

# Dragonfly

## Technical Reference Manual

Revised August 5, 2008



## Hardware Warranty

Point Grey Research Inc. (PGR) warrants to the Original Purchaser that the Camera Module provided with this package is guaranteed to be free from material and manufacturing defects for a period of one (1) year. Should a unit fail during this period, PGR will, at its option, repair or replace the damaged unit. Repaired or replaced units will be covered for the remainder of the original equipment warranty period. This warranty does not apply to units that, after being examined by PGR, have been found to have failed due to customer abuse, mishandling, alteration, improper installation or negligence.

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# 1. Introduction

The Dragonfly is a board level camera designed to be a suitable component of a wide variety of end user applications.

This manual attempts to provide the user with a detailed specification of the Dragonfly camera system. The reader should be aware that the camera system is a complex and dynamic system – if any errors or omissions are found during experimentation, please contact us using our support web form at <http://www.ptgrey.com/support/contact>.

## 1.1. General Specifications

Specification	Low Resolution (640x480)	High Resolution (1024x768)
<b>Style</b>	OEM board level camera (black anodized aluminum case available)	
<b>Current Firmware Ver.</b>	2.1 Release Candidate 13	
<b>Sensor</b>	Sony 1/3" Type Sony HAD CCD	
	ICX084/ICX424	ICX204
<b>Resolution</b>	640x480	1024x768
<b>A/D Converter</b>	Analog Devices AD9841A A/D	
<b>Video Output Signal</b>	8 bits per pixel / 10 bits per pixel digital data	
<b>Interfaces</b>	6-pin IEEE-1394 for camera control and video data transmission 4 general purpose digital input/output pins	
<b>Voltage Requirements</b>	8-32V	
<b>Power Consumption</b>	Less than 2W	
<b>Frame Rates</b>	3.75, 7.5, 15, 30fps	1.875, 3.75, 7.5, 15fps
<b>Gain</b>	Automatic/Manual modes	
	0dB through 30dB	0dB through 27dB
<b>Shutter</b>	Automatic/Manual/Extended Shutter modes	
	1/30s to 1/8000s @ 30Hz	1/15s to 1/6000s @ 15Hz
<b>Signal-To-Noise Ratio</b>	60dB or better at minimum gain	
<b>External Trigger</b>	DCAM v1.30 Trigger_Mode_0	
<b>Dimensions</b>	63.5mm x 50.8mm x 13.15mm (without lens holder)	
<b>Mass</b>	38 grams (bare board with CS-mount lens holder)	
<b>Lens Adapter</b>	M12 microlens (standard) or C- or CS-mount lens (optional)	
<b>Camera Specification</b>	IIDC 1394-based Digital Camera Specification v1.30	
<b>FCC Compliance</b>	The 640x480 and 1024x768 non-Extended Dragonfly's comply with Part 15 of FCC Rules. Extended (DRAG-xxx-EX) models have not yet undergone this compliance process. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) this device may not cause harmful interference; and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.	
<b>CE Compliance</b>	N/A	

<b>Operating Temperature</b>	Commercial grade electronics rated from 0° - 70°C Sensor operating temperatures are available in sensor datasheet
<b>Storage Temperature</b>	Room temperature
<b>Camera Upgrades</b>	Firmware upgrades in-field via IEEE-1394

## 1.2. Assembling an Extended Head Camera

If you have purchased an extended head camera (e.g. DRAG-XXX-EX) – which is useful when a smaller profile camera head is needed – it will come in three pieces as shown in the figure below.

**NOTE:** The ends of recent models of the flexible ribbon cable are blue, not black.

To assemble the extended camera:

1. Make sure the camera is unplugged and no power is going to the camera, and take appropriate steps to limit any electrostatic discharge.
2. Lift the brown tab on the camera body.
3. Insert the extending cable, with the black (blue) side of the cable facing the brown tab on the camera body. Close the brown tab.
4. Lift the brown tab on the camera head.
5. Insert the other end of the extending cable, with the black side of the cable facing the brown tab, into the camera head. Close the brown tab.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering



Figure 1: Unassembled extended head camera



Figure 2: Assembled extended head camera

## 1.3. Mounting the Tripod Bracket

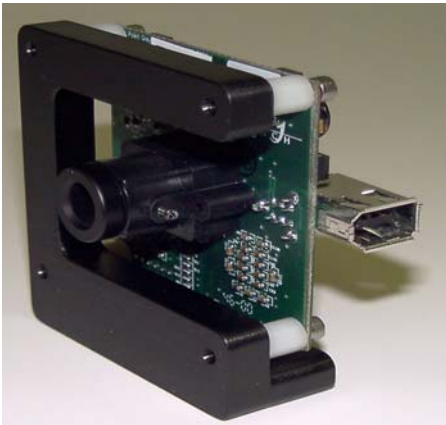
You will need a 3/32" hex key in addition to the tripod bracket, the spacers, and the mounting screws.

6. Place the bracket face down (with the edge that will attach to the tripod facing up).
7. Place the spacers on the four corners of the bracket
8. Place the camera face down on the spacers.

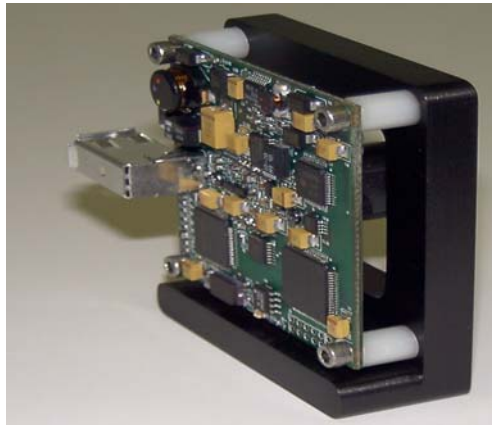
Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

9. Insert and fasten the screws to the bracket.

10. See the figures below to ensure that the bracket has been mounted correctly.



**Figure 3: Camera with mounting bracket - Front**



**Figure 4: Camera with mounting bracket - Back**

## 1.4. Caring for your Camera

Your PGR IEEE 1394 digital camera module is a precisely manufactured device and should be handled with care. Here are some tips on how to care for the device.

- CCD image sensors are easily damaged by static discharge. Before handling be sure to take the following protective measures:
  - Either handle bare handed or use non-chargeable gloves, clothes or material. Also use conductive shoes.
  - Install a conductive mat on the floor or working table to prevent the generation of static electricity.
  - Consult the following knowledge base article for more information:  
<http://www.ptgrey.com/support/kb/details.asp?id=42>
- When handling the camera unit, avoid touching the lenses. Fingerprints will affect the quality of the image produced by the device.
- To clean the lenses, use a standard camera lens cleaning kit or a clean dry cotton cloth. Do not apply excessive force.
- To clean the imaging surface of your CCD, follow the steps outlined in  
<http://www.ptgrey.com/support/kb/details.asp?id=66>.

- Our cameras are designed for an office environment or laboratory use. Extended exposure to bright sunlight, rain, dusty environments, etc. may cause problems with the electronics and the optics of the system.
- Avoid excessive shaking, dropping or any kind of mishandling of the device.

## 2. Camera Properties

### 2.1. Physical Description of the Dragonfly™

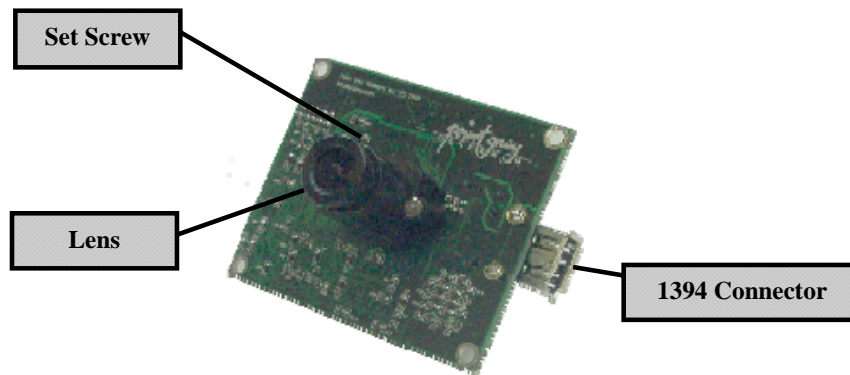


Figure 5: Picture of Dragonfly module

The lens set screw in the Dragonfly™ is located at the top of the lens (perpendicular to the connector). It is to be used to hold the lens in place once the lens is focused. To change the lens or refocus the lens, loosen the screw with the 0.035" (inch) hex driver provided with the camera, adjust the lens, and then tighten the screw once more.

The Dragonfly™ comes with three microlenses of varying focal lengths: 4mm, 6mm (pre-mounted on the camera), and 8mm. To differentiate between the various lenses, consult <http://www.ptgrey.com/support/kb/>.

### 2.2. Camera Power

The 6-pin 1394 connector connects to a standard IEEE-1394 (FireWire) 6-pin cable and provides the camera with both power and a connection to your computer. The ideal input voltage is 12V DC; however, the camera is designed to handle voltages between 8V and 32V DC according to the IEEE 1394 standard. The power consumption of the Dragonfly is less than 2W at 12V DC.

Some 1394 PCMCIA cards for laptop / notebook computers require a 4-pin cable. A 4-pin cable does not provide power and will therefore not work with PGR cameras, which require a 6-pin connector (the additional two pins provide power). Some 1394 accessory manufacturers sell cables that have one 4-pin end and one 6-pin end. However, the cameras still require power to be

provided. For suggestions on how to provide power in these circumstances, consult the knowledge base article at <http://www.ptgrey.com/support/kb/details.asp?id=93>.

## 2.3. Sensors

The Dragonfly is currently available with one of four Sony HAD, interline transfer, progressive scan CCDs. The following table enumerates a number of features of these sensors and provides links to locations of pertinent data sheets:

	Low Resolution	High Resolution
<b>Sensor Type</b>	Sony ICX424AL/AQ and Sony ICX084AL/AK (discontinued)	Sony ICX204AL/AK
<b>Sensor Size</b>	Diagonal 6mm (1/3" type)	Diagonal 6mm (1/3" type) (effective 5.952mm)
<b>Total Pixels</b>	692(H) x 504(V) approx. 350K pixels	1077(H) x 788(V) approx. 850K pixels
<b>Total Effective Pixels</b>	659(H) x 494(V) approx. 330K pixels	1034(H) x 779(V) approx. 800K pixels
<b>Active Pixels</b>	640(H) x 480(V) approx. 307K pixels	1024(H) x 768(V) approx 790K pixels
<b>Chip Size</b>	5.79mm(H) x 4.89mm(V) – ICX424 5.84mm(H) x 4.94mm(V) – ICX084	5.80mm(H) x 4.92mm(V)
<b>Unit Cell Size</b>	7.4um(H) x 7.4um(V)	4.65um(H) x 4.65um(V)
<b>Datasheets</b>	ICX424AL: <a href="http://products.sel.sony.com/semi/PDF/ICX424AL.pdf">http://products.sel.sony.com/semi/PDF/ICX424AL.pdf</a> ICX084AL (discontinued): <a href="http://www.ptgrey.com/support/kb/data/ICX084AL.pdf">http://www.ptgrey.com/support/kb/data/ICX084AL.pdf</a>  ICX424AQ: <a href="http://products.sel.sony.com/semi/PDF/ICX424AQ.pdf">http://products.sel.sony.com/semi/PDF/ICX424AQ.pdf</a> ICX084AK (discontinued): <a href="http://www.ptgrey.com/support/kb/data/ICX084AK.pdf">http://www.ptgrey.com/support/kb/data/ICX084AK.pdf</a>	ICX204AL: <a href="http://products.sel.sony.com/semi/PDF/ICX204AL.pdf">http://products.sel.sony.com/semi/PDF/ICX204AL.pdf</a> ICX204AK: <a href="http://products.sel.sony.com/semi/PDF/ICX204AK.pdf">http://products.sel.sony.com/semi/PDF/ICX204AK.pdf</a>

### 2.3.1. Typical Spectral Response

The following spectral response curves have been extracted from the sensor specific data sheets that are available from Sony. According to the literature, the curves include lens characteristics but exclude light source characteristics.

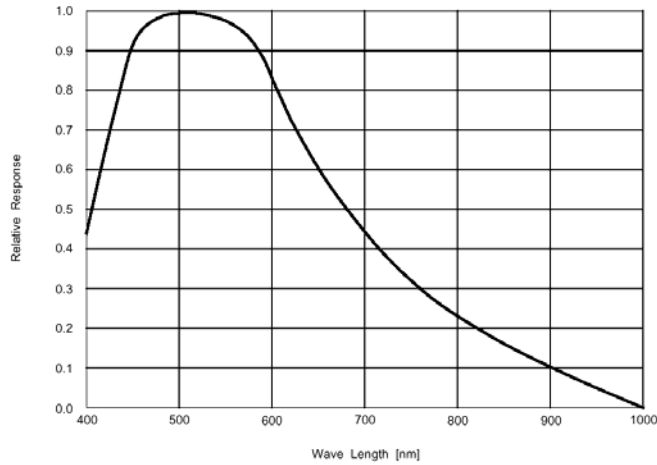


Figure 6: Spectral response curve for the ICX084AL (640x480 Black and White)

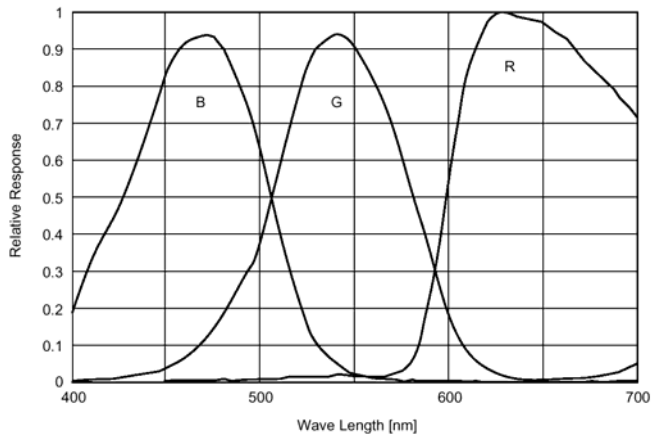
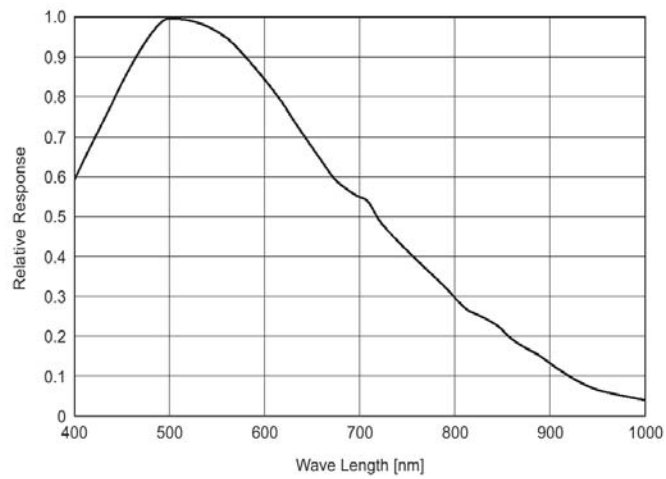
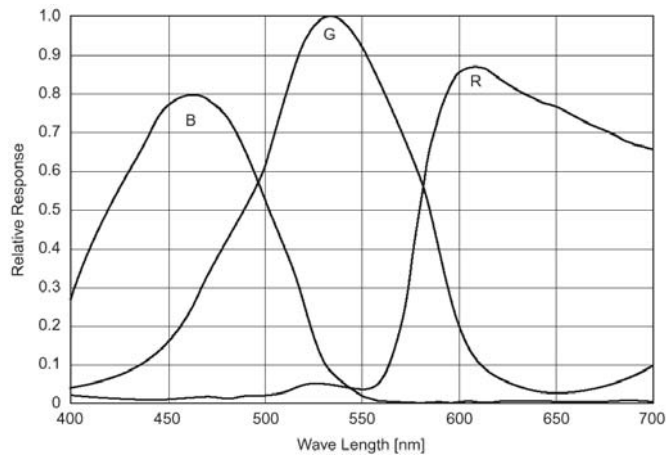


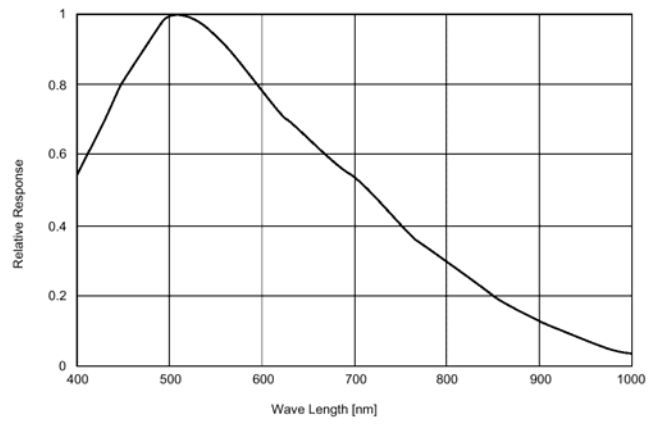
Figure 7: Spectral response curve for the ICX084AK (640x480 Color)



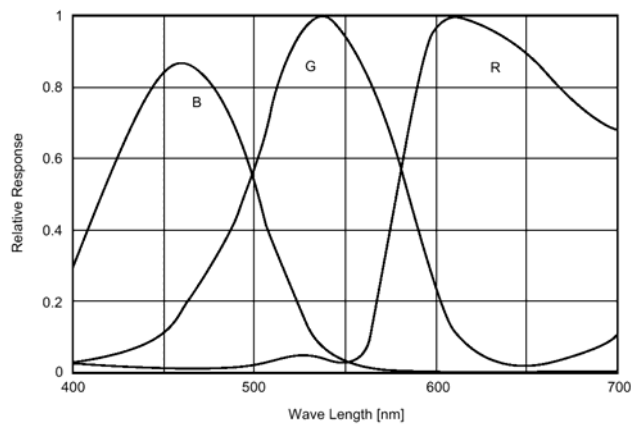
**Figure 8: Spectral response curve for the ICX424AL (640x480 Black and White)**



**Figure 9: Spectral response curve for the ICX424AQ (640x480 Color)**



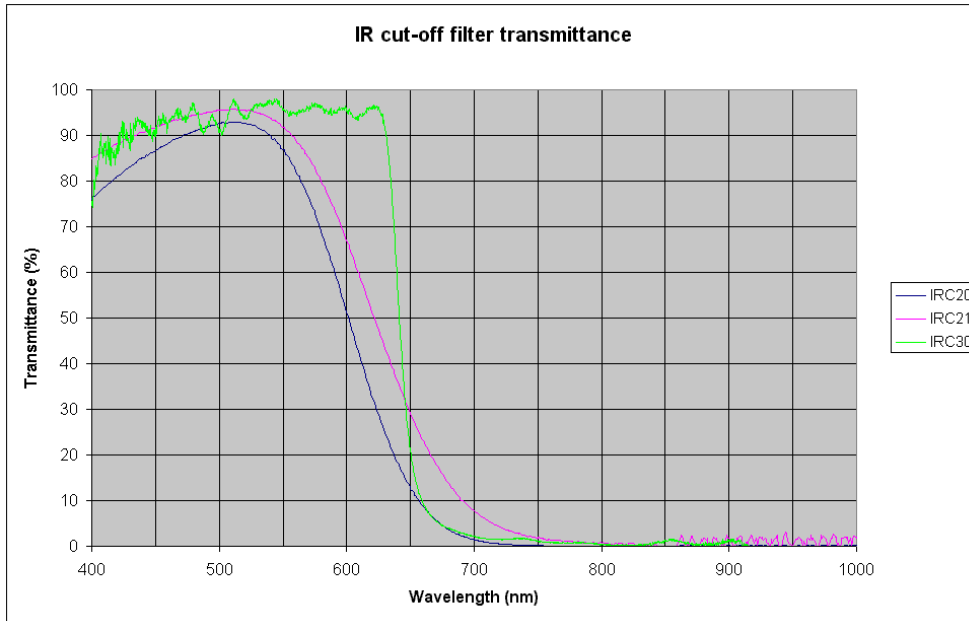
**Figure 10: Spectral response curve for the ICX204AL (1024x768 Black and White)**



**Figure 11: Spectral response curve for the ICX204AK (1024x768 Color)**

## 2.4. Infrared Cut-Off Filters

It should be noted that Dragonfly cameras equipped with color sensors have an additional infrared cut-off filter included. The approximate properties of this filter are illustrated by the IRC30 curve in the graph below.



## 2.5. Analog to Digital Converter

The Dragonfly incorporates an Analog Devices AD9841A A/D converter in order to digitize the images produced by the CCD. The following table illustrates the most important aspects of the processor. For more information, please refer to the datasheet.

<b>Resolution</b>	10bit
<b>Pixel Gain Amplifier</b>	4dB +/- 6dB 6-bit
<b>Variable Gain Amplifier</b>	2dB to 36dB 10-bit
<b>Datasheets</b>	<a href="http://www.analog.com/productSelection/pdf/AD9841A_2A_0.pdf">http://www.analog.com/productSelection/pdf/AD9841A_2A_0.pdf</a>

## 3. Camera Operations and Features

### 3.1. Gain and Shutter Settings

This section describes how to convert Gain and Shutter settings from the format reported by the camera into real world units.

**NOTE:** PGR strongly recommends obtaining these real world units via the Absolute Value registers (see the *Absolute Value CSR Registers* section). This method is easier and more efficient than calculating them using the following formulas, which may change without warning.

#### 3.1.1. Gain

The Gain settings in the FlyCap program can be converted to decibels (dB) by using the following formula:

**640x480 Dragonfly - 0dB is 220:**

if  $G < 512$

$$\text{Gain} = -6.0404 + [20 \times \log((658+G)/(658-G))]$$

else if  $G > 512$

$$\text{Gain} = -6.0404 + [0.0354 \times G]$$

**1024x768 Dragonfly - 0dB is 325:**

if  $G < 512$

$$\text{Gain} = -9.40 + [20 \times \log((658+G)/(658-G))]$$

else if  $G > 512$

$$\text{Gain} = -9.40 + [0.0354 \times G]$$

G is the gain setting in the software. The absolute gain setting in dB of the camera can be read from the CSR register at offset 928h. The returned number is in the IEEE floating point format.

### 3.1.2. Shutter

#### 3.1.2.1. Shutter Conversion Formula

In most cases, shutter speed can be calculated using the following formulae:

640x480	$T = (S * 30) / (16000 * F)$
1024x768	$T = (S * 15) / (12000 * F)$

where  $S$  is the setting in the camera control, and  
 $F$  is the frame rate.

#### 3.1.2.2. Extended Shutter

In special cases where the user has modified the EXTENDED\_SHUTTER register at offset 1028h, this formula generalizes to the following:

$$T = (S * M) / (U * F)$$

$M$  is the mode that the EXTENDED\_SHUTTER register has been set to (30 for extended mode), and  $U$  is the reciprocal of the units of the shutter setting

Mode	Min - Max S	M	U	Min – Max F	Min Shutter Time	Max Shutter Time
640x480						
30Hz	2 – 532	30	16000	0.469 – 30	1/8000s	0.468s
32Hz	2 – 500	32	16000	0.5 – 32	1/8000s	2s
Extended	2 – 4000	30	16000	0.469 – 30	1/8000s	16s
50Hz	2 – 256	50	12800	50 – 50	1/6400s	1/50s
24Hz	2 – 666	24	16000	0.375 – 24	1/8000s	2.66s
1024x768						
15Hz	2 – 800	15	12000	0.469 – 15	1/6000s	1/30s
Extended	2 – 4000	15	12000	0.469 – 15	1/6000s	10.66s

Extended shutter essentially works as follows:

640x480 line rate (KHz)	1024x768 line rate (KHz)	fps
16	n/a	30
8	12	15
4	6	7.5
2	3	3.75
1	1.5	1.875

To calculate the shutter period in seconds :

Maximum number of line periods is given as 61344. This is the maximum we can send to register 0x81C, so it has a range from 0 – 61344. To calculate a shutter period of 1 sec, we could do this multiple ways using the formula:

$$X/\text{line rate(Hz)} = \text{shutter period (sec)}$$

where X is the number of lines to wait.

1. At 30 fps we get  $X/\text{line rate} = 1 \text{ sec}$ . At 30 Hz at 640x480, the line rate is 16 KHz, so we get  $X/16000 = 1$ . So the value we would set is 16000.
2. At 15 fps, X would be 8000 for 640x480.
3. At 7.5 fps, X would be 4000 for 640x480.
4. At 15 fps, X would be 12000 for 1024x768.
5. At 7.5 fps, X would be 6000 for 1024x768.

Currently, the maximum shutter period is  $61344/1000 = 61.344 \text{ sec}$ .

It should be noted that in extended shutter mode, the upper limit of 4000 (0x0FA0) can be extended up to a maximum of 65440 (0xFFA0) by simply writing to the high shutter bits [8-19] of the SHUTTER register.

## 3.2. Camera Interface

### 3.2.1. General Purpose IO (GPIO) Pins

The Dragonfly has a set of four (4)<sup>1</sup> general-purpose IO pins that can be accessed via the 6-pin 2mm header shown below. These GPIO pins can be configured to accept an input signal to externally trigger the camera or to send an output signal or strobe to an external device. To determine how to configure the GPIO pins, please consult the *PGR IEEE-1394 Digital Camera Register Reference*. GPIO pins IO0 to IO3 can be used for external triggering, general input/output, or strobe output.

#### 3.2.1.1. GPIO Pin Layout

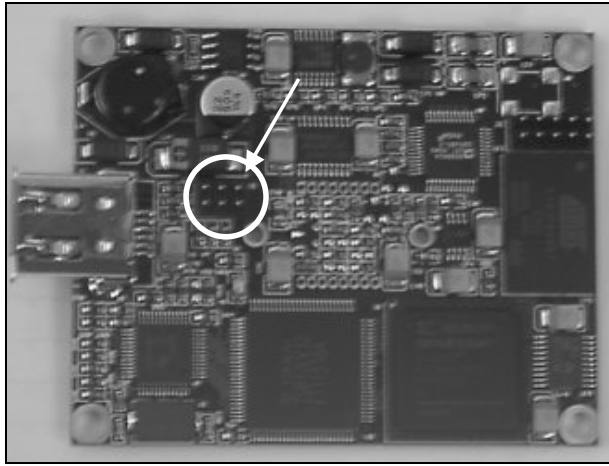


Figure 12: Diagram indicating the location of the GPIO pins

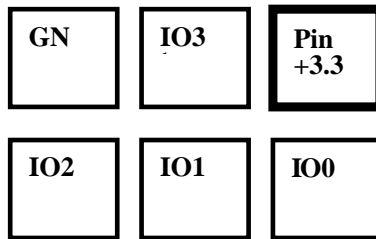


Figure 13: GPIO pin layout.

<sup>1</sup> New cameras only – see *Dragonfly Errata* section

### 3.2.1.2. GPIO Electrical Characteristics

The Dragonfly GPIO pins are TTL 3.3V pins protected by two diodes to +3.3V and GND in parallel. There is also a 10K resistor in series to limit current. When configured as input, the pins can be directly driven from a 3.3V or 5V logic output. For output, each GPIO pin has almost no drive strength (they are high impedance) and needs to be buffered with a transistor or driver to lower its impedance.

Pin 1 is capable of powering external circuitry up to a total of 50mA. The IO pins are protected from both over and under voltage. It is recommended, however, that they only be connected to 5V or 3.3V digital logic signals. Suitable mating connectors are available from a number of sources. Two examples are parts WM18031 and WM18056 from Digikey ([www.digikey.com](http://www.digikey.com)).

It should be noted that IO2 is different from the other IO pins. IO2 has a weak pull-up resistor. This allows for easy triggering of the camera by simply shorting the pin to ground.

**NOTE:** IO2 should not be used as an input (GPIO\_MODE\_0).

### 3.2.2. IEEE-1394 Connector

The *Dragonfly* has a standard 6-pin IEEE-1394 connector (pin configuration shown below) that is used for data transmission, camera control and powering the camera.

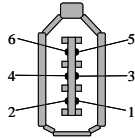


Figure 14: IEEE-1394 Connector Pin Configuration

Pin	Function
1	Power Input (+8 to +32 VDC)
2	DC GND
3	TPB-
4	TPB+
5	TPA-
6	TPA+

### **3.3. Automatic Inter-Camera Synchronization**

Multiple Dragonfly's on the same IEEE-1394 bus are automatically synchronized to each other at the hardware level. When using multiple cameras, the timing of one camera to another camera is as follows:

- If the cameras are on the same bus, the cameras are synchronized to within 125 $\mu$ s (microseconds) of each other (please note: 125 $\mu$ s is the maximum deviation). However, the 1394 bandwidth limits the maximum number of cameras that can be on one bus.
- If the cameras are on separate buses, a PGR Sync Unit is needed to synchronize the buses. The Sync Unit can synchronize cameras on different buses within the same computer, or on different buses across multiple computers. This device will ensure that the cameras are synchronized to within 125 $\mu$ s. If there is no sync device, there is no timing correlation between separate cameras on separate buses.

### 3.4. Supported Data Formats and Modes

#### 3.4.1. Standard Formats, Modes and Frame Rates

The following table enumerates the different data formats and modes contained in the IIDC 1394 specification that are supported by the Dragonfly:

Camera	Format	Mode	Frame Rate (fps)							Mode Description
			1.875	3.75	7.5	15	30	60	120	
Low-res (640x480)	0	5		•	•	•	•			640x480 Y8 (Mono)
	0	6		•	•	•	•			640x480 Y16 (Mono)
High-res (1024x768)	1	5	•	•	•	•				1024x768 Y8 (Mono)
	1	7	•	•	•					1024x768 Y16 (Mono)

#### 3.4.2. Customizable Formats and Modes

The following table outlines 1394 DCAM-compliant Format 7 custom image modes that are supported by the camera. The frame rates specified, however, are not contained in the specification.

Camera	Format	Mode	Frame Rate (fps)	Description
Low-res (640x480)	7	0	30fps	Partial Image Format (sub-window) – allows the user to only transmit a selected area of the image. Although no speed improvement is realized, this feature is useful for reducing bandwidth requirements while maintaining frame rate.
	7	1	50fps	Partial Image Format (sub-sampled) – allows the user to transmit a sub-sampled 640x240 image at up to 50fps.
High-res (1024x768)	7	0	15fps	Partial Image Format (sub-window) – allows the user to only transmit a selected area of the image. Although no speed improvement is realized, this feature is useful for reducing bandwidth requirements while maintaining frame rate.
	7	1	25fps	Partial Image Format (sub-sampled) – allows the user to transmit a sub-sampled 1024x384 image at up to 25fps.

### 3.4.3. Image Data Formats

The following table illustrates the data format for the various modes.

Mode	Data Format					
Y8 8bit/pixel	<table><tr><td>0-7</td></tr><tr><td>76543210</td></tr></table>		0-7	76543210		
0-7						
76543210						
Y16 16bit/pixel	<table><tr><td>0-7</td><td>8-15</td></tr><tr><td>High byte</td><td>Low byte</td></tr></table> <p><b>Note:</b> This format can be toggled via Y16_DATA_FORMAT register 1048h</p>		0-7	8-15	High byte	Low byte
0-7	8-15					
High byte	Low byte					

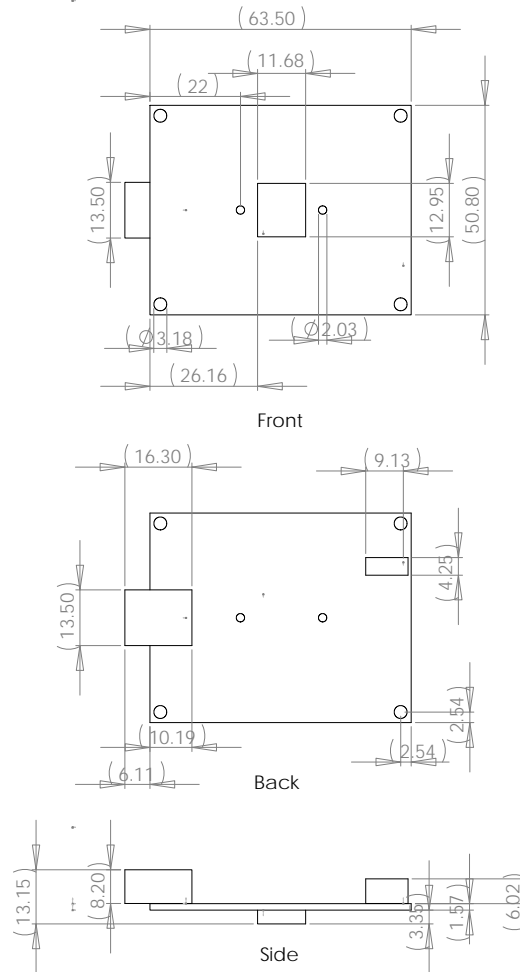
## **4. Camera Control Command Registers**

For a complete description of the Camera Control Command Registers implemented on the Dragonfly, please refer to the PGR IEEE-1394 Digital Camera Register Reference.

## 5. Physical Dimensions

### 5.1. Standard Camera Unit

The following illustrations provide a number of useful dimensions of the standard camera system.

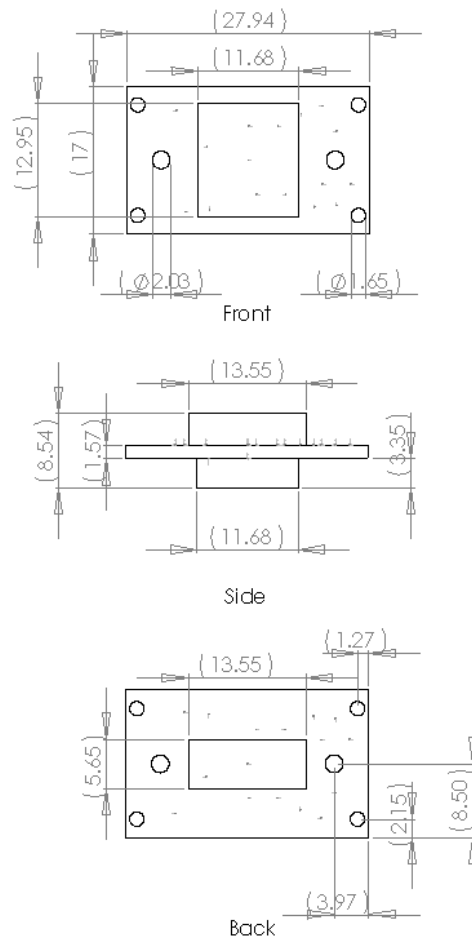


All measurements are in millimeters

**Figure 15: Physical dimensions of standard camera unit**

## 5.2. Extended Head

The following diagrams illustrate the physical dimensions of the extended head unit.



All measurements are in millimeters

**Figure 16: Physical dimensions of extended head unit.**

### 5.3. Aluminum Enclosure (Case)

The following diagrams illustrate the physical dimensions of the black aluminum case.

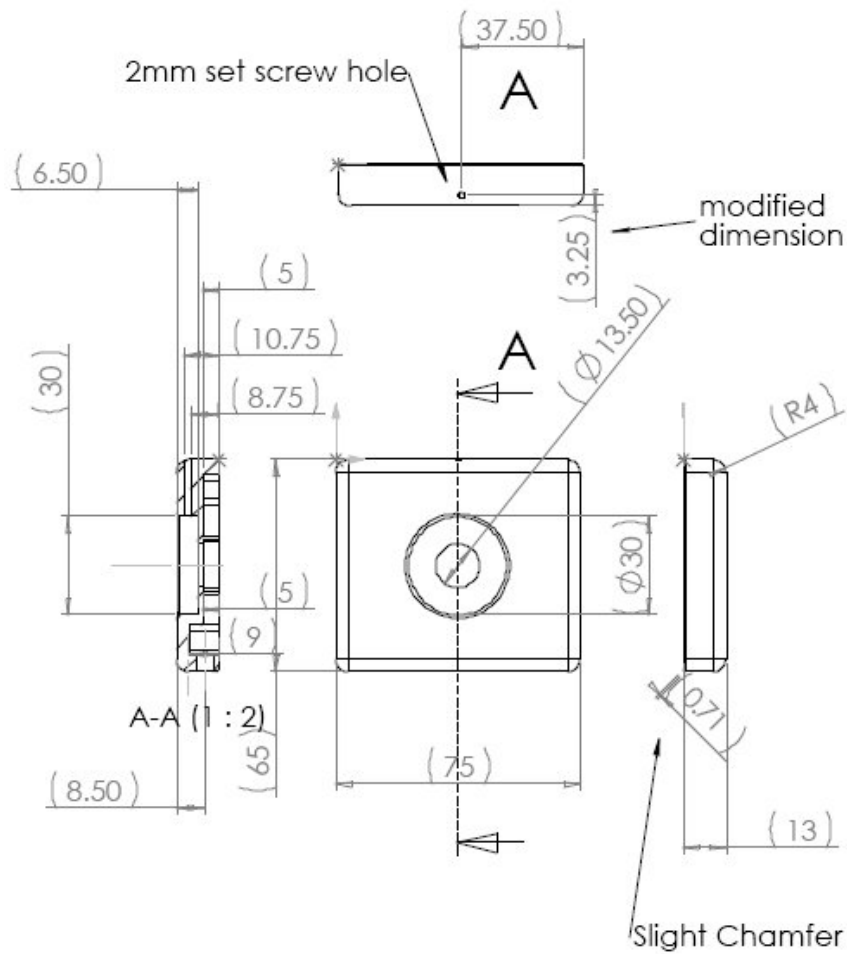


Figure 17: Physical dimensions of aluminum enclosure (FRONT)

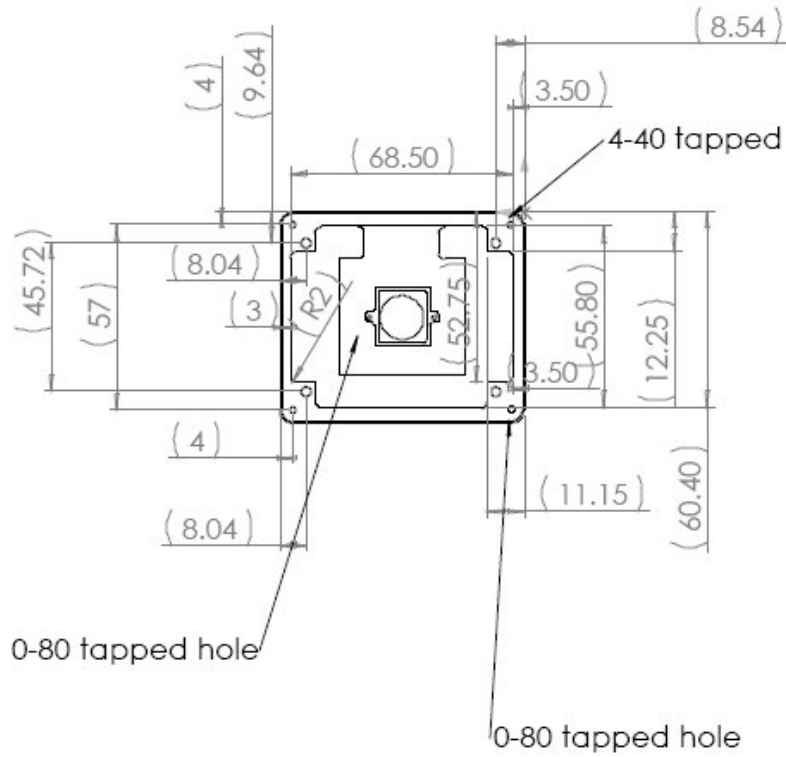


Figure 18: Physical dimensions of aluminum enclosure (FRONT) cont'd

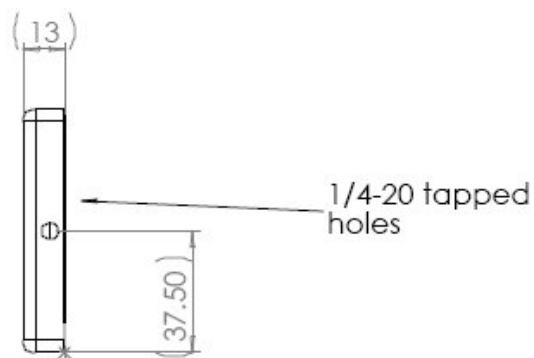


Figure 19: Physical dimensions of aluminum enclosure (FRONT) cont'd

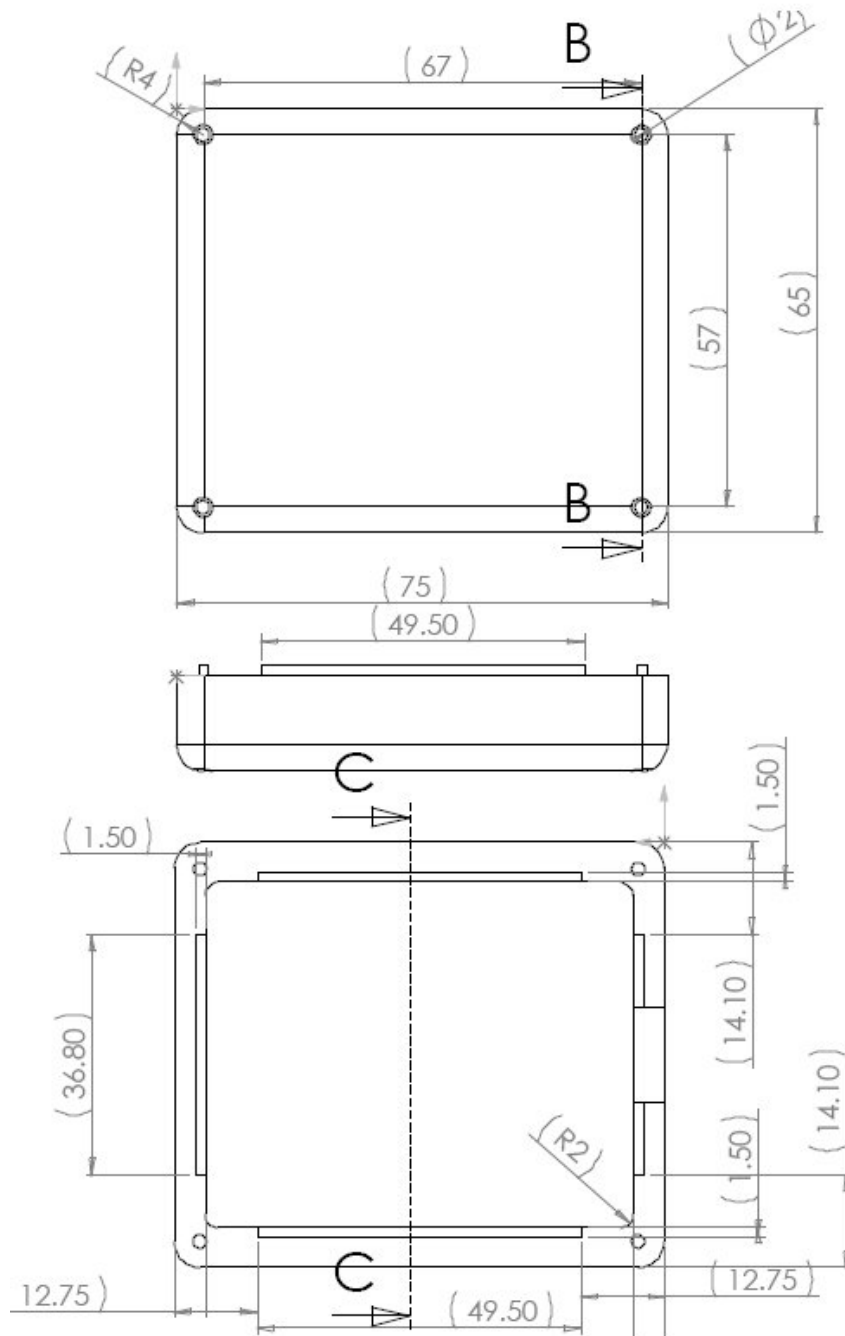


Figure 20: Physical dimensions of aluminum enclosure (BACK)

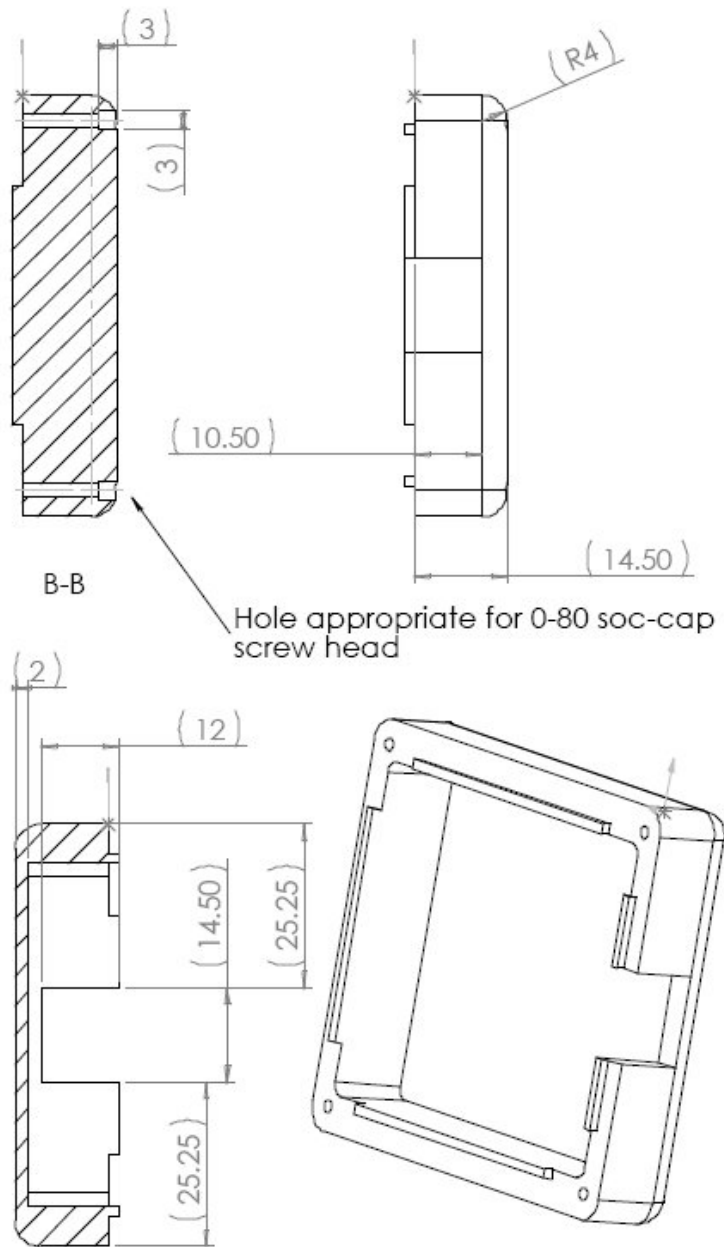


Figure 21: Physical dimensions of aluminum enclosure (BACK) cont'd

## 6. Application Notes

This section is recommended for advanced users only, and is not meant to address all possible applications of the Dragonfly camera.

### 6.1. Maximum Number of Cameras on a Single 1394 Bus

There are four elements that limit the number of cameras that can be used on the same 1394 bus:

1. Although the 1394 standard limits the maximum number of simultaneous isochronous channels to 16, there is currently no OHCI Compliant IEEE-1394 host controller that is capable of supporting 16 channels. Host adapters based on the TI chipset can support at most 4 simultaneous DMA channels (also known as DMA contexts). Similar adapters based on the Lucent/Agere chipset support up to 8 DMA contexts.
2. The maximum bandwidth of the 1394 bus is 400Mbps/sec. The actual usable bandwidth is approximately 80% or 40MBytes/sec.
3. The 1394a standard limits the maximum number of devices on a single bus to 63.
4. An inadequate power supply. Consult the voltage and power requirements in the *General Specifications* section of this manual to determine the amount of power required to operate the cameras effectively.

#### 6.1.1. Calculating Maximum Possible Frame Rate

The maximum frame rate allowable for each of the cameras on the bus depends on the resolution of the cameras and the frame rate, and can be roughly approximated<sup>1</sup> using the following general formula (assuming all cameras are at the same resolution):

$$\text{Frames\_per\_second} = (\text{Bandwidth} / (\text{Pixels\_per\_frame} * \text{Bytes\_per\_pixel})) / \text{Num\_cameras}$$

**Example:**

To calculate the frames per second available to three 1024x768 Dragonfly's that are in 8-bit mode, you would calculate:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Frames\_per\_second} &= (40\text{MB/s} / (1024*768*1\text{byte/pixel})) / 3 \\ &= (40\text{MB/s} / 0.75\text{MB/total\_frames}) / 3 \\ &= 53.33\text{fps} / 3 \\ &= 17.8\text{fps} \end{aligned}$$

In this example, however, the maximum frame rate per camera would be 15Hz, the upper limit of a 1024x768 Dragonfly.

<sup>1</sup> To determine the exact frame rate allowable, use the number of quadlets being sent at the given frame rate (see *Isochronous Bandwidth Requirements* in the PGR IEEE-1394 Digital Camera Register Reference).

### 6.1.2. Problems Maximizing Frame Rates

In some circumstances, due to 1394 bus bandwidth limitations set by Microsoft Windows, some cameras may not be able to achieve the maximum calculated frame rate.

**Example:**

According to the formula in the section *Calculating Maximum Possible Frame Rate* it is possible to run four 640x480 cameras in Y8 (8-bit) mode at 30Hz. However, when attempting to do this via the PGR software *Format and Frame Rate* controls, starting the fourth camera at 30Hz often results in a “bandwidth exceeded” error.

The workaround to this problem is to circumvent the Windows bandwidth restrictions by directly manipulating the camera’s CURRENT\_FRAME\_RATE register 600h. In the example above, start three instances of the PGR FlyCapture demo program, FlyCap, with each camera running at 30Hz. Start the fourth camera up at 15Hz, then access register 600h and set the register to 0x80000000 (30Hz).

## 6.2. Using the Camera in Single Shot Mode

It is possible to put the camera into a mode where it will grab only a single image (single-shot) or a set number of images (multi-shot).

In order to have the camera capture a single image, the user must do the following:

- Put the software system into a mode where it is ready to accept images from the camera. If you are using the PGR FlyCapture software, this will require calls to flycaptureInitialize() and flycaptureStart().
- Ensure that isochronous data transfer is turned off by doing the following:

set 614h to 00 00 00 00

- For a single shot, poke the first bit of the MULTI\_SHOT register as follows:

set 61Ch to 80 00 00 00

- For multiple shots (in this example 175, or 0xAF), poke the first bit of the MULTI\_SHOT register as follows:

set 61Ch to 40 00 00 AF

This will cause the camera to produce the desired number of images before resuming a wait state. Standard image transmission can be resumed by poking the 614h register again as follows:

set 614h to 80 00 00 00

## 6.3. Interacting with External Devices

The Point Grey Research Dragonfly is a versatile IEEE-1394 digital camera that is capable of interacting with external devices. It can be configured to trigger on an external electrical signal or produce a similar signal that allows devices external to the camera to be synchronized to the camera. Input and output of these signals is achieved via the Dragonfly's general-purpose IO pins through the 6-pin 2mm header.

### 6.3.1. External trigger timing information

For a low-resolution Dragonfly (640x480) the time from the external trigger going low to the integration time is shown below:

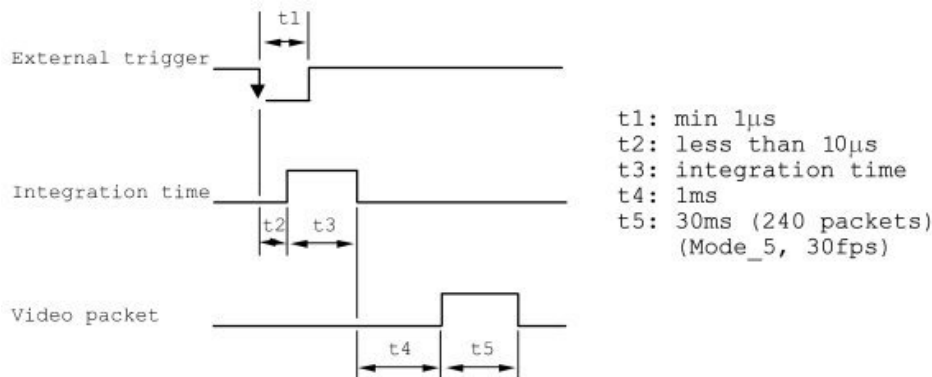


Figure 22: Dragonfly timing characteristics

### 6.3.2. Synchronizing to an external device (Trigger Mode)

In order for the camera to acquire images synchronized to an external electrical signal, the signal must be connected to one of the GPIO pins and the camera's TRIGGER\_MODE CSR must be correctly configured.

The external synchronization signal may be connected to any of the IO signals however by default triggering occurs on IO2 only. It has a weak pull up so a simple external trigger may be implemented by using a push button switch connected between the GND and the IO2 pins. To use IO0 or IO1 as trigger input, the pins should be connected to 5V or 3.3V digital logic signals.

Having connected the physical interface, the TRIGGER\_MODE CSR located at offset 830h must be correctly configured. The Dragonfly supports Trigger\_Mode\_0 for external synchronization.

In order to put the camera into the Trigger\_Mode\_0 with a low active input, the user must do the following:

set 830h to be 82 00 00 00

Turning it off can be achieved by doing the following:

set 830h to be 80 00 00 00

### 6.3.3. Broadcasting a sync pulse to an external device

An external shutter pulse is available by default on IO1. The shutter pulse is aligned with the start of the CCD integration period and is 1 microsecond in duration.

In order to put the Dragonfly into a mode that fires shutter synchronized pulses other than the default:

1. Set the GPIO\_CTRL\_PIN to be 80 03 00 00.
2. Set the GPIO\_XTRA\_PIN to be the delay (bits 0:15) and the duration (bits 16-31). The units of this register are ticks on a 49.152MHz.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

For example, to put Pin 2 into a strobe mode that sets a signal with a delay of 9 ticks (0x9) and duration of 1235 ticks (0x4D3) you would do the following:

```
set 1130h to be 80 03 00 00
set 1134h to be 00 09 04 D3
```

On Pin 2, you should get a square wave of duration of approximately 25 microseconds, separated by the time between each CCD trigger.

### 6.3.4. Reading data from an external device

In order to for the Dragonfly to go into a mode that allows reading the current input level from a pin, you have to do the following:

1. Set the GPIO\_CTRL\_PIN for the desired pin to be 80 00 00 00.
2. Read the GPIO\_CTRL\_PIN. This will return the current pin state in the bottom bit (i.e. when the pin is high the register would read as 80 00 00 01 and when the pin is low the register would read as 80 00 00 00).

For example, to put GPIO\_0 into this mode, you would do the following:

```
set 1110h to be 80 00 00 00
read 1110h – 80 00 00 00 indicates that the input is low, and
              80 00 00 01 indicates that the input is high
```

### 6.3.5. Writing data to an external device

In order to put the Dragonfly to into a mode that allows setting the pin output level, you have to do the following:

1. Set the pin high by writing 80 01 00 01 to the GPIO\_CTRL\_PIN
2. Set the pin low by writing 80 01 00 00 to the GPIO\_CTRL\_PIN.

For example, to set the output of GPIO\_1 to high, the user would do the following:

```
set 1120h to 80 01 00 01
```

### 6.3.6. Use Trigger\_Mode\_1 to control integration time

To see the effects of using Trigger\_Mode\_1 to control the camera shutter time:

1. Attach a function generator to the camera - negative to GND pin, positive to IO2.
2. Attach an oscilloscope to the camera (just to observe the signal and duty cycle) - ground the GND and signal lead to IO2.
3. Open the PGR FlyCapture SDK example program, FlyCap, and start the camera
4. Open the Camera Control Dialog box and go to the Extended tab
5. Enable External Trigger mode - the function generator's pulses should now be driving the external trigger
6. Enable Trigger\_Mode\_1 by writing 82 01 00 00 to register 830h
7. Use the function generator to increase and decrease the duty cycle. Decreasing the duty cycle increases the integration (shutter) time, and vice versa.

### 6.3.7. Externally trigger the camera into free-running mode

To externally trigger the Dragonfly into isochronous (continuous or free-running) mode:

1. Enable the external asynchronous trigger on IO0:

```
set register 1110h to 80 02 00 00
```

2. Set the last 8 bits in register 1104 to a value greater than zero - this represents the strobe divider. This allows you to extend the period of the strobe to ensure that the external trigger is re-armed in time. For example, if you have a large shutter time, the external trigger will not be re-armed by the time the strobe is finished, disrupting the free-running mode.

```
set register 1104h to 00 00 00 FF
```

3. Enable the physical trigger on IO2:

```
set register 1130h to 80 02 00 00
```

4. Set IO1 to generate a strobe pulse and wire IO1 to IO0:

```
set register 1120h to 80 03 00 00
```

5. Set the delay of the strobe to 100µs and duration of the strobe to 1ms:

```
set register 1124h to 13 33 C0 00
```

6. To fire the trigger (and thereby start free-running) short GND to IO2.

Once the trigger is fired, a square wave of duration 1ms being generated by IO1 should be observable by oscilloscope, indicating that the camera is in free-running mode.

## **7. Errata and Change Notifications**

This errata and product change notifications section lists significant changes to the Dragonfly hardware and electrical components that have been implemented since the last release of the Dragonfly Technical Reference. For a summary of all firmware changes, please consult the Dragonfly Firmware Release Notes.

### **7.1. Extended Head Dragonfly Ribbon Cables**

#### **7.1.1. Affected Cameras**

All extended head Dragonfly and Firefly cameras with serial numbers greater than 3100183.

#### **7.1.2. Errata Description**

The extended head Dragonfly and Firefly cameras will use a more flexible cable. This modification will occur starting with cameras shipped on and after March 17th. All extended head Dragonfly and Firefly cameras with serial numbers greater than 3100183 will have this modification.

The new cable is electronically identical to the previous cable and should not cause any issues in installation. Aside from being more flexible, the new cable is of light blue color, as opposed to the white color of the old cable.

### **7.2. New Image Sensors**

#### **7.2.1. Affected Cameras**

Some (but not all – see Errata Description below) Dragonfly cameras shipped as of early 2003.

#### **7.2.2. Errata Description**

In 2003 Sony discontinued production of the Sony ICX084AL and ICX084AK CCD image sensors, and replaced them with the Sony ICX424AL and ICX424AK sensors. These sensors are effectively equivalent – datasheets can be found at <http://www.ptgrey.com/support/kb/details.asp?id=23>.

Starting in early 2003, some (but not all) Dragonfly cameras began shipping with the new ICX424 model sensors. Once Point Grey Research's supplies of ICX084 sensors are completely depleted, all 640x480 Dragonfly cameras will ship with the new ICX424 sensors. To determine which of these two sensor models is used on your camera, contact Technical Support via our web form at <http://www.ptgrey.com/support/contact> and reference "ICX084 or ICX424 on my camera S/N XXXXXXXX" (where X is your serial number) in the subject line.

## 7.3. Identifying a Camera That Supports Four GPIO Pins

### 7.3.1. Affected Cameras

All Dragonfly cameras with firmware 2.1.1.12 and later and printed circuit board (PCB) V1.3

### 7.3.2. Errata Description

Recent versions of Dragonfly firmware (2.1.1.12 and later) implement support for four, instead of only three, GPIO pins. However, the camera itself must electrically implement this GPIO pin. To determine if a specific Dragonfly camera support four GPIO pins, look at the sensor side of the printed circuit board. If the board version is V1.3 and there are 4 transistors at the location noted in the diagram below, the camera supports 4 GPIO pins.

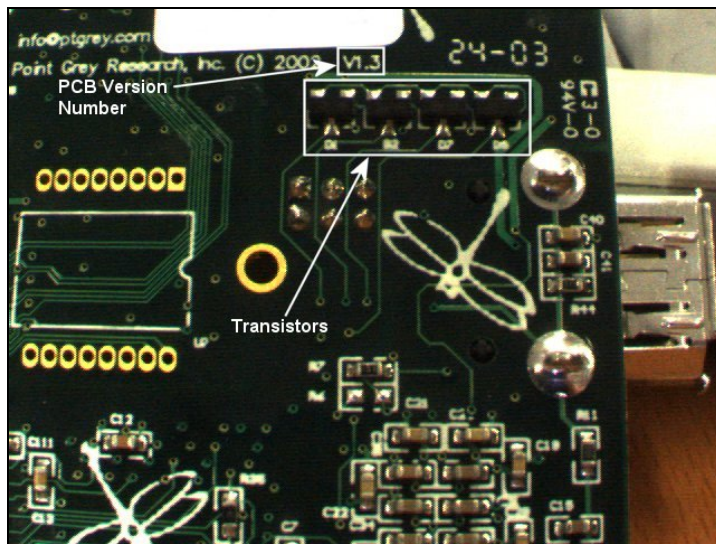


Figure 23: Dragonfly that implements four GPIO pins

## 8. Technical Support Resources

Point Grey Research Inc. endeavours to provide the highest level of technical support possible to our customers. Most support resources can be accessed through the Product Support section of our website: <http://www.ptgrey.com/support>.

### 8.1. Creating a Customer Login Account

The first step in accessing our technical support resources is to obtain a Customer Login Account. This requires a valid name, e-mail address, and camera serial number. To apply for a Customer Login Account go to: [http://www.ptgrey.com/support/downloads/user\\_request.html](http://www.ptgrey.com/support/downloads/user_request.html).

### 8.2. Knowledge Base

Our on-line knowledge base contains answers to some of the most common support questions. It has information about all PGR products and was developed to help customers resolve product issues. It is constantly updated, expanded, and refined to ensure that our customers have access to the latest information. To access the knowledge base, go to: <http://www.ptgrey.com/support/kb/>.

### 8.3. Product Downloads

Customers with a Customer Login Account can access the latest software and firmware for their cameras from our downloads site at <http://www.ptgrey.com/support/downloads>. We encourage our customers to keep their software and firmware up-to-date by downloading and installing the latest versions. These versions include the latest bug fixes and feature enhancements.

### 8.4. Contacting Technical Support

Before contacting Technical Support, have you:

1. *Read the product documentation and user manual?*
2. *Searched the Knowledge Base?*
3. *Downloaded and installed the latest version of software and/or firmware?*

If you have done all the above and still can't find an answer to your question, contact our Technical Support team using our on-line web form: <http://www.ptgrey.com/support/contact/>. This will create a ticket in our Request Tracker support system, and a Technical Support representative will contact you by e-mail within one (1) business day.

## 9. Contacting Point Grey Research Inc.

For any questions, concerns or comments please contact us via the following methods:

**Email:**

For all general questions about Point Grey Research or our products contact  
[info@ptgrey.com](mailto:info@ptgrey.com).

For all specific questions about our products or for quotes or product pricing contact  
[sales@ptgrey.com](mailto:sales@ptgrey.com).

For technical support (existing customers only) please consult the *Technical Support Resources* section of this manual.

**Telephone:**

(604) 242-9937

Toll Free (N. America only): (866) 765-0827

**Fax:**

(604) 242-9938

**Mail:**

Point Grey Research, Inc.  
12051 Riverside Way  
Richmond, BC  
V6W 1K7 CANADA

Or, visit our webpage <http://www.ptgrey.com> for detailed product information and support.

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