

US Patent & Trademark Office

Patent Public Search | Text View

United States Patent Application Publication

20250252894

Kind Code

A1

Publication Date

August 07, 2025

Inventor(s)

Kyles; Ian et al.

SYSTEMS AND METHODS OF DRIVING A DISPLAY WITH HIGH BIT DEPTH

Abstract

Systems and methods for varying an intensity of pixels of displays are provided. A display subsystem may include a display driver for receiving image frame data and commands from an image or data source, including pixel intensity values for bit planes of an image frame; a parser for receiving the image frame data and the commands, and configured to determine a drive waveform having an pixel drive value and a pixel drive time interval for each bit plane of the image frame data; a display backplane for receiving the drive waveform, the display backplane including a pixel array comprising an array of pixels, each pixel driven by a pixel circuit; and display driver circuitry for driving the pixels in accordance with the drive waveform; and wherein an intensity of the pixel varies for each bit plane according to the pixel drive value and the pixel drive time interval.

Inventors: Kyles; Ian (West Linn, OR), Melena; Nicholas William (Phoenix, AZ), Passon; Edmund (Scottsdale, AZ), Wiersma; Joshua T. (Phoenix, AZ)

Applicant: Snap Inc. (Santa Monica, CA)

Family ID: 74626091

Appl. No.: 19/187510

Filed: April 23, 2025

Related U.S. Application Data

parent US continuation 18583287 20240221 parent-grant-document US 12307944 child US 19187510

parent US continuation 17791153 20220706 parent-grant-document US 11984061 US continuation PCT/US2021/012472 20210107 child US 18583287

us-provisional-application US 62958019 20200107

Publication Classification

Int. Cl.: G09G3/20 (20060101); G09G3/32 (20160101); G09G3/36 (20060101)

U.S. Cl.:

CPC G09G3/2096 (20130101); G09G3/2007 (20130101); G09G3/32 (20130101);
G09G3/3611 (20130101); G09G2310/06 (20130101); G09G2310/08 (20130101);
G09G2370/00 (20130101)

Background/Summary

RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 18/583,287, filed Feb. 21, 2024, which application is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 17/791,153, filed Jul. 6, 2022, now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 11,984,061, which application is a U.S. National Stage Filing under 35 U.S.C. 371 from International Application No. PCT/US2021/012472, filed on 7 Jan. 2021, and published as WO 2021/142099 on 15 Jul. 2021, which application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No: 62/958,019, filed on Jan. 7, 2020. The entire content of which is incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0002] The present disclosure relates to display systems. More particularly, the disclosure relates to display systems and methods for varying an intensity of pixels of displays. Exemplary displays may include LED displays, for example microLED displays that modulates the light emission of LEDs or microLEDs using a method that combines temporal and magnitude (level) modulation of LEDs.

BACKGROUND OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0003] Conventional micro-LED backplanes are either digital voltage drive type or analog voltage drive type. A drive scheme seeks to translate a digital grayscale (relative brightness) value for each pixel in an image into an amount of light emitted or reflected from each pixel of the display during each frame of video to be displayed. Digital voltage drive types typically have a fixed voltage or current for all bit-planes or time intervals within a frame, and the intensity of the pixel is varied by changing the fixed voltage or current level applied in a binary manner. Analog drive schemes provide a static analog voltage or current for the entire video frame, but analog drive displays are subject to inaccuracies, mismatches (non-uniformity) and drift of the drive value over the frame time.

[0004] A digital drive scheme is preferred for improved rendition of the grayscale value into pixel intensity on the display, however a digital drive scheme using only time and on/off states as variables to turn pixels on and off for bit-planes or time intervals within a frame to control the intensity (i.e. the apparent brightness) of the pixel for each frame imposes an unnecessary limitation. For example, in a typical digital drive scheme system, an 8-bit color depth implies at least 256 bit-planes, using, for instance a PWM scheme where a value of 1 corresponds to one bit-plane time high, and 255 bit-plane times low, and a using bit-plane load time of 50 us then implies a frame minimum time of $256 \times 50 \text{ us} = 12.8 \text{ ms}$, or a frame rate of $1/12.8 \text{ ms} = 78.125 \text{ Hz}$. This process is without consideration for gamma-encoding, which would necessitate a larger number of bit planes to expand the grayscale data from a gamma-encoded value to a linear intensity value that is the equivalent of 12, 14 or 16 bits, and thus, need $2^{\lceil \log_2(\gamma) \rceil}$ bit planes, under these circumstances, to properly represent the desired range of intensities.

[0005] The finite amount of time available to send bit planes to a display restricts the system from

providing higher frame rates without a loss of color depth if only binary-weighted durations are used to represent the gray-scale levels (e.g., MSB takes 128 bit planes, MSB-1 takes 64 bit planes and so-on). When a PWM (pulse width modulation) method is used to represent different Gray-scale levels the pulse duration is proportional to the number of bit-plane times that have to be sent to a display to achieve the desired gray scale level, then the ability to get higher bit depth is restricted by the bit plane time and the number of those bit planes that can fit in the color sub-frame time.

[0006] Beyond compressing the time needed to represent the different intensity levels, it is also typical to be able to apply Gamma correction, which is a nonlinear operation, which when applied to an incoming gamma-encoded grayscale value, provides, for instance, a greater number of grayscale values as the intensity value of each gamma-encoded grayscale level is converted to grayscale values or levels that have a nonlinear relationship with the other grayscale values or levels, and thus requires a greater bit-depth to properly represent the value digitally. Providing Gamma correction is also more difficult to accomplish in display systems having smaller bit-depth and restrictions on number of bit planes within a frame time, as it is difficult to represent the intensity with the small number of time increments available. As a result, these systems require using some of the bit depth to map the incoming grayscale to its gamma-corrected value, and this results in either a reduction in bit-depth or a scarcity of time in which to place a sufficient number of bit planes to allow for accurate representation of the gamma-encoded value.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0007] In an aspect of the present disclosure there is provided a display system for driving pixels of a pixel array, said display system comprising: a display subsystem for displaying images and executing commands from an image or video data source, said display subsystem comprising; display driver circuitry for receiving image frame data and commands from the image or data source, said image frame data comprising pixel intensity or brightness values for bit planes of an image frame or subframe; a parser for receiving the image frame data and the commands, and configured to determine a drive waveform having a pixel drive value and a pixel drive time interval for each bit plane of the image frame data; a display backplane for receiving the drive waveform, said display backplane comprising pixel driver circuitry for driving the pixels in accordance with the drive waveform; and wherein an intensity or brightness of the pixel varies for each bit plane according to the pixel drive value and the pixel drive time interval.

[0008] Embodiments of the disclosure combine the ability to change pixel drive currents (globally for the entire display) on the fly in the course of a frame, for example, a video frame, with a flexible sequence of bit planes of varying time duration that are used to compose pulses of varying width to give varying intensity levels. By adding the extra variable (such as current for LEDs, or voltage for LCoS) both time and current/voltage may be used to alter the intensity value represented by any grayscale value or any portion of the drive waveform by making each intensity level to be represented a sum of a series of time and current/voltage pairs.

[0009] Embodiments of the present disclosure may include: a) a display backplane IC containing a display array or matrix consisting or comprising of a plurality of drive pixel circuits, for example, current drive pixel circuits (which may typically include pixel logic gates and pixel drivers that incorporate a current source such as a transistor, for example a field effect transistor, to drive the LEDs (i.e., pixel elements)) coupled to said pixel circuits; b) drive sequence (which may reside in a Driver IC or on Driver logic co-located in a backplane IC that programs the global voltage bias DAC settings used to bias the current drivers in the pixels, that controls or is utilized to vary the drive current of the pixel drive circuits, such that the drive current provided to the pixel elements (e.g., microLEDs) by the pixel circuits, are updated on-the-fly (i.e., in real time) when the system accepts new global bias DAC settings multiple times (i.e. coincident with one or more bit planes) per video frame; c) a mechanism, for example, an SPI slave that outputs new binary value updates to the register controlling the Bias DAC by the system, such that the Bias DAC controls the global

bias voltage for the current sources of the pixel array, from commands embedded with the image frame data (which can include video data); and d) a sequence memory that stores one or more programmable mappings that may vary according to desired performance or in response to environmental conditions such as ambient lighting and temperature (to provide temperature compensation), and that are utilized by the display driver logic to convert between input grayscale levels and a sequence of time-current pairs to be sent to the display backplane IC for each pixel over the course of a frame time to achieve the desired grayscale value.

[0010] In an embodiment of a system, in accordance with the present disclosure, a sequence generated by a piece of sequence-generation software, capable of creating and calibrating such sequences, may divide the available frame time into zones, where each zone uses a different current drive value, and uses a PWM waveform produced at each pixel drive circuit output for each zone, as shown in the figures. In an embodiment of a drive sequence (i.e. a collection of commands that maps grayscale values onto bit-plane values and timings, and current drive values) in accordance with embodiments of the present disclosure, a drive current to each pixel of a display or to at least a portion of the display can be changed for each pixel of the display, or portion of the display, at the same time based on one or more commands that are transmitted to the backplane IC containing the pixel driver circuitry along with or at the same time image data is transmitted to memory elements of the driver circuitry for the display. In an embodiment, the driver circuitry may be coupled to, included in, or integrated into the backplane of the display. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the driver circuitry may or may not be integrated into or included into the backplane and may be electrically coupled to the display via one or more conducting elements.

[0011] According to a second aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a method of operating a display system, said method comprising the steps of receiving image frame data and commands from an image or data source, said image frame data comprising pixel intensity values for bit planes of an image frame; parsing the image frame data and commands; determining a drive waveform having a pixel drive value and a pixel drive time interval for each bit plane of the image frame data; driving pixels in a pixel array in accordance with the drive waveform, wherein an intensity of the pixel varies for each bit plane according to the pixel drive value and the pixel drive time interval.

[0012] The embodiments of the present disclosure overcome the above-identified problems of conventional devices and methods as well as other shortcomings and deficiencies of existing technologies by providing a system, method and apparatus having a flexible drive scheme that allows for real time parameter changes and enables higher bit depth at higher frame rates.

[0013] Embodiments of the disclosure combine the ability to change pixel drive currents, simultaneously for the entire display and in real time, in the course of an image frame with a flexible sequence of bit planes of varying time duration (i.e., varying the pixel drive currents between bit planes of a single image frame. By adding an extra variable to be controlled by the system, such as current for LEDs, or voltage for Liquid Crystal on Silicon (LCoS), both time and current/voltage may be used to alter the intensity value represented by any grayscale value and/or any portion of the drive waveform, which accordingly can change the brightness of the pixel driven by the drive waveform. Thus, in accordance with embodiments of present disclosure, a flexible drive system, in accordance with the present disclosure, may combine two variables, such as time and current, or time and voltage and apply them in combination to represent intensity levels and may change these parameters (i.e., the time, voltage, and current) in real time and synchronously, such that a display in accordance with embodiments of the present disclosure achieves greater bit-depth (color/intensity precision) without having to use as much time to display each frame of information, thus allowing for either greater precision at the same frame rate, or faster frame rate at the same precision, as compared to prior-art systems.

[0014] These and other capabilities of the disclosed subject matter will be more fully understood after a review of the following figures, detailed description, and claims. It is to be understood that

the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0015] The present disclosure is illustrated and described herein with reference to the various drawings, in which like reference numbers are used to denote like system components, as appropriate, and in which:

[0016] FIG. 1*a* illustrates a block diagram of a display system in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0017] FIG. 1*b* illustrates a microLED display system incorporating the display system of FIG. 1*a*.

[0018] FIG. 1*c* illustrates a LCOS display system incorporating the display system of FIG. 1*a*.

[0019] FIG. 2 illustrates a flow chart of a method of operating a display system in accordance with embodiments of the present disclosure.

[0020] FIG. 3 illustrates a drive waveform resulting from a method of operating of a display system in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0021] In the following detailed description, reference is made to the accompanying drawings which form a part hereof and in which are shown, by way of illustration, embodiments that may be practiced. It is to be understood that other embodiments may be utilized and structural or logical changes may be made without departing from the scope. Therefore, the following detailed description is not to be taken in a limiting sense, and the scope of embodiments is defined by the appended claims and their equivalents.

[0022] Various operations may be described as multiple discrete operations in turn, in a manner that may be helpful in understanding embodiments; however, the order of description should not be construed to imply that these operations are order dependent.

[0023] The description may use perspective-based descriptions such as up/down, back/front, and top/bottom. Such descriptions are merely used to facilitate the discussion and are not intended to restrict the application of disclosed embodiments.

[0024] The terms “coupled” and “connected,” along with their derivatives, may be used. It should be understood that these terms are not intended as synonyms for each other. Rather, in particular embodiments, “connected” may be used to indicate that two or more elements are in direct physical contact with each other. “Coupled” may mean that two or more elements are in direct physical contact. However, “coupled” may also mean that two or more elements are not in direct contact with each other, but yet still cooperate or interact with each other.

[0025] For the purposes of the description, a phrase in the form “A/B,” “A or B,” or in the form “A and/or B” means (A), (B), or (A and B). For the purposes of the description, a phrase in the form “at least one of A, B, and C” means (A), (B), (C), (A and B), (A and C), (B and C), or (A, B and C). For the purposes of the description, a phrase in the form “(A) B” means (B) or (AB) that is, A is an optional element.

[0026] The descriptions may use the terms “embodiment” or “embodiments,” which may each refer to one or more of the same or different embodiments. Furthermore, the terms “comprising,” “comprises,” “including,” “having,” and the like, as used with respect to embodiments, are synonymous, and are generally intended as “open” terms (e.g., the term “including” should be interpreted as “including but not limited to,” the term “having” should be interpreted as “having at least,” the term “includes” should be interpreted as “includes but is not limited to,” etc.).

[0027] With respect to the use of any plural and/or singular terms herein, those having skill in the art can translate from the plural to the singular and/or from the singular to the plural as is

appropriate to the context and/or application. The various singular/plural permutations may be expressly set forth herein for sake of clarity.

[0028] Various embodiments are now described with reference to the drawings, wherein like reference numerals are used to refer to like elements throughout. In the following description, for purposes of explanation, numerous specific details are set forth in order to promote a thorough understanding of one or more embodiments. It may be evident in some or all instances, however, that any embodiment described below can be practiced without adopting specific design details described below.

[0029] FIG. 1 illustrates a display system **100** in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. As illustrated in FIG. 1a, a data source **102**, for example, an image, image data or video source or video data **104**, such as a host. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the host may include a processor **105**, for example, an application processor, that executes applications, instructions, or commands **106** (e.g., software) stored in a storage device (for example, a memory device **107**) of the host. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the host may stream image data or images, for example video data.

[0030] In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the data source or host may be, for example, a mobile device, such as smartphone, tablet, laptop, head-up display system, head mounted device, or hybrid device (or some combination of the aforementioned). In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the image, image data, and/or video data is received by the real time data software module **107a** and/or a MUX **108** of the host **102**, and the real time data software or software module **107a** combines the data with the commands parsed from a master sequence file containing a desired drive sequence at the multiplexer (MUX) **108** and/or real time data software module **107a**. Additionally or alternatively the MUX **108** could be hardware that is controlled from the real-time data software module **107a**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the data combined with the commands is combined data that is output from the data source (e.g., the host) **102** and transmitted to the display subsystem. In an embodiment of the present disclosure the combined data is output via a real time data software module **107a** and/or MUX **108** of the data source **102**.

[0031] In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the combined data is streamed or transmitted to a parser logic software module or software **124** in a display driver IC **120** or display driver circuitry **122** of a display subsystem **120** via a communications transmission device, data transmission device, and/or protocol **110**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the display driver circuitry may be incorporated into an IC (e.g., DDIC **122**). In an embodiment of the present disclosure the communications transmission device and/or protocol is MIPI controller and/or MIPI protocol **110**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the combined data is transmitted to a MIPI controller that uses a MIPI PHY (physical layer) to transmit the data to the display subsystem **120**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the combined data is transmitted to the parser **124** of the Display Driver IC **122**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the combined data is transmitted to the Display Driver IC **122**.

[0032] In an embodiment of the present disclosure the display subsystem **120** may be an microLED display subsystem that includes display driver circuitry, a display that includes a display backplane **130** with backplane circuitry integrated or electrically connected or coupled to it, and a pixel array **140** (e.g., a pixel array of pixel elements such as an LED pixel array (e.g., a microLED pixel array)). In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the LED pixel array (e.g., a microLED pixel array) is not included in the display backplane IC **130** or subsystem **120**.

[0033] In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the display subsystem may be a liquid crystal on silicon (LCoS) display subsystem that includes display driver circuitry, a display device that includes a liquid crystal material or substance and a backplane with backplane circuitry integrated or electrically connected or coupled to it, and a pixel array (e.g., a pixel array of pixel elements such as pixel array of reflective devices (e.g., an array of mirror elements/devices that when

charged operate to control the position of liquid crystal in the display device)). In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the pixel array of reflective devices is not included in the display backplane IC **130** or subsystem **120**.

[0034] In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the display driver circuitry is internal to the display subsystem or electrically coupled to the display. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, at least some of the display driver circuitry may be incorporated into a display driver integrated circuit (DDIC) **122**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the parser **124** may be included, incorporated, and/or integrated into the DDIC **122**.

[0035] In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the display driver circuitry or subsystem **120** receives the combined data from the communications and data transmission device or system **110**, and converts the combined data into Serial Peripheral Interface (SPI) commands **150** and bit plane data **152**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the parser **124** receives the combined data, parses and/or separates the combined data into command and image data. Other logic within the DDIC **122** can then convert the image data into bit plane data. This bit plane data may then be output to the display backplane **130**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure the parser **124** and/or the DDIC parses and/or converts the combined data into (SPI) commands **150** and bit plane data **152** that is outputted to the display backplane **130**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the Driver IC **122** or an SPI slave **163** of the Display Backplane IC **130** receives the SPI commands. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the Display Backplane IC **122** includes the SPI Slave **163**, one or more storage devices **164** (e.g., registers), bias DAC **166**, display backplane logic (e.g., pixel logic **172**) and circuitry (e.g., **174**) and optionally pixel electrode **176**.

[0036] In an embodiment of the present disclosure the SPI commands **150** are commands that write to internal registers or memories. In an embodiment of the present disclosure the bit plane data **152** is data that determines or controls the intensity or brightness of a pixel, when presented to the pixel array sequentially and may be arranged in words representing data to be distributed to a series of pixels in rows or columns or rectangular sub-areas of the pixel array **140** or display. It should be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that the bit depth may vary, but is typically between 6 and 10 bits, and more typically 8 bits.

[0037] FIG. **1b** is an illustration of a microLED display system **180** which, in an embodiment, may include the display system **100** of the present disclosure. The microLED display system **180** typically includes a pixel array **140** of individual pixel LED elements **184** arranged on a substrate **182**.

[0038] Similarly, FIG. **1c** is an illustration of a LCOS display system **190** having similar elements and which, in an embodiment, may also include the display system **100** of an embodiment of the present disclosure. In particular, a substrate **182** on which a display backplane **120** may be coupled to or integrated with, is provided. The substrate **182** may be silicon. Reflective devices or layers **196**, which may be aluminum layers have pixel array(s) **140** arranged thereon, coupled or integrated with the display backplane **120**. A liquid crystal layer **193**, alignment layer **198**, transparent electrodes (typically within an Indium Tin Oxide layer) **199** and a glass or other transparent material layer **197** forming a display complete the structure. In embodiments such LCOS display may comprise a series of individual square elements.

[0039] In an embodiment of the present disclosure, a display backplane IC **130** may be included in, incorporated into, or integrated into a display backplane **120** (which may be coupled to, for example, reflective devices **186**; **196** in the LCOS display system or LEDs such as microLEDs in a microLED display system). The pixel array (i.e., the microLEDs or LEDs) can be on its own substrate, with each LED coupled to a pixel driver on the backplate. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the display backplane **120** is coupled to a display device **180**, **190** (e.g., an LCOS device) or LCOS pixel array **140** or pixel elements (e.g., reflective devices **186**; **196** or LEDs or array of LEDs, for example, microLEDs). In an embodiment of the present disclosure, a display device **100** includes a display backplane **120**, display backplane circuitry **130**, pixel

circuitry **174** (e.g., as pixel drive circuitry or pixel circuit), and pixel elements **140a** that are coupled (e.g., electrically) to, integrated into, included in and/or positioned in the DDIC **122**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, a display device **100** (including the DDIC **122**) is electrically coupled to a DDIC, and form the display subsystem **120** and are assembled together in a display module **100**.

[0040] In an embodiment of the present disclosure the display subsystem **120** includes a display **197**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure (such as shown in FIG. **1c**), the display **197** is an array of pixel elements **140** arranged on the backplane **120** or coupled to backplane circuitry (e.g., pixel circuitry **170**, pixel drive circuitry or drive circuitry incorporated, coupled to, or integrated into the backplane). In an embodiment of the present disclosure the display subsystem **120** is a liquid crystal-on-silicon (LCoS) display subsystem of an LCoS display system **190**. In an embodiment of an LCoS system **190**, in accordance with embodiments of the present disclosure, the display **197** is a liquid crystal display or liquid crystal cell (including liquid crystal **193** placed between two substrates **196**, **199**, is electrically coupled to or integrated with a backplane **120** or backplane IC of the display subsystem. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, one of the substrates **196** of the liquid crystal display or cell is the backplane **120** or backplane IC. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the liquid crystal display or liquid crystal cell **193** is included, electrically coupled to, or integrated into Display Backplane integrated circuit **130** (IC) or substrate thereof. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the Display Backplane IC **130** is electrically coupled to one of the sides of the Liquid Crystal cell, for example, a side of the display that does not emit light or the light that corresponds to an image. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the liquid crystal cell is coupled to a silicon substrate **182**, and that substrate is the same silicon substrate that forms one side of the Display Backplane IC **120** or is a silicon substrate coupled to a substrate of the Display Backplane IC (e.g., a substrate, such as a silicon substrate that includes drive circuitry, pixel circuitry, pixel circuits **170**, and/or drive circuits **166**).

[0041] In an embodiment of the present disclosure (such as shown in FIG. **1b**), the display subsystem **120** is a micro-LED display subsystem **180**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure the display subsystem **100** is of a micro-LED system **180**. In an embodiment of a micro-LED subsystem **180** in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure, the display is an array of LEDs **184** or microLEDs that is electrically coupled to or integrated into or with a backplane **120** or display backplane IC of the display subsystem **100**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the array of microLEDs **184** is included, electrically coupled to, or integrated into the Display Backplane integrated circuit (IC) **122** and/or substrate thereof **182**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the Display Backplane IC **122** is electrically coupled to one of the sides of the array of LEDs (e.g., microLEDs), for example, a side of the array of LEDs (e.g., microLEDs) that does not emit light or the light that corresponds to an image. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the array of LEDs **184** (e.g., microLEDs) is coupled to a silicon substrate **182**, and that substrate is the same silicon substrate that forms one side of the Display Backplane IC **122** or is a silicon substrate **182** coupled to a substrate **186** of the Display Backplane IC **122** (e.g., a silicon substrate of the Display Backplane IC).

[0042] In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the array of pixels **184** include pixel elements assembled in an array **140**, or assembled on a substrate **182** in an array. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the array of pixels **180** is an array of light emitting diodes (LEDs). In an embodiment of the present disclosure the LEDs may be microLEDs. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the array of pixel elements **184**; **140** is an array of reflective elements **196** that control the birefringence of the liquid crystal **193** in an LCoS device **190** or other liquid crystal device. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the pixel elements **184** are reflective elements/devices, for example, mirrors. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the pixel array **140** or array of pixels is formed in, coupled to, incorporated in, or integrated into the display backplane IC **122**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the DDIC or display driver circuitry

drives the operation of pixel elements (e.g., light emitting diodes (LEDs), microLEDs **184**, reflective elements) of an array of pixel elements arranged on a backplane **120** of the display subsystem **100**.

[0043] In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the display subsystem **100** may also include an SPI slave or receiver **163** for an alternate protocol such as I2C or a custom protocol, registers **164**, and a digital to analog converter (DAC) (e.g., a bias DAC) **166**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the SPI slave, registers, and a digital to analog converter (DAC) (e.g., a bias DAC) are formed in, coupled to, incorporated in, or integrated into display driver circuitry, display backplane circuitry and/or a display backplane IC.

[0044] In an embodiment of the present disclosure the SPI slave **163** is electrically coupled to one or more registers **164**, via, for example, an internal parallel bus and write strobe. In an embodiment of the present disclosure the registers are electrically coupled to the DAC (e.g., the Bias DAC) **166** via, for example, a 6-or 8-bit DAC designed to provide voltages suitable for biasing the current sources in the pixel array. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the DAC (e.g., the Bias DAC) is electrically coupled to the Pixel Array via for example, a V ref signal. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the SPI slave receives SPI commands from the parser, DDIC, and/or display driver circuitry, and generates parallel data and a write strobe that is output to the one or more registers. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the one or more registers receive the data and stores a value that is output to the DAC continuously. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the DAC (e.g., the Bias DAC) receives a binary value from the one or more registers, and converts that value to a voltage and outputs that voltage to at least a portion of the pixel array continuously.

[0045] In an embodiment of the present disclosure, at least some of the pixel elements **140a** are coupled to pixel circuitry **170**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure each of the pixels or each of the pixel elements utilized, or available for utilization is electrically coupled to or integrated with a pixel circuit. For example, the pixel circuit shown in FIG. **1** illustrates that the bias voltage applied to each pixel or pixel element in the array or each pixel or pixel element in the array available for utilization. In an embodiment of the present disclosure a pixel includes a pixel element (e.g., an LED, microLED, or reflective device) and a pixel circuit.

[0046] In an embodiment of the present disclosure, each pixel circuit **170** includes pixel logic circuitry **172** connected to at least one transistor **174** and a pixel electrode **176**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the pixel logic includes logic elements (e.g., one or more logic gates or combinatorial logic circuits) that generate a digital output or value (e.g., an on or off value, or one or zero value) that is output to one end of the transistor to which it is coupled. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the transistor is a field effect transistor (FET). In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the transistor is electrically coupled to a voltage source or the DAC (e.g., the Bias DAC). In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the other end of the transistor is electrically coupled to a pixel electrode **176** or pixel element. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the pixel electrode is electrically coupled to the pixel element, for example, an LED, or microLED. A reference to an LED for purposes of this disclosure is also a reference to a microLED. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the display subsystem **120** is a microLED display subsystem, and the transistor **174** is a FET. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the FET drives the micro-LED display, and is electrically coupled (for example, via electrical wire/wireline), directly or indirectly (for example, via a pixel electrode **176**), to a pixel element **140a** (e.g., a microLED) and serves as a current source to the pixel element. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, a means for an on/off control of the pixel element **140a** is coupled, directly or indirectly, to the source terminal of the FET **174**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the output of pixel logic is the on/off control or activation/deactivation means for the pixel element, and is connected to the source terminal of the FET **174**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, a bias voltage is received at the FET's gate terminal from, for example, a DAC **166**

(e.g., a central bias voltage DAC) that is electrically coupled to the gate terminal of the FET **174**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the use of the DAC enables fine (multi-valued vs. on/off, for instance 6-or 8-bit precision) control of the drive current.

[0047] A method **200** of operation of a display system **100**, in accordance with embodiments of the present disclosure, is described as illustrated in FIG. **2**. The method may involve, in an embodiment of a method of operating a display system, a step of providing a display system **100**. In accordance with embodiments of the present disclosure, a subsequent step **220** may involve receiving image frame data and commands from an image data source **120**. The image frame data may be received at a real time data software module **107a** and/or MUX **108** that receives data **194** and/or commands **106**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the image frame data may be, for example, an image, image data, video, or video data **104** received from memory **107** in the host **102**. In an embodiment the commands **106** are commands that initiate the writing of bit-plane data to the pixel driver array or command which update a register value, such as the bias DAC input data word. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the real time data software module **107a** and/or MUX **108** resides on a storage device (e.g., a memory device **107**) in the data source **102** or host. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the data source **102** is coupled to a processor **105**. The processor **105** executes the instructions of the real time data software or module **107a** and/or MUX **108**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the data source **102** is a host device that includes a processor **105** that executes the instructions of the real time data software or module **107a** and/or MUX **108**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the real time data software or module **107a** and/or MUX **108** combines the data and commands and generates a combined data output in step **230** and outputs the combined data to the display subsystem. By adding the commands **106** to the image or video data **104** (or combining the commands with the video data) at a MUX **108**, real time data software module **107a**, or the like, the application of the commands **106** becomes delivered in real time with the image or video data **104**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the combined data output is transmitted to the display subsystem via a data communications device, interface device, and/or communications protocol (e.g., a MIPI interface) **110**, which is electrically coupled to the data source **102** and the display subsystem **120**, display driver circuitry **122**, and/or display driver IC, and may be internal or external to the display subsystem **120**.

[0048] In step **240**, a parser **124** receives the combined data and parses the combined data, and outputs SPI commands **150** and image data which is translated into image data which is translated into bit-plane data **152** via logic in the DDIC **122**, and sent to the display backplane, and/or display backplane IC **130**, at the same time or different times (e.g., different times in a same time period such as a frame or subframe). In an embodiment the display subsystem **120** or system in accordance with embodiments of the present disclosure may, at step **240**, use the parser **240** (which may be internal or external to the display driver IC) to parse the incoming data **110** (e.g., bit-plane data) and commands (e.g., commands) then separates and formats and/or converts the incoming data (e.g., bit-plane data) and commands into: 1) bit-plane data **152** (i.e., data that contains the on/off state of at least some of the pixels of the display backplane IC for a given time interval of the video frame); 2) local register **126** configurations which control the parameters of the bit-plane formatting operation that is performed by the display driver logic and backplane **130** in combination, for example, time durations employed for mapping various bits of bit-groups of the incoming video data in the DDIC, by converting the collection of multi-bit grayscale values received into a series of n bit planes, each one carrying the nth bit of the grayscale value for all the pixels in the pixel array); and 3) commands **150** destined for the SPI connection to the display backplane IC **130**. This series of operations, in step **240**, constitutes the mechanism or means for delivering on-the-fly parameter changes which enables the use of both time durations and analog drive values, corresponding to intensities when taken together, to make a drive waveform **150**.

[0049] In step **250**, the SPI slave **163** receives the SPI commands **150** and converts them to parallel data and a write strobe and then sends or outputs the data and strobe to the registers **164**. In step

260, one or more of the pixel circuits **170** receives the bit plane data (e.g., instantaneous brightness or intensity values for each pixel of the display and modulates its output, controlling the intensity of the pixel.

[0050] In step **270** the SPI commands **150** stored in the registers **164** are output or sent to the DAC **166**, for example, a Bias DAC, when a new pixel drive value V_{ref} **152** (i.e., a bias voltage or drive current) has been written to the registers **164** from the parser **124**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the new value is or may be written to the register **164** when or upon the occurrence of an update command received via SPI commands **150**.

[0051] In an embodiment of the present disclosure, in the parser **124** (which may be internal or external to the backplane IC **130**), receives commands (such as a change to the global current bias DAC input word), decodes the commands **106**, and transmits SPI commands to the SPI slave **163**. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the SPI slave **163** is included in or integrated with, or coupled to the backplane IC **130**, and when SPI commands **150** are received, and stored into registers **164**, if needed, and the parser **124** outputs bit plane data **152** that is loaded sequentially into the pixel array **140** to control the state of each pixel **140a** for a given time period when dictated by the master drive sequence stored in the Driver IC **122** or driver logic.

[0052] In step **890** the bias voltage in conjunction with the output of the pixel logic determine when current flows to the pixel electrode **176**, which is electrically coupled to a pixel element **140a**, (e.g., an LED, microLED, or reflective mirrored surface) or directly to the pixel element, such that the pixel element **140a** is turned on or off (i.e., activated or deactivated). In an embodiment of the present disclosure, In step **290** the bias voltage in conjunction with the output of the pixel logic determine when current flows to the pixel electrode **176**, which is electrically coupled to a pixel element **140a**, (e.g., an LED, microLED, or reflective mirrored surface) or directly to the pixel element, such that the pixel element is turned on (i.e., activated) and emits light of a level of brightness represented by a bit plane value of the bit plane data that was received at the respective pixel element. In an embodiment of the present disclosure, the total light output from a display system **100** in accordance with embodiments of the present disclosure, for example, over a video frame for each pixel **140a** is the sum of the products of the current value and on/off state, of each pixel (or zone of pixels) for each time interval programmed.

[0053] FIG. **3** illustrates a drive waveform yielded in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. Biasing of the pixel array via a command that is transmitted with the incoming video data, in accordance with the steps of FIG. **2**, implemented by the system in FIG. **1**, yields the drive waveform illustrated in FIG. **3**. The drive sequence shown in FIG. **3** consists of update time intervals (where a new DAC Control word is transmitted to and stored in the registers of the backplane IC) and driving time intervals, shown as multiple “current zones” where a programmable amount of time is spent driving at a certain current level. The drive waveform for each pixel or a selection of pixels of the pixel array may be transmitted as commands to the display backplane IC **130**.

[0054] The embodiments here have a number of benefits and advantages. The embodiments herein overcome the limitations of analog systems that either merely change the current and leave the pixel powered on all the time, or digital drive would just have binary on/off states. An embodiment of the present disclosure provides a system in which both the current and voltage parameters may be controlled simultaneously for a given period of time for how long you leave the current on the pixel, due to the flexible programmability of the format, a variety of different mapping schemes are possible and customizable.

[0055] The subject matter described herein can be implemented in digital electronic circuitry, or in computer software, firmware, or hardware, including the structural means disclosed in this specification and structural equivalents thereof, or in combinations of them. The subject matter described herein can be implemented as one or more computer program products, such as one or more computer programs tangibly embodied in an information carrier (e.g., in a machine readable

storage device), or embodied in a propagated signal, for execution by, or to control the operation of, data processing apparatus (e.g., a programmable processor, a computer, or multiple computers). A computer program (also known as a program, software, software application, or code) can be written in any form of programming language, including compiled or interpreted languages, and it can be deployed in any form, including as a stand-alone program or as a module, component, subroutine, or other unit suitable for use in a computing environment. A computer program does not necessarily correspond to a file. A program can be stored in a portion of a file that holds other programs or data, in a single file dedicated to the program in question, or in multiple coordinated files (e.g., files that store one or more modules, sub programs, or portions of code). A computer program can be deployed to be executed on one computer or on multiple computers at one site or distributed across multiple sites and interconnected by a communication network.

[0056] The processes and logic flows described in this specification, including the method steps of the subject matter described herein, can be performed by one or more programmable processors executing one or more computer programs to perform functions of the subject matter described herein by operating on input data and generating output. The processes and logic flows can also be performed by, and apparatus of the subject matter described herein can be implemented as, special purpose logic circuitry, e.g., an FPGA (field programmable gate array) or an ASIC (application specific integrated circuit).

[0057] Processors suitable for the execution of a computer program include, by way of example, both general and special purpose microprocessors, and any one or more processor of any kind of digital computer. Generally, a processor will receive instructions and data from a read only memory or a random access memory or both. The essential elements of a computer are a processor for executing instructions and one or more memory devices for storing instructions and data.

Generally, a computer will also include, or be operatively coupled to receive data from or transfer data to, or both, one or more mass storage devices for storing data, e.g., magnetic, magneto optical disks, or optical disks. Information carriers suitable for embodying computer program instructions and data include all forms of nonvolatile memory, including by way of example semiconductor memory devices, (e.g., EPROM, EEPROM, and flash memory devices); magnetic disks, (e.g., internal hard disks or removable disks); magneto optical disks; and optical disks (e.g., CD and DVD disks). The processor and the memory can be supplemented by, or incorporated in, special purpose logic circuitry.

[0058] The subject matter described herein can be implemented in a computing system that includes a back end component (e.g., a data server), a middleware component (e.g., an application server), or a front end component (e.g., a client computer mobile device, wearable device, having a graphical user interface or a web browser through which a user can interact with an implementation of the subject matter described herein), or any combination of such back end, middleware, and front end components. The components of the system can be interconnected by any form or medium of digital data communication, e.g., a communication network. Examples of communication networks include a local area network (“LAN”) and a wide area network (“WAN”), e.g., the Internet.

[0059] It is to be understood that the disclosed subject matter is not limited in its application to the details of construction and to the arrangements of the components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The disclosed subject matter is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting. As such, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the conception, upon which this disclosure is based, may readily be utilized as a basis for the designing of other structures, methods, and systems for carrying out the several purposes of the disclosed subject matter. It is important, therefore, that the claims be regarded as including such equivalent constructions insofar as they do not depart from the spirit and scope of the disclosed subject matter.

[0060] Although the disclosed subject matter has been described and illustrated in the foregoing exemplary embodiments, it is understood that the present disclosure has been made only by way of example, and that numerous changes in the details of implementation of the disclosed subject matter may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the disclosed subject matter, which is limited only by the claims which follow.

Claims

1. A display system for driving pixels of a pixel array, the display system comprising: display driver circuitry configured to: receive image frame data comprising a plurality of frame zones, each frame zone comprising: intensity values for a plurality of bit planes; and a global bias; and process the image frame data to determine, for at least one pixel of the pixel array, a pixel drive value and a pixel drive time interval for each bit plane of the plurality of bit planes of at least one frame zone corresponding to the at least one pixel; and a display backplane comprising: pixel driver circuitry comprising a pixel circuit to drive the at least one pixel of the pixel array such that an intensity of the at least one pixel varies for each bit plane according to the corresponding pixel drive value and the corresponding pixel drive time interval.
2. The display system of claim 1, wherein: the pixel drive value comprises a pixel drive voltage or a pixel drive current.
3. The display system of claim 1, further comprising: a digital to analog converter driven by a register for converting a digital control word into a bias voltage to control a drive current of the pixel driver circuitry for all pixels of the pixel array.
4. The display system of claim 3, wherein the display backplane includes circuitry that provides both bit plane digital data and the bias voltage to the pixel driver circuitry for driving all pixels of the pixel array.
5. The display system of claim 1, further comprising a sequence memory for storing one or more programmable mappings that modify at least one of the pixel drive value and the pixel drive time interval based on at least one of: desired performance, ambient lighting compensation, or temperature compensation.
6. The display system of claim 5, wherein the display driver circuitry converts at least one of the pixel drive values or the pixel drive time intervals according to the programmable mappings.
7. The display system of claim 1, wherein: the global bias of a given frame zone corresponds to an intensity value of the frame zone; and the processing of the image frame data to determine the pixel drive value and pixel drive time interval for each bit plane of the given frame zone comprises: combining the intensity values of the plurality of bit planes with the intensity value of the given frame zone to determine the pixel drive value and pixel drive time interval for each bit plane of the given frame zone.
8. The display system of claim 1, wherein the image frame data is received from an image or video data source comprising one or more of an image, image data, or a video source.
9. The display system of claim 1, wherein the image frame data is received from a host, said host comprising a processor that executes applications stored on or streamed to the host.
10. The display system of claim 1, wherein: the pixels comprise light emitting diodes; and the pixel drive values comprise pixel drive currents.
11. The display system of claim 1, wherein: the pixels comprise liquid crystal on silicon; and the pixel drive values comprise voltages.
12. The display system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the display backplane or the display driver circuitry is an integrated circuit.
13. The display system of claim 1, wherein: the pixel circuit comprises pixel logic circuitry connected to at least one transistor connected to a pixel electrode, the pixel logic circuitry comprising logic elements that generate, in response to the pixel drive value and pixel drive time

interval, a digital value output to the at least one transistor to activate or deactivate a current into the pixel electrode; the at least one transistor is electrically coupled to a voltage source, or a digital to analog converter and the pixel electrode; and the at least one transistor is a field effect transistor.

14. The display system of claim 13, wherein the at least one transistor receives a bias voltage from the voltage source or to a digital to analog converter output and provides a drive current to pixel electrode with fine control.

15. A method of driving pixels of a pixel array, the method comprising: receiving image frame data comprising a plurality of frame zones, each frame zone comprising: intensity values for a plurality of bit planes; and a global bias; processing the image frame data to determine, for at least one pixel of the pixel array, a pixel drive value and a pixel drive time interval for each bit plane of the plurality of bit planes of at least one frame zone corresponding to the at least one pixel; and driving the at least one pixel of the pixel array such that an intensity of the at least one pixel varies for each bit plane according to the corresponding pixel drive value and the corresponding pixel drive time interval.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein: the pixel drive value comprises a pixel drive voltage or a pixel drive current.

17. The method of claim 15, further comprising: converting a digital control word into a bias voltage to control a drive current for all pixels of the pixel array.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising: driving all pixels of the pixel array in accordance with both bit plane digital data and the bias voltage.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein: the global bias of a given frame zone corresponds to an intensity value of the frame zone; and the processing of the image frame data to determine the pixel drive value and pixel drive time interval for each bit plane of the given frame zone comprises: combining the intensity values of the plurality of bit planes with the intensity value of the given frame zone to determine the pixel drive value and pixel drive time interval for each bit plane of the given frame zone.

20. A device comprising: a pixel array; display driver circuitry configured to: receive image frame data comprising a plurality of frame zones, each frame zone comprising: intensity values for a plurality of bit planes; and a global bias; and process the image frame data to determine, for at least one pixel of the pixel array, a pixel drive value and a pixel drive time interval for each bit plane of the plurality of bit planes of at least one frame zone corresponding to the at least one pixel; and a display backplane comprising: pixel driver circuitry comprising a pixel circuit to drive the at least one pixel of the pixel array such that an intensity of the at least one pixel varies for each bit plane according to the corresponding pixel drive value and the corresponding pixel drive time interval.
