

LIGHT SENSOR¹

0..10 LUX

Description D0141i



Figure 1. The Light Sensor 0..10 lux

Short description

The Light Sensor (0141i) is a high sensitivity sensor to measure light intensities in the range of 0 to 10 lux. Because of its high sensitivity the sensor is very suitable for measurements of light spectra. It consists of a phototransistor (BPX81), which receives light through a glass fibre. The phototransistor converts light intensity into an output adjusted to a range of 0 to 5V, which can be measured by an interface. The output of the light sensor is linear with respect to light intensity.

By virtue of the use of a glass fibre, the sensor can be used very flexible regarding the fixing of the fibre in the experimental arrangement.

¹ The intelligent sensors are supported from Coach 5 v.2.4. For update information see <http://www.cma.science.uva.nl/english> section Support > Coach 5.

The light sensor is equipped with a BT-plug and can be connected to the following CMA interfaces:

- ULAB
- CoachLab
- CoachLab II
- UIA/UIB through Measuring console (via 0520 adapter²).

Furthermore the sensor can be used in combination with other interfaces, like Texas Instruments CBL™, CBL2™ and Vernier LabPro without the need of an adapter.

Intelligent sensor

The light sensor is an intelligent sensor. The sensor has a memory chip (EEPROM) with information about the sensor. Through a simple protocol (I²C) the sensor transfers its data (name, quantity, unit and calibration) to the interface. The interface automatically displays the calibrated values and communicates the information to the Coach software. The interfaces CMA ULAB, TI CBL2 and Vernier LabPro support the intelligent sensors. The sensor is delivered with an internal standard calibration.

Suggested experiments

The light sensor is specially designed for measurements of very low light intensities and can be used for light measurements in:

- diffraction patterns
- interference patterns
- light spectra.

Calibration

The output of the light sensor is linear with respect to light intensity.

To collect data you can:

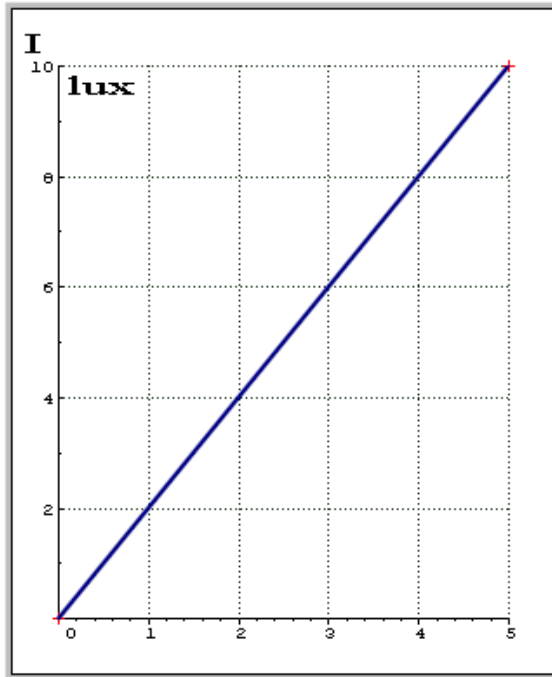
1. Use the calibration supplied in the standard sensor library of the Coach program.
2. Use the calibration supplied by the sensor EEPROM memory (only for the ULAB datalogger).
3. Calibrate the light sensor. The calibration can be performed in the Coach software (for details see 'Guide to Coach 5').

The calibration is easy if you have a calibrated light meter. You simply perform a standard two-point calibration using two different light levels both measured with a calibrated, hand-held light meter.

² The CMA adapter art. nr 0520 allows connecting sensors with BT-plugs to 4-mm inputs.

Changing of the default calibration in EEPROM of the sensor

In the near future a special program will be available to enable replacing of the default calibration in EEPROM of the sensor by a calibration done by the user. This will be done while the sensor is connected to the ULAB datalogger. In this way the sensor can have its own, precise calibration.



The name of the light sensor in the sensor library of the Coach 5 program is **Light sensor (0141i) (CMA) (0..10lux)**.

Figure 2.

Default calibration graph of the light sensor (used in the standard Coach library and sensor memory)

$$I (\text{lx}) = 2 * V_{\text{out}} (\text{V})$$

Coefficients of the calibration function:

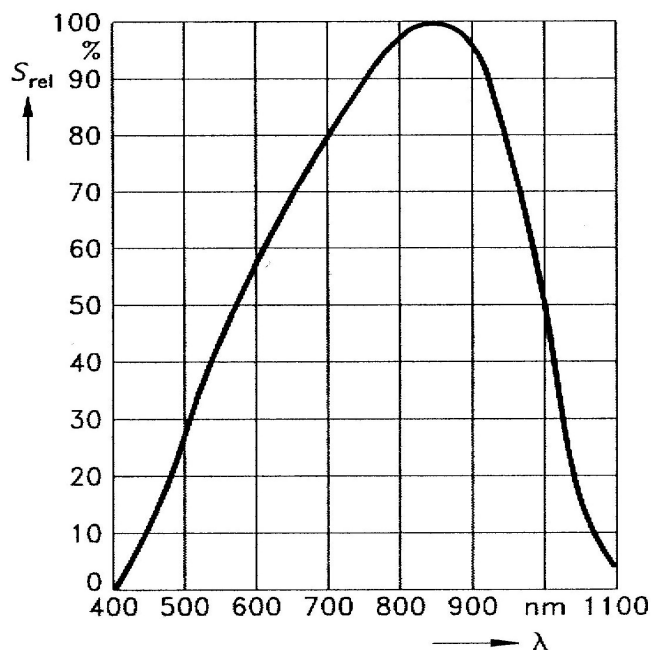
$$a = 2; b = 0.$$

Spectral sensitivity of the light sensor

The maximum sensitivity of the light sensor is at 850 nm.

Figure 3.


Spectral sensitivity of the phototransistor (BPX81).



Technical data

The light sensor is the most sensitive for light at an angle of incidence of 0° (to the perpendicular). The reading of illuminance in lux is only correct if all light comes from a direction within the angle of incidence at half sensitivity.

If light is coming from all directions, like in typical outdoor situations, the reading may be lower by a factor up to 8. In such situations 1-volt output may correspond to an illuminance of 15 lux, not 2 lux, then the range of the sensor is some 80 lux instead of 10 lux.

Light intensity (illuminance) range	0 - 10 lx
Voltage output range	0 - 5 V
Calibration function	$I \text{ (lx)} = 2 * V_{\text{out}} \text{ (V)}$ Because of small differences in the way the phototransistor and the glass fibre are positioned in the box, and of differences in the sensitivity of the phototransistors, the sensors may differ from each other in sensitivity.
Resolution using 12 bit A/D converter	2.5 mlx
Angle of incidence at half sensitivity	$\pm 20^\circ$
Spectral range	440 nm - 1070 nm (10% of Spectral max) 570 nm - 1000 nm (50% of Spectral max)
Wavelength of the highest sensitivity	850 nm
Rise time	0.4 ms (bandwidth: 400 Hz)
Current requirement	< 4 mA
Glass fibre	Length = 100 cm; Diameter = 0.1 cm
Sensor information for Auto-ID and calibration	256 byte serial EEPROM
Connections	 BT (British Telecom) plug

This product is to be used for educational purposes only. It is not appropriate for industrial, medical, research, or commercial applications.

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