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STW81100

MULTI-BAND RF FREQUENCY SYNTHESIZER WITH INTEGRATED VCOS

1 Features

- Integer-N Frequency Synthesizer
- Dual differential integrated VCOs with automatic central frequency calibration:
	- Direct Output: 3300 – 3900 MHz 3800 – 4400 MHz
	- Internal divider by 2: 1650 – 1950 MHz 1900 – 2200 MHz
	- Internal divider by 4: 825 – 975 MHz 950 – 1100 MHz
- Fast lock time: 150us
- Dual modulus prescaler (64/65) and 2 programmable counters to achieve a feedback division ratio from 4096 to 32767.
- Programmable reference frequency divider (9 bits)
- Phase frequency comparator and charge pump
- Programmable charge pump current
- **Digital Lock Detector**
- \blacksquare \vert ²C bus interface with 3 bit programmable address $(1100A₂A₁A₀)$
- 3.3V Power Supply
- Power down mode
- Small size exposed pad VFQFPN28 package 5x5x1.0mm
- Process: BICMOS 0.35µm SiGe

2 Description

The STMicroelectronics STW81100 is an integrated RF synthesizer and voltage controlled oscilla-

Figure 1. Package

Table 1. Order Codes

tors (VCOs).

Showing high performance, high integration, low power, and multi-band performances, STW81100 is a low cost one chip alternative to discrete PLL and VCOs solutions.

STW81100 includes an Integer-N frequency synthesizer and two fully integrated VCOs featuring low phase noise performance and a noise floor of -153dBc/Hz. The combination of wide frequency range VCOs (thanks to center-frequency calibration over 32 sub-bands) and multiple output options (direct output, divided by 2 or divided by 4) allows to cover the 825MHz-1100MHz, the 1650MHz-2200MHz and the 3300MHz-4400MHz bands.

The STW81100 is designed with STMicroelectronics advanced 0.35µm SiGe process.

3 Applications

- Cellular 3G Infrastructure Equipment
- Other Wireless Communication Systems

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Figure 2. Block Diagram

Figure 3. Pin Connections

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Table 2. Pin Description

Table 3. Absolute Maximum Ratings

Note: 1. The maximum rating of the ESD protection circuitry on pin 4 and pin 5 is 800V with respect to other supply pins and 2KV with respect to ground.

Table 4. Operating Conditions

Table 5. Digital Logic Level¹

Note: 1. All parameters are guaranteed by design and characterization.

4 Electrical Characteristcs

All Electrical Specifications are intended at 3.3V supply voltage.

Table 6. Electrical Characteristcs

Table 6. Electrical Characteristcs (continued)

Table 6. Electrical Characteristcs (continued)

Notes: 1. Frequency step higher than F_{OUT}/4096 (i.e. N values less than 4096) can be used but it is not guaranteed the channel contiguity

(Only configurations with B>A and fPFD ≤ 10 MHz are allowed) 2. see relationship between ICP and REXT in the Circuit Description section (Charge Pump)

3. PFD frequency leakage (400KHz) and harmonics

4. Guaranteed by design and characterization.

Table 7. Phase Noise Performance¹

Table 7. Phase Noise Performance1 (continued)

Note 1: Phase Noise SSB.

VCO amplitude set to maximum value [11].

The phase noise is measured with the Agilent E5052A Signal Source Analyzer.

All the closed-loop performances are specified using a Reference Clock signal at 19.2 MHz with phase noise of -141dBc/Hz @1KHz offset and -146dBc/Hz @10KHz offset. All figures are guaranteed by design and characterization.

Note 2: Normalized PN = Measured PN - 20log(N) - 10log(f_{PFD}) where N is the VCO divider ratio (N=B*P+A) and f_{PFD} is the comparison frequency at the PFD input

5 Typical Performance Characteristics

The phase noise is measured with the Agilent E5052A Signal Source Analyzer. All the closed-loop measurements are done with f p_{FD} = 800 KHz and using a Reference Clock signal at 19.2 MHz with phase noise of -141dBc/Hz @1KHz offset and -146dBc/Hz @10KHz offset.

Figure 4. VCO A (Direct output) open loop phase noise

Figure 5. VCO A (Direct output) closed loop phase noise

Figure 6. VCO B (Direct output) open loop phase noise

Figure 7. VCO B (Direct output) closed loop phase noise

Figure 8. VCO A (Divider by 2 output) closed loop phase noise

Figure 9. VCO A (Divider by 4 output) closed loop phase noise

Figure 10. VCO B (Divider by 2 output) closed loop phase noise

Figure 11. VCO B (Divider by 4 output) closed loop phase noise

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6 General Description

The block diagram of Figure 2 shows the different blocks, which have been integrated to achieve an integer-N PLL frequency synthesizer.

The STW81100 consists of 2 internal low-noise VCOs with buffer blocks, a divider by 2, a divider by 4, a low-noise PFD (Phase Frequency Detector), a precise charge pump, a 9-bit programmable reference divider, two programmable counters and a dual-modulus prescaler.

The A-counter (6 bits) and B counter (9 bits) counters, in conjunction with the dual modulus prescaler P/ P+1 (64/65), implement an N integer divider, where $N = B^*P + A$.

The division ratio of both reference and VCO dividers is controlled through an I²C bus interface.

All devices operate with a power supply of 3.3 V and can be powered down when not in use.

7 Circuit Description

7.1 Reference input stage

The reference input stage is shown in Figure 12. The resistor network feeds a DC bias at the Fref input while the inverter used as the frequency reference buffer is AC coupled.

Figure 12. Reference Frequency Input Buffer

7.2 Reference Divider

The 9-bit programmable reference counter allows the input reference frequency to be divided to produce the input clock to the PFD. The division ratio is programmed through the I^2C bus interface.

7.3 Prescaler

The dual-modulus prescaler 64/65 takes the CML clock from the VCO buffer and divides it down to a manageable frequency for the CMOS A and B counters. It is based on a synchronous 4/5 core which division ratio depends on the state of the modulus input.

7.4 A and B Counters

The A (6 bits) and B (9 bits) counters, in conjunction with the dual modulus prescaler make it possible to generate output frequencies which are spaced only by the reference frequency divided by the reference division ratio. Thus, the division ratio and the VCO output frequency are given by these formulas:

$$
N = B \times P + A
$$

$$
\mathsf{F}_{\mathsf{VCO}} = \frac{(\mathsf{B}\cdot\mathsf{P}+\mathsf{A})\cdot\mathsf{F}_{\mathsf{ref}}}{\mathsf{R}}
$$

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where:

- FVCO: output frequency of VCO.
- P: modulus of dual modulus prescaler.
- B: division ratio of the main counter.
- A: division ratio of the swallow counter.
- Fref: input reference frequency.
- R: division ratio of reference counter.
- N: division ratio of PLL

For a correct work of the VCO divider, B must be strictly higher than A. A can take any value ranging from 0 to 63. The range of the N number can vary from 4096 to 32767.

Figure 13. VCO Divider Diagram

7.5 Phase frequency detector (PFD)

The PFD takes inputs from the reference and the VCO dividers and produces an output proportional to the phase error. The PFD includes a delay gate that controls the width of the anti-backlash pulse. This pulse ensures that there is no dead zone in the PFD transfer function.

Figure 14 is a simplified schematic of the PFD.

Figure 14. PFD Diagram

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7.6 Lock Detect

This signal indicates that the difference between rising edges of both UP and DOWN PFD signals is found to be shorter than the fixed delay (roughly 5 ns). Lock Detect signal is high when the PLL is locked.

When Power Down is activated, Lock Detect is let to high level (Lock Detect consumes current only during PLL transients).

7.7 Charge Pump

This block drives two matched current sources, Iup and Idown, which are controlled respectively by UP and DOWN PFD outputs. The nominal value of the output current is controlled by an external resistor (to be connected to the REXT input pin) and a selection among 8 by a 3 bit word.

The minimum value of the output current is: $I_{MIN} = 2*VBG/REXT$ (VBG~1.17 V)

Table 8. Current Value vs Selection

Note: The current is output on pin ICP. During the VCO auto calibration, ICP and VCTRL pins are forced to VDD/2.

Figure 15. Loop Filter Connection

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7.8 Voltage Controlled Oscillators

7.8.1 VCO Selection

Within STW81100 two low-noise VCOs are integrated to cover a wide band from 3300MHz to 4400MHz (direct output), from 1650MHz to 2200MHz (selecting divider by 2) and from 825MHz to 1100MHz (selecting divider by 4).

VCO A frequency range 3300MHz-3900MHz

VCO B frequency range 3800MHz-4400MHz

7.8.2 VCO Frequency Calibration

Both VCOs can operate on 32 frequency ranges that are selected by adding or subtracting capacitors to the resonator. These frequency ranges are intended to cover the wide band of operation and compensate for process variation on the VCO center frequency.

An automatic selection of the range is performed when the bit SERCAL rises from "0" to "1". The charge pump is inhibited and the pins ICP & VCTRL are at VDD/2 volts.

Then the ranges are tested to select the one which with this VCO input voltage is the nearest to the desired output frequency (Fout $= N^*$ Fref/R). When this selection is achieved the signal ENDCALB (which means End of Calibration) falls to "0", then the charge pump is enabled again and SERCAL should be reset to "0" before the next channel step.

The reference clock signal at the REF_IN input terminal must be running before starting the calibration.

The PLL has just to perform fine adjustment around VDD/2 on the loop filter to reach Fout, which enables a fast settle.

Figure 16. VCO Sub-Bands Frequency Characteristics

The SERCAL bit should be set to "1" at each division ratio change. It should be noted that in order to reset the autocalibrator State Machine after a power-up, and anyway before the first calibration, the INITCAL bit should be set to "1" and back to "0" (this operation is automatically performed by the Power On Reset circuitry). The calibration takes approximately 7 periods of the PFD Frequency.

The maximum allowed f_{PFD} to perform the calibration process is 1 MHz. Using an higher f_{PFD} the following procedure should be adopted:

- 1. Calibrate the VCO at the desired frequency with an f_{PFD} less than 1 MHz
- 2. Set the A, B and R dividers ratio for the desired f_{PFD}

7.8.3 VCO Voltage Amplitude Control

The bits A0 and A1 control the voltage swing of the VCO. The following table gives the voltage level expected on the resonator nodes.

Table 9.

8 I2**C bus interface**

Data transmission from microprocessor to the STW81100 takes place through the 2 wires (SDA and SCL) l^2 C-BUS interface. The STW81100 is always a slave device.

The I²C-bus protocol defines any device that sends data on to the bus as a transmitter and any device that reads the data as receiver. The device that controls the data transfer is known as the Master and the others as the slave. The master will always initiate the transfer and will provide the serial clock for synchronization.

8.1 General Features

8.1.1 Power ON Reset

The device at Power ON is able to configure itself to a fixed configuration, with all programmable bits set to factory default setting.

8.1.2 Data Validity

Data changes on the SDA line must only occur when the SCL is LOW. SDA transitions while the clock is HIGH are used to identify START or STOP condition.

Figure 17.

8.1.3 START condition

A Start condition is identified by a HIGH to LOW transition of the data bus SDA while the clock signal SCL is stable in the HIGH state. A Start condition must precede any command for data transfer.

8.1.4 STOP condition

A LOW to HIGH transition of the data bus SDA identifies start while the clock signal SCL is stable in the HIGH state. A STOP condition terminates communications between the STW81100 and the Bus Master.

Figure 18.

8.1.5 Byte format and acknowledge

Every byte transferred on the SDA line must contain bits. Each byte must be followed by an acknowledge bit. The MSB is transferred first.

An acknowledge bit is used to indicate a successful data transfer. The bus transmitter, either master or slave, will release the SDA bus after sending 8 bits of data. During the 9th clock pulse the receiver pulls the SDA low to acknowledge the receipt of 8 bits data.

Figure 19.

8.1.6 Device addressing

To start the communication between the Master and the STW81100, the master must initiate with a start condition. Following this, the master sends onto the SDA line 8 bits (MSB first) corresponding to the device select address and read or write mode.

The first 7 MSB's are the device address identifier, corresponding to the I²C-Bus definition. For the STW81100 the address is set as "1100A₂A₁A₀", 3bits programmable. The 8th bit (LSB) is the read or write operation bit (RW; set to 1 in read mode and to 0 in write mode).

After a START condition the STW81100 identifies on the bus the device address and, if matched, it will acknowledge the identification on SDA bus during the 9th clock pulse.

8.1.7 Single-byte write mode

Following a START condition the master sends a device select code with the RW bit set to 0. The STW81100 gives an acknowledge and waits for the internal sub-address (1 byte). This byte provides access to any of the internal registers.

After the reception of the internal byte sub-address the STW81100 again responds with an acknowledge. A single byte write with sub-address 00H will change the "FUNCTIONAL MODE" register; therefore a "single byte write" operation with sub-address 04H will change the "CALIBRATION" register and so on.

Table 10.

8.1.8 Multi-byte write mode

The multi-byte write mode can start from any internal address. The master sends the data bytes and each one is acknowledged. The master terminates the transfer by generating a STOP condition.

The sub-address decides the starting byte. A Multi-byte with sub-address 01H and 2 DATA_IN bytes will change the "B_COUNTER" and "A_COUNTER" registers, so a Multi-byte with sub-address 00H and 6 DATA_IN bytes will change all the STW81100 registers.

Table 11.

8.1.9 Current Byte Address Read

In the current byte address read mode, following a START condition, the master sends the device address with the rw bit set to 1 (No sub-address is needed as there is only 1 byte read register). The STW81100 acknowledges this and outputs the data byte. The master does not acknowledge the received byte, but terminates the transfer with a STOP condition.

Table 12.

8.2 Timing Specification

Figure 20. Data and clock

Table 13.

Figure 21. Start and Stop

Table 14.

Figure 22. Ack

Table 15.

8.3 I2**C Register**

STW81100 has 6 write-only registers and 1 read-only register.

The following table gives a short description of the write-only registers list.

Table 16.

Table 17. Functional_Mode

FUNCTIONAL_MODE register is used to select different functional mode for the STW81100 synthesizer according to the following table:

Table 18.

Table 19. B_COUNTER

B[8:1] Counter value (bit B0 in the next register)

Table 20. A_COUNTER

Bit B0 for B Counter, A Counter value and bit R8 for Reference divider.

Table 21. REF_DIVIDER

Reference Clock divider ratio R[7:0] (bit R8 in the previous register).

The LO output frequency is programmed by setting the proper value for A,B and R according to the following formula:

$$
F_{OUT} = D_R \cdot (B \cdot 64 + A) \cdot \frac{F_{REF_CLK}}{R}
$$

Table 22. Calibration

This register controls VCO calibrator.

INITCAL: resets the auto-calibrator State Machine (writing to "1" and back to "0")

SERCAL: at "1" starts the VCO auto-calibration (should be reset to "0" at the end of calibration)

SELEXTCAL: test purpose only; must be set to '0'

CAL[4:0]: test purpose only; must be set to '0'

Table 23. CONTROL

The CONTROL register is used to set the VCO output voltage amplitude and the Charge Pump Current. PLL_A[1:0]: VCO amplitude

CPSEL[2:0]: Charge Pump output current

Table 24. READ-ONLY REGISTER

This register is automatically addressed in the 'current byte address read mode'.

ILLEGAL_SUBADD: gives "1" if the sub-address value is not correct

ENDCALB: at "0" means end of auto-calibration phase

LOCK_DET: "1" when PLL is locked

INTCAL[4:0]: internal value of the VCO control word

9 Application Information

The STW81100 features three different alternatively selectable bands: direct output (3.3 to 4.4GHz), divided by 2 (1.65 to 2.2GHz) and divided by 4 (850 to 1100MHz). In order to achieve a suitable power level, a good matching network is needed to adapt the output stage to a 50 Ω load. Moreover, since most of commercial RF components have single ended input and output terminations, a differential to single ended conversion could be required.

Below different matching configurations for the three bands are suggested as a guideline for the customer to design its own application board.

9.1 Direct output

If a differential to single conversion is not needed it is possible to match the output buffer of the STW81100 in the simple way shown in *Figure 23*.

Since most of discrete components for microwave applications are single ended, the user can easily use one of the two outputs and terminate the other one to 50Ω with a 3dB power loss.

Alternatively it is possible to combine the 2 outputs in different ways. A first topology for the direct output (3.3GHz to 4.4GHz) is suggested in Figure 24. It basically consists of a simple LC balun and a matching network to adapt the output to a 50 Ω load. The two LC networks shift output signal phase of -90° and +90° thus combining the 2 outputs. The LC balun is designed for a center frequency of 4GHz and exhibits approximately 2dBm output power over the whole band. This topology is intrinsically narrow band, since the LC balun is tuned at a single frequency. If the application requires a different sub-band, the LC combiner could be easily adjusted to be tuned at the frequency of interest.

The 6.8nH shunt inductor works as a DC feed for one of the open collector terminals as well as a matching element along with the other components. The 1.1nH series inductors are used to resonate the parasitic capacitance of the chip.

For an optimum output matching it is recommended to use 0402 Murata or AVX capacitors and 0403 or 0604 HQ Coilcraft inductors. It is also advisable to use short interconnection paths to minimize losses and undesired impedance shift.

An alternative topology, which allows for a more broadband matching and balanced to unbalanced conversion, is shown in Figure 25.

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By using this topology the STW81100 is capable to deliver approximately 0dBm to a 50Ω load with a return loss grater than 10dB over the whole frequency band (3.3 to 4.4GHz).

Those results have been achieved on an FR4 substrate with a thickness of 350um.

For the differential to single ended conversion the 50 to 100Ω - 3.3 to 4.4GHz - Johanson balun is recommended (3700BL15B100).

9.2 Divided by 2 output

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If the user's application does not require a balanced to unbalanced conversion, the output matching reduces to the simple circuit shown below (*Figure 26*).

This solution can be easily used to provide one single ended output just terminating the other output at 50 Ω with a 3dB power loss.

Figure 26. Differential/single ended output network in the 1.65 - 2.2GHz range

A first solution to combine the differential outputs is the lumped LC type balun tuned in the 2GHz band (Figure 27). An output power of approximately 2 dBm is delivered to a 50 Ω load over the whole band (1.65GHz to 2.2GHz).

Figure 27. LC lumped balun for the divided by 2 output

STW81100

The same recommendation for the SMD components applies also for the divided by 2 output.

Another topology suitable to combine the two outputs for the divided by 2 frequencies is represented in Figure 28.

Figure 28. Lumped output matching for the divided by 2 output

The balun used is the 50 to 100Ω - 1.65GHz to 2.2GHz Johanson balun (1850BL15B100).

9.3 Divided by 4 output

The same topology, components values and considerations of Figure 26, apply also for the divided by 4 output.

As for the previous sections, a solution to combine the differential outputs is the lumped LC type balun tuned in the 1GHz band (Figure 29). An output power of approximately 5 dBm is delivered to a 50Ω load over the whole band (825GHz to 1.1GHz).

Figure 29. LC lumped balun for the divided by 4 output

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If the user prefers to use an RF balun it is possible to adopt the same topology depicted in Figure 28, just changing the balun and the resistor value (Figure 30). The suggested balun for the 0.8 - 1.1GHz frequency range is the 1:1 Johanson 900BL15B050.

9.4 Evaluation Kit

It is available upon request an Evaluation Kit including:

■ Evaluation Board

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- GUI (Graphical User Interface) to program the device
- Measured S parameters of the RF output
- ADS2005 schematics providing guidelines for application board design
- STWPLLSim software for PLL loop filter design and noise simulation