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Agilent N6030A
Arbitrary Waveform Generator
15-Bit, 1.25 GS/s

Technical Overview



The Agilent Technologies N6030A arbitrary waveform generator (AWG) is capable of creating high-resolution waveforms for radar, satellite, and frequency agile communication systems. Each channel of the N6030A operates at 1.25 GS/s and features 15 bits of vertical resolution giving designers the most realistic, wideband waveforms available from a commercial AWG.

- 1.25 GS/s and 15 bits of vertical resolution per channel provides exceptionally realistic wideband waveforms
- Dual output channels drive both single-ended and balanced designs without the need for baluns or hybrids
- Extended waveform memory and advanced sequencing engine offers long scenario simulations
- Multiple module synchronization provides multi-emitter simulations
- Multiple programmatic interfaces enable easy integration into existing test environments

Agilent Technologies

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Generate wide bandwidth and wide dynamic range signals, simultaneously

The N6030A is a 4 slot 3U CompactPCI module that offers dual differential output channels to drive both single-ended and balanced designs. The AWG also supports advanced sequencing and triggering modes to create event-based signal simulations. Multiple N6030A modules can be synchronized for the generation of phase-coherent, multi-emitter scenarios. Waveform development tasks are simplified using the AWG's numerous programmatic interfaces including complete instrument control from the MATLAB® command line. When the N6030A is combined with a wideband I/Q upconverter, modulation bandwidths of 1 GHz can be realized at microwave frequencies for authentic signal simulations for IF and RF subsystem test.1

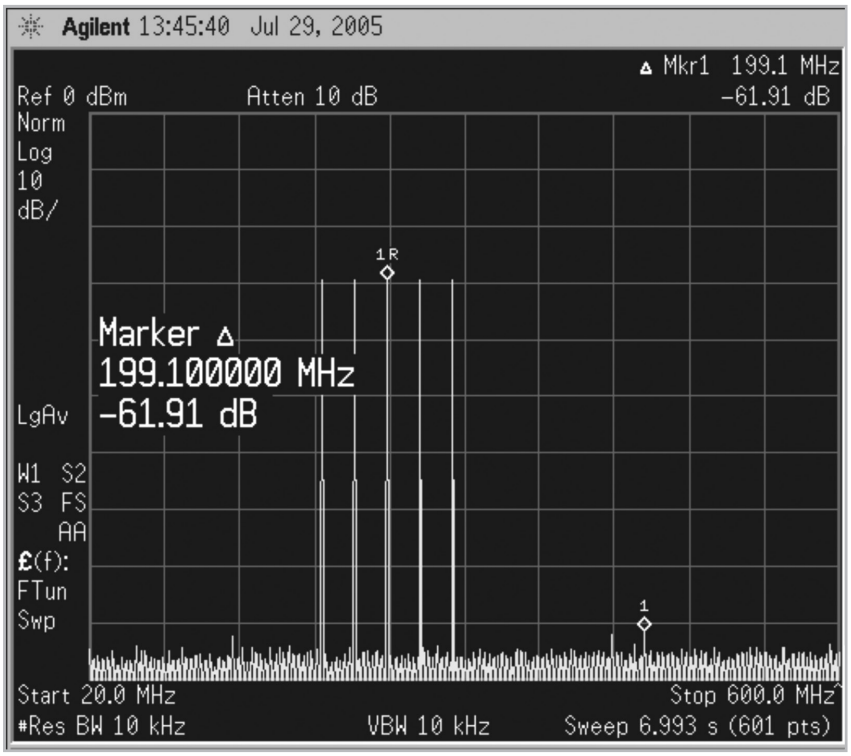


Figure 1. Generate wideband waveforms with unprecedented signal fidelity.

Unprecedented performance

The N6030A gives designers access to the most advanced Digital-to-Analog (DAC) technology available in a commercial AWG. Each module incorporates two high-speed DACs to create 500 MHz of signal bandwidth and ≤ -65 dBc spurious free dynamic range (SFDR) across each channel. Users have the choice of driving their designs differentially from the DAC outputs or single-ended through multiple signal-conditioning paths. Although some AWGs require users to make a trade-off between the number of output channels and differential outputs, the N6030A provides both – allowing you to drive your designs and eliminating the need for baluns or hybrids in the test path. In addition, each channel can output waveforms as an IF or as a baseband signal for I/Q upconversion.

1. *Agilent E8267D PSG signal generator with Option 016, wideband I/O inputs or Agilent N8212A performance vector upconvertor with Option 016; either option could be used.*

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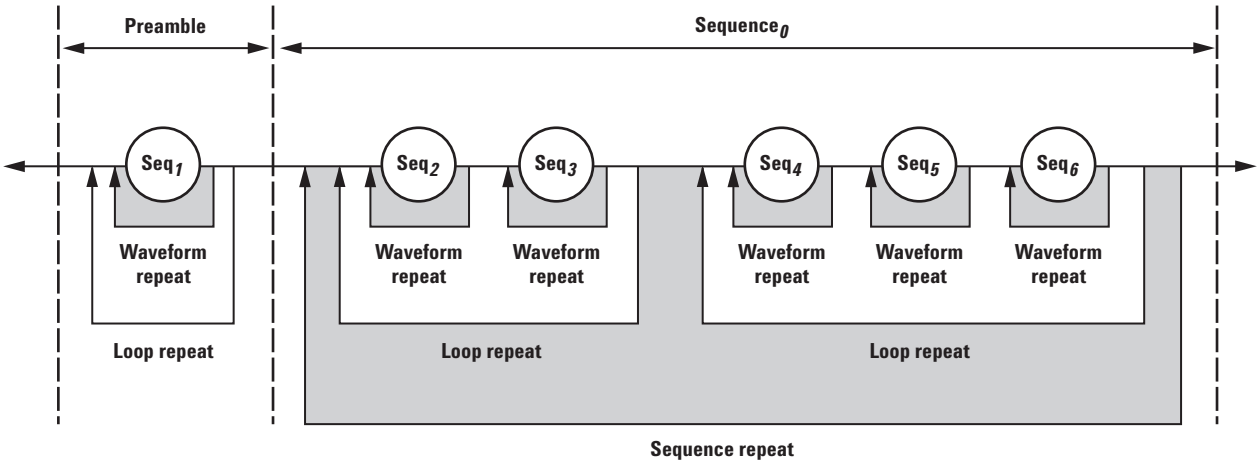


Figure 2. Create sophisticated signal scenarios by looping and nesting waveforms.

Create long scenario simulations

Multiply the effective size of on-board memory through the use of the N6030A's advanced sequencing engine. Uniquely define how waveform segments are played through looping and nesting of stored waveforms.

This capability also gives users the ability to create new signals from existing waveforms by playing only subsegments of waveform memory. For users developing a large number of waveform scenarios the CompactPCI backplane substantially reduces waveform download times compared to traditional LAN and GPIB. The N6030A's complete waveform and sequencer memories can be typically reloaded in less than 1 second.

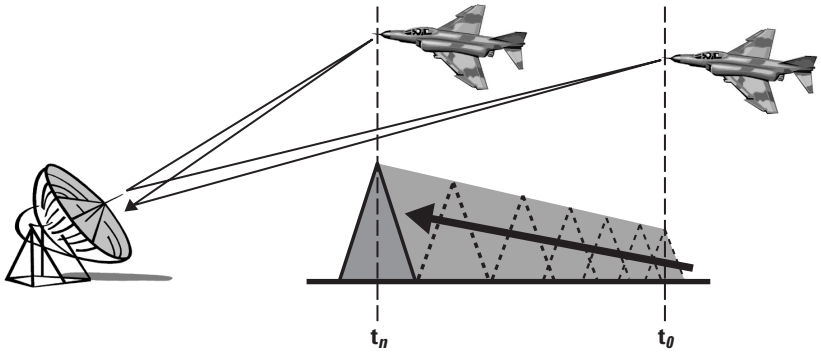


Figure 3. Closing targets can be simulated by ranging parameters on each pulse.

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System scalability

Create phase-coherent, multi-emitter simulations using the N6030A's precision SYNC clock. A single N6030A can drive a total of eight AWG modules to synchronize their outputs on a sample-by-sample basis. Any number of modules can be synchronized with simple driver hardware. The AWG also includes multiple front-panel triggers and markers for complete system synchronization.

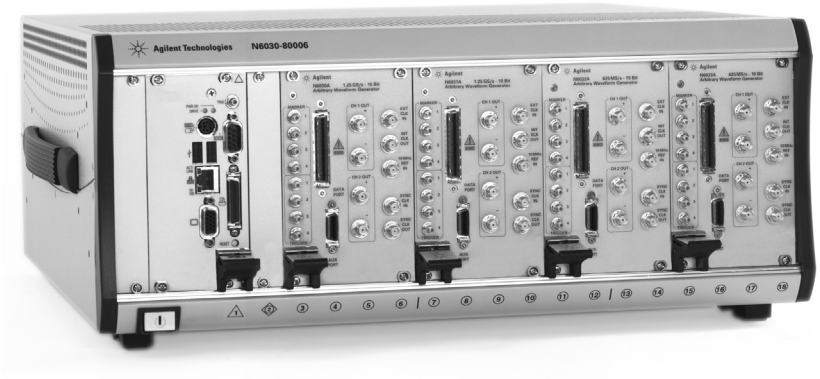


Figure 4. Four N6030A modules fit conveniently inside an 18 slot CompactPCI chassis.

Ease-of-use

The N6030A's graphical user interface guides developers through module setup and waveform file transfers. Users can quickly configure the instrument's signal conditioning paths, marker and trigger lines, sample and reference clock sources, and simple sequencing functions. More sophisticated sequencing functions are available through the instrument's numerous programmatic interfaces. The N6030A supports interfaces for MATLAB, LabView, IVI-C, and VEE frameworks.

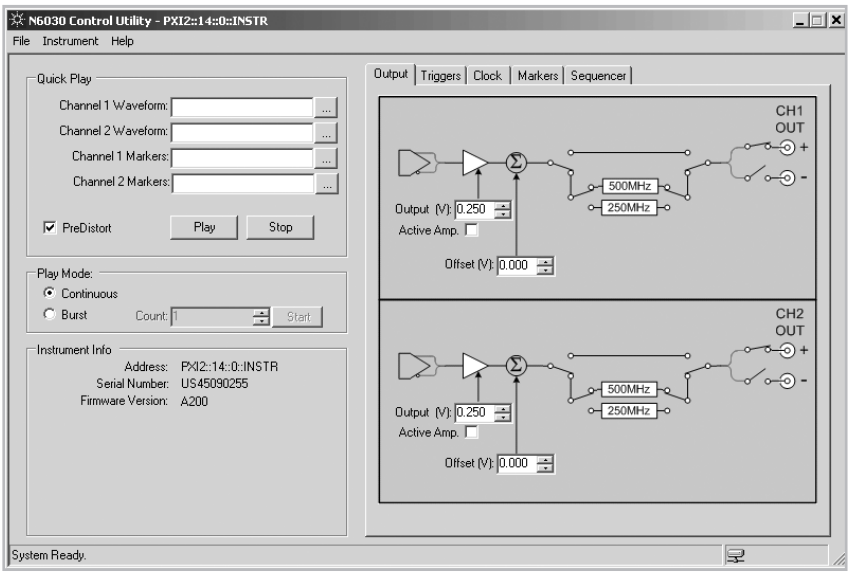


Figure 5. Directly import and play waveforms from the Quick Play menu.

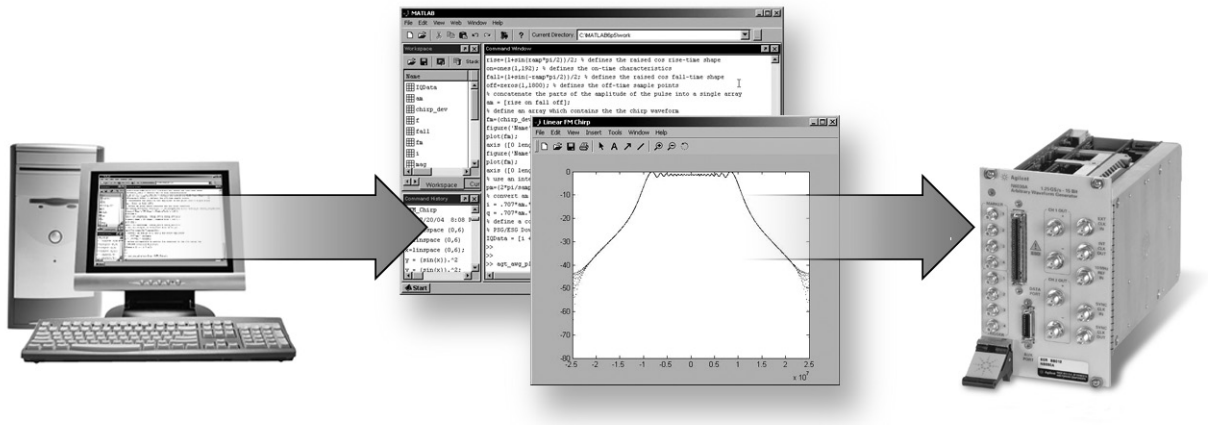


Figure 6. Play waveforms files directly from the MATLAB command line.

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New! Enhanced capabilities for the N6030 Series!

Dynamic Sequencing (Option 300)

The dynamic sequencing software enables radar and military communications engineers to build custom signal scenarios on the fly. Engineers can dynamically access up to 16 k of previously stored sequences through a 16-bit interface and replay these complex waveforms to respond to changing threat environments, or to create signals where the next waveform to be played is not known in advance.

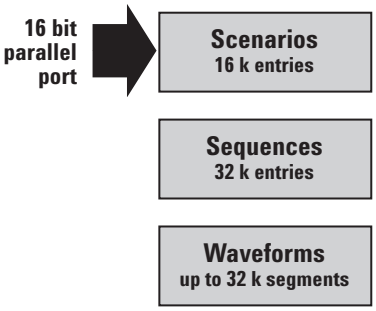


Figure 7. Create signals where next waveform to be played is not known in advance.

Dynamic Synthesis (Option 330)

The direct digital synthesis (DDS) software enables radar and emerging communications engineers to create basic waveforms in the AWG's memory and then modify their behavior with profiles for amplitude modulation, phase modulation, and frequency modulation. This enables engineers to simulate testing without the time and expense of field trials, such as in-flight and in-orbit testing. This option can also be used to simulate fading profiles in receiver testing for satellite and 4 G signals, such as multiple input and multiple output formats (MIMO).

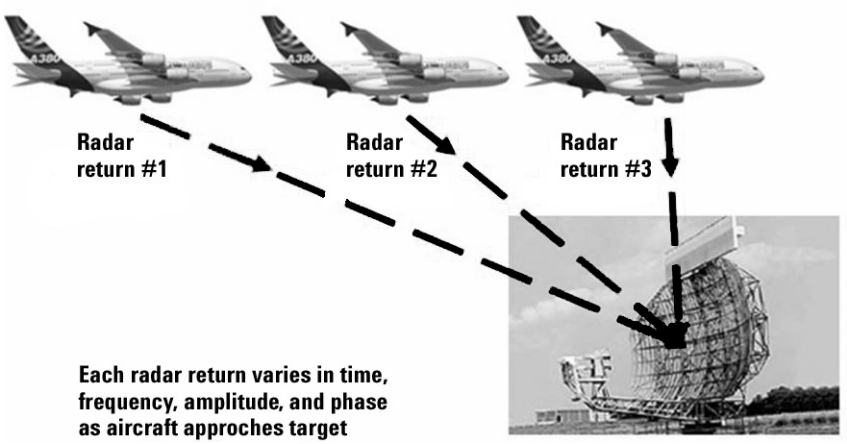


Figure 8. Define signals by carrier frequency and modulation - instant by instant.

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Key characteristics

Channels

Two independent channels available as baseband or IF outputs:

- CH1: Single-ended and differential
- CH2: Single-ended and differential

Modulation bandwidth

500 MHz per channel
(1 GHz I/Q bandwidth)

Resolution

15 bits (1/32,768 levels)

Output spectral purity (CH1 and CH2)

- **Harmonic distortion:**
  ≤ -65 dBc for each channel DC to 500 MHz
- **Non-harmonic spurious:**
  ≤ -75 dBc for each channel 1 kHz to 500 MHz
- **Noise floor:**
  ≤ -150 dBc/Hz across the channel bandwidth

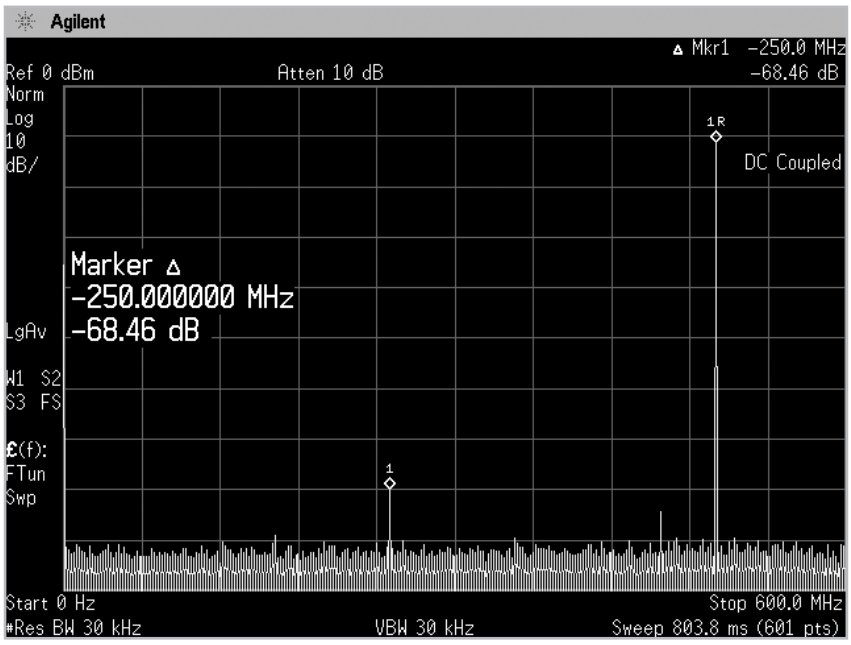


Figure 9. Excellent harmonic and spurious performance are available across the full bandwidth of each channel.

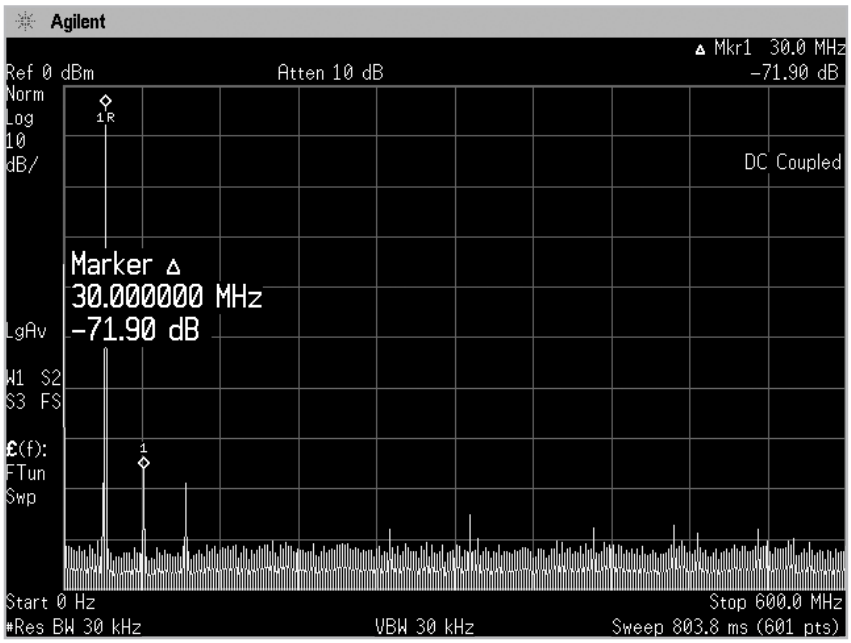


Figure 10. Spurious performance outstanding at low signal frequencies.

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Key characteristics (continued)

Sample clock

Internal
Fixed 1.25 GS/s

Internal clock output
+3 dBm nominal

External clock input
Tunable 100 MS/s to 1.25 GS/s

External clock input drive level
+5 to –15 dBm typical

Phase noise characteristics:

1 kHz	:	-95 dBc/Hz
10 kHz	:	-115 dBc/Hz
100 kHz	:	-138 dBc/Hz
1 MHz	:	-150 dBc/Hz

Noise Floor
-150 dBc/Hz

Accuracy
Same as 10 MHz timebase input

Frequency reference

Input drive level
+2 to +12 dBm into 50 Ω
(+2 dBm nominal)

Waveform length

8 MS per channel
(16 MS with Option 016)

Minimum waveform length
128 samples

Waveform granularity
8 samples

Segments

1 to 32 k unique segments can be defined consisting of waveform start and stop address, repetitions, and marker enable flags.

Segment loops

A total of 1 million (2^{20}) loops can be defined for each segment. Loops can be configured to advance in one of three modes:

- **Single**
  The segment loop plays once and waits at the end of the loop for a trigger.
- **Continuous**
  Segment loop is repeated continuously until a trigger is received.
- **Auto**
  Automatically advances to the next segment after completing the specified number of loop repetitions.
- **Repeat**
  The waveform loop repeats until the number of waveform loop repetitions is met.

Sequences

Up to 32 k total unique waveform sequences can be defined. A sequence is a contiguous series of waveform segments.

Advanced sequencing

Enables users to build and playback scenarios, which are comprised of one or more sequences.

Scenarios

1 to 16 k pointers can be assigned to play pre-defined sequences. Sequence play begins with the first sequence entry and continues uninterrupted until the last entry is played. The table repeats until stopped.

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Key characteristics (continued)

Sequence jump modes

Sequence jumps determine how a sequence responds to a jump trigger. There are no discontinuities in a sequence jump other than those imposed by the waveform data. Three modes are available to control sequence jumps:

- **Jump immediate**
  Jumps immediately to the next specified sequence address with a fixed latency.

- **End of segment**
  The current segment (including waveform repeats) is completed before jumping to a new sequence.

- **End of sequence**
  The current sequence is completed before jumping to a new sequence. Jump latency is the longer of either the jump immediate latency or the length of the remaining sequence.

- **Dynamic Sequencing (Option 300)**
  Input: 20-pin mini-D connector

  Input levels: All pins configured as 2.5 volt LVCMOS inputs. A logic low must fall within the -0.2 to +0.5 volt window. A logic high must be within the window of +2.0 to +2.8 volts.

  Number of address bits:
  13 bits per channel

  Total number of addressable scenarios: 16 k

  Data rate for dynamic data:
  100 ns

  Data latency: same as front panel trigger inputs

  Software pointers may also be used to point to pre-defined scenarios over the PCI backplane though latencies are not deterministic.

- **Direct Digital Synthesis (Option 330)**
  Output frequency resolution:
  1 Hz

  Frequency modulation:
  Deviation from 0 to 125 MHz (250 MHz peak-peak)

  Phase modulation:
  Deviation from -180 to +180 degrees in 0.022 degree steps

  Amplitude modulation:
  Modulation depth from 0 to 100% with 15 bit resolution

  Single channel bandwidth:
  400 MHz (800 MHz I/Q)

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Key characteristics (continued)

External triggers

Number of inputs
8 each (4 SMB female front-panel connectors plus four software triggers over the PCI backplane from host processor)

Trigger polarity
Negative/positive

Trigger impedance
2 k Ω

Maximum input level
±4.5 volts

Input sensitivity
250 mV

Trigger threshold
-4.3 volts to +4.3 volts

Trigger timing resolution
Clock/8 (6.4 ns at full rate)

Trigger latency
34 * Clk/8 (217.6 ns at full rate)

Trigger uncertainty
< 50 ps

Minimum trigger width
12.8 ns at full clock rate

Trigger delay
Programmable from 1 to 256 sync clock cycles with 1 sync clock cycle resolution [1]

External markers

Markers can be defined for each waveform segment.

Number of outputs
4 each SMB female

Marker polarity
Negative, positive

Output impedance
50 Ω

Marker low level
100 mV nominal into high impedance load

Marker high level
3.2 Volts nominal into high impedance load

Marker timing resolution
Clock/8 (6.4 ns at full rate)

Marker latency
Marker precedes analog output and is adjustable in 2 sample clock period steps.

Marker latency repeatability
< 100 ps

Marker width
Programmable from 1 to 256 sync clock cycles

Marker delay
Programmable from -8 to 502 sample clock cycles, with 2 sample clock cycle resolution

Module synchronization

Supports system scaling for any number of N6030A modules. A single module can support fan-out of 8 N6030A modules for precise triggering and repeatability. Driver boards may be used to scale any number of modules.

Sync clock output level
800 mV p-p (50 Ω, AC coupled)

Sync clock input sensitivity
100 mV p-p minimum into 50 Ω AC coupled

Analog output

Output connector
SMA female

Output impedance
50 Ω

Analog output levels

The following output levels are specified into 50 Ω

	Single-ended	Differential
Passive mode	0.5 Vp-p	N/A
Active mode	1 Vp-p with ±0.2 V offset	N/A
Direct DAC mode	N/A	1 Vp-p (0 volt offset)

Uncorrected passband flatness
±1 dB DC - 200 MHz;
±2.5 dB DC - 500 MHz
(with 1.25 GHz clock)

Uncorrected passband group delay
±500 ps DC - 200 MHz;
±1 ns DC - 500 MHz
(with 1.25 GHz clock)

Reconstruction filters
500 MHz and 250 MHz realized as 7-pole Cauer Chebychev filters plus thru-line output

Pulse response
Rise time (10 to 90%): < 1 ns
Fall time (10 to 90%): < 1 ns
Amplitude: 0.5 Vp-p

1. A sync clock cycle is clock/8.

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General characteristics

Power

Supply	Typical operation (watts)
+3.3 VDC	11.2
+5 VDC	22
+12 VDC	5
-12 VDC	5
Total Power	**43.2**

Environmental

Samples of this product have been type tested in accordance with the Agilent Environmental Test Manual and verified to be robust against the environmental stresses of Storage, Transportation, and End-use; those stresses include but are not limited to temperature, humidity, shock vibration, altitude, and power line conditions. Test methods are aligned with IEC 60068-2 and levels are similar to MIL-PRF-28800F Class 3.

Operating temperature:
0 to +55 degrees C

Storage temperature:
-20 to +70 degrees C

Relative Humidity:

Type tested:
10 to 90% at 40 degrees C
(non-condensing)

Altitude:
0 to 2000m (6500 ft) above sea level

Safety

Designed for compliance to IEC 61010-1:2001

EMC

Meets the conducted and radiated emissions and immunity requirements of IEC 61326:2002 when tested with EMC shielded filler panels (Agilent P/N N6030-80007, kit of 6) separating the controller and the N6030A module, and in all open slots. The RFI gaskets must be oriented to the right.

Weight

1.14 kg (2.5 lb)

Security

All user data stored in volatile memory

Dimensions

3U, 4 slot CompactPCI module
8.1 x 13 x 21.6 cm
(3.2 x 5.1 x 8.5 inches)

ISO compliance

This modular instrument is manufactured in an ISO-900 registered facility in concurrence with Agilent Technologies, Inc. commitment to quality.

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Ordering Information and Options



Figure 11. Agilent N6030A AWG with controller in CompactPCI chassis.

N6030A	Arbitrary waveform generator with 8 MS memory per channel
Options	
N6030A-016	aveform memory expansion to 16 MS memory per channel
N6030A-300	Enabling software for 16-bit dynamic sequencing
N6030A-330	Direct digital synthesis software
N6030A-500	PXI 18-slot chassis
N6030A-501	PXI embedded controller, P4
N6030A-502	PXI MXI-4 kit (includes PC and chassis PCI cards)
N6030A-503	Shielded PXI chassis filler panel kit
N6030A-504	17-inch flat panel monitor
N6030A-505	PS2 keyboard and mouse
N6030A-506	Rack mount kit for PXI chassis

NOTE: For the N6030A to work properly, at least one PXI chassis and one PXI controller type must be available. These should be ordered from the Options 500, 501, or 502 choices above or they must be customer-supplied.

Web resources

Visit our web sites for additional product information and literature.

N6030A arbitrary waveform generator
www.agilent.com/find/awg

Signal simulation systems
www.agilent.com/find/signalsimulation

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N8241A/N8242A arbitrary waveform generator synthetic instrument modules
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