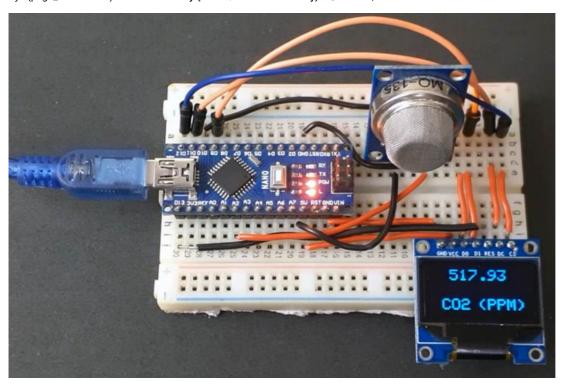


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Measuring CO2 Concentration in Air using Arduino and MQ-135 Sensor (/microcontroller-projects/interfacing-mq135-gas-sensor-with-arduino-to-measure-co2-levels-in-ppm)

By (page_author.html)Ashish Choudhary (/users/ashish-choudhary) ② Nov 17, 2020



Measuring CO2 Concentration in Air using Arduino and MQ-135 Sensor

The earth's Atmospheric CO2 level is increasing day by day. The global average atmospheric carbon dioxide in 2019 was 409.8 parts per million and in October-2020 it is 411.29. Carbon dioxide is a key greenhouse gas and responsible for about three-quarters of emissions. So **CO2 level monitoring** has also started to gain importance.

In our previous project, we used the Gravity Infrared CO2 sensor (https://circuitdigest.com/microcontroller-projects/interfacing-gravity-inrared-co2-sensor-to-measure-carbon-dioxide-in-ppm) to measure the CO2 concentration in air. In this project, we are going to use an MQ-135 sensor (https://circuitdigest.com/microcontroller-projects/iot-air-pollution-monitoring-using-arduino) with Arduino to measure the CO2 concentration. The measured CO2 concentration values will be displayed on the OLED module and last we will also compare the **Arduino MQ-135 sensor** readings with Infrared CO2 sensor readings. Apart from CO2, we have also measured the concentration of LPG (https://circuitdigest.com/microcontroller-projects/arduino-based-lpg-gas-leakage-detector-alarm), Smoke (https://circuitdigest.com/microcontroller-projects/arduino-smoke-detector-on-pcb-using-mq2-gas-sensor), OK, I Understand Ammonia

(https://circu<u>ltdige.stcnem/drajesocontrolleriarpoincts/</u>and <u>pina-byq6387yqmmpyria-centege2 geomaingoArchuinoy</u>).

Components Required

- Arduino Nano
- MQ-135 Sensor
- Jumper Wires
- 0.96' SPI OLED Display Module
- Breadboard
- 22KΩ Resistor

0.96' OLED Display Module

OLED (Organic Light-Emitting Diodes) is a self light-emitting technology, constructed by placing a series of organic thin films between two conductors. A bright light is produced when an electric current is applied to these films. OLEDs are using the same technology as televisions, but have fewer pixels than in most of our TVs.



For this project, we are using a Monochrome 7-pin SSD1306 0.96" OLED display (https://circuitdigest.com/tags/oled). It can work on three different communications Protocols: SPI 3 Wire mode, SPI four-wire mode, and I2C mode. You can also learn more about the basics of OLED display and its types (https://circuitdigest.com/article/ssd1306-oled-display) by reading the linked article. The pins and its functions are explained in the table below:

Pin Name	Other Names	Description	
Gnd	Ground	Ground pin of the module	
Vdd	Vcc, 5V	Power pin (3-5V tolerable)	
SCK	D0,SCL,CLK	Acts as the clock pin. Used for both I2C and SPI	
SDA	D1,MOSI This website uses	Data pin of the module. Used for both IIC and SPI cookies to improve user experience. By using the website you are giving your	
RES	consent to set coo RST RESET (https://circuitdige	kies. For more information, read our <u>cookie policy</u> Resets the module (useful during SPI) st.com/cookie-policy) and <u>privacy policy (http://circuitdigest.com/privacy-polic</u>	<u>y)</u> .

DC	A0	Data Command pin. Used for SPI protocol
CS	Chip Select	Useful when more than one module is used under SPI protocol

OLED Specifications:

OLED Driver IC: SSD1306Resolution: 128 x 64

■ Visual Angle: >160°

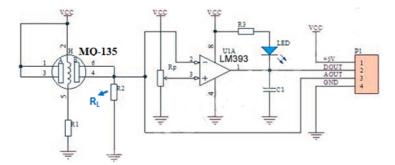
■ Input Voltage: 3.3V ~ 6V

■ Pixel Colour: Blue

■ Working temperature: -30°C ~ 70°C

Preparing the MQ-135 Sensor

MQ-135 Gas Sensor is an air quality sensor for detecting a wide range of gases, including NH3, NOx, alcohol, benzene, smoke, and CO2. MQ-135 sensor can either purchased as a module or just as a sensor alone. In this project, we are using an MQ-135 sensor module to measure CO2 concentration in PPM. The circuit diagram for the MQ-135 board is given below:



The load resistor RL plays a very important role in making the sensor work. This resistor changes its resistance value according to the concentration of gas. According to the MQ-135 datasheet (https://components101.com/sites/default/files/component_datasheet/MQ135%20Datasheet.pdf), the load resistor value can range anywhere from $10K\Omega$ to $47K\Omega$. The datasheet recommends that you calibrate the detector for 100ppm NH3 or 50ppm Alcohol concentration in air and use a value of load resistance (RL) of about $20~K\Omega$. But if you track your PCB traces to **find the value of your RL** in the board, you can see a $1K\Omega$ (102) load resistor.

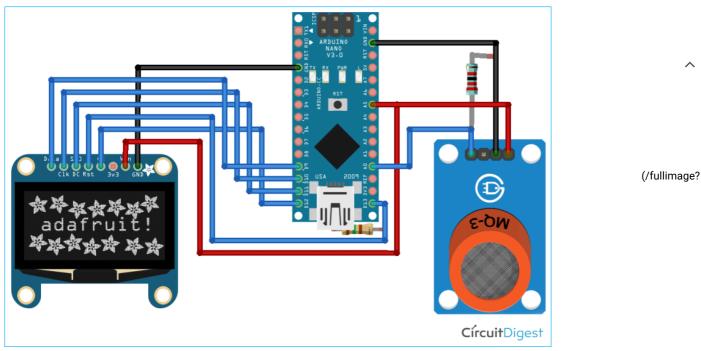


So to measure the appropriate CO2 concentration values, you have to replace the $1K\Omega$ resistor with a $22K\Omega$ resistor.

Circuit Diagram to Interface MQ135 with Arduino

The complete schematics to connect MQ-135 Gas Sensor with Arduino is given below:

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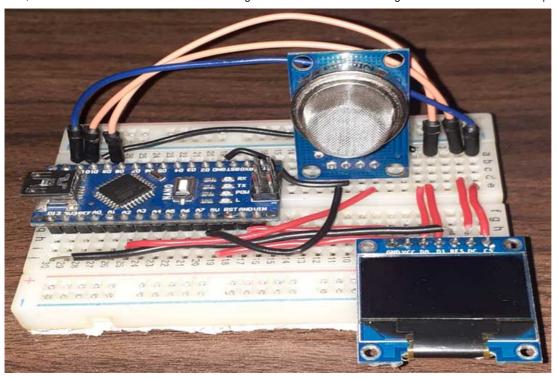
i=circuitdiagram_mic/Interface-MQ135-with-Arduino.png)

The circuit is very simple as we are only connecting the MQ-135 Sensor and OLED Display module with Arduino Nano. MQ-135 Gas Sensor and OLED Display module both are powered with +5V and GND. The Analog Out pin of the MQ-135 sensor is connected to the A0 pin of Arduino Nano. Since the OLED Display module uses SPI communication, we have established an SPI communication between the OLED module and Arduino Nano. The connections are shown in the below table:

S.No	OLED Module Pin	Arduino Pin	
1	GND	Ground	
2	vcc	5V	
3	D0	10	
4	D1	9	
5	RES	13	
6	DC	11	
7	CS	12	

After connecting the hardware according to the circuit diagram, the Arduino MQ135 sensor setup should look something like below:

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Calculating the R_o Value of MQ135 Sensor

Now that we know the value of RL, let's proceed on how to calculate the R_o values in clean air. Here we are going to use MQ135.h (https://github.com/GeorgK/MQ135) to measure the CO2 concentration in the air. So first download the MQ-135 Library, then preheat the sensor for 24 hours before reading the R_o values. After the preheating process, use the below code to read the R_o values:

```
#include "MQ135.h"
void setup (){
Serial.begin (9600);
}
void loop() {
MQ135 gasSensor = MQ135(A0); // Attach sensor to pin A0
float rzero = gasSensor.getRZero();
Serial.println (rzero);
delay(1000);
}
```

Now once you got the R_o values, Go to **Documents > Arduino > libraries > MQ135-master folder** and open the **MQ135.h** file and change the RLOAD & RZERO values.

```
///The load resistance on the board
#define RLOAD 22.0
///Calibration resistence at atmospheric CO2 level
#define RZERO 5804.99
```

Now scroll down and replace the ATMOCO2 value with the current Atmospheric CO2 that is 411.29

```
///Atmospheric CO2 level for calibration purposes #define ATMOCO2 397.13
```

Code to Measure CO2 Using Arduino MQ135 Sensor

The complete code for interfacing MQ-135 Sensor with Arduino is given at the end of the document. Here we are explaining some important parts of the MQ135 Arduino code.

The code uses the Adafruit_GFX, and Adafruit_SSD1306, and MQ135.h libraries. These libraries can be downloaded from the Library Manager in the Arduino IDE and install it from there. For that, open the Arduino IDE and go to Sketch < Include Library < Manage Libraries. Now search for Adafruit GFX and install the Adafruit GFX library have defectiour cookie policy.

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```
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by Adafruit Version 1.9.0 INSTALLED

Adafruit GFX graphics core library, this is the 'core' class that all our other graphics libraries derive from. Install this library in addition to the display library for your hardware More info

Similarly, install the Adafruit SSD1306 libraries by Adafruit. MQ135 library can be downloaded from here (https://github.com/GeorgK/MQ135).

After installing the libraries to Arduino IDE, start the code by including the needed libraries files.

```
#include "MO135.h"
#include <SPI.h>
#include <Adafruit_GFX.h>
#include <Adafruit_SSD1306.h>
```

Then, define the OLED width and height. In this project, we're using a 128×64 SPI OLED display. You can change the SCREEN_WIDTH, and SCREEN_HEIGHT variables according to your display.

```
#define SCREEN_WIDTH 128
#define SCREEN_HEIGHT 64
```

Then define the SPI communication pins where OLED Display is connected.

```
#define OLED MOSI 9
#define OLED_CLK
#define OLED_DC
                  11
#define OLED_CS
                  12
#define OLED_RESET 13
```

Then, create an Adafruit display instance with the width and height defined earlier with the SPI communication protocol.

```
Adafruit_SSD1306 display(SCREEN_WIDTH, SCREEN_HEIGHT, OLED_MOSI, OLED_CLK, OLED_DC, OLED_RESET, OLED_CS);
```

After that, define the Arduino pin where the MQ-135 sensor is connected.

```
int sensorIn = A0;
```

Now inside the setup() function, initialize the Serial Monitor at a baud rate of 9600 for debugging purposes. Also, Initialize the OLED display with the begin() function.

```
Serial.begin(9600);
display.begin(SSD1306_SWITCHCAPVCC);
display.clearDisplay();
```

Inside the loop() function, first read the signal values at the Analog pin of Arduino by calling the analogRead() function.

```
val = analogRead(A0);
 Serial.print ("raw = ");
```

Then in the next line, call the gasSensor.getPPM() to calculate the PPM values. The PPM values are calculated using the Load resistor, R₀ and reading from the analog pin.

```
float ppm = gasSensor.getPPM();
 Serial.print ("ppm: ");
 Serial.println (ppm);
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```

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After that, set the text size and text colour using the **set Text Size()** and **set Text Color()**.

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```
display.setTextSize(1);
display.setTextColor(WHITE);
```

Then in the next line, define the position where the text starts using the setCursor(x,y) method. And print the CO2 Values on OLED Display using the display.println() function.

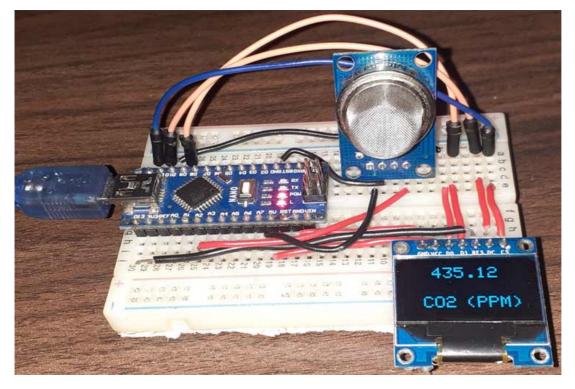
```
display.setCursor(18,43);
display.println("CO2");
display.setCursor(63,43);
display.println("(PPM)");
display.setTextSize(2);
display.setCursor(28,5);
display.println(ppm);
```

And in the last, call the display() method to display the text on OLED Display.

```
display.display();
display.clearDisplay();
```

Testing the Interfacing of MQ-135 Sensor with Arduino

Once the hardware and code are ready, it is time to test the sensor. For that, connect the Arduino to the laptop, select the Board and Port, and hit the upload button. Then open your serial monitor and wait for some time (preheat process), then you'll see the final data. The Values will be displayed on OLED display as shown below:



This is how an MQ-135 sensor can be used to measure accurate CO2 in the air. The complete MQ135 Air Quality Sensor Arduino Code and working video are given below. If you have any doubts, leave them in the comment section.

Code



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```
* Interfacing MQ135 Gas Senor with Arduino
 3
             Author: Ashish
             Website: www.circuitdigest.com
          * Date: 11-11-2020
 6
        // The load resistance on the board #define RLOAD 22.0
        #include "MQ135.h'
#include <SPI.h>
10
11
        #include <Adafruit_GFX.h>
        #include <Adafruit_SSD1306.h>
#define SCREEN_WIDTH 128 // OLED display width, in pixels
#define SCREEN_HEIGHT 64 // OLED display height, in pixels
12
13
14
15
         // Declaration for SSD1306 display connected using software SPI (default case):
16
17
        #define OLED_MOSI
#define OLED_CLK
                                      10
18
         #define OLED_DC
19
         #define OLED_CS
                                      12
        #define OLED_RESET 13
Adafruit_SSD1306 display(SCREEN_WIDTH, SCREEN_HEIGHT,
    OLED_MOSI, OLED_CLK, OLED_DC, OLED_RESET, OLED_CS);
MQ135 gasSensor = MQ135(A0);
20
21
22
24
         int val;
25
26
         int sensorPin = A0;
        int sensorValue = 0;
27
         void setup() {
28
           Serial.begin(9600);
           pinMode(sensorPin, INPUT);
display.begin(SSD1306_SWITCHCAPVCC);
display.clearDisplay();
29
30
31
32
           display.display();
33
        34
35
36
37
            Serial.println (val);
          // float zero = gasSensor.getRZero();
// Serial.print ("rzero: ");
//Serial.println (zero);
float ppm = gasSensor.getPPM();
38
39
40
41
           Serial.print ("ppm: ");
Serial.println (ppm);
display.setTextSize(2);
display.setTextColor(WHITE);
42
43
44
45
46
           display.setCursor(18,43);
47
           display.println("CO2
           display.setCursor(63,43);
display.println("(PPM)");
display.setTextSize(2);
48
49
50
51
           display.setCursor(28,5);
52
53
54
           display.println(ppm);
           display.display();
display.clearDisplay();
55
           delay(2000);
```

Video

TAGS ARDUINO NANO (/TAGS/ARDUINO-NANO) ARDUINO (/TAGS/ARDUINO) GAS SENSOR (/TAGS/GAS-SENSOR) OLED (/TAGS/OLED)

MQ135 GAS SENSOR (/TAGS/MQ135-GAS-SENSOR)

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Ihaiz (/users/ihaiz-0)

May 06, 2021

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gas sensor? And also, for the schemetic diagram of the gas sensor, do you solder the resistor to both analog and ground wire?

(/users/m-lakshaga-jyothi)

M Lakshaga Jyothi (/users/m-lakshaga-jyothi)

Jul 14, 2021

Hi, I would like to know how do you replace the load resistor from 1K ohms to 22 K ohms. Please

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show that through some video or demonstrations.

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