

Sensor node/mote

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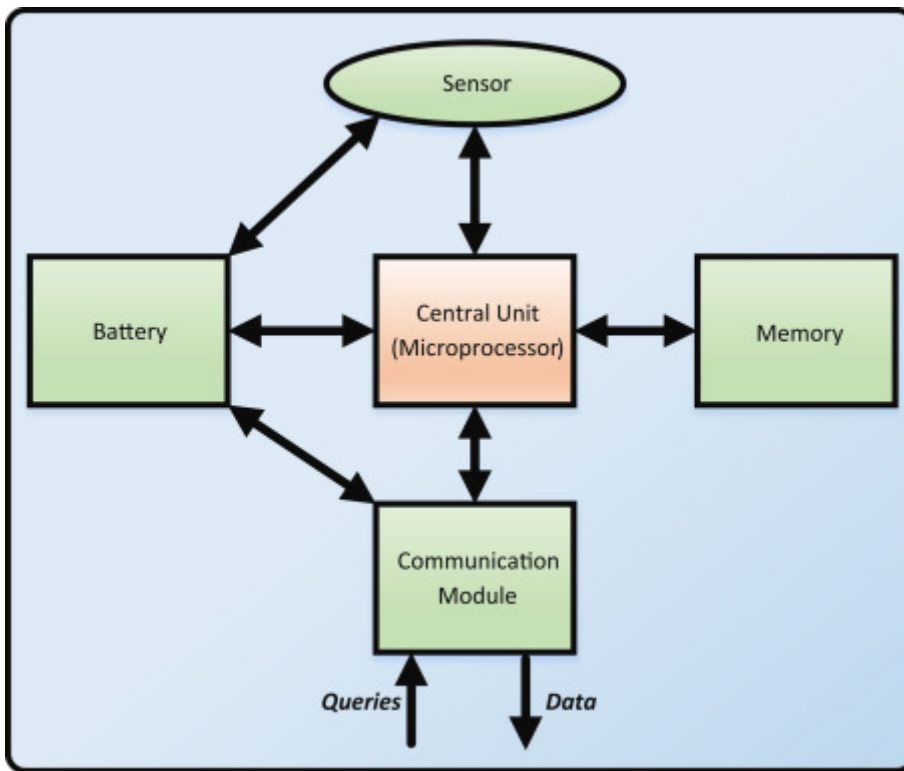
1. Sensor node

A **sensor node**, also known as a **mote**, is a node in a sensor network that is capable of performing some processing, gathering sensory information and communicating with other connected nodes in the network.



A mote is a node but a node is not always a mote

The typical architecture of the sensor node



The main components of a sensor node are a **microcontroller**, **transceiver/Communication Module**, **memory**, **power source** and one or more **sensors**.

2. Sensor node example using IMU sensors

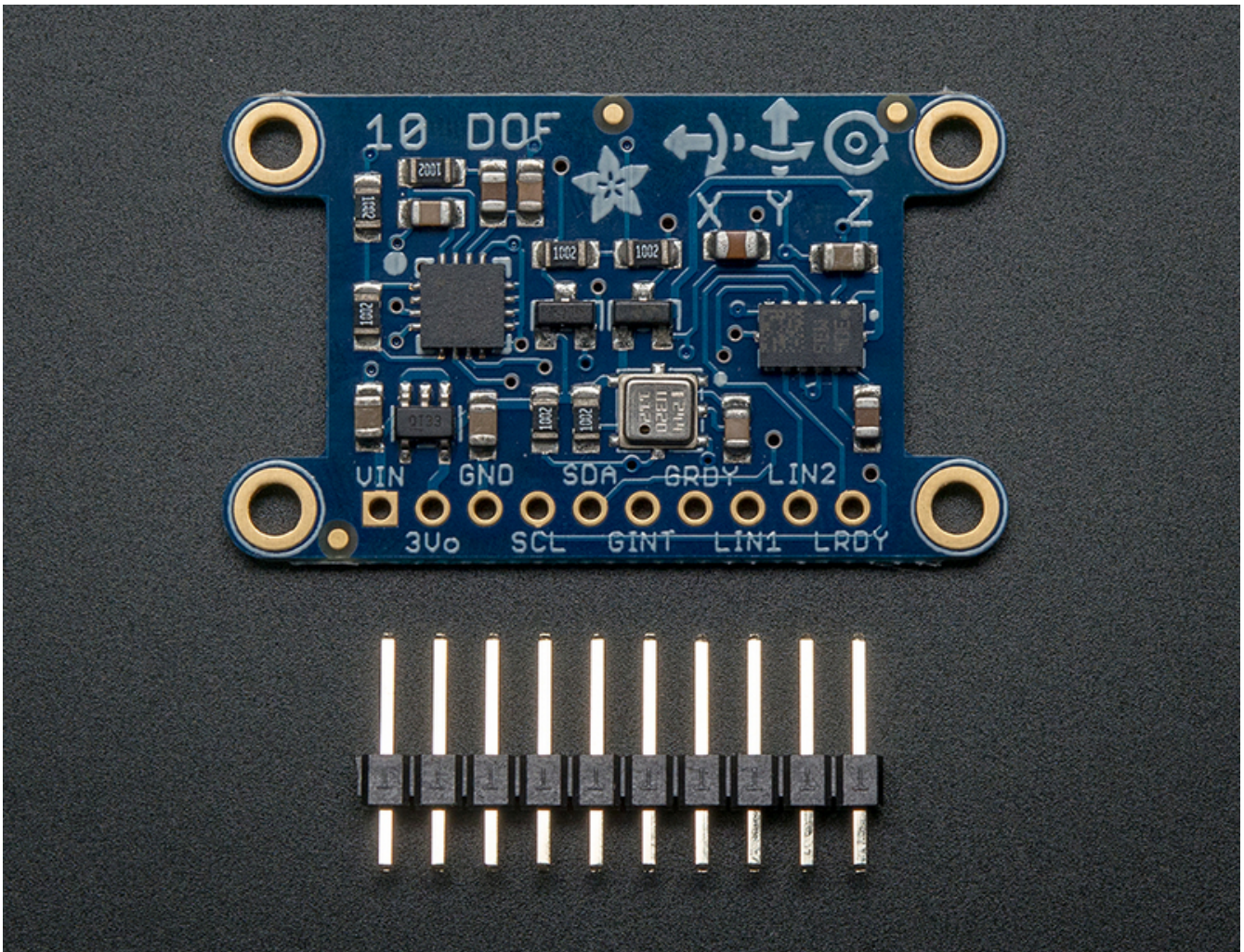
A basic IMU (Inertial Measurement Unit) generally provides raw sensor data, whereas an AHRS takes this data one step further, converting it into heading or direction in degrees, converting the raw altitude data into standard units like feet or meters, etc.

AHRS (Attitude and Heading Reference System)



An attitude and heading reference system (AHRS) consists of sensors on three axes that provide attitude information for aircraft, including roll, pitch and yaw. These are sometimes referred to as MARG (Magnetic, Angular Rate, and Gravity) sensors and consist of either solid-state or microelectromechanical systems (MEMS) gyroscopes, accelerometers and magnetometers. They are designed to replace traditional mechanical gyroscopic flight instruments.

2.1. IMU



Adafruit's 10DOF ([10 Degrees of Freedom](#)) breakout board allows you to capture ten distinct types of motion or orientation related data.

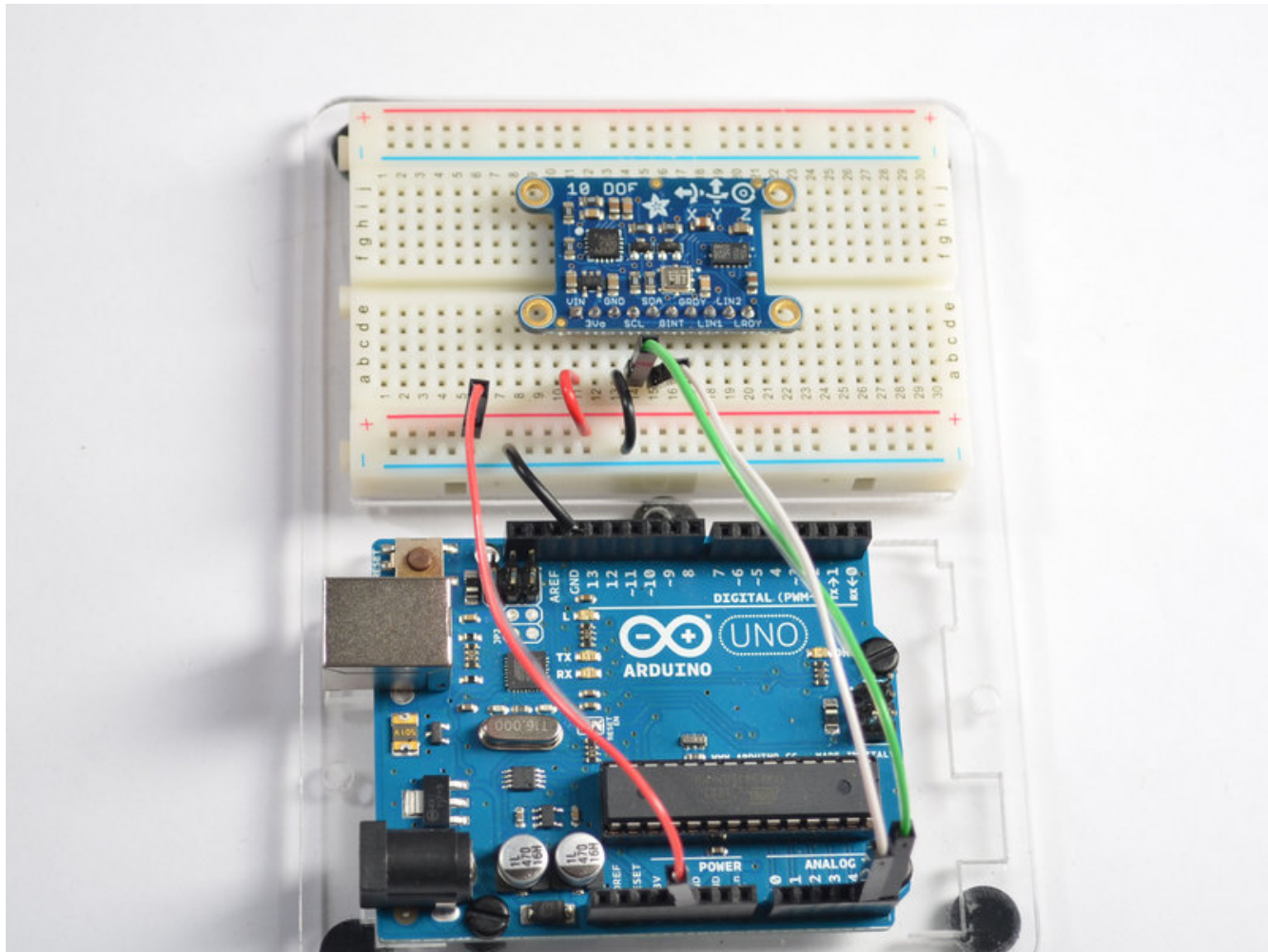
- LSM303DLHC - a 3-axis accelerometer (up to +/-16g) and a 3-axis magnetometer (up to +/-8.1 gauss) on a single die
- L3GD20 - a 3-axis gyroscope (up to +/-2000 dps)
- BMP180 - A barometric pressure sensor (300..1100 hPa) that can be used to calculate altitude, with an additional on-board temperature sensor

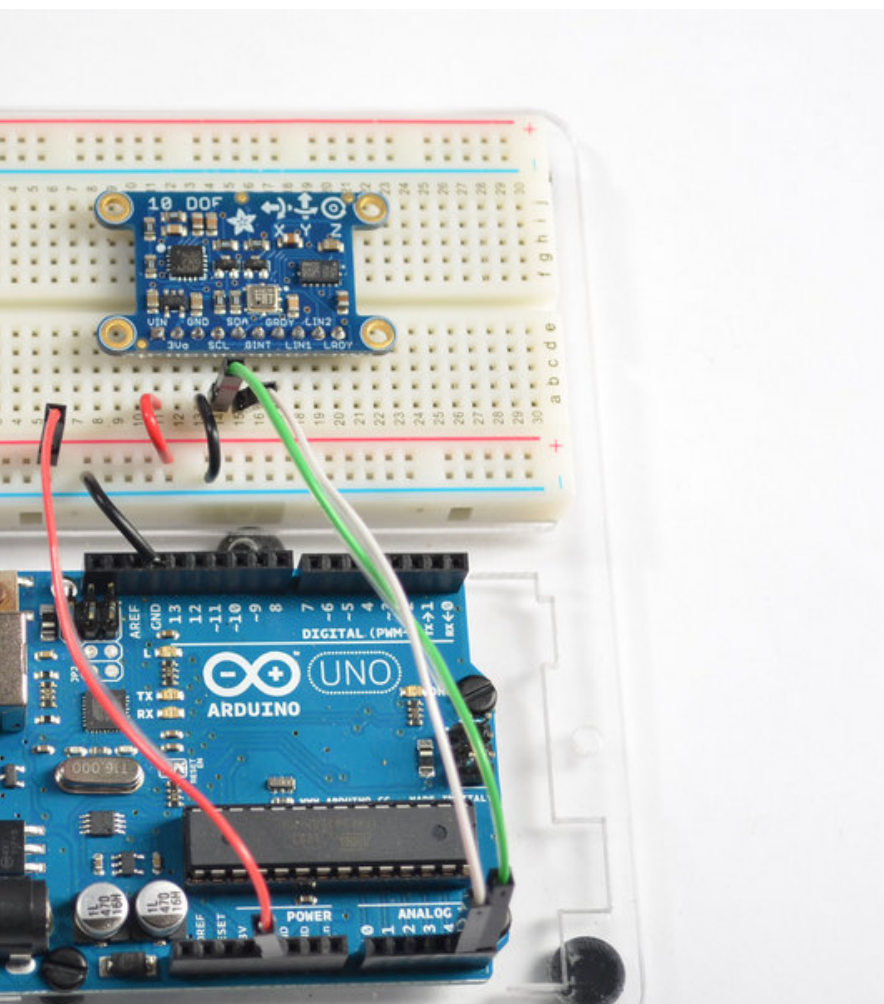
2.2. Connecting It Up

Basic Setup

- Connect the **SCL** pin on the breakout to the **SCL** pin on your Arduino. On an UNO & '328 based Arduino, this is also known as **A5**
- Connect the **SDA** pin on the breakout to the **SDA** pin on your Arduino. On an UNO & '328 based Arduino, this is also known as **A4**
- Connect the **VIN** pin on the breakout to **3.3V** or **5V** on your Uno (5V is preferred but if you have a 3V logic Arduino 3V is best)
- Connect the **GND** pin on the breakout to the **GND** pin on your Uno

That's it! With those four wires, you should be able to talk to any of the I2C chips on the board and run any of the example sketches.





Advanced Setup

- **GINT** - The interrupt pin on the L3GD20 gyroscope
- **GRDY** - The 'ready' pin on the L3GD20 gyroscope
- **LIN1** - Interrupt pin 1 on the LSM303DLHC
- **LIN2** - Interrupt pin 2 on the LSM303DLHC
- **LRDY** - The ready pin on the LSM303DLHC

These pins are all outputs from the 10-DOF breakout and are all 3.3V logic

2.3. Downloading Libraries

Place the files in the Arduino Sketch Folder '/libraries' sub-folder. You should end up with a structure like this:

- arduinosketches/libraries/Adafruit_10DOF
- arduinosketches/libraries/Adafruit_BMP085
- arduinosketches/libraries/Adafruit_L3GD20_U
- arduinosketches/libraries/Adafruit_LSM303DLHC
- arduinosketches/libraries/Adafruit_Sensor



Arduino libraries

Arduino libraries are a convenient way to share code such as device drivers or commonly used utility functions. [How to install Arduino libraries](#)

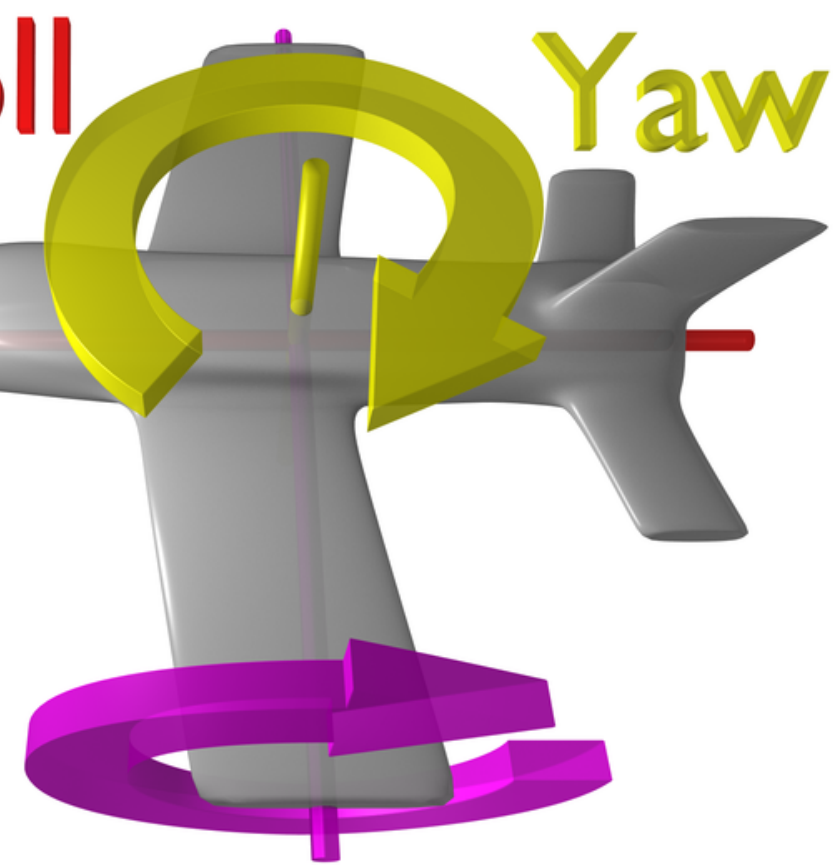
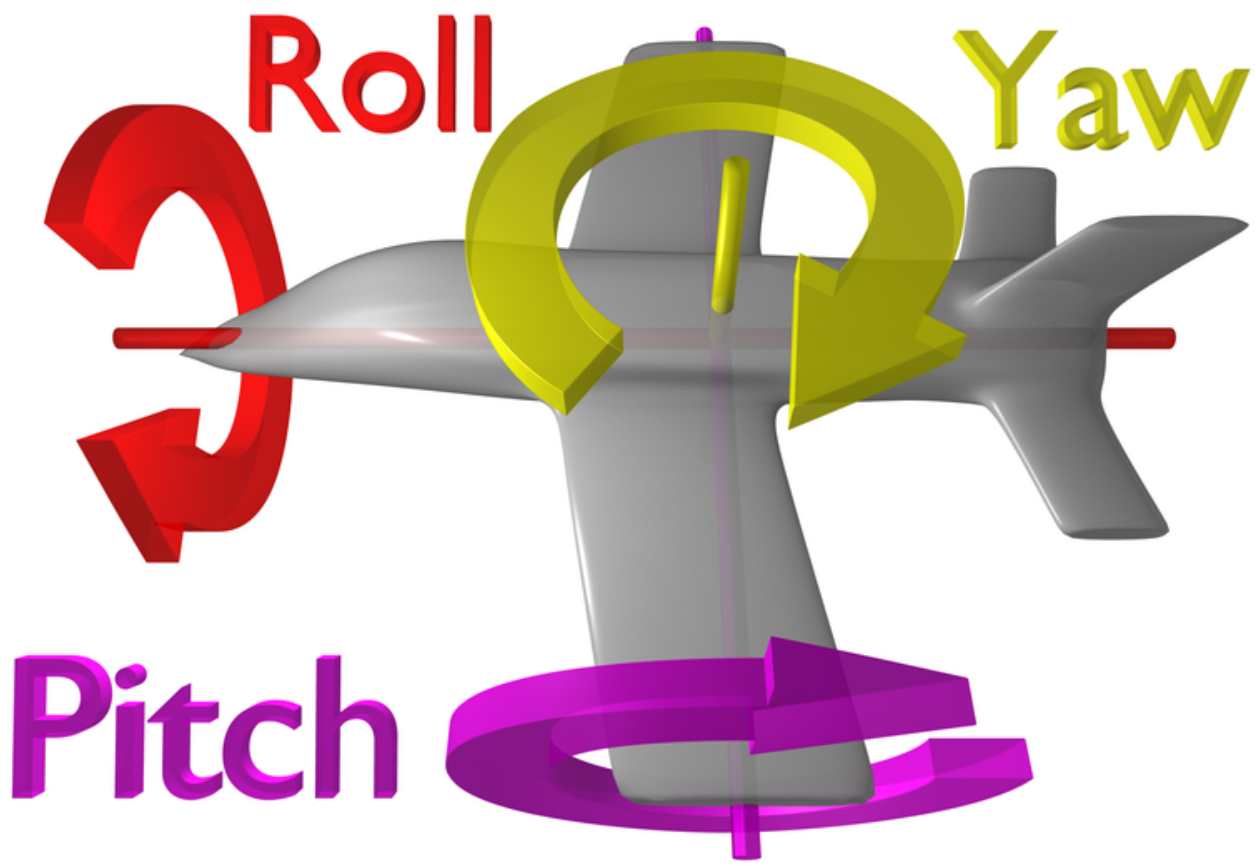
2.4. Example Sketch

2.4.1. pitch & roll

sketch pitchrollheading

```
sensors_event_t accel_event;
sensors_vec_t  orientation;

/* Calculate pitch and roll from the raw accelerometer data */
accel.getEvent(&accel_event);
if (dof.accelGetOrientation(&accel_event, &orientation))
{
  /* 'orientation' should have valid .roll and .pitch fields */
  Serial.print(F("Roll: "));
  Serial.print(orientation.roll);
  Serial.print(F("; "));
  Serial.print(F("Pitch: "));
  Serial.print(orientation.pitch);
  Serial.print(F("; "));
}
```

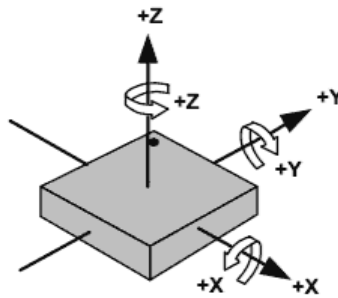


Arguments

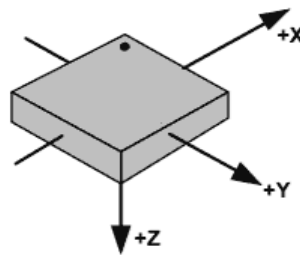
- event: The `sensors_event_t` variable containing the data from the **accelerometer**
- orientation: The `sensors_vec_t` object that will have its `.pitch` and `.roll` fields populated

Returns

- **true** if the operation was successful,
- **false** if there was an error



Orientation of Axes of Sensitivity and Polarity of Rotation for Accelerometer and Gyroscope



Orientation of Axes of Sensitivity for Compass

3. A real AHRS system

3.1. Loading the AHRS Sketch

AHRS Sketch

```
#include <Wire.h>
#include <Adafruit_Sensor.h>
#include <Adafruit_LSM303_U.h>
#include <Adafruit_BMP085_U.h>
#include <Adafruit_Simple_AHRS.h>

// Create sensor instances.
Adafruit_LSM303_Accel_Unified accel(30301);
Adafruit_LSM303_Mag_Unified mag(30302);
Adafruit_BMP085_Unified bmp(18001);
```



```

// Create simple AHRS algorithm using the above sensors.
Adafruit_Simple_AHRS      ahrs(&accel, &mag);

// Update this with the correct SLP for accurate altitude measurements
float seaLevelPressure = SENSORS_PRESSURE_SEALEVELHPA;

void setup()
{
  Serial.begin(115200);
  Serial.println(F("Adafruit 10 DOF Board AHRS Example")); Serial.println("");

  // Initialize the sensors.
  accel.begin();
  mag.begin();
  bmp.begin();
}

void loop(void)
{
  sensors_vec_t  orientation;

  // Use the simple AHRS function to get the current orientation.
  if (ahrs.getOrientation(&orientation))
  {
    /* 'orientation' should have valid .roll and .pitch fields */
    Serial.print(F("Orientation: "));
    Serial.print(orientation.roll);
    Serial.print(F(" "));
    Serial.print(orientation.pitch);
    Serial.print(F(" "));
    Serial.print(orientation.heading);
    Serial.println(F(""));
  }

  // Calculate the altitude using the barometric pressure sensor
  sensors_event_t bmp_event;
  bmp.getEvent(&bmp_event);
  if (bmp_event.pressure)
  {
    /* Get ambient temperature in C */
    float temperature;
    bmp.getTemperature(&temperature);
    /* Convert atmospheric pressure, SLP and temp to altitude */
    Serial.print(F("Alt: "));
    Serial.print(bmp.pressureToAltitude(seaLevelPressure,
                                         bmp_event.pressure,
                                         temperature));

    Serial.println(F(""));
    /* Display the temperature */
    Serial.print(F("Temp: "));
    Serial.print(temperature);
  }
}

```

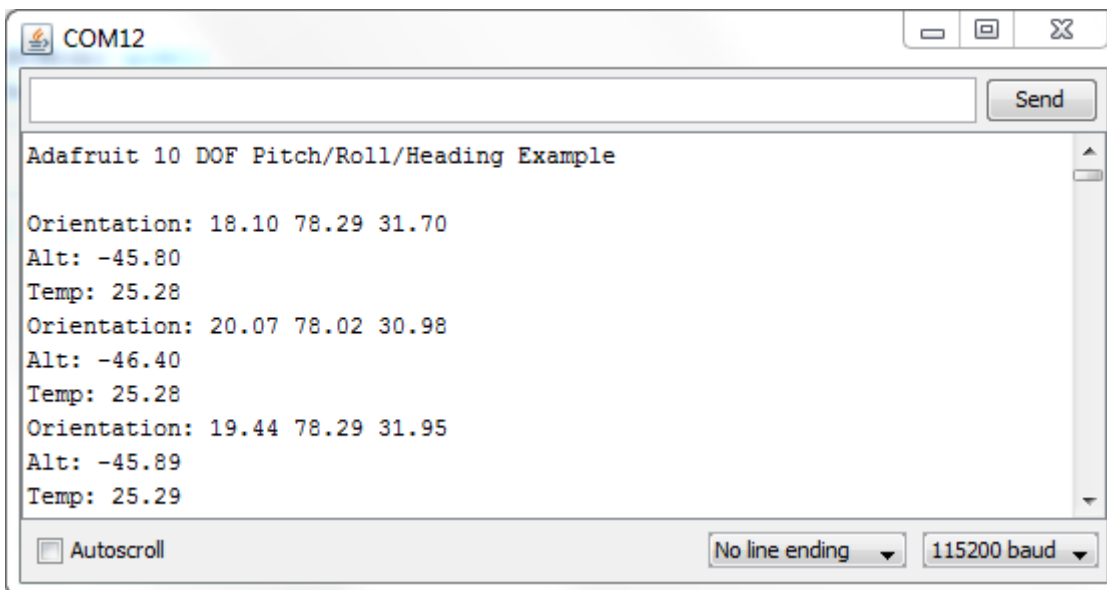
```
Serial.println(F(""));
}

delay(500);
}
```

3.2. compile

- Compile the sketch,
- open up the Serial Monitor (Tools > Serial Monitor),
- set the baud rate to 115200

output



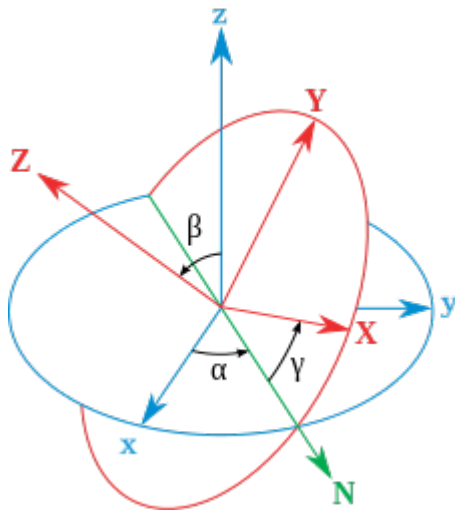
This raw data shows the main orientation data, consisting of 'roll', 'pitch' and 'heading' (or 'yaw') in degrees, followed by the current altitude and temperature

3.3. Using AHRS Data

The AHRS sketches reads raw data from the board's accelerometer/magnetometer and converts the raw data into easy to understand **Euler angles**.

In this case, we can see that the **roll is about 18°**, the **pitch is about 78°** and the **heading or yaw is about 32°**, and the sketch will keep updating itself with the latest values at whatever speed we've set in the sketch.

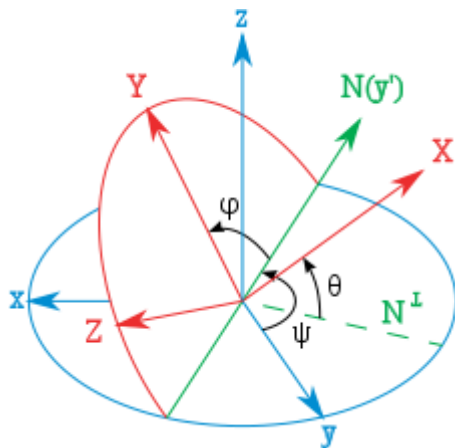
Euler angles, one of the possible ways to describe an orientation



The first attempt to represent an orientation is attributed to Leonhard Euler. He imagined three reference frames that could rotate one around the other, and realized that by starting with a fixed reference frame and performing three rotations, he could get any other reference frame in the space (using two rotations to fix the vertical axis and other to fix the other two axes). The values of these three rotations are called Euler angles.



Tait-Bryan angles, another way to describe orientation



These are three angles, also known as yaw, pitch and roll, Navigation angles and Cardan angles. Mathematically they constitute a set of six possibilities inside the twelve possible sets of Euler angles, the ordering being the one best used for describing the orientation of a vehicle such as an airplane. In aerospace engineering they are usually referred to as Euler angles.

[More Info: Rigid_body_dynamics](#)

[More Info: Eulers angles](#)

[Leonhard Euler](#)

3.4. Save/Sending the Data

This raw data can then be sent over the network to the central application.

This will be the subject of another Lab Lesson

3.5. Visualizing Data

3.5.1. The tools, languages, and frameworks

Three.js

Three.js is a cross-browser JavaScript library and Application Programming Interface (API) used to create and display animated 3D computer graphics in a web browser. Three.js uses WebGL.

Processing

Processing is an open-source graphical library and integrated development environment (IDE) built for the electronic arts, new media art, and visual design communities with the purpose of teaching non-programmers the fundamentals of computer programming in a visual context.

Processing uses the Java language, with additional simplifications such as additional classes and aliased mathematical functions and operations. It also provides a graphical user interface for simplifying the compilation and execution stage.

The Processing language and IDE were the precursor to other projects including Arduino, Wiring and p5.js.

p5.js

In 2013, Lauren McCarthy created p5.js, a native JavaScript alternative to Processing.js that has the official support of the Processing Foundation.

Processing.py

Python Mode for Processing, or Processing.py is a Python interface to the underlying Java toolkit. It was chiefly developed by Jonathan Feinberg starting in 2010, with contributions from James Gilles and Ben Alkov



ThreeJS is a wrapper around the browser's native WebGL API. It's the de facto standard 3D library — there are others, like BabylonJS, but Three is just miles more popular. The native browser APIs are... painful to work with, you can think of ThreeJS kinda like a jQuery for in-browser 3D graphics. Doesn't give you anything that's not already there, it just wraps it all into a user-friendly API

P5 is not a 3d graphics library, it's an API for doing creative coding: things like procedural generation, natural simulations etc. It has some 3D features because it wraps the native WebGL API, but that's not its core purpose. It is a artistic and teaching tool — it is occasionally used in production outside of artistic audio/visual stuff, but not often. It's basically the JS version of Processing.

[More: Processing.js vs. three.js](#)

3.5.2. Requirements

To visualize the data, we've put together a basic **Processing** sketch that loads a 3D model and renders it using the data generated by the AHRS sketch.

- [Processing](#)
- [OBJ Loader library for Processing](#)
- [G4P GUI library for Processing](#)



The OBJ library is required to load 3D models. It isn't strictly necessary and you could also render a boring cube in Processing, but why play with cubes when you have rabbits?!

3.5.3. Write the Processing Sketch

Processing Sketch

```
import processing.serial.*;
import java.awt.datatransfer.*;
import java.awt.Toolkit;
import processing.opengl.*;
import saito.objloader.*;
import g4p_controls.*;

float roll = 0.0F;
float pitch = 0.0F;
float yaw = 0.0F;
float temp = 0.0F;
float alt = 0.0F;

OBJModel model;

// Serial port state.
Serial port;
```

```

String      buffer = "";
final String serialConfigFile = "serialconfig.txt";
boolean     printSerial = false;

// UI controls.
GPanel     configPanel;
GDropList  serialList;
GLabel     serialLabel;
GCheckbox  printSerialCheckbox;

void setup()
{
    size(400, 500, OPENGL);
    frameRate(30);
    model = new OBJModel(this);
    model.load("bunny.obj");
    model.scale(20);

    // Serial port setup.
    // Grab list of serial ports and choose one that was persisted earlier or default to
the first port.
    int selectedPort = 0;
    String[] availablePorts = Serial.list();
    if (availablePorts == null) {
        println("ERROR: No serial ports available!");
        exit();
    }
    String[] serialConfig = loadStrings(serialConfigFile);
    if (serialConfig != null && serialConfig.length > 0) {
        String savedPort = serialConfig[0];
        // Check if saved port is in available ports.
        for (int i = 0; i < availablePorts.length; ++i) {
            if (availablePorts[i].equals(savedPort)) {
                selectedPort = i;
            }
        }
    }
    // Build serial config UI.
    configPanel = new GPanel(this, 10, 10, width-20, 90, "Configuration (click to
hide/show)");
    serialLabel = new GLabel(this, 0, 20, 80, 25, "Serial port:");
    configPanel.addControl(serialLabel);
    serialList = new GDropList(this, 90, 20, 200, 200, 6);
    serialList.setItems(availablePorts, selectedPort);
    configPanel.addControl(serialList);
    printSerialCheckbox = new GCheckbox(this, 5, 50, 200, 20, "Print serial data");
    printSerialCheckbox.setSelected(printSerial);
    configPanel.addControl(printSerialCheckbox);
    // Set serial port.
    setSerialPort(serialList.getSelectedText());
}

```

```

void draw()
{
  background(0,0, 0);

  // Set a new co-ordinate space
  pushMatrix();

  // Simple 3 point lighting for dramatic effect.
  // Slightly red light in upper right, slightly blue light in upper left, and white
  light from behind.
  pointLight(255, 200, 200, 400, 400, 500);
  pointLight(200, 200, 255, -400, 400, 500);
  pointLight(255, 255, 255, 0, 0, -500);

  // Displace objects from 0,0
  translate(200, 350, 0);

  // Rotate shapes around the X/Y/Z axis (values in radians, 0..Pi*2)
  rotateX(radians(roll));
  rotateZ(radians(pitch));
  rotateY(radians(yaw));

  pushMatrix();
  noStroke();
  model.draw();
  popMatrix();
  popMatrix();
  //print("draw");
}

void serialEvent(Serial p)
{
  String incoming = p.readString();
  if (printSerial) {
    println(incoming);
  }

  if ((incoming.length() > 8))
  {
    String[] list = split(incoming, " ");
    if ( (list.length > 0) && (list[0].equals("Orientation:")) )
    {
      roll = float(list[1]);
      pitch = float(list[2]);
      yaw = float(list[3]);
      buffer = incoming;
    }
    if ( (list.length > 0) && (list[0].equals("Alt:")) )
    {
      alt = float(list[1]);
    }
  }
}

```

```

        buffer = incoming;
    }
    if ( (list.length > 0) && (list[0].equals("Temp:")) )
    {
        temp = float(list[1]);
        buffer = incoming;
    }
}

// Set serial port to desired value.
void setSerialPort(String portName) {
    // Close the port if it's currently open.
    if (port != null) {
        port.stop();
    }
    try {
        // Open port.
        port = new Serial(this, portName, 115200);
        port.bufferUntil('\n');
        // Persist port in configuration.
        saveStrings(serialConfigFile, new String[] { portName });
    }
    catch (RuntimeException ex) {
        // Swallow error if port can't be opened, keep port closed.
        port = null;
    }
}

// UI event handlers

void handlePanelEvents(GPanel panel, GEvent event) {
    // Panel events, do nothing.
}

void handleDropListEvents(GDropList list, GEvent event) {
    // Drop list events, check if new serial port is selected.
    if (list == serialList) {
        setSerialPort(serialList.getSelectedText());
    }
}

void handleToggleControlEvents(GToggleControl checkbox, GEvent event) {
    // Checkbox toggle events, check if print events is toggled.
    if (checkbox == printSerialCheckbox) {
        printSerial = printSerialCheckbox.isSelected();
    }
}

```


3.5.4. Run it

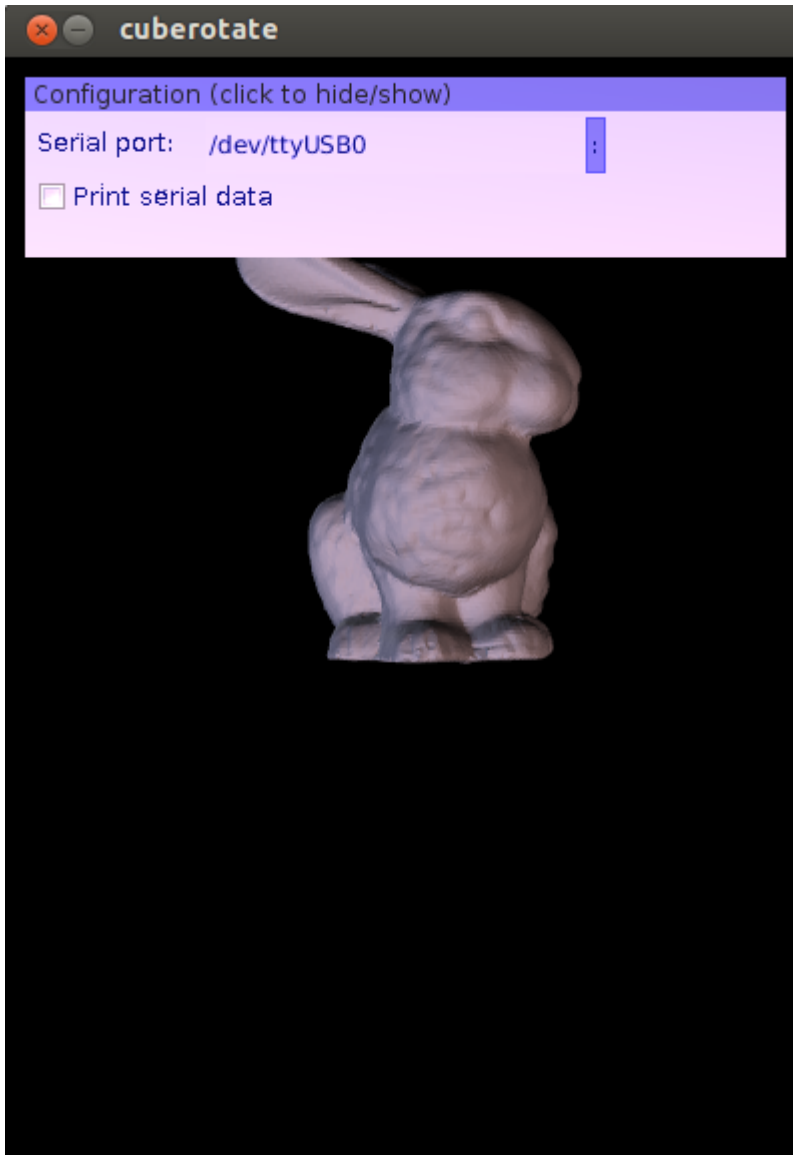
- Run the AHRS Sketch on the Uno
- Run the Processing Sketch on the Processing



Make sure that the appropriate AHRS example sketch is running on the Uno (as described), and that the Serial Monitor is closed.

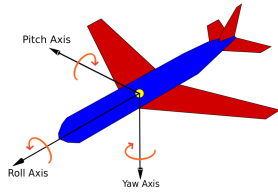
▶ [Rabbit10DOF.mp4](#) (video)

And Voila!



Cockpit Simulator

With small changes we can make this too



Appendix A: Source Code

- https://github.com/adafruit/Adafruit_AHRS
- <https://sourceforge.net/projects/g4p/files/?source=navbar>