

Piksi Settings

Piksi Firmware version v0.15

1 Introduction

Piksi Firmware has a number of settings that can be controlled by the end user via the provided Piksi Console or through the SBP binary message protocol. This Document serves to enumerate these settings with an explanation and any relevant notes.

2 Settings Table

Grouping	Name	Description
float kf		
	phase var	Assumed variance of a satellite's phase measurement
	code var	Assumed variance of a satellite's pseudorange measurement
	amb init var	Initial integer ambiguity variance at filter initialization
	new amb var	Variance for new ambiguity measurements
frontend		
	antenna selection	Determines which antenna to use.
iar		
	phase var	Determines the measured carrier phase variance for use in the integer am-
		biguity resolution test loop
	code var	Determines the pseudocode variance for the integer ambiguity resolution
		subroutine
sbp		
	obs msg max size	Determines the maximum message length for raw observation sbp messages.
simulator		
	mode mask	Determines the types of position outputs for the simulator.
	radius	Radius of the circle around which the simulated Piksi will move
	base ecef x	Simulated base station position
	base ecef y	Simulated base station position
	base ecef z	Simulated base station position
	speed	Simulated tangential speed of Piksi
	phase sigma	Standard deviation of noise added to the simulated carrier phase
	pseudorange sigma	Standard deviation of noise added to the simulated pseudo range
	cn0 sigma	Standard deviation of noise added to the simulated signal to noise ratio
	speed sigma	Standard deviation of noise addition to simulated tangential speed.
	pos sigma	Standard deviation of simulated single point position
	num sats	The number of satellites for the simulator.
	enabled	Toggles the Piksi internal simulator on and off
solution		
	known baseline d	Determines the baseline vector for the "init known baseline" feature.
	known baseline e	Determines the baseline vector for the "init known baseline" feature.
	known baseline n	Determines the baseline vector for the "init known baseline" feature.
	dgnss solution mode	Determines the type of RTK solution which will be output.
	dgnss filter	Determines the type of carrier phase ambiguity resolution that the Piksi will
		attempt to achieve.
	output every n obs	Integer divisor of solution frequency for which the observations will be out-
		put.
	soln freq	The rate at which a solution is generated internally to the Piksi.
surveyed position		
	broadcast	Broadcast surveyed base station location
	surveyed alt	Surveyed altitude of the Piksi's antenna
	surveyed lat	Surveyed latitude of the Piksi's antenna
	surveyed lon	Surveyed longitude of the Piksi's antenna
system info		
	firmware built	Date of firmware build
	firmware version	Indicates the firmware version for the Local Piksi
	nap fft index bits	Number of bits to represent the result of fast fourier transform in SwiftNAP
	-	firmware
	nap channels	Number of tracking channels in the SwiftNAP firmware
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		configure telemetry radio	Determines whether this UART will attempt to configure a telemetry radio
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		baudrate	The baudrate for the uart

Table 2.0.1: Summary of message types

3 Settings Detail

3.1 float kf

3.1.1 phase var

Description: Assumed variance of a satellite's phase measurement

Label	Value	
group enumerated possible values	float kf None	
name units	phase var cycles ²	
default value	0.0144	
type	Double	

Table 3.1.1: phase var

Notes: This setting adjusts variance estimates in the Swift Kalman filter which aids in integer ambiguity resolution (IAR). Increasing this value can reduce the occurrence of false carrier phase locks but can also increase the time required to achieve an IAR fixed solution. This setting should not be adjusted by end users.

3.1.2 code var

Description: Assumed variance of a satellite's pseudorange measurement

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values	float kf None
name	code var
units default value	meters ² 40000
type	Double

Table 3.1.2: code var

Notes: This setting adjusts variance estimates in the Swift Kalman filter which aids in integer ambiguity resolution (IAR). Increasing this value can reduce the occurrence of false carrier phase locks but can also increase the time required to achieve an IAR fixed solution. This setting should not be adjusted by end users.

3.1.3 amb init var

Description: Initial integer ambiguity variance at filter initialization

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values	float kf None
name	amb init var
units default value	nondimensional $1.00E + 08$
type	Double

Table 3.1.3: amb init var

Notes: This setting adjusts variance estimates in the Swift Kalman filter which aids in integer ambiguity resolution (IAR). Increasing this value can reduce the occurrence of false carrier phase locks but can also increase the time required to achieve an IAR fixed solution. This setting should not be adjusted by end users.

3.1.4 new amb var

Description: Variance for new ambiguity measurements

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values name units default value type	float kf None new amb var nondimensional 1.00E + 10 Double

Table 3.1.4: new amb var

Notes: This setting adjusts variance estimates in the Swift Kalman filter which aids in integer ambiguity resolution (IAR). Increasing this value can reduce the occurrence of false carrier phase locks but can also increase the time required to achieve an IAR fixed solution. This setting should not be adjusted by end users.

3.2 frontend

3.2.1 antenna selection

Description: Determines which antenna to use.

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values name units default value	frontend Auto, Patch, External antenna selection None Auto
type	enum

Table 3.2.1: antenna selection

Notes: This setting selects the antenna input that should be used by the Piksi. When set to "Auto", if the unit senses an external antenna attached to the Piksi from a load placed on the antenna output DC bias, it will use the external antenna. If no external antenna is attached (or a passive antenna is attached), it will use the integrated patch antenna. Selecting "Patch" or "External" for this setting can override the automatic antenna selection and force the external or patch antenna to be used.

3.3 iar

3.3.1 phase var

Description: Determines the measured carrier phase variance for use in the integer ambiguity resolution test loop

Label	Value	
group enumerated possible values name units default value type	iar None phase var cycles ² 0.0144 double	

Table 3.3.1: phase var

Notes: This setting adjusts variance estimates in the integer ambiguity resolution (IAR) subroutine. Increasing this value can reduce the occurrence of false carrier phase locks but can also increase the time required to achieve an IAR fixed solution. This setting should not be adjusted by end users.

3.3.2 code var

Description: Determines the pseudocode variance for the integer ambiguity resolution subroutine

Value
iar
None
code var
meters ²
40000
double

Table 3.3.2: code var

Notes: This setting adjusts variance estimates in the integer ambiguity resolution (IAR) subroutine. Increasing this value can reduce the occurrence of false carrier phase locks but can also increase the time required to achieve an IAR fixed solution. This setting should not be adjusted by end users.

3.4 sbp

3.4.1 obs msq max size

Description: Determines the maximum message length for raw observation sbp messages.

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values name units default value	sbp None obs msg max size bytes 104
type	integer

Table 3.4.1: obs msg max size

Notes: This parameter is useful for tuning observation messages for compatibility with radio modems. Some serial modems will internally split serial packets for their protocol and this parameter allows the size of the message to be reduced as to prevent the modem from sending multiple packets. If the parameter exceeds 255 bytes (the maximum size of an SBP message), the Piksi firmware will ignore the parameter and use 255 bytes. If the parameter is set smaller than the size of one observation, the Piksi firmware will ignore the parameter and use the size of one observation as the maximum message size.

3.5 simulator

3.5.1 mode mask

Description: Determines the types of position outputs for the simulator.

Label	Value
group	simulator
enumerated possible values	None
name	mode mask
units	None
default value	15(decimal), 0xF(hexadecimal)
type	packedbitfield

Table 3.5.1: mode mask

Notes: bit 0 (decimal value 1) turns on single point position PVT simulated outputs

bit 1 (decimal value 2) turns on the satellite tracking simulated outputs

bit 2 (decimal value 4) turns on Float IAR simulated RTK outputs

bit 3 (decimal value 8) turns on Fixed IAR simulated RTK outputs

3.5.2 radius

Description: Radius of the circle around which the simulated Piksi will move

Label	Value
group	simulator
enumerated possible values	None
name	radius
units	meters
default value	100
type	double

Table 3.5.2: radius

Notes: None

3.5.3 base ecef x

Description: Simulated base station position

Label	Value
group	simulator
enumerated possible values	None
name	base ecef x
units	meters
default value	None
type	double

Table 3.5.3: base ecef x

Notes: Earth centered earth fixed (ECEF) x position of the simulated base station.

3.5.4 base ecef y

Description: Simulated base station position

Label	Value
group	simulator
enumerated possible values	None
name	base ecef y
units	meters
default value	None
type	double

Table 3.5.4: base ecef y

Notes: Earth centered earth fixed (ECEF) y position of the simulated base station.

3.5.5 base ecef z

Description: Simulated base station position

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values name units default value type	simulator None base ecef z meters None double

Table 3.5.5: base ecef z

Notes: Earth centered earth fixed (ECEF) z position of the simulated base station.

3.5.6 speed

Description: Simulated tangential speed of Piksi

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values name units default value type	simulator None speed meters/s 4 double

Table 3.5.6: speed

Notes: None

3.5.7 phase sigma

Description: Standard deviation of noise added to the simulated carrier phase

Value
simulator
None
phase sigma
cycles
0.0009
double

Table 3.5.7: phase sigma

Notes: None

3.5.8 pseudorange sigma

Description: Standard deviation of noise added to the simulated pseudo range

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values name units default value type	simulator None pseudorange sigma meters 16 double

Table 3.5.8: pseudorange sigma

Notes: None

3.5.9 cn0 sigma

Description: Standard deviation of noise added to the simulated signal to noise ratio

group simulator enumerated possible values None name cn0 sigma units dbmhz default value 0.1	Label	Value
type	enumerated possible values name units	None cn0 sigma dbmhz

Table 3.5.9: cn0 sigma

Notes: None

3.5.10 speed sigma

Description: Standard deviation of noise addition to simulated tangential speed.

Label	Value
group	simulator
enumerated possible values	None
name	speed sigma
units	$meters^2/s^2$
default value	0.02
type	double

Table 3.5.10: speed sigma

Notes: None

3.5.11 pos sigma

Description: Standard deviation of simulated single point position

Label	Value
group	simulator
enumerated possible values	None
name	pos sigma
units	meters ²
default value	2
type	double

Table 3.5.11: pos sigma

Notes: None

3.5.12 num sats

Description: The number of satellites for the simulator.

Value
simulator None
num sats
None 9
integer

Table 3.5.12: num sats

Notes: None

3.5.13 enabled

Description: Toggles the Piksi internal simulator on and off

Value
simulator
true, false
enabled
None
false
boolean

Table 3.5.13: enabled

Notes: The Piksi simulator will provide simulated outputs of a stationary base station and the Local Piksi moving in a circle around the base station The simulator is intended to aid in system integration by providing realistic looking outputs but does not faithfully simulate every aspect of device operation.

3.6 solution

3.6.1 known baseline d

Description: Determines the baseline vector for the "init known baseline" feature.

Label	Value	
group enumerated possible values name units default value	solution None known baseline d meters(down) 0	
type	double	

Table 3.6.1: known baseline d

Notes: This sets the number of meters that the rover is Down from the base station when the "init known baseline" feature is used.

3.6.2 known baseline e

Description: Determines the baseline vector for the "init known baseline" feature.

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values name units default value	solution None known baseline e meters(east) O
type	double

Table 3.6.2: known baseline e

Notes: This sets the number of meters that the rover is East from the base station when the "init known baseline" feature is used.

3.6.3 known baseline n

Description: Determines the baseline vector for the "init known baseline" feature.

Label	Value
group	solution
enumerated possible values	None
name	known baseline n
units	meters(north)
default value	0
type	double

Table 3.6.3: known baseline n

Notes: This sets the number of meters that the rover is North from the base station when the "init known baseline" feature is used.

3.6.4 dgnss solution mode

Description: Determines the type of RTK solution which will be output.

Label	Value
group	solution
enumerated possible values	LowLatency, TimeMatched
name	dgnss solution mode
units	None
default value	None
type	enum

Table 3.6.4: dgnss solution mode

Notes: A "Low Latency" solution uses an internal model of anticipated satellite observations to provide RTK output with minimal latency but slightly reduced accuracy. "Low Latency" mode assumes that the base station is stationary. For applications where accuracy is desired over timelieness or when both Piksi's are moving, "Time matched" mode can be chosen. This means that the RTK output will require a corresponding set of correction observations for each timestamp.

3.6.5 dgnss filter

Description: Determines the type of carrier phase ambiguity resolution that the Piksi will attempt to achieve.

Label	Value
group	solution
enumerated possible values	Fixed, Float
name	dgnss filter
units	None
default value	Fixed
type	enum

Table 3.6.5: dgnss filter

Notes: If "fixed", the Piksi will output a integer fixed ambiguity estimate. If no fixed solution is available, it will revert to the float solution. If "float", the device will only output the float ambiguity estimate.

3.6.6 output every n obs

Description: Integer divisor of solution frequency for which the observations will be output.

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values name units default value	solution None output every n obs None 2
type	integer

Table 3.6.6: output every n obs

Notes: For instance, if the solution frequency is 10 hz, and the "output every n obs" parameter is 2, it means that the observation output will occur at a rate of 5hz. Since the observations are the information used by the Piksi receiving corrections from the connected Piksi, this determines the rate of information sharing for RTK solution output. This parameter is designed to tune the rate at which correction information is passed from one Piksi to the other as to efficiently use radio modem bandwidth and fit with user applications.

3.6.7 soln freq

Description: The rate at which a solution is generated internally to the Piksi.

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values	solution None
name	soln freq
units	hz
default value	10
type	integer

Table 3.6.7: soln freq

Notes: None

3.7 surveyed position

3.7.1 broadcast

Description: Broadcast surveyed base station location

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values name units default value	surveyed position true, false broadcast None false
type	boolean

Table 3.7.1: broadcast

Notes: This flag ultimately determines whether the SBP message with identifier MSG_BASE_POS will be calculated and sent. Logically, setting this attribute to "true" sets the Local Piksi as a base station and configures the unit to send its surveyed location coordinates to the other Piksi(s) with which the base station is communicating. If "true", the remote Piksi that receives the surveyed position will calculate and communicate a pseudo absolute RTK position based upon the received position.

3.7.2 surveyed alt

Description: Surveyed altitude of the Piksi's antenna

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values name units	surveyed position None surveyed alt meters
default value type	0 Double
	Double

Table 3.7.2: surveyed alt

Notes: This setting represents the altitude of the Piksi's antenna above the WGS84 ellipsoid. If surveyed position "broadcast" is set to "true", this coordinate will be communicated to remote Piksi's against which to calculate a pseudo-absolute position. This value should be precise to 1 cm. Any errors in the surveyed position will directly affect the pseudo-absolute RTK position measurement reported by the Rover.

3.7.3 surveyed lat

Description: Surveyed latitude of the Piksi's antenna

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Label	Value
group	surveyed position
enumerated possible values	None
name	surveyed lat
units	degrees
default value	0
type	Double

Table 3.7.3: surveyed lat

Notes: This setting represents the latitude of the local Piksi's antenna. If surveyed position "broadcast" is set to "true", the coordinate will be communicated to remote Piksis with which to calculate their pseudo-absolute RTK position. The value should be as accurate as possible and should have precision to at least 7 digits following the decimal point. For reference, 1e-7 degrees of latitude is about 1.1cm on the surface of the earth. Any errors in the surveyed position will directly affect the pseudo-absolute RTK position measurement reported by the remote Piksi.

3.7.4 surveyed lon

Description: Surveyed longitude of the Piksi's antenna

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values name units default value type	surveyed position None surveyed lon degrees 0 Double

Table 3.7.4: surveyed lon

Notes: This setting represents the longitude of the local Piksi's antenna. If surveyed position "broadcast" is set to "true", the coordinate will be communicated to remote Piksis with which to calculate their pseudo-absolute RTK position. The value should be as accurate as possible and should have precision to at least 7 digits following the decimal point. For reference, 1e-7 degrees of longitude at 35 degree latitude is about 1 cm. Any errors in the surveyed position will directly affect the pseudo-absolute RTK position measurement reported by the remote Piksi.

3.8 system info

3.8.1 firmware built

Description: Date of firmware build

group system info enumerated possible values None name firmware built None	Label	Value
default value type **Torre None string	enumerated possible values name units default value	None firmware built None None

Table 3.8.1: firmware built

Notes: None

3.8.2 firmware version

Description: Indicates the firmware version for the Local Piksi

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values name units default value type	system info None firmware version None None string

Table 3.8.2: firmware version

Notes: For user generated firmware, this information will appear the same as the git command: "git describe –dirty"

3.8.3 nap fft index bits

Description: Number of bits to represent the result of fast fourier transform in SwiftNAP firmware

Label	Value	
group enumerated possible values name units default value	system info None nap fft index bits None None	
type	None	

Table 3.8.3: nap fft index bits

Notes: None

3.8.4 nap channels

Description: Number of tracking channels in the SwiftNAP firmware

group system info enumerated possible values None name nap channels units None default value None type integer	Label	Value
	enumerated possible values name units	None nap channels None

Table 3.8.4: nap channels

Notes: None

3.8.5 serial number

Description: The serial number of the Piksi

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values name units default value	system info None serial number None None
type	integer

Table 3.8.5: serial number

Notes: This number should match the number on the barcode and cannot be modified

3.8.6 nap version

Description: Version of the SwiftNAP FPGA firmware.

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values	system info None
name	nap version
units	None
default value	None
type	integer

Table 3.8.6: nap version

Notes: None

3.8.7 hw revision

Description: hardware revision for Piksi

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values name units default value type	system info None hw revision None None string

Table 3.8.7: hw revision

Notes: None

3.9 system monitor

3.9.1 heartbeat period milliseconds

Description: Period for sending the SBP_HEARTBEAT messages

Label	Value
group	system monitor
enumerated possible values	None
name	heartbeat period milliseconds
units	None
default value	None
type	integer
	-

Table 3.9.1: heartbeat period milliseconds

Notes: None

3.10 telemetry radio

3.10.1 configuration string

Description: Configuration string to send radio modem over UART when detected

Label	Value	
group	telemetry radio	
enumerated possible values	None	
name	configuration string	
units	None	
default value	None	
type	string	

Table 3.10.1: configuration string

Notes: This configuration string is intended for radios that use AT style commands

3.11 uart ftdi

3.11.1 mode

Description: Configure mode for USB serial port on Piksi

Label	Value	
group	uart ftdi	
enumerated possible values	SBP, NMEA, RTCM	
name units	mode None	
default value	SBP	
type	enum	

Table 3.11.1: mode

Notes: None

3.11.2 sbp message mask

Description: Configure the message mask for SBP messages on the UART for the USB port on Piksi

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values name units default value type	uart ftdi None sbp message mask None 65535(decimal),0xFFFF(hex) integer

Table 3.11.2: sbp message mask

Notes: The message mask is bitwise anded to the message identifier for a particular message. If the result is non-zero, the message will be sent over this UART. For example, consider the Piksi firmware sending an SBP message with ID 0x0041. If UART A has mask "64" (0x0040), The SBP subsystem bitwise-ands the message id with the UART A mask giving the result of 0x0040. Since the result is non-zero, the message is valid for UART A and is sent. Practically, the UART with mask 64 (0x0040) transmits only RTK observation data and the USART with mask 65280 (0xFF00) transmits most messages of interest to the host system (such as position and velocity). A mask of 0xFFFF will transmit all messages at the expense of bandwidth.

3.11.3 baudrate

Description: The baudrate for the UART for the USB port on Piksi

Label	Value	
group enumerated possible values name units default value type	uart ftdi None baudrate baud 1000000 integer	

Table 3.11.3: baudrate

Notes: None

3.12 uart uarta

3.12.1 mode

Description: Configure mode for UART

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values name units default value type	uart uarta SBP, NMEA, RTCM mode None SBP enum

Table 3.12.1: mode

Notes: None

3.12.2 sbp message mask

Description: Configure the message mask for SBP messages on UART

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values name units default value	uart uarta None sbp message mask None 64(decimal), 0x0040(hex)
type	integer

Table 3.12.2: sbp message mask

Notes: The default message mask on this UART (0x0040) is appropriate for a radio to communicate observation messages to another Piksi. The out-of-the box configuration uses UART A for Piksi to Piksi communication.

3.12.3 configure telemetry radio on boot

Description: Determines whether this UART will attempt to configure a telemetry radio upon boot

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values name units default value type	uart uarta true, false configure telemetry radio on boot None TRUE boolean

Table 3.12.3: configure telemetry radio on boot

Notes: If a telemetry radio is connected to this UART, this should be set to true in order to send the configuration string to the radio.

3.12.4 baudrate

Description: The baudrate for the UART

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values name units default value type	uart uarta None baudrate baud 115200 integer

Table 3.12.4: baudrate

Notes: The radio baudrate may be constrained by the particular RF equipment used for the telemetry radio.

3.13 uart uartb

3.13.1 mode

Description: Configure mode for UART

Label	Value	
group enumerated possible values name units default value	uart uartb SBP, NMEA, RTCM mode None SBP	
type	enum	

Table 3.13.1: mode

3.13.2 sbp message mask

Description: Configure the message mask for SBP messages on UART

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values	uart uartb None
name	sbp message mask
units	None
default value	655280(decimal), 0xFF00(hex)
type	integer

Table 3.13.2: sbp message mask

Notes: The default message mask on this uart (0xFF00) is appropriate for a general purpose interface to the Piksi.

3.13.3 configure telemetry radio on boot

Description: Determines whether this UART will attempt to configure a telemetry radio upon boot

Label	Value
group enumerated possible values name units default value type	uart uartb true, false configure telemetry radio on boot None TRUE boolean

Table 3.13.3: configure telemetry radio on boot

Notes: If a telemetry radio is connected to this UART, this should be set to true in order to send the configuration string to the radio.

3.13.4 baudrate

Description: The baudrate for the uart

Label	Value	
group	uart uartb	
enumerated possible values	None	
name	baudrate	
units	baud	
default value	115200	
type	integer	

Table 3.13.4: baudrate

Notes: None