

Application Note: Long-Range FHSS Demo

Disclaimer

Long Range-Frequency Hopping Spread Spectrum (LR-FHSS) is a high link-budget, high-performance technology combining the benefits of a modulation employing low energy per bit and advanced frequency hopping schemes to achieve improved coexistence, spectral efficiency, and sensitivity. Semtech Corp. holds patents directed to aspects of the LR-FHSS technology.

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1 Introduction

The SX1261/2 and LR11xx transceivers have frequency hopping capabilities that make it possible for them to transmit data using the Long Range Frequency Hopping Spread Spectrum (LR-FHSS) modulation.

1.1 Purpose of This Document

This document presents how to use the SX1261/2 and LR11xx radio drivers to transmit data using LR-FHSS.

1.2 Scope of This Document

It is recommended to read this document in conjunction with the following resources:

- LR-FHSS demo package software with bundled SX126x and LR11xx drivers
 - <https://github.com/Lora-net/SWDM001>, v1.2 or later
- Standalone drivers
 - SX126x: https://github.com/Lora-net/sx126x_driver, v2.0.1 or later
 - LR11xx: <https://github.com/Lora-net/SWDR001>, v2.1.1 or later
- API reference provided in the doc directory of the LR-FHSS demo package

2 SX126x Driver

The SX126x driver provides LR-FHSS transmission capabilities, making it possible, for example, to communicate with an LR-FHSS-enabled LoRaWAN® gateway. This driver does not implement LR-FHSS reception.

The SX126x driver was mainly designed to execute simple radio commands as described in the transceiver specification. Although the SX126x hardware is capable of transmitting LR-FHSS packets, it needs help from host-MCU software to do so, in particular when it is necessary to prepare a proper LR-FHSS payload and hop to the next frequency.

Figure 1 shows the general sequence of API calls that are necessary to transmit LR-FHSS packets. Certain details do not appear in this figure for the sake of simplicity. See the API reference provided with the source code for more information.

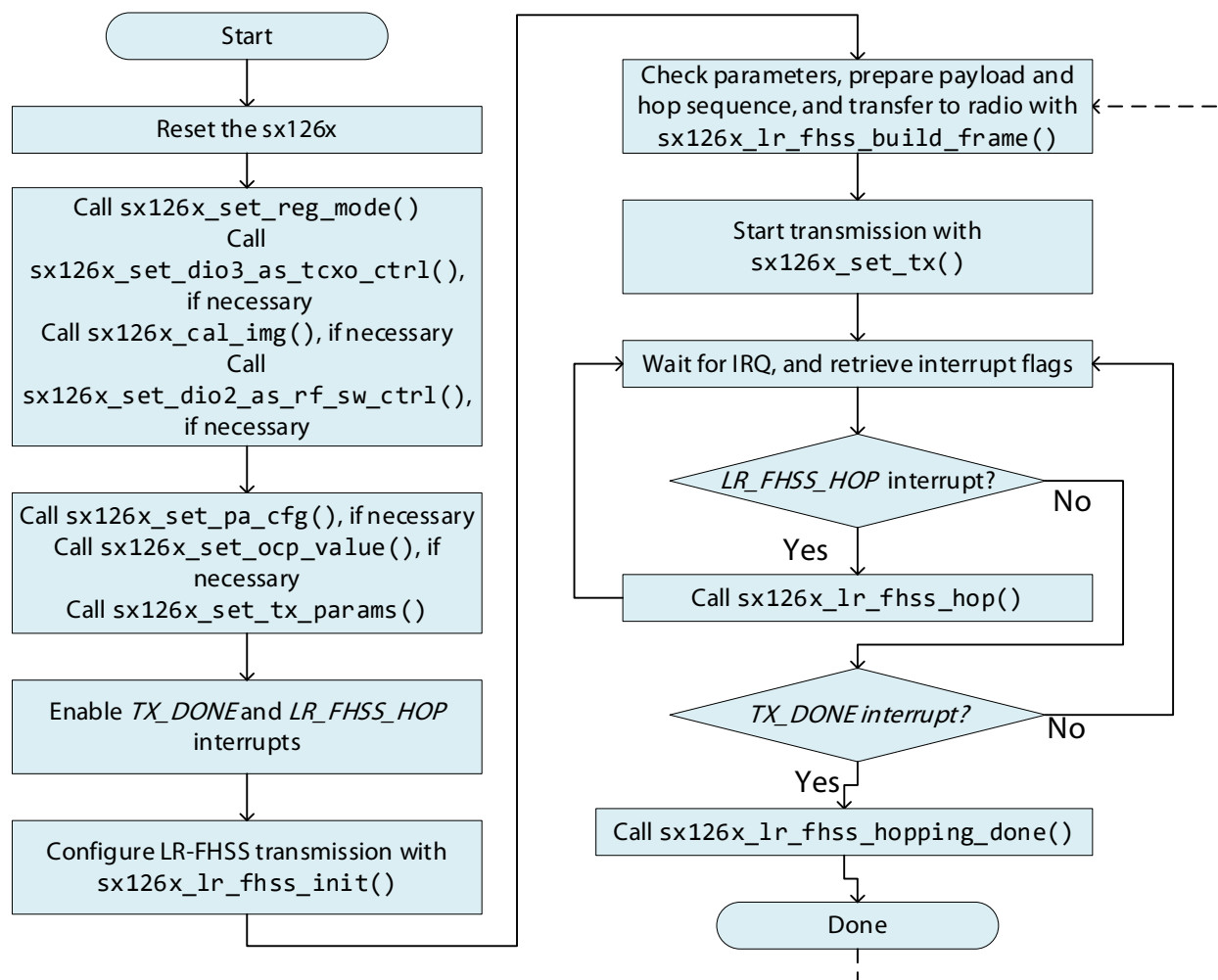


Figure 1: LR-FHSS Transmission

2.1 SX126x Driver LR-FHSS API Functions

The driver code provides the following principal LR-FHSS API functions:

Table 1: SX126x LR FHSS API Functions

| Function | Description |
|--|--|
| <code>sx126x_lr_fhss_init()</code> | Initializes the modulation parameters for LR-FHSS, required after reset, after using a different transceiver modulation, or after using sleep mode without retention |
| <code>sx126x_lr_fhss_build_frame()</code> | Validates transmission parameters, prepares physical payload, and transfers partial hop sequence and payload to radio |
| <code>sx126x_lr_fhss_handle_hop()</code> | Responds to an LR_FHSS_HOP interrupt by programming the next hop frequency |
| <code>sx126x_lr_fhss_handle_tx_done()</code> | Responds to a TX_DONE interrupt by disabling frequency hopping |
| <code>sx126x_lr_fhss_get_time_on_air_in_ms()</code> | Gets the time on air, in ms, for LR-FHSS transmission |
| <code>sx126x_lr_fhss_get_hop_sequence_count()</code> | Returns the number of valid hop sequences (512 or 384) |

Most of the work performed by the driver is in the function `sx126x_lr_fhss_build_frame()`. The principal operation of this function is as follows:

- Call `sx126x_lr_fhss_process_parameters()` to check the parameters, and in case of success, generate the digest summary which contains size information that is necessary for building and sending the physical payload.
- Call `lr_fhss_build_frame()` to prepare the physical payload.
- Call `sx126x_lr_fhss_write_payload()` to transfer the physical payload to the radio.
- Call `sx126x_lr_fhss_write_hop_sequence_head()` to transfer the beginning of the hop sequence to the radio.

Only two of the above functions communicate with the radio:

`sx126x_lr_fhss_write_hop_sequence_head()` and `sx126x_lr_fhss_write_payload()`. See the API documentation provided with the source code for more details.

Once `sx126x_lr_fhss_build_frame()` has been called, the SX126x driver function `sx126x_set_tx()` can be called to initiate packet transmission.

The SX126x driver provides many other API functions which implement other radio capabilities as described in the radio specification. Since they are not directly related to LR-FHSS, they are not described here in detail. Some of them, however, are needed for basic radio setup, as shown in Figure 1.

2.2 SX126x Driver LR-FHSS API Requirements

To use the driver, it is necessary to implement the API functions declared in `sx126x_hal.h`.

These functions must be implemented to provide SPI communication, reset, and wakeup functions that are necessary to use the SX126x. Many SX126x driver functions take an opaque “*void* context*” argument. The driver does not use this argument in any way, it passes it directly to the board support read and write functions which communicate with the radio. The board support package defines if and how the context argument is used. Generally, for a board with several transceivers, this argument could be used to distinguish between different transceiver instances. This demo code assumes that a single transceiver is used.

The demo application provides example implementations of these API functions that will need to be adapted to application requirements.

2.3 Library Organization

The library is organized as follows:

Table 2: SX126x Library Directories Contents

| Directory | Contents |
|--|--|
| <code>doc\sx126x</code> | Driver package API documentation (open <code>doc\sx126x\html\index.html</code> with a web browser) |
| <code>lib\sx126x_driver</code> | Version of SX126x radio driver with LR-FHSS support |
| <code>lib\sxlib2</code> | Generic platform support libraries Example implementations of <code>sx126x_hal.h</code> API functions |
| <code>lib\sx_comp</code> | API for some common driver-related operations |
| <code>lib\sx126x_comp</code> | Implementation of <code>sx_comp</code> API functions for SX126x |
| <code>project\keil_stm32l_polling</code> | Keil® projects for building this demo |
| <code>platform</code> | Board, shield, HAL, BSP, and system files |
| <code>src\demos\sx126x_lr_fhss_ping</code> | <code>sx126x_lr_fhss_ping</code> example project |
| <code>lib\stm32cubel4subset</code> | Components adapted from ST Microelectronics’ STM32Cube™ HAL |

2.4 Driver Library Usage

1. Add the following directories to your C or C++ compiler include path:

```
lib\sx126x_driver\src
```

2. Include the following in your application source code files:

```
#include "sx126x_lr_fhss.h"
```

3. Include the following header file in the source code of your HAL implementation, and implement all functions declared therein:

```
#include "sx126x_hal.h"
```

See the demo project for more information.

3 LR11xx Driver

The LR11xx transceiver provides complete LR-FHSS transmission capabilities in the firmware, making it possible, for example, to communicate with an LR-FHSS-enabled LoRaWAN gateway. This driver does not implement LR-FHSS reception.

The LR11xx LR-FHSS firmware support means that the host MCU does not need to manage hopping in real time. Also, the physical payload preparation is done by the LR11xx firmware, greatly simplifying the host MCU driver.

Figure 2 shows the general sequence of API calls that are necessary to transmit LR-FHSS packets. Certain details do not appear in this figure for the sake of simplicity. See the API reference provided with the source code for more information.

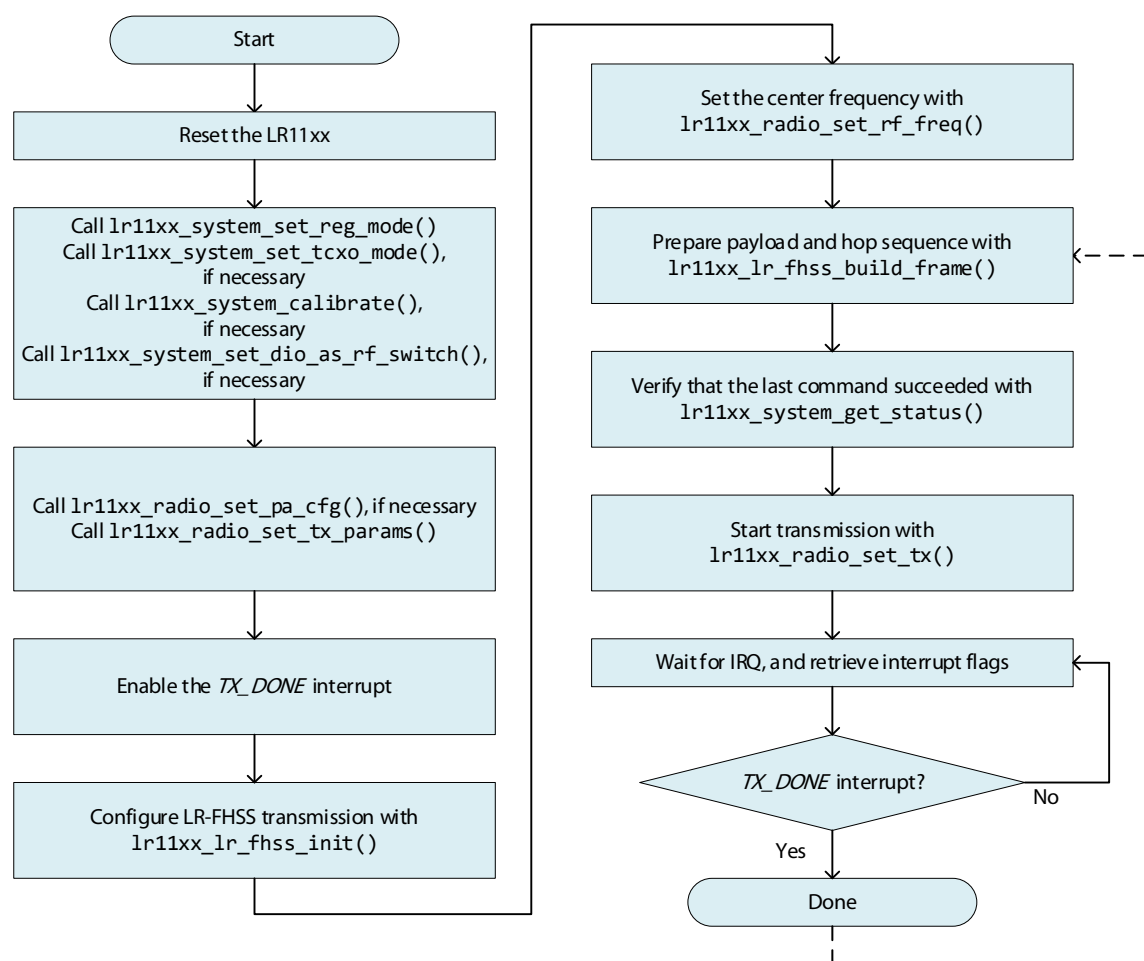


Figure 2: LR11xx LR-FHSS Transmission

3.1 LR11xx Driver LR-FHSS API Functions

The driver code provides the following principal LR-FHSS API functions:

Table 3: LR11xx LR FHSS API Functions

| Function | Description |
|--|--|
| <code>lr11xx_lr_fhss_init()</code> | Initializes the modulation parameters for LR-FHSS, required after reset, after using a different transceiver modulation, or after using sleep mode without retention |
| <code>lr11xx_radio_set_rf_freq()</code> | Sets the LR-FHSS center frequency |
| <code>lr11xx_lr_fhss_build_frame()</code> | Validates transmission parameters, prepares physical payload, and transfers partial hop sequence and payload to radio |
| <code>lr11xx_radio_set_tx()</code> | Initiates the LR-FHSS transmission |
| <code>lr11xx_lr_fhss_get_time_on_air_in_ms()</code> | Gets the time on air, in ms, for LR-FHSS transmission |
| <code>lr11xx_lr_fhss_get_hop_sequence_count()</code> | Returns the number of valid hop sequences (512 or 384) |

The LR11xx driver provides many other API functions which implement the other radio capabilities as described in the radio specification. Since they are not directly related to LR-FHSS, they are not described here in detail. Some of them, however, are needed for basic radio setup, as shown in Figure 2.

3.2 LR11xx Driver LR-FHSS API Requirements

To use the driver, it is necessary to implement the API functions declared in `lr11xx_hal.h`.

These functions must be implemented to provide SPI communication, reset, and wakeup functions that are necessary to use the LR11xx. Many LR11xx driver functions take an opaque “void* context” argument. The driver does not use this argument in any way, except that it passes it directly to the board support read and write functions that communicate with the radio. It is up to the board support package to define if and how the context argument is used. Generally, for a board with several transceivers, this argument could be used to distinguish between different transceiver instances. This demo code assumes that a single transceiver is used.

The demo application provides example implementations of these API functions that will need to be adapted to application requirements.

3.3 Library Organization

The library is organized as follows:

Table 4: LR11xx Library Directories Contents

| Directory | Contents |
|-------------------------------|---|
| doc\lr11xx | Driver package API documentation (open doc\lr11xx\html\index.html with a web browser) |
| lib\lr11xx_driver | Version of LR11xx radio driver with LR-FHSS support |
| lib\sxlib2 | Generic platform support libraries Example implementations of lr11xx_hal.h API functions |
| lib\sx_comp | API for some common driver-related operations |
| lib\lr11xx_comp | Implementation of sx_comp API functions for LR11xx |
| project\keil_stm32l_polling | Keil projects for building this demo |
| platform | Board, shield, HAL, BSP, and system files |
| src\demos\lr11xx_lr_fhss_ping | lr11xx_lr_fhss_ping example project |
| lib\stm32cubel4subset | Components adapted from ST Microelectronics' STM32Cube HAL |

3.4 Driver Library Usage

1. Add the following directories to your C or C++ compiler include path (replacing xx with your device number):

```
lib\lr11xx_driver\src
```

2. In your application source code files, you must include:

```
#include "lr11xx_lr_fhss.h"
```

```
#include "lr11xx_system.h"
```

```
#include "lr11xx_radio.h"
```

3. The source code of your HAL implementation must include the following header file, and implement all functions declared therein:

```
#include "lr11xx_hal.h"
```

See the demo project for more information.

4 SX126x/LR11xx LR-FHSS Demo

The SX126x and LR11xx demos are part of a Keil project that compiles and runs on STM32L476 Nucleo boards, and periodically sends LR-FHSS packets of different lengths as shown in Figure 3.

In what follows, the prefix “xxxxxx” refers to either “sx126x” or “lr11xx”, depending on the desired demo.

In certain cases described below, there are differences between the transceivers. In this case, the actual transceiver is referred to by name.

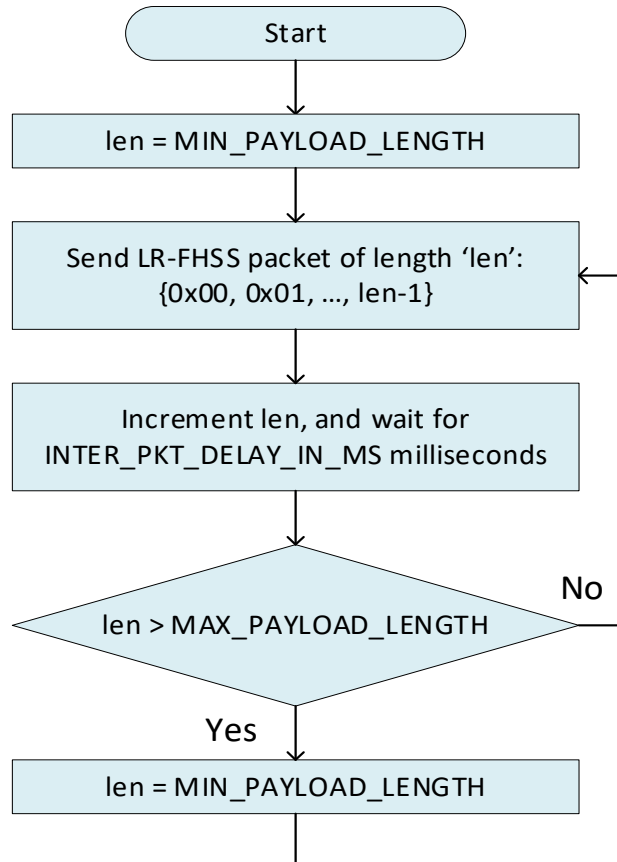


Figure 3: xxxxxx_lr_fhss_ping Demo Application Program Flow

4.1 Application Startup

The `main()` function does the following:

- Initialize the board-related hardware by calling `smtc_board_init()`.
- Initialize the shield-related hardware by calling `smtc_shield_init()`.
Note that this initializes a `global_radio` object, whose address is passed to the transceiver driver API and `sx_comp` API as "*void* context*".
- Initialize the timing facilities.
- Call `main_()`.

The `main_()` function does the following:

- Initialize the system time.
- Call `sxlib_Radio_identify_radio()`, which identifies the radio shield and binds `xxxxxx_comp` function definitions to the radio function pointer (*void* context*) so that `sx_comp` API calls point to the proper functions for the specific transceiver that was identified, with any necessary information like TCXO configuration held in the `sx_comp_t` object.
- Initialize the radio event-handling mechanism.
- Call `sx_comp_radio_reset_and_init()`, which uses the binding described above to indirectly call `xxxxxx_comp_radio_reset_and_init_base()`. The latter function calls the transceiver and `sx_comp` API functions that reset the radio, set the `RegMode`, configure automatic antenna switch control, and perform basic calibration.
- Start the Figure 3 demo by calling `sxlib_demo_launcher()`, which is found in the `xxxxxx_lr_fhss_ping_start.c` file. This file, and all the other application logic related to this flowchart, can be found in the files of the Keil project group named `demo_xxxxxx_lr_fhss_ping`.

4.2 UART Diagnostics

The demo performs serial logging if this C preprocessor symbol is set globally:

```
SXLIB_LOG_LEVEL=1000
```

Connect to the Nucleo debug Virtual COM port at 115000 baud, N-8-1.

Note that it is possible to reduce the code size by setting `SXLIB_LOG_LEVEL` to 0, which disables logging.

4.3 Configurability

Project configuration changes can be achieved through both link-time file selection, and parameter and function modification. Certain C pre-processor symbols can be added or removed to the global configuration to change behavior, via the **Project → Options For Target → C/C++ configuration** variables.

See Table 5, Table 6, and Section 4.6 for more information.

Table 5: Configurable Parameters

| Parameter | File | Comment |
|--|-----------------------------|---|
| GPIO parameters related to shield | smtc_shield.c | Adapts software to work with different shields |
| SPI parameters related to shield | smtc_shield.c/smtc_board.c | Adapts software to work with different shields |
| <i>INTER_PKT_DELAY_IN_MS</i> | xxxxxx_lr_fhss_ping_start.c | Simple inter-packet delay (must be 20000 or more to satisfy FCC requirements) |
| <i>MAX_PAYLOAD_LENGTH</i> | xxxxxx_lr_fhss_ping.c | Lower limit for the payload length sweep |
| <i>MIN_PAYLOAD_LENGTH</i> | xxxxxx_lr_fhss_ping.c | Upper limit for the payload length sweep |
| <i>device_offset</i> | xxxxxx_lr_fhss_ping.c | see lr_fhss_send_packet() |
| <i>lr_fhss_params.bw (bandwidth)</i> | xxxxxx_lr_fhss_ping.c | see lr_fhss_send_packet() |
| <i>lr_fhss_params.cr (coding rate)</i> | xxxxxx_lr_fhss_ping.c | see lr_fhss_send_packet() |
| <i>lr_fhss_params.enable_hopping</i> | xxxxxx_lr_fhss_ping.c | see lr_fhss_send_packet() |
| <i>lr_fhss_params.grid</i> | xxxxxx_lr_fhss_ping.c | see lr_fhss_send_packet() |
| <i>lr_fhss_params.sync_word</i> | xxxxxx_lr_fhss_ping.c | see lr_fhss_send_packet() |
| <i>lr_fhss_params.header_count</i> | xxxxxx_lr_fhss_ping.c | see lr_fhss_send_packet() |
| <i>CONFIG_ALLOW_SMTc_RADIO_SLEEP</i> | xxxxxx_lr_fhss_ping.c | Can be defined in global pre-processor symbols to allow radio to sleep between transmissions |
| <i>RF_FREQUENCY</i> | xxxxxx_lr_fhss_ping.c | LR-FHSS center frequency (must be set according to region) |
| <i>cal_img_freq1_in_mhz</i> , <i>cal_img_freq2_in_mhz</i> | identify_xxxxxx.c | Calibration frequency range used by sx_comp_radio_reset_and_init(). These must be set according to region, for lr11xx. For sx126x, these are auto-detected. |
| <i>POWER_IN_DBM</i> | xxxxxx_lr_fhss_ping.c | Output power () (must be set according to region) |

Table 6: Configuration through Function Modification

| Function | File | Comment |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| smtc_shield_init() | shield_sx126x/smtc_shield.c for SX126x shield_lr11xx/smtc_shield.c for LR11xx | Configure shield, from main(), in main_polling.c or main_rtx5.c. |
| smtc_board_init() | smtc_board.c | Configure board, from main(), in main_polling.c or main_rtx5.c. |
| main_single_interface_init() | prepare_interface.c | Select LEDs to be used by the application, from main(), in main_single_radio.c. |
| sxlib_Radio_identify_radio() | identify_sx126x.c/identify_lr1110_lr1120_tcxo.c/identify_lr1121_xtal.c | If necessary, auto-identify the transceiver being used by reading GPIO configuration bridges. Define TCXO parameters and calibration frequencies. This also binds xxxxxx_comp function definitions to the radio function pointer (context) so that sx_comp API calls point to the proper functions for the identified transceiver. Called from main_(), in main_single_radio.c. |

4.4 Hardware Requirements

4.4.1 MCU Board

An STM32L476 Nucleo board is required.

4.4.2 SX126x Shield

For the following Semtech part numbers, the calibration frequency, clock source, and SX126x part number should be properly identified and configured by the function `sxlib_Radio_identify_radio()`:

- SX1261MB1BAS
- SX1261MB2BAS
- SX1262MB1CAS
- SX1262MB1PAS
- SX1262MB2CAS

Manual setting of region-specific transmission power and center frequency are required as described in Section 4.3.

It may be possible to get other Semtech SX126x boards to work through manual modification of `smtc_board_init()`, `smtc_shield_init()`, or `sxlib_Radio_identify_radio()`.

4.4.3 LR11xx Shield

This demo software does not perform active identification of the LR11xx shield. The following shields have been tested with the `lr1110_lr1120_tcxo` target:

- LR1110MB1DIS
- LR1110MB1DJS
- LR1120MB1DIS
- LR1120MB1DJS

The following shield has been tested with the `lr1121_xtal` target:

- LR1121MB1DIS

Manual setting of region-specific transmission power, calibration frequency, and center frequency are also required, as described in Section 4.3.

It may be possible to get other Semtech LR11xx boards to work through manual modification of `smtc_board_init()`, `smtc_shield_init()`, or `sxlib_Radio_identify_radio()`. Shields using a TCXO are likely to work with the `lr1110_lr1120_tcxo` target. Shields using a crystal oscillator are likely to work with the `lr1121_xtal` target. For LR1110, firmware version 0x0307 or later is required. Find recent LR11xx firmware updates here: https://github.com/Lora-net/radio_firmware_images/

4.5 Software Requirements

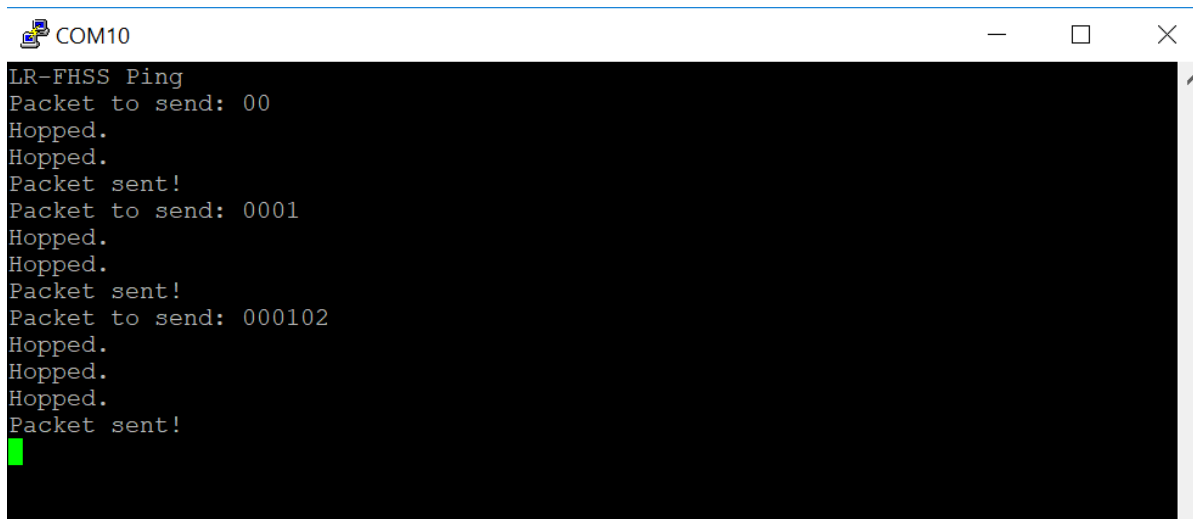
The free 32k-limited lite version of Keil® MDK (<https://www2.keil.com/mdk5>) is all you need to compile, debug, and run the LR-FHSS demo application. If compiler optimization is disabled, this may no longer be possible.

4.6 Compile & Run Demo

4.6.1 Asynchronous Bare-Metal Example

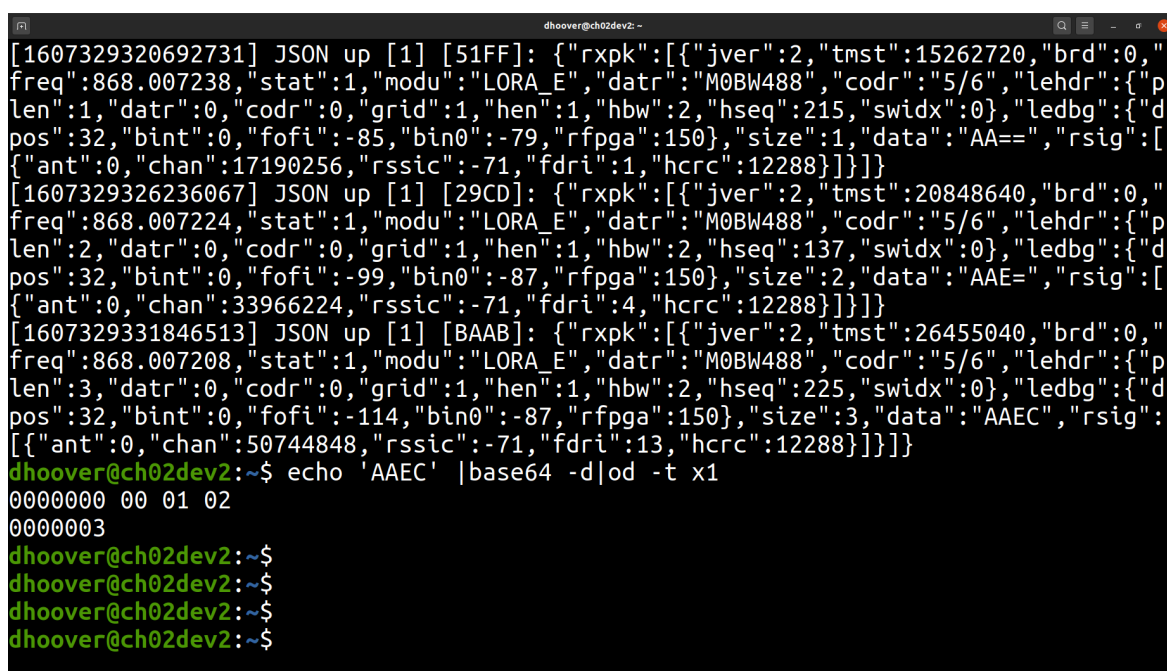
1. Open Arm® Keil® µVision®5 and start the Pack Installer from the toolbar. From the Devices tab, select the **MCU STMicroelectronics/STM32L4/STM32L476RGTx**. In the right pane, make sure that the Keil::STM32L4xx_DFP Keil and ARM::CMSIS packages are installed and up-to-date.
2. With Keil MDK, open the project\keil_stm32l_polling\STM32L476.uvprojx file.
3. Make sure that the desired transceiver, **sx126x**, **lr1110_lr1120_tcxo**, or **lr1121_xtal** is selected in the Keil 'Select Target' list.
4. Select **Project -> Build Target**.
5. Connect the appropriate hardware as described in Section 4.4.
6. (Optional) Connect a terminal emulator to the debug UART, as described in Section 4.2.
7. In Keil MDK, select **Project -> Options for Target -> Debug**, and select **ST-Link Debugger**.
8. For the **Use:** option, select **ST-Link Debugger** and select **Settings**.
9. Activate the **Download Options: Verify Code Download** and **Download to Flash**.
10. Select the '**under Reset**' Connect Options, and Port '**SW**'.
11. Press **OK**.
12. Press **OK**.
13. (Optional) Start an LR-FHSS gateway if you wish to test packet reception.
14. Select **Debug -> Start Debug Session**, then **Debug -> Run**.

Figure 4 shows an example of the UART log with an SX126x transmitter, and Figure 5 shows an example of successful packet reception by the gateway.



```
COM10
LR-FHSS Ping
Packet to send: 00
Hopped.
Hopped.
Packet sent!
Packet to send: 0001
Hopped.
Hopped.
Packet sent!
Packet to send: 000102
Hopped.
Hopped.
Hopped.
Packet sent!
```

Figure 4: Debug Log



```
dhooover@ch02dev2: ~
[1607329320692731] JSON up [1] [51FF]: {"rxpk":[{"jver":2,"tmst":15262720,"brd":0,"freq":868.007238,"stat":1,"modu":"LORA_E","datr":"M0BW488","codr":"5/6","lehdr":{"plen":1,"datr":0,"codr":0,"grid":1,"hen":1,"hbw":2,"hseq":215,"swidx":0},"ledbg":{"dpos":32,"bint":0,"fofi":-85,"bin0":-79,"rfpga":150,"size":1,"data":"AA==","rsig":[{"ant":0,"chan":17190256,"rssic":-71,"fdri":1,"hcrc":12288}]}]}
[1607329326236067] JSON up [1] [29CD]: {"rxpk":[{"jver":2,"tmst":20848640,"brd":0,"freq":868.007224,"stat":1,"modu":"LORA_E","datr":"M0BW488","codr":"5/6","lehdr":{"plen":2,"datr":0,"codr":0,"grid":1,"hen":1,"hbw":2,"hseq":137,"swidx":0},"ledbg":{"dpos":32,"bint":0,"fofi":-99,"bin0":-87,"rfpga":150,"size":2,"data":"AAE=","rsig":[{"ant":0,"chan":33966224,"rssic":-71,"fdri":4,"hcrc":12288}]}]}
[1607329331846513] JSON up [1] [BAAB]: {"rxpk":[{"jver":2,"tmst":26455040,"brd":0,"freq":868.007208,"stat":1,"modu":"LORA_E","datr":"M0BW488","codr":"5/6","lehdr":{"plen":3,"datr":0,"codr":0,"grid":1,"hen":1,"hbw":2,"hseq":225,"swidx":0},"ledbg":{"dpos":32,"bint":0,"fofi":-114,"bin0":-87,"rfpga":150,"size":3,"data":"AAEC","rsig":[{"ant":0,"chan":50744848,"rssic":-71,"fdri":13,"hcrc":12288}]}]}
dhooover@ch02dev2:~$ echo 'AAEC' |base64 -d|od -t x1
00000000 00 01 02
00000003
dhooover@ch02dev2:~$
dhooover@ch02dev2:~$
dhooover@ch02dev2:~$
dhooover@ch02dev2:~$
```

Figure 5: Gateway Log And Payload Decoding

4.6.2 Synchronous RTX5 Example

An RTX5-based synchronous variant of the demo exists.

The principal difference is in the use of the `xxxxxx_lr_fhss_ping_sync.c` main loop instead of the event-based code in `xxxxxx_lr_fhss_ping_async.c`.

5 Application Debugging

5.1 Observe LR-FHSS Hopping Using SX126x Demo

As described in Section 4.2, you can observe if frequency hopping is occurring by activating logging and connecting a terminal emulator to the UART.

You can see the approximate timing of each hop by activating a strobe on a GPIO output for each hop interrupt and setting the GPIO line high during the application sleep phase.

5.1.1 Demo Parameters

In this section, we configure the `sx126x_lr_fhss_ping` demo to transmit 15-byte user payloads at 868MHz, with a 136.7kHz bandwidth and a 3.9kHz grid.

In the `sx126x_lr_fhss_ping.c` file, make sure that the bandwidth and grid parameters are properly configured, and set `header_count` to 2. Set `MIN_PAYLOAD_LENGTH` and `MAX_PAYLOAD_LENGTH` to 15.

In `sx126x_lr_fhss_ping_start.c`, set `INTER_PKT_DELAY_IN_MILLI` to a small value, like 10.

5.1.2 Activate Strobe on Each Hop

To activate a strobe on each hop, a global LED device named **global_gpio_led_debug** has been defined in the shield files. It is active by default on the STM32 PC10 GPIO line (Nucleo CN7, pin 1).

1. To access this global variable, near the top of `sx126x_lr_fhss_ping.c` add:

```
#include "smtc_shield.h"
```

2. To activate GPIO toggling, in `sx126x_lr_fhss_ping.c` at the very top of both `sx126x_lr_fhss_ping_handle_hop()` and `sx126x_lr_fhss_ping_handle_tx_done()` functions, add:

```
sxlib_Gpio_Led_on( &global_gpio_led_debug );
```

3. In `sx126x_lr_fhss_ping.c` at the very bottom of `sx126x_lr_fhss_ping_handle_hop()` function, and at the top of the `sx126x_lr_fhss_ping_launch()` function, add:

```
sxlib_Gpio_Led_off( &global_gpio_led_debug );
```

4. Set the `MIN_PAYLOAD_LENGTH` and the `MAX_PAYLOAD_LENGTH` definitions to 15, for example, so that every transmitted packet has the same length.
5. Rebuild the project and start the application.

5.1.3 Determine Theoretical Number of Hops and Their Durations

Add a breakpoint to the line of `sx126x_lr_fhss_ping.c` that calls `sx126x_lr_fhss_build_frame()` and restart the application. When the breakpoint is reached, step **into** the `sx126x_lr_fhss_build_frame()` function, and then step **over** `sx126x_lr_fhss_process_parameters()`. After returning without error, the latter function should have determined the number of hops and the physical payload size in the `state->digest` structure. With the unmodified LR-FHSS parameters, you can observe `state->digest.nb_bytes=51`, `state->digest.nb_bits=407`, and `state->digest.nb_hops=6`. Of these 6 blocks that are transmitted:

- The first two are header blocks composed of 114 bits, with a duration of $114 / 488.28125 = 233$ ms.
- The next three blocks are complete data blocks composed of 50 bits, with a duration of $50 / 488.28125 = 102$ ms.
- The last data block is partial, length $407 - 114 - 114 - 3 * 50 = 29$ bits, with a duration of $29 / 488.28125 = 59$ ms.

5.1.4 Observe Time between Hop Strokes

The timing markers in Figure 6 show the amount of time between hop strokes. This, of course, does not correspond exactly with the theoretical values (above) because the debug line strobes are not synchronized with the operations taking place within the transceiver. If you closely observe the first interval, you see that the strobe occurs before the SetTx call. Using the transceiver BUSY line as a reference results in a better measurement of the first interval, because it indicates at what point the transceiver is almost ready to transmit.

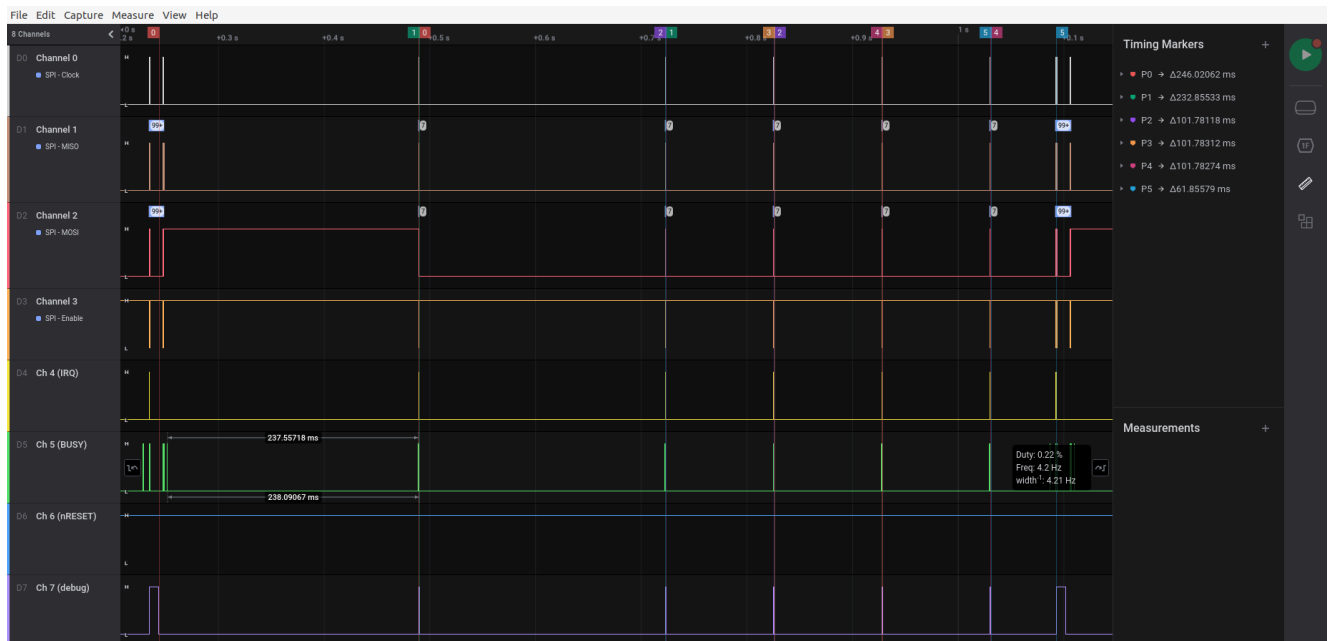


Figure 6: Approximate Hop Durations

5.2 LR-FHSS Signal Spectrum

This example demonstrates how to observe LR-FHSS hopping on a spectrum analyzer.

5.2.1 Demo Parameters

In this section, we configure the `xxxxxx_lr_fhss_ping` demo to transmit 15-byte user payloads at 868MHz, with a 136.7kHz bandwidth and a 3.9kHz grid.

In the `xxxxxx_lr_fhss_ping.c` file, make sure that the bandwidth and grid parameters are properly configured, and set `header_count` to 2. Also, set `MIN_PAYLOAD_LENGTH` and `MAX_PAYLOAD_LENGTH` to 15.

In `xxxxxx_lr_fhss_ping_start.c`, set `INTER_PKT_DELAY_IN_MILLI` to a small value, like 10.

5.2.2 Single Sweep Spectrum

After setting the center frequency to 868MHz, the span to 250kHz, and the resolution bandwidth to 500Hz, you can see a single sweep in Figure 7.

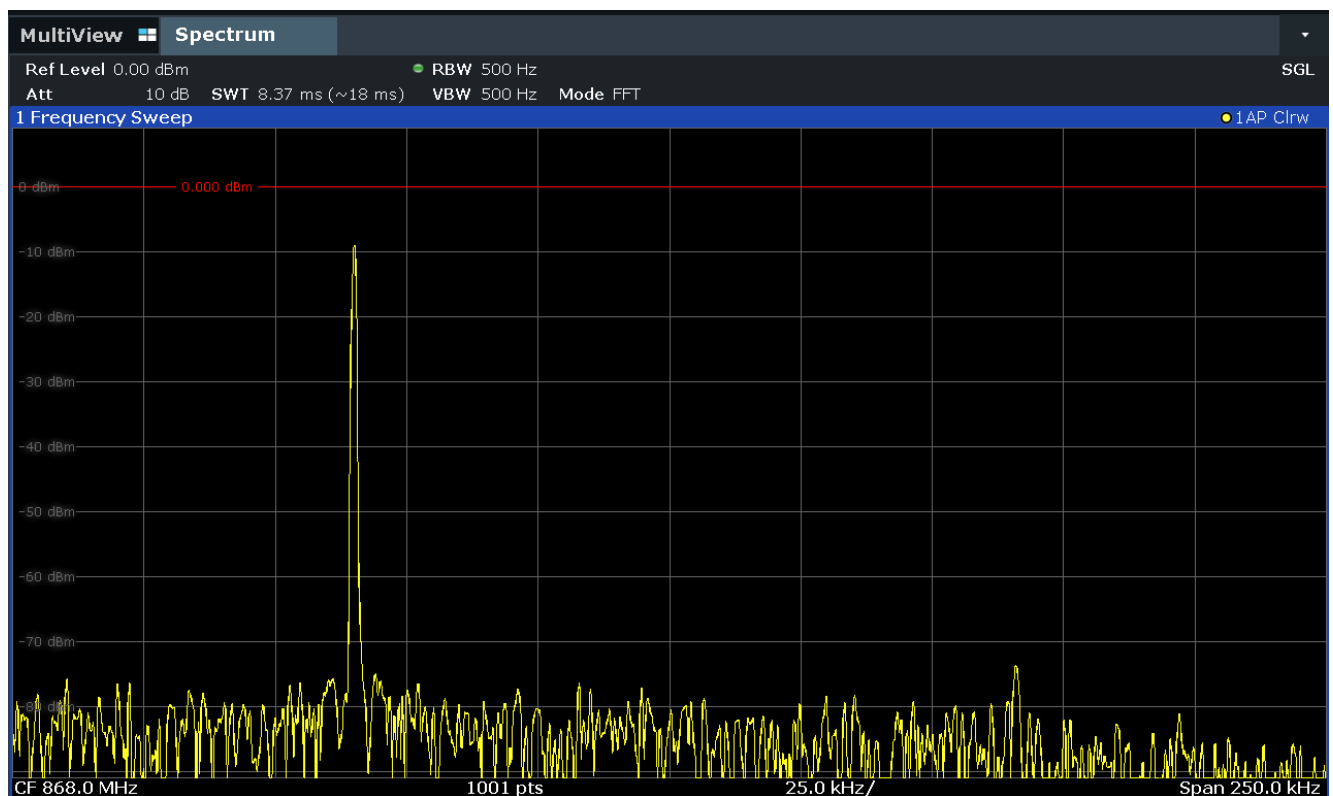


Figure 7: Single Hop

5.2.3 Max Hold Spectrum over Several Sweeps

According to the specification, Ngrid=35 for this configuration. If the spectrum analyzer trace is set to 'Max Hold', then after a few minutes you should observe a trace similar to Figure 8. 'Max Hold' preserves the maximum amplitude that was attained over the entire trace execution. As in Section 5.1, there are two header blocks and four data blocks. Therefore, each complete transmission occupies 6 different frequencies. Over the course of many transmissions, however, all 35 frequencies will be used. Note that the difference between the markers corresponds to the 136.7kHz LR-FHSS bandwidth.

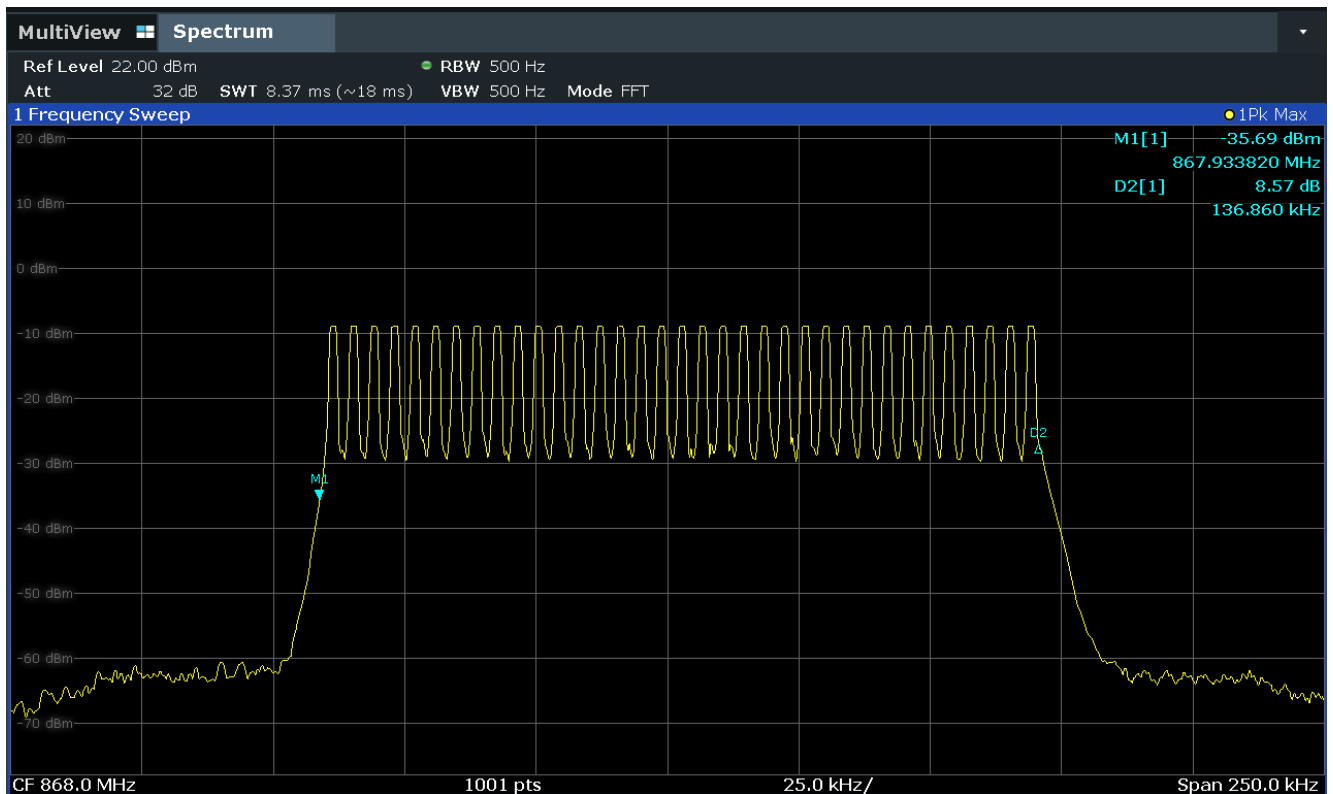


Figure 8: Hopping Observed With Max Hold Trace Settings

5.2.4 Spectrogram

During a single transmission, two sync header blocks and four data blocks are transmitted, each at a different frequency. This is clearly visible in Figure 9, where you also observe that the last data block is shorter than the three others.

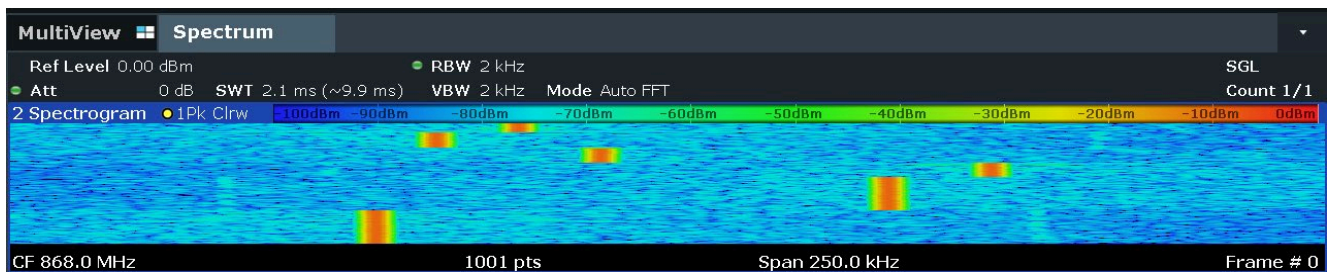


Figure 9: Spectrogram over a Single Transmission

6 Conclusion

This application note has shown how to transmit Long-Range Frequency Hopping Spread Spectrum packets using an STM32 Nucleo board equipped with a Semtech SX1261/2 or LR11xx radio shield.

7 Glossary

| Term | Description |
|----------|---|
| API | Application Programming Interface |
| BW | Bandwidth |
| CR | Coding Rate |
| GPIO | General Purpose Input Output |
| LoRa® | Long Range Communication The LoRa® Mark is a registered trademark of the Semtech Corporation |
| LoRaWAN® | Long Range Low Power, Wide Area (LPWA) Networking Standard |
| LR-FHSS | Long-Range Frequency Hopping Spread Spectrum |
| MCU | Micro-Controller Unit |
| SPI | Serial Peripheral Interface |
| TCXO | Temperature Compensated Crystal Oscillator |
| UART | Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter |

8 Revision History

| Version | ECO | Date | Modifications |
|---------|--------|----------|--|
| 1.0 | - | Jul 2021 | First Release |
| 1.1 | 060546 | Feb 2022 | Public Release |
| 1.2 | 064753 | Jan 2023 | Added support for LR1120 and LR1121 transceivers |



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