

Automatic IF Tangent Lock Control Circuit.

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Technical Field

This invention relates generally to radio receivers, and more particularly to IF processing and tangent locking principles.

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Background Art

Phase locked loops are well known in the prior art as a means of detecting a desired RF transmitted signal. Such
15 loops detect a signal by comparison of a locally generated estimate of the signal with the received signal itself. The error in phase between the two signals is low-pass filtered (i.e. integrated), and then used to correct the local estimate to resemble the average frequency and phase of the
20 received signal.

In general, in most radio receivers, such phase locked loops are used to lock on to the IF signal, which comprises the originally received carrier signal as altered in frequency through the IF stage, as is well understood in
25 the art. At least one prior art reference, however, suggests that phase locking can be made a function of the locally generated estimate and the incoming carrier signal to the IF stage, thereby allowing the phase locked loop to lock with respect to the incoming signal itself.

30 In the early 1960's, a tangent function phase locked loop was proposed. This loop phase compared an IF stage output signal with a locally generated estimate of the signal in a dual phase comparator that yielded both the sine and cosine of the phase difference between the IF signal and
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its estimate. These outputs could then be appropriately combined to yield a tangent function (sine divided by cosine), which resultant signal could be used as the correction signal for the loop. Since a tangent function varies its amplitude more significantly than a sine or cosine function, operation of a phase locked loop as a function of the tangent function led to increased phase comparator range and linearity, at least under some operating conditions. An example of a commercially available radio receiver part that makes use of tangent locking principles to lock on to the IF signal is the Motorola MC13020 AM Stereo Decoder integrated circuit.

To date, no one has succeeded in establishing a satisfactory tangent based phase locked loop through the IF stage of a radio receiver. Given the stability, speed, range, and parts improvement that such an arrangement would provide, a need for such a configuration clearly exists.

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Summary of the Invention

It is an object of the present invention to provide an improved method of maintaining an IF frequency in a radio receiver and a new and improved radio receiver comprising a device which can establish a tangent based phase locked loop through the IF stage of the radio receiver.

This and other objects of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art upon consideration of the accompanying specification, claims and drawings.

In accordance with a first aspect of the invention there is provided in a radio receiver having:
input means for receiving an input signal comprised of a first carrier signal having an information signal amplitude modulated thereon;

IF means for receiving said input signal and for
converting said input signal into an IF signal comprised of
5 a second carrier signal having a frequency different from
said first carrier signal and having said information signal
amplitude modulated thereon; and

demodulation means for receiving said IF signal and
for demodulating said IF signal to provide a demodulated
10 signal comprising at least a part of said information
signal;

an improvement wherein:

said IF means further includes:

reference signal means for receiving a control signal
15 and for providing a reference signal having a frequency and
phase determined at least in part by said control signal;
and

frequency translation means for receiving said
reference signal and said input signal, and for providing a
20 resultant signal having a frequency and phase related to
said first carrier signal as translated by said reference
signal, which resultant signal comprises said IF signal; and

said demodulation means further includes tangent
processing means for responding, at least in part, to said
25 demodulated signal by providing said control signal to said
reference signal means, which control signal varies as a
tangent function of at least a part of said demodulated
signal.

In accordance with a second aspect of the invention
30 there is provided a method of maintaining an IF frequency in
a radio receiver, the method comprising the steps of:

A) receiving an input signal comprising a first
carrier signal having an information signal amplitude
modulated thereon;

35 B) providing a reference signal having a frequency
and phase determined at least in part by a control signal;

C) frequency and phase translating said input signal as a function of said reference signal and providing an IF
5 signal in response thereto, said IF signal being comprised of a second carrier signal having a frequency different from said first carrier signal with said information signal amplitude modulated thereon;

E) demodulating said IF signal to thereby provide at
10 least a part of said information signal;

F) providing said control signal to control said frequency and phase of said reference signal as a tangent function of at least a part of said information signal, such that said second carrier signal has a frequency and average
15 phase that remains substantially constant.

It will be appreciated that the receiver can lock to the original incoming carrier signal as a tangent function, while simultaneously providing a stable IF frequency regardless of the original input signal frequency.
20 Therefore, the IF signal can be exactly centered to match the IF stage characteristics with significant associated improved performance.

Brief Description of the Drawings

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One embodiment of the present invention will now be described by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 comprises a block diagram view of the
30 embodiment; and

Fig. 2 comprises a more detailed block diagram view of the embodiment.

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Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

5 Referring now to Fig. 1, the device can be seen as generally depicted by the numeral 10. The device (10) operates with a radio receiver that receives an input signal at an input (11) (for purposes of this description, the input signal will be presumed to be an AM stereo modulated
10 signal of the form $(1+L+R)\cos(wct+0)$ (where 0 has the form $\arctan(L-R)/(1+L+R)$, L comprises left side information of a stereo signal, R comprises right side information and wct comprises the carrier signal).

The input signal is received and processed by the FTU
15 (12) as a function of the reference signal (26) from the RSU (13) to yield an IF signal (14) of the form $(1+L+R)\cos(wit+0)$. A signal demodulation unit (SDU) (16) demodulates this IF signal (14), in part as a function of a demodulating signal (24) provided by a reference oscillator
20 (17), to yield demodulated information signals (in this case, L+R (18) and L-R (19)). These demodulated signals can then be processed through a matrix (21) in accordance with well understood prior art technique to yield the L and R output signals as desired.

25 In addition, a tangent processing unit (TPU) (22) processes at least a part of the demodulated signals (in this case, a signal related to L-R) and uses this signal to develop a control signal (23) for the RSU (13). This control signal will vary at least in part as an average of
30 the tangent function of the phase as multiplied by the envelope of the IF signal (14) as compared to the demodulating signal (24). As a result, the phase difference between the input signal and the reference signal (26)

will be substantially equal to the frequency and phase of the demodulating signal (24) from the reference oscillator (17), thereby providing a stable IF frequency regardless of input signal frequency, and while simultaneously obtaining the benefits of tangent locking.

Referring now to Fig. 2, a more detailed description of the device (10) will be provided.

10 A standard ganged capacitor tuning structure (31) functions to receive the input signal, which signal passes through the input (11) of the IF stage (32). The FTU (12) includes a Mixer/AGC (automatic gain control) (33), an IF filter (34) and an IF gain AGC section (36). Both AGC units
15 (33 and 36) respond to an AGC drive (37) that itself responds to the L+R demodulated signal from the SDU (16) to control the gain of the AGCs (33 and 36) as a function of the L+R signal.

The IF stage (32) also includes the RSU (13), which
20 may be a voltage controlled local oscillator (VCLO). The VCLO provides a reference signal (26) to the mixer (33) for use by the mixer (33) in translating the input signal and thereby creating a resultant signal having a frequency and phase related to the input signal as translated by the.
25 reference signal (26).

The IF signal (14) output passes to the SDU (16), which includes a limiter (38) and an envelope detector/filter (39) to demodulate the IF signal (14) and yield a first demodulated signal (18) comprising the L+R
30 component, all in accordance with well understood prior art technique. The IF signal (14) also passes to the TPU (22), which includes an analog divider (41) that divides the IF signal $((1+L+R)\cos(wit+0)$ where wit comprises the IF carrier) by $\cos 0$. The resultant signal (41) passes to a Q

detector/filter (42). The Q detector/filter (42) comprises
a gated demodulator that flips phase 180 degrees at 90
5 degrees and 270 degrees with respect to a reference signal
provided for that purpose, and that yields an output related
to the vector quantity of the incoming signal that is in
quadrature (at a given moment in time) with a reference
signal provided for that purpose. In this device, the Q
10 detector/filter (42) utilizes a signal from a quadrature
generator (43) as such a reference signal (described below
in more detail) to provide a signal of the form:

$$\frac{(1+L+R)\sin(\arctan (L-R)/(1+L+R))}{\cos(0)}$$

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which can otherwise be represented as:

$$\frac{(1+L+R)\sin(\arctan (L-R)/(1+L+R))}{\cos(\arctan (L-R)/(1+L+R))}$$

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The above, of course, constitutes a tangent function
(sine divided by cosine) that essentially reduces to L-R and
comprises the second demodulated signal (19). A signal (44)
25 at least related to this L-R component can be provided to a
loop driver (46) which comprises a filter that at least
partially integrates the incoming signal and which provides
a current proportional to the L-R term. This current
comprises the control signal (23) that controls the
30 frequency and phase of the RSU (13).

A reference oscillator (17) provides a demodulating
signal (24) having a predetermined stable frequency (in this
example, 3.6 MHz), which signal is provided to the

quadrature generator (43). The quadrature generator (43) divides this signal (24) down to a desired frequency (in this example, 450 KHz) and provides two outputs based thereon. The first output comprises the 450 KHz signal without any phase shifts (0 degrees) and the second output comprises the 450 KHz signal with a predetermined phase shift (90 degrees). The Q detector/filter (42) described earlier uses the latter signal as set forth above to develop the L-R signal.

In operation, the loop characteristics of the interconnections between the mixer (33), the analog divider (41), the Q detector (42), the loop driver (46), and the RSU (13) cause the loop to tangent lock to thereby cause the long term average of the L-R term from the loop driver (46) to be zero. In effect, the IF signal frequency becomes locked with respect to the reference oscillator (17) demodulating signal (24) frequency, such that the average phase difference between the input signal and the reference signal (26) is substantially equal to the frequency and phase of the demodulating signal (24). By appropriate selection of the IF stage (32) components, a stable IF frequency and phase of, for instance, 450 KHz and 0 degrees, can be maintained. The VCLO will thereafter adjust its frequency and phase to cause this lock through the IF stage (32) with respect to the reference oscillator (17) to occur.

Other components are depicted as well, including an I detector (47) and a pilot tone detector (48). The presence and function of these components is well understood, and additional information regarding such components can be found, for example, in U.S. Patent No.'s 4,377,728 and 4,489,431.

A number of advantages result through this configuration. It avoids the loss of stereo signal separation and distortion that can result when standard phase locked loops are used with single channel modulation that has an asymmetrical phase deviation with respect to the carrier that can arise in standard broadcasts. Further, by locking onto the incoming signal, as versus the IF signal, the entire system becomes locked in the center of the IF with resulting improvement in performance.

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Claims

5 1. In a radio receiver having:

input means for receiving an input signal comprised of a first carrier signal having an information signal amplitude modulated thereon;

10 IF means for receiving said input signal and for converting said input signal into an IF signal comprised of a second carrier signal having a frequency different from said first carrier signal and having said information signal amplitude modulated thereon; and

15 demodulation means for receiving said IF signal and for demodulating said IF signal to provide a demodulated signal comprising at least a part of said information signal;

an improvement wherein:

said IF means further includes:

20 reference signal means for receiving a control signal and for providing a reference signal having a frequency and phase determined at least in part by said control signal; and

25 frequency translation means for receiving said reference signal and said input signal, and for providing a resultant signal having a frequency and phase related to said first carrier signal as translated by said reference signal, which resultant signal comprises said IF signal; and

30 said demodulation means further includes tangent processing means for responding, at least in part, to said demodulated signal by providing said control signal to said reference signal means, which control signal varies as a tangent function of at least a part of said demodulated signal.



2. The radio receiver according to claim 1 wherein said demodulation means further includes reference oscillator
5 means for providing a demodulating signal used by said demodulation means for demodulating said IF signal, and wherein said tangent processing means provides said control signal as a tangent function of both said demodulated signal and said demodulating signal.

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3. The radio receiver according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said tangent processing means provides said control signal to cause an average phase difference between said first carrier signal and said reference signal that is
15 substantially equal to the average frequency and phase of said demodulating signal.

4. The radio receiver according to claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein said reference signal means comprises a voltage
20 controlled local oscillator.

5. A method of maintaining an IF frequency in a radio receiver, the method comprising the steps of:

A) receiving an input signal comprising a first
25 carrier signal having an information signal amplitude modulated thereon;

B) providing a reference signal having a frequency and phase determined at least in part by a control signal;

C) frequency and phase translating said input signal
30 as a function of said reference signal and providing an IF signal in response thereto, said IF signal being comprised of a second carrier signal having a frequency different from said first carrier signal with said information signal amplitude modulated thereon;

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E) demodulating said IF signal to thereby provide at least a part of said information signal;

5 F) providing said control signal to control said frequency and phase of said reference signal as a tangent function of at least a part of said information signal, such that said second carrier signal has a frequency and average phase that remains substantially constant.

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6. A method of maintaining an IF frequency in a radio receiver substantially at a first value for input signals of different frequencies, the method comprising the steps of:

A) in a mixer, receiving:
15 an input signal of the form:

$$(1+L+R) \cos (wct+0)$$

where L and R comprise information signals;

wct comprises a first carrier signal; and

0 comprises a signal of the form:

20 $\arctan (L-R)/(1+L+R)$; and
a reference signal;

B) in said mixer, providing an output IF signal based upon said input signal and said reference signal, wherein said IF signal comprises said input signal as translated in
25 frequency and phase by an amount related to said reference signal, and wherein said IF signal is of the form:

$$(1+L+R) \cos (wit+0);$$

where wit comprises a second carrier signal;

C) dividing said IF signal by $\cos 0$ to obtain a resultant
30 signal of the form:

$$(1+L+R) \cos t (wit+0) / \cos 0;$$



D) processing said resultant signal in a Q detector to obtain a signal substantially of the form L-R and using said
5 L-R signal to provide a control signal;

E) using said control signal to control frequency and phase for said reference signal; such that said IF signal frequency will remain substantially at the first value for input signals of different frequencies.

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7. The method of claim 6 further including a step D1 comprising substantially integrating said signal substantially of the form L-R to provide said control signal.

15 8. A radio receiver substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

9. A method for maintaining an IF frequency in a radio receiver substantially as hereinbefore described with
20 reference to the accompanying drawings.
