A novel and useful apparatus for and method of local oscillator (LO) generation with non-integer multiplication ratio between the local oscillator and RF frequencies. The LO generation schemes presented are operative to generate I and Q square waves at a designated frequency while avoiding the well known issue of harmonic pulling. The input signal is fed to a synthesizer timed to a rational multiplier of the RF frequency $f_{RF}$. The clock signal generated is divided by a factor $Q$ to form $2Q$ phases of the clock at a frequency of $L(N*Q)f_{RF}$, wherein each phase undergoes division by $L$. The phase signals are input to a pulse generator which outputs a plurality of pulses. The pulses are input to a selector which selects which signal to output at any point in time. By controlling the selector, the output clock is generated as a TDM based signal. Any spurs are removed by an optional filter.
FIG. 1
(PRIOR ART)

FIG. 2
(PRIOR ART)
FIG. 11

FIG. 12
FIG. 18
FIG. 19
FIG. 21
FIG. 22

FIG. 23
FIG. 25
LOCAL OSCILLATOR WITH NON-HARMONIC RATIO BETWEEN OSCILLATOR AND RF FREQUENCIES USING PULSE GENERATION AND SELECTION

REFERENCE TO PRIORITY APPLICATION

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 60/823,837, filed Aug. 29, 2006, entitled “Generation of Local-Oscillator Signal with Non-Integer Multiplication Ratio Between the Local-Oscillator and the RF Frequencies”, incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to the field of data communications and more particularly relates to a local oscillator (LO) circuit with non-integer multiplication ratio between the local oscillator and RF frequencies.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The use of local oscillator generation circuits for wireless transceivers is well known in the art. The local oscillator is generated as a continuous wave (CW) and is then used for frequency modulation or demodulation of transmitted and received signals respectively. Alternatively, the oscillator can also perform frequency modulation as part of a polar transmitter architecture system.

A block diagram illustrating an example prior art phase locked loop (PLL)-based local oscillator (LO) generator circuit is shown in FIG. 1. The typical PLL LO generation circuit, generally referenced 10, comprises phase detector (PD) 14, loop filter or low pass filter (LPF) 18, controlled oscillator 22, resonator 26 and frequency divider 28.

In operation, a reference signal 12, normally generated by a crystal oscillator, is input to the phase detector 14 along with a divided-down RF frequency continuous wave (CW) 29. The phase detector, typically implemented as a charge pump or mixer, generates a phase error (PE or PHE) 16 proportional to the phase difference between the fLO input signal 12 and RF CW signal 29. The resultant PE signal is then low pass filtered using low pass filter 18 to yield a slow varying frequency command signal 20.

The frequency command signal is input to a controlled oscillator circuit 22, typically a voltage controlled oscillator (VCO) or a digitally controlled oscillator (DCO). This oscillator generates an RF signal 24, the frequency of which roughly depends linearly on the frequency command signal. The oscillator uses a resonator 26 that oscillates in the desired frequency band. Resonator circuits can be inductor-capacitor based (LC) or closed loop inverter chains (ring). The output of the oscillator 22 is the phase locked LO signal fLO or fRP which also undergoes division by N using divider 28 to generate the feedback signal 29 to the phase detector. A major problem associated with LO generation schemes such as that of FIG. 1 is their susceptibility to RF signal interference. In particular, the resonator used in the circuit (especially inductor based resonators) often picks up unwanted RF signals and the resonator frequency can be severely perturbed. This phenomenon is known as frequency pulling and is defined as an effect that forces the frequency of an oscillator or resonant frequency to change from a desired value. Causes of the pulling include undesired coupling to another frequency source (e.g., RF intermediate or output signals) or the influence of changes in the oscillator load impedance. Typically, the interferer is either the modulated amplified output RF signal, its harmonics in transmitters or the amplified received signal in receivers. To avoid frequency pulling, a well defined RF transceiver system is built such that the actual resonance frequency of the resonator is neither the output RF frequency, nor any of its harmonics or sub-harmonics.

In the case of a mobile wireless system, for example, transmitters that modulate a non-constant envelope signal require a non-integer ratio between the local oscillator frequency and the RF frequency in order to overcome the pulling effect of the power amplifier’s output harmonics. Transmission of a broadband signal in high frequency bands such as 5 GHz, however, requires complicated converters that run at very high frequencies.

A block diagram illustrating an example prior art ½X local oscillator generation scheme is shown in FIG. 2. The example circuit, generally referenced 170, comprises a synthesizer at ¼ fRP, X2 frequency doubler 176 and polyphase filter 180. In this example LO generation circuit, the input reference frequency fREF 171 is input to synthesizer 172 tuned to exactly ½ the RF frequency ½ fRP. The output signal 174 is then input to a frequency doubler 176 to generate a signal at fRP. This signal is then filtered via polyphase filter 180 to yield I and Q (i.e. separated by 90 degrees, also referred to as quadrature) output clock signals fLO 182 and fLOG 184, respectively, at fRP. The polyphase filter is needed in order to generate the quadrature output signals. An advantage of this scheme is the fact that the actual oscillation frequency is not the final output frequency but is half. Although the circuit generates fRP signals, a major disadvantage of using the polyphase filter is that they are typically large and inaccurate filters causing a potentially large IQ mismatch, i.e. LOI and LOQ are not strictly 90 degrees apart. If such a synthesizer solution is inductor based then halving the frequency forces the size of the inductors to increase significantly.

A block diagram illustrating an example prior art 2X local oscillator generation scheme is shown in FIG. 3. The well known and widely used LO generation scheme (2X scheme), generally referenced 190, comprises synthesizer 194 and frequency divider 198. A crystal oscillator generated reference signal 192 is input to a synthesizer 194 tuned exactly to twice the RF frequency (2 fRP). The resultant output signal 196 is then divided by two using a frequency divider 198 to generate two signals having a quadrature relationship, i.e. I and Q output signals fLO 200 and fLOG 202, respectively, at fRP.

These signals can be used to modulate or demodulate a signal using a mixer pair in a zero IF (ZIF) or a near zero IF (NZIF) scheme. The advantages of this scheme is the fact that the actual oscillation frequency is not the final output frequency but its double and that it is relatively easy to generate a clean quadrature pair fLO and fLOG using a frequency divider 198.

Two major disadvantages of this scheme, however, are (1) the fact that the second harmonic of the amplified RF signal at 2 fRP can pull the oscillator away, since there could be a small offset between these two frequencies due to data modulation and (2) that the oscillator must be designed to twice the frequency (generally design at high frequencies tends to be more difficult). The first disadvantage can manifest itself in second harmonic leakage from the system output coupling back into the heart of the resonator or the first harmonic coupling back into the synthesizer supply circuitry and generating the second harmonic using a non-linear effect and creating frequency pulling. Another manifestation of this disadvantage can be in the receiver where a high gain version of
the input signal at \( f_{RF} \). When compressing a certain stage of the reception chain can create a second harmonic, which will also pull the oscillator (i.e. injection pulling or, worse, injection locking). Injection locking occurs when the oscillations of a first system influences a second system to the extent where the second system no longer oscillates at its own natural frequency but rather at the frequency of the first system. In the case of injection pulling, the second system can still oscillate at its own natural frequency, but contains energy at the frequency of the first system. For near-zero IF systems, such injection locking can cause the oscillator to be pulled down or up to the actual RF frequency thus making the system effectively a poorly designed zero-IF system.

To avoid these disadvantages, the LO can be generated at a rational multiplier of the output RF frequency. A block diagram illustrating an example prior art local oscillator generation scheme that generates the LO at a rational multiplier (\( \frac{5}{6} \) \( f_{RF} \)) in this example) of the output RF frequency is shown in FIG. 4. The prior art LO generation circuit, generally referred to as 210, generates the LO at a rational multiplier of the output RF frequency and uses dividers and mixers to generate the output RF frequency. The circuit 210 comprises a synthesizer 214, frequency dividers 216, 220, multipliers 222, 224 and band pass filters (BPF) 226, 228.

The scheme of FIG. 4 is typically known as an offset-LO generator. A crystal oscillator output reference signal 212 is input to a synthesizer (PLL) tuned to exactly \( \frac{5}{6} \) \( f_{RF} \). Its output signal is divided by two using frequency divider 216 to yield a signal at \( \frac{5}{6} \) \( f_{RF} \) 218. This signal is divided by two again using frequency divider 220 to yield a quadrature signal pair 221, 222 at \( \frac{5}{6} \) \( f_{RF} \). Signals 221, 222 are mixed with signal 218 separately via analog mixers 222, 224, respectively. Due to the multiplicative nature of the mixer it generates a product at \( f_{RF} \) (its inputs having frequencies of \( \frac{5}{6} \) \( f_{RF} \) and \( \frac{5}{6} \) \( f_{RF} \)) while signals 221, 222 also have a 90 degree phase difference at \( f_{RF} \) and thus constitute a quadrature pair. Since the mixer is not ideal, however, undesired frequency products at \( n/3 \) \( f_{RF} \) (where \( n \) is an integer, \( n=3 \)) will also be present at the output of the mixers. Band pass filters 226, 228 attenuate these unwanted products yielding the final LO I (\( f_{LO}\ )) 230, LO Q (\( f_{LOQ} \ )) 233 signals, respectively.

An advantage of the offset LO scheme 210 is that it is able to generate an LO signal at \( f_{RF} \), while the resonator oscillator is at a rational multiple of \( f_{RF} \) rather than an integer multiple. Hence, no harmonics of the output frequency can interfere with the proper operation of the oscillator. While this circuit generally avoids the frequency pulling phenomena described supra, it has a significant disadvantage in the unwanted products (i.e. spurs) generated by the mixers. These products likely cause spectral emission mask (SEM) violations in the transmitter and can downconvert unwanted jammers or blockers in the receiver. Hence, the spur attenuation or filtering requirement for BPFs 226 and 228 is usually very significant.

It is thus desirable to have a local oscillator generation mechanism that overcomes the disadvantage of the prior art techniques. The local oscillator generation mechanism should preferably be implementable as an all digital circuit and oscillate at a rational RF frequency multiplier (\( n/m \) \( f_{RF} \)) so as to avoid frequency pulling while reducing or alleviating the need for a stringent BPF. Further, the local oscillator generation mechanism should enable wideband modulation, such as for polar modulation, requiring a relatively simple, all digital implementation.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention is a novel and useful apparatus for and method of local oscillator (LO) generation with non-integer multiplication ratio between the local oscillator and RF frequencies. The LO generation schemes presented herein are capable of generating I and Q square waves at a designated frequency while avoiding the well known issue of harmonic pulling.

The novel LO synthesis schemes described herein are suitable for use in any application requiring the generation of a local oscillator signal having a non-integer multiplication ratio between the local oscillator signal and the output RF frequencies. An example application is provided of a single chip radio, e.g., Bluetooth, GSM, etc., that integrates the RF circuitry with the digital base band (DBB) circuitry on the same die or on close proximity thereby such that frequency pulling would otherwise occur if not for the use of the present invention.

In a first LO generation scheme, the basic PLL structure runs at \( \frac{5}{6} \) the desired frequency \( f_{RF} \). This frequency is divided by two to obtain in-phase and quadrature square waves at \( \frac{1}{3} \) \( f_{RF} \). The in-phase signal is divided by two again to obtain in-phase and quadrature square waves at \( \frac{1}{6} \) \( f_{RF} \). The signals are then logically combined (i.e. combined using digital logic) using XOR operations to obtain I and Q branch signals containing spectral spurs. Since the spurs are located in non-disturbing bands, they can be filtered out.

One of the major advantages of this first scheme is that although a "mixing" occurs at a rate of \( \frac{1}{6} \) \( f_{LO} \), side-bands at a relative distance of \( \frac{2}{3} \) \( f_{LO} \) are avoided. This is achieved without the need for image rejection mixing, thus avoiding another well known problem of timing and amplitude mismatches. Further, most of the operations in the LO generation scheme are implemented digitally utilizing an ADPLL and followed by two divider by two operations and a digital mixer using logical gates.

In a second LO generation scheme, the use of analog mixers of the prior art is avoided and replaced with an XOR gate configured to generate the correct average frequency. The edges are dynamically adjusted by \( \pm \)1/2 or zero based on the state of the controlled oscillator down-divided clock.

In a third LO generation scheme, the signal is input to a synthesizer times to a rational multiplier of the RF frequency \( f_{RF} \). The signal is then divided to generate a plurality of phases of the divided signal. A plurality of combination signals are generated which are then multiplied by a set of weights and summed to cancel out some undesired products. The result is filtered to generate the LO output signal.

In a fourth LO generation scheme, the signal is input to a synthesizer times to a rational multiplier of the RF frequency \( f_{RF} \). The signal is then divided to generate a plurality of phases of the divided signal. A plurality of combination signals are generated which are then multiplied by a set of weights and summed to cancel out some undesired products. The result is filtered to generate the LO output signal.
may be constructed as software objects that are executed in the analog domain via digital power amplifiers followed by voltage combiners. The output of the combiners is bandpass filtered to extract the desired replica.

Advantages of the LO generation schemes of the present invention include (1) ensuring that no frequency pulling effects occur since the LO frequency is equal to a non-integer multiple of the RF output frequency; (2) the schemes presented herein are applicable to numerous standards such as PFD, etc.; and (3) the schemes allow for simpler implementation of a DRP based radio at high frequency bands.

Note that some aspects of the invention described herein may be constructed as software objects that are executed in embedded devices as firmware, software objects that are executed as part of a software application on either an embedded or non-embedded computer system such as a digital signal processor (DSP), microcomputer, minicomputer, microprocessor, etc. running a real-time operating system such as WinCE, Symbian, OSE, Embedded LINUX, etc. or non-real time operating system such as Windows, UNIX, LINUX, etc., or as soft core realized HDL circuits embodied in an Application Specific Integrated Circuit (ASIC) or Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA), or as functionally equivalent discrete hardware components. There is thus provided in accordance with the invention, an apparatus for generating a local oscillator signal having an output frequency, comprising an oscillator circuit operative to generate a first signal, the first signal having a frequency substantially equal to a rational multiplier $L/N$ of the output frequency, a frequency divider by $Q$ coupled to receive the first signal and operative to generate $2Q$ second signal phases at a frequency substantially equal to a rational multiplier $L/(N*Q)$ of the output frequency, a pulse generator operative to generate a plurality of pulse signals from the $2Q$ second signal phases, a frequency divider by $L$ coupled to receive the $2Q$ second signal phases and operative to generate a plurality of third signal phases, a selector operative to select, using time division multiplexing, one of the plurality of pulse signals as an output signal in accordance with the select control signal, the output signal having a frequency substantially equal to the output frequency and control means for generating the select control signal as a function of the plurality of third signals and the output signal.

There is also provided in accordance with the invention, a method of generating a local oscillator signal having an output frequency, the method comprising the steps of generating a first signal at a first frequency, the first signal having a frequency substantially equal to a rational multiplier $L/N$ of the output frequency, dividing the first signal by $Q$ to generate $2Q$ second signal phases at a frequency substantially equal to a rational multiplier $L/(N*Q)$ of the output frequency, generating a plurality of pulse signals from the $2Q$ second signal phases, dividing each of the $2Q$ second signal phases by $L$ to generate a plurality of third signals and selecting, using time division multiplexing, one of the plurality of pulse signals as an output signal having a frequency substantially equal to the output frequency, wherein the selection determined as a function of the plurality of third signals and the output signal.

There is further provided in accordance with the invention, an apparatus for generating a local oscillator signal having an output frequency, comprising an oscillator circuit operative to generate a quadrature clock of four substantially equally spaced phases, the quadrature clock having a frequency substantially equal to a rational multiplier $1/4$ of the output frequency, a multiplexer coupled to receive the quadrature clock and operative to output one of the four phases as an output signal in accordance with a select control input and a modulo-4 counter operative to generate an output coupled to the select control input, wherein the output of the counter causes the multiplexer to sequentially cycle through the four phases of the quadrature clock.

There is also provided in accordance with the invention, an apparatus for generating a local oscillator signal having an output frequency, comprising an oscillator circuit operative to generate a quadrature clock of four substantially equally spaced phases, the quadrature clock having a frequency substantially equal to a rational multiplier $1/4$ of the output frequency, a multiplexer coupled to receive the quadrature clock and operative to output one of the four phases as an output signal in accordance with a select control input and a modulo-4 counter operative to generate an output coupled to the select control input, wherein the output of the counter causes the multiplexer to sequentially cycle through the four phases of the quadrature clock.

There is further provided in accordance with the invention, a radio comprising a transmitter coupled to an antenna, the transmitter comprising a local oscillator having an output frequency, the local oscillator comprising an oscillator circuit operative to generate a first signal, the first signal having a frequency substantially equal to a rational multiplier $L/N$ of the output frequency, a frequency divider by $Q$ coupled to receive the first signal and operative to generate $2Q$ second signal phases at a frequency substantially equal to a rational multiplier $L/(N*Q)$ of the output frequency, a pulse generator operative to generate a plurality of pulse signals from the $2Q$ second signal phases, a frequency divider by $L$ coupled to receive the $2Q$ second signal phases and operative to generate a plurality of third signals, a selector operative to select, using time division multiplexing, one of the plurality of pulse signals as an output signal in accordance with a select control signal, the output signal having a frequency substantially equal to the output frequency, control means for generating the select control signal as a function of the plurality of third signals and the output signal.

There is also provided in accordance with the invention, a radio comprising a transmitter coupled to an antenna, the transmitter comprising a local oscillator having an output frequency, the local oscillator comprising an oscillator circuit operative to generate a first signal, the first signal having a frequency substantially equal to a rational multiplier $L/N$ of the output frequency, a frequency divider by $Q$ coupled to receive the first signal and operative to generate $2Q$ second signal phases at a frequency substantially equal to a rational multiplier $L/(N*Q)$ of the output frequency, a multiplexer coupled to receive the $2Q$ second signal phases and operative to output one of the $2Q$ second signal phases as an output signal in accordance with a select control input and a modulo-2Q counter operative to generate an output coupled to the select control input, wherein the output of the counter causes the multiplexer to sequentially cycle through the $2Q$ second signal phases such that the output signal substantially resembles a desired output clock signal.
a desired output clock signal, a receiver coupled to the antenna and a baseband processor coupled to the transmitter and the receiver.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention is herein described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating an example prior art phase locked look (PLL) local oscillator (LO) generator circuit; FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrating an example prior art 1/2X local oscillator generation scheme; FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating an example prior art 2X local oscillator generation scheme; FIG. 4 is a block diagram illustrating an example prior art local oscillator generation scheme that generates the LO at a rational multiplier of the output RF frequency; FIG. 5 is a block diagram illustrating a single chip polar transceiver radio incorporating an all-digital local oscillator based transmitter and receiver and local oscillator (LO) generation mechanism of the present invention; FIG. 6 is a simplified block diagram illustrating an example mobile communication device incorporating the local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention; FIG. 7 is a block diagram illustrating an example all digital phase locked loop (ADPLL) incorporating the local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention; FIG. 8 is a block diagram illustrating a first embodiment of the local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention employing an offset LO generator; FIG. 9 is a timing diagram illustrating the various digital traces for the first embodiment local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention shown in FIG. 8; FIG. 10 is a timing diagram illustrating the various digital traces for the second embodiment local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention; FIG. 11 is a timing diagram illustrating the various digital domain traces for the third embodiment local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention shown in FIG. 11; FIG. 12 is a block diagram illustrating a third embodiment of the local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention; FIG. 13 is a block diagram illustrating a fourth embodiment of the local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention; FIG. 14 is a block diagram illustrating a fifth embodiment of the local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention; FIG. 15 is a block diagram illustrating a sixth embodiment of the local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention; FIG. 16 is a block diagram illustrating a seventh embodiment of the local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention; FIG. 17 is a block diagram illustrating the various time domain traces for the fifth embodiment local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention shown in FIG. 15; FIG. 18 is a graph illustrating the spectrum magnitude plot of the output of the circuit of FIG. 15; FIG. 19 is a block diagram illustrating an eighth embodiment of the local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention shown in FIG. 15; FIG. 20 is a timing diagram illustrating the various time domain traces for the eighth embodiment local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention shown in FIG. 20; FIG. 21 is a timing diagram illustrating the various time domain traces for the seventh embodiment local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention shown in FIG. 20; FIG. 22 is a graph illustrating the spectrum magnitude plot of the output of the circuit of FIG. 20; FIG. 23 is a block diagram illustrating an eighth embodiment of the local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention incorporating the Cartesian based non-integer local oscillator; FIG. 24 is a graph illustrating the spectrum magnitude plot of the output of the circuit of FIG. 23; FIG. 25 is a block diagram illustrating a ninth embodiment of the local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention incorporating the Cartesian based non-integer local oscillator; FIG. 26 is a simplified block diagram illustrating the DPA of the local oscillator generation circuit of FIG. 26 in more detail; and FIG. 27 is a graph illustrating simulation results of the spectrum at the output of the transmitter employing the Cartesian based non-integer local oscillator of FIG. 26.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Notation Used Throughout

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AC</td>
<td>Alternating Current</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACL</td>
<td>Asynchronous Connectionless Link</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACW</td>
<td>Amplitude Control Word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADC</td>
<td>Analog to Digital Converter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADPLL</td>
<td>All Digital Phase Locked Loop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AM</td>
<td>Amplitude Modulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIC</td>
<td>Application Specific Integrated Circuit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVI</td>
<td>Audio Video Interface</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWS</td>
<td>Advanced Wireless Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIST</td>
<td>Built-In Self Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMP</td>
<td>Windows Bitmap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPF</td>
<td>Band Pass Filter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMOS</td>
<td>Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPU</td>
<td>Central Processing Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CU</td>
<td>Control Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CW</td>
<td>Continuous Wave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAC</td>
<td>Digital to Analog Converter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dB</td>
<td>Decibel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DBB</td>
<td>Digital Baseband</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC</td>
<td>Direct Current</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCO</td>
<td>Digitally Controlled Oscillator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCXO</td>
<td>Digitally Controlled Crystal Oscillator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPA</td>
<td>Digitally Controlled Power Amplifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRAC</td>
<td>Digital to RF Amplitude Conversion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPR</td>
<td>Digital RF Processor or Digital Radio Processor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSL</td>
<td>Digital Subscriber Line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSP</td>
<td>Digital Signal Processor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDGE</td>
<td>Enhanced Data Rates for GSM Evolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDR</td>
<td>Enhanced Data Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEPROM</td>
<td>Electrically Erasable Programmable Read Only Memory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPROM</td>
<td>Erasable Programmable Read Only Memory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eSCO</td>
<td>Extended Synchronous Connection-Oriented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCC</td>
<td>Federal Communications Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCW</td>
<td>Frequency Command Word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIB</td>
<td>Focused Ion Beam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FM</td>
<td>Frequency Modulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FPGA</td>
<td>Field Programmable Gate Array</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GMSK</td>
<td>Gaussian Minimum Shift Keying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS</td>
<td>Global Positioning System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GMSK</td>
<td>Gaussian Minimum Shift Keying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS</td>
<td>Global Positioning System</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a novel and useful apparatus for and method of local oscillator (LO) generation with non-integer multiplication ratio between the local oscillator and RF output frequencies. The invention is suitable for use in any application requiring the generation of a local oscillator signal having a non-integer multiplication ratio between the local oscillator signal and the output RF frequencies. An example application is provided of a single chip radio that integrates the RF circuitry with the digital base band (DBB) circuitry on the same die or on close proximity thereto such that frequency pulling would otherwise occur if not for the use of the present invention.

Although the LO generation mechanism is applicable to numerous wireless communication standards and can be incorporated in numerous types of wireless or wired communication devices such as a multimedia player, mobile station, cellular phone, PDA, DSL modem, WPAN device, etc., it is described in the context of a digital RF processor (DRP) based transmitter that may be adapted to comply with a particular wireless communications standard such as GSM, Bluetooth, EDGE, WCDMA, WLAN, WiMax, etc. It is appreciated, however, used in optical, wired and wireless applications. Further, the invention is not limited to use with a specific modulation scheme but is applicable to any modulation scheme including both digital and analog modulations where there is a need to mitigate the frequency pulling effect of the RF output frequency on the reference frequency clock generation.

Note that throughout this document, the term communications device is defined as any apparatus or mechanism adapted to transmit, receive or transmit and receive data through a medium. The term communications transceiver or communications device is defined as any apparatus or mechanism adapted to transmit and receive data through a medium. The communications device or communications transceiver as described in the context of a digital RF processor (DRP) apparatus having a display screen and user input means that is capable of playing audio (e.g., MP3, WMA, etc.), video (AVI, MPG, WMV, etc.) and/or pictures (JPG, BMP, etc.). The user input means is typically formed of one or more manually operated switches, buttons, wheels or other user input means. Examples of multimedia devices include twisted pair, coaxial, optical fiber, any wired interface (e.g., USB, Firewire, Ethernet, etc.). The term Ethernet network is defined as a network compatible with any of the IEEE 802.3 Ethernet standards, including but not limited to 10Base-T, 100Base-T or 1000Base-T over shielded or unshielded twisted pair wiring. The terms communications channel, link and cable are used interchangeably. The notation DRP is intended to denote either a Digital RF Processor or Digital Radio Processor. References to a Digital RF Processor infer a reference to a Digital Radio Processor and vice versa.

The term multimedia player or device is defined as any apparatus having a display screen and user input means that is capable of playing audio (e.g., MP3, WMA, etc.), video (AVI, MPEG, WMV, etc.) and/or pictures (JPG, BMP, etc.). The user input means is typically formed of one or more manually operated switches, buttons, wheels or other user input means. Examples of multimedia devices include pocket sized personal digital assistants (PDAs), personal media player/recorders, cellular telephones, handheld devices, and the like.

Some portions of the detailed descriptions which follow are presented in terms of procedures, logic blocks, processing, steps, and other symbolic representations of operations on data bits within a computer memory. These descriptions and representations are the means used by those skilled in the data processing arts to most effectively convey the substance of their work to others skilled in the art. A procedure, logic block, process, etc., is generally conceived to be a self-consistent sequence of steps or instructions leading to a desired result. The steps require physical manipulations of physical quantities. Usually, though not necessarily, these quantities take the form of electrical or magnetic signals capable of
being stored, transferred, combined, compared and otherwise
manipulated in a computer system. It has proven convenient
at times, principally for reasons of common usage, to refer to
these signals as bits, bytes, words, values, elements, symbols,
characters, terms, numbers, or the like.

It should be born in mind that all of the above and similar
terms are to be associated with the appropriate physical quan-
tities they represent and are merely convenient labels applied
to these quantities. Unless specifically stated otherwise as
apparent from the following discussions, it is appreciated that
throughout the present invention, discussions utilizing terms
such as ‘processing,’ ‘computing,’ ‘calculating,’ ‘determin-
ing,’ ‘displaying’ or the like, refer to the action and processes
of a computer system, or similar electronic computing device,
that manipulates and transforms data represented as physical
(electronic) quantities within the computer system’s registers
and memories into other data similarly represented as physi-
cal quantities within the computer system memories or reg-
isters or other such information storage, transmission or dis-
play devices.

The invention can take the form of an entirely hardware
embodiment, an entirely software embodiment or an embod-
iment containing a combination of hardware and software
elements. In one embodiment, a portion of the mechanism of
the invention is implemented in software, which includes but
is not limited to firmware, resident software, object code,
assembly code, microcode, etc.

Furthermore, the invention can take the form of a computer
program product accessible from a computer-readable or
computer-readable medium providing program code for use by or
in connection with a computer or any instruction execution
system. For the purposes of this description, a computer-
readable or computer-readable medium is any apparatus that
can contain, store, communicate, propagate, or transport the
program for use by or in connection with the instruction execu-
tion system, apparatus, or device, e.g., floppy disks, remov-
able hard drives, computer files comprising source code or
object code, flash semiconductor memory (USB flash drives,
etc.), ROM, EPROM, or other semiconductor memory
devices.

Single Chip Radio

A block diagram illustrating a single chip polar transceiver
radio incorporating an all-digital local oscillator based trans-
mitter and receiver and local oscillator (LO) generation
mechanism of the present invention is shown in FIG. 5. For
illustration purposes only, the transmitter, as shown, is,
adapted for the GSM/EDGE/WCDMA cellular standards.
It is appreciated, however, that one skilled in the communi-
cation arts can adapt the transmitter illustrated herein to other
modulations and communication standards as well without
departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

The radio, generally referenced 30, comprises a radio inte-
grated circuit 31 coupled to a crystal 38, front end module 46
coupled to an antenna 44, and battery management circuit 32
coupled to battery 68. The radio chip 31 comprises a script
processor 60, digital baseband (DBB) processor 61, memory
62 (e.g., static RAM), TX block 42, RX block 58, digitally
controlled crystal oscillator (DCO) 50, slicer 51, power
management unit 34 and RF built-in self test (BIST) 36. The
TX block comprises high speed and low speed digital logic
block 40 including &Sigma modulators 52, 54, digitally controlled
oscillator (DCO) 56, non-integer divider block 59 and digi-
tally controlled power amplifier (DPA) 48. The RX block
comprises a low noise transconductance amplifier 63, current

sampler 64, discrete time processing block 65, analog to
digital converter (ADC) 66 and digital logic block 67. The
principles presented herein have been used to develop
two generation of a Digital RF Processor (DRP): single-
chip Bluetooth, GSM and GSM/EDGE radios realized in 130
nm, 90 nm and 65 nm digital CMOS process technologies,
respectively. This architecture is also used as the foundation
for a UMTS single-chip radio manufactured using a 45 nm
CMOS process. The common architecture is highlighted in
FIG. 5 with features added specific to the cellular radio. The
all digital phase locked loop (ADPLL) based transmitter
employs a polar architecture with all digital phase/frequency
and amplitude modulation paths. The receiver employs a
discrete-time architecture in which the RF signal is directly
sampled and processed using analog and digital signal pro-
cessing techniques.

A key component is the digitally controlled oscillator
(DCO) 56, which avoids any analog tuning controls. A digi-
tally-controlled crystal oscillator (DCXO) generates a high-
quality base station-synchronized frequency reference such
that the transmitted carrier frequencies and the received sym-
bol rates are accurate to within 0.1 ppm. Fine frequency
resolution is achieved through high-speed ΣΔ dithering of its
varactors. Digital logic built around the DCO realizes an
all-digital PLL (ADPLL) that is used as a local oscillator for
both the transmitter and receiver. In accordance with the
invention, the output of the DCO undergoes non-integer
open-loop division using non-integer divider block 59. The
polar transmitter architecture utilizes the wideband direct
frequency modulation capability of the ADPLL and a digi-
tally controlled power amplifier (DPA) 48 for the amplitude
modulation. The DPA operates in near-class-E mode and uses
an array of nMOS transistor switches to regulate the RF
amplitude. It is followed by a matching network and an exter-
nal front-end module 46, which comprises a power amplifier
(PA), a transmit/receive switch for the common antenna 44
and RX surface acoustic wave (SAW) filters. Fine amplitude
resolution is achieved through high-speed ΣΔ dithering of the
DPA nMOS transistors.

The receiver 58 employs a discrete-time architecture in
which the RF signal is directly sampled at the Nyquist rate of
the RF carrier and processed using analog and digital signal
processing techniques. The transceiver is integrated with a
script processor 60, dedicated digital base band processor 61
(i.e. ARM family processor and/or DSP) and SRAM memory
62. The script processor handles various TX and RX calibra-
tion, compensation, sequencing and lower-rate data path
tasks and encapsulates the transceiver complexity in order to
present a much simpler software programming model.

The frequency reference (FREF) is generated on-chip by a
26 MHz (or any other desired frequency, such as 13 or 38.4
MHz) digitally controlled crystal oscillator (DCXO) 50
coupled to slicer 51. The output of the slicer is input to the
TDC circuit 69.

An integrated power management (PM) system 34 is con-
ected to an external battery management circuit 32 that
conditions and stabilizes the supply voltage. The PM com-
prises multiple low drop out (LDO) regulators that provide
internal supply voltages and also isolate supply noise
between circuits, especially protecting the DCO. The RF
built-in self-test (RBIST) 36 performs autonomous phase
noise and modulation distortion testing, various lookupback
configurations for bit-error rate measurements and imple-
ments the DPA calibration and BIST mechanism. The trans-
ceiver is integrated with the digital baseband, SRAM memory
in a complete system-on-chip (SoC) solution. Almost all the
clocks on this SoC are derived from and are synchronous to
The transmitter comprises a polar architecture in which the amplitude and phase/frequency modulations are implemented in separate paths. Transmitted symbols generated in baseband are differentiated to obtain frequency deviation. The polar signals are subsequently conditioned through signal processing to sufficiently increase the sampling rate in order to reduce the quantization noise density and lessen the effects of the modulating spectrum replicas.


Mobile Device/Cellular Phone/PDA System

A simplified block diagram illustrating an example mobile communication device incorporating the local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention is shown in FIG. 6. The communication device may comprise any suitable wired or wireless device such as a multimedia player, mobile station, mobile device, cellular phone, PDA, wireless personal area network (WPAN) device, Bluetooth EDR device, etc. For illustration purposes only, the communication device is shown as a cellular phone or smart phone. Note that this example is not intended to limit the scope of the invention as the LO generation mechanism of the present invention can be implemented in a wide variety of wireless and wired communication devices.

The cellular phone generally referenced 70, comprises a baseband processor or CPU 71 having analog and digital portions. The basic cellular link is provided by the RF transceiver 94 and related one or more antennas 96, 98. A plurality of antennas is used to provide antenna diversity which yields improved radio performance. The cell phone also comprises internal RAM and ROM memory 110, Flash memory 112 and external memory 114.

In accordance with the invention, the RF transceiver comprises a non-integer LO divider block 97 that generates an RF frequency $f_{RF}$ where the RF output frequency is a non-integer multiple of the LO circuit frequency, as described in more detail infra. In operation, the LO generation mechanism may be implemented as hardware, as software executed as a task on the baseband processor 71 or a combination of hardware and software. Implemented as a software task, the program code operative to implement the frequency generation mechanism of the present invention is stored in one or more memories 110, 112 or 114.

Several user interface devices include microphone 84, speaker 82 and associated audio codec 80, a keypad for entering dialing digits 86, vibrator 88 for alerting a user, camera and related circuitry 100, a TV tuner 102 and associated antenna 104, display 106 and associated display controller 108 and GPS receiver 90 and associated antenna 92.

A USB interface connection 78 provides a serial link to a user’s PC or other device. An FM receiver 72 and antenna 74 provide the user the ability to listen to FM broadcasts. WLAN radio and interface 76 and antenna 77 provide wireless connectivity when in a hot spot or within the range of an ad hoc, infrastructure or mesh based wireless LAN network. A Bluetooth EDR radio and interface 73 and antenna 75 provide Bluetooth wireless connectivity when within the range of a Bluetooth wireless network. Further, the communication device 70 may also comprise a WiMAX radio and interface 123 and antenna 125. SIM card 116 provides the interface to a user’s SIM card for storing user data such as address book entries, etc. The communication device 70 also comprises an Ultra Wideband (UWB) radio and interface 83 and antenna 81. The UWB radio typically comprises an MBOA-UWB based radio.

Portable power is provided by the battery 124 coupled to battery management circuitry 122. External power is provided via USB power 118 or an AC/DC adapter 120 connected to the battery management circuitry which is operative to manage the charging and discharging of the battery 124.

ADPLL Polar Transmitter Incorporating LO Generation Mechanism


For illustration purposes only, the transmitter, as shown, is adapted for the GSM/EDGE/WCDMA cellular standards. It is appreciated, however, that one skilled in the communication arts can adapt the transmitter illustrated herein to other modulations and communication standards as well without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

The transmitter, generally referenced 130, is well-suited for a deep-submicron CMOS implementation. The transmitter comprises a complex pulse shaping filter 168, amplitude modulation (AM) block 169 and ADPLL 132. The circuit 130 is operative to perform complex modulation in the polar domain in addition to the generation of the local oscillator (LO) signal for the receiver. All clocks in the system are derived directly from this source. Note that the transmitter is constructed using digital techniques that exploit the high speed and high density of the advanced CMOS, while avoiding problems related to voltage headroom. The ADPLL circuit replaces a conventional RF synthesizer architecture (based on a voltage-controlled oscillator (VCO) and a phase/frequency detector and charge-pump combination), with a digitally controlled oscillator (DCO) 148, a time-to-digital converter (TDC) 162 and a non-integer LO divider 134. All inputs and outputs are digital and some even at multi-GHz frequency.

The core of the ADPLL is a digitally controlled oscillator (DCO) 148 adapted to generate the RF oscillator clock CKV. The oscillator core (not shown) operates at a ratioal multiplier of the 1.6-2.0 GHz (e.g., 4%) high band frequency or a rational multiplier of the 0.8-1.0 GHz low band frequency.
The word length of the fractional part of FCW, the ADPLL is a digitally-synchronous fixed-point concatenated with the normalized time-to-digital converter (TDC) 162 output E[k]. The TDC measures and quantizes the time differences between the frequency reference FREF and the reference frequency fR by the frequency command word (FCW). The FCW is time variant and is allowed to change with every clock edge activity. The sampled variable phase is subtracted from the reference frequency fREF to yield the phase error φ[k] samples which are then filtered by a fourth order IIR filter 142 and scaled by a proportional loop attenuator α. A parallel feed with coefficient β adds an integrated term to create type-II loop characteristics which suppress the DCO flicker noise. The IIR filter is a cascade of four single stage filters, each satisfying the following equation:

\[ y[k] = (1 - \alpha) y[k-1] + \alpha x[k] \]

wherein
- x[k] is the current input;
- y[k] is the current output;
- k is the time index;
- \( \alpha \) is the configurable coefficient;
- The 4-pole IIR loop filter attenuates the reference and TDC quantization noise with an 80 dB/dec slope, primarily to meet the GSM/EDGE spectral mask requirements at 400 kHz offset. The filtered and scaled phase error samples are then multiplied by the DCO gain \( K_{DCO} \) normalization factor \( fR/\hat{f}_{DCO} \) via multiplier 146, where \( fR \) is the reference frequency and \( \hat{f}_{DCO} \) is the DCO gain estimate, to make the loop characteristics and modulation independent from \( K_{DCO} \). The modulating data is injected into two points of the ADPLL for direct frequency modulation, via adders 136 and 144. A hitless gear-shifting mechanism for the dynamic loop bandwidth noise filter serves to reduce the settling time. It changes the loop attenuator \( \alpha \) several times during the frequency locking interval of the phase error detection by the loop filter. It note that the phase error \( \phi_1 = \phi_2 \), since the phase is to be continuous.

The frequency reference FREF is input to the retimer 166 and provides the clock for the TDC 162. The FREF input is resampled by the RF oscillator clock CKV via retimer block 166 which may comprise a flip flop or register clocked by the reference frequency FREF. The resulting retimed clock (CKR) is distributed and used throughout the system. This ensures that the massive digital logic is clocked after the quiet interval of the phase error detection by the TDC. Note that in the example embodiment described herein, the ADPLL is a discrete-time sampled system implemented with all digital components connected with all digital signals.

First Embodiment

Non-Harmonic DCO With XOR and BPF (Offset LO Generator)

In a first LO generation scheme, the basic PLL structure runs at \( \pm \) the desired frequency \( f_{RF} \). This frequency is divided by two to obtain in-phase and quadrature square waves at \( \pm f_{RF} \). It is noted that the division by two would not be necessary if the quadrature generation of the square wave clocks is achieved through some other means. In this case, the oscill-
tor could operate at a lower frequency. The in-phase signal is divided by two again to obtain in-phase and quadrature square waves at $\frac{1}{3} f_{RF}$. The signals are then logically mixed using XOR operations to obtain I and Q branch signals containing spectral spurs every $(\frac{2n+1}{3}) f_{RF}$, where $n$ is an integer. Since the spurs are located in non-disturbing bands, they can be filtered out. In a deep-submicron chip, for example, there is a need for a digital implementation of the above described LO generation scheme.

A block diagram illustrating a first embodiment of the local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention employing an offset LO generator is shown in FIG. 8. The circuit, generally referenced 240, is a fully digital implementation of an offset LO generator. The circuit 240 comprises a synthesizer 244, frequency dividers 246, 252, XOR gates 254, 256 and band pass filters 262, 264.

In operation, a reference signal $f_{REF}$ generated by a crystal oscillator is input to a synthesizer 244 tuned to exactly $\frac{2}{3} f_{RF}$. The output of the synthesizer is divided by two via divider 246 to generate a quadrature pair clocks (quadrature 248 and in-phase 250) at $\frac{1}{3} f_{RF}$. The in-phase signal 250 is further divided via divider 252 into another quadrature pair (quadrature 261 and in-phase 263) at $\frac{1}{3} f_{RF}$. The quadrature signal 248 is XORed with the quadrature divided signal 261 via XOR circuit 254 to generate an in-phase unfiltered LO signal 258 having spectral spurs every $f_{RF}/2$. The in-phase signal 263 is mixed with the quadrature divided signal 248 via XOR circuit 256 to yield the unfiltered LO quadrature signal 260. Quadrature pair 258, 260 undergo band pass filtering via filters 262, 264 to yield the output local oscillator signals $LO_I$ ($f_{LO_I}$) 266, $LO_Q$ ($f_{LO_Q}$) 268, respectively.

A timing diagram illustrating the various digital traces for the first embodiment local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention of FIG. 8 is shown in FIG. 9. Signal $I$ (trace 278) shows the first divider 246 in-phase signal 250, while signal $Q$ (trace 272) shows the first divider 246 quadrature signal 248. These signals have a 90 degree phase shift relationship to each other. Signal II (trace 274) shows the in-phase signal 263 output of the second divider 252, while signal IQ (trace 276) shows the second divider 252 quadrature output 261. Signals $I$, $F_c$, (trace 278) and $Q$, $F_c$ (trace 280) show the time behavior of the in-phase and quadrature unfiltered LO signals 258 and 260, respectively. From the timing diagram, it is evident that these signals are not spectrally pure sine waves but have a binary pattern of 10110100, sampled at $\frac{2}{3}$ T, where $T=1/f_{RF}$.

A graph illustrating the spectrum magnitude plot of the output of the circuit of FIG. 8 is shown in FIG. 10. In particular, the spectrum shows a power spectrum magnitude plot of signal traces 278 or 280. The plot comprises the fundamental or desired frequency product at $f_{RF}$ (peak 292) as well as undesired products at $(1+2n/3) f_{RF}$, where n is an integer (i.e. peaks 290, 294, 296, 298). The magnitude of the undesired harmonic 290 at $\frac{1}{3} f_{RF}$ is approximately $-7$ dB, while its counterpart at $\frac{1}{3} f_{RF}$ is about $-5$ dB. The magnitude of the unwanted peaks, creates the need for stringent requirements on BPFs 262, 264.

The basic ADPLL structure (FIG. 7) runs at approximately 3.2 GHz (5 times the desired frequency $f_{LO}$). As described supra, the LO frequency is divided by two to obtain in phase and quadrature square waves at $\frac{2}{3} f_{LO}$ and subsequently divided down again to obtain in-phase and quadrature square waves at $\frac{1}{3} f_{LO}$. A logical type “mixing” operation is then applied using the following equations:

$$I = \text{NXOR}(Q, IQ)$$
$$Q = \text{NXOR}(I, IQ)$$

where
$$\text{nxor}(A, B) = A \oplus B$$
$$A \text{ being the logical NOT of } A;$$

Note that the logical combining operation may comprise either NXOR or XOR yielding either the signal or its inverse polarity (i.e. 180 degree) signal. In electrical terms, this means that all the operations from the ADPLL up to the band pass filters are carried out by high speed analog circuits, while the band pass filters are analog in nature followed by a slicer (inverting or non-inverting).

A mathematical derivation for the first embodiment will now be presented. In the case of no mismatch, writing the Fourier series for the $I$ signal, we obtain:

$$I_1 = \frac{2f}{\pi} \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{j2\pi(k-1/4)}}{k}$$

$$Q = \frac{2f}{\pi} \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{j2\pi(k-1/4)}}{k}$$

$$I_2 = \frac{2f}{\pi} \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{j2\pi(k-1/4)}}{k}$$

$$Q = \frac{2f}{\pi} \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{j2\pi(k-1/4)}}{k}$$

The NXOR operation is equivalent to time domain multiplication and therefore the $LO_I$ and $LO_Q$ signals can be expressed as:

$$|LO_I| = Q \cdot I_1 = -\frac{4f}{\pi} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} e^{2\pi i(n-\frac{1}{4})(n+\frac{1}{4})}$$

$$|LO_Q| = Q \cdot I_2 = -\frac{4f}{\pi} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} e^{2\pi i(n-\frac{1}{4})(n+\frac{1}{4})}$$

For each frequency product of interest (F), the appropriate $m, n$ pairs can be found which satisfy the correct frequency conditions in Equations 12 and 13. Note, however, that the frequency products yielding $F=kf$ (for integer 'k's) are not generated.

Second Embodiment

Non-Harmonic DCO With XOR and Jitter Compensation #1

A block diagram illustrating a second embodiment of the local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention is shown in FIG. 11. The circuit, generally referenced
In operation, a reference signal $f_{ref}$ is input to a synthesizer tuned to exactly $\frac{5}{3} f_{ref}$. Alternatively, the $\frac{5}{3} f_{ref}$ configuration with a quadrature divider generating 90-degree spaced clocks could be used. In this case, the T/4 delay would not be needed. The digital output of the synthesizer is input to a T/4 delay 306 and a divide by two circuit 308. The outputs of both blocks are XORed together via XOR circuit 314. The output of the XOR circuit is input to a programmable $\pm T/12$ delay 318. Since the absolute delay of block 318 does not change the overall structure, a "negative delay" can be achieved using two paths whose relative delay difference is $2^* T/12 = T/6$.

The $\pm T/12$ delay block is controlled by control unit (CU) 320 which selects the delay that should be taken based on the X1 324 and X2 326 input ports. The control unit logic may be implemented in any suitable manner to yield the desired waveform. For example, the control unit may comprise a state machine appropriately programmed (known to one skilled in the art) such that on rising edges of X1 the delay is set to $+T/12$, while on falling edges, the delay is set to $-T/12$. Thus, the control unit determines which way the output LO clock 322 is pulled. Rising edges of X1, the output LO clock is pulled forward, while falling edges pull the output LO clock back.

A timing diagram illustrating the various time domain traces for the second embodiment local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention of FIG. 11 is shown in FIG. 12. Trace 330 represents the X1 signal 324 while trace 332 represents the X2 signal 326. The result of the XORing of the X1 and X2 signals is represented by trace 334. The arrows in this trace indicate the direction of the delay required on the XOR signal 316 in order to create a perfect square wave clock (shown as trace 336). Arrows heading to the right indicate a positive delay while arrows leading to the left indicate a negative delay, wherein negative delays are implemented by manipulating the relative delay difference as described supra.

Note that the relationship between 334 and 336 exhibits negative delays, but it is well understood to one skilled in the art that if trace 334 was moved forward by $2^* T/12 = T/6$, then the relative delays would be either 0 or T/12, thus establishing causality for the system. Please note that if the delays are perfectly T/12 then the generated signal has zero undesirable products.

Third Embodiment
Non-Harmonic DCO With XOR and Jitter Compensation #2

A block diagram illustrating a third embodiment of the local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention is shown in FIG. 13. The circuit, generally referenced 340, is a second implementation of the local oscillator generation scheme of FIG. 11. The circuit 340 comprises a synthesizer 344, T/4 delay 348, frequency divider 350, $-T/12$ delay circuit 353, T/12 delay circuit 354, multiplexer 358 and control unit (CU) 360.

In operation, a reference signal 342 is input to a synthesizer 344 tuned to exactly $\frac{5}{3} f_{ref}$. The digital signal 346 output of the synthesizer is input to both a T/4 delay circuit 348 as well as divide by two circuit 350, which are operative to generate signals X1 362 and X2 364, respectively. Note that here too, as described before, the T/4 delay circuit 348 is not needed if a quadrature generation of the 346 signal is available. Signal X1 undergoes delays of $-T/12$ via delay circuit 352 and $+T/12$ via delay circuit 354. The outputs of the delay circuits 353, 354 and signal X2 are input to a multiplexer 358 whose select control input is generated by the control unit 360, which may be implemented as a state machine or any other suitable processing or computing element. The inputs to the control unit comprise the signals X1 and X2. It is appreciated that one skilled in the electrical arts can program the control unit such that the multiplexer outputs a perfect clock signal in similar fashion to the circuit of FIG. 11.

Note that the implementations of both FIGS. 11 and 13 utilize asynchronous delays that can be implemented in deep-submicron processes using pre-calibrated inverter chains. Note further that the pulling of edges of signal 334 in FIG. 12 in the time domain is equivalent to reducing the unwanted harmonics in the frequency domain. The non-perfect $\pm T/12$ timing adjustments result in non-zero spurious energy of the harmonics. The amount of harmonic reduction is proportional to how close the timing delay is achieved. With a reasonable amount of inaccuracy, however, a substantial reduction could be achieved. This method could be combined with the use of band pass filtering, which in this embodiment would require less stringent filtering specifications.

Fourth Embodiment
LO Generation Circuit #1

A block diagram illustrating a fourth embodiment of the local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention is shown in FIG. 14. The circuit, generally referenced 370, comprises a synthesizer 374, frequency dividers 376, digital logical mixing blocks 380, 382, weights 386, 390, summers 392, 394 and band pass filters 400, 402.

In operation, a frequency reference signal $f_{ref}$ is input to the synthesizer 374 timed to a rational multiplier of the RF frequency $f_{RF}$. This signal is divided down via frequency dividers circuit 376. Please note that circuit 376 typically comprises several dividers and its outputs may be the result of multiple, sometime cascaded, division operations. The output of the frequency dividers is a plurality of phases 378 at various division ratios of the divided signal and stages within the division. For example, considering a division ratio of four, the divider can be implemented as a cascade of two divide by two circuits where the outputs are the in-phase and quadrature of the first divider, the in-phase and quadrature of a second divider operating on the in-phase of the first divider and the in-phase and quadrature signals of a second divider operating on the quadrature signal of the first divider.

The divided signals and phases 378 undergo processing by digital logical mixing block 1 380 which is operative to generate a plurality of combination signals 384 (M in total). Note that digital logical mixing block 1 may comprise either combinatorial logic (represented by a truth-table), a finite state machine (FSM) or a combination thereof. The plurality of signals 384 output of digital logical mixing 1 undergo multiplication by a set of weights $w_0$, ... $w_M$ 386 followed by summation via adder 392 to yield in-phase signal 396.

Note that the circuit 370 comprises a semi-analog operation and can be implemented in numerous ways, as is appreciated by one skilled in the electrical arts. Examples of implementation of this circuit include (1) summation of current sources onto a load using binary or thermometry weighted CMOS transistors; and (2) using resistor or capacitor value ratios to sum voltages or currents.

A quadrature signal can be generated using optional block 404. Digital logical mixing block 2 382 outputs a different
plurality of combination signals \(388\) (L in total) which is multiplied by a different set of weights \(W_0, \ldots, W_L\), and summed via adder \(394\) to yield quadrature signal \(398\).

Finally, the summed values output of adders \(392, 394\) are filtered via BPF filters \(400, 402\) to yield the output \(I_0, (I_{408}), 406, I_0, (I_{409}) 408\) signals, respectively. The summing operation effectively cancels out or significantly attenuates some of the undesired products to create a signal which is significantly easier to filter than that obtained using conventional mixing. A key benefit of this fourth embodiment of the present invention is that by operating the local oscillator at a rational multiplier of the RF frequency, the undesirable sidebands are kept low which eases or completely obviates any required filtering.

**Fifth Embodiment**

**LO Generation Circuit #2**

A block diagram illustrating a fifth embodiment of the local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention is shown in FIG. 15. This fifth embodiment is an example implementation of the LO generation circuit (fourth embodiment) of FIG. 14. The circuit, generally referenced \(410\), comprises frequency dividers \(417\), digital logical mixing \(419\) and weighting \(421\) blocks. The frequency dividers \(417\) block, coupled to synthesizer \(412\), comprises cascaded frequency dividers \(414, 420, 426\) and inverters \(416, 429\). The digital logical mixing block \(419\) comprises XOR gates \(434, 438, 442\). The weighting \(421\) block, coupled to band pass filter \(454\), comprises multipliers \(446, 448, 450\) and adder \(452\).

In operation, frequency reference signal \(f_{RF} 411\) is input to the frequency synthesizer \(412\) running at \(5\ f_{RF}\). The output of the synthesizer is divided by two via divider circuit \(414\) which outputs a quadrature pair \(I_{418}, Q_{422}\). The in-phase signal \(I_{418}\) is divided again by divider circuit \(420\) into in-phase signal \(I_{430}\) and quadrature signal \(I_{428}\). The quadrature signal \(Q_{422}\) undergoes division by two via block \(426\) to yield a quadrature set QI \(432\) and QQ \(428\). Signal \(I_{418}\) is also negated via inverter (i.e. not) circuit \(416\) to yield signal \(-I_{435}\). Similarly, signal \(Q_{428}\) is negated via inverter (i.e. not) circuit \(429\) to yield signal \(-Q_{431}\).

XOR circuit \(434\) is operative to XOR signals I with signal \(-Q\) to yield signal \(436\). XOR circuit \(438\) is operative to XOR signals \(I\) and \(Q\) to yield signal \(440\). XOR circuit \(442\) is operative to XOR signals \(-I\) and \(Q\) to yield signal \(444\). Signals \(436, 440, 444\) are multiplied by constant weights of \(5, 7, 5\), respectively. The weighted output signals are summed via adder \(452\). This summed signal undergoes filtering via BPF filter circuit \(454\). Note that the weights may be applied, for example, using analog multipliers, DPA circuits, op amps or any other suitable technique. Further, the filter alone is not sufficient to filter out the \(5/3 f_{RF}\) signal, as greater than \(90 \text{ dB}\) attenuation is required for some applications (e.g., Bluetooth in a cellular phone), which is very difficult to achieve. The action of the weights and summer effectively cancel the \(5/3 f_{RF}\) component and amplifies the \(f_{RF}\) component.

To aid in illustrating the principles of operation of this fifth embodiment, a phasor diagram illustrating the relationship between the products generated in the LO generation circuit of FIG. 15 is shown in FIG. 16. The phasor diagram shows the three generated signals. The vector arrows represent phasors of the generated signals in both the fundamental at \(f_{RF}\) as well as the first undesired product (i.e. sub-harmonic) at \(f_{RF}/3\). Phasor \(468\) represents signal \(436\) at \(f_{RF}/3\ (\pi/3\ rotation\ product)\); phasor \(470\) represents signal \(444\) at \(f_{RF}/3\); phasor \(466\) represents signal \(440\) at \(f_{RF}/3\); phasor \(460\) represents the \(\pi/3\ rotated fundamental; phasor \(462\) represents the \(f_{RF}\) component of signal \(440\); and phasor \(472\) represents the sum of phasors \(468\) and \(470\) (i.e. the sum of \(\pi/4\) and \(-\pi/4\ product\ rotations).

It is important to note that any phase difference \(\Delta\theta\) between two signals at \(f_{RF}/3\) yields a phase difference of \(3\Delta\theta\) at \(f_{RF}\). The radius of the inner circle \(471\) represents the magnitude of the \(f_{RF}/3\) components while the radius of the outer circle \(473\) radius represents the magnitude of the \(f_{RF}\) component. Without limiting generality, the phasors of signal \(440\) (i.e. X7 weight) are placed on the y axis. Hence phasor \(466\) is the \(f_{RF}/3\) component of signal \(440\) (i.e. the main signal), while phasor \(462\) is the \(f_{RF}\) component thereof.

The two auxiliary signals \(436\) and \(444\) have \(f_{RF}/3\) components rotated by \(\pi/3\) and \(-\pi/3\) (i.e. \(468\) and \(470\), respectively) with respect to the main signal. Therefore, their \(f_{RF}\) counterparts are rotated by \(\pi/3\) and \(-\pi/3\ (phasors \(460\) and \(464\)) respectively, with respect to the main signal component at \(f_{RF}\). Summing phasors \(468\) and \(470\), which have a \(\pi/2\ phase difference between them, yields a vector with a magnitude of \(\sqrt{2}\) larger than each one and the main signal component at \(f_{RF}/3\). \(466\) with an angle of \(\pi/4\ with respect to it. Hence, the main signal should be multiplied by \(\sqrt{2}\) (or each auxiliary signal by \(1/\sqrt{2}\)) in order to achieve perfect cancellation at \(f_{RF}/3\). Alternatively, the main signal is multiplied by \(7\) and each one of the auxiliary signals by \(5\). Since \(7\sqrt{2}/2\) to about 1% of accuracy a very reasonable cancellation is achieved.

The cancellation can be calculated as follows:

\[
\text{Using this rational approximation makes the implementation simpler due to the ability to use thermometric weighted current sources or CMOS transistors. At the fundamental frequency that, the auxiliary signal components add to the main signal component to create an even larger component. Since each one of the phasors } 460 \text{ and } 464 \text{ have a } \pi/4 \text{ angle with phasor } 462 \text{ and they are equal in magnitude, their sum is collinear with phasor } 462 \text{ and has a magnitude of } (7 + \sqrt{2})/2 \text{ dB larger than the original size of phasor } 462. \text{ The net cancellation (increase in fundamental at } f_{RF}\text{ combined with component attenuation at } f_{RF}/3\text{) is } 23+23 = 46 \text{ dB. Adding this to the original } 5 \text{ dB difference between the fundamental and the component at } f_{RF}/3, \text{ we obtain a } 51 \text{ dB total difference. Depending on the implementation, this may require additional light attenuation or may be sufficient and the filter } 454 \text{ (FIG. 15) can be replaced with a low pass filter, which is easier and less costly to implement.}

A timing diagram illustrating the various time domain traces for the fifth embodiment local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention shown in FIG. 15 is shown in FIG. 17. The timing diagram shows the time domain traces for the various signals in the circuit \(410\) of FIG. 15. Traces \(474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484\) represent signals \(I, Q, II, QI, IQ, QQ\), respectively. Trace \(486\) shows the main signal at weight \(448\), trace \(488\) shows the auxiliary signal at weight \(446\) and trace \(490\) shows the auxiliary signal at weight \(450\). Finally, trace \(492\) shows the sum of all weighted contributions (i.e. output of adder \(452\)), which after filtering is the desired \(f_{RF}\) output clock.

A graph illustrating the spectrum magnitude plot of the output of the circuit of FIG. 15 is shown in FIG. 18. In particular, the spectrum magnitude plot shows the power spectral magnitude of trace \(492\). Component \(500\) at \(f_{RF}/3\) has a roughly \(50 \text{ dB attenuation with respect to the fundamental (i.e. desired) component } 502 \text{ at } f_{RF}. \text{ The next undesired component is at } 5/3 f_{RF} \text{ and is relatively easy to filter since it is}
which comprises four AND gates 562, 566, 570, 574. The four AND gates perform a logical AND operation between each possible pair of contiguous phases. In particular, AND gate 562 performs its operation between the I and Q signals to generate I&Q (i.e. I and Q) signal 564. AND gate 566 performs its operation between the I and –Q signals to generate –I&Q (I AND NOT(Q)) signal 568. AND gate 570 performs its operation between the –I and –Q signals to generate –I&–Q (NOT(I) AND NOT(Q)) signal 572. AND gate 574 performs its operation between –I and Q signals to generate –I&Q (NOT(I) and Q) signal 576. The four pulse output signals 564, 568, 572, 576 are input to the combined selector/control unit block 616.

The four phase signals output of the divide by two circuit 556 also undergo division by three. Divide by three circuit 586 divides the –Q signal 584 to generate –Q/3 signal 594 (NOT(Q) divided by three). Divide by three circuit 588 divides the –I signal 582 to generate –I/3 signal 596 (NOT(I) divided by three). Divide by three circuit 590 divides the Q signal 580 to produce Q/3 signal 598 (Q divided by three). Divide by three circuit 592 divides the I signal 578 to generate I/3 signal 600 (I divided by three).

Combined selector and control unit 616 comprises four AND gates 602, 604, 606, 608, which AND the four divide output signals with their respective pulse signals. The respective results are wire-ORed together by OR circuit 610. The effective operation of the selector/control unit is to use the divide by three outputs 594, 596, 598, 600 as “one-hot” controls to select which pulse output of the four pulses (564, 568, 572, 576) will be output by the block. Note that in digital circuits, the term one-hot refers to a group of bits among which the legal combinations of values are only those with a single high (“1”) bit and all the others low (“0”). Note also that this circuit preferably has an output with no sub-harmonics (lowest spectral tone being at f<sub>RF</sub>), which permits much simpler filtering. An optional filter 614 can be used to attenuate any unwanted frequency spurs.

A timing diagram illustrating the various time domain traces for the sixth embodiment local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention is shown in FIG. 20. As can be seen, the narrow pulses provided by the dividers can be active at any time, the situation where this might impede with the normal circuit operation is limited to the case of a pulse occurring in the overlap of two of the divider signals which is prevented by this circuit. Traces 628 and 630 represent the Q and I outputs, respectively. Trace 632 shows the output of AND gate 608. As can be seen, the narrow pulses generated by the pulse generation circuit are gated by the wide gate signals (signal 626 I<sub>13</sub> in this case) to produce one of the pulse phases ORed together to produce the f<sub>L0</sub> output clock signal 612 (FIG. 20) represented by trace 634.

A graph illustrating the spectrum magnitude plot of the output of the circuit of FIG. 20 is shown in FIG. 22. The spectrum magnitude plot is of the FIG. 12b shows a spectral plot of the f<sub>L0</sub> output clock signal 612 (trace 634). As can be
if RF

Desired tones 642 and 644 appear at the even harmonics 2 fLO and 4 fRF, respectively.

Eighth Embodiment

LO Generation Circuit with Pulse Generation #3

A block diagram illustrating an eighth embodiment of the local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention is shown in FIG. 23. The circuit, generally referenced 650, is a second example embodiment of the sixth embodiment of FIG. 19. The circuit 650 comprises frequency synthesizer 652, frequency divider 654, multiplexer 664, counter 668 and optional filter 672. In operation, a frequency reference signal fRF' 651 is input to the frequency synthesizer 652 running at 1/2 fRF. The signal frequency output of the synthesizer is divided by two via divider circuit 654 which has four phase outputs, namely, the quadrature pair I and Q (656 and 658, respectively) and their inverses –I and –Q (660 and 662, respectively). The four phases are input to a multiplexer 664 which functions to output the desired local oscillator signal. The control unit in this embodiment which controls the multiplexer selection comprises a modulo-4 counter 668. The counter is clocked by the local oscillator output signal 670 and the output 666 is input to the selecting input of the multiplexer. In this embodiment, the selector circuit is implemented as the multiplexer 664 while the control unit is implemented as a modulo-4 counter 668. An optional filter 672 removes any unwanted frequency spurs.

It is noted that, in an alternative embodiment, the selecting input 666 is advantageously driven by one of the four phases of the output of divider 654. Driving a multiplexer selecting input by a signal that does not depend on the multiplexer output can be considered beneficial as is provides for more reliable operation.

A timing diagram illustrating the various time domain traces for the eighth embodiment local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention of FIG. 23 is shown in FIG. 24. The timing diagram shows the various time domain traces for the signals of the circuit 650 of FIG. 23. Traces 680, 682, 684 and 686 represent the four phases (i.e. –Q, –I, Q and I), respectively. The thick lines in the traces represent the portions which are multiplexed to the output via multiplexer 664. Trace 688 represents the output of the counter 668. Trace 689 represents the output waveform 674. As can be seen, notwithstanding a duty cycle aberration, the output waveform is a perfect signal at fRF.

A graph illustrating the spectrum magnitude plot of the output of the circuit of FIG. 23 is shown in FIG. 25. It is evident from the plot that the circuit does not generate a component at fRF/3 and the largest frequency component 690 is at fRF. In addition, even harmonics exist as undesired signals 692, 694 at 2 fRF, 3 fRF, etc. It is noted that the output local oscillator clock signal does not require filtering. Lower frequency components, however, may be created by timing mismatches at the multiplexer input. These unwanted frequency spurs can be minimized using careful analog design and layout techniques.

Ninth Embodiment

Non-Integer Local Oscillator Using Spectral Replicas

The ninth embodiment is described in the context of an example wireless link using non-integer LO incorporating a Cartesian DPA. A more detailed description of the operation of the DPA in the Cartesian transmitter can be found in U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0038710Al, cited supra.

The wireless link device may comprise any suitable device such as a multimedia player, mobile device, cellular phone, PDA, etc. For illustration purposes, the wireless link comprises a WLAN embedded in a mobile transmission and reception link. Note that this example is not intended to limit the scope of the invention as the Cartesian based replicas non-integer LO mechanism of the present invention can be implemented in a wide variety of communication devices.

The ninth embodiment utilizes spectral replicas generated when incorporating a zero order hold effect of the Digital Power Amplifier (DPA) during the modulation of a wideband signal. The sampling rate of the DPA is specifically configured such that one of the replicas falls directly in the desired in-band frequency. All other replicas are filtered using analog or digital filtering. The other replicas are set to fall into specific frequency bands that do not cause any interference to other radios. This allows the requirements of the analog filtering at the last stage to be significantly relaxed and thus simpler and less costly to implement.

A block diagram illustrating a ninth embodiment of the local oscillator generation mechanism of the present invention incorporating the Cartesian based non-integer local oscillator is shown in FIG. 26. The example transmitter circuit, generally referenced 700, comprises interpolators/upsamplers 702, 704, quadrature mixer 706, local oscillator 708, DPA circuits 710, 712, adder 714, band pass filter 716 and amplifier 718.

The transmitter 700 incorporates the Cartesian based dual DPA non-integer local oscillator of the present invention. In operation, the I and Q complex input baseband signal SRF(n) is upsampled and interoplated via blocks 702 and 704, respectively. The output of the interpolators are then upconverted in the digital domain using complex multiplier 706 resulting in a signal 1LO(n)+jQLO(n) centered at IF. The IF frequency is adjusted to be half the LO’s frequency so as to fit in the upconversion of the next stage.

The LO 708 is used to operate at a frequency which is a non integer ratio N/M of the LO to RF. Note that in the case of a Bluetooth or WLAN signal this ratio could be set to ½ division of the target RF frequency fRF. The IF frequency is set to be half of the LO frequency so that the sampling rate of the last digital stage is equal to the LO frequency. The digital IF signal is then converted to the analog domain using two DPA circuits 710 and 712 for I and Q branches, respectively. The DPA circuits function to create two analog signals for the in-phase I and quadrature Q signals wherein the resulting signals include multiple replicas of the signals at fRF, fRF+LO, fRF+2LO, etc., due to the ZOH nature of the DPA circuits. The resultant I and Q analog signals are then combined via adder 714 (e.g., voltage or current combiner). The output of the adder is then filtered using BPF 716 to extract the desired replica. The frequency of the replica is selected so that it does not fall in any cellular band. Attenuation is required only if the level of the replicas is above any requirement or standard (e.g., FCC, etc.). The filtered signal may be amplified by a power amplifier (PA) 718 that may be embedded on or off the radio integrated circuit chip.

A simplified block diagram illustrating the DPA of the local oscillator generation circuit of FIG. 26 in more detail is shown in FIG. 27. The DPA circuit, generally referenced 720, comprises a plurality of gates 722 and transistors 724, and an RF inductor portion of the load 726. In operation, the clock signal is gated with a control word (inputs D) through D3. The value of the control word at any instant in time deter-
mines the amplitude of the signal output of the DPA. The clock signal (i.e. LO output) input to the DPA also functions as its sampling frequency. Therefore, the spectrum at the output of the complex multiplier is repeated every sampling frequency \( f_s \). Thus, an analog mixer is not required for further upconversion since the first replica of the DPA output can be used instead. The replicas generated by the ZOH effect of the DPA are repeated every sampling frequency (i.e. the LO frequency). Since the complex IF signal is located at the \( f_{LO}/2 \) than the first replica will be located at \( f_{LO} + f_{LO}/2 \).

As an example, consider a Bluetooth transmission. In this Bluetooth example, the RF frequency \( f_{RF} \) is tuned to 2402 MHz (i.e. the first Bluetooth channel). The local oscillator frequency is therefore tuned to \( f_{LO} = f_{RF}/3 = 800.67 \) MHz. In this case, the DPA also creates a very strong replica (only 13 dB less than the main replica) positioned at \( f_{RO} = f_{LO} + f_{LO} = 2402 \) MHz. A graph illustrating simulation results of the spectrum at the output of the transmitter employing the Cartesian based non-integer local oscillator of FIG. 28 is shown in FIG. 29. Note that the 2402 MHz peak shown is obtained as a result of filtering the first replica.

The ninth embodiment thus provides an efficient method to implement the local oscillator and to generate the required clock signal. The method uses a complex multiplier intended to shift the zero baseband signal such that it is centered on \( f_{LO}/2 \) (e.g., 1601.33/2 = 800.67 MHz). Subsequent processing by the two DPA circuits generates outputs which are easily combined using a voltage or current combiner. The two DPA circuits and combiner could further be simplified by connecting the drain junction of each of the DPAs to the same inductor used to pump the current during the transitions of the DPA thereby reducing the complexity of the combiner.

It is intended that the appended claims cover all such features and advantages of the invention that fall within the spirit and scope of the present invention. As numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is intended that the invention not be limited to the limited number of embodiments described herein. Accordingly, it will be appreciated that all suitable variations, modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the spirit and scope of the present invention.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for generating a local oscillator signal having an output frequency, comprising:
   - an oscillator circuit operative to generate a first signal, said first signal having a frequency substantially equal to a rational multiplier \( L/N \) of said output frequency;
   - a frequency divide by \( Q \) coupled to receive said first signal and operative to generate \( 2Q \) second signal phases at a frequency substantially equal to a rational multiplier \( L/(N*Q) \) of said output frequency;
   - a pulse generator operative to generate a plurality of pulse signals from said \( 2Q \) second signal phases;
   - a frequency divider by \( L \) coupled to receive said \( 2Q \) second signal phases and operative to generate a plurality of third signals;
   - a selector operative to select, using time division multiplexing, one of said plurality of pulse signals as an output signal in accordance with a select control signal, said output signal having a frequency substantially equal to said output frequency; and
   - control means for generating said select control signal as a function of said plurality of third signals and said output signal.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first frequency substantially equals \( L/N = 1/2 \) of said output frequency and \( Q \) is equal to two.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a filter coupled to receive said output signal and operative to remove unwanted products therefrom.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said pulse generator comprises \( 2Q \) AND gates, each gate coupled to a pair of adjacent second signal phases.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said selector and control means comprise:
   - means for gating each one of said third signals with a corresponding one of said pulse signals to generate a plurality of gated signals; and
   - means for ORing said plurality of gated signals together to generate said output signal therein.

6. A method of generating a local oscillator signal having an output frequency, said method comprising the steps of:
   - generating a first signal at a first frequency, said first signal having a frequency substantially equal to a rational multiplier \( L/N \) of said output frequency;
   - dividing said first signal by \( Q \) to generate \( 2Q \) second signal phases at a frequency substantially equal to a rational multiplier \( L/(N*Q) \) of said output frequency;
   - generating a plurality of pulse signals from said \( 2Q \) second signal phases;
   - selecting, using time division multiplexing, one of said plurality of pulse signals as an output signal having a frequency substantially equal to said output frequency, wherein said selection determined as a function of said plurality of third signals and said output signal.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said first frequency substantially equals \( L/N = 1/2 \) of said output frequency and \( Q \) is equal to two.

8. The method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of filtering said output signal to remove unwanted products therefrom.

9. The method according to claim 6, wherein said plurality of pulse signals are generated by gating pairs of adjacent second signal phases.

10. The method according to claim 6, wherein said step of selecting comprises the steps of:
    - gating each one of said third signals with a corresponding one of said pulse signals to generate a plurality of gated signals; and
    - ORing said plurality of gated signals together to generate said output signal thereof.

11. An apparatus for generating a local oscillator signal having an output frequency, comprising:
    - an oscillator circuit operative to generate a first signal, said first signal having a frequency substantially equal to a rational multiplier \( L/N \) of said output frequency;
    - a frequency divide by \( Q \) coupled to receive said first signal and operative to generate \( 2Q \) second signal phases at a frequency substantially equal to a rational multiplier \( L/(N*Q) \) of said output frequency;
    - a frequency divider by \( L \) coupled to receive said \( 2Q \) second signal phases and operative to generate a plurality of third signals;
    - a selector operative to select, using time division multiplexing, one of said plurality of pulse signals as an output signal in accordance with a select control signal, said output signal having a frequency substantially equal to said output frequency; and
    - control means for generating said select control signal as a function of said plurality of third signals and said output signal.
cycle through said 2Q second signal phases such that said output signal substantially resembles a desired output clock signal.

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said first frequency substantially equals $L/N=\frac{3}{2}$ of said output frequency and Q is equal to two.

13. The apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a filter coupled to receive said output signal and operative to remove unwanted products therefrom.

14. An apparatus for generating a local oscillator signal having an output frequency, comprising:
   an oscillator circuit operative to generate a quadrature clock of four substantially equally spaced phases, said quadrature clock having a frequency substantially equal to a rational multiplier $\frac{3}{4}$ of said output frequency;
   a multiplexer coupled to receive said quadrature clock and operative to output one of said four phases as an output signal in accordance with a select control input; and
   a modulo-4 counter operative to generate an output coupled to said select control input, wherein the output of said counter causes said multiplexer to sequentially cycle through said four phases of said quadrature clock.

15. The apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising a filter coupled to receive said output signal and operative to remove unwanted products therefrom.

16. A radio, comprising:
   a transmitter coupled to an antenna, said transmitter comprising a local oscillator having an output frequency, said local oscillator comprising:
      an oscillator circuit operative to generate a first signal, said first signal having a frequency substantially equal to a rational multiplier $L/N$ of said output frequency;
      a frequency divider by Q coupled to receive said first signal and operative to generate 2Q second signal phases at a frequency substantially equal to a rational multiplier $L/(N^*Q)$ of said output frequency;
      a pulse generator operative to generate a plurality of pulse signals from said 2Q second signal phases;
      a frequency divide by L coupled to receive said 2Q second signal phases and operative to generate a plurality of third signals;
      a selector operative to select, using time division multiplexing, one of said plurality of pulse signals as an output signal in accordance with a select control signal, said output signal having a frequency substantially equal to said output frequency;
      control means for generating said select control signal as a function of said plurality of third signals and said output signal;
   a receiver coupled to said antenna; and
   a baseband processor coupled to said transmitter and said receiver.

17. The radio according to claim 15, wherein said first frequency substantially equals $L/N=\frac{3}{2}$ of said output frequency and Q is equal to two.

18. The radio according to claim 16, further comprising a filter coupled to receive said output signal and operative to remove unwanted products therefrom.

19. The radio according to claim 16, wherein said pulse generator comprises 2Q AND gates, each gate coupled to a pair of adjacent second signal phases.

20. The radio according to claim 16, wherein said selector and control means comprise:
   means for gating each one of said third signals with a corresponding one of said pulse signals to generate a plurality of gated signals; and
   means for ORing said plurality of gated signals together to generate said output signal thereby.

21. A radio, comprising:
   a transmitter coupled to an antenna, said transmitter comprising a local oscillator having an output frequency, said local oscillator comprising:
      an oscillator circuit operative to generate a first signal, said first signal having a frequency substantially equal to a rational multiplier $L/N$ of said output frequency;
      a frequency divide by Q coupled to receive said first signal and operative to generate 2Q second signal phases at a frequency substantially equal to a rational multiplier $L/(N^*Q)$ of said output frequency;
      a multiplexer coupled to receive said 2Q second signal phases and operative to output one of said 2Q second signal phases as an output signal in accordance with a select control input;
      a modulo-2Q counter operative to generate an output coupled to said select control input, wherein the output of said counter causes said multiplexer to sequentially cycle through said 2Q second signal phases such that said output signal substantially resembles a desired output clock signal;
   a receiver coupled to said antenna; and
   a baseband processor coupled to said transmitter and said receiver.

22. The radio according to claim 21, wherein said first frequency substantially equals $L/N=\frac{3}{2}$ of said output frequency and Q is equal to two.

23. The radio according to claim 21, further comprising a filter coupled to receive said output signal and operative to remove unwanted products therefrom.

* * * * *