

Conductivity Sensor

Product Number: ENCNT435A



Overview

The Conductivity sensor is designed to measure conductivity of liquids and solutions capable of measuring the entire range of 0.05 - 80 millisiemens (mS). Conductivity is one of the most basic tests conducted in solutions. It determines the total concentration of ions in a sample using the direct relationship between conductivity and ion concentration in a solution.

The Conductivity sensor can be connected to all types of einstein™ data loggers. It can be used for various experiments in Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Science.

Typical experiments



Chemistry

- Determining the concentration of ions in the solution



Environmental Science

- Conducting environmental studies



Water Quality

- Comparing conductivity of different water samples



Electricity

- Measuring conductivity when dissolving salts in water

How it works

In a solution, current flows by ion transport. An increasing concentration of ions in the solution will result in higher conductivity values. The Conductivity sensor contains two carbon electrodes. A potential difference is applied to these electrodes which results in a current proportional to the conductivity of the solution.

Sensor specification

Range:	0.05 - 80 mS/cm
Accuracy:	±8% over entire range
Resolution (12-bit):	5 μ S
Conductivity Cell Material:	Carbon, 2-Cell
K Cell Value:	1.0
K cell Value Tolerance:	±20%
Temperature Range:	0 to 80 °C
Minimum Sample Size:	25mL

Response time for 95% of reading:	5 seconds
Default Sample Rate:	10 samples per second

Note: Sensor cable sold separately

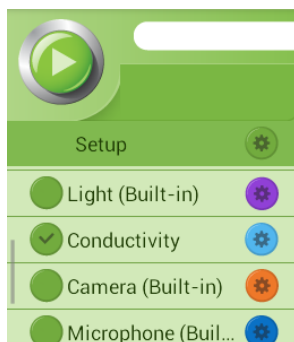
Technical Notes

- For best results soak the probe in distilled water (DI) before use.
- During measurement, avoid particulate matter. Allow it to settle. Do not let sediment build up on the sensors.
- Rinse the electrode after measurements with DI water.
- Do not touch the probe cell surface with any hard object. If the probe cell surface is contaminated, clean the electrode (see Cleaning below).
- Store the electrode dry.
- The Conductivity sensor was designed only for educational purposes and shouldn't be used for industrial, medical, or research applications.

Data logging and analysis

MiLAB™

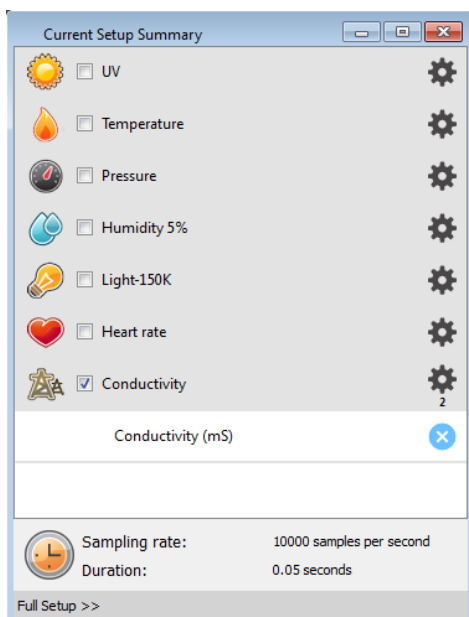
1. Take your einstein™ Tablet OR pair your einstein™ LabMate with your Android or iOS tablet via Bluetooth
2. Insert the sensor cable into one of the sensor ports
3. Remove the blue protective cap from the electrode
4. Launch MiLAB
5. MiLAB will automatically detect the sensor and show it in the Launcher View



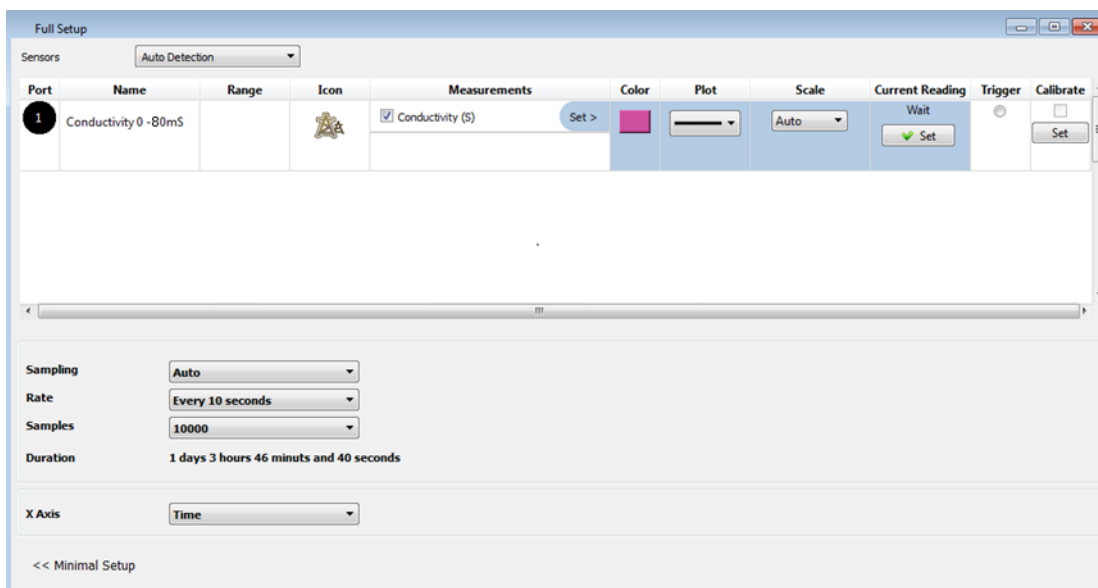
6. Make sure the icon next to the sensor is checked () to enable it for logging


MiLAB™ Desktop

1. Pair your einstein™ LabMate with your PC, MAC, or Linux machine via Bluetooth, or connect it via the USB cable (found in the einstein™ LabMate box).
2. Insert the sensor cable into one of the sensor ports
3. Remove the blue protective cap from the electrode
4. Launch MiLAB
5. MiLAB will automatically detect the sensor and show it in the Current Setup Summary window



6. Click Full Setup, located at the bottom of the Current Setup Summary window to program the data logger's sample rate, number of samples, units of measurement, calibration and other options



7. Click the Run button () on the main toolbar of the Launcher View to start logging

Electrode Maintenance

Cleaning the Electrode

General Method

Prepare a solution of 1/2 teaspoon of liquid soap in 200 mL warm water. Soak the electrode for a few minutes and then gently wipe the element with a cotton swab. Rinse thoroughly with DI water.

Inorganic Build-up Method

When there is a buildup of inorganic material on the electrode soak the electrode tip in 0.1 M HCl for 10 minutes, then rinse thoroughly with DI water.

Greasy Film Method

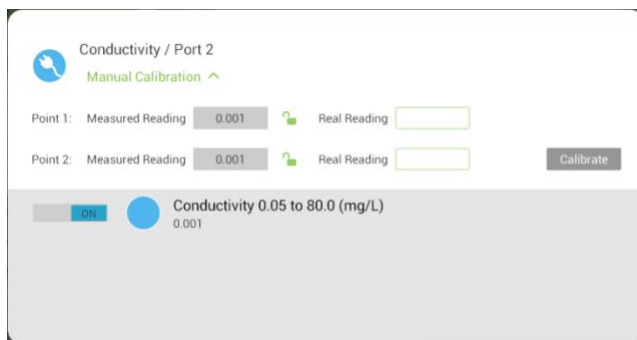
When there is a buildup of greasy film on the electrode rinse the electrode tip with acetone or methanol (do



not soak), then wash with the general method above. Rinse thoroughly with DI water.

Calibration

Calibrating in MiLAB

1. Tap the Setup button next to the sensor's name and then tap Manual Calibration



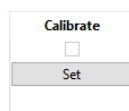
2. Prepare a solution with a known conductivity (e.g., distilled water). Enter this known value in the Point 1, Real Reading field
3. Measure the substance and wait for the readings to stabilize
4. Tap the lock icon 
5. Prepare a second substance with a (different) known conductivity. Enter this known value in the Point 2, Real Reading field
6. Measure the substance and wait for the readings to stabilize
7. Tap the lock icon 
8. Tap Calibrate

Note: For the most accurate results try to calibrate the sensor with one Real Reading under the expected results and one Real Reading over the expected results. (e.g. 0-2 mS/cm, 2-20 mS/cm, 20-80 mS/cm)

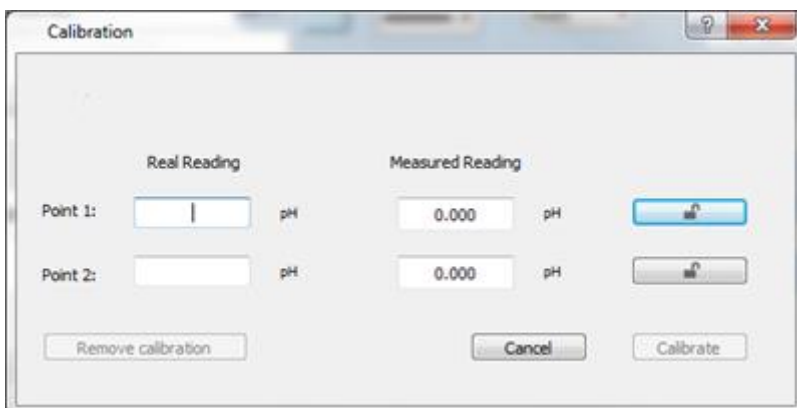
Calibrating in MiLAB™ Desktop

Two Point Calibration

1. Go to the Full Setup window and in the Calibrate column click Set



2. The Calibration window will appear



3. Prepare a solution with a known conductivity (e.g., distilled water). Enter this known value in the Point 1, Real Reading field
4. Measure the substance and wait for the readings to stabilize. Enter the known value as the Point 1 Measured Reading field and click the lock button
5. Prepare a second substance with a (different) known conductivity. Enter this known value in the Point 2, Real Reading field
6. Measure the substance and wait for the readings to stabilize. Enter the known value as the Real Reading on the first line and click the lock button
7. Click Calibrate

An example of using the Conductivity Sensor

Measuring the conductivity of NaCl solutions

Prepare several NaCl solutions according the table below:

Salt (NaCl) Concentration (mg/L)	Conductivity ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$)
*47.4 mg	100 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$
*491 mg	1000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$
*1005 mg	2000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$
*5566 mg	10,000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$

- *Add the above amount of NaCl to make 1 liter of solution
- Alternatively, one can use premade conductivity calibration solutions from companies such as Eutech and Reagecon.

1. Perform the calibration process with solutions of 2mS/cm and 13 mS/cm.
2. Rinse the electrode with DI water and perform a measurement of 10 mS/cm solution.
3. Click the Run button () to start logging.
4. After calibration you will be able to measure other solutions and show the correlation between NaCl concentration and conductivity.

Troubleshooting

Troubleshooting

If the conductivity values are out of the range, are drifting, or are generally inaccurate:

- Verify cell constant compatibility with a standard solution
- Use fresh standards or glassware
- Calibrate with standards at the same temperature as the sample
- Tap the cell against the container bottom to dislodge air bubbles
- Clean the electrode

- Condition the electrode in DI water overnight

Note: Attempt each of the above suggestions in the order listed above.

If the sensor isn't automatically recognized by MiLAB, please contact Fourier Education's technical support.

Technical support

For technical support, you can contact the Fourier Education's technical support team at:

Web: www.einsteinworld.com/support

Email: support@fourieredu.com

Copyright and Warranty

All standard Fourier Systems sensors carry a one (1) year warranty, which states that for a period of twelve months after the date of delivery to you, it will be substantially free from significant defects in materials and workmanship.

This warranty does not cover breakage of the product caused by misuse or abuse.

This warranty does not cover Fourier Systems consumables such as electrodes, batteries, EKG stickers, cuvettes and storage solutions or buffers.

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