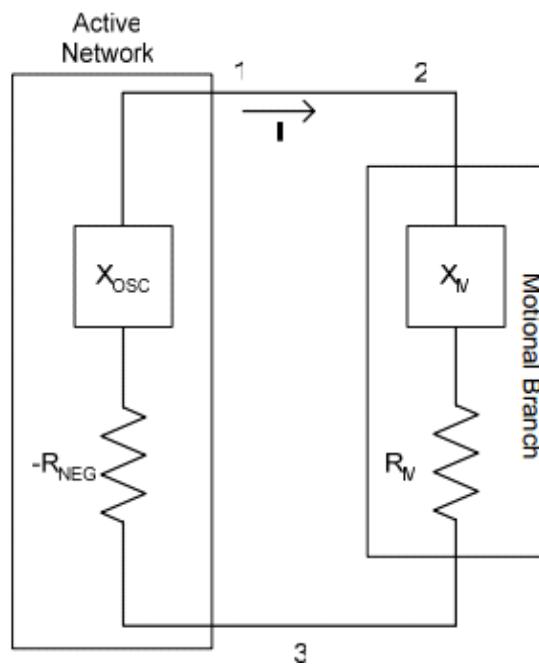


Introduction

Negative resistance models the required gain needed from the active network to sustain stable oscillations. The negative resistance model is shown in Figure 1. The crystal is represented by a reactance term X_m and a motional resistance term R_m . The active network is represented by the reactance term X_{osc} and the Resistance term $-R_{neg}$ where R_{neg} is the negative resistance of the inverter amplifier.

One process used as a means to easily evaluate the negative resistance characteristics and oscillation allowance of an oscillator circuits is the method of adding a resistor to the hot terminal of the crystal unit and observing whether it can oscillate (examining the negative resistance). The oscillator circuit capacity can be examined by changing the value of the added resistance.

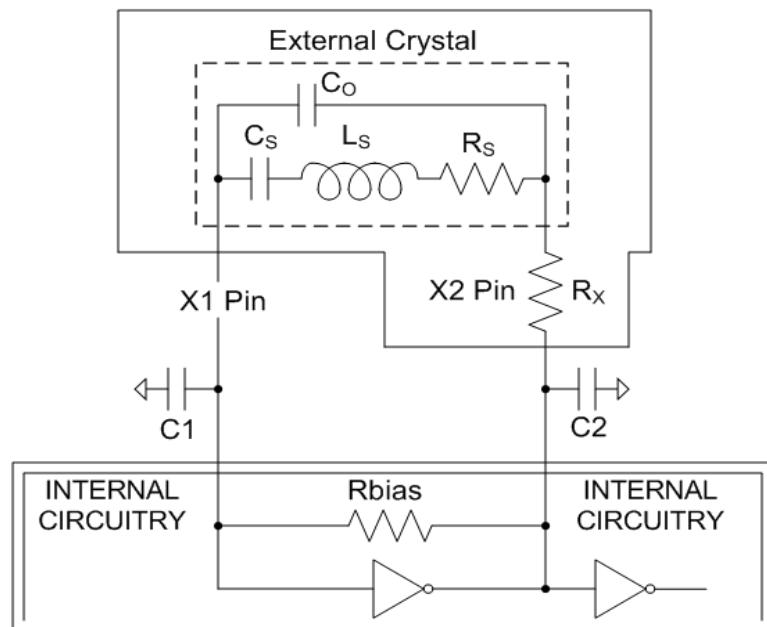
Figure 1. Negative Resistance Model



Measuring Negative Resistance of the Active Network

The steps for measuring the negative resistance of the active network are as follows:

- 1) Compute crystal parameters C_o , C_s , L_s , R_s and C_L using a Network Analyzer such as 250B/C by Saunders and Associated Inc.
- 2) Solder crystal on X_1 and X_2 pins of the IDT clock IC and mount the crystal load capacitors next to the device pins (as shown in Figure 2).
- 3) Adjust the load capacitance to get the output frequency error to nearly 0ppm (account for contribution due to stray capacitance on the PCB board).
- 4) Connect a series resistor R_x (as shown in Figure 2) and keep increasing its value until oscillations stop occurring on powering up the device.
- 5) The negative resistance of the active network is then equal to $R_x + R_s$.

Figure 2. Active Network

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