

Spirit Level

Mission 11

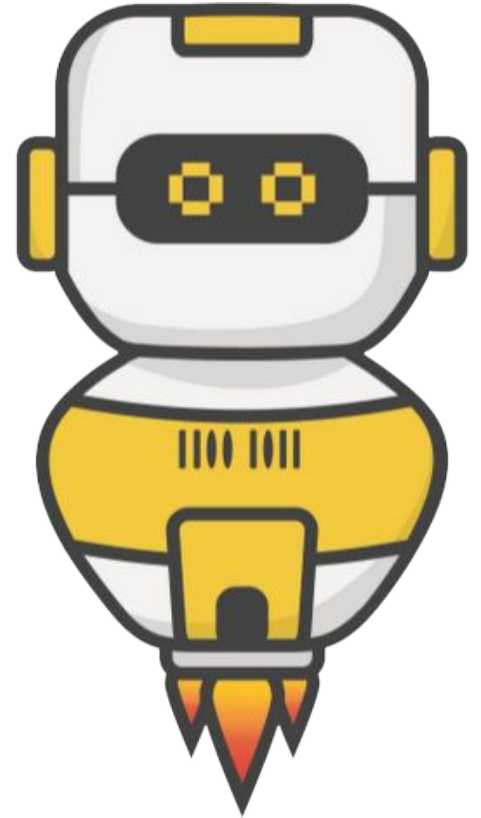


FIRIA LABS

Pre-Mission Preparation

In this mission you will use an accelerometer to determine if something is level.

- Your cell phone can detect if it is level or tilted. What other devices use some kind of sensor to determine their orientation?



Mission 11: Reaction Time

How level is your desk or table?

Write some code to find out. During this project you will build a spirit level.


Project Goals:

- Display a numeric "tilt" value from the accelerometer.
- *Scale* the raw tilt value to show 0° to 90° incline.
- Replace the number display with a **graphical ball** simulation!



Objective #1: Accel

This mission will use CodeX's built-in accelerometer

- What is an accelerometer?
- Click on  [accelerometer.](#)
- Go to the Mission Log and answer the question.

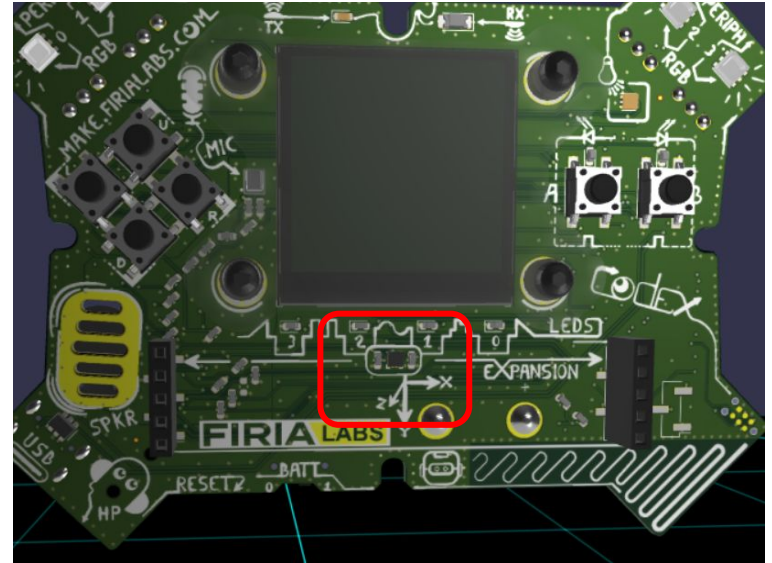
- Return to the digital instructions.
- Go back to the Mission Log and answer the question.



Mission Activity #1

DO THIS:

- Close the instruction panel
- Use the camera controls to zoom in
- Click on the accelerometer
- Create a new file named **Spirit_Level**



Objective #2: Tilt-o-Matic

When you read the accelerometer, it returns three values, one for each axis.

- The three values are enclosed in parenthesis: (x, y, z)
- This type of data is called a **tuple**.
- Other tuples:
 - Color values: (red, green, blue)
 - Location on a grid: (x, y)



Objective #2: Tilt-o-Matic

To read the accelerometer, use this code:

```
val = accel.read()
```

A tuple is a special kind of list. You can get specific x, y or z values like items in a list:

```
tilt_x = val[0]    # first value is at index 0  
tilt_y = val[1]  
tilt_z = val[2]
```



Objective #2: Tilt-o-Matic

This mission will use CodeX's built-in accelerometer

- Go to the Mission Log and answer the questions about data from the accelerometer.



Mission Activity #2

DO THIS:

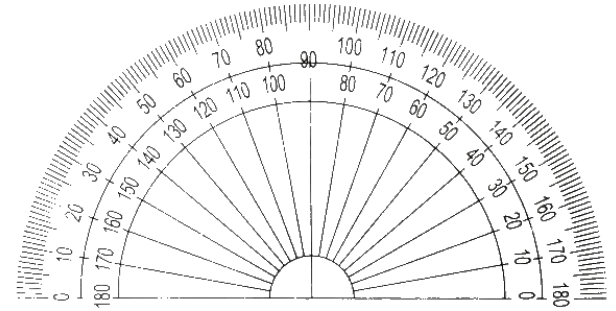
- Read the accelerometer
- Display the x value
- Delay a short time to read the display
- Your code could look like this:

```
Spirit_Level x
1  from codex import *
2  from time import sleep
3
4  while True:
5      val = accel.read()
6      tilt_x = val[0]
7      display.print(tilt_x)
8      sleep(0.5)
9
```



Objective #3: Scale to Degrees

- The numbers you see on the display are all over the place.
- We usually measure angles in degrees.
- You need to convert the raw data -- numbers you see on the display -- into degrees.
- This involves some complicated math -- trigonometry -- so use the code given and don't worry about the actual math



Mission Activity #3

DO THIS:

- Import the math module
- Add the code as shown
- Change the display.print to show degrees
- Run the code
 - Can you get CodeX level, with 0 degrees?
- Go to the Mission Log and answer the question

```
from codex import *
from time import sleep
import math

while True:
    val = accel.read()
    tilt_x = val[0]

    scaled = (tilt_x / 16384)
    scaled = min(max(scaled, -1), 1)
    degrees = math.asin(scaled) * 180 / math.pi
    degrees = int(degrees)

    display.print(degrees)
    sleep(0.5)
```



Objective #4: Static Ball

Time to learn a little about drawing on the display

Here are the drawing functions you will use for your spirit level:

Function	Description
<code>display.fill(color)</code>	Fill the display with a color
<code>display.draw_line(x1, y1, x2, y2, color)</code>	Draw a line from (x1, y1) to (x2, y2)
<code>display.draw_circle(x, y, radius, color)</code>	Draw a circle with center at (x, y)

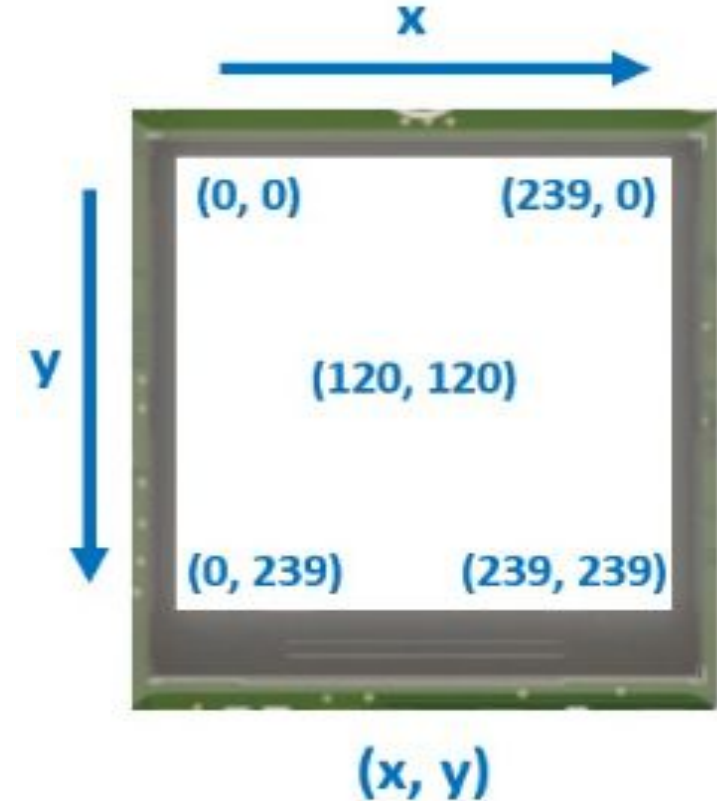


Objective #4: Static Ball

Concept: The display

The CodeX LCD display is
240 pixels x 240 pixels

- Each *tiny* pixel works JUST like the 4 RGB *LED pixels* at the top of the CodeX.
- x in the (x, y) is the display *width*
- y is the display *height*



Mission Activity #4

DO THIS:

- Define a value for the center of the display
- Type the code to draw a line in the center
- Change the display.print to drawing a circle instead

```
from codex import *  
from time import sleep  
import math
```

```
CENTER = 120
```

```
display.fill(WHITE)  
display.draw_line(CENTER, 0, CENTER, 105, BLACK)  
display.draw_line(CENTER, 135, CENTER, 239, BLACK)
```

```
while True:
```

```
    val = accel.read()  
    tilt_x = val[0]
```

```
    scaled = (tilt_x / 16384)  
    scaled = min(max(scaled, -1), 1)  
    degrees = math.asin(scaled) * 180 / math.pi  
    degrees = int(degrees)
```

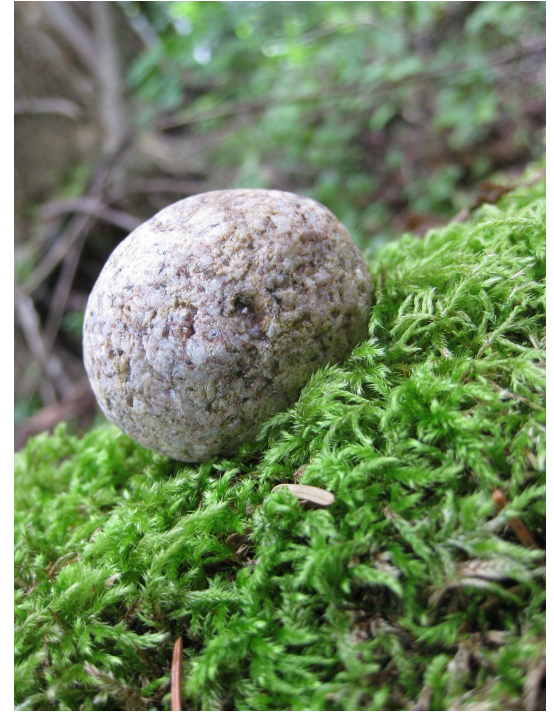
```
    display.draw_circle(CENTER, CENTER, 15, ORANGE)  
    sleep(0.5)
```



Objective #5: Rolling Stone

Time to make that ball move

- Use the information you have:
 - Center of display
 - Degrees for x
- Use math to calculate the position of the circle
- Use a variable for the data



Mission Activity #5

DO THIS:

- Define a value for the x position
- Assign it the value:
 - $x = \text{CENTER} + \text{degrees}$
- Use the variable in the `draw_circle()` command
- Run the code and tilt CodeX to see the ball move

```
while True:
    val = accel.read()
    tilt_x = val[0]

    scaled = (tilt_x / 16384)
    scaled = min(max(scaled, -1), 1)
    degrees = math.asin(scaled) * 180 / math.pi
    degrees = int(degrees)

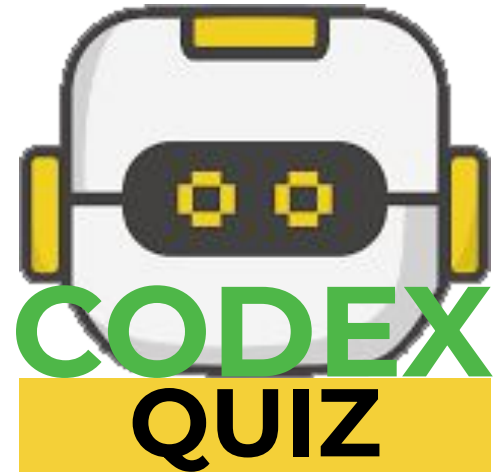
    x = CENTER + degrees
    display.draw_circle(x, CENTER, 15, ORANGE)
    sleep(0.5)
```



Accelisplay

During this mission you have learned about the accelerometer and the display.

- Answer 3 quiz questions about the concepts.



Objective #6: Eraser First

Spirit Level -- final touches

- Why is the ball drawing on top of itself?
- Because you are not erasing it first.
- Cover your tracks!
- Draw a white circle to “erase” the current circle before moving to a new position and drawing a new orange circle.



Mission Activity #6

DO THIS:

- Define the x variable above the while loop
- Draw a white circle before calculating a new x value
- Run your program

Does it work correctly?

```
CENTER = 120
```

```
display.fill(WHITE)
display.draw_line(CENTER, 0, CENTER, 105, BLACK)
display.draw_line(CENTER, 135, CENTER, 239, BLACK)
```

```
x = CENTER
```

```
while True:
    val = accel.read()
    tilt_x = val[0]

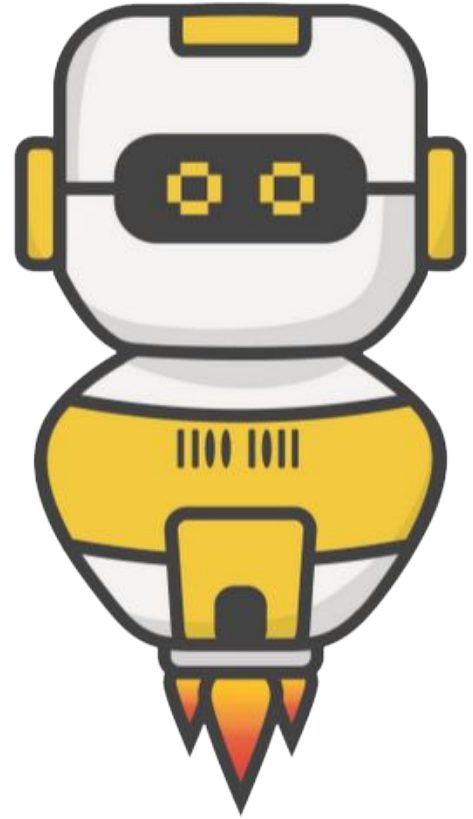
    scaled = (tilt_x / 16384)
    scaled = min(max(scaled, -1), 1)
    degrees = math.asin(scaled) * 180 / math.pi
    degrees = int(degrees)
```

```
display.draw_circle(x, CENTER, 15, WHITE)
x = CENTER + degrees
display.draw_circle(x, CENTER, 15, ORANGE)
sleep(0.5)
```



Post-Mission Reflection

- Read the “completed mission” message and click to complete the mission
- Complete the Mission 11 Log



Clearing your CodeX

Go to FILE -- BROWSE FILES
Select the “**Clear**” file and open it
Run the program to clear the CodeX



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