

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
3 August 2006 (03.08.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/081061 A1

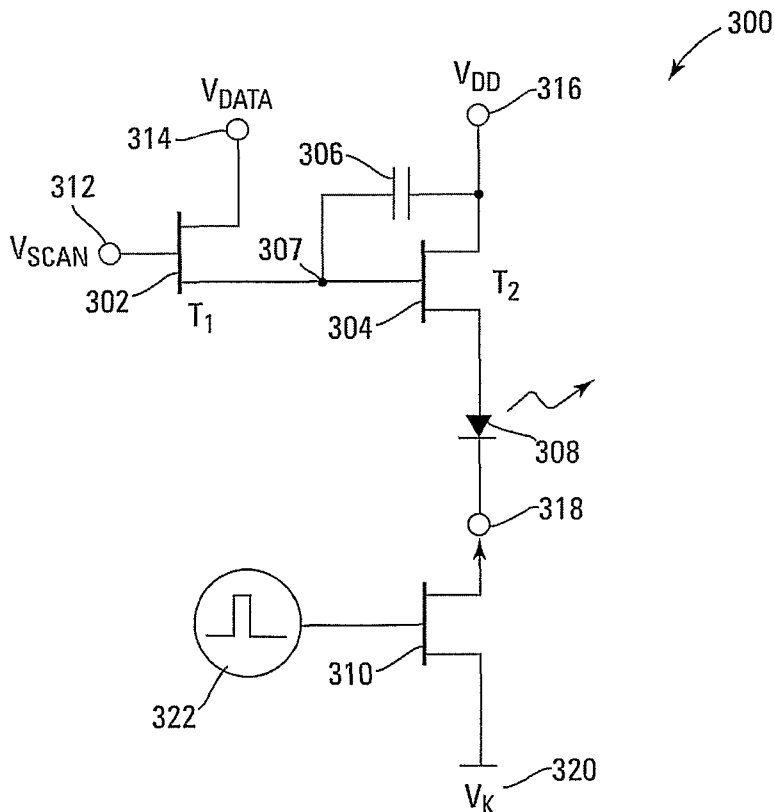
- (51) International Patent Classification:
G09G 3/32 (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2006/000626
- (22) International Filing Date: 10 January 2006 (10.01.2006)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
11/043,657 26 January 2005 (26.01.2005) US
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ACTIVE MATRIX ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DIODE DISPLAY



(57) Abstract: An improved AM OLED pixel circuit and method of wide dynamic range dimming for AM OLED displays are disclosed that maintain color balance throughout the dimming range, and also maintain the uniformity of the luminance and chromaticity of the display at low gray-levels as the display is dimmed to lower luminance values. As such, AM OLED displays can meet the stringent color/dimming specifications required for existing and future avionics, cockpit, and hand-held military device display applications. Essentially, the OLED pixel circuit and method of dimming that are disclosed use Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) of the OLED pixel current to achieve the desired display luminance. Two example circuits are disclosed that externally PW modulate the common cathode voltage or common power supply voltage to modulate the OLED current in order to achieve the desired display luminance. Three example circuits are disclosed that incorporate additional transistor switches in the pixel circuit to modulate the OLED current during the frame time. By PWM of the OLED current, in combination with data voltage (or current) modulation, wide dynamic range dimming can be achieved while maintaining

the color balance and the luminance and chromaticity uniformity required over the surface of the display involved.

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ACTIVE MATRIX ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DIODE DISPLAY

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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Technical Field

The present invention relates generally to the field of flat panel displays, and more specifically, but not exclusively, to an improved Active Matrix Organic Light Emitting Diode (AM OLED) display and method of wide dynamic range dimming in such a display for commercial and military applications, such as, for example, cockpit displays, avionics displays, or hand-held military communication device displays.

Description of Related Art

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AM OLED displays are an emerging flat panel display technology, which has already produced such new products as passive matrix-addressed displays that can be used for cell-phones and automobile audio systems. AM OLED displays are most likely to replace backlit AM Liquid Crystal Displays (LCDs) because AM OLED displays are more power efficient, rugged, weigh less, cost less, and have much better image quality than existing AM LCDs. As such, the market for AM OLED-based displays is estimated to reach about \$1.7B per year by 2006.

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Cockpit display applications are relatively demanding for existing display technologies, because of the stringent requirements imposed with respect to image quality and the need for superior operational performance within a broad range of environments, such as high temperature, humidity, and ambient lighting environments. For the better part of the past ten years, AM LCDs have replaced Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) displays in cockpit applications, because of the advantages of AM LCDs over CRT displays in terms of lower weight, flatter form factor, less power consumption, the use of large active areas with relatively

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small bezels, higher reliability, higher luminance, greater luminance uniformity, wider dimming range, and better sunlight readability. As such, AM LCDs have been the displays of choice for cockpit and avionics display applications for a number of
5 years.

A significant problem that exists with AM LCDs for display applications (e.g., cockpit, avionics and hand-held device displays) is that the backlighting of the AM LCDs adds a significant amount of weight and volume to these types of
10 displays. However, an advantage of this backlighting feature of AM LCDs is that it provides a highly controllable function for (independently) dimming the display in order to achieve optimum performance over a range of ambient lighting conditions. Some critical display applications (e.g., avionics and certain
15 military device displays) require wide dynamic ranges of dimming (e.g., > 2000:1) for the display to be viewed comfortably in both daytime (bright) and night-time (dark) viewing conditions. Currently, this dimming function can be accomplished with AM LCDs by dimming the display backlight (through a large dynamic
20 range), while maintaining the AM LCD's optimized driving conditions.

The weight and volume problems that exist with AM LCDs for avionics or hand-held device applications, for example, can be alleviated with AM OLED displays. Compared to AM LCDs, AM OLED
25 displays offer such significant advantages as wider viewing angles, lower power consumption, lighter weight, superior response time, superior image quality, and lower cost. However, a drawback of the existing AM OLED displays is that they are not easily dimmable (i.e., their brightness adjusted) to the
30 desired luminance levels, except by changing the driving conditions of the AM OLED displays, or by varying the anode (V_{DD}) and/or cathode (V_K) voltages.

Generally, the existing AM OLED displays' grayscale driving conditions are optimized for "normal" daytime (bright ambient) viewing conditions. However, changing either the grayscale driving conditions or the V_{DD}/V_K voltages of AM OLED displays to achieve lower display luminance levels for night (dark ambient) conditions using a conventional AM OLED display results in luminance and color non-uniformities across the surfaces of these displays.

As such, an important requirement imposed on AM OLED displays in such critical applications as cockpit displays, avionics displays, or military hand-held device displays is that such displays have to be capable of adjusting their luminance (brightness) over a wide dynamic range (e.g., >2000:1) without affecting the color balance and/or the uniformity of the luminance and chromaticity across the surface of the display as the display is being dimmed. The drive methods used for existing AM OLED displays achieve the desired luminance by adjusting the grayscale data voltage (or current) or V_{DD}/V_K voltage(s). However, these existing methods of adjusting the luminance of AM OLED displays create numerous problems for wide dynamic range display dimming applications, such as: (1) it is a relatively difficult problem to achieve the desired wide dynamic range dimming requirements with the existing driving methods using 8-bit data (column) drivers currently available for AM OLED displays; (2) when the grayscale data voltages (or currents) or the V_{DD}/V_K voltages, which are optimized for "normal" daylight operation, are changed (e.g., reduced) for night-time (low luminance) operation, typically the display color balance is changed due to the different transfer characteristics (luminance versus voltage) for the Red, Green and Blue (R, G, B) AM OLED display materials used; and (3) operation of the existing AM OLED displays at the low luminance levels associated with night-time viewing conditions results in

significant non-uniformities in the luminance and chromaticity across the surface of the displays due to increased variations in the Thin-Film Transistor (TFT) and OLED performance in the low luminance (gray-level) regime.

5 As such, to illustrate these problems with existing AM OLED displays, **Figure 1** depicts an electrical schematic diagram of a typical AM OLED sub-pixel circuit 100 (labeled "Prior Art"), which is currently used in a conventional method for dimming an AM OLED display. Referring to **Figure 1**, conventional sub-pixel
10 circuit 100 includes a first TFT 102, a second TFT 104, a storage capacitor 106, and an OLED pixel 108. As shown, transistor 102 is a scan transistor, and transistor 104 is a drive transistor. The gate terminal 110 of the scan transistor 102 is connected to the row (scan/row enable) address bus of the
15 display involved, and the drain terminal 112 of scan transistor 102 is connected to the column (data) address bus of the display. The source of scan transistor 102 is connected to the node 107 at the storage capacitor 106 and the gate terminal of the drive transistor 104. During the row addressing time period
20 of the display operation, scan transistor 102 charges the node 107 at the storage capacitor 106 and the gate terminal of the drive transistor 104 to the data voltage (signal), V_{DATA} . After the row addressing time period, scan transistor 102 is switched off, and the OLED pixel 108 is electrically isolated from the
25 data bus. During the remainder of the frame time, the power supply voltage, V_{DD} , which is connected to the drain terminal 114 of the drive transistor 104, provides the current for driving the OLED pixel 108.

The grayscale from this conventional method in the AM OLED
30 display circuit 100 depicted in **Figure 1** is achieved by varying the data voltages (signals) on the data bus. In addition, the brightness (maximum luminance) of the display is adjusted (for display dimming) directly by changing the data voltages

(signals) or V_{DD}/V_K voltages. However, as discussed earlier, it can be seen from **Figure 1** that a significant problem with these conventional methods of adjusting the luminance of an AM OLED display is that because the dimming is performed by changing the data voltage (or current), or by changing the power supply (V_{DD} and/or V_K) voltages to adjust the grayscale, wide dynamic range dimming (e.g., > 2000:1) cannot be achieved with suitable uniformity. Nevertheless, as described in detail below, the present invention provides an improved AM OLED display and method of adjusting luminance with superior dimming capability (e.g., wide dynamic range > 2000:1) that resolves the problems encountered with existing AM OLED displays and other prior art displays.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides an improved AM OLED pixel circuit and method of wide dynamic range dimming for AM OLED displays that maintains color balance throughout the dimming range, and also maintains the uniformity of the luminance and chromaticity of the display at low gray-levels as the display is dimmed to lower luminance values. As such, the present invention enables AM OLED displays to meet the stringent color/dimming specifications required for existing and future avionics, cockpit, and hand-held military device display applications. Essentially, the present invention provides an improved AM OLED pixel circuit and method of dynamic range dimming that uses Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) of the OLED pixel current to achieve the desired display luminance (brightness).

Two example embodiments of the invention are provided for externally (e.g., outside an AM OLED glass display) PWM modulating the common cathode voltage (V_K) or common power supply voltage (V_{DD}) so as to modulate the OLED current in order to achieve the desired display luminance. Three additional example embodiments of the invention are provided that incorporate additional transistor switches in the pixel circuit in order to modulate the OLED current during the frame time. Unlike the conventional methods, the three additional (internal) example embodiments allow modulation of each row of pixels sequentially during the frame time, which eliminates any propensity for display flicker. Thus, by PWM modulating the OLED current, in combination with data voltage (or current) modulation, the present invention achieves wide dynamic range dimming while maintaining the color balance and the luminance and chromaticity uniformity required over the surface of the display involved.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The novel features believed characteristic of the invention are set forth in the appended claims. The invention itself, however, as well as a preferred mode of use, further objectives and advantages thereof, will best be understood by reference to the following detailed description of an illustrative embodiment when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 depicts an electrical schematic diagram of a prior art AM OLED sub-pixel circuit, which is currently used in a conventional method for dimming an AM OLED display;

Figure 2A depicts a pictorial representation of an example cockpit or avionics display environment, which may be used as an environment to implement one or more embodiments of the present invention;

Figure 2B depicts a pictorial representation of an example cockpit or avionics display, in which one or more embodiments of the present invention may be implemented;

Figure 3 depicts an electrical schematic diagram of an example AM OLED sub-pixel circuit, which can be used to implement a first embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 4 depicts an electrical schematic diagram of an example AM OLED sub-pixel circuit, which can be used to implement a second embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 5 depicts an electrical schematic diagram of an example AM OLED sub-pixel circuit, which can be used to implement a third embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 6 depicts an electrical schematic diagram of an example AM OLED sub-pixel circuit, which can be used to implement a fourth embodiment of the present invention; and

Figure 7 depicts an electrical schematic diagram of an example AM OLED sub-pixel circuit, which can be used to implement a fifth embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the figures, **Figure 2A** depicts a pictorial representation of an example cockpit or avionics display environment **200A**, which may be used as an environment to implement one or more embodiments of the present invention. **Figure 2B** depicts a pictorial representation of an example cockpit or avionics display **200B** (e.g., from within the example environment **200A**) including an example display **202B**, in which one or more embodiments of the present invention may be implemented. As such, although **Figures 2A** and **2B** depict an exemplary environment and avionics or cockpit display, the present invention is not intended to be so limited and can be implemented in any suitable display requiring, for example, wide dynamic range dimming (e.g., military or commercial hand-held device with flat panel display, etc.).

Figure 3 depicts an electrical schematic diagram of an example AM OLED sub-pixel circuit **300**, which can be used to implement a first embodiment of the present invention. As such, AM OLED sub-pixel circuit **300** can be used in a preferred method for dynamically dimming an AM OLED display using, for example, an external (to the display) PWM scheme. Referring now to **Figure 3**, AM OLED sub-pixel circuit **300** includes a first TFT **302**, a second TFT **304**, a storage capacitor **306**, an OLED pixel **308**, and a transistor **310**, represented here by a Field Effect Transistor (FET). As shown, transistor **302** is a scan transistor, and transistor **304** is a drive transistor. The gate terminal **312** of the scan transistor **302** is connected to the row (scan/row enable) address bus of the display involved, and the drain terminal **314** of scan transistor **302** is connected to the column (data) address bus of the display. The source of scan transistor **302** is connected to the node **307** at the storage capacitor **306** and the gate terminal of the drive transistor **304**. The source of drive transistor **304** is connected to a terminal of

OLED pixel 308. The second terminal 318 of OLED pixel 308 is connected to one (e.g. drain) terminal of transistor 310. The other (e.g. source) terminal of transistor 310 is connected to a common cathode terminal, V_K 320.

5 For this exemplary embodiment, an AM OLED display incorporating AM OLED pixel circuit 300 can include a plurality of (e.g., two or more) common cathode terminals, V_K 320. One such common cathode terminal, V_K 320, can be used to cover a top half of the display rows on the display involved, and another
10 common cathode terminal, V_K 320, can be used to cover a bottom half of the display rows on the display involved. For example, a display can include 480 rows and 640 columns. Each of the common cathode terminals, V_K 320, in such an AM OLED display can be switched to the cathode voltage through the transistor 310
15 controlled by a PWM signal generator 322. An example frequency for a PWM signal from generator 322 is 60 Hz.

During the row addressing time period of the display operation, scan transistor 302 charges the node 307 at the storage capacitor 306 and the gate terminal of the drive
20 transistor 304 to the data voltage (signal), V_{DATA} . After the row addressing time period, scan transistor 302 is switched off, and the OLED pixel 308 is electrically isolated from the data bus.

For this exemplary embodiment, the common cathode voltage, V_K 320, is PW modulated by the signal applied from PWM signal
25 generator 322, which functions to apply a reverse bias across the row(s) of OLED pixels (e.g., OLED pixel 308) associated with this common cathode terminal, V_K 320, which in turn, switches "off" the OLED pixels (e.g., OLED pixel 308) associated with this common cathode terminal, V_K 320, in order to control the
30 brightness or luminance during the frame time of the display involved. Thus, in accordance with this embodiment of the present invention, an AM OLED pixel circuit and method are provided for achieving wide dynamic range dimming while

maintaining the color balance and the luminance and chromaticity uniformity required over the surface of the display involved.

In this case, an external transistor 310 can be used to modulate the cathode power supply, V_K 320, of the OLED pixel 308 in order

5 to dynamically dim the display. Thus, by PW modulating the common cathode voltage, V_K 320, the luminance or brightness of the display is averaged over a suitable period of time.

Therefore, using the PWM method of the present invention allows significantly more uniform dimming of OLED displays than

10 currently provided for the existing OLED displays.

Figure 4 depicts an electrical schematic diagram of an example AM OLED sub-pixel circuit 400, which can be used to implement a second embodiment of the present invention. As such, AM OLED sub-pixel circuit 400 can be used in a preferred method

15 for dynamically dimming an AM OLED display using, for example, an external (to the display) PWM scheme. Referring now to **Figure 4**, AM OLED sub-pixel circuit 400 includes a first TFT 402, a storage capacitor 404, a second TFT 408, an OLED pixel 410, and a transistor 406 represented here by a P-channel FET. In this

20 case, an external (to the display involved) transistor 406 can be used to PW modulate the positive power supply, V_{DD} 418, of the OLED pixel 410, in order to turn "off" the voltage across the OLED pixels (e.g., OLED pixel 410) associated with the common power supply voltage, V_{DD} 418, and thus to control the brightness

25 of the display. Also, in this case, the reference voltage, V_{SC} 416, for storage capacitor 404, can be removed from the V_{DD} line to prevent coupling the PW modulated V_{DD} to the gate voltage, V_{GS2} , at the node 426 between the gate terminal of transistor 408 and storage capacitor 404.

30 As shown, for this example embodiment, transistor 402 is a scan transistor, and transistor 408 is a drive transistor. The gate terminal 412 of the scan transistor 402 is connected to the row (scan/row enable) address bus of the display involved, and

the drain terminal 414 of scan transistor 402 is connected to the column (data) address bus of the display. The source of scan transistor 402 is connected to the node 426 at the storage capacitor 404 and the gate terminal of the drive transistor 408.

5 The source of drive transistor 408 is connected to a terminal of OLED pixel 410. The drain of drive transistor 408 is connected to one (e.g. the drain) terminal 422 of the transistor 406, and the other (e.g. the source) terminal of transistor 406 is connected to the common power supply voltage, V_{DD} 418. The

10 second terminal of OLED pixel 410 is connected to a common cathode terminal, V_K 424.

For this exemplary embodiment, an AM OLED display incorporating AM OLED sub-pixel circuit 400 can include a plurality of (e.g., two or more) common power supply voltage

15 terminals, V_{DD} 418. Each one of the common power supply voltages (e.g., V_{DD} 418 in Figure 4) provides the positive power supply voltage for the particular OLED sub-pixel involved (e.g., OLED 410) within the overall display. The control (e.g. gate) terminal of transistor 406 in such a display is connected to a

20 PWM signal generator 420.

During the row addressing time period of the display operation, scan transistor 412 charges the node 426 at the storage capacitor 404 and the gate terminal of the drive transistor 408 to the data voltage (signal), V_{DATA} . After the row

25 addressing time period, scan transistor 412 is switched off, and the OLED pixel 410 is electrically isolated from the data bus. Then, in order to adjust the luminance (e.g., brightness) of the display (e.g., OLED pixel 410), the PW modulated signal from PWM signal generator 420 is applied to the gate of the switch

30 transistor 406, which PW modulates the common power supply voltage, V_{DD} 418, to turn "off" the voltage across the plurality of OLED pixels (e.g., OLED pixel 410) associated with the common power supply voltage, V_{DD} 418, and thus control the brightness of

the overall display. Again, using the PWM method of the present invention, the dimming of the display can be achieved with optimum uniformity.

Figure 5 depicts an electrical schematic diagram of an example AM OLED sub-pixel circuit 500, which can be used to implement a third embodiment of the present invention. As such, AM OLED sub-pixel circuit 500 can be used in a preferred method for dynamically dimming an AM OLED display using, for example, an internal (to the display) PWM scheme. Referring now to Figure 5, AM OLED sub-pixel circuit 500 includes a first TFT 502, a storage capacitor 504, a second TFT 506, a third TFT 508, and an OLED pixel 510. In this case, a third TFT 508 (internal to the display involved) can be used at each sub-pixel in the display to PW modulate the current, I_{OLED} 518, of the OLED pixel 510, in order to turn "off" the OLED pixel (e.g., OLED pixel 510) so that it does not emit light, and thus control the brightness of the overall display.

As shown, for this example embodiment, transistor 502 is a scan transistor, and transistor 506 is a drive transistor. The gate terminal 512 of the scan transistor 502 is connected to the row (scan/row enable) address bus of the display involved, and the drain terminal 514 of scan transistor 502 is connected to the column (data) address bus of the display. The source of scan transistor 502 is connected to the node 507 at the storage capacitor 504 and the gate terminal of the drive transistor 506. The source of drive transistor 506 is connected to the drain of the third TFT 508, and the source of third TFT 508 is connected to a terminal of OLED pixel 510. The drain of drive transistor 506 is connected to the common power supply voltage, V_{DD} 516. The second terminal of OLED pixel 510 is connected to a common cathode terminal, V_K 522.

For this exemplary embodiment, an AM OLED display incorporating AM OLED sub-pixel circuit 500 can include a

plurality of (e.g., two or more) PWM voltage signal generators, V_{PWM} 520. Thus, by pixel switching or PWM of the third TFT 508, the third TFT 508 controls the OLED current I_{OLED} 518 and switches "off" the OLED pixel involved (e.g., OLED pixel 510 in Figure 5) so that the OLED pixel involved does not emit light.

Specifically, the gate terminal of the switching TFT 508, in each of the pixels in a given row in the display, is connected to a row bus that is addressable from outside the display, as is the row-enable bus. The PW modulated signal, V_{PWM} , from the PWM voltage signal generator 520, is applied to each row in order to switch "off" the current flow to the OLED pixel 510 and turn the pixel "off". The "on" time of each of the rows is modulated to control the brightness of the display. A significant amount of modulation (e.g., dimming) can be achieved using such an internal modulation scheme.

For example, in a 1000 line (rows) display, the brightness of the display can be modulated (dimmed) by a factor of 1000:1 by the preset PWM method alone, and allowing the desired wide dynamic range dimming (e.g., > 2000:1) to be accomplished using gray-levels with higher luminance values. Thus, the present invention significantly improves the uniformity of the luminance and chromaticity across the surface of the display as it is being dimmed, as compared to the conventional dimming methods used for AM OLED displays.

As such, the PWM voltage signal generator 520 can be commonly connected to all of the pixels in the display, or each row of pixels can be provided with an independent PWM signal generator (e.g., such as PWM voltage signal generator 520). Incidentally, an advantage of providing each row of pixels with a separate PWM voltage (e.g., V_{PWM} 520), is that the display flicker can be significantly minimized in comparison to other approaches.

During the row addressing time period of the display operation, scan transistor 502 charges the node 507 at the storage capacitor 504 and the gate terminal of the drive transistor 506 to the data voltage (signal), V_{DATA} . After the row addressing time period, scan transistor 502 is switched off, and the OLED pixel 510 is electrically isolated from the data bus. Then, in order to adjust the luminance (e.g., brightness) of the display (e.g., OLED pixel 510), the PW modulated signal, V_{PWM} , from PWM voltage signal generator 520 is applied to the gate of the third TFT 508, which PW modulates the OLED current, I_{OLED} 518, to turn "off" the subject OLED pixels (e.g., OLED pixel 510), and thus control the brightness of the overall display. Again, using the PWM method of the present invention, the dimming of the display can be achieved with optimum uniformity.

Figure 6 depicts an electrical schematic diagram of an example AM OLED sub-pixel circuit 600, which can be used to implement a fourth embodiment of the present invention. As such, AM OLED sub-pixel circuit 600 can be used in a preferred method for dynamically dimming an AM OLED display using, for example, an internal (to the display) PWM scheme. Referring now to Figure 6, AM OLED sub-pixel circuit 600 includes a first TFT 602, a storage capacitor 604, a second TFT 606, a third TFT 608, and an OLED pixel 610. In this case, a third TFT 608 (internal to the display involved) can be used at each sub-pixel in the display to PW modulate the current through the OLED pixel involved in order to turn "off" that OLED pixel (e.g., OLED pixel 610) so that it does not emit light, and thus control the brightness of the overall display.

As shown, for this example embodiment, transistor 602 is a scan transistor, and transistor 606 is a drive transistor. The gate terminal 612 of the scan transistor 602 is connected to the row (scan/row enable) address bus of the display involved, and the drain terminal 614 of scan transistor 602 is connected to

the column (data) address bus of the display. The source of scan transistor 602 is connected to the node 620 at the storage capacitor 604, the drain of third TFT 608, and the gate terminal of the drive transistor 606. The source of the drive transistor 606 is connected to the source of the third TFT 608 and one terminal of OLED pixel 610. The drain terminal of drive transistor 606 is connected to the common power supply voltage, V_{DD} 618. The second terminal of OLED pixel 610 is connected to a common cathode terminal, V_K 622.

10 For this exemplary embodiment, an AM OLED display incorporating AM OLED sub-pixel circuit 600 can include a plurality of (e.g., two or more) PWM voltage signal generators, V_{PWM} 624. Thus, by PWM of the gate voltage, V_{GS2} 620, at the gate of the drive transistor 606, the third TFT 608 can control the current through the OLED pixel involved (e.g., OLED pixel 610) by turning "off" the drive transistor 606 and, therefore, turning "off" the OLED pixel involved (e.g., OLED pixel 610 in Figure 6) so that the OLED pixel involved does not emit light. As such, the PWM voltage signal generator 624 can be common to all of the pixels in the display, or each row of pixels can be provided with an independent PWM signal generator (e.g., such as PWM voltage signal generator 624). Once again, an advantage of providing each row of pixels with a separate PWM voltage (e.g., V_{PWM} 624), is that the present method can significantly reduce the display's propensity for flicker in comparison with other existing approaches.

During the row addressing time period of the display operation, scan transistor 602 charges the node 620 at the storage capacitor 604 and the gate terminal of the drive transistor 606 to the data voltage (signal), V_{DATA} . After the row addressing time period, scan transistor 602 is switched off, and the OLED pixel 610 is electrically isolated from the data bus. Then, in order to adjust the luminance (e.g., brightness) of the

display (e.g., OLED pixel 610), the PW modulated signal, V_{PWM} , from PWM voltage signal generator 624 is applied to the gate of the third TFT 608, which PW modulates the gate voltage, V_{GS2} 620, and turns "off" the drive transistor 606. In response, PW modulation of the drive transistor 606 controls the current through the OLED pixel involved, and turns "off" the subject OLED pixel (e.g., OLED pixel 610) to control the brightness of the overall display. Again, using the PWM method of the present invention, the dimming of the display can be achieved with optimum uniformity.

Figure 7 depicts an electrical schematic diagram of an example AM OLED sub-pixel circuit 700, which can be used to implement a fifth embodiment of the present invention. As such, AM OLED sub-pixel circuit 700 can be used in a preferred method for dynamically dimming an AM OLED display using, for example, an internal (to the display) PWM scheme. Referring now to Figure 7, AM OLED sub-pixel circuit 700 includes a first TFT 702, a storage capacitor 706, a second TFT 710, a third TFT 704, a fourth TFT 712, and an OLED pixel 714. In this case, two additional transistors (e.g., third TFT 704 and fourth TFT 712), which are both internal to the display involved, can be used at each sub-pixel in the display to enable PWM of the current through the OLED pixel involved (e.g., I_{OLED} 718), in order to turn "off" that OLED pixel (e.g., OLED pixel 714) so that it does not emit light, by changing the gate voltage, V_{GS2} 716, from a pre-selected value to "off". At a selected time after the storage capacitor 706 is charged to the pre-selected value, the PWM voltage, V_{PWM} 730, goes high, which shuts "off" third TFT 704 and (e.g., disconnecting V_C 706 from V_{GS2} 716) and turns "on" fourth TFT 712, which in turn, shuts "off" drive transistor 710. This PWM method of the present invention thus controls the current through the OLED pixel 714 involved (e.g., I_{OLED} 718), which controls the brightness of the overall display.

As mentioned earlier, a significant advantage of providing each row of pixels with a separate PWM voltage (e.g., V_{PWM} 730), is that the present method can significantly reduce the display's propensity for flicker in comparison with other
5 existing approaches. Also, using the PWM method of the present invention, the dimming of the AM OLED display can be achieved with optimum uniformity.

It is important to note that while the present invention has been described in the context of a fully functioning AM OLED
10 display, those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the processes of the present invention are capable of being distributed in the form of a computer readable medium of instructions and a variety of forms and that the present invention applies equally regardless of the particular type of
15 signal bearing media actually used to carry out the distribution. Examples of computer readable media include recordable-type media, such as a floppy disk, a hard disk drive, a RAM, CD-ROMs, DVD-ROMs, and transmission-type media, such as
20 digital and analog communications links, wired or wireless communications links using transmission forms, such as, for example, radio frequency and light wave transmissions. The computer readable media may take the form of coded formats that are decoded for actual use in a particular AM OLED display.

The description of the present invention has been presented
25 for purposes of illustration and description, and is not intended to be exhaustive or limited to the invention in the form disclosed. Many modifications and variations will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art. These embodiments were chosen and described in order to best explain
30 the principles of the invention, the practical application, and to enable others of ordinary skill in the art to understand the invention for various embodiments with various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated.

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. An Organic Light Emitting Diode display (200B), comprising:
at least one sub-pixel circuit (300) for said display
(200B), including:
a first transistor (302), said first transistor (302)
coupled to a row address bus of said display (200B) and a column
10 address bus of said display (200B);
a second transistor (304), said second transistor coupled
to said first transistor (302);
an Organic Light Emitting Diode (308), said second
transistor (304) coupled to said Organic Light Emitting Diode
15 (308) and a power supply (316) for said Organic Light Emitting
Diode (308); and
a third transistor (320), said third transistor (320)
coupled to said Organic Light Emitting Diode (308) and means for
generating a Pulse Width Modulation signal (322).
- 20
2. The Organic Light Emitting Diode display of Claim 1,
wherein said third transistor is further coupled to a common
cathode configuration (320) in said display, said third
transistor adapted to Pulse Width Modulate a current through
25 said Organic Light Emitting Diode and control a light emission
of said Organic Light Emitting Diode.
3. The Organic Light Emitting Diode display of Claim 1,
wherein said first transistor comprises a Thin-Film Transistor.
- 30
4. The Organic Light Emitting Diode display of Claim 1,
wherein said second transistor comprises a Thin-Film Transistor.

5. The Organic Light Emitting Diode display of Claim 1, wherein said third transistor comprises a Field-Effect Transistor.

5 6. The Organic Light Emitting Diode display of Claim 1, wherein said third transistor comprises a Thin-Film Transistor.

7. An Organic Light Emitting Diode display (200B), comprising:
at least one sub-pixel circuit (400) for said display
10 (200B), including:

a first transistor (402), said first transistor (402) coupled to a row address bus of said display (200B) and a column address bus of said display (200B);

a second transistor (408), said second transistor (408)
15 coupled to said first transistor (402);

a third transistor (406), said third transistor (406) coupled to said second transistor (408) and means for generating a Pulse Width Modulation signal (420); and

an Organic Light Emitting Diode (410), said Organic Light
20 Emitting Diode (410) coupled to said second transistor (408).

8. The Organic Light Emitting Diode display of Claim 7, wherein said third transistor is further coupled to a power supply (418) for said Organic Light Emitting Diode.

25

9. The Organic Light Emitting Diode display of Claim 7, wherein said Organic Light Emitting Diode is further coupled to a common cathode configuration (424) in said display.

30 10. An Organic Light Emitting Diode display (200B), comprising:
at least one sub-pixel circuit (700) for said display
(200B), including:

a first transistor (702), said first transistor (702) coupled to a row address bus of said display (200B) and a column address bus of said display (200B);

a second transistor (704), said second transistor (704)
5 coupled to said first transistor (702);

a third transistor (712), said third transistor (712) coupled to said second transistor (704) and means for generating a Pulse Width Modulation signal (730);

a fourth transistor (710), said fourth transistor (710)
10 coupled to said second transistor (704) and said third transistor (712); and

an Organic Light Emitting Diode (714), said Organic Light Emitting Diode (714) coupled to said third transistor (712) and said fourth transistor (710).

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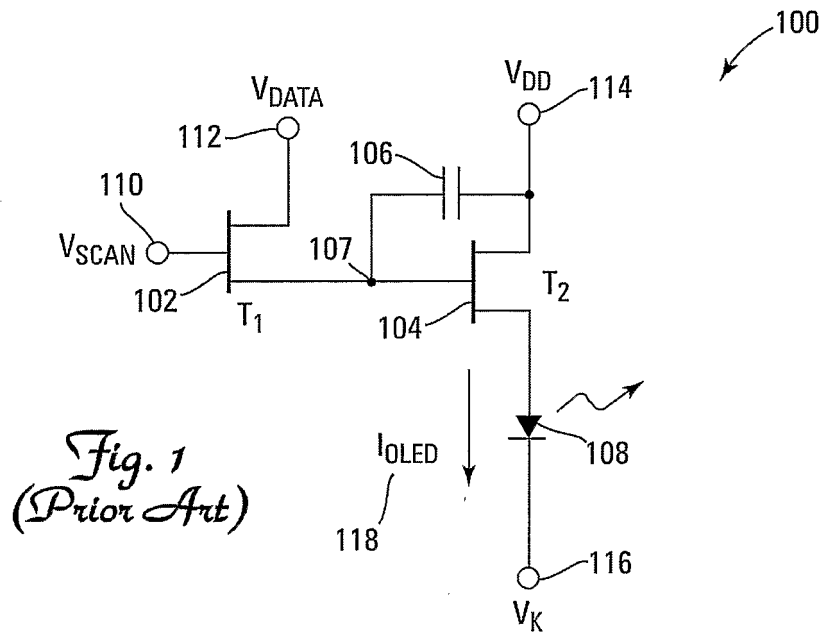


Fig. 1
(Prior Art)

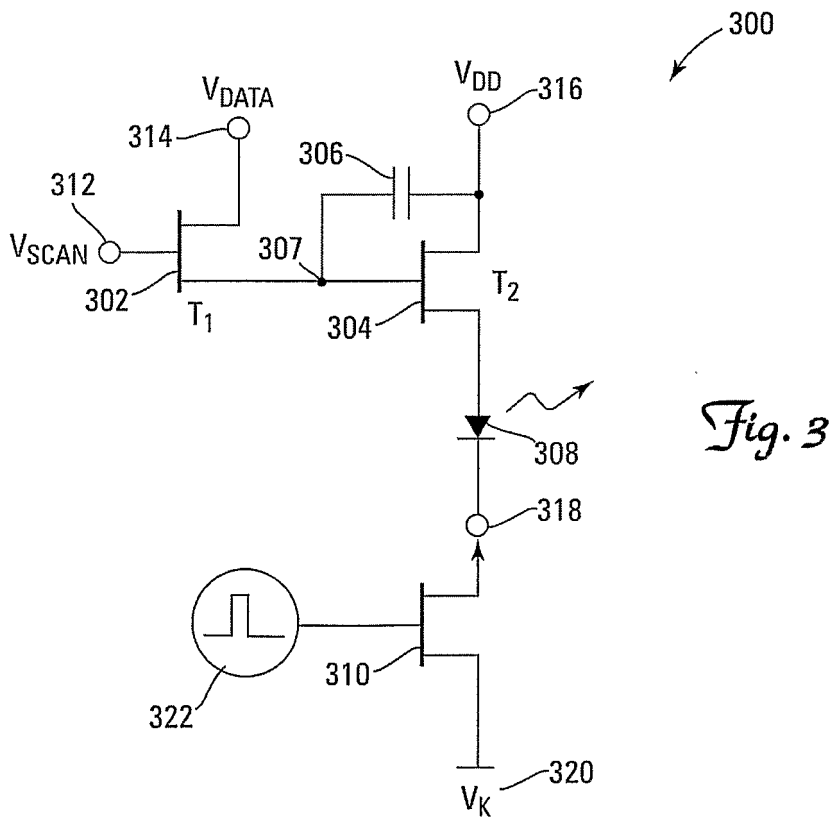


Fig. 3

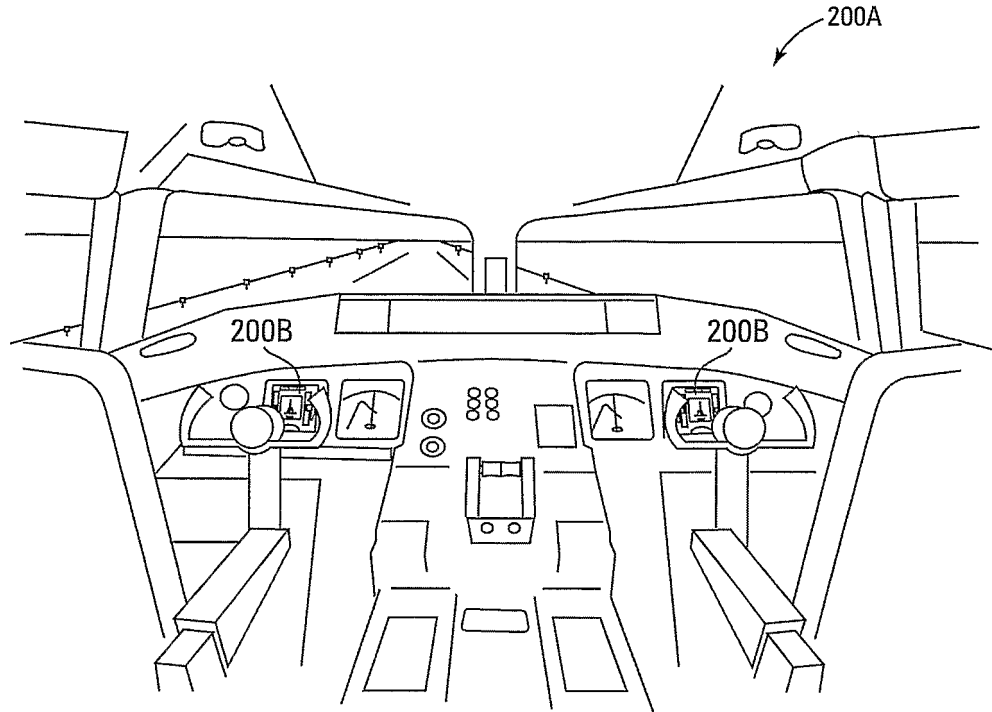


Fig. 2A

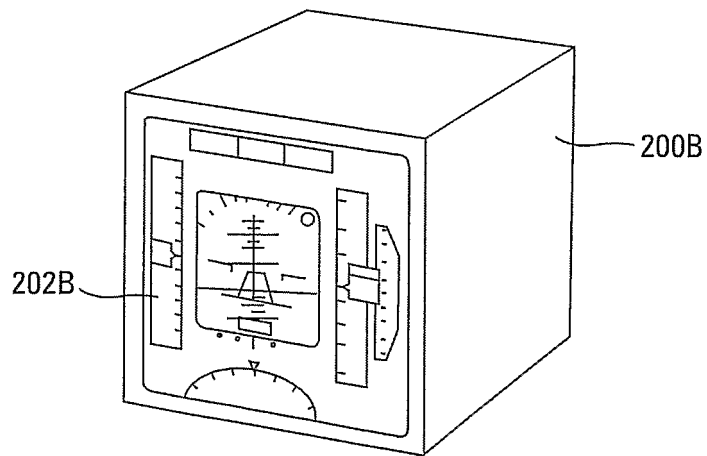


Fig. 2B

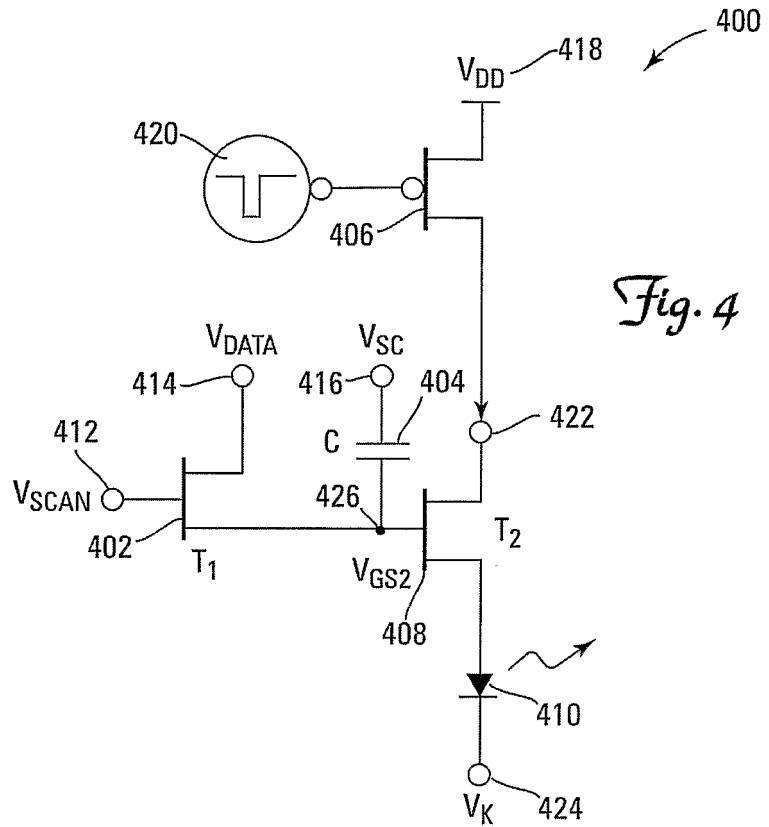


Fig. 4

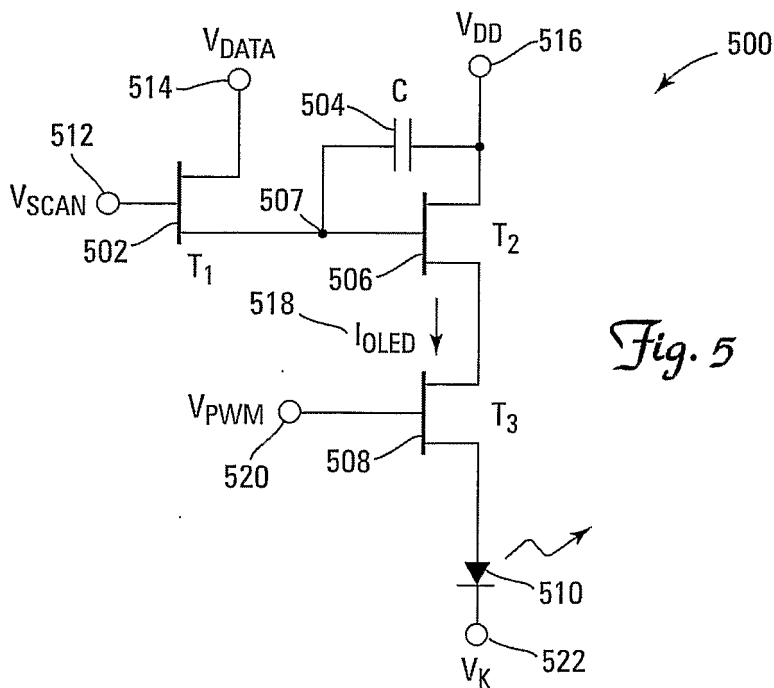


Fig. 5

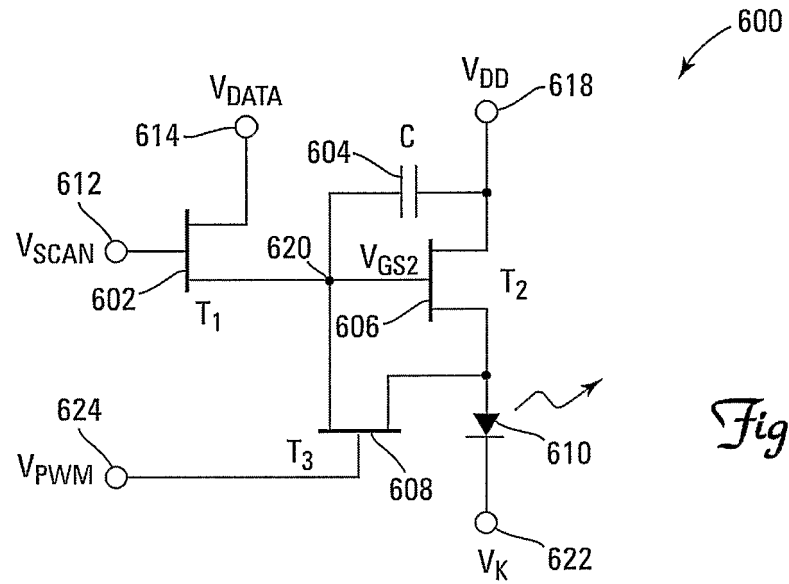


Fig. 6

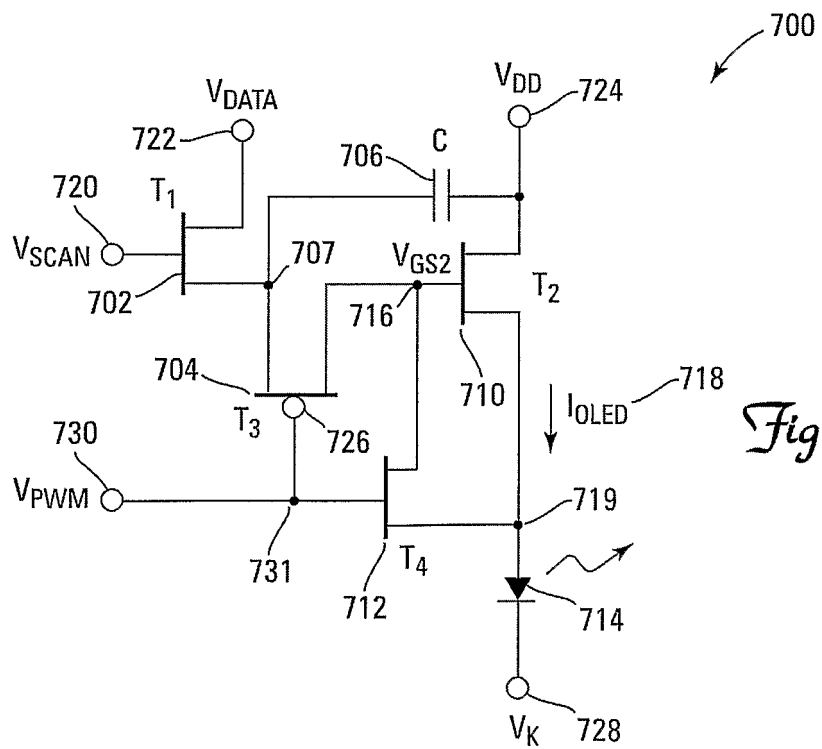


Fig. 7

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2006/000626A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. G09G3/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
G09G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2003/063078 A1 (HANARI JUN ET AL) 3 April 2003 (2003-04-03)	1,3-9
Y	paragraphs [0047] - [0056], [0062] - [0111]; figures 1-4,8-28	2
A	-----	10
Y	US 2004/041525 A1 (PARK JAE YONG ET AL) 4 March 2004 (2004-03-04)	1-6
A	paragraphs [0065] - [0098]; figures 7-14 -----	7-10
Y	EP 1 197 943 A (SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION) 17 April 2002 (2002-04-17) paragraphs [0038], [0039], [0046], [0049] - [0051]; figures 1,2 -----	1-6

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- * & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

8 June 2006

Date of mailing of the international search report

26/06/2006

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Harke, M

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No PCT/US2006/000626

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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US 2004041525	A1	04-03-2004	CN 1479270 A	03-03-2004
EP 1197943	A	17-04-2002	CN 1348163 A	08-05-2002
			JP 2002189448 A	05-07-2002
			TW 554307 B	21-09-2003
			US 2002050962 A1	02-05-2002

专利名称(译)	有源矩阵有机发光二极管显示器		
公开(公告)号	EP1846910A1	公开(公告)日	2007-10-24
申请号	EP2006717786	申请日	2006-01-10
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	霍尼韦尔国际公司		
申请(专利权)人(译)	HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL , INC.		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL INC.		
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IPC分类号	G09G3/32		
CPC分类号	G09G3/3233 G09G3/30 G09G2300/0842 G09G2300/0861 G09G2310/06 G09G2320/0233 G09G2320/0606 G09G2320/0626		
代理机构(译)	哈利, STEPHEN		
优先权	11/043657 2005-01-26 US		
其他公开文献	EP1846910B1		
外部链接	Espacenet		

摘要(译)

公开了一种用于AM OLED显示器的改进的AM OLED像素电路和宽动态范围调光方法，其在整个调光范围内保持色彩平衡，并且还在低灰度级保持显示器的亮度和色度的均匀性，因为显示器是调暗以降低亮度值。因此，AM OLED显示器可以满足现有和未来的航空电子设备，驾驶舱和手持式军事设备显示器应用所需的严格的颜色/调光规范。基本上，所公开的OLED像素电路和调光方法使用OLED像素电流的脉冲宽度调制(PWM)来实现期望的显示亮度。公开了两个示例电路，其在外部分PW调制公共阴极电压或公共电源电压以调制OLED电流，以便实现期望的显示亮度。公开了三个示例电路，其在像素电路中并入额外的晶体管开关以在帧时间期间调制OLED电流。通过OLED电流的PWM，结合数据电压(或电流)调制，可以实现宽动态范围调光，同时保持所涉及的显示器表面上所需的色彩平衡和亮度和色度均匀性。