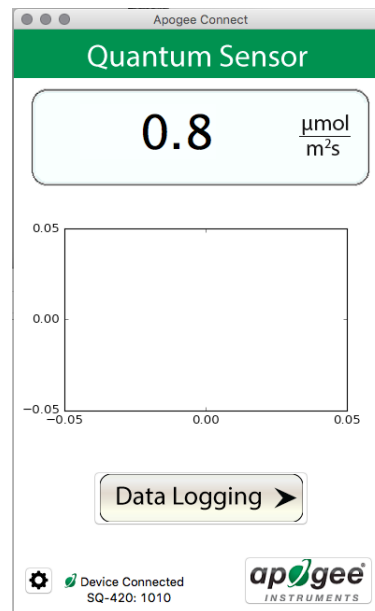
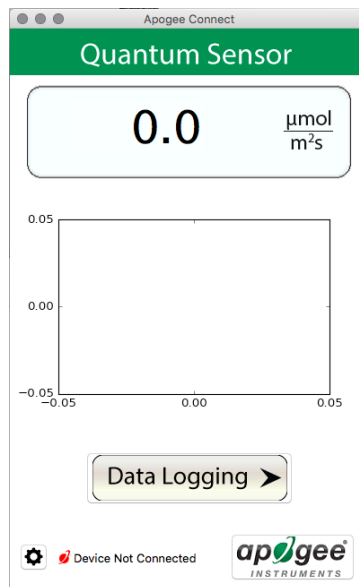


To use additional SQ-520 devices, open additional SQ-520 software windows. The device serial number will display in the lower left hand corner of the corresponding software window. Devices may be selected by serial number in the tool bar.

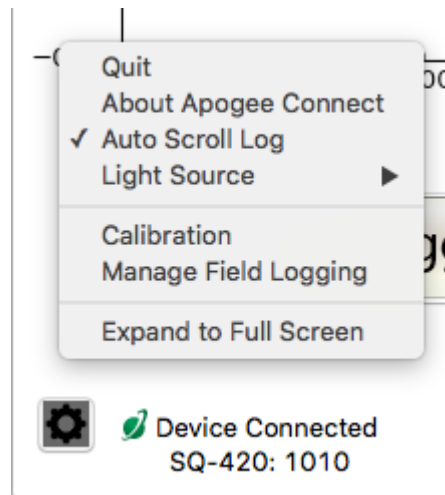
## MAC SOFTWARE

When the SQ-520 sensor is not plugged into the USB port, the software will display a message in the lower left corner, “Device Not Connected,” indicating it cannot establish communication with the sensor.

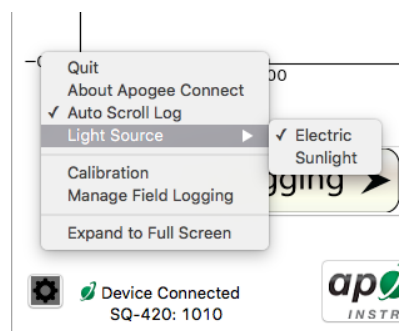
Plug the sensor into a USB port and allow some time for the sensor to automatically establish communication with the software. Once established, the message in the lower left corner will display “Device Connected SN: ####” and real-time PAR readings will update on the screen. Moving the sensor closer to a light source should increase the readings, while blocking all light from the sensor should drop the reading to zero.



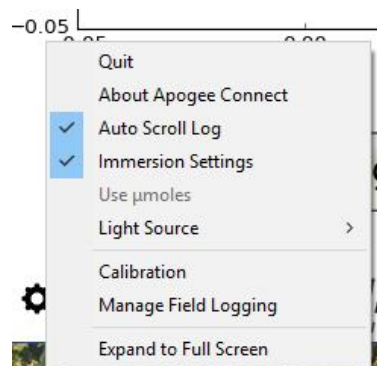
Click the **'Settings'** icon to display the software options.



Clicking **'Light Source'** will allow the user to change the sensor's default calibration reference from Electric to Sunlight. Electric should be selected when measuring most indoor artificial light sources, while Sunlight should be selected when measuring sunlight (such as when evaluating the need for recalibration).



Clicking **'Immersion Setting'** will automatically apply the sensor's immersion effect correction factor of 1.08 to the sensor measurements. This setting should be used when the sensor is being used to take measurements underwater.



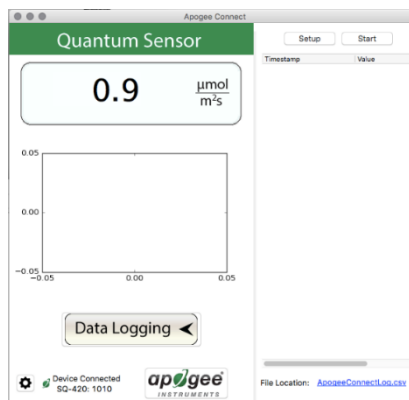
Clicking '**Calibration**' will display the factory calibrated multiplier and offset values. These values are saved in firmware and can be recovered by clicking the 'Recover Original' button. Deriving a new calibration multiplier and offset is accomplished by clicking the 'Recalibrate' button. This is applicable if users want to calibrate the sensor to their own specific light source. Note that a reference PAR value of the light source is required to complete a recalibration.

After clicking the 'Recalibrate' button the user will be prompted to cover the sensor. Place a dark cap over the sensor and wait for the real-time PAR reading to settle at zero. Click OK.

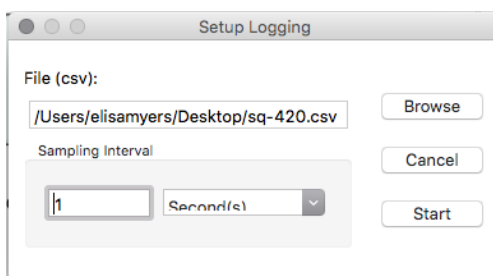
Uncover the sensor and wait for the PAR reading to settle **before** entering the reference value. Click OK.

The multiplier and offset values will automatically calculate and update in the appropriate field. Be sure to click 'Save' to retain the new multiplier and offset.

Clicking '**Data Logging**' will allow the user to log interval measurements in a csv file while the software is open and communicating with the sensor.

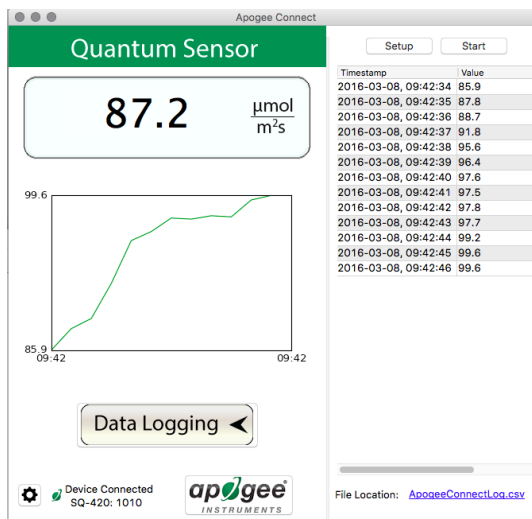


Click 'Setup' and the Setup Logging window appears. Click the 'Browse' button to create or select a csv file.



Select the desired sampling interval. Note that 1 second is the minimum interval allowed. Click 'Start'.

The data logging window will start to update at the specified sampling interval and display the Timestamp, Light Source, and Data Value. At the same time, data will be written to the csv file. Note that if the csv file is open in another program new data will not be saved to it.



The data logging window can be closed without affecting logged data by clicking the 'Exit' button. The 'Stop' button must be clicked to end data logging.

The about screen tells you the software and firmware versions. These can be used to help troubleshoot if problems arise.



**'Manage Field Logging'** is used to setup the SQ-520 for the use in the field. When the SQ-520 is supplied power from a USB power source (plug or select batteries) it will log data which you can retrieve. Choose the interval the data is saved as well as the interval that data is sampled and the light source used. The shortest sampling interval is 1 second. The longest sampling or logging interval is 1440 minutes (1 day). Click 'Load Settings' to see current settings and 'Save Setting' to save the settings you want to the sensor. Note: If you don't click save the sensor won't change the settings.

The screenshot shows a window titled "Manage Field Logging" with the following controls:

- Logging Interval (Minutes):** A text input field containing "1.00".
- Sampling Interval:** A text input field containing "10.0" and a dropdown menu set to "Second(s)".
- Select light source:** A dropdown menu set to "Electric".
- Buttons:** "Load Settings" and "Save Settings".
- Select date/time of last log:** A date picker set to "2/26/2016" and a time picker set to "10:50:43".
- Buttons:** "Erase Logged Data" and "Get Logged Data".

Set the sampling interval in minutes or seconds. The sampling interval is how often a measurement is taken and logging interval is how often the data is saved. The logged data is the average of the samples. The logging interval must be evenly divided by the sampling interval. For example if the logging interval is 5 minutes and the sampling interval is 2 minutes it causes an error. But a sampling interval of 1 minute is acceptable.

This close-up shows the "Logging Interval (Minutes)" field with "1.00" and the "Sampling Interval" field with "10.0" and "Second(s)" selected.

Before clicking 'Get Logged Data' it is important to set the time of the last logged data point. This is used to back calculate the timestamps for the remaining data points. If you just unplugged the sensor and plugged it into the computer the preloaded day and time should be sufficient.

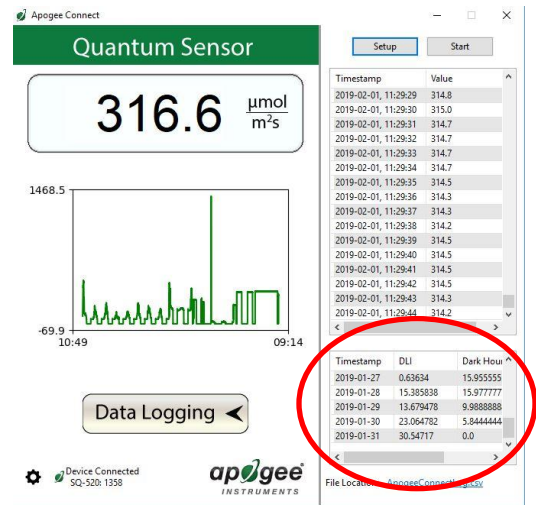
This close-up shows the "Select date/time of last log:" section with a date picker set to "1/26/2016" and a time picker set to "10:50:43".

Click **'Get Logged Data'** to save the data to your computer. You will be asked where you want to save the data.

This close-up shows the "Erase Logged Data" and "Get Logged Data" buttons.

Click **'Erase Data'** to erase all the save data. This can't be undone.

When the software is open and logging data from sensor models SQ-420 and SQ-520, it will calculate daily light integral (DLI) in moles and Dark Hours in hours each day at 12:00 AM using PAR values collected during the previous 36 hours. The Dark Hours value is calculated using the “Darkness Threshold” setting. The number of continuously logged PAR values less than the Darkness Threshold are counted and multiplied by the logging interval to calculate the number of Dark Hours. This represents the longest continuous duration of darkness, not the total duration of darkness.



To use additional SQ-520 devices, open additional SQ-520 software windows. The device serial number will display in the lower left hand corner of the corresponding software window. Devices may be selected by serial number in the tool bar.



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## 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.**

Although Apogee sensors are very stable, nominal accuracy drift is normal for all research-grade sensors. To ensure maximum accuracy, we generally recommend sensors are sent in for recalibration every two years, although you can often wait longer according to your particular tolerances.

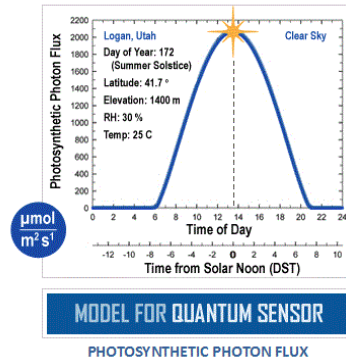
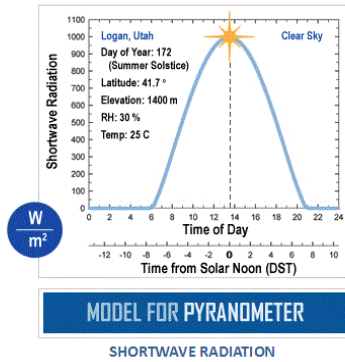
To determine if your sensor needs recalibration, the Clear Sky Calculator ([www.clearskycalculator.com](http://www.clearskycalculator.com)) website and/or smartphone app can be used to indicate the total shortwave radiation incident on a horizontal surface at any time of day at any location in the world. 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 total shortwave radiation can exceed values predicted by the Clear Sky Calculator due to reflection from thin, high clouds and edges of clouds, which enhances incoming shortwave 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 total shortwave radiation measurements to calculated values for a clear sky. If sensor shortwave radiation 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 measurements are still different after a second test, email [calibration@apogeeinstruments.com](mailto:calibration@apogeeinstruments.com) to discuss test results and possible return of sensor(s).



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: **apogee** INSTRUMENTS



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

Input Parameters for Estimating Photosynthetic Photon Flux (PPF):

Output from Model:

- 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.

Latitude =

Longitude =

Longitude<sub>tz</sub> =

Elevation =  m

Day of Year =

Time of Day =  (6 min = 0.1 hr)

Daylight Savings = +  hr

Air Temperature =  C

Relative Humidity =  %

Model Estimated PPF = **1994**  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$

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

DIFFERENCE FROM MODEL = **-0.2** %

+ CONTACT APOGEE FOR RECALIBRATION

Name:

E-mail:

Phone:

Serial #:

Comments:

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

RECALCULATE MODEL

Please include all requested information.  
SEND INFO TO APOGEE

+ INPUT AND OUTPUT DEFINITIONS

- Latitude** = latitude of the measurement site [degrees]; for southern hemisphere, insert a negative number; info may be obtained from <http://touchmap.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).
- Longitude<sub>tz</sub>** = longitude of the center of your local time zone [degrees]; expressed as positive degrees

This site is developed and maintained by: **apogee** INSTRUMENTS

[calibration@apogee-inst.com](mailto: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 PPF is returned on right-hand side of page.

## TROUBLESHOOTING AND CUSTOMER SUPPORT

### **Cable Length**

Fifteen feet is the maximum cable length that can be built into the sensor.

### **Modifying Cable Length**

If you required a longer cable length an “active” USB extension cable is required. Please note, the connection between the cables must be made water tight prior to submersion.

### **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>).

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## 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, 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 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) 245-8012 or by submitting an online RMA form at [www.apogeeinstruments.com/tech-support-recalibration-repairs/](http://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**

## PRODUCTS BEYOND THE WARRANTY PERIOD

For issues with sensors beyond the warranty period, please contact Apogee at [techsupport@apogeeinstruments.com](mailto: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 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.

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