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Design of Current-Mode Sinusoidal Oscillators Using Single FTFN

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Abstract: This paper presents a current-mode quadrature oscillator. We propose an oscillator that can provide two sinusoidal output currents with 90deg phase difference. It also provides high output impedance that enables the circuit to directly drive load without additional current buffer. The condition of oscillation and frequency of oscillation can be controlled independently and electronically by adjusting the bias currents of the CCTAs. The circuit uses three current controlled transconductance amplifiers (CCTAs) and two grounded capacitors. The proposed circuit uses only grounded capacitors without additional external resistors, the proposed circuit is considerably appropriate to further developing into an integrated circuit. The results of PSPICE simulation program are corresponding to the theoretical analysis. The proposed circuits use single four-terminal floating nullor and, at most, eight passive elements. Two of the oscillator circuits are grounded capacitors and enjoy the independent grounded-element control of the frequency of oscillation and the condition of oscillation. Experimental results are included.

Keywords: Current-Mode Circuits, Sinusoidal Oscillators, CCTA, PSPICE

I. Introduction

An electronic oscillator produces a repetitive, oscillating electronic signal, often a sine wave or a square wave. Oscillators convert direct current (DC) from a power supply to an alternating current signal. They are widely used in many electronic devices. Common examples of signals generated by oscillators include signals broadcast by radio and television transmitters, clock signals that regulate computers and quartz clocks, and the sounds produced by electronic beepers and video games. Oscillators are often characterized by the frequency of their output signal [1]:

- An audio oscillator produces frequencies in the audio range, about 16 Hz to 20 kHz.
- An RF oscillator produces signals in the radio frequency (RF) range of about 100 kHz to 100 GHz.
- A low-frequency oscillator (LFO) is an electronic oscillator that generates a frequency below ≈20 Hz.

This term is typically used in the field of audio synthesizers, to distinguish it from an audio frequency oscillator. Oscillators designed to produce a high-power AC output from a DC supply are usually called inverters [2].

A. Four Terminal Floating nullor (FTFN) sinusoidal oscillator

The sinusoidal oscillator is an important device, which finds its wide applications in communication, control systems, signal processing, instrumentation and measurement systems. In the literature several active elements like operational amplifier (op-amp), second generation current conveyor (CCII), operational transconductance amplifier (OTA), current feedback operational amplifier (CFOA), four terminal floating nullor (FTFN) etc have been used for realization of oscillators. Among these the FTFN is receiving considerable attention now-a-days. In addition, the use of OTA provides some additional advantage of electronic tunability, high frequency performance and minimize the requirement of external resistors. In 1996, Hou et al. realized a single element control oscillators using a single FTFN in which they introduced six oscillator circuits with four (or three) resistors and capacitors. In 1997, Liu presented a single resistance sinusoidal oscillator (SRCO) using two FTFNs, two resistors and three grounded capacitors but one FTFN is positive and another is negative, which is not good for IC implementation. In 1999, Bhasker proposed a single resistance controlled sinusoidal oscillator using a single FTFN, one buffer, three resistors and two grounded capacitors. In 2001, Cicekoglu presented a general scheme of SRCO's using a single FTFN, five resistors and two grounded capacitors that give eight oscillator circuits. The drawback of this realisation is that it uses a large number of passive elements. In 2002,



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Vol. 4, Issue 4, April 2015

Bhasker3 proposed a grounded-capacitor SRCO using only one positive FTFN (pFTFN), which uses two grounded capacitors and four resistors. Its drawback is that it cannot use equal valued capacitors. In 2004, Shah et al.8 proposed electronically tunable CM oscillator using FTFN and OTAs which uses one FTFN, two OTA and two capacitors. The drawback of this circuit is that it uses one floating capacitor, which is not good for IC implementation. Again in 2005, Bhaskeret al.9 proposed a new FTFN-based grounded-capacitor SRCO with explicit current mode output and reduced number of resistors using two FTFNs, four resistors and two grounded capacitors. In this paper, a single resistance controlled oscillator (SRCO) is presented which uses one FTFN, one OTA, two resistors and two grounded capacitors. In most of the circuits single types of elements have been used. However the use of two different elements sometimes results in a better circuit realization. In this paper we have used one positive FTFN (pFTFN) and one OTA and all passive components are grounded which is main advantage of our circuit. The frequency of oscillation is controlled using a single grounded resistance that can be replaced by an FET or OTA configured as resistor. The condition of oscillation is adjusted electronically by varying the transconductance of OTA.

II. CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

The positive FTFN can be characterized by the port relations with vx = vy, ix = iy = 0 and iw = iz.

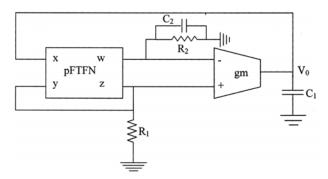


Fig. 1 The circuit for the Oscillator

The circuit above is the circuit for producing the oscillations required in the circuit.

III. DESIGN ISSUE WITH OSCILLATOR

Due to their relatively good phase noise, ease of implementation, differential operation, cross-coupled inductance capacitance (LC) oscillators play an important role in high-frequency circuit design. In thispaper, the time-variant phase-noise model of will be applied to analyse these oscillators. A simple expression for the tank amplitude is first obtained. The effect of different noise sources in such oscillators is then investigated, and methods for exploiting the cyclo stationary properties of noise are shown. New design implications arising from this approach and experimental results are given. A differential LC oscillator using spiral inductors is demonstrated that dissipates 6 mW of power while running at 1.8 GHz, with a phase noise of 121 dB/Hz at 600-kHz offset.

A. Tank Amplitude

Tank voltage amplitude has an important effect on the phase noise, as emphasized by the presence of $q_{m,a,x}$ in the denominator of the expression for the single-sideband phase noise



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$$\mathcal{L}\{\Delta\omega\} = 10 \cdot \log_{10} \left(\frac{\overline{i_n^2}/\Delta f}{q_{\text{max}}^2} \cdot \frac{\Gamma_{\text{rms}}^2}{2\Delta\omega^2} \right)$$

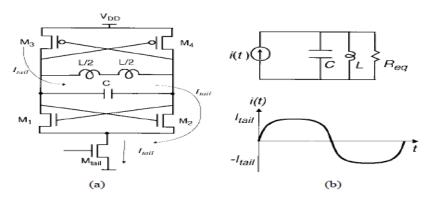


Fig 2 (a) Current flows when the stage is switched to one side. (b) Differential equivalent circuit It is the power spectral density of the current where it is the rms value of the impulse noise, sensitivity function associated with that noise source, qmax is the maximum signal charge swing, and delta w is the offset frequency from the carrier.

A simple expression for the tank amplitude can be obtained assuming that the current in the differential stage switches quickly from one side to another. Fig. 2(a) shows the current flowing in the complementary cross-coupled differential LC oscillator [3] when it is completely switched to one side. As the tank voltage changes, the direction of the current flow through the tank reverses. The differential pair thus can be modeled as a current source switching between $I_{\rm bail}$ and $I_{\rm bail}$ in parallel with a resistance±inductance±capacitance(RLC) tank, as shown in Fig. it is the equivalent parallel resistance of the tank.

B. Rectangular Current Waveform

At high frequencies, the current waveform may be approximated more closely by a sinusoid due to finite switching time and limited gain. In such cases, the tank amplitude can be better approximated as

$$V_{\rm tank} \approx I_{\rm tail} R_{\rm eq}$$
.

This mode of operation is referred to as the current-limited regime of operation since, in this regime; the tank amplitude is solely determined by the tail-current source and the tank equivalent resistance. Fig. 3.2 shows the simulated node voltages as well as the drain currents of the NMOS transistors, M1 and M2, in this regime of operation. The value of L and C are such that the circuit oscillates at 1 GHz.



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Vol. 4, Issue 4, April 2015

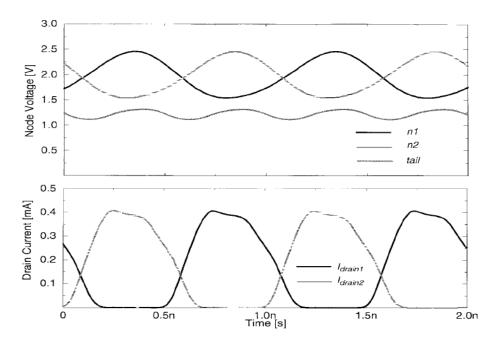


Fig. 3 Simulated voltages and currents in the current-limited regime

Note that 3.2 loses its validity as the amplitude approaches the supply voltage because both NMOS and PMOS pairs will enter the triode region at the peaks of the voltage. Also the tail NMOS transistor may spend most (or even all) of its time in the linear region. This behavior can be seen in the simulated voltages and currents shown in Fig. 3.3 The tank voltage will be clipped at Vdd by the PMOS transistors and at ground by the NMOS transistors. Therefore, for the oscillator of Fig. 3(a), the tank voltage amplitude does not significantly exceed Vdd Note that since the tail transistor is in the triode region, the tail current does not stay constant. Thus, the drain-source voltage of the differential NMOS transistors can drop significantly, resulting in a large drop in their drain current, as shown in Fig. 3 This region of operation is known as the voltage-limited regime. Fig. 3 shows the simulated tank voltage amplitude as a function of tail current for three different values of VddAs can be seen, the tank amplitude is proportional to the tail current in the current-limited region, while it is limited by Vdd in the voltage-limited regime.

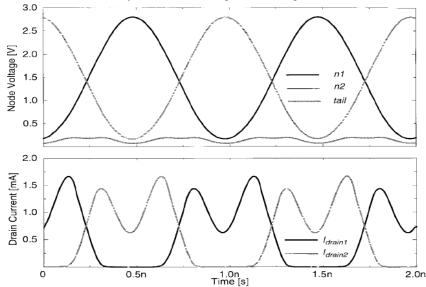


Fig. 4 Simulated voltages and currents in the voltage-limited regime



International Journal of Advanced Research in Electrical, Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering

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III.DESIGN OF CURRENT MODE SINUSOIDAL OSCILLATOR

This paper presents a current-mode quadrature oscillator using differential different current conveyor (DDCC) and voltage differencing transconductance amplifier (VDTA) as active elements. The proposed circuit is realized from a non-inverting lossless integrator and an inverting second order low-pass filter. The oscillation condition and oscillation frequency can be electronically/orthogonally controlled via input bias currents. The circuit description is very simple, consisting of merely 1 DDCC, 1VDTA, 1 grounded resistor and 3 grounded capacitors. Using only grounded element, the proposed circuit is then suitable for IC architecture. The proposed oscillator has high output impedance which is easy to cascade or dive the external load without the buffer devices. The PSPICE simulation results are depicted, and the given results agree well with the theoretical anticipation. The power consumption is approximately 1.76mW at ± 1.25 V supply voltages.

A.Design using DDDC

A third order currentmode oscillator, based on DDCC and VDTA. The features of the proposed circuits are that: the oscillation condition can be adjusted independently from the oscillation frequency by electronic method. The circuit construction consists of 1 DDCC, 1 VDTA, 1 grounded resistor and 2 grounded capacitors. The PSPICE simulation results are shown; the electrical behaviours of the ideal DDCC are represented by the following hybrid matrixes which are in correspondence with the theoretical analysis.

Fig. 4 Matrix representations of the parameters

The symbol and the equivalent circuit of the DDCC are illustrated in Fig. 5(a) and (b), respectively.

B. Design using VDTA

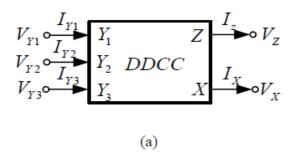
The circuit symbol of VDTA is shown in Fig. 5, where VP and VN are the input terminals, Z and X is the output ones. Hence, Z is the current output terminal; current through Z terminal follows the difference of the voltages at VP and VN terminals by transconductance gm1. The voltage vZ on Z terminal is transferred into current using transconductance gm2, which flows into output terminal X. The gm1 and gm2 are tuned by IB1 and IB2, respectively. In general, CDTA can contain an arbitrary number of x terminals, providing currents IX of both directions. All terminals of VDTA exhibit high impedance values. The characteristics of the ideal VDTA are represented by the following hybrid matrix:



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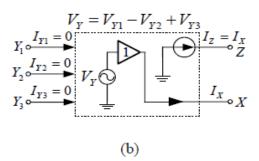


Fig. 5 DDCC (a) Symbol (b) Equivalent circuit

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_Z \\ I_{X+} \\ I_{X-} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} g_{m1} & -g_{m1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & g_{m2} \\ 0 & 0 & -g_{m2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_P \\ V_N \\ V_Z \end{bmatrix}.$$

If the VDTA is realized using CMOS technology, gm1 and gm2 can be respectively written as

$$g_{m1} = \sqrt{kI_{B1}} \ ,$$

and

$$g_{m2} = \sqrt{kI_{R2}}$$
.

Here k is the physical transconductance parameter of the CMOS transistor. IB1 and IB2 are the bias current used to control the gm1 and gm2, respectively.

$$V_{p} \longrightarrow V_{p} \qquad X \longrightarrow I_{x}$$

$$V_{N} \longrightarrow V_{n} \qquad Z \bigvee_{V_{z}} I_{z}$$

Fig. 6The circuit symbol of VDTA



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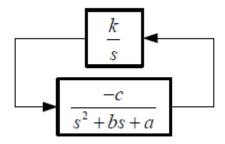


Fig. 7 Block diagram for design of proposed oscillator

C.General structure of 3rd Oscillator

The oscillator is designed by cascading an inverting second order low-pass filter and the lossless integrators as systematically shown in Fig. 6. From block diagram in Fig. 7, we will receive the characteristic equation as

$$s^3 + bs^2 + as + ck = 0$$

The condition of oscillation (OC) and frequency of oscillation (FO) can be written as

$$OC: ab = ck$$

And

$$\omega_{osc} = \sqrt{a}$$

From above Equation, if a = c, the oscillation condition and oscillation frequency can be adjusted independently, which are the oscillation condition can be controlled by b and k, while the oscillation frequency can be tuned by a.

D.Structure of proposed Oscillator

The completed 3rd current-mode quadrature oscillator is shown in Fig. 7. The condition of oscillation and frequency of oscillation can be written as

$$\frac{1}{C_1 R} = \frac{g_{m2}}{C_3},$$

And

$$\omega_{\scriptscriptstyle osc} = \sqrt{\frac{g_{\scriptscriptstyle m1}}{C_1 C_2 R}} \; .$$



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(An ISO 3297: 2007 Certified Organization)

Vol. 4, Issue 4, April 2015

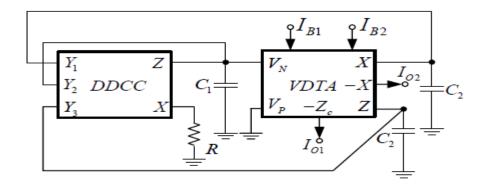


Fig. 8 Proposed Current-Mode Oscillator

If m1 B1 g = kI, m2 B2 g = kI and 1 2 3 C = C = C, the condition of oscillation and frequency of oscillation can be rewritten as

$$\frac{1}{R} = \sqrt{kI_{B2}} ,$$

And

$$\omega_{osc} = \frac{1}{C} \sqrt{\frac{\left(kI_{B1}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}}{R}} .$$

It is obviously found that, the condition of oscillation and frequency of oscillation can be adjusted independently, which are the oscillation of oscillation can be controlled by setting IB2, while the frequency of oscillation can be tuned by setting IB1. From the circuit in Fig. 8, the current transfer function from Io1 to Io2 is

$$\frac{I_{o2}(s)}{I_{o1}(s)} = \frac{g_{m1}}{sC_2} \, .$$

For sinusoidal steady state, becomes

$$\frac{I_{o2}(j\omega)}{I_{o1}(j\omega)} = \frac{g_{m1}}{\omega C_2} e^{-j90^{\circ}}.$$

The phase difference φ between Io1 and Io2 is $\varphi = -90^{\circ}$ ensuring that the currents Io2 and Io1 are in quadrature.

E .Output of proposed Oscillator

The working of the proposed oscillator has been verified in PSpice simulation. Internal constructions of DDCC and VDTA used in simulation are respectively shown in Figs. 5 and 6. The PMOS and NMOS transistors have been simulated by respectively using the parameters of a $0.25\mu m$ TSMC CMOS technology. The transistor aspect ratios of PMOSand NMOS transistor are indicated in Table I. The circuit was biased with $\pm 1.25 V$ supply voltages, VBB=-0.55V, C1=C2=C3=50pF, IB1=IB2=60 μ A and R=3.5 μ C. This yields simulated oscillation frequency of 1MHz. Fig. 7 shows simulated quadrature output waveforms. Fig. 8 shows the simulated output spectrum, where the total harmonic distortion (THD) is about 2.95%. The quadrature relationship between the generated waveforms has been verified using Lissagous figure and shown in Fig. 8. The power consumption is approximately 1.76mW.



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Vol. 4, Issue 4, April 2015

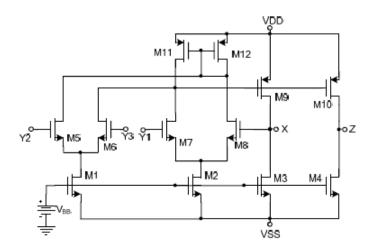


Fig. 9 Internal construction of the CMOS DDCC

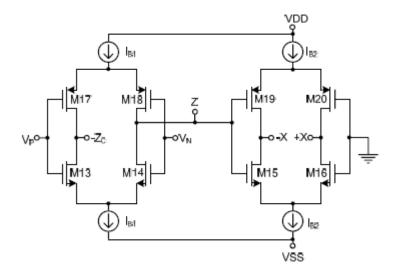


Fig. 10 Internal construction of the CMOS VDTA

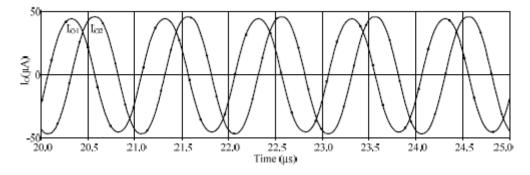


Fig. 11 The simulation result of quadrature outputs



International Journal of Advanced Research in Electrical, Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering

(An ISO 3297: 2007 Certified Organization)

Vol. 4, Issue 4, April 2015

F. Practical Design of Proposed Circuit

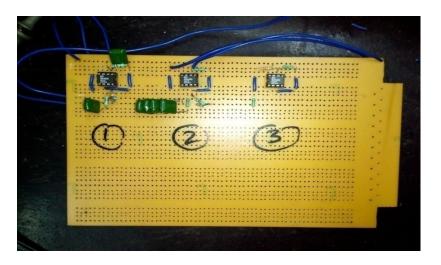


Fig. 12 Practical Design of Proposed Circuit

III. RESULTS

The confirm the theoretical analysis, the proposed SCRO circuit was simulated using one PFTFN and one OTA. The PFTFNwas constructed with two ad844 ic's OF Analogue devices inc. and for OTA commercially available IC 3080 was used. The supply voltages were taken as $+_15V$ dc. The passive component were selected as C1=0.01uf, C2 as 0.011uf, R2 as 20 Kohm and gm as 0.5 S. The value of C2 should be equal to 0.01uf, however in spice simulation it has been taken slightly higher i.e. equal to 0.011uf to make the s-term negative in equation so as to get sustained oscillations. It is an established practice in literature using the spice simulation method to verify the results.

The result which is obtained with the help of simulation contains different sections, of all the sections only the parameters obtained in the final report are shown.

Table 5.1 Results for the output obtained

Oscillator					
circuit	Circuit	Parameters			
	С	R =	R4	Theor.	Exp.
		R1=R2=R3	(start)	(kHz)	(kHz)
		$(k\Omega)$	Exp.		
			$(k\Omega)$		
Fig.1	0.1µF	10	51.5	0.1949	0.1449
	0.1µF	1	6	1.949	1.549
	1nF	10	57	19.492	17.32
	4.7nF	1	6	41.473	39.259
	1nF	1	6.2	194.924	
Fig.3 (b)	0.1µF	10	23.3	.0398	0.43132
	4.7nF	10	27.5	0.8466	0.8762
	4.7nF	1	2.6	8.466	9.222
	1nF	1	2.6	39.789	
	130pF	1	4.3	306.067	

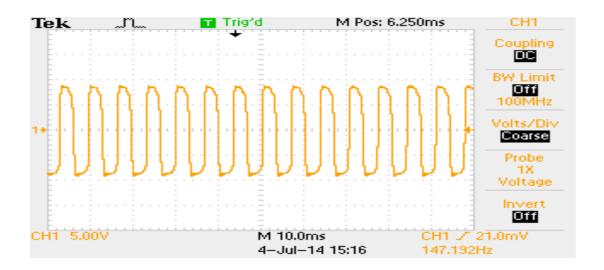


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Vol. 4, Issue 4, April 2015

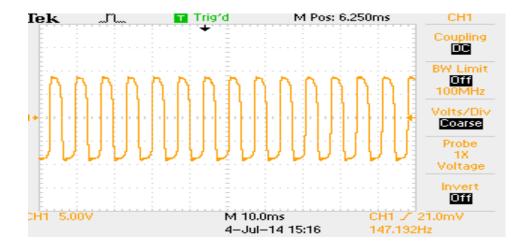
OUTPUT OF RESULTS



IV. CONCLUSION

In this work an electronically tunable current-mode quadrature sinusoidal oscillator enabling independent current control of oscillation frequency and oscillation condition is realized employing three CDTAs and two grounded capacitors. The proposed circuit is canonical and capable of simultaneously providing two explicit quadrature current outputs. The non-ideal and sensitivity analyses of the circuit have been carried out, and the circuit exhibits a low sensitivity performance.

Verified Outputs

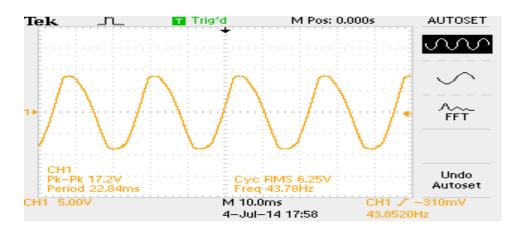




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Vol. 4, Issue 4, April 2015



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