

lamaPLC: GY-511 6DOF sensor module

The GY-511 is a 6-degree-of-freedom (6DOF) sensor module that combines a 3-axis digital accelerometer and a 3-axis digital magnetometer into a single breakout board. It is primarily based on the **STMicroelectronics LSM303DLHC** chip and is widely used for creating electronic compasses and motion-tracking systems.



Key Specifications

- Sensor Chip: STMicroelectronics LSM303DLHC.
- Operating Voltage: **3V to 5V DC** (includes an integrated low-drop voltage regulator).
- Communication Interface: standard **I²C** protocol.
- Accelerometer Range: user-selectable at $\pm 2g$, $\pm 4g$, $\pm 8g$, and $\pm 16g$.
- Magnetometer Range: seven selectable ranges from ± 1.3 to ± 8.1 gauss.
- Resolution: built-in 12-bit ADC providing a 16-bit digital data output.

Pinout Configuration

The module typically features 8 pins, though only 4 are essential for basic operation with controllers like Arduino Uno:

Pin	Function	Description
VIN	Power Supply	3.3V to 5V input.
3V	Output	3.3V regulated output (up to 100mA).
GND	Ground	System ground.
SCL	I ² C Clock	Clock signal for serial communication.
SDA	I ² C Data	Data signal for serial communication.
INT1/2	Interrupts	Programmable for motion or free-fall detection.
DRDY	Data Ready	Indicator for new measured values.

Common Applications

- **Tilt-Compensated Compasses:** Determining heading even when the device isn't perfectly level.
- **Motion Tracking:** Used in wearables and fitness trackers to monitor activity levels.
- **Free-Fall Detection:** Identifying sudden drops to trigger safety mechanisms.
- **Drones & Robots:** Improving flight stability or navigational accuracy.

Arduino example code

To connect the GY-511 (LSM303DLHC) to an Arduino, the most reliable method is to use the **Pololu LSM303** Library.

GY-511 Pin	Arduino Uno / Nano	Arduino Mega
VIN	5V	5V

GY-511 Pin	Arduino Uno / Nano	Arduino Mega
GND	GND	GND
SCL	A5	Pin 21
SDA	A4	Pin 20

First, install the LSM303 library from the Arduino Library Manager. This basic code reads raw accelerometer and magnetometer data and prints it to the Serial Monitor.

```
#include <Wire.h>
#include <LSM303.h>

LSM303 compass;

void setup() {
  Serial.begin(9600);
  Wire.begin();

  // Initialize the sensor
  if (!compass.init()) {
    Serial.println("Failed to detect GY-511!");
    while (1);
  }

  compass.enableDefault();
  Serial.println("GY-511 Initialized.");
}

void loop() {
  // Read all sensor data
  compass.read();

  // Accelerometer data (X, Y, Z)
  Serial.print("Accel X: "); Serial.print(compass.a.x);
  Serial.print(" Y: ");      Serial.print(compass.a.y);
  Serial.print(" Z: ");      Serial.print(compass.a.z);

  // Magnetometer data (X, Y, Z)
  Serial.print(" | Mag X: "); Serial.print(compass.m.x);
  Serial.print(" Y: ");      Serial.print(compass.m.y);
  Serial.print(" Z: ");      Serial.println(compass.m.z);

  delay(500); // Wait half a second
}
```

Key Functions in the Library

- **compass.init():** Detects if the sensor is connected via I²C.
- **compass.enableDefault():** Configures basic settings like 100Hz update rate and ±2g scale.
- **compass.read():** Fetches the latest 6-axis data from the sensor's registers.

- **compass.heading()**: Calculates the compass heading in degrees (0-360) after calibration.

Calibration Note

For accurate compass readings, you must calibrate the magnetometer. Use the Calibrate example included with the library to find your sensor's specific m_{min} and m_{max} values and update them in your `setup()`.

I2C topics on lamaPLC

Page	Date	Tags
• lamaPLC Communication: 1-Wire	2026/04/23 21:51	1-wire , communication , bus , microlan , i2c , uart , usart , ds18b20
• lamaPLC Communication: I²C	2025/09/23 21:25	i2c , i c , smbus , philips , bus , communication , arduino
• lamaPLC project: Sension SCD CO² measurement module	2026/04/15 19:34	scd30 , scd40 , scd41 , iaq , ndir , sensor , i2c , arduino code
• LamaPLC: AHT10 Modul	2026/03/22 03:14	communication , i2c , temperature , humidity , sensor , aht , aht 10 , modul
• LamaPLC: AHT20 / BMP280 Modul	2026/04/23 21:52	bmp280 , aht20 , adafruit , temperature , humidity , pressure , sensor , arduino , code , i2c
• LamaPLC: APDS - Avago ALS and proximity detection sensors with I²C communication	2026/04/23 21:52	avago , apds-9900 , apds-9930 , apds-9960 , als , proximity , detection , gesture recognition , gesture , i2c , communication , sensor , arduino , code
• lamaPLC: Arduino Modul: BME680	2026/05/12 18:40	code , c , 2026 , arduino , bme680 , sensor , i2c , comunication
• lamaPLC: AS5600 Magnetic Induction Angle Measurement Sensor Module	2026/05/13 00:06	communication , i2c , as5600 , as-5600 , magnetic , induction , angle , sensor
• lamaPLC: Bi-Directional Logic Level Converter 3.3V ↔ 5V	2026/04/12 00:34	bi-directional , logic level converter , i2c , uart , spi
• LamaPLC: BMP/BME Bosch Temperature/Humidity/Pressure sensors with I²C communication	2026/04/23 21:52	bme280 , bme680 , bme688 , bmp180 , bmp280 , hw-611 , hw611 , bosch , temperature , humidity , pressure , sensor , arduino , i2c , communication , ai , cjmcu , volatile organic compounds , vocs , volatile sulfur compounds , vscs , iaq
• LamaPLC: CJMCU-219/INA-219 breakout board/IC with I²C communication	2026/04/23 21:52	cjmcu-219 , ina-219 , ina219 , breakout board , i2c , communication , sensor , voltage , current , arduino , code , cjmcu
• LamaPLC: CJMCU-3216 / AP-3216 integrated digital ambient light and proximity sensor module/IC with I²C communication	2026/04/23 21:52	cjmcu-3216 , cjmcu , ap-3216 , ap3216 , ambient light , proximity , sensor , arduino , code , i2c , communication
• lamaPLC: CJMCU-811 CCS811 Gas Sensor (VOCs TVOC CO₂)	2026/04/23 21:52	cjmcu-811 , ccs811 , gas , sensor , vocs , tvoc , eco2 , co2 , arduino , air quality , metal oxide , mox , i2c , micropython , rp2040-eth

- [LamaPLC: D6T Omron Non-Contact Thermal Sensors with I²C communication](#) 2026/04/23 21:52 [d6t, d6t-32l, d6t-44l, d6t-8l, d6t-1a, omron, non-contact, thermal, sensor, i2c, arduino, code](#)
- [LamaPLC: DPS Infineon Temperature/Pressure sensors with I2C communication](#) 2026/04/23 21:52 [dps310, infineon, temperature, pressure, sensor, arduino, i2c, communication, code](#)
- [lamaPLC: Energy, power, current, and voltage](#) 2025/05/31 23:32 [i2c, i c, communication, arduino, energy, power, current, sensor, ina226](#)
- [LamaPLC: ENS ScioSense Multi-gas sensors with I²C communication](#) 2026/04/23 21:52 [ens160, sciosense, gas-quality, i2c, communication, sensor, arduino, code, eco₂, tvoc, aqi, indoor air quality, iaq, co₂, voc](#)
- [lamaPLC: ESP32 / ESP8266](#) 2025/11/22 00:07 [esp8266, esp32, esp32-c2, esp32-c3, esp32-c5, esp32-c6, esp32-c61, esp32-h2, esp32-s2, esp32-s3, esp32-p4, espressif systems, communication, ethernet, ip, wi-fi, thread, zigbee, matter, homekit, bluetooth, mqtt, adc, spi, uart, i2c, i2s, rmt, pwm, usb, usb otg, twai](#)
- [LamaPLC: Gas sensors](#) 2023/07/01 17:29 [gas, sensor, i2c, onewire, communication, mq-3, mq-4, mq-5, mq-6, mq-7, mq-8, mq-9, mq-135, gm-102b, gm-302b, gm-502b, gm-702b, alcohol, ch4, natural gas, smoke, lng, co, co2, lpg, h2, iso-butane, nox, nh3, benzene, town gas, formaldehyde, propane, humidity, temperature, voc, grv gas sens v2](#)
- [lamaPLC: GY-511 6DOF sensor module](#) 2026/04/23 21:52 [stmicroelectronics, lsm303dlhc, i2c, lsm303, sensor, gy-511, 6dof, pololu, module, arduino](#)
- [LamaPLC: GY-9250 MPU-9250/6500 9-axis Attitude Sensor Board](#) 2026/04/23 21:52 [ak8963, gy-9250, mpu-9250, 9-axis, motion detection, magnetometer, communication, i c, i2c, spi](#)
- [LamaPLC: HDC Texas Instruments Temperature/humidity sensors with I²C communication](#) 2026/04/23 21:52 [sht21, htu21, si7021, gy-21, gy-213v, hdc1080, gy-213v-hdc1080, cjmcu, cjmcu-1080, texas instruments, temperature, humidity, sensor, i2c, communication, arduino, code](#)
- [lamaPLC: HT16K33 display controller](#) 2026/04/23 21:51 [i2c, 7-segment display, display, ht16k33, arduino](#)
- [LamaPLC: HTU TE Connectivity temperature/humidity sensors with I²C communication](#) 2026/04/23 21:52 [htu, htu31d, htu21d, htu20d, sht20, htu20, sht21, htu21, si7021, gy-21, gy-213v, hdc1080, si702, gy-20, sht31, htu31, si7031, gy-31, te connectivity, temperature, humidity, i2c, communication, sensor, arduino, code](#)
- [lamaPLC: INA modules with Arduino libraries](#) 2026/04/23 21:52 [i2c, i c, communication, arduino, energy, power, current, monitor, sensor, ina219, gy-219, ina226, gy-216, ina228, gy-228, ina237, ina238, ina260, ina3221, ina](#)

• lamaPLC: INA226 - current/voltage/power monitor with I²C communication	2026/04/23 21:52	i2c , i c , communication , arduino , energy , power , current , monitor , sensor , ina226 , ina219 , ina
• lamaPLC: LCD 1602/2004 with I²C communication	2026/02/14 18:27	communication , i2c , display , lcd , 1602 , 2004 , hd44780 , pcf8574 , pcf8574t , pcf8574at , arduino
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• lamaPLC: MCP23017 / MCP23S17 16-Bit I/O Expander with Serial Interface I²C / SPI	2026/04/23 21:52	communication , i2c , mcp23017 , mcp23s17 , spi , i o expander , serial , cjmcu-2317 , cjmcu
• lamaPLC: MLX90614 (GY-906) infrared non-contact thermometer	2026/05/08 00:03	communication , i2c , temperature , mlx90614 , gy-906 , modul , infrared , non-contact thermometer , dsp , pwm , smbus , hailege
• lamaPLC: PCF857x I/O Expander chip/modul with I²C communication	2026/05/15 01:03	communication , i2c , pcf857x , pcf8574 , pcf8574a , pcf8575 , i o expander , i o extension , nxp , texas instruments
• LamaPLC: Pixart PAJ7620U2 Gesture recognition sensors/module with I²C communication	2026/04/23 21:52	paj7620u2 , gy-paj7620 , pixart , gesture recognition , i2c , communication , sensor , arduino , code
• lamaPLC: RP2040_ETH_Modul: I²C scanner	2026/05/12 16:20	code , micropython , 2026 , rp2040 eth , i2c , comunication
• lamaPLC: RP2040_ETH_Modul: MLX90614 simple	2026/05/12 17:06	code , micropython , 2026 , rp2040 eth , i2c , communication , mlx90614
• lamaPLC: RP2040_ETH_Modul: Read BME 680/688 sensor data	2026/05/12 21:06	code , micropython , 2026 , rp2040 eth , bme680 , i2c , sensor , communication
• lamaPLC: RP2040_ETH_Modul: Read BME 680/688 sensor data and store in Modbus input registers	2026/05/12 18:58	code , micropython , 2026 , rp2040 eth , bme680 , i2c , sensor , communication
• LamaPLC: SC16IS750 / SC16IS752: One or two serial (UART) ports from microcontroller via I²C or SPI communication	2026/04/23 21:52	cjmcu-750 , cjmcu-752 , cjmcu , nxp , sc16is750 , sc16is752 , uart , serial , i2c , spi , modul , converter , arduino , code
• LamaPLC: SGP Sensirion TVOC/VOC sensors with I²C communication	2026/04/15 19:41	sgp30 , sgp40 , sgp41 , sensirion , gas-sensor , i2c , communication , sensor , arduino , code , eco2 , voc , tvoc , indoor air quality , iaq , nox , hydrogen
• LamaPLC: SHT Sensirion Temperature/humidity sensor with I²C communication	2026/04/23 21:52	sht20 , sht21 , sht25 , sht30 , sht31 , sht35 , sht40 , gy21 , temperature , humidity , i2c , communication , sensor , arduino , code
• lamaPLC: Signal level converters	2026/02/14 23:47	pca9306 , i2c , voltage , level , converter
• lamaPLC: st756x display drivers	2026/05/20 16:17	display , driver , i2c , spi , lcd , cog , oled , st7565 , st7567 , gm12864 , gm12864-59n , gm12864-03a , gm12864-01a , gme12864-41
• lamaPLC: TCA9548A (HW617); Low-Voltage 8-Channel I²C Switch Module	2026/02/14 23:51	tca9548a , hw617 , i2c , switch , communication , expansion board , arduino

- [lamaPLC: TM1637 7-segment display](#) 2026/02/14 18:26 [i2c](#), [7-segment display](#), [display](#), [tm1637](#), [arduino](#)
- [LamaPLC: TOFnnnC STMicroelectronics Time-of-Flight \(ToF\) sensors with I²C communication](#) 2026/04/23 21:52 [tof050c](#), [vl6180](#), [tof200c](#), [vl53l0x](#), [tof400c](#), [vl53l1x](#), [stmicroelectronics](#), [time-of-flight](#), [tof](#), [i2c](#), [communication](#), [sensor](#), [arduino](#), [code](#)
- [LamaPLC: VL53Lnn STMicroelectronics time-of-flight \(ToF\) laser-ranging sensors with I²C communication](#) 2026/04/23 21:52 [vl53l0x](#), [vl53l1x](#), [vl53l0 1xv2](#), [gy-530](#), [time-of-flight](#), [tof](#), [laser-ranging](#), [i2c](#), [communication](#), [sensor](#), [arduino](#), [code](#)
- [LamaPLC: VL6180X STMicroelectronics Time-of-Flight \(ToF\) sensor with I²C communication](#) 2026/04/23 21:52 [vl6180x](#), [stmicroelectronics](#), [time-of-flight](#), [tof](#), [i2c](#), [communication](#), [sensor](#), [arduino](#), [code](#)
[communication](#), [i2c](#), [sensor](#), [modul](#), [pressure](#), [cfsensor](#), [xgzp68xx](#), [xgzp6810d](#), [xgzp6857d](#), [xgzp6859d](#), [xgzp6887d](#), [xgzp6897d](#), [xgzp6899a](#), [piezoresistive](#), [capacitive](#)
- [lamaPLC: XGZP68xx: Silicon Pressure Sensors/Module](#) 2026/05/15 15:17 [magnetic angle sensor](#), [magnetic flux](#), [sensor](#), [spi](#), [i2c](#), [pwm](#), [communication](#), [modul](#), [as5047p](#), [as5600](#), [mt6701](#), [mt6816](#), [mt6835](#), [tle5012b](#), [amr](#), [gmr](#), [tmr](#), [anisotropic magnetoresistive](#)
- [Magnetic angle sensors](#) 2026/04/23 21:52 [i2c](#), [oled](#), [display](#), [ssd1306](#), [sh1106](#), [ssh1106](#), [arduino](#), [cmos](#)
- [SSH1106/SSD1306 OLED Display with I²C communication](#) 2026/02/14 18:27 [STMicroelectronics](#), [LSM303DLHC](#), [I2C](#), [LSM303](#), [sensor](#), [GY-511](#), [6DOF](#), [Pololu](#), [module](#), [Arduino](#)

This page has been accessed for: Today: 3, Until now: 223

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