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**Ker et al.**

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(54) **NEGATIVE HIGH-VOLTAGE GENERATION  
DEVICE WITH MULTI-STAGE SELECTION**

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**H03K 3/356** (2006.01)  
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**2001/0025** (2013.01); **H02M 2003/072**  
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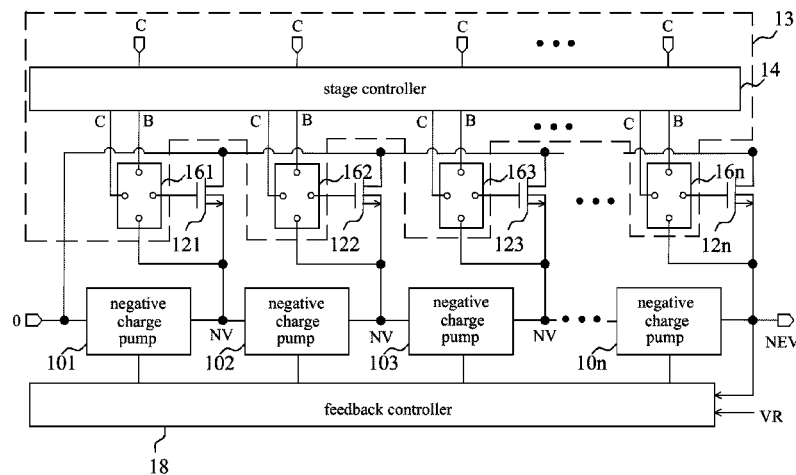
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A negative high-voltage generation device with multi-stage selection includes an input, an output, negative charges pumps, electrical switches, and a control device. The negative charge pumps are electrically cascaded between the input and the output and configured to receive zero voltage through the input. The control device turns off at least one of the electrical switches close to the output and turns on the remains of the plurality of electrical switches, and the negative charge pumps and the electrical switches use zero voltage to generate a negative voltage at the output.

**10 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets**



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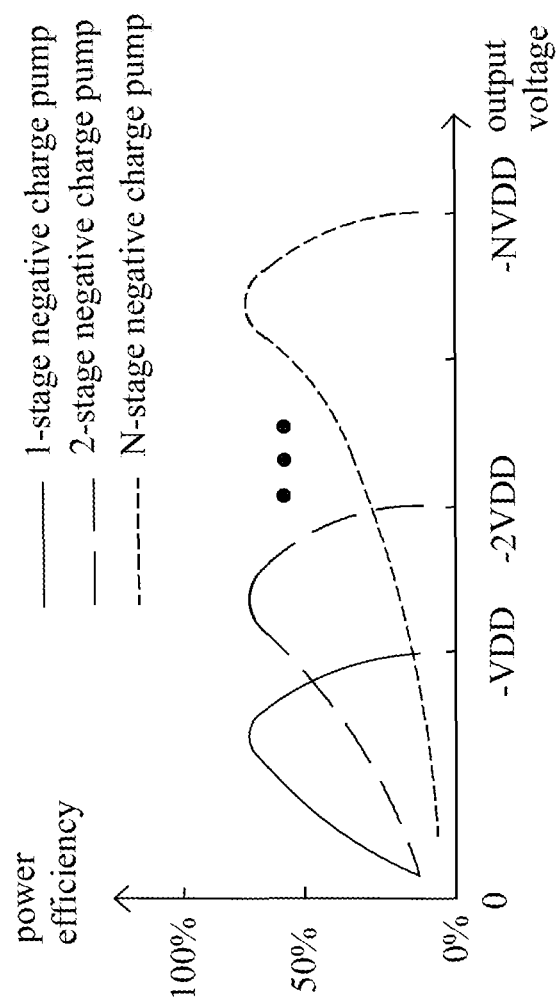


FIG.1  
(Prior Art)

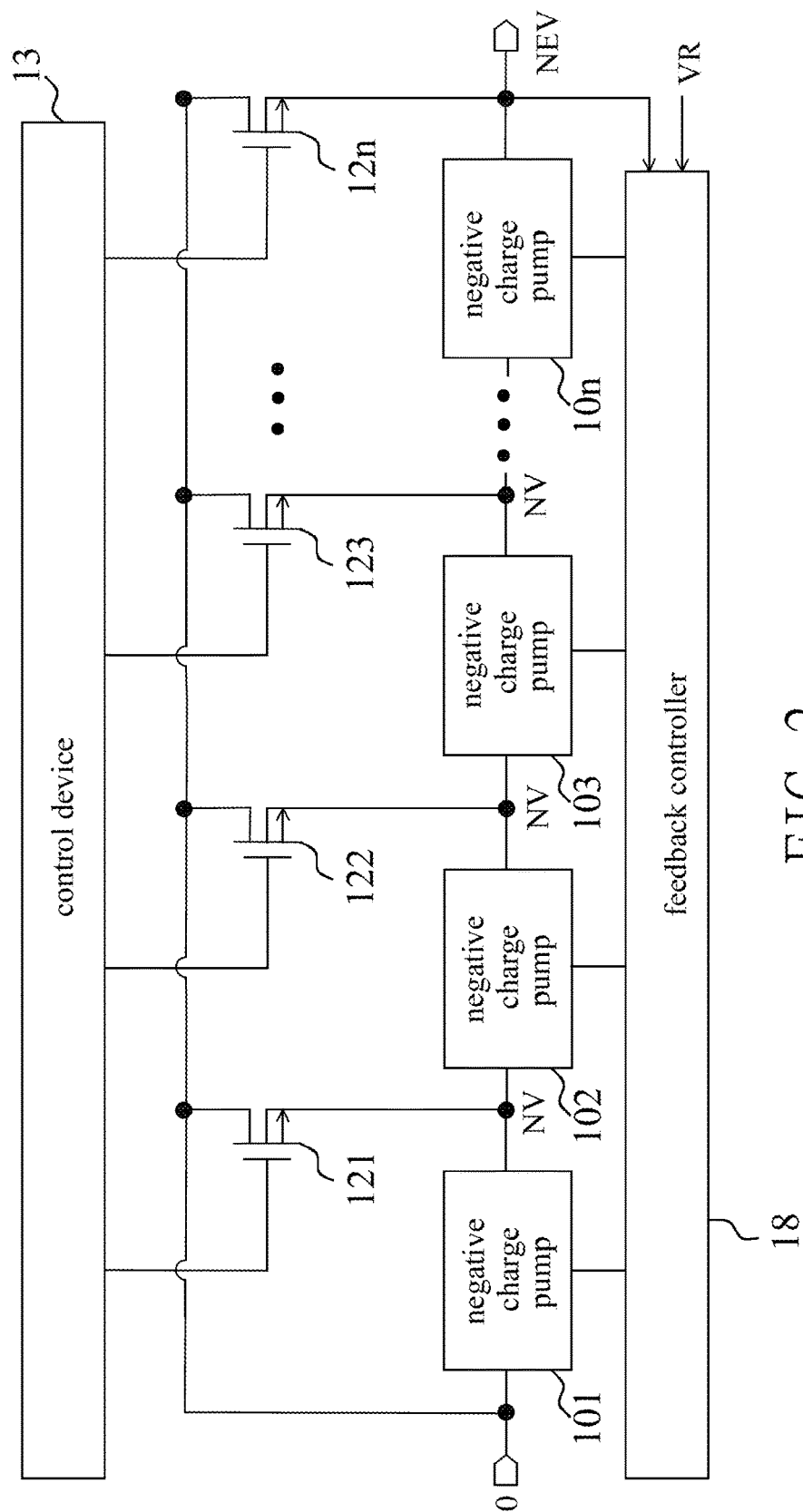


FIG. 2

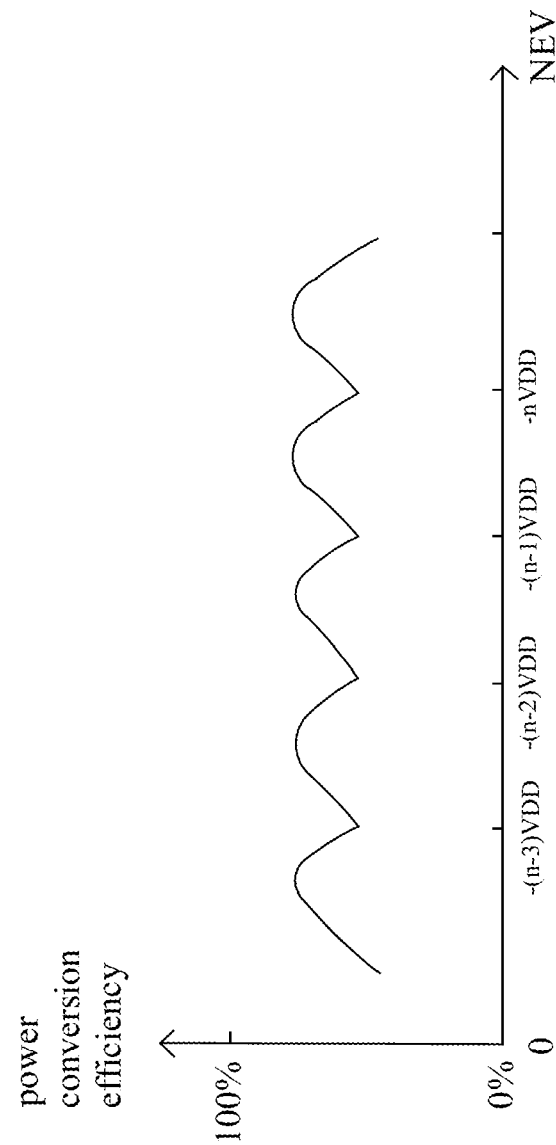


FIG. 3

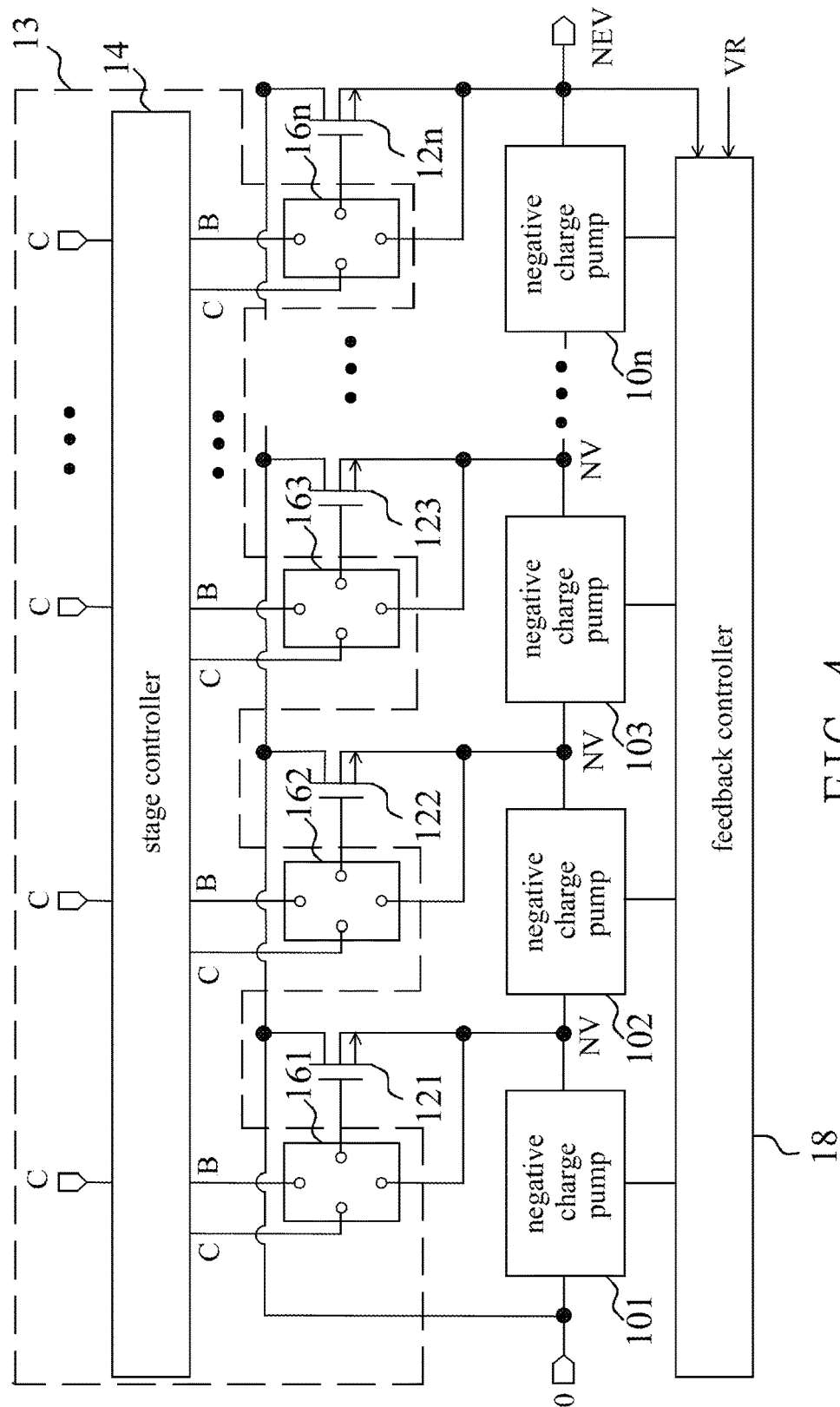


FIG. 4

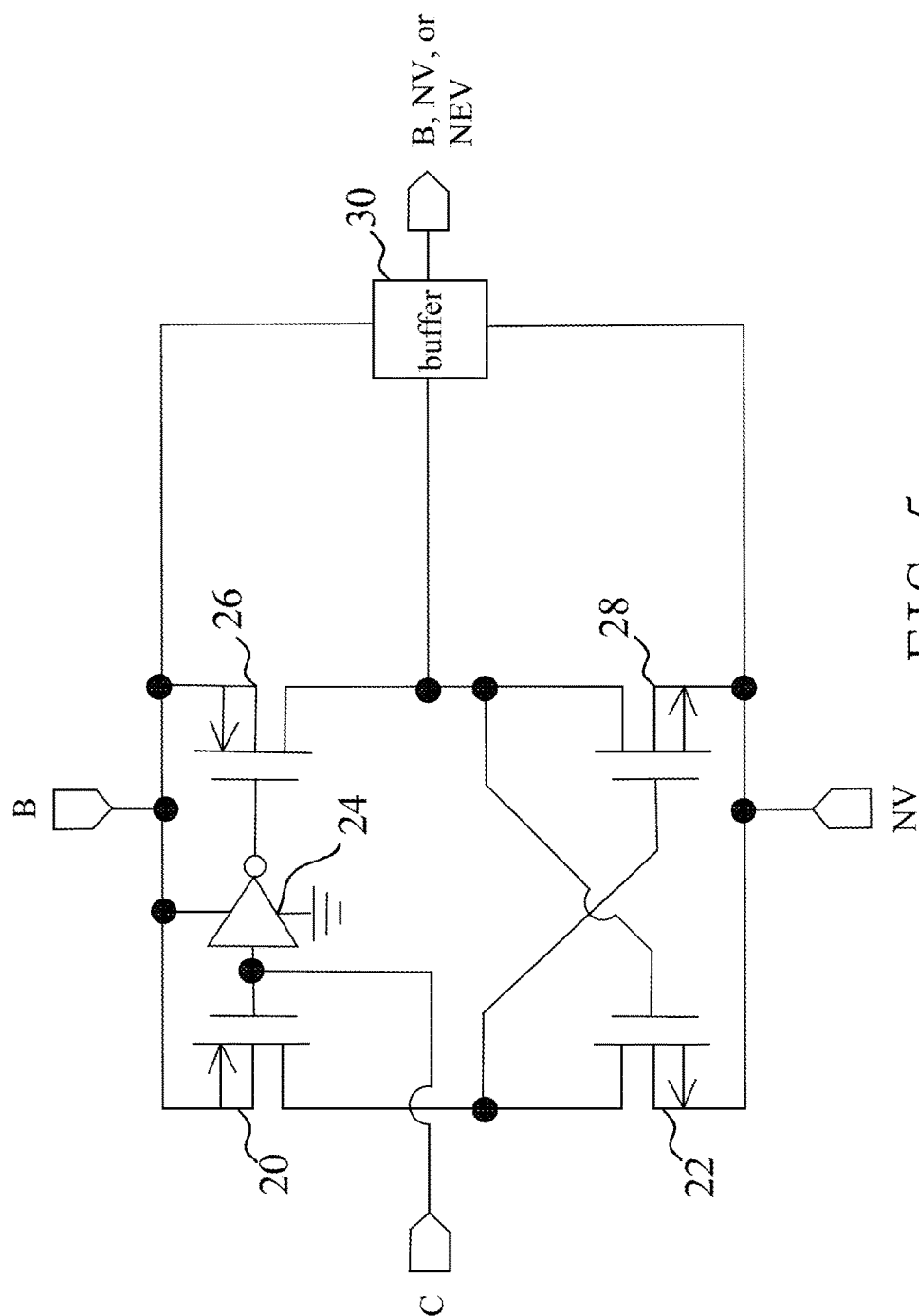


FIG. 5

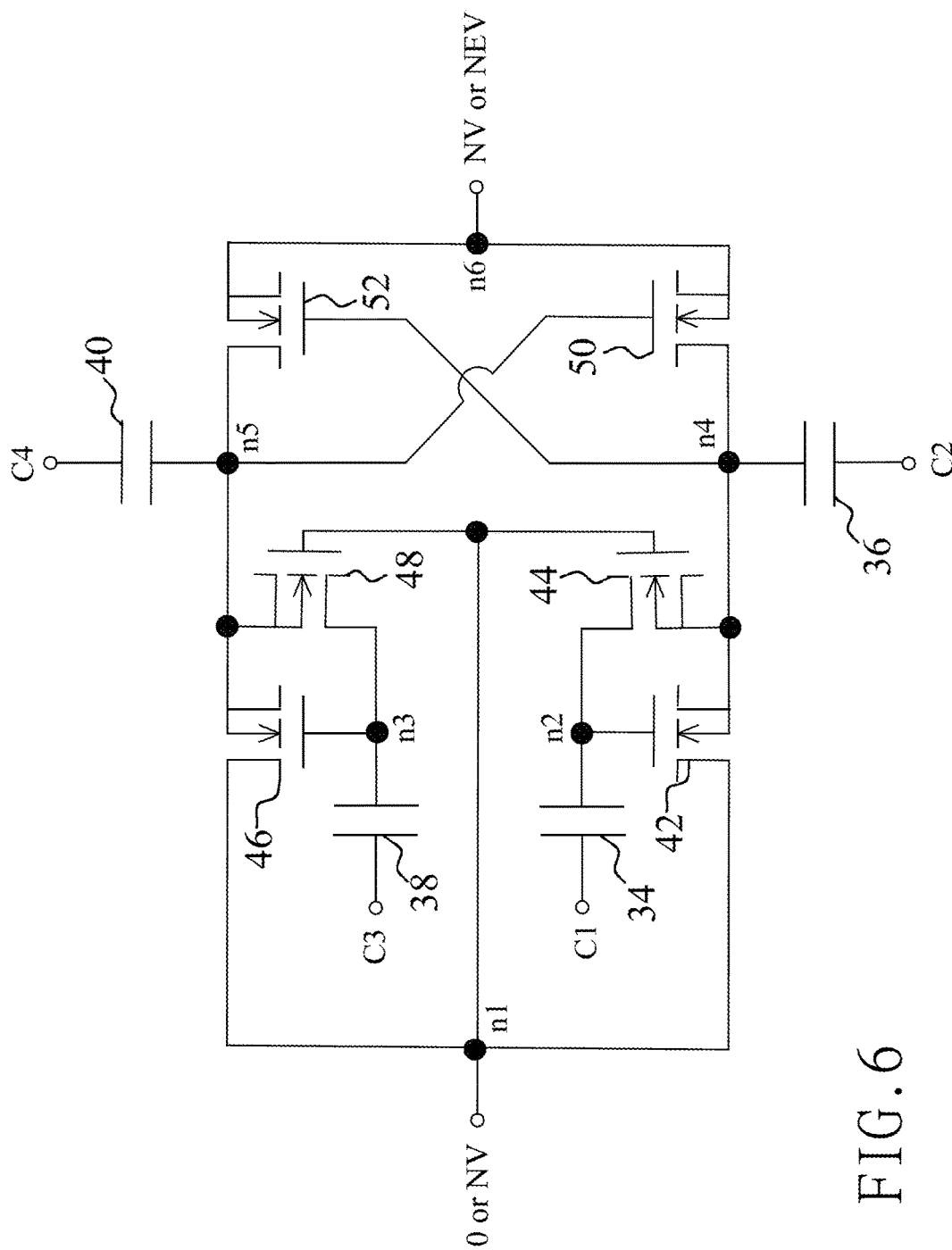


FIG. 6

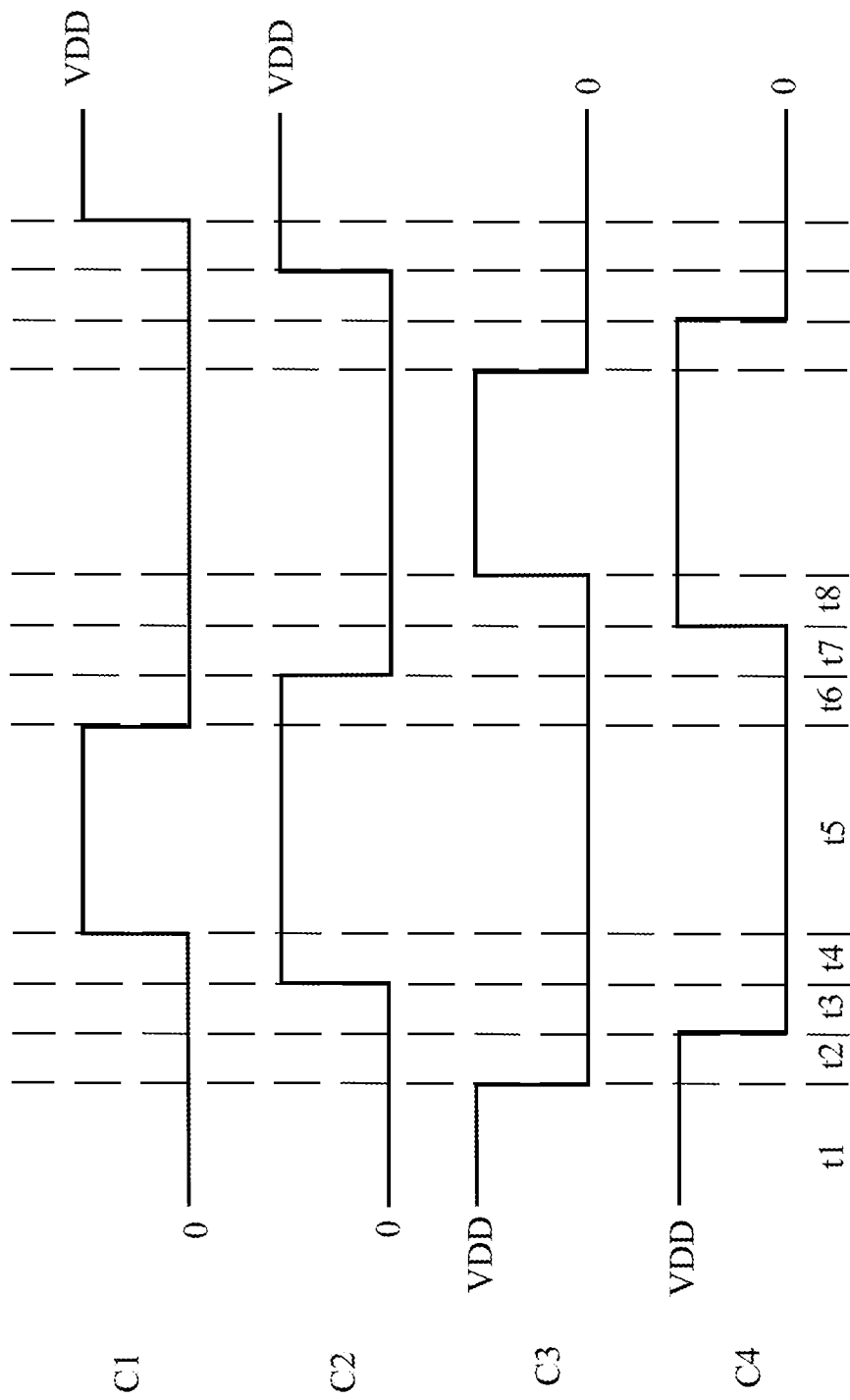


FIG. 7

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## NEGATIVE HIGH-VOLTAGE GENERATION DEVICE WITH MULTI-STAGE SELECTION

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a high-voltage generation device, particularly to a negative high-voltage generation device with multi-stage selection.

#### Description of the Related Art

Nowadays, many stimulators have been widely used as a kind of electrical stimulation treatment in medicine. During the therapeutic process, the dislocation between tissues and electrodes may cause the variation of impedances. Also, the effectiveness of stimulation may induce the change of stimulus scales. Therefore, the required supply for stimulators varies from several volts to tens of volts. It is important for the high-voltage generator to vary with stimulus conditions. In a closed-loop system, the output voltage of charge pumps can be re-arranged by varying the reference voltage.

At different reference voltages, the system uses phase frequency modulation (PFM) feedback to regulate the output voltage. Take U.S. Pat. No. 8,797,088 as an example. A charge pump unit can generate high voltage by switches and capacitors. The charge pump unit may be an N-stage negative charge pump, where  $N \geq 2$ . Many charge pump circuits and control techniques had been proposed. The closed-loop control of charge pump usually consists of a compensation unit, a modulation unit, and a phase control unit, as shown in FIG. 2A of the patent. The modulation unit can receive the output of compensation unit and generate a modulation signal to a phase control unit. The output voltage can regulate at a certain voltage by this control. However, it would suffer a low efficiency problem when an inappropriate negative voltage is targeted to output. Refer to FIG. 1. The 1-stage negative charge pump is used to generate a negative voltage  $-VDD$ . The 2-stage negative charge pump is used to generate a negative voltage  $-2VDD$ . The N-stage negative charge pump is used to generate a negative voltage  $-NVDD$ . Before reaching the negative target voltage, the power efficiency of the negative charge pump has decreased from 100%.

To overcome the abovementioned problems, the present invention provides a negative high-voltage generation device with multi-stage selection, so as to solve the aforementioned problems of the prior art.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The primary objective of the present invention is to provide a negative high-voltage generation device with multi-stage selection, which uses charge pumps each realized with a capacitive converter to generate a direct-current (DC) output voltage lower than an input voltage, reconfigures a cascaded architecture of charge pumps to reduce excessive power consumption, outputs a wide voltage range, and maintains high power conversion efficiency.

To achieve the abovementioned objectives, the present invention provides a negative high-voltage generation device with multi-stage selection having an input and an output. The negative high-voltage generation device with multi-stage selection comprises a plurality of negative charge pumps, a plurality of electrical switches, and a control device. The plurality of negative charge pumps are

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electrically cascaded between the input and the output and configured to receive zero voltage through the input. The plurality of electrical switches are coupled to the input. The control device is coupled to the plurality of electrical switches and configured to turn off at least one of the plurality of electrical switches close to the output and to turn on the remains of the plurality of electrical switches, and the plurality of negative charge pumps and the plurality of electrical switches are configured to use zero voltage to generate a negative voltage at the output.

In an embodiment of the present invention, the control device further comprises a stage controller, and a plurality of negative level shifters. The stage controller is configured to receive and output a plurality of control voltages and configured to generate a plurality of biasing voltages according to the plurality of control voltages. The plurality of negative level shifters are coupled to the stage controller and respectively coupled to the plurality of electrical switches. There is a node between neighboring two of the plurality of negative charge pumps, the node is coupled to one of the plurality of negative level shifters, and the output is coupled to one of the plurality of negative level shifters. The plurality of negative level shifters are configured to respectively receive the plurality of control voltages and to respectively receive the plurality of biasing voltages, thereby using the plurality of control voltages and the plurality of biasing voltages to turn off at least one of the plurality of electrical switches close to the output and to turn on the remains of the plurality of electrical switches. The plurality of negative charge pumps and the plurality of electrical switches are configured to use zero voltage to generate a negative voltage at the output. In an embodiment of the present invention, the plurality of electrical switches are N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistors (NMOSFETs).

In an embodiment of the present invention, each of the plurality of negative level shifters further comprises a first P-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistors (PMOSFET), a first N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistors (NMOSFET), an inverter, a second P-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistors (PMOSFET), a second N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistors (NMOSFET), and a buffer. The source of the first PMOSFET is coupled to the stage controller and configured to receive one of the plurality of biasing voltages, and the gate of the first PMOSFET is coupled to the stage controller and configured to receive one of the plurality of control voltages. The drain of the first NMOSFET is coupled to the drain of the first PMOSFET, and the source of the first NMOSFET is coupled to the output or the node and configured to receive a node voltage at the node or the negative voltage. For example, the node voltage is smaller than zero voltage. The input terminal of the inverter is coupled to the gate of the first PMOSFET and the stage controller and configured to receive one of the plurality of control voltages. The source of the second PMOSFET is coupled to the stage controller and the source of the first PMOSFET and configured to receive one of the plurality of biasing voltages, the gate of the second PMOSFET is coupled to the output terminal of the inverter, and the drain of the second PMOSFET is coupled to the gate of the first NMOSFET. The drain of the second NMOSFET is coupled to the drain of the second PMOSFET and the gate of the first NMOSFET, the gate of the second NMOSFET is coupled to the drains of the first NMOSFET and the first PMOSFET, and the source of the second NMOSFET is coupled to the output or the node and configured to receive the node voltage or the negative voltage. The input terminal

of the buffer is coupled to the drains of the second NMOSFET and the second PMOSFET and the gate of the first NMOSFET. The output terminal of the buffer is coupled to one of the plurality of electrical switches, the first NMOSFET, the first PMOSFET, the second NMOSFET, the second PMOSFET, the inverter, and the buffer are configured to use one of the plurality of control voltages, one of the plurality of biasing voltages, and either of the node voltage or the negative voltage to turn on or turn off one of the plurality of electrical switches.

In an embodiment of the present invention, the output terminal of the buffer generates the node voltage or the negative voltage to turn off one of the plurality of electrical switches when the gate of the first PMOSFET and the input terminal of the inverter receive one of the plurality of control voltages equal to zero voltage.

In an embodiment of the present invention, the output terminal of the buffer generates one of the plurality of biasing voltages equal to a positive power voltage to turn on one of the plurality of electrical switches when the gate and the source of the first PMOSFET, the source of the second PMOSFET, and the input terminal of the inverter receive one of the plurality of biasing voltages equal to the positive power voltage.

In an embodiment of the present invention, each of the plurality of negative charge pumps is configured to receive a first clock signal, a second clock signal, a third clock signal, and a fourth clock signal and configured to use the first clock signal, the second clock signal, the third clock signal, the fourth clock signal, and either of one of the node voltages or zero voltage to generate another of the node voltages or the negative voltage, the first clock signal, the second clock signal, the third clock signal, and the fourth clock signal have an identical period, and the period includes a first duration, a second duration, a third duration, a fourth duration, a fifth duration, a sixth duration, a seventh duration, and an eighth duration sequentially appearing. The first clock signal, the second clock signal, the third clock signal, and the fourth clock signal are respectively zero voltage, zero voltage, the positive power voltage, and the positive power voltage in the first duration. The first clock signal, the second clock signal, the third clock signal, and the fourth clock signal are respectively zero voltage, zero voltage, zero voltage, and the positive power voltage in the second duration. The first clock signal, the second clock signal, the third clock signal, and the fourth clock signal are respectively zero voltage, zero voltage, zero voltage, and zero voltage in the third duration. The first clock signal, the second clock signal, the third clock signal, and the fourth clock signal are respectively zero voltage, the positive power voltage, zero voltage, and zero voltage in the fourth duration. The first clock signal, the second clock signal, the third clock signal, and the fourth clock signal are respectively the positive power voltage, the positive power voltage, zero voltage, and zero voltage in the fifth duration. The first clock signal, the second clock signal, the third clock signal, and the fourth clock signal are respectively zero voltage, zero voltage, zero voltage, and the positive power voltage in the sixth duration. The first clock signal, the second clock signal, the third clock signal, and the fourth clock signal are respectively zero voltage, zero voltage, zero voltage, and zero voltage in the seventh duration. The first clock signal, the second clock signal, the third clock signal, and the fourth clock signal are respectively zero voltage, zero voltage, zero voltage, and the positive power voltage in the eighth duration.

In an embodiment of the present invention, each of the plurality of negative charge pumps further comprises a first capacitor, a second capacitor, a third capacitor, a fourth capacitor, a third N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (NMOSFET), a fourth N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (NMOSFET), a fifth N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (NMOSFET), a sixth N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (NMOSFET), a seventh N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (NMOSFET), and an eighth N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (NMOSFET). The first capacitor has a first end and a second end. The first end of the first capacitor is configured to receive the first clock signal. The second capacitor has a third end and a fourth end. The third end of the second capacitor is configured to receive the second clock signal. The third capacitor has a fifth end and a sixth end. The fifth end of the third capacitor is configured to receive the third clock signal. The fourth capacitor has a seventh end and an eighth end. The seventh end of the fourth capacitor is configured to receive the fourth clock signal. The gate of the third NMOSFET is coupled to the second end, the drain of the third NMOSFET is coupled to the node or the input, and the source of the third NMOSFET is coupled to the fourth end. The drain of the fourth NMOSFET is coupled to the second end, the source of the fourth NMOSFET is coupled to the fourth end, and the gate of the fourth NMOSFET is coupled to the drain of the third NMOSFET. The drain of the fifth NMOSFET is coupled to the drain of the third NMOSFET, the gate of the fifth NMOSFET is coupled to the sixth end, and the source of the fifth NMOSFET is coupled to the eighth end. The drain of the sixth NMOSFET is coupled to the sixth end, the source of the sixth NMOSFET is coupled to the eighth end, and the gate of the sixth NMOSFET is coupled to the gate of the fourth NMOSFET. The drain of the seventh NMOSFET is coupled to the fourth end, the source of the seventh NMOSFET is coupled to the output or the node, and the gate of the seventh NMOSFET is coupled to the eighth end. The drain of the eighth NMOSFET is coupled to the eighth end, the source of the eighth NMOSFET is coupled to the source of the seventh NMOSFET, the gate of the eighth NMOSFET is coupled to the fourth end, and the first capacitor, the second capacitor, the third capacitor, the fourth capacitor, the third NMOSFET, the fourth NMOSFET, the fifth NMOSFET, the sixth NMOSFET, the seventh NMOSFET, and the eighth NMOSFET are configured to receive one of the node voltages or zero voltage and configured to decrease it by a fixed voltage to generate another of the node voltages or the negative voltage.

In an embodiment of the present invention, the fixed voltage is equal to the positive power voltage.

In an embodiment of the present invention, each of the plurality of control voltages is equal to zero voltage or the positive power voltage, and each of the plurality of biasing voltages is equal to the positive power voltage.

In an embodiment of the present invention, the negative high-voltage generation device further comprises a feedback controller coupled to the output and the plurality of negative charge pumps, configured to receive a reference voltage and the negative voltage, and configured to compare the reference voltage with the negative voltage to enable at least one of the plurality of negative charge pumps close to the output and to disable the remains of the plurality of negative charge pumps.

Below, the embodiments are described in detail in cooperation with the drawings to make easily understood the technical contents, characteristics and accomplishments of the present invention.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a diagram showing curves of power efficiency versus an output voltage for the conventional negative charge pumps;

FIG. 2 is a diagram showing a negative high-voltage generation device with multi-stage selection according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a diagram showing a curve of power efficiency versus a negative voltage for a negative high-voltage generation device with multi-stage selection according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a diagram showing a negative high-voltage generation device with multi-stage selection according to the second embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 5 is a diagram showing a negative level shifter according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 6 is a diagram showing a negative charge pump according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 7 is a diagram showing waveforms of a first clock signal, a second clock signal, a third clock signal, and a fourth clock signal according to an embodiment of the present invention.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Refer to FIG. 2 and FIG. 3. The first embodiment of the negative high-voltage generation device is introduced as follows. The negative high-voltage generation device with multi-stage selection has an input and an output. The negative high-voltage generation device with multi-stage selection comprises a plurality of negative charge pumps **101-10n**, a plurality of electrical switches **121-12n**, a control device **13**, and a feedback controller **18**, wherein  $n$  is a natural number larger than or equal to 2. The plurality of negative charge pumps **101-10n** are electrically cascaded between the input and the output and configured to receive zero voltage through the input. The plurality of electrical switches **121-12n** are coupled to the input. Each of the plurality of electrical switches **121-12n** is a bypass switch. The bypass switch is implemented by an N-type metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (NMOSFET) because it is easier to acquire a higher voltage level to fully turn it on. The control device **13** is coupled to the plurality of electrical switches **121-12n** and configured to turn off at least one of the plurality of electrical switches **121-12n** close to the output and to turn on the remains of the plurality of electrical switches **121-12n**, and the plurality of negative charge pumps **101-10n** and the plurality of electrical switches **121-12n** are configured to use zero voltage to generate a negative voltage at the output. For example, each of the negative charge pumps decreases an input voltage by a positive power voltage VDD to generate an output voltage. The feedback controller **18** is coupled to the output and the plurality of negative charge pumps **101-10n**, configured to receive a reference voltage VR and the negative voltage NEV, and configured to compare the reference voltage VR with the negative voltage NEV to enable at least one of the plurality of negative charge pumps **101-10n** close to the output and to disable the remains of the plurality of negative charge pumps **101-10n**.

The operation of the first embodiment of the negative high-voltage generation device is introduced as follows.

The control device **13** fully turns off the electrical switches **121-12n**. Besides, the feedback controller **18** compares the reference voltage VR with the negative voltage NEV to enable the plurality of negative charge pumps **101-10n**. Thus, the negative charge pumps **101-10n** receive zero voltage and decrease it by  $nVDD$  to generate the negative voltage NEV at the output. In other words, the negative voltage NEV is  $-nVDD$ . Since the electrical switches **121-12n** are fully turned off to reduce excessive power consumption, the negative voltage NEV is stably maintained to achieve high power conversion efficiency.

The control device **13** fully turns on the electrical switch **121** and fully turns off the electrical switches **122-12n** close to the output. Besides, the feedback controller **18** compares the reference voltage VR with the negative voltage NEV to enable the plurality of negative charge pumps **102-10n** close to the output and to disable the negative charge pump **101**. Thus, the negative charge pumps **102-10n** receive zero voltage through the electrical switch **121** and decrease it by  $(n-1)VDD$  to generate the negative voltage NEV at the output. In other words, the negative voltage NEV is  $-(n-1)VDD$ . Since the electrical switches **122-12n** are fully turned off to reduce excessive power consumption, the negative voltage NEV is stably maintained to achieve high power conversion efficiency.

The control device **13** fully turns on the electrical switches **121** and **122** and fully turns off the electrical switches **123-12n** close to the output. Besides, the feedback controller **18** compares the reference voltage VR with the negative voltage NEV to enable the plurality of negative charge pumps **103-10n** close to the output and to disable the negative charge pumps **101** and **102**. Thus, the negative charge pumps **103-10n** receive zero voltage through the electrical switch **122** and decrease it by  $(n-2)VDD$  to generate the negative voltage NEV at the output. In other words, the negative voltage NEV is  $-(n-2)VDD$ . Since the electrical switches **123-12n** are fully turned off to reduce excessive power consumption, the negative voltage NEV is stably maintained to achieve high power conversion efficiency.

The control device **13** fully turns on the electrical switches **121-12(n-1)** and fully turns off the electrical switch **12n** close to the output. Besides, the feedback controller **18** compares the reference voltage VR with the negative voltage NEV to enable the plurality of negative charge pump **10n** close to the output and to disable the negative charge pumps **101-10(n-1)**. Thus, the negative charge pump **10n** receives zero voltage through the electrical switch **12(n-1)** and decreases it by VDD to generate the negative voltage NEV at the output. In other words, the negative voltage NEV is  $-VDD$ . Since the electrical switch **12n** is fully turned off to reduce excessive power consumption, the negative voltage NEV is stably maintained to achieve high power conversion efficiency.

Refer to FIG. 4. The second embodiment of the negative high-voltage generation device is introduced as follows.

The second embodiment is different from the first embodiment in the control device **13**. In the second embodiment, the control device **13** further comprises a stage controller **14** and a plurality of negative level shifters **161-16n**. The stage controller **14** is configured to receive and output a plurality of control voltages C and configured to generate a plurality of biasing voltages B according to the plurality of control voltages C. For example, each of the plurality of control voltages C is equal to zero voltage or a positive

power voltage VDD, and each of the plurality of biasing voltages B is equal to the positive power voltage VDD. The plurality of negative level shifters **161-16n** are coupled to the stage controller **14** and respectively coupled to the plurality of electrical switches **121-12n**. There is a node between neighboring two of the plurality of negative charge pumps **101-10n**, the node is coupled to one of the plurality of negative level shifters **161-16n**, and the output is coupled to one of the plurality of negative level shifters **161-16n**. The plurality of negative level shifters **161-16n** are configured to respectively receive the plurality of control voltages C and to respectively receive the plurality of biasing voltages B, thereby using the plurality of control voltages C and the plurality of biasing voltages B to turn off at least one of the plurality of electrical switches **121-12n** close to the output and to turn on the remains of the plurality of electrical switches **121-12n**. In order to fully turn on or turn off the plurality of electrical switches **121-12n**, the negative level shifters **161-16n** are used to shift the signal to different voltage level. In the present invention, the negative level shifters **161-16n** are designated to convert signals from positive to negative. When the control voltages C received by the negative level shifters **161-16n** are zero voltage, the negative level shifters **161-16n** turn off the electrical switches **121-12n**. When the control voltages C received by the negative level shifters **161-16n** are the positive power voltage VDD, the negative level shifters **161-16n** turn on the electrical switches **121-12n**. The plurality of negative charge pumps **101-10n** and the plurality of electrical switches **121-12n** are configured to use zero voltage to generate a negative voltage NEV at the output. For example, each of the negative charge pumps decreases an input voltage by the positive power voltage VDD to generate an output voltage. The feedback controller **18** is coupled to the output and the plurality of negative charge pumps **101-10n**, configured to receive a reference voltage VR and the negative voltage NEV, and configured to compare the reference voltage VR with the negative voltage NEV to enable at least one of the plurality of negative charge pumps **101-10n** close to the output and to disable the remains of the plurality of negative charge pumps **101-10n**.

Refer to FIG. 3 and FIG. 4. The operation of the first embodiment of the negative high-voltage generation device is introduced as follows.

When the control voltages C received by the negative level shifters **161-16n** are zero voltage, the negative level shifters **161-16n** use the control voltages C and the biasing voltages B to fully turn off the electrical switches **121-12n**. Besides, the feedback controller **18** compares the reference voltage VR with the negative voltage NEV to enable the plurality of negative charge pumps **101-10n**. Thus, the negative charge pumps **101-10n** receive zero voltage and decrease it by nVDD to generate the negative voltage NEV at the output. In other words, the negative voltage NEV is -nVDD. Since the electrical switches **121-12n** are fully turned off to reduce excessive power consumption, the negative voltage NEV is stably maintained to achieve high power conversion efficiency.

When the control voltage C received by the negative level shifter **161** is the positive power voltage VDD, the negative level shifter **161** uses the control voltage C and the biasing voltage B to fully turn on the electrical switch **121**. When the control voltages C received by the negative level shifters **162-16n** are zero voltage, the negative level shifters **162-16n** use the control voltages C and the biasing voltages B to fully turn off the electrical switches **122-12n** close to the output. Besides, the feedback controller **18** compares the reference

voltage VR with the negative voltage NEV to enable the plurality of negative charge pumps **102-10n** close to the output and to disable the negative charge pump **101**. Thus, the negative charge pumps **102-10n** receive zero voltage through the electrical switch **121** and decrease it by (n-1)VDD to generate the negative voltage NEV at the output. In other words, the negative voltage NEV is -(n-1)VDD. Since the electrical switches **122-12n** are fully turned off to reduce excessive power consumption, the negative voltage NEV is stably maintained to achieve high power conversion efficiency.

When the control voltages C received by the negative level shifters **161** and **162** are the positive power voltage VDD, the negative level shifters **161** and **162** use the control voltages C and the biasing voltages B to fully turn on the electrical switches **121** and **122**. When the control voltages C received by the negative level shifters **163-16n** are zero voltage, the negative level shifters **163-16n** use the control voltages C and the biasing voltages B to fully turn off the electrical switches **123-12n** close to the output. Besides, the feedback controller **18** compares the reference voltage VR with the negative voltage NEV to enable the plurality of negative charge pumps **103-10n** close to the output and to disable the negative charge pumps **101** and **102**. Thus, the negative charge pumps **103-10n** receive zero voltage through the electrical switch **122** and decrease it by (n-2)VDD to generate the negative voltage NEV at the output. In other words, the negative voltage NEV is (n-2)VDD. Since the electrical switches **123-12n** are fully turned off to reduce excessive power consumption, the negative voltage NEV is stably maintained to achieve high power conversion efficiency.

When the control voltages C received by the negative level shifters **161-16(n-1)** are the positive power voltage VDD, the negative level shifters **161-16(n-1)** use the control voltages C and the biasing voltages B to fully turn on the electrical switches **121-12(n-1)**. When the control voltage C received by the negative level shifter **16n** is zero voltage, the negative level shifter **16n** uses the control voltage C and the biasing voltage B to fully turn off the electrical switch **12n** close to the output. Besides, the feedback controller **18** compares the reference voltage VR with the negative voltage NEV to enable the plurality of negative charge pump **10n** close to the output and to disable the negative charge pumps **101-10(n-1)**. Thus, the negative charge pump **10n** receives zero voltage through the electrical switch **12(n-1)** and decreases it by VDD to generate the negative voltage NEV at the output. In other words, the negative voltage NEV is -VDD. Since the electrical switch **12n** is fully turned off to reduce excessive power consumption, the negative voltage NEV is stably maintained to achieve high power conversion efficiency.

Each of the plurality of negative level shifters **161-16n** may be shown in FIG. 5, but the present invention is not limited thereto. Refer to FIG. 5. Each of the plurality of negative level shifters **161-16n** further comprises a first P-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistors (PMOSFET) **20**, a first N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistors (NMOSFET) **22**, an inverter **24**, a second P-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistors (PMOSFET) **26**, a second N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistors (NMOSFET) **28**, and a buffer **30**. The source of the first PMOSFET **20** is coupled to the stage controller **14** and configured to receive one of the plurality of biasing voltages B, and the gate of the first PMOSFET **20** is coupled to the stage controller **14** and configured to receive one of the plurality of control voltages

C. The drain of the first NMOSFET 22 is coupled to the drain of the first PMOSFET 20, and the source of the first NMOSFET 22 is coupled to the output or the node and configured to receive a node voltage NV at the node or the negative voltage NEV. For example, the node voltage NV is smaller than zero voltage. The input terminal of the inverter 24 is coupled to the gate of the first PMOSFET 20 and the stage controller 14 and configured to receive one of the plurality of control voltages C. The source of the second PMOSFET 26 is coupled to the stage controller 14 and the source of the first PMOSFET 20 and configured to receive one of the plurality of biasing voltages B, the gate of the second PMOSFET 26 is coupled to the output terminal of the inverter 24, and the drain of the second PMOSFET 26 is coupled to the gate of the first NMOSFET 22. The drain of the second NMOSFET 28 is coupled to the drain of the second PMOSFET 26 and the gate of the first NMOSFET 22, the gate of the second NMOSFET 28 is coupled to the drains of the first NMOSFET 22 and the first PMOSFET 20, and the source of the second NMOSFET 28 is coupled to the output or the node and configured to receive the node voltage NV or the negative voltage NEV. The input terminal of the buffer 30 is coupled to the drains of the second NMOSFET 28 and the second PMOSFET 26 and the gate of the first NMOSFET 22. The output terminal of the buffer 30 is coupled to one of the plurality of electrical switches 121-12n. The first NMOSFET 22, the first PMOSFET 20, the second NMOSFET 28, the second PMOSFET 26, the inverter 24, and the buffer 30 are configured to use one of the plurality of control voltages C, one of the plurality of biasing voltages B, and either of the node voltage NV or the negative voltage NEV to turn on or turn off one of the plurality of electrical switches 121-12n. In operation, the output terminal of the buffer 30 generates the node voltage NV or the negative voltage NEV to turn off one of the plurality of electrical switches 121-12n when the gate of the first PMOSFET 20 and the input terminal of the inverter 24 receive one of the plurality of control voltages C equal to zero voltage. The output terminal of the buffer 30 generates one of the plurality of biasing voltages B equal to the positive power voltage VDD to turn on one of the plurality of electrical switches 121-12n when the gate and the source of the first PMOSFET 20, the source of the second PMOSFET 26, and the input terminal of the inverter 24 receive one of the plurality of biasing voltages B equal to the positive power voltage VDD.

Each of the negative charge pumps 101-10n may be shown in FIG. 6, but the present invention is not limited thereto. Refer to FIG. 6 and FIG. 7. The core of each of the negative charge pumps 101-10n is a four-phase cross-couple structure. It can not only reduce the output ripple but also avoid gate-oxide reliability issues. In order to isolate a P-well of each NMOSFET from a P-substrate, the negative charge pump consists of only NMOS switches with a deep N-Well. Moreover, the bulk and the source of each NMOS switch are connected to each other. As a result, the NMOS switches do not have body effect and any substrate leakage.

Each of the plurality of negative charge pumps 101-10n is configured to receive a first clock signal C1, a second clock signal C2, a third clock signal C3, and a fourth clock signal C4 and configured to use the first clock signal C1, the second clock signal C2, the third clock signal C3, the fourth clock signal C4, and either of one of the node voltages NV or zero voltage to generate another of the node voltages NV or the negative voltage NEV. The first clock signal C1, the second clock signal C2, the third clock signal C3, and the fourth clock signal C4 have an identical period, and the period

includes a first duration t1, a second duration t2, a third duration t3, a fourth duration t4, a fifth duration t5, a sixth duration t6, a seventh duration t7, and an eighth duration t8 sequentially appearing. The first clock signal C1, the second clock signal C2, the third clock signal C3, and the fourth clock signal C4 are respectively zero voltage, zero voltage, the positive power voltage VDD, and the positive power voltage VDD in the first duration t1. The first clock signal C1, the second clock signal C2, the third clock signal C3, and the fourth clock signal C4 are respectively zero voltage, zero voltage, zero voltage, and the positive power voltage VDD in the second duration t2. The first clock signal C1, the second clock signal C2, the third clock signal C3, and the fourth clock signal C4 are respectively zero voltage, zero voltage, zero voltage, and zero voltage in the third duration t3. The first clock signal C1, the second clock signal C2, the third clock signal C3, and the fourth clock signal C4 are respectively zero voltage, the positive power voltage VDD, zero voltage, and zero voltage in the fourth duration t4. The first clock signal C1, the second clock signal C2, the third clock signal C3, and the fourth clock signal C4 are respectively the positive power voltage VDD, the positive power voltage VDD, zero voltage, and zero voltage in the fifth duration t5. The first clock signal C1, the second clock signal C2, the third clock signal C3, and the fourth clock signal C4 are respectively zero voltage, the positive power voltage VDD, zero voltage, and zero voltage in the sixth duration t6. The first clock signal C1, the second clock signal C2, the third clock signal C3, and the fourth clock signal C4 are respectively zero voltage, zero voltage, zero voltage, and zero voltage in the seventh duration t7. The first clock signal C1, the second clock signal C2, the third clock signal C3, and the fourth clock signal C4 are respectively zero voltage, zero voltage, and the positive power voltage VDD in the eighth duration t8.

Each of the plurality of negative charge pumps 101-10n further comprises a first capacitor 34, a second capacitor 36, a third capacitor 38, a fourth capacitor 40, a third N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (NMOSFET) 42, a fourth N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (NMOSFET) 44, a fifth N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (NMOSFET) 46, a sixth N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (NMOSFET) 48, a seventh N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (NMOSFET) 50, and an eighth N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (NMOSFET) 52. The first capacitor 34 has a first end and a second end. The first end of the first capacitor 34 is configured to receive the first clock signal C1. The second capacitor 36 has a third end and a fourth end. The third end of the second capacitor 36 is configured to receive the second clock signal C2. The third capacitor 38 has a fifth end and a sixth end. The fifth end of the third capacitor 38 is configured to receive the third clock signal C3. The fourth capacitor 40 has a seventh end and an eighth end. The seventh end of the fourth capacitor 40 is configured to receive the fourth clock signal C4. The gate of the third NMOSFET 42 is coupled to the second end, the drain of the third NMOSFET 42 is coupled to the node or the input, and the source of the third NMOSFET 42 is coupled to the fourth end. The drain of the fourth NMOSFET 44 is coupled to the second end, the source of the fourth NMOSFET 44 is coupled to the fourth end, and the gate of the fourth NMOSFET 44 is coupled to the drain of the third NMOSFET 42. The drain of the fifth NMOSFET 46 is coupled to the drain of the third NMOSFET 42, the gate of the fifth NMOSFET 46 is coupled to the sixth end, and the source of

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the fifth NMOSFET **46** is coupled to the eighth end. The drain of the sixth NMOSFET **48** is coupled to the sixth end, the source of the sixth NMOSFET **48** is coupled to the eighth end, and the gate of the sixth NMOSFET **48** is coupled to the gate of the fourth NMOSFET **44**. The drain of the seventh NMOSFET **50** is coupled to the fourth end, the source of the seventh NMOSFET **50** is coupled to the output or the node, and the gate of the seventh NMOSFET **50** is coupled to the eighth end. The drain of the eighth NMOSFET **52** is coupled to the eighth end, the source of the eighth NMOSFET **52** is coupled to the source of the seventh NMOSFET **50**, the gate of the eighth NMOSFET **52** is coupled to the fourth end, and the first capacitor **34**, the second capacitor **36**, the third capacitor **38**, the fourth capacitor **40**, the third NMOSFET **42**, the fourth NMOSFET **44**, the fifth NMOSFET **46**, the sixth NMOSFET **48**, the seventh NMOSFET **50**, and the eighth NMOSFET **52** are configured to receive one of the node voltages NV or zero voltage and configured to decrease it by a fixed voltage equal to the positive power voltage VDD to generate another of the node voltages NV or the negative voltage NEV.

The transition of each of the negative charge pumps **101-10n** is described as follows. The threshold voltage of each of the third NMOSFET **42**, the fourth NMOSFET **44**, the fifth NMOSFET **46**, the sixth NMOSFET **48**, the seventh NMOSFET **50**, and the eighth NMOSFET **52** is defined as  $V_t$ . Take the negative charge pump **101** as an example. Thus, the voltage of node **n1** is zero voltage. In the first duration **t1**, the voltages of nodes **n2**, **n3**, **n4**, and **n5** are respectively  $-V_{DD}$ ,  $V_{DD}-V_t$ ,  $-V_{DD}$ , and 0. Thus, the fifth NMOSFET **46** and the seventh NMOSFET **50** are turned on to transfer charges while the third NMOSFET **42** and the eighth NMOSFET **52** are turned off. By the way, the fourth NMOSFET **44** is turned on to ensure the third NMOSFET **42** and the eighth NMOSFET **52** being fully turned off. In the second duration **t2**, the voltage of node **n3** drops to  $-V_t$  to turn off the fifth NMOSFET **46** while the others remain. In the third duration **t3**, the voltages of nodes **n2**, **n3**, **n4**, and **n5** are all  $-V_{DD}$ , such that the fourth NMOSFET **44** and the sixth NMOSFET **48** are turned on to ensure the rest of the switches being fully turned off. Therefore, any return-back leakage paths do not exist. In the fourth duration **t4**, the voltages of nodes **n2** and **n4** respectively rise to  $-V_t$  and  $-V_{DD}$ . In addition to turning on the eighth NMOSFET **52**, the others remain. In the fifth duration **t5**, the voltage of node **n2** drops to  $V_{DD}-V_t$  to turn on the third NMOSFET **42** while the others remain. In the sixth duration **t6**, the voltages of nodes **n2**, **n3**, **n4**, and **n5** are respectively  $-V_t$ ,  $-V_{DD}$ , 0, and  $-V_{DD}$ . In the seventh duration **t7**, the voltages of nodes **n2**, **n3**, **n4**, and **n5** are all  $-V_{DD}$ . The impact of this duration is similar to that of the third duration **t3**. In the eighth duration **t8**, the voltages of nodes **n3** and **n5** respectively rise to  $-V_t$  and 0 while the others remain. In addition to turning on the seventh NMOSFET **50**, the others remain. In the abovementioned durations, the voltage of node **n6** is always  $-V_{DD}$ . Besides, in the negative charge pump **102**, the voltages of nodes **n1**, **n2**, **n3**, **n4**, **n5**, and **n6** decrease by  $V_{DD}$ . By the same token, the voltages of nodes **n1**, **n2**, **n3**, **n4**, **n5**, and **n6** decrease by  $2V_{DD}$  in the negative charge pump **103**. The voltages of nodes **n1**, **n2**, **n3**, **n4**, **n5**, and **n6** decrease by  $3V_{DD}$  in the negative charge pump **104**.

In conclusion, the present invention uses charge pumps each realized with a capacitive converter to generate a direct-current (DC) output voltage lower than an input voltage, reconfigures a cascaded architecture of charge

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pumps to reduce excessive power consumption, outputs a wide voltage range, and maintains high power conversion efficiency.

The embodiments described above are only to exemplify the present invention but not to limit the scope of the present invention. Therefore, any equivalent modification or variation according to the shapes, structures, features, or spirit disclosed by the present invention is to be also included within the scope of the present invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A negative high-voltage generation device with multi-stage selection having an input and an output, and the negative high-voltage generation device with multi-stage selection comprising:

- a plurality of negative charge pumps electrically cascaded between the input and the output and configured to receive zero voltage through the input;
- a plurality of electrical switches coupled to the input; and
- a control device coupled to the plurality of electrical switches and configured to turn off at least one of the plurality of electrical switches close to the output and to turn on remains of the plurality of electrical switches, and the plurality of negative charge pumps and the plurality of electrical switches are configured to use zero voltage to generate a negative voltage at the output,

wherein the control device further comprises:

- a stage controller configured to receive and output a plurality of control voltages and configured to generate a plurality of biasing voltages according to the plurality of control voltages; and
- a plurality of negative level shifters coupled to the stage controller and respectively coupled to the plurality of electrical switches, a node between neighboring two of the plurality of negative charge pumps is coupled to one of the plurality of negative level shifters, the output is coupled to one of the plurality of negative level shifters, the plurality of negative level shifters are configured to respectively receive the plurality of control voltages and to respectively receive the plurality of biasing voltages, thereby using the plurality of control voltages and the plurality of biasing voltages to turn off at least one of the plurality of electrical switches close to the output and to turn on remains of the plurality of electrical switches, and the plurality of negative charge pumps and the plurality of electrical switches are configured to use zero voltage to generate a negative voltage at the output.

2. The negative high-voltage generation device with multi-stage selection according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of electrical switches are N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistors (NMOSFETs).

3. The negative high-voltage generation device with multi-stage selection according to claim 2, wherein each of the plurality of negative level shifters further comprises:

- a first P-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistors (PMOSFET) with a source thereof coupled to the stage controller and configured to receive one of the plurality of biasing voltages, and a gate of the first PMOSFET is coupled to the stage controller and configured to receive one of the plurality of control voltages;
- a first N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistors (NMOSFET) with a drain thereof coupled to a drain of the first PMOSFET, and a source of the first

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NMOSFET is coupled to the output or the node and configured to receive a node voltage at the node or the negative voltage;

an inverter with an input terminal thereof coupled to the gate of the first PMOSFET and the stage controller and configured to receive one of the plurality of control voltages;

a second P-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistors (PMOSFET) with a source thereof coupled to the stage controller and the source of the first PMOSFET and configured to receive one of the plurality of biasing voltages, a gate of the second PMOSFET is coupled to an output terminal of the inverter, and a drain of the second PMOSFET is coupled to a gate of the first NMOSFET;

a second N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistors (NMOSFET) with a drain thereof coupled to the drain of the second PMOSFET and the gate of the first NMOSFET, a gate of the second NMOSFET is coupled to the drains of the first NMOSFET and the first PMOSFET, and a source of the second NMOSFET is coupled to the output or the node and configured to receive the node voltage or the negative voltage; and

a buffer with an input terminal thereof coupled to the drains of the second NMOSFET and the second PMOSFET and the gate of the first NMOSFET, an output terminal of the buffer is coupled to one of the plurality of electrical switches, the first NMOSFET, the first PMOSFET, the second NMOSFET, the second PMOSFET, the inverter, and the buffer are configured to use one of the plurality of control voltages, one of the plurality of biasing voltages, and either of the node voltage or the negative voltage to turn on or turn off one of the plurality of electrical switches.

4. The negative high-voltage generation device with multi-stage selection according to claim 3, wherein the node voltage is smaller than zero voltage.

5. The negative high-voltage generation device with multi-stage selection according to claim 3, wherein the output terminal of the buffer generates the node voltage or the negative voltage to turn off one of the plurality of electrical switches when the gate of the first PMOSFET and the input terminal of the inverter receive one of the plurality of control voltages equal to zero voltage.

6. The negative high-voltage generation device with multi-stage selection according to claim 3, wherein the output terminal of the buffer generates one of the plurality of biasing voltages equal to a positive power voltage to turn on one of the plurality of electrical switches when the gate and the source of the first PMOSFET, the source of the second PMOSFET, and the input terminal of the inverter receive one of the plurality of biasing voltages equal to the positive power voltage.

7. The negative high-voltage generation device with multi-stage selection according to claim 6, wherein each of the plurality of negative charge pumps is configured to receive a first clock signal, a second clock signal, a third clock signal, and a fourth clock signal and configured to use the first clock signal, the second clock signal, the third clock signal, the fourth clock signal, and either of one of the node voltages or zero voltage to generate another of the node voltages or the negative voltage, the first clock signal, the second clock signal, the third clock signal, and the fourth clock signal have an identical period, and the period includes a first duration, a second duration, a third duration, a fourth

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duration, a fifth duration, a sixth duration, a seventh duration, and an eighth duration sequentially appearing;

the first clock signal, the second clock signal, the third clock signal, and the fourth clock signal are respectively zero voltage, zero voltage, the positive power voltage, and the positive power voltage in the first duration;

the first clock signal, the second clock signal, the third clock signal, and the fourth clock signal are respectively zero voltage, zero voltage, zero voltage, and the positive power voltage in the second duration;

the first clock signal, the second clock signal, the third clock signal, and the fourth clock signal are respectively zero voltage, zero voltage, zero voltage, and zero voltage in the third duration;

the first clock signal, the second clock signal, the third clock signal, and the fourth clock signal are respectively zero voltage, the positive power voltage, zero voltage, and zero voltage in the fourth duration;

the first clock signal, the second clock signal, the third clock signal, and the fourth clock signal are respectively the positive power voltage, the positive power voltage, zero voltage, and zero voltage in the fifth duration;

the first clock signal, the second clock signal, the third clock signal, and the fourth clock signal are respectively zero voltage, the positive power voltage, zero voltage, and zero voltage in the sixth duration;

the first clock signal, the second clock signal, the third clock signal, and the fourth clock signal are respectively zero voltage, zero voltage, zero voltage, and zero voltage in the seventh duration; and

the first clock signal, the second clock signal, the third clock signal, and the fourth clock signal are respectively zero voltage, zero voltage, zero voltage, and the positive power voltage in the eighth duration.

8. The negative high-voltage generation device with multi-stage selection according to claim 7, wherein each of the plurality of negative charge pumps further comprises:

a first capacitor having a first end and a second end, and the first end of the first capacitor is configured to receive the first clock signal;

a second capacitor having a third end and a fourth end, and the third end of the second capacitor is configured to receive the second clock signal;

a third capacitor having a fifth end and a sixth end, and the fifth end of the third capacitor is configured to receive the third clock signal;

a fourth capacitor having a seventh end and an eighth end, and the seventh end of the fourth capacitor is configured to receive the fourth clock signal;

a third N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (NMOSFET) with a gate thereof coupled to the second end, a drain of the third NMOSFET is coupled to the node or the input, and a source of the third NMOSFET is coupled to the fourth end;

a fourth N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (NMOSFET) with a drain thereof coupled to the second end, a source of the fourth NMOSFET is coupled to the fourth end, and a gate of the fourth NMOSFET is coupled to the drain of the third NMOSFET;

a fifth N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (NMOSFET) with a drain thereof coupled to the drain of the third NMOSFET, a gate of the fifth NMOSFET is coupled to the sixth end, and a source of the fifth NMOSFET is coupled to the eighth end;

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a sixth N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (NMOSFET) with a drain thereof coupled to the sixth end, a source of the sixth NMOSFET is coupled to the eighth end, and a gate of the sixth NMOSFET is coupled to the gate of the fourth NMOSFET;

a seventh N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (NMOSFET) with a drain thereof coupled to the fourth end, a source of the seventh NMOSFET is coupled to the output or the node, and a gate of the seventh NMOSFET is coupled to the eighth end; and

an eighth N-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (NMOSFET) with a drain thereof coupled to the eighth end, a source of the eighth NMOSFET is coupled to the source of the seventh NMOSFET, a gate of the eighth NMOSFET is coupled

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to the fourth end, and the first capacitor, the second capacitor, the third capacitor, the fourth capacitor, the third NMOSFET, the fourth NMOSFET, the fifth NMOSFET, the sixth NMOSFET, the seventh NMOSFET, and the eighth NMOSFET are configured to receive one of the node voltages or zero voltage and configured to decrease it by a fixed voltage to generate another of the node voltages or the negative voltage.

9. The negative high-voltage generation device with multi-stage selection according to claim 8, wherein the fixed voltage is equal to the positive power voltage.

10. The negative high-voltage generation device with multi-stage selection according to claim 6, wherein each of the plurality of control voltages is equal to zero voltage or the positive power voltage, and each of the plurality of biasing voltages is equal to the positive power voltage.

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