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# A Survey on Low Cost Function Generator for Stepper Motor

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**ABSTRACT**: Function generator plays a very important role in electronic circuits, communication, control, and other electronic systems. This paper describes the design and implementation of low-cost waveform generator using a 555 timer and 4017 Decade counter. The signal generated is tested with stepper motor driver thus making it viable for use in electronic systems, control and communications.

**KEYWORDS**: function generator, DAC, 4017 IC, stepper motor

### I. INTRODUCTION

A function generator is a device which produces simple repetitive waveforms. Such devices contain an electronic oscillator, a circuit that is capable of creating a repetitive wave form (Gupta et al, 2013). Signal generator is a kind of electronic devices that generate repeating or non-repeating electronic signals which are generally used in designing, testing, troubleshooting, and repairing electronic or electro acoustic equipment (D. Fei, 2011). There are many different types of signal generators analog signal generators, vector signal generators, and logic signal generators (Zhong et al, 2014).

The term function generator is attached to this design based on its ability to generate different waveform. These waveforms follow different mathematical function. Based on this design, the function generator is designed to provide sine, triangle, square, pulse function. Function generators are used for testing, troubleshooting and adjusting electronic circuits.

Stepper motors are used in numerous applications where there is need of controlling the motion as a result of robust structure of stepper motors (Bhale et al, 2016). The performance of most electronic system under test and in operation using the function generator are basically to extract vital information based on the generated signals displayed on a scope and in some cases used to initiate control for systems (Bobade et al, 2017).

### **II. LITERATURE SURVEY**

Veeravalli et al, 2002 used a capacitance converter circuit in conjunction with an active transconductance element, gml/41/R, to create a VLF oscillator. Such an approach makes use of small values of gm which was produced using low-power operational transconductance amplifiers (OTAs). The output frequencies for the circuit range from 0.2 Hz to 5 Hz, representing a tuning range of 25:1. Wang and Saavedra, 2011 describe an integrated circuit (IC) in 0.13-mm CMOS technology that can generate periodic signals from 0.03 Hz to 185 Hz. They employed microwave circuit design techniques to design a pair of LC-oscillators at 4GHz which are followed by frequency division and mixing circuits to produce the VLF signals. This approach avoids the need for impedance scaling circuits, thereby allowing the use of normal-valued inductors and capacitors in the nH and pF range, respectively. Furthermore, the use of frequency division in conjunction with a frequency mixing operation leads to an exceptionally large frequency tuning range of more than three orders of magnitude.

Gupta et al, 2013designed a new architecture for arbitrary function Generator generating any periodic function with desired frequency. They implemented the system on an Advance Risc machine (ARM-7). ARM-7 is used to realize



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DDS logic to meet different demand of the user. Jian Qi et al 2015designed and analyzed wave form generator based on DDS. Their experimental results showed that the signal generator is of high resolution, high precision, small size, and light weight and is convenient and stable in use. However, they found out that when the output frequency increases to 10 kHz the amplitude begins to decay due to bandwidth limitations of the multiplier. Bhale et al 2016 discussed the transformation of manual sphere gap apparatus used for measuring breakdown voltage of insulating materials such as air into automatic displacement of sphere gap achieved by the use of stepper motor and microcontroller ATmega16A. The main of the design was to enhance safety by panel operation Jufang Hu, 2016 designed and implemented a high-frequency signal generator based on the DDS mixing principle. The generator uses the characteristics of D/A convertor. The DDS output frequency spectrum was based on the frequency component. Using the DDS chip AD9850 as the frequency synthesizer, the output 21MHz main frequency signal was achieved under the 80MHz reference clock. The output of DDS was connected by several layers of filter with the central frequency of 101MHz, which was able to remove the spurious signal and central signal of 21MHz, outputting the final required signal. The experiments made use of three layers bandwidth filter which was series connected for enlarging the signal. After then, a low pass was used for adjusting the sine signal so that an ideal 101MHz signal could be obtained.

**III. METHODOLOGY** 



Fig 1. Block diagram of the function generator

Fig 1 is the block diagram of the designed system. It comprises the oscillator which is made up of the 555 timer astable multivibrator. It generates the pulses which are sent to the decade counter. The output of the decade counter is sent to the digital to analog converter which converters the digital signals to analog signal for onward fed to the stepper motor.



Fig 2. Basic 555 multivibrator



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555 timers is used as a free astable multivibrator by wiring it in the basic configuration of fig b with trigger pin shorted to pin 6 threshold terminal and timing resistor R10 wired between pin 6 and discharge pin 7. When power is first applied to this circuit  $C_3$  starts to discharge exponentially via  $R_9$  to  $R_{10}$  until eventually the  $C_3$  voltage rises to 2/3  $V_{CE}$  at which point discharge pin 7 switches low and starts to discharge  $C_3$  via r10 until eventually the  $C_3$ voltage falls to 1/3  $V_{cc}$  and trigger pin 2 is activated thus initiating a whole new timing sequence, which repeats ad infinitum. The operating frequency is made variable by adding  $R_2$  with a series wired variable resistor as shown in fig b.

The frequency can be varied from about 650 Hz to 7.2 kHz through VR1. Selecting alternative values of  $C_3$  can also increase the frequency

$$f = \frac{0.72}{(C3R2 + VR1)}$$

#### **Stepper motors**

A stepper motor is an electromechanical device which converts electrical pulses into discrete mechanical movements. The sequence of the applied pulses is directly related to the direction of motor shafts rotation. The speed of the motor shafts rotation is directly related to the frequency of the input pulses and the length of rotation is directly related to the number of input pulses applied (Bhale et al, 2016).

#### 4017 decade counter

The decade counter belongs to the family of CMOS logic ICs and it is the building block of this design. It looks like any other 16 pin integrated circuit. They are used in timing systems and as applicable to this design in motor systems.

The pulses from the 555IC pin 3 are used to activate this circuit through pin 14 called "cock in". Continuous pulsing by the 555IC results in the 4017 turning ON and OFF in sequence, creating a ripple effect. The digital signals from the 4017 counter are fed to the DAC. As the low to high voltage pulses are applied to the "clock in" terminal of the 4017IC, it increments the count thereby forcing the next output into a "high" state.

The waveform is plotted using the nominal voltage supply and 10 switches s0 to s9. Since the generated waveform could be amplified or reduced using external amplifier or divider respectively, the standard voltage used in working out the waveform may not matter.

The voltage VR1 drop across resistor R1, 10k which is kept constant is recorded in table 1

#### Table 1 Voltage at 4017 counter

| Voltage | 0.8        | 1.0        | 1.5 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.0 | 1.5        | 1.0        | 0.8 |
|---------|------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|------------|-----|
| Switch  | <b>S</b> 0 | <b>S</b> 1 | S2  | S3  | S4  | S5  | S6  | <b>S</b> 7 | <b>S</b> 8 | S9  |

Table 1 is the nominal voltage values at the ten switches of the decade counter. This values are used to plot the waveform of the designed system using an oscilloscope.

The output of the designed system is integrated into a stepper motor driver to implement micro stepping technology that helps the motor to run smother and quieter during operation.



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Fig 3. Schematic diagram of the function generator

The schematic diagram of the function generator is shown in fig 3. The diagram is the complete stand alone circuit of the function generator as was represented by the block diagram. This comprise of 4017 IC, the 555 timer IC configuration, a number of resistors, LEDs, capacitors and an oscilloscope for viewing the generated waveform.



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Fig 4. Virtual Wave form simulated by Proteus software

Fig 4 is the waveform of the designed system as was simulated by the proteus software where the designed system was first embarked upon before implementation on a hard ware and tested with a stepper motor.

### **IV. CONCLUSION**

This paper presents a low cost effective way for generation of signal for stepper motor application using a combination of decade counter and timer circuitry. The function generator was tested with stepper motor to confirm its operation function ability.

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