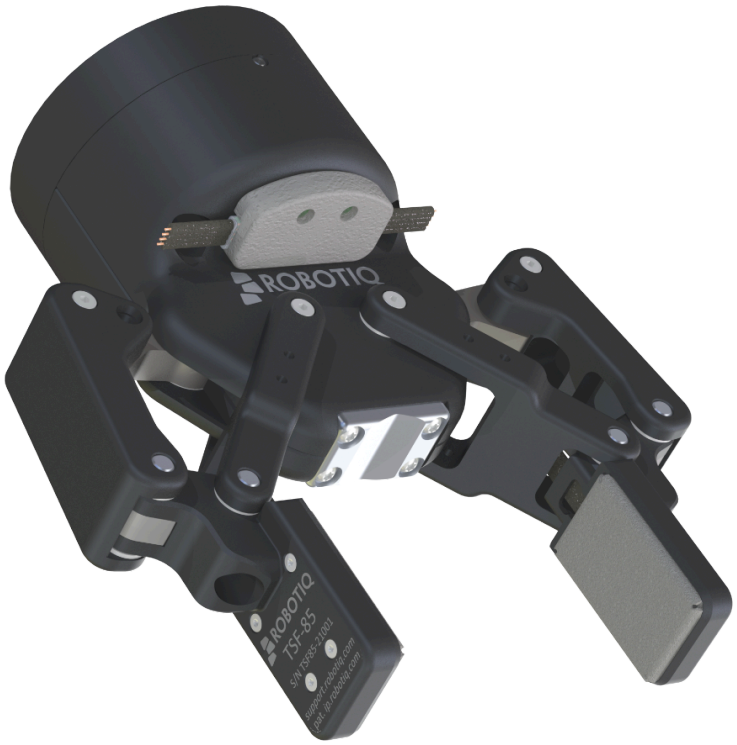
Tactile Sensors TSF-85 & TSF-140

User Guide



Version: 2.1.0

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the guide

This document is intended to be the central point for up-to-date technical information about the Robotiq Tactile Sensors Fingertips (TSF-85 for the 2F-85 gripper, TSF-140 for the 2F-140 gripper. The target audience is current and future users. Brevity is prioritized, linking to external links as needed (software packages, for example).

Unless otherwise specified, all technical information in this manual applies to both the TSF-85 and TSF-140 models. The generic term TSF is used to refer to both.

1.2 HW version compatibility

This manual describes the specifications, installation steps and usage of TSF-85 & TSF-140 version 2.1, which can be identified with the serial number beginning with 21XXXX as shown in the pictures below.





The TSF sensors are compatible with both the 2F-85 and 2F-140 Adaptive Grippers. While both models share the same electronics, the TSF-140 features a longer flat cable and a longer casing with an added non-sensitive section (as seen in the image below).



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1.3 Product description

The Robotiq Tactile Sensors Fingertips (TSF) is an accessory kit designed to integrate tactile sensing capabilities with Robotiq Adaptive Grippers, enabling advanced robotic applications. The TSF provides three distinct types of feedback signals to the robot controller:

- **Pressure signal:** A 4x7 grid of taxels measures the normal force distribution across the fingertip surface. The signal is the raw capacitance change measured in counts, so it has no units.
- **Dynamic signal:** A high-frequency (1000Hz) channel monitors vibrations. This signal has no specific unit as well as it is a measure of the instantaneous change in capacitance.
- **Proprioception signal:** An onboard IMU tracks the orientation of the fingertips. This is necessary because the passive encompassing mechanism of the 2F Gripper prevents complete orientation tracking via the robot encoders alone. The outputs are the raw data from the accelerometers and gyroscopes.

The Tactile Sensors Fingertips replace the standard gripper fingertips. They are available in two configurations:

- Starter Kit (AGC-TIP-TSF-85-STARTER-KIT & AGC-TIP-TSF-140-STARTER-KIT): Includes the fingertips, associated hardware, a connectivity hub, and a USB cable.
- Replacement Kit (AGC-TIP-TSF-85 & AGC-TIP-TSF-140): Includes the fingertips and associated hardware, intended for replacing consumable components.

Unlike most Robotiq products (such as Grippers, Force Torque Sensors, and Palletizing Solutions), the TSF are subject to rapid evolution. Consequently, the long-term availability of a specific product version cannot be guaranteed. Users with critical requirements for long-term availability, specific new features, or compatibility with particular gripper models should contact Robotiq Support.

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1.4 Gripper compatibility

Gripper model	Tactile sensors compatibility
2F-85	Compatible (TSF-85)
2F-140	Compatible (TSF-140)
3F	Contact Robotiq
Hand-E	Contact Robotiq
Hand-E C10	Contact Robotiq

Table 1: Gripper compatibility

1.5 Intended use

The TSF deliver rich, high-frequency, multi-modal data directly to your PC (acting as the robot controller) through USB. This tactile feedback provides critical information—like grip pressure distribution—that's often missed by other systems, such as vision cameras. Your robot controller can then use this data, through either AI or traditional programming, to make smart, high-level decisions that adapt the robot and gripper control in real-time.

We provide software examples to get you started with data acquisition quickly. However, you will need to develop your own application-specific software to analyze the data and integrate the sensor feedback into your robot control logic.

Tactile sensors enable advanced capabilities like:

- Handling delicate or fragile objects
- Estimating the pose (position and orientation) of the gripped object
- Detecting when an object is starting to slip
- Distinguishing between different material textures
- Classifying the object that has been picked
- Monitoring and adjusting grip stability

Additionally, you can use the TSF to passively log vast amounts of data from a tele-operated system. This data is invaluable for training your own AI models to perform the high-level tasks listed above.

1.5.1 Limitations

The TSF signals are not integrated into the gripper internal control system. An external PC (acting as the robot controller) is therefore required to acquire and process the data. High frequency control of the gripper based on tactile feedback is not possible.

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The sensors are also not intended to be used in applications that contains any of the following:

- Manipulation of sharp or rough objects, or any type of object that would create a premature wear of a soft polymer surface.
- Manipulation of liquids.
- Exposure to extreme temperatures (outside of the specified operating range).
- Exposure to corrosive chemicals or solvents.
- Applications involving excessive force or impact beyond the gripper's maximum grip force.
- Use in explosive atmospheres.
- Use in medical or life-support applications.

1.5.2 Environmental limits

The TSFs' environmental limits must adhere the following requirements:

Specification	Value
Operating temperature	0-40°C
Relative humidity	20-80%RH

Table 2: Environmental limits

2. Hardware installation

2.1 Scope of delivery

TSF-85 Starter Kit for 2-Finger Adaptive Robot Gripper 85-V4 **(AGC-TIP-TSF-85-STARTER-KIT)**	TSF-140 Starter Kit for 2-Finger Adaptive Robot Gripper 140-V4 **(AGC-TIP-TSF-140-STARTER-KIT)**
• 2 x Tactile Sensor Fingertips • 4 x Dowel Pins (dia. 2 x 6 mm) • 2 x Screws (M5-0.8 x 12 mm SHCS) • 1 x Main hub board • 1 x USB cable Note: Two (2) fingertips are required per gripper.	• 2 x Tactile Sensor Fingertips • 4 x Dowel Pins (dia. 2 x 6 mm) • 2 x Screws (M5-0.8 x 12 mm SHCS) • 1 x Main hub board • 1 x USB cable Note: Two (2) fingertips are required per gripper.

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TSF-85 Replacement Kit **(AGC-TIP-TSF-85)**	TSF-140 Replacement Kit **(AGC-TIP-TSF-140)**
• 2 x Tactile Sensor Fingertips • 4 x Dowel Pins (dia. 2 x 6 mm) • 2 x Screws (M5-0.8 x 12 mm SHCS) Note: Two (2) fingertips are required per gripper.	• 2 x Tactile Sensor Fingertips • 4 x Dowel Pins (dia. 2 x 6 mm) • 2 x Screws (M5-0.8 x 12 mm SHCS) Note: Two (2) fingertips are required per gripper.

⚠️No plug-and-play software is provided with the TSF.

⚠️TSF output may evolve slightly over time, depending on the application and operating conditions. Frequent slippage or shear loading may contribute to additional wear. This evolution is considered normal wear and is not covered by warranty. After 2 million cycles at full force with no slippage or shear, product testing showed no decrease in sensitivity.

⚠️TSF are only compatible with the 4th version of the 2F Adaptive Gripper (produced since 2019, serial number is C-XXXXX with 5 numbers).

2.2 Required tools

The following tools are required to install the TSF and its connectivity hub:

- 2 mm hex key
- 3 mm hex key
- 4 mm hex key
- Flat screwdriver to manually open/close the gripper

2.3 Installation steps

⚠️**Caution:** Exercise care when handling the tactile sensors' flat ribbon cable. The pins on the end of the cable are delicate and easily damaged.

Note: The following steps apply to both the TSF-85 and TSF-140 models.

1. **Connectivity Test (Optional)**

   Prior to full assembly, you may connect the Tactile Sensors to the USB Connectivity Hub to confirm successful communication.



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Note: Disconnect the sensors before proceeding to the subsequent assembly steps.

2. ⚠️**Delicate step**

   Feed the flat ribbon cable of the first tactile sensor through the interphalangeal joint.

   Avoid applying excessive force to the connectivity pins.



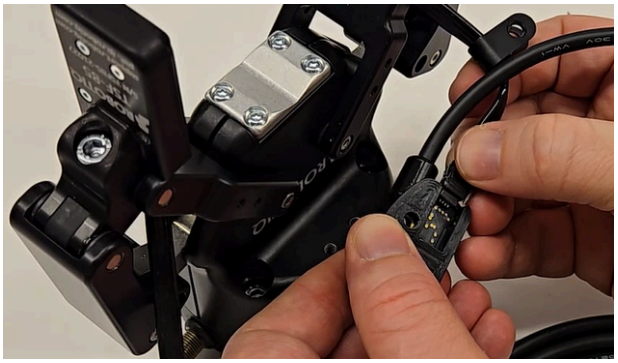
3. **Mount the Tactile Sensor Fingertip:** Align the tactile sensor fingertip with the two pins on the finger, and secure it using the provided M5 screws.

   Insert the cable holder: Slide the cable holder onto the ribbon cable.



4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 for the remaining tactile sensor fingertip.

5. ⚠️**Delicate step**
   Connect the flat ribbon cables from each tactile sensor to the bottom of the USB Connectivity Hub (the hub is not yet mounted).



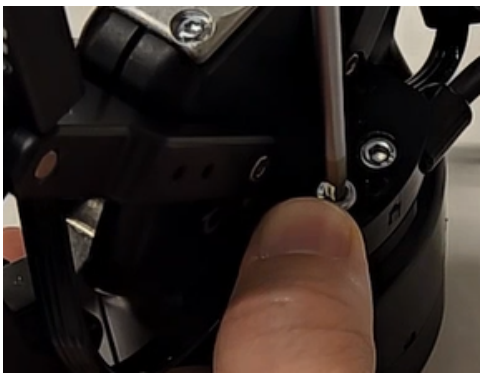
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6. Secure the connectors by placing the connector clip onto the hub.

   Mount the USB Connectivity Hub (with the attached connector clip) onto the gripper using the supplied screws.







7. Secure the two cable holders to the gripper fingers using the supplied screws.



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8. **Verify cable management:** Manually open and close the gripper by driving the mechanism with a flat screwdriver, and move the passive encompassing mechanism to ensure the Tactile Sensors Fingertips' cables are properly managed and do not snag or stretch.

   Adjust ribbon cable (if needed): If the flat ribbon cable appears too loose or too taut in any section during the verification, adjust its slack.

9. Secure the 5m USB cable to the robot arm using an appropriate strain relief accessory (not provided).

   Ensure there is enough slack in the cable to allow the robot arm to move freely to all joint positions without excessive cable tension.

10. Connect the USB cable to your signal-processing computer. Avoid connecting or disconnecting the flat ribbon cable connectors when the USB cable is connected.

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3. Specifications

3.1 Mechanical specs

Specification	Value	
	TSF-85	TSF-140
Width	28.4 mm	30.5 mm
Height (from mounting surface)	44 mm	65.5 mm
Thickness (fingertip)	10.9 mm	10.9 mm
Distance from pad surface to mounting screw	17.9 mm	17.9 mm

Table 3: Mechanical specs of the Tactile Sensor Fingertips

3.2 Electrical specs

Specification	Value
	TSF-85 & TSF-140
Communication interface	USB2 (USB-A connector)
Current consumption	150mA (powered through USB)

Table 4: Electrical specs of the Tactile Sensor Fingertips

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3.3 Sensing specs

The sensor communicates at 1000Hz with a timestamp embedded in each message. Each sensor is however updated at a different frequency (see below).

3.3.1 Pressure signal

Specification	Value
	TSF-85 & TSF-140
Taxel distribution	4 x 7 (columns x rows)
Refresh rate	60Hz
Resolution for even force (typical, sum of all taxels)	0.011 N/count 0.5N
Noise level (standard deviation over 1s, sum of all taxels, typical)	0.5N (50 counts)
Noise level (standard deviation over 1s, single taxel, typical)	8 counts

Table 5: Pressure signal

3.3.2 Dynamic signal

Specification	Value
	TSF-85 & TSF-140
Max Range Raw	±32767
Convert to mV	Raw x 1.024/32767
Refresh rate	1000Hz

Table 6: Dynamic signal

Current software outputs raw signals.

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3.3.3 Proprioception (IMU)

Specification	Value
	TSF-85 & TSF-140
Refresh rate	1000Hz
Accelerometer FSR	±2 g
Gyroscope FSR	±250 °/s

Table 7: IMU signal

Current software outputs raw signals.

4. Software & communication

The accompanying software is intended as a foundation for establishing connectivity with the Tactile Sensor Fingertips. Note that no complete application software is included.

For hardware testing and troubleshooting, use the Sensor Quickstart Python scripts. These scripts include bash and BAT files for running on Linux and Windows. Additionally, a web viewer is provided to visualize the various signals.

The other software packages on the Robotiq Github (links in table 8) are provided as is, without direct support from the Robotiq support team. The users are invited to ask questions and make requests on the Github repository directly.

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Software Link (FW 1.0.6)	Software Link (FW 1.1.8)	Description	Type of support
Sensor Quickstart Python script	Sensor Quickstart Python script	Minimal example, recommended as a starting point to test / troubleshoot the sensor. Has a web viewer (for demo purposes) and can run on Linux and Windows.	Direct (Contact Robotiq for support)
C++ SDK	C++ SDK	Community support (ask your questions/request on Github)	Community
ROS	ROS	Community support (ask your questions/request on Github)	Community
NVIDIA		Coming soon	Community

Table 8: Different softwares related to the Tactile Sensor Fingertips

Note: TSF HW 2.1 shipped with firmware version 1.0.6. To maintain compatibility with the latest software versions and more recent hardware versions, it is recommended to upgrade the firmware to version 1.1.8.

4.1 Best practices for integration within a robot cycle

To achieve a uniform response, each taxel can be individually calibrated to account for its unique bias and sensitivity.

Please refer to Appendix A for an example of a typical sensor's response and hysteresis.

A. Calculating the bias

1. Take a number of baseline samples (recommended 1000) of the unloaded sensor.
2. Calculate the average reading on each taxel over the baseline samples. This provides your per-taxel baseline bias.
3. Subtract this bias from the readings.

For maximum repeatability, this biasing should be done before any load on the sensor, for example before a grasp. Typical baseline bias values range from 9000-30000 CDC counts.

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Given the inherent hysteresis in the sensor signal and the variability in taxel sensitivity, the following best practices are recommended for accurate load measurement:

B. Periodic taxel sensitivity calibration

To ensure accurate readings, periodically calibrate the sensitivity of each individual taxel by following this routine:

1. **Gripper activation:** Power on and activate the gripper.
2. **No-load baseline:** With the gripper in the fully open position, record and store the signal value for each taxel. This is the "no load" baseline.
3. **Max uniform load:** Close the gripper at maximum force and maximum speed (or with a known maximum uniform load object).
4. **Signal storage:** Record and store the signal value for each taxel under this "max uniform load."
5. **Sensitivity calculation:** Calculate and store the sensitivity of each taxel using the difference between the "max uniform load" signal and the "no load" baseline.
6. **Calculate the gain:** Calculate and store the values that aligns each taxel to a similar value under “max uniform load”. Refer to Appendix B for an example.

Tip: If the fingertips seem slightly misaligned, try closing the gripper on a flat rigid plate or a thin deformable material such as leather or foam to distribute the forces more evenly over the taxels.

C. Taxel signal compensation during a robot cycle

Implement the following steps within the robot's operating cycle to compensate for hysteresis and signal drift:

1. **Cycle baseline:** Immediately before the gripping action, and with the gripper open, store the current "no load" signal as a baseline for the current cycle. This compensates for short-term drift and hysteresis.
2. **Gripping action:** Close the gripper using the desired application settings (force, speed, position).
3. **Scaled load measurement:** Once the grip is complete, use the current signal from each taxel, along with the stored values (cycle baseline and calculated sensitivity gain), to accurately scale the signal and determine the load on each taxel.

Note on load limits and non-linearity:

- It is possible for the pressure on individual taxels to exceed the "max uniform load" established during the calibration, depending on the object's geometry and composition.
- For applications requiring greater precision, be aware that taxel sensitivity is not linear. Advanced users may opt to implement a more complex, multi-point calibration procedure to better characterize the load response across the full range of each taxel. Please refer to Appendix B and C for an example.

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5. Maintenance & troubleshooting

Maintain the 2F Adaptive Robot Gripper according to the manufacturer's recommendations (refer to the 2F gripper manual).

Regarding the Tactile Sensor Fingertips, perform regular inspections to confirm they are clean and in proper working condition, ensuring the cover skin is not punctured or damaged. Also, verify that the cable management for both the fingertips and the USB cable permits all necessary gripper and robot movements without placing excessive strain on the cables.

USB Hub LED State	Associated TSF Status
Main LED solid green	Powered (USB cable connected)
Main LED solid green & both Finger LED blinking green (2Hz)	Bootloader mode, firmware not loaded (contact Robotiq support)
Main LED OFF	USB Hub not powered
Finger LED solid green	Active communication (valid packets) between the hub and the Tactile Sensor Fingertip
Finger LED OFF	Fingertips not connected, not powered or not functional
Finger LED flashing	Hub seeking connection with fingertips

Table 9: LED states for troubleshooting

6. Warranty and support

Robotiq warrants the Tactile Sensor Fingertips against defects in material and workmanship for a period of **one year** from the date of reception when utilized as intended. Robotiq also warrants that this equipment will meet applicable specifications under normal use. The fingertips warranty covers DOA (Dead on Arrival), but not the normal wear and decrease of sensitivity associated with the use of tactile sensor fingertips.

Warranty applies under the following conditions:

- Usage respects the operating and storage conditions specified in the Environmental and Operating Conditions section.
- Proper installation specified in the Installation section and the following subsections.
- One year from shipment date.

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- Usage respects maintenance specified in the Maintenance section.

Exclusions

This warranty excludes all consumable parts, such as fingertips and their normal wear. Tactile Sensor Fingertip sensitivity will decrease over time at a rate dependent on the application. This sensitivity decrease is considered normal wear (not covered by warranty).

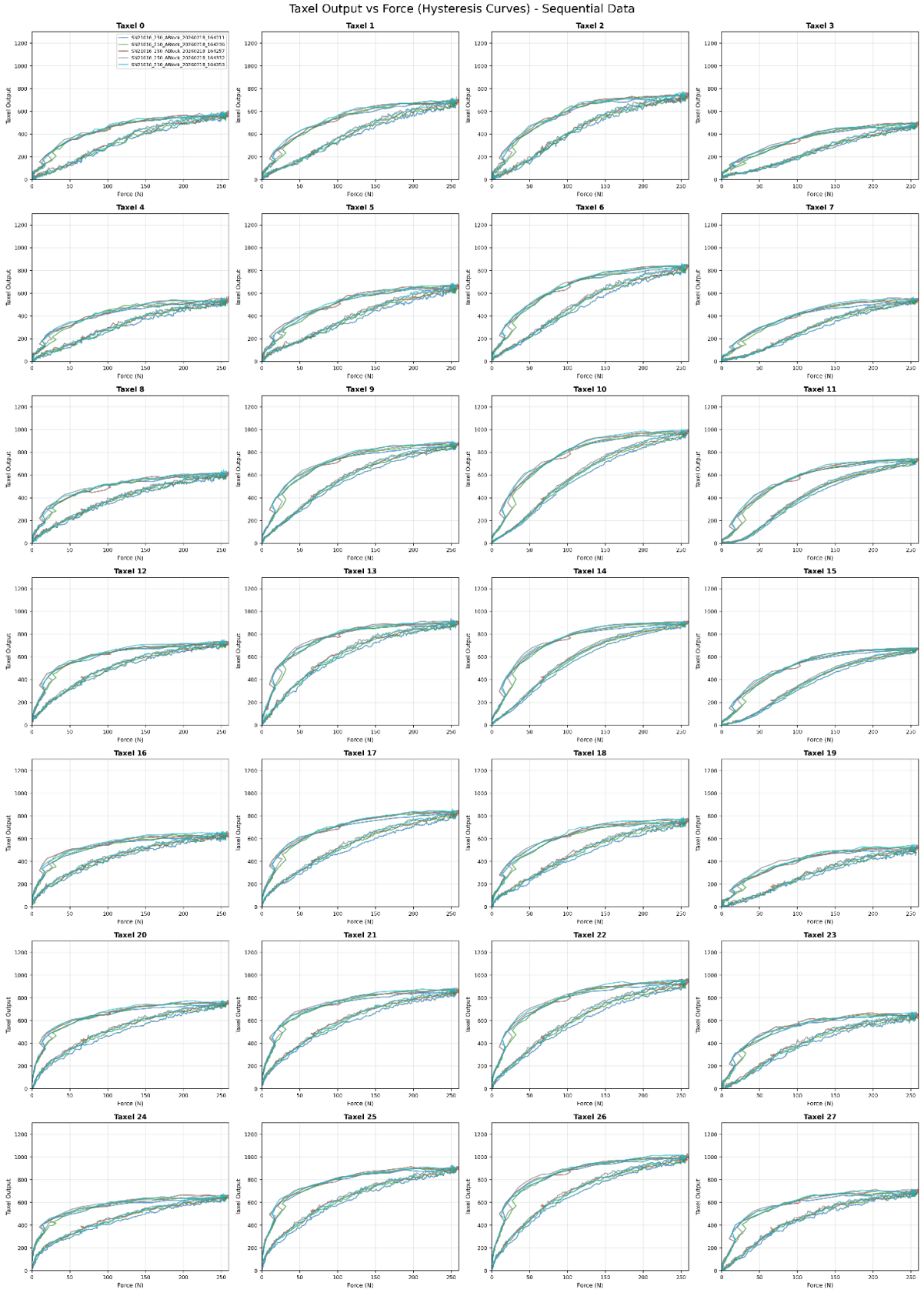
This warranty also excludes failure resulting from: improper use or installation, normal wear and tear, accident, abuse, neglect, fire, water, lightning or other acts of nature, causes external to the Gripper or other factors beyond Robotiq's control. Robotiq reserves the right to make changes in the design or construction of any of its products at any time without incurring any obligation to make any changes whatsoever on units already purchased.

7. Document revisions

Date	Modifications
2026-03-05	Initial Release
2026-05-15	Added TSF-140 as an official variant of the TSF-85 Added note about product testing longevity Modified links to Github to point to a branch specific to firmware 1.0.6

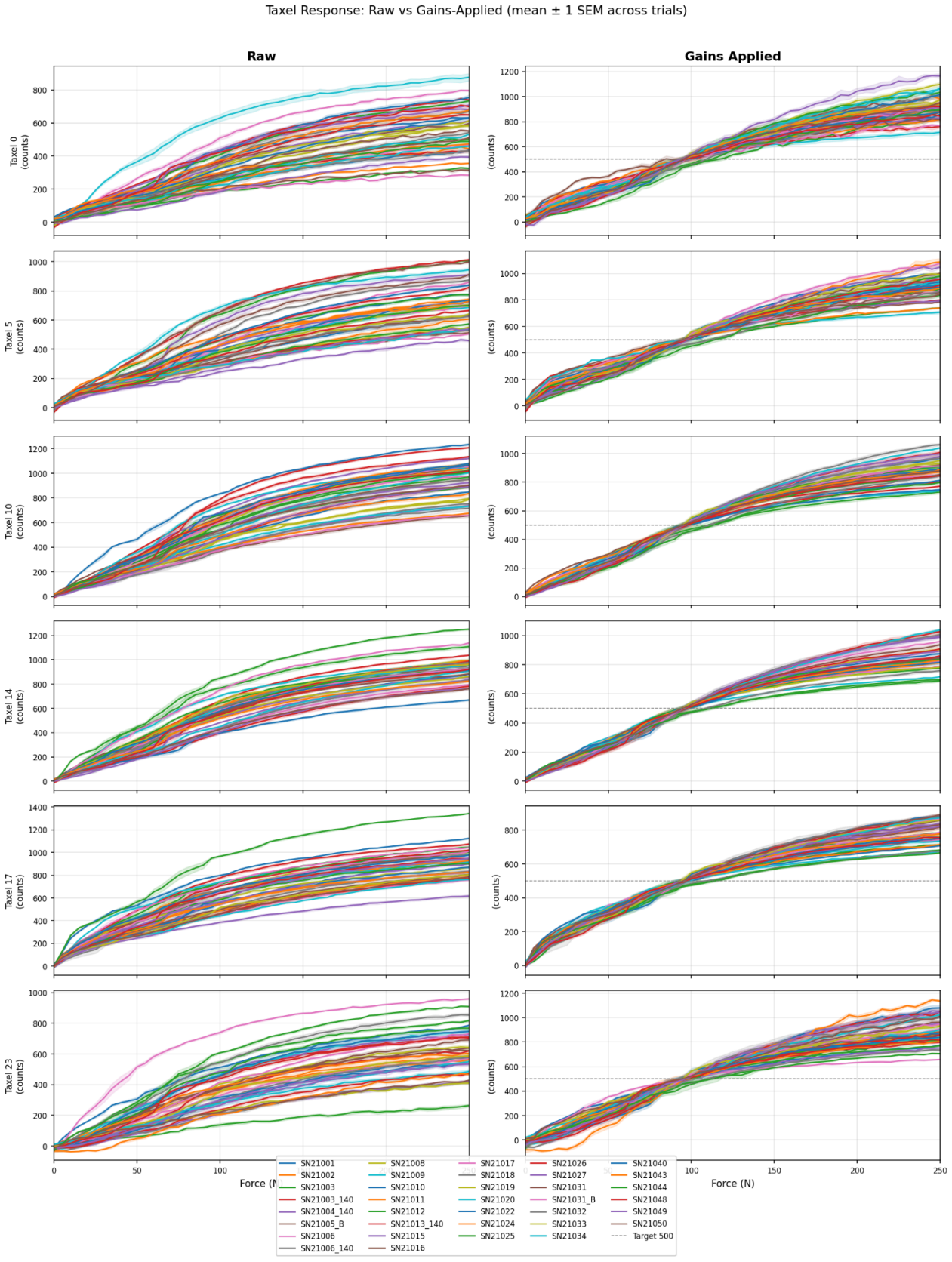
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Appendix A - Typical pressure vs force signal for all 4x7 taxels



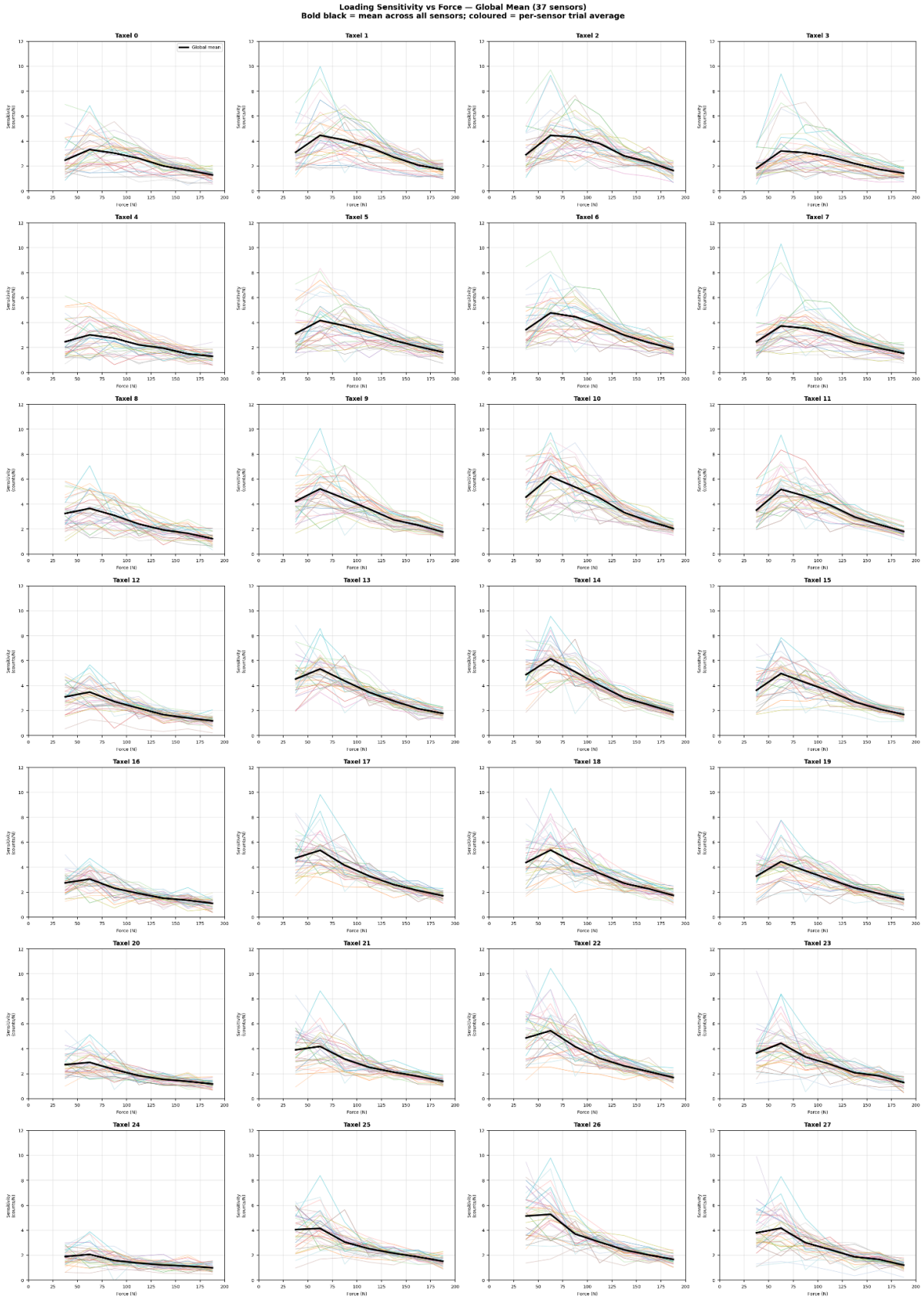
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Appendix B - Impact of a gain calculated to align the 100N response to 500 CDC counts on the sensor outputs



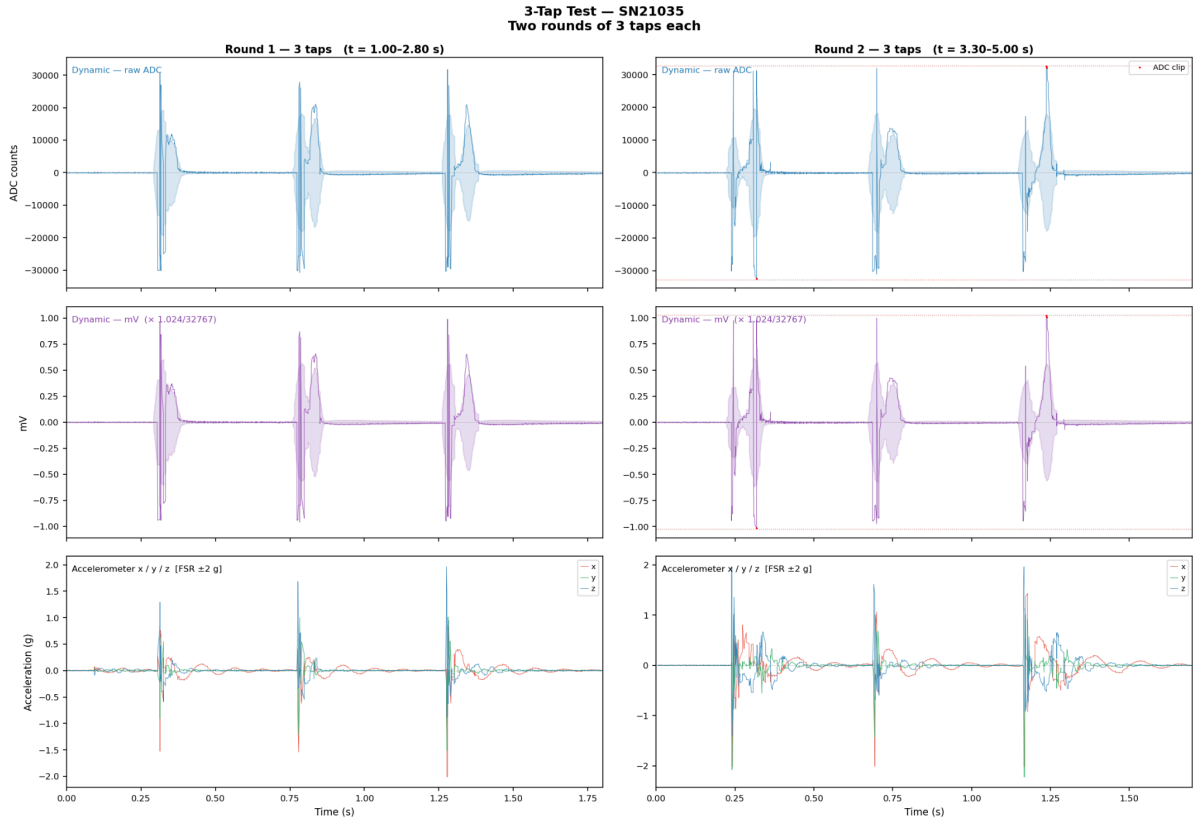
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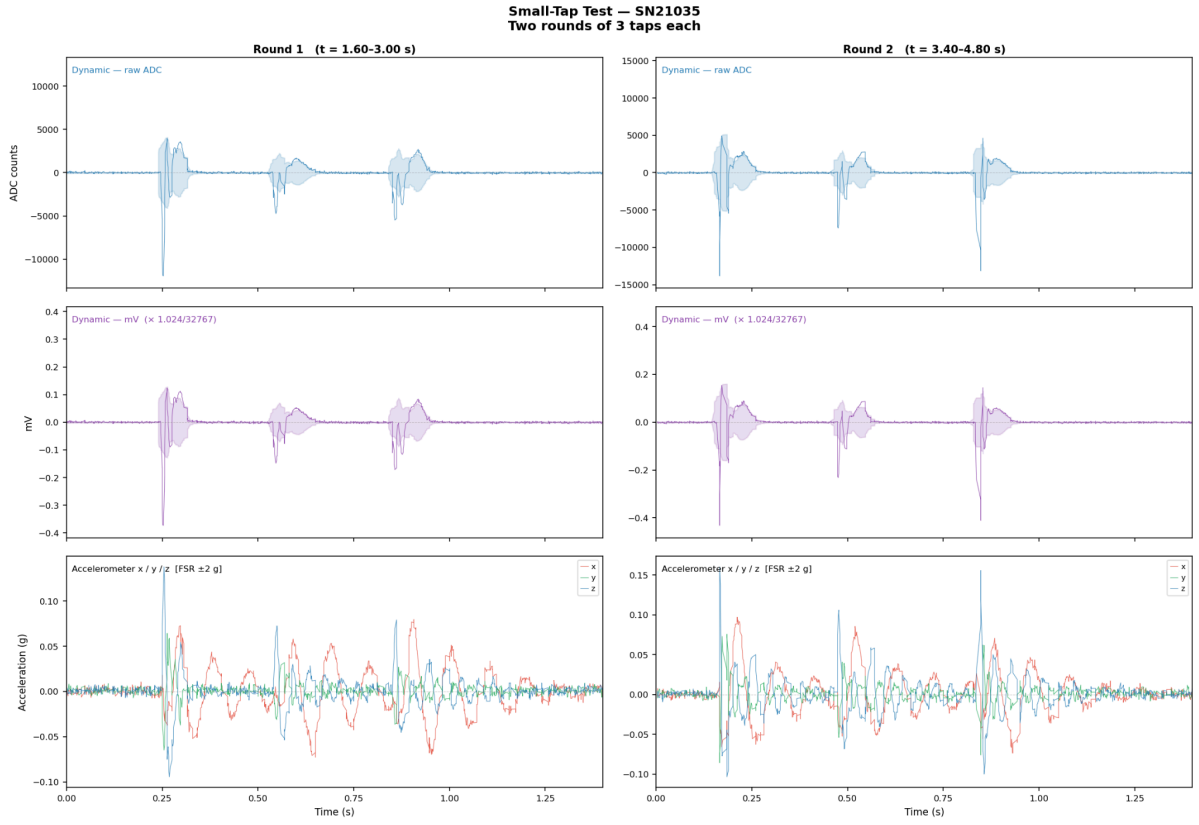
Appendix C - Average sensitivity over 37 sensors based on 25N steps (counts/N)



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Appendix D - Dynamic vs Accelerometer to external disturbance





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