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Many types of sensors have linear input/output behavior, at least within a narrow range of inputs. The sensor thus follows an input/output relation like

$y_{\rm L}(x)=a_0+a_1x.$

These will often be marketed as linear, and the only calibration data you get is the slope of the input/output relation (a_1) and the zero input value (a_0) . For these types of sensors, the deviation from linear behavior should be reported in the specifications. This deviation can be calculated: $e_L(x) = y(x) - y_L(x)$.

The spec is usually the percentage error relative to full scale, or

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Instrument Repeatability

If a sensor is repeatedly calibrated under identical conditions, some variation in the result will occur. Repeatability is the measure of this variation and is normally described by the standard deviation S_x of the data.



































