LamaPLC: VL6180X STMicroelectronics Time-of-Flight (ToF) sensor with I²C communication

The VL6180X is a small optical sensor from STMicroelectronics that uses Time-of-Flight (ToF) technology to measure distance and ambient light. Unlike conventional IR sensors, it determines absolute distance regardless of the object's color or reflectivity.

Laser distance sensors:
Laser sensors, similar to IR sensors, use triangulation to measure distance. The sensor emits a laser beam that reflects off the measured surface and passes through a lens onto the CCD or CMOS sensor. As the surface moves closer or farther away, the projected point shifts position on the sensor. The electronics analyze this shift to calculate the distance.

- **Technology:** Time-of-Flight (ToF) based on STMicroelectronics FlightSense patented technology.
- **Measurement Range:** Measures distances from 30 mm up to 2,000 mm (2 m), with resolution in millimeters. The achievable range can vary based on ambient light and target surface properties.
- **Emitter:** Uses a 940 nm invisible Class 1 VCSEL (Vertical Cavity Surface-Emitting Laser) which is eye-safe and offers high immunity to ambient light.
- **Interface:** Communicates via an I²C interface (default address 0x29) and includes XSHUT (shutdown/reset) and GPIO1 (interrupt) pins for control and data transfer.
- **Accuracy:** Provides a typical accuracy of ±3% at distances up to 1 meter.
- **Power Consumption:** Very low, with approximately 10 mA typical average during active ranging and 5 µA in standby mode.
- **Dimensions:** A miniature module, typically 4.4 x 2.4 x 1.0 mm for the sensor chip itself, with carrier boards available for easy integration into breadboards.
- **Operating voltage: 2.7 .. 5.5V DC**
- **Responsive time:** 50ms

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VL6180X Pinout

Pin Name	Type	Description
VIN	Power	Main power supply input (typically 2.7V to 5.5V).
GND	Power	Common ground for power and logic.
SCL	I²C Clock	I²C serial clock line. Logic level matches VIN.
SDA	I²C Data	I²C serial data line. Logic level matches VIN.
GPIO0 / SHDN	Control	Shutdown/Chip Enable. Pulling this pin LOW puts the sensor into standby mode. It is usually pulled HIGH by default.

The VL6180X operates natively at 2.8V. Most breakout modules (such as those from Adafruit or Pololu) include a voltage regulator and level shifters, making them compatible with 3.3V or 5V Arduinos.

Arduino code

To interface the STMicroelectronics VL6180X (a 3-in-1 Time-of-Flight sensor for distance and ambient light) with an Arduino, the **Pololu VL6180X** library is a popular, lightweight choice.

```
#include <Wire.h>
#include <VL6180X.h>

VL6180X sensor;

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

  sensor.init();
  sensor.configureDefault(); // Sets recommended settings for standard
operation

  // Set a 500ms timeout for I2C communication
  sensor.setTimeout(500);
}

void loop() {
  // Read distance in millimeters (typically accurate up to 100mm, max
200mm)
  uint8_t range = sensor.readRangeSingleMillimeters();

  // Read ambient light in Lux
  float lux = sensor.readAmbientLightSingle();

  Serial.print("Range: ");
  Serial.print(range);
  Serial.print(" mm | Ambient Light: ");
  Serial.print(lux);
  Serial.println(" lux");
```

```
  if (sensor.timeoutOccurred()) {
    Serial.println(" !!! TIMEOUT !!!");
  }

  delay(500);
}
```

I²C topics on lamaPLC

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• lamaPLC Communication: I²C	2025/09/23 21:25	i2c, i c, smbus, philips, bus, communication, arduino
• 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: AS5600 Magnetic Induction Angle Measurement Sensor Module	2026/03/28 23:50	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, bmp180, bmp280, hw-611, hw611, bosch, temperature, humidity, pressure, sensor, arduino, i2c, communication, cjmcu
• 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)	2026/03/22 00:08	cjmcu-811, ccs811, gas, sensor, vocs, tvoc, eco2, co2, arduino, air quality metal oxide, mox, i2c
• 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	2026/03/22 01:44	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	2026/04/11 19:54	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

• LamaPLC: MAX30100/MAX30102 Heart Rate Click Sensor Module	2026/04/23 21:52	max30102, max30100, heart rate click, sensor, communication, i2c, arduino, code
• 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: 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: 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: 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
• Magnetic angle sensors	2026/03/05 21:19	magnetic angle sensor, magnetic flux, sensor, spi, i2c, pwm, communication, modul, as5047p, as5600, mt6701, mt6816, mt6835, tle5012b, amr, gmr, tmr, anisotropic magnetoresistive
• SSH1106/SSD1306 OLED Display with I²C communication	2026/02/14 18:27	i2c, oled, display, ssd1306, sh1106, ssh1106, arduino, cmos

VL6180X, STMicroelectronics, Time-of-Flight, ToF, i2c, communication, sensor, arduino, code