

Agilent 53131A/132A/181A Counters High-performance, low-cost counters simplify and speed systems and bench frequency measurements

Data Sheet

- 225 MHz bandwidth (optional 1.5, 3, 5, or 12.4 GHz)
- 10- or 12-digit resolution with 1s gate time
- GPIB interface and IntuiLink connectivity software standard
- Data transfer rate of up to 200 fully formatted measurements/second

A family of universal and RF counters to meet your needs

Agilent Technologies 53131A/132A/ 181A high-performance counters give you fast, precise frequency measurements at an affordable price. These counters feature an intuitive user interface and one-button access to frequently used functions so you can make accurate measurements quickly and easily.

Real-time digital signal processing technology is used to analyze data while simultaneously taking new readings, speeding measurement throughput. The technology, developed for Agilent's high-end line of modulation domain analyzers, allows the counters to gather more data for each measurement, so you get higherresolution measurements in a fraction of the time it takes other counters.

The 53131A/132A/181A counters offer built-in statistics and math functions so you can scale measurements and simultaneously measure and



track average, min/max and standard deviation. Automated limit testing lets you set upper and lower limits for any measurement. An analog display mode lets you see at a glance whether a measurement is within pass/fail limits. The counters flag out-of-limit conditions and can generate an output signal to trigger external devices when a limit is exceeded. For quick access to frequently used tests, a single keystroke recalls up to 20 different stored front-panel set-ups.

For computer-controlled systems applications, each counter includes a standard GPIB interface with full SCPI-compatible programmability and a data transfer rate of up to 200 fully formatted measurements per second. The standard RS-232 talk-only interface provides printer support or data transfer to a computer through a terminal-emulation program.

Agilent 53131A Universal Counter

The two-channel 53131A counter offers 10 digits per second of frequency/ period resolution and a bandwidth of 225 MHz. Time interval resolution is specified at 500 ps. An optional third channel provides frequency measurements up to 3 GHz, 5 GHz, or 12.4 GHz. Standard measurements include frequency, period, ratio, time interval, pulse width, rise/fall time, phase angle, duty cycle, totalize, and peak voltage.

Agilent 53132A Universal Counter

For applications requiring higher resolution, the 53132A offers the same features and functions as the 53131A, with up to 12 digits/sec frequency/period resolution and 150 ps time interval resolution. In addition, the 53132A offers advanced arming modes for time interval measurements.

Agilent 53181A RF Counter

Optimized for RF applications, the single-channel 10 digit/s 53181A measures frequency, period and peak voltage. A digit-blanking function lets you easily eliminate unnecessary digits when you want to read measurements quickly. For higher-frequency measurements, choose an optional second channel that provides measurements up to 1.5 GHz, 3 GHz, 5 GHz, or 12.4 GHz. A self-guided shallow menu makes this counter exceptionally easy to use.



Agilent IntuiLink provides easy access to the counter's data from your PC

The Agilent 53131A/132A/181A counters, capture precise frequency and time measurements. IntuiLink software allows that data to be put to work easily. You work in a familiar environment at all times, using PC applications such as Microsoft Excel® or Word® to analyze, interpret, display, print, and document the data you get from the counter. It gives you the flexibility to configure and run tests from your PC making data gathering more convenient.

Agilent IntuiLink lets you:

- configure tests, including measurement type, number of readings, measurement speed, and more.
- choose display modes from real-time strip chart, histogram, readout, and table mode.
- scale measurements data.
- copy captured data to other programs.

Optional timebases offer increased stability

Optional timebases are available for 53131A/132A/181A counters to increase measurement accuracy. Option 010 provides a high stability oven timebase with aging of less than $5 \ge 10^{-10}$ per day.

1-year warranty

Each counter comes with operating, programming and service manuals, IntuiLink software, a power cord and a full 1-year warranty.

Time Base

Internal Time Base Stability (see graph 3 for timebase contribution of measurement error)

		Standard (0° to 50° C)	Medium Oven (Option 001)	High Oven (Option 010)	Ultra High Oven (Option 012 for 53132A only)
Temperature Stab	ility (referenced to 25°C)	< 5 x 10 ⁻⁶	< 2 x 10 ⁻⁷	< 2.5 x 10 ⁻⁹	< 2.5 x 10 ⁻⁹
Aging Rate (after 30 days)	Per Day: Per Month: Per Year:	< 3 x 10 ^{.7}	< 4 x 10 ⁻⁸ < 2 x 10 ⁻⁷	< 5 x 10 ⁻¹⁰ < 1.5 x 10 ⁻⁸	< 1 x 10 ⁻¹⁰ < 3 x 10 ⁻⁹ < 2 x 10 ⁻⁸
Turn-on stability v (in 30 minutes)	/s. time		< 2 x 10 ^{.7} referenced to 2 Hr	< 5 x 10 ^{.9} referenced to 24 Hr	< 5 x 10 ^{.9} referenced to 24 Hr
Calibration		Manual Adjust	Electronic	Electronic	Electronic

Note that power to the time base is maintained when the counter is placed in standby via the front panel switch. The internal fan will continue to operate when in standby to maintain long-term measurement reliability.

Instrument Inputs Input Specifications Channel 1 & 2 (53131A, 53132A)¹ Channel 1 (53181A)

Frequency Range

dc Coupled	dc to 225 MHz
ac Coupled	1 MHz to 225 MHz (50 Ω)
	30 Hz to 225 MHz (1 M Ω)
FM Tolerance	25%

Voltage Range and Sensitivity (Sinusoid)²

dc to 100 MHz 100 MHz to 200 MHz	20 mVrms to ±5 V ac + dc 30 mVrms to ±5 V ac + dc
	40 mVrms to ±5 V ac + dc
	(all specified at 75 mVrms with opt. rear connectors) ³

Voltage Range and Sensitivity (Single-Shot Pulse)²

4.5 ns to 10 ns	
Pulse Width	100 mVpp to 10 Vpp
	(150 mVpp with optional
	rear connectors) ³
>10 ns Pulse Width	50 mVpp to 10 Vpp
	(100 mVpp with optional
	rear connectors) ³

Trigger Level²

Range	± 5.125 V
Accuracy	± (15 mV + 1% of trigger
	level)
Resolution	5 mV

Damage Level

50 Ω	5 Vrms
0 to 3.5 kHz, 1 MΩ	350 Vdc + ac pk
3.5 kHz to 100 kHz,	
1 MΩ	350 Vdc + ac pk linearly
	derated to 5 Vrms
>100 kHz, 1 MΩ	5 Vrms

Input Characteristics Channel 1 & 2 (53131A, 53132A)¹ Channel 1 (53181A)

$1M\Omega$ or 50Ω
30 pF
ac or dc
100 kHz, switchable
-20 dB at > 1 MHz
Selectable between Low,
Medium, or High (default).
Low is approximately 2x
High Sensitivity.

1. Specifications and Characteristics for Channels 1 and 2 are identical for both common and separate configurations.

 Values shown are for X1 attenuator setting. Multiply all values by 10 (nominal) when using the X10 attenuator setting.

3. When the 53131A or 53132A are ordered with the optional rear terminals (Opt. 060), the channel 1 and 2 inputs are active on both front and rear of the counter. When the 53181A is ordered with the optional rear terminal, the channel 1 input is active on both front and rear of the counter. For this condition, specifications indicated for the rear connections also apply to the front connections.

Trigger Slope	Positive or Negative
Auto Trigger Level	
Range	0 to 100% in 10% steps
Frequency	> 100 Hz
Input Amplitude	> 100 mVpp
	(No amplitude modulation)
Attenuator	
Voltage Range	x10
Trigger Range	x10
	A. 53132A)
Channel 3 (53131 Channel 2 (53181 Frequency Range	. ,
Channel 2 (53181 Frequency Range Option 015	A) 100 MHz to 1.5 GHz
Channel 2 (53181 Frequency Range	A) 100 MHz to 1.5 GHz (see Opt. 030 for addi-
Channel 2 (53181 Frequency Range Option 015 (for 53181A only)	A) 100 MHz to 1.5 GHz (see Opt. 030 for addi- tional specs)
Channel 2 (53181 Frequency Range Option 015 (for 53181A only) Option 030	A) 100 MHz to 1.5 GHz (see Opt. 030 for addi-
Channel 2 (53181 Frequency Range Option 015 (for 53181A only)	A) 100 MHz to 1.5 GHz (see Opt. 030 for addi- tional specs) 100 MHz to 3 GHz
Channel 2 (53181 Frequency Range Option 015 (for 53181A only) Option 030 Option 050 Option 124	A) 100 MHz to 1.5 GHz (see Opt. 030 for addi- tional specs) 100 MHz to 3 GHz 200 MHz to 5 GHz
Channel 2 (53181 Frequency Range Option 015 (for 53181A only) Option 030 Option 050 Option 124	A) 100 MHz to 1.5 GHz (see Opt. 030 for addi- tional specs) 100 MHz to 3 GHz 200 MHz to 5 GHz 200 MHz to 12.4 GHz
Channel 2 (53181 Frequency Range Option 015 (for 53181A only) Option 030 Option 050 Option 124 Power Range and S	A) 100 MHz to 1.5 GHz (see Opt. 030 for addi- tional specs) 100 MHz to 3 GHz 200 MHz to 5 GHz 200 MHz to 12.4 GHz Sensitivity (Sinusoid)
Channel 2 (53181 Frequency Range Option 015 (for 53181A only) Option 030 Option 050 Option 124 Power Range and S	A) 100 MHz to 1.5 GHz (see Opt. 030 for addi- tional specs) 100 MHz to 3 GHz 200 MHz to 5 GHz 200 MHz to 12.4 GHz Sensitivity (Sinusoid) 100 MHz to 2.7 GHz:
Channel 2 (53181 Frequency Range Option 015 (for 53181A only) Option 030 Option 050 Option 124 Power Range and S Option 030	A) 100 MHz to 1.5 GHz (see Opt. 030 for addi- tional specs) 100 MHz to 3 GHz 200 MHz to 5 GHz 200 MHz to 12.4 GHz Sensitivity (Sinusoid) 100 MHz to 2.7 GHz: -27 dBm to +19 dBm 2.7 GHz to 3 GHz: -21 dBm to +13 dBm
Channel 2 (53181 Frequency Range Option 015 (for 53181A only) Option 030 Option 050 Option 124 Power Range and S	A) 100 MHz to 1.5 GHz (see Opt. 030 for addi- tional specs) 100 MHz to 3 GHz 200 MHz to 5 GHz 200 MHz to 12.4 GHz Censitivity (Sinusoid) 100 MHz to 2.7 GHz: -27 dBm to +19 dBm 2.7 GHz to 3 GHz: -21 dBm to +13 dBm 200 MHz to 5 GHz:
Channel 2 (53181 Frequency Range Option 015 (for 53181A only) Option 030 Option 050 Option 020 Option 030 Option 030	A) 100 MHz to 1.5 GHz (see Opt. 030 for addi- tional specs) 100 MHz to 3 GHz 200 MHz to 5 GHz 200 MHz to 12.4 GHz Censitivity (Sinusoid) 100 MHz to 2.7 GHz: -27 dBm to +19 dBm 2.7 GHz to 3 GHz: -21 dBm to +13 dBm 200 MHz to 5 GHz: -23 dBm to +13 dBm
Channel 2 (53181 Frequency Range Option 015 (for 53181A only) Option 030 Option 050 Option 124 Power Range and S Option 030	A) 100 MHz to 1.5 GHz (see Opt. 030 for addi- tional specs) 100 MHz to 3 GHz 200 MHz to 5 GHz 200 MHz to 12.4 GHz Censitivity (Sinusoid) 100 MHz to 2.7 GHz: -27 dBm to +19 dBm 2.7 GHz to 3 GHz: -21 dBm to +13 dBm 200 MHz to 5 GHz:

under ordering info on page 8. There is no degradation in specifications for this input, as applicable.

Damage Level

Characteristics		
Option 124	+25 dBm	
Option 050	+25 dBm	
Option 030	5 Vrms	

Impedance	50 Ω
Coupling	AC
VSWR	<2.5:1

External Arm Input Specifications⁵

Signal Input Range TTL Compatible

Timing Restrictions

Damage Level	10 Vrms	
Pulse Width Transition Time Start-to-Stop Time	> 50 ns < 250 ns > 50 ns	
		_
		_

External Arm Input Characteristics⁵

Impedance	1 kΩ
Input Capacitance	17 pF
Start/Stop Slope	Positive or Negative

External Time Base Input Specifications

Voltage Range	200 mVrms to 10 Vrms
Damage Level	10 Vrms
Frequency	1 MHz, 5 MHz, and
	10 MHz
	(53132A 10 MHz only)

Time Base Output Specifications

Output Frequency	10 MHz
Voltage	> 1 Vpp into 50 Ω
	(centered around 0 V)

Measurement Specifications Frequency (53131A, 53132A, 53181A)

Channel 1 and 2 (53131, 53132); Channel 1 (53181)

Range	0.1 Hz to 225 MHz
Channel 3 (53131A, 53	3132A) Channel 2 (53181A)
Option 015 (53181only)	100 MHz to 1.5 GHz
Option 030	100 MHz to 3 GHz
Option 050	200 MHz to 5 GHz
Option 124	200 MHz to 12.4 GHz
Period 2 or 3 selectab	le via GPIR only)

Period (53131, 53132, 53181)

Channel 1 and 2 (53131, 53132); Channel 1 (53181)

Range	4.44 ns to 10 s
Channel 3 (53131/	A, 53132A); Channel 2 (53181A)

Option 015 (53181 onl	y) 0.66 ns to 10 ns
Option 030	0.33 ns to 10 ns
Option 050	0.2 ns to 5 ns
Option 124	80 ps to 5 ns

Frequency Ratio (53131, 53132, 53181)

Measurement is specified over the full signal range of each input. 10⁻¹⁰ to 10¹¹ **Results Range**

"Auto" Gate Time 100 ms

Available for all measurements except Peak Volts. 5. External Arm is referred to as External Gate for some measurements.

For Automatic or External Arming: (and signals < 100 Hz using Timed Arming) Frequency LSD Displayed: or Period Gate Time $\sqrt{t^2_{res} + 2 \times Trigger Error^2}$ Frequency **RMS Resolution:** or Gate Time Period 53131A t_{res} 53181A t_{res} 53132A t_{res} 650 ps typical 200 ps 650 ps see graphs for worst case resolution performance Ν For Automatic Arming: Gate Time = Frequency where N = 1 for standard channel Frequency < 1 MHz4 for standard channel Frequency > 1 MHz 128 for optional channel Frequency t_{acc} Systematic Uncertainty: ± Time Base Error ± or Period Gate Time 53181A t_{acc} 53132A t_{acc} 53131A t_{acc} typical 350 ps 100 ps 350 ps worst case 1.25 ns 500 ps 1.25 ns

Trigger: Default setting is Auto Trigger at 50%

For Time or Digits Arming:

LSD Display	red: $\left(\frac{1}{Gate}\right)$	2γ Time $ imes \sqrt{Nt}$	2×t _{res} Imber of Sam	ples +-	t _{jitter} Gate Tin	$\left(\frac{1}{ne}\right) \times F$	requency or Period
RMS Resolu (see graph 2	$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{tion} \\ \textbf{2} \textbf{):} \end{array} \left(\frac{4}{Gat} \right)$	$ imes \sqrt{t^2_{res} + t^2}$ e Time $ imes \sqrt{N}$?×Trigger Eri lumber of Sar	ror ²) mples +	t _{jitte} Gate T	r ïme) ×	Frequency or Period
	53131A	/181A	5313	2A			
	t _{res}	t _{jitter}	5313 t _{res} 225 ps	t _{jitter}			
typical	500 ps	50 ps	225 ps	3 ps			
			n performand				
Number of S			Frequency (200,000 (,	
Systematic	Uncertaint	$ty: = \left(\pm Time B \right)$	ase Error±–	t _{acc} Gate Tim	$\left(\frac{1}{e}\right) \times e^{i\theta}$	Frequenc or Period	У
5	53131A/18	1A	53132A	1			
	t _{acc}		t _{acc}				
typical	100 ps		10 ps				
worst case	300 ps		100 ps				
Trigger: Defa	ault setting	ı is Auto Trig	ger at 50%				3

Time Interval (53131A, 53132A)

Measurement is specified over the full signal ranges⁶ of Channels 1 and 2.

Results Range	-1 ns to 10 ⁵ s
LSD	500 ps (53131)/ 150 ps (53132)

Phase (53131A, 53132A)

Measurement is specified over the full signal range of Channels 1 and 2.

Results Range	-180° to +360°
---------------	----------------

Duty Cycle (53131A, 53132A)

Measurement is specified over the full signal range of Channel 1. However, both the positive and negative pulse widths must be greater than 4 ns.

Results Range	0 to 1 (e.g. 50% duty cycle
	would be displayed as .5)

6. See Specifications for Pulse Width and Rise/Fall Time measurements for additional restrictions on signal timing characteristics

Rise/Fall Time (53131A, 53132A)

Measurement is specified over the full signal ranges of Channel 1. The interval between the end of one edge and start of a similar edge must be greater than 4 ns.

Edge Selection	Positive or Negative	
Trigger	Default setting is Auto Trigger at 10% and 90%	
Results Range	5 ns to 10⁵ s	

Pulse Width (53131A, 53132A)

Measurement is specified over the full signal range of Channel 1. The width of the opposing pulse must be greater than 4 ns.

Pulse Selection	Positive or Negative
Trigger	Default setting is Auto Trigger at 50%
Results Range	5 ns to 10 ⁵ s
LSD	500 ps (53131)/150 ps (53132)

Totalize (53131A, 53132A)

Measurement is specified over the full signal range of Channel 1.

Results Range	0 to 10 ¹⁵
Resolution	±1 count

Peak Volts (53131A, 53132A, 53181A)

Measurement is specified on Channels 1 and 2 for dc signals; or for ac signals of frequencies between 100 Hz and 30 MHz with peak-to-peak amplitude greater than 100 mV.

Results Range	-5.1 V to +5.1 V
Resolution	10 mV
Peak Volts Systematic Uncertainty	

for ac signals: 25 mV + 10% of V for dc signals: 25 mV + 2% of V Use of the input attenuator multiplies all voltage specifications (input range, results range, resolution and systematic uncertainty) by a nominal factor of 10.

Time Interval, Pulse Width, Rise/Fall Time (53131 and 53132 only):

RMS Resolution: $\sqrt{(t_{res})^2 + Start Trigger Error^2 + Stop Trigger Error^2}$

Systematic Uncertainty:

 \pm (Time Base Error \times Measurement) \pm Trigger Level Timing Error \pm 1.5 ns Differential Channel Error (53131A) \pm (Time Base Error \times Measurement) \pm Trigger Level Timing Error \pm 900 ps Differential Channel Error (53132A) where t_{res} = 750 ps for the 53131A, 300 ps for the 53132A

Frequency Ratio: $\frac{Ch1}{Ch2}$, $\frac{Ch1}{Ch3}$, $\frac{Ch2}{Ch1}$, $\frac{Ch3}{Ch1}$ (53131A and 53132A) $\frac{Ch1}{Ch2}$, $\frac{Ch2}{Ch1}$ (53181A)
LSD: Ratio $\frac{1}{2}$: $\frac{1}{Ch2 Freq \times Gate Time}$ Ratio $\frac{2}{1}$: $\frac{Ch2 Freq}{(Ch1 Freq)^2 \times Gate Time}$
RMS Resolution: Ratio $\frac{1}{2}$: $\frac{2 \times \sqrt{1 + (Ch1 Freq \times Ch2 Trigger Error)^2}}{Ch2 Freq \times Gate Time}$
Ratio $\frac{2}{1}$: $\frac{2 \times Ch2 \operatorname{Freq} \times \sqrt{1 + (Ch1 \operatorname{Freq} \times Ch2 \operatorname{Trigger Error})^2}}{(Ch1 \operatorname{Freq})^2 \times Gate \operatorname{Time}}$

For measurements using Ch3, substitute Ch3 for Ch2 in these equations. To minimize relative phase measurement error, connect the higher frequency signal to channel 1.

Systematic Uncertainty: ± 2x resolution

Phase (53131 and 53132)

RMS Resolution: $\sqrt{\left((t_{res})^2 + (2 \times Trigger Error^2)\right)} \times \left(1 + \left(\frac{Phase}{360^\circ}\right)^2\right) \times Frequency \times 360^\circ$

Systematic Uncertainty:

(± Trigger Level Timing Error ± 1.5 ns Differential Channel Error) × Frequency × 360 ° (53131) (± Trigger Level Timing Error ± 900 ps Differential Channel Error) × Frequency × 360 ° (53132)

Duty Cycle (53131 and 53132)

RMS Resolution: $\sqrt{((T_{res})^2 + (2 \times Trigger Error^2)) + (1 + Duty Cycle^2) \times Frequency}$

t_{res} <u>53131A 53132A</u> 750 ps 300 ps

4

Gate Time

Measu

GPIB AS

Measu

	Auto Mode, or 1 ms to 1000 s
rement Thro SCII	bughput 200 measurements/s (maximum)
rement Arming easurement Free Run. Manual. or	

Start Measurement Free Run, Manual, or External Stop Measurement Continuous, Single, External, or Timed Time Interval 100 µs to 10 s (53131A) Delayed Arming 100 ns to 10 s (53132A)

Arming Modes

(Note that not all arming modes are available for every measurement function.)

Auto Arming: Measurements are initiated immediately and acquired as fast as possible, using a minimum number of signal edges.

Timed Arming: The duration of the measurement is internally timed to a user-specified value (also known as the "gate time").

Digits Arming: Measurements are performed to the requested resolution (number of digits) through automatic selection of the acquisition time.

External Arming: An edge on the External Arm Input enables the start of each measurement. Auto Arming, Timed arming modes or another edge on the External Arm Input may be used to complete the measurement.

Time Interval Delayed Arming: For Time Interval measurements, the Stop Trigger condition is inhibited for a user-specified time following the Start Trigger. The 53132A offers advanced time interval arming capabilities including use of user specified time or Channel 2 events to delay both Start and Stop Triggers.

Measurement Limits

Limit Checking: The measurement value is checked against user-specified limits at the end of each measurement.

Display Modes: The measurement result may be displayed as either the traditional numeric value or graphically as an asterisk moving between two vertical bars.

Out-of-Limits Indications:

- The limits annunciator will light on the front panel display.
- The instrument will generate an SRQ if enabled via GPIB.
- The limits hardware signal provided via the RS-232 connector will go low for the duration of the out-of-limit condition.
- If the Analog Display mode is enabled, the asterisk appears outside the vertical bars, which define the upper and lower limits.

Fractional Time Base Error (see graph 3)

Time base error is the maximum fractional frequency variation of the time base due to aging or fluctuations in ambient temperature or line voltage:

Time Base Error =
$$\left(\frac{\Delta f}{f} aging rate + \frac{\Delta f}{f} temperature + \frac{\Delta f}{f} line voltage\right)$$

Multiply this quantity by the measurement result to yield the absolute error for that measurement. Averaging measurements will not reduce (fractional) time base error. The counters exhibit negligible sensitivity to line voltage; consequently the line voltage term may be ignored.

Trigger Error

External source and input amplifier noise may advance or delay the trigger points that define the beginning and end of a measurement. The resulting timing uncertainty is a function of the slew rate of the signal and the amplitude of spurious noise spikes (relative to the input hysteresis band). The (rms) trigger error associated with a single trigger point is:

Trigger Error =
$$\frac{\sqrt{(E_{input})^2 + (E_{signal})^2}}{Input Signal Slew Rate at Trigger Point}$$
 (in seconds)

where

 E_{input} = RMS noise of the input amplifier: 1 mVrms (350µVrms Typical). Note that the internal measurement algorithms significantly reduce the contribution of this term.

*E*_{signal} = RMS noise of the input signal over a 225 MHz bandwidth (100 kHz bandwidth when the low-pass filter is enabled). Note that the filter may substantially degrade the signal's slew rate at the input of the trigger comparator.

For two-trigger-point measurements (e.g. Rise Time, Pulse Width), the Trigger Errors will be referred to independently as Start Trigger Error and Stop Trigger Error.

Trigger Level Timing Error (see graph 6)

Trigger level timing error results from a deviation of the actual trigger level from the specified level. The magnitude of this error depends on resolution and accuracy of the trigger level circuit, input amplifier fidelity, input signal slew rate, and width of the input hysteresis band.

The following equations should be summed together to obtain the overall Trigger Level Timing Error. At the "High" sensitivity input setting, the hysteresis band can be assumed to be the sensitivity of the counter input (see page 2). Reduction of input sensitivity or use of the attenuator will increase the size of

this band.	0.5 x Hysteresis Band		0.5 x Hysteresis Band
Input Hysteresis Error:	Input Signal Slew Rate at Start Trigger Point _	Ī	Input Signal Slew Rate at Stop Trigger Point
	15 mV±(1% x Start Trigger Level Setting)		15 mV±(1% x Stop Trigger Level Setting)
Trigger Level Setting Error:	± Input Signal Slew Rate at Start Trigger Point	±	Input Signal Slew Rate at Stop Trigger Point

Differential Channel Error

The differential channel error term stated in several Systematic Uncertainty equations accounts for channel-to-channel mismatch and internal noise. This error can be substantially reduced by performing a TI calibration (accessible via the Utility Menu) in the temperature environment in which future measurements will be made.

Graph 1: Agilent 53131A/181A–Worst Case RMS **Resolution**⁷

(Automatic or External Arming)

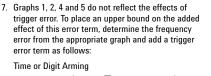
The graphs may also be used to compute errors for Period Measurements. To find the Period error (DP), calculate the frequency of the input signal (F = 1/P) and find the frequency error (DF) from the chart.

Then calculate the period error as:

$$\Delta P = \left(\frac{\Delta F}{F}\right) \times P$$

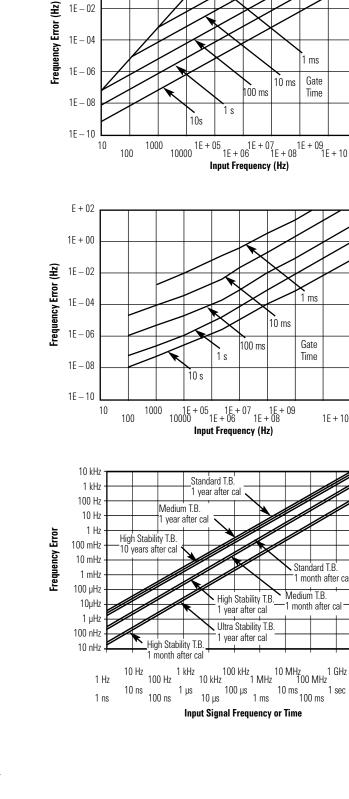
Graph 2: Agilent 53131A/181A–Worst Case RMS **Resolution**⁷ (Time or Digits Arming)





 $\left(\frac{4\times\sqrt{2}\times\text{Trigger Error}}{\text{Gate Time }\times\sqrt{\text{Number of Samples}}}\right)$ Frequency Freauency Error + Period Automatic or External Arming

Frequency $\left(\frac{\sqrt{2} \times \text{Trigger Error}}{\sqrt{2}}\right)$ Frequency Error + or Period Gate Time



1E + 02

1E + 00

1E - 02

1E - 04

Auto Armed

ms

Gate

Time

1 ms

Gate

Time

Standard T.B.

1 month after cal

Medium T.B.

1 month after cal

1E + 10

10 µs

1 µs

100 ns

10 ns

1 ns

100 ps

10 ps

1 ps **Fro** 100 fs

10 fs

1 fs

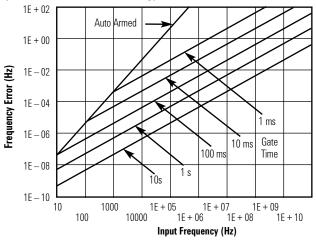
100 as

10 as

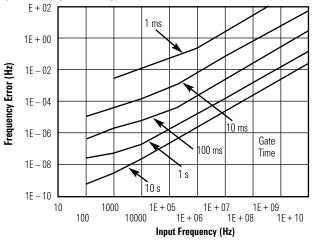
10 ms

10 ms

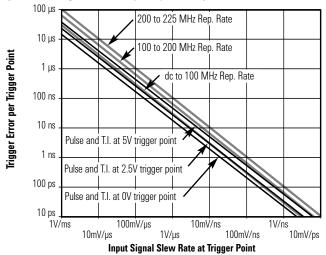
Graph 4: Agilent 53132A–Worst Case RMS Resolution⁷ (Automatic or External Arming)



Graph 5: Agilent 53132A–Worst Case RMS Resolution⁷ (Time or Digits Arming)



Graph 6: Trigger Level Timing Error (Level Setting Error and Input Hysteresis)



Measurement Statistics

Available Statistics	Mean, Minimum, Maximum, Standard Deviation
Number of Measurements	2 to 1,000,000. Statistics may be collected on all measurements or on only those which are between the limit bands. When the Limits function is used in conjunction with Statistics, N (numbe of measurements) refers to the number of in-limit measurement resolution will improve in proportion to N, up to the numerical processing limits of the instrument.
Measurements	Statistics may be collected for all measurements except Peak Volts and Totalize.

Up to 20 complete instrument setups may be saved and recalled later. These setups are retained when power is removed from the counter.

Rack Dimensions (HxWxD)	88.5 mm x 212.6 mm x 348.3 mm
Weight	3.5 kg maximum
Warranty	1 year
Power Supply	$\begin{array}{c} 100 \ to \ 120 \ VAC \pm 10\% \ -50, \\ 60 \ or \ 400 \ Hz \pm 10\% \ 220 \\ to \ 240 \ VAC \pm 10\% \ -50 \\ or \ 60 \ Hz \pm 10\% \end{array}$
ac Line Selection	Automatic
Power Requirements	170 VA maximum (30 W typical)
Environment	0° C to 55° C operating –40° C to 71° C storage
Remote Interface	GPIB (IEEE 488.1-1987, IEEE 488.2-1987)
Remote Programming Language	SCPI-1992.0 (Standard Commands for Programmable Instruments)
Safety	Designed in compliance with IEC-1010, UL-3111-1 (draft), CAN/CSA 1010.1
EMC	CISPR-11, EN50082-1, IEC 801-2, -3, -4
Radiated Immunity Testing	When the product is operated at maximum sensitivity (20 mVrms) and tested at 3 V/m according to IEC 801-3, external 100 to 200 MHz electric fields may cause frequency miscounts.

Ordering Information

53131A 10 digit/s, 500 ps Universal Counter 53132A 12 digit/s, 150 ps Universal Counter 53181A 10-digit/s RF Counter

Accessories Included

Each counter comes with IntuiLink software, standard timebase, power cord, operating, programming and service manuals.

Manual Options

(please specify one w	hen ordering)
ABA US English	

ABDGermanABESpanishABFFrenchABJJapaneseABZItalianAB0Taiwan ChineseAB1KoreanAB2Chinese

Other Options

- Opt. 001 Medium-stability timebase
- Opt. 010 High-stability timebase
- **Opt. 012** Ultra-high stability timebase
- (53132A only)
- **Opt. 015** 1.5 GHz RF input Ch 2 for 53181A only
- Opt. 030 3 GHz RF input Ch 3 (Ch 2 on 53181A) Opt. 050 5 GHz RF input with type N connector Ch 3 (Ch 2 on 53181A)
- Opt. 124 12.4 GHz RF input with type N connector Ch 3 (Ch 2 on 53181A)
- Opt. 060 Rear-panel connectors*
- **Opt. 0B0** Delete manual set
- **Opt. A6J** ANSI Z540 compliant calibration
- Opt. 1CM Rack mount kit (P/N 5063-9240)**

*Opt 060 Configuration Table

53131/132	
Ch1 & Ch2	front & rear (in parallel)
Ch3	Opt. 030 rear only, front plugged
Ch3	Opt. 050/124 front only
Ch2	Opt. 050/124 front only
53181	
Ch1	front & rear (in parallel)
Ch2	Opt. 015/030 rear only, front plugged
Ch2	Opt. 050/124 front only

** For racking two side-by-side, order both Lock-link Kit (P/N 5061-9694) and Flange Kit (P/N 5063-9212)

Accessories

34131A Hard carrying case 34161A Accessory pouch

Microsoft is a U.S. registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation.

Agilent Email Updates

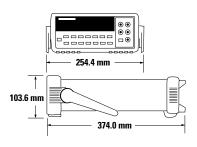
www.agilent.com/find/emailupdates

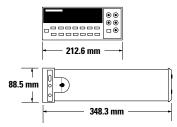
Get the latest information on the products and applications you select.

Agilent T&M Software and Connectivity

Agilent's Test and Measurement software and connectivity products, solutions and developer network allows you to take time out of connecting your instruments to your computer with tools based on PC standards, so you can focus on your tasks, not on your connections.

Visit www.agilent.com/find/connectivity for more information.





Agilent Technologies' Test and Measurement Support, Services, and Assistance

Agilent Technologies aims to maximize the value you receive, while minimizing your risk and problems. We strive to ensure that you get the test and measurement capabilities you paid for and obtain the support you need. Our extensive support resources and services can help you choose the right Agilent products for your applications and apply them successfully. Every instrument and system we sell has a global warranty. Two concepts underlie Agilent's overall support policy: "Our Promise" and "Your Advantage."

Our Promise

Our Promise means your Agilent test and measurement equipment will meet its advertised performance and functionality. When you are choosing new equipment, we will help you with product information, including realistic performance specifications and practical recommendations from experienced test engineers. When you receive your new Agilent equipment, we can help verify that it works properly, and help with initial product operation.

Your Advantage

Your Advantage means that Agilent offers a wide range of additional expert test and measurement services, which you can purchase according to your unique technical and business needs. Solve problems efficiently and gain a competitive edge by contracting with us for calibration, extra-cost upgrades, out-of-warranty repairs, and onsite education and training, as well as design, system integration, project management, and other professional engineering services. Experienced Agilent engineers and technicians worldwide can help you maximize your productivity, optimize the return on investment of your Agilent instruments and systems, and obtain dependable measurement accuracy for the life of those products.

Get assistance with all your test and measurement needs at:

www.agilent.com/find/assist

Agilent's IO Libraries Suite ships with the 53131A/132A/181A to help you quickly establish an error-free connection between your PC and instruments-regardless of the vendor. It provides robust instrument control and works with the software development environment you choose.

For additional description of Agilent's IO Libraries Suite features and installation requirements, please go to:

www.agilent.com/find/iosuite-datasheet

Product specifications and descriptions in this document subject to change without notice.

© Agilent Technologies, Inc. 1998, 2000, 2005 Printed in the U.S.A. March 14, 2005 5967-6039EN

