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Introduction

The EK3LV02DQ is an Evaluation Kit designed to provide to the user a complete, ready-to-use platform for the evaluation of the LIS3LV02DQ, a low-power 3-Axis linear accelerometer with digital output that includes a sensing element and an IC interface able to take information from the sensing element and to provide the measured signal to the external world.

Besides the MEMS sensor, the evaluation board mounts an ST7-USB microcontroller which acts like a bridge between the sensor and the personal computer on which it is possible to run either a Graphical User Interface delivered with the kit itself or dedicated SW routines that implements customized applications.

This user manual describes the HW composing the evaluation kit and gives the informations required to install and to run the evaluation kit user interface.

For any detail about the features implemented by the LIS3LV02DQ sensor refer to LIS3LV02DQ datasheet and to the Application Note AN2041

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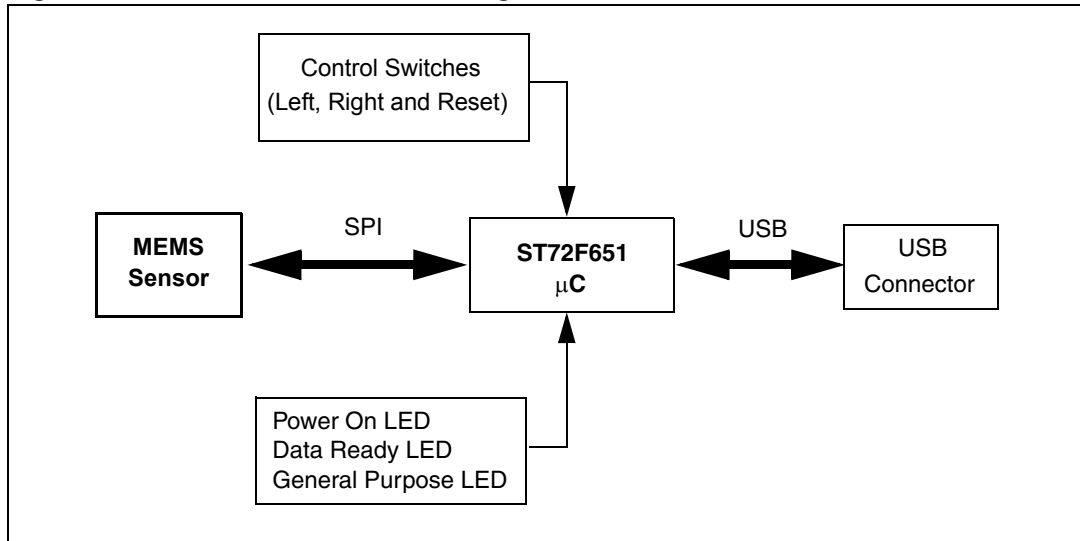
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1 Evaluation kit description

The EK3LV02DQ is an Evaluation Kit designed to provide the user with a complete, ready-to-use platform for the evaluation of the LIS3LV02DQ, a low-power 3-Axis linear accelerometer with digital output.

The block diagram of the evaluation kit is given in [Figure 1](#).

Figure 1. Evaluation board block diagram



Besides the MEMS sensor, the evaluation board mounts an ST7-USB microcontroller which acts like a bridge between the sensor and the personal computer on which it is possible to run either a Graphical User Interface delivered with the kit itself or dedicated SW routines that implements customized applications.

Few switches and LED indicators are also present to control and to monitor the functionality of the board itself.

The top silk-screen of the board and the photo of the full board are shown respectively in [Figure 2](#) and in [Figure 3](#).

Figure 2. Top silk-screen for EK3LV02DQ kit

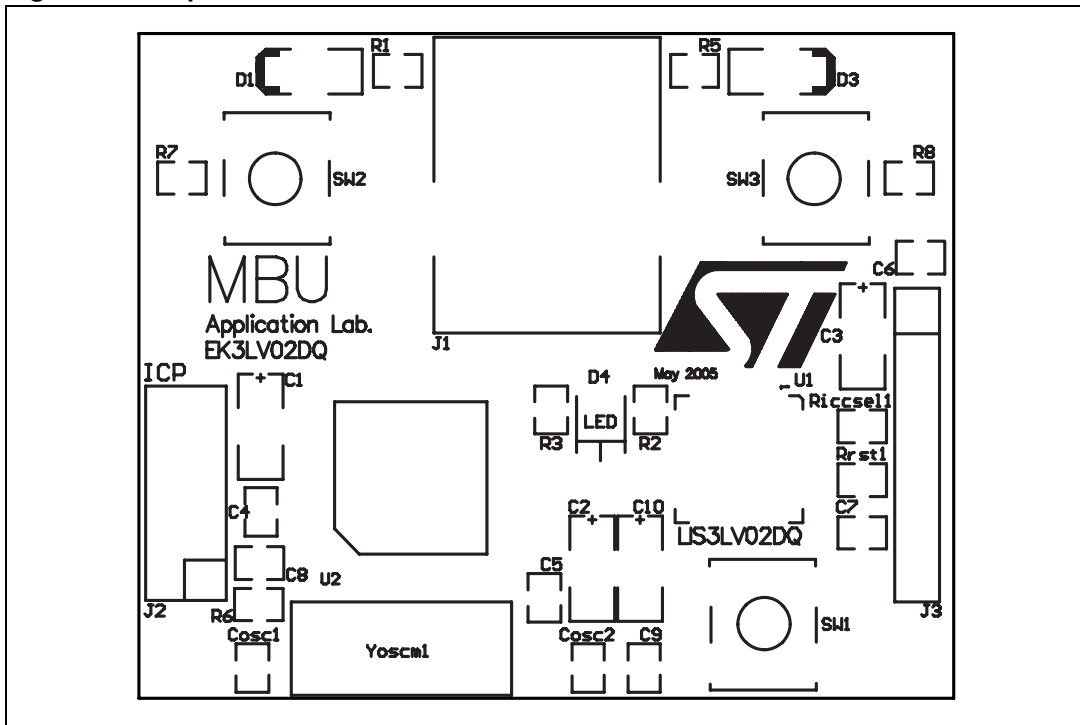
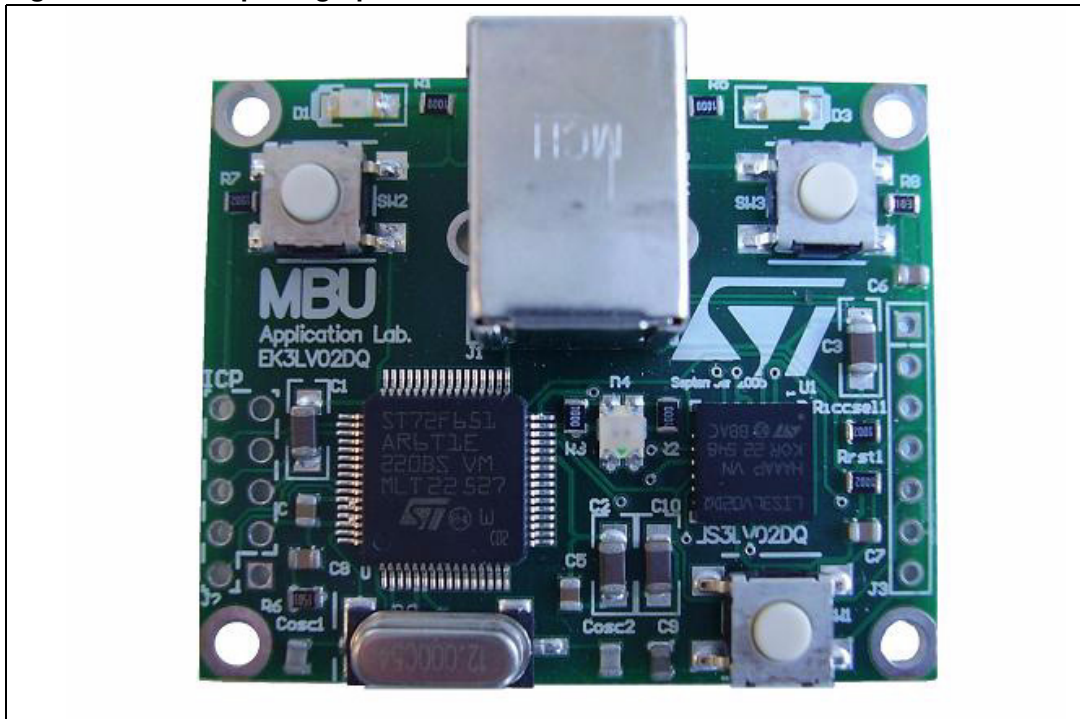


Figure 3. Board photograph



In order to operate the EK3LV02DQ evaluation kit it is required the installation of a dedicated driver which is delivered onto the CD accompanying the kit itself together with a GUI interface which allows a simple interaction with the sensor itself. The steps that must be followed to install the driver and the SW are described in the following section 2.2.

2 EK3LV02DQ GUI installation

The installation of Graphical User Interface (GUI) for the EK3LV02DQ implies two steps:

- the installation onto the PC of the Software delivered with the evaluation kit;
- the installation of the Virtual COM driver needed to use the Evaluation Kit board.

2.1 PC system requirements

Both the hardware and software that compose the EK3LV02DQ Evaluation Software Kit have been designed to operate with:

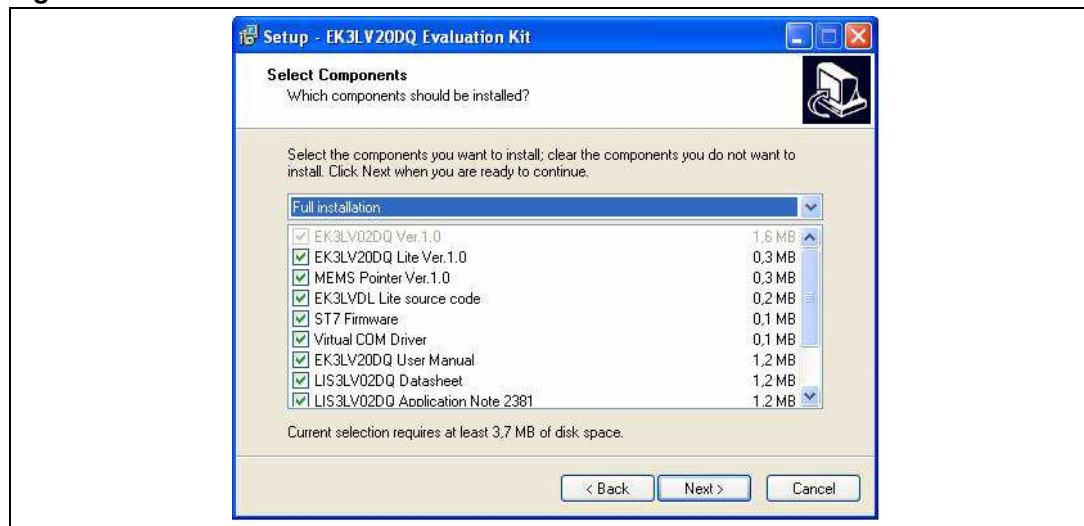
- Microsoft® Windows® XP®;
- Microsoft.NET Framework 1.1 (or higher); this software can be downloaded for free from the Microsoft web site ^(a). The installation of the “Microsoft.NET Framework” is not required when running on windows XP SP2 or higher.

2.2 Software installation

To install the SW distributed along with the EK3LV02DQ evaluation kit:

1. insert the MiniCD delivered with the Kit inside the CD-ROM drive;
2. if the Autorun screen does not appear, click on **Start > Run**, enter “**D:\Autorun.exe**” and click **OK**. “**D**” represents the letter of your CD-ROM drive;
3. click onto “Evaluation Kit SW Installation” from the “EK3LV02DQ Evaluation Kit” page which appears;
4. follow the instructions given by the Installer (*Figure 4*).

Figure 4. Software installation



a. <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads> and search for .Net framework Redistributable Package.

2.3 Hardware installation

To install the virtual COM driver insert the Evaluation Kit board into a free USB port, look at the “Notify” icon (*Figure 5*) and then wait for “Hardware Update Wizard”.

Figure 5. Notify icon



If the “Hardware Update Wizard” appears as shown in *Figure 7* then follow the instructions given in *Figure 7*; otherwise follow the instructions indicated in *Figure 6* and *Figure 7*.

Figure 6. Driver installation through the device manager

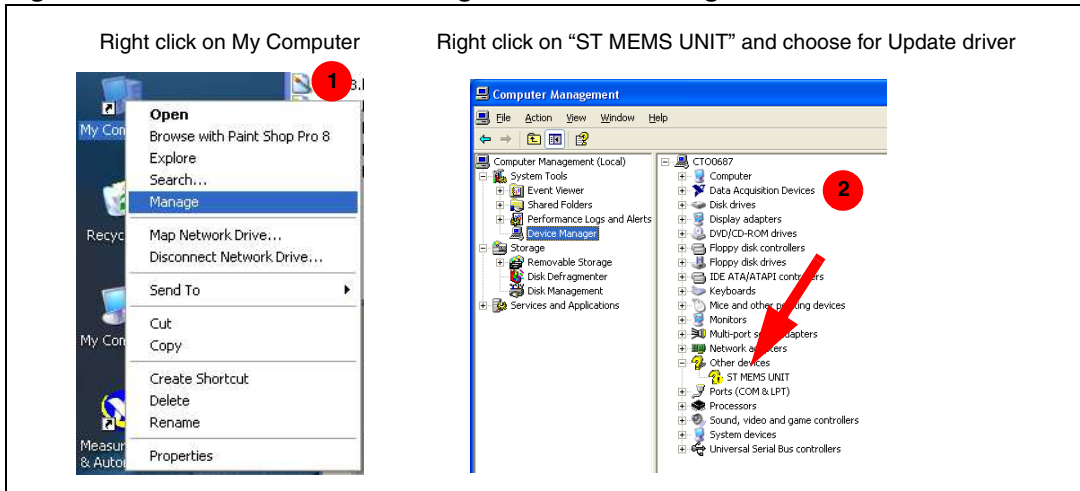
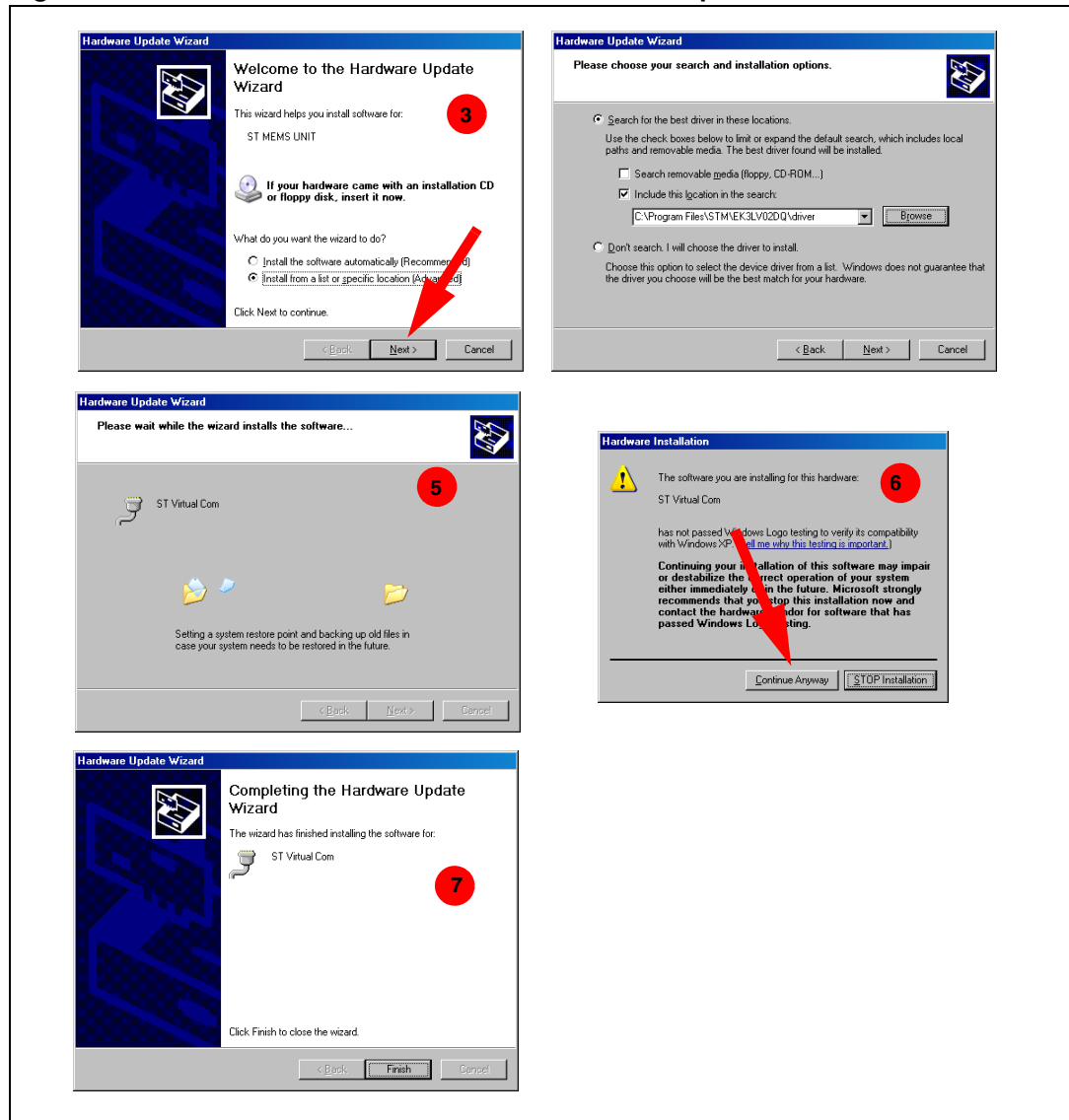
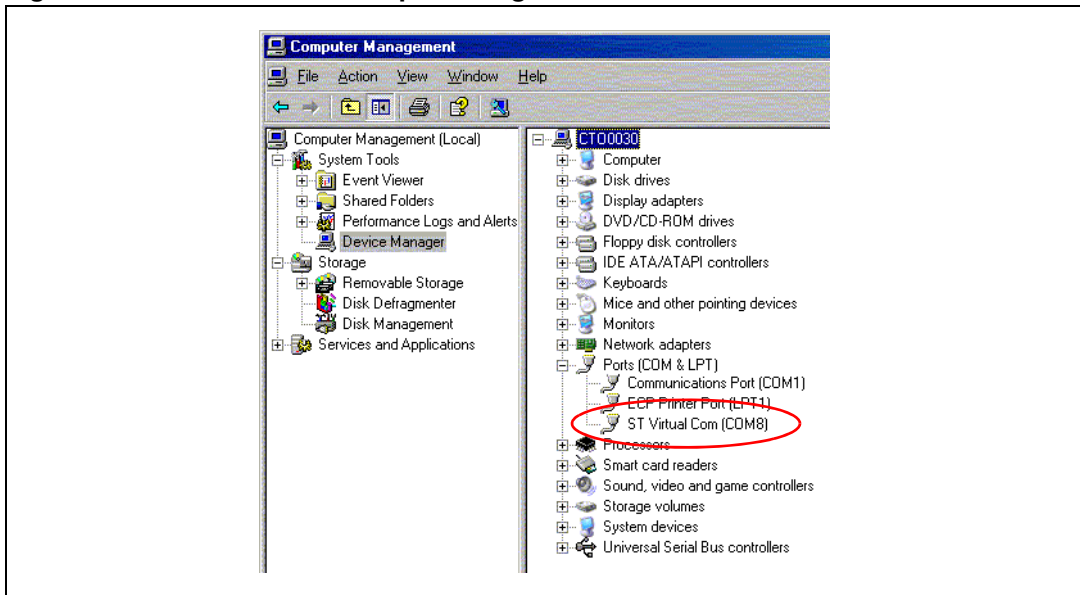


Figure 7. USB driver installation with the Hardware Update Wizard



Once the installation has finished, a COM port number will be assigned to the ST Virtual Com driver (*Figure 8*). The knowledge of this number is required to run the EK3LV02DQ Evaluation Software GUI. For additional details, check section 3.1.

Figure 8. Virtual COM driver port assignment



3 Graphical User Interface

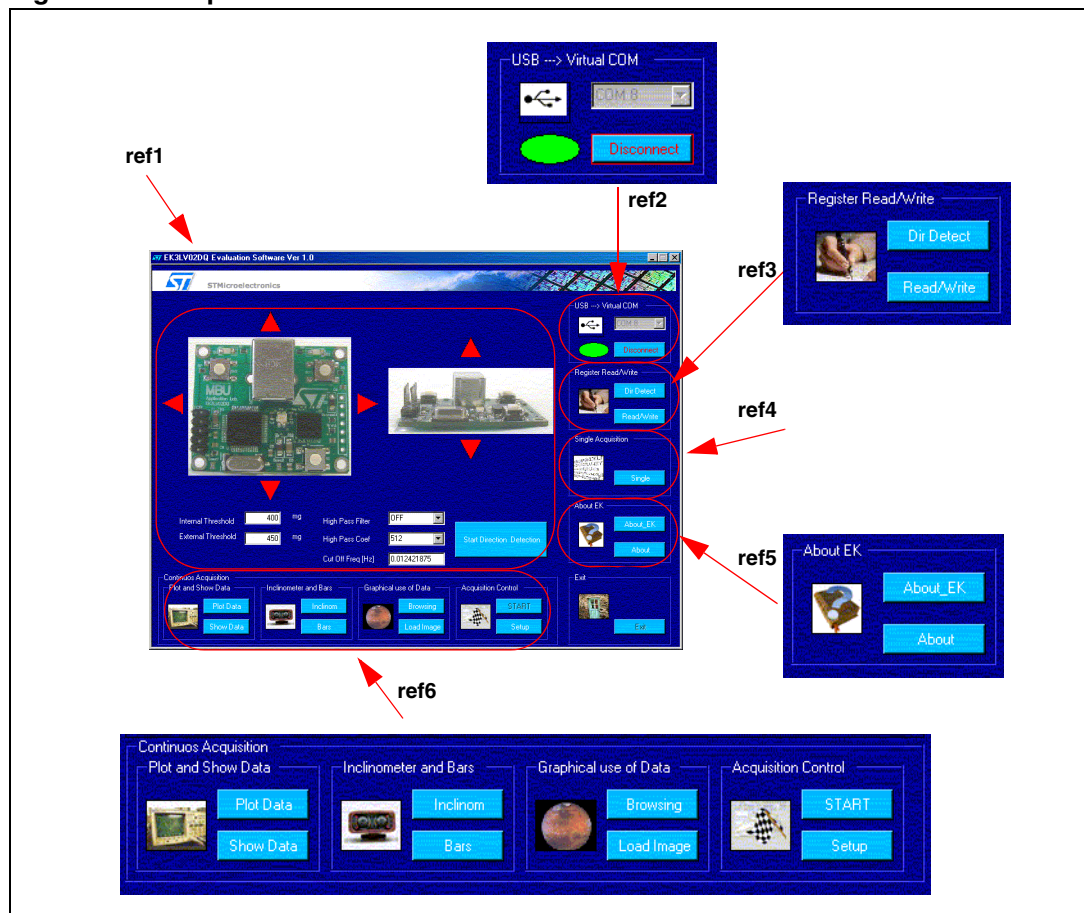
To execute the EK3LV02DQ Evaluation Software Graphical User Interface:

1. click on **Start > All Programs**;
2. select the folder **EK3LV02DQ > Executables**;
3. launch the program “**EK3LV02DQ Ver.1.0**”.

With these operations the GUI main window will appear (*Figure 9*); the window is composed of four main sections as detailed below:

1. the graphical panel (ref1), where the data coming from the sensor are graphically represented;
2. the upper-right corner of the window (ref2), which allows to open and to close the communication port of the PC connected to the Evaluation Kit;
3. the right side, which contains the “Register Read/Write” and “Direction Detection Demo” (ref3), “Single Acquisition” (ref4) and “About EK” (ref5) blocks;
4. the bottom of the window, which handles the continuous acquisition of the acceleration data and displays them inside the graphical panel (ref6).

Figure 9. Graphical User Interface: main window



3.1 Connecting to Virtual the COM port

Before using the functions of the Evaluation Kit Software it is necessary to open the connection with the EK3LV02DQ board. This is achieved through the following procedure:

1. connect the EK3LV02DQ to desired USB port;
2. in the pop-menu “USB ---> Virtual COM” choose the Virtual COM number on which the board has been mapped. For additional information on how to get this value check section 2.3;
3. open the connection by clicking on “Connect” (*Figure 9* ref2). Once this procedure is completed, the General Purpose LED of the board will switch from red to green.

Once the procedure has been completed, the user can acquire, plot and save the acceleration data measured by the sensor and he/she can access the content of the registers embedded in the device. Further details about each single function are provided in the sections hereafter.

Note: Due to Virtual COM driver communication speed limits, the maximum Output Data Rate allowed for the device is 640 Hz. Higher Output Data Rate could result in a possible data loss.

3.2 Registers Read/Write

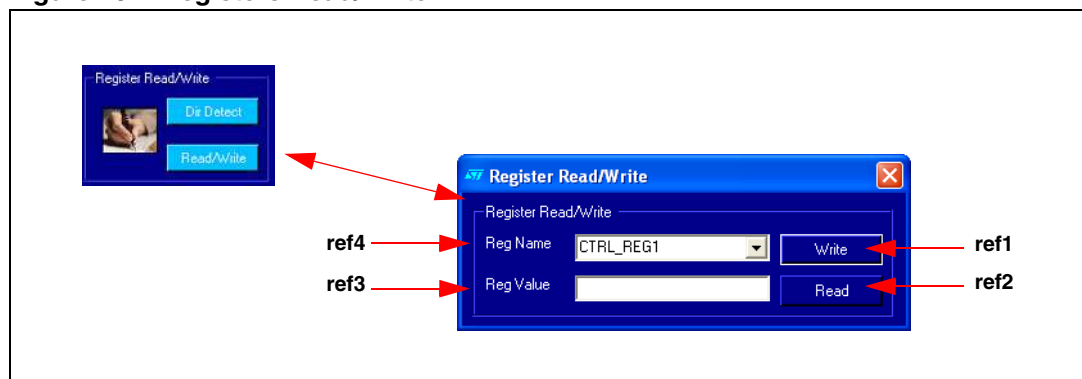
Through the “Register Read/Write” panel (*Figure 9*, ref3), the user can either directly write or read the registers value inside the LIS3LV02DQ device.

In particular, by clicking on the “Read/Write” button a new window appears (*Figure 10*).

To perform a register read out, the user must select the desired register name into “Reg Name” pop up menu (ref4) and then he/she must click on the “Read” button (ref2). The result of the reading will appear in the text box “Reg Value” (ref3).

To write a data into a register, the user must select the desired register name (ref4), choose the desired value in the text box “Reg Value” (ref3) and then click on the “Write” button (ref1). In case of read-only registers, the write button is not enabled.

Figure 10. Registers Read/Write

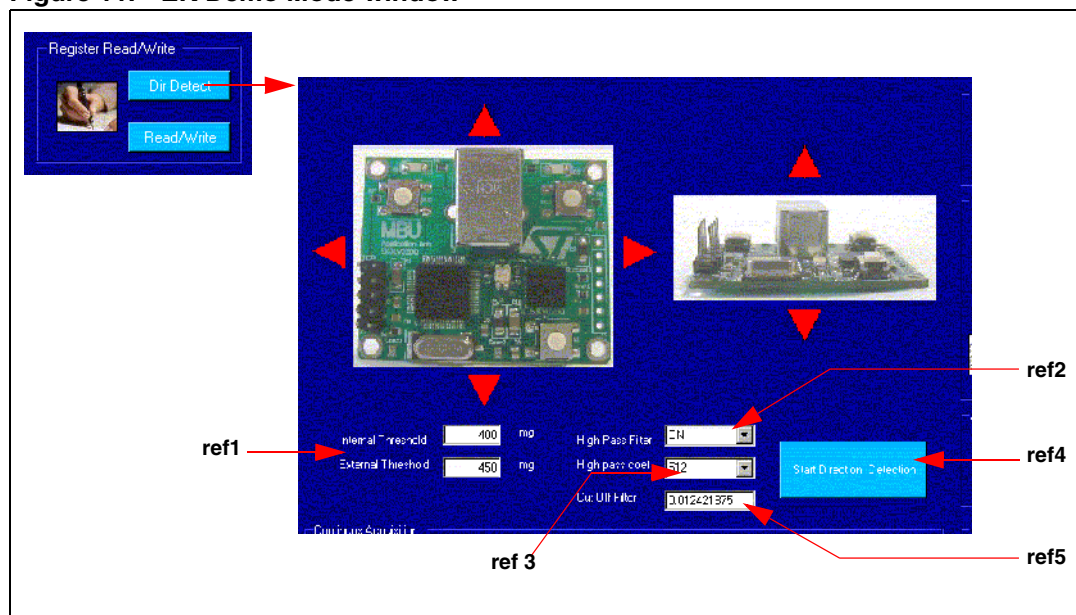


3.3 Direction detection demo

The LIS3LV02DQ allows the implementation of motion-controlled functions such as gaming and terminal control while requiring reduced computational power to the application controller. The device, in fact, may be programmed to generate an interrupt signal when a tilt is detected and to return the information of the direction in which the sensor has been tilted. With the same feature the LIS3LV02DQ sensor is able to return the information about the spatial orientation of the board without requiring the reading and the further post-processing of the acceleration data.

This feature is demonstrated through the Direction Detection demo mode panel (*Figure 11*) which is activated by clicking on the “Dir Detect” button present in the main GUI window.

Figure 11. EK Demo Mode window



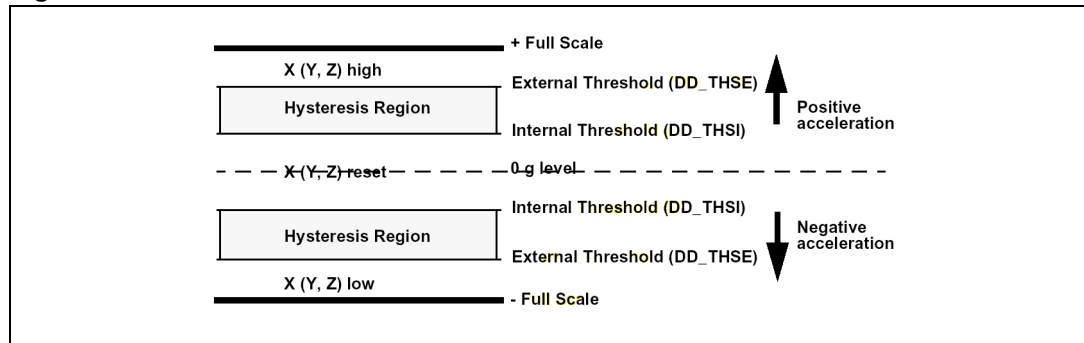
In order to configure the event which will trigger the interrupt event, the user must select the desired inner/internal and outer/external threshold (ref1), defining in this way an hysteresis region that allows to avoid false detections and/or bouncing produced for example by either spurious vibration or tremor. Whenever the inner thresholds is greater than the outer one, the hysteresis region will be null and the threshold employed to detect the tilt direction will be the outer one. A graphical representation of the internal and external thresholds is given in *Figure 12*.

Whenever the absolute value of the acceleration signal measured by the sensor either exceeds the outer threshold or returns below the inner threshold an interrupt signal will be generated and the General Purpose green LED will blink.

If the user wants to detect the orientation changes removing the DC level of the acceleration signal applied to the device (i.e. removing the gravity vector), it is possible to enable the High Pass Filter embedded inside the device by acting on the “High Pass Filter” pop-up menu (*Figure 11*, ref2). The cut-off frequency of the filter, which is shown inside the Cutoff Frequency text box (ref5), is user selectable acting on the High Pass coefficients (ref3) and on the Output Data Rate (ODR). For further details, please refer to AN2041.

To start the Direction Detection demo mode click on “Start Direction Detection” (ref4).

Figure 12. Threshold definition



3.4 Data Acquisition

The Data Acquisition panel is split in two sections:

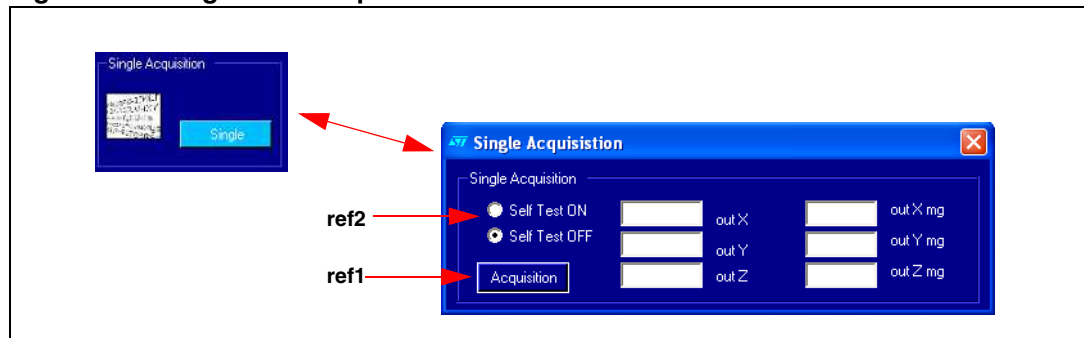
1. "Single Acquisition" mode (Figure 9, ref4);
2. "Continuous Acquisition" mode (Figure 9, ref6).

3.4.1 Single Acquisition mode

The "Single Acquisition" mode panel allows the user to perform the measurement of the acceleration acting on all the three axes. A single read of the acceleration data measured by the device is done by clicking on the "Acquisition" button (Figure 13, ref1).

This panel allows also to activate and to disable the Self-Test function of the device using the two radio buttons "Self Test ON" and "Self Test OFF" (Figure 13, ref2). Whenever the self-test is activated, the proof mass of the sensor is electrostatically deflected and the acceleration data measured by the sensor will exhibit a change in their DC level as specified on the datasheet of the part. This function allows to check whether the sensor is working properly without requiring any mechanical movement of the board mounting the sensor itself.

Figure 13. Single Data Acquisition

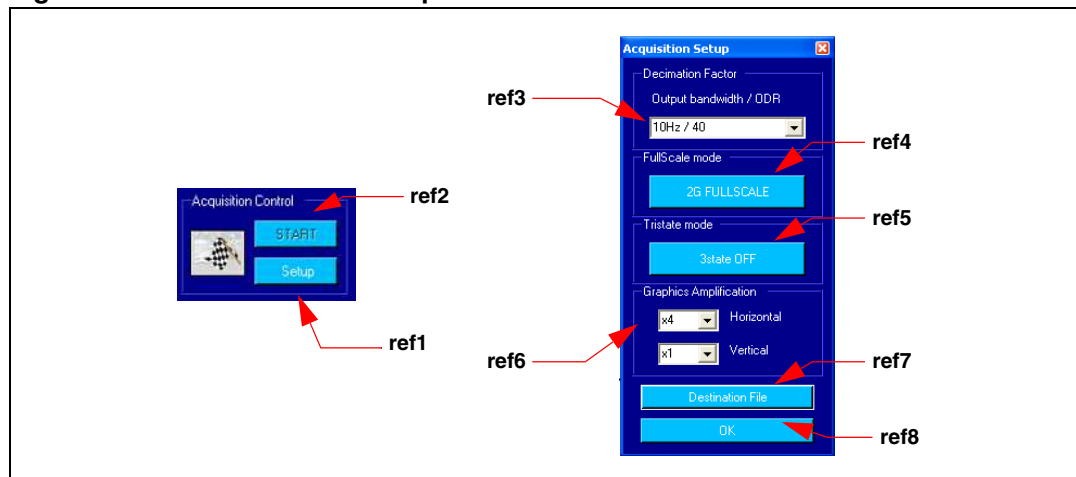


3.4.2 Continuous Acquisition mode

The section related to “Continuous Acquisition” allows the user to perform a sequence of acquisitions, to plot and to save the acquired acceleration data under different formats.

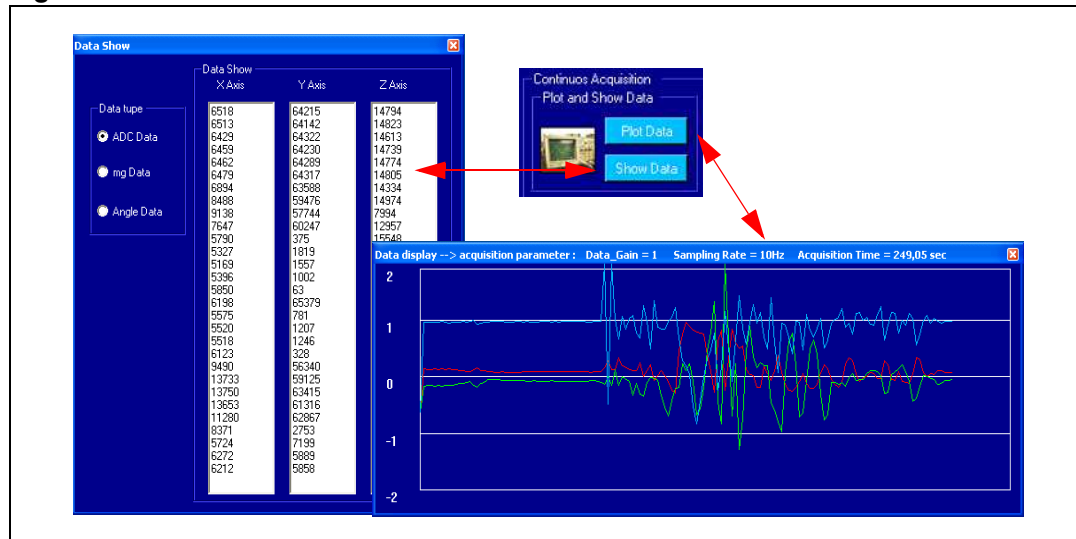
In order to start and to stop the data acquisition (and to activate the plotting of data in the afore said panels) it is necessary to push onto the “START/STOP” button (*Figure 14*, ref2).

Figure 14. Continuous Data “Acquisition Control”



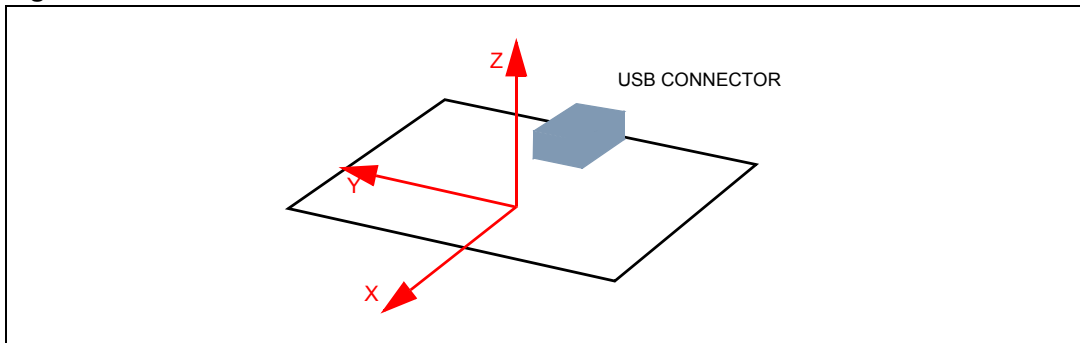
During a Continuous Acquisition Mode, the user can watch the data coming from the EK3LV02DQ in different graphical windows^(b). The windows corresponding to “Plot Data” and “Show Data” are shown in *Figure 15*.

Figure 15. Plot Data and Show Data windows



The sign of the acceleration measured by the sensor is related to the axis definition given in *Figure 16*.

b. The computational power of the PC on which the GUI is running may affect the maximum number of windows that can be opened at the same time.

Figure 16. Board Axis Definition

Clicking on the “Setup” button ([Figure 14](#), ref1) the “Acquisition Setup” window will open. This window allows to program the output data rate of the LIS3LV02DQ device. By default it is set to 40Hz (corresponding to a signal bandwidth @ -3dB of 10Hz); to modify this parameter the user has to select the desired value from the related pop up menu ([Figure 14](#), ref3).

The “Acquisition Setup” window allows to change also the device Full Scale ([Figure 14](#), ref4) and to put in tri-state mode the SPI (serial interface) lines of the microcontroller ([Figure 14](#), ref5). The latter feature has been implemented to guarantee to advanced users the full-control of the MEMS lines through a different source (i.e. from a separate controller).

The section related to “Graphics Amplification” ([Figure 14](#), ref6) allows to zoom the data plotted on the screen. Please notice that the horizontal and vertical gains do not change the resolution of the device; they only impact the way in which data are shown on the screen.

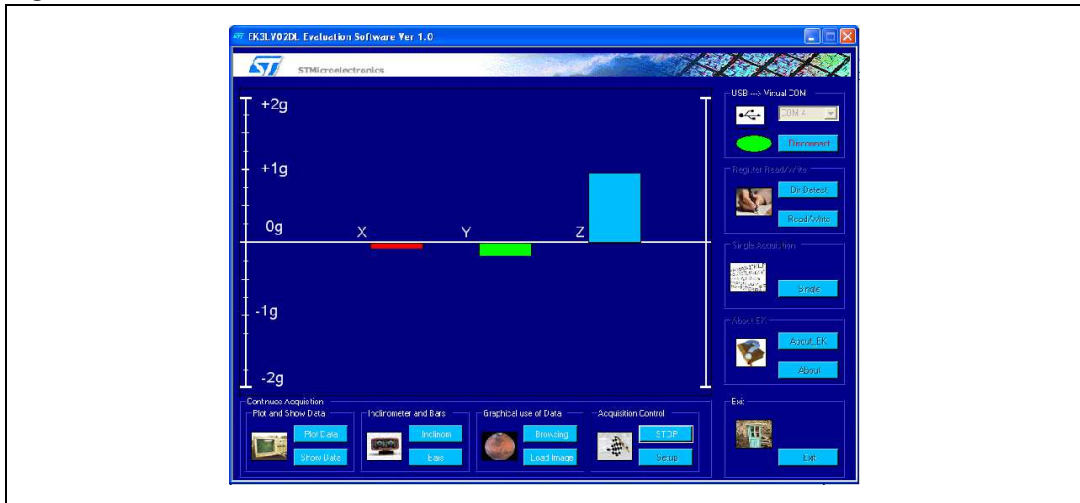
Last but not least, the “Acquisition Setup” window allows the user to select the file where the acquired data values have to be stored ([Figure 14](#), ref7). In particular, the file in which the data are saved reports the informations about each acquisition session and contains the acquired samples in three different fields.

In order to apply the settings defined with the “Acquisition Setup” window it is necessary to push on the “OK” button ([Figure 14](#), ref8). These settings will be used for any subsequent acquisition (until their next modification) and can not be changed while the acquisition is running.

The main panel of the GUI allows also to plot the acceleration data in three ways ([Figure 9](#), ref6):

- 1. as a Bar Chart (*Figure 17*);

Figure 17. Bar Chart



- 2. as Inclinometers (*Figure 18*), where the inclination is related to the axes definition given in *Figure 19*;

Figure 18. Inclinometer

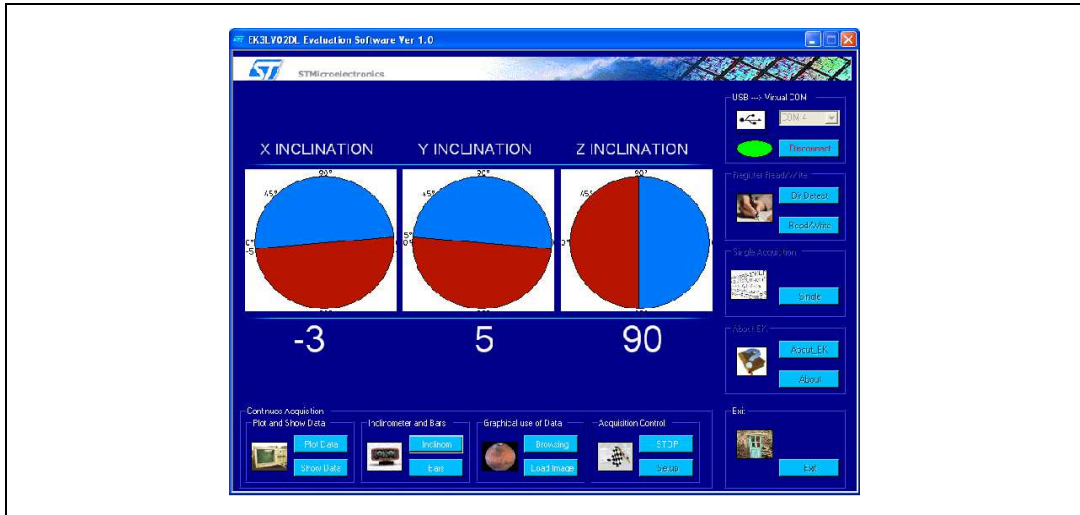
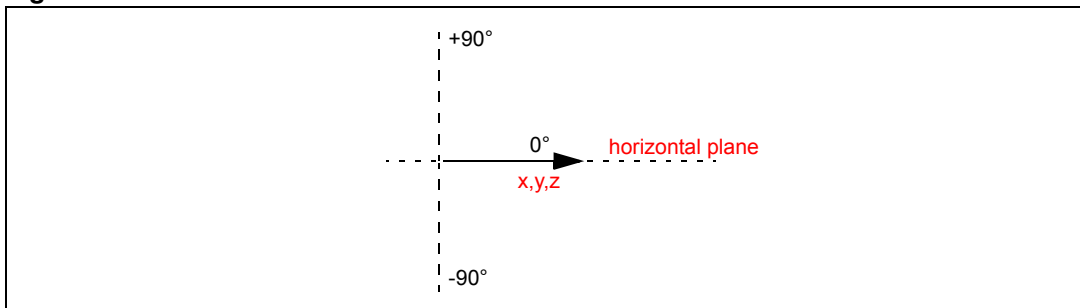
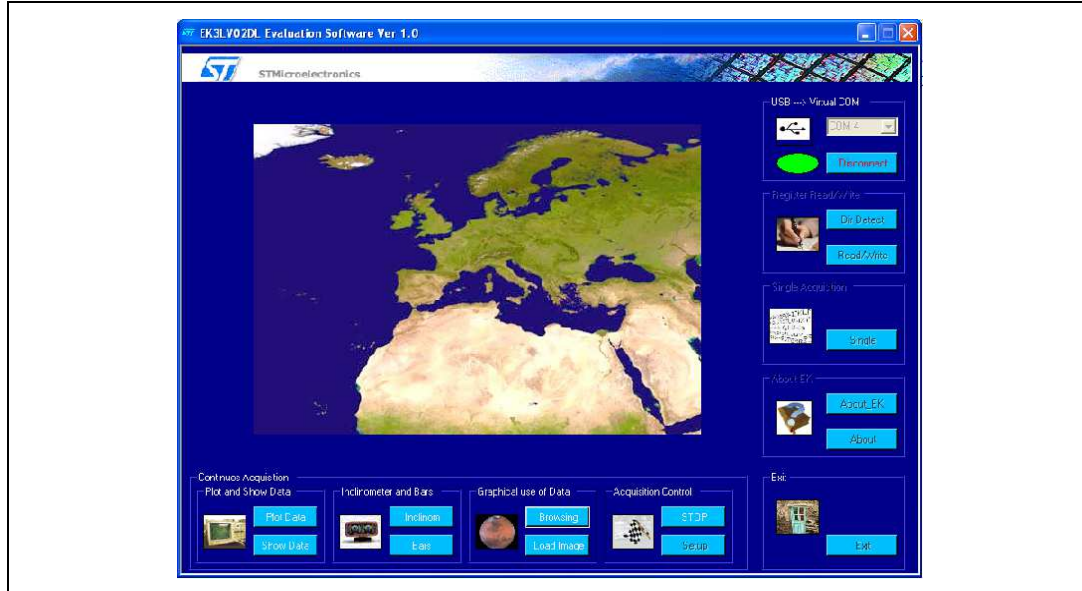


Figure 19. Axis Inclination



- to navigate through a map (Map Browsing) ([Figure 20](#)). The image to be shown is selected through the “Load Image” button. A map stored inside the file “mapa-mundi.jpg” is provided as an example.

Figure 20. Map Browsing

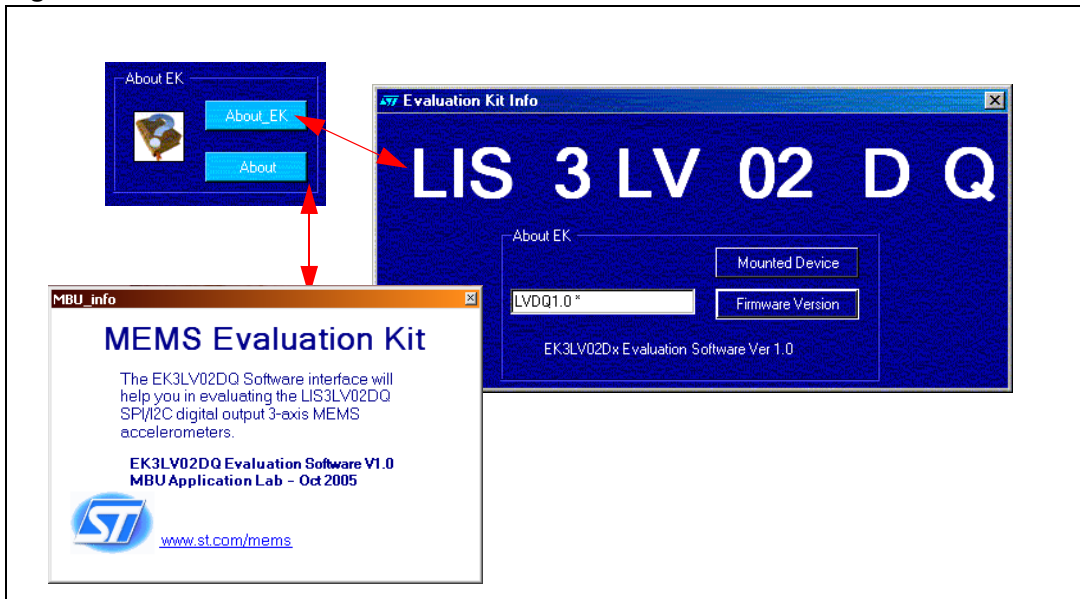


3.5 About_EK

Clicking on the “About_EK” button located into the “About EK” section ([Figure 9](#), ref5) it is possible to obtain informations about the version of the GUI, about the firmware running on the Evaluation Kit and about the version MEMS accelerometer mounted onto the board.

These information are retrieved by using the buttons “Mounted Device” and “Software Version” which are shown in “Evaluation Kit Info” window ([Figure 21](#)). Once the information about the device are displayed on the screen it is possible to get an explanation of their meaning by moving the mouse over the different parts of the device name (LIS 3LV 02 DQ). Please notice that if the connection is not working properly an error message will be shown. This feature allows to test the connection between the board and the host computer.

Figure 21. Evaluation Kit Info and About window



The second button (“About”) of the “About EK” section (*Figure 9*, ref5) opens the “MBU_info” window which shows general informations about the software and provides the user with a direct link to the ST MEMS page.

4 Data acquisition quick start

This section describes the basic steps that have to be performed to acquire the acceleration data from the EK3LV02DQ:

1. connect the EK3L02DL to the USB port;
2. start the EK3LV02DQ GUI;
3. select the Virtual COM port and then click on the “Connect” button (*Figure 9*, ref2);
4. select the destination file in which the acceleration data must be saved by clicking onto “Setup” (*Figure 14*, ref1) and “Destination File” (*Figure 14*, ref7) buttons;
5. optionally select the desired decimation factor, Horizontal and Vertical gain and then click on the “OK” button (*Figure 14*, ref8);
6. click on “Plot Data” or “Show Data” (*Figure 9*, ref6) to activate the corresponding Data Display window (*Figure 15*);
7. click on “Browsing” button to activate the function of map browsing (*Figure 9*, ref6) and then load the desired image by clicking on “Load Image” button;
8. click on “START” (“STOP”) button to activate (stop) the collection of data from the sensor, their saving onto file and plotting on the screen;
9. to close the application click on Disconnect and then click on Exit.

5 EK lite

The mini-CD delivered with the EK3LV02DQ contains also a lite version of the previous GUI together with its source code. The source code can be found in the directory:

(\$Home)\STM\EK3LV02DQ\EK3LVDQ_lite

where (\$Home) represents the directory in which the SW delivered with the evaluation kit has been installed (C:\Program Files by default).

The intention is to provide to the user a guidance to the development of his/her own customized application.

The evaluation kit is started by launching the executable EK3LV02DQ Lite which is contained in the **EK3LV02DQ > Executables** folder.

The graphical aspect of the GUI associated to the application is shown in [Figure 22](#).

Figure 22. EK3LV02DQ Lite GUI



In order to operate the SW it is suggested to follow these instructions:

1. connect the EK3LV02DQ to the USB port
2. start the GUI for EK3LV02DQ Lite;
3. select the Virtual COM port and then click on the “Connect” button;
4. optionally select the destination file in which the acceleration data must be saved by clicking onto “Setup” and “Destination File” buttons;
5. click on “Plot Data” to activate the corresponding Data Display window;
6. click on “START” (“STOP”) button to activate (stop) the collection of data from the sensor, their saving onto file and plotting on the screen;
7. to close the application click on Disconnect and then click on Exit.

The GUI allows also the Read/Write the registers embedded in the LIS3LV02DQ device mounted on the board and to perform a single read of the acceleration data measured by sensor.

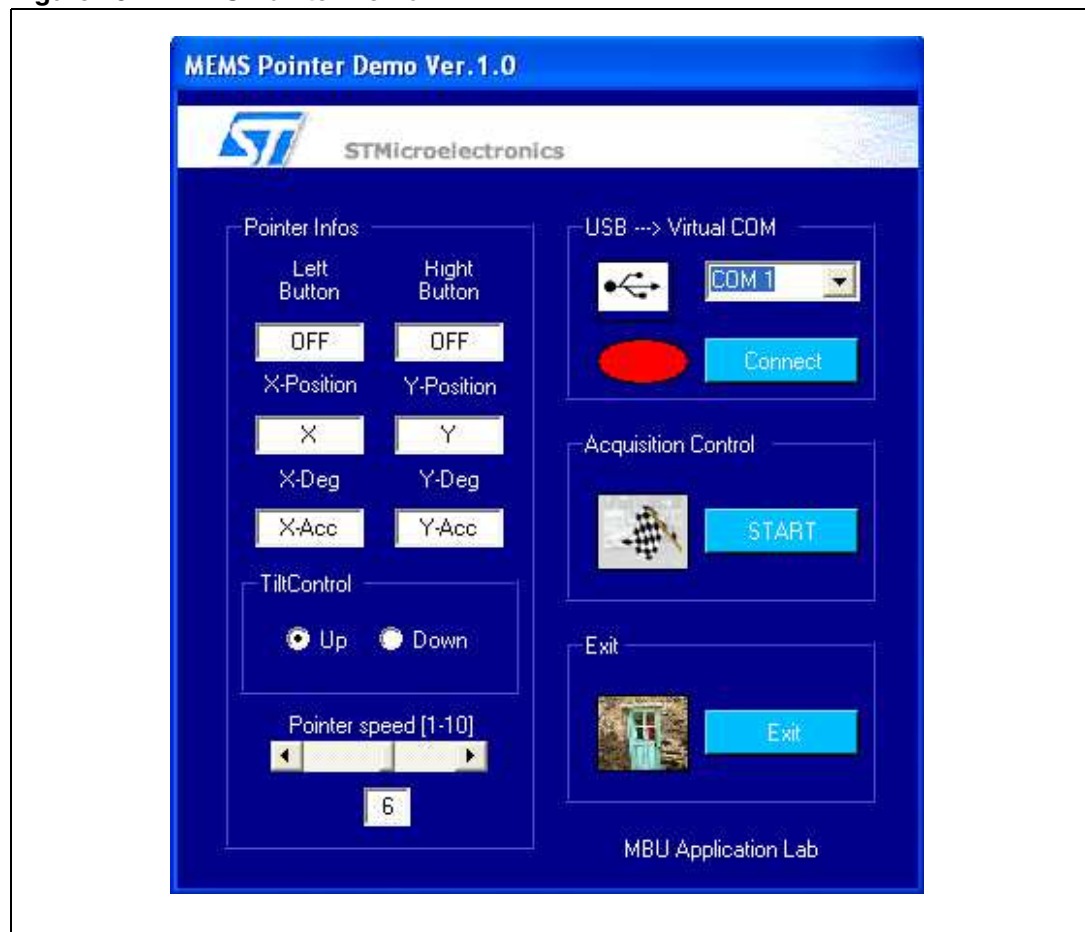
6 MEMS pointer

This section describes the usage of a simple pointer application which employs the acceleration data provided by the LIS3LV02DQ MEMS 3-axis linear accelerometer to control the position of a pointer on the screen of the PC. More in details, the SW provided with the kit itself allows to employ the board provided with the EK3LV02DQ Evaluation Kit as an inertial mouse where the tilt of the board is transformed into a movement of the pointer. The board emulates also the left and right buttons of the mouse.

6.1 GUI description

The GUI window (see [Figure 23](#)) may be split up into two sections: the right side contains the main controls to open the connection to the Evaluation Kit and to start/stop the data acquisition whereas the left side is dedicated to the pointer application controls.

Figure 23. MEMS Pointer Demo



6.1.1 Right Side: Main Controls

The buttons present on the right side of the GUI and their related function are described hereafter:

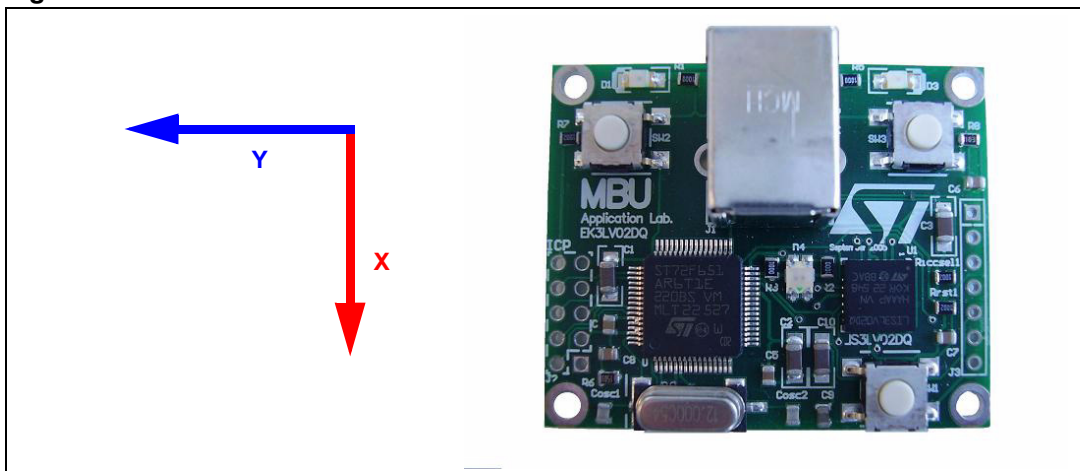
- Connection control: selects the COM port on which the EK board is connected to.
- Acquisition control: starts and stops the acquisition.
- Exit: exits from the MEMS Pointer Demo application.

6.1.2 Left Side: Pointer Application Controls

The controls present on the left side of the GUI and their related function are the followings:

- Left Button/Right Buttons: inform on whether the left/right button present on the Evaluation Kit is pressed.
- X/Y-Position: shows the actual x/y coordinates of the mouse pointer on the PC screen.
- X/Y-Deg: shows the tilt of the Evaluation Kit along the X and Y directions which are defined as depicted in [Figure 24](#).
- Tilt Control: allows to select the direction of the vertical displacement on the screen Vs. the direction in which the board is tilted. In particular, by selecting UP the pointer will move upward by forward tilting the Evaluation Kit. Vice versa, by selecting DOWN the pointer will move downwards whenever the board is tilted backward.
- Pointer Speed: sets the sensitivity of the pointer to the inclination of the board.

Figure 24. Axis Orientation



7 Supported commands

The EK3LV02DQ board is equipped with a dedicated firmware which supports a set of commands that allow to control the 3-axis digital output MEMS sensor mounted on the board and to acquire the measured acceleration data.

The firmware handles also the communication between the EK board and the PC through the USB bus. Through the usage of these commands it is possible to control the 3-axis digital output MEMS sensor mounted on the board and to acquire the measured acceleration data, thus allowing the user to easy write his/her own applications which exploit the mounted accelerometer.

This section describes the commands that are supported by the firmware loaded onto the microcontroller of the EK3LV02DQ Evaluation Kit.

7.1 Getting Started

Before using the commands described in the next paragraphs, the following procedure must be performed:

1. connect the EK3LV02DQ to the USB port;
2. start an appropriate software which allows to send the command through the Virtual serial port. The remaining part of this document will suppose the usage of the “Hyper Terminal”;
3. create a new connection; for example name it “EK3LV02DQ” and click OK;
4. in the “Connect Using” field select the right Virtual COM port onto which the USB port has been mapped;
5. set the port to 11500 Bit per second, 8 Data bits, Parity None, 1 Stop bit, Flow control None and then click OK.

Once this procedure has been completed the user can send to the EK3LV02DQ the commands described in the following sections by typing the commands themselves in the “Hyper Terminal” window.

7.2 Commands Description

The EK3LV02DQ board is equipped with “eklvdq-ver1.0.0” firmware. This firmware supports a set of commands which allow to control the 3-axis digital output MEMS sensor mounted on the board and to acquire the measured acceleration data. The firmware handles also the communication between the EK board and the PC.

In particular the communication of the EK3LV02DQ evaluation kit is implemented upon USB ver 2.0.

7.2.1 Supported Commands

The commands supported by the EK3LV02DQ FW are divided into two different classes:

- Acquisition commands;
- Configuration commands.