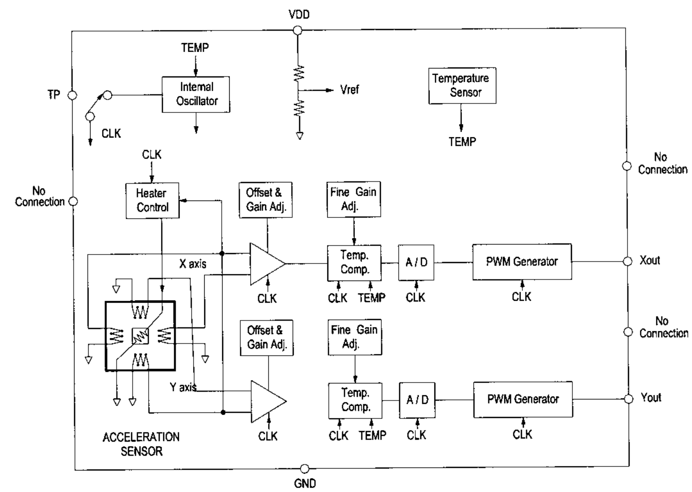
Low Cost, Low Noise ±10 *g* Dual Axis Accelerometer with Digital Outputs

MXD7210GL/HL/ML/NL

FEATURES
Low cost
Resolution better than 1milli-*g* at 1Hz
Dual axis accelerometer fabricated on a monolithic CMOS IC
On chip mixed signal processing
No moving parts; No loose particle issues
>50,000 *g* shock survival rating
5mm X 5mm X 2mm LCC package
2.7V to 5.25V single supply continuous operation
Compensated for Sensitivity over temperature
Ultra low initial Zero-g Offset
No adjustment needed outside

APPLICATIONS
Computer Peripherals
Information Appliances
Alarms and Motion Detectors
Disk Drives
Vehicle Security



MXD7210GL/HL/ML/NL FUNCTIONAL BLOCK DIAGRAM

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The MXD7210GL/HL/ML/NL is a low cost, dual axis accelerometer fabricated on a standard, submicron CMOS process. It is a complete sensing system with on-chip mixed signal processing. The MXD7210GL/HL/ML/NL measures acceleration with a full-scale range of ±10 *g* and a sensitivity of 4%/g @5V. It can measure both dynamic acceleration (e.g. vibration) and static acceleration (e.g. gravity). The MXD7210GL/HL/ML/NL design is based on heat convection and requires no solid proof mass.
This eliminates stiction and particle problems associated with competitive devices and provides shock survival greater than 50,000 *g,* leading to significantly lower failure rate and lower loss due to handling during assembly and at customer field application.

The MXD7210GL/HL/ML/NL provides two digital outputs that are set to 50% duty cycle at zero g acceleration. The outputs are digital with duty cycles (ratio of pulse width to period) that are proportional to acceleration. The duty cycle outputs can be directly interfaced to a microprocessor.

The typical noise floor is 0.4 m*g*/$\sqrt{Hz}$ allowing signals below 1milli-*g* to be resolved at 1 Hz bandwidth. The MXR7210GL/HL/ML/NL is packaged in a hermetically sealed LCC surface mount package (5 mm x 5 mm x 2 mm height) and is operational over a 0°C to 70°C(GL/HL) or a -40°C to +85°C(ML/NL) temperature range.

©MEMSIC, Inc.
800 Turnpike St., Suite 202, North Andover, MA 01845
Tel: 978.738.0900 Fax: 978.738.0196
www.memsic.com

MXD7210GL/HL/ML/NL SPECIFICATIONS (Measurements @ 25°C, Acceleration = 0 *g* unless otherwise noted; V_{DD} = 5.0V unless otherwise specified)

Parameter	Conditions	MXD7210GL/H Min	MXD7210GL/H L Typ.	MXD7210GL/H Max	MXD7210ML/N Min.	MXD7210ML/N L Typ.	MXD7210ML/N Max.	Units
SENSOR INPUT	Each Axis							
Measurement Range[1]		±10.0			±10.0			*g*
Nonlinearity	Best fit straight line		0.5			0.5		% of FS
Alignment Error[2]			±1.0			±1.0		degrees
Alignment Error	X Sensor to Y Sensor		0.01			0.01		degrees
Cross Axis Sensitivity[3]			±0.5			±0.5		%
SENSITIVITY	Each Axis							
Sensitivity Xout, Yout	V_{DD}=5.0V	3.6	4.0	4.4	3.6	4.0	4.4	%/g
Sensitivity Xout, Yout	V_{DD}=3.0V	3.5	4.0	4.5	3.5	4.0	4.5	%/g
Sensitivity Change over Temperature[4]	Delta from 25°C			10			15	%
ZERO *g* BIAS LEVEL	Each Axis							
0 *g* Voltage Xout, Yout	V_{DD}=5.0V	48.8	50.0	51.2	48.8	50.0	51.2	%
0 *g* Voltage Xout, Yout	V_{DD}=5.0V	-0.3	0.00	0.3	-0.3	0.00	0.3	g
0 *g* Voltage Xout, Yout	V_{DD}=3.0V	48	50	52	48	50	52	%
0 *g* Voltage Xout, Yout	V_{DD}=3.0V	-0.5	0.00	0.5	-0.5	0.00	0.5	g
0 *g* Offset vs. Temperature[4]	Delta from 25°C		1.5			1.5		mg/°C
NOISE PERFORMANCE								
Noise Density, rms	@25°C		0.4	1.0		0.4	1.0	mg/$\sqrt{Hz}$
FREQUENCY RESPONSE								
3dB Bandwidth			19			19		Hz
DUTY CYCLE OUTPUT STAGE								
Output High Voltage		Vs-0.2			Vs-0.2			V
Output Low Voltage				0.2			0.2	V
Current	Source or sink, @3.0V-5.0V Supply			250			250	uA
T2[5] Drift vs. Temperature		-900	-750	-600	-900	-750	-600	ppm/°C
Rise/Fall Time			200			200		ns
POWER SUPPLY								
Operating Voltage Range		2.7		5.25	2.7		5.25	V
Quiescent Supply Current			3.2	4.1		3.2	4.1	mA
Turn-On Time	Level (0g), @5.0V Supply		100			100		mS
TEMPERATURE RANGE								
Operating Range		0		+70	-40		+85	°C

NOTES

1 Guaranteed by measurement of initial offset and sensitivity.

2 Alignment error is specified as the angle between the true and indicated axis of sensitivity.

3 Cross axis sensitivity is the algebraic sum of the alignment and the inherent sensitivity errors.

4 Defined as the output change from ambient to maximum temperature or ambient to minimum temperature.

5 Duty cycle period

ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS*

Supply Voltage (V_{DD}) ………………...-0.5 to +7.0V
Storage Temperature ……..…………-65°C to +150°C
Acceleration ……………………………………..50,000 *g*

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

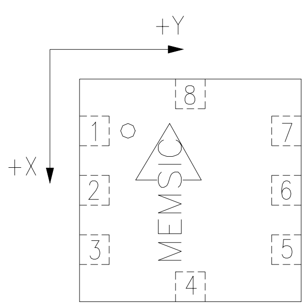
Pin Description: LCC-8 Package

Pin	Name	Description
1	NC	Do Not Connect
2	TP	Connected to ground
3	COM	Common
4	Yout	Y axis Duty Cycle Output
5	Xout	X axis Duty Cycle Output
6	NC	X Channel Output
7	NC	X Channel Output
8	V_{DD}	2.7V to 5.25V

Ordering Guide

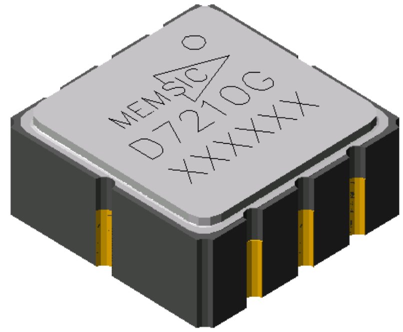
Model	PWM Frequency	Temperature Range	Device Weight
MXD7210GL	100Hz	0 to 70°C	<1.0 gram
MXD7210HL	400Hz	0 to 70°C	<1.0 gram
MXD7210ML	100Hz	-40 to +85°C	<1.0 gram
MXD7210NL	400Hz	-40 to +85°C	<1.0 gram

All parts are shipped in tape and reel packaging.
Caution: ESD (electrostatic discharge) sensitive device.



Top View
(Not to Scale)

Note: The MEMSIC logo's arrow indicates the -X sensing direction of the device. The +Y sensing direction is rotated 90° away from the +X direction following the right-hand rule. Small circle indicates pin one(1).



THEORY OF OPERATION

The MEMSIC device is a complete dual-axis acceleration measurement system fabricated on a monolithic CMOS IC process. The device operation is based on heat transfer by natural convection and operates like other accelerometers having a proof mass. The stationary element, or 'proof mass', in the MEMSIC sensor is a gas.

A single heat source, centered in the silicon chip is suspended across a cavity. Equally spaced aluminum/polysilicon thermopiles (groups of thermocouples) are located equidistantly on all four sides of the heat source (dual axis). Under zero acceleration, a temperature gradient is symmetrical about the heat source, so that the temperature is the same at all four thermopiles, causing them to output the same voltage.

Acceleration in any direction will disturb the temperature profile, due to free convection heat transfer, causing it to be asymmetrical. The temperature, and hence voltage output of the four thermopiles will then be different. The differential voltage at the thermopile outputs is directly proportional to the acceleration. There are two identical acceleration signal paths on the accelerometer, one to measure acceleration in the x-axis and one to measure acceleration in the y-axis. Please visit the MEMSIC website at www.memsic.com for a picture/graphic description of the free convection heat transfer principle.

MXD7210GL/HL/ML/NL PIN DESCRIPTIONS

V_{DD} – This is the supply input for the circuits and the sensor heater in the accelerometer. The DC voltage should be between 2.7 and 5.25 volts. Refer to the section on PCB layout and fabrication suggestions for guidance on external parts and connections recommended.

COM– This is the ground pin for the accelerometer.

TP– This pin should be connected to ground.

Xout – This pin is the digital output of the X-axis acceleration sensor. It is factory programmable to 100Hz or 400Hz. The user should ensure the load impedance is sufficiently high as to not source/sink >250µA typical. While the sensitivity of this axis has been programmed at the factory to be the same as the sensitivity for the y-axis, the accelerometer can be programmed for non-equal sensitivities on the x- and y-axes. Contact the factory for additional information.

Yout – This pin is the digital output of the Y-axis acceleration sensor. It is factory programmable to 100Hz or 400Hz. The user should ensure the load impedance is sufficiently high as to not source/sink >250µA typical. While the sensitivity of this axis has been programmed at the factory to be the same as the sensitivity for the x-axis, the accelerometer can be programmed for non-equal sensitivities on the x- and y-axes. Contact the factory for additional information.

DISCUSSION OF TILT APPLICATIONS AND RESOLUTION

Tilt Applications: One of the most popular applications of the MEMSIC accelerometer product line is in tilt/inclination measurement. An accelerometer uses the force of gravity as an input to determine the inclination angle of an object.

A MEMSIC accelerometer is most sensitive to changes in position, or tilt, when the accelerometer's sensitive axis is perpendicular to the force of gravity, or parallel to the Earth's surface. Similarly, when the accelerometer's axis is parallel to the force of gravity (perpendicular to the Earth's surface), it is least sensitive to changes in tilt.

Table 1 and Figure 2 help illustrate the output changes in the X- and Y-axes as the unit is tilted from +90° to 0°. Notice that when one axis has a small change in output per degree of tilt (in m*g*), the second axis has a large change in output per degree of tilt. The complementary nature of these two signals permits low cost accurate tilt sensing to be achieved with the MEMSIC device (reference application note AN-00MX-007).

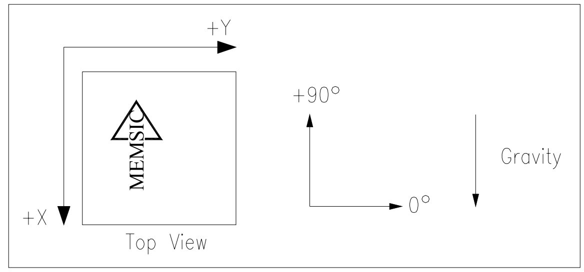


Figure 2: Accelerometer Position Relative to Gravity

X-Axis Orientation To Earth's Surface (deg.)	X-Axis		Y-Axis	
	X Output (*g*)	Change per deg. of tilt (mg)	Y Output (*g*)	Change per deg. of tilt (mg)
90	-1.000	0.15	0.000	17.45
85	-0.996	1.37	0.087	17.37
80	-0.985	2.88	0.174	17.16
70	-0.940	5.86	0.342	16.35
60	-0.866	8.59	0.500	15.04
45	-0.707	12.23	0.707	12.23
30	-0.500	15.04	0.866	8.59
20	-0.342	16.35	0.940	5.86
10	-0.174	17.16	0.985	2.88
5	-0.087	17.37	0.996	1.37
0	0.000	17.45	1.000	0.15

Table 1: Changes in Tilt for X- and Y-Axes

Resolution: The accelerometer resolution is limited by noise. The output noise will vary with the measurement bandwidth. With the reduction of the bandwidth, by applying an external low pass filter, the output noise drops. Reduction of bandwidth will improve the signal to noise ratio and the resolution. The output noise scales directly with the square root of the measurement bandwidth. The maximum amplitude of the noise, its peak- to- peak value, approximately defines the worst case resolution of the measurement. With a simple RC low pass filter, the rms noise is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Noise (mg rms)} = \text{Noise}(\text{mg}/\sqrt{Hz}\,) * \sqrt{(Bandwidth(Hz) * 1.6)}$$

The peak-to-peak noise is approximately equal to 6.6 times the rms value (for an average uncertainty of 0.1%).

DIGITAL INTERFACE

The MXD7210GL/HL/ML/NL is easily interfaced with low cost microcontrollers. For the digital output accelerometer, one digital input port is required to read one accelerometer output. For the analog output accelerometer, many low cost microcontrollers are available today that feature integrated A/D (analog to digital converters) with resolutions ranging from 8 to 12 bits.

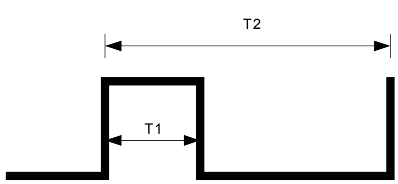
In many applications the microcontroller provides an effective approach for the temperature compensation of the sensitivity and the zero *g* offset. Specific code set, reference designs, and applications notes are available from the factory. The following parameters must be considered in a digital interface:

Resolution: smallest detectable change in input acceleration
Bandwidth: detectable accelerations in a given period of time
Acquisition Time: the duration of the measurement of the acceleration signal

DUTY CYCLE DEFINITION

The MXD7210GL/HL/ML/NL has two PWM duty cycle outputs (x,y). The acceleration is proportional to the ratio T1/T2. The zero *g* output is set to 50% duty cycle and the sensitivity scale factor is set to 4% duty cycle change per *g*. These nominal values are affected by the initial tolerance of the device including zero *g* offset error and sensitivity error. This device is offered from the factory programmed to either a 10ms period (100 Hz) or a 2.5ms period (400Hz).

T1	Length of the "on" portion of the cycle.
T2 (Period)	Length of the total cycle.
Duty Cycle	Ratio of the "0n" time (T1) of the cycle to the total cycle (T2). Defined as T1/T2.
Pulse width	Time period of the "on" pulse. Defined as T1.



A (g)= (T1/T2 - 0.5)/0.04
0g = 50% Duty Cycle
T2= 2.5ms or 10ms (factory programmable)

Figure 3: Typical output Duty C ycle

CHOOSING T2 AND COUNTER FREQUENCY DESIGN TRADE-OFFS

The noise level is one determinant of accelerometer resolution. The second relates to the measurement resolution of the counter when decoding the duty cycle output. The actual resolution of the acceleration signal is limited by the time resolution of the counting devices used to decode the duty cycle. The faster the counter clock, the higher the resolution of the duty cycle and the shorter the T2 period can be for a given resolution. Table 2 shows some of the trade-offs. It is important to note that this is the resolution due to the microprocessors' counter. It is probable that the accelerometer's noise floor may set the lower limit on the resolution.

T2 (ms)	MEMSIC Sample Rate	Counter-Clock Rate (MHz)	Counts Per T2 Cycle	Counts per *g*	Reso-lution (m*g*)
2.5	400	2.0	5000	200	5.0
2.5	400	1.0	2500	100	10
2.5	400	0.5	1250	50	20
10.0	100	2.0	20000	800	1.25
10.0	100	1.0	10000	400	2.5
10.0	100	0.5	5000	200	5.0

Table 2: Trade-Offs Between Microcontroller Counter Rate and T2 Period.

CONVERTING THE DIGITAL OUTPUT TO AN ANALOG OUTPUT

The PWM output can be easily converted into an analog output by integration. A simple RC filter can do the conversion. Note that that the impedance of the circuit following the integrator must be much higher than the impedance of the RC filter. Reference figure 4 for an example.

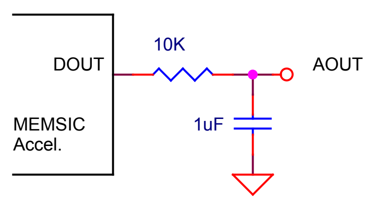
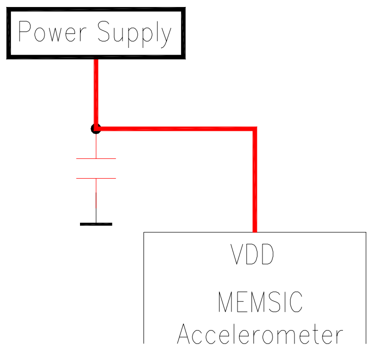


Figure 4: Converting the digital output to an analog voltage

POWER SUPPLY NOISE REJECTION

One capacitor is recommended for best rejection of power supply noise (reference Figure 5 below). The capacitor should be located as close as possible to the device supply pin (V_{DD}). The capacitor lead length should be as short as possible, and surface mount capacitor is preferred. For typical applications, the capacitor can be ceramic 0.1 µF.

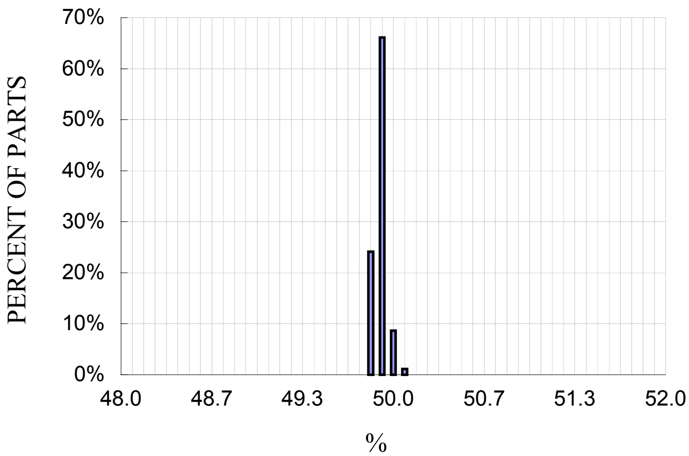


PCB LAYOUT AND FABRICATION SUGGESTIONS

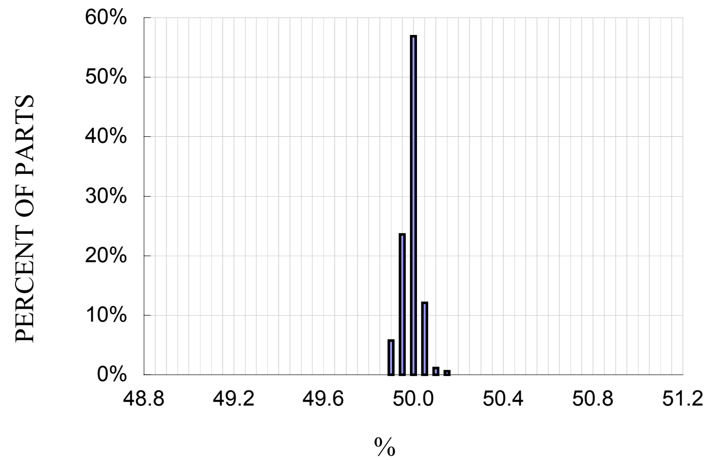
Figure 5: Power Supply Noise Rejection

1. Liberal use of ceramic bypass capacitors is recommended.
2. Robust low inductance ground wiring should be used.
3. Care should be taken to ensure there is "thermal symmetry" on the PCB immediately surrounding the MEMSIC device and that there is no significant heat source nearby.
4. A metal ground plane should be added directly beneath the MEMSIC device. The size of the plane should be similar to the MEMSIC device's footprint and be as thick as possible.
5. Vias can be added symmetrically around the ground plane. Vias increase thermal isolation of the device from the rest of the PCB.

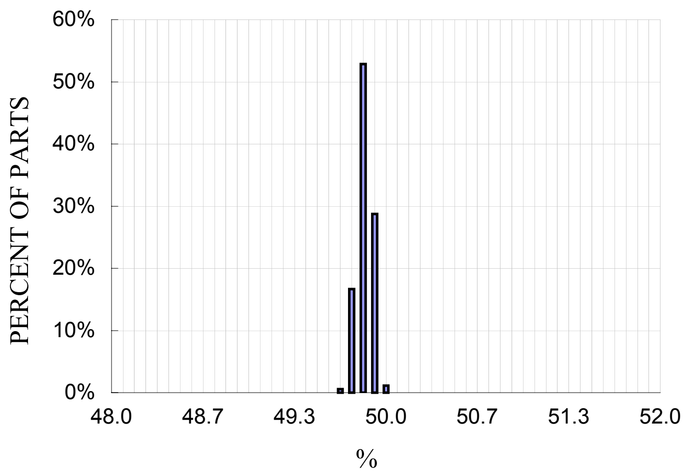
V_{DD}=3V | **V_{DD}=5V**



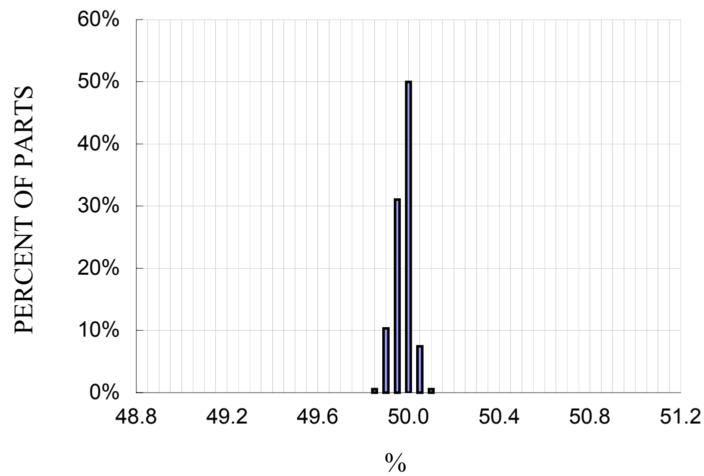
X-axis Zero g Bias Distribution at Xout, V_{DD}=3V



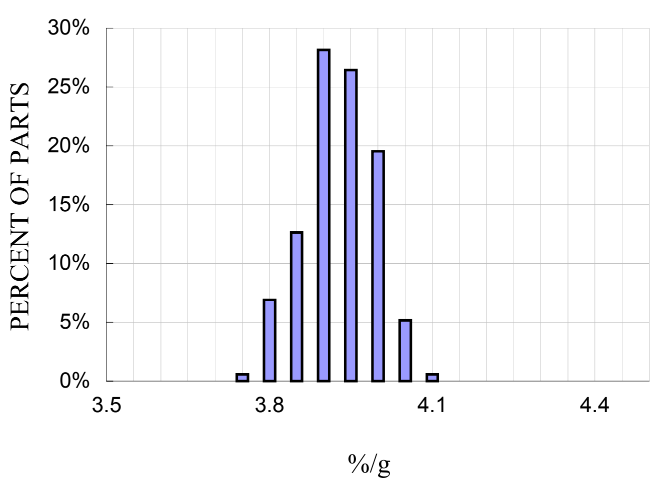
X-axis Zero g Bias Distribution at Xout, V_{DD}=5V



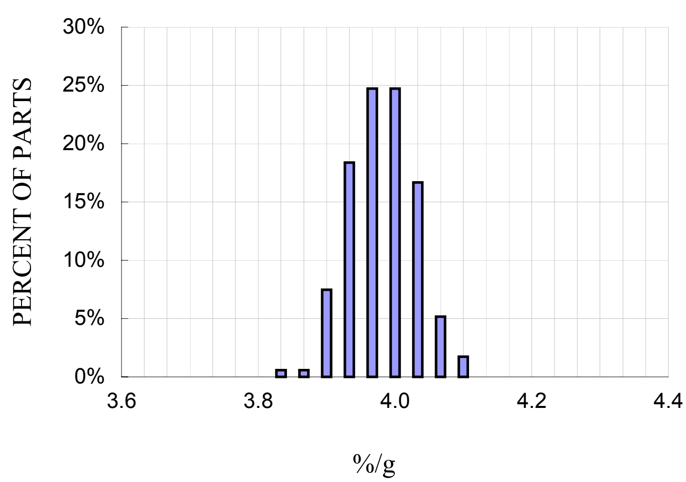
Y-axis Zero g Bias Distribution at Yout, V_{DD}=3V



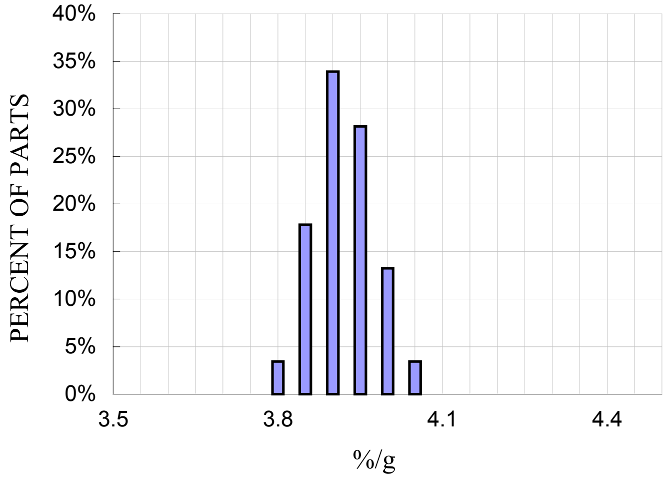
Y-axis Zero g Bias Distribution at Yout, V_{DD}=5V



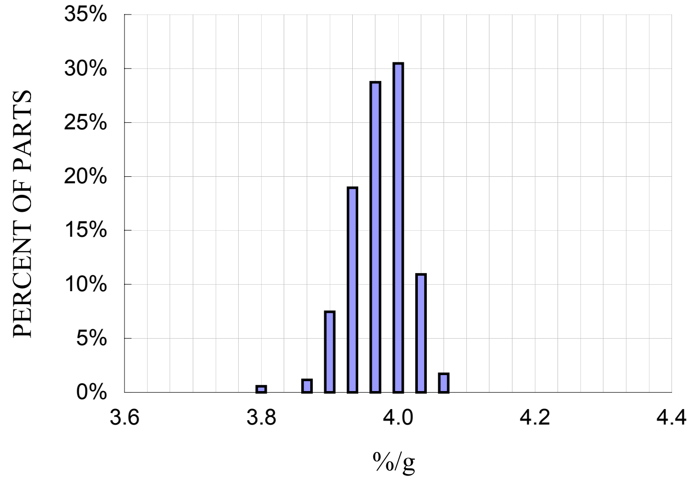
X-axis Sensitivity Distribution at Xout, V_{DD}=3V



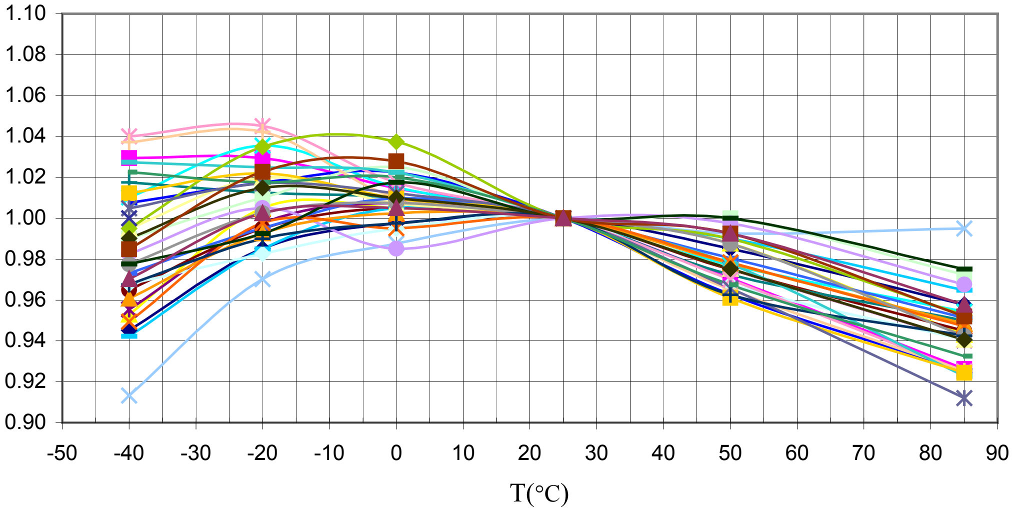
X-axis Sensitivity Distribution at Xout, V_{DD}=5V



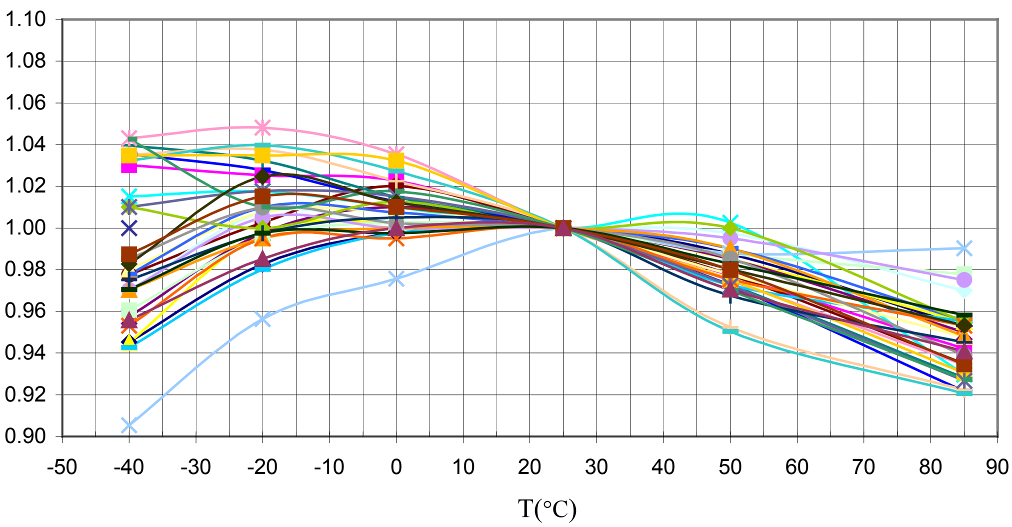
Y-axis Sensitivity Distribution at Yout, V_{DD}=3V



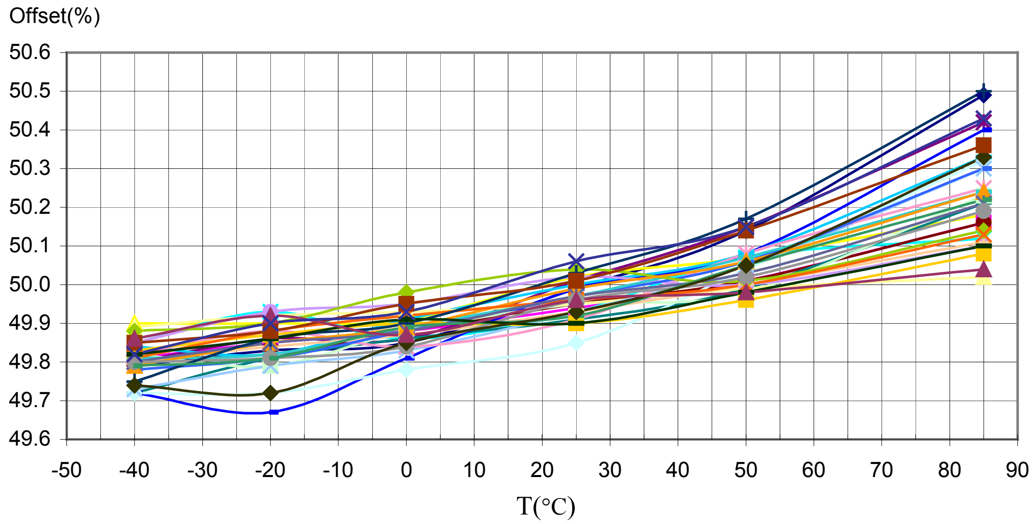
Y-axis Sensitivity Distribution at Yout, V_{DD}=5V



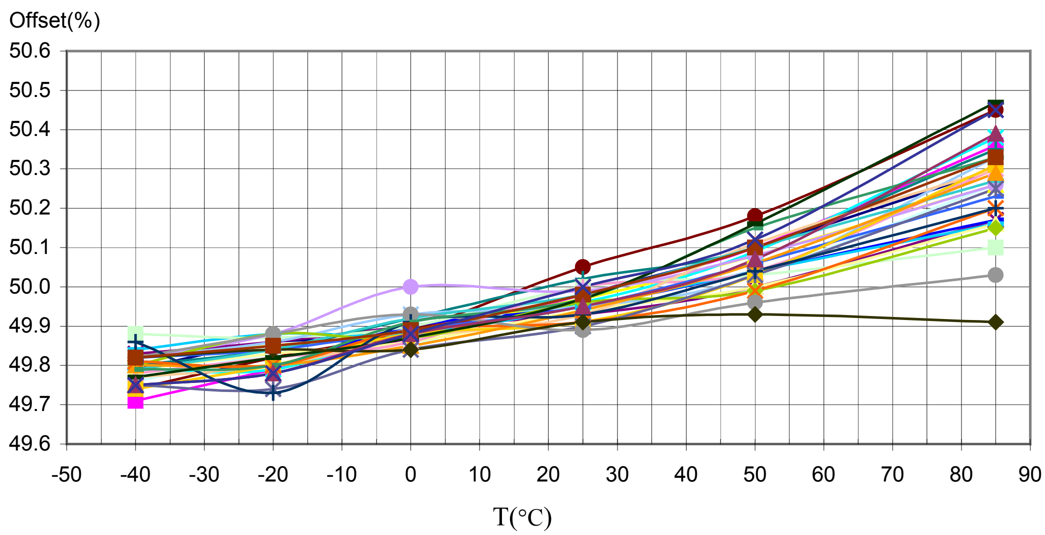
Normalized (with 25°C) X-axis Sensitivity vs. Temperature, V_{DD}=5V



Normalized (with 25°C) Y-axis Sensitivity vs. Temperature, V_{DD}=5V



X-axis Zero g Offset vs. Temperature, V_{DD}=5V



Y-axis Zero g Offset vs. Temperature, V_{DD}=5V

LCC-8 PACKAGE DRAWING

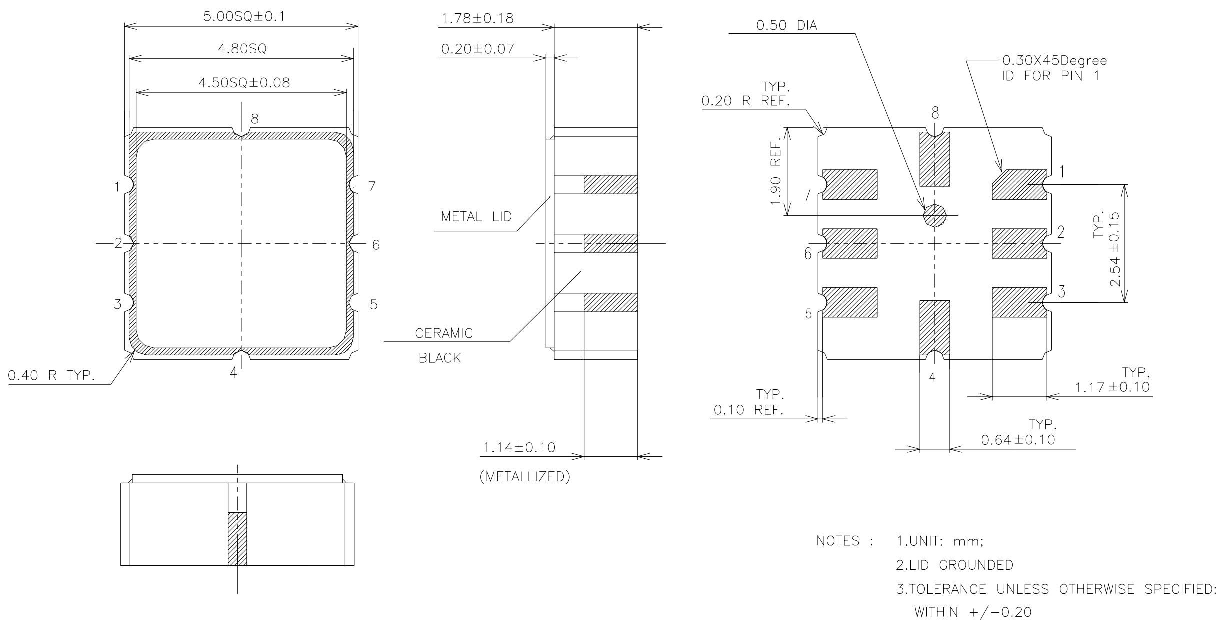


Fig 6: Hermetically Sealed Package Outline