Low Cost, Ultracompact ±2 *g* Dual-Axis Accelerometer

ADXL311

FEATURES

Low cost
High resolution
Dual-axis accelerometer on a single IC chip
5 mm × 5 mm × 2 mm CLCC package
Low power < 400 µA (typ)
X-axis and Y-axis aligned to within 0.1° (typ)
BW adjustment with a single capacitor
Single-supply operation
High shock survival

APPLICATIONS

Tilt and motion sensing in cost-sensitive applications
Smart handheld devices
Computer security
Input devices
Pedometers and activity monitors
Game controllers
Toys and entertainment products

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The ADXL311 is a low cost, low power, complete dual-axis accelerometer with signal conditioned voltage outputs, all on a single monolithic IC. The ADXL311 is built using the same proven iMEMS® process used in over 100 million Analog Devices accelerometers shipped to date, with demonstrated 1 FIT reliability (1 failure per 1 billion device operating hours).

The ADXL311 will measure acceleration with a full-scale range of ±2 *g*. The ADXL311 can measure both dynamic acceleration (e.g., vibration) and static acceleration (e.g., gravity). The outputs are analog voltages proportional to acceleration.

The typical noise floor is 300 µ*g*/√Hz allowing signals below 2 m*g* (0.1° of inclination) to be resolved in tilt sensing applications using narrow bandwidths (10 Hz).

The user selects the bandwidth of the accelerometer using capacitors C_X and C_Y at the X_{FILT} and Y_{FILT} pins. Bandwidths of 1 Hz to 2 kHz may be selected to suit the application.

The ADXL311 is available in a 5 mm × 5 mm × 2 mm 8-terminal hermetic CLCC package

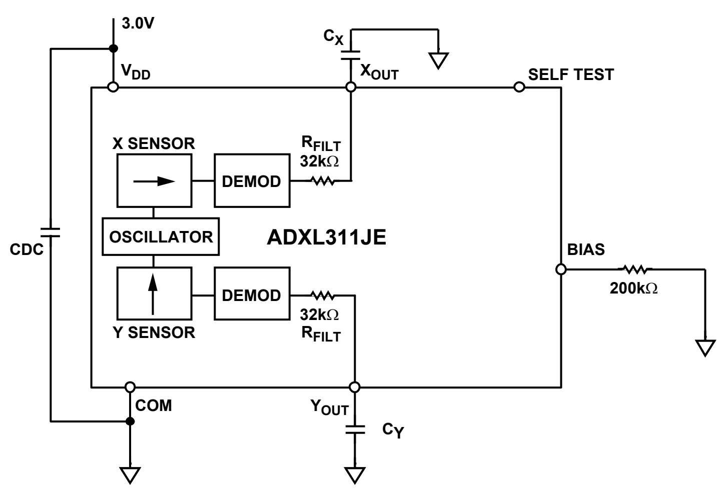

Figure 1. Functional Block Diagram

One Technology Way, P.O. Box 9106, Norwood, MA 02062-9106, U.S.A.
Tel: 781.329.4700 **www.analog.com**
Fax: 781.326.8703

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REVISION HISTORY

7/03—Data sheet changed from Rev. 0 to Rev. A.
Change to OUTLINE DIMENSIONS.. 10

Revision 0: Initial Version

SPECIFICATIONS

Table 1. T_A = 25°C, V_{DD} = 3 V, R_{BIAS} = 125 kΩ, Acceleration = 0 *g*, unless otherwise noted.)

Parameter	Conditions	Min	Typ	Max	Units
SENSOR INPUT	Each Axis				
Measurement Range			±2		*g*
Nonlinearity	Best Fit Straight Line		0.2		% of FS
Aligment Error[1]			±1		Degrees
Aligment Error	X Sensor to Y Sensor		0.01		Degrees
Cross Axis Sensitivity[2]			±2		%
SENSITIVITY	Each Axis				
Sensitivity at X_{FILT}, Y_{FILT}	V_{DD} = 3 V	140	167	195	mV/*g*
Sensitivity Change due to Temperature[3]	Delta from 25°C		−0.025		%/°C
ZERO *g* BIAS LEVEL	Each Axis				
0 *g* Voltage X_{FILT}, Y_{FILT}	V_{DD} = 3 V	1.2	1.5	1.8	V
0 *g* Offset vs. Temperature	Delta from 25°C		2.0		m*g*/°C
NOISE PERFORMANCE					
Noise Density	@25°C		300		μ*g*/$\sqrt{Hz}$ RMS
FREQUENCY RESPONSE					
3 dB Bandwidth	At Pins X_{FILT}, Y_{FILT}		6		kHz
Sensor Resonant Frequency			10		kHz
FILTER					
R_{FILT} Tolerance	32 kΩ Nominal		±15		%
Minimum Capacitance	At Pins X_{FILT}, Y_{FILT}	1000			pF
SELF TEST					
X_{FILT}, Y_{FILT}	Self Test 0 to 1		45		mV
POWER SUPPLY					
Operating Voltage Range		2.7		5.25	V
Quiescent Supply Current			0.4	1.0	mA
Turn-On Time			160 × C_{FILT} + 0.3		ms
TEMPERATURE RANGE					
Operating Range		0		70	°C

[1] Alignment error is specified as the angle between the true and indicated axis of sensitivity (Figure 1).
[2] Cross axis sensitivity is the algebraic sum of the alignment and the inherent sensitivity errors.
[3] Defined as the output change from ambient to maximum temperature or ambient to minimum temperature.

ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

Table 2.

Parameter	Rating
Acceleration (Any Axis, Unpowered)	3,500 *g*, 0.5 ms
Acceleration (Any Axis, Powered, V_{DD} = 3 V)	3,500 *g*, 0.5 ms
V_{DD}	–0.3 V to +0.6 V
Output Short-Circuit Duration, (Any Pin to Commom)	Indefinite
Operating Temperature Range	–55°C to +125°C
Storage Temperature	–65°C to +150°C

Stresses above those listed under Absolute Maximum Ratings may cause permanent damage to the device. This is a stress rating only and functional operation of the device at these or any other conditions above those indicated in the operational section of this specification is not implied. Exposure to absolute maximum rating conditions for extended periods may affect device reliability.

Table 3. Package Characteristics

Package Type	θ_{JA}	θ_{JC}	Device Weight
8-Lead CLCC	120°C/W	TBD°C/W	<1.0 gram

TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

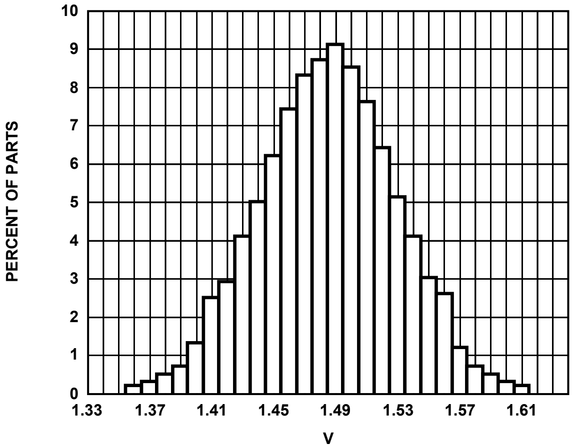

Figure 2. X-Axis Zero g BIAS Output Distribution

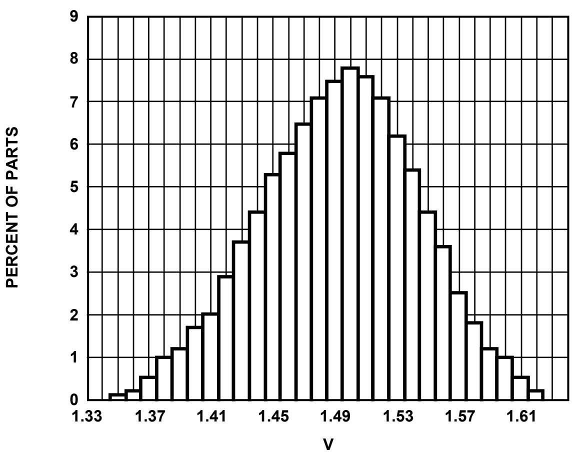

Figure 3. Y-Axis Zero g BIAS Output Distribution

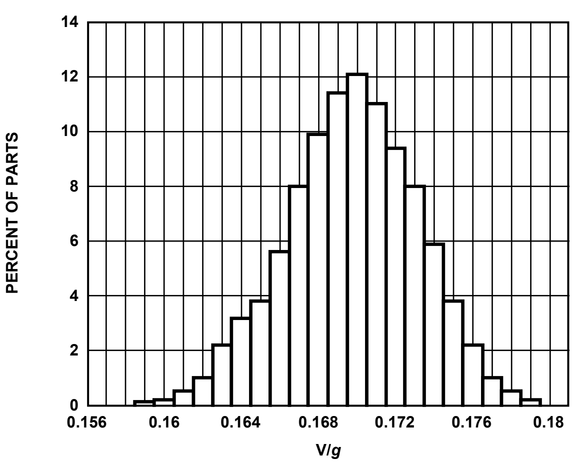

Figure 4. X-Axis Output Sensitivity Distribution at X_{OUT}

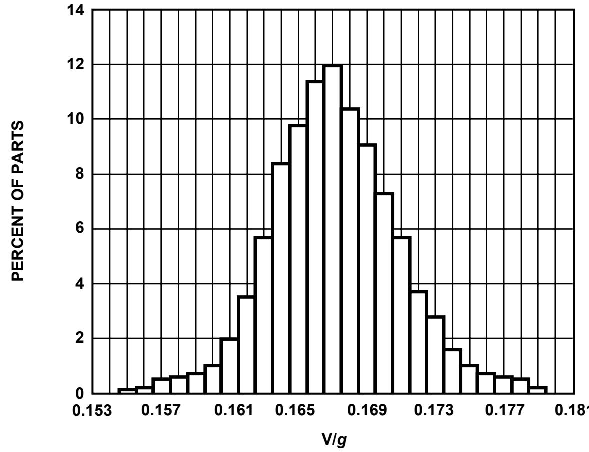

Figure 5. Y-Axis Sensitivity Distribution at Y_{OUT}

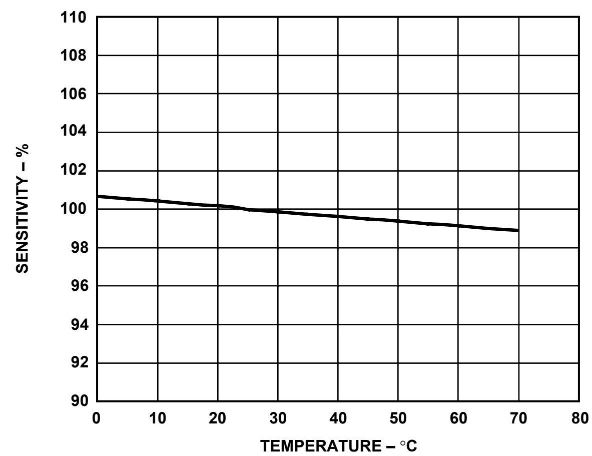

Figure 6. Normalized Sensitivity vs. Temperature

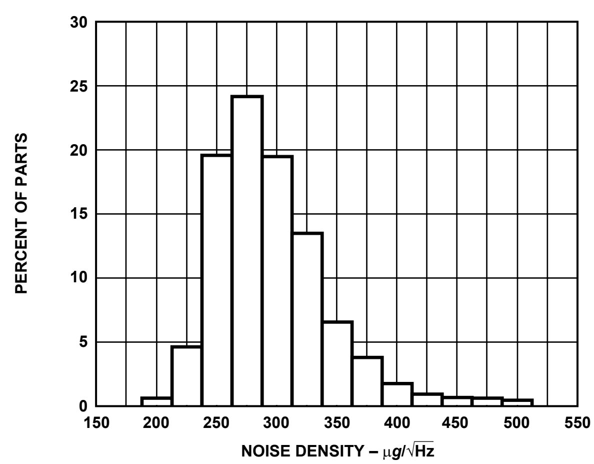

Figure 7. Noise Density Distribution

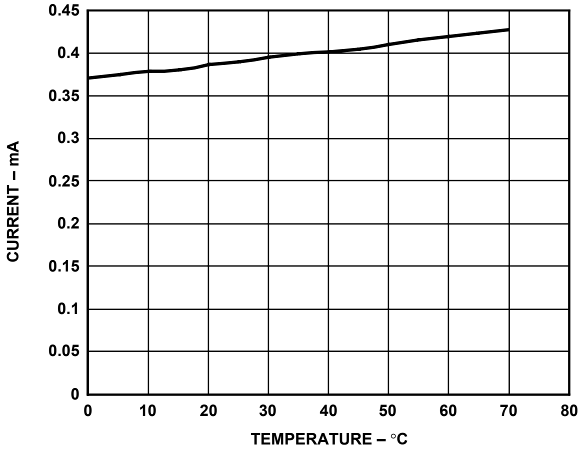

Figure 8. Typical Supply Current vs. Temperature

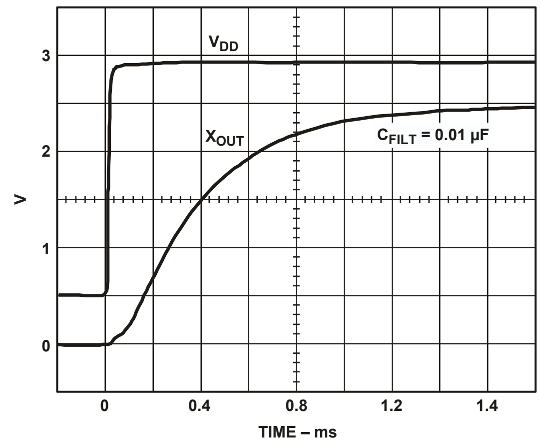

Figure 9. Typical Turn-On Time

THEORY OF OPERATION

The ADXL311 is a complete, dual-axis acceleration measurement system on a single monolithic IC. It contains a polysilicon surface-micromachined sensor and signal conditioning circuitry to implement an open-loop acceleration measurement architecture. The output signals are analog voltage proportional to acceleration. The ADXL311 is capable of measuring both positive and negative accelerations to at least ±2 *g*. The accelerometer can measure static acceleration forces, such as gravity, allowing it to be used as a tilt sensor.

The sensor is a surface-micromachined polysilicon structure built on top of the silicon wafer. Polysilicon springs suspend the structure over the surface of the wafer and provide a resistance against acceleration forces. Deflection of the structure is measured using a differential capacitor that consists of independent fixed plates and central plates attached to the moving mass. The fixed plates are driven by 180° out of phase square waves. Acceleration will deflect the beam and unbalance the differential capacitor, resulting in an output square wave whose amplitude is proportional to acceleration. Phase sensitive demodulation techniques are then used to rectify the signal and determine the direction of the acceleration.

The output of the demodulator is amplified and brought off-chip through a 32 kΩ resistor. At this point, the user can set the signal bandwidth of the device by adding a capacitor. This filtering improves measurement resolution and helps prevent aliasing.

Applications

POWER SUPPLY DECOUPLING

For most applications, a single 0.1 μF capacitor, CDC, will adequately decouple the accelerometer from noise on the power supply. However, in some cases, particularly where noise is present at the 100 kHz internal clock frequency (or any harmonic thereof), noise on the supply may cause interference on the ADXL311 output. If additional decoupling is needed, a 100 Ω (or smaller) resistor or ferrite beads may be inserted in the supply line of the ADXL311. Additionally, a larger bulk bypass capacitor (in the 1 μF to 4.7 μF range) may be added in parallel to CDC.

SETTING THE BANDWIDTH USING C_X AND C_Y

The ADXL311 has provisions for bandlimiting the X_{OUT} and Y_{OUT} pins. Capacitors must be added at these pins to implement low-pass filtering for antialiasing and noise reduction. The equation for the 3 dB bandwidth is

$$F_{-3dB} = 1/\left(2\pi\left(32\text{ k}\Omega\right)\times C_{(X,Y)}\right)$$

or, more simply

$$F_{-3dB} = 5\ \mu\text{F}/C_{(X,Y)}$$

The tolerance of the internal resistor (R_{FILT}) can vary typically as much as ±15% of its nominal value of 32 kΩ; thus, the bandwidth will vary accordingly. A minimum capacitance of 1000 pF for C_X and C_Y is required in all cases.

Table 4. Filter Capacitor Selection, C_X and C_Y

Bandwidth	Capacitor (μF)
10 Hz	0.47
50 Hz	0.10
100 Hz	0.05
200 Hz	0.027
500 Hz	0.01
5 kHz	0.001

SELF TEST

The ST pin controls the self-test feature. When this pin is set to V_{DD}, an electrostatic force is exerted on the beam of the accelerometer. The resulting movement of the beam allows the user to test if the accelerometer is functional. The typical change in output will be 270 m*g* (corresponding to 45 mV). This pin may be left open circuit or connected to common in normal use.

R_{BIAS} SELECTION

A bias resistor (R_{BIAS}) must always be used. If no resistor is present, the ADXL311 may appear to work but will suffer degraded noise performance. The value of the resistor used is not critical. Any value from 50 kΩ to 2 MΩ can be used. Using a 2 MΩ resistor rather than a 50 kΩ will save roughly 25 μA of supply current.

Design Trade-Offs for Selecting Filter Characteristics: The Noise/BW Trade-Off

The accelerometer bandwidth selected will ultimately determine the measurement resolution (smallest detectable acceleration). Filtering can be used to lower the noise floor, which improves the resolution of the accelerometer. Resolution is dependent on the analog filter bandwidth at X_{OUT} and Y_{OUT}.

The output of the ADXL311 has a typical bandwidth of 5 kHz. The user must filter the signal at this point to limit aliasing errors. The analog bandwidth must be no more than half the A/D sampling frequency to minimize aliasing. The analog bandwidth may be further decreased to reduce noise and improve resolution.

The ADXL311 noise has the characteristics of white Gaussian noise that contributes equally at all frequencies and is described in terms of $\mu g/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$, i.e., the noise is proportional to the square root of the bandwidth of the accelerometer. It is recommended that the user limit bandwidth to the lowest frequency needed by the application, to maximize the resolution and dynamic range of the accelerometer.

With the single pole roll-off characteristic, the typical noise of the ADXL202E is determined by

$$RMS\ NOISE = \left(300\ \mu g/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}\right) \times \left(\sqrt{BW} \times 1.6\right)$$

At 100 Hz the noise will be

$$RMS\ NOISE = \left(300 \mu g/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}\right) \times \left(\sqrt{100} \times 1.6\right) = 3.8\ \text{m}g$$

Often the peak value of the noise is desired. Peak-to-peak noise can only be estimated by statistical methods. Table 5 is useful for estimating the probabilities of exceeding various peak values, given the rms value.

Table 5. Estimation of Peak-to-Peak Noise

Peak-to-Peak Value	% of Time That Noise Will Exceed Nominal Peak-to-Peak Value
2 × RMS	32
4 × RMS	4.6
6 × RMS	0.27
8 × RMS	0.006

The peak-to-peak noise value will give the best estimate of the uncertainty in a single measurement. Table 6 gives the typical noise output of the ADXL311 for various C_X and C_Y values.

Table 6. Filter Capacitor Selection (C_X, C_Y)

Bandwidth (Hz)	C_X, C_Y (μF)	RMS Noise (m*g*)	Peak-to-Peak Noise Estimate (m*g*)
10	0.47	1.2	7.2
50	0.1	2.7	16.2
100	0.047	3.8	22.8
500	0.01	8.5	51

USING THE ADXL311 WITH OPERATING VOLTAGES OTHER THAN 3 V

The ADXL311 is tested and specified at V_{DD} = 3 V; however, it can be powered with V_{DD} as low as 2.7 V or as high as 5.25 V. Some performance parameters will change as the supply voltage is varied.

The ADXL311 output is ratiometric, so the output sensitivity (or scale factor) will vary proportionally to supply voltage. At V_{DD} = 5 V the output sensitivity is typically 312 mV/*g*.

The zero *g* bias output is also ratiometric, so the zero *g* output is nominally equal to $V_{DD}/2$ at all supply voltages.

The output noise is not ratiometric but absolute in volts; therefore, the noise density decreases as the supply voltage increases. This is because the scale factor (mV/*g*) increases while the noise voltage remains constant.

The self-test response is roughly proportional to the square of the supply voltage. At V_{DD} = 5 V, the self-test response will be approximately equivalent to 800 m*g* (typical).

The supply current increases as the supply voltage increases. Typical current consumption at V_{DD} = 5 V is 600 μA.

Using the ADXL311 as a Dual-Axis Tilt Sensor

One of the most popular applications of the ADXL311 is tilt measurement. An accelerometer uses the force of gravity as an input vector to determine the orientation of an object in space.

An accelerometer is most sensitive to tilt when its sensitive axis is perpendicular to the force of gravity, i.e., parallel to the earth's surface. At this orientation, its sensitivity to changes in tilt is highest. When the accelerometer is oriented on axis to gravity, i.e., near its +1 *g* or −1 *g* reading, the change in output acceleration per degree of tilt is negligible. When the accelerometer is perpendicular to gravity, its output will change nearly 17.5 m*g* per degree of tilt, but at 45° degrees, it is changing only at 12.2 m*g* per degree and resolution declines.

DUAL-AXIS TILT SENSOR: CONVERTING ACCELERATION TO TILT

When the accelerometer is oriented so both its X-axis and Y-axis are parallel to the earth's surface, it can be used as a two axis tilt sensor with a roll axis and a pitch axis. Once the output signal from the accelerometer has been converted to an acceleration that varies between −1 *g* and +1 *g*, the output tilt in degrees is calculated as follows:

$$PITCH = ASIN\left(A_X / 1\ g\right)$$

$$ROLL = ASIN\left(A_Y / 1\ g\right)$$

Be sure to account for overranges. It is possible for the accelerometers to output a signal greater than ±1 *g* due to vibration, shock, or other accelerations.

PIN CONFIGURATION AND FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTIONS

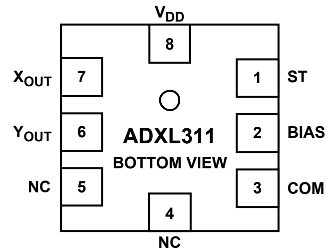

Figure 10. 8-Lead CLCC

Table 7. Pin Function Descriptions—8-Lead CLCC

Pin No.	Mnemonic	Description
1	ST	Self Test
2	BIAS	Bias Resistor (≈200 kΩ)
3	COM	Common
4	NC	Do Not Connect
5	NC	Do Not Connect
6	Y_{OUT}	Y Channel Output
7	X_{OUT}	X Channel Output
8	V_{DD}	2.7 V to 5.25 V

OUTLINE DIMENSIONS

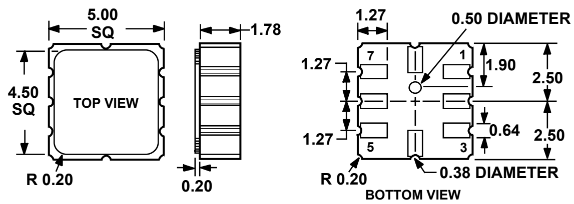

Figure 11. 8-Terminal Ceramic Leadless Chip Carrier [CLCC]
(E-8)
Dimensions shown in millimeters

ESD CAUTION

ESD (electrostatic discharge) sensitive device. Electrostatic charges as high as 4000 V readily accumulate on the human body and test equipment and can discharge without detection. Although this product features proprietary ESD protection circuitry, permanent damage may occur on devices subjected to high energy electrostatic discharges. Therefore, proper ESD precautions are recommended to avoid performance degradation or loss of functionality.

WARNING!
ESD SENSITIVE DEVICE

Ordering Guide

ADXL311Products	Number of Axes	Specified Voltage	Temperature Range
ADXL311JE	2	3 V	0°C to 70°C
ADXL311JE–REEL	2	3 V	0°C to 70°C
ADXL311EB Evaluation Board			

NOTES

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