

## **AN006: CO<sub>2</sub> Sensor Analogue Output Voltage**

### **ABSTRACT**

GSS sensors are designed to measure CO<sub>2</sub> levels in variety of applications.

Typically, measurement data is accessed through either a UART or I<sup>2</sup>C digital interface. In some circumstances, this interface mode may not be suitable.

In such cases, some GSS sensors come with a true analogue CO<sub>2</sub> level indicator output, where the analogue signal level voltage is directly proportional to the CO<sub>2</sub> gas level.

This application note describes how the GSS voltage level indicator functions and how to ensure the user maximises the performance of the sensor using this indication method.

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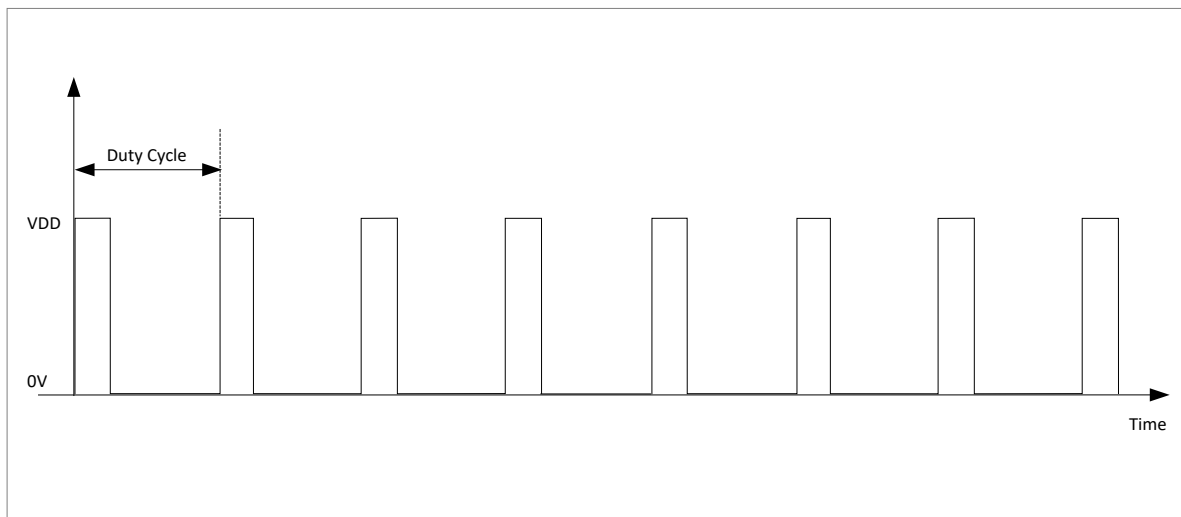
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### METHOD OF OPERATION

The user can specify an analogue CO<sub>2</sub> level indication option on a number of GSS CO<sub>2</sub> sensors. If specified as an option on the sensor, the output voltage level will be directly proportional to the measured gas level.

The on-board sensor microprocessor generates a PWM output with a duty cycle proportional to the CO<sub>2</sub> signal level. There are a number of methods to use the PWM output. In some circumstances, the digital PWM signal can be used directly. This method is not supported by GSS sensors as it offers little advantage over and above the UART or I<sup>2</sup>C interface.

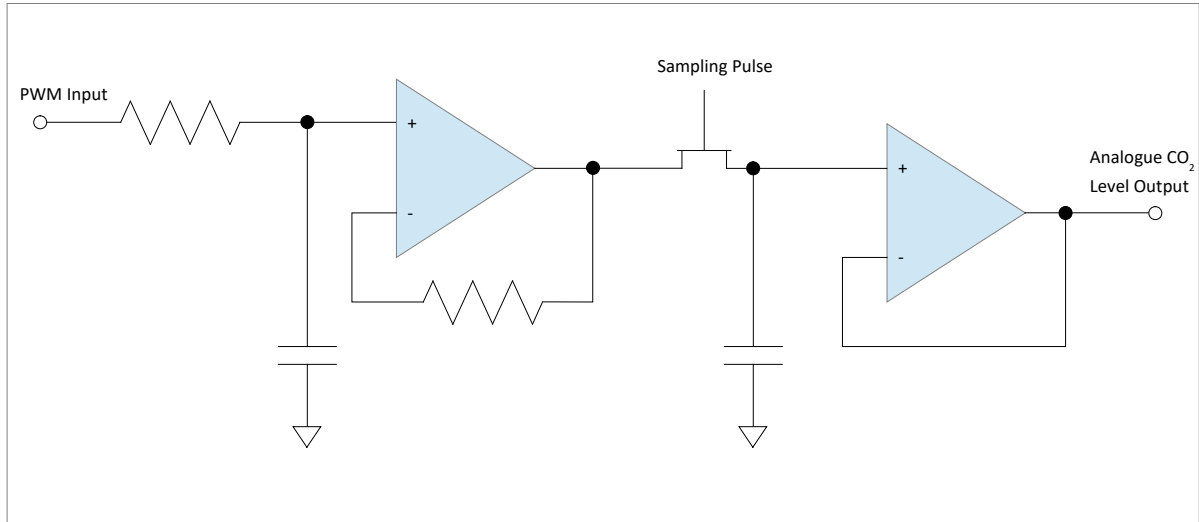
All GSS sensors provide a genuine analogue signal level output. The PWM signal could be filtered using a simple RC network, or filtered and buffered before being made available to the user. In normal circumstances, in order to maintain a constant output signal, the PWM signal must be run continuously, consuming unnecessary power.



However, in all GSS sensors where there is an analogue output CO<sub>2</sub> signal level option, GSS has chosen to implement a more sophisticated analogue output option, that saves power and does not need any external components.

The on-board PWM output is switched on in synchronisation with the sampling period. The digital PWM signal is filtered to create an analogue output, and the signal sampled by the sample and hold circuit. Once the signal is sampled by the sample and hold circuit, the PWM output from the microprocessor is stopped. This reduces noise in the sensor increasing measurement accuracy, and dramatically reduces sensor power consumption. Power consumption can be reduced by as much as 50% compared to a continuously running PWM output.

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### ANALOGUE CO<sub>2</sub> SIGNAL LEVEL

The voltage range of the CO<sub>2</sub> level output from the sensor is determined by the sensor supply voltage. The sensor supply voltage defines the PWM signal levels. All voltage outputs are relative to the sensor input supply voltage. For example, if the supply voltage is 3.4V, then the full-scale output from the voltage pin will also be 3.4V, the half scale voltage will be 1.7V etc.

To convert a voltage into a CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, use the following formula.

$$\text{Concentration (ppm)} = \frac{V_{out}}{V_{supply}} * \text{Full Scale Range of Sensor (ppm)}$$

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### CO<sub>2</sub> ANALOGUE OUTPUT PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

PARAMETER	SYMBOL	TEST CONDITIONS	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNIT
Output voltage range <sup>1, 2</sup>	ANALOGUE_OUTPUT		0		VDD	V
Repeatability		@25°C		±0.1		%
Response time		From 0ppm to T <sub>90</sub> default settings		0.5		secs

#### Notes

The output CO<sub>2</sub> accuracy is degraded where ANALOGUE\_OUTPUT <50mV, or >VDD-50mV  
ANALOGUE\_OUTPUT accuracy specified with a resistive loading @ >100Kohm

The CO<sub>2</sub> sensor voltage output pin has an internal resistance of approximately 150Ω. The internal capacitance between the voltage output pin and ground is 220nF. This gives the output a single order high frequency roll-off at about 4.8kHz.

To avoid loading issues affecting the measurement, it is essential to ensure the load connected to the voltage output pin is greater than 10kΩ and preferably greater than 100kΩ. A low value external load resistance will introduce reading errors as illustrated in the table below.

EXTERNAL LOAD RESISTANCE (OHMS)	CO <sub>2</sub> MEASUREMENT ERROR
4k7	3%
10k	1.5%
100k	0.1%
500k	0.03%

The CO<sub>2</sub> analogue signal level accuracy is also affected by op-amp DC offsets and op-amp signal headroom. At low CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, the DC offset of approximately 14mV will increasingly affect the signal level accuracy. At high CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, the CO<sub>2</sub> analogue signal level is unable to generate a voltage of more than VDD-50mV. The user is advised to take care when interpreting CO<sub>2</sub> analogue signals below 50mV and or where the signal level is >VDD-50mV.

Although great care has been taken to minimise sensor noise, there may be some high frequency noise present on the analogue voltage output. The typical noise present on the voltage output is as follows with the voltage output at half full scale:

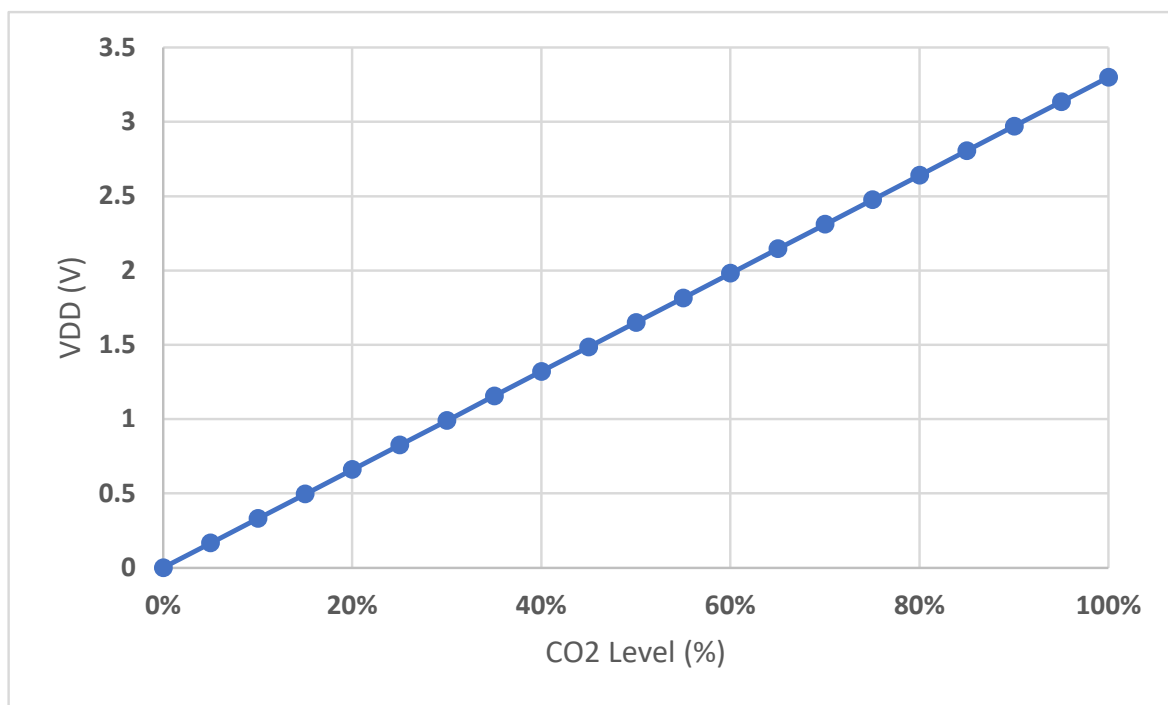
140µVrms measured in a 20kHz bandwidth.  
450µVrms measured in a 10MHz bandwidth.

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In a 10MHz bandwidth, the highest noise voltage amplitude is at least 70dB below the desired DC output voltage.

### **OUTPUT LINEARITY**

The output voltage is linearly dependent on the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration measured by the sensor. However, as noted in the CO<sub>2</sub> analogue output performance characteristics, the accuracy of the reading will be compromised close to zero and near to full scale.



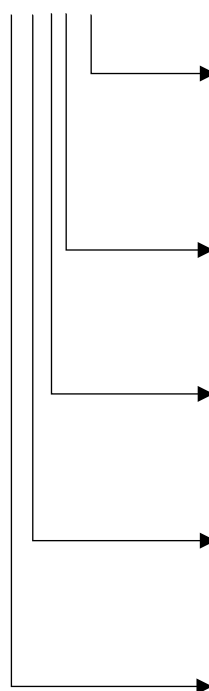
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### SPECIFYING A VOLTAGE OUTPUT OPTION

The ordering guide for the CozIR<sup>®</sup>-A is shown below, but an analogue CO<sub>2</sub> signal output is available on several other GSS sensors. Refer to the specific sensor data sheet ordering information to determine if the option is available.

The full-scale analogue output signal range always matches the selected measurement range of the sensor. This means when the output signal level is full scale, the CO<sub>2</sub> level will be at full scale.

### COZIR-A-X-XXX-X



<b>X</b>	<b>Measurement Range</b>
2000	2,000ppm
5000	5,000ppm
1	10,000ppm (1%)
<b>X</b>	<b>Temperature and RH</b>
H	Included
Blank	Not included
<b>X</b>	<b>CO<sub>2</sub> Voltage Output</b>
V	Included
Blank	Not included
<b>X</b>	<b>Temperature Range</b>
E	Extended, -25 to 55°C
Blank	Standard
<b>X</b>	<b>Casing</b>
U	Uncased
X	Cased

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### **REVISION HISTORY**

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13/05/2020	1.0	First revision	All
18/05/2020	1.1	Re-write	All