

## Article

# Reducing the Power Consumption of VR Displays with a Field Sequential Color LCD

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**Abstract:** To achieve 60 pixels per degree (PPD) and 100° field of view (FoV) while keeping a reasonably high aperture ratio for active-matrix liquid crystal displays (LCDs), field sequential color (FSC) is a promising approach. We evaluate the physical properties of a high birefringence nematic LC mixture and then use these data to simulate the performance of a fringe-field switching (FFS) LCD. Such an FFS LCD exhibits a fast average gray-to-gray response time (~1.5 ms) to enable FSC operation. By removing the spatial color filters, FSC operation triples the resolution density and optical efficiency, which are critical to high-resolution density and low power consumption virtual reality applications. Wide color gamut (96.2% of the DCI-P3 standard) and superior color uniformity are also demonstrated using such an FSC LCD.

**Keywords:** field sequential color; liquid crystal display; low power consumption

## 1. Introduction

Display engines play a vital role affecting the performance of virtual reality (VR) headsets [1–3]. Recently, JDI and Innolux independently demonstrated a 2.27" 2016 pixels per inch (PPI) active-matrix liquid-crystal display (AMLCD) with subpixel rendering for VR displays. Such a light engine offers 32 pixels per degree (PPD) and 100° field of view (FoV), but its aperture ratio is lower than 10%, implying a high-power consumption. To leapfrog LCD, recently eMagin introduced a 2.1" 4K OLED-on-silicon with 2645 PPI and 42 PPD. However, for an 8" silicon wafer, only ~20 such panels can be fabricated, resulting in a high cost.

To achieve 60 PPD and 100° FoV with a 2.27" subpixel rendering AMLCD, the required PPI should increase to 3780. Under such a high-resolution density, the extrapolated aperture ratio would be <1% if subpixel rendering is not employed [4], which implies a high-power consumption. To enlarge the aperture ratio, field sequential color (FSC) is a viable approach. By eliminating the spatial color filters, both resolution density and optical efficiency are tripled. Thus, the required resolution density can be reduced from 3780 to 1260 PPI, which will enable AMLCD to leapfrog OLED-on-silicon again while keeping a reasonably large aperture ratio (>20%) for reducing the power consumption. One critical requirement for FSC operation is that the LC response time must be fast enough to avoid color breakup. One approach is to use ferroelectric liquid crystal (FLC) because of its microsecond response time [5–7]. However, the driving circuits for realizing gray levels are complicated. For example, a 3T1C (three transistors and one capacitor) pixel circuit and DC compensation driving frame are adopted to generate 8-bit gray levels for electrically suppressed helix FLC [7]. The increased space for multiple transistors would undoubtedly lower the resolution density, while the DC compensation would reduce the frame rate; both are undesirable for VR displays. In contrast, nematic LCD is easy to drive just using 1T1C (one transistor and one capacitor), but its response time is usually slower. Other approaches include polymer-stabilized blue-phase LCs and the composites of nematic



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LCs with nanomaterials. Polymer-stabilized blue-phase LCs can exhibit submillisecond response times, but the operation voltage is still high and slow capacitor charging requires the pre-charging method [8]. The composites of nematic LCs with nanomaterials also help reduce response time, but the stability of such composites remains to be tested [9]. Uniform dispersion of nanomaterials such as carbon nanomaterials into the LC material is also challenging [10].

To achieve fast response time, here we evaluate a high birefringence and low viscosity nematic LC mixture. High birefringence enables a thin cell gap to be used, which helps decrease response time and crosstalk. In a pancake-lens-based VR headset, the housing temperature can easily reach 50–60 °C because of the thermal effect from the light engine and imaging optics. On the positive side, such an elevated temperature helps to lower the LC viscosity dramatically. A single-domain fringe-field switching (FFS) LCD [11,12] is selected for this study because of its wide viewing angle and weak color shift. Based on these measured parameters, our simulation results show the average gray-to-gray response time is about 1.5 ms with 1.5- $\mu\text{m}$  electrode width, 1.5- $\mu\text{m}$  electrode gap, and 0° rubbing angle, which can support a color subframe rate of up to 360 Hz. If overdrive and undershoot voltages are applied [13], the response time can be reduced to submillisecond.

## 2. Experiment

As the technology keeps evolving, several compact LCD light engines for VR headsets have been developed. For example, TCL presented a 1.77" ultracompact LCD at Display Week 2022. Such a small panel size enables a cell gap as thin as 2  $\mu\text{m}$  to be fabricated. In contrast, a typical cell gap for the small LCoS panels is around 1  $\mu\text{m}$ . Such a thin cell gap helps to decrease response time and crosstalk, but a high birefringence LC is needed. To prove the concept, we use a new LC mixture formulated by JNC, designated as ZHX-5134, for thin cell FFS LCDs. The optimized LC mixture features a high clearing temperature, high birefringence, large dielectric anisotropy, and relatively low viscosity. High clearing point helps the LCD to withstand a high operating temperature, which is urgently needed in next generation high-dynamic-range VR headsets where an ultrahigh brightness is needed [14].

### 2.1. Temperature-Dependent Physical Properties

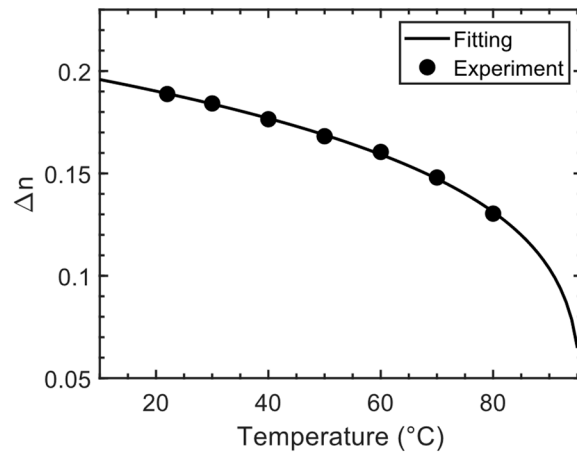
A pancake optical system [15–17] dominates VR headsets because of its compactness; however, its optical efficiency is reduced by 4 $\times$  because of the employed half mirror. A lower optical efficiency requires a brighter light engine to achieve the same brightness. Thus, the working temperature of the light engine can easily reach 50–60 °C by the thermal effect. The LCD light engine using an LC mixture with high clearing point is desirable. Therefore, it is necessary to systematically measure the temperature-dependent birefringence, viscoelastic constant, and figure of merit (FoM), which greatly impact the transmittance and response time of the AMLCD light engines.

To measure the temperature-dependent birefringence, we filled a commercial homogeneous cell with a cell gap of 5.37  $\mu\text{m}$  with the LC mixture. Next, we used a Linkam heating stage (Linkam TMS94) to control the operating temperature. The test cell was sandwiched between two crossed polarizers. The probing beam was a He-Ne laser ( $\lambda = 633 \text{ nm}$ ). The temperature-dependent birefringence can be calculated from the measured voltage-dependent transmittance at each temperature. Results are shown as the black dots in Figure 1. The solid line represents Haller's semi-empirical equation [18]:

$$\Delta n(T) = \Delta n_0 S = \Delta n_0 (1 - T/T_c)^\beta, \quad (1)$$

where  $T_c$  is the clearing temperature,  $\beta$  is the material constant,  $S$  is the order parameter, and  $\Delta n_0$  is the extrapolated birefringence at  $T = 0$ . Using Equation (1) to fit the experimental data, we obtained  $\Delta n_0 = 0.277$  and  $\beta = 0.237$ . As Figure 1 depicts, the experimental data agree well with the fitting curve. As the temperature ( $T$ ) approaches  $T_c$  (~96 °C),  $\Delta n$  decreases rapidly. High clearing temperature plays an important role in maintaining a high

birefringence for the AMLCD to operate at an elevated temperature (50–60 °C) while the viscosity is reduced substantially.

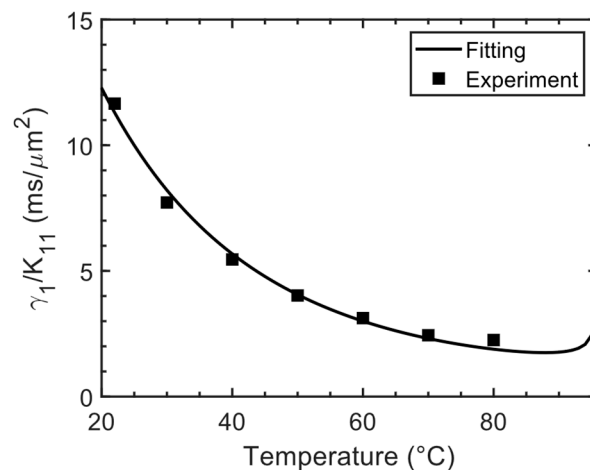


**Figure 1.** Temperature-dependent birefringence at  $\lambda = 633$  nm and  $f = 1$  kHz (the frequency of driving voltage applied on the LC cell). Dots are measured data and the solid line is the fitting curve with Equation (1).

The temperature-dependent visco-elastic constant directly impacts the LC response time. The visco-elastic constant ( $\gamma_1/K_{11}$ ) can be extracted from the measured time-dependent relaxation process of a homogenous cell. As the temperature increases,  $\gamma_1/K_{11}$  decreases rapidly and then saturates, as described below [19]:

$$\frac{\gamma_1}{K_{11}} = A \frac{\exp(E_a/k_B T)}{(1 - T/T_c)^\beta}, \tag{2}$$

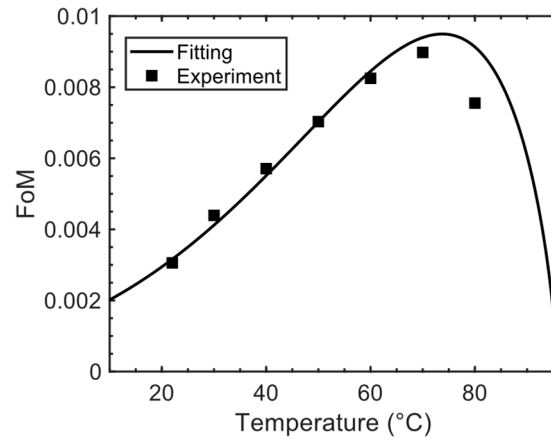
where  $A$  is the proportionality constant,  $E_a$  is the activation energy, and  $k_B$  is the Boltzmann constant. Using Equation (2) to fit the experimental data indicated by black squares in Figure 2, we found  $A = 1.54 \times 10^{-5}$  ms/ $\mu\text{m}^2$  and  $E_a = 334$  meV.



**Figure 2.** Temperature-dependent visco-elastic constant. Squares are measured data and the solid line is the fitting curve with Equation (2).

As shown in Figures 1 and 2, both birefringence and visco-elastic constant vary with temperature but at different rates. To find an optimal operating temperature, a figure of merit is defined as  $\text{FoM} = \Delta n^2 / (\gamma_1 / K_{11})$  to take both factors into account [20]. According to Figure 3, the optimal operating temperature occurs at  $\sim 70$  °C, and the FoM at  $T = 50$  °C is  $2.3 \times$  higher than that at  $T = 22$  °C. A more comprehensive FoM also includes the effect

of dielectric anisotropy  $\Delta\epsilon$ . A larger  $\Delta\epsilon$  enables a lower threshold voltage and operating voltage, but the viscosity may inevitably increase. For this LC mixture, there is a good balance between viscosity and dielectric anisotropy.  $\Delta\epsilon = 6.9$  at  $T = 25\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  and  $f = 1\text{ kHz}$ . As the temperature increases, the dielectric anisotropy decreases. At  $T = 50\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  and  $f = 1\text{ kHz}$ ,  $\Delta\epsilon$  is decreased from 6.9 to 6.1. Compared to previously reported low viscosity materials used in FFS cells [21,22], this LC mixture can exhibit a lower operating voltage.



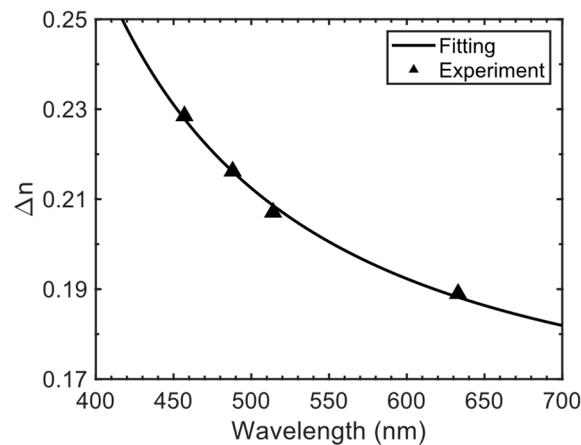
**Figure 3.** Temperature-dependent figure of merit. Squares are measured data and the solid line is the fitting curve with the definition of FoM.

2.2. Wavelength-Dependent Birefringence

Birefringence dispersion is also an important factor for full-color VR displays. To measure birefringence dispersion, a tunable argon ion laser (457 nm, 488 nm, and 514 nm) and a He-Ne laser (633 nm) were employed as probing beams. Results are shown as black triangles in Figure 4. To calculate the birefringence at other wavelengths (especially at 450 nm, 550 nm, and 650 nm), we refer to the single-band birefringence dispersion equation [23]:

$$\Delta n = G \frac{\lambda^2 \lambda^{*2}}{\lambda^2 - \lambda^{*2}}, \tag{3}$$

where  $\lambda^*$  is the mean resonance wavelength and  $G$  is the proportional constant. Using Equation (3) to fit the experimental data, we found  $\lambda^* = 0.252\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ , and  $G = 2.48\text{ }\mu\text{m}^{-2}$ . According to the fitting curve (black solid line) in Figure 4, the birefringence at  $\lambda = (450\text{ nm}, 550\text{ nm}, 650\text{ nm})$  and  $T = 22\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  is (0.231, 0.200, 0.186), respectively.



**Figure 4.** Wavelength-dependent birefringence at 22 °C. Triangles are measured data and the solid line is the fitting curve with Equation (3).

### 3. Simulation Results

For VR displays, single domain LCDs may be sufficient because of the narrow collection cone ( $\sim 20^\circ$ ) limitation of human eyes. Therefore, we chose a single domain FFS LCD because of its wide viewing angle and weak color shift. Color sequential display relies on the human vision system to integrate three successive (RGB) images into a color image. For this reason, the LC response time should be fast enough, depending on the required frame rate. Variable frame rates are employed for different tasks. For example, the Meta Quest Pro features a 90 Hz maximum refresh rate (72 Hz mode available) targeted for office tasks. Games and videos may require a higher frame rate, e.g., 120 Hz. For this reason, the virtual wall [24,25] is employed to further decrease the response time and achieve a color subframe of 270 Hz or 360 Hz. To determine the appropriate electrode width and gap, we employed TechWiz LCD 3D (Sanayi, Korea) to simulate the voltage-dependent transmittance and average gray-to-gray (GTG) response time, corresponding to a series of different electrode widths and gaps. The simulation conditions include a  $2^\circ$  pretilt angle and  $0^\circ$  rubbing angle. The cell gap is  $2\ \mu\text{m}$ , which helps decrease response time and crosstalk while maintaining a good manufacturing yield. The pixel pitch  $L = 6\ \mu\text{m}$ , has recently been realized [26]. Figure 5 shows that finer electrode widths ( $w$ ) or gaps ( $g$ ) help decrease the response time. For example,  $w = 1.5\ \mu\text{m}$  and  $g = 1.5\ \mu\text{m}$  can achieve an average GTG response time less than 3.7 ms (top horizontal dashed lines) at  $T > 22^\circ\text{C}$  and 2.7 ms (bottom horizontal dashed lines) at  $T > 30^\circ\text{C}$ ; the latter can support 72 Hz framerate (or 216 Hz color subframes). As  $T$  increases, the average GTG response time decreases rapidly because of the decreased viscosity.

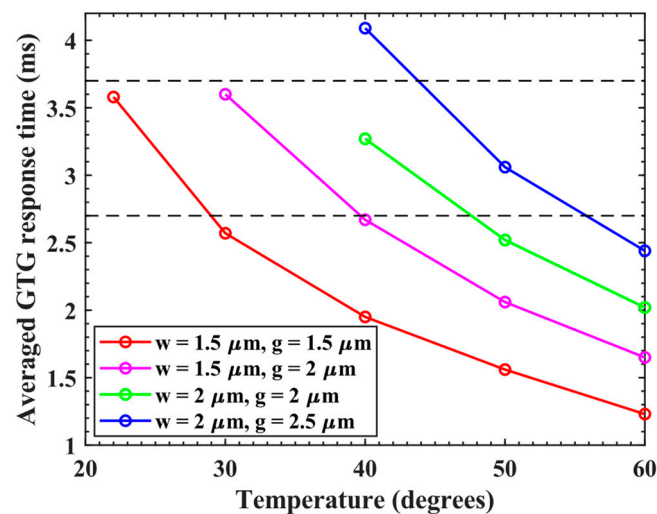


Figure 5. Simulated temperature-dependent average GTG response times at different electrode widths and gaps.

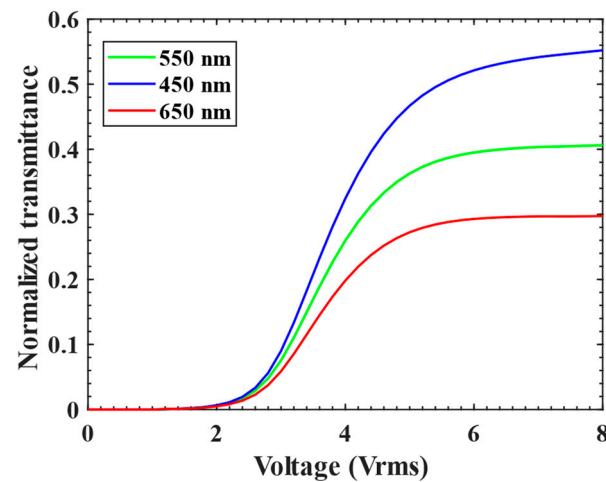
Table 1 lists the rise time and decay time corresponding to different gray levels at  $50^\circ\text{C}$ . To calculate the GTG response time, the voltage-dependent transmittance curve is uniformly divided into 256 gray levels. The response time between 0, 64, 128, 192, and 255 gray levels is then obtained by calculating the transition time between 10% and 90% transmittance change. The fastest GTG response time is 0.62 ms and the average GTG response time is 1.5 ms, which leaves more time for the thin film transistor (TFT) gate lines to be scanned ( $\sim 1\ \text{ms}$  corresponding to 360 Hz color subframe or  $\sim 2\ \text{ms}$  corresponding to 270 Hz color subframe). The remaining time ( $\sim 0.3\text{--}0.5\ \text{ms}$ ) is used for turning on the backlight and obtaining low motion picture response time. According to the time slots assigned for pixel addressing, LC response, and backlight flashing, the duty cycle is calculated to be  $\sim 10\%$ . It is noted that faster scanning time can be achieved using multiple integrated circuits (ICs) that simultaneously scan the gate lines [27]. To write data for several ( $n$ ) gate lines in different blocks synchronously, the number of data lines is inevitably increased by

$n$  times. Fortunately, the data lines can be reduced by  $3\times$  because of the color sequential display. In this manner, the time for pixel addressing can be greatly reduced by  $n$  times. Overdrive and undershoot can be further employed to achieve sub-millisecond response times for LCs, alleviating the time for pixel addressing and enabling a fast response time for lower temperature operation, but the driving circuitries are more complicated.

**Table 1.** Simulated response time of FFS mode between different gray levels without overdrive and undershoot. The operating temperature is  $50\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

		Rise Time (ms)				
Gray level		0	64	128	192	255
Decay time (ms)	0	\	2.17	1.97	1.77	1.74
	64	0.62	\	1.75	1.64	1.84
	128	0.65	1.65	\	1.60	2.07
	192	0.69	1.58	1.61	\	2.50
	255	0.75	1.51	1.57	1.60	\

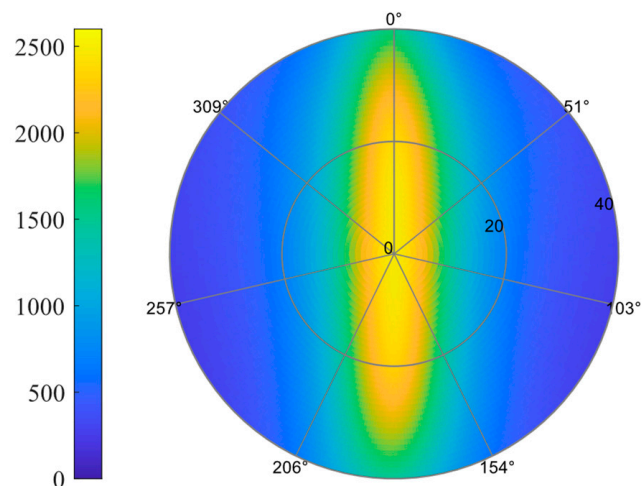
Despite a fine electrode pitch, Figure 6 shows that a relatively low threshold voltage of  $\sim 1.6\text{ }V_{\text{rms}}$  is obtained, arising from a decent dielectric anisotropy. The normalized transmittance for red, green, and blue (RGB) wavelengths almost saturates at  $6\text{ }V_{\text{rms}}$ , where the transmittance of 52% is achieved at  $\lambda = 450\text{ nm}$ .



**Figure 6.** Simulated voltage-dependent transmittance at  $w = 1.5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ ,  $g = 1.5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ , and  $T = 50\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

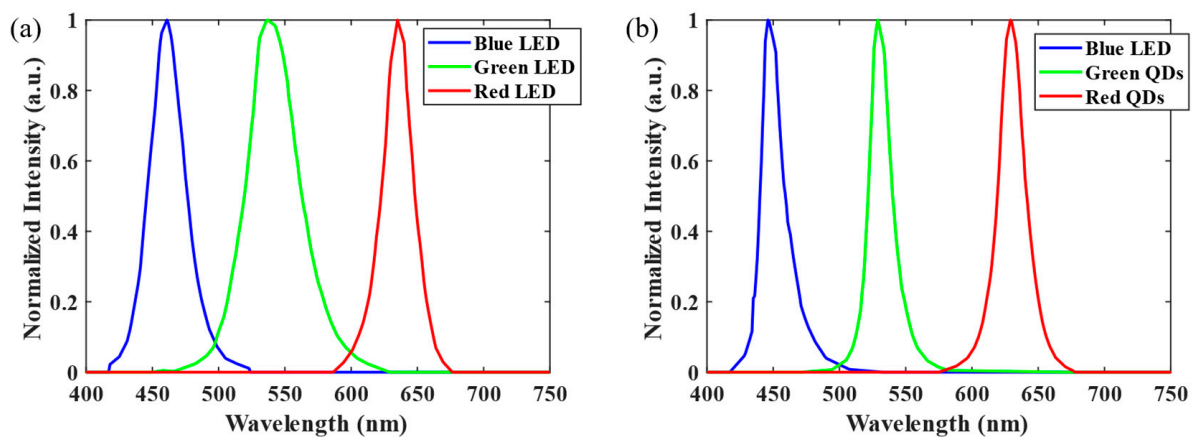
To characterize the FSC LCD, contrast ratio, color gamut, and color shift are sequentially simulated. Light engines play a significant role in determining the system contrast ratio. Because of the depolarization from TFT circuits, LCs, and color filters, the contrast ratio of the FFS mode is limited to  $\sim 2500:1$ . For this reason, the FSC LCD can exhibit a higher contrast ratio by eliminating color filters. We use a positive A-plate and negative A-plate as compensation films [28]. Figure 7 depicts the simulated isocontrast contour at  $\lambda = 550\text{ nm}$ . A high contrast ratio ( $\sim 1000:1$ ) region expands to  $\sim 20^{\circ}$  viewing cone, which is usually adequate for VR applications. Color gamut and color uniformity are also critical to the performance of light engines. In the Meta Quest Pro, quantum dots (QDs) are used in the LCD's backlight module. Therefore, we compare the FSC LCD using RGB LEDs [29] with the LCD using a QD color conversion layer and pigment color filters [30] in terms of color gamut and color shift. Besides pigment color filters, the color can also be generated by the band gap shifting of a cholesteric liquid crystal [31].





**Figure 7.** Simulated isocontrast contour for single-domain FFS mode using TechWiz software. The operating temperature is 50 °C.

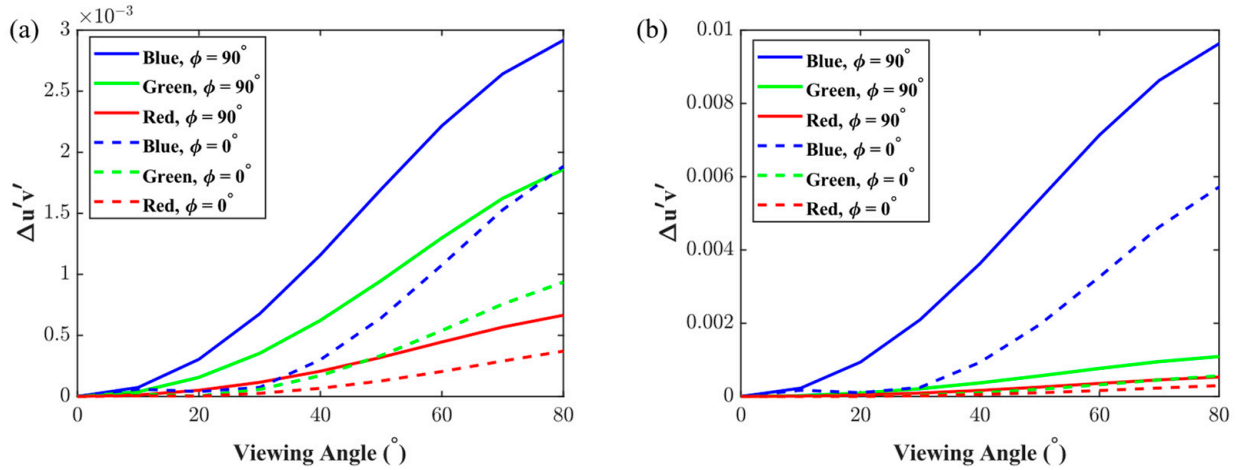
Figure 8a shows the spectra of RGB LEDs used in the FSC LCD; while Figure 8b depicts the spectra of a blue LED, green QDs, and red QDs employed in the backlight module of the LCD. The color gamut of FSC LCD is mainly limited by the broader emission spectrum of the green LED, as shown in Figure 8a. For an InGaN-based LED, its spectral bandwidth increases as the peak emission wavelength increases because of the increased indium concentration [32]. In contrast, the red-color III-phosphides LEDs exhibit a relatively narrow spectral bandwidth and high efficiency. For the LCD using color filters, the crosstalk caused by the overlap between the backlight's spectrum in Figure 8b and color filters hinders a wider color gamut [33]. Therefore, their color gamut is comparable: the FSC LCD can cover 96.2% DCI-P3 while the LCD using color filters can cover 96.4% DCI-P3. The color gamut of the FSC LCD can be further enlarged using a green LED with a narrower emission spectrum. Incomplete switching of the LC can cause shrinkage of the color gamut; thus, a larger color gamut also helps mitigate the demanding requirement of LC response time.



**Figure 8.** The spectra of (a) RGB LEDs used in the FSC LCD, and (b) a blue LED, green QDs, and red QDs in the backlight module of the LCD.

For color shift, the horizontal ( $\phi = 0^\circ$ ) and vertical ( $\phi = 90^\circ$ ) viewing directions are usually reported experimentally. To calculate color shift, we first extracted wavelength- and angle-dependent transmittance from TechWiz and then multiplied it by the backlight's spectrum and the transmittance spectra of the color filters. Figure 9a,b shows the simulated color shift for FSC LCD and LCD with color filters, respectively. In both types of LCDs, blue colors in the vertical direction have the largest color shift ( $\Delta u'v'$ ), followed by green

and red. We also find that the FSC LCD exhibits a  $\sim 3\times$  smaller color shift than the LCD with color filters. To summarize, by our calculations, the FSC LCD is proven to exhibit a wide color gamut and superior color uniformity than the LCD with QDs and color filters. It is noted that when  $\Delta u'v'$  is smaller than 0.02, the color shift is indistinguishable to human eyes. Therefore, both types of LCDs are fine in terms of color shift.



**Figure 9.** Simulated color shift versus viewing angles for RGB wavelengths at horizontal (dashed lines) and vertical directions (solid line), respectively, for (a) FSC LCD with RGB LEDs, and (b) LCD with QDs and color filters.

#### 4. Power Consumption

Power consumption is an important performance metric for VR displays. To evaluate the power consumption of the FSC LCD, both optical and electrical parts must be considered. In the optical part, the power consumption of the LCD originates from the backlight which can be estimated by the following equations:

$$P_{\text{optical}} = L_{\text{backlight}} / \eta_{\text{LED}} \tag{4}$$

$$L_{\text{display}} = L_{\text{backlight}} \times \eta_{\text{mixing}} \times DC \times AR \times T_{\text{LC}} \tag{5}$$

where  $L_{\text{backlight}}$  is the brightness of the backlight,  $\eta_{\text{LED}}$  is the efficiency of LEDs with the unit of nits/W,  $L_{\text{display}}$  is the required brightness of FSC LCD,  $\eta_{\text{mixing}}$  is the efficiency of mixing light in the backlight,  $DC$  is the duty cycle of backlight emission,  $AR$  is the aperture ratio of the 1T1C pixel circuit, and  $T_{\text{LC}}$  is the LC transmittance after passing through two polarizers. For  $\eta_{\text{LED}}$ , different efficiencies of RGB LEDs need to be considered. In the electrical part, the power consumption can be divided into dynamic and static parts. The dynamic power consumption of the 1T1C pixel circuit is described as follows:

$$P_{\text{dynamic}} = N \times f \times C_P \times V_{\text{SCAN}}^2 + N \times f \times (C_S + C_L + C_P) \times V_{\text{DATA}}^2 \tag{6}$$

where  $N$  is the total number of pixels,  $f$  is the refresh rate of the FSC display,  $V_{\text{SCAN}}$  is the voltage difference of the scan line,  $V_{\text{DATA}}$  is the voltage difference of the data line,  $C_P$  is the parasitic capacitor of the TFT,  $C_S$  is the storage capacitor, and  $C_L$  is liquid crystal capacitor in a pixel circuit. The parasitic capacitors include the gate-to-source capacitor and the gate-to-drain capacitor of the TFT in the pixel. The origins of dynamic power consumption for a pixel are explained as follows. When the scan signal turns the TFT on or off, the parasitic capacitors of the TFT are charged or discharged. Moreover, the storage, liquid crystal, and parasitic capacitors are charged or discharged to the data voltage as the TFT in a pixel is turned on. In the electrical part, the static power consumption is also shown in the following equation:

$$P_{\text{static}} = N \times \Delta V \times I_{\text{leakage}} \tag{7}$$



where  $\Delta V$  and  $I_{\text{leakage}}$  represent the voltage difference of the capacitor and the leakage currents of the TFT in a pixel, respectively. When the TFT in a pixel is turned off, the leakage current of the TFT changes the voltage stored in the capacitors, thus causing static power consumption. Finally, the electrical power consumption can be calculated by summing the dynamic and static power consumptions.

Based on the above model, the power consumption of the FSC LCD and conventional color filter-based LCD can be thoroughly compared. For the electrical power consumption, they are almost the same if the capacitance and operating voltage are assumed to be the same. Although the frame rate for FSC LCD is tripled, the number of pixels is reduced by  $3\times$ , leading to the same value for the product of  $N$  and  $f$ . On the other hand, the major difference of optical power consumption depends on the absorption of color filters, the aperture ratio ( $AR$ ), and the efficiency of LEDs ( $\eta_{\text{LED}}$ ). For the color filter-based LCD, the absorption of color filters can reduce the luminance by approximately  $3\times$ , but the optical power consumption can be partially mitigated by white LEDs because of their higher efficiencies than RGB LEDs. For this reason, the aperture ratio plays a key role in comparing their power consumptions. To achieve 60 PPD and  $100^\circ$  FoV, the required resolution density for the color filter based TFT LCD and FSC TFT LCD is 3780 PPI and 1260 PPI, respectively. The aperture ratio of the color-filter-based 3780-PPI LCD is nearly zero, while the 1260 PPI LCD can be maintained at about 20%, which implies that FSC LCDs consume much less power than color filter-based LCDs. It is noted that for color filters and FSC, their aperture ratios in reflective liquid-crystal-on-silicon (LCoS) [34] are approximately the same. Therefore, the major difference between color filters based on LCoS and FSC LCoS is solely determined by the absorption of color filters and the efficiencies of white or RGB LEDs.

## 5. Discussions

Through eliminating color filters, both spatial resolution and optical efficiency can be tripled, but the shorter capacitor charging time needs to be considered as well. Because of the reduced turn-on time ( $\sim 0.3$  ms), LED backlights should be optimized to generate the required peak brightness. A multistring LED backlight driving system [35] was proposed to alleviate the requirement for a higher peak power and reduce power consumption. On the other hand, the shorter capacitor charging time will slightly lower the transmittance, but the  $\sim 3\times$  optical gain may compensate for the decreased transmittance. Furthermore, using multiple ICs to scan the gate lines simultaneously can restore it to an original charge time without FSC. The increased cost will still be much cheaper than micro-OLEDs using a whole silicon wafer. Another strategy is to employ TFTs with a higher mobility and thereby reduce the time constant of the capacitor.

As for contrast ratio, the mini-LEDs can be employed to increase the contrast ratio of the LCD [36,37]. With the help of mini-LEDs, the vertical alignment (VA) mode will not outperform the FFS mode in terms of contrast ratio. Furthermore, it is challenging to obtain such a fast response time using VA mode. For a fair comparison, we used a high-performance negative dielectric anisotropic LC mixture [38] in simulations. The LC mixture features a high birefringence ( $\Delta n = 0.191$  at  $\lambda = 550$  nm), and low viscosity ( $\gamma_1/K_{33} = 6.7$  ms/ $\mu\text{m}^2$  at  $50^\circ\text{C}$ ). Other simulation conditions are as follows: cell gap is  $2\ \mu\text{m}$ , on-state voltage is  $5.2$  Vrms, and operating temperature is  $50^\circ\text{C}$ . The simulated results are listed in Table 2. The average GTG response time is  $3.8$  ms, which is much slower than that of FFS LCDs at the same temperature. To further decrease the response time of VA mode, a slightly thinner cell gap of  $1.8\ \mu\text{m}$  and a higher on-state voltage of  $6$  Vrms are employed. The average GTG response time is decreased to  $3.1$  ms, which is still slower than that of FFS LCDs.

In a conventional VA cell, a negative dielectric anisotropy ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) LC is usually used and the electric field is in the longitudinal direction. However, if a lateral field is applied to activate the VA cell, then a positive  $\Delta\epsilon$  LC can also be considered, as reported in [39], where an additional longitudinal field is applied to accelerate the LC director's restoring time. As a result, both fast turn-on and turn-off processes can be achieved, even at a low

temperature [39]. Bidirectional field switching (BFS) has also been demonstrated to achieve fast response time [40]. Here, a BFS controller is used to switch between the vertical field and the twisted-planar field. Both approaches can achieve fast response time, but the driving circuits are complicated, and the optical transmittance is reduced.

**Table 2.** Simulated response time of VA mode between different gray levels without overdrive and undershoot. The operating temperature is 50 °C.

		Rise Time (ms)					
		Gray level	0	64	128	192	255
Decay time (ms)	0	\	10.18	6.66	4.62	1.50	
	64	1.79	\	5.23	3.81	1.15	
	128	1.93	5.51	\	3.65	1.02	
	192	2.08	5.36	4.65	\	0.96	
	255	2.35	5.37	4.88	4.14	\	

Besides response time, viewing angle is another concern for VA mode. Negative c-plate compensation films may be introduced to widen the viewing cone of VA mode. On the positive side, the VA mode with incident circularly-polarized light can exhibit a much higher transmittance than the FFS mode using zero rubbing angle. Micro-OLED is another type of light engine that exhibits ultrahigh contrast ratio and small form factor. However, when the cavity effect of a micro-OLED panel is weak, the broad angular distribution will cause more stray light in the pancake system, which in turn degrades the system contrast ratio. Overall, the FFS FSC-LCD using a locally dimmable mini-LED backlight is a strong contender for VR displays.

## 6. Conclusions

One of the biggest hurdles for immersive VR is screen-door effect, which arises from inadequate resolution density of the microdisplays. In other words, the pixel structure including black matrices may be noticeable because of the large magnification from the lens if the resolution density is not high enough. To solve this tough problem, we propose an FSC LCD to achieve 60 PPD and 100° FoV while maintaining a low power consumption for compact VR displays. To prove the concept, in the experiment we reported and evaluated a new high birefringence nematic LC mixture. Our simulation results show that the average GTG response time can be as fast as ~1.5 ms to avoid color breakup. The FSC LCD also exhibits a high contrast ratio, superior color uniformity, and wide color gamut.

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