

APPLICATION NOTE 5498

Comparing the Registers and Loop Filter of the MAX2870 and ADF4350 Synthesizers

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Abstract: This application note compares the MAX2870 ultra-wideband synthesizer/voltage controller oscillator (VCO) to the Analog Devices ADF4350 synthesizer. Registers and loop filter design are discussed in detail.

The [MAX2870](#) ultra-wideband phase-locked loop (PLL) and voltage control oscillator (VCO) can operate in both integer-N and fractional-N modes, similar to the Analog Devices ADF4350 wideband synthesizer. This application note compares the MAX2870 and ADF4350 registers and loop filter design in detail. Users who already familiar with ADF4350 can use this application note as a quick design reference.



[Click here](#) for an overview of the wireless components used in a typical radio transceiver.

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Register Table Comparison

Register 0

Bit Position	MAX2870		ADF4350		Difference
	Bit ID	Name/Description	Bit ID	Name/Description	
31	INT	Int-N or frac-N mode control	—	Reserved	The MAX2870 provides an additional method to switch between int and frac modes (Note 1).
30–15	N[15:0]	Integer division value	N16–N1	Integer value	Both are 16-bit resolution, but the MAX2870 offers a wider usable range. See the MAX2870 data sheet for details.
14–3	FRAC[11:0]	Fractional division value	F12–F1	Fractional value	N/A
2–0	ADDR[2:0]	Register address	C3–C1	Register address	N/A

Register 1

Bit Position	MAX2870		ADF4350		Difference
	Bit ID	Name/Description	Bit ID	Name/Description	
31	CPOC	CP output clamp: set to 1 for int mode; set to 0 for frac mode	—	Reserved	The MAX2870 provides programmability on the CP output clamp to achieve better noise performance in int-N mode.
30–29	CPL[1:0]	CP linearity: set to 00 for int mode; set to 01 for frac mode	—	Reserved	The MAX2870 provides programmability for CP linearity to achieve better spurious performance in frac-N mode.
28	CPT[1]	Charge pump test mode: 00 for normal operation; 10 for CP in source mode; 11 for CP in sink mode	—	Reserved	On the ADF4350, users set bit 27 to program the prescaler value. On the MAX2870, the prescaler is automatically set. Users must set only CPT[1:0] to 00 for normal operation.
27	CPT[0]		PR1	Prescaler	
26–15	P[11:0]	Phase value	P12–P1	Phase value	N/A
14–3	M[11:0]	Modulus value	M12–M1	Interpolator modulus	N/A
2–0	ADDR[2:0]	Register address	C3–C1	Register address	N/A

Register 2

Bit Position	MAX2870		ADF4350		Difference
	Bit ID	Name/Description	Bit ID	Name/Description	
31	LDS	Lock detect speed	—	Reserved	The MAX2870 provides 4ns lock detect precision when PFD frequency is greater than 32MHz (Note 2).
30–29	SDN[1:0]	Frac-N noise mode 00 = low-noise mode 01 = reserved 10 = low-spur mode 1 11 = low-spur mode 2	L2–L1	Noise mode 00 = low-noise mode 01 = reserved 10 = reserved 11 = low-spur mode	The MAX2870 provides two modes of dithering for spur mitigation. Users should choose the one that works best in their system.
28–26	MUX[2:0]	MUX_OUT configuration	M3–M1	MUXOUT	The MAX2870 has the same mux output, plus an extra serial output to be read out of Register 6 (Note 3).
25	DBR	Reference doubler mode	RD2	Reference doubler	N/A
24	RDIV2	Reference Div2 mode	RD1	Reference divideby2	N/A
23–14	R[9:0]	Reference divider mode	R10–R1	10-bit R counter	N/A
13	REG4DB	Double buffer	D1	Double buffer	N/A
12–9	CP[3:0]	Charge-pump current	CP4–CP1	Charge pump current setting	N/A
8	LDF	Lock-detect function	U6	LDF	N/A
7	LDP	Lock-detect precision	U5	LDP	N/A
6	PDP	Phase detector polarity	U4	PD POLARITY	N/A
5	SHDN	Power-down mode	U3	Power down	N/A
4	TRI	Charge-pump three-state mode	U2	Cp three state	N/A

3	RST	Counter reset	U1	Counter reset	N/A
2–0	ADDR[2:0]	Register address	C3–C1	Register address	N/A

Register 3

Bit Position	MAX2870		ADF4350		Difference
	Bit ID	Name/Description	Bit ID	Name/Description	
31–26	VCO[5:0]	Manual VCO selection and VCO subband when VAS is disabled	—	Reserved	The MAX2870 allows the user to disable VCO autoselection (VAS) machine and manually select VCO subband. Use this function with a VCO lookup table method to achieve faster PLL lock time.
25	VAS_SHDN	VAS SHDN: 0 = VAS enabled; 1 = VAS disabled	—	Reserved	
24	RETUNE	Sets VAS response to temperature drift	—	Reserved	
23–19	—	Reserved	—	Reserved	N/A
18	—	Reserved	F1	CSR	Yes
17	—	Reserved	—	Reserved	N/A
16–15	CDM[1:0]	Clock divider mode: 10 = phase mode	C2–C1	Clock div mode: 10 = resync mode	The MAX2870 only provides a phase change from the current phase, where the ADF4350 allows a phase relative to a sync pulse.
14–3	CDIV[11:0]	Clock divider value	D12–D1	12-bit clock divider value	These bits define the low-frequency clock ratio on both parts; depending on operation mode, they have different meanings (Note 4).
2–0	ADDR[2:0]	Register address	C3–C1	Register address	N/A

Register 4

Bit Position	MAX2870		ADF4350		Difference
	Bit ID	Name/Description	Bit ID	Name/Description	
31–26	—	Reserved	—	Reserved	Set to 011000 on the MAX2870.
25–24	BS_MSBs[1:0]	Band-select MSBs	—	Reserved	Because the MAX2870 allows higher PDF frequency, these additional bits increase the band-select divider range from 8 to 10 bits.
23	FB	VCO feedback mode	D13	Feedback select	N/A
22–20	DIVA[2:0]	RFOUT_ output divider mode	D12–D10	RF divider select	The MAX2870 provides more RFOUT divider ratio options (Note 5).
19–12	BS[7:0]	Sets band-select clock-divider value. MSBs are located in bits <25:24>	BS8–BS1	8-bit BAND select clock divider value	Same for the 8-bit band-select divider. The MAX2870 offers two more MSBs (see BS_MSBs[1:0]).
11	—	Reserved	D9	VCO power down	Yes
10	—	Reserved	D8	Mute till lock detect	Yes
9	BDIV	RFOUTB output path select	D7	AUX out select	N/A
8	RFB_EN	RFOUTB output mode	D6	AUX out enable	N/A
7–6	BPWR[1:0]	RFOUTB output power	D5–D4	AUX out power	N/A
5	RFA_EN	RFOUTA output mode	D3	RF out enable	N/A
4	APWR[1:0]	RFOUTA output power	D2–D1	Output power	N/A
			C3–		

2-0	ADDR[2:0]	Register address	C1	Register address	N/A
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Register 5

Bit Position	MAX2870		ADF4350		Difference
	Bit ID	Name/Description	Bit ID	Name/Description	
31-25	—	Reserved	—	Reserved	N/A
24	F01	F01	—	Reserved	The MAX2870 provides an additional method to control int/frac mode (Note 1).
23-22	LD[1:0]	Lock-detect pin function	D15-D14	LD PIN mode	N/A
21-19	—	Reserved	—	Reserved	N/A
18	MUX[3]	MUX MSB	—	Reserved	The MAX2870 provides additional serial data output on MUX pin (Note 3).
17	—	Reserved	—	Reserved	N/A
16-3	—	Reserved	—	Reserved	N/A
2-0	ADDR[2:0]	Register address	C3-C1	Register address	N/A

Loop Filter

The MAX2870's KVCO (typical 100MHz/V) is different than the ADI4350's (typical 33MHz/V). To keep PLL parameters (e.g., CP current, N divider, Fcomp, loop BW, and phase margin) unchanged, the loop filter components must be recalculated (**Figure 1**). Using ADI4350's loop filter on the MAX2870 without careful evaluation could result in performance degradation or even unstable PLL.

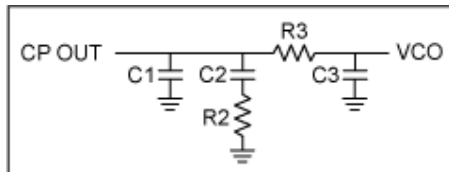


Figure 1. Loop filter component labels.

The following example shows that to maintain the PLL's parameters, a different loop filter needs to be installed, depending on whether the MAX2870 or ADI4350 is being used.

PLL Condition and Loop Filter	MAX2870	ADF4350	Notes
KVCO (MHz/V)	100	33	Different KVCO
ICP (mA)	2.5	2.5	Same
Fcomp (MHz)	10	10	Same
N	400	400	Same
Loop BW (kHz)	20.2	17.6	Similar loop BW
Phase margin (deg)	39	37.5	Similar phase margin
C1 (nF)	10	1.5	Different loop filter
C2 (nF)	68	22	Different loop filter
R2 (Ω)	220	430	Different loop filter
C3 (nF)	1.2	0.68	Different loop filter
R3 (Ω)	1000	820	Different loop filter

Notes

Note 1: Although the MAX2870 and ADF4350 behave identically in the first method for int/frac mode switching, the MAX2870 provides an additional method to allow users to switch between the integer/fractional mode, independent of the FRAC[11:0] setting.

Int/Frac Mode Switching		MAX2870			ADF4350	Notes
		F01	INT	FRAC11–FRAC00	FRAC11–FRAC00	
Method 1	Integer mode	1	X	All 0s	All 0s	N/A
	Frac mode	1	X	Not all 0s	Not all 0s	N/A
Method 2	Integer mode	0	1	X	N/A	The MAX2870 provides an additional method.
	Frac mode	0	0	X	N/A	The MAX2870 provides an additional method.

Note 2: The MAX2870 allows users to set a PDF frequency of up to 105MHz in int mode and 50MHz in frac mode, while the ADF4350's maximum PDF frequency is 32MHz. The table below summarizes the LD pin setting between the MAX2870 and ADF4350 under different PDF frequencies.

LD Pin Function	MAX2870				ADF4350			Notes
	LD[1:0]	LDS	LDP	LDF	D15–D14	LDP	LDF	
Low	00	X	X	X	00	X	X	Same as ADF4350
Digital LD	01	0	0	0	01	0	0	Same as ADF4350, for PDF frequency < 32MHz, frac-N mode, 10ns precision
		0	0	1		0	1	Same as ADF4350, for PDF frequency < 32MHz, integer mode, 10ns precision
		0	1	0		1	0	Same as ADF4350, for PDF frequency < 32MHz, frac-N mode, 6ns precision
		0	1	1		1	1	Same as ADF4350, for PDF frequency < 32MHz, integer mode, 6ns precision
		1	X	0		—	—	The MAX2870 digital LD function for PDF frequency > 32MHz, frac-N mode, 4ns precision
		1	X	1		—	—	The MAX2870 digital LD function for PDF frequency > 32MHz, int mode, 4ns precision
Analog LD	10	X	X	X	10	X	X	Same as ADF4350
High	11	X	X	X	11	X	X	Same as ADF4350

Note 3: The table below summarizes the MUX pin setting of the MAX2870 and ADF4350.

MUX Pin Function	MAX2870		ADF4350		Notes
	MUX[3] REG5[18]	MUX[2:0] REG2[28:26]	REG5[18]	M3–M1 REG2[28:26]	
Regular MUX pin function	0	000–111	Reserved	000–111	N/A
Serial data output	1	100	—	—	The MAX2870 configures the MUX_OUT pin as serial data output to read REG 06 (IC status bits). The ADF4350 does not have this function.

Note 4: Below is a comparison of the CDIV bits function under different modes.

Operation Mode	MAX2870	ADF4350
	CDIV[11:0], Reg3[14:3]	D12–D1, Reg3[14:3]
Fast lock mode	CDIV defines the fast lock timeout	Defines the fast lock timeout
Phase adjust mode	Adjusts the VCO phase relative to the current phase, so no resync period is necessary	D12–D1 define the phase resync period.

Note 5: The MAX2870 provides more output divider ratio selection, allowing more design flexibility.

Output-Divider Ratio	MAX2870	ADF4350
	DIVA[2:0], Reg4[22:20]	D12–D10, Reg4[22:20]
1	000	000
2	001	001
4	010	010
8	011	011
16	100	100
32	101	Not available
64	110	Not available
128	111	Not available

Related Parts

[MAX2870](#)

23.5MHz to 6000MHz Fractional/Integer-N Synthesizer/VCO

[Free Samples](#)

More Information

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