

# apogee

## INSTRUMENTS

OWNER'S MANUAL

### PYRANOMETER

Models SP-510 and SP-610



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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: SP-510, SP-610

Type: Pyranometer

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 2016



Bruce Bugbee  
President  
Apogee Instruments, Inc.

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## INTRODUCTION

Solar radiation at Earth's surface is typically defined as total radiation across a wavelength range of 280 to 4000 nm (shortwave radiation). Total solar radiation, direct beam and diffuse, incident on a horizontal surface is defined as global shortwave radiation, or shortwave irradiance (incident radiant flux), and is expressed in Watts per square meter ( $W m^{-2}$ , equal to Joules per second per square meter).

Pyranometers are sensors that measure global shortwave radiation. Apogee SP-500 and SP-600 series pyranometers are blackbody thermopile pyranometers, and are sensitive to most of the solar spectrum, thus eliminating spectral errors associated with silicon-cell pyranometers. The SP-510 is designed to measuring incoming shortwave radiation and combines a diffuser with the blackbody detector. The SP-610 is designed to measure reflected shortwave radiation from terrestrial surfaces and combines a quartz windows with the blackbody detector. Both models have calibrations traceable to secondary standard blackbody thermopile pyranometers traceable to the world radiation reference in Davos, Switzerland. Specifications for both models compare favorably to specifications for World Meteorological Organization (WMO) moderate and good quality classifications and specifications for International Organization of Standardization (ISO) second class and first class classifications.

Typical applications of pyranometers include incoming shortwave radiation measurement in agricultural, ecological, and hydrological weather networks and solar panel arrays.

Apogee Instruments SP-510 and SP-610 pyranometers consist of a thermopile detector, acrylic diffuser (SP-510) or glass window (SP-610), heater, and signal processing circuitry mounted in an anodized aluminum housing, and a cable to connect the sensor to a measurement device. Sensors are potted solid with no internal air space and are designed for continuous measurement of shortwave radiation from the sky (SP-510) and terrestrial surfaces (SP-610) in outdoor environments. SP-510 and SP-610 pyranometers output an analog voltage that is directly proportional to incident shortwave radiation. 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

Apogee SP-510 and SP-610 pyranometers covered in this manual are analog versions that provide a voltage output. Apogee offers the SP-510 for incoming shortwave radiation measurements (upward-looking sensor) and SP-610 for reflected shortwave radiation measurements (downward-looking sensor).



SP-510  
Upward-looking sensor



SP-610  
Downward-looking sensor



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

	SP-510	SP-610
Sensitivity (variable from sensor to sensor, typical values listed)	0.057 mV per W m <sup>-2</sup>	0.15 mV per W m <sup>-2</sup>
Calibration Factor (Reciprocal of Sensitivity)	17.5 W m <sup>-2</sup> per mV	6.7 W m <sup>-2</sup> per mV
Calibration Uncertainty	± 5 %	
Calibrated Output Range	0 to 114 mV	0 to 300 mV
Measurement Range	0 to 2000 W m <sup>-2</sup> (net shortwave radiation)	
Measurement Repeatability	Less than 1 %	
Long-term Drift (Non-stability)	Less than 2 % per year	
Non-linearity	Less than 1 %	
Detector Response Time	0.5 s	
Field of View	180°	150°
Spectral Range (wavelengths where response is 50 % of maximum)	385 to 2105 nm	295 to 2685 nm
Directional (Cosine) Response	Less than 30 W m <sup>-2</sup> up to solar zenith angles of 80°	Less than 20 % for angles between 0 and 60°
Temperature Response	Less than 5 % from -15 to 45 C	
Zero Offset A	Less than 5 W m <sup>-2</sup> ; Less than 10 W m <sup>-2</sup> (heated)	
Zero Offset B	Less than 5 W m <sup>-2</sup>	
Uncertainty in Daily Total	Less than 5 %	
Operating Environment	-50 to 80 C; 0 to 100 % relative humidity	
Heater	780 Ω, 15.4 mA current drain and 185 mW power requirement at 12 V DC	
Mass	90 g	100 g
Cable	5m of four conductor, shielded, twisted-pair wire; additional cable available in multiples of 5 m; santoprene rubber jacket (high water resistance, high UV stability, flexibility in cold conditions); pigtail lead wires	
Warranty	4 years against defects in materials and workmanship	

### Calibration Traceability

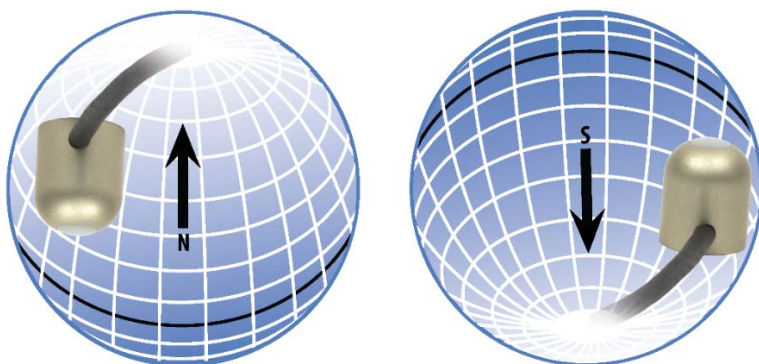
Apogee Instruments SP-500 and SP-600 series pyranometers are calibrated through side-by-side comparison to the mean of four Apogee model SP-510 or model SP-610 transfer standard pyranometers (shortwave radiation reference) under high intensity discharge metal halide lamps. The transfer standard pyranometers are calibrated through side-by-side comparison to the mean of at least two ISO-classified reference pyranometers under sunlight (clear sky conditions) in Logan, Utah. Each of four ISO-classified reference pyranometers are recalibrated on an alternating year schedule (two instruments each year) at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado. NREL reference standards are calibrated to the World Radiometric Reference (WRR) in Davos, Switzerland.

## DEPLOYMENT AND INSTALLATION

Mount the sensor to a solid surface with the nylon mounting screw provided, included thermally-insulated base needs to be mounted between the sensor and the surface it is being mounted to. To accurately measure total shortwave radiation 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 1 %, but it is easy to minimize by proper cable orientation.



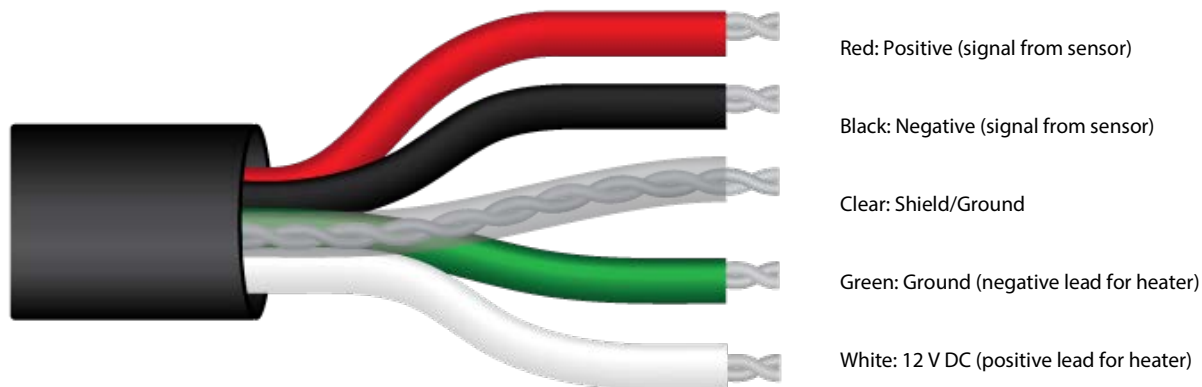
In addition to orienting the cable to point toward the nearest pole, the sensor should also be mounted such that obstructions (e.g., weather station tripod/tower or other instrumentation) do not shade the sensor. **Once mounted, the green cap should be removed from the sensor.** The green cap can be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



## OPERATION AND MEASUREMENT

Connect the sensor to a measurement device (meter, datalogger, controller) capable of measuring and displaying or recording a millivolt (mV) signal (an input measurement range of approximately 80 mV is required to cover the entire range of total shortwave radiation from the sun). In order to maximize measurement resolution and signal-to-noise ratio, the input range of the measurement device should closely match the output range of the pyranometer. **DO NOT connect the thermopile (red and black wires) to a power source. The detector is self-powered and applying voltage will damage it.**

### Wiring



### Sensor Calibration

Apogee model SP-510 and SP-610 pyranometers have calibration factors of approximately (calibration factor varies from sensor to sensor):

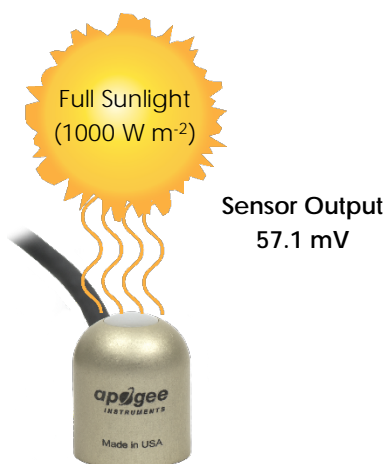
**17.5 W m<sup>-2</sup> per mV (SP-510)**

**6.7 W m<sup>-2</sup> per mV (SP-610)**

Multiply this calibration factor by the measured mV signal to convert sensor output to shortwave radiation in units of W m<sup>-2</sup>:

**Calibration Factor (W m<sup>-2</sup> per mV) \* Sensor Output Signal (mV) = Total Shortwave Radiation (W m<sup>-2</sup>)**

$$17.5 \quad * \quad 57.1 \quad = \quad 1000$$



Example of total shortwave radiation measurement with an Apogee SP-510 pyranometer. Full sunlight yields total shortwave radiation on a horizontal plane at the Earth's surface of approximately 1000 W m<sup>-2</sup>. This yields an output signal of 57.1 mV (varies from sensor to sensor). The signal is converted to shortwave radiation by multiplying by the calibration factor of 17.5 W m<sup>-2</sup> per mV (approximately, varies from sensor to sensor).

**Operation of Heater**

Apogee SP-510 and SP-610 pyranometers have an internal heater to allow for sensor heating during precipitation events or under conditions of dew and frost deposition. The heater is designed to keep the water (liquid and frozen) off the filter and does not need to be powered in order to make measurements of shortwave radiation. However, if the diffuser (SP-510) or glass window (SP-610) has water on the surface, errors can result. Continuously powering the heater under conditions that do not require heating will not damage the sensor or influence the measurements beyond what is reported in the specifications (thermal offset A changes when heaters are powered).


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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 acrylic diffuser (SP-510) or glass window (SP-610).**

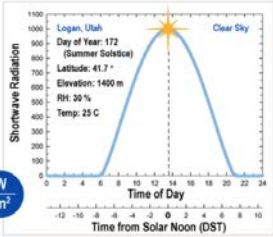
The Clear Sky Calculator ([www.clearskycalculator.com](http://www.clearskycalculator.com)) can be used to determine the need for pyranometer recalibration. It determines total shortwave radiation incident on a horizontal surface at any time of day at any location in the world. It is most accurate when 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).

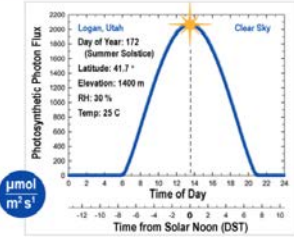


This calculator determines the intensity of radiation falling on a horizontal surface at any time of the day in any location in the world. The primary use of this calculator is to determine the need for recalibration of radiation sensors. It is most accurate when used near solar noon in the summer months.

This site developed and maintained by: 




**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 pyranometers (total shortwave radiation) and one for quantum sensors (photosynthetic photon flux density).



HOME

**FOR PYRANOMETERS**

- 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 Shortwave" 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 Parameters for Estimating Solar Radiation:**

Latitude =

Longitude =

Longitude<sub>s</sub> =

Elevation =  m

Day of Year =

Time of Day =   
(6 min = 0.1 hr)

Daylight Savings =  hr

Air Temperature =  C

Relative Humidity =  %

**Output from Model:**

Model Estimated Shortwave =  W m<sup>-2</sup>

Measured Shortwave =  W m<sup>-2</sup>

DIFFERENCE FROM MODEL = -1.7 %

[CONTACT APOGEE FOR RECALIBRATION](#)

Name:

E-mail:

Phone:

Serial #:


Comments:

Please include all requested information.

**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).

This site is developed and maintained by: 

[calibration@apogee-inst.com](mailto:calibration@apogee-inst.com)

Clear Sky Calculator for pyranometers. Site data are input in blue cells in middle of page and an estimate of total shortwave radiation is returned on right-hand side of page.

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## TROUBLESHOOTING AND CUSTOMER SUPPORT

### **Independent Verification of Functionality**

Apogee model SP-510 and SP-610 pyranometers are self-powered devices and output a voltage signal proportional to incident shortwave radiation. A quick and easy check of sensor functionality can be determined using a voltmeter with millivolt (mV) resolution. Connect the positive lead wire from the voltmeter to the red wire from the sensor and the negative (or common) lead wire from the voltmeter to the black wire from the sensor. Direct the sensor diffuser 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)**

Model SP-510 and SP-610 pyranometers have calibration factors of approximately  $17.5 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  per mV (SP-510) and  $6.7 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  per mV (SP-610). This yields sensitivities of approximately  $0.057 \text{ mV per W m}^{-2}$  (SP-510) and  $0.15 \text{ mV per W m}^{-2}$  (SP-610). Thus, a compatible measurement device (e.g., datalogger or controller) should have resolution of at least  $0.057 \text{ mV}$ , in order to provide shortwave radiation resolution of  $1 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  with the SP-510.

An example datalogger program for Campbell Scientific dataloggers can be found on the Apogee webpage at <http://www.apogeeinstruments.com/content/Thermopile-Pyranometer-Unamplified.CR1> .

### **Effect of 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 1 mega-ohm or higher then there is negligible effect on the pyranometer calibration, even after adding up to 100 m of cable. Apogee model SP series pyranometers use shielded, twisted pair cable, which minimizes electromagnetic interference. This is particularly important for 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/>).

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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) 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/](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**

## 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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