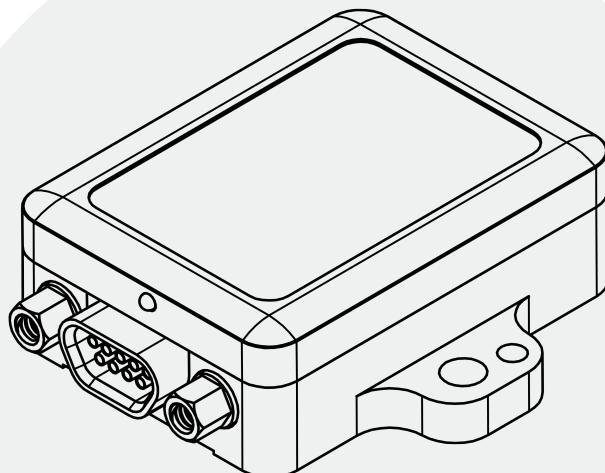


# LORD USER MANUAL

## 3DM-GX4-25™

Miniature Attitude Heading Reference System (AHRS)





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## 1. System Overview

The LORD MicroStrain® 3DM-GX4™ family of industrial grade inertial sensors provides a wide range of triaxial orientation measurements and computed navigation solutions. In all models, the Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) includes direct measurement of acceleration, angular rate, and atmospheric pressure. Sensor measurements are processed through an Extended Kalman Filter (EKF) to produce high accuracy computed outputs. The computed outputs vary between models and include: pitch and roll in the 3DM-GX4-15™ model, the full attitude solution (pitch, roll, and yaw) in the 3DM-GX4-25™ AHRS model, and the full PVA (position, velocity and attitude) solution in the 3DM-GX4-45™ GPS-INS model. The Kalman filter provide Adaptive EKF technologies to compensate for magnetic and linear acceleration anomalies, as applicable to the model. It also provides sensor bias tracking, auto-zero update options (ZUPT), and user adjustable sensor noise factors. All sensors are fully temperature compensated and calibrated over the full operating temperature range.

The use of Micro-Electro-Mechanical System (MEMS) technology allows for small, lightweight devices. Sensors are integrated into customer systems using serial communication protocols such as RS232 and USB. The LORD MicroStrain® MIP Monitor software can be used for device configuration, real time measurement monitoring, and data recording. The LORD MicroStrain® MIP Data Communications Protocol that is used to communicate with LORD MicroStrain® inertial sensors is also available for users who want to develop customized software solutions. Because of the unified set of commands across the sensor family, it is easy to migrate code from one inertial sensor to another.

Common applications of LORD MicroStrain® inertial sensor products include vehicle health monitoring, platform stabilization, down-hole and drilling operations, and inertial navigation systems such as unmanned air and ground vehicles and personal navigation systems.



## 2. Sensor Overview

The 3DM-GX4-25™ is a high-performance, miniature Attitude Heading Reference System (AHRS) that combines micro inertial sensors for use in a wide range of industrial grade applications such as unmanned vehicle navigation, robotic control, platform stabilization, motion tracking and analysis, vehicle health monitoring, and device aiming.

The 3DM-GX4-25™ utilizes the strengths of integrated multi-axis gyroscopes, accelerometers, and magnetometers in combination with temperature, and pressure readings to provide high accuracy attitude (including heading), and inertial measurements. Each of the integrated sensors is especially good at certain tasks, and it is the weighted combination of their outputs that provides the best estimations for attitude. All sensor measurements are temperature compensated and are mathematically aligned to an orthogonal coordinate system. The combination of sensors, environmental compensation and dual on-board processing with an Adaptive Kalman Filter (AKF) allow the 3DM-GX4-25™ to perform well in a wide variety of applications that require low noise, drift, gain, and offset errors. Uncertainty monitoring, and bias estimation outputs are available, and settings for sensor filtering, sensor noise, sensor bias, and more offer many adjustments for specific application needs.

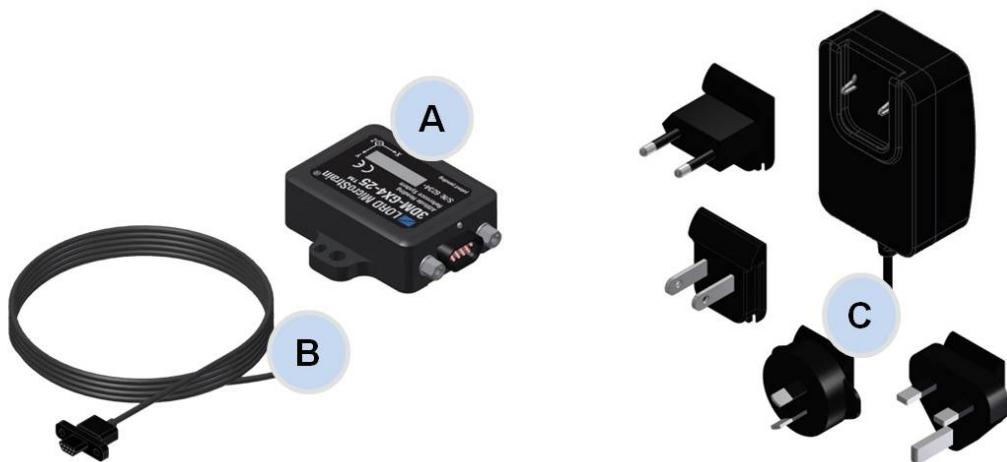
The 3DM-GX4-25™ communicates through a serial communications cable and is monitored by a host computer. Sensor measurements and computed outputs can be viewed and recorded with the LORD MicroStrain® MIP Monitor software that is provided with system starter kits, and also available as a free download from the LORD MicroStrain® website. Alternatively, users can write custom software with the LORD MicroStrain® open source data communication protocol. The data is time-aligned and available by either polling or continuous stream.



**Figure 1 - 3DM-GX4-25™ Sensor**

## 2.1 Components

The 3DM-GX4-25™ can be purchased by itself or in a starter kit that includes everything needed to begin using it. The starter kits include the 3DM-GX4-25™ inertial sensor, a serial communications cable (either RS232 or USB), a power supply with country plug adapter (RS232 kits only), and all software, drivers, and documentation. This manual covers all items included in the starter kits. For a complete list of available configurations, accessories, additional system products and ordering information [see Parts and Configurations on page 55](#).



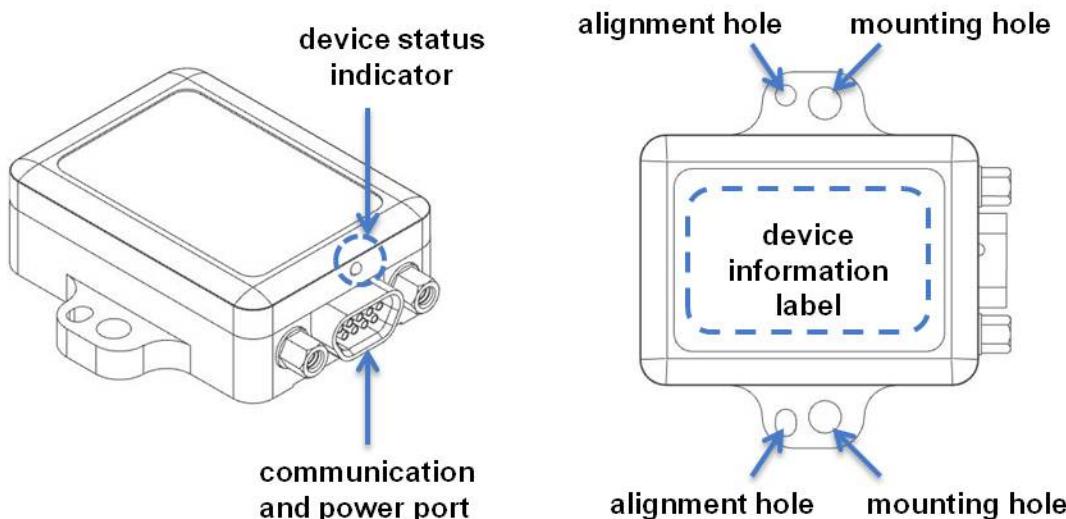
Item	Description	Quantity
A	3DM-GX4-25™ Inertial Sensor	1
B	Communications cable (USB or RS232)	1
C	Power supply and country plug adapters (for RS232 only)	1
--	MIP Monitor Software Suite	1
--	User Manual, Quick Start Guide and Calibration Certificate	1

**Table 1 - Components List**

## 2.2 Interface and Indicators

The 3DM-GX4-25™ sensor interface is a dual use communications and power input connector. The sensor is mounted using the mounting and alignment holes as needed ([see Sensor Mounting on page 41](#)).

The indicators on the 3DM-GX4-25™ include a device status indicator and the device information label. [Table 2 - Indicator Behaviors](#) describes the basic status indicator behavior. The device information label includes the sensor frame diagram (axis orientation) which will be critical during device installation ([see Sensor Frame on page 29](#)).



**Figure 2 - Interface and Indicators**

Indicator	Behavior	Device Status
device status indicator	OFF	no power applied
	rapid flash	streaming data
	slow pulse	idle mode, awaiting commands

**Table 2 - Indicator Behaviors**

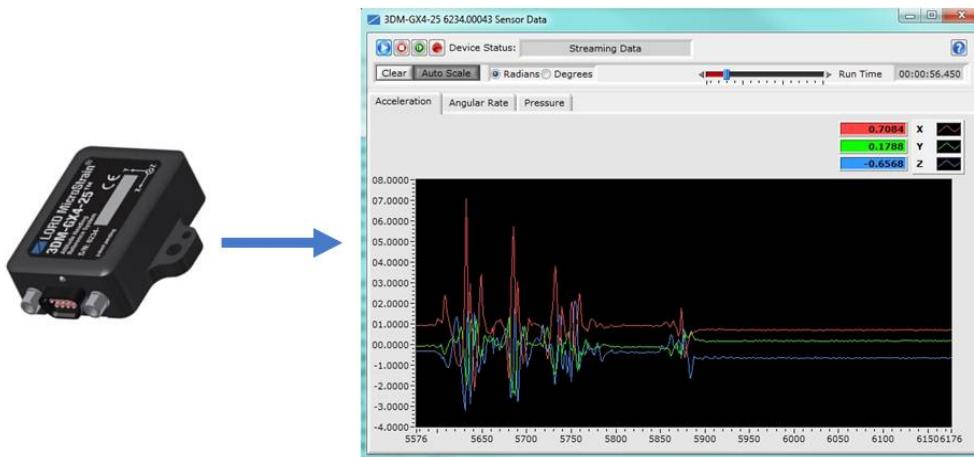
### 3. Basic Setup and Operations

#### NOTICE

Do not bring the inertial sensor into contact or close proximity with magnets. Magnets may disrupt the sensor operation and cause magnetization of internal components, which can affect magnetometer performance. If magnetization is suspected, use a degaussing tool to demagnetize.

To acquire sensor measurements and computed outputs, the 3DM-GX4-25™ is used with a host computer capable of serial communication, and a software interface. The LORD MicroStrain® MIP Monitor software is provided with the system and includes all functions needed for sensor configuration and data acquisition. Users may also utilize the LORD MicroStrain® MIP Data Communications Protocol to write custom software applications with expanded or specific feature sets needed for the application. MIP Monitor includes a message building tool that can be used to streamline this process. For more information [see OEM System Integration on page 42](#).

In this section hardware and software setup is described, including an overview of the MIP Monitor software menus required to configure a sensor and begin data acquisition. It is intended as a quick start guide and is not a complete demonstration of all system or software features and capabilities.



**Figure 3 - Acquiring Sensor Data with MIP Monitor**

### 3.1 Software Installation

#### NOTE

The MIP Monitor Software Suite includes hardware drivers required for all 3DM-GX4™ sensors. Sensors will not be recognized without these drivers.

To install MIP Monitor Software Suite on the host computer, complete the following steps:

1. Launch the software installation menu by inserting the software CD or thumb drive into the host computer or by running the Autorun.exe file from the software directory in Windows® Explorer.
2. In the software installation menu select Install MIP Monitor Software and follow the on screen prompts to completion.
3. If the sensor has internal magnetometers, select Install MIP Hard and Soft Iron Calibration Software and follow the on screen prompts to completion. This is used for magnetometer field calibration.
4. Select Install Inertial Drivers to install the hardware drivers required for operating the sensors, and follow the on screen prompts to completion.
5. Install Inertial Manuals, if desired, and reboot the host computer.



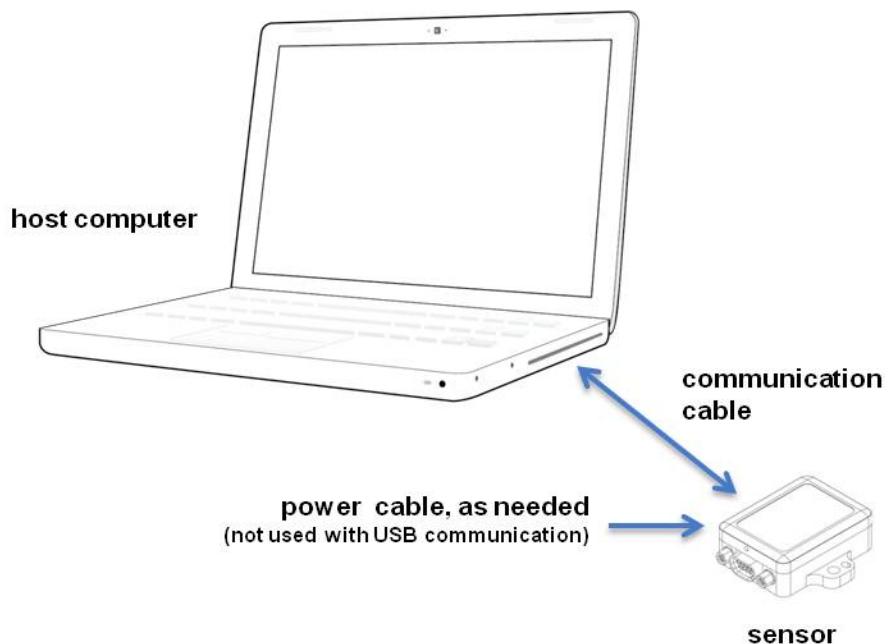
**Figure 4 - Software Installation Menu**

### 3.2 System Connections

#### ⚠ CAUTION

Power is applied to the sensor either through a host computer USB port or an external power supply, such as the one provided in the RS232 starter kit. Use only power supplies within the operating range of the sensor or damage or injury could result. Once power is applied the sensor is on and active.

To acquire sensor data the following components are needed: 3DM-GX4-25™ sensor, communication cable, power cable, as applicable for RS232 communications, and a host computer with access to the data acquisition software, such as LORD MicroStrain® MIP Monitor.

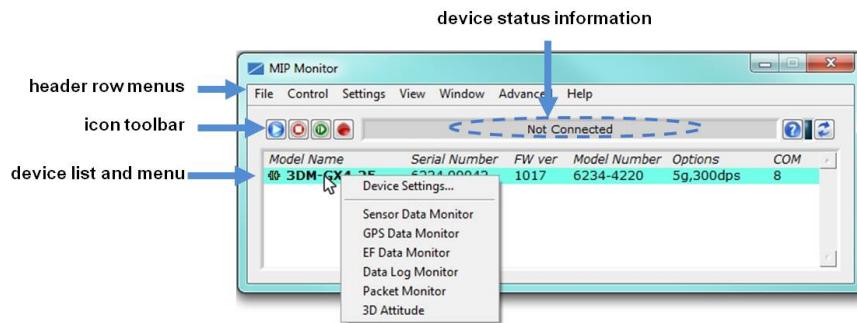


**Figure 5 - System Connections**

### 3.3 Software Interface

The MIP Monitor software includes a main window with system information and menus, a device settings window (*see Sensor Settings on page 15*), and several data monitoring windows (*see Data Monitoring and Recording on page 18*).

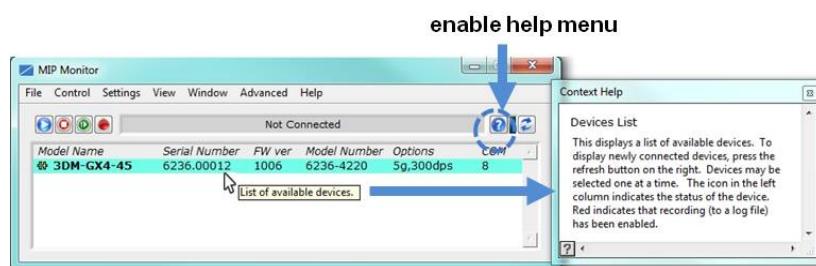
The main window provides an overview of connected devices. Devices are selected by clicking on them. A device menu is available by right clicking on the device name, and includes the most used items from the header row menus (*Figure 6 - Main Window*). The header row menu includes selections for data sampling, recording, device settings, opening windows, selecting which open window to view, and advanced features such as selecting the communications mode. The icon toolbar includes buttons for help menu access, device refresh, and data sampling and recording (*see Data Monitoring and Recording on page 18*).



**Figure 6 - Main Window**

#### 3.3.1 Interactive Help Menu

MIP Monitor also features context-sensitive help menus that provide explanations of the information and settings as they are hovered over with the computer cursor. This feature is enabled by selecting the question mark icon or Help button in any window.



**Figure 7 - Context Sensitive Help Menu**

### 3.4 Sensor Communication

Once power has been applied to the sensor, it is on. The sensor selects the appropriate serial communication (USB or RS232) on power-up based on which cable is connected. If the hardware drivers have been installed, communication can be established using the MIP Monitor software interface.

1. Verify the sensor device status indicator is on.

2. Open the MIP Monitor software.



3. The sensor should appear in the device list automatically when the software is opened, and includes the device information and communication port assignment ([Figure 8 - Sensor Communication](#)). If it is not automatically discovered, use the refresh button to search for the sensor.



**Figure 8 - Sensor Communication**

**NOTE**

If data is not actively being exchanged between the sensor and host computer the status message may display Not Connected. This indicates the port status, not the sensor availability. When commands are sent to the sensor, the software will automatically connect to it before sending the message.

### 3.5 Sensor Settings

Device settings are stored in the sensor memory. Only the configuration options that are available for the type of sensor being used will be available in the configuration menus.

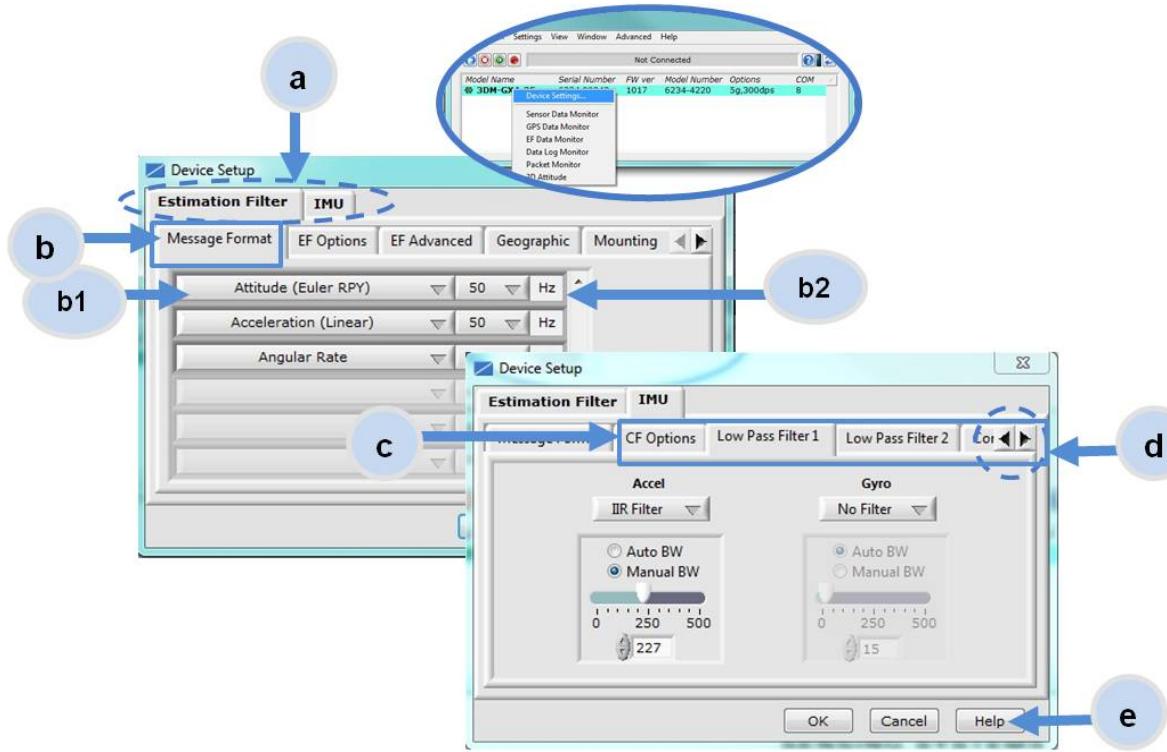
To enter the settings menu, right-click on the sensor name, and select Device Settings from the menu ([Figure 9 - Device Settings Menu](#)).

#### NOTE

When selecting sensor and estimation outputs to be recorded, communications bandwidth considerations should be taken into account, especially when using RS232 communications. Lower baud rates equate to lower communications bandwidth which can be consumed quickly by selecting a large number of measurements at high sample rates. Overrunning the communications bandwidth will result in dropped communications packets and lost data.

1. The following describes the Device Settings interface (refer to [Figure 9 - Device Settings Menu](#)):
  - a. **Main menu tabs:** The main tabs break up the setting into broad functional groups for the types of measurement available. For the 3DM-GX4-25™ these will include calculated measurements (Estimation Filter), and direct inertial sensor measurements (IMU).
  - b. **Message Format (first sub-menu tab):** Under each main menu tab there are additional sub-menu tabs, including the Message Format tab. The Message Format tabs allows the user to select the measurement type to be displayed and recorded (b1), and the data rate (rate at which data is sent to the host computer) in samples/second (b2).
  - c. **Measurement parameters (other sub-menu tabs):** Available sub-menu tabs besides the Message Format tab depend on the selected main menu tab. These tabs include the configurable settings for each measurements.
  - d. **Scrolling:** used to navigate to additional sub-menus.

- e. **Help menu:** Enable the context sensitive help menu for explanations of specific settings ([see Interactive Help Menu on page 13](#)).



**Figure 9 - Device Settings Menu**

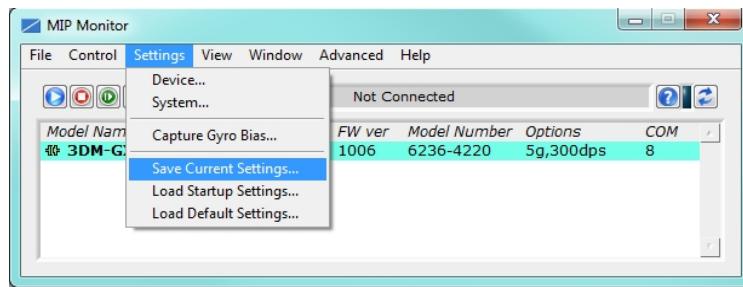
### 3.5.1 Saving Configurations

Sensor settings are saved temporarily by selecting the OK button in the Device Setup window after configuration, but are lost when the device is powered off. To save current settings in the device memory for future use, the Save Current Settings feature is used.

First adjust the sensor settings to the desired values. Next select Settings > Save Current Settings from the main window (*Figure 10 - Save Sensor Settings*). The setting will now remain intact when the sensor is powered off and then on again.

To recall the last saved settings select Settings > Load Startup Settings, and to revert the settings back to the factory defaults, select Settings > Load Default Settings.

For some applications, it is also possible to set the device up to stream data when the device is powered on (*see Sampling on Start-up on page 46*).



**Figure 10 - Save Sensor Settings**

### 3.6 Data Monitoring and Recording

#### NOTE

During viewing and recording, only the outputs that are selected in the Message Format tabs in the Device Setup menu are displayed and recorded (see [Sensor Settings on page 15](#)).

Throughout the MIP Monitor menus the same icons are used to control data streaming (sampling) and recording, shown in [Table 3 - Sampling and Recording Controls](#). These icons can be found in the MIP Monitor main window icon toolbar and in each data monitoring window. The same commands are also found in the main window Control menu.



**Figure 11 - Main Window Controls**

Icon	Command
	<b>Run:</b> start data streaming
	<b>Stop:</b> end data streaming
	<b>Step:</b> sample single set of data
	<b>Record:</b> start and stop data recording

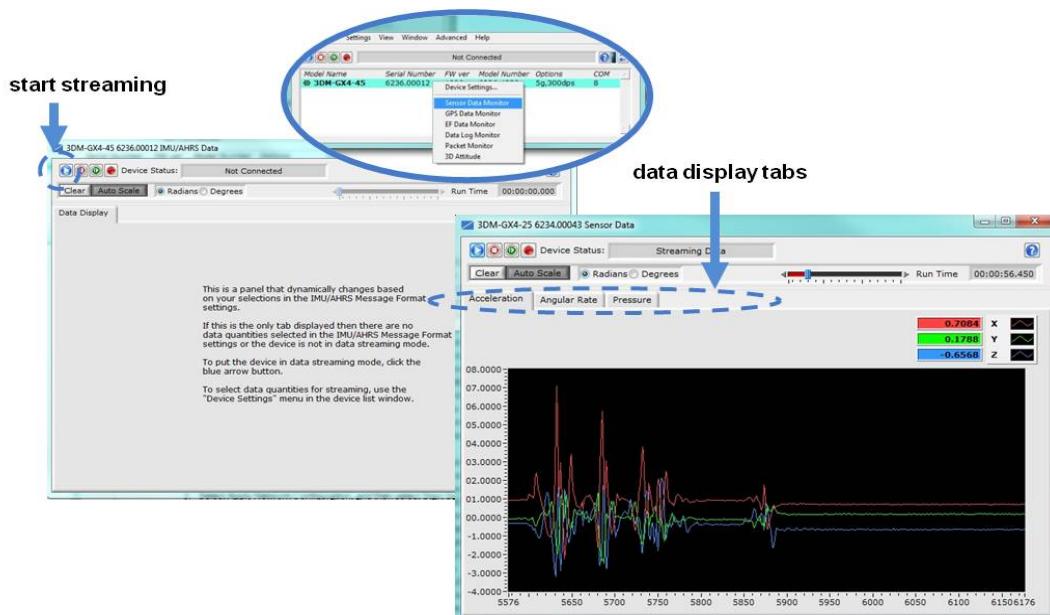
**Table 3 - Sampling and Recording Controls**

There are several data monitoring views available depending on what measurements are desired for monitoring and recording. Each view corresponds to one of the main categories in the Device Settings window. For example, the 3DM-GX4-25™ includes Sensor Data Monitoring for the IMU measurements, GPS Monitoring for the GPS metrics, and EF Monitoring for the Estimation Filter outputs ([Figure 12 - Data Monitoring and Streaming](#)). During viewing and recording only the outputs that are selected in the Message Format tab of the Device Settings menu are displayed and recorded (see [Sensor Settings on page 15](#)).

Data streaming must be started before data can be recorded, however it is not necessary to be viewing it in a data monitoring window. Data monitoring is used primarily to confirm the system is operating correctly or to view the outputs in near real time. If sensor setup has already been confirmed, streaming and recording can be initiated from the main window.

[Figure 12 - Data Monitoring and Streaming](#) is an example of Sensor Data Monitoring, which displays the selected IMU measurements. In data monitoring windows, no data will be displayed until data streaming is started, and no data will be recorded (even if it is being viewed) until data recording is initiated (armed). In this example, the y-axis of the graph indicates data points and the x-axis is the measurement units, and there is a tab for each measurement.

1. Right-click on the device in the main window and select Sensor Data Monitoring.
2. Press the Start Streaming icon to start sampling.



**Figure 12 - Data Monitoring and Streaming**

3. To record data, select the Arm Recording icon at any time.
4. Select the type of data file to generate, Binary or CSV. The CSV file is the most common and can be viewed and processed by data editors such as Microsoft Excel®.

**NOTE**

If the data is recorded in Binary format it will require a translation program that utilizes the LORD MicroStrain® MIP Data Communications Protocol to make it user-readable.



**Figure 13 - Record Data**

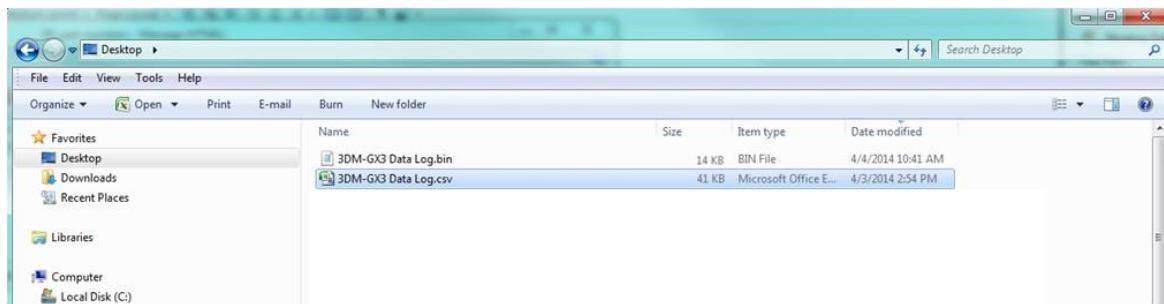
5. To end recording press the Arm Recording button again, and select OK to the confirmation prompt.
6. Select the Stop Streaming icon to end sampling.
7. Use the red "X" in the upper right of the sensor monitoring window to exit the monitoring mode.

### 3.7 Viewing Data

Acquired data is stored in either Binary (.bin) or Comma Separated Values (.CSV) format, depending on what was selected at the initiation of data recording. The files can be found in the directory specified at that time or in the default directory on the host computer desktop.

CSV files can be viewed with Microsoft Excel, Quattro Pro, Open Office, or other CSV editors and spreadsheet programs.

Data recorded in Binary format will require a translation program that utilizes the LORD MicroStrain® MIP Data Communications Protocol to make it user-readable.



**Figure 14 - Exploring Data**

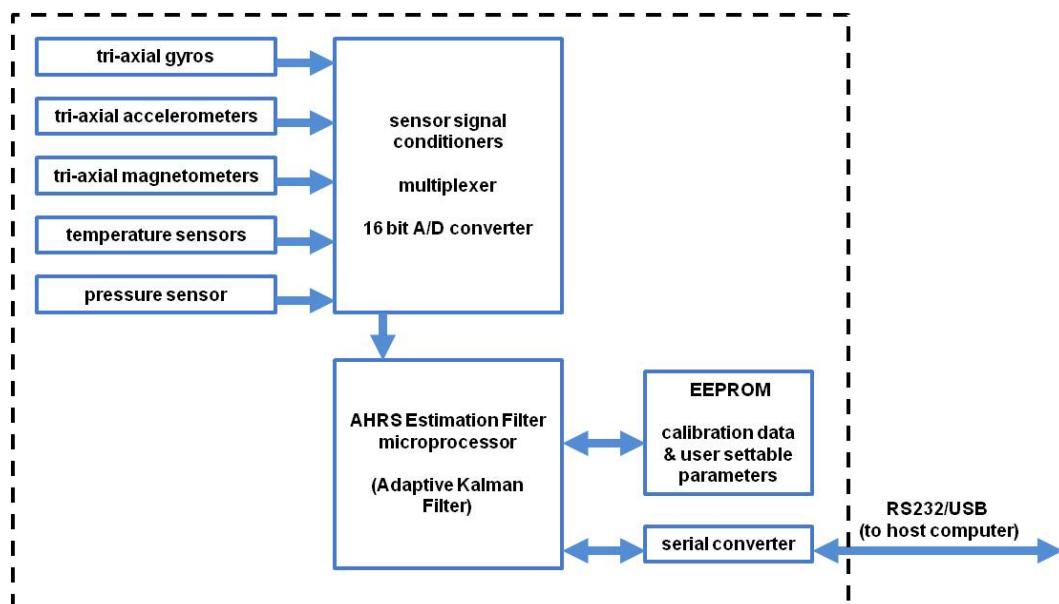
**NOTE**

Data in the data files are displayed in time sequence. If measurements are set to different data rates, not all time intervals will include a reading from each output that is being recorded.

## 4. Sensor Measurements

The 3DM-GX4-25™ block diagram (*Figure 15 - 3DM-GX4-25™ Block Diagram*) describes its primary hardware components and internal configuration. Integrated Micro-Electro-Mechanical System (MEMS) sensors within the 3DM-GX4-25™ are collectively known as the Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) and include tri-axial gyroscopes (gyros), tri-axial accelerometers, tri-axial magnetometers, and a pressure altimeter. This technology provides direct measurements of acceleration, angular rate, magnetic field, pressure, delta-Theta (change in acceleration), and delta-v (change in velocity). Temperature and pressure sensors provide environmental information for measurement compensation and altitude estimations. GPS information can be read directly and is also used in the computed navigation estimations.

Computed estimations for attitude and heading reference systems (AHRS) are available outputs on the 3DM-GX4-25™. To achieve these estimations, the MEMS sensors are processed by an AHRS Estimation Filter (EF) microprocessor with an Adaptive Kalman Filter (AKF). Additional user settings such as measurement filtering, biasing, and tolerance values offer adjustments for specific applications.

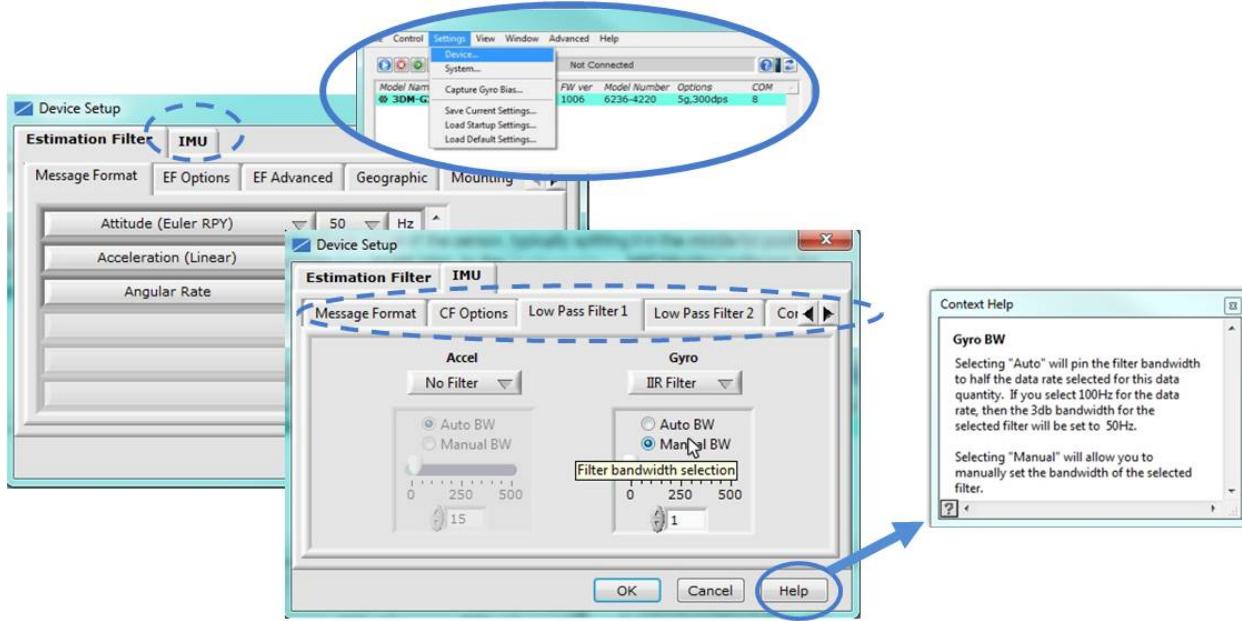


**Figure 15 - 3DM-GX4-25™ Block Diagram**

#### 4.1 Direct Sensor Measurements (IMU Outputs)

The sensors in an Inertial Navigation System (INS), from which measurements for navigation and orientation are obtained, are collectively known as the Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU). These sensors are arranged on the three primary axes (x, y, and z) to sense angular rate, acceleration, and the local magnetic field. The gyroscopes are used to adjust the current attitude estimate when an angular rate is sensed. The accelerometers sense gravity as well as linear acceleration. The magnetometers sense the Earth's magnetic field along with local magnetic anomalies. All measurements are temperature compensated and are mathematically aligned to an orthogonal coordinate system.

The IMU sensors can be read directly to report stand alone inertial measurements or computed measurements. Because the sensor system is digital, the analog voltage readings from the sensors are converted into a digital equivalent value based on the volt-to-bit scale of the internal analog to digital voltage converter. In the MIP Monitor software the conversion values are not configurable, but there are user settable options for how the measurement is made. These settings are available in the Settings > Device > IMU (tab). The context sensitive Help menus (accessed with the Help button) provides explanations of the settings when hovered over ([Figure 16 - IMU Settings](#)).



**Figure 16 - IMU Settings**

*Table 4 - IMU Measurements* lists the IMU measurements available for the 3DM-GX4-25™. Additional measurement units may be available in MIP Monitor for some outputs however they are converted values and do not represent the actual sensor outputs. Only actual output units are listed.

The Complimentary Filter (CF) Attitude and Up and North Vector outputs are computed estimations from the LORD MicroStrain® 3DM-GX3® inertial sensor family and are available to maintain backwards compatibility. For new applications it is recommended that these estimations be computed with the 3DM-GX4™ EF Outputs algorithms ([see Computed Outputs \(Estimation Filter/AHRS\) on page 25](#)).

To view and record IMU outputs, [see Basic Setup and Operations on page 10](#).

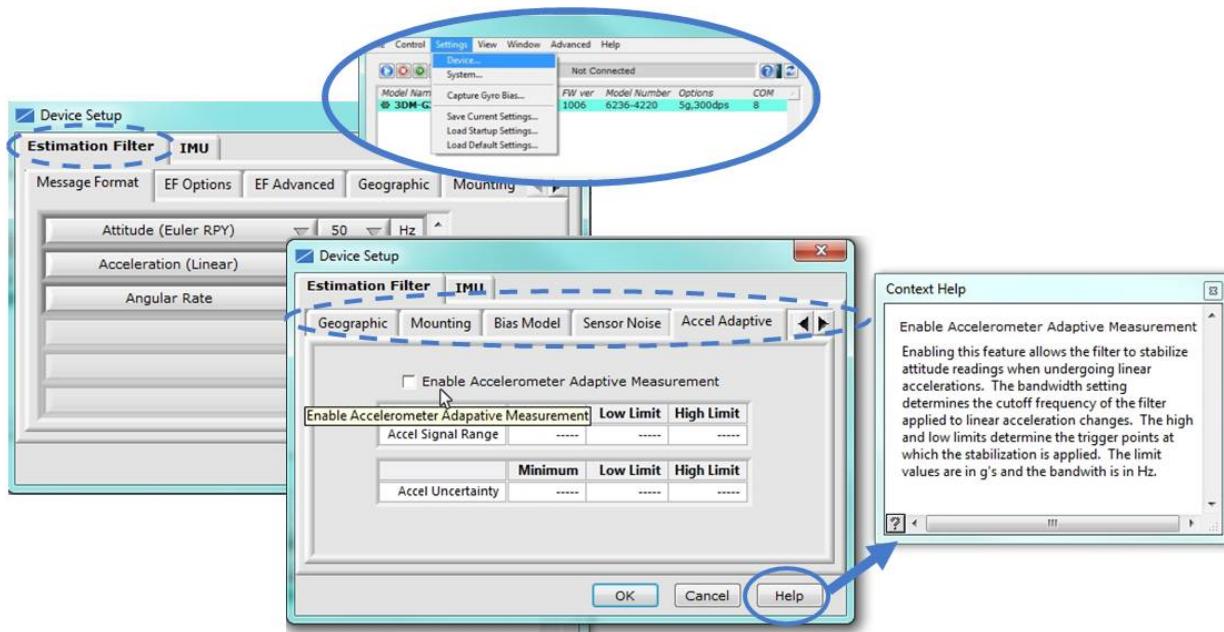
Measurement	Units	Description
<b>Acceleration</b>	gravitational force (g)	three axis acceleration readings in engineering units
<b>Magnetic Field</b>	Gauss (G)	three axis magnetic field readings in engineering units
<b>Angular Rate</b>	radian/second	three axis rotational velocity reading from gyroscope in engineering units
<b>Delta Angle (theta)</b>	radians	time integral of angular rate with configurable time period
<b>Delta Velocity</b>	g*seconds	time integral of acceleration with configurable time period
<b>GPS Correlation Timestamp</b>	weeks, seconds, and status indicators	time metrics from the GPS receiver for tracking IMU sensor data
<b>Ambient Pressure</b>	milli-bars	air pressure reading from pressure sensor
<b>CF Attitude (Euler RPY)</b>	radians	Complementary Filter (CF) Euler angles representation of orientation
<b>CF Attitude (Matrix)</b>	--	Complementary Filter (CF) matrix representation of orientation
<b>CF Attitude (Quaternion)</b>	--	Complementary Filter (CF) quaternions representation of orientation
<b>North Vector</b>	--	North Vector
<b>Up Vector</b>	--	Up Vector

**Table 4 - IMU Measurements**

## 4.2 Computed Outputs (Estimation Filter/AHRS)

The computed outputs are measurements from the 3DM-GX4-25™ IMU sensors that are blended through an Adaptive Kalman Filter (AKF) algorithm. The Kalman Filter produces a better estimation of attitude and heading (AHRS) outputs than can be achieved by the inertial sensors individually. Refer to [Table 5 - Estimation Filter Outputs](#) for a complete list of outputs.

In the MIP Monitor software there are user settable options for how the estimations are made. These setting are available in the Settings > Device > EF (tab). The context sensitive Help menus (accessed with the Help button) provides explanations of the settings when hovered over ([Figure 17 - Estimation Filter Settings](#)).



**Figure 17 - Estimation Filter Settings**

All of the estimation filter outputs are available to view and record in MIP Monitor. In addition to the standard attitude and heading (AHRS) solution, additional filter outputs, such as: uncertainties, inertial sensor bias and scale factors, filter status, and physical models (WGS84, WMM, and SAM) are available ([Table 5 - Estimation Filter Outputs](#)).

To view and record Estimation outputs, [see Basic Setup and Operations on page 10](#).

Measurement	Units	Description
Filter Status	--	indicates the current state of the EF, such as running or initializing
GPS Time	weeks & seconds	GPS time corresponding to the calculated filter solution
Attitude (Euler RPY)	radians	Euler angles representation of orientation expressed as roll, pitch and yaw (RPY) with one-sigma uncertainty estimation available
Attitude (Matrix)	--	Transformation matrix that describes orientation with reference to the ECEF coordinate system
Attitude (Quaternion)	--	Unit quaternions representation of orientation with one-sigma uncertainty estimation available
Acceleration (Linear)	meter/second <sup>2</sup>	linear acceleration readings with reference to either the sensor or vehicle frame (depending on settings), with bias and scale readings, and one-sigma uncertainty estimations also available.
Compensated Angular Rate	radians/second	measured angular rate corrected using the estimated gyroscope scale factor and bias, with reference to either the sensor or vehicle frame (depending on settings)
Gravity Vector	meter/second <sup>2</sup>	estimated WGS84 gravity vector with reference to either the sensor or vehicle frame (depending on settings)
WSG-84 Local Gravity Magnitude	meter/second <sup>2</sup>	local WGS84 gravity vector magnitude
Heading Update	radians	heading used to update EF, calculated from the selected heading source (magnetometer, external, etc.) with one-sigma uncertainty reading available
WMM (World Magnetic Model)	Gauss	WMM local magnitude, inclination and declination based on GPS coordinates
Pressure Altitude	meters (altitude)	altitude estimate from barometric pressure
SAM	meters (altitude) pressure (milli-bars) temperature (°C) density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	altitude as derived from the U.S. Standard Atmospheric Model (SAM) using the sensed barometric pressure and air temperature

Table 5 - Estimation Filter Outputs

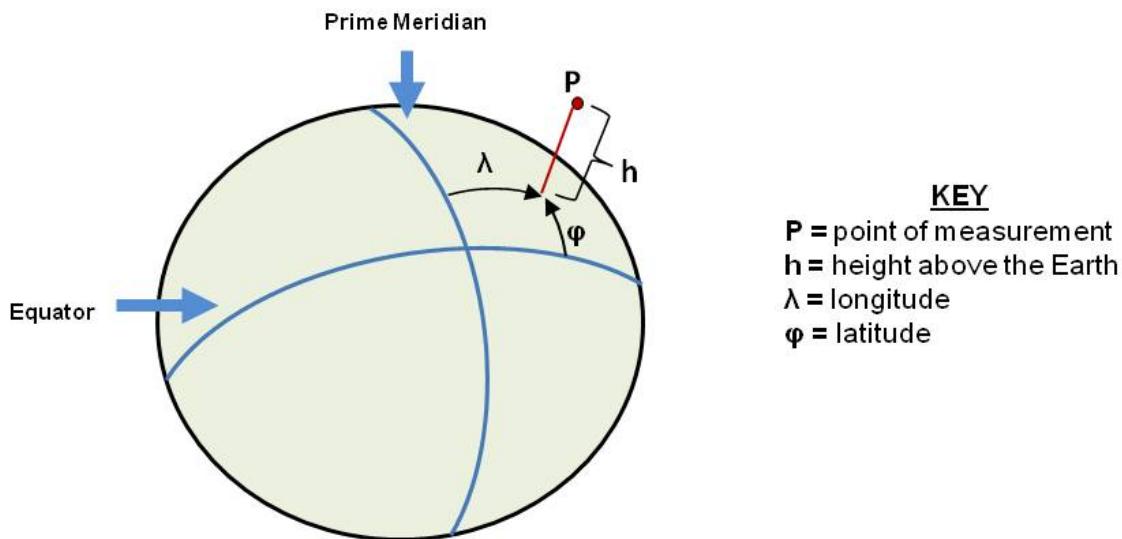
## 4.3 Sensor Reference Frames

### 4.3.1 Geodetic Frame

The World Geodetic System is the standard for cartography and navigation. The latest revision, WGS84, is the reference coordinate system for GPS, and the 3DM-GX4-25™ reports position using this coordinate frame. It also calculates the magnitude of the local gravity vector using the WGS84 reference formulas.

The WGS coordinates are latitude ( $\phi$ ), longitude ( $\lambda$ ), and height (h) above the reference ellipsoid. Latitude ranges from -90 degrees at the South Pole to 90 degrees at the North Pole. Longitude ranges from -180 to 180 degrees, with 0 degrees being the prime meridian. The -180/180 degree switchover occurs in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and includes a section of the International Date Line. The model takes into account the oblateness of the Earth's surface.

A point (P) on or above the Earth in the WGS84 coordinate system is notated as: latitude ( $\phi$ ), longitude ( $\lambda$ ), and height above the reference ellipsoid (h).

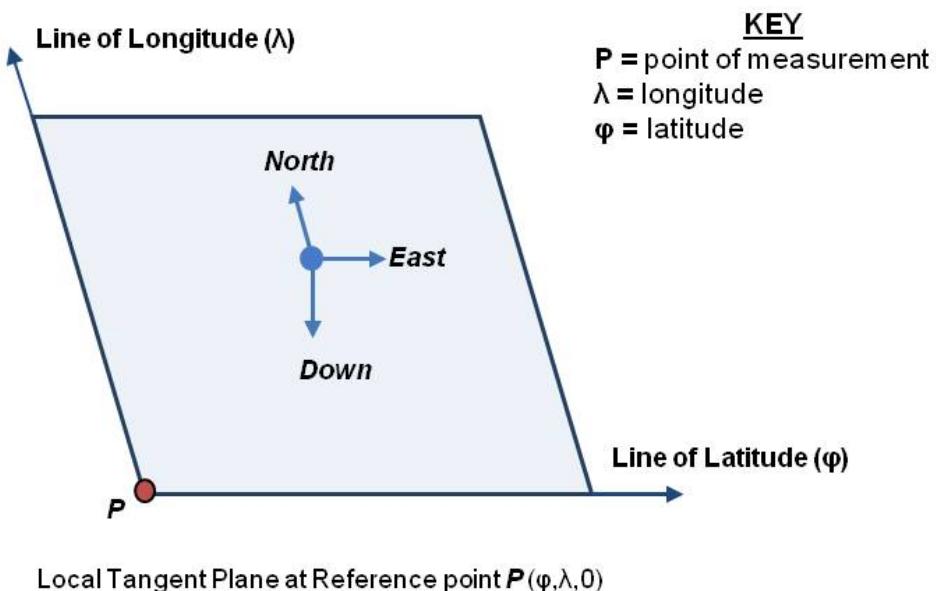


**Figure 18 - World Geodetic System (WGS84) Reference Ellipsoid**

#### 4.3.2 North East Down (NED) Frame

The North, East, Down (NED) frame is a local coordinate frame which is formed by a tangent plane located at a particular point (current coordinates) on the WGS84 reference ellipse. The NED frame is constructed with the (true) North vector along the line of longitude, the East vector along the line of latitude, and the Down vector normal to and towards the tangent plane ([Figure 19 - North East Down Frame](#)). The assumption when using the NED frame is that the local surface can be reasonably approximated by a flat plane. For most applications, this assumption is valid and provides a more intuitive reference frame for expressing velocity and attitude information than a global frame.

The 3DM-GX4-25™ reports velocity in this frame and attitude with respect to this frame.



**Figure 19 - North East Down Frame**

### 4.3.3 Sensor Frame

The sensor frame is indicated on the top of the device and is oriented such that the x-axis vector is parallel with the long side of the sensor and points toward the sensor connector, the y-axis is 90° to the right of the x-axis, and the z-axis goes through the bottom of the sensor (outward). These axes were selected so that when the connector on the device is pointed true north and the device is upright and level, the sensor frame will match the NED frame exactly, giving zero rotation.

The 3DM-GX4-25™ reports acceleration, angular rate, delta-Theta, delta-velocity, inertial sensor biases and corrections in this frame when no sensor- to- platform frame transformation has been provided ([see Platform Frame on page 30](#)).

The orientation of the sensor frame with respect to the local NED frame can be viewed in the MIP Monitor software through the View > 3D Attitude menu. This window displays the orientation of the sensor in relationship to true north and shows measurement origination for acceleration and angular rate. The view can be rotated for clicking, holding, and dragging the image.

Refer to the 3DM-GX4™ dimensional diagram for the location of the measurement origin ([see Reference Diagrams on page 60](#)).

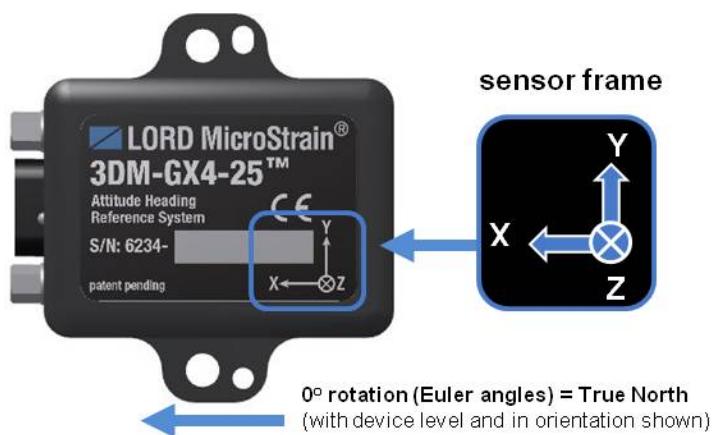
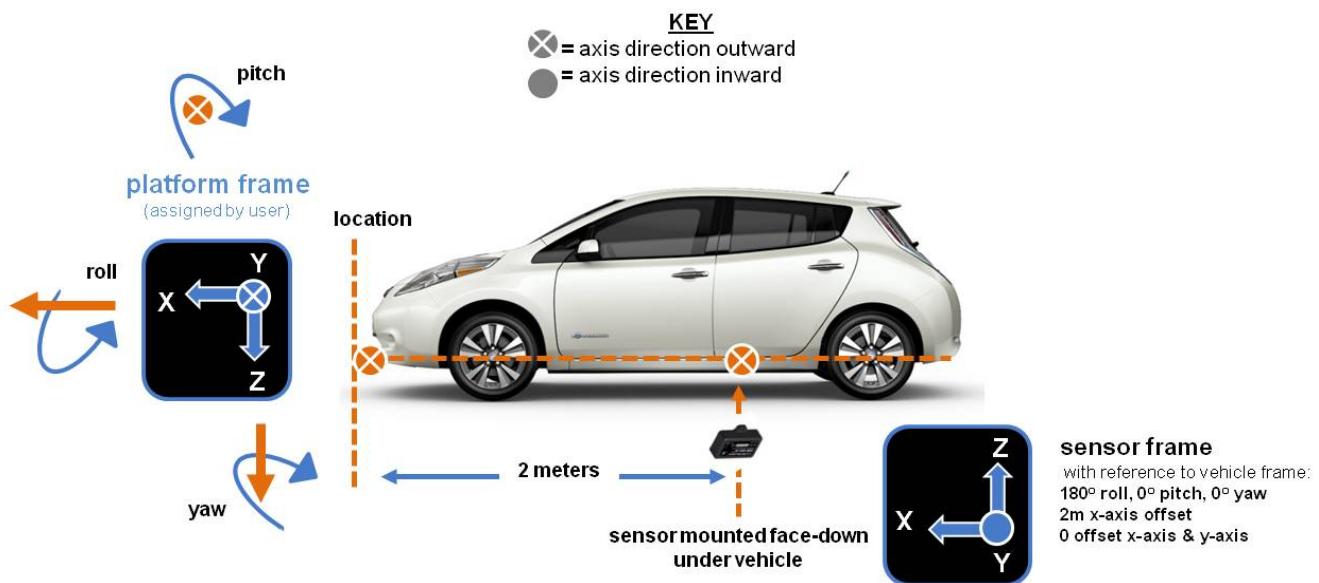


Figure 20 - Sensor Frame

#### 4.3.4 Platform Frame

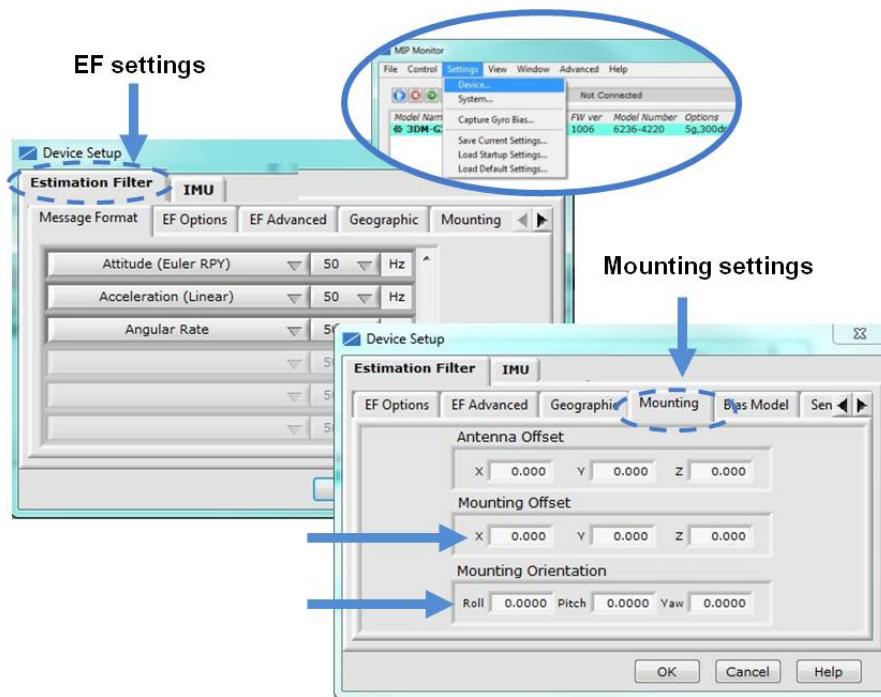
The 3DM-GX4-25™ includes the option to define an orientation transformation and offset distance from the sensor frame to a user-definable platform frame. This is useful when the sensor cannot be mounted in the same location or orientation as the desired reference point on the platform frame. The transformation from sensor to platform frame is defined with Euler angles and is expressed as a rotation from the sensor frame to the platform frame. The offset is the location of the origin of the platform reference frame with respect to the origin of the sensor frame, expressed in the sensor frame.

In the following example (*Figure 21 - Platform Frame Transformation*) the user has defined the desired reference point on the platform frame to be located at the front bumper of the vehicle. In accordance with aircraft co-ordinate systems the platform frame is oriented with the x-axis pointed in the forward direction of travel, the z-axis pointed down, and the y-axis pointed towards the passenger side. The sensor has been mounted face down toward the rear of the vehicle, two meters from vehicle reference location with no offset in the y-axis and z-axis directions. The proper transformation in this example would be: 180 degrees roll, 0 degrees pitch, and 0 degrees yaw, with an offset of [+2, 0, 0] meters (listed as x,y,z).



**Figure 21 - Platform Frame Transformation**

In the MIP Monitor software the transformation and offset settings are entered in the Settings > Device > Estimation Filter > Mounting > Mounting Orientation and Mounting Offset fields (*Figure 22 - Platform Frame Settings*).



**Figure 22 - Platform Frame Settings**

The orientation transformation affects the following EF outputs (see *Computed Outputs (Estimation Filter/AHRS) on page 25*): attitude, position, linear and compensated acceleration, compensated angular rate, and gravity vector. It also affects the following IMU outputs: acceleration, angular rate, magnetic field vector, delta theta, and delta velocity.

The offset affects the following EF output: position (LLH).

Transformed acceleration is expressed at the location of the sensor but within the platform frame. For example, if the sensor is offset from the center of gravity (CG), and the platform is undergoing a rotation, an acceleration (in addition to any linear acceleration of the CG) will be sensed in accordance with the following formula: (tangent acceleration) = (angular rate) \* (distance from CG).

## 5. Performance Optimization

### 5.1 Magnetometer Calibration

Although the 3DM-GX4-25™ magnetometers are calibrated at the factory to zero-out any magnetic influences internal to the device, measurements are still subject to influence from external magnetic anomalies when the sensor is installed in the user's end application. These anomalies are divided into two classes: hard iron offsets and soft iron distortions. Hard iron offsets are created by objects that produce a magnetic field. Soft iron distortions are considered deflections or alterations in the existing magnetic field. Ideally, these influences are mitigated by installing the sensor away from magnetic sources, such as coils, magnets, and ferrous metal structures and mounting hardware. However, often these sources are hard to avoid or are hidden.

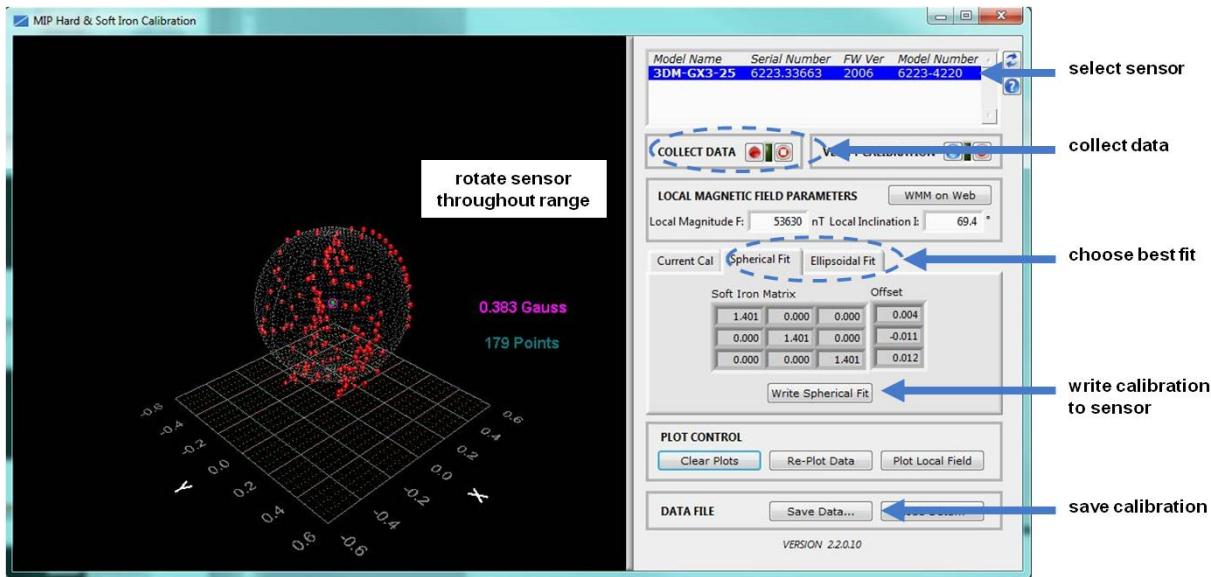
When using the 3DM-GX4-25™ magnetometer to aid in heading estimations, a field calibration of the magnetometer after final installation is highly recommended. This can be accomplished using LORD MicroStrain® MIP Hard and Soft Iron Calibration software. This software is included with the MIP Monitor Software Suite ([see Software Installation on page 11](#)).

The following are instructions for field calibrating the magnetometers.

1. Connect and power-on the sensor as normal.
2. Open the MIP Hard and Soft Iron Calibration software.  

3. Select the sensor to be calibrated, and then select the Arm Recording button next to Collect Data ([Figure 23 - Collect Calibration Data](#)). The software will begin taking readings, as indicated by the points counter in the graphing window.
4. As the readings are taken, rotate the sensor or sensor platform in all possible directions to get a complete profile of the baseline magnetic influences throughout the sensor frame. Data points will appear on the graph in red. For mobile sensor platforms, such as ground vehicles, move the platform as much as possible to simulate actual use without exposing it to excessive magnetic sources (like driving over railroad tracks or near steel pilings). The intention is to get a baseline value of the

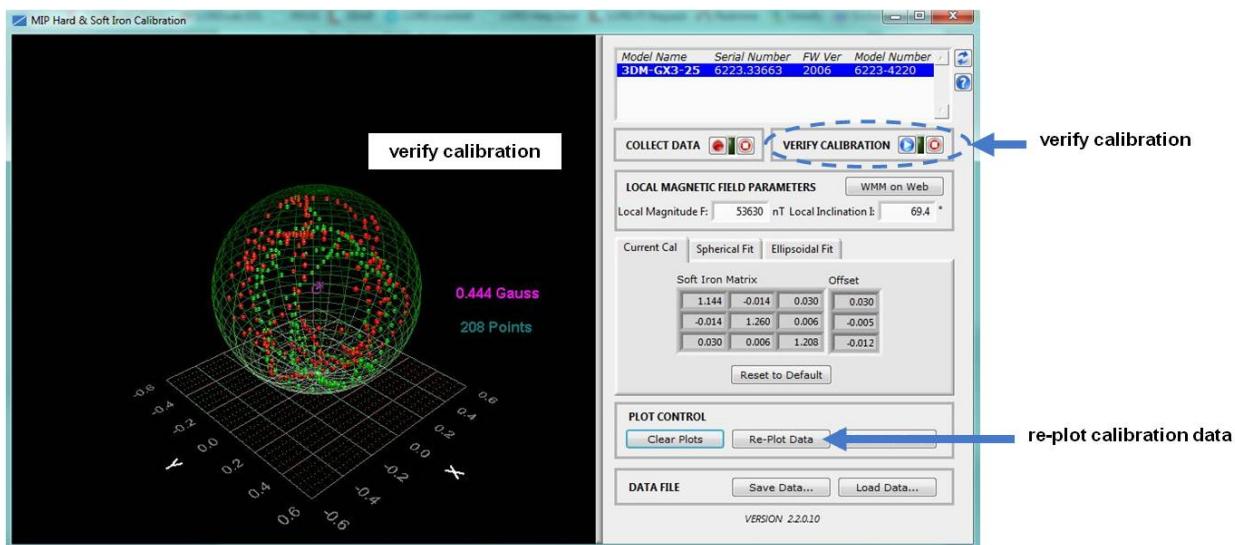
platform in a neutral environment but one that still accounts for the platform itself in all orientations.



**Figure 23 - Collect Calibration Data**

5. When all possible rotations are completed, select the Stop Streaming button next to Collect Data, and then select Save Data to save the calibration data points ([Figure 23 - Collect Calibration Data](#)).
6. Select the Spherical Fit or Ellipsoid Fit button, depending on the application. Spherical Fit is often the best fit for applications with calibration rotations restricted to a 2D plane. For example, a ground vehicle or a boat because it will not likely not be rotated on all three axis. Ellipsoid Fit is generally a better correction when soft iron effects are present, but only if enough data points can be collected in all quadrants. If the range of motion is restricted in one dimension, the Spherical Fit may be the best choice. If there are enough points in all dimensions, the Ellipsoid Fit may be better. Generally, if the Spherical and Ellipsoid Fits are close in the mean diameter, then the Ellipsoid Fit will be the best choice.
7. Click Write Spherical Fit or Write Ellipsoid Fit accordingly. This will write the values to the sensor memory.

8. Cycle power to the sensor when prompted and then use the Refresh button, if needed, to re-establish communication with the sensor.
9. Start a calibration verification by selecting the Start Streaming Data button next to Verify Calibration (*Figure 24 - Verify Calibration*).
10. Rotate the device in all orientations in the same way as during calibration. When completed select the Stop Streaming Data button next to Verify Calibration.
11. Recall the calibration data by selecting the Re-Plot Data button. Observe the calibration plot (red points) compared to the actual operation plot (green points) to visualize the accuracy of the calibration (*Figure 24 - Verify Calibration*). Calibration and verification is complete.

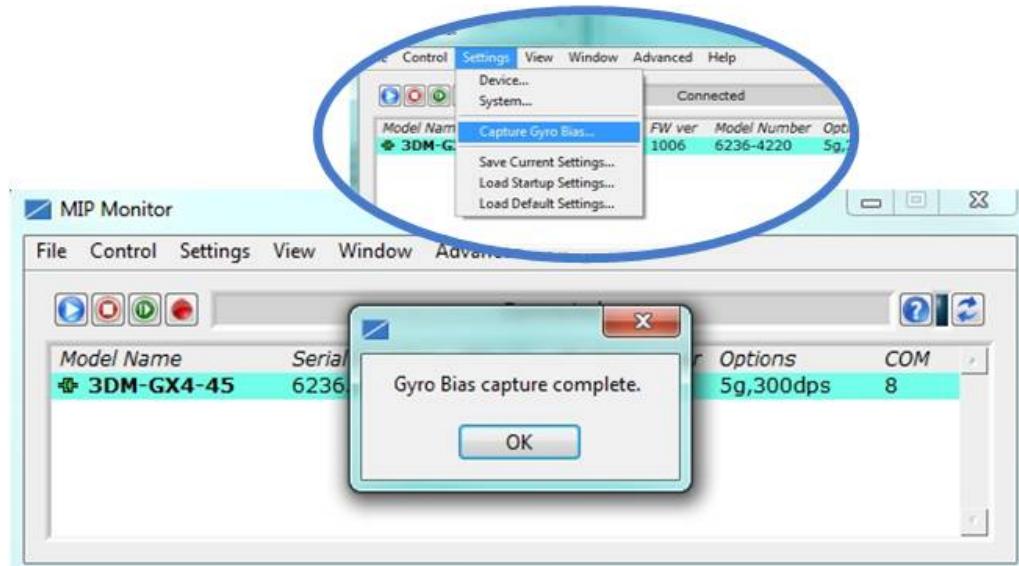


**Figure 24 - Verify Calibration**

## 5.2 Gyroscope Bias

Gyroscope biases (offsets) can be zeroed out to set a baseline value for the static home position and conditions in the application. This should be done after sensor installation.

To set the gyroscope baseline, place the sensor or sensor platform in the desired home position. Allow 2-3 minutes for the sensor to warm up and for the temperature to stabilize for the best bias capture. Select Settings > Capture Gyro Bias (*Figure 25 - Gyro Bias Capture*). The sensor must remain stationary for about twenty seconds while the outputs are being measured. A status message will appear when the capture has been completed.

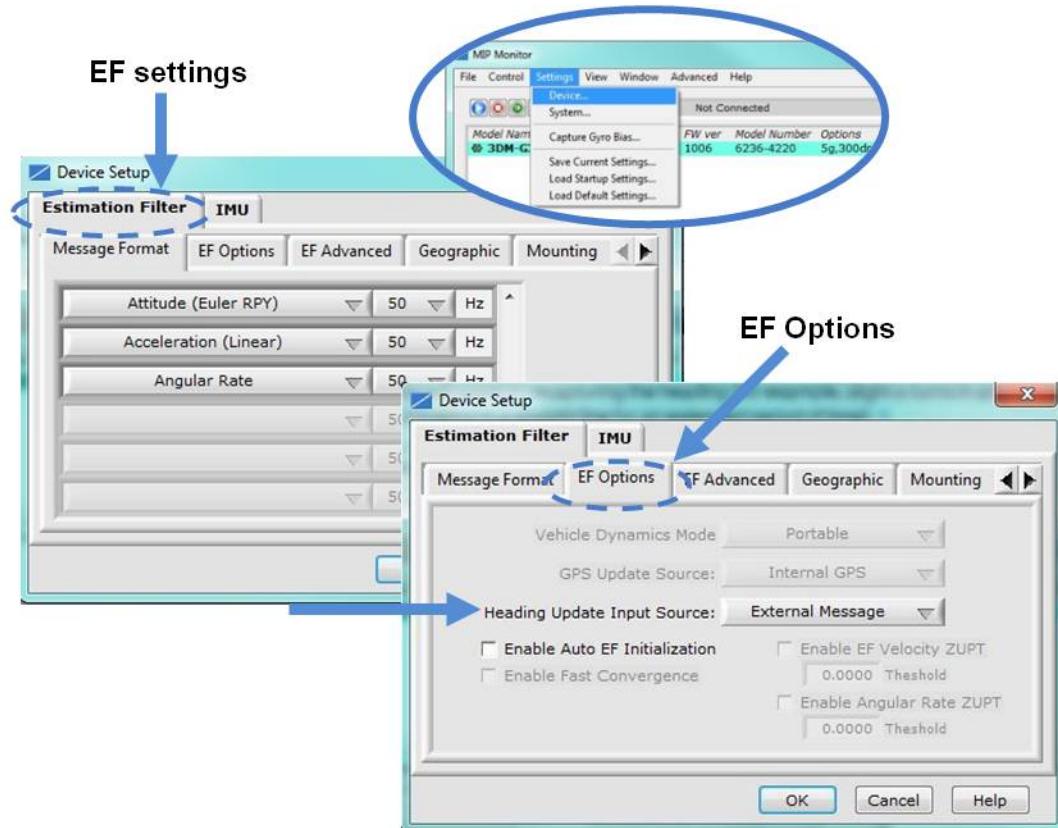


**Figure 25 - Gyro Bias Capture**

### 5.3 Heading Drift and Compensation

There are three options for the heading reference source: the magnetometer, an external reference, or none. If the setting is an external reference, the user has to provide a heading reference. If the setting is none, the estimated heading will drift when little-to-no changes in velocity are sensed (e.g. when stationary or traveling in the same direction at a constant velocity). If the setting is the magnetometer, there will be no drift, but the accuracy will only be as good as the magnetometer.

To select between the heading sources in MIP Monitor select Settings > Device > Estimation Filter > EF Options.



**Figure 26 - Heading Source Setting**

## 5.4 Angular Rate and Acceleration Limits

The 3DM-GX4-25™ angular rate and acceleration range depend on the sensors installed in the device. Exceeding the specified range for either sensor will result in estimated state errors and elevated uncertainties until the over-range event is corrected and the filter can resolve the errors.

## 5.5 Bandwidth

When selecting sensor and estimation outputs to be recorded, communication bandwidth considerations should be taken into account, especially when using RS232 serial communications. Lower baud rates equate to lower communication bandwidth which can be consumed quickly by selecting a large number of measurements at high sample rates. Severely overrunning the communication bandwidth can have adverse effects on the sensor performance due to excessive processor usage. Most computer RS232 ports are limited to 115,200 baud even though the 3DM-GX4-25™ is capable of running at 921,600 baud.

## 5.6 Platform Frame Transformation

The transformation from the sensor frame to the platform frame ([see Platform Frame on page 30](#)) should be defined to the highest angular accuracy possible. The easiest way to accomplish this is to co-align the frames. If this is not possible, using a simple transformation, such as 90 or 180 degree rotations on a single axis are preferred. For complex transformations between the frames, a calibration should be performed or analysis from a model should be conducted.

## 5.7 Estimation Filter Operation

The 3DM-GX4-25™ combines the information from the IMU sensors to calculate an Attitude and Heading Reference System (AHRS) solution that incorporates the strengths of the individual sensors while minimizing their weaknesses.

In a conventional attitude estimations several sources of error exist. First, the algorithm assumes the acceleration vector is dominated by Earth's gravity, with only transient linear accelerations. When long-duration linear accelerations are experienced, such as when an aircraft performs a sustained 2G turn, the AHRS will report incorrect pitch and roll angles. This error is the direct result of the assumption that the accelerometers are only sensing Earth's gravity. A second source of error occurs when the device attempts to measure the Earth's magnetic field. This field is very weak compared to the numerous magnetic anomalies typically

found in platforms and close to the Earth's surface. If the magnetic anomalies in the platform remain constant with respect to the sensor (no translation or rotation between the two) they can be compensated for by performing a hard iron and/or soft iron calibration of the magnetometers internal to the 3DM-GX4-25™ ([see Magnetometer Calibration on page 32](#)). The hard iron calibration compensates for magnetic effects that cause offsets in the magnetic field (additive effects). The soft iron calibration compensates for effects that cause a non-uniformity of the magnetic field which results in an ellipsoidal distortion in the field. Non-constant and external sources, such as those found when traveling through cities, cannot be compensated and may cause large errors in the heading estimation. Transient errors can be suppressed when the magnetometer readings are combined with information from the gyroscopes but only for periods on the order of a few seconds. Longer duration anomalies will result in heading errors. A third source of error occurs when attempting to navigate between geographic way-points expressed in latitude and longitude. This error is due to the difference between detecting magnetic north, which is output by the AHRS sensor, and true north, which is used to define lines of longitude. If the AHRS is always used in one geographical location, the user can correct for this difference using a constant offset. If the AHRS is used over a wide range of longitude, the magnetic declination must be calculated from a magnetic model.

The 3DM-GX4-25™ runs a Adaptive Kalman Filter with a full-state dynamics model. The state propagation utilizes Newton's and Euler's equations of motion with the acceleration and angular rate treated as control inputs. The IMU magnetometer is available to correct heading mis-alignments which occur during periods of low dynamics. The magnetometer corrections can be disabled for applications where large, non-constant magnetic interference sources exist, which would impair their use (such as when mounting the 3DM-GX4-25™ on a gimbal close to the frame of a ground vehicle).

The Kalman filter attitude for a total of 16 states: 4 attitude (quaternion), 3 accel bias, 3 gyro bias, 3 accel scale factor, and 3 gyro scale factor. The bias states are estimated in order to compensate for the time-varying biases inherent in MEMS inertial sensors, which are the largest error sources for these devices. The bias states are subtracted from the gyroscope and accelerometer inputs, thus providing more accurate inertial data to the propagation stage of the filter. This enhances overall accuracy.

The Kalman filter also provides statistical information about the quality of the estimated states described in a covariance matrix. The diagonal terms of the matrix are the variance of each state, thus the square root of these values are 1-sigma standard deviations. These values give the filter's estimation of how well it knows the individual states, given what it knows about the

statistical properties of the noise sources of the various sensors, and also provide feedback to the user as uncertainty values.

## 5.8 Estimation Filter Convergence

### 5.8.1 Initial Convergence

After a successful initialization, a period of convergence for the Kalman filter states occurs. Roll angle, and pitch angle typically converge very quickly. Heading, accelerometer bias, and gyro bias will take more time to converge. If the initial attitude estimate provided to the filter is well outside of the true attitude, the filter may diverge and never recover. This is most likely to occur for the heading estimate when a poor value is used for initialization and when the vibration environment is strong. Should this occur, it is recommended that the filter is reset and a new attitude estimate is provided. Refer to the 3DM-GX4-25™ MIP DCP Manual for the various ways of providing an initial attitude estimate through a user designed interface.

### 5.8.2 Bias Convergence

Accurate estimation of the biases can take several minutes to converge, therefore after the filter is initialized, the free-inertial performance will continue to improve until the bias estimations settles. The MEMS sensor manufacturers quote bias drift stability numbers which correspond to the expected drift in bias while the sensor is operating. The filter attempts to track the changing biases over time, and a user can expect these bias estimates will be non-constant during a navigation run.

### 5.8.3 Output Uncertainty

The 3DM-GX4-25™ estimation data set includes a filter status field that contains a set of status flags. These flags pertain to high covariance values for attitude and inertial sensor parameters. These flags should be monitored and cross-check against the corresponding uncertainty fields when they appear. This can assist in determining how trustworthy the solution generated by the Kalman filter is. When the filter is first initialized, it is likely that some of these values will be beyond limits and the flags may be asserted. This fact should be taken into account when developing automated monitoring systems.

## 5.9 Vibration Isolation

The 3DM-GX4-25™ should be isolated from strong vibrations as much as possible. Strong, continuous vibrations appear as unaccounted noise to the estimation filter, degrading its performance.

## 5.10 IMU Sensor Calibration

All of the sensor internal to the 3DM-GX4-25™ are calibrated when it is manufactured and the calibration values are saved in the device memory. With the exception of the magnetometer field calibration ([see Magnetometer Calibration on page 32](#)) recalibration should not be required unless the device has been under conditions that have exceeded the operating specifications. For example, if the sensor has been exposed to excessive shock beyond the rated g-force, performance may be compromised. Indications of internal sensor damage may be seen as measurement offsets or drift when the sensor is in a neutral motionless position.

## 5.11 Temperature Compensation

All sensor conversion and calibration formulas include temperature compensation. All computed outputs and IMU sensor outputs are automatically adjusted for local temperature ([see Direct Sensor Measurements \(IMU Outputs\) on page 23](#)).

## 6. Sensor Installation

### 6.1 Sensor Mounting

The 3DM-GX4-25™ sensor housing is rated for indoor use only, unless used inside of a protective enclosure.

The sensor has two mounting tabs with holes for fastening. There are two additional holes used for precise alignment with 2mm dowel pins. One of the holes is slotted to allow for relaxed pin positioning accuracy. The sensor can be mounted in any orientation, as required for the application ([see Sensor Reference Frames on page 27](#)). The axes are labeled on the face of the sensor for reference, and the sensor measurement origin is shown in the sensor dimensional drawing ([see Reference Diagrams on page 60](#)).

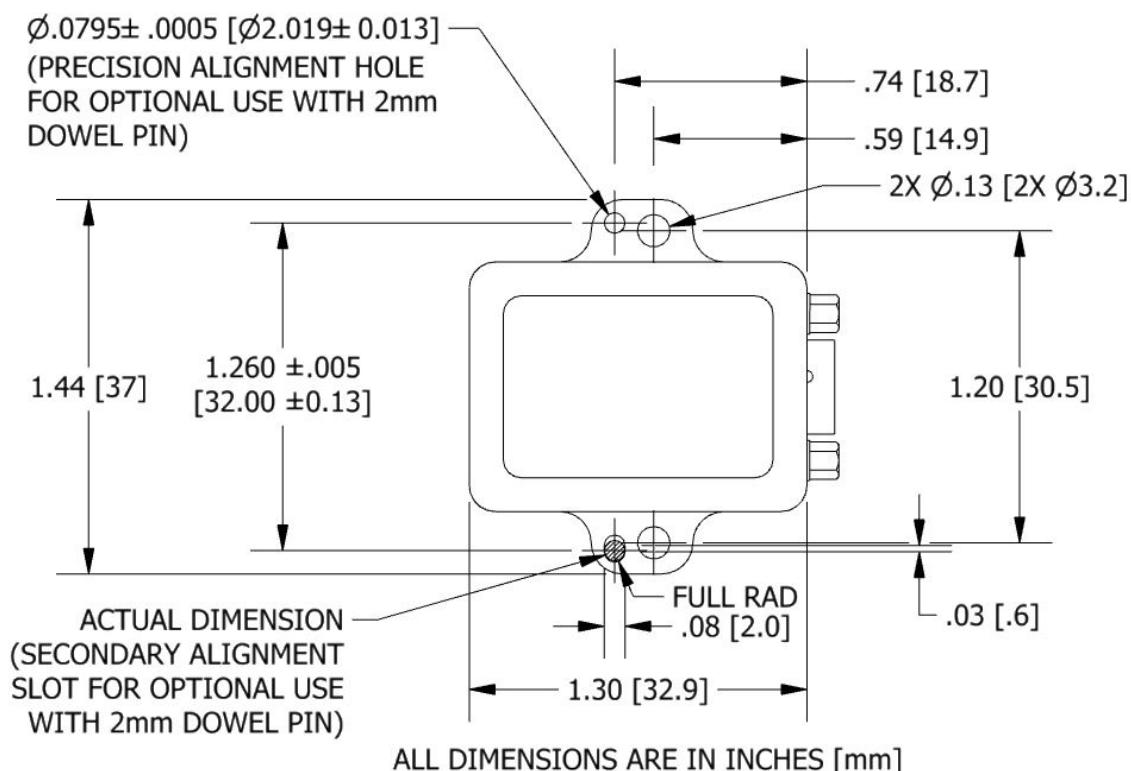


Figure 27 - Mounting the Sensor

## 7. OEM System Integration

The 3DM-GX4-25™ starter kits come with everything that is needed for sensor configuration, operation, and data collection. However, many applications will require custom solutions because of physical or environmental constraints, required sensor output processing, or for integration into control systems that react to the sensor outputs. For these applications the 3DM-GX4-25™ is available as a stand-alone component with optional interface connectors. The communication protocol used for configuring and acquiring sensor data and estimations outputs is available for these applications as well.

This section describes the 3DM-GX4-25™ hardware connections and an overview of the LORD MicroStrain® MIP Data Communications Protocol used to write custom software applications.

### 7.1 Data Communications Protocol (DCP)

The LORD MicroStrain® MIP Data Communications Protocol includes all commands available for controlling and acquiring data from the 3DM-GX4-25™, including many that are not available in the MIP Monitor software. Programming is performed through a standard serial interface program. The programming interface is comprised of a compact set of setup and control commands and a very flexible user-configurable data output format. The commands and data are divided into four command sets and three data set corresponding to the internal architecture of the device. The protocol is packet based. All commands, replies, and data are sent and received as fields in a message packet. The packets have a descriptor-type field based on their contents, so it is easy to identify if a packet contains commands, replies, or data.

The LORD MicroStrain® MIP Data Communications Protocol software developers kit (SDK) includes sample code can be found on the LORD MicroStrain® website Support page or by contacting Technical Support ([see Technical Support on page 53](#)).

The 3DM-GX4-25™ MIP DCP Manual describes each command description, message syntax, message options and provides examples, and can also be found on the LORD MicroStrain® website or through Technical Support.

### 7.1.1 Packet Builder

To expedite program development, a packet builder tool is included in the MIP Monitor software. The packet builder allows users to send multiple packets to the 3DM-GX4-25™ and view the resulting reply data.

Applicable protocol structure and design is described 3DM-GX4-25™ MIP DCP Manual. The manual can be found on the LORD MicroStrain® website Support page or by contacting Technical Support (*see Technical Support on page 53*).

To use the packet builder select Advanced > Packet Builder from the MIP Monitor main window (*Figure 28 - Packet Builder*). The sensor must be in the Standard communications mode to use this feature.

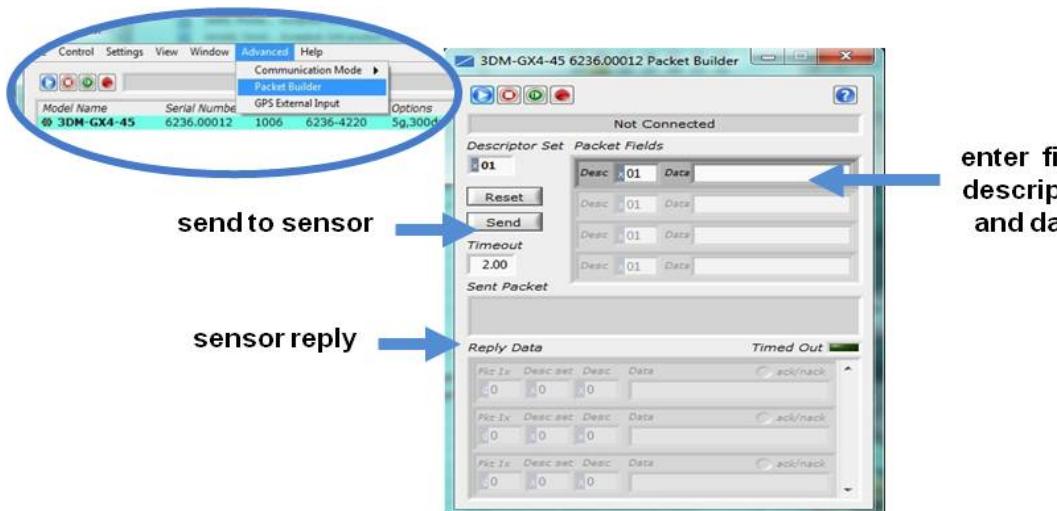


Figure 28 - Packet Builder

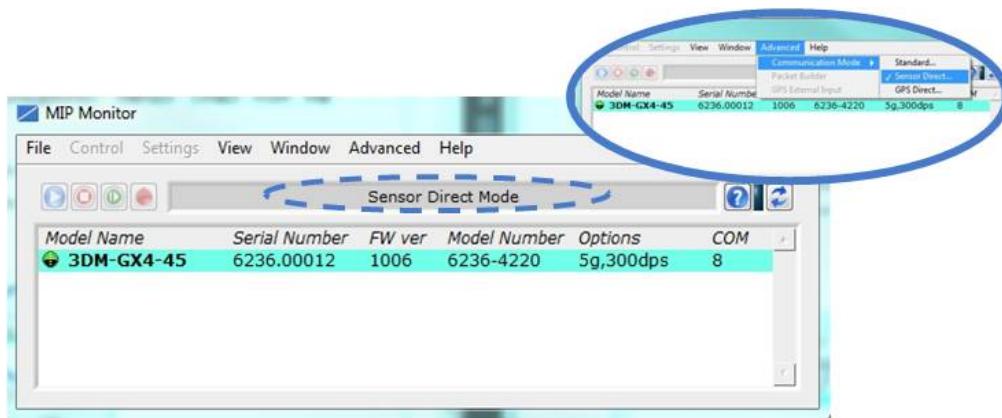
### 7.1.2 Sensor Direct Mode

The MIP Monitor software can be used to put the sensor in a mode which allows direct programmatic access to the internal Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU). The IMU has its own processor and protocol commands, and native data outputs from the individual IMU sensors which may not be available in MIP Monitor.

When in Sensor Direct mode the 3DM-GX4-25™ normal functionality is not available. The protocol commands used to interface with the IMU are a subset of the standard LORD MicroStrain® MIP Data Communications Protocol and are further described in LORD MicroStrain® MIP Data Communications Protocol manual. For additional information contact LORD MicroStrain® Technical Support ([see Technical Support on page 53](#)).

To enter this mode select Advanced > Communications> Sensor Direct from the MIP Monitor main window. Once in this mode the device status message will indicate Sensor Direct Mode ([Figure 29 - Sensor Direct Mode](#)).

To exit Sensor Direct Mode select the Refresh button in the MIP Monitor at any time, or use Advanced > Communication menu to select the Standard operating mode.



**Figure 29 - Sensor Direct Mode**

## 7.2 Sensor Wiring

### WARNING

Only use power supplies within the operating range of the sensor or permanent sensor damage, or personal injury could result. There are two input power pins available, each with different voltage ranges. Connect only one at a time. Observe connection polarity.

Sensor power and serial communications cables are available from LORD MicroStrain® and come with the sensor starter kits. These cables will have the micro-DB9 connector on one end (to connect to the sensor) and either a standard DB9 on the other end (for RS232 communication) or a USB connector (for USB communications). Alternately, the micro-DB9 can be purchased from LORD MicroStrain® with flying leads or the connector by itself can be purchased from the manufacturer (Ulti-Mate Connector Inc.). *See Parts and Configurations on page 55* for a list of available options.

The connector interface includes connections for USB and RS232 communications (only connect one), two options for sensor input power range (only connect one), and a precision hardware timing input (PPS input) for synchronizing with external timestamps. The sensor selects the appropriate serial communication (USB or RS232) on power-up based on which connection is used.

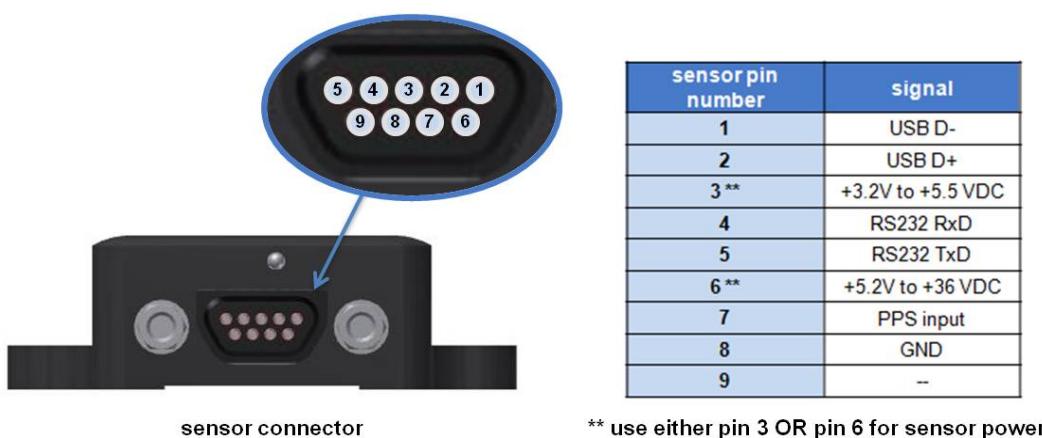


Figure 30 - Connector Wiring

### 7.3 Sampling on Start-up

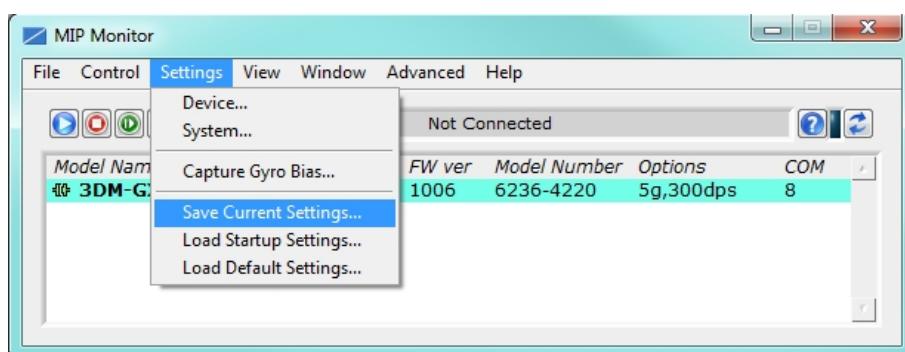
The Save Current Settings command can be used to instruct the sensor to start streaming data as soon as it powered on. This can be useful in sensor integration applications in which immediate data acquisition is desired, and connection to MIP Monitor for data logging is not required. This functionality can also be embedded in user-designed applications by using the corresponding LORD MicroStrain® MIP Data Communications Protocol command ([see Data Communications Protocol \(DCP\) on page 42](#) for more information).

#### NOTE

When setting the sensor to start sampling on start-up, verification that the sensor is sampling will be the status indicator on the device ([see Interface and Indicators on page 9](#)), or by viewing the serial data stream from the host computer. If communication with MIP Monitor is established, the sampling will stop to facilitate device configuration.

To save the current sensor configuration, first adjust the sensor settings to the desired values, and start streaming. Next select Settings > Save Current Settings from the main window ([Figure 31 - Save Sensor Settings](#)). The setting will now remain intact when the sensor is powered off and then on again.

To recall the last saved settings select Settings > Load Startup Settings.



**Figure 31 - Save Sensor Settings**

## 7.4 Connecting to a Datalogger

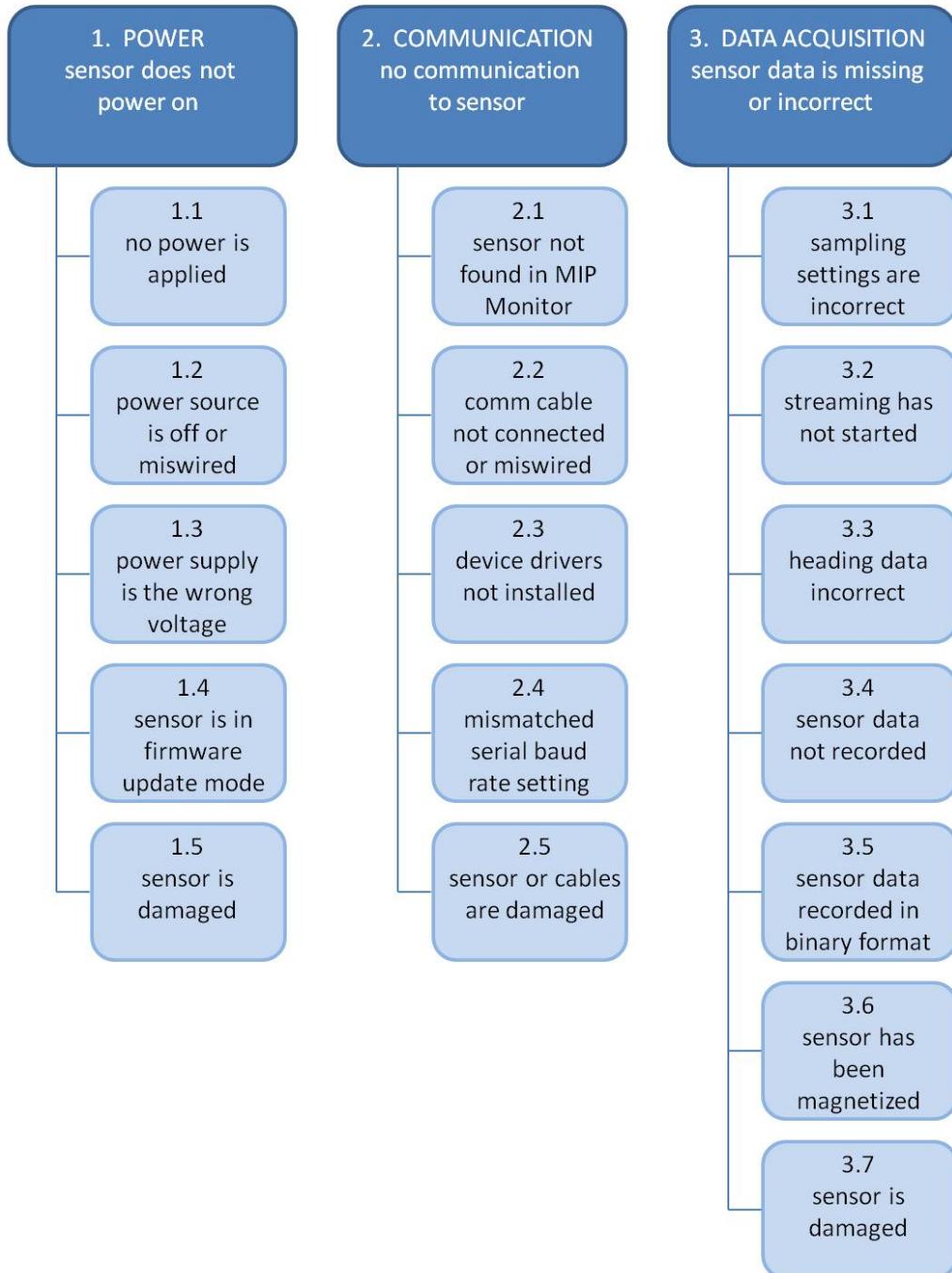
Many inertial applications incorporate dataloggers, of all different types, to collect and distribute sensor outputs. For more information and examples refer to the "Using Dataloggers with Inertial Sensors" Technical Notes on the LORD MicroStrain® website, or contact LORD MicroStrain® Technical Support ([see Technical Support on page 53](#)).

## 7.5 Using Wireless Adapters

In some applications it can be very useful to utilize wireless communications from the sensor to the host computer. One way this can be accomplished by connecting the serial output of the sensor to a serial to wireless converter, and connecting the wireless receiver to the host computer. For more information and an example refer to the "Using RS232 Bluetooth Adapters" Technical Notes on the LORD MicroStrain® website or contact LORD MicroStrain® Inertial Sensor Products Technical Support ([see Technical Support on page 53](#)).

## 8. Troubleshooting

### 8.1 Troubleshooting Guide



Problem	Possible cause and recommended solution
<b>1. POWER</b> <b>sensor does not power on</b>	<p><b>1.1 no power is applied</b>  The status indicator on the device will be off. Apply power to the device, and the status indicator should illuminate.</p> <p><b>1.2 power source is off or miswired</b>  Verify the device power source is connected correctly and turned on.</p> <p><b>1.3 power supply is the wrong voltage</b>  Using a power supply other than the one provided with the device, or a supply that is outside of the device operating range could result in permanent damage or cause it to not work properly.</p>
	<p><b>1.4 sensor is in firmware update mode</b>  Firmware update mode is used when updating firmware on the device. If the firmware updater fails, it is possible that the device can get stuck in the firmware update mode, and the sensor will be non-responsive. Contact LORD MicroStrain® Technical Support (<a href="#">See Technical Support on page 53</a>).</p> <p><b>1.5 sensor is damaged</b>  If all power settings and connections have been verified, and the sensor is still unresponsive, contact LORD MicroStrain® Technical Support (<a href="#">See Technical Support on page 53</a>).</p>
<b>2. COMMUNICATION</b> <b>no communication to sensor or GPS receiver</b>	<p><b>2.1 sensor not found in MIP Monitor</b>  In MIP Monitor use the Refresh button to look for the sensor again. If the sensor is still not found try cycling power to it and trying again.</p> <p><b>2.2 communication cable not connected or miswired</b>  Check, remove, and reconnect communications and power cables as applicable. Replace or rewire as needed.</p> <p><b>2.3 device drivers not installed</b>  Verify the drivers are installed on the computer (included with MIP Monitor Software Suite) and that the software has had</p>

Problem	Possible cause and recommended solution
	<p>sufficient time to detect it. <a href="#">See Software Installation on page 11</a></p> <p><b>2.4 serial baud rate setting (not applicable to USB devices)</b></p> <p>The host computer serial port baud rate and the sensor baud settings must match in order for communication be established. In MIP Monitor this occurs automatically and the baud rate can only be changed once initial communication is established. To change the baud rate in MIP Monitor select Settings &gt; System and select the desired rate.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> if the baud rate is set higher than the computer serial port is capable of reading, communication will be permanently lost with the device. To recover, it will need to be connected to a higher speed port, connected via USB cable, or sent to LORD MicroStrain® for reconfiguration.</p> <p><b>2.5 sensor or cables are damaged</b></p> <p>Verify all connections, power, and settings. If available, try installing an alternate cable or sensor one at a time to see if the faulty device can be identified. If no conclusion can be determined, or to send a device in for repair, contact LORD MicroStrain® Technical Support (<a href="#">See Technical Support on page 53</a>).</p>
<b>3. DATA ACQUISITION</b> sensor data is missing or incorrect	<p><b>3.1 sampling settings are incorrect</b></p> <p>If the expected measurements or the sampling rate are displaying or recorded as expected, enter the Device Settings menu and verify the sampling settings.</p>
	<p><b>3.2 streaming has not started</b></p> <p>If data streaming is occurring the sensor device status indicator will also be flashing to indicate sampling. In MIP Monitor the device status information field will indicate Streaming. If the sensor is not streaming data, activate it in the software.</p>
	<p><b>3.3 heading data incorrect</b></p> <p>If the magnetometers have not been field-calibrated erroneous heading data could result.</p>

Problem	Possible cause and recommended solution
	<p><b>3.4 sensor data not recorded</b></p> <p>Verify data recording has been activated. In MIP Monitor the device status information field will indicate Recording Data. If the sensor is not recording, activate it in the software. Verify specific measurements have been enable for sampling and recording.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Data in the data files are displayed in time sequence. If measurements are set to different sample rates, not all time intervals will include a reading from each output that is being recorded.</p>
	<p><b>3.5 sensor data recorded in binary format</b></p> <p>When data recording is started the user can choose between CSV and Binary output formats. If the data is recorded in Binary format it will require a translation program that utilizes the LORD MicroStrain® MIP Data Communications Protocol to make it human readable.</p>
	<p><b>3.6 sensor has been magnetized</b></p> <p>Contact or close proximity with magnets may disrupt the sensor operation and cause magnetization of internal components, which can affect magnetometer performance. If magnetization is suspected, use a degaussing tool to demagnetize.</p>
	<p><b>3.7 sensor is damaged</b></p> <p>With the sensor in a static neutral position data look for baseline offset or drift on the IMU sensor outputs. Sensor damage can occur as a result of excessive g-force other conditions outside of its operating specifications.</p>

## 8.2 Repair and Calibration



### General Instructions

In order to return any LORD MicroStrain® product, you must contact LORD MicroStrain® Sales or Technical Support to obtain a Return Merchandise Authorization(RMA)number. All returned merchandise must be in the original packaging including manuals, accessories, cables, etc. with the authorization (RMA#) clearly printed on the outside of the package. Removable batteries should be removed and packaged in separate protective wrapping. Please have the LORD MicroStrain® model number and serial number, as well as your name, organization, shipping address, telephone number, and email. Normal turn-around for RMA items is 7 days from receipt of item by LORD MicroStrain®.



### Warranty Repairs

LORD MicroStrain® warrants its products to be free from defective material and workmanship for a period of one (1) year from the original date of purchase. LORD MicroStrain® will repair or replace, at its discretion, a defective product if returned to LORD MicroStrain® within the warranty period. This warranty does not extend to any LORD MicroStrain® products which have been subject to misuse, alteration, neglect, accident, incorrect wiring, mis-programming, or use in violation of operating instructions furnished by LORD MicroStrain®. It also does not extend to any units altered or repaired for warranty defect by anyone other than LORD MicroStrain®.



### Non-Warranty Repairs

All non-warranty repairs/replacements include a minimum charge. If the repair/replacement charge exceeds the minimum, LORD MicroStrain® will contact the customer for approval to proceed beyond the minimum with the repair/replacement.

### 8.3 Technical Support

There are many resources for product support found on the LORD MicroStrain® website including technical notes, FAQs, and product manuals.

[http://www.microstrain.com/support\\_overview.aspx](http://www.microstrain.com/support_overview.aspx)

For further assistance our technical support engineers are available to help with technical and applications questions.

**Technical Support**

[sensing\\_support@LORD.com](mailto:sensing_support@LORD.com)

**Phone:** 802-862-6629  
**Fax:** 802-863-4093

**SKYPE:** microstrain.orientation.support

Live Chat is available from the website during business hours:  
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Eastern Time US & Canada)

## 9. Maintenance

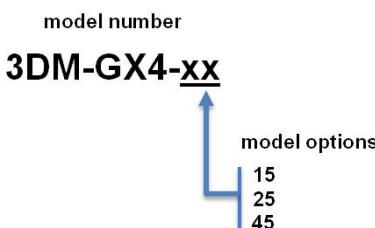
There are no user-serviceable parts on the 3DM-GX4-25™. Removing the device cover or disassembling in any way will void the product warranty.

## 10. Parts and Configurations

### 10.1 Standard Configurations

For the most current product information, custom, and OEM options not listed below, refer to the LORD MicroStrain® website or contact the LORD MicroStrain® Sales Department.

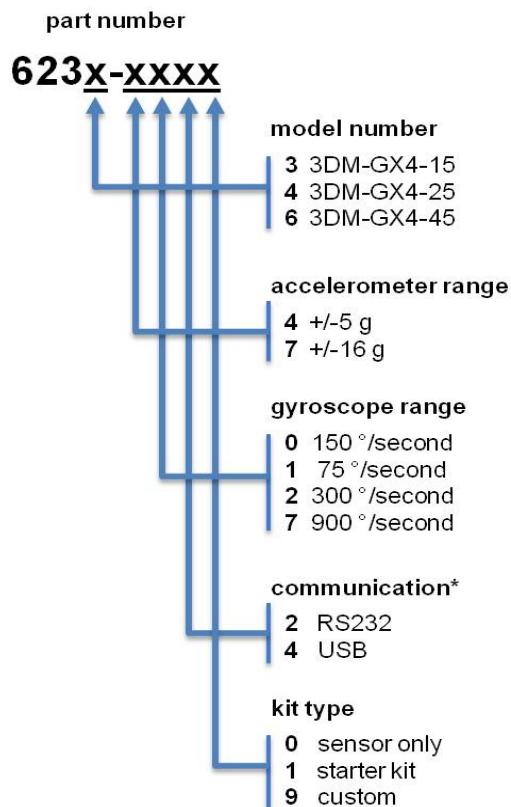
*Table 6 - Model Numbers* describes the standard models available at the time this manual was published. Once a model is selected, the part number is further defined by desired configuration and interface options. The model determines the first four digits of the product part number while the options are indicated in the last four digits (*Figure 32 - Standard Part Numbers*).



model number	triaxial accelerometers	triaxial gyroscope	triaxial magnetometer	internal GPS receiver	altitude measurements	Adaptive Kalman Filter	Extended Kalman Filter	part number
3DM-GX4-15	X	X			X	X		6233-xxxx
3DM-GX4-25	X	X	X		X	X		6234-xxxx
3DM-GX4-45	X	X	X	X	X		X	6236-xxxx

**Table 6 - Model Numbers**

The same options are available in each model, and are indicated in the last four digits of the product part number. For a list of the starter kit contents, [see Components on page 8](#).



\*Communication option is only for the selection of the cable provided in starter kits. The sensor is capable of RS232 and USB communication. Use 2 for sensor only kits.

**Figure 32 - Standard Part Numbers**

Description	LORD MicroStrain® Part Number
3DM-GX4-15 Starter Kit (RS232, +/-5g, 300°/sec)	<b>6233-4221</b>
3DM-GX4-15 Starter Kit (USB, +/-5g, 300°/sec)	<b>6233-4241</b>
3DM-GX4-25 Starter Kit (RS232, +/-5g, 300°/sec)	<b>6234-4221</b>
3DM-GX4-25 Starter Kit (USB, +/-5g, 300°/sec)	<b>6234-4241</b>
3DM-GX4-45 Starter Kit (RS232, +/-5g, 300°/sec)	<b>6236-4221</b>
3DM-GX4-45 Starter Kit (USB, +/-5g, 300°/sec)	<b>6236-4241</b>

**Table 7 - Example Part Numbers**

## 10.2 Accessories

The following parts are available for use with the 3DM-GX4™ and some are included in sensor starter kits. For the most current product information refer to the LORD MicroStrain® website or contact the Sales Department. [See Sales Support on page 58.](#)

Description	LORD MicroStrain® Part Number
RS232 communications cable	4005-0037
USB communications cable	9022-0019
Power supply (RS232 systems only)	9011-0009
Power supply country plug adapter kit (RS232 systems only)	9011-0022
MIP Monitor Software Suite flash drive	8200-0020
Sensor mating connector (micro-DB9) with flying leads	6224-0100

**Table 8 - Sensor Accessories**

Description	Ulti-Mate Connector Inc. part number
“A” Series or “P” Series 9-pin male Micro-D connector	PR09N05

**Table 9 - Sensor Mating Connector**

### 10.3 Sales Support

Products can be ordered directly from the LORD MicroStrain® website by navigating to the product page and using the Buy feature.

<http://www.microstrain.com/inertial>

For further assistance, our sales team is available to help with product selection, ordering options, and questions.

**Sales Support**

[sensing\\_sales@LORD.com](mailto:sensing_sales@LORD.com)

**Phone:** 802-862-6629

**Fax:** 802-863-4093

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Eastern Time US & Canada)

## 11. Safety Information

This section provides a summary of general safety precautions that must be understood and applied during operation and maintenance of components in the LORD MicroStrain® Inertial Sensor Products. Throughout the manual, ANSI Z535 standard safety symbols are used to indicate a process or component that requires cautionary measures.



Situations in which potentially hazardous conditions exist that could result in death or serious injury of workers and/or the general public if not avoided.



Situations where a non-immediate or potential hazard presents a lesser threat of injury that could result in minor or moderate injury to workers and/or the general public.



Situations where a non-immediate or potential hazard presents a risk to damage of property and equipment. May be used to indicate important operational conditions.

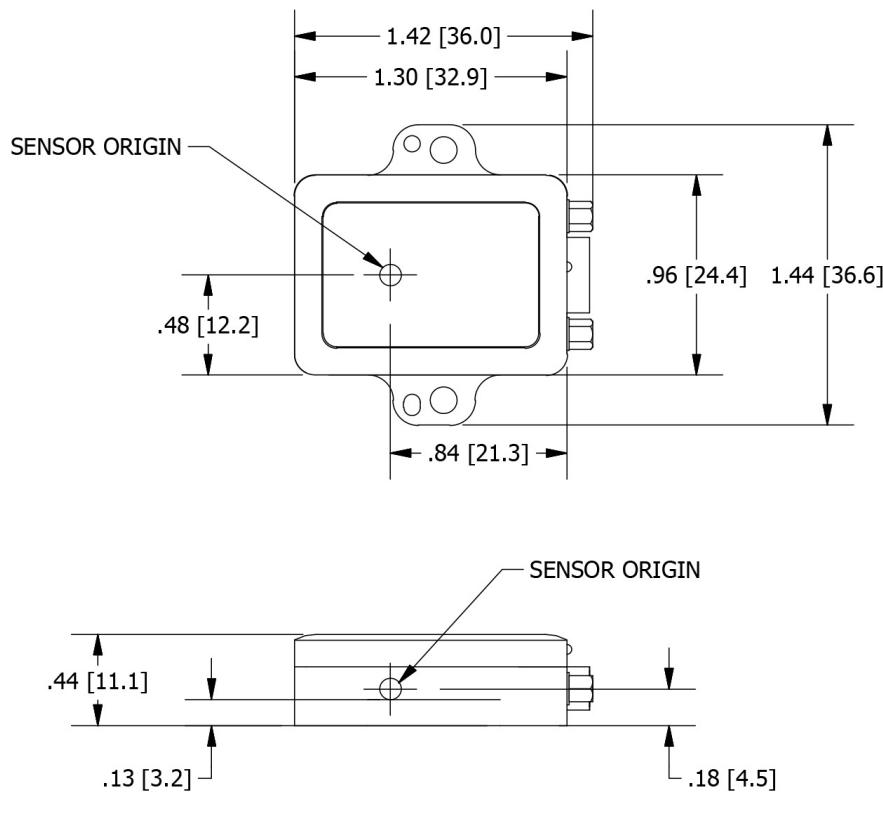
## 12. Addendum

### 12.1 Reference Diagrams

The diagrams in this section are intended to aid in product installation and troubleshooting. For more information contact LORD MicroStrain® Technical Support ([see Technical Support on page 53](#)).

#### 12.1.1 Sensor Dimensions and Origin

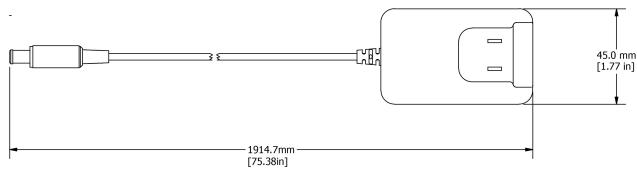
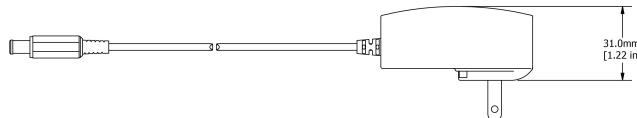
This diagram describes the sensor physical specification including the measurement point of origin.



**Figure 33 - Sensor Dimensions**

### 12.1.2 Power Supply Specifications (RS232 kits only)

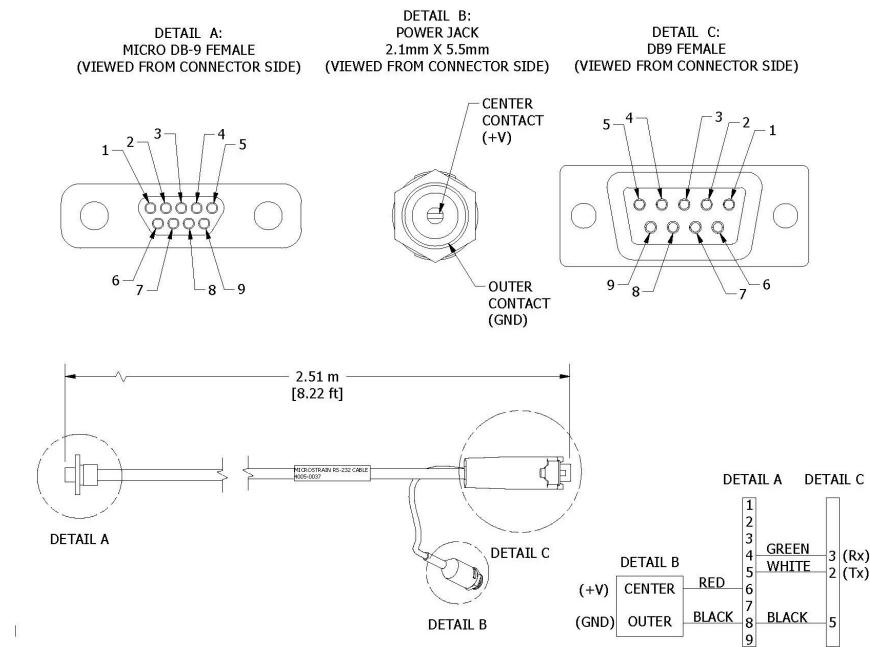
The power supply is only required for the RS232 devices. These specifications describe the power supply included in the 3DM-GX4™ starter kit.



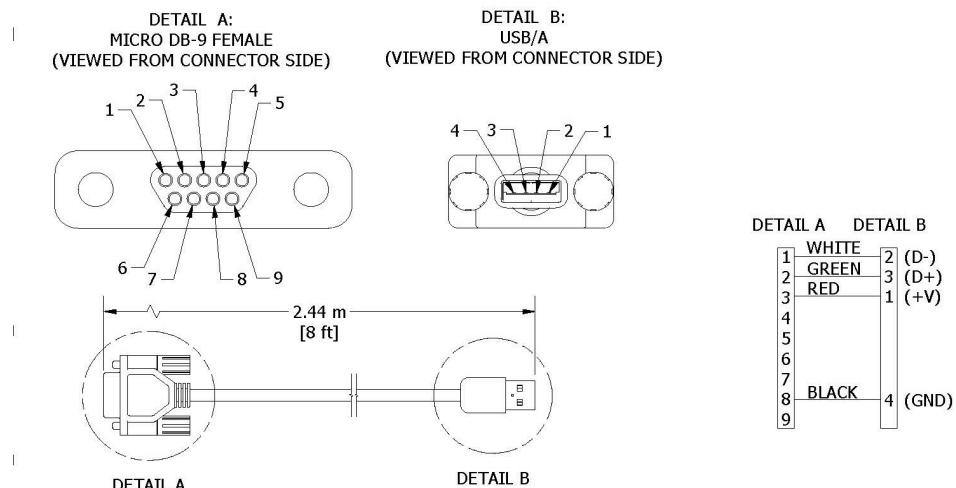
Operating Parameters	
AC input voltage rating	100 to 240 V ac
AC input voltage range	90 to 264 V ac
AC input current	0.25 A (RMS) maximum @ 120 V ac 0.125 A (RMS) maximum @ 240 V ac
Leakage current	0.25 mA maximum @ 254 V ac
Inrush current (cold start @ 25 °C)	< 30 A for 120 V ac @ maximum load < 60 A for 240 V ac @ maximum load
Input power saving (at no load)	0.3 W maximum
DC voltage rating	9 V dc
DC load capacity	0.56 A maximum
Ripple	90 mV peak to peak maximum
Regulation	± 5 % line and load
Efficiency	≥ 72.3 % average
Hold-up time	10 mS @ 120 V ac and maximum load
Circuit protection	> 120 %, auto restart
Over-voltage protection	> 120 %, zener clamp
Regulatory compliance	cUL/UL, TUV, SAA, CE, C-Tick, GS, EISA, N136
Environmental Parameters	
Operating temperature	0 °C to +40 °C
Storage temperature	-25 °C to +85 °C
Humidity	10 to 90 %
Emissions	FCC Class B, EN55022 Class B
Dielectric withstandning (hi-pot) test	Primary to secondary: 3000 V ac
Physical Specifications	
Dimensions	71.7 mm x 45 mm x 28.9 mm
Weight	120 g
DC output connector	2.1 mm x 5.5 mm center positive standard
Mating connector	Kycon KLD-0202-A or equivalent

### 12.1.3 Communication and Power Cables

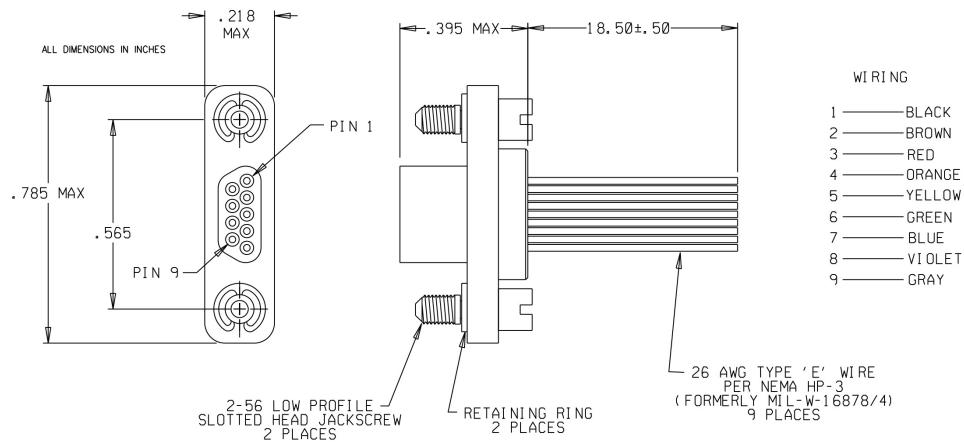
These diagrams describe the cables included in the 3DM-GX4™ starter kits. Only one is included, depending on the type of kit ordered.



**Figure 34 - Communications and power cable (RS232 Kits, PN: 4005-0037)**



**Figure 35 - Communications cable (USB Kits, PN: 9022-0019)**



**Figure 36 - Connector interface cable (sold separately, PN: 6224-0100)**

## 12.2 Reference Documents

Many references are available on the LORD MicroStrain® website including product user manuals, technical notes, and quick start guides. These documents are continuously updated and may provide more accurate information than printed or file copies.

Document	Where to find it
<b>3DM-GX4-25™ Software Developers Kit</b>	<a href="http://www.microstrain.com/software-development-kits-sdks">http://www.microstrain.com/software-development-kits-sdks</a>
<b>3DM-GX4-25™ MIP DCP Manual</b>	<a href="http://www.microstrain.com/support/docs">http://www.microstrain.com/support/docs</a>
<b>Product Technical Notes</b>	<a href="http://www.microstrain.com/support/docs">http://www.microstrain.com/support/docs</a>
<b>Product Application Notes</b>	<a href="http://www.microstrain.com/applications">http://www.microstrain.com/applications</a>
<b>Product Datasheets</b>	<a href="http://www.microstrain.com/wireless/sensors">http://www.microstrain.com/wireless/sensors</a>
<b>NIST Calibration Procedures</b>	<a href="http://www.nist.gov/calibrations/">http://www.nist.gov/calibrations/</a>
<b>ASTM Testing Procedures</b>	<a href="http://www.astm.org/Standard/standards-and-publications.html">http://www.astm.org/Standard/standards-and-publications.html</a>

**Table 10 - Document Resources**

## 12.3 Glossary

### A

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**A/D Value**

The digital representation of analog voltages in an analog-to-digital (A/D) conversion. The accuracy of the conversion is dependent on the resolution of the system electronics. Higher resolution produces a more accurate conversion.

**Acceleration**

In physics, acceleration is the change in the rate of speed (velocity) of an object over time.

**Accelerometer**

A sensor used to detect and measure magnitude and direction of an acceleration force (g-force) in reference to its sensing frame. For example, at rest perpendicular to the Earth's surface an accelerometer will measure 9.8 meters/second squared as a result of gravity. If the device is tilted the acceleration force will change slightly, indicating tilt of the device. When the accelerometer is moving it will measure the dynamic force (including gravity).

**Adaptive Filter**

An adaptive filter is a linear filter that contains an optimization algorithm that adapts to dynamic conditions. These filters are often complex and necessary to compensate for sensor anomalies.

**AHRS (Attitude and Heading Reference System)**

A navigation device consisting of sensors on the three primary axis used to measure vehicle direction and orientation in space. The sensor measurements are typically processed by an onboard algorithm, such as an Estimation Filter, to produce a standardized output of attitude and heading.

**Algorithm**

In math and science, an algorithm is a step-by-step process used for calculations.

**Altitude**

The distance an object is above the sea level

**Angular rate**

The rate of speed of which an object is rotating. Also known as angular frequency, angular speed or radial frequency. Typically measured in radians/second.

**API (Applications Programming Interface)**

A library and/or template for a computer program that specifies how components will work together to form a user application. For example, how hardware will be accessed and what data structures and variables will be used.

**ASTM (Association of Standards and Testing)**

A nationally accepted organization for testing and calibration of technological devices

**Attitude**

The orientation of an object in space with reference to a defined frame, such as the North, East, Down (NED) frame

**Azimuth**

A horizontal arc measured between a fixed point (such as true north) and the vertical circle passing through the center of an object

**B**

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**Bias**

A non-zero output signal of a sensor when no load is applied to it, typically due to sensor imperfections. Also called offset.

**C**

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**Calibration**

To standardize a measurement by determining the deviation standard and applying a correction, or calibration, factor

**Configuration**

A general term applied to the sensor indicating how it is set up for data acquisition. It includes settings such as sampling rate, active measurements, measurement settings, offsets, biases, and calibration values

**Convergence**

When mathematical computations approach a limit or a solution that is stable and optimal.

**D**

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**Data Acquisition**

The process of collecting data from sensors and other devices

**Data Logging**

The process of saving acquired data to the system memory, either locally on the device, or remotely on the host computer.

**Data rate**

The rate at which sampled data is transmitted to the host.

**Delta-Theta**

The time integral of angular rate expressed with reference to the device local coordinate system, in units of radians.

**Delta-velocity**

The time integral of velocity expressed with reference to the device local coordinate system, in units of g\*second where g is the standard gravitational constant.

---

**E****ECEF**

Earth Centered Earth Fixed is a reference frame that is fixed to the earth at the center of the earth and turning about earth's axis in the same way as the earth.

**Estimation Filter**

A mathematical algorithm that produces a statistically optimum solution using measurements and references from multiple sources. Best known estimation filters are the Kalman Filter and Extended Kalman Filter.

**Euler angles**

Euler angles are three angles used to describe the orientation of an object in space such as, the x, y and z or pitch, roll, and yaw. Euler angles can also represent a sequence of three elemental rotations around the axes of a coordinate system.

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**G****GPS (Global Positioning System)**

A network of space based satellites used to triangulate position coordinates and provide time information for navigational purposes.

**Gyroscope**

A device used to sense angular movements such as rotation.

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**H****Heading**

An object's direction of travel with reference to a coordinate frame, such as latitude and longitude.

**Host (computer)**

The host computer is the computer that orchestrates command and control of attached devices or networks.

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**I****IMU**

Inertial Measurement System

**Inclinometer**

Device used to measure tilt, or tilt and roll.

**Inertial**

Pertaining to systems that have inertia or are used to measure changes in inertia as in angular or linear accelerations.

**INS (Inertial Navigation System)**

Systems that use inertial measurements exclusively to determine position, velocity, and attitude given an initial reference.

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**K****Kalman Filter**

An algorithm that processes sensor data or other input data over time, factoring in underlying noise profiles by linearizing the current mean and covariance to make statistically optimal estimations of what the actual measurements should be.

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**L****LOS (Line of Sight)**

Line of Sight is an acronym used in wireless communications that describes the ideal condition between transmitting and receiving devices in a wireless network. As stated, it means they are in view of each other with no obstructions.

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**M****Magnetometer**

A type of sensor that measures the strength and direction of the local magnetic field with reference to the sensor frame. The magnetic field measured will be a combination of the earth's magnetic field and any magnetic field created by nearby objects.

**MEMS (Micro-Electro-Mechanical System)**

The technology of miniaturized devices typically made using micro fabrication techniques such as nanotechnology. The devices range in size from one micron to several millimeters and may include very complex electromechanical parts.

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**N****NED**

North, East, Down. A geographic reference system

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**O****OEM**

Original Equipment Manufacturer

**Offset**

A non-zero output signal of a sensor when no load is applied to it typically due to sensor imperfections. Also called bias.

**Orientation**

The orientation of an object in space with reference to a defined frame. Also called attitude.

---

**P****Pitch**

In navigation pitch is what occurs when vertical force is applied at a distance forward or aft from the center of gravity of the platform, causing it to move up or down with respect to the sensor or platform frame origin.

**Position**

The spatial location of an object

**PVA**

Position Velocity and Attitude

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**Q****Quaternion**

Mathematical notation for representing orientation and rotation of objects in three dimensions with respect to the fixed earth coordinate quaternion. Quaternions convert the axis-angle representation of the object into four numbers and to apply the corresponding rotation to a position vector representing a point relative to the origin.

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**R****Resolution**

In digital systems, the resolution is the number of bits or values available to represent analog

voltages or information. For example, a 12-bit system has 4096 bits of resolution and a 16-bit system has 65536 bits.

**RMS**

Root Mean Squared

**Roll**

In navigation roll is what occurs when a horizontal force is applied at a distance right or left from the center of gravity of the platform, causing it to move side to side with respect to the sensor or platform frame origin.

**RPY**

Roll, Pitch and Yaw

**RS232**

A serial data communications protocol

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**S****Sampling**

The process of taking measurements from a sensor or device.

**Sampling rate**

Rate at which the sensors are sampled.

**Sampling Rate**

The frequency of sampling

**Sensor**

A device that physically or chemically reacts to environmental forces and conditions and produces a predictable electrical signal as a result

**Sigma**

In statistics, sigma is the standard deviation from the mean of a data set.

**Space Vehicle Information**

Refers to GPS satellites

**Streaming**

Typically when a device is sending data at a specified data rate continuously without requiring a prompt from the host.

**U**

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**USB (Universal Serial Bus)**

A serial data communications protocol

**UTC (Coordinated Universal Time)**

The primary time standard for world clocks and time. It is similar to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

**V**

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**Vector**

A measurement with direction and magnitude with reference from one point in space to another

**Velocity**

The rate of change of position with respect to time. Also called speed.

**W**

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**WAAS (Wide Area Augmentation System)**

An air navigation aid developed to allow aircraft to rely on GPS for all phases of flight, including precision approaches to any airport.

**WGS (World Geodetic System)**

A protocol for geo-referencing such as WGS-84

**Y**

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**Yaw**

In navigation yaw is what occurs rotational force is applied at a distance forward or aft from the center of gravity of the platform, causing it to move around the center axis of a sensor or platform frame origin.