Docket #: S17-176

Increasing OLED Efficiency using High Impedance Metasurfaces

Stanford researchers have developed a high efficiency OLED device by nanopatterning the electrode layer to create a high impedance metasurface (HIM) that reduces 'plasmonic' losses. A typical metal cathode traps a large portion of generated light in an OLED. Only 20% of the generated light actually leaves an OLED – the rest is trapped in the substrate, the organic layers, or the metal cathode (plasmonic loss). Stanford's nanopatterned electrode suppresses the plasmon and dissipative losses across the visible spectrum, while providing a high DC electrical conductivity and a high-impedance surface at optical frequencies. Patterned grating structures can also suppress losses at boundaries other than the metal electrode, reduce total internal reflection, and suppress waveguide and/or substrate mode losses – resulting in a higher efficiency OLED device.

Stage of Research
Stanford researchers verified the reduction of plasmonic losses by studying emission enhancement and photoluminescence of the nanopatterned electrode layer.

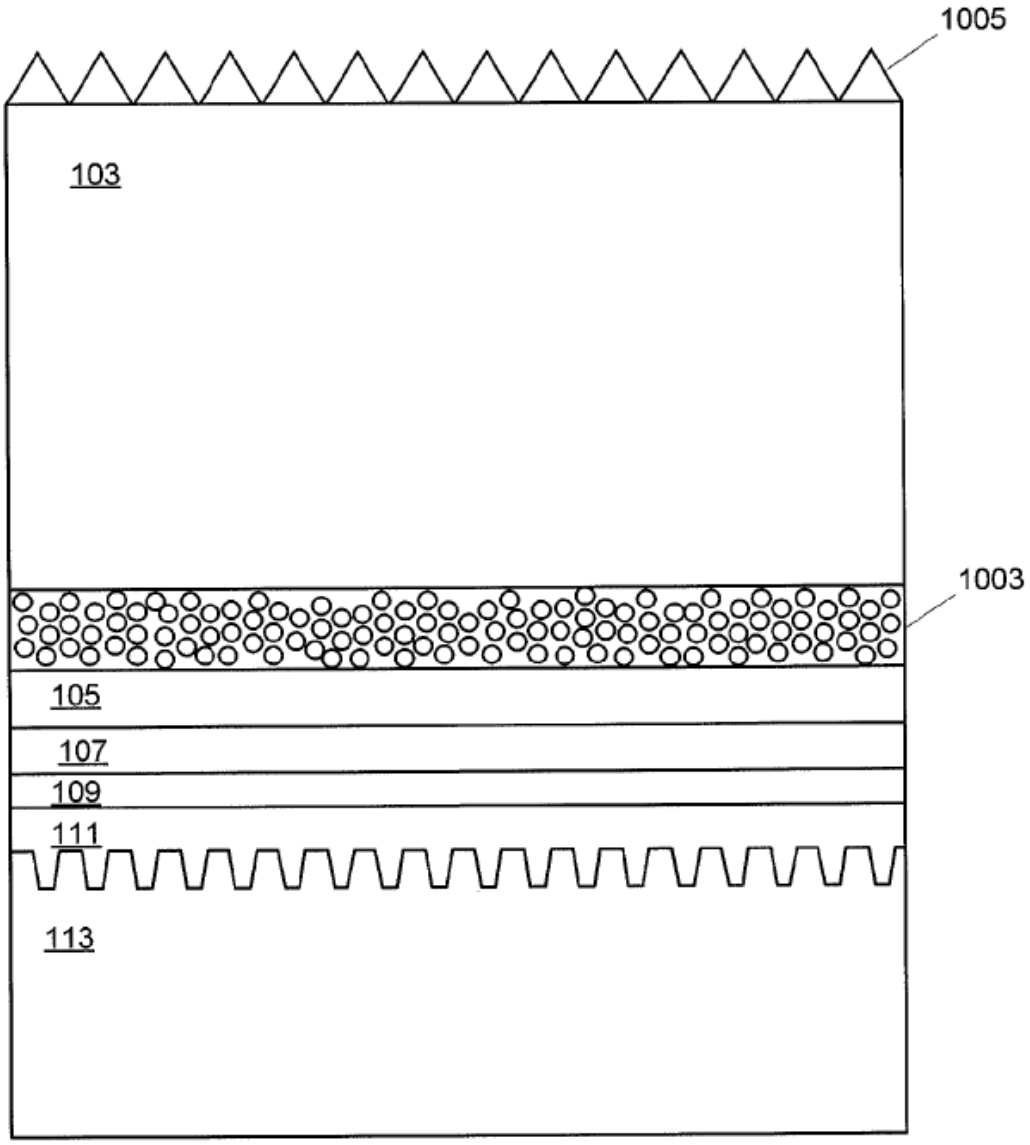

Figure 1 Example of an OLED device using a nanopatterned electrode (113), a high index internal extraction structure (IES) layer (1003) with light scattering particles to optimize outcoupling of waveguide mode, and a microlens array (1005) to optimize substrate mode.

Applications

- Organic Light Emitting Diodes (OLEDs) for:
  - Displays
  - Lighting – in particular, light sources for sensing applications

Advantages

- **Increased OLED efficiency and life** due to decreased surface plasmon polariton (SPP) mode loss and increased quantum efficiency.

Publications

- Esfandyarpour, Majid, Alberto G. Curto, Pieter G. Kik, Nader Engheta, and Mark L. Brongersma. "Optical emission near a high-impedance mirror." *Nature communications 9*, no. 1 (2018): 3224.

Patents

- Published Application: 20160285036
- Issued: 9,865,836 (USA)
- Issued: RE49016 (USA)

Innovators

- Majid Esfandyarpour
- Mark Brongersma

Licensing Contact

Matthew Ryan

Licensing Manager

Email