

NOCTURN MD Monochrome User Manual

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PHOTONIS USA, Inc.

**6170 Research Road | Suite 208
Frisco, TX USA 75033
T: +1 (469) 713-6108
F: +1 (469) 713-2880
W: www.photonis.com**

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Document Revisions

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SAFETY SUMMARY

WARNING and CAUTION statements have been strategically placed throughout the text prior to operating or maintenance procedures, practices, or conditions considered essential to the protection of personnel (WARNING) or equipment and property (CAUTION). NOTES emphasize necessary and important data. CAUTIONS and NOTES appear in the text as applicable. Definitions for WARNINGS, CAUTIONS and NOTES are as follows:

WARNING

A warning indicates an operation, condition, or statement, etc., which, if not strictly observed, could result in injury to or death of personnel.

CAUTION

A caution indicates an operation, maintenance procedure, or condition, etc., which, if not strictly observed, could result in damage to, or destruction of, equipment or loss of hardware performance or function.

NOTE

A note indicates an essential operating or maintenance procedure, condition or statement or explanatory text.

1 Introduction

1.1 Scope and Purpose

The NOCTURN MD (see Figure 1) is a rugged low light imaging core that features high-definition resolution, high sensitivity and high dynamic range with low power consumption. Powered by Photonis' 1 inch optical format 1280×1024 pixels Lynx CMOS sensor and Microoled 1746×1000 pixels black and white monochrome micro-display, the NOCTURN provides real-time imaging capabilities (from daylight to one quarter moon scene illumination) in the visible and near infrared spectrum. Its small size, weight and power (SwaP) make this core module ideal for integration into mobile and hand-held surveillance systems.

With its 9.7µm×9.7µm pixel pitch and 4e- median read noise, the NOCTURN provides unsurpassed signal to noise at low light with video rates up to 60 frames per second. Leveraging Photonis expertise in night vision imaging, the NOCTURN electronics incorporates a multitude of functions to enhance the low light level performance. This core features automatic gain control (AGC), automatic exposure control (AEC), non-uniformity correction (NUC), on board image capture and advanced image enhancement, allowing the NOCTURN to provide continuous situational awareness without compromising mobility and SWaP.



Figure 1 Front View of the NOCTURN MD Core

This user reference guide provides a detailed overview of the interfaces, functionality and operation of the NOCTURN MD Core. Please contact PHOTONIS technical support if you require additional information or details that are not covered in this guide.

1.2 Product Configuration

The “MD” model indicates that the NOCTURN core has a high definition micro display used to view the digital video output. A separate NTSC/PAL composite video output is also available for use with a composite monitor. Please refer to the NOCTURN MD Interface Control Document (ICD) for the specific hardware details.

The NOCTURN MD can be powered either via the USB interface from a personal computer (see NOCTURN MD ICD for pin-out) or directly from batteries (see NOCTURN MD ICD for pin-out) externally (see Table 1 for power input specification).

Table 1 NOCTURN MD Input Power Specifications

Parameter	Description	Min	Typ	Max	Units
Vin	Input Voltage	2.6	--	12	V
Icc	Input Current ¹	--	360 ²	415	mA

1.3 Product Specifications

Detailed specifications for the NOCTURN MD core are given in Table 2.

Table 2 NOCTURN MD Specifications

Parameter	Specification
Sensor Resolution	1280 × 1024 Pixels
Sensor Pixel Pitch	9.7 μm × 9.7 μm
Sensor Well Capacity	> 25000 e-
Sensor Dynamic Range	> 60 dB
Sensor Read Noise	< 4 e- med. (at 60Hz frame rate)
Sensor Quantum Efficiency	> 60% at 600nm
Sensor Frame Rate	Adjustable up to 60Hz
Sensor Image Lag	< 0.1 %
Sensor Shutter Mode	Rolling

¹ Digital video output only without image processing enabled

² Measured with 5VDC input

Parameter	Specification
Display Type	High Resolution Monochrome (B&W) OLED micro-display
Display Resolution Modes	1746×1000 or 1280×1000 Pixels
Display Pixel Pitch	5 μm × 5 μm
Display Maximum Luminance	250 cd/m ² , 75fL
Display Frame Rate	60 Hz
Imaging Startup Time	< 5 sec
On Screen Display	Full on screen display capability with text, standard geometrical shape and graphics
Dimensions (W × H × D)	34.1 mm × 36.6 mm × 25 mm
Weight	< 50 grams
Analog Video Output	NTSC/PAL (user configurable)
External Communication	Industry Standard USB2.0 Full Speed USB2.0 Mass Storage Device For SD Card Support
User Interface	Logic Level RS-232 Serial Port
Image Correction	Bad pixel replacement and 2 points non uniformity correction
Contrast Enhancement	Contrast stretching, equalization and adaptive equalization
Gain Control	Automatic gain and exposure control or manual
Digital Zoom	Up to 8X (0.001 increment resolution)
Snapshots	On board capture of *.JPG (8b) or *. PGM (8/10b)
Operating Temperature	-40° to +60° C
Storage Temperature	-50° to +80° C
Input Voltage	USB powered or external +2.6 to +12 VDC

Parameter	Specification
Power (Typical) ³	1.8W (typ.)

1.4 Quantum Efficiency

The typical quantum efficiency as a function of wavelength for the LYNX CMOS for versions with and without micro-lenses is shown in *Figure 2*. All NOCTURN MD with serial number starting with 14XX-XXXXX have micro-lenses sensors by default.

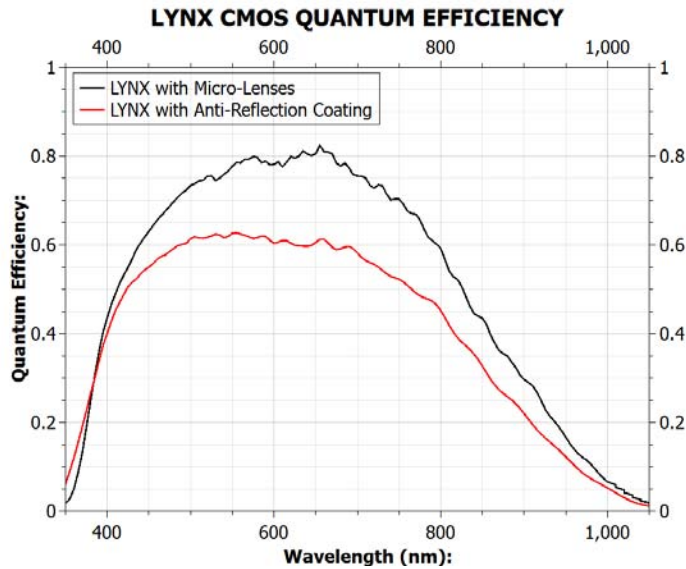


Figure 2 LYNX CMOS Quantum Efficiency Curve

³ With analog video output disable, advanced image processing turned-off and display at nominal brightness

2 Getting Started with the Core



This section provides some key information on how to unpack the core.




WARNING


The NOCTURN MD cores contain electrostatic sensitive parts and assemblies and should be handled within protected areas and in accordance with industry standard electrostatic discharge (ESD) protective handling procedures. Under no circumstances, should the core be disassembled unless directed to do so by PHOTONIS personnel. Disassembly of the core and damage to the anti-tamper sticker on the side of the core will void the warranty.

2.1 Unpacking Instructions

Table 3 Unpacking Instructions for the NOCTURN MD cores

Description	Image
<p>Inspect shipping container and notify PHOTONIS personnel of any damage that may have occurred during shipping.</p>	
<p>Record the core serial number located on the side of the shipping container for your records. This number is also engraved on the bottom of the core. You will need that number to be able to receive technical support with your product.</p>	

Description	Image
<p>Open shipping container by breaking the PHOTONIS seal and lifting the cardboard lid.</p>	
<p>Remove the antistatic bag containing the core module from the suspended clear plastic clamshell.</p>	
<p>Unseal antistatic bag and remove core module using proper ESD procedures.</p>	

Description	Image
Inspect core module for proper configuration and potential shipping damage. Immediately report any problem to PHOTONIS personnel.	

2.2 USB Driver Installation


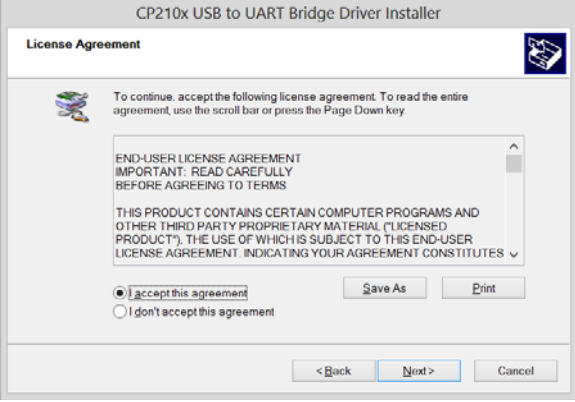

Once the core is unpacked, please install the USB drivers for your target operating system located on the Silicon Labs website (www.silabs.com). Additionally, if communication with core has to be done over the USB interface, terminal emulator software such as Tera Term (<http://tssh2.sourceforge.jp/>) are needed to send and receive serial message between the control PC and the core.

CAUTION

If using the USB interface to power the core, the NOCTURN MD USB driver must first be installed on the target control PC to avoid connection problems.

To install the USB driver on Windows operating system, please follow the instructions in Table 4.

Table 4 USB Driver Installation for Windows

Description	Image
<p>Download the latest CP210x USB to UART Bridge VCP drivers (v6.6.1 or newer is recommended) from the Silicon Labs website: www.silabs.com</p> <p>Unzip the downloaded driver file.</p> <p>Double click the installer (please note that you need administrator privilege to install the drivers):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CP210xVCPInstaller_x64 (64b OS) • CP210xVCPInstaller_x86 (32b OS) <p>On the installer Welcome screen click the Next button.</p>	
<p>On the License Agreement screen, select "I accept this agreement" and then click the Next Button.</p>	
<p>Wait for the installation to complete. Once it is finish you will see the following screen. Just click Finish to complete the installation.</p>	

3 Core Controls

The NOCTURN MD is controlled by a serial communication protocol that can be addressed over the USB or the AUX serial interface link. This section of the user guide provides an overview of the command and associated syntax to control the core as well as the serial port settings needed.

3.1.1 Basic Communication Settings

The serial communication should be set with the following configuration for both the USB and the AUX serial interface:

- **Number of bits:** 8
- **Baud rate:** 115200 bps
- **Parity:** none
- **Number of stop bits:** 1 bit
- **Flow control:** none.

NOTE

The NOCTURN MD cores are shipped with a default baudrate of 115200bps. The latter can be changed by the user by using the “baudrate” command described in this section.

3.1.2 Communication Protocol

The protocol to communicate with the NOCTURN MD is based on ASCII printable messages. A carriage return and line feed must be sent following a command. After power is initially applied to the core will send “{BOOT_DONE}” indicating that the core is ready to receive commands. Once an initial message has been sent to the core, a “>” will appear at the console when the core is ready to accept new messages. The core will answer “>OK” to all user command that are accepted and “>Error <error message>” when an error occur.

A standard message to the core should have the following architecture:

<Command><Optional Payload><CR>⁴<LF>⁵.

NOTE

⁴ Carriage return

⁵ Line feed

With this current firmware/software release, the core no longer echos command by default. The echo can be re-enabled by using the “echo” command. To enable the echo on the USB port, type “echo usb 1<CR><LF>” at the serial interface. This can be saved as power on default state for the core by saving the flash configuration (type “save flash<CR><LF>”).

The following examples demonstrate the communication protocol (please refer to the following sections for core syntax details) and assumes that:

- **Example 1:** displaying the help menu after initial boot up

```
{BOOT_DONE}<CR><LF>           //core boot complete
?<CR><LF>                       //serial message sent by user to display help menu
                                //response from the core

=====<CR><LF>

?/help                          Display this console help menu<CR><LF>
baudrate                        Set serial port baudrate<CR><LF>
log                             Print system boot log<CR><LF>
status                          Reprint signon information<CR><LF>
update [user|factory|help]     Print flash update menu (default=user) <CR><LF>
PIC                             Print Picture menu<CR><LF>
MD                             Print Micro Display menu<CR><LF>
TEMP                           Print the temperature sensor menu<CR><LF>
XFER                            Print file transfer I/O menu<CR><LF>
DR                             Print OSD menu<CR><LF>

=====<CR><LF>

>                               //core ready for next command
```

- **Example 2:** requesting contrast function help

```
>                               //core ready for command
```

```
video contrast ?<CR><LF> //serial message sent by user to get contrast help
//response from core
```

VIDEO contrast Selects contrast enhancement: <CR><LF>

```
0 - No enhancement<CR><LF>
1 - histogram stretching<CR><LF>
2 - histogram equalization<CR><LF>
3 - limited equalization<CR><LF>
4 - histogram unrounded equalization<CR><LF>
99 - auto contrast (table driven) <CR><LF>
```

```
> //core ready for next command
```

- **Example 3:** changing the contrast

```
> //core ready for command
video contrast 1<CR><LF> //serial message sent by user to enable hist. stretching
OK<CR><LF> //reply from core that command was accepted
> //core ready for next command
```

- **Example 4:** query contrast setting

```
> //core ready for command
video contrast <CR><LF> //serial message sent by user to get contrast status
CONTRAST = 1<CR><LF> //reply that contrast is set to hist. stretching
OK<CR><LF> //reply from core that command was accepted
> //core ready for next command
```

- **Example 5:** invalid parameter resulting in an error

```
> //core ready for command
video contrast 500<CR><LF> //message sent by user with invalid contrast setting
```


//error response from the core

Error 6012, Video Pipeline: Invalid contrast parameter<CR><LF>

<CR><LF> //blank line sent by core

> //core ready for next command

3.1.3 Core Serial Commands

The following section contains all of the serial command available on the NOCTURN MD.

3.1.3.1 Top Level Commands

Table 5 Top Level Commands

Command	Optional Payload	Description
help		Display console help menu
?		Display console help menu
baudrate	(see 3.1.3.2)	Set serial port baudrate
echo	(see 3.1.3.3)	Set the serial port echo state
log		Print system boot log, used for debugging user/core problems
save	?/help flash user factory keyword	Display help for command Save current flash settings (baudrate etc) Save changes to user settings.ini file Save changes to factory settings.ini file
status		Reprint sign on information
update	?/help user factory	Flash update menu help Update user flash Update factory flash
CS	? (see 3.1.3.4)	(For factory use only) Core sensor command menu. Type “?” to get embedded help menu

Command	Optional Payload	Description
VIDEO	(see 3.1.3.4)	Video pipeline command menu
PIC	(see 3.1.3.6)	Picture command menu
MD	(see 3.1.3.7)	Micro Display command menu
AV	(see 3.1.3.8)	Analog Video command menu
NUC	(see 3.1.3.9)	Non uniformity correction command menu
TEMP	(see 3.1.3.10)	Print the temperature sensor menu
XFER	(see 3.1.3.11)	Print file transfer I/O menu Type "?" to get embedded help menu
DR	(see 3.1.3.12)	Draw OSD menu
AGC STATUS	(see 3.1.3.13)	Prints AGC settings and available commands

3.1.3.2 Baudrate Commands

By default the NOCTURN MD core is shipped with a preset baud rate of 115200bps. The baud rate command allows you to both query the current baud rate setting but also change it.

All valid serial command shown in Table 6 should be sent as:

baudrate <Command> <Optional Payload><CR><LF>

Table 6 Baud rate Commands

Command	Optional Payload	Description
USB	?	Display baudrate help and current setting for the USB port (main external RS-232 port)
USB	921600	Set the USB baud rate to 921600bps
	460800	Set the USB baud rate to 460800bps
	230400	Set the USB baud rate to 230400bps
	115200	Set the USB baud rate to 115200bps

Command	Optional Payload	Description
	57600	Set the USB baud rate to 57600bps
	38400	Set the USB baud rate to 38400bps
	28800	Set the USB baud rate to 28800bp
	19200	Set the USB baud rate to 19200bps
	9600	Set the USB baud rate to 9600bps
AUX	?	Display baudrate help and current setting for the AUX port
AUX	921600	Set the AUX baud rate to 921600bps
	460800	Set the AUX baud rate to 460800bps
	230400	Set the AUX baud rate to 230400bps
	115200	Set the AUX baud rate to 115200bps
	57600	Set the AUX baud rate to 57600bps
	38400	Set the AUX baud rate to 38400bps
	28800	Set the AUX baud rate to 28800bp
	19200	Set the AUX baud rate to 19200bps
	9600	Set the AUX baud rate to 9600bps
DBG	?	Display baudrate help and current setting for the debug port
DBG	921600	Set the DBG baud rate to 921600bps
	460800	Set the DBG baud rate to 460800bps
	230400	Set the DBG baud rate to 230400bps
	115200	Set the DBG baud rate to 115200bps
	57600	Set the DBG baud rate to 57600bps
	38400	Set the DBG baud rate to 38400bps
	28800	Set the DBG baud rate to 28800bp

Command	Optional Payload	Description
	19200	Set the DBG baud rate to 19200bps
	9600	Set the DBG baud rate to 9600bps

3.1.3.3 Echo Commands

By default the NOCTURN core is shipped with the echo turned off on all serial interface port. The echo command can be used to turned the echo on or off on any serial of the communication ports

All valid serial command shown in Table 7 should be sent as:

echo <Port> <Optional Payload><CR><LF>

Table 7 Echo commands

Command	Optional Payload	Description
?		Echo help menu
USB	0	USB port echo off
	1	USB port echo on
AUX	0	AUX port echo off
	1	AUX port echo on
DBG	0	Debug port echo off
	1	Debug port echo on

3.1.3.4 CS Commands

CAUTION

Adjusting the default CMOS settings could affect the low light level performance of the core and the default non-uniformity correction tables

All valid serial command shown in Table 8 should be sent as:

CS <Command> <Optional Payload><CR><LF>

Table 8 CS Commands

Command	Optional Payload	Description
?		CS command help menu
cs lnf	0	Disables the line noise filter
	2	Set the line noise filter to use 2 columns
	4	Set the line noise filter to use 4 columns
	8	Set the line noise filter to use 8 columns
	16	Set the line noise filter to use 16 columns
cs vbo	[0-255]	Sets the video black offset when the line noise filter is enabled
cs active	0	Clears the sensor active signal to the CMOS image sensor
	1	Set the sensor active signal to the CMOS image sensor
cs dumptbl		Displays core sensor register default table data to console (store in core)
cs dump		Displays current sensor register settings read from sensor on the console
cs rd	xx	Reads core sensor register address xx and display value on the console
cs wr	xx dd	Write core sensor register address xx with value dd
cs save	user	Save current sensor register settings as power on default (the gain and exposure settings will be ignored and the value entered in under the agc setup will be used)

A list of all possible registers for the “cs wr” and “cs rd” is given in Table 9. It is recommended to refer to the LYNX CMOS datasheet for further explanation of the sensor register settings. Typical usage of the “cs wr” and “cs rd” command should be as follows:

Writing register:

CS wr <Address> <Value><CR><LF>

Reading register

CS rd <Address><CR><LF>

Table 9 CMOS Sensor Registers

Name	Address	Size	Description
SENSOR_ACTIVE	0	1	Disable/Enable continuous grabbing of images; external SENSOR_ACTIVE pulses are ignored
60FPS	1	1	Use 2 or 4 output channels, resulting in 60fps or 100 fps operation
ADDR_Y	2-3	11	The start address of the readout window. Valid range for this register is 0 to 1044-SIZE_Y.
SIZE_Y	4-5	11	The number of rows in the readout window. Valid range for this register is 1 to 1044
NROF_SLOPES	6	2	The number of slopes is 1, 2 or 3. '0' is an invalid setting for this register.
INTE_FIRST	7-9	24	The number of slots light integrates on the pixels for the 1st first slope of the response curve. The default value yields the maximum integration time available while maintaining the desired maximum frame rates of 60fps and 100fps. A longer integration time will decrease the frame rate.

Name	Address	Size	Description
			'0' is an invalid setting for this register.
INTE_SECOND	10-12	24	The number of slots light integrates on the pixels for the 2nd slope of the response curve. By default, the second slope is not used, so the default value is 0.
INTE_THIRD	13-15	24	The number of slots light integrates on the pixels for the 3rd slope of the response curve. By default, the third slope is not used, so the default value is 0.
ADC_CALIB_MODE	16	2	Set the ADC calibration mode: 0 → No calibration 1 → Calibration during overhead row 2 → Calibration at start of each (conversion) row (60 fps mode only!) 3 → Calibration during overhead row and at start of each (conversion) row (60 fps mode only!)
COL_CALIB_MODE	16	1	Set the column amplifier calibration mode: 0 → No calibration 1 → Calibration at start of each row
CLOCK_SELECTION	17	2	Select the (input) high speed clock: 0 → LVDS input clock 1 → Analog PLL 2 & 3 → Digital PLL

Name	Address	Size	Description
SELECT_PULSED	18	1	Change the behavior of the row select: 0 → Select constant high during sampling 1 → Select is low during transfer
CLK_ADC_CONT	18	1	Set the behavior of the ADC clock 0 → ADC clock stops between reset and signal conversion 1 → ADC clock continues to toggle between reset and signal conversion
COL_EB	18	1	Controls behavior of electrical black columns 0 → All columns normal 1 → First 20 columns (in non-flipped readout) are black, rest are normal
DB_TEST_IMAGE	18	1	Disable/Enable digital test image output
DB_OVF_DISABLE	18	1	Change the handling of large conversion results 0 → Output is clipped at '111111111' 1 → Output overflows and outputs lowest 10 bits
DB_LOAD_FALLING	18	1	Change the clock edge that is used to sample the digital data when going from parallel to serial data
FLIP	19	2	0 → Read out left bottom to right top 1 → Read out right bottom to left top 2 → Read out left top to right bottom 3 → Read out right top to left bottom
OFFSET_60FPS	20-21	10	Offset in 60 fps mode.
OFFSET_100FPS	22-23	10	Offset in 100 fps mode.
TRAINING_WORD	24-25	10	Set the training word that is sent on the data

Name	Address	Size	Description
			channels when the sensor is idle
TMUX1	26	4	Select output signal on digital multiplexer 1: 0 → clk_pix 1 → slot_adc 2 → fval 3 → dval 4 → sync_x_even 5 → sync_x_odd 6 → line_0_sample 7 → line_0_adc 8 → line_0_read 9 → adc_ramp_r 10 → adc_ramp_s 11 → adc_vtzero 12 → col_init 13 → col_init_off 14 → pix_select 15 → pix_transfer
TMUX2	27	4	Select output signal on digital multiplexer 2: 0 → clk_adc_gated 1 → slot_pix 2 → lval 3 → bypass_even 4 → sensor_idle

Name	Address	Size	Description
			5 → reset_first 6 → reset_second 7 → reset_third 8 → row_clk_y 9 → row_sync_y_read 10 → row_sync_y_inte0 11 → row_sync_y_inte1 12 → row_sync_y_inte2 13 → write 14 → read 15 → col_vtzero
DPLL_MULT	30	8	Digital PLL multiplication factor (252 = x10)
DPLL_EN	31	1	Disable/Enable digital PLL
DPLL_DIVMODE	31	1	Internal selection of feedback mechanism in digital PLL
DPLL_F_RANGE	31	2	Select output frequency range of digital PLL
APLL_MULT	32	5	Analog PLL multiplication factor = APLL_MULT + 1
TMUXA	33	4	Select output signal on analog multiplexer: 0 → ground 1 → CMDN_LVDS_REC 2 → CMDN_2X 3 → REF144 4 → REF270

Name	Address	Size	Description
			5 → VDCPC_ADC 6 → VCLAMP_ADC 7 → VBGAP_BIAS 8 → VTSIG 9 → VTREF 10 → VREF 11 → VRAMP 12 → DPLL_LOCKED 13 → DPLL_UNDERFLOW 14 → DPLL_OVERFLOW 15 → VRAMP
CLKMATCH	34	8	Set compensation for channel-to-channel skew: 0 → no compensation 254 → maximum compensation Note: '255' is an invalid setting
PGA_GAIN	35	3	Set the analog gain in the column amplifier: 0 → 0.8 1 → 1.2 2 → 1.6 3 → 2.0 4 → 2.4 5 → 3.6 6 → 4.8 7 → 6.0

Name	Address	Size	Description
ADC_GAIN	36	6	Set the gain in the ADC
CHANNEL_EN	37	7	Disable/Enable output, clock and control channels: Bit[0]-Bit[3] ☐ Data channels Bit[4] ☐ Clock channel Bit[5] ☐ Control channel Bit[6] ☐ LVDS clock receiver
I_COLPC	38	4	Column load precharge current
I_COL	38	4	Column load current
I_COLAMP	39	4	Column amplifier current
I_ADC	39	4	ADC comparator current
I_COMPINV	40	4	ADC output inverter current limit
I_ADCPC	40	4	ADC precharge voltage buffer current
I_LVDS_REC	41	4	LVDS receiver current
I_LVDS_DRIV	41	4	LVDS driver current
V_ADCPC	42	7	ADC precharge voltage
V_ADCCLAMP	43	7	ADC clamp voltage
RST_LOW	44	7	Pixel reset low voltage
VTX_LOW0	45	7	Set the saturation/anti-blooming level for the integration after slope 3.
VTX_LOW1	46	7	Set the reset level for the third slope. Change this register to control the position of the knee point between slope 2 and slope 3. Set the saturation/anti-blooming level in case of dual slope operation.

Name	Address	Size	Description
VTX_LOW2	47	7	Set the reset level for the second slope. Change this register to control the position of the knee point between slope 1 and slope 2. Set the saturation/anti-blooming level in case of single slope operation.
V_VRAMP2	48	7	Starting voltage of 2nd ramp in AD conversion
V_VRAMP1	49	7	Starting voltage of 1st ramp in AD conversion
V_VREF	50	7	Reference voltage for the column amplifier
V_TREF	51	7	Reference voltage for the reset conversion in test_mode
V_TSIG	52	7	Reference voltage for the signal conversion in test_mode
V_TEST_HIGH	53	6	Highest voltage adjustment of V_TREF and V_TSIG
V_TEST_LOW	54	6	Lowest voltage adjustment for V_TREF and V_TSIG
V_BLSUN	55	7	Voltage setting for clipping of reset in black sun protection
TEMP	62-63	16	Temperature sensor (readout only!)

3.1.3.5 Video Commands

All valid serial command shown in Table 10 should be sent as:

VIDEO <Command> <Optional Payload><CR><LF>

Table 10 Video commands

Command	Optional Payload	Description
?		Video help menu
AGC	0	AGC disabled
	1	AGC enabled
bpp	0	Digital video output at 10 bits per pixel
	1	Digital video output at 8 bits per pixel
contrast	0	No contrast enhancement
	1	Stretching contrast
	2	Equalization contrast
	3	Limited/adaptive equalization contrast
	4	Unrounded equalization contrast
	99	Automatic based on AGC settings
hconalways	0	Do not service contrast enhancement every histogram update
	1	Service contrast enhancement every histogram update
imgfmt	0	Selects PGM snapshot image format
	1	Selects JPG snapshot image format
mf	0	Median filter turned off
	1	Median filter turned on
	2	Median filter turns automatically with AGC
sf	0	Disable the convolution filter
	1	Enables the convolution filter
	2	Convolution filter turns automatically with AGC

Command	Optional Payload	Description
vflip	0	Image output in default vertical orientation
	1	Image output vertically inverted from default orientation
zmode	0	Output fit for zoom set to full screen
	1	Output fit 1:1 output for zoom
	2	Output fit output width for zoom
	3	Output fit output height for zoom
	4	Output fit for zoom set to center screen
	5	Output fit for zoom set to window screen
	6	Output fit for zoom set to sensor resolution
zoom	[x.xxxxx]	Set the digital video zoom to x.xxxxx (1.0 to 8.0)
framerate⁶	0	Sets the video frame rate to 60Hz mode
	1	Sets the video frame rate to 100Hz mode
	2	Sets the video frame rate to 50Hz mode ⁷
	3	Sets the video frame rate to 30Hz mode ⁸
	4	Sets the video frame rate to 25Hz mode ⁹
hist enable	0	Disables histogram hardware
	1	Enables histogram hardware
hist limits	[height] [width]	Set histogram image limits
hist print		Print histogram information on the console

⁶ A power cycle of the camera is recommended after changing frame rate mode

⁷ Unless requested at the time of purchase, this mode is available but not optimized for performance and image quality

⁸ Unless requested at the time of purchase, this mode is available but not optimized for performance and image quality

⁹ Unless requested at the time of purchase, this mode is available but not optimized for performance and image quality

Command	Optional Payload	Description
hist roi	[left][right][top][bot]	Sets the region of interest for the histogram
hist roi_bottom	[xxx]	Sets bottom offset for region of interest
hist roi_left	[xxx]	Sets left offset for region of interest
hist roi_right	[xxx]	Sets right offset for region of interest
hist roi_top	[xxx]	Sets top offset for region of interest
Hist roi_auto_scale	0 1	Auto- scale ROI with digital zoom off Auto-scale ROI with digital zoom on
hist status		Displays on the console the histogram settings and current metrics
pan	[+/-xxx] [+/-yyy]	Pan the center image while in zoom to the XY coordinate (positive coordinate is down/right of center with standard imaging lens)
panx	[+/-xxx]	Coordinate for new PAN X location
pany	[+/-xxx]	Coordinate for new PAN Y location
pani	[+/-xxx] [+/-yyy]	Pan the center image while in zoom to the increment XY coordinate (positive coordinate is down/right of center with standard imaging lens)
panix	[+/-xxx]	Increment in X Coordinate for new PAN location
paniy	[+/-xxx]	Increment in Y Coordinate for new PAN location
vid_roi	[left][top][width][height]	Sets video ROI left, top offset, width, height ¹⁰
vid_shift	[mode][left][top]	Sets the video left, top shift using [mode] where M is for absolute offset and r for

¹⁰ This options should not be adjusted if using the default non-uniformity correction tables

Command	Optional Payload	Description
		relative offset
shname	[filename]	Loads convolution filter with the flash name [filename]. Convolution filter is then enabled/disabled using the “video sf” command
tp	0	Video test pattern generator set to OFF
	1	Video test pattern generator set to ON
show		Show CVI and frame buffer registers. Used to help customer debug imaging problems
trigi delay	[x]	Sets delay in micro seconds between start of new frame and the trigger input. Valid value range from 0 to 16000000.
trigi enable	0	Disables the external trigger input
	1	Enables the external trigger input
trigi polarity	0	External trigger input polarity set to active high
	1	External trigger input polarity set to active low
trigi width	[x]	Sets trigger input pulse width. Valid value range from 0 to 16000000
trigo delay	[x]	Sets delay in micro seconds between start of new frame to the strobe output. Valid value range from 0 to 16000000.
trigo enable	0	Disables the external strobe output
	1	Enables the external strobe output
trigo polarity	0	External strobe trigger polarity set to active high
	1	External strobe trigger polarity set to active low

Command	Optional Payload	Description
trigo width	[x]	Sets strobe output pulse width. Valid value range from 0 to 16000000

3.1.3.6 Picture Commands

All valid serial command shown in Table 11 should be sent as:

PIC <Command> <Optional Payload><CR><LF>

Table 11 Picture commands

Command	Optional Payload	Description
?		Picture help menu
snap	bpp	Takes a snapshot of the frame buffer with bpp bits per pixel
list		List currently stored snapshots
erase	n	Erase snapshot n
	all	Erase snapshot all

By default, when using a NOCTURN core, the snapshots will be store under “/a/snapshots/”. To download a snapshot to a PC, use YMODEM protocol:

SEND -Y /a/snapshots/<NAME OF IMAGE><CR><LF>

3.1.3.7 Micro Display Commands

All valid serial command shown in Table 12 should be sent as:

CL <Command> <Optional Payload><CR><LF>

Table 12 Micro display commands

Command	Optional Payload	Description
?		Micro display help menu

Command	Optional Payload	Description
br	[xx]	Sets the micro display brightness by adjusting the cathode voltage on the display. Valid range is from “0x00” to 0x9A”
fliph	0	Does not flip the image horizontally
	1	Flips the image horizontally
flipv	0	Does not flip the image vertically
	1	Flips the image vertically
gamma	[x.xxx]	Sets the gamma value for the display
init		Initializes the micro display interface
lut	0	Disables LUT to remap gray levels
	1	Enables LUT to remap gray levels
power	0	Turns off power to the micro display
	1	Turns on power to the micro display
status		Displays current settings for the display
rd	[xx]	Displays the micro display sub address xx data
wr	[xx] [dd]	Writes the micro display sub address xx with data dd
tp	0	Turns off the display test pattern
	1	Turns on the display test pattern

3.1.3.8 Analog Video Commands

All valid serial command shown in Table 13 should be sent as:

AV <Command> <Optional Payload><CR><LF>

Table 13 Analog Video commands

Command	Optional Payload	Description
?		Analog Video help menu
gamma	[x.xxxxx]	Sets the gamma value for the analog video output channel
power	0	Turns off the analog video output channel
	1	Turns on the analog video output channel
set	NTSC	Sets the analog video output to NTSC format
	PAL	Sets the analog video output to PAL format
tp	0	Turns off the analog video test pattern
	1	Turns on the analog video channel test pattern
	2	Turns on the internal analog video chip test pattern

3.1.3.9 NUC Commands

All valid serial command shown in Table 14 should be sent as:

NUC <Command> <Optional Payload><CR><LF>

Table 14 NUC commands

Command	Optional Payload	Description
?		NUC help menu
gain	on	Enables the non-uniformity gain correction
	off	Disables the non-uniformity gain correction
offset	on	Enables the non-uniformity offset

Command	Optional Payload	Description
	off	correction Disables the non-uniformity offset correction
global gain		Displays the global gain for the non-uniformity correction on the console
global gain	xxx	Sets global gain for the non-uniformity correction to xxx
global offset		Displays the global offset for the non-uniformity correction on the console
global offset	xxx	Sets global offset for the non-uniformity correction to xxx
load gain	[filename]	Loads gain file [filename] into bufferset
load offset	[filename]	Loads offset file [filename] into bufferset
status		Displays current status of the non-uniformity correction on the console
use bufferset		Displays the current buffer set in use
use bufferset	xx	Sets bufferset number to xx to use for gain and offset tables

3.1.3.10 Temperature Commands

All valid serial command shown in Table 15 should be sent as:

TEMP <Command> <Optional Payload><CR><LF>

Table 15 Temperature commands

Command	Optional Payload	Description
?		Temperature help menu
rd	[xx]	Reads temperature sensor register xx (0 is currently the default on the NOCTURN core)

Command	Optional Payload	Description
wr	[xx] [dd]	Writes the temperature register [xx] with value [dd]

The NOCTURN only has one temperature sensor available. It can be read by sending the following command:

TEMP RD 0<CR><LF>

3.1.3.11 Transfer Commands

All valid serial command shown in Table 16 should be sent as:

XFER <Command> <Optional Payload><CR><LF>

Table 16 Transfer commands

Command	Optional Payload	Description
?		Transfer help menu
receive	[filename]	Xmodem/Ymodem receive file from PC. [filename] is the flash filename to write.
send	-x [filename] -y [filename]	Sends [filename] using Xmodem1k Sends [filename] using Ymodem1k [filename] is the flash filename to send

3.1.3.12 Draw Commands

All valid serial command shown in Table 17 should be sent as:

DR <Command> <Optional Payload><CR><LF>

Table 17 Draw commands

Command	Optional Payload	Description
?		Draw help menu

Command	Optional Payload	Description
ac	x y w h p	Cleans an area with top x, left y coordinate, w width, h height and effect p (should be set to 0 by default)
cf	n x y r p	Draws a filled circle n (should be > or = 1) at coordinate x y, radius r, and effect p
c	n x y r p	Draws a circle n (should be > or = 1) at coordinate x y, radius r, thickness t and effect p
dly	n	Introduces an n milliseconds delay between time draw commands are entered and the time they are drawn on the screen
enable	0 1	On screen display disabled On screen display enabled
effects	0 1	Disables effects in bitmap images (0 pixel value is transparent) Enables effects in bitmap images
ef	n x y xd yd a p	Draws a filled ellipse n (should be > or = 1) at coordinate x y, xd and yd diameter, angle of rotation a and effect p
e	n x y xd yd a t p	Draws a filled ellipse n (should be > or = 1) at coordinate x y, xd and yd diameter, angle of rotation a, thickness t and effect p
fliph	0 1	Display overlay output in default horizontal orientation Display overlay output horizontally inverted from default orientation
flipv	0 1	Display overlay output in default vertical orientation Display overlay output vertically inverted from default orientation
ic	n x y s	Clears icon n at x y coordinate with size s

Command	Optional Payload	Description
i	n x y p s	Draws icon n ¹¹ at x y coordinates using effects value p and size s
l	n ax ay bx by t p	Draws a line n between screen coordinate (ax, ay) and (bx, by) with thickness t and effect p
ovlintensity	xxx	Set the overlay intensity (0-255)
p	n x y r p	Draws a point n at coordinate x y, with radius r and effect p
qf	n ax ay bx by cx cy dx dy p	Draws a filled quadrangle between points (ax, ay), (bx, by), (cx, cy), and (dx, dy) with effects p
q	n ax ay bx by cx cy dx dy t p	Draws a filled quadrangle between points (ax, ay), (bx, by), (cx, cy), and (dx, dy) with thickness t and effects p
ret_c	s	Clear and turn off the reticle in slots s (0-all, 1- slot 1 and 2- slot 2)
ret_o	0	Disables the reticles at system boot up
	1	Enables the reticles at system boot up
ret_r	s	Redraws/Turn-on the reticles in slot s (0-all, 1- slot 1 and 2- slot 2)
ret	r n x y p s	Displays reticle r in slot r centered x y coordinate using p effects and size s
rf	n ax ay w h p	Draws a filled rectangle n with top left coordinate (x, y), width w, height h and effects p
rposg	s	Gets information for reticle in slots s
rwc		Clears the reticle window on the screen
rwg		Gets reticle window coordinates

¹¹ Icons should be loaded in the "/a/system/icons/preload/" directory and named "<name of icon>_n.pgm" where n a unique identifier for each icon.

Command	Optional Payload	Description
rws	ax ay bx by	Sets the reticles window with top left corner at (ax, ay) and bottom right corner at (bx, by)
r	n ax ay w h t p	Draws a rectangle with top left corner at (ax, ay), width w, height h, thickness t and effects p
sc		Clears the overlay screen
tf	n ax ay bx by cx cy p	Draws a filled triangle n with vertices at screen coordinate (ax, ay), (bx, by) and (cx, cy) and effects p
t	n ax ay bx by cx cy t p	Draws a triangle n with vertices at screen coordinate (ax, ay), (bx, by) and (cx, cy), thickness t and effects p
tp		Sets test pattern mode- function used for troubleshooting display operation
txt	x y f b s ttt	Displays text ttt at the x y coordinate (top left corner) with foreground color f, background color b and size s
vidintensity	xxx	Sets the overlay draw intensity to xxx (0-255)
vidinvert	0 1	Sets the video polarity on the screen to non-inverted Sets the video polarity on the screen to inverted

The overlay effects that can be setup in the on screen display by adjusting the variable p found in several of the commands in Table 17. The variable p is an 8bit [7:0] value where:

- Bit [7:4]: overlay intensity bits (0xF0 will be changed to 0xFFF in hardware when overlay is enabled)
- Bit [3:0]: effects bits
 - [1:0]: transparency multiplier
 - Value 0- overlay 75% transparent
 - Value 1- overlay 50% transparent

- Value 2- overlay 25% transparent
- Value 3- overlay is opaque
- [2]: XOR enable- XOR’s MSB of video data with 1 to provide 50% contrast between the overlay and the video data
- [3]: blink enable

3.1.3.13 AGC Commands

A list of valid AGC functions and current value can be queried from the core by sending the following command:

AGC status <CR><LF>

All valid serial command shown in Table 18 should be sent as:

AGC <Command> <Optional Payload><CR><LF>

Table 18 AGC Commands

Command	Optional Payload	Description
status		Display the AGC commands and settings
agcupdinterva	XX	Number of histogram to collect before doing an AGC update
saturationlev	XXX	Sets the digital value at which a pixel is considered saturated
bdeltalim	XXX	Sets the minimum brightness delta between the high and low limit of the cumulative histogram in conjunction with the “saturationlev” to determine if the sensor output is saturated under normal operation
bhidnlm	XXX	Increase exposure value if “bhipcagc” is lower than this digital output value
bhipcagc	XX	Mean brightness high percentage of the cumulative histogram to remap that AGC algorithm tries to maintain to “bhitgt” digital value
blopcagc	XX	Mean brightness low percentage of the cumulative histogram to remap that AGC algorithm tries to maintain to 0 digital

Command	Optional Payload	Description
		value
bhipcontrast	XX	Percentage of the cumulative histogram at which the histogram stretching maps to 1023 digital value output
blopccontrast	XX	Percentage of the cumulative histogram at which the histogram stretching maps to 0 digital value output
bhitgt	XXX	Target brightness that AGC tries to maintain “bhipcagc”
bhiuplim	XXX	Decrease exposure value if “bhipcagc” is lower than this digital output value
count	XX	Number of histogram to obtain running average to calculate AGC statistics
evlim	XX	Maximum percentage change in exposure value allowed between AGC updates
int_g	XX	Maximum reduction in exposure value if the scene is saturated
integtime	XXXX	Sets core integration time (in lines) to x if the AGC is disabled
integr8b4agc	0	Update averaging statistics during AGC
	1	Update averaging statistics before AGC
intg_max	XXXX	Sets the maximum integration time allowed (in lines) by the AGC. By default the NOCTURN are shipped with an AGC lookup table that only allows increase of the integration time to 2120 lines. In order to use this function for values greater than 2120, the AGC table must be adjusted.
mingain	X	Minimum gain allowed by the AGC
maxgain	X	Maximum gain allowed by the AGC

Command	Optional Payload	Description
gain	X	Sets core gain to x if the AGC is disabled
minbins	XX	Minimum number of bins used to stretched the image is contrast stretching is enabled
table	X	Selects the default AGC look-up table to use with the core. By default, the NOCTURN core is shipped with only one AGC table (0).

4 Maintenance

This section covers basic maintenance that should be performed periodically by the end user. Please note that all servicing of the NOCTURN MD core should be referred to Photonis USA.

Recommended periodic inspection and cleaning – recommend core be inspected and cleaned every time a lens change is performed.

1. Visually inspect the external surfaces of the core and connectors for damage, bent pins and ensure they are clean and free of debris.

CAUTION

The NOCTURN MD must be handled carefully at all times to prevent damage.

2. Clean the external body of the core, including connectors, with a dry, lint free cloth and soft brush if necessary to remove dirt, dust and debris. For caked on dirt, the cleaning cloth may be moistened with a small amount of water or Methanol.

CAUTION

A To avoid damage to the core hardware, do not immerse the core in any type of liquid, and do not pour any liquid on, or in the core.

3. Visually inspect the sensor for dust, debris, and residue (e.g., fingerprints, smears, etc.)
4. Clean the sensor and board with low pressure, dry, compressed air or nitrogen if necessary.

5. If there are fingerprints, smears, or other oily residue, the sensor glass may be cleaned with a lint free cotton-tipped applicator moistened with a small amount of isopropyl alcohol. Allow the sensor to air dry.
6. After the sensor is dry, visually verify no residue remains.

5 Storage

In preparation for storage, it is recommended that all cables and connectors be removed from the core.

1. If operating, shut down and power off the core.
2. Disconnect all cables
3. Visually inspect the external surfaces of the core and connectors for damage, bent pins and ensure they are clean and free of debris.
4. Clean the external body of the core, including connectors, with a dry, lint free cloth and soft brush if necessary to remove dirt, dust and debris. For caked on dirt, the cleaning cloth may be moistened with a small amount of water or Methanol. Do not immerse the core in any type of liquid.

CAUTION

To avoid damage to the core hardware, do not immerse the core in any type of liquid, and do not pour any liquid on, or in the core.

5. Prior to long term storage, remove any objective lens and clean according to manufacturer's instructions.
6. It is recommended that lenses be cleaned and wrapped in lens paper or a dry lint free cloth for storage.
7. Check the sensor and board for dust or debris.
8. If necessary, clean the sensor and board with low pressure, dry, compressed air or nitrogen. If there are fingerprints or other oily residue evident on the sensor glass, the sensor glass may be cleaned with a lint free cotton-tipped applicator and Methanol.
9. If the sensor is cleaned using isopropyl alcohol, allow the sensor to air dry.
10. Once the sensor is fully dry, install the protective blue dot over the sensor
11. Place the core in a protective ESD bag and package.
12. For long term storage, a humidity and temperature controlled environment is recommended, however, the ambient temperature in the storage area should not exceed the range of -50°C to +80°C.

6 Quality

6.1 Acceptance Test Protocol

Prior to shipment to customers, all NOCTURN MD cores are tested according to PHOTONIS Acceptance Test Protocol (ATP). The ATP verifies that the core units meet the operating,

functionality and imaging characteristics specified by PHOTONIS. Every unit is shipped with a test sheet displaying these characteristics against the NOCTURN MD specifications.

6.2 Warranty

Unless otherwise agreed, the Seller shall at its option repair or replace or refund the price paid for, those NOCTURN MD cores which are proved to the Seller's reasonable satisfaction not to conform to the published specifications at the time of receipt by the Buyer or to have failed for any reason of faulty design, material or workmanship for a period of twelve (12) months following the date of delivery.

Such warranty does not apply: (i) if the product has been modified or altered in any way by parties other than PHOTONIS, (ii) if the product has been exposed to unusual or excessive environmental, mechanical, electrical, or thermal stress during the course of installation or use, or (iii) if the absolute maximum ratings are exceeded for any reason including, but not limited to, equipment design and improper device installation or application, or (iv) if product malfunction is the result of misuse, abuse, improper installation or application, alteration, accident, or negligence in use, storage, transportation or handling, or if the original identification markings on the product have been removed, defaced or altered.

In order to permit Photonis to properly administer this warranty, Buyer shall (i) notify Photonis promptly in writing of any claims, and (ii) provide Photonis with the opportunity to inspect and test the product claimed to be defective. Such inspection may be on Buyer's premises and/or Photonis may request the return of the product at Buyer's expense. However, Photonis shall not be responsible for packing, inspection, or labor costs in connection with the return of product. In order to avoid administrative difficulties that result from unauthorized returns, Buyer shall request a formal Return Authorization from Photonis before returning product for any reason.

Any product replaced shall belong to Photonis and any repaired or replacement products shall be guaranteed for the unexpired portion of the 12 month warranty period.

The liability of Photonis hereunder or otherwise is solely and exclusively limited to replacement, repair or credit of the purchase price, as Photonis may elect, for any product which is returned by Buyer during the applicable warranty period, or services for which timely notice of defect has been given by Buyer, and which are found by PUPI to be subject to adjustment under this warranty. IN NO EVENT SHALL PHOTONIS BE LIABLE FOR SPECIAL, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, LOSS OF ANTICIPATED PROFIT OR OTHER ECONOMIC LOSS OR FOR ANY DAMAGES ARISING IN TORT WHETHER BY REASON OF STRICT LIABILITY, NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE.

Photonis' warranty as herein set forth shall not be enlarged, diminished or affected by, and no obligation or liability shall arise or grow out of, Photonis' rendering of technical advice, facilities or services in connection with Buyer's order or the products furnished hereunder.

The foregoing warranty extends to Buyer of Photonis and not to purchasers or users of such Buyer's products, except that if Buyer is an authorized distributor of Photonis, the foregoing warranty (and no other), subject to the terms and conditions thereof, may be extended to purchasers from such distributor of the products covered hereby. Photonis MAKES NO OTHER OR FURTHER WARRANTY, INCLUDING ANY WARRANTY OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY. All warranties, conditions and other terms implied by stature or common law are, to the fullest extent permitted, excluded.