



DFK 38UX253

Technical Reference Manual



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1 Quick Facts

General	
Vision Standard	USB3 Vision
Dynamic Range	12 bit
Resolution	4096x3000
Frame Rate at Full Resolution	30
Pixel Formats	8-Bit Monochrome 8-Bit Bayer (RG) 12-Bit Bayer Packed (RG) 16-Bit Bayer (RG) RGB24 YUV 4:2:2 YUV 4:1:1

Optical Interface	
IR-Cut filter	Yes
Sensor Type	Sony IMX253LQR-C
Shutter Type	Global
Sensor Format	1.1 inch
Pixel Size	3.45 μm
Lens Mount	C (CS optional)

Electrical Interface	
Interface	USB 3.1gen1
Supply voltage	4.75 VDC to 5.25 VDC
Current consumption	approx 820 mA @ 5 VDC
I/O Connector	12-pin connector for trigger and strobe or general purpose input/output

Mechanical Data	
Dimensions	H: 29 mm, W: 44 mm, L: 60 mm
Mass	110 g

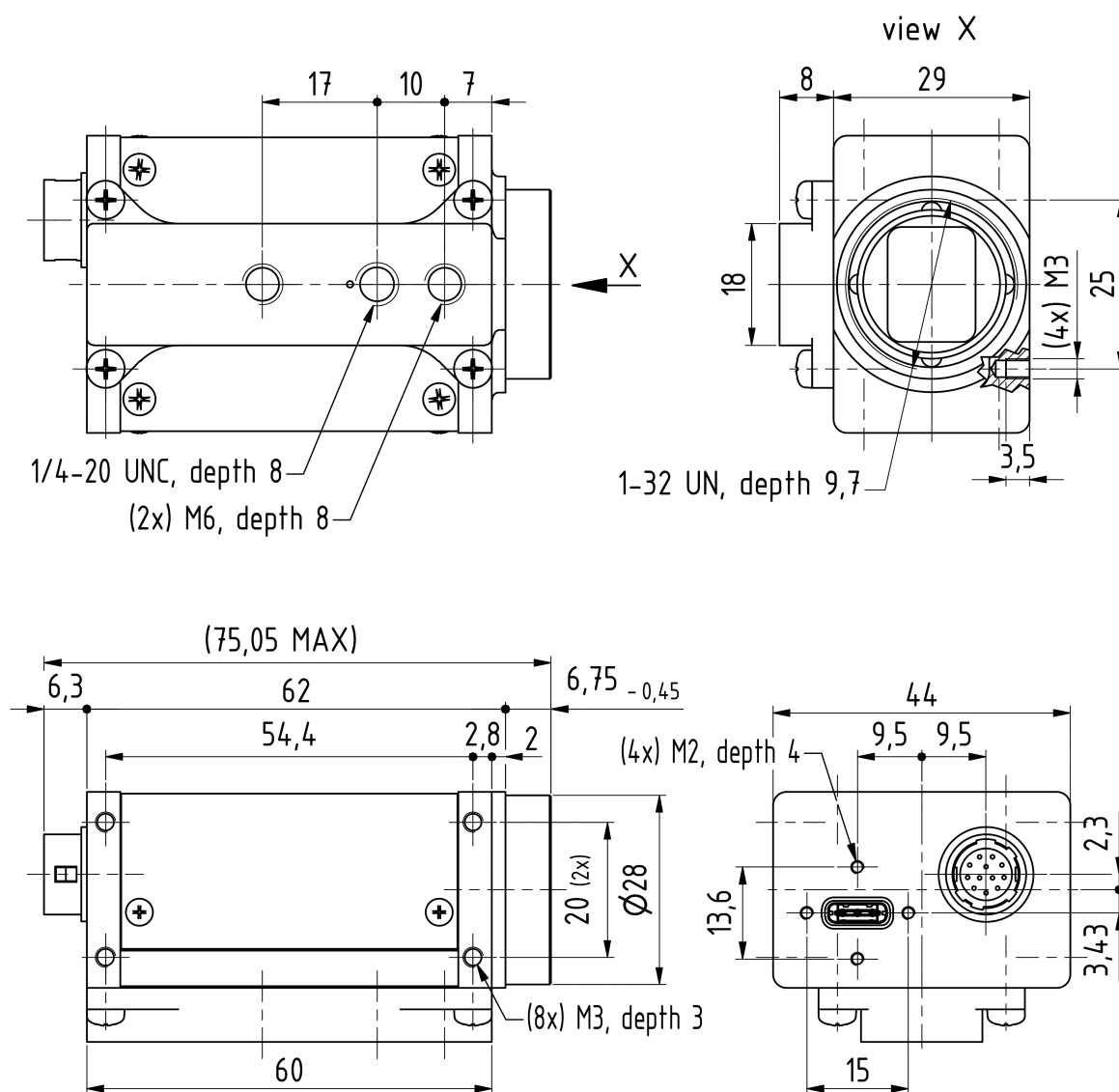


Adjustments	
Shutter	2 μ s to 4 s
Gain	0 dB to 48 dB

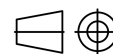
Environmental Conditions	
Housing Temperature (operating)	-5 °C to 50 °C
Temperature (storage)	-20 °C to 80 °C
Humidity (operating)	20 % to 80 % (non-condensing)
Humidity (storage)	20 % to 95 % (non-condensing)

2 Dimensional Diagrams

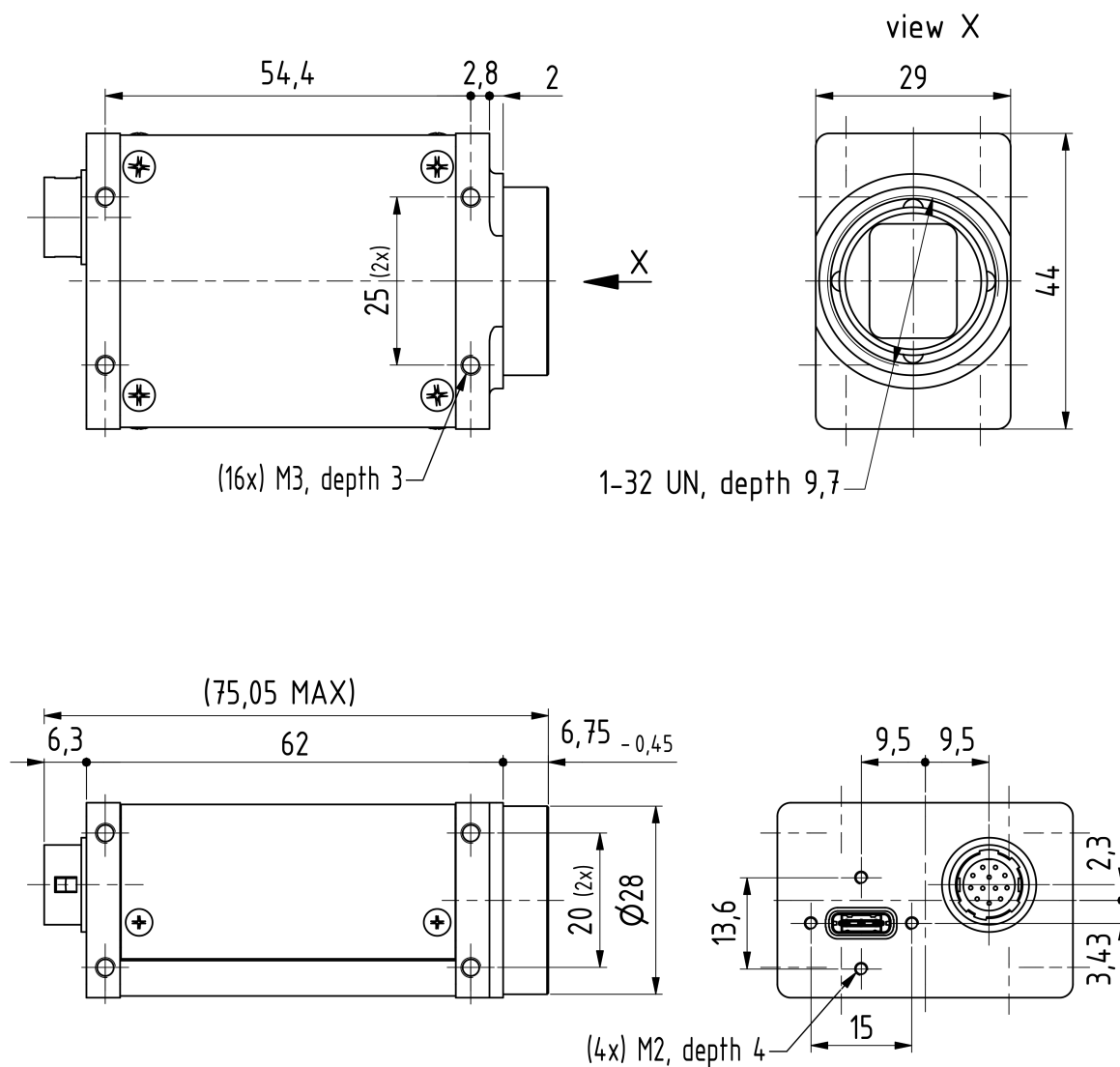
2.1 DFK 38UX253 C-Mount with Tripod Adapter



Dimensions: mm
Tolerances: DIN ISO 2768-f



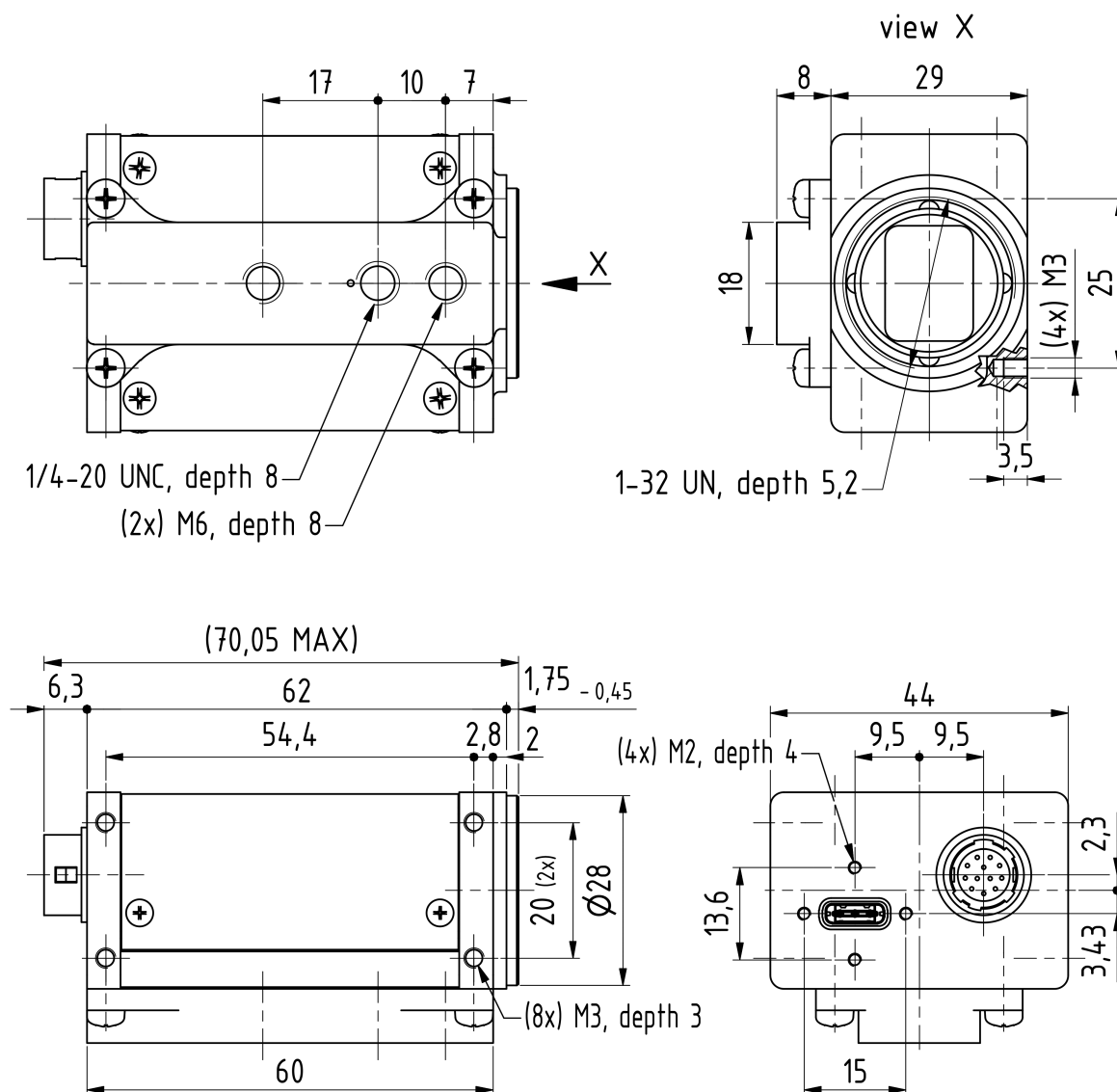
2.2 DFK 38UX253 C-Mount without Tripod Adapter



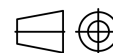
Dimensions: mm
Tolerances: DIN ISO 2768-f



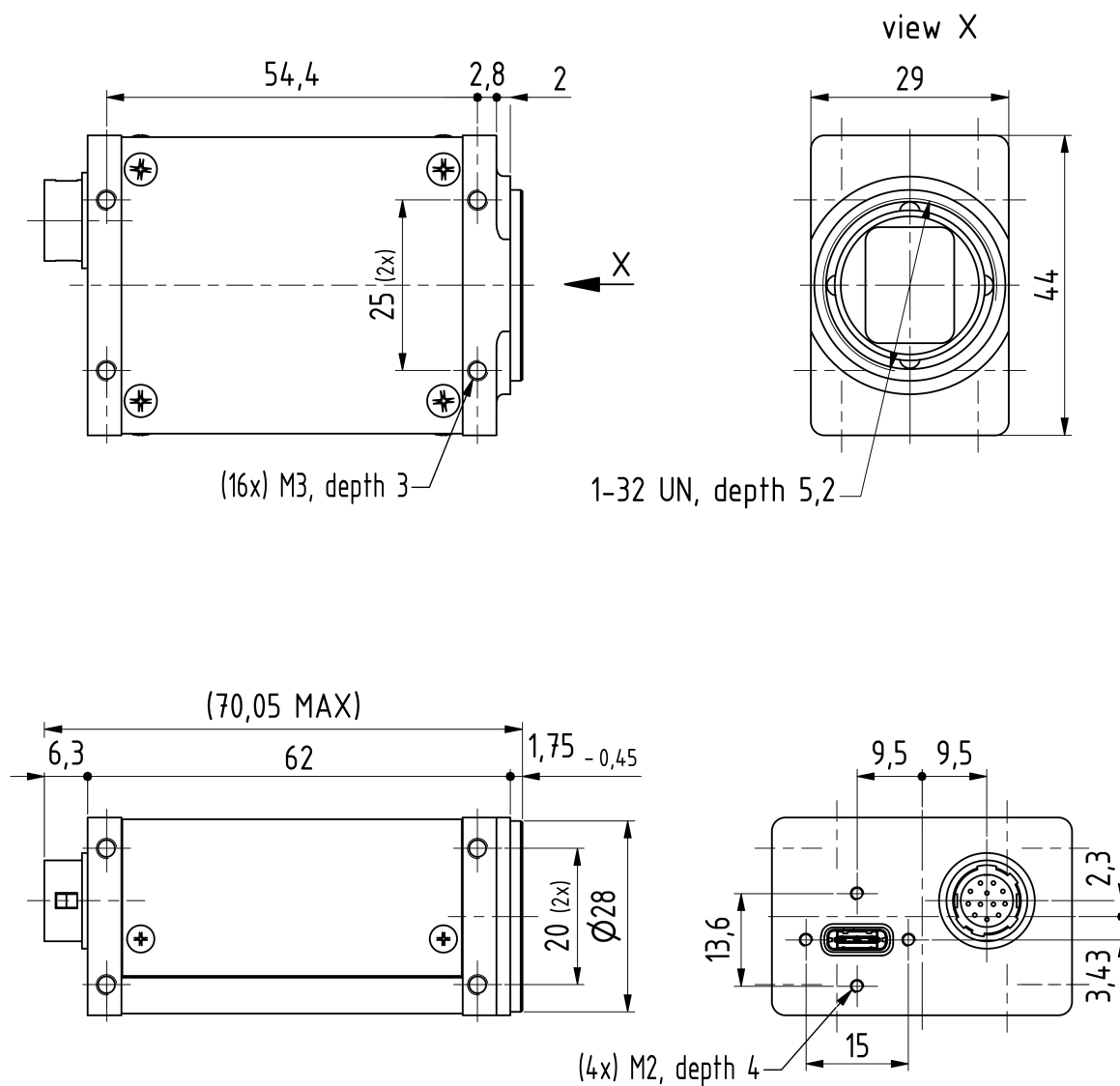
2.3 DFK 38UX253 CS-Mount with Tripod Adapter



Dimensions: mm
Tolerances: DIN ISO 2768-f



2.4 DFK 38UX253 CS-Mount without Tripod Adapter



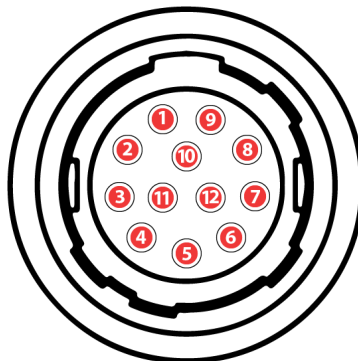
Dimensions: mm

Tolerances: DIN ISO 2768-f



3 I/O Connector

3.1 12-pin I/O Connector



Rear view of camera

Pin	Signal	I/O	Remarks	Characteristics			
				Min	Typ	Max	Unit
1	do not use		-	-	-	-	-
2	do not use		-	-	-	-	-
3	n.c.		-	-	-	-	-
4	n.c.		-	-	-	-	-
5	n.c.		-	-	-	-	-
6	n.c.		-	-	-	-	-
7	GND_I/O	G ³	External Ground	-	-	-	-
8	n.c.		-	-	-	-	-
9	n.c.		-	-	-	-	-
10	STROBE_OUT	O ³	Open drain	-	-	24.0 ¹	V
11	TRIGGER_IN (+)	I ³	Optocoupler signal	3.3 ²	-	24.0 ²	V
12	TRIGGER_IN (-)	I ³	Optocoupler ground	-	-	-	-

¹ max. 0.2A (ID) for open drain MOSFET!

² min. 3.5 mA driver strength required!

³ G: Ground O: Output I: Input

The part number of this Hirose connector is HR10A10R-12P(73). To create an I/O cable you need a Hirose connector HR10A-10P-12S(73).



3.1.1 TRIGGER_IN

The *TRIGGER_IN* line can be used to synchronize the start of the exposure time with external events. The [Trigger](#) section describes in detail how the image sensor's behavior can be controlled.

The current input signal can also be read directly through the [General Purpose Input](#) feature.

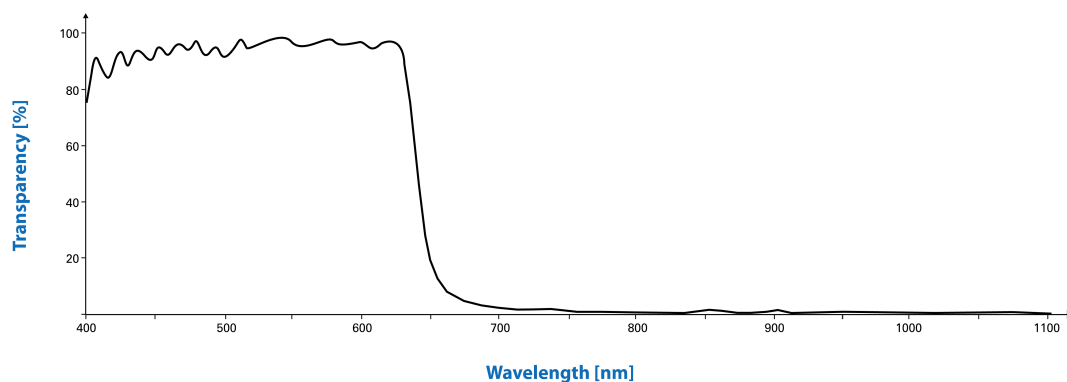
3.1.2 STROBE_OUT

The *STROBE_OUT* line's main usage is to indicate the integration time of the image sensor which allows flashes, strobes or other light sources to be synchronized with camera operation. The line's behavior can be controlled through the [Strobe](#) controls.

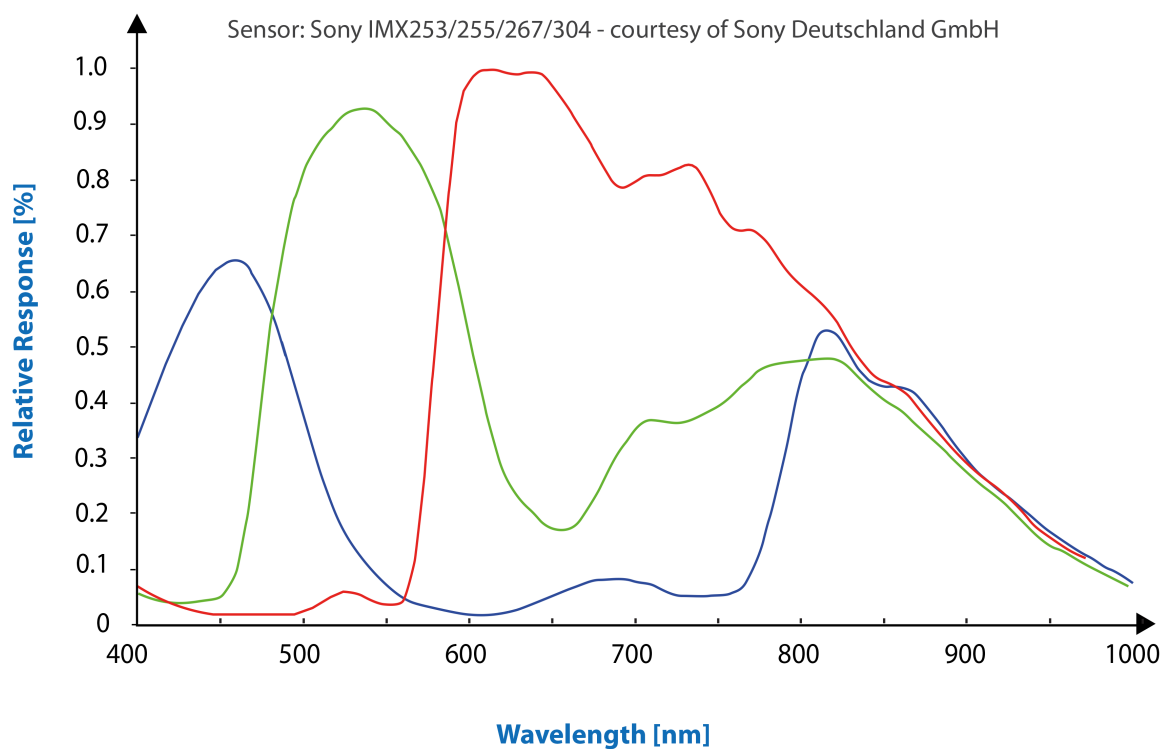
The output signal can also be directly controlled through the [General Purpose Output](#) feature.

4 Spectral Characteristics

4.1 IR-Cut Filter



4.2 Spectral Sensitivity - IMX253LQR-C





5 Camera Controls

This section describes the parameters available for the DFK 38UX253 camera.

The actual name of the parameter depends on the driver technology used to access the camera. Parameter names are listed for the most common ways to access the cameras:

- *USB3 Vision* (cross platform, via 3rd party driver)
- *UVC/V4L2* (on Linux, via `uvccvideo`)
- *IC Imaging Control* (on Windows, via *Device Driver for The Imaging Source USB 33U, 37U and 38U Cameras*)

5.1 Sensor Readout Control

5.1.1 Pixel Format

The pixel format defines the data type of the pixels transmitted to the computer. The bits per pixel needed for a particular pixel format influence the required bandwidth.

The driver technology used to access the camera significantly impacts the way the pixel format is controlled:

- When using *USB3 Vision*, the pixel format is controlled through the `PixelFormat` *GenICam* feature.
- When using the `uvccvideo` driver on Linux, the pixel format is defined by `video4linux2`.
- When using *IC Imaging Control*, the pixel format is part of the video format - a parameter which combines pixel format, resolution and readout mode. For more information, refer to the *IC Imaging Control* documentation sections on `VideoFormat` and `VideoFormatDesc`.

The DFK 38UX253 color camera supports multiple pixel formats with variable bits-per-pixel settings. The names of the pixel formats and the way to select them depends on the driver used to control the camera. The following table contains a short overview of all possible formats followed by a more detailed description.

Pixel Format	Bits Per Pixel	USB3 Vision	UVC	TIS UVC Driver
8-Bit Bayer (RG)	8	BayerRG8	RGG8	RGB32, Y800
12-Bit Packed Bayer (RG)	12	BayerRG12p	RGCp	RGB64, Y16
16-Bit Bayer (RG)	16	BayerRG16	RG16	RGB64, Y16
YUV 4:2:2	16	YCbCr422_8	YUY2	YUY2
YUV 4:1:1 (a)	12	YCbCr411_8		
YUV 4:1:1 (b)	12	YCbCr411_8_CbYYCrYY	Y411	Y411
RGB24	24	BGR8	RGB24	RGB24
8-Bit Monochrome	8	Mono8		

5.1.1.1 8-Bit Bayer Raw

This format transmits data using one byte for each pixel.

USB3 Vision drivers see this pixel format as one of the 8-bit bayer raw formats (`BayerGR8`, `BayerRG8`, `BayerGB8`, `BayerBG8`).

UVC drivers see it with the *FourCC* `GRBG`, `RGGG`, `GBRG` or `BA81`.

The *Device Driver for The Imaging Source USB 33U, 37U and 38U Cameras* simplifies this variety of possible pixel formats and offers two video formats instead: `RGB32` and `Y800`. The `RGB32` format results from the driver's automatic debayering of the raw image data, while the `Y800` format contains the raw data which is reinterpreted as monochrome.

5.1.1.2 12-Bit Packed Bayer Raw

This format transmits data using 3 bytes for each pair of 2 consecutive pixels.

USB3 Vision drivers see this pixel format as one of the 12-bit packed bayer raw formats (`BayerGR12p`, `BayerRG12p`, `BayerGB12p`, `BayerBG12p`).

UVC drivers see it with the *FourCC* `GRCp`, `RGCp`, `GBCp` or `BGCp`.

The *Device Driver for The Imaging Source USB 33U, 37U and 38U Cameras* simplifies this variety of possible pixel formats and offers two video formats instead: `RGB64` and `Y16`. The `RGB64` format results from the driver's automatic debayering of the raw image data, while the `Y16` format contains the raw data which is reinterpreted as monochrome. Since the DFK 38UX253 camera offers both 12-bit packed and 16-bit bayer raw pixel formats, the driver uses the 12-bit packed format when the `RGB64` or `Y16` video format is selected.

5.1.1.3 16-Bit Bayer Raw

This format transmits data using 2 bytes for each pixel.

The sensor of the DFK 38UX253 camera is not able to provide 16-bit data output. The pixel data is transmitted in the most significant bits. This allows application programs to ignore the sensor-specific data type and to treat the data as if the sensor outputs 16 bits.

USB3 Vision drivers see this pixel format as one of the 16-bit packed bayer raw formats (`BayerGR16`, `BayerRG16`, `BayerGB16`, `BayerBG16`).

UVC drivers see it with the *FourCC* `GR16`, `RG16`, `GB16` or `BA16`.

The *Device Driver for The Imaging Source USB 33U, 37U and 38U Cameras* simplifies this variety of possible pixel formats and offers two video formats instead: `RGB64` and `Y16`. The `RGB64` format results from the driver's automatic debayering the raw image data, while the `Y16` format contains the raw data which is reinterpreted as monochrome.

5.1.1.4 YUV 4:2:2

This format transmits an 8-bit luminance value for every pixel and a pair of chrominance values for every two pixels.

The camera converts the raw pixel data from the sensor to YUV 4:2:2. Since YUV 4:2:2 averages to 2 bytes per pixel, the YUV 4:2:2 pixel format requires two times the bandwidth of the 8-bit raw format, thus reducing the maximum possible frame rate.

USB3 Vision drivers see this pixel format as `YCbCr422_8`.

UVC drivers see it with the *FourCC* `YUY2`.

The *Device Driver for The Imaging Source USB 33U, 37U and 38U Cameras* offers this pixel format as the `YUY2` video format.

5.1.1.5 YUV 4:1:1

This format transmits an 8-bit luminance value for every pixel and a pair of chrominance values for every four pixels.

The two YUV 4:1:1 pixel formats only differ in their byte order.

The camera converts the raw pixel data from the sensor to YUV 4:2:2. Since YUV 4:2:2 averages to 1.5 bytes per pixel, the YUV 4:2:2 pixel format requires two 50% more bandwidth than the 8-bit raw format, thus reducing the maximum possible frame rate.

USB3 Vision drivers see this pixel format as `YCbCr411_8` and `YCbCr411_8_CbYYCrYY`.

UVC drivers see it with the *FourCC* `Y411`.

The *Device Driver for The Imaging Source USB 33U, 37U and 38U Cameras* offers this pixel format as the `Y411` video format.

5.1.1.6 RGB24

The camera converts the raw pixel data from the sensor to RGB24. Since RGB24 uses 3 bytes to store 1 pixel, the RGB24 pixel format requires three times the bandwidth of the 8-bit raw format, thus reducing the maximum possible frame rate.

USB3 Vision drivers enumerate this pixel format as `BGR8`.

UVC drivers see it with the *FourCC* `RGB24`.

The *Device Driver for The Imaging Source USB 33U, 37U and 38U Cameras* enumerates this pixel format as the `RGB24` video format.

5.1.1.7 8-Bit Monochrome

The camera generates the pixel data by debayering the raw pixel data and transmitting only the luminance information.

USB3 Vision drivers enumerate this pixel format as `Mono8`.

UVC drivers do not have access to this format.

5.1.2 Resolution

The DFK 38UX253 allows the user to specify which rectangular region of the image sensor to read out during camera operation. The size of this rectangle determines the number of

pixels that have to be transferred for each frame and has a significant influence on the required USB bandwidth.

Lowering the resolution also often allows the image sensor to operate at a higher frame rate. Changes in the vertical resolution have more effect on the maximum frame rate than changes in the horizontal direction.

The way the resolution is controlled varies greatly between the driver technology used to access the camera:

- When using *USB3 Vision*, the resolution is controlled through the GenICam features Width and Height.
- When using the `uvcvideo` on Linux, the resolution is selected from a list of fixed formats. Dynamic frame sizes are not available.
- When using *IC Imaging Control*, the resolution is part of the video format, a parameter that combines pixel format, resolution and readout mode. For more information, refer to the *IC Imaging Control* documentation sections on `VideoFormat` and `VideoFormatDesc`.

Parameter	Horizontal Resolution
Minimum	256
Maximum	4096
USB3 Vision: GenICam	Width

Parameter	Vertical Resolution
Minimum	4
Maximum	3000
USB3 Vision: GenICam	Height

5.1.3 Readout Modes

The DFK 38UX253 camera offers different sensor readout modes.

By default, the camera outputs all pixels of the image sensor.

In *skipping* modes, the image sensor regularly skips a number of rows and/or columns during readout. The resulting output image is smaller but contains the same field of view than the image produced by default readout mode.

In *binning* modes, a number of neighboring pixels is merged into one output pixel during readout. The nature of this merge operation is sensor-specific, most sensors either add the pixel values or average them.

Generally, binning modes provide better image quality than skipping modes. However, skipping modes usually provide a higher maximum frame rate.

The way the readout modes are controlled depends greatly upon which driver technology is used to access the camera:

- When using *USB3 Vision*, the readout mode is controlled through the *GenICam* features `DecimationHorizontal`, `DecimationVertical`, `BinningHorizontal` and `BinningVertical`.
- When using *IC Imaging Control*, the readout mode is part of the video format - a parameter that which combines pixel format, resolution and readout mode. For more information, refer to the *IC Imaging Control* documentation sections on `VideoFormat` and `VideoFormatDesc`.

The following readout modes are supported:

- Default
- Skipping 2X
- Skipping 2X vertical
- Skipping 2X horizontal
- Binning 2X

5.1.4 Frame Rate

The frame rate is specified in frames per second and determines the camera's operating speed.

The way the frame rate is controlled depends greatly upon which driver technology is used to access the camera:

- When using *USB3 Vision*, the frame rate is controlled through the *GenICam* feature `AcquisitionFrameRate`.
- When using `uvccvideo` on Linux, the frame rate is selected from a list of available frame rates.
- When using *IC Imaging Control*, the frame rate is selected from a list of available frame rates through APIs such as `Grabber::setFPS` or `ICImagingControl.DeviceFrameRate`.

The range of available frame rates depends upon other camera settings such as well, pixel format, resolution and readout modes.

Parameter	Frame Rate
Minimum	Depending on Pixel Format, Resolution, and Readout Mode
Maximum	Depending on Pixel Format, Resolution, and Readout Mode
USB3 Vision: GenICam	<code>AcquisitionFrameRate</code>

The following tables show the maximum frame rate for some combinations of pixel format and resolution.

8-Bit Bayer Raw

Width	Height	Maximum Frame Rate
4096	3000	30
4096	2160	42
3840	2160	44
1920	1080	87
640	480	188

12-Bit Packed Bayer Raw

Width	Height	Maximum Frame Rate
4096	3000	20
4096	2160	27
3840	2160	29
1920	1080	70
640	480	152

16-Bit Bayer Raw

Width	Height	Maximum Frame Rate
4096	3000	15
4096	2160	21
3840	2160	22
1920	1080	70
640	480	152

YUV 4:2:2

Width	Height	Maximum Frame Rate
4096	3000	15
4096	2160	21
3840	2160	22
1920	1080	87
640	480	188

YUV 4:1:1 (a)

Width	Height	Maximum Frame Rate
4096	3000	20
4096	2160	28
3840	2160	30
1920	1080	87
640	480	188

YUV 4:1:1 (b)

Width	Height	Maximum Frame Rate
4096	3000	20
4096	2160	28
3840	2160	30
1920	1080	87
640	480	188

RGB24

Width	Height	Maximum Frame Rate
4096	3000	10
4096	2160	14
3840	2160	15
1920	1080	60
640	480	188

8-Bit Monochrome

Width	Height	Maximum Frame Rate
4096	3000	30
4096	2160	42
3840	2160	44
1920	1080	87
640	480	188

5.1.5 Partial Scan Offset

If the selected resolution is smaller than the sensor size, the part of the sensor that is actually read out can be specified by the *Partial Scan Offset X* and *Partial Scan Offset Y* parameters. By default, the camera automatically positions the offsets so that the center of the sensor is used.

Parameter	Partial Scan Offset X
Minimum	0
Maximum	3840
USB3 Vision: GenICam	OffsetX
Video4Linux2	ROI Offset X
VCD Property	VCDID_PartialScanOffset \VCDElement_PartialScanOffsetX

Parameter	Partial Scan Offset Y
Minimum	0
Maximum	2996
USB3 Vision: GenICam	OffsetY
Video4Linux2	ROI Offset Y
VCD Property	VCDID_PartialScanOffset \VCDElement_PartialScanOffsetY

If *Partial Scan Offset X* or *Partial Scan Offset Y* is configured to a value that would be invalid with the current setting of [Resolution](#) setting, the camera uses the maximum possible value.

Parameter	Partial Scan Auto Center
On	Automatically configure Partial Scan Offset X/Y so that the center area of the sensor is read out
True	
Off	Control Partial Scan Offset X/Y manually
False	
USB3 Vision: GenICam	OffsetAutoCenter
Video4Linux2	ROI Auto Center
VCD Property	VCDID_PartialScanOffset \VCDElement_PartialScanAutoCenter



5.1.6 Image Flipping

The DFK 38UX253 camera allows flipping of the image data horizontally, vertically, or both. The *Flip Horizontal* and *Flip Vertical* parameters can be used to control this sensor feature.

Parameter	Flip Horizontal
True	Image data is flipped horizontally
False	Image data is not flipped horizontally
USB3 Vision: GenICam	ReverseX
Video4Linux2	Flip Horizontal
VCD Property	VCDID_FlipHorizontal\VCDElement_Value

Parameter	Flip Vertical
True	Image data is flipped vertically
False	Image data is not flipped vertically
USB3 Vision: GenICam	ReverseY
Video4Linux2	Flip Vertical
VCD Property	VCDID_FlipVertical\VCDElement_Value

5.2 Image Sensor Control

5.2.1 Exposure Time

The *Exposure Time* parameter defines the time the camera opens its (electronic) shutter when it is taking an image.

Parameter	Exposure Time
Minimum	2 μ s
Maximum	4 s
Default	auto
USB3 Vision: GenICam	ExposureTime
Video4Linux2	Exposure Time (us)
VCD Property	VCDID_Exposure\VCDElement_Value

5.2.2 Gain

The *Gain* parameter defines the amplification that is applied to the image at sensor level.

Parameter	Gain
Minimum	0 dB
Maximum	48 dB
Default	auto
USB3 Vision: GenICam	Gain
Video4Linux2	Gain (db/100)
VCD Property	VCDID_Gain\VCDElement_Value

5.2.3 Black Level

The *Black Level* parameter defines the lowest possibly intensity value of the image sensor.

Parameter	Black Level
Minimum	0
Maximum	4095
Default	240
USB3 Vision: GenICam	BlackLevel
Video4Linux2	Brightness
VCD Property	VCDID_Brightness\VCDElement_Value

5.3 Automatic Exposure and Gain Control

The DFK 38UX253 camera can automatically control gain and exposure time. These automatic functions are enabled by default.

In order to optimize image parameters, a region of interest can be specified for automatic functions. Specifying a region of interest enables fine-grained control over the image area for which the image parameters are optimized. A selection of pre-defined area presets is available, but the user can also specify the coordinates of a custom rectangle.

In certain situations, it is desirable to limit the range of the auto-controlled parameters. For example, one might want to avoid high gain settings in order to keep noise levels low. Other applications require limiting the maximum exposure time so that movements do not get blurred. Therefore, the ranges of the gain and exposure parameter can be limited.

If both auto exposure and auto gain are active, the camera tries to lower the gain value in order to reduce noise and improve the image quality.

5.3.1 Auto Exposure

Parameter	Auto Exposure
Continuous	Enable Auto Exposure
True	
Off	Disable Auto Exposure
False	
USB3 Vision: GenICam	ExposureAuto
Video4Linux2	Auto Shutter
VCD Property	VCDID_Exposure\VCDElement_Auto

5.3.2 Auto Gain

Parameter	Auto Gain
Continuous	Enable Auto Gain
True	
Off	Disable Auto Gain
False	
USB3 Vision: GenICam	GainAuto
Video4Linux2	Auto Gain
VCD Property	VCDID_Gain\VCDElement_Auto

5.3.3 Auto Reference Value

The *Auto Reference Value* parameter specifies the target brightness for both auto exposure and auto gain.

Parameter	Auto Reference Value
Minimum	0
Maximum	255
Default	128
USB3 Vision: GenICam	ExposureAutoReference
Video4Linux2	ExposureAutoReference
VCD Property	VCDID_Exposure\VCDElement_AutoReference

5.3.4 Highlight Reduction

Enabling *Highlight Reduction* lets the auto exposure and auto gain functions reduce overexposed areas in the output image. This feature is particularly useful when using 10/12/16-bit output images and a tone mapping algorithm in post-processing when using higher bit depths as the dark areas still contain a lot of useful information.

Parameter	Highlight Reduction
True	Try to reduce overexposed areas
False	Ignore overexposed areas and focus on matching the image brightness to the selected Auto Reference Value .
USB3 Vision: GenICam	ExposureAutoHighlightReduction
Video4Linux2	Highlight Reduction
VCD Property	VCDID_HighlightReduction\VCDElement_Value

5.3.5 Auto Exposure Limits

The *Auto Exposure Lower Limit* parameter determines the minimum possible value that can be set by the auto exposure algorithm.

Parameter	Auto Exposure Lower Limit
Minimum	2 μ s
Maximum	1 s
USB3 Vision: GenICam	ExposureAutoLowerLimit
Video4Linux2	Exposure Auto Lower Limit

The *Auto Exposure Upper Limit* parameter determines the maximum possible value that can be set by the auto exposure algorithm.

Parameter	Auto Exposure Upper Limit
Minimum	2 μ s
Maximum	1 s
USB3 Vision: GenICam	ExposureAutoUpperLimit
Video4Linux2	Exposure Auto Upper Limit
VCD Property	VCDID_Exposure\VCDElement_AutoMaxValue

If the *Auto Exposure Upper Limit Auto* parameter is enabled, the value of *Auto Exposure Upper Limit* is automatically kept at the maximum possible value for the current frame rate.

Parameter	Auto Exposure Upper Limit Auto
On	Select <i>Auto Exposure Upper Limit</i> automatically
Off	Let the user control <i>Auto Exposure Upper Limit</i>
USB3 Vision: GenICam	ExposureAutoUpperLimitAuto
Video4Linux2	Exposure Auto Upper Limit Auto
VCD Property	VCDID_Exposure\VCDElement_AutoMaxValueAuto

5.3.6 Auto Gain Limits

The *Auto Gain Lower Limit* parameter determines the minimum possible value that can be set by the auto gain algorithm.

Parameter	Auto Gain Lower Limit
Minimum	0 dB
Maximum	48 dB
USB3 Vision: GenICam	GainAutoLowerLimit
Video4Linux2	Gain Auto Lower Limit

The *Auto Gain Upper Limit* parameter determines the maximum possible value that can be set by the auto gain algorithm.

Parameter	Auto Gain Upper Limit
Minimum	0 dB
Maximum	48 dB
USB3 Vision: GenICam	GainAutoUpperLimit
Video4Linux2	Gain Auto Upper Limit

5.4 Trigger

The trigger mode can be used to take images at very specific points in time which are specified by an electrical signal connected to the [TRIGGER IN](#) pin of the I/O connector of the camera.

5.4.1 Trigger Mode

The *Trigger Mode* parameter enables the trigger mode.

Parameter	Trigger Mode
On	Enable Trigger Mode
True	
Off	Disable Trigger Mode
False	
USB3 Vision: GenICam	TriggerMode
Video4Linux2	Trigger Mode
VCD Property	VCDID_Trigger\VCDElement_Value

5.4.2 Trigger Polarity

The *Trigger Polarity* parameter controls whether a trigger event is accepted on the rising or falling edge of the signal connected to the TRIGGER_IN line.

Parameter	Trigger Polarity
RisingEdge	Accept rising edge as trigger signal
True	
FallingEdge	Accept falling edge as trigger signal
False	
USB3 Vision: GenICam	TriggerActivation
Video4Linux2	Trigger Polarity
VCD Property	VCDID_Trigger\VCDElement_Polarity

5.4.3 Software Trigger

The *Software Trigger* function can be used to simulate a trigger pulse, in turn causing one image to be exposed and delivered to the host computer.

Parameter	Software Trigger
Execute	Simulate one trigger pulse
USB3 Vision: GenICam	TriggerSoftware
Video4Linux2	Software Trigger
VCD Property	VCDID_Trigger\VCDElement_SoftwareTrigger

5.4.4 Trigger Exposure Mode

The *Trigger Exposure Mode* parameter sets the way in which the exposure time is controlled in trigger mode. By default, the exposure time is controlled through the [Exposure Time](#)

parameter. The exposure time can also be controlled by the time the TRIGGER_IN line is kept in active state.

Parameter	Trigger Exposure Mode
FrameStart	The exposure time is controlled by the Exposure Time parameter
Timed	
ExposureActive	The exposure time is controlled by the pulse length on the TRIGGER_IN pin
Trigger Width	
USB3 Vision: GenICam	TriggerSelector
Video4Linux2	Trigger Exposure Mode
VCD Property	VCDID_Trigger\VCDElement_TriggerExposureMode

5.4.5 Trigger Burst Count

The *Trigger Burst Count* parameter allows the camera to be configured to take more than one image per trigger pulse. By default, this parameter is set to 1 so that exactly one image is acquired. The images are taken as rapidly as possible given current settings (i.e. as limited by the current exposure time and frame rate settings).

Parameter	Trigger Burst Count
Minimum	1
Maximum	65535
Default	1
USB3 Vision: GenICam	AcquisitionBurstFrameCount
Video4Linux2	Trigger Burst Count
VCD Property	VCDID_Trigger\VCDElement_TriggerBurstCount

5.4.6 Trigger Source

The *Trigger Source* parameter allows the camera to be configured to only accept trigger signals from a specified source, e.g. only software trigger.

Parameter	Trigger Source
Any	Allow trigger signals from any source
Line1	Allow only hardware trigger
Software	Allow only software trigger
USB3 Vision: GenICam	TriggerSource

5.4.7 Trigger Overlap

The *Trigger Overlap* feature gives information on when a new trigger pulse is accepted in the trigger -> exposure -> readout sequence.

Parameter	Trigger Overlap
Off	The next trigger pulse is only accepted once the previous frame has been read out from the sensor
Readout	The next trigger pulse is accepted during readout as long as the remaining readout time is shorter than the exposure time
USB3 Vision: GenICam	TriggerOverlap
VCD Property	VCDID_Trigger\VCDElement_TriggerOverlap

5.4.8 IMX Low-Latency Mode

The *IMX Low-Latency Mode* parameter controls whether the sensor operates in low-latency trigger mode.

Parameter	IMX Low-Latency Mode
True	Delay between trigger input and start of exposure is exactly as configured through the <i>Trigger Delay</i> feature
False	Delay between trigger input and start of exposure is the time configured by the <i>Trigger Delay</i> feature in addition to a random delay depending on resolution, frame rate, and timing relative to the sensor's internal state
USB3 Vision: GenICam	IMXLowLatencyTriggerMode
VCD Property	VCDID_Trigger\VCDElement_IMXLowLatencyMode

Important: If *IMX Low-Latency Mode* is enabled, *Trigger Overlap* is not allowed and is thereby forced to `Off`.

5.5 Trigger Timing Parameters

The 38U series camera series offers several options for dealing with bad trigger signals. By using the *Debounce Time*, *Denoise Time* and *Mask Time* parameters, the camera can be configured to ignore pulses on its [TRIGGER_IN](#) line under certain conditions.

Useful values for these parameters are application-specific. They depend on the expected trigger frequency, the exposure time and assumptions about the input signal quality.

The default values for all these parameters is 0 µs, assuming perfect signal quality.

5.5.1 Trigger Delay

The *Trigger Delay* parameter specifies a time for which the camera waits between receiving a trigger signal and starting the exposure of an image. Simulated trigger pulses generated through the *Software Trigger* function are not delayed by this parameter.

Parameter	Trigger Delay
Minimum	0 s
Maximum	1 s
Default	0 s
USB3 Vision: GenICam	TriggerDelay
Video4Linux2	Trigger Delay
VCD Property	VCDID_Trigger\VCDElement_TriggerDelay

5.5.2 Trigger Debounce Time

The *Trigger Debounce Time* parameter specifies the time for which the trigger input has to be low in order for the next trigger signal to be accepted.

Parameter	Trigger Debounce Time
Minimum	0 s
Maximum	1 s
Default	0 s
USB3 Vision: GenICam	TriggerDebouncer
Video4Linux2	Trigger Debounce Time (us)
VCD Property	VCDID_Trigger\VCDElement_TriggerDebouncer

5.5.3 Trigger Mask Time

The *Trigger Mask Time* parameter specifies the time for which trigger pulses are ignored after accepting a trigger signal.

Parameter	Trigger Mask Time
Minimum	0 s
Maximum	1 s
Default	0 s
USB3 Vision: GenICam	TriggerMask
Video4Linux2	Trigger Mask Time (us)
VCD Property	VCDID_Trigger\VCDElement_TriggerMask

5.5.4 Trigger Noise Suppression Time

The *Trigger Noise Suppression Time* parameter specifies the time for which trigger input has to be active in order to be accepted as a trigger signal.

Parameter	Trigger Noise Suppression Time
Minimum	0 s
Maximum	1 s
Default	0 s
USB3 Vision: GenICam	TriggerDenoise
Video4Linux2	Trigger Noise Suppression Time
VCD Property	VCDID_Trigger\VCDElement_TriggerDenoise

5.6 Digital I/O

The 38U series has one digital input and one digital output. The digital input can be used as a [Trigger](#) input but the current status can also be examined directly.

The digital output can be configured as a [Strobe](#) output to signal the exact moment when the image sensor is sensitive to light so that external light sources can be synchronized to its operation cycle.

5.6.1 General Purpose Input

The *General Purpose Input* parameter allows the current status of the [TRIGGER_IN](#) pin.

Parameter	General Purpose Input
True	TRIGGER_IN line status is low
1	
False	TRIGGER_IN line status is high
0	
USB3 Vision: GenICam	GPIIn
Video4Linux2	GPIN
VCD Property	VCDID_GPIO\VCDElement_GPIORead VCDID_GPIO\VCDElement_GPIOIn

5.6.2 General Purpose Output

The *General Purpose Output* parameter controls the status of the [STROBE_OUT](#) pin.

Parameter	General Purpose Output
True	Drive the STROBE_OUT line high
1	
False	Drive the STROBE_OUT line low
0	
USB3 Vision: GenICam	GPOut
Video4Linux2	GPOUT
VCD Property	VCDID_GPIO\VCDElement_GPIOWrite VCDID_GPIO\VCDElement_GPIOOut

5.7 Strobe

The strobe function controls the automatic generation of output pulses on the [STROBE_OUT](#) pin which is synchronized to the image sensor's exposure time.

5.7.1 Strobe Enable

The *Strobe Enable* parameter enables the automatic generation of strobe pulses.

Parameter	Strobe Enable
On	Strobe enabled
True	
Off	Strobe disabled
False	
USB3 Vision: GenICam	StrobeEnable
Video4Linux2	Strobe Enable
VCD Property	VCDID_Strobe\VCDElement_Value

5.7.2 Strobe Polarity

The *Strobe Polarity* parameter can be used to invert the strobe pulse output.

Parameter	Strobe Polarity
ActiveHigh	The STROBE_OUT pin is logically high during the exposure time
True	
ActiveLow	The STROBE_OUT pin is logically low during the exposure time
False	
USB3 Vision: GenICam	StrobePolarity
Video4Linux2	Strobe Polarity
VCD Property	VCDID_Strobe\VCDElement_StrobePolarity

5.7.3 Strobe Operation

The *Strobe Operation* parameter specifies how the length of the strobe pulses are controlled.

Parameter	Strobe Operation
Exposure	Output pulse duration is equal to the current exposure time
True	
FixedDuration	Output pulse duration is specified by <i>Strobe Duration</i>
False	
USB3 Vision: GenICam	StrobeOperation
Video4Linux2	Strobe Exposure
VCD Property	VCDID_Strobe\VCDElement_StrobeMode



5.7.4 Strobe Duration

The *Strobe Duration* parameter controls the length of the strobe pulses if *Strobe Operation* is set to use the fixed duration mode.

Parameter	Strobe Duration
Minimum	0 μ s
Maximum	32767 μ s
USB3 Vision: GenICam	StrobeDuration
Video4Linux2	Strobe Duration
VCD Property	VCDID_Strobe\VCDElement_StrobeDuration

5.7.5 Strobe Delay

The *Strobe Delay* parameter can be used to add a small delay between the start of exposure and the strobe output pulse.

Parameter	Strobe Delay
Minimum	0 μ s
Maximum	32767 μ s
USB3 Vision: GenICam	StrobeDelay
Video4Linux2	Strobe Delay
VCD Property	VCDID_Strobe\VCDElement_StrobeDelay

5.8 White Balance

The DFK 38UX253 color camera can perform white balance by digital multiplication of the appropriate raw pixel values.

5.8.1 Auto White Balance

DFK 38UX253 can perform *Auto White Balance*. It can be enabled continuously when changes in lighting conditions are expected. Under controlled lighting conditions, however, one-time white balance calibration is the recommended approach.

To perform one-time white balance calibration, place a reference white sheet in front of the camera and set `BalanceWhiteAuto` to *Once*. The camera will then find the correct white balance settings for the current light conditions and keep them active until instructed otherwise.

Parameter	Auto White Balance
Continuous	Enable automatic white balance
True	
Once	Enable automatic white balance until the color channels have been balanced once
One Push	
Off	Disable automatic white balance
False	
USB3 Vision: GenICam	BalanceWhiteAuto
Video4Linux2	White Balance Component, Auto
VCD Property	VCDID_WhiteBalance\VCDElement_Auto VCDID_WhiteBalance\VCDElement_OnePush

5.8.2 White Balance Mode

The default auto white balance algorithm is *Gray World*. It is selected by setting the *White Balance Mode* accordingly. The *Gray World* algorithm operates under the assumption that the average color of a scene is near gray and adjusts the white balance coefficients so the average color of the resulting image is gray as well. In the case where this assumption is wrong (e.g. the camera is pointing at a blue carpet), the auto white balance algorithm will select coefficients that do not result in a visually accurate image.

To avoid the problems posed by the *Gray World* algorithm, the *Temperature* mode can be used. This mode operates by trying to determine the color temperature of the light source.

Parameter	White Balance Mode
Gray World	Use the <i>Gray World</i> model
Temperature	Use the <i>Temperature</i> model
USB3 Vision: GenICam	BalanceWhiteMode
Video4Linux2	Whitebalance Mode
VCD Property	VCDID_WhiteBalance \VCDElement_WhiteBalanceMode

To assist the automatic white balance temperature detection, *White Balance Auto Preset* can be used to limit the range of valid color temperatures.

Parameter	White Balance Auto Preset
Any	Allow any color temperature
Auto Warm White	Limit color temperature to approximately 2500-4000 K
Auto Cool White	Limit color temperature to approximately 4000-5800 K
Auto Daylight	Limit color temperature to approximately 5700-7500 K
Auto Deep Shade	Limit color temperature to approximately 7500-10000 K
USB3 Vision: GenICam	BalanceWhiteAutoPreset
Video4Linux2	Whitebalance Auto Preset
VCD Property	VCDID_WhiteBalance \VCDElement_WhiteBalanceAutoPreset

5.8.3 Manual White Balance

If *Auto White Balance* is not enabled, the amplifiers for the red, green and blue channels can be controlled manually.

Parameter	White Balance Red
Minimum	0
Maximum	3.984375
Default	auto
USB3 Vision: GenICam	BalanceRatio[BalanceRatioSelector=Red]
Video4Linux2	White Balance Red Component
VCD Property	VCDID_WhiteBalance \VCDElement_WhiteBalanceRed

Parameter	White Balance Green
Minimum	0
Maximum	3.984375
Default	auto
USB3 Vision: GenICam	BalanceRatio[BalanceRatioSelector=Green]
Video4Linux2	White Balance Green Component
VCD Property	VCDID_WhiteBalance \VCDElement_WhiteBalanceGreen

Parameter	White Balance Blue
Minimum	0
Maximum	3.984375
Default	auto
USB3 Vision: GenICam	BalanceRatio[BalanceRatioSelector=Blue]
Video4Linux2	White Balance Blue Component
VCD Property	VCDID_WhiteBalance \VCDElement_WhiteBalanceBlue

If *White Balance Mode* is set to *Temperature*, the color temperature can be set directly. Additionally, a light source can be selected from a list of presets.

Parameter	White Balance Temperature
Minimum	2500 K
Maximum	10000 K
Default	auto
USB3 Vision: GenICam	BalanceWhiteTemperature
Video4Linux2	White Balance Temperature
VCD Property	VCDID_WhiteBalance \VCDElement_WhiteBalanceTemperature

Parameter	White Balance Temperature Preset
Sodium-Vapor Lamp	2500 K
Warm Light	2700 K
Halogen Light	3000 K
Neutral White	3500 K
Cool White Fluorescent Light	4000 K
Cool White/Daylight (CFL)	5000 K
Daylight	6000 K
Cool White LED	7500 K
Blue Sky	10000 K
USB3 Vision: GenICam	BalanceWhiteTemperaturePreset
Video4Linux2	Whitebalance Temperature Preset
VCD Property	VCDID_WhiteBalance \VCDElement_TemperaturePreset

5.9 Image Processing

5.9.1 Gamma

The 38U series cameras can perform gamma correction on the image data. If the pixel format of a color camera is set a YUV mode, gamma correction is applied to the Y channel. In bayer raw and RGB24 modes, all color channels are subject to the same gamma correction.

Parameter	Gamma
Minimum	0.01
Maximum	5.0
Default	1.0
USB3 Vision: GenICam	Gamma
Video4Linux2	Gamma
VCD Property	VCDID_Gamma\VCDElement_Value

5.9.2 Lookup Table

The 38U series allows the user to specify a lookup table (LUT) that can transform pixel values. This lookup table can be used to perform tasks like histogram equalization inside the camera.

If the pixel format of a color camera is set to one of the YUV modes, the lookup table is applied only to the Y channel. In bayer raw and RGB24 modes, all color channels are subject to the same lookup operation.

The lookup table has 257 16-bit entries. The upper 8 bits of the image data are used to select the appropriate entry in the lookup table, while the remaining bits are used to interpolate between the selected entry and one of its neighbors.

The *LUT Enable* feature enables the lookup table.

Parameter	LUT Enable
True	Enable lookup table operation
False	Disable lookup table operation
USB3 Vision: GenICam	LUTEnable

The lookup table values can be programmed using the *LUT Index* and *LUT Value* features.

Parameter	LUT Index
Minimum	0
Maximum	256
USB3 Vision: GenICam	LUTIndex

Parameter	LUT Value
Minimum	0
Maximum	65535
USB3 Vision: GenICam	LUTValue

The whole lookup table can be quickly reprogrammed through the *LUT Value All* feature.

Parameter	LUT Value All
Value	1028 bytes of memory containing 257 LUT entries. Each 16-bit LUT entry is aligned on a 32-bit boundary
USB3 Vision: GenICam	LUTValueAll



Important: Since gamma correction is implemented using the same hardware as the lookup table, gamma correction is disabled when the lookup table is enabled.

5.10 Color Processing

The DFK 38UX253 color camera allows color adjustments with the *Hue* and *Saturation* parameters. These adjustments work with all output pixel formats.

Important: When a bayer raw pixel format is selected, *Hue* and *Saturation* still work. However, when at least one of them is enabled (set to non-default value), the resulting image is slightly blurred because of the way these parameters are implemented internally.

5.10.1 Hue

The *Hue* parameter controls the color angle of the output image.

Parameter	Hue
Minimum	-180
Maximum	180
Default	0
USB3 Vision: GenICam	Hue
Video4Linux2	Hue
VCD Property	VCDID_Hue\VCDElement_Value

5.10.2 Saturation

The *Saturation* parameter controls the color saturation of the output image.

Parameter	Saturation
Minimum	0
Maximum	255
Default	64
USB3 Vision: GenICam	Saturation
Video4Linux2	Saturation
VCD Property	VCDID_Saturation\VCDElement_Value

5.11 Region of Interest for Auto Functions

The 38U series cameras allow for the setting of a region of interest that is used while controlling the [Auto Exposure](#), [Auto Gain](#) and [Auto White Balance](#) functions.

5.11.1 Auto Functions ROI Enable

The *Auto Functions ROI Enable* parameter allows for the use of a region of interest for auto functions.

Parameter	Auto Functions ROI Enable
True	Auto functions only take a specified part of the image into account
False	Auto functions look at the whole image
USB3 Vision: GenICam	AutoFunctionsROIEnable
Video4Linux2	Auto Functions ROI Enable
VCD Property	VCDID_AutoRoi\VCDElement_Value

5.11.2 Auto Functions ROI Preset

The *Auto Functions ROI Preset* parameter lets the user select from a list of ROI presets.

Parameter	Auto Functions ROI Preset
Full Sensor	Select the full output image
Center 50%	Select a rectangular area in the center of the output image
Center 25%	Select a small rectangular area in the center of the output image
Bottom Half	Select the bottom half of the output image
Top Half	Select the top half of the output image
Custom Rectangle	Select a custom rectangle for fine-grained control
USB3 Vision: GenICam	AutoFunctionsROI_Preset
Video4Linux2	Auto Functions ROI Preset
VCD Property	VCDID_AutoRoi\VCDElement_AutoRoiPreset

5.11.3 Auto Functions ROI Custom Rectangle

When *Auto Functions ROI Preset* is set to *Custom Rectangle*, the user can manually set the position and size of the region of interest. The coordinates are relative to the origin of the current video format as specified by [Partial Scan Offset](#).



Parameter	Auto Functions ROI Left
Minimum	0
Maximum	2576
USB3 Vision: GenICam	AutoFunctionsROILeft
Video4Linux2	Auto Functions ROI Left
VCD Property	VCDID_AutoRoi \VCDElement_AutoRoiLeftRelative

Parameter	Auto Functions ROI Top
Minimum	0
Maximum	2032
USB3 Vision: GenICam	AutoFunctionsROITop
Video4Linux2	Auto Functions ROI Top
VCD Property	VCDID_AutoRoi \VCDElement_AutoRoiTopRelative

Parameter	Auto Functions ROI Width
Minimum	16
Maximum	2592
USB3 Vision: GenICam	AutoFunctionsROIWidth
Video4Linux2	Auto Functions ROI Width
VCD Property	VCDID_AutoRoi \VCDElement_AutoRoiWidthRelative

Parameter	Auto Functions ROI Height
Minimum	16
Maximum	2048
USB3 Vision: GenICam	AutoFunctionsROIHeight
Video4Linux2	Auto Functions ROI Height
VCD Property	VCDID_AutoRoi \VCDElement_AutoRoiHeightRelative

5.12 User Sets

The 38U series cameras can store their complete configuration into built-in non-volatile memory. The camera configuration can be saved into and restored from one of two available memory slots upon user's request. Additionally, the camera can be configured to load one of the user's camera configurations at startup.

5.12.1 User Set Selector

The *User Set Selector* parameter selects the memory slot on which consecutive load and save commands are executed.

Parameter	User Set Selector
UserSet1	First of the two memory slots for user configurations
UserSet2	Second of the two memory slots for user configurations
Default	A special memory slot that always contains the camera's factory default configuration. It cannot be overwritten
USB3 Vision: GenICam	UserSetSelector

5.12.2 Load User Set

By using the *Load User Set* command, the user can restore the camera configuration from the memory slot selected by *User Set Selector*.

Parameter	Load User Set
Execute	Restore the camera configuration from the memory slot specified by <i>User Set Selector</i>
USB3 Vision: GenICam	UserSetLoad

5.12.3 Save User Set

By using the *Save User Set* command, the user can save the camera configuration into the memory slot selected by *User Set Selector*.

Parameter	Save User Set
Execute	Save the current camera configuration into the memory slot specified by <i>User Set Selector</i>
USB3 Vision: GenICam	UserSetSave

5.12.4 Default User Set

The *Default User Set* parameter controls the camera's startup behavior. It selects which memory slot is used for device initialization when the camera is powered up.

Parameter	Default User Set
UserSet1	Load configuration from the first memory slot
UserSet2	Load configuration from the second memory slot
Default	Load factory default configuration
USB3 Vision: GenICam	UserSetDefault

5.13 Multi-Frame Output Mode

The 38U series cameras support cycling the exposure time through pre-programmed values from frame to frame in order to form a frame set. In post-processing, sets of frames captured with different exposure times can be used to create images with higher dynamic range than those from single exposure.

The camera can be configured to use 2 or 4 different exposure times.

If required, different gain values can be selected for use along with the configured exposure times.

5.13.1 Multi-Frame Output Mode Enable

The *Multi-Frame Output Mode Enable* parameter activates the multi-frame output mode.

Parameter	Multi-Frame Output Mode Enable
True	Cycle through the exposure times specified by Multi-Frame Output Mode Exposure Time
False	Use the exposure time defined by Exposure Time for all frames
USB3 Vision: GenICam	MultiFrameSetOutputModeEnable
VCD Property	VCDID_MultiFrameOutputMode \VCDElement_Value

5.13.2 Multi-Frame Output Mode Frame Count

The *Multi-Frame Output Mode Frame Count* parameter defines the number of frames in a frame set.

Parameter	Multi-Frame Output Mode Frame Count
2 Frames	Use two different exposure times
4 Frames	Use four different exposure times
USB3 Vision: GenICam	MultiFrameSetOutputModeFrameCount
VCD Property	VCDID_MultiFrameOutputMode \VCDElement_MultiFrameCount

5.13.3 Multi-Frame Output Mode Exposure Time

The *Multi-Frame Output Mode Exposure Time* parameters control the different exposure times in a frame set.

Parameter	Multi-Frame Output Mode Exposure Time
Minimum	2 μ s
Maximum	4000000 μ s
USB3 Vision: GenICam	MultiFrameSetOutputModeExposureTime0 MultiFrameSetOutputModeExposureTime1 MultiFrameSetOutputModeExposureTime2 MultiFrameSetOutputModeExposureTime3
VCD Property	VCDID_MultiFrameOutputMode \VCDElement_MultiFrameExposure0 \VCDElement_MultiFrameExposure1 \VCDElement_MultiFrameExposure2 \VCDElement_MultiFrameExposure3

5.13.4 Multi-Frame Output Mode Custom Gain

The *Multi-Frame Output Mode Custom Gain* parameter allows specifying different gain values for each frame in a frame set.

Parameter	Multi-Frame Output Mode Custom Gain
True	Cycle through the gain values specified by Multi-Frame Output Mode Gain
False	Use the gain value defined by Gain
USB3 Vision: GenICam	MultiFrameSetOutputModeCustomGain
VCD Property	VCDID_MultiFrameOutputMode \VCDElement_MultiFrameCustomGainEnable

5.13.5 Multi-Frame Output Mode Gain

The *Multi-Frame Output Mode Gain* parameters controls the gain values used to capture the images of the frame set.



Parameter	Multi-Frame Output Mode Gain
Minimum	0 dB
Maximum	48 dB
USB3 Vision: GenICam	MultiFrameSetOutputModeGain0 MultiFrameSetOutputModeGain1 MultiFrameSetOutputModeGain2 MultiFrameSetOutputModeGain3
VCD Property	VCDID_MultiFrameOutputMode \VCDElement_MultiFrameGain0 \VCDElement_MultiFrameGain1 \VCDElement_MultiFrameGain2 \VCDElement_MultiFrameGain3



6 Revision History

Date	Version	Description
2018/04/19		Initial release of this document
2018/04/27	Firmware 911	Added 12-Bit Bayer Packed (RG) pixel format
2018/05/17	Firmware 923	Reduce minimum exposure time from 25 μ s to 2 μ s
2019/05/29	Firmware 1055	Add Multi-Frameset Output Mode
2023/07/19		Update environmental section in quick facts chapter



DFK 38UX253 Technical Reference Manual

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Headquarters:

*The Imaging Source Europe GmbH
Überseetor 18, D-28217 Bremen, Germany
Phone: +49 421 33591-0*

North & South America:

*The Imaging Source, LLC
4600 Park Road, Suite 470, Charlotte, NC 28209, United States
Phone: +1 877-462-4772*

Asia Pacific:

*The Imaging Source Asia Co., Ltd.
3F., No. 43-7/8, Zhongxing Road
New Taipei City, Xizhi District 221012, Taiwan
Phone: +886 2-2792-3153*

www.theimaging-source.com