Keysight Technologies

53200A Series RF/Universal Frequency Counter/Timers

Data Sheet





Imagine Your Counter Doing More!

Introduction

Frequency counters are depended on in R&D and in manufacturing for the fastest, most accurate frequency and time interval measurements. The 53200 Series of RF and universal frequency counter/timers expands on this expectation to provide you with the most information, connectivity and new measurement capabilities, while building on the speed and accuracy you've depended on with Keysight Technologies, Inc. time and frequency measurement expertise.

Three available models offer resolution capabilities up to 12 digits/sec frequency resolution on a one second gate. Single-shot time interval measurements can be resolved down to 20 psec. All models offer new built-in analysis and graphing capabilities to maximize the insight and information you receive.

More bandwidth

- 350 MHz baseband frequency
- 6 or 15 GHz optional microwave channels

More resolution & speed

- 12 digits/sec
- 20 ps single-shot time resolution
- Up to 75,000 and 90,000 readings/sec (frequency and time interval)

More insight

- Datalog trend plot
- Cumulative histogram
- Built-in math analysis and statistics
- 1M reading memory and USB Flash storage

More connectivity

- LXI-C/Ethernet LAN, USB, GPIB
- Optional battery for unstable
 AC power or timebase accuracy

More measurement capability (53230A only)

- Continuous gap-free measurements
- Basic measurement and timestamps for modulation domain analysis (MDA)
- Optional pulse/burst microwave measurement

Measurement by model

Measurements	Model	Standard 350 MHz Input Channel(s)	Opt MW Inputs (53210A: Ch 2, 53220A/30A: Ch 3)
Frequency	53210A, 53220A, 53230A	•	•
Frequency ratio	53210A, 53220A, 53230A	•	•
Period	53210A, 53220A, 53230A	•	•
Minimum/maximum/ peak-to-peak input voltage	53210A, 53220A, 53230A	•	
RF signal strength	53210A, 53220A, 53230A		•
Single period	53220A, 53230A	•	
Time interval A to B, B to A, A, B	53220A, 53230A	•	
Positive/negative pulse width	53220A, 53230A	•	
Rise/fall time	53220A, 53230A	•	
Positive/negative duty	53220A, 53230A	•	
Phase A to B, B to A	53220A, 53230A	•	
Totalize (continuous or timed)	53220A, 53230A	•	
Continuous/gap-free	53230A 53230A	•	•
Timestamp Pulse/burst measure- ment software ¹	53230A 53230A (Option 150)	•	•

^{1.} Burst carrier frequency, pulse repetition frequency (PRF), pulse repetition interval (PRI), burst positive width ("on" time), burst negative width ("off" time).

Input Channel Characteristics

Input characteristics (nom)	53210A	53220A	53230A				
Channels							
Standard (DC - 350 MHz)	Ch 1	Ch 1 8	k Ch 2				
Optional (6 or 15 GHz)	Ch 2	Ch 2 Ch 3					
Standard inputs (nom)	'						
Frequency range							
DC coupled	DC	(1 mHz) to 350 MHz (2.8 ns to 1000) sec)				
AC coupled, 50 Ω 1 or 1 M Ω		10 Hz - 350 MHz					
Input	'						
Connector	Front panel BNC(f). Option 201 adds parallel rear pa	anel BNC(f) inputs ²				
Input impedance (typ)	Selec	table 1 M Ω ± 1.5% or 50 Ω ± 1.5%	<25 pF				
Input coupling		Selectable DC or AC					
Input filter	Selec	table 100 kHz cut-off frequency lo	w pass				
	10 Hz (A	C coupling) cut-off frequency high	pass filter				
Amplitude range							
Input range		±5 V (±50 V) full scale ranges					
Sensitivity ^{3,4} (typ)		DC - 100 MHz: 20 mVpk					
		> 100 MHz: 40 mVpk					
Noise ³		500 μVrms (max), 350 μVrms (typ)					
Input event thresholds							
Threshold levels	±5 V (±50 V) in 2.5 mV (25 mV) steps						
Noise reject ⁴		Selectable On/ Off					
Slope		Selectable Positive or Negative					
Auto-scale	Acquires signal for current measurement channel,						
	selec	ts range (5 V or 50 V), sets auto-lev	el 50%				
Auto-level	Selectable On or Off						
		On: Sets auto-level (% of Vpp) o Occurs once for each INIT or after	•				
	M	easures signal Vpp and sets Trigger					
		Off: Selectable user set level					
Minimum signal frequency for auto level	User selectable (Slow (50 Hz), Fast (10 kHz))						
Minimum signal for auto level	300 mVpp						
Maximum input							
50 Ω damage level		1 W					
50Ω protection threshold		Will not activate below 7.5 Vpk					
·	50 Ω internal termination auto-protects						
		by switching to 1 M Ω					
1 M Ω damage level	DC - 5 kHz: 350 Vpk (AC + DC)						
5 kHz - 100 kHz: Derate linearly to 10 Vpk (AC + DC			AC + DC)				
>100 kHz: 10 Vpk (AC + DC)							

Input Channel Characteristics (continued)

	53210A	53220A	53230A				
Optional microwave inputs (nom)							
Frequency range							
Option 106		100 MHz - 6 GHz					
Option 115		300 MHz - 15 GHz					
Input							
Connector	Front panel precision Type-N(f) Option 203 moves the input connector to a rear panel SMA(f)						
Input impedance (typ)		50 Ω ± 1.5% (SWR < 2.5)					
Input coupling		AC					
Continuous wave amplitude range							
Option 106	Autoranged to +19 dBm max. (2 Vrms)						
Option 115	Autoranged to +13 dBm max. (1.0 Vrms)						
Sensitivity (typ)⁵	6 GHz (Opt 106): -27 dBm (10 mVrms) 15 GHz (Opt 115): < 3 GHz: -23 dBm 3 - 11 GHz: -27 dBm > 11 GHz: -21 dBm						
Input event thresholds							
Level range	Auto-ranged for optimum sensitivity and bandwidth						
AM tolerance ⁶	50% modulation depth						
Maximum input							
Damage level	6 GHz (Opt 106): > +27 dBm (5 Vrms) 15 GHz (Opt 115): > +19 dBm (2 Vrms)						

- 1. AC coupling occurs after 50 Ω termination.
- 2. When ordered with optional rear terminals, the standard/baseband channel inputs are active on both the front and rear of the universal counter though the specifications provided only apply to the rear terminals. Performance for the front terminals with rear terminals installed is not specified.
- 3. Multiply value(s) by 10 for the 50 V range.
- 4. Stated specification assumes Noise Reject OFF. Noise Reject ON doubles the sensitivity minimum voltage levels.
- 5 Assumes sine wave
- 6. CW only. Assumes AM Rate > 10/gate. For Option 106, spec applies for input powers > -20 dBm; use a tolerance of 15% modulation depth for frequencies less than 900 MHz. For Option 115, spec applies for input powers > -10 dBm.

Measurement Characteristics

	53210A	53220A	53230A		
Measurement range (nom)					
Frequency, period (average) measu	rements				
Common					
Channels	Ch 1 or optional Ch 2 Ch 1, Ch 2 or optional Ch 3				
Digits/s	10 digits/s	12 digits/s	12 digits/s		
Maximum display Resolution ¹	12 digits	15 digits	15 digits		
Measurement technique	Reciprocal	Reciprocal and resolution enhanced	Reciprocal, resolution- enhanced or continuous (gap-free)		
Signal type	Continuous	Wave (CW)	CW and pulse/burst (Option 150)		
Level & slope	Au	tomatically preset or user selecta	ble		
Gate		Internal or external			
Gate time ²	1 ms to 1000 s in 10 μs steps	100 μs to 1000 s in 10 μs steps	1 μs to 1000 s in 1 μs steps		
Advanced gating ³	N/A Start delay (time or events) and stop hold-off (time or events)				
FM tolerance	± 50%				
Frequency, period					
Range ⁹	DC (1 mHz) to 350 MHz (2.8 ns to 1000 s)				
Microwave input (optional)	Option 106 - 100 MHz to 6 GHz (166 ps to 10 ns) Option 115 - 300 MHz to 15 GHz (66 ps to 3.3 ns)				
Frequency ratio ⁴					
Range	10 ¹⁵ Displayable range				
Timestamp/modulation domain					
Sample rate ⁵	N/A	N/A	1 MSa/s, 800 kSa/s, 100 kSa/s, 10 kSa/s		
#Edges/timestamp	N/A	N/A	Auto-acquired per acquisition		
Acquisition length	N/A	N/A	up to 1 MSa or 100,000 s (max)		
Time interval (single-shot) measure	ements ¹¹				
Common					
Channels	N/A	Ch 1	or 2		
Single-shot time resolution	N/A	100 ps	20 ps		
Gating	N/A	Internal or external gate Start delay (time or events) and stop hold-off (time or events)			
Slope	N/A	Independent start, stop slopes			
Level	N/A	Independent st	art, stop slopes		
Channel-to-channel time skew (typ)	N/A	100 ps	50 ps		

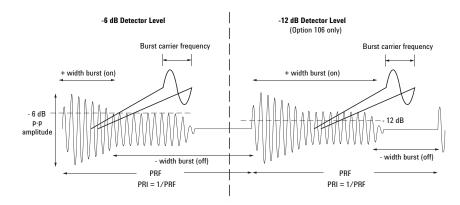
Measurement Characteristics (continued)

	53210A	53220A	53230A
Time interval A to B, B to A			
Range ⁹	N/A	-1 ns to 100,000 s (nom) -0.5 ns to 100,000 s (min)	
Time interval A or B			
Range	N/A	2 ns to 100,	000 s (min)
Minimum width	N/A	2 r	ns
Minimum edge repetition rate	N/A	6 r	ns
Level & slope	N/A	Auto-level or u	ser selectable
Single-period, pulse-width, rise time, f	all time	'	
Range	N/A	0 s to 1	000 s
Minimum width	N/A	2 r	ns
Minimum edge repetition rate	N/A	6 ns	
Level & slope	N/A	Auto-level or user selectable	
Duty		'	
Range	N/A	.000001 to .999999 or 0.0001% to 99.9999%	
Minumim width	N/A	2 ns	
Level & slope	N/A	Auto-level or user selectable	
Phase A to B, B to A		'	
Range ⁶	N/A	-180.000° t	o 360.000°
Totalize measurements			
Channels	N/A	Ch 1 or	r Ch 2
Range ⁹	N/A	0 to 10 ¹⁵	events
Rate	N/A	0 - 350) MHz
Gating	N/A	Continuous, timed, or external gate input Gate accuracy is 20 ns	
Level measurements			
Voltage level - standard input channels	±5.1 Vpk with 2.5 mV resolution or ±51 Vpk with 25 mV resolution		
Microwave power level (microwave channel option)	0 to 4 relative signal power		

Measurement Characteristics (continued)

	53210A	53220A	53230A	
			6 GHz (Option 106)	15 GHz (Option 115)
Pulse/burst frequency and pulse en	rvelope detec	tor (Option 15	0)12	
Pulse/burst measurements	N/A	N/A	1	period, pulse repetition interval (PRI), pulse by (PRF), positive and negative width
Pulse/burst width for carrier frequency measurements ¹⁰	N/A	N/A	> 200 ns Narrow: < 17 μs Wide: > 13 μs	> 400 ns Narrow: < 17 μs Wide: > 13 μs
Minimum pulse/burst width for envelope measurements	N/A	N/A	> 50 ns	> 100 ns
Acquisition	N/A	N/A		Auto, Manual ⁷
PRF, PRI range	N/A	N/A	1 Hz – 10 MHz	1 Hz - 5 MHz
Pulse detector response time (typ)8	N/A	N/A	15 ns rise/fall	40 ns rise/fall
Pulse width accuracy	N/A	N/A	20 ns + (2*carrier period)	75 ns
Power ratio (typ)	N/A	N/A		> 15 dB
Power range and sensitivity (sinusoidal) (typ)	N/A	N/A	+13 dBm (1 Vrms) to -13 dBm (50 mVrms)	< 3 GHz: +7 dBm (500 mVrms) to

- 1. Maximum display resolution for frequency and period. Totalize display resolution is 15 digits, time interval based measurements are 12 digits.
- 2. Continuous, gap-free measurements limits the gate time setting to 10 μs to 1000 s in 10 μs steps.
- 3. Refer to the gate characteristics section for more details on advanced gate capabilities.
- 4. Measurements on each input channel are performed simultaneously using one gate interval. The actual measurement gate interval on each channel will be synchrounous with edges of each input signal.
- 5. Maximum sample rate. Actual sample rate will be limited by the input signal edge rate for signals slower than the selected sample rate. Maximum timestamp rate offers minimal FM tolerance. If high FM tolerance is required, use lower timestamp rates.
- 6. Assumes two frequencies are identical, only shifted in phase.
- 7. Manual control of gate width and gate delay are allowed only for wide pulsed mode.
- 8. For pulsed signals > -7 dBm (100 mVrms) while gated on.
- 9. For totalize, time interval and frequency measurements, you may get measurement readings beyond the range stated, but the accuracy of those readings is not specified.
- 10. Applies when burst width * Carrier Freq > 80.
- 11. Specifications apply if measurement channels are in 5 V range, DC coupled, 50 Ω terminated and at fixed level for: time interval single and dual channel, pulse width, duty, phase, single period and rise/fall time measurements.
- 12. Option 150 microwave pulse/burst measurement descriptions:



Gate, Trigger and Timebase Characteristics

	53210A	53220A	53230A		
Gate characteristics (nom)					
Gate					
Source	Time, external	Time, externa	l or advanced		
Gate time (step size) 1	1 ms - 1000 s (10 μs)	100 μs - 1000 s (10 μs)	1 μs - 1000 s (1 μs)		
Advanced: gate start					
Source	N/A	Internal or exte (unused standar			
Slope	N/A	Positive o	r negative		
Delay time ¹	N/A	0 s to 10 s in	10 ns steps		
Delay events (edges)	N/A	0 to 10 ⁸ for signa	ls up to 100 MHz		
Advanced: gate stop hold-off					
Source	N/A	Internal or external, Ch 1/Ch 2 (unused standard channel input)			
Slope	N/A	Positive or negative			
Hold-off time ¹	N/A	Hold-off Time settable from 60 ns to 1000 s			
Hold-off events (edges)	N/A	0 to 10 ⁸ (minimum width (positive or negative) > 60 ns)			
External gate input characteristics	(typ)				
Connector	Rear panel BNC(f) Selectable as external gate input or gate output signal				
Impedance	1 kΩ	when selected as external gate in	nput		
Level	TTL compatible				
Slope		Selectable positive or negative			
Gate to gate timing		3 μs gate end to next gate start			
Damage level		< -5 V, > +10 V			
Gate output characteristics (typ)					
Connector	Rear panel BNC(f)				
	Selectable as external gate input or gate output signal				
Impedance	50 Ω when selected for gate output				
Level	TTL compatible				
Slope	Selectable positive or negative				
Damage level		< -5 V, > +10 V			

Trigger and Timebase Characteristics (nom)

	53210A	53220A	53230A		
Trigger characteristics (nom)					
General					
Trigger source		Internal, external, bus, manual			
Trigger count		1 to 1,000,000			
Trigger delay		0 s to 3600 s in 1 μs steps			
Samples/trigger		1 to 1,000,000			
External trigger input (typ)					
Connector		Rear panel BNC(f)			
Impedance		1 kΩ			
Level		TTL compatible			
Slope		Selectable positive or negative			
Pulse width		> 40 ns min			
Latency ²	Frequency, period: 1 μs + 3 periods time interval, totalize: 100 ns				
External trigger rate	300/s max	1 k/s max	10 k/s max		
Damage level		< -5 V, > +10 V			
Timebase characteristics (nom)					
Timebase reference		Internal, external, or auto			
Timebase adjustment method		Closed-box electronic adjustment			
Timebase adjustment resolution	10 ⁻¹⁰ (10 ⁻¹¹ for Option 010 U-OCXO timebase)				
External timebase input (typ)					
Impedance		1 k Ω AC coupled			
Level (typ)		100 mVrms to 2.5 Vrms			
Lock frequencies	10 MHz, 5 MHz, 1 MHz				
Lock range	±1 ppm (±0.1 ppm for Option 010 U-OCXO timebase)				
Damage level	7 Vrms				
Timebase output (typ)					
Impedance	50 Ω ± 5% at 10 MHz				
Level	0.5 Vrms into a 50 Ω load 1.0 Vrms into a 1 k Ω load				
Signal	10 MHz sine wave				
Damage level	7 Vrms				

Continuous, gap-free measurements limits the Gate Time setting to 10 μs to 1000 s in 10 μs steps. Latency does not include delays due to auto-leveling.

Math, Graphing and Memory Characteristics (nom)

	53210A	53220A	53230A				
Math operations							
Smoothing (averaging) ¹		w), 100 (medium), 1,000 (fast) rea) ppm (fast), .03%/300 ppm (med from average	iding moving average lium), .01%/100 ppm (slow) change				
Scaling		mX-b or m(1/X)-b User settable m and b (offset) val	ues				
Δ-change		(X-b)/b scaled to %, ppm, or pp User settable b (reference) valu					
Null		(X-b) User settable b (reference) valu	e				
Statistics ¹	Mean, standard deviation, Max, Min, Peak-to-Peak, count		riation, Allan deviation², ık-to-Peak, count				
Limit test ³	Displays PASS/ FA	AIL message based on user define	ed Hi/ Lo limit values.				
Operation	Individual and simultane	ous operation of smoothing, scal	ing, statistics, and limit test				
Graphical display selections							
Digits	Numeric result with input level shown						
Trend	Strip chart (measurements vs. readings over time) Selectable screen time						
Histogram	Cumulative histogram of measurements; manual reset HI/LO limit lines shown Selectable bin and block size						
Limit test	Measurement result, tuning bar-graph, and PASS/FAIL message						
Markers	Available to read values from trend & histogram displays						
Memory							
Data log	Guided setup of # of readings/counts; automatically saves acquisition results to non-volatile memory						
Instrument state	Save & recall user-definable instrument setups						
Power-off	Automatically saved						
Power-on	Selectable power-on to reset (Factory), power-off state or user state						
Volatile reading memory	1 M readings (16 MBytes)						
Non-volatile internal memory	75 Mbytes (up to 5 M readings)						
USB file system	Front-panel connector for USB memory device						
Capability	Store/recall user preferences and instrument states, reading memory, and bit map displays						

Speed Characteristics⁴ (meas)

	53210A	53220A	53230A		
Measurement/IO timeout (nom)	no timeout or 10 ms to 2000 s, in 1 ms steps				
Auto-level speed	Slow mode (50 Hz): 350 ms (typ) Fast mode (10 kHz): 10 ms (typ)				
Configure-change speed	Freq	uency, Period, Range, Level: 50	ms (typ)		
Single measurement throughput ⁵ : re (time to take single measurement an	· ·	nory over I/O bus)			
Typical (Avg. using READ?):					
LAN (VXI-11)	110		120		
LAN (sockets)	200		200		
USB	200		200		
GPIB	210		220		
Optimized (Avg. using *TRG;DATA	A:REM? 1, WAIT):				
LAN (VXI-11)	160 180				
LAN (sockets)	330 350				
USB	320 350				
GPIB	360 420				
Block reading throughput ⁵ : readings (time to take blocks of measurement		memory over I/O bus)			
Typical (Avg. using READ?):					
LAN (VXI-11)	300	990	8700		
LAN (sockets)	300	990	9700		
USB	300	990	9800		
GPIB	300 990 4600				
Optimized (Avg. using *TRG;DAT	A:REM? 1, WAIT):				
LAN (VXI-11)	300	990	34700		
LAN (sockets)	300	990	55800		
USB	300	300 990 56500			
GPIB	300	990	16300		

Speed Characteristics⁴ (meas) (continued)

	53210A	53220A	53230A		
Maximum measurement speed to in	ternal non-volatile memory ⁶ : (reading	gs/s)			
Timestamp	N/A	N/A	1,000,000		
Frequency, period, totalize	200		75,000		
Frequency ratio	300		44,000		
Time interval, rise/fall, width, burst width	N/A	1000	90,000		
Duty cycle	N/A		48,000		
Phase	N/A		37,000		
PRI, PRF	N/A	N/A	75,000		
Transfer from memory to PC via:					
LAN (sockets)	600,000 readings/sec				
LAN (VXI-11)	150,000 readings/sec				
USB	800,000 readings/sec				
GPIB	22,000 readings/sec				

- 1. These Math operations do not apply for Continuous Totalize or Timestamp measurements.
- 2. Allan Deviation is only calculated for Frequency and Period measurements. Allan Deviation calculation is available on both 53220A and 53230A, it is only gap free on 53230A.
- 3. Limit Test only displays on instrument front panel. No hardware output signal is available.
- 4. Operating speeds are for a direct connection to a >2.5 GHz dual core CPU running Windows XP Pro SP3 or better with 4 GB RAM and a 10/100/1000 LAN interface.
- 5. Throughput data based on gate time. Typical reading throughput assumes ASCII format, Auto level OFF with READ? SCPI command. For improved reading throughput you should also consider setting (FORM:DATA REAL,64), (DISP OFF), and set fastest gate time available.
- 6. Maximum 53230A rates represent >= 20 MHz input signals with min gate times, no delays or holdoffs. Measurement rates for the 53210A & 53220A are limited by min gate time. Actual meas rates are limited by the repetition rate of the input being measured.

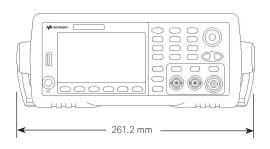
General Characteristics (nom)

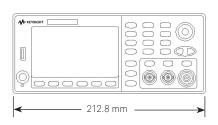
	53210A	53220A	53230A		
Warm-up time		45-minutes			
Display	4.3" Color TFT WQVGA (480 x 272), LED backlight				
User interface and help languages	English, German, French, Japanese, Simplified Chinese, Korean				
USB flash drive		FAT, FAT32			
Programming language					
SCPI	532xx Series a	nd 53131A/53132A/53181A Series	compatibility mode		
Programming interface					
LXI-C 1.3	10/ 100	/ 1000 LAN (LAN Sockets and VXI-	11 protocol)		
USB 2.0 device port		USB 2.0 (USB-TMC488 protocol)		
GPIB interface		GPIB (IEEE-488.1, IEEE-488.2 proto	ocol)		
Web user interface		LXI Class C Compatible			
Mechanical					
Bench dimensions	2	61.1 mm W x 103.8 mm H x 303.2 n	nm D		
Rack mount dimensions	212.8 mm	ı W x 88.3 mm H x 272.3 mm D (2l	J x 1/2 width)		
Weight		3.9 kg (8.6 lbs) fully optioned			
	3.1 kg	(6.9 lbs) without Option 300 (batte	ry option)		
Environmental					
Storage temperature		- 30 °C to +70 °C			
Operating environment	EN	61010, pollution degree 2; indoor lo	cations		
Operating temperature	0 °C to +55 °C				
Operating humidity	5% to 80% RH, non-condensing				
Operating altitude	Up to 3000 meters or 10,000 ft				
Regulatory					
Safety		opean Low Voltage Directive and ca 61010-1, CSA C22.2 61010-1, IEC 6	_		
EMC	Complies with European EMC Directive for test and measurement products. IEC/EN 61326-1 CISPR Pub 11 Group 1, class A AS/NZS CISPR 11 ICES/NMB-001 Complies with Australian standard and carries C-Tick Mark This ISM device complies with Canadian ICES-001 Cet appareil ISM est conforme a la norme NMB-001 du Canada				
Acoustic noise (nom)		SPL 35 dB(A)			
Line power					
Voltage	100V - 240V ± 10%, 50-60 Hz ±5% 100 V - 120 V, 400 Hz ±10%				
Power consumption	90 VA	A max when powered on or charging 6 VA max when powered off/stand			

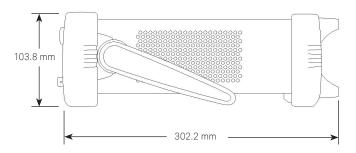
General Characteristics (nom) (continued)

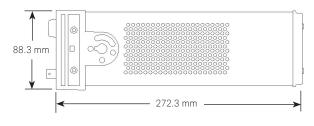
	53210A	53220A	53230A
Battery (Option 300)			
Technology	Internal lithium ion b	attery with integrated smart batte	ery monitor & charger
	Use for maintaining tim	ebase accuracy or environments v	with unstable AC power
Operating temperature limits	0 to 55	°C. Battery will only charge unde	er 35 °C.
	Instrum	ent running on battery power abo	ve 50 °C
	will turn o	ff to minimize battery capacity de	gradation.
Storage temperature limits	-10 °C to 60 °C.		
	Extended exposure to temperatures above 45 °C could degrade battery performance and life		
Operating time (typ)	3 hours when operated below +35 °C		
Standby time - OCXO powered	24 hours		
(typ)			
Recharge time (typ) 1	4 hours to 100% capacity; 2 hours to 90% capacity		
Accessories included			
CD User's guide, SCPI/programmers reference, programming examples, drivers (IVI-CO		les, drivers (IVI-COM, LabView),	
		IO library instructions	
Cables		Power line cord, 2 m USB 2.0	
Standard warranty	3 years		

1. Assumes calibrated battery.









Dimensions apply to all three models: 53210A, 53220A, 53230A.

Timebase

Timebase Uncertainty = (Aging + Temperature + Calibration Uncertainty)

Timebase	Standard TCXO	Option 010 Ultra-High Stability OCXO
Aging 1 (spec)		
24-hour, T _{CAL} ±1 °C		± 0.3 ppb (typ)
30-day, T _{CAL} ±5 °C	± 0.2 ppm (typ)	± 10 ppb
1-year, T _{CAL} ±5 °C	± 1 ppm	± 50 ppb
2-year, T _{CAL} ±5 °C	± 0.5 ppm	± 25 ppb
Temperature (typ) ²		
0 °C to T_{CAL} - 5 °C and T_{CAL} + 5 °C to 55 °C	± 1 ppm	± 5 ppb
Calibration uncertainty ³		
Initial factory calibration (typ)	± 0.5 ppm	± 50 ppb
Settability error	± 0.1 ppb	± 0.01 ppb
Supplemental characteristics (typ)		
5-min. warm-up error ⁴	± 1 ppm	± 10 ppb
72-hour retrace error ⁵	< 50 ppb	< 2 ppb
Allan deviation τ = 1s	1 ppb	0.01 ppb

- All Timebase Aging Errors apply only after an initial 30-days of continuous powered operation and for a constant altitude ±100 m. After the first 1-year of operation, use ½ x (30-day and 1-year) aging rates shown.
- Additional temperature error is included in the time base uncertainty equation if the temperature of the operating environment is outside
- the T_{CAL} \pm 5 °C (calibration temperature) range. The error is applied in its entirety, not per °C. Initial factory calibration error applies to the original instrument calibration upon receipt from the factory. This error is applied until the first re-calibration occurs after shipment. Settability error is the minimum adjustment increment (resolution) achievable during electronic adjustment (calibration) of the instrument. It is added to the uncertainty of your calibration source.
- Warm-up error applies when the instrument is powered on in a stable operating environment.
- When moved between different operating environments add the Temperature error during the initial 30-minutes of powered operation
- Retrace error may occur whenever the instrument line-power is removed or whenever the instrument is battery operated and the battery fully discharges. Retrace error is the residual timebase shift that remains 72-hours after powering-on an instrument that has experienced a full power-cycle of the timebase. Additional frequency shift errors may occur for instrument exposure to severe impact shocks > 50 g.





Front/rear view of 53230A

Accuracy Specifications

Definitions

Random Uncertainty

The RSS of all random or Type-A measurement errors expressed as the total RMS or $1-\sigma$ measurement uncertainty. Random uncertainty will reduce as $1/\sqrt{N}$ when averaging N measurement results for up to a maximum of approximately 13-digits or 100 fs.

Systematic Uncertainty

The 95% confidence residual constant or Type-B measurement uncertainty relative to an external calibration reference. Generally, systematic uncertainties can be minimized or removed for a fixed instrument setup by performing relative measurements to eliminate the systematic components.

Timebase Uncertainty

The 95% confidence systematic uncertainty contribution from the selected timebase reference. Use the appropriate uncertainty for the installed timebase or when using an external frequency reference substitute the specified uncertainty for your external frequency reference.

Basic accuracy 1 = ± [(k * Random Uncertainty) + Systematic Uncertainty + Timebase Uncertainty]

Measurement Function	1- σ Random Uncertainty	Systematic Uncertainty	Timebase Uncertainty2
Frequency ³ Period (parts error)	$\frac{1.4* (T_{ss}^2 + T_{e}^2)^{1/2}}{R_{e}^* \text{ gate}}$	If $R_E \ge 2$: 10 ps / gate (max), 2 ps / gate (typ) ⁴ If $R_E < 2$ or REC mode ($R_E = 1$): 100 ps / gate	•
Option 106 & 115: Frequency ³ Period (parts error)	$\frac{1.4* (T_{SS}^2 + T_E^2)^{1/2}}{R_E* gate}$	If $R_{\rm E} \ge 2$: 10 ps / gate (max), 2 ps / gate (typ) ⁴ If $R_{\rm E} < 2$: 100 ps / gate	•
Frequency Ratio A/B (typ) ⁵ (parts error)	1.4* Random Uncertainty of the worst case Freq input	Uncertainty of Frequency A plus Uncertainty of Frequency B	
Single Period (parts error) ¹⁷	1.4* (T _{SS} ² + T _E ²) ^{1/2} Period Measurement	T _{accuracy} Period Measurement	•
Time Interval (TI) ¹⁷ , Width ¹⁷ , or Rise/Fall Time ^{7, 17} (parts error)	1.4* (T _{ss} ² + T _e ²) ^{1/2} TI Measurement	Linearity ⁶ + Offset ⁸ TI Measurement Linearity = T _{accuracy} Offset (typ) = T _{LTE} + skew + T _{accuracy}	•
Duty ^{5, 9, 10, 17} (fraction of cycle error)	2* (T _{SS} ² + T _E ²) ^{1/2} * Frequency	(T _{LTE} + 2*T _{accuracy})*Frequency	
Phase ^{5, 9, 17} (Degrees error)	2* (T _{SS} ² + T _E ²) ^{1/2} * Frequency * 360°	(T _{LTE} +skew+2*T _{accuracy})*Frequency*360°	
Totalize ¹¹ (counts error)	± 1 count ¹¹		
Volts pk to pk ¹² (typ) 5 V range		DC, 100 Hz - 1 kHz: 0.15% of reading + 0.15% of range 1 kHz - 1 MHz: 2% of reading + 1% of range 1 MHz - 200 MHz: 5% of reading + 1% of range + 0.3 * (Freq/250 MHz) * reading	

Accuracy Specifications (continued)

Measurement Function	1- σ Random Uncertainty	Systematic Uncertainty	Timebase Uncertainty ²
6 GHz (Option 106): Optional Microway	ve Channel Opt 150 - Pulse/Burst Meas	surements ^{3,13}	
PRF, PRI (parts error) 14	If $R_E > 1$: 200 ps / $(R_E * gate)$ If $R_E = 1$: 500 ps / gate	200 ps R _E * gate	•
Pulse/Burst Carrier Frequency 15 (Narrow Mode) (parts error)	100 ps Burst Width	200 ps Burst Width	•
Pulse/Burst Carrier Frequency ¹⁶ (Wide Mode) (parts error)	40 ps R _E * Burst Width	100 ps 	•

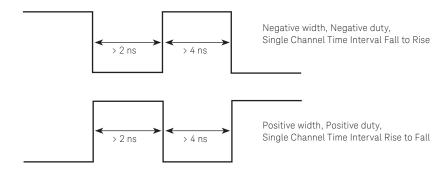
15 GHz (Option 115): Optional Microwave Channel Opt 150 - Pulse/Burst Measurements3, 13			
PRF, PRI (parts error) 14	1 ns	200 ps	
	(R _E * gate)	R _E * gate	
Pulse/Burst Carrier Frequency 15	100 ps	400 ps	
(Narrow Mode) (parts error)	Burst Width	Burst Width	
Pulse/Burst Carrier Frequency 16	75 ps	200 ps	
(Wide Mode) (parts error)	R _e * Burst Width	R _E * Burst Width	

Accuracy Specifications (continued)

- 1. Apply the appropriate errors detailed for each measuring function.
- 2. Use Timebase Uncertainty in Basic Accuracy calculations only for Measurement Functions that show the symbol in the Timebase Uncertainty column.
- 3. Assumes Gaussian noise distribution and non-synchronous gate, non-gaussian noise will effect Systematic Error. Note all optional microwave channel specifications (continuous wave and pulse/burst) assume sine signal.
- 4. Typical is achieved with an average of 100 readings with 100 samples per trigger. Worst case is trigger and sample count set to 1.
- 5. Improved frequency ratio, duty and phase specifications are possible by making independent measurements.
- 6. Minimum Pulse Width for using stated linearity is 5 ns; Pulse Widths of 2-5 ns use linearity=400 ps.
- 7. Residual instrument Rise/ Fall Time 10%-90% 2.0 ns (typ). Applies to fixed level triggering. Threshold can still be set based on % of auto-level detected peaks, but since these peak levels may contain unknown variations, accurate measurements need to be based on absolute threshold levels.
- 8. Input signal slew rates and settling time have effects on offset. Offset is calibrated with rise times < 100 ps.
- Constant Duty or Phase are required during the measurement interval. Duty and Phase are calculated based on two automated sequential measurements - period and width or TI A to B, respectively.
- 10. Duty is represented as a ratio (not as a percent).
- Additional count errors need to be added for gated totalize error, latency or jitter. If gated, add gate accuracy term (See Totalize measurements in the Measurement Characteristics section).
- 12. Volts pk error apply for signal levels between full range and 1/10th range. Spec applies to sine wave only. 50 V range reading accuracy is 2% at DC-1 KHz, 5% 1 KHz -1 MHz band. Accuracy above 200 MHz is not specified on both ranges.
- 13. For 6 GHz (Opt 106): Specifications apply to signals from ±13 dBm, operable to ±19 dBm. For 15 GHz (Opt 115): Specifications apply to input powers as listed under "Pulse/burst frequency and pulse envelope detector (Option 150) measurement characteristics", operable from +13 dBm to -8 dBm.
- 14. Use the $R_{\rm F}$ equation, but use the input PRF for $F_{\rm IN}$. Assume sharp envelope transition.
- 15. Applies when Burst Width * Carrier Freq > 80.
- 16. Specifications based on gate and width for automated detection. If in manual mode, delay and width selected will impact accuracy specification. For approximate accuracy for manual gate, use the R_E calculation, but F_{IN} is now 10⁶ and use gate as burst width. For input signals where PRI < 250 µs, double the 1-σ Random Uncertainty specification, unless a Trigger Count of 1 and a large Sample Count acquisition method are used.</p>
- 17. Specifications apply if measurement channels are in 5 V range, DC coupled, 50Ω terminated and at fixed level. The following minimum pulse width requirements apply:

Single-Period: < 250 MHz, 50% Duty

Phase, Dual Channel Time Interval: < 160 MHz, 50% Duty



Definition of Measurement Error Sources and Terms used in Calculations

	53210A	53220A	53230A
$R_{\rm E}$	1	use R _E equation	use R _e equation
T _{ss}	100 ps	100 ps	20 ps
Skew		100 ps	50 ps
Taccuracy		200 ps	100 ps

Confidence Level (k)

For 99% Confidence use k= 2.5 in accuracy calculations.

For 95% Confidence use k= 2.0 in accuracy calculations.

Resolution enhancement factor (R_E)

The resolution enhancement (R_E) calculates the added frequency resolution beyond the basic reciprocal measurement capability that is achieved for a range of input signal frequencies and measurement gate times. The maximum enhancement factor shown is for input signals where $T_{SS} > T_E$ and is limited due to intrinsic measurement limitations. For signals where $T_{SS} < T_E$, $T_E = T_{SS} < T_{SS} <$

For signals where $T_{SS} \gg T_{E}$, $R_{E} = \sqrt{(F_{IN} * Gate/16)}$ R_{E} is limited by gate time as show below

Gate time > 1 s, $R_{\rm E}$ max of 6

Gate time 100 ms, $R_{\scriptscriptstyle F}$ max of 4

Gate time 10 ms, R_F max of 2

Gate time $< 1 \text{ ms}, \, R_F = 1$

Interpolation between listed gate times allowed.

Single shot timing (T_{ss})

Timing resolution of a start/stop measurement event.

Skew

Skew is the additional time error if two channels are used for a measurement. It is not used for width, rise/fall time, and single channel time interval.

Taccurac

 $T_{\text{accuracy}}^{\text{\tiny document}}$ is the measurement error between two points in time.

Threshold error (T_F)

Threshold error (T_E) describes the input signal dependent random trigger uncertainty or jitter. The total RMS noise voltage divided by the input signal slew rate (V/s) at the trigger point gives the RMS time error for each threshold crossing. For simplicity T_E used in the Random Uncertainty calculations is the worst T_E of all the edges used in the measurement. RSS of all edge's T_E is an acceptable alternative. Vx is the cross talk from the other standard input channel. Typically this is -60 dB. Vx = 0 on 53210A, and when no signal is applied to other standard input channel on 53220A/53230A. (Note: the best way to eliminate cross talk is to remove the signal from the other channel).

This time interval error results from trigger level setting errors and input hysteresis effects on the actual start and stop trigger points and results in a combined time interval error. These errors are dependant on the input signal slew rate at each trigger point.

For 5v
$$\frac{(500\mu V^2 + E_N^2 + Vx^2)^{1/2}}{SR_{-TRIG POINT}}$$

For 50v
$$\frac{(5000 \mu V^2 + E_N^2 + V x^2)^{1/2}}{SR_{-TRIG POINT}}$$

$$\pm \frac{\mathsf{T}_{\mathsf{LSE-start}}}{\mathsf{SR}_{\mathsf{-start}}} \pm \frac{\mathsf{T}_{\mathsf{LSE-stop}}}{\mathsf{SR}_{\mathsf{-stop}}} \pm \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \mathsf{V}_{\mathsf{H}} & - & \frac{1}{2} \mathsf{V}_{\mathsf{H}} \\ \mathsf{SR}_{\mathsf{-start}} & \mathsf{SR}_{\mathsf{-stop}} \end{bmatrix}$$

 $V_H = 20$ mV hysteresis or 40 mV when Noise Reject is turned ON. Double V_H values for frequencies > 100 MHz.

Definition of Measurement Error Sources and Terms used in Calculations (continued)

Phase Noise and Allan Deviation

The input signal's jitter spectrum (Phase noise) and low-frequency wander characteristics (Allan variation) will limit the achievable measurement resolution and accuracy. The full accuracy and resolution of the counter can only be achieved when using a high-quality input signal source or by externally filtering the input signal to reduce these errors.

Threshold level setting error (T_{LSF})

Threshold level setting error (T_{LSE}^{LSE}) is the uncertainty in the actual signal threshold point due to the inaccuracies of the threshold circuitry.

Slew rate (SR)

Slew rate (SR) describes the input signal's instantaneous voltage rate of change (V/s) at the chosen threshold point at customer BNC.

For sine wave signals, the maximum slew rate SR= $2\pi F^*V_{0\,\text{to PK}}.$

For Square waves and pulses, the max slew rate = 0.8 Vpp/ $t_{\rm RISE\,10-90}$

Using the 100 kHz low pass filter will effect Slew Rate.

Signal noise (E_N)

The input signal RMS noise voltage (E_N) measured in a DC – 350 MHz bandwidth. The input signal noise voltage is RSS combined with the instruments equivalent input noise voltage when used in the Threshold Error (T_E) calculation.

 \pm (0.2%-of setting + 0.1%-of range)

V/s (at threshold point)

Ordering Information

Model numbers

53210A 350 MHz, 10-digits/s RF Frequency Counter 53220A 350 MHz, 12 digits/s, 100 ps Universal Frequency Counter/Timer 53230A 350 MHz, 12-digits/s, 20 ps Universal Frequency Counter/Timer

All models include:

- Certificate of Calibration and 3-year standard warranty
- IEC Power Cord, USB cable
- CD including: Programming Examples, Programmer's Reference Help File, User's Guide, Quick Start Tutorial, Service Guide
- Keysight IO Library CD

Available options

Option 010	Ultra-high-stability OCXO timebase
Option 106	6 GHz microwave input
Option 115	15 GHz microwave input
Option 150	Pulse microwave measurements (53230A only)
Option 201	Add rear panel parallel inputs for baseband channels ¹
Option 202	Optional microwave input - front Type N (default if 106 or 115 ordered)
Option 203	Optional microwave input - rear panel SMA(f) connector
Option 300	Add internal lithium ion smart battery and charger for unstable AC power or timebase stability

Recommended accessories²

1250-1476	BNC(f) to type-N adapter
N2870A	Passive probe, 1:1, 35 MHz, 1.3 m
N2873A	Passive probe, 10:1, 500 MHz, 1.3 m
N2874A	Passive probe, 10:1, 1.5 GHz, 1.3 m
34190A	Rack mount kit; Use for mounting one 2U instrument by itself, without another instrument laterally next to
	it. Includes one rack flange and one combination rack flange-filler panel.
34191A	2U dual flange kit; Use for mounting two 2U instruments side-by-side. Includes two standard rack
	flanges. Note: Mounting two instruments side-by-side will require the 34194A Dual-lock link kit and a
	shelf for the instruments to sit on. 34194A Dual-lock link kit; for side-by-side combinations of instruments,
	and includes links for instruments of different depths.
34131A	Transit case

Support options

5-year Extended warranty 3-year Annual calibration service 5-year Annual calibration service

^{1.} When ordered with optional rear terminals, the standard/baseband channel inputs are active on both the front and rear of the universal counter though the specifications provided only apply to the rear terminals. Performance for the front terminals with rear terminal options is not specified.

^{2.} All probes must be compatible with a 20 pf input capacitance.

Appendix A - Worked Example

Basic Accuracy Calculation for Frequency Measurement

Parameter assumptions:

- 53220A
- 95% confidence
- 100 MHz signal, 1 sec gate
- AUTO frequency mode
- Level: 5 V input signal amplitude
- TCXO standard timebase for unit plugged in for 30 days
- Assume operating temperature is within $T_{CAL} \pm 5$ °C
- Instrument has been re-calibrated so Factory Calibration Uncertainty term is not required.

Process:

T₋ (for 5 V)

Basic accuracy = $\pm [(k * Random Uncertainty) + Systematic Uncertainty + Timebase Uncertainty]$

1. Use k=2 for 95% confidence and k=2.5 for 99% confidence calculations)......k = 2

2. Random uncertainty for frequency measurement =
$$\frac{1.4* (T_{SS}^2 + T_E^2)^{1/2}}{R_E* \text{Gate Time}} = \frac{1.4* (100 \text{ps}^2 + .159 \text{ps}^2)^{1/2}}{6*1 \text{ s}} = \frac{23.3 \text{ E-12}}{\text{parts error}}$$

$$T_{SS} = 100 \text{ ps}$$

$$T_{E} (\text{for 5 V}) = \frac{(500 \, \mu\text{V}^2 + \text{E}_N^2 + \text{V} \times \text{V}^2)^{1/2}}{\text{SR}_{-\text{TRIG POINT}}} = \frac{(500 \, \mu\text{V}^2)^{1/2}}{3.14*10^9} = .159 \, \text{ps}$$

 E_{N} = Assume input signal RMS noise voltage is 0.

Vx = N/A (remove signal from other channel)

 $SR_{-TRIG\ POINT}$ = maximum slew rate (sine)SR= $2\pi F^*V_{0\ to\ PK}$ = $2\pi (100\ MHz)^*5\ V$ = $3.14^*10^9\ Volts/Hz$

Since $T_{SS} \gg T_{E}$, we use the R_{E} equation. Value is much greater than 6. so we limit RE to 6 due to gate time. $R_{E} = 6$ Gate time = 1 sec

- 3. Systematic uncertainty for frequency measurement = If $R_E > 2$: 10 ps/gate max, 2 ps/gate (typ) = 2 E-12 parts error
- 4. Timebase uncertainty = aging = 0.2 ppm = | 0.2 E-6 parts error Aging: 0.2 ppm

Basic accuracy = $\pm [(k * random uncertainty) + systematic uncertainty + timebase uncertainty] =$ $\pm [(2 * (23.3 E-12)) + 2 E-12 + 0.2 E-6] = \pm 0.2 E-6 parts error$

Note: Using a higher accuracy timebase or locking to an external timebase standard will have the biggest impact on improvement to accuracy calculations.

Definitions

The following definitions apply to the specifications and characteristics described throughout.

Specification (spec)

The warranted performance of a calibrated instrument that has been stored for a minimum of 2% hours within the operating temperature range of 0 °C - 55 °C and after a 45-minute warm up period. Automated calibration (*CAL?) performed within ± 5 °C before measurement. All specifications were created in compliance with ISO-17025 methods.

Data published in this document are specifications unless otherwise noted

Typical (typ)

The characteristic performance, which 80% or more of manufactured instruments will meet. This data is not warranted, does not include measurement uncertainty, and is valid only at room temperature (approximately 23 °C). Automated calibration (*CAL?) performed within ±5 °C before measurement.

Nominal (nom)

The mean or average characteristic performance, or the value of an attribute that is determined by design such as a connector type, physical dimension, or operating speed. This data is not warranted and is measured at room temperature (approximately 23 °C). Automated calibration (*CAL?) performed within ±5 °C before measurement.

Measured (meas)

An attribute measured during development for purposes of communicating the expected performance.

This data is not warranted and is measured at room temperature (approximately 23 °C). Automated calibration (*CAL?) performed within ±5 °C before measurement.

Stability

Represents the 24-hour, ± 1 °C short-term, relative measurement accuracy. Includes measurement error and 24-hour \pm 1°C timebase aging error.

Accuracy

Represents the traceable measurement accuracy of a measurement for $T_{CAL} \pm 5$ °C. Includes measurement error, timebase error, and calibration source uncertainty.

Random measurement errors are combined using the root-sum-square method and are multiplied by K for the desired confidence level. Systematic errors are added linearly and include time skew errors, trigger timing errors, and timebase errors as appropriate for each measurement type.

 T_{CAL} Represents the ambient temperature of the instrument during the last adjustment to calibration reference standards.

 T_{CAL} must be between 10 °C to 45 °C for a valid instrument calibration.

I_{ACAL} Represents the temperature of the instrument during the last automated calibration (*CAL?) operation.

1. All information in this document are subject to change without notice.

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