

MAX-M8

u-blox M8 Concurrent GNSS modules

Data Sheet

Highlights

- Miniature LCC package (9.7x10.1x2.5 mm)
- Concurrent reception of GPS/QZSS, GLONASS, BeiDou
- u-blox AssistNow GNSS Online, Offline and Autonomous
- Industry leading -167 dBm navigation sensitivity
- Product variants to meet performance and cost requirements
- Pin-to-pin and software compatible with MAX-7 and MAX-6



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Document status explanation

Objective Specification	Document contains target values. Revised and supplementary data will be published later.
Advance Information	Document contains data based on early testing. Revised and supplementary data will be published later.
Early Production Information	Document contains data from product verification. Revised and supplementary data may be published later.
Production Information	Document contains the final product specification.

This document applies to the following products:

Product name	Type number	ROM/FLASH version	PCN reference
MAX-M8C	MAX-M8C-0-02	ROM 2.01	UBX-15015253
MAX-M8Q	MAX-M8Q-0-01	ROM 2.01	UBX-15015253
MAX-M8W	MAX-M8W-0-00	ROM 2.01	N/A

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Description

1.1 Overview

The MAX-M8 series of standalone concurrent GNSS modules:

- are built on the high performance u-blox M8 engine. The dual-frequency RF front-end allows concurrent reception of two GNSS systems (GPS, GLONASS, BeiDou), e.g. GPS and GLONASS in the industry proven MAX form factor. Sophisticated RF-architecture and interference suppression ensure maximum performance even in GNSS-hostile environments.
- provide high sensitivity and minimal acquisition times while maintaining low system power and available in three product variants:
 - MAX-M8C is optimized for cost sensitive applications and has the lowest power consumption.
 - MAX-M8Q provides best performance for passive and active antennas designs. It is also halogen free (green) which makes it perfectly suited for consumer applications.
 - MAX-M8W provides best performance and is optimized for active antennas.
- are based on the industry-proven MAX form factor allowing easy migration from previous MAX generations.
- combine a high level of integration capability with flexible connectivity options in a miniature package. This makes it perfectly suited for industrial applications with strict size and cost requirements. The I²C compatible DDC interface provides connectivity and enables synergies with most u-blox cellular modules.
- use GNSS chips qualified according to AEC-Q100, are manufactured in ISO/TS 16949 certified sites, and fully tested on a system level. Qualification tests are performed as stipulated in the ISO16750 standard: "Road vehicles – Environmental conditions and testing for electrical and electronic equipment".

u-blox' AssistNow Assistance supply aiding information, such as ephemeris, almanac, rough last position and time, reduce the time to first fix significantly and improve the acquisition sensitivity. AssistNow data are with u-blox M8 supporting both GPS and GLONASS constellation for faster acquisition than a GPS-only assistance. The extended validity of AssistNow Offline data (up to 35 days) and AssistNow Autonomous data (up to 6 days) provide faster acquisition after long off time.



See section 1.6 for more information concerning the MAX-M8 series related AssistNow Assistance.

1.2 Product features

Model	Type	Supply	Interfaces	Features	Grade
	GPS / QZSS GLONASS Galileo BeiDou Timing Dead Reckoning Precise Point Positioning Raw Data	1.65 V – 3.6 V 2.7 V – 3.6 V Lowest power (DC/DC)	UART USB SPI DDC (I ² C compliant)	Programmable (Flash) Data logging Additional SAW Additional LNA RTC crystal Internal oscillator Active antenna / LNA supply Active antenna / LNA control Antenna short circuit detection / protection pin Antenna open circuit detection pin Frequency output	Standard Professional Automotive
MAX-M8C	• • •	• •	• •	♦ C • • •	
MAX-M8Q	• • •	• •	• •	• T • • •	
MAX-M8W	• • •	•	• •	• T • • •	

○ = Optional, not activated per default or requires external components

♦ = Higher backup current

C = Crystal / T = TCXO

1.3 GNSS performance

Parameter	Specification			
Receiver type	72-channel u-blox M8 engine GPS L1C/A SBAS L1C/A QZSS L1C/A GLONASS L1OF BeiDou B1			
MAX-M8Q/W	GNSS	GPS & GLONASS	GPS & BeiDou	GPS
Time-To-First-Fix ¹	Cold start	26 s	27 s	29 s
	Hot start	1 s	1 s	1 s
	Aided starts ²	2 s	3 s ³	2 s
Sensitivity ⁴	Tracking & Navigation	-167 dBm	-165 dBm	-166 dBm
	Reacquisition	-160 dBm	-160 dBm	-160 dBm
	Cold start	-148 dBm	-148 dBm	-148 dBm
	Hot start	-156 dBm	-156 dBm	-156 dBm
MAX-M8C	GNSS	GPS & GLONASS	GPS & BeiDou	GPS
Time-To-First-Fix ¹	Cold start	27 s	28 s	30 s
	Hot start	1 s	1 s	1 s
	Aided starts ²	4 s	6 s ³	3 s
Sensitivity ⁴	Tracking & Navigation	-164 dBm	-162 dBm	-163 dBm
	Reacquisition	-159 dBm	-159 dBm	-159 dBm
	Cold start	-147 dBm	-147 dBm	-147 dBm
	Hot start	-156 dBm	-156 dBm	-156 dBm
MAX-M8Q/W/C	GNSS	GPS & GLONASS	GPS & BeiDou	GPS
Max navigation update rate		10 Hz	10 Hz	18 Hz
Velocity accuracy ⁵		0.05 m/s		
Heading accuracy ⁵		0.3 degrees		
Horizontal position accuracy ⁶	Autonomous	2.5 m		
	SBAS	2.0 m		
Accuracy of time pulse signal	RMS	30 ns		
	99%	60 ns		
Frequency of time pulse signal		0.25 Hz...10 MHz (configurable)		
Operational limits ⁷	Dynamics	≤ 4 g		
	Altitude	50,000 m		
	Velocity	500 m/s		

Table 1: MAX-M8 performance in different GNSS modes (default: concurrent reception of GPS and GLONASS)

¹ All satellites at -130 dBm

² Dependent on aiding data connection speed and latency

³ BeiDou assisted acquisition is not available with FW 2.01

⁴ Demonstrated with a good external LNA

⁵ 50% @ 30 m/s

⁶ CEP, 50%, 24 hours static, -130 dBm, > 6 SVs

⁷ Assuming Airborne < 4 g platform

1.4 Block diagram

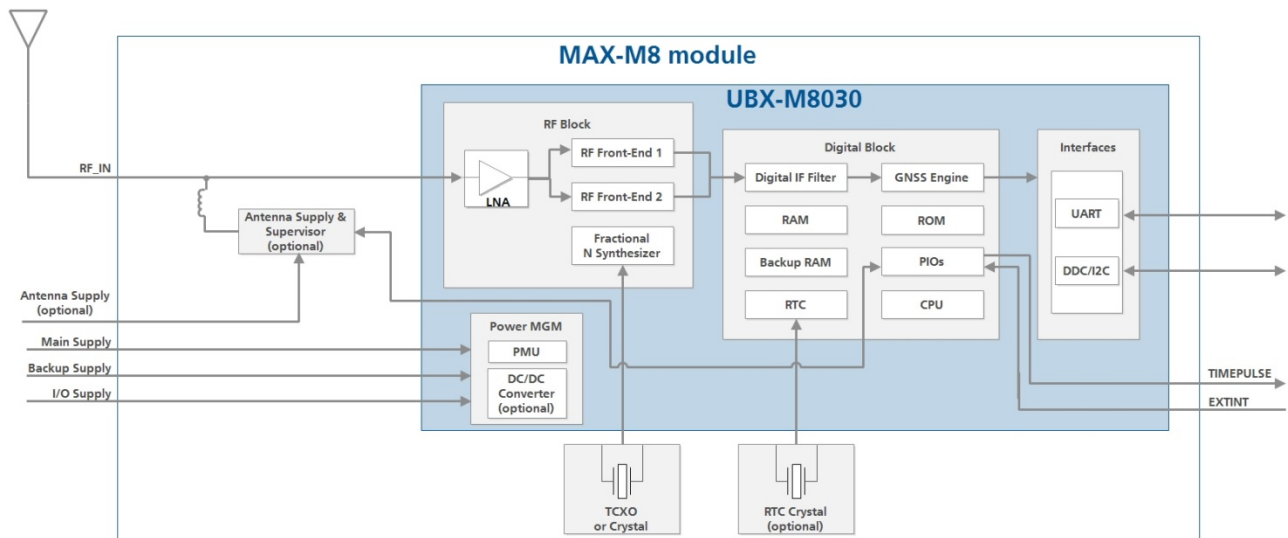


Figure 1: MAX-M8 block diagram

1.5 GNSS

The MAX-M8 GNSS modules are concurrent GNSS receivers and can receive and track multiple GNSS systems (e.g. GPS, GLONASS, BeiDou and QZSS signals). Because of the dual-frequency RF front-end architecture, two of the three signals (GPS L1C/A, GLONASS L1OF and BeiDou B1) can be received and processed concurrently. By default the MAX-M8 receivers are configured for concurrent GPS (includes SBAS and QZSS) and GLONASS reception. If power consumption is a key factor, then the receiver should be configured for single GNSS operation using either GPS or GLONASS or BeiDou and disabling QZSS and SBAS. QZSS and SBAS share the same frequency band as GPS and can always be processed in conjunction with GPS.

1.5.1 GPS

The MAX-M8 positioning modules are designed to receive and track the L1C/A signals provided at 1575.42 MHz by the Global Positioning System (GPS). The MAX-M8 series can receive and process GPS concurrently with GLONASS or BeiDou.

1.5.2 GLONASS

The MAX-M8 modules can receive and process GLONASS concurrently with GPS or BeiDou. The Russian GLONASS satellite system is an alternative system to the US-based Global Positioning System (GPS). u-blox MAX-M8 positioning modules are designed to receive and track the L1OF signals GLONASS provided at $1602 \text{ MHz} + k \cdot 562.5 \text{ kHz}$, where k is the satellite's frequency channel number ($k = -7, \dots, 5, 6$). The ability to receive and track GLONASS L1OF satellite signals allows design of GLONASS receivers where required by regulations.

To take advantage of GPS and GLONASS, dedicated hardware preparation must be made during the design-in phase. See the *MAX-M8 Hardware Integration Manual* [1] for u-blox design recommendations.

1.5.3 BeiDou

The MAX-M8 modules can receive and process BeiDou concurrently with GPS or GLONASS. u-blox MAX-M8 positioning modules are designed to receive and track the B1 signals provided at 1561.098 MHz by the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System. The ability to receive and track BeiDou B1 satellite signals in conjunction with GPS results in higher coverage, improved reliability and better accuracy. By the end of 2013 BeiDou was not fully operational; it provides regional coverage only. Global coverage is scheduled for 2020.

1.5.4 QZSS

The Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS) is a regional navigation satellite system that transmits additional GPS L1C/A signals for the Pacific region covering Japan and Australia. The MAX-M8 positioning modules are able to receive and track these signals concurrently with GPS signals, resulting in better availability especially under bad signal conditions, e.g. in urban canyons. The L1-SAIF signal provided by QZSS is not supported.

1.6 Assisted GNSS (A-GNSS)

Supply of aiding information, such as ephemeris, almanac, rough last position and time, will reduce the time to first fix significantly and improve the acquisition sensitivity. All u-blox M8 products support the u-blox AssistNow Online and AssistNow Offline A-GNSS services, support AssistNow Autonomous, and are OMA SUPL compliant.

1.6.1 AssistNow™ Online

With AssistNow Online, an internet-connected GNSS device downloads assistance data from u-blox' AssistNow Online Service at system start-up. AssistNow Online is network operator independent and globally available. u-blox only sends ephemeris data for those satellites currently visible to the device requesting the data, thus minimizing the amount of data transferred.

Supply of aiding information, such as ephemeris, almanac, rough last position and time, will reduce the time to first fix significantly and improve the acquisition sensitivity.

1.6.2 AssistNow™ Offline

With AssistNow Offline, users download u-blox' long-term orbit data from the Internet at their convenience. The orbit data must be stored in the memory of the application processor. Thus the service requires no connectivity at system start-up and enables a position fix within seconds, even when no network is available. AssistNow Offline offers augmentation for up to 35 days.

1.6.3 AssistNow™ Autonomous

AssistNow Autonomous provides aiding information without the need for a host or external network connection. It is an embedded feature available free-of-charge that accelerates GPS positioning by capitalizing on the periodic nature of GPS satellite orbits: their position in the sky is basically repeated every 24 hours. GPS orbit predictions are directly calculated by the receiver and no external aiding data or connectivity is required. AssistNow Autonomous can be used alone, or together with AssistNow Online or AssistNow Offline for increased positioning speed and accuracy.

u-blox' AssistNow Autonomous benefits are:

- Faster fix in situations where GNSS satellite signals are weak
- No connectivity required
- Compatible with AssistNow Online and Offline (can work stand-alone, or in tandem with these services)
- No integration effort; calculations are done in the background, transparent to the user.



u-blox M8 ROM-based receivers, such as MAX-M8 series, can use AssistNow Autonomous to calculate GPS only orbit predictions for up to 6 days (3 days by defaults). For best AssistNow Autonomous performance, it is recommended to use u-blox M8 flash-based receivers.



For more details see the *u-blox M8 Receiver Description Including Protocol Specification* [2].

1.7 Augmentation Systems

1.7.1 Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS)

u-blox M8 positioning modules support SBAS. These systems supplement GPS data with additional regional or wide area GPS augmentation data. The system broadcasts augmentation data via satellite and this information can be used by GNSS receivers to improve the resulting precision. SBAS satellites can be used as additional satellites for ranging (navigation), further enhancing precision and availability. The following SBAS types are supported with u-blox M8: WAAS, EGNOS and MSAS.



For more details see the *u-blox M8 Receiver Description Including Protocol Specification* [2].

1.7.2 Differential GPS (D-GPS)

u-blox M8 receivers support Differential-GPS data according RTCM 10402.3: "RECOMMENDED STANDARDS FOR DIFFERENTIAL GNSS". The use of Differential-GPS data improves GPS position accuracy. RTCM cannot be used together with SBAS. The RTCM implementation supports the following RTCM 2.3 messages:

Message Type	Description
1	Differential GPS Corrections
2	Delta Differential GPS Corrections
3	GPS Reference Station Parameters
9	GPS Partial Correction Set

Table 2: Supported RTCM 2.3 messages



For more details see the *u-blox M8 Receiver Description Including Protocol Specification* [2].

1.8 Odometer

The odometer provides information on travelled ground distance (in meter) using solely the position and Doppler-based velocity of the navigation solution. For each computed travelled distance since the last odometer reset, the odometer estimates a 1-sigma accuracy value. The total cumulative ground distance is maintained and saved in the BBR memory.



The odometer feature is disabled by default. For more details see the *u-blox M8 Receiver Description Including Protocol Specification* [2].

1.9 EXTINT: External interrupt

EXTINT is an external interrupt pin with fixed input voltage thresholds with respect to VCC_IO. It can be used for control of the receiver or for aiding.

For more information about how to implement and configure these features see the *u-blox M8 Receiver Description including Protocol Specification* [2] and the *MAX-M8 Hardware Integration Manual* [1].

1.9.1 Pin Control

The pin control feature allows overriding the automatic active/inactive cycle of Power Save Mode. The state of the receiver can be controlled through the EXTINT pin.

The receiver can also be turned off and sent into Backup Mode using EXTINT when Power Save Mode is not active.

1.9.2 Aiding

The EXTINT pin can be used to supply time or frequency aiding data to the receiver.

For time aiding, hardware time synchronization can be achieved by connecting an accurate time pulse to the EXTINT pin.

Frequency aiding can be implemented by connecting a periodic rectangular signal with a frequency up to 500 kHz and arbitrary duty cycle (low/high phase duration must not be shorter than 50 ns) to the EXTINT pin, and providing the applied frequency value to the receiver using UBX messages.

1.10 TIMEPULSE

A configurable time pulse signal is available with all u-blox M8 modules.

The TIMEPULSE output generates pulse trains synchronized with a GNSS or UTC time grid, with intervals configurable over a wide frequency range. Thus it may be used as a low frequency time synchronization pulse or as a high frequency reference signal.

By default the time pulse signal is configured to 1 pulse per second. For more information see the *u-blox M8 Receiver Description including Protocol Specification* [2].

1.11 Protocols and interfaces

Protocol	Type
NMEA 0183, version 4.0 (V2.3 or V4.1 configurable)	Input/output, ASCII
UBX	Input/output, binary, u-blox proprietary
RTCM	Input, message 1, 2, 3, 9

Table 3: Available Protocols

All protocols are available on UART and DDC (I²C compliant). For specification of the various protocols see the *u-blox M8 Receiver Description Including Protocol Specification* [2].

1.12 Interfaces

A number of interfaces are provided either for data communication or memory access. The embedded firmware uses these interfaces according to their respective protocol specifications.

1.12.1 UART

MAX-M8 modules include one UART interface, which can be used for communication to a host. It supports configurable baud rates. For supported baud rates see the *u-blox M8 Receiver Description Including Protocol Specification* [2].



Designs must allow access to the UART and the **SAFEBOOT_N** function pin for future service, updates and reconfiguration.

1.12.2 Display Data Channel (DDC)

An I²C compliant DDC interface is available for communication with an external host CPU or u-blox cellular modules. The interface can be operated in slave mode only. The DDC protocol and electrical interface are fully compatible with the Fast-Mode of the I²C industry standard. Since the maximum SCL clock frequency is 400 kHz, the maximum transfer rate is 400 kb/s.

The DDC interface is I²C Fast Mode compliant. For timing parameters consult the I²C standard.



The maximum bit rate is 400 kb/s. The interface stretches the clock when slowed down while serving interrupts, so real bit rates may be slightly lower.

1.13 Clock generation

1.13.1 Oscillators

MAX-M8 concurrent GNSS modules are available in Crystal and TCXO versions. The TCXO option allows accelerated weak signal acquisition, enabling faster start and reacquisition times.

Oscillators used on MAX-M8 module are carefully selected and screened for stability and against frequency perturbations across the full operating range (-40° to $+85^{\circ}\text{C}$).

The careful selection and qualification of critical parts, such as GNSS oscillators, has resulted in u-blox modules being the most reliable positioning modules in the industry, particularly in challenging conditions.

1.13.2 Real-Time Clock (RTC)

The RTC is driven by a 32 kHz oscillator, which makes use of an RTC crystal. If the main supply voltage fails and a battery is connected to V_BCKP, parts of the receiver switch off, but the RTC still runs providing a timing reference for the receiver. This operating mode is called Hardware Backup Mode, which enables all relevant data to be saved in the backup RAM to allow a hot or warm start later.

With MAX-M8C in Hardware Backup Mode, the main oscillator is used as timing reference instead of the 32 kHz oscillator. MAX-M8C apply single crystal mode, where the 26 MHz crystal oscillator can also be used to provide a frequency reference to the RTC without using an additional crystal for the RTC. This makes MAX-M8C a more cost efficient solution at the expense of a higher backup current.



For more information see the *MAX-M8 Hardware Integration Manual* [1]

1.14 Power management

u-blox M8 technology offers a power optimized architecture with built-in autonomous power saving functions to minimize power consumption at any given time. Furthermore, the receiver can be used in two operating modes: Continuous mode for best performance or Power Save Mode for optimized power consumption respectively. In addition, a high efficiency DC/DC converter is integrated to allow low power consumption even for higher main supply voltages.

1.14.1 DC/DC converter

MAX-M8Q and MAX-M8C modules integrate a DC/DC converter, allowing reduced power consumption by up to 50%, especially when using a main supply voltage above 2.5 V.



For more information see the *MAX-M8 Hardware Integration Manual* [1]

1.14.2 Operating modes

u-blox M8 modules have two operating modes:

- Continuous Mode for best GNSS performance
- Power Save Mode to optimize power consumption

1.14.2.1 Continuous Mode

Continuous Mode uses the acquisition engine at full performance, resulting in the shortest possible TTFF and the highest sensitivity. The receiver searches for all possible satellites until the almanac is completely downloaded. The receiver then switches to the tracking engine to lower the power consumption.

Thus, a lower tracking current consumption level will be achieved when:

- A valid GNSS position is obtained
- The entire almanac has been downloaded
- The ephemeris for each satellite in view is valid

1.14.2.2 Power Save Mode

For power sensitive applications, u-blox M8 receivers provide a Power Save Mode for reduced power consumption.

Power Save Mode provides two dedicated methods, ON/OFF and Cyclic tracking, that reduce average current consumption in different ways to match the needs of the specific application. These options can be set by using a specific UBX message.



For more information about power management strategies, see the *u-blox M8 Receiver Description Including Protocol Specification* [2].



Power Save Mode is only available in GPS mode.

1.15 Antenna

MAX-M8 modules are designed for use with passive⁸ and active⁹ antennas.

Parameter	Specification	
Antenna Type	Passive and active antenna	
Active Antenna Recommendations	Minimum gain	15 dB (to compensate signal loss in RF cable)
	Maximum gain	50 dB
	Maximum noise figure	1.5 dB

Table 4: Antenna Specifications for all MAX-M8 modules

1.15.1 Active antenna control (ANTON)

The ANTON Pin can be used to turn on and off an external LNA or an active antenna. This reduces power consumption in Power Save Mode (Backup mode). This pin is available only on MAX-M8C and MAX-M8Q.

1.15.2 Antenna supervisor and short circuit detection

An antenna supervisor is available with MAX-M8W. The antenna supervisor enables the receiver to detect short circuits at the active antenna and shut down the voltage bias immediately. A series resistor is needed in front of the **V_ANT** input to enable checking of the antenna bias voltage. UBX and NMEA messages are provided to report the condition of the antenna supply. Open circuit detection can also be supported with an additional external circuit.



Antenna open circuit detection can be mapped to PIO13 and requires external components



For more information see the *MAX-M8 Hardware Integration Manual* [1]

1.16 Configuration management

Configuration settings can be modified with UBX configuration messages. The modified settings remain effective until power-down or reset. If these settings have been stored in battery-backup RAM, then the modified configuration will be retained, as long as the backup battery supply is not interrupted.



For more information about configuration management, see the *u-blox M8 Receiver Description Including Protocol Specification* [2].

⁸ For integration MAX-M8 modules with Cellular products, see the *MAX-M8 Hardware Integration Manual* [1]

⁹ For information on using active antennas with MAX-M8 modules, see the *MAX-M8 Hardware Integration Manual* [1].

2 Pin Definition

2.1 Pin assignment

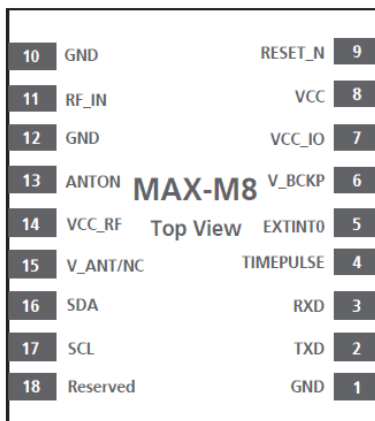


Figure 2: Pin Assignment

No	Module	Name	PIO ¹⁰ Nr.	I/O	Description
1	All	GND	-		Ground
2	All	TXD	6	O	Serial Port
3	All	RXD	7	I	Serial Port
4	All	TIMEPULSE	11	O	Time pulse (1PPS)
5	All	EXTINT0	13	I	External Interrupt Pin
6	All	V_BCKP	-		Backup voltage supply
7	All	VCC_IO	-		IO Supply Voltage
8	All	VCC	-		Supply voltage
9	All	RESET_N	-	I	RESET_N
10	All	GND	-		Ground
11	All	RF_IN	-	I	GNSS signal input
12	All	GND	-		Ground
13	MAX-M8C/Q	ANT_ON	16	O	Antenna control
	MAX-M8W	Reserved	-	-	Reserved
14	All	VCC_RF	-		Output Voltage RF section
15	MAX-M8W	V_ANT	-		Active Antenna Supply Voltage
	MAX-M8C/Q	Reserved	-	-	Reserved
16	All	SDA	9	I/O	DDC Data
17	All	SCL	8	I/O	DDC Clock
18	All	Reserved	-	I	SAFEBOOT_N (for future service, updates and reconfiguration, leave OPEN)

Table 5: Pinout



Antenna open circuit detection can be mapped to PIO13 and requires external components. MAX-M8W does not have a dedicated AADET_N pin. The AADET_N pin can be made available on the EXTINT0 pin. For more information see the *MAX-M8 Hardware Integration Manual* [1]



Pins designated Reserved should not be used. For more information about Pinouts see the *MAX-M8 Hardware Integration Manual* [1].

¹⁰ Peripheral Input Output

3 Electrical specification



The limiting values given are in accordance with the Absolute Maximum Rating System (IEC 134). Stress above one or more of the limiting values may cause permanent damage to the device. These are stress ratings only, and operation of the device at these or at any other conditions above those given in the Characteristics sections of the specification is not implied. Exposure to these limits for extended periods may affect device reliability.



Where application information is given, it is advisory only and does not form part of the specification. For more information see the *MAX-M8 Hardware Integration Manual* [1].

3.1 Absolute maximum rating

Parameter	Symbol	Module	Condition	Min	Max	Units
Power supply voltage	VCC, VCC_IO	All		−0.5	3.6	V
Backup battery voltage	V_BCKP	All		−0.5	3.6	V
Input pin voltage	V _{in}	All		−0.5	3.6	V
DC current through any digital I/O pin (except supplies)	I _{pin}				10	mA
VCC_RF output current	ICC_RF	All			100	mA
Input power at RF_IN	P _{rf in}	All	source impedance = 50 Ω, continuous wave		15	dBm
Antenna bias voltage	V_ANT				6	V
Antenna bias current	I_ANT				100	mA
Storage temperature	T _{stg}	MAX-M8C		−40	105	°C
		MAX-M8Q/M8W		−40	85	°C

Table 6: Absolute maximum ratings



Stressing the device beyond the “Absolute Maximum Ratings” may cause permanent damage. These are stress ratings only. The product is not protected against overvoltage or reversed voltages. If necessary, voltage spikes exceeding the power supply voltage specification, given in table above, must be limited to values within the specified boundaries by using appropriate protection diodes.

3.2 Operating conditions



All specifications are at an ambient temperature of 25°C. Extreme operating temperatures can significantly impact specification values. Applications operating near the temperature limits should be tested to ensure the specification.

Parameter	Symbol	Module	Min	Typ	Max	Units	Condition
Power supply voltage	VCC, VCC_IO	MAX-M8C	1.65	3.0	3.6	V	
		MAX-M8Q/W	2.7	3.0	3.6	V	
Backup battery voltage	V_BCKP	All	1.4		3.6	V	
Backup battery current	I_BCKP	MAX-M8Q/W		15		µA	V_BCKP = 3.0 V, VCC = 0 V
		MAX-M8C		100		µA	V_BCKP = 3.0 V, VCC = 0 V
SW backup current	I_SWBCKP	MAX-M8Q/W		20		µA	VCC = 3.0 V
		MAX-M8C		105		µA	VCC = 3.0 V
Input pin voltage range	V _{in}	All	0		VCC_IO	V	
Digital IO Pin Low level input voltage	V _{il}	All	0		0.2*VCC_IO	V	
Digital IO Pin High level input voltage	V _{ih}	All	0.7*VCC_IO		VCC_IO+0.5	V	
Digital IO Pin Low level output voltage	V _{ol}	All			0.4	V	I _{ol} =4 mA
Digital IO Pin High level output voltage	V _{oh}	All	VCC_IO - 0.4			V	I _{oh} =4 mA
Pull-up resistor for RESET_N (Internal)	R _{pu}	All		11		kΩ	
V_ANT antenna bias voltage	V_ANT	2.7			5.5	V	I _{ANT} < -50 mA
Antenna bias voltage drop	V_ANT_DROP		0.1			V	ICC_RF = 50 mA
VCC_RF voltage	VCC_RF	All		VCC - 0.1		V	
VCC_RF output current	ICC_RF	All			50	mA	
Receiver Chain Noise Figure ¹¹	NF _{tot}	All		3.5		dB	
Operating temperature	T _{opr}	All	-40		85	°C	

Table 7: Operating conditions



Operation beyond the specified operating conditions can affect device reliability.

¹¹ Only valid for the GPS band

3.3 Indicative current requirements

Table 8 lists examples of the total system supply current for a possible application.



Values in Table 8 are provided for customer information only as an example of typical power requirements. Values are characterized on samples. Actual power requirements can vary depending on FW version used, external circuitry, number of SVs tracked, signal strength, type of start as well as time, duration and conditions of test.

Parameter	Symbol	Module	Typ GPS & GLONASS	Typ GPS / QZSS / SBAS	Max	Units	Condition
Max. supply current ¹²	Iccp	All			67	mA	
Average supply current ^{13, 14}	Icc Acquisition ¹⁵	MAX-M8C	27	21		mA	
		MAX-M8W	44	35		mA	
		MAX-M8Q	27	21		mA	
	Icc Tracking (Continuous mode,)	MAX-M8C	25	19		mA	
		MAX-M8W	43	33.5		mA	
		MAX-M8Q	26	19.5		mA	
		MAX-M8C	n.a. ¹⁶	5.5		mA	
		MAX-M8W	n.a. ¹⁶	9.5		mA	
		MAX-M8Q	n.a. ¹⁶	6		mA	

Table 8: Indicative power requirements at 3.0 V



For more information about power requirements, see the *MAX-M8 Hardware Integration Manual* [1].



For more information on how to noticeably reduce current consumption, see the *Power Management Application Note* [4].

¹² Use this figure to dimension maximum current capability of power supply. Measurement of this parameter with 1 Hz bandwidth.

¹³ Use this figure to determine required battery capacity.

¹⁴ Simulated GNSS constellation using power levels of -130 dBm. VCC= 3.0 V

¹⁵ Average current from start-up until the first fix.

¹⁶ Not applicable

4 Mechanical specifications

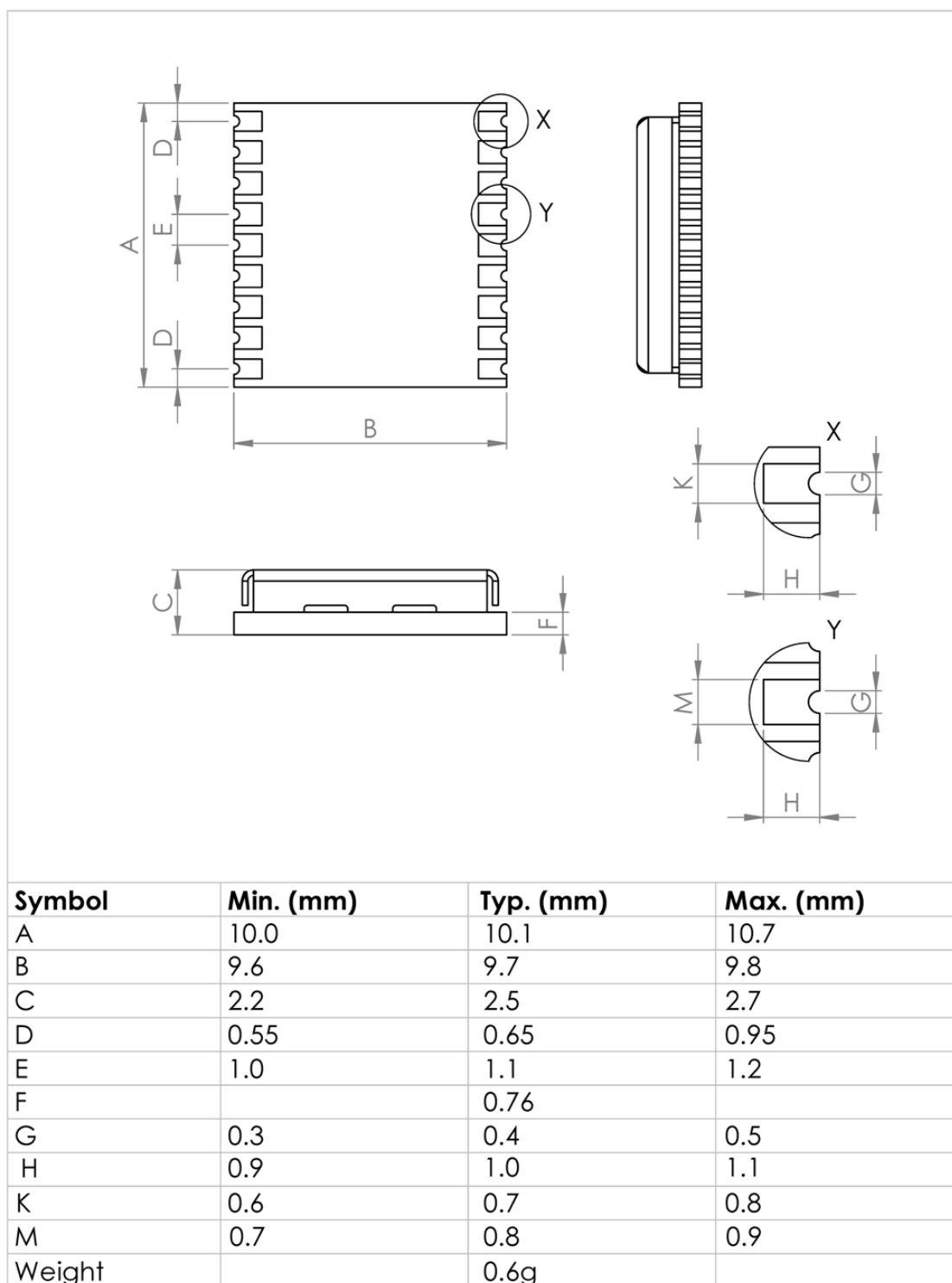


Figure 3: Dimensions



For information about the paste mask and footprint, see the *MAX-M8 Hardware Integration Manual* [1].

5 Reliability tests and approvals

5.1 Reliability tests



All MAX-M8 modules are based on AEC-Q100 qualified GNSS chips.

Tests for product family qualifications are according to ISO 16750 "Road vehicles – Environmental conditions and testing for electrical and electronic equipment", and appropriate standards.

5.2 Approvals



Products marked with this lead-free symbol on the product label comply with the "Directive 2002/95/EC of the European Parliament and the Council on the Restriction of Use of certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment" (RoHS).

All u-blox M8 GNSS modules are RoHS compliant.

6 Product handling & soldering

6.1 Packaging

MAX-M8 modules are delivered as hermetically sealed, reeled tapes in order to enable efficient production, production lot set-up and tear-down. For more information see the *u-blox Package Information Guide* [3].

6.1.1 Reels

MAX-M8 GNSS modules are deliverable in quantities of 500 pcs on a reel. MAX-M8 modules are shipped on Reel Type B, as specified in the *u-blox Package Information Guide* [3].

6.1.2 Tapes

Figure 4 shows the position and orientation of MAX-M8 modules as they are delivered on tape. The dimensions of the tapes are specified in Figure 5.

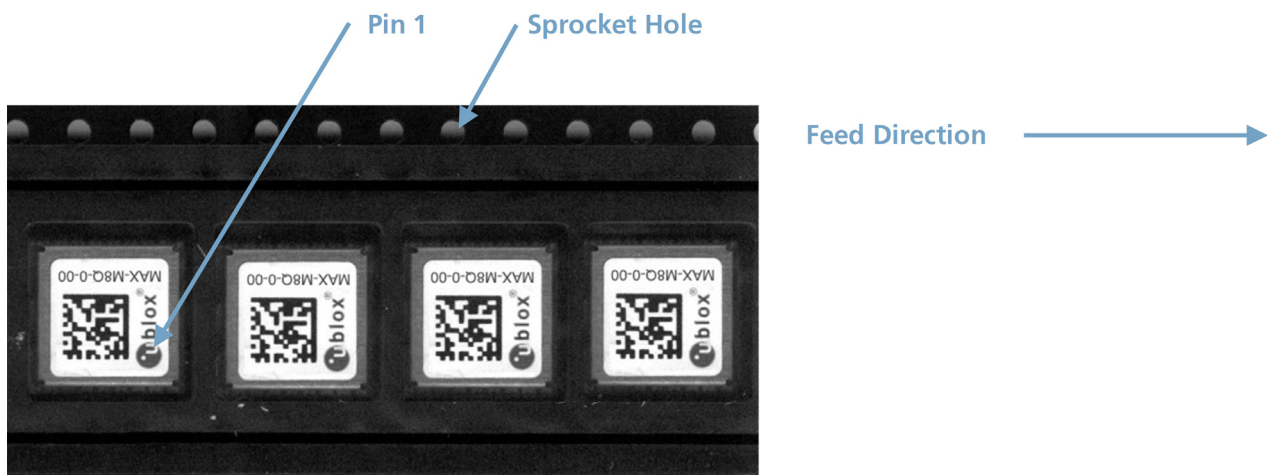



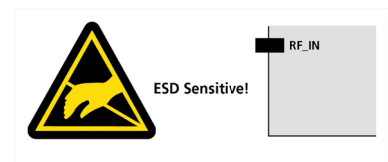
Figure 4: Tape and module orientation

6.2.3 ESD handling precautions

 **MAX-M8 modules are Electrostatic Sensitive Devices (ESD). Observe precautions for handling! Failure to observe these precautions can result in severe damage to the GNSS receiver!**

GNSS receivers are Electrostatic Sensitive Devices (ESD) and require special precautions when handling. Particular care must be exercised when handling patch antennas, due to the risk of electrostatic charges. In addition to standard ESD safety practices, the following measures should be taken into account whenever handling the receiver:

- Unless there is a galvanic coupling between the local GND (i.e. the work table) and the PCB GND, then the first point of contact when handling the PCB must always be between the local GND and PCB GND.
- Before mounting an antenna patch, connect ground of the device
- When handling the RF pin, do not come into contact with any charged capacitors and be careful when contacting materials that can develop charges (e.g. patch antenna ~10 pF, coax cable ~50 to 80 pF/m, soldering iron, ...)
- To prevent electrostatic discharge through the RF input, do not touch any exposed antenna area. If there is any risk that such exposed antenna area is touched in non ESD protected work area, implement proper ESD protection measures in the design.
- When soldering RF connectors and patch antennas to the receiver's RF pin, make sure to use an ESD safe soldering iron (tip).



7 Default messages

Interface	Settings
UART Output	9600 Baud, 8 bits, no parity bit, 1 stop bit Configured to transmit both NMEA and UBX protocols, but only the following NMEA (and no UBX) messages have been activated at start-up: GGA, GLL, GSA, GSV, RMC, VTG, TXT
UART Input	9600 Baud, 8 bits, no parity bit, 1 stop bit, Autobauding disabled Automatically accepts following protocols without need of explicit configuration: UBX, NMEA, RTCM The GNSS receiver supports interleaved UBX and NMEA messages.
DDC	Fully compatible with the I ² C industry standard, available for communication with an external host CPU or u-blox cellular modules; operated in slave mode only. NMEA and UBX are enabled as input messages, only NMEA as output messages Maximum bit rate 400 kb/s.
TIMEPULSE (1Hz Nav)	1 pulse per second, synchronized at rising edge, pulse length 100 ms

Table 9: Default messages



Refer to the *u-blox M8 Receiver Description Including Protocol Specification* [2] for information about further settings.

8 Labeling and ordering information

8.1 Product labeling

The labeling of u-blox M8 GNSS modules includes important product information. The location of the product type number is shown in Figure 6.

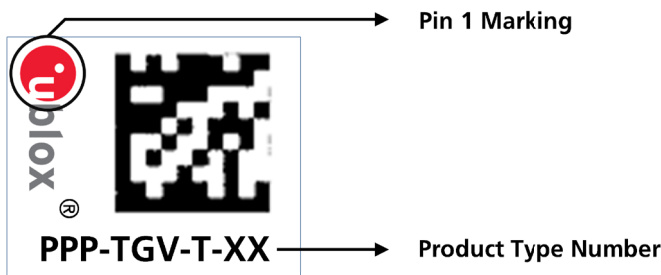


Figure 6: Location of product type number on MAX-M8 module label

8.2 Explanation of codes

Three different product code formats are used. The **Product Name** is used in documentation such as this data sheet and identifies all u-blox M8 products, independent of packaging and quality grade. The **Ordering Code** includes options and quality, while the **Type Number** includes the hardware and firmware versions. Table 10 shows the structure of these three different formats.

Format	Structure
Product Name	PPP-TGV
Ordering Code	PPP-TGV-T
Type Number	PPP-TGV-T-XX

Table 10: Product Code Formats

The parts of the product code are explained in Table 11.

Code	Meaning	Example
PPP	Product Family	MAX
TG	Product Generation	M8 = u-blox M8
V	Variant	Function set (A-Z), T = Timing, R = DR, etc.
T	Option / Quality Grade	Describes standardized functional element or quality grade 0 = Default variant, A = Automotive
XX	Product Detail	Describes product details or options, such as hardware or software revision, cable length, etc.

Table 11: part identification code

8.3 Ordering codes

Ordering No.	Product
MAX-M8C-0	u-blox M8 concurrent GNSS LCC Module, Crystal, ROM, 9.7x10.1 mm, 500 pcs/reel
MAX-M8Q-0	u-blox M8 concurrent GNSS LCC Module, TCXO, ROM, Green, 9.7x10.1 mm, 500 pcs/reel
MAX-M8W-0	u-blox M8 concurrent GNSS LCC Module, TCXO, Active Antenna Supply, ROM, 9.7x10.1 mm, 500 pcs/reel

Table 12: Product ordering codes for professional grade modules



Product changes affecting form, fit or function are documented by u-blox. For a list of Product Change Notifications (PCNs) see our website.

Related documents

- [1] MAX-M8 Hardware Integration Manual, Docu. No. UBX-13004876
- [2] u-blox M8 Receiver Description including Protocol Specification , Docu. No UBX-13003221
- [3] u-blox Package Information Guide, Docu. No. UBX-14001652
- [4] Power Management Application Note, Docu. No. UBX-13005162



For regular updates to u-blox documentation and to receive product change notifications, register on our homepage (<http://www.u-blox.com>).

Revision history

Revision	Date	Name	Status / Comments
R01	16-Dec-2013	julu	Objective Specification
R02	28-Jan-2014	smos	Revised section Indicative current requirements.
R03	26-Feb-2014	julu	Advance Information. Updated Table 1 (added GPS & BeiDou concurrent and GPS only modes) and Table 8 (Indicative current requirements); modified section 8 (corrected product Ordering Code to "PPP-TGV-T").
R04	7-Apr-2014	julu	Updated section 1.2 (product selector table); updated Table 1 (improved tracking sensitivities of GPS and GPS & BeiDou, horizontal position accuracy); added recommendation for using passive antenna (footnote in Table 4); added software backup current values in Table 7.
R05	27-Aug-2014	julu	Early Production Information. Updated section 1.13.2 (RTC); added SAFEBOOT_N description in section 1.12.1 and Table 5 (PIN 1).
R06	10-Sep-2014	julu	Changed MAX-M8C Type Number to MAX-M8C-0-01
R07	17-Nov-2014	julu	Updated section 1.2 (added product grade information to selector table)
R08	1-Dec-2014	julu	Production Information.
R09	21-Oct-2015	julu	Updated MAX-M8C Type Number to MAX-M8C-0-02 and added relevant PCN reference
R10	16-Nov-2015	julu	Updated MAX-M8Q Type Number to MAX-M8Q-0-01 and added relevant PCN reference

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