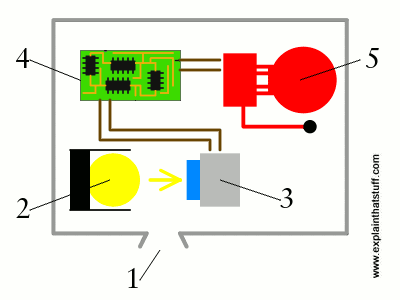
**Smoke Detector Sensors**

The two most commonly used types of sensors for used in domestic and commercial smoke detectors are Photoelectric Smoke Detection Sensors and Ionization Detection Sensors. These sensors may be used individually in commercially sold smoke detectors, used in combination with each other, and also in combination with Carbon Monoxide Sensors or Heat Sensors.

**Photoelectric Sensors**

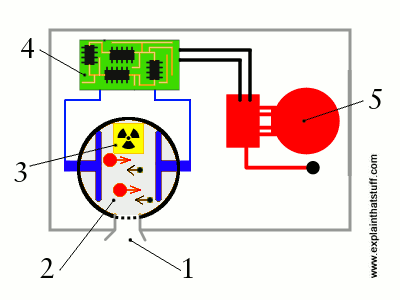
The Photoelectric Sensor, is often considered to work as an “eye” due to the nature of how it detects smoke. The sensor typically consists of a using a light source that emits infra-red light, an LED is commonly used, a lens for directing the light and a photoelectric receiver, such as a photodiode, that is the target of the infra-red light. These are placed in a chamber that is open to the air, and when smoke is present, will be filled with smoke particles. Smoke particles will cause the light to scatter and affect the amount of light that comes in contact with the photoelectric receiver. This will then result in a drop in current across this sensor, which is sensed by the circuit attached and the alarm is activated accordingly. This type of sensor is typically placed on or near the ceiling of a room, as smoke tends to rise and this allows for a better reaction time in case of a fire. This alarm is also less sensitive to false alarms that result from minor smoke from candles, steam or cooking. This type of sensor is also known to react more quickly to smoldering fires, as these fires tend to produce larger combustion particles that interact well with the sensor, however it still has a good detection time for flaming fires. (Bukowski XXV).



**Photoelectric Sensor (Permission: explainthatstuff.com) (VISIO??) (2 PART DIAGRAM)**

**Ionization Sensors**

The Ionization Sensor is considered a cheaper alternative to using a Photoelectric Sensor. Like a Photoelectric Sensor it can also sense smoke particles in the air that are generally not big enough to see with the naked eye. This sensor is comprised of two ionization chambers that create a current using the potential difference across two electrodes contained inside. A reference chamber has no particle entry while the other chamber is open to the air and would potentially allow for smoke particles to enter. Both chambers contain a small amount of Americium-241, a radioactive material that emits “alpha particles” which result in positively charged ions and negatively charged electrons when they collide with air particles. The electric charge of the ions creates a potential difference across the pair of electrodes and allows a current to flow across the sensor. The expected current should be the same in both chambers, as they are both facing identical conditions including air pressure, temperature and aging of the Americium. If any smoke particles enter the test chamber, ions will begin attaching to those particles and the current will not be carried across the chamber. Thus, the circuit attached will detect the current difference between the test and reference chambers and activate the alarm (Cote 249). Once this smoke clears, the ions will begin to flow between the electrodes again and current should return to the reference level. The current draw of an Ionization Sensor is low, therefore a small battery is sufficient for powering this circuit long term. Ionization Sensors are known to quickly detect small amounts of smoke, generally produced by flaming fires fueled by paper and flammable liquids and thus is prone to false alarms (Alt).



**Ionization Sensor (Permission: explainthatstuff.com) (VISIO???) (2 PART DIAGRAM)**

**Carbon Monoxide/Gas Sensors**

Carbon Monoxide Sensors are generally intended to sense deadly levels of carbon monoxide, and alert those present, usually sleeping, of the presence of the gas, so that they may escape or clear the air. These tend to respond to all scenarios of fires, and has a faster response time for flaming fires in comparison to smoldering fires, however it greatly increases response time for smoldering fires when compared to both smoke sensors. This would be ideal if used in combination with the Photoelectric or Ionization sensor, however not essential or entirely reliable as a sole sensor, due to not all fires producing large amounts of carbon monoxide (Bukowski 246).

Gas sensor modules are have a steel exoskeleton for protecting the sensing element, which has current running through leads that connect, known as the heating current. Gases coming close to the sensing element are ionized and absorbed by the sensing element. This results in a change in the resistance of the sensing element and thus a different current value stemming from the sensing element. The steel mesh around the sensor is designed so that suspended particles are filtered and only gases pass into the sensor (Jain).

**Heat Sensors**

Heat sensors feature a detecting element, such as thermistors, that activate when a predetermined temperature or a previously specified temperature increase occurs in the sensor ("Types of Smoke Detectors and Alarms."). The best applications for using these sensors are “small confined spaces where rapidly burning, high heat fires are expected” ("Types of Smoke Detectors and Alarms."). These tend to have low false alarm rates, however due to the slow detection time for both smoldering and flaming fires (Bukowski 246) it is not very effective in residential fires.

**Dual Sensor Technology**

Commercially sold smoke alarms may also contain a dual sensor technology, that while it may be more expensive, the use of both photoelectric and ionization sensors allows for a functionality that quickly detects flaming and smoldering fires. However, the IAFF announced at their 2008 conference that they officially recommend photoelectric sensor alarms and stating dual sensors are no longer acceptable as the technology in ionization sensors tends to lead to a delay in sensing smoldering fires, in addition to having difficulties to high airflow environment, which would lead to an even greater delay ("International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF).").The Ionization sensor’s susceptibility to false alarms is also problematic when creating a smoke detector and alarm system that the users can trust.

**Conclusion**

Due to the recommendation by the IAFF of using solely Photoelectric Sensors in a smoke alarm due to its fast response time to smoldering, over using Ionization Sensors or dual sensors, as well as the common use of Photoelectric sensors in public areas fit for large domains and the sensors simplicity, the Photoelectric Sensor will be implemented in the S.M.A.R.T Alarm system. Ionization Sensors may provide the fastest response time for more noticeable flaming fires, but the average response time of a Photoelectric Sensor is comparable according to the NIST study (Bukowski 234). The use of Carbon Monoxide sensors could also be implemented, as it may increase response time for smoldering fires, the use of a Photoelectric Sensor is sufficient for targeting this type of fire, however for testing purposes it would remove the necessity of creating fires that result in smoke, which pose several risks and inconveniences during the testing phase. Heat sensors will also not be implemented in the S.M.A.R.T. Alarm due to slow detection time, it would not add much to the system while increasing cost.

**Assessing Fire Detection Options**

**Smoke Chamber Design**

The S.M.A.R.T. Alarm system employs the use of Photoelectric Sensors to detect smoke. The use of these sensors requires the design and implementation of a “Smoke Chamber” that serves as a chamber where the ambient air can enter, and thus if smoke is present it may enter as well. The most effective way to place the smoke chamber would be to have any perforation on the underside of the alarm, so that the smoke can rise into the chamber while also avoiding any light that may come from windows or the ceiling from entering the chamber. The Smoke Chamber will have two main components: an infrared or ultraviolet light emitting diode (LED) as a source and a photodiode to act as a receiver. The LED is emitting light continuously at the photodiode, and as long as the photodiode is receiving this light a current is produced, therefore if this light is interrupted then the current will stop. A lack of current stemming from the photodiode will serve as a marker for the system that smoke is present and the alarm should sound. The smoke chamber should contain as little outside light as possible, so that the outside light does not interfere with the photodiode, while allowing enough air flow for smoke to enter the chamber if present. In fact, the design of the Smoke Chamber as a Photoelectric Sensor should serve as a black box, with an input to power the LED and an output from the photodiode, so that the Alarm circuit can measure to determine the presence of smoke.

**Infrared LED**

Infrared radiation is a type of electromagnetic radiation that is often referred to as infrared light. Discovered in 1800 by Sir William Herschel, infrared radiation is invisible to the human eye however heat stemming from infrared can still be felt by touch, extending just past the red edge on the visible spectrum. Infrared radiation is classified as falling between the wavelengths of 0.75 um to 1mm. The IR LED used for measuring smoke presence in the Smoke Chamber serves as a low power option for transmitting the IR light meant to be received by the photodiode. This component must also provide the ability to emit the light normal to sensor, to avoid wear and tear that is associated with bending the leads of the component. The wavelength of the light transmitted should also match the wavelength of peak sensitivity for the photodiode, to ensure that the sensor will work.

**Photodiode**

A photodiode is a semiconductor component designed to operate in reverse bias, that generates current when light is sensed and its photons are absorbed. However, it may also produce small amounts of current while there are no photons present. Generally, the response time of a photodiode decreases as the surface area increases in size. The most common photodiode is the solar cell, which employs its properties to convert sun light into electric current for common use. Photodiodes are not much different than regular semiconductor diodes, aside from being exposed to detect light or being designed with an optical fiber so that light to reaches the sensitive part of the component (Cox 91).

The photodiode is a p-n junction, and when a photon with enough energy reaches the diode, an electron-hole pair is created, this is often referred to as the inner photoelectric effect. In case that the absorption occurs in the depletion region of the junction, the built-in electric field of the depletion region sweeps the carriers from the junction, and the electron-holes move toward the anode while the electrons move toward the cathode, creating a photocurrent. The total current of the photodiode is made up of the sum of the photocurrent and the dark current, the current that’s generated when the photodiode is not exposed to light. Therefore, to maximize the sensitivity of the device, the dark current must be minimized (Tavernier). Photodiodes are often operated in photoconductive mode, in which the diode will be reverse biased, resulting in a reduced response time as the width of the depletion layer is increased by the additional reverse bias, thus decreasing the capacitance of the p-n junction. The reverse bias will also increase dark current while minimally affecting the change in the photocurrent (Nave).

However, when analyzing the viability of testing our system using a photoelectric sensor in a closed environment, we would have to create enough smoke each time we want to test the system. While this is possible, we would like to avoid the risk of creating an actual fire by burning components that would produce smoke as well as avoiding setting off the actual smoke and fire alarms in the building we are testing in. Performing tests outdoors is not very viable as there will be little control over weather and wind conditions, as well as limited access to lab materials for making any changes or fixing components of the system. Another possible roadblock is the burden of creating a working smoke detecting sensor, as this may take away from the true purpose of the project if implemented incorrectly or with error. This purpose of the project being creating a system for enhanced evacuation in the event of a fire, not creating a smoke detector. A carbon monoxide detector provides the most reliable sensor without having to create an actual fire with smoke in a lab setting.

**MQ-2 Sensor**

This sensor has the ability to detect several types of gases: Hydrogen, Liquified Petroleum Gas, Carbon Monoxide, Alcohol, Smoke and Propane. The type of gas detected is transmitted by the analog output of the sensor as a certain range of values for each gas, it however cannot detect more than one gas at a time. This requires the sensor to be calibrated to detect a certain gas, in the case of this project the gas would be smoke. The MQ-2 Sensor has a standard input voltage of 5.0 V +/- 0.1 V, with an adjustable load resistance. The ideal operation temperature is 20°C +/- 2°C, with an ideal “preheat time” of 48 hours. Following this combustible gas and smoke will be easily and accurately detected for concentrations in the rate 300 to 10,000 ppm. The quick detection by the sensor coupled with the simplicity of implementation and use make this sensor the best option for this project, however for future projects the implementation of a photoelectric sensor would be recommended.



**Figure: MQ-2 Flammable Gas & Smoke Sensor (Permission: Polulu Corporation)**

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