

light intensities registered by the light detectors may be processed in the unit 110 in a straightforward manner.

[0033] Preferably, the arrangement also includes a selection means 120 adapted to, on one hand, control the arrays of light sources 131 and 132 to emit light from a given light source during a specified interval; and on the other hand, control the arrays of light detectors 141 and 142 to register light energy in one or more detectors during corresponding specified intervals. The selection means 120 is either a separate unit (as illustrated in FIG. 1), or an integral module of the processing unit 110. In any case, based on a request signal P_{req} originated in the processing unit 110, the selection means 120 is configured to generate a specific control signal R_x , R_y , PC_x or PC_y to the arrays of light sources 131 or 132, or the arrays of light detectors 141 or 142 respectively. Here, each control signal in a first set of control signals R_x and R_y is adapted to cause light to be emitted from a particular light source in a given array of light sources 131 or 132, whereas each control signal in a second set of control signals PC_x and PC_y is adapted to cause registration of light received by a particular light detector in a given array of light detectors 141 or 142.

[0034] It is further preferable if the processing unit 110 includes, or is associated with, a computer readable medium 111, e.g. a memory module, which stores a program, where the program is adapted to make the processing unit 110 control the proposed arrangement as described above.

[0035] FIG. 2 shows a schematic circuit diagram over a light source and a light detector respectively according to one embodiment of the invention. The right hand circuitry represents one of the light sources in one of said arrays, say 132, whereas the left hand circuitry represents one of the light detectors in one of said arrays, say 142.

[0036] In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 2, a first switch S1 is configured to pre-charge a photo diode D_{ph} in response to a first control signal PC, e.g. embodied by the above signal PC_y from the selection means 120. Hence, the first control signal PC is adapted to cause the photo diode D_{ph} to register an ambient light intensity. A set of resistors r1, r2 and r3 are arranged to accomplish appropriate bias voltages for a second switch S2 and the photo diode D_{ph} respectively. The second switch S2 is configured to set the photo diode D_{ph} in an active state or an idle state in response to a second control signal SET_{idle} , e.g. generated by the processing unit 110 and forwarded via the selection means 120. Preferably, both the first and second switches S1 and S2 are connected to a supply voltage V_{sup} , say 3V.

[0037] A third switch S3, is configured to control a fourth switch S4 in response to a third control signal R, e.g. embodied by the above signal R_y from the selection means 120. The fourth switch S4, in turn, is configured to activate a light emitting diode D_{em} , such that light energy Λ_{em} is produced. A charge capacitor C_s and a charging resistor r4 are connected to the light emitting diode D_{em} and arranged to supply the required energy to the light emitting diode D_{em} . The charging resistor r4 is further connected to the supply voltage V_{sup} , say 3V.

[0038] FIG. 3a shows a diagram illustrating one example of a voltage V_C (in a point C downstream of the light emitting diode D_{em} in FIG. 2) as a function of time t, FIG. 3b shows a diagram illustrating one example of a voltage V_D (in a point D upstream of the light emitting diode D_{em} in FIG. 2) as a function of time t, FIG. 3c shows a diagram illustrating one example of a voltage V_A (in a point A upstream of the photo

diode D_{ph} in FIG. 2) as a function of time t, and FIG. 3d shows a diagram illustrating one example of a voltage V_B (in a point R downstream of the photo diode D_{ph} in FIG. 2) as a function of time t.

[0039] In this example, we presume that the predefined sequence of light pulses implemented by the processing unit 110 prescribes that a light pulse is to be generated by the light source (i.e. the light emitting diode D_{em}) during a specified interval T0, and that this light source shall produce a subsequent light pulse a time T1 later. The third control signal R causes a voltage dip in V_C during the interval T0. As a result, the charge capacitor C_s releases its stored energy through the light emitting diode D_{em} , and the diode emits light over the display device towards the photo diode D_{ph} .

[0040] As can be seen in FIG. 3b, during the interval T0, V_D drops from a maximum value V_o due to the drain of electric charges from the capacitor C_s . Thereafter, the capacitor C_s is recharged until the time T1 has expired, and the procedure is repeated.

[0041] We now refer to FIGS. 3c and 3d. As mentioned above, an initial measurement value V_1 representing the ambient light intensity is registered by the light detector (i.e. the photo diode D_{ph}) prior to emitting the light pulse from the light emitting diode D_{em} . Thus, to this aim, the processing unit 110 controls the photo diode D_{ph} in coordination with the light emitted from the light emitting diode D_{em} . Preferably, the processing unit 110 is configured to cause pre-charging of the photo diode D_{ph} by forwarding the first control signal PC to the first switch S1. The processing unit 110 initiates this pre-charging at least a threshold time T3 prior to the start of the specified interval T0, and continues the pre-charging during an interval T2.

[0042] Moreover, it is preferred that the processing unit 110 is configured to initiate the emission of light from the light emitting diode D_{em} no earlier than after that the processing unit 110 has been allowed sufficient time to receive digital data D_{FB} (e.g. via the above-mentioned digitizing unit 150) representing the initial measurement value V_1 . In practice, this normally means that a period T4 after the threshold time T3 must also expire before the specified interval T0 can be initiated.

[0043] Additionally, according to one preferred embodiment of the invention, the processing unit 110 is configured to control the light detectors in coordination with the light pulses, such that the precharging interval T2 is terminated no earlier than a delay time TD after expiry of the specified interval T0 during which light is emitted from the given light emitting diode D_{em} . Consequently, the first and third control signals PC and R respectively have such timing interrelationship that the pre-charging interval T2 continues at least a period TD after ending the specified interval T0. Then, at the end of the delay time TD, the voltage V_A is caused to drop down to a relatively low idle voltage in response to the first control signal PC. Here, the delay time TD represents a conversion time of the digitizing unit 150 for producing the digital data D_{FB} based on the received measurement value, i.e. a secondary measurement value V_2 registered by the photo diode D_{ph} during emission of light Λ_{em} from the light source D_{em} .

[0044] In order to make sure that the secondary measurement value V_2 is registered while the light Λ_{em} from the light emitting diode D_{em} still is being emitted, the processing unit 110 is preferably configured to record digital data D_{FB} representing this value a time T5 after the initiating the specified