

Android Sensors

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An Overview of Android Sensors

- What is a Sensor?
- Classes of Sensors
- Platform Support
- Sensor Framework
- Code Examples
- Demo Sensor App



What is a Sensor?

- Sensor: any device that converts energy into a useable signal
- Provides real time data from devices to help meet the needs of today's and tomorrow's end users
- Increases the overall usability of apps





Classes of Sensors

- Active: use energy from the environment to power the measurement
- Passive: inject energy into the environment in a particular manner and measure the reaction

Types of Sensors

- Proprioceptive: measure the internal state of the phone
 - Battery status
 - Hardware temperature
 - Hardware speeds
 - Any internal aspect of device
- Exteroceptive: measure information from the phone's environment
 - Object proximity
 - GPS
 - Ambient light
 - Any external aspect of device



Android Device Sensors

- Device has built-in sensors that measure motion, orientation, and various environmental conditions
- Provides raw data with high precision and accuracy
- Three broad categories: Motion, Environment, Position



Motion

- Measures acceleration forces and rotational forces along three axes
- Includes accelerometers, gravity sensors, gyroscopes, and rotational vector sensors.

Environment

- Measures ambient air temperature and pressure, illumination, and humidity
- Includes barometers, photometers, and thermometers.

Position

- Measures the physical position of a device
- Includes orientation sensors and magnetometers

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Platform Support

| Sensor | Android 4.0 (API Level 14) | Android 2.3 (API Level 9) | Android 2.2 (API Level 8) | Android 1.5 (API Level 3) |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| TYPE_ACCELEROMETER | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| TYPE_AMBIENT_TEMPERATURE | Yes | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| TYPE_GRAVITY | Yes | Yes | n/a | n/a |
| TYPE_GYROSCOPE | Yes | Yes | n/a ¹ | n/a ¹ |
| TYPE_LIGHT | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| TYPE_LINEAR_ACCELERATION | Yes | Yes | n/a | n/a |
| TYPE_MAGNETIC_FIELD | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| TYPE_ORIENTATION | Yes ² | Yes ² | Yes ² | Yes |
| TYPE_PRESSURE | Yes | Yes | n/a ¹ | n/a ¹ |
| TYPE_PROXIMITY | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| TYPE_RELATIVE_HUMIDITY | Yes | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| TYPE_ROTATION_VECTOR | Yes | Yes | n/a | n/a |
| TYPE_TEMPERATURE | Yes ² | Yes | Yes | Yes |

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| TYPE_LIGHT | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| TYPE_LINEAR_ACCELERATION | Yes | Yes | n/a | n/a |
| TYPE_MAGNETIC_FIELD | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| TYPE_ORIENTATION | Yes ² | Yes ² | Yes ² | Yes |
| TYPE_PRESSURE | Yes | Yes | n/a ¹ | n/a ¹ |
| TYPE_PROXIMITY | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| TYPE_RELATIVE_HUMIDITY | Yes | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| TYPE_ROTATION_VECTOR | Yes | Yes | n/a | n/a |
| TYPE_TEMPERATURE | Yes ² | Yes | Yes | Yes |

The diagram features a large, light gray circle centered on a dark gray background. Inside this circle, the text "Sensor Framework" is written in a bold, blue, italicized font. Below the title, there is a bulleted list of four components: "SensorManager", "Sensor", "SensorEvent", and "SensorEventListener". Two white arrows point towards the circle from the top left and top right corners of the image.

Sensor Framework

- SensorManager
- Sensor
- SensorEvent
- SensorEventListener

SensorManager

- Creates an instance of the sensor service.
- Provides methods for:
 - accessing and listing sensors
 - registering and unregistering sensor event listeners
 - acquiring orientation information
- Provides several sensor constants that are used to:
 - report sensor accuracy
 - set data acquisition rates
 - calibrate sensors

Sensor

- Creates an instance of a specific sensor.
 - TYPE_ACCELEROMETER
 - TYPE_AMBIENT_TEMPERATURE
 - TYPE_MAGNETIC_FIELD
- Provides various methods that let you determine a sensor's capabilities.
 - *public float getPower ()*
 - *public int getType ()*
 - *public String getName ()*

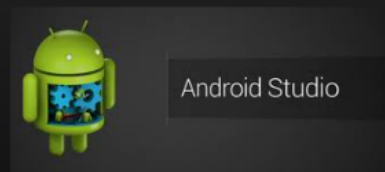
SensorEventListener

- Use this interface to create two callback methods that receive notifications (sensor events) when sensor values change or when sensor accuracy changes.
1. *onAccuracyChanged(Sensor sensor, int accuracy)*
 - Called when the accuracy of a sensor has changed.
 2. *onSensorChanged(SensorEvent event)*
 - Called when sensor values have changed.


SensorEvent

- System uses this class to create a sensor event object
- Provides information about a sensor event:
 - Raw sensor data
 - Type of sensor that generated the event
 - Accuracy of the data
 - Timestamp for the event

Code Examples



References

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- http://developer.android.com/guide/topics/sensors/sensors_overview.html
 - <http://developer.android.com/reference/android/hardware/SensorManager.html>
 - <http://developer.android.com/reference/android/hardware/Sensor.html>
 - <http://developer.android.com/reference/android/hardware/SensorEvent.html>
 - <http://developer.android.com/reference/android/hardware/SensorEventListener.html>
 - J. McGough. *Python Robotics.Rapid City: Class Notes, 2013.*

If you want to graph sensor data check out:
<http://android-graphview.org/>