



US010998017B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Yuan et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 10,998,017 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **May 4, 2021**

(54) **DYNAMIC RANDOM ACCESS MEMORY
APPLIED TO AN EMBEDDED DISPLAY
PORT**

G06F 3/0656; G06F 12/0238; G06F
12/063; G06F 12/0692; G06F 12/0866;
G06F 12/0882; G06F 13/4221; G06F
13/4278; G11C 11/40615; G11C 11/4074;
(Continued)

(71) Applicant: **Etron Technology, Inc.**, Hsinchu (TW)

(72) Inventors: **Der-Min Yuan**, New Taipei (TW);
Yen-An Chang, Miaoli County (TW);
Wei-Ming Huang, Hsinchu County
(TW)

(73) Assignee: **Etron Technology, Inc.**, Hsinchu (TW)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **16/151,347**

(22) Filed: **Oct. 4, 2018**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2019/0035440 A1 Jan. 31, 2019

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 13/922,242, filed on
Jun. 19, 2013, now abandoned.

(Continued)

(51) **Int. Cl.**

G11C 7/10 (2006.01)

G11C 11/4074 (2006.01)

(Continued)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **G11C 7/1075** (2013.01); **G11C 11/4074**
(2013.01); **G06F 3/061** (2013.01); **G06F**
3/0653 (2013.01); **G06F 3/0656** (2013.01);
G06F 12/0238 (2013.01); **G06F 12/063**
(2013.01); **G06F 12/0692** (2013.01);
(Continued)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC G06F 3/061; G06F 3/0628; G06F 3/0653;

(56)

References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,928,336 A 7/1999 Takeuchi
6,097,070 A 8/2000 Mandelman
(Continued)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

CN 102187323 A 9/2011
TW 201123198 7/2011

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

IBM Corp., East Fishkill, NY, USA, "Embedded DRAM technol-
ogy: opportunities and challenges", IEEE Spectrum, Apr. 1999, p.
56-64.

Primary Examiner — Hashem Farrokh

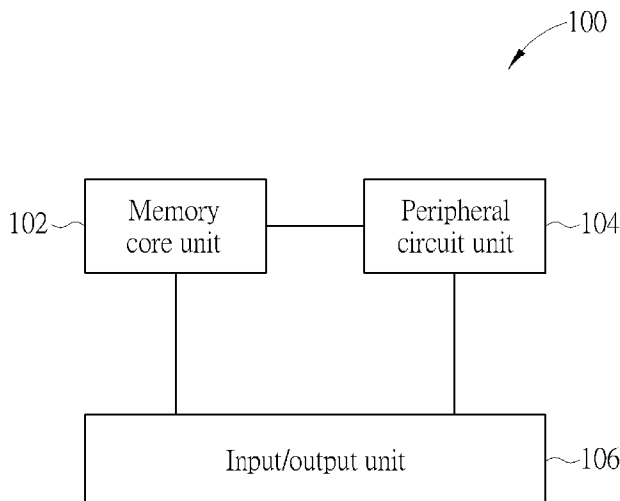
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Winston Hsu

(57)

ABSTRACT

A dynamic random access memory applied to an embedded
display port includes a memory core unit, a peripheral circuit
unit, and an input/output unit. The memory core unit is used
for operating in a first predetermined voltage. The peripheral
circuit unit is electrically connected to the memory core unit
for operating in a second predetermined voltage, where the
second predetermined voltage is lower than 1.1V. The input/
output unit is electrically connected to the memory core unit
and the peripheral circuit unit for operating in a third
predetermined voltage, where the third predetermined volt-
age is lower than 1.1V.

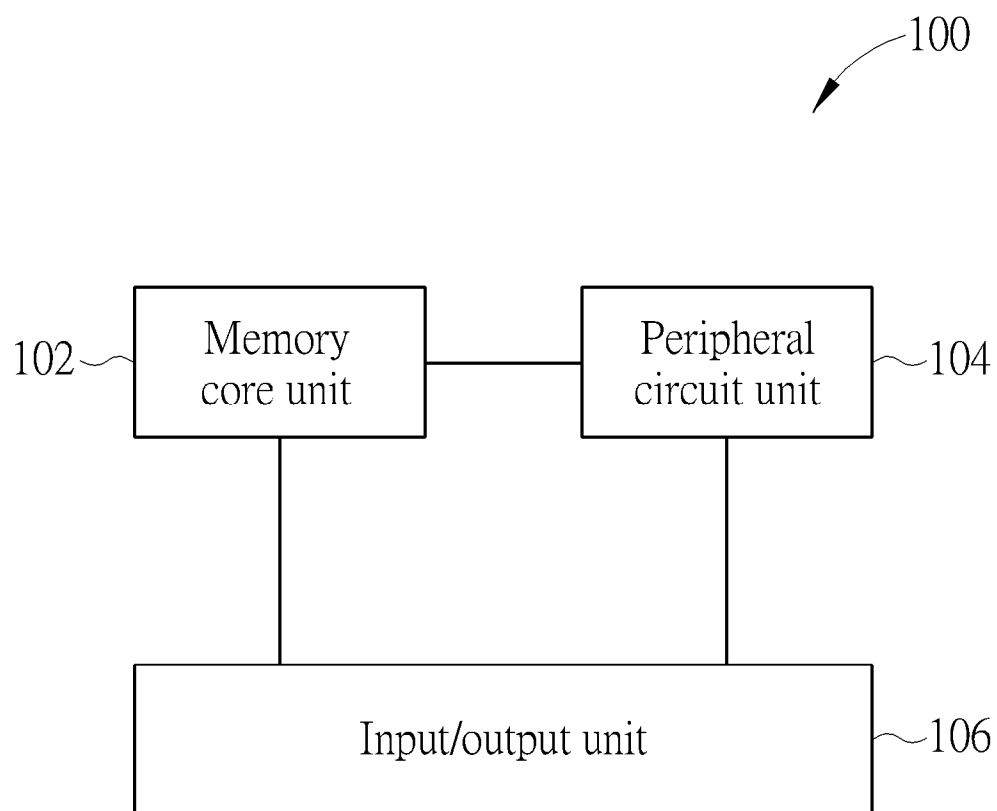
2 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet



US 10,998,017 B2

Page 2

Related U.S. Application Data		6,570,787 B1	5/2003	Wang	
(60)	Provisional application No. 61/672,287, filed on Jul. 17, 2012, provisional application No. 61/768,406, filed on Feb. 23, 2013.	7,295,036 B1	11/2007	Zaveri	
		7,594,129 B2	9/2009	Otani	
		7,692,979 B2	4/2010	Fuji	
		7,894,294 B2	2/2011	Pyeon	
		2003/0031043 A1	2/2003	Pochmuller	
(51)	Int. Cl. <i>G06F 12/0882</i> (2016.01) <i>G06F 3/06</i> (2006.01) <i>G06F 12/02</i> (2006.01) <i>G06F 13/42</i> (2006.01) <i>G06F 12/06</i> (2006.01) <i>G06F 12/0866</i> (2016.01) <i>G11C 11/406</i> (2006.01)	2005/0010746 A1	1/2005	Chen	
		2005/0133852 A1 *	6/2005	Shau	G11C 7/18 257/315
		2006/0047985 A1	3/2006	Otani	
		2006/0120138 A1	6/2006	Liaw	
		2006/0140004 A1	6/2006	Shukuri	
		2006/0192282 A1	8/2006	Suwa	
		2006/0259679 A1	11/2006	Schumann	
		2008/0117700 A1 *	5/2008	Nakamura	G11C 11/4094 365/205
		2009/0067217 A1 *	3/2009	Sunwoo	G11C 5/147 365/149
		2009/0122620 A1 *	5/2009	Mohammad	G11C 5/14 365/189.11
(52)	U.S. Cl. CPC <i>G06F 12/0866</i> (2013.01); <i>G06F 12/0882</i> (2013.01); <i>G06F 13/4221</i> (2013.01); <i>G06F 13/4278</i> (2013.01); <i>G11C 11/40615</i> (2013.01); <i>Y02D 10/00</i> (2018.01)	2010/0005439 A1	1/2010	Shikata	
		2010/0008172 A1	1/2010	Yano	
		2010/0074043 A1	3/2010	Kang	
		2010/0095137 A1	4/2010	Bieswanger	
		2010/0290300 A1 *	11/2010	Takahashi	G11C 11/4085 365/203
		2011/0069562 A1	3/2011	Conte	
		2011/0252253 A1	10/2011	Rui	
		2011/0292448 A1	12/2011	Ohashi	
		2012/0182076 A1	7/2012	Kim	
		2013/0046941 A1	2/2013	Ma	
(58)	Field of Classification Search CPC G11C 7/1075; Y02D 10/14; Y02D 10/151; Y02D 10/00 USPC 711/105, 111, 154; 710/7, 21, 34, 52; 712/16, 209, 214, 245; 365/51, 59, 143, 365/205, 226, 189, 189.09 See application file for complete search history.	2013/0132660 A1	5/2013	Li	
		2013/0135955 A1	5/2013	McCombs	
		* cited by examiner			
(56)	References Cited U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS	6,363,014 B1	3/2002	Fastow	
		6,551,896 B2	4/2003	Hosoda	



1

DYNAMIC RANDOM ACCESS MEMORY APPLIED TO AN EMBEDDED DISPLAY PORT

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a continuation application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/922,242, filed on Jun. 19, 2013, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/672,287, filed on Jul. 17, 2012 and entitled "Flexible Memory Power Supply Architecture," and the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/768,406, filed on Feb. 23, 2013 and entitled "Mixed-Low-Voltage DRAM For Embedded Display Port." The above-mentioned applications are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a dynamic random access memory, and particularly to a dynamic random access memory applied to an embedded display port.

2. Description of the Prior Art

An embedded display port (eDP) published by the Video Electronics Standards Association (VESA) is used for acting as a standard display panel interface to connect external devices. For example, the embedded display port can act as an interface between a video card and a notebook panel. In addition, the embedded display port version 1.3 published by the Video Electronics Standards Association adds a panel self refresh (PSR) function, where the panel self refresh function can make a graphic processing unit (GPU) turn off connection between the graphic processing unit and a liquid crystal panel when a frame displayed on the liquid crystal panel is frozen. Thus, power consumption of the graphic processing unit can be significantly reduced and battery endurance ability can be extended.

In addition, a timing controller supporting the panel self refresh function of the liquid crystal display needs to include a frame buffer (e.g. a dynamic random access memory). When the graphic processing unit turns off the connection between the graphic processing unit and the liquid crystal panel, the frame buffer needs to store a last frame before the graphic processing unit turns off the connection between the graphic processing unit and the liquid crystal panel. Therefore, when no data transmission exists between the graphic processing unit and the liquid crystal panel, the timing controller can directly output the last frame stored in the frame buffer.

Although the panel self refresh function can make power consumption of the graphic processing unit be significantly reduced, power consumption of the timing controller is increased due to operation of the frame buffer. Therefore, how to design the frame buffer to reduce the power consumption of the timing controller becomes an important issue of memory manufacturers.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An embodiment provides a dynamic random access memory applied to an embedded display port. The dynamic random access memory includes a memory core unit and a peripheral circuit unit. The memory core unit is used for

2

operating in a first predetermined voltage. The peripheral circuit unit is electrically connected to the memory core unit for operating in a second predetermined voltage, where the second predetermined voltage is lower than 1.1V.

Another embodiment provides a dynamic random access memory applied to an embedded display port. The dynamic random access memory includes a memory core unit, a peripheral circuit unit, and an input/output unit. The memory core unit is used for operating in a first predetermined voltage. The peripheral circuit unit is electrically connected to the memory core unit for operating in a second predetermined voltage, where the second predetermined voltage is lower than 1.1V. The input/output unit is electrically connected to the peripheral circuit unit and the memory core unit for operating in a third predetermined voltage, where the third predetermined voltage is lower than 1.1V.

The present invention provides a dynamic random access memory applied to an embedded display port. The dynamic random access memory makes a memory core unit, a peripheral circuit unit, and an input/output unit thereof operate in lower voltages. Compared to the prior art, power consumption of the dynamic random access memory of the present invention is much lower than power consumption of a dynamic random access memory operating in operation voltages specified by the Joint Electron Device Engineering Council. Thus, when the dynamic random access memory of the present invention is applied to an embedded display port, the present invention can make system power consumption (e.g. power consumption of a graphic processing unit) be significantly reduced, not make power consumption of a timing controller be increased due to operation of a frame buffer, and extend battery endurance ability of a portable device.

These and other objectives of the present invention will no doubt become obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art after reading the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment that is illustrated in the various FIGURES and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The FIGURE is a diagram illustrating a dynamic random access memory **100** applied to embedded display port according to an embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please refer to the FIGURE. The FIGURE is a diagram illustrating a dynamic random access memory **100** applied to an embedded display port according to an embodiment, where the dynamic random access memory **100** acts as a frame buffer of a timing controller of a liquid crystal display, and the dynamic random access memory **100** is compatible with a single data rate (SDR) specification, a double data rate (DDR I) specification, a double data rate two (DDR II) specification, or a double data rate three (DDR III) specification. As shown in the FIGURE, the dynamic random access memory **100** includes a memory core unit **102**, a peripheral circuit unit **104**, and an input/output unit **106**, where the peripheral circuit unit **104** is electrically connected to the memory core unit **102**, and the input/output unit **106** is electrically connected to the peripheral circuit unit **104** and the memory core unit **102**. Please refer to Table I. Table I illustrates operation voltages (specified by the Joint Electron Device Engineering Council (JEDEC)) of a dynamic random access memory operating in the DDR I

3

specification, a low power DDR I specification, the DDR II specification, and a low power DDR II specification.

TABLE I

	memory core unit 102	peripheral circuit unit 104	input/output unit 106
DDR I	3.3 V $\pm$ 0.3 V or 2.5 V $\pm$ 0.2 V	3.3 V $\pm$ 0.3 V or 2.5 V $\pm$ 0.2 V	3.3 V $\pm$ 0.3 V or 2.5 V $\pm$ 0.2 V
Low Power DDR I	1.8 V $\pm$ 0.1 V	1.8 V $\pm$ 0.1 V	1.8 V $\pm$ 0.1 V
DDR II	1.8 V $\pm$ 0.1 V	1.8 V $\pm$ 0.1 V	1.8 V $\pm$ 0.1 V
Low Power DDR II	1.7 V~1.95 V	1.14 V~1.30 V	1.14 V~1.30 V

If the dynamic random access memory **100** is designed to have low power consumption to reduce power consumption of the timing controller, the dynamic random access memory **100** needs to have low operation power consumption (e.g. power consumption for the dynamic random access memory **100** outputting storage frames to the timing controller) and low standby power consumption. But, the operation voltages specified by the Joint Electron Device Engineering Council (as shown in Table I) can not satisfy requirements (that is, the low operation power consumption and the low standby power consumption) of the embedded display port (eDP) version 1.3.

Please refer to Table II. Table II illustrates operation voltage ranges of the dynamic random access memory **100** operating in the DDR I specification, the low power DDR I specification, the DDR II specification, and the low power DDR II specification according to an embodiment.

TABLE II

	memory core unit 102	peripheral circuit unit 104	input/output unit 106
operation voltage ranges	<1.1 V	<1.1 V	<1.1 V

As shown in Table II, operation voltages of the memory core unit **102** in the DDR I specification, the low power DDR I specification, the DDR II specification, and the low power DDR II specification are a first predetermined voltage, where the first predetermined voltage is lower than 1.1V; operation voltages of the peripheral circuit unit **104** in the DDR I specification, the low power DDR I specification, the DDR II specification, and the low power DDR II specification are a second predetermined voltage, where the second predetermined voltage is lower than 1.1V; and operation voltages of the input/output unit **106** in the DDR I specification, the low power DDR I specification, the DDR II specification, and the low power DDR II specification are a third predetermined voltage, where the third predetermined voltage is lower than 1.1V.

As shown in Table II, because the operation voltages of the memory core unit **102** in the DDR I specification, the low power DDR I specification, the DDR II specification, and the low power DDR II specification are the first predetermined voltage, the dynamic random access memory **100** has lower memory core power consumption; because the operation voltages of the peripheral circuit unit **104** in the DDR I specification, the low power DDR I specification, the DDR II specification, and the low power DDR II specification are the second predetermined voltage, the dynamic random access memory **100** has lower access power consumption; and the operation voltages of the input/output unit **106** in the

4

DDR I specification, the low power DDR I specification, the DDR II specification, and the low power DDR II specification are the third predetermined voltage, the dynamic random access memory **100** has lower input/output power consumption. In addition, the input/output unit **106** is compatible with an interface provided by the prior art, so power consumption of the dynamic random access memory **100** is much lower than power consumption of the dynamic random access memory operating in the operation voltages specified by the Joint Electron Device Engineering Council.

Please refer to Table III. Table III illustrates operation voltage ranges of the dynamic random access memory **100** operating in the DDR I specification, the low power DDR I specification, the DDR II specification, and the low power DDR II specification according to another embodiment.

TABLE III

	memory core unit 102	peripheral circuit unit 104	input/output unit 106
operation voltage ranges	1.8 V $\pm$ 0.1 V	<1.1 V	<1.1 V

As shown in Table III, operation voltages of the memory core unit **102** in the DDR I specification, the low power DDR I specification, the DDR II specification, and the low power DDR II specification are a first predetermined voltage, where the first predetermined voltage is equal to 1.8V $\pm$ 0.1V; operation voltages of the peripheral circuit unit **104** in the DDR I specification, the low power DDR I specification, the DDR II specification, and the low power DDR II specification are a second predetermined voltage, where the second predetermined voltage is lower than 1.1V; and operation voltages of the input/output unit **106** in the DDR I specification, the low power DDR I specification, the DDR II specification, and the low power DDR II specification are a third predetermined voltage, where the third predetermined voltage is lower than 1.1V.

As shown in Table III, because the operation voltages of the memory core unit **102** in the DDR I specification, the low power DDR I specification, the DDR II specification, and the low power DDR II specification are the first predetermined voltage, the dynamic random access memory **100** has higher charge pump efficiency; because the operation voltages of the peripheral circuit unit **104** in the DDR I specification, the low power DDR I specification, the DDR II specification, and the low power DDR II specification are the second predetermined voltage, the dynamic random access memory **100** has lower access power consumption; and the operation voltages of the input/output unit **106** in the DDR I specification, the low power DDR I specification, the DDR II specification, and the low power DDR II specification are the third predetermined voltage, the dynamic random access memory **100** has lower input/output power consumption. In addition, the input/output unit **106** is also compatible with an interface provided by the prior art, so power consumption of the dynamic random access memory **100** is much lower than power consumption of the dynamic random access memory operating in the operation voltages specified by the Joint Electron Device Engineering Council.

To sum up, the dynamic random access memory applied to an embedded display port makes the memory core unit, the peripheral circuit unit, and the input/output unit operate in lower voltages. Compared to the prior art, power consumption of the dynamic random access memory of the present invention is much lower than power consumption of

5

a dynamic random access memory operating in the operation voltages specified by the Joint Electron Device Engineering Council. Thus, when the dynamic random access memory of the present invention is applied to an embedded display port, the present invention can make system power consumption (e.g. power consumption of a graphic processing unit) be significantly reduced, not make power consumption of the timing controller be increased due to operation of the frame buffer, and extend battery endurance ability of a portable device.

Those skilled in the art will readily observe that numerous modifications and alterations of the device and method may be made while retaining the teachings of the invention. Accordingly, the above disclosure should be construed as limited only by the metes and bounds of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A dynamic random access memory (DRAM), comprising:
 - a DRAM core cell, wherein the DRAM core cell is supplied with a first voltage within a first voltage range

6

to make the DRAM core cell operate at the first voltage, and the DRAM core cell is a volatile memory cell, wherein the first voltage is lower than 1.1V; and
 a peripheral circuit electrically connected to the DRAM core cell, wherein the peripheral circuit is supplied with a second voltage within a second voltage range to make the peripheral circuit operate at the second voltage, wherein the second voltage is lower than 1.1V, and wherein the DRAM core cell and the peripheral circuit are formed on a single chip, and the peripheral circuit is external to the DRAM core cell; wherein the first voltage and the second voltage are capable of making the DRAM be applied to an embedded display port (eDP).

2. The dynamic random access memory of claim 1, further comprising:
 - an input/output unit electrically connected to the peripheral circuit and the DRAM core cell for operating in a third voltage, wherein the third voltage is lower than 1.1V.

* * * * *