

Agilent 53200A Series RF/Universal Frequency Counter/Timers

Data Sheet

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



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 Agilent's decades of 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	•	•
Timestamp	53230A	•	•
Pulse/burst measure- ment software ¹	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

	53210A	53220A	53230A	
Input characteristics (nom)				
Channels				
Standard (DC - 350 MHz)	Ch 1	Ch 1 & Ch 2		
Optional (6 or 15 GHz)	Ch 2	Ch	າ 3	
Standard inputs (nom)				
Frequency range				
DC coupled	DC (1	mHz) to 350 MHz (2.8 ns to 10	00 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	panel BNC(f) inputs ²	
Input impedance (typ)	Selectab	le 1 M Ω ± 1.5% or 50 Ω ± 1.5%	<25 pF	
Input coupling		Selectable DC or AC		
Input filter	Select	able 100 kHz cut-off frequency l	ow pass	
	10 Hz (AC	coupling) cut-off frequency hig	h 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 (ty	(p)	
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,			
		range (5 V or 50 V), sets auto-l	evel 50%	
Auto-level		ectable On or Off Sets auto-level (% of Vpp) oper	ration	
		curs once for each INIT or after		
		asures signal Vpp and sets Trigg		
	Offs	Selectable user set level (Volts)	
Minimum signal frequency for auto level	User	selectable (Slow (50 Hz), Fast (1	0 kHz))	
Minimum signal for auto level	300 mVpp			
Maximum input				
50 Ω damage level	1 W			
50 Ω 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 linea >100 kHz: 10 Vpl			(AC + DC)	

Input Channel Characteristics continued

	53210A	53220A	53230A		
Optional microwave inputs (n	om)				
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)				
Innut impodence (tun)	Option 203 ii		rear parier SiviA(1)		
Input impedance (typ)		$50 \Omega \pm 1.5\% \text{ (SWR < 2.5)}$			
Input coupling		AC			
Continuous wave amplitude range					
Option 106	A	utoranged 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-rar	nged for optimum sensitivity ar	nd 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)	measurements			
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 Resolution¹	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	Auto	omatically preset or user selec	table	
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 1	000 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 dom	ain			
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) n	neasurements 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	

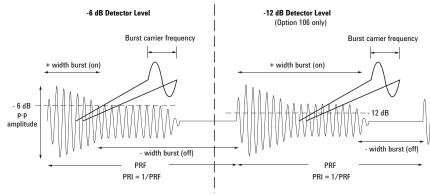
Measurement Characteristics continued

	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 100,00	0 s (min)
Minimum width	N/A	2 ns	
Minimum edge repetition rate	N/A	6 ns	
Level & slope	N/A	Auto-level or use	r selectable
Single-period, pulse-width, rise	time, fall time		
Range	N/A	0 s to 10	00 s
Minimum width	N/A	2 ns	
Minimum edge repetition Rate	N/A	6 ns	
Level & slope	N/A	Auto-level or use	r 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 use	r selectable
Phase A to B, B to A			
Range ⁶	N/A	-180.000° to	360.000°
Totalize measurements			
Channels	N/A	Ch 1 or 0	Ch 2
Range ⁹	N/A	0 to 10 ¹⁵ e	vents
Rate	N/A	0 - 350 N	ЛНz
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 p	Pulse/burst frequency and pulse envelope detector (Option 150) ¹²					
Pulse/burst measurements	N/A	N/A	Carrier frequency, carrier period, pulse repetition interval (PRI), pulse repetition frequency (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 -6 dBm (115 mVrms) 3 - 11 GHz: +9 dBm (630 mVrms) to -8 dBm (90 mVrms) > 11 GHz: +7 dBm (500 mVrms) to -6 dBm (115 mVrms)		

- 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		rnal, Ch 1/Ch 2 d channel input)		
Slope	N/A	Positive o	r negative		
Delay time ¹	N/A	0 s to 10 s ir	n 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 o	r negative		
Hold-off time ¹	N/A	Hold-off Time settable	e from 60 ns to 1000 s		
Hold-off events (edges)	N/A	0 to 108 (minimum width (p	ositive or negative) >60 ns)		
External gate input charac	teristics (typ)				
Connector	Selectable :	Rear panel BNC(f) as external gate input or gate o	output signal		
Impedance	1 kΩ	when selected as external gate	input		
Level		TTL compatible			
Slope		Selectable positive or negative	}		
Gate to gate timing		3 µs gate end to next gate star	t		
Damage level		<-5 V, >+10 V			
Gate output characteristics	s (typ)				
Connector	Rear panel BNC(f)				
		Selectable as external gate input or gate output signal			
Impedance	50	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 (no	m)					
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	Fı	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 (ty	p)					
Impedance		1 kΩ 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				

^{1.} Continuous, gap-free measurements limits the Gate Time setting to 10 μ s to 1000 s in 10 μ s steps. 2. Latency does not include delays due to auto-leveling.

Math, Graphing and Memory Characteristics (nom)

	53210A	53220A	53230A		
Math operations					
Smoothing (averaging) ¹	Selectable 10 (slow), 100 (medium), 1,000 (fast) reading moving average Selectable filter reset .1% /1000 ppm (fast), .03%/300 ppm (medium), .01%/100 ppm (slow) change from average				
Scaling	U:	mX-b or $m(1/X)$ -b ser settable m and b (offset) va	alues		
Δ-change		(X-b)/b scaled to %, ppm, or p User settable b (reference) va	•		
Null		(X-b) User settable b (reference) va	lue		
Statistics ¹	Mean, standard deviation, Max, Min, Peak-to-Peak, count Mean, standard deviation, Allan deviation², Max, N to-Peak, count				
Limit test ³	Displays PASS/ FAI	L message based on user defi	ned Hi/ Lo limit values.		
Operation	Individual and simultaneo	us operation of smoothing, sca	aling, statistics, and limit test		
Graphical display selections					
Digits	Nu	meric result with input level s	hown		
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 r	esult, tuning bar-graph, and PA	ASS/FAIL message		
Markers	Available to	read values from trend & hist	ogram displays		
Memory					
Data log		ided setup of # of readings/cosaves acquisition results to no			
Instrument state	Save &	recall user-definable instrume	ent 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				
<u>'</u>	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 (ty Fast mode (10 kHz): 10 ms (ty	yp)		
Configure-change speed	Frequ	ency, Period, Range, Level: 50	ms (typ)		
Single measurement through (time to take single measurer	nput ⁵ : readings/s ment and transfer from volatile	reading memory over I/O bus	s)		
Typical (Avg. using READ?):					
LAN (VXI-11)	110		120		
LAN (sockets)	200		200		
USB	200		200		
GPIB	210		220		
Optimized (Avg. using *TRG;D	DATA:REM? 1, WAIT):				
LAN (VXI-11)	160		180		
LAN (sockets)	330	330 350			
USB	320 350				
GPIB	360		420		
	eadings/s (Example uses: 50, urements and transfer from vol	<u> </u>	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;D	DATA:REM? 1, WAIT):				
LAN (VXI-11)	300	990	34700		
LAN (sockets)	300	990	55800		
USB	300	990	56500		
GPIB	300	990	16300		

Speed Characteristics⁴ (meas) continued

	53210A	53220A	53230A		
Maximum measurement spe	eed to internal non-volatile me	emory: (readings/s)			
Timestamp	N/A	N/A	1,000,000		
Frequency, period, totalize	300		75,000		
Frequency ratio	300	1000	44,000		
Time interval, rise/fall, width, burst width	N/A		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.

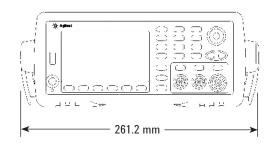
General Characteristics (nom)

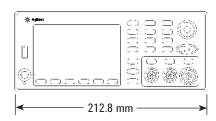
53210A	53220A	53230A		
	45-minutes			
4.3" Color TFT WQVGA (480 x 272), LED backlight				
English, German, French, Japanese, Simplified Chinese, Korean				
	FAT, FAT32			
532xx Series and	53131A/53132A/53181A Series	compatibility mode		
10/100/	1000 LAN (LAN Sockets and VXI-	·11 protocol)		
	USB 2.0 (USB-TMC488 protocol)		
G	PIB (IEEE-488.1, IEEE-488.2 proto	col)		
	LXI Class C Compatible			
261	.1 mm W x 103.8 mm H x 303.2 r	mm D		
212.8 mm ¹	W x 88.3 mm H x 272.3 mm D (2	U x ½ width)		
	3.9 kg (8.6 lbs) fully optioned			
3.1 kg (6.9 lbs) without Option 300 (batte	ery option)		
EN61	 	cations		
		·		
Up to 3000 meters or 10,000 ft				
Complies with Europ	IEC/EN 61326-1	·		
	•	A		
Complies w		es C-Tick Mark		
This ISM device complies with Canadian ICES-001				
Cet appareil ISM est conforme a la norme NMB-001 du Canada				
SPL 35 dB(A)				
100V - 240V ± 10%, 50-60 Hz ±5% 100 V - 120 V, 400 Hz ±10%				
90 VA max when powered on or charging battery;				
	4.3" Co English, Germa 532xx Series and 10/100/ G 261 212.8 mm \ 3.1 kg (i) EN61 Complies with Europ Conforms to UL 6 Complies with Europ Office of the complication of the complies with Europ Complies with Europ Office of the complication of the complex complication of the complex	45-minutes 4.3" Color TFT WQVGA (480 x 272), LED English, German, French, Japanese, Simplified FAT, FAT32 532xx Series and 53131A/53132A/53181A Series 10/ 100/ 1000 LAN (LAN Sockets and VXI-USB 2.0 (USB-TMC488 protocol GPIB (IEEE-488.1, IEEE-488.2 protocol LXI Class C Compatible 261.1 mm W x 103.8 mm H x 303.2 mm H x 303.2 mm H x 272.3 mm D (2 3.9 kg (8.6 lbs) fully optioned 3.1 kg (6.9 lbs) without Option 300 (batter 3.1 kg (6.9 lbs) without Option 300		

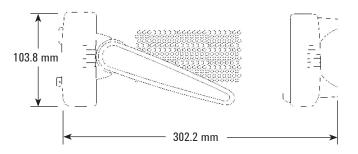
General Characteristics (nom) continued

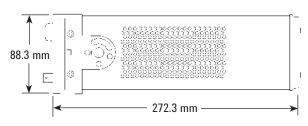
	53210A	53220A	53230A		
Battery (Option 300)	Battery (Option 300)				
Technology	Internal lithium ion battery with integrated smart battery monitor & charger Use for maintaining timebase accuracy or environments with unstable AC power				
Operating temperature limits	0 to 55 °C. Battery will only charge under 35 °C. Instrument running on battery power above 50 °C will turn off to minimize battery capacity degradation.				
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 (typ)	24 hours				
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-COI LabView), IO library instructions				
Cables	Power line cord, 2 m USB 2.0				
Warranty					
Standard	1 year				

1. Assumes calibrated battery.









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

Timebase

Timebase Uncertainty = (Aging + Temperature + Calibration Uncertainty)

Timebase	Standard TCX0	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 $\tau = 1s$	1 ppb	0.01 ppb	

- 1. 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ x (30-day and 1-year) aging rates shown.
- 2. Additional temperature error is included in the time base uncertainty equation if the temperature of the operating environment is outside the $T_{\text{CAL}} \pm 5$ °C (calibration temperature) range. The error is applied in its entirety, not per °C.
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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
- 5. 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- σ 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]

Dasic accuracy — ± [(K Ha	indoni Oncertainty) + Systemati	C Oncertainty + Timebase Oncertainty	
Measurement Function	1-σ Random Uncertainty	Systematic Uncertainty	Timebase Uncertainty ²
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)	$\frac{1.4^* (T_{SS}^2 + T_E^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}}{R_E^* \text{ gate}}$	If $R_E \ge 2$: 10 ps / gate (max), 2 ps / gate (typ) ⁴ If $R_E < 2$: 100 ps / gate	•
Frequency Ratio A/B (typ) ⁵ (parts error)	1.4* Random Uncertainty of the <i>worst case</i> 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)	$\frac{1.4^* (T_{SS}^2 + T_E^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}}{ TI Measurement }$	$\frac{\text{Linearity }^{6} + \text{Offset }^{8}}{ \text{TI Measurement} }$ $\text{Linearity } = \text{T}_{\text{accuracy}}$ $\text{Offset (typ)} = \text{T}_{\text{LTE}} + \text{skew} + \text{T}_{\text{accuracy}}$	•
Duty ^{5, 9, 10, 17} (fraction of cycle error)	$2^* (T_{SS}^2 + T_E^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ * 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

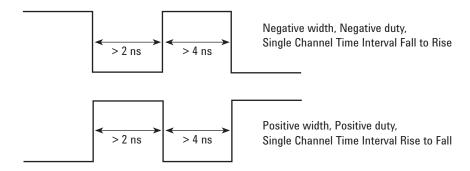
Measurement Function	1-σ Random Uncertainty	Systematic Uncertainty	Timebase Uncertainty ²
6 GHz (Option 106): Optional Micro	owave Channel Opt 150 - Pulse/Burst	Measurements ^{3, 13}	
PRF, PRI (parts error) 14	If $R_E > 1$: 200 ps / $(R_E^* \text{ gate})$	200 ps	_
	If $R_E = 1:500 \text{ ps} / \text{gate}$	R _E * gate	•
Pulse/Burst Carrier Frequency 15	100 ps	200 ps	
(Narrow Mode) (parts error)	Burst Width	Burst Width	•
Pulse/Burst Carrier Frequency ¹⁶ (Wide Mode) (parts error)	40 ps	100 ps	
	R _E * Burst Width	R _E * Burst Width	
15 GHz (Option 115): Optional Mic	rowave Channel Opt 150 - Pulse/Burs	et Measurements ^{3, 13}	
PRF, PRI (parts error) 14	1 ns	200 ps	
	(R _E * gate)	R _E * gate	•
Pulse/Burst Carrier Frequency 15 (Narrow Mode) (parts error)	100 ps	400 ps	
	Burst Width	Burst Width	•
Pulse/Burst Carrier Frequency ¹⁶ (Wide Mode) (parts error)	75 ps	200 ps	
	R _E * Burst Width	R _c * 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.
- 9. 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).
- 11. 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 $R_{\rm E}$ 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 10⁸ 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 _E	1	use R _E equation	use R _E equation
T _{ss}	100 ps	100 ps	20 ps
Skew		100 ps	50 ps
T		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_c)

The resolution enhancement (R_c) 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 $T_{ss} > T_{\scriptscriptstyle E}$ and is limited due to intrinsic measurement limitations. For signals where $T_{ss} << T_{\scriptscriptstyle E'}$ may be significantly higher than the specified levels. $R_{\scriptscriptstyle E}$ will always be >=1.

For signals where T $_{\rm SS}$ >> T $_{\rm E}$, R $_{\rm E}$ = $\sqrt{({\rm F}_{\rm IN}$ * Gate/16) R $_{\rm E}$ is limited by gate time as show below Gate time > 1 s, R $_{\rm E}$ max of 6

Gate time 100 ms, R_E max of 4

Gate time 10 ms, R_E max of 2

Gate time < 1 ms, $\bar{R}_r = 1$

Interpolation between listed gate times allowed.

Single shot timing (T_{ss})

Timing resolution of a start/stop measurement event.

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.

 T_{accuracy} is the measurement error between two points in time.

Threshold error (T_E)
Threshold error (T_E) describes the input signal dependent random trigger uncertainty in the signal elements. tainty 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_c used in the Random Uncertainty calculations is the worst T_c of all the edges used in the measurement. RSS of all edge's T_F 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).

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

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

Threshold level timing error ($T_{\rm LTE}$) 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

$$\frac{\pm}{SR_{.start}} \pm \frac{T_{LSE-stop}}{SR_{.start}} \pm \left[\frac{\frac{1}{2}V_{H}}{SR_{.stor}} - \frac{\frac{1}{2}V_{H}}{SR_{.stor}}\right]$$

 V_{μ} = 20 mV hysteresis or 40 mV when Noise Reject is turned ON. Double V_{μ} 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_{LSE}) Threshold level setting error (T_{LSE}) is the uncertainty in the actual signal threshold point due to the inaccuracies of the threshold circuitry.

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

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/ $t_{RISE 10.90}$ Using the 100 kHz low pass filter will effect Slew Rate.

V/s (at threshold point)

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.

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 1-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
- · Agilent 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

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

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} ± 5 °C
- Instrument has been re-calibrated so Factory Calibration Uncertainty term is not required.

Process:

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

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

$$= \frac{(500 \text{ }\mu\text{V}^2 + \text{E}_N^2 + \text{V} \text{x}^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}}{\text{SR}_{.TRIG \text{ POINT}}} = \frac{(500 \text{ }\mu\text{V}^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}}{3.14 * 10^9} = .159 \text{ ps}$$

 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 $T_{SS} >> T_{E'}$ we use the R_E equation. Value is much greater than 6. so we limit RE to 6 due to gate time. $R_E = 6$

3. Systematic uncertainty for frequency measurement = If $R_F >= 2$: 10 ps/gate max, 2 ps/gate (typ) = 2 E-12 parts error

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.

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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 $2\frac{1}{2}$ 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 ± 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.

CA

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.

TACAL

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

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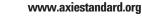
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