
AdafruitVCNL4010 Library Documentation

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Contents

1	Dependencies	3
2	Installing from PyPI	5
3	Usage Example	7
4	Contributing	9
5	Documentation	11
6	Table of Contents	13
6.1	Simple test	13
6.2	adafruit_vcnl4010	14
6.2.1	Implementation Notes	14
7	Indices and tables	17
	Python Module Index	19
	Index	21

CircuitPython module for the VCNL4010 proximity and light sensor.

CHAPTER 1

Dependencies

This driver depends on:

- [Adafruit CircuitPython](#)
- [Bus Device](#)

Please ensure all dependencies are available on the CircuitPython filesystem. This is easily achieved by downloading the [Adafruit library and driver bundle](#).

CHAPTER 2

Installing from PyPI

On supported GNU/Linux systems like the Raspberry Pi, you can install the driver locally [from PyPI](#). To install for current user:

```
pip3 install adafruit-circuitpython-vcnl4010
```

To install system-wide (this may be required in some cases):

```
sudo pip3 install adafruit-circuitpython-vcnl4010
```

To install in a virtual environment in your current project:

```
mkdir project-name && cd project-name
python3 -m venv .env
source .env/bin/activate
pip3 install adafruit-circuitpython-vcnl4010
```


CHAPTER 3

Usage Example

See `examples/vcnl4010_simpletest.py` for an example of the usage.

CHAPTER 4

Contributing

Contributions are welcome! Please read our [Code of Conduct](#) before contributing to help this project stay welcoming.

CHAPTER 5

Documentation

For information on building library documentation, please check out [this guide](#).

6.1 Simple test

Ensure your device works with this simple test.

Listing 1: examples/vcnl4010_simpletest.py

```
1  # SPDX-FileCopyrightText: 2017 Tony DiCola for Adafruit Industries
2  # SPDX-License-Identifier: MIT
3
4  # Simple demo of the VCNL4010 proximity and light sensor.
5  # Will print the proximity and ambient light every second.
6  import time
7
8  import board
9  import busio
10
11 import adafruit_vcnl4010
12
13
14 # Initialize I2C bus and VCNL4010 module.
15 i2c = busio.I2C(board.SCL, board.SDA)
16 sensor = adafruit_vcnl4010.VCNL4010(i2c)
17
18 # You can optionally adjust the sensor LED current. The default is 200mA
19 # which is the maximum value. Note this is only set in 10mA increments.
20 # sensor.led_current_mA = 120 # Set 120 mA LED current
21
22 # You can also adjust the measurement frequency for the sensor. The default
23 # is 390.625 khz, but these values are possible to set too:
24 # - FREQUENCY_3M125: 3.125 Mhz
25 # - FREQUENCY_1M5625: 1.5625 Mhz
26 # - FREQUENCY_781K25: 781.25 Khz
27 # - FREQUENCY_390K625: 390.625 Khz (default)
```

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```
28 # sensor.frequency = adafruit_vcnl4010.FREQUENCY_3M125 # 3.125 Mhz
29
30 # Main loop runs forever printing the proximity and light level.
31 while True:
32     proximity = sensor.proximity # Proximity has no units and is a 16-bit
33     # value. The LOWER the value the further
34     # an object from the sensor (up to ~200mm).
35     print("Proximity: {}".format(proximity))
36     ambient_lux = sensor.ambient_lux
37     print("Ambient light: {} lux".format(ambient_lux))
38     time.sleep(1.0)
```

6.2 adafruit_vcnl4010

CircuitPython module for the VCNL4010 proximity and light sensor. See examples/vcnl4010_simpletest.py for an example of the usage.

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6.2.1 Implementation Notes

Hardware:

- Adafruit [VCNL4010 Proximity/Light sensor breakout](#) (Product ID: 466)

Software and Dependencies:

- Adafruit CircuitPython firmware for the ESP8622 and M0-based boards: <https://github.com/adafruit/circuitpython/releases>
- Adafruit's Bus Device library: https://github.com/adafruit/Adafruit_CircuitPython_BusDevice

class `adafruit_vcnl4010.VCNL4010` (*i2c*, *address=19*)

Vishay VCNL4010 proximity and ambient light sensor.

ambient

The detected ambient light in front of the sensor. This is a unit-less unsigned 16-bit value (0-65535) with higher values for more detected light. See the `ambient_lux` property for a value in lux.

ambient_lux

The detected ambient light in front of the sensor as a value in lux.

frequency

The frequency of proximity measurements. Must be a value of:

- `FREQUENCY_3M125`: 3.125 Mhz
- `FREQUENCY_1M5625`: 1.5625 Mhz
- `FREQUENCY_781K25`: 781.25 Khz
- `FREQUENCY_390K625`: 390.625 Khz (default)

See the datasheet for how frequency changes the proximity detection accuracy.

led_current

The current of the LED. The value is in units of 10mA and can only be set to 0 (0mA/off) to 20 (200mA). See the datasheet for how LED current impacts proximity measurements. The default is 200mA.

led_current_mA

The current of the LED in milli-amps. The value here is specified in a milliamps from 0-200. Note that this value will be quantized down to a smaller less-accurate value as the chip only supports current changes in 10mA increments, i.e. a value of 123 mA will actually use 120 mA. See the datasheet for how the LED current impacts proximity measurements, and the `led_current` property to explicitly set values without quantization or unit conversion.

proximity

The detected proximity of an object in front of the sensor. This is a unit-less unsigned 16-bit value (0-65535) INVERSELY proportional to the distance of an object in front of the sensor (up to a max of ~200mm). For example a value of 10 is an object farther away than a value of 1000. Note there is no conversion from this value to absolute distance possible, you can only make relative comparisons.

CHAPTER 7

Indices and tables

- `genindex`
- `modindex`
- `search`

a

adafruit_vcnl4010, [14](#)

A

`adafruit_vcnl4010` (*module*), [14](#)
`ambient` (*adafruit_vcnl4010.VCNL4010 attribute*), [14](#)
`ambient_lux` (*adafruit_vcnl4010.VCNL4010 attribute*), [14](#)

F

`frequency` (*adafruit_vcnl4010.VCNL4010 attribute*), [14](#)

L

`led_current` (*adafruit_vcnl4010.VCNL4010 attribute*), [14](#)
`led_current_mA` (*adafruit_vcnl4010.VCNL4010 attribute*), [14](#)

P

`proximity` (*adafruit_vcnl4010.VCNL4010 attribute*), [15](#)

V

`VCNL4010` (*class in adafruit_vcnl4010*), [14](#)