

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

SYSTEM AND METHOD OF ILLUMINATING INTERFEROMETRIC MODULATORS
USING BACKLIGHTING

An interferometric modulator array device with backlighting is disclosed. The interferometric modulator array device comprises a plurality of interferometric modulator elements, wherein each of the interferometric modulator elements comprises an optical cavity. 5 The interferometric modulator array includes an optical aperture region, and at least one reflecting element is positioned so as to receive light passing through the optical aperture region and reflect at least a portion of the received light to the cavities of the interferometric modulator elements. In some embodiments, the interferometric modulator elements may be separated from 10 each other such that an optical aperture region is formed between adjacent interferometric modulator elements.