Analysis of a Third-Order Charge-Pump Phase-Locked Loops used for Wireless Sensor Transceiver

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ABSTRACT

The evaluation of integrated circuits such as Phase Locked Loops is a challenge in mixed-signal design. In most cases, these circuits are evaluated with electrical stimulations. To verify the proper operation of system before moving on to the design process, it is necessary to model these performances parameters with a hardware description language. At behavioral level, the performances of circuits are optimized without considering its transistor level structure. This paper, present an exact s-domain model analysis of a Third-Order Charge-Pump Phase-Locked Loops (CP-PLLs) used for wireless sensor transceiver using state equations of Phase Frequency Detector. Both the state equations and the transfer functions behavior modeling are described using this analysis. The linear state equations and s-domain transfer functions are provided. Critical advantage of illustrated methodology is a shortened PLL operating process due to the use of fastsimulating models at behavioral level. The analysis is verified using behavioral simulations with VHDL-AMS in Simplorer.

General Terms

Computer Science, Communications.

Keywords

CP-PLLs, State Equations, S-Domain Model, Behavior Modeling, VHDL-AMS.

1. INTRODUCTION

There are two basic types of transceiver hardware architectures: super heterodyne and direct conversion. A super heterodyne receiver thought to provide high selectivity and sensitivity but it requires several off-chip passive filters such as image-reject filter which make single-chip implementation and low-power receiver design difficult. The direct conversion architecture has been well-recognized for full integration on a single chip. It requires no image-reject filter, and only a RF part.





Fig.1 presents the different blocks constituting wireless sensor architecture; a complex digital part (DSP) that treats the baseband data and a mixed part (transmission chain) that incorporates the RF section. Generally, a transmission chain consists of a transmitter and one receiver, as well as frequency synthesis part. The proposed transceiver chain architecture is depicted in Fig.2. Transceiver chain consists of a transmission and a receiver parts. The communication between transmitter and receiver parts is powered through propagation channel. The retrieved signal from the receiver output must be close to the signal input of the transmitter.



Fig.2. Transceiver Chain Diagram Block

The proposed transmitter part architecture is presented in Fig.3. The transmitter section consists of a processing block of the Baseband signal, a Digital Signal Processing unit (DSP), a Modulator, a Mixer which together analog Front End, and a Power Amplifier.





The proposed receiver architecture is shown in Fig.4. It comprises a Low Noise Amplifier, a Demodulator and DSP unit. In reception chain, the RF signal received by the antenna is amplified with a LNA then is converted to a baseband by demodulation function including frequency translation, and decomposition in two signals; I and Q. These two signals are digitally treats by the DSP.



Fig.4. Receiver Part Architecture

The frequency synthesis is obtained by using PLL system. The latter is located in the modulation phase of the transmitter part and in the demodulating phase of the receiver part.

Due to a large number of desirable applications, performance parameters such as the loop bandwidth, damping factor and

lock range, and design characteristics CP-PLLs systems have in recent years become a popular PLLs architecture. CP-PLLs are widely exploited in diversity applications such as frequency and phase synthesizers, FM and PM demodulators, clock and data recovery systems generate an on-chip clock [1], [2] wireless transceivers, and disk drive electronics [3], [4]. One of the main reasons for the widely adopted use of the CP-PLLs in most PLLs systems is because it provides the theoretical zero static phases offset, and one of the simplest and most effective design platforms.

While there are numerous PPLs design example in the literature, precise and clarity analysis of the loop dynamics of third order CP-PLLs is lacking. The two most popular references in this arena by Hein Scott [5] and Gardner [6] provide useful insight and analysis for a second order PLLs. Other references [7], [8] provide simplified yet useful approximations of third order PLLs. However, they do not provide a complete and extensive analysis for practical integrated circuit PLLs. The majority of IC designers [9], [10] analyze CP-PLLs by treating the PLL loop as a continuous-time system and by using a basic s-domain and z-domain models.

This research focuses on clarify a mathematically exact analysis and insightful understanding of third-order CP-PLLs used for wireless sensor transceiver and accurate transfer functions of a practical CP-PPLs. The rigorous side of this work will expand on Gardner's work in [6]. In addition, the linearized of the state-space model resulting in the s-domain transfer function is developed. The proposed analysis method based in state equations of PFD.

The outline of this paper is the following. Section 2 briefly presents the basic concept of Third-Order CP- PLLs. The s-domain model analysis of CP-PLLs based state equations of PFD is described in Section 3. Behavioral simulations results using VHDL-AMS in simplorer are presented in section 4. Finally, section 5 draws the concluding remarks of the paper.

2. CONCEPT OF THRID-ORDER CP-PLLs

A typical implementation of Charge-Pump Phase-Locked Loops (CP-PLLs) consists of a Phase Frequency Detector (PFD), a Charge Pump (CP), a passive Loop Filter (LF), a Voltage Controlled Oscillator (VCO) and a Divide by N Counter (DBN). A divider is used in feedback; in application requiring clock generates but is omitted in some application for simplicity. The simplified functional block diagram of the third-order CP-PLLs is shown in Fig.5 along with the sequential state diagram of the PFD.



Fig.5. Third-Order CP-PLLs Block Diagram

The three states PFD generates Up and Down signals depending on the time (phase) difference between the positive edges of the reference signal and the feedback signal. The CP converts the digital format into analog quantities. This information is filtered by a second-order passive low filter and converts it to a control voltage and then is used to control the VCO. Thereafter, the frequency oscillation of VCO is divided by DBN counter. For further information on CP-PLLs operation can be found in [11].

2.1 CP Controlled with Three States of PFD A general structure of CP controlled with three states of PFD circuit is presented in Fig.6 [12] [13].



Fig.6. General Structure of CP Controlled by a PFD

The PFD delivers a pair of digital pulse Up and Down corresponding to the phase or frequency error between its input signals which are respectively reference signal and feedback signal; VCO output or DBN output if is used in feedback, in the form of three sequential logic states [6], [14], [15], by comparing the positive (or negative) edges of the tow inputs.

To assure a proper operation of associated Charge Pump to Phase Frequency Detector, an inverter circuit is added to Up signal and a transmission gate circuit is added to Down signal. \overline{Up} is the inverse of the Up and Down maintains its previous states. \overline{Up} and Down terminals of PFD are the input signals of Charge Pump circuit.

A Charge Pump generally associated with the Phase Frequency Detector. It is consists of two CMOS switches controlled by the output signals of PFD. Then, it is utilized to convert the sequential logic states of PFD into analog signal [14], [15]. The current generates by CP is proportional to the time difference between the Up and Down pulse.

The traditional PFD is a sequential circuit; it can be represented by a finite state machine consisted of three states. Fig.7 illustrates the state graph of the PFD where is driven by a given type of edges; falling edges or rising edges of S_{ref} and S_{fdb} . In this case, PFD is driven by a rising edges.



The states of the PFD are represented by digital output signals Up and Down, and can be defined with:

- Up=0 (Up=1) and Down=1 then charge pump current is negative and equal to -I_{pump}.
- Up=0 (Up=1) and Down=0 then charge pump current is null.
- Up=1 (Up=0) and Down=0 then charge pump current is positive and equal to +I_{pump}.

It is obvious that the Charge Pump is controlled by these states, i. e. by the PFD output signals Up and Down.

2.2 Loop Filter

The used LF is a second order low-pass filter. Its purpose is to convert the charge pump current I_{cp} into a voltage control V_{ctrl} after it filters the alternating current component. Also, it is used to suppress the noise and high frequency signal components from the CP and to stabilize the loop.

2.3 Voltage Controlled Oscillator

The resulting control voltage drives the VCO; the last generates an oscillation frequency proportional to output voltage [16] of LF circuit.

2.4 Divider by N Counter

The oscillation frequency of VCO is then fed to the divide by N ($F_{div}=F_{vco}/N$) which acts as a frequency counter before being fed back to the PFD. The negative feedback loop forces the phase/frequency error to zero.

3. S-DOMAIN MODEL ANALYSIS FOR A THRID-ORDER CP-PLLs

The s-domain analysis based on a continuous-time approximation of CP-PLLs is described in this section. When the loop is in near lock condition, an s-domain approximation for the third-order CP-PPLs is shown in Fig.8.



The PFD together with the Charge Pump converts the input phase error into an output pulse of width Δ_t . Fig.9 shown the definition of the variable Δ_t .



The transfer function of PFD can be approximated as: $K_{PFD}(s) = \frac{T_{ref}}{2\pi\Delta_t}$

The Charge Pump injects a constant current I_{cp} for a certain period of time equal to the phase difference between S_{fdb} and S_{ref} . The charge pump current I_{cp} is proportional to phase or frequency error of PFD input signals. The gain of the PFD along with the CP can be shown to be:

(1)

$$K_{CP-PFD}(s) = \frac{l_{cp}}{2\pi}$$
(2)

Where $I_{cp} = +I_{pump}$ or $I_{cp} = -I_{pump}$

The used topology of a low-pass filter is shown in Fig.10. The loop filter consists of a resistor R_1 in series with a capacitor C_1 . The resistor R_1 provides the stabilizing zero to improve the phase margin and hence improve the transient response of the CP-PLLs. However, the resistor R_1 causes a ripple of value I_{cp} . R_1 on the control voltage at the beginning of each PFD pulse. At the end of the pulse, a ripple of equal value

occurs in the opposite direction. This ripple modulates the VCO frequency and introduces excessive jitter in the output. A small capacitor C_2 is added in parallel with the R_1 and C_1 network to suppress the glitch generated by the charge pump at every phase comparison instant, lowers the ripple on the control voltage the ripple, and to suppress the induced jitter. Since C_2 must remain below C_1 by roughly a factor of 10 so as to avoid underdamped settling.



Fig.10. Second Order Low-Pass Filter Configuration The transfer function Z(s) of the loop filter can be derived using linear analysis and is equal to:

$$Z(s) = \frac{S + \frac{1}{R_1 C_1}}{C_2 S \left[S + \frac{1}{R_1 \left(\frac{C_1 C_2}{C_1 + C_2}\right)}\right]}$$
(3)

The choice of the loop parameters R_1 , C_1 , and C_2 is determined by assuming a continuous-time approximation. A method proposed by Ken Holladay [17] is applied in order to calculate the values of capacitors C_1 and C_2 and the resistor R_1 ,. The basic steps and calculations of proposed method are summarized in seven steps.

1- Calculate Maximum Frequency Hop Fstep

$$F_{step} = F_{osc max} - F_{osc min} \tag{4}$$

2- Calculate N

$$N = \frac{F_{osc max}}{L_{canal}}$$
(5)

3- Calculate Natural frequency F_n

$$F_n = \frac{2 \times \text{BP}_{\text{PLL}}}{2\pi \left(\xi + \frac{1}{4\xi}\right)} \tag{6}$$

 $\boldsymbol{\xi}$ is the damping factor, typically equal to 0.707

4- Calculate C_1 Capacitor

$$C_1 = \frac{I_{cp} \times K_{\nu co}}{N(2 \times \pi \times F_n)^2} \tag{7}$$

5- Calculate R₁ resistor

$$R_1 = 2 \times \xi \sqrt{\frac{N}{I_{cp} \times K_{\nu co} \times C_1}} \tag{8}$$

6- Calculate C_2 capacitor

$$C_2 = \frac{C_1}{10}$$
 (9)

7- Calculate T_s

$$T_{S} = \frac{-(Ln\frac{F_{a}}{F_{step}})}{F_{n} \times 2\pi \times 2\xi}$$
(10)

Table.1 lists the definitions of different terms.

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Table.1. Definitions of Terms		
Term	Description	
F_a	The frequency of the carrier within the	
	desired time (T_s) after a step or hop;	
	normally, 1000 Hz	
F_n	Natural frequency	
I _{cp}	Charge-Pump Current	
F _{step}	Maximum frequency change during a step,	
•	or hop, from one frequency to another	
T_s	The desired time for the carrier to step to a	
-	new frequency	
K _{vco}	VCO sensitivity	
ξ	Damping factor; typically, 0.707	

11 4 5 0 10

We must then define the following parameters:

- Frequency Range: 863 MHz to 870 MHz.
- Channel Spacing: $L_{canal} = 80$ kHz.
- Loop Bandwidth: BP_{PLL}= 63KHz

Then, we identify the active component specifications:

- VCO sensitivity: $K_{vco} = 7$ MHz
- Charge Pump Current: $I_{cp} = 210 \mu A$

The obtained parameter values are illustrates below:

 $R_1 = 12\Omega$

 $C_1 = 9.5 \times 10^{-12} F$

 $C_2 = 0.95 \times 10^{-12} F$

The VCO is an ideal integrator with gain K_{vco} . A classical Voltage Controlled Oscillator based on a ring oscillator topology has been extensively used in the designer of Phase Locked Loops system; its operation is similar to a ring oscillator. The implementation of a ring oscillator, as Fig.11 shows [18]-[19], requires connecting odd number of inverters and feedback from the output of the last stage to the input of the first stage.



Fig.11. Classical voltage controlled ring oscillator

The oscillation frequency of VCO is determined by the control current I_{ctrl} , number of stages N, the amplitude V_{osc} and parasitic capacitance [18], [19]. The frequency of the oscillation can be found as:

$$F_{vco} = \frac{1}{2n\tau}$$
(11)

Where
$$\tau$$
 is the delay for one stage, which could be given by:

$$\tau = \frac{V_{vco}.C_g}{I_{ctrl}}$$
(12)

 V_{osc} is the oscillation amplitude and I_{ctrl} is the control current. From the above equations (11) and (12), we can get (13).

$$F_{vco} = \frac{I_{ctrl}}{2nV_{osc}C_g}$$
(13)

The transfer gain of the VCO is found from the ratio of output frequency deviation to a corresponding change in control voltage. That is:

$$K_{vco} = \frac{F_{vco\,max} - F_{vco\,min}}{V_{ctrl\,max} - V_{ctrl\,min}}$$
(14)

Where $F_{vco\ max}$ is the output frequency corresponding to $V_{ctrl\ max}$, and $F_{vco\ min}$ is the output frequency corresponding to $V_{ctrl\ min}$.

The oscillation frequency of VCO has been divided via a DBN before it's fed back to the input of PFD. The implementation of divide by 8 counters, as presented in Fig.12, which is designed by cascading three divide by 2

circuit. It receives a clock signal of a predetermined frequency provided via VCO and generates a pulse for every 8 cycles of the clock signal.



The open-loop transfer function of the CP-PLLs in Fig.5 is given by:

$$LG(s) = \frac{I_{cp}K_{vco}}{2\pi} \frac{1}{N} \frac{S + \frac{1}{R_1 C_1}}{C_2 S^2 \left(S + \frac{1}{C_1 C_2}\right)}}{\frac{1}{C_1 + C_2}}$$
(16)

The closed-loop transfer function of the CP-PPLs in Fig.5 is given by:

1

$$CG(s) = \frac{LG(s)}{1+LG(s)} = \frac{\frac{l_{cp}K_{vco}}{2\pi} \frac{1}{N} \frac{s + \frac{1}{R_{1}C_{1}}}{c_{2}s^{2}[s + \frac{1}{R_{1}(\frac{C_{1}C_{2}}{C_{1}+C_{2}})}]}}{1 + \frac{l_{cp}K_{vco}}{2\pi} \frac{1}{N} \frac{s + \frac{1}{R_{1}C_{1}}}{c_{2}s^{2}[s + \frac{1}{R_{1}(\frac{C_{1}C_{2}}{C_{1}+C_{2}})}]}}{s^{3} + \frac{1}{R_{1}(\frac{1}{C_{1}(c_{2})})}} \right]$$
(17)
$$= \frac{l_{cp}K_{vco}}{2\pi NC_{2}} \frac{s + \frac{1}{R_{1}(\frac{C_{1}C_{2}}{C_{1}+C_{2}})}}{s^{3} + \left[\frac{1}{R_{1}(\frac{C_{1}C_{2}}{C_{1}+C_{2}})}\right]}s^{2} + \frac{l_{cp}K_{vco}}{2\pi NC_{2}}s + \frac{l_{cp}K_{vco}}{2\pi NR_{1}C_{1}C_{2}}}$$
(18)

Conventional CP-PLLs has three poles and a zero. The third pole is introduced in order to attenuate the ripple which appears due to the nature of the CP-PLLs. As mentioned, the loop has a zero and three poles and the conceptual bode plot is shown in Fig.13.



Fig.13. Third-Order Loop Bode Plot Where W_7 is the zero and W_8 is the poles frequency

reaction of the second se)
$W_{z} = \frac{1}{2}$	(19)
R_1C_1	(1))
$W_{-} - W_{-} - 0$	(20)

$$W_{P1} = W_{P2} = 0 \tag{20}$$

$$W_{P2} = \frac{1}{2} \tag{21}$$

 $W_{P3} - \frac{1}{R_1} \left[\frac{C_1 C_2}{C_1 + C_2} \right]$ The phase margin degradation due to the third pole for CP-PLLs is obvious and is mathematically expressed by:

$$PM = \arctan\left(\frac{W_{UGB}}{W_{T}}\right) + \arctan\left(\frac{W_{UGB}}{W_{P3}}\right)$$
(22)

4. BEHAVIORAL SIMULATIONS

The results derived in the previous section are now verified in behavioral simulations. This section presents the behavioral modeling of Charge Pump-Phase Locked Loops in the context of a behavior design. Using simplorer, all blocks of CP-PLLs are modulated and designed by using hardware description language VHDL-AMS (Very High Hardware Description Language for Analog and Mixed Systems). Such behavioral models provide the advantage of short simulations time without compromising the fundamental functionality of CP-PLLs architecture. Basic VHDL-AMS model [20] has the same structure than VHDL. Both of them have two main parts: ENTITY and ARCHITECTURE, but there are some differences in each part. In these models, the behavior of this structure is inscribed directly in architecture by using concurrent, simultaneous or sequential statements.

Behavior model is described and modulated by expressing the evolution of the output signals according to those input signals independents of its internal structure; transistors level. In behavioral simulations, the CP-PLL is designed for a range frequency of 863 MHz to 870 MHz and a bandwidth of 63 KHz. The corresponding loop parameters are chosen using the design methodology described in section 3. For further information, literal expressions used to modulate the operation of different CP-PLLs blocks are illustrated in section3.

The equivalent electrical circuit of Charge Pump-Phase Locked Loops system synthesized from a hardware description language VHDL-AMS by using simplorer platform is shown in Fig. 14.



Fig.14. Equivalent Electrical Circuit of CP-PLLs The transition cycle of the PFD for different states of its input signals, it's respectively the reference signal and the feedback signal, also the functioning of CP for different states of PFD terminals is shown in Fig.15.





Firstly, if the rising edge of S_{ref} signal leads the S_{fdb} rising edge then Up goes high (Up=0) while Down remains low a time equal to the phase difference between S_{fdb} and S_{ref} ; consequently I_{cp} is positive.

Secondly, when the rising edge of S_{fdb} signal leads the S_{ref} rising edge then Up remains low ($\overline{Up} = 1$) while Down goes high a time equal to the phase difference between S_{fdb} and S_{ref} ; consequently I_{CD} is negative.

Finally, if reference signal S_{ref} is in phase with feedback signal S_{fdb} then Up ($\overline{Up} = 0$) and Down goes high a time

equal to a some ps. After this time Down and Up $(\overline{Up} = 1)$ move at low levels; consequently I_{cp} is null.

The proper function of the loop filter is simulated using the equation described in section 3. Fig.16 showed its charging and discharging period operation mode. When $\mathbb{Z}_{\mathbb{PP}}$ is positive, the LF operated in the charge period and its output voltage rises. In opposite case, $\mathbb{Z}_{\mathbb{PP}}$ is negative, the LF operated in the discharge period and its output voltage falls. Finally, in case where $\mathbb{Z}_{\mathbb{PP}}$ is null, the LF operated in the neutral period and its output voltage maintains its previous states.



Fig.16. Charging and Discharging Period of the LF The control voltage (VCO input) and the VCO output (oscillation frequency: F_{vco}) are simulated and the results are shown in Fig.17.



Fig.17. VCO Input/VCO Output

When the LF operated in charge period; the oscillation frequency of VCO increases, consequently having the effect of moving the edges closer together.

If the control voltage falls, LF operated in the discharge period, then the oscillation frequency of VCO decrease; consequently having the effect of moving the edges closer together.

In case where the LF operated in the neutral period, the oscillation frequency of VCO remains stable. When the output voltage of LF is null, the VCO oscillate at its central frequency F_c .

The Divide by N block divides F_{vco} by N ($F_{fdb} = F_{vco}/N$), the results obtained by simulation are shown in Fig.18.



Fig.18. Output States of the Divide by 8 Counters

Table.2 summarized the results obtained by behavioral simulations. It is illustrates respectively the transition cycle of CP-PFD. Also, the operation mode of LF, where is charge and discharge period. Finally, we illustrate the various values of the oscillation frequency $F_{\nu co}$ of VCO and the output signals of DBN.

	S_{ref} Leads	S_{fdb} Leads	S_{ref} in phase
	S_{fdb}	S_{ref}	with S _{fdb}
Up	1	0	1 → 0
Down	0	1	1→0
Up	0	1	0 → 1
Down	0	1	1→0
I _{cp}	positive current	negative	null current
· 1	210µA	current -210µA	0μΑ
LF	charge period	dicharge period	V _{ctrl} maintains
	V _{ctrl} rises.	V_{ctrl} falls	previous states
VCO	F_{vco} increase	F_{vco} decrease	$F_{vco} = F_c$
DBN	$F_{\nu co}/N$	$F_{\nu co}/N$	$F_{\nu co}/N$

Table.2. Summary of Different Results

Table.3 illustrates the characteristics of CP-PLLs design, where shows that has a good performance.

Table.3. Performances Parameters of CP-PPLs

Parameters	This Works	
Power Supply	2V	
I _{cp}	210µA	
R1	12Ω	
C1	9.5pF	
C2	0.95pF	
Range Frequency	863MHz to 870MHz	
L _{canal}	80 kHz	
BP _{PLL}	63KHz	
K _{VCO}	7MHz/V	
Ratio N divider	8	

5. CONCLUSION

The dynamics of CP-PLLs can be accurately analysis and described using state equations of Phase Freqyency Detectro. In this paper, a simple s-domain analysis of a third-order CP-PLLs has been presented in detail using the state equations of PFD. Based on this analysis, the CP-PLLs can be easily modeled and evaluated from specifications. The behavioral simulations results in simplorer using VHAL-AMS allow to verified the proposed analysis method and indicate the practical CP-PLLs system. The Different results were firstly allowed to verify the proper operation of developed behavioral models. Then, frequency analysis allows validating the proper functioning of this system. This generic analysis can be extended to other PLL systems.

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