NGIMU User Manual

Version 0.0

Preliminary Release

Document updates

This document is continuously being updated to incorporate additional information requested by users and new features made available in software and firmware updates. Please check the x-io Technologies website for the latest version of this document and device firmware.

Document version history

Date	Document version	Description
10 May 2015	0.0	Initial release

Table of Contents

1. Overview

The Next Generation IMU (NGIMU) is a compact IMU and data acquisition platform that combines on-board sensors and data processing algorithms with a broad range of communication interfaces to create a versatile platform well suited to both real-time and data-logging applications.

The device communicates using OSC and so is immediately compatible with many software applications and straight forward to integrate with custom applications with libraries available for most programming languages.

1.1. On-board sensors & data acquisition

- Triple-axis gyroscope (±2000°/s, 400 Hz sample rate)
- Triple-axis accelerometer (±16g, 400 Hz sample rate)
- Triple-axis magnetometer (±1300 µT)
- Barometric pressure (300-1100 hPa)
- Humidity
- Temperature[1]
- Battery voltage, current, percentage, and time remaining
- Analogue inputs (8 channels, 0-3.3 V, 10-bit, 1 kHz sample rate)
- Auxiliary serial (RS-232 compatible) for GPS or custom electronics/sensors
- Real-time clock and calendar[2]

1.2. On-board data processing

- All sensors are calibrated[2]
- AHRS fusion algorithm provides a measurement of orientation relative to the Earth as a quaternion, rotation matrix, or Euler angles
- AHRS fusion algorithm provides a measurement of linear acceleration
- Altimeter fusion algorithm provides a measurement of altitude[2]
- All measurements are timestamped
- Synchronisation of timestamps for all devices on a Wi-Fi network[2,3]

1.3. Communication interfaces

- USB
- Serial (RS-232 compatible)
- Wi-Fi (802.11n, 5 GHz, built-in or external antennae, AP or client mode)
- SD card (accessible as an external drive via USB)[2]

[1] On-board thermometers are used for calibration and are not intended to provide an accurate measurement of ambient temperature.

[2] This feature is under development and will be available soon. Please contact us if this is an urgent requirement.

[3] Synchronisation requires additional hardware (Wi-Fi router and synchronisation master).

1.4. Power management

- Power from USB, external supply or battery
- Battery charging via USB or external supply
- Sleep timer
- Motion trigger wake up
- Wake up timer[2]
- 3.3 V supply for user electronics (500 mA)

1.5. Software features

- Open-source GUI and API (C#) for Windows
- Configure device settings
- Plot real-time data
- Log real-time data to file (CSV file format for use with Excel, MATLAB, etc.)
- Maintenance and calibration tools

2. Hardware

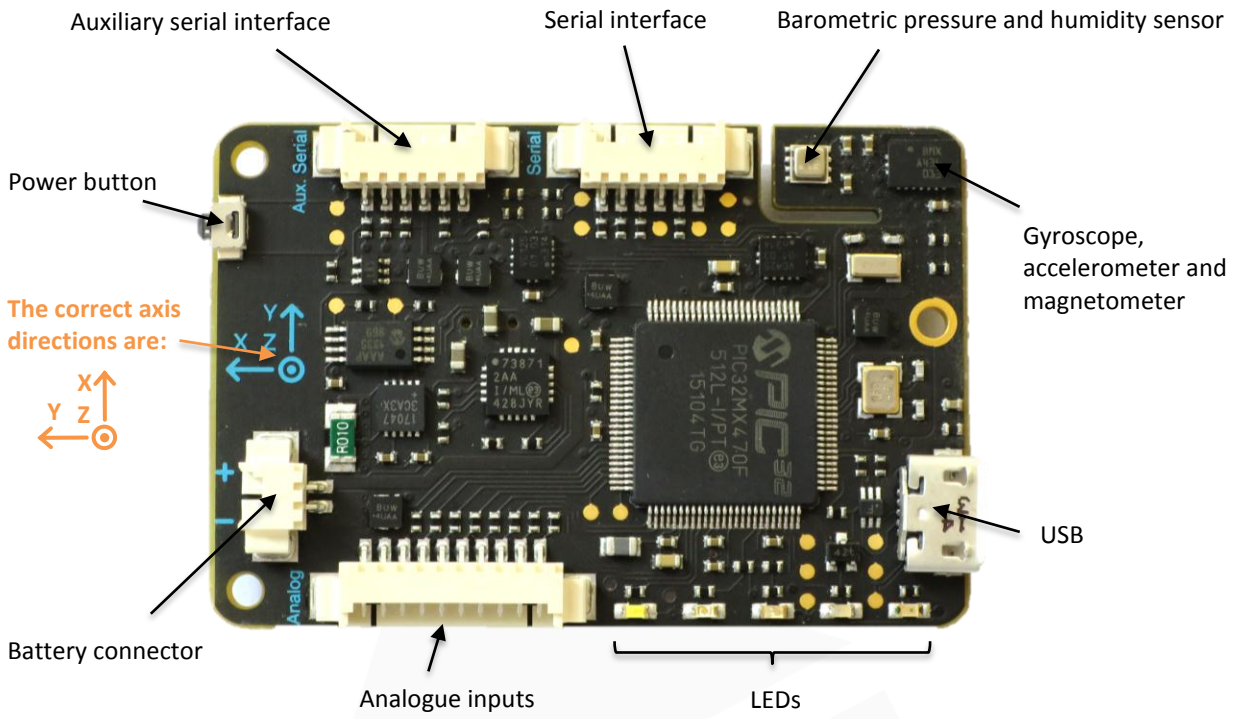

Figure 1: Top view of board

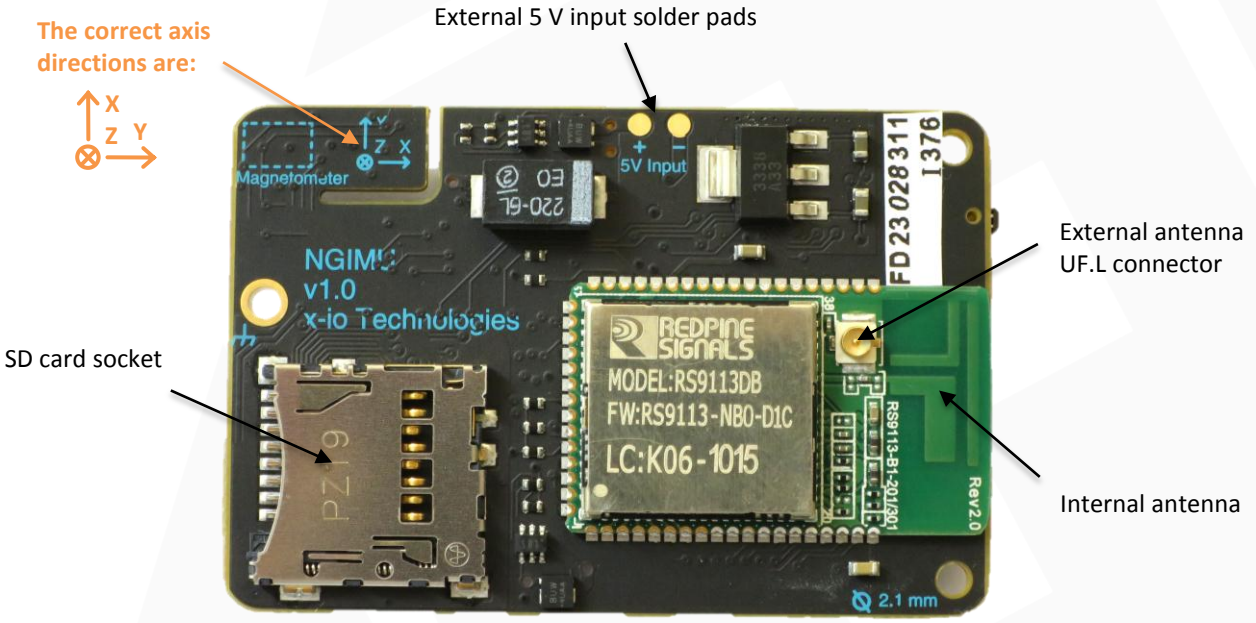

Figure 2: Bottom view of board

2.1. Power button

The power button is primarily used to turn the device on and off (sleep mode). Pressing the button while the device is off will turn it on. Pressing and holding the button for 3 seconds while it is on will turn it off.

The button can also be used as a data source by the user. The device will send a timestamped 'button' message (`/button`) each time the button is pressed. This may provide a convenient user input for real-time applications or a useful means of marking events when logging data. The user must be careful not to hold the button for too long else device will be turned off.

2.2. LEDs

The board features 5 LED indicators. Each LED is a different colour and has a dedicated role. Table 1 list the role and associated behaviour of each LED.

Colour	Indicates	Behaviour
White	Wi-Fi status	Off = Wi-Fi disabled Flashing = Wi-Fi enabled but not connected Solid = Wi-Fi enabled and connected
Blue	-	-
Green	Power	Indicates that the device is switched on. Will also blink each time the button is pressed of a message is received.
Yellow	-	-
Red	Battery charging	Off = Charger not connected Solid = Charger connected and charging in progress Flashing = Charger connected and charging complete

Table 1: LED behaviour

Sending an 'identify' message (`/identify`) to the device will cause all the LEDs to rapidly flash for 5 seconds. This may be of use when trying to identify a specific device within a group of multiple devices.

2.3. Auxiliary serial pinout

Table 2 lists the auxiliary serial connector pinout. Pin 1 is physically marked on the connector by a small arrow.

Pin	Direction	Name
1	N/A	Ground
2	Output	CTS
3	Input	RX
4	Output	TX
5	Input	3.3 V output

6	Input	RTS

Table 2: Auxiliary serial connector pinout

2.4. Serial pinout

Table 3 lists the serial connector pinout. Pin 1 is physically marked on the connector by a small arrow.

Pin	Direction	Name
1	N/A	Ground
2	Output	CTS
3	Input	RX
4	Output	TX
5	Input	5 V input
6	Input	RTS

Table 3: Serial connector pinout

2.5. Analogue input pinout

Table 4 lists the analogue input connector pinout. Pin 1 is physically marked on the connector by a small arrow.

Pin	Direction	Name
1	N/A	Ground
2	Output	3.3 V output
3	Input	Analogue channel 1
4	Input	Analogue channel 2
5	Input	Analogue channel 3
6	Input	Analogue channel 4
7	Input	Analogue channel 5
8	Input	Analogue channel 6
9	Input	Analogue channel 7
10	Input	Analogue channel 8

Table 4: Analogue input connector pinout

2.6. Connector part numbers

All board connectors are 1.25 mm pitch Molex PicoBlade™ Headers. Table 5 lists each part number used on the board and the recommended part numbers of the corresponding mating connectors. Each mating connector is created from a plastic housing part and two or more crimped wires.

Board connector	Part number	Mating part number
Battery	Molex PicoBlade™ Header, Surface Mount, Right-Angle, 2-way, P/N: 53261-0271	Molex PicoBlade™ Housing, Female, 2-way, P/N: 51021-0200 Molex Pre-Crimped Lead Single-Ended PicoBlade™ Female, 304mm, 28 AWG, P/N: 06-66-0015 (×2)
Auxiliary serial / Serial	Molex PicoBlade™ Header, Surface Mount, Right-Angle, 6-way, P/N: 53261-0671	Molex PicoBlade™ Housing, Female, 6-way, P/N: 51021-0600 Molex Pre-Crimped Lead Single-Ended PicoBlade™ Female, 304mm, 28 AWG, P/N: 06-66-0015 (×6)
Analogue inputs	Molex PicoBlade™ Header, Surface Mount, Right-Angle, 10-way, P/N: 53261-1071	Molex PicoBlade™ Housing, Female, 10-way, P/N: 51021-1000 Molex Pre-Crimped Lead Single-Ended PicoBlade™ Female, 304mm, 28 AWG, P/N: 06-66-0015 (×10)

Table 5: Board connector part numbers

3. Plastic housing

The plastic housing is not currently available but is in the final stages of development. The plastic housing encloses the board with a 1000 mAh battery. Figure 3 shows a 3D printed prototype of the plastic housing.

Figure 3: 3D printed prototype of the plastic housing

The plastic housing is made of a 2-part plastic shell held together by a silicon rubber band. The silicon rubber band has optional cut outs to provide access to the board connectors. If these cut outs are left in place then the plastic housing may offer a degree of protection from water and dust. Figure 4 shows the plastic housing unassembled.

Figure 4: Unassembled 3D printed prototype of the plastic housing

