

Data Sheet

True TDR-310W Soil Water-Temperature-BEC Sensor



Description:

The TDR-310W is a modification to the Acclima TDR-315N. Its shorter rods (10cm instead of 15cm) allow it to fit in standard rockwool blocks. The Soil Smart analysis engine is also tuned for non-mineral soils often used in Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA), such as rockwool and coco coir, yet still performs well in traditional mineral soils. It also has a much higher amplitude waveform than the H-series sensors, which consumes more power, but makes it very effective in taking measurements in challenging soil environments. It is a complete integrated time domain reflectometer that combines ultra-fast waveform generating and digitizing functions with a precision 5 pico-second resolution time base and highly sophisticated waveform digitizing and analyzing firmware that provides true time domain analysis of soil-propagated waveforms.

Its form factor is designed primarily for ease-of-use in non-mineral media commonly used in vertical farming applications. A probe guide is provided to ensure that the waveguide rods are parallel when pushing them into the soil. It provides reading data through a 3-wire SDI-12 interface and is compatible with any data recorder that is compliant with SDI-12 version 1.4 and earlier.

Features:

- Designed for easy use with rockwool blocks and smaller grow media
- Large sampling volume with the wide spacing of the 10cm waveguides
- Soil Smart analysis optimized for non-mineral soil types, while still works well in mineral soils
- Incident Wave Amplitude: 2.3 V
- 20% to 80% Incident Wave Rise Time: 300 ps
- Waveform Digitizing Resolution: 5 ps
- SDI-12 Interface
- 3-element 10cm stainless steel waveguide
- 5m or 10m 3-conductor waterproof cable (standard)
- Waterproof Epoxy-filled Housing

Measurement Functions:

Volumetric Water Content:	0% to 100%
Medium Permittivity:	1 to 85
Medium Bulk Electrical Conductivity:	0 to 4500 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$
Medium Temperature:	-40 to +55 degrees C
Pore Water EC (Hilhorst Model):	0 to 55000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$

Measurement Performance:

Parameter	Min	Max	Units
RELATIVE PERMITTIVITY			
Range	1	100	-
Resolution	0.1		-
Repeatability (RMS deviation)	0.14		-
Accuracy	-2	+2	%FS ¹
Stability with Bulk Electrical Conductivity (0-4500 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$)	-1	+1	-
VOLUMETRIC WATER CONTENT (VWC)			
Range ²	0	100	%
Resolution	0.1		%
Repeatability (RMS deviation)	0.3		%
Accuracy	-2.5	+2.5	%FS
Stability with Bulk Electrical Conductivity (0-4500 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$)	-1	+1	%FS
TEMPERATURE⁴			
Range	-40	+55	$^{\circ}\text{C}$
Resolution	0.1		$^{\circ}\text{C}$
Repeatability (RMS deviation)	0.01		$^{\circ}\text{C}$
Accuracy (+5 to +35 $^{\circ}\text{C}$)	-0.25	+0.25	$^{\circ}\text{C}$
Accuracy (-15 to +55 $^{\circ}\text{C}$)	-0.5	+0.5	$^{\circ}\text{C}$
BULK ELECTRICAL CONDUCTIVITY (BEC)			
Range	0	4500	$\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$
Resolution	1		$\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$
Repeatability (RMS deviation)	3		$\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$
Accuracy (0 – 1000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$)	-25	+25	$\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$
Accuracy (1000 – 2500 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$)	-2.5	+2.5	%
Accuracy (2500 – 4500 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$)	-5	+5	%

¹ Percent Full scale, i.e., +/- 2 percentage points

² VWC is calculated based on relative permittivity using the formula derived by Topp with minor modifications to allow readings in slurries and pure water. The relative permittivity of water varies with temperature, so to see a reading near 100%, the sensor must be fully immersed in water long enough to equilibrate temperature with the water. The water should be at 20.5C with at least 4cm of water around the rods on all sides, beyond the tips of the rods, and at least 1cm of the sensor body immersed. VWC readings higher than 100% are possible when the permittivity is higher than 80.

⁴ The temperature sensing element is located next to one of the outer waveguide electrodes.

Absolute Maximum Ratings:

Stresses beyond those specified below may cause permanent damage to the sensor. These are stress ratings only and operation at these levels is not implied.

Parameter	Min	Max	Units
Supply Voltage (Measured between the red and white wires)	-16	+16	Volts
SDI-12 Data Voltage (Blue-White wires)	-16	+16	Volts
External Voltage Applied to sensor rod	-0.3	+4	Volts
Electrostatic discharge, center rod	IEC 61000-4-2 (ESD)		
Storage Temperature	-40	+60	°C
	-40	+140	°F

Operating Conditions:

Parameter	Min	Max	Units
Operating Supply Voltage	+4.2	+15	Volts
	Prior to 2H 2022 +6.5		
Operating Temperature (VWC errors due to ice)	-30	+55	°C
Operating Temperature (VWC accurate, no ice allowed)	0	+55	°C
POWER CONSUMPTION			
Idle Current (sensor powered but inactive, 20 °C)	< 10		uA
Idle Current (-35 to +50 °C)	< 50		uA
Sensor read time	0.4 typical		sec
Sensor read current (Supply Voltage = 12V)	118 typical		mA
Sensor read current (Supply Voltage = 7V)	150 typical		mA
Sensor communications current	6 typical		mA

SDI-12 Data Line Electrical Characteristics:

Parameter	Min	Max	Units
INPUT (when sensor is idle or receiving data)			
Resistance to GND	160k	175k	Ohms
VIL (required input voltage in “marking” state)	-1	1.3	V
VIH (required input voltage in “spacing” state)	3.2	6	V
OUTPUT (when sensor is transmitting data)			
Output impedance	1000	1250	Ohms
VOL (output voltage in “marking” state)	0	0.25	V
VOH (output voltage in “spacing” state)	4.7	5.2	V

Physical Characteristics:

Dimensions (without cable)	16 cm x 5.3 cm x 2 cm
Weight (without cable)	94g
Cable weight	32.7 g/m
Composition	316 Stainless Steel, Epoxy, ABS Plastic
Cable	3 copper conductor, 22 Ga., waterproof and UV resistant PVC jacket, 4.8mm overall diameter
Communication Protocol	SDI-12 Version 1.4

