

# (19) United States

# (12) Patent Application Publication (10) Pub. No.: US 2023/0232129 A1 Veig et al.

Jul. 20, 2023 (43) Pub. Date:

### (54) READOUT CIRCUIT AND METHOD FOR TIME-OF-FLIGHT IMAGE SENSOR

(71) Applicants: Sony Semiconductor Solutions Corporation, Kanagawa (JP); Sony Corporation, Tokyo (JP)

(72) Inventors: Zvika Veig, Ness Ziona (IL); Golan Zeituni, Kfar-Saba (IL); Kei Nakagawa, Kanagawa (JP)

Appl. No.: 18/126,203

(22) Filed: Mar. 24, 2023

### Related U.S. Application Data

- (63) Continuation of application No. 17/692,687, filed on Mar. 11, 2022, now Pat. No. 11,641,532, which is a continuation of application No. 16/828,224, filed on Mar. 24, 2020, now Pat. No. 11,297,270.
- (60) Provisional application No. 62/953,804, filed on Dec. 26, 2019.

#### **Publication Classification**

(51) Int. Cl. H04N 25/705 (2006.01)H04N 5/222 (2006.01)H04N 5/262 (2006.01)

U.S. Cl. CPC ....... H04N 25/705 (2023.01); H04N 5/2226 (2013.01); H04N 5/262 (2013.01)

#### (57)ABSTRACT

A time-of-flight device comprises a pixel array including an array of pixel circuits, wherein a column of the array includes: a first pixel circuit including a first photodiode, a first capacitor and a second capacitor coupled to the first photodiode, and a second pixel circuit including a second photodiode, a third capacitor and a fourth capacitor coupled to the second photodiode, a first signal line coupled to the first capacitor, a second signal line coupled to the second capacitor, a third signal line coupled to the third capacitor, a fourth signal line coupled to the fourth capacitor, a first switch circuitry, a second switch circuitry, a first comparator coupled to the first signal line and the third signal line through the first switch circuitry, and a second comparator coupled to the second signal line and the fourth signal line through the second switch circuitry.

