Integration and Performance Evaluation of a TlBr X-ray Imager for CT Imaging Systems

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Abstract

This study develops and characterizes a TlBr-based direct-conversion flat panel detector (FPD) for X-ray imaging. Integrated with a rotating stage, the system was tested as a computed tomography (CT) imaging system, demonstrating its potential for advanced X-ray imaging applications.

1. Introduction

Direct-conversion FPDs are widely studied for medical and industrial X-ray imaging. The performance of these detectors heavily depends on the choice of conversion materials. TlBr stands out due to its optimal energy bandgap (2.68 eV), high atomic numbers (Tl: 81, Br: 35), and high density (7.56 g/cm³) [1]. This study develops and characterizes a direct-conversion FPD with a 25 μm thick TlBr film, evaluating its performance as a CT imaging system.

2. Materials and Methods

The TlBr film, deposited via evaporation, had a thickness of 25–50 μm and an active area of 29.61 × 39.48 mm² [2]. The electrodes included Au film for the top and ITO-coated glass for the bottom. A pixelated sensor matrix (168 × 126 pixels, 235 × 235 μm² each) was fabricated using low-temperature polysilicon thin-film transistor (LTPS TFT) technology (Figure 1(a)). CT imaging utilized a Raytech TX-120 X-ray tube (25–50 kV, 0.25–2 mA) with a 75 cm source-to-detector distance, 3 cm rotation center offset, and angle pitches of 1°–2° for 1000 frames per pitch (Figure 1(b)). Detector sensitivity was tested on plastics, metals, and electrolytic capacitors, with reconstruction via Filtered Back Projection (FBP).

3. Results and Discussion

The pixel intensity increased with rising X-ray tube voltage (30–100 kV, 2 mA), with saturation observed starting at 80 kV attributed to energy deposition in the high-energy region. The spatial resolution, determined from the LSF profile, ranged from 222 to 280 μm in terms of Full Width at Half Maximum (FWHM), primarily constrained by the pixel size (Figure 1(c)). The CT imaging using plastics, metals, and electrolytic capacitors are expected to distinguish the structures and shapes of the objects.

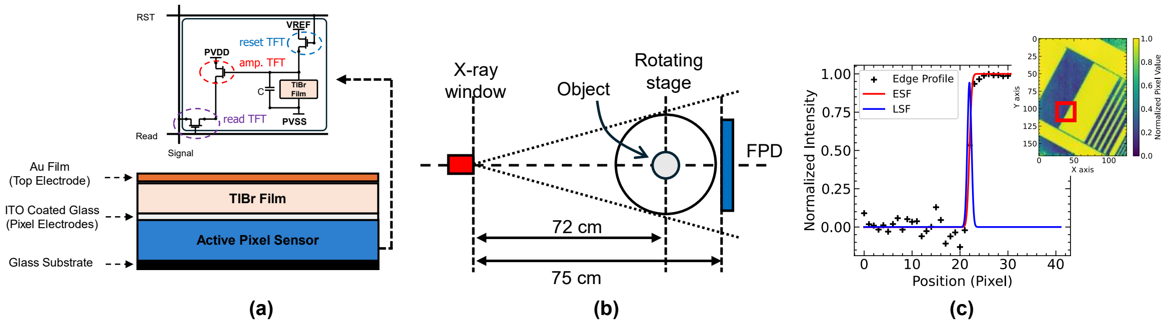

Figure 1. (a) TlBr-based direct-conversion FPD, (b) CT imaging setup, and (c) spatial resolution using ESF profile with FWHM of 22 μm.

4. Conclusion

The TlBr-based FPD exhibited strong X-ray imaging performance, with increasing pixel intensity up to saturation at 80 kV and a spatial resolution of 222–280 μm (FWHM). Preliminary CT results are expected to demonstrate its potential to distinguish object structures and shapes, highlighting its suitability for advanced X-ray imaging applications.

References

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