The iCub CAN protocol for the sensor boards

This document describes the iCub CAN protocol with focus on the sensor boards.

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# Introduction

This document describes the iCub CAN protocol used by the sensor boards: strain, strain2, mtb, mtb4, and mais.

The first part deals with the general format of the CAN frame in the iCub protocol and details on the messages. The second part contains examples of how to use these messages for the most common scenarios.

The iCub CAN protocol

The iCub CAN protocol follows the standard CAN frame format, which has an 11-bits identifier and up to 8 bytes of payload. Transmission rate is 1mbps.

It uses the 11 bits of the identifier to manage up to 15 nodes with messages belonging to 7 classes, each one with an associated *mode* (command or streaming). The classes resemble the type of services used inside the robot: motion control, analog sensors, skin sensors, inertial sensors and board management (discovery, firmware update, etc.).

## The structure of the CAN frame

The following figure shows full details of how the CAN frame is organized.

CAN FRAME

ID

PAYLOAD

11 BITS

0 / 8 BYTES

Its format depends on the service mode of CLS.

CLS

SRC

DST/TYP

3 BITS 4 BITS 4 BITS

Its meaning depends on the value of CLS and in particular if it is a command or streaming class. This 4bits field may contain:

* The destination address (DST) for command classes CLS = {000b, 010b, 111b}.
* The type of content (TYP) for streaming classes, hence if CLS = {001b, 011b, 100b, 101b}

It is the source address of the CAN frame.

It is the class of the message. Here are the classes together with the associated service mode (command or streaming):

* 000b: polling Motor Control [command]
* 001b: periodic Motor Control [streaming]
* 010b: polling Analog Sensors [command]
* 011b: periodic Analog Sensors [streaming]
* 100b: periodic Skin Data [streaming]
* 101b: periodic Inertial Sensors [streaming]
* 110b: for future use
* 111b: bootloader management [command]

CMD

ARG

DATA

command

streaming

1 BYTE

**Figure 1**: Partitioning of a CAN frame in the iCub CAN protocol.

### The ID

In the iCub CAN protocol the 11 bits of the ID are divided in three parts: CLS, SRC and DST/TYP.

* CLS is 3 bits long and specifies the class. Each class has an associated service mode: either command or streaming. The command messages use both unicast and broadcast transport. The streaming messages always use broadcast transport. See following Table for details.
* SRC has 4 bits and specifies the address of the sender.
* The third part is of 4 bits and its meaning depends on CLS.
* If CLS has a command service mode, then the 4 bits contain the destination address DST. In such a case, the first byte of the payload contains the command code CMD and the remaining 7 bytes contain the required parameters.
* If CLS has a streaming service mode, then the 4 bits contain the type TYP of data contained in the payload.

### The PAYLOAD

The content of the payload depends on the value of ID.CLS and in particular on its service mode.

* If ID.CLS is of command service mode, we the payload must contain a … command and its arguments. The first byte is PAYLOAD.CMD and specifies which operation to apply. The remaining 7 bytes PAYLOAD.ARG are available for hosting the parameters of the command.
* If ID.CLS is of streaming service mode, we identify what we transport by ID.TYP and then we can use the full capacity of the payload to contain only data. The number of used bytes and their format depends on ID.TYP.

## The iCub network

The iCub network is formed by up to 15 devices each with a given CAN address ADDR in range [0, 14]. The device with address = 0 is called host, the others are called nodes.

The iCub CAN network

HOST @ 0

node @ 1

The HOST is responsible to manage all the nodes and to receive data.

node @ 3

node @ 13

node @ 14

node @ 2

Each node is specialized for a given task: motion control, analog sensors etc.

**Figure 2**: The iCub network.

### The iCub host

The iCub host is a computing device with a CAN address = 0 which is capable to manage all the nodes in its network. As such, it must be able to send commands and to parse the messages sent by the nodes (replies to commands or streaming messages).

There are several implementations of the host, which reflect the evolution of iCub and the required use-cases. Here are two examples.

#### The host is a PC with a USB-CAN dongle.

The PC runs the CANreal GUI, which allows to edit CAN frames (with ID.SRC = 0), transmit them, and see replies through the CAN-USB dongle.

The CANreal used as a HOST



The HOST sends a discovery command

A node @ 1 replies: it is a strain2.

The node @ 1 sends back the string:

“I am a strain2”.

The HOST asks node @ 1 for more information

**Figure 3**: The CANreal GUI manages raw frames.

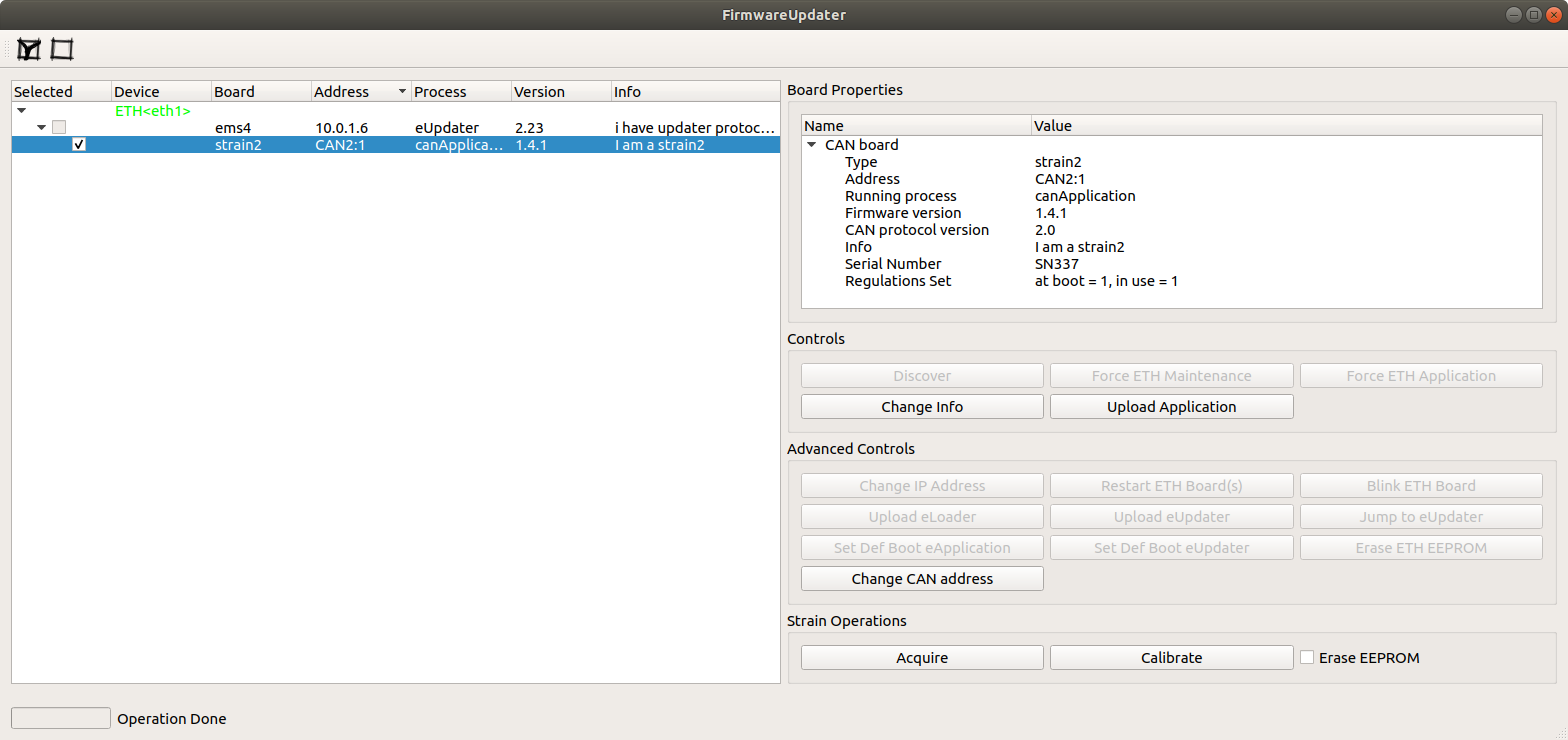
#### The host is an ETH-board inside iCub.

In ETH-based iCub robots, the PC104 communicates via IP to the ETH-boards (e.g., the EMS) and each of them acts as a HOST able to send and receive CAN frames.

In maintenance mode, FirmwareUpdater runs on the PC104 and acts as a former / parser of CAN frames. The ETH-board just acts as a physical host with CAN ADDR = 0 that passes through the frames for other nodes.

The following figure shows the FirmwareUpdater to perform the same discovery operation already seen with the CANreal. FirmwareUpdater hides the direct view of CAN frames ad shows only high-level information.

The ems board is the physical HOST



This button launches discovery

This panel shows properties of the found boards

**Figure 4**: The FirmwareUpdater GUI uses high-level concepts and hides the handling of CAN frames in the supporting libraries.

### The iCub CAN nodes

An iCub CAN node is characterised by a unique CAN address and a proper board type. It may run either the bootloader process or the application process.

The iCub CAN node

The CAN node executes a process (bootloader or application) that runs a basic parser plus other parsers which depends on the board type. The CAN PHY delivers the CAN frames to those parsers on the basis of the ID of the frame and the ADDR of the board.

NODE

EEPROM

process

other parsers

basic parser

ADDR

BOARDTYPE

CAN PHY

**Figure 5**: The iCub CAN node.

#### Valid addresses

We refer to the CAN address of a node with ADDR which has a range [1, 14]. The address 15, called EVERYONE, is reserved for broadcasting.

#### Processes executed by a CAN node: bootloader and application

The iCub CAN node runs the bootloader or the application process. At bootstrap it executes the bootloader, and if the bootloader does not detect any CAN frame activity, it executes the application after 5 seconds.

The application is the one that does the real job. However, the bootloader is useful as well because it offers recovery possibility in case of a buggy application. It also performs the firmware update of the application process.

The behaviour at bootstrap of the CAN node

Countdown expired

bootloader

Received a CAN frame: stop countdown.

application

Starts 5 sec countdown

**Figure 6**: Behaviour at bootstrap of the CAN node.

#### The board types

Each board runs a specific application that does the proper job. We roughly divide the boards based on their principal activity: motor-control boards (MOT) and sensor boards (SNS).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Code | Name | Activity | Description |
| 0x00 | dsp | MOT | DSP motor controlling board  **OBSOLETE** |
| 0x01 | pic | ? | PIC board  **OBSOLETE** |
| 0x02 | 2dc | MOT | DSP motor controlling board  **OBSOLETE** |
| 0x03 | mc4 | MOT | Motor control board for 4 DC motors  It is used in the CAN-based forearms of iCub  Its particularity is that it responds to two addresses: its primary address ADR and ADR+1. |
| 0x04 | bll | MOT | Motor control board for 2 brushless motors  It is used in CAN-based iCub. |
| 0x05 | mtb | SNS | mtb  It manages skin data and basic inertial sensors. |
| 0x06 | strain | SNS | strain  It manages FT data. |
| 0x07 | mais | SNS | MAIS board  It is used in the forearms of iCub to acquire positions of the hand. |
| 0x08 | foc | MOT | FOC  It is hosted in a 2FOC board and is used in ETH-based robots to drive one brushless motor. The board 2FOC mounts electronics to host two foc boards. |
| 0x09 | 6sg | SNS | 6SG  **OBSOLETE** |
| 0x0A | jog | MOT | JOG  A test board used to verify hardware in the robot, typically AEA etc. |
| 0x0B | mtb4 | SNS | MTB4  An enhancement of the mtb board. It interfaces skin patches, it has an IMU and temperature sensors. |
| 0x0C | strain2 | SNS | STRAIN2  An enhancement of the strain board. It manages FT data, it has an IMU and temperature sensors. |
| 0x0D | rfe | SNS | Robot Face Expression Board  It handles LEDs for face expression in iCub. |

**Table 1** – The board types supported by the iCub CAN protocol.

#### Icons used to represent the nodes

The following of the document will use the icons in the table to refer to a given node, to its running process and its board type. We shall use the yellow colour to represent a node running the bootloader and a green colour to represent its application.

See following table for examples.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Icon | Description |
| bootloader | Generic bootloader  It represents a node of any board type running the bootloader. |
| application | Generic application  It represents a node of any board type running the application. |
| strain2  app<strain2> | A particular application  It represents a node of board type strain2 running the application. |
| mtb4  btl<mtb4> | A particular bootloader  It represents a node of board type strain2 running the application. |
| MOT  app<MOT> | A particular class of applications  It represents any node of a motor-control board running the application. |
| MOT  btl<MOT> | A particular class of applications  It represents any node of every motor-control board running the application. |
| SNS  app<SNS> | A particular class of applications  It represents any node of a sensor board running the application. |
| SNS  btl<SNS> | A particular class of applications  It represents any node of every sensor board running the application. |

**Table 2** – The icons describing the nodes with running process and type of board.

### The supported communication modes

The iCub CAN protocol supports three transport modes: unicast, broadcast and streaming (which is a periodic broadcast). We can use them for the following communication paradigms: SET<>, GET<>, ORDER<>, STREAM<>.

Here is description of them.

#### Transport modes

Here they are.

Unicast

node @ 1

HOST @ 0

This is a frame with ID.CLS of type command and ID.DST = 1

accepted

node @ 2

discarted

**Figure 7**: A unicast frame is sent to a single address. It is represented with an arrow point.

Broadcast

node @ 1

HOST @ 0

This is a frame with ID.CLS of type command and ID.DST = 15

accepted

node @ 2

accepted

**Figure 8**: A broadcast frame is sent to every address. It is represented with an round point.

Streaming

node @ 1

HOST @ 0

These frames have ID.CLS of type streaming

accepted

node @ 2

accepted

**Figure 9**: A streaming frame is sent to everybody (but typically only the host is able to decode it). It is represented with a diamond shaped point.

#### Communication paradigms

Here they are.

SET<>

node @ 1

HOST @ 0

Its sets a value as expressed by PAYLOAD.CMD and PAYLOAD.ARG

It accepts the command a uses what in PAYLOAD.ARG to change an internal value

**Figure 10**: The SET<> paradigm. Used to write a value.

GET<>

node @ 1

HOST @ 0

Its sends a request expressed by PAYLOAD.CMD

It sends back the value in PAYLOAD.ARG

**Figure 11**: The GET<> paradigm. Used to read a value.

ORDER<>

node @ 1

HOST @ 0

Its sends an order expressed by PAYLOAD.CMD and PAYLOAD.ARG

It accepts the command and does an action.

A reply is possible, but depends on each CMD. It may be a OK/KO.

**Figure 12**: The ORDER<> paradigm. Used to start an action, for instance the start of streaming.

STREAM<>

node @ 1

HOST @ 0

It send data stored in PAYLOAD.DATA with periodic frames

**Figure 13**: The STREAM<> paradigm. It is used by a node to send acquired data in a periodic and spontaneous way.

### Messages accepted and parsed

A CAN node can accept a frame because it is delivered in a transport mode which is compatible to its CAN address (unicast to its address, broadcast or streaming). However, its parser may be unable to decode it because its process or board type do not manage it.

#### Messages accepted by a CAN node

Every CAN node is able to accept (but maybe not decode):

* All frames that belong to one of the message classes CLS = {000b, 010b, 111b} and have an ID.DST equal to the node address ADR or equal to EVERYONE = 15.
* All frames that belong to one of the streaming classes CLS = {001b, 011b, 100b, 101b}.

CAN frames accepted by the node

This is a streaming frame

node @ addr = 1

This frame is sent to the CAN parser

This is a broadcast frame with ID.DST = 15

This frame is sent to the CAN parser

This is a unicast frame with ID.DST = 1

This frame is ignored

This frame is sent to the CAN parser

This is a unicast frame with ID.DST = 2

**Figure 14**: A node accepts three type of CAN frames: unicast class sent directly to its address (arrow point), unicast class sent to the EVERYONE address = 15 (diamond shape point), and broadcast class (diamond point). All unicast class frames sent to other addresses are ignored.

#### Messages decoded by a CAN node

Every CAN node is able to manage (decode and reply to) all messages of the class bootloader-management (111b) plus some other messages of other classes. The exact number and type of those other messages depends on:

* if the node is running the bootloader or the application process,
* the board type of the node.

In general, every bootloader of any board type are able to parse the same set of commands. They implement the basic bootloader parser, which handles discovery, address change, and the firmware update procedure.

Similarly, every application of any board type are able to parse the same basic set of commands. They implement the basic application parser, which handles discovery, address change, and jump to the bootloader to start the firmware update procedure.

The application of each board type will also execute dedicated parsers, which are relevant to a specified task. For instance, board which have an IMU such as the strain2 and the mtb4 support messages that handle the IMU, which other boards do not support.

The CAN parsers in the nodes

Every bootloader is able to manage the same subset of messages. However, some boards may manage some extra messages.

bootloader

btl parser EXTRA

btl parser BASIC

strain2

app parser THERMO

app parser BASIC

app parser FT

app parser IMU

Every application is able to manage the same subset of messages. There are some other groups of messages dedicated to a specific task

**Figure 15**: The CAN parsers in the nodes.

A detailed table with all parsers, the messages in it inside and their mapping to the boards will follow later in the document.

## The iCub CAN protocol classes

Here are the classes used by the iCub CAN protocol. They are divide according to their service: command and streaming classes.

### The command classes

These classes are used for SET<> or GET<> or ORDER<> communication paradigms. Typically, we use messages belonging to these classes to initialise a service. The flow of these commands typically originates from the host and terminates on each boards.

These classes contain up to 255 possible CMDs each. All the CMD fields available for each class will be shown later in the document.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CLS | Description |
| **000b** | **Polling Motor Control**  [mode: command]  It is used to send messages related to motion control from one node, typically the host, which has address SRC = 000b, to another node with address DST = xxxb. |
| **010b** | **Polling Analog Sensors**  [mode: command]  It is used to send messages related to analog sensors from one node, typically the host which has address SRC = 000b to another node with address DST = xxxb. |
| **111b** | **Bootloader management**  [mode: command]  It is used to send messages related to management issues from one node, typically the host which has address SRC = 000b to another node which address DST = xxxb.  This class contains messages for discovery of the nodes in the bus, for setting and asking user-defined descriptive information of the node, and for performing firmware update. |

**Table 3** – The command classes in the iCub CAN protocol.

### The streaming classes

These classes are used to stream data from the boards towards other boards or more typically to the host. They use the STREAM<> communication paradigm.

These classes contain up to 16 TYP of messages each. All the TYP fields available for each class will be shown later in the document.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CLS | Description |
| **001b** | **Periodic Motor Control**  [mode: streaming]  It is used to send periodic messages related to motion control from one node with address SRC = xxxb to every other node.  Typically, the host commands the node to begin broadcasting with a message of CLS = 000b, then it listens and decodes. |
| **011b** | **Periodic Analog Sensors**  [mode: streaming]  It is used to send periodic messages related to analog sensors from one node with address SRC = xxxb to every other node.  Typically the node begins broadcasting after it has received a message of CLS = 010b with an order to transmit at a given rate |
| **100b** | **Periodic Skin Data**  [transport: streaming]  It is used to send periodic messages related to skin data from one node with address SRC = xxxb to every other node.  Typically, the host commands the node to begin broadcasting with a message of CLS = 010b, then it listens and decodes.  There is no class polling skin data because of … shortage of classes, hence we use analog sensor for configuration. |
| **101b** | **Periodic Inertial Data**  [transport: streaming]  It is used to send periodic messages related to inertial data from one node with address SRC = xxxb to every other node.  Typically, the host commands the node to begin broadcasting with a message of CLS = 010b, then it listens and decodes.  There is no class polling inertial data because of … shortage of classes, hence we use analog sensor for configuration. |

**Table 4** – The broadcast classes in the iCub CAN protocol.

The command classes

Here is description of the command classes.

## Class bootloader (or management)

In this class (CLS = 111b) there are the commands used to perform basic management services which are common to every board. The name of the class is originally bootloader because this class contains commands used for the firmware updater procedure that the bootloader executes. However, this name is misleading because also the applications use its commands for other purposes such as discovery and change of address.

Here is the complete list.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| 0x00 | BOARD |
| 0x01 | ADDRESS |
| 0x02 | START |
| 0x03 | DATA |
| 0x04 | END |
| 0x0C | GET\_ADDITIONAL\_INFO |
| 0x0D | SET\_ADDITIONAL\_INFO |
| 0x32 | SET\_ADDRESS |
| 0xFF | BROADCAST (or DISCOVER) |

**Table 5** – The CMDs of the bootloader / management class.

### Messages used for management of boards

Here are the messages used for management. They allow discovering the nodes in the network, to retrieve user-defined information, to modify it, and to change the address of the nodes.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0xFF** | **BROADCAST (or DISCOVER)**  **In brief**  It is used to discover the nodes in the CAN network. It is typically transmitted to all nodes in the network using ID.DST = 15 = EVERYONE.  **Parsed by**    bootloader  application  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0xFF   * sizeof(ARG) = 0.   **Actions on reception**    bootloader  application  It just replies to the sender.  **Reply**  bootloader  It replies to the sender with the same CMD and following format.  0xFF  BRD  BL.maj  BL.min   * sizeof(ARG) = 3 * BRD is the board type. See table 1 for values. * BL.maj is the major number of the bootloader version. * BL.min is the minor number of the bootloader version.   application  It replies to the sender with the same CMD and following format.  0xFF  BRD  AP.maj  AP.min  AP.bld   * sizeof(ARG) = 4 * BRD is the board type. See table 1 for values. * AP.maj is the major number of the application version. * AP.min is the minor number of the application version. * AP.bld is the build number of the application version.   **Note**  It is possible to detect if a node runs the bootloader or the application simply by looking at the size of the payload of the reply to a DISCOVER message. If it is 5, it is running the application, else the bootloader. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x0C** | **GET\_ADDITIONAL\_INFO**  **In brief**  Used to get additional information that is stored in storage of the node. The additional information is a string of up to 32 characters.  **Parsed by**    bootloader  application  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x0C   * sizeof(ARG) = 0.   **Actions on reception**    bootloader  application  It just replies to the sender.  **Reply**    bootloader  application  It sends back a burst of M messages, with M = [1, 8], which describe the string of the additional info, let’s say contained inside char info32[32].  It replies to the sender with the same CMD and following format.  0x0C  SEQ  C0  C1  C2  C3   * sizeof(ARG) = 5 * SEQ is the sequence number of the burst from 0 to M-1. * The Cx bytes contain the value of info32[4\*SEQ+x]. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x0D** | **SET\_ADDITIONAL\_INFO**  **In brief**  Used to set additional information that is stored in storage of the node. The additional information is a string of up to 32 characters.  The way this command is used is through a burst of M messages, with M = [1, 8], which describe the string of the additional info, let’s say contained inside char info32[32].  **Parsed by**    bootloader  application  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x0D  SEQ  C0  C1  C2  C3   * sizeof(ARG) = 5. * SEQ is the sequence number of the burst from 0 to M-1. * The Cx bytes contain the value to copy into info32[4\*SEQ+x].   **Actions on reception**    bootloader  application  It copies into info32[] the values contained into the payload.  **Reply**    bootloader  application  It does not reply. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x32** | **SET\_ADDRESS**  **In brief**  Used to change the CAN address. It is a new message that enables both explicit and random address assignment modes. This latter is useful when two or more nodes accidentally have the same address.  **Parsed by**    bl<mtb4>  bl<strain2>  bl<rfe>  mtb4  strain2  rfe  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x32  ADR  INVALIDMASK   * sizeof(ARG) = 3. * ADR is the new address. Valid values are [1, 14] and 0xff. This latter specify to use the random assignment mode. * INVALIDMASK contains a bitmask stored as a std::uint16\_t in little endian. Tis mask is used only by the random assignment mode to tell which addresses to exclude: if the bit in position x is 1, then the address x must be excluded. The mask should not be 0x   **Actions on reception**    bootloader  application  If ADR is valid and not 0xff then we assign the new address equal to ADR. Else, if it is equal to 0xff we attempt to assign a random address allowed by the INVALIDMASK.  **Reply**    bootloader  application  It does not reply.  **Note**  The legacy mode to change address is to use a message of a different unicast class for each specific node. For instance the 2foc requires the message CMD = 0x32 of CLS = 000b (polling motion control) and the strain requires the message CMD = 0x32 of CLS = 010b (polling analog sensors). |

### Messages used in the firmware update procedure

The firmware updater procedure allows the bootloader to change the code space of the application based on messages received by a host.

Here are details of the messages.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x00** | **BOARD**  **In brief**  It commands the start of the firmware update procedure.  **Parsed by**    bootloader  application  **Format of PAYLOAD**    0x00  EE   * sizeof(ARG) = 1. * EE is a boolean (0 /1) which tells if after firmware update it is required to erase all user-defined storage (EEPROM).   **Actions on reception**  application  It just resets to execute the bootloader.  bootloader  It stores the EE info and enters the firmware update procedure.  **Reply**  application  It does not reply.  bootloader  It replies with the same CMD and empty ARG.  0x00   * sizeof(ARG) = 0 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x01** | **ADDRESS**  **In brief**  Used for the firmware updater procedure. It tells: how many bytes of code data the DATA command will send, their starting address in program space, and if the code data belongs to program memory or data memory.  **Parsed by**  bootloader  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x01  N  ADDR-L  T  ADDR-H   * sizeof(ARG) = 6. * N contains the number of bytes of program data that the command DATA is going to transmit. * ADDR-L contains the less significant part of the starting address (ADDR) in code space of those bytes. It is expressed as a std::uint16\_t in little endian. For 16-bits addressing modes that is enough. * T contains the type of code space we want to manage. A value of 0 means program memory, a value of 1 means data memory. In hex format it is always 0. * ADDR-H contains the most significant part of the starting address (ADDR) in code space. It is expressed as a std::uint16\_t in little endian. It is used in all the 32-bits addressing modes (as in hex format).   **Actions on reception**  bootloader  It memorises N and ADDR = (ADDR-L + (ADDR-H >> 16)) in a new section of code space to program. We call it:  struct Section { uint32\_t start; uint32\_t end; uint32\_t curr; };  Section section = {ADDR, ADDR+N, ADDR};  **Reply**  bootloader  It does not reply |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x03** | **DATA**  **In brief**  Used for the firmware updater procedure. It contains the code data that the bootloader will burn in the section of code space previously descripted by the message ADDRESS.  **Parsed by**  bootloader  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x03  CODEDATA   * sizeof(ARG) = S. It is variable. * CODEDATA contains the raw bytes that the bootloader will burn in code space. Its number is sizeof(PAYLOAD) – 1, which typically is equal to 6.   **Actions on reception**  bootloader  It burns CODEDATA in code space at address section.curr, but only if it does not go beyond section.end. It increments current address with: section.curr += S, so that next DATA command can write in the proper address.  **Reply**  bootloader  It may reply or not.  It replies to the sender with the same CMD and OK/KO information only when the node has received all the data as indicated by previous ADDRESS command.  0x03  OKKO   * sizeof(ARG) = 1 * OKKO is 1 is everything was OK, 0 otherwise.   **Note**  Typically the firmware update procedure uses sequences formed by messages {ADDRESS, {DATA}D}C. As an example, to write 8 code sections of 64 bytes each, one can use messages with ADDRESS.N = 64, sizeof(DATA.CODEDATA) = 4, D = 16, and C = 8. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x02** | **START**  **In brief**  Used for the firmware updater procedure. It tells to … start the termination of the procedure.  **Parsed by**  bootloader  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x02  CODEDATA   * sizeof(ARG) = S. It is variable. * CODEDATA contains the raw bytes that the bootloader will burn in code space. Its number is sizeof(PAYLOAD) – 1, which typically is equal to 6.   **Actions on reception**  bootloader  It ensures that all received data is burned in code space and, if requested by command BOARD with its BOARD.EE, it erases the EEPROM.  **Reply**  bootloader  It replies to the sender with the same CMD and OK/KO information.  0x02  OKKO   * sizeof(ARG) = 1 * OKKO is 1 is everything was OK, 0 otherwise. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x04** | **END**  **In brief**  Used for the firmware updater procedure. It tells that the procedure is over and to restart to run the application.  **Parsed by**  bootloader  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x04   * sizeof(ARG) = 0.   **Actions on reception**  bootloader  It sends back a reply and then it restarts.  **Reply**  bootloader  It replies to the sender with the same CMD and OK/KO information.  0x04  OKKO   * sizeof(ARG) = 1 * OKKO is 1 is everything was OK, 0 otherwise. |

## Class polling motor control

The messages of class polling motor control (CLS = 000b) are used mostly for motor control boards (MOT). However, some sensor boards support some of them.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
|  | … others |
| 0x32 | SET\_BOARD\_ID |
|  | … others |
| 0x52 | GET\_FIRMWARE\_VERSION |
|  | … others |

**Table 6** – The CMDs of the polling motor control class (supported by some sensor boards).

### Management messages

They are messages originally developed for MC boards that have similar versions for sensor boards. The new boards (mtb4, strain2, rfe) all support these messages to enhance the freedom of the host and avoid confusion on what message send to what board. However, their right place is in the bootloader/management class, where we already have added some of them.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x32** | **SET\_BOARD\_ID**  **In brief**  It commands a change of CAN address to motor control boards (but also of strain2, mtb4 and rfe).  **Parsed by**    btl<MC>  appl<MC>  strain2  mtb4  rfe  **Format of PAYLOAD**    0x32  ADR   * sizeof(ARG) = 1. * ADR is the new address. Valid values are [1, 14].   **Actions on reception**    btl<MC>  appl<MC>  strain2  mtb4  rfe  It imposes a new address to be ARG.ADR.  **Reply**    btl<MC>  appl<MC>  strain2  mtb4  rfe  It does not reply. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x5B** | **GET\_FIRMWARE\_VERSION**  **In brief**  Used to get information about application and CAN protocol versions of motor control boards (but also of strain2, mtb4 and rfe).  **Parsed by**    appl<MC>  strain2  mtb4  rfe  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x5B  REQ.ma  REQ.mi   * sizeof(ARG) = 0. * (REQ.ma, REQ.mi) is the CAN protocol version required by the host to do effective communication.   **Actions on reception**    appl<MC>  strain2  mtb4  rfe  It just replies to the sender.  **Reply**    appl<MC>  strain2  mtb4  rfe  It replies to the sender with the same CMD and following format.  0x5B  BRD  APP.ma  APP.mi  APP.bu  CAN.ma  CAN.mi  COMP   * sizeof(ARG) = 7 * BRD is the type of board. * (APP.ma, APP.mi, APP.bu) contains the application version in major, minor, build. * (CAN.ma, CAM.mi) contains the CAN protocol version in major, minor. * COMP = ((CAN.ma == REG.ma) && (CAN.mi >= REQ.mi)) ? (1) : (0) |

### All the other messages

The description of every MC command message is out of the scope of this document.

## Class polling analog sensors

The class polling analog sensors (CLS = 010b) contains messages dedicated to sensor boards.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| 0x03 | SET\_MATRIX\_RC |
| 0x04 | SET\_CH\_DAC |
| 0x07 | SET\_TXMODE |
| 0x08 | SET\_CANDATARATE |
| 0x09 | SAVE2EE |
| 0x0A | GET\_MATRIX\_RC |
| 0x0B | GET\_CH\_DAC |
| 0x0C | GET\_CH\_ADC |
| 0x10 | SET\_RESOLUTION (SET\_MAIS\_RESOLUTION) |
| 0x11 | SET\_MATRIX\_G [not necessary: the matrix in strain/strain2 does not have a gain] |
| 0x12 | GET\_MATRIX\_G [not necessary: the matrix in strain/strain2 does not have a gain] |
| 0x13 | SET\_CALIB\_TARE |
| 0x14 | GET\_CALIB\_TARE |
| 0x15 | SET\_CURR\_TARE [not necessary: strain/strain2 don’t store it in permanent storage] |
| 0x16 | GET\_CURR\_TARE [not necessary: strain/strain2 don’t store it in permanent storage] |
| 0x17 | SET\_FULLSCALE |
| 0x18 | GET\_FULLSCALE |
| 0x19 | SET\_SERIAL\_NO |
| 0x1A | GET\_SERIAL\_NO |
| 0x1B | GET\_EEPROM\_STATUS |
| 0x1C | GET\_FIRMWARE\_VERSION |
| 0x1D | AMPLIFIER\_RESET |
| 0x1E | AMPLIFIER\_RANGE\_OF\_GAIN\_GET |
| 0x1F | AMPLIFIER\_RANGE\_OF\_OFFSET\_GET |
| 0x20 | AMPLIFIER\_GAINOFFSET\_GET |
| 0x21 | AMPLIFIER\_GAINOFFSET\_SET |
| 0x22 | AMPLIFIER\_OFFSET\_AUTOCALIB |
| 0x2A | AMPLIFIER\_PGA308\_CFG1\_GET |
| 0x2B | AMPLIFIER\_PGA308\_CFG1\_SET |
| 0x32 | SET\_BOARD\_ADX |
| 0x33 | IMU\_CONFIG\_GET |
| 0x34 | IMU\_CONFIG\_SET |
| 0x35 | IMU\_TRANSMIT |
| 0x38 | THERMOMETER\_CONFIG\_GET |
| 0x39 | THERMOMETER\_CONFIG\_SET |
| 0x3A | THERMOMETER\_TRANSMIT |
| 0x3D | REGULATIONSET\_SET |
| 0x3E | REGULATIONSET\_GET |
| 0x4D | SKIN\_SET\_BRD\_CFG |
| 0x4F | SKIN\_ACC\_GYRO\_SETUP |
| 0x50 | SET\_TRIANG\_CFG |

**Table 7** – The CMDs of the polling analog sensor class.

### Management messages

They are command messages that have similar one in the polling MC class. The host must send the command of the correct class after it has detected the board type with a DISCOVER message of the bootloader / management class.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x32** | **SET\_BOARD\_ADX**  **In brief**  It commands a change of CAN address in sensor boards.  **Parsed by**    btl<SNS>  app<SNS>  **Format of PAYLOAD**    0x32  ADR   * sizeof(ARG) = 1. * ADR is the new address. Valid values are [1, 14].   **Actions on reception**    btl<SNS>  app<SNS>  It imposes a new address to be ARG.ADR.  **Reply**    btl<SNS>  app<SNS>  It does not reply.  **Note**  The class motor control polling has a similar message.  The bootloader / management class also has a similar message with extended features. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x1C** | **GET\_FIRMWARE\_VERSION**  **In brief**  Used to get information about application and CAN protocol versions of sensor boards only.  **Parsed by**    strain  strain2  mtb  mtb4  mais  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x5B  REQ.ma  REQ.mi   * sizeof(ARG) = 0. * (REQ.ma, REQ.mi) is the CAN protocol version required by the host to do effective communication.   **Actions on reception**    strain  strain2  mtb  mtb4  mais  It just replies to the sender.  **Reply**    strain  strain2  mtb  mtb4  mais  It replies to the sender with the same CMD and following format.  0x5B  BRD  APP.ma  APP.mi  APP.bu  CAN.ma  CAN.mi  COMP   * sizeof(ARG) = 7 * BRD is the type of board. * (APP.ma, APP.mi, APP.bu) contains the application version in major, minor, build. * (CAN.ma, CAM.mi) contains the CAN protocol version in major, minor. * COMP = ((CAN.ma == REG.ma) && (CAN.mi >= REQ.mi)) ? (1) : (0)   **Note**  The class motor control polling has a similar message. But … **beware**: the message in class polling motor control has a different CMD value. |

### Messages for managing the FT and HES data service

In here are messages used by boards to configure rate and start/stop of their main service: FT for strain/strain2 boards and HES (Hall-effect sensor) data in the mais board.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x08** | **SET\_CANDATARATE**  **In brief**  Used to set the transmission rate of some services in sensor boards: hall effect sensor data in mais board, FT data in strain / strain2 boards.  **Parsed by**    strain  strain2  mais  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x07  RATE   * sizeof(ARG) = 1. * RATE contains the tx rate in milli-seconds.   **Actions on reception**    strain  strain2  mais  It memorises the TX rate for the FT or hall effect sensor.  **Reply**    strain  strain2  mais  It does not reply. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x10** | **SET\_MAIS\_RESOLUTION (or SET\_ RESOLUTION)**  **In brief**  Used to set the resolution of the acquired ADC samples by the mais board. If the board does not receive this command, the default resolution would be 8 bits.  **Parsed by**  mais  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x10  RES   * sizeof(ARG) = 1. * RES contains one of the following values: enum class MaisRes { eightbits = 2 }.   **Actions on reception**  mais  It memorises the resolution of hall effect sensor.  **Reply**    strain  strain2  mais  It does not reply.  **Note**  Previous resolution modes with 16 bits (RES = 0) and debug mode (RES = 1) are deprecated. They would stream messages with TYP = 12, 13, 14, and 15 in former case and with TYP = 12, 13 in the latter case. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x07** | **SET\_TXMODE**  **In brief**  Used to start transmission of some services in sensor boards: hall effect sensor data in mais board, FT data in strain / strain2 boards.  **Parsed by**    strain  strain2  mais  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x07  MODE   * sizeof(ARG) = 1. * MODE uses different values in mais and strain/strain2 boards: * strain/strain2: the values are from enum class StrainMode { txCalibrated = 0, txNone = 1, txUncalibrated = 3, txAll = 4 }. * mais: the values are from enum class MaisMode { txHallEffectData = 0, txNone = 1 }.   **Actions on reception**    strain  strain2  If ARG.MODE is StrainMode::txCalibrated it starts emitting messages of the class periodic analog sensors with TYPs FORCE\_VECTOR and TORQUE\_VECTOR containing calibrated data.  If ARG.MODE is StrainMode::txUncalibrated it starts emitting messages of the class periodic analog sensors with TYPs FORCE\_VECTOR and TORQUE\_VECTOR containing uncalibrated data.  If ARG.MODE is StrainMode::txAll it starts emitting messages of the class periodic analog sensors with TYPs FORCE\_VECTOR and TORQUE\_VECTOR containing calibrated data and with TYPs UNCALIBFORCE\_VECTOR\_DEBUGMODE and UNCALIBTORQUE\_VECTOR\_DEBUGMODE with uncalibrated data.  If ARG.MODE is StrainMode::txNone it stops any transmission.  mais  If ARG.MODE is MaisMode:: txHallEffectData it starts emitting messages of the class periodic analog sensors with TYPs HES0TO6 and HES7TO14.  If ARG.MODE is MaisMode::txNone it stops any transmission.  **Reply**    strain  strain2  mais  It does not reply. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x18** | **GET\_FULLSCALE**  **In brief**  Used to retrieve the fullscale stored in the regulation set of strain / strain2 boards.  **Parsed by**    strain  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x18  RS  CH   * sizeof(ARG) = 1. * RS is a nibble that contains the target regulation set. Its usual value should be 0 which means the regulation set in use. If we have a strain2 and we want to query one of its three regulation sets, we can also use 1, 2, or 3. * CH is a nibble which contains the target channel.   **Actions on reception**    strain  strain2  It sends a reply with the wanted fullscale.  **Reply**    strain  strain2  It replies to the sender with the same CMD and following format.    0x18  RS  CH  FS   * sizeof(ARG) = 3 * RS and CH are the same as those in the received message. * FS contains the value of the fullscale as a std::uint16\_t in **BIG** **ENDIAN** (sic!). |

### Messages for managing the IMU service

In here are messages that are used by mtb4 and strain2 boards to configure rate and start/stop of the IMU service.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x34** | **IMU\_CONFIG\_SET**  **In brief**  Used to impose the configuration of the IMU.  **Parsed by**    mtb4  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**    0x34  MASK  FUS  FFU   * sizeof(ARG) = 7 * MASK contains a bitmask of the configured sensors inside the IMU expressed as a std::uint16\_t. Supported sensors are from enum class imuSensor { acc = 0, mag = 1, gyr = 2, eul = 3, qua = 4, lia = 5, grv = 6, status = 15, none = 16 }. * FUS contains the fusion mode used by the IMU. So far only value 1 is allowed: enum class imuFusion { enabled = 1}. * FFU is for future use.   **Actions on reception**    mtb4  strain2  It loads the received configuration.  **Reply**    mtb4  strain2  It does not reply. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x33** | **IMU\_CONFIG\_GET**  **In brief**  Used to retrieve the configuration of the IMU.  **Parsed by**    mtb4  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x33   * sizeof(ARG) = 0.   **Actions on reception**    mtb4  strain2  It sends a reply with the wanted configuration.  **Reply**    mtb4  strain2  It replies to the sender with the same CMD and following format.    0x33  MASK  FUS  FFU   * sizeof(ARG) = 7 * MASK contains a bitmask of the configured sensors inside the IMU expressed as a std::uint16\_t. Supported sensors are from enum class imuSensor { acc = 0, mag = 1, gyr = 2, eul = 3, qua = 4, lia = 5, grv = 6, status = 15, none = 16 }. * FUS contains the fusion mode used by the IMU. So far only value 1 is allowed: enum class imuFusion { enabled = 1}. * FFU is for future use. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x35** | **IMU\_TRANSMIT**  **In brief**  Starts the IMU service at a specified rate or it stops it.  **Parsed by**    mtb4  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x35  RATE   * sizeof(ARG) = 1 * RATE contains the transmission rate expressed as a std::uint8\_t in milli-seconds.   **Actions on reception**    mtb4  strain2  If ARG.RATE is > 0 it starts transmission of the relevant message of class periodic inertial (IMU\_TRIPLE, IMU\_QUATERNION, or IMU\_STATUS), else if = 0 it stops it.  **Reply**    mtb4  strain2  It does not reply. |

### Messages for managing the THERMO service

In here are messages that are used by mtb4 and strain2 boards to configure rate and start/stop of the THERMO service.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x39** | **THERMOMETER\_CONFIG\_SET**  **In brief**  Used to impose the configuration of the THERMO service.  **Parsed by**    mtb4  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**    0x39  MASK   * sizeof(ARG) = 1 * MASK contains a bitmask of the configured temperature sensors expressed as a std::uint8\_t. So far the only possible value is 0x01 because the only supported sensor is from enum class Thermo { one = 0, none = 8 }.   **Actions on reception**    mtb4  strain2  It loads the received configuration.  **Reply**    mtb4  strain2  It does not reply. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x38** | **THERMOMETER\_CONFIG\_GET**  **In brief**  Used to retrieve the configuration of the THERMO.  **Parsed by**    mtb4  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x38   * sizeof(ARG) = 0.   **Actions on reception**    mtb4  strain2  It sends a reply with the wanted configuration.  **Reply**    mtb4  strain2  It replies to the sender with the same CMD and following format.    0x38  MASK   * sizeof(ARG) = 1 * MASK contains a bitmask of the configured temperature sensors expressed as a std::uint8\_t. So far the only possible value is 0x01 because the only supported sensor is from enum class Thermo { one = 0, none = 8 }. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x3A** | **THERMOMETER\_TRANSMIT**  **In brief**  Starts the THERMO service at a specified rate or it stops it.  **Parsed by**    mtb4  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x3A  RATE   * sizeof(ARG) = 1 * RATE contains the transmission rate expressed as a std::uint8\_t in seconds.   **Actions on reception**    mtb4  strain2  If ARG.RATE is > 0 it starts transmission of the message of class periodic analog and TYP = THERMOMETER\_MEASURE, else if = 0 it stops it.  **Reply**    mtb4  strain2  It does not reply. |

### Messages for managing the Skin service

In here are messages that are used by mtb and mtb4 boards to configure the Skin service.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x4D** | **SKIN\_SET\_BRD\_CFG**  **In brief**  Used to configure the acquisition of skin data in mtb/mtb4 boards. It contains settings which are general to every triangle.  **Parsed by**    mtb  mtb4  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x4D  COMP  RATE  NOLD   * sizeof(ARG) = 3 * COMP is the compensation mode for the skin. Its value can be enum class SkinComp { withTemperatureCompensation = 0, palmFingerTip = 1, withoutTempCompensation = 2, testmodeRAW = 7 }. * RATE is the period of transmission in milli-seconds. * NOLD is the value of the no-load that the board uses. Typical value is: 245.   **Actions on reception**    mtb  mtb4  It applies the received values.  **Reply**    mtb  mtb4  It does not send a reply. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x50** | **SET\_TRIANG\_CFG**  **In brief**  Used to configure the acquisition of skin data in mtb/mtb4 boards. It operates on skin triangles.  **Parsed by**    mtb  mtb4  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x50  FIRST  LAST  SHIFT  ENA  CDCOFFSET   * sizeof(ARG) = 6 * FIRST is number of the first triangle to which apply the values. Valid values are: [0, 15]. * LAST is number of the last triangle to which apply the values. Valid values are: [FIRST, 15]. * SHIFT is the shift value applied to the triangles. Default value is 2. * ENA = 1 enables the triangles, else if = 0 it disables them. * CDCOFFSET is the value of the cdcoffset to be applied for the triangles. It is a std::uint16\_t value in little endian. Default value is: 0x2200.   **Actions on reception**    mtb  mtb4  It applies the received values.  **Reply**    mtb  mtb4  It does not send a reply. |

### Messages for managing the accel / gyro in mtb boards

In board mtb the only mode to configure the accelerometer or gyroscope is to use the command ACC\_GYRO\_SETUP. This command is also supported by mtb4 and strain2 which both mount a full IMU, however its use is discouraged in favor of the IMU\_\* commands.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x4F** | **ACC\_GYRO\_SETUP**  **In brief**  Starts the accelerometer and/or gyroscope on mtb boards. The mtb4 and strain2 boards support this command for legacy purposes only.  **Parsed by**    mtb  mtb4  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x4F  MASK  RATE   * sizeof(ARG) = 2 * MASK contains a bitmask with the sensors to transmit. The valid bits are: enum class InertialTypeBit { internaldigitalaccelerometer = 1, externaldigitalgyroscope = 2, externaldigitalaccelerometer = 3 }. * RATE contains the transmission rate expressed as a std::uint8\_t in milli-seconds.   **Actions on reception**    mtb  mtb4  strain2  If ARG.RATE is > 0 and if mask is not 0, it starts transmission of the relevant message of class periodic inertial (DIGITAL\_ACCELEROMETER, DIGITAL\_GYROSCOPE), else it stops transmission.  **Reply**    mtb  mtb4  strain2  It does not reply.  **Notes**  In the mtb board, the two accelerometers (internal and external) cannot be used at the same time, if for an error both are selected the internal one is used.  The mtb4 and strain2 board will use the accelerometer / gyroscope inside their IMU if at least one of the relevant values of InertialTypeBit is set. |

### Messages for advanced use of the FT service

#### Messages that operate on the choice of the regulation set

The strain2 boards support three regulation sets in their permanent storage (EEPROM). It is possible to impose the use of one over the other, so that the board can be more versatile versus several kind of scenarios.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x3D** | **REGULATIONSET\_SET**  **In brief**  Used to impose the regulation set of the strain/strain2 board.  **Parsed by**  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x3D  RS  T   * sizeof(ARG) = 1 * RS is a nibble that contains the target regulation set. Its value can be: 1, 2, or 3. * T is a nibble that contains the type of regulation set. Its values can be: enum class regSetType = { inuse = 0, atbootstrap =1 }.   **Actions on reception**  strain2  It applies the received ARG.RS value. If ARG.T is regSetType::inuse, the board loads the regulation set specified by ARG.RS and uses it until a new command arrives or the boards restarts. If ARG.T is regSetType::atbootstrap, the board saves the regulation set specified by ARG.RS so that it can use it at the next start-up.  **Reply**  strain2  It does not send a reply.  **Note**  The value sent with T = regSetType::atbootstrap will not be stored in permanent storage until the board receives a message of type SAVE2EE. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x3E** | **REGULATIONSET\_GET**  **In brief**  Used to retrieve the regulation set of the strain2 board.  **Parsed by**  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x3E  0x0  T   * sizeof(ARG) = 1 * T is a nibble that contains the type of regulation set. Its values can be: enum class regSetType = { inuse = 0, atbootstrap =1 }.   **Actions on reception**  strain2  It sends a reply with the requested regulation set value.  **Reply**  strain2  It replies to the sender with the same CMD and following format.  0x3E  RS  T   * sizeof(ARG) = 1 * RS is a nibble that contains the regulation set. Its value can be: 1, 2, or 3. * T is the same as in the received command. |

#### Messages that operate on the content of a given regulation set

In here are messages that initialize and maintain the regulation sets of the strain / strain2 board.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x03** | **SET\_MATRIX\_RC**  **In brief**  Used to change a value of the transformation matrix stored the regulation set of strain / strain2 boards. The matrix contains Q15 values.  **Parsed by**    strain  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x03  RS  R  Z  C  VALUE   * sizeof(ARG) = 4. * RS is a nibble that contains the target regulation set. Its usual value should be 0 which means the regulation set in use. If we have a strain2 and we want to query one of its three regulation sets, we can also use 1, 2, or 3. * R is the row of the matrix in range [0, 5] * X is always 0. * C is the column of the matrix in range [0, 5]. * VALUE is the value of the matrix stored as a Q15 in **BIG** **ENDIAN** (sic!).   **Actions on reception**    strain  strain2  It assigns VALUE in position (R, C) of the transformation matrix of regulation set specified by RS.  **Reply**    strain  strain2  It does not reply.  **Note**  The value will not be stored in permanent storage until the board receives a message of type SAVE2EE. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x0A** | **GET\_MATRIX\_RC**  **In brief**  Used to retrieve a value of the transform matrix stored the regulation set of strain / strain2 boards. The matrix contains Q15 values.  **Parsed by**    strain  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x0A  RS  R  Z  C   * sizeof(ARG) = 2. * RS is a nibble that contains the target regulation set. Its usual value should be 0 which means the regulation set in use. If we have a strain2 and we want to query one of its three regulation sets, we can also use 1, 2, or 3. * R is the row of the matrix in range [0, 5] * X is always 0. * C is the column of the matrix in range [0, 5].   **Actions on reception**    strain  strain2  It sends back the value.  **Reply**    strain  strain2  It replies to the sender with the same CMD and following format.  0x0A  RS  R  Z  C  VALUE   * sizeof(ARG) = 4 * RS, R, Z and C are the same as those in the received message. * VALUE is the value of the matrix stored as a Q15 value in **BIG** **ENDIAN** (sic!). |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x17** | **SET\_FULLSCALE**  **In brief**  Used to impose the fullscale of the regulation set of strain / strain2 boards.  **Parsed by**    strain  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**    0x17  RS  CH  FS   * sizeof(ARG) = 3 * RS is a nibble that contains the target regulation set. Its usual value should be 0 which means the regulation set in use. If we have a strain2 and we want to query one of its three regulation sets, we can also use 1, 2, or 3. * CH is a nibble which contains the target channel. * FS contains the value of the fullscale as a std::uint16\_t in **BIG** **ENDIAN** (sic!).   **Actions on reception**    strain  strain2  It stores the received fullscale.  **Reply**    strain  strain2  It does not send a reply.  **Note**  The value will not be stored in permanent storage until the board receives a message of type SAVE2EE. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x18** | **SET\_SERIAL\_NUMBER**  **In brief**  Used to impose the serial number that specifies the regulation set of the given strain / strain2 board.  **Parsed by**    strain  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**    0x18  SN   * sizeof(ARG) = sizeof(SN) * SN contains the raw string of the serial number. Its length is up to 7. Example: SN = { “SN123” } has length = 5.   **Actions on reception**  strain  strain2  It stores the received value .  **Reply**    strain  strain2  It does not send a reply.  **Note**  The value will not be stored in permanent storage until the board receives a message of type SAVE2EE. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x1A** | **GET\_SERIAL\_NUMBER**  **In brief**  Used to retrieve the serial number that specifies the regulation set of the given strain / strain2 board.  **Parsed by**    strain  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x1A   * sizeof(ARG) = 0.   **Actions on reception**    strain  strain2  It sends a reply with the wanted serial number in form of a string.  **Reply**    strain  strain2  It replies to the sender with the same CMD and following format.    0x1A  SN   * sizeof(ARG) = sizeof(SN) * SN contains the raw string of the serial number. Its length is up to 7. Example: SN = { “SN123” } has length = 5. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x04** | **SET\_CH\_DAC**  **In brief**  Used to impose an offset in the analog front end of strain/strain2 boards, so that the acquired ADC values are shifted down or up in value.  **Parsed by**    strain  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**    0x04  RS  CH  OFFSET   * sizeof(ARG) = 3 * RS is a nibble that contains the target regulation set. Its usual value should be 0 which means the regulation set in use. If we have a strain2 and we want to query one of its three regulation sets, we can also use 1, 2, or 3. * CH is a nibble which contains the target channel. * FS contains the value of the offset as a std::uint16\_t in **BIG** **ENDIAN** (sic!).   **Actions on reception**  strain  It stored the received offset and applies as a value of a DAC which moves up or down the analog value of the strain-gauge.  strain2  It stores the received offset and programs the registers of the PGA (programmable amplifier) at the analog front end so that its beta is equal to offset/8.  **Reply**    strain  strain2  It does not send a reply.  **Note**  The value will not be stored in permanent storage until the board receives a message of type SAVE2EE. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x0B** | **GET\_CH\_DAC**  **In brief**  Used to retrieve the offset in the analog front end of strain/strain2 boards.  **Parsed by**    strain  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x0B  RS  CH   * sizeof(ARG) = 1 * RS is a nibble that contains the target regulation set. Its usual value should be 0 which means the regulation set in use. If we have a strain2 and we want to query one of its three regulation sets, we can also use 1, 2, or 3. * CH is a nibble which contains the target channel.   **Actions on reception**    strain  strain2  It sends back a reply with the offset: the DAC value for strain, and the value 8\*beta for strain2.  **Reply**    strain  strain2  It replies to the sender with the same CMD and following format.    0x0B  RS  CH  OFFSET   * sizeof(ARG) = 3 * RS is a nibble that contains the target regulation set. Its usual value should be 0 which means the regulation set in use. If we have a strain2 and we want to query one of its three regulation sets, we can also use 1, 2, or 3. * CH is a nibble which contains the target channel. * FS contains the value of the offset as a std::uint16\_t in **BIG** **ENDIAN** (sic!). |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x13** | **SET\_CALIB\_TARE**  **In brief**  Used to impose the tare (digital offset) of the regulation set of strain / strain2 boards. The value of tare is expressed in Q15 format.  **Parsed by**    strain  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**    0x13  MODE  RS  CH  TARE   * sizeof(ARG) = 2 or 4 * MODE tells how to change the tare. Possible values are: enum class Mode { everychannelreset = 0, everychannelnegativeofadc = 1, setchannelwithvalue = 2 }. * RS is a nibble that contains the target regulation set. Its usual value should be 0 which means the regulation set in use. If we have a strain2 and we want to query one of its three regulation sets, we can also use 1, 2, or 3. * CH is a nibble that contains the target channel in range [0, 5]. This field is used only if MODE is Mode::setchannelwithvalue. * TARE contains the value of the tare expressed in Q15 format in **BIG** **ENDIAN** (sic!). This field is present only if MODE is Mode::setchannelwithvalue.   **Actions on reception**    strain  strain2  It modified the value of the tare in the digital regulation set specified by ARG.RS in a way that depends on the value of ARG.MODE.   * If = Mode::everychannelreset, the values of tare for all the six channels are imposed = 0. * If = Mode:: everychannelnegativeofadc, the values of tare for all the six channels are imposed = negative value of the ADC in Q15 format, so that U16toQ15(ADC[ch]) + TARE[ch] = 0 for every channel ch. * If = Mode::setchannelwithvalue, the value of channel specified by ARG.CH is assigned with ARG.TARE. * In case MODE = everychannelreset.   **Reply**    strain  strain2  It does not send a reply.  **Note**  The value will not be stored in permanent storage until the board receives a message of type SAVE2EE. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x14** | **GET\_CALIB\_TARE**  **In brief**  Used to retrieve a value of the calib tare stored the regulation set of strain / strain2 boards. The value of tare is expressed in Q15 format.  **Parsed by**    strain  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x14  RS  CH   * sizeof(ARG) = 1. * RS is a nibble that contains the target regulation set. Its usual value should be 0 which means the regulation set in use. If we have a strain2 and we want to query one of its three regulation sets, we can also use 1, 2, or 3. * CH is a nibble that contains the target channel in range [0, 5].   **Actions on reception**    strain  strain2  It sends back the value.  **Reply**    strain  strain2  It replies to the sender with the same CMD and following format.  0x14  RS  CH  VALUE   * sizeof(ARG) = 3 * RS and CH are the same as those in the received message. * VALUE is the value of the tare stored as a Q15 value in **BIG** **ENDIAN** (sic!). |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x1B** | **GET\_EEPROM\_STATUS**  **In brief**  Used in strain/strain2 boards to know if permanent storage has already saved all its data.  **Parsed by**    strain  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x1B   * sizeof(ARG) = 0.   **Actions on reception**    strain  strain2  It sends back the required info.  **Reply**    strain  strain2  It replies to the sender with the same CMD and following format.  0x1B  SAVED   * sizeof(ARG) = 1 * SAVED is 0 if any value of the regulation sets was changed by a relevant SET\_ command without having saved that with the SAVE2EE command. It is 1 if no saving is required. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x09** | **SAVE2EE**  **In brief**  Used in strain/strain2 boards to save in permanent storage all data belonging to the regulation sets.  **Parsed by**    strain  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x09   * sizeof(ARG) = 0.   **Actions on reception**    strain  strain2  It saves to EEPROM (permanent storage) all the changed data in the regulation sets. Than it sends back a reply.  **Reply**    strain  strain2  It replies to the sender with the same CMD and following format.  0x09  OKKO   * sizeof(ARG) = 1 * OKKO is 1 if operation was successful, 0 if not. |

#### Messages specific for the PGA308 amplifiers in strain2 boards

The strain2 board mounts one programmable amplifier (the PGA308 by Texas Instruments) dedicated for each of its six strain-gauges. The behaviour of the PGA can be modified by acting on a number of registers, each of them dedicated to a particular stage. The result of this operation is to change a gain and an offset of the amplifier according to formula **VOUT** = **gain** \* **VIN** + **offset**.

In here is description of the CAN messages that we use in order to operate on the PGA308 amplifiers.

These messages offer full functionalities in programming the gain and offset of the amplifier. However, their use can be more difficult because one must compute exactly the effect of the values of the registers in the transfer function.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x2B** | **AMPLIFIER\_PGA308\_CFG1\_SET**  **In brief**  Used to load the configuration of the PGA308 at register-level.  **Parsed by**  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**    0x2B  RS  CH  GDAC  GI  I  GO  OS  ZDAC   * sizeof(ARG) = 7 * RS is a nibble that contains the target regulation set. Its usual value should be 0 which means the regulation set in use. If we want to query one of its three regulation sets, we can also use 1, 2, or 3. * CH is a nibble that contains the target channel. Values are those of enum class StrainChannel { zero = 0, one = 1, two = 2, three = 3, four = 4, five = 5, all = 0xf }. * GDAC is a std::uint16\_t in little endian format with the content of the GDAC register (Fine Gain Adjust). * GI is a nibble with the content of the CFG0.GI register (Front-End PGA Gain Select). * I is a single bit with the content of the CFG0.GI4 register (Front-End PGA Input Mux Control). * GO is formed by three bits and is the content of the CFG0.GO register (Output Amplifier Gain Select). * OS is a std::uint8\_t which with the content of the CFG0.OS register (Coarse Offset Adjust on Front-End PGA). * ZDAC is a std::uint16\_t in little endian format with the content of the ZDAC register (Fine Offset Adjust).   **Actions on reception**  strain2  It loads the received configuration for the specified channel and target regulation set. In case of StrainChannel::all, the command is effective for every channel. If the target regulation set is also the one in use, then it also apply the content of the configuration to the registers of the PGA of the target channel.  **Reply**  strain2  It does not reply.  **Note**  The values will not be stored in permanent storage until the board receives a message of type SAVE2EE. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x2A** | **AMPLIFIER\_PGA308\_CFG1\_GET**  **In brief**  Used to retrieve the configuration of the PGA308 at register level.  **Parsed by**  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**    0x2A  RS  CH   * sizeof(ARG) = 1 * RS is a nibble that contains the target regulation set. Its usual value should be 0 which means the regulation set in use. If we want to query one of its three regulation sets, we can also use 1, 2, or 3. * CH is a nibble that contains the target channel. Values are those of enum class StrainChannel { zero = 0, one = 1, two = 2, three = 3, four = 4, five = 5, all = 0xf } but **NOT** StrainChannel::all.   **Actions on reception**  strain2  It sends a reply with the wanted configuration.  **Reply**  strain2  It replies to the sender with the same CMD and following format.    0x2A  RS  CH  GDAC  GI  I  GO  OS  ZDAC   * sizeof(ARG) = 7 * RS and CH are the same as the received message. * GDAC is a std::uint16\_t in little endian format with the content of the GDAC register (Fine Gain Adjust). * GI is a nibble with the content of the CFG0.GI register (Front-End PGA Gain Select). * I is a single bit with the content of the CFG0.GI4 register (Front-End PGA Input Mux Control). * GO is formed by three bits and is the content of the CFG0.GO register (Output Amplifier Gain Select). * OS is a std::uint8\_t which with the content of the CFG0.OS register (Coarse Offset Adjust on Front-End PGA). * ZDAC is a std::uint16\_t in little endian format with the content of the ZDAC register (Fine Offset Adjust). |

#### Message used to automatically tune the offset to match a target ADC value

In the calibration procedure, one wants to be sure that the ADC acquisition stays in range [0, 64K) despite variations of the input. The way this is achieved is twofold:

* To impose a gain in the analog regulation stage which keeps the requested variation smaller than the maximum input range of the ADC.
* To impose an offset so that the variation stays inside [0, 64K), typically mapping the idle state at midrange.

The wanted gain is imposed using the message AMPLIFIER\_PGA308\_CFG1\_SET with a fixed offset, whereas the optimal value of the offset is imposed with the message AMPLIFIER\_OFFSET\_AUTOCALIB.

This message commands the strain2 to compute the value of offset that matches a target ADC value, typically the mid-range.

TODO:

* AMPLIFIER\_OFFSET\_AUTOCALIB

#### Messages for a generic amplifier

These messages offer a more intuitive use because they operate directly on concepts such as gain and offset. Also, they may allow more interoperability in case of a change of the amplifiers mounted on future strain2 boards.

However, they may be are less powerful and offer a limited range of gain and offset values. For this reason, we have made available commands that tell the effective limits of the gain and of the offset supported by the board. In fact, in the first versions of strain2, we have used a simplified algorithm that uses only one gain register, and thus the limits are reduced respect to the case of direct manipulation of the registers.

In the FirmwareUpdater program we use direct manipulation of the registers.

Here are the commands

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x1D** | **AMPLIFIER\_RESET**  **In brief**  Used to impose the default configuration of the amplifier.  **Parsed by**  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x2B  RS  CH   * sizeof(ARG) = 7 * RS is a nibble that contains the target regulation set. Its usual value should be 0 which means the regulation set in use. If we want to query one of its three regulation sets, we can also use 1, 2, or 3. * CH is a nibble that contains the target channel. Values are those of enum class StrainChannel { zero = 0, one = 1, two = 2, three = 3, four = 4, five = 5, all = 0xf }.   **Actions on reception**  strain2  It forces the default configuration for the specified channel and target regulation set. In case of StrainChannel::all, the command is effective for every channel. If the target regulation set is also the one in use, then it also apply the content of the configuration to the amplifier of the target channel.  **Reply**  strain2  It does not reply.  **Notes**  The values will not be stored in permanent storage until the board receives a message of type SAVE2EE.  The default configuration for the case of the PGA308 is GDAC = 0x4000, ZDAC = 0x8000, CFG0.GO = 0x06, CFG0.GI = 0x04, CFG0.OS = 0x20, CFG0.GI4 = 0. |

TO DO:

* AMPLIFIER\_RANGE\_OF\_GAIN\_GET
* AMPLIFIER\_RANGE\_OF\_OFFSET\_GET
* AMPLIFIER\_GAINOFFSET\_GET
* AMPLIFIER\_GAINOFFSET\_SET

#### Other messages

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMD | Description |
| **0x0C** | **GET\_ADC**  **In brief**  Used to retrieve the value of the channel, either in its ADC or in calibrated value.  **Parsed by**    strain  strain2  **Format of PAYLOAD**  0x0C  CH  MODE   * sizeof(ARG) = 2 * CH is the channel in values [0, 5. * MODE is a std::uint8\_t which tells if the value is the raw ADC (=0) or calibrated (=1).   **Actions on reception**    strain  strain2  It sends back a reply with the value.  **Reply**    strain  strain2  It replies to the sender with the same CMD and following format.    0x0B  CH  MODE  VALUE   * sizeof(ARG) = 4 * CH and MODE are the same as in the received frame. * VALUE contains the value of the acquisition as a std::uint16\_t in **BIG** **ENDIAN** (sic!). |

The streaming classes

Here is description of the each class.

## Class periodic motor control

The class periodic motor control (CLS = 001b) contains messages used by motor control boards to stream their status to the host or also to other motor control boards.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TYP | Description |
| 0x0 | 2FOC |
| 0x1 | POSITION |
| 0x2 | PID\_VAL |
| 0x3 | STATUS |
| 0x4 | CURRENT |
| 0x5 | OVERFLOW |
| 0x6 | PRINT |
| 0x7 | VELOCITY |
| 0x8 | PID\_ERROR |
| 0x9 | DEBUG |
| 0xA | MOTOR\_POSITION |
| 0xB | MOTOR\_SPEED |
| 0xC | ADDITIONAL\_STATUS |
| 0xF | EMSTO2FOC\_DESIRED\_CURRENT |

**Table 8** – The TYPs of the periodic motor control class.

Full description of these messages is out of the scope of this document. In here, we shall describe only the messages also supported by sensor boards.

### Messages supported by all boards

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TYP | Description |
| **0x6** | **PRINT**  **In brief**  The board may emit a burst of such messages to transport a human readable string when it wants to communicate a status or a warning or an error. The string is long up to 30 characters.  **Emitted by**  application  The board starts a burst of messages when it wants to transmit a string of up to 30 characters.  **Format of DATA**    CODE  S  N  C0  C1  C2  C3  C4  C5   * sizeof(DATA) = [3, 8] * CODE is = 6 for all frames except for the last frame where it is = 128+8. * S is the identifier of the string inside the burst of frames. We have a different one for each string so that the receiver can assemble the string from the CAN frames. * N is the number of the frame inside the burst. Its value can be [0, 5]. * {C0, C1, C2, C3, C4, C5} are the characters of the string. The last frame may have only C0.   **Example**  For the sake of protocol description let char str30[31] = { ‘h’, ‘e’, ‘l’, ‘l’, ‘o’, ‘ ‘,‘w’, ‘o’, ‘r’, ‘l’, ‘d’, ‘!’, ‘!’, 0}; be the null-terminated string. In this case, there will be 13 characters, hence 3 CAN frames. In case the emitting board has ADDR = 3, and we assume an identifier of the string S = 0x7, then we have the following frames:  ID = {0x136}, DATA = {0x06, 0x70, ‘h’, ‘e’, ‘l’, ‘l’, ‘o’, ‘ ‘}  ID = {0x136}, DATA = {0x06, 0x71, ‘w’, ‘o’, ‘r’, ‘l’, ‘d’, ‘!’}  ID = {0x136}, DATA = {0x86, 0x72, ‘!’} |

### All the other messages

The description of every MC streaming message is out of the scope of this document.

## Class periodic analog sensors

The class periodic analog sensors (CLS = 011b) contains messages used by sensor boards to stream their data to the host.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TYP | Description |
| 0x8 | UNCALIBFORCE\_VECTOR\_DEBUGMODE |
| 0x9 | UNCALIBTORQUE\_VECTOR\_DEBUGMODE |
| 0xA | FORCE\_VECTOR |
| 0xB | FORCE\_TORQUE |
| 0xC | HES0TO6 |
| 0xD | HES7TO14 |
| 0xE | THERMOMETER\_MEASURE |

**Table 9** – The TYPs of the periodic analog sensors class.

Here are details of their format.

### Messages used to stream FT data

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TYP | Description |
| **0x8** | **UNCALIBFORCE\_VECTOR\_DEBUGMODE**  **In brief**  It transports the raw ADC values of channels 0, 1 and 2. Used by the strain/strain2 in debug mode only.  **Emitted by**    strain  strain2  Transmission is started by a message of CLS = 0x2 (polling analog) and CMD = 0x07 (SET\_TXMODE) with ARG.MODE = TxMode::all (its value is 4) and stopped with ARG.MODE = TxMode::none (its value is 1). The transmission rate is configured with a message of CLS = 0x2 (polling analog) and CMD = 0x08 (SET\_CANDATARATE) with ARG.PERIOD = period in [msec].  **Format of DATA**    X  Y  Z  C  2  C1  C0  S   * sizeof(DATA) = 6 or 7. * X is the first component expressed as a std::uint16\_t in little endian. * Y is the second component expressed as a std::uint16\_t in little endian. * Z is the third component expressed as a std::uint16\_t in little endian. * {C2, C1, C0, S} are an optional byte which is transmitted in case of a saturation in ADC acquisition of at least one of the six ADC channels. S has value 1 of any of the six channels saturated (if sizeof(DATA) is 7 S is always 1). Cx contains the kind of saturation in channel x: NONE = 0, atLOWscale = 1, atHIGHscale = 2.   **Note**  A raw ADC value has a range [0, 64K) and represents the output of an ADC of the same range. It is saturated at low scale if is in range [0, 1000). It is saturated at high scale if it is in range [64000, 64K) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TYP | Description |
| **0x9** | **UNCALIBFORCE\_TORQUE\_DEBUGMODE**  **In brief**  It transports the raw ADC values of channels 3, 4 and 5. Used by the strain/strain2 in debug mode only.  This message is activated by …  **Emitted by**    strain  strain2  Transmission is started by a message of CLS = 0x2 (polling analog) and CMD = 0x07 (SET\_TXMODE) with ARG.MODE = TxMode::all (= 4) ) and stopped with ARG.MODE = TxMode::none (its value is 1). The transmission rate is configured with a message of CLS = 0x2 (polling analog) and CMD = 0x08 (SET\_CANDATARATE) with ARG.PERIOD = period in [msec].  **Format of DATA**    X  Y  Z  C  5  C4  C3  S   * sizeof(DATA) = 6 or 7. * X is the first component expressed as a std::uint16\_t in little endian. * Y is the second component expressed as a std::uint16\_t in little endian. * Z is the third component expressed as a std::uint16\_t in little endian. * {C5, C4, C3, S} are an optional byte which is transmitted in case of a saturation in ADC acquisition of at least one of the six ADC channels. S has value 1 of any of the six channels saturated (if sizeof(DATA) is 7 S is always 1). Cx contains the kind of saturation in channel x: NONE = 0, atLOWscale = 1, atHIGHscale = 2.   **Note**  A raw ADC value has a range [0, 64K) and represents the output of an ADC of the same range. It is saturated at low scale if is in range [0, 1000). It is saturated at high scale if it is in range [64000, 64K) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TYP | Description |
| **0xA** | **FORCE\_VECTOR**  **In brief**  It transports either the X Y Z force components or the raw ADC values of channels 0, 1 and 2.  **Emitted by**    strain  strain2  Transmission is started by a message of CLS = 0x2 (polling analog) and CMD = 0x07 (SET\_TXMODE). If ARG.MODE = TxMode:: calibrated (= 0) the board will transmit the X Y Z force components; else if ARG.MODE = TxMode::uncalibrated (= 3) the board will transmit the ADC values of channels 0, 1, and 2. ). Transmission is stopped with ARG.MODE = TxMode::none (its value is 1). The transmission rate is configured with a message of CLS = 0x2 (polling analog) and CMD = 0x08 (SET\_CANDATARATE) with ARG.PERIOD = period in [msec].  **Format of DATA**    X  Y  Z  C  2  C1  C0  S   * sizeof(DATA) = 6 or 7. * X is the first component expressed as a std::uint16\_t in little endian. * Y is the second component expressed as a std::uint16\_t in little endian. * Z is the third component expressed as a std::uint16\_t in little endian. * {C2, C1, C0, S} are an optional byte which is transmitted in case of a saturation in ADC acquisition of at least one of the six ADC channels. S has value 1 of any of the six channels saturated (if sizeof(DATA) is 7 S is always 1). Cx contains the kind of saturation in channel x: NONE = 0, atLOWscale = 1, atHIGHscale = 2.   **Note**  A raw ADC value has a range [0, 64K) and represents the output of an ADC of the same range. It is saturated at low scale if is in range [0, 1000). It is saturated at high scale if it is in range [64000, 64K).  Force data in X, Y, Z has a range [0, 64) and contains a 1Q15 number (an integer representation of values in the range [-1, +1-2-15]) which is the result of the calibration inside the board. It actually contains 1Q15 + 0x8000. To get the 1Q15 value for the first component one need to do:  std::int16\_t q15X = static\_cast<std::int16\_t>(X – 0x8000);  Its floating point representation is obtained with:  double dX = static\_cast<double>(q15X) / 32768.0;  And to finally retrieve the actual force on X component measured in [N] one must multiply for the proper fullscale:  double fX = fullscale[0] \* dX; |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TYP | Description |
| **0xB** | **TORQUE\_VECTOR**  **In brief**  It transports either the X Y Z torque components or the raw ADC values of channels 3, 4 and 5.  **Emitted by**    strain  strain2  Transmission is started by a message of CLS = 0x2 (polling analog) and CMD = 0x07 (SET\_TXMODE). If ARG.MODE = TxMode:: calibrated (= 0) the board will transmit the X Y Z torque components; else if ARG.MODE = TxMode::uncalibrated (= 3) the board will transmit the ADC values of channels 3, 4, and 5. Transmission is stopped with ARG.MODE = TxMode::none (its value is 1). The transmission rate is configured with a message of CLS = 0x2 (polling analog) and CMD = 0x08 (SET\_CANDATARATE) with ARG.PERIOD = period in [msec].  **Format of DATA**    X  Y  Z  C  5  C4  C3  S   * sizeof(DATA) = 6 or 7. * X is the first component expressed as a std::uint16\_t in little endian. * Y is the second component expressed as a std::uint16\_t in little endian. * Z is the third component expressed as a std::uint16\_t in little endian. * {C5, C4, C3, S} are an optional byte which is transmitted in case of a saturation in ADC acquisition of at least one of the six ADC channels. S has value 1 of any of the six channels saturated (if sizeof(DATA) is 7 S is always 1). Cx contains the kind of saturation in channel x: NONE = 0, atLOWscale = 1, atHIGHscale = 2.   **Note**  A raw ADC value has a range [0, 64K) and represents the output of an ADC of the same range. It is saturated at low scale if is in range [0, 1000). It is saturated at high scale if it is in range [64000, 64K).  Torque data in X, Y, Z has a range [0, 64) and contains a 1Q15 number (an integer representation of values in the range [-1, +1-2-15]) which is the result of the calibration inside the board. It actually contains 1Q15 + 0x8000. To get the 1Q15 value for the first component one need to do:  std::int16\_t q15X = static\_cast<std::int16\_t>(X – 0x8000);  Its floating point representation is obtained with:  double dX = static\_cast<double>(q15X) / 32768.0;  And to finally retrieve the actual torque on X component measured in [N m] one must multiply for the proper fullscale:  double fX = fullscale[3] \* dX; |

### Messages used to stream HES data

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TYP | Description |
| **0xC** | **HES0TO6**  **In brief**  It transports data from the Hall effect sensors: channel 0 to 6.  **Emitted by**    mais  Transmission is started by a message of CLS = 0x2 (polling analog) and CMD = 0x07 (SET\_TXMODE) with ARG.MODE = TxMode::hall (= 0) and stopped with ARG.MODE = TxMode::none (its value is 1). The transmission rate is configured with a message of CLS = 0x2 (polling analog) and CMD = 0x08 (SET\_CANDATARATE) with ARG.PERIOD = period in [msec].  **Format of DATA**  S0  S1  S2  S3  S4  S5  S6   * sizeof(DATA) = 7. * Sx is data from sensor x expressed as a std::uint8\_t. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TYP | Description |
| **0xD** | **HES7TO14**  **In brief**  It transports data from the Hall effect sensors: channel 7 to 14.  **Emitted by**    mais  Transmission is started by a message of CLS = 0x2 (polling analog) and CMD = 0x07 (SET\_TXMODE) with ARG.MODE = TxMode::hall (= 0) and stopped with ARG.MODE = TxMode::none (its value is 1). The transmission rate is configured with a message of CLS = 0x2 (polling analog) and CMD = 0x08 (SET\_CANDATARATE) with ARG.PERIOD = period in [msec].  **Format of DATA**  S7  S8  S9  S10  S11  S12  S13  S14   * sizeof(DATA) = 7. * Sx is data from sensor x expressed as a std::uint8\_t. |

### Messages used to stream THERMO data

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TYP | Description |
| **0xE** | **THERMOMETER\_MEASURE**  **In brief**  It transports data from temperature sensors. The used resolution is of 0.1 Celsius degrees.  **Emitted by**    mtb4  strain2  Transmission is started at a given rate by a message of CLS = 0x2 (polling analog) and CMD = 0x3A (THERMOMETER\_TRANSMIT) with ARG.RATE = rate (in [sec]) and stopped with ARG.RATE = 0. One must first configure and enable the chosen thermometer with a message of CLS = 0x2 (polling analog) and CMD = 0x39 (THERMOMETER\_CONFIG\_SET).  **Format of DATA**  M  T  FFU   * sizeof(DATA) = 5. * M is a bit mask, which express the used thermometer. So far we only have one thermometer, hence the mask will be always 0x01 * T is the temperature value expressed by a std::int16\_t in little endian at a resolution of 0.1 Celsius degrees. * FFU is for future use. It will probably contain temperature from another thermometer. |

## Class periodic skin data

The class periodic skin data (CLS = 100b) contains messages used by mtb / mtb4 boards to stream skin data to the host.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TYP | Description |
| 0x0 | TRG00 |
| 0x1 | TRG01 |
| 0x2 | TRG02 |
| 0x3 | TRG03 |
| 0x4 | TRG04 |
| 0x5 | TRG05 |
| 0x6 | TRG06 |
| 0x7 | TRG07 |
| 0x8 | TRG08 |
| 0x9 | TRG09 |
| 0xA | TRG10 |
| 0xB | TRG11 |
| 0xC | TRG12 |
| 0xD | TRG13 |
| 0xE | TRG14 |
| 0xF | TRG15 |

**Table 10** – The TYPs of the periodic skin data class.

### Messages used to stream Skin data

The format is similar for all the messages; hence, in here we show details of the TRG00 only.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TYP | Description |
| **0x0** | **TRG00**  **In brief**  It transports in two frames the skin data of the 12 points belonging to the 0-th triangle.  **Emitted by**    mtb  mtb4  Transmission is started at a given rate by a message of CLS = 0x2 (polling analog) and CMD = 0x4D (SKIN\_SET\_BRD\_CFG) with ARG.RATE = rate (in [msec]) and stopped with ARG.RATE = 0.  **Format of DATA**  C1  P0  P1  P2  P3  P4  P5  P6   * sizeof(DATA) = 8. * C1 = 0x40 tells that the frame contains data of the first 7 points. * Px contains the skin value of point x.   C2  P7  P8  P9  P10  P11  STATUS   * sizeof(DATA) = 8. * C1 = 0x4C0 tells that the frame contains data of the remaining 5 points. * Px contains the skin value of point x. * STATUS contains debug information about the acquired values. |

## Class periodic inertial data

The class periodic inertial data (CLS = 101b) contains messages used by sensor boards to stream their inertial data to the host.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TYP | Description |
| 0x0 | DIGITAL\_GYROSCOPE |
| 0x1 | DIGITAL\_ACCELEROMETER |
| 0x3 | IMU\_TRIPLE |
| 0x4 | IMU\_QUATERNION |
| 0x5 | IMU\_STATUS |

**Table 11** – The TYPs of the periodic inertial data class.

Here are details of their format.

### Messages which stream IMU data

In here there are message used by the new mtb4 and strain2 boards which mount a proper IMU chip. They are able to transport a wide range of sensor types.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TYP | Description |
| **0x3** | **IMU\_TRIPLE**  **In brief**  It transports 3-axis data originated from an IMU. See **Note** for details on type of data and format for the IMU.  **Emitted by**    mtb4  strain2  Transmission is started at a given rate by a message of CLS = 0x2 (polling analog) and CMD = 0x35 (IMU\_TRANSMIT) with ARG.RATE = rate (in [msec]) and stopped with ARG.RATE = 0.  One must first configure and enable the IMU for the target measures with a message of CLS = 0x2 (polling analog) and CMD = 0x34 (IMU\_CONFIG\_SET).  **Format of DATA**    SEQ  SNS  X  Y  Z   * sizeof(DATA) = 8. * SEQ is a sequence number expressed in std::uint8\_t that is incremented at each acquisition. It is used to matching 3-axis data amongst them and with status messages. * SNS is the type of IMU sensor and with value amongst enum class imuSensor but limited to those w/ 3 axis * X is the first component expressed as a std::int16\_t in little endian. * Y is the second component expressed as a std::int16\_t in little endian. * Z is the third component expressed as a std::int16\_t in little endian.   **Note**  The IMU supports the data types from enum class imuSensor { acc = 0, mag = 1, gyr = 2, eul = 3, qua = 4, lia = 5, grv = 6, status = 15, none = 16 }.  Each component is expressed as a std::int16\_t with following resolution and measurement units:   * imuSensor::acc in 0.01 [m/s2] * imuSensor::mag in 0.0625 [microTesla] * imuSensor::gyr in 0.0625 [deg/s] * imuSensor::eul in 0.0625 [deg] * imuSensor::qua in 0.00006103515625 [quaternion] (=1/16384) * imuSensor::lia in 0.01 [m/s2] * imuSensor::grv in 0.01 [m/s2] |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TYP | Description |
| **0x4** | **IMU\_QUATERNION**  **In brief**  It transports quaternion data originated from an IMU. See **Note** of **IMU\_TRIPLE** for details on type of data and format for the IMU.  **Emitted by**    mtb4  strain2  Transmission is started at a given rate by a message of CLS = 0x2 (polling analog) and CMD = 0x35 (IMU\_TRANSMIT) with ARG.RATE = rate (in [msec]) and stopped with ARG.RATE = 0.  One must first configure and enable the IMU for the target measures with a message of CLS = 0x2 (polling analog) and CMD = 0x34 (IMU\_CONFIG\_SET\_CONFIG\_SET).  **Format of DATA**    W  X  Y  Z   * sizeof(DATA) = 8. * W is the first component expressed as a std::int16\_t in little endian. * X is the second component expressed as a std::int16\_t in little endian. * Y is the third component expressed as a std::int16\_t in little endian. * Z is the fourth component expressed as a std::int16\_t in little endian. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TYP | Description |
| **0x5** | **IMU\_STATUS**  **In brief**  It contains acquisition status of the IMU.  **Emitted by**    mtb4  strain2  Transmission is started at a given rate by a message of CLS = 0x2 (polling analog) and CMD = 0x35 (IMU\_TRANSMIT) with ARG.RATE = rate (in [msec]) and stopped with ARG.RATE = 0.  One must first configure and enable the IMU for the target measures with a message of CLS = 0x2 (polling analog) and CMD = 0x34 (IMU\_CONFIG\_SET\_CONFIG\_SET).  **Format of DATA**  SEQ  SGY  SAC  SMA  ACQDURATION   * sizeof(DATA) = 8. * SEQ is a sequence number expressed in std::uint8\_t that is incremented at each acquisition. It is used to match 3-axis data and status messages amongst them. * SGY contains the calibration status of the gyroscope * SAC contains the calibration status of the accelerometer. * SMA contains the calibration status of the magnetometer. * ACQDURATION contains the time the IMU has spent for the acquisition expressed as a std::uint132\_t in little endian in micro-sec units.   **Note**  The IMU performs an internal autocalibration for accelerometer, gyroscope and magnetometer the result of which is expressed with enum class Calib { none = 0, poor = 1, medium = 2, good = 3 }.  The content of the message is still WIP. We could merge {SGY, SAC, SMA} in a single byte, reduce ACQDURATIONtime to 2 bytes and add a new ACQTIME expressed in milli-sec with an absolute generation time which could help putting all measures in the correct time scale. |

### Legacy messages: accel and gyro only

In here there are message used by mtb boards (and for legacy purposes by the mtb4 and strain2) which transports data from accelerometer and gyroscope.

If there are not mtb boards, the new IMU messages are recommended.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TYP | Description |
| **0x0** | **DIGITAL\_GYROSCOPE**  **In brief**  It transports gyroscope data as emitted by the mtb board (and for legacy purposes by the mtb4 and strain2).  **Emitted by**    mtb  mtb4  strain2  Transmission is started with a given rate by a message of CLS = 0x2 (polling analog) and CMD = 0x3A (ACC\_GYRO\_SETUP) with ARG.RATE = rate (in [sec]) if the ARG.MASK enables the gyroscope, and stopped with ARG.RATE = 0.  **Format of DATA**    X  Y  Z   * sizeof(DATA) = 6. * X is the first component expressed as a std::int16\_t in little endian. * Y is the first component expressed as a std::int16\_t in little endian. * Z is the first component expressed as a std::int16\_t in little endian.   **Note**  TBD: find out the resolution of the measure. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TYP | Description |
| **0x1** | **DIGITAL\_ACCELEROMETER**  **In brief**  It transports accelerometer data as emitted by the mtb board (and for legacy purposes by the mtb4 and strain2).  **Emitted by**    mtb  mtb4  strain2  Transmission is started with a given rate by a message of CLS = 0x2 (polling analog) and CMD = 0x3A (ACC\_GYRO\_SETUP) with ARG.RATE = rate (in [sec]) if the ARG.MASK enables the accelerometer, and stopped with ARG.RATE = 0.  **Format of DATA**    X  Y  Z   * sizeof(DATA) = 6. * X is the first component expressed as a std::int16\_t in little endian. * Y is the first component expressed as a std::int16\_t in little endian. * Z is the first component expressed as a std::int16\_t in little endian.   **Note**  TBD: find out the resolution of the measure. |

Details of the services

The CAN messages which manage services such as FT, IMU, etc. deal with data formats and with terms which can be difficult to understand and explain in the description of the message format.

For this reason, this section of the document contains some more details of the services that can be useful to understand the format of the messages described in this document.

It is can be useful to read this section alongside the specification of the messages.

## The processing of the FT in strain / strain2 boards

The strain and strain2 boards offer the FT service by streaming force and torque values. They obtain these values by applying analog and digital transformation to the output of six strain-gauges that measure the deformation of the metal case of the board.

We refer to the parameters of the above transformation with the term: regulation set.

The strain board has only one regulation set. It is stored in internal EEPROM and it content is determined at production stage by means of the calibration procedure.

The more recent strain2 board instead, contains up to three regulation sets. They all are stored in EEPROM. As for strain board, the first is determined at production stage, and the remaining two have default neutral values that the user can tailor to his/her needs.

In the following, we describe the details of the regulation sets.

### The FT data flow

Following figure shows the processing flow inside the strain / strain2 board. Analog data from the strain-gauges is processed in an analog stage and then is digitised and manipulated in Q15 format through an affine transform.

The FT regulation stages in strain / strain2 boards

V0 = gain0 \* SG0 + offset0

ADC

SG0

**tare**

SG5

V5 = gain5 \* SG5 + offset5

ADC

**X**

**+**

**[M]**

**q15adc**

**q15ft**

Analog stage

Digital stage

The values expressed in Q15 format have range [-1.0, +1.0 - 2-15] which is de-normalized with its proper **fullscale**.

U16toQ15

**u16adc**

**Figure 16**: The FT regulation stages in strain / strain2 boards: analog and digital regulation. In strain boards, the gain of the analog stage is not modifiable.

If the HOST is interested in force and torque values, the so-called calibrated values, it must at first ask the value of fullscale with the messages GET\_FULL\_SCALES. Then, it must order transmission of calibrated data with the message SET\_TXMODE with mode = calibrated. At this point, the data in Q15 format (q15ft) is transported over CAN by the FORCE\_VECTOR and TORQUE\_VECTOR streaming messages and then is recomposed by the receiving host, which applied the proper fullscale and uses the force and torque values in SI units (N and Nm).

The streaming of FT calibrated values from strain / strain2 to the HOST

strain2

CAN bus

HOST

**u16ft**

**X**

**u16ft**

**FT**

**q15ft**

**fullscale**

U16toQ15

(expressed in N and Nm)

Q15toU16

u16f

u16t

**q15ft**

Q15toFLOAT

**normalisedFT**

The HOST must have previously asked the value of fullscale

FORCE\_VECTOR

TORQUE\_VECTOR

**Figure 17**: The HOST receives the CAN frames FORCE\_VECTOR and TORQUE\_VECTOR which carry calibrated data; it transforms the values into Q15 format and then de-normalizes with the application of the fullscale. After these transformations, we have the FT values expressed in N and in Nm.

The streaming of ADC raw values from strain / strain2 to the HOST

strain2

CAN bus

HOST

**u16adc**

**u16adc**

u16adc[0, 2]

u16adc[3,5]

The HOST just uses the values

FORCE\_VECTOR

TORQUE\_VECTOR

**Figure 18**: The HOST receives the CAN frames FORCE\_VECTOR and TORQUE\_VECTOR that carries un-calibrated ADC raw data and it just uses them.

If instead, the HOST is interested in having raw (or un-calibrated data), it is enough that it orders the start of un-calibrated data sending command SET\_TXMODE with mode = uncalibrated. The data in U16 format (u16adc) is transported over CAN by the FORCE\_VECTOR and TORQUE\_VECTOR streaming messages and then is used by the receiving HOST.

### The FT settings of strain / strain2 boards

The strain board can be configured to have a serial-number and one regulation set. The former is a way to identify the specific board, so that one can load it with its proper regulation set. This latter contains the parameters of the digital stage (tare, matrix and associated fullscale) and the offset of the analog stage.

The FT settings in strain boards

regset-1

**[M]**

**fullscale**

**tare**

**offset**

EEPROM

regset-1

serialnumber

It is a string of up to 7 characters that identifies the board

**Figure 19**: FT settings in the strain board. There is one available regulation set. It is not possible to configure the gain in the analog stage.

The FT settings in strain2 boards

= {1, 2, 3}. It is the number of regset that the board applies at bootstrap

regset-x

**gain**

**[M]**

**fullscale**

**tare**

**offset**

EEPROM

regset-3

regset-2

regset-1

regset@boot

serialnumber

It is a string of up to 7 characters that identifies the board

**Figure 20**: FT settings in the strain2 board. There are three available regulation sets. At bootstrap, the board selects the regulation set specified by its value regset@boot.

The strain2 board instead has two more regulation sets, which also have a gain for the analog stage.

The gain allows adapting the acquisition to the very sensitivity of every strain-gauge. The presence of three regulation sets allows a user to choose one regulation over another.

By default, the strain2 loads the regulation set specified by its variable regset@boot, which in production is imposed equal to 1. However, one can change this value by means of command REGULATIONSET\_SET and force the use of a different regulations set.

### The values of the regulation set

The values inside the first regulation set are imposed at production time for a particular board using the calibration procedure, described by a dedicated document. After this procedure, the calibration set contains values that are able to transform the variations of the electrical voltage produced by the strain-gauges into the proper torque and force value effectively acting on the board.

The values of the other regulation sets at production have neutral values and must be tailored by the user.

The way to do it is to apply to the board the force-torque values of interest, to acquire the corresponding un-calibrated values and to compute the values of tare, matrix and fullscale that match the acquisitions.

## Boh material

The FT settings in strain boards

regset-1

**[M]**

**fullscale**

**tare**

**offset**

EEPROM

regset-1

serialnumber

It is a string of up to 7 characters that identifies the board

**Figure 21**: FT settings in the strain board. There is one available regulation set. It is not possible to configure the gain in the analog stage.

The FT regulation stages in strain / strain2 boards

V0 = gain0 \* SG0 + offset0

ADC

SG0

**tare**

SG5

V5 = gain5 \* SG5 + offset5

ADC

**X**

**+**

**[M]**

**q15adc**

**q15ft**

Analog stage

Digital stage

The values expressed in Q15 format have range [-1.0, +1.0 - 2-15] which is de-normalized with its proper **fullscale**.

U16toQ15

u16adc0

u16adc5

The strain / strain2 boards obtain the six FT values using 6 strain-gauges that measure deformation of the metal case of the board. The analog values from the strain-gauges go through a series of transformations. At first, they enter inside an analog amplifier, and then they enter the digital domain in the MPU through an ADC stage. When in the digital domain, the six values are represented in Q15 format and go through a further transformation with addition of an offset and a matrix multiplication.

Every stage is expressed by parameters:

The FT regulation stages in strain / strain2 boards

Vout = gain0 \* Vin + offset0

ADC

regulation set = regset = { { **gain**, **offset** }, { **tare**, **[M], fullscale** }

SG0

**tare**

SG5

Vout = gain5 \* Vin + offset5

ADC

**X**

**+**

**[M]**

**adc**

**ft**

Analog domain

Digital domain

All values are expressed in Q15 format with range [-1.0, +1.0 - 2-15]. The **ft** values are de-normalised by applying a proper **fullscale**.

**fullscale**

regulation set (regset)

**gain, offset**

**tare, [M], fullscale**

**Figure 22**: The FT regulation stages in strain / strain2 boards: analog and digital regulation.

[add figure]

Typical scenarios

The following examples show the use of CAN frames for some real use case. The detailed syntax of the commands is shown in the relevant tables.

## A CAN network

The typical CAN network in iCub contains one node at address ADDR = 0 which we call the host plus other nodes with addresses in range [1, 14]. The host is an ETH board such as EMS of MC4PLUS or a CFW2 drive, but one can use also a CAN-USB dongle attached to a PC. The other nodes are for instance a strain2 or a mtb4 or others. Typically, the host is responsible of performing discovery or check of presence, configure a service (IMU, THERMO, SKIN, FT, etc), start it, stop it.

The typical CAN network for IMU / THERMO / SKIN service

HOST @ 0

HOST @ 0.

It is responsible of performing discovery or check of presence, configure a service (IMU, THERMO, SKIN, FT, etc), start it, stop it.

mtb4 @ 1

mtb4 @ 2

mtb4 @ 3

mtb4 @ 3

**Figure 23**: A CAN network capable of offering IMU, THERMO, SKIN services.

## Discovery of nodes

In here, a host at address 0 sends messages to discover the presence of boards in the CAN network. The host transmits the first message that discovers all the boards in broadcast mode even if it belongs to a unicast class. It can do that by using the broadcast address ID.DST = 0xf. All later messages are sent in unicast.

### Basic discovery

The host sends a DISCOVER message in broadcast. The boards in the CAN network reply with basic information.

Sequence diagram for basic DISCOVERY

host @ 0

FRAME-DISCOVER

strain2 application @ 1

FRAME-R2

FRAME-R1

The host sends the DISCOVER message

The strain2 tells it is present

The hosts stores info about the presence of a strain2 @ addr = 1 and a mtb4 @ addr = 2.

The mtb4 tells it is present.

mtb4 bootloader @ 2

**Figure 24**: Example of CAN frames used for the basic discovery. In the CAN bus there are two boards: a strain2 running the application and an mtb4 running the bootloader.

FRAME-DISCOVER

ID

This frame does not need any arguments.

{CLS = BOOTLOADER-MANAGEMENT = 111b} {SRC = 0000b} {DST = 1111b}

CMD

ARG

[]

DISCOVER = 0xFF

sizeof(ARG) = 0

**Figure 25**: This frame asks to every device (ID.DST = 0xf ) info about their presence.

FRAME-R1: reply at the FRAME-DISCOVER (case of application running)

ID

This frame has the same CMD value as FRAME- DISCOVER, but is it recognizable as an answer because the size of ARG is 4. In ARG is there is the type of board (strain2 has 0x0C) and its application version (major = 1, minor = 2, build = 3).

{CLS = BOOTLOADER-MANAGEMENT = 111b} {SRC = 0001b} {DST = 0000b}

CMD

ARG

[ 0x0C ] [ 0x01 ] [ 0x02 ] [ 0x03 ]

DISCOVER = 0xFF

sizeof(ARG) = 4

**Figure 26**: The strain2 board replies with a frame that contains the type of board it is and the version of its application.

FRAME-R2: reply at the FRAME-DISCOVER (case of bootloader running)

ID

This frame has the same CMD value as FRAME- DISCOVER, but is it recognizable as an answer because the size of ARG is 3. Also, from this size we can tell that the bootloader and not the application is is running. In ARG is there is the type of board (mtb4 has 0x0B) and its bootloader version (major = 4, minor = 5).

{CLS = BOOTLOADER-MANAGEMENT = 111b} {SRC = 0001b} {DST = 0000b}

CMD

ARG

[ 0x0B ] [ 0x04 ] [ 0x05 ]

DISCOVER = 0xFF

sizeof(ARG) = 3

**Figure 27**: The mtb4 board replies with a frame that contains the type of board it is and the version of its bootloader.

### More detailed discovery

After the host has a list of CAN nodes with {node address, node type, process in execution, process version}, it can ask for more information such as the additional info or details on its CAN protocol version.

With message with CMD = GET\_ADDITIONAL\_INFO of class bootloader-management it is possible to retrieve a user-defined short string which is contained in the EEPROM of the node.

With message with CMD = GET\_FIRMWARE\_VERSION of class polling-analog it is possible to check if a node is present, if it runs the application and if its CAN protocol is coherent with the messages the host is expecting to run its services.

[TBD] The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

## Management of nodes

See following sections

### Change the additional information

With message with CMD = SET\_ADDITIONAL\_INFO of class bootloader-management it is possible to impose a user-defined short string to be contained in the EEPROM of the node.

[TBD] The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

### Change the CAN address

With message with CMD = SET\_BOARD\_ADX of class polling-analog it is possible to change the CAN address of the node.

The same operation can be done with CMD = SETCANADDRESS of class bootloader-management.

[TBD] The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

### The firmware update procedure

With messages of class bootloader / management, it is possible to perform firmware update of the application.

The used messages have CMD equal to: BOARD = 0x00, ADDRESS = 0x01, START = 0x02, DATA = 0x03, END = 0x04. Here is how the procedure works.

The host orders the start of the procedure with two consecutive commands BOARD sent in unicast. If the application receives the first, it forces execution of the bootloader. When the bootloader receives one or two of such messages, it prepares itself for receiving further messages.

Then, the host uses bursts of commands ADDRESS and DATA to deliver the code that the bootloader writes in its code space.

Finally, the host terminates the procedure with messages END and START and it launches the application.

The firmware update procedure

BOARD

delay

YES

BOARD

END

START

Send a CODE section

End of sections

NO

Send a CODE section

n -= (sizeof(PAYLOAD(DATA))-1)

n = ARG(ADDRESS).N

ADDRESS

DATA

n < 0

NO

YES

**Figure 28**: The firmware update procedure.

## The FT service

In here, we configure, start, and stop a FT service. A host at address 0 sends messages to a given strain2 board with address 1.

In here, we assume that the board has already passed through a proper calibration procedure.

### Configuration of FT service

The FT service needs to know the full-scale values imposed at calibration. We can ask the full-scale values, one for each of the six channels, by using the following messages.

Sequence Diagram for retrieval of full scale of channel 2

Host @ 0

FRAME-1

strain2 @ 1

FRAME-2

The host sends request for the full-scale of channel 2

The strain2 just replies with the full scale value

**Figure 29**: Example of CAN frames used to retrieve the value of full-scale of channel 2 for the FT service.

FRAME-1: it asks the full-scale #2

ID

This frame has an ARG formed by one byte only which is split into two nibbles.

The LSN (lower significant nibble) contains the number of the channel from 0 to 6. In our case, its value is 2. The MSN (most significant nibble) contains the calibration set to query amongst the three possible ones. Valid values are = 0, 1, 2, 3. A value of 0 means the calibration set currently in use by the board.

{CLS = POLLING-ANALOG = 010b} {SRC = 0000b} {DST = 0001b}

CMD

ARG

[0000b, 0010b]

GET\_FULL\_SCALE = 0x18

sizeof(ARG) = 1

**Figure 30**: The first frame asks the full scale of channel #2.

FRAME-2: reply at the command which asks the full-scale #2

ID

This frame has the same CMD value as FRAME-1, but is it recognizable as an answer because the size of ARG is 3. The content of ARGUMENTS is: CMD[0] is the same as in FRAME-1 and contains the queried calibration set and full-scale; CMD[1, 2] contains the full-scale value as a std::uint16\_t stored in BIG-ENDIAN.

{CLS = POLLING-ANALOG = 010b} {SRC = 0001b} {DST = 0000b}

CMD

ARG

[ 0000b, 0001b ] [ MSB ] [ LSB ]

GET\_FULL\_SCALE = 0x18

sizeof(ARG) = 3

**Figure 31**: The second frame sends back the value of full-scale.

After we have the six full-scales, we need to set in advance the data rate of the FT sensor.

Sequence diagram for configuration of the TX rate of FT data

Host @ 0

FRAME-3

strain2 @ 1

The host configures the strain2 @ addr = 1 to TX at 10 ms rate

The strain2 applies the TX rate to the FT service.

**Figure 32**: Example of CAN frames used to configure the TX rate of FT service.

FRAME-3: it sets the TX rate of the FT service at 10 ms

ID

Explanation of the content of ARG.

* ARG[0] contains the TX datarate expressed in milliseconds.

{CLS = POLLING-ANALOG = 010b} {SRC = 0000b} {DST = 0001b}

CMD

ARG

[ 0x0A ]

SET\_CANDATARATE = 0x08

sizeof(ARG) = 1

**Figure 33**: This frame sets the TX rate of the FT service at 10 ms.

### Start of the FT service

The start of transmission happens with the sending of a single command. We request calibrated data.

Sequence diagram for start of transmission of calibrated FT data

Host @ 0

strain2 @ 1

10 ms

FRAME-4

It starts broadcasting the FT calibrated values at the rate of 10 ms as previously configured

FRAME-A

It commands the start of the service with calibrated data.

FRAME-B

FRAME-A

FRAME-B

**Figure 34**: Example of a CAN frames used to start a FT service. Frame-4 is sent in unicast, whereas the group of frames –A and –B are sent in broadcast and periodically.

FRAME-4: command that starts the transmission of calibrated FT data

ID

This frame commands to start transmission of the FT value with a mode specified by ARG[0]. In our case we have ARG[0] = 0x00, thus the order is to transmit calibrated data.

{CLS = POLLING-ANALOG = 010b} {SRC = 0000b} {DST = 0001b}

CMD

ARG

[ 0x00 ]

SET\_TXMODE = 0x07

sizeof(ARG) = 1

**Figure 35**: The frame that starts the transmission.

FRAME-A: values of Force

ID

Explanation of the content of DATA: see relevant table

{CLS = PERIODIC-ANALOG = 011b} {SRC = 0000b} {TYP = FORCE\_VECTOR= 0xA}

DATA

[MSB-X] [LSB-X] [MSB-Y] [LSB-Y [MSB-Z] [ADC-SATURATION-INFO]

sizeof(DATA) = 6 or 7

**Figure 36**: These frames contain the calibrated force values.

FRAME-B: values of Torque

ID

Explanation of the content of DATA: see relevant table

{CLS = PERIODIC-ANALOG = 011b} {SRC = 0000b} {TYP = TORQUE\_VECTOR= 0xB}

DATA

[MSB-X] [LSB-X] [MSB-Y] [LSB-Y [MSB-Z] [ADC-SATURATION-INFO]

sizeof(DATA) = 6 or 7

**Figure 37**: These frames contain the calibrated torque values.

### Stop of the FT service

It is required to send a command similar to the one used to start it, but with a different argument.

Sequence diagram for stopping teh FT service

Host @ 0

strain2 @ 1

FRAME-5

It stops broadcasting whatever FT data it was sending

FRAME-A

It commands the stop of the service.

FRAME-B

**Figure 38**: Example of a CAN frame used to stop an FT service. Frame-5 is sent in unicast.

FRAME-4: command that stops the transmission of calibrated FT data

ID

This frame commands to start transmission of the FT value with a mode specified by ARG[0]. In our case we have ARG[0] = 0x01, thus the order is to stop transmission.

{CLS = POLLING-ANALOG = 010b} {SRC = 0000b} {DST = 0001b}

CMD

ARG

[ 0x01 ]

SET\_TXMODE = 0x07

sizeof(ARG) = 1

**Figure 39**: The frame that stops the transmission.

## The IMU service

In here, we configure, start, and stop an IMU service. A host at address 0 sends messages to a given strain2 board with address 1.

### Configuration of IMU service

In here, we configure an IMU service with accelerometer measures, gyroscope measures and the status of the IMU.

Sequence diagram for configuration of an IMU service

Host @ 0

FRAME-1

strain2 @ 1

FRAME-3

FRAME-2

The host configures the strain2 @ addr = 1 for IMU acquisition of accelerometer and gyroscope plus the IMU status

The strain2 applies the settings of the IMU service

It replies to the request and sends back the settings of IMU service.

It asks back the configuration of the IMU for check.

**Figure 40**: Example of CAN frames used to configure an IMU service. Frames from -1 to -3 are sent in unicast.

FRAME-1: command which sets the IMU configuration

ID

Explanation of the content of ARG: see relevant table.

* ARG[0] is LSB and ARG[1] is MSB of sensormask. The used flags are imuSensor::acc = 0, imuSensor::gyr = 2 and imuSensor::status = 15.
* ARG[2] is fusion. The used value is imuFusion::enabled = 1.
* ARG[3], ARG[4], ARG[5], ARG[6] are for future use and their value is dontcare. It is OK if = 0.

{CLS = POLLING-ANALOG = 010b} {SRC = 0000b} {DST = 0001b}

CMD

ARG

[ 00000101b ] [ 10000000b ] [ 0x01 ] [ 0x00 ] [ 0x00 ] [ 0x00 ] [ 0x00 ]

IMU\_CONFIG\_SET = 0x34

sizeof(ARG) = 7

**Figure 41**: The first frame sets the IMU for the accelerometer, gyroscope and its status.

FRAME-2: command that asks the IMU configuration

ID

This frame does not need any arguments.

{CLS = POLLING-ANALOG = 010b} {SRC = 0000b} {DST = 0001b}

CMD

ARG

[]

IMU\_CONFIG\_GET = 0x33

sizeof(ARGUMENTS) = 0

**Figure 42**: The second frame asks the configuration for a check.

FRAME-3: reply at the command which asks the IMU configuration

ID

This frame has the same CMD value as FRAME-2, but is it recognizable as an answer because the size of ARGUMENTS is 8. The content of ARGUMENTS is the same as for IMU\_CONFIG\_SET

{CLS = POLLING-ANALOG = 010b} {SRC = 0001b} {DST = 0000b}

CMD

ARG

[ 00000101b ] [ 10000000b ] [ 0x01 ] [ 0x00 ] [ 0x00 ] [ 0x00 ] [ 0x00 ]

IMU\_CONFIG\_GET = 0x33

sizeof(ARG) = 8

**Figure 43**: The third frame send the configuration back.

### Start of IMU service

In here, we start the transmission of the data from accelerometer, gyroscope and the status of the IMU.

Sequence Diagram for start of an IMU service

Host @ 0

strain2 @ 1

50 ms

FRAME-4

It starts broadcasting the IMU values which was configured for, at a rate of 50 ms

FRAME-A

It commands the start of the service with a rate of 50 ms.

FRAME-B

FRAME-C

FRAME-A

FRAME-B

FRAME-C

**Figure 44**: Example of a CAN frames used to start an IMU service. Frame-4 is sent in unicast, whereas the group of frames -A, -B, and -C are sent in broadcast and periodically.

FRAME-4: command that starts the transmission @ 20 Hz

ID

This frame commands to start transmission of the configured IMU values with a frequency specified in milliseconds by ARG[0]. In our case is ARG[0] = 0x32, thus 50 ms.

{CLS = POLLING-ANALOG = 010b} {SRC = 0000b} {DST = 0001b}

CMD

ARG

[ 0x32 ]

IMU\_TRANSMIT = 0x35

sizeof(ARG) = 1

**Figure 45**: The frame that starts the transmission.

FRAME-A: values from an accelerometer

ID

Explanation of the content of DATA: see relevant table.

* DATA[0] is a sequence number which helps matching other inertial values acquired at the same time. Its value SEQ cycles from 0 to 255.
* DATA[1] is a descriptor of the type of inertial content. In here we have 0x00 = imuSensor::acc, hence we have values from an accelerometer.
* DATA[2] and DATA[3] represent the x component as an std::int16\_t value mapped in little endian.
* DATA[4] and DATA[5] represent the y component as an std::int16\_t value mapped in little endian.
* DATA[6] and DATA[7] represent the z component as an std::int16\_t value mapped in little endian.

{CLS = PERIODIC-INERTIAL = 101b} {SRC = 0000b} {TYP = IMU\_TRIPLE = 0011b}

DATA

[ SEQ ] [ 0x00 ] [LSB-X] [MSB-X] [LSB-Y] [MSB-Y [LSB-Z] [MSB-Z]

sizeof(DATA) = 8

**Figure 46**: These frames contain the accelerometer values and are repeated every 50 ms.

FRAME-B: values from a gyroscope

ID

Explanation of the content of DATA: see relevant table.

* DATA[0] is a sequence number which helps matching other inertial values acquired at the same time. Its value SEQ cycles from 0 to 255.
* DATA[1] is a descriptor of the type of inertial content. In here we have 0x02 = imuSensor::gyr, hence we have values from a gyroscope.
* DATA[2] and DATA[3] represent the x component as an std::int16\_t value mapped in little endian.
* DATA[4] and DATA[5] represent the y component as an std::int16\_t value mapped in little endian.
* DATA[6] and DATA[7] represent the z component as an std::int16\_t value mapped in little endian.

{CLS = PERIODIC-INERTIAL = 101b} {SRC = 0000b} {TYP = IMU\_TRIPLE = 0011b}

DATA

[ SEQ ] [ 0x02 ] [LSB-X] [MSB-X] [LSB-Y] [MSB-Y [LSB-Z] [MSB-Z]

sizeof(DATA) = 8

**Figure 47**: These frames contain the gyroscope values and are repeated every 50 ms.

FRAME-C: the status of the IMU

ID

Explanation of the content of DATA: see the relevant table

{CLS = PERIODIC-INERTIAL = 101b} {SRC = 0000b} {TYP = IMU\_STATUS = 0101b}

DATA

[ SEQ ] [ GYR-CALIB ] [ ACC-CALIB ] [ MAG-CALIB] [ ]

sizeof(DATA) = 8

**Figure 48**: These frames contain the status of the IMU and are repeated every 50 ms.

### Stop of IMU service

In here, we stop the transmission of IMU data.

Sequence diagram for stop of an IMU service

Host @ 0

strain2 @ 1

FRAME-5

It stops broadcasting whatever IMU data it was sending

FRAME-A

It commands the stop of the service.

FRAME-B

FRAME-C

**Figure 49**: Example of a CAN frames used to stop an IMU service. Frame-5 is sent in unicast.

FRAME-5: command that stops the transmission of IMU data

ID

This frame commands to start transmission of the configured IMU values with a frequency specified in milliseconds by ARG[0]. In our case is ARG[0] = 0x00, thus no transmission at all.

{CLS = POLLING-ANALOG = 010b} {SRC = 0000b} {DST = 0001b}

CMD

ARG

[ 0x00 ]

IMU\_TRANSMIT = 0x35

sizeof(ARG) = 1

**Figure 50**: The frame that stops the IMU transmission.

## The THERMO service

In here, we configure, start, and stop a thermometer service. A host at address 0 sends messages to a given strain2 board with address 1.

### Configuration of THERMO service

In here, we configure a thermometer service with acquisition of a single temperature inside the board.

Sequence diagram for configuration of a thermometer service

Host @ 0

FRAME-1

strain2 @ 1

FRAME-3

FRAME-2

The host configures the strain2 @ addr = 1 for acquiring from one thermometer

The strain2 applies the settings of the Thermo service

It replies to the request and sends back the settings of Thermo service.

It asks back the configuration of the Thermo for check.

**Figure 51**: Example of CAN frames used to configure a Thermo service. Frames from -1 to -3 are sent in unicast.

FRAME-1: command which sets the THERMO configuration

ID

Explanation of the content of ARG.

* ARG[0] contains the thermomask. The used flags so far are only: Thermo::one = 0.

{CLS = POLLING-ANALOG = 010b} {SRC = 0000b} {DST = 0001b}

CMD

ARG

[ 00000001b ]

THERMO\_CONFIG\_SET = 0x39

sizeof(ARG) = 1

**Figure 52**: The first frame sets the chosen thermometer.

FRAME-2: command which asks the THERMO configuration

ID

This frame does not need any arguments.

{CLS = POLLING-ANALOG = 010b} {SRC = 0000b} {DST = 0001b}

CMD

ARG

[]

THERMO\_CONFIG\_GET = 0x38

sizeof(ARG) = 0

**Figure 53**: The second frame asks the configuration for a check.

FRAME-3: reply at the command which asks the IMU configuration

ID

This frame has the same CMD value as FRAME-2, but is it recognizable as an answer because the size of ARGUMENTS is 1. The content of ARGUMENTS is the same as for THERMO\_CONFIG\_SET

{CLS = POLLING-ANALOG = 010b} {SRC = 0001b} {DST = 0000b}

CMD

ARG

[ 00000001b ]

THERMO\_CONFIG\_GET = 0x38

sizeof(ARG) = 1

**Figure 54**: The third frame send the configuration back.

### Start of THERMO service

In here, we start the transmission of the data from the thermometer.

Sequence Diagram for start of a THERMO service

Host @ 0

strain2 @ 1

2 sec

FRAME-4

It starts broadcasting the THERMO values which was configured for, at a rate of 2 sec

FRAME-A

It commands the start of the service with a rate of 2 sec.

FRAME-A

**Figure 55**: Example of a CAN frames used to start a THERMO service. Frame-4 is sent in unicast, whereas the frames -A are sent in broadcast and periodically.

FRAME-4: command that starts the transmission @ 0.5 Hz

ID

This frame commands to start transmission of the configured THERMO values with a frequency specified in seconds by ARG[0]. In our case is ARG[0] = 0x02, thus 2 seconds.

{CLS = POLLING-ANALOG = 010b} {SRC = 0000b} {DST = 0001b}

CMD

ARG

[ 0x02 ]

THERMO\_TRANSMIT = 0x3A

sizeof(ARG) = 1

**Figure 56**: The frame that starts the transmission.

FRAME-A: values from a thermometer

ID

Explanation of the content of DATA.

* DATA[0] contains the mask telling which thermometer(s) we are dealing with. The used flags so far are only: Thermo::one = 0.
* DATA[1, 2] contains the value of the temperature expressed in 0.1 Celsius degrees by a std::int16\_t ordered in little endian.
* DATA[3, 4] are for future use.

{CLS = PERIODIC-ANALOG = 011b} {SRC = 0000b} {TYP = THERMO\_MEASURE = 0xE}

DATA

[MASK] [LSB-T] [MSB-T] [FFU ] [FFU]

sizeof(DATA) = 5

**Figure 57**: These frames contain the temperature values and are repeated every 2 seconds.

### Stop of THERMO service

In here, we stop the transmission of THERMO data.

Sequence Diagram for stop of a THERMO service

Host @ 0

strain2 @ 1

FRAME-5

It stops broadcasting whatever THERMO data it was sending

FRAME-A

It commands the stop of the service.

**Figure 58**: Example of a CAN frames used to stop a THERMO service. Frame-5 is sent in unicast.

FRAME-5: command that stops the transmission of THERMO data

ID

This frame commands to start transmission of the configured THERMO values with a frequency specified in seconds by ARG[0]. In our case is ARG[0] = 0x00, thus no transmission at all.

{CLS = POLLING-ANALOG = 010b} {SRC = 0000b} {DST = 0001b}

CMD

ARG

[ 0x00 ]

THERMO\_TRANSMIT = 0x3A

sizeof(ARG) = 1

**Figure 59**: The frame that stops the THERMO transmission.

## The Skin service

In here, we configure, start, and stop a skin service. A host at address 0 sends messages to a given mtb4 board with address 1.

### Configuration of the skin service

In here, we configure a skin service to stream the values of two triangles only.

TBD

### Start of the skin service

In here, we start the skin service.

TBD

### Stop of the skin service

In here, we stop the skin service.

TBD

Conclusions

In here we have presented the iCub CAN protocol for sensor boards.

References