

EL

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Multi-head Inkjet Patterning System for Manufacturing a Full Color Polymer Light Emitting Device (pLED)

Jehoon Oh, Sikyoung Kim, Heeyoul Yoon, Seil Oh and Yoomyung Kang, Kwangil Kim

Key Words : Polymer Light Emitting Device (EL), Inkjet Patterning (), Drop Stability ()

Abstract

According to the increase of lifetime and efficiency, the interest in the pLED has dramatically increased recently because pLED can be applied to large-size and flexible displays. The core process in the manufacture of pLED is the printing process of red, green and blue light emitting polymers (LEP), and inkjet printing method is one of the promising technology to print red, green and blue LEP on glass substrates. In this work, we developed a multi-head inkjet patterning system with 3 heads for each color. The developed inkjet patterning system is composed of the precise positioning system, head controller circuit, real-time ink drop evaluation system, maintenance system, and stable ink supply system. Finally, we investigated the stability and reliability of the system by printing red, green and blue LEP on the dummy substrate.

1.

가

21

가

EL 가

가

(4-6)

EL (LEP: Light Emitting Polymer)

EL

Spin

Coating

가

EL

Ink drop

TFT-

LCD

(1-3)

EL

EL Polymer)

R, G, B LEP (Light Emitting

EL

†

SDI

E-mail : jehoon@samsung.com

TEL : (031)210-8032 FAX : (031)210-7967

*

SDI

(4-6)

가

EL
CDT (Cambridge Display Technology)
SEIKO-EPSON

EL

EL

Litrex

(7)

Color

가

가

가

Ink drop

Tolerance

$\pm 10 \mu\text{m}$

R, G, B LEP

LEP

가

, Ink drop

Drop 가

/

LEP

가

2.

Ink drop

Ink drop

(Continuous System)

Drop on Demand

. Drop on Demand

가

Thermal (or Bubble) Jet

Piezo Jet

, Piezo Jet

Aqueous Piezo

가

melt Piezo

Hot-

EL
R, G, B LEP (Light Emitting

Polymer)

Piezo

Jet

Fig. 1

EL LEP

. Fig. 1

LEP

PEDOT

가

가

Ink drop

Size 가

Ink drop

Ink drop

1)

, 2)

3)

, 4)

, 5)

3.

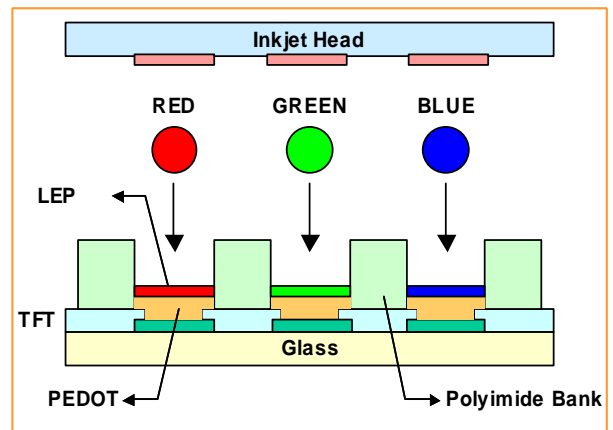


Fig. 1 Schematics of the inkjet patterning for LEP (Light Emitting Polymer).

LEP

Maintenance , Ink drop 가

3.1

X-Y 2

3

. X,Y 2

Split Axes, Single Plane, Gantry,

Stacked XY 4 가

400x400mm ,

가 Split Axes

Single Plane

Split Axes 가 X

Y

Single Plane

X-Y . Split Axes

가

가

, Single Plane

가

가

가

Table 1 Specifications of the positioning systems.

Specification	Split Axes		Single Plane
	X-stage	Y-stage	XY-stage
Total travel	500mm	500mm	500 x 500mm
Accuracy	1 μm	1 μm	1 μm
Straightness & Flatness	3 μm	2 μm	2 μm
Roll, Pitch, Yaw	2 arcsec	10 arcsec	2 arcsec

Table 2 Error analysis for the positioning systems.

Axes	Split Axes Type	Single Plane Type
X	9.3 μm	3.1 μm
Y	3.3 μm	3.1 μm
Z	12.6 μm	2.8 μm

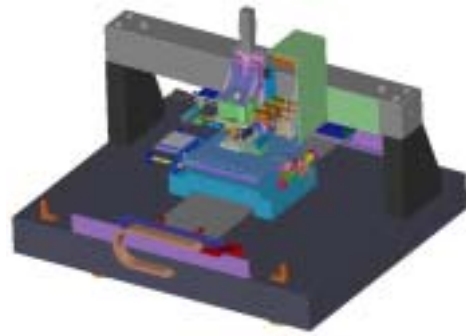


Fig. 2 Precision positioning system for the inkjet patterning.

Table 1

Specification

Table 2

Split Axes

Single Plane

, X-axis

가

Single Plane

X-Y 2

, X-Y Stage

Air bearing

X-Y Stage

. Fig. 2

3.2

R, G, B LEP

3

가 가

, R, G, B

Cleaning

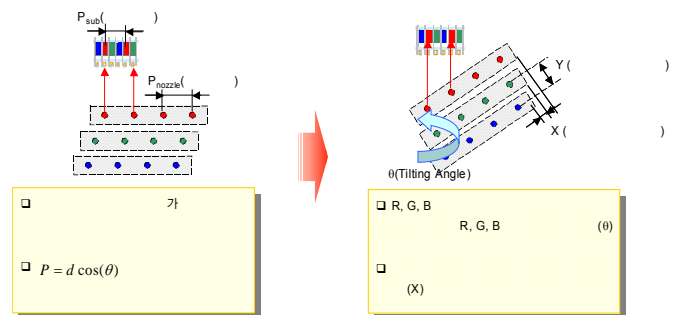


Fig. 3 Relation between the pixel pitch and the nozzle pitch.

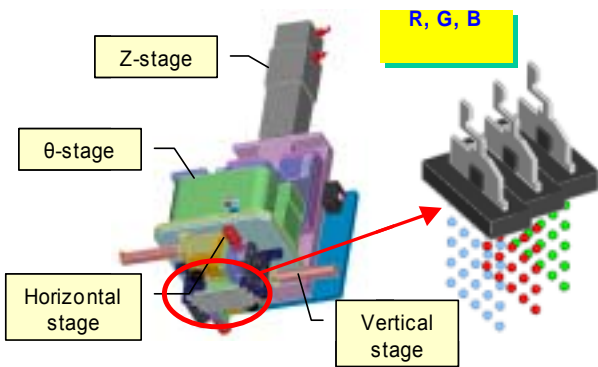


Fig. 4 Multi-head system for each color.

$$P_{Sub} = P_{Nozzle} \cos \theta \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{P_{Sub}}{3} = Y \sin \theta - X \cos \theta \quad (2)$$

, P_{Sub}
 P_{Nozzle} , θ , X , Y

Fig. 3

(2)

run-out accuracy

Fig. 4

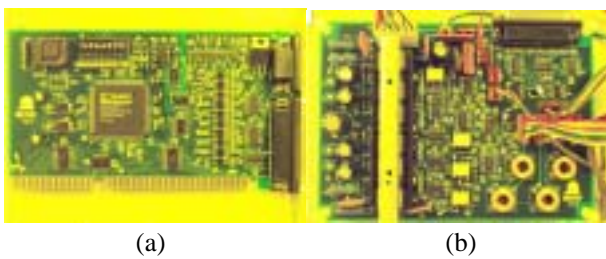


Fig. 5 Inkjet head controller system: (a) head controller and (b) high voltage driving circuit.

() 가
 () 가
 , Even/odd
 interlace , R, G, B
 Delay 가
 가

가 PZT 가 160V
 Fig. 5

Time Resolution 0.56 μ s , 24.5kHz
 가

3.3

가

가 가

Ink supply, 가
 Purging, 가 가
 Meniscus 가 Fig.

6

가 가

Z

Fig. 7

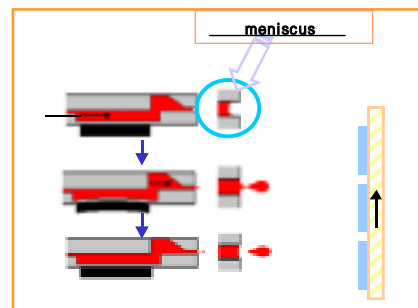


Fig. 6 Meniscus shape of ink at the nozzle.

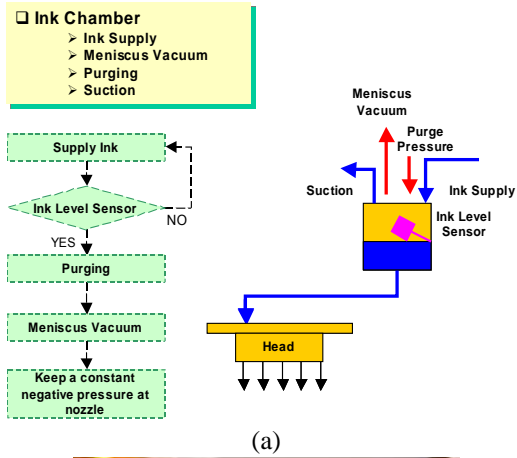


Fig. 7 Ink supply system: (a) schematics and (b) photograph.

LED , Ink drop
 LED μs On
 Ink drop
 LED Delay time
 ink drop
 ink drop
 EL LEP

Maintenance

Cleaning 가 Solvent
 Capping system
 Cleaning paper Cleaning system , LEP
 pLED
 Glove

Ink Supply, Purging
 Meniscus Suction
 가
 가 Ink Reservoir
 Meniscus (-) 가
 Meniscus ± 0.2 kPa
 3.4 Drop 가 Maintenance
 EL LEP

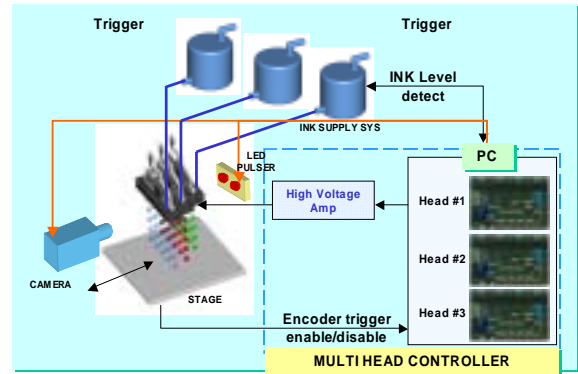


Fig. 8 Schematics of the drop evaluation system.



(a)

가
 가
 ~ 6m/s
 Strobe
 Ink drop
 , Fig.
 8
 Fig. 8 PC



(b)

Fig. 9 Inkjet printing system for a full color pLED: (a) 3D CAD model and (b) photograph.

Box

가

EL LEP

Fig. 9

4.

가

가

Purging

, Meniscus

, Cleaning

Drop

Ink drop

Covion 社 () Red

2

, Fig. 10

가 Ink drop

Fig. 10

Drop size

, Purging

Cleaning

, Drop straightness

Cleaning

Drop

size

Drop straightness 가

, Fig. 10

Ink drop

Fig. 11

Ink drop

Ink drop

가 Fig. 12 Drop
size Drop straightness 가
가 Drop size
, Drop straightness 가
Straightness 가 가 가

Covion 社

Red

Drop size straightness

, Table 3

, Fig. 13

Drop size Drop

straightness 가

Drop size

straightness

. Fig. 14

Bare

glass Dummy glass

가

Table. 3 Optimized value for input variables.

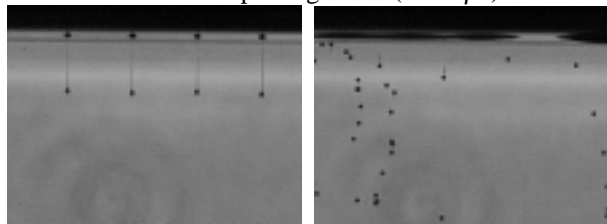
Input variable	Determined value
Firing frequency	400Hz
Pulse width	5.5 μ s
Driving voltage	57.5V
Purging pressure	25kPa
Meniscus pressure	- 7.4kPa
Cleaning time	4sec



(a)

(b)

Fig. 10 Effect of various factors on (a) drop size and (b) drop straightness (unit: μ m).



(a)

(b)

Fig. 11 Ink drop formation: (a) stable formation and (b) unstable formation.

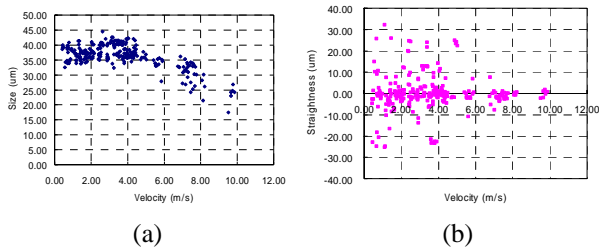


Fig. 12 Effect of the jetting velocity on (a) drop size and (b) drop straightness.

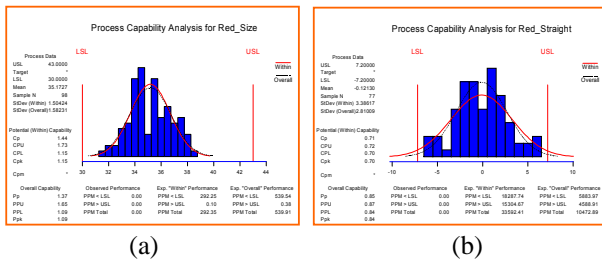


Fig. 13 Distribution of drop size and drop straightness at the optimum condition (freq. = 400Hz, pulse width = 5.5 µs, and driving voltage = 57.5V).

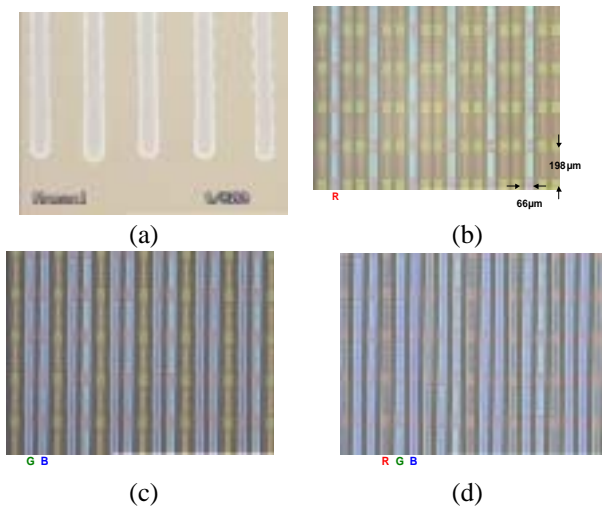


Fig. 14 Results of inkjet patterning on (a) bare glass with red ink, (b) dummy glass with red ink, (c) dummy glass with green and blue inks and (d) dummy glass with red, green and blue inks.

5.

R, G, B LEP

LEP
가

5.1 Ink drop

5.2 가 가 Drop size
, Drop straightness

가 가 가 Straightness

5.3 Drop size
Drop straightness 가
Drop size

straightness

EL
가

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