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(54) **Method and circuit for controlling the backlighting system of a display apparatus**

(57) In a display device images are reproduced by controlling the amount of light provided by a light source by means of light modulators for individual pixels. Subsequent images are synchronised to each other by synchronisation signals (VB) regularly occurring at intervals corresponding to first time periods. The backlight is controlled to emit light during fractions of second time periods or whole second time periods which are equal to or shorter than first time periods. Several of the second time periods may be nested and evenly distributed within the first time period. The signals for driving the backlight are

preferably generated in synchronism with the horizontal pixel clock. Each of the fractions of second time periods or whole second time periods during which light is emitted is divided into a number of elementary steps, wherein each elementary step corresponds to a number of pixel clock periods. The number of elementary steps is chosen according to the desired ratio of control of the backlight or contrast ratio, e.g. 100 elementary steps for a contrast ratio of 1:100. During each of the second time periods the backlight is controlled to be on for a number of elementary steps corresponding to the desired contrast ratio.

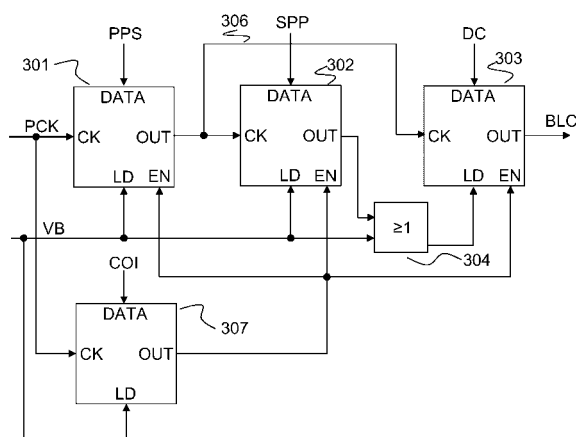


Fig. 5



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 07 10 8548

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 12 May 2009	Examiner Morris, David
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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