lib_sw_pll: Software PLL library

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IN THIS DOCUMENT

1 Introduction . . . 2
2 How the Software PLL works . . . 2
  2.1 PLLs . . . 2
  2.2 LUT based DCO . . . 3
  2.3 SDM Based DCO . . . 6
  2.4 Phase Frequency Detector . . . 9
  2.5 Proportional Integral Controller . . . 9
3 Simulation Model . . . 10
  3.1 Contents . . . 10
  3.2 Running the PI simulation and LUT generation script . . . 10
4 Tuning the Software PLL . . . 12
  4.1 LUT based PLL Tuning . . . 12
  4.2 SDM based PLL tuning . . . 14
5 Example application resource setup . . . 14
  5.1 Simple example resource setup . . . 14
  5.2 I²S slave example resource setup . . . 15
6 Software PLL API . . . 16
  6.1 LUT Based PLL API . . . 16
  6.2 SDM Based PLL API . . . 18
  6.3 Common API . . . 21
7 Building and running the examples . . . 21

1 Introduction

`lib_sw_pll` provides software that, together with the *xcore.ai* application PLL, provides a PLL that will generate a clock that is phase-locked to an input clock.

`lib_sw_pll` is intended to be used with the XCommon CMake , the *XMOS* application build and dependency management system.

2 How the Software PLL works

2.1 PLLs

A Phase Locked Loop (PLL) is a normally dedicated hardware that allows generation of a clock which is synchronised to an input reference clock by both phase and frequency. They consist of a number of sub-components:

- A Phase Frequency Detector (PFD) which measures the difference (error) between a reference clock and the divided generated clock.
- A control loop, typically a Proportional Integral (PI) controller to close the loop and zero the error.
- A Digitally Controlled Oscillator (DCO) which converts a control signal into a clock frequency.

Fig. 1 depicts a block diagram of a basic PLL.

xcore.ai devices have on-chip a secondary PLL sometimes known as the Application PLL. This PLL multiplies the clock from the on-board crystal source and has a fractional register allowing very fine control over the multiplication and division ratios from software.

However, it does not support an external reference clock input and so cannot natively track and lock to an external clock reference. This software PLL module provides a set

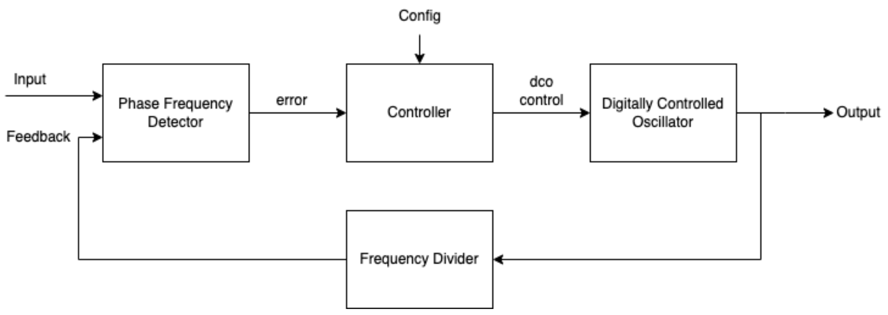

Fig. 1: Basic PLL Block Diagram

of scripts and firmware which enables the provision of an input reference clock which, along with a control loop, allows tracking of the external reference over a certain range. It also provides a lower level API to allow tracking of virtual clocks rather than physical signals such as when receiving digital samples from another device or packets over a network.

There are two types of PLL, or specifically Digitally Controlled Oscillators (DCO), supported in this library; Look-up Table (LUT) and Sigma-delta Modulator (SDM). There are trade-offs between the two types of DCO, which are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: LUT vs SDM DCO trade-offs

Comparison item	LUT DCO	SDM DCO
Jitter	Low, 1-2 ns	Very Low, 10-50 ps
Memory Usage	Low, ~2.5 kB	Low, ~2 kB
MIPS Usage	Low - ~1	High - ~50
Lock Range PPM	Moderate, 100-1000	Wide, 1500-3000

Note: Jitter is measured using a frequency mask of 100 Hz to 40 kHz as specified by AES-12id-2006.

A fixed (non phase-locked) PLL setup API is also available which assumes a 24 MHz XTAL frequency and provides output frequencies of 11.2896 MHz, 12.288 MHz, 22.5792 MHz, 24.576 MHz, 45.1584 MHz or 49.152 MHz. Output jitter for fixed clocks using a 100 Hz to 40 kHz mask is typically less than 8 ps. See the *Common API* section.

2.2 LUT based DCO

The LUT based DCO allows a discrete set of fractional settings resulting in a fixed number of frequency steps. The LUT is pre-computed table which provides a set of monotonically increasing frequency register settings. The LUT based DCO requires very low compute allowing it to be run in a sample-based loop at audio frequencies such as 48kHz or

44.1kHz. It required two bytes per LUT entry and provides reasonable jitter performance suitable for voice or entry level Hi-Fi. Fig. 2 depicts a LUT DCO based PLL

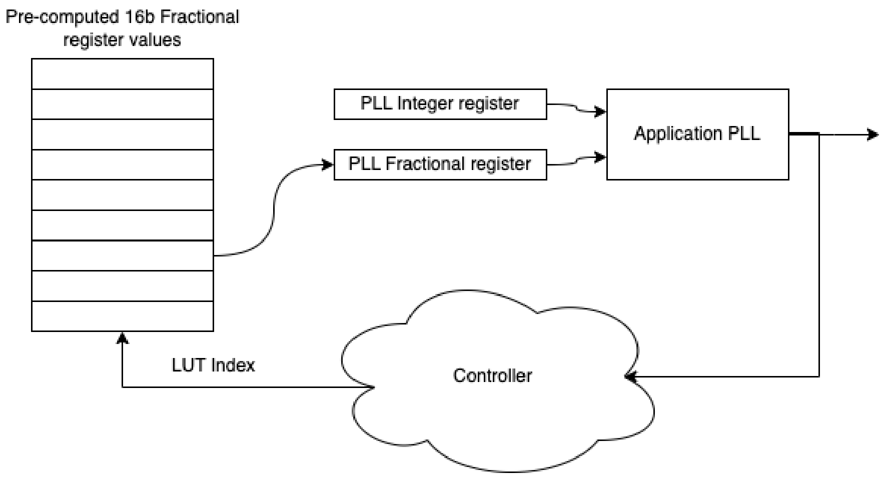

Fig. 2: LUT DCO based PLL

The range is governed by the look up table (LUT) which has a finite number of entries and consequently has a frequency step size. This affects the output jitter performance when the controller oscillates between two settings once locked. Note that the actual range and number of steps is highly configurable. Fig. 3 shows an example of LUT discrete output frequencies.

The index into the LUT is controlled by a PI controller which multiplies the error input and integral error input by the supplied loop constants. An integrated *wind up* limiter for the integral term is nominally set at 2x the maximum LUT index deviation to prevent excessive overshoot where the starting input error is high. A double integrator term is also available to help zero phase error.

Fig. 4 shows a time domain plot of how the controller (typically running at around 100 Hz) selects between adjacent LUT entries. Fig. 5 shows the consequential frequency modulation effect.

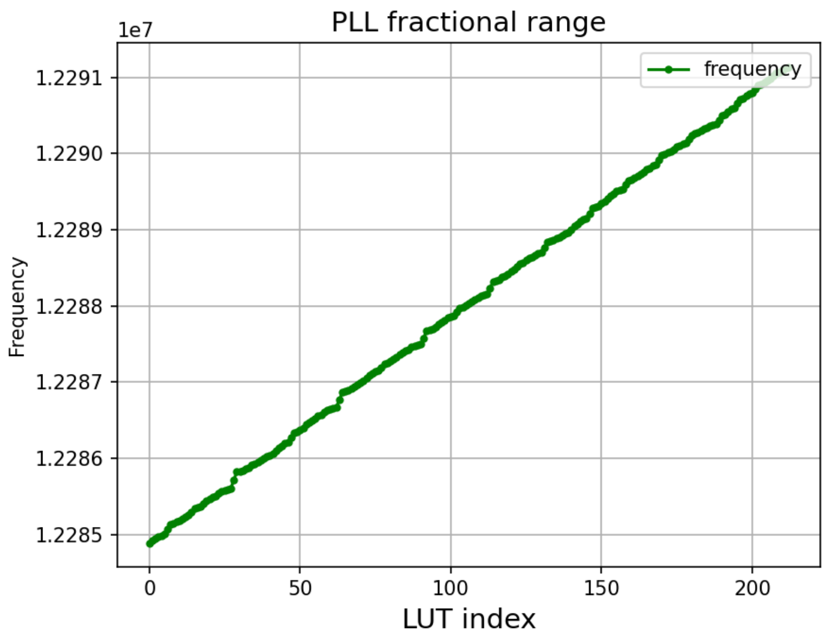

Fig. 3: Example of LUT discrete output frequencies

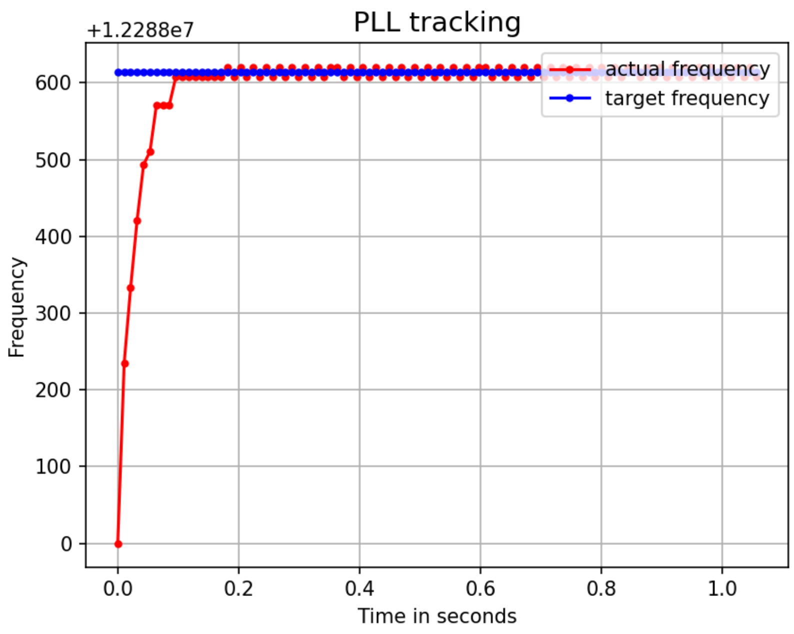

Fig. 4: LUT selection when tracking a constant input frequency

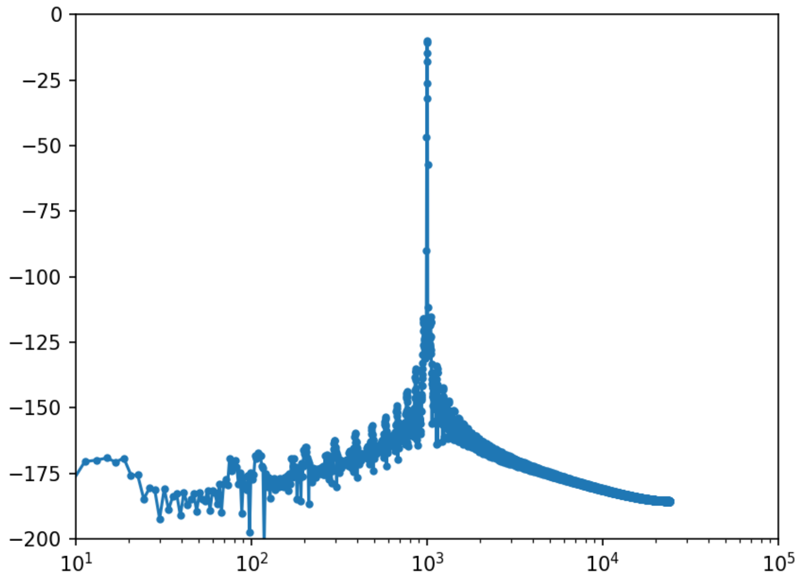

Fig. 5: LUT noise plot when when tracking a constant input frequency

2.3 SDM Based DCO

The SDM based DCO provides a fixed number (9 in this case) of frequency steps which are jumped between at a high rate (eg. 1 MHz) but requires a dedicated logical core to run the SDM algorithm and update the PLL fractional register. The SDM is third order.

The SDM typically provides better audio quality by pushing the noise floor up into the inaudible part of the spectrum. A fixed set of SDM coefficients and loop filters are provided which have been hand tuned to provide either 24.576 MHz or 22.5792 MHz low jitter clocks and are suitable for Hi-Fi and professional audio applications. Fig. 6 depicts a SDM DCO based PLL.

The steps for the SDM output are quite large which means a wide range is typically available. Fig. 7 shows SDM discrete output frequencies.

Fig. 8 shows a time domain plot of how the Sigma Delta Modulator jumps rapidly between multiple frequencies. Fig. 9 shows the consequential spread of the noise floor.

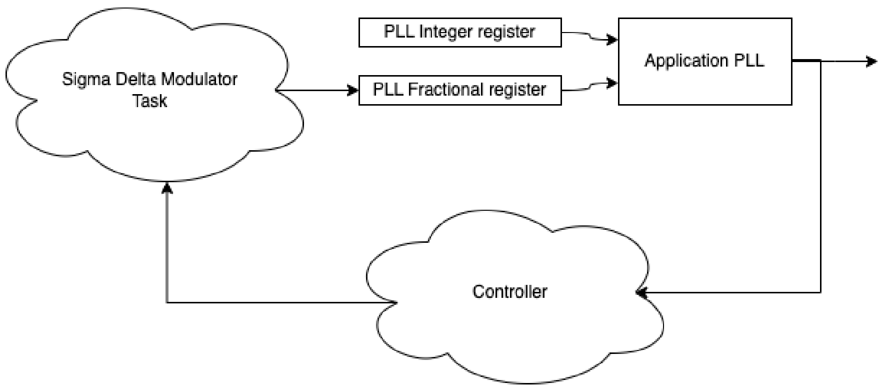

Fig. 6: SDM DCO based PLL

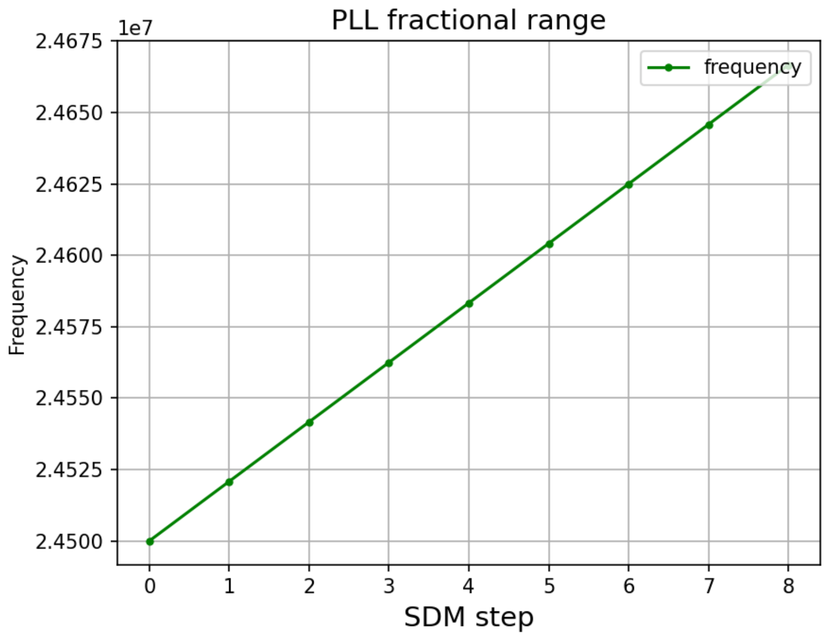

Fig. 7: SDM discrete output frequencies

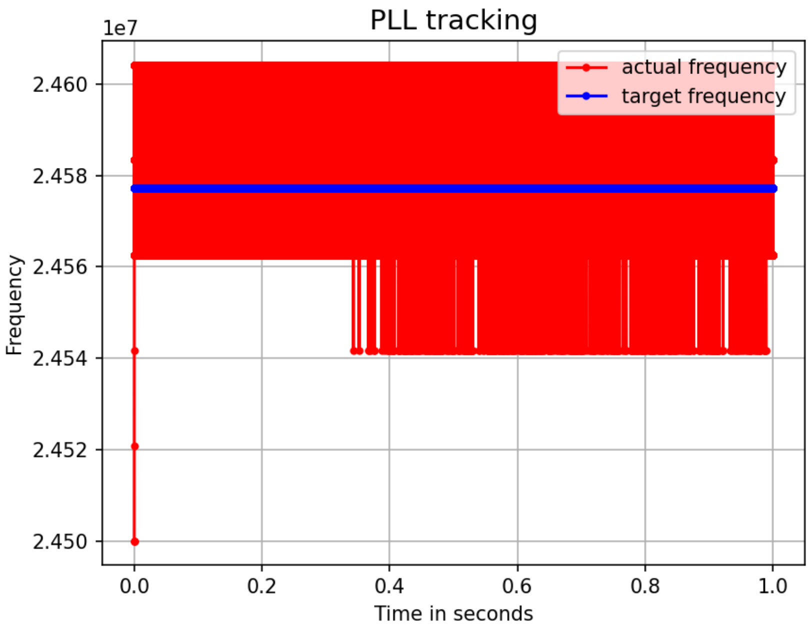

Fig. 8: SDM frequency selection when tracking a constant input frequency

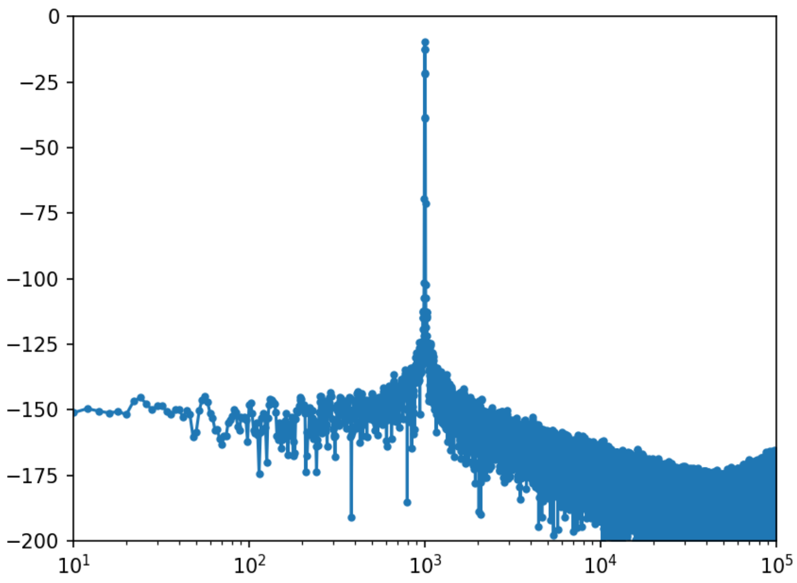

Fig. 9: SDM noise plot when when tracking a constant input frequency

2.4 Phase Frequency Detector

The Software PLL Phase Frequency Detector (PFD) detects frequency by counting clocks over a specific time period. The clock counted is the output from the PLL and the time period over which the count happens is a multiple of the input reference clock. This way the frequency difference between the input and output clock can be directly measured by comparing the read count increment with the expected count increment for the nominal case where the input and output are locked.

The PFD cannot directly measure phase, however, by taking the time integral of the frequency we can derive the phase which can be done by the PI controller.

The PFD uses three chip resources:

- A one bit port to capture the PLL output clock (always Port 1D on Tile[1] of *xcore.ai*)
- A clock block to turn the captured PLL output clock into a signal which can be distributed across the *xcore* tile
- An input port (either one already in use or an unconnected dummy port such as Port 32A) clocked from the above clock block. The in-built counter of this port can then be read and provides a count of the PLL output clock.

Two diagrams showing practical *xcore* resource setups are shown in the *Example application resource setup* section.

The port timers are 16 bits and so the PFD must account for wrapping because the overflow period at, for example, 24.576 MHz is 2.67 milliseconds and a typical control period is in the order 10 milliseconds.

There may be cases where the port timer sampling time cannot be guaranteed to be fully isochronous, such as when a significant number of instructions exist between a hardware event occur between the reference clock transition and the port timer sampling. In these cases an optional input jitter reduction scheme is provided to allow scaling of the read port timer value. This scheme is used in the `i2s_slave_lut` example where the port timer read is precisely delayed until the transition of the next BCLK which removes the instruction timing jitter that would otherwise be present. The cost is 1/64th of LR clock time of lost processing in the I²S callbacks but the benefit is the jitter caused by variable instruction timing to be eliminated.

2.5 Proportional Integral Controller

The PI controller uses fixed point (15Q16) types and 64 bit intermediate terms to calculate the error and accumulated error which are summed to produce the output. In addition a double integral term is included to allow calculation of the integral term of phase error, which itself is the integral of the frequency error which is the output from the PFD.

Wind-up protection is included in the PI controller which clips the integral and double integral accumulator terms and is nominally set to LUT size for the LUT based DCO and the control range for the SDM based DCO.

The SDM controller also includes a low-pass filter for additional error input jitter reduction.

See the *Tuning the Software PLL* section for information about how to optimise the PI controller.

3 Simulation Model

A complete model of the Software PLL is provided and is written in Python version 3.

3.1 Contents

In the `python/sw_pll` directory you will find multiple files:

```
.
    analysis_tools.py
    app_pll_model.py
    controller_model.py
    dco_model.py
    pfd_model.py
    pll_calc.py
    sw_pll_sim.py
```

These are all installable as a Python PIP module by running `pip install -e .` from the root of the repo.

Typically you do not need to access any file other than `sw_pll_sim.py` which brings in the other files as modules when run.

`sw_pll_sim.py` may be run with the argument `LUT` or `SDM` depending on which type of PLL you wish to simulate.

`analysis_tools.py` contains audio analysis tools for assessing the frequency modulation of a tone from the jitter in the recovered clock.

`controller_model.py` models the PI controllers used in the Software PLL system.

`dco_model.py` contains a model of the LUT and SDM digitally controlled oscillators.

`pfd_model.py` models the Phase Frequency Detector which is used when inputting a reference clock to the Software PLL.

`app_pll_model.py` models the Application PLL hardware and allows reading/writing include files suitable for inclusion into *xcore* firmware projects.

`pll_calc.py` is the command line script that generates the LUT. It is quite a complex to use script which requires in depth knowledge of the operation of the App PLL. Instead it is recommended to use `app_pll_model.py` which calls `pll_calc.py` which wraps the script with sensible defaults, or better, use one of the provided profiles driven by `sw_pll_sim.py`.

3.2 Running the PI simulation and LUT generation script

By running `sw_pll_sim.py LUT` a number of operations will take place:

- The `fractions.h` LUT include file will be generated (LUT PLL only - this is not needed by SDM)
- The `register_setup.h` PLL configuration file will be generated for inclusion in your *xcore* project.
- A graphical view of the LUT settings showing index vs. output frequency is generated.
- A time domain simulation of the PI loop showing the response to steps and out of range reference inputs is run.
- A wave file containing a 1 kHz modulated tone for offline analysis.

- A log FFT plot of the 1 kHz tone to see how the PLL frequency steps affect a pure tone.
- A summary report of the PLL range is also printed to the console.

The directory listing following running of `sw_pll_sim.py` will be added to as follows:

```
.
    fractions.h
    register_setup.h
    tracking_lut.png
    tracking_sdm.png
    modulated_tone_1000Hz_lut.wav
    modulated_tone_1000Hz_sdm.wav
    modulated_fft_lut.png
    modulated_fft_sdm.png
```

Fig. 10 shows the step response of the control loop when the target frequency is changed during the simulation. You can see it track smaller step changes but for the larger steps it can be seen to clip and not reach the input step, which is larger than the used LUT size will allow. The LUT size can be increased if needed to accommodate a wider range.

The step response is quite fast and you can see even a very sharp change in frequency is accommodated in just a handful of control loop iterations.

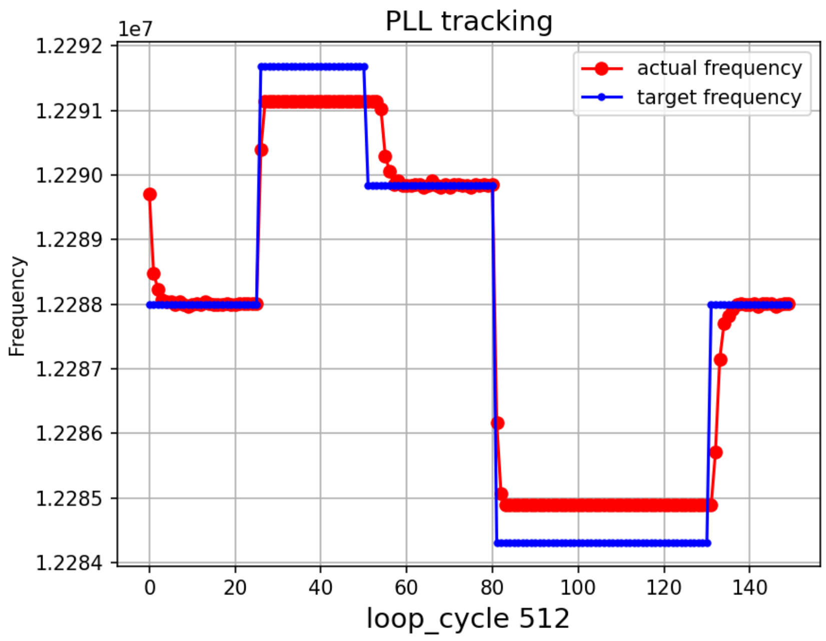

Fig. 10: PLL step response

4 Tuning the Software PLL

4.1 LUT based PLL Tuning

4.1.1 PI controller

Typically the PID loop tuning should start with 0 *Kp* term and a small (e.g. 1.0) *Ki* term.

- Decreasing the ref_to_loop_call_rate parameter will cause the control loop to execute more frequently and larger constants will be needed.
- Try tuning *Ki* value until the desired response curve (settling time, overshoot etc.) is achieved in the `tracking_xxx.png` output.
- *Kp* can normally remain zero, but you may wish to add a small value to improve step response

Note: After changing the configuration, ensure you delete *fractions.h* otherwise the script will re-use the last calculated values. This is done to speed execution time of the script by avoiding the generation step.

A double integral term is supported in the PI loop because the clock counting PFD included measures the frequency error. The phase error is the integral of the frequency error and hence if phase locking is required as well as frequency locking then we need to support the integral of the integral of the frequency error. Changing the Kp, Ki and Kii constants and observing the simulated (or hardware response) to a reference change is all that is needed in this case.

Note: In the python simulation file `sw_pll_sim.py`, the PI constants *Kp*, *Ki* and optionally *Kii* can be found in the functions *run_lut_sw_pll_sim()* and *run_sd_sw_pll_sim()*.

Typically a small Kii term is used, if needed, because it accumulates very quickly.

4.1.2 LUT example configurations

The LUT implementation requires an offline generation stage which has many possibilities for customisation.

A number of example configurations, which demonstrate the effect on PPM, step size etc. of changing various parameters, is provided in the `sw_pll_sim.py` file. Search for `profiles` and `profile_choice` in this file. Change profile choice index to select the different example profiles and run the python file again.

Table 2: Example LUT DCO configurations

Output frequency MHz	Reference frequency kHz	Range +/- PPM	Average step size Hz	LUT size bytes
12.288	48.0	250	29.3	426
12.288	48.0	500	30.4	826
12.288	48.0	1000	31.0	1580
24.576	48.0	500	60.8	826
24.576	48.0	100	9.5	1050
6.144	16.0	150	30.2	166

Note: The physical PLL actually multiplies the input crystal, not the reference input clock. It is the PFD and software control loop that detects the frequency error and controls the fractional register to make the PLL track the input. A change in the reference input clock parameter only affects the control loop and its associated constants such as how often the PI controller is called.

4.1.3 Custom LUT Generation Guidance

The fractions lookup table is a trade-off between PPM range and frequency step size. Frequency step size will affect jitter amplitude as it is the amount that the PLL will change frequency when it needs to adjust. Typically, the locked control loop will slowly oscillate between two values that straddle the target frequency, depending on input frequency.

Small discontinuities in the LUT may be experienced in certain ranges, particularly close to 0.5 fractional values, so it is preferable to keep in the lower or upper half of the fractional range. However the LUT table is always monotonic and so control instability will not occur for that reason. The range of the LUT Software PLL can be seen in the `lut_dco_range.png` image. It should be a reasonably linear response without significant discontinuities. If discontinuities are seen, try moving the range towards 0.0 or 1.0 where fewer discontinuities may be observed due the step in the fractions.

4.1.4 Steps to vary the LUT PPM range and frequency step size

1. Ascertain your target PPM range, step size and maximum tolerable table size. Each lookup value is 16 bits so the total size in bytes is 2 * n.
2. Start with the given example values and run the generator to see if the above three parameters meet your needs. The values are reported by `sw_pll_sim.py`.
3. If you need to increase the PPM range, you may either:
   - Decrease the `min_F` to allow the fractional value to have a greater effect. This will also increase step size. It will not affect the LUT size.
   - Increase the range of `fracmin` and `fracmax`. Try to keep the range closer to 0 or 1.0. This will decrease step size and increase LUT size.
4. If you need to decrease the step size you may either:
   - Increase the `min_F` to allow the fractional value to have a greater effect. This will also reduce the PPM range. When the generation script is run the allowable F values are reported so you can tune the `min_F` to force use of a higher F value.
   - Increase the `max_denom` beyond 80. This will increase the LUT size (finer step resolution) but not affect the PPM range. Note this will increase the intrinsic jitter of the PLL hardware on chip due to the way the fractional divider works. 80 has been chosen for a reasonable tradeoff between step size and PLL intrinsic jitter and pushes this jitter beyond 40 kHz which is out of the audio band. The lowest intrinsic fractional PLL jitter freq is input frequency (normally 24 MHz) / ref divider / largest value of n.
5. If the +/-PPM range is not symmetrical and you wish it to be, then adjust the `fracmin` and `fracmax` values around the center point that the PLL finder algorithm has found. For example if the -PPM range is too great, increase `fracmin` and if the +PPM range is too great, decrease the `fracmax` value.

Note: When the process has completed, inspect the `lut_dco_range.png` output figure which shows how the fractional PLL setting affects the output frequency. This should be monotonic and not contain an significant discontinuities for the control loop to operate satisfactorily.

4.2 SDM based PLL tuning

4.2.1 SDM available configurations

The SDM implementation only allows tuning of the PI loop; the DCO section is hand optimised for the provided profiles shown below. There are two target PLL output frequencies and two options for SDM update rate depending on how much performance is available from the SDM task.

Table 3: SDM DCO configurations

Output frequency MHz	Range +/- PPM	Jitter ps	Noise Floor dBc	SDM update rate kHz
24.576	3000	10	-100	1000
22.5792	3300	10	-100	1000
24.576	1500	50	-93	500
22.5792	1500	50	-93	500

The SDM based DCO Software PLL has been pre-tuned and should not need modification in normal circumstances. Due to the large control range values needed by the SDM DCO, a relatively large integral term is used which applies a gain term. If you do need to tune the SDM DCO PI controller then it is recommended to start with the provided values in the example in `/examples/app_simple_sdm`.

Transferring the results to C Once the LUT has been generated or SDM profile selected and has simulated in Python, the values can be transferred to the firmware application. Control loop constants can be directly transferred to the *init()* functions and the generated *.h* files can be copied directly into the source directory of your project.

For further information, either consult the `sw_pll.h` API file (included at the end of this document) or follow one of the examples in the `/examples` directory.

5 Example application resource setup

The *xcore.ai* device has a number of resources on chip which can be connected together to manage signals and application clocks. In the provided examples both *clock blocks* and *ports* are connected together to provide an input to the PFD which calculates frequency error. Resources additionally provide an optional prescaled output clock for comparison with the input reference.

5.1 Simple example resource setup

The output from the PLL is counted using a port timer via the *clk_mclk* clock block.

In addition, a precise timing barrier is implemented by clocking a dummy port from the clock block clocked by the reference clock input. This provides a precise sampling point of the PLL output clock count.

The resource setup code is contained in `resource_setup.h` and `resource_setup.c` using intrinsic functions in `lib_xcore`. To help visualise how these resources work together, see Fig. 11.

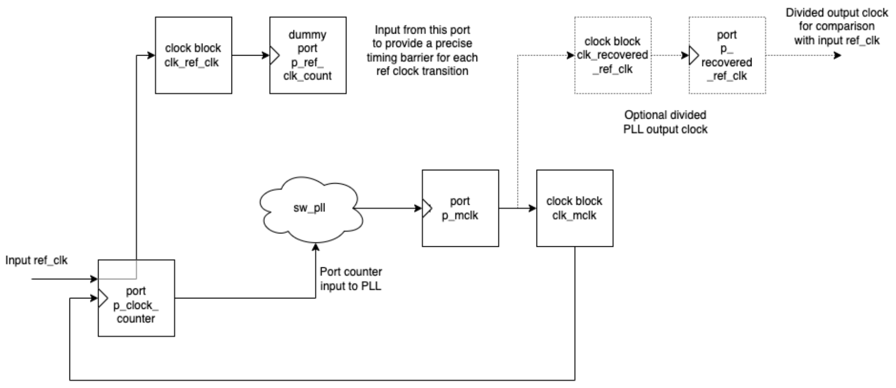
clock block
clk_ref_clk
dummy port p_ref_clk_count
Input from this port to provide a precise timing barrier for each ref clock transition
clock block clk_recovered_ref_clk
port p_recovered_ref_clk
Divided output clock for comparison with input ref_clk
Optional divided PLL output clock
sw_pll
port p_mclk
clock block clk_mclk
Input ref_clk
port p_clock_counter
Port counter input to PLL

Fig. 11: Use of Ports and Clock Blocks in the simple examples

5.2 I²S slave example resource setup

The I²S slave component already uses a clock block which captures the bit clock input. In addition to this, the PLL output is used to clock a dummy port's counter which is used as the input to the PFD.

Since the precise sampling time of the PLL output clock count is variable due to instruction timing between the I²S LRCLK transition and the capture of the PLL output clock count in the I²S callback, an additional dummy port is used. This precisely synchronises the capture of the PLL output clock count relative to the BCLK transition and the relationship between these is used to reconstruct the absolute frequency difference with minimal input jitter.

Fig. 12 shows the resource arrangement of the I2S slave example.

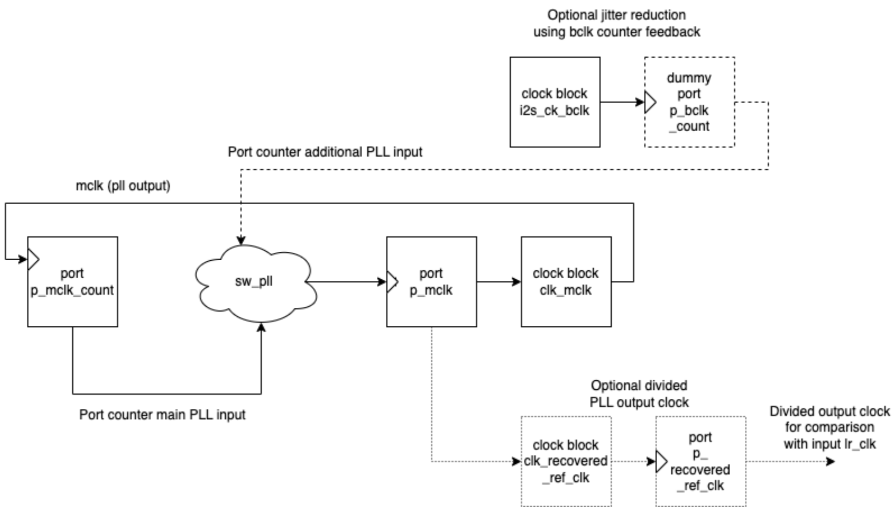
Optional jitter reduction using bclk counter feedback
clock block i2s_ck_bclk
dummy port p_bclk_count
Port counter additional PLL input
mclk (pll output)
port p_mclk_count
sw_pll
port p_mclk
clock block clk_mclk
Port counter main PLL input
Optional divided PLL output clock
clock block clk_recovered_ref_clk
port p_recovered_ref_clk
Divided output clock for comparison with input lr_clk

Fig. 12: Use of Ports and Clock Blocks in the I²S slave example

6 Software PLL API

The Application Programmer Interface (API) for the Software PLL is shown below. It is split into items specific to LUT and SDM DCOs .

In addition to the standard API which takes a clock counting input (implements the PFD), for applications where the PLL is to be controlled using an alternatively derived error input, a low-level API is also provided. This low-level API allows the Software PLL to track an arbitrary clock source which is calculated by other means such as timing of received packets over a communications interface.

6.1 LUT Based PLL API

The LUT based API are functions designed to be called from an audio loop. Typically the functions can take up to 210 instruction cycles when control occurs and just a few 10s of cycles when control does not occur. If run at a rate of 48 kHz then it will consume approximately 1 MIPS on average.

void **`sw_pll_lut_init`**(sw_pll_state_t *const sw_pll, const sw_pll_15q16_t Kp, const sw_pll_15q16_t Ki, const sw_pll_15q16_t Kii, const size_t loop_rate_count, const size_t pll_ratio, const uint32_t ref_clk_expected_inc, const int16_t *const lut_table_base, const size_t num_lut_entries, const uint32_t app_pll_ctl_reg_val, const uint32_t app_pll_div_reg_val, const unsigned nominal_lut_idx, const unsigned ppm_range)

sw_lut_pll initialisation function.

This must be called before use of sw_pll_lut_do_control. Call this passing a pointer to the sw_pll_state_t stuct declared locally.

Parameters

- **`sw_pll`** – Pointer to the struct to be initialised.
- **`Kp`** – Proportional PI constant. Use SW_PLL_15Q16() to convert from a float.
- **`Ki`** – Integral PI constant. Use SW_PLL_15Q16() to convert from a float.
- **`Kii`** – Double integral PI constant. Use SW_PLL_15Q16() to convert from a float.
- **`loop_rate_count`** – How many counts of the call to sw_pll_lut_do_control before control is done. Note this is only used by sw_pll_lut_do_control. sw_pll_lut_do_control_from_error calls the control loop every time so this is ignored.
- **`pll_ratio`** – Integer ratio between input reference clock and the PLL output. Only used by sw_pll_lut_do_control for the PFD. Don't care otherwise. Used to calculate the expected port timer increment when control is called.
- **`ref_clk_expected_inc`** – Expected ref clock increment each time sw_pll_lut_do_control is called. Pass in zero if you are sure the mclk sampling timing is precise. This will disable the scaling of the mclk count inside sw_pll_lut_do_control. Only used by sw_pll_lut_do_control. Don't care otherwise.
- **`lut_table_base`** – Pointer to the base of the fractional PLL LUT used
- **`num_lut_entries`** – Number of entries in the LUT (half sizeof since entries are 16b)
- **`app_pll_ctl_reg_val`** – The setting of the app pll control register.

- **`app_pll_div_reg_val`** – The setting of the app pll divider register.
- **`nominal_lut_idx`** – The index into the LUT which gives the nominal output. Normally close to halfway to allow symmetrical range.
- **`ppm_range`** – The pre-calculated PPM range. Used to determine the maximum deviation of counted mclk before the PLL resets its state. Note this is only used by sw_pll_lut_do_control. sw_pll_lut_do_control_from_error calls the control loop every time so this is ignored.

sw_pll_lock_status_t **`sw_pll_lut_do_control`**(sw_pll_state_t *const sw_pll, const uint16_t mclk_pt, const uint16_t ref_pt)

sw_pll LUT version control function.

It implements the PFD, controller and DCO output.

This must be called periodically for every reference clock transition. Typically, in an audio system, this would be at the I2S or reference clock input rate. Eg. 16kHz, 48kHz …

When this is called, the control loop will be executed every n times (set by init) and the application PLL will be adjusted to minimise the error seen on the mclk count value.

If the precise sampling point of mclk is not easily controlled (for example in an I2S callback) then an additional timer count may be passed in which will scale the mclk count. See i2s_slave example to show how this is done. This will help reduce input jitter which, in turn, relates to reduced output jitter.

Parameters

- **`sw_pll`** – Pointer to the sw_pll state struct.
- **`mclk_pt`** – The 16b port timer count of mclk at the time of calling sw_pll_lut_do_control.
- **`ref_pt`** – The 16b port timer ref ount at the time of calling sw_pll_lut_do_control. This value is ignored when the pll is initialised with a zero ref_clk_expected_inc and the control loop will assume that mclk_pt sample timing is precise.

Returns

The lock status of the PLL. Locked or unlocked high/low. Note that this value is only updated when the control loop has run. The type is sw_pll_lock_status_t.

sw_pll_lock_status_t **`sw_pll_lut_do_control_from_error`**(sw_pll_state_t *const sw_pll, int16_t error)

low level sw_pll control function for use as pure PLL control loop.

This must be called periodically.

When this is called, the control loop will be executed every time and the application PLL will be adjusted to minimise the error seen on the input error value.

Parameters

- **`sw_pll`** – Pointer to the sw_pll state struct.
- **`error`** – 16b signed input error value

Returns

The lock status of the PLL. Locked or unlocked high/low. Note that this value is only updated when the control loop is running. The type is sw_pll_lock_status_t.

static inline void **sw_pll_lut_reset**(sw_pll_state_t *sw_pll, sw_pll_15q16_t Kp, sw_pll_15q16_t Ki, sw_pll_15q16_t Kii, size_t num_lut_entries)

Helper to do a partial init of the PI controller at runtime without setting the physical PLL and LUT settings.

Sets Kp, Ki and the windup limits. Note this resets the PFD accumulators too and so PI controller state is reset.

Parameters

- **sw_pll** – Pointer to the state struct to be reset.
- **Kp** – New Kp in sw_pll_15q16_t format.
- **Ki** – New Ki in sw_pll_15q16_t format.
- **Kii** – New Kii in sw_pll_15q16_t format.
- **num_lut_entries** – The number of elements in the sw_pll LUT.

6.2 SDM Based PLL API

All SDM API items are function calls. The SDM API requires a dedicated logical core to perform the SDM calculation and periodic register write and it is expected that the user provide the fork (par) and call to the SDM.

A typical design idiom is to have the task running in a loop with a timing barrier (either 1 us or 2 us depending on profile used) and a non-blocking channel poll which allows new DCO control values to be received as needed at the control loop rate. The SDM calculation and register write takes 45 instruction cycles and so with the overheads of the timing barrier and the non-blocking channel receive poll, a minimum 60 MHz logical core should be set aside for the SDM task running at 1 us period. This can be approximately halved it running at 2 us SDM period.

The control part of the SDM SW PLL takes 75 instruction cycles when active and a few 10 s of cycles when inactive so you will need to budget around 1 MIPS for this when being called at 48 kHz with a control rate of one in every 512 cycles.

An example of how to implement the threading, timing barrier and non-blocking channel poll can be found in `examples/simple_sdm/simple_sw_pll_sdm.c`. A thread diagram of how this can look is shown below.

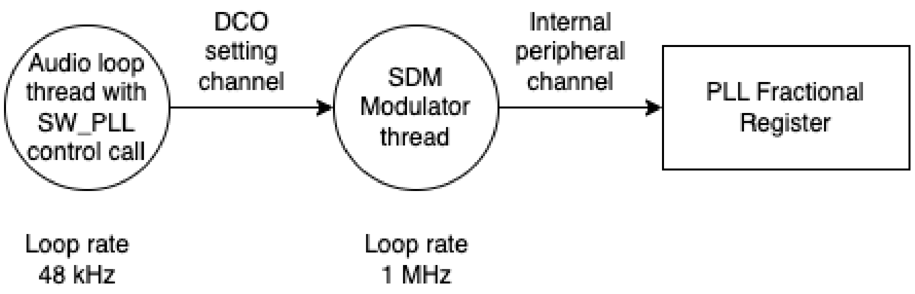

Fig. 13: Example Thread Diagram of SDM SW PLL

void **sw_pll_sdm_init**(sw_pll_state_t *const sw_pll, const sw_pll_15q16_t Kp, const sw_pll_15q16_t Ki, const sw_pll_15q16_t Kii, const size_t loop_rate_count, const size_t pll_ratio, const uint32_t ref_clk_expected_inc, const uint32_t app_pll_ctl_reg_val, const uint32_t app_pll_div_reg_val, const uint32_t app_pll_frac_reg_val, const int32_t ctrl_mid_point, const unsigned ppm_range)

sw_pll_sdm initialisation function.

This must be called before use of sw_pll_sdm_do_control or sw_pll_sdm_do_control_from_error. Call this passing a pointer to the sw_pll_state_t stuct declared locally.

Parameters

- **sw_pll** – Pointer to the struct to be initialised.
- **Kp** – Proportional PI constant. Use SW_PLL_15Q16() to convert from a float.
- **Ki** – Integral PI constant. Use SW_PLL_15Q16() to convert from a float.
- **Kii** – Double integral PI constant. Use SW_PLL_15Q16() to convert from a float.
- **loop_rate_count** – How many counts of the call to sw_pll_sdm_do_control before control is done. Note this is only used by sw_pll_sdm_do_control. sw_pll_sdm_do_control_from_error calls the control loop every time so this is ignored.
- **pll_ratio** – Integer ratio between input reference clock and the PLL output. Only used by sw_pll_sdm_do_control in the PFD. Don't care otherwise. Used to calculate the expected port timer increment when control is called.
- **ref_clk_expected_inc** – Expected ref clock increment each time sw_pll_sdm_do_control is called. Pass in zero if you are sure the mclk sampling timing is precise. This will disable the scaling of the mclk count inside sw_pll_sdm_do_control. Only used by sw_pll_sdm_do_control. Don't care otherwise.
- **app_pll_ctl_reg_val** – The setting of the app pll control register.
- **app_pll_div_reg_val** – The setting of the app pll divider register.
- **app_pll_frac_reg_val** – The initial setting of the app pll fractional register.
- **ctrl_mid_point** – The nominal control value for the Sigma Delta Modulator output. Normally close to halfway to allow symmetrical range.
- **ppm_range** – The pre-calculated PPM range. Used to determine the maximum deviation of counted mclk before the PLL resets its state. Note this is only used by sw_pll_sdm_do_control. sw_pll_sdm_do_control_from_error calls the control loop every time so this is ignored.

bool **sw_pll_sdm_do_control**(sw_pll_state_t *const sw_pll, const uint16_t mclk_pt, const uint16_t ref_pt)

sw_pll_sdm_do_control control function.

It implements the PFD and controller and generates a DCO control value for the SDM.

This must be called periodically for every reference clock transition. Typically, in an audio system, this would be at the I2S or reference clock input rate. Eg. 16kHz, 48kHz …

When this is called, the control loop will be executed every n times (set by init) and the Sigma Delta Modulator control value will be set according the error seen on the mclk count value.

If control is executed, TRUE is returned from the function and the value can be sent to the SDM. The most recent calculated control output value can be found written to sw_pll->sdm_state.current_ctrl_val.

If the precise sampling point of mclk is not easily controlled (for example in an I2S callback) then an additional timer count may be passed in which will scale the mclk count. See i2s_slave example to show how this is done. This will help reduce input jitter which, in turn, relates to reduced output jitter.

Parameters

- **`sw_pll`** – Pointer to the sw_pll state struct.
- **`mclk_pt`** – The 16b port timer count of mclk at the time of calling sw_pll_sdm_do_control.
- **`ref_pt`** – The 16b port timer ref ount at the time of calling sw_pll_sdm_do_control. This value is ignored when the pll is initialised with a zero ref_clk_expected_inc and the control loop will assume that mclk_pt sample timing is precise.

Returns

Whether or not control was executed (controoled by loop_rate_count)

sw_pll_lock_status_t **`sw_pll_sdm_do_control_from_error`**(sw_pll_state_t *const sw_pll, int16_t error)

low level sw_pll_sdm control function for use as pure PLL control loop.

This must be called periodically.

Takes the raw error input and applies the PI controller algorithm. The most recent calculated control output value can be found written to sw_pll->sdm_state.current_ctrl_val.

Parameters

- **`sw_pll`** – Pointer to the sw_pll state struct.
- **`error`** – 16b signed input error value

Returns

The controller lock status

void **`sw_pll_init_sigma_delta`**(sw_pll_sdm_state_t *sdm_state)

Use to initialise the core sigma delta modulator. Broken out as seperate API as the SDM is usually run in a dedicated thread which could be on a remote tile.

Parameters

- **`sw_pll`** – Pointer to the SDM state struct.

static inline void **`sw_pll_do_sigma_delta`**(sw_pll_sdm_state_t *sdm_state, tileref_t this_tile, int32_t sdm_control_in)

Performs the Sigma Delta Modulation from a control input. It performs the SDM algorithm, converts the output to a fractional register setting and then writes the value to the PLL fractional register. Is typically called in a constant period fast loop and run from a dedicated thread which could be on a remote tile.

NOTE: Attempting to write the PLL fractional register from more than one logical core at the same time may result in channel lock-up. Please ensure the that PLL initiaisation has completed before the SDM task writes to the register. The provided `simple_sdm` example implements a method for doing this.

Parameters

- **`sw_pll`** – Pointer to the SDM state struct.
- **`this_tile`** – The ID of the xcore tile that is doing the write. Use get_local_tile_id() to obtain this.
- **`sdm_control_in`** – Current control value.

6.3 Common API

inline void **`sw_pll_reset_pi_state`**(sw_pll_state_t *const sw_pll)

Resets PI controller state

Parameters

- **`sw_pll`** – Pointer to the Software PLL state.

void **`sw_pll_fixed_clock`**(const unsigned frequency)

Output a fixed (not phase locked) clock between 11.2896 MHz and 49.152 MHz. Assumes a 24 MHz XTAL.

Parameters

- **`frequency`** – Frequency in Hz. An incorrect value will assert.

7 Building and running the examples

This section assumes you have downloaded and installed the XMOS XTC tools (see *README* for required version). Installation instructions can be found here.

Particular attention should be paid to the section Installation of required third-party tools.

The application examples uses the xcommon-cmake build system as bundled with the XTC tools.

To build the applications, from an XTC command prompt run the following commands in the *lib_sw_pll/examples* directory:

```
cmake -B build -G "Unix Makefiles"
xmake -C build
```

To run the firmware, first connect *LRCLK* and *BCLK* (connects the test clock output to the PLL reference input) and run one of the following commands. *app_simple_lut* or *app_simple_sdm* runs on the *XK-EVK-XU316* board, *app_i2s_slave_lut* requires the *XK-VOICE-SQ66* board:

```
xrun --xscope app_simple_lut/bin/app_simple_lut.xe
xrun --xscope app_simple_sdm/bin/app_simple_sdm.xe
xrun --xscope app_i2s_slave_lut/bin/app_i2s_slave_lut.xe
```

For *app_simple_lut.xe* and *app_simple_sdm.xe*, to see the PLL lock, put a oscilloscope probe on either *LRCLK/BCLK* (reference input) and another on *PORT_I2S_DAC_DATA* to see the recovered clock which has been hardware divided back down to the same rate as the input reference clock.

For *i2s_slave_lut.xe* you will need to connect a 48 kHz I²S master to the *LRCLK*, *BCLK* pins. You may then observe the I²S input data being looped back to the output and the

MCLK being generated. A divided version of MCLK is output on *PORT_I2S_DATA2* which allows direct comparison of the input reference (*LRCLK*) with the recovered clock at the same, and locked, frequency.