



Infrared Sensor

(Product No. 3278)

Wavelength region

Without filter 0.23 – 40 microns

With filter 0.23 – 4 microns

Ranges

Radiance: 0 – 30 W/m² sr⁻¹

Resolution: 0.02 W/m² sr⁻¹

Radiance: 0 – 300 W/m² sr⁻¹

Resolution: 0.2 W/m² sr⁻¹

Radiance: 0 – 3,000 W/m² sr⁻¹

Resolution: 2 W/m² sr⁻¹

Irradiance: 0 – 20 W/m²

Resolution: 0.01 W/m²

Irradiance: 0 – 200 W/m²

Resolution: 0.1 W/m²

Irradiance: 0 – 2,000 W/m²

Resolution: 1 W/m²

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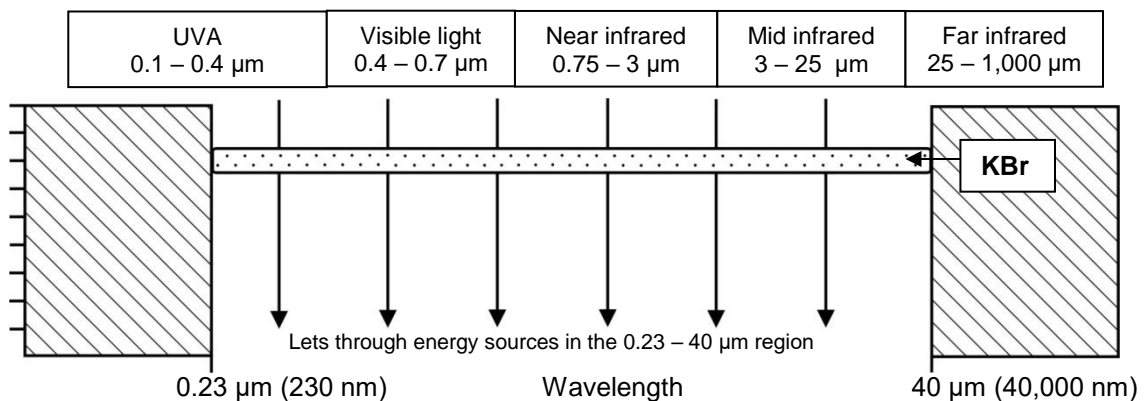
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Introduction

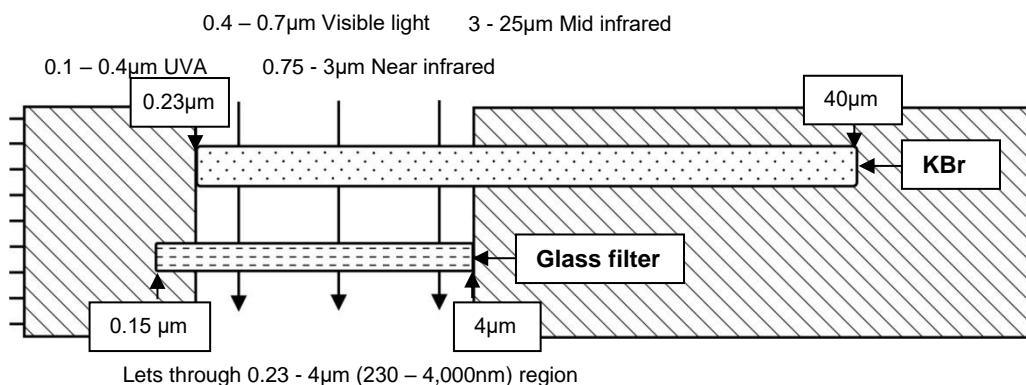
The sensing element in the *Smart Q* Infrared sensor is a thermopile detector that can be used to measure the intensity of total heat radiation.

The Infrared sensors detector window is made from KBr (potassium bromide), which is transparent to energy sources radiating in the wavelength region from 0.23 microns (230 nm) to 40 microns (40,000 nm) i.e. ultraviolet through to the far infrared portion of the spectrum.

Note: *KBr (potassium bromide) is hygroscopic so store in **dry conditions** – see practical information on page 4.*



The *Smart Q* Infrared sensor is supplied with a 2 mm thick water-free vitreous silica glass detachable filter. This filter will allow visible and near infrared to pass i.e. 0.15 microns (155 nm) to 4 microns (4,000 nm), but will block out mid and far infrared. When this filter is fitted the sensitivity of the Sensor will be restricted from 0.23 microns to 4 microns.



Measurements can be recorded at three levels using either a Radiance (the intensity of the emitted thermal energy of the source) or Irradiance (the intensity of the incident thermal radiation on the sensor) range.

- The radiance ranges are 0 – 30 W/m² sr⁻¹, 0 – 300 W/m² sr⁻¹ and 0 – 3000 W/m² sr⁻¹
- The irradiance ranges are 0 – 20 W/m², 0 – 200 W/m² and 0 – 2000 W/m².

A **radiance** range is used when studying the heat emitting properties of a surface and is normally used with the Sensor quite close to the source of energy. An example would be investigating the radiant heat from different surfaces at the same temperature using a Leslie's cube. If a radiance range is used the distance between the Infrared sensor and the radiating source becomes important, see practical information on page 4.

An **irradiance** range is used when studying the intensity of the energy from a source arriving at a surface or point. This is the most commonly used range.

The *Smart Q* Infrared sensor is equipped with a microcontroller that greatly improves its accuracy, precision and consistency. The microcontroller contains the calibration for these six ranges. The stored calibration for the selected range is automatically loaded into the EasySense software when the Infrared sensor is connected.


Connecting

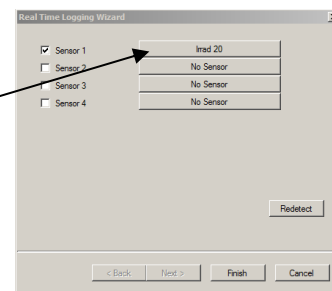
- Push one end of the sensor cable (supplied with the **EASYSense** unit) into the hooded socket on the sensor with the locating arrow on the cable facing upwards.
- Connect the other end of the sensor cable to an input socket on the **EASYSense** unit.
- The **EASYSense** unit will detect that the Infrared sensor is connected and display values using the currently selected range. If the range is not suitable for your investigation, set to the correct range.

To set the range

With some **EASYSense** units it is possible to set the range from the unit. Please refer to the **EASYSense** unit's user manual.

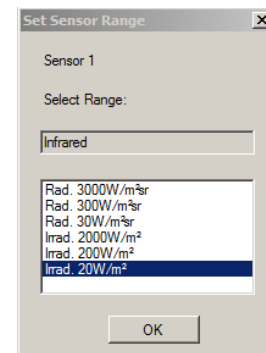
To alter the range in the EasySense software:

1. Select **EasyLog** from the Home screen.
2. Select the **New** recording wizard icon. 
3. Click on the sensor's name (it will be listed using its current range).
4. A set sensor range window will open. Select the required range, then OK.
5. Select Finish to exit the wizard.



Or

1. From the Home screen select **Sensor Config** from the Settings menu.
2. Select the Infrared Motion sensor from the list and click on the **Change Range** button.
3. The current range will be highlighted. Select the required range and click on OK.
4. Close Sensor Config.



The range setting will be retained until changed by the user.

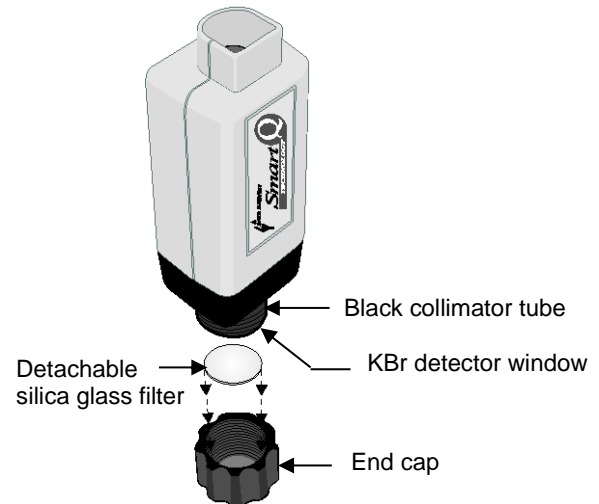
Using the silica glass filter

When the vitreous silica glass filter is fitted, it will alter the response of the Infrared sensor to give an effective range of 0.23 to 4 micron (230 – 4,000 μ m). This will allow visible and near infrared to pass, but will block out the mid and far infrared portion of the spectrum.

To fit or remove the filter:

1. Unscrew and remove the end cap from the sensor.
2. Place the glass filter inside the end cap so it rests on the small aperture platform.
3. Keep the Infrared sensor in a vertical position and screw the end cap back on until finger tight. Do not over tighten or damage will occur to the glass filter.
4. Removal of the filter is the reverse.
5. Store the filter in a safe place, it is easily scratched.

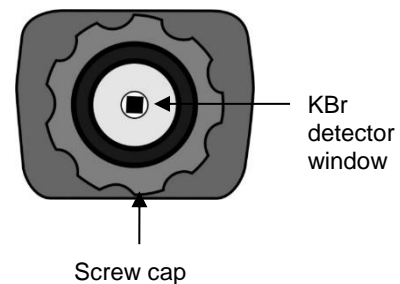
Note: The screw cap can still be left on the Infrared sensor when the filter is not fitted.



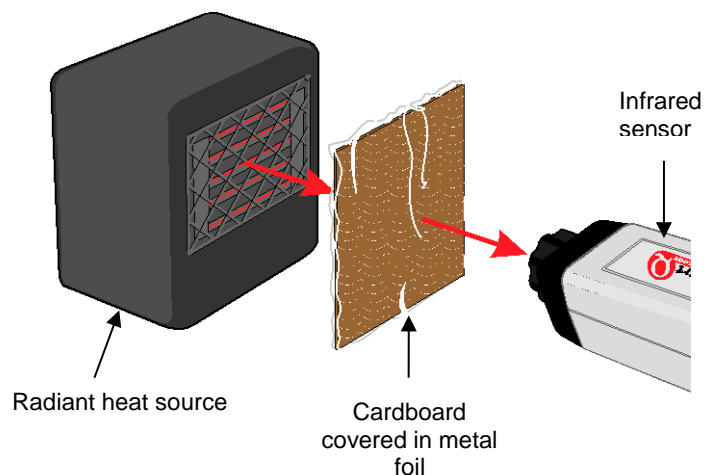
Practical information

- **Avoid moisture.** The detector window (visible by looking into the end of the collimator tube) is made from KBr (potassium bromide) and has a tendency to absorb moisture.
- Store the Infrared sensor in a cool dry place. If the storage area maybe damp add a desiccant such as silica gel to the container.
- Potassium bromide is soluble in polar solvents e.g. water and ethanol. Do not allow polar solvents to come into contact with the detector window.
- Avoid touching the detector window, this could cause pitting and will affect readings.
- Do not insert objects into the collimator tube.
- In an investigation position the Infrared sensor so that its detector window will be protected from moisture, polar solvents or particles.

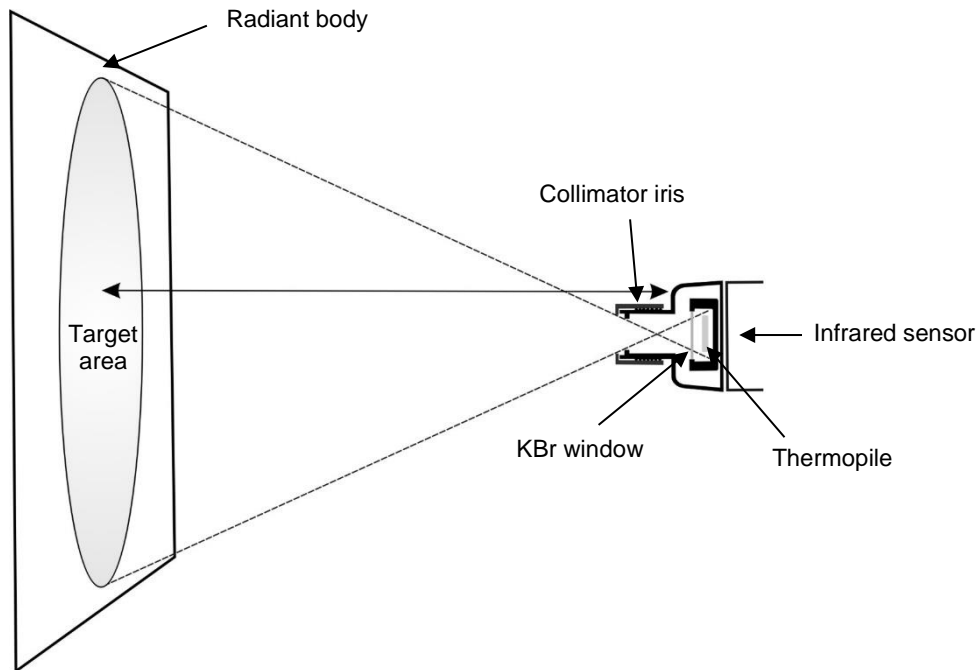
Looking into the collimator tube



- If the sensor is used to monitor changes in infrared over a long period a "shutter" can be used to prevent radiated energy heating the thermopile detectors when measurements are not actively being taken. A suitable shutter can be made from a piece of corrugated card covered both sides with aluminium foil (with the shiny surface of the foil showing). The shutter should be placed between, but not touching, the sensor and the energy source.



- The Infrared sensor will only give accurate readings when the flow of energy into the sensor is greater than the flow out. For example, on a cold day the sensor may be hotter than the ambient temperature and the readings will be static or very low.
- If the Infrared sensor is moved to a position where there is a noticeable change in temperature, leave for 5 minutes to reach equilibrium.



- If a **radiance** range is used the distance between Infrared sensor and the radiating source becomes important. The sensor will detect from an area that increases in size with the distance from the source. To ensure that measurements are taken from the source rather than its surrounding area, the target area of the Infrared sensor must be smaller than the radiating source i.e. the source must fill the field of view of the sensor.

This table shows the sensors' target area at different distances:

At this distance from the shoulder of the Sensor housing (mm)	The diameter of the target area is (mm)
20	20
25	25
30	30
40	45
50	55
60	70
70	80
80	90
90	100
100	115
110	125
120	140
130	150
140	165
150	175

Background

The sensing element in the *Smart Q* Infrared sensor is a thermopile detector that can be used to measure the intensity of total heat radiation.

The Infrared sensor has several junctions between dissimilar metals connected in series. When radiant energy strikes a junction a small flow of electrons is initiated, the arrangement of the junctions creates a cascade effect and the electron flow is amplified. The flow of electrons is proportional to the energy striking the sensor.

The thermopile relies on there being a temperature difference between the front of the junction and the back of the junction. As measurements are taken the thermopile will heat up and the temperature difference between the front and back will decrease. Readings will therefore be affected by prolonged exposure of the Sensor to the radiant source. A 'shutter' can be used to reduce this effect, see practical information on page 4.

Infrared

Infrared (IR) is invisible and is detected most often by its heating effect. It forms part of the electromagnetic radiation spectrum. Electromagnetic radiation is a transfer of energy through space via waves of oscillating electromagnetic fields. What distinguishes the parts of the electromagnetic spectrum is the frequency of the oscillation and consequently the wavelength. Infrared has a range of wavelengths that are longer than those of visible light. Near infrared light is closest in wavelength to visible light. Far infrared is closer to the microwave region of the electromagnetic spectrum.

Infrared wavelengths are normally expressed in microns. There doesn't seem to be an agreed classification of infrared regions but for the purposes of this booklet we refer to Near infrared as **0.75 microns - 3 microns** (750 – 3,000nm), Mid infrared as **3 - 25 microns** (3,000 – 25,000nm) and Far infrared as **25 – 1,000 microns** (25,000 – 1,000,000nm). Wavelengths of over 30 microns are virtually impossible to measure, as the energy in the radiation is far too low.

When an object is not quite hot enough to radiate visible light, it will emit most of its energy in the infrared. For example, when an electric fire is first switched on it does not give off any light but will emit infrared radiation that we feel as heat. As more electric energy is supplied, the fire will get hotter and it will begin to glow red (emit visible radiation). The peak wavelength decreases as temperature increases, which is why objects glow first red, then orange-red, and then yellow as they heat up.

Any object that has a temperature above absolute zero radiates in the infrared. Even objects that we think of as being very cold, such as an ice, emit infrared.

Infrared detectors can see objects in the dark that we cannot see in visible light because they radiate heat. For example, some reptiles such as rattlesnakes have sensory "pits," which are used to image infrared light. This will allow a snake to detect a warm-blooded animal when hidden in a dark burrow by imaging the infrared heat that it radiates (assuming the temperature of the burrow is colder than the animal).

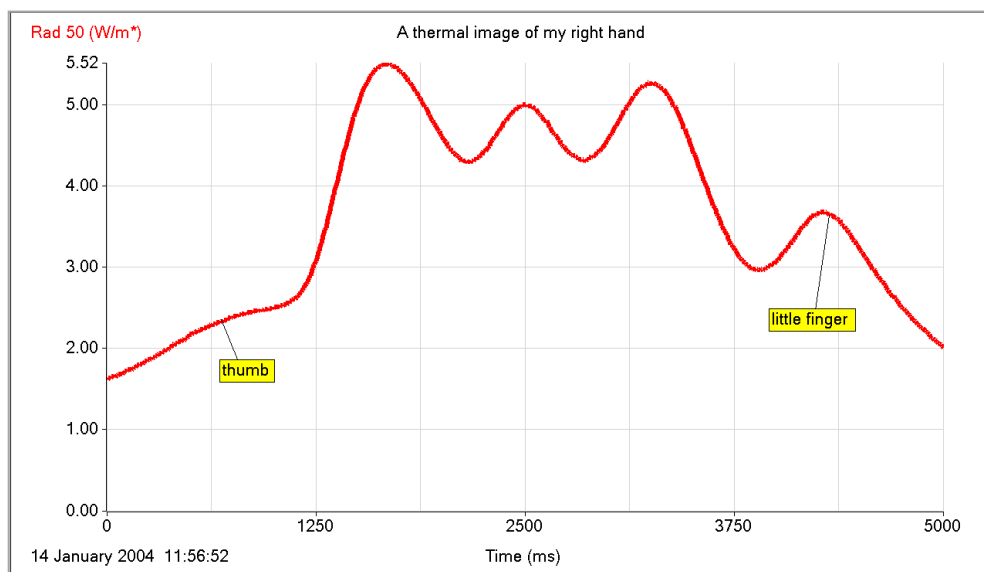
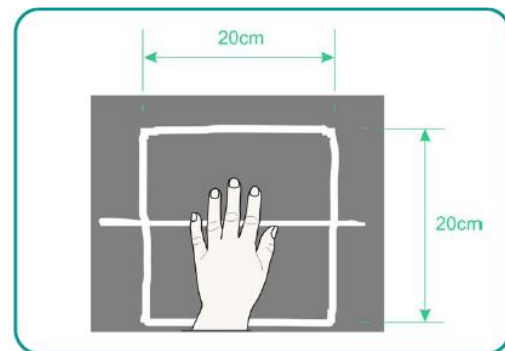
We experience infrared radiation every day. The heat that we feel from sunlight, a fire, or a radiator is infrared. Although our eyes cannot see it, the nerves in our skin can feel it as heat. Humans, at normal body temperature, radiate most strongly in the infrared at a wavelength of about 10 microns.

The intensity of an object's emitted infrared energy increases or decreases in proportion to its temperature. Wien's Law states that the intensity of radiant energy reaches a peak at a particular wavelength. The higher the temperature the smaller the peak wavelength becomes.

Dark dull surfaces are good emitters and absorbers of infrared radiation. Light shiny surfaces are poor emitters and absorbers.

Investigations

- *Herschel's discovery of infrared experiment*
- *Study inverse square to verify that heat radiation from source is inversely proportional to the square of its distance*
- *Radiant energy e.g. heat from a Leslie's cube*
- *Investigating Stefan-Boltzmann's radiation law using a tungsten filament lamp*
- *Efficiency of insulation such as clothing or building materials*
- *Efficiency of electric light bulbs*
- *Infrared in the environment*
- *Black body studies (radiance range)*
- *Heat distribution along a heated metal rod*
- *Illustration of non-contact thermometry*
- *Residual heat from different surfaces e.g. hand print on a worktop*



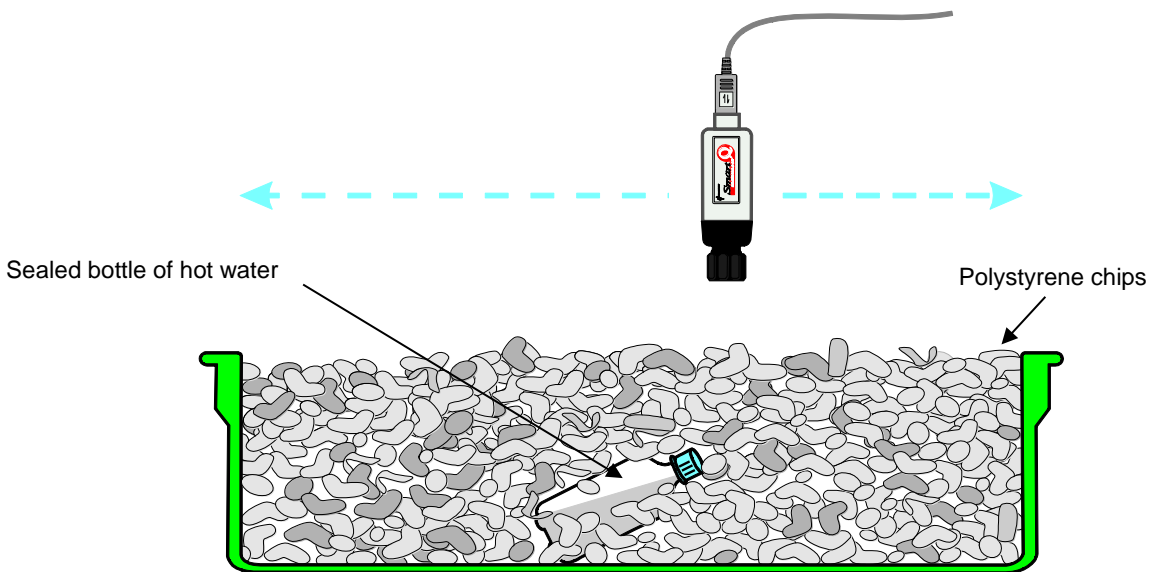
This data was collected using the 5 minute activity worksheet, **Thermal imaging**.

[Select **Open ► Worksheet** from the EasySense Home screen ► Data Harvest Investigations ► Workroom files ► 5 Minute Activities and select 06 Thermal imaging].

Using infrared radiation to locate a disaster victim

[Also available in EasySense as a Worksheet in the 5 Minute Activities - 05 Find the Body!].

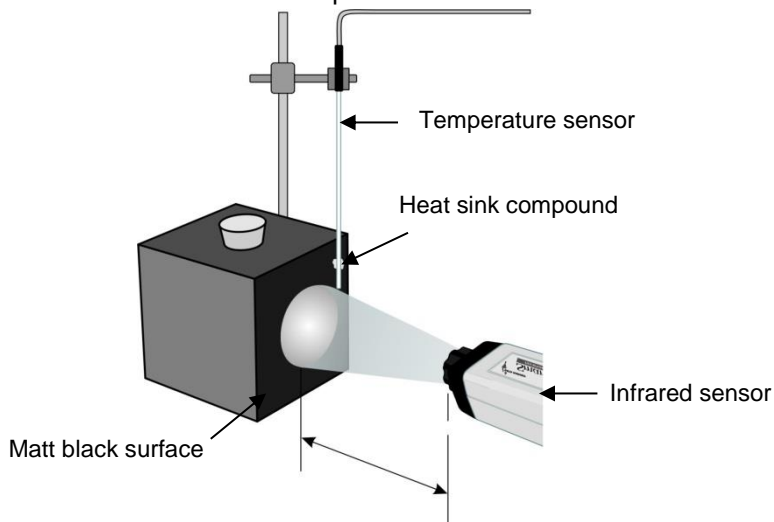
Rescue workers may use infrared devices to try to find survivors buried in the rubble of a collapsed building. In this experiment you will use bottles of hot water (simulating heat from a live 'person') buried under polystyrene chips (rubble) - the challenge is to find a 'person'.



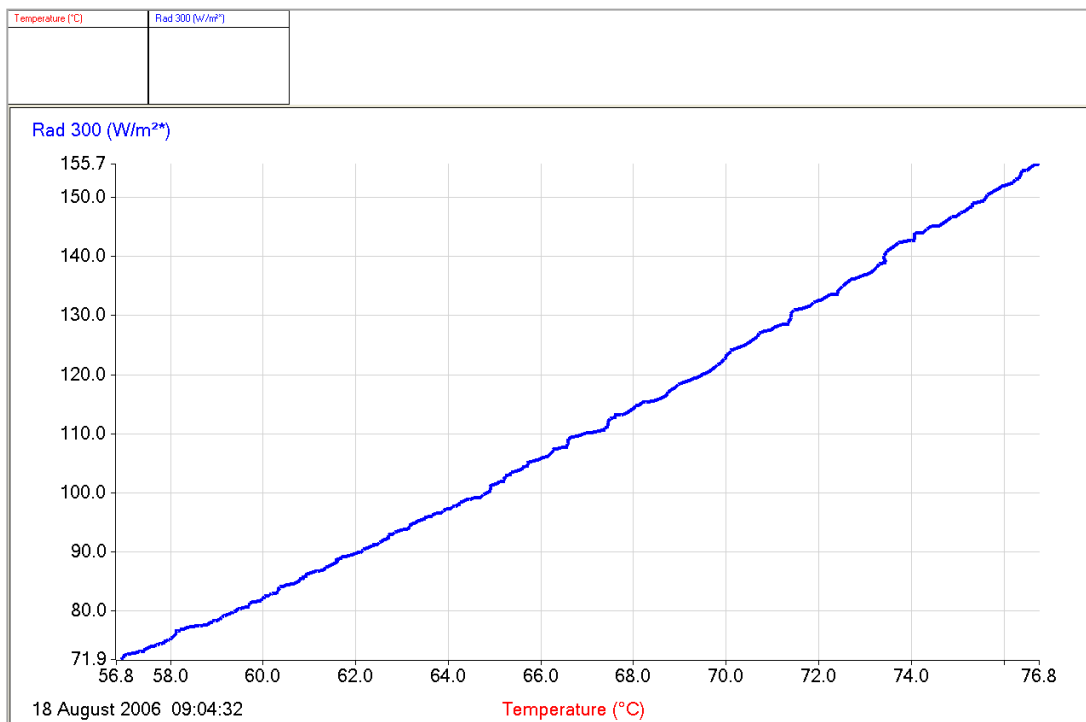
1. Set up the apparatus as shown above. Remove the silica glass filter if fitted to the end cap of the Infrared sensor.
2. Use a long sensor lead to connect the Infrared sensor to the **EASYSense** unit.
3. Open the EasySense program and select **Meters** from the Home screen. The numeric window should show either Rad 30 or Irrad 20 (W/m^2), if not change the range. Make the window full size.
4. Move the Infrared sensor over the 'disaster area' slowly and start a logical search pattern to find any 'hot spots' (the measurements will raise significantly if a hot body is detected).
5. Mark any hot areas with a flag. When you have covered the whole area 'dig' down to find the survivors.

Relationship between temperature and infrared energy

The Austrian scientist Josef Stefan found there was a relationship between the amount of radiant energy emitted from a surface and its temperature. In this investigation you will measure the surface temperature of a can e.g. Leslie's cube, filled with hot water and the radiant energy emitted. If the energy emitted is related to the temperature, a plot of energy vs. temperature will reveal the relationship.



1. Set up the apparatus as shown. Remove the silica glass filter if fitted to the end cap of the Infrared sensor. Connect the Infrared and Temperature sensor to the **EASYSense** unit.
2. Open the EasySense program and select **Graph** from the Home screen. From the Logging Wizard select a 5 minute recording time.
3. The Infrared sensor should be set to an appropriate **radiance** range e.g. Rad 300 (W/m^2).
4. Fix the Temperature sensor against the matt black outer surface of the can - make sure a good contact is made (if you have any heat sink compound then this will help).
5. Select **Test mode** from the **Tools** menu and fill the can with water that has just boiled.
6. Position the Infrared sensor close too and pointing at the can. The target area of the sensor must be fully covered by the can (see page 5). Check that the reading from the Infrared sensor is within range. If not change to a more suitable range.
7. Click on the **Start** icon to begin recording.
8. Plot a X/Y graph from the collected data of Infrared (energy) against Temperature i.e.
 - Select X-axis from the Display menu and select Channel, OK.
 - Click to the left of the Y-axis until Infrared is displayed. Click below the X-axis until Temperature is displayed. Right click in the graph area and select Autoscale graph Min Max.
 - A straight-line graph will indicate a direct relationship between energy and temperature.



Limited warranty

For information about the terms of the product warranty, see the Data Harvest website at: <https://data-harvest.co.uk/warranty>

Note: Data Harvest products are designed for **educational** use and are not intended for use in industrial, medical or commercial applications.



WEEE (**W**aste **E**lectrical and **E**lectronic **E**quipment) Legislation

Data Harvest Group Ltd is fully compliant with WEEE legislation and is pleased to provide a disposal service for any of our products when their life expires. Simply return them to us clearly identified as 'life expired' and we will dispose of them for you.