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Introduction

The Duffing–Holmes nonautonomous oscillator is a classical example of a nonlinear dynamical system exhibiting complex also chaotic behaviour [1–3]. It is given by the second order differential equation with an external periodic drive term:

\[
\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + b \frac{dx}{dt} + x + x^3 = \alpha \sin \omega t.
\]  

Three different techniques are used to solve the Duffing–Holmes equation and to process its solutions electronically. The first approach is a hybrid one making use of integration the equation in a digital processor and of the digital-to-analogue conversion of the digital output for its further analogue processing, analysis and display [4, 5]. The second method employs purely analogue hardware based on analogue computer design [6–9]. For example, analogue computer has been used to simulate Eq. (1) and to demonstrate the effect of scrambling chaotic signals in linear feedback shift registers [6–8]. Later analogue computer has been suggested for demonstration of chaos from Eq. (1) for the undergraduate students [9]. The third technique is based on building some specific analogue electrical circuit imitating dynamical behaviour of Eq. (1). The Young–Silva oscillator [10] and used to demonstrate the effect of resonant perturbations for inducing chaos [11] is an example. Recently the Young–Silva circuit has been essentially modified and used to test the control methods for unstable periodic orbits [12, 13] and unstable steady states [14] of dynamical systems. The modified version of the Young–Silva oscillator has been characterized both numerically and experimentally in [15].

Evidently the first and the second techniques are rather general and can be applied to other differential equations as well. In contrast, the third approach is limited to a specific equation. Despite this restriction the “intrinsic” electrical circuits have an attractive advantage due to their extreme simplicity and cheapness.

One may think of such analogue electrical circuits as of analogue computers. This is true from a mathematical and physical point of view in the sense that the underlying equations are either exactly the same or very similar also that the dynamical variables in the both cases are represented by real electrical voltages and/or currents. However, the circuit architecture of an analogue computer, compared to an “intrinsic” nonlinear circuit, is rather different. Any analogue computer is a standard collection of the following main processing blocks: inverting RC integrators, inverting adders, inverting and non-inverting amplifiers, multipliers, and piecewise linear nonlinear units. Meanwhile the specific analogue circuits comprise only small number of electrical components: resistors, capacitors, inductors, and semiconductor diodes. In addition, they may include a single operational amplifier (in some cases several amplifiers).

In this paper, we introduce, as an alternative for the nonautonomous Eq. (1), an autonomous version of the Duffing type oscillator given by
or equivalently by a set of three first order equations
\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{dx}{dt} &= y, \\
\frac{dy}{dt} &= x - x^3 + by - kz, \\
\frac{dz}{dt} &= \omega_f (y - z).
\end{align*}
\] (2a)

Here \( z \) is the third independent dynamical variable, \( \omega_f \) is its characteristic rate, and \( k \) is the feedback coefficient. We emphasize in Eq. (2) an opposite sign of the damping term, compared to Eq. (1). The negative damping, \( -b \frac{dx}{dt} \) in Eq. (2), or \( +by \) in Eq. (2a) yields additional spiral instability. Also we propose a specific electrical circuit imitating solutions of Eq. (2a).

**Electronic circuitry**

The novel autonomous circuit is presented in Fig. 1.

![Circuit implementation of the autonomous Duffing type oscillator. Any of the nodes lettered as 'x', '-y' or 'z' can be taken for the output](image)

The stage containing the operational amplifier OA1, the diodes, the resistors R1, R2 and R3 is exactly the same as in the nonautonomous oscillator [15]. The autonomous oscillator lacks the external periodic drive source, but includes two additional linear feedback loops. The circuit composed of the OA2 based stage and the resistor R5 introduce the positive feedback loop, specifically negative damping in Eq. (2). While the circuit including the OA2–OA3 stages (note a capacitor C1 in the latter stage) and the resistor R8 compose the inertial negative feedback, specifically the inertial positive damping term \( k_z \) in Eq. (2).

**Simulation results**

The oscillator in Fig. 1 has been simulated using the *Electronics Workbench* package (SPICE based software) and the results are shown in Figs. 2–4. The following element values have been used in the simulation: \( L = 19 \text{ mH}, C = 470 \text{ nF}, C_1 = 20 \text{ nF}, R = 20 \Omega, R_1 = 30 \text{ k}\Omega, R_2 = 10 \text{ k}\Omega, R_3 = 30 \text{ k}\Omega, R_4 = 820 \Omega, R_5 = 75 \text{ k}\Omega, R_6 = R_7 = 10 \text{ k}\Omega, R_8 = 20 \Omega. \) The OA1 to OA3 are the LM741 type or similar operational amplifiers, the diodes are the 1N4148 type or similar general-purpose devices.

![Fig. 2. Snapshot of typical chaotic waveform of \( x(t) \) from the autonomous Duffing type oscillator](image)

**Hardware Experiments**

The autonomous oscillator has been built using the elements described in the previous section. Typical experimental results are presented in Fig. 5–7.
experimental results is observed (Fig. 3–7). Some discrepancy (about 10%) between the model and the hardware prototype, namely $R_5 = 75 \, \text{k}\Omega$ in the model (Fig. 3–5) and $R_5 = 68 \, \text{k}\Omega$ in the experimental circuit (Fig. 6–7) can be explained in the following way. The inductive element in the model is an ideal device in the sense that its $L = \text{const.}$ Meanwhile the inductance of a real inductor, e.g. a coil wound on a ferrite toroidal core has a slight dependence on the current through it: $L = L(t)$.

We note that the structure of the proposed oscillator is rather different in comparison to many other 3rd-order autonomous chaotic oscillators described so far. The basic unit of the RC Wien-bridge [16–18] and LC tank [19–21] based oscillators is the 2nd-order linear unstable resonator. An additional degree of freedom required for chaos is introduced by supplementing the resonator with the 1st-order inertial nonlinear damping loop [16–21]. The same approach of building chaotic oscillators is used in higher order circuits [22–24] (some of the design principles are overviewed in a book chapter [25]). In contrast, the oscillator described in this paper contains a nonlinear unstable resonator and an inertial linear damping loop.

References


A novel Duffing–Holmes type autonomous chaotic oscillator is described. In comparison with the well-known nonautonomous Duffing–Holmes circuit it lacks the external periodic drive, but includes two extra linear feedback subcircuits, namely a direct positive feedback loop, and an inertial negative feedback loop. In contrast to many other autonomous chaotic oscillators, including linear unstable resonators and nonlinear damping loops, the novel circuit is based on nonlinear resonator and linear damping loop in the negative feedback. SPICE simulation and hardware experimental investigations are presented. Fairly good agreement between numerical and experimental results is observed. Ill. 7, bibl. 25 (in English; summaries in English, Russian and Lithuanian).


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Oписывается новый хаотический автогенератор типа Дуффинга–Холмса. По сравнению с общеизвестным неавтономным цепью Дуффинга–Холмса в предлагаемом автогенераторе отсутствует источник внешнего периодического возбуждения, но введены две дополнительные линейные цепи обратной связи: цепочка прямой положительной и цепочка инерционной отрицательной обратной связи. В отличие от многих других хаотических автогенераторов, содержащих линейные неустойчивые резонаторы и нелинейные демпфирующие цепочки, основной описываемой цепи является нелинейный резонатор и линейное демпфирующее звено в цепи обратной связи. Представляются результаты вычислительного и экспериментального исследования. Ил. 7, библ. 25 (на английском языке; рефераты на английском, русском и литовском яз.).
