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Efficient bitline stabilization for program inhibit in NAND arrays

Abstract

A storage device charges bitlines in preparation for a program pulse. To charge the bitlines, the storage device connects the bitlines to an external regulator instead of an internal regulator to prepare them for the program pulse. The system can charge all bitlines to the external regulator high voltage reference before changing to the internal regulator for bitline stabilization before the program pulse.

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Background/Summary

TECHNICAL FIELD

(1) Descriptions are generally related to storage devices, and more particular descriptions are related to program operation for storage media.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(2) Nonvolatile memory such as NAND flash memory is commonly used in storage devices. When programming the NAND cells, bitlines selected for programming are typically driven to a low voltage, while bitlines not selected for programming are set to an inhibit voltage. There will be more bitlines set to the inhibit voltage, and the inhibit voltage is a relatively high voltage. When NAND cells are programmed, they block the current and the voltage is easy to maintain. Cells that are not programmed allow current to flow.

(3) With potentially thousands or tens of thousands of bitlines, any of which can have a cell that is programmed, driving the bitlines to the inhibit voltage can cause a significant current spike. If too much current flows, the voltage of the internal regulator circuit can drop, which would cause many risks in the logic circuits of the NAND. The internal regulator circuit refers to the regulator that manages the program operation, and more specific to this discussion, is the power source to drive the bitlines to the inhibit voltage.

(4) One approach to providing protection against the voltage droop is to add current limiting circuitry. However, it will be understood that the current limiting circuitry would consume significant circuit area and add a performance penalty by increasing the time to charge the bitlines. Another approach that can save the die area by not needing the current limiting circuitry has a more significant performance penalty by gradually increasing the voltage over multiple steps to avoid exceeding current limits. Such an approach is typically a staircase increase of voltage, which is slow, adding a significant time penalty to the bitline stabilization phase of the programming. Additionally, the staircase approach increases the complexity of the programming algorithm.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) The following description includes discussion of figures having illustrations given by way of example of an implementation. The drawings should be understood by way of example, and not by way of limitation. As used herein, references to one or more examples are to be understood as describing a particular feature, structure, or characteristic included in at least one implementation of the invention. Phrases such as “in one example” or “in an alternative example” appearing herein provide examples of implementations of the invention, and do not necessarily all refer to the same implementation. However, they are also not necessarily mutually exclusive.

(2) FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an example of a system with a storage device in which bitlines can be charged with an external regulator.

(3) FIG. 2 is a block diagram of an example of a system having a storage array in which bitline charging with an external regulator can be implemented.

(4) FIG. 3 is a block diagram of an example of a system that can selectively connect bitlines to different regulators.

(5) FIG. 4A is a block diagram of an example of connecting bitlines different regulators.

(6) FIG. 4B is a diagram of a representation of the voltage curves over time for connecting bitlines to different regulators.

(7) FIG. 5 is a flow diagram of a process for bitline charging with an external regulator.

(8) FIG. 6A is a block diagram of an example of a system with a solid state drive (SSD) in which bitline charging with an external regulator can be implemented.

(9) FIG. 6B is a block diagram of an example of a system with a solid state drive (SSD) with a controller to manage bitline charging with an external regulator.

(10) FIG. 7 is a block diagram of an example of a computing system in which bitline charging with an external regulator can be implemented.

(11) FIG. 8 is a block diagram of an example of a mobile device in which bitline charging with an external regulator can be implemented.

(12) FIG. 9 is a block diagram of an example of a multi-node network in which bitline charging with an external regulator can be implemented.

(13) Descriptions of certain details and implementations follow, including non-limiting descriptions of the figures, which may depict some or all examples, and well as other potential implementations.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

(14) As described herein, when a storage device charges bitlines in preparation for a program pulse,

it can connect them to an external regulator instead of the internal regulator normally used for program operation. The system can charge all bitlines to the external regulator high voltage reference before changing to the internal regulator for bitline stabilization before the program pulse. When a storage device prepares the bitlines for program, it eventually brings the source high. In one example, with the external regulator, the system can drive the source high for the entire period of bitline preparation.

(15) FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an example of a system with a storage device in which bitlines can be charged with an external regulator. System **100** includes host **110**, which represents the host system to which storage device **130** is connected. Storage device **130** provides a storage resource to store data for host **110**.

(16) Host **110** includes processor **122**, storage controller **124**, and memory **126**. Processor **122** represents a host processor or computing device for host **110**, which can be a single core device or a multicore device. Storage controller **124** represents a controller in host **110** that manages access to storage device **130**. Storage controller **124** can perform scheduling and manage timing and data transfer with storage device **130**. In one example, storage controller **124** includes program control **128**, which enables storage controller **124** to selectively send control signals to connect bitlines to different voltage regulators.

(17) Memory **126** represents operational memory in host **110**. The operational memory is typically volatile memory, which has indeterminate state if power is interrupted to the memory. The operational memory could alternatively be nonvolatile memory, which has determinate state even when power is interrupted to the memory. Memory **126** generally holds data and code for use by processor **122**. Data read from storage device **130** is typically stored in memory **126** for use by processor **122**.

(18) Host **110** includes I/O (input/output) **112**, which represents hardware to interface with an external device, such as storage device **130**, which can represent a peripheral device. I/O **132** represents hardware of storage device **130** to interface with host **110** through I/O **112**. In one example, the interconnection between I/O **112** and I/O **132** can include a command connection or command link or command bus, as represented by CMD (command) **114**. The link/bus can be signal lines over which host **110** sends commands to storage device **130**. The interconnection can include a data bus represented by DQ (data) **116**.

(19) Storage device **130** includes media controller **134**, which represents a controller on the storage device to manage the NVM (nonvolatile memory) resources. Media controller **134** receives commands from storage controller **124** and decodes and executes the commands. Media controller **134** can send control signals to array **144** to implement program and read operations.

(20) As illustrated, storage device **130** includes multiple NAND dies **140**. In one example, NAND dies **140** include array **144**. Array **144** can be a multilevel storage device, such as MLC (multilevel cell), TLC (triple level cell), QLC (quad level cell), or other encoding scheme. Array **144** includes N wordlines (WL[0] to WL[N-1]). Access to the columns, pillars or strings of the storage cells can be addressed by row (wordline or WL) address and column (bitline or BL) address, and gated with control gate signals.

(21) In one example, array **144** includes multiple vertical stacks, with a stack corresponding to each bitline (e.g., BL[0], BL[1], . . .). The vertical stack includes a vertical channel passing through the various wordlines, with the channel controlled by control gate signals. The control gate signals can be referred to as switching signals that provide gating control for a channel.

(22) Voltage supply **136** represents a power supply in storage device **130**. Voltage supply **136** can be or include a voltage regulator to provide power to the circuits to enable access to storage cells of array **144**.

(23) In one example, system **100** includes regulator **138** as part of NAND die **140** and regulator **146** as part of array **144**. In one example, regulator **146** provides power to perform program operations for cells of array **144**, and can be referred to as an internal regulator. Regulator **138** can

be referred to as an external regulator, seeing it is outside the circuit that generally manages the charging of the bitlines. Regulator **138** has higher capacity than regulator **146**. Thus, connection of the bitlines to regulator **146** for the charging for stabilization can reduce the risk of voltage drop when the bitlines draw current to charge up.

(24) In one example, regulator **146**, the internal regulator, is part of a NAND's SPBs (static page buffers), which can have the responsibility to charge up the inhibited bitlines to the inhibit (INH) voltage (e.g., VCC) before giving the programming pulse. As described herein, media controller **134** can connect the bitlines to the external power supply represented by regulator **138**. In one example, regulator **138** is part of voltage supply **136**. In one example, regulator **138** is connected to the bitlines right after the last verify. Connecting the bitlines right after the last verify, the system can charge the bitlines to VCC through the external source without risking voltage droop on the internal VCC in the logic circuits.

(25) In one example, bitline separation and stabilization happens by discharging the selected bitlines ground, while inhibit bitlines can be kept at VCC. In the process, no sudden heavy charging burden would be required from the SPB nor the logic circuits. Thus, rather than the primary issue being to charge the bitlines, the primary issue is to discharge the charged bitlines. Discharging does not endanger the operation of the internal regulators and logic circuits.

(26) FIG. 2 is a block diagram of an example of a system having a storage array in which bitline charging with an external regulator can be implemented. System **200** represents a storage device in accordance with an example of system **100**. System **200** can be, or be included in, an SSD (solid state drive). System **200** can be integrated into a computing device.

(27) System **200** includes memory array **212**, which represents a 3D NAND storage device, with multiple decks of stacked wordlines. In one example, cells **216** represent NAND storage cells. In one example, cells **216** represent NOR-based storage cells. Memory array **212** includes N wordlines (WL[0] to WL[N-1]).

(28) In one example, memory array **212** is segmented into subblocks. A block of cells refers to cells coupled to the same SGS, with SGS[0] and SGS[1] illustrated. A subblock of cells refers to cells coupled to the same SGD, with SGD[0], SGD[1], SGD[7] illustrated. The separation with source and drain portions are only to be understood as illustrative and not limiting.

(29) In one example, a subblock refers to the columns, pillars, or strings of storage cells **216** that are accessed together. The pillars can be accessed together by responding to a common switching signal. The switching signal can refer to gating control for the pillar. Switch **218** represents the gating control for the pillar. An SGD signal line selectively couples a column pillar to a BL (bitline). An SGS signal line selectively couples a column to a source (SRC), which is a source plane. The source can alternatively be referred to as an SL (source layer) or a slot, which is a source layer of material integrated onto a semiconductor substrate.

(30) One bitline is coupled to different subblocks. Each subblock can be coupled to M bitlines (BL[0] to BL[M-1]). In one example, each storage cell **216** within memory array **212** is addressed or selected by asserting a wordline and a bitline, in conjunction with enabling the column with the gate select switches **218** (shown only on SGD, but SGS switches can be considered included in the control). System **200** illustrates sense circuitry **220**, which represents the circuitry to stage data for reads and writes. In one example, sense circuitry **220** can represent the SPB (static page buffer).

(31) In one example, system **200** includes controller **230** to apply control signals to selectively connect the bitlines to different voltage sources.

(32) FIG. 3 is a block diagram of an example of a system that can selectively connect bitlines to different regulators. System **300** illustrates a system in accordance with an example of system **100** or an example of system **200**. System **300** includes multiple tiles **310**, where a tile represents a storage device die.

(33) Tile **310** can include array **320**, which represents a nonvolatile storage array. The storage array includes storage cells at the intersections of WLs (wordlines) and BLs (bitlines). In one example,

array **320** includes circuitry **322** to manage access to the storage cells. Circuitry **322** enables system **300** to connect bitlines to different regulators. Each tile **310** can include potentially thousands of bitlines. In one example, system **300** can include 32 tiles each having 16 thousand bitlines. (34) Array regulator **330** represents an internal regulator for system **300**. VCC regulator **340** represents an external regulator for system **300**. To charge the bitlines as quickly as possible, circuitry **322** can be dynamically configured to connect the bitlines to VCC regulator **340** instead of to array regulator **330**.

(35) In one example, a media controller (not specifically illustrated) of system **300** generates a control signal to connect the bitlines to array regulator **330**. In one example, system **300** generates a different control signal to connect the bitlines to array regulator **340**. In one example, system **300** generates a control signal to couple the source (not specifically illustrated) to a high voltage reference of the voltage regulator. In one example, system **300** connects the bitlines to VCC regulator **340** to charge the bitlines until transitioning to connecting the bitlines to array regulator **330**.

(36) FIG. 4A is a block diagram of an example of connecting bitlines different regulators. System **402** represents portions of a system in accordance with system **100**, system **200**, or system **300**.

(37) System **402** illustrates array regulator **410** and VCC regulator **420** coupled to selectors **430**. Selectors **430** can select between VCC of array regulator **410** and VCC of VCC regulator **420**. In one example, the grounds (GND) of the regulators can be selected to provide a ground path for the bitlines and source. Thus, system **402** can also provide the low voltage reference or ground reference of the regulators for the bitline voltages.

(38) System **402** includes drivers **440** to drive bitlines **450** with the voltage from the selected regulator. Drivers **440** represent circuitry to provide the selected voltage to the bitlines to charge them. In one example, system **402** can also couple source **460** to different voltage regulators. In an example where the bitlines are coupled to the source, source **460** can be selectively coupled to VCC regulator **420** instead of to array regulator **410**.

(39) FIG. 4B is a diagram of a representation of the voltage curves over time for connecting bitlines to different regulators. Diagram **404** illustrates the voltage waveforms for bitlines **450** and source **460** for stabilizing the inhibit bitline in preparation for a program pulse in accordance with one example.

(40) Row **470** indicates the time in unit intervals, with the first (1) through the fourteenth (14) unit intervals illustrated. Phase **472** indicates a phase of the program. In one example, time **1** represents an end of a verify phase, where source **460** can be at ground and bitlines **450** can be at a mid-level voltage. In one example, the bitlines and source are connected right after the verify is complete.

(41) At time **2**, bitlines **450** and source **460** are coupled to VCC. More specifically, time **2** starts the elaboration phase, and the system couples the bitlines and source to the external source instead of the internal source. The phase extends through time **6**, where transition **474** occurs.

(42) Transition **474** represents the point where the bitlines are separated, where the selected bitlines are driven to ground and the inhibit bitlines are driven high. In one example, the connection of the bitlines and source right after the verify to the external supply can bypass any internal regulation steps. After elaboration, the selected bitlines can be discharged while INH bitlines are regulated to VCC.

(43) In one example, transition **474** is where the bitlines are transitioned from the external regulator to the internal regulator. Time **7** starts the bitline (BL) stabilization. Since the bitlines have all been driven high by the external regulator, bitline stabilization becomes mainly a discharging operation that does not burden the internal regulators or logic circuits with risky current spikes.

(44) Bitline stabilization can last through time **10**. Time **11** can start the preparation for the program pulse, which lasts through time **14**, the last portion of the operation illustrated in diagram **404**.

(45) FIG. 5 is a flow diagram of a process for bitline charging with an external regulator. Process **500** represents a process for charging the bitlines with an external regulator. The system can

determine to program bitlines, at **502**, including selecting the bitlines to program and which to inhibit.

(46) In one example, the system generates a control signal to connect the bitlines to the external regulator, at **504**. The application of the control signal causes the access circuitry to couple the bitlines to the external VCC, at **506**.

(47) In one example, the system transitions the bitlines from the external regulator to the internal regulator, at **508**. The transition to the internal regulator can occur when the bitline stabilization is merely a discharging operation instead of a charging operation. Thus, the system can couple the selected bitlines to ground and the inhibited bitlines to VCC, at **510**, in preparation for the program pulse.

(48) FIG. **6A** is a block diagram of an example of a system with a solid state drive (SSD) in which bitline charging with an external regulator can be implemented. System **602** represents components of a storage system in accordance with an example of system **100**, system **200**, or system **300**. System **602** can be a 3D NAND storage device that supports verify of multiple subblocks simultaneously, in accordance with any example herein.

(49) System **602** includes host **610** coupled to SSD **620**. Host **610** represents a host hardware platform that connects to SSD **620**. Host **610** includes CPU (central processing unit) **612** or other processor as a host processor or host processor device. CPU **612** represents any host processor that generates requests to access data stored on SSD **620**, either to read the data or to write data to the storage. Such a processor can include a single or multicore processor, a primary processor for a computing device, a graphics processor, a peripheral processor, or a supplemental or auxiliary processor, or a combination. CPU **612** can execute a host OS and other applications to cause the operation of system **602**.

(50) Host **610** includes chipset **614**, which represents hardware components such as interconnect circuits and logic to enable access to SSD **620**. Host **610** includes controller **616**, which represents a storage controller or memory controller on the host side to control access to SSD **620**. In one example, controller **616** is included in chipset **614**. In one example, controller **616** is included in CPU **612**. Controller **616** can be referred to as an NV memory controller or storage controller to enable host **610** to schedule and organize commands to SSD **620** to read and write data.

(51) SSD **620** represents a solid-state drive or other storage system or module that includes NV (nonvolatile) media **630** to store data. NV media **630** can be, for example, a 3D NAND array. SSD **620** includes HW (hardware) interface **622**, which represents hardware components to interface with host **610**. For example, HW interface **622** can interface with one or more buses to implement a high speed interface standard such as NVMe (nonvolatile memory express) or PCIe (peripheral component interconnect express).

(52) In one example, NV media **630** is implemented as multiple dies, illustrated as N dies, Die[0: (N-1)]. N can be any number of devices, and is often a binary number. SSD **620** includes controller **640** to control access to NV media **630**. Controller **640** represents hardware and control logic within SSD **620** to execute control over the media. Controller **640** is internal to the nonvolatile storage device or module, and is separate from controller **616** of host **610**.

(53) The NV dies of NV media **630** include 3D NV array **632**, which is a three-dimensional array of storage cells based on the NV media. NV array **632** includes bitlines **634**. In one example, controller **640** includes program control **642** to charge bitlines **634** with an external regulator, in accordance with any example herein.

(54) FIG. **6B** is a block diagram of an example of a system with a solid state drive (SSD) with a controller to manage bitline charging with an external regulator. System **604** provides one example of a system in accordance with system **602** of FIG. **6A**. System **604** can represent software and firmware components of an example of system **602**, as well as physical components. In one example, host **650** provides one example of host **610**. In one example, SSD **660** provides one example of SSD **620**.

(55) In one example, host **650** includes host OS **652**, which represents a host operating system or software platform for the host. Host OS **652** can include a platform on which applications, services, agents, and/or other software executes, and is executed by a processor. Filesystem **654** represents control logic for controlling access to the NV media. Filesystem **654** can manage what addresses or memory locations are used to store what data. There are numerous filesystems known, and filesystem **654** can implement known filesystems or other proprietary systems. In one example, filesystem **654** is part of host OS **652**.

(56) Storage driver **656** represents one or more system-level modules that control the hardware of host **650**. In one example, drivers **656** include a software application to control the interface to SSD **660**, and thus control the hardware of SSD **660**. Storage driver **656** can provide a communication interface between the host and the SSD.

(57) Controller **670** of SSD **660** includes firmware **674**, which represents control software/firmware for the controller. In one example, controller **670** includes host interface **672**, which represents an interface to host **650**. In one example, controller **670** includes media interface **676**, which represents an interface to NAND die **662**. NAND die **662** represents a specific example of NV media, and includes an associated 3D NAND array.

(58) Media interface **676** represents control that is executed on hardware of controller **670**. It will be understood that controller **670** includes hardware to interface with host **650**, which can be considered to be controlled by host interface software/firmware **674**. Likewise, it will be understood that controller **670** includes hardware to interface with NAND die **662**. In one example, code for host interface **672** can be part of firmware **674**. In one example, code for media interface **676** can be part of firmware **674**.

(59) In one example, controller **670** includes error control **680** to handle data errors in accessed data, and corner cases in terms of compliance with signaling and communication interfacing. Error control **680** can include implementations in hardware or firmware, or a combination of hardware and software.

(60) In one example, system **604** includes program control **690** to charge bitlines of NAND die **662** with an external regulator, in accordance with any example herein.

(61) FIG. 7 is a block diagram of an example of a computing system in which bitline charging with an external regulator can be implemented. System **700** represents a computing device in accordance with any example herein, and can be a laptop computer, a desktop computer, a tablet computer, a server, a gaming or entertainment control system, embedded computing device, or other electronic device.

(62) System **700** represents a system with storage in accordance with an example of system **100**, system **200**, or system **300**. In one example, controller **782** includes program control **790**. Program control **790** enables system **700** to charge bitlines of storage **784** with an external regulator, in accordance with any example herein.

(63) System **700** includes processor **710** can include any type of microprocessor, central processing unit (CPU), graphics processing unit (GPU), processing core, or other processing hardware, or a combination, to provide processing or execution of instructions for system **700**. Processor **710** can be a host processor device. Processor **710** controls the overall operation of system **700**, and can be or include, one or more programmable general-purpose or special-purpose microprocessors, digital signal processors (DSPs), programmable controllers, application specific integrated circuits (ASICs), programmable logic devices (PLDs), or a combination of such devices.

(64) System **700** includes boot/config **716**, which represents storage to store boot code (e.g., basic input/output system (BIOS)), configuration settings, security hardware (e.g., trusted platform module (TPM)), or other system level hardware that operates outside of a host OS. Boot/config **716** can include a nonvolatile storage device, such as read-only memory (ROM), flash memory, or other memory devices.

(65) In one example, system **700** includes interface **712** coupled to processor **710**, which can

represent a higher speed interface or a high throughput interface for system components that need higher bandwidth connections, such as memory subsystem **720** or graphics interface components **740**. Interface **712** represents an interface circuit, which can be a standalone component or integrated onto a processor die. Interface **712** can be integrated as a circuit onto the processor die or integrated as a component on a system on a chip. Where present, graphics interface **740** interfaces to graphics components for providing a visual display to a user of system **700**. Graphics interface **740** can be a standalone component or integrated onto the processor die or system on a chip. In one example, graphics interface **740** can drive a high definition (HD) display or ultra high definition (UHD) display that provides an output to a user. In one example, the display can include a touchscreen display. In one example, graphics interface **740** generates a display based on data stored in memory **730** or based on operations executed by processor **710** or both.

(66) Memory subsystem **720** represents the main memory of system **700**, and provides storage for code to be executed by processor **710**, or data values to be used in executing a routine. Memory subsystem **720** can include one or more varieties of random-access memory (RAM) such as DRAM, 3DXP (three-dimensional crosspoint), or other memory devices, or a combination of such devices. Memory **730** stores and hosts, among other things, operating system (OS) **732** to provide a software platform for execution of instructions in system **700**. Additionally, applications **734** can execute on the software platform of OS **732** from memory **730**. Applications **734** represent programs that have their own operational logic to perform execution of one or more functions. Processes **736** represent agents or routines that provide auxiliary functions to OS **732** or one or more applications **734** or a combination. OS **732**, applications **734**, and processes **736** provide software logic to provide functions for system **700**. In one example, memory subsystem **720** includes memory controller **722**, which is a memory controller to generate and issue commands to memory **730**. It will be understood that memory controller **722** could be a physical part of processor **710** or a physical part of interface **712**. For example, memory controller **722** can be an integrated memory controller, integrated onto a circuit with processor **710**, such as integrated onto the processor die or a system on a chip.

(67) While not specifically illustrated, it will be understood that system **700** can include one or more buses or bus systems between devices, such as a memory bus, a graphics bus, interface buses, or others. Buses or other signal lines can communicatively or electrically couple components together, or both communicatively and electrically couple the components. Buses can include physical communication lines, point-to-point connections, bridges, adapters, controllers, or other circuitry or a combination. Buses can include, for example, one or more of a system bus, a Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) bus, a HyperTransport or industry standard architecture (ISA) bus, a small computer system interface (SCSI) bus, a universal serial bus (USB), or other bus, or a combination.

(68) In one example, system **700** includes interface **714**, which can be coupled to interface **712**. Interface **714** can be a lower speed interface than interface **712**. In one example, interface **714** represents an interface circuit, which can include standalone components and integrated circuitry. In one example, multiple user interface components or peripheral components, or both, couple to interface **714**. Network interface **750** provides system **700** the ability to communicate with remote devices (e.g., servers or other computing devices) over one or more networks. Network interface **750** can include an Ethernet adapter, wireless interconnection components, cellular network interconnection components, USB (universal serial bus), or other wired or wireless standards-based or proprietary network interface circuit. Network interface **750** can exchange data with a remote device, which can include sending data stored in memory or receiving data to be stored in memory.

(69) In one example, system **700** includes one or more input/output (I/O) interface(s) **760**. I/O interface **760** can include one or more interface components through which a user interacts with system **700** (e.g., audio, alphanumeric, tactile/touch, or other interfacing). Peripheral interface **770** can include any hardware interface not specifically mentioned above. Peripherals refer generally to

devices that connect dependently to system **700**. A dependent connection is one where system **700** provides the software platform or hardware platform or both on which operation executes, and with which a user interacts.

(70) In one example, system **700** includes storage subsystem **780** to store data in a nonvolatile manner. In one example, in certain system implementations, at least certain components of storage **780** can overlap with components of memory subsystem **720**. Storage subsystem **780** includes storage device(s) **784**, which can be or include any conventional medium for storing large amounts of data in a nonvolatile manner, such as one or more magnetic, solid state, NAND, 3DXP, or optical based disks, or a combination. Storage **784** holds code or instructions and data **786** in a persistent state (i.e., the value is retained despite interruption of power to system **700**). Storage **784** can be generically considered to be a “memory,” although memory **730** is typically the executing or operating memory to provide instructions to processor **710**. Whereas storage **784** is nonvolatile, memory **730** can include volatile memory (i.e., the value or state of the data is indeterminate if power is interrupted to system **700**). In one example, storage subsystem **780** includes controller **782** to interface with storage **784**. In one example controller **782** is a physical part of interface **714** or processor **710**, or can include circuits or logic in both processor **710** and interface **714**.

(71) Power source **702** provides power to the components of system **700**. More specifically, power source **702** typically interfaces to one or multiple power supplies **704** in system **700** to provide power to the components of system **700**. In one example, power supply **704** includes an AC to DC (alternating current to direct current) adapter to plug into a wall outlet. Such AC power can be renewable energy (e.g., solar power) power source **702**. In one example, power source **702** includes a DC power source, such as an external AC to DC converter. In one example, power source **702** or power supply **704** includes wireless charging hardware to charge via proximity to a charging field. In one example, power source **702** can include an internal battery or fuel cell source.

(72) FIG. **8** is a block diagram of an example of a mobile device in which bitline charging with an external regulator can be implemented. System **800** represents a mobile computing device, such as a computing tablet, a mobile phone or smartphone, wearable computing device, or other mobile device, or an embedded computing device. It will be understood that certain of the components are shown generally, and not all components of such a device are shown in system **800**.

(73) System **800** represents a system with storage in accordance with an example of system **100**, system **200**, or system **300**. In one example, controller **890** includes program control (CTRL) **892**. Program control **892** enables system **800** to charge bitlines of NV array **866** with an external regulator, in accordance with any example herein.

(74) System **800** includes processor **810**, which performs the primary processing operations of system **800**. Processor **810** can be a host processor device. Processor **810** can include one or more physical devices, such as microprocessors, application processors, microcontrollers, programmable logic devices, or other processing means. The processing operations performed by processor **810** include the execution of an operating platform or operating system on which applications and device functions are executed. The processing operations include operations related to I/O (input/output) with a human user or with other devices, operations related to power management, operations related to connecting system **800** to another device, or a combination. The processing operations can also include operations related to audio I/O, display I/O, or other interfacing, or a combination. Processor **810** can execute data stored in memory. Processor **810** can write or edit data stored in memory.

(75) In one example, system **800** includes one or more sensors **812**. Sensors **812** represent embedded sensors or interfaces to external sensors, or a combination. Sensors **812** enable system **800** to monitor or detect one or more conditions of an environment or a device in which system **800** is implemented. Sensors **812** can include environmental sensors (such as temperature sensors, motion detectors, light detectors, cameras, chemical sensors (e.g., carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, or other chemical sensors)), pressure sensors, accelerometers, gyroscopes, medical or

physiology sensors (e.g., biosensors, heart rate monitors, or other sensors to detect physiological attributes), or other sensors, or a combination. Sensors **812** can also include sensors for biometric systems such as fingerprint recognition systems, face detection or recognition systems, or other systems that detect or recognize user features. Sensors **812** should be understood broadly, and not limiting on the many different types of sensors that could be implemented with system **800**. In one example, one or more sensors **812** couples to processor **810** via a frontend circuit integrated with processor **810**. In one example, one or more sensors **812** couples to processor **810** via another component of system **800**.

(76) In one example, system **800** includes audio subsystem **820**, which represents hardware (e.g., audio hardware and audio circuits) and software (e.g., drivers, codecs) components associated with providing audio functions to the computing device. Audio functions can include speaker or headphone output, as well as microphone input. Devices for such functions can be integrated into system **800**, or connected to system **800**. In one example, a user interacts with system **800** by providing audio commands that are received and processed by processor **810**.

(77) Display subsystem **830** represents hardware (e.g., display devices) and software components (e.g., drivers) that provide a visual display for presentation to a user. In one example, the display includes tactile components or touchscreen elements for a user to interact with the computing device. Display subsystem **830** includes display interface **832**, which includes the particular screen or hardware device used to provide a display to a user. In one example, display interface **832** includes logic separate from processor **810** (such as a graphics processor) to perform at least some processing related to the display. In one example, display subsystem **830** includes a touchscreen device that provides both output and input to a user. In one example, display subsystem **830** includes a high definition (HD) or ultra-high definition (UHD) display that provides an output to a user. In one example, display subsystem includes or drives a touchscreen display. In one example, display subsystem **830** generates display information based on data stored in memory or based on operations executed by processor **810** or both.

(78) I/O controller **840** represents hardware devices and software components related to interaction with a user. I/O controller **840** can operate to manage hardware that is part of audio subsystem **820**, or display subsystem **830**, or both. Additionally, I/O controller **840** illustrates a connection point for additional devices that connect to system **800** through which a user might interact with the system. For example, devices that can be attached to system **800** might include microphone devices, speaker or stereo systems, video systems or other display device, keyboard or keypad devices, buttons/switches, or other I/O devices for use with specific applications such as card readers or other devices.

(79) As mentioned above, I/O controller **840** can interact with audio subsystem **820** or display subsystem **830** or both. For example, input through a microphone or other audio device can provide input or commands for one or more applications or functions of system **800**. Additionally, audio output can be provided instead of or in addition to display output. In another example, if display subsystem includes a touchscreen, the display device also acts as an input device, which can be at least partially managed by I/O controller **840**. There can also be additional buttons or switches on system **800** to provide I/O functions managed by I/O controller **840**.

(80) In one example, I/O controller **840** manages devices such as accelerometers, cameras, light sensors or other environmental sensors, gyroscopes, global positioning system (GPS), or other hardware that can be included in system **800**, or sensors **812**. The input can be part of direct user interaction, as well as providing environmental input to the system to influence its operations (such as filtering for noise, adjusting displays for brightness detection, applying a flash for a camera, or other features).

(81) In one example, system **800** includes power management **850** that manages battery power usage, charging of the battery, and features related to power saving operation. Power management **850** manages power from power source **852**, which provides power to the components of system

800. In one example, power source **852** includes an AC to DC (alternating current to direct current) adapter to plug into a wall outlet. Such AC power can be renewable energy (e.g., solar power, motion based power). In one example, power source **852** includes only DC power, which can be provided by a DC power source, such as an external AC to DC converter. In one example, power source **852** includes wireless charging hardware to charge via proximity to a charging field. In one example, power source **852** can include an internal battery or fuel cell source.

(82) Memory subsystem **860** includes memory device(s) **862** for storing information in system **800**. Memory subsystem **860** can include nonvolatile (state does not change if power to the memory device is interrupted) or volatile (state is indeterminate if power to the memory device is interrupted) memory devices, or a combination. Memory **860** can store application data, user data, music, photos, documents, or other data, as well as system data (whether long-term or temporary) related to the execution of the applications and functions of system **800**. In one example, memory subsystem **860** includes memory controller **864** (which could also be considered part of the control of system **800**, and could potentially be considered part of processor **810**). Memory controller **864** includes a scheduler to generate and issue commands to control access to memory device **862**.

(83) Connectivity **870** includes hardware devices (e.g., wireless or wired connectors and communication hardware, or a combination of wired and wireless hardware) and software components (e.g., drivers, protocol stacks) to enable system **800** to communicate with external devices. The external device could be separate devices, such as other computing devices, wireless access points or base stations, as well as peripherals such as headsets, printers, or other devices. In one example, system **800** exchanges data with an external device for storage in memory or for display on a display device. The exchanged data can include data to be stored in memory, or data already stored in memory, to read, write, or edit data.

(84) Connectivity **870** can include multiple different types of connectivity. To generalize, system **800** is illustrated with cellular connectivity **872** and wireless connectivity **874**. Cellular connectivity **872** refers generally to cellular network connectivity provided by wireless carriers, such as provided via GSM (global system for mobile communications) or variations or derivatives, CDMA (code division multiple access) or variations or derivatives, TDM (time division multiplexing) or variations or derivatives, LTE (long term evolution—also referred to as “4G”), 5G, or other cellular service standards. Wireless connectivity **874** refers to wireless connectivity that is not cellular, and can include personal area networks (such as Bluetooth), local area networks (such as WiFi), or wide area networks (such as WiMax), or other wireless communication, or a combination. Wireless communication refers to transfer of data through the use of modulated electromagnetic radiation through a non-solid medium. Wired communication occurs through a solid communication medium.

(85) Peripheral connections **880** include hardware interfaces and connectors, as well as software components (e.g., drivers, protocol stacks) to make peripheral connections. It will be understood that system **800** could both be a peripheral device (“to” **882**) to other computing devices, as well as have peripheral devices (“from” **884**) connected to it. System **800** commonly has a “docking” connector to connect to other computing devices for purposes such as managing (e.g., downloading, uploading, changing, synchronizing) content on system **800**. Additionally, a docking connector can allow system **800** to connect to certain peripherals that allow system **800** to control content output, for example, to audiovisual or other systems.

(86) In addition to a proprietary docking connector or other proprietary connection hardware, system **800** can make peripheral connections **880** via common or standards-based connectors. Common types can include a Universal Serial Bus (USB) connector (which can include any of a number of different hardware interfaces), DisplayPort including MiniDisplayPort (MDP), High Definition Multimedia Interface (HDMI), or other type.

(87) FIG. **9** is a block diagram of an example of a multi-node network in which bitline charging with an external regulator can be implemented. In one example, system **900** represents a data

center. In one example, system **900** represents a server farm. In one example, system **900** represents a data cloud or a processing cloud.

(88) System **900** represents a system with storage in accordance with an example of system **100**, system **200**, or system **300**. In one example, controller **986** includes program control (CTRL) **990**. Program control **990** enables system **900** to charge bitlines of storage **988** with an external regulator, in accordance with any example herein.

(89) One or more clients **902** make requests over network **904** to system **900**. Network **904** represents one or more local networks, or wide area networks, or a combination. Clients **902** can be human or machine clients, which generate requests for the execution of operations by system **900**. System **900** executes applications or data computation tasks requested by clients **902**.

(90) In one example, system **900** includes one or more racks, which represent structural and interconnect resources to house and interconnect multiple computation nodes. In one example, rack **910** includes multiple nodes **930**. In one example, rack **910** hosts multiple blade components, blade **920**[0], . . . , blade **920**[N-1], collectively blades **920**. Hosting refers to providing power, structural or mechanical support, and interconnection. Blades **920** can refer to computing resources on printed circuit boards (PCBs), where a PCB houses the hardware components for one or more nodes **930**. In one example, blades **920** do not include a chassis or housing or other “box” other than that provided by rack **910**. In one example, blades **920** include housing with exposed connector to connect into rack **910**. In one example, system **900** does not include rack **910**, and each blade **920** includes a chassis or housing that can stack or otherwise reside in close proximity to other blades and allow interconnection of nodes **930**.

(91) System **900** includes fabric **970**, which represents one or more interconnectors for nodes **930**. In one example, fabric **970** includes multiple switches **972** or routers or other hardware to route signals among nodes **930**. Additionally, fabric **970** can couple system **900** to network **904** for access by clients **902**. In addition to routing equipment, fabric **970** can be considered to include the cables or ports or other hardware equipment to couple nodes **930** together. In one example, fabric **970** has one or more associated protocols to manage the routing of signals through system **900**. In one example, the protocol or protocols is at least partly dependent on the hardware equipment used in system **900**.

(92) As illustrated, rack **910** includes N blades **920**. In one example, in addition to rack **910**, system **900** includes rack **950**. As illustrated, rack **950** includes M blade components, blade **960**[0], . . . , blade **960**[M-1], collectively blades **960**. M is not necessarily the same as N; thus, it will be understood that various different hardware equipment components could be used, and coupled together into system **900** over fabric **970**. Blades **960** can be the same or similar to blades **920**. Nodes **930** can be any type of node and are not necessarily all the same type of node. System **900** is not limited to being homogenous, nor is it limited to not being homogenous.

(93) The nodes in system **900** can include compute nodes, memory nodes, storage nodes, accelerator nodes, or other nodes. Rack **910** is represented with memory node **922** and storage node **924**, which represent shared system memory resources, and shared persistent storage, respectively. One or more nodes of rack **950** can be a memory node or a storage node.

(94) Nodes **930** represent examples of compute nodes. For simplicity, only the compute node in blade **920**[0] is illustrated in detail. However, other nodes in system **900** can be the same or similar. At least some nodes **930** are computation nodes, with processor (proc) **932** and memory **940**. A computation node refers to a node with processing resources (e.g., one or more processors) that executes an operating system and can receive and process one or more tasks. In one example, at least some nodes **930** are server nodes with a server as processing resources represented by processor **932** and memory **940**.

(95) Memory node **922** represents an example of a memory node, with system memory external to the compute nodes. Memory nodes can include controller **982**, which represents a processor on the node to manage access to the memory. The memory nodes include memory **984** as memory

resources to be shared among multiple compute nodes.

(96) Storage node **924** represents an example of a storage server, which refers to a node with more storage resources than a computation node, and rather than having processors for the execution of tasks, a storage server includes processing resources to manage access to the storage nodes within the storage server. Storage nodes can include controller **986** to manage access to the storage **988** of the storage node.

(97) In one example, node **930** includes interface controller **934**, which represents logic to control access by node **930** to fabric **970**. The logic can include hardware resources to interconnect to the physical interconnection hardware. The logic can include software or firmware logic to manage the interconnection. In one example, interface controller **934** is or includes a host fabric interface, which can be a fabric interface in accordance with any example described herein. The interface controllers for memory node **922** and storage node **924** are not explicitly shown.

(98) Processor **932** can include one or more separate processors. Each separate processor can include a single processing unit, a multicore processing unit, or a combination. The processing unit can be a primary processor such as a CPU (central processing unit), a peripheral processor such as a GPU (graphics processing unit), or a combination. Memory **940** can be or include memory devices represented by memory **940** and a memory controller represented by controller **942**.

(99) In general with respect to the descriptions herein, in one aspect, a storage device includes: a nonvolatile storage medium having storage cells coupled to bitlines; and a media controller to generate a control signal after performing a program verify, to connect bitlines of the nonvolatile storage medium to an external regulator instead of an internal regulator to charge the bitlines, and then to connect the bitlines to the internal regulator to prepare the bitlines for a program pulse.

(100) In accordance with one example of the storage device, the media controller is to generate the control signal directly after a last verify operation. In accordance with any preceding example of the storage device, in one example, the control signal comprises a first control signal, wherein the bitlines are coupled to a source through the storage cells, and wherein the media controller is to generate a second control signal to couple the source to a high voltage reference (VCC) of the external regulator. In accordance with any preceding example of the storage device, in one example, the bitlines are coupled to the source until the media controller is to connect the bitlines to the internal regulator. In accordance with any preceding example of the storage device, in one example, the media controller is to connect selected bitlines to a ground reference of the internal regulator and connect inhibited bitlines to a VCC of the internal regulator. In accordance with any preceding example of the storage device, in one example, the nonvolatile storage medium comprises a three-dimensional (3D) NAND storage medium.

(101) In general with respect to the descriptions herein, in one aspect, a system includes: a processor device; and a storage device coupled to the processor device, the storage device including a nonvolatile storage medium having storage cells coupled to bitlines; and a media controller to generate a control signal after performing a program verify, to connect bitlines of the nonvolatile storage medium to an external regulator instead of an internal regulator to charge the bitlines, and then to connect the bitlines to the internal regulator to prepare the bitlines for a program pulse.

(102) In accordance with one example of the system, the media controller is to generate the control signal directly after a last verify operation. In accordance with any preceding example of the system, in one example, the control signal comprises a first control signal, wherein the bitlines are coupled to a source through the storage cells, and wherein the media controller is to generate a second control signal to couple the source to a high voltage reference (VCC) of the external regulator. In accordance with any preceding example of the system, in one example, the bitlines are coupled to the source until the media controller is to connect the bitlines to the internal regulator. In accordance with any preceding example of the system, in one example, the media controller is to connect selected bitlines to a ground reference of the internal regulator and connect inhibited

bitlines to a VCC of the internal regulator. In accordance with any preceding example of the system, in one example, the nonvolatile storage medium comprises a three-dimensional (3D) NAND storage medium. In accordance with any preceding example of the system, in one example, the processor device comprises a multicore processor. In accordance with any preceding example of the system, in one example, the system includes a display communicatively coupled to the processor device. In accordance with any preceding example of the system, in one example, the system includes a battery to power the system. In accordance with any preceding example of the system, in one example, the system includes a network interface circuit to couple with a remote device over a network connection.

(103) In general with respect to the descriptions herein, in one aspect, a method for performing read verify in a storage device includes: generating a control signal after performing a program verify, the control signal to connect bitlines of a nonvolatile storage medium of the storage device to an external regulator instead of an internal regulator to charge the bitlines; and subsequently connecting the bitlines to the internal regulator to prepare the bitlines for a program pulse.

(104) In accordance with one example of the method, generating the control signal comprises generating the control signal directly after a last verify operation. In accordance with any preceding example of the method, in one example, the control signal comprises a first control signal, wherein the bitlines are coupled to a source through storage cells, and further comprising generating a second control signal to couple the source to a high voltage reference (VCC) of the external regulator. In accordance with any preceding example of the method, in one example, the bitlines are coupled to the source until connecting the bitlines to the internal regulator. In accordance with any preceding example of the method, in one example, connecting the bitlines to the internal regulator comprises connecting selected bitlines to a ground reference of the internal regulator and connecting inhibited bitlines to a VCC of the internal regulator.

(105) Flow diagrams as illustrated herein provide examples of sequences of various process actions. The flow diagrams can indicate operations to be executed by a software or firmware routine, as well as physical operations. A flow diagram can illustrate an example of the implementation of states of a finite state machine (FSM), which can be implemented in hardware and/or software. Although shown in a particular sequence or order, unless otherwise specified, the order of the actions can be modified. Thus, the illustrated diagrams should be understood only as examples, and the process can be performed in a different order, and some actions can be performed in parallel. Additionally, one or more actions can be omitted; thus, not all implementations will perform all actions.

(106) To the extent various operations or functions are described herein, they can be described or defined as software code, instructions, configuration, and/or data. The content can be directly executable (“object” or “executable” form), source code, or difference code (“delta” or “patch” code). The software content of what is described herein can be provided via an article of manufacture with the content stored thereon, or via a method of operating a communication interface to send data via the communication interface. A machine readable storage medium can cause a machine to perform the functions or operations described, and includes any mechanism that stores information in a form accessible by a machine (e.g., computing device, electronic system, etc.), such as recordable/non-recordable media (e.g., read only memory (ROM), random access memory (RAM), magnetic disk storage media, optical storage media, flash memory devices, etc.). A communication interface includes any mechanism that interfaces to any of a hardwired, wireless, optical, etc., medium to communicate to another device, such as a memory bus interface, a processor bus interface, an Internet connection, a disk controller, etc. The communication interface can be configured by providing configuration parameters and/or sending signals to prepare the communication interface to provide a data signal describing the software content. The communication interface can be accessed via one or more commands or signals sent to the communication interface.

(107) Various components described herein can be a means for performing the operations or functions described. Each component described herein includes software, hardware, or a combination of these. The components can be implemented as software modules, hardware modules, special-purpose hardware (e.g., application specific hardware, application specific integrated circuits (ASICs), digital signal processors (DSPs), etc.), embedded controllers, hardwired circuitry, etc.

(108) Besides what is described herein, various modifications can be made to what is disclosed and implementations of the invention without departing from their scope. Therefore, the illustrations and examples herein should be construed in an illustrative, and not a restrictive sense. The scope of the invention should be measured solely by reference to the claims that follow.

Claims

1. A storage device comprising: a nonvolatile storage medium having storage cells coupled to bitlines; and a media controller to generate a control signal after performing a program verify, to connect bitlines of the nonvolatile storage medium to an external regulator instead of an internal regulator to charge the bitlines, and then to connect the bitlines to the internal regulator to prepare the bitlines for a program pulse.
2. The storage device of claim 1, wherein the media controller is to generate the control signal directly after a last verify operation.
3. The storage device of claim 1, wherein the control signal comprises a first control signal, wherein the bitlines are coupled to a source through the storage cells, and wherein the media controller is to generate a second control signal to couple the source to a high voltage reference (VCC) of the external regulator.
4. The storage device of claim 3, wherein the bitlines are coupled to the source until the media controller is to connect the bitlines to the internal regulator.
5. The storage device of claim 1, wherein the media controller is to connect selected bitlines to a ground reference of the internal regulator and connect inhibited bitlines to a VCC of the internal regulator.
6. The storage device of claim 1, wherein the nonvolatile storage medium comprises a three-dimensional (3D) NAND storage medium.
7. A system comprising: a processor device; and a storage device coupled to the processor device, the storage device including a nonvolatile storage medium having storage cells coupled to bitlines; and a media controller to generate a control signal after performing a program verify, to connect bitlines of the nonvolatile storage medium to an external regulator instead of an internal regulator to charge the bitlines, and then to connect the bitlines to the internal regulator to prepare the bitlines for a program pulse.
8. The system of claim 7, wherein the media controller is to generate the control signal directly after a last verify operation.
9. The system of claim 7, wherein the control signal comprises a first control signal, wherein the bitlines are coupled to a source through the storage cells, and wherein the media controller is to generate a second control signal to couple the source to a high voltage reference (VCC) of the external regulator.
10. The system of claim 9, wherein the bitlines are coupled to the source until the media controller is to connect the bitlines to the internal regulator.
11. The system of claim 7, wherein the media controller is to connect selected bitlines to a ground reference of the internal regulator and connect inhibited bitlines to a VCC of the internal regulator.
12. The system of claim 7, wherein the nonvolatile storage medium comprises a three-dimensional (3D) NAND storage medium.
13. The system of claim 7, wherein the processor device comprises a multicore processor; further

comprising a display communicatively coupled to the processor device; further comprising a battery to power the system; or further comprising a network interface circuit to couple with a remote device over a network connection.

14. A method for performing read verify in a storage device, comprising: generating a control signal after performing a program verify, the control signal to connect bitlines of a nonvolatile storage medium of the storage device to an external regulator instead of an internal regulator to charge the bitlines; and subsequently connecting the bitlines to the internal regulator to prepare the bitlines for a program pulse.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein generating the control signal comprises generating the control signal directly after a last verify operation.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the control signal comprises a first control signal, wherein the bitlines are coupled to a source through storage cells, and further comprising generating a second control signal to couple the source to a high voltage reference (VCC) of the external regulator.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the bitlines are coupled to the source until connecting the bitlines to the internal regulator.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein connecting the bitlines to the internal regulator comprises connecting selected bitlines to a ground reference of the internal regulator and connecting inhibited bitlines to a VCC of the internal regulator.
