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ADXL345 Quick Start Guide
by Tomoaki Tusuzki

PHYSICAL MOUNTING

The ADXL345 is 3-axis accelerometer. The sensing axes are shown in Figure 1.

The ADXL345 senses positive acceleration when it is accelerated in the positive direction of the sensing axes. The user must be careful when sensing gravity because positive acceleration is sensed when the direction of the sensing axis is opposite to gravity. Figure 2 shows the output response to gravity.

The ADXL345 is supplied in a small, thin, 3 mm × 5 mm × 1 mm, 14-lead, plastic package. Refer to the ADXL345 data sheet for recommended printed circuit board land pattern.
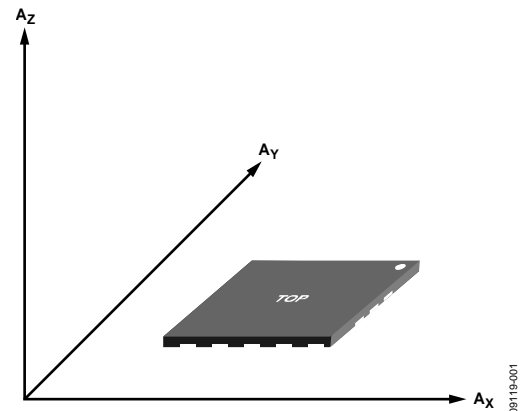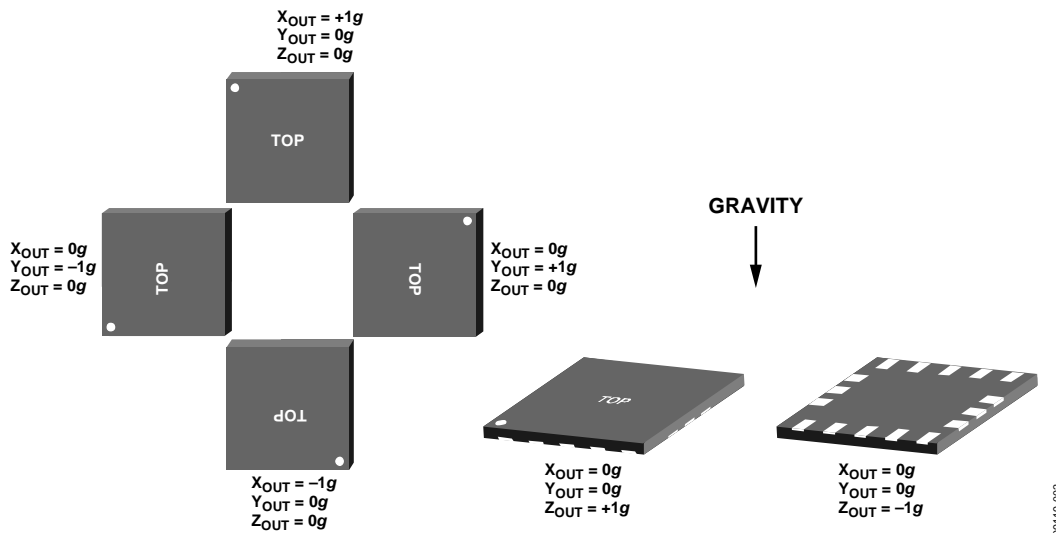

Figure 1. Sensing Axes of ADXL345

Figure 2. Output Response vs. Orientation to Gravity

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ELECTRICAL CONNECTION

ADXL345 communication is done via either I²C or SPI (3- or 4-wire mode). Figure 3 shows the recommended electrical connections for 4-wire SPI mode. Note that the SDO pin can be disconnected when using 3-wire SPI mode.

Figure 4 shows the recommended electrical connection for I²C mode. The 7-bit I²C address for the device is 0x53, followed by the R/W̄ bit. The user can select an alternate I²C address by connecting the SDO/ALT ADDRESS pin to the $V_{DD\ I/O}$ pin. The 7-bit I²C address for that configuration is 0x1D, followed by the R/W̄ bit.

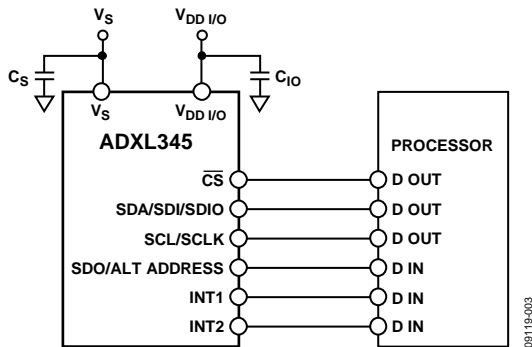Refer to the ADXL345 data sheet for details on power supply decoupling.

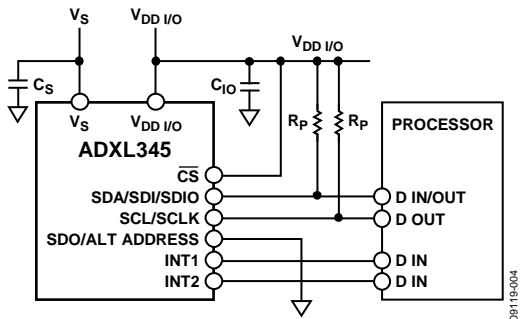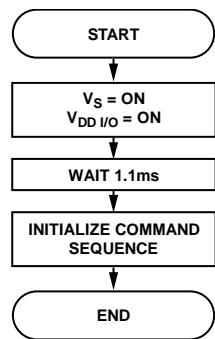*Figure 3. Recommended Connection for 4-Wire SPI Mode*

Figure 4. Recommended Connection for I²C Mode

COMMUNICATION INTERFACE

Table 1 gives the list of typical configuration settings for the master processor requirements for SPI communication with the ADXL345. These settings are normally in control registers. Refer to the ADXL345 data sheet for timing specification and a command sequence.

Table 1. SPI Settings

Processor Setting	Description
Master	ADXL345 operates as slave
SPI Mode	Clock polarity (CPOL) = 1
	Clock phase (CPHA) = 1
Bit Sequence	MSB first mode

For I²C communication, refer to the ADXL345 data sheet and *UM10204 I²C-Bus Specification and User Manual*, Rev. 03—19 June 2007 for processor settings as well as timing specifications and a command sequence.

Sometimes it is important to confirm the validity of a communication sequence before going to the next design stage. This can be done by reading the DEVID register (Address 0x00). It is a read only register that contains 0xE5. If the data read from DEVID is not 0xE5, it is the indication that either the physical connection or command sequence is incorrect.

INITIALIZATION

Figure 5 shows the minimum initialization sequence. The ADXL345 operates in a 100 Hz ODR with a DATA_READY interrupt on the INT1 pin during this start-up sequence. When setting other interrupts or using the FIFO, it is recommended that those registers used are set before the POWER_CTL and INT_ENABLE registers. Refer to the ADXL345 data sheet and the AN-1025 application note for other operation modes of ADXL345 and details about FIFO.

STEP	REGISTER ADDRESS	REGISTER NAME	DATA	DESCRIPTION
1	0x31	DATA_FORMAT	0x0B	±16*g*, 13-BIT MODE
2	0x2D	POWER_CTL	0x08	START MEASUREMENT
3	0x2E	INT_ENABLE	0x80	ENABLE DATA_READY INTERRUPT.

Figure 5. Minimum Initialization Sequence

READING OUTPUT DATA

The DATA_READY interrupt signal indicates that 3-axis of acceleration data is updated in the data registers. It is latched high when new data is ready. (The interrupt can be configured to be latched from low-to-high through the DATA_FORMAT register. Refer to the ADXL345 data sheet for details.) Use the low-to-high transition to trigger action on an interrupt service routine. Data is read from the DATAX0, DATAX1, DATAY0, DATAY1, DATAZ0, and DATAZ1 registers. To ensure data coherency, it is recommended that multibyte reads are used to retrieve data from the ADXL345. Figure 7 shows the read sequence example for 4-wire SPI.

DATA FORMAT

The data format of the ADXL345 is 16 bits. Once acceleration data is acquired from data registers, the user must reconstruct the data. DATAX0 is the low byte register for X-axis acceleration and DATAX1 is the high byte register. In 13-bit mode, the upper 4 bits are sign bits (see Figure 6). Note that

other data formats are available by setting the DATA_FORMAT register. See the ADXL345 data sheet for more details.

The ADXL345 uses twos complement data format. When in 13-bit mode, 1 LSB represents about 3.9 m*g*.

Table 2. ADXL345 Output Data Format

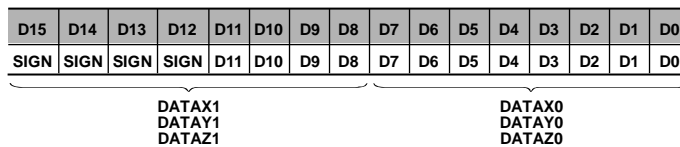| 16-Bit Code (Hex)	Twos Complement Representation (Dec)	Acceleration (m*g*)
0FFF	4095	+1599
…	…	…
0002	+2	+7.8
0001	+1	+3.9
0000	0	0
FFFF	−1	−3.9
FFFE	−2	−7.8
…	…	…
F000	−4095	−1600

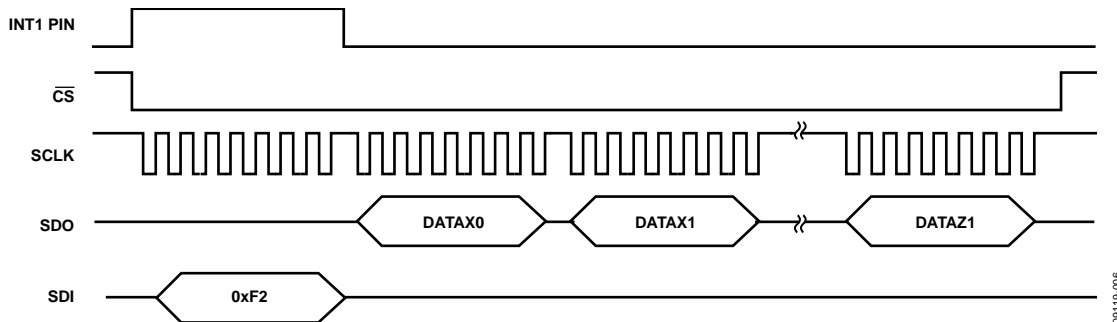
Figure 6. Data Construction

Figure 7. Data Read Timing Sequence for 4-Wire SPI Connection

USING THE SELF-TEST FEATURE

The ADXL345 provides a self-test feature that enables an electromechanical test on the device without external mechanical stimulus. Figure 8 outlines a recommended self-test sequence. Note that the ADXL345 should be placed in a stable environment when conducting the self-test sequence.

STEP	REGISTER ADDRESS	REGISTER NAME	DATA	DESCRIPTION
1	0x31	DATA_FORMAT	0x0B	±16*g*, 13-BIT MODE
2	0x2D	POWER_CTL	0x08	START MEASUREMENT
3	0x2E	INT_ENABLE	0x80	ENABLE DATA_READY INTERRUPT

WHEN AT ODR = 100Hz (WAIT TIME DEPENDS ON ODR SETTLING AND 1.1ms + 1/ODR)

IT IS TO MINIMIZE THE EFFECT OF NOISE

STEP	REGISTER ADDRESS	REGISTER NAME	DATA	DESCRIPTION
1	0x31	DATA_FORMAT	0x8B	SELF-TEST ON, ±16*g*, 13-BIT MODE

IT IS TO MINIMIZE THE EFFECT OF NOISE

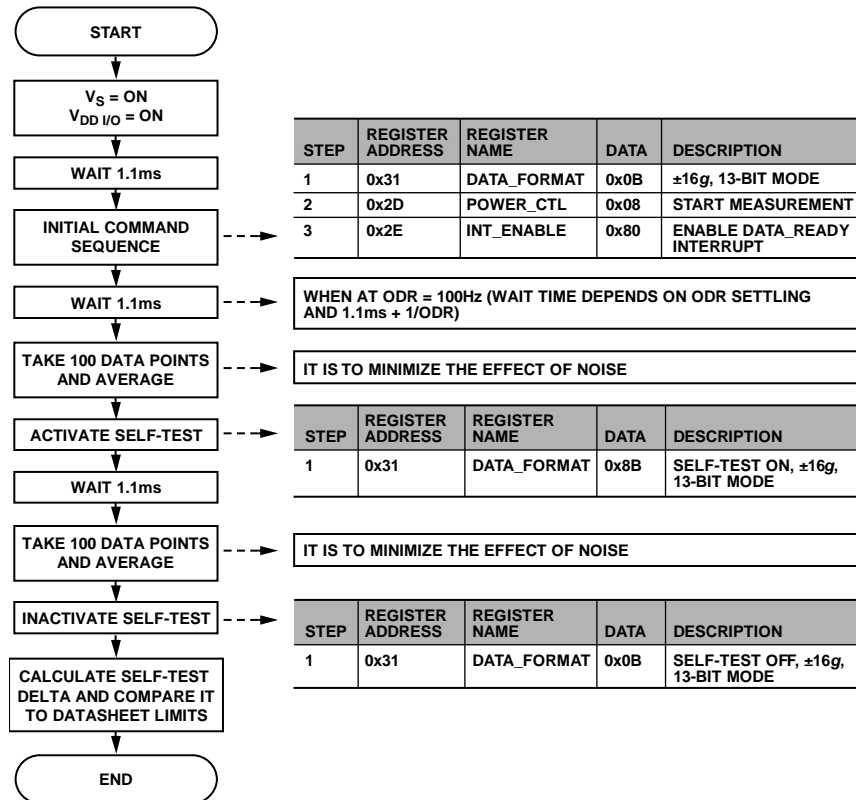| STEP	REGISTER ADDRESS	REGISTER NAME	DATA	DESCRIPTION
1	0x31	DATA_FORMAT	0x0B	SELF-TEST OFF, ±16*g*, 13-BIT MODE

Figure 8. Self-Test Sequence

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USING OFFSET REGISTERS

The ADXL345 has offset registers that facilitate offset calibration. The data format for the offset registers is 8-bit, twos compliment. The resolution of the offset registers is about 15.6 mg/LSB. If offset calibration must be finer than 15.6 mg/LSB, the calibration needs to be done at the processor. The offset register adds the value written in the register to measured acceleration. For example, if the offset is +156 mg, then

−156 mg should be written to offset register. Figure 9 shows the typical offset calibration sequence.

For this routine, X/Y axes errors are zero when 0 g input is applied, whereas Z-axis errors are zero when 1 g input is applied. Greater accuracy can be achieved if it is possible to rotate the ADXL345 at calibration.
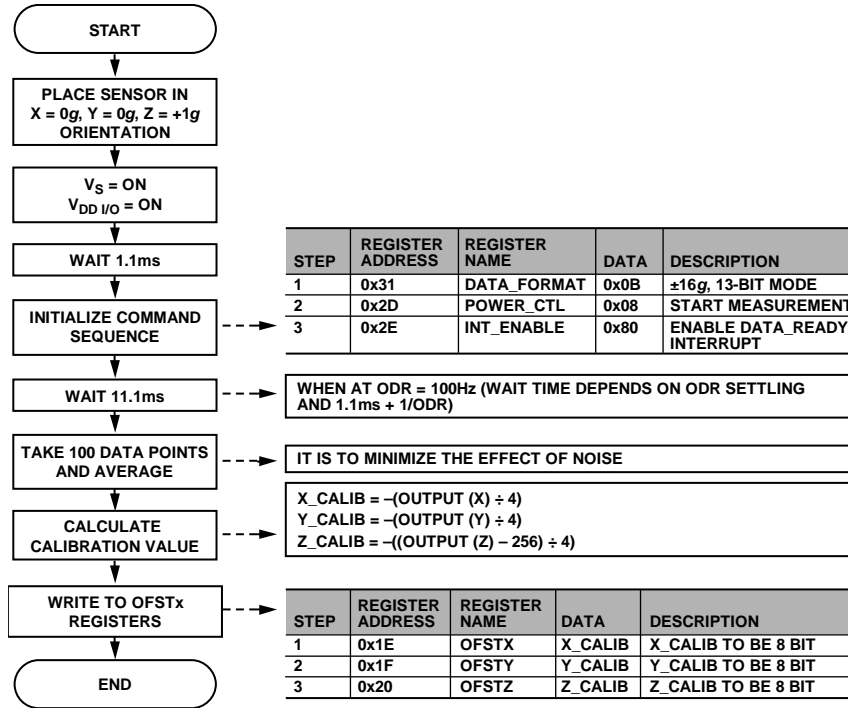
START

PLACE SENSOR IN
X = 0g, Y = 0g, Z = +1g
ORIENTATION

V_S = ON
$V_{DD I/O}$ = ON

WAIT 1.1ms

INITIALIZE COMMAND SEQUENCE

STEP	REGISTER ADDRESS	REGISTER NAME	DATA	DESCRIPTION
1	0x31	DATA_FORMAT	0x0B	±16g, 13-BIT MODE
2	0x2D	POWER_CTL	0x08	START MEASUREMENT
3	0x2E	INT_ENABLE	0x80	ENABLE DATA_READY INTERRUPT

WAIT 11.1ms

WHEN AT ODR = 100Hz (WAIT TIME DEPENDS ON ODR SETTLING AND 1.1ms + 1/ODR)

TAKE 100 DATA POINTS AND AVERAGE

IT IS TO MINIMIZE THE EFFECT OF NOISE

CALCULATE CALIBRATION VALUE

X_CALIB = −(OUTPUT (X) ÷ 4)
Y_CALIB = −(OUTPUT (Y) ÷ 4)
Z_CALIB = −((OUTPUT (Z) − 256) ÷ 4)

WRITE TO OFSTx REGISTERS

STEP	REGISTER ADDRESS	REGISTER NAME	DATA	DESCRIPTION
1	0x1E	OFSTX	X_CALIB	X_CALIB TO BE 8 BIT
2	0x1F	OFSTY	Y_CALIB	Y_CALIB TO BE 8 BIT
3	0x20	OFSTZ	Z_CALIB	Z_CALIB TO BE 8 BIT

END

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Figure 9. Offset Calibration Sequence

NOTES

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