

Description

The present invention relates to circuitry which uses only one analog-to-digital converter to convert a plurality of analog signals occupying mutually distinct frequency bands into respective digital signals.

Signal processing applications exist for which it is desirable to digitize two or more analog signals. Pursuant to the principles of the present invention, this may be accomplished by circuitry which includes only one analog-to-digital converter (ADC), with a cost advantage relative to circuitry which uses a separate ADC for each of the signals.

An illustrative application of the present invention is to use in a video signal processing system which includes a source of analog video signal signals occupying a predetermined band of frequencies, an analog-to-digital converter responsive to said analog video signals, and digital video signal processing circuits responsive to an output of said converter.

In such a system, an arrangement pursuant to the invention includes a source of auxiliary signals of a frequency not within said predetermined band of frequencies, and means, coupled to the sources of analog video and auxiliary signals, for linearly combining the analog video signals and auxiliary signals to develop an output signal. The converter's signal input is coupled to the output of the combining means, so that the converter develops at its output digital samples representative of said output signal. Filtering means, responsive to said digital samples developed by said converter, produce first and second digital signals occupying mutually exclusive auxiliary signals, respectively. Means are provided for supplying said first digital signal to said digital video signal processing circuits, and an auxiliary signal utilization circuit responds to the second digital signal developed by said filtering means.

In an illustrative embodiment of the present invention, the auxiliary signals comprise sinusoidal oscillatory signals developed by a crystal controlled analog oscillator, and are combined with composite color video signals inclusive of a color reference signal component having a predetermined frequency. The clocking rate of the converter corresponds to four times said predetermined frequency, and the frequency of said analog oscillator output corresponds to one and one-half times said predetermined frequency. In said illustrative embodiment, the auxiliary signal utilization circuit comprises a digital oscillator responsive to a control signal for providing a variable frequency digital oscillatory signal, and phase comparison means coupled to the digital oscillator and to the filtering means. The phase comparison means de-

velops a signal proportional to the difference in phase between said second digital signal and said digital oscillatory signal, which phase difference proportional signal is applied to said digital oscillator as said control signal.

FIGURE 1 is a block diagram showing a portion of a prior art digital television receiver.

FIGURE 2 is a block diagram of circuitry embodying the present invention which may be used to modify the circuitry shown in FIGURE 1.

In the drawings, broad arrows represent busses for multiple-bit parallel digital signals and line arrows represent connections carrying analog signals or single bit digital signals. Depending on the processing speed of the devices, compensating delays may be required in certain of signal paths. One skilled in the art of digital circuit design would know where such delays would be needed in a particular system.

The embodiment of the invention described below is in the context of a digital television receiver. A portion of the television receiver, shown in FIGURE 1, includes a phase locked loop (PLL) 200 which generates a clock signal, CK, that is locked in phase to the horizontal line synchronizing signal components of the received video signals (i.e. a line locked clock signal). A second PLL, 250, develops a regenerated subcarrier signal that is locked in phase to the color reference burst component of the received video signals. The regenerated subcarrier signal is used to synchronously demodulate the chrominance signal components of the video signals to develop two quadrature phase related color difference signals.

The line locked clock signal, CK, developed by the PLL 200 may exhibit frequency instabilities when the input video signals are derived from a nonstandard source such as a video tape recorder (VTR) or video disc player. The video signals provided by a nonstandard source generally have relatively stable color burst signal components but may have horizontal line synchronizing signal components which vary significantly in phase and/or frequency from line to line. These variations may be caused by video head misalignment or stretching of the tape in a VTR, defects in the disc or motor speed variations in either the VTR or the disc player. The frequency of the clock signal generated by the PLL 200 changes to track variations in the phase and/or frequency of the horizontal line synchronizing signal, and so, to keep the number of samples per line substantially constant throughout a field or frame. This feature is desirable in television signal processing systems which include field or frame store memories.

In the portion of the television receiver described below, however, this tracking feature may cause sufficient variation in the frequency of the

clock signal to induce frequency instabilities in the regenerated subcarrier signal developed by the PLL 250 and so, to distort the recovered color difference signals.

To correct for these frequency instabilities in the regenerated subcarrier signal, the television receiver described below includes a third PLL, 300, shown in FIGURE 2. The PLL 300 is a digital PLL which develops an oscillatory signal that is locked in phase to a reference signal provided by an analog crystal oscillator 310. Since the frequency of the reference signal is substantially invariant, the PLL 300 tracks frequency instabilities in its oscillatory signal that are induced by the clock signal, CK. The internal control signals developed by the PLL 300 which allow it to track these frequency instabilities are applied to the PLL 250 to stabilize the frequency of the regenerated subcarrier signal and, thus, reduce the amount of distortion in the recovered color difference signals.

For the system described above to significantly reduce the color signal distortion related to the clock signal instabilities it is desirable to use an analog crystal controlled oscillator to generate the reference signal for the PLL 300. This reference signal is substantially independent of the clock signal. The reference signal may be digitized either by a separate ADC or, as shown in the embodiment described below, by combining the reference signal with the analog composite video signals applied to the ADC 211 of the digital television receiver and then separating the digitized reference signal from the digital signals provided by the ADC 211. The digitized reference signal is applied to the phase comparator of the PLL 300.

The operation of the embodiment of the invention in the portions of the television receiver shown in FIGURES 1 and 2 depends on the frequency of the clock signal, CK, the quantization resolution of the ADC, and the quantization resolution of the reference signal applied to the PLL 300. The following detailed description of the circuitry shown in FIGURES 1 and 2 is presented as an aid to understanding the importance of these parameters.

In FIGURE 1, a source of composite video signals 210, which may, for example, include the tuner, IF amplifier and video detector of a conventional television receiver, provides composite video signals to the ADC 211. The ADC 211 is responsive to the sampling clock signal, CK, to provide digital samples representing the composite video signals. In a typical digital television receiver, the analog signal applied to the ADC is adjusted to occupy a range of amplitude values that is less than the range of values which may be converted by the ADC (i.e. the analog signal range of the ADC). For example, the present embodiment includes an eight-bit ADC which provides digital val-

ues ranging between 0 and 255. The dynamic range of the analog video signal applied to the ADC is limited to have a minimum value corresponding to the digital value 10 and a maximum value corresponding to the digital value 245. The unused quantization values at either end of the range of the ADC are used as buffer zones to detect positive and negative overflow conditions. In the present embodiment, therefore, the buffer zones define a dynamic range of 20 unused quantization levels.

Another attribute of the ADC that is important for the present invention is its sampling frequency. In the present embodiment the analog video signals are sampled at a frequency, f_{ck} , substantially equal to 910 times the horizontal line frequency f_H , or, for standard signals, four times the frequency of the color subcarrier signal, f_{sc} . Consequently, under the Nyquist criteria, analog signals having frequencies less than a threshold frequency of $455f_H$ (e.g. $2f_{sc}$ or 7.16 MHz for standard NTSC signals) may be digitized without introducing aliasing distortion. The highest frequency components of the analog video signals applied to the ADC are significantly below this threshold (e.g. 4.2 MHz for NTSC video signals).

The samples provided by the ADC 211 are applied to sync separator circuitry 212. The circuitry 212, for example, develops a signal, HSYNC, representing the horizontal line synchronizing signal component of the composite video signals. The signal HSYNC is applied to one input terminal of a phase comparator 214. An internally generated horizontal line synchronizing signal, HS, is applied to a second input terminal of the phase comparator 214. The circuitry which develops the signal HS is described below. Phase comparator 214 may, for example, be similar to the circuitry described in U.S. Patent No. 4,506,175 entitled "Digital Phase Comparator Circuit Producing Sign And Magnitude Outputs". The signal provided by the phase comparator 214 may be, for example, the time delay between the leading edges of the respective pulse signals HSYNC and HS. This signal has positive values when the leading edges of the HSYNC pulses occur before the leading edges of the HS pulses and negative values when the leading edges of the HSYNC pulses occur after the leading edges of the HS pulses.

The signal provided by the phase comparator circuitry 214 is applied to a low-pass filter 216. Filter 216 is the loop filter of the PLL 200. The filtered phase difference signals provided by the low-pass filter 216 are applied to a digital-to-analog converter (DAC) 218. DAC 218 develops analog potential values representing the filtered phase difference signals and applies these values at a horizontal line rate to a voltage controlled oscillator

(VCO) 220. VCO 220 is tuned to have a free running frequency of R times f_H . In the present embodiment, R is the ordinal number of a harmonic of one-half the horizontal line frequency, f_H , which approximates a multiple of the color subcarrier frequency. For example, in the NTSC system, the frequency, f_{SC} , of the color subcarrier signal is the 455th harmonic of one-half of the horizontal line frequency, and, for standard signals, the frequency, f_{CK} , of the sampling clock signal is four times the frequency of the color subcarrier signal $4f_{SC}$. So the VCO used in this embodiment has a free-running frequency of approximately 910 times the horizontal line frequency ($R = 910$).

The sinusoidal output signal of the VCO is applied to Schmitt trigger circuitry 221 which develops a square wave clock signal CK having a frequency, f_{CK} , equal to Rf_H . The signal CK is applied to frequency dividing circuitry 222. Circuitry 222 divides the frequency of the signal CK by R to develop a signal HS having a frequency substantially equal to f_H . As set forth above, the signal HS is applied to the second input terminal of the phase comparator 214.

The circuitry 222 may, for example, include a 10-bit counter (not shown) which is configured to be reset when a count value of 910 is achieved. The frequency dividing circuitry 222 may further include circuit elements (not shown) coupled to the counter to detect count values corresponding to the beginning and end of the burst interval and for generating a burst gate signal, BG, which spans the time interval defined by those count values in each horizontal line period.

The PLL 200 generates a clock signal, CK, which tracks the varying line frequency of a non-standard signal to provide a substantially uniform number of sampling clock pulses per line. In the present embodiment, the gain factors of the phase comparator 214, low-pass filter 216, DAC 218, VCO 220, Schmitt trigger 221 and frequency divider circuitry 222 are selected to achieve a loop time constant of approximately 15 horizontal line periods and a damping factor of 2. These gain values depend on the circuit elements to be used in the PLL and may be readily calculated by one skilled in the art of phase-locked loop design. An explanation of the relationship between the gain values, the damping factor and the PLL time constant may be found in Gruen, W.J. "Theory of AFC Synchronization", Proceedings of the IRE, August 1953, pp. 1043-1048.

Composite video signals from source 210 are also applied to Y/C separation filter circuitry 230. Circuitry 230 may include, for example, a low-pass filter and a band-pass filter for separating respective luminance and chrominance band signal components from the composite video signals. The

luminance and chrominance band signals are available at the output busses YB and CB of the circuitry 230 respectively.

The separated chrominance band components are applied to multipliers 232 and 234 which, using signals provided by the PLL 250, demodulate the chrominance signals into two quadrature phase related baseband color difference signals, for example, I and Q. The color difference signals are applied to a phase error detector 236. The phase error detector 236 develops an output signal representing the difference between the phase of the demodulated color reference burst signal and a reference phase value. The phase error detector 236 may include, for example, circuitry (not shown) to separately accumulate baseband I and Q sample values during the burst interval and to divide the accumulated I values by the accumulated Q values to develop values representing the phase of the burst signal relative to the sampling instants of the I and Q samples. These values may be subtracted from a reference value representing the desired burst phase to generate phase error values to control the PLL 250. The phase error values developed by the detector 236 are applied to a low-pass filter 238. Filter 238 is the loop filter of the PLL 250. The filtered phase error signal provided by the filter 238 is applied to one input port of an adder 240. A fixed increment value, K_1 , supplied by a source 242, is applied to the other input port of the adder 240. The signal developed by the adder 240 is applied as an input increment value to a discrete time oscillator (DTO) 252 which includes an adder 244, an accumulator register 246 and a ROM 248 that is programmed to provide, at respective first and second output ports, the cosine and sine of the accumulated increment values applied to its address input port, normalized to 2π radians. These signals, which in the present embodiment are the cosine and sine of $2\pi f_{SC}t$ respectively, are applied to the respective multipliers 232 and 234, as set forth above, to synchronously demodulate the chrominance signal to recover the two quadrature phase related color difference signals.

In the steady state, when there is no difference between the phase value of the demodulated burst signal and the reference phase value, the frequency of the signal developed by the DTO is determined by the number of bits, N , in the accumulator register 246, the increment value K_1 supplied by the source 242, and by the frequency, f_{CK} , of the clock signal CK according to the equation:

$$f_{DTO} = (K_1/2^N)f_{CK}$$

Assuming that the register 246 is a 20-bit register and that the frequency of the clock signal CK is equal to $4f_{SC}$, a value of K_1 equal to 262,144 (i.e.

218) produces an output signal having a frequency of f_{sc} . In dynamic operation, when the burst phase does not match the reference phase, the phase error values provided by the detector 236 are accumulated by the low-pass filter 238 to develop a correction term which is added to the value K_1 by the adder 240 to change the frequency of the DTO in a sense that tends to reduce the phase error.

It is desirable for the time constant of the PLL 250 to be relatively long to reduce the effects of noise and to provide a high level of phase accuracy for the signals applied to the synchronous demodulating multipliers 232 and 234. In the present embodiment, for example, the gain factors of the various circuit elements in the PLL 250 are set to values which produce a loop time constant of approximately one frame period (1/30th of a second for NTSC signals). Since the time constant of the PLL 250 is much longer than the time constant of the PLL 200, the PLL 250 may not be able to track frequency changes in the regenerated sub-carrier signal that are induced by changes in the frequency of the clock signal, CK. This deficiency in the system shown in FIGURE 1 may cause random errors in the I and Q color difference signals or may cause the PLL 250 to generate a color subcarrier signal having the wrong frequency, locked to the wrong harmonic of the line frequency.

FIGURE 2 is a block diagram of circuitry which compensates the PLL 250 for frequency variations in the clock signal CK and which embodies the present invention. The circuitry includes an oscillator 310 which develops a sinusoidal output signal occupying a range of amplitude values equivalent to 16 quantization levels of the ADC 211 (i.e. four bits) and a frequency, f_{osc} determined by the resonant crystal 312. In the present embodiment f_{osc} is substantially equal to $3f_{sc}/2$ (5.37 MHz) which is well above the highest frequency in the NTSC composite video signals (4.2 MHz). The output signal of the oscillator 310 is applied to analog summing circuitry 314 where it is added to the composite video signals provided by source 210. The summing circuitry 314, which may include, for example, a resistor network (shown in phantom) that linearly combines the composite video signals with the signals provided by the oscillator 310 to prevent heterodyning. It is contemplated that the summing circuitry 314 may scale the oscillatory and composite video signals prior to combining them. In this instance, the signals provided by the oscillator 310 may occupy a larger range of amplitude values than the 16 quantization levels set forth above. The combined signals developed by the summing circuitry 314 are applied to the ADC 211, in place of the composite video signals as in FIGURE 1. The digital signals provided by the ADC 211 are applied to a low-pass filter 301 which has a

frequency response characteristic that allows all frequency components of the digital composite video signals to pass with little or no attenuation but substantially blocks the components of the combined signal representing the output of the oscillator 310. The composite video signals developed by the low-pass filter 301 are applied to the sync separator circuitry 212 and Y/C separation filter 230 in place of the signals provided directly by the ADC 211 in FIGURE 1.

The composite video signals applied to the ADC 211 are effectively dithered by the signal provided by the oscillator 310. Consequently, the composite video signals provided by the low-pass filter 301 may have a higher quantization resolution than composite video signals which are digitized directly as is shown in FIGURE 1.

The digitized combined signals provided by the ADC 211 in FIGURE 2 are also applied to a band-pass filter 304 which has a frequency response characteristic that substantially blocks the composite video signal components while passing the components representing the output signal of the oscillator 310. The oscillatory signals provided by the band-pass filter 304 are applied as the reference signal to the phase comparator 316 of the phase locked loop 300. In addition to the phase comparator 316, the PLL 300 includes a low-pass filter 318, adder 320, digital value source 322, and a DTO 302 which includes an adder 324, an accumulator register 326 and a ROM 327. This PLL develops, for example, a digital signal at the output port of the ROM 327 that has a quantization range approximately equal to the signal provided by the band-pass filter 304 and that is locked in frequency and phase to the signal developed by the oscillator 310. The phase detector 316 compares the signal provided by the ROM 327 to the reference signal provided by the band-pass filter 304. Once the PLL 300 has locked to the reference signal, the phase difference signal developed by the phase detector 316 represents phase changes in the signal developed by the DTO 302 that are induced by the clock signal. This phase difference signal is applied to a low-pass filter 318. Filter 318 is the loop filter of the PLL 300. The gain factors of the filter 318 are set, along with the gain factors of the other elements in the loop to provide a loop time constant that is less than or approximately equal to the time constant of the PLL 200 (i.e. fifteen horizontal line periods). The filtered phase difference signal provided by the filter 318 is added to a fixed digital value, K_2 , from a source 322, by the adder 320. The signal provided by the adder 320 is applied as the input increment signal of the DTO 302. The output signal of the DTO 302 is applied to the phase detector 316 to complete the feedback loop.

The input increment signal developed by the adder 320 controls the frequency and phase of the signal provided by the DTO 302. This input increment signal includes a constant component, K_2 , which holds the DTO 302 at the frequency of the reference signal, when standard video signals are being processed, and a variable component, supplied by the low-pass filter 318, which allows the DTO to track frequency instabilities in its output signal that may occur when nonstandard video signals are being processed. The input increment signal provided by adder 320 is applied to scaling circuitry 323, which multiplies the signal by a factor K_S that is substantially equal to $1/K_2$. The output signal of the scaling circuitry 323 is applied to one input port of a multiplier 328, the other input port of which is coupled to receive the signal provided by the adder 240 of the PLL 250. The output signal of the multiplier 328 is applied as the input increment signal to the DTO 252. This modified input increment signal is compensated for changes in the frequency of the clock signal CK. Consequently, the PLL 250 tracks the color reference burst signal components of the composite video signals to regenerate quadrature phase related color subcarrier signals that are substantially independent of frequency instabilities in the line-locked clock signal.

It is important to note that, in the embodiment of the invention shown in FIGURE 2, the sum of the ranges of amplitude values of the reference signal provided by the oscillator 310 and the composite video signals provided by source 210 is less than the range of signals which may be converted by the ADC 211 (i.e. $16 + 236 = 252$ which is less than 256). Furthermore, the frequency spectra of the reference and composite video signals do not overlap. Although the frequency of the reference signal used in this embodiment of the invention (5.37 MHz) is less than the Nyquist frequency of the ADC 211 (7.16 MHz), it is contemplated that a reference signal above the Nyquist limit may be used as long as its alias frequency is not within the band of frequencies occupied by the composite video signals. In this instance, the frequency of the reference signal applied to the PLL 300 is the alias frequency.

Claims

1. Apparatus for use in a video signal processing system including a source (210) of analog video signals occupying a predetermined band of frequencies, an analog-to-digital converter (211) responsive to said analog video signals, and subject to clocking (CK) at a predetermined rate, and digital video signal processing circuits (230-252) responsive to an output of said converter; said apparatus characterized

by:

a source (310) of auxiliary signals of a frequency not within said predetermined band of frequencies;

means (314), coupled to said source of analog video signals and to said source of auxiliary signals, for linearly combining said analog video signals and said auxiliary signals to develop an output signal; said analog-to-digital converter (211) having its signal input coupled to the output of said signal combining means (314) so as to develop at its output digital samples representative of said output signal;

filtering means (301, 304), coupled to said output of said analog-to-digital converter and responsive to the digital samples developed thereby, for developing first and second digital signals occupying mutually exclusive bands of frequencies and representing said video and auxiliary signals, respectively.

means, for supplying said first digital signal to said digital video signal processing circuits; and

an auxiliary signal utilization circuit (300) responsive to said second digital signal developed by said filtering means.

2. The apparatus set forth in claim 1 wherein said analog video signals occupy a predetermined range of amplitude values less than the analog signal range of said analog-to-digital converter (211), characterized in that said auxiliary signals subject to combining with said analog video signals are restricted to a range of amplitude values less than the difference between said predetermined range and said analog signal range of said converter.

3. The apparatus set forth in claim 1 characterized in that said auxiliary signals comprise sinusoidal oscillatory signals provided by a crystal controlled oscillator (310).

4. The apparatus set forth in claim 3, characterized in that said auxiliary signal utilization circuit (300) comprises:

a digital oscillator (302) responsive to a control signal (from 320) for providing a variable frequency digital oscillatory signal (from 327);

phase comparison means (316) coupled to said digital oscillator (302) and to said filtering means (304) for developing a signal proportional to the difference in phase between said second digital signal and said digital oscillatory signal and for applying said phase difference proportional signal to said digital oscillator as

The input increment signal developed by the adder 320 controls the frequency and phase of the signal provided by the DTO 302. This input increment signal includes a constant component, K_2 , which holds the DTO 302 at the frequency of the reference signal, when standard video signals are being processed, and a variable component, supplied by the low-pass filter 318, which allows the DTO to track frequency instabilities in its output signal that may occur when nonstandard video signals are being processed. The input increment signal provided by adder 320 is applied to scaling circuitry 323, which multiplies the signal by a factor K_s that is substantially equal to $1/K_2$. The output signal of the scaling circuitry 323 is applied to one input port of a multiplier 328, the other input port of which is coupled to receive the signal provided by the adder 240 of the PLL 250. The output signal of the multiplier 328 is applied as the input increment signal to the DTO 252. This modified input increment signal is compensated for changes in the frequency of the clock signal CK. Consequently, the PLL 250 tracks the color reference burst signal components of the composite video signals to regenerate quadrature phase related color subcarrier signals that are substantially independent of frequency instabilities in the line-locked clock signal.

It is important to note that, in the embodiment of the invention shown in FIGURE 2, the sum of the ranges of amplitude values of the reference signal provided by the oscillator 310 and the composite video signals provided by source 210 is less than the range of signals which may be converted by the ADC 211 (i.e. $16+236 = 252$ which is less than 256). Furthermore, the frequency spectra of the reference and composite video signals do not overlap. Although the frequency of the reference signal used in this embodiment of the invention (5.37 MHz) is less than the Nyquist frequency of the ADC 211 (7.16 MHz), it is contemplated that a reference signal above the Nyquist limit may be used as long as its alias frequency is not within the band of frequencies occupied by the composite video signals. In this instance, the frequency of the reference signal applied to the PLL 300 is the alias frequency.

Claims

1. Apparatus for use in a video signal processing system including a source (210) of analog video signals occupying a predetermined band of frequencies, an analog-to-digital converter (211) responsive to said analog video signals, and subject to clocking (CK) at a predetermined rate, and digital video signal processing circuits (230-252) responsive to an output of said converter; said apparatus characterized

by:

a source (310) of auxiliary signals of a frequency not within said predetermined band of frequencies;

means (314), coupled to said source of analog video signals and to said source of auxiliary signals, for linearly combining said analog video signals and said auxiliary signals to develop an output signal; said analog-to-digital converter (211) having its signal input coupled to the output of said signal combining means (314) so as to develop at its output digital samples representative of said output signal;

filtering means (301, 304), coupled to said output of said analog-to-digital converter and responsive to the digital samples developed thereby, for developing first and second digital signals occupying mutually exclusive bands of frequencies and representing said video and auxiliary signals, respectively.

means, for supplying said first digital signal to said digital video signal processing circuits; and

an auxiliary signal utilization circuit (300) responsive to said second digital signal developed by said filtering means.

2. The apparatus set forth in claim 1 wherein said analog video signals occupy a predetermined range of amplitude values less than the analog signal range of said analog-to-digital converter (211), characterized in that said auxiliary signals subject to combining with said analog video signals are restricted to a range of amplitude values less than the difference between said predetermined range and said analog signal range of said converter.

3. The apparatus set forth in claim 1 characterized in that said auxiliary signals comprise sinusoidal oscillatory signals provided by a crystal controlled oscillator (310).

4. The apparatus set forth in claim 3, characterized in that said auxiliary signal utilization circuit (300) comprises:

a digital oscillator (302) responsive to a control signal (from 320) for providing a variable frequency digital oscillatory signal (from 327);

phase comparison means (316) coupled to said digital oscillator (302) and to said filtering means (304) for developing a signal proportional to the difference in phase between said second digital signal and said digital oscillatory signal and for applying said phase difference proportional signal to said digital oscillator as



said control signal.

5. The apparatus set forth in claim 4 for use where said video signals comprise composite color video signals and include a color reference burst signal component having a predetermined frequency, and said clocking rate is substantially equal to four times the frequency of said color reference burst signal; characterized in that the frequency of said auxiliary signals is substantially equal to one and one-half times the frequency of said color reference burst signal.
6. A video signal processing system including a source of analog video signals (210), a line-locked clock (CK) generator (200), a clocked analog-to-digital converter (211), a source (310) of analog reference signal having a frequency outside the frequency band of said video signals, means (314) for supplying said reference and analog video signals jointly to said first analog-to-digital converter (211) and means (301, 304) for separating their respective digital versions provided thereby, a first digital phase locked loop (232-252) for regenerating from the separated digitised video signals related subcarrier signals used to demodulate (232, 234) chrominance components of the video signals, and a second phase locked loop (300) synchronized by the separated digital reference signal, control signals generated (from 320) in the second phase locked loop being also used to compensate (328) the first phase locked loop for frequency instability in the generated clock signal.

Patentansprüche

1. Gerät zur Verwendung in einem Videosignal-Verarbeitungssystem mit einer Quelle (210) von analogen Videosignalen, die ein vorgegebenes Frequenzband einnehmen, mit einem Analog/Digital-Konverter (211), der auf die analogen Videosignale anspricht und einem Takt (CK) mit einer vorgegebenen Rate unterworfen ist, und mit digitalen Videosignal-Verarbeitungsschaltungen (230 - 252), die auf einen Ausgang des Konverters ansprechen, wobei das Gerät gekennzeichnet ist durch:
 - eine Quelle (310) von Hilfs-Signalen mit einer Frequenz außerhalb des vorgegebenen Frequenzbandes;
 - Mittel (314), die mit der Quelle der analogen Videosignale und mit der Quelle der Hilfs-Signale verbunden sind, um die analogen Videosignale und die Hilfs-Signale linear zu kombinieren und ein Ausgangssignal zu erzeugen;

wobei der Signaleingang des Analog/Digital-Konverters (211) mit dem Ausgang der Signal-Kombinationsmittel (313) verbunden ist, um an deren Ausgang digitale Abtastungen zu entwickeln, die das Ausgangssignal darstellen;

Filtermittel (301, 304), die mit dem Ausgang des Analog/Digital-Konverters verbunden sind und auf die durch diesen erzeugten digitalen Abtastungen ansprechen, um erste und zweite digitale Signale zu entwickeln, die sich gegenseitig ausschließende Frequenzbänder einnehmen und die Videosignale bzw. die Hilfs-Signale darstellen;

Mittel um das erste digitale Signal den digitalen Videosignal-Verarbeitungsschaltungen zuzuführen; und

eine Hilfs-Signal-Nutzungsschaltung (300), die auf das von den Filtermitteln gelieferte zweite digitale Signal anspricht.

2. Gerät nach Anspruch 1 bei dem die analogen Videosignale einen vorgegebenen Bereich von Amplitudenwerten einnehmen, der kleiner ist als der Analog-Signalbereich des Analog/Digital-Konverters (211), dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die der Kombination mit den analogen Videosignalen unterworfenen Hilfs-Signale auf einen Bereich von Amplitudenwerten beschränkt sind, der kleiner ist als die Differenz zwischen dem vorgegebenen Bereich und dem Analog-Signal-Bereich des Konverters.
3. Gerät nach Anspruch 1 dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Hilfs-Signale aus sinusförmig schwingenden Signalen bestehen, die durch einen kristallgesteuerten Oszillator (310) erzeugt werden.
4. Gerät nach Anspruch 3, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Hilfs-Signal-Nutzungsschaltung (300) umfaßt:
 - einen digitalen Oszillator (302), der auf ein Steuersignal (von 320) anspricht, um ein mit variabler Frequenz schwingendes digitales Signal (von 327) zu erzeugen;
 - Phasenvergleichsmittel (316), die mit dem digitalen Oszillator (302) und den Filtermitteln 304 verbunden sind, um ein Signal zu erzeugen, daß proportional zur Phasendifferenz zwischen dem zweiten digitalen Signal und dem Signal des digitalen Oszillators ist, und um das der Phasendifferenz proportionale Signal dem digitalen Oszillator als das Steuersignal zuzuführen.
5. Gerät nach Anspruch 4 für die Verwendung, wenn die Videosignale zusammengesetzte Farb-Videosignale umfassen und eine Bezugs-



Farb-Synchron-Signalkomponente mit einer vorgegebenen Frequenz enthalten, wobei die Taktrate etwa viermal so groß wie die Frequenz des Bezugs-Farb-Synchron-Signals ist, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Frequenz der Hilfs-Signale etwa eineinhalbmal so groß wie die Frequenz des Bezugs-Farb-Synchron-Signals ist.

6. Videosignal-Verarbeitungssystem mit: einer Quelle von analogen Videosignalen (210), einem zeilenverriegelten Takt-(CK)-Generator (200), einem getakteten Analog/Digital-Konverter (210), einer Quelle (310) eines analogen Bezugssignals mit einer Frequenz außerhalb des Frequenzbandes der Videosignale, Mitteln zur gemeinsamen Zuführung des Bezugssignals und der analogen Videosignale zu dem ersten Analog/Digital-Konverter (210) und Mitteln (301, 304) zur Abtrennung ihrer dadurch erzeugten entsprechenden digitalen Versionen, einer ersten digitalen PLL-Schaltung (232 - 252), um aus den abgetrennten digitalisierten Videosignalen bezogene Hilfsträgersignale wiederzugewinnen, die zur Demodulation (232, 234) von Chrominanz-Komponenten der Videosignale verwendet werden, und einer zweiten PLL-Schaltung (300), die durch das abgetrennte digitale Bezugssignal synchronisiert wird, wobei in der zweiten PLL-Schaltung erzeugte Steuersignale (von 320) auch verwendet werden, um Frequenzinstabilitäten in dem erzeugten Taktsignal in der ersten PLL-Schaltung zu kompensieren (328).

Revendications

1. Dispositif devant être utilisé dans un système de traitement de signaux vidéo comprenant une source (210) de signaux vidéo analogiques occupant une bande prédéterminée de fréquences, un convertisseur analogique-numérique (211) agissant en réponse auxdits signaux vidéo analogiques et soumis à une temporisation (CK) à une vitesse prédéterminée et des circuits de traitement de signaux vidéo numériques (230-252) agissant en réponse à une sortie dudit convertisseur, ledit dispositif étant caractérisé par :
- une source (310) de signaux auxiliaires d'une fréquence qui n'est pas comprise dans ladite bande prédéterminée de fréquences ;
 - des moyens (314), couplés à ladite source de signaux vidéo analogiques et à ladite source de signaux auxiliaires, pour combiner linéairement lesdits signaux vidéo analogiques et lesdits signaux auxiliaires en développant un signal de sortie ;

ledit convertisseur analogique-numérique (211) ayant son entrée de signal couplé à la sortie desdits moyens de combinaison de signaux (314) de manière à développer sur sa sortie, des échantillons numériques représentatifs dudit signal de sortie ;

- des moyens de filtrage (301,304), couplés à ladite sortie dudit convertisseur analogique-numérique et agissant en réponse aux échantillons numériques qui y sont développés, pour développer et former des premier et second signaux numériques occupant des bandes exclusives mutuelles de fréquences et représentant respectivement lesdits signaux vidéo et auxiliaires ;
 - des moyens pour délivrer ledit premier signal numérique aux circuits de traitement de signaux vidéo numériques et,
 - un circuit d'utilisation (300) de signaux auxiliaires agissant en réponse aux seconds signaux numériques développés par lesdits moyens de filtrage.
2. Dispositif selon la revendication 1 dans lequel lesdits signaux vidéo analogiques occupent un domaine prédéterminé de valeurs d'amplitudes, inférieur au domaine des signaux analogiques dudit convertisseur analogique-numérique (211), caractérisé en ce que lesdits signaux auxiliaires soumis à la combinaison avec lesdits signaux vidéo analogiques sont restreints à un domaine de valeurs d'amplitudes inférieur à la différence entre ledit domaine prédéterminé et ledit domaine de signaux analogiques dudit convertisseur.
3. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, caractérisé en ce que lesdits signaux auxiliaires comprennent des signaux oscillatoires sinusoïdaux fournis par un oscillateur à commande par cristal (310).
4. Dispositif selon la revendication 3 caractérisé en ce que le circuit d'utilisation de signaux auxiliaires (300) comprend :
- un oscillateur numérique (302), agissant en réponse à un signal de commande (de 320) pour fournir un signal oscillatoire numérique de fréquence variable (de 327).
 - des moyens de comparaison de phases (316), couplés audit oscillateur numérique (302) et auxdits moyens de filtrage (304) pour développer un signal proportionnel à la différence de phases entre



ledit second signal numérique et ledit signal oscillatoire numérique et pour appliquer ledit signal proportionnel à la différence de phases audit oscillateur numérique en tant que signal de commande. 5

5. Dispositif selon la revendication 4 devant être utilisé lorsque lesdits signaux vidéo comprennent des signaux vidéo couleurs composites et comprennent une composante de signal de chrominance de référence de couleur ayant une fréquence prédéterminée et ladite vitesse de temporisation est simultanément égale à quatre fois la fréquence dudit signal de chrominance de référence de couleur, caractérisé en ce que la fréquence desdits signaux auxiliaires est sensiblement égale à une fois et demi la fréquence dudit signal de chrominance de référence de couleur. 10 15 20
6. Système de traitement de signaux vidéo comprenant une source de signaux vidéo analogiques (210), un générateur (200) d'horloge verrouillée et en ligne (ck), un convertisseur analogique-numérique rythmé (211), une source (310) de signaux de référence analogiques ayant une fréquence extérieure à la bande de fréquences desdits signaux vidéo, des moyens (314) pour délivrer lesdits signaux de référence et vidéo analogiques conjointement audit premier convertisseur analogique-numérique (211) et des moyens (301,304) pour y séparer leurs versions numériques respectives, une première boucle numérique verrouillée en phase (232-252) pour régénérer à partir des signaux vidéo numérisés séparés, des signaux de sous-porteuse correspondants utilisés pour démoduler (232, 234) des composantes de chrominance desdits signaux vidéo, et une seconde boucle verrouillée en phase (300), synchronisée par le signal de référence numérique séparé, les signaux de commande générés (à partir de 320) dans la seconde boucle à verrouillage de phase étant également utilisés pour compenser (328) la première boucle à verrouillage de phase en ce qui concerne l'instabilité de fréquence dans le signal d'horloge généré. 25 30 35 40 45

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