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**Wolfe et al.**

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(54) **OLED DISPLAY AND SENSOR**

(75) Inventors: **Andrew Wolfe**, Los Gatos, CA (US);  
**Thomas Martin Conte**, Atlanta, GA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Empire Technology Development LLC**,  
Wilmington, DE (US)

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(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**G06F 3/042** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **345/175**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... None  
See application file for complete search history.

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*Primary Examiner* — Wayne Young

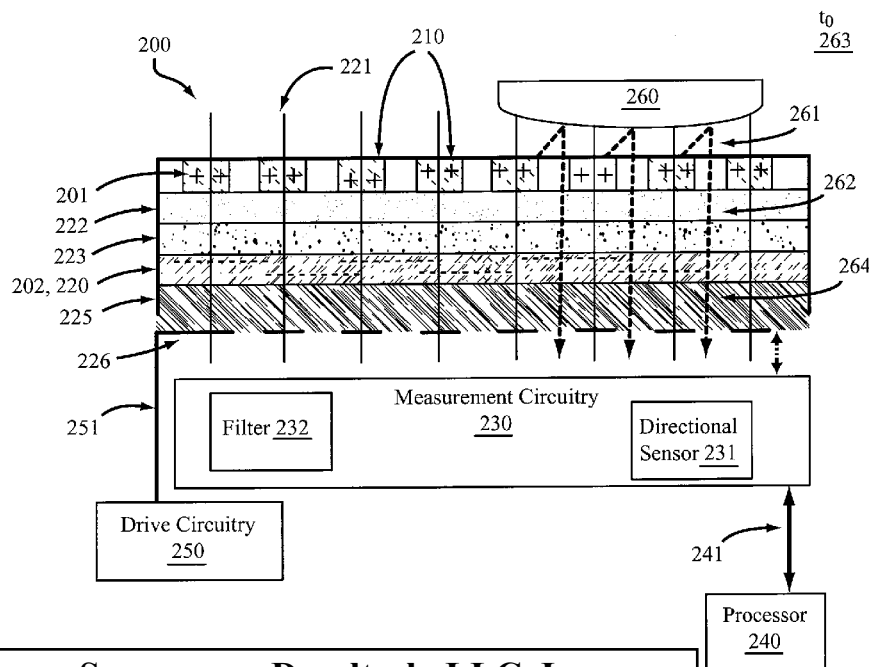
*Assistant Examiner* — Brian Butcher

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Dorsey & Whitney LLP

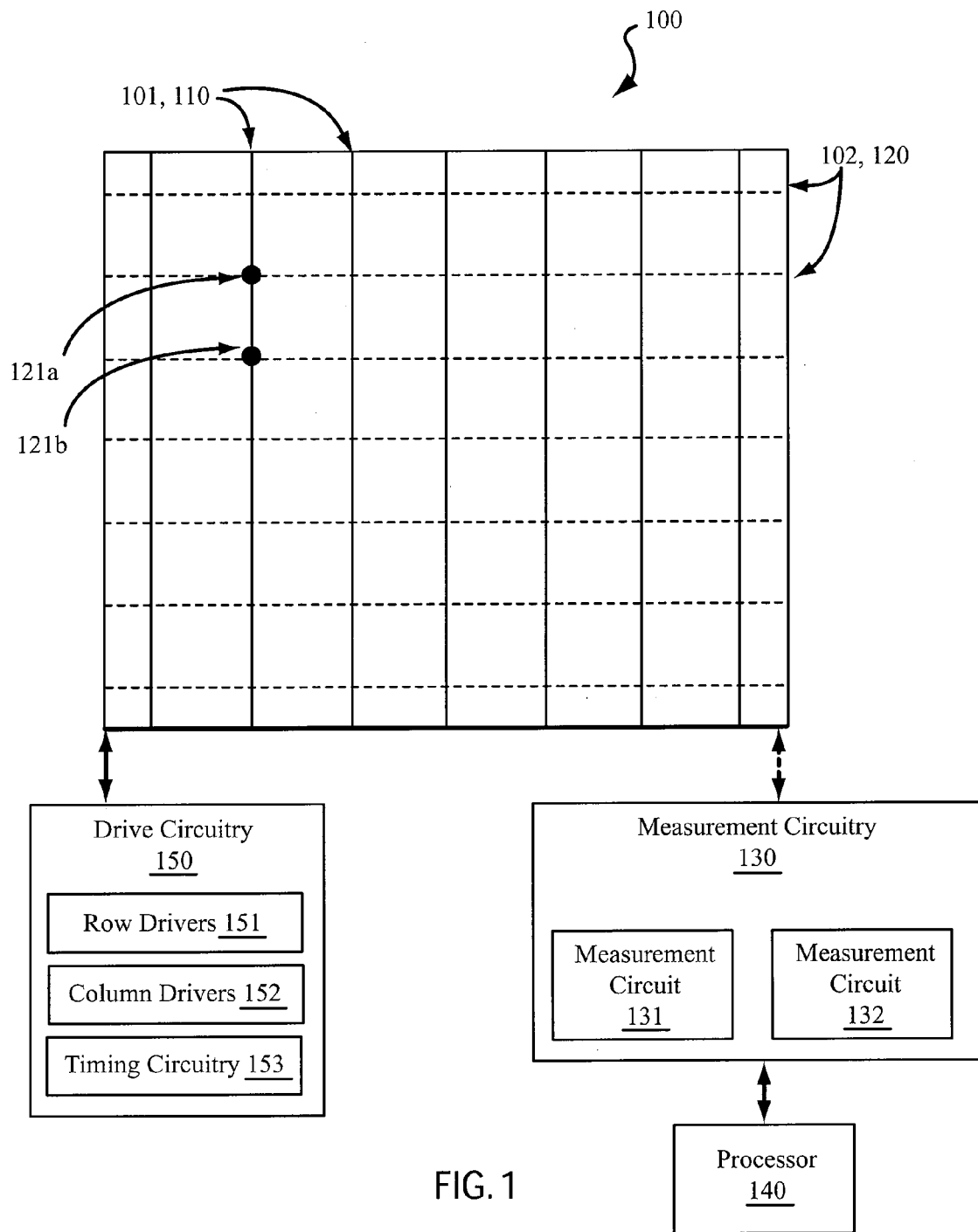
(57) **ABSTRACT**

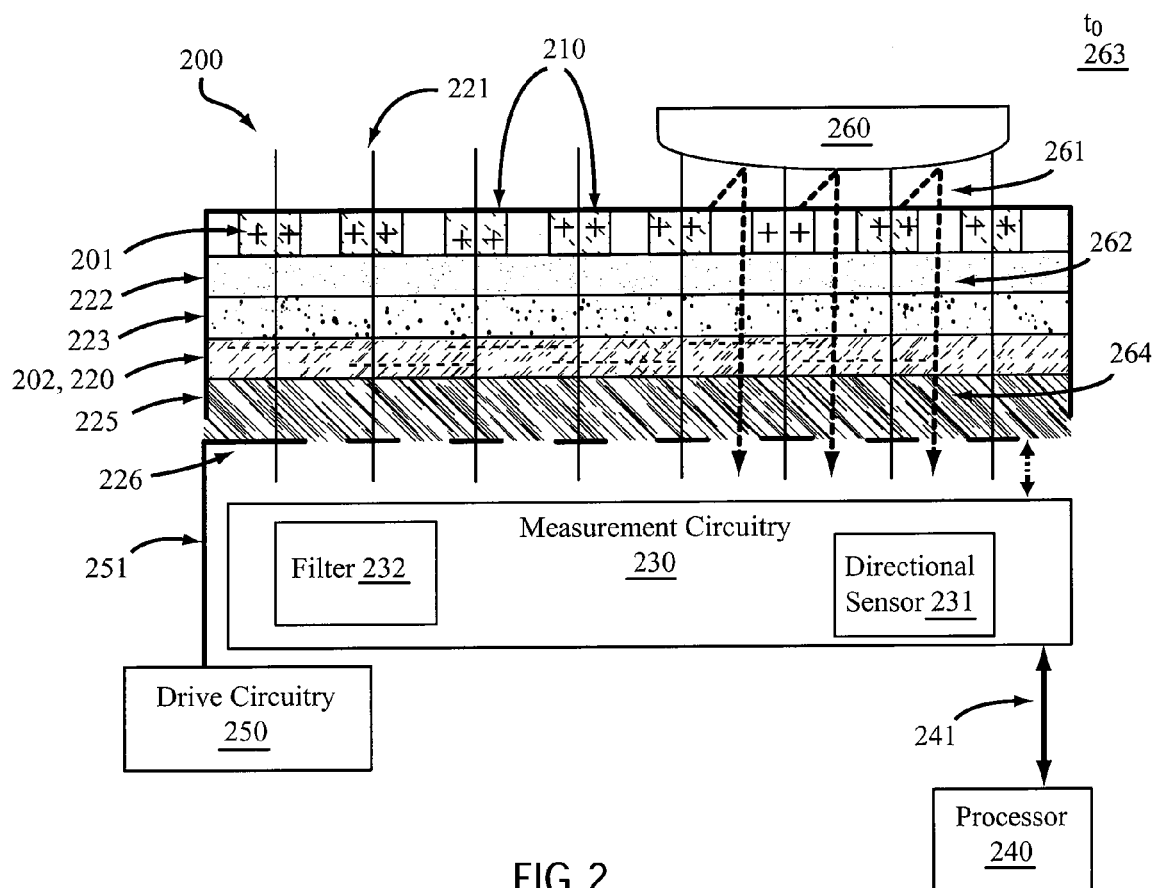
The present disclosure relates to a display device with an OLED display including a plurality of nodes configured to emit light when drive circuitry provides a signal across the plurality of nodes at or above an illumination threshold. Measurement circuitry may be disposed proximate to the plurality of nodes and may be configured to sense the light reflected off of an object positioned over the OLED display to provide measurement signals. The measurement signals can be evaluated to determine the location of the display proximate to the object that provides the reflected light.

**19 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets**



**Samsung v. Dareltech, LLC, Inc.**  
**IPR 2019-01575 U.S. Pat. 9,075,612**  
**Exhibit 1019**





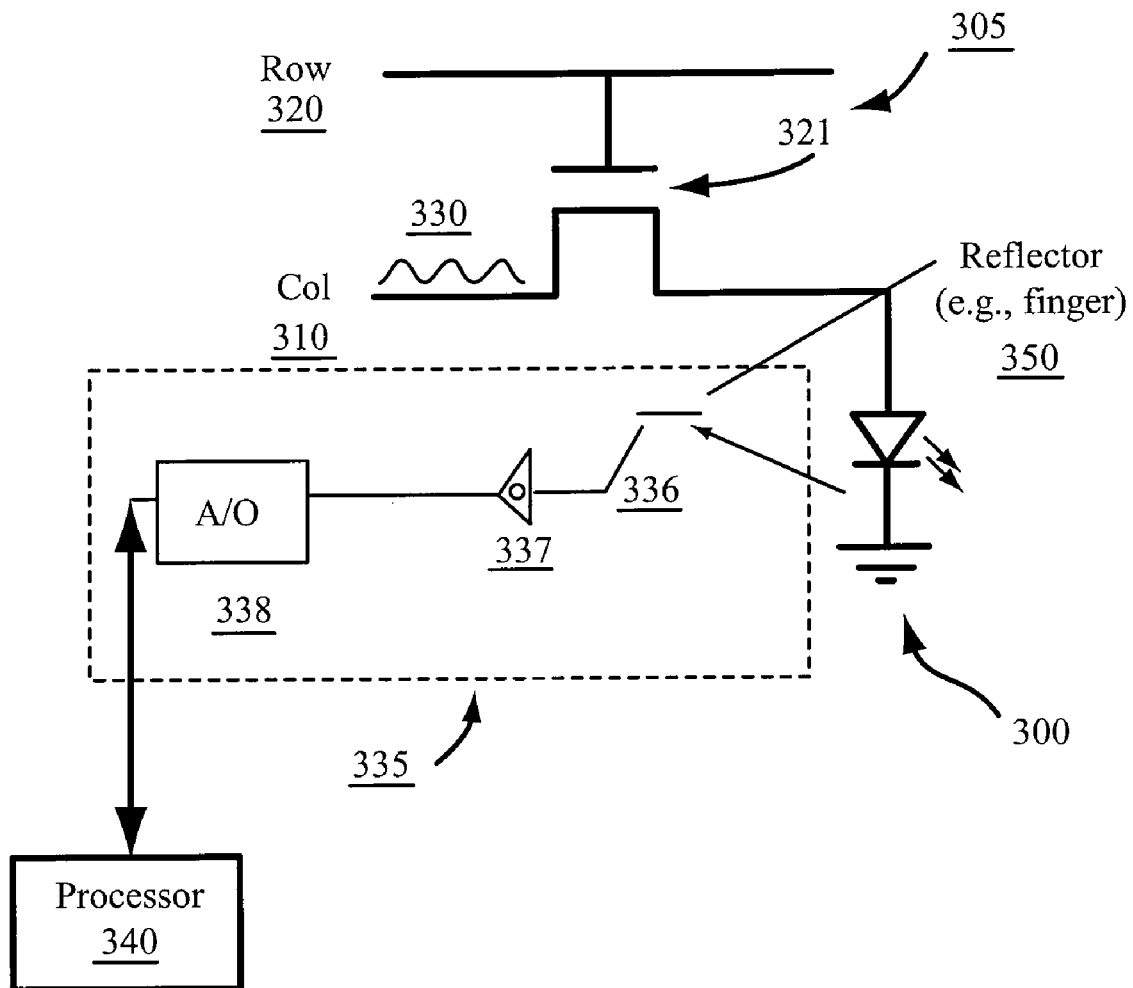


FIG. 3

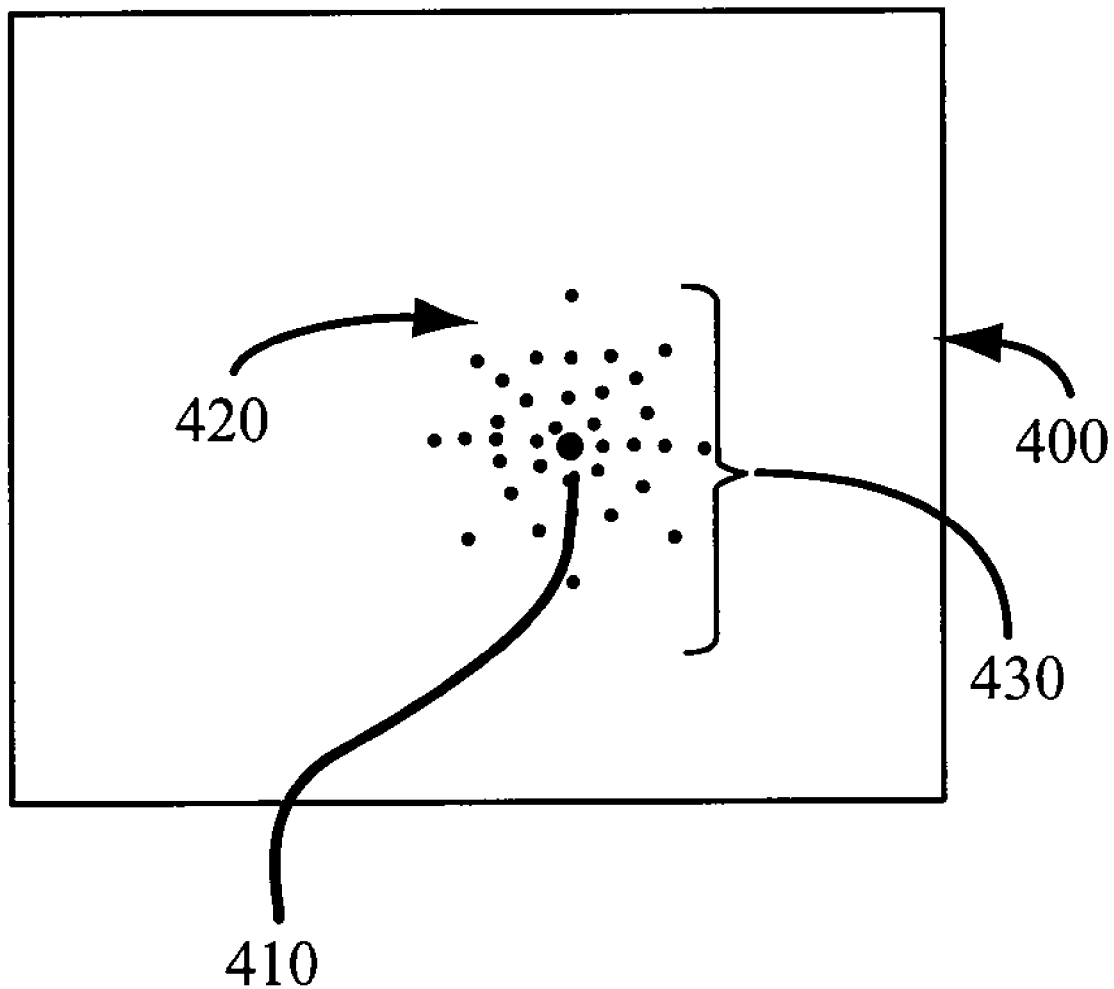


FIG. 4

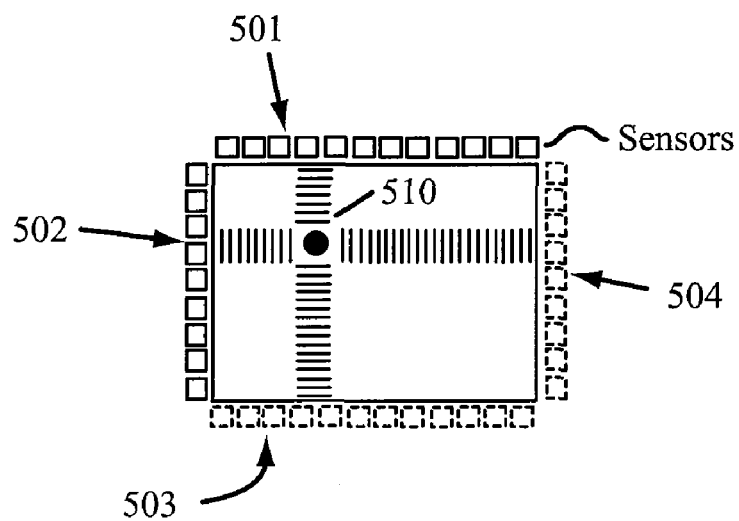


FIG. 5A

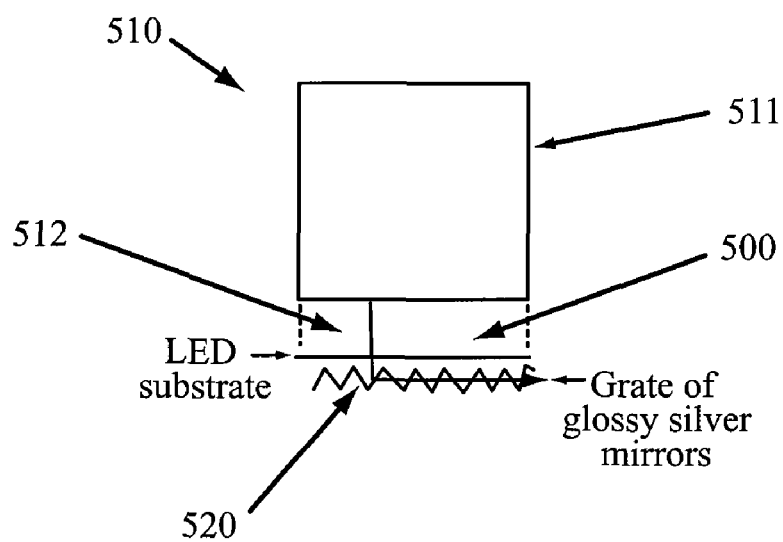
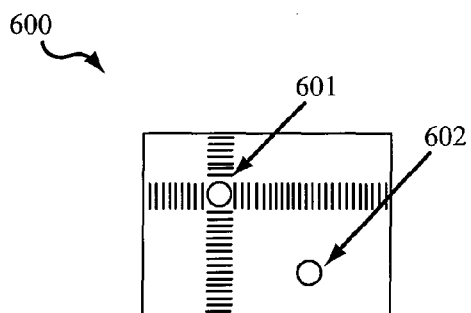
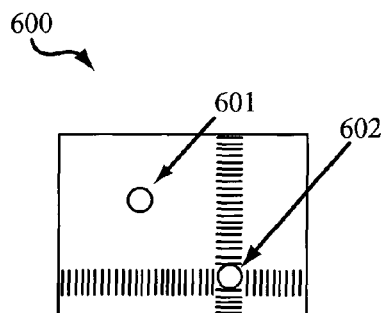


FIG. 5B



T1

FIG. 6A



T2

FIG. 6B

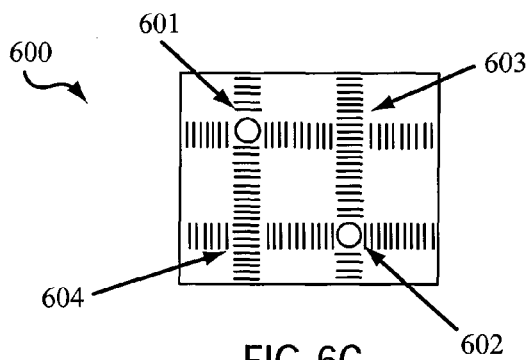
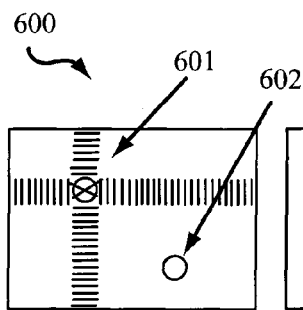
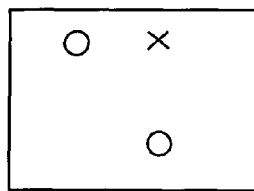


FIG. 6C



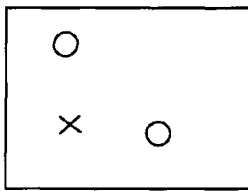
T1

FIG. 6D



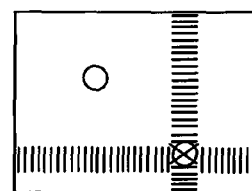
T2

FIG. 6E



T3

FIG. 6F



T4

FIG. 6G

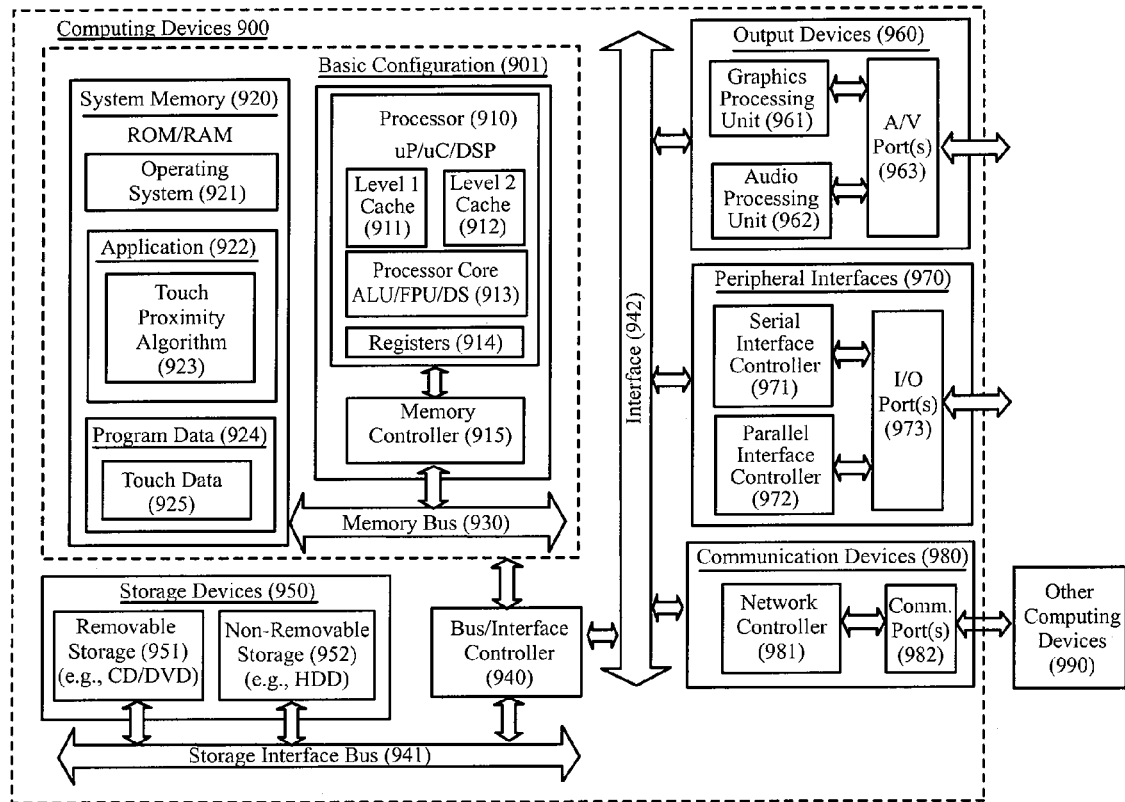


FIG. 7A



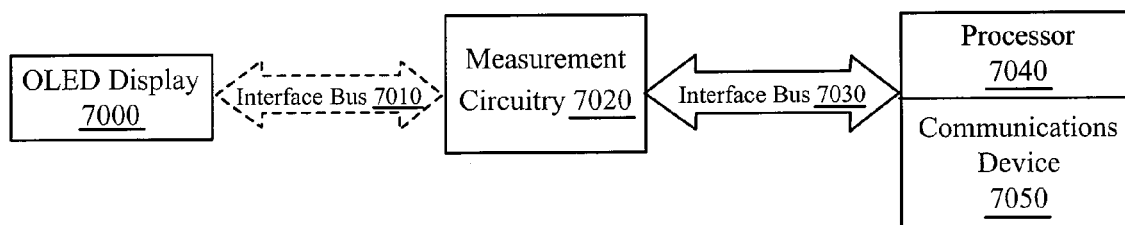


FIG. 7B

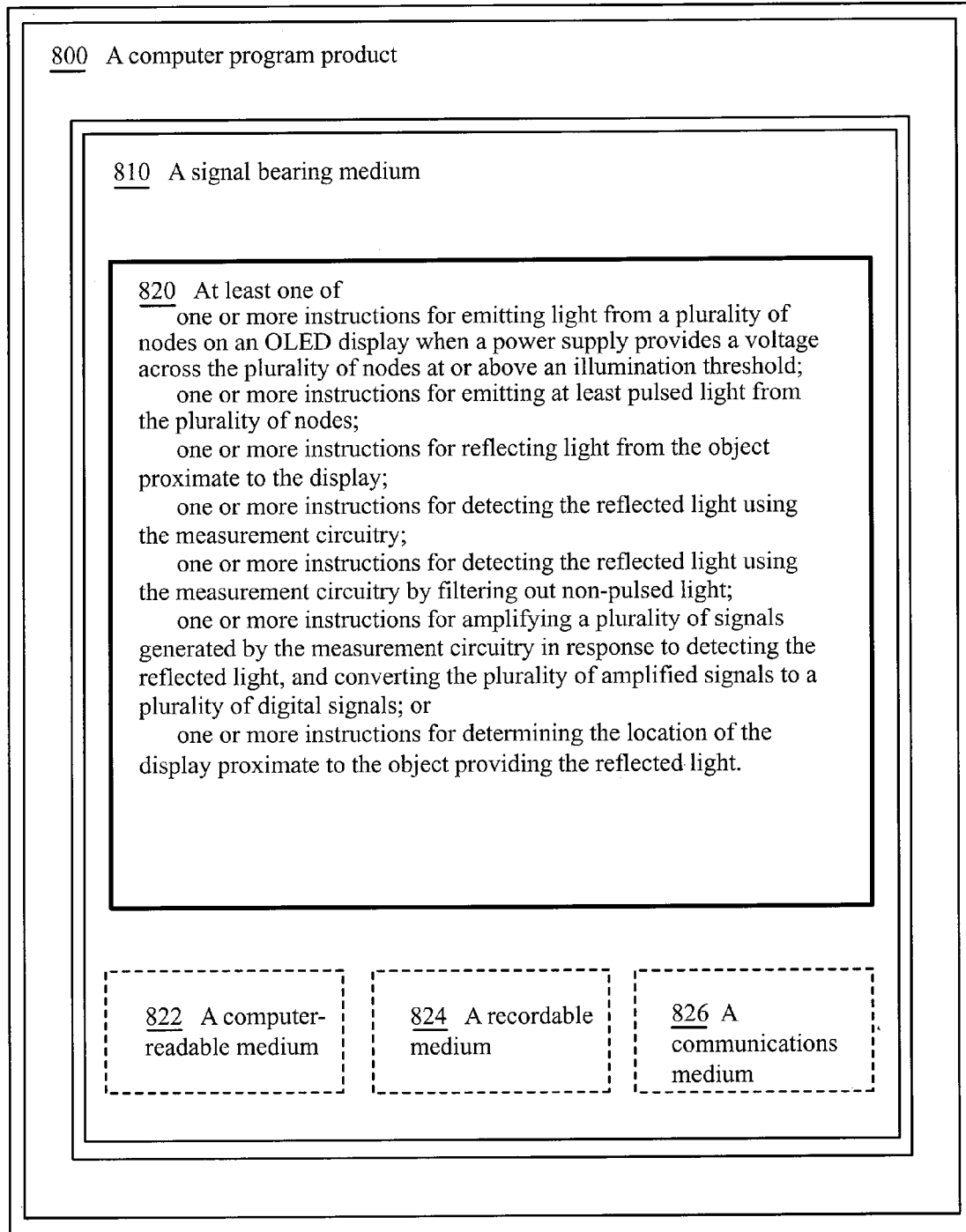


FIG. 8A

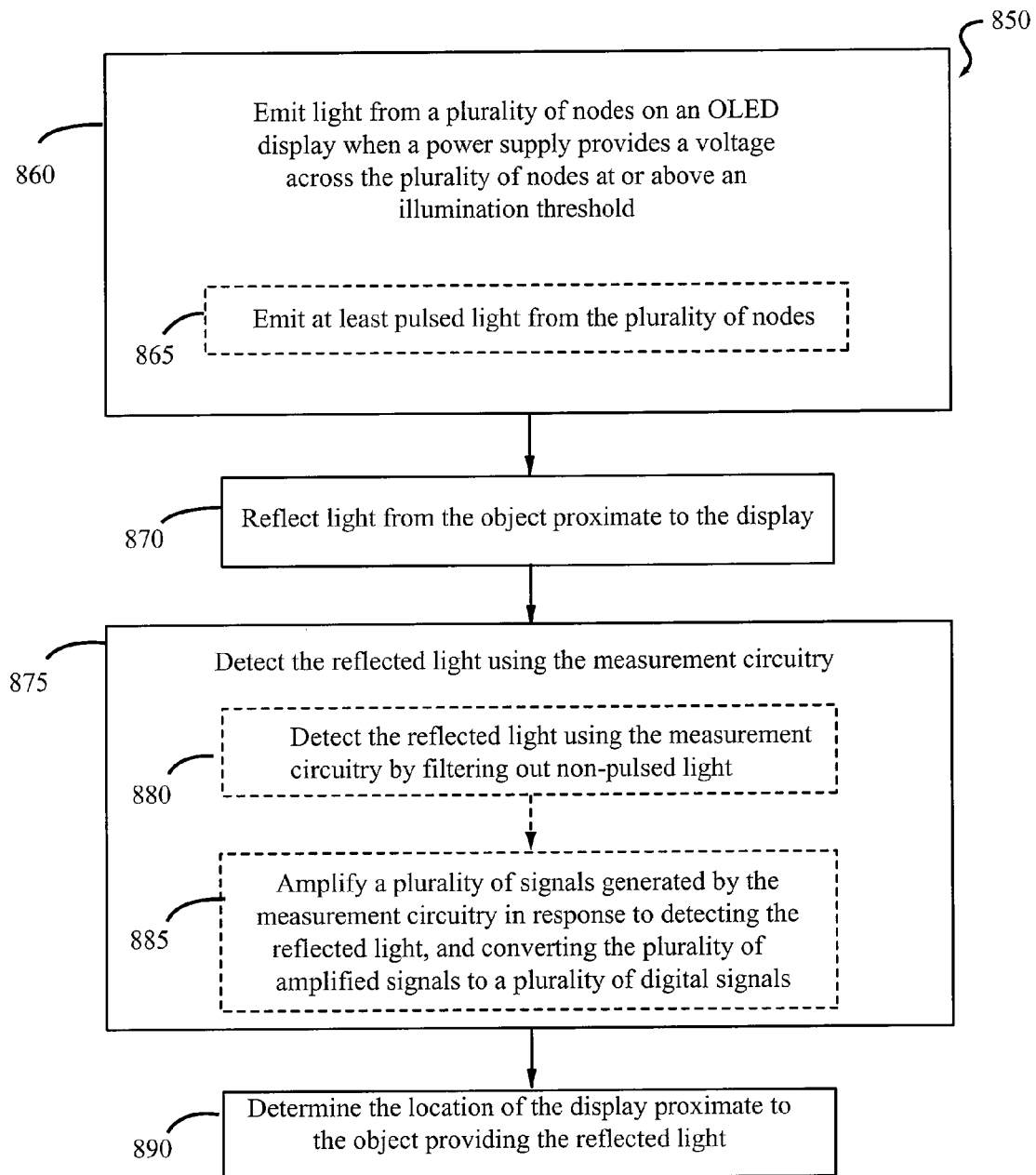


FIG. 8B

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**OLED DISPLAY AND SENSOR****BACKGROUND**

Organic light emitting diodes (OLEDs) have a series of thin films of organic semiconductor material that produce light in the presence of electricity. OLEDs may be used as a display device in a variety of electronic devices including hand-held devices such as mobile phones and cameras, and display monitors coupled to computer systems.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES**

The foregoing and other features of the present disclosure will become more fully apparent from the following description and appended claims, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings. Understanding that these drawings depict only several examples in accordance with the disclosure and are, therefore, not to be considered limiting of its scope, the disclosure will be described with additional specificity and detail through use of the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 depicts an OLED display device and associated components according to certain examples;

FIG. 2 depicts a cross-sectional view of an OLED display device according to certain examples;

FIG. 3 depicts a schematic of various components associated with an OLED display device according to certain examples;

FIG. 4 depicts the location of a touch on an OLED display device according to certain examples;

FIG. 5A-B depict an OLED display having groups of sensors arranged at the outer edges of the display, which may be used to determine the location of a touch according to certain examples;

FIGS. 6A-G depict the locations of two simultaneous touches on an OLED display according to certain examples;

FIG. 7A is a block diagram of a computing device in which the OLED display and measurement circuitry may be integrated in order to execute methods for identifying the location of a touch;

FIG. 7B is a block diagram of OLED display optionally communicatively coupled to measurement circuitry via interface bus.

FIG. 8A is a diagram of a system suitable for integrating with OLED display devices and measurement circuitry in accordance with certain examples; and

FIG. 8B is a flowchart of a computer-implemented method for sensing a touch on a touch-sensitive display device according to certain examples, all arranged in accordance with the present disclosure.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

In the following detailed description, reference is made to the accompanying drawings, which form a part hereof. In the drawings, similar symbols typically identify similar components, unless context dictates otherwise. The illustrative examples described in the detailed description, drawings, and claims are not meant to be limiting. Other examples may be utilized, and other changes may be made, without departing from the spirit or scope of the subject matter presented herein. It will be readily understood that the aspects of the present disclosure, as generally described herein, and illustrated in the Figures, can be arranged, substituted, combined, separated, and designed in a wide variety of different configurations, all of which are explicitly contemplated herein.

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This disclosure is drawn, inter alia, to methods, apparatus, computer programs and systems related to accurately identifying the location or proximity of a touch on a display (e.g., a display in a hand-held device or a computer monitor) by configuring light sensor circuitry to sense reflected light produced by a LED display in an area touched.

According to certain implementations, display circuitry driving an organic LED (OLED) display provides a source of light for a reflective touch screen. Light emitted from the OLED display may reflect off of an object touching the surface of the display, or proximate to the surface of the display, and may be sensed by sensors configured to sense the reflected light. Signals associated with the sensed reflected light may be used to identify the location of the display touched. OLED devices, such as the OLED display devices disclosed herein, may be useful in display and reflective touch sensing applications because when light emitted from the OLED reflects off of an object touching the display, the light reflects through the transparent or semitransparent OLED display layers, and measurement circuitry may sense the light passing back through the display.

In some examples, light may be provided by an illuminated LED pixel intermittently, for a short time period (e.g., on the order of a few milliseconds or microseconds), followed by a relatively long time period of non-illumination or image-dependent illumination. For example, the OLED display may be driven so that light may be produced by the LED pixels at short pulse rates and at illumination levels that would be recognized by a human viewer. In one example, a pulse of light may be provided above a detection threshold, and the time period of the pulse may be one millisecond ( $\frac{1}{1000}$  of a second), at a rate of 25 pulses per second. Thus, over the course of 1 second, a LED pixel may be illuminated for 25 milliseconds or for 1 millisecond every 40 milliseconds. As can be appreciated, this pulse rate would not be visible to a user because the human eye may not be able to discern light pulses having such a short duration at limited brightness separated by a relatively long period of inactivity. In this example, although pulsed light may not be visible to a user, measurement circuits having an adequate sensing speed and sensitivity may be provided to sense the pulsed light.

In other examples, light emitted from the LED pixel may be visible to a user. The visible light may be reflected off of an object and measurement circuitry configured as photo detectors, photo diodes and/or photo transistors, for example, and may sense a reflection of the light when an object contacts the OLED display surface.

LED pixels may emit light during the "on portion" of a duty cycle and may refresh during the "off portion" of the duty cycle. For example, the light emitting portion of a duty cycle may be 20 milliseconds and the refresh portion may be 2 milliseconds. According to certain implementations, the LED pixel emits pulsed light during the refresh portion of the duty cycle, and the measurement circuitry may sense a reflection of the pulsed light. Light emitted during the "on portion" of the duty cycle may be filtered out or disregarded by the measurement circuit and/or may be sensed as a reflection according to the above implementation. In some examples, an optical filter may be used to filter out noise which, for example, may be uninteresting light from the sensors, light at different frequencies than the light frequency to be detected, light from angles different from the angle of light to be detected, or light from other objects.

OLED displays are composed of a series of OLED columns and rows. Thus, in certain implementations, LED pixels in an OLED display may also be illuminated on a per column or per row basis. The row or column pixel illumination may be

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incremental and may cycle through each row and/or column of the display so that a scan of the OLED display may be performed. A scan may occur multiple times per second, e.g., sixty times per second.

In certain implementations, an OLED display may be provided with an array of a plurality of LED pixels, and in some examples, each pixel may be associated with a measurement circuit. The association between the LED pixel and the measurement circuit may be a proximity association, in which light produced by the LED pixel may be sensed by only its corresponding measurement circuit located adjacent to where light can be reflected from the LED pixel in the presence of a touch to the OLED display. In another example, the association between the LED pixel and the measurement circuitry may be an electrical coupling. Furthermore, the association between the LED pixel and the measurement circuit may be both a proximity association and an electrical coupling. In another example, a measurement circuit may be assigned to one LED pixel, so that the number of measurement circuits associated with the OLED display equals the number of LED pixels in the array.

In further implementations, measurement circuitry may be disposed along the edges of the OLED display and may sense light reflected from an object touching the OLED display.

According to certain implementations, measurement circuitry may be operable when one or more portions of the LED display are not visibly illuminated. For example, when the portion of the display is not active or not visibly illuminated, pulsed light from the LED pixels may be sensed by the measurement circuitry when reflected from an object touching the OLED display, but when the display is visibly illuminated, the measurement circuitry may be inactive. In this implementation, reflected pulsed light may be distinguished from ambient light by a filter. Additionally or alternatively, measurement circuitry may be operable when the display is visibly illuminated.

Measurement circuitry associated with OLED displays may provide signals associated with the sensed reflected light to a processor, which may use the signals to determine the location of the touch on the display. For example, the processor may use the data from the measurement circuits to determine the circuit(s) sensing a highest degree of reflection, and may identify one or more areas of the OLED display as the location(s) of the touch (e.g., center of the touch). Alternatively, the processor may use the data to determine a general area or areas of the display touched by identifying groupings of proximately arranged measurement circuits sensing a reflection. Additionally, the timing of a reflected pulse may be compared to the timing of an illumination signal provided to the LED display in order to identify the location of the reflection.

Certain possible examples are described below with reference to the figures. Components not essential to the implementations are omitted for the sake of clarity. While certain examples are described below in relation to OLED displays, implementations of the may be applicable to a variety of LED display types including, but not limited to, chip-based (inorganic) LED displays, including surface mount device (SMD) LED displays, which may be further combined with a variety of types of tactile touch screens.

FIG. 1 depicts an OLED display and reflective touch screen device **100** according to certain examples. The device **100** of FIG. 1 serves as an OLED display and as a light source for a reflective touch screen and includes: a first OLED display layer **101**, a second OLED display layer **102**, first layer columns **110**, second layer rows **120**, nodes **121a**, **121b**, measurement circuitry **130** with measurement circuits **131**, **132**, a

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processor **140** and drive circuitry **150** with row drivers **151**, column drivers **152** and timing circuitry **153**. According to certain implementations, measurement circuitry **130** may be associated with touch screen device **100** by proximity and/or by electrical coupling. Thus, in FIG. 1, the connection between measurement circuitry **130** and the display layers **101**, **102** (e.g., display circuitry) is optional.

In FIG. 1, the first OLED display layer **101** includes a series of columns **110** disposed over the second OLED display layer having a series of rows **120**. Columns **110** and rows **120** may be formed of one or more conductive layers separated by a series of organic layers (not shown), such as two or more layers of organic molecules or polymers having OLED conductive and/or emissive properties. Columns **110** and rows **120** are oppositely charged, and each column **110** row **120** intersection point corresponds to a node (e.g., **121a**), which is an area of the touch screen/display device **100** that may be illuminated. That is, when an electrical current flows (via drive circuitry **150**) from the negatively charged display layer to the positively charged display layer, the current passes through the series of organic layers, which causes electrons in the organic layer to give up energy in the form of photons of light or in the form of heat. Node **121a** may be considered a type or part of a transistor and/or may be considered an OLED pixel.

According to certain examples, the OLED display device may be driven at short pulse rates by applying a signal having a short duty cycle (e.g., a square, sine, triangular wave with an above-threshold portion that is short and a below-threshold portion that is long). The short pulse rate may not be visible to a user, but the pulsed light may be reflected off of an object touching the display and may be sensed by measurement circuitry **130**. Alternatively, the OLED display device may be visibly illuminated and light may be reflected off of an object and be sensed by measurement circuitry **130**.

When the OLED display device **100** is touched, light from each of the nodes(s) e.g., nodes **121a**, **121b**, proximate to the touch may be reflected off of the object touching the display, and measurement circuitry **130** senses the reflected light for each of the associated nodes **121a**, **121b**. In some examples, the nodes may correspond to a LED pixel. In certain examples, each node **121a**, **121b** may be associated with a particular measurement circuit. Thus, in FIG. 1, measurement circuit **131** may be associated with node **121a** and measurement circuit **132** may be associated with node **121b**.

A processor **140** receives a number of signals from the measurement circuits **130** associated with each of the illuminated nodes responsible for providing the light reflected off of the object, and the processor **140** may compare the signals to each other or to timing reference signals to determine the location of the touch.

FIG. 2 depicts a cross-sectional view across a row of an OLED display device **200** according to certain examples which may carry out methods for sensing the proximity of an object to a display. The device **200** of FIG. 2 includes a first OLED display layer **201**, a second OLED display layer **202**, first layer columns **210**, second layer row **220**, nodes **221**, intermediate emissive and/or conductive organic polymer layers **222**, **223**, substrate **225**, windows **226**, measurement circuitry **230**, processor **240**, connection **241**, drive circuitry **250**, drive circuitry **251** to the display layers, object **260** and reflected light **261**.

According to certain implementations, the layers of the OLED display device **200** are deposited on substrate **225** in a series of layers. For example, the second OLED display layer **202** may be deposited on substrate **225** via printing and/or vacuum deposition, for example. The second OLED display

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layer **202** may be a transparent metallic conductive coating such as indium tin oxide in rows **220**. Subsequent intermediate organic layers **222**, **223** may be deposited on second OLED display layer **202** via printing, vacuum deposition, and/or organic vapor phase deposition. The first OLED display layer **201** may be a transparent metallic conductive coating and may also be deposited on the intermediate layers **222**, **223** using processes similar to those used in depositing the second OLED touch screen/display layer **202**. Nodes **221** may correspond to column/row intersection points, and each node may form a display circuit. In certain examples, nodes **221** may be responsible for emitting light from a plurality of nodes on an OLED display when drive circuitry provides a signal across the plurality of nodes at or above an illumination threshold. In some examples, nodes **221** may be responsible for emitting at least pulsed light from the plurality of nodes.

Light emitted from nodes **221** may reach object **260**, which may be responsible for reflecting light from the object proximate to the display. In certain implementations, the measurement circuitry **230** may be responsible for detecting the reflected light using the measurement circuitry and may be arranged behind the display circuitry such that the display may be visible to a user and the measurement circuitry **230** may be hidden behind the display. In addition, all or a portion of the measurement circuitry may be provided on a top portion of substrate **225** and the second OLED display layer **202** may be deposited on the measurement circuitry or portions thereof. Substrate **225** may further be transparent or may include windows **226** so that when an object **260** touches or passes over the display surface, reflected light **261** from the object **260** may pass through the series of layers and one or more windows **226** and measurement circuitry **230** may sense the reflected light. It will be understood that measurement circuitry **230** may be associated with OLED device **200** by proximity and/or by electrical coupling.

Measurement circuitry **230** may be configured to sense reflected light **261** at a known intensity **262** or strength, and/or may sense light reflections during time periods ( $t_0$ ) **263** having a known duration. In another example, measurement circuitry **230** may be configured to sense pulsed light **264**, and thus at  $t_0$  **263**, the reflected light **261** may be pulsed light **264** at a known intensity **262**. In certain examples, a measurement circuit may be configured with a directional sensor **231** so that light reflected from a limited number of angles or from a limited area proximate the sensor may be sensed. In one example, the directional sensor **231** faces the back side of the OLED display (e.g., faces upward when the sensor is underneath the display) and senses reflected light from a portion of the display directly above the sensor. Measurement circuitry **230** may be further configured with a filter **232** for filtering out light sensed at differing strengths, filtering out non-pulsed light or light having a duration that differs from the predefined period of time.

Signals generated in measurement circuitry in response to detecting light may be provided to processor **240** coupled to measurement circuitry **230** via connection **241**, and processor may be responsible for determining the location of the display proximate to the object providing the reflected light.

According to certain implementations, nodes are associated in close proximity with a number of electrical components. FIG. 3 depicts a schematic of an OLED display circuit **300** and associated measurement circuitry **335**. In FIG. 3, OLED touch sensor circuit **300** includes a touch screen display pixel **305** having first layer column **310**, second layer row **320**, node **321** (i.e., drive transistor), and drive circuitry **330** configured to deliver a signal (e.g., a sine, square, or triangular wave) to the OLED touch screen pixel **305** above

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an illumination threshold. Measurement circuitry **335** may include a light sensor **336**, an amplifier **337**, an analog-to-digital converter **338**, and a connection to or a communicative coupling with a processor **340**. A reflector **350** may provide light to the measurement circuitry **335**, when present. A reflector **350** may be a finger, a stylus or a glass/plastic covering between the touch screen and the finger or stylus.

For OLED touch sensor circuit **300**, a signal may be applied via the drive circuitry **330** across the touch screen pixel **305** at or above an illumination threshold level and the light produced by nodes **321** (i.e., drive transistors) may be visible or may be pulsed intermittently so that the display appears to be non-active or not visible to the user. A reflector **350** may be applied to the touch screen **305** via a touch, and the light reflects off of the object (i.e., the reflector). The reflection may be sensed by a light sensor **336** in the measurement circuit **335**. The measurement circuit **335** amplifier **337** may be configured to amplify measurement signals from the light sensor, and the analog-to-digital converter **338** may be responsible for converting the plurality of amplified measurement signals to a plurality of digital signals. The digital signals may be sent to processor **340** for determining the location of the touch.

An OLED display device includes a number of OLED display circuits **300**, and each display circuit **300** provides a source of light that may be reflected. For example, each pixel in an OLED display may be a display circuit. In this example, each display circuit **300** may be associated with a measurement circuit. Thus, reflected light may be sensed from a number of display locations because each pixel may be associated with a measurement circuit. Accordingly, the processor **340** may be configured to receive signals from a number of measurement circuits **335**, e.g., 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 20, 30, 100, 200, 300, 500 or more circuits **335** arranged for sensing light from its respective node **321** affected by one or more touches. Although OLED display devices may include a measurement circuit corresponding to each node **321**, the OLED display devices may alternatively include a measurement circuit **335** for  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{9}$ ,  $\frac{1}{16}$ ,  $\frac{1}{25}$ ,  $\frac{1}{36}$  or  $1/n^2$  of the OLED circuits, with the remainder being OLED circuits not associated with measurement circuitry. Alternatively, a measurement circuit **335** may be associated with a number of nodes or pixels.

FIG. 4 depicts a touch on an OLED display **400** including a central point **410** of the touch according to certain examples. In FIG. 4, each point **420** shown on the tactile screen may be associated with a different node providing light reflected from the touch. The grouping of points **430** affected by the touch radiate from the central point **410**. Although one touch is depicted on OLED display **400**, it will be understood that OLED displays and associated measurement circuitry provided according to certain example may be configured to reflect light and sense multiple simultaneous or near simultaneous touches. This is because the measurement circuitry detects a reflection on a per node or per pixel basis. Thus, for example, a textured or patterned object with multiple contacts may be used to touch the display at multiple contact points simultaneously, and the device may determine the locations of each of the contact points. In another implementation, a textured or shaped object having contacts separated by recesses or gaps may be used to contact the screen and the device may identify the location(s) of the gap between the portions of the display contacted.

In some alternative examples, rather than providing measurement circuitry on a per node basis for an OLED display, measurement circuitry may be provided on the outer edges of the OLED display and may be arranged to sense light reflected from an object touching the OLED display. The

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sensor may produce signals associated with the sensed light and provide the signals to a processor to identify the location of a touch. Thus, according to certain examples, silvered mirrors are arranged under the OLED display and are disposed at a 45 degree angle. The mirrors may face the top and bottom edges of the OLED display and/or may face the left and right edges of the OLED display. For example, the silvered mirrors may be configured like a four sided pyramid that faces each of the top, bottom, left and right edges of the OLED display. Furthermore, the silvered mirrors may be semi-transparent (or lossy). When the light is reflected from an object touching or passing over the OLED display surface, windows arranged along the bottom of the OLED display enable the reflected light to reach the silvered mirrors. Light may be reflected from the mirror faces at a 90 degree angle to the outside edges of the OLED display, where the light sensors facing inward or toward the display sense reflected light in the left-to-right or x-direction and/or in the top-to-bottom or y-direction.

FIG. 5A depicts an OLED display 500 having groups of sensors 501, 502, 503 (optional), 504 (optional) aligned along the outer edges of the display, which may be used to determine the location of a touch 510. According to this example, one or more sensors in at least each of the sensor groups 501-502 may sense light emitted from one or more intersection points that may be reflected off of an object touching the display (reflector). In further implementations, sensors from three or more of sensor groups 501-504 may be arranged to sense reflected light. Sensors 501-504 may be configured as directional sensors such as directional sensor 231 described in relation to FIG. 2 and be arranged on the outer edges of the OLED display 500. Each of the sensors affected by the touch may be arranged to transmit signals to a processor (not shown) for identifying the location of a touch. The processor, for example, may be configured to process the signals and determine the left/right location (x-position) and up/down location (y-position) of the touch on the display. In some examples, an optical filter may be used to filter out uninteresting light from the sensors that would otherwise become noise.

According to certain examples, sensors 501-504 may be arranged to sense light reflected from silvered mirrors. Silvered mirrors may be semi-transparent metallic coated surfaces that partially reflect light and that allow a partial amount of the light to pass through the surface.

FIG. 5B depicts touch screen 500 (e.g., LED substrate) having a grate of silvered mirrors 520 arranged below OLED display 500. FIG. 5B depicts an area of the display being touched 510 as object 511 is positioned directly above OLED display 500. Thus, light 512 emitted from OLED display 500 may shine up to and reflect off of object 500 back to silvered mirrors 520 where the light 512 may reflect off of the mirrors at or about a 90 degree angle.

In certain examples, light 512 may be emitted from each of the OLED display nodes simultaneously. In this case, it may not always be possible to detect multiple touched locations at a given time. In further examples, the nodes of OLED display 500 (e.g., column/row intersection points or pixels) may be illuminated (e.g., pulsed) on a per column and/or per row basis. In this case, the light may be provided as a line-by-line or column-by-column scan. An OLED display providing a light scan may be useful in the example of FIGS. 5A-B because multiple simultaneous touches may be detected using the light scan.

FIGS. 6A-B depict OLED display 600 having two touch locations 601 and 602. As a scan progresses, light may be reflected off of touch location 601 at a first time (T1) and the

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touch at location 601 may be sensed by the measurement circuitry (not shown) arranged along the edges of display 600. At a second time (T2), when the scan has progressed further through OLED display 600, light may be reflected off of the second touch location 602 and sensed by the measurement circuitry. Touches 601 and 602 may be simultaneous or nearly simultaneous (from the perspective of the user) because a scan of the entire display 600 may be repeated multiple times per second, e.g., 60 times per second, and thus the time span between T1 and T2 may be relatively short.

A processor may be configured to receive signals corresponding to the sensed light at the different times (e.g., T1 and T2) and may be used to determine the areas of the display touched.

According to further implementations, in some cases aliases may be sensed (e.g., when more than one finger inadvertently hits the touch screen). An alias may result from the simultaneous sensing of multiple touches. For example, when each of the LED pixels are illuminated simultaneously, by emitting light from a plurality of nodes on the OLED display when drive circuitry provides a signal across the plurality of nodes at or above an illumination threshold, and when multiple objects are arranged over the display, the top-to-bottom positions (e.g., y-axis positions) and left-to-right positions (e.g., x-axis position) of each of the objects may overlap. At the areas of intersection, an alias may be sensed by detecting reflected light using measurement circuitry arranged along the edges of the OLED display, which may provide sensed signals corresponding to two or more objects so that for each object, a signal associated with an x-axis position and a signal associated with a y-axis position may be provided.

FIG. 6C depicts OLED display 600 having touches 601 and 602 along with aliases 603 and 604. Alias 603 results from the left-to-right position of touch 601 intersecting with the top-to-bottom position of touch 602. Alias 604 results from the top-to-bottom position of touch 601 intersecting with the left-to-right position of touch 602. In order to determine which of the sensed points are aliases and which of the sensed points are touches, the sensed signals may be evaluated. For example, in order to evaluate the sensed signals, light signals may be flashed or re-emitted at the each of the x-axis and y-axis intersection points, and the presence of reflected light may be measured to determine which of the possible aliases are the actual aliases and which of the possible aliases are touches. In another example, evaluating the sensed signals may involve scanning the plurality of nodes by re-emitting light on a per column and/or per row basis, and detecting the presence of reflected light at multiple points in time to identify the locations of the touch, in manner similar to that described in FIGS. 6A-6B.

FIGS. 6D-G depict an image "x", such as an illuminated pixel, provided at each of the possible touch/alias locations at different times T1-T4. When the image reflects off of touch 601 at T1 or off of touch 602 at T4, light may be reflected to the measurement circuitry and the touch may be sensed. When no reflection results from the image being provided to the display, the measurement circuitry and/or the processor may determine that the location sensed is an alias. In further examples, aliasing may be detected by scanning across the array of LEDs to determine the aliases from the actual contact points.

As may be appreciated by one skilled in the art, the OLED display 300 and measurement circuitry 335 described in relation to FIG. 3, for example, may be integrated within a computing environment. FIG. 7A thus generally illustrates a suitable computing environment in which such circuitry may be integrated in order execute methods for sensing the proximity

of an object to a display. In a very basic configuration **901**, computing device **900** typically includes one or more processors **910** and system memory **920**. A memory bus **930** can be used for communicating between the processor **910** and the system memory **920**.

Depending on the desired configuration, processor **910** can be of any type including but not limited to a microprocessor ( $\mu$ P), a microcontroller ( $\mu$ C), a digital signal processor (DSP), or any combination thereof. Processor **910** can include one or more levels of caching, such as a level one cache **911** and a level two cache **912**, a processor core **913**, and registers **914**. The processor core **913** can include an arithmetic logic unit (ALU), a floating point unit (FPU), a digital signal processing core (DSP Core), or any combination thereof. A memory controller **915** can also be used with the processor **910**, or in some implementations the memory controller **915** can be an internal part of the processor **910**.

Depending on the desired configuration, the system memory **920** can be of any type including but not limited to volatile memory (such as RAM), non-volatile memory (such as ROM, flash memory, etc.) or any combination thereof. System memory **920** may include an operating system **921**, one or more applications **922**, and program data **924**. Application **922** may include an algorithm **923** that is arranged to sense the proximity of an object to a display. Program Data **924** may include touch data **925** that may be useful for accurately sensing the object proximate to the display. In some examples, application **922** can be arranged to operate with program data **924** on an operating system **921** such that the location of the display proximate the object sensed may be determined. This described basic configuration is illustrated in FIG. 7A by those components within dashed line **901**.

Computing device **900** can have additional features or functionality, and additional interfaces to facilitate communications between the basic configuration **901** and any required devices and interfaces. For example, a bus/interface controller **940** can be used to facilitate communications between the basic configuration **901** and one or more data storage devices **950** via a storage interface bus **941**. The data storage devices **950** can be removable storage devices **951**, non-removable storage devices **952**, or a combination thereof. Examples of removable storage and non-removable storage devices include magnetic disk devices such as flexible disk drives and hard-disk drives (HDD), optical disk drives such as compact disk (CD) drives or digital versatile disk (DVD) drives, solid state drives (SSD), and tape drives to name a few. Example computer storage media can include volatile and nonvolatile, removable and non-removable media implemented in any method or technology for storage of information, such as computer readable instructions, data structures, program modules, or other data.

System memory **920**, removable storage **951** and non-removable storage **952** are all examples of computer storage media. Computer storage media includes, but is not limited to, RAM, ROM, EEPROM, flash memory or other memory technology, CD-ROM, digital versatile disks (DVD) or other optical storage, magnetic cassettes, magnetic tape, magnetic disk storage or other magnetic storage devices, or any other medium which can be used to store the desired information and which can be accessed by computing device **900**. Any such computer storage media can be part of device **900**.

Computing device **900** can also include an interface bus **942** for facilitating communication from various interface devices (e.g., output interfaces, peripheral interfaces, and communication interfaces) to the basic configuration **901** via the bus/interface controller **940**. Example output devices **960** include a graphics processing unit **961** and an audio process-

ing unit **962**, which can be configured to communicate to various external devices such as a display or speakers via one or more A/V ports **963**. Example peripheral interfaces **970** include a serial interface controller **971** or a parallel interface controller **972**, which can be configured to communicate with external devices such as input devices (e.g., keyboard, mouse, pen, voice input device, touch input device, etc.) or other peripheral devices (e.g., printer, scanner, etc.) via one or more I/O ports **973**. An example communication device **980** includes a network controller **981**, which can be arranged to facilitate communications with one or more other computing devices **990** over a network communication via one or more communication ports **982**. The communication connection may be one example of a communication media. Communication media may typically be embodied by computer readable instructions, data structures, program modules, or other data in a modulated data signal, such as a carrier wave or other transport mechanism, and includes any information delivery media. A "modulated data signal" can be a signal that has one or more of its characteristics set or changed in such a manner as to encode information in the signal. By way of example, and not limitation, communication media can include wired media such as a wired network or direct-wired connection, and wireless media such as acoustic, radio frequency (RF), infrared (IR) and other wireless media. The term computer readable media as used herein can include both storage media and communication media.

Computing device **900** can be implemented as a portion of a small-form factor portable (or mobile) electronic device such as a cell phone, a personal data assistant (PDA), a personal media player device, a wireless web-watch device, a personal headset device, an application specific device, or a hybrid device that include any of the above functions. Computing device **900** can also be implemented as a personal computer including both laptop computer and non-laptop computer configurations. Computing device **900** may also be implemented as an interactive system, such as an information kiosk, television, or a gaming device.

FIG. 7B is a block diagram of OLED display **7000** optionally communicatively coupled to measurement circuitry **7020** via interface bus **7010**. In some alternative embodiments, OLED display **7000** may not be coupled to measurement circuitry **7020** via data bus **7010**, but rather OLED display **7000** may emit light sensed by measurement circuitry **7020**. Data sensed or collected by measurement circuitry **7020** from OLED display **7000** may be sent a processor **7040** and/or a communications device **7050** in a computing device via interface bus **7030**.

The OLED display devices disclosed herein may be implemented in passive-matrix, active-matrix, transparent, top-emitting, foldable and/or white OLED devices. Furthermore, a variety of implementations are contemplated in addition to those described above. For example, other LED types such as chip-based LEDs and discreet LEDs may be implemented in a LED display device having a reflective touch screen.

The present disclosure is applicable to a variety of LED display and measurement circuitry applications, including displays and touch screens for mobile phones, personal computers, PDAs, public access terminals, gaming machines, point of sale terminals, kiosks, ATMs, industrial terminals, and LED screens for televisions, motor vehicles, outdoor applications, and indoor applications. LED displays may be small, e.g., 1 cm.x1 cm., 1"x1", 2"x3", 4"x3", 9"x11" or large, e.g., 2'x2', 8'x6', 10'x12', depending on the type of application.

The foregoing describes various examples of LED displays and light sensor circuitry. Following are specific examples of



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methods and systems of LED displays and light sensor circuitry. These are for illustration only and are not intended to be limiting.

According to certain implementations, a display device includes an OLED display having a plurality of nodes configured to emit light when drive circuitry provides a signal (e.g., voltage signal) across the plurality of nodes at or above an illumination threshold; and measurement circuitry disposed proximate to the plurality of nodes, where the measurement circuitry may be configured to sense the light reflected off of an object positioned over the OLED display.

In variations of the above implementation, each of the plurality of nodes may be an OLED pixel, and in some instances, the measurement circuitry includes a plurality of measurement circuits, and each of the measurement circuits may be associated with one OLED pixel for sensing the reflected light emitted from the OLED pixel. In other variations, the measurement circuitry may be configured to sense the light reflected through the OLED display, and the OLED display includes a plurality of OLED display layers. In certain configurations, the measurement circuitry may be configured to sense the reflected light at a predefined intensity, during a predefined time interval, and/or that may be emitted from the plurality of nodes as pulsed light.

Variations may involve the measurement circuitry further includes a directional sensor configured for sensing the reflected from limited angles, and the directional sensor may be arranged on an outer edge of the OLED display. In addition, to the directional sensor, the measurement circuitry may further include a plurality of silvered mirrors arranged under a portion of the OLED display. The measurement circuitry may further include a filter for filtering out noise.

In further variations, a processor may be coupled to the measurement circuitry, which may be configured to: receive signals from the measurement circuitry, the signals corresponding to the sensed light; and determine the location of the touch.

In another implementation a display device includes measurement circuitry including a plurality of measurement circuits; and an OLED display having a plurality of OLED pixels, where each of the plurality of OLED pixels may be associated with one of the plurality of measurement circuits.

In certain variations, each of the plurality of measurement circuits may be configured to sense light reflected from its associated OLED pixel, and each of the plurality of measurement circuits may be further configured to sense reflected light that is one or more of: pulsed light, light that has a predefined strength, or light that has a duration of illumination that is predefined.

FIG. 8A depicts a computer program product **700** that may be implemented in computing device **500** for sensing the proximity of an object to a display. The computer program product **800** includes a signal bearing medium **810** configured to execute one or more instructions **820**. The signal bearing medium **810** may be configured as a computer-readable medium **822**, a recordable medium **824** and/or a communications medium **826**.

FIG. 8B depicts a flowchart of a method **850** for sensing the proximity of an object to a display, which may be implemented in computer program product **800** and/or in computing device **700**. According to FIG. 8B, the computer implemented method involves, emitting light from a plurality of nodes on an OLED display when drive circuitry provides a signal across the plurality of nodes at or above an illumination threshold (operation **860**). In certain implementations, the emitted light may be pulsed light (operation **865**). When an object is provided proximate or above the display light may

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be reflected off of the object and back towards the display (operation **870**). The reflected light may be detected using the measurement circuitry (operation **875**). In some implementations the reflected light may be detected using the measurement circuitry by filtering out non-pulsed light (operation **880**). In addition or alternatively, the measurement circuitry may generate a plurality of signals in response to detecting the reflected light, amplify the signals, and convert the plurality of amplified signals to a plurality of digital signals (operation **885**). The location of the display that is proximate to the object providing the reflected light may be determined (operation **890**).

The present disclosure is not to be limited in terms of the particular examples described in this application, which are intended as illustrations of various aspects. Many modifications and variations can be made without departing from its spirit and scope, as will be apparent to those skilled in the art. Functionally equivalent methods and apparatuses within the scope of the disclosure, in addition to those enumerated herein, will be apparent to those skilled in the art from the foregoing descriptions. Such modifications and variations are intended to fall within the scope of the appended claims. The present disclosure is to be limited only by the terms of the appended claims, along with the full scope of equivalents to which such claims are entitled. It is to be understood that this disclosure is not limited to particular methods, reagents, compounds compositions or biological systems, which can, of course, vary. It is also to be understood that the terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular examples only, and is not intended to be limiting.

There is little distinction left between hardware and software implementations of aspects of systems; the use of hardware or software is generally (but not always, in that in certain contexts the choice between hardware and software can become significant) a design choice representing cost vs. efficiency tradeoffs. There are various vehicles by which processes and/or systems and/or other technologies described herein can be effected (e.g., hardware, software, and/or firmware), and that the preferred vehicle will vary with the context in which the processes and/or systems and/or other technologies are deployed. For example, if an implementer determines that speed and accuracy are paramount, the implementer may opt for a mainly hardware and/or firmware vehicle; if flexibility is paramount, the implementer may opt for a mainly software implementation; or, yet again alternatively, the implementer may opt for some combination of hardware, software, and/or firmware.

The foregoing detailed description has set forth various examples of the devices and/or processes via the use of block diagrams, flowcharts, and/or examples. Insofar as such block diagrams, flowcharts, and/or examples contain one or more functions and/or operations, it will be understood by those within the art that each function and/or operation within such block diagrams, flowcharts, or examples can be implemented, individually and/or collectively, by a wide range of hardware, software, firmware, or virtually any combination thereof. In one example, several portions of the subject matter described herein may be implemented via Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs), Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs), digital signal processors (DSPs), or other integrated formats. However, those skilled in the art will recognize that some aspects of the examples disclosed herein, in whole or in part, can be equivalently implemented in integrated circuits, as one or more computer programs running on one or more computers (e.g., as one or more programs running on one or more computer systems), as one or more programs running on one or more processors (e.g., as one or

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more programs running on one or more microprocessors), as firmware, or as virtually any combination thereof, and that designing the circuitry and/or writing the code for the software and/or firmware would be well within the skill of one of skill in the art in light of this disclosure. In addition, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the mechanisms of the subject matter described herein are capable of being distributed as a program product in a variety of forms, and that an illustrative example of the subject matter described herein applies regardless of the particular type of signal bearing medium used to actually carry out the distribution. Examples of a signal bearing medium include, but are not limited to, the following: a recordable type medium such as a floppy disk, a hard disk drive, a Compact Disc (CD), a Digital Video Disk (DVD), a digital tape, a computer memory, etc.; and a transmission type medium such as a digital and/or an analog communication medium (e.g., a fiber optic cable, a waveguide, a wired communications link, a wireless communication link, etc.).

Those skilled in the art will recognize that it is common within the art to describe devices and/or processes in the fashion set forth herein, and thereafter use engineering practices to integrate such described devices and/or processes into data processing systems. That is, at least a portion of the devices and/or processes described herein can be integrated into a data processing system via a reasonable amount of experimentation. Those having skill in the art will recognize that a typical data processing system generally includes one or more of a system unit housing, a video display device, a memory such as volatile and non-volatile memory, processors such as microprocessors and digital signal processors, computational entities such as operating systems, drivers, graphical user interfaces, and applications programs, one or more interaction devices, such as a touch pad or screen, and/or control systems including feedback loops and control motors (e.g., feedback for sensing position and/or velocity; control motors for moving and/or adjusting components and/or quantities). A typical data processing system may be implemented utilizing any suitable commercially available components, such as those typically found in data computing/communication and/or network computing/communication systems.

The herein described subject matter sometimes illustrates different components contained within, or connected with, different other components. It is to be understood that such depicted architectures are merely examples, and that in fact many other architectures can be implemented which achieve the same functionality. In a conceptual sense, any arrangement of components to achieve the same functionality is effectively "associated" such that the desired functionality is achieved. Hence, any two components herein combined to achieve a particular functionality can be seen as "associated with" each other such that the desired functionality is achieved, irrespective of architectures or intermedial components. Likewise, any two components so associated can also be viewed as being "operably connected", or "operably coupled", to each other to achieve the desired functionality, and any two components capable of being so associated can also be viewed as being "operably couplable", to each other to achieve the desired functionality. Specific examples of operably couplable include but are not limited to physically mateable and/or physically interacting components and/or wirelessly interactable and/or wirelessly interacting components and/or logically interacting and/or logically interactable components.

With respect to the use of substantially any plural and/or singular terms herein, those having skill in the art can trans-

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late 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.

It will be understood by those within the art that, in general, terms used herein, and especially in the appended claims (e.g., bodies of the appended claims) 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.). It will be further understood by those within the art that if a specific number of an introduced claim recitation is intended, such an intent will be explicitly recited in the claim, and in the absence of such recitation no such intent is present. For example, as an aid to understanding, the following appended claims may contain usage of the introductory phrases "at least one" and "one or more" to introduce claim recitations. However, the use of such phrases should not be construed to imply that the introduction of a claim recitation by the indefinite articles "a" or "an" limits any particular claim containing such introduced claim recitation to examples containing only one such recitation, even when the same claim includes the introductory phrases "one or more" or "at least one" and indefinite articles such as "a" or "an" (e.g., "a" and/or "an" should be interpreted to mean "at least one" or "one or more"); the same holds true for the use of definite articles used to introduce claim recitations. In addition, even if a specific number of an introduced claim recitation is explicitly recited, those skilled in the art will recognize that such recitation should be interpreted to mean at least the recited number (e.g., the bare recitation of "two recitations," without other modifiers, means at least two recitations, or two or more recitations). Furthermore, in those instances where a convention analogous to "at least one of A, B, and C, etc." is used, in general such a construction is intended in the sense one having skill in the art would understand the convention (e.g., "a system having at least one of A, B, and C" would include but not be limited to systems that have A alone, B alone, C alone, A and B together, A and C together, B and C together, and/or A, B, and C together, etc.). In those instances where a convention analogous to "at least one of A, B, or C, etc." is used, in general such a construction is intended in the sense one having skill in the art would understand the convention (e.g., "a system having at least one of A, B, or C" would include but not be limited to systems that have A alone, B alone, C alone, A and B together, A and C together, B and C together, and/or A, B, and C together, etc.). It will be further understood by those within the art that virtually any disjunctive word and/or phrase presenting two or more alternative terms, whether in the description, claims, or drawings, should be understood to contemplate the possibilities of including one of the terms, either of the terms, or both terms. For example, the phrase "A or B" will be understood to include the possibilities of "A" or "B" or "A and B."

In addition, where features or aspects of the disclosure are described in terms of Markush groups, those skilled in the art will recognize that the disclosure is also thereby described in terms of any individual member or subgroup of members of the Markush group.

As will be understood by one skilled in the art, for any and all purposes, such as in terms of providing a written description, all ranges disclosed herein also encompass any and all possible subranges and combinations of subranges thereof. Any listed range can be easily recognized as sufficiently describing and enabling the same range being broken down into at least equal halves, thirds, quarters, fifths, tenths, etc. As

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a non-limiting example, each range discussed herein can be readily broken down into a lower third, middle third and upper third, etc. As will also be understood by one skilled in the art all language such as “up to,” “at least,” “greater than,” “less than,” and the like include the number recited and refer to ranges which can be subsequently broken down into sub-ranges as discussed above. Finally, as will be understood by one skilled in the art, a range includes each individual member. Thus, for example, a group having 1-3 cells refers to groups having 1, 2, or 3 cells. Similarly, a group having 1-5 cells refers to groups having 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 cells, and so forth.

While various aspects and examples have been disclosed herein, other aspects and examples will be apparent to those skilled in the art. The various aspects and examples disclosed herein are for purposes of illustration and are not intended to be limiting, with the true scope and spirit being indicated by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A display device for sensing the proximity of a touch, comprising:

an organic light emitting diode (OLED) display comprising OLED materials forming a plurality of nodes configured to emit light when drive circuitry provides a signal across the plurality of nodes at or above an illumination threshold; and

measurement circuitry disposed proximate to the plurality of nodes, wherein the measurement circuitry is configured to sense the light reflected off of an object positioned over the OLED display and passed through the OLED materials, and wherein the measurement circuitry is further configured to provide a measurement signal responsive to the sensed reflected light.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of nodes comprises an OLED pixel.

3. The device of claim 2, wherein the measurement circuitry comprises a plurality of measurement circuits, and each of the measurement circuits is associated with one OLED pixel for sensing the reflected light emitted from the OLED pixel.

4. The device of claim 1, wherein the OLED materials comprise a plurality of OLED display layers.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein the measurement circuitry is configured to sense the reflected light at a predefined intensity.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein the measurement circuitry is configured to sense the reflected light during a predefined time interval.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein the OLED display is configured to emit pulsed light, and the measurement circuitry is configured to sense the reflected light that is emitted from the plurality of nodes as pulsed light.

8. The device of claim 1, wherein the measurement circuitry further comprises a directional sensor configured to sense the reflected light from a limited area proximate the sensor.

9. The device of claim 8, wherein the directional sensor is arranged on an outer edge of the OLED display.

10. The device of claim 9, wherein the measurement circuitry further comprises a plurality of silvered mirrors arranged under a portion of the OLED display.

11. The device of claim 1, wherein the measurement circuitry further comprises a filter for filtering out noise.

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12. The device of claim 1, further comprising a processor coupled to the measurement circuitry, wherein the processor is configured to:

receive measurement signals from the measurement circuitry, the measurement signals being indicative of the sensed reflected light;

evaluate the received measurement signals; and  
determine the location of the touch from the evaluation of the received measurement signals.

13. A method for sensing a touch on an organic light emitting diode (OLED) display, comprising:

emitting light from a plurality of nodes on the OLED display when drive circuitry provides a signal across the plurality of nodes at or above an illumination threshold, wherein the nodes are formed from OLED materials;

detecting reflected light along the edges of the OLED display, wherein the reflected light is passed through the OLED materials, wherein the detecting occurs using measurement circuitry arranged along the edges of the OLED display to provide sensed signals corresponding to two or more objects proximate to the display, wherein the sensed signals for each object comprises a signal associated with an x-axis position and a signal associated with a y-axis position; and

evaluating the sensed signals associated with the x-axis and y-axis to identify the location of the touch.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein evaluating the sensed signals comprises:

re-emitting light at each of the x-axis and y-axis intersection points; and

detecting the presence of reflected light to identify the locations of the touch.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein evaluating the sensed signals comprises:

scanning the plurality of nodes by re-emitting light on a per column and/or per row basis; and

detecting the presence of reflected light at multiple points in time to identify the locations of the touch.

16. A method for sensing the proximity of an object to an organic light emitting diode (OLED) display, comprising:

emitting light from a plurality of nodes on the OLED display when drive circuitry provides a signal across the plurality of nodes at or above an illumination threshold, and wherein the OLED display includes OLED materials;

detecting reflected light using measurement circuitry to provide a measurement signal, wherein the reflected light corresponds to at least a portion of emitted light that is reflected from the object proximate to the display through the OLED materials;

evaluating the measurement signal; and

determining the location of the display proximate to the object providing the reflected light based on at least the evaluation of the detected reflected light.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising amplifying a plurality of signals generated by the measurement circuitry in response to detecting the reflected light, and converting the plurality of amplified signals to a plurality of digital signals.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein emitting light from the plurality of nodes comprises emitting a pulsed light from the plurality of nodes.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein detecting the reflected light further comprises filtering out non-pulsed light.

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