What is Phase Locked Loop (PLL)

PLL is an Electronic Module (Circuit) that locks the phase of the output to the input.

A PLL is a negative feedback system where an oscillator-generated signal is phase and frequency locked to a reference signal.





Parts of a PLL

Phase Detector

- Acts as comparator
- Produces a voltage proportional to the phase difference between input and output signal
- Voltage becomes a control signal



Parts of a PLL

• Filter

- Determines dynamic characteristics of PLL
 - Specify Capture Range (bandwidth)
 - Specify Tracking Range
- Receives signal from Phase Detector and filters accordingly



Parts of a PLL

• Voltage Controlled Oscillator

- Set tuning range
- Set noise margin
- Creates low noise clock oscillation

Wout = Wo+Kvco Vcont



Locked Condition

Locked Condition

d/dt(qin-qout)=0

This implies that

win = wout



Dynamics of Simple PLL

PLL is a feedback system

PD is a gain amplifier LPF be first order filter

VCO is a unit step module

• The transfer function of the feedback system is given as:



Application of PLL

Frequency Multiplications

The feedback loop has frequency division. Frequency division is implemented using a counter.







Other applications include:

- Demodulation of both FM and AM signals
- Recovery of small signals that otherwise would be lost in noise (lock-in amplifier)
- Recovery of clock timing information from a data stream such as from a disk drive
- Clock multipliers in microprocessors that allow internal processor elements to run faster than external connections, while maintaining precise timing relationships
- DTMF decoders, modems, and other tone decoders, for remote control and telecommunications