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Ain Shams University Faculty of Engineering Electronics and Electrical Communications Engineering Department

Injection Locked Oscillators

A Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment for the requirements of a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering Electronics and Electrical Communications Engineering Department

Khaled Mohamed Elsayed Salem

B.Sc. of Electrical Engineering
(Electronics and Electrical Communications Engineering Department)
Ain Shams University, 2016

Supervised by
Dr. Sameh Ahmed Assem Mostafa Ibrahim
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Cairo 2020



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by

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B.Sc. of Electrical Engineering (Electronics and Electrical Communications Engineering Department) Ain Shams University, 2016

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Statement

This Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment for the requirements of a Master

of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Electrical Com-

munications Engineering Department.

The work included in this thesis was carried out by the author at the Elec-

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No part of this thesis was submitted for a degree or a qualification at any other

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Thesis title: Injection Locked Oscillators

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Abstract

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Clock and frequency synthesizers are essential block in any wireless or wireline

transceivers also they play a critical role in the performance of any micro-

processor. The frequency synthesizers should meet the stringent requirements

imposed by the modern systems in terms of low jitter, low power and small

area. Conventionally, the frequency synthesizers and clock multipliers are re-

alized using phase locked loops (PLLs). However, the low jitter requirement is

difficult to achieve in PLLs without high power consumption and large area.

New architectures and techniques are investigated in literature to overcome

this tradeoff.

This thesis aims to investigate and design a low-jitter clock multiplier using

injection locking which is a promising technique that can overcome the trade-

offs in the other conventional clock multipliers. A ring-based injection-locked

oscillator with continuous frequency-tracking loop (FTL) is proposed that gen-

erates an output clock from 2.4 GHz to 2.8 GHz. The FTL maintains the

oscillator inside its lock range across process, supply and temperature (PVT)

variations. A reference frequency quadrupler is proposed with a duty cycle

correction circuit that lowers the deterministic jitter of its output clock. A high multiplication factor of 56 is achieved using the frequency quadrupler with the injection locked clock multiplier. Finally, the proposed design is implemented using 130-nm CMOS process and achieves a high figure-of-merit (FoM) compared to the state of art designs.

Keywords: Injection-locked ring oscillator, Injection-locked clock multipliers, Frequency tracking loop, Reference frequency quadrupler, Duty cycle correction, Phase-locked loops.

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Summary

This thesis is divided into five chapters as follows:

Chapter 1 gives an introduction to the frequency synthesizers and clock mul-

tipliers applications such as wireless and wireline transceivers. Then it presents

the performance challenges which face the conventional frequency synthesizers.

Finally, it shows the motivation of this thesis followed by the thesis organiza-

tion.

Chapter 2 provides a literature survey for high-performance clock multipliers

such as multiplying delay-locked loops and injection-locked oscillators. Then a

detailed survey for injection-locked oscillators and their frequency calibrators

is presented.

Chapter 3 shows the system design and the noise analysis for the proposed

injection-locked clock multiplier. Then it discusses the design of injection-

locked oscillator and its predicted locking range. Finally, the design of the

frequency-tracking loop and its building blocks are demonstrated in details

followed by the simulation results and performance comparison with the state

of art designs.

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Chapter 4 depicts the proposed reference frequency quadrupler with duty cycle correction loop to be integrated with the injection-locked clock multiplier. Then the achieved results are compared with the state of art frequency quadruplers.

Chapter 5 concludes and summarizes the work presented in this thesis as well as proposes suggestions for the future work to further optimize the performance.