

Staircase Wave Generation using Mixed Signals

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Abstract

A staircase waveform is an important form of output from a Digital-to-Analog conversion. The staircase wave is generated using mixed signals. Mixed signal designs combine both analog and digital signals within a single design. A digital circuit is constructed which can provide logic level output for a staircase generation. An analog signal is applied for a summing amplifier, that adds all the digital outputs and produce staircase output. The staircase waveform is used to test a television display to ensure proper operation of the display throughout the gray scale range from white to black.

1. Reference circuit Details

Staircase waveform, a waveform that is generally constrained to lie between maximum and minimum voltage values. Between these extremes the waveform can only take on discrete and constant values of voltage for fixed periods of time. The waveform thus consists of a number of small step changes in voltage level, hence the term staircase. The height of each step will normally be made constant but may be variable, as the period of time over which the waveform resides at a given voltage level.

Staircase Waveform circuit is built using a digital logic block with output 0001, 0011, 0111, 1111, for a 4 level stairs circuit. The digital output is mapped to an Analog voltage pulse to make it work with the analog circuit. Using positive logic, 1 is mapped to 1Volt and 0 is mapped to 0Volts. The pulse signal which is given as clock to the digital block is analog in nature which is converted to logic bits before the digital realization is made.

The next circuit is a summing amplifier (Inverting Negative Feedback) realized using Operational Amplifier. There are four output pins from the digital block, we the summing amplifier adds four different voltages. The four outputs from the digital logic block is applied to the inverting terminal of the opamp using equal resistances.

2. Reference Circuit

The circuit diagram of staircase waveform generator is shown below in fig.1. The staircase logic block provides the logic and converts the digital data into equivalent pulses. This output is sent to the succeeding analog circuit. The analog circuit considered is the summing amplifier. The staircase pulse increases every time the digital block is triggered using the pulse source and reset once the MSB is set to one.

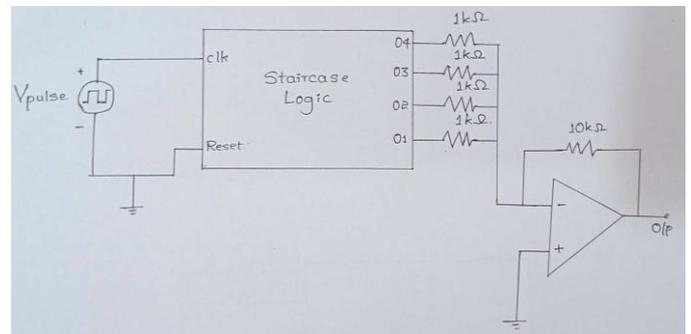


Fig-1: Circuit diagram of Staircase Logic

3. Reference Circuit Waveforms

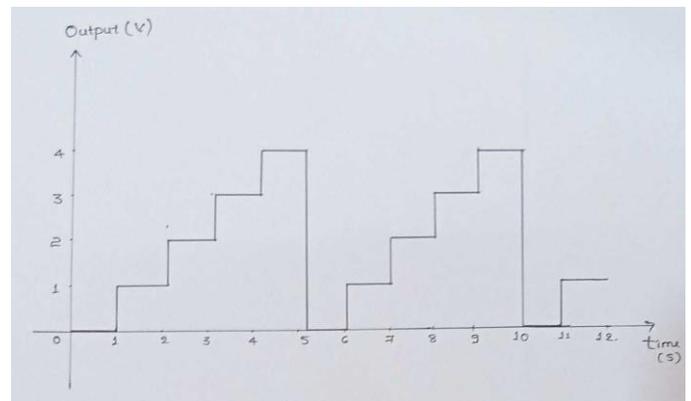


Fig-2: Staircase Waveforms

References

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