




Foreword: This user manual is intended to be concise. It will start with a few “quick start” sections to get you moving quickly. For those who encounter problems or require more detail, do check the next few sections on movement types and PNA scanning options. Finally, some known issues and less frequently used features are discussed.

Please read this carefully. If all else fails, you may reach me via email.

Connect:

1. Choose from the available IP addresses/COM port numbers listed in the System Output menu.
2. In the following image, the chosen address/port to connect to is “COM14”:

GOpen() Address:   

The default address (as of June 2020) is **192.168.1.1**

3. Press “Connect”.

Note: Upon connection the program might freeze for a moment and the first few movements may be stuttering. The program should work fine after some seconds.

Quick start to movement (details in proceeding sections):

Preliminary steps (applicable to all movement types):

1. Select “Unit of Choice” under “Settings” > “Startup Config”. All entered values will be in the unit of choice, either mm or Stepper Units.

The next step is specific to General Relative Movement:

1. Click any button under “General Relative Movement” tab, to move the platform manually.

The next steps are specific to Special Movement:

1. Select “Mode” under “Special Movement” tab.
2. For Manual Input:
 - a. Set 1 start point. Example: 5, 8
 - b. Set 1 end point.
 - c. Set any number of intermediate points.
 - d. Configure PNA scanning options (section below).
 - e. Click the “Start Movement” button.
3. For segment input:
 - a. Set the segment coordinates by entering the desired value and clicking on the respective “start”, “end”, and “delta” buttons.
 - b. Click the “Add Segment” button to add the current segment to the queue (FIFO) of segments that will be run by the controller.
 - c. To add more segments, repeat the steps a-b any number of times.
 - d. Configure PNA scanning options (section below).
 - e. Click the “Start Movement” button. If you want to stop during the measurement, click “Stop Measurement”.

Quick start to PNA usage (details in proceeding sections):

Note:

- general relative movement does not support PNA scanning.
- Scanning is initiated every time a specified coordinate is reached.

Pre-movement steps:

1. Set the desired options in “Special Movement” > “PNA”

Post-movement steps:

1. Save PNA data
Or
2. Clear PNA data

Directions of the motor:

There are **3 axes**: Axis-a, axis-b, axis-c.

*To understand intuitively, press the buttons in “General Relative Movement”.

Axis-a: +ve (back), -ve (front)

Axis-b: +ve (left), -ve (right)

Axis-c: +ve (downwards), -ve (upwards)

The reference point/**origin** (0, 0, 0) is user determined: Click the “Set as Origin” button.

Henceforth, some terminology:

coordinates will refer to any integer combination of the 3 dimensions: Axis-a, Axis-b, Axis-c.

points are synonymous to coordinates.

segment will refer to a straight-line segment that has 3 parameters for each axis:

The 3 parameters per axis are: start, end and delta/increment

grid will refer to a sequence of segments that has the same parameters as an individual segment:

In pseudocode, you can imagine the movement to be 3 for-loops with Axis-b movement as the inner loop, Axis-a as the middle loop, and Axis-c movement as the outer loop.

for start Axis-c to end Axis-c:

for start Axis-a to end Axis-a:

for start Axis-b to end Axis-b:

Increment-by-unit in Axis-b;

Increment-by-unit in Axis-a;

Increment-by-unit in Axis-c;

In other words, with each increment-by-unit in Axis-a from start Axis-a to end Axis-a, the controller will move along Axis-b from start Axis-b to stop Axis-b, in increment-by-units of Axis-b. And repeat this from start Axis-c to end Axis-a in steps of increment-by-unit Axis-c.

Unit types:

1. Stepper units: the actual displacement is inherent to each controller. The only way to gauge is via manual measurement.
2. mm: a user calibrated estimation of standard mm.

Steps for user calibration of mm:

1. Select the tab under: "Settings" > "Calibration (reset on close)"
2. The value inserted into the text box will be the user's estimation of *stepper units / mm*.
Note: This calibration is reset to its default on closing the application.
3. Press the enter key. The calibration is complete.

Movements:

The movement types currently supported are:

Movement Type	Brief explanation/ comparison
General Relative Movement	On button click, moves a set (user determined or default) distance in the selected unit (stepper unit or mm).
Special Movement -> Manual Input	On "Start Movement" button click, moves iteratively to individual coordinates set by the user. Stepper units and mm are both allowed, according to the selected unit.
Special Movement -> Segment Input	On "Start Movement" button click, moves along the grid set by the user. The grid (above section) pattern is fixed. However, the user can choose the start and end points and increment-by units for each dimension. Linear and cubic (3D) measurements are also supported. "Axis-c drop bar by" allows to lower the measurement probe at each measurement according to the inputted value. This function is only available for measurements in the A-B axis plan. The "Even Row Offset" allows to offset every second axis-a row to make measurements in a hexagonal grid pattern. Stepper units and mm are both allowed, according to the selected unit.

Other predefined convenience movements (located on top menu as buttons):

1. Return to Origin
2. Set as Origin

Movement type explanations in more detail:

General Relative Movement:

1. Default value: 10000 stepper units / 40 mm.
2. The value applies to all axes uniformly.
3. To change the value: Input the desired value into the "Distance ..." text box and press enter.

Special Movement:

1. The movement pattern is as follows:
 - a. Move to coordinate specified by axis-a, axis-b and axis-c.
 - i. Move only axis-c to **drop** position (set via "Axis-c drop bar by" button). This functionality is only available for measurements in the A-B axis plane.
 - b. Start and complete PNA scanning.
 - i. Move only axis-c to resting position.
 - c. Continue to next coordinate and repeat (i.e. repeat steps a-b).
2. All initial values (i.e. start, stop, increment positions for manual input mode, and corresponding positions for segment input mode) are initialized to 0.

Special Movement -> Manual Input:

1. Input format: "Axis-a-coordinate, Axis-b-coordinate"

Note: The comma and space.

2. Input your values in the following child tabs of "Special Movement":
 - a. Manual Input
 - b. Axis-c Drop Bar

Special Movement -> Segment Input:

1. Input format: "Axis coordinate"
2. Input your values in the following child tabs of "Special Movement":
 - a. Segment Input
 - b. Axis-c Drop Bar
 - c. Even Row Offset for Hexagonal Grids
3. Axis-c Drop Bar, drops the bar in the c direction for each measurement, according to the entered value. This allows to insert the measurement probe into an opening.
4. "Offset Input" applies an offset in the axis-b direction to the coordinates of every second row in the axis-a direction.

5. Explanation on the coordinates that are to be set in “Segment Input”:

Point Input (Format "Z"):		
A (start)	A (end)	A (delta)
B (start)	B (end)	B (delta)
C (start)	C (end)	C (delta)

- Start coordinate: (A (start), B(start), C(start))
- End coordinate: (A (end), B(end), C(end))
- The movement progresses from start to end via steps of (A(delta), B(delta), C(delta)) increments
- If the entered values don't add up, a window pops up and requests to check the entered values.
- Note: none of the A, B and C options need to be the same.

PNA Scanning:

1. Scanning options are located in “Special Movement” -> “PNA”
 - a. The interpretations are identical to the original PNA GUIs, please refer to their documentation.
2. On saving and clearing PNA data (located in the top left corner of the application):
 - a. Data is appended to the existing cached PNA data, that is, data obtained from previous scans, after the completion of movements initiated by clicking the “Start Movement” button.
 - b. To clear the cached data, press the “Clear PNA data” button.
 - c. Else, press the “Save PNA data” button.

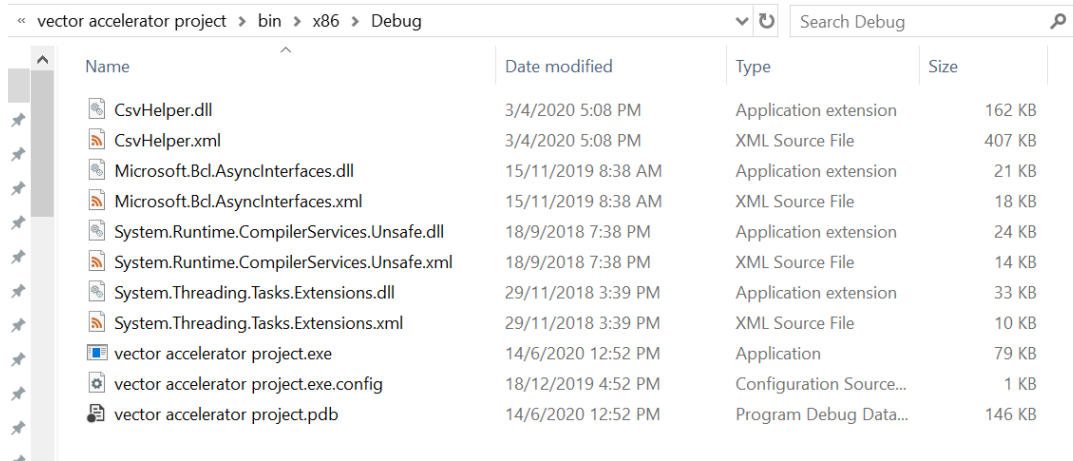
Slew speed configuration:

1. To change the slew speed for each axis: locate the buttons under textbox “Settings” > “Startup Config” > “Slew speed”.
2. Type in the desired value in the selected unit. Be aware of the maximum allowed slew speeds:
 - Axis-a,b: ≤ 25000 stepper units/s or 100 mm/s
 - Axis-c: ≤ 500000 stepper units/s or 20 mm/s
3. Default values (expressed in stepper units/s):
 - a. Axis-a and Axis-b: 10000
 - b. Axis-c: 400000

Known issues:

1. Startup issues troubleshooting:

Make sure the required packages are available. For reference:



<< vector accelerator project >> bin > x86 > Debug					Search Debug
Name	Date modified	Type	Size		
CsvHelper.dll	3/4/2020 5:08 PM	Application extension	162 KB		
CsvHelper.xml	3/4/2020 5:08 PM	XML Source File	407 KB		
Microsoft.Bcl.AsyncInterfaces.dll	15/11/2019 8:38 AM	Application extension	21 KB		
Microsoft.Bcl.AsyncInterfaces.xml	15/11/2019 8:38 AM	XML Source File	18 KB		
System.Runtime.CompilerServices.Unsafe.dll	18/9/2018 7:38 PM	Application extension	24 KB		
System.Runtime.CompilerServices.Unsafe.xml	18/9/2018 7:38 PM	XML Source File	14 KB		
System.Threading.Tasks.Extensions.dll	29/11/2018 3:39 PM	Application extension	33 KB		
System.Threading.Tasks.Extensions.xml	29/11/2018 3:39 PM	XML Source File	10 KB		
vector accelerator project.exe	14/6/2020 12:52 PM	Application	79 KB		
vector accelerator project.exe.config	18/12/2019 4:52 PM	Configuration Source...	1 KB		
vector accelerator project.pdb	14/6/2020 12:52 PM	Program Debug Data...	146 KB		

2. When trying to run the executable file (vector accelerator project.exe), receive an error of the form: "Requires .NET framework X.XX.X , install now?"

a. Solutions (choose either):

- reconfigure target framework when building the project, to align with the .NET framework version installed on your PNA machine. To check for the version (2nd solution): <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/1565434/how-do-i-find-the-net-version>
- Download the required version onto the PNA (untested)

To compile/build and develop for a PNA machine:

Important note: this is tested on a PNA machine that:

- Runs Windows 7, x86 architecture.
- Has a USB port

Development platform: Visual Studio (2017/2019/2022)

To develop for other machines: again, this has been only tested with the above setup. However, I am quite certain it will run properly on Windows 10. If USB port is not present, you will need to figure out how to connect the PNA to your PC (for transferring the .exe files, etc), via LAN.

Step by step guide:

- Obtain the source code from google drive, with this path: "PNA Project Cloud Files -> GCLIB_GUI-Newmark-Agilent-".
- On your development PC, install gclib package:
 - Not all versions work. Depends on Windows version.
 - For PNA with Windows 7 installed, install the gclib package from the executable located on google drive, with this path "PNA Project Cloud Files -> galil_gclib_450.exe"

- c. Purpose: this allows you to use the galil library functions, that control the motion controller.
 3. On your development PC, install PNAProxy.exe
 - a. Obtain this .exe file from either:
 - i. (strongly recommended) On drive, with this path "PNA Project Cloud Files -> PNAProxy.exe"
 - ii. Any PNA machine. Commonly at this path "Program Files / Keysight / Network Analyzer / Automation".
 - b. Note: PNAProxy.exe files on certain PNA machines are broken. I.e. the following error message will be prompted: "Error Reading Setup Initialization File". This is possibly due to file corruption. Fortunately, a PNAProxy.exe file from **any** PNA machine can work.
 - c. Place this .exe in your development PC. Execute it, following the instructions.
 - i. Note: the Computer Name needs to be filled in properly. Locate it by following the instructions, on your PNA machine.
 - d. Once the installation completes, navigate to this path: "C:\Program Files (x86)\Common Files\Agilent\PNA". Note the file **835x.tlb**
 - e. On Visual Studio, load your PNA project (i.e. the Visual Studio Project that you will use to build the executable file, complete with the GUI for use, that will be run on the PNA machine).
 - i. Right click on the project in the "Solution Explorer".
 - ii. Click on "Add -> References".
 - iii. Browse to the location of the **835x.tlb** file, and press OK.
 - iv. Purpose: this loads the PNA API onto your development PC.
 4. Ensure that you have installed CsvHelper on Visual Studio.
 - a. Note: this comes pre-installed if you used downloaded source code in Step 1, as your Visual Studio Project.
 5. Build the project with these settings:
 - a. for a x86 CPU.
 - b. Target Framework: .NET Framework 4.7.2
 - c. Note: these settings varies according to the PNA machine used.
 6. Navigate to the "bin/ x86 / debug " directory of your Visual Studio Project.
 7. Copy the entire folder's contents. Place them in your PNA machine. Ready to run.

To obtain the current built (working) executable file:

1. Navigate on google drive to this directory: "PNA Project Cloud Files -> Final executable backup".
 - a. Or alternatively, you may obtain this same directory, "Final executable backup", at: https://github.com/patrickkon/GCLIB_GUI-Newmark-Agilent-
2. Copy the entire directory, place it on your PNA machine.
3. Execute "vector accelerator project.exe".

Change Log:

Date	Changes	Name
21.03.2025	Several improvements of the measurement program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of stop button, to stop a program in the middle of a measurement. • Changed default C-axis unit from 14970 to 25000 steps/mm. • Relocated “set as origin” button so that it is not obscured by “Disconnect” button. 	Silvan Ammann
05.04.2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of grid measurement in any two axis, and 3D (cube) measurements are also possible. • All values can now be inputted in the selected format (stepper unit, mm). • Reduced the amount of messages printed into the “System Output” window, because it slows down the measurements. 	Silvan Ammann
16.04.2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented a “Even Row Offset” function, which allows to make measurements in a hexagonal grid pattern instead of a square pattern. • Removed the “Normal” and “Grid” buttons, because both functionalities can be achieved with the same settings. 	Silvan Ammann
23.04.2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floating point number are now also accepted for entering coordinates for the manual movement. • Removed the “C-axis resting position” feature, because this functionality is now covered by entering the desired c-axis coordinates. 	Silvan Ammann
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