



Noise feedback system for Crab Cavities in Large Hadron Collider

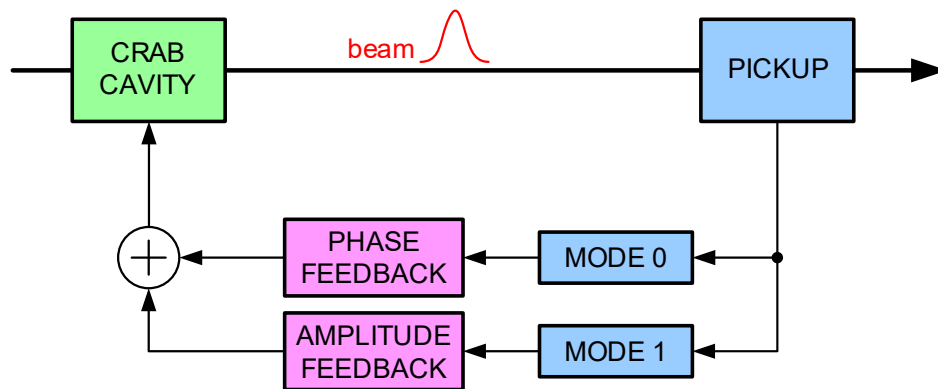
Daniel Valuch*, Rama Calaga, Gregoire Hagmann, Dimitar
Marinov, CERN

2025 LLRF workshop, Newport News, USA. 15.10.2025

*daniel.Valuch@cern.ch

Crab cavity noise feedback

- In order not to blow-up the beam emittance, RF system of crab cavities must be very low noise (both LLRF and power).
- It is not possible to achieve only by the electronics itself, an active “noise” feedback is necessary.

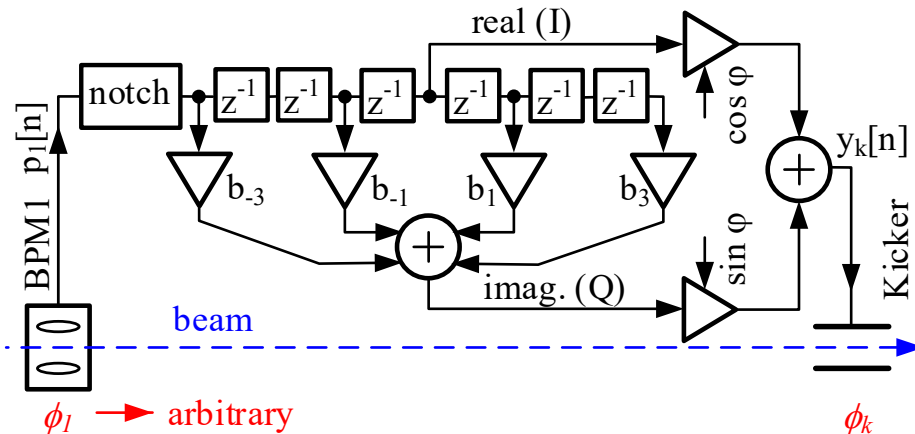


Baudrenghien, P. and Mastoridis, T.: Transverse emittance growth due to rf noise in crab cavities: Theory, measurements, cure, and high luminosity LHC estimates.
10.1103/PhysRevAccelBeams.27.051001

How do we close the feedback loop?

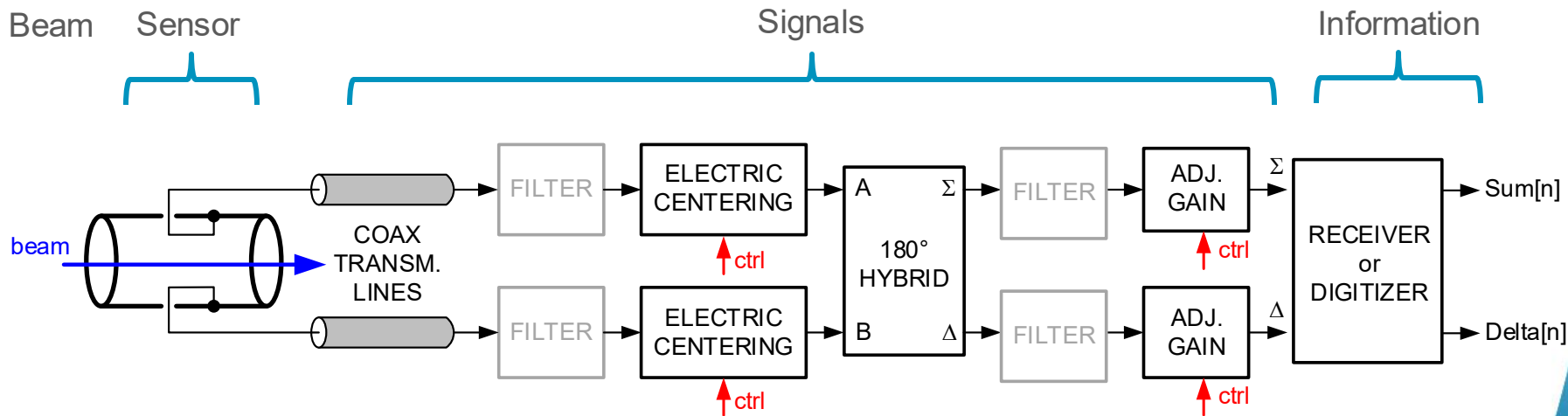
Single pickup feedback

- Single pickup at arbitrary betatron phase advance is sufficient
- Hilbert phase-shifter calculates the kick from the past turns (e.g. 7)
- Notch filter extracts the oscillatory part from beam motion
- Notch filter also suppresses all constant errors/artifacts (highly desirable)
- The correction is applied back to the beam via the crab cavity



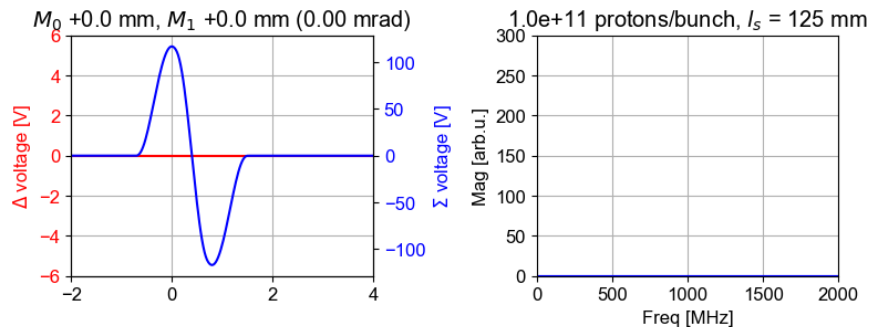
Bunch position and tilt measurements

- Most critical components for performance are the 180° hybrid and the digitizer
- Full signal path must have a very clean impulse response (not to mix bunches)

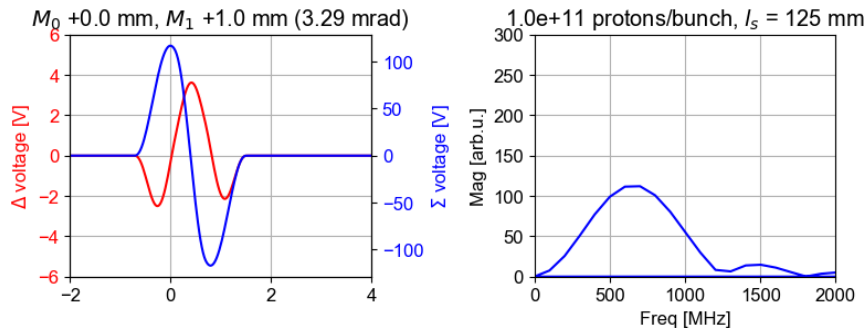


Example pickup signals

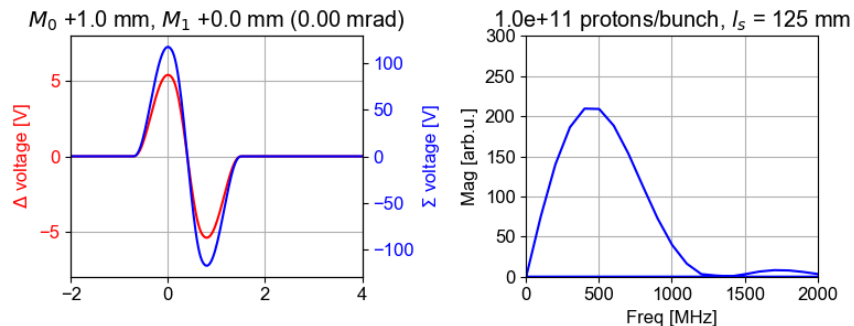
Centered



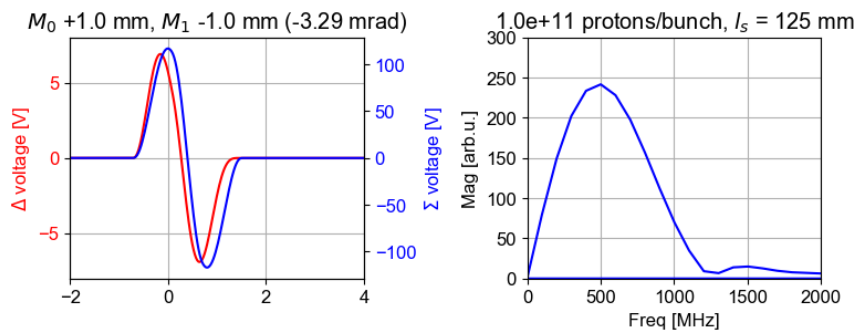
Tilt (m_1)



Displacement (m_0)

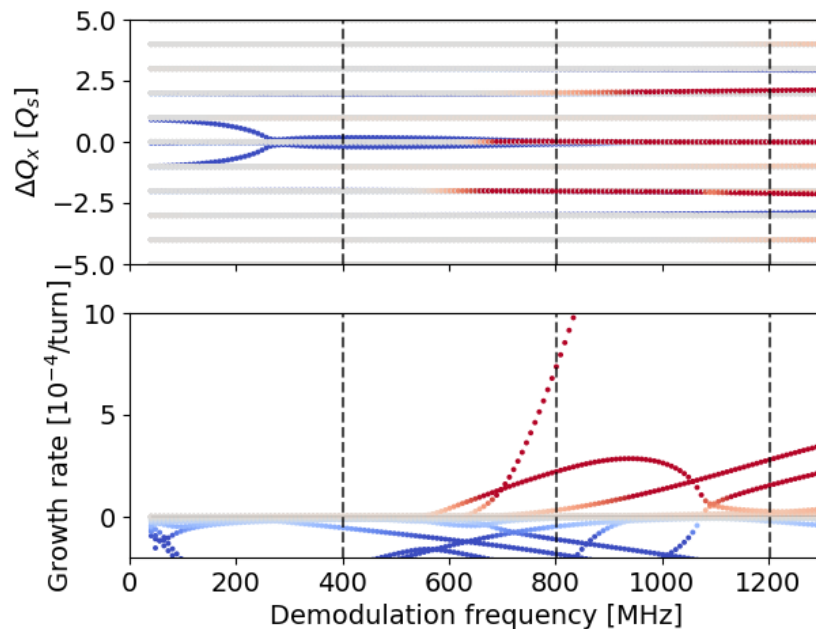


Displacement + Tilt ($m_0 + m_1$)



Measurement frequency selection

- Technically, we can process the signal at any frequency. Proposed stripline pickup has a peak sensitivity at 600 MHz...
- However, beam dynamics studies show a presence of two-node head-tail mode in a vicinity of 600 MHz, with a risk to be driven by the noise feedback if the position and tilt measurement will be done above 500 MHz.
- Therefore **we need to measure between 400 and 500 MHz**

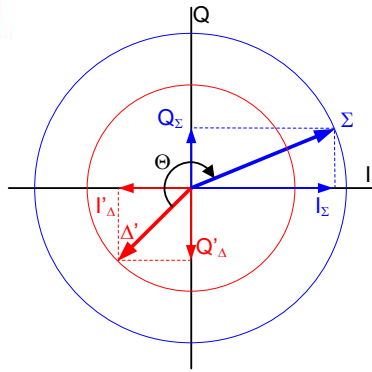


Buffat X: Update on stability from the amplitude feedback - Impact of RF curvature and quality factor. HL-LHC WP2 meeting 05.04.2022 <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1144197/>

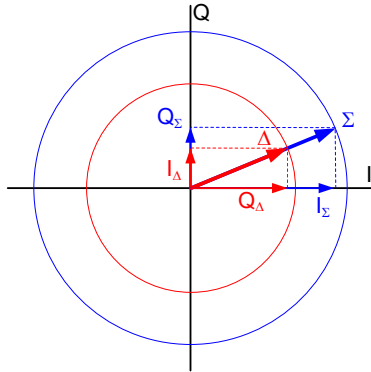
Extraction of m_0 and m_1 motion from pickup signals

- Both position (m_0) and tilt (m_1) motion can be extracted from a pickup signal measured at the same frequency

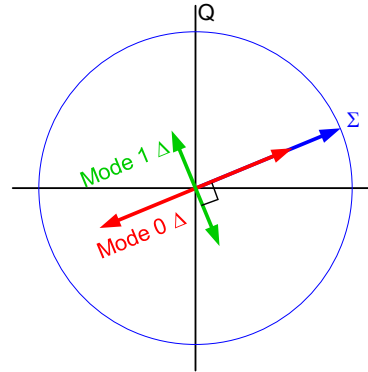
1. Raw Σ , Δ signals



2. Phase aligned Σ , Δ signals



3. Effect of m_0 and m_1 motion



$$\frac{\Delta}{\Sigma} = \frac{I_{\Delta} + iQ_{\Delta}}{I_{\Sigma} + iQ_{\Sigma}}$$

$$Position = \Re \frac{\Delta}{\Sigma} = \frac{I_{\Delta}I_{\Sigma} + Q_{\Delta}Q_{\Sigma}}{I_{\Sigma}^2 + Q_{\Sigma}^2}$$

$$Tilt = \Im \frac{\Delta}{\Sigma} = \frac{Q_{\Delta}I_{\Sigma} - I_{\Delta}Q_{\Sigma}}{I_{\Sigma}^2 + Q_{\Sigma}^2}$$

Kotzian et al.: Sensitivity of the LHC Transverse Feedback System to Intra-Bunch Motion DOI 10.18429/JACoW-IPAC2017-TUPIK093

Required noise feedback performance

- Noise performance requirements for the feedback system beam position measurement units are $\sigma_0 < 320 \text{ nm}$ and $\sigma_1 < 8.3 \text{ } \mu\text{rad}$ (bunch-by-bunch measurement levels).
- The above measurement noise thresholds require extremely high precision measurements.
- Closed loop bandwidth of the crab cavity with LLRF will only extend to 136 kHz. As a result, the noise bandwidth will also be limited to 136 kHz.
- This relaxes the actual single bunch resolution threshold to $\sigma_0 < 3.9 \text{ } \mu\text{m}_{\text{rms}}$ and $\sigma_1 < 100 \text{ } \mu\text{rad}_{\text{rms}}$. Works only for beam pattern without gaps.
- **It is a tight, but achievable specification.**

Baudrenghien, P. and Mastoridis, T.: Transverse emittance growth due to rf noise in crab cavities: Theory, measurements, cure, and high luminosity LHC estimates
DOI 10.1103/PhysRevAccelBeams.27.051001

Required noise feedback performance

- “The measurement noise thresholds are thus $\sigma_0 < 320 \text{ nm}$ and $\sigma_1 < 8.3 \text{ } \mu\text{rad}$. These are bunch-by-bunch measurement levels”
- How good our signal processing needs to be?

$$Pos = f(I_\Sigma, Q_\Sigma, I_\Delta, Q_\Delta) \quad (5)$$

Sensitivity of the function [5] to small changes in the input values (due to noise) can be calculated as

$$\Delta Pos = \left(\frac{\partial Pos}{\partial I_\Sigma} \right) \Delta I_\Sigma + \left(\frac{\partial Pos}{\partial Q_\Sigma} \right) \Delta Q_\Sigma + \left(\frac{\partial Pos}{\partial I_\Delta} \right) \Delta I_\Delta + \left(\frac{\partial Pos}{\partial Q_\Delta} \right) \Delta Q_\Delta \quad (6)$$

As long the uncertainties (noise) on the input signals are random and independent, variance of the output value will be

$$\delta_{Pos}^2 = \left(\frac{\partial Pos}{\partial I_\Sigma} \right)^2 \sigma_{I_\Sigma}^2 + \left(\frac{\partial Pos}{\partial Q_\Sigma} \right)^2 \sigma_{Q_\Sigma}^2 + \left(\frac{\partial Pos}{\partial I_\Delta} \right)^2 \sigma_{I_\Delta}^2 + \left(\frac{\partial Pos}{\partial Q_\Delta} \right)^2 \sigma_{Q_\Delta}^2 \quad (7)$$

and the standard deviation

$$\sigma_{Pos} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\partial Pos}{\partial I_\Sigma} \right)^2 \sigma_{I_\Sigma}^2 + \left(\frac{\partial Pos}{\partial Q_\Sigma} \right)^2 \sigma_{Q_\Sigma}^2 + \left(\frac{\partial Pos}{\partial I_\Delta} \right)^2 \sigma_{I_\Delta}^2 + \left(\frac{\partial Pos}{\partial Q_\Delta} \right)^2 \sigma_{Q_\Delta}^2} \quad (8)$$

$$\sigma_{ReqPosData} = \frac{\sigma_{0single}}{\sqrt{2}} = 226 \text{ nm} \quad (25)$$

$$\frac{\text{full scale}}{\text{rms requirement}} = \frac{4.0 \text{ mm}}{226 \text{ nm}} = 17699 \text{ codes, i.e. 14.1 bits} \quad (26)$$

Using results from chapter [3.2] we can calculate that a front-end configured for $\pm 2 \text{ mm}$ position range, will generate same amplitude full scale signals for a tilt of 9.44 mrad . Required input data standard deviation for tilt measurement

$$\sigma_{ReqTiltData} = \frac{\sigma_{1single}}{\sqrt{2}} = 5.86 \text{ } \mu\text{rad} \quad (27)$$

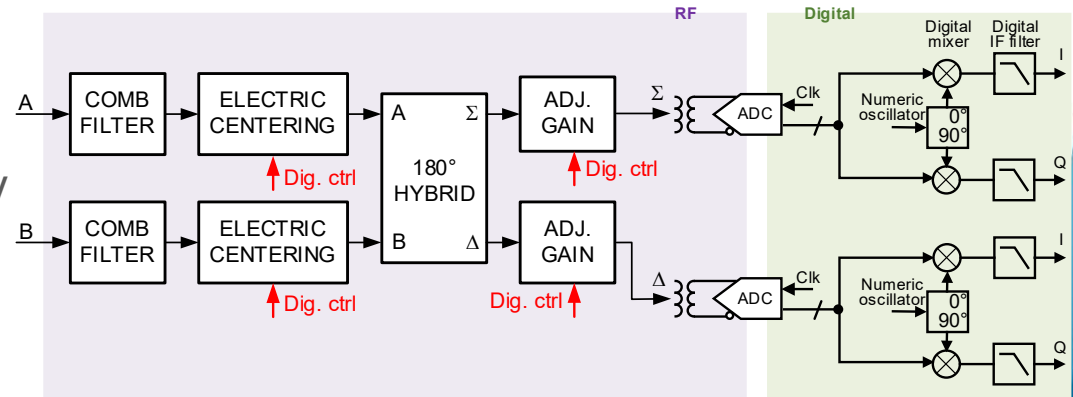
$$\frac{\text{full scale}}{\text{rms requirement}} = \frac{9.44 \text{ mrad}}{5.86 \text{ } \mu\text{rad}} = 1611 \text{ codes, i.e. 10.7 bits.} \quad (28)$$

The noise floor is therefore dominated by position measurement requirements.

20 steps later ...

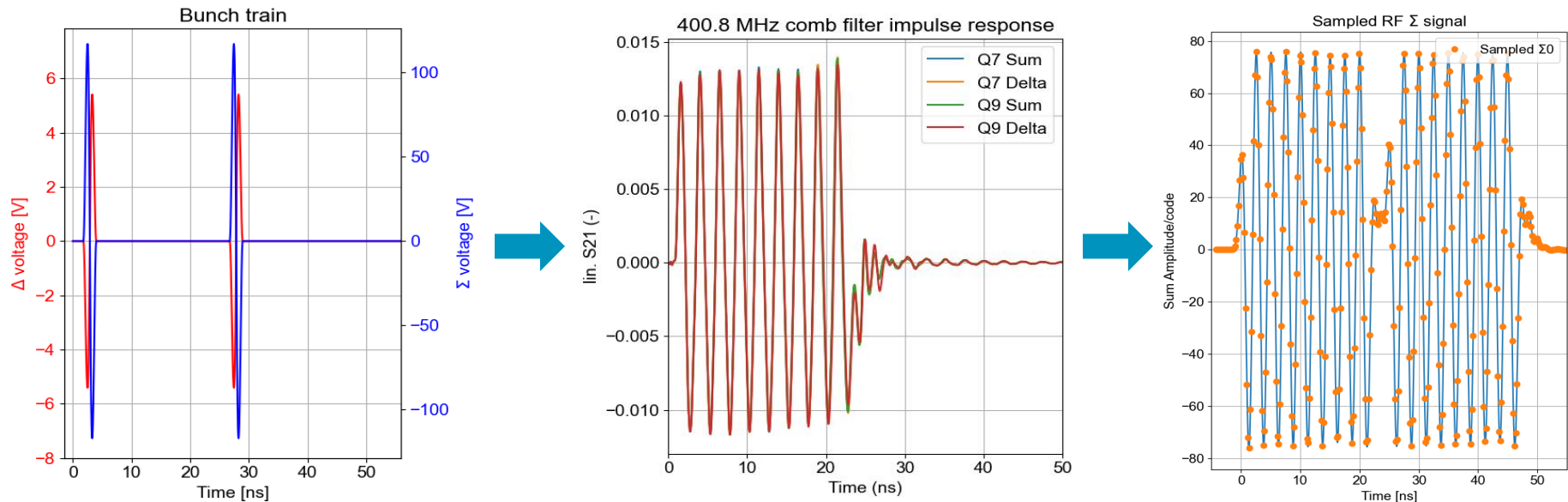
m_0 and m_1 measurement system architecture

- We can not use the proven LHC very low noise BPM receiver architecture due to system architecture decisions...
- **Perhaps, would the direct RF sampling architecture be suitable?**
- No noisy or drifting analogue RF components in the signal chain...
- Gain setting, el. centering, all signal conditioning in RF domain e.g. 400 ± 40 MHz
- Output signal is still in the RF domain
- Requires fast digitizer (~ 5 Gsps) with good ENOB ($\sim 10+$) and many samples per bunch passage (10-100)



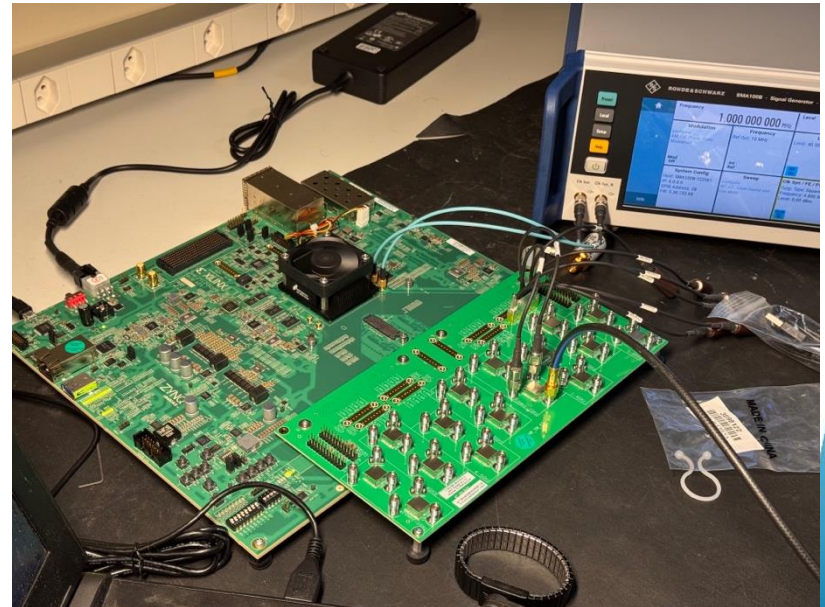
Pickup RF signal preparation for sampling

- Bunch spacing in LHC is 25 ns, pickup signal from one bunch lasts <2.5 ns
- Special comb filter with rectangular impulse response to select desired center frequency and stretch signal for sampling
- At 5 Gsps we can get about 110 samples per bunch passage

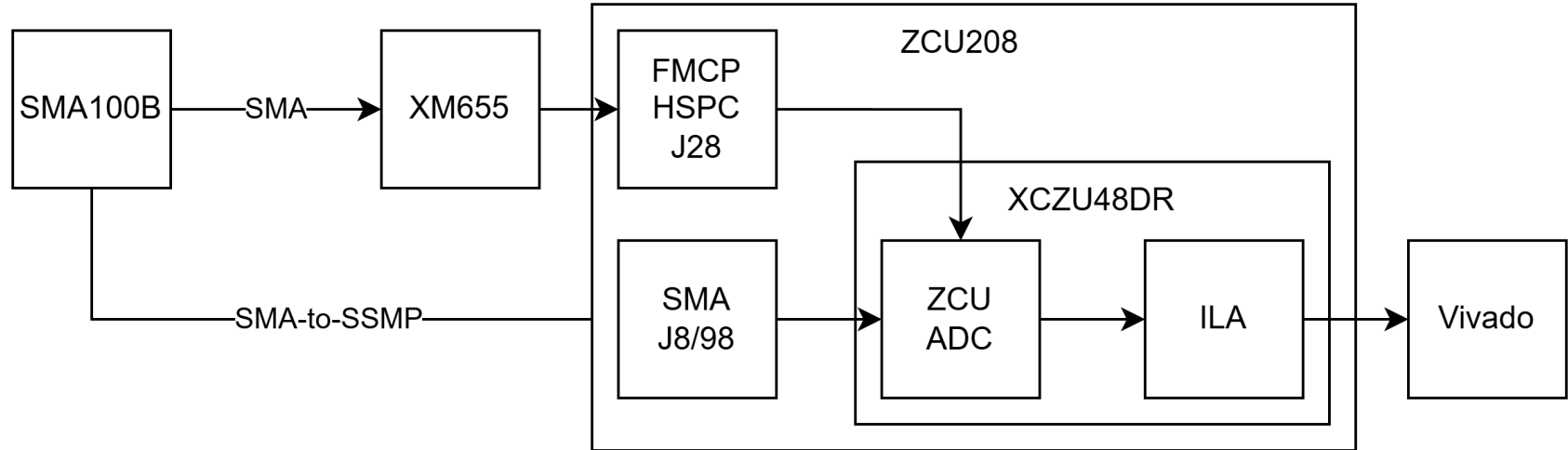


We need a good digitizer – is RF SoC suitable?

- Performance with direct sampling by high speed ADC might be in reach. We have more thoroughly evaluated Zynq™ UltraScale+™ RFSoc chip ZCU208
- Contains 8x 14-bit, 5.0 Gsps RF-ADC
- Must be in uTCA format
- Very good candidate uTCA board DAMC-DS5014DR from DESY (should be available in 1 year time)
- Currently we have an evaluation board with the same chip for developments and testing concepts



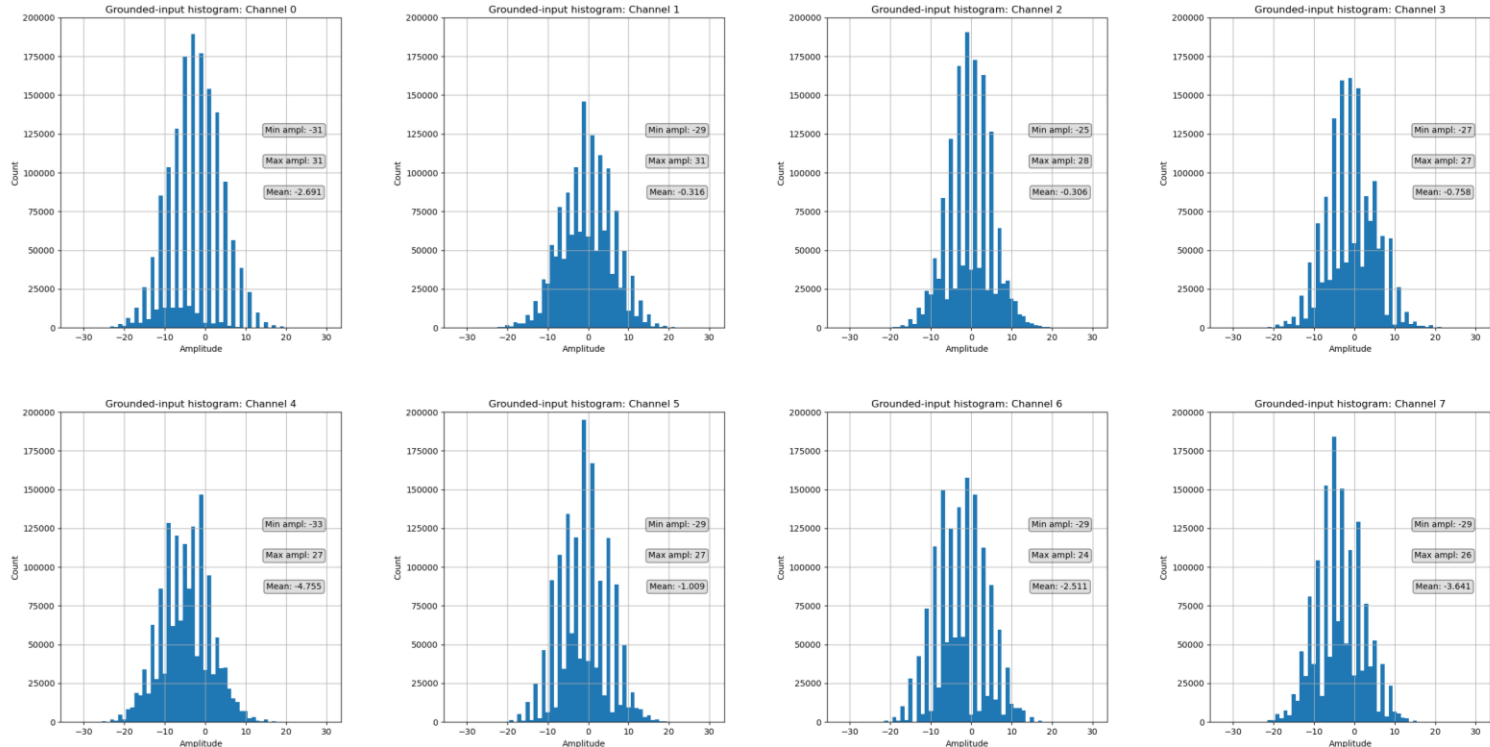
RF SoC evaluation



- Clock and Signal Generator: Rohde Schwarz SMA100B, ultra low noise opt.
- Analog Signal Interface: XM655
- Evaluation Board: ZCU208
- User Interface: Vivado

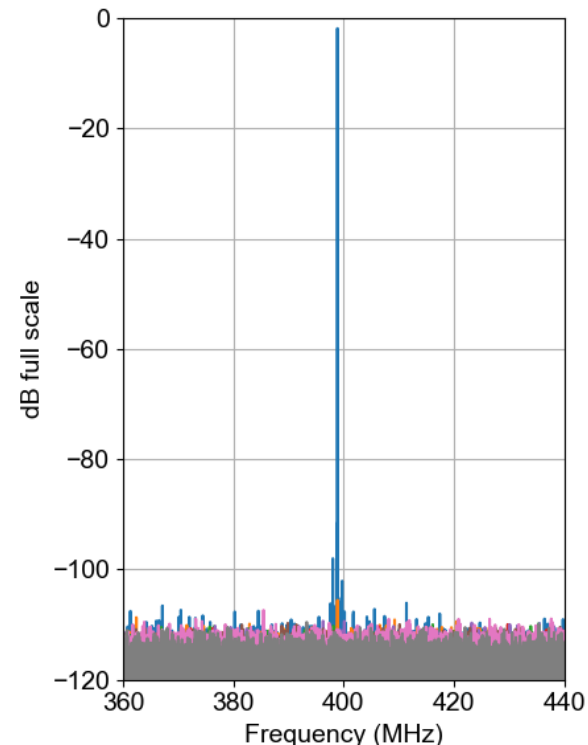
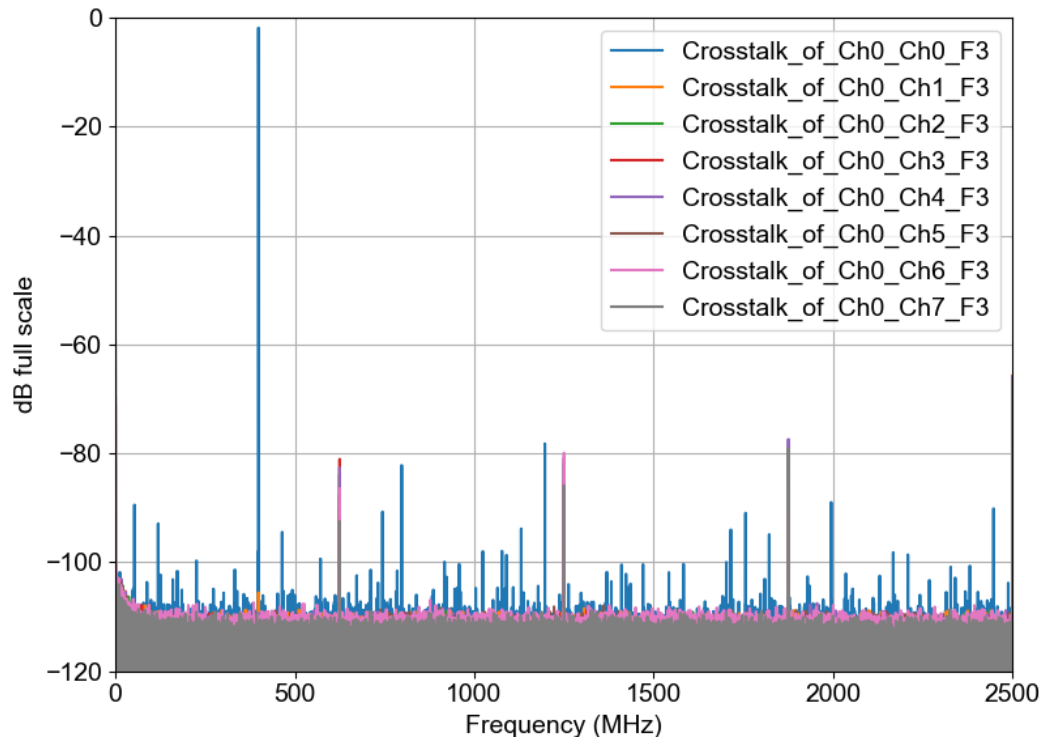
RF SoC evaluation, noise floor 5 Gbps

Observation of systematic LSB latching...



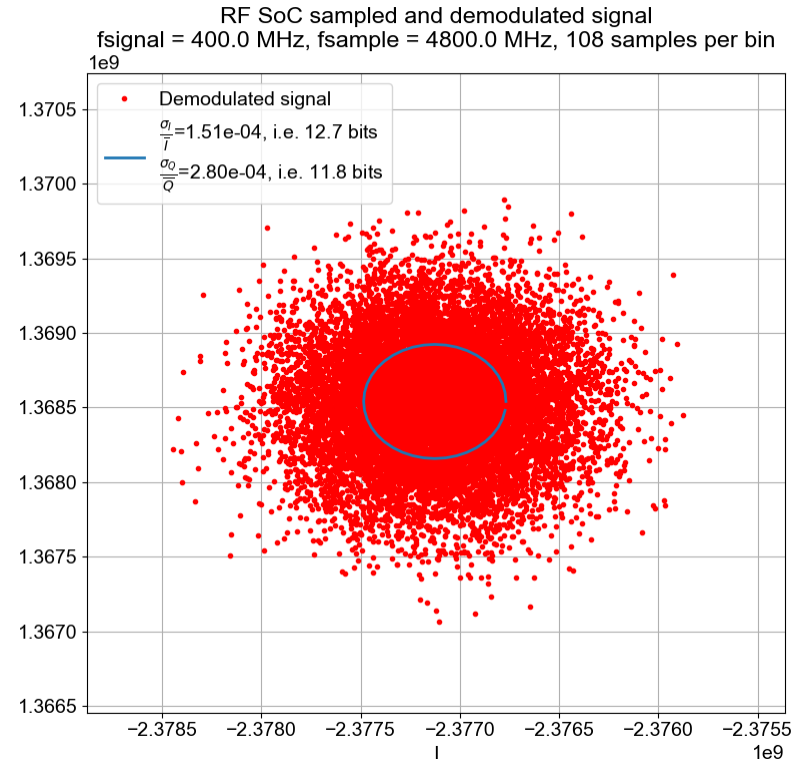
RF SoC evaluation, crosstalk and spurs

Sampling 398 MHz at 5 Gsps, no spurs in our band of interest. Promising...



RF SoC evaluation, synchronous acquisition

- Demodulated signal quality from RF SoC data, signals like in the machine
- “Beam synchronous” sampling
- $f_{\text{signal}} = 400 \text{ MHz}$
- $f_{\text{sample}} = 4800 \text{ MHz}$
- 9 periods of RF signal (108 samples) used for each 'bin'
- We plan to use 2 channels for Σ (+0.5 bit) and 4 channels for Δ (+1 bit)
- Two channels for cavity pickup (beam phase)



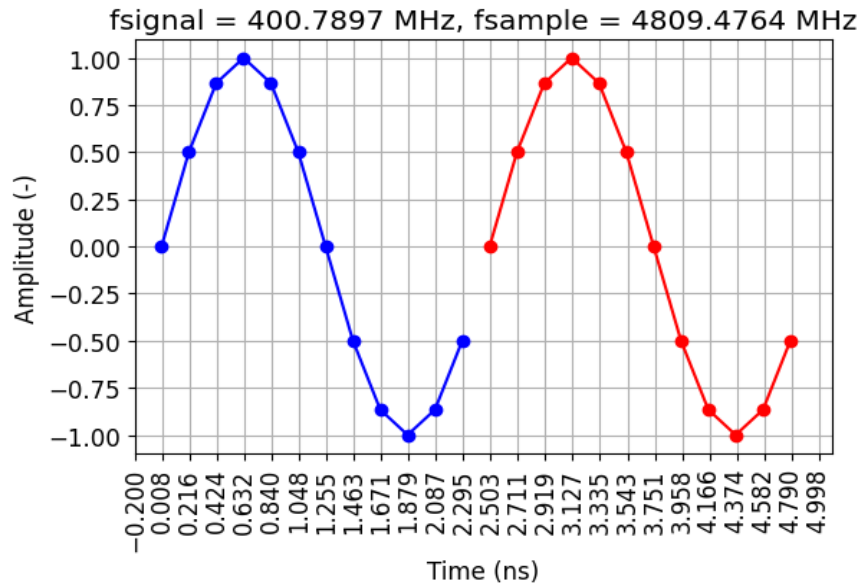
RF SoC evaluation

- But ENOB is not the only important thing.
- When aiming at the best possible noise performance, we need to meticulously analyze all potential noise contributors. For example...

Sampling of a harmonic signal

Signal synchronous with the sampling clock

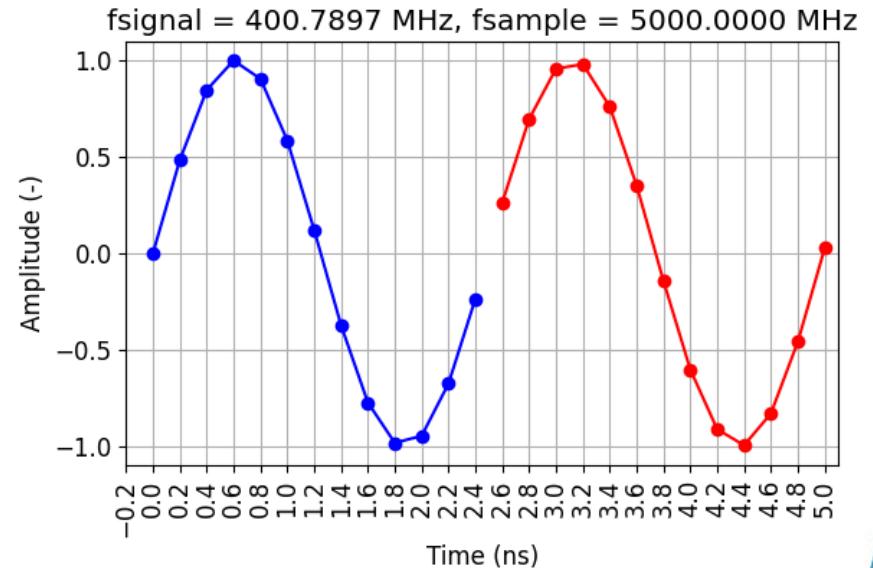
$$f_{\text{sample}} = k f_{\text{signal}}$$



Always the same acquisition

Signal asynchronous wrt sampling clock

$$f_{\text{sample}} \neq k f_{\text{signal}}$$



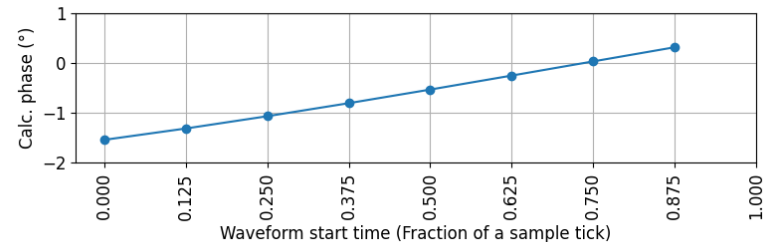
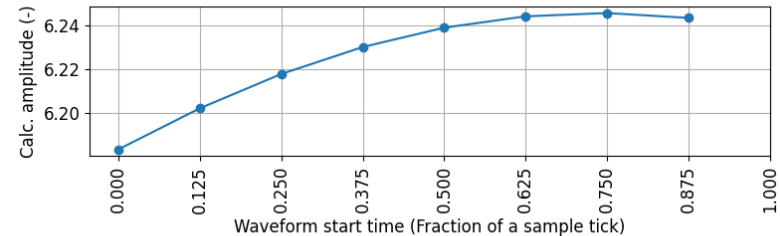
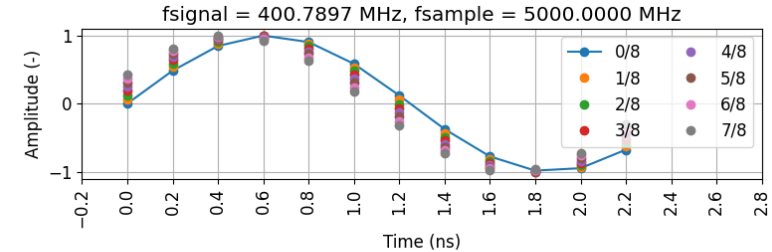
Every acquisition is different

Phase and amplitude of this sampled signal

Asynchronous sampling of signal, i.e.

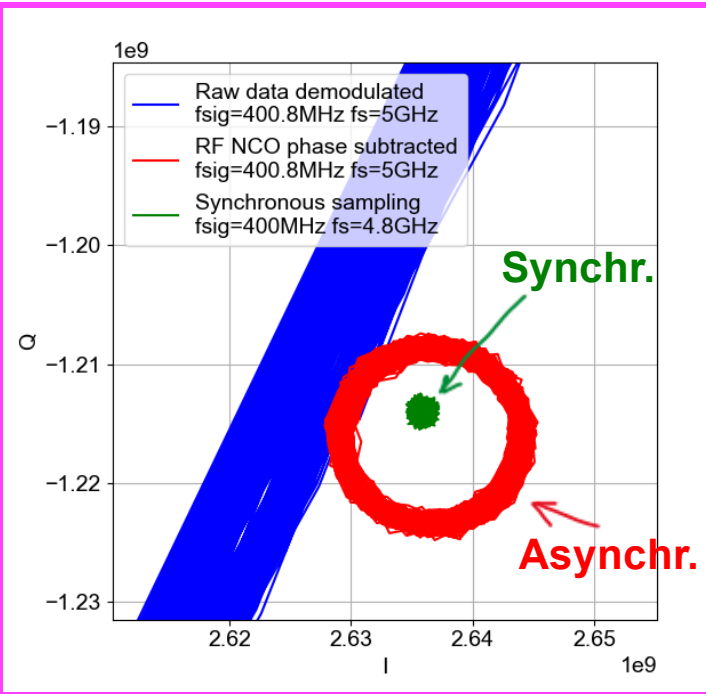
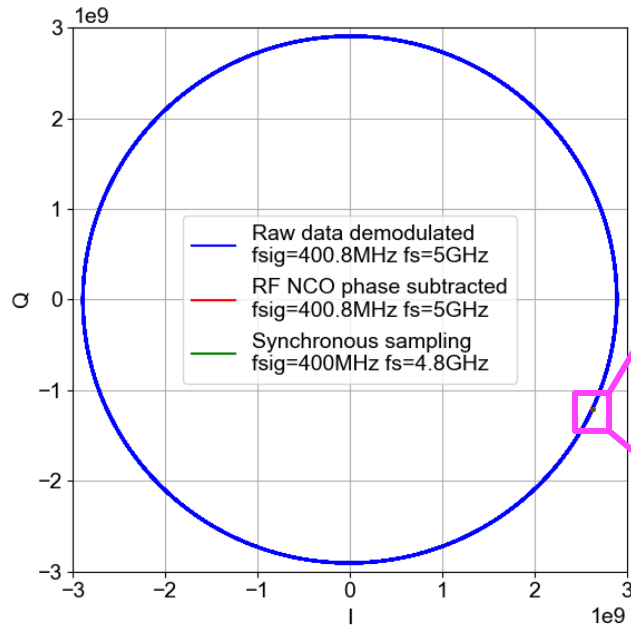
$$f_{\text{sample}} \neq k f_{\text{signal}}$$

means no two acquisitions are the same.
It introduces a non-negligible additional
phase/amplitude noise into the
demodulated signal



Comparison of demodulated synchronously/asynchronously sampled signal

Real data from RF SoC

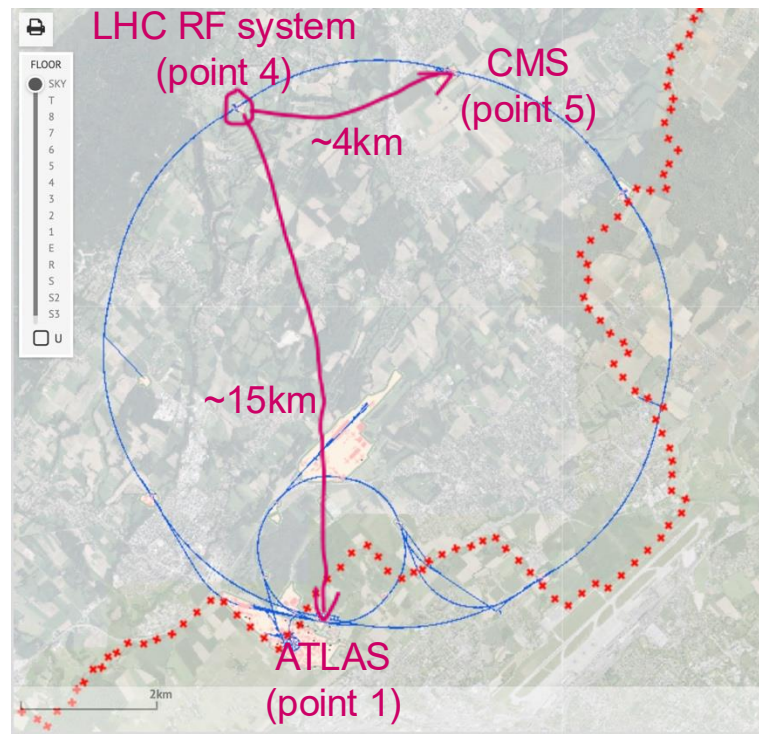


Phase and amplitude of this sampled signal

- To avoid creating additional noise, the sampling clock frequency must be an exact integer multiple of signal frequency (synchronous sampling).
- If the sampling clock is also beam synchronous, each turn will provide identical acquisition. We can profit from cancelation of many systematic errors by a notch filter.
- Chose wisely...

More options: transverse feedback in LHC

- LHC TFB has the required noise performance
- 4 pickups per beam per plane, we can reconstruct the full transverse phase space
- $\sim 150 \text{ nm}_{\text{RMS}}$ measurement noise
- Much smaller aperture pickups
- ...the required information is available there



More options: transverse feedback in LHC

An excerpt from the ADT beam position measurement module VHDL code

```
process(clk)
begin
  if rising_edge(clk) then

    SumISquared <= signed(SumI) * signed(SumI);
    SumQSquared <= signed(SumQ) * signed(SumQ);

    SumDeltaI <= signed(SumI) * signed(DeltaI);
    SumDeltaQ <= signed(SumQ) * signed(DeltaQ);

    Divident <= SumDeltaI + SumDeltaQ;
    Divisor <= SumISquared + SumQSquared;

  end if;
end process;
```

$$Position = \Re \frac{\Delta}{\Sigma} = \frac{I_{\Delta} I_{\Sigma} + Q_{\Delta} Q_{\Sigma}}{I_{\Sigma}^2 + Q_{\Sigma}^2}$$

What if we add 3 lines of code to the already existing, very low noise LHC ADT BPM?

```
process(clk)
begin
  if rising_edge(clk) then

    SumISquared <= signed(SumI) * signed(SumI);
    SumQSquared <= signed(SumQ) * signed(SumQ);

    SumDeltaI <= signed(SumI) * signed(DeltaI);
    SumDeltaQ <= signed(SumQ) * signed(DeltaQ);

    DeltaQSumI <= signed(DeltaQ) * signed(SumI);
    DeltaISumQ <= signed(DeltaI) * signed(SumQ);

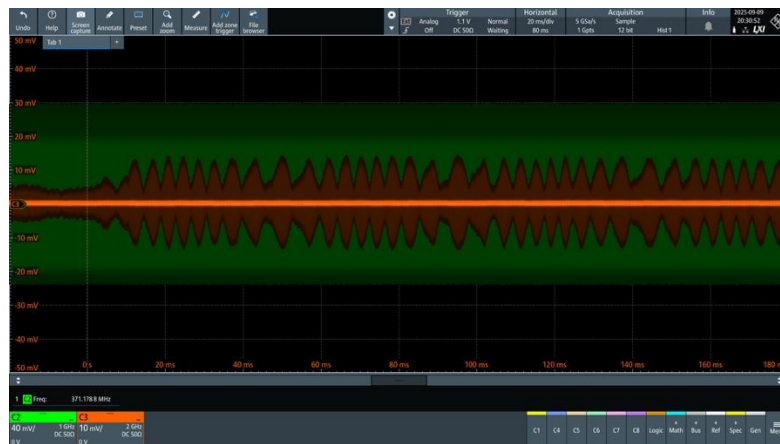
    DividentPosition <= SumDeltaI + SumDeltaQ;
    DividentTilt <= DeltaQSumI - DeltaISumQ;
    Divisor <= SumISquared + SumQSquared;

  end if;
end process;
```

$$Tilt = \Im \frac{\Delta}{\Sigma} = \frac{Q_{\Delta} I_{\Sigma} - I_{\Delta} Q_{\Sigma}}{I_{\Sigma}^2 + Q_{\Sigma}^2}$$

Testing with beam

- A number of sessions with real crab cavities in the SPS
- Preparing for a machine development session in LHC with crabbing induced by Head-On Beam-Beam Interaction. Very promising method, see Andrea Fornara's talk <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1559978/contributions/6664927/>
- Measurements by button pickups in SPS, W. Hofle et al. <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1559978/contributions/6664925>



Real pickup signals, high resolution R&S MXO58 scope used as 5 Gsps digitizer, 1e9 points. Offline position/tilt calculation by python.

Summary

- RF system of crab cavities must be very low noise (both LLRF and power). It is not possible to achieve only by the electronics itself, an active “noise” feedback is necessary.
- The work done so far indicates that the crab cavity noise feedback is feasible, however specifications are extremely demanding.
- Critical components are 180° hybrid and the digitizer.
- Preliminary tests confirm the RF SoC performance might be sufficient for LHC.
- We must meticulously analyze the performance and impact of every single component and every design decision



Fig. 1: A noisy crab preparing to ruin the HL-LHC luminosity