

Introduction

Unico is a cross-platform graphical user interface (GUI) running on Windows, Linux and Mac OS for the demonstration boards of MEMS sensors such as accelerometers, gyroscopes, magnetometers and environmental sensors available in the STMicroelectronics portfolio.

Unico interacts with all the MEMS demonstration boards supported by the STEVAL-MKI109V2 (eMotion) and STEVAL-MKI109V3 (Professional MEMS tool) motherboards and allows a quick and easy setup of the sensors, as well as the complete configuration of all the registers and the advanced features embedded in the digital output devices. The software visualizes the output of the sensors in both graphical and numeric format and allows the user to save or generally manage data coming from the device.

This user manual describes all the functions of the Unico GUI. For details regarding the features of each sensor, please refer to the related device datasheet.

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1 PC system requirements

Unico software has been designed to operate with Microsoft® Windows platforms, Linux platforms, and Mac OS X platforms.

1.1 Windows platforms

A virtual COM driver must be installed to allow communication with the motherboard. Please refer to the eMotion / Professional MEMS tool board user manuals for the installation.

The package “Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 Redistributable Package (x86)” needs to be installed to be able to run Unico on Windows; it can be downloaded from Microsoft Download Center.

To install the Unico GUI, launch the “Setup_Unico.exe” file included in the package and follow the instructions which appear on the screen. When the software is installed, you can run it from: “Start > STMicroelectronics > Unico > Unico.exe”

1.2 Linux platforms

For Linux Debian-based distributions, a .deb package is provided in the package.

On Ubuntu, you can install the .deb package by opening a terminal and writing the following command:

```
sudo dpkg -i unico.deb
```

If the installation fails for any missing dependent library, it is necessary to install the missing library before proceeding with the Unico installation:

```
sudo apt-get install <missing_library_name>
```

```
sudo dpkg -i unico.deb
```

Note: Unico dynamically links to the Qt5 libraries, so they need to be installed on your system to make it work.

After the installation has been completed, the executable file (“unico”) will be stored in the /usr/local/bin folder. You may need to change the permission of the “unico” executable file with the following command:

```
sudo chmod +x /usr/local/bin/unico
```

To run the Unico software, just type:

```
/usr/local/bin/unico
```

Note: The current version of Unico is designed to work on Ubuntu 14.04 LTS, although it should be possible to install and run it on other Debian-based distributions after having installed all the dependencies required.

1.3 Mac OS X platforms

For Mac OS, a DMG file (unico.dmg) is provided in the package.

To install Unico:

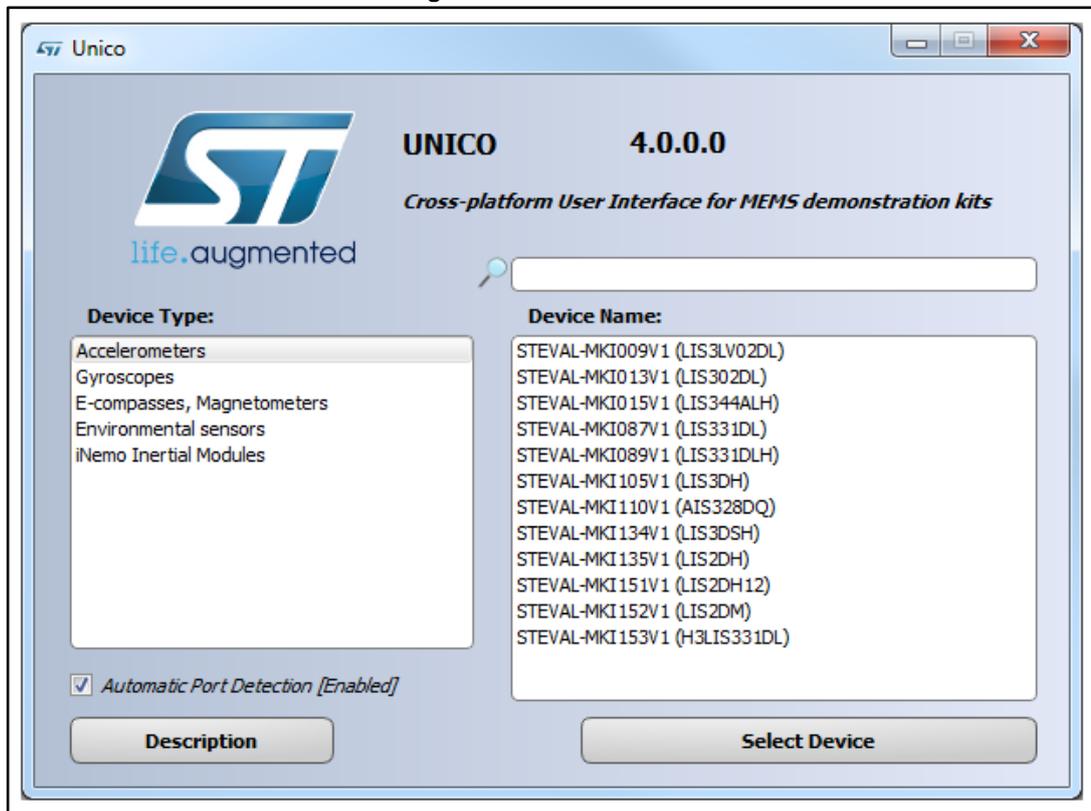
1. Double-click the DMG file to open it up. A finder window containing the unico application will appear.
2. Drag and drop the unico application into your “Applications” directory in order to install Unico on your Mac.

To run Unico, just click on the unico application under “Applications”.

2 Unico graphical user interface

After launching the Unico GUI, a launcher window will appear, as shown in [Figure 1: "Unico launcher"](#). The GUI shows the list of adapter boards supported by the current release, grouped according to the device type.

Figure 1: Unico launcher



Choose the board currently in use from the list and then click on the button "Select Device". The main window will appear after a few seconds ([Figure 2: "Unico main window"](#)).

In the launcher window, it is also possible to get a brief description of the selected sensor by clicking on the "Description" button.

The GUI can automatically detect the port where the board is connected. However, if the user has no administrator rights, or in case of Bluetooth connection, the port selection must be done manually, unchecking the "Automatic Port Detection" check-box. For further information on how to detect the port manually refer to [Section 4: "Port detection"](#).

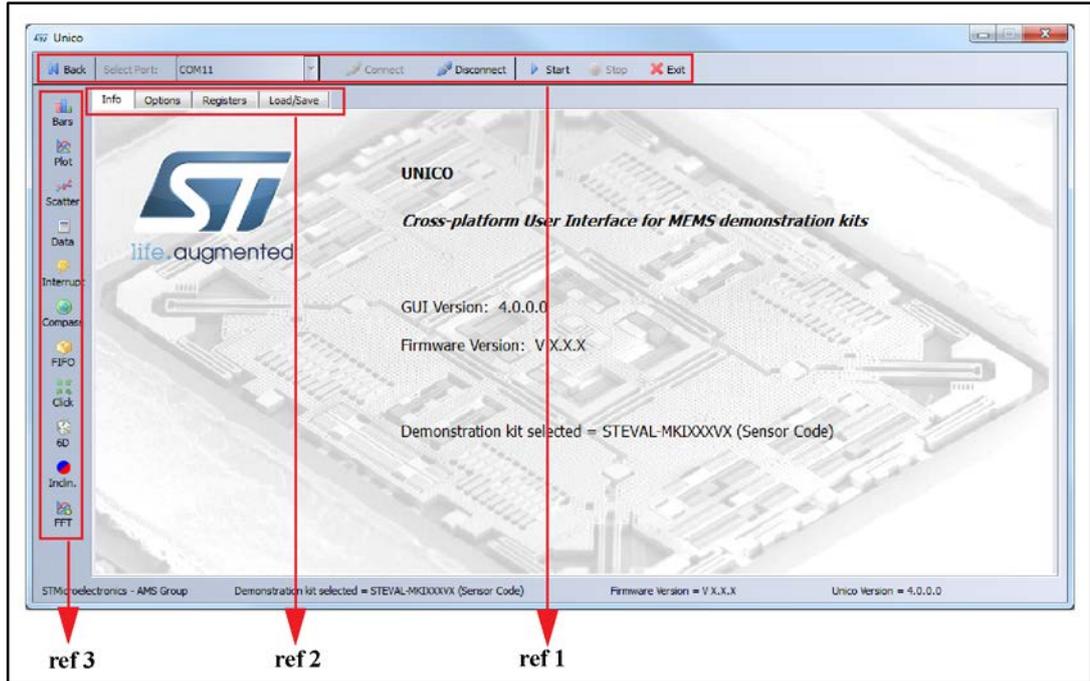
On Linux, permissions on the serial port could be required to establish the connection. If so, the GUI will suggest the command to be executed (for instance: `sudo chmod 666 ttyACM0`), and will open a terminal to run the command.

2.1 Tools available

The Unico main window can be divided in three parts:

1. “Main Control” (*Figure 2: "Unico main window"*, ref 1) - connects/disconnects the board, starts/stops data acquisition, exits/returns back for closing the GUI or returning to the launcher.
2. “Tab Selector” (*Figure 2: "Unico main window"*, ref 2) - is used to toggle between the tabs “Info”, “Options”, “Registers” and “Load/Save”. These tabs are available for all the devices and are used to configure the sensors.
3. “Tools” (*Figure 2: "Unico main window"*, ref 3) - contains all the tools available for the device in use.

Figure 2: Unico main window



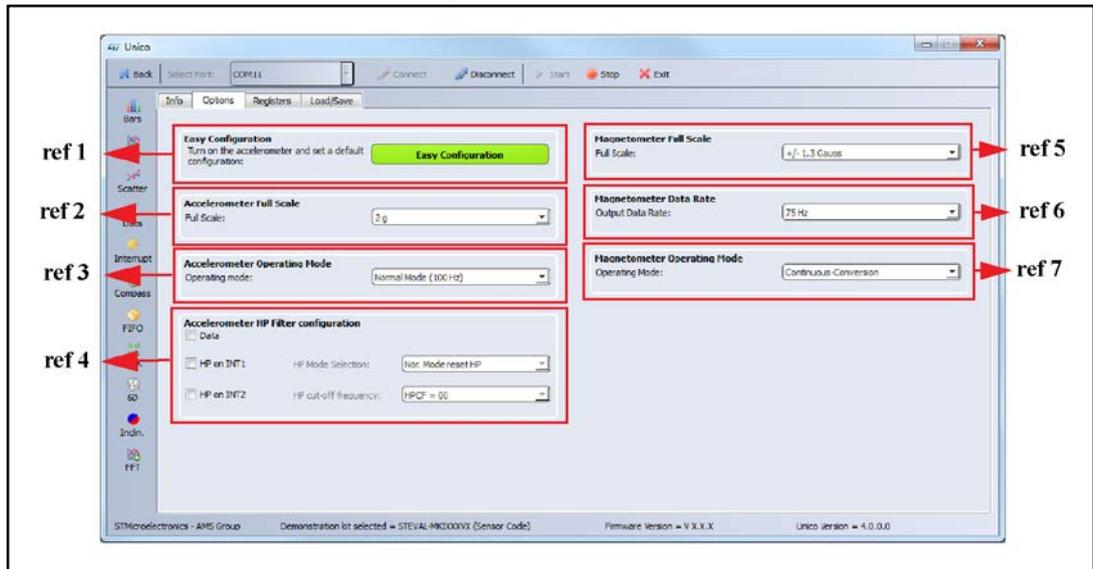
In the following sections all the functions available in Unico GUI are described.

2.2 Options tab

The options tab allows the user to control the main parameters of the selected sensor. The content of the tab depends on the sensor chosen. The following parameters refer to a 3-axis digital accelerometer plus a 3-axis digital magnetometer:

1. Easy Configuration: Turns on the device and sets a default configuration (*Figure 3: "Options tab"*, ref 1).
2. Accelerometer full scale (FS): sets the maximum acceleration value measurable by the device (*Figure 3: "Options tab"*, ref 2).
3. Accelerometer operating mode (OM): selects the operating mode (e.g. normal mode or power-down mode) (*Figure 3: "Options tab"*, ref 3).
4. Accelerometer's high-pass filter (HP): activates the high-pass filter of the accelerometer and selects the cutoff frequency (*Figure 3: "Options tab"*, ref 4).
5. Magnetometer full scale (FS): sets the maximum magnetic field measurable by the device (*Figure 3: "Options tab"*, ref 5).
6. Magnetometer data rate (ODR): sets the magnetometer output data rate (*Figure 3: "Options tab"*, ref 6).
7. Magnetometer operating mode: selects the operating mode of the magnetometer (e.g. normal measurement) (*Figure 3: "Options tab"*, ref 7).

Figure 3: Options tab

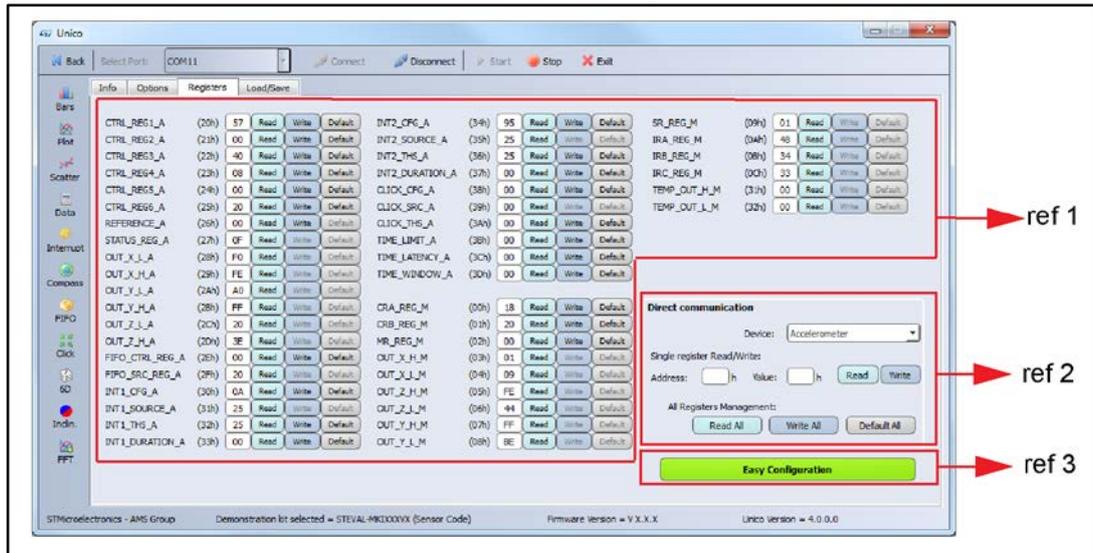


2.3 Register setup tab

The register setup tab shown in *Figure 4: "Register setup tab"* allows reading and writing the content of the registers embedded in the MEMS sensor mounted on the demonstration kit. The tab is divided in three sections:

1. "General" (*Figure 4: "Register setup tab"*, ref 1) - provides access to the registers which control the main settings of the device. This section contains control registers, registers to manage the interrupt generation, and so on. It is possible to read and write the contents of each register. To read the default value for a given register, press the "Default" button (in this case no data is written in the register, to do this please click the "Write" button).
2. "Direct communication" (*Figure 4: "Register setup tab"*, ref 2) - provides access to any register in the device. To read a generic register, insert the address value in the "Register Address" text box, then click on the "Read" button. The retrieved content of the register is displayed in the "Register Value" field. As with writing to a register, the user must specify the address and the data to be written inside the fields marked "Register Address" and "Register Value" respectively, then press the "Write" button. "Read All", "Write All", and "Default All" perform the same functions but for all the registers at the same time.
3. "Easy Configuration" - this button provides the user the possibility to choose a default configuration, allowing an easy start. When pressed, the sensor register is automatically configured with the default configuration (*Figure 4: "Register setup tab"* ref 3).

Figure 4: Register setup tab

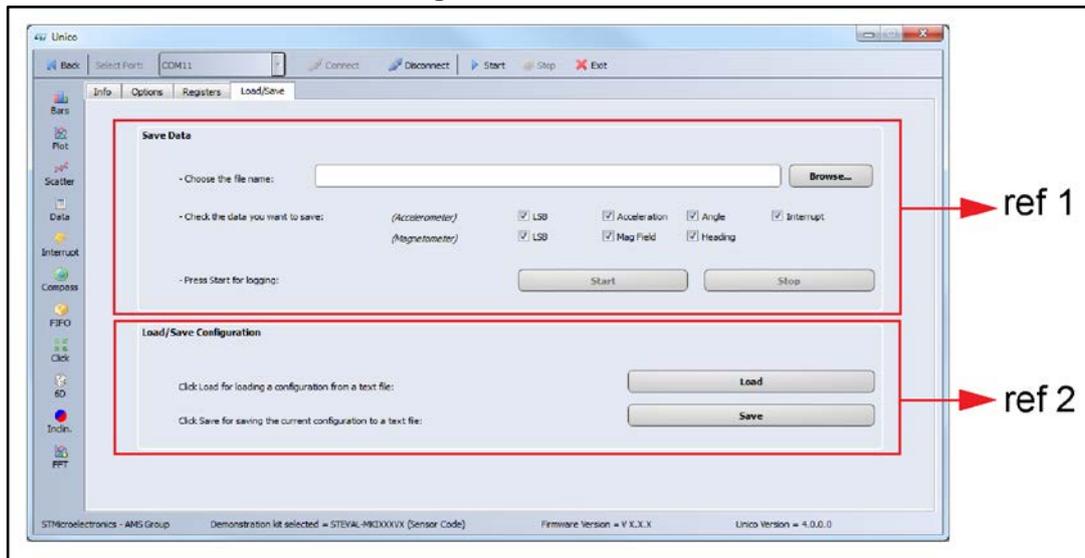


2.4 Load/Save tab

This tab allows the user to save a stream of sensor output data in a text file, available for possible post-processing (*Figure 5: "Load/Save tab", ref 1*). It is possible to select which data must be stored. The "Browse" button is used to select the folder and insert the file name, then the "Start" and "Stop" buttons define the acquisition period.

It is also possible to save the current register configuration by clicking on the "Save" button. The configuration saved can be loaded at any time by clicking on the "Load" button (*Figure 5: "Load/Save tab", ref 2*).

Figure 5: Load/Save tab



2.5 Bars tool

The bars tool (*Figure 6: "Bars tool"*) displays the data measured by the sensor in a bar chart format. For instance, in the case of a 6-axis module, the accelerations along the X, Y, and Z axes correspond respectively to the red, green, and blue bars. The same colors are used to represent the magnetic values along X, Y, and Z axes.

The height of each bar is determined by the amplitude of the signal measured by the sensor along the related axis. The full scale of the graph depends on the configuration and can be changed through both the option tab (*Figure 3: "Options tab"*, ref 2, ref 6) and the register tab (*Figure 4: "Register setup tab"*, ref 1, ref 2).

Figure 6: Bars tool

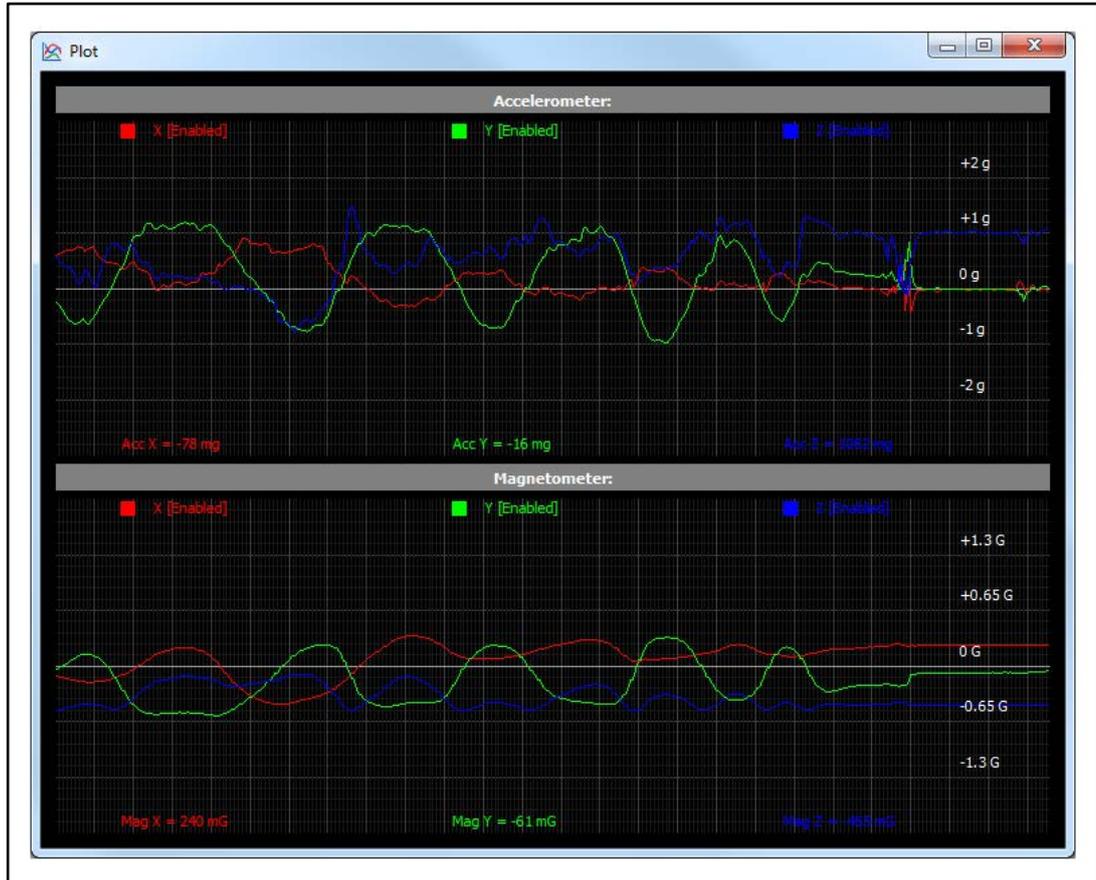


2.6 Plot tool

The plot tool shows the evolution of the output over time. *Figure 7: "Plot tool"* shows the sequence of the accelerometer and magnetometer samples which have been measured by the 6-axis module mounted on the demonstration kit.

If the selected device contains just the accelerometer, the magnetic part is hidden. In the case of gyroscopes, the plot shows the angular rates.

Figure 7: Plot tool



2.7 Scatter plot tool

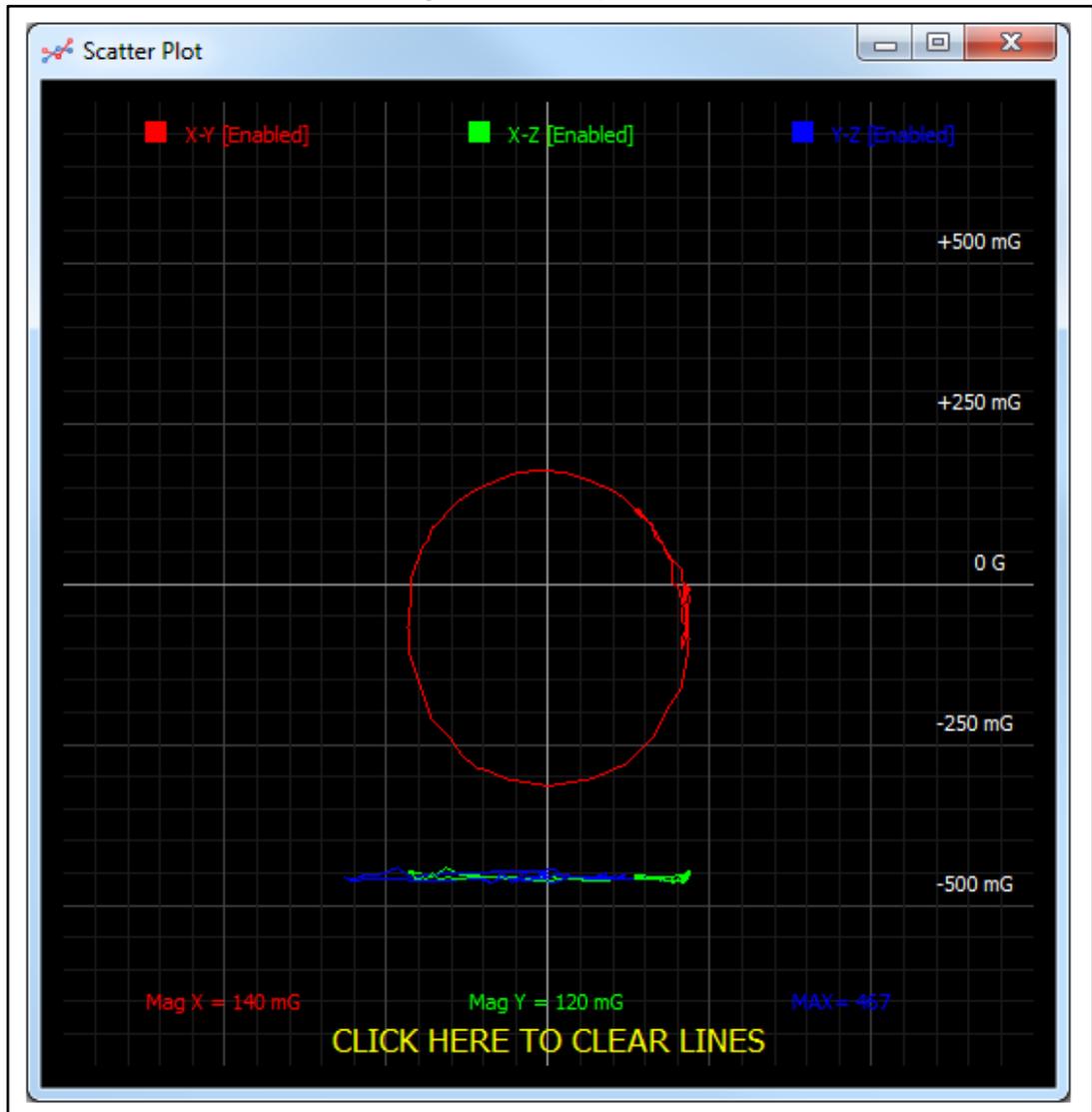
The scatter plot tool shows the graphical representation of the magnetometer data, used to evaluate the quality of the magnetometer calibration.

The plot shows three lines:

- the red line represents the magnetometer X data on the X-axis, and the magnetometer Y-data on the Y-axis;
- the green line represents the magnetometer X data on the X-axis, and the magnetometer Z-data on the Y-axis;
- the blue line represents the magnetometer Y data on the X-axis, and the magnetometer Z-data on the Y-axis.

The three lines can be enabled and disabled independently by clicking on the corresponding text at the top of the window. Finally, clicking on the text “CLICK HERE TO CLEAR LINES” will reset all the data in the plot.

Figure 8: Scatter plot tool

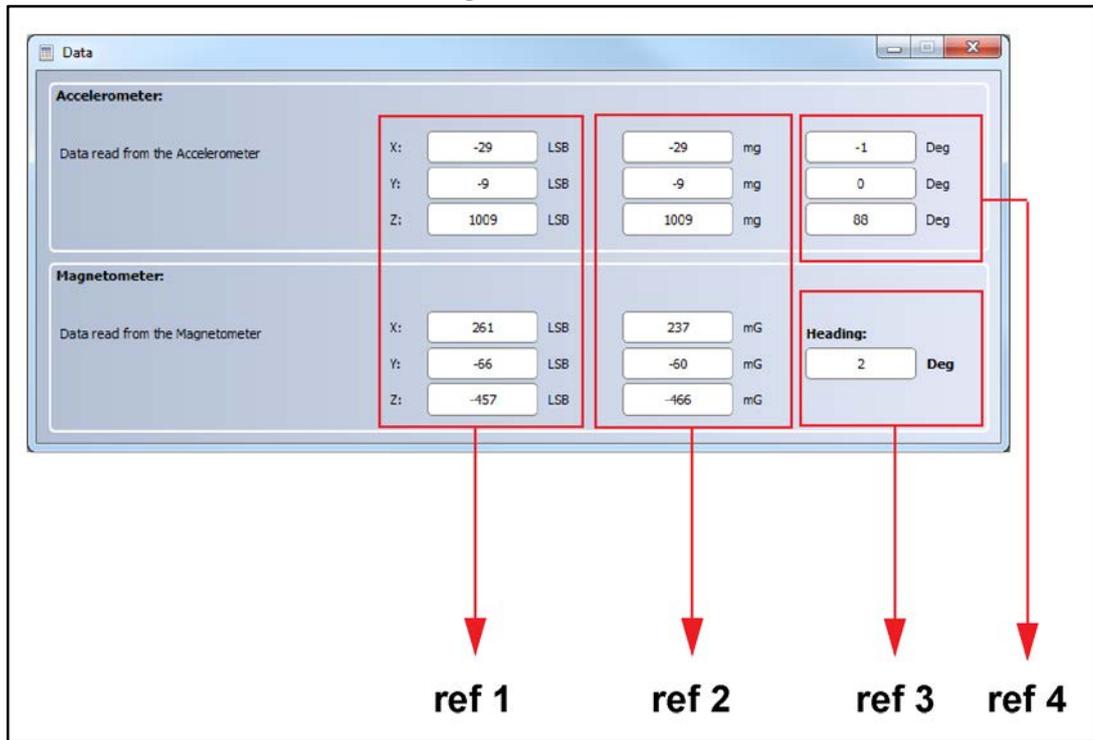


2.8 Data tool

The data tool (*Figure 9: "Data tool"*) shows the output values measured by the sensor connected to the demonstration board. For a 6-axis module, the data is divided in the following sections:

1. "LSB Data" (*Figure 9: "Data tool"*, ref 1) - displays acceleration and magnetic data provided by the sensor in LSB (no sensitivity is applied).
2. "Physical Data" (*Figure 9: "Data tool"*, ref 2) - represents the acceleration/magnetic data measured by the sensor, expressed in the related unit of measurements (taking account of the sensitivity).
3. "Azimuth" (*Figure 9: "Data tool"*, ref 3) - displays the azimuth calculated using the magnetic field data.
4. "Angle" (*Figure 9: "Data tool"*, ref 4) - returns the tilt angle, 7 degrees.

Figure 9: Data tool



2.9 Interrupt tool

The interrupt tool (*Figure 10: "Interrupt tool"*) allows evaluating the interrupt generation features of the MEMS sensor. In this window it is possible to configure the characteristics of the inertial events that must be recognized by the device, and to visualize (in real time) the evolution of the two interrupt lines.

The GUI provides the access to the interrupt registers (such as: INT_CFG, INT_SRC, THS and duration) which allow the configuration of the two independent interrupt sources of the device (*Figure 10: "Interrupt tool"*, ref 2). The labels located at the bottom of the graph (*Figure 10: "Interrupt tool"*, ref 1) show threshold and duration values.

Finally, two buttons per interrupt line are available in the tool, in order to easily set the recommended configuration for free-fall and wake-up detection (*Figure 10: "Interrupt tool"*, ref 3).

Figure 10: Interrupt tool



2.10 Compass tool

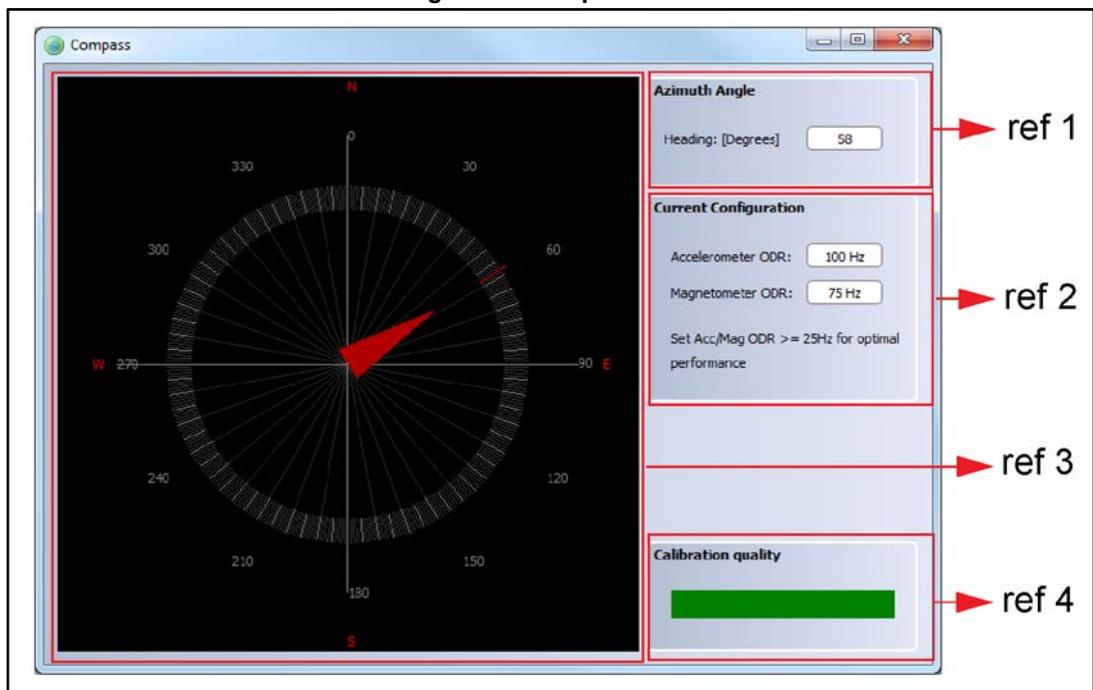
The compass tool shows an example of compass application (*Figure 11: "Compass tool", ref 3*), which can be implemented using a 6-axis module (3-axis accelerometer and 3-axis magnetometer).

The algorithm uses the magnetometer data to measure the Earth's magnetic field, and the accelerometer data to compensate the board inclination. Rotating the board, the GUI shows the heading of the compass (*Figure 11: "Compass tool", ref 1*).

The performance of the compass is related to the configuration used. So, the GUI shows the current configuration and the recommended configuration (accelerometer and magnetometer ODR, *Figure 11: "Compass tool", ref 2*).

Before using the compass demo, the system must be calibrated by moving the board randomly for a few seconds; the quality of the calibration step is indicated by a colored bar (*Figure 11: "Compass tool", ref 4*). A green colored bar means that the quality of the calibration is optimal.

Figure 11: Compass tool



2.11 FIFO tool

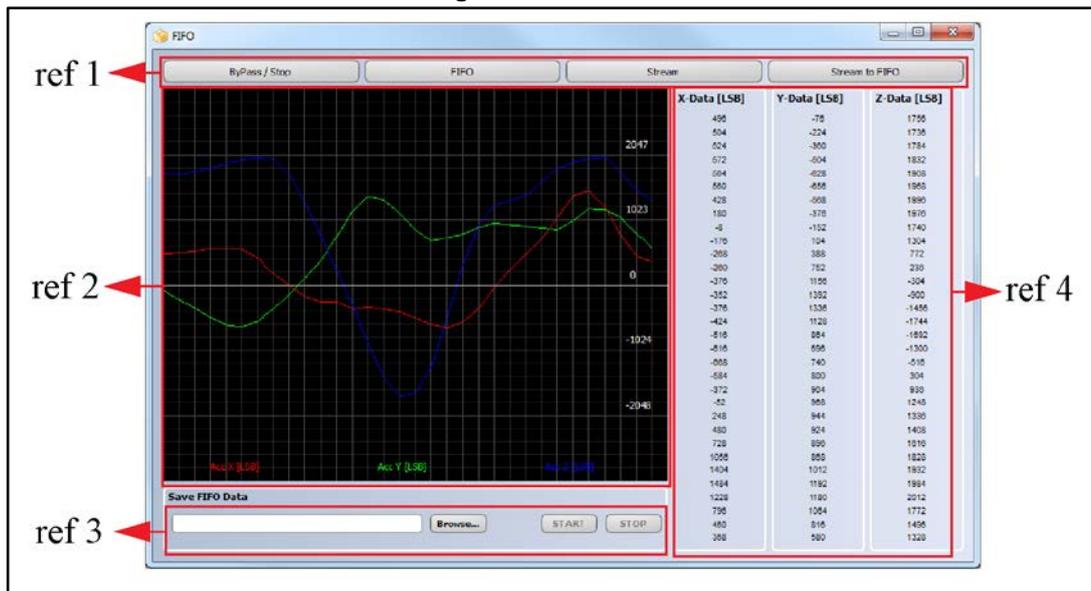
The FIFO tool can be used to test the first-in first-out data buffer embedded in the device, when this feature is supported by the sensor (see the device datasheet for more details).

By using the buttons available in the window (*Figure 12: "FIFO tool"*, ref 1), the FIFO can be configured in all the supported modes (e.g. Bypass, FIFO, Stream, Stream-to-FIFO).

The GUI shows the values of the X, Y, Z data stored in the 32-byte deep FIFO buffer, indicating both numerical data (*Figure 12: "FIFO tool"*, ref 4) and the corresponding graph (*Figure 12: "FIFO tool"*, ref 2).

Finally, it allows users to save the data in a text file, which can be used for post-processing (*Figure 12: "FIFO tool"*, ref 3).

Figure 12: FIFO tool



2.12 State machine tool

The state machine tool allows the user to configure the state machines and test the functionalities. Four different tabs are available for this tool:

- Configuration ([Section 2.12.1: "Configuration tab"](#)) - allows setting a configuration for the state machines.
- XYZ Plot ([Section 2.12.2: "XYZ plot tab"](#)) - shows a plot with XYZ data in LSB format and interrupt lines.
- Vector Plot ([Section 2.12.3: "Vector plot tab"](#)) - shows a plot with vector plot data in LSB format and interrupt lines.
- Debug ([Section 2.12.4: "Debug tab"](#)) - is used to load a data pattern and debug the state machine sample by sample.

2.12.1 Configuration tab

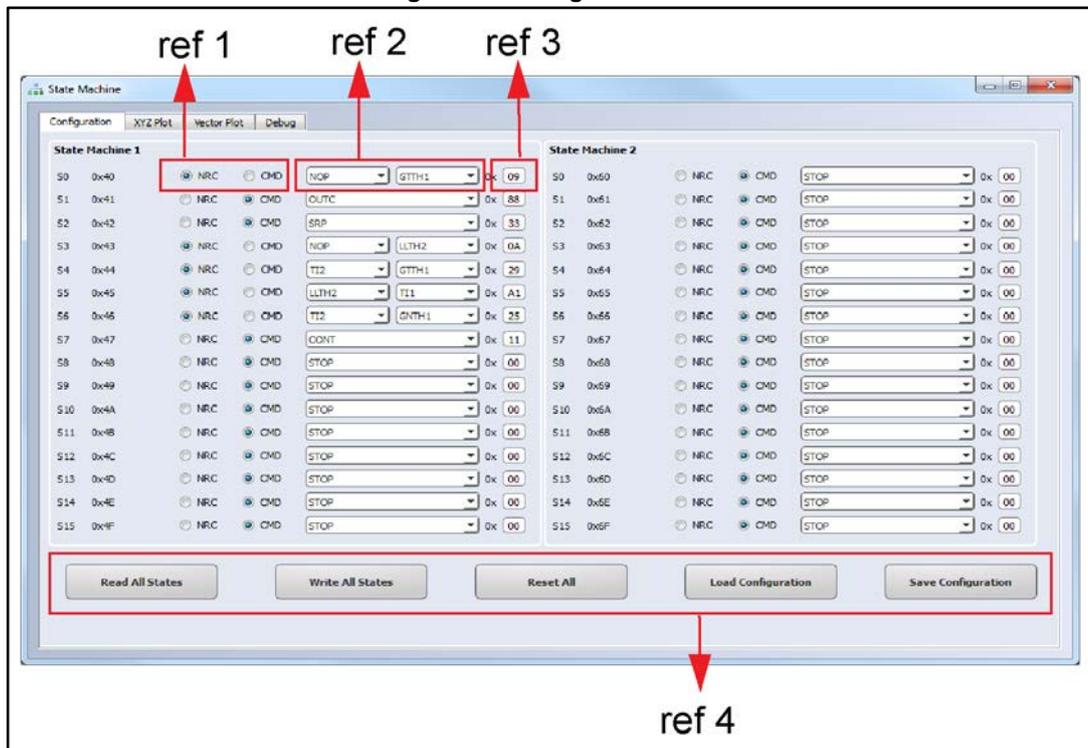
The configuration tab allows visualizing the current configuration and setting a new configuration for the state machines.

For each state ([Figure 13: "Configuration tab", ref 1](#)), a Next/Reset condition (NRC) or a Command (CMD) can be chosen from the list ([Figure 13: "Configuration tab", ref 2](#)) or through the corresponding hexadecimal code ([Figure 13: "Configuration tab", ref 3](#)).

Once the states have been configured, the "Write All States" button ([Figure 13: "Configuration tab", ref 4](#)) must be clicked to set the visualized configuration to the state machine registers. It is also possible to read the current configuration by clicking the "Read All States" button or set to zero all the states by clicking the "Reset All" button ([Figure 13: "Configuration tab", ref 4](#)).

Finally, the state machine tool allows loading and saving a state machine configuration in a text file using the buttons "Load Configuration" and "Save Configuration" ([Figure 13: "Configuration tab", ref 4](#)).

Figure 13: Configuration tab



2.12.2 XYZ plot tab

The XYZ plot tab shows the XYZ data in LSB format and the evolution of the two interrupt lines. It is possible to reset the interrupts by reading the registers OUTS1 and OUTS2 at the bottom of the window (Figure 14: "XYZ plot tab", ref 1).

The 'Save Data Pattern' section (Figure 14: "XYZ plot tab", ref 2) allows the user to save a data pattern in a text file: this data pattern can be loaded in the Debug tab and used to debug the state machine sample by sample.

Figure 14: XYZ plot tab



2.12.3 Vector plot tab

The vector plot tab shows the vector data in LSB format and the evolution of the two interrupt lines. It is possible to reset the interrupts by reading the registers OUTS1 and OUTS2 at the bottom of the window (*Figure 15: "Vector plot tab"*).

Figure 15: Vector plot tab



2.12.4 Debug tab

The debug tab shows a graph of the current state machine configurations, and allows the debugging sample by sample, after loading an input data pattern.

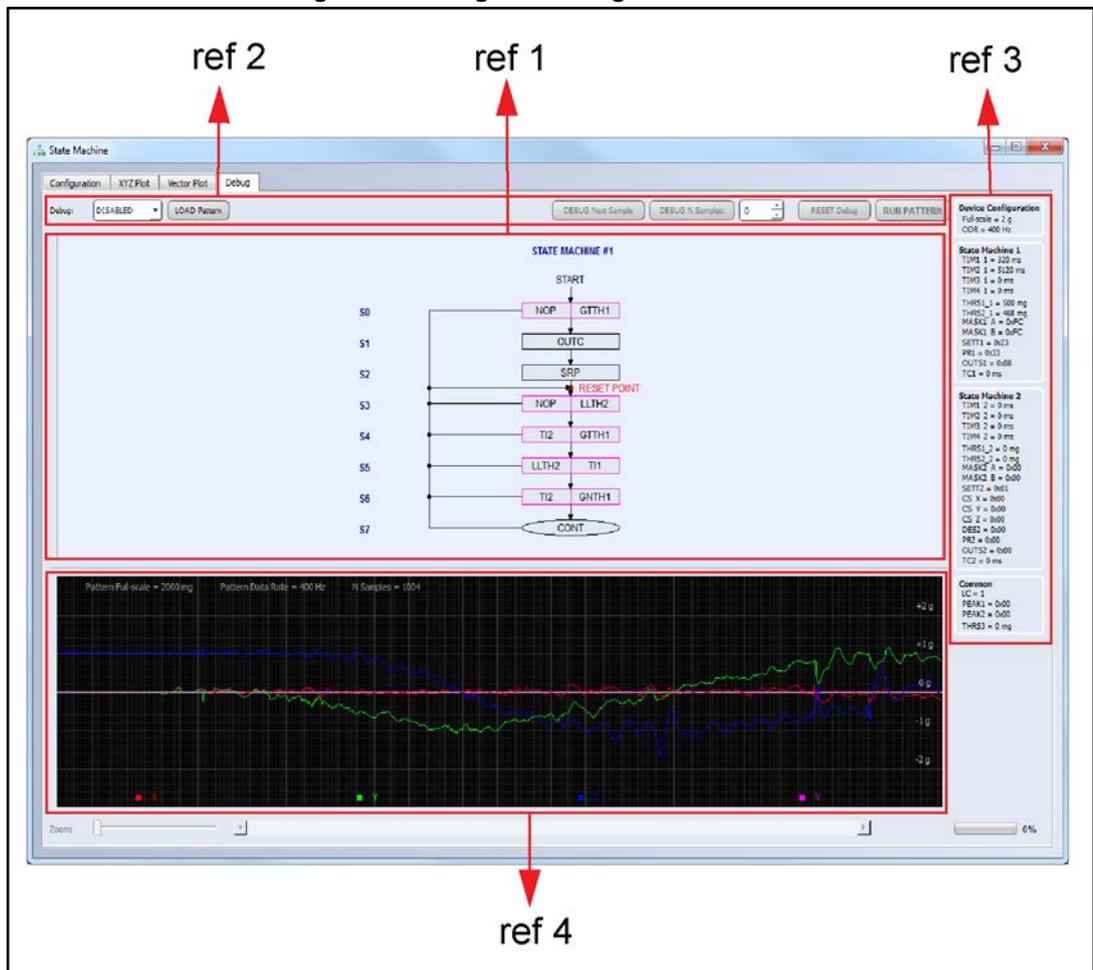
The two state machine flows are shown in the central part of the window (Figure 16: "Debug tab - debug mode disabled", ref 1). It is possible to highlight a command by clicking on it when the debug mode is disabled; when the debug mode is enabled, the current state is highlighted.

On the top of the GUI (Figure 16: "Debug tab - debug mode disabled", ref 2), the input data pattern can be chosen, the debug mode can be activated, and a certain number of samples can be loaded into the state machines for debugging.

On the right side of the GUI (Figure 16: "Debug tab - debug mode disabled", ref 3), the current device configuration and the current state machine parameters are indicated with their measurement units (according to the full scale and the ODR selected).

The bottom part of the window (Figure 16: "Debug tab - debug mode disabled", ref 4) shows the input data pattern loaded. When the debug mode is disabled, it is possible to visualize the information related to each sample just by clicking on the desired part in the plot.

Figure 16: Debug tab - debug mode disabled



Once the debug mode has been enabled (Figure 17: "Debug tab - Debug mode enabled", ref 1), samples can be loaded by using the controls at the top of the window (Figure 17: "Debug tab - Debug mode enabled", ref 2):

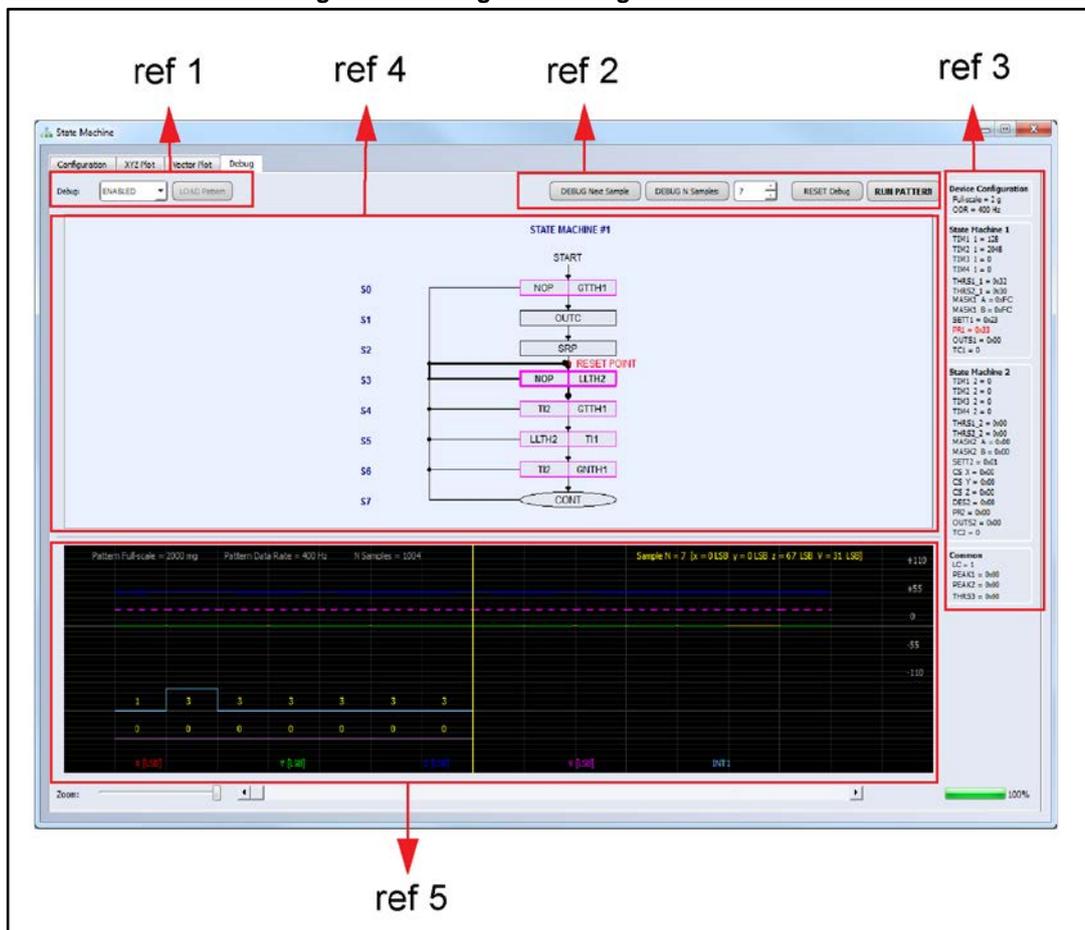
- "DEBUG Next Sample" button is used to load one sample in the state machines;
- "DEBUG N Samples" allows loading the indicated number of samples;
- "RESET Debug" is used to reset the ongoing debug session;
- "RUN PATTERN" allows running the whole data pattern.

When the debug mode is enabled, the measurement units in the right side of the window (Figure 17: "Debug tab - Debug mode enabled", ref 3) are meaningless and the state machine parameters are only related to the register values. Moreover, these values are updated in real time, and the text becomes red when the corresponding register value has changed.

During a debug session, the current state is highlighted, and the reset point position is automatically updated in the state machine flow (Figure 17: "Debug tab - Debug mode enabled", ref 4).

The current state in the two state machines and the interrupt evolutions are shown under the data plot (Figure 17: "Debug tab - Debug mode enabled", ref 5).

Figure 17: Debug tab - Debug mode enabled



2.13 Click tool

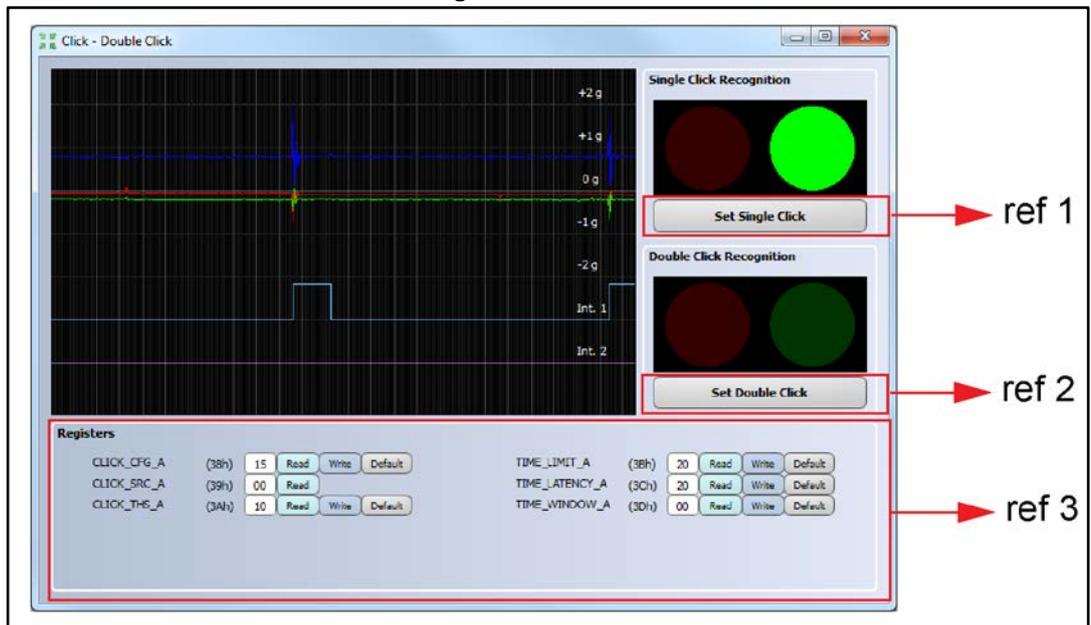
The click tool (*Figure 18: "Click tool"*) allows evaluating the click or double-click function of the MEMS sensor. In this window it is possible to configure the device for single-click and double-click detection and visualize (in real time) the evolution of the interrupt line.

This tool is available only for the devices which integrates the click/double-click function.

By clicking the buttons "Set Single Click" (*Figure 18: "Click tool"*, ref 1) or "Set Double Click" (*Figure 18: "Click tool"*, ref 2), a default configuration for single-click or double-click detection will be loaded. After loading the configuration, a green light will appear when the single or double click has been recognized.

It is also possible to change the register configuration by setting different values in the interrupt registers shown in the tool (*Figure 18: "Click tool"*, ref 3).

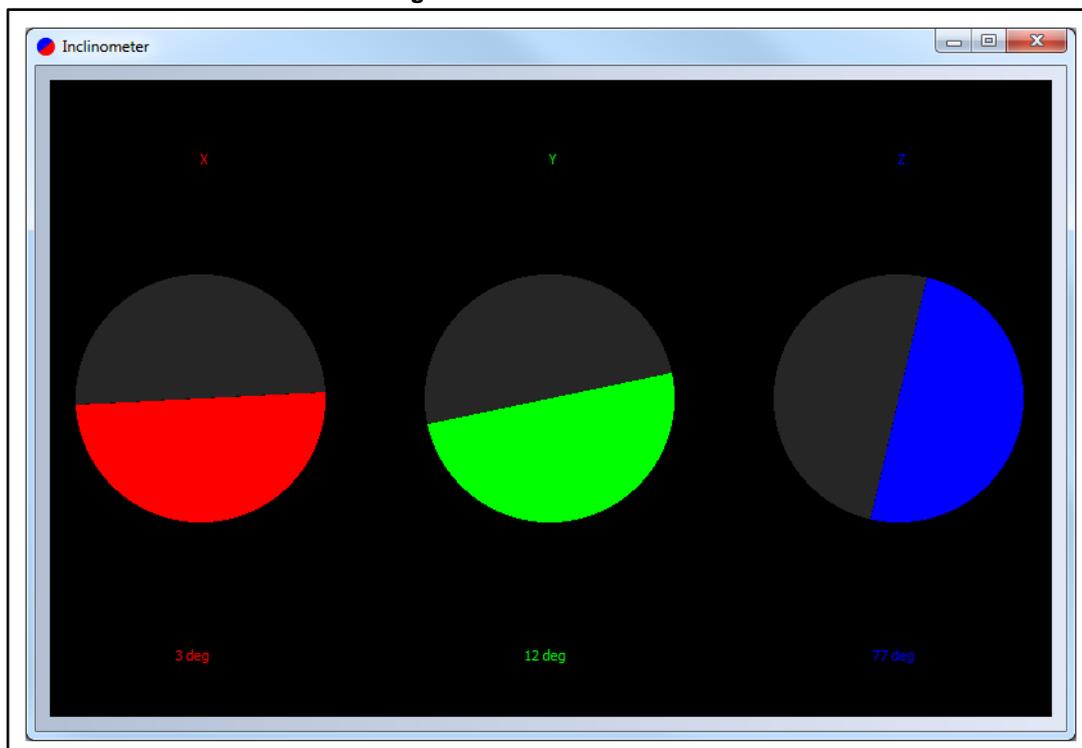
Figure 18: Click tool



2.14 Inclinometer tool

The inclinometer tool (*Figure 19: "Inclinometer tool"*) represents the angle between the accelerometer axis and the horizontal plane. This tool is available if the sensor in use integrates an accelerometer, otherwise it is hidden.

Figure 19: Inclinometer tool



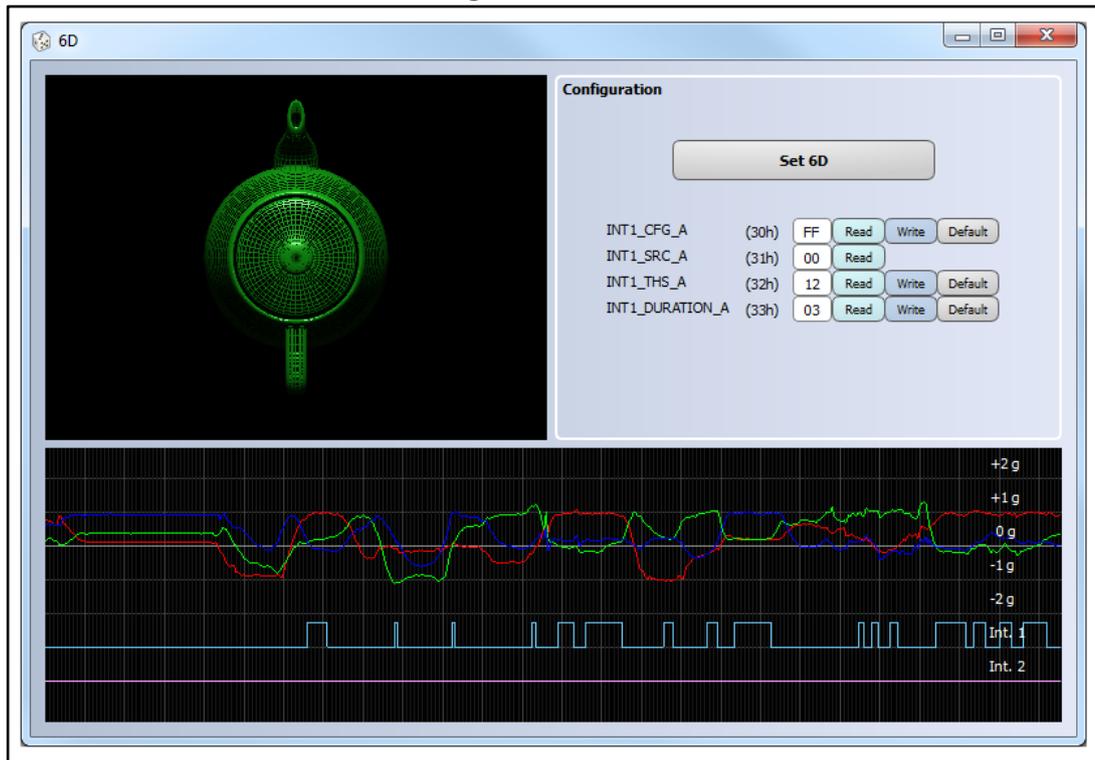
2.15 6D tool

The 6D tool ([Figure 20: "6D tool"](#)) provides an example of how to use the "6D position" function.

In this tool it is possible to configure the interrupt for 6D recognition by clicking the button "Set 6D" ([Figure 20: "6D tool"](#), ref 1). After loading the configuration, the teapot will be oriented depending on the 6D position detected ([Figure 20: "6D tool"](#), ref 2). The window also shows (in real time) the evolution of the interrupt line.

It is also possible to change the register configuration by setting different values in the interrupt registers shown in the tool ([Figure 20: "6D tool"](#), ref 2).

Figure 20: 6D tool



2.16 FFT tool

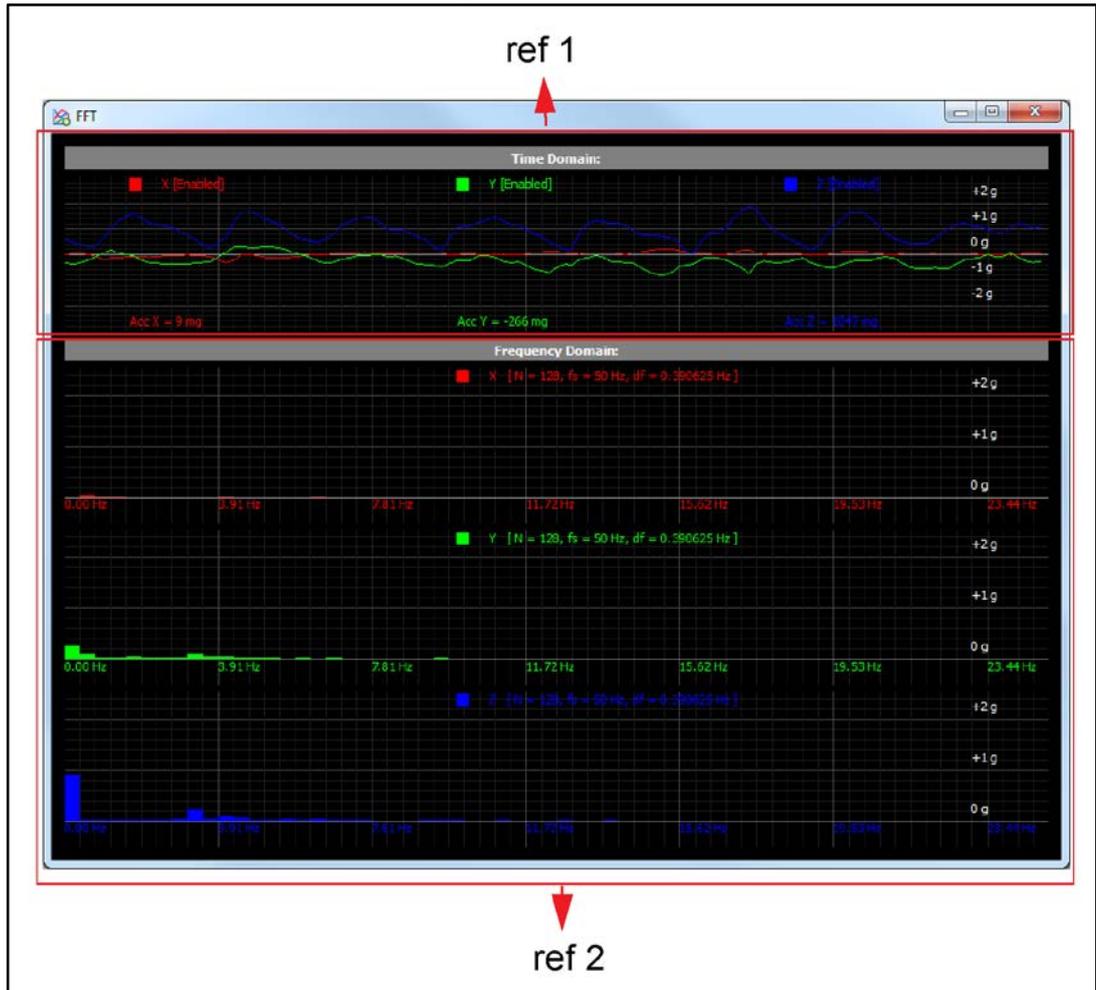
The FFT tool (*Figure 21: "FFT tool"*) shows the Fast Fourier Transform of the output data.

The window shows time-domain plot (*Figure 21: "FFT tool", ref 1*), and the frequency-domain plot for each axis (*Figure 21: "FFT tool", ref 2*).

The FFT is performed on the latest 128 samples of the time-domain waveform, so the spectrum in the frequency domain will be divided in 64 frequencies (from 0 to ODR/2 Hz).

The frequency domain plots show the module of the Fourier transform of each axis, expressed in g for the accelerometer and dps for the gyroscope.

Figure 21: FFT tool



3 Data acquisition quick start

This section describes the basic steps that must be performed to acquire the data from the demonstration board:

1. Plug the demonstration board into the USB port.
2. Start the Unico GUI.
3. Select the STEVAL-MKI according to the device/demonstration board in use (*Figure 1: "Unico launcher"*).
4. Go to "Options" or "Registers" tab and click on "Easy Configuration" (*Figure 3: "Options tab"*, ref 1; *Figure 4: "Register setup tab"*, ref 3)
5. Click on the "Start" (or "Stop") button to activate (or stop) the sensor data collection.
6. Use the buttons on the left (*Figure 2: "Unico main window"*, ref 3) to display the desired tool.
7. To close the application, click on the button "Exit" or simply close the main window.

4 Port detection

In some cases, the Unico software cannot automatically detect the port where the board is connected. In these cases, the user needs to check the correct port and select it manually on the Unico GUI.

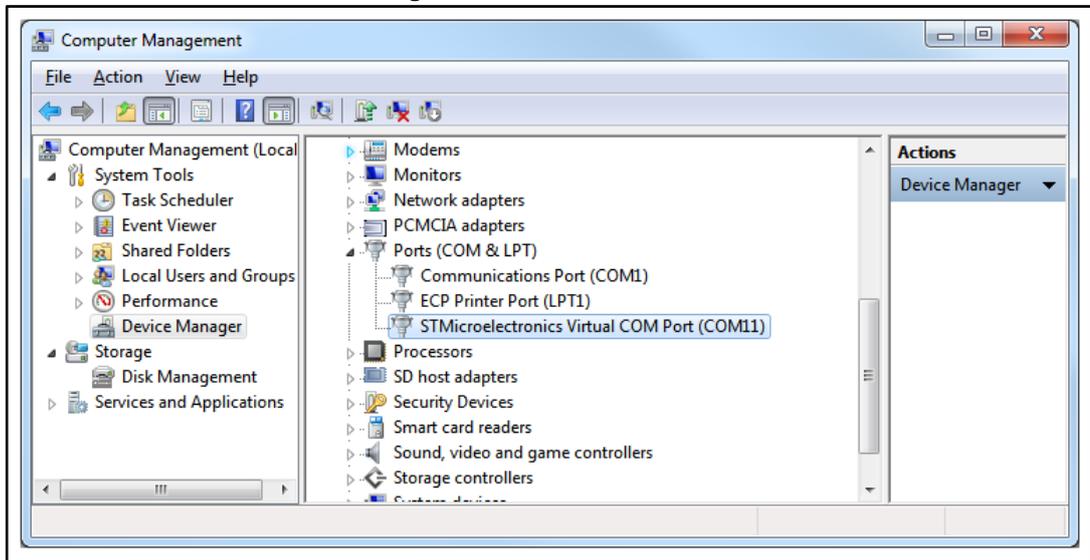
This section describes how to detect the port for each operating system.

4.1 Port detection on Windows

Note: Make sure the Virtual COM driver is installed in order to be able to communicate with the motherboard.

Right-click on “My Computer”, choose “Manage”, and then “Device Manager”. You will find the COM port in the “Ports” section of the Device Manager, with the name “STMicroelectronics Virtual COM Port (COM11)”, as shown in [Figure 22: "Port on Windows"](#)

Figure 22: Port on Windows



4.2 Port detection on Linux (Ubuntu)

Just after connecting the board, open a terminal and type “dmesg”. The port will have a name similar to “ttyACM0” (or “ttyS0”), see details in [Figure 23: "Port on Linux"](#).

Figure 23: Port on Linux

```

mems_app@MEMS-laptop: ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
[ 159.078031] Buffer I/O error on device fd0, logical block 0
[ 172.140089] end_request: I/O error, dev fd0, sector 0
[ 172.140102] Buffer I/O error on device fd0, logical block 0
[ 185.194322] end_request: I/O error, dev fd0, sector 0
[ 185.194336] Buffer I/O error on device fd0, logical block 0
[ 198.257596] end_request: I/O error, dev fd0, sector 0
[ 198.257610] Buffer I/O error on device fd0, logical block 0
[ 211.322398] end_request: I/O error, dev fd0, sector 0
[ 211.322411] Buffer I/O error on device fd0, logical block 0
[ 224.385614] end_request: I/O error, dev fd0, sector 0
[ 224.385623] Buffer I/O error on device fd0, logical block 0
[ 224.780048] usb 3-1: new full-speed USB device number 2 using uhci_hcd
[ 224.957077] usb 3-1: New USB device found, idVendor=0483, idProduct=5740
[ 224.957084] usb 3-1: New USB device strings: Mfr=1, Product=2, SerialNumber=3
[ 224.957088] usb 3-1: Product: STM32 Virtual COM Port
[ 224.957091] usb 3-1: Manufacturer: STMicroelectronics
[ 224.957094] usb 3-1: SerialNumber: 5CEA70663537
[ 225.030913] cdc_acm 3-1:1.0: This device cannot do calls on its own. It is not
a modem.
[ 225.030967] cdc_acm 3-1:1.0: ttyACM0: USB ACM device
[ 225.033507] usbcore: registered new interface driver cdc_acm
[ 225.033511] cdc_acm: USB Abstract Control Model driver for USB modems and ISD
N adapters
mems_app@MEMS-laptop:~$

```

4.3 Port detection on Mac OS

Before connecting the board to your Mac, open a terminal and type:

```
ls /dev/tty.*
```

You will get a list of device files.

Now, if you connect the board to your Mac and type the same command again, you will see a new file named `/dev/tty.usbmodemXXX` (the last three characters are numbers automatically assigned by the system).

This means that the board is connected to the port `usb.modemXXX`.

5 Revision history

Table 1: Document revision history

Date	Revision	Changes
02-Mar-2011	1	Initial release
06-Jun-2012	2	Added 'Automatic COM Port Detection' flag in Section 2: "Unico graphical user interface" Updated Table 1: Device vs supported tabs including new supported devices All figures have been updated
10-Sep-2013	3	Updated title of document Updated Figure 1: "Unico launcher" Updated Table 1 with new supported devices and added "State machine" tab; removed obsolete demonstration board (STEVAL-MKI063V1 based on the LSM303DLH) Added Section 2.15: State machine tab Minor textual updates
03-Nov-2014	4	Entire document revised according to release 4.0.0.0 of Unico <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All figures updated Linux and Mac OS subsections added to Section 1: "PC system requirements" Removed irrelevant subsections and table in Section 2: "Unico graphical user interface" and added Section 2.7: "Scatter plot tool"; Section 2.12: "State machine tool"; Section 2.16: "FFT tool" and Section 4: "Port detection"
20-Oct-2016	5	Added STEVAL-MKI109V3 to "Introduction" Textual updates in Section 1.1: "Windows platforms" and Section 4.1: "Port detection on Windows"

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