

Research Article

A Design of Controllable Gain Amplification System Based on Single Chip Computer

Fengzhi Dai^{1,2}, Haokang Wen¹¹Tianjin University of Science and Technology, China,²Tianjin Tianke Intelligent and Manufacture Technology CO., LTD, China

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ABSTRACT

This paper studies and designs a gain controllable radio frequency amplifier system. As the hardware core of the whole system, the variable gain amplifier realizes the data function of the amplifier combined with the single chip microcomputer. After adjusting the gain of RF amplifier, the input signal can be amplified or attenuated, and the ideal output signal can be obtained. Experimental results show that the gain controllable radio frequency amplifier system designed in this paper can achieve better control effects to amplify some signals. Theoretically, in real life, this amplifier has the advantage of being able to meet higher indicators, stable performance, and certain practicality.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Research background and significance

As a transmission module in a communication system, RF (radio frequency) amplifiers are now widely used in various communication systems, such as various types of communication equipment and digital image transmission. Gain control technology is a very important and indispensable technology in these systems.

In recent years, more low-noise amplifier designs and applications have appeared, such as the CMOS cascaded variable gain amplifier (VGA) with exponential gain control characteristic is presented [1]. And the amplifier with low power, low noise and electrode DC offset suppression is presented for ECG recording system applications [2]. But different for other types of design schemes, this topic is designed a stable

and mid-low frequency RF signal gain controllable amplification system. The single-chip microcomputer implements the numerical control function on this system. Theoretically, it can meet higher indicators and can better control gain. It can be applied to a variety of occasions, such as the front end of the RF receiver. It has a wide range of practical significance.

1.2. Main content of this paper

In the hardware part, full reference is made to various types of RF amplifier modules to build a gain-controllable amplifier system that meets the requirements. In the software part, the AT89C52 is used as the main control microcontroller to implement the key control function for the entire variable gain system. At the same time, a display module is added to display the input signal, output signal and gain of the amplifier in the receiver in real time.

2. RF Receiver Overview

Corresponding author's E-mail: daijf@tust.edu.cn URL: www.tust.edu.cn

The common basic architecture of the RF receiver is shown in Fig.1. It is mainly composed of five parts: filter, low-noise amplifier, mixer, band-pass filter, and analog-to-digital conversion.

The LNA low-noise amplifier module in Fig. 1 has multiple design schemes. According to the design of the controllable gain system in this article, this LNA can be replaced with VGA.

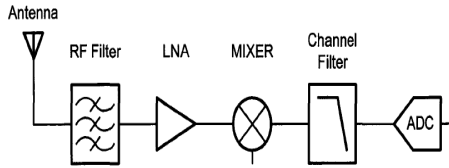


Fig.1 RF receiver basic structure

3. Controllable gain system design

Fig. 2 shows the block diagram of the system designed in this paper, which mainly includes detectors, variable gain amplifiers, AD converters, DA converters, and microcontrollers.

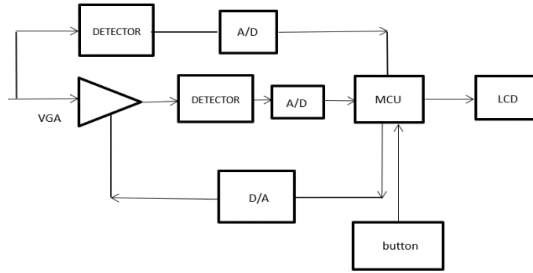


Fig.2 System structure block diagram

3.1. Detector

The AD8361 selected in this paper is an average response power detector, suitable for high-frequency receivers up to 2.5GHz. The AD8361 is a wideband linear RMS radio-frequency (RF) detector IC that is widely used in the RF industry [3]. The module uses a single power supply. The module has the characteristics of low power consumption. The circuit design of the module is shown in the Fig.3.

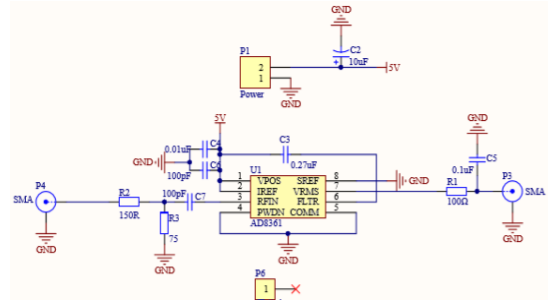


Fig.3 AD8361 module circuit diagram

3.2. Variable gain amplifier

There are many types of RF amplifiers with stable performance on the market. In this subject, because the goal is to achieve the amplification of low-frequency RF signals, the amplifier module with AD8367 chip as the core is selected in this subject. This module is a variable gain intermediate frequency amplifier. The module is mainly composed of two parts, one is a 9th order resistance attenuation network, and the other is a fixed gain amplifier. The AD8367 is an example of a VGA that uses variable attenuation followed by a post-gain amplifier [4]. Providing the module with DC voltage enables it to work in VGA mode, which is the working mode used in this project. The module's peripheral circuit is designed with a shielded shell and an anti-reverse protection diode, which has a good protection function for the module. As shown in Fig.4.



Fig.4 Variable gain amplifier module

3.3. AD module

The analog-to-digital conversion module in this subject is the PCF8591 module shown in the Fig.5. PCF8591 is an 8-bit data acquisition device [5]. The PCF8591 module has a track and hold circuit, and the AD conversion principle of this module is 8-bit successive approximation type. It mainly has the characteristics of

monolithic integration, 5V DC voltage power supply, and low power consumption, and is widely used in data acquisition modules. All data in the module is serially input or output through the I2C. Through the setting of the single-chip microcomputer, data collection and conversion functions can be realized.

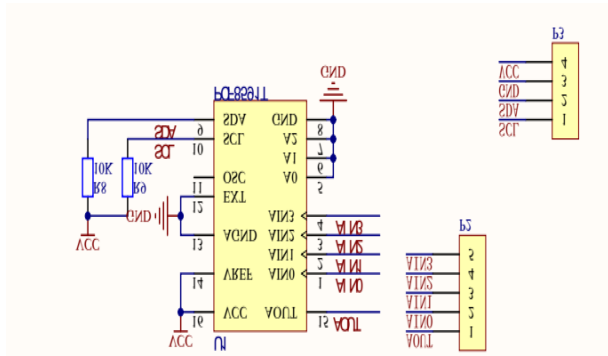


Fig.5 PCF8591 schematic

3.4. DA module

The system hardware designed in this paper adopts a modular design, taking the 89C52 single-chip microcomputer as the core of the system, controlling the DA conversion circuit, AD conversion circuit, and key control circuit to form the entire control system. The function of DA is to output the analog voltage signal through the single chip microcomputer, and send it back to the variable gain amplifier VGA module. Through the control of the single-chip microcomputer, the outputs are analog voltage value, so as to control the variable gain amplifier and realize different gains.

The DA module is composed of the DA chip and amplifying circuit. DAC0832 shown in the Fig.6 is an electric current exports type 8 bits D/A converter, adopting to reversing T type resistor network [6]. Through this module, it is possible to output different point flows with three keys and output corresponding analog voltage values through the load resistor. This voltage signal is supplied to the variable gain amplifier, which can make the variable gain amplifier module AD8367 have different gain, and finally realize the control function of the microcontroller to the amplifier. In this project, the button control is combined with DA analog-to-digital conversion, through actual tests, the actual system requirements can be achieved, the test results are good, and the control performance is stable.

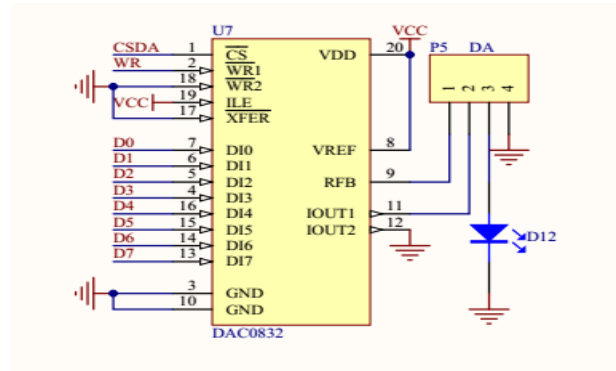


Fig.6 DAC0832 schematic diagram

4. System test

After building the entire system and connecting the modules, the actual tests were performed. The experimental effect is obvious, and obvious waveform changes can be obtained on the spectrum analyzer. Next, list some data, objects and graphics in actual tests.

In this subject, first set the RF input signal shown in the Fig.7: 250MHz, -30dBm.

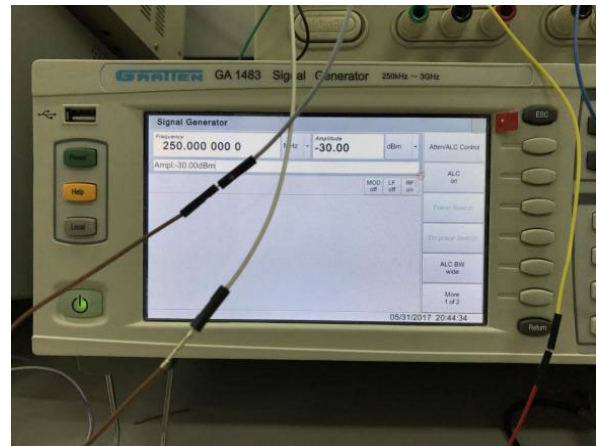


Fig.7 Input signal

As shown in Fig.8, the output signal passing through the amplifier is: 250MHz with an amplitude of -9.28dBm.

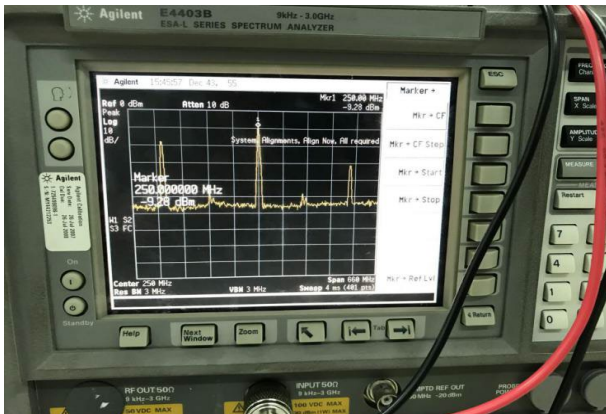


Fig.8 Output signal

As shown in Fig.9, The liquid crystal display of the single-chip microcomputer: IN: 026; OUT: 060; DEV: 00043.



Fig.9 LCD display

In the liquid crystal display section, IN is the input RF signal source (V) of the system, and OUT is the amplified output value (V) of the system. DEV is the gain, which is the ratio of the OUT value to the IN value. The displayed value is 100 times the actual ratio.

Under the test conditions, the input signal is 250MHz with an amplitude of -30dBm and the output signal is 250MHz with an amplitude of -9.28dBm. It can be deduced that the actual gain is 20.72dB and the actual magnification is about 11 times. The single chip microcomputer collects and converts the value on the LCD after being collected by AD and converted into a digital quantity. The ratio of the two numbers is 0.43, and the gain of the amplifier is 2.3 times.

5. Conclusion

The full text starts from the design of the variable gain amplifier and aims to achieve the gain controllability of

the amplifier, and realizes the design of a variable gain amplifier system at the front end of the RF receiver. However, there were some discrepancies in the liquid crystal display and gain calculation of the system's analog quantity transmitted to the single chip microcomputer.

After actual testing, this system can amplify radio frequency signals in the range of 0-500MHz, which can achieve better control effects to amplify these signals, but for signals that are too high in frequency or too small in amplitude, the tested data has a large deviation.

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Authors Introduction

Dr. Fengzhi Dai



7. He received an M.E. and Doctor of Engineering (PhD) from the Beijing Institute of Technology, China in 1998 and Oita University, Japan in 2004 respectively. His main research interests are artificial intelligence, pattern recognition and robotics. He worked in

National Institute of Technology, Matsue College, Japan from 2003 to 2009. Since October 2009, he has been the staff in Tianjin University of Science and Technology, China, where he is currently an associate Professor of the College of Electronic Information and Automation.

Mr. Haokang Wen



He is the first-year graduate student of Tianjin University of Science and Technology. His major is information processing and Internet of Things technology. His main research field is digital image processing. During his studies

in school, he published several research papers.