

Honeywell Zephyr™ Digital Airflow Sensors: HAF Series—High Accuracy



DESCRIPTION

Honeywell Zephyr™ Digital Airflow Sensors: HAF Series-High Accuracy, provide a digital interface for reading airflow over the specified full scale flow span and temperature range. Their thermally isolated heater and temperature sensing elements help these sensors provide a fast response to air or gas flow.

Zephyr sensors are designed to measure mass flow of air and other non-corrosive gases. They are available in standard flow ranges and are fully calibrated and temperature compensated with an on-board Application Specific Integrated Circuit (ASIC).

The HAF Series is compensated over the temperature range of 0 °C to 50 °C [32 °F to 122 °F] and operates across a temperature range of -20 °C to 70 °C [-4 °F to 158 °F]. The state-of-the-art ASIC-based compensation provides digital (I²C) outputs with a response time of 1 ms.

These sensors operate on the heat transfer principle to measure mass airflow. They consist of a microbridge Microelectronic and Microelectromechanical System (MEMS) with temperature-sensitive resistors deposited with thin films of platinum and silicon nitride. The MEMS sensing die is located in a precise and calculated airflow channel to provide repeatable flow response.

Zephyr sensors provide customers with enhanced reliability, digital accuracy, repeatable measurements and the ability to customize sensor options to meet many specific application needs. The combination of rugged housings with a stable substrate makes these products extremely robust. They are designed and manufactured according to ISO 9001 standards.

FEATURES AND BENEFITS (★= competitive differentiator)

- ★ High ±2.5% accuracy allows for very precise airflow measurement, often ideal for demanding applications with high accuracy requirements
- Full calibration and temperature compensation typically allow customer to remove additional components associated with signal conditioning from the PCB, reducing PCB size as well as costs often associated with those components (e.g., acquisition, inventory, assembly)
- ★ Customizable for specific end-user needs
- ★ High sensitivity at very low flows allows a customer's application to detect presence or absence of airflow
- ★ High stability reduces errors due to thermal effects and null shift to provide accurate readings over time, often eliminating need for system calibration after PCB mount and periodically over time
- ★ Low pressure drop typically improves patient comfort in medical applications, and reduces noise and system wear on other components such as motors and pumps
- ★ Linear output provides more intuitive sensor signal than the raw output of basic airflow sensors, which can help reduce production costs, design, and implementation time
- Fast response time allows a customer's application to respond quickly to airflow change, important in critical medical (i.e., anesthesia) and industrial (i.e., fume hood) applications
- High 12-bit resolution increases ability to sense small airflow changes, allowing customers to more precisely control their application
- Low 3.3 Vdc operating voltage option and low power consumption allow for use in battery-driven and other portable applications
- ASIC-based I²C digital output compatibility eases integration to microprocessors or microcontrollers, reducing PCB complexity and component count
- Bidirectional flow sensing capability eliminates the need for two airflow sensors, helping to reduce production costs and implementation time
- Insensitivity to mounting orientation allows customer to position sensor in most optimal point in the system, eliminating concern for positional effects
- Insensitivity to altitude eliminates customer-implemented altitude adjustments in the system, easing integration and reducing production costs by not having to purchase additional sensors for altitude adjustments
- Small size occupies less space on PCB, allowing easier fit and potentially reducing production costs; PCB size may also be reduced for easier fit into space-constrained applications
- RoHS-compliant materials meet Directive 2002/95/EC

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POTENTIAL APPLICATIONS

Medical

- Anesthesia delivery machines
- Ventricular assist devices (heart pumps)
- Hospital diagnostics (spectrometry, gas chromatography)
- Nebulizers
- Oxygen concentrators
- Patient monitoring systems (respiratory monitoring)
- Sleep apnea machines
- Spirometers
- Ventilators

Industrial

- Air-to-fuel ratio
- Analytical instrumentation (spectrometry, chromatography)
- Fuel cells
- Gas leak detection
- Gas meters
- HVAC filters
- VAV system on HVAC systems
- Meteorology

Table 1: Absolute Maximum Ratings¹

Characteristic	Parameter
Supply voltage	-0.3 Vdc to 6.0 Vdc
Voltage on output pin	-0.3 V to Vsupply
Storage temperature range	-40 °C to 125 °C [-40 °F to 257 °F]
Maximum flow change	5.0 SLPM/s
Maximum common mode pressure	25 psi at 25 °C [77 °F]
Maximum flow	10 SLPM

CAUTION

IMPROPER USE

Do not use these products to sense liquid or fluid flow.

Failure to comply with these instructions may result in product damage.

Note 1: Absolute maximum ratings are the extreme limits that the device will withstand without damage to the device. However, the electrical and mechanical characteristics are not guaranteed as the maximum limits (above recommended operating conditions) are approached, nor will the device necessarily operate at absolute maximum ratings.

Table 2: Operating Characteristics

Characteristic	Parameter	Note
Supply voltage	3.3 Vdc \pm 10%; 5.0 Vdc \pm 10%	–
Supply current	16 mA max.	–
Power:		–
3.3 Vdc	23 mW typ.	
5.0 Vdc	38 mW typ.	
Operating temperature range	-20 °C to 70 °C [-4 °F to 158 °F]	–
Compensated temperature range	0 °C to 50 °C [32 °F to 122 °F]	1
Accuracy:		2, 4
forward flow	\pm 0.25% FSS or \pm 2.5% of reading, whichever is greater	
reverse flow	\pm 0.25% FSS or \pm 9% of reading, whichever is greater	
Total error band:		3, 4
forward flow:	\pm 0.25% FSS or \pm 4.5% of reading, whichever is greater	
reverse flow:	\pm 0.25% FSS or \pm 9% of reading, whichever is greater	
Null accuracy	\pm 0.02% FSS	4, 10
Response time	1 ms typ.	5
Resolution	12 bit min.	–
Start up time	17 ms	6
Warm up time	30 ms	7
Calibration media	gaseous nitrogen	8
Bus standards	I ² C, fast mode (400 kHz)	9
Null stability	\pm 0.01% FSS maximum deviation from null output after 1000 hours at 25 °C	–
Reverse polarity protection	no	–

Notes:

1. Custom and extended compensated temperature ranges are possible. Contact Honeywell for details.
2. Accuracy is the maximum deviation from the nominal digital output over the compensated flow range at a reference temperature of 25 °C. Errors include offset, span, non-linearity, hysteresis and non-repeatability (see Figure 3 for the Accuracy Error Band vs Flow).
3. Total error band includes all errors over the compensated flow range including all effects due to temperature over the compensated temperature range (see Figure 4 for the Total Error Band).
4. Full Scale Span (FSS) is the algebraic difference between the digital output at the forward Full Scale (FS) flow and the digital output at the reverse FS flow. Forward flow is defined as flow from P1 to P2 as shown in Figure 4. The references to mass flow (SCCM) refer to gas flows at the standard conditions of 0 °C and atmospheric pressure 760 (101.3 kPa).
5. Response time: time to electrically respond to any mass flow change at the microbridge airflow transducer (response time of the transducer may be affected by the pneumatic interface).
6. Start-up time: time to first valid reading of serial number proceeding streaming 14-bit flow measurements.
7. Warm-up time: time to the first valid flow measurement after power is applied.
8. Default calibration media is dry nitrogen gas. Please contact Honeywell for other calibration options.
9. Refer to Honeywell Technical Note for I²C protocol information.
10. Null accuracy is the maximum deviation in output at 0 SCCM from the ideal transfer function over the compensated temperature range. This includes offset errors, thermal airflow hysteresis and repeatability errors.