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(54) **Liquid crystal display device including backlight unit and method of driving the same**

(57) A liquid crystal display device includes: an LED array unit (80) including a plurality of LED arrays (80a, 80b, 80c, 80d), the LED array unit emitting a light; an LED driving unit (90) supplying at least two PWM signals (PWM1, PWM2) to the LED array unit (80), the at least two PWM signals having different phases from each other; a liquid crystal display panel (50) displaying images

using the light from the LED array unit (80); a gate driving unit (60) supplying a gate signal to the liquid crystal display panel (50); a data driving unit (70) supplying a data signal to the liquid crystal display panel (50) in synchronization with the gate signal; and a timing controller (100) generating a plurality of control signals for the LED driving unit (90), the gate driving unit (60) and the data driving unit (70).

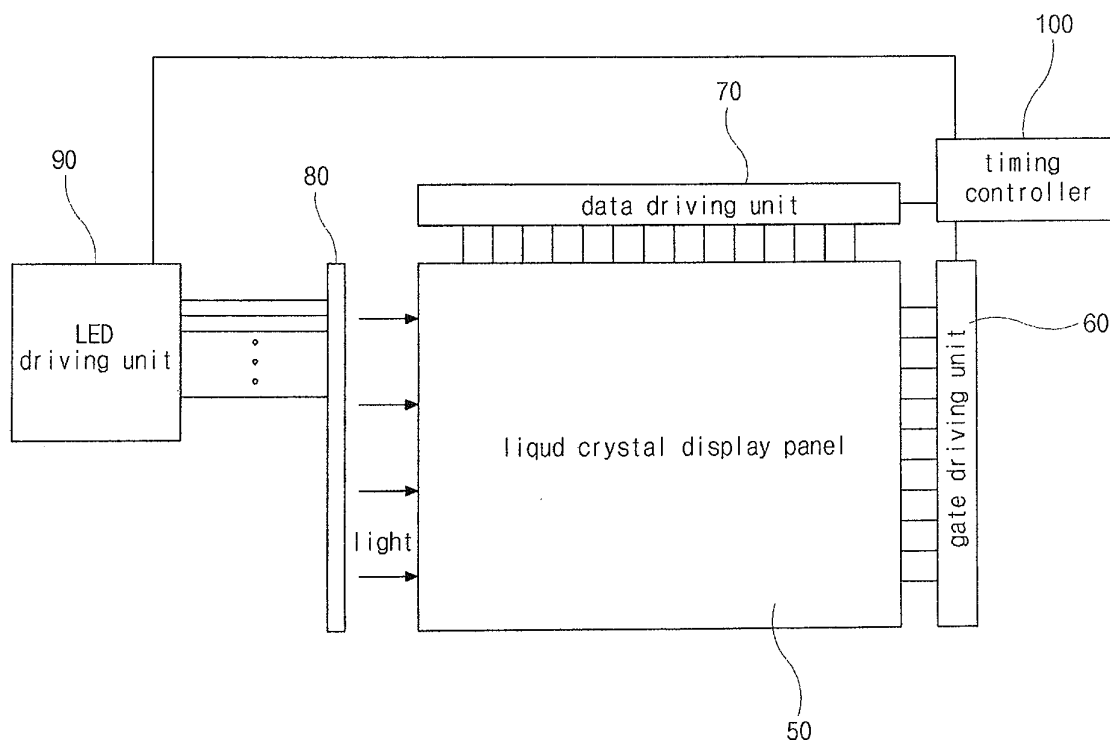


FIG. 2

Description

[0001] This application claims the benefit of Korean Patent Application No. 2007-0102500, filed on October 11, 2007 and No. 2008-0038197, filed on April 24, 2008, which are hereby incorporated by references in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] The present application relates to a liquid crystal display device, and more particularly, to a liquid crystal display device including a backlight unit and a method of driving the liquid crystal display device.

BACKGROUND

[0003] A liquid crystal display (LCD) device includes a liquid crystal display panel and a backlight unit. The liquid crystal display panel includes a plurality of liquid crystal cells disposed in matrix and a plurality of thin film transistors (TFTs) through which image signals are supplied. Rotation angles of liquid crystal molecules in each liquid crystal cell as well as transmittance through each liquid crystal cell are controlled according to the image signals, thereby images displayed.

[0004] A cold cathode fluorescent lamp (CCFL) is used as a light source for the backlight unit. The backlight unit has been researched to have a small size, a thin shape and a light weight. As a result, a light emitting diode (LED) has been suggested for its superiority in power consumption, weight and brightness to the CCFL.

[0005] FIG. 1 is a view showing an edge type backlight unit according to the related art. In FIG. 1, a backlight unit includes a plurality of LED arrays 10 each having a plurality of LEDs 12 and an LED driving unit 20. A pulse width modulation (PWM) signal is supplied to the LED driving unit 20 from an external circuit unit (not shown). The plurality of LED arrays 10 are turned ON/OFF according to a power supplied synchronous with an ON time period of the PWM signal while a liquid crystal display device displays images. The plurality of LED arrays 10 driven by the PWM signal (PWM driving) have advantages in power consumption and color property over a plurality of LED arrays always turned ON driven by a direct current (DC) voltage (DC driving).

[0006] Since the single PWM signal is supplied to the LED driving unit 20 and the plurality of LED arrays 10 are controlled by the single PWM signal, the plurality of LED arrays are simultaneously turned ON/OFF. Each TFT in the liquid crystal display panel is formed of amorphous silicon. When light enters the amorphous silicon, a photo leakage current corresponding to intensity of the light is generated in the amorphous silicon and functions as an OFF current in each TFT. Accordingly, when the plurality of LED arrays 10 are turned ON/OFF by the PWM signal, each TFT of the liquid crystal display panel has a variation in the OFF current. For example, the OFF current of each

TFT when the plurality of LED arrays 10 are turned ON may be greater than the OFF current of each TFT when the plurality of LED arrays 10 are turned OFF. The variation in the OFF current of each TFT causes deterioration in display quality of the liquid crystal display panel, for example, a wavy such that noise where a portion of the liquid crystal display panel displays darker images and the other portion of the liquid crystal display panel displays brighter images.

SUMMARY

[0007] Accordingly, the present invention is directed to a liquid crystal display device including a backlight unit and a method of driving the liquid crystal display device that substantially obviates one or more of the problems due to limitations and disadvantages of the related art.

[0008] An object of the present invention is to provide a liquid crystal display device where disadvantages such as a wavy noise due to a PWM driving of a backlight unit is prevented without reduction in luminance of the backlight unit and a method of driving the liquid crystal display device.

[0009] A liquid crystal display device includes: an LED array unit including a plurality of LED arrays, the LED array unit emitting a light; an LED driving unit supplying at least two PWM signals to the LED array unit, the at least two PWM signals having different phases from each other; a liquid crystal display panel displaying images using the light from the LED array unit; a gate driving unit supplying a gate signal to the liquid crystal display panel; a data driving unit supplying a data signal to the liquid crystal display panel in synchronization with the gate signal; and a timing controller generating a plurality of control signals for the LED driving unit, the gate driving unit and the data driving unit.

[0010] In another aspect, a method of driving a liquid crystal display device includes: supplying at least two PWM signals to an LED array unit, the at least two PWM signals having different phases from each other, the LED array unit including a plurality of LED arrays classified into at least two groups, and the at least two PWM signals applied to the at least two groups, respectively; emitting a light according to the at least two PWM signals; and displaying images using the light.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0011] The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide a further understanding of the invention and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention.

[0012] FIG. 1 is a view showing an edge type backlight unit according to the related art;

[0013] FIG. 2 is a block diagram showing a liquid crystal display device according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0014] FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing a light emit-

[0046] FIG. 19B is a view showing PWM signals having a phase difference of about 45° and a duty ratio of about 10% and luminance of a backlight unit according to an

other embodiment of the present invention;

[0047] FIG. 20A is a view showing a PWM signal having a duty ratio of about 12.5% and luminance of a backlight unit according to a comparison embodiment;

[0048] FIG. 20B is a view showing PWM signals having a phase difference of about 45° and a duty ratio of about 12.5% and luminance of a backlight unit according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0049] FIG. 21A is a view showing a PWM signal having a duty ratio of about 50% and luminance of a backlight unit according to a comparison embodiment;

[0050] FIG. 21B is a view showing PWM signals having a phase difference of about 45° and a duty ratio of about 50% and luminance of a backlight unit according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0051] FIG. 22A is a view showing a PWM signal having a duty ratio of about 90% and luminance of a backlight unit according to a comparison embodiment; and

[0052] FIG. 22B is a view showing PWM signals having a phase difference of about 45° and a duty ratio of about 90% and luminance of a backlight unit according to another embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0053] Reference will now be made in detail to embodiments which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. Wherever possible, similar reference numbers will be used to refer to the same or similar parts.

[0054] FIG. 2 is a block diagram showing a liquid crystal display device according to an embodiment of the present invention and FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing a light emitting diode array unit of a backlight unit for a liquid crystal display device according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0055] In FIG. 2, a liquid crystal display device includes a liquid crystal display panel 50, a gate driving unit 60, a data driving unit 70, a light emitting diode (LED) array unit 80, an LED driving unit 90 and a timing controller 100. Although not shown in FIG. 2, the liquid crystal display panel includes first and second substrates facing and spaced apart from each other. A gate line and a data line are formed on the first substrate and cross each other to define a pixel region. A thin film transistor (TFT) is connected to the gate line and the data line, and a liquid crystal layer is interposed between the first and second substrates.

[0056] The gate driving unit 60 supplies a gate signal to the gate line to control ON/OFF of the TFT. The data driving unit 70 supplies a data signal to the data line in synchronization with the gate signal. As a result, the data signal is applied to the liquid crystal layer in the pixel region through the TFT so that the liquid crystal display panel 50 can display images.

[0057] As shown in FIG. 3, the LED array unit 80 includes a plurality of LED arrays 80a, 80b, 80c and 80d. Each LED array 80a, 80b, 80c and 80d includes a plurality

of LEDs emitting white-colored light. In an edge type backlight unit, for example, the LED array unit 80 is disposed at a side of the liquid crystal display panel 50 for thin shaping of the liquid crystal display device and easily controlling the light emission. In another embodiment, a backlight unit may have a direct type where an LED array is disposed under a liquid crystal display panel and supplies light upwardly to the liquid crystal panel. The LED array unit 80 may be classified into at least two groups by at least two pulse width modulation (PWM) signals applied to the plurality of LED arrays 80a, 80b, 80c and 80d, and the at least two groups may include the same number of LED arrays as each other. Accordingly, the at least two PWM signals are applied to the at least two groups, respectively, and the single PWM signal is applied to the LED arrays belonging to the single group. As a result, each PWM signal may be applied to at least one LED array.

[0058] The LED arrays belonging to the single group may be connected to each other through an electric circuit. For example, the LED array unit 80 is classified into first and second groups A and B. The first group A includes first and third LED arrays 80a and 80c, and the second group B includes second and fourth LED arrays 80b and 80d. In addition, first and second PWM signals PWM and PWM2 are supplied to the first and second groups A and B, respectively. As a result, the first PWM signal PWM1 is applied to the first and third LED arrays 80a and 80c, and the second PWM signal PWM2 is applied to the second and fourth LED arrays 80b and 80d.

[0059] Referring again to FIG. 2, the LED driving unit 90 supplies the at least two PWM signals to control light emission of the LED array unit 80. The LED driving unit 90 may generate the at least two PWM signals or may receive the at least two PWM signals from an external circuit (not shown). The at least two PWM signals have the same frequency and voltage as and different phases from each other. For example, the at least two PWM signals may have phases of about 0°, about 60°, about 120° and about 180°. In addition, the LED driving unit 90 may include a phase shifter for generating the at least two PWM signals having different phases. The timing controller 100 generates a plurality of control signals for the gate driving unit 60, the data driving unit 70 and the LED driving unit 90 and the data signal.

[0060] In the liquid crystal display device according to the present invention, the LED array unit 80 includes the plurality of LED arrays 80a, 80b, 80c and 80d, and the LED driving unit 90 supplies the at least two PWM signals to the plurality of LED arrays 80a, 80b, 80c and 80d to control light emission of each LED array. In addition, the plurality of LED arrays 80a, 80b, 80c and 80d may be classified into the at least two groups each driven by the single PWM signal through an electric connection. Since the LED arrays belonging to the at least two groups are driven by the at least two PWM signals having different phases, respectively, the LED arrays belonging to one of the at least two groups are turned ON at different timing

from the LED arrays belonging to the other of the at least two groups. Accordingly, the number of LED arrays turned ON at a time by the at least two PWM signals and an instant luminance of the backlight unit are reduced in comparison with the number of LED arrays turned ON at a time by the single PWM signal. As a result, the deterioration such as a wavy noise due to variation in OFF current of each TFT of the liquid crystal panel is improved without reduction in brightness.

[0061] FIG. 4A is a block diagram of an LED array unit of a backlight unit for a liquid crystal display device according to another embodiment of the present invention and FIG. 4B is a timing chart of at least two PWM signals of a backlight unit for a liquid crystal display device according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0062] In FIG. 4A, an LED array unit includes first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24. The first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 are classified into first and second groups GR1 and GR2. As a result, the first, third, fifth ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA1, LA3, LA5 ... and LA23 of the first group GR1 are electrically connected to each other, and the second, fourth, sixth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA2, LA4, LA6 ... and LA24 of the second group GR2 are electrically connected to each other. In addition, a first PWM signal PWM1 is supplied to the first, third, fifth ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA1, LA3, LA5 ... and LA23 of the first group GR1, and a second PWM signal PWM2 is supplied to the second, fourth, sixth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA2, LA4, LA6 ... and LA24 of the second group GR2.

[0063] As shown in FIG. 4B, both the first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 have a duty ratio of about 50% and an identical frequency. In addition, since the phase difference between the first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 is about 180°, the first PWM signal PWM1 is an inverse to the second PWM signal PWM2. Although the duty ratio of the first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 of FIG. 4B is about 50%, the duty ratio of the at least two PWM signals may be selected from values in a range of about 1 % to about 99% in another embodiment.

[0064] Since the first and second groups GR1 and GR2 are driven by the first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2, respectively, the first, third, fifth ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA1, LA3, LA5 ... and LA23 of the first group GR1 are turned ON/OFF alternately with the second, fourth, sixth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA2, LA4, LA6 ... and LA24 of the second group GR2. Accordingly, the first, third, fifth ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA1, LA3, LA5 ... and LA23 of the first group GR1 emit light at different timings from the second, fourth, sixth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA2, LA4, LA6 ... and LA24 of the second group GR2. Since the number (i.e., 12) of the LED arrays emitting light at a time of the backlight unit using the first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 of FIG. 4A is smaller than the number (i.e., 24) of the LED arrays emitting light at a time of the backlight unit using a single PWM signal of FIG. 1, an

instant luminance of the backlight unit using the first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 is about an half of an instant luminance of the backlight unit using the single PWM signal. As a result, the variation in the OFF current of each TFT in the liquid crystal display panel is reduced due to reduction in the instant luminance of the incident light from the backlight unit and deterioration such as a wavy noise due to the variation in the OFF current of each TFT is improved.

[0065] In addition, although the instant luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 alternately turned ON/OFF by the first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 is about an half of the instant luminance of first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 simultaneously turned ON/OFF by a single PWM signal, a total luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 alternately turned ON/OFF is substantially the same as a total luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 simultaneously turned ON/OFF because the backlight unit using the first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 emits light more frequently. Accordingly, the LCD device having the backlight unit according to the present invention has no reduction in brightness as compared with an LCD device having the related art backlight unit.

[0066] The backlight unit according to the present invention may have various duty ratios. FIG. 5A is a view showing a PWM signal having a duty ratio of about 10% and luminance of a backlight unit according to a comparison embodiment and FIG. 5B is a view showing PWM signals having a phase difference of about 180° and a duty ratio of about 10% and luminance of a backlight unit according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0067] In FIG. 5A, a zeroth PWM signal PWM0 having a duty ratio of about 10% is supplied to a comparison backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24. The zeroth PWM signal PWM0 has a predetermined frequency and a predetermined voltage. Since the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 are simultaneously turned ON/OFF according to the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, the luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 has a value of 0 or 1. The luminance may be measured as an electric signal by using a photo diode. The maximum and minimum values in luminance are represented as 1 and 0, respectively, for comparison.

[0068] In FIG. 5B, first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 each having a duty ratio of about 10% are supplied to a backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 according to another embodiment of the present invention. As a result, the first, third, fifth ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA1, LA3, LA5 ... and LA23 (of FIG. 4A) of a first group GR1 (of FIG. 4A) are turned ON/OFF according to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the second, fourth, sixth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA2, LA4, LA6 ... and LA24 (of FIG. 4A) of a second group GR2 (of FIG. 4A) are turned

ON/OFF according to the second PWM signal PWM2.

[0069] The first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 have the same frequency, the same voltage and the same duty ratio as the zeroth PWM signal PWM0 (of FIG. 5A). In addition, the first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 have a phase difference of about 180°. Accordingly, the first, third, fifth ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA1, LA3, LA5 ... and LA23 of the first group GR1 are alternately turned ON/OFF with the second, fourth, sixth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA2, LA4, LA6 ... and LA24 of the second group GR2.

[0070] In the instant of emitting light, since the number (i.e., 12) of emitting LED arrays of the backlight unit of FIG. 5B by one of the first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 is a half of the number (i.e., 24), of emitting LED arrays of the comparison backlight unit of FIG. 5A by the zeroth PWM signal PWM0 the instant luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 5B by one of the first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 is substantially a half of the instant luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 5A. During a predetermined time period, however, since the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 5B by the first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 is substantially twice of the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 5A, the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 5B is substantially the same as the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 5A. In FIGs. 5A and 5B, the total luminance may be calculated from the sum of areas corresponding to protruding rectangles of the luminance graph.

[0071] FIG. 6A is a view showing a PWM signal having a duty ratio of about 50% and luminance of a backlight unit according to a comparison embodiment and FIG. 6B is a view showing PWM signals having a phase difference of about 180° and a duty ratio of about 50% and luminance of a backlight unit according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0072] In FIG. 6A, a zeroth PWM signal PWM0 having a duty ratio of about 50% is supplied to a comparison backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24. The zeroth PWM signal PWM0 has a predetermined frequency and a predetermined voltage. Since the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 are simultaneously turned ON/OFF according to the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, the luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 has a value of 0 or 1. The luminance may be measured as an electric signal by using a photo diode. The maximum and minimum values in luminance are represented as 1 and 0, respectively, for comparison.

[0073] In FIG. 6B, first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 each having a duty ratio of about 50% are supplied to a backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 according to another embodiment of the present invention. As a result, the first, third, fifth ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA1, LA3, LA5 ... and LA23 (of FIG. 4A) of a first group GR1 (of FIG. 4A) are turned ON/OFF according to the first PWM

signal PWM1, and the second, fourth, sixth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA2, LA4, LA6 ... and LA24 (of FIG. 4A) of a second group GR2 (of FIG. 4A) are turned ON/OFF according to the second PWM signal PWM2.

[0074] The first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 have the same frequency, the same voltage and the same duty ratio as the zeroth PWM signal PWM0 (of FIG. 6A). In addition, the first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 have a phase difference of about 180°. Accordingly, the first, third, fifth ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA1, LA3, LA5 ... and LA23 of the first group GR1 are alternately turned ON/OFF with the second, fourth, sixth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA2, LA4, LA6 ... and LA24 of the second group GR2.

[0075] In the instant of emitting light, since the number (i.e., 12) of emitting LED arrays of the backlight unit of FIG. 6B by one of the first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 is a half of the number (i.e., 24) of emitting LED arrays of the comparison backlight unit of FIG. 6A by the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, and the instant luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 6B by one of the first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 is substantially a half of the luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 6A. During a predetermined time period, however, since the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 6B by the first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 is substantially twice of the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 6A, the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 6B is substantially the same as the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 6A. In FIGs. 6A and 6B, the total luminance may be calculated from the sum of areas corresponding to protruding rectangles of the luminance graph.

[0076] Specifically, since the instant luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 6B is a constant value of about 0.5 at any timing of the whole time period, the backlight unit supplies light without a variation in luminance to the liquid crystal display panel. As a result, the variation in the OFF current of each TFT of the liquid crystal display panel is further reduced and deterioration such as a wavy noise is further improved.

[0077] FIG. 7A is a view showing a PWM signal having a duty ratio of about 90% and luminance of a backlight unit according to a comparison embodiment and FIG. 7B is a view showing PWM signals having a phase difference of about 180° and a duty ratio of about 90% and luminance of a backlight unit according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0078] In FIG. 7A, a zeroth PWM signal PWM0 having a duty ratio of about 90% is supplied to a comparison backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24. The zeroth PWM signal PWM0 has a predetermined frequency and a predetermined voltage. Since the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 are simultaneously turned ON/OFF according to the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, the luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 has a value of 0 or 1. The luminance may be measured as an electric signal by using

a photo diode. The maximum and minimum values in luminance are represented as 1 and 0, respectively, for comparison.

[0079] In FIG. 7B, first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 each having a duty ratio of about 90% are supplied to a backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 according to another embodiment of the present invention. As a result, the first, third, fifth ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA1, LA3, LA5 ... and LA23 (of FIG. 4A) of a first group GR1 (of FIG. 4A) are turned ON/OFF according to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the second, fourth, sixth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA2, LA4, LA6 ... and LA24 (of FIG. 4A) of a second group GR2 (of FIG. 4A) are turned ON/OFF according to the second PWM signal PWM2.

[0080] The first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 have the same frequency, the same voltage and the same duty ratio as the zeroth PWM signal PWM0 (of FIG. 7A). In addition, the first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 have a phase difference of about 180°. Accordingly, the first, third, fifth ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA1, LA3, LA5 ... and LA23 of the first group GR1 are alternately turned ON/OFF with the second, fourth, sixth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA2, LA4, LA6 ... and LA24 of the second group GR2.

[0081] In the instant of emitting light, since the number (i.e., 12) of emitting LED arrays of the backlight unit of FIG. 7B by one of the first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 is a half of the number (i.e., 24) of emitting LED arrays of the comparison backlight unit of FIG. 7A by the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, and the instant luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 7B by one of the first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 is substantially a half of the luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 7A. During a predetermined time period, however, since the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 7B by the first and second PWM signals PWM1 and PWM2 is substantially twice of the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 7A, the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 7B is substantially the same as the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 7A. In FIGs. 7A and 7B, the total luminance may be calculated from the sum of areas corresponding to protruding rectangles of the luminance graph.

[0082] In a backlight unit of FIG. 4A, a plurality of LED arrays are classified into two groups driven by two PWM signals having phase differences of FIGs. 5B, 6B and 7B. As a result, deterioration such as a wavy noise due to the variation in the OFF current of each TFT of the liquid crystal display panel is improved without reduction in total luminance.

[0083] FIG. 8A is a block diagram of an LED array unit of a backlight unit for a liquid crystal display device according to another embodiment of the present invention and FIG. 8B is a timing chart of at least two PWM signals of a backlight unit for a liquid crystal display device according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0084] In FIG. 8A, an LED array unit includes first to

twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24. The first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 are classified into first, second and third groups GR1, GR2 and GR3. As a result, the first, fourth, seventh ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA1, LA4, LA7 ... and LA22 of the first group GR1 are electrically connected to each other. Similarly, the second, fifth, eighth ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA2, LA4, LA8 ... and LA23 of the second group GR2 are electrically connected to each other, and the third, sixth, ninth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA3, LA6, LA9 ... and LA24 of the third group GR3 are electrically connected to each other. In addition, a first PWM signal PWM1 is supplied to the first, fourth, seventh ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA1, LA4, LA7 ... and LA22 of the first group GR1, a second PWM signal PWM2 is supplied to the second, fifth, eighth ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA2, LA4, LA8 ... and LA23 of the second group GR2, and a third PWM signal PWM3 is supplied to the third, sixth, ninth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA3, LA6, LA9 ... and LA24 of the third group GR3.

[0085] As shown in FIG. 8B, the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 have a duty ratio of about 33% and an identical frequency. In addition, the phase difference between two of the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 is about 120°. Although the duty ratio of the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 of FIG. 8B is about 33%, the duty ratio of the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 may be selected from values in a range of about 1% to about 99% in another embodiment.

[0086] Since the first, second and third groups GR1, GR2 and GR3 are driven by the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3, respectively, the first group GR1 including the first, fourth, seventh ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA1, LA4, LA7 ... and LA22, the second group GR2 including the second, fifth, eighth ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA2, LA4, LA8 ... and LA23 and the third group GR3 including the third, sixth, ninth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA3, LA6, LA9 ... and LA24 are turned ON/OFF alternately with one another. Accordingly, the second, fifth, eighth ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA2, LA4, LA8 ... and LA23 of the second group GR2 are turned ON after the first, fourth, seventh ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA1, LA4, LA7 ... and LA22 of the first group GR1 are turned OFF, and the third, sixth, ninth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA3, LA6, LA9 ... and LA24 of the third group GR3 are turned ON after second, fifth, eighth ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA2, LA4, LA8 ... and LA23 of the second group GR2 are turned OFF. In addition, after the third, sixth, ninth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA3, LA6, LA9 ... and LA24 of the third group GR3 are turned OFF, the first, fourth, seventh ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA1, LA4, LA7 ... and LA22 of the first group GR1 are turned ON again. Since the number (i.e., 8) of the LED arrays emitting light at a time of the backlight unit using the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1,

PWM2 and PWM3 of FIG. 8A is smaller than the number (i.e., 24) of the LED arrays emitting light at a time of the backlight unit using a single PWM signal of FIG. 1, an instant luminance of the backlight unit using the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 is about one third of an instant luminance of the backlight unit using the single PWM signal. As a result, the variation in the OFF current of each TFT in the liquid crystal display panel is reduced due to reduction in the instant luminance of the incident light from the backlight unit and deterioration such as a wavy noise due to the variation in the OFF current of each TFT is improved.

[0087] In addition, although the instant luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 alternately turned ON/OFF by the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 is about one third of the instant luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 simultaneously turned ON/OFF by the single PWM signal, a total luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 alternately turned ON/OFF is substantially the same as a total luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 simultaneously turned ON/OFF because the backlight unit using the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 emits light more frequently. Accordingly, the LCD device having the backlight unit according to the present invention has no reduction in brightness as compared with an LCD device having the related art backlight unit.

[0088] FIG. 9A is a view showing a PWM signal having a duty ratio of about 10% and luminance of a backlight unit according to a comparison embodiment and FIG. 9B is a view showing PWM signals having a phase difference of about 120° and a duty ratio of about 10% and luminance of a backlight unit according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0089] In FIG. 9A, a zeroth PWM signal PWM0 having a duty ratio of about 10% is supplied to a comparison backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24. The zeroth PWM signal PWM0 has a predetermined frequency and a predetermined voltage. Since the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 are simultaneously turned ON/OFF according to the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, the luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 has a value of 0 or 1. The luminance may be measured as an electric signal by using a photo diode. The maximum and minimum values in luminance are represented as 1 and 0, respectively, for comparison.

[0090] In FIG. 9B, first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 each having a duty ratio of about 10% are supplied to a backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 according to another embodiment of the present invention. As a result, the first, fourth, seventh ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA1, LA4, LA7 ... and LA22 (of FIG. 8A) of a first group GR1 (of FIG. 8A) are turned ON/OFF according to the first PWM signal PWM1, the second, fifth, eighth ...

and twenty-third LED arrays LA2, LA4, LA8 ... and LA23 (of FIG. 8A) of the second group GR2 (of FIG. 8A) are turned ON/OFF according to the second PWM signal PWM2, and the third, sixth, ninth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA3, LA6, LA9 ... and LA24 (of FIG. 8A) of the third group GR3 (of FIG. 8A) are turned ON/OFF according to the third PWM signal PWM3.

[0091] The first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 have the same frequency, the same voltage and the same duty ratio as the zeroth PWM signal PWM0 (of FIG. 9A). In addition, the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 have a phase difference of about 120° with one another. As a result, the second PWM signal PWM2 has a phase delayed by about 120° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the third PWM signal PWM3 has a phase delayed by about 240° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM2. Accordingly, the first group GR1 including first, fourth, seventh ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA1, LA4, LA7 ... and LA22, the second group GR2 including the second, fifth, eighth ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA2, LA4, LA8 ... and LA23 and the third group GR3 including the third, sixth, ninth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA3, LA6, LA9 ... and LA24 are alternately turned ON/OFF.

[0092] In the instant of emitting light, since the number (i.e., 8) of emitting LED arrays of the backlight unit of FIG. 9B by one of the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 is one third of the number (i.e., 24) of emitting LED arrays of the comparison backlight unit of FIG. 9A by the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, and the instant luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 9B by one of the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 is substantially one third of the luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 9A. During a predetermined time period, however, since the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 9B by the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 is substantially three times of the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 9A, the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 9B is substantially the same as the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 9A. In FIGs. 9A and 9B, the total luminance may be calculated from the sum of areas corresponding to protruding rectangles of the luminance graph.

[0093] FIG. 10A is a view showing a PWM signal having a duty ratio of about 33.3% and luminance of a backlight unit according to a comparison embodiment and FIG. 9B is a view showing PWM signals having a phase difference of about 120° and a duty ratio of about 33.3% and luminance of a backlight unit according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0094] In FIG. 10A, a zeroth PWM signal PWM0 having a duty ratio of about 33.3% is supplied to a comparison backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24. The zeroth PWM signal PWM0 has a predetermined frequency and a predetermined voltage. Since the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 are simul-

taneously turned ON/OFF according to the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, the luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 has a value of 0 or 1. The luminance may be measured as an electric signal by using a photo diode. The maximum and minimum values in luminance are represented as 1 and 0, respectively, for comparison.

[0095] In FIG. 10B, first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 each having a duty ratio of about 33.3% are supplied to a backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 according to another embodiment of the present invention. As a result, the first, fourth, seventh ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA1, LA4, LA7 ... and LA22 (of FIG. 8A) of a first group GR1 (of FIG. 8A) are turned ON/OFF according to the first PWM signal PWM1, the second, fifth, eighth ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA2, LA4, LA8 ... and LA23 (of FIG. 8A) of the second group GR2 (of FIG. 8A) are turned ON/OFF according to the second PWM signal PWM2, and the third, sixth, ninth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA3, LA6, LA9 ... and LA24 (of FIG. 8A) of the third group GR3 (of FIG. 8A) are turned ON/OFF according to the third PWM signal PWM3.

[0096] The first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 have the same frequency, the same voltage and the same duty ratio as the zeroth PWM signal PWM0 (of FIG. 10A). In addition, the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 have a phase difference of about 120° with one another. As a result, the second PWM signal PWM2 has a phase delayed by about 120° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the third PWM signal PWM3 has a phase delayed by about 240° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1. Accordingly, the first group GR1 including first, fourth, seventh ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA1, LA4, LA7 ... and LA22, the second group GR2 including the second, fifth, eighth ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA2, LA4, LA8 ... and LA23 and the third group GR3 including the third, sixth, ninth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA3, LA6, LA9 ... and LA24 are alternately turned ON/OFF.

[0097] In the instant of emitting light, since the number (i.e., 8) of emitting LED arrays of the backlight unit of FIG. 10B by one of the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 is one third of the number (i.e., 24) of emitting LED arrays of the comparison backlight unit of FIG. 10A by the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, and the instant luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 10B by one of the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 is substantially one third of the luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 10A. During a predetermined time period, however, since the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 10B by the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 is substantially three times of the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 10A, the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 10B is substantially the same as the total luminance of the backlight unit of

FIG. 10A. In FIGS. 10A and 10B, the total luminance may be calculated from the sum of areas corresponding to protruding rectangles of the luminance graph.

[0098] Specifically, since the instant luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 10B is a constant value of about 0.33 at any timing of the whole time period, the backlight unit supplies light without a variation in luminance to the liquid crystal display panel. As a result, the variation in the OFF current of each TFT of the liquid crystal display panel is further reduced and deterioration such as a wavy noise is further improved.

[0099] FIG. 11A is a view showing a PWM signal having a duty ratio of about 50% and luminance of a backlight unit according to a comparison embodiment and FIG. 11B is a view showing PWM signals having a phase difference of about 120° and a duty ratio of about 50% and luminance of a backlight unit according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0100] In FIG. 11A, a zeroth PWM signal PWM0 having a duty ratio of about 50% is supplied to a comparison backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24. The zeroth PWM signal PWM0 has a predetermined frequency and a predetermined voltage. Since the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 are simultaneously turned ON/OFF according to the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, the luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 has a value of 0 or 1. The luminance may be measured as an electric signal by using a photo diode. The maximum and minimum values in luminance are represented as 1 and 0, respectively, for comparison.

[0101] In FIG. 11B, first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 each having a duty ratio of about 50% are supplied to a backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 according to another embodiment of the present invention. As a result, the first, fourth, seventh ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA1, LA4, LA7 ... and LA22 (of FIG. 8A) of a first group GR1 (of FIG. 8A) are turned ON/OFF according to the first PWM signal PWM1, the second, fifth, eighth ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA2, LA4, LA8 ... and LA23 (of FIG. 8A) of the second group GR2 (of FIG. 8A) are turned ON/OFF according to the second PWM signal PWM2, and the third, sixth, ninth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA3, LA6, LA9 ... and LA24 (of FIG. 8A) of the third group GR3 (of FIG. 8A) are turned ON/OFF according to the third PWM signal PWM3.

[0102] The first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 have the same frequency, the same voltage and the same duty ratio as the zeroth PWM signal PWM0 (of FIG. 11A). In addition, the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 have a phase difference of about 120° with one another. As a result, the second PWM signal PWM2 has a phase delayed by about 120° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the third PWM signal PWM3 has a phase delayed by about 240° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1. Accordingly, the first group GR1 including

first, fourth, seventh ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA1, LA4, LA7 ... and LA22, the second group GR2 including the second, fifth, eighth ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA2, LA4, LA8 ... and LA23 and the third group GR3 including the third, sixth, ninth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA3, LA6, LA9 ... and LA24 are alternately turned ON/OFF.

[0103] In the instant of emitting light, since the number (i.e., 8) of emitting LED arrays of the backlight unit of FIG. 11B by one of the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 is one third of the number (i.e., 24) of emitting LED arrays of the comparison backlight unit of FIG. 11A by the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, and the instant luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 11B by one of the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 is substantially one third of the luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 11A. During a predetermined time period, however, since the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 11B by the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 is substantially three times of the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 11A, the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 11B is substantially the same as the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 11A. In FIGS. 11A and 11B, the total luminance may be calculated from the sum of areas corresponding to protruding rectangles of the luminance graph.

[0104] FIG. 12A is a view showing a PWM signal having a duty ratio of about 90% and luminance of a backlight unit according to a comparison embodiment and FIG. 12B is a view showing PWM signals having a phase difference of about 120° and a duty ratio of about 90% and luminance of a backlight unit according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0105] In FIG. 12A, a zeroth PWM signal PWM0 having a duty ratio of about 90% is supplied to a comparison backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24. The zeroth PWM signal PWM0 has a predetermined frequency and a predetermined voltage. Since the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 are simultaneously turned ON/OFF according to the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, the luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 has a value of 0 or 1. The luminance may be measured as an electric signal by using a photo diode. The maximum and minimum values in luminance are represented as 1 and 0, respectively, for comparison.

[0106] In FIG. 12B, first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 each having a duty ratio of about 90% are supplied to a backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 according to another embodiment of the present invention. As a result, the first, fourth, seventh ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA1, LA4, LA7 ... and LA22 (of FIG. 8A) of a first group GR1 (of FIG. 8A) are turned ON/OFF according to the first PWM signal PWM1, the second, fifth, eighth ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA2, LA4, LA8 ... and LA23 (of FIG. 8A) of the second group GR2 (of FIG. 8A) are

turned ON/OFF according to the second PWM signal PWM2, and the third, sixth, ninth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA3, LA6, LA9 ... and LA24 (of FIG. 8A) of the third group GR3 (of FIG. 8A) are turned ON/OFF according to the third PWM signal PWM3.

[0107] The first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 have the same frequency, the same voltage and the same duty ratio as the zeroth PWM signal PWM0 (of FIG. 12A). In addition, the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 have a phase difference of about 120° with one another. As a result, the second PWM signal PWM2 has a phase delayed by about 120° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the third PWM signal PWM3 has a phase delayed by about 240° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1. Accordingly, the first group GR1 including first, fourth, seventh ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA1, LA4, LA7 ... and LA22, the second group GR2 including the second, fifth, eighth ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA2, LA4, LA8 ... and LA23 and the third group GR3 including the third, sixth, ninth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA3, LA6, LA9 ... and LA24 are alternately turned ON/OFF.

[0108] In the instant of emitting light, since the number (i.e., 8) of emitting LED arrays of the backlight unit of FIG. 12B by one of the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 is one third of the number (i.e., 24) of emitting LED arrays of the comparison backlight unit of FIG. 12A by the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, and the instant luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 12B by one of the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 is substantially one third of the luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 12A. During a predetermined time period, however, since the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 12B by the first, second and third PWM signals PWM1, PWM2 and PWM3 is substantially three times of the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 12A, the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 12B is substantially the same as the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 12A. In FIGS. 12A and 12B, the total luminance may be calculated from the sum of areas corresponding to protruding rectangles of the luminance graph.

[0109] In a backlight unit of FIG. 8A, a plurality of LED arrays are classified into three groups driven by three PWM signals having phase differences shown in FIGS. 9B, 10B, 11B and 12B. As a result, deterioration such as a wavy noise due to the variation in the OFF current of each TFT of the liquid crystal display panel is improved without reduction in total luminance.

[0110] FIG. 13A is a block diagram of an LED array unit of a backlight unit for a liquid crystal display device according to another embodiment of the present invention and FIG. 13B is a timing chart of at least two PWM signals of a backlight unit for a liquid crystal display device according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0111] In FIG. 13A, an LED array unit includes first to

twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24. The first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 are classified into first to sixth groups GR1 to GR6. As a result, the first, seventh ... and nineteenth LED arrays LA1, LA7 ... and LA19 of the first group GR1 are electrically connected to each other, and the second, eighth ... and twentieth LED arrays LA2, LA8 ... and LA20 of the second group GR2 are electrically connected to each other. Similarly, the third, ninth ... and twenty-first LED arrays LA3, LA9 ... and LA21 of the third group GR3 are electrically connected to each other, and the fourth, tenth ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA4, LA10 ... and LA22 of the fourth group GR4 are electrically connected to each other. Further, the fifth, eleventh ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA5, LA11 ... and LA23 of the fifth group GR5 are electrically connected to each other, and the sixth, twelfth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA6, LA12 ... LA24 of the sixth group GR6 are electrically connected to each other.

[0112] A first PWM signal PWM1 is supplied to the first, seventh ... and nineteenth LED arrays LA1, LA7 ... and LA19 of the first group GR1, and a second PWM signal PWM2 is supplied to the second, eighth ... and twentieth LED arrays LA2, LA8 ... and LA20 of the second group GR2. Similarly, a third PWM signal PWM3 is supplied to the third, ninth ... and twenty-first LED arrays LA3, LA9 ... and LA21 of the third group GR3, and a fourth PWM signal PWM4 is supplied to the fourth, tenth ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA4, LA10 ... and LA22 of the fourth group GR4. Further, a fifth PWM signal PWM5 is supplied to the fifth, eleventh ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA5, LA11 ... and LA23 of the fifth group GR5, and a sixth PWM signal PWM6 is supplied to the sixth, twelfth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA6, LA12 ... LA24 of the sixth group GR6.

[0113] As shown in FIG. 13B, the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 have a duty ratio of about 17% and an identical frequency. In addition, the phase difference between neighboring two of the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 is about 60°. Although the duty ratio of the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 of FIG. 13B is about 17%, the duty ratio of the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 may be selected from values in a range of about 1% to about 99% in another embodiment.

[0114] Since the first to sixth groups GR1 to GR6 are driven by the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6, respectively, the first group GR1 including the first, seventh ... and nineteenth LED arrays LA1, LA7 ... and LA19, the second group GR2 including the second, eighth ... and twentieth LED arrays LA2, LA8 ... and LA20, the third group GR3 including the third, ninth ... and twenty-first LED arrays LA3, LA9 ... and LA21, the fourth group GR4 including the fourth, tenth ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA4, LA10 ... and LA22, the fifth group GR5 including the fifth, eleventh ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA5, LA11 ... and LA23 and the sixth group GR6 including the sixth, twelfth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA6, LA12 ... LA24 are turned ON/OFF

alternately with one another. Accordingly, the second, eighth ... and twentieth LED arrays LA2, LA8 ... and LA20 of the second group GR2 are turned ON after the first, seventh ... and nineteenth LED arrays LA1, LA7 ... and LA19 of the first group GR1 are turned OFF, and the third, ninth ... and twenty-first LED arrays LA3, LA9 ... and LA21 of the third group GR3 are turned ON after the second, eighth ... and twentieth LED arrays LA2, LA8 ... and LA20 of the second group GR2 are turned OFF. Similarly, the fourth, tenth ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA4, LA10 ... and LA22 of the fourth group GR4 are turned ON after the third, ninth ... and twenty-first LED arrays LA3, LA9 ... and LA21 of the third group GR3 are turned OFF, and the fifth, eleventh ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA5, LA11 ... and LA23 of the fifth group GR5 are turned ON after the fourth, tenth ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA4, LA10 ... and LA22 of the fourth group GR4 are turned OFF. Further, the sixth, twelfth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA6, LA12 ... LA24 of the sixth group GR6 are turned ON after the fifth, eleventh ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA5, LA11 ... and LA23 of the fifth group GR5 are turned OFF. After the sixth, twelfth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA6, LA12 ... LA24 of the sixth group GR6 are turned OFF, the first, seventh ... and nineteenth LED arrays LA1, LA7 ... and LA19 of the first group GR1 are turned ON again.

[0115] Since the number (i.e., 4) of the LED arrays emitting light at a time of the backlight unit using the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 of FIG. 13A is smaller than the number (i.e., 24) of the LED arrays emitting light at a time of the backlight unit using a single PWM signal of FIG. 1, an instant luminance of the backlight unit using the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 is about one sixth of an instant luminance of the backlight unit using the single PWM signal. As a result, the variation in the OFF current of each TFT in the liquid crystal display panel is reduced due to reduction in the instant luminance of the incident light from the backlight unit and deterioration such as a wavy noise due to the variation in the OFF current of each TFT is improved.

[0116] In addition, although the instant luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 alternately turned ON/OFF by the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 is about one sixth of the instant luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 simultaneously turned ON/OFF by the single PWM signal, a total luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 alternately turned ON/OFF is substantially the same as a total luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 simultaneously turned ON/OFF because the backlight unit using the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 emits light more frequently. Accordingly, the LCD device having the backlight unit according to the present invention has no reduction in brightness as compared with an LCD device having the related art backlight unit.

[0117] FIG. 14A is a view showing a PWM signal having a duty ratio of about 10% and luminance of a backlight

unit according to a comparison embodiment and FIG. 14B is a view showing PWM signals having a phase difference of about 60° and a duty ratio of about 10% and luminance of a backlight unit according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0118] In FIG. 14A, a zeroth PWM signal PWM0 having a duty ratio of about 10% is supplied to a comparison backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24. The zeroth PWM signal PWM0 has a predetermined frequency and a predetermined voltage. Since the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 are simultaneously turned ON/OFF according to the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, the luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 has a value of 0 or 1. The luminance may be measured as an electric signal by using a photo diode. The maximum and minimum values in luminance are represented as 1 and 0, respectively, for comparison.

[0119] In FIG. 14B, first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 each having a duty ratio of about 10% are supplied to a backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 according to another embodiment of the present invention. As a result, the first, seventh ... and nineteenth LED arrays LA1, LA7 ... and LA19 (of FIG. 13A) of the first group GR1 (of FIG. 13A) are turned ON/OFF according to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the second, eighth ... and twentieth LED arrays LA2, LA8 ... and LA20 (of FIG. 13A) of the second group GR2 (of FIG. 13A) are turned ON/OFF according to the second PWM signal PWM2. Similarly, the third, ninth ... and twenty-first LED arrays LA3, LA9 ... and LA21 (of FIG. 13A) of the third group GR3 (of FIG. 13A) are turned ON/OFF according to the third PWM signal PWM3, and the fourth, tenth ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA4, LA10 ... and LA22 (of FIG. 13A) of the fourth group GR4 (of FIG. 13A) are turned ON/OFF according to the fourth PWM signal PWM4. Further, the fifth, eleventh ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA5, LA11 ... and LA23 (of FIG. 13A) of the fifth group GR5 (of FIG. 13A) are turned ON/OFF according to the fifth PWM signal PWM5, and the sixth, twelfth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA6, LA12 ... LA24 (of FIG. 13A) of the sixth group GR6 (of FIG. 13A) are turned ON/OFF according to the sixth PWM signal PWM6.

[0120] The first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 have the same frequency, the same voltage and the same duty ratio as the zeroth PWM signal PWM0 (of FIG. 14A). In addition, neighboring two of the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 have a phase difference of about 60° with each another. As a result, the second PWM signal PWM2 has a phase delayed by about 60° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the third PWM signal PWM3 has a phase delayed by about 120° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1. Further, the fourth PWM signal PWM4 has a phase delayed by about 180° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, the fifth PWM signal PWM5 has a phase delayed by about 240° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1 and the sixth PWM

signal PWM6 has a phase delayed by about 300° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1. Accordingly, the first group GR1 including the first, seventh ... and nineteenth LED arrays LA1, LA7 ... and LA19, the second group GR2 including the second, eighth ... and twentieth LED arrays LA2, LA8 ... and LA20, the third group GR3 including the third, ninth ... and twenty-first LED arrays LA3, LA9 ... and LA21, the fourth group GR4 including the fourth, tenth ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA4, LA10 ... and LA22, the fifth group GR5 including the fifth, eleventh ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA5, LA11 ... and LA23, and the sixth group GR6 including the sixth, twelfth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA6, LA12 ... LA24 are alternately turned ON/OFF.

[0121] In the instant of emitting light, since the number (i.e., 4) of emitting LED arrays of the backlight unit of FIG. 14B by one of the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 is one sixth of the number (i.e., 24) of emitting LED arrays of the comparison backlight unit of FIG. 14A by the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, the instant luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 14B by one of the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 is substantially one sixth of the luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 14A. During a predetermined time period, however, since the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 14B by the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 is substantially six times of the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 14A, the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 14B is substantially the same as the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 14A. In FIGS. 14A and 14B, the total luminance may be calculated from the sum of areas corresponding to protruding rectangles of the luminance graph.

[0122] FIG. 15A is a view showing a PWM signal having a duty ratio of about 16.7% and luminance of a backlight unit according to a comparison embodiment and FIG. 15B is a view showing PWM signals having a phase difference of about 60° and a duty ratio of about 16.7% and luminance of a backlight unit according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0123] In FIG. 15A, a zeroth PWM signal PWM0 having a duty ratio of about 16.7% is supplied to a comparison backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24. The zeroth PWM signal PWM0 has a predetermined frequency and a predetermined voltage. Since the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 are simultaneously turned ON/OFF according to the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, the luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 has a value of 0 or 1. The luminance may be measured as an electric signal by using a photo diode. The maximum and minimum values in luminance are represented as 1 and 0, respectively, for comparison.

[0124] In FIG. 15B, first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 each having a duty ratio of about 16.7% are supplied to a backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 according to another embodiment of the present invention. As a result, the first,

seventh ... and nineteenth LED arrays LA1, LA7 ... and LA19 (of FIG. 13A) of the first group GR1 (of FIG. 13A) are turned ON/OFF according to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the second, eighth ... and twentieth LED arrays LA2, LA8 ... and LA20 (of FIG. 13A) of the second group GR2 (of FIG. 13A) are turned ON/OFF according to the second PWM signal PWM2. Similarly, the third, ninth ... and twenty-first LED arrays LA3, LA9 ... and LA21 (of FIG. 13A) of the third group GR3 (of FIG. 13A) are turned ON/OFF according to the third PWM signal PWM3, and the fourth, tenth ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA4, LA10 ... and LA22 (of FIG. 13A) of the fourth group GR4 (of FIG. 13A) are turned ON/OFF according to the fourth PWM signal PWM4. Further, the fifth, eleventh ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA5, LA11 ... and LA23 (of FIG. 13A) of the fifth group GR5 (of FIG. 13A) are turned ON/OFF according to the fifth PWM signal PWM5, and the sixth, twelfth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA6, LA12 ... and LA24 (of FIG. 13A) of the sixth group GR6 are turned ON/OFF according to the sixth PWM signal PWM6.

[0125] The first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 have the same frequency, the same voltage and the same duty ratio as the zeroth PWM signal PWM0 (of FIG. 15A). In addition, neighboring two of the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 have a phase difference of about 60° with each another. As a result, the second PWM signal PWM2 has a phase delayed by about 60° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the third PWM signal PWM3 has a phase delayed by about 120° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1. Further, the fourth PWM signal PWM4 has a phase delayed by about 180° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, the fifth PWM signal PWM5 has a phase delayed by about 240° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1 and the sixth PWM signal PWM6 has a phase delayed by about 300° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1. Accordingly, the first group GR1 including the first, seventh ... and nineteenth LED arrays LA1, LA7 ... and LA19, the second group GR2 including the second, eighth ... and twentieth LED arrays LA2, LA8 ... and LA20, the third group GR3 including the third, ninth ... and twenty-first LED arrays LA3, LA9 ... and LA21, the fourth group GR4 including the fourth, tenth ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA4, LA10 ... and LA22, the fifth group GR5 including the fifth, eleventh ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA5, LA11 ... and LA23, and the sixth group GR6 including the sixth, twelfth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA6, LA12 ... and LA24 are alternately turned ON/OFF.

[0126] In the instant of emitting light, since the number (i.e., 4) of emitting LED arrays of the backlight unit of FIG. 15B by one of the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 is one sixth of the number (i.e., 24) of emitting LED arrays of the comparison backlight unit of FIG. 15A by the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, the instant luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 15B by one of the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 is substantially one sixth of the luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 15A. During

a predetermined time period, however, since the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 15B by the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 is substantially six times of the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 15A, the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 15B is substantially the same as the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 15A. In FIGS. 15A and 15B, the total luminance may be calculated from the sum of areas corresponding to protruding rectangles of the luminance graph.

[0127] Specifically, since the instant luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 15B is a constant value of about 0.167 at any timing of the whole time period, the backlight unit supplies light without a variation in luminance to the liquid crystal display panel. As a result, the variation in the OFF current of each TFT of the liquid crystal display panel is further reduced and deterioration such as a wavy noise is further improved.

[0128] FIG. 16A is a view showing a PWM signal having a duty ratio of about 50% and luminance of a backlight unit according to a comparison embodiment and FIG. 16B is a view showing PWM signals having a phase difference of about 60° and a duty ratio of about 50% and luminance of a backlight unit according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0129] In FIG. 16A, a zeroth PWM signal PWM0 having a duty ratio of about 50% is supplied to a comparison backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24. The zeroth PWM signal PWM0 has a predetermined frequency and a predetermined voltage. Since the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 are simultaneously turned ON/OFF according to the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, the luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 has a value of 0 or 1. The luminance may be measured as an electric signal by using a photo diode. The maximum and minimum values in luminance are represented as 1 and 0, respectively, for comparison.

[0130] In FIG. 16B, first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 each having a duty ratio of about 50% are supplied to a backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 according to another embodiment of the present invention. As a result, the first, seventh ... and nineteenth LED arrays LA1, LA7 ... and LA19 (of FIG. 13A) of the first group GR1 (of FIG. 13A) are turned ON/OFF according to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the second, eighth ... and twentieth LED arrays LA2, LA8 ... and LA20 (of FIG. 13A) of the second group GR2 (of FIG. 13A) are turned ON/OFF according to the second PWM signal PWM2. Similarly, the third, ninth ... and twenty-first LED arrays LA3, LA9 ... and LA21 (of FIG. 13A) of the third group GR3 (of FIG. 13A) are turned ON/OFF according to the third PWM signal PWM3, and the fourth, tenth ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA4, LA10 ... and LA22 (of FIG. 13A) of the fourth group GR4 (of FIG. 13A) are turned ON/OFF according to the fourth PWM signal PWM4. Further, the fifth, eleventh ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA5, LA11 ... and LA23 (of FIG.

13A) of the fifth group GR5 (of FIG. 13A) are turned ON/OFF according to the fifth PWM signal PWM5, and the sixth, twelfth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA6, LA12 ... LA24 of the sixth group GR6 are turned ON/OFF according to the sixth PWM signal PWM6.

[0131] The first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 have the same frequency, the same voltage and the same duty ratio as the zeroth PWM signal PWM0 (of FIG. 16A). In addition, neighboring two of the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 have a phase difference of about 60° with each another. As a result, the second PWM signal PWM2 has a phase delayed by about 60° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the third PWM signal PWM3 has a phase delayed by about 120° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1. Further, the fourth PWM signal PWM4 has a phase delayed by about 180° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, the fifth PWM signal PWM5 has a phase delayed by about 240° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1 and the sixth PWM signal PWM6 has a phase delayed by about 300° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1. Accordingly, the first group GR1 including the first, seventh ... and nineteenth LED arrays LA1, LA7 ... and LA19, the second group GR2 including the second, eighth ... and twentieth LED arrays LA2, LA8 ... and LA20, the third group GR3 including the third, ninth ... and twenty-first LED arrays LA3, LA9 ... and LA21, the fourth group GR4 including the fourth, tenth ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA4, LA10 ... and LA22, the fifth group GR5 including the fifth, eleventh ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA5, LA11 ... and LA23, and the sixth group GR6 including the sixth, twelfth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA6, LA12 ... LA24 are alternately turned ON/OFF.

[0132] In the instant of emitting light, since the number (i.e., 4) of emitting LED arrays of the backlight unit of FIG. 16B by one of the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 is one sixth of the number (i.e., 24) of emitting LED arrays of the comparison backlight unit of FIG. 16A by the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, the instant luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 16B by one of the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 is substantially one sixth of the luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 16A. During a predetermined time period, however, since the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 16B by the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 is substantially six times of the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 16A, the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 16B is substantially the same as the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 16A. In FIGs. 16A and 16B, the total luminance may be calculated from the sum of areas corresponding to protruding rectangles of the luminance graph.

[0133] Specifically, since the instant luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 16B is a constant value of about 0.5 at any timing of the whole time period, the backlight unit supplies light without a variation in luminance to the liquid crystal display panel. As a result, the variation in the OFF current of each TFT of the liquid crystal display

panel is further reduced and deterioration such as a wavy noise is further improved.

[0134] FIG. 17A is a view showing a PWM signal having a duty ratio of about 90% and luminance of a backlight unit according to a comparison embodiment and FIG. 17B is a view showing PWM signals having a phase difference of about 60° and a duty ratio of about 90% and luminance of a backlight unit according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0135] In FIG. 17A, a zeroth PWM signal PWM0 having a duty ratio of about 90% is supplied to a comparison backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24. The zeroth PWM signal PWM0 has a predetermined frequency and a predetermined voltage. Since the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 are simultaneously turned ON/OFF according to the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, the luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 has a value of 0 or 1. The luminance may be measured as an electric signal by using a photo diode. The maximum and minimum values in luminance are represented as 1 and 0, respectively, for comparison.

[0136] In FIG. 17B, first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 each having a duty ratio of about 90% are supplied to a backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 according to another embodiment of the present invention. As a result, the first, seventh ... and nineteenth LED arrays LA1, LA7 ... and LA19 (of FIG. 13A) of the first group GR1 (of FIG. 13A) are turned ON/OFF according to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the second, eighth ... and twentieth LED arrays LA2, LA8 ... and LA20 (of FIG. 13A) of the second group GR2 (of FIG. 13A) are turned ON/OFF according to the second PWM signal PWM2. Similarly, the third, ninth ... and twenty-first LED arrays LA3, LA9 ... and LA21 (of FIG. 13A) of the third group GR3 (of FIG. 13A) are turned ON/OFF according to the third PWM signal PWM3, and the fourth, tenth ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA4, LA10 ... and LA22 (of FIG. 13A) of the fourth group GR4 (of FIG. 13A) are turned ON/OFF according to the fourth PWM signal PWM4. Further, the fifth, eleventh ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA5, LA11 ... and LA23 (of FIG. 13A) of the fifth group GR5 (of FIG. 13A) are turned ON/OFF according to the fifth PWM signal PWM5, and the sixth, twelfth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA6, LA12 ... LA24 of the sixth group GR6 are turned ON/OFF according to the sixth PWM signal PWM6.

[0137] The first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 have the same frequency, the same voltage and the same duty ratio as the zeroth PWM signal PWM0 (of FIG. 17A). In addition, neighboring two of the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 have a phase difference of about 60° with each another. As a result, the second PWM signal PWM2 has a phase delayed by about 60° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the third PWM signal PWM3 has a phase delayed by about 120° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1. Further, the fourth PWM signal PWM4 has a phase delayed by about 180° with

respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, the fifth PWM signal PWM5 has a phase delayed by about 240° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1 and the sixth PWM signal PWM6 has a phase delayed by about 300° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1. Accordingly, the first group GR1 including the first, seventh ... and nineteenth LED arrays LA1, LA7 ... and LA 19, the second group GR2 including the second, eighth ... and twentieth LED arrays LA2, LA8 ... and LA20, the third group GR3 including the third, ninth ... and twenty-first LED arrays LA3, LA9 ... and LA21, the fourth group GR4 including the fourth, tenth ... and twenty-second LED arrays LA4, LA10 ... and LA22, the fifth group GR5 including the fifth, eleventh ... and twenty-third LED arrays LA5, LA11 ... and LA23, and the sixth group GR6 including the sixth, twelfth ... and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA6, LA12 ... LA24 are alternately turned ON/OFF.

[0138] In the instant of emitting light, since the number (i.e., 4) of emitting LED arrays of the backlight unit of FIG. 17B by one of the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 is one sixth of the number (i.e., 24) of emitting LED arrays of the comparison backlight unit of FIG. 17A by the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, the instant luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 17B by one of the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 is substantially one sixth of the luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 17A. During a predetermined time period, however, since the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 17B by the first to sixth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM6 is substantially six times of the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 17A, the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 17B is substantially the same as the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 17A. In FIGS. 17A and 17B, the total luminance may be calculated from the sum of areas corresponding to protruding rectangles of the luminance graph.

[0139] In a backlight unit of FIG. 13A, a plurality of LED arrays are classified into six groups driven by six PWM signals having phase differences shown in FIGs. 14B, 15B, 16B and 17B. As a result, deterioration such as a wavy noise due to the variation in the OFF current of each TFT of the liquid crystal display panel is improved without reduction in total luminance.

[0140] FIG. 18A is a block diagram of an LED array unit of a backlight unit for a liquid crystal display device according to another embodiment of the present invention and FIG. 18B is a timing chart of at least two PWM signals of a backlight unit for a liquid crystal display device according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0141] In FIG. 18A, an LED array unit includes first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24. The first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 are classified into first to eighth groups GR1 to GR8. As a result, the first, ninth and seventeenth LED arrays LA1, LA9 and LA17 of the first group GR1 are electrically connected to each other, and the second, tenth and eighteenth LED arrays LA2, LA10 and LA18 of the second group GR2 are electrically

connected to each other. Similarly, the third, eleventh and nineteenth LED arrays LA3, LA11 and LA19 of the third group GR3 are electrically connected to each other, and the fourth, twelfth and twentieth LED arrays LA4, LA12 and LA20 of the fourth group GR4 are electrically connected to each other. Further, the fifth, thirteenth and twenty-first LED arrays LA5, LA 13 and LA21 of the fifth group GR5 are electrically connected to each other, the sixth, fourteenth and twenty-second LED arrays LA6, LA14 and LA22 of the sixth group GR6 are electrically connected to each other, the seventh, fifteenth and twenty-third LED arrays LA7, LA 15 and LA23 of the seventh group GR7 are electrically connected to each other, and the eighth, sixteenth and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA8, LA16 and LA24 of the eighth group GR8 are electrically connected to each other.

[0142] A first PWM signal PWM1 is supplied to the first, ninth and seventeenth LED arrays LA1, LA9 and LA17 of the first group GR1, and a second PWM signal PWM2 is supplied to the second, tenth and eighteenth LED arrays LA2, LA 10 and LA18 of the second group GR2. Similarly, a third PWM signal PWM3 is supplied to the third, eleventh and nineteenth LED arrays LA3, LA11 and LA19 of the third group GR3, and a fourth PWM signal PWM4 is supplied to the fourth, twelfth and twentieth LED arrays LA4, LA12 and LA20 of the fourth group GR4. Further, a fifth PWM signal PWM5 is supplied to the fifth, thirteenth and twenty-first LED arrays LA5, LA13 and LA21 of the fifth group GR5, a sixth PWM signal PWM6 is supplied to the sixth, fourteenth and twenty-second LED arrays LA6, LA14 and LA22 of the sixth group GR6, a seventh PWM signal PWM7 is supplied to the seventh, fifteenth and twenty-third LED arrays LA7, LA 15 and LA23 of the seventh group GR7, and an eighth PWM signal PWM8 is supplied to the eighth, sixteenth and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA8, LA16 and LA24 of the eighth group GR8.

[0143] As shown in FIG. 18B, the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 have a duty ratio of about 12.5% and an identical frequency. In addition, the phase difference between neighboring two of the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 is about 45° . Although the duty ratio of the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 of FIG. 18B is about 12.5%, the duty ratio of the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 may be selected from values in a range of about 1 % to about 99% in another embodiment.

[0144] Since the first to eighth groups GR1 to GR8 are driven by the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8, respectively, the first group GR1 including the first, ninth and seventeenth LED arrays LA1, LA9 and LA17, the second group GR2 including the second, tenth and eighteenth LED arrays LA2, LA10 and LA18, the third group GR3 including the third, eleventh and nineteenth LED arrays LA3, LA11 and LA19, the fourth group GR4 including the fourth, twelfth and twentieth LED arrays LA4, LA12 and LA20, the fifth group GR5 including the fifth, thirteenth and twenty-first LED arrays LA5, LA13 and

LA21, the sixth group GR6 including the sixth, fourteenth and twenty-second LED arrays LA6, LA14 and LA22, the seventh group GR7 including the seventh, fifteenth and twenty-third LED arrays LA7, LA15 and LA23, and the eighth group GR8 including the eighth, sixteenth and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA8, LA16 and LA24 are turned ON/OFF alternately with one another. Accordingly, the second, tenth and eighteenth LED arrays LA2, LA10 and LA18 of the second group GR2 are turned ON after the first, ninth and seventeenth LED arrays LA1, LA9 and LA17 of the first group GR1 are turned OFF, and the third, eleventh and nineteenth LED arrays LA3, LA11 and LA19 of the third group GR3 are turned ON after the second, tenth and eighteenth LED arrays LA2, LA10 and LA18 of the second group GR2 are turned OFF. Similarly, the fourth, twelfth and twentieth LED arrays LA4, LA12 and LA20 of the fourth group GR4 are turned ON after the third, eleventh and nineteenth LED arrays LA3, LA11 and LA19 of the third group GR3 are turned OFF, and the fifth, thirteenth and twenty-first LED arrays LA5, LA13 and LA21 of the fifth group GR5 are turned ON after the fourth, twelfth and twentieth LED arrays LA4, LA12 and LA20 of the fourth group GR4 are turned OFF. Further, the sixth, fourteenth and twenty-second LED arrays LA6, LA14 and LA22 of the sixth group GR6 are turned ON after the fifth, thirteenth and twenty-first LED arrays LA5, LA13 and LA21 of the fifth group GR5 are turned OFF, the seventh, fifteenth and twenty-third LED arrays LA7, LA15 and LA23 of the seventh group GR7 are turned ON after the sixth, fourteenth and twenty-second LED arrays LA6, LA14 and LA22 of the sixth group GR6 are turned OFF, and the eighth, sixteenth and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA8, LA16 and LA24 of the eighth group GR8 are turned ON after the seventh, fifteenth and twenty-third LED arrays LA7, LA15 and LA23 of the seventh group GR7 are turned OFF. After the eighth, sixteenth and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA8, LA16 of the eighth group GR8 are turned OFF, the first, ninth and seventeenth LED arrays LA1, LA9 and LA17 of the first group GR1 are turned ON again.

[0145] Since the number (i.e., 3) of the LED arrays emitting light at a time of the backlight unit using the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 of FIG. 18A is smaller than the number (i.e., 24) of the LED arrays emitting light at a time of the backlight unit using a single PWM signal of FIG. 1, an instant luminance of the backlight unit using the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 is about one eighth of an instant luminance of the backlight unit using the single PWM signal. As a result, the variation in the OFF current of each TFT in the liquid crystal display panel is reduced due to reduction in the instant luminance of the incident light from the backlight unit and deterioration such as a wavy noise due to the variation in the OFF current of each TFT is improved.

[0146] In addition, although the instant luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 alternately turned ON/OFF by the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 is about one eighth of the instant lumi-

nance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 simultaneously turned ON/OFF by the single PWM signal, a total luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 alternately turned ON/OFF is substantially the same as a total luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 simultaneously turned ON/OFF because the backlight unit using the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 emits light more frequently. Accordingly, the LCD device having the backlight unit according to the present invention has no reduction in brightness as compared with an LCD device having the related art backlight unit.

[0147] FIG. 19A is a view showing a PWM signal having a duty ratio of about 10% and luminance of a backlight unit according to a comparison embodiment and FIG. 19B is a view showing PWM signals having a phase difference of about 45° and a duty ratio of about 10% and luminance of a backlight unit according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0148] In FIG. 19A, a zeroth PWM signal PWM0 having a duty ratio of about 10% is supplied to a comparison backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24. The zeroth PWM signal PWM0 has a predetermined frequency and a predetermined voltage. Since the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 are simultaneously turned ON/OFF according to the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, the luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 has a value of 0 or 1. The luminance may be measured as an electric signal by using a photo diode. The maximum and minimum values in luminance are represented as 1 and 0, respectively, for comparison.

[0149] In FIG. 19B, first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 each having a duty ratio of about 10% are supplied to a backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 according to another embodiment of the present invention. As a result, the first, ninth and seventeenth LED arrays LA1, LA9 and LA17 (of FIG. 18A) of the first group GR1 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the second, tenth and eighteenth LED arrays LA2, LA10 and LA18 (of FIG. 18A) of the second group GR2 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the second PWM signal PWM2. Similarly, the third, eleventh and nineteenth LED arrays LA3, LA11 and LA19 (of FIG. 18A) of the third group GR3 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the third PWM signal PWM3, and the fourth, twelfth and twentieth LED arrays LA4, LA12 and LA20 (of FIG. 18A) of the fourth group GR4 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the fourth PWM signal PWM4. Further, the fifth, thirteenth and twenty-first LED arrays LA5, LA13 and LA21 (of FIG. 18A) of the fifth group GR5 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the fifth PWM signal PWM5, and the sixth, fourteenth and twenty-second LED arrays LA6, LA14 and LA22 (of FIG. 18A) of the sixth group GR6 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the sixth PWM signal PWM6, the seventh, fifteenth and twenty-third LED arrays LA7, LA15 and

LA23 (of FIG. 18A) of the seventh group GR7 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the seventh PWM signal PWM7, and the eighth, sixteenth and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA8, LA 16 and LA24 of the eighth group GR8 are turned ON/OFF according to the eighth PWM signal PWM8.

[0150] The first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 have the same frequency, the same voltage and the same duty ratio as the zeroth PWM signal PWM0 (of FIG. 19A). In addition, neighboring two of the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 have a phase difference of about 45° with each another. As a result, the second PWM signal PWM2 has a phase delayed by about 45° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the third PWM signal PWM3 has a phase delayed by about 90° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1. Further, the fourth PWM signal PWM4 has a phase delayed by about 135° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, the fifth PWM signal PWM5 has a phase delayed by about 180° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, the sixth PWM signal PWM6 has a phase delayed by about 225° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, the seventh PWM signal PWM7 has a phase delayed by about 270° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the eighth PWM signal PWM8 has a phase delayed by about 315° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1. Accordingly, the first group GR1 including the first, ninth and seventeenth LED arrays LA1, LA9 and LA17, the second group GR2 including the second, tenth and eighteenth LED arrays LA2, LA10 and LA18, the third group GR3 including the third, eleventh and nineteenth LED arrays LA3, LA11 and LA19, the fourth group GR4 including the fourth, twelfth and twentieth LED arrays LA4, LA12 and LA20, the fifth group GR5 including the fifth, thirteenth and twenty-first LED arrays LA5, LA13 and LA21, the sixth group GR6 including the sixth, fourteenth and twenty-second LED arrays LA6, LA14 and LA22, the seventh group GR7 including the seventh, fifteenth and twenty-third LED arrays LA7, LA15 and LA23, and the eighth group GR8 including the eighth, sixteenth and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA8, LA16 and LA24 are alternately turned ON/OFF.

[0151] In the instant of emitting light, since the number (i.e., 3) of emitting LED arrays of the backlight unit of FIG. 19B by one of the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 is one eighth of the number (i.e., 24) of emitting LED arrays of the comparison backlight unit of FIG. 19A by the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, the instant luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 19B by one of the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 is substantially one eighth of the luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 19A. During a predetermined time period, however, since the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 19B by the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 is substantially eight times of the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 17A, the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 19B is substantially the same as the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 19A.

In FIGS. 19A and 19B, the total luminance may be calculated from the sum of areas corresponding to protruding rectangles of the luminance graph.

[0152] FIG. 20A is a view showing a PWM signal having a duty ratio of about 12.5% and luminance of a backlight unit according to a comparison embodiment and FIG. 20B is a view showing PWM signals having a phase difference of about 45° and a duty ratio of about 12.5% and luminance of a backlight unit according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0153] In FIG. 20A, a zeroth PWM signal PWM0 having a duty ratio of about 50% is supplied to a comparison backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24. The zeroth PWM signal PWM0 has a predetermined frequency and a predetermined voltage. Since the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 are simultaneously turned ON/OFF according to the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, the luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 has a value of 0 or 1. The luminance may be measured as an electric signal by using a photo diode. The maximum and minimum values in luminance are represented as 1 and 0, respectively, for comparison.

[0154] In FIG. 20B, first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 each having a duty ratio of about 50% are supplied to a backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 according to another embodiment of the present invention. As a result, the first, ninth and seventeenth LED arrays LA1, LA9 and LA17 (of FIG. 18A) of the first group GR1 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the second, tenth and eighteenth LED arrays LA2, LA10 and LA18 (of FIG. 18A) of the second group GR2 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the second PWM signal PWM2. Similarly, the third, eleventh and nineteenth LED arrays LA3, LA11 and LA19 (of FIG. 18A) of the third group GR3 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the third PWM signal PWM3, and the fourth, twelfth and twentieth LED arrays LA4, LA12 and LA20 (of FIG. 18A) of the fourth group GR4 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the fourth PWM signal PWM4. Further, the fifth, thirteenth and twenty-first LED arrays LA5, LA13 and LA21 (of FIG. 18A) of the fifth group GR5 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the fifth PWM signal PWM5, and the sixth, fourteenth and twenty-second LED arrays LA6, LA14 and LA22 (of FIG. 18A) of the sixth group GR6 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the sixth PWM signal PWM6, the seventh, fifteenth and twenty-third LED arrays LA7, LA15 and LA23 (of FIG. 18A) of the seventh group GR7 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the seventh PWM signal PWM7, and the eighth, sixteenth and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA8, LA 16 and LA24 of the eighth group GR8 are turned ON/OFF according to the eighth PWM signal PWM8.

[0155] The first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 have the same frequency, the same voltage and the same duty ratio as the zeroth PWM signal PWM0 (of

FIG. 20A). In addition, neighboring two of the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 have a phase difference of about 45° with each another. As a result, the second PWM signal PWM2 has a phase delayed by about 45° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the third PWM signal PWM3 has a phase delayed by about 90° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1. Further, the fourth PWM signal PWM4 has a phase delayed by about 135° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, the fifth PWM signal PWM5 has a phase delayed by about 180° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, the sixth PWM signal PWM6 has a phase delayed by about 225° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, the seventh PWM signal PWM7 has a phase delayed by about 270° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the eighth PWM signal PWM8 has a phase delayed by about 315° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1. Accordingly, the first group GR1 including the first, ninth and seventeenth LED arrays LA1, LA9 and LA17, the second group GR2 including the second, tenth and eighteenth LED arrays LA2, LA10 and LA18, the third group GR3 including the third, eleventh and nineteenth LED arrays LA3, LA11 and LA19, the fourth group GR4 including the fourth, twelfth and twentieth LED arrays LA4, LA12 and LA20, the fifth group GR5 including the fifth, thirteenth and twenty-first LED arrays LA5, LA13 and LA21, the sixth group GR6 including the sixth, fourteenth and twenty-second LED arrays LA6, LA14 and LA22, the seventh group GR7 including the seventh, fifteenth and twenty-third LED arrays LA7, LA15 and LA23, and the eighth group GR8 including the eighth, sixteenth and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA8, LA16 and LA24 are alternately turned ON/OFF.

[0156] In the instant of emitting light, since the number (i.e., 3) of emitting LED arrays of the backlight unit of FIG. 20B by one of the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 is one eighth of the number (i.e., 24) of emitting LED arrays of the comparison backlight unit of FIG. 20A by the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, the instant luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 20B by one of the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 is substantially one eighth of the luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 20A. During a predetermined time period, however, since the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 20B by the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 is substantially eight times of the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 20A, the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 20B is substantially the same as the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 20A. In FIGs. 20A and 20B, the total luminance may be calculated from the sum of areas corresponding to protruding rectangles of the luminance graph.

[0157] Specifically, since the instant luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 20B is a constant value of about 0.125 at any timing of the whole time period, the backlight unit supplies light without a variation in luminance to the liquid crystal display panel. As a result, the variation in the OFF current of each TFT of the liquid crystal display

panel is further reduced and deterioration such as a wavy noise is further improved.

[0158] FIG. 21A is a view showing a PWM signal having a duty ratio of about 50% and luminance of a backlight unit according to a comparison embodiment and FIG. 21B is a view showing PWM signals having a phase difference of about 45° and a duty ratio of about 50% and luminance of a backlight unit according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0159] In FIG. 21A, a zeroth PWM signal PWM0 having a duty ratio of about 50% is supplied to a comparison backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24. The zeroth PWM signal PWM0 has a predetermined frequency and a predetermined voltage. Since the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 are simultaneously turned ON/OFF according to the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, the luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 has a value of 0 or 1. The luminance may be measured as an electric signal by using a photo diode. The maximum and minimum values in luminance are represented as 1 and 0, respectively, for comparison.

[0160] In FIG. 21B, first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 each having a duty ratio of about 50% are supplied to a backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 according to another embodiment of the present invention. As a result, the first, ninth and seventeenth LED arrays LA1, LA9 and LA17 (of FIG. 18A) of the first group GR1 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the second, tenth and eighteenth LED arrays LA2, LA10 and LA18 (of FIG. 18A) of the second group GR2 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the second PWM signal PWM2. Similarly, the third, eleventh and nineteenth LED arrays LA3, LA11 and LA19 (of FIG. 18A) of the third group GR3 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the third PWM signal PWM3, and the fourth, twelfth and twentieth LED arrays LA4, LA12 and LA20 (of FIG. 18A) of the fourth group GR4 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the fourth PWM signal PWM4. Further, the fifth, thirteenth and twenty-first LED arrays LA5, LA13 and LA21 (of FIG. 18A) of the fifth group GR5 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the fifth PWM signal PWM5, and the sixth, fourteenth and twenty-second LED arrays LA6, LA14 and LA22 (of FIG. 18A) of the sixth group GR6 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the sixth PWM signal PWM6, the seventh, fifteenth and twenty-third LED arrays LA7, LA15 and LA23 (of FIG. 18A) of the seventh group GR7 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the seventh PWM signal PWM7, and the eighth, sixteenth and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA8, LA16 and LA24 of the eighth group GR8 are turned ON/OFF according to the eighth PWM signal PWM8.

[0161] The first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 have the same frequency, the same voltage and the same duty ratio as the zeroth PWM signal PWM0 (of FIG. 21A). In addition, neighboring two of the first to

eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 have a phase difference of about 45° with each another. As a result, the second PWM signal PWM2 has a phase delayed by about 45° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the third PWM signal PWM3 has a phase delayed by about 90° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1. Further, the fourth PWM signal PWM4 has a phase delayed by about 135° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, the fifth PWM signal PWM5 has a phase delayed by about 180° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, the sixth PWM signal PWM6 has a phase delayed by about 225° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, the seventh PWM signal PWM7 has a phase delayed by about 270° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the eighth PWM signal PWM8 has a phase delayed by about 315° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1. Accordingly, the first group GR1 including the first, ninth and seventeenth LED arrays LA1, LA9 and LA17, the second group GR2 including the second, tenth and eighteenth LED arrays LA2, LA10 and LA18, the third group GR3 including the third, eleventh and nineteenth LED arrays LA3, LA11 and LA19, the fourth group GR4 including the fourth, twelfth and twentieth LED arrays LA4, LA12 and LA20, the fifth group GR5 including the fifth, thirteenth and twenty-first LED arrays LA5, LA13 and LA21, the sixth group GR6 including the sixth, fourteenth and twenty-second LED arrays LA6, LA14 and LA22, the seventh group GR7 including the seventh, fifteenth and twenty-third LED arrays LA7, LA15 and LA23, and the eighth group GR8 including the eighth, sixteenth and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA8, LA16 and LA24 are alternately turned ON/OFF.

[0162] In the instant of emitting light, since the number (i.e., 3) of emitting LED arrays of the backlight unit of FIG. 21B by one of the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 is one eighth of the number (i.e., 24) of emitting LED arrays of the comparison backlight unit of FIG. 21A by the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, the instant luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 21B by one of the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 is substantially one eighth of the luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 21A. During a predetermined time period, however, since the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 21B by the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 is substantially eight times of the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 21A, the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 21B is substantially the same as the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 21A. In FIGs. 21A and 21B, the total luminance may be calculated from the sum of areas corresponding to protruding rectangles of the luminance graph.

[0163] Specifically, since the instant luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 21B is a constant value of about 0.5 at any timing of the whole time period, the backlight unit supplies light without a variation in luminance to the liquid crystal display panel. As a result, the variation in the OFF current of each TFT of the liquid crystal display panel is further reduced and deterioration such as a wavy

noise is further improved.

[0164] FIG. 22A is a view showing a PWM signal having a duty ratio of about 90% and luminance of a backlight unit according to a comparison embodiment and FIG. 22B is a view showing PWM signals having a phase difference of about 45° and a duty ratio of about 90% and luminance of a backlight unit according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0165] In FIG. 22A, a zeroth PWM signal PWM0 having a duty ratio of about 90% is supplied to a comparison backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24. The zeroth PWM signal PWM0 has a predetermined frequency and a predetermined voltage. Since the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 are simultaneously turned ON/OFF according to the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, the luminance of the first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 has a value of 0 or 1. The luminance may be measured as an electric signal by using a photo diode. The maximum and minimum values in luminance are represented as 1 and 0, respectively, for comparison.

[0166] In FIG. 22B, first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 each having a duty ratio of about 90% are supplied to a backlight unit having first to twenty-fourth LED arrays LA1 to LA24 according to another embodiment of the present invention. As a result, the first, ninth and seventeenth LED arrays LA1, LA9 and LA17 (of FIG. 18A) of the first group GR1 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the second, tenth and eighteenth LED arrays LA2, LA10 and LA18 (of FIG. 18A) of the second group GR2 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the second PWM signal PWM2. Similarly, the third, eleventh and nineteenth LED arrays LA3, LA11 and LA19 (of FIG. 18A) of the third group GR3 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the third PWM signal PWM3, and the fourth, twelfth and twentieth LED arrays LA4, LA12 and LA20 (of FIG. 18A) of the fourth group GR4 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the fourth PWM signal PWM4. Further, the fifth, thirteenth and twenty-first LED arrays LA5, LA13 and LA21 (of FIG. 18A) of the fifth group GR5 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the fifth PWM signal PWM5, and the sixth, fourteenth and twenty-second LED arrays LA6, LA14 and LA22 (of FIG. 18A) of the sixth group GR6 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the sixth PWM signal PWM6, the seventh, fifteenth and twenty-third LED arrays LA7, LA15 and LA23 (of FIG. 18A) of the seventh group GR7 (of FIG. 18A) are turned ON/OFF according to the seventh PWM signal PWM7, and the eighth, sixteenth and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA8, LA16 and LA24 of the eighth group GR8 are turned ON/OFF according to the eighth PWM signal PWM8.

[0167] The first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 have the same frequency, the same voltage and the same duty ratio as the zeroth PWM signal PWM0 (of FIG. 21A). In addition, neighboring two of the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 have a phase dif-

ference of about 45° with each another. As a result, the second PWM signal PWM2 has a phase delayed by about 45° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the third PWM signal PWM3 has a phase delayed by about 90° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1. Further, the fourth PWM signal PWM4 has a phase delayed by about 135° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, the fifth PWM signal PWM5 has a phase delayed by about 180° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, the sixth PWM signal PWM6 has a phase delayed by about 225° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, the seventh PWM signal PWM7 has a phase delayed by about 270° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1, and the eighth PWM signal PWM8 has a phase delayed by about 315° with respect to the first PWM signal PWM1. Accordingly, the first group GR1 including the first, ninth and seventeenth LED arrays LA1, LA9 and LA17, the second group GR2 including the second, tenth and eighteenth LED arrays LA2, LA10 and LA18, the third group GR3 including the third, eleventh and nineteenth LED arrays LA3, LA11 and LA19, the fourth group GR4 including the fourth, twelfth and twentieth LED arrays LA4, LA12 and LA20, the fifth group GR5 including the fifth, thirteenth and twenty-first LED arrays LA5, LA13 and LA21, the sixth group GR6 including the sixth, fourteenth and twenty-second LED arrays LA6, LA 14 and LA22, the seventh group GR7 including the seventh, fifteenth and twenty-third LED arrays LA7, LA15 and LA23, and the eighth group GR8 including the eighth, sixteenth and twenty-fourth LED arrays LA8, LA16 and LA24 are alternately turned ON/OFF.

[0168] In the instant of emitting light, since the number (i.e., 3) of emitting LED arrays of the backlight unit of FIG. 21B by one of the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 is one eighth of the number (i.e., 24) of emitting LED arrays of the comparison backlight unit of FIG. 21A by the zeroth PWM signal PWM0, the instant luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 21B by one of the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 is substantially one eighth of the luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 21A. During a predetermined time period, however, since the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 21B by the first to eighth PWM signals PWM1 to PWM8 is substantially eight times of the number of emission times of the backlight unit of FIG. 21A, the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 21B is substantially the same as the total luminance of the backlight unit of FIG. 21A. In FIGs. 21A and 21B, the total luminance may be calculated from the sum of areas corresponding to protruding rectangles of the luminance graph.

[0169] In a backlight unit of FIG. 18A, a plurality of LED arrays are classified into eight groups driven by eight PWM signals having phase differences shown in FIGs. 19B, 20B, 21B and 22B. As a result, deterioration such as a wavy noise due to the variation in the OFF current of each TFT of the liquid crystal display panel is improved without reduction in total luminance.

[0170] In an LCD device according to an embodiment

of the present invention, a plurality of LED arrays of a backlight unit are classified into at least two groups and are driven by at least two PWM signals having different phases. Accordingly, the number of LED arrays turned ON at a time and an instant luminance of the backlight unit are reduced without reduction in a total luminance. As a result, deterioration of the LCD device such as a wavy noise due to variation in an OFF current of TFT in a liquid crystal display panel is improved.

[0171] As shown in FIGs. 6B, 10B, 15B and 20B, specifically, when the plurality of LED arrays of the backlight unit are classified into first to n-th groups, the at least two PWM signals include first to n-th PWM signals having a phase difference of about 360°/n and applied to the first to n-th groups, respectively, and the first to n-th PWM signals have a duty ratio of about 100/n%, the instant luminance of the backlight unit has a uniform value at any timing of a time period. Accordingly, the deterioration such as a wavy noise is further improved.

[0172] In addition, as shown in FIGs. 6B, 16B and 21B, when the plurality of LED arrays are classified into first to n-th groups, n is an even number, the at least two PWM signals include first to n-th PWM signals having a phase difference of about 360°/n and applied to the first to n-th groups, respectively, and the first to n-th PWM signals have a duty ratio of about 50%, the instant luminance of the backlight unit also has a uniform value, for example 0.5, at any timing of a time period. Accordingly, the deterioration such as a wavy noise is further improved. In the above-mentioned backlight unit, for example, each of the first to n-th PWM signals may correspond to an instant value of 1/n in comparison with an instant value of 1 of a backlight unit having a single PWM signal. Since a half (n/2) of the first to n-th PWM signals has a high level voltage at any timing of a time period, the instant luminance of the backlight unit is calculated from the equation, i.e., $(1/n + 1/n + \dots + 1/n) = (1/n) * (n/2) = 1/2 = 0.5$.

[0173] It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made in a liquid crystal display device including a backlight unit and a method of driving the liquid crystal display device of the present invention without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Thus, it is intended that the present invention cover the modifications and variations of this invention provided they come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

Claims

1. A liquid crystal display device, comprising:

an LED array unit including a plurality of LED arrays, the LED array unit emitting a light;
an LED driving unit supplying at least two PWM signals to the LED array unit, the at least two PWM signals having different phases from each

- other;
 a liquid crystal display panel displaying images using the light from the LED array unit;
 a gate driving unit supplying a gate signal to the liquid crystal display panel;
 a data driving unit supplying a data signal to the liquid crystal display panel in synchronization with the gate signal; and
 a timing controller generating a plurality of control signals for the LED driving unit, the gate driving unit and the data driving unit.
2. The device according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of LED arrays includes a plurality of LEDs.
 3. The device according to claim 1, wherein the at least two PWM signals have a same frequency and a same voltage as each other.
 4. The device according to claim 1, wherein each of the at least two PWM signals is applied to at least one of the plurality of LED arrays.
 5. The device according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of LED arrays are classified into first and second groups, wherein the at least two PWM signals include first and second PWM signals having a phase difference of about 180° and applied to the first and second groups, respectively, and wherein the first and second PWM signals have a duty ratio of about 1% to about 99%.
 6. The device according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of LED arrays are classified into first, second and third groups, wherein the at least two PWM signals include first, second and third PWM signals having a phase difference of about 120° and applied to the first, second and third groups, respectively, and wherein the first, second and third PWM signals have a duty ratio of about 1% to about 99%.
 7. The device according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of LED arrays are classified into first to sixth groups, wherein the at least two PWM signals include first to sixth PWM signals having a phase difference of about 60° and applied to the first to sixth groups, respectively, and wherein the first to sixth PWM signals have a duty ratio of about 1% to about 99%.
 8. The device according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of LED arrays are classified into first to eighth groups, wherein the at least two PWM signals include first to eighth PWM signals having a phase difference of about 45° and applied to the first to eighth groups, respectively, and wherein the first to eighth PWM signals have a duty ratio of about 1% to about 99%.
 9. The device according to claim 1, further comprising
 - a phase shifter generating the at least two PWM signals.
 10. The device according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of LED arrays are classified into first to n-th groups, wherein the at least two PWM signals include first to n-th PWM signals having a phase difference of about $360^\circ/n$ and applied to the first to n-th groups, respectively, and wherein the first to n-th PWM signals have a duty ratio of about $100/n\%$.
 11. The device according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of LED arrays are classified into first to n-th groups, wherein n is an even number, wherein the at least two PWM signals include first to n-th PWM signals having a phase difference of about $360^\circ/n$ and applied to the first to n-th groups, respectively, and wherein the first to n-th PWM signals have a duty ratio of about 50%.
 12. A method of driving a liquid crystal display device, comprising:
 - supplying at least two PWM signals to an LED array unit, the at least two PWM signals having different phases from each other, the LED array unit including a plurality of LED arrays classified into at least two groups, and the at least two PWM signals applied to the at least two groups, respectively;
 - emitting a light according to the at least two PWM signals; and
 - displaying images using the light.
 13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the at least two groups have a same number of the LED arrays as each other.
 14. The method according to claim 12, wherein the at least two PWM signals have a same frequency and a same voltage as each other.
 15. The method according to claim 12, wherein the at least two groups include first and second groups, wherein the at least two PWM signals include first and second PWM signals having a phase difference of about 180° and applied to the first and second groups, respectively, and wherein the first and second PWM signals have a duty ratio of about 1% to about 99%.
 16. The method according to claim 12, wherein the at least two groups include first, second and third groups, wherein the at least two PWM signals include first, second and third PWM signals having a phase difference of about 120° and applied to the first, second and third groups, respectively, and wherein the first, second and third PWM signals have

a duty ratio of about 1% to about 99%.

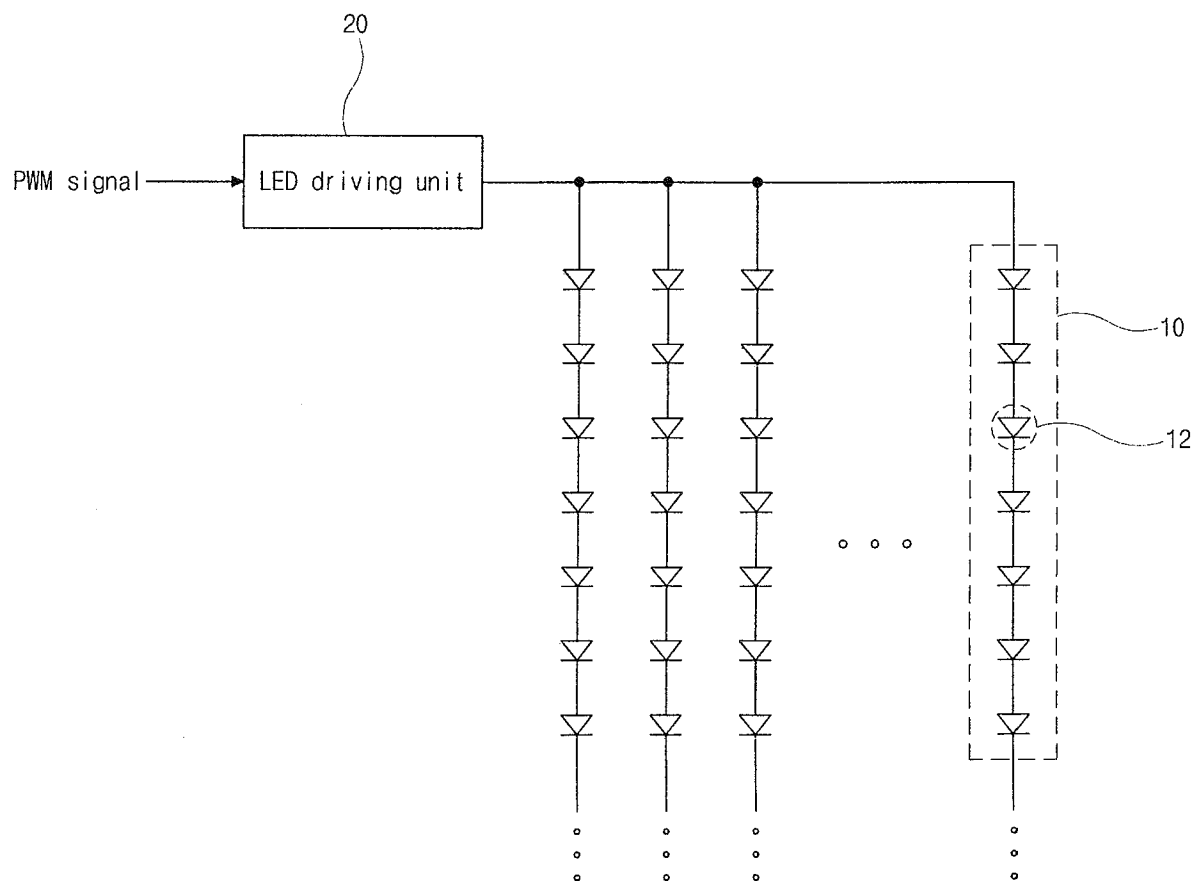
17. The method according to claim 12, wherein the at least two groups include first to sixth groups, wherein the at least two PWM signals include first to sixth PWM signals having a phase difference of about 60° and applied to the first to sixth groups, respectively, and wherein the first to sixth PWM signals have a duty ratio of about 1% to about 99%. 5 10
18. The method according to claim 12, wherein the at least two groups include first to eighth groups, wherein the at least two PWM signals include first to eighth PWM signals having a phase difference of about 45° and applied to the first to eighth groups, respectively, and wherein the first to eighth PWM signals have a duty ratio of about 1% to about 99%. 15
19. The method according to claim 12, wherein the plurality of LED arrays are classified into first to n-th groups, wherein the at least two PWM signals include first to n-th PWM signals having a phase difference of about $360^\circ/n$ and applied to the first to n-th groups, respectively, and wherein the first to n-th PWM signals have a duty ratio of about $100/n\%$. 20 25
20. The method according to claim 12, wherein the plurality of LED arrays are classified into first to n-th groups, wherein n is an even number, wherein the at least two PWM signals include first to n-th PWM signals having a phase difference of about $360^\circ/n$ and applied to the first to n-th groups, respectively, and wherein the first to n-th PWM signals have a duty ratio of about 50%. 30 35

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(related art)
FIG. 1

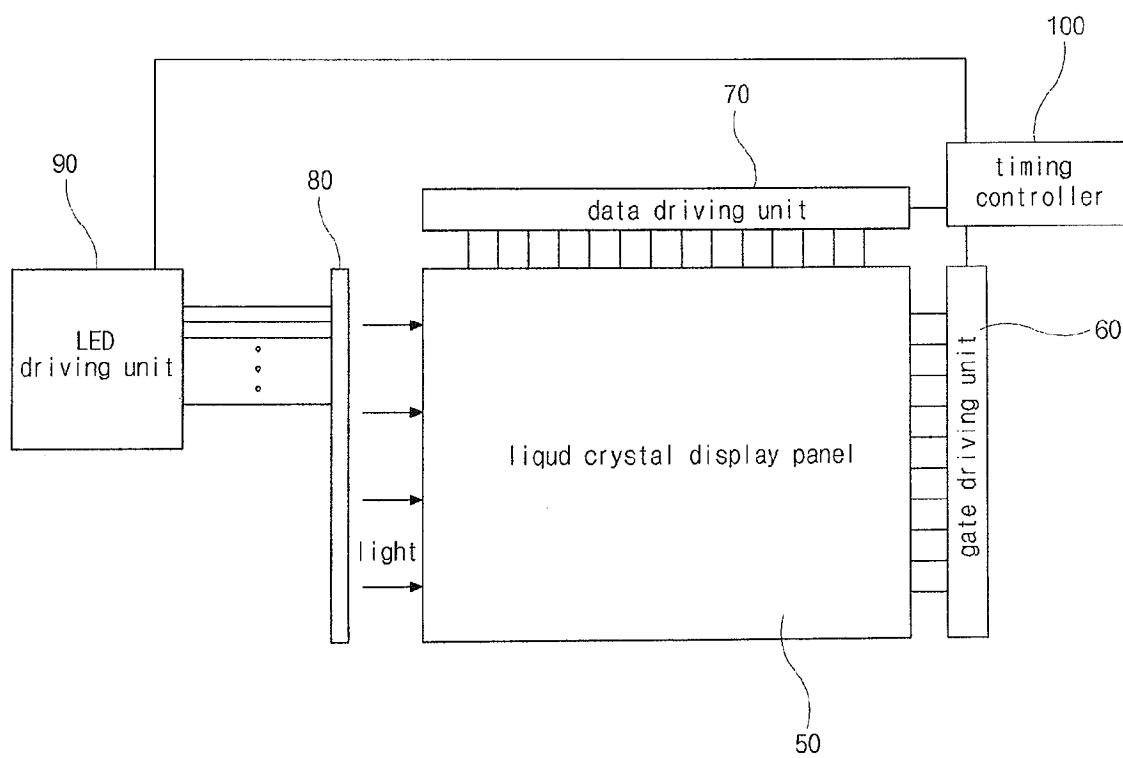


FIG. 2

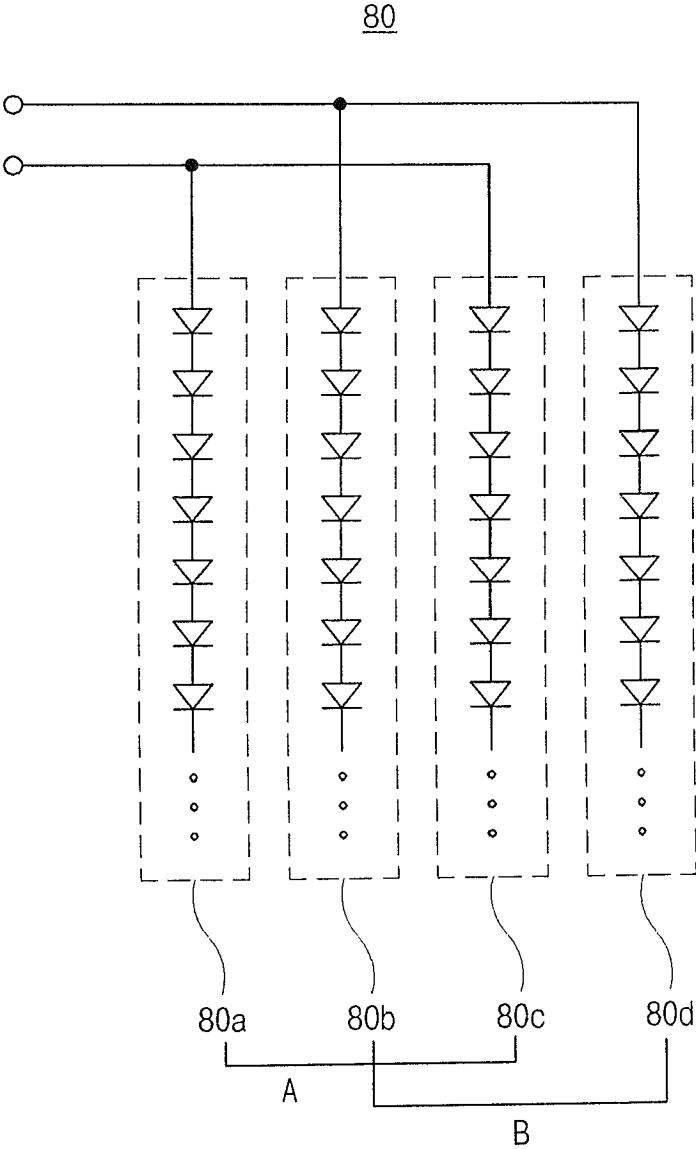


FIG.3

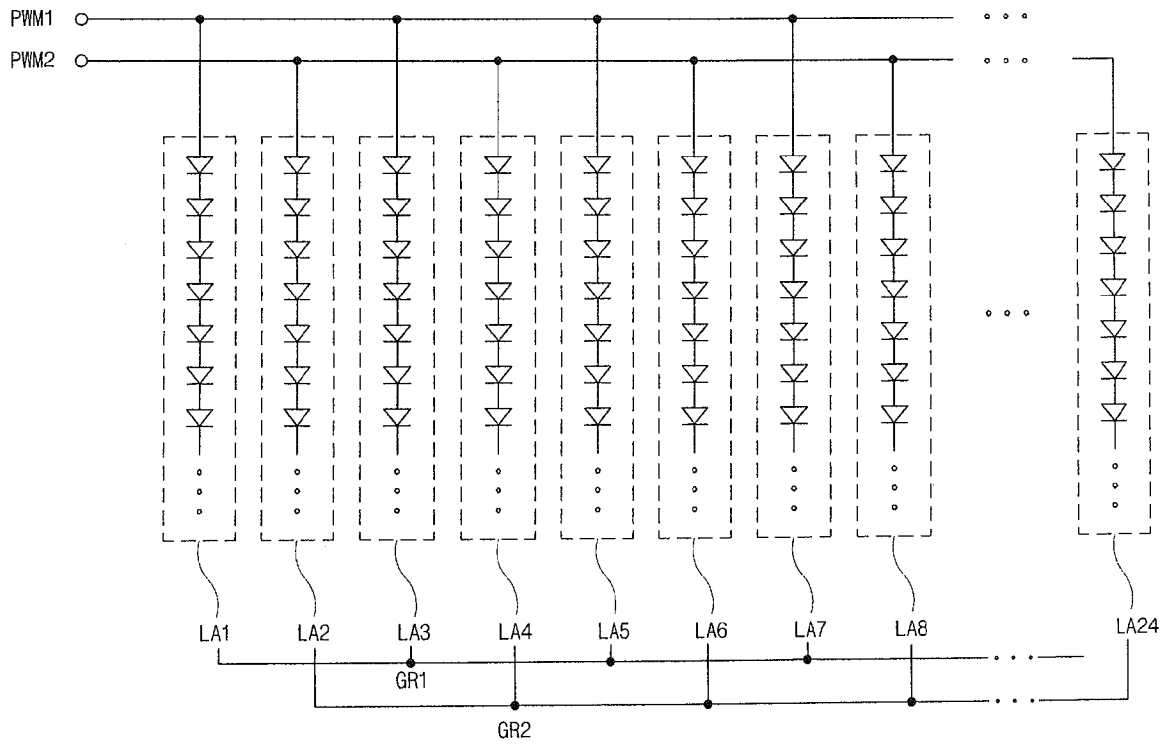


FIG. 4A

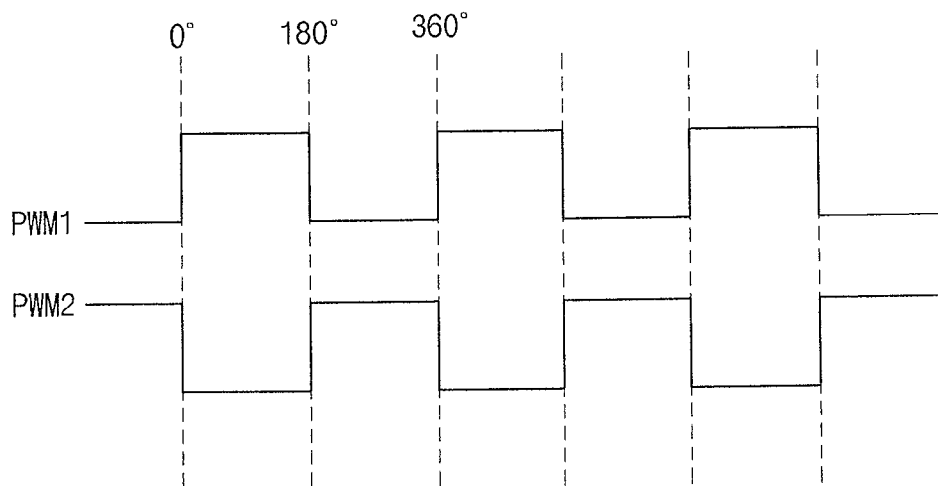


FIG. 4B

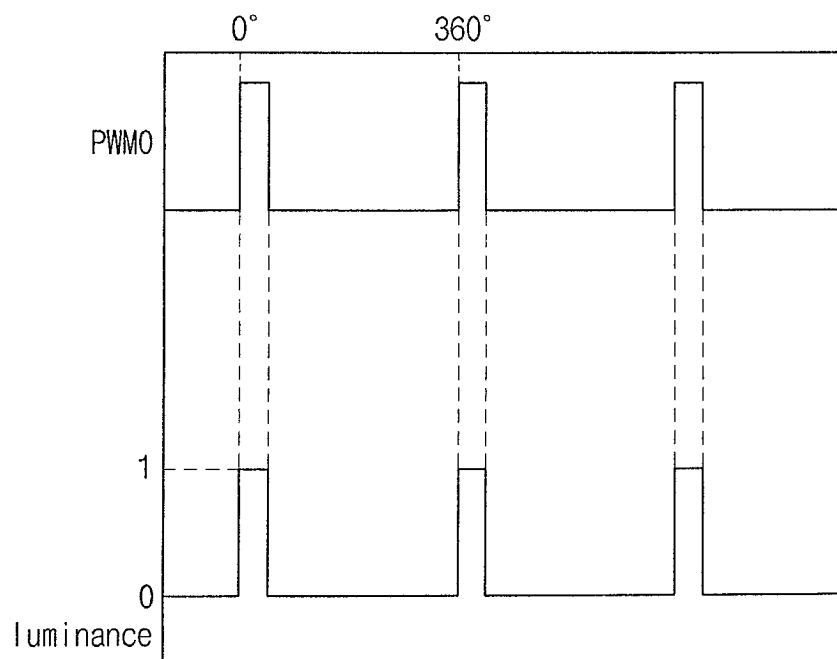


FIG. 5A

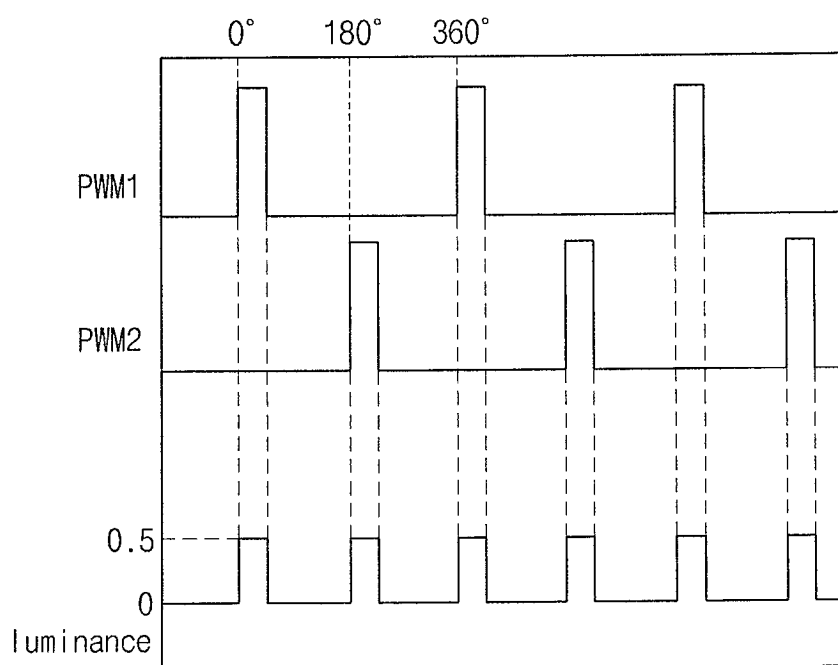


FIG. 5B

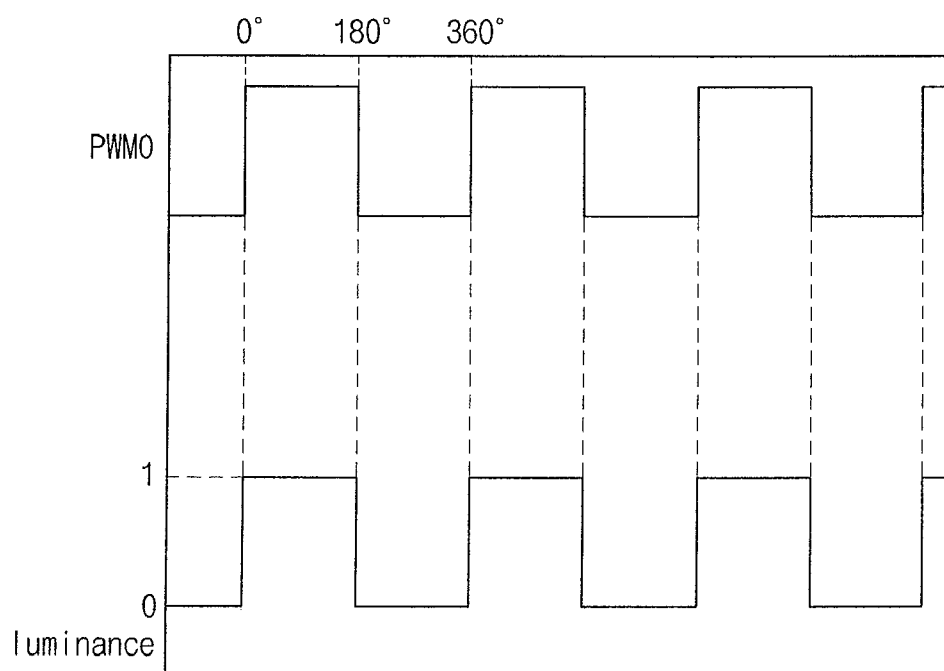


FIG. 6A

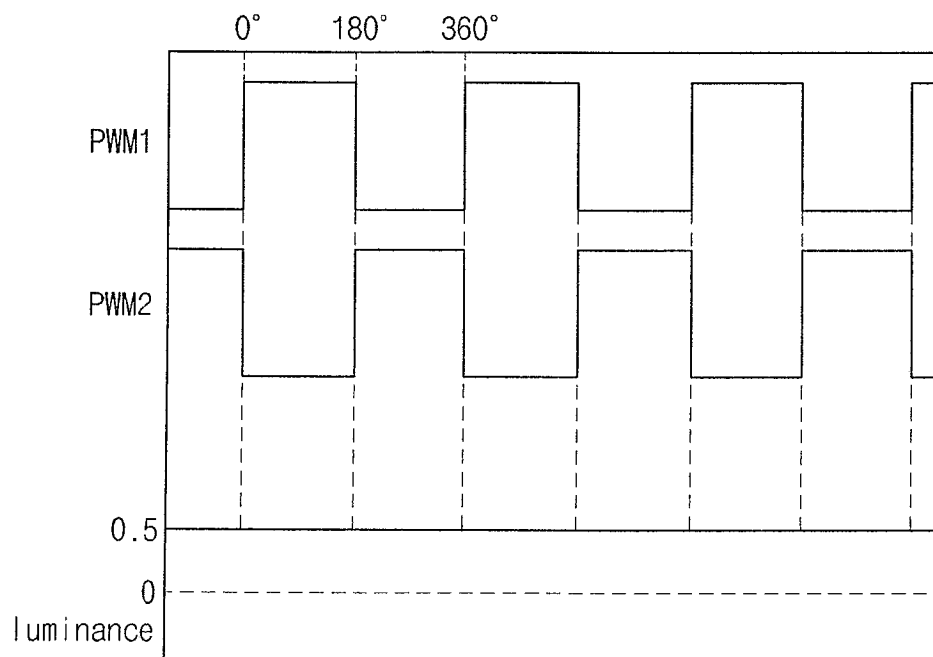


FIG. 6B

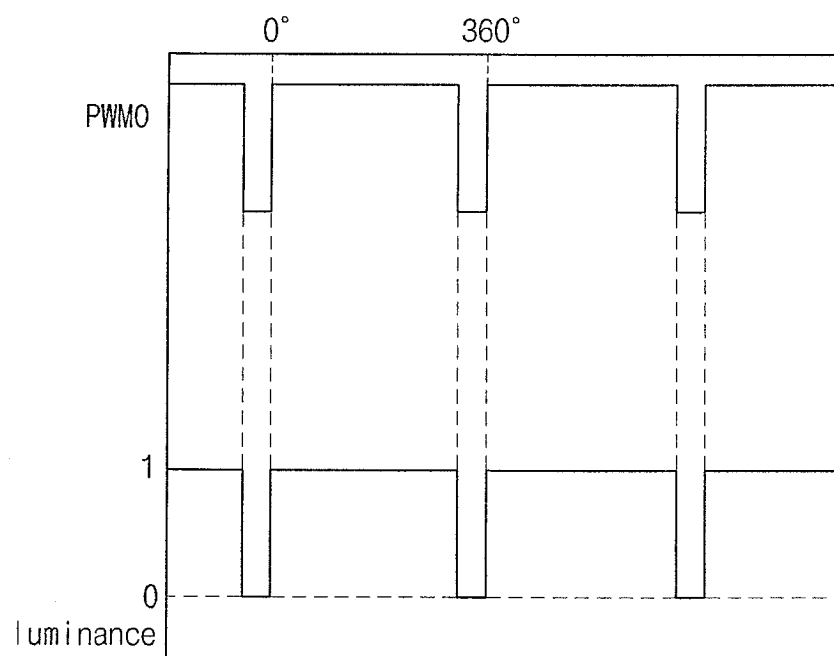


FIG. 7A

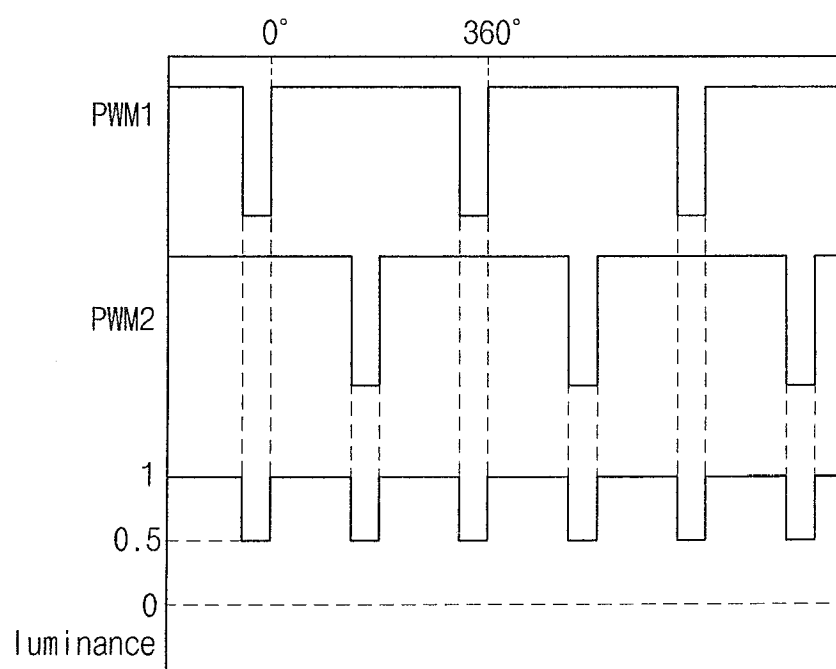


FIG. 7B

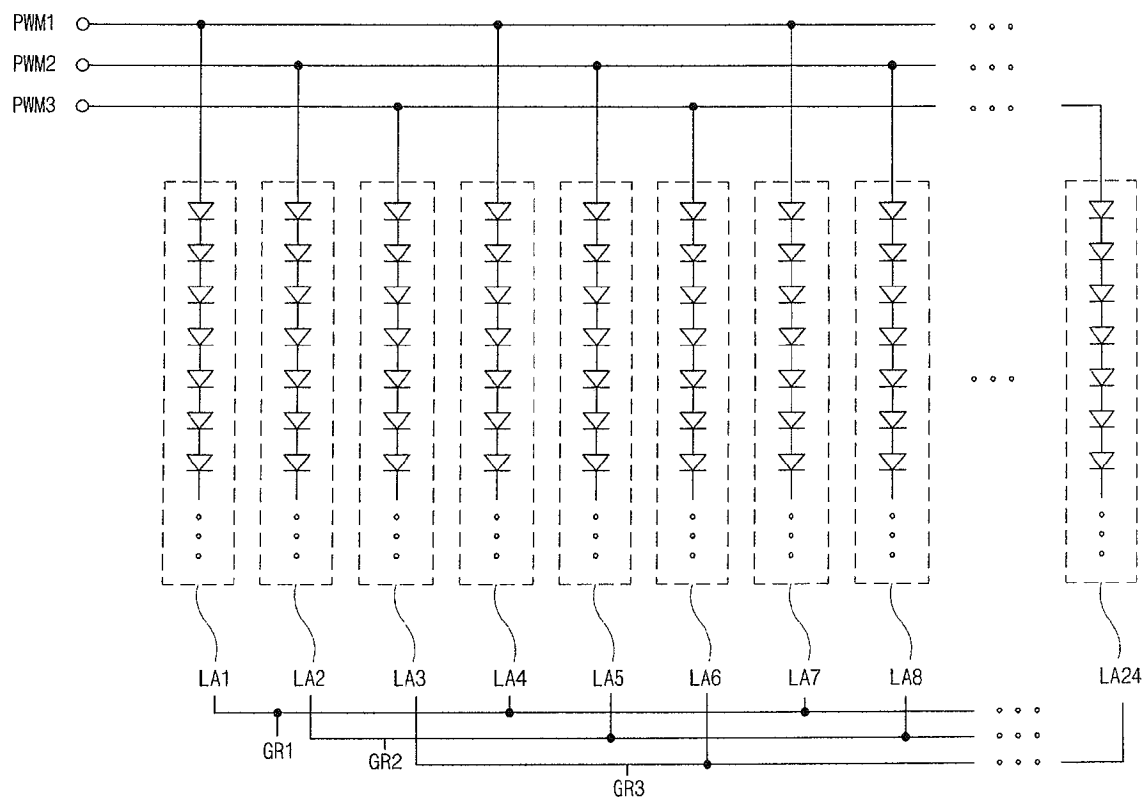


FIG. 8A

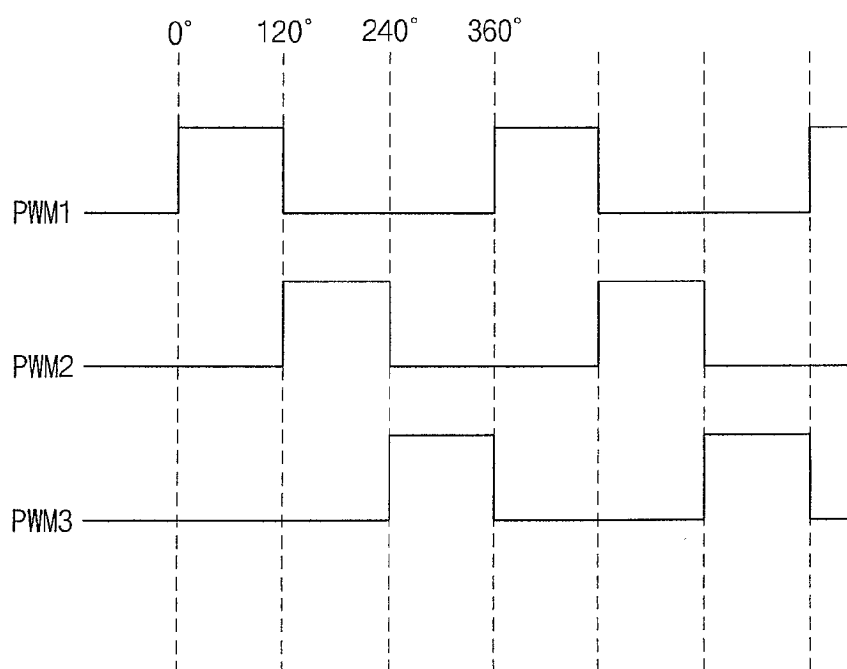


FIG. 8B

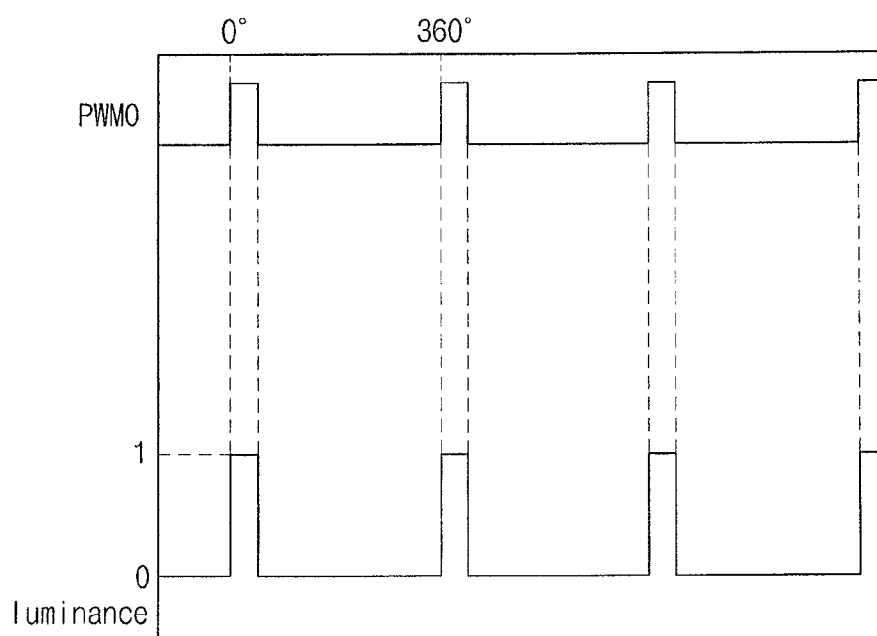


FIG. 9A

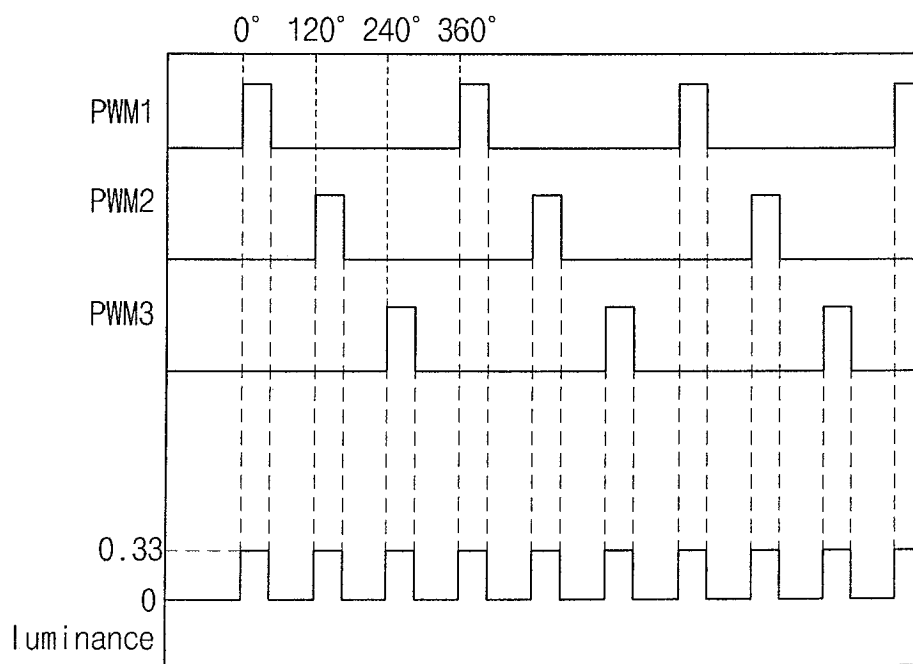


FIG. 9B

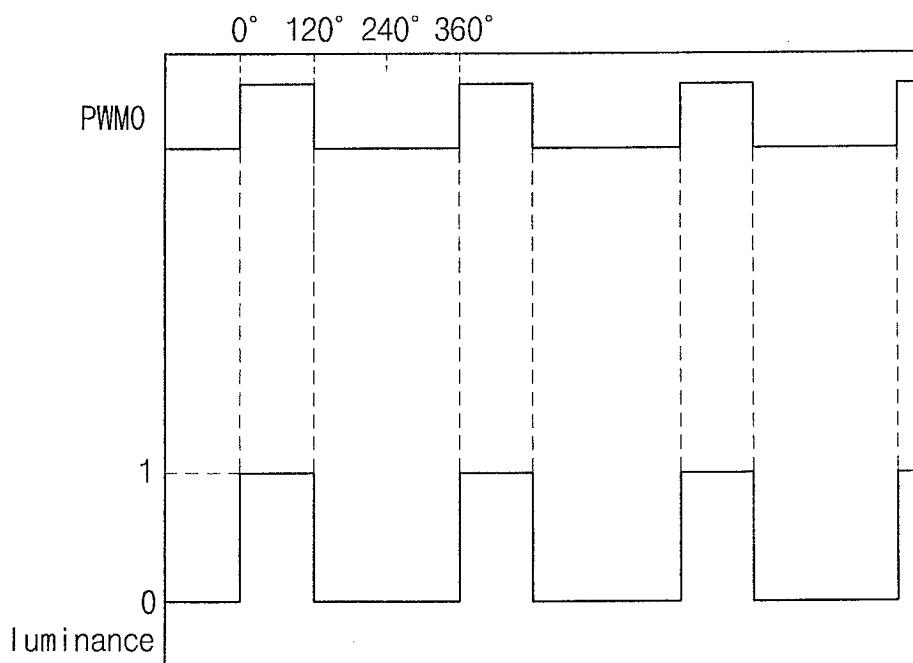


FIG. 10A

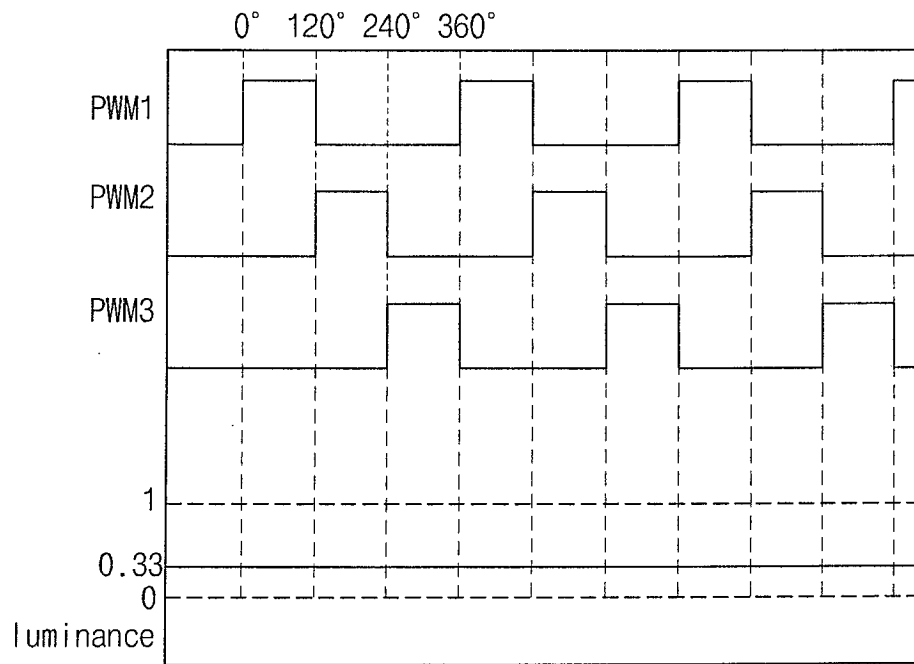


FIG. 10B

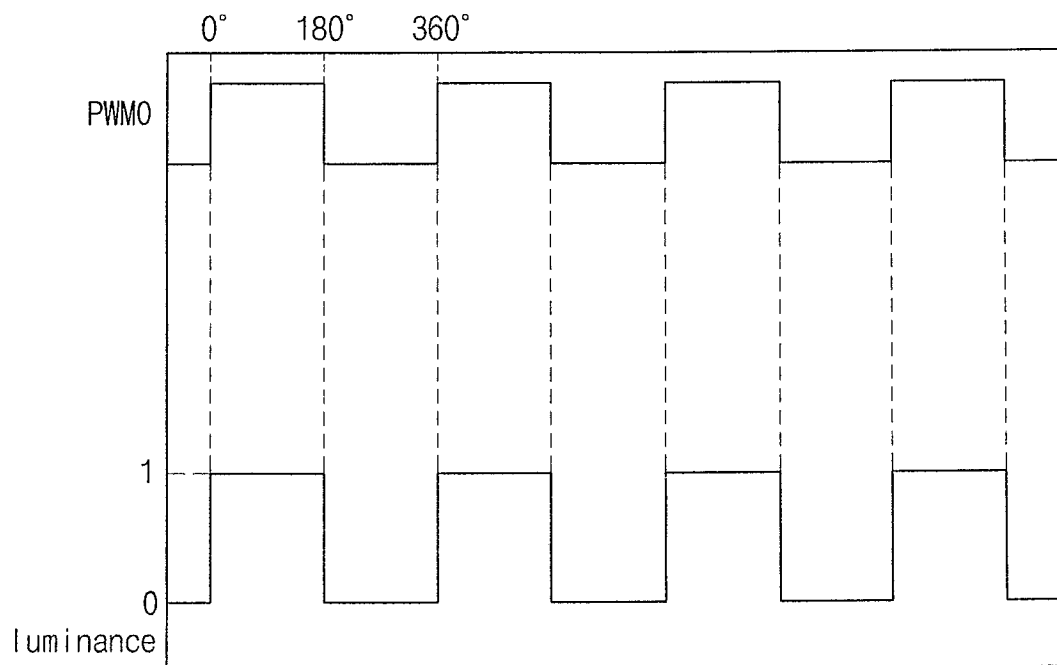


FIG. 11A

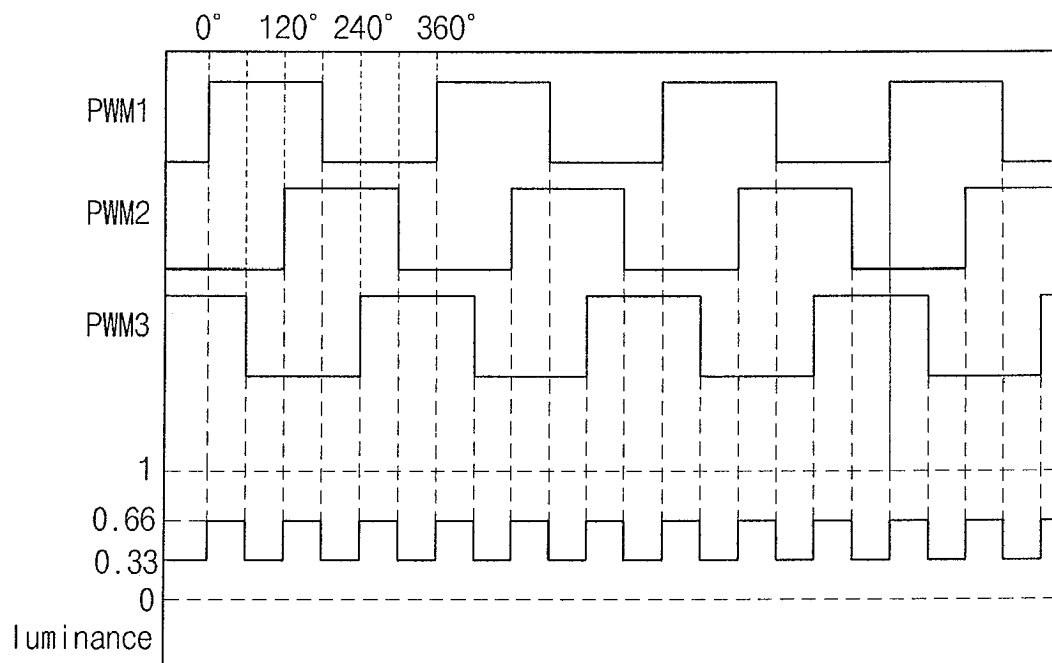


FIG. 11B

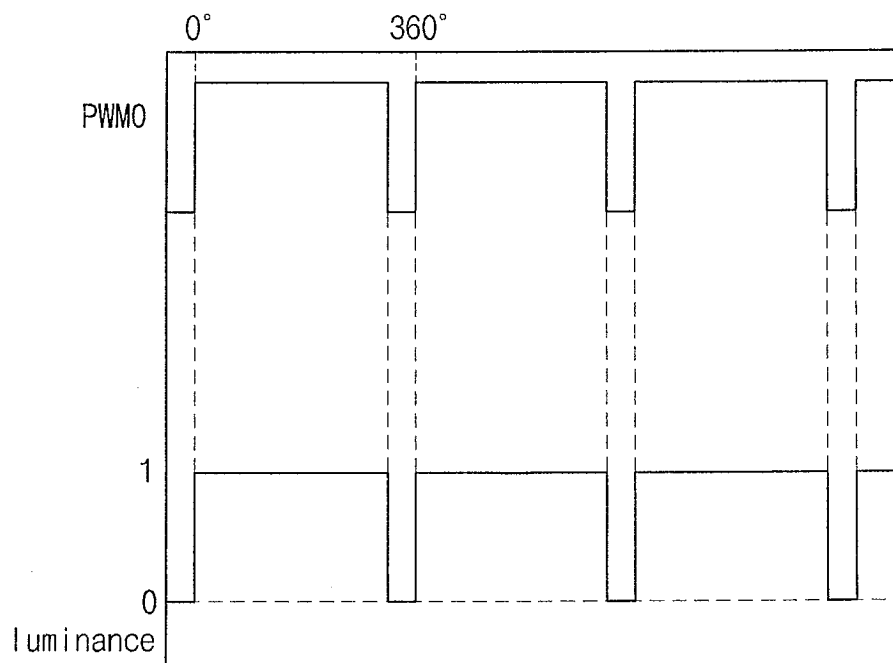


FIG. 12A

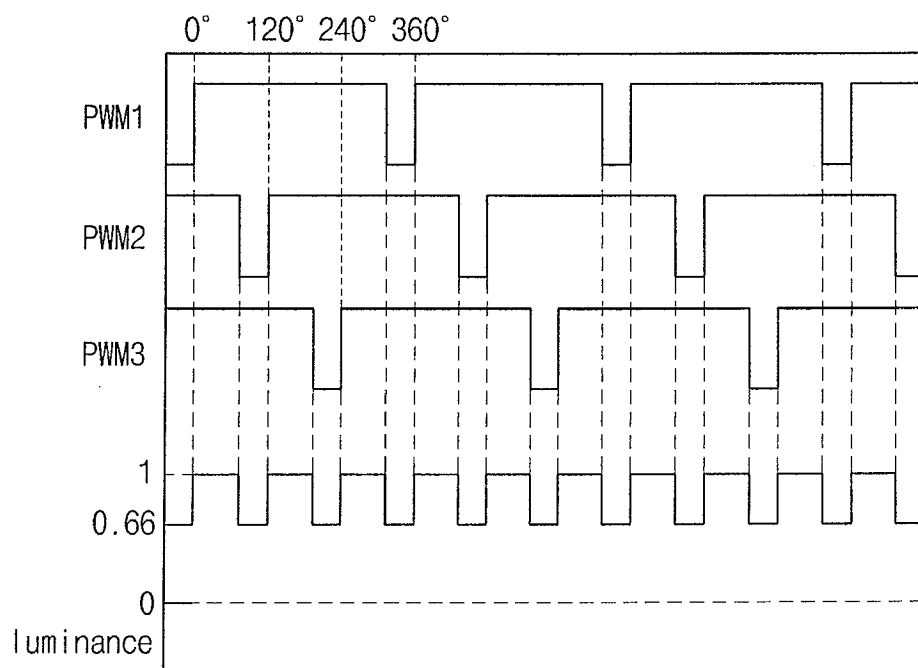


FIG. 12B

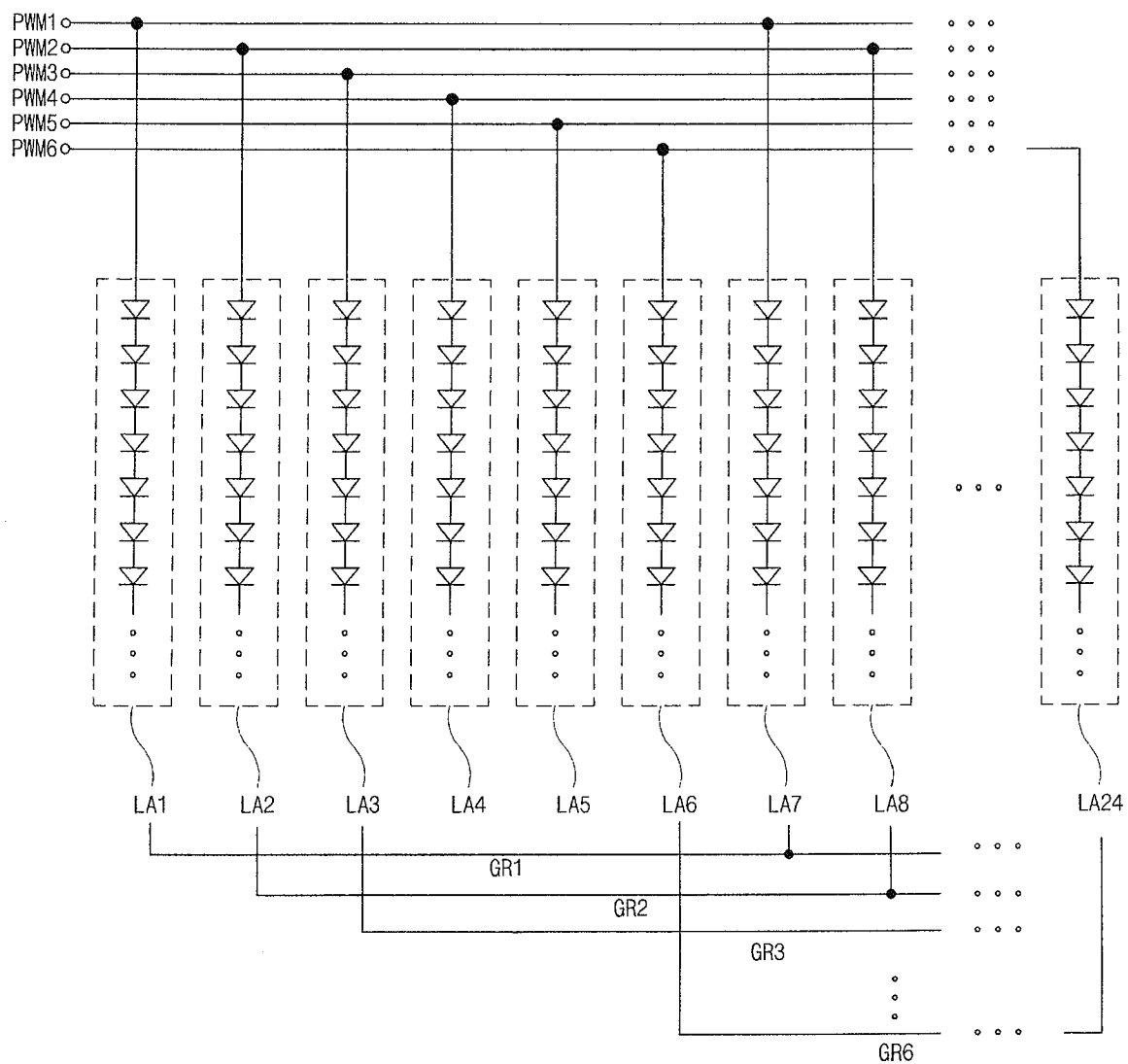


FIG. 13A

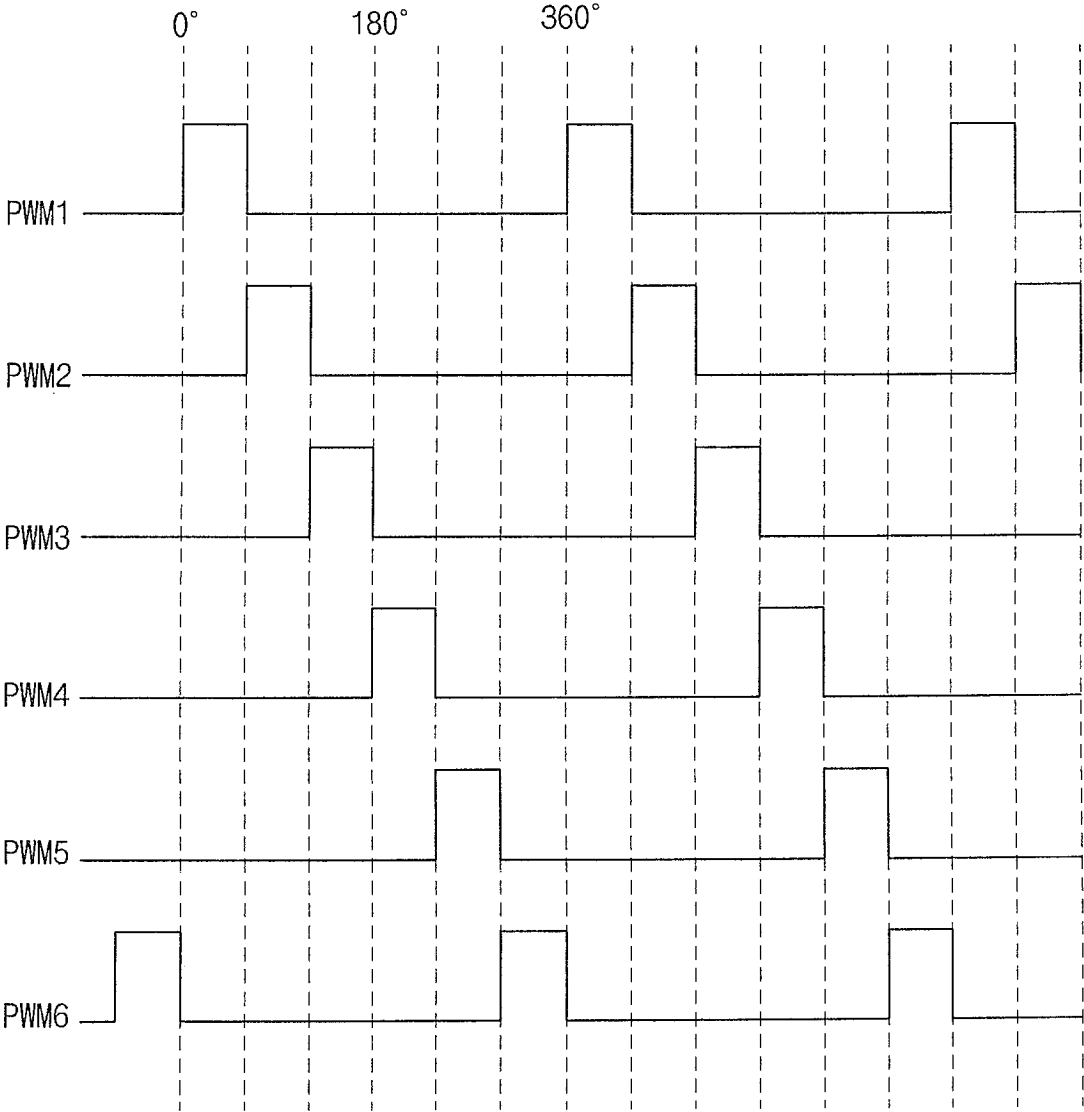


FIG. 13B

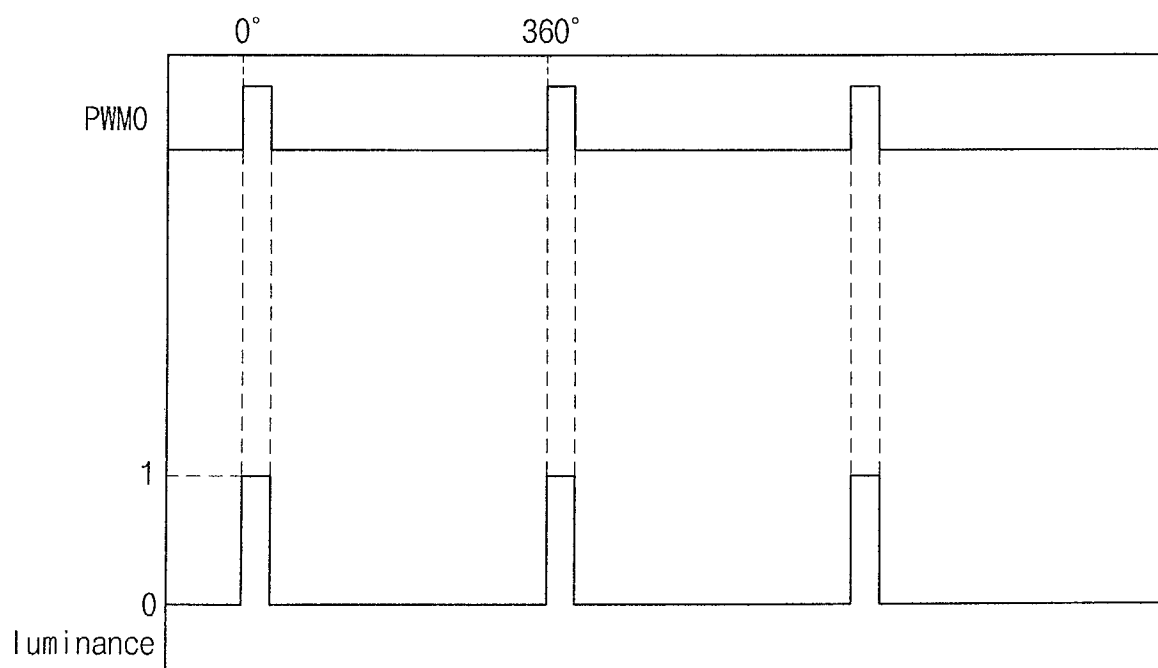


FIG. 14A

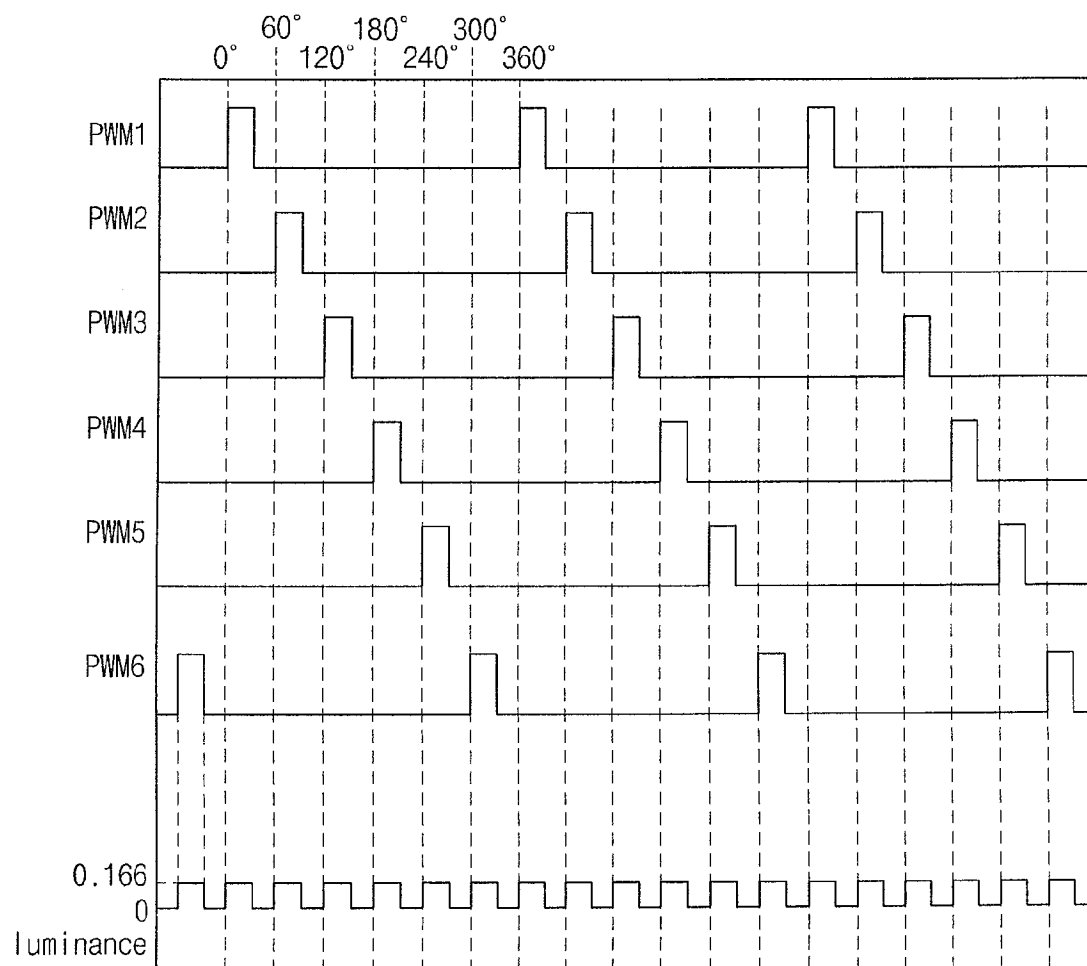


FIG. 14B

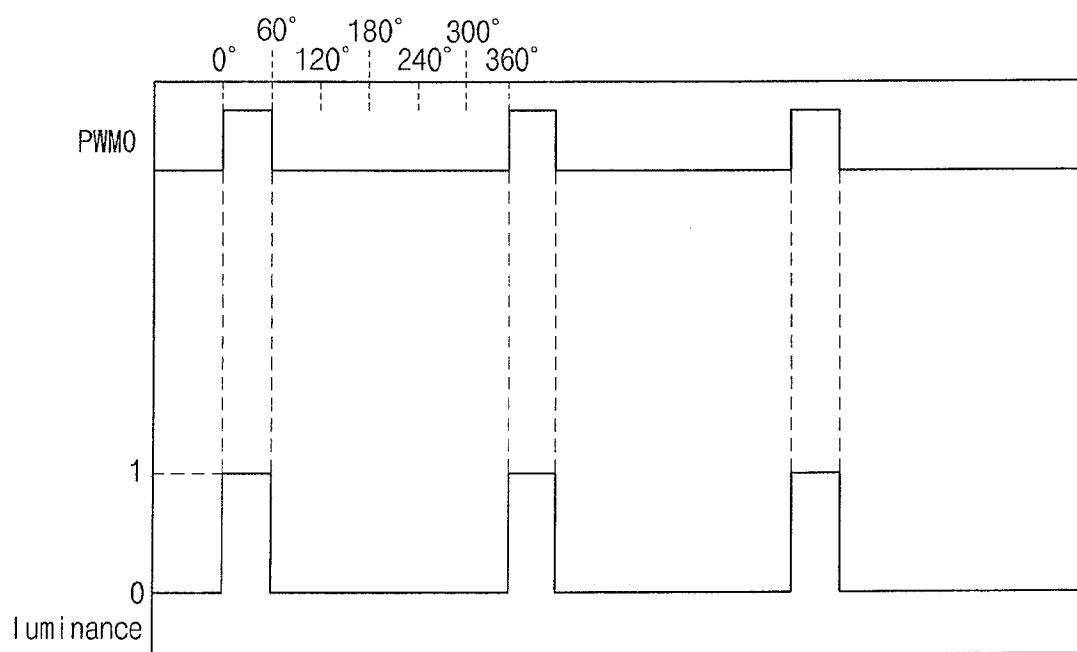


FIG. 15A

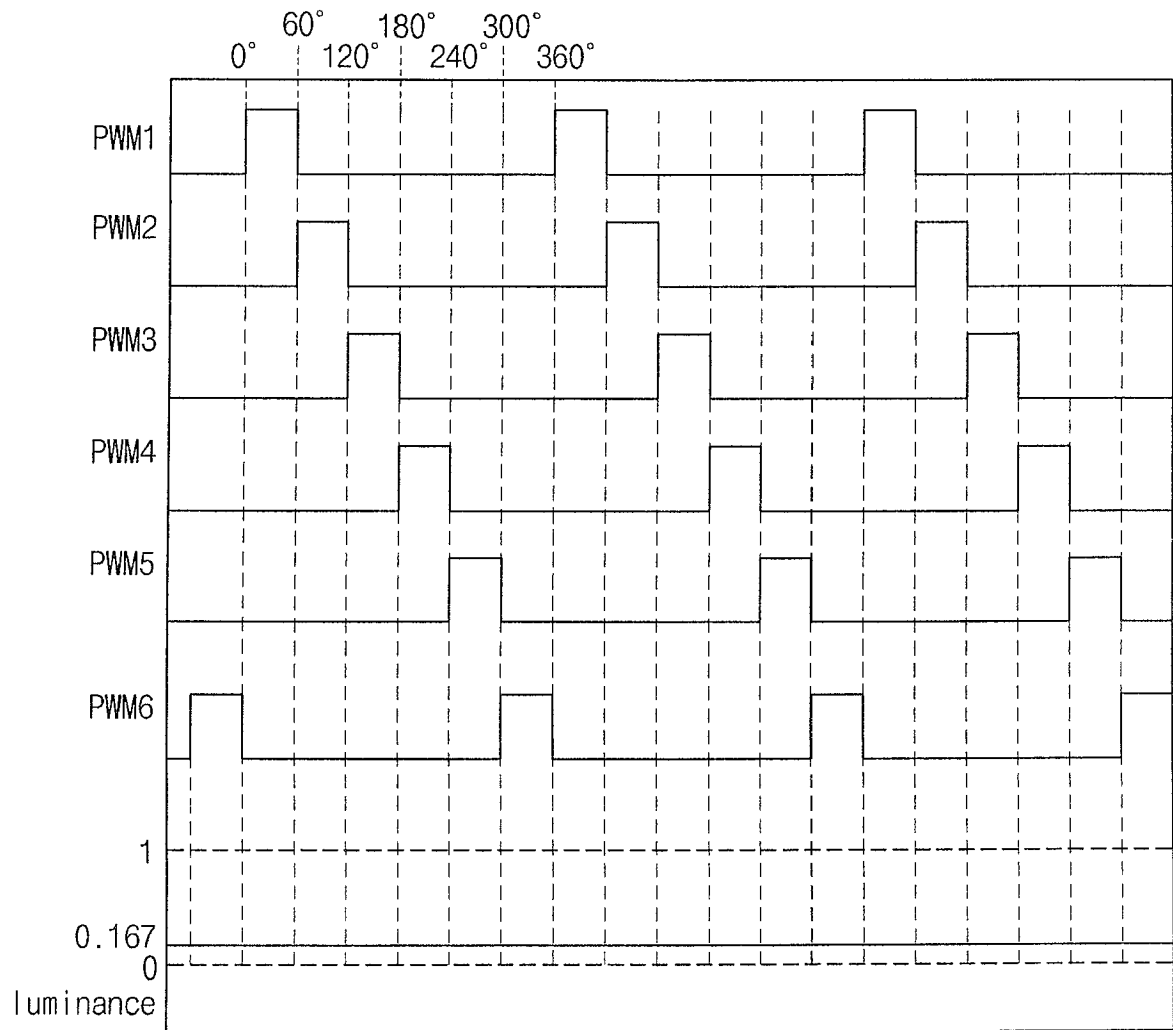


FIG. 15B

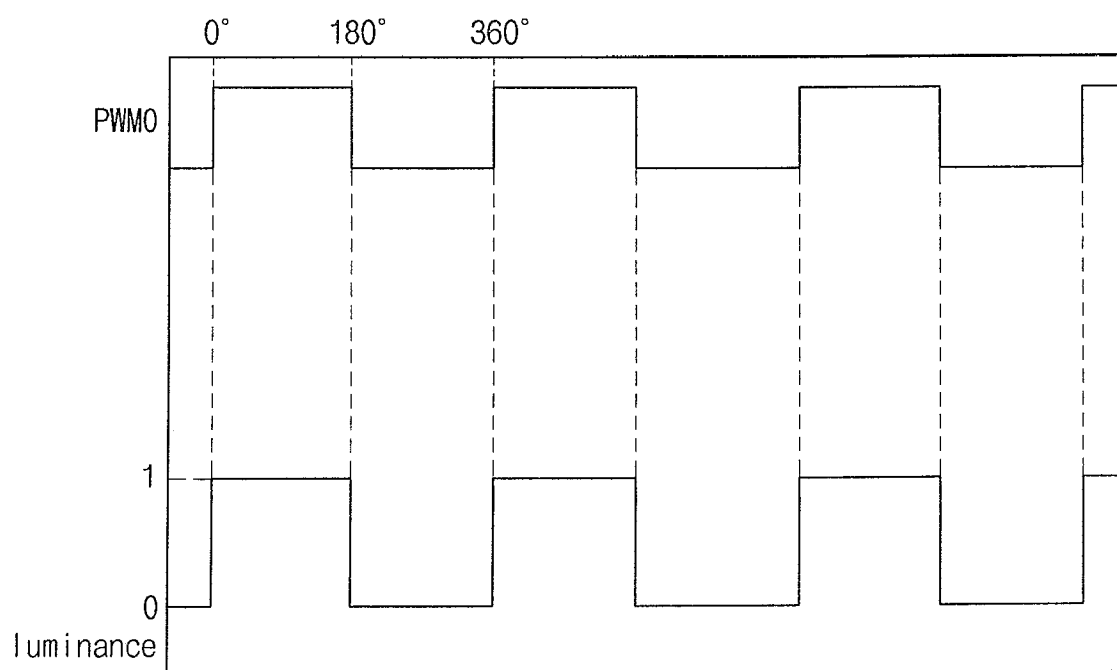


FIG. 16A

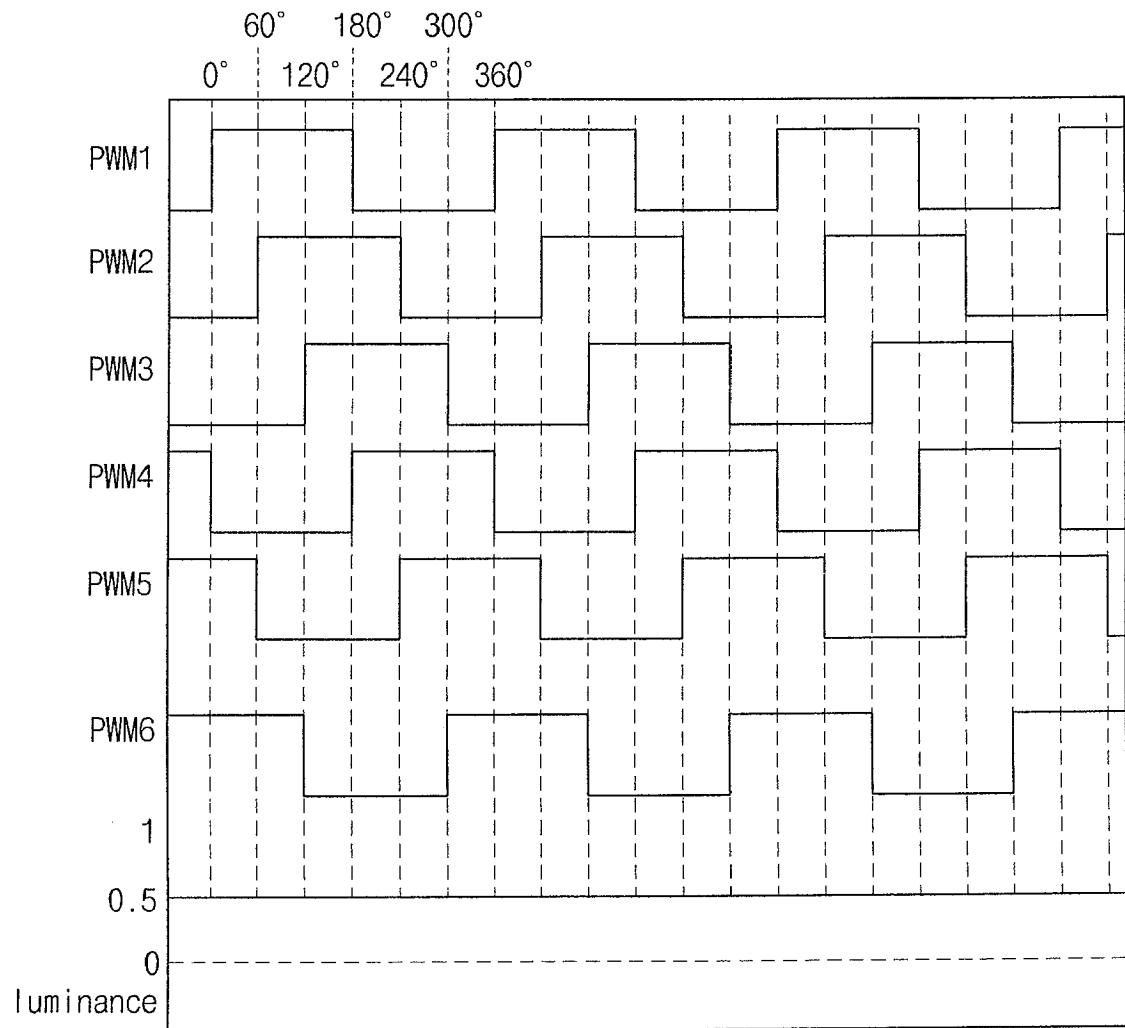


FIG. 16B

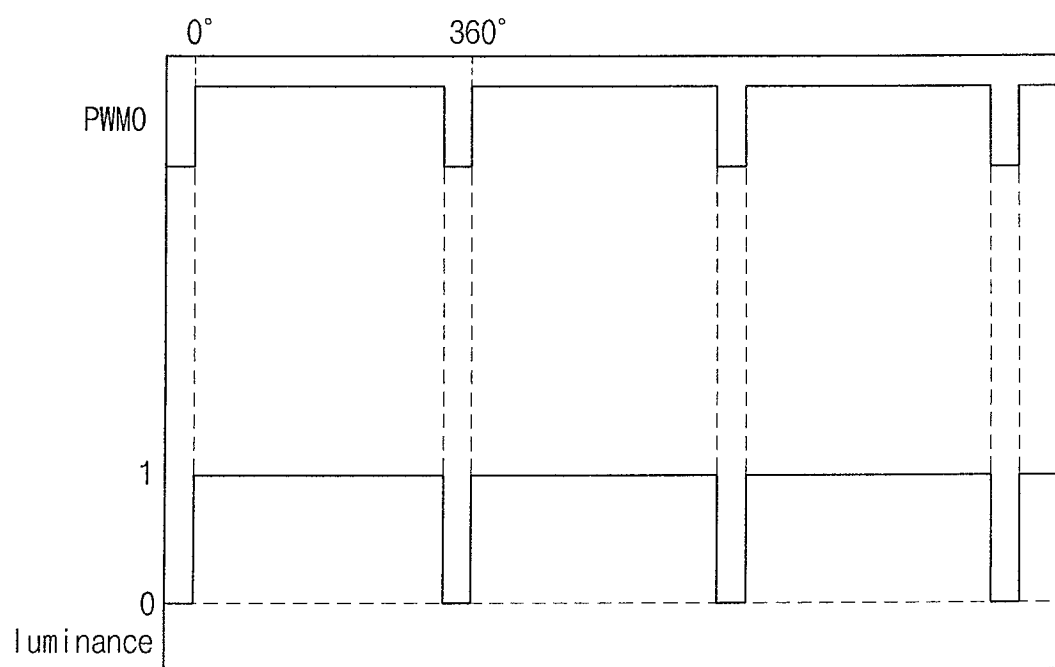


FIG. 17A

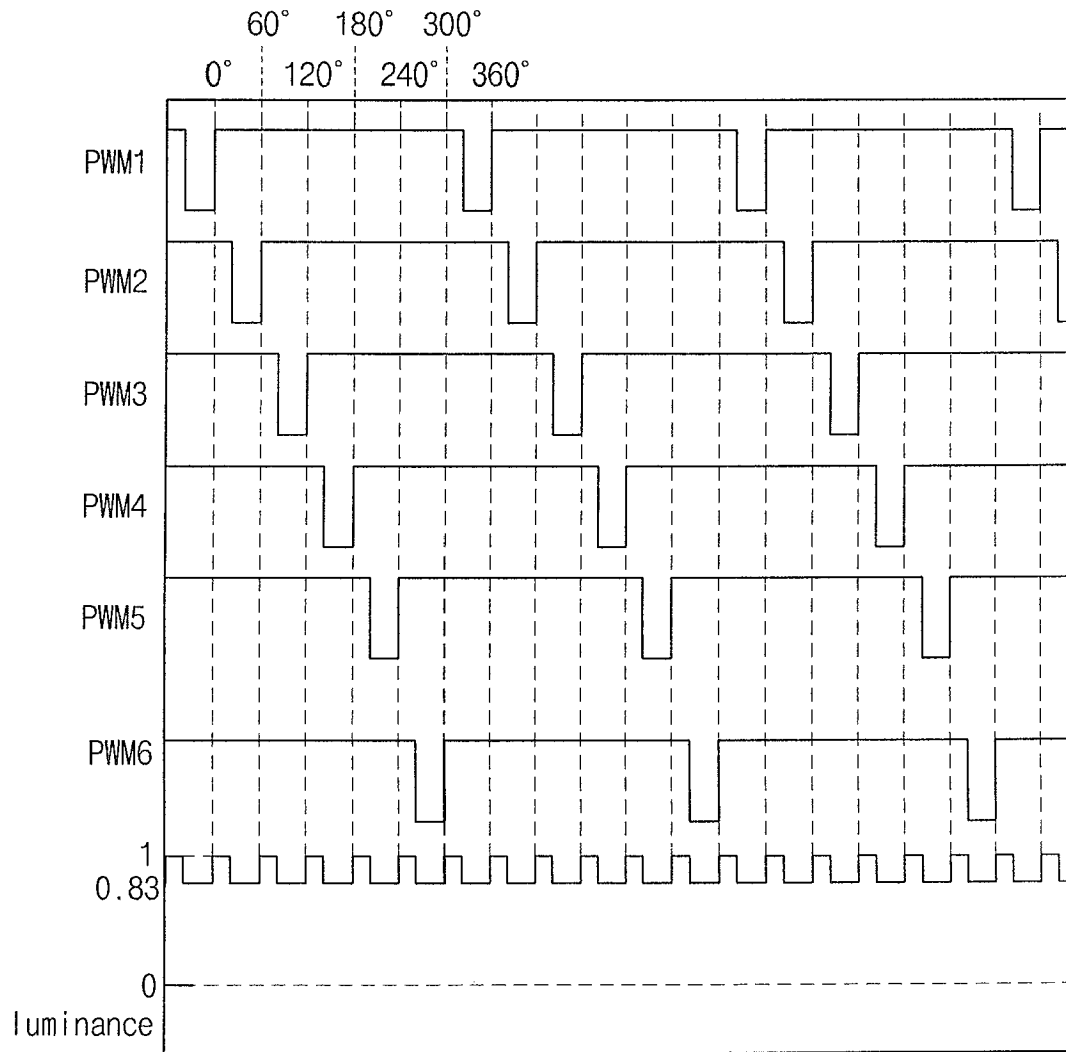


FIG. 17B

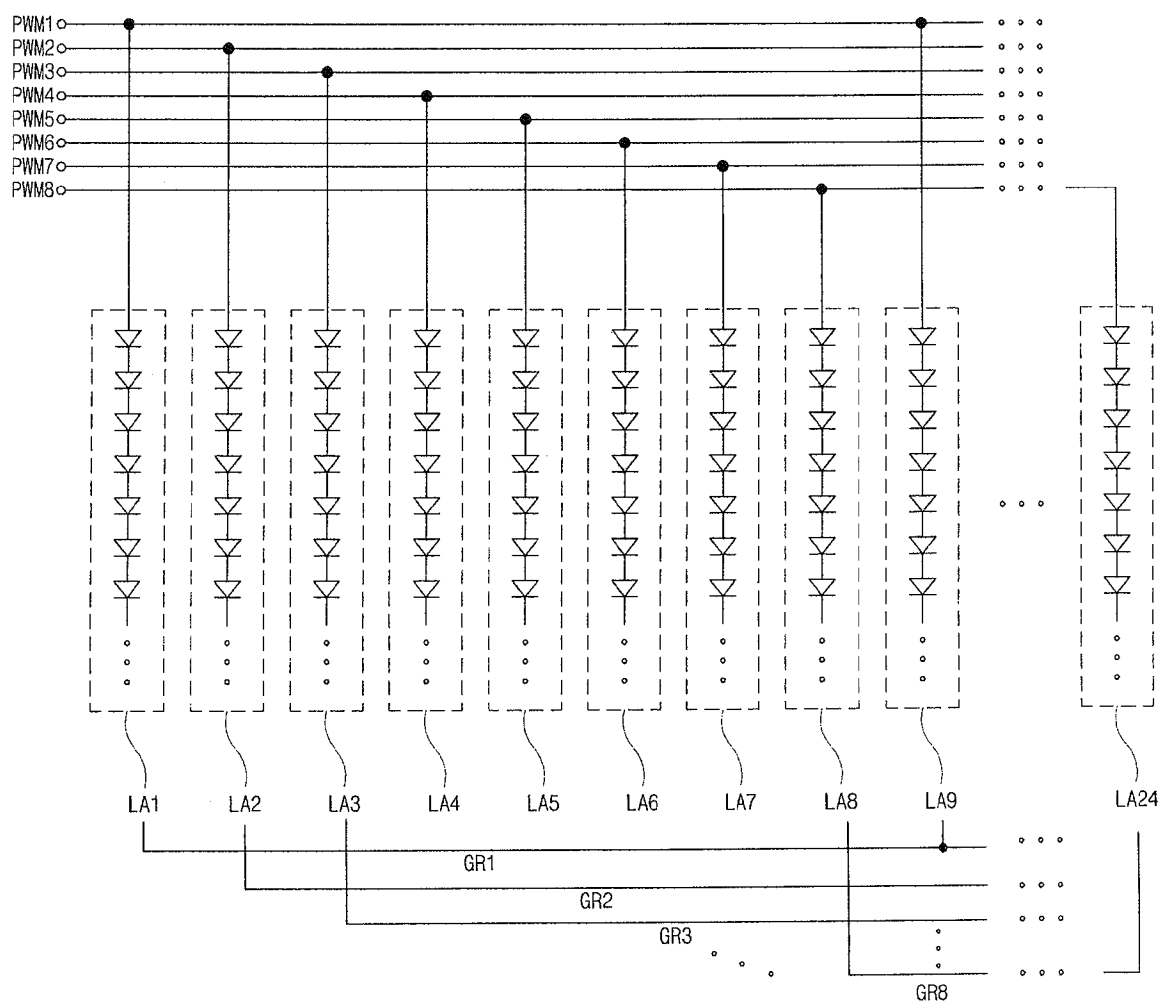


FIG. 18A

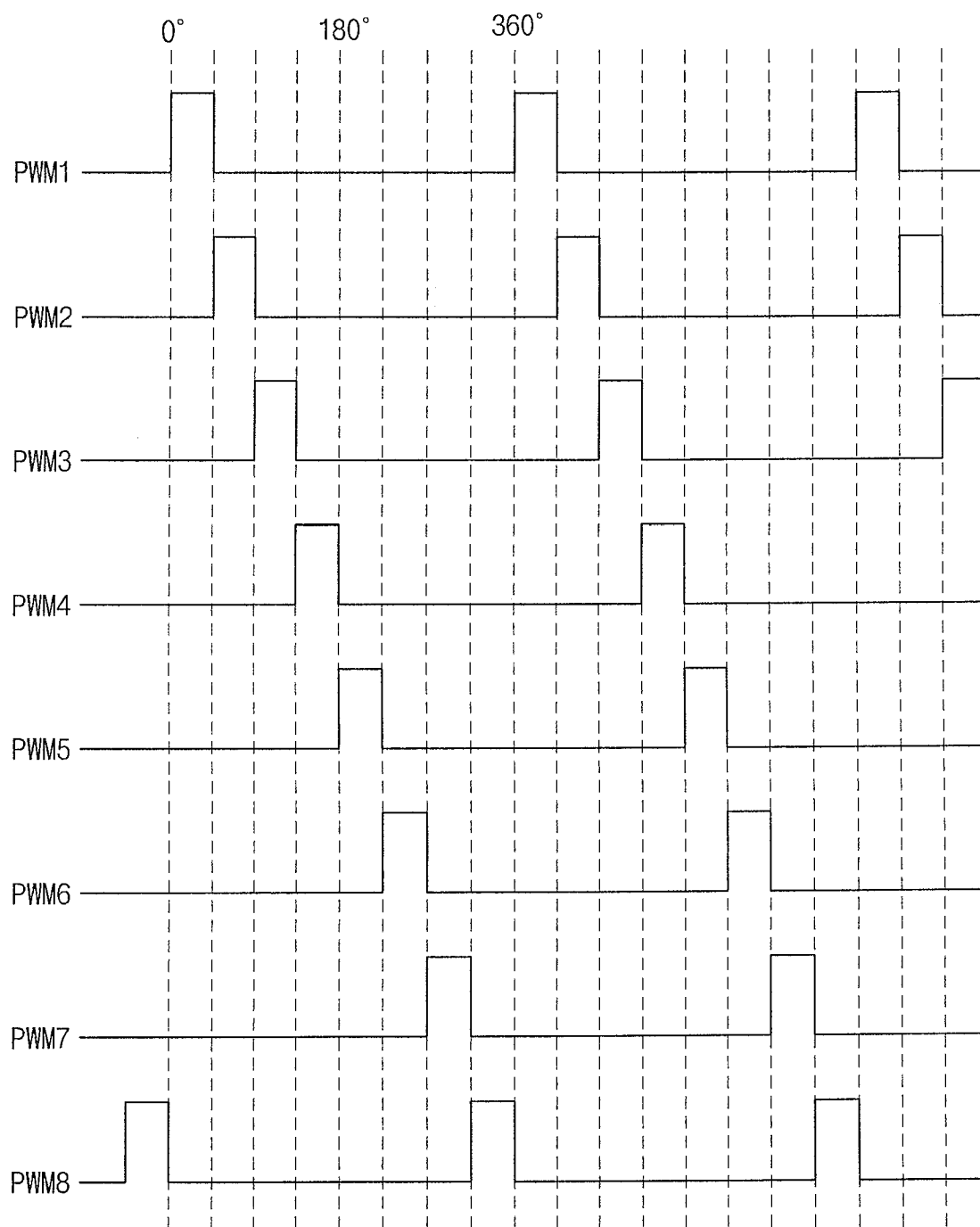


FIG. 18B

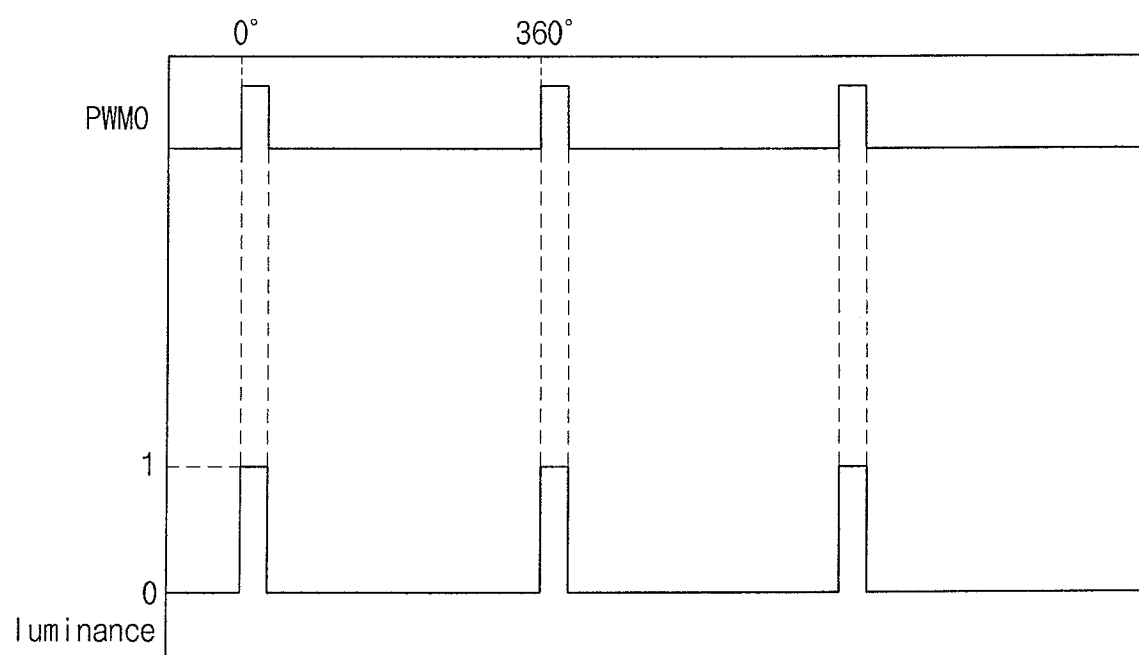


FIG. 19A

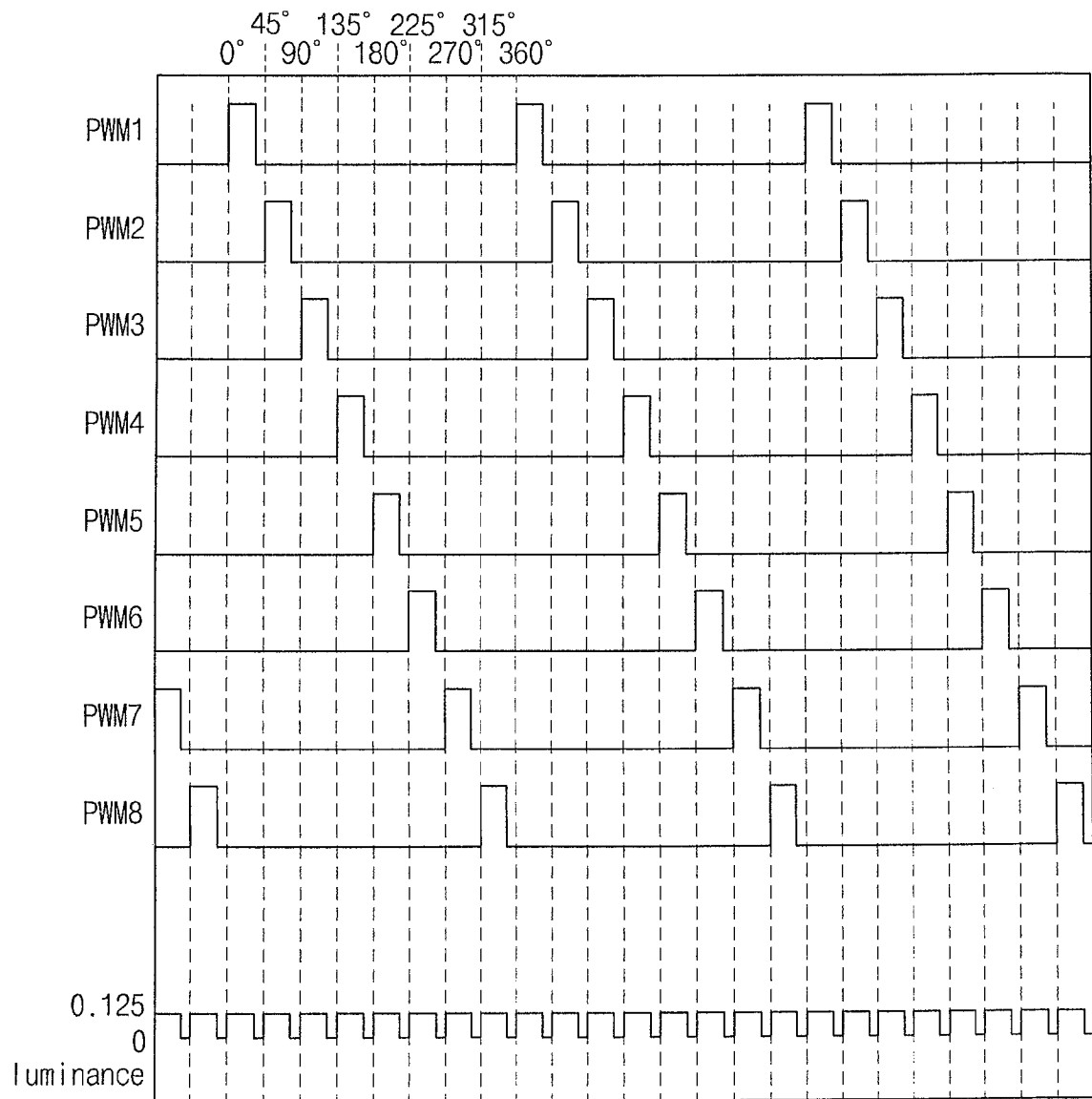


FIG. 19B

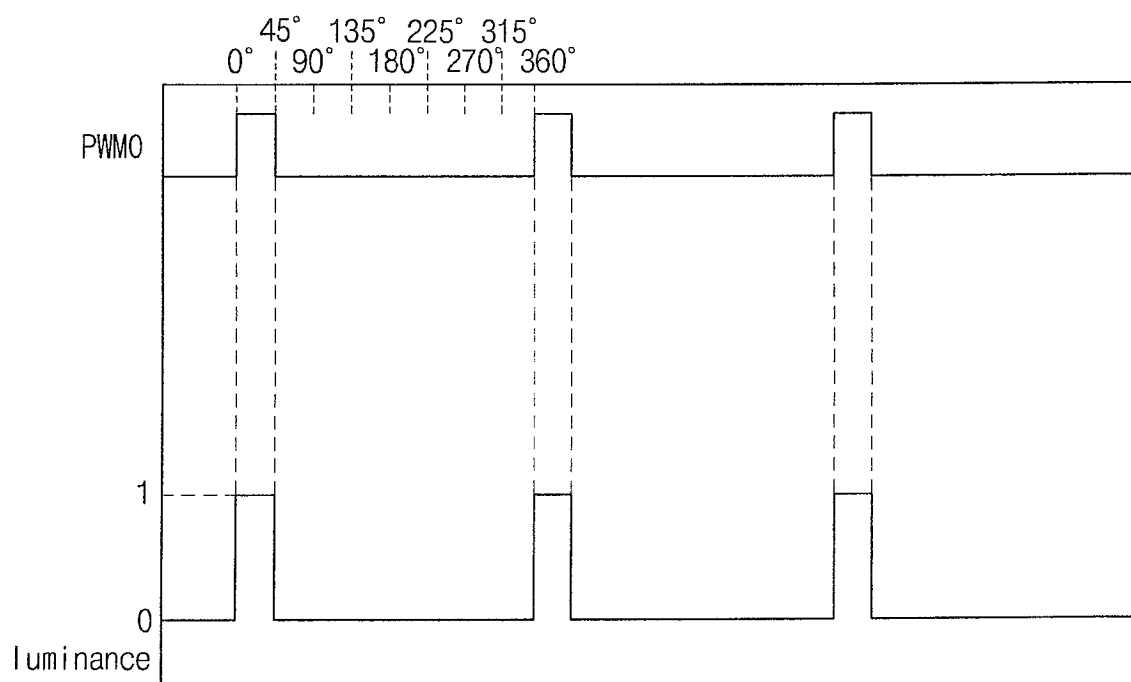


FIG. 20A

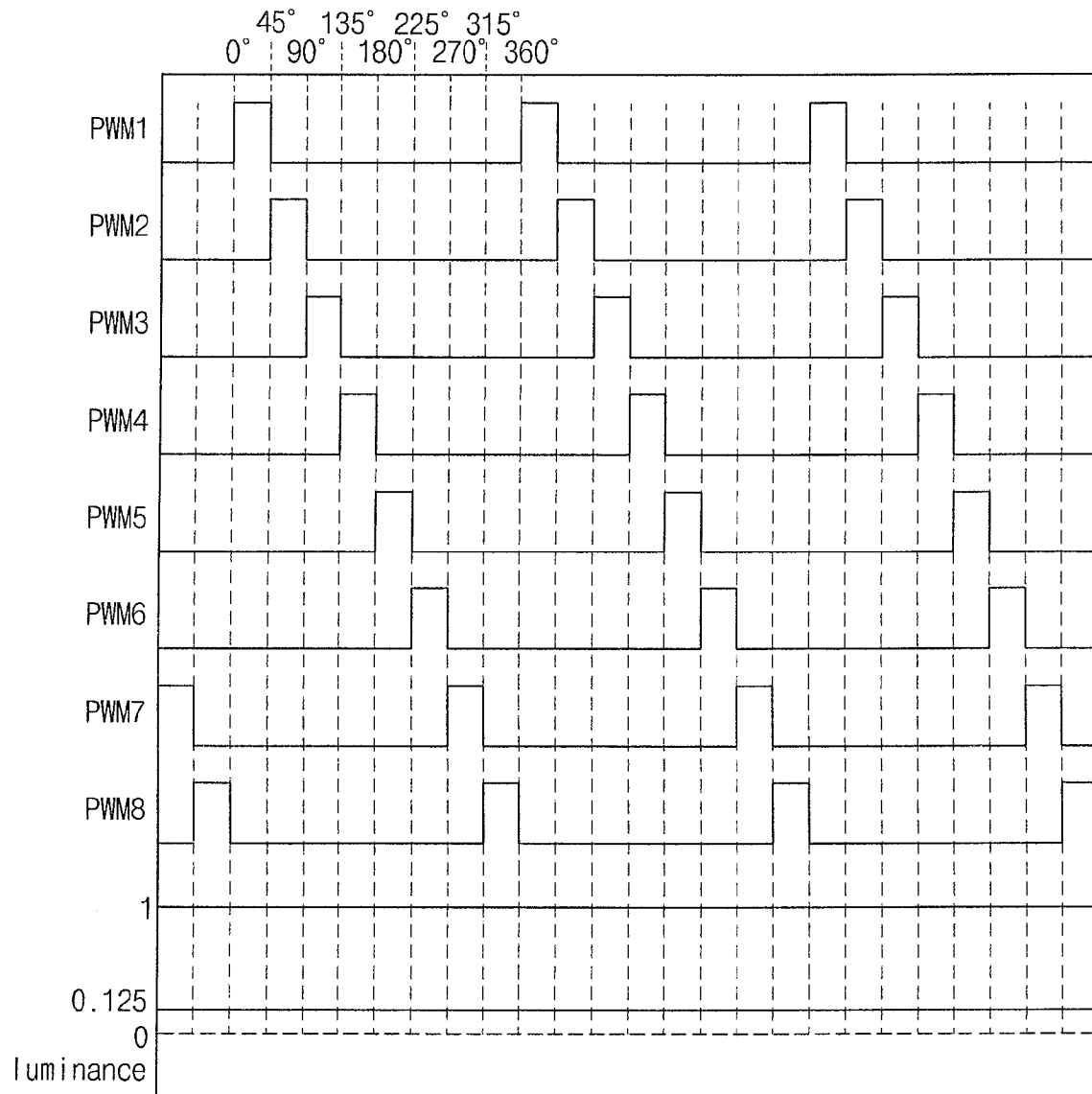


FIG. 20B

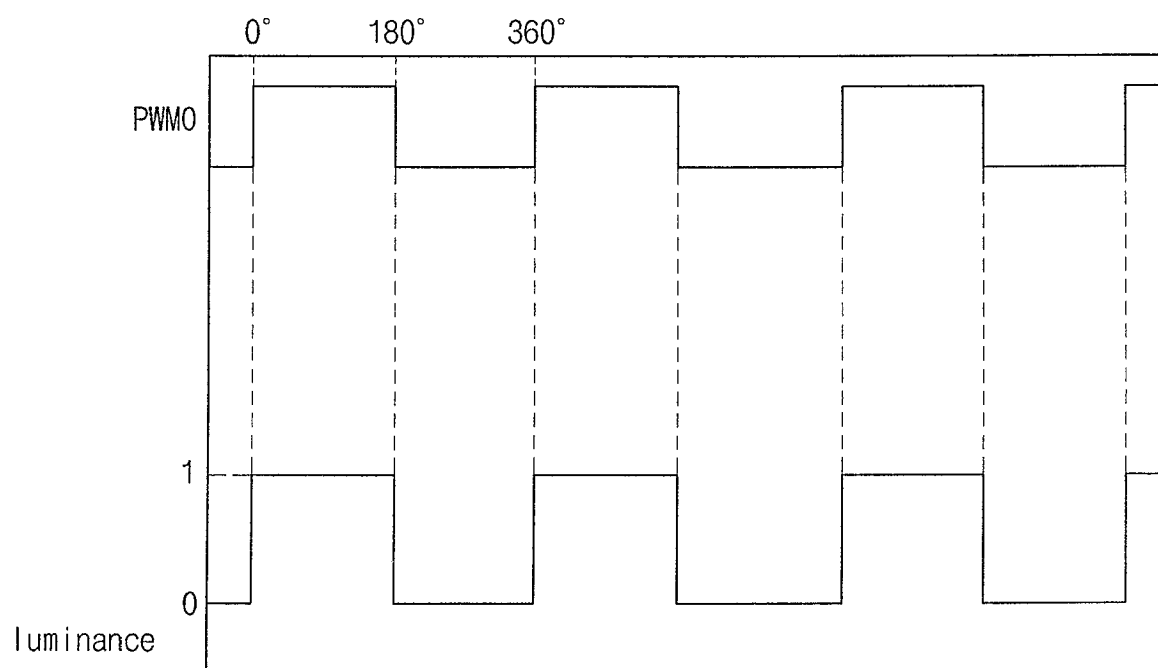


FIG. 21A

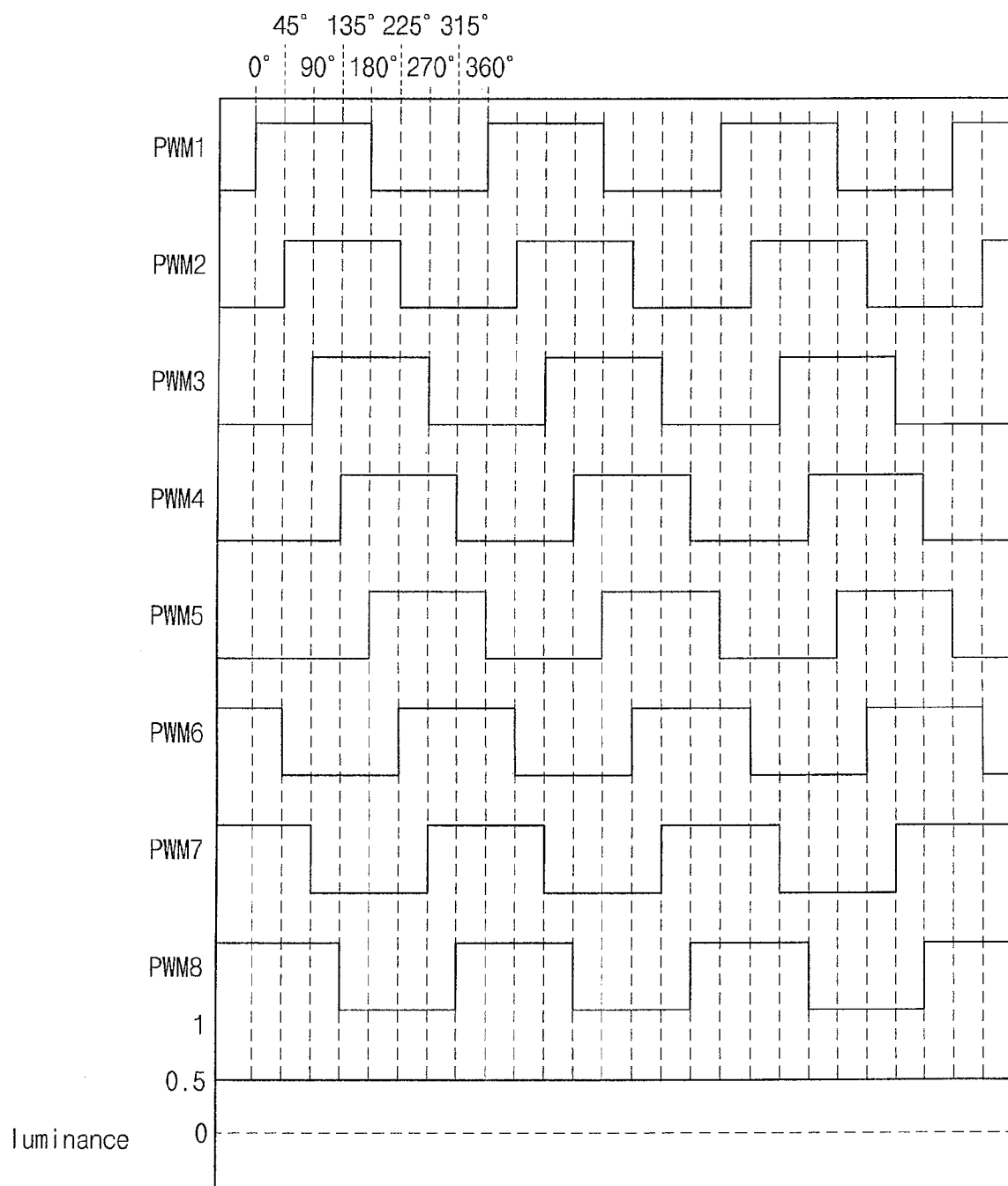


FIG. 21B

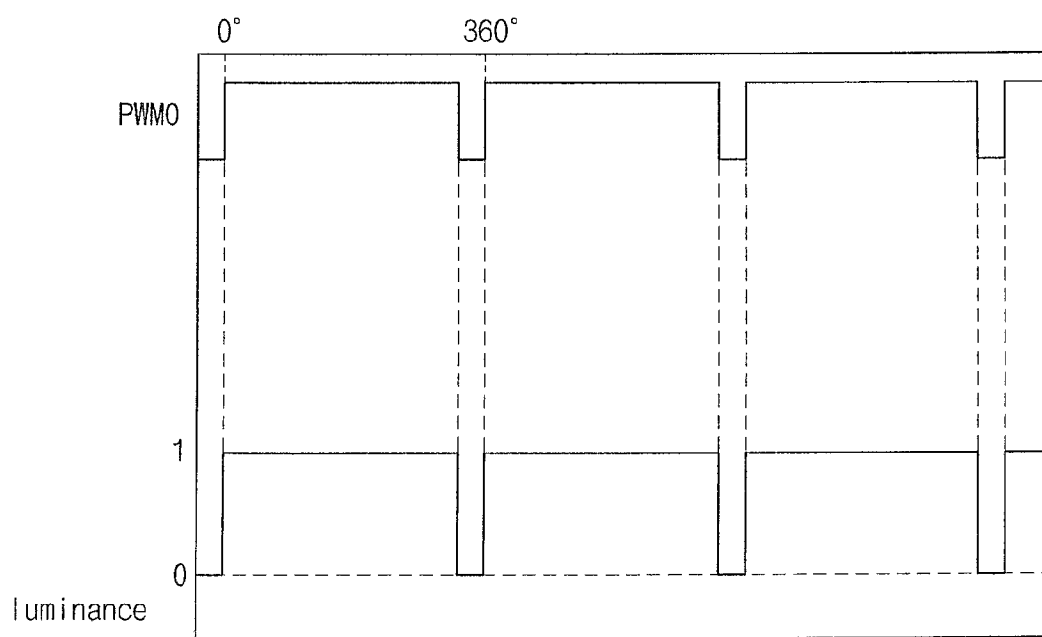


FIG. 22A

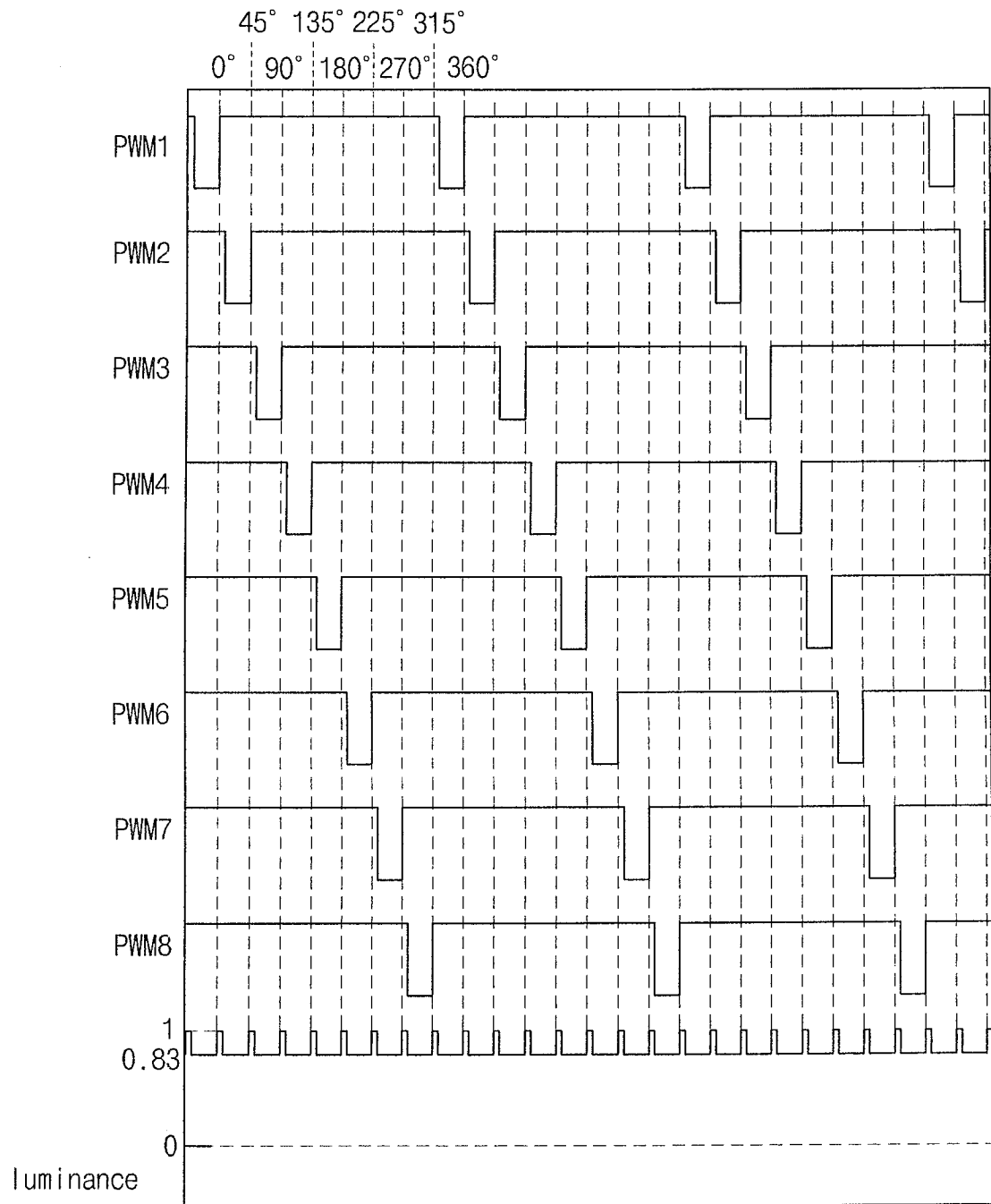


FIG. 22B

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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Patent documents cited in the description

- JP 2007102500 A [0001]
- JP 2008038197 A [0001]

专利名称(译)	包括背光单元的液晶显示装置及其驱动方法		
公开(公告)号	EP2048648A2	公开(公告)日	2009-04-15
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当前申请(专利权)人(译)	LG DISPLAY CO. , LTD.		
[标]发明人	KIM SUN UNG		
发明人	KIM, SUN-UNG		
IPC分类号	G09G3/34		
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代理机构(译)	庆祝活动, JENTSCHURA & PARTNER		
优先权	1020080038197 2008-04-24 KR 1020070102500 2007-10-11 KR		
其他公开文献	EP2048648A3 EP2048648B1		
外部链接	Espacenet		

摘要(译)

一种液晶显示装置, 包括: LED阵列单元 (80), 包括多个LED阵列 (80a, 80b, 80c, 80d), LED阵列单元发光; LED驱动单元 (90), 向LED阵列单元 (80) 提供至少两个PWM信号 (PWM1, PWM2), 所述至少两个PWM信号具有彼此不同的相位;液晶显示面板 (50), 使用来自LED阵列单元 (80) 的光显示图像;栅极驱动单元 (60), 向液晶显示板 (50) 提供栅极信号;数据驱动单元 (70) 与栅极信号同步地向液晶显示板 (50) 提供数据信号;时序控制器 (100) 为LED驱动单元 (90), 栅极驱动单元 (60) 和数据驱动单元 (70) 产生多个控制信号。

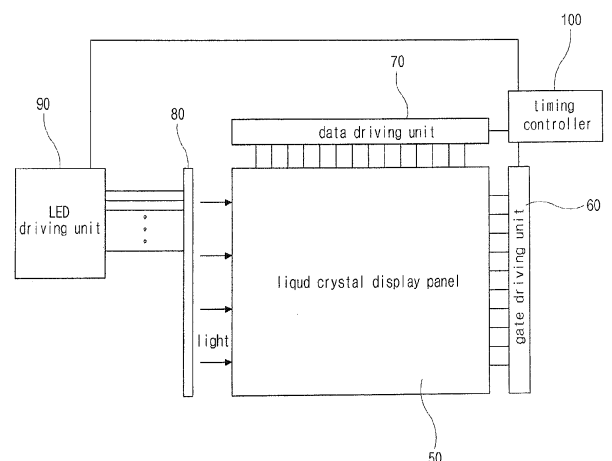


FIG. 2