

Calibrate accelerometer from scratch

12 December 2025 12:39

Step 1: calibrate average z

- Set `one_gz = 1.0` and `offset_z = 0.0`
- Upload code to acc ---->
- Now acc screen displays measured voltage
 - o Record flat, perpendicular and upside down voltage
 - o For Battery powered acc this is:
 - `up_v = -10.72`
 - `Mid_v = -0.64`
 - `Down_v = 8.94`
- Set `one_gz` as the average of `-up_v` and `Down_v`
 - o This scale the difference on `up_v` and `down_v` to be 2
- `Offset_z` is the difference between the new value (`v/one_gz`) and the desired value (-1,0,1) times by `one_gz`
 - o For battery acc:
 - `One_gz = 9.83`
 - `Offset_v = -0.09*one_gz`
- Delete build folder in pico-examples
- Compile .uf2
- Upload to acc

Step 2: calibrate peak z

- Using swift shaker measure `pk_z` output at amplitudes of 0-150mv at 50Hz
 - o Peak to peak voltage measured using LVDT
 - `Amp_mv = Vpp/2`
 - Mv-mm conversion calculated by measuring a number of voltages around zero as LVDT is measured on traveling microscope (348.27 mv/mm)
 - Peak acceleration = $(\text{amp_mm} * (w**2))/g$
 - o This shaker is used as it produces a more uniform sin wave
- Plot accelerometer acceleration vs calculated acceleration
- Gradient of this line is `measures_scale` factor
- Alter this number in code and reupload again
- This final calibration is then tested again on swift's shaker before running a DC to acceleration calibration on each shaker and storing this on the z drive

Uploading code to accelerometers

Activate Accelerometer env

In Pico-examples:

1. `mkdir build`
2. `cd build`
3. `conda activate accelerometer`
4. `cmake -G "MinGW Makefiles" ..`
5. `cd accelerometer`
6. `make`

These steps will produce a `main.uf2` in `build` > RP2040-LCD-1.28

Plug the RP2040... into the computer with a cable but hold the boot button on the back at the same time. This should then mount like a usb drive and show up in file explorer.

Drag and drop the `uf2` file onto the device and it should automatically reboot and start running the code.

