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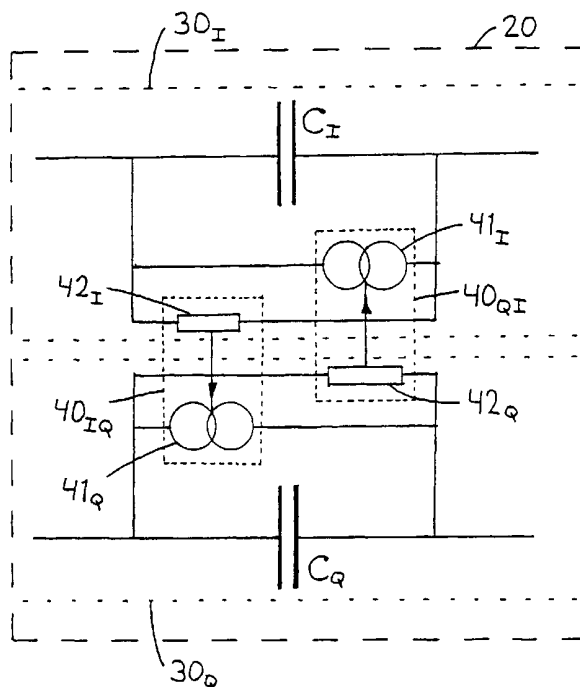
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- (71) Applicant: TELEFONAKTIEBOLAGET L.M. ERICSSON [SE/SE]; 30, Telefonvagen, S-126 25 Stockholm (SE).
- (72) Inventor: ESSINK, Berend, Hendrik; 12, Brandijzerhoek, NL-7546 LK Enschede (NL).
- (74) Agent: GRIEBLING, O.; Exter Polak & Charlouis B.V., P.O. Box 3241, NL-2280 GE Rijswijk (NL).
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(54) Title: POLYPHASE FILTER



(57) **Abstract:** A polyphase filter (20; 100) is described, having two filter channels (30_I, 30_Q; 101_I, 101_Q) for processing an I-input signal (φ_I) and a Q-input signal (φ_Q) which is shifted over 90° with respect to the I-input signal (φ_I), respectively. The filter (20; 100) has at least two capacitive filter components (C_I, C_Q; C_I, C_Q) corresponding to each other in the two filter channels (30_I, 30_Q; 101_I, 101_Q), wherein the capacity values (C; C_i) of these two capacitive filter components (C_I, C_Q; C_I, C_Q) are substantially equal to each other. Said two capacitive filter components (C_I, C_Q; C_I, C_Q) are coupled to each other by means of two current source couplings (40_Q, 40_I; 106_i) switched in anti-parallel, having substantially equal characteristics. Hereby, a displacement of the filter characteristic toward higher frequencies is achieved, over a distance ω_C.



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Title: Polyphase filter

The present invention relates in general to a polyphase bandpass filter.

Such filters are known per se, for instance from the United States patent 4.914.408, and they can for instance be applied in receiver circuits for, e.g. radio applications, television applications, or telephone applications. Although such filters also know different applications, a possible application of such a filter will be explained here in more detail in the context of a receiver circuit.

An important drawback of the filter described in US-A-4.914.408 is that a coupling between two filter channels is effected by means of resistors. An important aim of the present invention is therefore to provide a polyphase bandpass filter wherein such coupling resistors are omitted.

These and other aspects, characteristics and advantages of the present invention will be explained in more detail by the following description of a preferred embodiment of a polyphase bandpass filter according to the invention with reference to the drawing, in which same reference numerals indicate same or similar parts, and in which:

figure 1 schematically shows a known receiver circuit;

figure 2A schematically illustrates the transmission characteristic of a low pass filter;

figure 2B schematically illustrates the transmission characteristic of a bandpass filter, derived from the transmission characteristic of figure 2A;

figure 2C schematically shows a parallel connection of a capacitor and a complex component;

figure 2D schematically illustrates a known way of coupling two filter channels;

figure 3A illustrates the coupling principle according to the present invention;

figure 3B illustrates a replacement representation of the coupling schedule of figure 3A;

and figure 4 is a basic schedule of an embodiment of a polyphase filter according to the present invention.

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Figure 1 schematically shows a known receiver circuit 1, in which a receiver signal S coming from an antenna 2 is mixed in a first mixing stage 3 with a signal ϕ provided by a local oscillator 5, and wherein said signal S is mixed in a second mixing stage 4 with a second signal provided by the local oscillator 5 which is 90° shifted with respect to the first signal ϕ . The output signal of the first mixing stage 3, which is also indicated by the phrase inphase signal, is fed to a first input 11 of a filter 10, and the output signal of the second mixing stage 4, which is also indicated by the phase quadrature signal, is fed to a second input 12 of the filter 10. The filter 10 has two filter channels 13 and 14, respectively, which process the inphase signal of the first input 11 and the quadrature signal of the second input 12, respectively, in substantially identical way, and which have outputs 15 and 16, respectively, for providing an inphase output signal and a quadrature output signal, respectively, wherein the quadrature output signal of the second output is shifted 90° with respect to the inphase output signal of the first output. The filter channels 13 and 14 have mutual identical filter characteristics, for example a bandpass characteristic.

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In the following, the frequency of the local oscillator signal will be indicated by f_1 . In the receiver signal S, many frequencies are present; in the following, the tuning frequency to which the reception circuit 1 must be tuned will be indicated by f_2 . Assume that this frequency is higher than the local frequency f_1 , i.e. that

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$$f_2 = f_1 + \Delta f.$$

In general, when two signals having two different frequencies f_1 and f_2 are mixed, a signal component results with the difference frequency $\Delta f = f_2 - f_1$. However, in the receiver signal S there will also be a frequency f_3 present, fulfilling $f_3 = f_1 - \Delta f$. This component also contributes to the eventual mixing signal, i.e. by causing a virtual mirror signal component with the difference

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frequency $f_3 - f_1 = -\Delta f$. It is desired that the filter 10 suppresses such mirror signal components.

Further it is desired that the filter 10 has a bandpass characteristic which is substantially symmetrical with respect to the center frequency ω_c .

A known way of designing a bandpass filter of which the frequency characteristic is symmetrical with respect to a center frequency $\omega_c > 0$, and wherein mirror signal components are effectively suppressed, starts with a lowpass filter of which the characteristic corresponds to the desired characteristic of the bandpass filter to be designed.

Figure 2A schematically illustrates the transfer characteristic of a lowpass filter. Along the horizontal axis, the frequency ω is set out, and the transfer function H is set out along the vertical axis. In practice, only signals can occur of which the frequency is higher than zero; this part of the frequency characteristic is shown with a solid line. The frequency characteristic, however, does not depend on the sign of the frequency, which implies that the frequency characteristic is symmetrical with respect to $\omega = 0$, as is shown in figure 2A with a dotted line.

Depending on the design of the lowpass filter, said lowpass filter can have a desired characteristic, for instance first order, second order, or higher order, Bessel-type, Butterworth-type, etc. Starting from the lowpass filter with the desired characteristic, a bandpass filter can be derived by a transformation or shifting of the filter characteristics to a higher frequency. Figure 2B shows the characteristic of figure 2A, shifted over a distance ω_c to a higher frequency. The transfer function $H_{\text{BDF}}(\omega)$ of this bandpass filter fulfills the following formula:

$$H_{\text{BDF}}(\omega) = H_{\text{LDF}}(\omega - \omega_c) \quad (1)$$

The desired shift of the filter characteristic corresponds to a shift of all poles and all zeros of the filter over mutually identical distances along the imaginary axis. In a filter design of which the components with frequency-dependent impedance are capacities exclusively, this can be achieved by switching a complex component X in parallel to said capacitive filter components, of

which the admittance Y_x is a constant complex number according to the formula

$$Y_x(\omega) = -j \cdot \omega_c \cdot C \quad (2)$$

Figure 2C schematically shows a parallel connection of a capacitor C and such a complex component X. For the frequency-
5 depending admittance Y_c of a capacitor with a capacitive value C, the following formula applies in the case of an ideal capacitor

$$Y_c(\omega) = j \cdot \omega \cdot C \quad (3)$$

10 For the frequency-dependent admittance Y of the parallel connection of figure 2C, the following is valid:

$$Y(\omega) = Y_c(\omega) + Y_x(\omega) = j \cdot \omega \cdot C - j \cdot \omega_c \cdot C = j \cdot (\omega - \omega_c) \cdot C \quad (4)$$

In the case of a signal with frequency ω , the behaviour of this parallel circuit is, therefore, identical to the behaviour of the
15 capacitor C at a frequency $\omega - \omega_c$. By replacing all capacitive filter components of a filter by such parallel circuits, the behaviour of the overall filter at a frequency ω will therefore be identical to the behaviour of the original filter at a frequency $\omega - \omega_c$.

20 The above deduction already applies for a single filter. A problem when realizing a bandpass filter in this way, then, is moved to a problem of providing a component of which the admittance (or inversely: the impedance) is a constant complex number. Although this is possible per se, in a polyphase filter it is possible to use in an
25 elegant way the fact that there are two mutually identical filter channels present, in which the signals are mutually identical but shifted over 90° with respect to each other. Then, in such a filter, the behaviour of the complex component X can be obtained by using, in each channel, a component of which the admittance is a real number,
30 but which receives at its input the 90° shifted signal from the other channel.

Such an approach for the construction of a polyphase bandpass filter has already been described in the US patent 4.914.408. There, the real coupling between two filter channels is effected by means of
35 resistors, as illustrated in figure 2D. Therein, each resistor has a resistance value $R = \omega_c \cdot C$.

This known approach, however, has some objections, which are particularly relevant when realizing the filter on a chip. Caused by process variations, the resistors and capacitors of the filter will show a relatively large tolerance. Therefore, the capacitors and resistors should be able to be set after manufacture. However, this is difficult to realize.

It is a general goal of the present invention to overcome the mentioned disadvantages.

More particularly, the present invention aims to provide a polyphase bandpass filter wherein the coupling between two filter channels, necessary for achieving the desired frequency shift, is effected without resistors.

According to an important aspect of the present invention, the coupling between two filter channels is effected by means of a voltage-controlled current source. This principle in accordance with the present invention is illustrated in figure 3A. In figure 3A, a polyphase filter is generally indicated by the reference numeral 20. The filter 20 has two mutually identical filter channels 30, which will be indicated with the index I and Q, respectively, for distinction with respect to each other. Each filter channel 30_I , 30_Q has an input 31_I , 31_Q and an output 32_I , 32_Q . Since the design of the filter channels 30_I , 30_Q can be any suitable design, while various constructions for filter channels are known per se, the complete design of the filter channels 30 is not shown in figure 3A.

For the sake of the following discussion, one capacitive filter component C_I of the inphase filter channel 30_I is shown in figure 3A, and the corresponding capacitive filter component C_Q of the quadrature filter channel 30_I is shown. The two capacitive filter components C_I and C_Q are coupled with each other by means of two current source couplings 40_{QI} and 40_{IQ} connected in anti-parallel. The first current source coupling 40_{QI} comprises a first voltage-controlled current source 41_I of which the output is connected in parallel to the capacitive filter component C_I in the inphase filter channel 30_I , while the second current source coupling 40_{IQ} comprises a second voltage-controlled current source 41_Q of which the output is connected in parallel with the corresponding capacitive filter component C_Q in the quadrature filter channel 30_Q .

The first voltage-controlled current source 41_I is controlled by an output signal of a first voltage detector 42_Q , of which the input is connected in parallel with the capacitive filter component C_Q . Similarly, the second voltage-controlled current source 41_Q is under control of a second voltage detector 42_I of which the input is connected in parallel with the capacitive filter component C_I .

Thus, the first voltage-controlled current source 41_I adds to the first filter channel 30_I a current of which the value depends on the voltage over the capacitive filter component C_Q in the second filter channel 30_Q , while the second voltage-controlled current source 41_Q adds to the second filter channel 30_Q a current of which the value depends on the voltage over the capacitive filter component C_I in the first filter channel 30_I .

The two current source coupling 40_{QI} and 40_{IQ} can be mutually identical, although this is not necessary. Important is only, that the proportionality factors between the voltage detected by the voltage detector 42 and the current generated by the current source 41 are mutually identical for both current source coupling 40_{QI} and 40_{IQ} ; in other words: important is only that the two current source couplings 40_{QI} and 40_{IQ} have mutually identical transfer characteristics. This implies that each current source coupling 40_{QI} and 40_{IQ} is designed for letting the voltage-controlled current source 41_I and 41_Q , respectively, generate a current $I_{41,I}$ and $I_{41,Q}$, respectively, of which the current magnitude depends on the voltage V_{CQ} and V_{CI} , respectively, detected by the voltage detector 42_Q and 42_I , respectively, according to the formulas

$$I_{41,I} = V_{CQ} / (\omega_c \cdot C) \quad \text{and} \quad I_{41,Q} = V_{CI} / (\omega_c \cdot C)$$

wherein C is the capacitive value of the two capacitive filter components C_I and C_Q , respectively, and wherein ω_c is the desired center frequency of the bandpass filter.

In the following, a combination of two current source couplings connected in anti-parallel will be indicated with the phrase "gyrator", and will be indicated by the symbol 50 shown in figure 3B. A gyrator 50 has two terminals 51A and 51B. For coupling from 51A to 51B, the gyrator 50 comprises a first current source coupling not shown in figure 3B, of which terminal 51A is a voltage input and of which terminal 51B is a current output. For coupling from 51B to 51A,

the gyrator 50 comprises a second current source coupling not shown in figure 3B, of which terminal 51B is a voltage input and of which terminal 51A is a current output. The two current source couplings each have a proportionality factor G_{AB} and G_{BA} , respectively, defined as output current divided by input voltage. When both proportionality factors are equal to each other, or at least have an identical characteristic, the gyrator will be indicated as a symmetrical gyrator. This can be achieved if both current source couplings are identical, but this is not necessary.

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Figure 4 shows an example of an implementation of a polyphase filter 100 according to the present invention. The polyphase filter 100 comprises an inphase channel 101_I and a quadrature channel 101_Q , which are mutually substantially identical. The channels 101_I , 101_Q have inputs 102_I , 102_Q for receiving an inphase input signal ϕ_I and a quadrature input signal ϕ_Q , respectively. The channels 101_I , 101_Q further have outputs 103_I , 103_Q for outputting an inphase output signal ψ_I and a quadrature output signal ψ_Q , respectively. The inputs 102_I , 102_Q are current inputs, i.e. the input signals ϕ_I and ϕ_Q are current signals; if it is desired that the filter 100 receives voltage signals, voltage-to-current converters can be switched before the inputs 102_I , 102_Q ; since known per se voltage-to-current converters can be used for this, they will not be described in more detail here. The outputs 103_I , 103_Q are voltage outputs, i.e. the output signals ψ_I and ψ_Q are voltage signals; when it is desired that the filter 100 outputs current signals, voltage-to-current converters can be switched after the outputs 103_I , 103_Q ; since known per se voltage-to-current converters can be used for this, these will also not be described in more detail here.

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The channels 101_I , 101_Q comprise a plurality of N capacities $C1_I$, $C2_I$, $C3_I$, ... CN_I and $C1_Q$, $C2_Q$, $C3_Q$, ... CN_Q , respectively, wherein $N \geq 2$.

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In the inphase channel 101_I , two subsequent capacities Ci_I and $C[i+1]_I$ are always coupled by a gyrator $105i_I$. Similarly, in the quadrature channel 101_Q , two subsequent capacities Ci_Q and $C[i+1]_Q$ are always coupled by a gyrator $105i_Q$. The corresponding gyrators $105i_I$ and $105i_Q$ are mutually identical; herein, the "forward"

proportionality factor $G(i \rightarrow i+1)$ and the "backwards" proportionality factor $G(i+1 \rightarrow i)$ need not be mutually identical.

The corresponding capacities C_{iI} and C_{iQ} always have mutually identical capacity values C_i ; for different values of i , the capacity values C_i can be different. The corresponding capacities C_{iI} and C_{iQ} are always coupled to each other by a symmetrical gyrator 106i; the proportionality factors G_{iIQ} and G_{iQI} of each gyrator 106i are always equal to $1/(\omega_c \cdot C_i)$.

Thus, the present invention provides a polyphase filter 20; 100 with two filter channels $30_I, 30_Q; 101_I, 101_Q$ for processing an I-input signal ϕ_I and a Q-input signal ϕ_Q , respectively. The filter has at least two capacitive filter components $C_I, C_Q; C_{iI}, C_{iQ}$ corresponding to each other in the two filter channels $30_I, 30_Q; 101_I, 101_Q$, wherein the capacity values $C; C_i$ of these two capacitive filter components $C_I, C_Q; C_{iI}, C_{iQ}$ are substantially equal to each other. Said two capacitive filter components $C_I, C_Q; C_{iI}, C_{iQ}$ are coupled to each other by means of two current source couplings $40_{QI}, 40_{IQ}; 106i$ with substantially equal characteristic, switched anti-parallel. Hereby, a displacement of the filter characteristic over a distance ω_c toward higher frequencies is achieved.

It will be evident to a person skilled in the art that the scope of the present invention is not limited to the examples discussed in the above, but that several amendments and modifications thereof are possible without deviating from the scope of the invention as defined in the attached claims.

CLAIMS

1. Polyphase filter (20; 100) comprising:

- a first filter channel (30_I; 101_I) with a desired filter characteristic, with an input (31_I; 102_I) for receiving an I-input signal (ϕ_I) and an output (32_I; 103_I) for providing an I-output signal (ψ_I);

- a second filter channel (30_Q; 101_Q), substantially identical to the first filter channel (30_I; 101_I), with an input (31_Q; 102_Q) for receiving a Q-input signal (ϕ_Q) which is shifted 90° with respect to the I-input signal (ϕ_I), and an output (32_Q; 103_Q) for providing a Q-output signal (ψ_Q) which is shifted 90° with respect to the I-output signal (ψ_I);

said filter (20; 100) having at least one capacitive filter component (C_I ; C_{i_I}) in the first filter channel (30_I; 101_I) and a capacitive filter component (C_Q ; C_{i_Q}) corresponding therewith in the second filter channel (30_Q; 101_Q), wherein the capacity values (C ; C_i) of these two capacitive filter components (C_I , C_Q ; C_{i_I} , C_{i_Q}) are substantially equal to each other;

wherein said two capacitive filter components (C_I , C_Q ; C_{i_I} , C_{i_Q}) are coupled to each other by means of two current source couplings (40_{QI}, 40_{IQ}; 106i) with substantially equal characteristic connected in anti-parallel.

2. Filter according to claim 1, wherein each current source coupling (40_{QI}, 40_{IQ}) comprises a voltage-controlled current source (41_I, 41_Q) with a voltage input and a current output, wherein the current output is coupled in parallel with a capacitive filter component (C_I , C_Q) of the one filter channel (30_I, 30_Q) while the voltage input is coupled in parallel to the corresponding capacitive filter component (C_Q , C_I) of the other channel (30_Q, 30_I).

3. Filter according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a first current source coupling (40_{QI}) comprises:

- a first voltage detector (42_Q) of which the input is switched in parallel with said corresponding capacitive filter component (C_Q) in the second filter channel (30_Q);

5 - a first voltage-controlled current source (41_I) which is switched in parallel with said capacitive filter component (C_I) in the first filter channel (30_I), and which is controlled by an output signal of the first voltage detector (42_Q);

wherein a second current source coupling (40_{IQ}) comprises:

10 - a second voltage detector (42_I) of which the input is switched in parallel with said capacitive filter component (C_I) in the first filter channel (30_I);

- a second voltage-controlled current source (41_Q) which is switched in parallel with said corresponding capacitive filter component (C_Q) in the second filter channel (30_Q), and which is controlled by an output signal of the second voltage detector (42_I);

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and wherein each current source (41_I, 41_Q) is adapted to provide a current (I_{41,I}, I_{41,Q}) of which the current magnitude fulfills

$$I_{41,I} = V_{CQ} / (\omega_c \cdot C) \quad \text{respectively} \quad I_{41,Q} = V_{CI} / (\omega_c \cdot C)$$

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4. Filter according to any of the previous claims, wherein each filter channel (101_I, 101_Q) comprises at least one combination of two capacities (C_{iI} and C[i+1]_I, C_{iQ} and C[i+1]_Q) which are coupled to each other by a gyrator (105_{iI}, 105_{iQ}).

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5. Filter according to claim 4, wherein of said combinations, the first capacity (C_{iI}) of the first filter channel (101_I) and the first capacity (C_{iQ}) of the second filter channel (101_Q) corresponding therewith, as well as the second capacity (C[i+1]_I) of the first filter channel (101_I) and the second capacity (C[i+1]_Q) of the second filter channel (101_Q) corresponding therewith, are mutually coupled to each other by means of always a symmetrical gyrator (106_I, 106[i+1]) of which the proportionality factors (G_{iIQ} and G_{iOI}, G[i+1]_{IQ} and G[i+1]_{OI}) are always equal to 1/($\omega_c \cdot C_i$) and 1/($\omega_c \cdot C[i+1]$), respectively.

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6. Filter according to any of the previous claims, wherein each filter channel (30_I, 30_Q; 101_I, 101_Q) has a plurality of capacitive

filter components, and wherein each filter component in the first filter channel (30_I ; 101_I) is coupled, by means of two current source couplings (40_{QI} , 40_{IQ} ; $106i$) switched anti-parallel, to the capacitive filter component (C_Q , C_{iQ}) corresponding therewith in the second
5 filter channel (30_Q ; 101_Q).

7. Filter according to any of the previous claims, wherein each individual filter channel (30_I , 30_Q ; 101_I , 101_Q) has a lowpass filter characteristic, and wherein the polyphase filter (20 ; 100) has a
10 bandpass filter characteristic caused by said current source couplings (40_{QI} , 40_{IQ} ; $106i$).

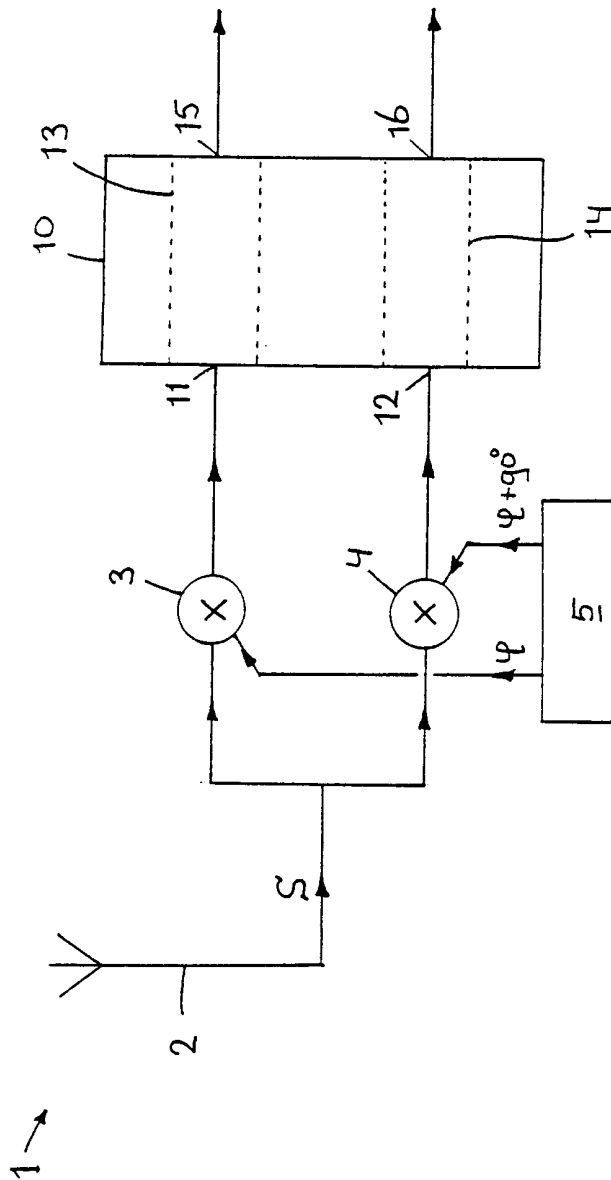


FIG. 1

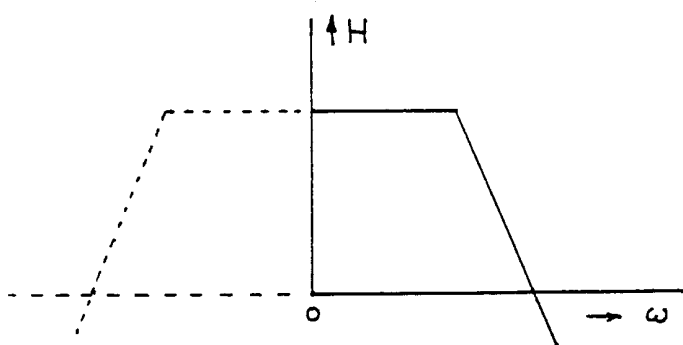


FIG. 2A

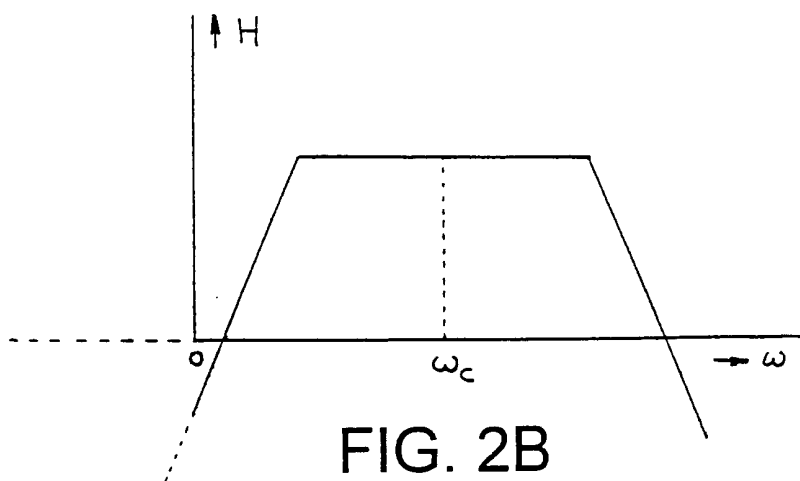


FIG. 2B

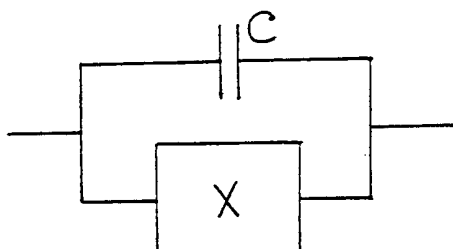


FIG. 2C

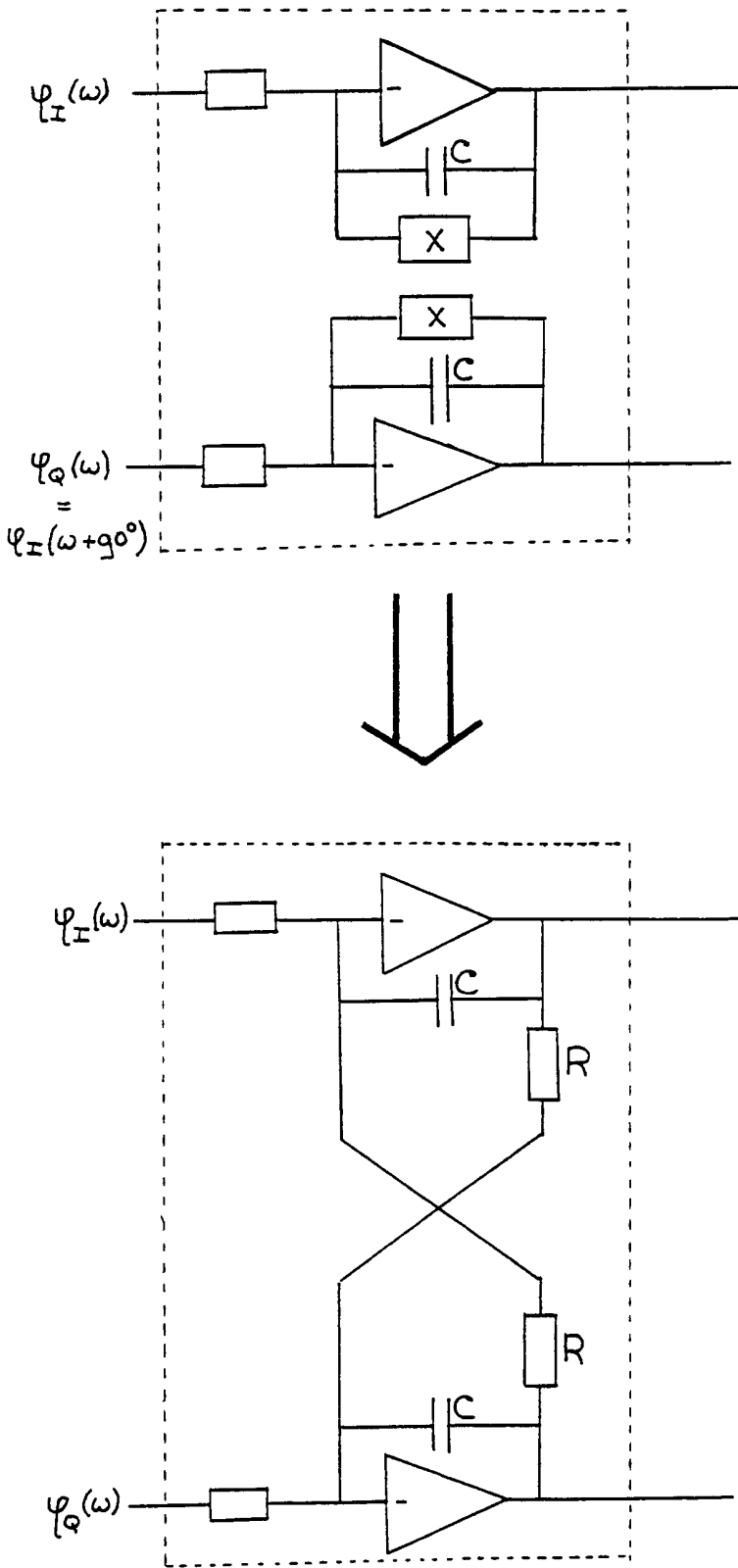


FIG. 2D

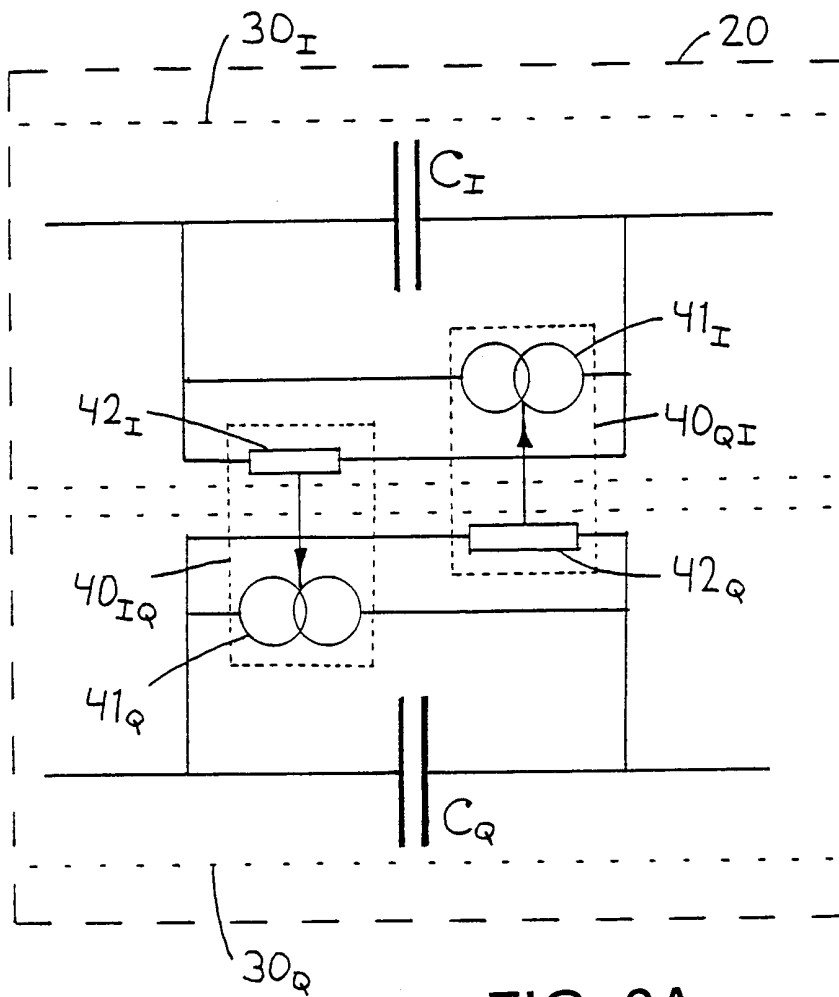


FIG. 3A

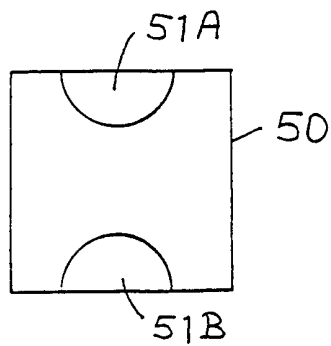


FIG. 3B

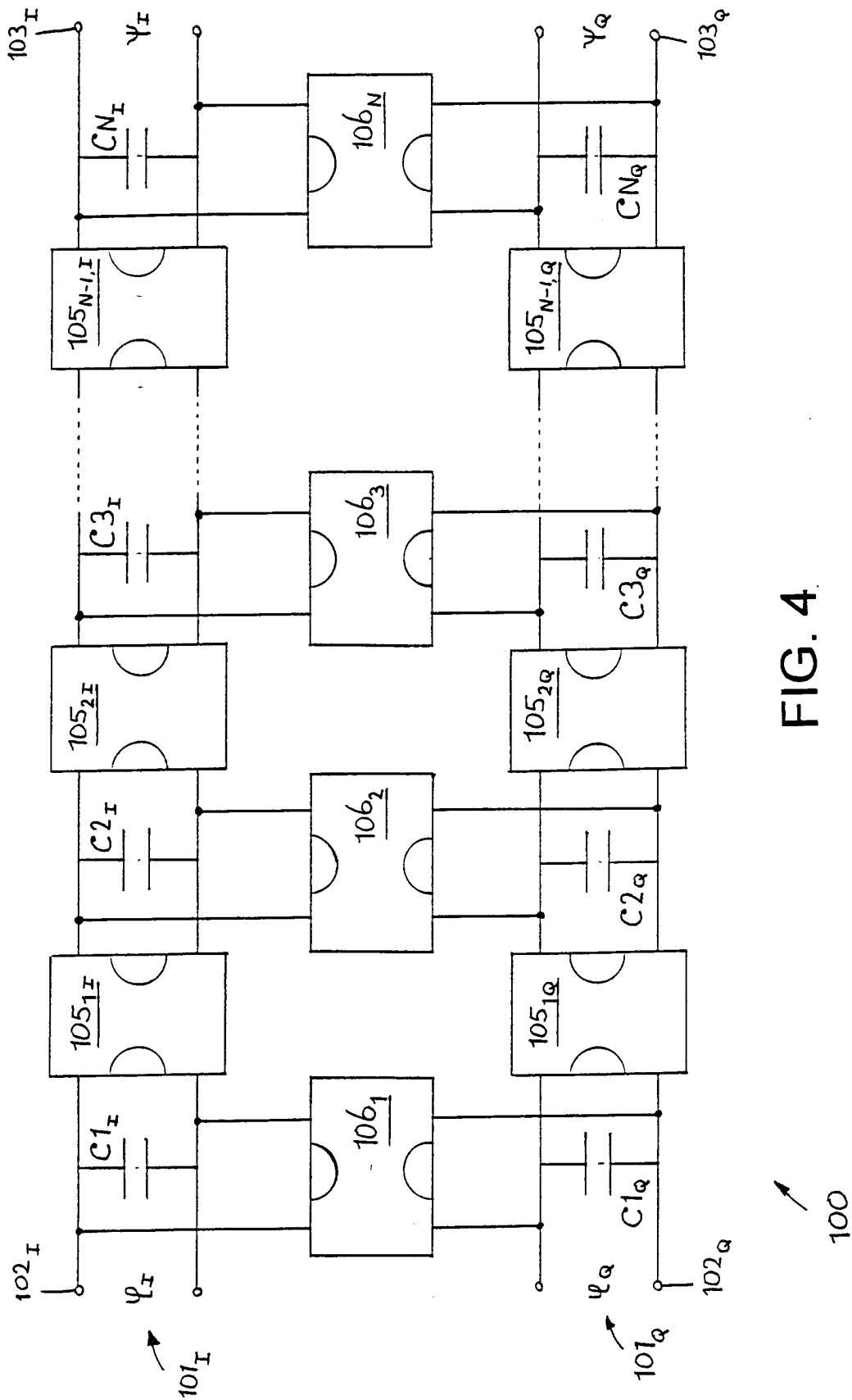


FIG. 4