

Digital Delay/Pulse Generator

DG535 — Digital delay and pulse generator (4-channel)



DG535 Digital Delay/Pulse Generator

- **Four independent delay channels**
- **Two fully-defined pulse channels**
- **5 ps delay resolution**
- **<100 ps rms jitter**
- **Adjustable amplitude and offset**
- **Delays up to 1000 seconds**
- **1 MHz maximum trigger rate**
- **Standard GPIB interface**
- **Optional ±32 V outputs**

The DG535 Digital Delay/Pulse Generator provides four precisely-timed logic transitions or two independent pulse outputs. The delay resolution on all channels is 5 ps, and the channel-to-channel jitter is typically 50 ps. Front-panel BNC outputs deliver TTL, ECL, NIM or variable level (–3 to +4 V) pulses into 50 Ω or high impedance loads. The high accuracy, low jitter, and wide delay range make the DG535 ideal for laser timing systems, automated testing, and precision pulse applications.

Delay Outputs

There are four delay output channels: A, B, C and D. The logic transitions of these outputs can be delayed from an internal or external trigger by up to 1000 seconds in 5 ps increments. The T0 pulse, which marks the beginning of a timing cycle, is generated by the trigger signal. The insertion delay between an external trigger and the T0 pulse is about 85 ns.

Delays for each channel may be “linked” to T0 or any of the other delay channels. For instance, you can specify the delays of the four channels as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 A &= T0 + 0.00125000 \\
 B &= A + 0.00000005 \\
 C &= T0 + 0.10000000 \\
 D &= C + 0.00100000
 \end{aligned}$$



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In this case, when the A delay is changed, the B output will move with it. This is useful, for instance, when A and B specify a pulse and you want the pulse width to remain constant as the delay of the pulse is changed. Regardless of how the delay is specified, each delay output will stay asserted until 800 ns after all delays have timed out. The delays will then become unasserted, and the unit will be ready to begin a new timing cycle.

Pulse Outputs

In addition to the four delay outputs, there are four pulse output channels: AB, \overline{AB} , CD and \overline{CD} . The leading edge of the AB pulse coincides with the leading edge of the earlier of A or B, and the trailing edge of the AB pulse coincides with the leading edge of the later of B or A. For instance, in the previous example, a 50 ns pulse would appear at the AB output and a 1 ms pulse at CD. Pulses as short as 4 ns (FWHM) can be generated in this manner. The complementary outputs (\overline{AB} and \overline{CD}) provide a pulse with identical timing and inverted amplitude.

Output Amplitude Control

Each delay and pulse output has an independently adjustable offset and amplitude which can be set between -3 V and $+4\text{ V}$ with 10 mV resolution. The maximum transition for each

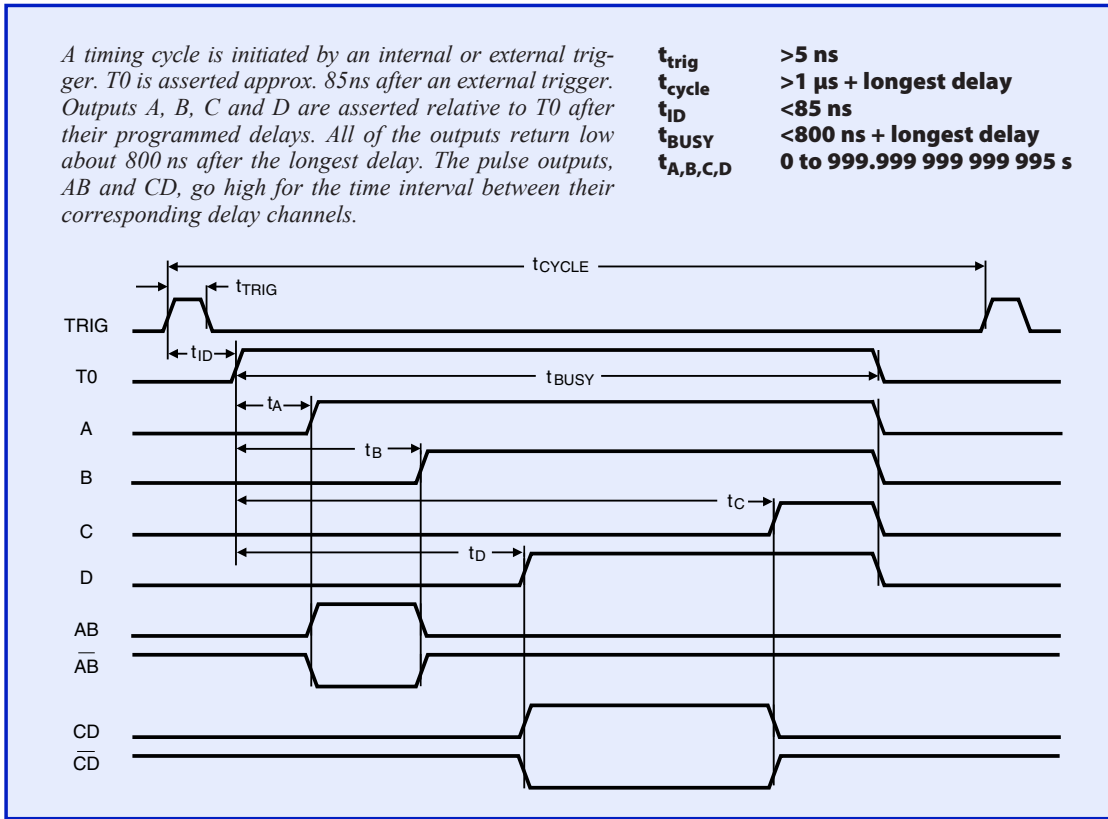
output is limited to 4 V. In addition, you can also separately select $50\ \Omega$ or high impedance termination for each output. Preset levels, corresponding to standard logic families, can also be selected. TTL, NIM and ECL levels can each be set with a single key press.

Triggering

The DG535 can be triggered internally from 1 mHz to 1 MHz with 4-digit frequency resolution. External, single-shot and burst mode triggers are also supported. For power control applications, the DG535 can be synchronized to the AC line. An optional trigger inhibit input allows you to enable or disable triggering with a TTL level input signal.

$\pm 32\text{ Volt}$ Outputs

For applications requiring higher voltages, a rear-panel high voltage ($\pm 32\text{ V}$) option is available. This option provides five rear-panel BNCs which output $1\ \mu\text{s}$ pulses at the transition times of the front-panel T0, A, B, C and D outputs. The high voltage option does not affect the function or the timing of the front-panel outputs. The amplitude of the rear-panel outputs is approximately $8\times$ the corresponding front-panel output, and the outputs are designed to drive $50\ \Omega$ loads. Since they can only drive an average current of 0.8 mA, charging and discharging the cable capacitance may be the most important



DG535 timing diagram



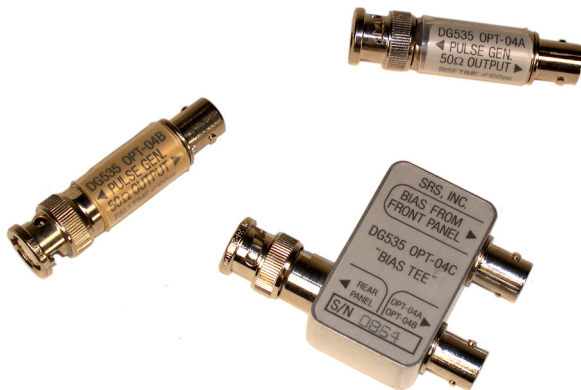
current limiting factor to consider when using them (assuming a high impedance load). In this case, the average current is: $I = 2Vtf / Z$, where V is the pulse step size, t is the length of the cable in time (5 ns per meter for RG-58), f is the pulse repetition rate, and Z is the cable's characteristic impedance (50 Ω for RG-58).

Internal or External Timebase

Both internal and external references may be used as the timebase for the DG535. The internal timebase can be either the standard 25 ppm crystal oscillator timebase, or the optional 1 ppm temperature-compensated crystal oscillator (TCXO). The internal timebase is available as a 1 Vpp square wave on a rear-panel BNC. This output is capable of driving a 50 Ω load and can be used to provide a master timebase to other delay generators. Any external 10.0 MHz reference signal with a 1 Vpp amplitude can also be used as an external timebase.

Fast Rise and Fall Time Modules

External in-line modules are available to reduce the rise or fall time of the DG535 outputs to 100 ps. These modules use step



recovery diodes to speed up the rise time (option SRD1) or the fall time (option O4B). A bias tee (option O4C) allows these modules to be used with the optional rear-panel outputs to produce steps up to 15 V. For step amplitudes of less than 2.0 V, the fast transition time units should be attached directly to the front panel of the DG535.

Easy to Use, Easy to Program

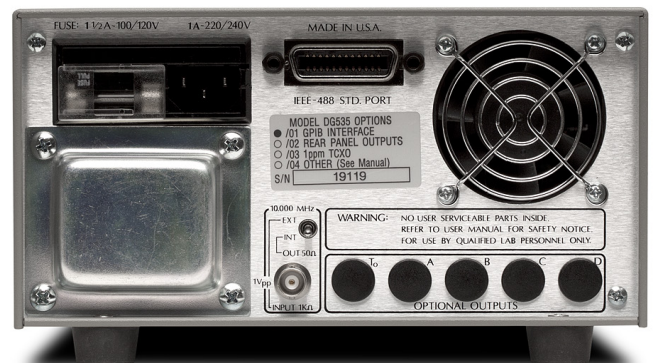
All instrument functions can be accessed through a simple, intuitive, menu-based interface. Delays can be entered with the numeric keypad in either fixed-point or exponential notation, or by using the cursor keys to select and change

individual digits. The backlit 20-character LCD display makes it easy to view delay settings in all lighting conditions.

The DG535 comes standard with a GPIB (IEEE-488) interface. All instrument functions can be queried and set via the interface. You can even display the characters the DG535 has received over the interface on the front-panel LCD display. This can be valuable when debugging programs which send commands to the instrument.

Ordering Information

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| DG535 | Delay/pulse generator w/ GPIB |
| Option 02 | ± 32 V rear panel outputs |
| Option 03 | 1 ppm TCXO timebase |
| Option 06 | Trigger inhibit input |
| SRD1 | 100 ps rise time module |
| O4B | 100 ps fall time module |
| O4C | Bias Tee (for 02 & SRD1 or O4B) |
| O5 | Dual rack mount tray |



DG535 rear panel (with Opt. 02)

Delays

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Channels | Four independent delay outputs |
| Range | 0 to 999,999,999,995 seconds |
| Resolution | 5 ps |
| Accuracy | 1500 ps + timebase error × delay |
| Timebase | Standard: 25 ppm crystal oscillator Optional: 1 ppm TCXO (opt. 03) External: 10.0 MHz reference input |
| RMS jitter | <100 ps + (10 ⁻⁸ × delay) |
| Trigger delay (typ.) | 85 ns (ext. trigger to T0 output) |

External Trigger

| | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| Rate | DC to 1/(1 μs + longest delay) |
| Threshold | ±2.56 VDC |
| Resolution | 10 mV |
| Slope | Trigger on rising or falling edge |
| Impedance | 1 MΩ + 40 pF or 50 Ω |

Internal Rate Generator

| | |
|------------|---|
| Rate | Single shot, 0.001 Hz to 1.000 MHz, or line |
| Resolution | Four digits, 0.001 Hz below 10 Hz |
| Accuracy | Same as timebase |
| Jitter | 1:10,000 |
| Settling | <2 seconds for any rate change |
| Burst mode | 2 to 32766 pulses per burst at integer multiples (4 to 32767) of the trigger period |

Outputs

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Load | 50 Ω or high impedance |
| Rise time | 2 to 3 ns (typ.) |
| Slew rate | 1 V/ns |
| Overshoot | <100 mV + 10% of pulse amplitude |
| Levels | TTL: 0 to 4 VDC (normal or inverted) ECL: -1.8 to -0.8 VDC (normal or inverted) NIM: -0.8 to 0.0 VDC (normal or inverted) VAR: Adjustable offset and amplitude between -3 and +4 VDC with 10 mV resolution. 4 V maximum transition. |
| Accuracy | 100 mV + 5% of pulse amplitude |
| Option 02 | Rear-panel 1 μs pulses corresponding to T0, A, B, C, D outputs with nominal amplitude of 8× the front-panel outputs (1 kHz rep. rate). Output level is reduced by 2 V/mA of additional average output current. |

Fast Rise Time (opt. SRD1)

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Output amplitude | +0.5 to 2.0 VDC |
| Output offset | -0.8 VDC (typ.) |
| Transition time | |
| Rise (20/80%) | 100 ps (max.) |
| Fall (20/80%) | 2000 ps (max.) |
| Pulse aberrations | |
| Foot | 4% (typ.) |
| Ring | ±5% (typ.) |

Fast Fall Time (opt. O4B)

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Output amplitude | -0.5 to -2.0 VDC |
| Output offset | +0.8 VDC (typ.) |
| Transition time | |
| Rise (20/80%) | 2500 ps (max.) |
| Fall (20/80%) | 100 ps (max.) |
| Pulse aberrations | |
| Foot | 4% (typ.) |
| Ring | ±5% (typ.) |

General

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Display | backlit 20-character LCD |
| Computer interface | GPIB (IEEE-488). All instrument functions and settings may be controlled over the interface bus. Interface queue can be viewed from the front panel. |
| Dimensions | 8.5" × 4.75" × 14" (WHD) |
| Weight | 10 lbs. |
| Power | 70 W, 100/120/220/240 VAC, 50/60 Hz |
| Warranty | One year parts and labor on defects in materials and workmanship |