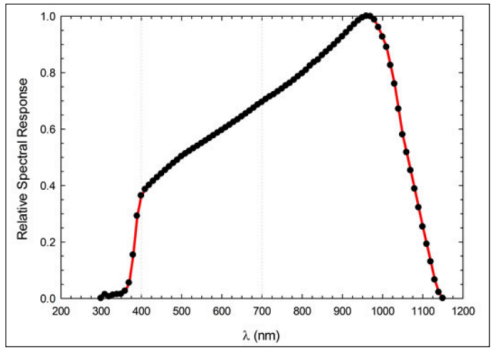
Go Direct® Pyranometer
(Order Code GDX-PYR)

The Go Direct Pyranometer measures the power of electromagnetic radiation in watts per square meter. It is sensitive to the near infrared, visible, and UV ranges, where nearly all of the solar energy is concentrated. It is great for experiments with solar cells and calculating their efficiency. The sensor is weatherproof and has a dome-shape top to allow it to work with a wide range of sun angles. The Pyranometer has a 5 m cable.

An ideal pyranometer measures the entire solar spectrum, 280 to 2800 nm. However, about ninety percent of sunlight energy is in the wavelengths between 300 and 1100 nm. The Go Direct Pyranometer detects all of this energy.

The Go Direct Pyranometer is cosine corrected and is designed to maintain its accuracy when radiation comes from different angles. The cosine response when the sun is at 75° to the zenith is ± 5 percent. Zenith angles greater than 75° contribute less than 3 percent of daily radiation.



Spectral response of the Go Direct Pyranometer

Note: Vernier products are designed for educational use. Our products are not designed nor are they recommended for any industrial, medical, or commercial process such as life support, patient diagnosis, control of a manufacturing process, or industrial testing of any kind.

What's Included

- Go Direct Pyranometer
- Micro USB Cable
- Cover for the lens of the Go Direct Pyranometer

Compatible Software

See **www.vernier.com/manuals/gdx-pyr** for a list of software compatible with Go Direct Pyranometer.

Getting Started

Please see the following link for platform-specific connection information:

www.vernier.com/start/gdx-pyr

Bluetooth Connection

1. Install Vernier Graphical Analysis® on your computer, Chromebook™, or mobile device. If using LabQuest®, make sure LabQuest App is up to date. See www.vernier.com/ga for Graphical Analysis Pro availability or www.vernier.com/downloads to update LabQuest App.
2. Charge your sensor for at least 2 hours before first use.
3. Turn on your sensor by pressing the power button once. The LED will blink red.
4. Launch Graphical Analysis or turn on LabQuest.
5. If using Graphical Analysis, click or tap Sensor Data Collection. If using LabQuest, choose Wireless Device Setup > Go Direct from the Sensors menu.
6. Select your Go Direct sensor from the list of Discovered Wireless Devices. Your sensor's ID is located near the barcode on the sensor. The LED will blink green when it is successfully connected.
7. Click or tap Done to enter data-collection mode.

USB Connection

1. Install Graphical Analysis on your computer or Chromebook. If using LabQuest, make sure LabQuest App is up to date. See www.vernier.com/ga for software availability or www.vernier.com/downloads to update LabQuest App.
2. Connect the sensor to the USB port.
3. Launch Graphical Analysis or turn on LabQuest. You are now ready to collect data.

Note: This sensor does not work with the original LabQuest. It works with LabQuest 2 or LabQuest 3.

Charging the Sensor

Connect Go Direct Pyranometer to the included Micro USB Cable and any USB device for two hours.

You can also charge up to eight Go Direct Pyranometers using our Go Direct Charge Station, sold separately (order code: GDX-CRG). An LED on each Go Direct Pyranometer indicates charging status.

Charging	Orange LED next to the battery icon is solid while the sensor is charging.
Fully charged	Green LED next to the battery icon is solid when the sensor is fully charged.

Providing Power

Turning on the sensor	Press button once. Red LED indicator flashes when unit is on.
Putting the sensor in sleep mode	Press and hold button for more than three seconds to put into sleep mode. Red LED indicator stops flashing when sleeping.

Connecting the Sensor

See the following link for up-to-date connection information:

www.vernier.com/start/gdx-pyr

Connecting via Bluetooth

Ready to connect	Red LED flashes when sensor is awake and ready to connect via Bluetooth.
Connected	Green LED flashes when sensor is connected via Bluetooth.

Connecting via USB

Connected and charging	Orange LED next to the battery icon is solid when the sensor is connected to Graphical Analysis via USB and the unit is charging. LED next to Bluetooth icon is off.
Connected, fully charged	Green LED next to the battery icon is solid when the sensor is connected to Graphical Analysis via USB and fully charged. LED next to Bluetooth icon is off.
Charging via USB, connected via Bluetooth	Orange LED next to the battery icon is solid when the sensor is charging. Green LED next to the Bluetooth icon flashes.

Identifying the Sensor

When two or more sensors are connected, the sensors can be identified by tapping or clicking Identify in Sensor Information.

Using the Product

Mounting the Go Direct Pyranometer

The Go Direct Pyranometer is designed to be permanently mounted outside. It is weatherproof and has a lens to work with a wide range of sun angles. The sensor is designed for continuous outdoor use. The electronics box should be kept dry.

The Go Direct Pyranometer should be mounted with the white lens pointing straight up and with the cord pointing toward the north (if you are in the Northern Hemisphere) or toward the south (if in the Southern Hemisphere).

The nylon 10–32″ × 3/8″ mounting screw can be used for attaching the Go Direct Pyranometer to a solid object.

Calibrating the Sensor

Go Direct Pyranometer cannot be calibrated by the user. It is custom calibrated before it ships. It was calibrated over a multiple day period by comparison to a heated and ventilated Kipp & Zonen model CM21 precision reference radiometer.

Optional Calibration Check:

The Go Direct Pyranometer should never need calibration, but if you want to verify that the calibration is correct, you can check it using a Clear Sky Calibration. The concept involved here is that if you know your latitude, longitude, altitude, time of day, air temperature, and humidity, you should know the irradiance on a day with a totally clear sky (no clouds or pollution). If you have a clear sky day and you can get all the information, visit **www.clearskycalculator.com**

This site will offer you a web application that will calculate the irradiance in Watts per square meter, assuming a completely clear sky. Complete the required fields and you will get a reading, which you can compare with the Pyranometer reading. Repeat several times near solar noon and over several days, if possible. If the reading from the Pyranometer is consistently lower than the Clear Sky Calculator value, the Pyranometer may need to be cleaned or re-leveled. If that does not correct the problem, contact Vernier Science Education.

Specifications

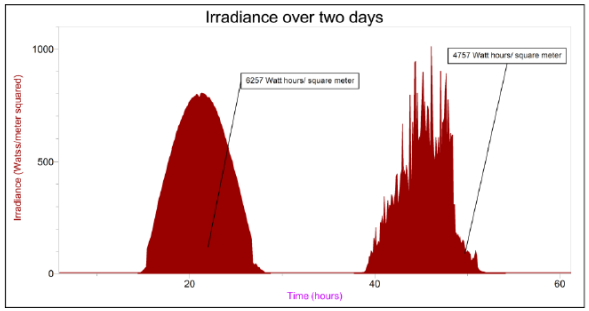
Irradiance range	0 to 1100 W/m^2 (in full sun)
Absolute accuracy	±5%
Repeatability	±1%
Long-term drift	Less than 3% per year
Cosine response	45° zenith angle: 1% 75° zenith angle: ±5%
Wavelength covered	370–1140 nm
Current draw	300 μA

Resolution	0.3 W/m^2
Sensor dimensions	2.4 cm diameter by 2.75 cm height
Materials	Anodized aluminum with cast acrylic lens
Operating environment	25°–55° C 1–100% relative humidity Designed for continuous outdoor use The sensor can be submerged in water. The black electronics box should be kept dry.

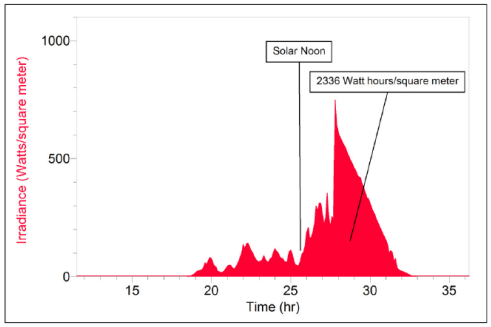
Suggested Experiments

Monitor the Energy from the Sun over Several Days

Here is a sample graph of pyranometer data taken over two consecutive days. The first day had nearly clear skies and the second day was partly cloudy. **Note**: The integral of the irradiance over time is a measure of the energy available per square meter.

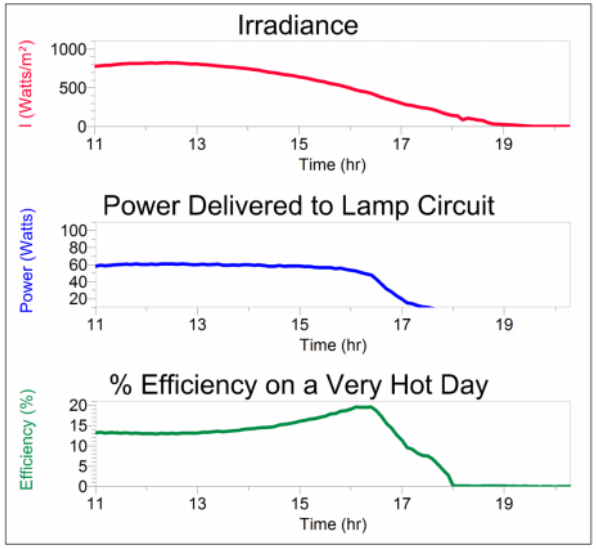


Here is a pyranometer graph for a day with the fairly common weather pattern near the coast of thick clouds in the morning *burning off* in the afternoon. **Note**: The total solar energy available on this day is considerably less.



Determining the Efficiency of a Solar Panel

Since the Go Direct Pyranometer reads out in watts per square meter, it allows you to easily determine the efficiency of a photovoltaic system. You need to measure the surface area of the solar panels and then monitor the current and voltage delivered to the circuit. The graphs below were made using a automotive lighting system powered by a fairly large (about a half square meter) solar panel. The solar panel was fixed at the recommended angle for solar panels at that location. The experiment took place on a very hot day (high temperature 39ºC or 102ºF). We monitored the current through the circuit with a Vernier High Current Sensor (HCS-BTA) and the voltage with a Vernier 30-Volt Voltage Probe (30V-BTA). We calculated the power as the product of current and voltage. Note that the efficiency of the system varied between 13 and 20 percent.



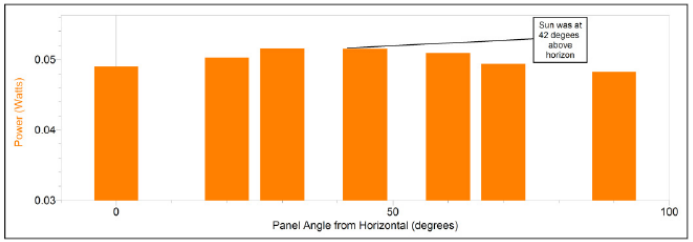
Use the Go Direct Pyranometer as a Control in Solar Panel Studies

There are a lot of experiments that can be done using photovoltaic cells. Students may be interested in investigating any of the following or other topics:

- What is the optimum tilt of the panel?
- How much does tracking the sun vertically (changing tilt angle during the day) improve the efficiency of the panels?
- How much does tracking the sun horizontally (rotating the panels east to west) have on the efficiency of the panels?
- How does efficiency vary with the temperature of the panel?
- How much impact does minor dust and dirt have on the efficiency of the panel?

If you use the Go Direct Pyranometer at the same time as you do these experiments, you can make sure that the amount of solar energy available was constant during the experiment and you can calculate efficiency for the panels under different conditions.

Here are some sample results from an experiment with a small photovoltaic cell testing the tilt angle with the pyranometer used to verify that the irradiance remained constant during data collection.



Care and Maintenance

Cleaning the Pyranometer

Debris on the Pyranometer lens is a common cause of low readings. Salt deposits can accumulate on the sensor from evaporation of sprinkler irrigation water, and dust can accumulate during periods of low rainfall. Salt deposits should be dissolved and removed with vinegar and a soft cloth or cotton swab. Dust and other organic deposits are best removed with water, rubbing alcohol, or window cleaner. Never use an abrasive cleaner on the lens.

Do not wrap the cable tightly around the sensor for storage. Repeatedly doing so can irreparably damage the wires and is not covered under warranty.

Battery Information

The Go Direct PYR Sensor contains a small lithium-ion battery in the electronics box. The system is designed to consume very little power and not put heavy demands on the battery. Although the battery is warranted for one year, the expected battery life should be several years. Replacement batteries are available from Vernier (order code: GDX-BAT-300).

Storage and Maintenance

To store the Go Direct PYR Sensor for extended periods of time, put the device in sleep mode by holding the button down for at least three seconds. The red LED will stop flashing to show that the unit is in sleep mode. Over several months, the battery will discharge but will not be damaged. After such storage, charge the device for a few hours, and the unit will be ready to go.

Exposing the battery to temperatures over 35°C (95°F) will reduce its lifespan. If possible, store the device in an area that is not exposed to temperature extremes.

Troubleshooting

For troubleshooting and FAQs, see **www.vernier.com/til/17340**

Repair Information

If you have watched the related product video(s), followed the troubleshooting steps, and are still having trouble with your Go Direct Pyranometer, contact Vernier Technical Support at support@vernier.com or call 888-837-6437. Support specialists will work with you to determine if the unit needs to be sent in for repair. At that time, a Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA) number will be issued and instructions will be communicated on how to return the unit for repair.

Related Products

This sensor is great for use with current and voltage probes in solar energy studies with small solar cells (with dimensions of a few centimeters on a side).

For experiments with small solar cells

Go Direct Sensors		Order Code
Go Direct Current Probe	(max current 1 A)	GDX-CUR
Go Direct Voltage Probe	(max V=20V)	GDX-VOLT
Go Direct Energy Sensor	(max current 1 A) (max V= 30V)	GDX-NRG

LabQuest (wired) Sensors		Order Code
Current Probe	(max current 0.6 A)	DCP-BTA
Differential Voltage Probe	(max V=6V)	DVP-BTA
Voltage Probe	(max V= 10V)	VP-BTA
Energy Sensor	(max current 1 A) (max V = 30V)	VES-BTA

For experiments with large solar panels (with dimensions greater than 30 cm or so) use the sensors below:

Item		Order Code
High Current Sensor	(max current 10 A)	HCS-BTA
30-Volt Voltage Probe	(max V= 30V)	30V-BTA

Warranty

Warranty information for this product can be found on the Support tab at **www.vernier.com/gdx-pyr**

General warranty information can be found at **www.vernier.com/warranty**

Disposal

When disposing of this electronic product, do not treat it as household waste. Its disposal is subject to regulations that vary by country and region. This item should be given to an applicable collection point for the recycling of electrical and electronic equipment. By ensuring that this product is disposed of correctly, you help prevent potential negative consequences on human health or on the environment. The recycling of materials will help to conserve natural resources. For more detailed information about recycling this product, contact your local city office or your disposal service.

Battery recycling information is available at **www.call2recycle.org**

Do not puncture or expose the battery to excessive heat or flame.

 The symbol, shown here, indicates that this product must not be disposed of in a standard waste container.

Federal Communication Commission Interference Statement

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.

Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.

Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.

Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

FCC Caution

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

(1) this device may not cause harmful interference and

(2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation

RF Exposure Warning

The equipment complies with RF exposure limits set forth for an uncontrolled environment. The antenna(s) used for this transmitter must not be co-located or operating in conjunction with any other antenna or transmitter. You are cautioned that changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void your authority to operate the equipment.

IC Statement

This device complies with Industry Canada license-exempt RSS standard(s). Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

(1) this device may not cause interference, and

(2) this device must accept any interference, including interference that may cause undesired operation of the device.

Industry Canada - Class B This digital apparatus does not exceed the Class B limits for radio noise emissions from digital apparatus as set out in the interference-causing equipment standard entitled “Digital Apparatus,” ICES-003 of Industry Canada. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) this device may not cause interference, and

(2) this device must accept any interference, including interference that may cause undesired operation of the device.

To reduce potential radio interference to other users, the antenna type and its gain should be so chosen that the equivalent isotropically radiated power (e.i.r.p.) is not more than that permitted for successful communication.

RF exposure warning: The equipment complies with RF exposure limits set forth for an uncontrolled environment. The antenna(s) used for this transmitter must not be co-located or operating in conjunction with any other antenna or transmitter.

Le présent appareil est conforme aux CNR d’Industrie Canada applicables aux appareils radio exempts de licence. L’exploitation est autorisée aux deux conditions suivantes :

(1) l’appareil ne doit pas produire de brouillage, et

(2) l’appareil doit accepter tout interférence radioélectrique, même si cela résulte à un brouillage susceptible d’en compromettre le fonctionnement.

Cet appareil numérique respecte les limites de bruits radioélectriques applicables aux appareils numériques de Classe B prescrites dans la norme sur le matériel interférant-brouilleur: “Appareils Numériques,” NMB-003 édictée par industrie Canada. L’utilisation est soumise aux deux conditions suivantes:

(1) cet appareil ne peut causer d’interférences, et

(2) cet appareil doit accepter toutes interférences, y comprises celles susceptibles de provoquer un disfonctionnement du dispositif.

Afin de réduire les interférences radio potentielles pour les autres utilisateurs, le type d’antenne et son gain doivent être choisie de telle façon que l’équivalent de puissance isotrope émis (e.i.r.p) n’est pas plus grand que celui permis pour une communication établie.

Avertissement d’exposition RF: L’équipement est conforme aux limites d’exposition aux RF établies pour un environnement non supervisé. L’antenne (s) utilisée pour ce transmetteur ne doit pas être jumelés ou fonctionner en conjonction avec toute autre antenne ou transmetteur.

Note: This product is a sensitive measurement device. For best results, use the cables that were provided. Keep the device away from electromagnetic noise sources, such as microwaves, monitors, electric motors, and appliances.

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