

# User Manual

## Headway

Sensor Based Orientation System for UAVs,  
ocean gliders, robots and buoys

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## PRODUCT OVERVIEW

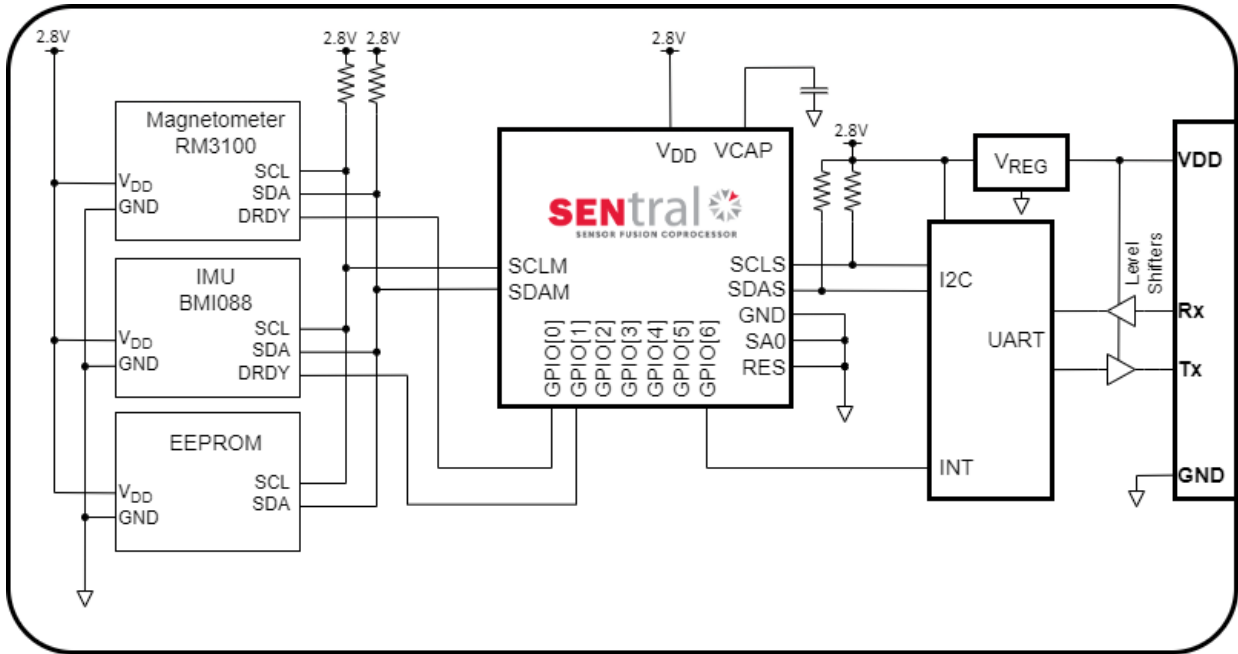


### Headway (PNI Part number 14714)

PNI's Headway module is the *first* complete sensor-based orientation system for UAVs, ocean gliders, robots, and buoys. It incorporates PNI's SENtral-A2 sensor fusion coprocessor, PNI's RM3100 magnetic sensor, an accelerometer, and a gyroscope. The sensor fusion coprocessor comes super-charged with the latest, military grade algorithms, including continuous hard and soft-iron magnetic auto-calibration, and important magnetic anomaly compensation. The module requires **no** external calibration.

The Headway is a panel mountable printed-circuit assembly with a connector for cable interfacing. Its small form factor, UART interface and ASCII protocol makes system integration straightforward. Physical and virtual sensor outputs are available along with meta events to enable even tighter system integration with the host system. For quick evaluation and test, a GUI application can be obtained by contacting [support@pnisensor.zendesk.com](mailto:support@pnisensor.zendesk.com)

## HEADWAY SYSTEM OVERVIEW



**Figure 1-1: Headway Module Block Diagram**

The block diagram, above, shows sensors for the Headway UART version. Headway modules incorporate a combination sensor that combines the gyroscope and accelerometer into a single device.

For more information on the SENTral-A2 Motion Processor please contact [support@pnisen-sor.zendesk.com](mailto:support@pnisen-sor.zendesk.com)

## HEADWAY UART VERSION SPECIFICATIONS

### PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

**Table 2-1: Performance Characteristics**

Parameter	Typical
Heading Accuracy	2° rms
Output Data Rate	200 Hz

### ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

**Table 2-2: Absolute Maximum Ratings**

Parameter	Symbol	Minimum	Maximum	Units
Supply Voltage	V <sub>IN</sub>	-0.3	+6	VDC
Storage Temperature	T <sub>STORE</sub>	-50°	+150°	C

**CAUTION:**

Stresses beyond those listed above may cause permanent damage to the device. These are stress ratings only. Operation of the device at these or other conditions beyond those indicated in the operational sections of the specifications is not implied.

**Table 2-3: Operating Conditions**

Parameter	Conditions	Value
V <sub>IN</sub> Supply Voltage		2.9 to 5.5 VDC <sup>(1)</sup>
I <sub>IN</sub> Supply Current	max. sample rate	9.5 mA typical
	Sleep Mode	0.38 mA typical
I <sub>OH</sub> High-level output current (Tx)	V <sub>IN</sub> = 3.3 V	-7mA max
	V <sub>IN</sub> = 5 V	-8mA max
I <sub>OL</sub> Low-level output current (Tx)	V <sub>IN</sub> = 3.3 V	7mA max
	V <sub>IN</sub> = 5 V	8mA max
V <sub>IH</sub> High-level input voltage (Rx)	V <sub>IN</sub> = 3 V to 3.3 V	1.39 V min
	V <sub>IN</sub> = 3.6 V	1.48 V min

	$V_{IN} = 4.5 \text{ V to } 5 \text{ V}$	2.03 V min
	$V_{IN} = 5.5 \text{ V}$	2.11 V min
$V_{IL}$ Low-level input voltage (Rx)	$V_{IN} = 3 \text{ V to } 3.6 \text{ V}$	0.65 V Max
	$V_{IN} = 4.5 \text{ V to } 5.5 \text{ V}$	0.8 V Max
$V_{OH}$ High-level output voltage (Tx)	$V_{IN} = 2.9 \text{ V to } 5.5 \text{ V}$ $I_{OH} = -20\mu\text{A}$	$V_{IN} - 0.1 \text{ V min}$
	$V_{IN} = 3 \text{ V}$ $I_{OH} = -3 \text{ mA}$ $I_{OH} = -5.5 \text{ mA}$	2.7 V min 2.49 V min <sup>(2)</sup>
	$V_{IN} = 3.3 \text{ V}, I_{OH} = -5.5 \text{ mA}$	2.8 V min
	$V_{IN} = 4.5 \text{ V}, I_{OH} = -4 \text{ mA}$	4.1 V min
	$V_{IN} = 4.5 \text{ V}, I_{OH} = -8 \text{ mA}$	3.95 V min
	$V_{IN} = 5 \text{ V}, I_{OH} = -8 \text{ mA}$	4.5 V min
$V_{OL}$ Low-level output voltage (Tx)	$V_{IN} = 2.9 \text{ V to } 5.5 \text{ V}$ $I_{OH} = 20\mu\text{A}$	0.1 V max
	$V_{IN} = 3 \text{ V}, I_{OH} = 3 \text{ mA}$	0.15 V max
	$V_{IN} = 3 \text{ V}, I_{OH} = 3 \text{ mA}$	0.252 V max
	$V_{IN} = 4.5 \text{ V}, I_{OH} = 3 \text{ mA}$	0.2 V max
	$V_{IN} = 4.5 \text{ V}, I_{OH} = 3 \text{ mA}$	0.35 V max
$T_O$ Operating Temperature		
Operating Current	Idle (no Sensors Enabled)	12.4 mA
	Rotation Vector (max ODR)	17.8 mA
	Geo-Mag Rot (min ODR)	12.9 mA
	All Sensors (Max ODR)	20.4 mA

TTL-compliant logic levels guaranteed for  $V_{IN} = 3.0 \text{ V to } 5.5 \text{ V}$  with  $R_X$  load  $\leq 3 \text{ mA}$  or  $V_{IN} = 3.3 \text{ V to } 5.5 \text{ V}$  with loads  $\leq 8 \text{ mA}$ . CMOS-compliance is guaranteed the entire  $V_{IN}$  voltage range.

High load currents at low  $V_{IN}$  voltages may prevent device from producing TTL-compliant voltages.

**Table 3-1 Communication Format**

Parameter	Value
Communication Interface	TTL/CMOS serial UART
Communication Protocol	ASCII
UART Configuration	115200 Baud 8-bit data 1-stop bit No parity bits

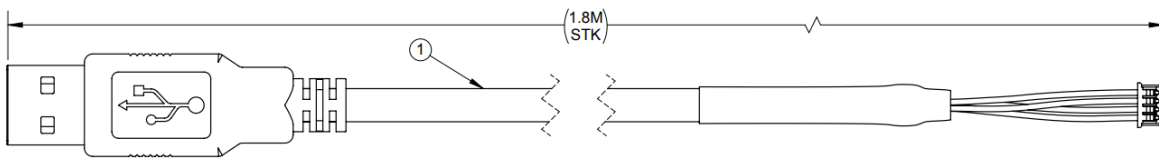
The Headway pin-out is given in Table 3-2. See Table 2-3 for the operating voltage range.

**Table 3-2: Headway Module Pin Assignments**

Pin Name	Description	Pin#
GND	Ground	1
V <sub>IN</sub>	Supply Voltage	2
TX	UART Transmit Output	3
RX	UART Receive Input	4

Headway UART mating connector is 4-pin Molex PicoBlade, housing part number 0510210400, or pigtail cable assembly part numbers 218112040X, where X = 0 through 3.

A 1.8 Meter USB-Serial cable, shown in **Error! Reference source not found.** below, is available from PNI Sensor as part number 14480



**Figure 3-1 PNI 14480 USB-serial evaluation Cable**



## OPERATION

The Headway has two distinct modes of execution: Boot Mode, Main Execution Mode.

The Boot Mode is transparent to the user and happens automatically upon power-up, after which the module enters Idle state of the Execution Mode.

## RUN MODE

To access the full sensor suite, the device must be in run mode (AKA Run State of the Execution mode). This is achieved by sending the character 'r'. If you are unsure of the current execution state, begin by first sending a Reset command followed by a Run command, i.e. "Rr".

A list of the ASCII Serial commands are given in Table 4-1 on the next page. These are the UART commands used by the Headway modules.

Following that table is Table 4-2 which lists the available virtual sensors and meta events with their respective IDs. The IDs are used with the start command to start and stop specific sensors. The IDs are also used in the non-verbose mode of the output data stream to identify the data packets.

**Table 4-1 Summary of Simple Serial Character Commands**

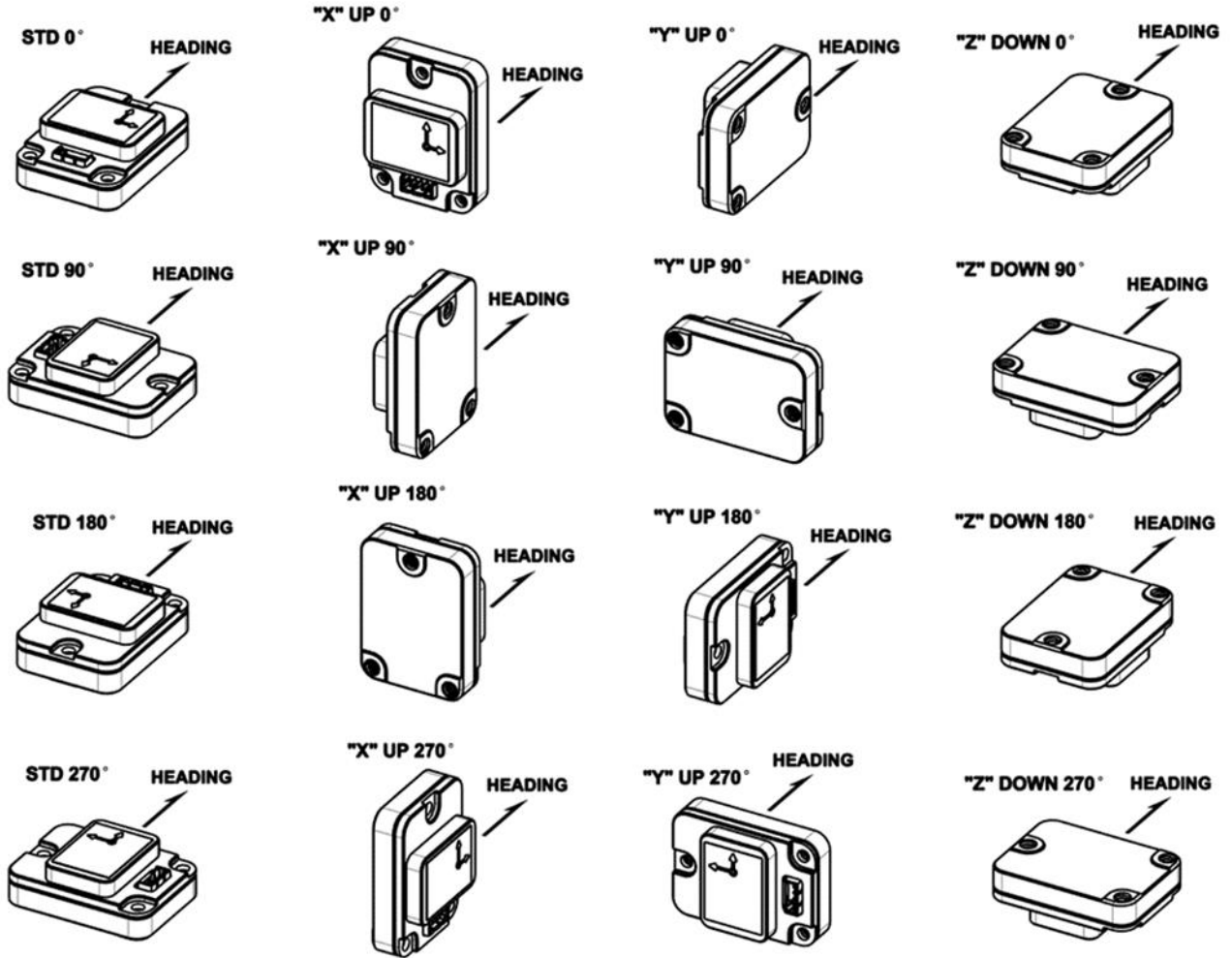
**Note:** Commands are CASE Sensitive!

Char	Description
Configuration and Status	
n	Display sensor information
v	Display Version
M#[CR]	Mounting Options # is limited to 1-16. See Figure 4-1 for specific mounting options
J3	Set module to NED orientation
J4	Set module to ENU orientation (Default)
Sensor Selection and Rates	
s	Start Sensor at given rate  Format: s #,#[CR]  where: 1 <sup>st</sup> # = Sensor ID. See Table 4-2 Summary of Supported Virtual Sensors and Meta Events 2 <sup>nd</sup> # = Data rate (Aggregate data rate should not exceed 1200 Hz) [CR] = carriage return (0x0D) this is one command that does require it.
Display Controls	
m0	Meta event reporting off
m1	Meta event reporting on
m[CR]	Toggle meta event reporting(on/off) Default (On)
D0	sensor Data display off
D1	sensor Data display on
D[CR]	Toggle sensor Data display (on/off) Default (On)
V0	Verbose Mode off
V1	Verbose Mode on
V[CR]	Toggle Verbose Mode (on/off) Default (On)

Additional Controls	
P	Power Down (Low power mode) - Everything is turned low power (~500 uW) until next UART event to wake up.
Additional Controls	
S	Save factory calibration parameters
X	Restart system
J1	Stop autocal
J0	Start autocal
?	Display commands menu
Tests	
B	Run RM3100 Self tests

### Figure 4-1: Mounting Options

Ascending Index from Left to Right, then Top to Bottom  
 (Mounting Option #1 is Top Left, #16 is Bottom Right)



## HEADWAY BOARD SUPPORTED VIRTUAL SENSORS

**Table 4-2 Summary of Supported Virtual Sensors and Meta Events**

Sensor ID	Description	Type
1	Accelerometer (uncalibrated)	Continuous
2	Magnetometer	Continuous
3	Orientation	Continuous
4	Gyroscope (temperature compensated)	Continuous
6	Pressure	Continuous
7	Temperature	Continuous
9	Gravity	Continuous
10	Linear Acceleration	Continuous
11	Rotation Vector (9DOF)	Continuous
14	Magnetometer Uncalibrated	Continuous
15	Game Rotation Vector (6DOF accelerometer + gyroscope)	Continuous
16	Gyroscope Uncalibrated	Continuous
17	Significant Motion	One shot
20	Geomagnetic Rotation Vector (6DOF accelerometer + magnetometer)	Continuous
254	Meta Events Used in HEADWAY-A2 UART	
	4	Error
	5	Magnetic Transient
	6	Cal Status Changed
	7	Stillness Changed
	9	Calibration Stable
	15	Self-Test (BIST) Results

## VIRTUAL SENSOR AND META EVENT INFORMATION

Listed below are the interface specifications for the most used Virtual Sensors and Meta Events that occur in the host readable FIFO stream. When the host enables these virtual sensors, the Virtual sensors' output data is posted to the host readable FIFO at prescribed rates.

### UART Output Format:

#### Verbose Mode (Off)

```
Timestamp,SensorID[,Value][,Value]...[,Value] LFCR
```

#### Verbose Mode (On) -default

```
Timestamp,event name[,Value][,Value]...[,Value] LFCR
```

Example:

#### Verbose Mode (Off)

```
246511934, 14, -0.020935, 0.006653, -0.690308, 0.723145, -2.496170 LFCR
```

#### Verbose Mode (On) -default

```
246511934, Rotation Vector, -0.020935, 0.006653, -0.690308, 0.723145, -2.496170 LFCR
```

Notes:

Each line ends with a Linefeed and Carriage return, (<sup>L</sup><sub>F</sub><sup>C</sup><sub>R</sub>).

The timestamp is a Uint32 type that will wrap on overflow. The units are uncalibrated picoseconds

The formats of the Sensor payloads are given in the following section

## KEY for the following Sensor and Event listings

<b>SENSOR_TYPE ID#:</b>	This is the SENSOR_TYPE ID value written to ParamIO page 3 to select a particular virtual sensor.
<b>Sample_Rate:</b>	A zero sample rate disables the virtual sensor.
<b>Reporting Type:</b>	<b>Wake-up type</b> Virtual sensors will interrupt the host even in AP_Suspend mode <b>Continuous</b> mode will report data to the host continuously at the sample rate <b>ON-Change</b> mode will only report data to the host if the data value(s) have changed.
<b>Payload size:</b>	Number of Comma Separated Values <b>not including the Time Stamp and SENSOR_TYPE ID</b> in each report sentence sent to the host interface FIFO. All payloads end with a Carriage Return [CR], 0X0D.
<b>Payload Values:</b>	The range and type of each data value is listed along with a short description
<b>Description:</b>	Describes the operation of this virtual sensor or event

---

### Accelerometer

---

<b>SENSOR_TYPE ID#:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Sample Rate:</b>	Set by user, 0-400Hz
<b>Reporting Type:</b>	Continuous
<b>Payload size:</b>	4
<b>Payload Values:</b>	X, Y, Z, Accuracy
<b>Description:</b>	Acceleration sensor, no autocalibration performed Values X, Y, and Z units are m/s <sup>2</sup>

---

## Magnetometer

---

<b>SENSOR_TYPE ID#:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Sample Rate:</b>	Set by user, 0-125Hz
<b>Reporting Type:</b>	Continuous
<b>Payload size:</b>	4
<b>Payload Values:</b>	X, Y, Z, Accuracy
<b>Description:</b>	Magnetometer sensor, auto-calibration performed X, Y, and Z values are in micro-Tesla (uT)

---

## Orientation

---

<b>SENSOR_TYPE ID#:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Sample Rate:</b>	0-400Hz
<b>Reporting Type:</b>	Continuous
<b>Payload size:</b>	4
<b>Payload Values:</b>	Yaw, Pitch, Roll, Accuracy
<b>Description:</b>	A 9DOF calculation from Accel, Mag and Gyro sensors Values X, Y, and Z are in degrees

---

## Gyroscope

---

<b>SENSOR_TYPE ID#:</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Sample Rate:</b>	Set by user, 0-400Hz
<b>Reporting Type:</b>	Continuous
<b>Payload size:</b>	4
<b>Payload Values:</b>	X, Y, Z, Accuracy
<b>Description:</b>	Device specific output data from Gyroscope sensor, bias removed X, Y, & Z units are radians per second (rad/s)



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## Pressure

---

**SENSOR\_TYPE ID#:** 6  
**Sample Rate:** 0-50Hz  
**Reporting Type:** Continuous  
**Payload size:** 1  
**Payload Values:** Pressure values are in Pascals  
**Description:** Output data from Pressure sensor

---

## Temperature

---

**SENSOR\_TYPE ID#:** 7  
**Sample Rate:** 0-50Hz  
**Reporting Type:** Continuous  
**Payload size:** 1  
**Payload Values:** Temperature values are in degrees Celsius  
**Description:** Output data from Temperature sensor

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## Acceleration components (2 types)

---

**SENSOR\_TYPE ID#:** 9                   **Gravity**  
  **10**                   **Linear Acceleration**

**Sample Rate:** 0-400Hz  
**Reporting Type:** Continuous  
**Payload size:** 5  
**Payload Values:** X, Y, Z, Accuracy  
**Description:** Gravity and linear acceleration components of acceleration sensor  
Values X, Y, and Z units are m/s<sup>2</sup>

---

## Quaternions (3 types)

---

**SENSOR\_TYPE ID#:** 11                   **Rotation Vector (9-DOF Accel/Mag/Gyro)**  
  **15**                   **Game Rotation (6-DOF Accel/Gyro)**

---

	<b>20</b>	<b>Geo-magnetic Rotation (6-DOF Mag/Accel)</b>
<b>Sample Rate:</b>	0-400Hz	(Geo-magnetic Rotation maximum rate is 125Hz)
<b>Reporting Type:</b>	Continuous	
<b>Payload size:</b>	5	
<b>Payload Values:</b>	Q <sub>x</sub> , Q <sub>y</sub> , Q <sub>z</sub> , Q <sub>w</sub> , Accuracy	
<b>Description:</b>	<p>Quaternion Output data from Rotation Vector Virtual Sensors.</p> <p>A rotation vector sensor reports the orientation of the device relative to the East-North-Up (ENU) coordinates frame. The ENU coordinate system is defined as a direct orthonormal basis where when body is aligned with Earth frame:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">X points east and is tangential to the ground.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Y points north and is tangential to the ground.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Z points towards the sky and is perpendicular to the ground.</p>	

---

### Magnetometer Uncalibrated

---

<b>SENSOR_TYPE ID#:</b>	<b>14</b>	
<b>Sample Rate:</b>	Set by user, 0-125Hz	
<b>Reporting Type:</b>	Continuous	
<b>Payload size:</b>	7	
<b>Payload Values:</b>	X, Y, Z, X offset, Y offset, Z offset, Accuracy	
<b>Description:</b>	<p>Magnetometer sensor, auto-calibration not performed</p> <p>X, Y, and Z values and offsets are in micro-Tesla (uT)</p>	

---

### Gyroscope Uncalibrated

---

<b>SENSOR_TYPE ID#:</b>	<b>16</b>	
<b>Sample Rate:</b>	Set by user, 0-125Hz	
<b>Reporting Type:</b>	Continuous	
<b>Payload size:</b>	7	
<b>Payload Values:</b>	X, Y, Z, X bias, Y bias, Z bias, Accuracy	
<b>Description:</b>	<p>Device specific output data from Gyroscope sensor, bias not removed</p> <p>X, Y, &amp; Z values and biases are radians per second (rad/s)</p>	

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## Meta Event

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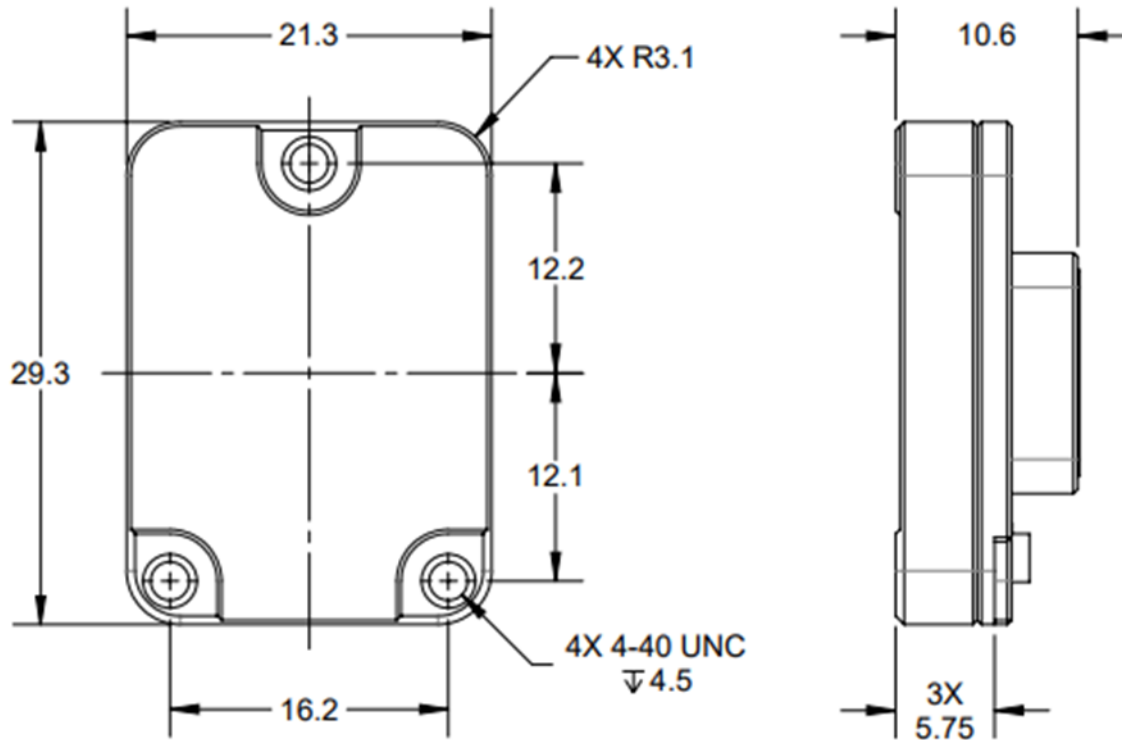
**SENSOR\_TYPE ID#:** 254

**Reporting Type:** On Change

**Payload size:** 3

<b>Payload Values</b>			
Value 1 – Meta Event type ID		Value 2	Value 3
4	Error	Error Register	Debug State
5	Magnetic Transient	1 = transient detected 0 = no transient detected	0
6	Cal Status Changed	Cal Status Value	Trans Component
7	Stillness Changed	1 = now still 0 = no longer still	0
9	Calibration Stable	1 = stable 0 = not stable	0
15	Self-Test (BIST) Results	Sensor ID	Test results 0 = pass

Figure 5-1: Headway



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## Revision Control Block

<u>Revision</u>	<u>Description of Change</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Approval</u>
V1.0	Released	01/04/2023	HN