Lock-in Amplifier

Moku:Go User Manual

The Moku:Go digital Lock-in Amplifier supports dual-phase demodulation (XY/Rθ) from DC to 20 MHz. It features an integrated 2-channel oscilloscope and data logger, enabling you to observe signals at up to 125 MSa/s and log data at up to 1 MSa/s. You can also place a PID controller after the demodulation stage for phase-locked loop applications.

V23-0126

Table of contents

Ensure Moku:Go is fully updated. For the latest information:

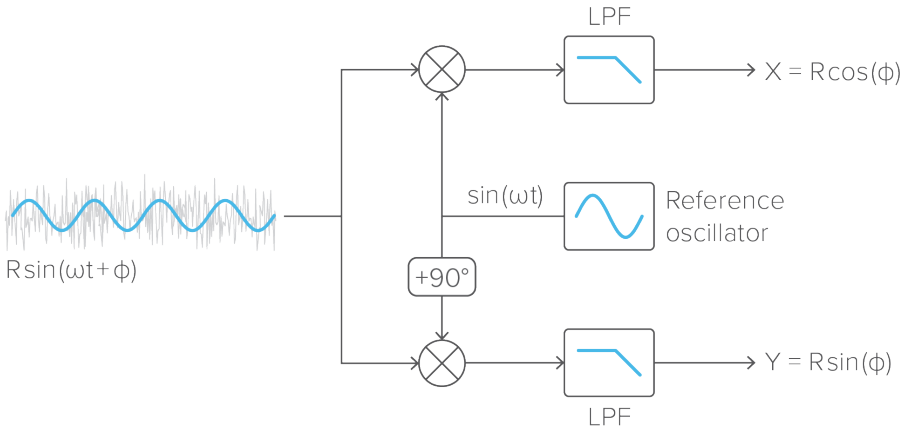
liquidinstruments.com

Introduction

Lock-in amplifiers are extremely versatile instruments used primarily to recover the magnitude and phase of weak oscillating signals in the presence of overwhelming noise. They are used in a vast range of applications including atomic physics, radio-frequency engineering, materials science, precision laser metrology, and many more.

Principle of operation

Lock-in amplifiers work by demodulating an input signal $R\sin(\omega t + \phi)$ with a reference signal $\sin(\omega t)$.



The demodulation process produces two spectral components: an up-shifted signal with a frequency equal to the sum of the input and reference signals, and a down-shifted signal with a frequency equal to the difference of the input and reference signals.

If the input and reference signals have the same frequency ω, then the down-shifted component will appear at DC, whereas the up-shifted component will appear at twice the input frequency with additive phase.

The Lock-in Amplifier uses a lowpass filter to attenuate the up-shifted signal and to suppress noise. The output of the filter is proportional to the amplitude of the input signal scaled by the cosine of the phase difference: $R\cos(\phi)$. In order to reconstruct the magnitude and phase of the input signal, it is necessary to demodulate it with two orthogonal references, sine and cosine, to produce in-phase (X) and quadrature (Y) components relative to the reference. This process is referred to as dual-phase demodulation and is a standard feature of all modern lock-in amplifiers.

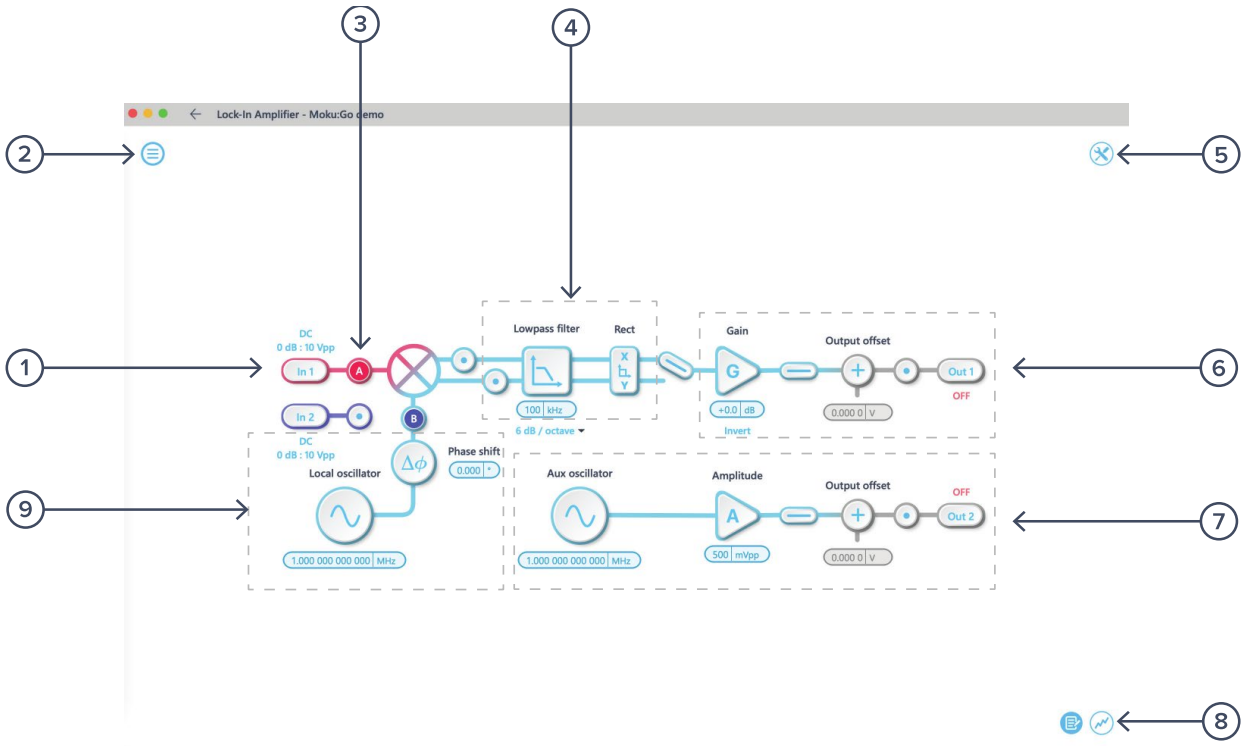
With X and Y, the magnitude R and phase ϕ can be calculated as

$$R = \sqrt{X^2 + Y^2}$$

and

$$\phi = \tan^{-1}(Y/X).$$

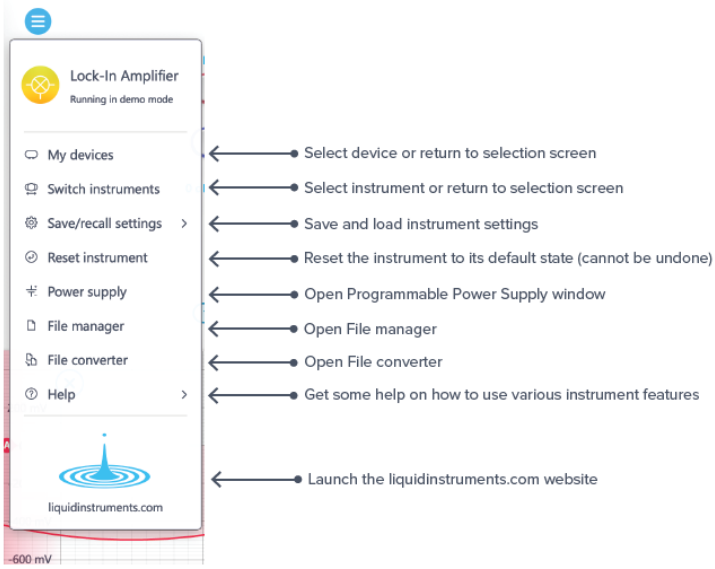
User interface



ID	Description	ID	Description
1	Input settings	6	Channel 1 output
2	Main menu	7	Channel 2 output
3	Probe point	8	Oscilloscope/Data Logger
4	Filter settings	9	Reference oscillator
5	Advanced configuration menu		

Main menu

The **main menu** can be accessed by clicking the icon, allowing you to:



This menu provides the following options:

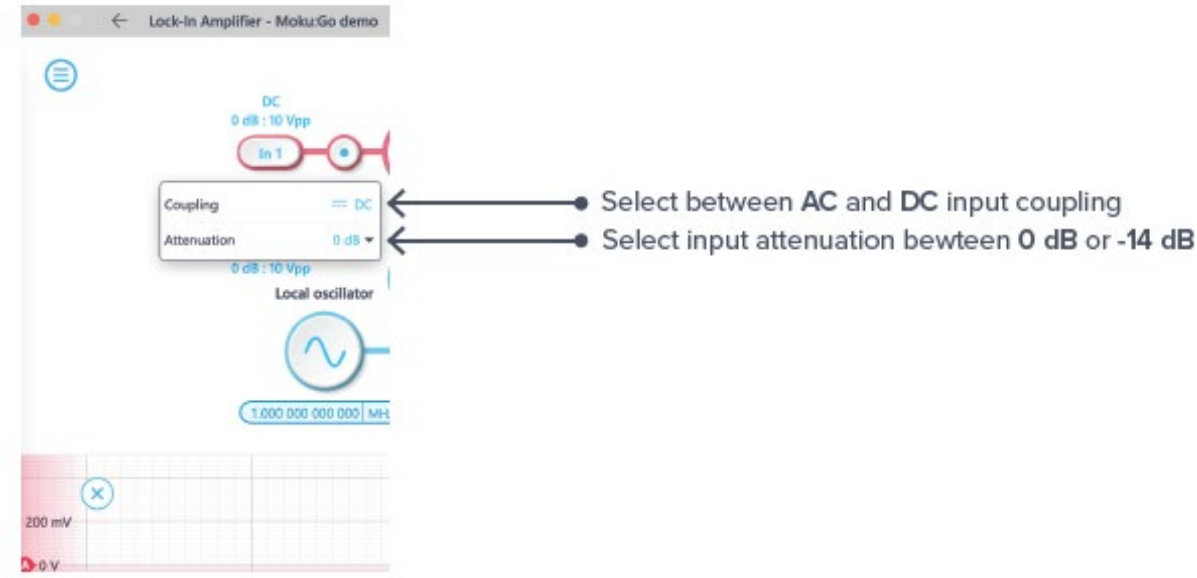
Options	Shortcuts	Description
My devices		Return to device selection.
Switch instruments		Switch to another instrument.
Save/recall settings:		
• **Save instrument state**	Ctrl/Cmd+S	Save the current instrument settings.
• **Load instrument state**	Ctrl/Cmd+O	Load the last saved instrument settings.
• **Show current sate**		Show the current instrument settings.
Reset instrument	Ctrl/Cmd+R	Reset the instrument to its default state.
Power supply		Access the Power Supply control window.*
File manager		Open the File Manager tool.**
File converter		Open the File Converter tool.**
Help		
• **Liquid Instruments website**		Access the Liquid Instruments website.
• **Shortcuts list**	Ctrl/Cmd+H	Show the Moku:Go app shortcuts list.
• **Manual**	F1	Access the instrument manual.
• **Report an issue**		Report a bug to Liquid Instruments.
• **About**		Show app version, check update, or license information.

*Power Supply is available on the Moku:Go M1 and M2 models. Detailed information about the Power Supply can be found on page **Error! Bookmark not defined.** of this user manual.

Detailed information about the file manager and file converter can be found on page **Error! Bookmark not defined. of this user manual.

Signal input

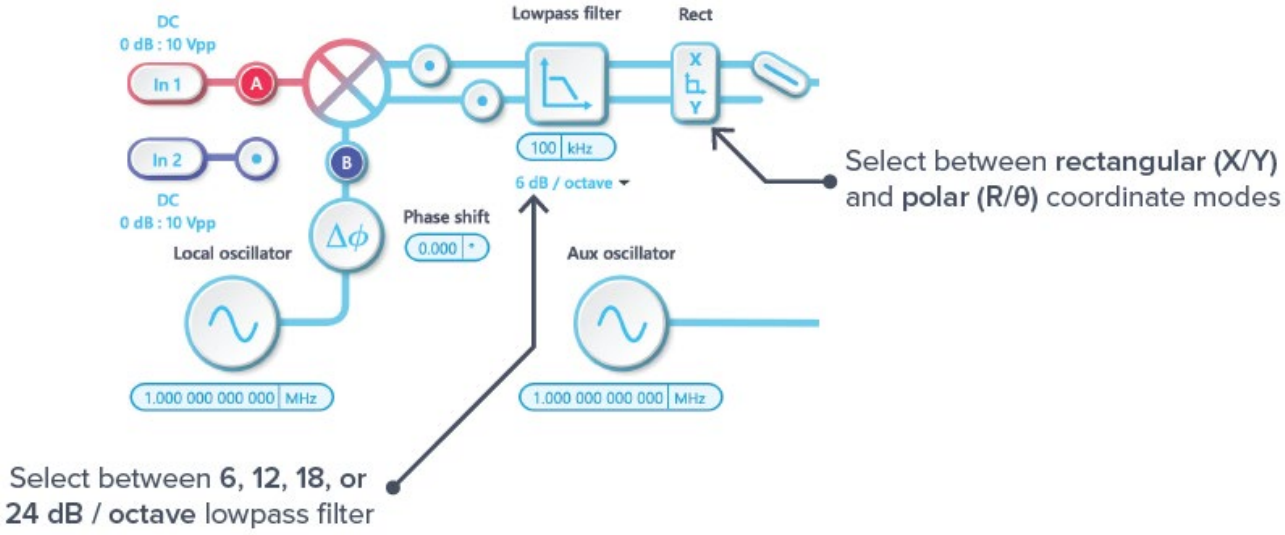
Click the In 1 icon to configure the input settings for the signal input.



Dual-phase demodulator

The Moku:Go Lock-in Amplifier features a dual-phase demodulator with cascaded single-pole lowpass filters to attenuate the second harmonic and suppress noise in the in-phase and quadrature components.

- Select between **6, 12, 18, or 24 dB / octave** lowpass filter slopes.
- Select between rectangular (X/Y) and polar (R/θ) coordinate modes.
- View the demodulated in-phase and quadrature signals prior to the lowpass filters using probe points.
- Select which demodulated signal to route to the output. Note: your options depend on how the Lock-in Amplifier is configured.



Rectangular (or Cartesian) coordinate mode measures the input signal with respect to a specific quadrature of the reference signal. When combined with a PID controller, Cartesian mode can be used to perform laser frequency stabilization.

Polar coordinate mode measures the amplitude and phase of the input signal with respect to the reference signal. Polar mode is not available when using external references in straight-through mode due to the lack of a quadrature demodulation signal.

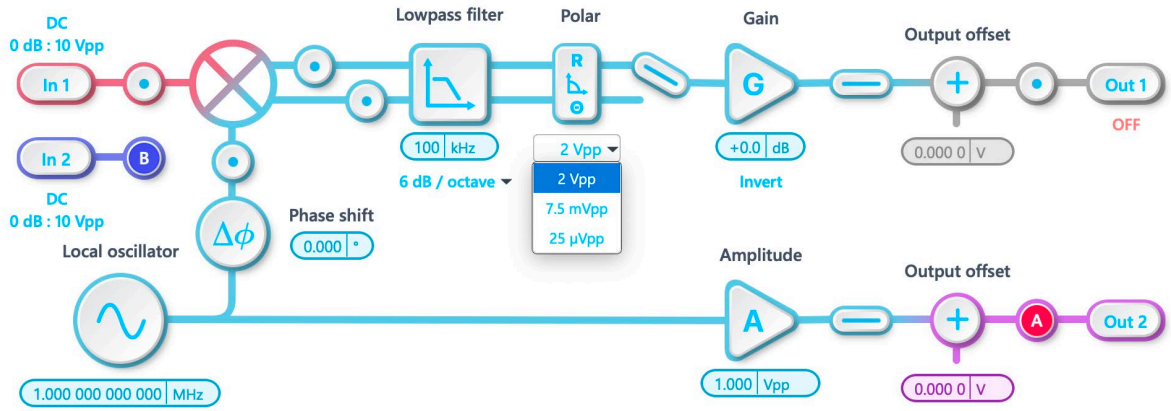
Filter bandwidth and time constant

The filter bandwidth and time constant are equivalent representations for the width of the filter passband. They can be converted using the following equation:

$$Time\ Constant = \frac{1}{2\pi \times Filter\ Bandwidth}$$

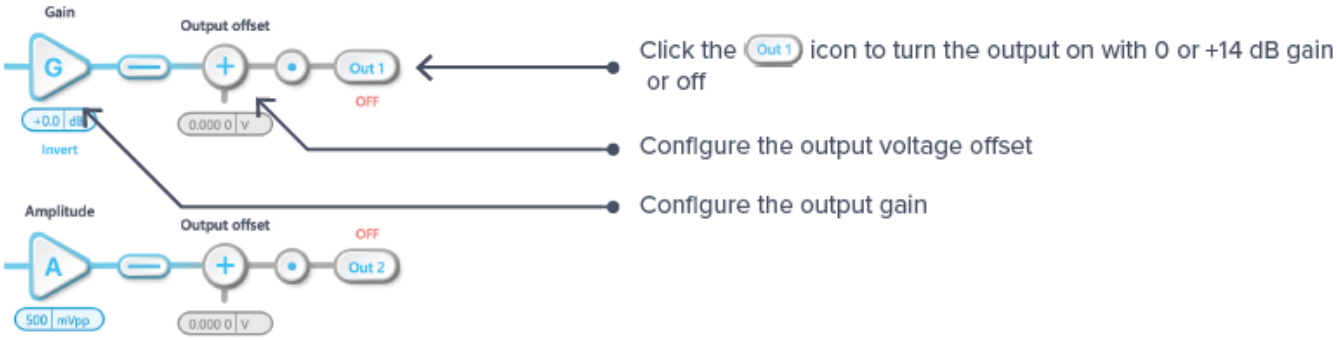
Rectangular-to-polar conversion range

In polar mode, the rectangular-to-polar conversion range allows you to select the signal processing range for optimized system performance. Three ranges are available: 2 V_{pp}, 7.5 mV_{pp}, and 25 μV_{pp}. You should use the smallest range that can accommodate your signal without saturating. For example, if the measured signal has an amplitude of 1 mVpp, the 7.5 mV would be the most suitable range; if a signal has an amplitude of 1 Vpp, the 2 Vpp range would be the ideal range.



Outputs

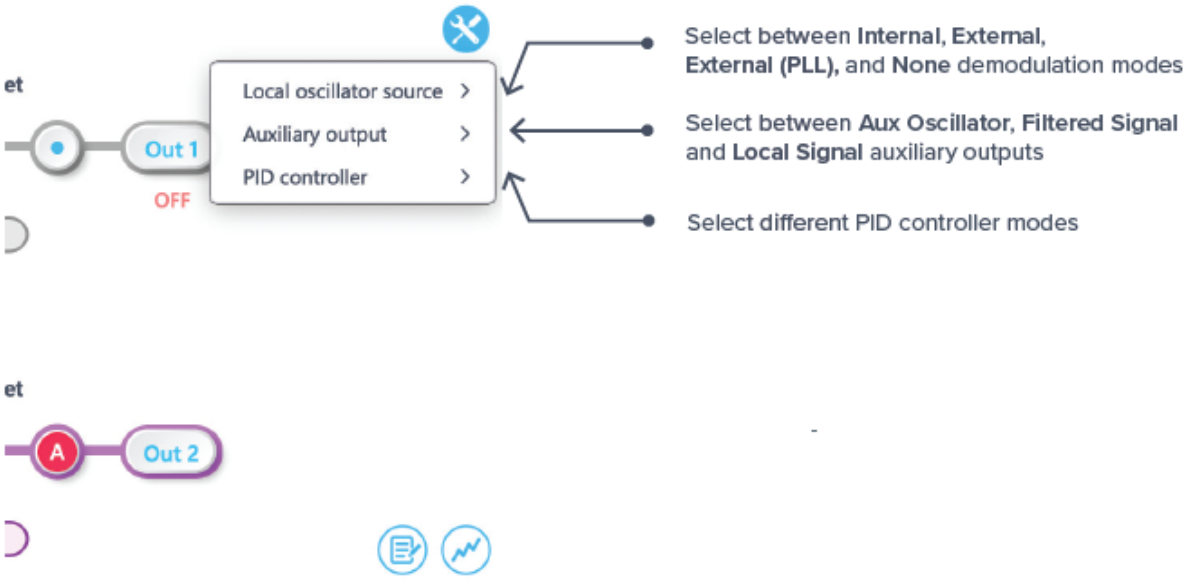
Configure the gain and voltage offset of the two output channels. Enable or disable either output channel by clicking the Out 1 and Out 2 icons. View the signal at the output of each channel using the probe points. .



Advanced configuration

You can rapidly reconfigure the Lock-in Amplifier's digital signal processing layout to suit different applications. Access the advanced configuration menu using the icon at the top right corner of the interface.

- Select between internal, external (straight-through), or external (phase-locked) demodulation references. Alternatively, you can bypass the demodulation by selecting "none."
- Configure the auxiliary output to generate an independent aux oscillator with adjustable frequency and amplitude, the second output from the demodulator (e.g., generate voltage signals proportional to R and θ from outputs 1 and 2, respectively), or the local oscillator (available in internal demodulation mode only).
- A PID controller can be added to the main output (channel 1) or the auxiliary output (only available when generating a second filtered signal from the auxiliary output).



Demodulation

The demodulation mode determines which reference signal is used to demodulate the input signal.

Internal

The input signal can be demodulated with an internally generated reference signal. This local oscillator is derived from the Moku:Go internal clock and thus shares the same time base. The frequency range of the internal reference is 1 mHz to 20 MHz.

External (direct)

The input signal can be demodulated by a direct external reference, permitting the use of non-sinusoidal demodulation of the input signal. This can be used to measure correlation or to recover specific components of complex input signals.

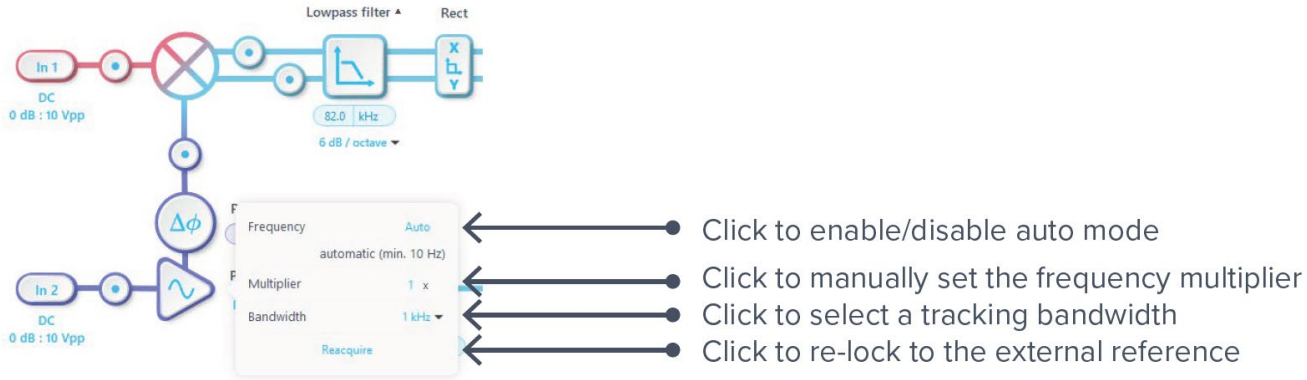
The arbitrary nature of direct external reference signals means that they cannot be used to perform dual-phase (orthogonal) demodulation of the input signal. This prevents external (direct) demodulation mode from be used to measure Y, R, and θ since only one quadrature can be interrogated.

External (PLL)

Perform dual-phase demodulation of the input signal with an external reference using phase-locked external reference mode, which constructs two orthogonal reference signals phase-locked to the external reference. This mode uses a digitally implemented phase-locked loop to track the phase of the external reference with a user-selectable bandwidth, allowing it to generate phase-locked in-phase and quadrature sinusoids at the same frequency with adjustable phase.

External (PLL) mode enables the Lock-in Amplifier to recover information in all quadrants (X/Y and R/θ) without requiring Moku:Go to share the same source clock as the external system.

The phase-locked loop will automatically lock to the strongest harmonic of the external reference in the range of 10 Hz to 20 MHz in auto mode. You can manually enter tracking frequencies between 10 Hz and 20 MHz. The PLL can be frequency multiplied up to 250x or divided down to 1/8th for use as local oscillator. The minimum multiplier step size is 1/8th. The reacquire button can be used to relock to the external reference.



None

Bypass the demodulation step by selecting “none.” This enables modulation-free locking techniques such as DC locking, fringe-side locking, and tilt locking.

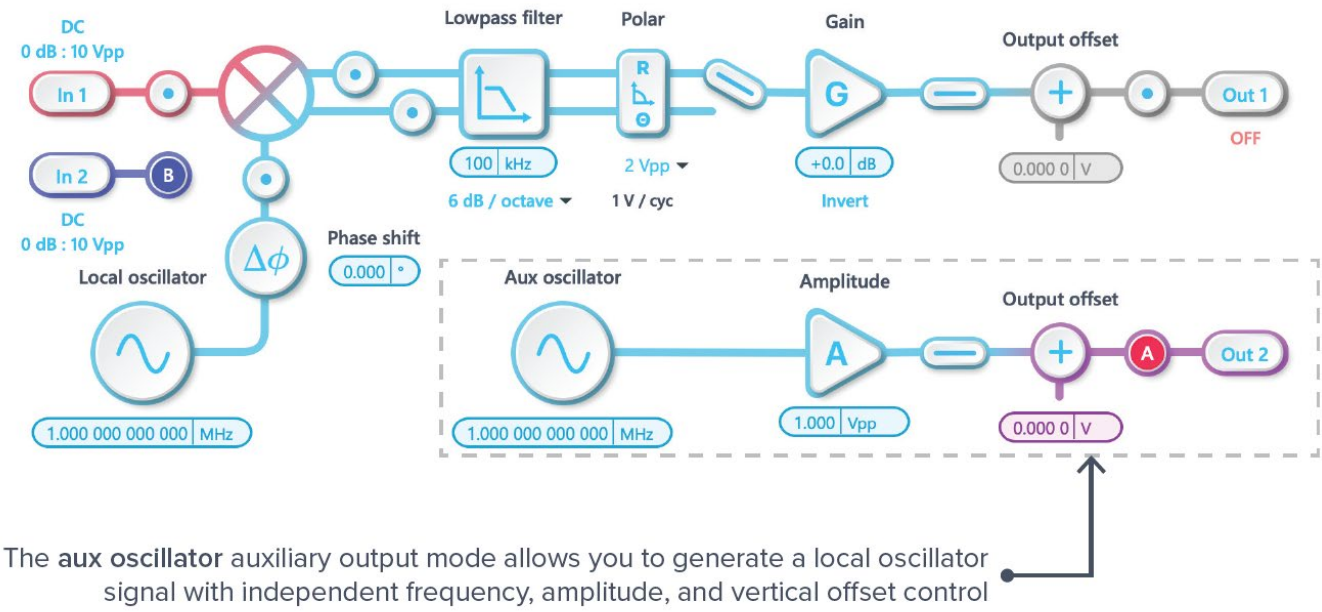
Auxiliary output

The Moku:Go Lock-in Amplifier's second output can be configured to generate an additional auxiliary voltage signal.

Aux oscillator

Aux oscillator mode allows you to generate a sinusoidal signal with independently configurable frequency, amplitude, and voltage offset. The frequency can be adjusted from 1 mHz to 20 MHz and the amplitude range (amplitude + offset) is 5 V_{pp} with a 1 mV resolution.

The generated waveform shares the same time base as the rest of the instrument. When used with internal demodulation, this mode can be used to stimulate a system at one frequency and demodulate at a different frequency; for example, in wavelength modulation spectroscopy where it is necessary to demodulate harmonics of the input signal.

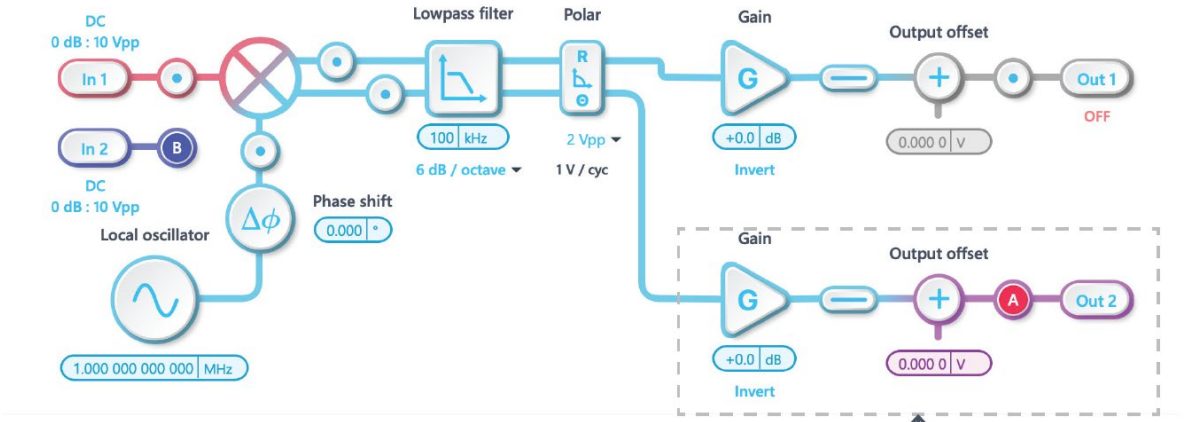


The **aux oscillator** auxiliary output mode allows you to generate a local oscillator signal with independent frequency, amplitude, and vertical offset control

Filtered signal

The second output of the dual-phase demodulator can be routed to the Moku:Go Lock-in Amplifier's second output channel to produce a voltage signal proportional to Y or θ.

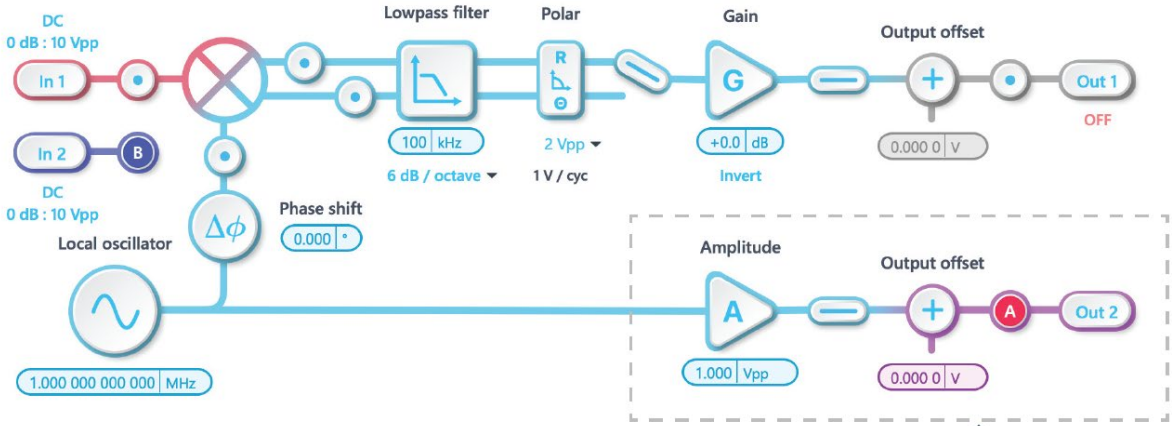
Use this mode to record both in-phase and quadrature at the same time using probe points.



The **filtered signal** auxiliary output mode generates a second voltage signal proportional to the second low pass filtered output of the demodulator

Local oscillator

The internal reference used to demodulate the input signal can be used to generate a sinusoidal waveform at the same frequency with configurable amplitude and voltage offset.



The **local oscillator** auxiliary output mode will generate a local oscillator at the same frequency as the demodulation waveform with full amplitude and vertical offset control

PID Controller

The Moku:Go Lock-In Amplifier can be used to control an external system by acting as both a sensor and controller using a dedicated PID controller. The PID controller's frequency dependent gain can be easily configured to satisfy the stability requirements of the control system.

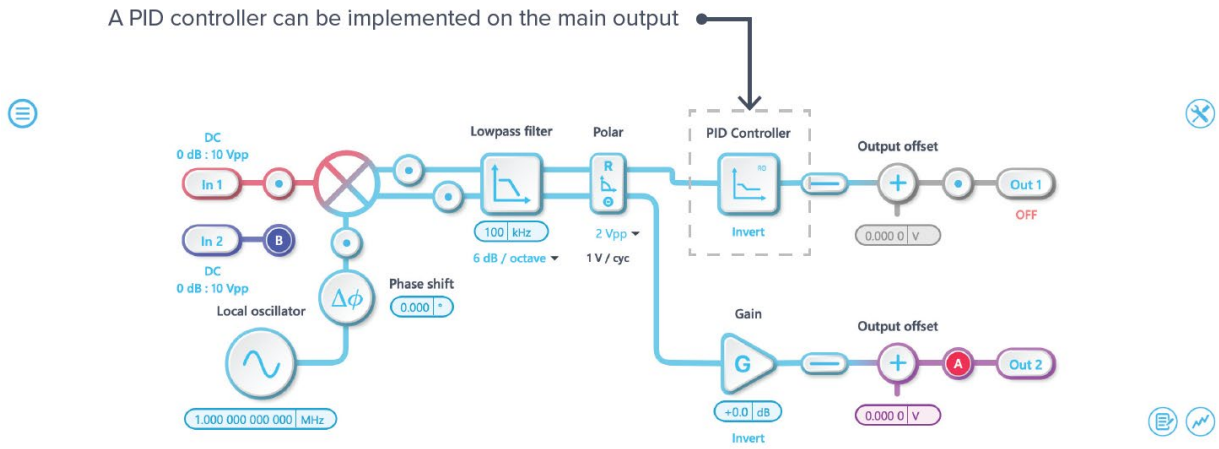
Note: The Lock-in Amplifier can only implement a single PID controller at a time. This means that when the instrument's auxiliary output is configured to generate a voltage signal proportional to the Y or θ, the PID controller can be used on either X/R or Y/θ, but not both.

Off

Turns off the full PID controller. You can still configure a flat gain.

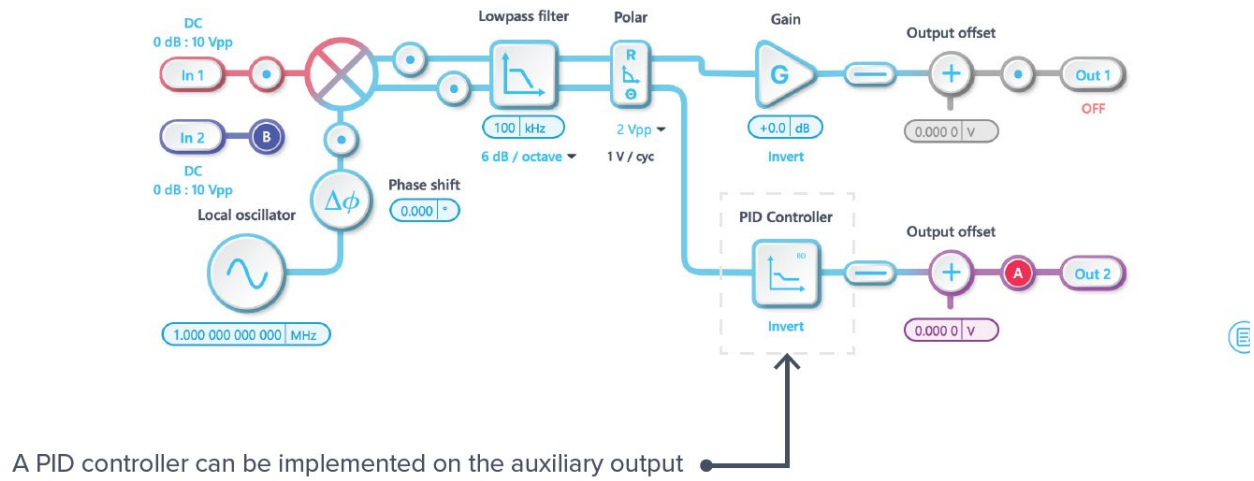
Main output

Adds a PID controller to the main output.



Auxiliary output

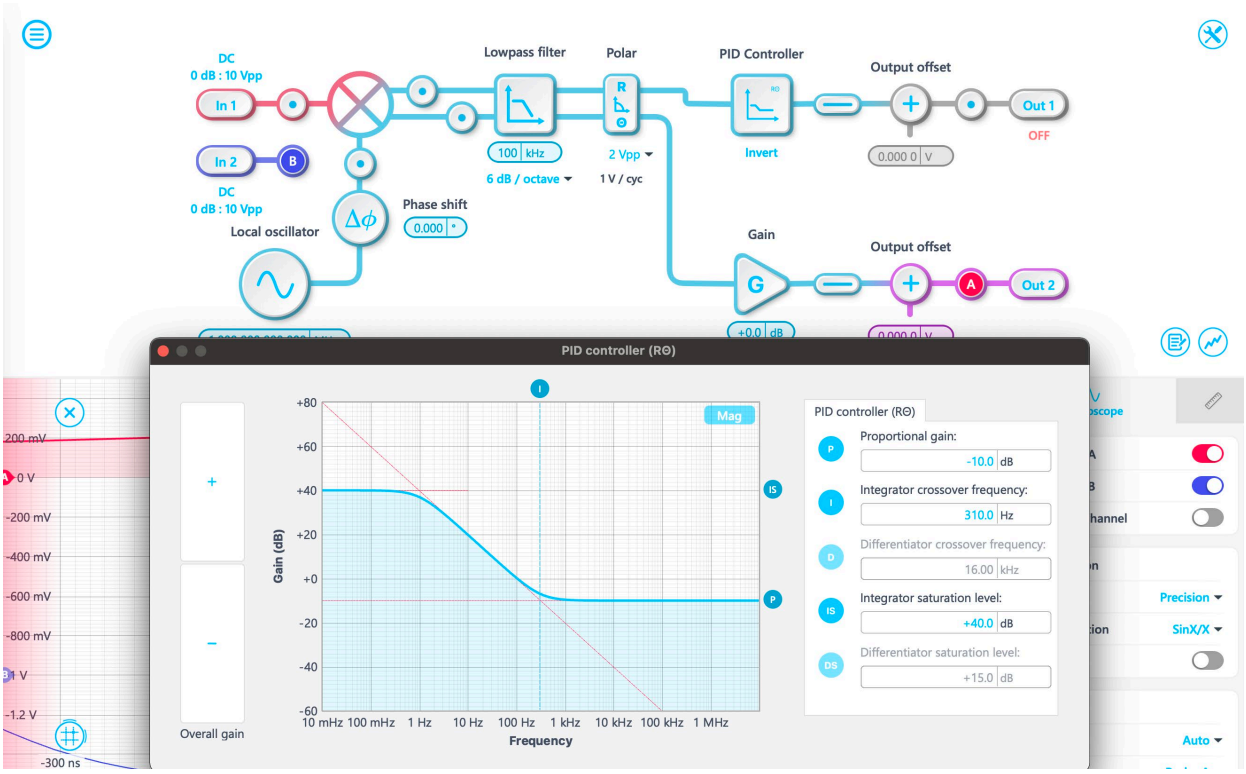
Adds a PID controller to the auxiliary output.



PID Controller

The PID Controller provides full control over proportional, integral, and derivative gain profiles with saturation levels available for the integral and derivative controllers. The PID's transfer function is updated in real time.

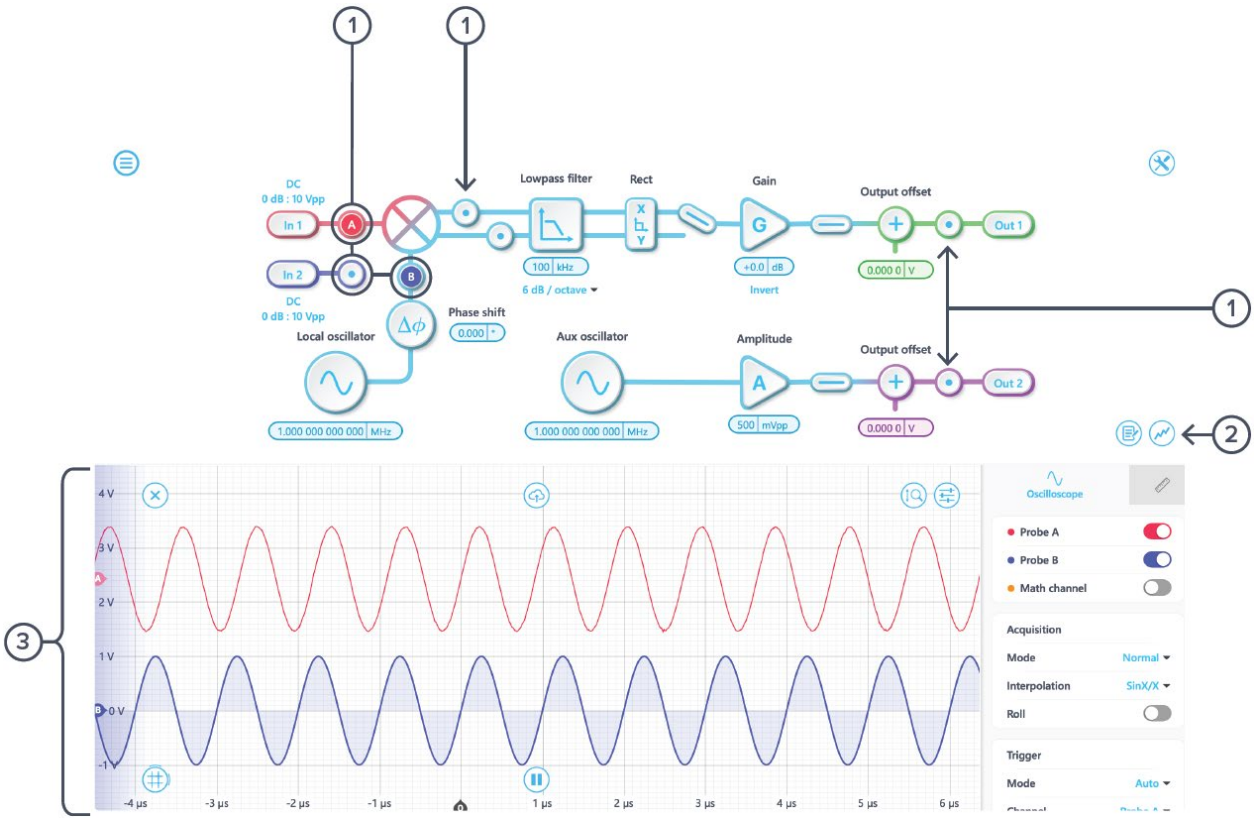
The gain of each control stage can be adjusted individually. The following example shows a proportional-plus-integral controller with a unity gain crossover frequency at 310 Hz. It is possible to maintain this crossover frequency with the proportional gain by using the **overall gain** control on the left of the PID Controller window, which will shift the entire gain profile up and down. Find more details about the PID controller in the Moku:Go PID Controller manual.



Probe points

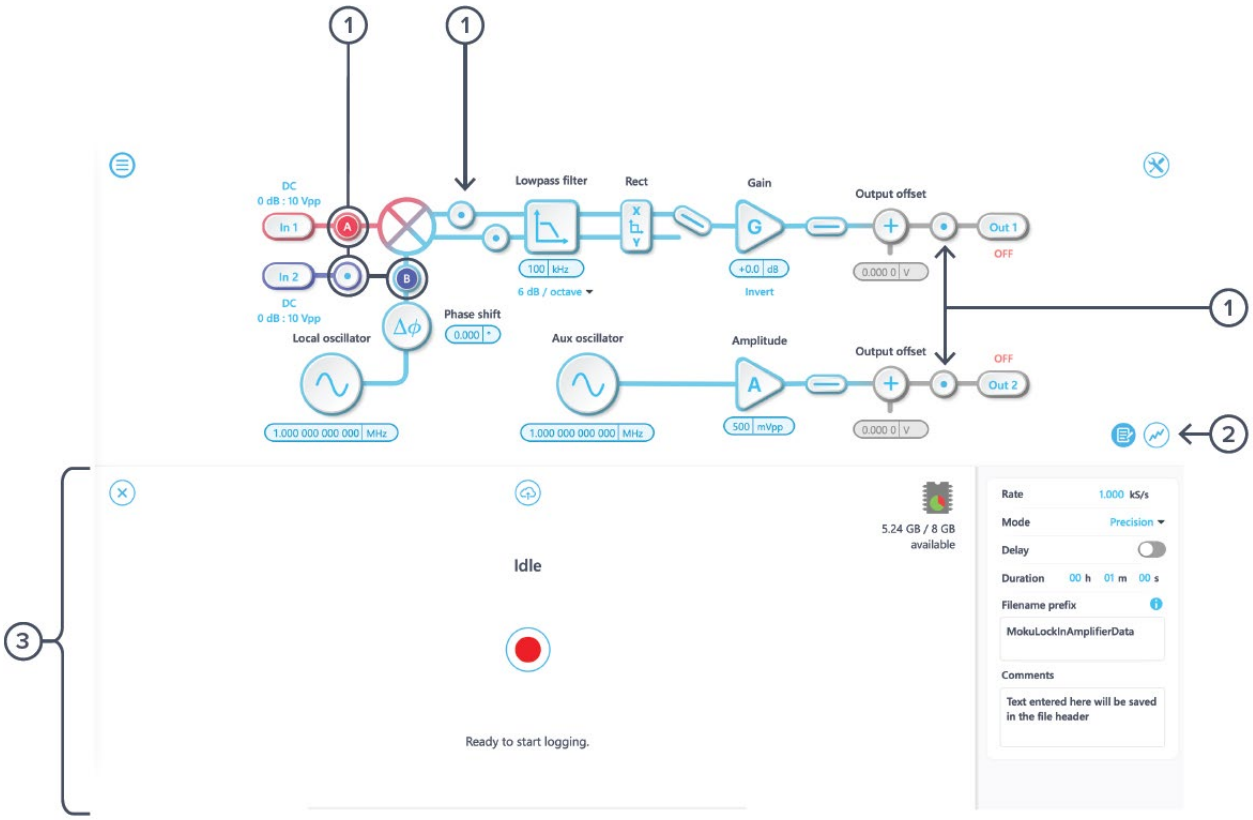
The Moku:Go Lock-in Amplifier has an integrated oscilloscope and data logger that enable probing the signal at various stages of the demodulation process. Add the probe points by clicking the icon. Add up to four probe points to monitor or log data.

Oscilloscope



ID	Parameter	Description
1	Probe points	Click to place the probe point. You can enable up to two probe points at a time.
2	Oscilloscope/Data Logger toggle	Toggle between built-in Oscilloscope or Data Logger.
3	Oscilloscope	Refer to the **Moku:Go Oscilloscope** manual for the details.

Data Logger



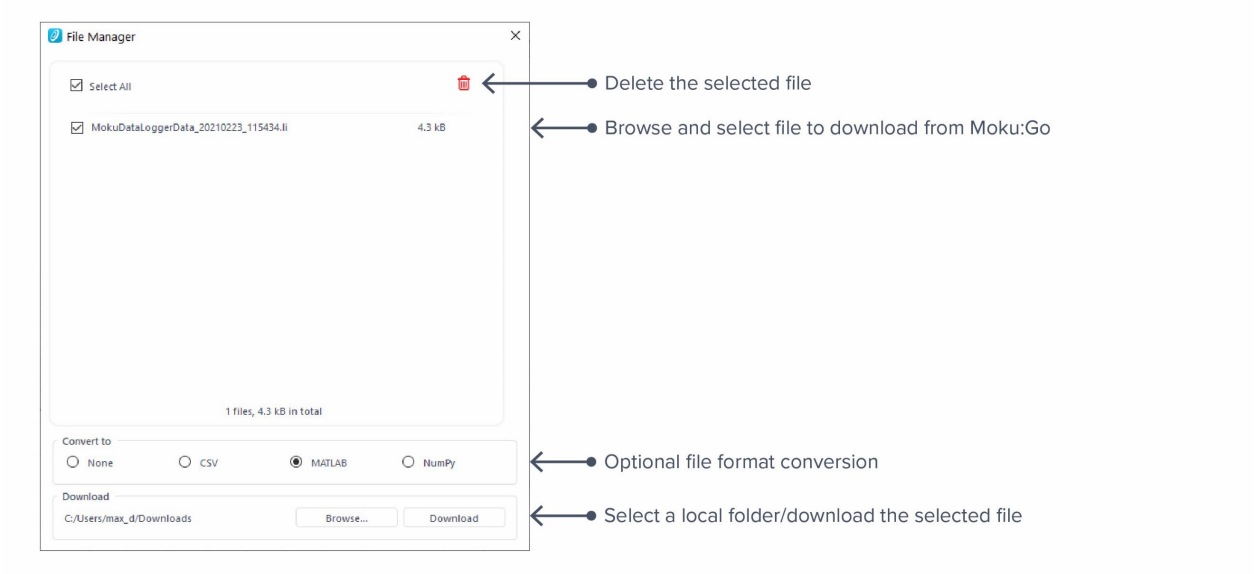
ID	Parameter	Description
1	Probe points	Click to place the probe point. You can enable up to two probe points at a time.
2	Oscilloscope/data logger toggle	Toggle between the built-in Oscilloscope or Data Logger.
3	Data Logger	Refer to the Moku:Go Data Logger manual for the details.

The embedded Data Logger can stream over a network or save data on Moku:Go. For details, refer to the Data Logger user manual. More streaming information is in our API documents at apis.liquidinstruments.com

Additional tools

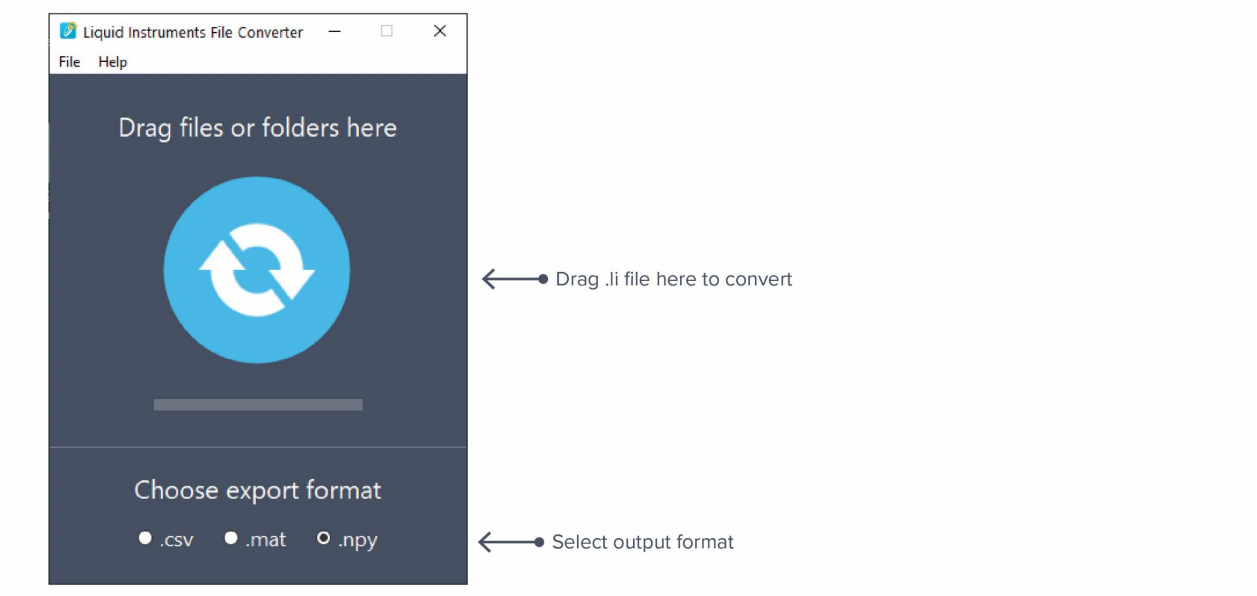
The Moku:Go app has two built-in file management tools: File Manager and File Converter. The file manager allows users to download the saved data from Moku:Go to a local computer, with optional file format conversion. The File Converter converts the Moku:Go binary (.li) format on the local computer to either .csv, .mat, or .npy format.

File Manager



Once a file is transferred to the local computer, a icon shows up next to the file.

File Converter



The converted file is saved in the same folder as the original file.

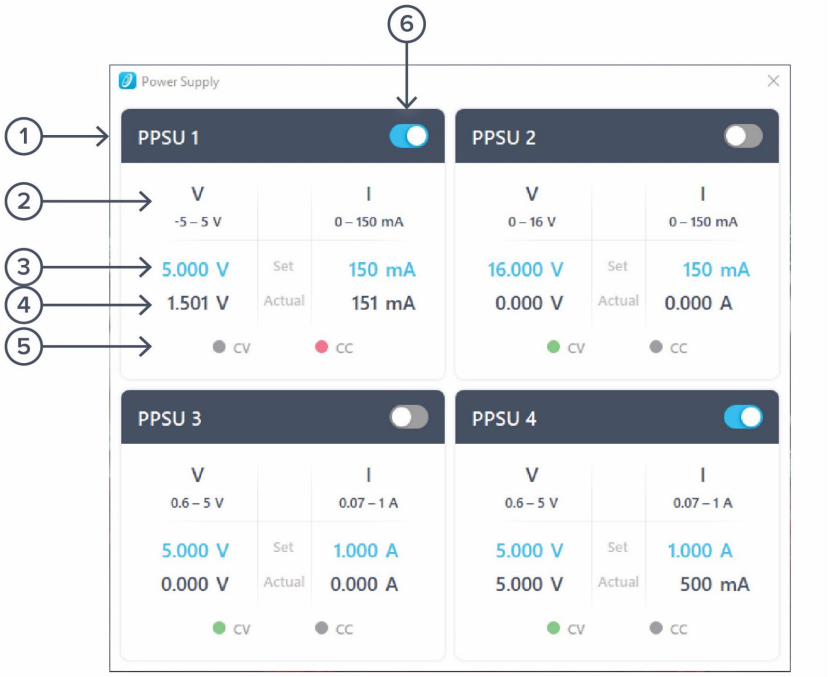
The Liquid Instruments File Converter has the following menu options:

Options	Shortcut	Description
File		
• **Open file**	Ctrl/Cmd+O	Select a .li file to convert.
• **Open folder**	Ctrl/Cmd+Shift+O	Select a folder to convert.
• **Exit**		Close the file converter window.
Help		
• **Liquid Instruments website**		Access the Liquid Instruments website.
• **Report an issue**		Report a bug to Liquid Instruments.
• **About**		Show app version or license information.

Power Supply

The Moku:Go Power Supply is available on M1 and M2 models. M1 features a two-channel Power Supply, while M2 features a four-channel Power Supply. The Power Supply control window can be accessed in all instruments under the main menu.

Each Power Supply operates in two modes: **constant voltage (CV)** or **constant current (CC)** mode. For each channel, you can set a current and voltage limit for the output. Once a load is connected, the Power Supply operates either at the set current or set voltage, whichever comes first. If the Power Supply is voltage limited, it operates in the CV mode. If the Power Supply is current limited, it operates in the CC mode.



ID	Function	Description
1	Channel name	Identifies the power supply being controlled.
2	Channel range	Indicates the voltage/current range of the channel.
3	Set value	Click the blue numbers to set the voltage and current limit.
4	Readback numbers	Voltage and current readback from the power supply, the actual voltage, and current being supplied to the external load.
5	Mode indicator	Indicates if the power supply is in CV (green) or CC (red) mode.
6	On/Off Toggle	Click to turn the power supply on and off.

Ensure Moku:Go is fully updated. For the latest information:

liquidinstruments.com