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## **APPLICATION NOTE NO. 11 QSP-L**

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### **Calculating Calibration coefficients for Biospherical Instruments PAR Light Sensor with Built-In Log Amplifier**

This application note applies to the following Biospherical Instruments PAR light sensors, which all have a built-in log amplifier:

- QSP-200L and QCP-200L - no longer in production
- QSP-2300L, QCP-2300L, and MCP-2300 - current production

These PAR sensors are compatible with the following Sea-Bird CTDs:

- SBE 9*plus*
- SBE 16 or 19 – These PAR sensors may not be compatible with 6-cell housing version of these CTDs; consult Sea-Bird.
- SBE 16*plus*, 16*plus*-IM, or 19*plus* – CTD's optional PAR connector not required when using one of these PAR sensors. The PAR sensor interfaces with an A/D voltage channel on the CTD.
- SBE 25 – CTD's PAR connector (standard on current production SBE 25s, optional on older versions) not used with these PAR sensors. The PAR sensor interfaces with an A/D voltage channel on the CTD.

**Note:** The CTD voltage channel for use with the PAR sensor can be single-ended or differential.

SEASOFT computes PAR using the following equation:

$$\text{PAR} = [\text{multiplier} * (10^9 * 10^{(V-B)/M}) / \text{calibration constant}] + \text{offset}$$

Enter the following coefficients in the CTD configuration (.con) file:

**M** = 1.0 and **B** = 0.0 (Notes 2 and 3)  
**calibration constant** =  $10^{-5} / C_w$  (Notes 2 and 4)  
**multiplier** = 1.0 for output units of  $\mu\text{Einsteins}/\text{m}^2\cdot\text{sec}$  (Note 5)  
**offset** =  $-(10^4 * C_w * 10^V)$  (Note 6)

#### **Notes:**

1. In our SEASOFT-Win32 suite of programs, edit the CTD configuration (.con) file using the Configure Inputs menu in SEASAVE V7 (real-time data acquisition software) or the Configure menu in SBE Data Processing (data processing software).
2. Sea-Bird provides two calibration sheets for the PAR sensor in the CTD manual:
  - Calibration sheet generated by Biospherical, which contains Biospherical's calibration data.
  - Calibration sheet generated by Sea-Bird, which incorporates the Biospherical data and generates M, B, and calibration constant needed for entry in Sea-Bird software (saving the user from doing the math).
3. For all SBE 911*plus*, 16, 16*plus*, 16*plus*-IM, 19, 19*plus*, and 25 CTDs,  $M = 1.0$ . For SBE 9/11 systems built before 1993 that have differential input amplifiers,  $M = 2$ ; consult your SBE 9 manual or contact factory for further information. B should always be set to 0.0.
4.  $C_w$  is the *wet*  $\mu\text{Einsteins}/\text{cm}^2\cdot\text{sec}/\text{"amps"}$  coefficient from the Biospherical calibration sheet. A typical value is  $4.00 \times 10^{-5}$ .
5. The multiplier can be used to calculate irradiance in units other than  $\mu\text{Einsteins}/\text{m}^2\cdot\text{sec}$ . See Application Note 11 General for multiplier values for other units.  
 The multiplier can also be used to *scale* the data, to compare the *shape* of data sets taken at disparate light levels. For example, a multiplier of 10 would make a  $10 \mu\text{Einsteins}/\text{m}^2\cdot\text{sec}$  light level plot as  $100 \mu\text{Einsteins}/\text{m}^2\cdot\text{sec}$ .
6. Offset ( $\mu\text{Einsteins}/\text{m}^2\cdot\text{sec}$ ) =  $-(10^4 * C_w * 10^V)$ , where V is the *dark voltage*.

For typical values ( $C_w = 4.00 \times 10^{-5}$  and Dark Voltage = 0.150), offset = -0.5650. The dark voltage may be obtained from:

- Biospherical calibration certificate for your sensor, or
- CTD PAR channel with the sensor covered (dark) -- in SEASAVE V7, display the *voltage output* of the PAR sensor channel.

Instead of using the dark voltage to calculate the offset, you can also directly obtain the offset using the following method: Enter M, B, and Calibration constant, and set offset = 0.0 in the .con file. In SEASAVE V7, display the *calculated PAR output* with the sensor dark; then enter the negative of this reading as the offset in the .con file.

## Mathematical Derivation

1. Using the sensor output in volts (V), Biospherical calculates:  
$$\text{light } (\mu\text{Einsteins}/\text{cm}^2\cdot\text{sec}) = C_w * (10^{\text{Light Signal Voltage}} - 10^{\text{Dark Voltage}}).$$
2. SEASOFT calculates:  $\text{light } (\mu\text{Einsteins}/\text{m}^2\cdot\text{sec}) = [\text{multiplier} * 10^9 * 10^{(V-B)/M}] / \text{Calibration constant}] + \text{offset}$   
where M, B, Calibration constant, multiplier, and offset are the SEASOFT coefficients entered in the CTD configuration file.
3. To determine Calibration constant, let B = 0.0, M = 1.0, and multiplier = 1.0. Equating the Biospherical and SEASOFT relationships:  
$$10^4 (\text{cm}^2/\text{m}^2) * C_w * (10^{\text{Light Signal Voltage}} - 10^{\text{Dark Voltage}}) = (10^9 * 10^V) / \text{Calibration constant} + \text{offset}$$

Since offset =  $-(10^4 * C_w * 10^{\text{Dark Voltage}})$ , and V = Light Signal Voltage:  
$$\text{Calibration constant} = 10^9 / (10^4 * C_w) = 10^5 / C_w$$

**Example:** If Wet calibration factor =  $4.00 \times 10^{-5} \mu\text{Einsteins}/\text{cm}^2\cdot\text{sec}$ , then C = 2,500,000,000 (for entry into .con file).

### Notes:

- See Application Note 11S for integrating a Surface PAR sensor with the SBE 11*plus* Deck Unit (used with the SBE 9*plus* CTD).
- See Application Note 47 for integrating a Surface PAR sensor with the SBE 33 or 36 Deck Unit (used with the SBE 16, 16*plus*, 19, 19*plus*, or 25 CTD).