



# Agilent 81180B Arbitrary Waveform Generator

Data Sheet  
1.2



Set up complex real-world signals with  
up to 4.6-GSa/s arbitrary waveforms and  
12-bit vertical resolution

*Anticipate — Accelerate — Achieve*



**Agilent Technologies**

## 81180B at a glance

- 10 MSa/s to 4.6-GSa/s sample clock control, 2 GHz IQ modulation bandwidth and 12 bit vertical resolution
- 2 channel, coupled or uncoupled
- Two 2-channel systems can be synchronized to form a 4-channel system
- Interchannel skew control from  $-3$  ns to  $+3$  ns with 10-ps resolution
- Three software-selectable amplifiers optimized for
  - I/Q applications with 1 GHz, differential DC-coupled output
  - Maximum bandwidth and flatness for direct RF applications with AC output bandwidth to  $> 1.5$  GHz
  - Time domain applications with low overshoot and jitter
- 16 M points or 64 M points per channel
- 8-bit external input for dynamic control of segments and sequences
- Advanced sequencing scenarios define stepping, looping and conditional jumps of waveforms or waveform sequences for best memory usage
- Smart trigger allows trigger hold-off and programmable pulse width
- Trigger input is programmed to wait for waveform end or abort waveform and restart
- Two markers for each channel have controlled marker positions, widths and levels
- Markers do not reduce DAC bits
- Internal flash memory stores settings and waveforms
- Remote control through LAN, USB and GPIB
- Waveforms and instrument settings can be uploaded from disk-on-key
- Integration in
  - MATLAB
  - NI LabVIEW
  - Agilent BenchLink Waveform Builder Pro

The 81180B arbitrary waveform generator offers convenient features that make your test easier

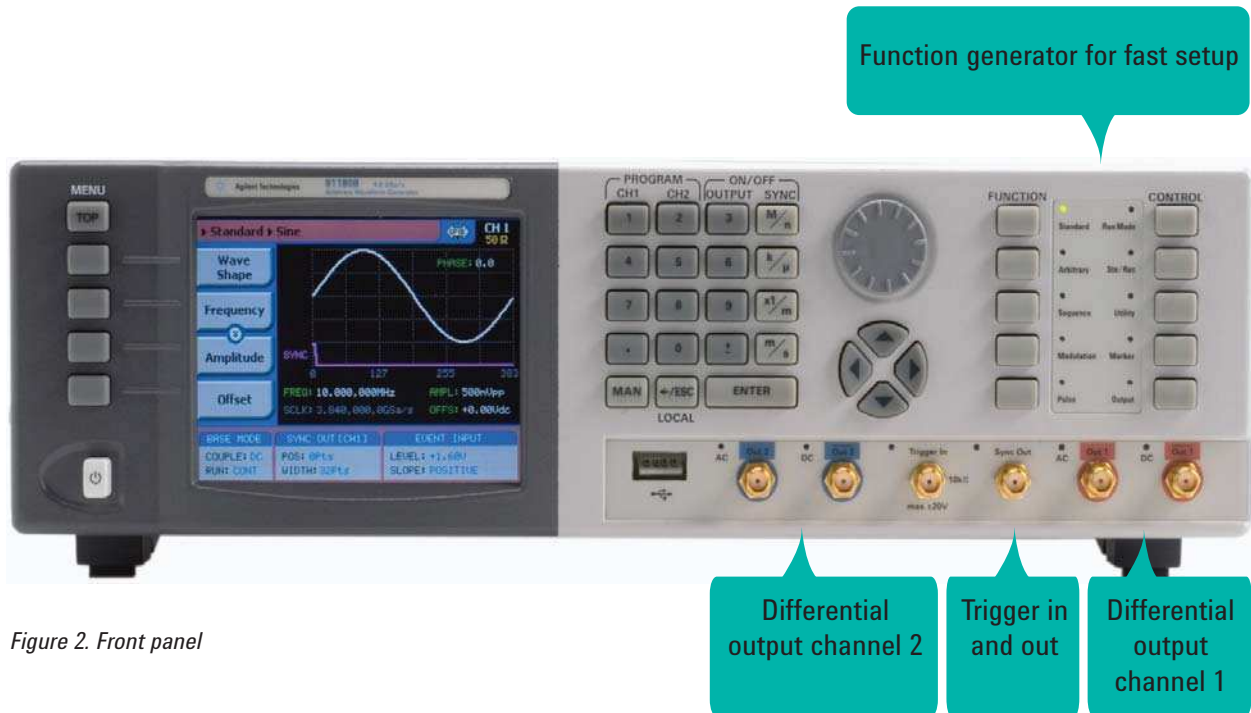


Figure 2. Front panel

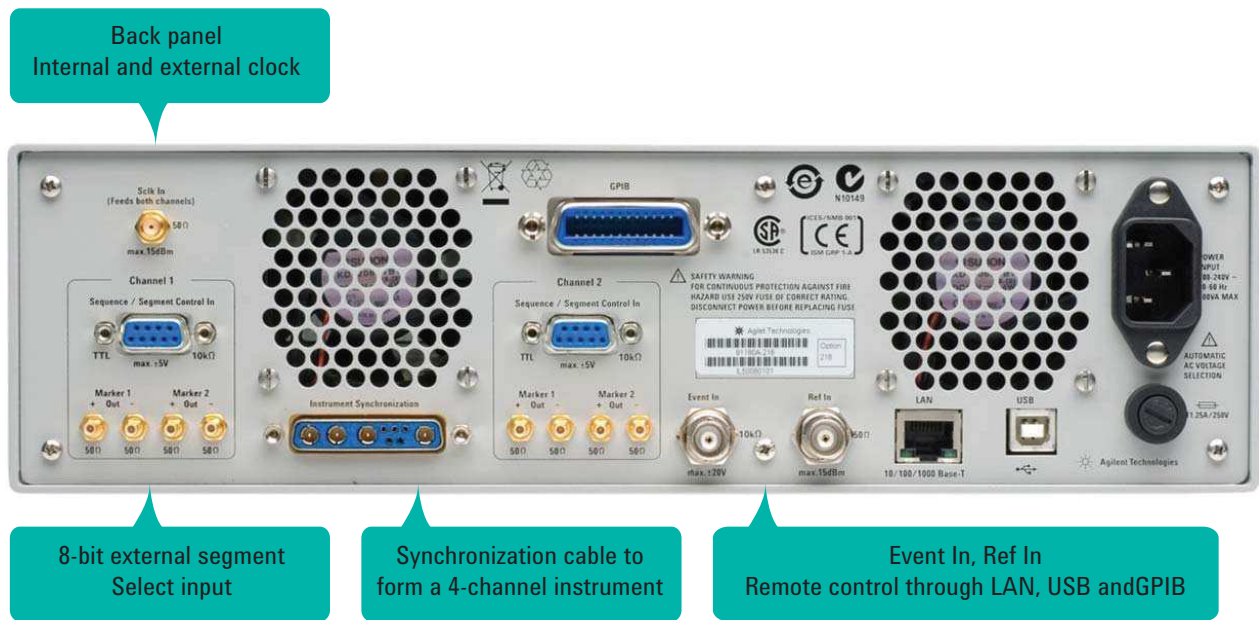


Figure 3. Back panel

## Overcome your test challenges with the 81180B arbitrary waveform generator

Electronic devices continue to grow increasingly complex, and the demand for higher performance never ends. In addition, you are under pressure to reduce test times and tighten specifications.

The complexity of modern wireless systems skyrockets when you use techniques like digital modulation that compress wireless data to use bandwidth more efficiently. Test accuracy and repeatability are critical. In radar applications, a higher range helps you detect targets further out, and increased accuracy helps you better track targets. Range is proportional to the length of a pulse, so parameters like pulse length and pulse repetition frequency influence the radar range and range resolution. You need to be able to verify the performance of your radar system.

Commercial off-the-shelf waveform packages are seldom available for devices under test used in aerospace and defense applications, so testing system performance is challenging. To test your DUTs to their limits, you need flexible stimulus generating capability for any signal you can imagine.

## New high-bandwidth, high-resolution arbitrary waveform generator helps you test with confidence

The Agilent 81180B arbitrary waveform generator provides 4.6 GSa/s, 2 GHz IQ modulation bandwidth and 12-bit vertical resolution for applications where waveform resolution is an issue.

Data-centric warfare requires real-time data and video communication. Satellite designers are pushed to use bandwidth greater than 1 GHz bandwidth.

In addition, these bandwidths need to be available at higher carrier frequencies up to 44 GHz. New emerging standards call for up conversion up to 60 GHz.

These setups require a reliable and precise modulation source. Any signal distortion gets multiplied by each of the test instruments, making it difficult to pinpoint a DUT failure. When the foundation for your signals is more precise, your test results are more meaningful. You want to test your DUT, not the source.

To meet these challenges, you need new test tools.

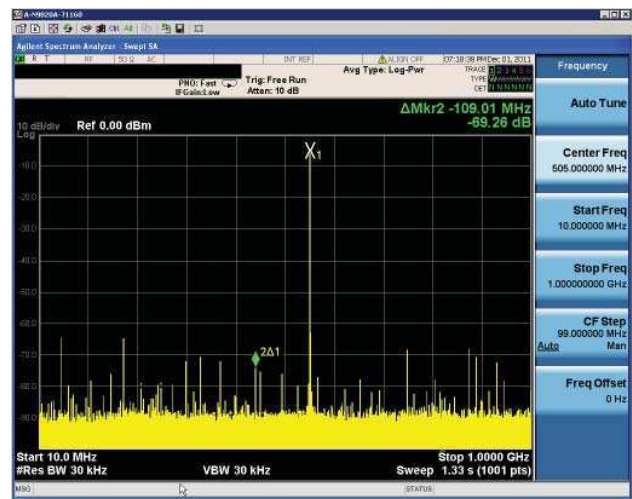


Figure 4. Spurious performance of 81180B

## Use models of 81180B

In this setup, the 81180B is used as a 2-GHz IQ modulation source. The Agilent E8267D performance signal generator Option 016 is needed for the 2 GHz IQ modulation input. You can use markers in conjunction with the pulse modulation to suppress the signal in the pulse pauses. The

markers don't reduce the number of bits, so using markers improves waveform resolution instead of reducing it.

You can use the 81180B for generating direct RF signals up to 1.5 GHz with a good signal waveform resolution.

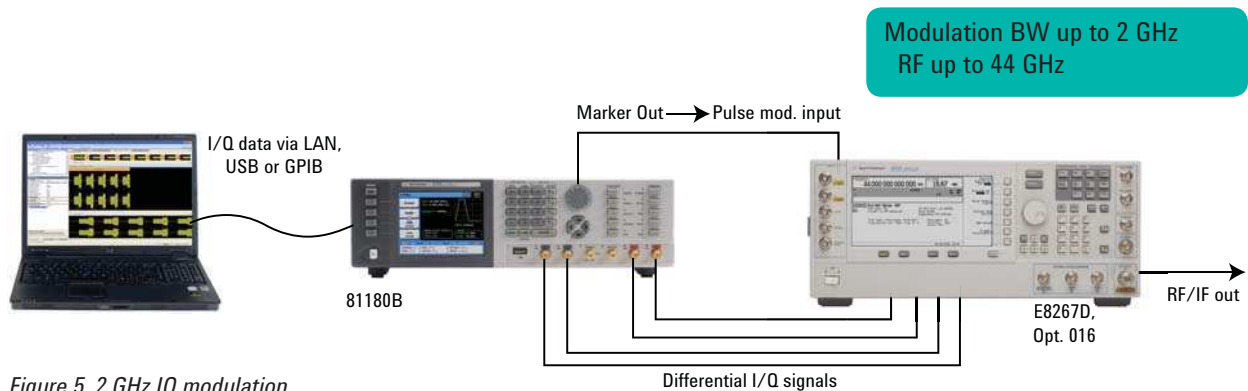


Figure 5. 2 GHz IQ modulation

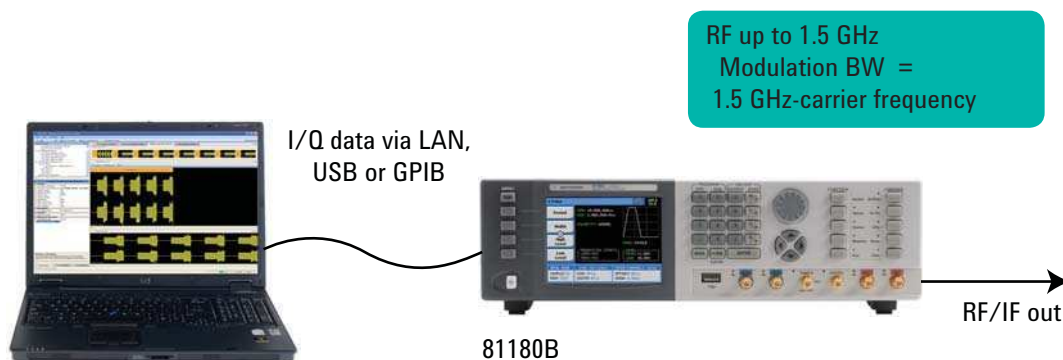


Figure 6. 1.5 GHz direct RF carrier frequency

## Generate versatile waveforms

An arbitrary waveform generator is ideal for generating multiple waveform formats, so you can achieve interoperability between terrestrial and space-based communication devices.

In addition to the flexibility of an arbitrary waveform generator, the 81180B gives you unprecedented flexibility with respect to channels. The instrument is available in 2-channel version. The 2-channel version can run either

in uncoupled mode so both channels work independently or in coupled mode, either phase coherent or with a defined delay between them. You can couple two 2-channel instruments to form a 4-channel instrument to simulate multiple emitter or receivers, such as multiple aircraft, where each could be designated as a target. By synchronizing the channels, you simplify your test setup and align the frequency and phase of the signals.

# Choose the best amplifier to optimize your signal characteristics

## 81180B AWG with 3 optional amplifiers

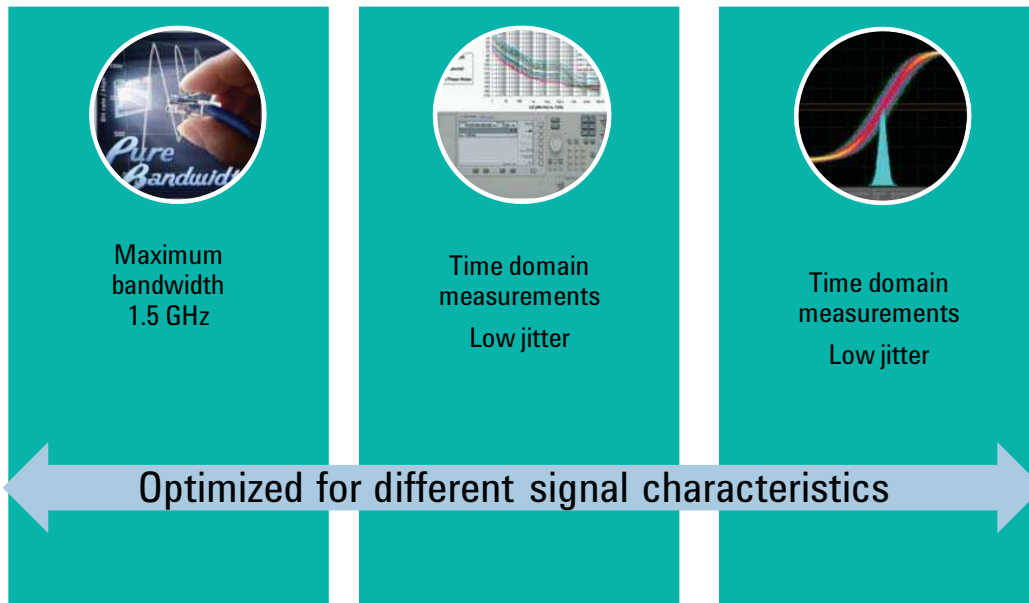


Figure 7.

Different applications call for different signal characteristics. You can choose from three different amplifiers with different characteristics. You can switch between the amplifiers using your software application, the programming interface or the instrument's front panel.

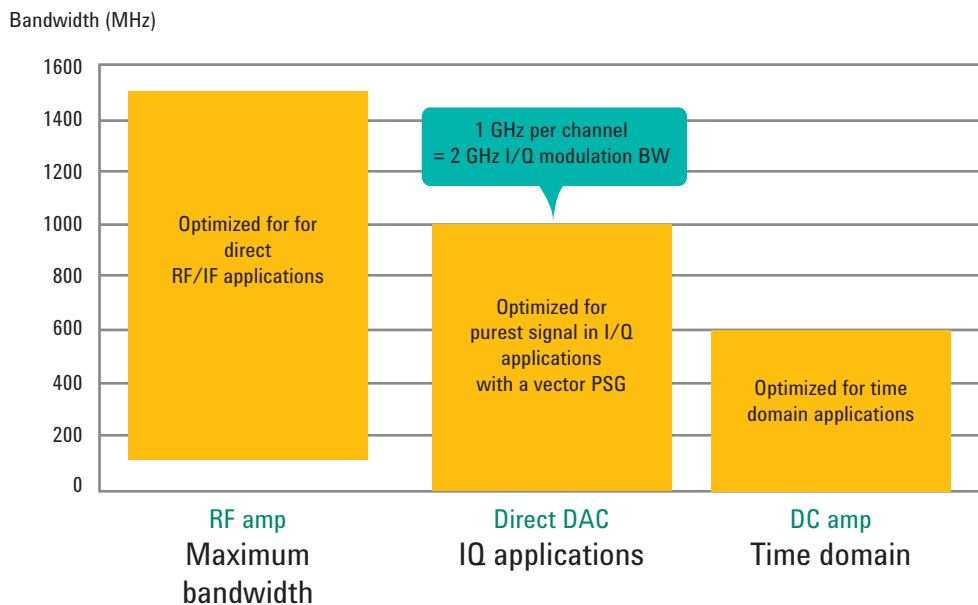


Figure 8.

## Increase your signal play time with advanced sequencing

The closer your test signals are to the real-world situation, the better your test results will be. A key requirement is long signal play time, which means you need a big memory. The 81180B offers the choice between two

memory sizes: 16 MSA and 64 MSA. For the best memory usage, a sequencer helps you create versatile, unique signals.

Agilent 81180B sequence example:

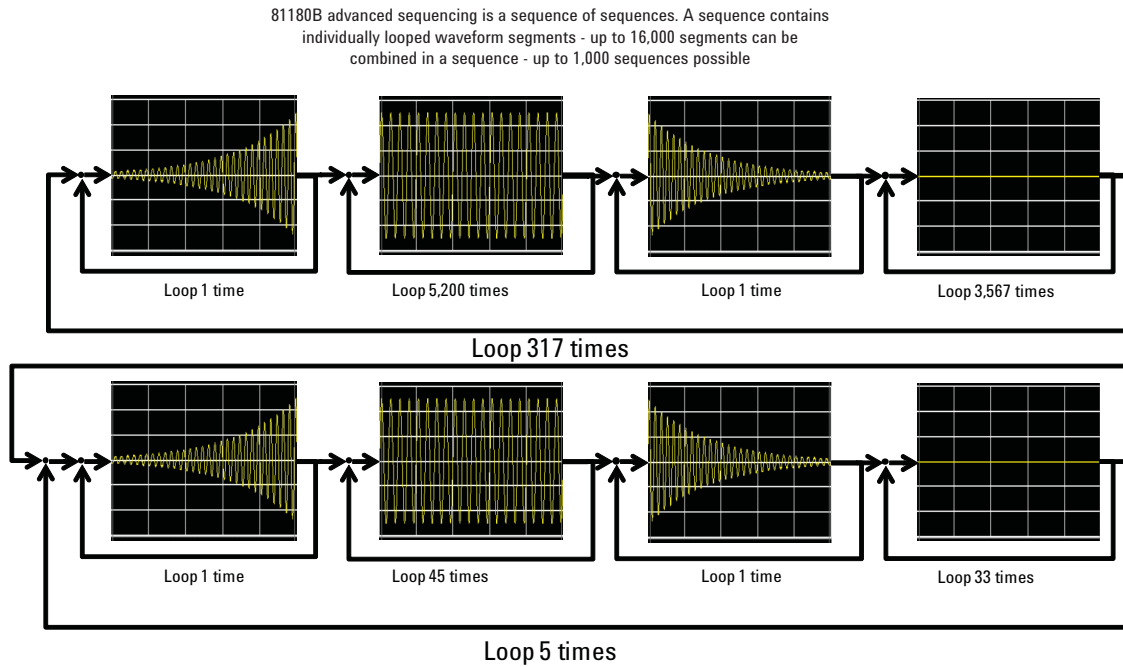


Figure 9. Agilent 81180B sequence example

In advanced sequencing scenarios you can define steps, loops and conditional jumps of waveforms or waveform sequences. You can set up to 1 advanced sequences per channel. Each sequence contains up to 16,000 different segments. Up to 1,000 sequences are possible.

With this powerful sequencer, you can easily set up communication between ground stations and airborne devices. After an initiation sequence, the signal can contain separate transmission sequences followed by different messages.

In some applications it is important to change quickly between different waveforms to minimize reconfiguration time. The sequencer allows you to download different test setups into memory. It is possible to directly access the memory via a 8-bit and 9-pin external input, which accepts TTL signals. You can select up to 256 segments or sequences via this dynamic segment/sequence control input. **It can act as a dynamic switch between the sequences and segments as well.**



Figure 10. Agilent 81180B sequence/segment control input

## Create complex signals in a variety of software environments

You can easily set up simple waveforms like sine waves, pulses, or ramps from the front panel of the 81180B. Complex modulation or arbitrary waveforms require waveform creation tools to create realistic signals.

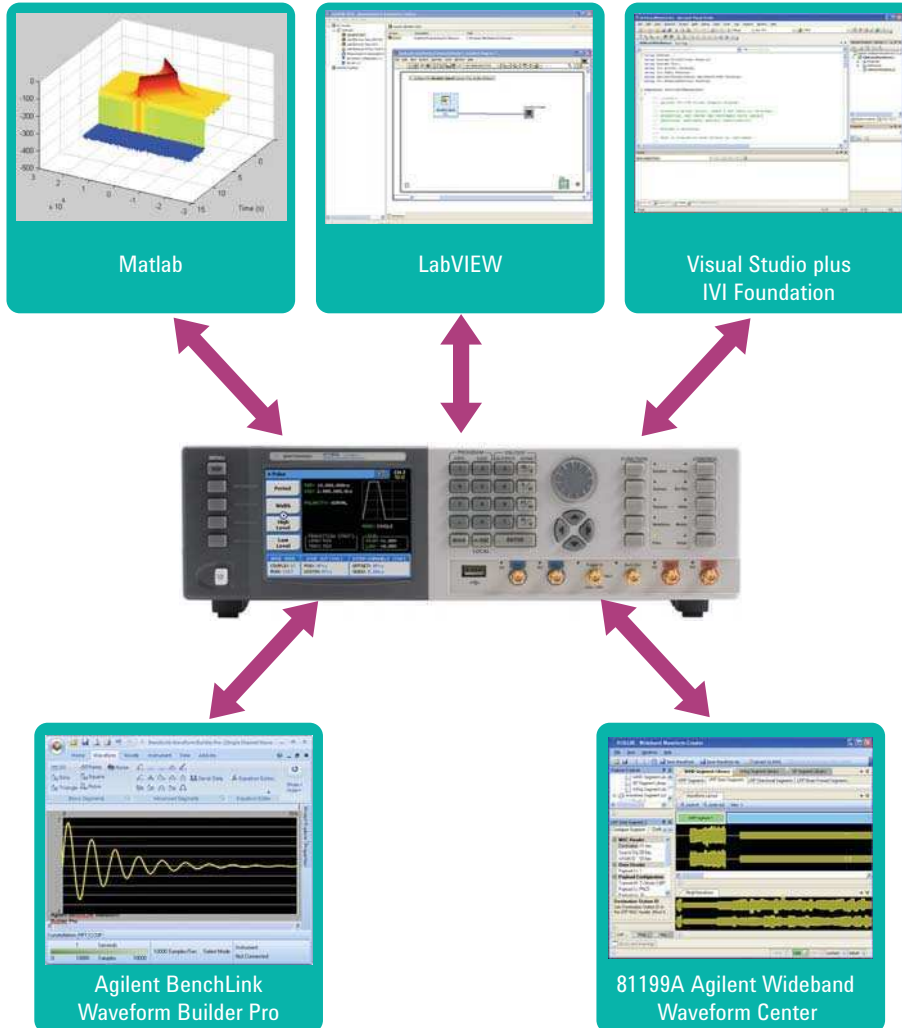


Figure 11.

You can choose between tools like MATLAB software, NI LabVIEW and Visual Studio with IVI or Agilent waveform creation tools like Agilent BenchLink Waveform Builder Pro and Agilent wideband waveform center.

With the optional BenchLink Waveform Builder Pro you can simply create custom, user-defined waveforms and import other waveforms from MATLAB and oscilloscopes measurements.



MATLAB script examples are available on [www.agilent.com/find/81180\\_demo](http://www.agilent.com/find/81180_demo) and will give you a jumpstart to generate multi-tone signals, pulsed radar signals and multi-carrier modulated waveforms using the 81180 – standalone or in conjunction with a Vector PSG.

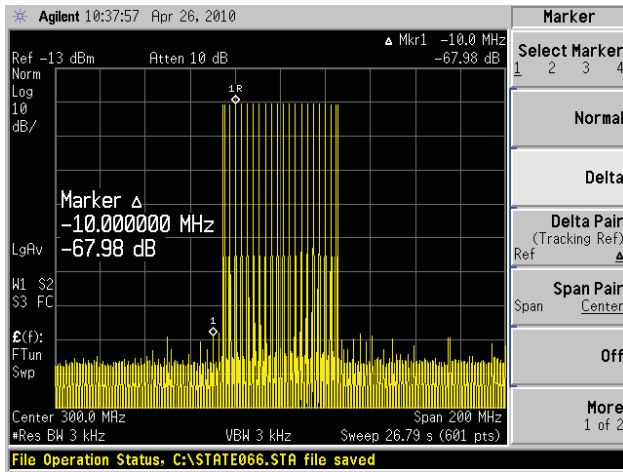


Figure 12. Multi-tone signal on spectrum analyzer. 20 tones spanning  $\pm 25$  MHz around 300 MHz,  $F_s = 4.2$  GS/s, IMD:  $-68$  dB

## Analysis of radar pulse on scope with VSA software

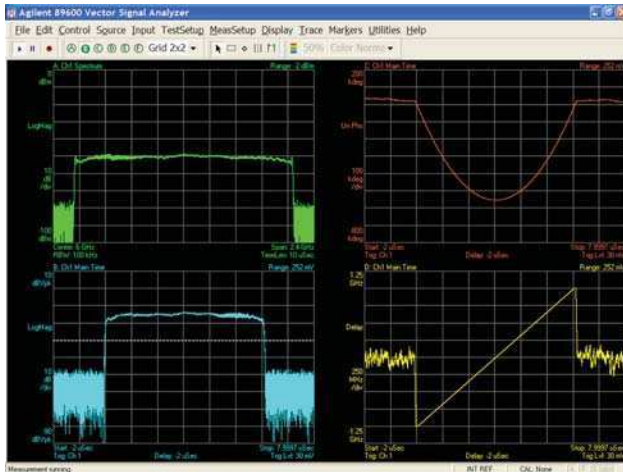


Figure 13. Radar pulse with 2 GHz bandwidth. Radar pulse with 2 GHz bandwidth

## Electrical Specifications

Instrument configuration	
Characteristics	Description
81180B	4.6-GSa/s arbitrary waveform generator with three output paths, DC-coupled direct DAC output with 1 GHz bandwidth, DC-coupled 2-V amplifier with > 600 MHz analog bandwidth or, AC-coupled 10 dBm amplifier with 1.5 GHz analog bandwidth
81180B-216	Dual-channel instrument with 16,000,000 waveform points
81180B-264	Dual-channel instrument with 64,000,000 waveform points
81180A-F4G	Reconstruction filter
81180A-1CN	Rack mounting kit assembly
81180A-SYN	Synchronization cable to synchronize two dual-channel 81180Bs to form a four-channel 4.6-GSa/s arbitrary waveform generator system

Interchannel offset control (Course tuning )	
Characteristics	Description
Initial skew	< 200 ps from 1 GSa/s to 4.6 GSa/s; < 1 ns from 100 MSa/s to 1 GSa/s; < 10 ns below 100 MSa/s
Control	
Range	0 to segment length; 0 to 80 points with external segment control (n = segment length)
Resolution	8 points
Accuracy	Same as sample clock accuracy

Interchannel skew control (Fine tuning )	
Characteristics	Description
Initial skew	< 200 ps from 1 GSa/s to 4.6 GSa/s; < 1 ns from 100 MSa/s to 1 GSa/s; < 10 ns below 100 MSa/s
Control	
Range	(Skew is added to offset) –3 ns to + 3 ns
Resolution	10 ps
Accuracy	± (10% of setting + 20 ps)

## Waveform type

Characteristics	Description
Standard	A waveform is selected from a built-in library. The standard waveform parameters are programmable.
Arbitrary	Arbitrary waveform coordinates are downloaded and stored in memory segments. The arbitrary waveform parameters are programmable.
Sequenced	Arbitrary waveforms are downloaded and stored in memory segments. The segments are arranged in a sequence table that step, loop, jump and nest on segments in a user-defined configuration. Conditional jump and nest pending an event signal.
Advanced sequences	Same functionality as described for sequenced waveforms except sequences are arranged in the sequence table.
Modulated	A modulated waveform is calculated from a built-in library of modulation schemes.
Pulse	A pulse waveform is calculated and downloaded to the arbitrary waveform memory.

## Run mode

Characteristics	Description
Continuous	
Self armed	A selected output function shape is output continuously. No start commands are required to generate waveforms.
Armed	The output dwells on dc level and waits for an enable command and then the output waveform is output continuously; an abort command turns off the waveform.
Triggered	A trigger signal activates a single-shot or counted burst of output waveforms and then the instrument waits for the next trigger signal.
Normal mode	The first trigger signal activates the output; consecutive triggers are ignored for the duration of the output waveform.
Override mode	The first trigger signal activates the output; consecutive triggers restart the output waveform whether the current waveform has been completed or not.
Gated	A waveform is output when a gate signal is asserted. The waveform is repeated until the gate signal is de-asserted. Last period is always completed.

## Standard waveforms

Characteristics	Description
General	Waveforms are computed and generated every time a standard waveform is selected.
Standard waveform library	Built-in, auto computed waveforms: sine, triangle, square, ramp, pulse, sink, exponential rise, exponential decay, Gaussian, noise and DC.
Standard waveform control	The standard waveform parameters can be adjusted to specific requirements. The waveform is recomputed with each parameter change.

## Standard waveforms frequency control

Characteristics	Description
Range	10 kHz to 250 MHz
Resolution	8 digits
Accuracy	
Internal reference	≤ 1 ppm from 19 °C to 29 °C; 1 ppm/°C below 19 °C or above 29 °C; ≤ 1 ppm/year aging rate
External reference	Same as accuracy and stability of the external reference. Reference is applied to the reference input.

## Arbitrary waveforms

Characteristics	Description
General	Arbitrary waveforms are created on a remote computer and downloaded to the arbitrary waveform memory through one of the available remote interfaces. The frequency of the waveform is calculated from its programmed sample clock value and the number of waveform points that were used for creating the waveform.
Waveform length	384 to 16,000,000 points (384 to 64,000,000 with Option (264), in multiples of 32 points
Number of waveforms	1 to 16,000
Dynamic waveform control	Software command or rear-panel segment control input (D-sub, 8-bit lines)
Waveform jump timing	Coherent or asynchronous, selectable
DAC resolution	12 bits

## Sequenced waveforms

Characteristics	Description
General	Segments are grouped in a sequence table that links, loops and jumps to next in user-defined scenarios. Sequence steps are advanced on trigger events or remote commands. Each channel has its own sequence scenario.
Sequence scenario	1 to 1,000 unique scenarios, programmed in sequence tables
Sequence table length	3 to 49,152 steps
Step advance control	Auto, once (x "N") and stepped
Loop counter	
Segment loops	1 to 16,000,000 cycles, each segment
Sequence loops	1 to 1,000,000 (applies to "Once" sequence advance mode only)

## Advanced sequencing

Characteristics	Description
General	Enables the grouping of sequences into scenarios in a way that is similar to how segments are grouped in a sequence table. Each channel has its own advance sequencing generator.
ASequence scenario	1 scenario, programmed in advanced sequence table
Dynamic advance sequence control	Software command or rear panel sequence control input (D-sub, 8-bit lines)
ASequence table length	3 to 1,000 steps
Step advance control	Auto, once and stepped
Once loop counter	1 to 1,000,000 cycles, each sequence

## Arbitrary/sequenced waveforms sample clock control

Characteristics	Description
Range	10 MSa/s to 4.6 GSa/s, common or separate for each channel
Resolution	8 digits
Accuracy	
Internal reference	≤ 1 ppm from 19 °C to 29 °C; 1 ppm/°C below 19 °C or above 29 °C; 1 ppm/year aging rate
External reference	Same as accuracy and stability of the external reference. Reference is applied to the reference input or sample clock input.

## Analog outputs

Characteristics	Description
General	DC-coupled amplified or direct DAC or AC-coupled amplified output, selectable
Connector type	SMA
On/off control	Output is turned on or off for each channel independently

## DC-analog outputs

Characteristics	Description	
	Amplified output	Direct DAC output
Type of output	Single-ended <sup>1</sup> or differential	Single-ended <sup>1</sup> or differential
Impedance	50 Ω, typical	50 Ω, typical
Amplitude control	Specified into 50 Ω, levels double into high impedance	Specified into 50 Ω, levels double into high impedance
Window, single-ended	–2.25 V to 2.25 V <sup>2</sup>	–2.1 V to 2.1 V
Window, differential	–4.5 V to 4.5 V <sup>2</sup>	–4.2 V to 4.2 V
Range, single-ended	100 mVp-p to 3 Vpp	100 mVp-p to 1.2 Vpp
Range, differential	200 mVp-p to 6 Vpp	200 mVp-p to 2.4 Vpp
Resolution	4 digits	4 digits
Accuracy, offset = 0 V	± (3% +5 mV)	± (3% +5 mV)
Offset control	Common mode, specified into 50 Ω, levels double into high impedance	Common mode, specified into 50 Ω, levels double into high impedance
Range	–1.5 V to + 1.5 V	–1.5 V to + 1.5 V
Resolution	4 digits	4 digits
Accuracy	± (5% +5 mV)	± (5% +5 mV)
Rise/fall time (10% to 90%)	600 ps, typical	350 ps, typical
Bandwidth	600 MHz, typical (calculated)	1 GHz, typical (calculated)
Overshoot	6%, typical	15%, typical
Harmonics <sup>3</sup>	1 Vpp, differential, balun attached	1 Vpp, differential, balun attached
2nd harmonic	–50 dBc	–60 dBc
3rd harmonic	–38 dBc	–45 dBc
All other harmonics	–60 dBc	–65 dBc
Non harmonic distortion <sup>3</sup>	–70 dBc, 1 Vpp, DC to 700	–65 dBc, 1 Vpp, DC to 1 GHz
SCLK/2 spur <sup>4</sup>		
200 MHz	–50 dBc	–60 dBc <sup>5</sup>
500 MHz	–48 dBc	–60 dBc <sup>5</sup>
800 MHz	–45 dBc	–60 dBc <sup>5</sup>
SCLK/2-fout spur <sup>4</sup>		
200 MHz	–68 dBc	–60 dBc <sup>5</sup>
500 MHz	–52 dBc	–60 dBc <sup>5</sup>
800 MHz	–50 dBc	–60 dBc <sup>5</sup>
Phase Noise <sup>3</sup>	–100 dBc/Hz, 1 Vpp, 10 kHz offset	–100 dBc/Hz, 0.5 Vpp, 10 kHz offset

1. The unused output must be terminated with 50 Ω to ground

2. Exceeding the amplitude window is allowed but may cause excessive signal distortion

3. Offset = 0 V, SCLK = 4.6 GSa/s, 32 points sine waveform (143.75 MHz output frequency), typical values

4. Offset = 0 V, SCLK = 4.6GSa/s, arbitrary sine waveforms, typical values

5. Measured with low pass filter option 81180A-F4G

## RF, AC-coupled analog output

Characteristics	Description
Type of output	Single-ended <sup>1</sup>
Impedance	50 $\Omega$ , typical
Amplitude control	Specified into 50 $\Omega$ , levels double into high impedance
Range	-20 dBm to 10 dBm
Resolution	4 digits
Accuracy	$\pm(3\% + 0.5 \text{ dBm})$
Bandwidth	1.5 GHz, typical
Flatness	$\pm 1.2 \text{ dB}$ 4 MHz to 1 GHz, $\pm 2 \text{ dB}$ 1 GHz to 1.5 GHz, typical
Harmonics <sup>2</sup>	
2nd harmonic	-60 dBc
3rd harmonic	-38 dBc
All other harmonics	-60 dBc
Nonharmonic distortion <sup>2</sup>	-60 dBc, DC to 1.5 GHz
SCLK/2 spur <sup>3</sup>	
200 MHz	-68 dBc <sup>4</sup>
500 MHz	-68 dBc <sup>4</sup>
800 MHz	-68 dBc <sup>4</sup>
SCLK/2-four spur <sup>3</sup>	
200 MHz	-68 dBc <sup>4</sup>
500 MHz	-68 dBc <sup>4</sup>
800 MHz	-60 dBc <sup>4</sup>
Phase noise <sup>2</sup>	-100 dBc/Hz, 10 kHz offset

1. The unused output can be left open

2. SCLK = 4.6 GSa/s, 32 points sine waveform (143.75 MHz output frequency), typical values

3. SCLK = 4.6 GSa/s, arbitrary sine waveforms, typical values, 0 dBm

4. Measured with low pass filter option 81180A-F4G

## Marker outputs

Characteristics	Description
Connector type	SMB
Number of markers	Two markers per channel
Type of output	Differential (+) and (-) outputs
Impedance	50 $\Omega$ , typical
Level control	Specified into 50 $\Omega$ , levels double into high impedance
Voltage window	0 V to 1.25 V, single-ended; 0 V to 2.5 V, differential
Low level	0 V to 0.8 V, single-ended; 0 V to 1.6 V, differential
High level	0.5 V to 1.25 V, single-ended; 1 V to 2.5 V, differential
Resolution	10 mV
Accuracy	10% of setting
Width control	0 SCLK periods to segment length
Position control	0 to segment length in 4 point increments
Marker resolution	4 SCLK periods (programmed as part of the output waveform)
Initial delay <sup>1</sup>	3.5 ns, +1 sample clock period, typical
Initial skew between marker 1 and marker 2	< 100 ps, typical
Variable delay control	Separate for each marker
Range	0 to 3 ns
Resolution	10 ps
Accuracy	$\pm$ (10% of setting +20 ps)
Rise/fall time	1.0 ns, typical

1. Analog output to marker output

## SYNC output

Characteristics	Description
Connector type	SMA
Type of output	Single ended
Source	Channel 1 or channel 2
Waveform	Pulse (32 points width), WCOM (waveform duration pulse)
Impedance	50 $\Omega$ , typical
Amplitude	1.2 V, typical; doubles into high impedance
Variable position control	
Range	0 to segment length
Resolution	32 points
Rise/fall time	2 ns, typical
Variable width control	
Range	32 points to segment length
Resolution	32 points



## Trigger input

Characteristics	Description
Connector type	SMA
Drive	Channel 1, channel 2, or both
Input impedance	10 k $\Omega$ , typical
Polarity	Positive, negative, or both, selectable
Damage level	$\pm 20$ Vdc
Frequency range	0 to 15 MHz
Trigger level control	
Range	-5 V to 5 V
Resolution	12 bit (2.5 mV)
Accuracy	$\pm$ (5% of setting + 2.5 mV)
Sensitivity	200 mVp-p
Pulse width, minimum	10 ns
System delay <sup>1</sup>	200 sample clock periods + 50 ns, typical
Trigger delay	
Range	0 to 8,000,000 sample clock periods
Resolution	8 points
Accuracy	Same as sample clock accuracy
Smart trigger	
Conditioned trigger	< pulse width, > pulse width, <> pulse width
Pulse width range	50 ns to 2 s
Resolution	2 ns
Accuracy	$\pm$ (5% of setting +20 ns)
Trigger holdoff	
Holdoff range	100 ns to 2 s
Resolution	2 ns
Accuracy	$\pm$ (5% of setting +20 ns)

## Internal trigger generator

Characteristics	Description
Source	Common or separate for each channel
Mode	Timer (waveform start to waveform start); delayed (waveform stop to waveform start)
Timer	
Range	100 ns to 2 s
Resolution	3 digits
Accuracy	100 ppm
Delayed	
Range	152 to 8,000,000 sample clock periods
Resolution	Integer numbers, divisible by 8

## Event input

Characteristics	Description
General	Used for branching in or out from a sequence loop. Also used for enabling or disabling the output in armed mode.
Connector type	Rear panel BNC
Input impedance	10 k $\Omega$ , typical
Polarity	Positive, negative or either, selectable
Damage level	$\pm 20$ Vdc
Frequency range	0 to 15 MHz
Trigger level control	
Range	-5 V to 5 V
Resolution	12 bit (2.5 mV)
Accuracy	$\pm$ (5% of setting + 2.5 mV)
Sensitivity	200 mVp-p
Pulse width, minimum	10 ns

## Sequence/segment control input

Characteristics	Description
Connector type	D-sub, 8-bit lines
Number of input connectors	1-ch instrument: 8-bit bus + valid line 2-ch instrument: (8-bit bus + valid line) per channel
Switching rate	20 ns + waveform duration minimum
Input impedance	10 k $\Omega$ , typical
Input level	TTL

## External reference clock input

Characteristics	Description
Connector type	Rear panel BNC
Input frequency	10 MHz to 100 MHz <sup>1</sup> , programmable
Input impedance	50 $\Omega$ , typical
Input voltage swing	-5 dBm to 5 dBm
Damage level	10 dBm

1. An exact frequency ratio between reference clock input and the internally generated sample clock is available only, for ratios of 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 125, 256

## External sample clock input

Characteristics	Description
General	External signal is fed to a frequency splitter. Same frequency is applied to both channels.
Connector type	Rear-panel SMA
Input impedance	50 $\Omega$ , typical
Input voltage swing	0 dBm to 10 dBm
Input frequency range	2.0 GHz to 4.6 GHz
Clock divider	1/1, 1/2, 1/4, ... 1/256, separate for each channel
Damage level	15 dBm

## Two-instrument synchronization

Characteristics	Description
General	Two instruments are synchronized via dedicated synchronization cable. Master instrument controls waveform generation of slave instrument.
Initial skew between instruments	20 ns + 0 to 16 SCLK periods
Offset control range	0 to waveform length; 0 to 80 points with external segment control
Offset resolution	8 SCLK periods increments
Skew control range	-5 ns to 5 ns (skew is added to offset)
Skew resolution	10 ps
Clock source	Master sample clock generator
Trigger source	Master trigger input

## Mechanical, Environmental and Maintenance Specifications

### Display

Characteristics	Description
Type	TFT LCD, back-lit
Size	4 "
Resolution	320 x 240 pixels

### Peripheral devices

Characteristics	Description
USB port	1 x front, USB host, standard A; 1 x rear, USB device, standard B
LAN port	1000/100/10 BASE-T
GPIB port	IEEE 488.2 standard interface, 24 pin
Segment control port	2 x D-sub, 9 pin

## Power supply

Characteristics	Description
Source voltage and frequency	
Rating range	100 VAC to 240 VAC
Frequency range	50 Hz to 60 Hz
Power consumption	100 VA

## Mechanical

Characteristics	Description
Dimensions	
With feet	315 x 102 x 395 mm (W x H x D)
Without feet	315 x 88 x 395 mm (W x H x D)
Weight	
Without package	4.5 kg
Shipping weight	6 kg

## Environmental

Characteristics	Description
Operating temperature	0 °C to 40 °C
Storage temperature	-40 °C to 70 °C
Humidity	85% RH, non condensing

## Certifications and compliances

Characteristics	Description
Safety	IEC61010-1
EMC	IEC 61326-1:2006

## Maintenance

Characteristics	Description
General	Periodic recalibration is required to maintain accuracy of output characteristics
Recalibration period	2 years



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#### Related literature / Pub. No.

Best memory usage for real-world signals – Understanding Sequence Run and Sequence Advance Modes 5990-5965EN



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