

## 1. INTRODUCTION

At GMT 2025-08-14, 226/04:28, the International Space Station (ISS) was to begin about a 10.8-minute reboost using the Progress 91P thrusters. Figure 1 shows vehicle layout updated as of GMT 2025-08-08 with the Progress 91P vehicle as it was docked with its thrusters facing aftwards, putting thrust and the necessary orbital mechanics into play so as to speed up the ISS in the direction it is falling, in its direction of “flight”. This directional acceleration (increase in velocity), resulted in boosting the altitude of the space station during this dynamic event by about 1.68 km. An intended  $\Delta V$  metric of 1.00 m/s for the massive space station was predicted.

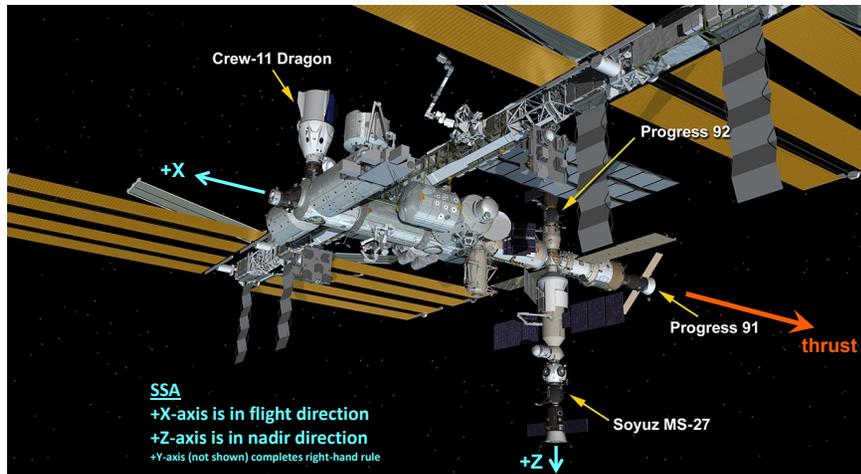


Fig. 1: Progress 91P’s Location and Alignment during Reboost.

## 2. QUALIFY

The information shown in Figure 2 on page 3 was calculated from the Space Acceleration Measurement System (SAMS) sensor 121f02 measurements made in the Columbus module from a sensor mounted at the starboard endcone location. This color spectrogram plot shows increased structural vibration excitation contained mostly below 2 Hz or so, and a ~10.7-minute reboost (thruster firing)

event was observed as annotated in black. We attribute much of the structural vibration increase to Russian Segment (RS) attitude control from about GMT 03:53 to about 05:25 as marked with white annotations. The RS thrusters are usually used for station attitude control during the time around the reboost activity. This is expected, and typical behavior. The increased structural vibrations are evident as more noticeable horizontal streaks (structural/spectral peaks) that change from quieter (green/yellow) to more energetic (orange/red) sporadically during this period of RS control. The flare up of these nebulous horizontal (spectral peak) streaks are the tell-tale signatures of large space station appendages as they flex, twist, or bend at their own natural frequencies in reaction to impulsive attitude control thruster forces. The actual reboost activity itself lasted ~10.7 minutes as evidenced by slightly more pronounced, vertical orange-red streaks in Figure 2 starting just after about GMT 04:28.

Comparing the same reboost event across all 3 laboratories of the ISS we expect the most energetic vibratory response from the SAMS sensors at the starboard endcone location in the European lab (the Columbus module) and at the port end of the Japanese lab (the JEM). To a lesser degree, we see similar response by sensors in the US lab. The varying degree of response from these sensors comes from their location with respect to low-frequency structural dynamics of the large, massive space station. The analysis for this spectrogram plot focused on the power spectral density of vibratory accelerations below 6 Hz, which provides a measure of the intensity of vibratory motion at the natural frequencies of the larger space station structures (e.g. solar array panels and main truss). At higher frequencies (up to 200 Hz), the SAMS sensors diverge greatly in terms of acceleration magnitude and frequency components as higher frequency vibrations tend to be more localized, i.e. “mostly” in/around the rack where the sensor is mounted, and due to equipment operations or crew activity in the vicinity.

For science operations and general situational awareness, it is prudent to be aware that the transient and vibratory environment (primarily below about 10 Hz or so) is impacted not only during the relatively brief reboost event itself, but also during the relatively longer span of Russian Segment (RS) attitude control too. The difference being that during the reboost itself, the dominant factor might be considered to be the highly-directional step in the X-axis acceleration (which we will clearly see in the next section), while in the much longer case of RS attitude control, the dominant impact is the excitation of lower-frequency vibrational modes of large

space station structures.

### 3. QUANTIFY

While the spectrograms in the previous “Qualify” section crudely show acceleration magnitude on a color scale – actually, power spectral density magnitude – we now seek to better quantify the microgravity environment impact of the reboost event across multiple SAMS sensor heads distributed across all 3 main laboratories of the ISS with more intuitive metrics. Figure 3 on page 4 through Figure 10 on page 7 show interval average acceleration results computed from SAMS measurements. Note for each sensor the tell-tale X-axis step that started at GMT 04:28:16 and had a duration of ~10.7 minutes. Information from flight controllers indicated that this reboost event would provide a space station rigid body  $\Delta V$  of 1.00 meters/second and the SAMS analysis indicated with red annotations in these interval average plots closely match the predicted value. SAMS does not directly measure altitude, but flight controllers indicated that the ISS would gain ~1.68 km in altitude above the Earth as a result of this reboost activity.

Note that the interval average processing effectively low-pass filtered the data so as to help emphasize the acceleration step that occurs on the X-axis during the reboost event. It should also be noted that we flipped the polarity of each axis (inverted each) in the SAMS plots owing to a polarity inversion issue inherent in SAMS wiring. A somewhat crude quantification of the reboost as measured by these distributed SAMS sensors is also given in Table 1 – expectedly consistent impact results measured by SAMS throughout the space station structure.

### 4. CONCLUSION

The SAMS measurements for multiple sensor heads distributed across all 3 main labs of the ISS was analyzed and showed an **X-axis step during the Progress 91P reboost of just under 0.2 mg**. Furthermore, calculations based on SAMS sensors indicate a  $\Delta V$  metric of just about 1.00 m/s was achieved, while flight controllers predicted a value of 1.00 m/s.

Table 1. X-axis steps (mg) during reboost event for multiple SAMS sensors.

Sensor	X-Axis (mg)	Location
121f02	0.159	COL1A1 (ER3)
121f03	0.158	LAB1O1 (ER2)
121f04	0.158	LAB1P2 (ER7)
121f05	0.158	JPM1F1 (ER5)
121f08	0.158	COL1A3 (EPM)
es18	0.159	LAB1O3 (MSRR)
es19	0.159	JPM1F6 (ER4)
es20	0.159	LAB1S2 (MSG)

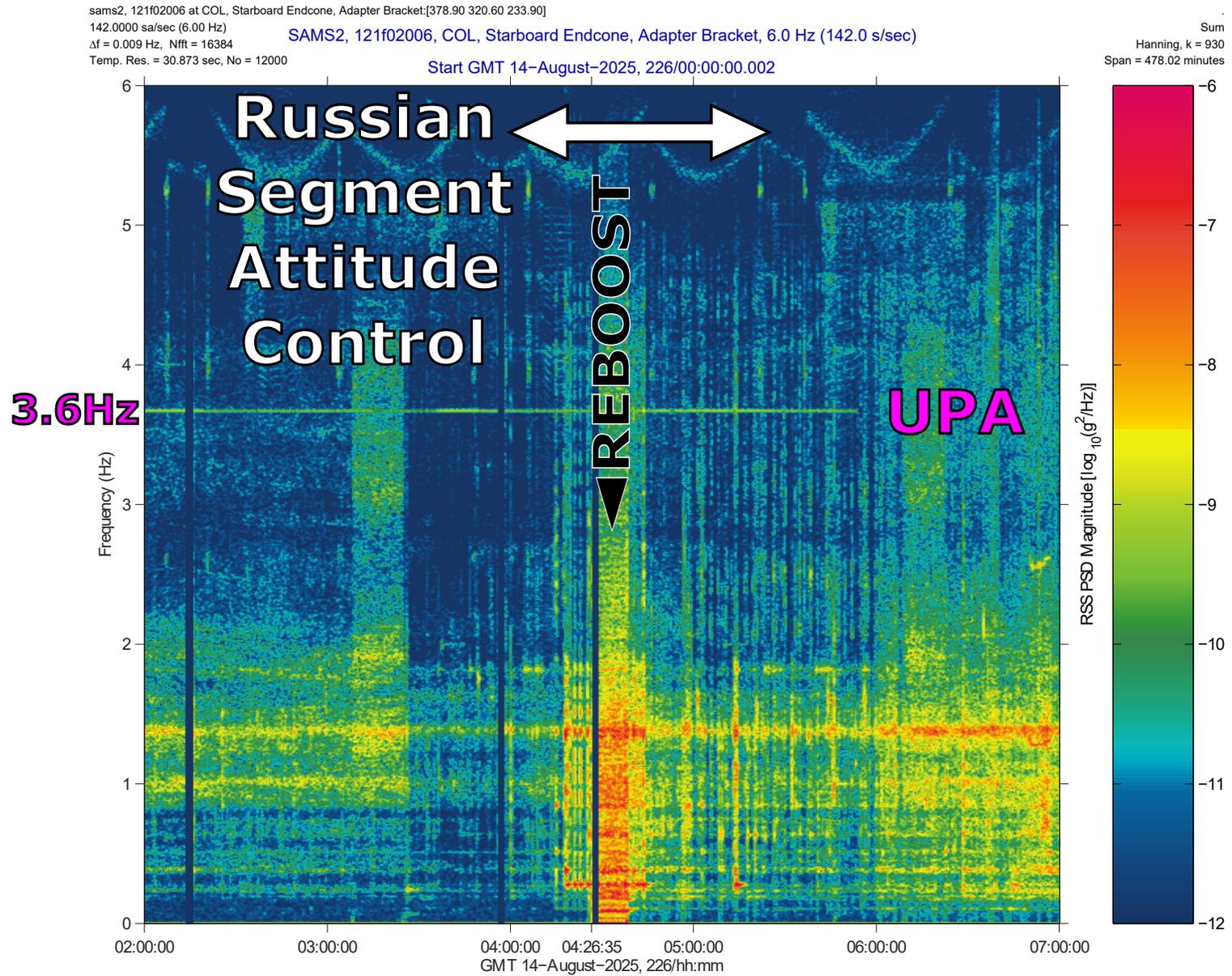


Fig. 2: 6 Hz Spectrogram showing Progress 91P Reboost on GMT 2025-08-14 from a SAMS Sensor in the Columbus module.

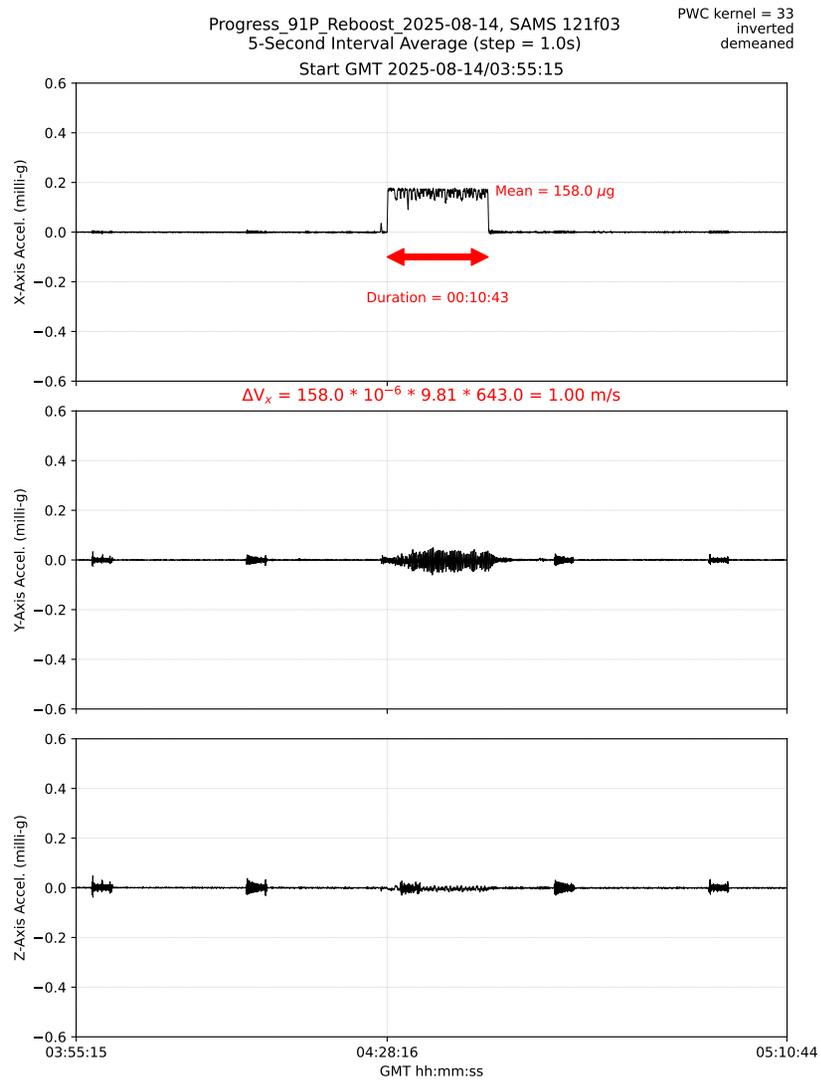


Fig. 3: 5-sec interval average for SAMS 121f03 sensor in the LAB.

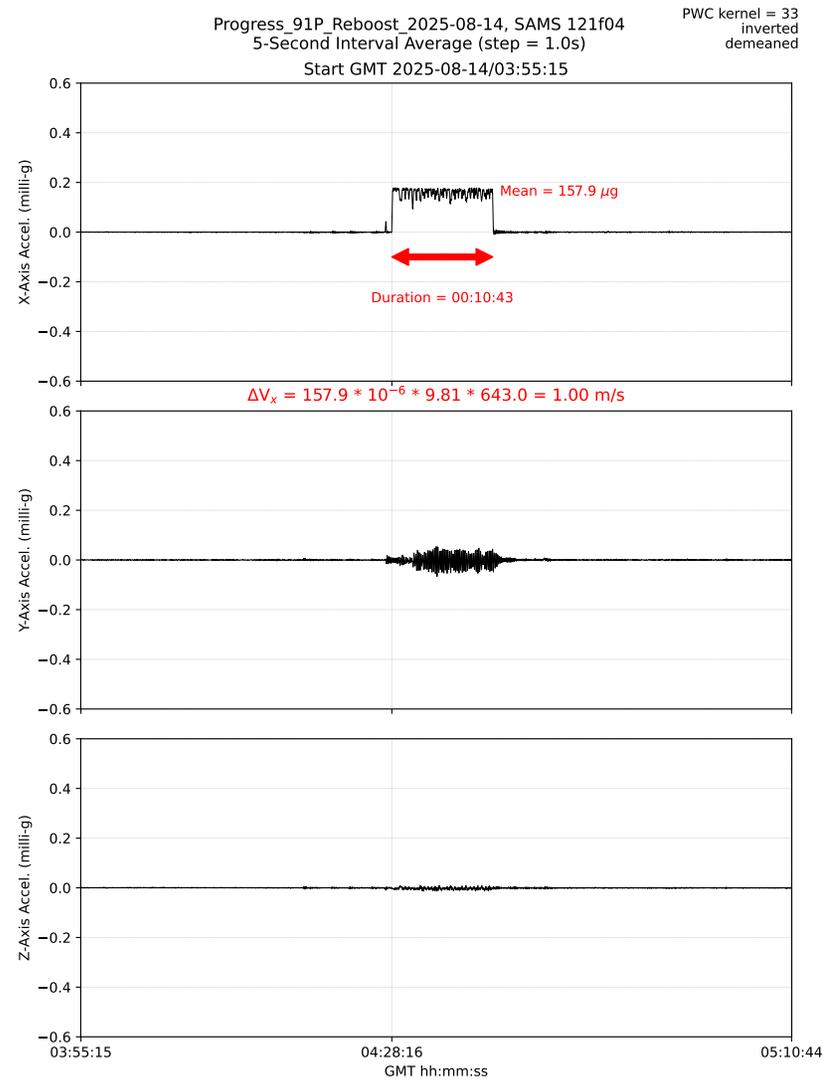


Fig. 4: 5-sec interval average for SAMS 121f04 sensor in the LAB.

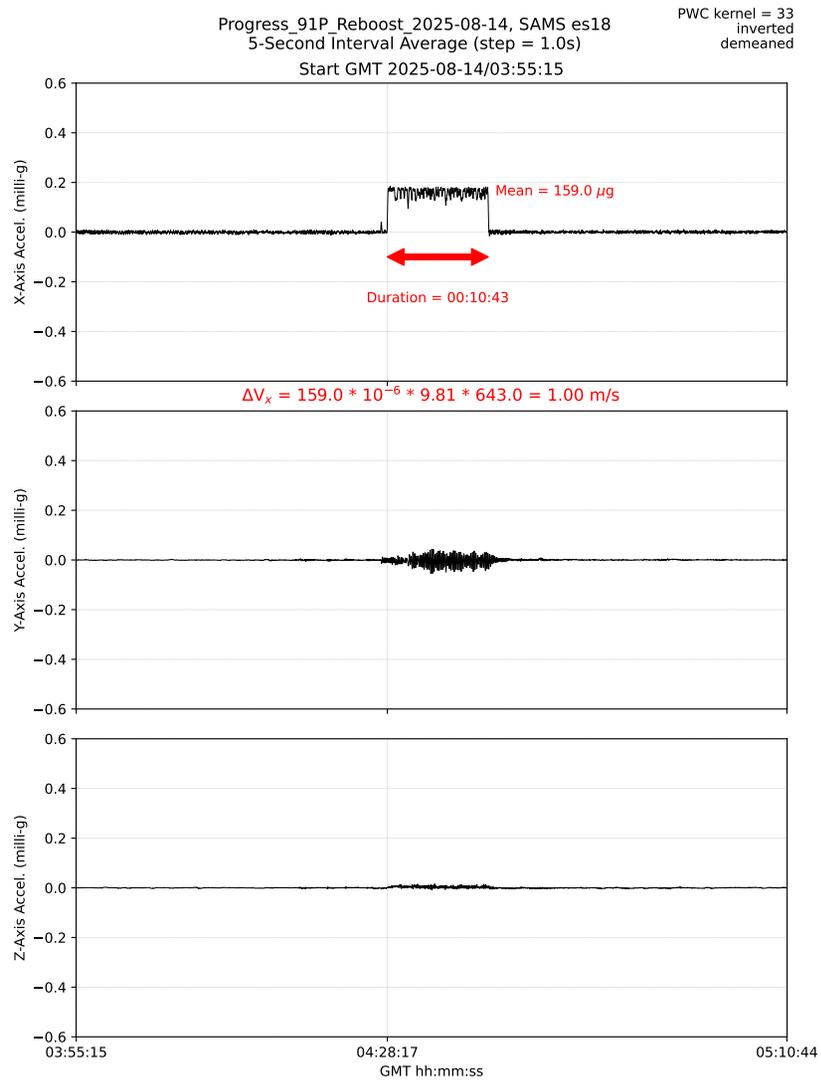


Fig. 5: 5-sec interval average for SAMS es18 sensor in the LAB.

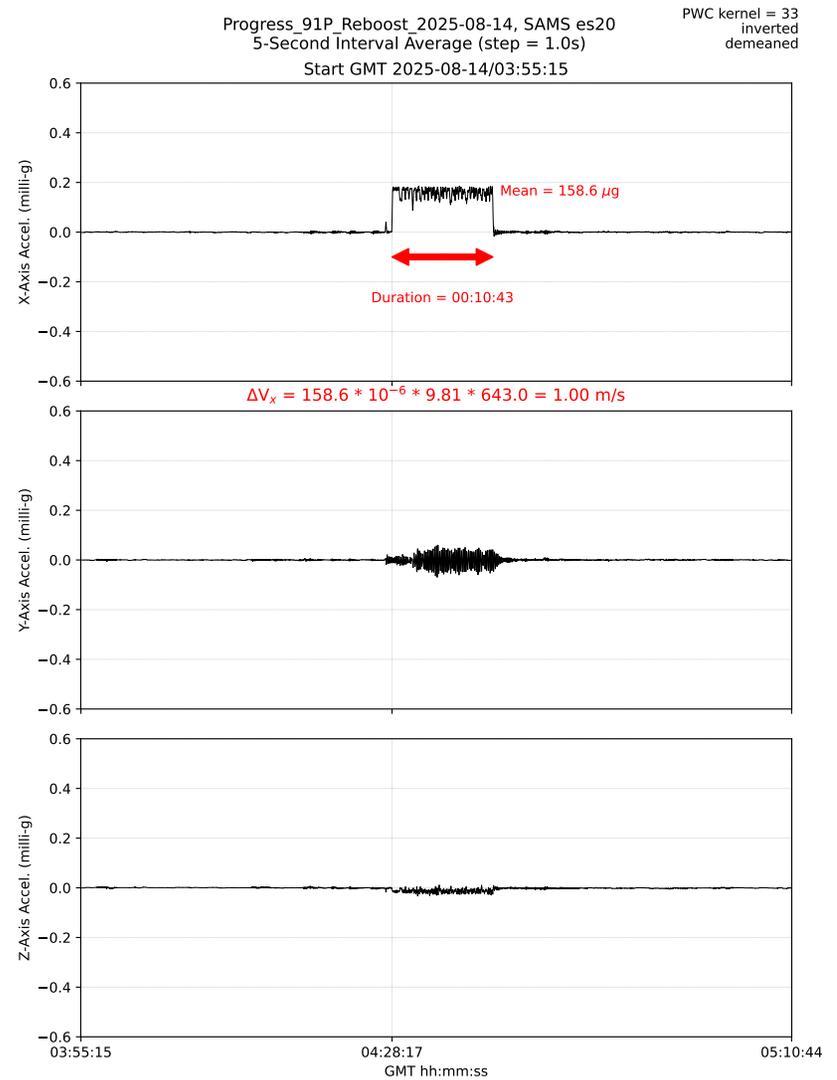


Fig. 6: 5-sec interval average for SAMS es20 sensor in the LAB.

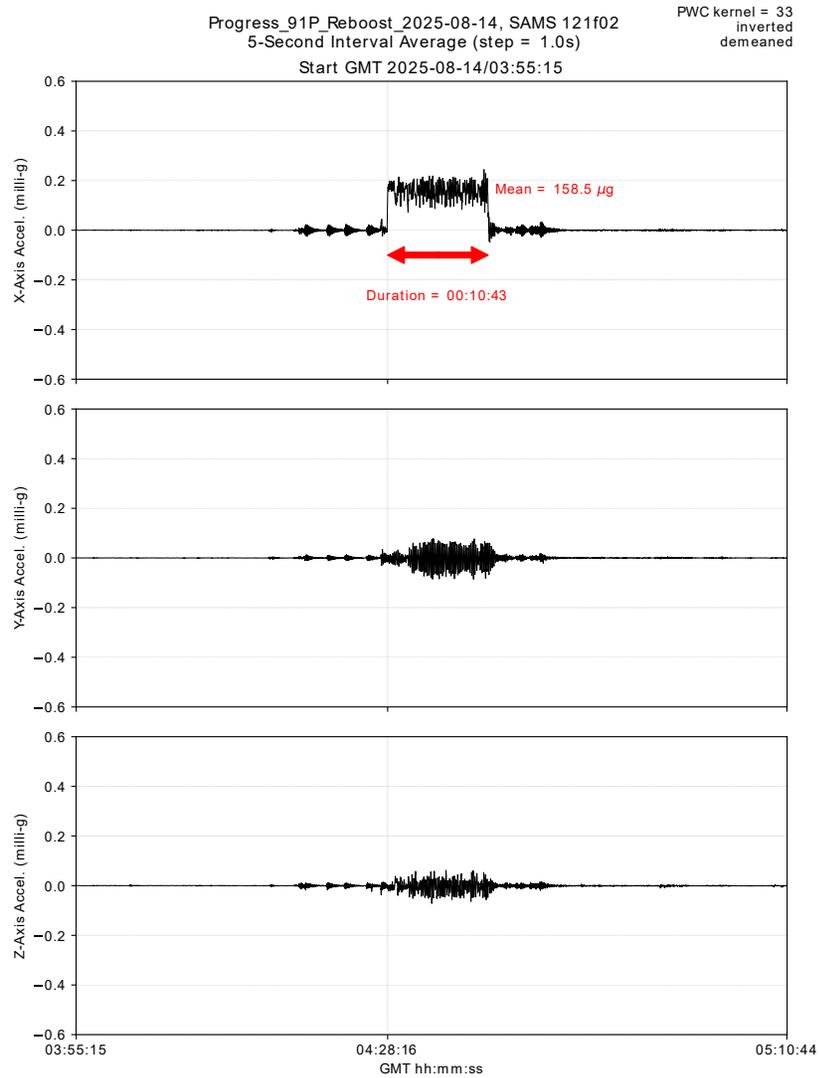


Fig. 7: 5-sec interval average for SAMS 121f02 sensor in the COL.

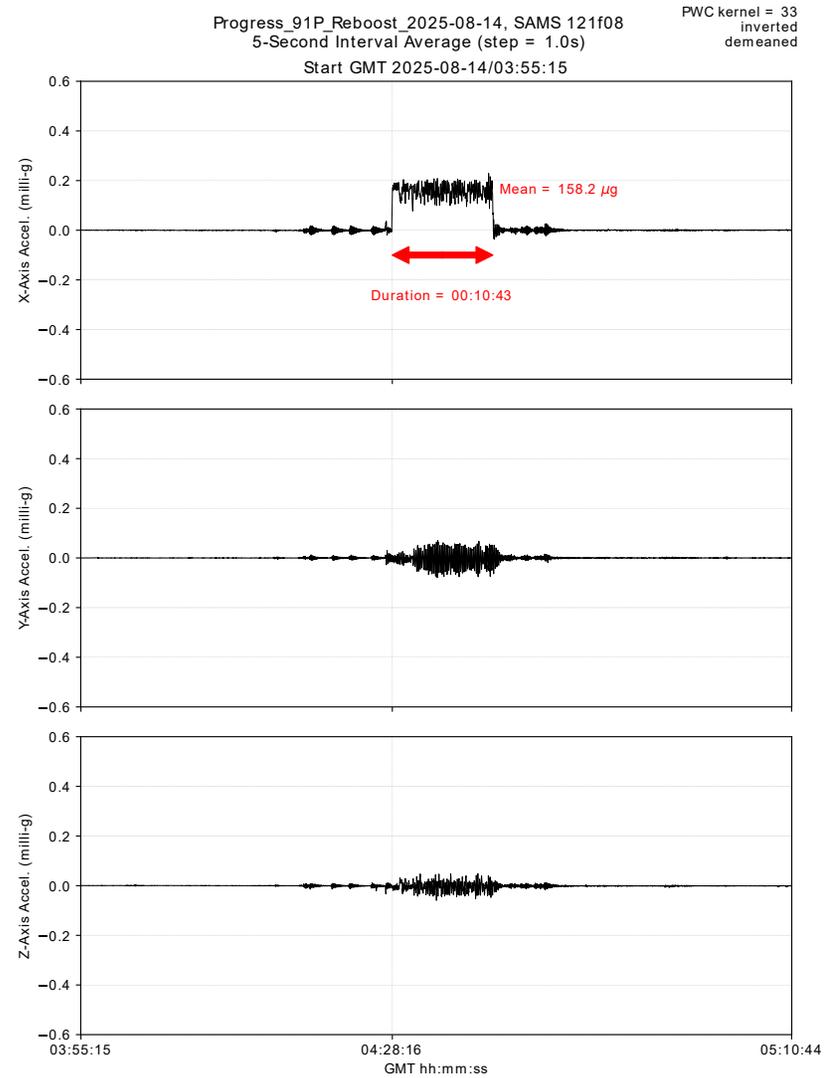


Fig. 8: 5-sec interval average for SAMS 121f08 sensor in the COL.

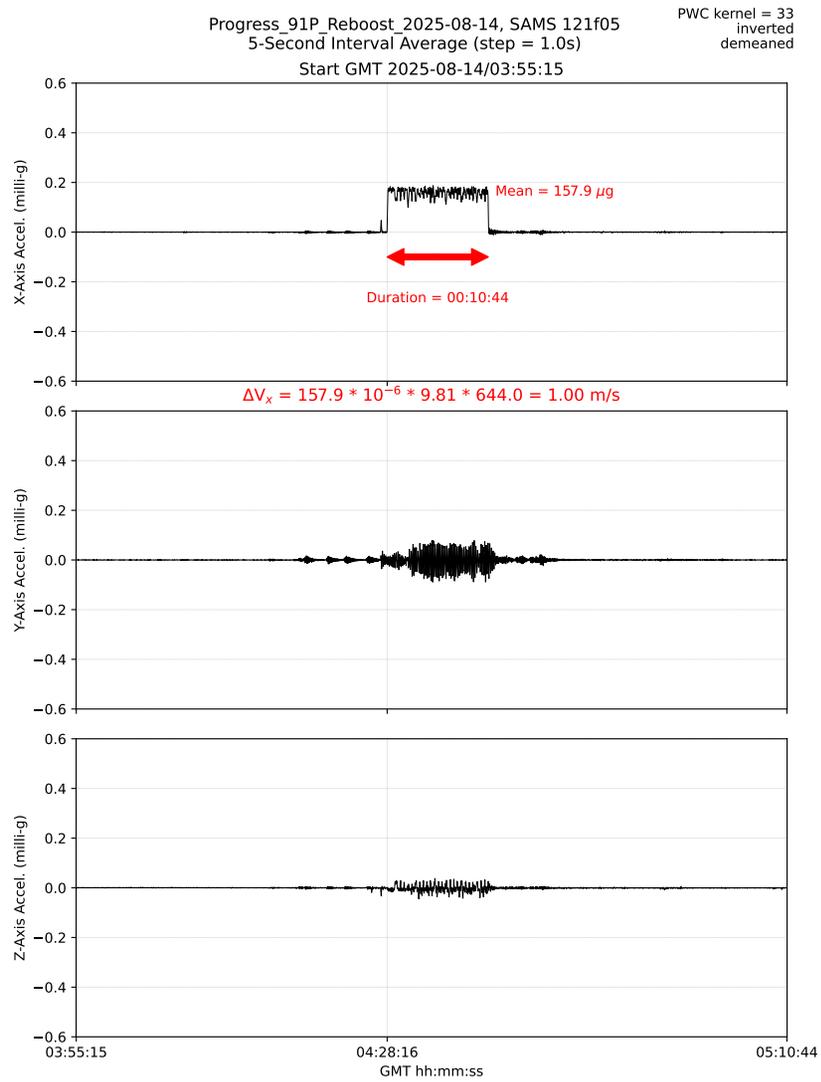


Fig. 9: 5-sec interval average for SAMS 121f05 sensor in the JEM.

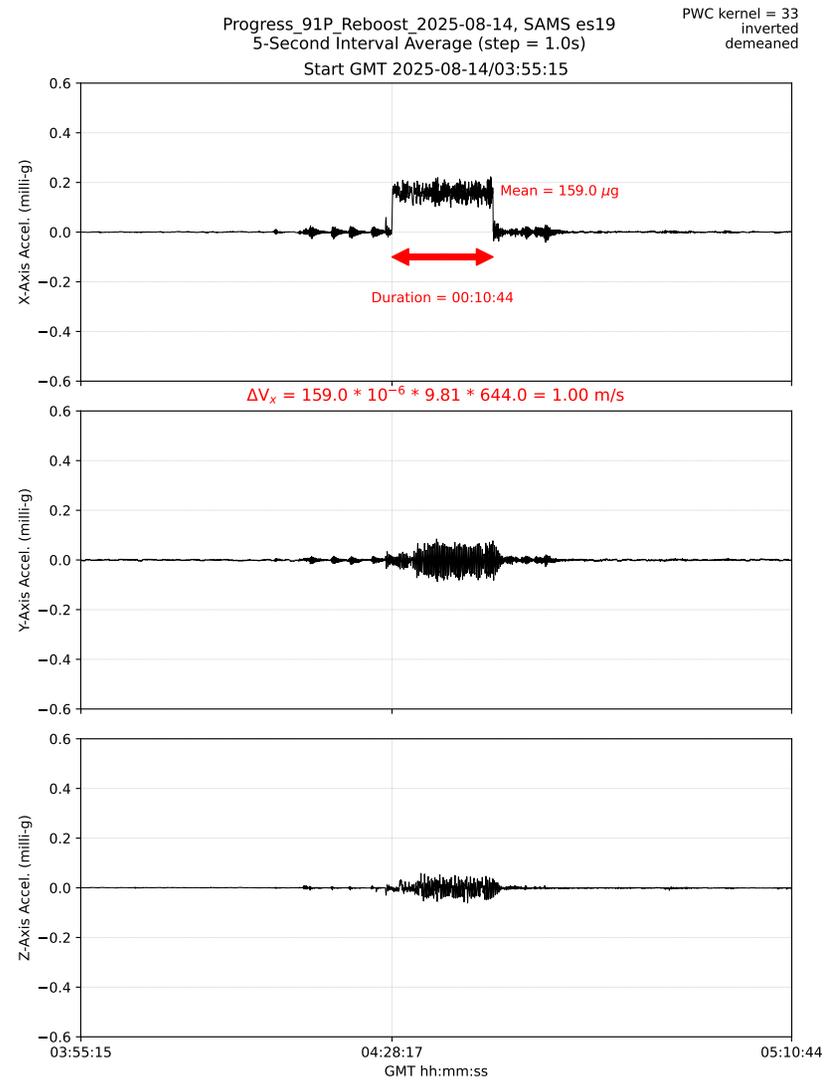


Fig. 10: 5-sec interval average for SAMS es19 sensor in the JEM.