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Park et al.

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(54) **ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DIODE AND ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DIODE DISPLAY DEVICE COMPRISING THE SAME**

(71) Applicant: **SAMSUNG DISPLAY CO., LTD.**,
Yongin-si, Gyeonggi-do (KR)

(72) Inventors: **Heungsu Park**, Yongin-si (KR);
Jihwan Yoon, Yongin-si (KR);
Sangwoo Lee, Yongin-si (KR);
Jaehoon Hwang, Yongin-si (KR)

(73) Assignee: **Samsung Display Co., Ltd.**, Yongin-Si,
Gyeonggi-do (KR)

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H01L 27/32 (2006.01)
H01L 51/52 (2006.01)

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**

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USPC 257/40
See application file for complete search history.

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Primary Examiner — Karen Kusumakar

Assistant Examiner — Adam S Bowen

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Lee & Morse, P.C.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An organic light emitting element includes a first electrode; a first organic layer on the first electrode; a second organic layer on the first organic layer; a second electrode on the second organic layer; and a mixed layer between the first organic layer and the second organic layer. A gap between a highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) energy level of the first organic layer and a lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) energy level of the second organic layer may be in a range from about 1.35 eV to about 1.70 eV. The mixed layer may emit light having a wavelength in a range from about 740 nm to about 950 nm by exciplex.

19 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets

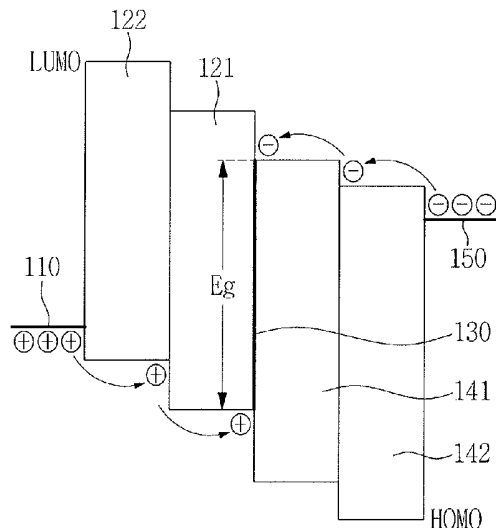


FIG. 1

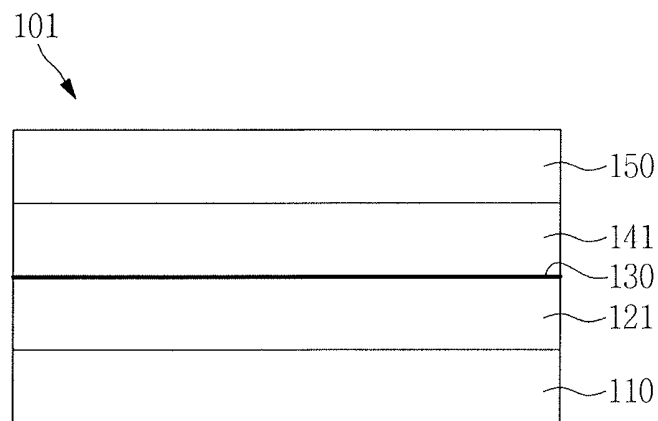


FIG. 2

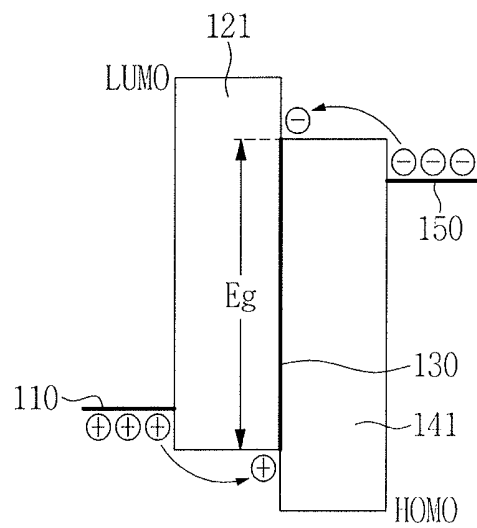


FIG. 3

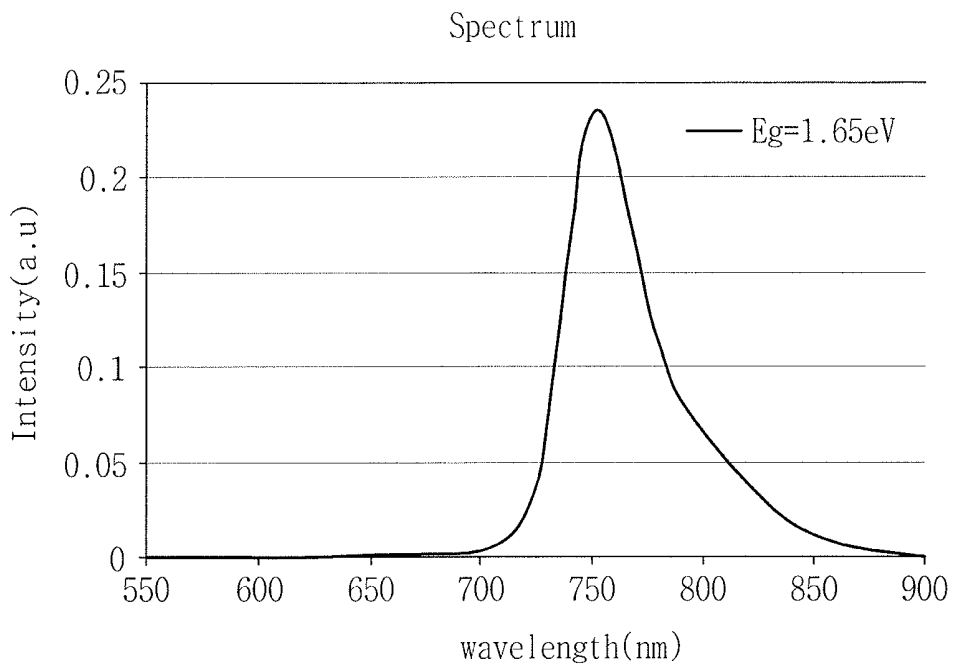


FIG. 4

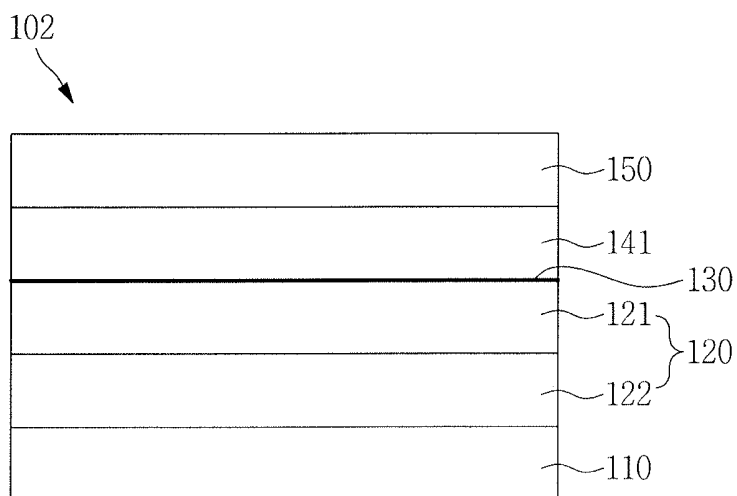


FIG. 5

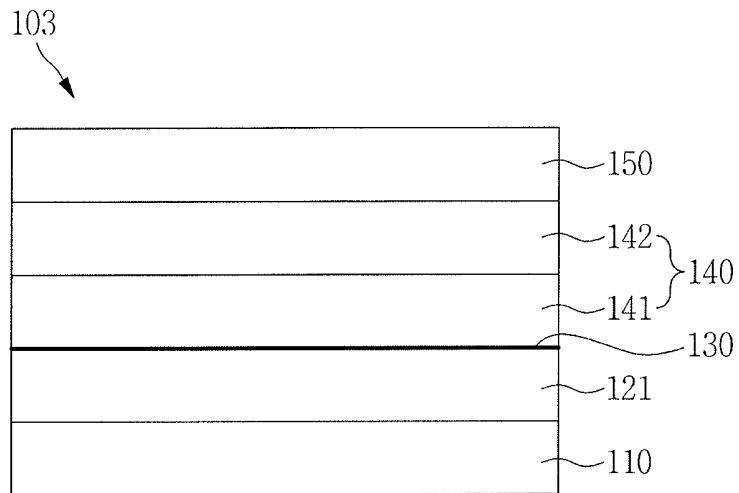


FIG. 6

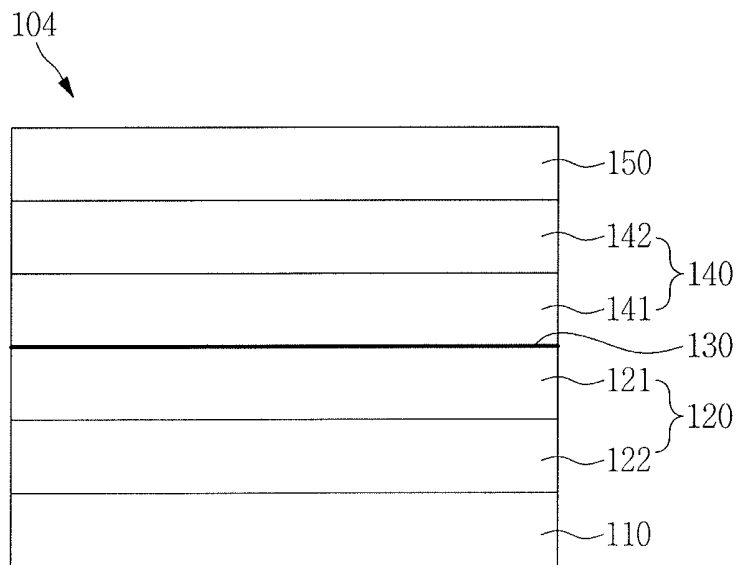


FIG. 7

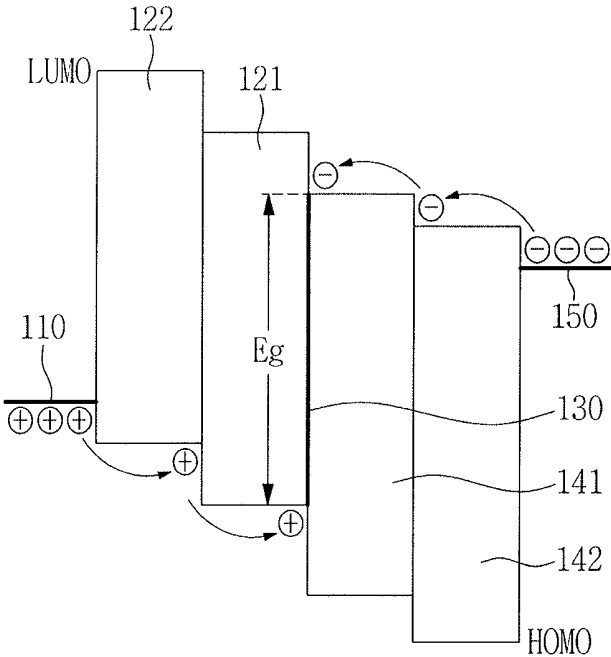


FIG. 8

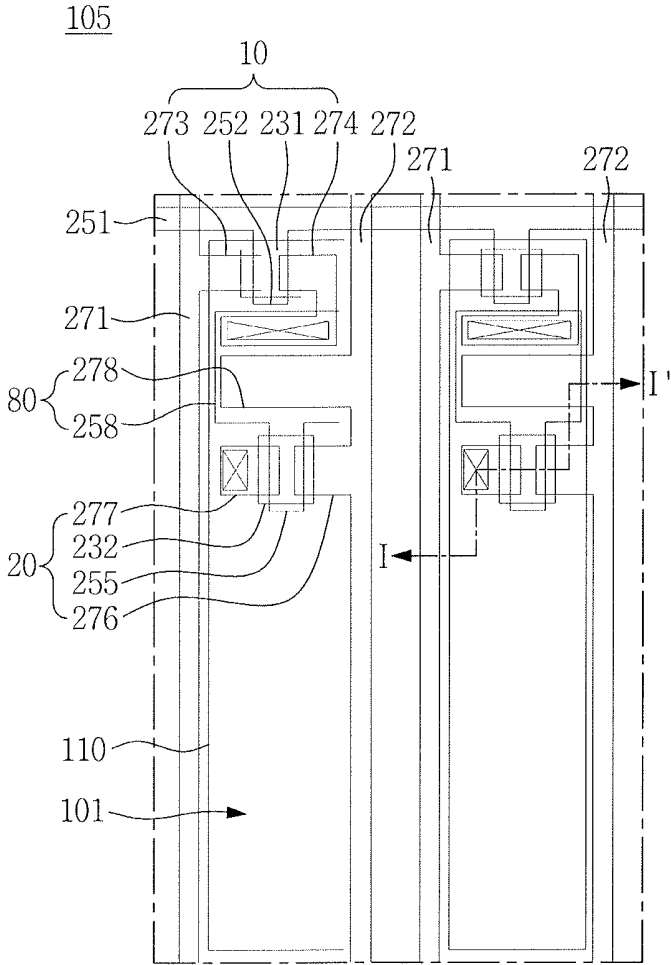


FIG. 9

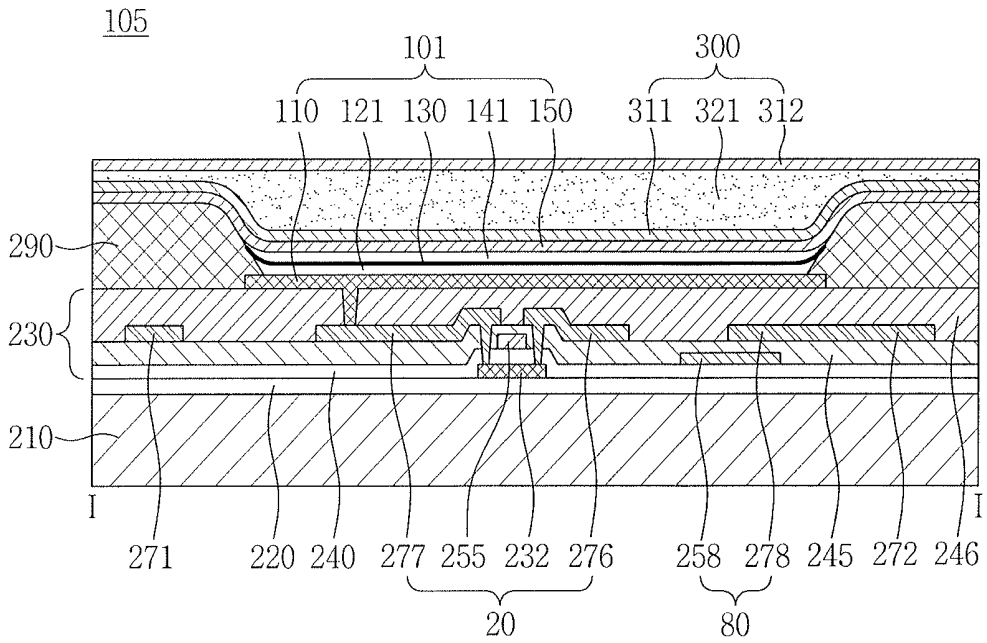
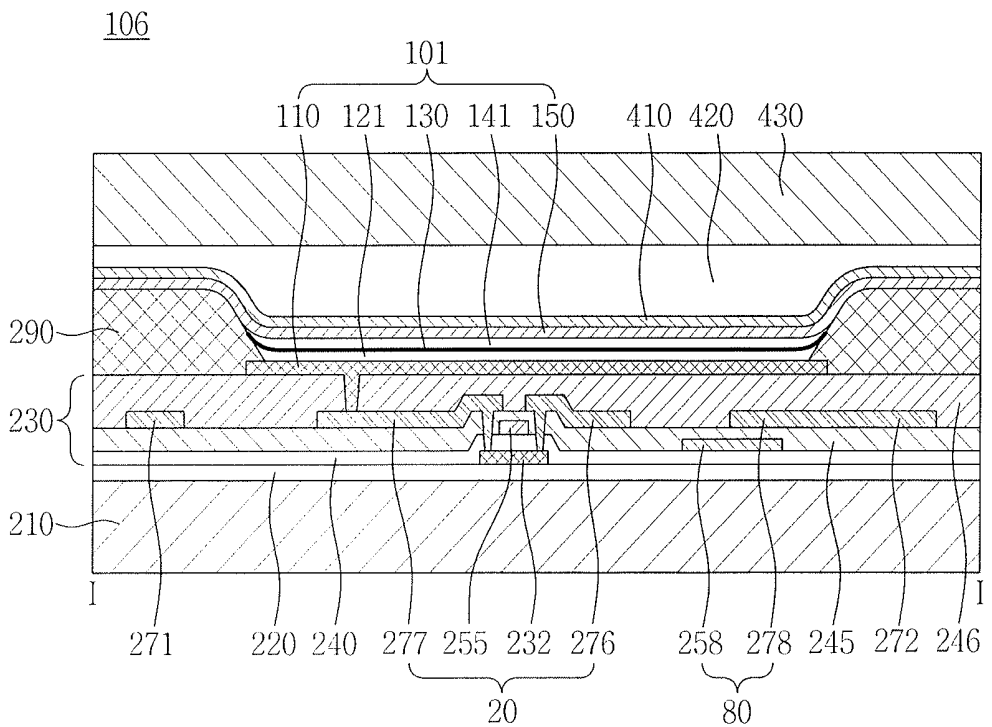


FIG. 10



**ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DIODE AND
ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DIODE
DISPLAY DEVICE COMPRISING THE SAME**

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATION

Korean Patent Application No. 10-2017-0038978, filed on Mar. 28, 2017, in the Korean Intellectual Property Office, and entitled: "Organic Light Emitting Diode and Organic Light Emitting Diode Display Device Comprising the Same," is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

1. Field

Embodiments relate to an organic light emitting diode ("OLED") and an OLED display device including the OLED.

2. Description of the Related Art

Display devices may be classified into liquid crystal display ("LCD") devices, organic light emitting diode ("OLED") display devices, plasma display panel ("PDP") devices, electrophoretic display devices, and the like based on a light emitting scheme thereof.

Among these, OLED display devices are garnering attention as an ideal display device of the next generation because they have excellent display characteristics such as a contrast ratio and a response time and are easy to be implemented as flexible display devices.

It is to be understood that this background of the technology section is intended to provide useful background for understanding the technology and as such disclosed herein, the technology background section may include ideas, concepts or recognitions that were not part of what was known or appreciated by those skilled in the pertinent art prior to a corresponding effective filing date of subject matter disclosed herein.

SUMMARY

Embodiments are directed to an organic light emitting element that includes: a first electrode; a first organic layer on the first electrode; a second organic layer on the first organic layer; a second electrode on the second organic layer; and a mixed layer between the first organic layer and the second organic layer. A gap between a highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) energy level of the first organic layer and a lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) energy level of the second organic layer may be in a range from about 1.35 eV to about 1.70 eV. The mixed layer may emit light having a wavelength in a range from about 740 nm to about 950 nm by exciplex.

The first organic layer, the second organic layer, and the mixed layer may not include a dopant.

The mixed layer may have a concentration gradient so that a concentration value of the second organic material increases along a direction from the first organic layer toward the second organic layer and a concentration value of the first organic material increases along a direction from the second organic layer toward the first organic layer.

The first organic layer may be a hole transport layer.

The first organic layer may be a resonance auxiliary layer.

The organic light emitting element may further include a third organic layer between the first electrode and the first organic layer.

The highest occupied molecular orbital energy level of the first organic layer may be lower than a highest occupied molecular orbital energy level of the third organic layer.

The second organic layer may be an electron transport layer.

The organic light emitting element may further include a fourth organic layer between the second organic layer and the second electrode.

The lowest unoccupied molecular orbital energy level of the second organic layer may be higher than a lowest unoccupied molecular orbital energy level of the fourth organic layer

According to an example embodiment, an organic light emitting display device includes: a substrate; a driving circuit portion on the substrate; and an organic light emitting element on the driving circuit portion. The organic light emitting element includes: a first electrode; a first organic layer on the first electrode; a second organic layer on the first organic layer; a second electrode on the second organic layer; and a mixed layer between the first organic layer and the second organic layer. A gap between a highest occupied molecular orbital energy level of the first organic layer and a lowest unoccupied molecular orbital energy level of the second organic layer is in a range from about 1.35 eV to about 1.70 eV. The mixed layer emits light having a wavelength in a range from about 740 nm to about 950 nm by exciplex.

The first organic layer, the second organic layer, and the mixed layer may not include a dopant.

The mixed layer may have a concentration gradient so that a concentration value of the second organic material increases along a direction from the first organic layer toward the second organic layer and a concentration value of the first organic material increases along a direction from the second organic layer toward the first organic layer.

The organic light emitting display device may further include a third organic layer between the first electrode and the first organic layer.

The highest occupied molecular orbital energy level of the first organic layer is lower than a highest occupied molecular orbital energy level of the third organic layer.

The organic light emitting display device may further include a fourth organic layer between the second organic layer and the second electrode.

The lowest unoccupied molecular orbital energy level of the second organic layer may be higher than a lowest unoccupied molecular orbital energy level of the fourth organic layer

The driving circuit portion may include: a gate line on the substrate; a data line crossing the gate line; and a thin film transistor connected to the gate line and the data line.

The organic light emitting display device may further include a thin film encapsulation layer on the second electrode. The thin film encapsulation layer may include: at least one inorganic layer; and at least one organic layer arranged alternately with the at least one inorganic layer.

The organic light emitting display device may further include: a capping layer on the second electrode; a filler on the capping layer; and an encapsulation substrate on the filler.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Features will become apparent to those of skill in the art by describing in detail example embodiments with reference to the attached drawings in which:

FIG. 1 illustrates a cross-sectional view schematically illustrating an organic light emitting diode (“OLED”) according to a first example embodiment;

FIG. 2 illustrates a band diagram of an OLED according to a first example embodiment;

FIG. 3 illustrates an emission spectrum of an OLED according to a first example embodiment;

FIG. 4 illustrates a cross-sectional view schematically illustrating an OLED according to a second example embodiment;

FIG. 5 illustrates a cross-sectional view schematically illustrating an OLED according to a third example embodiment;

FIG. 6 illustrates a cross-sectional view schematically illustrating an OLED according to a fourth example embodiment;

FIG. 7 illustrates a band diagram of an OLED according to a fourth example embodiment;

FIG. 8 illustrates a plan view illustrating an OLED display device according to a fifth example embodiment;

FIG. 9 illustrates a cross-sectional view taken along the line I-I' of FIG. 8; and

FIG. 10 illustrates a cross-sectional view illustrating an OLED display device according to a sixth example embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Example embodiments will now be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings; however, they may be embodied in different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein. Rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey example implementations to those skilled in the art. In the drawing figures, the dimensions of layers and regions may be exaggerated for clarity of illustration. Like reference numerals refer to like elements throughout.

When a layer, area, or plate is referred to as being “on” another layer, area, or plate, it may be directly on the other layer, area, or plate, or intervening layers, areas, or plates may be present therebetween. Conversely, when a layer, area, or plate is referred to as being “directly on” another layer, area, or plate, intervening layers, areas, or plates may be absent therebetween. Further when a layer, area, or plate is referred to as being “below” another layer, area, or plate, it may be directly below the other layer, area, or plate, or intervening layers, areas, or plates may be present therebetween. Conversely, when a layer, area, or plate is referred to as being “directly below” another layer, area, or plate, intervening layers, areas, or plates may be absent therebetween.

The spatially relative terms “below”, “beneath”, “lower”, “above”, “upper” and the like, may be used herein for ease of description to describe the relations between one element or component and another element or component as illustrated in the drawings. It will be understood that the spatially relative terms are intended to encompass different orientations of the device in use or operation, in addition to the orientation depicted in the drawings. For example, in the case where a device illustrated in the drawing is turned over, the device positioned “below” or “beneath” another device may be placed “above” another device. Accordingly, the illustrative term “below” may include both the lower and upper positions. The device may also be oriented in the other direction and thus the spatially relative terms may be interpreted differently depending on the orientations.

Throughout the specification, when an element is referred to as being “connected” to another element, the element is “directly connected” to the other element, or “electrically connected” to the other element with one or more intervening elements interposed therebetween. It will be further understood that the terms “comprises,” “including,” “includes” and/or “including,” when used in this specification, specify the presence of stated features, integers, steps, operations, elements and/or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, operations, elements, components and/or groups thereof.

It will be understood that, although the terms “first,” “second,” “third,” and the like may be used herein to describe various elements, these elements should not be limited by these terms. These terms are only used to distinguish one element from another element. Thus, “a first element” discussed below could be termed “a second element” or “a third element,” and “a second element” and “a third element” may be termed likewise without departing from the teachings herein.

“About” or “approximately” as used herein is inclusive of the stated value and means within an acceptable range of deviation for the particular value as determined by one of ordinary skill in the art, considering the measurement in question and the error associated with measurement of the particular quantity (i.e., the limitations of the measurement system). For example, “about” may mean within one or more standard deviations, or within $\pm 30\%$, 20% , 10% , 5% of the stated value.

Unless otherwise defined, all terms used herein (including technical and scientific terms) have the same meaning as commonly understood by those skilled in the art to which this invention pertains. It will be further understood that terms, such as those defined in commonly used dictionaries, should be interpreted as having a meaning that is consistent with their meaning in the context of the relevant art and will not be interpreted in an ideal or excessively formal sense unless clearly defined in the present specification.

Hereinafter, a first example embodiment will be described with reference to FIGS. 1, 2, and 3.

FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view schematically illustrating an organic light emitting diode (“OLED”) according to a first example embodiment, FIG. 2 is a band diagram of an OLED according to a first example embodiment, and FIG. 3 is an emission spectrum of an OLED according to a first example embodiment.

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, an OLED 101 according to a first example embodiment includes a first electrode 110, a first organic layer 121 on the first electrode 110, a second organic layer 141 on the first organic layer 121, a second electrode 150 on the second organic layer 141, and a mixed layer 130 of a first organic material and a second organic material between the first organic layer 121 and the second organic layer 141.

According to a first example embodiment, the first electrode 110 is an anode and the second electrode 150 is a cathode. The first electrode 110 may be, for example, a translucent electrode having light transmittance or a reflective electrode having light reflectivity. The second electrode 150 may be, for example, a semi-translucent electrode having semi-light transmittance or a reflective electrode having light reflectivity.

The first organic layer 121 may be, for example, a hole transport layer having hole transporting properties. For example, the first organic material may include one of a carbazole-based derivative such as N-phenylcarbazole and

polyvinylcarbazole, a fluorene-based derivative, N,N'-bis(3-methylphenyl)-N,N'-diphenyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-diamine (TPD), a triphenylamine derivative such as 4,4',4''-tris(N-carbazolyl)triphenylamine (TCTA), N,N'-di(1-naphthyl)-N,N'-diphenylbenzidine (NPB), and/or 4,4'-cyclohexylidene bis[N,N'-bis(4-methylphenyl)benzenamine] (TAPC), for example, but example embodiments are not limited thereto. In an implementation, the OLED **101** according to a first example embodiment may further include a hole injection layer between the first electrode **110** and the first organic layer **121**.

The second organic layer **141** may be, for example, an electron transport layer having electron transporting properties. For example, the second organic layer **141** may include one of: tris (8-hydroxyquinolino) aluminum (Alq3), 1,3,5-Tri(1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl (TPBi), 2,9-dimethyl-4,7-diphenyl-1,10-phenanthroline (BCP), 4,7-diphenyl-1,10-phenanthroline (Bphen), 3-(4-Biphenyl)-4-phenyl-5-tert-butylphenyl-1,2,4-triazole (TAZ), 4-(Naphthalen-1-yl)-3,5-diphenyl-4H-1,2,4-triazole (NTAZ), 2-(4-Biphenyl)-5-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole (tBu-PBD). Bis(2-methyl-8-quinolinolato-N1,O8)-(1,1'-Biphenyl-4-olato)aluminum (BAIq), beryllium bis (benzoquinolin-10-olate) (Bebq2), and/or 9,10-di (naphthalene-2-yl)anthracene (ADN), but example embodiments are not limited thereto. In an implementation, the OLED **101** according to a first example embodiment may further include an electron injection layer between the second organic layer **141** and the second electrode **150**.

The mixed layer **130** includes the first organic material and the second organic material. The mixed layer **130** according to a first example embodiment is not formed in a separate process from a process in which the first and second organic layers **121** and **141** are formed. The mixed layer **130** refers to a medium layer which is formed by mixing the first organic material and the second organic material in a process of sequentially depositing the first organic layer **121** and the second organic layer **141**. Accordingly, the mixed layer **130** may have a concentration gradient so that a concentration value of the second organic material increases along a direction from the first organic layer **121** toward the second organic layer **141** and a concentration value of the first organic material increases along a direction from the second organic layer **141** toward the first organic layer **121**. The mixed layer **130** according to a first example embodiment is described as a boundary region between the first organic layer **121** and the second organic layer **141**, but example embodiments are not limited thereto. The mixed layer **130** may refer to only an interfacial surface between the first organic layer **121** and the second organic layer **141**.

Holes and electrons are injected from the first and second electrodes **110** and **150** into the mixed layer **130** through the first and second organic layers **121** and **141**, respectively, and an exciplex is formed by combination of the injected holes and electrons. When the exciplex falls from an excited state to a ground state, light emission occurs.

An exciplex generally refers to a new complex which appears as one of two different molecules in an excited state and the other of the two different molecules in a ground state are combined. The exciplex in the present example embodiment may refer to an exciton which is formed by combination of holes and electrons in the mixed layer **130** between two organic layers **121** and **141** when the two organic layers **121** and **141** are stacked.

As shown in FIG. 2, the first organic layer **121** and the second organic layer **141** have different energy bands. Generally, the molecular binding force of an organic material is

relatively considerably weak compared to ionic bonding, etc., and the electron energy level of the organic layer is quantized and appears as an energy band having a predetermined gap. The energy band of the organic layer may be defined by a gap between a lowest unoccupied molecular orbital ("LUMO") energy level and a highest occupied molecular orbital ("HOMO") energy level.

When a predetermined electric field is applied to the OLED **101**, holes existing in the first electrode **110** may move to an adjacent layer by the electric field. In the present example embodiment, a higher electric field is required as a gap between HOMO energy levels of adjacent layers increases. Thus, the HOMO energy level is related to movement of holes. Due to the applied electric field, holes may move from a layer having a higher HOMO energy level to a layer having a lower HOMO energy level.

The first organic layer **121** according to a first example embodiment has a HOMO energy level lower than a work function of the first electrode **110**. Accordingly, the holes may move from the first electrode **110** to the first organic layer **121** by the applied electric field.

When a predetermined electric field is applied to the OLED **101**, electrons existing in the second electrode **150** may move to an adjacent layer by the electric field. In the present example embodiment, a higher electric field is required as a gap between LUMO energy levels of adjacent layers increases. Thus, the LUMO energy level is related to movement of electrons. Due to the applied electric field, electrons may move from a layer having a lower LUMO energy level to a layer having a higher LUMO energy level.

The second organic layer **141** according to a first example embodiment has a LUMO energy level higher than a work function of the second electrode **150**. Accordingly, electrons may move from the second electrode **150** to the second organic layer **141** by the applied electric field.

Subsequently, holes having a HOMO energy level of the first organic layer **121** and electrons having a LUMO energy level of the second organic layer **141** are combined in the mixed layer **130** to form an exciplex. When the exciplex falls from an excited state to a ground state, light emission occurs. Thus, light emission occurs at a boundary region between the first organic layer **121** having hole transporting properties and the second organic layer **141** having electron transporting properties.

Generally, an energy E of a photon satisfies the following equation 1.

$$E=hc/\lambda \quad \text{[Equation 1]}$$

In Equation 1, h denotes the Planck's constant, ν denotes a frequency of light, c denotes a speed of the light, and λ denotes a wavelength of the light.

In the present example embodiment, an energy E in Equation 1 may correspond to a gap E_g between the HOMO energy level of the first organic layer **121** and the LUMO energy level of the second organic layer **141**. Accordingly, the wavelength λ of the light emitted from the mixed layer **130** satisfies the following equation 2.

$$\lambda=1240/E_g \quad \text{[Equation 2]}$$

Thus, the wavelength λ of the light emitted by the exciplex in the mixed layer **130** may be determined by the gap E_g between the HOMO energy level of the first organic layer **121** and the LUMO energy level of the second organic layer **141**.

The gap E_g between the HOMO energy level of the first organic layer **121** and the LUMO energy level of the second organic layer **141** according to a first example embodiment

may be in a range from about 1.35 eV to about 1.70 eV. Accordingly, the mixed layer **130** may emit light having a wavelength in a range from about 740 nm to about 950 nm. Thus, the mixed layer **130** may emit light in a near-infrared wavelength range.

For example, as illustrated in FIG. 3, when the gap E_g between the HOMO energy level of the first organic layer **121** and the LUMO energy level of the second organic layer **141** is about 1.65 eV, the mixed layer **130** may emit light having a maximum wavelength of about 750 nm.

Accordingly, the OLED **101** according to a first example embodiment may emit light having a wavelength λ in a range from about 740 nm to about 950 nm, without separately including a dopant and a light emitting layer including the dopant.

Hereinafter, a second example embodiment will be described with reference to FIG. 4. The descriptions of the configurations the same as those of the first example embodiment will be omitted for the sake of convenience of explanation.

Referring to FIG. 4, an OLED **102** according to a second example embodiment further includes a third organic layer **122** between the first electrode **110** and the first organic layer **121**, as compared to the OLED **101** according to the first example embodiment.

The third organic layer **122** may be, for example, a hole transport layer having hole transporting properties. Thus, the OLED **102** according to a second example embodiment may include a hole transport layer **120** having a multi-layered structure including the first organic layer **121** and the third organic layer **122**.

In the present example embodiment, the first organic layer **121** may serve as a hole transport layer and also as a resonance auxiliary layer at a time. Thus, the first organic layer **121** serving as the resonance auxiliary layer may adjust a distance between the first electrode **110** and a second electrode **150**.

According to the present example embodiment, the OLED **102** includes a multi-layered structure, whereby light generated in the mixed layer **130** is emitted through the multi-layered structure. In the present example embodiment, when optical resonance occurs between two layers, an energy of the light increases, and the light having an increased energy may easily pass through the multi-layered structure and be emitted to the outside. A structure which allows the light to resonate between two layers is called a resonance structure, and a distance between the two layers where resonance occurs is called a resonance distance. The resonance distance may vary depending on a wavelength λ of the light emitted from the mixed layer **130**. Accordingly, the OLED **102** according to a second example embodiment may adjust the resonance distance depending on the wavelength λ of the light by adjusting a thickness of the first organic layer **121**.

The OLED **102** according to the second example embodiment is described as including the third organic layer **122** which is the hole transport layer, but example embodiments are not limited thereto. For example, the third organic layer **122** may be a hole injection layer.

Hereinafter, a third example embodiment will be described with reference to FIG. 5. The descriptions of the configurations the same as those of the first example embodiment will be omitted for the sake of convenience of explanation.

Referring to FIG. 5, an OLED **103** according to a third example embodiment further includes a fourth organic layer **142** between the second organic layer **141** and the second

electrode **150**, as compared to the OLED **101** according to the first example embodiment.

The fourth organic layer **142** may be an electron transport layer having electron transporting properties. Thus, the OLED **103** according to the third example embodiment may include a multi-layered electron transport layer **140** including the second organic layer **141** and the fourth organic layer **142**.

In the present example embodiment, the second organic layer **141** may serve as an electron transport layer and also as a buffer layer at a time. Thus, the second organic layer **141** which serves as a buffer layer may adjust a gap E_g between a HOMO energy level of a first organic layer **121** and a LUMO energy level of the second organic layer **141**. The gap E_g between the HOMO energy level of the first organic layer **121** and the LUMO energy level of the second organic layer **141** may be in a range from about 1.35 eV to about 1.70 eV.

The OLED **103** according to the third example embodiment is described as including the fourth organic layer **142** which is an electron transport layer, but example embodiments are not limited thereto. For example, the fourth organic layer **142** may be an electron injecting layer.

Hereinafter, a fourth example embodiment will be described with reference to FIGS. 6 and 7. The descriptions of the configurations the same as those of the first, second, and third example embodiments will be omitted for the sake of convenience of explanation.

FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view schematically illustrating an OLED according to a fourth example embodiment, and FIG. 7 is a band diagram of an OLED according to a fourth example embodiment.

Referring to FIGS. 6 and 7, an OLED **104** according to a fourth example embodiment, as compared to the OLED **101** according to the first example embodiment, further includes a third organic layer **122** between the first electrode **110** and the first organic layer **121**, and a fourth organic layer **142** between the second organic layer **141** and the second electrode **150**.

The third organic layer **122** and the fourth organic layer **142** may be a hole transport layer and an electron transport layer, respectively. Thus, the OLED **104** according to a fourth example embodiment may include a hole transport layer **120** having a multi-layered structure and an electron transport layer **140** having a multi-layered structure.

According to the present example embodiment, a HOMO energy level of the first organic layer **121** is lower than a HOMO energy level of the third organic layer **122**, and a LUMO energy level of the second organic layer **141** is higher than a LUMO energy level of the fourth organic layer **142**.

According to the present example embodiment, as illustrated in FIG. 7, the third organic layer **122** according to the fourth example embodiment has a HOMO energy level lower than a work function of the first electrode **110**, and the first organic layer **121** has a HOMO energy level lower than that of the third organic layer **122**. Accordingly, holes may move, due to the applied electric field, from the first electrode **110** to the third organic layer **122** and from the third organic layer **122** to the first organic layer **121** in stages.

In addition, according to the fourth example embodiment, the fourth organic layer **142** has a LUMO energy level higher than a work function of the second electrode **150**, and the second organic layer **141** has a LUMO energy level higher than that of the fourth organic layer **142**. Accordingly, electrons may move, due to the applied electric field, from

the second electrode **150** to the fourth organic layer **142** and from the fourth organic layer **142** to the second organic layer **141** in stages.

Next, electrons having the HOMO energy level of the first organic layer **121** and electrons having the LUMO energy level of the second organic layer **141** are combined in a mixed layer **130** to form an exciplex. When the exciplex falls from an excited state to a ground state, light emission occurs.

A gap Eg between the HOMO energy level of the first organic layer **121** and the LUMO energy level of the second organic layer **141** according to a fourth example embodiment may be in a range from about 1.35 eV to about 1.70 eV. Accordingly, the mixed layer **130** may emit light having a wavelength in a range from about 740 nm to about 950 nm due to the exciplex.

FIG. 8 is a plan view illustrating an OLED display device according to a fifth example embodiment, and FIG. 9 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line I-I' of FIG. 8.

Referring to FIGS. 8 and 9, an OLED display device **105** according to a fifth example embodiment includes a substrate **210**, a buffer layer **220**, a driving circuit portion **230**, a pixel defining layer **290**, the OLED **101**, and a thin film encapsulation layer **300**.

The substrate **210** may include, for example, an insulating material selected from the group consisting of; glass, quartz, ceramic, plastic, or the like. However, example embodiments are not limited thereto, and the substrate **210** may include, for example, a metallic material such as stainless steel.

The buffer layer **220** may be disposed on the substrate **210** and may include, for example, one or more layers selected from various inorganic layers and organic layers. In an implementation, the buffer layer **220** may be omitted.

The driving circuit portion **230** may be disposed on the buffer layer **220**. The driving circuit portion **230** may include a plurality of thin film transistors ("TFTs"), for example, a switching TFT **10** and a driving TFT **20**, and drives the OLED **101**. Thus, the OLED **101** may emit light according to a driving signal received from the driving circuit portion **230** to display images.

FIGS. 8 and 9 illustrate an active matrix-type OLED (AMOLED) display device **105** having a 2 Tr-1 Cap structure. For example, the 2 Tr-1 Cap structure may include two TFTs, for example, the switching TFT **10** and the driving TFT **20**, and one capacitor **80** in each pixel, but the fifth example embodiment is not limited thereto. For example, the OLED display device **105** may include three or more TFTs and two or more capacitors in each pixel, and may have various structures further including additional wirings. Herein, the term "pixel" refers to a smallest unit for displaying images, and the OLED display device **105** displays images using a plurality of pixels.

According to the present example embodiment, each pixel PX includes the switching TFT **10**, the driving TFT **20**, the capacitor **80**, and the OLED **101**, and a structure including the switching TFT **10**, the driving TFT **20**, and the capacitor **80** is collectively called the driving circuit portion **230**. In addition, a gate line **251** extending along one direction, and a data line **271** and a common power line **272** insulated from and intersecting the gate line **251** are also provided at the driving circuit portion **230**. Each pixel PX may be defined by, for example, the gate line **251**, the data line **271**, and the common power line **272**, in which they become a boundary, but example embodiments are not limited thereto. The pixels PX may be defined by, for example, a pixel defining layer or a black matrix.

The OLED **101** according to the present example embodiment includes a first electrode **110**, a first organic layer **121** on the first electrode **110**, a mixed layer **130**, a second organic layer **141**, and a second electrode **150**. Holes and electrons are injected into the mixed layer **130** from the first electrode **110** and the second electrode **150** and combined to each other to form exciplex. Light emission occurs when the exciplex falls from an excited state to a ground state. Since the OLED **101** has been described in detail in the first example embodiment, detailed descriptions thereof will be omitted in order to avoid redundancy.

The capacitor **80** includes a pair of capacitor plates **258** and **278**, having an insulating interlayer **245** interposed therebetween. In the present example embodiment, the insulating interlayer **245** may be a dielectric element. A capacitance of the capacitor **80** is determined by electric charges accumulated in the capacitor **80** and a voltage across the pair of capacitor plates **258** and **278**.

The switching TFT **10** includes a switching semiconductor layer **231**, a switching gate electrode **252**, a switching source electrode **273**, and a switching drain electrode **274**. The driving TFT **20** includes a driving semiconductor layer **232**, a driving gate electrode **255**, a driving source electrode **276**, and a driving drain electrode **277**. A gate insulating layer **240** is further provided to insulate the semiconductor layers **231** and **232** and the gate electrodes **252** and **255**.

The switching TFT **10** may function as a switching element which selects a pixel to perform light emission. The switching gate electrode **252** is connected to the gate line **251**, and the switching source electrode **273** is connected to the data line **271**. Spaced apart from the switching source electrode **273**, the switching drain electrode **274** is connected to one of the capacitor plates, for example, the capacitor plate **258**.

The driving TFT **20** applies a driving power, which allows the mixed layer **130** of the OLED **101** in a selected pixel to emit light, to the first electrode **211** which is a pixel electrode. The driving gate electrode **255** is connected to said one capacitor plate **258** that is connected to the switching drain electrode **274**. Each of the driving source electrode **276** and the other of the capacitor plates, for example, the capacitor plate **278**, is connected to the common power line **272**. The driving drain electrode **277** is connected to the first electrode **211**, which is a pixel electrode of the OLED **101**, through a contact hole defined at a planarization layer **246**.

With the structure described above, the switching TFT **10** is driven based on a gate voltage applied to the gate line **251** and serves to transmit a data voltage applied to the data line **271** to the driving TFT **20**. A voltage equivalent to a difference between a common voltage applied to the driving TFT **20** from the common power line **272** and the data voltage transmitted by (or from) the switching TFT **10** is stored in the capacitor **80**, and a current corresponding to the voltage stored in the capacitor **80** flows to the OLED **101** through the driving TFT **20** such that the OLED **101** may emit light.

In the fifth example embodiment, a first electrode **110** is formed as a reflective layer, and a second electrode **150** is formed as a semi-translucent layer. Accordingly, the light generated in the mixed layer **130** is emitted through the second electrode **150**. Thus, the OLED display device **105** according to a fifth example embodiment has a top emission type structure.

The first organic layer **121** is disposed between the first electrode **110** and the mixed layer **130**. The second organic layer **141** is disposed between the mixed layer **130** and the second electrode **150**.

The pixel defining layer 290 has an opening. The opening of the pixel defining layer 290 exposes a part of the first electrode 110. The first electrode 110, the first organic layer 121, the mixed layer 130, the second organic layer 141, and the second electrode 150 are sequentially stacked at the opening of the pixel defining layer 290. In the present example embodiment, the second electrode 150 is disposed not only at the opening of the pixel defining layer 290 but also on the pixel defining layer 290. In addition, at least one of the first organic layer 121 and the second organic layer 141 may be disposed between the pixel defining layer 290 and the second electrode 150. The OLED 101 generates light in the mixed layer 130 located at the opening of the pixel defining layer 290. In such a manner, the pixel defining layer 290 may define a light emitting region.

A thin film encapsulation layer 300 is disposed on the second electrode 150. The thin film encapsulation layer 300 includes one or more inorganic layers 311 and 312 and one or more organic layers 321. The one or more inorganic layers 311 and 312 may be alternately stacked with the one or more organic layers 321. In the present example embodiment, the inorganic layer 311 is disposed most adjacent to the OLED 101. In FIG. 9, the thin film encapsulation layer 300 is depicted as including two inorganic layers 311 and 312 and one organic layer 321, but example embodiments are not limited thereto. For example, the thin film encapsulation layer 300 may have a structure in which three inorganic layers and two organic layers are alternately stacked.

The inorganic layers 311 and 312 include, for example, one or more inorganic materials of: Al_2O_3 , TiO_2 , ZrO , SiO_2 , AlON , AlN , SiON , Si_3N_4 , ZnO , LiF , MgF_2 , or Ta_2O_5 . The inorganic layers 311 and 312 may be formed through methods such as a chemical vapor deposition (CVD) method or an atomic layer deposition (ALD) method. However, the fifth example embodiment is not limited thereto.

The organic layer 321 may include a polymer-based material. Examples of the polymer-based material may include, for example, an acrylic resin, an epoxy resin, polyimide, and polyethylene. The organic layer 321 may be formed through, for example, a thermal deposition process. The thermal deposition process for forming the organic layer 321 may be performed in a range of temperature that may not damage the OLED 101. In addition, the organic layer 321 may be formed through, for example, an inkjet process or a printing process. However, example embodiments are not limited thereto.

Inorganic layers 311 and 312 which have a high density of thin film may substantially prevent or efficiently reduce infiltration of, mostly, moisture or oxygen. Permeation of moisture and oxygen into the OLED 101 may be largely prevented by the inorganic layers 311 and 312.

Moisture and oxygen that have passed through the inorganic layers 311 and 312 may further be blocked by the organic layer 321. The organic layer 321 may have relatively low permeation prevention properties as compared to the inorganic layers 311 and 312. However, the organic layer 321 may also serve as a buffer layer to reduce stress between one of the inorganic layers 311 and 312 and the other of the inorganic layers 311 and 312, in addition to the moisture permeation preventing function. Further, since the organic layer 321 has planarizing characteristics, an uppermost surface of the thin film encapsulation layer 300 may be planarized by the organic layer 321.

The thin film encapsulation layer 300 may have a thickness less than or equal to about 10 μm . Accordingly, an overall thickness of the OLED display device 105 may

become significantly small. Such an OLED display device 105 may have excellent flexible characteristics.

Hereinafter, a sixth example embodiment will be described with reference to FIG. 10. The descriptions of the configurations the same as those of the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth example embodiments will be omitted for the sake of convenience of explanation.

FIG. 10 is a cross-sectional view illustrating an OLED display device according to a sixth example embodiment.

Referring to FIG. 10, an OLED display device 106 according to a sixth example embodiment includes a capping layer 410 on the OLED 101, a filler 420 on the capping layer 410 and an encapsulation substrate 430 on the filler 420.

The encapsulation substrate 430 may be a transparent insulating substrate including, for example, glass, quartz, ceramic, plastic, or the like. The encapsulation substrate 430 is sealingly attached to a substrate 210 to protect the OLED 101.

The filler 420 may include an organic material, for example, a polymer. The filler 420 may have a refractive index greater than or less than a refractive index of the capping layer 410. In another implementation, the filler 420 may have a refractive index substantially equal to a refractive index of the capping layer 410.

The filler 420 may be selected according to the refractive indices of the capping layer 410 and the encapsulation substrate 430. For example, when the encapsulation substrate 430 is a glass substrate having a refractive index of about 1.5, a polymer having a refractive index of about 1.5 may be used as a material included in the filler 420. An example of a material forming the filler 420 may include poly(methyl methacrylate) (PMMA).

The filler 420 may fill a space between the capping layer 410 and the encapsulation substrate 430. Thus, the device strength and durability of the OLED display device 106 may be improved by the filler 420.

By way of summation and review, OLED display devices may have a multi-layered structure including an OLED. An OLED may include two electrodes opposing each other and an organic light emitting layer disposed between the two electrodes. Holes and electrons are injected into the organic light emitting layer from the two electrodes, respectively, and light emission occurs when excitons formed by combination of the injected holes and electrons fall from the excited state to the ground state.

A general light emitting layer, for example, an organic light emitting layer, may include a host and a dopant. Such a light emitting layer may emit light of various colors and extinction of the exciton at a high concentration may be substantially prevented, depending on the kind of the dopant. However, the kind of the dopant suitable for each emission color may be limited.

As set forth hereinabove, according to one or more example embodiments, the OLED may have a simplified structure by emitting light by exciplex. In an example embodiment, an OLED may have a simplified structure that does not include a dopant.

Example embodiments have been disclosed herein, and although specific terms are employed, they are used and are to be interpreted in a generic and descriptive sense only and not for purpose of limitation. In some instances, as would be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art as of the filing of the present application, features, characteristics, and/or elements described in connection with a particular embodiment may be used singly or in combination with features, characteristics, and/or elements described in connection with

other embodiments unless otherwise specifically indicated. Accordingly, it will be understood by those of skill in the art that various changes in form and details may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as set forth in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An organic light emitting element, comprising:
a first electrode;
a first organic layer on the first electrode and a second organic layer on the first organic layer, a mixed layer being present between the first organic layer and the second organic layer; and
a second electrode on the second organic layer, wherein:
a gap between a highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) energy level of the first organic layer and a lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) energy level of the second organic layer is in a range from about 1.35 eV to about 1.70 eV, and
the mixed layer emits light having a wavelength in a range from about 740 nm to about 950 nm by exciplex.
2. The organic light emitting element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first organic layer, the second organic layer, and the mixed layer do not include a dopant.
3. The organic light emitting element as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
the first organic layer consists essentially of a first organic material,
the second organic layer consists essentially of a second organic material,
the mixed layer consists essentially of the first and second organic materials,
the mixed layer has a concentration gradient so that a concentration value of the second organic material increases along a direction from the first organic layer toward the second organic layer and a concentration value of the first organic material increases along a direction from the second organic layer toward the first organic layer.
4. The organic light emitting element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first organic layer is a hole transport layer.
5. The organic light emitting element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first organic layer is a resonance auxiliary layer.
6. The organic light emitting element as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a third organic layer between the first electrode and the first organic layer.
7. The organic light emitting element as claimed in claim 6, wherein the highest occupied molecular orbital energy level of the first organic layer is lower than a highest occupied molecular orbital energy level of the third organic layer.
8. The organic light emitting element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second organic layer is an electron transport layer.
9. The organic light emitting element as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a fourth organic layer between the second organic layer and the second electrode.
10. The organic light emitting element as claimed in claim 9, wherein the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital energy level of the second organic layer is higher than a lowest unoccupied molecular orbital energy level of the fourth organic layer.
11. An organic light emitting display device, comprising:
a substrate;
a driving circuit portion on the substrate; and

an organic light emitting element on the driving circuit portion,

wherein the organic light emitting element comprises:

a first electrode;
a first organic layer on the first electrode and a second organic layer on the first organic layer, a mixed layer being present between the first organic layer and the second organic layer; and

a second electrode on the second organic layer, wherein:
a gap between a highest occupied molecular orbital energy level of the first organic layer and a lowest unoccupied molecular orbital energy level of the second organic layer is in a range from about 1.35 eV to about 1.70 eV, and

the mixed layer emits light having a wavelength in a range from about 740 nm to about 950 nm by exciplex.

12. The organic light emitting display device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the first organic layer, the second organic layer, and the mixed layer do not include a dopant.

13. The organic light emitting display device as claimed in claim 11, wherein:

the first organic layer consists essentially of a first organic material,

the second organic layer consists essentially of a second organic material,

the mixed layer consists essentially of the first and second organic materials,

the mixed layer has a concentration gradient so that a concentration value of the second organic material increases along a direction from the first organic layer toward the second organic layer and a concentration value of the first organic material increases along a direction from the second organic layer toward the first organic layer.

14. The organic light emitting display device as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a third organic layer between the first electrode and the first organic layer.

15. The organic light emitting display device as claimed in claim 14, wherein the highest occupied molecular orbital energy level of the first organic layer is lower than a highest occupied molecular orbital energy level of the third organic layer.

16. The organic light emitting display device as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a fourth organic layer between the second organic layer and the second electrode.

17. The organic light emitting display device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital energy level of the second organic layer is higher than a lowest unoccupied molecular orbital energy level of the fourth organic layer.

18. The organic light emitting display device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the driving circuit portion comprises:

a gate line on the substrate;

a data line crossing the gate line; and

a thin film transistor connected to the gate line and the data line.

19. The organic light emitting display device as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a thin film encapsulation layer on the second electrode,

wherein the thin film encapsulation layer comprises:

at least one inorganic layer; and

at least one organic layer arranged alternately with the at least one inorganic layer.

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申请(专利权)人(译)	三星DISPLAY CO. , LTD.		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	三星DISPLAY CO. , LTD.		
[标]发明人	PARK HEUNGSU YOON JIHWAN LEE SANGWOO HWANG JAEHOON		
发明人	PARK, HEUNGSU YOON, JIHWAN LEE, SANGWOO HWANG, JAEHOON		
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摘要(译)

有机发光元件包括第一电极;第一电极上的第一有机层;第一有机层上的第二有机层;第二有机层上的第二电极;以及第一有机层和第二有机层之间的混合层。第一有机层的最高占据分子轨道 (HOMO) 能级与第二有机层的最低未占分子轨道 (LUMO) 能级之间的间隙可以在约1.35eV至约1.70eV的范围内。混合层可以通过激基复合物发射波长在约740nm至约950nm范围内的光。

