

In 1964-65 in the USSR I was working on a project related to the usage of a specialized computer controlling a paper making machine. My task was to find a way how to monitor a constantly varied speed of different parts of a machine.

In the process of my work I come to idea to use two counters in such a way that during a unit of time one counter counts incoming pulses from a digital speed sensor and, at the same time, other counter is used as a memory for the display displaying a number of pulses received during previous unit of time. After unit of time expires, counters exchange roles. Previously counting counter becomes “memory” connected to the display, and counter previously used as memory is cleared and becomes counting counter. (Fig. 1)

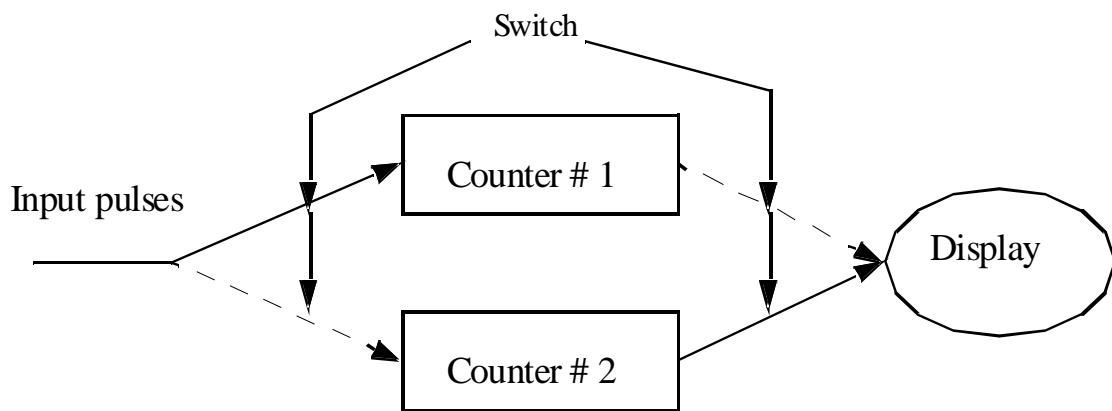


Fig. 1

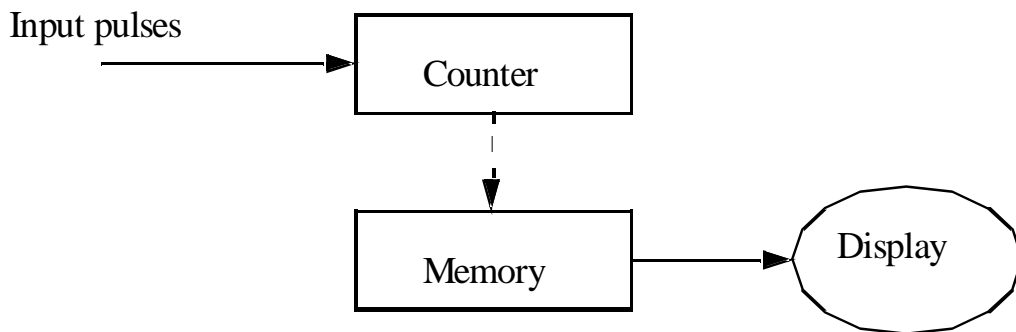


Fig. 2

I consider other approach also. By this approach one counter is used as a counter all the time. Other counter is permanently connected to the display and used as memory all the time. Counting counter is counting pulses during a unit of time; then replace contents of the “memory” counter with a number of pulses counted during last counting cycle (Fig 2).

In both cases display shows number of pulses received during a previous unit of time.

Since I had access only to line finders, I used first approach. It was easy for me to implement.

I was advised to apply for the patent. So, I did. However, patent office rejected my claim by mentioned other patents which had nothing in common with my approaches. (Maybe in the West my approaches were known, but in the USSR patent office did not have information about them). I did not respond to the rejection in six moth's window allowed for the response. After about two years I found my approach published in the book. I sent a letter to the patent office with complain about plagiarism. But got an answer, that because I did not respond to the rejection during six moths period, I lost my right to the patent.