



enabling discovery

# USER MANUAL



## OptiForce200

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IonOptix LLC

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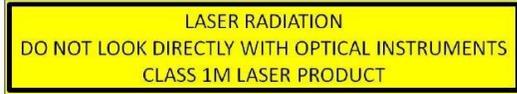
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## **Research Use Only:**

This product is intended for research purposes only. It is not certified for clinical applications (including diagnostic purposes). Use of this product in uncertified applications is in violation of FDA regulations.

Disclaimer: This is an electrical device. There is an inherent risk of electrical shock if used improperly. Please take the necessary precautionary measures that are common place for any electrical device. It is solely intended for the applications outlined in this document. The manufacturer is not liable for any misuse, or any injury incurred because of misuse.

## **SAFETY WARNINGS**



The OFT200 is equipped with a class 1M laser. The laser is coupled out via the two connectors on the front panel. Do not view directly with optical instruments.

The OFT200 is equipped with a 220V/110V plug. Disconnect the instrument before changing the fuse or before switching from 220V to 110V (or vice versa). Do not open the box, as this might result in serious injuries.

IonOptix complies with the WEEE Directive on Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipment. Contact IonOptix if you wish to dispose of your OFT200.

## **1. Introduction to OFT200**

The OFT200 is a stand-alone fiber interferometer that provides real-time demodulation of any Fabry-Perot sensor. Using a single-mode fiber, displacement noise levels down to  $2 \frac{pm}{\sqrt{Hz}}$  (standard) can be achieved, over a stroke of hundreds of micrometers. The fully linearized displacement signal is available as a scalable analog output voltage.

The linear signal is obtained by real-time, continuous, high-speed demodulation realized by an on-board FPGA. The interrogator can provide a scalable analog voltage signal (16-bit resolution) up to 20 kHz. Calibration is performed automatically by the system.

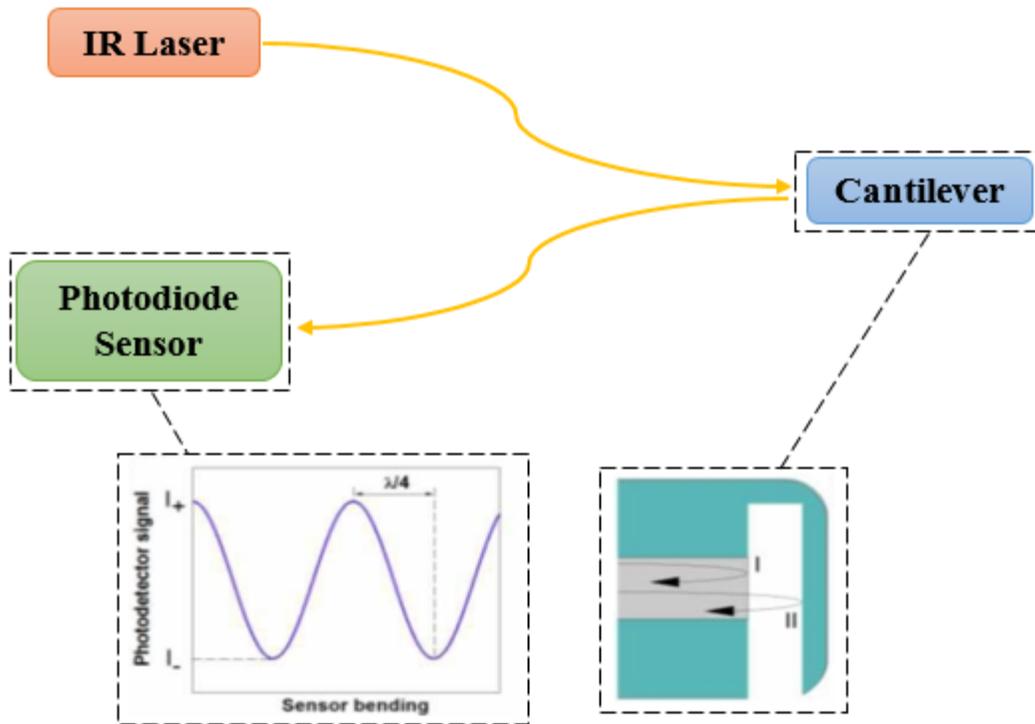
The OFT200 is a convenient solution for low-noise, non-contact displacement measurements over a scalable stroke of up to hundreds of micrometers.

## **2. Basics of interferometry**

Before going into details about operation of the OFT200 let's briefly discuss some basic principles of interferometry. A typical fiber interferometer contains a light source and a detector. The light,

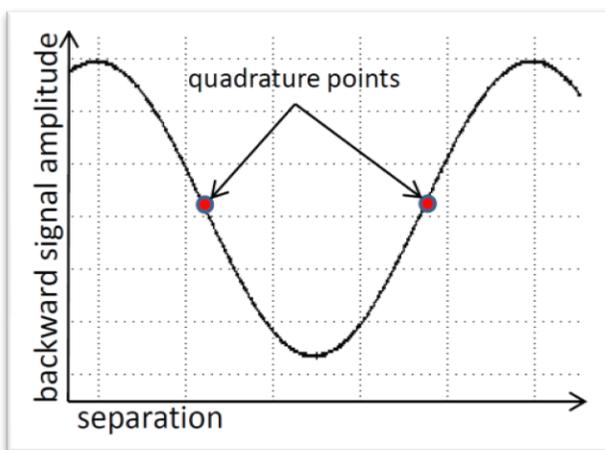
coupled into an optical fiber, travels toward the sensor/transducer and is partially reflected back from multiple interfaces. As the multiple light signals travel back to the sensor, they interfere with one another either constructively or destructively. The resulting signal amplitude is measured by the detector, typically a photodiode, and converted into a useful electrical signal. Based on this signal one can calculate a measured (such as forces, accelerations, humidity, and gas concentration) with unprecedented accuracy and resolution. This is possible thanks to properties of laser light, mainly stability and precise wavelength. The type of measured quantity depends only on the design of the transducer. Since fiber-top measurement probes are all-optical, no electrical signals are involved at the sensor side. Moreover, they can be used in extreme environments such as in high temperature, liquids, or strong electrical and magnetic fields.

In the case of the OFT200, the electrical signal carries information about the displacement of a tiny cantilever located at the tip of a fiber. Light is reflected from both the tip of the optical fiber and the adjacent cantilever (see Figure 1 below). When force is applied to the cantilever, it will deflect, changing the optical interference measured as a change in light intensity at the photodiode. Because this light intensity is a function of cantilever deflection and consequently the amount of applied force, force can be calculated by multiplying the amount of deflection by the spring constant of the cantilever, which is provided on the box of each force probe.



**Figure 1: Schematic representation of the interrogator working principle showing the path of light from the IR laser source to the cantilever, where it is reflected to the photodiode sensor and converted into a signal. At the optical fiber-cantilever interface, light is reflected from (I) the tip of the optical fiber; and (II) the cantilever.**

### Quadrature Point



To obtain maximum sensitivity and linear response, it is preferable to operate the instrument near the quadrature point, i.e., near the mid-point of the sinusoidal function depicted in the figure on the left. When a fiber-top or ferrule-top cantilever is coupled to a laser with a fix wavelength, there is the risk that, in its *at-rest-position* (i.e., before that the cantilever is bent by external forces), the cantilever is not sufficiently close to the

position that would correspond to quadrature. To avoid problems of this kind, the OFT200 is equipped with a tunable laser source, whose wavelength can be adjusted to match the quadrature

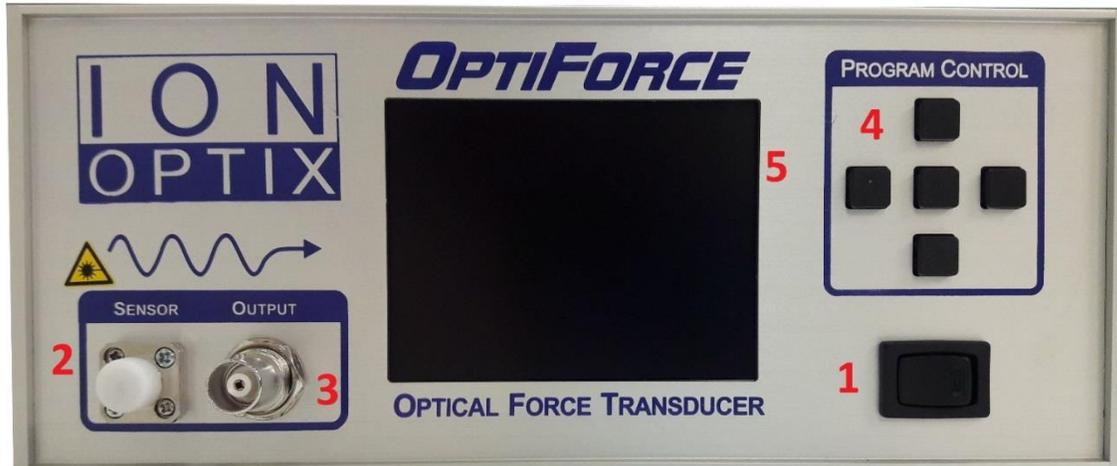
condition. During the Wavelength Scan function, the OFT200 automatically determines the optimal wavelength.

### **Temperature Sensitivity**

The distance between fiber tip and cantilever is measured in nm. Expansion of the ferrule to which the fiber and cantilever are glued will thus affect the measurement. If stability of the baseline measurement is very important, the temperature should be controlled tightly.

### 3. Hardware

#### a. Front Panel of OFT200



*Figure 2: Front panel view*

- 1. Power Switch, Green LED Light:** The green led indicates whether the instrument is on or off.
- 2. Sensor Port:** This port allows the user to connect the sensor to the interrogator.
- 3. Photodetector Output:** This connector allows the user to send the analog output signal to an external instrument. The bandwidth of this output is limited to 20 kHz.
- 4. Navigation buttons:** These five buttons allow the user to navigate through the built-in menu and to configure main functionalities of the interrogator.
- 5. LCD:** Allows the user to use the system without PC.



#### **IMPORTANT NOTE ON SAFETY:**

**The light source mounted inside the OFT200 is a class 1M laser. Use precautions according to safety regulations for 1M lasers. Do not view directly with optical instruments.**

## b. Rear Panel of OFT200



*Figure 3 Rear panel view*

1. **Power Input:** This connector allows the user to plug the instrument to the power net and to switch on the instrument.

**IMPORTANT:** Before connecting to the main power supply line please check the voltage settings (240/110).



2. **USB Port:** This port allows the user to connect the OFT200 to the computer.
3. **1 MHz Photodiode Output:** This connector allows the user to send a direct analogue output of the photodiode to an external device. The bandwidth of this output is limited to 1 MHz.
4. **DDS TTL:** Sync output of the internal signal generator (DDS).
5. **Piezo output:** Analog output of the internal signal generator (DDS).
6. **Monitor Port:** This port allows the user to couple 90% of light coming from the laser into an auxiliary path (not included in OFT200) for monitoring and control purpose.

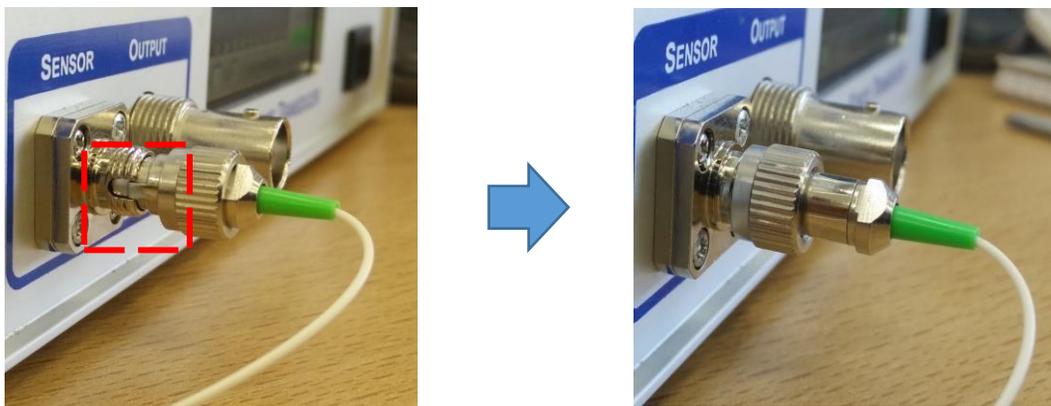


**IMPORTANT NOTE ON SAFETY:**

**The OFT200 is equipped with a 220V/110V plug. Disconnect the instrument before changing the fuse or before switching it from 220V to 110V (or vice versa). Do not open the box, as this might result in serious injuries.**

## 4. Setup and Cleaning

**Sensor installation:** Fiber-top or ferrule-top sensors must be plugged into the sensor port located on the front panel. The sensor should be plugged in such a way that the notch in fiber fits in correctly to the similar cut out in sensor port (please check the figure below).



*Figure 4 Optical fiber connector alignment*

**IonWizard:** Analog force signals can be received and recorded in IonWizard. Connect a BNC cable to your Data or Fluorescence System Interface A/D port via the Photodiode Output connector on the front panel. The OFT200 will send a +/- 5 volt signal corresponding to the output of the photodiode.

### **Cleaning the probe:**

During the experiment, clean the optical gap. The core of the optical fiber is only a few microns. If cell debris gets caught in between the gap between the optical fiber and the gold coated cantilever, the debris will deflect light and create significant signal noise. Washing clean solution under the

probe is usually sufficient to get rid of the debris and noise. This can even be done while a cell is attached.

Between experiments, clean off dead cells. Dead cells usually come off with some mechanical action. The smallest size paint brush is suitable for this purpose. Bristle or sable brushes are preferable to synthetic brushes as the hairs on the brush are stiffer. MyoTak is mostly collagen, and to clean off the working fiber properly, the MyoTak should be cleaned off as well. Collagen does not dissolve in many solvents. A readily available solvent that does dissolve collagen and thus MyoTak reasonably well is 6N (glacial) acetic acid. Do not use acetone as it can dissolve the glue that hold the optical fiber and the wax that holds the working fiber.

End of the Day: Failure to clean the probe can lead to a decrease in the signal. If salt solution on the probe is left to evaporate, salt crystals form between the probe and cantilever, rendering it useless. Any dirt between the cantilever and optical fiber will affect the signal. A mild rinsing of the probe with distilled water is usually sufficient to prevent this from happening.

## 5. Operation

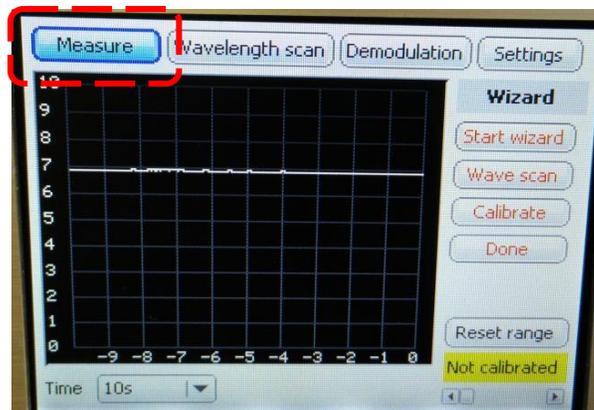
The device can be operated without a computer. The Graphical User Interface (GUI) provides a user interface to the device through the LCD display. All functions are accessible by five buttons located on the front panel. Use arrows to navigate between different windows/buttons/values. To confirm your choice press ENTER. For details please refer to pictures below. The GUI consists of 4 windows and 5 panels. Windows and panels are explained below.



**Figure 5 Front panel GUI operation**

### a. Measurement window:

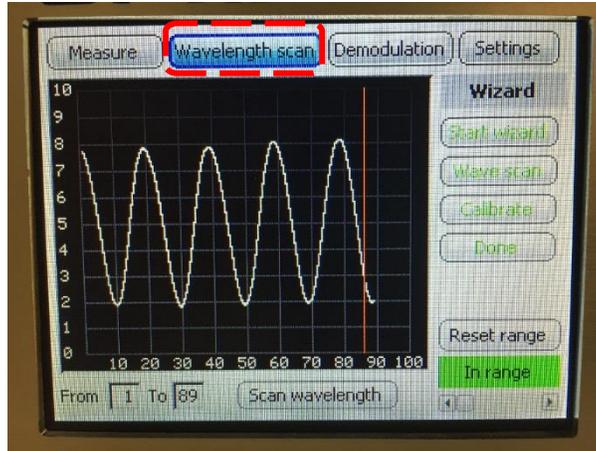
This window shows a raw signal obtained from the optical fiber. The user can change gain and offset of this signal. Amplitude of the raw signal is plotted in time domain.



**Figure 6 Measurement window**

## b. Wavelength scan window

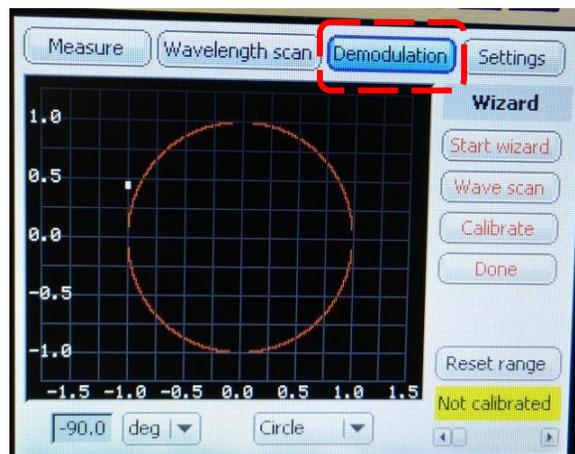
In this window, a wavelength scan can be performed, in which the OFT200 scans to find the most suitable working wavelength at a quadrature point. The sine-like plot shows wavelength versus photodiode voltage after a wavelength scan and is a fingerprint of probe cavity. A wavelength scan should be repeated each time the sensor is changed. The “From... To...” box determines the range of channels that will be scanned.



**Figure 7 Wavelength scan window**

## c. Demodulation window:

In this window the user can monitor the demodulation process, or the process of converting the photodiode signal to a usable signal. Ideal signal after calibration is a dotted white circle over the red reference circle. This circle view is just a check to know whether the calibration step has occurred properly or not.

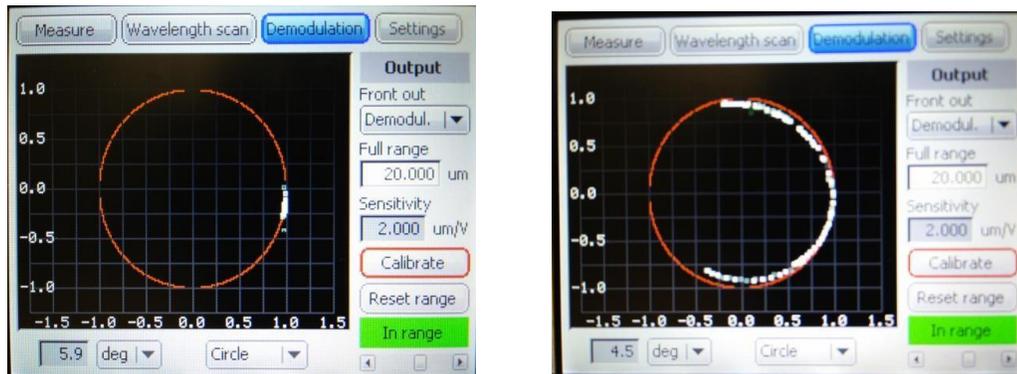


**Figure 8 Demodulation window**

The output demodulated signal after calibration can be seen also on the time plot (using drop down menu at the bottom of this screen). This is the same signal available on the front BNC output. The bottom right icon must be green (i.e. in-range).

Signal indicator can either be degrees, voltage, or nanometers.

Tapping gently on the sensor after calibration should give a circular pattern as shown below:



**Figure 9 Demodulation window showing ideal signal after calibration**

#### d. Settings window:

Settings dialogue box shows the CPU and FPGA software version. “Save Defaults” will save the set parameters on the memory.

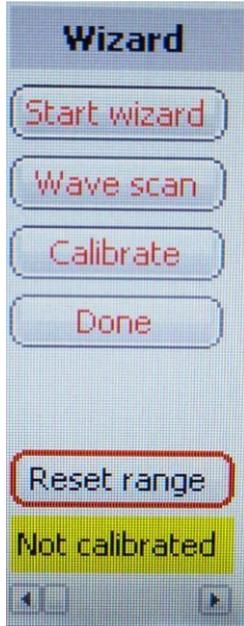


**Figure 10 Settings window**

## e. Side panel descriptions

Pressing the right and left buttons when the cursor is located in any part of the side panel scrolls through the different side panel options.

### Wizard Side Panel



Start wizard: This is the first step to begin the operation of OFT200. The wizard walks the user through system calibration.

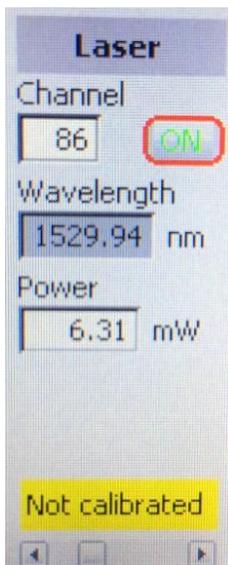
Wave scan: Second step of wizard begins by switching to wavelength scan window.

Calibrate: Third step of wizard begins by switching to circle graph of demodulation window.

Done: Final step of wizard shows the result in time graph of demodulation window.

Reset range: After calibration, if the signal becomes saturated (shown by the window displaying a red “saturated” message), pressing this button zeroes the demodulated output to reset the signal.

### Laser Side Panel



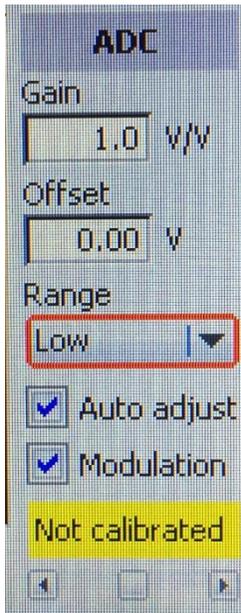
Laser Channel: Ranges from 1 to 89 and is set to 86 which is the default parameter.

ON/OFF: Turns laser on and off.

Wavelength: Indicates the wavelength of laser corresponding to the laser channel set.

Power: Laser power in mW.

## ADC Side Panel



Gain: Sets the gain for the photodiode output.

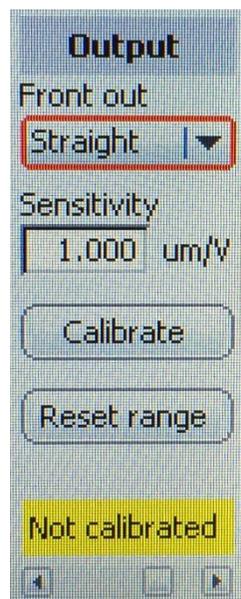
Offset: Sets the offset for the photodiode output.

Range: Selector with low/high option for gain range.

Auto adjust: If enabled then gain and offset are added to the signal automatically during the scan.

Modulation: Modulation can be turned on and off.

## Output Side Panel



Front out: Changes the function of front BNC output. When set to “Straight” a typical interferometric raw signal is available through front BNC. This signal is previewed on “Measure” window. In “Demodul.” state the demodulated signal is available instead of interferometric. This signal is previewed on the “Demodulation” window time graph.

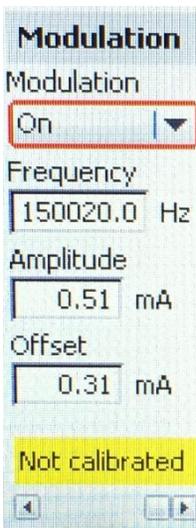
Sensitivity: Full range/voltage. For example, if full range is 20 $\mu$ m then sensitivity is 2 $\mu$ m/V (i.e. one volt at the output represents 20 $\mu$ m). For liquid operation the sensitivity value must be divided by refractive index of the liquid.

Calibrate: Starts 10s calibration procedure. During this time interferometric signal has to go through the peak and valley (max and min of interference pattern). A proper calibration procedure creates a nice (which lies between -1 and 1) circle on the circle graph of the “Demodulation” window. See the step-by-step instructions for more instruction.

Reset range: User can reset the demodulated signal and zero the front BNC output in “Demodul.” state. This is typically done before measurement. An automatic reset is performed after each calibration procedure.

### **Modulation Side Panel**

The settings in this panel affect the high frequency modulation that is used to make the signal linear, which are set before the OptiForce is shipped. They will normally not need to be changed by the user.



Modulation: Turns on or off modulation.

Frequency: Changes the frequency of modulation. ~150 kHz is chosen as a default as it is above the required measurement bandwidth.

Amplitude: Changes the amplitude of modulation sent to the laser.

Offset: Changes the offset of modulation sent to the laser.

## 6. Step-by-step procedure

This is a step-by-step procedure to start and properly calibrate the device. These steps can also be completed automatically by starting the Wizard and pressing the buttons when prompted.

1. Turn on the device.
2. Connect the probe to the sensor port in the front of the device. Check for the signal in the Measurement window. The signal should change during manipulation of the sensor.
3. Next proceed to a wavelength scan by pressing “Scan wavelength” button in the Wavelength scan window. During this process, the optimal gain and offset values are found. “Auto adjust” and “modulation” in the ADC panel should be set to “ON” before scanning. Ideally a sinusoidal output having an amplitude of about 6-8V peak-to-peak is obtained at the end of the scan. At the end of the procedure the laser will be switched to a default modulation channel.
4. Next go to the Demodulation window. Press “Calibrate” in the Output panel. After pressing the button the user has 10 seconds to gently tap the sensor in such a way that the calibrated signal (the white dots that appear during probe excitation) becomes a circle similar to the red reference. This circle should not be flattened on the top or side and should not be elliptical. If the circle is flattened, decrease the gain slightly manually and redo the calibration. Switch from the circle to the time graph using the drop down menu at the bottom of the screen. This gives the preview of the demodulated signal after calibration.
5. Now the OptiForce is ready for operation.

### **NOTE:**

If the front out dropdown is set to “Straight” a typical interferometric signal is available through BNC output in the front of the device. This signal can also be previewed on the Measurement window. The output of the front BNC can be scaled according to user needs using the “Sensitivity” option on the Output panel, which is measured in  $\mu\text{m}/\text{V}$ . If the output is saturated (greater than 10V or lower than -10V as indicated with a red box in the bottom right corner of the screen) press “Reset range” to readjust the output to 0V.

## 7. Force transducer calibration

Calibration of the force transducer is completed before the probe is shipped.