

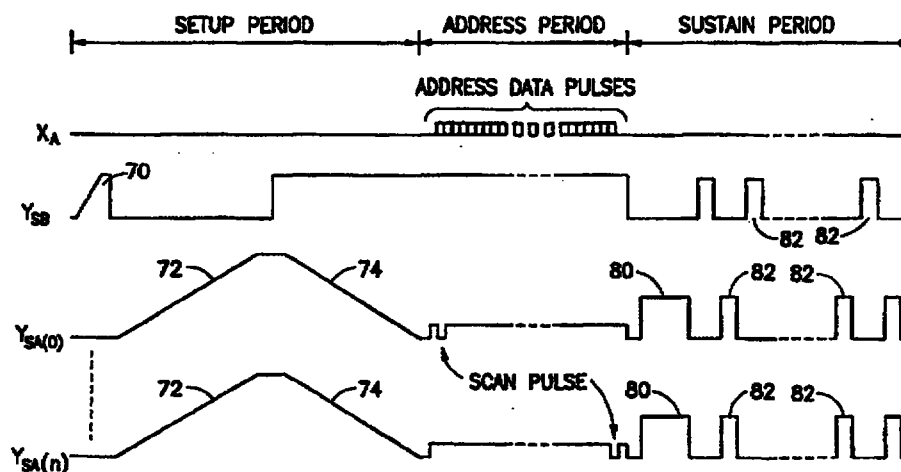
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(54) Title: PLASMA PANEL EXHIBITING ENHANCED CONTRAST



(57) Abstract

A plasma panel, incorporating the invention, includes circuitry for applying row signals sequentially to a plurality of row electrodes. Each row signal includes a set-up period, an address period and a sustain period. A row signal during the set-up period includes both a positive-going ramp voltage and a negative-going ramp voltage, both ramp voltages causing a discharge of each pixel site along an associated row electrode. Both ramp voltages exhibit a slope that is set to assure that current flow through each pixel site remains in a positive resistance region of the gas's discharge characteristic, thus assuring a relatively constant voltage drop across the discharging gas, thus resulting in predictable wall voltage states. The set-up period thereby creates standardized wall potentials at each pixel site along each row electrode. Address circuitry applies, during the address period, data pulses to a plurality of column electrodes to enable selective discharge of the pixel sites in accordance with data pulses and in synchronism with the row signals.