

Description

Field of the Invention:

This invention relates generally to oscillators and, more particularly, to a horizontal oscillator which utilizes an on chip capacitor for use in television receiver systems.

Reference is made to European Patent Application No. 81903038.8 (EP-A-0067168, W082/02309) having the same filing date as the present application and entitled "Horizontal Phase Detector Gain Control".

Description of the Prior Art:

Typical black and white television receivers utilize a horizontal oscillator which generates an asymmetrical ramp signal at a frequency of 15.75 KHz which is the line frequency in the U.S.

From U.S. Patents Nos. 3 693 111 and 4 155 049 there are known horizontal oscillators for use in a television receiver, comprising a capacitor having a first terminal coupled to a reference voltage and a second terminal coupled to an output node, first circuit means coupled to said output node for supplying a first current to said capacitor to charge said capacitor in a first mode of operation and for pulling a second current from said capacitor in a second mode of operation, comparison means coupled to said output node for detecting when the voltage across the capacitor has increased to a first value and has decreased to a second value, and second circuit means coupled to said first circuit means and said comparison means for placing said first circuit means in said first mode of operation when the voltage across said capacitor has decreased to said second value and for placing said first circuit means in said second mode of operation when the voltage across said capacitor has increased to said first value.

These typical oscillators employ an expensive external capacitor (in the order of 10 nanofarads) and generate a charge/discharge current of approximately 1 milliamp which is derived from a reference current generated by the circuit. With the trend toward single chip television receivers, it would be desirable to integrate the oscillator capacitor on the integrated circuit chip. However, current state of the art integration techniques do not permit integration of capacitors which are larger than approximately 100 picofarads. Utilizing this smaller capacitor would require that the charge/discharge current be reduced to 5 to 10 microamps in order to maintain the oscillator frequency. However, conventional RC oscillators which attempt to define these low currents tend to be variable due to loading effects.

Summary of the Invention

It is an object of the present invention to provide a horizontal oscillator wherein the above disadvantages may be overcome.

In accordance with the invention in a horizontal oscillator of the above type there is provided a reference amplifier for generating the said ref-

erence voltage; and third circuit means coupled to said reference amplifier for generating a reference current, said first and second currents being substantially smaller than and dependent upon said reference current, and said first circuit means including a current source circuit coupled to said reference amplifier, to said third circuit means and to said output node for supplying said first current, and a current mirror circuit having variable gain coupled to said output node for pulling said second current.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention there is provided a low current high stability constant charge/discharge RC oscillator which includes a current reference amplifier and a current splitting integrator so as to enable the reference current to be much larger than the actual charge/discharge current thus reducing oscillator loading effects and minimising the size of the require capacitor.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention there is provided a horizontal oscillator for use in a TV system which enjoys low current operation to reduce power consumption while at the same time maintains oscillator output accuracy.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention there is provided a single integrated circuit chip comprising the horizontal oscillator wherein said capacitor is an on-chip capacitor.

The above and other features and advantages of the present invention will be more clearly understood from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIGS. 1 and 2 illustrate a composite video signal received by a television receiver;

FIG. 3 is a block diagram of a basic prior art television receiver;

FIG. 4 illustrates in graphical form an asymmetrical ramp signal which must be generated by the horizontal oscillator in a television receiver system; and

FIG. 5 is a schematic diagram of the inventive horizontal oscillator.

Description of the Preferred Embodiment

Before embarking on a detailed discussion of the invention, it may be helpful to briefly review basic television principles. A complete TV picture appears on the TV screen thirty times per second. Between each picture, there is an interval during which the screen is dark. Each TV frame, however, is not projected as a complete picture but is created in sections by varying the brightness of a moving spot of light. That is, the picture tube contains an electron gun which generates an electron beam which moves very rapidly across a phosphor coated screen and, by changing its strength, different amounts of light are produced in different places. More exactly, the electron beam is focused into a fine point that moves from the upper left-hand corner in a straight horizontal

line to the right side of the screen. After each movement from left to right, the beam intensity is reduced so that no light is produced during the return motion from right to left. After each line is painted, the beam is moved down a little on the tube face. While the motion of the electron beam is called "scanning", the electronic actions involved are generally referred to a "sweeping" and we speak of a horizontal sweep frequency of approximately 15,750 cycles per second.

It should be obvious that there must be some synchronization between the image seen by a remote television camera and that which is ultimately shown on the TV screen. If, for example, the receiver scans a picture in more or less than one-thirtieth of a second, the picture will appear to roll vertically. Thus, great care is taken to synchronize accurately the scanning of each line and frame. To achieve this, synchronizing signals are transmitted to the receiver with the sound and video information. In addition to providing signals which control the starting of each line, the edges of the picture must be blanked out to avoid any appearance of ragged edges, and the electron beam must turned off during the time in which it returns to its starting place. This return time is often referred to as the retrace or flyback period and is approximately 9 microseconds long for each line (the horizontal flyback), but is considerably longer for the period when the beam returns from the bottom to the top of the screen (the vertical flyback period).

FIGURE 1 illustrates a black and white video signal including the horizontal synchronization pulses 2 and the horizontal blanking or flyback pulse 4. Interposed between successive flyback pulses is the actual black and white video signal 6 corresponding to one picture line. As can be seen, the horizontal flyback pulse 4 extends into the black region so that the edges of the picture are completely black avoiding the appearance of ragged edges.

Referring to FIGURE 2, the start of each field of vertical scanning is dictated by a vertical synchronization pulse which lasts much longer than the horizontal synchronization pulses. To avoid losing horizontal synchronization during the vertical flyback or blanking period, the horizontal synchronization pulses are superimposed on the vertical blanking pulse. The first six pulses are very narrow and are referred to as equalizing pulses. Next, there are periods of six wide pulses which comprise the actual vertical synchronization pulse serrated by the horizontal synchronization period. This is followed by an additional six equalizing pulses and then four regular horizontal synchronizing pulses that start the top of the picture. Note that the vertical blanking period extends through this time and darkens the screen while the beam moves from bottom to top and covers the first four lines of the picture.

FIGURE 3 is a block diagram of a basic black and white TV receiver. From the antenna, a transmission line 8 brings all signals received by the antenna to tuner 10 whose function it is to

select the desired band of frequencies and reject all others. The tuner passes only successive flyback pulses is the actual black and white video signal 6 corresponding to one picture line. As can be seen, the horizontal flyback pulse 4 extends into the black region so that the edges of the picture are completely black avoiding the appearance of ragged edges.

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FIGURE 3 is a block diagram of a basic black and white TV receiver. From the antenna, a transmission line 8 brings all signals received by the antenna to tuner 10 whose function it is to select the desired band of frequencies and reject all others. The tuner passes only the desired intermediate frequency to the IF amplifiers 12.

Television IF amplifiers 12 include a plurality of IF stages which amplify the IF signals. To prevent overloading and to minimize picture changes during fading, automatic gain control is used to control the amplification of the IF signal.

The output of IF amplifiers 12 is applied to a detector 14 which removes the amplitude modulated video signal and applies it to video amplifier 16. The sound signal is removed, amplified, clipped, and limited in audio section 18. The output of audio detector 18 is applied to audio amplifier 20 which is similar to audio amplifiers found in radio receivers. The output of the audio amplifier is applied to the speaker.

Video amplifier 16 requires more bandwidth than audio amplifier 20. This is accomplished using special peaking circuits for the high and low frequency response. The output of video amplifier 16 is applied to the picture tube and to a sync separator 22 which is unique to television receivers. As described earlier, the horizontal and vertical synchronization pulses appear on top of their respective blanking signals which are sandwiched in between lines of picture signal. The sync separator clips the synchronization pulses off the composite video signal after the signal has been amplified in video amplifier 16. Two separate filters may be employed to separate the vertical from the horizontal synchronization pulses. For example, a high pass filter would permit only the horizontal synchronization pulses

to reach horizontal sweep section 24 while the vertical pulses could be passed through a low pass filter to the vertical sweep section 26.

The vertical sweep section generates the actual signals which pass through the deflection yoke of the picture tube to move the electron beam up and down. Similarly, the horizontal sweep section is responsible for moving the electron beam across the tube. In order to obtain the large current of short duration required in the horizontal deflection coils, a transformer is generally used. Furthermore, a flyback transformer is generally considered part of the horizontal sweep section. This transformer generates a high voltage during the time in which the electron beam returns from right to left.

Co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. SC-80979 entitled "Large Scale, Single Chip Integrated Circuit Television Receiver Subsystem" and filed of even date herewith describes a VLSI single chip television receiver the subject matter thereof is hereby incorporated by reference.

FIGURE 4 illustrates the ramp signal generated by a horizontal oscillator in a television receiver. The signal has a ramp-up time (T_1) of approximately 20 microseconds and a ramp-down time (T_2) of approximately 12 microseconds. The upper and lower peak voltages are denoted V_1 and V_2 respectively.

FIGURE 5 is a schematic diagram of the inventive oscillator which includes an on-chip nitride capacitor 30 (approximately 50 picofarads) coupled between nodes 32 and 34. The circuit includes a bias chain comprised of resistors 36, 38, 40 and 42; a turn-around circuit comprised of diode 44 and transistor 46; a first comparator including transistors 48 and 50; a second comparator including transistors 52 and 54; a current source including transistors 56 and 58 and resistors 60 and 62; a reference amplifier including transistors 64, 66 and 68 and resistors 70 and 72; current source transistors 74 and 76; and a current mirror circuit including transistors 78, 80 and 82 and resistors 84, 86, 88 and 90.

Reference amplifier transistor 64 has a base electrode coupled to a bias voltage at node 100. Thus, if transistors 64 and 66 are perfectly matched, an accurate reference voltage having a zero temperature coefficient will be produced at node 34. An accurate reference current (I_R) is then set up by virtue of resistor 102 which may be an external resistor to provide a degree of flexibility. The base of transistor 68 is coupled to the collector of transistor 64. Since transistors 68, 74 and 76 each have their base and emitter electrodes coupled together, the current produced at each of their collector electrodes will be equal (approximately 60 μ A). Depending on the gain of the current mirror circuit (transistors 78, 80 and 82), the current through transistor 78 will be either greater or less than the current through transistor 76. If greater, current (approximately 17 μ A) will be pulled out of capacitor 30 to produce the down portion of the ramp. This condition exists when the gain of the current mirror circuit is high. If the

gain is reduced, the current flowing through transistor 78 will be less than the current flowing through transistor 76 and the difference (approximately 10 μ A) will flow into capacitor 30 to produce the up portion of the ramp.

The circuit shown in FIGURE 5 operates as follows. If we assume that the voltage at node 32 is on the rising portion of the ramp between V_1 and V_2 , transistor 50 will be on and transistor 48 will be off. With transistor 50 on, current will flow through diode 44 and will be recreated at the collector of transistor 46 and thus at the base of transistor 56 turning transistor 56 on. Current will be supplied to emitter 106 of transistor 82 to back bias it. This, in effect, removes resistors 86 and 88 from the lower current mirror circuit increasing its equivalent resistance and reducing its gain. Thus, less current will flow through transistor 78 causing a charging current (approximately 10 μ A) to flow into capacitor 30. Transistors 78 and 98 are driven on by current supplied by current source transistor 74.

When the voltage at node 32 reaches V_1 , transistors 48 and 54 begins to conduct and transistors 50 and 52 turn off. With transistor 50 off, transistor 56 turns off. Transistor 54 now takes all the current from transistor 58 and latches the loop. With transistor 56 off, emitter 106 of transistor 82 is no longer reverse biased and resistors 86 and 88 are back in the current path. This reduces the equivalent resistance of the lower current mirror circuit and increases its gain. Under these conditions, more current flows through transistor 78 than is supplied by transistor 76. Thus, the difference current (approximately 10 μ A) is pulled out of capacitor 30 to produce the ramp-down portion of the oscillator signal and reducing the voltage at node 32.

When the voltage at node 32 reaches V_2 , transistors 48, 54 and 58 turn off, transistors 50 and 56 turn on and the ramp-up process is repeated.

It should be noted that the stray capacitance 107 associated with capacitor 30 can be used to stabilize the reference amplifier. Further, transistor 98 provides temperature compensation for the nitride capacitor via resistor 94 since the voltage across resistor 94 will vary with temperature. Finally, it should be appreciated that the reference current produced by the reference amplifier (approximately 60 μ A) is much larger than the actual charge/discharge current (approximately 10/17 μ A) of the capacitor thus reducing oscillator loading effects and minimizing the value of the capacitor required. Through careful design and choice of currents, loading effects can be cancelled.

Claims

1. A horizontal oscillator for use in a television receiver, the oscillator comprising a capacitor (30) having a first terminal coupled to a reference voltage (34) and a second terminal coupled to an output node (32), first circuit means (74, 76, 78, 80,

to reach horizontal sweep section 24 while the vertical pulses could be passed through a low pass filter to the vertical sweep section 26.

The vertical sweep section generates the actual signals which pass through the deflection yoke of the picture tube to move the electron beam up and down. Similarly, the horizontal sweep section is responsible for moving the electron beam across the tube. In order to obtain the large current of short duration required in the horizontal deflection coils, a transformer is generally used. Furthermore, a flyback transformer is generally considered part of the horizontal sweep section. This transformer generates a high voltage during the time in which the electron beam returns from right to left.

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Reference amplifier transistor 64 has a base electrode coupled to a bias voltage at node 100. Thus, if transistors 64 and 66 are perfectly matched, an accurate reference voltage having a zero temperature coefficient will be produced at node 34. An accurate reference current (I_R) is then set up by virtue of resistor 102 which may be an external resistor to provide a degree of flexibility. The base of transistor 68 is coupled to the collector of transistor 64. Since transistors 68, 74 and 76 each have their base and emitter electrodes coupled together, the current produced at each of their collector electrodes will be equal (approximately 60 μ A). Depending on the gain of the current mirror circuit (transistors 78, 80 and 82), the current through transistor 78 will be either greater or less than the current through transistor 76. If greater, current (approximately 17 μ A) will be pulled out of capacitor 30 to produce the down portion of the ramp. This condition exists when the gain of the current mirror circuit is high. If the

gain is reduced, the current flowing through transistor 78 will be less than the current flowing through transistor 76 and the difference (approximately 10 μ A) will flow into capacitor 30 to produce the up portion of the ramp.

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When the voltage at node 32 reaches V_2 , transistors 48, 54 and 58 turn off, transistors 50 and 56 turn on and the ramp-up process is repeated.

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Claims

1. A horizontal oscillator for use in a television receiver, the oscillator comprising a capacitor (30) having a first terminal coupled to a reference voltage (34) and a second terminal coupled to an output node (32), first circuit means (74, 76, 78, 80,



82, 84, 86, 88, 90) coupled to said output node for supplying a first current to said capacitor to charge said capacitor in a first mode of operation and for pulling a second current from said capacitor in a second mode of operation, comparison means (48, 50, 52, 54) coupled to said output node for detecting when the voltage across the capacitor has increased to a first value and has decreased to a second value, and second circuit means (56, 58, 69, 92) coupled to said first circuit means and to said comparison means for placing said first circuit means in said first mode of operation when the voltage across said capacitor has decreased to said second value and for placing said first circuit means in said second mode of operation when the voltage across said capacitor has increased to said first value, characterized in that there is provided:

a reference amplifier (64, 66, 68, 70 and 72) for generating the said reference voltage; and

third circuit means (102) coupled to said reference amplifier for generating a reference current (IR), said first and second currents being substantially smaller than and dependent upon said reference current, and said first circuit means including a current source circuit (74, 76) coupled to said reference amplifier, to said third circuit means and to said output node for supplying said first current, and a current mirror circuit (78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90) having variable gain coupled to said output node for pulling said second current.

2. A horizontal oscillator according to claim 1 wherein the impedance of said current mirror circuit is altered by said first circuit means to vary its gain.

3. A horizontal oscillator according to claim 1 or 2 further including a bias chain (36, 38, 40, 42) coupled to a source of supply voltage for generating said first and second voltage values.

4. A horizontal oscillator according to claim 3 wherein said comparison means comprises:

a first comparator (48, 50) having a first input coupled to a node having said first voltage value on said bias chain, a second input coupled to said output node and having an output; and

a second comparator (52, 54) having a first input coupled to a node having said second voltage value on said bias chain, a second input coupled to said output node and an output coupled to said second circuit means, the output of said first comparator being coupled to said second comparator such that the gain of the current mirror circuit is altered when the first circuit means changes its mode of operation.

5. A single integrated circuit chip comprising a horizontal oscillator according to any preceding claim wherein said capacitor is an on-chip capacitor.

Patentansprüche

1. Horizontaloszillator zur Verwendung in einem Fernsehempfänger, enthaltend einen Kondensator (30) mit einem ersten Anschluß, der mit einer Bezugsspannung (34) verbunden ist, und

einem zweiten Anschluß, der mit einem Ausgangsverbindungspunkt (32) verbunden ist, eine erste Schaltungseinrichtung (74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90), die mit dem Ausgangsverbindungspunkt verbunden ist, um dem Kondensator einen ersten Strom zuzuführen, um diesen in einer ersten Betriebsart aufzuladen, und um einen zweiten Strom von dem Kondensator in einer zweiten Betriebsart zu ziehen, eine Vergleichseinrichtung (48, 50, 52, 54), die mit dem Ausgangsverbindungspunkt verbunden ist, um zu ermitteln, wann die Spannung über dem Kondensator auf einen ersten Wert gestiegen ist und auf einen zweiten Wert abgenommen hat, und eine zweite Schaltungseinrichtung (56, 58, 69, 92), die mit der ersten Schaltungseinrichtung und mit der Vergleichseinrichtung verbunden ist, um die erste Schaltungseinrichtung in die erste Betriebsart zu bringen, wenn die Spannung über dem Kondensator auf den zweiten Wert abgenommen hat, und um die erste Schaltungseinrichtung in die zweite Betriebsart zu bringen, wenn die Spannung über dem Kondensator auf den ersten Wert zugenommen hat, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß vorgesehen sind:

ein Referenzverstärker (64, 66, 68, 70 und 72) zum Erzeugen der Bezugsspannung; und

eine dritte Schaltungseinrichtung (102), die mit dem Referenzverstärker verbunden ist, um einen Bezugsstrom (IR) zu erzeugen, wobei die ersten und zweiten Ströme wesentlich kleiner sind als der Bezugsstrom und von diesem abhängen und die erste Schaltungseinrichtung eine Stromquellschaltung (74, 76) enthält, die mit dem Referenzverstärker, der dritten Schaltungseinrichtung und dem Ausgangsverbindungspunkt verbunden ist, um den ersten Strom zu liefern, und ferner eine Stromspiegelschaltung (78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90) aufweist, die variable Verstärkung hat und mit dem Ausgangsverbindungspunkt verbunden ist, um den zweiten Strom zu ziehen.

2. Horizontaloszillator nach Anspruch 1, bei dem die Impedanz der Stromspiegelschaltung durch die erste Schaltungseinrichtung geändert wird, um ihre Verstärkung zu variieren.

3. Horizontaloszillator nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, weiterhin enthaltend eine Vorspannungskette (36, 38, 40, 42), die mit einer Versorgungsspannungsquelle verbunden ist, um die ersten und zweiten Spannungswerte zu erzeugen.

4. Horizontaloszillator nach Anspruch 3, bei dem die Vergleichseinrichtung enthält:

einen ersten Komparator (48, 50) mit einem ersten Eingang, der mit einem Verbindungspunkt verbunden ist, der den ersten Spannungswert an der Vorspannungskette hat, einem zweiten Eingang, der mit dem Ausgangsverbindungspunkt verbunden ist, und mit einem Ausgang; und

einen zweiten Komparator (52, 54) mit einem ersten Eingang, der mit einem Verbindungspunkt verbunden ist, der den zweiten Spannungswert an der Vorspannungskette hat, einem zweiten Eingang, der mit dem Ausgangsverbindungspunkt verbunden ist, und mit einem Ausgang, der mit der zweiten Schaltungseinrichtung verbun-



den ist, wobei der Ausgang des ersten Komparators mit dem zweiten Komparator derart verbunden ist, daß die Verstärkung der Stromspiegelschaltung geändert wird, wenn die erste Schaltungseinrichtung ihren Betriebszustand ändert.

5. Ein einzelnes integriertes Schaltkreischip, das einen Horizontaloszillator nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche enthält, wobei der Kondensator ein auf dem Chip angebrachter Kondensator ist.

Revendications

1. Oscillateur horizontal destiné à un récepteur de télévision. l'oscillateur comportant un condensateur (30) dont une première borne est connectée à une tension de référence (34) et dont une seconde borne est connectée à un point de sortie (32). un premier circuit (74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90) connecté audit point commun de sortie pour fournir un premier courant audit condensateur afin de le charger dans un premier mode de fonctionnement et pour prélever un second courant dudit condensateur dans un second mode de fonctionnement. un dispositif de comparaison (48, 50, 52, 54) relié audit point commun de sortie pour détecter si la tension aux bornes du condensateur a augmenté jusqu'à une première valeur et a diminué jusqu'à une seconde valeur et un second circuit (56, 58, 69, 92) connecté audit premier circuit et audit dispositif de comparaison pour placer ledit premier circuit dans ledit premier mode de fonctionnement quand la tension aux bornes dudit condensateur a diminué jusqu'à ladite seconde valeur et pour placer ledit premier circuit dans ledit second mode de fonctionnement quand la tension aux bornes dudit condensateur a augmenté jusqu'à ladite première valeur. caractérisé en ce qu'il comporte en outre:

un amplificateur de référence (64, 66, 68, 70 et 72) pour produire ladite tension de référence; et
un troisième circuit (102) couplé avec ledit amplificateur de référence pour produire un courant de référence (IR), ledit premier et ledit second

courants étant nettement inférieurs et dépendants dudit courant de référence et ledit premier circuit comportant un premier circuit source de courant (74, 76) couplé avec ledit amplificateur de référence. avec ledit troisième circuit et avec ledit point commun de sortie pour fournir ledit premier courant et un circuit miroir de courant (78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90) ayant un gain variable couplé avec ledit point commun de sortie pour prélever ledit second courant.

2. Oscillateur horizontal selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'impédance dudit circuit miroir de courant est modifiée par ledit premier circuit pour modifier son gain.

3. Oscillateur horizontal selon la revendication 1 ou 2, comportant en outre une chaîne de polarisation (36, 38, 40, 42) couplée avec une source de tension d'alimentation pour produire ladite première et ladite seconde valeurs de tension.

4. Oscillateur horizontal selon la revendication 3, dans lequel ledit dispositif de comparaison comporte:

un premier comparateur (48, 50) ayant une première entrée connectée à un point commun ayant ladite première valeur de tension sur ladite chaîne de polarisation, une seconde entrée connectée audit point de commun de sortie et comprenant une sortie; et

un second comparateur (52, 54) ayant une première entrée reliée à un point commun ayant ladite seconde valeur de tension sur ladite chaîne de polarisation, une seconde entrée reliée audit point commun de sortie et une sortie couplée avec ledit second circuit, la sortie dudit premier comparateur étant reliée audit second comparateur de manière que le gain du circuit miroir de courant soit modifié quand le premier circuit change son mode de fonctionnement.

5. Pastille unique de circuits intégrés comportant un oscillateur horizontal selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel ledit condensateur est un condensateur sur pastille.

