

Study of radio reconnaissance receivers designed on the basis of solid-state filters

ABSTRACT

Radio intelligence systems are technological tools that play an important role in modern security, defense and intelligence activities. With their help, communication signals of competitors are tracked, encrypted information is deciphered and strategic advantages are obtained. These systems are crucial in military operations, counter-terrorism, national security and strategic planning. With the development of radio intelligence, it is expected that more effective and multifunctional systems will be created in the future.

In the article, the application of solid-state filters in the spectrum analyzers of radio reconnaissance receivers was considered in order to increase the measurement accuracy and reliability of radio reconnaissance stations, and to reduce their size and weight.

Keywords: filter, electrode, load coupled device, frequency, signal.

1. INTRODUCTION

Radio-intelligence systems (SIGINT - Signals Intelligence) are technological tools that ensure the acquisition of intelligence information related to the monitoring, reception, analysis and use of signals broadcast over radio and electromagnetic waves. These systems are considered one of the most important tools of the military, security and intelligence services and are used in a wide range of areas, especially in the complex combat conditions of the modern era and play a critical role in the context of electronic warfare.

The following can be mentioned as the main components of radio intelligence systems:

1. Detection and reception of signals: The main function of radio reconnaissance is to monitor and receive various types of signals broadcast on radio frequencies. These signals can be both encrypted and open data and come from various means of communication (telephone, radio, radar, satellite) [6,11].

2. Signal analysis: Received signals are analyzed through special equipment and software. The purpose of this analysis is to determine the type, source, frequency, position and destination of the signal. In encrypted signals, the main goal is to decode messages and analyze their content.

3. Geographical identification of signal sources: Through radio reconnaissance, it is possible to determine the exact location and source of communication systems used by adversaries or objects of interest. Thanks to this geographical determination, strategic information about the enemy's positions, directions of movement and operational plans is obtained [5,10].

4. Frequency spectrum management and monitoring: Radio intelligence systems are used to monitor signals broadcast on certain frequencies and to identify devices operating in that spectrum. This is especially important in the military, because control over the frequency spectrum is critical in modern warfare.

5. Electronic warfare: Electronic warfare tactics are used as part of radio reconnaissance. It is implemented to interfere with the adversary's communication channels, making it difficult for them to

obtain correct information and exchange information. Jamming or disrupting the propagation of signals is one of the main components of this process.

The following can be mentioned as areas of application of radio intelligence systems:

1. **Military intelligence:** Radio intelligence systems are of great importance in the course of military operations. They help determine operational plans, courses of action, objectives, and tactical advantages by monitoring enemy communications channels. Analyzing the opponent's radar signals and satellite communication data also provides an opportunity to obtain important information in combat conditions.

2. **Counter-terrorism and internal security:** Radio intelligence systems play an important role for states in preventing terrorist attacks and ensuring national security. Through these systems, the communication activities of terrorists and illegal groups are monitored, their operational plans are determined and preventive measures are taken.

3. **Surveillance of sea and airspace:** Navies and air forces can monitor the enemy's air and sea movements through radio reconnaissance systems, analyze their communications and radar signals, and take preventive measures based on this information.

4. **Strategic reconnaissance:** Radio reconnaissance is also used for long-term strategic planning. States and military blocs widely use radio intelligence tools to monitor the military and technological developments of other countries and to anticipate their potential threats.

Radio reconnaissance technologies consist of very complex and advanced equipment. These technologies use high-precision instruments to track and analyze various radio frequencies. Modern radio intelligence systems take advantage of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning and big data to automatically analyze signals and quickly decipher data. Satellite-based reconnaissance systems, long-range radars, mobile communication tracking devices are important components of this field.

The role of radio intelligence has increased in modern times. Along with the development of global communication networks, satellites and the Internet, various countries and organizations are focusing their intelligence activities in this field. The importance of electronic warfare is increasing because the battlefields are no longer limited to physical spaces. Today, cyber-attacks, communication disruptions and control over networks have become essential components of modern military operations.

Competition between different states and organizations in the field of industrial and economic intelligence with radio reconnaissance systems is intensifying. These systems are also used to steal technological secrets, enter corporate networks and obtain strategic information.

In order to effectively fight against rival radio electronic devices, there should be enough information about the main parameters and characteristics of those devices. This information is obtained through all possible forms of intelligence: radio intelligence, agent intelligence, photography, surveillance, etc.

The main purpose of using radio reconnaissance systems is to detect and capture (record) the signals radiated by the opponent, to determine the coordinates of the radiation sources and to decipher (decode) the captured signals. The radio intelligence station used to perform these should include antennas with special characteristics, an intelligence receiver, a detecting and capturing indicator, a recording (recording) device and a signal analyzer. As a rule, reconnaissance stations are placed on board airplanes or other moving objects. For this reason, its dimensions and weight should be as small as possible. As a special type of radio reconnaissance stations, consisting of an antenna, a receiver and an indicator, in aircraft, submarines, etc. are stations that are deployed and inform the crews of these objects that they are irradiated by a rival radar station (RLS).

2. RESEARCH OBJECTS AND METHODS

2.1. SETTING UP THE RESEARCHED ISSUE

The effectiveness of radio reconnaissance stations is characterized by the probability of detecting a working radiation source and the accuracy of determining its coordinates.

Detection of captured signals against the background of obstacles and determination of their frequency is carried out by means of a reconnaissance receiver. The difference of the intelligence receiver from the usual receivers is that it has an extremely wide frequency range [1]. Both directly amplified and superheteradine type receivers are used in radio reconnaissance. Multichannel direct amplification receivers used in radio reconnaissance (Figure 1.a) are simple and do not require retuning, and the received signal at their output is practically simultaneous with the input signal. Disadvantages of direct amplification reconnaissance receivers include low sensitivity and wide bandwidth. As a result of the wide bandwidth of each channel, the frequency of the captured signal is not measured, and only the frequency range in which it is noted, which is determined by the frequency band of one channel (Figure 1. b). Direct-amplified multichannel intelligence receivers are designed for use on boats, aircraft, etc. used to notify crews of objects that they have been irradiated by adversary RLS.

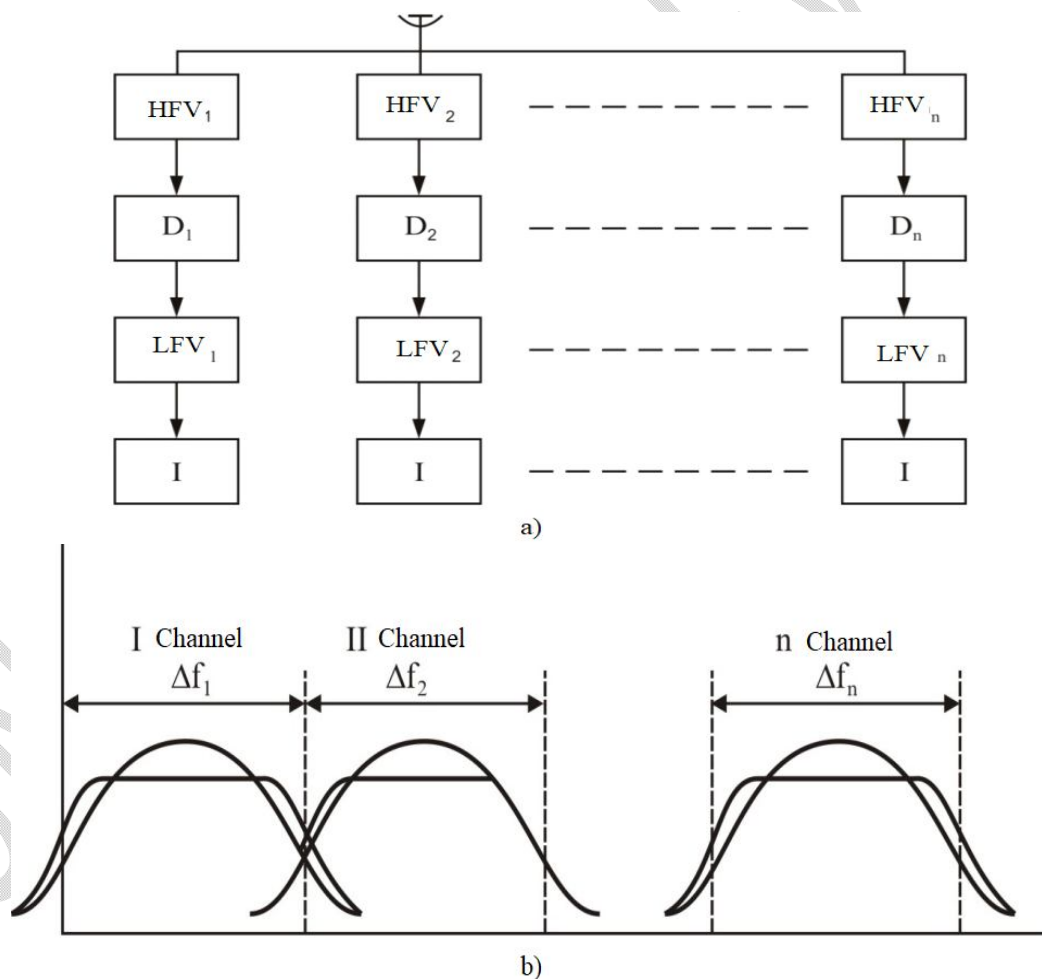


Figure 1. Multi-channel direct-amplified radio reconnaissance receiver:
a) structural scheme; b) spectrum analyzer

The sensitivity and frequency resolution of superheterodyne-type two-frequency conversion receivers (Fig. 2.) is higher than that of the direct-amplification circuit, and it is determined by the

passband of the intermediate frequency amplifier, which is retuned over a wide frequency range. The disadvantage of these receivers is that the installation and operating conditions are complicated and the frequency search time is long.

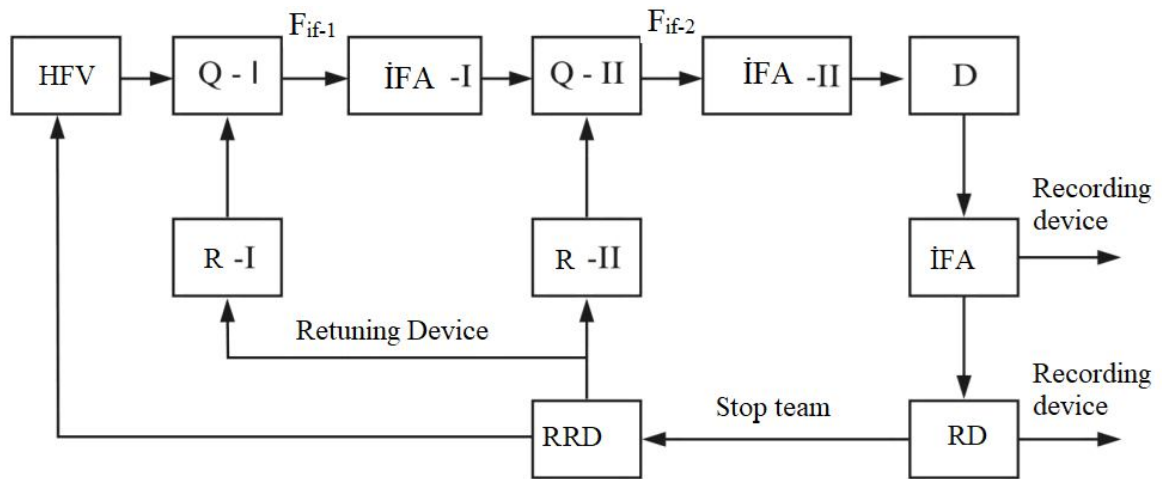


Figure 2. Superheterodyne radio reconnaissance receiver

Below is an explanation of each block in the diagram shown in Figure 2:

- **HFV**- (high-frequency voltage): This block is located at the input of the system and is a module that receives high-frequency signals. This signal is directed to other parts of the system.
- **R-I** (receiver block-I): This block receives the signals from the YTG and cleans and amplifies them for initial processing.
- **IFA-I** (intermediate frequency amplifier): In this block, the signal is amplified and transferred to a certain intermediate frequency. This provides more accurate signal analysis and processing.
- **R-II** (receiver block-II): This is the second admission block. Here the signal is reanalyzed more accurately and the signal is made ready for operation.
- **IFA-II** (intermediate frequency amplifier II): This block performs signal re-amplification and conversion to the second intermediate frequency. The signal is then forwarded to other modules for processing.
- **D** (demodulation): This block demodulates the signal, that is, the useful information of the signal is extracted and prepared for analysis.
- **IFA** (intermediate frequency amplifier): It is a block designed for automatic amplification of the signal and its recording. Here the signal is amplified and directed to the recording device.
- **RD** (recorder): The signal processed and demodulated by the system is recorded and stored here. It is used for data storage.
- **RRD** (reboot unit): This unit performs the function of system re-rooting and changing settings. This is necessary for more accurate reception and processing of the signal.

Analyzers used in radio reconnaissance stations determine the carrier frequency, duration, shape and repetition of pulses, frequency, observation form and speed, the width and shape of the antenna radiation pattern, the polarization of the radiation and its intensity. Sometimes the set parameters are limited by carrier frequency, pulse duration and repetition rate. To analyze the spectrum of signals, serial spectrum analyzers are used, because the dimensions of parallel spectrum analyzers are very large and they are more complex.

As mentioned, radio reconnaissance stations are mainly placed on moving objects. For this reason, they are required to be small in size, light in weight, and high in measurement accuracy and reliability. Both types of radio reconnaissance receivers use a spectrum analyzer. This means using a

large number of filters. To meet the above-mentioned requirements, it is necessary to use filters made with more modern technology. For this purpose, it is more appropriate to use filters based on load-related devices. So, these filters are distinguished by their low cost, small size, lightness, high reliability and accuracy.

2.2. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Due to many of its features, better characteristics are obtained in segmented electrode structures (Figure 3). The main element of the filter is a delay line based on a load-coupled structure where one of the electrodes in each cascade is split into two parts [2,7,11].

In electronics, particularly in signal processing and filtering technologies, segmented electrode structures offer improved performance over traditional designs. These structures are often employed in high-frequency filters where precise control over signal propagation is crucial. By dividing one of the electrodes in each cascade into two segments, the system can achieve finer tuning of the delay line, which is essential for better signal control and reduced interference.

A delay line is a critical component in such filters as it controls the time it takes for a signal to pass from one point to another. In this case, the load-coupled structure helps in managing the signal's propagation by influencing the interaction between the electrical load and the signal. This results in better phase stability, reduced signal loss, and improved frequency selectivity, which are key advantages in communication systems, radar, and radio detection technologies.

By splitting the electrodes in each cascade, the system can enhance its ability to filter out unwanted frequencies while allowing desired signals to pass through more cleanly. This segmentation helps to minimize distortion and phase errors, which are common issues in high-frequency applications. Additionally, it allows for a more compact design, which is often necessary in modern electronic systems that demand high performance in limited physical space.

In Figure 3.a, the signal is counted by electrodes (F_3) untimed in the form of load. When the load is transferred from the (F_2) electrode to the k -th counting electrode (F_3), the current flowing to the k -th counting bus consists of two components: one of them equals the current that can flow in the absence of the signal load, and the second approximately corresponds to the signal load. As a result, the signal load can be determined by integrating the current flowing to the F_3 electrode during the transfer of loads. Measurement is performed by splitting the (F_3) electrode and integrating the currents flowing from each part separately. When the electrode is split into two equal parts, zero weighting coefficients are obtained [3,9]. Positive and negative coefficients are obtained by dividing the loads between the (F_{3+}) and (F_{3-}) electrodes in the necessary proportions. Summation is carried out by connecting the (F_{3+}) and (F_{3-}) electrodes as shown in Figure 3.b. The output signal of the filter is generated by integrating and subtracting the currents of the (F_{3+}) and (F_{3-}) counting clock buses (in the output amplifier). The method of split electrodes is widely used for load-based filters.

The scheme shown in Figure 3. has found wide application, but in some cases it is possible to improve the working characteristics of the filter by using other schematic solutions. Usually split-electrode filters, which often have small weighting coefficients, have a limited dynamic range, and sampling frequency does not exceed 5MHz. If the level of the in-phase signal at the input of the output amplifier is too large (20-30 dB higher than the useful output signal), the dynamic range is limited. As the number of transmissions with a low weighting factor is large, the synphase signal becomes even higher. This is explained by the fact that a small weighting factor corresponds to the fact that a relatively large signal is given to the input of a differential amplifier from electrodes whose width is approximately half of the width of the channel [4,8].

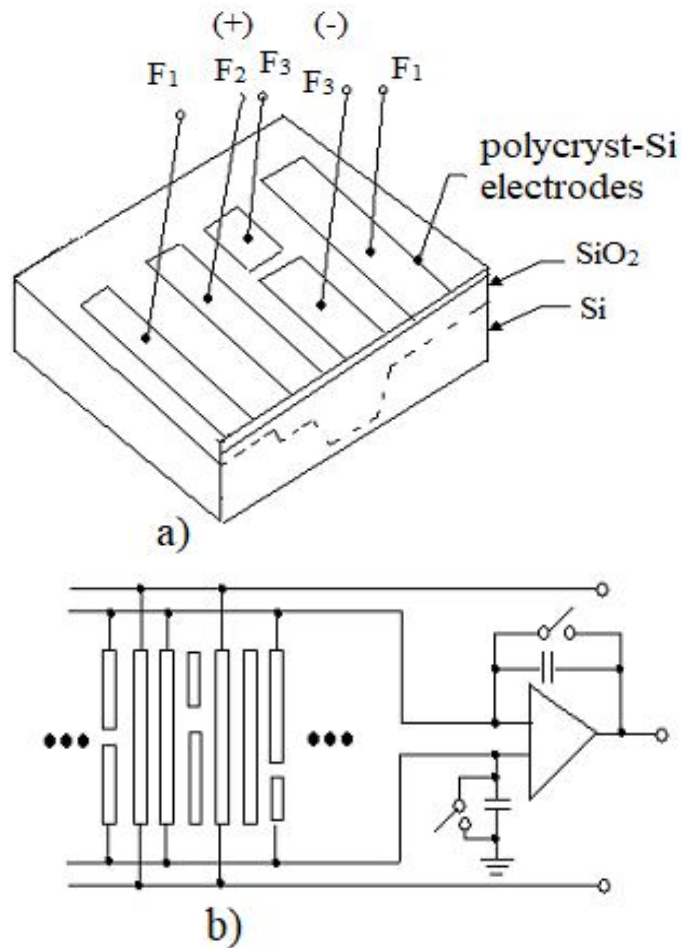


Figure 3. Split-electrode charge-based filter (a) – filter structure (b) description of charge counting method

Usually, the ratio of bandwidth to discretization frequency is high (10%) in filters with small weighting coefficients. On the other hand, in tuned and narrowband filters, the weighting coefficients are usually quite large and in-phase, and the signals are not large.

3. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be noted that the use of solid-state filters of the radio reconnaissance receiver has the following advantages:

- considerable simplicity of switching circuits
- small stationary obstacle level
- high reliability, small dimensions and mass, considerable simplicity of switching circuits
- signal/noise ratio etc.

Taking into account the mentioned results, it can be said with certainty that the use of solid-state filters in radio reconnaissance receivers is very promising.

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