

Description

Background of the invention

This invention relates generally to T.V. systems and more particularly, to a T.V. vertical integrator circuit having characteristics which are accurately defined by extracting therefrom a current or portion thereof, which current is used to trim an associated horizontal oscillator.

The vertical integrator circuit and the horizontal oscillator are well known in the art. For example, in Japanese Patent No. JP-A-5717270, a synchronizing separation circuit is disclosed comprising an integrator circuit, for separating horizontal and vertical synchronization pulses, the integrator circuit being of the type which includes a capacitive network which is alternately charged and discharged, and a horizontal oscillator.

It is well known that the horizontal oscillator in a T.V. system must be accurately adjusted. In, for example, the horizontal oscillator described in European Patent Application No. 81903037.0 entitled "Horizontal Oscillator" and assigned to the assignee of the present invention, capacitive spread is compensated for when the oscillator is trimmed by means of an external resistive network, which resistive network establishes an accurate reference current. It would be desirable if the characteristics of the associated vertical integrator could be accurately defined by the current, or portion thereof, established by the resistive network without further adjustment.

Summary of the invention

It is an object of the present invention to provide an improved horizontal oscillator and vertical integrator for use in a T.V. system.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide an apparatus for adjusting the time constants of a T.V. vertical integrator circuit by means of a reference current adjustment in an associated horizontal oscillator.

It is a still further object to the present invention to provide an apparatus for compensating for capacitive spreads in both a T.V. horizontal oscillator and its associated vertical integrator with a single adjustment.

According to a broad aspect of the invention there is provided a circuit in a T.V. system for adjusting the time constants of an integrator circuit which separates horizontal and vertical synchronization pulses, said integrator circuit being of the type which includes a capacitive network which is alternately charged and discharged, the TV system further including a horizontal oscillator circuit which is trimmed by means of a reference current established at a node thereof, said circuit being characterized by:

a first current mirror circuit coupled to the horizontal oscillator for reproducing a current representative of said reference current; and

a second current mirror circuit coupled to said integrator and to said first current mirror circuit for extracting from said integrator said current

representative of said reference current so as to set the time constants of said integrator.

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will be more clearly understood from the following detailed description, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Brief description of the drawings

Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram of a known horizontal oscillator;

Fig. 2 is a schematic diagram of a known vertical integrator circuit; and

Fig. 3 is a schematic diagram illustrating circuitry for coupling the horizontal oscillator of Fig. 1 to the integrator of Fig. 2 in accordance with the present invention such that when the oscillator is trimmed, the result is a reference current where a portion thereof is also extracted from the integrator so as to set its time constants without additional adjustment.

Description of the preferred embodiment

Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram of one example of a horizontal oscillator which may be used in connection with the present invention. It includes an on chip nitride capacitor 10 coupled between nodes 12 and 14. The circuit includes a bias chain comprised of resistors 16, 18, 20, and 22; a turn-around circuit comprised of diode 24 and transistor 26; a first comparator including transistors 28 and 30; a second comparator including transistors 32 and 34; a current source including transistors 36 and 38 and resistors 40 and 42; a reference amplifier including transistors 44, 46 and 48 and resistors 50 and 52; current mirror transistors 54 and 56; and a lower current mirror circuit including transistors 58, 60 and 62 and resistors 64, 66, 68, 70 and 72.

Reference amplifier transistor 44 has a base electrode coupled to a bias voltage at node 74. Thus, if transistors 44 and 46 are perfectly matched, an accurate reference voltage having a zero temperature coefficient will be produced at node 76. An accurate reference current (I_R) is then set up by means of an external resistive network (represented by resistor 78). Reference current I_R is selected so as to compensate for capacitive spread in the oscillator.

The base of transistor 48 is coupled to the collector of transistor 44. Since transistors 48, 54 and 56 each have their base and emitter electrodes coupled together, the current produced at each of their collector electrodes will be substantially equal. Depending on the gain of the bottom current mirror circuit (transistors 58, 60 and 62), the current through transistor 58 will be either greater or less than a current through transistor 56. If greater, current will be pulled out of capacitor 10 to produce the down portion of an output signal ramp. This condition exists when the gain of the bottom mirror circuit is high. If the gain is reduced, the current flowing through transistor 58 will be less than the current

flowing through transistor 56 and the difference will flow into capacitor 10 to produce an up portion of an output ramp. Finally, transistor 80 in connection with resistors 82 and 84 provides temperature compensation for nitride capacitor 10. Capacitor 86 represents a leakage capacitor coupled to the base of transistor 46.

For a complete discussion of the operation of the horizontal oscillator shown in Fig. 1 reference is made to the above cited European Patent Application No. 81903037.0. Suffice it to say that this oscillator is trimmed by properly selecting reference current I_R .

An example of an integrated circuit for separating vertical synchronization pulses from a composite signal including horizontal and vertical synchronization pulses is shown in Fig. 2. A first current source, such as a normally conducting PNP transistor T_1 , has its emitter coupled to a conductor 88 (V_{CC}) by way of resistor R_1 . The base of transistor T_1 is coupled to conductor 88 by way of a diode D. The collector of transistor T_1 is coupled to a lead 90 which forms a first current path to a current mirror circuit 92. A second current source, such as a normally conducting PNP transistor T_2 , has its emitter coupled to conductor 88 by way of a resistor R_2 and has its base coupled to the base of transistor T_1 . The collector of transistor T_2 is coupled to a lead 94 which forms a second current path to the current mirror circuit 92. The emitter of transistor T_2 is adapted to receive a signal to be integrated by way of a limiting resistor R_3 . A capacitor 96 is coupled between leads 90 and 94 and therefore between the collectors of the first and second current sources T_1 and T_2 . Current mirror circuit 92 includes an NPN transistor T_3 having its collector coupled to lead 90 and its emitter coupled to a reference potential such as ground. Also included in the current mirror circuit are series connected NPN transistors T_4 and T_5 with the collector of transistor T_4 coupled to lead 94 and its emitter coupled to the collector of transistor T_5 which has an emitter coupled to ground. The base of transistor T_5 is coupled to the emitter of transistor T_5 and also to the base of transistor T_3 . The base of transistor T_4 is coupled to lead 90 and, therefore, to the collector of transistor T_3 .

The potential at point A is applied to a variable bias slicer amplifier which includes transistors T_6 and T_7 . Transistor T_6 has its collector coupled to collector 88; its base coupled to point A and its emitter coupled to a pin 98 by way of resistor R_7 . Pin 98 may constitute a pad of the integrated circuit. Also coupled to pin 98 are a discrete capacitor 100 and a discrete resistor R_9 which may be external. Capacitor 100 and resistor R_9 are connected in parallel between ground and pin 98. Transistor T_7 has its collector coupled to conductor 88 by way of load resistor R_8 , its base coupled to the emitter of transistor T_6 , and its emitter coupled to pin 98. Transistors T_6 and T_7 constitute a Darlington type amplifier, and when transistor T_6 and T_7 conduct due to a positive voltage in the base of transistor T_6 , capacitor 100 charges. The

charge on capacitor 100 provides a slicing level V_s that is determined by the magnitude of the voltage on the base of transistor T_6 and a time during which transistors T_6 and T_7 are nonconducting. The time constant of resistors R_9 and capacitor 100 should be adjusted to be long in comparison with the time between vertical pulses. Accordingly, the charge on capacitor 100 decreases very little between vertical synchronization pulses. The variable bias provided by the charge on capacitor 100 is determined by the magnitude of the voltage at point A which is in turn determined by the strength of the signal arriving at a T.V. receiver. Slicing level V_s of the amplifier T_6 and T_7 is therefore determined by the strength of the received signal. Slicing level V_s should occur about midway along the vertical pulse height for strong signals to provide good impulse noise performance and should increase up towards the vertical pulse tip as the incoming signal decreases.

The output of the slicing amplifier is applied to the base of inverting amplifier transistor T_8 which has its emitter coupled to conductor 88 and its collector coupled to ground by way of series connected resistors R_4 and R_5 . The separated vertical synchronization pulses appear at the junction of resistors R_4 and R_5 at output terminal 102. For a complete description of operation of the integrator shown in Fig. 2, reference is made to U.K. Patent Application No. 8133999 entitled "An Integrator Circuit for Separating Vertical Sink Pulses" and assigned to the assignee of the present invention.

As stated previously, it would be desirable to use the same reference current I_R or a portion thereof generated in the horizontal oscillator to set the time constants in the vertical integrator. This may be accomplished by breaking of the connection between nodes 14 and 76 in Fig. 1 and placing therebetween a current mirror circuit which extracts I_R or a portion thereof from the integrator. This may be accomplished as is illustrated in Fig. 3 where dotted block 104 contains a portion of the oscillator including, in part, circuitry which has already been discussed, and where dotted block 106 contains a portion of the integrator, again including circuitry which has already been discussed. The reason for showing circuitry in blocks 104 and 106 which have already been discussed in connection with Figs. 1 and 2 is to provide a proper structural relationship between the known circuits and the additional circuitry which permits the integrator time constants to be set by proper selection of I_R .

Referring to oscillator block 104 in Fig. 3, a current mirror circuit includes transistors 108 and 110. The emitters of both transistors 108 and 110 are coupled to node 76 via resistors 112 and 114 respectively. The collector of transistor 108 is coupled to node 14 as are the base terminals of transistors 108 and 110. As is well known, by properly scaling the emitters of transistors 108 and 110 or resistors 112 and 114 or some combination thereof, a predetermined portion of I_R can

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be made to flow in the collector of transistor 110. Of course, consideration must not only be given to I_R as a trimming current, but compensation must also be made for the additional current required by the mirror elements.

Referring now to block 106 which illustrates a portion of the vertical integrator circuit, diode D appearing in Fig. 2 has been deleted and replaced with a beta compensated current mirror circuit including resistor 116 and PNP transistors 118 and 120. The collector of transistor 120 is coupled to ground, and its emitter is coupled to the bases of transistors T_1 and 118. The emitter of transistor 118 is coupled to conductor 88 (V_{cc}) via resistor 116. To complete the circuit, the collector of transistor 110 in the oscillator is coupled to the collector of transistor 118 and to the base of transistor 120 in the integrator. In this manner, the currents flowing in the collectors of transistor T_1 and T_2 (see Fig. 2) can be controlled and the time constants can be set with only a single adjustment of I_R in the oscillator. This technique is especially applicable to systems requiring high timing accuracy for the vertical pulse; e.g. Tele-text or VIRS.

Claims

1. A circuit in a T.V. system for adjusting the time constants of an integrator circuit (Fig. 2) which separates horizontal and vertical synchronization pulses, said integrator circuit being of the type which includes a capacitive network which is alternately charged and discharged, the TV system further including a horizontal oscillator circuit (Fig. 1) which is trimmed by means of a reference current (I_R) established at a node (76) thereof, said circuit being characterized by:

a first current mirror circuit (108, 110, 112, 114) coupled to the horizontal oscillator (Fig. 1) for reproducing a current representative of said reference current; and

a second current mirror circuit (116, 118, 120) coupled to said integrator (Fig. 2) and to said first current mirror circuit (108, 110, 112, 114) for extracting from said integrator said current representative of said reference current so as to set the time constants of said integrator.

2. A circuit according to claim 1 wherein said integrator (Fig. 2) comprises:

a capacitor (96);

a first current source (T_1) for discharging said capacitor;

a second current source (T_2) for charging said capacitor; and

a third current mirror circuit (92) having at least first (90) and second (94) current paths coupled to said first and second current sources, respectively.

3. A circuit according to claim 2 wherein said horizontal oscillator comprises a capacitor (10) coupled between an output of said oscillator and a reference voltage generated therein.

4. A circuit according to claim 3 wherein said first current mirror circuit (108, 110, 112, 114) is

coupled to said node (76) and to the horizontal oscillator capacitor (10); and

said second current mirror circuit (116, 118, 120) is coupled between said first current mirror circuit and said first (T_1) and second (T_2) current sources for receiving from said first current mirror circuit a current representative of said reference current.

5. A circuit according to claim 4 wherein said first current mirror circuit comprises:

a first resistor (112);

a second resistor (114);

a first transistor (108) having base and collector terminals coupled to said horizontal oscillator capacitor (10) and an emitter terminal coupled to said node (76) via said first resistor (112); and

a second transistor (110) having a base coupled to said horizontal oscillator capacitor (10), an emitter coupled to said node (76) via said second resistor (114), and a collector coupled to said second current mirror circuit (116, 118, 120).

Patentansprüche

1. Schaltung in einem Fernsehsystem zum Einstellen der Zeitkonstanten einer Integratorschaltung (Fig. 2), die Horizontal- und Vertikalsynchronimpulse abtrennt, welche Integratorschaltung von der Art ist, die ein kapazitives Netzwerk enthält, das alternierend geladen und entladen wird, wobei das Fernsehsystem weiterhin eine Horizontaloszillatorschaltung (Fig. 1) enthält, die mittels eines Bezugsstromes (I_R) abgestimmt wird, der an einem Knotenpunkt (76) derselben eingerichtet ist, gekennzeichnet, durch:

eine erste Stromspiegelschaltung (108, 110, 112, 114), die mit dem Horizontaloszillator (Fig. 1) verbunden ist, um einen Strom zu erzeugen, der für den Bezugsstrom repräsentativ ist, und

eine zweite Stromspiegelschaltung (116, 118, 120), die mit dem Integrator (Fig. 2) mit der ersten Stromspiegelschaltung (108, 110, 112, 114) verbunden ist, um von dem Integrator den für den Bezugsstrom repräsentativen Strom zu extrahieren, um die Zeitkonstanten des Integrators einzustellen.

2. Schaltung nach Anspruch 1, bei der der Integrator (Fig. 2) enthält:

einen Kondensator (96),

eine erste Stromquelle (T_1) zum Entladen des Kondensators,

eine zweite Stromquelle (T_2) zum Laden des Kondensators, und

eine dritte Stromspiegelschaltung (92), die wenigstens erste (90) und zweite (94) Strompfade aufweist, die mit den ersten bzw. zweiten Stromquellen verbunden sind.

3. Schaltung nach Anspruch 2, bei der der Horizontaloszillator einen Kondensator (10) enthält, der zwischen einen Ausgang des Oszillators und eine darin erzeugte Bezugsspannung geschaltet ist.

4. Schaltung nach Anspruch 3, bei der die erste Stromspiegelschaltung (108, 110, 112, 114) mit dem genannten Knotenpunkt (76) und mit dem

be made to flow in the collector of transistor 110. Of course, consideration must not only be given to I_R as a trimming current, but compensation must also be made for the additional current required by the mirror elements.

Referring now to block 106 which illustrates a portion of the vertical integrator circuit, diode D appearing in Fig. 2 has been deleted and replaced with a beta compensated current mirror circuit including resistor 116 and PNP transistors 118 and 120. The collector of transistor 120 is coupled to ground, and its emitter is coupled to the bases of transistors T_1 and 118. The emitter of transistor 118 is coupled to conductor 88 (V_{cc}) via resistor 116. To complete the circuit, the collector of transistor 110 in the oscillator is coupled to the collector of transistor 118 and to the base of transistor 120 in the integrator. In this manner, the currents flowing in the collectors of transistor T_1 and T_2 (see Fig. 2) can be controlled and the time constants can be set with only a single adjustment of I_R in the oscillator. This technique is especially applicable to systems requiring high timing accuracy for the vertical pulse; e.g. Teletext or VIRS.

Claims

1. A circuit in a T.V. system for adjusting the time constants of an integrator circuit (Fig. 2) which separates horizontal and vertical synchronization pulses, said integrator circuit being of the type which includes a capacitive network which is alternately charged and discharged, the TV system further including a horizontal oscillator circuit (Fig. 1) which is trimmed by means of a reference current (I_R) established at a node (76) thereof, said circuit being characterized by:

a first current mirror circuit (108, 110, 112, 114) coupled to the horizontal oscillator (Fig. 1) for reproducing a current representative of said reference current; and

a second current mirror circuit (116, 118, 120) coupled to said integrator (Fig. 2) and to said first current mirror circuit (108, 110, 112, 114) for extracting from said integrator said current representative of said reference current so as to set the time constants of said integrator.

2. A circuit according to claim 1 wherein said integrator (Fig. 2) comprises:

a capacitor (96);

a first current source (T_1) for discharging said capacitor;

a second current source (T_2) for charging said capacitor; and

a third current mirror circuit (92) having at least first (90) and second (94) current paths coupled to said first and second current sources, respectively.

3. A circuit according to claim 2 wherein said horizontal oscillator comprises a capacitor (10) coupled between an output of said oscillator and a reference voltage generated therein.

4. A circuit according to claim 3 wherein said first current mirror circuit (108, 110, 112, 114) is

coupled to said node (76) and to the horizontal oscillator capacitor (10); and

said second current mirror circuit (116, 118, 120) is coupled between said first current mirror circuit and said first (T_1) and second (T_2) current sources for receiving from said first current mirror circuit a current representative of said reference current.

5. A circuit according to claim 4 wherein said first current mirror circuit comprises:

a first resistor (112);

a second resistor (114);

a first transistor (108) having base and collector terminals coupled to said horizontal oscillator capacitor (10) and an emitter terminal coupled to said node (76) via said first resistor (112); and

a second transistor (110) having a base coupled to said horizontal oscillator capacitor (10), an emitter coupled to said node (76) via said second resistor (114), and a collector coupled to said second current mirror circuit (116, 118, 120).

Patentansprüche

1. Schaltung in einem Fernsehsystem zum Einstellen der Zeitkonstanten einer Integratorschaltung (Fig. 2), die Horizontal- und Vertikalsynchronimpulse abtrennt, welche Integratorschaltung von der Art ist, die ein kapazitives Netzwerk enthält, das alternierend geladen und entladen wird, wobei das Fernsehsystem weiterhin eine Horizontaloszillatorschaltung (Fig. 1) enthält, die mittels eines Bezugsstromes (I_R) abgestimmt wird, der an einem Knotenpunkt (76) derselben eingerichtet ist, gekennzeichnet, durch:

eine erste Stromspiegelschaltung (108, 110, 112, 114), die mit dem Horizontaloszillator (Fig. 1) verbunden ist, um einen Strom zu erzeugen, der für den Bezugsstrom repräsentativ ist, und

eine zweite Stromspiegelschaltung (116, 118, 120), die mit dem Integrator (Fig. 2) mit der ersten Stromspiegelschaltung (108, 110, 112, 114) verbunden ist, um von dem Integrator den für den Bezugsstrom repräsentativen Strom zu extrahieren, um die Zeitkonstanten des Integrators einzustellen.

2. Schaltung nach Anspruch 1, bei der der Integrator (Fig. 2) enthält:

einen Kondensator (96),

eine erste Stromquelle (T_1) zum Entladen des Kondensators,

eine zweite Stromquelle (T_2) zum Laden des Kondensators, und

eine dritte Stromspiegelschaltung (92), die wenigstens erste (90) und zweite (94) Strompfade aufweist, die mit den ersten bzw. zweiten Stromquellen verbunden sind.

3. Schaltung nach Anspruch 2, bei der der Horizontaloszillator einen Kondensator (10) enthält, der zwischen einem Ausgang des Oszillators und einer darin erzeugte Bezugsspannung geschaltet ist.

4. Schaltung nach Anspruch 3, bei der die erste Stromspiegelschaltung (108, 110, 112, 114) mit dem genannten Knotenpunkt (76) und mit dem



Horizontaloszillatorkondensator verbunden ist, und

die zweite Stromspiegelschaltung (116, 118, 120) zwischen die erste Stromspiegelschaltung und die ersten (T_1) und zweiten (T_2) Stromquellen geschaltet ist, um von der ersten Stromspiegelschaltung einen für den Bezugsstrom repräsentativen Strom entgegenzunehmen.

5. Schaltung nach Anspruch 4, bei der die erste Stromspiegelschaltung enthält:

einen ersten Widerstand (112),

einen zweiten Widerstand (114),

einen ersten Transistor (108), dessen Basis- und Kollektorschlüsse mit dem Horizontaloszillatorkondensator (10) verbunden sind und dessen Emitterschluß mit dem genannten Knotenpunkt (76) über den ersten Widerstand (112) verbunden ist, und

einen zweiten Transistor (110), dessen Basis mit dem Horizontaloszillatorkondensator (10) verbunden ist, dessen Emittter mit dem genannten Knotenpunkt (76) über den zweiten Widerstand (114) verbunden ist, und dessen Kollektor mit der zweiten Stromspiegelschaltung (116, 118, 120) verbunden ist.

Revendications

1. Circuit dans un système de télévision, destiné à régler les constantes de temps d'un circuit intégrateur (figure 2) qui sépare des impulsions de synchronisation horizontale et verticale, ledit circuit intégrateur étant du type qui comporte un réseau capacitif qui est alternativement chargé et déchargé, le système de télévision comportant en outre un circuit oscillateur horizontal (figure 1) qui est réglé au moyen d'un courant de référence (I_R) établi en un de ses points communs (76), ledit circuit étant caractérisé par:

un premier circuit miroir de courant (108, 110, 112, 114) couplé avec l'oscillateur horizontal (figure 1) pour reproduire un courant représentant ledit courant de référence; et

un second circuit miroir de courant (116, 118, 120) couplé avec ledit intégrateur (figure 2) et avec ledit premier circuit miroir de courant (108, 110, 112, 114) pour extraire dudit intégrateur ledit

courant représentant ledit courant de référence de manière à régler les constantes de temps dudit intégrateur.

2. Circuit selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit intégrateur (figure 2) comporte:

un condensateur (96);

une première source de courant (T_1) pour décharger ledit condensateur;

une seconde source de courant (T_2) pour charger ledit condensateur; et

un troisième circuit miroir de courant (92) comprenant au moins un premier (90) et un second (94) circuits de courant couplés respectivement avec ladite première et ladite sources de courant.

3. Circuit selon la revendication 2, dans lequel ledit oscillateur horizontal comporte un condensateur (10) couplé entre une sortie dudit oscillateur et une tension de référence qui y est produite.

4. Circuit selon la revendication 3, dans lequel ledit premier circuit miroir de courant (108, 110, 112, 114) est couplé avec ledit point commun (76) et avec ledit condensateur d'oscillateur horizontal (10); et

ledit second circuit miroir de courant (116, 118, 120) est couplé entre ledit premier circuit miroir de courant et ladite première (T_1) et ladite seconde (T_2) sources de courant pour recevoir dudit premier circuit miroir de courant un courant représentant ledit courant de référence.

5. Circuit selon la revendication 4, dans lequel ledit premier circuit miroir de courant comporte:

un première résistance (112);

une seconde résistance (114);

un premier transistor (108) ayant des bornes de base et de collecteur couplées avec ledit condensateur d'oscillateur horizontal (10) et une borne d'émetteur couplée avec ledit point commun (76) par l'intermédiaire de ladite première résistance (112); et

un second transistor (110) ayant une base couplée avec ledit condensateur d'oscillateur horizontal (10), un émetteur couplé avec ledit point commun (76) par l'intermédiaire de ladite seconde résistance (114) et un collecteur couplé avec ledit second circuit miroir de courant (116, 118, 120).

