國立交通大學

光電工程研究所

碩 士 論 文

可切換直視與投影功能之行動顯示器裝置

Direct view and Projection Functions Hybrid Switchable $\eta_{H111111}$ Mobile Display

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之行動顯示器裝置

Direct view and Projection Functions Hybrid Switchable Mobile Display

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可切換直視與投影功能之行動 顯示器裝置

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摘……男

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為了讓行動顯示裝置更實用與便利,我們提出一項使用單片液晶面板且可以 切換直視與投影功能的行動顯示裝置。這項裝置由高準直的背光、高分子分散液 晶以及投影鏡頭構成,在此架構下該裝置可以切換直視與投影功能。藉由投影功 能,手機面板所呈現的影像尺寸得以被放大,同時可以提供給更多人來分享手機 的資訊,手機的實用性也因此更加提升。

實際架設硬體後,在 426 公厘的投影距離下影像可以被放大七倍。在此系統 下,影像可以直接藉由面板投影出來。同時展現切換直視與投影的功能,進而實 現手機投影的能力。

Direct View and Projection Functions Hybrid Switchable Mobile Display

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Abstract

In order to make mobile phone more useful and convenient, a device which can switch between direct view and projection modes has been presented. The device uses only single liquid crystal (LC) panel as image source and is composed of a highly collimated backlight unit, polymer dispersed liquid crystal (PDLC) component, and a projection lens structure. Thus, the device can switch between direct view and projection modes. The image size of mobile phone panel could be enlarged through the projection function. Therefore, more people are allowed to share information at the same time. This switchable function allows mobile phone to be also as a projector.

From the experimental results, the projection image size in diagonal could be magnified by 7 times at a throw distance of 426mm. The experiment verified that an image was projected from panel directly. In addition, the experimental results showed that the device could switch between the direct view and projection modes. As a result, the mobile phone could also provide projection function.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Preface

Mobile phone has become an important part of human life. Function including phone, camera, music player and game console can all be provided by the portable unit (Fig. 1-1). Information of different types and formats can be easily and quickly accessed and shared.

Fig. 1-1 Integrating of a camera, music, and game has increased the practicability.

A display panel is a basic requirement to present information. However, the panel in mobile phone has limitation on size; which makes the image not comfortable to read and allows only few people to share information at the same time. To enlarge the image size without impacting mobile phone size has brought in the approach to integrate a projector into mobile phone. One of the future trends for mobile phones is to include projector into existent functions, as shown in Fig. 1-2.

Fig. 1-2 Integrating a projector into a mobile phone allows the information to be widely displayed.

1.2 Introductions of Projectors

The requirement on larger image size is the major focus for projector. To achieve large image size, a variety of projectors have been developed. According to optical engines, projectors can be classified into DLP, 3LCD, and LCoS systems.

1.2.1 DLP Type Projector

DLP (Digital Light Processing™) [1][2][3] technology was developed by TI (Texas Instruments) and is based on DMD (Digital Micromirror Device), as shown in Fig. 1-3. DMD is a switch component, which controls the intensity and placement of projected light via thousands of mirrors.

Fig. 1-3 DLP core technology---DMD by TI.

In DMD unit, micromirrors which are fixed on the DLP board can tilt either toward or away from light source, as shown in Fig. 1-4. When the micromirrors tilt toward light source (the switch is on state), light is reflected on the projection lens by the micromirrors. Then the bright pixel is yielded (as the micromirror "a"). When the micromirrors tilt the other way (the switch is off state), light is reflected on the light absorber component, and the dark pixel is yielded (as the micromirros "b"). A gray level pixel is yielded by controlling the duty of between micromirror "a" and micromirror "b" states.

Fig. 1-4 DMD mechanism. The micromirror "a" is at bright state, and the micromirror "b" is at dark state.

DLP technology uses DMD to form image. In the DLP system, red, green, and blue colors are generated by a color wheel which spins between the lamp and the DLP board. The color wheel alternates the color of the light which is emitting into the micromirrors. Finally, the micromirrors reflect the color light on the projection lens to form an image, as shown in Fig. $1-5$ [1].

Fig. 1-5 DLP projector optical system [1].

DLP technology has two features. First, the dynamic image does not suffer from the blur phenomenon. Due to the characteristics of the DMD and digital control technology, the micromirrors can be switched on and off quickly. Therefore, response time of micromirrors is only a few microseconds (ms) [1], which reduce image blue. For the reason, DLP system is able to render dynamic image with high quality. Second, the optical engine is compact. Because of microseconds response time of micromirrors, only one chip is allowed to use in the optical engine. Thus, the single chip design helps DLP projector be compact. A single-chip projector system uses color wheel to yield sequential color, and the sequential color form the image. When there is a relative motion between the image and the observer eyes, the separated color on image fringes can be perceived by human eye. The phenomenon is called color breakup, as shown in Fig. 1-6.

1.2.2 3LCD Type Projector

LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) is a popular display technology. LCD is widely used in TVs, monitors, and projectors. 3LCD projector [4] uses three monochromatic LCD panels to produce the color images, as shown in Fig. 1-7 [5].

Fig. 1-7 3LCD projector optical engine [5].

White light source from the illumination system is separated into three colors (red, green, and blue color) by dichroic mirrors. Then each of the three colors passes through the corresponding LCD panel which is used as a light valve. The LCD panel modifies the color, and then three colors are combined by a dichroic prism to produce an image.

Due to 3LCD projector does not use field sequential technology, 3LCD projector has no color breakup issue. However, a disadvantage of 3LCD projectors is the "screen door" effect. 3LCD projector is a transmissive type projector [5], light passes through the monochromatic LCD panels. The panels of 3LCD projector have to be transparent, but the circuits on the panels around each pixel form an opaque grid. Therefore, when the image is projected, the "screen door" effect is easily perceived, as shown in Fig. 1-8. Besides, lower light efficiency is another drawback due to low aperture ratio and the light absorption by LCD panel.

Fig. 1-8 The "screen door" effect for 3LCD projector.

1.2.3 LCoS Type Projector

LCoS (Liquid Crystal on Silicon) [6] technology combines a semiconductor with LCD technology. In LCoS projector, reflective mirrors unit used in DLP projector is replaced by liquid crystals applied directly on the silicon.

The LCoS optical engine is shown in Fig. 1-9. White light from the illumination system is divided into three colors (red, green, and blue colors) by a color wheel. The desired colors pass through the corresponding PBS (Polarizing beam splitter) [8] which only reflects s-polarized light on LCoS panel. Then the polarized light is modulated by the LCoS panel. When LC signal is at bright state, LCoS panel modifies s-polarized light to p-polarized. Then light is reflected again by LCoS panel and emitted on projection lens. However, when LC is at dark state, light is kept as s-polarized and is not able to pass through the PBS. No incident light on projection lens resulted in dark image.

Fig. 1-9 Optical engine of LCoS projector.

LCoS projectors is reflective type, light is reflected by LCoS panel [7][8]. Also, because the transistors and driving circuits are located under the LCoS panel surface, the aperture ratio is higher than LCD panel. Therefore, compared with 3LCD projectors, higher brightness and higher light efficiency are achieved. Moreover, light does not pass through the circuits on the panel, the LCoS projector has no "screen door" issue. However, the LCoS projector system also uses color wheel to produce sequential color and form the image. Thus, the LCoS projector has color breakup issue, too. Then the comparison of the three kinds of projectors between the three projector types is summarizes in Table. 1.

	Type	Color breakup	Screen door	Light	Compact	
		issue	effect	efficiency	volume	
DLP	Reflective	X				
[1][2][3]						
3LCD	Transmissive		X	X	Х	
[4][5]						
LCoS	Reflective	\times				
[6][7][8]						
$X:$ Poor : Good						

Table. 1 The comparisons of three kinds of projectors.

The projectors previously mentioned can provide large image size. However, the bulky volume of projector limits the practicality. Therefore, the lightweight mini-projectors start to get interest and attention. The development of mini-projectors is described as follows.

1.3 Introductions of Mini-projector

The bulky volume of projectors limits its practicality. A compact, lightweight, and portable projector becomes the trend. Different types of mini-projectors have been developed. Due to the optical engine of 3LCD projector uses three monochromatic LCD panels to form image, 3LCD projector is not appropriate to be used for mini-projector. However, the optical engines of either DLP or LCoS projectors can be compact by using single-chip or single-panel system, respectively.

Thus DLP and LCoS type mini-projectors have already been developed. These two kinds of mini-projectors are introduced below.

1.3.1 DLP Type Mini-projector

DLP type mini-projectors are shown in Fig. 1-10(a). The mini-projector combines DLP^{\circledR} Pico chipset technology with R, G, and B LED light sources, and the working principle is similar to DLP projector mentioned previously. The projector can be connected with mobile phone or game console (Fig. 1-10(b)), and form an image of the dimension 6" to 60" in diagonal with a throw distance between 0.25 to 2.6m [9]. Furthermore, the projected image resolution can achieve 480x320 (HVGA), and the image brightness is about 10 lumens [9].

Fig. 1-10 (a) Mini-projector by Optoma and DLP technology from $TI^{[9]}$ and (b) connect with mobile phone.

1.3.2 LCoS Type Mini-projector

LCoS projector is another kind of mini-projector, and the sketch [10] is shown in Fig. 1-11. The mini-projector which uses one LCoS panel enables compact size. Red, green, and blue colors LED light sources are used, and the working principle is similar to the LCoS projector described earlier [11]. The projected image can achieve a size of 6" to 50" [10] diagonally with a throw distance between 0.25 to 2.2m. Moreover, the projected image resolution is 640x480(VGA), and the image brightness is about 10 lumens [10]. The specifications of these two mini-projectors are summarized in Table. 2.

Fig. 1-11 Sketch and photo of a 3M LCoS mini-projector.

AMMARY

1.4 Motivation and Objective

A compact and portable mini-projector was developed to achieve mobile projector. The DLP and LCoS type mini-projectors both have an embedded projection module in the mobile platform. The embedded projection module included either DLP chips or LCoS panels, in addition to optical components such as PBS, color combiner, and reflective micromirrors. Furthermore, the projection module needed a power supply and extra circuits to function. Therefore, the entire mini-projector was as large as a portable device, such as PDA or mobile phone (Fig. 1-10(b)). Carrying a mini-projector and mobile phone at the same time was not convenient, therefore practicality was limited.

In order to resolve the problem of embedding projection module into portable display device, a structure was proposed to replace projection module and allow panel to project image directly. The structure was able to switch between direct view and projection functions, and was named direct view/projection hybrid switchable mobile display. Direct view mode here was referred to the general panel applications, an observer saw the image directly, as shown in Fig. 1-12(a) and projection mode projected the panel image on a screen, as shown in Fig. 1-12(b). Hence, the projection module and the extra circuits were unnecessary. Furthermore, according to the specifications of mini-projectors [9][14], the brightness for the proposed device in projection mode should achieve 10 lumens. In order to maintain image quality, the backlight uniformity also needed to be taken into consideration. Backlight uniformity was required to be higher than 70%, and the image quality index MTF (Modulation Transfer function) to achieve 50% (base on manufacturing tolerance) which would be described later.

Fig. 1-12 (a) Direct view mode, and (b) projection mode.

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1.5 Organization

This thesis is organized as follows. In **Chapter 2**, **t**he concept and mechanism of switchable optical structure will be detailed. In **Chapter 3,** the considerations of specifications will be described. Besides, the MTF principle will be introduced. In **Chapter 4**, the optical structure designs and simulations will be presented. In **Chapter 5**, the experimental results and discussions will be described. Finally, the conclusions and future works will be given in **Chapter6**.

Chapter 2

Concepts of Switchable Optical Structure

In order to perform direct view and projection functions, two methods including microstructures and projection lens were proposed. The microstructure method was composed of active lens and collimated backlight. The projection lens method was comprised of a projection lens, PDLC, and collimated backlight. First, the optical component PDLC (polymer dispersed liquid crystal) which was used in both methods will be introduced. Second, the microstructure components and the switch method will be described. Then, the projection lens method and the operation concept were presented. Finally, the brief summary will be given.

2.1 PDLC (Polymer Dispersed Liquid Crystal) Component

The microstructure and projection lens structure methods could switch between direct view and projection mode. In order to achieve the switch function, the PDLC component played an important role.

PDLC was a combination of polymers and liquid crystals, which was used in displays, light shutters, and switchable windows. In a PDLC, the liquid crystal existed in the form of micron- and submicron-size droplets which were dispersed in the polymer binder [16]. The polymer formed a continuous medium, but the liquid crystal droplets were isolated from one another. In a PDLC, the scattering of light was due to the refractive index mismatched between the liquid crystal and the polymer. At zero voltage, the droplets directions were oriented randomly throughout the cell. The PDLC was a non-uniform optical medium and light was scattered when light propagated through the PDLC, as shown in Fig. 2-1(a). However, when a sufficient electric voltage was applied the PDLC cell, the droplets were reoriented to the same direction which paralleled to the normal of the cell. Hence, the PDLC was a uniform optical medium for the light. When light went through the PDLC, light was not scattered, as shown in Fig. 2-1(b). Therefore, base on the PDLC scattering characteristic, PDLC component was adequate to achieve the functions which could switch between the direct view and projection modes.

Fig. 2-1 Orientation of liquid crystal inside the PDLC droplets in the (a) field-off and (b) field-on states.

According to the PDLC scatting characteristic, the microstructure method and projection lens method used PDLC component to switch between direct view and projection functions. These two methods were described below.

2.2 Microstructure Method

To achieve the target of doing projection whenever needed without being limited by a projection module (named as mobile projection in later discussion), the microstructure was added to the top of liquid crystal display (LCD) panel, and the panel projected image directly, as shown in Fig. 2-2.

Fig. 2-2 The concept of using a panel to project image.

The microstructure method utilized two units: the active lens structure and the collimated backlight module, as shown in Fig. 2-3. The emerging light from collimated backlight with a small diverging angle passed through the LCD. By adjusting the active lens, the image was projected. The optical components of active lens and collimated backlight were described as follows.

Fig. 2-3 Illustration of structure and light path.

2.2.1 Optical Structure Components

The active lens was used to switch between direct view and projection functions. Therefore, the active lens was comprised of asymmetric lens structure and PDLC, as shown in the Fig. 2-4. The asymmetric lens was used to guide light directions by the lens shape and extends the projection image regions.

Fig. 2-4 Sketch of active lens structure.

The other part of the active lens was PDLC, which is used to scatter light. When light passed through PDLC component, light was scattered by applying a sufficient voltage. The details were described in section 2.1.

Another unit was the collimated backlight module. The collimation of backlight was important. The light with small diverging angle could decrease the crosstalk phenomenon, and image quality in projection mode was improved. Therefore, the small diverging angle light was required for the microstructures method.

2.2.2 Microstructure Method Switch Principle

The microstructure method could switch between direct view and projection modes. In the direct view mode, the PDLC was applied no voltage, the PDLC became a diffusive film. Then, light was scatted in all direction after passing through the combination of the asymmetric lens structure with the PDLC, as shown in Fig. 2-5. Thus an observer could see the image directly. In the projection mode, the PDLC was applied a sufficient voltage, the PDLC became transparent. Light was not scattered after passing through the PDLC. Then when light went through asymmetric lens, light radiated outward and gradually diverged toward both sides. Therefore, a broader projection area and magnified image were obtained, as shown in Fig. 2-6.

Fig. 2-6 (a) When PDLC becomes a transparent film, light radiates outward and gradually diverges toward both sides after passing through the asymmetric lens structure, and (b) sketch of projection condition.

After introducing the microstructure method, the second method was projection lens method and also used to perform direct view and projection functions.

2.3 Projection Lens Structure Method

Instead of using a projection module to achieve mobile projection, projection lens was utilized. The method used the collimated backlight module, PDLC, and projection lens. The backlight module was also required to provide the smaller diverging angle light. The light with small diverging angle could enter to the optical system and was not blocked by optical component, such as aperture stop, so that light could be used effectively. Thus, the projection lens method required the small diverging angle light to increase light efficiency.

2.3.1 Optical Structure Components

In order to integrate the projection lens into mobile phone, a folding phone was used. A device configuration is shown in Fig. 2-7. The image source panel and collimated backlight module were on the bottom plate, and a projection lens was on the top plate. The image source panel was a conventional liquid crystal panel with a polymer dispersed liquid crystal (PDLC) diffuser[15] in between the backlight module and the LC panel. Besides, the projection lens on the top plate was stretchable and similar to camera lenses, which stretches out only when being used.

Fig. 2-7 Configuration of the projection lens structure.

2.3.2 Projection Lens Operation Concept

The device had two different operation modes: direct view mode and projection mode. For direct view mode, as shown in Fig. 2-8(a), the cover plate was flipped over. At the same time, the PDLC was off and became highly diffusive. Then light was scattered, and an observer could see the image directly. The projection mode required closing the cover plate and stretching the projection lens element, as shown in Fig. 2-8(b). In projection mode, the PDLC needed to be on to become a transparent film, which allowed light to go through PDLC without scattering. Then, the image could be projected after light passed through the projection lens. Therefore, an observer could perceive the projected image.

Fig. 2-8 Operation modes of switchable display device (a) direct view and (b) projection mode.

2.4 Summary

The concepts of the optical architectures and switch methods of the microstructures and projection lens method were presented. Furthermore, PDLC component played an important role in the switching segment. Therefore, the direct view/projection switchable display device was able to be achieved by combining the PDLC with the microstructure or the projection lens structure. A simple design flowchart is shown in Fig. 2-9. From Fig. 2-9, the all optical structures of the switchable device were comprised of two parts: collimated backlight module and projection optical structure. The design detail will be described in later section. In order to set up the optical structures, the specifications for the both optical structures

Fig. 2-9 The optical structures of the switchable device.

Chapter 3

The Considerations of Specifications

To design optical structures of the switchable device, the considerations and specifications of the device will be discussed first. The specifications were divided into three parts: experimental device, backlight and image specifications. The experimental device specification covered panel size and resolution. The backlight specifications were comprised of backlight brightness and uniformity. Finally, the image specifications included the image magnification ratio, throw ratio, relative illumination, and image quality. Furthermore, the image quality principle will also be described later.

3.1 Experimental Device Specification

To allow LCD panel of mobile phone to project image directly (Fig. 2-2), the optical structures were applied directly to the LCD panel. Therefore panel specifications must be determined. Because the panel resolution used by mobile phone was QVGA (320x240) or VGA (640x480), the QVGA display panel was chosen for this study. Besides, the panel size was 1.96 inch in diagonal length, and the aspect ratio was 4:3. Thus, the corresponding pixel size was 124.5*um* by 124.5*um*.

3.2 Backlight Specification

3.2.1 Brightness

The mini-projectors which were mentioned previously could display 10 lumens brightness image. In order to achieve the same brightness as that of mini-projectors, the minimum brightness for the proposed backlight module in projection mode was 10 lumens.

3.2.2 Uniformity

In projection system, a small diverging angle backlight was required to improve image quality and light efficiency. The backlight module needed to provide the small diverging angle light. Therefore, in order to achieve the small diverging angle light, the diffuser was not used. However, to avoid the projection image to be non-uniform caused by lack of diffuser, the uniformity problem should be taken into consideration, and the backlight uniformity was determined to achieve 70%. The uniformity measurement was as follows. 9 testing points distributed evenly on the panel, and each point had its own brightness, as shown in Fig. 3-1. The area inside red dotted line was the panel display area. Then, the uniformity was the ratio of min brightness to max brightness, and the formula is shown below:

Fig. 3-1 The sketch of testing point position. The red points are the testing points.

$$
Uniformity = \frac{L_{\min}}{L_{\max}}
$$
 (1)

 L_{max} and L_{min} are the maximal and the minimum brightness of the 9 testing points, respectively.

3.3 Image Specifications

3.3.1 Magnification Ratio and Throw Distance

Switchable device in projection mode could magnify the image to a size of an A4 paper with a throw distance between 400 to 500 millimeters, which was similar to mini-projectors [9][14]. The throw distance was the distance from the optical structure to the projected image. Due to the image was magnified from 1.96 inch in diagonal length to a size of A4 paper which was about 14 inch in diagonal length, the magnification ratio was about 7 times. The sketch of the throw distance and magnification is shown in Fig. 3-2.

Fig. 3-2 Sketch of the throw distance and the relative size of panel and image size.

3.3.2 Relative Illumination

Relative illumination (RI) was defined as the illumination ratio of off-axis to on-axis. In a projection system, the illumination decayed from the image center (FOV=0[°]) to image edge (FOV= $\frac{\delta}{2}$ [°]), and the decay ratio was cos ⁴ $\frac{\delta}{2}$ [17], where " δ " is the field of view (FOV) of optical system. The FOV sketch is shown in Fig. 3-3. Therefore, for our projection lens FOV, relative illumination was determined to be bigger than 70% at the max field of view.

3.3.3 Image Quality

MTF [18] (Modulation Transfer function) was an index to determine the image quality, and the definition was described as follows. The light intensity in object space could be represented by sine function. After light passed through the optical system to the image space, the light intensity in image space was modified and formed an image. The OPT (optical transfer function) is presented as:

$$
OPT(v) = MTF(v) \exp[iPTF(v)] \tag{2}
$$

Where, the symbol " v " is spatial frequency. MTF(v) was the real part of OPT(v) and represented the amplitude ratio of sine function in image space to that in object space. PTF (v) (phase transfer function) was the image part of $OPT(v)$, and was the phase

difference between image and object spaces. The example (Fig. 3-4) below used sine function to describe the meaning of MTF. The contrast ratio was defined as the formula:

 $I(v)_{max}$ and $I(v)_{min}$ are the maximal and the minimum intensities of object or image spaces for the spatial frequency *v*. In Fig. 3-4, the object contrast ratio is:

$$
C_{obj}(v) = \frac{(a_0 + a) - (a_0 - a)}{(a_0 + a) + (a_0 - a)} = \frac{a}{a_0}
$$
\n(4)

The image contrast ratio is:

$$
C_{img}(v) = \frac{[a_0 + MTF(v)*a] - [a_0 + MTF(v)*a]}{[a_0 + MTF(v)*a] + [a_0 + MTF(v)*a]} = \frac{MTF(v)*a}{a_0}
$$
(5)

Dividing equation (4) by (5), the MTF index is:

$$
MTF(v) = \frac{C_{img}(v)}{C_{obj}(v)}
$$
\n(6)

According to the equation (6), $MTF(v)$ was defined as the ratio of image contrast to object contrast ratio. Therefore, the image quality of the optical system could be estimated by $MTF(v)$ index. If the MTF was of less than 0.2 or near 0, the image could not be recognized by the optical system. The MTF was measured at a spatial frequency which was defined as

$$
Spatial frequency (lp/mm) = \frac{1}{2 * pixel size (mm)}
$$
 (7)

The panel pixel size was 124.5*um,* the corresponding spatial frequency was 4 lp/mm(line pair per millimeter). Due to the impact of manufacturing tolerance on MTF, the MTF for manufacturing was determined to be 50% for spatial frequency of 4 lp/mm.

3.4 Summary

The specifications for the proposed direct view/projection switchable display device had been determined. All specifications were summarized in Table. 3. According to the above specifications, the optical system was designed. The optical systems and simulation will be described in later sections.

Table. 3 The specifications for direct view/projection switchable display device.

Chapter 4

Optical Structure Design and Simulations

The Optical structures which allowed the panel to project image directly from LCD panel was designed to replace projection module. Using these optical structures, the embedded projection module became unnecessary. The optical design and simulation results were presented. First, the design flowchart was introduced. Second, the backlight design and the microstructure method were described. Finally, the projection lens structure was implemented.

4.1 Design Flowchart

An optical system design procedures could be divided into the following steps and the design flowchart for the proposed optical system is shown in Fig. 4-1.

(1) Optical system specifications

The optical system specifications such as panel size and resolution were decided. In addition, backlight and image specifications were also determined.

(2) Optical structure design

The optical structures were comprised of two parts: backlight module and projection optical structure. The backlight module was designed first. The backlight module design was based on the achievement of smaller diverging angle and requirement of uniformity. Then the projection optical structure was designed. The projection optical structure had two approaches: optical microstructures and projection lens structure. Also, the projection optical structure was designed and the resulted image quality was estimated. If the image quality satisfied the required specifications, the optical structure would be fabricated. Otherwise, the optical structure would need to be redesigned. The design details were presented in next section,

(3) Experiment

With the fabricated module, the switch function experiments will be proceeded. Besides, the experiment which combined backlight with projection optical structure will also be demonstrated.

Fig. 4-1 The direct view/projection switchable device optical design flowchart.

4.2 Collimation Backlight Module Design

guide.

In the projection mode, a collimated light source was required to reduce the crosstalk, as well as to improve image quality and light efficiency. Therefore, the major characteristic of backlight was to provide a small diverging angle.

The collimation backlight [19] perspective view and side view are shown in Fig. 4-2. The collimation backlight module used LED array light source. The LEDs which were located at the side edge of the light guide were firstly collimated by a parabolic mirror, one for each LED. Then, micro-prism structure was patterned on the bottom surface of light guide. The micro-prism structure redirected the emerging light from light guide plate to the direction that was perpendicular to the top surface of light

Fig. 4-2 Configurations of high collimation backlight module (a) perspective and (b) side view.

In the backlight structure, following parameters should be considered, as shown in

Fig. 4-3.

Fig. 4-3 Parameters of backlight structure.

According to the diverging angle of $\pm\theta$ for LED, the tangent of parabolic slope is:

$$
m1 = \tan\left(\frac{\pi}{4} - \frac{\theta}{2}\right), \qquad m2 = \tan\left(\frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{\theta}{2}\right)
$$
(8)

and the formula of parabolic curve is:

$$
z^2 = 4cx
$$
 (9)

then the tangent of parabolic slope is:

$$
m = \sqrt{\frac{c}{x}} \tag{10}
$$

By equations (8) through (10), z1 and z2 could be obtained, and thickness of

light-guide plate satisfied the equation:

$$
h \ge (z1 - z2) \tag{11}
$$

In the light-guide plate part, in order to guide the light to the normal direction, the relationship between $α$ and $β$ follows:

$$
\tan \alpha = \frac{n * \cos(2\beta)}{\sin(2\beta) - 1}
$$
 (12)

"n" is the refractive index. According to equations (8) through (12) , the backlight module could be built by simulation software. According to simulating results, the light diverging angle could be confined within 5^{\degree} measured at the FWHM (Full Width at Half Maximum), and the uniformity was 76%. The angular profile of emerging light and illuminance distribution passing through the light guide surface are shown in Figs. 4-4(a) and (b) respectively. The area inside red dotted line was the panel display area, as shown in Fig. 4-4(b).

Fig. 4-4 Backlight properties: (a) Angular profile of emerging light from backlight module and (b) illuminace distribution (red region: panel display area).

4.3 Optical Structure for Microstructure Method

After the backlight simulation, the optical structure of microstructure method was designed. The asymmetric lens structure was built to confirm that light direction in the projection mode as the assumption mentioned in section 2.2.

4.3.1 Optical Model Setup

The optical structure was an asymmetric lens structure. By various curvatures of the asymmetric lens, light radiated outward and gradually diverged toward both sides (Fig. 2-6(a)). Therefore, light refractive angles θ*i*(x) were different with respect to position "x", as shown in Fig. 4-5. To get the same light behavior (Fig. 4-5), the asymmetric lens structure which was similar to the microstructure was built by simulation software LightTools, as shown in Fig. 4-6.

Fig. 4-5 The refractive angles $\theta_i(x)$ are different with respect to position "x".

comprised of a lens and a prism.

Each microstructure was comprised of a prism and a lens. The prism was used to guide the light and the lens was to magnify the image as shown in Fig. 4-6(b). Because the total microstructures on the panel were bilateral, half of the microstructures were adequate to build the model. Due to panel pixel numbers of 320 per column and microstructure pixel by pixel characteristic, the half microstructures were 160 in each column. According to the magnification ratio, panel size, and throw distance, the refractive angles "θ*i*", prism angle "Φ*i*", and prism height "h*i*" were calculated, as shown in Fig. 4-7.

Fig. 4-7 The sketch of the microstructure.

The symbol "d" is the throw distance. By Snell's law and equation (13), the prism angle "Φ*i*" and prism height "h*i*" are obtained:

$$
\phi_i = \tan^{-1} \left[\frac{\sin(\theta_i)}{1.5 - \cos(\theta_i)} \right]
$$
(14)

$$
h_i = p^* \tan(\phi_i) \tag{15}
$$

The prism structures can be designed by equations (13) through (15).

After calculating the microstructure parameters, the one column microstructures model was built using simulation software, and light was radiated outward and gradually diverged toward both sides, as shown in Fig. 4-8. In addition, from ray trace results, the length of projection area was magnified from 40.64mm to 284.48mm. The magnification ratio was 7 times.

Fig. 4-8 The ray trace results of microstructure model.

From the simulation result of one column structure, light behavior satisfied the assumption that light radiated outward and gradually diverged toward both sides. Then, the whole panel structure was built. Building microstructures covering the whole panel was difficult by simulation software, the microstructures were replaced with a concave lens structure. First, the optical path of each microstructure was calculated (Fig. $4-8(a)$). Then these optical paths were summed up, a concave lens structure which covered the whole panel was obtained (Fig. 4-9(b)), and the optical model was set up. Therefore, the structure for simulation was simplified.

Fig. 4-9 (a) Optical path of a microstructure, and (b) whole panel concave lens structure.

4.3.2 Image Quality Measurement by Simulation

After setting up the optical structure, the concave lens structure was combined with the backlight module by simulation, and image quality was calculated. According to the MTF definition, different barrier pitches could be used to simulate different spatial frequencies. The light was blocked by the black sections of barrier, and passed through the white sections of barrier, as shown in Fig. 4-10. Then, comparing light intensity on the projection area with the barrier structure, image quality was obtained. The structure used to simulate image quality is shown in Fig. 4-10. Base on the MTF definition and formula, the image quality formula is:

Fig. 4-10 Image quality simulation structure.

$$
Contrast ratio (cr) = \frac{I_{\text{max}} - I_{\text{min}}}{I_{\text{max}} + I_{\text{min}}}
$$
\n(16)

Image quality index
$$
=\frac{cr_r}{cr_b}
$$
 (17)

"*I*" is the intensity measured at the barrier or receiver. The suffixes "r" and "b" refer to the receiver and barrier respectively. The contrast ratio (cf_b) was equal to 1, so that the image quality index formula is:

Image quality index =
$$
cr_r = \frac{I_{\text{max}} - I_{\text{min}}}{I_{\text{max}} + I_{\text{min}}}
$$
 (18)

By using a backlight of 5-degree diverging angle, the correlation between image quality index and pitch is shown below (Fig. 4-11), where the horizontal axis is the pitch, and the vertical axis is the image quality index which had been normalized. When using the backlight of 5-degree diverging angle, the emerging light from adjacent barrier regions overlapped, as shown in Fig. 4-12. Therefore, after passing through concave lens, the projected image became indistinguishable. In Fig. 4-11, the indices are lower than 0.5 for all pitches, which also meant the projected image contrast decreased for more than 50 %. Thus, image quality did not achieve the specifications (Table. 3). In addition, the 5-degree diverging angle backlight was not adequate for the concave lens structure.

Fig. 4-11 The correlation between image quality index and pitch. The horizontal axis is the barrier pitch, and the vertical axis is the image quality index.

Fig. 4-12 Emerging light from adjacent barrier regions was overlapped each other.

In order to determine the appropriate diverging angle for the concave lens structure, different diverging angles were applied. The panel pixel size was 124.5um, corresponding to 0.25mm barrier pitch. At 0.25mm pitch, using different diverging angles, the correlation between the image quality index and the diverging angle is shown in Fig. 4-13.

From Fig. 4-13, if the diverging angle was about 0.7^{\degree}, the image quality index was higher than 0.5. Consequently, to improve the image quality, the backlight diverging angle must be of less than $0.7\degree$ in microstructures system. However, 0.7-degree backlight diverging angle was hardly achieved by using LED light source for mobile phone. The combined concave lens structure with 5-degree diverging angle backlight was not applicable in mobile projection.

4.4 Optical Structure for Projection Lens Structure

The microstructure method could not achieve the projection function. To project an image using the 5-degree diverging angle backlight, a projection lens structure was proposed.

The relationship between magnification, throw distance, total track of projection lens, the object distance, image distance, and focal length are defined below,

$$
TT = (2 - 1/m - m)*f
$$
 (19)

$$
OBD = (1 - m)^* f \tag{20}
$$

$$
IMD = (1 - 1/m)^* f \tag{21}
$$

Here "m" is the magnification, "f" is focal length, and "T.T." is total distance from object plane to image plane. "OBD" and "IMD" are object distance and image distance. Due to the 5-degree diverging angle, the optical system f/# was 11.5. In addition, the field of view (FOV) was the ratio of half projection image to OBD and was about 23[°]. Then, the triplet lens was decided based on f/# and FOV (Fig. 4-15) \sim [20]. The triplet lens consisted of three elements: two convex elements at both sides and one concave element in the middle, as shown in Fig. 4-14 [21]. Also, the lens offered sufficient design flexibility to reach the image quality specifications which was mentioned in Chapter 3.

Fig. 4-14 Triplet lens was comprised of two convex elements and one concave element.

Moreover, to maintain the light efficiency and brightness from the light source in projection mode, emerging light from the LCD panel needed to be perpendicular to the panel surface. The characteristic was called telecentricity [22] and was a feature of the projection lens. Also, to achieve telecentircity, the fourth lens was added in front of the panel to modify the light emitting from the panel. Besides, to consider the projection lens weight, the plastic material was used, and PMMA was selected for transmittance concern. PMMA (Polymethylmethacrylate) [23] has features such as high transmittance (about 93%) and lower density (1.19 G/cm^3) . Due to lower density, the projection lens weighted less.

A simulation based on the above considerations was proceeded, then the projection lens layout and light path in the projection mode is shown in Fig. 4-16, and the projection lens parameters are list in Table. 4.

Fig. 4-16 Layout and light path of projection lens in projection mode.

STATES

Table. 4 Radius, thickness diameter, and material parameters (unit: mm).

	Radius (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Diameter (mm)	Glass
Object	Infinity	426.7	357	
$\mathbf{1}$	16.5	3.6	16	PMMA
$\overline{2}$	-465.4	5	14.6	
Stop	Infinity	3.5	7.8	
$\overline{\mathbf{4}}$	-16.2	1.1	9.6	PMMA
5	19	2.6	11.5	
6	41.3	3.8	17.2	PMMA
7	-23.7	29.6	18.1	
8	50.5	11.4	52	PMMA
9	-656.9	12.6	52	
Image	Infinity		50.8	

In Fig. 4-16, all four plastic lenses were spherical, and the total track of light path was 500mm. Then the projection image size on the left end was 284mm by 213mm, about a size of an A4 paper with a throw distance of 426mm.

According to the projection lens design, the panel size on the right end of the light path had a diagonal length of 1.96 inches. Thus, the pixel size was 124.5um, which was corresponding to the spatial frequency of 4 lp/mm. Then, from simulation results, the MTF of the projection lens is shown in Fig. 4-17. According to Fig. 4-17, the MTF was greater than 50% at 4 lp/mm for all fields, which satisfied the required specifications. Besides, the relative illumination is shown in Fig. 4-18. The horizontal axis is the image height (the distance from on-axis), and the vertical axis is the normalized

Fig. 4-17 The projection lens MTF.

relative illumination. Relative illumination was the relation between on-axis illumination and off-axis illumination, and the relative illumination was higher than 70% at the maximum FOV (the right end of figure), which also satisfied the specifications. Then Table. 5 summarized the projection lens properties.

Fig. 4-18 Relative illumination figure.

Table. 3 Projection fells properties					
Projection lens					
$F/\#$	115				
Total track of lens element	61mm				
(at projection mode)					
Throw distance	426 mm				
Magnification ratio	\sim 7 times (50.8mm in diagonal magnifies to				
	356mm in diagonal)				
Relation illumination	$\sim 71\%$				
MTF	MTF $>50\%$ at spatial frequency= 4 lp/mm				

Table. 5 Projection land

4.5 Summary

The microstructure method was not applicable for mobile projection, due to backlight diverging angle limitation. The microstructure method required backlight diverging angle to be of less than 0.7 ^{\degree}. However, the projection function was achieved by combining the projection lens and collimation backlight module. Using ray tracing simulation, the projection lens MTF was greater than 50% at 4 lp/mm. Moreover, the projection image size was about the size of an A4 paper, which was about 14 inch diagonally in length, with a throw distance of 426mm. Besides, the backlight module uniformity reached 76% and the diverging angle was 5^{\degree} measured at the FWHM. Base on simulation results, the projection lens and backlight module were determined to be the experimental structure and was fabricated.

Chapter 5

Experimental Results and Discussions

With the fabricated module, backlight properties including the diverging angle of emerging light and uniformity will be measured. The experiment which is combining projection lens with backlight will be presented. Finally, in order to confirm the switch function, direct view and projection functions will be demonstrated

ANALLY A

5.1 Backlight Properties

The fabricated collimated backlight module is shown in Fig. 5-1. The backlight module used 14 LED light sources which were located at the side of the light guide, and the measured total flux of the backlight module could provide about 43 lumens brightness. Moreover, to reflect light, the surface of the micro prism structure was coated with Ag, as shown in Fig. 5-1. The backlight angular profile measurement is shown in Fig. 5-2(a). The FWHM of angular divergence was about $8°$. The measured angular divergence was different from the simulation result of 5∘. The difference was an accumulated result from fabrication tolerance to set-up deviation. Besides, the backlight uniformity is shown in Fig. 5-2(b). The red line region was panel display area. From Fig. 5-2(b), a coating defect on the left side was observed (the green circle). However, the defect had no impact on uniformity. Thus, the measured uniformity was 82%. The uniformity was higher than simulation result by about 7.8%.

Micro prism structure(coating with Ag)

Fig. 5-1 The configuration of the fabricated backlight module.

Fig. 5-2 (a) Angular profile of emerging light from backlight module and (b) illuminace distribution (red region: panel display area, and green circle: coating defect).

5.2 Experiment Combining Projection Lens and LC Panel

The image source was expected to be provided by the LC panel in the switchable device. In order to confirm the LC panel could project an image, experiments which combined projection lens with a LC panel were conducted, as shown in Fig. 5-3.

Fig. 5-3 Projection lens with LC panel experiment setup.

The LC panel provided the image source pattern. Then, projection lens projected the image pattern on the screen, as shown in Fig. 5-4. The grid size of image source pattern was 0.127mm by 0.127mm, as shown in Fig. 5-4(a), and the magnified grid of projection image was 0.876mm by 0.876mm (Fig. 5-4(b)). Therefore, the magnification ratio was about 7 times.

Fig. 5-4 (a) Net image source pattern (the picture has been magnified 7 times), (b) projection image.

Due to the lens quality, the surfaces of all the used lenses were not spherical and with lots of blemishes on the lens surfaces. These lens defects resulted in only few rays near panel edge could pass through the projection lens. Consequently, the projected image was brighter in center than the edge, and formed an image with bright circle in the middle (Fig. 5-4 (b)).

In order to form a brighter projected image, which would only show in the above-mentioned bright circle region, as shown in Fig. 5-4(b), the image source area must be limited. To fit this area constraint, image source size was required to be reduced so that the entire image pattern could be shown. Because the diameter of the bright circle was 124.5mm (4.9"), the usable image source size was 17.78mm (0.7") in diagonal length based on experimental results, as shown in Fig. 5-5. The ratio of 124.5 to 17.8 mm matched the magnification ratio of the projected image to the source image. From the experimental results, projection lens element with LC panel could perform the projection function. Furthermore, to present the brighter projected image, the size of image source pattern was modified to 0.7" in diagonal length in later experiments.

Fig. 5-5 The red rectangle indicates the bright region in the projection image.

5.3 Projection Lens Imaging Ability and Switching Function

To make sure the switching function was practicable, the switching experiment was implemented, and the experiment setup is shown in Fig. 5-6(a). A collimated backlight module, a commercialized PDLC, a projection lens element, a LC panel, and screen are shown. The image source pattern was provided by a LC panel, then direct view and projection functions could be switched by adjusting the PDLC on/off state. The PDLC on/off states are shown in Fig. 5-7. When no voltage was applied to the PDLC, the PDLC was off and became diffusive, then light was scattered by passing through the PDLC, as shown in Fig. 5-7(a). Nevertheless, when sufficient voltage was applied to the PDLC, the PDLC turned on and became a transparent film. Light passed through the PDLC without scattering, as shown in Fig. 5-7(b).

Fig. 5-6 (a) Projection mode experiment setup, (b) direct view mode, and (c) projection mode.

Fig. 5-7 The PDLC component in (a) off, and (b) on state.

In the experiment setup for direct view mode (Fig. $5-6(b)$), the projection lens structure was removed. No voltage was applied to the PDLC, and the PDLC became diffusive. Therefore, an observer saw the image directly. In the projection mode (Fig. 5-6(c)), the projection lens functioned. With voltage applied to the PDLC, the PDLC became transparent. An image source pattern was projected on the screen. The image source pattern, direct view image, and projection image are shown in Figs. 5-8(a), (b), and (c), respectively. Comparing to the direct view image, the projection image could be 7 times larger in diagonal than the original, and the relative size is illustrated in Fig. 5-9. Then the experimental results for different image source patterns are shown in Fig. 5-10.

Fig. 5-8 (a) Image source pattern, (b) direct view image, and (c) magnified projection image.

Fig. 5-9 Relative size of image source pattern, direct view image, and projection image.

Fig. 5-10 The experimental results for different image source patterns by combining projection lens with PDLC component.

The switch function was workable by switching experimental results. An image could be projected by the designed projection lens. From photos in Figs. 5-8 and 5-10, the projected images could reasonably represent its image source patterns. Moreover, the magnification ratio of projection image to direct view image was 7 times, which met the proposed specifications. The demonstration using projection lens with LC panel has confirmed that this set-up could serve the projection function.

5.4 Summary

Switching between direct view mode and projection mode had been demonstrated. Direct view and projection switch functions could be achieved by a PDLC component, and an image could be projected and magnified by projection lens element. Moreover, form the experimental results, the magnification ratio of projection image to image source pattern was 7 times. These experimental results indicated that the projected image could reasonably represent its image source pattern. Therefore, the mobile projection function could be achieved by the switchable device without using an embedded projection module.

Chapter 6

Conclusions and Future Works

6.1 Conclusions

We have proposed and demonstrated that a conventional LC panel could project image by using only a projection lens structure without an embedded projection module. At the same time, the device could switch between the direct view and projection functions by using the PDLC component. The switchable device was the two-in-one hybrid display unit using single LC panel as the image source.

Furthermore, the simulation results indicate that the MTF index of projection lens was greater than 50% at 4 lp/mm, which corresponds to the panel pixel size of 124.5um. The projection image size in diagonal length could be magnified 7 times larger than image source pattern at a throw distance of 426mm. Moreover, the uniformity of collimated backlight reaches 82%, and the FWHM of angular divergence is about 8∘by measured results.

From the experimental results, the direct view image and projection image had been demonstrated by using the PDLC component, a projection lens, and the collimated backlight module. In addition, the projected image could reasonably represent its image source pattern and the magnification ratio of projection image to image source pattern was 7 times. Therefore, the switchable device was achievable by combining the collimated backlight module, PDLC component, and projection lens structure. Also, an image can be projected directly by using a single LC panel as image source. Consequently, the embedded projection module was unnecessary.

6.2 Future works

For the proposed structure, the transmission of the PDLC component, LC panel, and projection lens are 78%, 5.3%, and 66%, respectively. Thus, the total transmission of all system is only 2.7%, and the projection image brightness is about 1 lumen. Compared to the market-available mini-projector, the projection image brightness from our structure was lower than 10 lumens. The 10 lumens brightness is presented from mini-projector, as shown in Fig. 6-1. Beside, panel could project image directly by using projection lens structure. Thus, the projection lens should cover all panel region, and the projection lens diameter was about 50mm, as shown in Fig. 6-2. This size was not compact enough for mobile phone application.

Fig. 6-1 The image brightness difference between the current mini-projector and the proposed switchable device.

Fig. 6-2 Projection lens diameter is about 50mm.

In the future, the backlight module will be redesigned. To increase projection image brightness, the high power LED will be used. Also, the high power LED will provide 1 inch illuminated region, so that the projection lens size can be reduced. For the image brightness requirement of 10 lumens, the backlight module needs to provide 370 lumens brightness considering the transmission of the entire system. The illustration of the backlight is shown in Fig $6-3(a)$. During projection mode, the high power LED is turned on and provides projection backlight with the size of 1 inch in diameter. The projection image will become brighter, as shown in Fig. 6-3(b). While during direct view mode, the LEDs which are located at the side edge of the light guide are turned on along with high power LED and provide divert view backlight with the size of 2 inch in diameter. Thus, the direct view image will become more uniform, as shown in Fig. $6-3(c)$.

In addition, increasing the transmission of the entire system is another method to improve the projection image brightness issue. Therefore, the FSC method [24] can be used to increase transmission of LC panel. By FSC method, LC panel does not use color filter, and the LC panel transmission can be enhanced about three times. Thus, the transmission can achieve to about 15%. Besides, the projection lens and PDLC transmission are able to be improved by using the glass materials. Then, the transmission of the entire system will be enhanced. By calculating, the transmission of the all system can achieve about 8%. For the image brightness requirement of 10 lumens, the backlight module only needs to provide 125 lumens brightness. The 125 lumens brightness can be also presented by the high power LED which provides the 1 inch illuminated region, and the backlight module is shown in Fig. 6-3(a). Therefore, the transmission of entire system can be increased and the brightness is also enhanced.

Due to the modification of backlight, switchable device will be also modified. In

direct view mode, 2 inch panel is used to show the direct view image, as shown in Fig. 6-4 (a). Then, 1 inch central area of the panel is used to project image in projection mode, as shown in Fig. 6-4 (b). Therefore, the projection lens size can be further reduced to be fit into mobile phone. Consequently, the projection image brightness, and projection lens issues can be overcome.

(b)

Fig. 6-3 (a) Sketch of the redesign backlight module, (b) 1" projection backlight, and (c) 2" direct view backlight (the yellow color region in figs. (b) and (c) are illuminated region).

Fig. 6-4 (a) 2" panel for direct view image, and (b) 1" panel for projection mode.

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