COLPITTS OSCILLATOR

A DISSERTION

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IN
ELECTRONICS AND COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING

Submitted By:

MANTHAN BATRA
23/EC/125

NIHAL CHADHA
23/EC/138

Under the supervision of

Dr. NEETA PANDEY

ELECTRONICS AND COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING
DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
(Formerly Delhi College of Engineering)
Bawana Road, Delhi-110042

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B.Tech (ELECTRONICS AND COMUNICATION ENGINEERING MANTHAN BATRA 2024
B.Tech (ELECTRONICS AND COMUNICATION ENGINEERING NIHAL CHADHA 2024

ELECTRONICS AND COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING
DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
(Formerly Delhi College of Engineering)
Bawana Road, Delhi-110042

CANDIDATE'S DECLARATION

We, Manthan Batra 23EC125 and Nihal Chada 23EC138 students of B.Tech Electronics and Communications Engineering, hereby declare that the project Dissertion titled "Collpitts Oscillator" which is submitted by us to the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Delhi Technological University, Delhi in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Technology, is original and is not copied from any source without proper citation. This work has not formed the basis for the award of any Degree, Diploma Associateship, Fellowship, or other similar title or recognition.

Place: Delhi **Manthan Batra**
Date: **Nihal Chadha**

ELECTRONICS AND COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING
DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
(Formerly Delhi College of Engineering)
Bawana Road, Delhi-110042

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the Project Dissertion titled "Colpitts Oscillator " which is submitted by Manthan Batra 23EC125 and Nihal Chadha 23EC138, Electronics and Communication Engineering, Delhi Technological University, Delhi in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Technology ,is a record of the project work carried out by the students under my supervision. To the best of my knowledge this work has not been submitted in part or full for any Degree or Diploma in this University or elsewhere.

Place: Delhi
Date: **SUPERVISOR**

ABSTRACT

This project presents the design and analysis of a Colpitts oscillator, a widely used electronic circuit for generating stable high-frequency signals. The Colpitts oscillator is based on the principle of positive feedback, utilizing an inductive and capacitive network to produce oscillations. In this work, the design and construction of the oscillator circuit are detailed, focusing on the selection of components such as the transistor, inductors, and capacitors, which are critical for determining the oscillator's frequency and stability. The mathematical analysis for the determination of the frequency of oscillation is also provided, based on the LC resonant circuit formed by the inductor and capacitors. Experimental results are compared with theoretical predictions, demonstrating the oscillator's performance in generating continuous waveforms. The Colpitts oscillator's ability to produce precise frequencies makes it suitable for applications in signal generation, frequency synthesis, and radio transmission. This project highlights the practical implementation and challenges of designing a reliable Colpitts oscillator for real-world applications.

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LIST OF ABBREVATIONS

f: Frequency of Output

Re: Resistance tied between Emitter and the Ground

Ce: Capacitance tied between Emitter and the Ground

Ci: ith Capacitance

L: Inductance

Q1: NPN Transistor

Chapter 0: Introduction

Oscillators are essential components in various electronic systems, used to generate periodic waveforms for signal processing, frequency modulation, and timing applications. Among the many oscillator designs, the Colpitts oscillator stands out due to its simplicity, reliability, and versatility. This oscillator, first introduced by American engineer Edwin Colpitts in 1918, has become a fundamental circuit in both analog and digital electronics. The Colpitts oscillator is widely used in radio frequency (RF) applications, frequency synthesis, and signal generation due to its ability to produce stable high-frequency signals.

The Colpitts oscillator is typically based on an active component, such as a transistor, and an LC network that includes an inductor and two capacitors. This oscillator works on the principle of positive feedback, where a portion of the output signal is fed back to the input to sustain oscillations. The frequency of oscillation in a Colpitts oscillator is primarily determined by the values of the inductance and capacitance components, making it essential to carefully select these components to achieve the desired oscillation frequency.

The purpose of this project is to design and analyze a Colpitts oscillator, demonstrating its operation through the selection of appropriate components, detailed calculations, and construction of the physical circuit. The project also aims to compare the theoretical frequency of oscillation with the measured frequency, and explore factors that could affect the performance of the oscillator, such as component tolerances and parasitic effects. Through the design, simulation, and experimental work, this project will provide a deeper understanding of oscillator circuits, their functionality, and their application in real-world electronic systems.

In addition to understanding the Colpitts oscillator, this project will highlight the importance of feedback in sustaining oscillations, the role of the active element in amplification, and how the choice of components impacts the stability and frequency of the oscillator. The Colpitts oscillator is a prime example of the application of fundamental electronic principles to create a practical circuit that has real-world utility in communication systems, RF devices, and other signal processing applications.

Chapter 1: Developing the Main Theme

1.1 Circuit Overview

The Colpitts oscillator is an LC (inductor-capacitor) oscillator that relies on a resonant tank circuit to generate periodic oscillations. The circuit typically consists of three main sections:

1. **Active Device**: The amplifying component, often a transistor, is the heart of the oscillator. It amplifies the feedback signal to sustain oscillations.
2. **Tank Circuit**: This resonant circuit determines the frequency of oscillation and includes a parallel combination of an inductor (L1) and a capacitive voltage divider (C1,C2).

$$f = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{L_1 \cdot \left(\frac{C_1 \cdot C_2}{C_1 + C_2}\right)}}$$

1.2 Design of the Circuit

A typical Colpitts oscillator circuit is shown in the diagram provided. Its design involves careful selection of components to ensure stable and efficient operation.

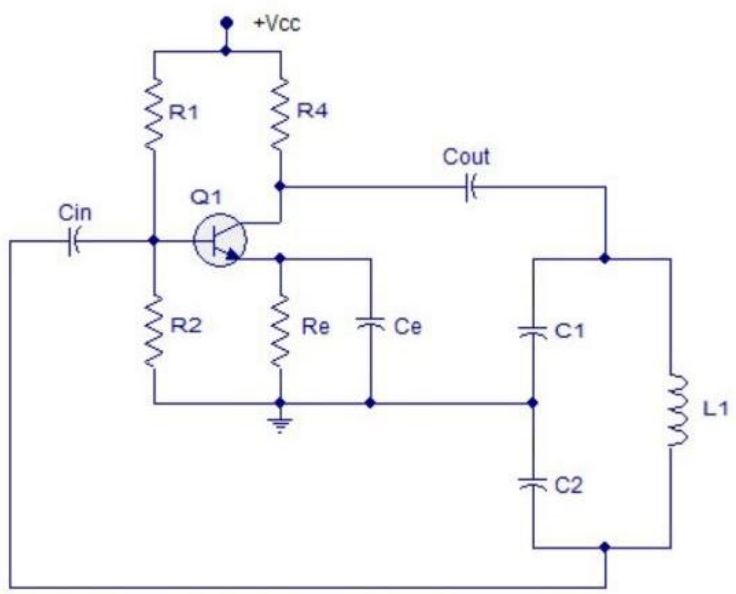

Fig. 1.1: Circuit Diagram of Colpitts Oscillator

Biasing Network: Resistors R1,R2,R4, and Re establish the proper operating point of the transistor, ensuring it operates in the active region. This is critical for amplification and oscillation.

Coupling and Bypass Capacitors: Capacitors Cin, Cout, and Ce serve to block DC components and allow AC signals to pass. Additionally, Ce enhances the gain by bypassing the emitter resistor at high frequencies.

Tank Circuit: The LC combination of L1,C1, and C2 determines the frequency of oscillation. The equivalent capacitance of C1 and C2 in series-parallel with L1 forms the resonant circuit, which oscillates at the frequency:

$$f = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{L_1 \cdot \left(\frac{C_1 \cdot C_2}{C_1 + C_2}\right)}}$$

This frequency depends on the inductance L1 and the effective capacitance of C1 and C2.

1.3 Principle of Operation

The Colpitts oscillator operates on the principle of positive feedback, wherein a fraction of the output is fed back into the input in phase with the original signal. The key steps involved in its operation are:

1. **Signal Amplification**: The active device (transistor) amplifies the weak signal from the feedback path.
2. **Feedback**: The voltage divider formed by C1and C2 provides a stable feedback signal to the base of the transistor. The ratio of these capacitors controls the feedback level.
3. **Stabilization**: The amplitude of the oscillations stabilizes due to the nonlinear characteristics of the transistor, which prevents over-amplification and distortion.

1.4 Component Values

For the practical implementation, the following component values were selected to ensure proper functionality:

- Resistors:
  $R_1 = 10\,\mathrm{k\Omega}$, $R_2 = 10\,\mathrm{k\Omega}$, $R_4 = 10\,\mathrm{k\Omega}$, $R_e = 470\,\Omega$
- Capacitors:
  $C_1 = 3,300\,\mathrm{pF}$, $C_2 = 1,000\,\mathrm{pF}$, $C_e = 9,900\,\mathrm{pF}$, $C_{in} = 3,300\,\mathrm{pF}$, $C_{out} = 3,300\,\mathrm{pF}$
- Inductor:
  $L_1 = 100\,\mu\mathrm{H}$

These values were chosen to produce oscillations in the desired frequency range, ensuring high performance and stability.

1.5 Results, Calculations, Discussions, and Conclusions

1.5.1 Results

The constructed Colpitts oscillator successfully generated sinusoidal oscillations though not so accurate. It had a lot of noise but sinusoidal wave was obtained.

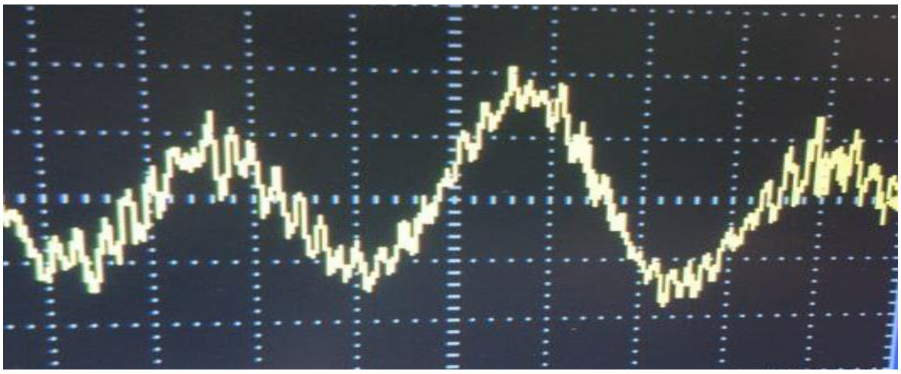

Fig 1.2: Output of Colpitts Oscillator with Noise

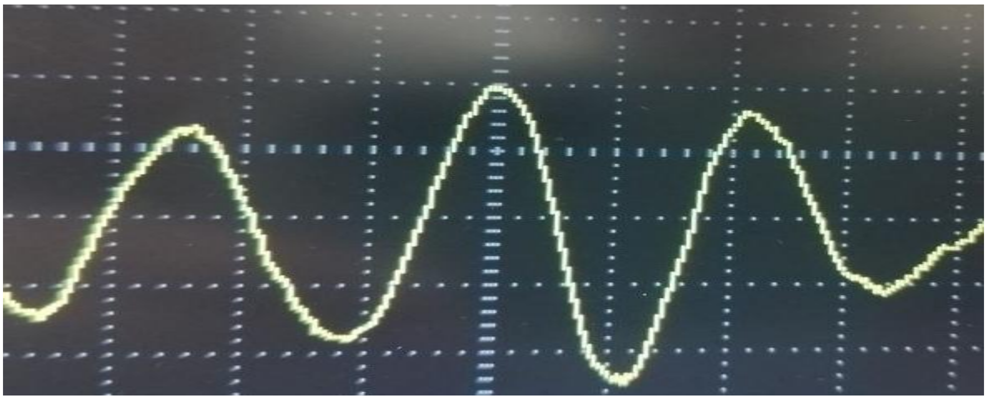

Fig 1.3: Output of Colpitts Oscillator with less Noise

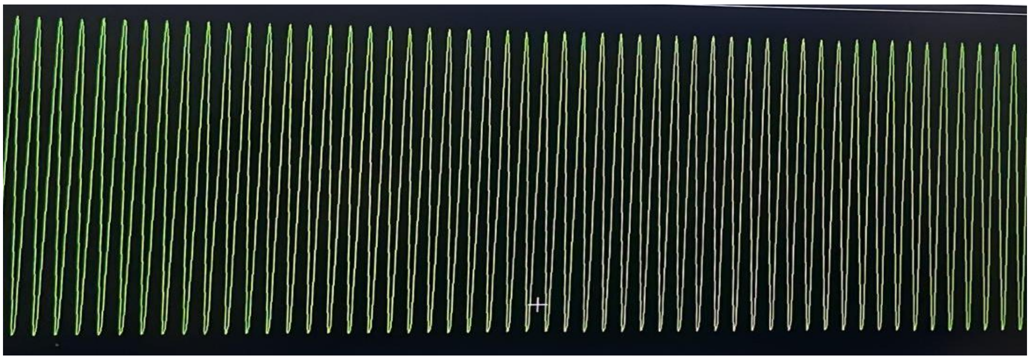

Fig 1.4: Output using Circuit Simulator

1.5.2 Calculation

The frequency of oscillation f for the Colpitts oscillator is determined by the formula:

$$f = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{L_1 \cdot C_{\text{eq}}}}$$

Where C_{eq} is the equivalent capacitance of C_1 and C_2 in series:

$$C_{\text{eq}} = \frac{C_1 \cdot C_2}{C_1 + C_2}$$

Given Values:

- $L_1 = 100\,\mu H = 100 \times 10^{-6}\,H$
- $C_1 = 3300\,pF = 3300 \times 10^{-12}\,F$
- $C_2 = 1000\,pF = 1000 \times 10^{-12}\,F$

Step 1: Calculate C_{eq}

$$C_{\text{eq}} = \frac{C_1 \cdot C_2}{C_1 + C_2} = \frac{(3300 \times 10^{-12}) \cdot (1000 \times 10^{-12})}{(3300 \times 10^{-12}) + (1000 \times 10^{-12})}$$

$$C_{\text{eq}} = \frac{3300 \cdot 1000}{3300 + 1000} \times 10^{-12}$$

$$C_{\text{eq}} = \frac{3300000}{4300} \times 10^{-12}\,F$$

$$C_{\text{eq}} \approx 767.44\,pF = 767.44 \times 10^{-12}\,F$$

Step 2: Calculate f

$$f = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{L_1 \cdot C_{\text{eq}}}}$$

s

Substitute the values of L_1 and C_{eq}:

$$f = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{(100 \times 10^{-6}) \cdot (767.44 \times 10^{-12})}}$$

$$f = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{76.744 \times 10^{-9}}}$$

$$f = \frac{1}{2\pi \cdot \sqrt{7.6744 \times 10^{-8}}}$$

$$f = \frac{1}{2\pi \cdot 8.758 \times 10^{-4}}$$

$$f \approx \frac{1}{5.502 \times 10^{-3}}$$

$$f \approx 181.8\,\text{kHz}$$

Final Result:

The frequency of oscillation f is approximately **181.8 kHz.**

1.5.3 Discussions

Several important aspects of the Colpitts oscillator were analyzed:

1. **Frequency Accuracy**: The oscillation frequency is highly dependent on the precision of the tank circuit components. Small variations in C1, C2, or L1 can cause noticeable shifts in frequency.
2. **Amplitude Stability**: The amplitude of the oscillations was regulated by the transistor's nonlinear characteristics, preventing overloading and distortion. Proper biasing ensured that the active region was maintained throughout operation.
3. **Applications**: Due to its high-frequency capabilities, the Colpitts oscillator is widely used in RF circuits, frequency modulation systems, and communication devices. Its compact design and simple implementation make it suitable for integrated circuit (IC) applications.

1.5.4 Conclusions

The Colpitts oscillator is a versatile and reliable circuit for generating high-frequency sinusoidal waveforms. By employing a capacitive voltage divider and a resonant LC tank circuit, it achieves stable oscillations with minimal component requirements. The experimental results confirm the theoretical predictions, demonstrating the oscillator's effectiveness in real-world applications.

This study highlights the importance of component selection and circuit design in achieving desired performance. Future work could explore advanced implementations, such as voltage-controlled Colpitts oscillators (VCOs) for use in phase-locked loops (PLLs) and frequency synthesizers.