PackRF Deployed Design

We will now be moving onto the PackRF hardware and the modem design which has been deployed to it. The SD cards have been prepared and configured with the Modem design built from MATLAB and Simulink. To prepare to operate these devices make sure that an Ethernet cable is plugged into one device, the JTAG connected is connected to the second PackRF, and both have power. The JTAG connector for reference is shown in Figure 1, and connects to the ribbon cable from the PackRF box.



Figure 1

Once both devices are connected and have power, turn them on using their silver power button. It will take ~10 seconds for the RFSOMs to boot and a menu will appear on the small LCD screens. By default, the modem in each PackRF is not started or configured. Since each modem is half of a link they must be configured in a pair. We will go through this process of manually accessing the radios and enabling the modems. Then we will perform this configuration through the GUI on the PackRF itself.

Setting Static IP Before Connecting

Before we cannot to one of the PackRF devices over Ethernet, we need to configure the device to use a static IP address. On the device itself, by using the scroll wheel, navigate to Network, and deselect "Automatic DHCP Client". Then choose an IP address of 192.168.3.2.



Now we can talk to the first PackRF directly over Ethernet.

Just another IIO Device

Since the PackRF and software infrastructure was built using the ADI software/hardware infrastructure, we are still able to access the device as we did Pluto with IIO-Scope. *Launch the IIO-Scope application from Lab 1 and connect to the PackRF attached through Ethernet.* You must use the "Remote Devices (network)" context now since the device is connected over Ethernet, as shown in Figure 2.

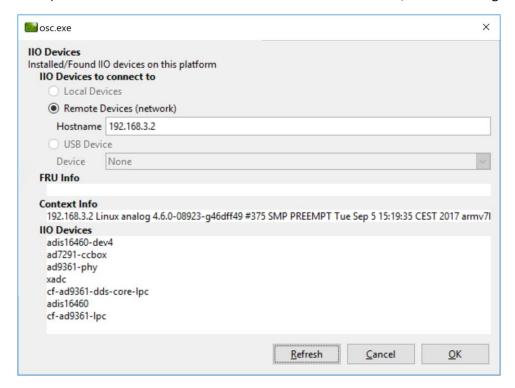


Figure 2

After connecting, click on the IIO-Scope main panel (not the plot) and select the DMM tab as shown in Figure 3. You will observe four devices, most of which are related to the AD936X chip as in Pluto. However, there is an additional entry ADIS16460 which is for the gyroscope inside the PackRF. Since this is an ADI gyroscope and we maintain IIO drivers for the device it also appears in IIO-Scope automatically. Select the "adis16460" from the Device menu and click on the Play/Pause button

to start collecting data from the gyroscope.

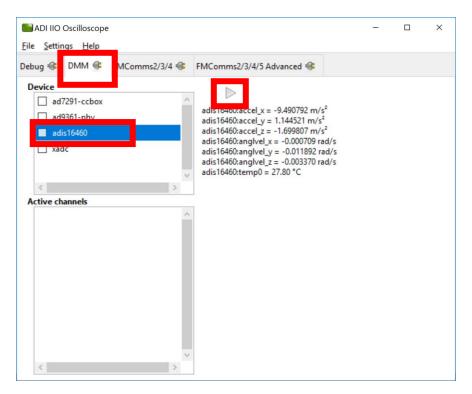


Figure 3

Once running pick up the PackRF and rotate the box. You should observe out measurement change with your movement. The gyro inside the PackRF is military grade and very robust to shock. You can also observe this data in the Capture window as previously in Lab 1. Select the channels of interest as shown in Figure 4 and press the play button to view live data from the sensor.

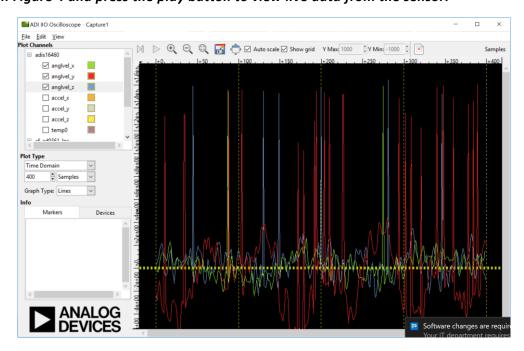


Figure 4

This demonstrates the usefulness and wide spread usages of IIO software for all different devices.

Next, we will look at streaming data from the AD9361 as previously with Pluto. For the FPGA design for this implementation a second set of DMAs were added so IIO-Scope could be used to monitor input data to the transceiver while the Modem design passed data back through the first DMA. Also, using an added mux IQ data can be passed directly to the AD9361 IP Core. The data paths are outlined in Figure 5. This allows a simple debugging option where signal injection can easily be performed through the libiio interface.

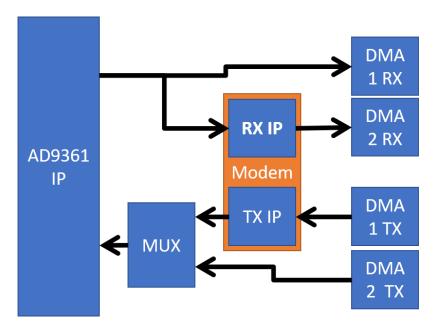


Figure 5

To add these additional DMAs required some work in Vivado, but this provided an easy mechanism for debug outside of Vivado eventually.

We will first test this by moving to the FMComms2/3/4 tab. *Move to the FMComms2/3/4 tab on the top bar, as marked by Figure 6. Also, make the transmit and receive LO identical at 900 MHz so we can see what we are transmitting. Finally, make sure the sample rates are set to 20MHz.* By default, the mux in the FPGA should be configured to use the directly connected DMA interface.

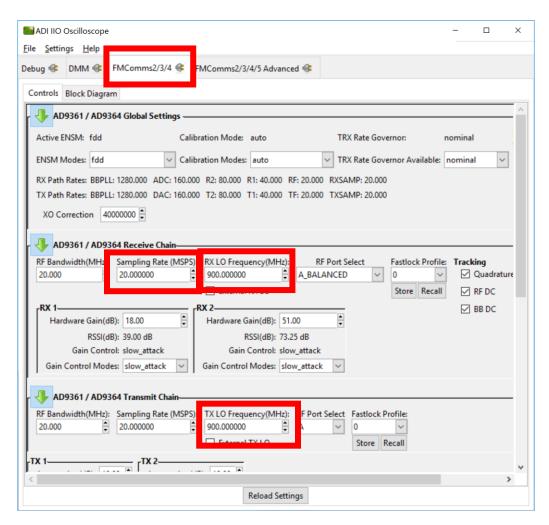


Figure 6

Now, scroll down to the "FPGA Settings" and enabled the "One CW Tone" setting from the "DDS Mode". Next, as outlined in Figure 7, in the "Single Tone" settings update the frequency and scale. This will start transmitting a waveform in a loopback like configuration.

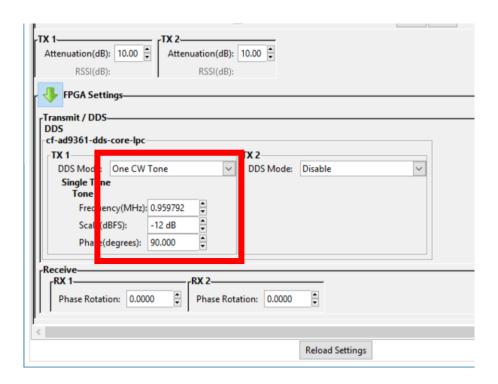


Figure 7

Next, we can change our attention back to the "Capture" window of IIO-Scope. Like Pluto we can use IIO-Scope to debug our design visually. *In the Capture window, make sure "cf-ad9361-lpc" is selected in the "Plot Channels" menu and voltage0 and voltage1 are checked as shown in Figure*8. For reference, since the adis16460 is an IIO device with streaming interfaces it also automatically appears in this list and we can visualize the available outputs.

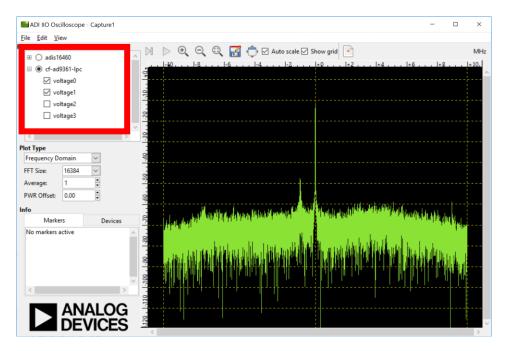


Figure 8

In the "Plot Type" select "Frequency Domain" from the dropdown menu and then click the play button at the top of the plot. With "One CW Tone" selected your spectrum should appear as in Figure 9, with a boxlike waveform.

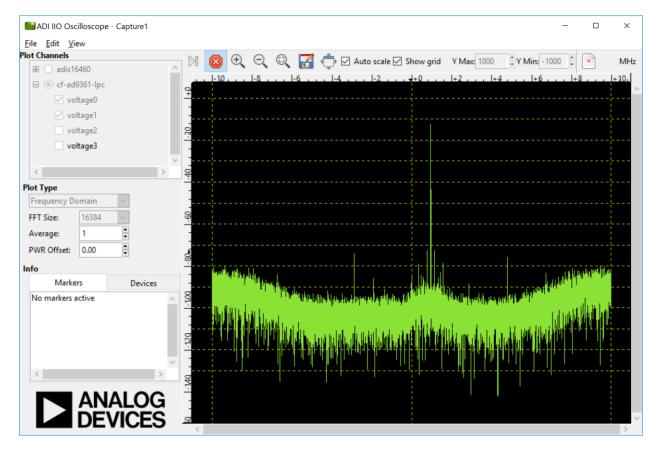


Figure 9

In the default configuration the PackRF with the deployed modem design here works as a default reference design with IQ streaming. This will change in the next section when we start configuring the Modem IP. *Keep this Capture window open and running for now.*

Accessing the PackRF Remotely and Configuring the Modem

At this point in the design we are completely untethered from MATLAB and Simulink. Therefore, we must utilize a console to interact with the modem and transceiver. Unlike the MATLAB stripped down SD card image, the one used in this design uses a much more standardize Linux image which contains many common tools found on desktop Linux OSs. Even a GUI is run and displayed on the screen by the RF-SOM in this configuration.

At this point the RF-SOM has been configurated to utilize a static IP address, which is either 192.168.3.2 or another user defined value. *Open PuTTY and create a session as in Figure 10, to connect to the device connected through Ethernet.* For convenience we will refer to PackRF with address 192.168.3.2 as Radio 1, and PackRF connected with the JTAG cable as Radio 2.

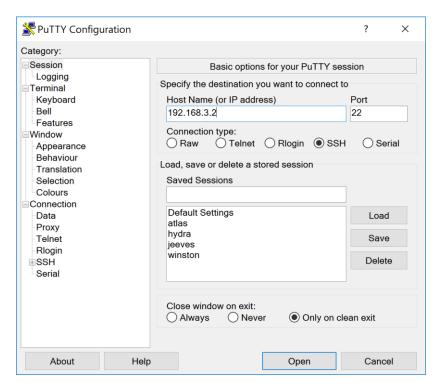


Figure 10

A console should appear with a login prompt. *The default username and password for the RF-SOM is root:* analog, login with as this user. Once logged into the RF-SOM you should observe outputs similar to Figure 11.

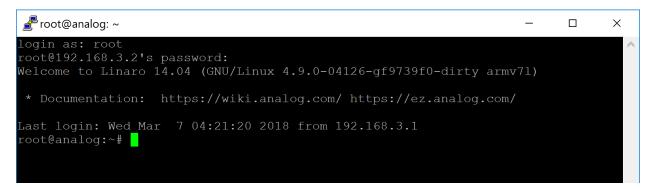


Figure 11

Since we are logged into the PackRF now we can examine the transmitted waveform of the Modem itself. We will do so by toggling the transmitter mux as outlined in Figure 5. Toggle the mux by moving into the "tun_tap" folder and run the script "sh en_dma.sh" to select the Modem output to the AD9361 IP core. This command is also provided in Figure 12.



Figure 12

After "sh en_dma.sh" is run, look back at the "Capture" window from IIO-Scope. You will notice it will change to something like Figure 13. Run the command "en_dds.sh" and you will observe the waveform move back to the CW tone as before.

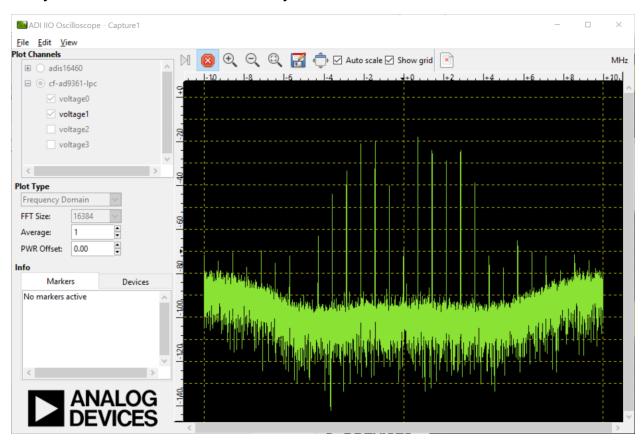


Figure 13

Next, we can begin to start the TUN/TAP daemon which manages data passed between the kernel and modem design running on the FPGA. However, before we do this we will examine the available networking interfaces. Run the command "ifconfig" in the console, which should print out something similar to Figure 14, with the IP associated with your given board assigned to eth0.

```
🧬 root@analog: ~
                                                                        X
oot@analog:~# ifconfig
         UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST MTU:1500 Metric:1
         RX packets:314232 errors:606 dropped:606 overruns:0 frame:0
         TX packets:615529 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
         collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000
         RX bytes:25055909 (25.0 MB) TX bytes:880110574 (880.1 MB)
         Interrupt:48 Base address:0xb000
         Link encap:Local Loopback
Lo
         UP LOOPBACK RUNNING MTU:65536 Metric:1
         TX packets:68 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
         collisions:0 txqueuelen:1
         RX bytes:5640 (5.6 KB) TX bytes:5640 (5.6 KB)
root@analog:~#
```

Figure 14

You will notice by this output that there are only two available interfaces: lo (loopback), and eth0. Therefore, our TUN/TAP interface has not been initialized yet.

To initialize the TUN/TAP interface enter the "tun_tap" folder, which contains all the source used to implement our TUN/TAP design, and run the script "restart_modem.sh" without any arguments. The commands are provided by example in Figure 15.

```
root@analog: ~/tun_tap/
root@analog: ~/tun_tap# ls

Makefile kill_modem.sh modemd original_file
client_netcat.sh mac.c modemd.c restart_modem_gui.sh
en_dds.sh mac.h modemd.o srv_netcat.sh
en_dma.sh mac.o off.sh
en_macsec.sh modem filter.ftr on.sh
root@analog: ~/tun_tap#
```

Figure 15

By default, this will configure the modem, provide some status information, then bring up the TUN/TAP interface. The values displayed include some debug register values, and we also print out some transceiver configuration information such as: center frequency, sample rate, and RF bandwidth. If you wish to investigate you can look at the bash script "restart_modem_gui.sh", which outlines our usage of the IIO devices through file descriptors to talk with the modem and transceiver.

```
🛃 root@analog: ~/tun_tap
                                                                                 X
cf-ad9361-dds-core-lpc reg 0x04c : 0x3
cf-ad9361-dds-core-lpc reg 0x044 : 0x0
cf-ad9361-dds-core-lpc reg 0x048 : 0x0
cf-ad9361-dds-core-lpc reg 0x458
                                     : 0x2
dev 'ad9361-phy', channel 'voltage0' (input), attr 'filter_fir_en', value '1' wrote 2 bytes to filter_fir_en
dev 'ad9361-phy', channel 'voltage0' (input), attr 'filter_fir_en', value '0' loading filter file
dev 'ad9361-phy', channel 'voltage0' (input), attr 'filter fir en', value '0'
wrote 2 bytes to filter fir en
dev 'ad9361-phy', channel 'voltage0' (input), attr 'filter fir en', value '1'
900000000
Running TAP daemon...
TUN/TAP: Running Rx thread..
```

Since status information is provided during runtime we do not want to launch this process in the background. However, we do want to further investigate the current PackRF device. **Next open a second copy of Putty, as we did previously, and login to Radio 1 with IP 192.168.3.1.** An easy way to do this is to right click on the top of the currently open window and select "Duplicate Session" as in Figure 16.

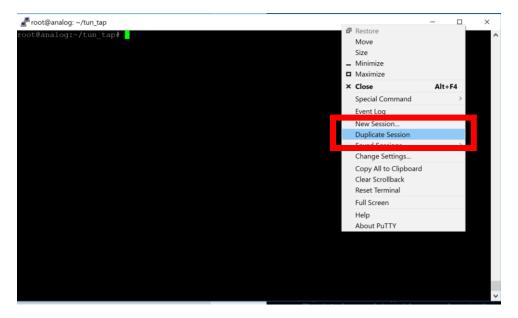


Figure 16

Once logged in again, type "ifconfig" again and you should observe a new interface similar to Figure 17. The new networking interface "adi_radio" will contain the IP address of the modem assigned previously. Since the modem is exposed through TUN/TAP to the OS and other applications it is just another interface it can use, and will automatically route traffic with subnet 192.168.23.X through it.

Figure 17

Before we can start passing data through this interface we need to set up the second PackRF device. Since the second PackRF is connected through a JTAG interface we need to determine the connect COM port. *To do so open Device Manager from the start menu as in Figure 18*.

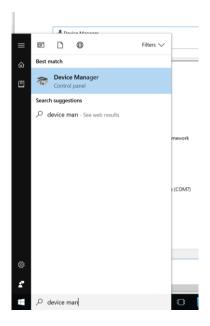


Figure 18

After Device Manager is launched scroll down to "Ports (COM & LPT)". Expanding this category will show the UART device and the COM port, which is COM7 in this case of Figure 19.

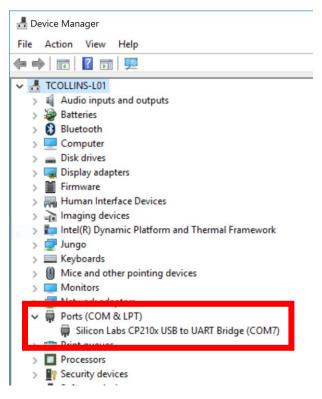


Figure 19

Finally, start by launching a third session of PuTTY. Select "Serial" as a connection type and update the speed to 115200 and the Serial line to be the found COM port. Your configuration should look like Figure 20. This PackRF has the same username and password as previously (root:analog).

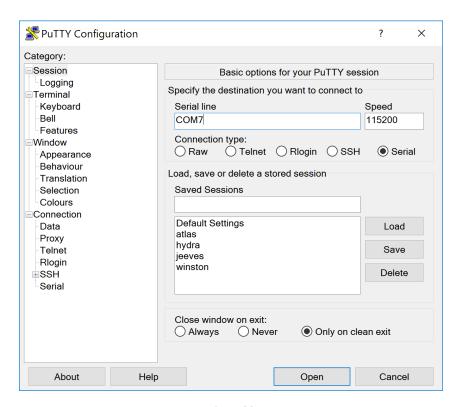


Figure 20

Again, navigate to the "tun_tap" folder. To configure the second PackRF on a different IP and channel mapping run the "restart_modem.sh" script with two arguments as in Figure 21.

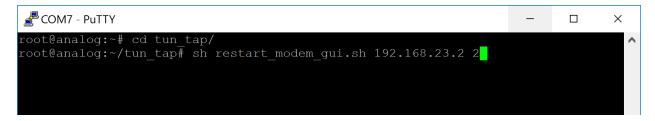


Figure 21

Like Radio 1, this will configure the modem, provide some status information, then bring up the TUN/TAP interface. The values displayed include some debug register values, and we also print out some transceiver configuration information such as: center frequency, sample rate, and RF bandwidth. This should look similar to Figure 22.

```
💤 COM7 - PuTTY
                                                                             X
f-ad9361-dds-core-lpc reg 0x040 : 0x3
cf-ad9361-dds-core-lpc reg 0x04c : 0x3
cf-ad9361-dds-core-lpc reg 0x044 : 0x0
cf-ad9361-dds-core-lpc reg 0x048 : 0x0
cf-ad9361-dds-core-lpc reg 0x458
                                   : 0x2
                                   : 0x2
cf-ad9361-dds-core-lpc reg 0x458
cf-ad9361-dds-core-lpc reg 0x044 : 0x0
dev 'ad9361-phy', channel 'voltage0' (input), attr 'filter_fir_en', value '1'
wrote 2 bytes to filter_fir_en
dev 'ad9361-phy', channel 'voltage0' (input), attr 'filter_fir_en', value '0'
wrote 2 bytes to filter fir en
dev 'ad9361-phy', channel 'voltage0' (input), attr 'filter fir en', value '1'
Running TAP daemon...
TUN/TAP: Running Rx thread...
```

Figure 22

At this point we have both modem configured on each PackRF, which should allow us to communicate across the link.

Ping Across the Link

From Radio 1's console that is not captured by the modem daemon or process, we can start doing some simple tests to check the link. In Figure 23, we show two of our open terminals. The one on the left is Radio 1, which is pinging across the link to Radio 2. The terminal on the right, which is from Radio 2, we are monitoring the status messages from the modem daemon. Repeat this process by using the non-daemon open terminal for Radio 1. *In this terminal (for Radio 1) run the command "ping 192.168.23.2"*. As we have seen 192.168.23.2 is the IP of the TUN/TAP interface for Radio 2.

Figure 23

On Radio 2's daemon running terminal, we should observe messages like "RADIO: Sent 84 bytes of data". This means the TUN/TAP interface received a packet of 84 bytes from the modem on the FPGA. This is actually the size of a ping packet. We also should see "ETH: Received 84 bytes of data", which means that the Ethernet interface received a packet of 84 bytes. This is the ping acknowledgement which we will send back to Radio 1. Now it is possible to lose packets in the is process since: this is purely a UDP data transaction, and there is no retransmission intelligence built into the modem IP itself. This design usually operates at under 1% PER for pings (ping only measures in integers). *Press Ctrl+C in the console of Radio 1 to stop pings before moving onto the next section.*

This demonstrates two useful features. First, we are able to interact seamlessly with applications running on the host OS, and second we are able to transmit data wireless with the AD9361 and our generated Modem IP.

SSH Through the Modem

Now that we know we can communicate through the TUN/TAP interface, we can try something more interesting. Staying in the console we will next SSH through the TUN/TAP interface from Radio 1 to Radio 2. Again, in the non-daemon console on Radio 1, type "ssh 192.168.23.2". You will be asked for a prompt and eventually a password like Figure 24. Accept the fingerprint (if asked) and type the password "analog" again to access the second PackRF.

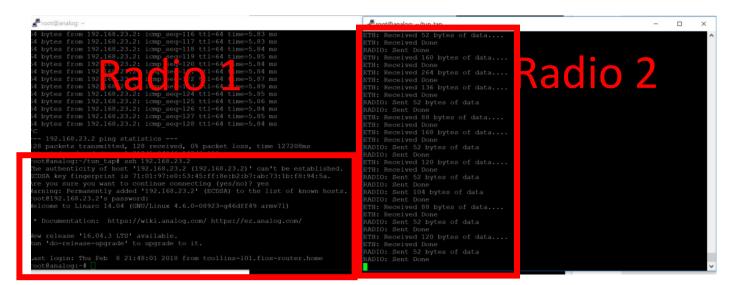


Figure 24

From the still running log on Radio 2, we will begin to see packets of different sizes to appear. This is the SSH connect initializing and authenticating. *Once connected type "ifconfig etho"*. It should provide an interface with IP address of the second radio. This proves that we are in fact remotely connected to Radio. The connection here utilizes a TCP connection (not UDP), and if packets are lost retransmissions will occur by the application and OS itself in the transport layer.