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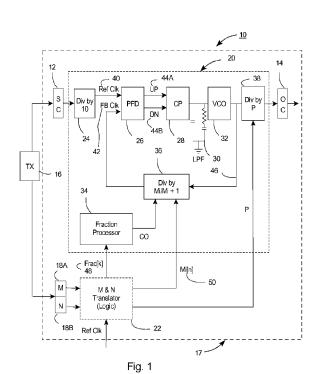
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(54) Title: CIRCUT FOR RECOVERING AN OUTPUT CLOCK FROM SOURCE CLOCK



(57) Abstract: An output clock recovery circuit (1 0) for recovering an output clock (14) from a source clock (12) and time stamp information (1 8A, 18B) includes a time stamp translator (22) and a phase-locked loop circuit (17) including a fraction processor (34) The time stamp translator (22) receives the time stamp information (18A, 18B) The time stamp translator (22) uses an algorithm that translates the tim stamp information (18A, 18B) into a time stamp decimal component (48) and a time stamp integer component (50) The time stamp decimal component (48) is less than one and is processed by the fraction processor (34) The time stamp integer component (50) is maintained within a predetermined range of integers that are greater than zero The time stamp translator (22) determines a value R, which equals the ratio of the output clock frequency to the source clock frequency times a constant



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CLOCK FROM A SOURCE CLOCK

BACKGROUND

Serial data communications are used to communicate data between various devices. Receiving and correctly decoding a stream of serial data requires the system, including a transmitting device and a receiving device, to be synchronized. Often, a source clock signal, e.g., a Link Symbol Clock with a frequency of either 162 MHz ("reduced bit rate") or 270 MHz ("high bit rate"), and time stamp information (also referred to herein as "M" and "N"), are included in a stream of serial data transmitted to the receiving device. In these types of systems, an output clock such as a stream clock (also sometimes referred to as a "pixel clock") having an output frequency that is different than the source clock frequency, e.g., within the range of between 25.175 MHz (such as VGA) and 268.5 MHz (such as WQXGA) at the receiving device must be accurately recovered to increase proper functioning of the system. In certain systems, the time stamp information is 24-bit information is embedded in a data stream from the transmitting device, and relates to the relative frequencies between the source clock and the output clock.

However, because of the frequency disparity between the source clock and the output clock, accurate output clock recovery, also sometimes referred to herein as stream clock recovery ("SCR"), can be difficult with conventional systems. In some systems, the receiving device can perform clock data recovery techniques using a phase locked loop ("PLL"). The PLL analyzes the

serial data stream and attempts to synchronize the receiving device with the transmitting device.

Unfortunately, it is a challenge to design a circuit with low-jitter performance that accurately recovers the stream clock since M and N values can be 24-bit values. These types of M and N values imply a typical design solution of an integer-N PLL based recovery circuit, which must have very low bandwidth, e.g., less than 1 Khz for a 270 MHz Link Symbol Clock in an asynchronous mode. Thus, one problem with this conventional type of circuit architecture is that it is rather complex and impractical to design sub-KHz bandwidth in a monolithic system-on-a-chip ("SOC") integrated circuit.

SUMMARY

The present invention is directed toward an output clock recovery circuit for recovering an output clock from a source clock and time stamp information. The source clock has a source clock frequency. The time stamp information is based on the source clock frequency and an output clock frequency of the output clock. In one embodiment, the output clock recovery circuit includes a phase-locked loop circuit including a fraction processor and a time stamp translator. The time stamp information includes a first time stamp component and a second time stamp component. The time stamp translator receives the time stamp information. Further, the time stamp translator uses an algorithm that translates the first time stamp component and the second time stamp component into a time stamp decimal component and a time stamp integer component. The time stamp decimal component is less than one and is processed by the fraction processor. The time stamp integer component is maintained within a predetermined range of integers that are greater than zero.

In one embodiment, a lower end of the predetermined range is greater than 3, and an upper end of the predetermined range is less than 20, although this range can vary. In one embodiment, the time stamp translator determines a value R, which equals the ratio of the output clock frequency to the source clock frequency times a constant. In some embodiments, the algorithm includes a multiplier P that varies depending upon the value of R. In one embodiment, the time stamp decimal component and the time stamp integer

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component are derived by multiplying P times R/10. In certain embodiments, P decreases as R incrementally increases. In one embodiment, the phase-locked loop circuit includes a voltage-controlled oscillator that generates an output signal that is divided by P to recover the output clock. In some embodiments, P is within the range of 1 to 8. The output of the fraction processor and the time stamp integer component can be input into a feedback divider of a feedback loop of the phase-locked loop circuit to recover the output clock. Further, the fraction processor can include a fraction accumulator type of fractional-N phase-locked loop circuit. Alternatively, the fraction processor includes a delta-sigma type of fractional-N phase-locked loop circuit.

The present invention is also directed toward a method for recovering an output clock from a source clock and time stamp information.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The novel features of this invention, as well as the invention itself, both as to its structure and its operation, will be best understood from the accompanying drawings, taken in conjunction with the accompanying description, in which similar reference characters refer to similar parts, and in which:

Figure 1 is a schematic flow chart diagram illustrating one embodiment of an output clock recovery circuit having features of the present invention, including a time stamp translator;

Figure 2 is a schematic flow chart diagram illustrating one embodiment of the time stamp translator;

Figure 3A is a table illustrating a plurality of examples of translation of time stamp information by the time stamp translator as a function of source clock frequencies and output clock frequencies for various video modes; and

Figure 3B is a table illustrating a plurality of examples of translation of time stamp information by the time stamp translator as a function of source clock frequencies and output clock frequencies for additional video modes.

DESCRIPTION

An output clock recovery circuit 10 provided herein accurately recovers an output clock 14 from a source clock 12 having a similar or different frequency as that of the output clock 14. The present invention can apply to any cross-clock domain data transport system. Although the description provided herein focuses primarily on video systems, and in particular, stream clock recovery circuits, it is recognized that no limitation to video systems should be construed from the description herein. For example, the recovery circuit 10 disclosed and described herein can equally be useful for audio applications in which it is necessary to recover a variable audio clock sampling frequency in a receiving device based on a fixed source clock transmitter frequency. Additionally, any other suitable type of cross-clock domain data transport system can benefit from the technology disclosed and described herein.

Figure 1 is a flow chart diagram that provides a schematic of one embodiment of the output clock recovery circuit 10. It is recognized that the specific architecture of the output clock recovery circuit 10 can be varied to suit the design requirements of the system. In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 1, the source clock 12 is included in a data stream that originates from a transmitting device 16 (illustrated as "TX" in Figure 1). The source clock 12 is first serialized and is subsequently recovered, i.e. deserialized, through clock and data recovery ("CDR") at a receiving device 17 (illustrated as an outer dashed-line rectangle in Figure 1). For clarity in describing the present invention, deserialization of the source clock 12 is not illustrated in Figure 1.

In addition, time stamp information includes a first time stamp component 18A and a second time stamp component 18B (also shown in Figure 1 as "M" and "N", respectively). The first and second time stamp components 18A, 18B are also transmitted in the data stream from the transmitting device 16. In certain embodiments, the time stamp components 18A, 18B can be 24-bit data that are based on the relative frequencies of the source clock 12 and the output clock 14. It is understood that the time stamp components 18A, 18B can alternatively include information other than 24-bit data.

In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 1, the output clock recovery circuit 10 includes a Phase-locked loop ("PLL") circuit 20 (illustrated as an inner dashed-line rectangle in Figure 1) and a time stamp translator 22. In certain embodiments, the PLL circuit 20 is a fractional-N PLL circuit. Alternatively, another suitable type of PLL circuit 20 can be used. The specific design of the PLL circuit can be varied. In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 1, the PLL circuit 20 includes one or more of a reference divider 24, a phase frequency detector 26 ("PFD"), a charge-pump circuit 28 ("CP"), a low-pass filter 30 ("LPF") or other type of filter, a voltage-controlled oscillator 32 ("VCO"), a fraction processor 34, a feedback divider 36 and an output divider 38. It is recognized that one or more of these structures can be omitted entirely from the output clock recovery circuit 10. Alternatively, the PLL circuit 20 can include additional or alternative somewhat similar structures without departing from the spirit or scope of the present invention.

The reference divider 24 reduces the frequency of the source clock 12 to generate a reference clock 40 (illustrated as "Ref Clk" in Figure 1). For example, the frequency of the source clock 12 can be divided by some integer which yields a reference clock frequency of 16.2 MHz or 27.0 MHz in the example provided. In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 1, for instance, the reference divider 18 divides the frequency of the source clock 12 by a factor of 10. The reference clock 40 and a feedback clock signal 42 (illustrated as "FB Clk" in Figure 1) are then compared using the PFD 26.

The PFD 26 can have two outputs 44A, 44B (UP or DN, respectively) which instruct subsequent circuitry on how to adjust (upwards or downwards) to lock onto the required phase. The outputs 44A, 44B are fed to the CP 28, which can be an analog current switch that generates either a higher or a lower voltage signal to one or more capacitors of the LPF 30. The LPF 30 integrates the voltage signal to smooth it. This smoothed signal is then fed to the VCO 32. An output signal 46 from the VCO 32 is indirectly and cyclically fed back to the PFD 26 for comparison with the reference clock 40. As explained in greater detail below, the time stamp information that has been processed by the time stamp translator 22 is incorporated into this feedback cycle to more accurately recover the output clock 14, increase the VCO frequency of the PLL 20, and/or benefit the jitter performance of the circuit.

The first time stamp component 18A and the second time stamp component 18B are fed into the time stamp translator 22 for processing. The time stamp translator 22 includes an algorithm (set forth greater detail in Figure 2) that translates the 24-bit (or other size value) time stamp components 18A, 18B into a time stamp decimal component 48 ("Frac[k]") and a time stamp integer component 50 ("Mi[n]"), which can be much more easily processed by the PLL 20, as explained below. In this embodiment, the time stamp decimal component 48 is a decimal value that is less than one, and the time stamp integer component 50 is an integer that is greater than zero.

The time stamp decimal component 48 is fed into the fraction processor 34 for processing. In one embodiment, the fraction processor 34 is a fraction accumulator in an accumulator fractional-N PLL circuit. Alternatively, the fraction processor 34 can be another type of fraction processor 34, such as a delta-sigma type of fraction processor 34, as one non-exclusive example. The fraction processor 34 performs a repetitious series of processing steps that result in an occasional carry-out ("CO") of an integer to the feedback divider 36, depending upon the value of the time stamp decimal component 48 fed into the fraction processor 34. For example, the closer the time stamp decimal component 48 is to a value of 1.0, the more often carry-out of an integer to the feedback divider 36 will occur from the fraction processor 34.

At the same time, the time stamp integer component 50 is input from the time stamp translator 22 into the feedback divider 36. The feedback divider 36 determines the magnitude of the divisor (Mi) or (Mi + 1) for the frequency of the output signal 46 from the VCO 32 during the feedback loop depending upon the frequency of carry-out by the fraction processor 34. In one embodiment, the feedback divider 36 will divide the frequency of the output signal by a particular integer (Mi) or (Mi + 1) at a particular ratio depending upon the output of the fraction processor 34 in order to satisfy the requirements of the PLL 20. Once the feedback divider 36 has processed the output signal 46, the new feedback clock signal 42 is compared with the reference clock 40 and the cycle is repeated.

Figure 2 is a schematic flow chart diagram illustrating one embodiment of an algorithm incorporated into the time stamp translator 22. At step 252, the first and second time stamp components are received from the transmitting

device. At step 254, a mathematical formula is then applied to the time stamp components M and N to determine the time relationship between the source clock and the output clock:

$$R = (M/N) \times 100$$
 [1]

The factor of 100 is used in this embodiment because in certain video modes, the ratio of M and N is much less than one. Having a multiplication factor of 100 increases the likelihood or ensures that R will be greater than one for all video modes. However, in other embodiments, another multiplication factor could be substituted for 100, such as any suitable constant that increases the likelihood or ensures that R will be greater than one.

Depending upon the resulting value of R, another value P is determined by the time stamp translator. In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 2, a comparison of R versus various integers is performed (at steps 256, 258, 260). Depending upon whether R is greater than these integers (such as 16, 32 and 64, as illustrated in Figure 2), a value of P is assigned (at steps 262, 264, 266, 268). In this embodiment, P can have a value of 8, 4, 2 or 1. However, in alternative embodiments, the value of P can vary from these particular values.

Once the value of P has been determined by the time stamp translator, a further mathematical formula is applied as follows, at step 270:

$$M' = (M/N) \times 10 \times P = Mi[n] + Frac[k]$$
 [2]

In this equation, the multiplier of 10 is derived from the reference divider 24 (illustrated in Figure 1). Thus, if the reference divider 24 is set at a number different than 10, the multiplier in equation [2] would likewise be varied accordingly. Equation [2] utilized by the time stamp translator provides the time stamp decimal component Frac[k] and the time stamp integer component Mi[n] which are then input into the fractional accumulator and/or the feedback divider at step 272. Additionally, at step 272, the value of P is communicated to the output divider 38 so that the resulting signal can be divided by P to more accurately recover the output clock 14.

Figure 3A is a table illustrating a plurality of examples of translation of time stamp information by the time stamp translator as a function of source clock frequencies and output clock frequencies for various video modes. In Figure 3A, the various video modes include a source clock (indicated as "LS Clk") having a frequency of 270 MHz and an output clock (indicated as "STR Clk") having various different frequencies between 25.175 MHz and 268.25 MHz. In each case, the M and N time stamp components are 24-bit values. In one embodiment, the time stamp translator translates these time stamp components in accordance with the method set forth in Figure 2 above. In this embodiment, the result is that although there is a large difference in the ratios of M and N time stamp components in these examples, the range of the resulting value of $[(M/N) \times 10 \times P]$ is relatively small because the value of P is strategically varied. For example, the range of $[(M/N) \times 10 \times P]$ for all of the examples in Figure 3A is approximately between 6.5 and 13.4. Thus, the time stamp integer component would be within the range of 6 to 13.

Figure 3B is a table illustrating a plurality of additional examples of translation of time stamp information by the time stamp translator as a function of source clock frequencies and output clock frequencies for various video In Figure 3A, the various video modes include a source clock modes. (indicated as "LS Clk") having a frequency of 162 MHz and an output clock (indicated as "STR Clk") having various different frequencies between 25.175 MHz and 268.25 MHz. In each case, the M and N time stamp components are 24-bit values. In one embodiment, the time stamp translator translates these time stamp components in accordance with the method set forth in Figure 2 In this embodiment, the result is that although there is a large difference in the ratios of M and N time stamp components in these examples, the range of the resulting value of $[(M/N) \times 10 \times P]$ is relatively small because the value of P is strategically varied. For example, the range of $[(M/N) \times 10 \times P]$ for all of the examples in Figure 3A is approximately between 6.6 and 16.6. Thus, the time stamp integer component would be within the range of approximately 6 to 16. Thus, the VCO circuit can be more easily designed because of this reduced output range (approximately 2.6x) relative to a conventional output range such as 25.175 to 268.5, which is greater than 10x.

In an alternative embodiment, the range of [(M/N) x 10 x P] can be a predetermined range that is satisfied by altering the values of R and/or P in the method set forth in Figure 2. For example, in non-exclusive alternative embodiments, the predetermined range can have a lower end of an integer greater than zero, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10. Further, the predetermined range can have an upper end of an integer less than 50, 40, 30, 25, 20, 19, 18, 17, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11 or 10. Still alternatively, the lower end and/or upper end of these ranges can vary from those identified herein to suit the design requirements of the system.

While the particular output clock recovery circuit 10 as herein shown and disclosed in detail are fully capable of obtaining the objects and providing the advantages herein before stated, it is to be understood that they are merely illustrative of one or more embodiments and that no limitations are intended to the details of construction or design herein shown other than as described in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An output clock recovery circuit for recovering an output clock from (i) a source clock having a source clock frequency, and (ii) time stamp information that is based on the source clock frequency and an output clock frequency of the output clock, the output clock recovery circuit comprising:

a phase-locked loop circuit including a fraction processor; and a time stamp translator that receives the time stamp information, the time stamp translator including an algorithm that translates a first time stamp component and a second time stamp component into (i) a time stamp decimal component that is less than 1, the time stamp decimal component being processed by the fraction processor, and (ii) a time stamp integer component that is maintained within a predetermined range of integers that are greater than zero.

- 2. The output clock recovery circuit of claim 1 wherein a lower end of the predetermined range is greater than 3.
- 3. The output clock recovery circuit of claim 1 wherein an upper end of the predetermined range is less than 20.
- 4. The output clock recovery circuit of claim 3 wherein a lower end of the predetermined range is greater than 5.
- 5. The output clock recovery circuit of claim 1 wherein the time stamp translator determines a value R, which equals the ratio of the output clock frequency to the source clock frequency times a constant.
- 6. The output clock recovery circuit of claim 5 wherein the algorithm includes a multiplier P that varies depending upon the value of R.
- 7. The output clock recovery circuit of claim 6 wherein the time stamp decimal component and the time stamp integer component are derived by multiplying P times R/10.

8. The output clock recovery circuit of claim 6 wherein P decreases as R incrementally increases.

- 9. The output clock recovery circuit of claim 6 wherein the phase-locked loop circuit includes a voltage-controlled oscillator that generates an output signal that is divided by P to recover the output clock.
- 10. The output clock recovery circuit of claim 6 wherein P is within the range of 1 to 8.
- 11. The output clock recovery circuit of claim 1 wherein the output of the fraction processor and the time stamp integer component are input into a feedback divider of a feedback loop of the phase-locked loop circuit to recover the output clock.
- 12. The output clock recovery circuit of claim 1 wherein the fraction processor includes a fraction accumulator type of fractional-N phase-locked loop circuit.
- 13. The output clock recovery circuit of claim 1 wherein the fraction processor includes a delta-sigma type of fractional-N phase-locked loop circuit.
- 14. A method for recovering an output clock from a source clock and time stamp information, the method comprising the steps of:

inputting a first time stamp component and a second time stamp component that are dependent upon a source clock frequency and an output clock frequency into a time stamp translator of a output clock recovery circuit;

translating the first time stamp component and a second time stamp component using an algorithm of the time stamp translator into (i) a time stamp decimal component that is less than 1, and (ii) a time stamp integer component that is maintained within a predetermined range of integers that are greater than zero; and

processing the time stamp decimal component using a fraction processor of a phase-locked loop circuit.

- 15. The method of claim 14 wherein a lower end of the predetermined range is greater than 3.
- 16. The method of claim 14 wherein an upper end of the predetermined range is less than 20.
- 17. The method of claim 16 wherein a lower end of the predetermined range is greater than 5.
- 18. The method of claim 14 wherein the step of translating includes the time stamp translator determining a value R, which equals the ratio of the output clock frequency to the source clock frequency times a constant.
- 19. The method of claim 18 wherein the algorithm includes a multiplier P that varies depending upon the value of R.
- 20. The method of claim 19 wherein the step of translating includes deriving the time stamp decimal component and the time stamp integer component by multiplying P times R/10.
- 21. The method of claim 19 wherein P decreases as R incrementally increases.
- 22. The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of generating an output signal with a voltage-controlled oscillator of the phase-locked loop circuit, the output signal being divided by P to recover the output clock.
 - 23. The method of claim 19 wherein P is within the range of 1 to 8.

24. The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of inputting the output of the fraction processor and the time stamp integer component into a feedback divider of a feedback loop of the phase-locked loop circuit to recover the output clock.

- 25. The method of claim 14 wherein the fraction processor includes a fraction accumulator type of fractional-N phase-locked loop circuit.
- 26. The method of claim 14 wherein the fraction processor includes a delta-sigma type of fractional-N phase-locked loop circuit.

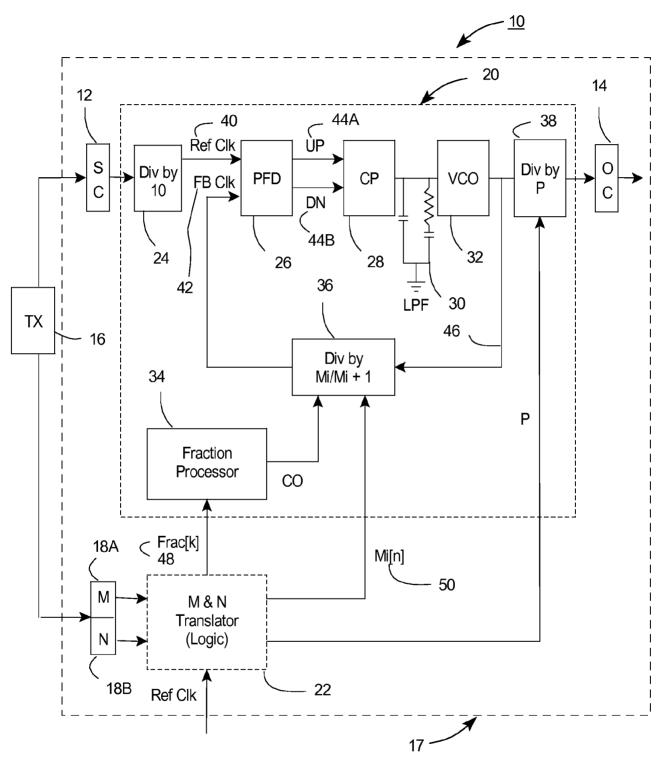


Fig. 1

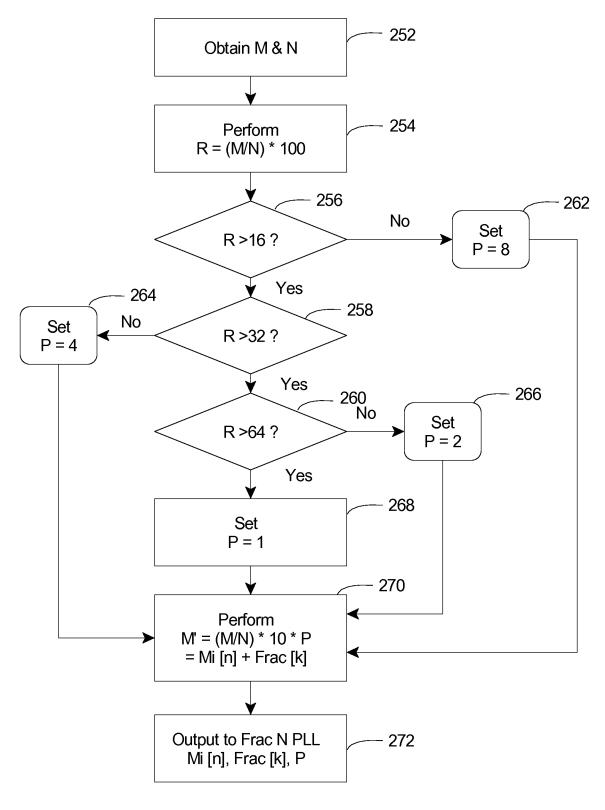


Fig. 2

Fig. 3A

Fig. 3B

M= MN*10*P	12.432096	977777.7	977777.7	8.88888	8.88888	9.87654	12.345676	12.2222	6.94444	8.02469	9.259258	9.72222	10.555554	11.666668	99999999	8.333333	9.72222	9	10.833333	11.666666	12.5	14.166666	16.558641	6.666664	6.66664	9.166668	9.166666	9.166666	9.166666
Ь	8	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	8	7	7	8	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	7	~	2	-
Threshold		16					-		32						64									16		32			99
M/N *10 * 10	15.54012	19.4444	19.4444	22.2222	22.2222	24.69135	30.86419	30.55555	34.72222	40.12345	46.29629	48.61111	52.7777	58.3333	9999999	83.33333	97.2222	901	108.333333	116.6666667	125	141.6666667	165.5864198	16.66666	16.66666	45.83333	45.83333	45.83333	91.66666
M/N*10(20bit)	1.554012	1.94444	1.94444	2.22222	2.22222	2.469135	3.086419	3.055555	3.472222	4.012345	4.629629	4.861111	5.277777	5.833333	6.66666	8.33333	9.722222	5	10.833333	11.666666	12.5	14.166666	16.558641	1.666666	1.666666	4.583333	4.583333	4.583333	9.166666
MN*10	1.55401235	1.9444444	1.9444444	2.2222222	2.2222222	2.4691358	3.08641975	3.0555556	3.47222222	4.01234568	4.62962963	4.86111111	5.2777778	5.8333333	6.6666667	8.3333333	9.7222222	0	10.8333333	11.6666667	12.5	14.1666667	16.558642	1.66666667	1.66666667	4.58333333	4.58333333	4.5833333	9.16666667
M (Integer)	5092	6371	6371	7281	7281	8090	10113	10012	11377	13147	15170	15928	17294	19114	21845	27306	31857	32768	35498	38229	40960	46421	54259	5461	5461	15018	15018	15018	30037
M Divider	5092.188	6371.556	6371.556	7281.778	7281.778	8090.864	10113.580	10012.444	11377.778	13147.654	15170.370	15928.889	17294.222	19114.667	21845.333	27306.667	31857.778	32768.000	35498.667	38229.333	40960.000	46421.333	54259.358	5461.333	5461.333	15018.667	15018.687	15018.667	30037.333
N Divider	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768	32768
STR CIK(Mhz)	25.175	31.500	31.500	36.000	36.000	40.000	20.000	49.500	56.250	65.000	75.000	78.750	85.500	94.500	108.000	135.000	157.500	162.000	175.500	189.000	202.500	229.500	268.250	27.000	27.000	74.250	74.250	74.250	148.500
LS/10	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20
S CIK(Mhz)	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162
Resolution LS CIK(Mhz)	640x480				800x600					1024×768							1280×1024	1600×1200					2560×1600	480p	576p	720p	1035i	1080i	1080p
Std.	VGA				SVGA					& X							SXGA	UXGA					WQXGA	₽					

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/US2009/037311

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(8) - H04J 3/06 (2009.01) USPC - 375/364 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC											
B. FIELDS SEARCHED											
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC(8) - H04J 3/06 (2009.01) USPC - 375/364, 327/156											
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched											
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)											
Patbase, Google Patents											
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT											
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where ap	Relevant to claim No.									
Υ	US 5,812,618 A (MUNTZ et al) 22 September 1998 (2	1-26									
Υ	US 2003/0085743 A1 (ULLMANN et al) 08 May 2003 (1-26									
Υ	US 2007/0121661 A1 (OHTA et al) 31 May 2007 (31.0	1-26									
Α	US 5,260,978 A (FLEISCHER et al) 09 November 199	1-26									
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