



New Era of Energy Efficient, Flexible, Thin Display Technology “OLED TECHNOLOGY”

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Abstract:- OLED is a LED in which emissive electroluminescent layer is a film of organic compound that emits light in response to electric current. This article is a study of advancement in various technologies and methods that lead to the improvement of qualities of OLED display and is also study of various parameters which will lead to complete replacement of conventional displays with modern OLED displays. OLED can be fabricated using polymers or by small molecules in flat panel display zone. Unlike traditional displays OLED'S are self luminous and do not require any kind of backlighting. This eliminates need for bulky and environment undesirably mercury lamps and yields a thinner and more compact displays. Thus it can display deep black levels and can be thinner and lighter than liquid crystal display. In low ambient light conditions (such as dark rooms), an OLED screen can achieve a higher contrast ratio than an LCD regardless of whether the LCD uses cold cathode fluorescent lamps or an LED backlight. OLED'S are biodegradable. OLED'S have wide viewing angle of about 180° and their low power consumption (only 2 to 10v) provides for maximum efficiency and helps in minimizing the heat and electric interference in electronic devices. These are cheaper, sharper, thinner and flexible displays. OLED'S may lead to future applications in head up displays, billboard type displays. OLED'S refresh faster than LED'S (almost 1000 times). A device with an OLED display changes information in real time.

Keywords- OLED-organic light emitting diode, LED-light emitting diode, electroluminescence, LCD-liquid crystal display,

I. INTRODUCTION

OLEDs work in a similar way to LEDs and conventional diodes, but they use organic molecules instead of using layers of n-type and p-type semiconductors, to produce their electrons and holes [1]. A simple OLED consists of six different layers. On the top and bottom there are layers of protective glass or plastic. The top layer is called the seal and the bottom layer the substrate [2]. In between those layers, there's a negative terminal (sometimes called the cathode) and a positive terminal (called the anode). Finally, in between the anode and cathode are two layers made from organic molecules called the emissive layer (where the light is produced, which is next to the cathode) and the conductive layer (next to the anode). Here's what it all looks like [3]

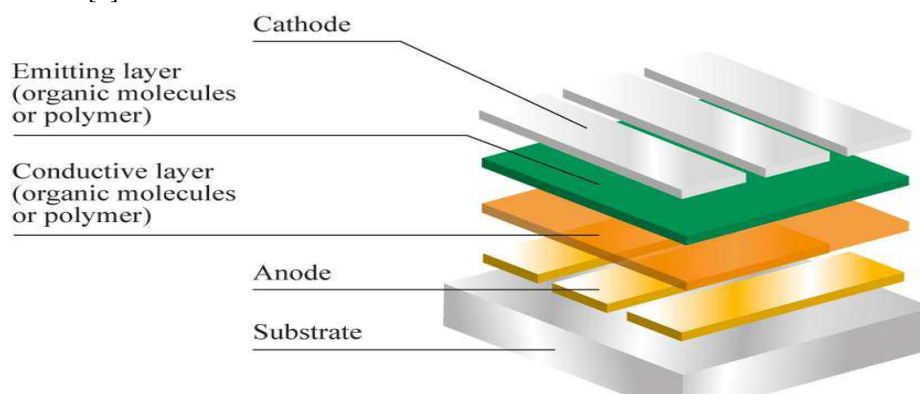


Fig 1.0 construction of OLED

II. WORKING

When a voltage is applied between the electrodes, charges are injected in the organic material, electrons from cathode and holes from anode. Then, the charges move inside the material, mostly by hopping processes and then recombine to form excitons. The location of the recombination zone in the diode is a function of the charge mobility of the Organic material as well as of the electric field distribution. A photon is emitted when the exciton recombines due to diffusion process [4]. The color of the photon is a function of the energy difference between the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) and the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) levels of the electroluminescent molecule [5-9]. The extent of the conjugation in the molecule or the polymer decides the wavelength of light emitted. For efficient hole injection from the anode, a low barrier is required irrespective of the HOMO level of the organic material (typically 5–6 eV). ITO is usually used for the anode because of its good transparency in the visible range as well as high work function. Hole injection is further enhanced by oxygen plasma treatment of the ITO. On the cathode side, a low barrier for electrons is needed in respect of the LUMO level of the organic material (typically 2–3 eV). Low work function metals such as Ca and Mg are required but they are very sensitive to moisture, and more stable cathodes have been introduced, such as Mg/Ag alloys or Al in combination with alkali metal compounds. A thin LiF layer capped with a thicker Al layer is widely used as the cathode, and many other insulating layers such as CsF, MgO.

III. PROPERTIES OF OLED MAKING IT SUPERIOR TO OTHER DISPLAYS

A) Energy efficient Smartphones provide end users with a wide range of sensors that can be combined with data and applications via the Internet. This makes the smartphone's capabilities almost boundless and very popular with end users. However, the basic and primary limitations of smartphones is that they depend on battery power. Smartphones are energy constrained devices and the use of these capabilities is very expensive. In particular, the energy to drive a smartphone's display is one of the dominant energy consuming components in a smart phone. *Organic light-emitting diode* (OLED) technology is deemed a promising display alternative for the emerging genre of mobile devices as it provides brighter colors, wider viewing angles, and faster response times, as well as allows fabrication on flexible plastic substrates, compared with conventional *liquid crystal display* (LCD) technology. Unlike LCD displays whose power consumption is dominated by the external lighting, an OLED display is self-emissive and its power consumption is highly dependent on the image content (more precisely, the pixel values). While OLED displays consume nearly zero power when presenting a black image.

B) Power saving techniques In recent years, researchers and vendors have explored various power saving techniques for OLED displays. An intuitive way is to darken the contents that are not of interest to the user, referred to as partial display dimming/disabling. The challenge thus lies in identifying those regions which are unimportant to end user. Psychological experiments have demonstrated that the attention regions in any image varies and not every pixel or region in an image receives the same attention level. This is due to the human visual system's selectivity to first respond to those regions that are most attractive parts in a visual scene, with subsequent eye movements from one fixation location to another, the so called focus of attention. For modelling the mechanism human attention in computer vision, many efforts have been made [10-11]. In particular, the saliency map indicates a saliency value for each region or pixel in an image. Thus, the segmentation of an image can be based on its saliency map into a set of N disjoint attention regions, $R = \{r_1, r_2, r_3, \dots, r_N\}$, associated with an $N \times N$ adjacency matrix A , where $A[i, j]$ is 1 if r_i and r_j are adjacent regions, and 0 otherwise. Note that there can be several non adjacent sub regions in any attention region. Figure 2 shows five attention regions of an image segmented according to its saliency map in practice. As regions in an image do not receive equal attention but receive varying degrees of attention, they can tolerate different degrees of image distortion. A number of visual quality metrics intended for the human visual system have been proposed to quantify image distortion. In other words, attention regions should be given tolerable distortion in inverse proportion to their levels of attention. Thus, each region $r_i \in R$ is associated with a critical scaling ratio, $c(i)$, representing the lowest ratio that will not violate the tolerable distortion (quantified by a certain visual quality metric). This distortion constraint limits the lowest scaling ratio of each attention region [12-14]. However, lowering the pixel values by applying the critical scaling ratio to each region may result in sharp edges between adjacent regions, and these sharp edges will severely interfere with visual experience. Therefore, the difference between the scaling ratios applied to two adjacent regions should be limited, so that the region boundaries are too indistinct to be discerned by the human eye. In human visual systems, the just noticeable difference is the minimum amount by which the stimulus intensity must be changed in order to produce a noticeable variation in sensory experience. Weber's Law states that the just noticeable difference between two stimuli is proportional to the magnitude of the stimuli. Based on the law, we define the differential constraint that the difference between the scaling ratios applied to two adjacent regions is not greater than either ratio multiplied by a differential constant d . [15]

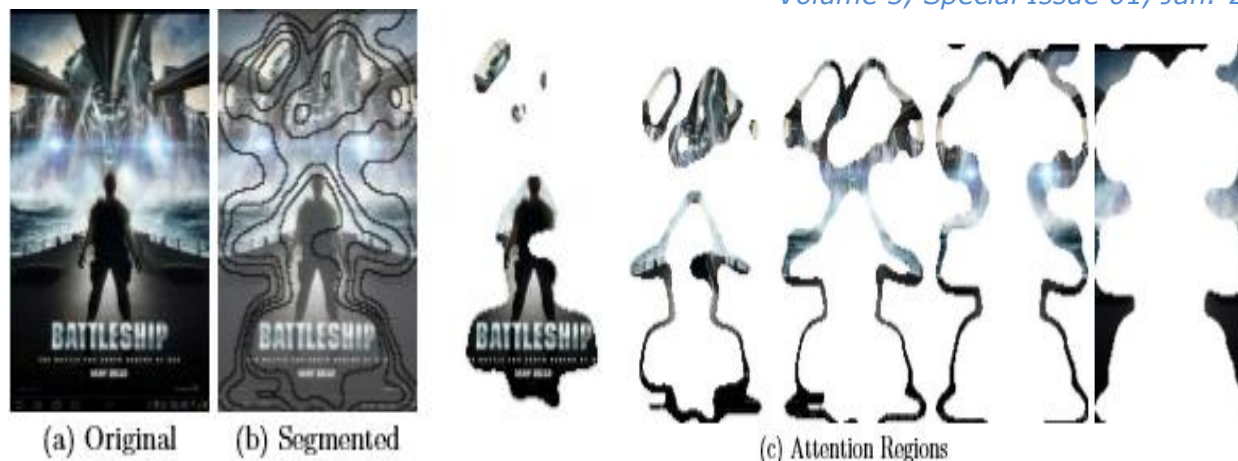


Fig 2 segmenting image into region of interests

C) OLED Dynamic voltage scaling Motivated by an observation that different colors require drastically different power, the color remapping technique changes the original colors into colors that consume less power. This technique is applicable to graphics user interfaces and applications not dealing with natural images. To retain the original visual experience, another technique called OLED dynamic voltage scaling was developed. It tries to decrease the supply voltage of each pixel's circuit to the minimum sufficient to sustain the pixel's (luminance) value. The technique requires hardware support and extra costs; thus, a display is normally partitioned into a limited number of rectangular regions. An OLED display comprises a matrix of pixels, each of which consists of three sub pixels emitting red, green, and blue light respectively. Unlike an LCD display that relies on a light source to illuminate from behind, each sub pixel on the OLED display is self-emissive and emits light individually in response to an electric current that corresponds to the given pixel value. Thus, the amount of power that a sub pixel consumes varies significantly depending on its value ranging from 0 to 255. As modeled in [5, 7, 8], the power consumption of an image on an OLED display is the sum of each individual pixel's power consumption, which is the sum of the power consumed by its three sub pixels. Lowering the pixel values of an image is an effective way to reduce its power consumption on an OLED display; however, this can also have an adverse impact on visual experience if the pixel values are scaled down inappropriately. Note that any change in a pixel value will lead to a change to the chrominance and/or the brightness of the pixel, but not every change is noticeable to the human visual system. As the same magnitude of change is much more noticeable in chrominance than in brightness, to maintain the chrominance of a pixel when its value is scaled down, its red, green, and blue sub pixels must be applied with the same scaling ratio. In contrast, a single scaling ratio should not be applied to all the pixels so as to save more power while retaining perceptual visual quality to a tolerable extent. This is because scaling down the values of different pixels can have varying degrees of impact on image distortion, which is normally defined as the resemblance between the original image and the pixel-scaled image [14, 16].

IV. FLEXIBLE

OLED is an emerging display technology that enables beautiful and efficient displays and lighting panels. Thin OLEDs are already being used in many mobile devices and TVs, and the advanced panels are flexible and bendable are also used in many applications. When we talk about flexible OLEDs, it's important to understand what that means exactly. A flexible oled is based on a flexible substrate which can be plastic, metal or flexible glass. The plastic and metal panels will be light, thin and very durable – in fact they will be virtually shatter-proof. the first range of devices to use a flexible display won't be flexible at all [17]. While the manufacturer may bend the display or curve it around a non-flat surface, the final user will not be able to actually bend the device. Still it will have several advantages: these displays will be lighter, thinner and much more durable compared to glass based displays. Second generation flexible OLED devices are flexible to the final user. Finally, when the technology is ready, we may see OLED panels that you can fold, bend or stretch. This may create all sorts of exciting designs that will enable large displays to be placed in a mobile device and only be opened when required. Fabricating a flexible OLED display is very challenging. The two major challenges are the backplane and the encapsulation. [18]



Fig 3 flexible OLED display

V. BRIGHT

OLEDs are brighter than LEDs. Because the organic layers of an OLED are much thinner than the corresponding inorganic crystal layers of an LED, the conductive and emissive layers of an OLED can be multilayered. Also, LEDs and LCDs require glass for support, and glass absorbs some light. OLEDs do not require glass.[19]LED stands for light-emitting diode. These are little solid-state devices that make light because of the movement of electrons through a semi-conductor. LEDs are relatively small compared to compact fluorescent and incandescent light bulbs, but they can get extremely bright. However, LEDs aren't small enough to be used as the pixels of a television – they're way too big for that. That's why LEDs are only used as the backlight for LCD televisions. OLEDs do not require backlighting like LCDs. LCDs work by selectively blocking areas of the backlight to make the images that you see, while OLEDs generate light themselves. Because OLEDs do not require backlighting, they consume much less power than LCDs (most of the LCD power goes to the backlighting). This is especially important for battery-operated devices such as cell phones.

VI. CONCLUSION

Lower power consumption makes OLED'S perfect for portable devices which rely on battery power. OLED'S offer a brighter ,more vibrant display as well as larger viewing angle. A great deal of progress has been made in organic electroluminescent material and devices in terms of synthesis of electron transport material as a mean to improve OLED'S performance .OLED seems to be perfect technology for all types of displays but challenges are still ahead including high production cost ,sensitive to water vapor(water can damageoled displays).research in OLED'S have resulted in future applications like dashboard and in flexible displays .video images seems more realistic and updated due to OLED'S.

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