PCIe-6738

PCI Express, 16-Bit, 32-Channel, 1 MS/s Analog Output Device

Definitions

Warranted specifications describe the performance of a model under stated operating conditions and are covered by the model warranty.

Characteristics describe values that are relevant to the use of the model under stated operating conditions but are not covered by the model warranty.

- *Typical* specifications describe the performance met by a majority of models.
- *Nominal* specifications describe an attribute that is based on design, conformance testing, or supplemental testing.

Specifications are *Typical* unless otherwise noted.

Conditions

Specifications are valid at 25 °C unless otherwise noted.

Analog Output

Number of channels	32 voltage outputs
Resolution	16 bits, 1 in 65,536
DNL	±1.0 LSB maximum
Unscaled data format[1]	Unsigned integer (0 to 65,535)
Monotonicity	16 bits
Accuracy	Refer to the *AO Absolute Accuracy* table

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[1] Used for writing unscaled or raw data and covers the range from negative full scale (0) to positive full scale (65,535).

NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

Maximum update rate (using local FIFO)[2]

1 channel	1 MS/s
8 channels (1 channel per bank)[3]	1 MS/s
32 channels[3]	350 kS/s

Timing accuracy (warranted)	50 ppm of sample rate
Timing resolution	10 ns
Output range	±10 V
Output coupling	DC
Output impedance	0.2 Ω
Output current drive[4]	±10 mA
Overdrive protection	±15 V
Overdrive current	15 mA
Power-on state	±200 mV
Power-on/off glitch	3.0 V peak for 100 ms
FIFO buffer size	65,535 samples shared among channels used
Data transfers	DMA (scatter-gather), programmed I/O

AO waveform modes
- Nonperiodic waveform
- Periodic waveform regeneration mode from onboard FIFO
- Periodic waveform regeneration from host buffer including dynamic update

Settling time, full scale step	15 μs to ±4 LSB
Slew rate	3.0 V/μs
Noise	1.0 mV RMS, DC to 1 MHz

AO update glitch	
Magnitude	3.0 mV
Duration	10 μs
Glitch energy	3 nVs

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[2] These numbers apply to continuous waveform generation using onboard memory only, which allows for the highest update rate by doing a single transfer of data over the bus. The maximum update rate in FIFO mode does not change regardless of the number of devices in the system.

[3] All analog output channels are grouped into banks, as shown in your device pinout. Each bank consists of four AO channels using one DAC. Any channels being used within a single bank will update simultaneously.

[4] Analog output channels are designed for four-quadrant (source and sink) operation.

Channel crosstalk	-65 dB with SHC68-68-A2 cable (generating a 10 V, 100 point sinusoidal at 100 kHz on the reference channel)
Output stability	Any passive load

> **Note** AO update glitch is the glitch energy that occurs on all channels on the same bank as the result of a channel update, regardless of value. For example, if you update the value of AO 0, all channels within that bank AO <0..3> will experience this glitch regardless of whether their output voltages change.

Absolute Accuracy (Warranted)

Absolute accuracy at full-scale number is valid immediately following self calibration and assumes the device is operating within 10 °C of the last external calibration.

Table 1. AO Absolute Accuracy

Nominal Range Positive Full Scale	Nominal Range Negative Full Scale	Residual Gain Error (ppm of Reading)	Gain Tempco (ppm/°C)	Reference Tempco (ppm/°C)	Offset Tempco (ppm)	Residual Offset Error (ppm of Range)	INL Error (ppm of Range)	Absolute Accuracy at Full Scale (µV)
10	-10	109	12	1	4	95	64	2,940

> **Note** Accuracies listed are valid for up to two years from the device external calibration.

AO Absolute Accuracy Equation

AbsoluteAccuracy = OutputValue · (GainError) + Range · (OffsetError)

GainError = ResidualGainError + GainTempco · (TempChangeFromLastInternalCal) + ReferenceTempco · (TempChangeFromLastExternalCal)

OffsetError = ResidualOffsetError + OffsetTempco · (TempChangeFromLastInternalCal) + INL_Error

> **Notice** Electromagnetic interference can adversely affect the measurement accuracy of this product. The analog output pins of this device are not protected for lectromagnetic interference. As a result, this device may experience reduced accuracy or other temporary performance degradation when connected cables are routed in an environment with radiated or conducted radio frequency electromagnetic interference.

Digital I/O/PFI

Static Characteristics

Number of channels	10 total, 2 (P0.<0..1>), 8 (PFI<0..7>/P1.<0..7>)
Ground reference	D GND
Direction control	Each terminal individually programmable as input or output
Pull-down resistor	50 kΩ typical, 20 kΩ minimum
Input voltage protection[5]	±20 V on up to two pins

Waveform Characteristics (Port 0 Only)

Terminals used	Port 0 (P0.<0.1>)
Port/sample size	Up to 2 bits
Waveform generation (DO) FIFO	2,047 samples
Waveform acquisition (DI) FIFO	255 samples
DI Sample Clock Frequency	0 to 10 MHz, system and bus activity dependent
DO Sample Clock frequency	
Regenerate from FIFO	0 to 10 MHz
Streaming from memory	0 to 10 MHz, system and bus activity dependent
Data transfers	DMA (scatter-gather), programmed I/O
Digital line filter settings	160 ns, 10.24 μs, 5.12 ms, disable

PFI/Port 1 Functionality

Functionality	Static digital input, static digital output, timing input, timing output
Timing output sources	Many AI, AO, counter, DI, DO timing signals
Debounce filter settings	90 ns, 5.12 μs, 2.56 ms, custom interval, disable; programmable high and low transitions; selectable per input

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[5] Stresses beyond those listed under Input voltage protection may cause permanent damage to the device.

Recommended Operating Conditions

Input high voltage (V_{IH})	2.2 V minimum, 5.25 V maximum
Input low voltage (V_{IL})	0 V minimum, 0.8 V maximum
Output high current (I_{OH})	
P0.<0..1>	-24 mA maximum
PFI <0..7>/PI<0..7>	-16 mA maximum
Output low current (I_{OL})	
P0.<0..1>	24 mA maximum
PFI <0..7>/P1<0..7>	16 mA maximum

Electrical Characteristics

Level	Minimum	Maximum
Positive-going threshold (VT+)	—	2.2 V
Negative-going threshold (VT-)	0.8 V	—
Delta VT hysteresis (VT+ - VT-)	0.2 V	—
I_{IL} input low current (V_{in} = 0 V)	—	-10 µA
I_{IH} input high current (V_{in} = 5 V)	—	250 µA

Digital I/O Characteristics

Figure 1. P0.<0..1>: I_{OH} versus V_{OH}
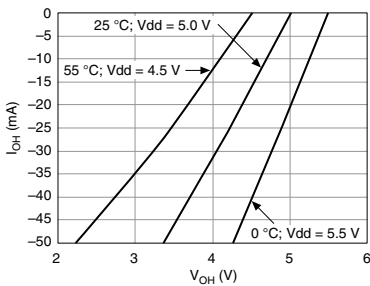
Figure 2. PFI <0..7>/PI: I_{OH} versus V_{OH}
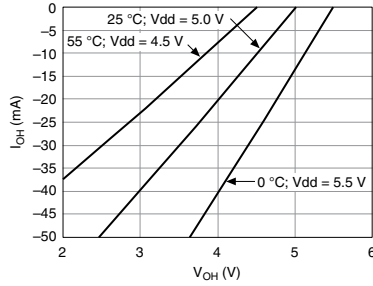
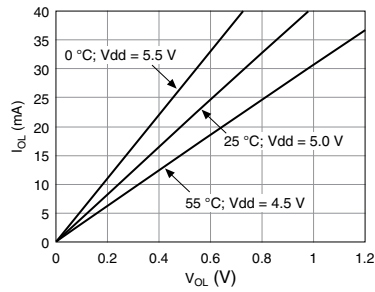**Figure 3.** P0.<0..1>: I_{OL} versus V_{OL}

Figure 4. PFI <0..7>/P1: I_{OL} versus V_{OL}
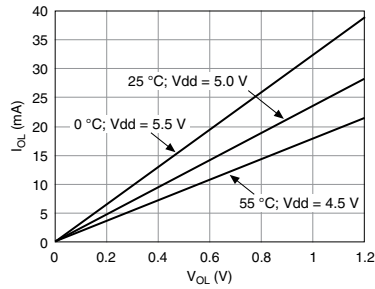
Timing I/O

Number of counter/timers	4
Resolution	32 bits
Counter measurements	Edge counting, pulse, pulse width, semi-period, period, two-edge separation

Position measurements	X1, X2, X4 quadrature encoding with Channel Z reloading; two-pulse encoding
Output applications	Pulse, pulse train with dynamic updates, frequency division, equivalent time sampling
Internal base clocks	100 MHz, 20 MHz, 100 kHz
External base clock frequency	0 MHz to 25 MHz
Base clock accuracy (warranted)	50 ppm
Inputs	Gate, Source, HW_Arm, Aux, A, B, Z, Up_Down, Sample Clock
Routing options for inputs	Any PFI, RTSI, analog trigger, many internal signals
FIFO	127 samples per counter
Data transfers	Dedicated scatter-gather DMA controller for each counter/timer, programmed I/O

Phase-Locked Loop (PLL)

Number of PLLs	1

Table 2. Reference Clock Locking Frequencies

Reference Signal	Locking Input Frequency (MHz)
RTSI <0..7>	10, 20
PFI <0..7>	10, 20

Outside of PLL	100 MHz Timebase; other signals derived from 100 MHz Timebase including 20 MHz and 100 kHz Timebases

External Digital Triggers

Source	Any PFI, RTSI
Polarity	Software-selectable for most signals
Analog output function	Start Trigger, Pause Trigger, Sample Clock, Sample Clock Timebase
Counter/timer functions	Gate, Source, HW_Arm, Aux, A, B, Z, Up_Down, Sample Clock

Digital waveform generation (DO) function	Start Trigger, Pause Trigger, Sample Clock, Sample Clock Timebase
Digital waveform acquisition (DI) function	Start Trigger, Reference Trigger, Pause Trigger, Sample Clock, Sample Clock Timebase

Device-to-Device Trigger Bus

Input source	RTSI <0..7>
Output destination	RTSI <0..7>
Output selections	10 MHz Clock; many internal signals
Debounce filter settings	90 ns, 5.12 µs, 2.56 ms, custom interval, disable; programmable high and low transitions; selectable per input

Bus Interface

Form factor	x4 PCI Express, specification v1.1 compliant
Slot compatibility	x4, x8, and x16 PCI Express slots[6]
DMA channels	7 DMA, analog output, digital input, digital output, counter/timer 0, counter/timer 1, counter/timer 2, counter/timer 3

Power Requirements

⊙ **Notice** The protection provided by the PCIe-6738 can be impaired if it is used in a manner not described in the user documentation.

+3.3 V	3.0 W
+12 V	14.0 W

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[6] Some motherboards reserve the x16 slot for graphics use. For PCI Express guidelines, visit *ni.com/ info* and enter the Info Code `PCIExpress`.

Current Limits

⚠️ **Caution** Exceeding the current limits may cause unpredictable behavior by the device and/or chassis.

+5 V terminal (connector 0)	1 A maximum[7]
P0/P1/PFI terminals combined	1.4 A maximum

Physical

Printed circuit board dimensions	16.8 cm × 11.1 cm (6.60 in. × 4.38 in.)
Weight	110 g (3.8 oz)
I/O connector	1 68-pin VHDCI
Form factor	Standard height, half length, single slot
Integrated air mover (fan)	No

Calibration

Recommended warm-up time	15 minutes
Calibration interval	2 years

Safety Voltages

Connect only voltages that are below these limits.

Channel-to-earth ground	±11 V, Measurement Category I

Measurement Category I is for measurements performed on circuits not directly connected to the electrical distribution system referred to as MAINS voltage. MAINS is a hazardous live electrical supply system that powers equipment. This category is for measurements of voltages from specially protected secondary circuits. Such voltage measurements include signal levels, special equipment, limited-energy parts of equipment, circuits powered by regulated low-voltage sources, and electronics.

⚠️ **Caution** Do not connect the PCIe-6738 to signals or use for measurements within Measurement Categories II, III, or IV.

📝 **Note** Measurement Categories CAT I and CAT O are equivalent. These test and measurement circuits are for other circuits not intended for direct connection to the

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[7] Has a self-resetting fuse that opens when current exceeds this specification.

MAINS building installations of Measurement Categories CAT II, CAT III, or CAT IV.

Environmental

Maximum altitude	2,000 m (800 mbar) (at 25 °C ambient temperature)
Pollution degree	2

Indoor use only.

Note Clean the device with a soft, non-metallic brush. Make sure that the device is completely dry and free from contaminants before returning it to service.

This product meets the requirements of the following environmental standards for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use.

Operating Environment

Operating temperature, local[8]	0 °C to 55 °C (IEC 60068-2-1 and IEC 60068-2-2)
Operating humidity	10% to 90% RH, noncondensing (IEC 60068-2-78)
System slot airflow	0.4 m/s (80 LFM)

Storage Environment

Ambient temperature range	-20 °C to 70 °C (IEC 60068-2-1 and IEC 60068-2-2)
Relative humidity range	5% to 95% RH, noncondensing (IEC 60068-2-78)

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[8] For PCI Express adapter cards with integrated air movers, NI defines the local operational ambient environment to be at the fan inlet. For cards without integrated air movers, NI defines the local operational ambient environment to be 25 mm (1 in.) upstream of the leading edge of the card. For more information about the local operational ambient environment definition for PCI Express adapter cards, visit *ni.com/info* and enter the Info Code `pcielocalambient`.

Safety Compliance Standards

This product is designed to meet the requirements of the following electrical equipment safety standards for measurement, control, and laboratory use:

- IEC 61010-1, EN 61010-1
- UL 61010-1, CSA C22.2 No. 61010-1

Note For UL and other safety certifications, refer to the product label or the *Product Certifications and Declarations* section.

Electromagnetic Compatibility Standards

This product meets the requirements of the following EMC standards for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use:

- EN 61326-1 (IEC 61326-1): Class A emissions; Basic immunity
- EN 55011 (CISPR 11): Group 1, Class A emissions
- AS/NZS CISPR 11: Group 1, Class A emissions
- FCC 47 CFR Part 15B: Class A emissions
- ICES-001: Class A emissions

Note Group 1 equipment (per CISPR 11) is any industrial, scientific, or medical equipment that does not intentionally generate radio frequency energy for the treatment of material or inspection/analysis purposes.

Note In the United States (per FCC 47 CFR), Class A equipment is intended for use in commercial, light-industrial, and heavy-industrial locations. In Europe, Canada, Australia and New Zealand (per CISPR 11) Class A equipment is intended for use only in heavy-industrial locations.

CE Compliance $C\,\epsilon$

This product meets the essential requirements of applicable European Directives, as follows:

- 2014/35/EU; Low-Voltage Directive (safety)
- 2014/30/EU; Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive (EMC)
- 2011/65/EU; Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS)

Product Certifications and Declarations

Refer to the product Declaration of Conformity (DoC) for additional regulatory compliance information. To obtain product certifications and the DoC for NI products, visit *ni.com/certification*, search by model number or product line, and click the appropriate link in the Certification column.

Environmental Management

NI is committed to designing and manufacturing products in an environmentally responsible manner. NI recognizes that eliminating certain hazardous substances from our products is beneficial to the environment and to NI customers.

For additional environmental information, refer to the *Minimize Our Environmental Impact* web page at *ni.com/environment*. This page contains the environmental regulations and directives with which NI complies, as well as other environmental information not included in this document.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

EU Customers At the end of the product life cycle, all NI products must be disposed of according to local laws and regulations. For more information about how to recycle NI products in your region, visit *ni.com/environment/weee*.

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