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INTEGRATED CIRCUITS

Preliminary specification File under Integrated Circuits, IC02 1999 Sep 24

YUV one chip picture improvement based on luminance vector-, colour vector- and spectral processor TDA9178

FEATURES

- Picture content dependent non-linear Y, U and V processing by luminance histogram analysis
- Variable gamma control
- Adaptive black and white stretch control
- Skin tone correction
- Green enhancement
- Blue stretch
- Luminance Transient Improvement (LTI)
- Smart peaking for detail enhancement
- Colour Transient Improvement (CTI)
- SCAn VElocity Modulation (SCAVEM) output
- Line Width Control (LWC)
- Video Dependent Coring (VDC)
- Colour Dependent Sharpness (CDS)
- Noise measurement
- Feature Mode (FM) detector
- Cue Flash (CF) detector
- Three additional pins for access to 6-bit ADC and I ²C-bus
- Adjustable chrominance delay
- TV standard independent
- I2C-bus controlled
- 1 f_H and 2 f_H
- DEmonstration MOde (DEMO).

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The TDA9178 is a transparent analog video processor with YUV input and output interfaces. It offers three main functions: luminance vector processing, colour vector processing and spectral processing. Beside these three main functions, there are some additional functions.

In the luminance vector processor, the luminance transfer function is controlled in a non-linear way by the distribution, in 5 discrete histogram sections, of the luminance values measured in a picture. As a result, the contrast ratio of the most important parts of the scene will be improved. Black restoration is available in the event of a set-up in the luminance signal.

A variable gamma function, after the histogram conversion, offers the possibilities of alternative brightness control or factory adjustment of the picture tube.

The adaptive black stretch function of the TDA9178 offers the possibility of having a larger 'weight' for the black parts of the video signal; the white stretch function offers an additional overall gain for increased light production.

To maintain a proper colour reproduction, the saturation of the U- and V-colour difference signals is also controlled as a function of the actual non-linearity in the luminance channel.

In the colour vector processor, the dynamic skin tone correction locally changes the hue of colours that match skin tones to the correct hue. The green enhancement circuit activates medium saturated green towards to more saturated green. The blue stretch circuit can be activated which shifts colours near white towards blue.

The spectral processor provides 1D luminance transient improvement, luminance detail enhancement by smart peaking and a 1 D colour transient improvement. The TDA9178 can be used as a cost effective alternative to (but also in combination with) scan velocity modulation.

In the spectral processor line width control (or aperture control) can be user defined. The TDA9178 is capable of adjusting the amount of coring according to the video level with the video dependent coring. The TDA9178 is also capable to give extra sharpness in the cases of saturated red and magenta parts of the screen using the colour dependent sharpness feature.

An embedded noise detector measures noise during the field retrace in parts which are expected to be free from video or text information. With the noise detector a variety of 'smart noise control' architectures can be set up.

A feature mode detector is available for detecting signal sources like VCR (in still picture mode) that re-insert the levels of the retrace part. For this kind of signals the noise measurement of the TDA9178 is not reliable.

An output signal (on the I²C-bus and on a separate pin) is available that detects when the picture content has been changed significantly, called cue flash.

An embedded 6-bit ADC can be used for interfacing three analog low frequency voltage signals (e.g. ambient light control or beam current voltage level) to the I²C-bus.

In the demonstration mode all the features selected by the user are automatically toggled between on and off.

The TDA9178 concept has a maximum flexibility which can be controlled by the embedded I²C-bus. The supply voltage is 8 V. The device is mounted in a 24-lead SDIP package, or in a 24-lead SO package.

QUICK REFERENCE DATA

ORDERING INFORMATION

Preliminary specification Preliminary specification

vector-, vector-, colour vector- and spectral processor **YUV one** YUV one chip picture improvement based on luminance colour vectorchip picture improvement based and spectral processor on luminance

TDA9178 TDA9178

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PINNING

FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTION

Y input selection and amplification

The gain of the luminance input amplifier and output amplifier can be adjusted to signal amplitudes of 0.315 and 1.0 V typically (excluding sync) by l^2C -bus bit AMS. The sync part is processed transparently to the output, independently of the feature settings. The Y, U and V input signals are clamped during the burstkey period, defined by the sandcastle reference and should be DC-coupled (the circuit uses internal clamp capacitors). During the clamp pulse (see Figs 7, 8, 9 and 10) an artificial black level is inserted in the Y input signal to correctly preset the internal circuitry.

Luminance vector processor

In the luminance vector processor the transfer is controlled by a black stretch, the histogram processing and a gamma control circuit. The luminance vector processor also creates the cue flash signal.

BLACK STRETCH

A black detector measures and stores the level of the most black part of the scene within an internal defined fixed window in each field into a time constant. The time constant and the response time of the loop are internally fixed. Any difference between this value and the value measured during the clamp is regarded as black offset. In a closed loop offsets until a predefined value of the fullscale value are fed back to the input stage for compensation. The loop gain is a function of the histogram and variable gamma settings. The black offset correction can be switched on and off by the I2C-bus bit BON. Related to the corrected black offset the nominal signal amplitude is set again to 100% full scale through an amplitude stretch function. Luminance values beyond full scale are unaffected. Additionally, the measured black offset is also used to set the adaptive black stretch gain (see also Section "Adaptive black stretch").

HISTOGRAM PROCESSING

For the luminance signal the histogram distribution is measured in real-time over five segments within an internally defined fixed window in each field. During the period that the luminance is in one segment, a corresponding internal capacitor is loaded by a current source. At the end of the field five segment voltages are stored into on-board memories. The voltages stored in the memories determine the non-linear processing of the luminance signal to achieve a picture with a maximum of information (visible details).

Each field the capacitors are discharged and the measurement starts all over again.

Parts in the scene that do not contribute to the information in that scene, like sub or side titles, should be omitted from the histogram measurement. No measurements are performed outside the internal fixed window period.

Very rapid picture changes, also related to the field interlace, can result in flicker effects. The histogram values are averaged at the field rate thus cancelling the flicker effects.

Adaptive black stretch

The so-called adaptive black stretch gain is one of the factors that control the gamma of the picture. This gain is controlled by the measured black offset value in the black stretch circuit and the I²C-bus adaptive black stretch DAC: bits BT5 to BT0. For pictures with no black offset the black stretch gain equals unity so the gamma is not changed and the DAC setting has no influence. In case of a black offset, the black stretch gain is increased so the gamma of the picture is reduced. This procedure results in a maximum of visible details over the whole range of luminances. However, depending on personal taste, sometimes higher values of gamma are preferred. Therefore the amount of gamma reduction can be adjusted by the DAC.

Adaptive white-point stretching

For pictures with many details in white parts, the histogram conversion procedure makes a transfer with large gain in the white parts. The amount of light coming out of the scene is reduced accordingly. The white stretcher introduces additional overall gain for increased light production, and so violating the principle of having a full-scale reference. The white-point stretching can be switched on or off by means of the I²C-bus bit WPO.

Standard deviation

For scenes in which segments of the histogram distribution are very dominant with respect to the others, the non-linear amplification should be reduced in comparison to scenes with a flat histogram distribution. The standard deviation detector measures the spread of the histogram distribution and modulates the user setting of the non-linear amplifier.

Non-linear amplifier

The stored segment voltages determine the individual gain of each segment in such a way that continuity is granted for the complete luminance range.

The maximum and minimum gain of each segment is limited. Apart from the adaptive white-point stretching the black and white references are not affected by the non-linear processing. The amount of non-linearity can be controlled by the I²C-bus non-linearity DAC: bits NL5 to NL0.

VARIABLE GAMMA

On top of the histogram conversion a variable gamma function is applied for an alternative brightness control, or for factory adjustment. It is intended as an alternative for the DC-offset of the classic brightness user control. It maintains the black and white references. The gamma ranges from 0.5 to 1.5. The gamma can be set by the I ²C-bus variable gamma DAC: bits VG5 to VG0.

CUE FLASH

In the present TV environment there is a lot of measured information like ambient light and noise. This information can be used to make an update of settings of the several algorithms after a picture has changed. The cue flash signal detects when a picture changes significantly. When the picture content has changed, the I2C-bus bit CF is set to logic 1 in the status register. After reading the status register, bit CF is reset to logic 0. On the output pin CF the cue flash information is present (active LOW) for only one line in the vertical retrace part. This pin is configured as an open drain output and therefore should be pulled up to the 5 V supply.

Spectral processor

In the spectral processor the luminance transfer is controlled by smart peaking, colour dependent sharpness and luminance transient improvement, defined by the sharpness improvement processor. The colour transfer is controlled by a colour transient improvement circuit; an additional output is available to provide a SCAVEM circuit.

ADJUSTABLE CHROMINANCE DELAY

The colour vector processor drives a delay line for correcting delay errors between the luminance input signal and the chrominance input signals (U and V). The chrominance delay can be adjusted in 6 steps of 12 ns (1f_H) or 6 ns (2f_H) by the I²C-bus bits CD2 to CD0.

SHARPNESS IMPROVEMENT PROCESSOR

The sharpness improvement processor increases the slope of large luminance transients of vertical objects and enhances transients of details in natural scenes by contour correction.

It comprises three main processing units: the step improvement processor, the contour processor and the smart sharpness controller.

Transient improvement processor

The step improvement processor (see Fig.11) comprises two main functions:

- MINMAX generator
- MINMAX fader.

The MINMAX generator utilizes all taps of an embedded luminance delay line to calculate the minimum and maximum envelope of all signals momentarily stored in the delay line. The MINMAX fader chooses between the minimum and maximum envelopes, depending on the polarity of a decision signal derived from the contour processor. Figures 12, 13 and 14 show some waveforms of the step improvement processor and illustrate that fast transients result with this algorithm. The MINMAX generator also outputs a signal that represents the momentary envelope of the luminance input signal. This envelope information is used by the smart sharpness controller.

Line width control (also called aperture control) can be performed by I2C-bus line width DAC: bits LW5 to LW0. This control can be used to compensate for horizontal geometry errors caused by the gamma, for blooming of the spot of the CRT, or for compensating SCAVEM.

Contour processor

The contour processor comprises two contour generators with different frequency characteristics. The contour generator generates a second-order derivative of the incoming luminance signal which is supplied to the smart sharpness controller. In the smart sharpness controller, this signal is added to the properly delayed original luminance input signal, making up the peaking signal for detail enhancement. The peaking path features a low peaking frequency of 2 MHz (at $1f_H$), or a high peaking frequency of 3 MHz (at $1f_H$), selectable by 1^2C -bus bit CFS.

The contour generators utilize three taps of the embedded luminance delay line. Figure 15 illustrates the normalized frequency transfer of the filter.

Smart sharpness controller

The smart sharpness controller (see Fig.16) is a fader circuit that fades between peaked luminance and step-improved luminance, controlled by the output of a step discriminating device known as the step detector. It also contains a variable coring level stage.

The step detector is basically a differentiator, so both amplitude of the step and its slope add to the detection criterion. The smart sharpness controller has four user controls:

- Steepness control, performed by the I2C-bus DAC: bits SP5 to SP0
- Peaking control, performed by the I²C-bus DAC: bits PK5 to PK0
- Video dependent coring, switched on or switched off by the I2C-bus bit VDC
- Coring level control, performed by the I2C-bus DAC: bits CR5 to CR0.

The steepness setting controls the amount of steepness in the edge-correction processing path.

The peaking setting controls the amount of contour correction for proper detail enhancement. The envelope signal generated by the step improvement processor modulates the peaking setting in order to reduce the amount of peaking for large sine wave excursions.

With video dependent coring, it is possible to have more reduction of the peaking in the black parts of a scene than in the white parts, and therefore automatically reducing the visibility of the background noise.

The coring setting controls the coring level in the peaking path for rejection of high-frequency noise.

All four settings facilitate reduction of the impact of the sharpness features, e.g. for noisy luminance signals.

COLOUR DEPENDENT SHARPNESS

The colour dependent sharpness circuit increases the luminance sharpness in saturated red and magenta parts of the screen. Because of the limited bandwidth of the colour signals, there is no need to increase the high frequencies of the colour signals. Instead, the details in the luminance signal will be enhanced. In this circuit a limited number of colours are enhanced (red and magenta). Contrary to normal peaking algorithm, extra gain is applied for low frequencies (2 MHz at $1f_H$). This is needed, because the information that is lacking below 2 MHz (at $1f_H$) is most important. In large coloured parts the normal peaking is still active to enhance the fine details.

The smart peaking algorithm has been designed such that the luminance output amplitude will never exceed 110% of the luminance input signal amplitude. Therefore the normal peaking range (12 dB) will be reduced at large transients, and in case of colour dependent sharpness there is even more reduction.

However, by setting bit OSP (Overrule Smart Peaking) one can undo the extra peaking reduction in case of colour dependant sharpness. It must be emphasized that setting OSP may lead to unwanted large luminance output signals, for instance in details in red coloured objects.

COLOUR TRANSIENT IMPROVEMENT

The colour transient improvement circuit (see Fig.17) increases the slope of the colour transients of vertical objects. Each channel of the CTI circuit basically consists of two delay cells: an electronic potentiometer and an edge detector circuit that controls the wiper position of the potentiometer. Normally the wiper of the potentiometer will be in position B (mid position), so passing the input signal B to the output with a single delay. The control signal is obtained by the signals A and C.

When an edge occurs the value of the control signal will fade between +1 and −1 and finally will become zero again. A control signal value of +1 fades the wiper in position C, passing the two times delayed input signal to the output. A control signal of −1 fades the wiper in position A, so an undelayed input signal is passed to the output. The result is an output signal which has steeper edges than the input signal. Contrary to other existing CTI algorithms, the transients remain time correct with respect to the luminance signal, as the algorithm steepens edges proportionally, without discontinuity.

SCAVEM

A luminance output is available for SCAVEM processing. This luminance signal is not affected by the spectral processing functions.

Colour vector processor

The colour processing part contains skin tone correction, green enhancement and blue stretch. The colour vector processing is dependent on the amplitude and sign of the colour difference signals. Therefore, both the polarity and the nominal amplitude of the colour difference signals are relevant when using the colour vector processor facility.

SKIN TONE CORRECTION

Skin tones are very sensitive for transmission (hue) errors, because we have an absolute feeling for skin tones. To make a picture look free of hue error, the goal is to make sure that skin tones are put at a correct colour.

The dynamic skin tone correction circuit achieves this goal by instantaneously and locally changing the hue of those colours which are located in the area in the UV plane that matches skin tones (see Fig.4).

The correction is dependent on luminance, saturation and distance to the preferred axis and can be done towards two different angles. The preferred angle can be chosen by bit ASK in the I²C-bus settings. The settings are 123 \textdegree (ASK = 0) and 117 \textdegree (ASK = 1). The enclosed correction area can be increased to 140% with the I2C-bus bit SSK (so-called: Size). The enclosed detection 'angle' of the correcting area can be increased to 160% with the I ²C-bus bit WSK (so-called: Width). The skin tone correction can be switched on or off with the I2C-bus bit DSK.

GREEN ENHANCEMENT

The green enhancement circuit (see Fig.5) is intended to shift low saturated green colours towards more saturated green colours. This shift is achieved by instantaneously and locally changing those colours which are located in the area in the UV plane that matches low saturated green. The saturation shift is dependent on the luminance, saturation and distance to the detection axis of 208°. The direction of shift in the colour is fixed by hardware. The amount of green enhancement can be increased to 160% by the I2C-bus bit GGR. The enclosed detection 'angle' of the correcting area can be increased to 160% with the I2C-bus bit WGR (so-called: Width). The enclosed correction area can be increased to 140% with the I²C-bus bit SGR (so-called: Size). The green enhancement can be switched on or switched off with the I²C-bus bit DGR.

BLUE STRETCH

The blue stretch circuit (see Fig.6) is intended to shift colours near white towards more blueish coloured white to give a brighter impression. This shift is achieved by instantaneously and locally changing those colours which are located in the area in the UV plane that matches colours near white. The shift is dependent on the luminance and saturation. The direction of shift (towards an angle of 330°) in the colour is fixed by hardware. The amount of blue stretch can be increased to 160% by the I^2C -bus bit GBL.

The enclosed correction area can be increased to 140% by the I²C-bus bit SBL (so-called: Size). The blue stretch can be switched on or off by the I2C-bus bit DBL.

SATURATION CORRECTION

The non-linear luminance processing done by the histogram modification and variable gamma, influences the colour reproduction; mainly the colour saturation. Therefore, the U and V signals are linear processed for saturation compensation.

Noise measuring

A video line which is supposed to be free from video information ('empty line') is used to measure the amount of noise. The measured RMS value of the noise can be used for reducing several features, by the I2C-bus interface, such as luminance vector processing and spectral processing. For the TDA9178 the empty line is chosen three lines after recognition of the vertical blanking from the sandcastle pulse input. Figures 7, 8, 9 and 10 show the measurement locations for different broadcast norms.

The noise detector is capable of measuring the signal-to-noise ratio between −45 and −20 dB. The output scale runs linearly with dB. The noise samples are averaged for over 20 fields to reduce the fluctuations in the measurement process. It is obvious, that for signal sources (like VCR in still picture mode) that re-insert the levels of the retrace part, the measurement is not reliable (see Section "Feature mode detector"). The result of the averaging process will update the contents of the I²C-bus register: bits ND5 to ND0 at a rate of $\frac{1}{32}$ of the field frequency. If a register access conflict occurs, the data of the noise register is made invalid by setting the flag bit DV (Data Valid) to zero.

Feature mode detector

A detector is available for detecting signal sources (like VCR in still picture mode) that re-inserted the levels of the retrace part. For this kind of signals the noise measurement of the TDA9178 is not reliable, but this detector sets bit FM in the ND-register to logic 1. For normal video signals bit FM is set to logic 0. This circuit measures transients (like synchronization pulses) on the luminance input during the internal V-pulse. The feature mode detector is setting bit FM to logic 1 when no transients are present during 2 lines in the vertical retrace part over 3 fields (like the synchronization pulses).

Successive approximation ADC

Pins ADEXT1, ADEXT2 and ADEXT3 are connected to a 6-bit successive approximation ADC via a multiplexer. The multiplexer toggles between the inputs with each field. At each field flyback, a conversion is started for two of the three inputs and the result is stored in the corresponding bus register ADEXT1, ADEXT2 or ADEXT3. The input pin ADEXT1 is updated every field, while input fields ADEXT2 and ADEXT3 are updated once in two consecutive fields (see Figs 7, 8, 9 and 10). Once in 32 fields the ADEXT2 input is not updated, because then the noise measurement is updated.

In this way, any slow varying analog signal can be given access to the I2C-bus. If a register access conflict occurs, the data of that register is made invalid by setting the flag bit DV (Data Valid) to zero.

Smart noise control

With the help of the internal noise detector and a user-preferred noise algorithm, the user can make a fully automatic I2C-bus feature reduction, briefly called 'Smart Noise Control'.

Demonstration mode

By the I²C-bus bit DEM all the picture improvement features can be demonstrated in one picture. By setting bit DEM to logic 1, all the features selected by the user are active for 5 s in 1f_H mode (in $2f_H$ mode: 2.5 s), and for another 5 s in $1f_H$ mode (in $2f_H$ mode: 2.5 s) all features selected are turned off (then the TDA9178 is 'transparent' to the incoming signal).

Internal window

To determine the histogram levels and the black offset the TDA9178 performs several measurements. An internally defined window serves to exclude parts in the scene like 'subtitling' or 'logos'. The internal window can be regarded as a weighting function which has a value of one within a square near the centre of the screen and which gradually decreases to zero towards the edges.

When bit WLB (Window Letter Box) is made logic 1, the height of the window is reduced by a factor of $\frac{2}{3}$. This prevents the contribution of the black bars above and below a 16 : 9 scene to the measurements.

I ²C-bus

The I²C-bus is always in standby mode and responds on a properly addressed command. Bit PDD (Power-Down Detected) in the status register is set each time an interruption of the power supply occurs and is reset only by reading the status register. A 3-bit identification code can also be read from the status register, which code can be used to automatically configure the application by software.

The input control registers can be written sequentially by the I2C-bus by the embedded automatic subaddress increment feature or by addressing them directly. The output control functions cannot be addressed separately. Reading out the output control functions always starts at subaddress 00H and all subsequent words are read out by the automatic subaddress increment procedure.

The bits in the I²C-bus are preset to logic 0 at power-on except for bits AMS and VG5: therefore the TDA9178 is in 1.0 V luminance signal range and the variable gamma is set to 20H (gamma correction 0%).

I ²C-BUS SPECIFICATION

The slave address of the IC is given in Table "Slave address". If pin ADR of the TDA9178 is connected to ground, the I2C-bus address is 40H; if pin ADR is connected to pin DEC_{DIG} , the I²C-bus address is E0H. The circuit operates on clock frequencies up to 400 kHz.

Slave address

Auto-increment mode is available for subaddresses.

Control functions

Input signals

Table 1 Amplitude mode selection

Table 2 Luminance determined histogram

Table 3 Contour filter selection

Table 4 Line frequency selection

Table 5 Window letterbox format

Table 6 Video dependent coring on/off

Table 7 Demonstration mode on/off

Table 8 Chrominance delay

Table 9 Overrule smart peaking

Table 10 White-point stretch on/off

Table 11 Dynamic skin tone on/off

Table 12 Dynamic skin tone angle

Table 13 Dynamic skin tone width

Table 14 Dynamic skin tone size

Table 15 Green enhancement on/off

Table 16 Green enhancement gain

Table 17 Green enhancement width

Table 18 Green enhancement size

Table 19 Blue stretch on/off

Table 20 Blue stretch gain

Table 21 Blue stretch size

Table 22 Colour dependent sharpness on/off

Table 23 Colour transient improvement on/off

Table 24 Black offset compensation on/off

Table 25 Adaptive black stretch

Table 26 Non-linearity amplifier

Table 27 Variable gamma

Table 28 Peaking amplitude

Table 29 Steepness correction

Table 30 Coring level

Table 31 Line width correction

Output signals

Table 32 Power-down detection

Table 33 Identification code

Table 34 Cue flash

Table 35 Noise detector

Table 36 ADEXT1, ADEXT2 and ADEXT3

Table 37 Data valid bit of

noise detector/ADEXT1, 2 and 3 registers

Table 38 Feature mode detector

LIMITING VALUES

In accordance with the Absolute Maximum Rating System (IEC 134); all voltages referenced to ground.

HANDLING

All pins are protected against ESD by means of internal clamping diodes. The protection circuit meets the following specification:

Human body model: $C = 100$ pF; R = 1.5 k Ω ; all pins >3000 V

Machine model: $C = 200$ pF; $R = 0$ Ω ; all pins >200 V.

At an ambient temperature of 90 °C, all pins meet the following specification:

 $I_{trigger}$ > 100 mA or V_{pin} > 1.5 $V_{CC(max)}$

 $I_{trigger}$ < -100 mA or V_{pin} < -0.5 $V_{CC(max)}$

THERMAL CHARACTERISTICS

QUALITY SPECIFICATION

In accordance with "SNW-FQ-611 part E".

CHARACTERISTICS

 V_{CC} = 8 V; T_{amb} = 25 °C; unless otherwise specified.

Notes

- 1. The amount of correction depends on the parameters of the incoming YUV signals; therefore it is not possible to give exact figures for the correction angle. The aperture angle of the correction range of 45° (±22.5°) is just given as an indication and is valid for an input signal with a luminance signal amplitude of 75% and a colour saturation of 50%.
- 2. The amount of correction depends on the parameters of the incoming YUV signals; therefore it is not possible to give exact figures for the correction angle.
- 3. The contour signal cannot be measured separately from the luminance input signal. The contour signal is also processed by the smart noise controller. The frequency transfer in the peaking mode of the luminance signal can be derived from the frequency transfer of the selected contour signal, taking into account the summation of the contour signal and the luminance input signal. The frequency transfer is most easily measured by sine excitation with a relatively small signal amplitude of 10% of the selected dynamic range of the luminance input, to avoid interaction with the step detector.
- 4. Peaking set to minimum. Input signal is a sine wave with the nominal peak-to-peak amplitude corresponding to the selected input range.
- 5. Input signal is a 250 kHz block with a rise time of 260 ns and a nominal peak-to-peak amplitude corresponding to the selected input range.

Preliminary specification Preliminary specification

TDA9178

TDA9178

vector-, colour vector- and spectral processor vector-, colour vector- and spectral processor YUV one chip picture improvement based on luminance YUV one chip picture improvement based on luminance

NTSC-signal, field A п Iп Г sandcastle input \Box burst key pulse clamping pulse internal V-pulse + FM detection noise detector cue flash output MGR903 Fig.7 Timing pulses for NTSC input signal, field A.

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measuring

video input

ADEXT1 conversion

ADEXT2, ADEXT3 conversion

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