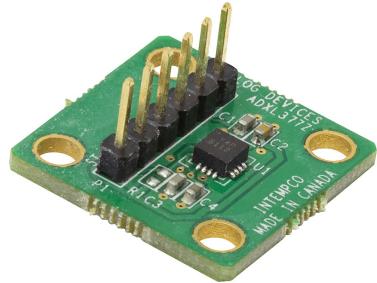




Course of Measurements for Automation and Industrial Production

ADXL377 inclinometer system Programmer's Guide



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Aim of the project

The objective of this project is to develop a comprehensive system for the ADXL377 accelerometer, configured as an inclinometer to measure pitch (forward/backward tilt) and roll (side-to-side tilt) angles. The system includes the design and construction of a signal conditioning circuit to adapt the accelerometer for inclination measurements. After constructing the circuit, an adjustment process is performed using an ellipsoidal fitting procedure, followed by a precise calibration to ensure optimal performance of the entire system. The user can utilize the system to measure pitch and roll angles in real-time, with the ability to adjust the system for improved measurement accuracy. The visualization of the yaw angle is not supported.

Chapter 1

Introduction

This **programmer manual** provides an in-depth overview of the software architecture and design for the LabVIEW project focused on the ADXL377 accelerometer, configured as an **inclinometer**. The system is designed to measure pitch and roll angles accurately and in real-time.

The project encompasses several key components:

- **Hardware Integration:** the software interfaces with a custom-designed signal conditioning circuit that prepares the accelerometer for precise inclination measurements.
- **Data Acquisition:** The system facilitates the acquisition of voltage outputs from the accelerometer, which are then processed to derive the tilt angles.
- **Ellipsoidal Fitting:** The software implements an ellipsoidal fitting procedure for adjustment to ensure optimal performance of the measurement system.
- **Calibration:** the calibration process is critical for achieving accurate readings. A robotic arm is used as a reference for the angles during this calibration phase.

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

This manual is intended for developers looking to understand, modify, or extend the existing LabVIEW codebase. It includes:

- **System Architecture:** An overview of the hardware and software components involved in the project.
- **LabVIEW Design:** Detailed descriptions of the virtual instruments (VIs) used within the application.
- **Data Processing Techniques:** Insights into the algorithms utilized for data handling, adjustment and calibration.

Chapter 2

Hardware instrumentation used

In this chapter, the description of the hardware instrumentation used is provided:

- Accelerometer ADXL377
- National Instruments USB-6008 data acquisition (DAQ)
- Agilent Keysight, E3631A
- Operational amplifiers LM158

2.1 Accelerometer ADXL377

2.1.1 Hardware description

ADXL377 Datasheet¹

The ADXL377 is a small, thin, low-power, complete 3-axis accelerometer with signal-conditioned voltage outputs. It measures acceleration resulting from motion, shock, or vibration, with a **typical full-scale range of $\pm 200 \text{ g}$** .

However, using it as an inclinometer presents several challenges due to the difference among the acceleration ranges intended for each application. Below are the main difficulties.

¹<https://www.analog.com/media/en/technical-documentation/data-sheets/ADXL377.pdf>

1. **Noise:** the accelerometer is sensitive to various sources of noise, including environmental vibrations, unwanted movements, and electrical disturbances. Noise can affect the accuracy of the measurement, particularly when small changes in inclination are to be detected.
2. **Calibration:** the ADXL377 is designed for high accelerations, so it is essential to calibrate the accelerometer for the lower accelerations typical in inclinometer applications. Calibration must account for variations in sensitivity under different operating conditions.
3. **Offset Compensation:** the accelerometer has an internal offset, so in order to use the ADXL377 as an inclinometer, it is necessary to compensate the offset to obtain accurate and stable readings.
4. **Electromagnetic Interference:** an environment with strong magnetic fields or other sources of electromagnetic interference can affect the precision of the measures.

In addition, **attention must be paid to the configuration and mounting of the accelerometer** to ensure that it is correctly oriented and fixed to accurately measure the desired inclination.

2.1.2 Main characteristics

As it has already been said, the accelerometer ADXL377 measures **acceleration** resulting from motion, shock, or vibration with a typical **full-scale range of $\pm 200 \text{ g}$** .

It can be selected the bandwidth of the accelerometer by configuring the capacitors C_X , C_Y , and C_Z at the respectively pins X_{OUT} , Y_{OUT} , and Z_{OUT} . The bandwidth can be chosen according to the application: **from 0.5 Hz to 1300 Hz for the x-axis and y-axis, and from 0.5 Hz to 1000 Hz for the z-axis**.

The following picture shows the block diagram of the accelerometer.

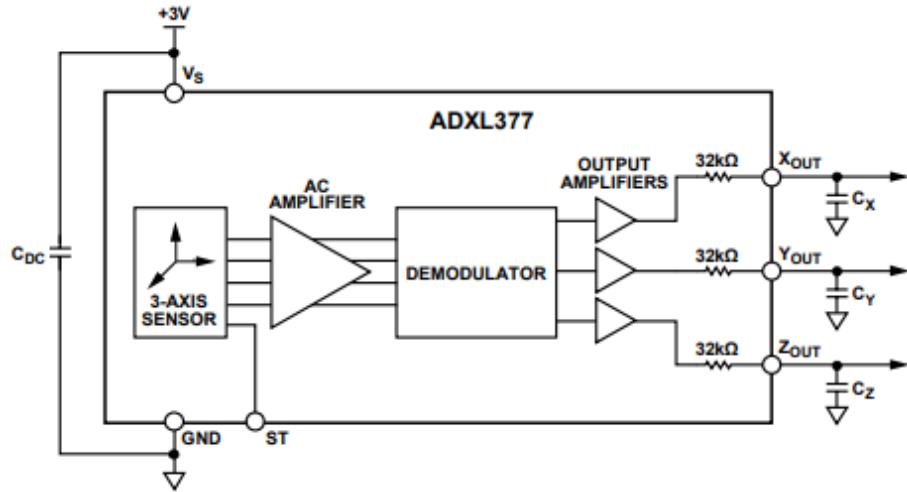


Figure 2.1: Functional block diagram

2.1.3 View of the sensor

The following images show how the sensor is located in the space (top, side, down). In addition, the corresponding values of gravitational acceleration [g] for each triaxial position (x , y , z) are shown.

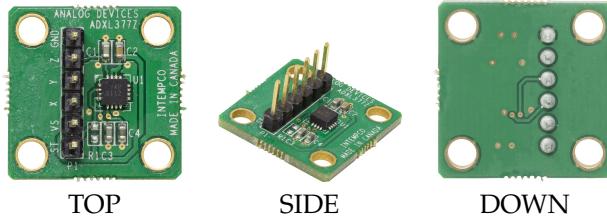


Table 2.1: View of the sensor

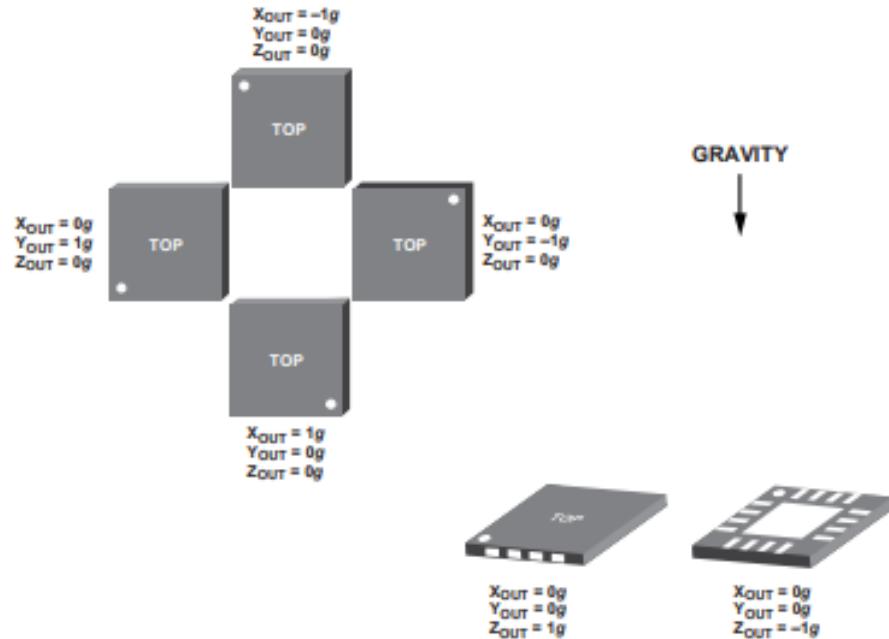


Figure 2.2: Values of g for different orientation of x , y and z axes

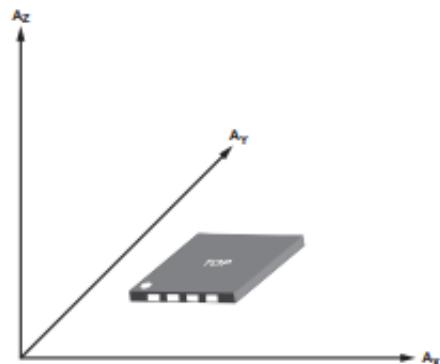


Figure 2.3: Axes of acceleration sensitivity

2.1.4 Offset

The accelerometer has an internal offset. As it can be observed from the graphs, at a temperature of approximately 20 degrees Celsius, the offset is equal to 1.5V.

CHAPTER 2. HARDWARE INSTRUMENTATION USED

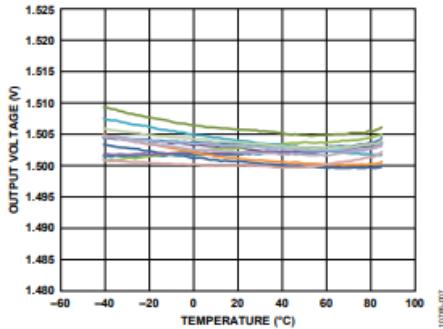


Figure 7. Y-Axis Zero g Offset vs. Temperature, $V_s = 3 V$
(14 Parts Soldered to PCB)

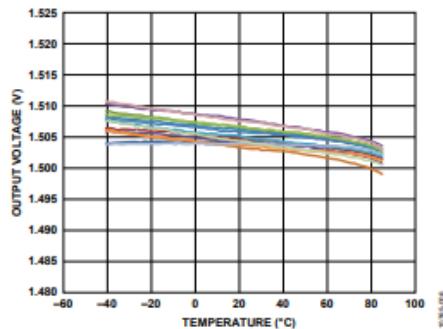


Figure 6. X-Axis Zero g Offset vs. Temperature, $V_s = 3 V$
(14 Parts Soldered to PCB)

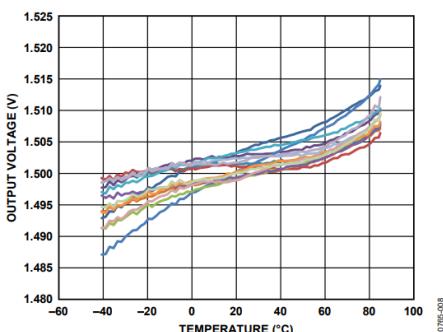


Figure 8. Z-Axis Zero g Offset vs. Temperature, $V_s = 3 V$
(14 Parts Soldered to PCB)

2.2 National Instruments USB-6008 data acquisition device



Figure 2.4: Data acquisition device

2.2.1 Overview

USB6008 Datasheet²

The NI USB-6008/6009 provides connection to eight analog input (AI) channels, two analog output (AO) channels, 12 digital input/output (DIO) channels, and a 32-bit counter with a full-speed USB interface.

Feature	USB-6008
AI Resolution	12 bits differential, 11 bits single-ended
Maximum AI Sample Rate, Single Channel*	10 kS/s
Maximum AI Sample Rate, Multiple Channels (Aggregate)*	10 kS/s
DIO Configuration	Open collector

Figure 2.5: Features of USB-6008

²<https://users.physics.unc.edu/sean/Phys351/techresource/docs/USB6009%20User%20Manual.pdf>

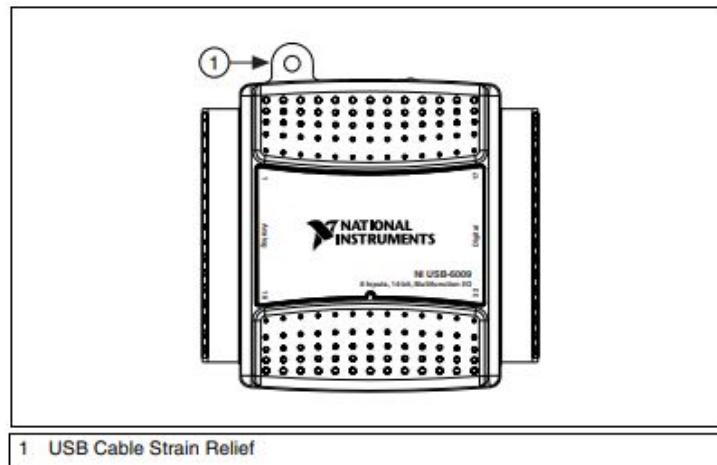


Figure 2.6: USB-6008

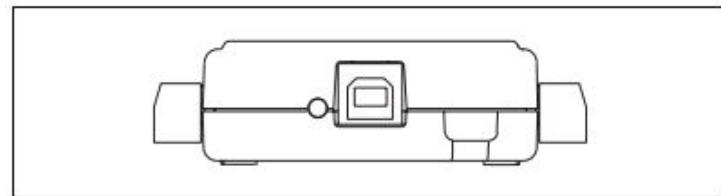


Figure 2.7: USB-6008 back-view

2.2.2 Hardware

The following block diagram shows key functional components of the USB-6008.

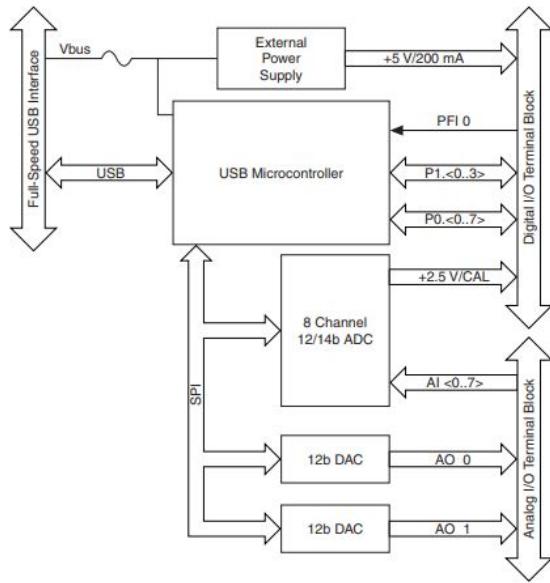


Figure 2.8: DAQ block diagram

2.2.3 I/O connector

The following lists show the analog terminal assignment and the digital terminal assignment, respectively.

CHAPTER 2. HARDWARE INSTRUMENTATION USED

Module	Terminal	Signal, Single-Ended Mode	Signal, Differential Mode
	1	GND	GND
	2	AI 0	AI 0+
	3	AI 4	AI 0-
	4	GND	GND
	5	AI 1	AI 1+
	6	AI 5	AI 1-
	7	GND	GND
	8	AI 2	AI 2+
	9	AI 6	AI 2-
	10	GND	GND
	11	AI 3	AI 3+
	12	AI 7	AI 3-
	13	GND	GND
	14	AO 0	AO 0
	15	AO 1	AO 1
	16	GND	GND

Figure 2.9: Analog Terminal Assignments

Module	Terminal	Signal
	17	P0.0
	18	P0.1
	19	P0.2
	20	P0.3
	21	P0.4
	22	P0.5
	23	P0.6
	24	P0.7
	25	P1.0
	26	P1.1
	27	P1.2
	28	P1.3
	29	PFI 0
	30	+2.5 V
	31	+5 V
	32	GND

Figure 2.10: Digital Terminal Assignments

2.3 E3631A Agilent DC Power Supply

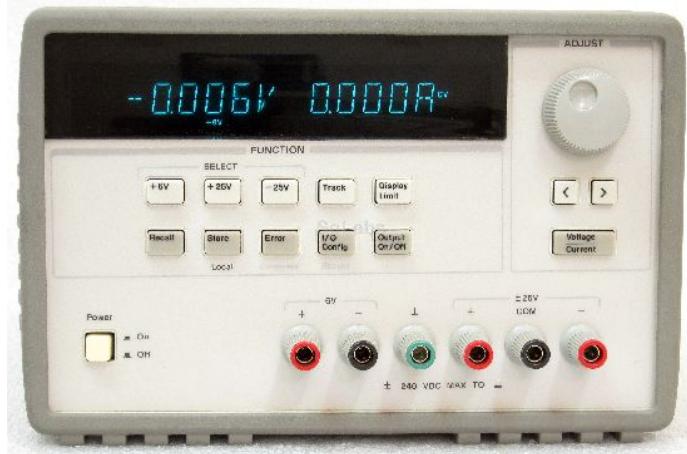


Figure 2.11: E3631A Agilent DC Power Supply

E3631A Datasheet³

The instrumentation hardware includes a basic DC power supply, the E3631A one.

2.3.1 Main characteristics

Output

- Output 1: 0 to 6 V, 0 to 5 A
- Output 2: 0 to +25 V, 0 to 1 A
- Output 3: 0 to -25 V, 0 to 1 A

Accuracy at 25°C ± 5°C:

Voltage:

$$0.05\% + 20 \text{ mV}, \quad 0.05\% + 20 \text{ mV}, \quad 0.1\% + 5 \text{ mV}$$

Current:

$$0.15\% + 4 \text{ mA}, \quad 0.15\% + 4 \text{ mA}, \quad 0.2\% + 10 \text{ mA}$$

³<https://www.sglabs.it/public/HPE3631A.pdf>

- **Maximum Current:** 5A
- **Display:** Digital
- **Interface:** GPIB, RS232
- **Maximum Voltage:** 25 V
- **Minimum Voltage:** -25 V

2.4 LM158 operation amplifier

LM158 Datasheet ⁴

The device consists of two independent amplifiers which have high gain, internally frequency compensated and designed specifically to operate from a single power supply over a wide range of voltages. The following image shows the pin of the device.

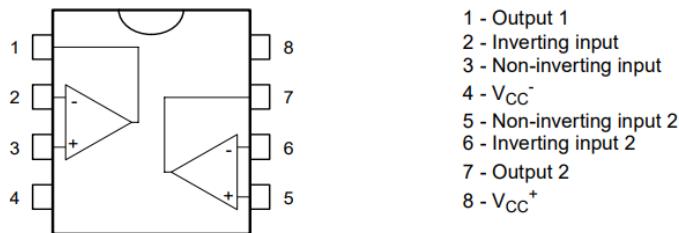


Figure 2.12: Pin connections

⁴https://digsys.upc.edu/csd/chips/analog/OpAmp_LM358.pdf

Chapter 3

Conditioning circuit

3.1 Design of the conditioning circuit

The conditioning circuit is designed to **remove the 1.5V offset from each output**. In addition, from the data-sheet, the typical change in output is shown as follows:

- For the x-axis, the typical change is -1.08 g (corresponding to -6.5 mV)
- For the y-axis, the typical change is +1.08 g (or 6.5 mV)
- For the z-axis, the typical change is +1.83 g (or 11.5 mV)

After the offset removal, the circuit amplifies the accelerometer voltage outputs by a factor of about $960 \frac{V}{V}$.

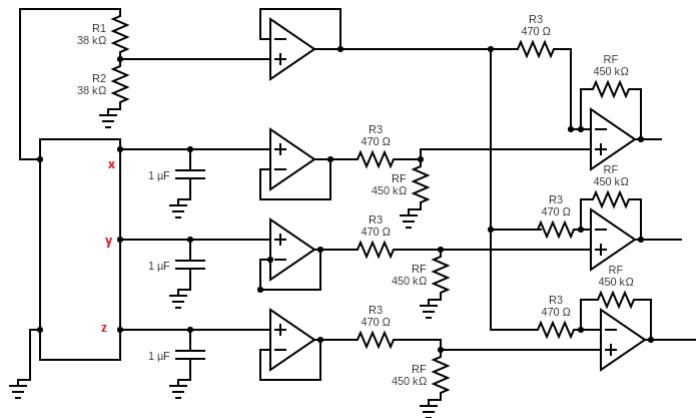


Figure 3.1: Conditioning circuit R1 = R2 = 38kΩ R3= 470Ω Rf= 450kΩ

3.2 Subtractor

3.2.1 Voltage divider

The input voltage is 3V. This circuit produces an output voltage of about 1.5V.

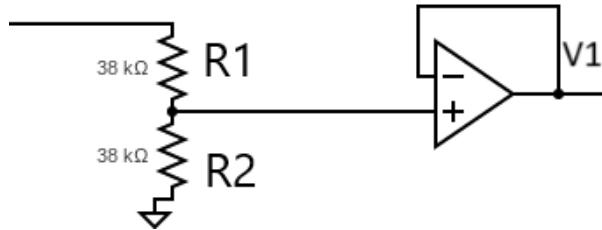


Figure 3.2: The circuit used to create a voltage divider

$$V_1 = \frac{3V \cdot R_2}{R_2 + R_1} = 1.5V$$

3.2.2 Low-pass filter

The accelerometer has provisions for band-limiting the X_{OUT}, Y_{OUT} and Z_{OUT} pins. A capacitor must be added at each of these pins to implement low-pass filtering for anti-aliasing and noise reduction.

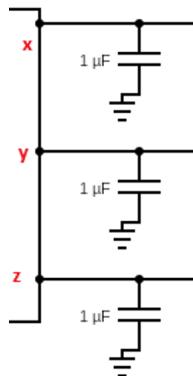


Figure 3.3: Low-pass filter

The equation for the -3 dB bandwidth is

$$f_{-3\text{ dB}} = \frac{1}{2\pi \times 32\text{ k}\Omega \times C_x}$$

The tolerance of the internal resistor typically varies by as much as $\pm 15\%$ of its nominal value ($32 \text{ k}\Omega$, Figure 2.1, and the bandwidth varies accordingly. A minimum capacitance of 1000 pF for C_X , C_Y , and C_Z is recommended in all cases.

All the information about the following table and the internal resistance can be retrieved here: ADXL377 Datasheet, page 9

Bandwidth (Hz)	Capacitor (μF)
50	0.10
100	0.05
200	0.025
500	0.01
1000	0.005

Table 3.1: Filter Capacitor Selection for C_X , C_Y , and C_Z

3.2.3 Voltage follower

Using a voltage follower (also known as a buffer) between a capacitance (low-pass filter) and a resistance serves several useful purposes: preventing signal distortion, ensuring efficient signal transfer and providing isolation between the preceding and following stages of a circuit.

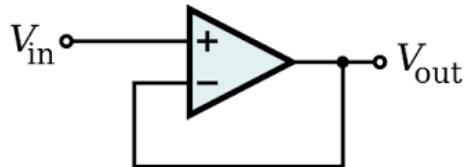


Figure 3.4: Voltage follower (buffer)

Overall, using a voltage follower enhances circuit performance by providing impedance matching, isolation, signal integrity, drive capability and stability.

3.2.4 Output

At the end of the subtractor circuit the three voltages are amplified by a factor of about $960 \frac{V}{V}$.

Gain calculation

The voltage v_1 is the output from the buffer placed after the voltage divider and is fed into the inverting terminals of the three operational amplifiers. The voltage v_2 , on the other hand, refers to the output from the buffers connected to the X, Y, and Z outputs of the accelerometer and is fed into the non-inverting terminals of the three operational amplifiers. Since equal resistors were used, the outputs of these three operational amplifiers will be the same.

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_{out} &= -\frac{R_f}{R_3} \cdot v_1 + \left(1 + \frac{R_f}{R_3}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{R_f}{R_3+R_f}\right) \cdot v_2 = \\
 &= -\frac{R_f}{R_3} \cdot v_1 + \frac{R_3+R_f}{R_3} \cdot \left(\frac{R_f}{R_3+R_f}\right) \cdot v_2 = \\
 &= -\frac{R_f}{R_3} \cdot v_1 + \frac{R_f}{R_3} \cdot v_2 = \\
 &= \frac{R_f}{R_3} \cdot (v_2 - v_1) = 957.4 \cdot (v_2 - v_1)
 \end{aligned}$$

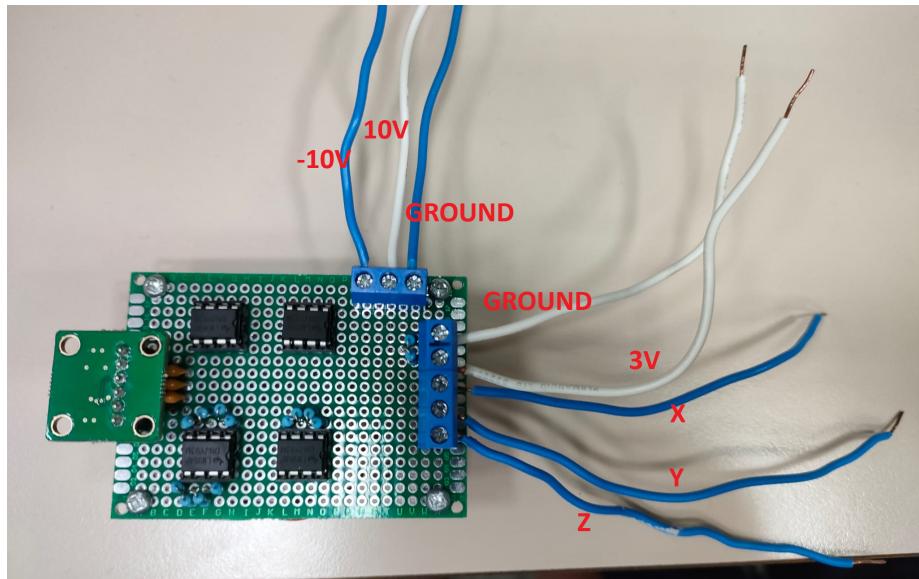


Figure 3.5: Top view of the circuit

Chapter 4

Software VI

4.1 Acquisition chain

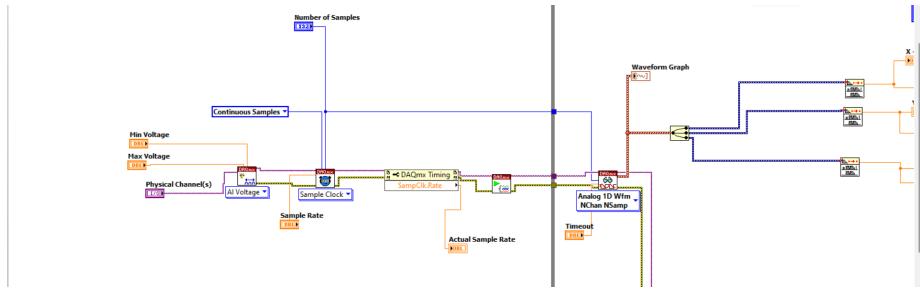


Figure 4.1: Basic chain for acquisition

This is the basic chain for acquisition where the maximum and minimum voltage are set. The type of acquisition is “**continuous samples**”. Once the data is acquired, the **Split Signal** block is used to separate the voltage readings into individual channels corresponding to each axis of the accelerometer.

4.2 Moving average filter

To improve data quality, a moving average filter is applied to the three distinct raw voltage signals before further processing. This filter smooths out fluctuations by averaging a specified number of previous readings, effectively reducing noise while maintaining important trends. This results in more stable and reliable measurements for calculating pitch and roll angles.

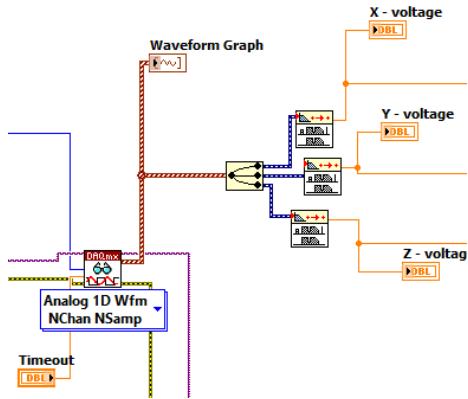
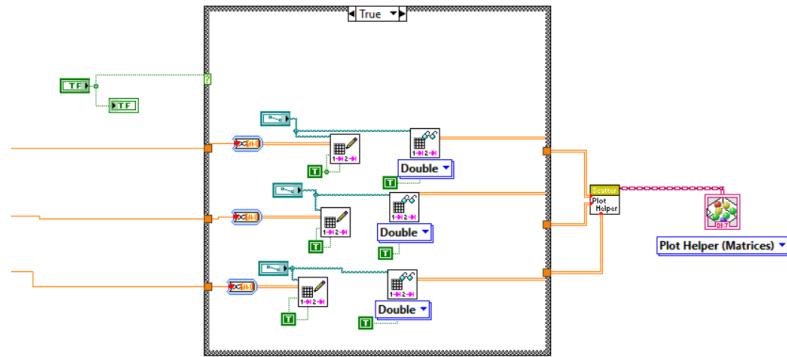
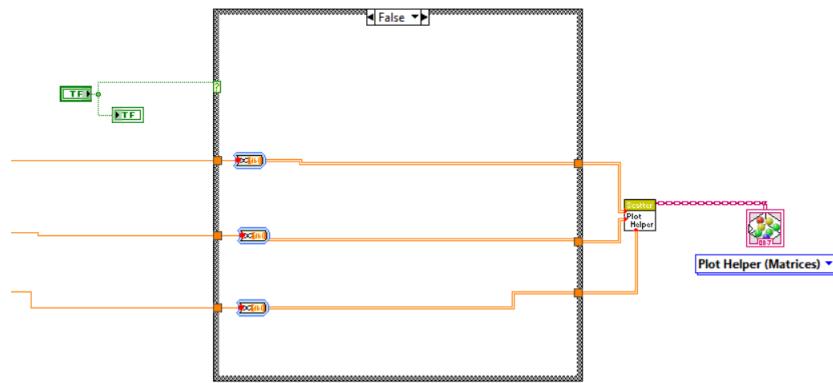


Figure 4.2: Moving average filter

For a sample size of 100 and a sample rate of 1000 Hz, it has observed that a second- order filter provides good estimates.

4.3 Acquisition Case

In the block diagram of the acquisition case, the three split signals are processed. If the internal case is set to true, the values are saved to a file, and as the file fills, the points are plotted on a 3D graph. If the internal case is set to false, there is no memory of past data, and the point is continuously updated based on the sensor's movement.

Figure 4.3: Acquisition - case **true**Figure 4.4: Acquisition - case **false**

4.4 Adjustment case

In the Adjustment Tab, the data saved in the acquisition files are sent to a SubVI called Adjustment.VI. This SubVI extracts four key outputs: the matrix **M_best** and the vector **b** which are utilized for the ellipsoidal fitting process. Additionally, the SubVI generates two graphs: the first visualizes the points before

ellipsoidal compensation, representing the ellipsoid with voltage values, while the second graph displays a unit sphere with values corresponding to gravitational acceleration [g]. It is crucial to ensure that the acquired and saved voltage data form an ellipsoid to avoid unreliable results during the calibration phase.

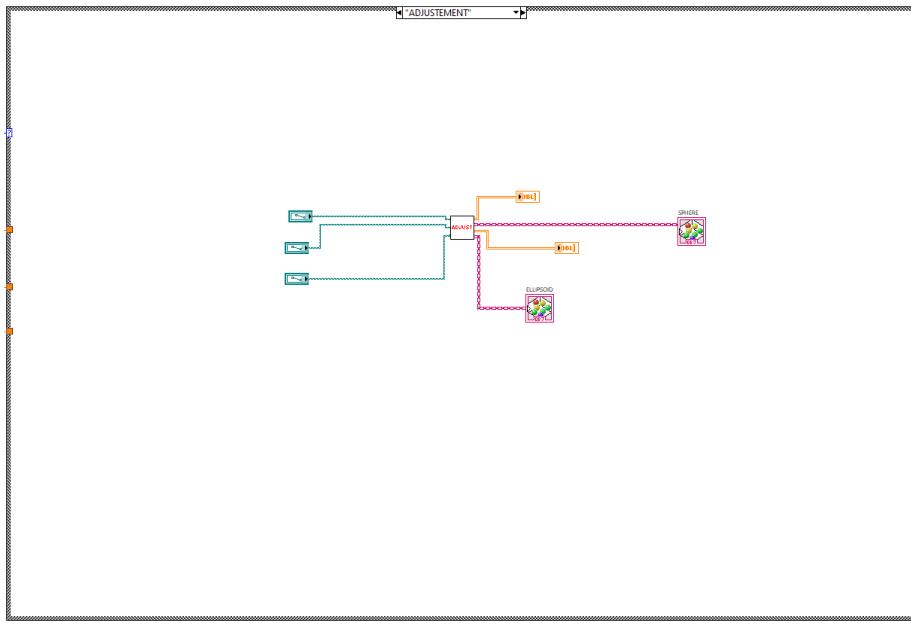


Figure 4.5: Adjustment case

4.4.1 Adjustment SubVI

The Adjustment SubVI is responsible for compensating the raw voltage data acquired from the accelerometer and converting it into **gravitational acceleration values [g]**. This process is crucial to ensure the correct adjustment of the system, allowing for accurate pitch and roll angle measurements.

CHAPTER 4. SOFTWARE VI

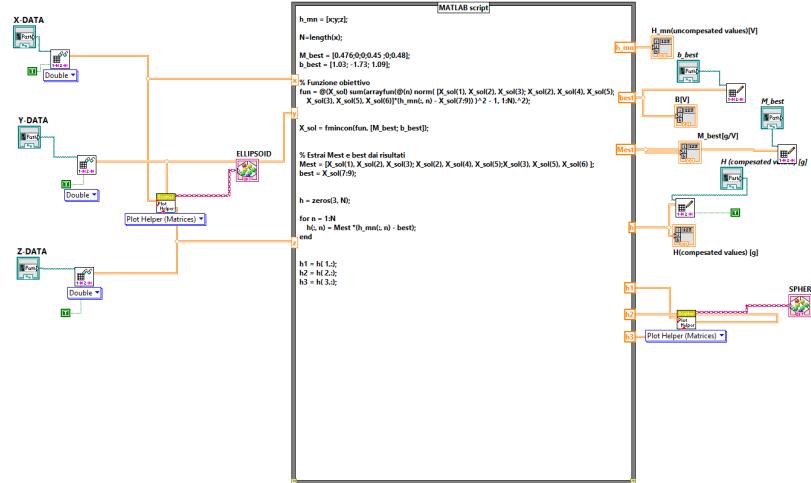


Figure 4.6: AdjustmentVI Block Diagram

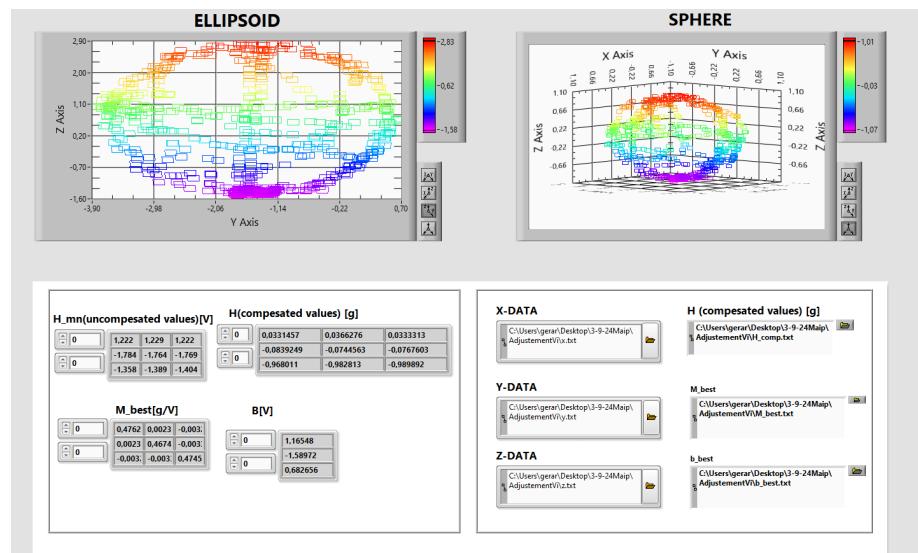


Figure 4.7: AdjustmentVI Front Panel

4.4.2 Ellipsoidal Compensation for Triaxial Accelerometer

Input data

The SubVI takes three raw voltage files as input, each corresponding to one of the accelerometer axes (X, Y, Z). These data points are plotted on a 3D graph. It is crucial that these points form an ellipsoid in space; otherwise, the algorithm will produce incorrect results, leading to an unreliable system.

Initial Conditions: Sensitivity Matrix

To properly initialize the ellipsoidal fitting algorithm, two important initial conditions are required: **the matrix M** and **the vector b**, which are derived from a **sensitivity matrix**.

Sensitivity Matrix The sensitivity matrix is a 3×3 matrix that contains the following information:

- On the main diagonal, it holds the measured voltage values for each axis when the accelerometer is in a 1g condition along that axis.
- The other elements in the same column represent the offsets introduced by the other axes when the main axis is at 1g.

From the sensitivity matrix, the initial values for the matrix M and the vector b used by the fitting algorithm are calculated.

Calculation of Matrix M and vector b

- **Matrix M:** this is a diagonal matrix that contains the sensitivities for each axis on its main diagonal. The sensitivity for an axis is calculated as the ratio of **1g** to the difference between the **measured voltage at 1g** and the **offset** for that axis.
- **Vector b:** this 3×1 vector contains the **offset for each axis** relative to its 1g value.

The structure of the matrix M and vector b is organized by the three main axes (X, Y, Z), with the respective values arranged by row.

Ellipsoidal Fitting Algorithm

Once initialized with the values of matrix M and vector b, the ellipsoidal fitting algorithm is executed to compensate the raw data. This algorithm uses non-linear least-squares minimization to fit the raw voltage data to an ellipsoid model, converting them into gravitational acceleration values.

The algorithm minimizes the following objective function:

$$\{M_{\text{est}}, b_{\text{est}}\} = \arg \min_{(M,b)} \sum_{n=1}^N \left(\|M^{-1}(h_{mn} - b)\|^2 - 1 \right)^2 \quad (4.1)$$

Where:

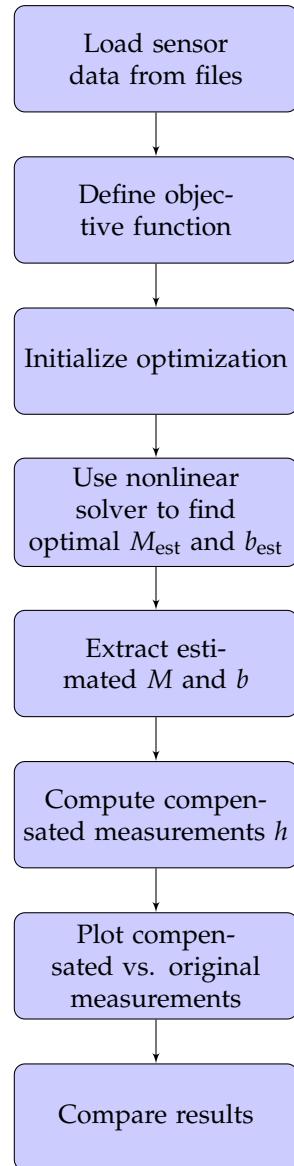
- M_{est} and b_{est} are the estimated model parameters that minimize the objective function.
- h_{mn} represents the $n - th$ raw measurement (voltage data).
- N is the total number of measurements.
- The term $(\|M^{-1}(h_{mn} - b)\|^2 - 1)^2$ expresses the distance of each measurement point from the center of the ellipsoid, scaled by the transformation matrix M and offset by b .

The minimization of this function ensures that the fitted ellipsoid matches the raw data as closely as possible, while transforming it into a sphere of unit radius, corresponding to gravitational acceleration values [g].

So, once the matrix M and vector b have been estimated through the fitting algorithm, the "true" values of h (representing gravitational accelerations) are calculated using the equation:

$$h = M^{-1}(h_m - b) \quad (4.2)$$

In the next page the algorithm is explained step by step for the ellipsoidal fitting:



4.4.3 MATLAB Code

```

1 %% Angelo Caravella
2 clear all      % Clear workspace, removing all variables.
3 close all      % Close all figure windows.
4 clc            % Clear command window.
5
6 %% Input Data
7 % Load data from CSV files
8 % These files contain the original 3D data points which form an
9 % ellipsoid.
10 x = load('C:\Users\Angelo\CARAVELLA\Desktop\Dat\5_rivisto\X.csv');
11 % X coordinates
12 y = load('C:\Users\Angelo\CARAVELLA\Desktop\Dat\5_rivisto\Y.csv');
13 % Y coordinates
14 z = load('C:\Users\Angelo\CARAVELLA\Desktop\Dat\5_rivisto\Z.csv');
15 % Z coordinates
16
17 N = length(x); % Length of the data vectors (assuming x, y, z are
18 % of same length)
19 h_mn = [x'; y'; z']; % 3xN matrix where each column is a 3D data
20 % point
21
22 %%%%%%%%%%%%%% COMPENSATION ALGORITHM
23 % The goal is to compensate the data such that the original
24 % ellipsoid (represented by h_mn)
25 % transforms into a perfect sphere. This is done by finding the
26 % optimal transformation matrix M
27 % and bias vector b that achieves this compensation.
28
29 % Initial estimates for the transformation matrix (M) and bias
30 % vector (b)
31 % M_best is initialized with values close to those expected for a
32 % transformation towards a sphere.
33 M_best = [0.49; 0; 0;
34             0.47; 0; 0.49];
35 b_best = [1; -1.8; 0.6]; % Initial bias vector estimate
36
37 % Concatenate M and b into a single vector for optimization
38 valori_ = [M_best; b_best];
39
40 % Objective function to minimize
41 % This function calculates how close the transformed data points
42 % are to the surface of a unit sphere.
43 % The goal is to minimize the difference between the squared norm
44 % of each transformed point and 1 (which is the radius of the
45 % unit sphere).
46 fun = @(X_sol) sum(arrayfun(@(n) norm([X_sol(1), X_sol(2), X_sol(3)
47 ;
48                               X_sol(2), X_sol(4), X_sol
49                               (5);
50                               X_sol(3), X_sol(5), X_sol
51                               (6)] *
52                               (h_mn(:, n) - X_sol(7:9)))^2 - 1,
53                               1:N).^2);
54
55 % Optimization using fmincon

```

```
39 % fmincon is a constrained optimization function that can handle
40 % more complex cases like
41 % the non-linear problem of transforming an ellipsoid into a sphere
42 %
43 % fminsearch, on the other hand, is a simpler unconstrained
44 % optimizer and may not handle
45 % the constraints or the non-linearities effectively, which is why
46 % it might not have worked as expected.
47 X_sol = fmincon(fun, valori_);
48
49 % Extract the optimized M and b from the results
50 Mest = [X_sol(1), X_sol(2), X_sol(3);
51         X_sol(2), X_sol(4), X_sol(5);
52         X_sol(3), X_sol(5), X_sol(6)];
53 best = X_sol(7:9);
54
55 % Calculate compensated data h for each column of h_mn
56 % Each original data point is transformed using the optimized M and
57 % b.
58 h = zeros(3, N); % Initialize compensated data matrix
59 for n = 1:N
60     h(:, n) = Mest * (h_mn(:, n) - best);
61 end
62
63 % Separate the compensated data matrix into 3 column vectors
64 hx = h(1, :); % X-coordinates of compensated data
65 hy = h(2, :); % Y-coordinates of compensated data
66 hz = h(3, :); % Z-coordinates of compensated data
67
68 % Create a 3D plot comparing compensated (red) and uncompensated (blue) data
69 figure;
70 plot3(hx, hy, hz, 'r'); % Compensated data in red
71 hold on;
72 plot3(x', y', z', 'b'); % Uncompensated data in blue
73 xlabel('x');
74 ylabel('y');
75 zlabel('z');
76 title('Comparison: Red (Compensated), Blue (Uncompensated)');
77 grid on;
78 hold off;
79
80 % Create another plot to visualize the compensated data only
81 figure;
82 plot3(hx, hy, hz, 'r'); % Compensated data only
83 xlabel('x');
84 ylabel('y');
85 zlabel('z');
86 title('Compensated Data (Red)');
87 grid on;
```

Listing 4.1: Compensation Algorithm in MATLAB

Comparison red compensated, blue not compensated

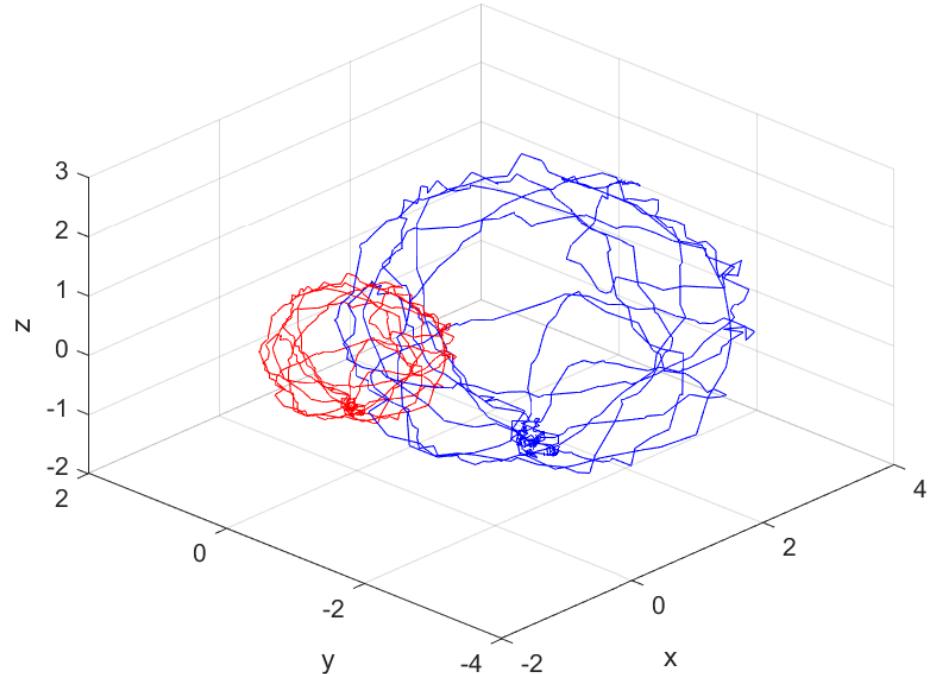
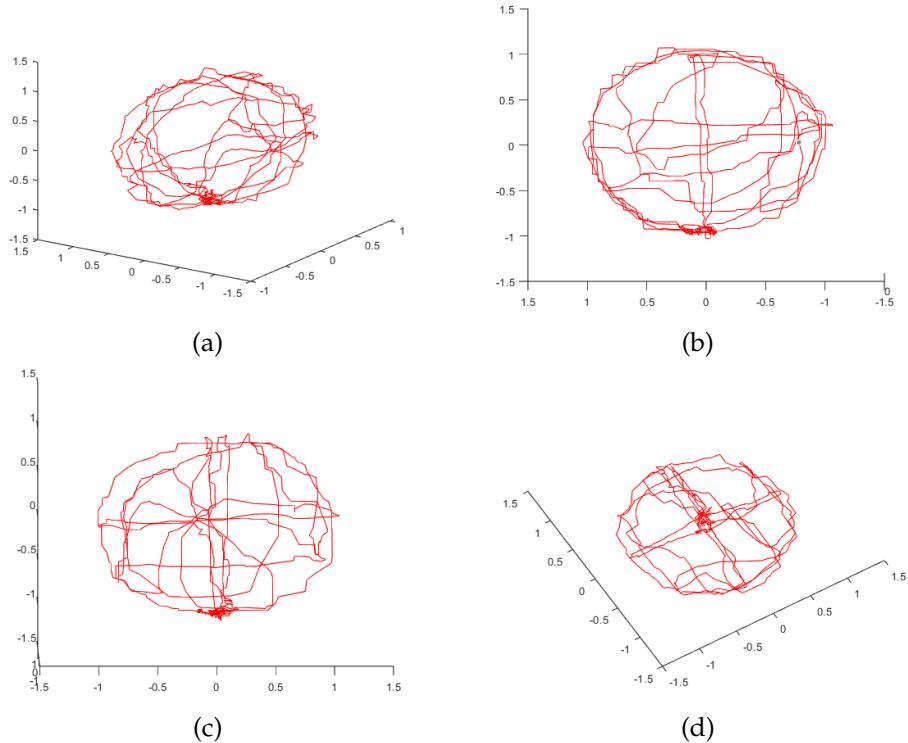


Figure 4.8: Blue surface is an ellipsoid, the red one is a sphere



The **blue surface** represents an **ellipsoid** formed by the uncompensated values, while the **red surface** shows the compensated values and represents a **sphere**.

4.4.4 Results from the Ellipsodial compensation procedure

By using the following values for the sensitivity matrix and the initial matrix M and vector b:

- Sensitivity Matrix

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} 3.13 \text{ V} & 1.03 \text{ V} & 1.03 \text{ V} \\ -1.73 \text{ V} & 0.51 \text{ V} & -1.73 \text{ V} \\ 1.09 \text{ V} & 1.09 \text{ V} & 3.18 \text{ V} \end{bmatrix}$$

- Initial Matrix M

$$M_{\text{initial}} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1g}{(3.13 - 1.03) \bar{V}} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1g}{(0.51 - (-1.73)) \bar{V}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1g}{(3.18 - 1.09) \bar{V}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.476 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.45 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.48 \end{bmatrix}$$

- **Initial Vector b**

$$b = \begin{bmatrix} 1.03 \text{ V} \\ -1.73 \text{ V} \\ 1.09 \text{ V} \end{bmatrix}$$

the fitting procedure yields the following estimated parameters:

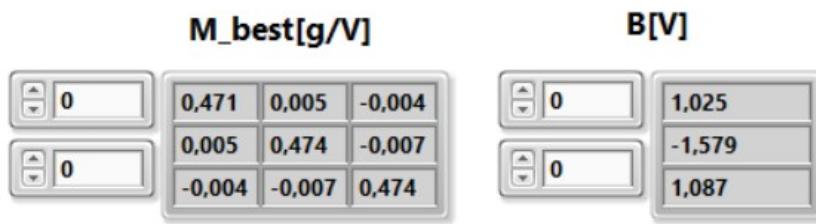


Figure 4.9: Best M and B parameters

4.5 Calibration Case

In the Calibration Case, there is a SubVI called **Calibration**. This SubVI provides ten outputs, which include:

1. **Calibration Curves:** The graphical representations of the calibration curves for both pitch and roll angles.
2. **Equations of the Curves:** The equations corresponding to each calibration curve, which describe the linear relationship between the measured values and the reference values.
3. **Slope Values:** The slopes of the calibration lines.
4. **Intercept Values:** The y-intercepts of both calibration lines.
5. **Absolute Uncertainties:** The calculated uncertainties associated with the calibration measurements, allowing for an assessment of measurement reliability.

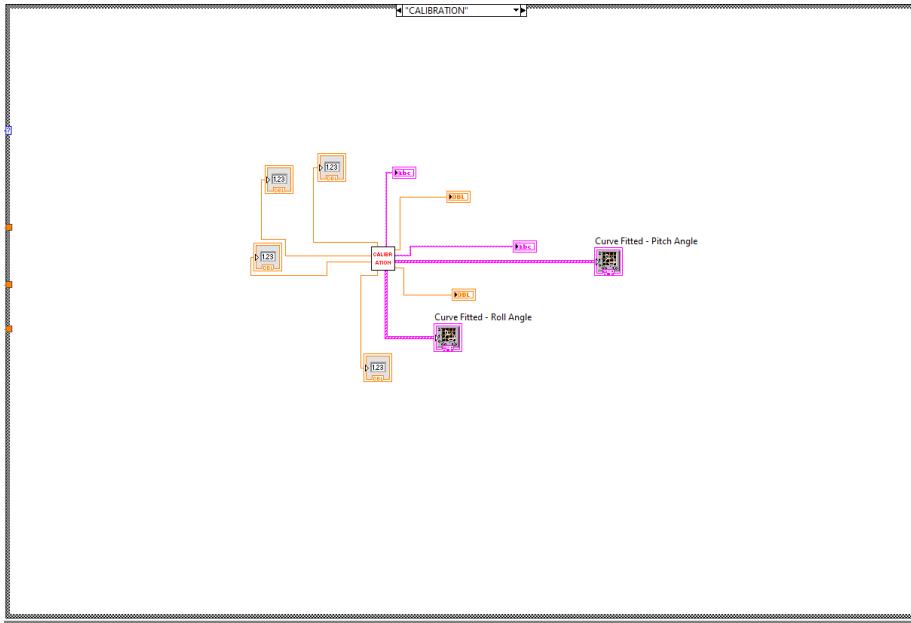


Figure 4.10: Calibration Case

4.5.1 Calibration SubVI

In the Calibration SubVI, the calibration data are processed. The following information are retrieved from the file:

- **Absolute Uncertainty:** The absolute uncertainty obtained during the calibration phase. For details see the chapter 5
- **Measured Angles:** The measured angles corresponding to the accelerometer readings.
- **True Angles:** The true reference angles corresponding to the measured angles.

The graph displays the calibration curve, specifically the best-fit line for the measurements in the file. This is provided for both pitch and roll angles, with the measured values also plotted. Additionally, the equation of the calibration line is presented, allowing for a clear understanding of the relationship between the measured and true angles.

CHAPTER 4. SOFTWARE VI

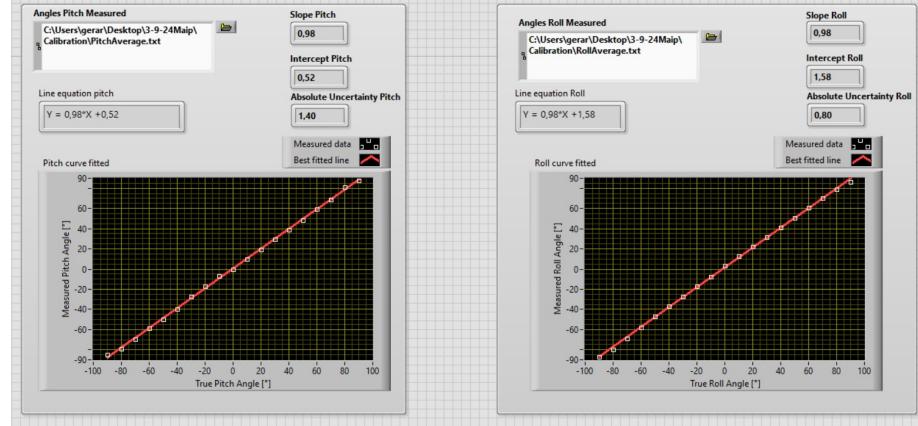


Figure 4.11: Calibration SubVI Front Panel

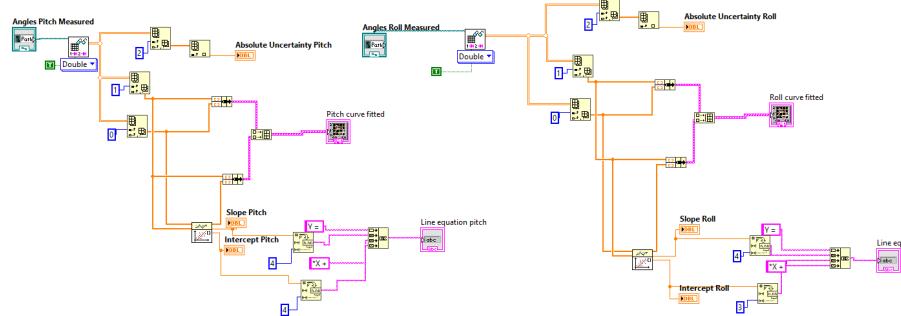


Figure 4.12: Calibration SubVI Block Diagram

4.6 Visualization Case

In the Visualization Case, the voltage data from the sensor are first merged using the Merge Signal block and then compensated. Two files are used, containing the best matrix \mathbf{M} and the best vector \mathbf{b} calculated during the adjustment phase.

The compensation process involves subtracting the offsets in the vector \mathbf{b} from

the voltage data and then multiplying the result by the matrix \mathbf{M} , thus obtaining the values in terms of gravitational acceleration \mathbf{g} . The compensated signals are then split again, with each signal sent to distinct SubVIs for the calculation of the pitch and roll angles.

The outputs from the **Pitch SubVI** and **Roll SubVI** provide the measurements of their respective angles. From the **Calibration SubVI**, the slope and intercept of the two calibration curves, as well as the uncertainties obtained during the calibration phase, are retrieved. At this point, the measurements from the **Pitch SubVI** and **Roll SubVI** have their respective intercepts subtracted and are then divided by their corresponding slopes, thus obtaining the "true" angle values.

An Average block calculates the average of 30 incoming measurements, and this average is plotted on the screen in real time as new data is acquired. Finally, the averaged data can be saved to a file for later analysis.

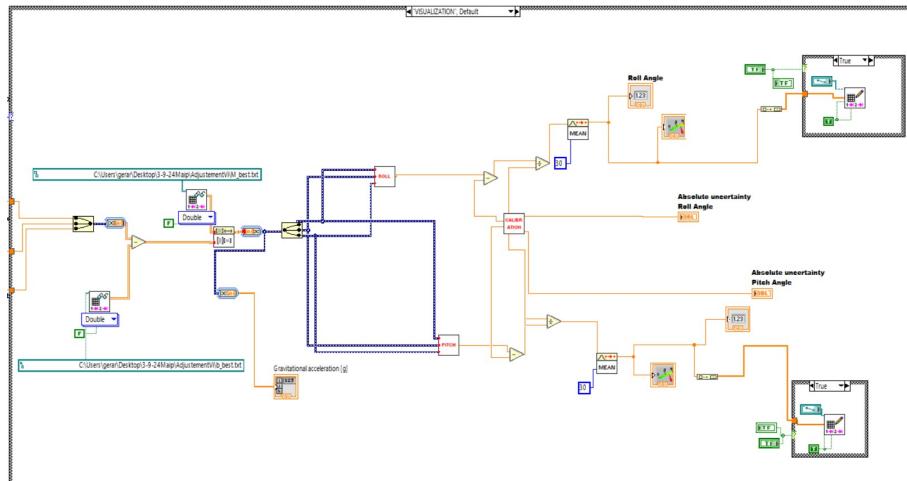


Figure 4.13: Visualization Case

4.6.1 Pitch and Roll SubVIs

The **Pitch SubVI** and **Roll SubVI** take the gravitational acceleration values as inputs and calculate the corresponding pitch and roll angles. The roll angle is calculated using the formula:

$$\theta_{\text{roll}} = \arctan \left(\frac{g_x}{\sqrt{g_y^2 + g_z^2}} \right)$$

Similarly, the pitch angle is calculated as:

$$\theta_{\text{pitch}} = \arctan \left(\frac{g_y}{\sqrt{g_x^2 + g_z^2}} \right)$$

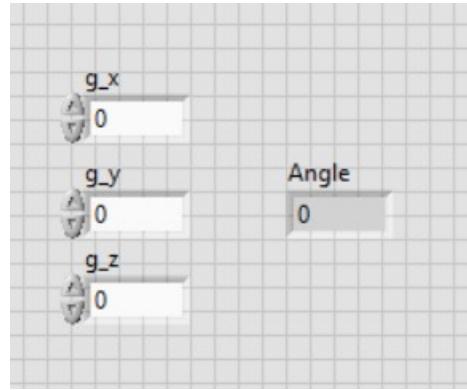


Figure 4.14: Front panel Roll and Pitch SubVis

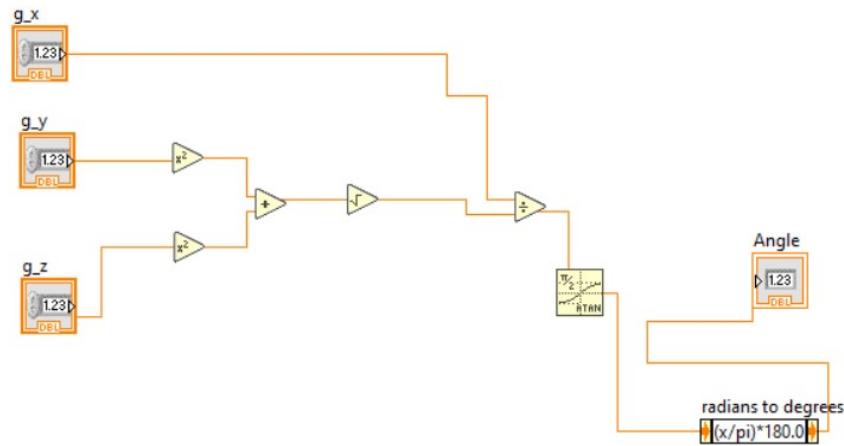


Figure 4.15: Roll Block Diagram

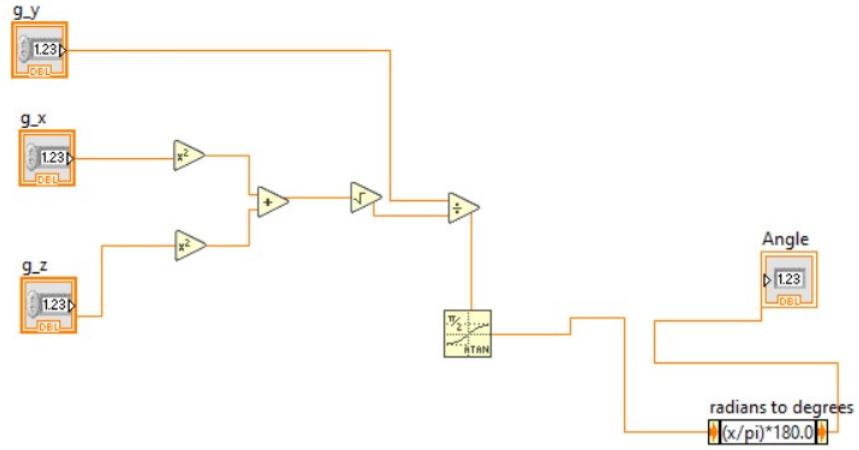


Figure 4.16: Pitch Block Diagram

4.7 Error handling

The system incorporates an error handling mechanism to ensure that any malfunction is detected and appropriately communicated. Specifically, the DAQmx Stop Task.VI block is equipped with an error output that captures any issues encountered during data acquisition.

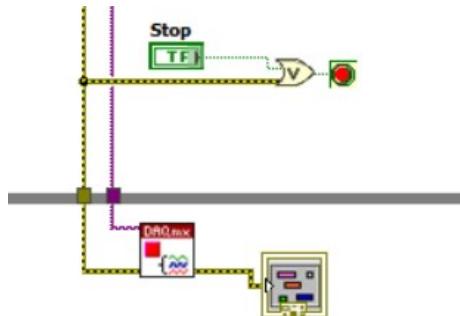


Figure 4.17: Error Output

Chapter 5

Calibration Phase

5.1 Overview

The calibration process is crucial for transforming raw voltage measurements from the ADXL377 accelerometer into accurate gravitational acceleration values, which are then used to calculate pitch and roll angles.

5.1.1 Calibration Procedure

1. **Parameter Estimation:** After obtaining the best estimates for matrix M and vector b , the raw voltage measurements are converted to gravitational acceleration values (g). This is done using the equation:

$$h = M^{-1}(h_m - b)$$

where h_m represents the measured voltages.

2. **Compensation for Gravitational Acceleration:** so, as voltage samples are acquired, they are compensated to yield values of gravitational acceleration g_x, g_y, g_z corresponding to the X, Y, and Z axes.
3. **Angle Calculation:**

- The roll angle is calculated using the formula:

$$\text{roll} = \arctan \left(\frac{g_x}{\sqrt{g_y^2 + g_z^2}} \right)$$

- The pitch angle is obtained with the formula:

$$\text{pitch} = \arctan \left(\frac{g_y}{\sqrt{g_x^2 + g_z^2}} \right)$$

CHAPTER 5. CALIBRATION PHASE

4. **Using the Robotic Arm as a Reference:** To calibrate the system, a robotic arm was used as a reference for the true angle values. Measurements were taken at various angles, specifically between -90° and +90°, with 30 samples collected for each angle during both ascent and descent phase.
5. **Data Recording:** All measurement data were saved in Excel files for further analysis and adjustments.

5.1.2 Calibration Data

The following measurements were utilized for the calibration process.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	M	N	O	P	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH	AI	AK				
1	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g	g							
2																																					
3	1.664	10.675	20.501	30.869	40.233	47.189	50.831	59.491	68.068	77.107	81.668	88.269	77.716	66.522	52.284	46.571	39.846	26.95	19.35	8.867	-0.711	-8.371	-10.618	-28.331	-40.47	51.512	-50.339	-41.716	-23.878	48.919	-32.399	37.42	-26.35	-15.132	-7.051		
4	1.383	10.677	20.517	30.294	40.233	47.189	50.629	59.651	68.229	77.899	81.183	87.716	79.589	72.629	57.667	45.836	39.401	27.714	17.585	8.866	-0.693	-8.311	-10.218	-28.519	-40.539	51.512	-41.816	-41.671	-17.179	-22.886	-47.896	-55.645	-46.951	-37.627	-26.35	-15.132	-7.051
5	0.826	11.173	20.617	30.365	39.027	43.268	48.025	69.918	82.706	87.818	79.95	66.992	56.032	48.16	38.742	28.175	18.21	7.807	-0.714	-7.939	-10.499	-28.654	-42.492	52.826	-40.064	72.727	-80.359	-85.946	-66.757	-55.514	-46.837	-37.989	-26.621	-15.348	-7.186		
6	0.826	11.173	20.617	30.365	39.027	43.268	48.025	69.918	82.067	88.053	67.197	56.951	48.953	48.16	38.742	28.711	18.21	7.807	-0.714	-7.479	-10.946	-28.254	-43.504	52.826	-40.064	72.555	-80.559	-85.946	-66.757	-55.514	-46.837	-37.989	-26.621	-15.348	-7.186		
7	0.834	11.87	20.758	30.365	40.986	45.954	50.959	69.785	82.067	88.053	67.197	56.951	48.953	48.16	38.742	28.711	18.21	7.807	-0.714	-7.479	-10.946	-28.254	-43.504	52.826	-40.064	72.555	-80.559	-85.946	-66.757	-55.514	-46.837	-37.989	-26.621	-15.348	-7.186		
8	1.359	11.415	20.758	30.466	40.986	45.954	50.959	69.785	82.067	88.053	67.197	56.951	48.953	48.16	38.742	28.711	18.21	7.807	-0.714	-7.479	-10.946	-28.254	-43.504	52.826	-40.064	72.444	-80.451	-85.946	-66.757	-55.514	-46.837	-37.989	-26.621	-15.348	-7.186		
9	1.359	11.415	20.758	30.466	40.986	45.954	50.959	69.785	82.067	88.053	67.197	56.951	48.953	48.16	38.742	28.711	18.21	7.807	-0.714	-7.479	-10.946	-28.254	-43.504	52.826	-40.064	72.444	-80.451	-85.946	-66.757	-55.514	-46.837	-37.989	-26.621	-15.348	-7.186		
10	0.826	11.173	20.617	30.365	39.027	43.268	48.025	69.918	82.067	88.053	67.197	56.951	48.953	48.16	38.742	28.711	18.21	7.807	-0.714	-7.479	-10.946	-28.254	-43.504	52.826	-40.064	72.444	-80.451	-85.946	-66.757	-55.514	-46.837	-37.989	-26.621	-15.348	-7.186		
11	1.359	10.475	20.501	30.867	39.351	43.268	48.025	69.777	82.067	88.053	67.197	56.951	48.953	48.16	38.742	28.711	18.21	7.807	-0.714	-7.479	-10.946	-28.254	-43.504	52.826	-40.064	72.444	-80.451	-85.946	-66.757	-55.514	-46.837	-37.989	-26.621	-15.348	-7.186		
12	0.826	11.173	20.617	30.365	39.027	43.268	48.025	69.918	82.067	88.053	67.197	56.951	48.953	48.16	38.742	28.711	18.21	7.807	-0.714	-7.479	-10.946	-28.254	-43.504	52.826	-40.064	72.444	-80.451	-85.946	-66.757	-55.514	-46.837	-37.989	-26.621	-15.348	-7.186		
13	0.27	10.383	20.501	30.867	39.351	43.268	48.025	69.918	82.067	88.053	67.197	56.951	48.953	48.16	38.742	28.711	18.21	7.807	-0.714	-7.479	-10.946	-28.254	-43.504	52.826	-40.064	72.444	-80.451	-85.946	-66.757	-55.514	-46.837	-37.989	-26.621	-15.348	-7.186		
14	0.297	10.383	20.501	30.867	39.351	43.268	48.025	69.918	82.067	88.053	67.197	56.951	48.953	48.16	38.742	28.711	18.21	7.807	-0.714	-7.479	-10.946	-28.254	-43.504	52.826	-40.064	72.444	-80.451	-85.946	-66.757	-55.514	-46.837	-37.989	-26.621	-15.348	-7.186		
15	0.297	10.383	20.501	30.867	39.351	43.268	48.025	69.918	82.067	88.053	67.197	56.951	48.953	48.16	38.742	28.711	18.21	7.807	-0.714	-7.479	-10.946	-28.254	-43.504	52.826	-40.064	72.444	-80.451	-85.946	-66.757	-55.514	-46.837	-37.989	-26.621	-15.348	-7.186		
16	0.297	10.383	20.501	30.867	39.351	43.268	48.025	69.918	82.067	88.053	67.197	56.951	48.953	48.16	38.742	28.711	18.21	7.807	-0.714	-7.479	-10.946	-28.254	-43.504	52.826	-40.064	72.444	-80.451	-85.946	-66.757	-55.514	-46.837	-37.989	-26.621	-15.348	-7.186		
17	0.297	10.383	20.501	30.867	39.351	43.268	48.025	69.918	82.067	88.053	67.197	56.951	48.953	48.16	38.742	28.711	18.21	7.807	-0.714	-7.479	-10.946	-28.254	-43.504	52.826	-40.064	72.444	-80.451	-85.946	-66.757	-55.514	-46.837	-37.989	-26.621	-15.348	-7.186		
18	0.297	10.383	20.501	30.867	39.351	43.268	48.025	69.918	82.067	88.053	67.197	56.951	48.953	48.16	38.742	28.711	18.21	7.807	-0.714	-7.479	-10.946	-28.254	-43.504	52.826	-40.064	72.444	-80.451	-85.946	-66.757	-55.514	-46.837	-37.989	-26.621	-15.348	-7.186		
19	0.297	10.383	20.501	30.867	39.351	43.268	48.025	69.918	82.067	88.053	67.197	56.951	48.953	48.16	38.742	28.711	18.21	7.807	-0.714	-7.479	-10.946	-28.254	-43.504	52.826	-40.064	72.444	-80.451	-85.946	-66.757	-55.514	-46.837	-37.989	-26.621	-15.348	-7.186		
20	0.826	11.173	20.617	30.365	39.027	43.268	48.025	69.918	82.067	88.053	67.197	56.951	48.953	48.16	38.742	28.711	18.21	7.807	-0.714	-7.479	-10.946	-28.254	-43.504	52.826	-40.064	72.444	-80.451	-85.946	-66.757	-55.514	-46.837	-37.989	-26.621	-15.348	-7.186		
21	0.826	11.173	20.617	30.365	39.027	43.268	48.025	69.918	82.067	88.053	67.197	56.951	48.953	48.16	38.742	28.711	18.21	7.807	-0.714	-7.479	-10.946	-28.254	-43.504	52.826	-40.064	72.444	-80.451	-85.946	-66.757	-55.514	-46.837	-37.989	-26.621	-15.348	-7.186		
22	0.826	11.173	20.617	30.365	39.027	43.268	48.025	69.918	82.067	88.053	67.197	56.951	48.953	48.16	38.742	28.711	18.21	7.807	-0.714	-7.479	-10.946	-28.254	-43.504	52.826	-40.064	72.444	-80.451	-85.946	-66.757	-55.514	-46.837	-37.989	-26.621	-15.348	-7.186		
23	0.826	11.173	20.617	30.365	39.027	43.268	48.025	69.918	82.067	88.053	67.197	56.951	48.953	48.16	38.742	28.711	18.21	7.807	-0.714	-7.479	-10.946	-28.254	-43.504	52.826	-40.064	72.444	-80.451	-85.946	-66.757	-55.514	-46.837	-37.989	-26.621	-15.348	-7.186		
24	0.826	11.173	20.617	30.365	39.027	43.268	48.025	69.918	82.067	88.053	67.197	56.951	48.953	48.16	38.742	28.711	18.21	7.807	-0.714	-7.479	-10.946	-28.254	-43.504	52.826	-40.064	72.444	-80.451	-85.946	-66.757	-55.514	-46.837	-37.989	-26.621	-15.348	-7.186		
25	0.428	10.381	20.514	30.909	40.957	45.493	50.839	67.474	70.821	70.35	58.297	57.441	47.314	29.458	20.049	9.942	-1.279	-7.258	-27.942	28.458	-41.993	53.764	-41.744	-74.341	-46.321	-40.351	-45.553	-58.358	-18.816	-26.446	-16.904	-7.855					
26	0.428	10.381	20.514	30.909	40.957	45.493	50.839	67.474	70.821	70.35	58.297	57.441	47.314	29.458	20.049	9.942	-1.279	-7.258	-27.942	28.458	-41.993	53.764	-41.744	-74.341	-46.321	-40.351	-45.553	-58.358	-18.816	-26.446	-16.904	-7.855					
27	0.421	10.381	20.514	30.909	40.957	45.493	50.839	67.474	70.821	70.35	58.297	57.441	47.314	29.458	20.049	9.942	-1.279	-7.258	-27.942	28.458	-41.993	53.764	-41.744	-74.341	-46.321	-40.351	-45.553	-58.358	-18.816	-26.446	-16.904	-7.855					
28	0.421	10.381	20.514	30.909	40.957	45.493	50.839	67.474	70.821	70.35	58.297	57.441	47.314	29.458	20.049	9.942	-1.279	-7.258	-27.942	28.458	-41.993	53.764	-41.744	-74.341	-46.321	-40.351	-45.553	-58.358	-18.816	-26.446	-16.904	-7.855					
29	0.421	10.381	20.514	30.909	40.957	45.493	50.839	67.474	70.821	70.35	58.297	57.441	47.314	29.458	20.049	9.942	-1.279																				

where $N = 30$ is the number of measurements and θ_i are the individual angle measurements.

2. The **standard deviation** σ_θ of the measurements:

$$\sigma_\theta = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{i=1}^N (\theta_i - \bar{\theta})^2}$$

3. The **standard uncertainty** u_θ , calculated as the standard deviation divided by the square root of the number of measurements N :

$$u_\theta = \frac{\sigma_\theta}{\sqrt{N}}$$

4. The **expanded uncertainty** U_θ , obtained by multiplying the standard uncertainty by the coverage factor $k = 3$:

$$U_\theta = k \cdot u_\theta$$

5. After calculating the expanded uncertainty for each angle, the **maximum value of expanded uncertainty** in the upward direction U_{up} and the downward direction U_{down} is determined.

6. Finally, the **combined uncertainty** U_{combined} was calculated as the square root of the sum of the squares of the two expanded uncertainties:

$$U_{\text{combined}} = \sqrt{U_{\text{up}}^2 + U_{\text{down}}^2}$$

This procedure is iterated for the **pitch angles** and the **roll angles**.

Pitch angle - uncertainty evaluation

The uncertainty for the measurements taken during the ascent is found to be **0.78 degrees**, while for the descent it is **0.83 degrees**. Consequently, the combined uncertainty is **1.14 degrees**.

Analyzing the obtained curve, the maximum deviation between two points measuring the same angle is **6.90 degrees (measured at -70 degrees)**, which exceeds the previously calculated combined uncertainty. This indicates the presence of hysteresis in the system.

CHAPTER 5. CALIBRATION PHASE

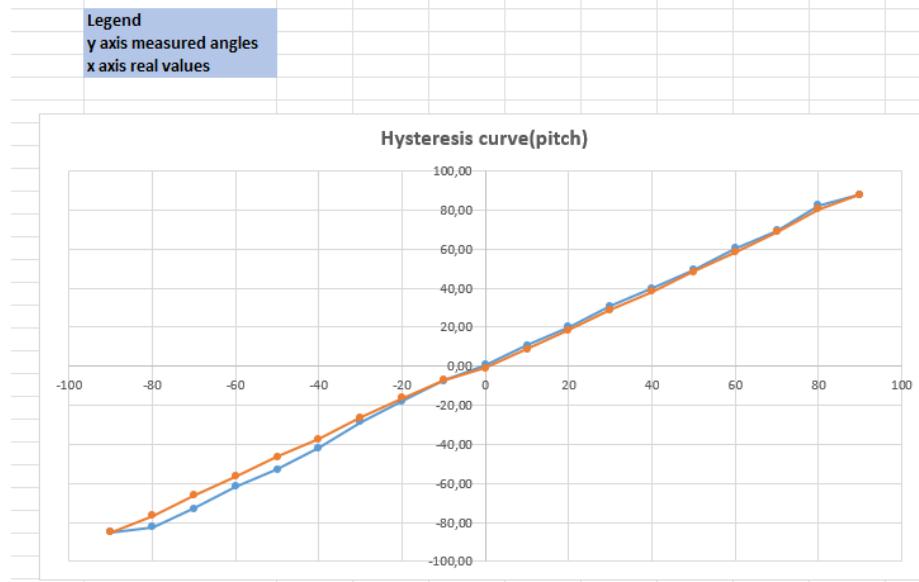


Figure 5.3: Hysteresis curve for the pitch angle

	Mean up (blue)	Mean down (orange)
-90	-85,10	-85,10
-80	-82,39	-76,39
-70	-72,98	-66,09
-60	-61,65	-56,34
-50	-52,94	-46,42
-40	-41,88	-37,40
-30	-28,56	-26,40
-20	-17,88	-16,36
-10	-7,53	-7,01
0	0,74	-1,09
10	10,68	8,66
20	20,19	18,54
30	30,82	28,82
40	39,87	38,35
50	49,18	48,45
60	60,20	58,37
70	69,34	68,80
80	82,20	80,26
90	87,97	87,97

Figure 5.4: Pitch data of hysteresis curve

Hysteresis amplitude (Mean up- Mean down)	Maximum of the hysteresis
-90	0,00
-80	6,01
-70	6,90
-60	5,31
-50	6,52
-40	4,49
-30	2,16
-20	1,52
-10	0,52
0	1,82
10	2,02
20	1,65
30	2,00
40	1,51
50	0,73
60	1,83
70	0,53
80	1,94
90	0,00

Figure 5.5: Hysteresis table for the pitch angle

Having established the existence of hysteresis, we combined all ascent and descent measurements and recalculated the uncertainty, this time based on 60 measurements. The maximum uncertainty is found to be **1.4 degrees**.

For details: Download Calibration Data

Calibration curve - pitch angle

The calibration curve is represented by the equation:

$$Y = 0.98X + 0.52$$

The coefficient of determination, R^2 , is calculated to be 0.9994. This high value indicates an excellent fit of the calibration curve to the measured data, suggesting that the model reliably represents the relationship between the inputs and outputs.

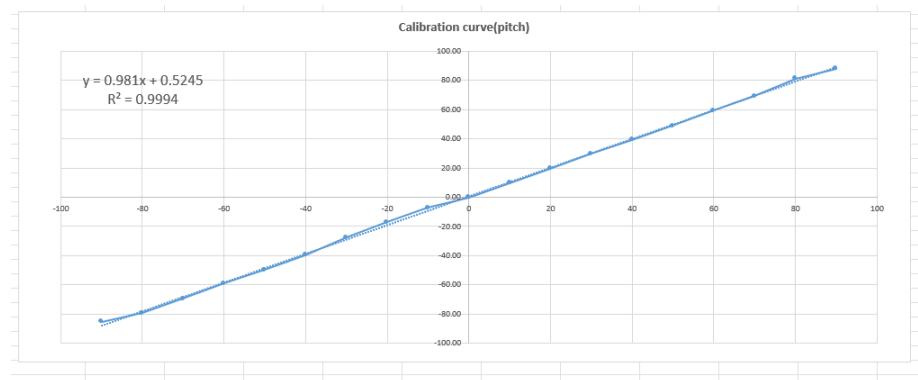


Figure 5.6: Calibration curve for the pitch angle

CHAPTER 5. CALIBRATION PHASE

	Mean	STDEV	INC	k=3	
-90	-85.10	1.02	0.13	0.40	
-80	-79.39	3.32	0.43	1.28	
-70	-69.53	3.60	0.47	1.40	
-60	-58.99	3.03	0.39	1.17	
-50	-49.68	3.40	0.44	1.32	
-40	-39.64	2.35	0.30	0.91	
-30	-27.48	1.53	0.20	0.59	
-20	-17.12	1.11	0.14	0.43	
-10	-7.27	0.52	0.07	0.20	
0	-0.17	1.06	0.14	0.41	
10	9.67	1.32	0.17	0.51	
20	19.37	1.11	0.14	0.43	
30	29.82	1.18	0.15	0.46	
40	39.11	1.12	0.15	0.44	
50	48.82	1.13	0.15	0.44	
60	59.29	1.42	0.18	0.55	
70	69.07	1.30	0.17	0.50	
80	81.23	1.69	0.22	0.65	
90	87.97	0.88	0.11	0.24	
			MAX UNC		
					1.40

Figure 5.7: Data used for calibration curve

Roll angle - uncertainty evaluation

The uncertainty for the measurements taken during the ascent is found to be **1.11 degrees**, while for the descent it is **1.40 degrees**. Consequently, the combined uncertainty is **1.78 degrees**.

Analyzing the obtained curve, the maximum deviation between two points measuring the same angle is **2.72 degrees (measured at 40 degrees)**, which exceeds the previously calculated combined uncertainty. This indicates the presence of hysteresis in the system.

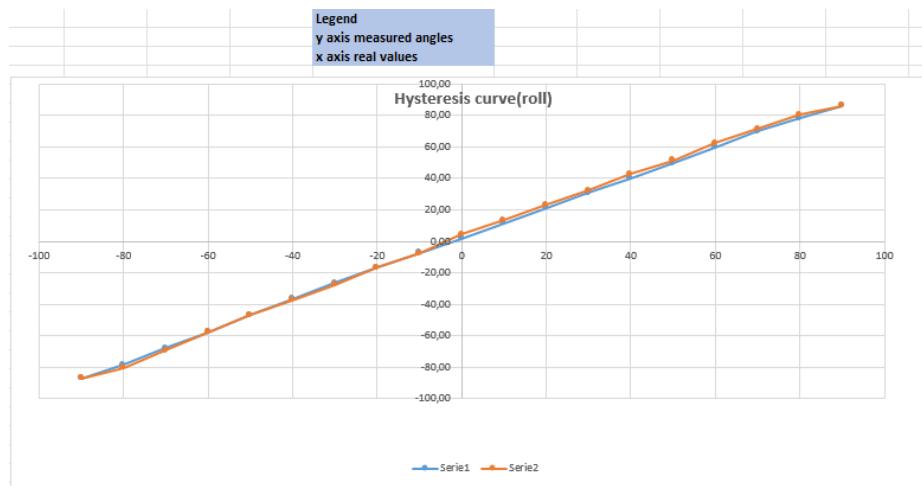


Figure 5.8: Hysteresis curve for the roll angle

	Mean up (blue)	Mean down (orange)
-90	-87,23	-87,23
-80	-78,64	-80,43
-70	-68,01	-69,38
-60	-57,85	-57,89
-50	-46,75	-47,02
-40	-36,74	-37,39
-30	-26,48	-27,47
-20	-16,87	-16,74
-10	-7,21	-7,51
0	1,82	4,22
10	11,70	13,60
20	21,31	23,19
30	30,71	32,24
40	40,09	42,81
50	49,71	51,45
60	59,74	62,34
70	69,83	71,42
80	78,20	80,40
90	86,00	86,00

Figure 5.9: Roll data of hysteresis curve

	Hysteresis amplitude (Mean up- Mean down)	Maximum of the hysteresis
-90	0,00	2,72
-80	1,79	
-70	1,38	
-60	0,04	
-50	0,27	
-40	0,65	
-30	0,99	
-20	0,13	
-10	0,30	
0	2,40	
10	1,90	
20	1,88	
30	1,52	
40	2,72	
50	1,73	
60	2,60	
70	1,59	
80	2,20	
90	0,00	

Figure 5.10: Hysteresis table for the roll angle

Having established the existence of hysteresis, we combined all ascent and descent measurements and recalculated the uncertainty, this time based on 60 measurements. The maximum uncertainty was found to be **0.80 degrees**.

For details: Download Calibration Data

Calibration curve - roll angle

The calibration curve is represented by the equation:

$$Y = 0.98X + 1.58$$

The coefficient of determination, R^2 , is calculated to be 0.9994. This high value indicates an excellent fit of the calibration curve to the measured data, suggesting that the model reliably represents the relationship between the inputs and outputs.

CHAPTER 5. CALIBRATION PHASE

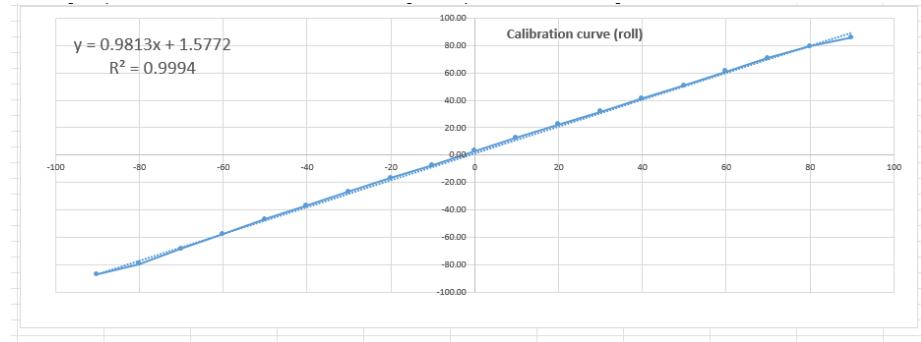


Figure 5.11: Calibration curve

Mean	STDEV	INC	k=3	
-90	-87.23	1.33	0.17	0.51
-80	-79.54	2.01	0.26	0.78
-70	-68.69	2.06	0.27	0.80
-60	-57.87	1.58	0.20	0.61
-50	-46.89	1.09	0.14	0.42
-40	-37.07	1.19	0.15	0.46
-30	-26.97	0.93	0.12	0.36
-20	-16.81	0.98	0.13	0.38
-10	-7.36	0.84	0.11	0.33
0	3.02	1.36	0.18	0.53
10	12.65	1.17	0.15	0.46
20	22.25	1.17	0.15	0.45
30	31.47	1.20	0.15	0.46
40	41.45	1.65	0.21	0.64
50	50.58	1.26	0.16	0.49
60	61.04	1.75	0.23	0.68
70	70.63	1.72	0.22	0.67
80	79.30	1.81	0.23	0.70
90	86.00	1.07	0.14	0.42
				MAX UNC
				0.80

Figure 5.12: Data used for calibration curve

Appendix A

Specifications of the National Instruments USB-6008 DAQ Device

For detailed specifications and features of the National Instruments USB-6008 DAQ device, please refer to the official datasheet available online at the following link: USB-6008 DAQ Device¹

¹<https://users.physics.unc.edu/sean/Phys351/techresource/docs/USB6009%20User%20Manual.pdf>

Appendix B

Ellipsoidal Fitting Algorithm

For an in-depth understanding of the ellipsoidal fitting procedure used in adjustment, refer to the following paper:

- **Title:** “A Method for Real-Time Compensation of Magnetometers Embedded on Smartphones”
- **Authors:** Pasquale Daponte, Luca De Vito, Francesco Picariello, Sergio Rapuano, Carmine Sementa
- **Published in:** Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (2016)

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