

CCS811/BME280 (Qwiic) Environmental Combo Breakout Hookup Guide

Introduction

The CCS811/BME280 (Qwiic) Environmental Combo Breakout work together to take care of all of your atmospheric quality sensing needs with the CCS811 and BME280 ICs. The CCS811 is an exceedingly popular sensor, providing readings for equivalent CO_2 (or eCO_2) in the parts per million (PPM) and total volatile organic compounds in the parts per billion (PPB). The CCS811 also has a feature that allows it to fine tune its readings if it has access to the current humidity and temperature. Luckily for us, the BME280 provides humidity, temperature, and barometric pressure! This allows the sensors to work together to give us more accurate readings than they'd be able to provide on their own. We also made it easy to interface with them via I^2C .



SparkFun Environmental Combo Breakout - CCS811/BME280 (Qwiic)

● SEN-14348

Required Materials

To get started, you'll need a microcontroller or single board computer to control everything.



SparkFun ESP32 Thing
● DEV-13907



SparkFun RedBoard -Programmed with Arduino © DEV-13975



Raspberry Pi 3

© DEV-13825



Particle Photon (No Headers)

• WRL-13764

Now to get into the Qwiic ecosystem, the key will be one of the following Qwiic shields to match your preference of microcontroller or single board computer:



Qwiic Shield for Arduino ● SPX-14286



Qwiic Shield for Raspberry Pi ⊖ SPX-14292



Qwiic Shield for ESP32 O spx-14203



Qwiic Shield for Photon © SPX-14202

You will also need a Qwiic cable to connect the shield to your CCS811/BME280, choose a length that suits your needs.



Qwiic Cable - 50mm Ø spx-14206 Retired



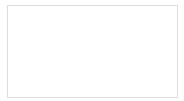
Qwiic Cable - 200mm Ø spx-14204 Retired



Qwiic Cable - 100mm Ø spx-14205 Retired

Suggested Reading

If you aren't familiar with our new Qwiic system, we recommend reading here for an overview. We would also recommend taking a look at the following tutorials if you aren't familiar with them.



I2C

An introduction to I2C, one of the main embedded communications protocols in use today.

If the concepts of pressure are weighing on you, check out these links.

- (external) Air Pressure Altitude Calculator Play around to get a feel for what the pressures are at different altitudes.
- Wikipedia: Atmospheric_pressure Has a nice equation for conversion of pressure and altitude (referenced for library code).
- MPL3115A2 Pressure Sensor Hookup Guide: Pressure vs Altimeter Setting – Confused why the reading pressure doesn't match the reported pressure from your local weather station? Read this section.

Hardware Overview

Power & Features

Together the sensors can consume 13 mA of current. It takes 12 mA to power the CCS811 while 1 mA to power the BME280.

Characteristic	Range		
Operating Voltage	3.3V: Regulated to 1.8V - 3.6V		
tVOC	0 - 1187 PPB		
eCO ₂	400 - 8192 PPM		
Temperature	-40°C - 85°C		
Humidity	0 - 100% RH, ±3% from 20 - 80%		
Pressure	30 - 110 kPa, relative accuracy of 12 Pa, absolute accuracy of 100 Pa		
Altitude	0 - 30,000ft (9.2km), relative accuracy of 3.3ft (1M) at sea level, 6.6ft (2M) at 30,000ft.		

Communication via I²C

The CCS811+BME280 communicates exclusively via I²C, utilizing our handy Qwiic system. The Qwiic System utilizes the 4-pin polarized Qwiic connectors highlighted below.



The I²C address can also be changed using the jumpers on the back of the board if you are using another device with the same I²C address. ADR1 can be used to change the I²C address of the CCS811 from 0x5B to 0x5A by adding solder to close the jumper. The ADR2 jumper can be used to change the I²C address of the BME280 from 0x77 to 0x76. The I²C bus has pull-up resistors enabled by default. If not desired, these can be removed by separating the "I²C PU" triple jumper on the bottom side with a hobby knife. The locations of these jumpers are shown in the picture below.



Below is a list of pins made available for the CCS811 and BME280 environmental combo breakout.

Pin	Description	Direction	
RST	Reset (active low, CCS811)	In	
ĪNT	Interrupt (active low, CCS811)	Out	
WAK	Wake (active low, CCS811)	In	
SCL	Clock	In	
SDA	Data	In	
3.3V	Power	In	
GND	Ground	In	

Optional Control Lines for the CCS811

Additionally, the three control lines \overline{RST} , \overline{INT} , and \overline{WAK} can be used to further the degree of control over the CCS811.

- RST Pull this line low to reset the IC.
- INT After configuring the sensor to emit interrupt requests, read this line to determine the state of the interrupt.
- WAK Pull this line high to put the sensor to sleep. This can be used to save power but is not necessary if power is not an issue.

Hardware Assembly

If you haven't yet assembled your Qwiic Shield, now would be the time solder the headers to the shield. Now with the shield assembled, Sparkfun's new Qwiic environment means that connecting the sensor could not be easier. Just plug one end of the Qwiic cable into the CCS811+BME280 breakout (either I²C connector will do) and the other into the Qwiic Shield. You'll be ready to upload a sketch and start taking air quality measurements once connected. It seems too easy, but thats why we made it this way! We show the SparkX version of the Qwiic shield below, but don't worry we will be releasing a full-fledged, mass-produced SparkFun Qwiic Shield shortly.



Library Overview

First, you'll need to download and install the CCS811 and BME280 Arduino Libraries.

DOWNLOAD THE SPARKFUN BME280 LIBRARY

https://github.com/sparkfun/SparkFun_BME280_Arduino_Library/archive/master.zip

DOWNLOAD THE SPARKFUN CCS811 LIBRARY

https://github.com/sparkfun/SparkFun_CCS811_Arduino_Library/archive/master.zip

Note: This example assumes you are using the latest version of the Arduino IDE on your desktop. If this is your first time using Arduino, please review our tutorial on installing the Arduino IDE. If you have not previously installed an Arduino library, please check out our installation guide.

Before we get started on a sketch, lets take a look at the libraries used.

BME280 Library

Construction

In the global scope, construct your sensor object (such as <code>mySensor</code> or <code>pressureSensorA</code>) without arguments.

Example:

```
BME280 mySensor;
```

Object Parameters and setup()

Rather that passing a bunch of data to the constructor, configuration is accomplished by setting the values of the BME280 type in the setup() function. They are exposed by being public: so use the myName.aVariable = someValue; syntax.

Settable variables of the class BME280:

```
//Main Interface and mode settings
uint8_t commInterface;
uint8_t I2CAddress;
uint8_t chipSelectPin;

uint8_t runMode;
uint8_t tStandby;
uint8_t filter;
uint8_t tempOverSample;
uint8_t pressOverSample;
uint8_t humidOverSample;
```

An example configuration of the BME280 type in setup():

```
#include <stdint.h>
#include "SparkFunBME280.h"
#include "Wire.h"
#include "SPI.h"
//Global sensor object
BME280 mySensor;
void setup()
{
   //***Driver settings******************//
   //commInterface can be I2C MODE
   //specify I2C address. Can be 0x77(default) or 0x76
   //For I2C, enable the following
   mySensor.settings.commInterface = I2C_MODE;
   mySensor.settings.I2CAddress = 0x77;
   //***Operation settings*****************//
   //runMode can be:
   // 0, Sleep mode
   // 1 or 2, Forced mode
   // 3, Normal mode
   mySensor.settings.runMode = 3; //Forced mode
   //tStandby can be:
   // 0, 0.5ms
   // 1, 62.5ms
   // 2, 125ms
   // 3, 250ms
   // 4, 500ms
   // 5, 1000ms
   // 6, 10ms
   // 7, 20ms
   mySensor.settings.tStandby = 0;
   //filter can be off or number of FIR coefficients to use:
   // 0, filter off
   // 1, coefficients = 2
   // 2, coefficients = 4
   // 3, coefficients = 8
   // 4, coefficients = 16
   mySensor.settings.filter = 0;
   //tempOverSample can be:
   // 0, skipped
   // 1 through 5, oversampling *1, *2, *4, *8, *16 respecti
vely
   mySensor.settings.tempOverSample = 1;
   //pressOverSample can be:
   // 0, skipped
   // 1 through 5, oversampling *1, *2, *4, *8, *16 respecti
vely
   mySensor.settings.pressOverSample = 1;
   //humidOverSample can be:
   // 0, skipped
   // 1 through 5, oversampling *1, *2, *4, *8, *16 respecti
   mySensor.settings.humidOverSample = 1;
   delay(10); //Make sure sensor had enough time to turn o
```

```
n. BME280 requires 2ms to start up. Serial.begin(5760
0);

Serial.print("Starting BME280... result of .begin(): 0x");
   //Calling .begin() causes the settings to be loaded
   Serial.println(mySensor.begin(), HEX);
}
```

- uint8_t begin(void) In the above example, begin is used to start the sensor. The basic routine it follows is like this:
 - Starts up the wiring library if necessary, though #include "Wire.h" may be needed in your sketch.
 - · Concatenates the calibration words as specified by Bosch.
 - Applies user settings to the configuration registers in the BME280.
 - Returns the ID register (should read 0x60).

To use it, call mySensor.begin(); or assign the output to something like uint8_t myReturnedValue = mySensor.begin();

- .begin() Needs to be run once during the setup, or after any settings have been modified. In order to let the sensor's configuration take place, the BME280 requires a minimum time of about 2 ms in the sketch before you take data.
- void reset(void) Send the reset word to the BME280.
 Afterwards, you'll have to run begin() again.
- float readTempC(void) Use to get the temperature in Celsius, as a float.
- float readTempF(void) Use to get the temperature in Fahrenheit, as a float. Takes no arguments.
- float readFloatPressure(void) Use to get pressure in units of kiloPascals, as a float.
- float readFloatAltitudeMeters(void) Use to get altitude in units of meters, as a float.
- float readFloatAltitudeFeet(void) Use to get altitude in units of feet, as a float. This function calculates based off the measured pressure.
- float readFloatHumidity(void) Use to get humidity in % relative, as a float.

CCS811 Library

The library is fairly normal to use compared with our other sensors. You'll have to include the library, create a sensor object in the global space, and then use functions of that object to begin and control the sensor. With this one, you must pass the I²C address to the object during construction.

CCS811 Burn-in Time: Please be aware that the CCS811 datasheet recommends a burn-in of 48 hours and a run-in of 20 minutes (i.e. you must allow 20 minutes for the sensor to warm up and output valid data).

To include the library and to take care of all the gritty compiler stuff, place the following at the beginning of the sketch before <code>void setup()</code> function.

```
#include <SparkFunCCS811.h>
#define CCS811_ADDR 0x5B //Default I2C Address
//#define CCS811_ADDR 0x5A //Alternate I2C Address
CCS811 myCCS811(CCS811_ADDR);
```

Now functions of the object named myccs811 can be called to set up and get data, while all the I²C stuff is kept under the hood.

To get the sensor ready during program boot, <code>myCCS811.begin()</code> must be called. Here's an example of the minimal usage of begin.

```
void setup()
{
    myCCS811.begin();
}
```

Error Status: The .begin() function has a special feature: it returns the status of the function call! If there was a problem during begin, it will return a non-zero code indicating what happened. It's optional, and is described in the "Custom Types and Literals" section below.

Then in the main <code>loop()</code> of the program, calls to the sensor functions such as <code>mySensor.readAlgorithmResults()</code> are needed to read the sensor. The following snippet shows a simple check for data by calling the sensor to calculate values, output data, and save the data in variables. However, it doesn't do anything with the data! Check out the examples for fully functional code to make use of the sensor data.

```
void loop()
{
  if (myCCS811.dataAvailable())
  {
    myCCS811.readAlgorithmResults();
    int tempCO2 = myCCS811.getCO2();
    int tempVOC = myCCS811.gettVOC();
  }
  else if (myCCS811.checkForStatusError())
  {
    while(1);
  }
  delay(1000); //Wait for next reading
}
```

Function Reference

The following functions exist for the CCS811 object. Functions with scoped return type CCS811Core::status report an error state as defined in the literals section below. It is optional and can be used to determine success or failure of call.

- CCS811Core::status begin(void) This starts wire, checks the ID register, checks for valid app data, starts the app, and establishes a drive mode.
- CCS811Core::status readAlgorithmResults(void) Call to cause the sensor to read its hardware and calculate TVOC and eCO₂ levels.
- bool checkForStatusError(void) Returns true if there is an

error pending. This checks the status register.

- bool dataAvailable(void) Returns true if a new sample is ready and hasn't been read.
- bool appValid(void) Returns true if there is a valid application within the internal CCS811 memory.
- uint8_t getErrorRegister(void) Returns the state of the ERROR_ID register.
- uint16_t getBaseline(void) Returns the baseline value.
- CCS811Core::status setBaseline(uint16_t) Apply a saved baseline to the CCS811.
- CCS811Core::status enableInterrupts(void) Enables the interrupt pin for data ready.
- CCS811Core::status disableInterrupts(void) Disables the interrupt pin.
- CCS811Core::status setDriveMode(uint8_t mode) Sets the drive mode where mode can be 0 through 4:
 - · 0: Measurement off
 - 1: Measurement every 1 second
 - 2: Measurement every 10 seconds
 - 3: Measurement every 60 seconds
 - 4: Measurement every 0.25 seconds for use with external algorithms
- CCS811Core::status setEnvironmentalData(float relativeHumidity, float temperature)
 - Sets the environmental conditions for compensation.
 - relativeHumidity in units of %, 0.00 through 100.0
 - temperature in degrees C, -25.0 through 50.0
- void setRefResistance(float) If you've changed the thermistor pull-up, call this to give the sensor the new resistor value. Otherwise, it will be 10000.
- uint16_t getTV0C(void) Collect the last calculated TVOC value, in parts per billion (ppb).
- uint16_t getC02(void) Collect the last calculated eC0₂ value, in parts per million (ppm).
- float getResistance(void) Collect the last calculated resistance value of the NTC terminals.
- float getTemperature(void) Collect the last calculated temperature.

Custom Types and Literals

The CCS811 library defines a special data type to deal with error states of functions. In most places, the library can be used without paying attention to the function return types, but here are the values the data type status can hold if they are needed:

```
// Return values
typedef enum
{
    SENSOR_SUCCESS,
    SENSOR_ID_ERROR,
    SENSOR_IZC_ERROR,
    SENSOR_INTERNAL_ERROR
    //...
} status;
```

To avoid the possibility of multiple libraries using the same status name, the enum is actually inside the scope of the CCS811 object, buried in the CCS811Core, which is the base class. *Phew*, don't worry about that too much; just place CCSCore:: before the status name when you want to use it, and use it like a regular enum (e.g.,

ccs811core::status myLocalReturnStatus;). This just tells the compiler that the variable name is in a specific place. You'll also have to add the scope operator to the enum names.

Here's an example that shows how the status enum can be used:

```
CCS811Core::status returnCode = mySensor.beginCore();
Serial.print("beginCore exited with: ");
switch ( returnCode )
case CCS811Core::SENSOR_SUCCESS:
 Serial.print("SUCCESS");
case CCS811Core::SENSOR ID ERROR:
 Serial.print("ID_ERROR");
case CCS811Core::SENSOR I2C ERROR:
 Serial.print("I2C_ERROR");
case CCS811Core::SENSOR_INTERNAL_ERROR:
 Serial.print("INTERNAL_ERROR");
case CCS811Core::SENSOR_GENERIC_ERROR:
 Serial.print("GENERIC_ERROR");
 break;
default:
 Serial.print("Unspecified error.");
}
```

The library also defines names for CCS811 registers, if you're using direct read and write functions. These are globally scoped and can be used anywhere.

```
//Register addresses
#define CSS811_STATUS 0x00
#define CSS811_MEAS_MODE 0x01
#define CSS811_ALG_RESULT_DATA 0x02
#define CSS811_RAW_DATA 0x03
#define CSS811_ENV_DATA 0x05
#define CSS811_NTC 0x06
#define CSS811_THRESHOLDS 0x10
#define CSS811_BASELINE 0x11
#define CSS811_HW_ID 0x20
#define CSS811_HW_VERSION 0x21
#define CSS811_FW_BOOT_VERSION 0x23
#define CSS811_FW_APP_VERSION 0x24
#define CSS811 ERROR ID 0xE0
#define CSS811 APP START 0xF4
#define CSS811_SW_RESET 0xFF
```

Examples

For the following examples, which can be found here, we will use our libraries along with a few functions to view our data. Our code's preamble, $\mathtt{setup}()$, and function definitions will all be the same. However, the $\mathtt{void\ loop}()$ will change between the examples. To get started, we first have to initialize our sensors with our preamble, $\mathtt{setup}()$, and $\mathtt{loop}()$ as shown below.

```
#include <SparkFunBME280.h>
#include <SparkFunCCS811.h>
#define CCS811_ADDR 0x5B //Default I2C Address
//#define CCS811_ADDR 0x5A //Alternate I2C Address
//Global sensor objects
CCS811 myCCS811(CCS811_ADDR);
BME280 myBME280;
void setup()
 Serial.begin(9600);
  Serial.println();
  Serial.println("Apply BME280 data to CCS811 for compensatio
n.");
  //This begins the CCS811 sensor and prints error status of .
 CCS811Core::status returnCode = myCCS811.begin();
  if (returnCode != CCS811Core::SENSOR_SUCCESS)
    Serial.println("Problem with CCS811");
    printDriverError(returnCode);
  else
    Serial.println("CCS811 online");
  }
  //Initialize BME280
  //For I2C, enable the following and disable the SPI section
  myBME280.settings.commInterface = I2C_MODE;
  myBME280.settings.I2CAddress = 0x77;
  myBME280.settings.runMode = 3; //Normal mode
  myBME280.settings.tStandby = 0;
  myBME280.settings.filter = 4;
  myBME280.settings.tempOverSample = 5;
  myBME280.settings.pressOverSample = 5;
  myBME280.settings.humidOverSample = 5;
  //Calling .begin() causes the settings to be loaded
  delay(10); //Make sure sensor had enough time to turn on. B
ME280 requires 2ms to start up.
  byte id = myBME280.begin(); //Returns ID of 0x60 if successf
ul
 if (id != 0x60)
    Serial.println("Problem with BME280");
  }
  else
    Serial.println("BME280 online");
  }
}
```

Our void loop will call a few functions that are not included in our libraries, so we must define them after our void loop. Don't worry about defining prototypes, the Arduino IDE does this for us. Paste the below code below your void loop to define the necessary functions to print data and errors.

```
void printData()
 Serial.print(" CO2[");
 Serial.print(myCCS811.getCO2());
 Serial.print("]ppm");
  Serial.print(" TVOC[");
  Serial.print(myCCS811.getTVOC());
  Serial.print("]ppb");
  Serial.print(" temp[");
  Serial.print(myBME280.readTempC(), 1);
  Serial.print("]C");
  //Serial.print(" temp[");
  //Serial.print(myBME280.readTempF(), 1);
  //Serial.print("]F");
  Serial.print(" pressure[");
  Serial.print(myBME280.readFloatPressure(), 2);
  Serial.print("]Pa");
  //Serial.print(" pressure[");
  //Serial.print((myBME280.readFloatPressure() * 0.0002953),
2);
 //Serial.print("]InHg");
  //Serial.print("altitude[");
  //Serial.print(myBME280.readFloatAltitudeMeters(), 2);
  //Serial.print("]m");
  //Serial.print("altitude[");
  //Serial.print(myBME280.readFloatAltitudeFeet(), 2);
  //Serial.print("]ft");
  Serial.print(" humidity[");
  Serial.print(myBME280.readFloatHumidity(), 0);
  Serial.print("]%");
  Serial.println();
}
void printDriverError( CCS811Core::status errorCode )
{
  switch ( errorCode )
    case CCS811Core::SENSOR_SUCCESS:
     Serial.print("SUCCESS");
    case CCS811Core::SENSOR_ID_ERROR:
     Serial.print("ID_ERROR");
     break;
   case CCS811Core::SENSOR_I2C_ERROR:
     Serial.print("I2C_ERROR");
     break:
   case CCS811Core::SENSOR_INTERNAL_ERROR:
     Serial.print("INTERNAL_ERROR");
    case CCS811Core::SENSOR_GENERIC_ERROR:
      Serial.print("GENERIC_ERROR");
      break;
    default:
      Serial.print("Unspecified error.");
  }
```

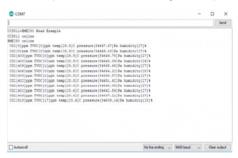
```
}
```

Example 1 - Basic Readings

The void loop shown below will get you up and running taking readings of CO₂, tVOC(total volatile organic compounds), temperature, pressure, and humidity. Once this sketch is uploaded, open the serial monitor with a baud rate of 9600 to display the air quality data from the sensor.

```
void loop()
  if (myCCS811.dataAvailable()) //Check to see if CCS811 has n
ew data (it's the slowest sensor)
    myCCS811.readAlgorithmResults(); //Read latest from CCS81
1 and update tVOC and CO2 variables
    //getWeather(); //Get latest humidity/pressure/temp data f
rom BME280
    printData(); //Pretty print all the data
  }
  else if (myCCS811.checkForStatusError()) //Check to see if C
CS811 has thrown an error
    Serial.println(myCCS811.getErrorRegister()); //Prints what
ever CSS811 error flags are detected
 }
  delay(2000); //Wait for next reading
}
```

The output of this example should look something like the photo below.

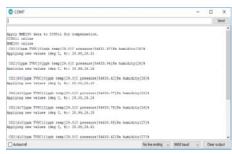


Example 2 - Calibrated Readings

The $void\ 1oop$ shown below will get you started taking calibrated readings from the CCS811. When humidity and temperature are known by the CCS811, it is able to refine it's tVOC and CO_2 readings. This sketch feeds the temperature and humidity from the BME280 to the CCS811 in order to attain greater accuracy.

```
void loop()
  //Check to see if data is available
  if (myCCS811.dataAvailable())
    //Calling this function updates the global tVOC and eCO2 v
ariables
   myCCS811.readAlgorithmResults();
    //printData fetches the values of tVOC and eCO2
    printData();
   float BMEtempC = myBME280.readTempC();
   float BMEhumid = myBME280.readFloatHumidity();
   Serial.print("Applying new values (deg C, %): ");
   Serial.print(BMEtempC);
   Serial.print(",");
   Serial.println(BMEhumid);
    Serial.println();
    //This sends the temperature data to the CCS811
    myCCS811.setEnvironmentalData(BMEhumid, BMEtempC);
  else if (myCCS811.checkForStatusError())
    Serial.println(myCCS811.getErrorRegister()); //Prints what
ever CSS811 error flags are detected
  delay(2000); //Wait for next reading
}
```

The output for this example is shown below.



Resources and Going Further

Now that you've successfully got your CCS811+BME280 combo board working and taking air quality readings, it's time to incorporate it into your own project!

For more information on the CCS811 or BME280, check out the resources below:

- CCS811 Datasheet-DS000459 (PDF)
- Bosch BME280 Datasheet (PDF)
- ASHRAE Allowable CO2 Levels (PDF)
- CC-000774-AN-3-Assembly guidelines for CCS811 (PDF)
- CC-000783-AN-1-Mechanical Considerations for CCS811_0 (PDF)
- CCS811 Firmware Download AN000371 (PDF)
- CCS811 Programming Guide-AN000369 (PDF)
- Indoor Air Quality Investigations TVOCs EU (PDF)
- SparkFun CCS811/BME280 Arduino Library GitHub Repository
- · SparkFun CCS811 GitHub Repository

- · SparkFun BME280 GitHub Repository
- · SparkFun Qwiic Connect System

Need some inspiration for your next project? Check out some of these related tutorials:

TMP006 Hookup Guide How to get started reading temperature with the TMP006 sensor. T5403 Barometric Pressure Sensor Hookup Guide T5403 Barometric Pressure Sensor Hookup Guide



Weather Station Wirelessly Connected to Wunderground Build your own open-source, official Wunderground weather station that connects over WiFi via an Electric Imp. micro:climate Kit Experiment Guide A weather station kit that is built on top of the inexpensive, easy-to-use micro:bit and Microsoft MakeCode.

Let us know how you use your air quality sensor!