

SPECIFICATIONS

PXIe-5840

Reconfigurable 6 GHz RF Vector Signal Transceiver with 1 GHz Bandwidth

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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.
- *Typical-95* specifications describe the performance met by 95% ($\approx 2\sigma$) of models with a 95% confidence.
- *Nominal* specifications describe an attribute that is based on design, conformance testing, or supplemental testing.

Specifications are *Warranted* unless otherwise noted.

Conditions

Warranted specifications are valid under the following conditions unless otherwise noted.

- Over ambient temperature range of 0 °C to 45 °C.
- 30 minutes warm-up time.
- Calibration cycle is maintained.
- Chassis fan speed is set to High. In addition, NI recommends using slot blockers and EMC filler panels in empty module slots to minimize temperature drift.
- Calibration IP is used properly during the creation of custom FPGA bitfiles.

Typical specifications do not include measurement uncertainty and are measured immediately after a device self-calibration is performed.

Unless otherwise noted, specifications assume the PXIe-5840 is configured in the following default mode of operation:

- Reference Clock source: Internal
- RF IN reference level: 0 dBm
- RF IN preamplifier: AUTO
- RF OUT power level: 0 dBm
- LO tuning mode: Fractional
- LO PLL loop bandwidth: Low
- LO step size: 500 kHz
- LO frequency: 2.4 GHz
- LO source: Internal



Note Within the specifications, *self-calibration* °C refers to the recorded device temperature of the last successful self-calibration. You can read the self-calibration temperature from the device using the appropriate software functions.

Frequency

The following characteristics are common to both RF IN and RF OUT ports.

Frequency range 9 kHz to 6 GHz

Table 1. PXIe-5840 Bandwidth

Center Frequency	Instantaneous Bandwidth
9 kHz to <120 MHz	<120 MHz
120 MHz to 410 MHz	50 MHz

Table 1. PXIe-5840 Bandwidth (Continued)

Center Frequency	Instantaneous Bandwidth
>410 MHz to 650 MHz	100 MHz
>650 MHz to 1.3 GHz	200 MHz
>1.3 GHz to 2.2 GHz	500 MHz
>2.2 GHz to 6 GHz	1 GHz
The PXIe-5840 uses the low frequency subsystem to directly acquire or generate the RF signal below 120 MHz.	

Tuning resolution ¹	888 nHz
LO step size	
Fractional mode	Programmable step size, 500 kHz default
Integer mode ²	
LO ≤ 4 GHz	10 MHz, 25 MHz, 50 MHz, 100 MHz
LO > 4 GHz	20 MHz, 50 MHz, 100 MHz, 200 MHz

Frequency Settling Time

Table 2. Maximum Frequency Settling Time

Settling Time	Maximum Time (ms)
$\leq 1 \times 10^{-6}$ of final frequency	0.38
$\leq 0.1 \times 10^{-6}$ of final frequency	0.40
This specification includes only frequency settling and excludes any residual amplitude settling.	

Internal Frequency Reference

Initial adjustment accuracy	$\pm 200 \times 10^{-9}$
Temperature stability	$\pm 1 \times 10^{-6}$, maximum

¹ Tuning resolution combines LO step size capability and frequency shift DSP implemented on the FPGA.

² Larger step sizes in integer mode improves phase noise performance.

Aging	$\pm 1 \times 10^{-6}$ per year, maximum
Accuracy	<i>Initial adjustment accuracy</i> \pm <i>Aging</i> \pm <i>Temperature stability</i>



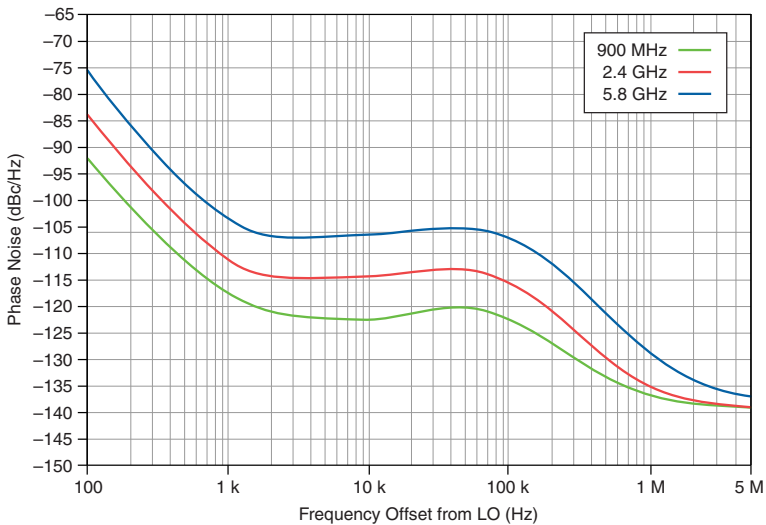
Note For more information about using an external frequency reference or sharing the internal frequency reference, refer to the [REF IN](#) and [REF OUT](#) sections.

Spectral Purity

Table 3. Single Sideband Phase Noise

Frequency	Phase Noise (dBc/Hz, Single Sideband), 20 kHz Offset, Self-Calibration °C \pm 10 °C
<3 GHz	-102
3 GHz to 4 GHz	-102
>4 GHz to 6 GHz	-96

Figure 1. Measured Phase Noise³ at 900 MHz, 2.4 GHz, and 5.8 GHz



³ Conditions: Measured Port: LO OUT; Reference Clock: internal, phase noise spurs not shown.

RF Input

RF Input Amplitude Range

Table 4. Input Amplitude Range

Center Frequency	Preamp	RF Input (dB)
9 kHz to <120 MHz	Disabled	Average noise level to +15 dBm (CW RMS)
	Auto	
120 MHz to 6 GHz	Disabled	Average noise level to +30 dBm (CW RMS)
	Auto	
	Enabled	Average noise level to -10 dBm (CW RMS)

RF gain resolution

1 dB, nominal

Table 5. Input RF Analog Gain Range, Preamp Auto, Nominal

Center Frequency	RF Analog Gain Range (dB)
10 MHz to <120 MHz	≥ 35
120 MHz to 500 MHz	≥ 65
>500 MHz to 1.5 GHz	≥ 65
>1.5 GHz to 2.3 GHz	≥ 60
>2.3 GHz to 2.9 GHz	≥ 60
>2.9 GHz to 4.8 GHz	≥ 55
>4.8 GHz to 6 GHz	≥ 50

Table 6. Input RF Analog Gain Range, Preamp Enabled, Nominal

Center Frequency	RF Analog Gain Range (dB)
120 MHz to 500 MHz	≥ 40
>500 MHz to 1.5 GHz	≥ 35
>1.5 GHz to 2.3 GHz	≥ 30
>2.3 GHz to 2.9 GHz	≥ 30

Table 6. Input RF Analog Gain Range, Preamp Enabled, Nominal (Continued)

Center Frequency	RF Analog Gain Range (dB)
>2.9 GHz to 4.8 GHz	≥25
>4.8 GHz to 6 GHz	≥25

RF Input Amplitude Settling Time⁴

<0.5 dB of final value 40 μs, typical

<0.1 dB of final value 70 μs, typical

RF Input Absolute Amplitude Accuracy

Table 7. Input Absolute Amplitude Accuracy (dB)

Center Frequency	Specification	2σ	Typical
10 MHz to <120 MHz	±0.75	±0.55	±0.35
120 MHz to 500 MHz	±0.80	±0.65	±0.50
>500 MHz to 1.5 GHz	±0.70	±0.55	±0.40
>1.5 GHz to 2.3 GHz	±0.75	±0.60	±0.45
>2.3 GHz to 2.9 GHz	±0.65	±0.50	±0.35
>2.9 GHz to 4.8 GHz	±0.75	±0.55	±0.40
>4.8 GHz to 6 GHz	±0.90	±0.60	±0.45

Conditions: Reference level -30 dBm to +30 dBm; measured at 3.75 MHz offset from the configured center frequency; measurement performed after the PXIe-5840 has settled. Preamplifier mode set to automatic.

This specification is valid only when the module is operating within the specified ambient temperature range and within ±10 °C from the last self-calibration temperature, as measured with the onboard temperature sensors.

⁴ Constant RF input signal, varying input reference level.

RF Input Frequency Response

Table 8. Input Frequency Response (dB), Equalized

Center Frequency	NI-RFSA Device Instantaneous Bandwidth	Frequency Response (dB)
≥250 MHz to 410 MHz	50 MHz	±0.90
		±0.50, typical
>410 MHz to 650 MHz	100 MHz	±0.75
		±0.50, typical
>650 MHz to 1.5 GHz	200 MHz	±1.00
		±0.65, typical
>1.5 GHz to 2.2 GHz	200 MHz	±1.30
		±0.70, typical
>2.2 GHz to 2.9 GHz	200 MHz	±1.00
		±0.55, typical
	1 GHz	±1.80, typical
>2.9 GHz to 4.8 GHz	200 MHz	±1.00
		±0.65, typical
	1 GHz	±2.00, typical
>4.8 GHz to 6 GHz	200 MHz	±1.00
		±0.65, typical
	1 GHz	±1.65, typical

Conditions: Reference level -30 dBm to +30 dBm; module temperature within ± 5 °C of last self-calibration temperature.

Frequency response is defined as the maximum relative amplitude deviation from the reference offset frequency. For the PXIe-5840 RF Input the reference offset frequency is 3.75 MHz. For the absolute amplitude accuracy at the reference offset, refer to the [RF Input Absolute Amplitude Accuracy](#) section.

Figure 2. Measured 200 MHz Input Frequency Response, 0 dBm Reference Level, Equalized

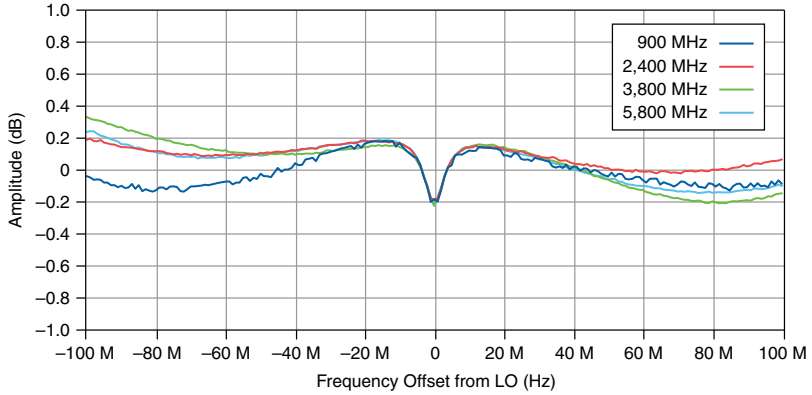
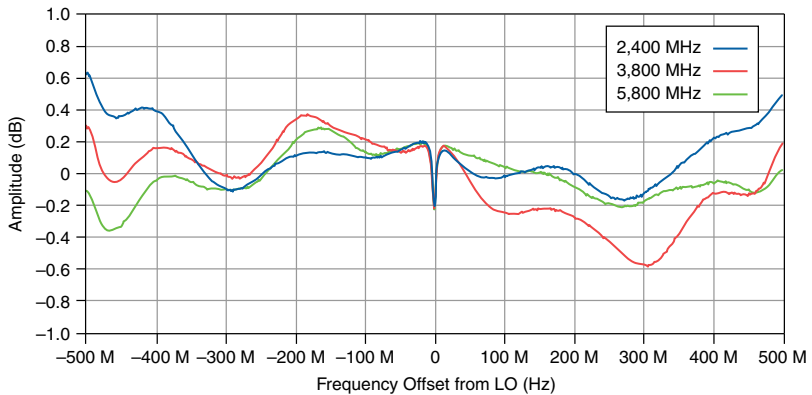


Figure 3. Measured 1 GHz Input Frequency Response, 0 dBm Reference Level, Equalized



RF Input Average Noise Density

Table 9. Input Average Noise Density (dBm/Hz), Typical

Frequency Range	-50 dBm Reference Level	-10 dBm Reference Level
>120 MHz to 500 MHz	-161	-140
>500 MHz to 3.4 GHz	-164	-150
>3.4 GHz to 4.5 GHz	-163	-148

Table 9. Input Average Noise Density (dBm/Hz), Typical (Continued)

Frequency Range	-50 dBm Reference Level	-10 dBm Reference Level
>4.5 GHz to 6.0 GHz	-161	-149

Conditions: Input terminated with a 50 Ω load; 50 averages; noise integrated and normalized to 1 Hz bandwidth. The -50 dBm reference level configuration has the preamplifier enabled for high sensitivity. The -10 dBm reference level configuration has the preamplifier disabled for optimized linearity.

RF Input Spurious Responses

RF Input Third-Order Input Intermodulation

Table 10. Third-Order Input Intercept Point (IIP₃), -5 dBm Reference Level, Typical

Frequency Range	IIP ₃ (dBm)
120 MHz to 600 MHz	23
>600 MHz to 1.4 GHz	20
>1.4 GHz to 4.0 GHz	22
>4.0 GHz to 5.1 GHz	19
>5.1 GHz to 6.0 GHz	16

Conditions: Two -10 dBm tones, 700 kHz separation at RF IN; preamp disabled; reference level: -5 dBm.

Table 11. Third-Order Input Intercept Point (IIP₃), -20 dBm Reference Level, Typical

Frequency Range	IIP ₃ (dBm)
120 MHz to 200 MHz	5
>200 MHz to 4.0 GHz	9
>4.0 GHz to 5.1 GHz	4
5.1 GHz to 6.0 GHz	1


Conditions: Two -25 dBm tones, 700 kHz separation at RF IN; preamp enabled; reference level: -20 dBm.

RF Input Nonharmonic Spurs

Table 12. Input Nonharmonic Spurs (dBc), Typical

LO Frequency	10 kHz ≤ Offset < 100 kHz	100 kHz ≤ Offset < 1 MHz	1 MHz ≤ Offset ⁵
>120 MHz to 410 MHz	-65	-64	-60
>410 MHz to 750 MHz	-65	-65	-66
>750 MHz to 2.2 GHz	-63	-63	-72
>2.2 GHz to 4.5 GHz	-57	-60	-68
>4.5 GHz to 6 GHz	-49	-50	-63

Conditions: Reference level 0 dBm. Preamp disabled. Measured with a single tone, -6 dBr, where dBr is referenced to the configured RF reference level.

 **Note** Offset refers to ± desired signal offset (Hz) around the current LO frequency.

RF Input LO Residual Power

Table 13. Input LO Residual Power (dBr⁶), Typical

Center Frequency	Reference Level	
	-30 dBm to -20 dBm	-20 dBm to +30 dBm
≥120 MHz to 410 MHz	-42	-42
>410 MHz to 2.2 GHz	-47	-60
>2.2 GHz to 4 GHz	-55	-57
>4 GHz to 6 GHz	-45	-48

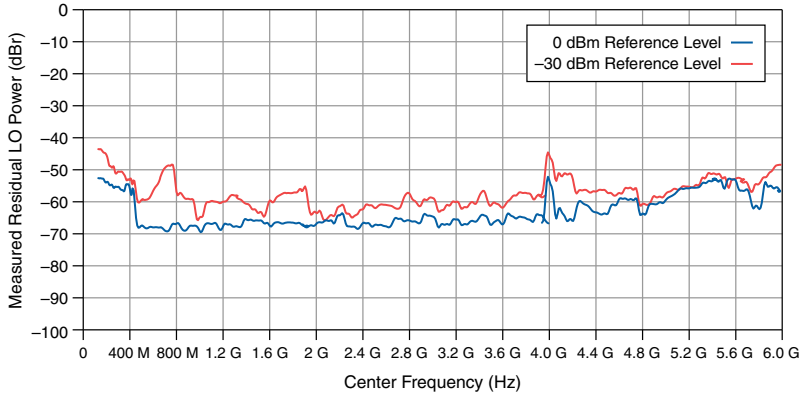
Conditions: LO Residual Power averaged across a maximum of 200 MHz bandwidth using the internal LO of the PXIe-5840. Input tone power at a maximum of -6 dBr.

The PXIe-5840 uses the low frequency subsystem to directly acquire the RF input signal below 120 MHz.

⁵ The maximum offset is limited to within the equalized bandwidth of the referenced LO Frequency.

⁶ dBr is relative to the full scale of the configured RF reference level.

Figure 4. Input LO Residual Power, Typical



RF Input Residual Sideband Image

Table 14. Input Residual Sideband Image (dBc), Typical

Center Frequency	NI-RFSA Device Instantaneous Bandwidth Setting	Input Bandwidth ⁷	Residual Sideband Image (dBc)
≥120 MHz to 410 MHz	50 MHz	50 MHz	-50
>410 MHz to 650 MHz	100 MHz	100 MHz	-50
>650 MHz to 1.3 GHz	200 MHz	200 MHz	-55
>1.3 GHz to 2.2 GHz	200 MHz	200 MHz	-55
		500 MHz	-53
>2.2 GHz to 5 GHz	1 GHz	200 MHz	-57
		200 MHz	-50
		1 GHz	-45

⁷ The Input Bandwidth describes the occupied bandwidth of the input signal centered at the center frequency.

Table 14. Input Residual Sideband Image (dBc), Typical (Continued)

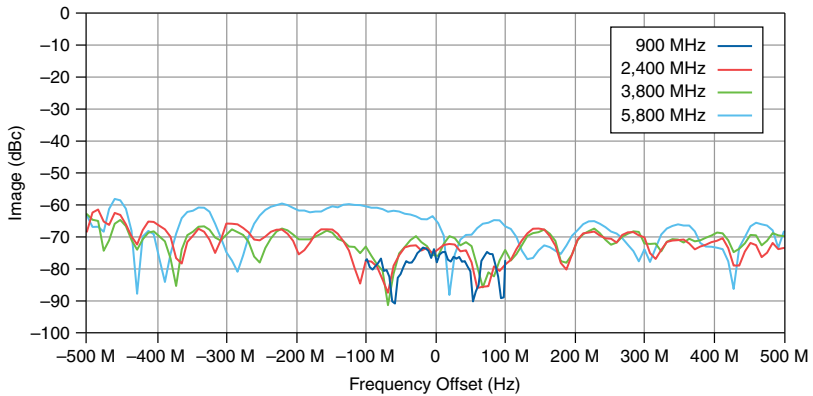
Center Frequency	NI-RFSA Device Instantaneous Bandwidth Setting	Input Bandwidth ⁷	Residual Sideband Image (dBc)
>5 GHz to 6 GHz	200 MHz	200 MHz	-50
	1 GHz	200 MHz	-50
		1 GHz	-45

Conditions: Reference levels -30 dBm to +30 dBm.

The PXIe-5840 uses the low frequency subsystem to directly acquire the RF signal below 120 MHz.

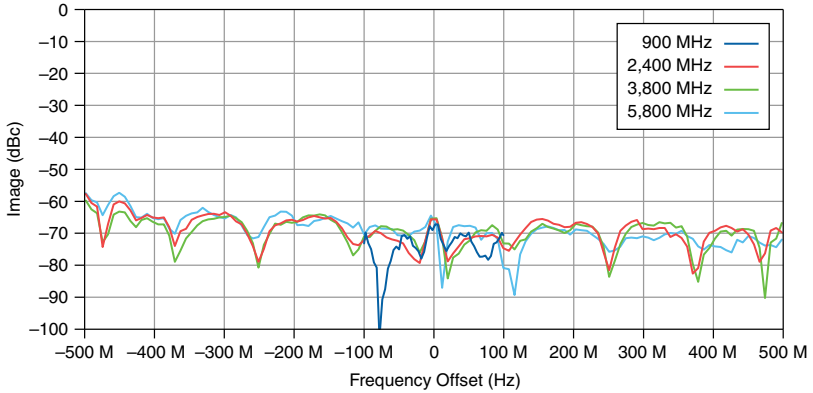
This specification describes the maximum residual sideband image within the device bandwidth centered around a given RF center frequency.

Figure 5. Input Residual Sideband Image, 0 dBm Reference Level, Measured



⁷ The Input Bandwidth describes the occupied bandwidth of the input signal centered at the center frequency.

Figure 6. Input Residual Sideband Image, -30 dBm Reference Level, Measured



RF Output

RF Output Power Range

Table 15. Output Power Range

NI-RFSG Bandwidth Setting	Frequency	Power Range, CW, Average Power	
		Specification	Nominal
<120 MHz	9 kHz to <120 MHz	Noise floor to +5 dBm	Noise Floor to +8 dBm
≤200 MHz	120 MHz to 4 GHz	Noise floor to +18 dBm	Noise Floor to ≥+20 dBm
	>4 GHz to 6 GHz	Noise Floor to +15 dBm	Noise Floor to ≥+17 dBm

Table 15. Output Power Range (Continued)

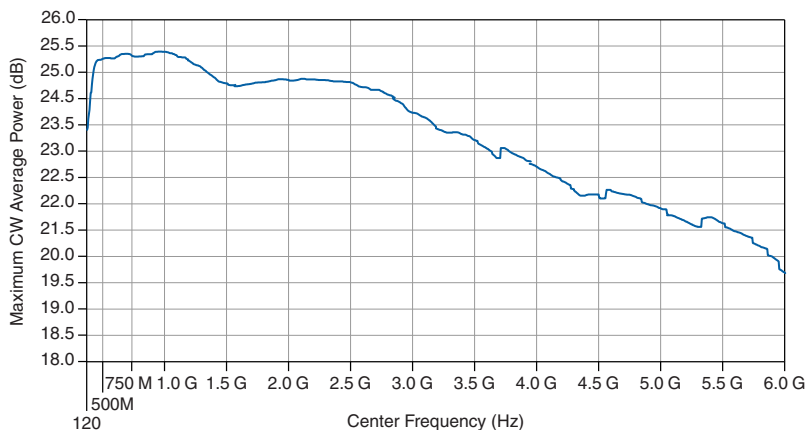
NI-RFSG Bandwidth Setting	Frequency	Power Range, CW, Average Power	
		Specification	Nominal
1 GHz	≥2.2 GHz to 4 GHz	Noise Floor to +18 dBm	Noise Floor to ≥+20 dBm
	>4 GHz to 6 GHz	Noise Floor to +10 dBm	Noise Floor to ≥+15 dBm

The power range refers to CW average power. For modulated signal generation, it is important to consider the impact of peak to average power ratio (PAPR). For example, a modulated 20 MHz signal between 120 MHz to 4 GHz with a 12 dB PAPR can be generated with up to +6 dBm (+8 dBm nominal) average modulated power.

Output attenuator resolution 1 dB, nominal

Digital attenuation resolution⁸ <0.1 dB

Figure 7. Output Maximum CW Average Power (dB), Measured



Related Information

Refer to the [Considering Average Power and Crest Factor](#) topic of the [NI RF Vector Signal Transceivers Help](#) for more information about modulated signal power.

⁸ Average output power ≥ -100 dBm.

RF Output Amplitude Settling Time⁹

<0.5 dB of final value

60 μ s, typical

<0.1 dB of final value

85 μ s, typical

RF Output Power Level Accuracy

Table 16. Output Power Level Accuracy (dB)

Center Frequency	Specification	2 σ	Typical
>200 MHz to 500 MHz	± 0.8	± 0.6	± 0.45
>500 MHz to 1.5 GHz	± 0.7	± 0.6	± 0.45
>1.5 GHz to 2.3 GHz	± 0.7	± 0.6	± 0.45
>2.3 GHz to 2.9 GHz	± 0.7	± 0.6	± 0.45
>2.9 GHz to 4.8 GHz	± 0.85	± 0.65	± 0.5
>4.8 GHz to 6 GHz	± 0.9	± 0.7	± 0.55

Conditions: For frequencies 2.3 GHz and below, Power Level -30 dBm to +15 dBm; for frequencies greater than 2.3 GHz, Power Level -50 dBm to +15 dBm; measured at 3.75 MHz offset from the configured center frequency; measurement performed after the PXIe-5840 has settled.

This specification is valid only when the module is operating within the specified ambient temperature range and within ± 10 °C from the last self-calibration temperature, as measured with the onboard temperature sensors.

This specification requires that temperature correction is being performed. Temperature correction is applied automatically if

`NIRFSG_ATTR_AUTOMATIC_THERMAL_CORRECTION` is enabled (default).

Temperature correction is applied if necessary only when NI-RFSG settings are adjusted. If `NIRFSG_ATTR_AUTOMATIC_THERMAL_CORRECTION` is disabled, the `niRFSG_PerformThermalCorrection` must be explicitly called.

⁹ Varying RF output power range.

Figure 8. Output Relative Power Accuracy, 10 MHz to <120 MHz, -50 dBm to +5 dBm, Nominal¹⁰

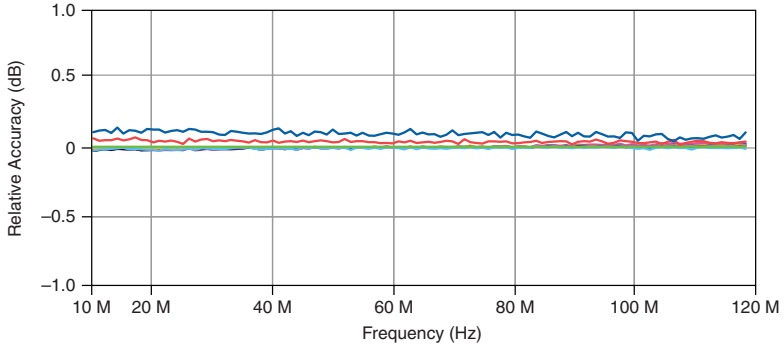
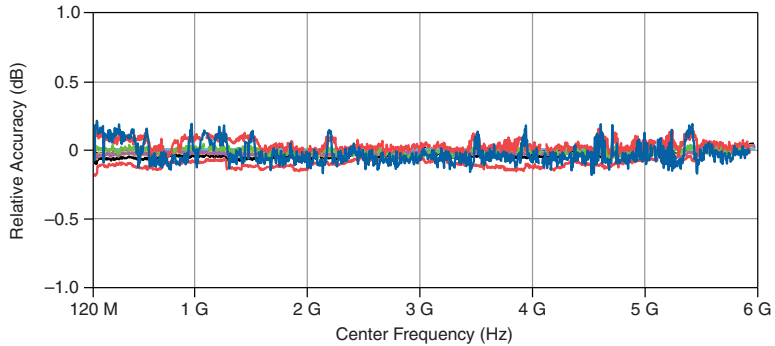


Figure 9. Output Relative Power Accuracy, 120 MHz to 6 GHz, -50 dBm to +15 dBm, Nominal¹⁰



RF Output Frequency Response

Table 17. Output Frequency Response (dB) (Equalized)

Center Frequency	NI-RFSG Signal Bandwidth Setting	Frequency Response (dB)
≥250 MHz to 410 MHz	50 MHz	±0.90
		±0.55, typical

¹⁰ RF Front end configured to maximum +5 dBm (<120 MHz) and +15 dBm (120 MHz to 6 GHz). Signal level attenuated digitally.

Table 17. Output Frequency Response (dB) (Equalized) (Continued)

Center Frequency	NI-RFSG Signal Bandwidth Setting	Frequency Response (dB)
>410 MHz to 650 MHz	100 MHz	±1.10
		±0.55, typical
>650 MHz to 1.5 GHz	200 MHz	±2.00
		±1.20, typical
>1.5 GHz to 2.2 GHz	200 MHz	±1.40
		±0.80, typical
>2.2 GHz to 2.9 GHz	200 MHz	±1.40
		±0.80, typical
	1 GHz	±2.00, typical
>2.9 GHz to 4.8 GHz	200 MHz	±2.20
		±1.20, typical
	1 GHz	±3.3, typical
>4.8 GHz to 6 GHz	200 MHz	±2.20
		±1.25, typical
	1 GHz	±3.00, typical
<p>Conditions: Output peak power level -30 dBm to +15 dBm; module temperature within ±5 °C of last self-calibration temperature.</p> <p>Frequency response is defined as the maximum relative amplitude deviation from the reference offset frequency. For the PXIe-5840 RF Input the reference offset frequency is 3.75 MHz. For the absolute amplitude accuracy at the reference offset, refer to the <i>RF Output Power Level Accuracy</i> section.</p>		

Figure 10. Measured 200 MHz Output Frequency Response, 0 dBm Output Power Level, Equalized

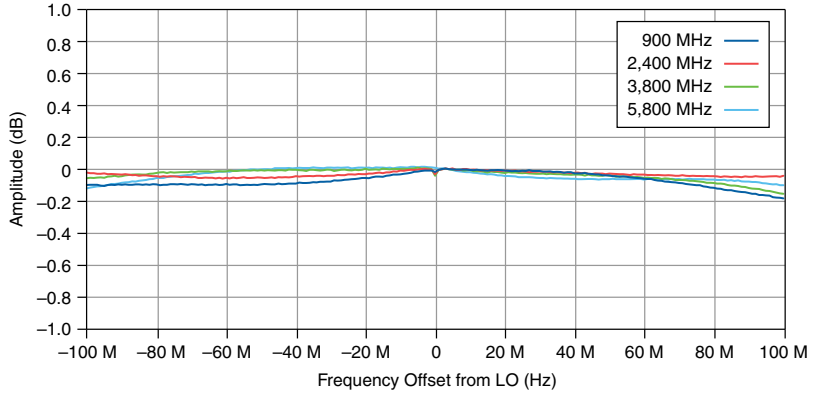
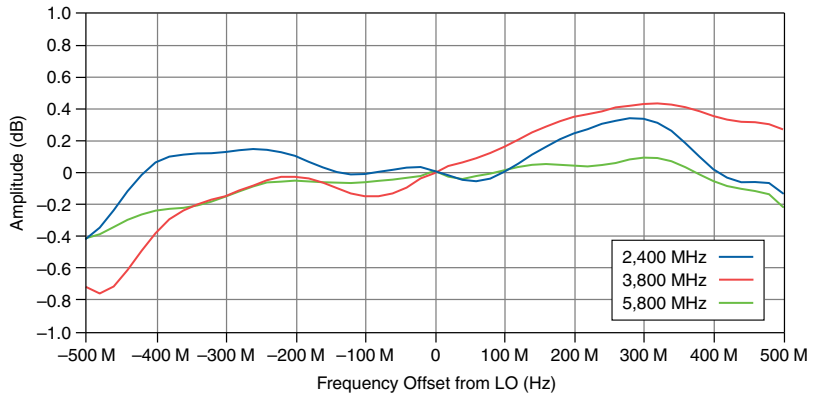


Figure 11. Measured 1 GHz Output Frequency Response, 0 dBm Output Power Level, Equalized



RF Output Average Noise Density

Table 18. Output Average Noise Density (dBm/Hz), Typical

Center Frequency	Output Power Level (Peak)		
	-30 dBm	0 dBm	10 dBm
10 MHz to 120 MHz	-145	-147	—
>120 MHz to 600 MHz	-167	-149	-137

Table 18. Output Average Noise Density (dBm/Hz), Typical (Continued)

Center Frequency	Output Power Level (Peak)		
	-30 dBm	0 dBm	10 dBm
>600 MHz to 2.2 GHz	-165	-151	-140
>2.2 GHz to 3.0 GHz	-165	-143	-134
>3.0 GHz to 5.0 GHz	-164	-148	-138
>5.0 GHz to 6.0 GHz	-163	-142	-133

Conditions: 50 averages; -40 dB baseband signal attenuation; noise measurement frequency offset 4 MHz relative to output frequency.

RF Output Spurious Responses

RF Output Third-Order Intermodulation

Table 19. Third-Order Output Intermodulation Distortion (IMD₃) (dBc), -6 dBm Tones, Typical

Fundamental Frequency	Baseband DAC: -2 dBFS	Baseband DAC: -6 dBFS
1 MHz to 100 MHz	-72	-72
>100 MHz to 2.0 GHz	-45	-50
>2.0 GHz to 2.7 GHz	-49	-54
>2.7 GHz to 4.0 GHz	-46	-59
>4.0 GHz to 5.0 GHz	-42	-59
>5.0 GHz to 6.0 GHz	-50	-56

Conditions: -6 dBm tones with 700 kHz separation at RF OUT. Output power level set to achieve the desired output power per tone allowing specified digital headroom.

Table 20. Third-Order Output Intermodulation Distortion (IMD₃) (dBc), -36 dBm Tones, Typical

Fundamental Frequency	Baseband DAC: -2 dBFS	Baseband DAC: -6 dBFS
1 MHz to 100 MHz	-71	-72
>100 MHz to 1.0 GHz	-52	-60

Table 20. Third-Order Output Intermodulation Distortion (IMD₃) (dBc), -36 dBm Tones, Typical (Continued)

Fundamental Frequency	Baseband DAC: -2 dBFS	Baseband DAC: -6 dBFS
>1.0 GHz to 2.7 GHz	-56	-64
>2.7 GHz to 5.0 GHz	-54	-60
>5.0 GHz to 6.0 GHz	-53	-57

Conditions: -36 dBm tones with 700 kHz separation at RF OUT. Output power level set to achieve the desired output power per tone allowing specified digital headroom.

RF Output Harmonics

Table 21. Output Second Harmonic Level (dBc), Typical

Frequency Range	CW Average Power	
	6 dBm	15 dBm
10 MHz to 120 MHz	-50	N/A
>120 MHz to 200 MHz	-34	-32
>200 MHz to 1.4 GHz	-34	-32
>1.4 GHz to 2.7 GHz	-30	-32
>2.7 GHz to 6.0 GHz	-39	-32

Conditions: Measured using a -1 dBFS baseband signal with 1 MHz offset.

RF Output Nonharmonic Spurs

Table 22. Output Nonharmonic Spurs (dBc), Typical


Frequency	10 kHz ≤ Offset < 100 kHz	100 kHz ≤ Offset < 1 MHz	1 MHz ≤ Offset ¹¹
>120 MHz to 460 MHz	<-80	<-80	<-60
>460 MHz to 1.35 GHz	<-75	<-75	<-65
>1.35 GHz to 2.25 GHz	<-75	<-70	<-63
>2.25 GHz to 4.5 GHz	<-65	<-63	<-62

¹¹ The maximum offset is limited to within the equalized bandwidth of the referenced LO Frequency.

Table 22. Output Nonharmonic Spurs (dBc), Typical (Continued)

Frequency	10 kHz \leq Offset < 100 kHz	100 kHz \leq Offset < 1 MHz	1 MHz \leq Offset ¹¹
>4.5 GHz to 6 GHz	<-55	<-56	<-61

Conditions : Output full scale level 0 dBm. Measured with a single tone at 0 dBFS.

 **Note** Offset refers to \pm desired signal offset (Hz) around the current LO frequency.

RF Output LO Residual Power

Table 23. Output LO Residual Power (dBc), Typical

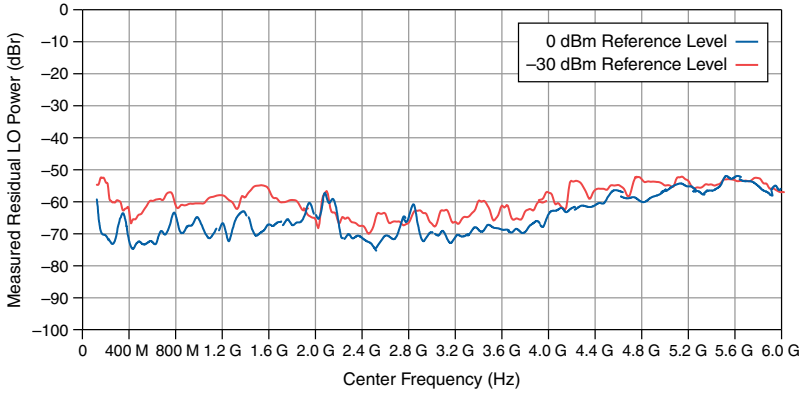
Center Frequency	LO Residual Power
\geq 120 MHz to 410 MHz	-50
>410 MHz to 2.2 GHz	-52
>2.2 GHz to 4 GHz	-54
>4 GHz to 6 GHz	-51

Conditions: LO Residual Power averaged across a maximum of 200 MHz bandwidth using the internal LO of the PXIe-5840. Peak output power -30 dBm to +15 dBm; tone at -6 dBFS.

The PXIe-5840 uses the low frequency subsystem to directly generate the RF signal below 120 MHz.

¹¹ The maximum offset is limited to within the equalized bandwidth of the referenced LO Frequency.

Figure 12. Output LO Residual Power, Typical



RF Output Residual Sideband Image

Table 24. Output Residual Sideband Image (dBc), Typical

Center Frequency	NI-RFSG Signal Bandwidth Setting	Output Bandwidth ¹²	Residual Sideband Image
≥120 MHz to 410 MHz	50 MHz	50 MHz	-40
>410 MHz to 650 MHz	100 MHz	100 MHz	-55
>650 MHz to 1.3 GHz	200 MHz	200 MHz	-48
>1.3 GHz to 2.2 GHz	200 MHz	200 MHz	-50
		500 MHz	-47
>2.2 GHz to 5 GHz	1 GHz	200 MHz	-45
		500 MHz	-48
		1 GHz	-50

¹² Output Bandwidth describes the occupied bandwidth of the generated signal centered at the center frequency.

Table 24. Output Residual Sideband Image (dBc), Typical (Continued)

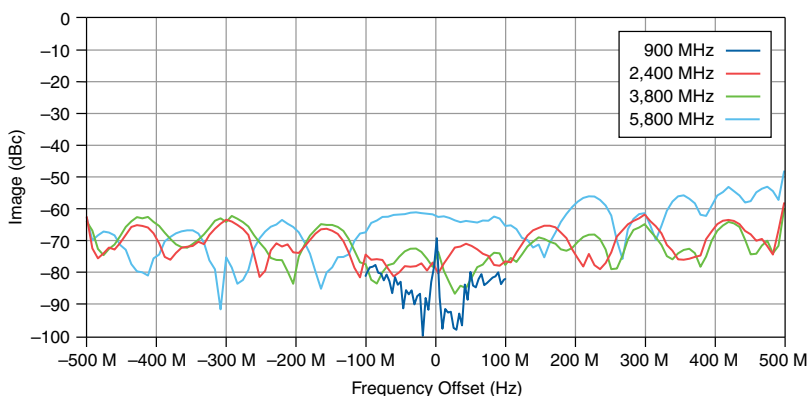
Center Frequency	NI-RFSG Signal Bandwidth Setting	Output Bandwidth ¹²	Residual Sideband Image
>5 GHz to 6 GHz	200 MHz	200 MHz	-45
	1 GHz	200 MHz	-45
		1 GHz ¹³	-40

Conditions: Peak output power levels -30 dBm to +15 dBm.

The PXIe-5840 uses the low frequency subsystem to directly generate the RF signal below 120 MHz.

This specification describes the maximum residual sideband image within the device bandwidth centered around a given RF center frequency.

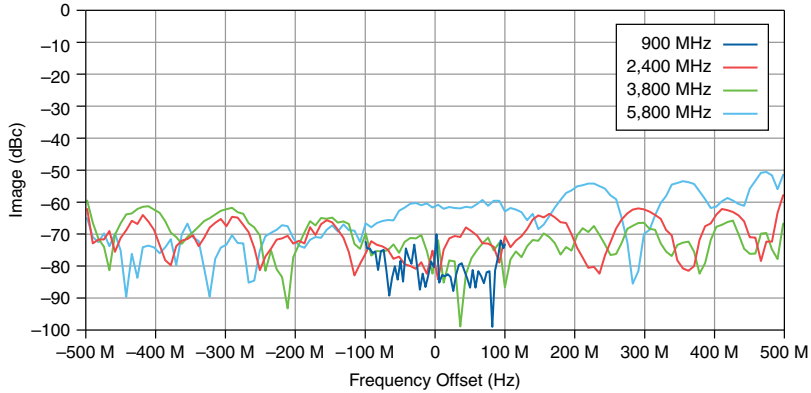
Figure 13. Output Residual Sideband Image, 0 dBm Average Output Power, Measured



¹² Output Bandwidth describes the occupied bandwidth of the generated signal centered at the center frequency.

¹³ Image performance degrades for center frequencies greater than 5.9 GHz for reference levels above 0 dBm.

Figure 14. Output Residual Sideband Image, -30 dBm Average Output Power, Measured



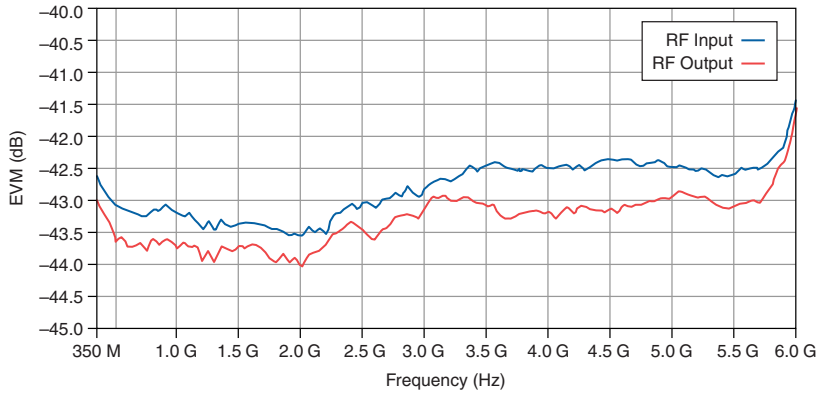
Error Vector Magnitude (EVM)

Table 25. Error Vector Magnitude, RMS (dB), Typical

Center Frequency	RF Input	RF Output
350 MHz to 4 GHz	-41	-41
>4 GHz to 6 GHz	-40	-40

Conditions: 20 MHz bandwidth 64-QAM modulated signal. Pulse-shape filtering: root-raised cosine, alpha=0.25; PXIe-5840 RF Input reference level: 0 dBm, LO Offset: 10 MHz; PXIe-5840 RF Output average power level: -5 dBm; Reference Clock source: Onboard; Acquisition length: 300 μ s.

Figure 15. Measured RMS EVM¹⁴

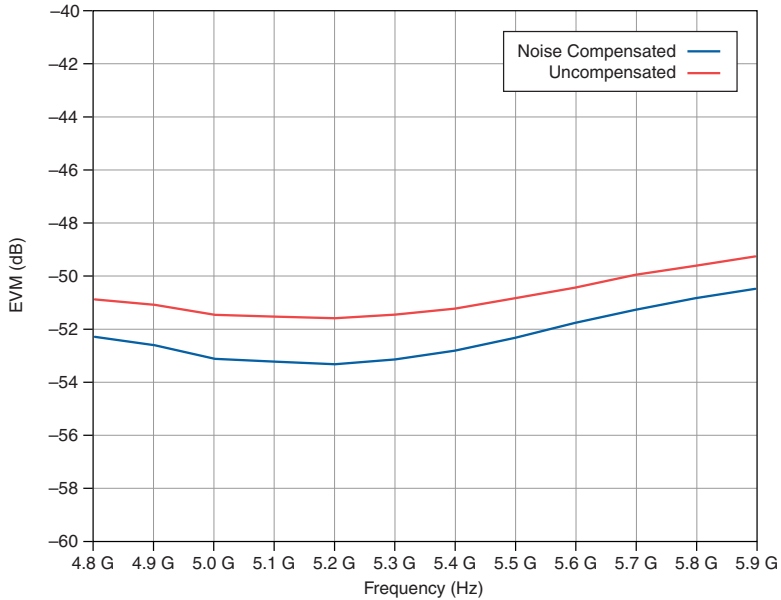


¹⁴ Conditions: 20 MHz bandwidth 64-QAM modulated signal. Pulse-shape filtering: root-raised cosine, alpha=0.25; PXIe-5840 RF Input reference level: 0 dBm, LO Offset: 10 MHz; PXIe-5840 RF Output average power level: -5 dBm; Reference Clock source: Onboard; acquisition length: 300 μ s.

Application-Specific Modulation Quality

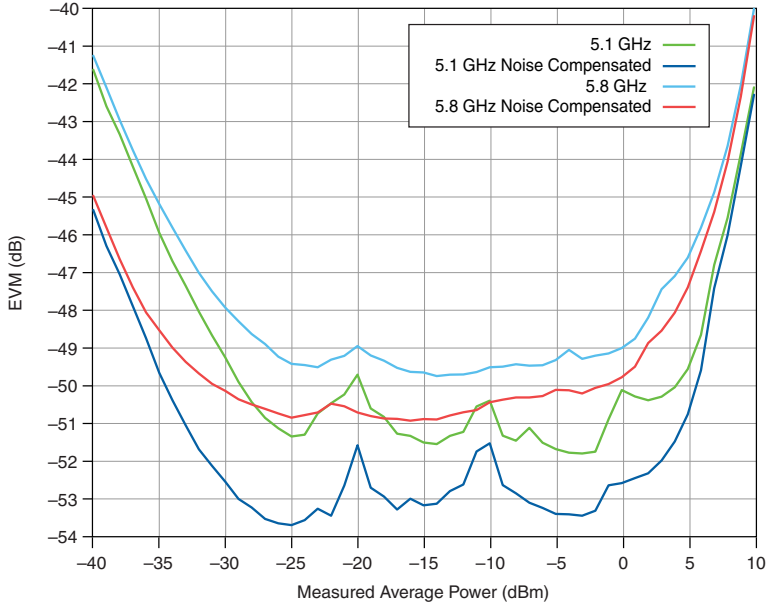
WLAN 802.11ax

Figure 16. WLAN 802.11ax Measured RMS EVM (dB) versus Frequency (Hz), External LO¹⁵



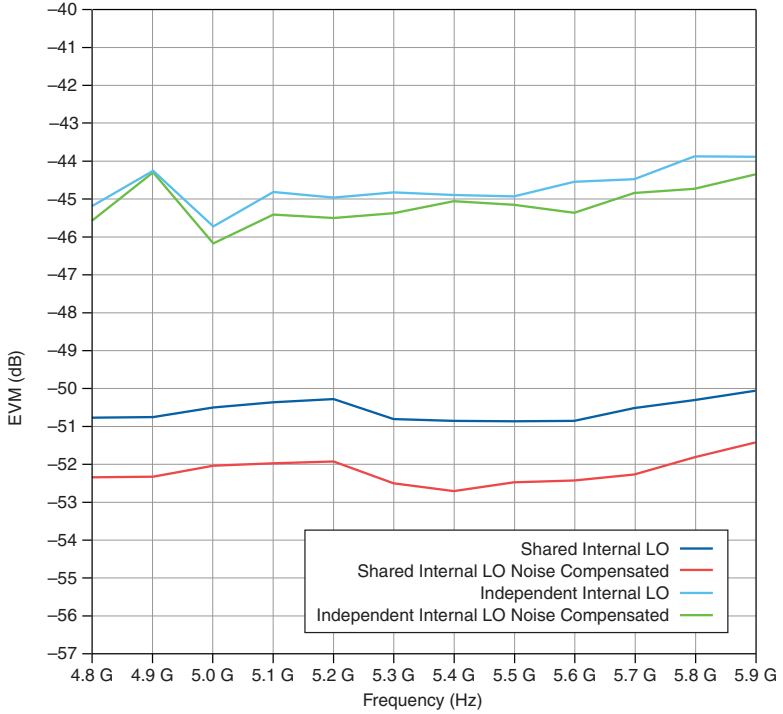
¹⁵ Conditions: RF Output loopback to RF Input; waveform bandwidth: 80 MHz; MCS Index: 11; 16 OFDM Symbols; 10 Packet Averages; LO Offset: -250 MHz; device instantaneous bandwidth: 1 GHz; RF Output power level: -15 dBm; External LO: PXIe-5653. Channel Estimation Method is Preamble.

Figure 17. WLAN 802.11ax Measured RMS EVM (dB) versus Measured Average Power (dBm), External LO¹⁶



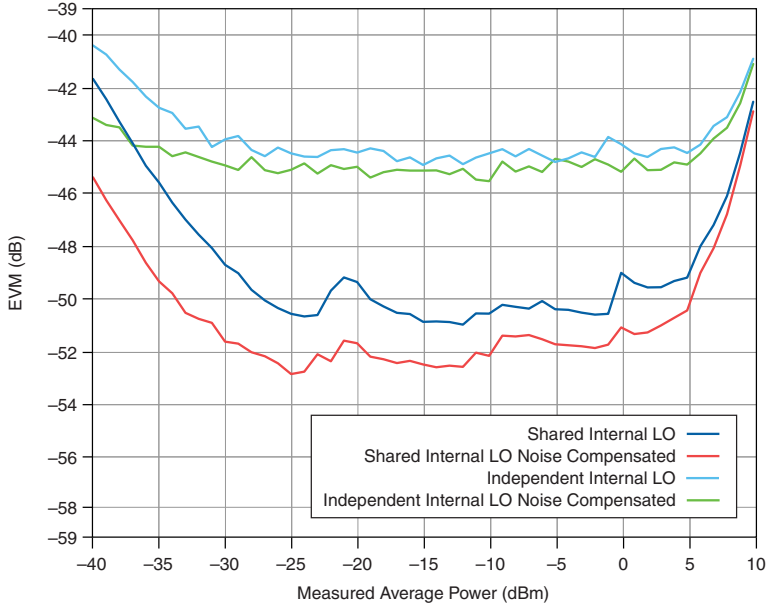
¹⁶ Conditions: RF Output loopback to RF Input; waveform bandwidth: 80 MHz; MCS Index: 11; LO Offset: -250 MHz; device instantaneous bandwidth: 1 GHz; External LO: PXIe-5653. Channel Estimation Method is Preamble.

Figure 18. WLAN 802.11ax Measured RMS EVM (dB) versus Frequency (Hz), Internal LO¹⁷



¹⁷ Conditions: RF Output loopback to RF Input; waveform bandwidth: 80 MHz; MCS Index: 11; LO Offset: -250 MHz; device instantaneous bandwidth: 1 GHz; RF Output power level: -15 dBm. Channel Estimation Method is Preamble.

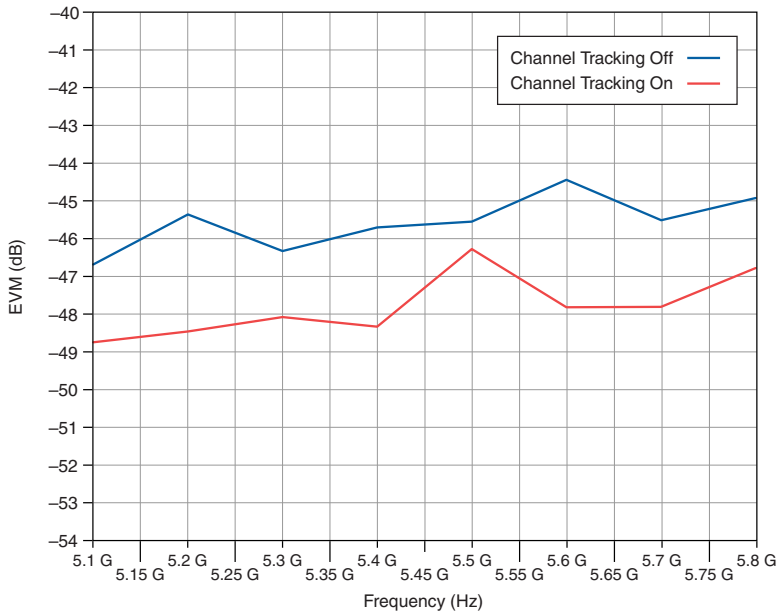
Figure 19. WLAN 802.11ax Measured RMS EVM (dB) versus Measured Average Power (dBm), Internal LO¹⁸



¹⁸ Conditions: RF Output loopback to RF Input; waveform bandwidth: 80 MHz; MCS index: 11; LO Offset: -250 MHz; device instantaneous bandwidth: 1 GHz; carrier frequency: 5.5 GHz.

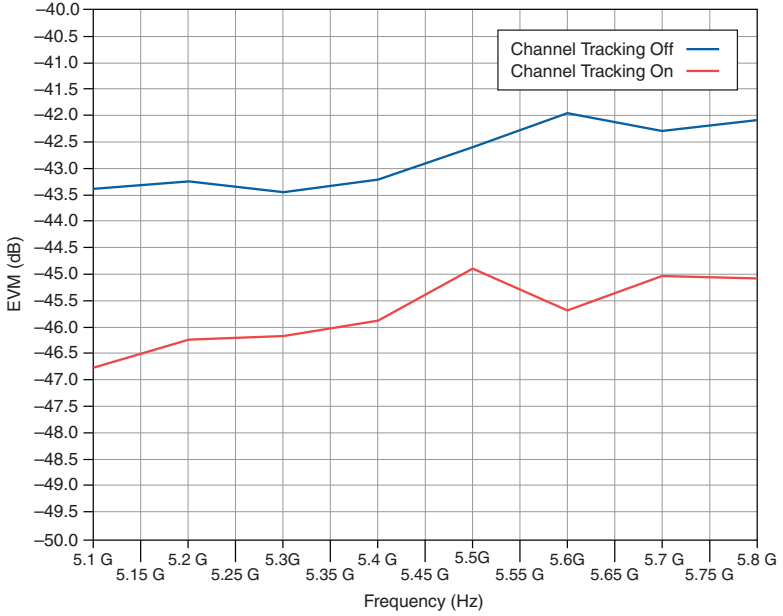
WLAN 802.11ac

Figure 20. WLAN 802.11ac Measured RMS EVM (dB) versus Frequency (Hz), 80 MHz Bandwidth¹⁹



¹⁹ Conditions: RF Output loopback to RF Input; MCS Index: 9; 16 OFDM Symbols; 10 Packet Averages; LO Offset: -250 MHz; device instantaneous bandwidth: 500 MHz; RF Output power level: 0 dBm; Internal LO.

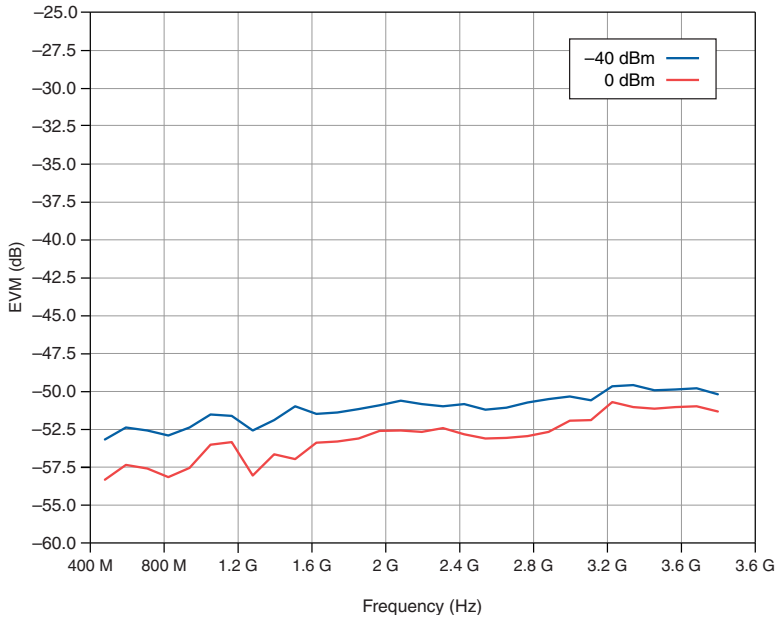
Figure 21. WLAN 802.11ac Measured RMS EVM (dB) versus Frequency (Hz), 160 MHz Bandwidth²⁰



²⁰ Conditions: RF Output loopback to RF Input; MCS Index: 9; LO Offset: -250 MHz; device instantaneous bandwidth: 500 MHz; RF Output power level: 0 dBm; Internal LO.

LTE

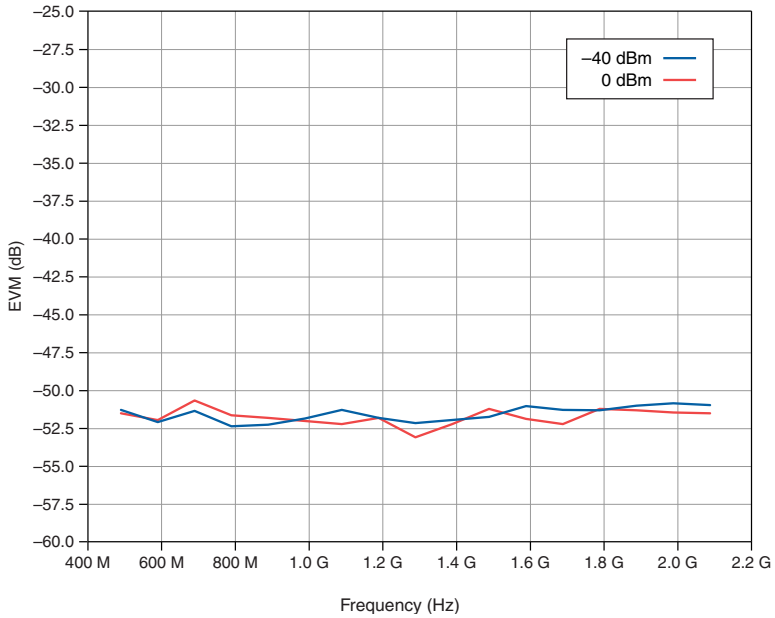
Figure 22. LTE Measured RMS EVM (dB) versus Frequency (Hz)²¹



²¹ Conditions: RF Output loopback to RF Input; Single LTE channel; LO Leakage Avoidance disabled.

WCDMA

Figure 23. WCDMA Measured RMS EVM (dB) versus Frequency (Hz)²²



Baseband Characteristics

Analog-to-digital converters (ADCs)

I/Q data rate²³

19 kS/s to 1.25 GS/s

Digital-to-analog converters (DACs)

I/Q data rate²⁴

19 kS/s to 1.25 GS/s

Onboard FPGA

FPGA

Xilinx Virtex-7 X690T

LUTs

433,200

Flip-flops

866,400

²² Conditions: RF Output loopback to RF Input; Single WCDMA channel; LO Leakage Avoidance enabled

²³ I/Q data rates lower than 1.25 GS/s are achieved using fractional decimation.

²⁴ I/Q data rates lower than 1.25 GS/s are achieved using fractional interpolation.

DSP48 slices	3,600
Embedded block RAM	52.9 Mbits
Data transfers	DMA, interrupts, programmed I/O
Number of DMA channels	56

Onboard DRAM

Memory size	2 banks, 2 GB per bank
Theoretical maximum data rate	12 GB/s per bank

Onboard SRAM

Memory size	2 MB
Maximum data rate (read)	31 MB/s
Maximum data rate (write)	29 MB/s

Front Panel I/O



Note Measurement Categories CAT I and CAT O (Other) are equivalent. These test and measurement circuits are not intended for direct connection to the MAINS building installations of Measurement Categories CAT II, CAT III, or CAT IV.

RF IN

Connector	SMA (female)
Input impedance	50 Ω , nominal, AC coupled
Maximum DC input voltage without damage	± 10 VDC
Absolute maximum input power	
<120 MHz	+24 dBm (CW RMS)
≥ 120 MHz	+33 dBm (CW RMS)

Input Return Loss (VSWR)

Table 26. Input Return Loss (dB) (Voltage Standing Wave Ratio), Typical

Frequency	Preamp Disabled	Preamp Enabled, Auto
100 kHz to <500 MHz	13.5 (1.51:1)	13.5 (1.51:1)
500 MHz to <1.2 GHz	15.0 (1.43:1)	13.5 (1.51:1)
1.2 GHz to <3.8 GHz	15.0 (1.43:1)	15.0 (1.43:1)

Table 26. Input Return Loss (dB) (Voltage Standing Wave Ratio), Typical (Continued)

Frequency	Preamp Disabled	Preamp Enabled, Auto
3.8 GHz to <4.2 GHz	15.0 (1.43:1)	13.5 (1.51:1)
4.2 GHz to <5.8 GHz	15.0 (1.43:1)	15.0 (1.43:1)
5.8 GHz to 6.0 GHz	13.5 (1.51:1)	13.5 (1.51:1)

RF OUT

Connector	SMA (female)
Output impedance	50 Ω , nominal, AC coupled
Absolute maximum reverse power	
<120 MHz	+24 dBm (CW RMS)
\geq 120 MHz	+33 dBm (CW RMS)

Output Return Loss (VSWR)

Table 27. Output Return Loss (dB) (Voltage Standing Wave Ratio), Typical

Frequency	Typical
100 kHz to <500 MHz	12.0 (1.67:1)
500 MHz to <2.8 GHz	17.0 (1.33:1)
2.8 GHz to <4.5 GHz	14.5 (1.46:1)
4.5 GHz to <5.8 GHz	16.0 (1.38:1)
5.8 GHz to 6.0 GHz	15.0 (1.43:1)

LO OUT (RF IN and RF OUT)

Connectors	MMPX (female)
Frequency range	120 MHz to 6 GHz
Output power	0 dBm \pm 2 dB, typical
Output power resolution ²⁵	0.25 dB, nominal
Output impedance	50 Ω , nominal, AC coupled

²⁵ Output power resolution refers to the RF attenuator step size used to compensate for the LO output frequency response.

Output return loss

120 MHz to 2 GHz	>15 dB (VSWR < 1.43:1), nominal
>2 GHz to 6 GHz	>12 dB (VSWR < 1.67:1), nominal

LO IN (RF IN and RF OUT)

Connectors	MMPX (female)
Frequency range	120 MHz to 6 GHz
Input power range ²⁶	-4 dBm to 0 dBm, nominal
Input impedance	50 Ω , nominal, AC coupled
Input return loss (LO IN Enabled)	
120 MHz to 2 GHz	>20 dB (VSWR <1.22:1), nominal
>2 GHz to 6 GHz	>15 dB (VSWR <1.43:1), nominal
Input return loss (LO IN Disabled)	>18 dB (VSWR <1.22:1), nominal
120 MHz to 6 GHz	
Absolute maximum input power	+15 dBm
Maximum DC voltage	± 5 VDC

REF IN

Connector	MMPX (female)
Frequency	10 MHz
Tolerance ²⁷	$\pm 10 \times 10^{-6}$
Amplitude ²⁸	0.7 V _{pk-pk} to 3.3 V _{pk-pk} into 50 Ω , typical
Input impedance	50 Ω , nominal
Coupling	AC

REF OUT

Connector	MMPX (female)
Frequency ²⁹	10 MHz, nominal
Amplitude	1.65 V _{pk-pk} into 50 Ω , nominal

²⁶ The PXIe-5840 supports receiving an external LO with a range of signal power levels. To properly configure the PXIe-5840 LO signal path for the provided level, set `NIRFSA_ATTR_LO_IN_POWER` or `NIRFSG_ATTR_LO_IN_POWER`.

²⁷ $Frequency\ Accuracy = Tolerance \times Reference\ Frequency$

²⁸ Jitter performance improves with increased slew rate of input signal.

²⁹ Refer to the [Internal Frequency Reference](#) section for accuracy.

Output impedance	50 Ω , nominal
Coupling	AC

PFI 0

Connector	MMPX (female)
Voltage levels ³⁰	
Absolute maximum input range	-0.5 V to 5.5 V
V_{IL} , maximum	0.8 V
V_{IH} , minimum	2.0 V
V_{OL} , maximum	0.2 V with 100 μ A load
V_{OH} , minimum	2.9 V with 100 μ A load
Input impedance	10 k Ω , nominal
Output impedance	50 Ω , nominal
Maximum DC drive strength	24 mA

DIGITAL I/O

Connector	Molex Nano-Pitch I/O
5.0 V Power	\pm 5%, 50mA maximum, nominal

Table 28. DIGITAL I/O Signal Characteristics

Signal	Type	Direction
MGT Tx \pm <3..0>	Xilinx Virtex-7 GTH	Output
MGT Rx \pm <3..0>	Xilinx Virtex-7 GTH	Input
MGT REF \pm	Differential	Input
DIO <1..0> ³¹	Single-ended	Bidirectional
DIO <7..2>	Single-ended	Bidirectional
5.0 V	DC	Output
GND	Ground	—

³⁰ Voltage levels are guaranteed by design through the digital buffer specifications.

³¹ Pins are multiplexed with MGT REF \pm .

Digital I/O Single-Ended Channels

Number of channels	8
Signal type	Single-ended
Voltage families	3.3 V, 2.5 V, 1.8 V, 1.5 V, 1.2 V
Input impedance	
DIO <1..0>	10 k Ω , nominal
DIO <7..2>	100 k Ω , nominal
Output impedance	50 Ω , nominal
Direction control	Per channel
Minimum required direction change latency	200 ns
Maximum output toggle rate	60 MHz with 100 μ A load, nominal

Table 29. DIGITAL I/O Single-Ended DC Signal Characteristics³²

Voltage Family	V _{IL} Max	V _{IH} Min	V _{OL} Max (100 μ A load)	V _{OH} Min (100 μ A load)	Maximum DC Drive Strength
3.3 V	0.8 V	2.0 V	0.2 V	3.0 V	24 mA
2.5 V	0.7 V	1.6 V	0.2 V	2.2 V	18 mA
1.8 V	0.62 V	1.29 V	0.2 V	1.5 V	16 mA
1.5 V	0.51 V	1.07 V	0.2 V	1.2 V	12 mA
1.2 V	0.42 V	0.87 V	0.2 V	0.9 V	6 mA

Digital I/O High Speed Serial MGT³³

Data rate	500 Mbps to 12 Gbps, nominal
Number of Tx channels	4
Number of Rx channels	4
I/O AC coupling capacitor	100 nF

MGT Tx \pm <3..0> Channels

Minimum differential output voltage ³⁴	800 mV _{pk-pk} into 100 Ω , nominal
---	---

³² Voltage levels are guaranteed by design through the digital buffer specifications.

³³ For detailed FPGA and High Speed Serial Link specifications, refer to Xilinx documentation.

³⁴ When transmitter output swing is set to the maximum setting.

MGT Rx± <3..0> Channels

Differential input voltage range

≤ 6.6 GB/s	150 mV _{pk-pk} to 2000 mV _{pk-pk} , nominal
> 6.6 GB/s	150 mV _{pk-pk} to 1250 mV _{pk-pk} , nominal

Differential input resistance	100 Ω , nominal
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MGT Reference Clock

Clocking Resources

Internal MGT reference ³⁵	78.125 MHz to 625 MHz
Data Clock	156.25 MHz
MGT REF± Input	60 MHz to 820 MHz, nominal

MGT REF± Input

AC coupling capacitors	100 nF
Differential input resistance	100 Ω , nominal
Differential input V _{pk-pk} range	350 mV to 2000 mV, nominal
Absolute maximum input range	-1.25 V to 4.5 V ³⁶

³⁵ Internal MGT Reference is derived from the Sample Clock PLL. Available frequencies are 2.5 GHz / N, where $4 \leq N \leq 32$. Set via MGT component level IP (CLIP).

³⁶ Absolute maximum levels at input, prior to AC coupling capacitors.

Figure 24. DIGITAL I/O Nano-Pitch Connector

Reserved	A1	B1	5.0 V
GND	A2	B2	GND
MGT Rx+ 0	A3	B3	MGT Tx+ 0
MGT Rx- 0	A4	B4	MGT Tx- 0
GND	A5	B5	GND
MGT Rx+ 1	A6	B6	MGT Tx+ 1
MGT Rx- 1	A7	B7	MGT Tx- 1
GND	A8	B8	GND
DIO 4	A9	B9	DIO 6
DIO 5	A10	B10	DIO 7
GND	A11	B11	GND
MGT REF+ / DIO 0	A12	B12	DIO 2
MGT REF- / DIO 1	A13	B13	DIO 3
GND	A14	B14	GND
MGT Rx+ 2	A15	B15	MGT Tx+ 2
MGT Rx- 2	A16	B16	MGT Tx- 2
GND	A17	B17	GND
MGT Rx+ 3	A18	B18	MGT Tx+ 3
MGT Rx- 3	A19	B19	MGT Tx- 3
GND	A20	B20	GND
5.0 V	A21	B21	Reserved

Power Requirements

Table 30. Power Requirements

Voltage (V _{DC})	Typical Current (A)
+3.3	3.3
+12	5.8

Power is 80 W, typical. Consumption is from both NI PXI Express backplane power connectors.

Conditions: Simultaneous generation and acquisition using NI-RFSG and NI-RFSA at 1.25 GS/s IQ rate, 45 °C ambient temperature. Power consumption depends on FPGA image being used.

Calibration

Interval	1 year
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Note For the two-year calibration interval, add 0.2 dB to one year specifications for *RF Input Absolute Amplitude Accuracy*, *RF Input Frequency Response*, *RF Output Power Level Accuracy*, and *RF Output Frequency Response*.

Physical Characteristics

PXIe-5840 module	2U, two slot, PXI Express module 4.1 cm × 12.9 cm × 21.1 cm (1.6 in. × 5.6 in. × 8.3 in.)
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Weight	794 g (28.0 oz)
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Environment

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

Pollution Degree	2
------------------	---

Indoor use only.

Operating Environment

Ambient temperature range	0 °C to 45 °C (Tested in accordance with IEC 60068-2-1 and IEC 60068-2-2. Meets MIL-PRF-28800F Class 3 low temperature limit and MIL-PRF-28800F Class 4 high temperature limit.)
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Relative humidity range	10% to 90%, noncondensing (Tested in accordance with IEC 60068-2-56.)
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Storage Environment

Ambient temperature range	-40 °C to 71 °C (Tested in accordance with IEC 60068-2-1 and IEC 60068-2-2. Meets MIL-PRF-28800F Class 3 limits.)
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Relative humidity range	5% to 95%, noncondensing (Tested in accordance with IEC 60068-2-56.)
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Shock and Vibration

Operating shock	30 g peak, half-sine, 11 ms pulse (Tested in accordance with IEC 60068-2-27. Meets MIL-PRF-28800F Class 2 limits.)
Random vibration	
Operating	5 Hz to 500 Hz, 0.3 g _{rms} (Tested in accordance with IEC 60068-2-64.)
Nonoperating	5 Hz to 500 Hz, 2.4 g _{rms} (Tested in accordance with IEC 60068-2-64. Test profile exceeds the requirements of MIL-PRF-28800F, Class 3.)

Compliance and Certifications

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
- CAN/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

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 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.



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 For EMC declarations, certifications, and additional information, refer to the [Product Certifications and Declarations](#) section.

CE Compliance

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

2014/30/EU; Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive (EMC)

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.

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