

AN14900

Using eDMA and Ping-Pong buffer to Deserialize Multi-channel ADC Result FIFO

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Application note

Document information

Information	Content
Keywords	AN14900, eDMA/ADC
Abstract	This application note describes how to use eDMA to tackle the ADC Result FIFO and Deserialize each channel data in FIFO to respectively buffer for each channel.



1 Introduction

This application note describes how to use eDMA to tackle the Analog-to-Digital Converter (ADC) result First-In First-Out (FIFO) and deserialize each channel data in FIFO to respective buffer for each channel. It is useful for high-speed and multi-channel ADC result process by reducing CPU loading and improving data processing speed.

The MCX Nx4x series microcontrollers combine the Arm Cortex-M33 TrustZone core with a CoolFlux BSP32, a PowerQuad DSP Co-processor, and multiple high-speed connectivity options running at 150 MHz. It delivers exceptional processing power and advanced integration.

Enhanced Direct Memory Access (eDMA) empowers efficient data transfers between memory and peripherals, alleviating CPU workload and enhancing system performance. MCX Nx4x series microcontrollers offer a versatile eDMA controller that can be configured to meet a wide range of data transfer requirements.

This demo uses one FRDM-MCXN947 board. The corresponding demo code can be found on NXP [AppCodeHub](#).

2 Overview

[Figure 1](#) shows the functions, which this application must realize. The buffer size of each channel depends on the application.

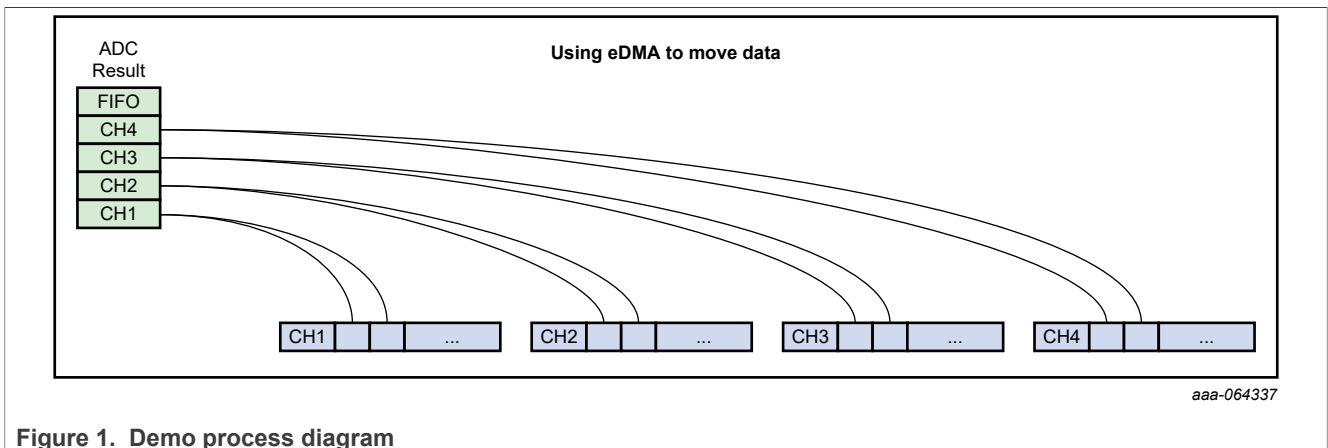


Figure 1. Demo process diagram

2.1 MCX Nx4x ADC block description

This section describes the MCX Nx4x ADC block.

2.1.1 Overview

The MCX Nx4x has two instances of 16-bit ADC.

The 16-bit ADC is a dual successive approximation ADC, which is designed for operation within an integrated microcontroller system-on-a-chip. [Figure 2](#) shows the ADC diagram.

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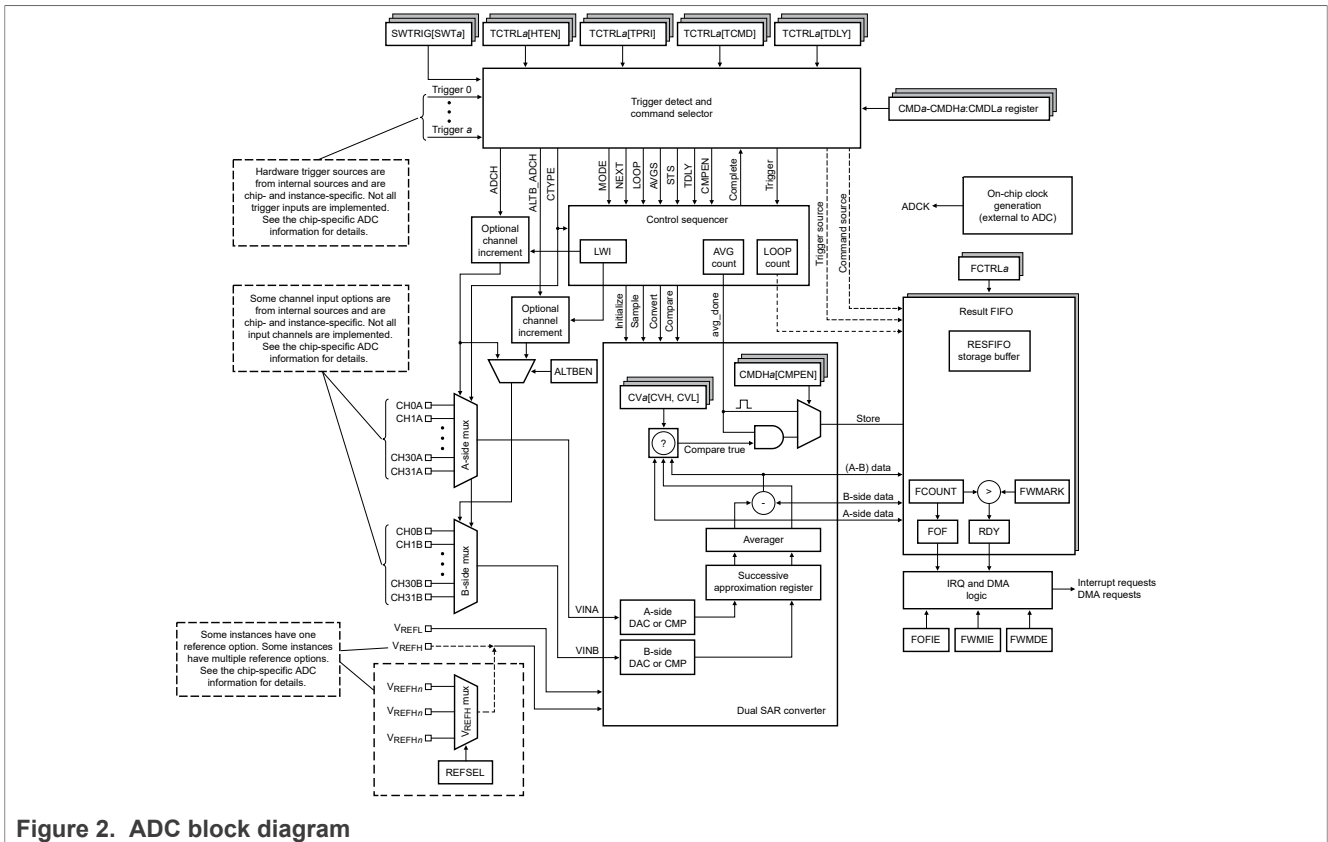


Figure 2. ADC block diagram

2.1.2 ADC features

ADC features are listed below:

- Linear successive approximation algorithm
 - Differential operation with 16-bit or 13-bit resolution
 - Single-ended operation with 16-bit or 12-bit resolution
 - Support for two simultaneous single-ended conversions
- Configurable analog input sample time
- Configurable speed options to accommodate operation in low-power modes of SoC
- Trigger detection with up to four trigger sources with priority level configuration. Software or hardware trigger option for each.
- 15 command buffers, to allow independent options selection and channel sequence scanning
- Automatic comparisons for less-than, greater-than, within range, or out-of-range with **store on true** and **repeat until true** options
- Two independent result FIFOs, each containing 16 entries. Each FIFO has configurable watermark and overflow detection.
- Interrupt, Direct Memory Access (DMA), or polled operation
- Linearity and gain adjustment calibration logic

2.1.3 Functional description

ADC performs analog-to-digital conversions on any of the software-selectable analog input channels via a successive approximation algorithm.

The ADC module can average the result of multiple conversions on a channel before storing the calculated result. The hardware average function is enabled by setting `CMDHn[AVGS]` to a non-zero value. The function operates in any conversion mode or configuration.

When the conversion and averaging loops finish, the resulting data is placed in one of the two available FIFO data buffers. The data includes tag information associated with the result. When the number of stored data words exceeds the setting, a configurable watermark level supports interrupts or DMA requests. Interrupts can also be enabled to indicate when FIFO overflow errors occur.

The module initializes to its lowest power state during reset.

ADC includes multiple command buffers to provide flexibility for channel scanning and independent channel selections for different trigger sources.

2.1.4 Result FIFO operation

ADC includes two 16-entry FIFOs in which the result of ADC conversions are stored. In addition, a valid indicator bit, the trigger source, the source command, and the loop count are also stored with the data. `FCTRLn[FCOUNT]` indicates how many valid data words are stored in each RESFIFO.

A programmable watermark threshold supports configurable notification of data availability. When `FCTRLn[FCOUNT]` is greater than `FCTRLn[FWMARK]`, the associated RDY flag is asserted. When `IE[FWMIE]` = 1, a watermark interrupt request is issued. When `DE[FWMDE]` = 1, a DMA request is issued. Reading RESFIFO provides the oldest unread data word entry in the FIFO and decrements `FCTRLn[FCOUNT]`. When `FCTRLn[FCOUNT]` falls equal to or below `FCTRLn[FWMARK]`, the RDY flag is cleared.

Each FIFO can be emptied by successive reads of `RESFIFOn`. When `RESFIFOn[VALID]` is 1, the associated FIFO entry is valid. Reading `RESFIFOn` when the FIFO is empty (when `RESFIFOn[VALID]` = 0 and `FCTRLn[FCOUNT]` = 0h) provides an undefined data word. All FIFOs are reset by writing 1b to `CTRL[RSTFIFOn]`.

If ADC attempts to store a data word to the FIFO when the FIFO is full, the FIFO overflow flag (`FCTRLn[FOF]`) is set. When `IE[FOFIE]` = 1, an overflow interrupt request is issued. The FOF flag is cleared by writing 1 to `STAT[FOFn]`. When overflow events occur, no new data is stored and the data associated with the storage event that triggered the overflow is lost.

Conversion results can be steered to any FIFO in the design. `TCTRLn[FIFO_SEL_A]` and `TCTRLn[FIFO_SEL_B]` determine into which FIFO the final result is written. Depending on which trigger is executing, the results can be steered to different locations. Depending on the type of conversion selected, the FIFO destination register fields are interpreted differently. During either differential or single-ended mode (`CMDLn[CTYPE] != 3h`) only one result is produced. The destination during these modes is determined from `TCTRLn[FIFO_SEL_A]`. In dual-single-ended mode, both `TCTRLn[FIFO_SEL_A]` and `TCTRLn[FIFO_SEL_B]` determine the Channel A and Channel B destinations respectively.

2.1.4.1 FIFO control register (FCTRL0 - FCTRL1)

Offset

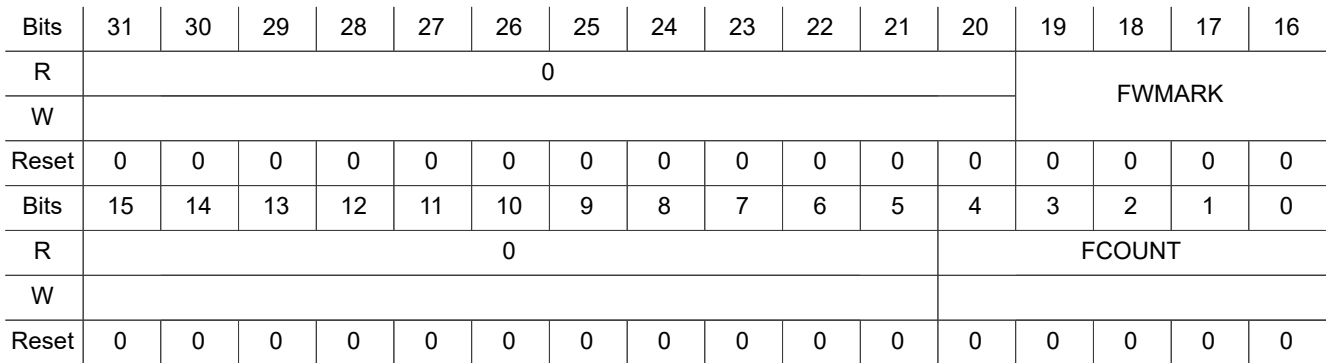
Register	Offset
FCTRL0	E0h
FCTRL1	E4h

Function

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Contains control and status fields for each FIFO in the design. A programmable watermark can be set for each FIFO, which can be used to trigger an interrupt. In addition, the number of entries stored in each FIFO can be monitored by reading $FCTRLn[FCOUNT]$.

Diagram



Field

Field	Function
31-20 —	Reserved
19-16 FWMARK	Watermark Level Selection Selects the storage threshold for the ADC Result FIFO. When the number of data words stored in the FIFO is greater than this value, the $STAT[RDY0]$ flag is asserted. When $IE[FWMIEn] = 1$, an interrupt request is generated. When $DE[FWMDEn] = 1$, a DMA request is generated
15-5 —	Reserved
4-0 FCOUNT	Result FIFO Counter Indicates the number of data words stored in the result FIFO. This value may be used with $PARAM[FIFOSIZE]$ to calculate how much room is left in the result FIFO. This field is incremented with each storage of new data into the result FIFO and decremented with each read of the result FIFO. The FIFO is reset by writing to $CTRL[RSTFIFO_n]$, which initializes $FCTRLn[FCOUNT]$ to 0h.

2.1.4.2 Data result FIFO register (RESFIFO0 - RESFIFO1)

Offset

Register	Offset
RESFIFO0	300h
RESFIFO1	304h

Function

Stores the data result of ADC conversions in a 16-entry FIFO. Several tag fields of source command and trigger information are stored with the data. $FCTRLn[FCOUNT]$ indicates how many valid data words are stored in the RESFIFO. Reading RESFIFO provides the oldest unread data word entry in the FIFO and decrements $FCTRLn[FCOUNT]$. The FIFO can be emptied by successive reads of RESFIFO. The FIFO is reset by writing 0b1 to $CTRL[RSTFIFO_n]$.

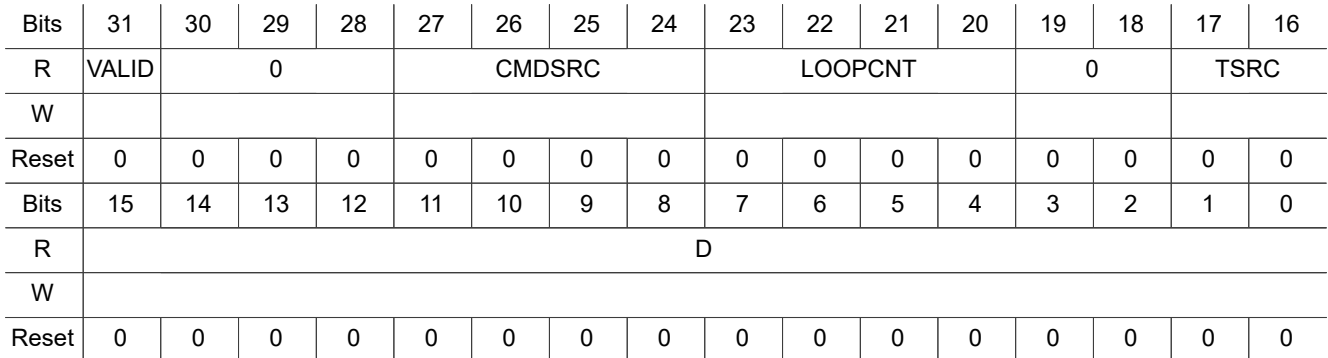
Using eDMA and Ping-Pong buffer to Deserialize Multi-channel ADC Result FIFO

The following table describes the format of data in the result FIFO in different modes of operation. The sign bit is the MSB in signed 2's complement modes. For example, when configured for 12-bit single-ended mode, D[15] and D[2:0] become 0. When configured for 13-bit differential mode, D[15] is the sign bit, and D[2:0] becomes 0.

Conversion mode	D15	D14	D13	D12	D11	D10	D9	D8	D7	D6	D5	D4	D3	D2	D1	D0	Format
16-bit differential	S ^[1]	D ^[2]	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	Signed 2's complement
16-bit single-ended	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	Unsigned, 16-bit magnitude
13-bit differential	S	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	0	0	0	Signed 2's complement, left justified, zero extended
12-bit single-ended	0	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	0	0	0	Unsigned, zero in D[15] and D[2:0]

[1] Sign bit
 [2] Data, 2's complement data when indicated

Diagram



Field	Function
31 VALID	FIFO Entry is Valid Indicates whether the FIFO entry is valid, which determines what happens to reads from RESFIFO. 0b - FIFO is empty. Discard any read from RESFIFO. 1b - FIFO contains data. FIFO record read from RESFIFO is valid.
30-28 —	Reserved
27-24	Command Buffer Source
CMDSRS	Indicates the executed command buffer that generated this result. 0000b - Not a valid value CMDSRC value for a data word in RESFIFO. 0h is only found in the initial FIFO state, prior to the storage of an ADC conversion result into a RESFIFO buffer. 0001b - CMD1 0010b-1110b - Corresponding command buffer used as control settings for this conversion. 1111b - CMD15
23-20	Loop Count Value

Field	Function
LOOPCNT	Indicates the loop count value during the command that generated this result. When <code>CMDHn[LOOP]</code> is non-zero, results are stored multiple times during command execution at the loop boundary. 0000b - Result is from initial conversion in command. 0001b - Result is from second conversion in command. 0010b-1110b - Result is from (LOOPCNT + 1) conversion in command. 1111b - Result is from 16th conversion in command.
19-18 —	Reserved
17-16 TSRC	Trigger Source Indicates the trigger source that initiated a conversion and generated this result. When multiple commands are chained together using <code>CMDHn[NEXT]</code> , this field indicates the trigger source that started the command sequence. 00b - Trigger source 0 01b - Trigger source 1 10b - Trigger source 2 11b - Trigger source 3
15-0 D	Data Result Contains the result of an ADC conversion. The following for the data in D is summarized in Table 370.

2.2 MCX Nx4x eDMA block description

This section describes the MCX Nx4x eDMA block.

2.2.1 Overview

The eDMA is a highly programmable data-transfer engine optimized to minimize any required intervention from the host processor. It is intended for use in applications where the data size to be transferred is statically known and is not defined within the transferred data itself.

The enhanced direct memory access (eDMA) controller can perform complex data transfers with minimal intervention from a host processor. The hardware microarchitecture includes:

- A DMA engine that performs:
 - Source address and destination address calculations
 - Data-movement operations
- Local memory containing transfer control descriptors for each of the 16 channels

Figure 3 illustrates the components of the eDMA system, including the eDMA module (engine).

Using eDMA and Ping-Pong buffer to Deserialize Multi-channel ADC Result FIFO

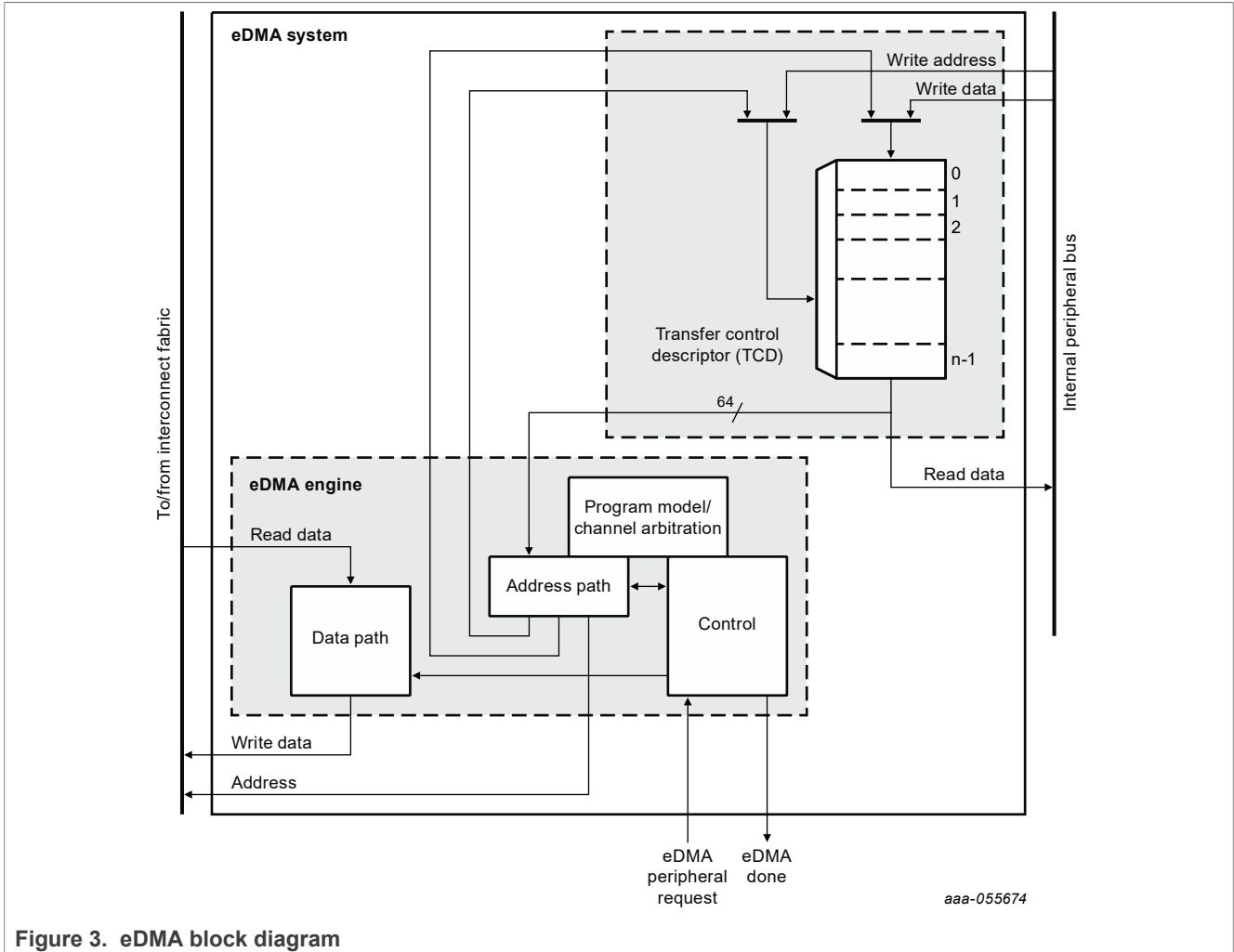


Figure 3. eDMA block diagram

For more Information, see the *MCX Nx4x Reference Manual* (document [MCXNX4XRM](#)) or *MCX Nx4x: Unleashing the Power of eDMA Controller* (document [AN14300](#)).

2.2.2 Major and minor

Each time a channel is activated and executes, a number of bytes, **NBYTES**, are transferred from the source to the destination. This is referred to as a minor transfer loop. A major transfer loop consists of a number of minor transfer loops. This number is specified within the TCD. As iterations of the minor loop are completed, the current iteration (CITER) TCD field is decremented. When the current iteration field has been exhausted, the channel has completed a major transfer loop.

[Figure 4](#) shows the relationship between major and minor loops. In this example, a channel is configured so that a major loop consists of three iterations of a minor loop. The minor loop is configured to be a transfer of four bytes.

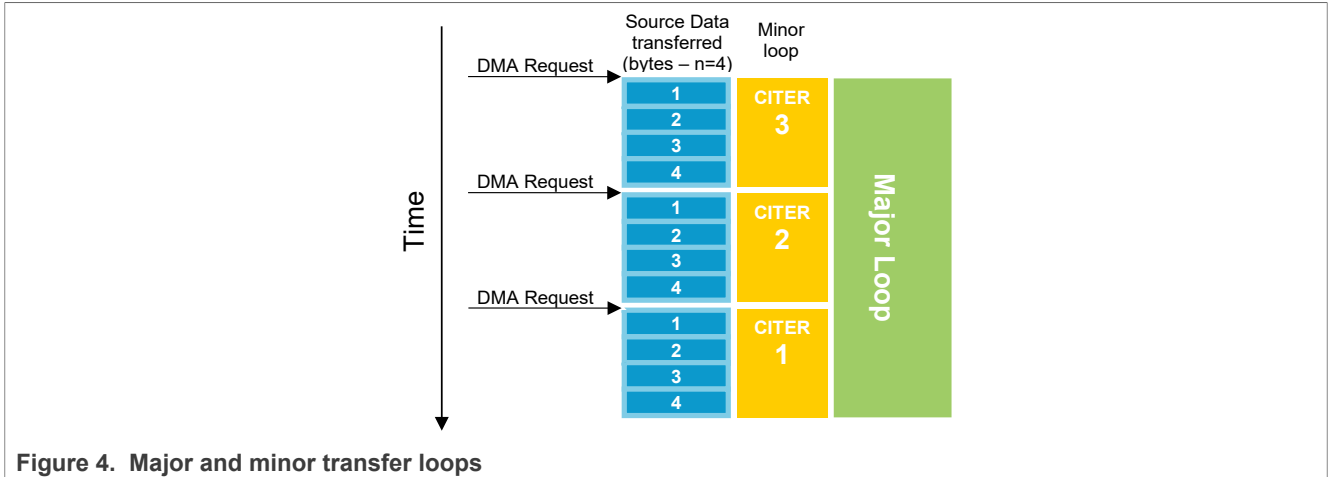


Figure 4. Major and minor transfer loops

The channel performs a selection of tasks upon completion of each minor and major transfer loop.

2.2.3 Completing a minor transfer loop

On completion of the minor loop, excluding the final minor loop, the eDMA carries out the following tasks:

- Decrementing the current iteration (CITER) counter.
- Updating the source address by adding the current source address to the signed source offset: $SADDR = SADDR + SOFF$ (source address is updated automatically as transfers are performed. On completion of the minor loop, the source address contains the source address for the last piece of data that was read in the minor loop; offset is added to this value).
- Updating the destination address by adding the current destination address to the signed destination offset: $DADDR = DADDR + DOFF$.
- Updating channel status bits and requesting (enabled) interrupts.
- Asserting the start bit of the linked channel upon completion of a minor loop, if channel linking is enabled.

2.2.4 Completing a major transfer loop

On completion of the major/final minor loop, the eDMA performs the following:

- Updating the source address by adding the current source address to the last source address adjustment: $SADDR = SADDR + SLAST$
- Updating the destination address by adding the current destination address to the last destination address adjustment: $DADDR = DADDR + DLAST$
- Updating the channel status bits and requesting (enabled) interrupts
- Asserting the start bit of the linked channel upon completion of a minor loop, if the channel linking is enabled
- Reloading current iteration (CITER) from the beginning major iteration count (BITER) field

3 MCU features and peripheral settings

Figure 5 shows the eDMA data move procedure: 1->2...->5->6..., each Minor loop.

Finish 4ch Data (CH1- CH4) moving from ADC result FIFO into respective channel buffer. And the major loop finishes one block data (including 4ch data) moving (for example, one block contains all 4ch data and each channel contains 1024 data).

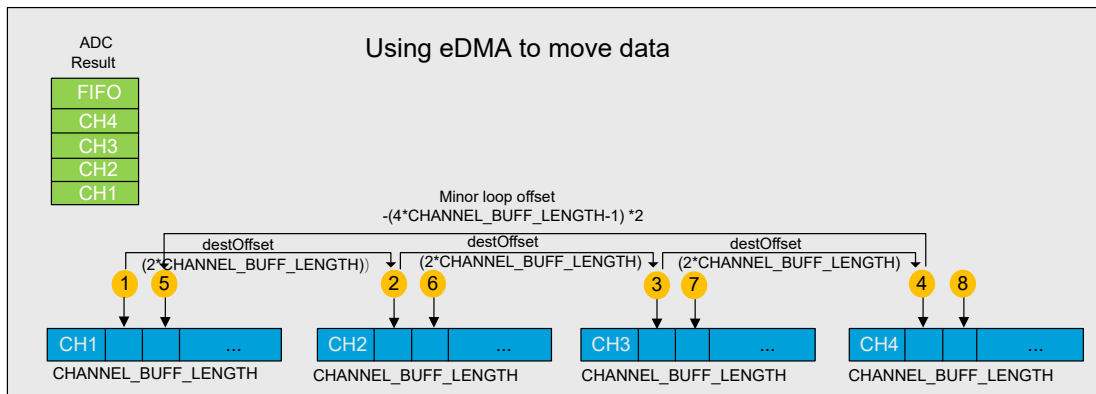


Figure 5. Data moving process diagram

3.1 MCU peripheral settings

Figure 6 shows using Ping-pong buffer to keep the sampling continuity. In Internal Service Routine (ISR), each channel data stored in a ping or pong buffer is copied to a permanent channel buffer.

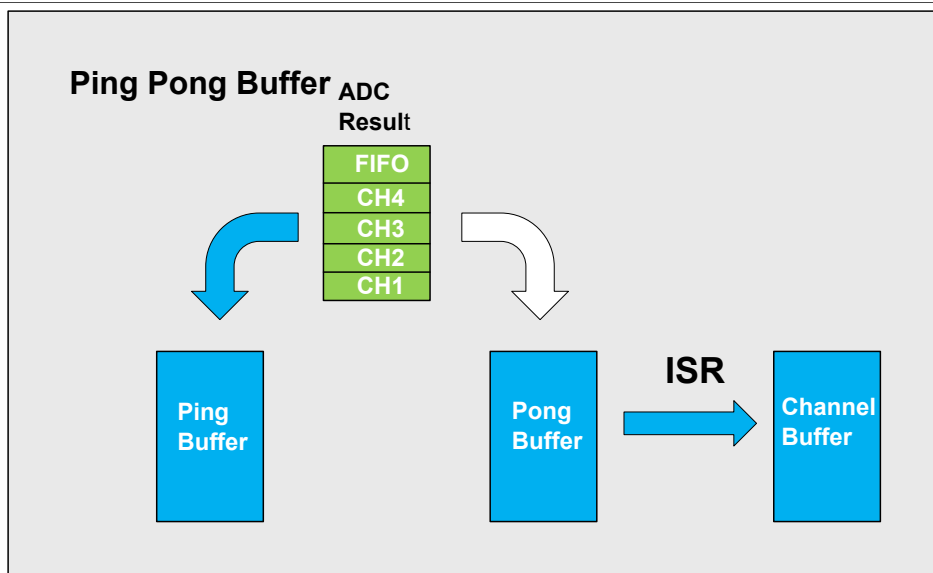


Figure 6. Ping Pong buffer process diagram

The example configuration code is listed as below.

```
static void EDMA0_Configuration(void)
{
    edma_transfer_config_t transferConfig[2];
    edma_channel_config_t lpadcDmaChnlConfig;
    edma_config_t userConfig;
```

Using eDMA and Ping-Pong buffer to Deserialize Multi-channel ADC Result FIFO

```

    _destAddr_ping[0] = 0x5A5A;
    _destAddr_ping[1] = DEMO_CHANNEL_BUFF_LENGTH * 4;
    _destAddr_pong[0] = 0x5A5A;
    _destAddr_pong[1] = DEMO_CHANNEL_BUFF_LENGTH * 4;
    destAddr_ping = &_destAddr_ping[2];
    destAddr_pong = &_destAddr_pong[2];

    PRINTF("destAddr_ping = 0x%d, destAddr_ping[1] = 0x%d\r\n", sizeof(destAddr_ping), sizeof(destAddr_ping[0]));

    lpadcDmaChnlConfig.channelDataSignExtensionBitPosition = 0U;
    lpadcDmaChnlConfig.channelPreemptionConfig.enableChannelPreemption = false;
    lpadcDmaChnlConfig.channelPreemptionConfig.enablePreemptAbility = true;
    lpadcDmaChnlConfig.channelRequestSource =
    DEMO_DMA_REQUEST;
    lpadcDmaChnlConfig.protectionLevel =
    kEDMA_ChannelProtectionLevelUser;
    #if ! (defined(FSL_FEATURE_EDMA_HAS_NO_CH_SBR_SEC) &&
    FSL_FEATURE_EDMA_HAS_NO_CH_SBR_SEC)
        lpadcDmaChnlConfig.securityLevel = kEDMA_ChannelSecurityLevelNonSecure;
    #endif /* !(defined(FSL_FEATURE_EDMA_HAS_NO_CH_SBR_SEC) &&
    FSL_FEATURE_EDMA_HAS_NO_CH_SBR_SEC) */

    /* Configure EDMA channel for one shot transfer */
    EDMA_GetDefaultConfig(&userConfig);
    EDMA_Init(DEMO_DMA_BASEADDR, &userConfig);

    EDMA_CreateHandle(&g_DMA0_Handle, DEMO_DMA_BASEADDR, DEMO_DMA_CHANNEL_0);
    EDMA_SetCallback(&g_DMA0_Handle, DMA0_Callback, NULL);
    EDMA_InstallTCDMemory(&g_DMA0_Handle, g_DMA0_Tcd, 2);

    #if (defined(FSL_FEATURE_LPADC_FIFO_COUNT) && (FSL_FEATURE_LPADC_FIFO_COUNT ==
    2U))
        void *srcAddr = (uint32_t *)&(DEMO_LPADC_BASE->RESFIFO[0U]);
    #else
        void *srcAddr = (uint32_t *)&(DEMO_LPADC_BASE->RESFIFO);
    #endif /* (defined(FSL_FEATURE_LPADC_FIFO_COUNT) &&
    (FSL_FEATURE_LPADC_FIFO_COUNT == 2U)) */
    EDMA_PrepareTransfer(&transferConfig[0], srcAddr, sizeof(uint16_t),
    destAddr_ping, sizeof(destAddr_ping[0]), sizeof(destAddr_ping[0])*4,
    DEMO_CHANNEL_BUFF_LENGTH * 4 * 2, kEDMA_PeripheralToMemory);

    transferConfig[0].destOffset = DEMO_CHANNEL_BUFF_LENGTH*2;
    transferConfig[0].minorLoopOffset = (int32_t)(-1)*((DEMO_CHANNEL_BUFF_LENGTH
    * 4-1)*2);
    transferConfig[0].enableDstMinorLoopOffset = true;

    /* Used to change the destination address to the original value */
    transferConfig[0].dstMajorLoopOffset = (int32_t)((-1)
    * sizeof(destAddr_ping));

    EDMA_PrepareTransfer(&transferConfig[1], srcAddr, sizeof(uint16_t),
    destAddr_pong, sizeof(destAddr_pong[0]), sizeof(destAddr_pong[0])*4,
    DEMO_CHANNEL_BUFF_LENGTH * 4 * 2, kEDMA_PeripheralToMemory);

    transferConfig[1].destOffset = DEMO_CHANNEL_BUFF_LENGTH*2;
    transferConfig[1].minorLoopOffset = (int32_t)(-1)*((DEMO_CHANNEL_BUFF_LENGTH
    * 4-1)*2);
    transferConfig[1].enableDstMinorLoopOffset = true;

```

Using eDMA and Ping-Pong buffer to Deserialize Multi-channel ADC Result FIFO

```

/* Used to change the destination address to the original value */
transferConfig[1].dstMajorLoopOffset = (int32_t)((-1)
* sizeof(destAddr_pong));

EDMA_SubmitLoopTransfer(&g_DMA0_Handle, transferConfig, 2);

EDMA_InitChannel(DEMO_DMA_BASEADDR, DEMO_DMA_CHANNEL_0,
&lpadcDmaChnlConfig);

EDMA_EnableAutoStopRequest(DEMO_DMA_BASEADDR, DEMO_DMA_CHANNEL_0, false);

EnableIRQ(DEMO_DMA_IRQ);
EDMA_EnableChannelRequest(DEMO_DMA_BASEADDR, DEMO_DMA_CHANNEL_0);
}

```

4 Demo setup and CPU loading performance

This section describes the demo setup and CPU loading performance.

4.1 Demo setup

This section describes how to set up a demo.

4.1.1 Board connection

Connect FRDM-N947 boards to the analog Input source by **J1_M4** Arduino connector (the red part shows in the J1_M4). Connect **Channel 1 - Channel 4** to analog input source for 4CH analog input.

Use a USB type-C cable to connect to the FRDM board connector marked as MCU-Link. Download the code using the debug button in the tool bar after the compiler. Select **CMSIS-DAP** or **J-Link** in **Debug As** according to the firmware in your on-board debugger.

[Figure 7](#) shows the board connection of this demo.

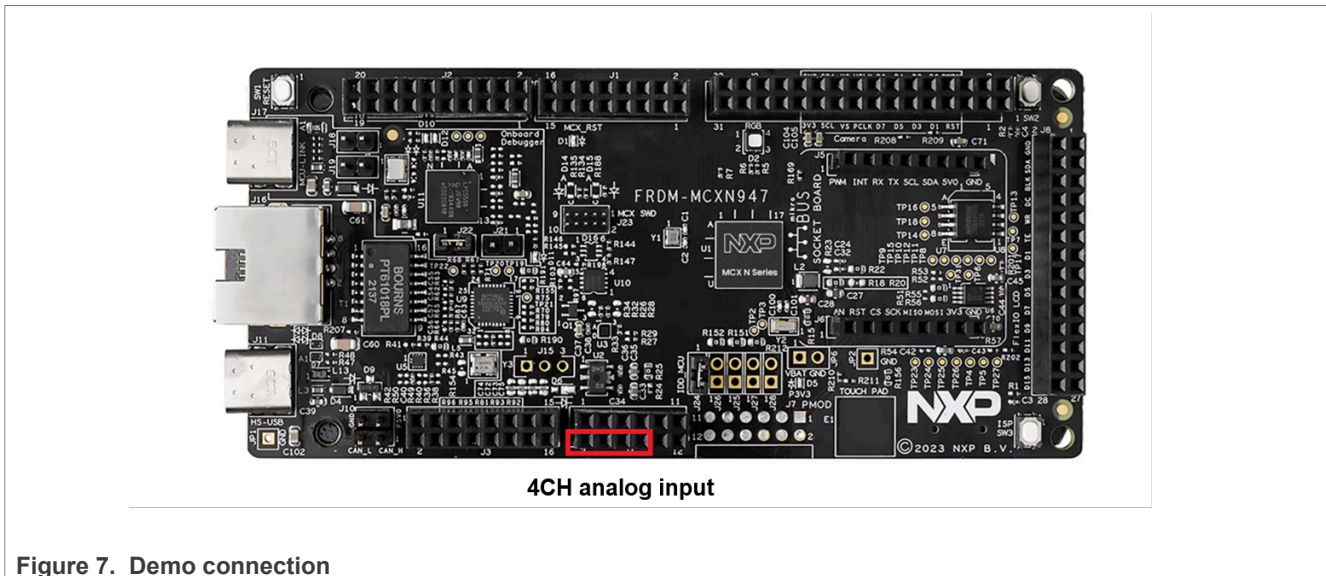


Figure 7. Demo connection

4.1.2 Project setup in MCUXpresso IDE

To clone the demo code from Application Code Hub in MCUXpresso IDE, perform the following steps:

1. Open MCUXpresso IDE. In the Quick Start Panel, choose **Import from Application Code Hub**.
2. Find the demo that you need by searching the name directly or selecting the tags you are interested in. Open the project, click the **GitHub link** and then **Next**.
3. Select the **main** branch and then click **Next**.
4. Select your local path for the repo in **Destination->Directory**: window. The MCUXpresso IDE clones the repo to the path that you have selected. Click **Next** after the clone process.
5. Select **Import existing Eclipse projects** in Wizard for the project import window and then **Next**.
6. Select the project in this repo (only one project in this repo) and then **Finish**.

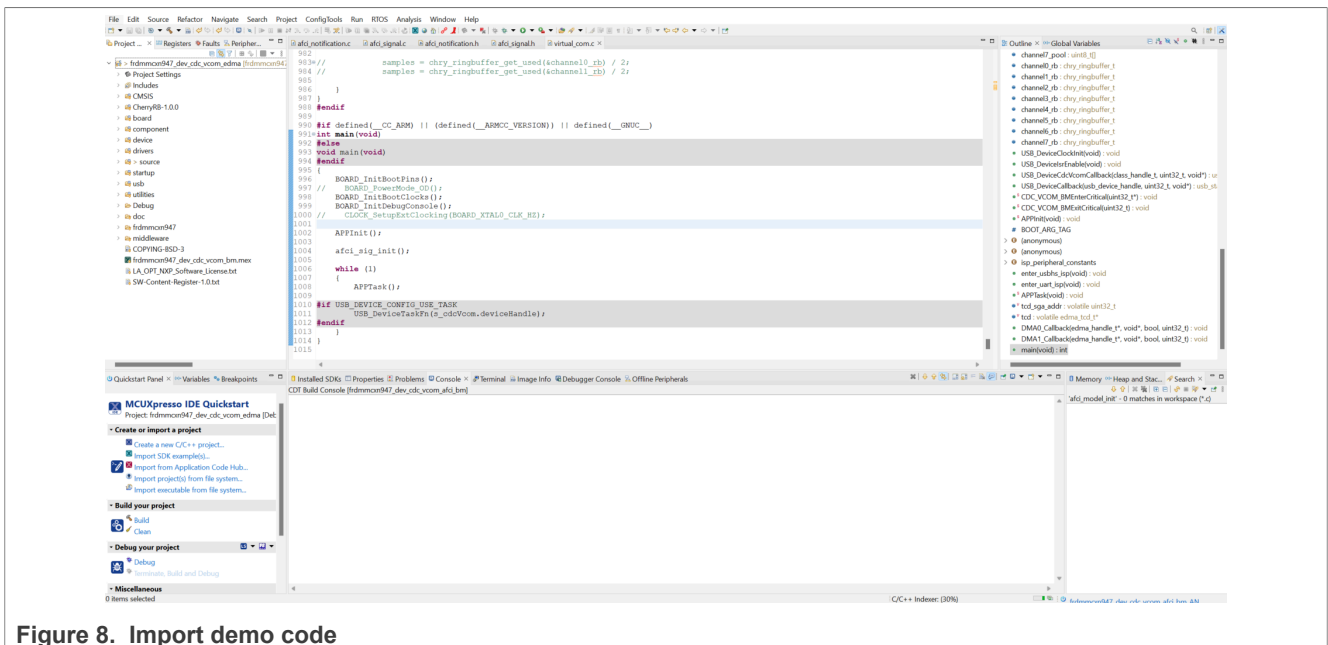


Figure 8. Import demo code

4.1.3 Run the demo

To reset the board, perform the following steps:

1. Press **SW3** on the FRDM board.
2. Debug the code and give the different analog input value.
3. Add to watch the channel data in the data buffer `channelX_pool` in the code.

5 Reference

See the following documents for more details:

- *MCX Nx4x Reference Manual* (document [MCXNX4XRM](#))
- *MCX Nx4x Data Sheet* (document [MCXNX4X-DS](#))
- *FRDM-MCXN947 Board User Manual* (document [UM12018](#))
- *MCX Nx4x: Unleashing the Power of eDMA Controller* (document [AN14300](#))
- *MPC57xx: Configuring and Using the eDMA Controller* (document [AN4765](#))
- *Optimizing the S32K1xx eDMA for Performance Demanding Applications* (document [AN12972](#))

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7 Revision history

[Table 1](#) summarizes the revisions to this document.

Table 1. Revision history

Document ID	Release date	Description
AN14900 v.1.0	29 December 2025	Initial public release

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Using eDMA and Ping-Pong buffer to Deserialize Multi-channel ADC Result FIFO

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