

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Drive Circuit of Oscillation Gyro

CROSS REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present invention contains subject matter related to Japanese Patent Application JP 2004-207026 filed in the Japanese Patent Office on July 14, 2004, the entire contents of which being incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention:

The present invention relates to a drive circuit of an oscillation gyro which includes two piezoelectric elements formed in an oscillator.

2. Description of Related Art:

As a civilian gyro used for detection of an unintentional movement of the hands in taking an image using a video camera, direction detection in a car navigation system, attitude control of a movable body, such as a vehicle, and the like, a columnar oscillation gyro utilizing a flexing oscillation has been used. For example, an oscillation gyro in which two piezoelectric elements are adhered to a quadrangular prism-like oscillator is put to practical use (for example, Patent Document 1: Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open Publication No. 2000-304543).

Heretofore, for example, as shown in FIG. 1 a drive circuit 20 drives, an

oscillation gyro 1 which includes a quadrangular prism-like oscillator 2, a piezoelectric element 3a and a piezoelectric element 3b, and is formed in such a manner that the piezoelectric element 3a and the piezoelectric element 3b are aligned on a first side face of the oscillator 2. The surface of the oscillator 2 is conductively plated. Then, a detection signal is outputted from outputs of the two piezoelectric elements 3a, 3b.

In the drive circuit 20 of the conventional oscillation gyro 1 shown in FIG. 1, a second side face opposed to a first side face of the oscillator 2 is connected to a reference potential V_{ref} . This reference potential V_{ref} is applied to a side face that is brought into contact with the oscillator 2 of the piezoelectric element 3a and the piezoelectric element 3b through the oscillator 2.

To the piezoelectric element 3a and the piezoelectric element 3b provided on the first side face of the oscillator 2, an adding circuit 22 and a differential amplifier 26 are respectively connected, and an oscillation circuit 24 is connected through resistors 21a, 21b and a capacitor 25. Also, the adding circuit 22 is connected to a comparing circuit 23, which is connected to the oscillation circuit 24.

The differential amplifier 26 is connected to a synchronous detector 27, and a detection signal V_{sd}' by this synchronous detector 27 is outputted as a detection signal through a DC amplifier 28.

In the drive circuit 20 of such a configuration, an output signal V_{go}' of the oscillation circuit 24 is supplied to the side faces of the piezoelectric elements 3a, 3b,

opposed to the other side faces of the piezoelectric elements 3a, 3b that abut on the oscillator 2, through the capacitor 25 and the resistors 21a, 21b.

An output signal V_{gl}' of the piezoelectric element 3a and an output signal V_{gr}' of the piezoelectric element 3b are added by the adding circuit 22, and its addition signal V_{sa}' is inputted to the comparing circuit 23. The comparing circuit 23 compares an addition signal V_{sa}' by the adding circuit 22 with the output signal V_{go}' of the oscillation circuit 24, and supplies the comparison output signal V_{cm}' to the oscillation circuit 24. Also, a differential signal V_{da}' between the output signal v_{gl}' of the piezoelectric element 3a and the output signal V_{gr}' of the piezoelectric element 3b is outputted by the differential amplifier 26, and synchronously detected by the synchronous detector 27. The synchronous detector 27 synchronously detects the differential signal V_{da}' by using a clock signal V_{ck}' formed by the oscillation circuit 24. A detection signal V_{sd}' by the synchronous detector 27 is amplified by the DC amplifier 28, and outputted as a detection signal.

Here, FIG. 2 is a time chart of a voltage waveform in each portion of the drive circuit 20 of the conventional oscillation gyro 1 shown in FIG. 1. In FIG. 2, the case that there is no rotation at a major axis of the oscillation gyro 1 as a center, is expressed as a stationary state, and the case that the rotation at the major axis as a center is applied, is expressed as a state when a rotation angle velocity is applied.

An oscillation system is formed of a positive feedback loop including the oscillation gyro 1, the resistor 21a, the resistor 21b, the capacitor 25, the adding circuit

22, the comparing circuit 23 and the oscillation circuit 24, and is self-oscillated in the resonance frequency of the oscillation gyro 1. The oscillation gyro 1 is flexing oscillated in a direction perpendicular to the first side face and the second side face by this oscillation. When rotated, the major axis of the oscillation gyro 1 as a center, in this state, the direction of the flexing oscillation is changed by a Coriolis force. Thus, an output difference ($V_{gl}' - V_{gr}'$) is generated between the piezoelectric element 3a and the piezoelectric element 3b, and a difference signal V_{da}' is obtained from the differential amplifier 26. At this time, signals for driving the oscillation gyro 1 are the outputs of the piezoelectric element 3a and the piezoelectric element 3b at a stationary state, and are signals having the same phase and amplitude in the piezoelectric element 3a and the piezoelectric element 3b. Therefore, the signals for driving the oscillation gyro 1 are canceled by the differential amplifier 26. Then, the signals in response to the Coriolis force are the signals V_{cl}' and V_{cr}' of reverse phases and the same amplitude in the piezoelectric element 3a and the piezoelectric element 3b. Therefore, the difference signal V_{da}' obtained by the differential amplifier 26 is a signal proportional to ($V_{cl}' - V_{cr}'$).

The difference signal V_{da}' obtained by the differential amplifier 26 is synchronously detected to be thereby converted into the DC detection signal V_{sd}' . The synchronous detector 27 full-wave rectifies the difference signal V_{da}' from the differential amplifier 26 at the timing of the clock signal V_{ck}' to thereby convert the signal V_{da}' into the signal V_{fr}' , and then integrates, the signal V_{fr}' to obtain the DC

detection signal V_{sd}' . This detection signal V_{sd}' is DC amplified to a predetermined amplitude by the DC amplifier 28, and only an angular velocity signal generated by the rotation can be detected.

The signal in response to the Coriolis force is canceled in the addition signal V_{sa}' obtained by the adding circuit 22, and becomes a signal proportional to the sum of the outputs of the piezoelectric element 3a and the piezoelectric element 3b at the stationary state. When Z_{gl} is an impedance of the piezoelectric element 3a, Z_{gr} is an impedance of the piezoelectric element 3b, R_b is a value of the resistor 21a and the resistor 21b, and $2 \cdot R_s$ is an input impedance of the adding circuit 22, the output signal V_{gl}' of the piezoelectric element 3a and the output signal V_{gr}' of the piezoelectric element 3b are shown as below.

$$V_{gl}' = [(Z_{gl}/R_s)/\{(Z_{gl}/R_s)+R_b\}] \cdot V_{go}' = \{1/(1+R_b/R_s+R_b/Z_{gl})\} \cdot V_{go}'$$

$$V_{gr}' = [(Z_{gr}/R_s)/\{(Z_{gr}/R_s)+R_b\}] \cdot V_{go}' = \{1/(1+R_b/R_s+R_b/Z_{gr})\} \cdot V_{go}'$$

Since the impedance Z_{gl} of the piezoelectric element 3a and the impedance Z_{gr} of the piezoelectric element 3b become the minimum when the oscillation gyro 1 oscillates in the resonance frequency, the voltage amplitudes of the output signal v_{gl}' of the piezoelectric element 3a and the output signal V_{gr}' of the piezoelectric element 3b become also the minimum. Therefore, the voltage amplitude of the addition signal V_{sa}' obtained by the adding circuit 22 becomes the minimum. When the

addition signal V_{sa}' of the adding circuit 22 is compared with the output signal V_{go}' of the oscillation circuit 24, in a comparison output signal V_{cm}' of the comparing circuit 23, the voltage amplitude becomes the maximum when the oscillation circuit 24 oscillates in the resonance frequency, becoming the positive feedback loop for forming the oscillation system. The comparison output signal V_{cm}' of the comparing circuit 23 is a signal proportional to $(V_{go}' - V_{sa}')$. Since the signal V_{cm}' is distorted in waveform, the signal V_{cm}' is waveform shaped to a triangular wave by the oscillation circuit 24, and outputted as an output signal V_{go}' .

Since the DC bias voltage of the signal V_{go}' is cut in the conventional drive circuit 20, the capacitor 25 is necessary. If the capacitor 25 is not included, the DC bias voltage of the signal V_{go}' is inputted to the comparing circuit 23 through the adding circuit 22, and the DC bias voltages become the same values at the two input terminals of the comparing circuit 23. Then, the output signal V_{go}' of the oscillation circuit 24 is saturated, and hence not oscillated.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Since the oscillation gyro 1 heretofore known as described above uses the piezoelectric element 3a and the piezoelectric element 3b commonly for a drive piece and a detection piece, it can be formed in a very simple structure. However, there exists a problem that the drive circuit for driving the oscillation gyro 1 is complicated and difficult to be realized at a low cost.

Accordingly, in view of the above-mentioned conventional problem, it is desirable to provide a drive circuit of an oscillation gyro which has a simple configuration and reduced cost.

Further, another object of the present invention, and concrete advantages obtained according to the present invention will be further clarified from the description of embodiment which will be described below.

More particularly, a drive circuit of an oscillation gyro according to the present invention including two piezoelectric elements formed in an oscillator comprising an adding circuit for supplying a drive signal to one side faces of the two piezoelectric elements and adding signals obtained from the other side faces opposed to the one side faces of the piezoelectric elements, and an oscillation circuit adapted to be fed back with an addition output signal obtained by the adding circuit, wherein a sine wave signal obtained as an oscillation output of the oscillation circuit is supplied to the one side faces of the two piezoelectric elements as the drive signal.

According to the present invention, the configuration can be simplified and the cost can be reduced by inputting the drive signal to the one side faces of the two piezoelectric elements formed in the oscillator of the oscillation gyro, inputting signals outputted from the other side faces opposed to the above-mentioned one side faces, to the adding circuit, inputting the output signal of the adding circuit to the oscillation circuit, and supplying a sine wave signal obtained as the oscillation output of the oscillation circuit as the drive signal to the one side faces of the two piezoelectric

elements.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing a configuration example of a drive circuit of a conventional oscillation gyro;

FIG. 2 is a time chart diagram of voltage waveforms in respective portions of the drive circuit of the conventional oscillation gyro;

FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing a configuration example of a drive circuit of an oscillation gyro according to the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the oscillation gyro;

FIG. 5 is a side view of the oscillation gyro; and

FIG. 6 is a time chart of voltage waveforms in respective portions of the drive circuit of the oscillation gyro.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

An embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings. The present invention is not limited to the embodiment described below, and may be changed arbitrarily in a scope of a range not departing from the subject matter of the present invention.

In the present invention, the oscillation gyro 1 is driven by the drive circuit 10 having a configuration, for example, as shown in FIG. 3.

This oscillation gyro 1 comprises a quadrangular prism-like oscillator 2, a piezoelectric element 3a and a piezoelectric element 3b in such a manner that the piezoelectric element 3a and the piezoelectric element 3b are aligned on a first side face of the oscillator 2, as shown in FIG. 4 and FIG. 5. The surface of the oscillator 2 is conductively plated. The oscillator 2 is generally formed of a material for generating a mechanical vibration, such as Elinvar, iron-nickel, quartz, glass, crystal, ceramics, etc.

The drive circuit 10 for driving the oscillation gyro 1 comprises an adding circuit 11 for supplying a drive signal to one side faces of the two piezoelectric elements 3a, 3b, and adding signals obtained from the other side faces opposed to the one side faces of the piezoelectric elements 3a, 3b, and an oscillation circuit 12 adapted to be fed back with an addition output signal obtained by the adding circuit 11, wherein a sine wave signal obtained as an oscillation output of the oscillation circuit 12 is supplied to the one side faces of the two piezoelectric elements 3a, 3b as the drive signal. A differential amplifier 13 is connected together with the adding circuit 11 to the piezoelectric element 3a and the piezoelectric element 3b provided on the first side face of the oscillator 2, a difference signal V_{da} obtained by a differential amplifier 13 is synchronously detected by a synchronous detector 14, and a detection signal V_{sd} is outputted as the detection signal through a DC amplifier 15.

More particularly, the oscillation gyro 1 has the piezoelectric element 3a and the piezoelectric element 3b formed to be aligned on the first side face of the oscillator

2, and the output signal V_{go} of the oscillation circuit 12 is inputted to a second side face opposed to the first side face of the oscillator 2. The signal V_{go} is applied to the side faces of the piezoelectric element 3a and the piezoelectric element 3b that abuts on the oscillator 2, through the oscillator 2. An output signal V_{gl} of the piezoelectric element 3a and an output signal V_{gr} of the piezoelectric element 3b outputted from the side faces opposed to the side faces that abuts on the oscillator 2 are inputted to the adding circuit 11. An addition output signal V_{sa} of the adding circuit 11 is inputted to the oscillation circuit 12. Also, the output signal V_{gl} of the piezoelectric element 3a and the output signal V_{gr} of the piezoelectric element 3b are inputted to the differential amplifier 13. An output V_{da} of the differential amplifier 13 is synchronously detected by the synchronous detector 14, but its timing is conducted by using a clock signal V_{ck} formed in the oscillation circuit 12. An output signal V_{sd} of the synchronous detector 14 is amplified by the DC amplifier 15.

Here, FIG. 6 is a time chart of a voltage waveform in each portion of the drive circuit 10 for driving the oscillation gyro 1 shown in FIG. 3. The case that there is no rotation at a major axis of the oscillation gyro 1 as a center, is expressed as a stationary state, and the case that the rotation at the major axis as a center is applied, is expressed as a state when a rotation angle velocity is applied.

An oscillation system is formed of a positive feedback loop including the oscillation gyro 1, the adding circuit 11 and the oscillation circuit 12, and is self-oscillated in the resonance frequency of the oscillation gyro 1. The oscillation

gyro 1 is flexing oscillated in a direction perpendicular to the first side face and the second side face by this oscillation. When rotated, the major axis of the oscillation gyro 1 as a center, in this state, the direction of the flexing oscillation is changed by the Coriolis force. Thus, an output difference ($V_{gl}-V_{gr}$) is generated between the piezoelectric element 3a and the piezoelectric element 3b, and an output V_{da} is obtained from the differential amplifier 13. At this time, signals for driving the oscillation gyro 1 are the outputs of the piezoelectric element 3a and the piezoelectric element 3b at the stationary state, and are the signals having the same phase and amplitude in the piezoelectric element 3a and the piezoelectric element 3b. Therefore, the signals for driving the oscillation gyro 1 are canceled by the differential amplifier 13. Then, the signals in response to the Coriolis force are the signal V_{cl} and the signal V_{cr} of reverse phases and the same amplitude in the piezoelectric element 3a and the piezoelectric element 3b. Therefore, the difference signal V_{da} obtained by the differential amplifier 13 is a signal proportional to ($V_{gl}-V_{gr}$).

The difference signal V_{da} obtained by the differential amplifier 13 is synchronously detected by the synchronous detector 14, and is thereby converted into the DC signal V_{sd} . The synchronous detector 14 full-wave rectifies the difference signal V_{da} supplied from the differential amplifier 13 at the timing of the clock signal V_{ck} to thereby convert the difference signal V_{da} into the signal V_{fr} , and then integrates the signal V_{fr} to obtain the DC signal V_{sd} . This signal V_{sd} is DC amplified to a predetermined amplitude by the DC amplifier 15, and only an angular

velocity signal generated by the rotation can be detected.

The signal in response to the Coriolis force is canceled in the addition output signal V_{sa} of the adding circuit 11, and becomes a signal proportional to the sum of the outputs of the piezoelectric element 3a and the piezoelectric element 3b at the stationary state. When Z_{gl} is an impedance of the piezoelectric element 3a, Z_{gr} is an impedance of the piezoelectric element 3b and $2 \cdot R_s$ is an input impedance of the adding circuit 11, the output V_{gl} of the piezoelectric element 3a and the output V_{gr} of the piezoelectric element 3b are shown as below.

$$V_{gl} = \{R_s / (Z_{gl} + R_s)\} \cdot V_{go} = \{1 / (1 + Z_{gl} / R_s)\} \cdot V_{go}$$

$$V_{gr} = \{R_s / (Z_{gr} + R_s)\} \cdot V_{go} = \{1 / (1 + Z_{gr} / R_s)\} \cdot V_{go}$$

Since the impedance Z_{gl} of the piezoelectric element 3a and the impedance Z_{gr} of the piezoelectric element 3b become the minimum when the oscillation gyro 1 oscillates in the resonance frequency, the voltage amplitudes of the output V_{gl} of the piezoelectric element 3a and the output V_{gr} of the piezoelectric element 3b become the maximum. Therefore, the voltage amplitude of the addition output signal V_{sa} of the adding circuit 11 becomes the maximum, functioning as the positive feedback loop for forming the oscillation system. Furthermore, the amplification degree of this signal is regulated by the oscillation circuit 12, thus, the oscillation circuit 12 oscillates as a sine wave signal, and its output signal V_{go} becomes a sine wave signal.

In the drive circuit 20 of the conventional oscillation gyro 1 shown in FIG. 1, the resistor 21a, the resistor 21b, the capacitor 25, and the comparing circuit 23 are required. Further, the waveform is re-shaped to a triangular wave in the oscillation circuit 24. On the other hand, in the drive circuit 10 of the oscillation gyro 1 according to the present invention shown in FIG. 3, components corresponding to the resistor 21a, the resistor 21b, the capacitor 25, and the comparing circuit 23 are functionally not required. In addition, the waveform shaping in the oscillation circuit 24 is not required. Therefore, the oscillation gyro 1 is driven by the drive circuit 10 which is very simplified, and the gyro output can be detected.

It should be understood by those skilled in the art that various modifications, combinations, sub-combinations and alterations may occur depending on design requirements and other factors insofar as they are within the scope of the appended claims or the equivalents thereof.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A drive circuit of an oscillation gyro including two piezoelectric elements formed in an oscillator, comprising:
 - an adding circuit for supplying a drive signal to one side faces of the two piezoelectric elements and adding signals obtained from the other side faces opposed to the one side faces of the piezoelectric elements; and
 - an oscillation circuit adapted to be fed back with an addition output signal obtained by the adding circuit, wherein
 - a sine wave signal obtained as an oscillation output of the oscillation circuit is supplied to the one side faces of the two piezoelectric elements as the drive signal.
2. The drive circuit of the oscillation gyro according to claim 1, wherein a front surface of the oscillator is conductively plated.