

OBS-3+ and OBS300

Suspended Solids and
Turbidity Monitors



Revision: 7/19

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- Read all applicable instructions carefully and understand procedures thoroughly before beginning work.
- Wear a **hardhat** and **eye protection**, and take **other appropriate safety precautions** while working on or around tripods and towers.
- **Do not climb** tripods or towers at any time, and prohibit climbing by other persons. Take reasonable precautions to secure tripod and tower sites from trespassers.
- Use only manufacturer recommended parts, materials, and tools.

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- **You can be killed** or sustain serious bodily injury if the tripod, tower, or attachments you are installing, constructing, using, or maintaining, or a tool, stake, or anchor, come in **contact with overhead or underground utility lines**.
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- Exercise extreme caution when performing elevated work.
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- Do not perform any work in inclement weather, including wind, rain, snow, lightning, etc.

Maintenance

- Periodically (at least yearly) check for wear and damage, including corrosion, stress cracks, frayed cables, loose cable clamps, cable tightness, etc. and take necessary corrective actions.
- Periodically (at least yearly) check electrical ground connections.

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OBS-3+ and OBS300 Suspended Solids and Turbidity Monitors

1. Introduction

The OBS-3+ and OBS300 are submersible, turbidity sensors that use OBS® technology to measure suspended solids and turbidity for applications ranging from water quality in freshwater rivers and streams to sediment transport and dredge monitoring. The OBS-3+ and OBS300 are identical except for the orientation of their optics. The OBS-3+ “looks” perpendicular to the length of the sensor, whereas the OBS300 “looks” out the end of the sensor. Throughout this manual any time OBS sensor is mentioned, it is valid for both the OBS-3+ and OBS300.

NOTE

This manual provides information only for CRBasic data loggers. It is also compatible with most of our retired Edlog data loggers. For Edlog data logger support, see an older manual at www.campbellsci.com/old-manuals.

2. Precautions

- READ AND UNDERSTAND the *Safety* section at the front of this manual.
- Although the OBS-3+ and OBS300 are rugged, they should be handled as precision scientific instruments.
- The titanium body option (option -TB) must be used if submersing the probe in seawater. Using an OBS sensor with a stainless steel housing (option -SB) in seawater voids the warranty and causes corrosion and leakage.
- There are no user-serviceable parts inside the sensor housing. Do not remove the sensor or connector from the pressure housing. This will void the warranty and could cause leakage.
- Do not use solvents such as MEK, toluene, acetone, or trichloroethylene to clean the sensor.
- The sensor may be damaged if it is encased in ice.
- Damages caused by freezing conditions will not be covered by our warranty.
- Campbell Scientific recommends removing the sensor from the water for the time period that the water is likely to freeze.

3. Initial Inspection

- Upon receipt of the OBS-3+ or OBS300, inspect the packaging and contents for damage. File damage claims with the shipping company.
- The sensor is shipped with a calibration sheet and an instruction manual.

4. QuickStart

4.1 Preparation for Use

1. Bench test the sensor to ensure that it functions properly prior to making field installations (see Section 7.1, *Pre-Deployment Tests* (p. 9)).
2. Calibrate the sensor using suspended solids from the waters that will be monitored (see Section 8, *Calibration* (p. 14)).
3. Refer to Section 7.2, *Mounting Considerations* (p. 9), for siting and mounting options.

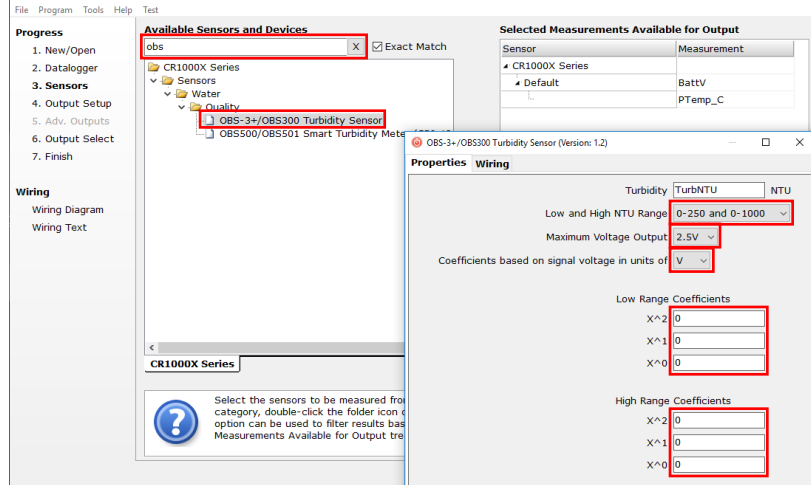
4.2 Use SCWin to Program Data Logger and Generate Wiring Diagram

A video that describes data logger programming using *Short Cut* is available at: www.campbellsci.com/videos/cr1000x-datalogger-getting-started-program-part-3. *Short Cut* is an easy way to program your data logger to measure the sensor and assign data logger wiring terminals. *Short Cut* is available as a download on www.campbellsci.com. It is included in installations of *LoggerNet*, *PC200W*, *PC400*, or *RTDAQ*.

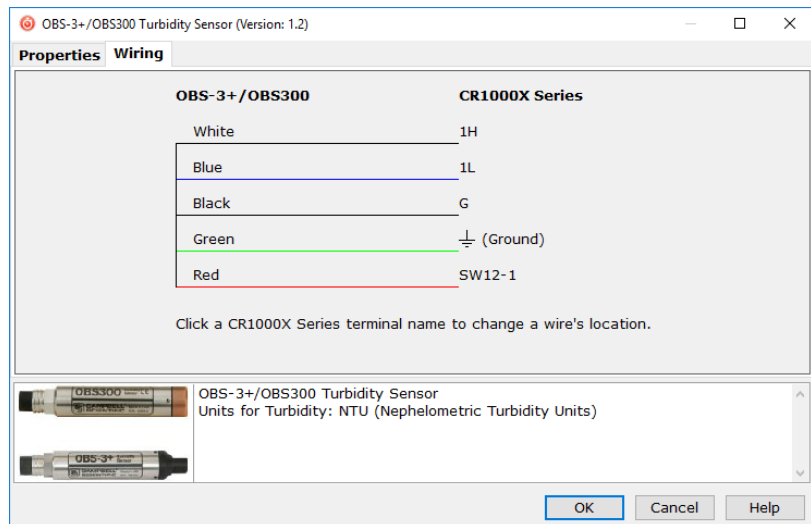
The following procedure also shows using *Short Cut* to program the OBS-3+/OBS300.

1. Open *Short Cut* and click **Create New Program**.
2. Double-click the data logger model.

- In the **Available Sensors and Devices** box, type OBS-3+ or find the sensor in the **Sensors > Water > Quality** folder. Double-click **OBS-3+/OBS300 Turbidity Sensor**. Select your sensor **Low and High NTU Range** and **Maximum Voltage Output**. You can use the default value (V) for the **Coefficients based on signal voltage in units of**. Enter the **Low Range Coefficients** and **High Range Coefficients** according to your calibration sheet (see Section 7.5, *Calibration Certificate* (p. 12)).

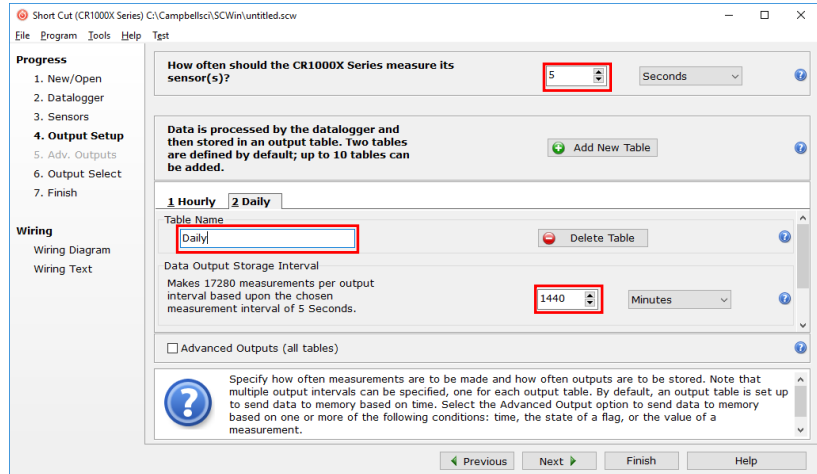


- Click the **Wiring** tab. Click **OK** after wiring the sensor.

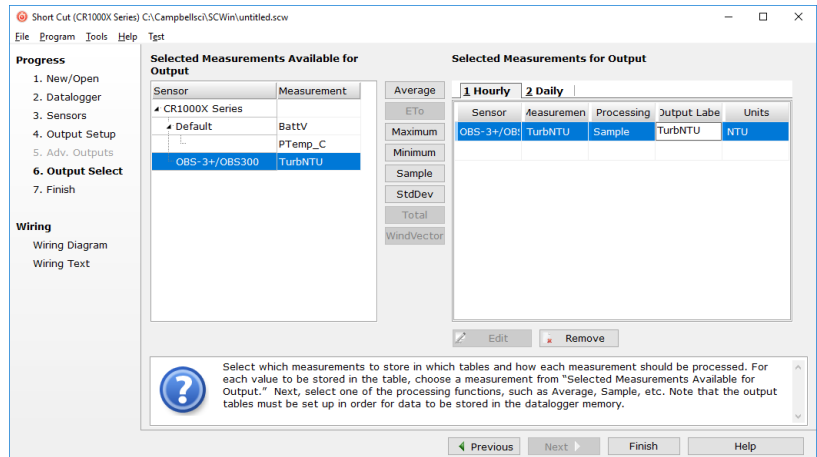


- Repeat steps three and four for other sensors you want to measure. Click **Next**.

- In **Output Setup**, type the scan rate, a meaningful **Table Name**, and **Data Output Storage Interval**. Click **Next**.



- Select the output options.



- Click **Finish** and save the program. Send the program to the data logger if the data logger is connected to the computer.
- If the sensor is connected to the data logger, check the output of the sensor in *LoggerNet*, *PC400*, *RTDAQ*, or *PC200W* to make sure it is making reasonable measurements.

5. Overview

The heart of an OBS[®] sensor is a near infrared (NIR) laser and photodiode for detecting the intensity of light scattered from suspended particles in water. Electrical connections are made with a molded-cable assembly terminated with an MCIL wet-pluggable underwater connector. With its unique optical design (U.S. Patent No. 4,841,157), OBS sensors perform better than most in situ turbidity monitors in the following ways:

- Small size and low power
- Highly linear response

- Insensitivity to bubbles and organic matter
- Ambient-light rejection and low temperature coefficient

5.1 Applications

OBS sensors are used for a wide variety of monitoring tasks in riverine, oceanic, laboratory, and industrial settings. They can be integrated in water-quality monitoring systems, CTDs, laboratory instrumentation, and sediment-transport monitors. The applications include:

- Compliance with permits, water-quality guidelines, and regulations
- Determination of transport and fate of particles and associated contaminants in aquatic systems
- Conservation, protection and restoration of surface waters
- Assess performance of water and land-use management
- Monitor waterside construction, mining, and dredging operations
- Characterization of wastewater and energy-production effluents
- Tracking water-well completion including development and use

5.2 Turbidity

Conceptually, turbidity is a numerical expression in turbidity units (NTU) of the optical properties that cause water to appear hazy or cloudy as a result of light scattering and absorption by suspended matter. Operationally, a NTU value is interpolated from neighboring light-scattering measurements made on calibration standards such as Formazin®, StablCal®, or SDVB®.

Turbidity is caused by suspended and dissolved matter such as sediment, plankton, bacteria, viruses, and organic and inorganic dyes. In general, as the concentration of suspended matter in water increases, so will its turbidity, and as the concentration of dissolved light-absorbing matter increases, turbidity will decrease. Descriptions of the factors that affect turbidity are given in Section 11, *Factors that Affect Turbidity and Suspended-Sediment Measurements* (p. 23).

CAUTION

Like all other optical turbidity monitors, the OBS response depends on the size, composition, and shape of suspended particles, and for this reason, the sensor must be calibrated with suspended solids from the waters to be monitored.

There is no ‘standard’ turbidimeter design or universal formula for converting NTU values to physical units such as mg L^{-1} or ppm. NTU values have no intrinsic physical, chemical, or biological significance. Empirical correlations between turbidity and environmental conditions, established through field calibration, can be useful in water-quality investigations.

5.3 Design Details

OBS sensors detect suspended matter in water and turbidity from the relative intensity of light backscattered at angles ranging from 90° to 165° , in clean water. A 3D schematic of the main components of the OBS-3+ is shown in

FIGURE 5-1. The OBS300 has the same components but they are arranged differently.

The OBS light source is a Vertical-Cavity Surface-Emitting Laser diode (VCSEL), which converts 5 mA of electrical current to 2000 μW of optical power. The detector is a low-drift silicon photodiode with enhanced NIR responsivity, the ratio of electrical current produced per unit of light power in A W^{-1} . A light baffle prevents direct illumination of the detector by the light source and in-phase coupling that would otherwise produce large signal biases. A daylight-rejection filter blocks visible light in the solar spectrum and reduces ambient-light interference. In addition to the filter, a synchronous detection circuit is used to eliminate the bias caused by ambient light. The VCSEL is driven by a temperature-compensated voltage-controlled current source (VCCS).

The interface between the optics and the water sample is a window made of cast optical epoxy.

CAUTION

Window transmittance must remain constant in order to prevent calibration drift, so keeping the OBS window clean is the most important maintenance item; see Section 10, *Maintenance* (p. 22).

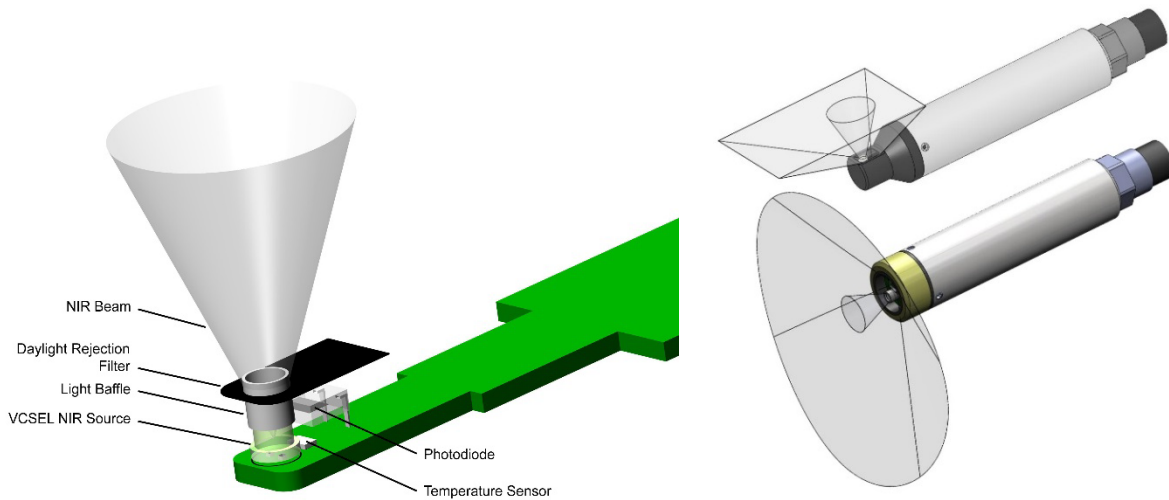


FIGURE 5-1. Components of the OBS-3+ (left) and orientation source beam and detector acceptance cone of the OBS-3+ (top right) and OBS300 (bottom right)

The beam divergence angle of the VCSEL source is 42° (95% of the beam power is contained within a 42° cone). The sensor can see to a distance of approximately 50 cm (20 in) in very clean water.

5.4 Measurement Details

The OBS-3+ and OBS300 are dual range sensors having both a low- and a high-range output. The standard low ranges are 250, 500, 1000, or 4000 NTU, and the corresponding high ranges are 1000, 2000, and 4000 NTU. OBS

sensors can be purchased with a 4 to 20 mA current output on the low range and a 0 to 5 V output on the high range. Voltage outputs can be 0 to 2.5 or 0 to 5 V; see Section 6, *Specifications* (p. 7). It is also possible to purchase sensors configured to operate from 5-V power, however, the output span is limited to 2.5 V.

The sensor needs to be connected to a data logger, current meter, or CTD instrument. The data logger (or other device) powers the sensor, digitizes its analog signals, computes NTU and Suspended Solids Concentration (SSC) values, and records the statistical result in flash memory. To make the conversion from digitized signals to engineering units (for example, NTU, mg L⁻¹, and ppm), the data logger must have the calibration equations in its operating program or the conversion must be done in post processing.

NOTE

When using some current meters or CTD instruments, the OBS sensor should be calibrated while it is connected to the device exactly as it will be used. The reason for this is that the factory calibration is performed with a NIST-traceable digital multimeter and the numerical values reported by some host devices not NIST-certified will be different.

6. Specifications

Features:

- Measures suspended solids and turbidity for up to 4000 NTU
- Provides a compact, low-power probe that is field proven
- Stainless-steel body allows use down to 500 m in fresh water
- Titanium body allows use down to 1500 m in fresh or salt water
- Fitted with MCBH-5-FS, wet-pluggable connector—multiple mating cable length options available
- Accurate and rugged
- Compatible with Campbell Scientific CRBasic data loggers: CR200(X) series, CR300 series, CR6 series, CR800 series, CR1000, CR1000X, CR3000, CR5000, and CR9000(X)

Operating Temperature: 0° to 40°C

CAUTION

Sensor may be damaged if it is encased in frozen liquid.

Ranges

Turbidity (low/high): 250/1000 NTU; 500/2000 NTU; 1000/4000 NTU
Mud¹: 5000 to 10,000 mg L⁻¹
Sand¹: 50,000 to 100,000 mg L⁻¹

¹ Range depends on sediment size, particle shape, and reflectivity.

Accuracy

Turbidity²: 2% of reading or 0.5 NTU
Mud²: 2% of reading or 1 mg L⁻¹
Sand²: 4% of reading or 10 mg L⁻¹

² Whichever is larger.

Power

Voltage output: 5 to 15 VDC/15 mA (Volts outputs)
4-20 mA transmitter: 9 to 15 VDC/45 mA max. (4 to 20 mA output)

Operating wave length: 850 ± 5 nm

Optical power: 2000 µW

Drift: <2% per year

Daylight rejection: -28 dB (re:48 mW cm⁻²)

Maximum data rate: 10 Hz

Minimum warm-up time: 2 s

Maximum depth

Stainless steel body: 500 m (1640.5 ft)
Titanium body: 1500 m (4921.5 ft)

Weight: 181.4 g (0.4 lb)

Dimensions: The following OBS-3+ length is for SN 11000 or later. The length of older OBS-3+ sensors are 141 mm (5.56 in).



7. Installation

If you are programming your data logger with *Short Cut*, skip Section 7.3, *Wiring to Data Logger* (p. 10), and Section 7.4, *Data Logger Programming* (p. 11). *Short Cut* does this work for you. See Section 4, *QuickStart* (p. 2), for a *Short Cut* tutorial.

7.1 Pre-Deployment Tests

When the OBS sensor is received from the manufacturer, do the following bench test to ensure that it functions properly prior to field installations.

1. Connect the red and black wires in the cable supplied with the sensor to a 9 or 12 VDC battery.
2. Plug the cable into the sensor and place the multimeter test probes across the blue and green wires.
3. Wave your finger over the OBS sensor about 20 mm away from the window. The meter should indicate fluctuating signals ranging from a few mV or 4 mA to the span shown on the calibration certificate, 2.5 V, 5 V, or 20 mA (see Section 7.5, *Calibration Certificate* (p. 12)).
4. Place the multimeter probes across the white and blue wires and repeat the test. The results should be similar.

7.2 Mounting Considerations

Schemes for mounting the OBS-3+ and OBS300 will vary with applications; however, the same basic precautions should be followed to ensure the unit is able to make a good measurement and that it is not lost or damaged.

7.2.1 Siting

The most important general precaution is to orient the unit so that the sensor looks into clear water without reflective surfaces. This includes any object such as a mounting structure, a streambed, or sidewalls. The sensor can see to a distance of about 50 cm (20 in) in very clean water at angles ranging from 125° to 170°. The OBS-3+ sensor point perpendicular to the sensor body whereas the OBS300 sensor is orientated to point out the end (see FIGURE 5-1).

The sensor has ambient-light rejection features, but it is still best to orient it away from the influence of direct sunlight. Shading may be required in some installations to totally protect from sunlight interference.

7.2.2 Mounting Options

7.2.2.1 PVC Pipe

Mounting the sensor inside the end of a PVC pipe is a convenient way to provide structure and protection for deployments. The OBS-3+/OBS300 will fit inside a 1.25-in. schedule 40 PVC pipe.

7.2.2.2 Cable Ties or Hose Clamps

The OBS-3+/OBS300 can be mounted to a frame or post using large, high-strength nylon cable ties (7.6 mm (0.3 in) width) or stainless steel hose clamps. When using clamps, do the following:

1. Cover the area(s) to be clamped with tape or 2 mm (1/16 in) neoprene sheet.
2. Clamp the unit to the mounting frame or wire using the padded area. Spacer blocks may be necessary to prevent the unit from chafing with the frame or wire.

CAUTION

Do not tighten the hose clamps more than is necessary to produce a firm grip. Overtightening may damage the pressure housing causing leakage.

7.3 Wiring to Data Logger

TABLE 7-1 and FIGURE 7-1 show the recommended wiring configuration for connecting the OBS sensor to a Campbell Scientific data logger; wiring to data loggers manufactured by other companies is similar. In this configuration, single-ended analog inputs are used to measure the OBS voltage signal. The red power wire is connected to a switched 12 V terminal, which allows the OBS sensor to be turned off when it is not making measurements. This reduces current consumption. Data loggers that do not have a switched 12 V terminal can use a relay to turn the OBS sensor off and on. Appendix D, *Data Logger Connection to a Relay (p. D-1)*, provides information about using a relay.

TABLE 7-1. Wire Color, Function, and Data Logger Connection

Wire Color	Wire Function	Data Logger Connection Terminal
White	High Range Signal	U configured for single-ended analog input ¹ , SE (single-ended, analog-voltage input)
Blue	Low Range Signal	U configured for single-ended analog input ¹ , SE (single-ended, analog-voltage input)
Green	Signal Reference	⏏ (analog ground)
Black	Power Ground	G
Red	Power	SW, SW12, SW12V (switched 12 V)
Clear	Shield	⏏ (analog ground)
¹ U terminals are automatically configured by the measurement instruction.		

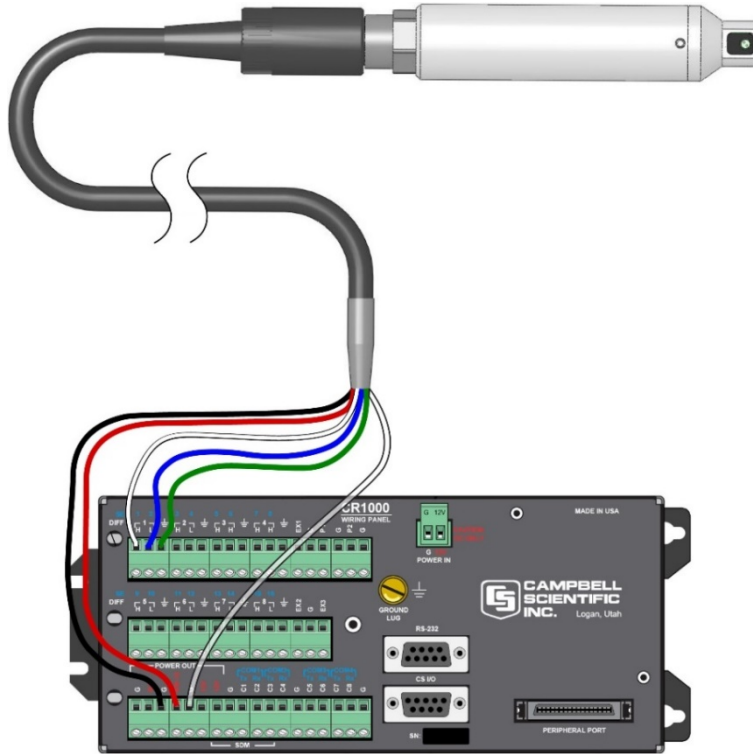


FIGURE 7-1. OBS-3+ connected to a CR1000 data logger (OBS300 has the same wiring)

NOTE The assignment of terminal (for example, SE1, SE2) vary depending on application.

7.4 Data Logger Programming

Short Cut is the best source for up-to-date data logger programming code.

If your data acquisition requirements are simple, you can probably create and maintain a data logger program exclusively with *Short Cut*. If your data acquisition needs are more complex, the files that *Short Cut* creates are a great source for programming code to start a new program or add to an existing custom program.

NOTE *Short Cut* cannot edit programs after they are imported and edited in *CRBasic Editor*.

A *Short Cut* tutorial is available in Section 4, *QuickStart* (p. 2). If you wish to import *Short Cut* code into *CRBasic Editor* to create or add to a customized program, follow the procedure in Appendix A, *Importing Short Cut Code Into CRBasic Editor* (p. A-1).

Programming basics for *CRBasic* data loggers are provided in this section. Complete program examples for select *CRBasic* data loggers can be found in Appendix B, *Example Programs* (p. B-1).

The CRBasic program should include **Delay(0,2,Sec)** to provide a 2 s warm-up time, as well as a **VoltSE()** instruction to measure the high input range and another **VoltSE()** instruction to measure the low input range.

The millivolt measurements are converted to NTU by using the coefficients provided on the Calibration Certificate. We supply a calibration curve in units of both millivolts and volts (see Section 7.5, *Calibration Certificate* (p. 12)).

If using the voltage curve coefficients, the multiplier for the single-ended voltage instruction needs to be 0.001. If using the millivolt curve coefficients, the multiplier needs to be 1.0.

CAUTION

Make sure you use the correct units.

7.5 Calibration Certificate

The polynomial for converting to NTU is at the top of each curve and is in the form of:

$$\text{NTU}_S = A(X)^2 + B(X) + C$$

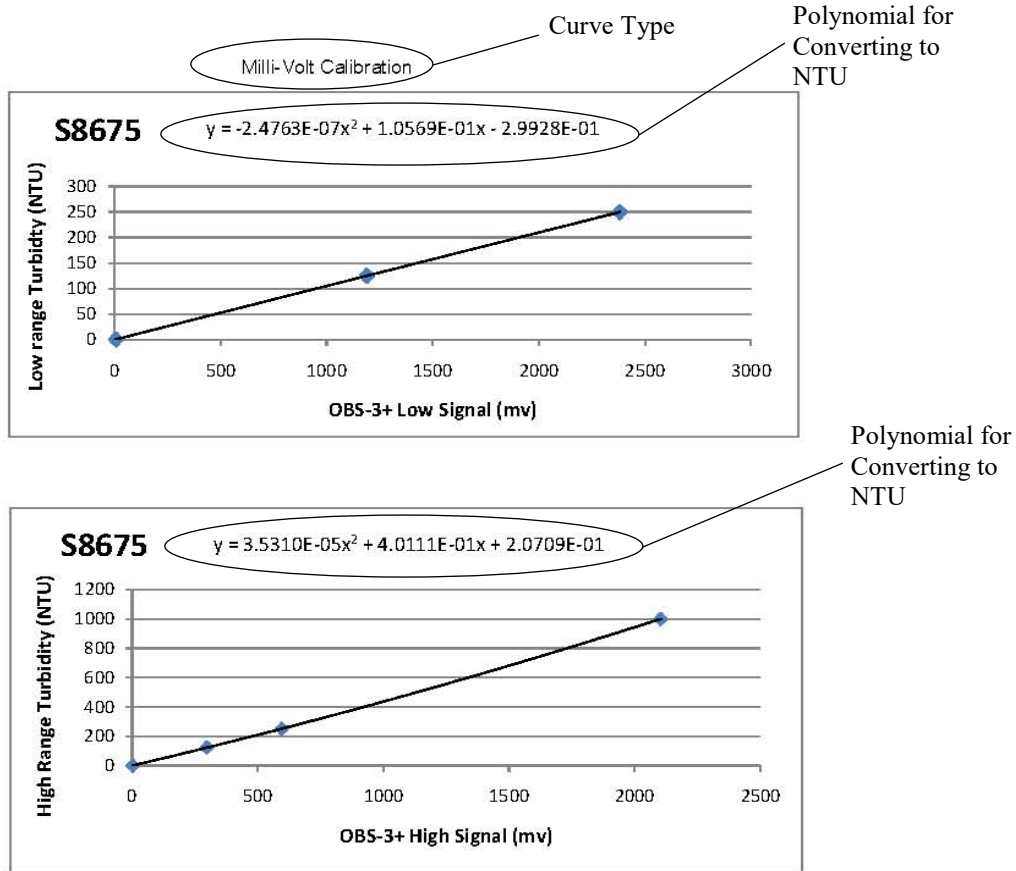
Where

A, B, C are provided on the Calibration (see FIGURE 7-2 and FIGURE 7-3).

X = millivolts or volts depending on the curve you are using.

OBS-3+ AMCO Clear Calibration Certificate

Serial Number: S8675 Nominal Low Range: 250 NTU
 Customer: CSL Nominal High Range: 1000 NTU



Performed by _____

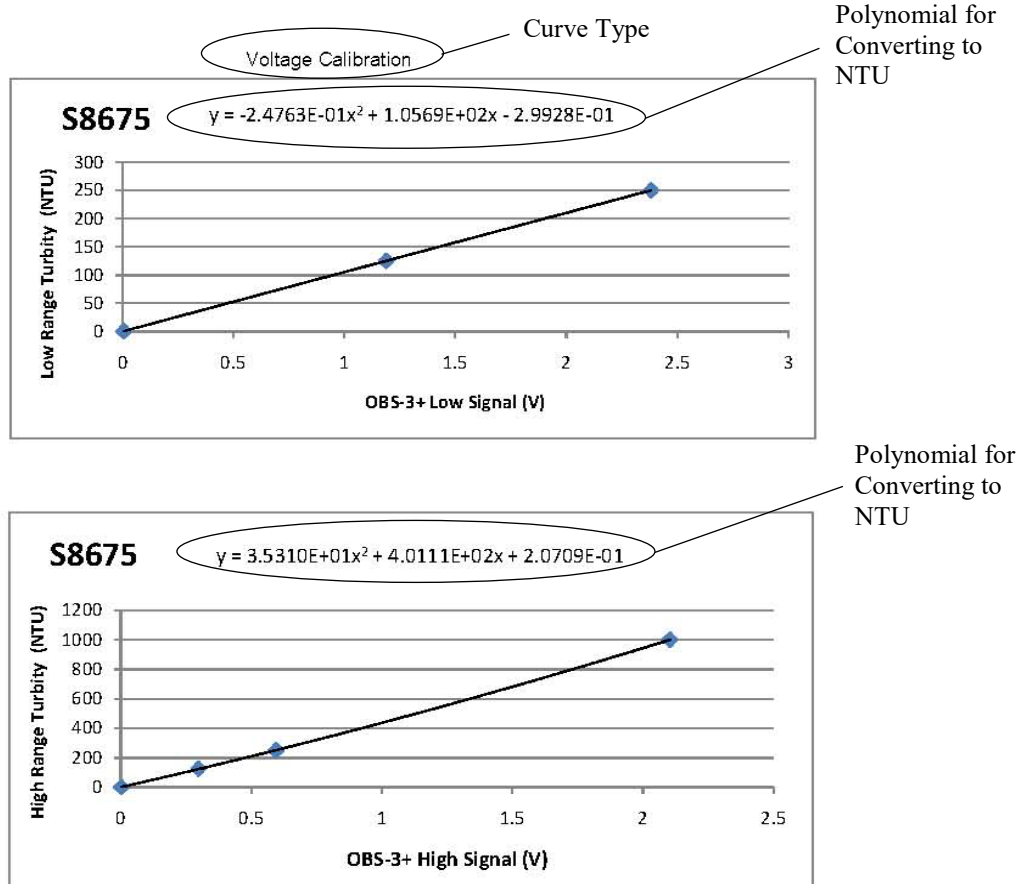


February 19, 2010

FIGURE 7-2. Calibration certificate showing millivolt coefficients

OBS-3+ AMCO Clear Calibration Certificate

Serial Number: S8675 Nominal Low Range: 250 NTU
 Customer: CSL Nominal High Range: 1000 NTU



Performed by _____



February 19, 2010

FIGURE 7-3. Calibration certificate showing volts coefficients

8. Calibration

8.1 Turbidity

The normalized response of an OBS sensor to styrene divinylbenzene beads (SDVB) turbidity over the range from 0 to 4000 NTU is shown on FIGURE 8-1. As shown on the inset, the response function is contained within region 'A', the linear region, of the universal response curve. However, there is residual nonlinearity that is removed by calibration and by computation of

NTU value with a 2nd-order polynomial. This section explains how to do a turbidity calibration.

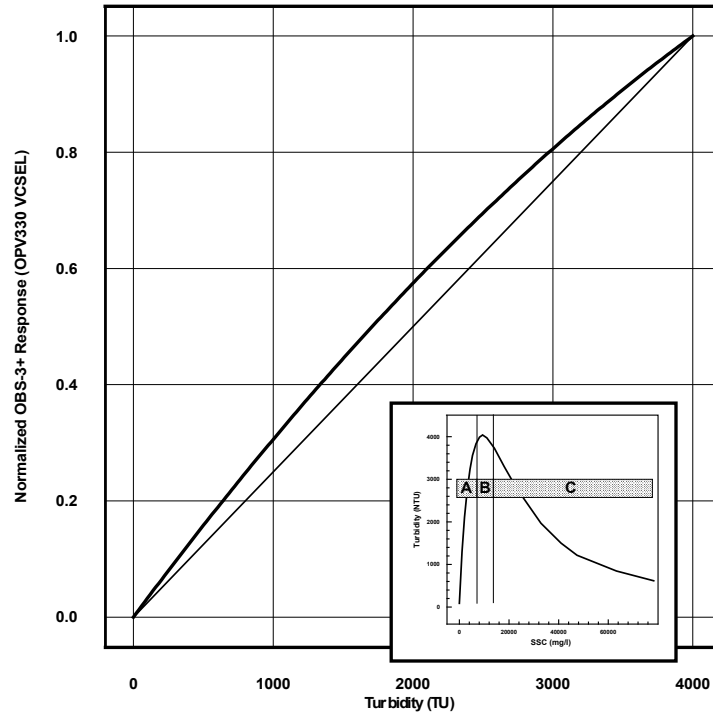


FIGURE 8-1. Normalized response of OBS-3+ to AMCO Clear® turbidity. The inset shows the response function of an OBS sensor to high sediment concentrations.

GFS Chemicals manufactures AMCO Clear® SDVB turbidity standards that are used to calibrate an OBS sensor. SDVB standards are made for individual instruments and standards made for one model of turbidity meter cannot be used to calibrate a different model. The standard values for calibrating OBSs are: 125 NTU (GFS Part No. 8428), 250 NTU (GFS Part No. 8429), 500 NTU (GFS Part No. 8430), 1000 NTU (GFS Part No. 8431), 2000 NTU (GFS Part No. 8432), and 4000 NTU (GFS Part No. 8433). The standard values and volumes required for the standard low ranges are given in TABLE 8-1. SDVB standards have a shelf life of two years provided that they are stored in tightly sealed containers and evaporation is minimized.

TABLE 8-1. SDVB NTU values for turbidity calibrations in standard low ranges.			
Low Range	1st Std. Value	2nd Std. Value	3rd Std. Value
250	125 (1000 ml)	250 (1000 ml)	1000 (500 ml)
500	250 (1000 ml)	500 (500 ml)	2000 (500 ml)
1000	500 (500 ml)	1000 (500 ml)	4000 (500 ml)

The NTU values of the standards will remain the same as long as the ratio of particle mass (number of particles) to water mass (volume) does not change. Evaporation causes this ratio to increase and dust, bacteria growth, and dirty glassware can also cause it to increase. Therefore:

1. Always use clean glassware and calibration containers.
2. Don't leave standards on the bench in open containers or leave the standard bottles uncapped. Perform the calibration as quickly as possible and return the AMCO solutions to their bottles.
3. Clean dirty sensors with a clean, alcohol-soaked cloth to sterilize it before dipping it into the standards.
4. Transfer entire bottles between containers, avoiding aeration and shaking excess fluid off the glassware.

Because of the intrinsic errors in the NTU value of formazin used by the SDVB manufacture (GFS Chemicals) and the dilution procedures, the uncertainty in the NTU value of an SDVB standard is $\pm 1\%$ of the value indicated on the standard bottle. Consequently, the NTU value of one liter of standard in an uncovered 100 mm calibration cup will increase $\sim 1\%$ in 10 hours on a typical summer day (R.H. = 90% and air temp. = 18° C). For example, the NTU value of a 2000 NTU standard in a 100-mm cup will increase by about 2 NTU (0.1%) per hour. TABLE 8-2 gives the increases for some other, commonly used standards.

TABLE 8-2. Change in NTU value resulting from one hour of evaporation¹ of SDVB standard; in other words, loss of water but not particles.				
Calibration-cup Size Ø mm (Ø in.)	Nominal NTU Value			
	250	500	2000	4000
100 (4)	+0.26	+0.52	+2.10	+4.20
150 (6)	+0.60	+1.20	+4.80	+9.70

8.1.1 Materials and Equipment

- OBS sensor with test cable
- Data logger or averaging multimeter with test probes, 12 V gel cell
- Large black polyethylene plastic tub for measuring the clear-water points
- 100-mm and 200-mm black PE calibration cups

The 100-mm cups are used with standards with NTU values greater than 250 NTU and the 200-mm cups are used with the 125 and 250-NTU standards.

8.1.2 Setup

1. Plug the test cable into the OBS sensor; connect the red and black wires to the battery and place the multimeter test probes on the blue (+) and green (-) wires or connect the blue and green wires to the data logger.
2. Swab sensor with an alcohol-soaked towel to sterilize it.

8.1.3 Procedure

1. In a large black tub of fresh tap water, aim the OBS sensor so that it's the maximum distance from the sensor optics to the far corner of the tub (see FIGURE 8-2). Record a 10-second average of the low-range output. Record the average output on the calibration log sheet.
2. Swap the multimeter red (+) test probe to the high-range output wire (white) or connect the white wire to the data logger instead of the blue wire and record a 10-second average of the high-range output. Record the average output on the calibration log sheet.

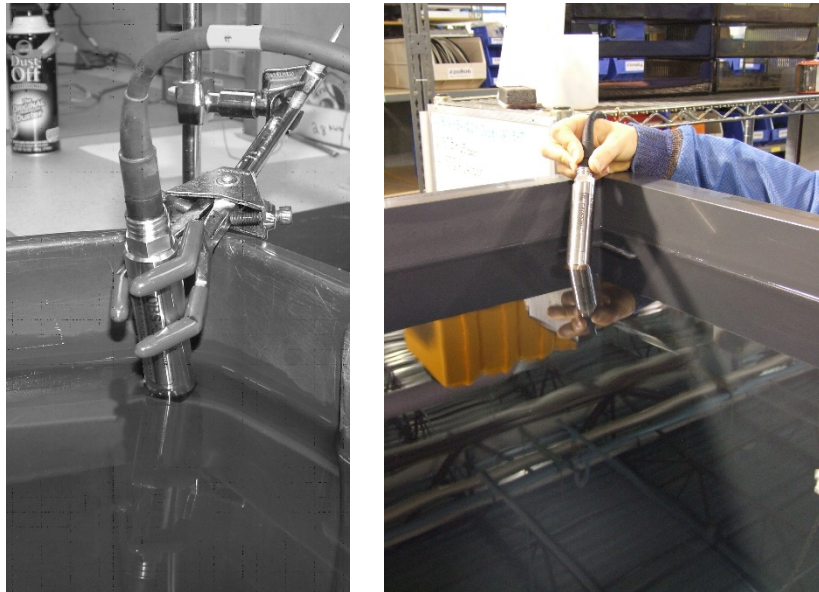


FIGURE 8-2. Position of OBS-3+ (left) and OBS300 (right) in clean tap water in big black tub

3. Pour the 1st SDVB standard into the appropriate size cup (see TABLE 8-1 and Section 8.1.1, *Materials and Equipment* (p. 16)).
4. Position the OBS sensor in the cup as shown on FIGURE 8-3 and record 10-second averages of the low- and high-range outputs. Record the average outputs on the calibration log sheet.
5. Pour the standard back into its container.
6. Wipe sensor with a clean dry towel to remove residual standard.
7. Repeat steps 3, 4, 5, and 6 for the other standards.

8. Perform 2nd-order polynomial regressions on the calibration data to get the coefficients for converting OBS signals to NTU values.

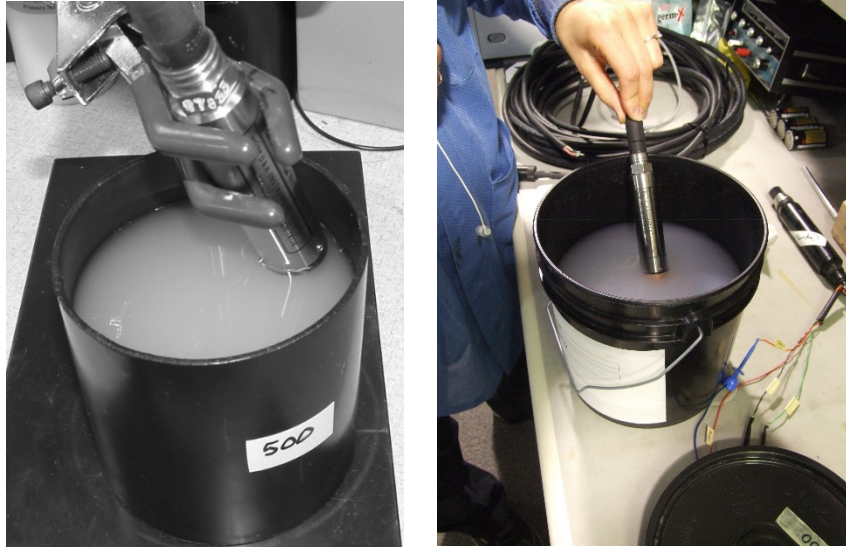


FIGURE 8-3. OBS-3+ (left) and OBS300 (right) in 500-NTU AMCO Clear® turbidity standard in 100-mm black polyethylene calibration cup

8.2 Sediment

There are three basic ways to calibrate an OBS sensor with sediment. These are described in the following sections, however, only the procedures for dry-sediment are explained in this manual.

8.2.1 Dry-sediment Calibration

Dry-sediment calibration is a calibration performed with sediment that has been dried, crushed, and turned to powder. This is the easiest calibration to do because the amount of sediment can be determined accurately with an electronic balance and the volume of water in which it is suspended can be accurately measured with volumetric glassware. Of the three methods, dry-sediment calibration causes the greatest physical and chemical alteration of the sediment. Alteration of the sediment size as a result of processing can significantly affect the calibration slope. FIGURE 11-1 shows that reducing the grain size by a factor of two during grinding can increase OBS sensitivity by a factor of two (see definition of sensitivity).

8.2.2 Wet-sediment Calibration

Wet-sediment calibration is performed with sediment obtained from water samples or from the bed of a river that has not been dried and pulverized. Consolidation and biochemical changes during storage and processing cause some alteration of wet sediment during storage, and for this reason, sediment and water samples should be stored at about 4°C prior to use. The wet sediment is introduced into the sediment suspender as it comes from the field. This kind of calibration requires that water samples be withdrawn from the suspender

after each addition of sediment for the determination of SSC by filtration and gravimetric analyses.

8.2.3 In situ Calibration

In situ calibration is performed with water samples taken from the immediate vicinity of an OBS sensor in the field over sufficient time to sample the full range of SSC values to which a sensor will be exposed. SSC values obtained for these samples with concurrent recorded OBS sensor signals and regression analysis establishes the mathematical relation for future SSC conversions by an instrument. This is the best sediment-calibration method because the particles are not altered from their natural form in the river (see Lewis, 1996). It is also the most tedious, expensive, and time-consuming method. It can take several years of water sampling with concurrent OBS measurements to record the full range of SSC values on a large river.

8.2.3.1 Materials and Equipment

- OBS sensor with test cable
- Dry, disaggregated sediment from the location where the OBS sensor will be used (sediment should be in a state where grinding, sieving, or pulverization does not change its particle-size distribution)
- Averaging multimeter or data logger, 12 V gel cell
- Sediment suspender (if a suspender is not available, use a 200-mm I.D. dark plastic container and a drill motor with paint-mixing propeller)
- Electronic balance calibrated with ten-mg accuracy
- 20-ml weigh boats
- Large black polyethylene plastic tub for measuring the clear-water points
- 1-liter, class-A, volumetric flask
- Tea cup with round bottom
- Teaspoon

8.2.3.2 Setup

1. Check the balance with calibration weights; recalibrate if necessary.
2. Plug the test cable to the OBS sensor; connect the red and black wires to the battery and clip the multimeter test probes across the blue (+) and green (-) wires.
3. Add three liters of tap water to the suspender tub with the volumetric flask.
4. After measuring the clear-water signal (Step 1, Section 8.1.3, *Procedure (p. 17)*), mount the sensor in the suspender tub. The sensor placement depends on whether the sensor is an OBS-3+ or an OBS300. For the OBS-3+, mount the sensor so that its end is 50 mm above the bottom of the suspender tub and then secure it in a position that minimizes reflections

from the wall; see FIGURE 8-4. For the OBS300, mount the sensor so that the laser diode is submerged just below the water surface to maximize the distance from the detector and the bottom of the container.

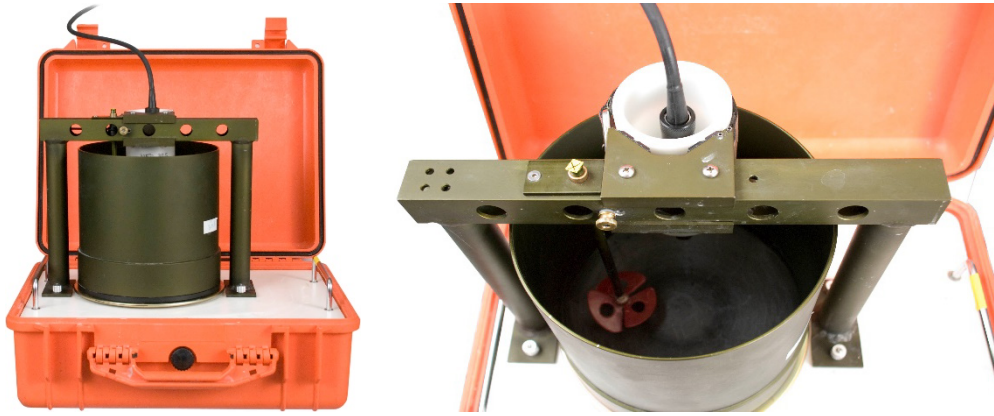


FIGURE 8-4. Portable sediment suspender (left) and OBS beam orientation in suspender tub (right)

$SSC = Wt_s [V_w + Wt_s/\rho_s]^{-1}$; where: Wt_s = total sediment weight in tub, in mg; V_w = volume of water in liters; ρ = density of water ($\rho = 1.0 \text{ kg l}^{-1}$ at 10°C); and ρ_s = sediment density (assume $2.65 \cdot 10^3 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$);

8.2.3.3 Procedure

1. Record and log the clean-water signal as in Step 1, Section 8.1.3, Procedure (p. 17); see FIGURE 8-2.
2. Move the OBS sensor to the suspender as described in setup.
3. Weigh 500 ± 10 mg of sediment in a weigh boat and transfer it to the teacup. Record the weight on the calibration log sheet and add about 10 cc of water from the suspender tub to the teacup and mix the water and sediment into a smooth slurry with the teaspoon.
4. Add the sediment slurry to the tub and rinse the teacup and spoon with tub water to get all the material into the suspender.
5. Turn the suspender ON and let it run for 10 minutes or until the OBS signal stabilizes.
6. Take one-minute averages of the low- and high-range signals with the multimeter or data logger and enter them on the calibration log sheet.
7. Calculate the sediment-weight increment as follows: $W_i = 2500 \text{ mg} (\text{RNG}/V_x)$; where: W_i = the incremental weight of sediment, RNG = the range of the OBS sensor (2.5V, 5V, or 16 mA), and V_x = the average output signal from step 6. Note: if the output is 4-20 mA, V_x will equal the output minus 4 mA. The resulting weight gives the amount of sediment to add to get five evenly spaced calibration points.

8. Add enough additional sediment to get one full increment of sediment, $W_i \pm 5\%$. Repeat steps 4, 5, and 6.
9. Repeat step 8 until five full increments of sediment have been added or until the OBS signals exceed the output range.
10. Perform third-order polynomial regressions on the data to get the coefficients for converting OBS output to SSC.

9. Troubleshooting

WARNING

Do not use a sensor with a stainless steel housing in seawater. This will void the warranty and cause corrosion and leakage.

Do the following tests and see TABLE 9-1 to diagnose an OBS sensor:

1. The Finger-Wave Test is used to determine if an OBS sensor is 'alive'. Power the OBS sensor and connect a multimeter (see Section 8.1.2, *Setup (p. 17)*). Wave your finger across the sensor window about 20 mm away from it. The data logger should show the output fluctuating from a few mV to the full-scale signal. If there are no signal fluctuations of this order, there is a problem that requires attention.
2. The Shake Test is done to determine if water has leaked inside the pressure housing. Unplug the cable and gently shake the sensor next to your ear and listen for sloshing water. This test gives a false negative result when the amount of water in the housing is large enough to destroy the circuit but too small to be audible.
3. A Calibration Check is done to verify if a working OBS sensor needs to be recalibrated. In order to be meaningful, the user must have a criterion for this test. For example, this criterion might be 5%. The sensor is placed in calibration standards with the 1st and 2nd NTU values listed in TABLE 8-1 and the multimeter readings are logged. If either reading differs by more than 5% from ones reported on the factory calibration certificate, or the user own calibration data, the sensor should be recalibrated. If the first two calibration points fall within the acceptance criterion, then the third value can be tested. The recommended frequency for calibration checks is quarterly when an OBS sensor is in regular use. Otherwise it should be performed prior to use. Calibration checks can be done in the field.

Fault	Cause of Fault	Remedy
Fails finger wave test	No power, dead battery	Replace battery and reconnect wires
	MCIL-5 plug not fully seated	Disconnect and reinsert plug.
	Sensor broken	Visually inspect for cracks. Return the sensor to manufacturer if cracks are found.
	Electronic failure. Units draws less than 11 mA or more than 40 mA.	Return the sensor to manufacturer.
Fails shake test	Sensor leaked	Return the sensor to manufacturer.
Fails calibration check	Aging of light source causes it to get dimmer with time.	Recalibrate (see Section 8, <i>Calibration (p. 14)</i>)

10. Maintenance

WARNING

There are no user-serviceable parts inside the sensor housing. Do not remove the sensor or connector from the pressure housing. This will void the warranty and could cause a leak.

The most important maintenance item is keeping the window clean. A Scotch-Brite® scouring pad works well for most types of window fouling. First wet the pad and then place it on a counter with a plastic-laminate top so that the side of the pad is aligned with the edge of the counter. Work the window of the OBS sensor back and forth on the pad until it is clean while removing as little epoxy as possible. If encrusting organisms such as barnacles or tube worms have attached to the sensor, it will have to be gently scraped with a flexible knife blade prior to using the pad. Some applications will result in pitting of the sensor face. Pits can be removed with abrasive cloth. Polish the sensor window as follows:

1. Tape a strip of 400 grit wet-or-dry abrasive cloth to the edge of a counter (see preceding paragraph).
2. Add a few drops of water to the abrasive and work the sensor window in smooth one-way strokes on the cloth using the counter edge as a guide.
3. Continue until the sensor is shiny and pit free.

NOTE

It is important to remove as little epoxy as possible.

WARNING

Do not use solvents such as MEK, toluene, acetone, or trichloroethylene on OBS sensors.

11. Factors that Affect Turbidity and Suspended-Sediment Measurements

This section summarizes some of the factors that affect OBS measurements and shows how ignoring them can lead to erroneous data. If you are certain that the characteristics of suspended matter will not change during your survey and that your OBS was factory calibrated with sediment from your survey site, you only need to skim this section to confirm that no problems have been overlooked.

11.1 Particle Size

The size of suspended sediment particles typically ranges from 0.2 to 500 μm in surface water (streams, estuaries, and ocean). With size, shape, and color remaining constant, particle area normal to a light beam will determine the intensity of light scattered by a volume of suspended matter. Results of tests with sediment shown on FIGURE 11-1 indicate a wide range of OBS sensitivity is associated with fine mud and coarse sand (about two orders of magnitude). The significance of these results is that size variations between the field and laboratory and within in a survey area during monitoring will produce shifts in apparent NTU and SSC values that are unrelated to real changes in sediment concentration. FIGURE 11-2 shows the difference in apparent turbidity that can result from different ways of disaggregating sediment.

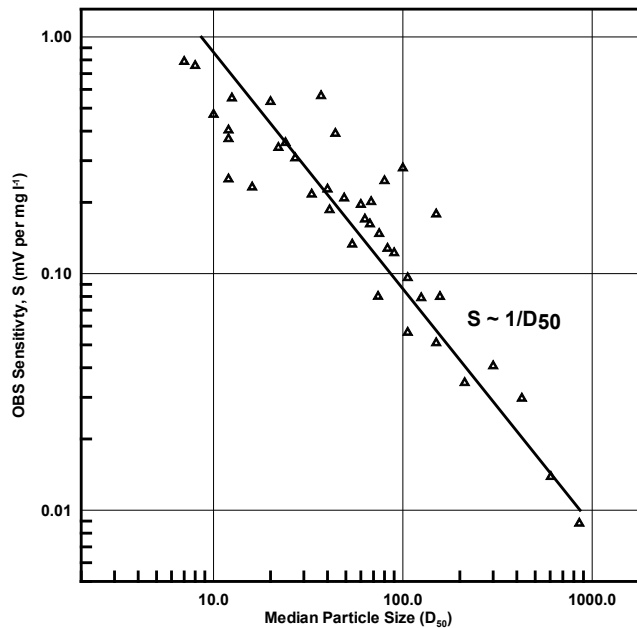


FIGURE 11-1. Normalized OBS sensitivity as a function of grain diameter

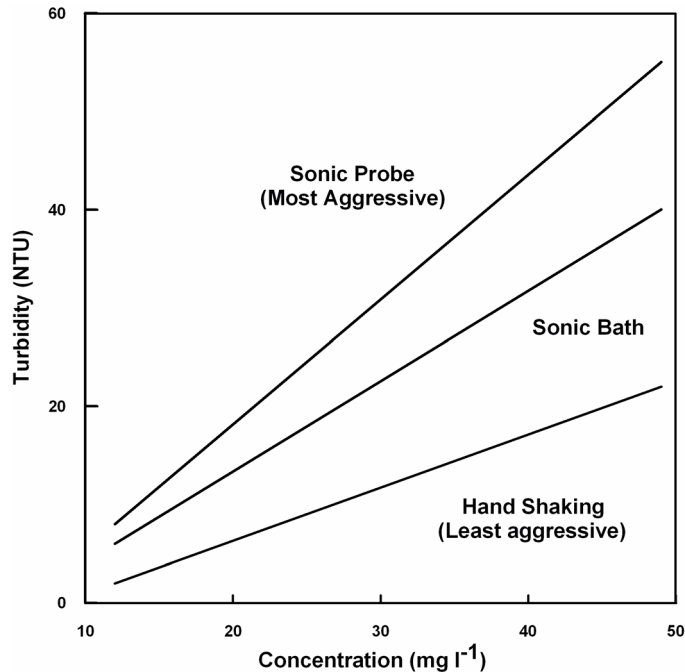


FIGURE 11-2. The apparent change in turbidity resulting from disaggregation methods

11.2 Suspensions with Mud and Sand

As mentioned in Section 11.1, *Particle Size* (p. 23), backscattering from particles is inversely related to particle size on a mass concentration basis. This can lead to serious difficulties in flow regimes where particle size varies with time. For example, when sandy mud goes through a cycle of suspension and deposition during a storm, the ratio of sand to mud in suspension will change. An OBS sensor calibrated for a fixed ratio of sand to mud will therefore indicate the correct concentration only part of the time. There are no simple remedies for this problem. The obvious thing to do is to take a lot of water samples and analyze them in the laboratory. This is not always practical during storms when the errors are likely to be largest. Do not rely solely on OBS sensors to monitor suspended sediments when particle size or composition is expected to change with time at a monitoring site.

11.3 Particle-Shape Effects

In addition to size and flocculation/aggregation, particle shape has a significant effect on the scattering intensity from a sample and calibration slope of an OBS sensor. As the graph in FIGURE 11-3 shows, plate-shaped particle (clay-mineral particles for example), backscatter light about ten times more efficiently than spherical particles and angular shapes have intermediate scattering efficiency. OBS sensors are very sensitive to shape effects and this makes it very important to calibrate with material from the monitoring site. It is also essential that particle shape remain constant during the monitoring period.

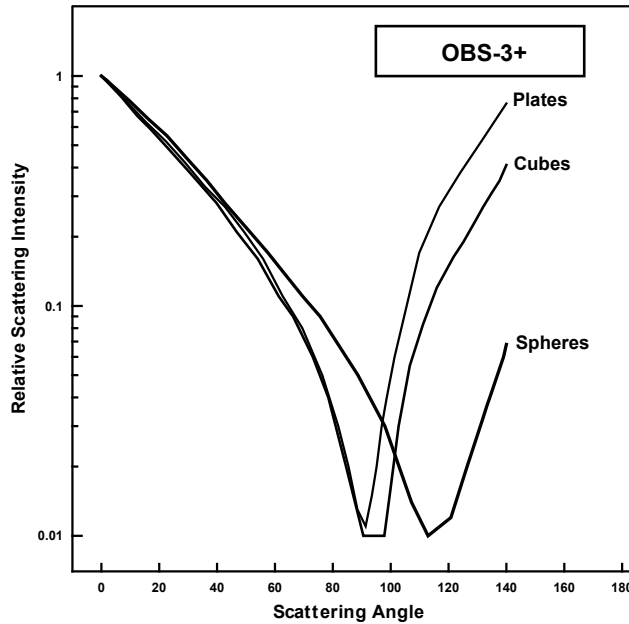


FIGURE 11-3. Relative scattering intensities of grain shapes

11.4 High Sediment Concentrations

At high sediment concentrations, particularly in suspensions of clay and silt, the infrared radiation from the emitter can be so strongly attenuated along the path connecting the emitter, the particle, and the detector, that backscatter decreases exponentially with increasing sediment concentration. For mud, this occurs at concentrations greater than about 5000 mg L⁻¹. FIGURE 11-4 shows a calibration in which sediment concentrations exceeding 6,000 mg L⁻¹ cause the output signal to decrease. It is recommended not to exceed the specified turbidity or suspended sediment ranges, otherwise the interpretation of the signal can be ambiguous. For example, a signal level of 2000 mV (FIGURE 11-4) could be interpreted to indicate SSC values of either 3,000 or 33,000 mg L⁻¹. Factory calibrations are performed in the linear region designated 'A' on the graph.

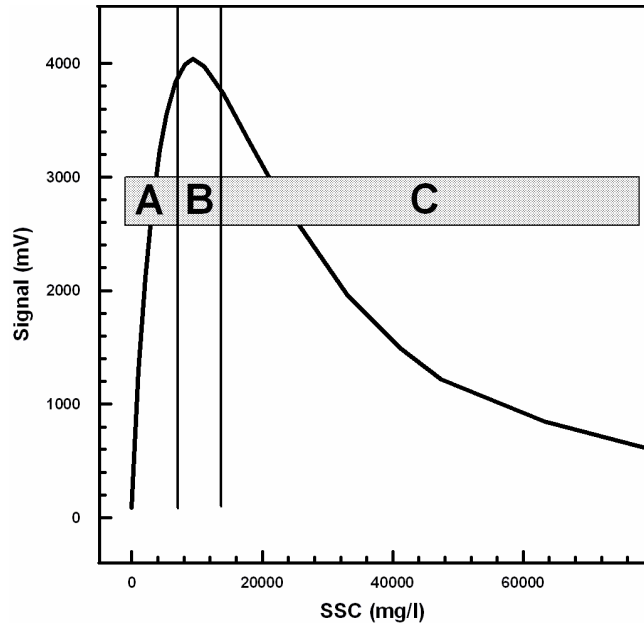


FIGURE 11-4. Response of an OBS sensor to a wide range of SSC

11.5 IR Reflectivity—Sediment Color

Infrared reflectivity, indicated by sediment color, has a major effect on OBS sensitivity because with other factors remaining constant, it changes the intensity of light scattering. Although OBS sensors are color blind, tests have shown that “whiteness”, color, and IR reflectivity are correlated. Calcite, which is highly reflective and white in color, will produce a much stronger OBS signal on a mass-concentration basis than magnetite, which is black and IR absorbing. Sensitivity to colored silt particles varies from a low of about one for dark sediment to a high of about ten for light gray sediment; see FIGURE 11-5. In areas where sediment color is changing with time, a single calibration curve may not work. Resulting errors will depend on the relative concentrations of colored sediments.

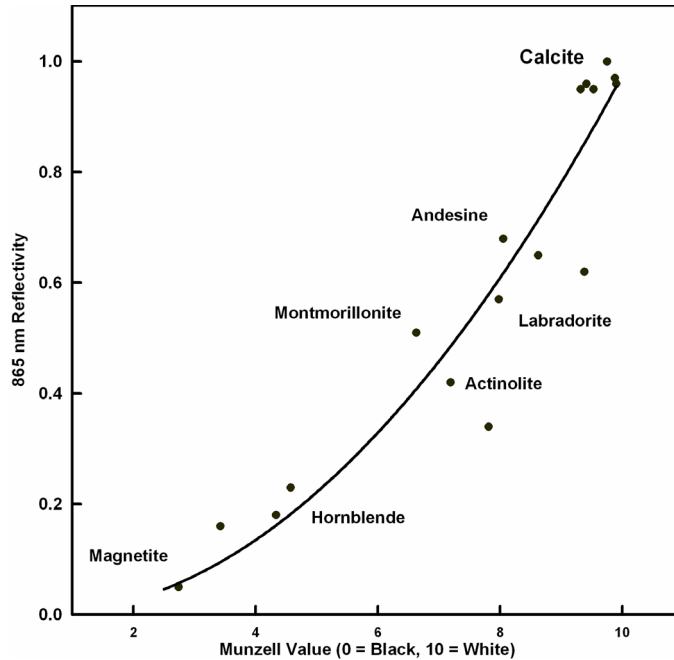


FIGURE 11-5. Infrared reflectivity of minerals as a function of 10-Munzell value

11.6 Water Color

Some OBS users have been concerned that color from dissolved substances in water samples, not colored particles discussed in Section 11.5, *IR Reflectivity—Sediment Color* (p. 26), produces erroneously low turbidity measurements. Although organic and inorganic IR-absorbing dissolved matter has visible color, its effect on OBS measurements is small unless the colored compounds are strongly absorbing at the OBS wavelength (850 nm) and are present in high concentrations. Only effluents from mine-tailings produce enough color to absorb measurable IR. In river, estuary, and ocean environments concentrations of colored materials are too low by at least a factor of ten to produce significant errors.

11.7 Bubbles and Plankton

Although bubbles efficiently scatter light, monitoring in most natural environments shows that OBS signals are not strongly affected by bubbles. Bubbles and quartz particles backscatter nearly the same amount of light to within a factor of approximately four, but most of the time bubble concentrations are at least two orders of magnitude less than sand concentrations. This means that sand will produce much more backscatter than bubbles in most situations and bubble interference will not be significant. Prop wash from ships and small, clear-mountain streams where aeration produces high bubble concentrations are an exception to this generality and can produce erroneous turbidity values resulting from bubbles.

OBS sensors detect IR backscattered between 90° and 165° where the scattering intensities are nearly constant with the scattering angle. Particle concentration has the most significant effect in this region. OBS sensors are more sensitive, by factors of four to six, to mineral particles than particulate

organic matter and interference from these materials can therefore be ignored most of the time. One notable exception is where biological productivity is high and sediment production from rivers and re-suspension is low. In such an environment, OBS signals can come predominately from plankton.

11.8 Biological and Chemical Fouling

Sensor cleaning is essential during extended deployments. In salt water, barnacle growth on an OBS sensor can obscure the IR emitter, the detector, or both and produce an apparent decline in turbidity. Algal growth in marine and fresh waters has caused spurious scatter and apparent increases of OBS output. The reverse has also been noted in fresh water where the signal increases after cleaning the sensor window. Prolonged operation in freshwater with high tannin levels can cause a varnish-like coating to develop on an OBS sensor that obscures the IR emitter and caused an apparent decline in turbidity. Cleaning algal and tannin accumulation off OBS sensors is required more often during the summer because warm water and bright sunlight increase biological and chemical activity.

Campbell Scientific sells two wipers from a third-party manufacturer: the Hydro-Wiper C with its own controller, or the Hydro-Wiper D that is controlled by a data logger.

12. References

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13. Terminology

110 Rule: 100 ppm of 100- μm suspended sand will scatter light with the same intensity as 10 ppm of 10- μm suspended silt, other factors, such as size, shape and color, remaining constant.

Backscatter/forward scatter: The interaction of light with suspended particles, water molecules, and variations in refractive index that alters the direction of light transport through a sample without changing the wavelength. The angle between the direction of propagation of a source light beam and the direction of a scattered beam is the scattering angle. Forward-scattering refers to scattering angles less than 90° and backscattering refers scattering angle equal to or greater than 90° .

Calibration Slope: NTU or SSC value per mV or mA of OBS output. It is nearly constant in the linear region of the OBS response function but is a function of sediment concentration elsewhere.

Daylight-Rejection Filter: An optical bandpass filter that transmits near infrared light (760 to 1200 nm) and blocks visible light (390 to 760 nm).

Drift: A change in OBS output over time or with ambient temperature that is unrelated to the sample turbidity or SSC.

Interference: Properties of the sample, the environment, or measurement procedure that produce unintended and unknown shifts in turbidity or SSC.

Sample Volume: The water volume where the OBS infrared beam and suspended particles interact and the scattered light is detected. OBS sample volumes range from 25 to $12 \times 10^4 \text{ mm}^3$, depending on turbidity.

SDVB: Styrene divinylbenzene beads, a calibration solution also known as AMCO Clear[®].

Sensitivity: The ratio of output level (mV, mA, or NTU value) to suspended-sediment concentration; for example, mV per mg L^{-1} , mA per mg L^{-1} , or NTU per mg L^{-1} .

Suspended-Sediment Concentration (SSC): Mass or volume of sediment in a sample divided by the volume (or weight) of the sample expressed as mg L^{-1} (or ppm).

Synchronous Detection: A signal-processing technique for rejecting d.c. shifts wherein the gain is switched from -1 to 1 synchronously with the OBS clock. This technique limits the bandwidth and noise of a circuit.

Temperature Coefficient: The change in OBS output per unit of ambient temperature change expressed as ppm. For example, an OBS that indicates 100 NTU in a standard at 25°C and 101 NTU in the same standard at 5°C would have a temperature coefficient of -500 ppm.

Turbidity (conceptual definition): A numerical expression, in relative units, of the optical properties that cause water to appear hazy or cloudy when light to be scattered and absorbed by suspended matter. Turbidity is caused by sediment, plankton, bacteria and viruses, organic acids, and dyes. In general, as

the concentration of suspended matter increases, so will water turbidity, and as the concentration of dissolved light-absorbing matter increases, turbidity will decrease.

Turbidity (operational definition): NTU value is a number ranging from 0 to 10,000 that is computed by a turbidimeter from measurements of the intensity of light scattered from water sample and by interpolation between bracketing SDVB (AMCO Clear®) calibration values.

Appendix A. Importing Short Cut Code Into CRBasic Editor


Short Cut creates a .DEF file that contains wiring and memory usage information, and a program file that can be imported into the *CRBasic Editor*. By default, these files reside in the C:\campbellsci\SCWin folder.

Import *Short Cut* program file and wiring information into *CRBasic Editor*:

1. Create the *Short Cut* program following the procedure in 4, *QuickStart* (p. 2). After saving the *Short Cut* program, click the **Advanced** tab then the **CRBasic Editor** button. A program file with a generic name will open in CRBasic. Provide a meaningful name and save the CRBasic program. This program can now be edited for additional refinement.

NOTE

Once the file is edited with *CRBasic Editor*, *Short Cut* can no longer be used to edit the program it created.

2. To add the *Short Cut* wiring information into the new CRBasic program, open the .DEF file located in the C:\campbellsci\SCWin folder, and copy the wiring information, which is at the beginning of the .DEF file.
3. Go into the CRBasic program and paste the wiring information into it.
4. In the CRBasic program, highlight the wiring information, right-click, and select **Comment Block**. This adds an apostrophe (') to the beginning of each of the highlighted lines, which instructs the data logger compiler to ignore those lines when compiling. The **Comment Block** feature is demonstrated at about 5:10 in the [CRBasic | Features](#) video .

Appendix B. Example Programs

B.1 CR1000X Example Program

The calibration values used in this program are from the calibration certificate shown in FIGURE 7-3. The example program uses the voltage curve coefficients. Since the coefficients of the voltage curve are used, the multiplier for **VoltSE()** needs to be 0.001. Make sure you use the correct units.

NOTE The calibration values are different for each probe.

CRBasic Example B-1. CR1000X Program Measuring the Turbidity Sensor

```
'CR1000X Series Data Logger

'Declare Public Variables
Public NTU
Public A(2), B(2), C(2), i, n, NTUX(21)

'Define Data Tables
DataTable (Data_15m,1,-1)
  DataInterval (0,15,Min,10)
  Sample (1,NTU,FP2)
EndTable

'Main Program
BeginProg

'Declare Constants
n = 21
A(1) = -0.24763
B(1) = 105.69
C(1) = -0.29928
A(2) = 35.310
B(2) = 401.11
C(2) = 0.20709

Scan (5,Sec,10,0)
  SW12 (SW12_1,1)

'Delay 2 seconds
Delay (0,2,Sec)

'n = 21 in this case so 21 measurements will be made for both the
'high and low input ranges. A multiplier of 0.001 is used because
'the coefficients are from the voltage calibration sheet.

For i = 1 To n
  VoltSe (NTUX(i),1,mV5000,1,1,0,60,0.001,0)
  NTUX(i) = A(2) * NTUX(i)^2 + B(2) * NTUX(i) + C(2) 'V to NTU high range

  Delay (0,45,mSec) 'Delay between measurements
Next i

'now find the median value, which will best represent
SortSpa (NTUX(),21,NTUX())

'the true NTU. Big particles can cause errors that would skew an average
NTU = NTUX(11)
```

```

'Use the low range terminal to get a more accurate measurement.

If NTU < 250 Then

'The value of 250 was chosen because it is the nominal low range value of
'this OBS sensor.

  For i = 1 To n
    VoltSe (NTUX(i),1,mV5000,2,1,0,60,0.001,0)
    NTUX(i) = A(1) * NTUX(i)^2 + B(1) * NTUX(i) + C(1) 'V to NTU conversion
    Delay(0,45,mSec) 'Delay between measurements
  Next i
EndIf
SortSpa (NTUX(),21,NTUX())
NTU = NTUX(11)
SW12 (SW12_1, 0)
'-----
CallTable Data_15m
NextScan
EndProg

```

B.2 CR200(X) Example Program

The following example uses the voltage curve of the calibrations certificate provided in FIGURE 7-3. Since the coefficients of the voltage curve are used, the multiplier for the **VoltSE** instruction needs to be 0.001.

NOTE The calibration values are different for each probe.

CRBasic Example B-2. CR200X Program Measuring the Turbidity Sensor

```

'CR200(X) Series Data Logger

Public batt_volt
Public NTU, NTU_SD
Public NTUarray(10)
Public n,i
Public A(2), B(2), C(2)

DataTable (NTUData,1,-1)
  DataInterval (0,1,min)
  Sample (1,NTU)
  Sample (1,NTU_SD)
EndTable

BeginProg

n = 10

A(1) = -0.24763
B(1) = 105.69
C(1) = -0.29928
A(2) = 35.310
B(2) = 401.11
C(2) = 0.20709

Scan (5,Sec)
  Battery (Batt_volt)

  SWBatt (1 )
  Delay (2,sec)

```



```
For i = 1 To n

    'n=10 in this case so ten measurements will be made for both the high and low
    'input ranges. A multiplier of 0.001 is used because the coefficients are
    'from the voltage calibration sheet
    VoltSe (NTUarray(i),1,2,0.001,0)
    NTUarray(i) = A(2) * NTUarray(i)^2 + B(2) * NTUarray(i) + C(2)

Next i

AvgSpa (NTU,10,NTUarray())
StdDevSpa (NTU_SD,10,NTUarray())

If NTU < 250 Then

    For i = 1 To n

        VoltSe (NTUarray(i),1,1,0.001,0)
        NTUarray(i) = A(1) * NTUarray(i)^2 + B(1) * NTUarray(i) + C(1)

    Next i

    AvgSpa (NTU,10,NTUarray())
    StdDevSpa (NTU_SD,10,NTUarray())

EndIf

SWBatt (0 )

CallTable NTUData
NextScan
EndProg
```

Appendix C. Electrical Connections Details

FIGURE C-1 shows the contact numbers for the MCIL/MBH-5 connectors and TABLE C-1 lists the electrical functions and wire colors. The user need only be concerned with the wire colors for the 8425 cable as the MCBH wires are not accessible. When a custom cable assembly is purchased from a third-party vendor to connect the OBS sensor to a current meter or CTD, the user will not have access to any of the wires listed in TABLE C-1.

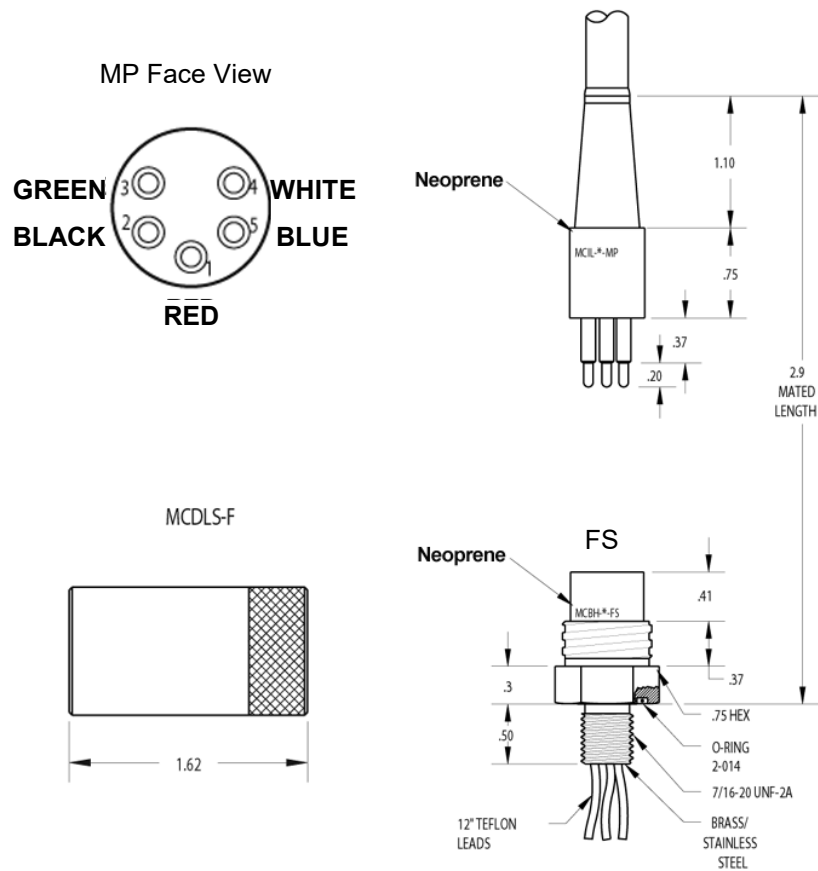


FIGURE C-1. Pin assignments for MCBH and MCIL wet-pluggable connectors

TABLE C-1. Pin numbers, electrical functions and wire color codes for OBS sensor bulkhead connectors.			
MCBH-5-FS/MCIL-5-MP Contact Number	Electrical Function	Wire Color (MCBH)	Wire Color (8425)
1	Power (5 – 15V)	Red	Red
2	Power Ground	Black	Black
3	Signal Common	Green	Green
4	High Range Signal (4X)	White	White
5	Low Range Signal (1X & 4-20 mA)	Blue	Blue
No Connection	Cable Shield		Clear/Braid

Appendix D. Data Logger Connection to a Relay

An SPST single-channel solid-state relay can be used instead of the switched 12V terminal. FIGURE D-1 shows the relay connections.

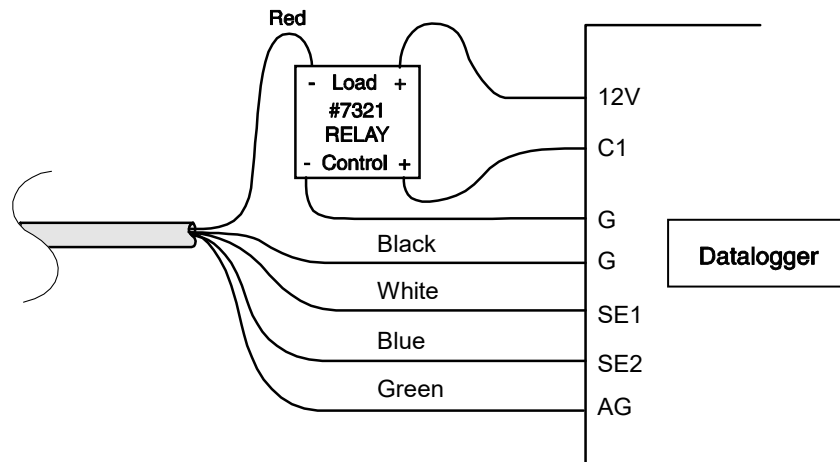


FIGURE D-1. Wiring diagram for connecting an OBS sensor to an external relay and a data logger

NOTE

The assignment of terminal number (for example, SE terminal 1 or C1) may vary depending on the application.



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Location: San Pedro, Costa Rica
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Email: info@campbellsci.cc
Website: www.campbellsci.cc

France

Location: Vincennes, France
Phone: 0033.0.1.56.45.15.20
Email: info@campbellsci.fr
Website: www.campbellsci.fr

Germany

Location: Bremen, Germany
Phone: 49.0.421.460974.0
Email: info@campbellsci.de
Website: www.campbellsci.de

South Africa

Location: Stellenbosch, South Africa
Phone: 27.21.8809960
Email: sales@campbellsci.co.za
Website: www.campbellsci.co.za

Southeast Asia

Location: Bangkok, Thailand
Phone: 66.2.719.3399
Email: thitipongc@campbellsci.asia
Website: www.campbellsci.asia

Spain

Location: Barcelona, Spain
Phone: 34.93.2323938
Email: info@campbellsci.es
Website: www.campbellsci.es

UK

Location: Shephed, Loughborough, UK
Phone: 44.0.1509.601141
Email: sales@campbellsci.co.uk
Website: www.campbellsci.co.uk

USA

Location: Logan, UT USA
Phone: 435.227.9120
Email: info@campbellsci.com
Website: www.campbellsci.com