

Fig. 1 (Prior Art)

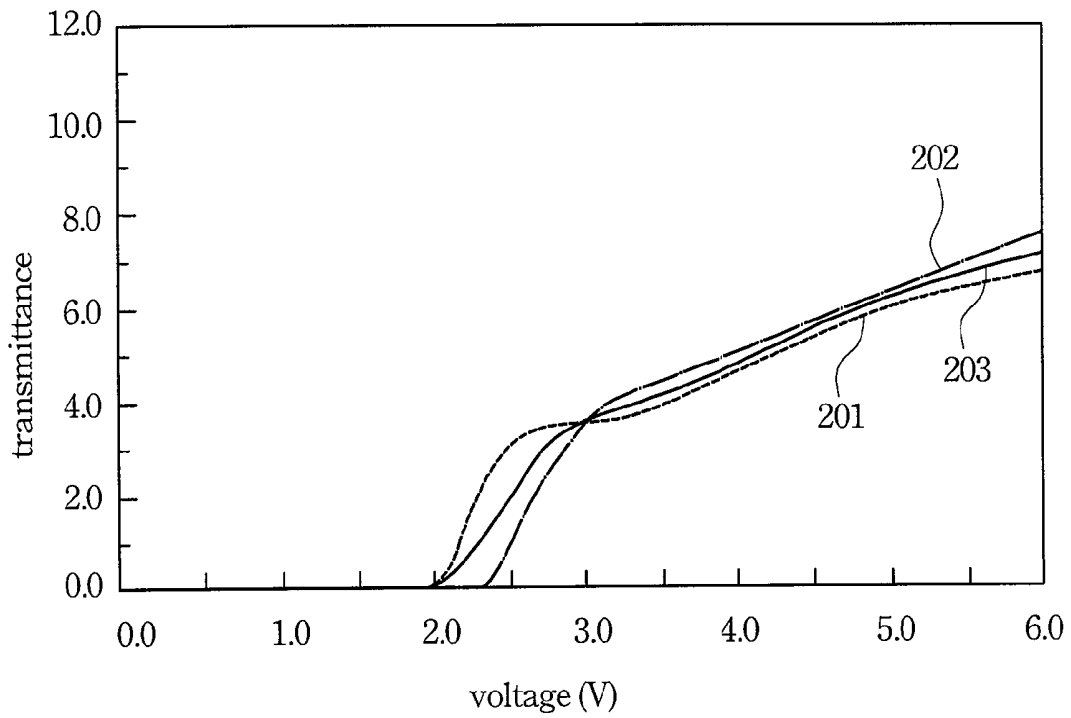


Fig. 2 (Prior Art)

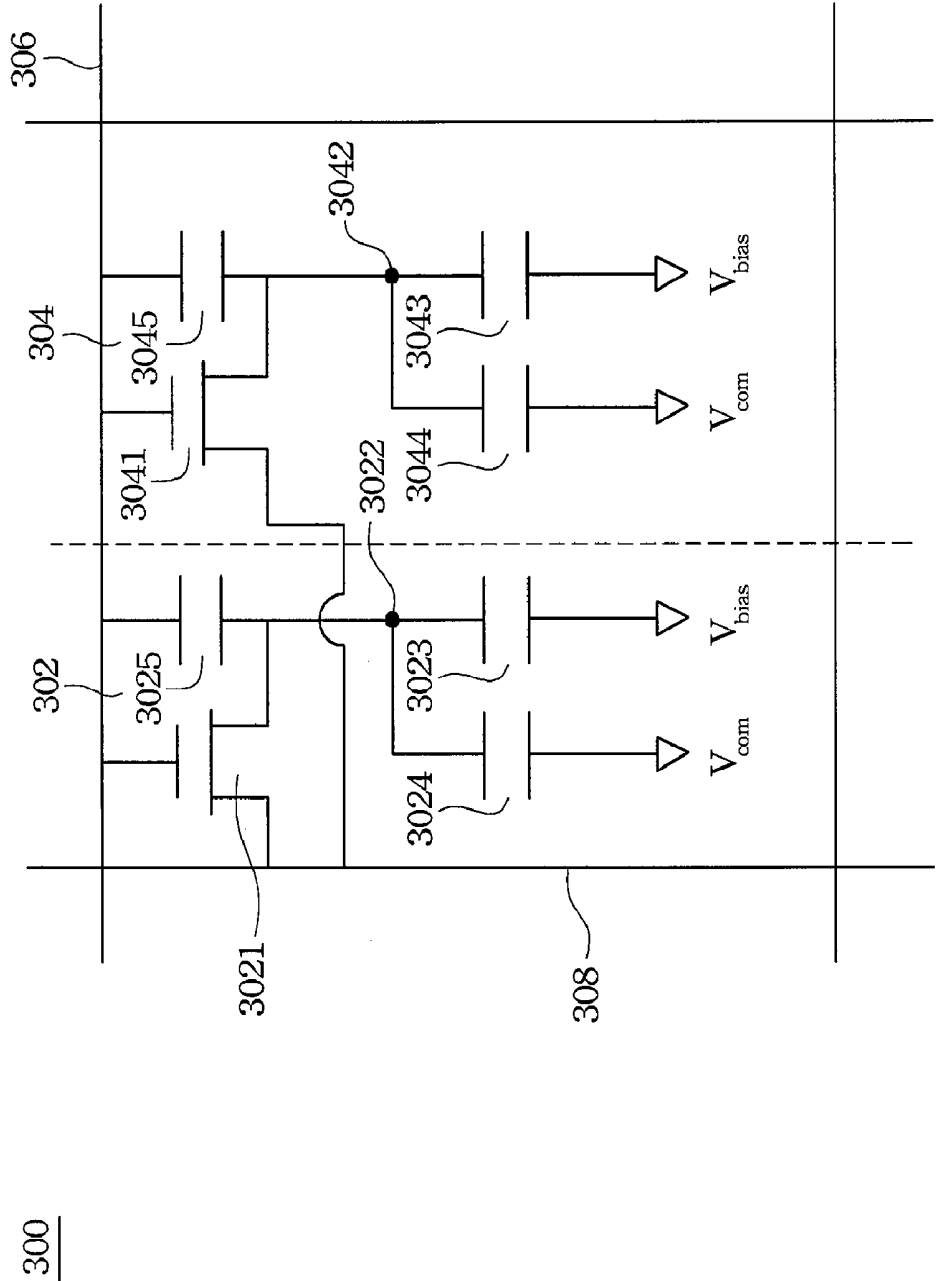


Fig. 3

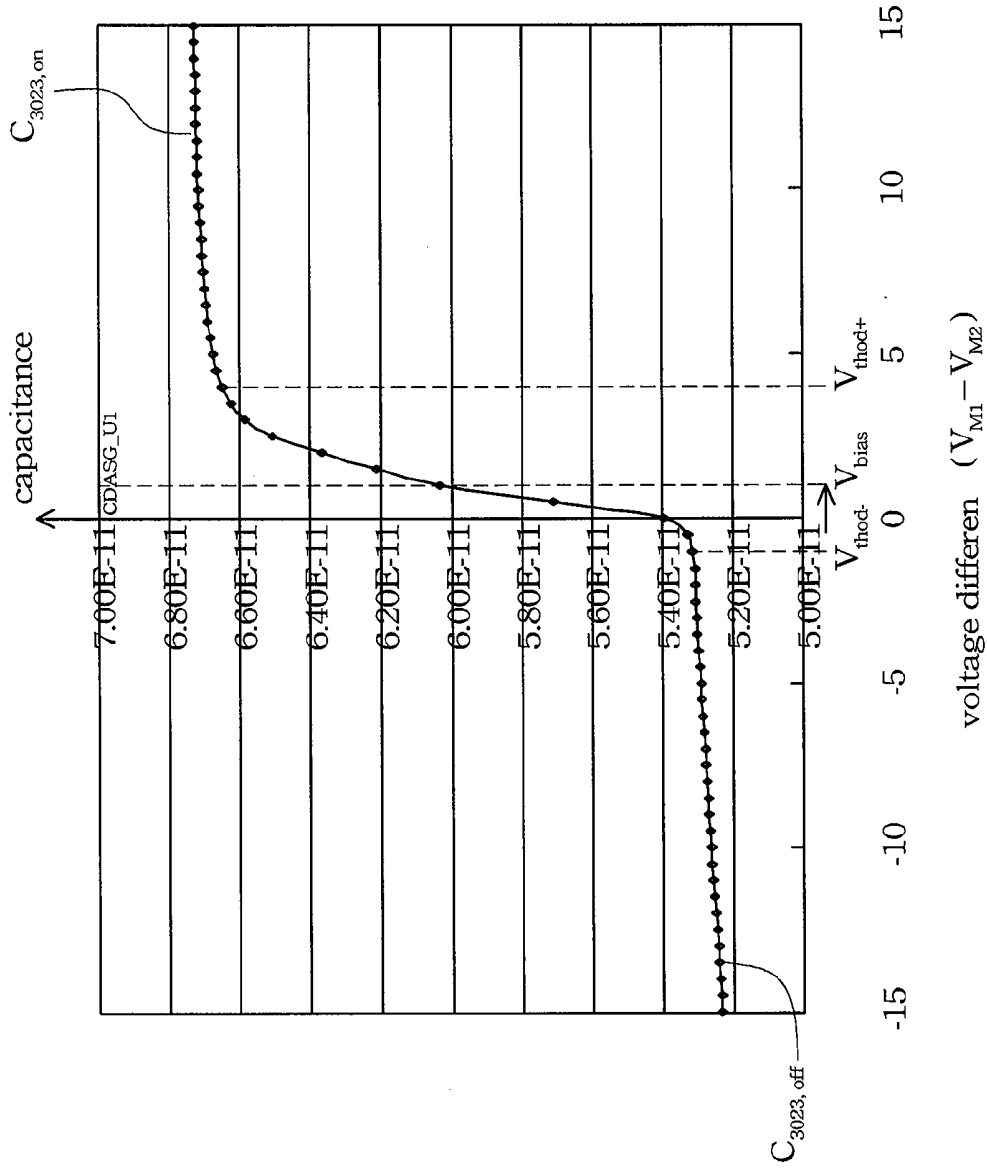


Fig. 4B

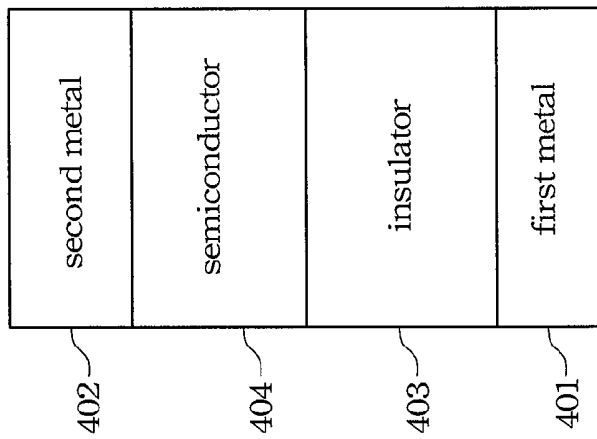


Fig. 4A

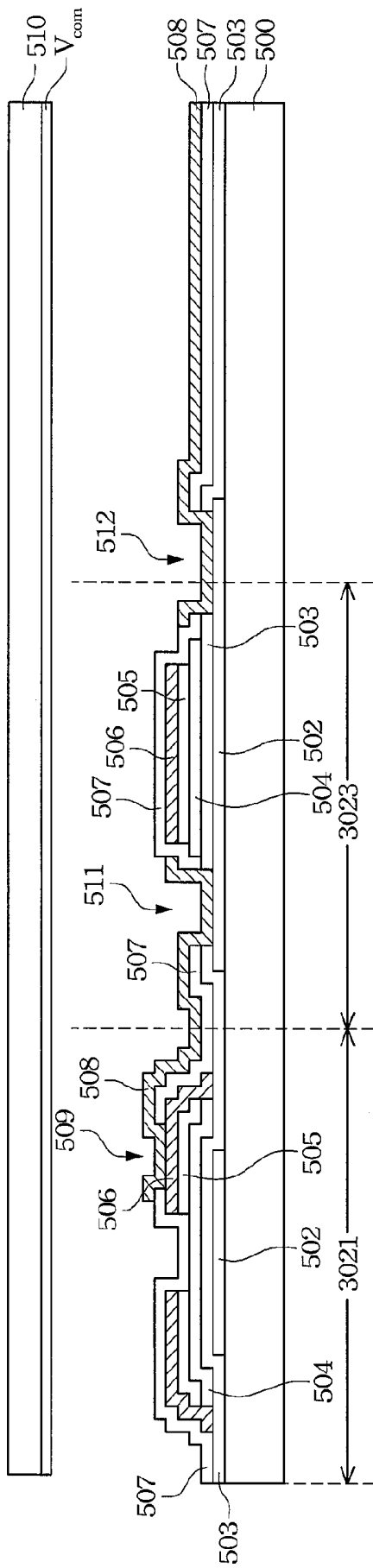


Fig. 5A

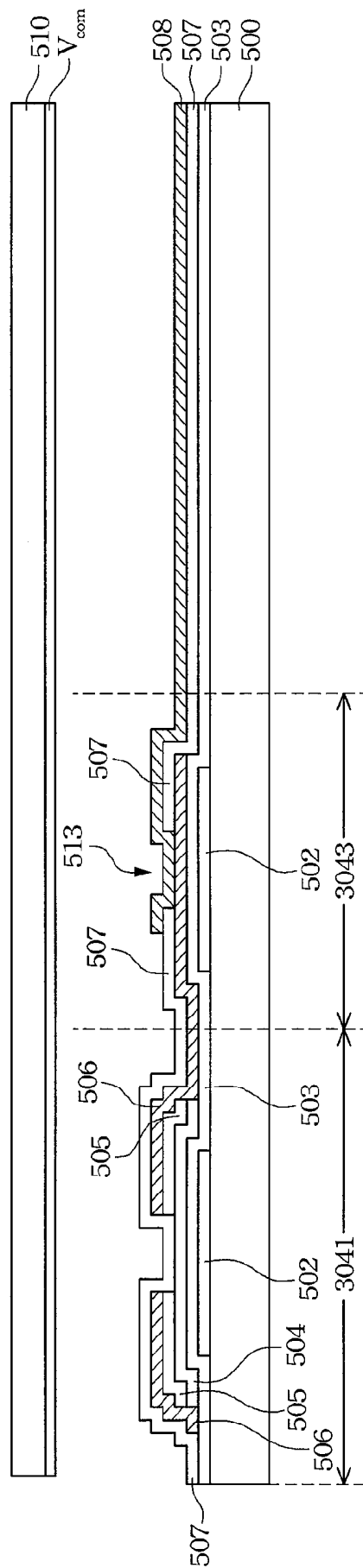


Fig. 5B

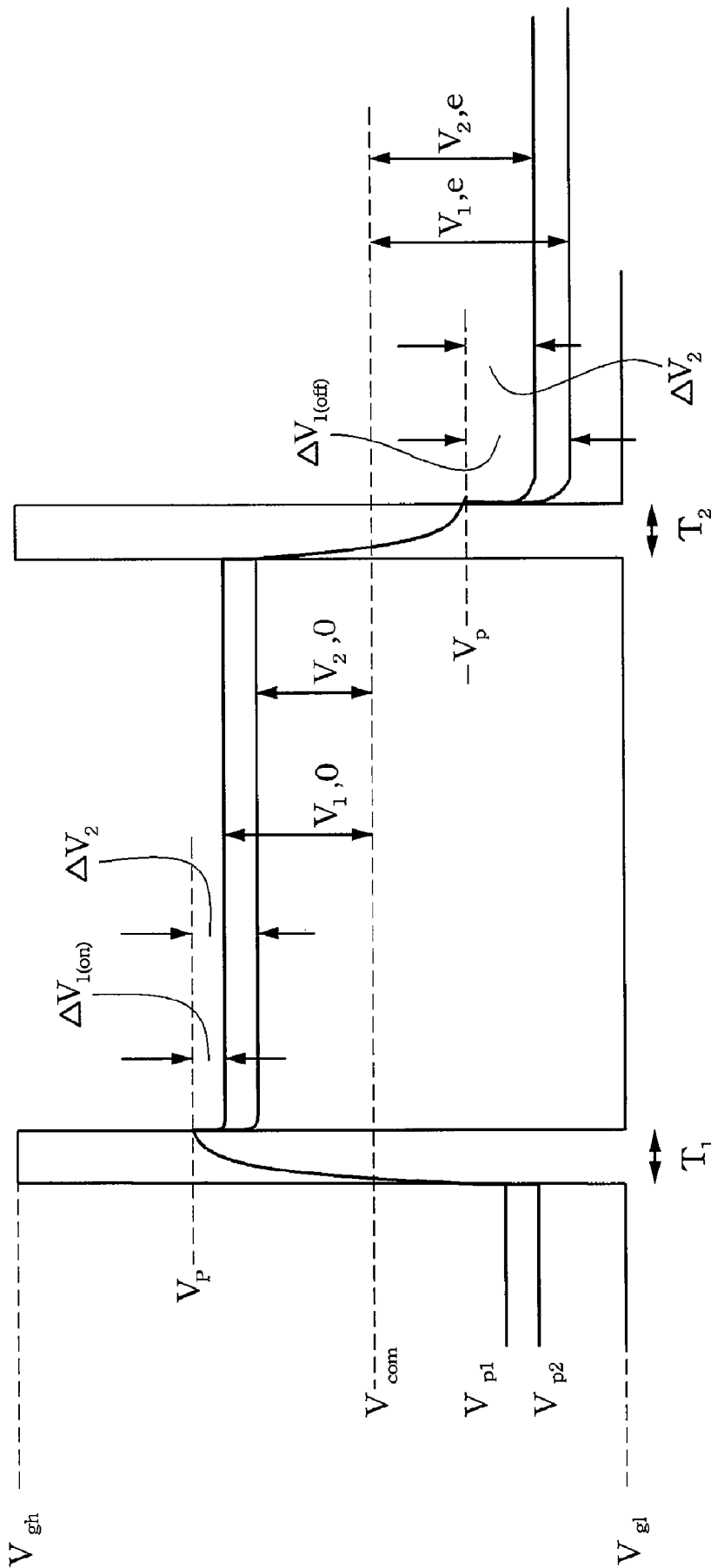


Fig. 6

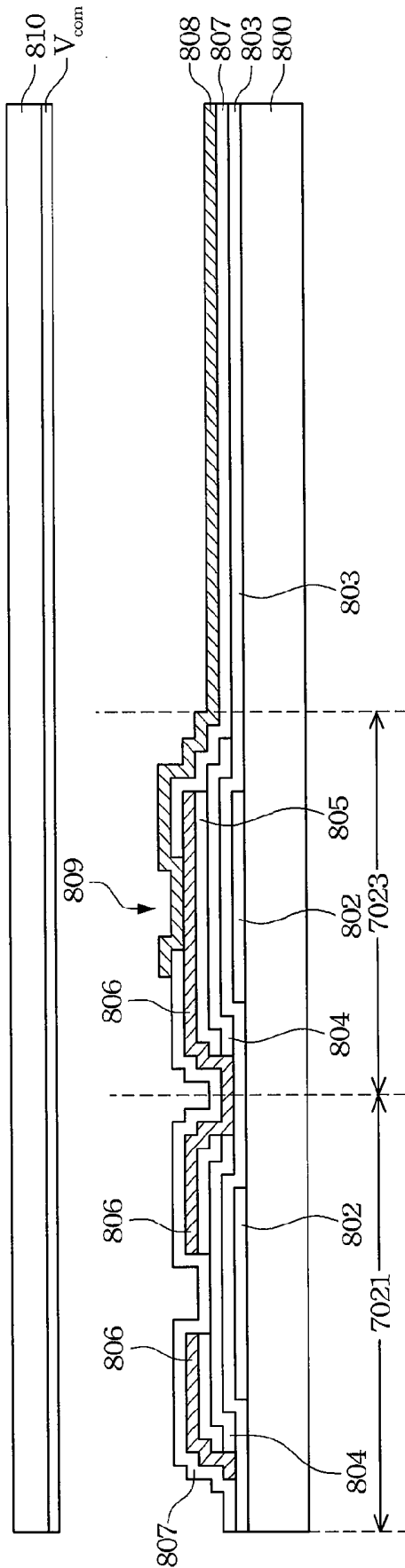


Fig. 8A

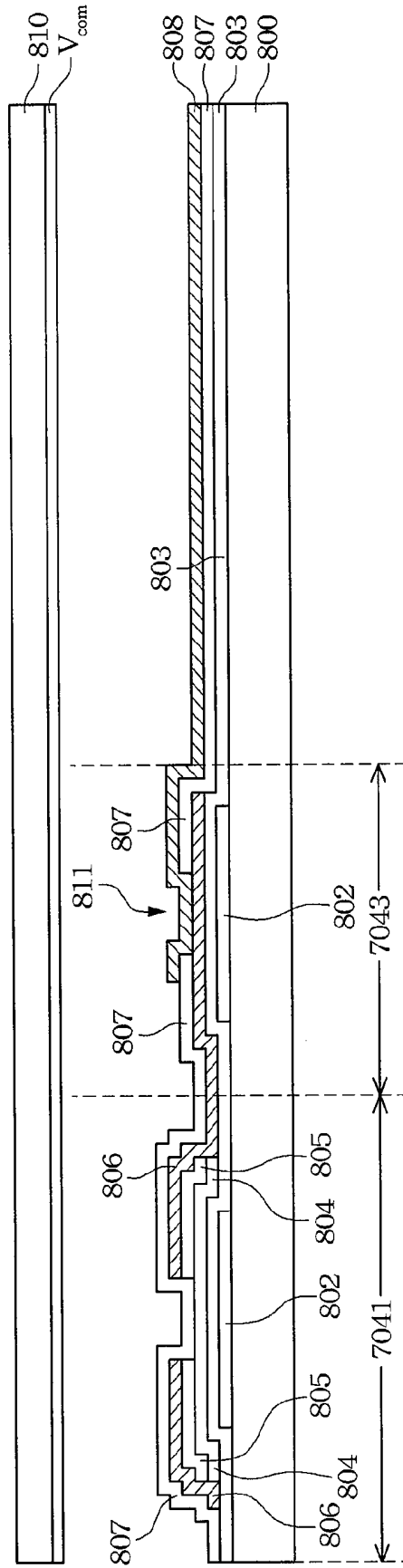


Fig. 8B

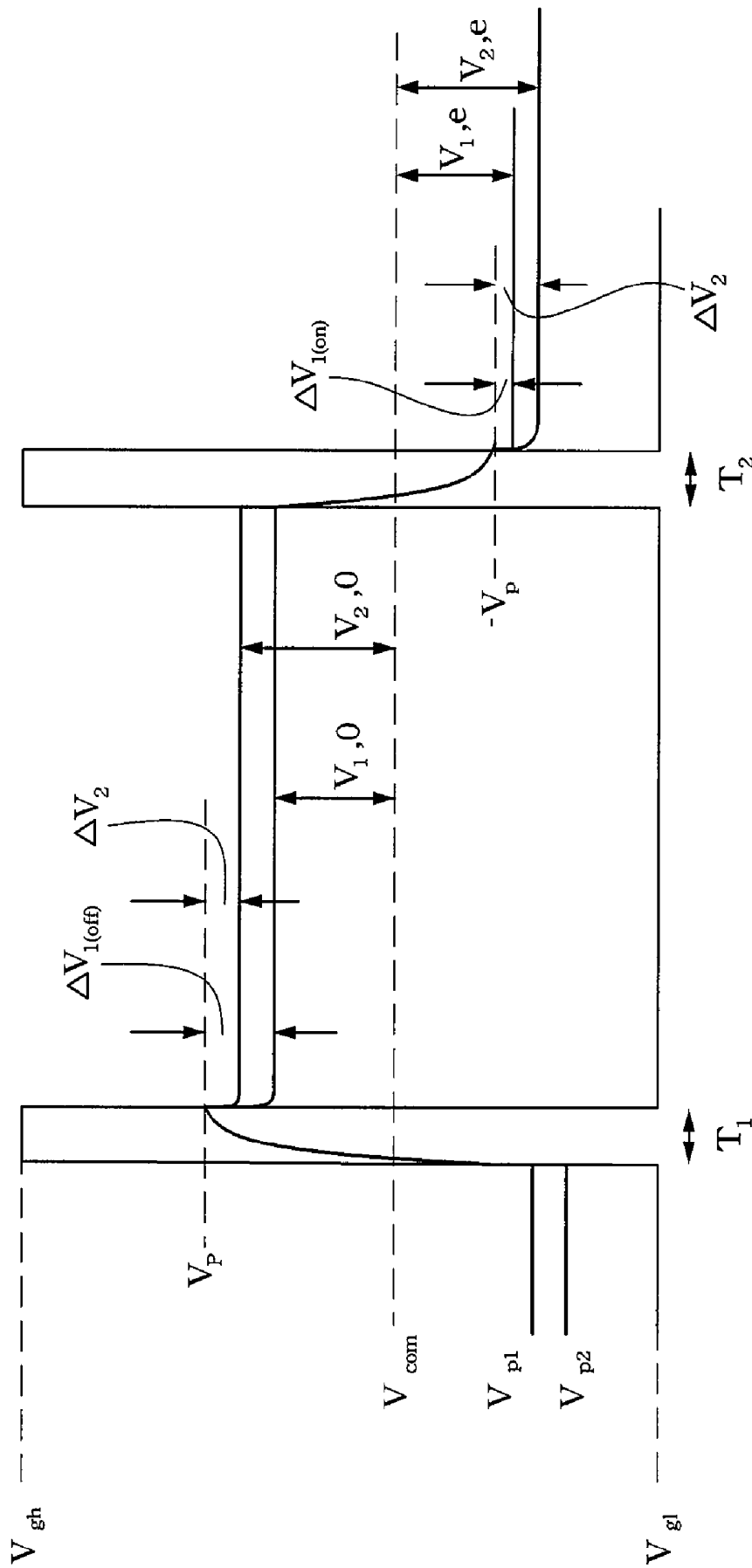


Fig. 9

PIXEL STRUCTURE WITH IMPROVED VIEWING ANGLE

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a Continuation-in-part of application Ser. No. 11/119,773 filed May 3, 2005 hereby incorporated by reference as it fully set forth herein.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to a pixel structure, and more particularly to a pixel unit with improved viewing angles of a liquid crystal display.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Liquid crystal displays have been widely applied in electrical products, such as computer monitors and TV monitors, for a long time. To provide a wider viewing range, Fujitsu commercialized a multi-domain vertically aligned liquid crystal display (MVA-LCD) in 1997). MVA has almost perfect viewing angle characteristics. However, a notable weak point is that the skin color of Asian people (light orange or pink) appears whitish from an oblique viewing direction.

[0004] The solid line in FIG. 1 shows the transmittance-voltage (T-V) characteristics of the MVA in the normal direction. The vertical axis is the transmittance rate. The horizontal axis is the applied voltage. When the applied voltage increases, the transmittance rate curve **101** in the normal direction also increases. The transmittance changes monotonically as the applied voltage increases. However, in the oblique direction, the transmittance rate curve **102** winds and the various gray scales become the same. Especially in the region **100**, the transmittance changes decrease as the applied voltage increases. This is the main reason that the skin color of Asian people appears or whitish from an oblique viewing direction.

[0005] A method is provided to improve this foregoing problem. This method combines two different T-V characteristics. The dashed line **201** in FIG. 2 shows the original T-V characteristics in the oblique viewing direction. The dashed line **202** in FIG. 2 shows other T-V characteristics with a higher threshold voltage. By optimizing the threshold voltage and the maximum transmittance of these two lines, monotonic characteristics can be achieved, as shown by the solid line **203** in FIG. 2. According to the typical method, each pixel is divided into two areas. One area has the original threshold voltage and the other area has a higher one.

[0006] There is a residual image problem in the typical method. According to the typical method, each pixel unit includes a plurality of sub-pixels. Each sub-pixel may generate different voltage changes after the voltage applied to the pixel unit is removed. The different voltage change may generate different data voltage in two adjacent frames when corresponding to a common electrode, which may affect the image quantity.

[0007] Therefore, it is also an objective to improve the image quality.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] Accordingly, the present invention provides a liquid crystal display comprises a first substrate and a plurality

of data lines and a plurality of scan lines arranged in the first substrate, wherein the scan lines cross the data lines to define a plurality of pixel units, each pixel unit including a first sub-pixel and a second sub-pixel, wherein each pixel unit comprises a first transistor located in the first sub-pixel, the first transistor has a gate electrode coupled to a first scan line, a drain electrode coupled to a first data line and a source electrode coupled to a first storage capacitor and a second transistor located in the second sub-pixel, the second transistor has a gate electrode coupled to the first scan line, a drain electrode coupled to the first data line and a source electrode coupled to a second storage capacitor, wherein at least one of the first storage capacitors and the second storage capacitor is a changeable capacitor.

[0009] According to another embodiment of the present invention, a liquid crystal display driving method is provided. The liquid crystal display has a plurality of pixel units, each pixel unit includes a first sub-pixel with a first transistor and a second sub-pixel with a second transistor, wherein the gate electrodes of the first transistor and the second transistor couple to a first scan line, and the drain electrodes of the first transistor and the second transistor couple to a first data line. The method comprises providing a high level electric potential to the first scan line for writing a data signal transferred in the first data line to a pixel electrode in the first sub-pixel and a pixel electrode in the second sub-pixel and to provide a low level electric potential to the first scan line to isolate the first transistor and the second transistor from the first data line. According to this method, in a first frame of two adjacent frames, when the first scan line is transferred from the high level electric potential to the low level electric potential, a first voltage change happens in the pixel electrode of the first sub-pixel and a second voltage change happens in the pixel electrode of the second sub-pixel, and in a second frame, when the first scan line is transferred from the high level electric potential to the low level electric potential, a third voltage change happens in the pixel electrode of the first sub-pixel and a fourth voltage change happens in the pixel electrode of the second sub-pixel, wherein at least the first voltage change is not equal to the third voltage change.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] The foregoing aspects and many of the attendant advantages of this invention will become more readily appreciated and better understood by referencing the following detailed description, when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

[0011] FIG. 1 illustrates a transmittance-voltage (T-V) characteristic of the MVA in the normal and oblique directions;

[0012] FIG. 2 illustrates the combination T-V characteristics in the oblique direction;

[0013] FIG. 3 illustrates a schematic diagram of a pixel unit according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

[0014] FIG. 4A illustrates a schematic structure diagram of a metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor;

[0015] FIG. 4B illustrates a capacitance-voltage characteristic of a metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor;

[0016] FIG. 5A illustrates a cross-sectional view of a sub-pixel in accordance with the first embodiment of the present invention;

[0017] FIG. 5B illustrates a cross-sectional view of a sub-pixel in accordance with the first embodiment of the present invention;

[0018] FIG. 6 illustrates a waveform for operating the pixel region in accordance with the first embodiment of the present invention;

[0019] FIG. 7 illustrates a schematic diagram of a pixel unit according to the second embodiment of the present invention;

[0020] FIG. 8A illustrates a cross-sectional view of a sub-pixel in accordance with the second embodiment of the present invention;

[0021] FIG. 8B illustrates a cross-sectional view of a sub-pixel in accordance with the second embodiment of the present invention;

[0022] FIG. 9 illustrates a waveform for operating the pixel region in accordance with the second embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0023] Without limiting the spirit and scope of the present invention, the pixel unit structure proposed in the present invention is illustrated with a plurality of embodiments. One with ordinary skill in the art, upon acknowledging the embodiments, can apply the pixel unit structure and the operation method of the present invention to various liquid crystal displays. Reference will now be made in detail to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

First Embodiment

[0024] FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram of a pixel unit according to the first embodiment of the present invention. The pixel unit 300 includes two sub-pixels 302 and 304.

[0025] The sub-pixel 302 includes a thin film transistor 3021. According to the thin film transistor 3021, the gate electrode is connected to the scanning line 306, the drain electrode is connected to the data line 308 and the source electrode is connected to the pixel electrode 3022. The storage capacitor 3023 is composed of the pixel electrode 3022 and the bias electrode V_{bias} . The liquid crystal capacitor 3024 is composed of the pixel electrode 3022 and the common electrode V_{com} . A diffusion capacitor 3025 exists between the gate and the source electrode of the thin film transistor 3021.

[0026] The sub-pixel 304 includes a thin film transistor 3041. According to the thin film transistor 3041, the gate electrode is connected to the scanning line 306, the drain electrode is connected to the data line 308 and the source electrode is connected to the pixel electrode 3042. The storage capacitor 3043 is composed of the pixel electrode 3042 and the bias electrode V_{bias} . The liquid crystal capacitor 3044 is composed of the pixel electrode 3042 and the common electrode V_{com} . A diffusion capacitor 3045 exists between the gate and the source electrode of the thin film transistor 3041.

[0027] In this embodiment, a metal-insulator-semiconductor-metal structure, MIS structure, is used to form the storage capacitor 3023. A metal-insulator-metal structure is used to form the storage capacitor 3043.

[0028] FIG. 4A is a schematic diagram of the storage capacitor 3023 with a metal-insulator-semiconductor-metal structure. An insulator layer 403 and a semiconductor layer 404 are located between the first metal 401 and the second metal 402. The metal-insulator-semiconductor (MIS) structure forms a capacitor. The capacitance of a MIS capacitor is changeable and related to the value of the voltage difference ($V_{M1}-V_{M2}$) between the first metal 401 and the second metal 402. FIG. 4B illustrates a relation diagram between the capacitance and the voltage difference value ($V_{M1}-V_{M2}$). When the voltage (V_{M1}) applied to the first metal 401 is larger than the voltage (V_{M2}) applied to the second metal 402, that is the voltage difference value ($V_{M1}-V_{M2}$) is larger than zero, the capacitance increases when the voltage difference value increases. When the voltage (V_{M1}) applied to the first metal 401 is less than the voltage (V_{M2}) applied to the second metal 402, that is the voltage difference value ($V_{M1}-V_{M2}$) is less than zero, the capacitance decreases when the voltage difference value increases.

[0029] The curve in the FIG. 4B is not symmetrical around the origin. Therefore, a bias voltage V_{bias} is applied to the first metal 401 or the second metal 402 to shift the original point to make the curve symmetrical around the shifted origin. In this case, when the voltage difference value ($V_{M1}-V_{M2}$) is larger than the positive threshold voltage value (V_{thod+}) or less than the negative threshold voltage value (V_{thod-}), the capacitance tends to a specific positive value or a specific negative value. In this embodiment, the capacitor may generate the capacitance $C_{3023, on}$ when a voltage difference value that is larger than the positive threshold voltage value (V_{thod+}) is applied to this capacitor. The capacitor may generate the capacitance $C_{3023, off}$ when the voltage difference value that is less than the negative threshold voltage value (V_{thod-}) is applied to this capacitor. Moreover, the capacitor with a metal-insulator-semiconductor (MIS) structure as illustrated in FIG. 4A is called a changeable capacitor or voltage control capacitor, VCCAP.

[0030] Many pixel structure types may be used to form the pixel unit 300. FIG. 5A and FIG. 5B illustrates one of the pixel structure types. FIG. 5A is a schematic diagram of the thin film transistor 3021 and the metal-insulator-semiconductor (MIS) storage capacitor 3023 in the sub-pixel 302. FIG. 5B is a schematic diagram of the thin film transistor 3041 and the metal-insulator-metal (MIM) storage capacitor 3043 in the sub-pixel 304. In FIG. 5A, in sub-pixel 302, the common electrode V_{com} is formed over a glass substrate 510. The thin film transistor 3021 and the metal-insulator-semiconductor (MIS) storage capacitor 3023 are formed over a glass substrate 500. A metal layer 502 is formed over the glass substrate 500 to serve as the gate metal of the thin film transistor 3021 and the first metal layer 401 (shown in the FIG. 4A) of the storage capacitor 3023. An insulator layer 503 is formed over the glass substrate 500 to cover the metal layer 502 to serve as the gate insulator of the thin film transistor 3021 and the insulator layer 403 (shown in the FIG. 4A) of the storage capacitor 3023. An amorphous silicon layer 504 and an n+ amorphous silicon layer 505 are sequentially formed over the gate insulator of the thin film transistor 3021 and the insulator layer 403 of the storage

capacitor 3023. The amorphous silicon layer 504 and the n+ amorphous silicon layer 505 formed over the gate insulator are used as an active region of the thin film transistor 3021. The amorphous silicon layer 504 and the n+ amorphous silicon layer 505 formed over the insulator layer 403 (shown in the FIG. 4A) are used as the semiconductor layer 404 (shown in the FIG. 4A) of the storage capacitor 3023. A metal layer 506 is formed over the n+ amorphous silicon layer 505. The metal layer 506, the amorphous silicon layer 504 and the n+ amorphous silicon layer 505 form the source and the drain electrode structure. A metal layer 506 formed over the semiconductor layer 404 (shown in the FIG. 4A) is used as the second metal layer 402 (shown in the FIG. 4A) of the storage capacitor 3023. A passivation layer 507 is formed over the glass substrate 500 to cover the source and the drain electrode structure of the thin film transistor 3021 and the second metal layer 402 (shown in the FIG. 4A) of the storage capacitor 3023. A plurality of through holes 509, 511 and 512 are formed in the passivation layer 507. The through hole 509 is used to expose the source electrode of the thin film transistor 3021. The through holes 511 and 512 are used to expose the first metal layer of the storage capacitor 3023. An indium tin oxide, ITO, layer 508 is formed over the passivation layer 507 to connect with the source electrode of the thin film transistor 3021 and the first metal layer of the storage capacitor 3023 to serve as the pixel electrode of the sub-pixel 302. The diffusion capacitor 3025 (shown in the FIG. 3) is composed of the gate metal layer 502 and the source electrode structure of the thin film transistor 3021. The liquid crystal capacitor 3024 (shown in the FIG. 3) is composed of the ITO layer 508 and the common electrode V_{com} formed over the glass substrate 510.

[0031] In FIG. 5B, in sub-pixel 304, the common electrode V_{com} is formed over the glass substrate 510. The thin film transistor 3041 and the metal-insulator-metal (MIM) storage capacitor 3043 are formed over the glass substrate 500. A metal layer 502 is formed over the glass substrate 500 to serve as the gate metal of the thin film transistor 3041 and the first electrode of the storage capacitor 3043. An insulator layer 503 is formed over the glass substrate 500 to cover the metal layer 502 to serve as the gate insulator of the thin film transistor 3041 and the insulator layer of the storage capacitor 3043. An amorphous silicon layer 504 and an n+ amorphous silicon layer 505 sequentially formed over the gate insulator are used as an active region of the thin film transistor 3041. A metal layer 506 is formed over the n+ amorphous silicon layer 505. The metal layer 506, the amorphous silicon layer 504 and the n+ amorphous silicon layer 505 form the source and the drain electrode structure of the thin film transistor 3041. The metal layer 506 is also used as the second electrode of the storage capacitor 3043. A passivation layer 507 is formed over the glass substrate 500 to cover the source and the drain electrode structure of the thin film transistor 3041 and the second electrode of the storage capacitor 3043. A through hole 513 is formed in the passivation layer 507 to expose the second electrode of the storage capacitor 3043. An indium tin oxide, ITO, layer 508 is formed over the passivation layer 507 to connect with the second electrode of the storage capacitor 3043. The diffusion capacitor 3045 (shown in the FIG. 3) is composed of the gate metal layer 502 and the source electrode structure of the thin film transistor 3041. The liquid crystal capacitor 3044

(shown in the FIG. 3) is composed of the ITO layer 508 and the common electrode V_{com} formed over the glass substrate 510.

[0032] FIG. 6 shows a waveform diagram for driving this pixel unit 300 according to the first embodiment of the present invention. Referring to FIGS. 6 and 3, in this embodiment, during the time segment T1 of the odd frame, the scan line 306 is selected and is charged to a high-level state, V_{gh} , to turn on the thin film transistors 3021 and 3041. At this time, data, V_p , with positive polarity transferred in the data line 308 is transferred to the storage capacitor 3023 and 3043 and the liquid crystal capacitor 3024 and 3044 through the thin film transistors 3021 and 3041. When the time segment T1 is almost complete, the electric potential of the scan line 306 is pulled down to a low-level state, V_{gl} , to turn off the thin film transistors 3021 and 3041. At this time, the voltage of the liquid crystal capacitors 3024 and 3044 are maintained by the corresponding storage capacitors 3023 and 3043.

[0033] However, the instant the thin film transistors 3021 and 3041 are turned off, the voltage value of the data, V_p , may fall by ΔV . The ΔV is related to the diffusion capacitor between the gate and source electrodes of thin film transistor, liquid crystal capacitor and the storage capacitor. According to the first embodiment, the pixel unit 300 includes sub-pixel 302 and sub-pixel 304. Therefore, the pixel unit includes two ΔV values, ΔV_1 and ΔV_2 , to make the two sub-pixels have different voltage values, V_{p1} and V_{p2} . The ΔV_1 value related to the diffusion capacitor 3025 of thin film transistor 3021, liquid crystal capacitor 3204 and the storage capacitor 3023 is shown as follows:

$$\Delta V_1 = (V_{\text{gh}} - V_{\text{gl}}) \times C_{3025} / (C_{3025} + C_{3024} + C_{3023})$$

[0034] The ΔV_2 value related to the diffusion capacitor 3045 of thin film transistor 3041, liquid crystal capacitor 3044 and the storage capacitor 3043 is shown as follows:

$$\Delta V_2 = (V_{\text{gh}} - V_{\text{gl}}) \times C_{3045} / (C_{3045} + C_{3044} + C_{3043})$$

[0035] According to this embodiment, the storage capacitor 3023 is a changeable metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor. Therefore, during the odd frame for writing positive polarity data, the voltage value of the data, V_p , is larger than the bias voltage value, V_{bias} . That is the voltage applied to the first metal layer 401 is larger than the voltage applied to the second metal later 402 as shown in the FIG. 4A. In this case, the voltage difference value ($V_{M1} - V_{M2}$) is larger than not only than zero but also the positive threshold voltage value ($V_{\text{thod+}}$). According to this embodiment, the storage capacitor 3023 may generate the capacitance $C_{3023, \text{on}}$ as shown in the FIG. 4B. Therefore, during the odd frame for writing positive polarity data, the ΔV_2 is shown as follows:

$$\Delta V_{1(\text{on})} = (V_{\text{gh}} - V_{\text{gl}}) \times C_{3025} / (C_{3025} + C_{3024} + C_{3023, \text{on}})$$

[0036] During the even frame for writing negative polarity data time segment T2, the scan line 306 is selected and is charged to a high-level state, V_{gh} , to turn on the thin film transistors 3021 and 3041. At this time, data, $-V_p$, with negative polarity transferred in the data line 308 is transferred to the storage capacitor 3023 and 3043 and the liquid crystal capacitors 3024 and 3044 through the thin film transistors 3021 and 3041. When the time segment T2 is almost over, the electric potential of the scan line 306 is pulled down to a low-level state, V_{gl} , to turn off the thin film transistors 3021 and 3041. At this time, the voltage of the

liquid crystal capacitors **3024** and **3044** are maintained by the corresponding storage capacitors **3023** and **3043**.

[0037] However, the instant the thin film transistors **3021** and **3041** are turned off, the voltage value of the data, $-V_p$, may fall by ΔV . The ΔV is related to the diffusion capacitor between the gate and source electrodes of the thin film transistor, liquid crystal capacitor and the storage capacitor.

[0038] According to this embodiment, the storage capacitor **3023** is a changeable metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor. Therefore, during the even frame for writing negative polarity data, the voltage value of the data, $-V_p$, is less than the bias voltage value, V_{bias} . That is the voltage applied to the first metal layer **401** is less than the voltage applied to the second metal later **402** as shown in the FIG. 4A. In this case, the voltage difference value ($V_{M1}-V_{M2}$) is less than not only zero but also the negative threshold voltage value (V_{thod-}). According to this embodiment, the storage capacitor **3023** may generate the capacitance $C_{3023, off}$ as shown in the FIG. 4B. Therefore, during the even frame for writing negative polarity data, the ΔV_1 is shown as follows:

$$\Delta V_{1(off)} = (V_{gh} - V_{gL}) \times C_{3025} / (C_{3025} + C_{3024} + C_{3023, off})$$

[0039] In the sub-pixel **302**, the ΔV_2 value related to the diffusion capacitor **3045** of thin film transistor **3041**, the liquid crystal capacitor **3044** and the storage capacitor **3043** is shown as follows:

$$\Delta V_2 = (V_{gh} - V_{gL}) \times C_{3045} / (C_{3045} + C_{3044} + C_{3043})$$

[0040] The storage capacitor **3023** is a changeable metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor. Therefore, for the sub-pixel **302**, the voltage change when the negative polarity data is written is different from the voltage change when the positive polarity data is written. According to this embodiment, Because the capacitance $C_{3023, on}$ is larger than the capacitance $C_{3023, off}$ the voltage change $\Delta V_1(ON)$ when positive polarity data is written is less than the voltage change $\Delta V_1(Off)$ when negative polarity data is written. The storage capacitor **3043** is a metal-insulator-metal capacitor. Therefore, for the sub-pixel **304**, the voltage change is always ΔV_2 no matter if the voltage change ΔV_2 occurs when negative polarity data is written or when positive polarity data is written.

[0041] According to this embodiment, the capacitance of the diffusion capacitor **3025** is equal to the capacitance of the diffusion capacitor **3045**. The capacitance of the liquid crystal capacitor **3024** is equal to the capacitance of the liquid crystal capacitor **3044**. The storage capacitor **3023** is a changeable metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor. Therefore, when positive polarity data is written, the capacitance $C_{3023, on}$ of the storage capacitor **3023** is larger than the capacitance of the storage capacitor **3043**. On the other hand, when negative polarity data is written, the capacitance $C_{3023, off}$ of the storage capacitor **3023** is less than the capacitance of the storage capacitor **3043**. Therefore, the relationship of the voltage change values is $\Delta V_1(Off) > \Delta V_2 > \Delta V_1(On)$. In the foregoing embodiment, the diffusion capacitor **3025** is set to be equal to the capacitance of the diffusion capacitor **3045** and the capacitance of the liquid crystal capacitor **3024** is set to be equal to the capacitance of the liquid crystal capacitor **3044**. However, the foregoing capacitance set does not limit the present invention.

[0042] Please refer to the FIG. 6 again. The storage capacitor **3023** is a changeable metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor. Therefore, for the sub-pixel **302**, the voltage change from writing negative polarity data and the voltage change from writing positive polarity data is different in the instant that the thin film transistors **3021** and **3041** in the sub-pixel **302** are turned off. The storage capacitor **3043** is a non-changeable metal-insulator-metal capacitor. Therefore, for the sub-pixel **304**, the voltage change from writing negative polarity data and the voltage change from writing positive polarity data is same in the instant that the thin film transistors **3021** and **3041** in the sub-pixel **302** are turned off. Therefore, in this embodiment, adjusting the capacitance of the storage capacitor **3023** makes the data voltage of the even frame symmetrical to the data voltage of the odd frame in the common electrode V_{com} after the thin film transistors **3021** and **3041** in the sub-pixel **302** are turned off. In other words, for the sub-pixel **302**, the data voltage $V_{1,o}$ in the odd frame is equal to the data voltage $V_{1,e}$ in the even frame. For the sub-pixel **304**, the data voltage $V_{2,o}$ in the odd frame is equal to the data voltage $V_{2,e}$ in the even frame.

[0043] The optical characteristics of the sub-pixel **302** can be evaluated by the root mean square voltage of $V_{1,o}$ and $V_{1,e}$. The optical characteristic of the sub-pixel **304** can be evaluated by the root mean square voltage of $V_{2,o}$ and $V_{2,e}$.

[0044] The root mean square voltage value of the sub-pixel **302** is shown as follows:

$$\text{RMS of sub pixel 302} = \sqrt{\frac{V_{1,o}^2 + V_{1,e}^2}{2}}$$

[0045] The root mean square voltage value of the sub-pixel **304** is shown as follows:

$$\text{RMS of sub pixel 304} = \sqrt{\frac{V_{2,o}^2 + V_{2,e}^2}{2}}$$

[0046] According to the first embodiment, each pixel unit includes two sub-pixels. Therefore, the optical characteristics of the whole pixel region are a combination of the optical characteristics of the two sub-pixels. One of the two sub-pixels has a changeable storage capacitor. Therefore, by adjusting the capacitance of the storage capacitor **3023**, the data voltage of the even frame will be symmetrical to the data voltage of the odd frame in the common electrode V_{com} . Such a method may optimize the optical characteristic of this whole pixel.

[0047] It is noticed that the changeable storage capacitor is located in the sub-pixel **302** in the first embodiment. However, in other embodiments, the changeable storage capacitor is located in the sub-pixel **304**. Moreover, in other embodiments, a plurality of changeable storage capacitors is located in the sub-pixel **302** and the sub-pixel **304** respectively. On the other hand, the value of the bias voltage V_{bias} is not be limited in this embodiment. However, in other embodiments, the bias voltage V_{bias} is connected to the common electrode V_{com} .

Second Embodiment

[0048] FIG. 7 is a schematic diagram of a pixel unit according to the second embodiment of the present invention. The pixel unit 700 includes two sub-pixels 702 and 704.

[0049] The sub-pixel 702 includes a thin film transistor 7021. According to the thin film transistor 7021, the gate electrode is connected to the scanning line 706, the drain electrode is connected to the data line 708 and the source electrode is connected to the pixel electrode 7022. The storage capacitor 7023 is composed of the pixel electrode 7022 and the bias electrode V_{bias} . The liquid crystal capacitor 7024 is composed of the pixel electrode 7022 and the common electrode V_{com} . A diffusion capacitor 7025 exists between the gate and the source electrode of the thin film transistor 7021.

[0050] The sub-pixel 704 includes a thin film transistor 7041. According to the thin film transistor 7041, the gate electrode is connected to the scanning line 706, the drain electrode is connected to the data line 708 and the source electrode is connected to the pixel electrode 7042. The storage capacitor 7043 is composed of the pixel electrode 7042 and the bias electrode V_{bias} . The liquid crystal capacitor 7044 is composed of the pixel electrode 7042 and the common electrode V_{com} . A diffusion capacitor 7045 exists between the gate and the source electrode of the thin film transistor 7041.

[0051] In this embodiment, a metal-insulator-semiconductor-metal structure, MIS structure, is used to form the storage capacitor 7023. A metal-insulator-metal structure is used to form the storage capacitor 7043.

[0052] The storage capacitor 7023 with a metal-insulator-semiconductor-metal structure is shown in the FIG. 4A. The relation diagram between the capacitance and the voltage difference value ($V_{M1}-V_{M2}$) is shown in the FIG. 4B. As described in the foregoing first embodiment, when the voltage difference value ($V_{M1}-V_{M2}$) is larger than a positive threshold voltage value (V_{thod+}) or less than a negative threshold voltage value (V_{thod-}), the capacitance tends to a specific positive value or a specific negative value. In this embodiment, the capacitor may generate the capacitance $C_{7023, on}$ when the voltage difference value that is larger than the positive threshold voltage value (V_{thod+}) is applied to this capacitor. The capacitor may generate the capacitance $C_{7023, off}$ when the voltage difference value that is less than the negative threshold voltage value (V_{thod-}) is applied to this capacitor.

[0053] The main difference between the first embodiment and the second embodiment is the connection structure between the storage capacitor and the thin film transistor. In the first embodiment, the first metal layer of the storage capacitor 3023 is connected to the source electrode structure of the thin film transistor 3021 through a through hole and the second metal layer of the storage capacitor 3023 is connected to the bias voltage V_{bias} . However, in the second embodiment, the first metal layer of the storage capacitor 7023 is connected to the bias voltage V_{bias} and the second metal layer of the storage capacitor 7023 is connected to the source electrode structure of the thin film transistor 7021.

[0054] Many pixel structure types may be used to form the pixel unit 700. FIG. 8A and FIG. 8B illustrates one of the

pixel structure types. FIG. 8A is a schematic diagram of the thin film transistor 7021 and the metal-insulator-semiconductor (MIS) storage capacitor 7023 in the sub-pixel 702. FIG. 8B is a schematic diagram of the thin film transistor 7041 and the metal-insulator-metal (MIM) storage capacitor 7043 in the sub-pixel 704. In FIG. 8A, in sub-pixel 702, the common electrode V_{com} is formed over a glass substrate 810. The thin film transistor 7021 and the metal-insulator-semiconductor (MIS) storage capacitor 7023 are formed over a glass substrate 800. A metal layer 802 is formed over the glass substrate 800 to serve as the gate metal of the thin film transistor 7021 and the first metal layer 401 (shown in the FIG. 4A) of the storage capacitor 7023. An insulator layer 803 is formed over the glass substrate 800 to cover the metal layer 802 to serve as the gate insulator of the thin film transistor 7021 and the insulator layer 403 (shown in the FIG. 4A) of the storage capacitor 7023. An amorphous silicon layer 804 and n+ amorphous silicon layer 805 are sequentially formed over the gate insulator of the thin film transistor 7021 and the insulator layer 403 of the storage capacitor 7023. The amorphous silicon layer 804 and the n+amorphous silicon layer 805 are used as a semiconductor layer of the thin film transistor 7021 and used as the semiconductor layer 404 (shown in the FIG. 4A) of the storage capacitor 7023. A metal layer 806 is formed over the n+ amorphous silicon layer 805. The metal layer 806, the amorphous silicon layer 804 and the n+ amorphous silicon layer 805 form the source and the drain electrode structure. A metal layer 806 is used as the second metal layer 402 (shown in the FIG. 4A) of the storage capacitor 7023. It is noticed that in this embodiment, the source electrode of the thin film transistor 7021 is connected to the second metal layer of the storage capacitor 7023. The drain electrode of the thin film transistor 7021 is connected to the data line. A passivation layer 807 is formed over the glass substrate 800 to cover the source and the drain electrode structure of the thin film transistor 7021 and the second metal layer 402 (shown in the FIG. 4A) of the storage capacitor 7023. A through hole 809 is formed in the passivation layer 807 to expose the second metal layer of the storage capacitor 7023. An indium tin oxide, ITO, layer 808 is formed over the passivation layer 807 to connect with the second metal layer 402 of the storage capacitor 7023 to serve as the pixel electrode 7022 of the sub-pixel 702. The diffusion capacitor 7025 (shown in the FIG. 7) is composed of the gate metal layer 802 and the source electrode structure of the thin film transistor 7021. The liquid crystal capacitor 7024 (shown in the FIG. 7) is composed of the ITO layer 808 and the common electrode V_{com} formed over the glass substrate 810.

[0055] In FIG. 8B, in sub-pixel 704, the common electrode V_{com} is formed over the glass substrate 810. The thin film transistor 7041 and the metal-insulator-metal (MIM) storage capacitor 7043 are formed over the glass substrate 800. A metal layer 802 is formed over the glass substrate 800 to serve as the gate metal of the thin film transistor 7041 and the first electrode of the storage capacitor 7043. An insulator layer 803 is formed over the glass substrate 800 to cover the metal layer 802 to serve as the gate insulator of the thin film transistor 7041 and the insulator layer of the storage capacitor 7043. An amorphous silicon layer 804 and an n+ amorphous silicon layer 805 sequentially formed over the gate insulator are used as semiconductor layers of the thin film transistor 7041. A metal layer 806 is formed over the source electrode and the drain electrode of the thin film transistor

7041 and the insulator layer of the storage capacitor **7043**. The metal layer **806**, the amorphous silicon layer **804** and the n+ amorphous silicon layer **805** form the source and the drain electrode structure of the thin film transistor **7041**. The metal layer **806** is also used as the second electrode of the storage capacitor **7043**. In this embodiment, the source electrode of the thin film transistor **7041** is connected to the second electrode of the storage capacitor **7043**. The drain electrode of the thin film transistor **7041** is connected to the data line. A passivation layer **807** is formed over the glass substrate **800** to cover the source and the drain electrode structure of the thin film transistor **7041** and the second electrode of the storage capacitor **7043**. A through hole **811** is formed in the passivation layer **807** to expose the second electrode of the storage capacitor **7043**. An indium tin oxide, ITO, layer **808** is formed over the passivation layer **807** to connect with the second electrode of the storage capacitor **7043**. The diffusion capacitor **7045** (shown in the FIG. 7) is composed of the gate metal layer **802** and the source electrode structure of the thin film transistor **7041**. The liquid crystal capacitor **7044** (shown in the FIG. 7) is composed of the ITO layer **808** and the common electrode V_{com} formed over the glass substrate **810**.

[0056] FIG. 9 shows a waveform diagram for driving this pixel unit **700** according to the second embodiment of the present invention. Referring to FIG. 7 and FIG. 9, in this embodiment, during the time segment T1 of the odd frame, the scan line **706** is selected and is charged to a high-level state, V_{gh} , to turn on the thin film transistors **7021** and **7041**. At this time, data, V_p , with positive polarity transferred in the data line **708** is transferred to the storage capacitor **7023** and **7043** and the liquid crystal capacitor **7024** and **7044** through the thin film transistors **7021** and **7041**. When the time segment T1 is almost over, the electric potential of the scan line **706** is pulled down to a low-level state, V_{gl} , to turn off the thin film transistors **7021** and **7041**. At this time, the voltage of the liquid crystal capacitors **7024** and **7044** are maintained by the corresponding storage capacitors **7023** and **7043**.

[0057] However, the instant the thin film transistors **7021** and **7041** are turned off, the voltage value of the data, V_p , may fall by ΔV . The ΔV is related to the diffusion capacitor, liquid crystal capacitor and the storage capacitor.

[0058] According to the second embodiment, the storage capacitor **7023** is a changeable metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor as shown in FIG. 4A. Therefore, during the odd frame for writing positive polarity data, the voltage value of the data, V_p , is larger than the bias voltage value, V_{bias} . That is the voltage applied to the second metal later **402** is larger than the voltage applied to the first metal layer **401** as shown in the FIG. 4A. In this case, the voltage difference value ($V_{M1}-V_{M2}$) is less than not only zero but also a negative threshold voltage value (V_{thod-}). According to this embodiment, the storage capacitor **7023** may generate the capacitance $C_{7023, off}$ as shown in the FIG. 4B. Therefore, during the odd frame for writing positive polarity data, the ΔV_1 is shown as follows:

$$\Delta V_1(off)=(V_{gh}-V_{gl})\times C_{7025}/(C_{7025}+C_{7024}+C_{7023,off})$$

[0059] The ΔV_2 value related to the diffusion capacitor **7045** of thin film transistor **7041**, liquid crystal capacitor **7044** and the storage capacitor **7043** is shown as follows:

$$\Delta V_2=(V_{gh}-V_{gl})\times C_{7045}/(C_{7045}+C_{7044}+C_{7043})$$

[0060] During the even frame for writing negative polarity data time segment T2, the scan line **706** is selected and is

charged to a high-level state, V_{gh} , to turn on the thin film transistors **7021** and **7041**. At this time, data, $-V_p$, with negative polarity transferred in the data line **708** is transferred to the storage capacitor **7023** and **7043** and the liquid crystal capacitor **7024** and **7044** through the thin film transistors **7021** and **7041**. When the time segment T2 being almost over, the electric potential of the scan line **706** is pulled down to a low-level state, V_{gl} , to turn off the thin film transistors **7021** and **7041**. At this time, the voltage of the liquid crystal capacitors **7024** and **7044** are maintained by the corresponding storage capacitors **7023** and **7043**.

[0061] However, the instant the thin film transistors **7021** and **7041** are turned off, the voltage value of the data, $-V_p$, may fall by ΔV . The ΔV is related to the diffusion capacitor, the liquid crystal capacitor and the storage capacitor.

[0062] According to this embodiment, the storage capacitor **7023** is a changeable metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor as shown in the FIG. 4A. Therefore, during the even frame for writing negative polarity data, the voltage value of the data, $-V_p$, is less than the bias voltage value, V_{bias} . That is the voltage applied to the first metal layer **401** is larger than the voltage applied to the second metal later **402** as shown in the FIG. 4A. In this case, the voltage difference value ($V_{M1}-V_{M2}$) is larger than not only zero but also the positive threshold voltage value (V_{thod+}). According to this embodiment, the storage capacitor **7023** may generate the capacitance $C_{7023, on}$ as shown in the FIG. 4B. Therefore, during the even frame for writing negative polarity data, the ΔV_1 is shown as follows:

$$\Delta V_1(on)=(V_{gh}-V_{gl})\times C_{7025}/(C_{7025}+C_{7024}+C_{7023,on})$$

[0063] In the sub-pixel **704**, the ΔV_2 value related to the diffusion capacitor **7045** of thin film transistor **7041**, liquid crystal capacitor **7044** and the storage capacitor **7043** is shown as follows:

$$\Delta V_2=(V_{gh}-V_{gl})\times C_{7045}/(C_{7045}+C_{7044}+C_{7043})$$

[0064] The storage capacitor **7023** is a changeable metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor. Therefore, for the sub-pixel **702**, the voltage change when negative polarity data is written is different from the voltage change when positive polarity data is written. Because the capacitance $C_{7023, on}$ is larger than the capacitance $C_{7023, off}$, the voltage change $\Delta V_1(ON)$ when negative polarity data is written is smaller than the voltage change $\Delta V_1(Off)$ when positive polarity data is written. The storage capacitor **7043** is a metal-insulator-metal capacitor. Therefore, for the sub-pixel **704**, the voltage change is always ΔV_2 no matter when negative polarity data is written or when positive polarity data is written.

[0065] According to this embodiment, the capacitance of the diffusion capacitor **7025** is equal to the capacitance of the diffusion capacitor **7045**. The capacitance of the liquid crystal capacitor **7024** is equal to the capacitance of the liquid crystal capacitor **7044**. The storage capacitor **7023** is a changeable metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor. Therefore, when positive polarity data is written, the capacitance $C_{7023, off}$ of the storage capacitor **7023** is less than the capacitance of the storage capacitor **7043**. On the other hand, when negative polarity data is written, the capacitance $C_{7023, on}$ of the storage capacitor **7023** is larger than the capacitance of the storage capacitor **7043**. Therefore, the relationship of the voltage change value is $\Delta V_1(Off) > \Delta V_2 > \Delta V_1(On)$.

[0066] Please refer to the FIG. 9 again. The storage capacitor **7023** is a changeable metal-insulator-semiconduc-

tor capacitor. Therefore, for the sub-pixel **702**, the voltage change for writing negative polarity data and the voltage change for writing positive polarity data is different in the instant that the thin film transistors **7021** and **7041** are turned off. The storage capacitor **7043** is a non-changeable metal-insulator-metal capacitor. Therefore, for the sub-pixel **704**, the voltage change for writing negative polarity data and the voltage change for writing positive polarity data is the same in the instant that the thin film transistors **7021** and **7041** are turned off. Therefore, in this embodiment, adjusting the capacitance of the storage capacitor **7023** makes the data voltage of the even frame symmetrical to the data voltage of the odd frame in the common electrode V_{com} after the thin film transistors **7021** and **7041** are turned off. In other words, for the sub-pixel **702**, the data voltage $V_{1,o}$ in the odd frame is equal to the data voltage $V_{1,e}$ in the even frame. For the sub-pixel **704**, the data voltage $V_{2,o}$ in the odd frame is equal to the data voltage $V_{2,e}$ in the even frame.

[**0067**] Also, the optical characteristic of the sub-pixel **702** can be evaluated by the root mean square voltage of $V_{1,o}$ and $V_{1,e}$, and the optical characteristic of the sub-pixel **704** can be evaluated by the root mean square voltage of $V_{2,o}$ and $V_{2,e}$, like in the foregoing first embodiment

[**0068**] According to the second embodiment, each pixel unit includes two sub-pixels. Therefore, the optical characteristic of the whole pixel region is the combination of the optical characteristics of the two sub-pixels. One of the two sub-pixels has a changeable storage capacitor. Therefore, by adjusting the capacitance of the storage capacitor **7023**, the data voltage of the even frame will be symmetrical to the data voltage of the odd frame in the common electrode V_{com} . Such a method may optimize the optical characteristics of this whole pixel.

[**0069**] Similarly, according to this embodiment, the changeable storage capacitor is located in the sub-pixel **702** in the second embodiment. However, in other embodiments, the changeable storage capacitor is located in the sub-pixel **704**. Moreover, in other embodiments, a plurality of changeable storage capacitors is located in the sub-pixel **702** and the sub-pixel **704** respectively. On the other hand, the value of the bias voltage V_{bias} is not limited in this embodiment. However, in other embodiments, the bias voltage V_{bias} is connected to the common electrode V_{com} .

[**0070**] Accordingly, each pixel unit includes two sub-pixels. Each sub-pixel includes a storage capacitor, a liquid crystal capacitor and a thin film transistor. One of the storage capacitors is a changeable capacitor or voltage control capacitor. By adjusting the capacitance of the changeable storage capacitor, the data voltage of the even frame is symmetrical to the data voltage of the odd frame in the common electrode V_{com} after the thin film transistors are turned off to improve the optical characteristic of the pixel unit.

[**0071**] As is understood by a person skilled in the art, the foregoing descriptions of the preferred embodiment of the present invention are an illustration of the present invention rather than a limitation thereof. Various modifications and similar arrangements are included within the spirit and scope of the appended claims. The scope of the claims should be accorded to the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and similar structures. While a preferred embodiment of the invention has been illustrated and described, it will be appreciated that various changes can be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A liquid crystal display, comprising:

a first substrate;

a plurality of data lines and a plurality of scan lines arranged in the first substrate, wherein the scan lines cross the data lines to define a plurality of pixel units, each pixel unit includes

a first sub-pixel and a second sub-pixel;

a first transistor located in the first sub-pixel and coupled to a first storage capacitor; and

a second transistor located in the second sub-pixel and coupled to a second storage capacitor, wherein at least one of the first storage capacitor and the second storage capacitor is a changeable capacitor.

2. The liquid crystal display of claim 1, wherein the first transistor has a gate electrode coupled to a first scan line, a drain electrode coupled to a first data line and a source electrode coupled to the first storage capacitor, and the second transistor has a gate electrode coupled to the first scan line, a drain electrode coupled to the first data line and a source electrode coupled to the second storage capacitor.

3. The liquid crystal display of claim 1, wherein the changeable capacitor is a metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor.

4. The liquid crystal display of claim 3, wherein the metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor includes a first metal layer, an insulator formed over the first metal layer, a semiconductor layer formed over the insulator layer and a second metal layer formed over the semiconductor layer.

5. The liquid crystal display of claim 4, wherein the semiconductor layer includes an amorphous silicon layer and an n+ amorphous silicon layer.

6. The liquid crystal display of claim 4, wherein the first metal layer is coupled to the source electrode of the first transistor, and the second metal layer is coupled to a bias electrode.

7. The liquid crystal display of claim 6, wherein when the voltage value of the bias electrode is less than the voltage value of the source electrode, the metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor has a first capacitance, and when the voltage value of the bias electrode is larger than the voltage value of the source electrode, the metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor has a second capacitance, wherein the first capacitance is larger than the second capacitance.

8. The liquid crystal display of claim 4, wherein the first metal layer is coupled to a bias electrode and the second metal layer is coupled to the source electrode of the first transistor.

9. The liquid crystal display of claim 8, wherein when the voltage value of the bias electrode is less than the voltage value of the source electrode, the metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor has a first capacitance, and when the voltage value of the bias electrode is larger than the voltage value of the source electrode, the metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor has a second capacitance, wherein the first capacitance is less than the second capacitance.

10. The liquid crystal display of claim 1, further comprising a first pixel electrode located in the first sub-pixel and coupled to the source electrode of the first transistor, and a second pixel electrode located in the second sub-pixel and coupled to the source electrode of the second transistor.

11. The liquid crystal display of claim 10, further comprising a second substrate facing the first substrate, wherein a common electrode is located in the second substrate.

12. The liquid crystal display of claim 11, wherein the common electrode and the first pixel electrode form a first liquid crystal capacitor, and the common electrode and the second pixel electrode form a second liquid crystal capacitor.

13. A liquid crystal display driving method, the liquid crystal display has a plurality of pixel units, each pixel unit includes a first sub-pixel with a first transistor and a second sub-pixel with a second transistor, the method comprising:

providing a high level electric potential to turn on the first transistor and the second transistor for writing a data signal to a pixel electrode in the first sub-pixel and a pixel electrode in the second sub-pixel; and

providing a low level electric potential to turn off the first transistor and the second transistor;

wherein, in a first frame of two adjacent frames, when the high level electric potential goes to the low level electric potential, a first voltage change happens in the pixel electrode of the first sub-pixel and a second voltage change happens in the pixel electrode of the second sub-pixel, and in the second frame, when the high level electric potential goes to the low level electric potential, a third voltage change happens in the pixel electrode of the first sub-pixel and a fourth voltage change happens in the pixel electrode of the second sub-pixel, wherein at least the first voltage change is not equal to the third voltage change.

14. The liquid crystal display driving method of claim 13, wherein the gate electrodes of the first transistor and the second transistor are coupled to a first scan line, and the high level electric potential as well as the low level electric potential is transferred in the first scan line.

15. The liquid crystal display driving method of claim 13, wherein at least one of the first sub-pixel and the second sub-pixel includes a metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor, and the metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor includes a first metal layer, an insulator formed over the first metal layer, a semiconductor layer formed over the insulator layer and a second metal layer formed over the semiconductor layer.

16. The liquid crystal display driving method of claim 15, wherein the absolute value of the first voltage change is less than the absolute value of the second voltage change and the absolute value of the fourth voltage change; the absolute value of the second voltage change and the absolute value of the fourth voltage change are less than the absolute value of the third voltage change.

17. The liquid crystal display driving method of claim 16, wherein the first metal layer is coupled to the source electrode of the first transistor and the second metal layer is coupled to a bias electrode.

18. The liquid crystal display driving method of claim 15, wherein when the voltage value applied to the first metal layer is larger than the voltage value applied to the second metal layer, the metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor has a first capacitance, and when the voltage value applied to the first metal layer is less than the voltage value applied to the second metal layer, the metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor has a second capacitance, wherein the first capacitance is larger than the second capacitance.

19. The liquid crystal display driving method of claim 15, wherein the absolute value of the first voltage change is larger than the absolute value of the second voltage change and the absolute value of the fourth voltage change; the absolute value of the second voltage change and the absolute value of the fourth voltage change are larger than the absolute value of the third voltage change.

20. The liquid crystal display driving method of claim 19, wherein the first metal layer is coupled to a bias electrode and the second metal layer is coupled to the source electrode of the first transistor.

21. A pixel unit structure, comprising:

a substrate;

a first metal layer located over the substrate, wherein the first metal layer is used as a gate metal layer of a thin film transistor and a down electrode of a metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor;

an insulator layer located over the gate metal layer and the down electrode to respectively serve as a gate insulator layer of the thin film transistor and an insulator layer of the metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor;

an amorphous silicon layer and an n+ amorphous silicon layer located over the gate insulator layer to serve as a drain region and a source region of the thin film transistor, and located over the insulator layer to serve as a semiconductor layer of the metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor; and

a second metal layer located over the drain region and the source region to serve as a drain electrode and a source electrode and over the semiconductor layer to serve as an up electrode of the metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor.

22. The pixel unit structure of claim 21, further comprising a passivation layer located over the second metal layer.

23. The pixel unit structure of claim 22, wherein the passivation layer further comprises a first through hole to expose the source electrode and a second through hole to expose a portion of the down electrode.

24. The pixel unit structure of claim 23, further comprising an indium tin oxide layer located over the passivation layer and located in the first through hole and the second through hole to connect with the source electrode and the down electrode.

25. The pixel unit structure of claim 21, wherein the second metal layer is located over the source electrode of the thin film transistor and located over the semiconductor layer of the metal-insulator-semiconductor capacitor respectively are connected together.

26. The pixel unit structure of claim 25, further comprising a passivation layer located over the second metal layer.

27. The pixel unit structure of claim 26, wherein the passivation layer further comprises a third through hole to expose the up electrode.

28. The pixel unit structure of claim 27, further comprising an indium tin oxide located over the passivation layer and located in the third through hole to connect with the source electrode and the up electrode.

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摘要(译)

本发明提供一种具有多个像素单元的液晶显示器。每个像素单元包括两个子像素。每个子像素包括薄膜晶体管，液晶电容器和存储电容器。其中一个存储电容器是可变电容器。通过可变电容器，在相邻帧期间在各个子像素中产生两个不同的数据电压。不同的数据电压相对于公共电压是对称的，以改善图像质量。

