# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction .................................................................................................................. 1

2. Operation .......................................................................................................................... 2
   2.1 Installation .................................................................................................................... 2
   2.2 Functionality ................................................................................................................. 3
      2.2.1 Setting up a Test .................................................................................................... 3
      2.2.2 Starting a Test ....................................................................................................... 6
      2.2.3 Stopping a Test ...................................................................................................... 7
      2.2.4 Downloading Data ............................................................................................... 7

3. System .................................................................................................................................. 9
   3.1 Specifications ................................................................................................................ 9
   3.2 Components .................................................................................................................. 10
      3.2.1 Control Unit .......................................................................................................... 11
      3.2.2 Insertion Ring ......................................................................................................... 17
      3.2.3 Infiltrometer Head ................................................................................................. 18
      3.2.4 Water Supply Tank ............................................................................................... 18
   3.3 Theory .......................................................................................................................... 19

4. Service .................................................................................................................................. 22
   4.1 Calibration .................................................................................................................... 22
   4.2 Maintenance .................................................................................................................. 24
   4.3 Troubleshooting .......................................................................................................... 25
   4.4 Customer Support ........................................................................................................ 28
   4.5 Terms and Conditions ................................................................................................. 28

References ............................................................................................................................. 29

Index ....................................................................................................................................... 30
1. INTRODUCTION
Thank you for choosing the SATURO Infiltrometer from METER Group. This manual should help you understand the functionality of SATURO, make high-quality \( K_{fs} \) measurements, and get the most out of the instrument.

SATURO was designed to be an automated instrument for measuring permeability and field saturated hydraulic conductivity \( (K_{fs}) \) in soil. It utilizes a multipressure head analysis approach to simplify the corrections for three-dimensional flow from a single-ring infiltrometer, allowing for quick measurements of hydraulic conductivity without needing postprocessing. This automated approach reduces error in the hydraulic conductivity assessment (Reynold and Elrick 1990).

Verify all instrument contents shipped and appear in good condition:
- Control unit
- Two insertion rings: 5-cm depth and 10-cm depth
- Driving plate
- Infiltrometer head
- Charging adapter
- Two collapsible water tanks
- 6.4-mm (1/4-in) diameter tube for air output
- 9.5-mm (3/8-in) diameter tube for water output
- 7.9-mm (5/16-in) diameter tube for water input
- Metal file
- Driving mallet
- Flathead screwdriver
2. OPERATION
Please read all instructions before operating the SATURO to ensure it performs to its full potential.

2.1 INSTALLATION
Follow the steps listed in Table 1 to set up the instrument.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preparation</th>
<th>Installation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Verify Access to Water</strong></td>
<td>Identify a source of water on site or bring water to the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Charge Battery</strong></td>
<td>Charge the control unit battery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Renew the charge after returning from the field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Download Software</strong></td>
<td>Install the SATURO Downloader to view files in the field (Section 2.2.4).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Install Insertion Ring</strong></td>
<td>Remove rocks, sticks, and other large debris from the surface where the ring will be installed at the desired test location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Place the insertion ring on the soil and fit the driving plate on top.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hammer on the inner circle of the driving plate until the insertion ring is flush with the top of the soil, ensuring there are no gaps between the soil and ring side walls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Remove the driving plate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For hill installation, install the insertion ring so that the infiltrometer head will be perpendicular to the slope of the hill with interior sensor to the left or right.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Set Up Infiltrometer Head**
Clear all grass and debris from the lip of the insertion ring and clamp the infiltrometer head onto the insertion ring to form a seal.
A clean seal ensures accurate pressure readings. Do not clamp too tightly, as this can lead to warping of the insertion ring. Clamps can be tightened and loosened with a small flat head screwdriver as needed.
### Table 1  Installation (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Installation (continued)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connect the hoses and sensor cable to the designated fittings on the infiltrometer head. Each input and output line is purposefully a different size of tubing to help prevent a mismatch. If a tube does not snugly fit into a connection, it is probably in the wrong one.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Set Up the Water Tank**

Fill the water tank and connect it to the control unit.

Fully open the water valve.

For highly permeable soil use the second collapsible bag with the Y-connector to supply 10 gallons of water to the control unit. If 10 gallons is not enough a larger container can be used. To use a larger container, place the tube at the bottom of the container and ensure the tube remains underwater throughout the test.

**Set Up Control Unit**

Place the control unit on a stable surface.

Connect the three hoses and sensor cable to the corresponding ports on the control unit.

Power on the control unit.

*NOTE: After each test, clean the infiltrometer head seals and insertion ring (Section 4.2).*

---

### 2.2 FUNCTIONALITY

Follow the steps in the following sections to collect data.

#### 2.2.1 SETTING UP A TEST

1. Press the **POWER/MENU** button on the control unit to power on the device. The last test results will appear on the screen.

2. Press **Enter** to view the Test Setup screen

   This screen is used to name the test and configure test settings (Figure 1).

   ![Test Setup screen](image)

   **Figure 1**  Test Setup screen

3. Name the test.
   
   a. Select **Name** to create a test name.
b. Highlight letters and press **Enter** after each one (**Figure 2**).

A decimal point is not allowed as the first character of a test name.

Toggle between upper and lower case by selecting the boxed up arrow in the lower right of the screen.

To add a space or delete a character, navigate to the test name and use the **RIGHT** or **LEFT** buttons, respectively.

The test name can have up to 20 characters.

![Name screen](image)

**Figure 2** Name screen

4. Select **Done** and press **Enter** to save the new test name.

Press **BACK** to cancel without saving changes.

**NOTE:** When downloading tests as a comma-separated value file format (.csv), the degree symbol and ± symbol are omitted from the test name in the test summary information.

5. Configure test settings by selecting **Settings**.

Different soil types may require different parameters for an optimum infiltration test. Adjust settings to change pressure heads, soak time, number of cycles, and hold time as well as to inform the control unit of the insertion ring depth (**Figure 3**).

![Settings options](image)

**Figure 3** Settings options

a. Set desired hydrostatic pressure.

Hydrostatic pressure for the low and high pressure heads must be between 0 and 40 cm. Generally, soils with high infiltration rates require lower pressure head settings than soils with low infiltration rates. A pressure difference of at least 5 cm between the low and high pressure heads is normally recommended, except in sites with high infiltration rates. In such cases, a pressure difference of 2 cm is sufficient to help reduce water usage. **Table 2** provides rough guidelines to determine initial...
pressure head settings. These values are starting points only and should be
adjusted for the particular soil based on experience.

b. Set soak time.

During soak time, the infiltrometer applies water to achieve saturation of the
soil before beginning the pressure cycles. A good introductory soak time is
approximately 20 min, though the exact length depends largely on soil type and
antecedent soil moisture (Table 2). During soak time, pressure is maintained at the
low pressure head.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil Type</th>
<th>Soak Time (min)</th>
<th>Low Pressure Head (cm)</th>
<th>High Pressure Head (cm)</th>
<th>Hold Time at Pressure (min)</th>
<th>Pressure Cycles (count)</th>
<th>Total Run Time (min)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dry loamy sand</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wet loamy sand</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry silt loam</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wet silt loam</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry clay (poor structure)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wet clay (poor structure)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry clay (strong structure)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: These values are a rough starting point only. Soil conditions dictate the optimal settings for the test. Use
lower pressure head settings for soils dominated by macropore flow. If necessary, reduce the pressure head settings
to allow the instrument to keep up with the flow rates.

c. Set the number of pressure cycles.

One pressure cycle is equivalent to a full run at the two different pressure heads.
The control unit takes the average infiltration rates at the different pressure heads
during the last pressure cycle to calculate $K_f$. Multiple pressure cycles ensure the
steady state infiltration rate was reached.

At first, the infiltration rate is large. Steady state or quasi-steady state may be
achieved when the infiltration rate charted over time levels into infinite time (Dane
and Topp 2002). Wait for the flux chart to stabilize to determine if quasi-steady
state has been reached. If there is a decrease in flux rate, redo the test or add
another cycle.

d. Set the hold time (Figure 4).

The hold time determines how long the pressure is held at each pressure head and
applies to both pressure cycles (i.e., if the hold time is 20, both the low and high
pressure holds for 20 min).

e. Select the correct insertion ring depth.
6. After the settings are configured, press BACK to go to the Test Setup screen.

2.2.2 STARTING A TEST

1. On the Test Setup screen, select Start.
   The infiltrometer displays a message to check tubing and connections.

2. Press Enter to begin the test.
   The infiltrometer will pump water from the water tank until the water level reaches 5 cm.
   It then begins the soak time, while maintaining a level of 5 cm.
   The graph feature displays incremental data during a test. The infiltrometer records a data point every minute throughout the duration of the test.

3. It is not necessary to supervise the system during a test, but check the water level intermittently to ensure a constant supply.
   Test results will display automatically at the end of the test (Figure 5).

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for details on viewing graphs of flux, water level, and pressure.

Pressing BACK returns the display to the Reading screens. Pressing Enter on any of the Reading screens returns the display to the Name screen to review test settings.
2.2.3 STOPPING A TEST
To stop a test, press BACK on any of the Reading screens and select Stop to cancel the test (Figure 6).

![Stop test warning](image)

2.2.4 DOWNLOADING DATA
The SATURO Downloader application is used to download the data from SATURO, erase stored data, set the date and time, and check for firmware updates for SATURO. Download the application from metergroup.com/saturo-support before beginning the following steps.

1. Connect the USB cable to USB ports on a computer and on SATURO.
2. Open the SATURO Downloader application on the computer.
3. Select the file type by selecting Edit > Preferences > Data File and choosing the appropriate file type (Figure 7).

Data can be downloaded as .xlsx or .csv file.

![Change file type](image)
4. Select the proper COM port and click Download (Figure 8).

![SATURO Downloader dialog](image)

**Figure 8** SATURO Downloader dialog

5. After the download is complete, a prompt will ask if the data stored on the device should be erased (Figure 9).
Select Yes or No.

![Confirm Erase prompt](image)

**Figure 9** Confirm Erase prompt
3. SYSTEM
This section describes the specifications, components, and theory of the SATURO system.

3.1 SPECIFICATIONS

MEASUREMENT SPECIFICATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infiltration Rate</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Range</td>
<td>0.0038–115.0000 cm/h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolution</td>
<td>0.0038 cm/h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accuracy</td>
<td>±5% of reading</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The $K_{fs}$ values that can be effectively measured by SATURO are limited by the listed minimum and maximum infiltration rates. These depend on the pressure heads applied to the water during infiltration and to the three-dimensional flow characteristics of the soil, so the measurement range of $K_{fs}$ cannot be specified explicitly. SATURO will generally be able to make measurements on poorly to moderately structured soils as coarse as medium sand, but the maximum infiltration rate can be exceeded by soils with excessive structure and especially by soils with significant macropores.

| Water Level | Maintained at 5 cm |
| Pressure Head Ranges | 0–40 cm (vacuum is applied for <5 cm settings) |

Operating Temperature

0–50 °C

PHYSICAL SPECIFICATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Charging Adapter</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Power supply</td>
<td>18 V; 2.2 A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range</td>
<td>18–24 VDC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Output

USB

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Control Unit</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>31.8 cm (12.5 in)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>25.7 cm (10.1 in)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>13 cm (6.0 in)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Infiltrometer Head

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Measurement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total height</td>
<td>18.3 cm (7.2 in)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inner diameter</td>
<td>17.2 cm (6.75 in)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Insertion Ring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Measurement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inner diameter</td>
<td>14.4 cm (5.68 in)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Insertion depth      | 5 cm (1.97 in)  
|                      | 10 cm (3.94 in) |

### COMPLIANCE

Manufactured under ISO 9001:2015

2004/108/EC and 2011/65/EU

### 3.2 COMPONENTS

SATURO consists of four main components: the control unit, insertion ring, infiltrometer head, and water supply tank (Figure 10).

![SATURO components](image-url)
3.2.1 CONTROL UNIT

The SATURO control unit has seven buttons to navigate through screens and configure settings (Figure 11):

• When the device is off, press the **POWER/MENU** button to turn on the device. Hold the **POWER/MENU** button down for more than 4 s to power off the device. This button also navigates between different screen tabs.

• Pressing the **BACK** button returns the device to the parent screen. Pressing **BACK** on a selection screen cancels any changes that have been made on that screen. Holding **BACK** down for more than 7 s resets the device (hard reset).

• The **UP**, **DOWN**, **LEFT**, and **RIGHT** buttons on the directional pad allow navigation through lists and scroll wheels. Pressing **LEFT** or **RIGHT** will highlight successive items in a list and holding down the button will speed up scrolling.

• The **Enter** button selects the highlighted item to go to a submenu or save the highlighted setting to memory.

![Control unit faceplate](image)

**Figure 11** Control unit faceplate

The control unit is charged through a 18-V, 2.22-A, 40-W AC/DC charger. The unit takes approximately 6 h to fully charge.

The control unit’s USB port takes a Type B to Type A USB to download data and to perform firmware updates.
There are four connections on the control unit (Figure 12):

- Top left connection is for the 7.9-mm (5/16-in) water input (water tank to control unit).
- Bottom left connection is for the 9.5-mm (3/8-in) water output (control unit to infiltrometer head).
- Bottom right connection is for the sensor connection to the infiltrometer head.
- Top right connection is a 6.4-mm (1/4-in) air output (control unit to infiltrometer head).

The SATURO display (Figure 13) features three main tabs designed for ease of use: Reading, Configuration, and Data.
READING TAB

The Reading tab is used to view screens related to the current tests, including charts from the most recent flux, pressure, and water level readings. Use UP and DOWN to scroll through the available reading screens.

- **Status Screen.** The Status screen shows the test status, such as Soaking (Figure 14). When the test is completed, it changes to the Results screen.

![Figure 14 Status screen during test](image)

- **Flux Screen.** The Flux screen displays the flow rate of water flow through the infiltrometer on a graph updated every minute (Figure 15). The current measurement is indicated by a flashing dot.

![Figure 15 Flux screen](image)

- **Pressure Screen.** The Pressure screen displays the hydrostatic pressure (combined air and water pressure) on a graph updated every minute (Figure 16). The current measurement is indicated by a flashing dot.

![Figure 16 Pressure screen](image)
**SYSTEM**

- **Water Level Screen.** After a test is started, the water level above the soil ramps up to 5 cm. The Water Level screen displays the current water level on a graph that is updated every minute (Figure 17). The current point is indicated by a flashing dot.

![Figure 17](image1)

- **Results Screen.** After a test is complete, the Results screen replaces the Status screen. It shows the resulting $K_f$ of the test (Figure 18). The error ($err$) value also appears on the Results screen. The $err$ is the standard error of the $K_f$ reading and represents the amount of noise in the measurement. Press UP and DOWN to change Reading screens or press the POWER/MENU button to navigate to the Configuration tab.

SATURO will display the results from the last test if no test is running.

![Figure 18](image2)

**CONFIGURATION TAB**

The Configuration tab is used to view and set global preferences (Figure 19). Press the POWER/MENU button to navigate to the Configuration tab. Use the UP and DOWN buttons to scroll through options.

![Figure 19](image3)

- **Water Pump Calibration.** Water pump calibration is addressed in Section 4.1.
• **Date.** Edit this screen to change the date saved in the control unit (**Figure 20**).

Select the Date option in the Configuration tab. Use **UP** and **DOWN** to change the current value and hold the buttons down to scroll quickly. Press **RIGHT** to move to the next value or press **LEFT** to return to the previous value. Select **Done** to save changes or press **BACK** to cancel without saving changes.

![Date](image1)

**Figure 20**  Editing Date option

• **Time.** Edit this screen to change the time saved in the control unit (**Figure 21**).

Select the Time option in the Configuration tab. Use **UP** and **DOWN** to change the current value and hold the buttons down to scroll quickly. Press **RIGHT** to move to the next value or press **LEFT** to return to the previous value. Select **Done** to save changes or press **BACK** to cancel without saving changes.

![Time](image2)

**Figure 21**  Editing Time option

• **Units.** Edit the preferred units on all device screens and the units that appear in downloaded data (**Figure 22**).

Select the Units option in the Configuration tab. Press **Enter** to cycle through the available options on the highlighted measurement. Press **BACK** to return to the previous menu.

![Units](image3)

**Figure 22**  Editing Units options

• **Contrast.** Change the screen lighting contrast settings (**Figure 23**).
Select the **Contrast** option on the Configuration tab. Use the directional buttons to change the contrast to any value from 00–25. Use **RIGHT** and **LEFT** to highlight Done and press **Enter** to save the new contrast setting. Press **BACK** to exit without saving changes.

![Contrast](image1)

**Figure 23**  Editing Contrast option

- **Diagnostics.** Shows all the current readings from the instrument: water level (the current water level above the soil); air pressure (pressure in the head space of the infiltrometer assembly); battery (current battery voltage); charging status (observed voltage from charging power supply); temperature (internal temperature of the control unit); and cap sensor (measured voltage of the cap sensor, which is proportional to the humidity within the control unit) (**Figure 24**).

The Diagnostics option also tracks the usage information for the water pump, cartridge, and air pump to track when parts need to be replaced. This screen provides valuable information for maintenance and troubleshooting (**Section 4.2**). No changes can be made in this screen.

Press **BACK** to return to the previous menu.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnostics</th>
<th>Diagnostics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water Level: 3.9 cm</td>
<td>Cap Sensor: 1.9974 V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Pressure: -3.98 cm</td>
<td>Water Pump: 0.4 hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battery: 12.65 V</td>
<td>Cartridge: 0.4 hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charging Status: --- V</td>
<td>Air Pump: 0.0 hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature: 22.69 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 24**  Viewing the Diagnostics option

- **About.** Displays the instrument’s serial number, firmware version, hardware version, copyright date, and manufacturer’s name (**Figure 25**).

Select the **About** option on the Configuration tab and press **Enter**. No changes can be made in this screen. Press **BACK** to return to the previous menu.
**DATA TAB**

The Data tab provides access to past test data. Press the **POWER/MENU** button to navigate to this tab.

- **View.** Lists prior tests stored on the device, most recent first.

  To view a test, scroll to desired test and press **Enter**. The Results (including final $K_f$ value, water level chart, pressure chart, and flux chart), Settings, and Raw Data screens from that test can all be viewed. Scroll through the available information by using the **UP** and **DOWN** buttons. Press **BACK** to return to the previous screen.

- **Delete.** Deletes all test data in device memory. There is no way to delete individual tests or readings from the infiltrometer, it erases all test data.

  **WARNING:** Deleting test data permanently removes it from the control unit, and it cannot be recovered. It is recommended that you download any test data prior to deleting the test data from the instrument.

**3.2.2 INSERTION RING**

The insertion ring is available in two depths: 5 cm and 10 cm. The 5-cm insertion ring (Figure 26) is primarily designed for sites with good soil structure. It reduces the impact from inserting the ring, so it is recommended for most sites. The 10-cm insertion ring was designed for sites with a disturbed or loose soil surface as well as sites with high fluxes due to macropores. The deeper insertion ring can also be helpful in forest or organic soils with a deep duff or organic layer at the surface.
3.2.3 INFILTROMETER HEAD
The infiltrometer head houses the water level (depth) sensor (to control the water level), water connection, and air connection with push-to-connect fittings (Figure 27).

3.2.4 WATER SUPPLY TANK
The water supply tank holds up to 5 gal and is sufficient for lower permeability sites (Figure 28). Some sites with higher infiltration rates will use more than 5 gal of water in the time necessary to complete a measurement. The Y-connector may be used to connect two water tanks to SATURO, doubling the water supply available for a measurement.
3.3 THEORY

Field saturated hydraulic conductivity, $K_{fs}$ (cm/s) is a fundamental soil hydraulic property that describes the ease with which a fluid (usually water) can move through pore spaces or fractures under field saturated conditions. One of the oldest and simplest methods for in situ determination of $K_{fs}$ has involved the measurement of ponded infiltration ($D$) from within a single ring (with a radius $b$) pushed a small distance into the soil ($d$) (Figure 29). The original analysis used the measured steady flow rate, $Q_s$ (cm³/s), and assumed one-dimensional, vertical flow to obtain $K_{fs}$ from Bouwer (1986) and Daniel (1989).

![Figure 29 Cross section of a single-ring infiltrometer](image)

This approach overestimated $K_{fs}$ due to lateral divergence of flow resulting from the capillarity of the unsaturated soil and from the ponding in the ring (Bouwer 1986). Attempts to eliminate flow divergence involved the addition of an outer ring to buffer the flow in the inner ring (Figure 30). However, the double-ring infiltrometer technique was ineffective at preventing lateral flow from the inner ring (Swartzendruber and Olson 1961a, 1961b).
More recent research provides new methods for correcting for lateral flow. Reynolds and Elrick (1990) presented a new analysis method of steady ponded infiltration into a single ring, which accounts for soil capillarity, depth of ponding, ring radius ($b$), and depth of ring insertion ($d$) and provides a means for calculating $K_{fs}$, matric flux ($\phi_m$), and macroscopic capillary length ($\propto$). This analysis is known as the two-ponding head approach (Reynolds and Elrick 1990).

The two-ponding head approach is the technique used by SATURO, though with some modifications and simplifications. The simplest equation for this calculation is from Nimmo et al. (2009). They compute $K_{fs}$ as shown in Equation 1.

\[
K_{fs} = \frac{i}{F}
\]

Equation 1

where $i$ (cm/s) is the steady (final) infiltration rate (volume divided by area) and $F$ is a function that corrects for sorptivity and geometrical effects.

Nimmo et al. (2009) gives $F$ as shown in Equation 2

\[
F = 1 + \frac{\lambda + D}{C_1 d + C_2 b} = 1 + \frac{\lambda + D}{C_1 d + C_2 b}
\]

Equation 2

where

$D$ is the ponding depth (cm)

$d$ is the insertion depth of the infiltrometer (cm)
\( b \) is the radius of the infiltrometer (cm)

\( \Delta \) is the constant for a given infiltrometer geometry; \( C_1 d + C_2 b \) (cm)

\( C_1 \) is 0.993

\( C_2 \) is 0.578

\( \lambda \) is the reciprocal of the Gardner \( \propto \), which is a characteristic of the soil and its initial water content (cm)

In Equation 2, \( \Delta \) is simply Equation 36 of Reynolds and Elrick (1990) multiplied by \( b \pi \), which allows Figure 2 and Equation 2 to be reconciled with Equation 37 of Reynolds and Elrick (1990).

For two ponding depths, use Equation 3:

\[
K_{f_1} = \frac{i_1}{\Delta + \lambda + D_1} = \frac{i_2}{\Delta + \lambda + D_2}
\]

Equation 3

Rearranging one of the right terms to solve for \( \lambda \) in terms of \( K_{f_1} \), substituting this for \( \lambda \) in the other right term, and simplifying yields

\[
K_{f_2} = \frac{(i_1 - i_2)}{D_1 + D_2}
\]

Equation 4

where

\( D_1 \) is the actual high pressure head

\( D_2 \) is the actual low pressure head

\( \Delta \) is 0.993\( d \) + 0.578\( b \) (cm)

\( i_1 \) is infiltration rate at the high pressure head

\( i_2 \) is infiltration rate at the low pressure head

For \( \Delta, d \) is the infiltrometer insertion depth and \( b \) is the infiltrometer radius. For the SATURO 5-cm insertion ring, \( d = 5 \) cm and \( b = 7.5 \) cm, so \( \Delta = 9.3 \) cm. For the 10-cm insertion ring, \( d = 10 \) cm and \( b = 7.5 \) cm, so \( \Delta = 14.3 \) cm.

The hydraulic conductivity is then multiplied by the difference in quasi-steady state infiltration rate for the last pressure cycle and divided by the difference in the measured pressure head from the last pressure cycle.

Equation 4 is equivalent to Equation 41 from Reynolds and Elrick (1990) and removes the dependence on soil characteristics and initial water content described by \( \lambda \).
4. SERVICE
This section describes the calibration and maintenance of the SATURO infiltrometer. Troubleshooting solutions and customer service information are also provided.

4.1 CALIBRATION
The water pump comes factory calibrated and is accurate to within ±5% of the reading at the time of shipment. However, the water pump and tubing can wear, causing a change in the volume of water flowing through the pump. Calibrate the pump every 6–12 months to ensure accurate measurements.

Operators can use two methods, based on either mass or volume, to calibrate the pump. The mass method is the most accurate, and the volume method is more convenient. Either method is acceptable for calibration.

Prior to calibration, obtain either a scale accurate to 0.01 g or a 25-mL graduated cylinder, for the mass or volume method respectively.

Press POWER/MENU, select Configuration, and select Water Pump Calibration (Figure 31). Press Enter on Type to toggle between Mass or Volume, and select Start.

A message will prompt to connect to a water source and to attach the outgoing water tube (Figure 32). Connect a source of water to the water input port and press Enter.

Both methods require that the water line is purged of air before running the calibration. Select Purge. Repeat the process to run water through the tube until water runs clear with no bubbles (Figure 33).
If using the mass method, tare the scale with the water tank. If using the volume method, ensure the graduated cylinder is empty. Select Confirm (Figure 34).

Run the calibration water flow. Compare the reading on the scale or the measurement on the cylinder to the infiltrometer default value on the Adjust Measured Value screen (Figure 35). Enter the new value from the scale or cylinder reading, and select Done. This value becomes the new default water flow value (Figure 36). SATURO uses this flow value to measure the flow of water into the infiltrometer head.
To remove the updated calibration values, highlight Restore Defaults on the Water Pump Calibration screen and press Enter.

Operators may run the calibration sequence as frequently as necessary to verify accurate readings. Once the calibration is complete, the new value stores in SATURO firmware until the next new calibration setting.

4.2 MAINTENANCE

Replacement parts can be ordered from METER. Contact Customer Support for more information. The instrument can be sent in to update tubing, replace battery, inspect system, and clean instrument. SATURO may also be returned to METER for maintenance and any old or damaged parts will be replaced as a part of the maintenance program.

NOTE: Complimentary maintenance lasts for 1 year; Customer Support can provide parts and labor cost estimates after this timeframe. See METER Terms and Conditions (Section 4.5) for more information.

Properly clean the equipment after each use to ensure the longevity of SATURO.

• Remove any soil on the insertion ring to reduce the amount of resistance when installing the insertion ring.

• Remove soil particles and other materials on the infiltrometer head.
  If soil particles or grass is left on the seal they could dry to the gasket causing it not to seal well during future use.

• Wipe down the three tubes with a wet rag.

• Inspect the insertion ring after each use for dents and dings incidental to normal use from hitting rocks and hard roots.
  File away any dents or dings to the bottom edge of the ring so the inner part of the ring is smooth. Dings and dents protruding towards the inner portion of the ring can create channels and will allow for preferential flow.

• Purge water from water pump or run dry air through the tubing to dry out the control unit.
  The SATURO will automatically purge water from the control unit after a test is completed (firmware versions 1.07 & higher)

• Charge the control unit after each use.

The water pump on the SATURO is a peristaltic pump with a replaceable cartridge that houses the tube and rollers. The tubing and rollers can wear out over time, typically around 5,000 hours of run time. The pump run time is tracked in the diagnostics screen of SATURO.

If there is a significant change in pump calibration or the pump becomes inconsistent, it may need to be replaced. Contact Customer Support to request instrument servicing.
SATURO is powered by 12-V, 7-A sealed lead acid battery. Over time, there will be a decrease in the maximum charge value of the battery. If the battery does not come up to full capacity after a full charge (typically 4–6 h), it will need to be replaced. Contact Customer Support for information for a new battery and servicing.

The guidelines in Table 3 may also help identify any potential maintenance problems.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Acceptable Ranges/Required Servicing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water Level</td>
<td>Should range from −3.9 to 6.2 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Pressure</td>
<td>Variable; should remain &lt;40 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battery</td>
<td>~11.1 to 13.7 V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charging Status</td>
<td>Variable; recommend beginning test with 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature</td>
<td>Do not exceed operating temperature; 0–50 °C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cap Sensor</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Pump</td>
<td>Service at 500 h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cartridge</td>
<td>Service at 500 h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Pump</td>
<td>Service at 500 h</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** It is important to service the water pump cartridge at 500 h. If the cartridge is not serviced, the tubing could wear, potentially filling the control unit with water.

### 4.3 TROUBLESHOOTING

Table 4 lists common problems and their solutions. If these solutions do not solve the issue, contact Customer Support.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Possible Solutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SATURO does not turn on</td>
<td>Fully charge the battery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If this does not fix the issue, contact Customer Support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing or damaged seal on infiltrometer head</td>
<td>If gasket is missing or damaged contact Customer Support for a replacement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firmware is corrupted! See Manual.</td>
<td>Check for firmware updates within the SATURO Downloader by clicking Help &gt; Check for Firmware Updates. Connect SATURO to the computer and follow the instructions in the updater.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WARNING: Taking this action deletes all data from the unit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NOTE: METER can extract data from units.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test name already exists</td>
<td>If a new test has the same name as a completed test that is already stored in memory, then this message will appear. Rename the test.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3  Troubleshooting SATURO (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Possible Solutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control unit shows low battery</td>
<td><strong>NOTE:</strong> This error occurs when the battery voltage drops below the minimum voltage at which the water pump can operate (11.1 V) during a test and stops the test. Charge the battery to ensure it is fully charged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data memory is full.</td>
<td>Download the data from the infiltrometer and erase the stored data on the infiltrometer before performing a new test.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test failed to reach the target water level</td>
<td><strong>NOTE:</strong> The control unit will initially display Water level warning! If the water level remains below the water level sensor (4.3 cm) for more than 10 min, SATURO will stop the test and the control unit will display Water level error! Check that the water supply is connected and water is able to easily flow from the water supply through the control unit into the infiltrometer head. Check for leaks around the seal of the infiltrometer head. If SATURO is on a slope, the slope may be too great, and the water level will not reach the sensor. If there are no apparent leaks, the location may have an infiltration rate that exceeds the capacity of SATURO. Try sampling a new location or adding a second water supply to proceed with the measurements. <strong>NOTE:</strong> Soils with extremely high infiltration rates could cause the water inside the chamber to remain below 4.3 cm, if the water pump cannot fill the chamber at a rate greater than the soil's infiltration rate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water is leaking between seal of infiltrometer head and insertion ring</td>
<td>Remove the infiltrometer head and check for debris (grass, leaves, loose soil, etc.) where the gasket seals with the insertion ring. Remove any debris and reconnect the infiltrometer head. Check the tightness of the clamps. The clamps should only apply enough pressure to slightly compress the gasket. If the clamps are too tight, they can deform the insertion ring, causing a poor seal. Adjust the clamp pressure with the screw on top of the clamps as necessary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selected pressure heads are not being reached</td>
<td>Check tubing connections to ensure tubes are pressed all the way into the push-to-connect fittings. The tubes should hit the back of the fittings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infiltrometer does not maintain pressure</td>
<td>Check tubing connections to ensure tubes are pressed all the way into the push-to-connect fittings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Check the infiltrometer head seals for grass or debris. Verify the clamps are not bent or deformed. Adjust the clamp screw to the appropriate tightness to seal the ring as necessary. <strong>NOTE:</strong> Tightening the clamp adjustment too tight will deform the metal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 3  Troubleshooting SATURO (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Possible Solutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>No depth sensor!</strong></td>
<td>Check sensor connection to the control unit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Verify it is measuring correctly by checking the Water Level value on the Diagnostics screen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If these actions do not fix the issue, contact <a href="#">Customer Support</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pressure limit exceeded!</strong></td>
<td>Check tubing for possible kinks or blockages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>NOTE:</strong> This error occurs when the air pressure in the chamber is over 60.0 cm or below −50.0 cm and stops the test.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Temperature too high!</strong></td>
<td>Move the system into a cooler environment. Make sure it is out of direct sunlight. After the system has cooled, turn the power off and on again to clear the temperature too high message.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>NOTE:</strong> This error occurs when the air temperature is above the minimum operating temperature (50 °C) while a test is running and stops the test when this occurs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Temperature too low!</strong></td>
<td>Move the system into a warmer environment. After the system has warmed, turn the power off and on again to clear the temperature too low message.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>NOTE:</strong> This error occurs when the air temperature is below the minimum operating temperature (0 °C) while a test is running. Water frozen in the system could cause damage. The error will stop the test.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Control unit becomes unresponsive</strong></td>
<td>Charge the battery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Press and hold the BACK button for more than 7 s to restart.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If these actions do not fix the issue, contact <a href="#">Customer Support</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date and time were reset!</strong></td>
<td>Ensure the battery is fully charged and update the date and time in the Settings menu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If this action does not fix the issue, contact <a href="#">Customer Support</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Missing bootstrap loader!</strong></td>
<td>This error means firmware updates will not be possible on this instrument unless the instrument is serviced by <a href="#">Customer Support</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>See Manual.</strong></td>
<td>The instrument may be used without consequences, but contact <a href="#">Customer Support</a> for servicing so the instrument firmware can stay up to date with the latest features and bug fixes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.4 CUSTOMER SUPPORT
Customer service representatives are available for questions, problems, or feedback Monday through Friday, 7 am–5 pm Pacific time.

Email: support.environment@metergroup.com
       sales.environment@metergroup.com

Phone: +1.509.332.5600

Fax: +1.509.332.5158

Website: metergroup.com

If contacting METER by email, please include the following information:

Name Email address
Address Instrument serial number
Phone Description of the problem

NOTE: For SATURO Dual-Head Infiltrometers purchased through a distributor, please contact the distributor directly for assistance.

4.5 TERMS AND CONDITIONS
By using METER instruments and documentation, you agree to abide by the METER Group, Inc. USA Terms and Conditions. Please refer to metergroup.com/company/terms-conditions for details.
REFERENCES


INDEX

C
calibration 22–24
components
  charger 9, 11
  control unit 11
  depth sensor 18
  infiltrometer head 18
  insertion ring 17
  USB port 11
  water supply tank 18
connections 12
customer support 28

F
field saturated hydraulic conductivity 1, 19–22

I
infiltration rate 5
installation 2

K
Kfs 1, 9, 19–22

L
lateral flow 19–20

M
maintenance
  battery 25
  cleaning 24–25
  infiltrometer head 24
  insertion ring 24
  water pump 24

P
ponding depths 21

Q
quasi-steady state 5, 21

R
references 29
running a test
  downloading 7–8
  starting 6
  stopping 7

S
SATURO Downloader 7–8
screen
  about 16
  contrast 15–16
  date 15
  diagnostics 16
  flux 13
  pressure 13
  results 14
  status 13
  time 15
  units 15
  water level 14–15
  water pump calibration 14
service. See maintenance
settings
  hold time 5
  pressure 4
  pressure cycles 5
  soak time 5–6
sorptivity 20
specifications 9

T
tab
  Configuration 14–17
  Data 17
  Reading 13–14
  terms and conditions 28
  theory 19–21
troubleshooting 25–27