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(54) **LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE AND DRIVING METHOD THEREOF**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A liquid crystal display device and a driving method for a liquid crystal display. The liquid crystal display device is formed to have thin film transistor conductive channels having an inverted "U"-shape. A shielding plate is provided to block incident light from reaching the conductive channels of the thin film transistors. This reduces or eliminates photo-induced leakage current and picture quality degradation. To prevent pixel electrode potential fluctuations caused by subsequent scan line drive signals, the liquid crystal display device is driven by scan signals that are sequentially applied from the mth gate line up to the first gate line.

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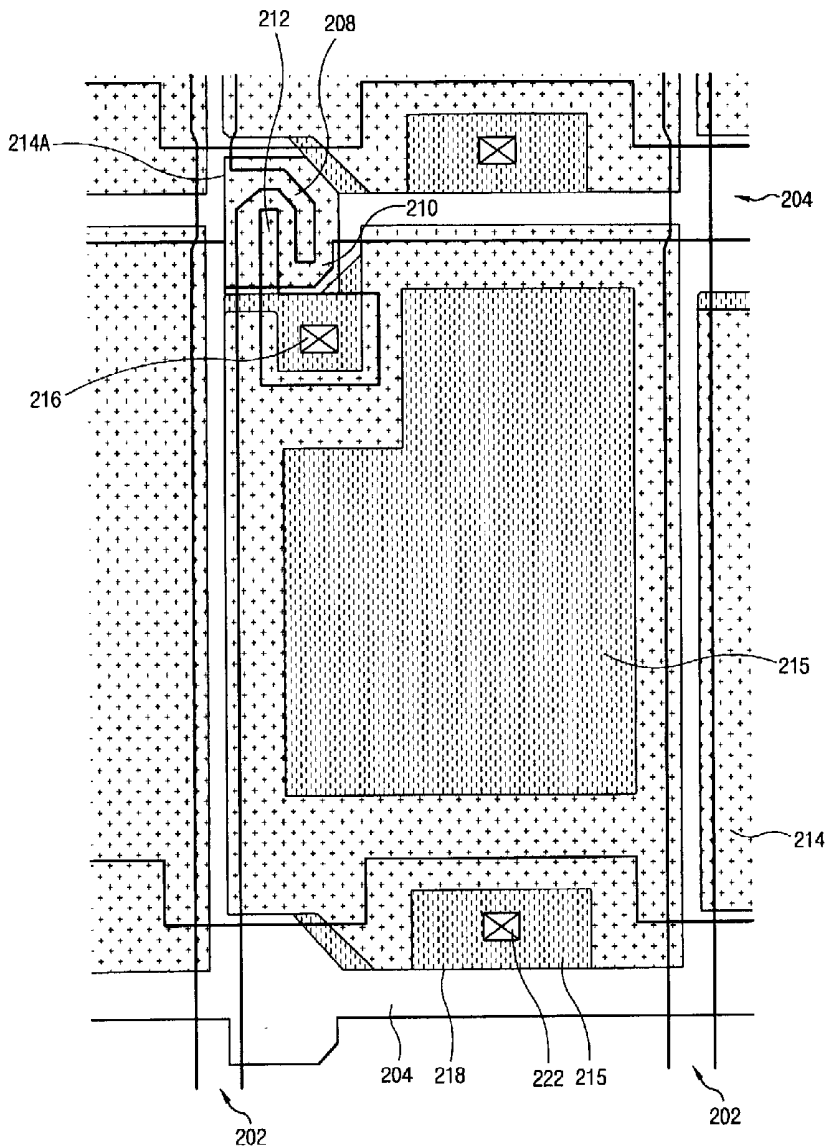


FIG. 1
CONVENTIONAL ART

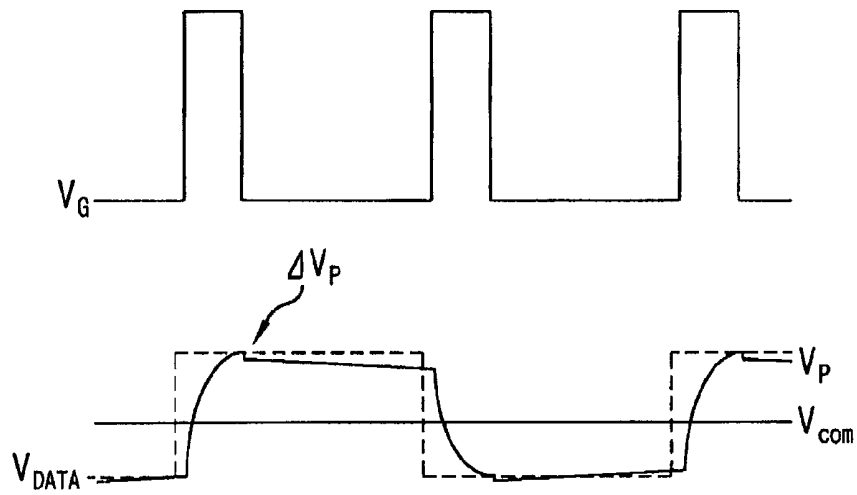


FIG. 2
CONVENTIONAL ART

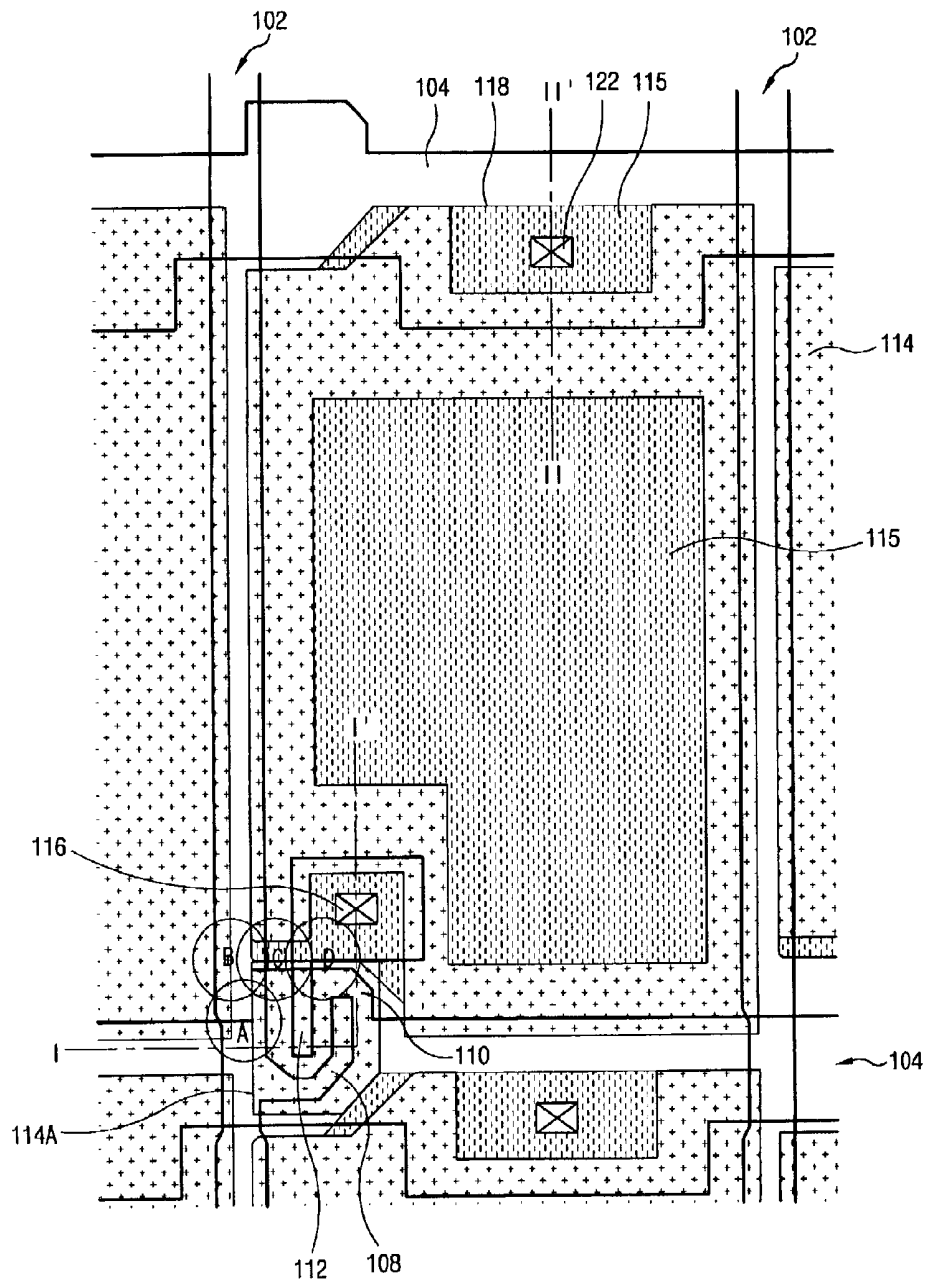


FIG. 3
CONVENTIONAL ART

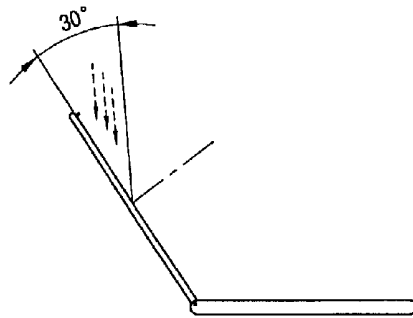


FIG. 4
CONVENTIONAL ART

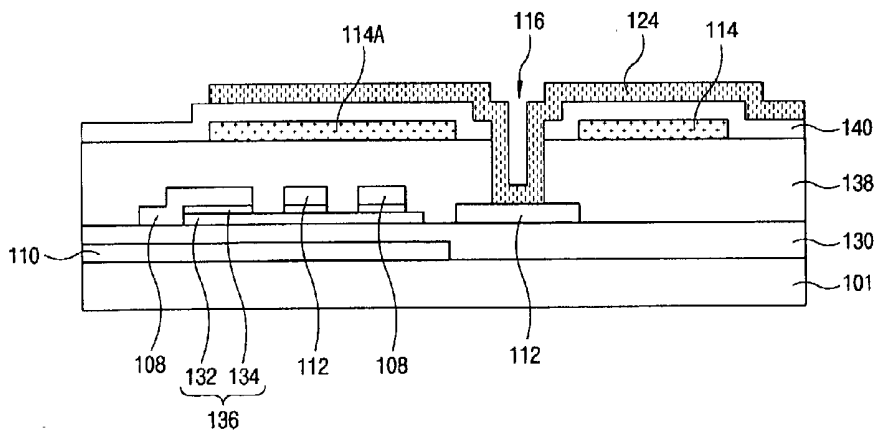


FIG. 5
CONVENTIONAL ART

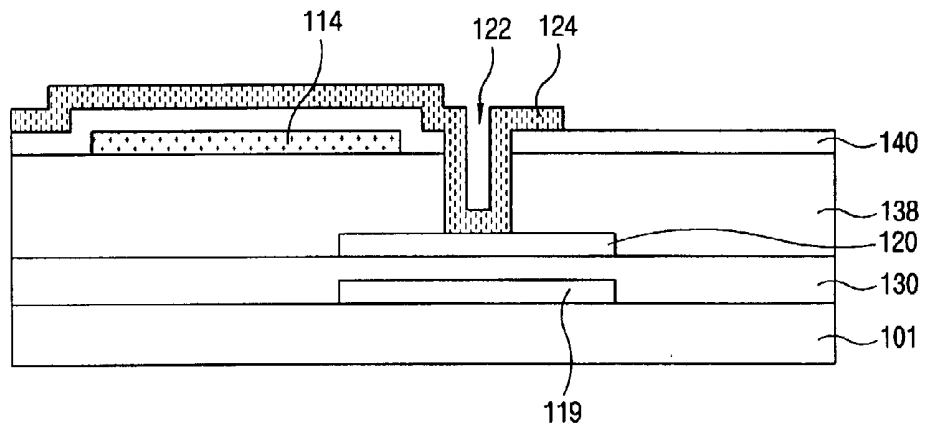


FIG. 6

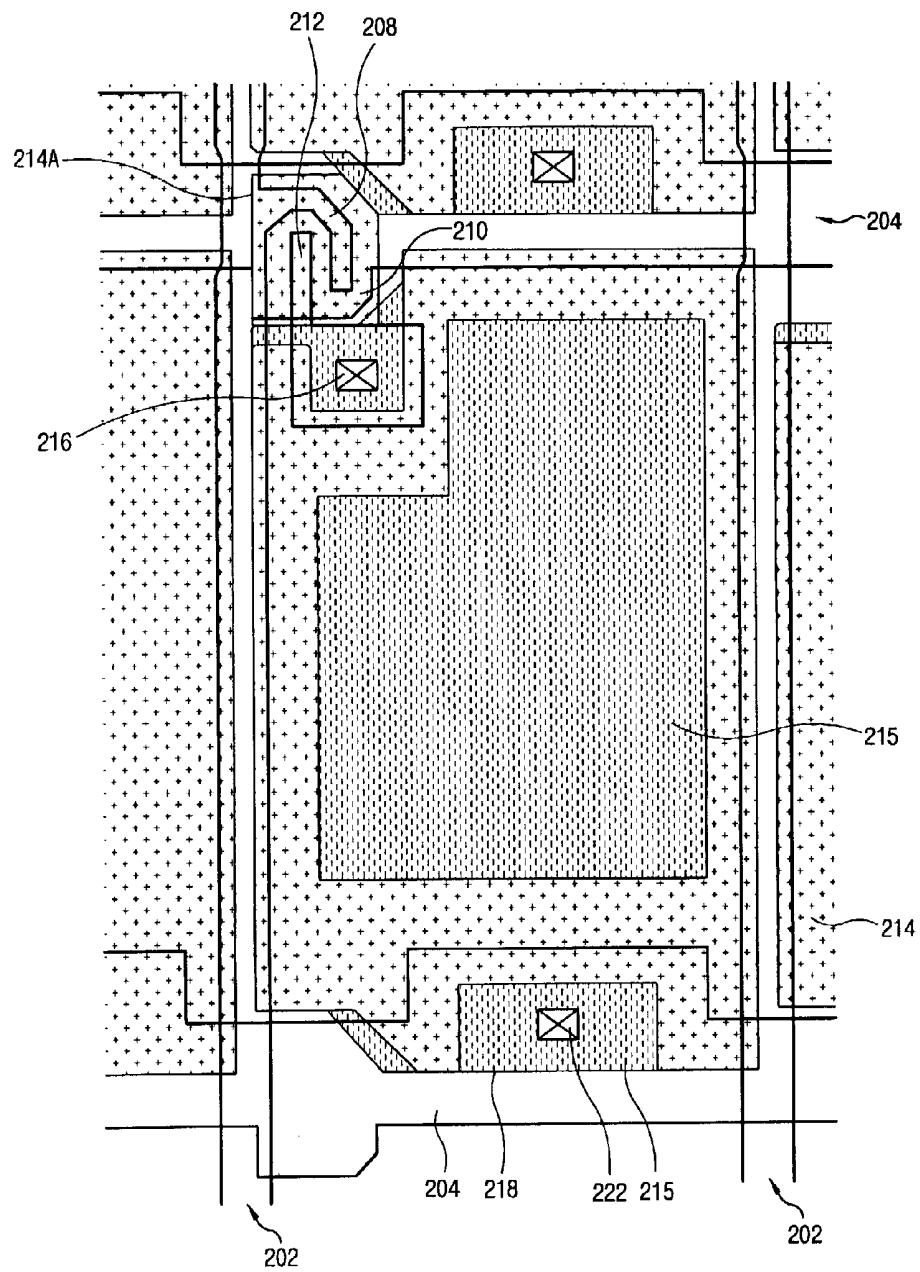


FIG. 7

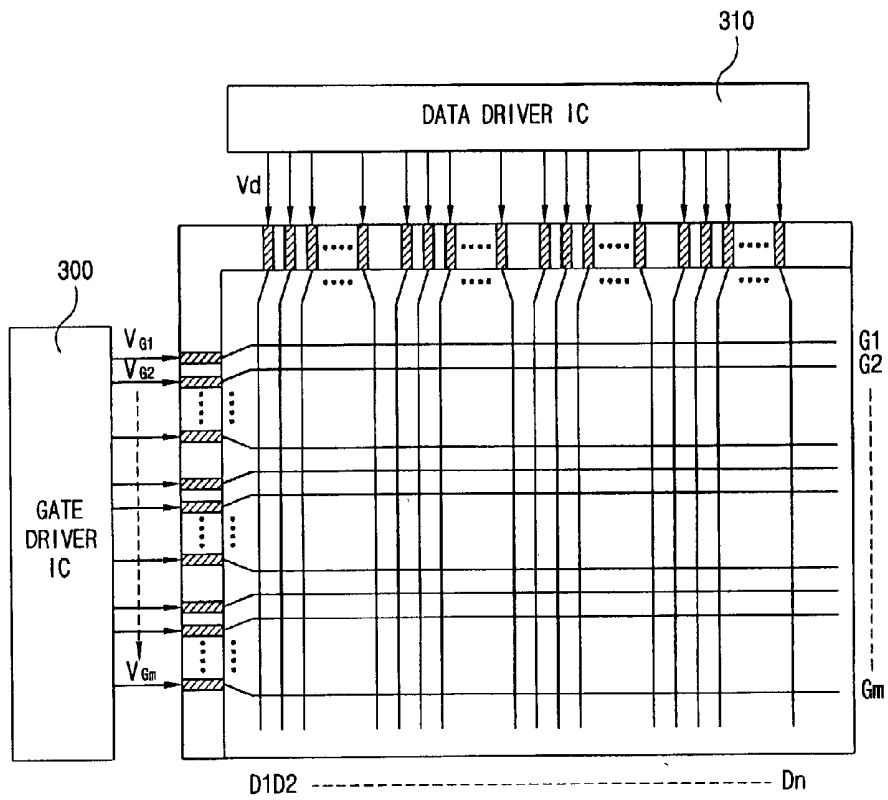


FIG. 8

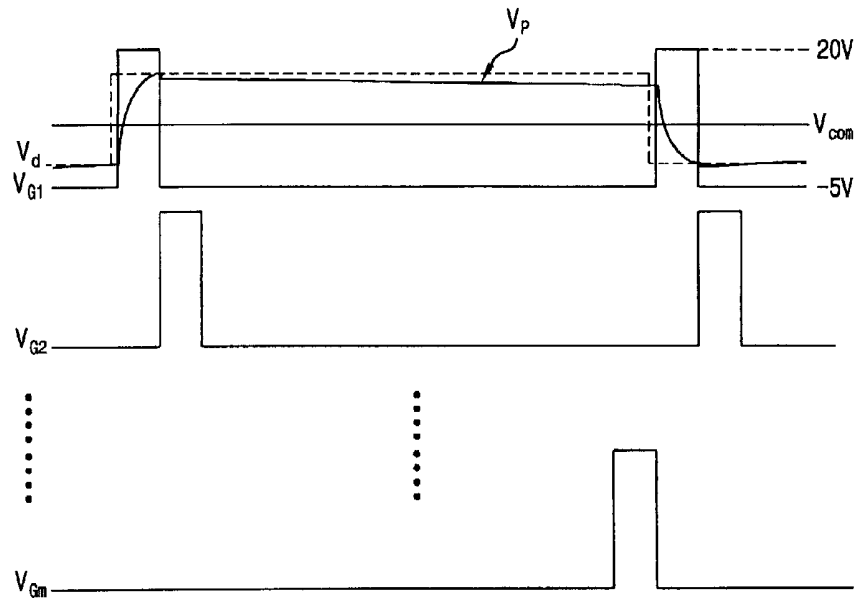


FIG. 9

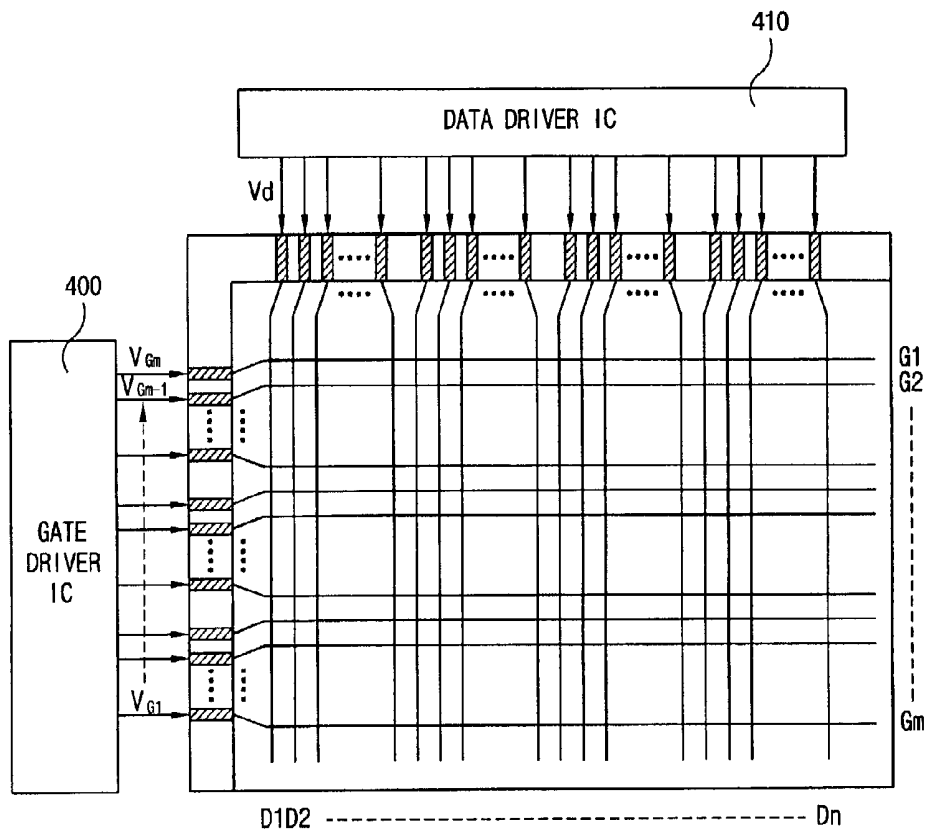
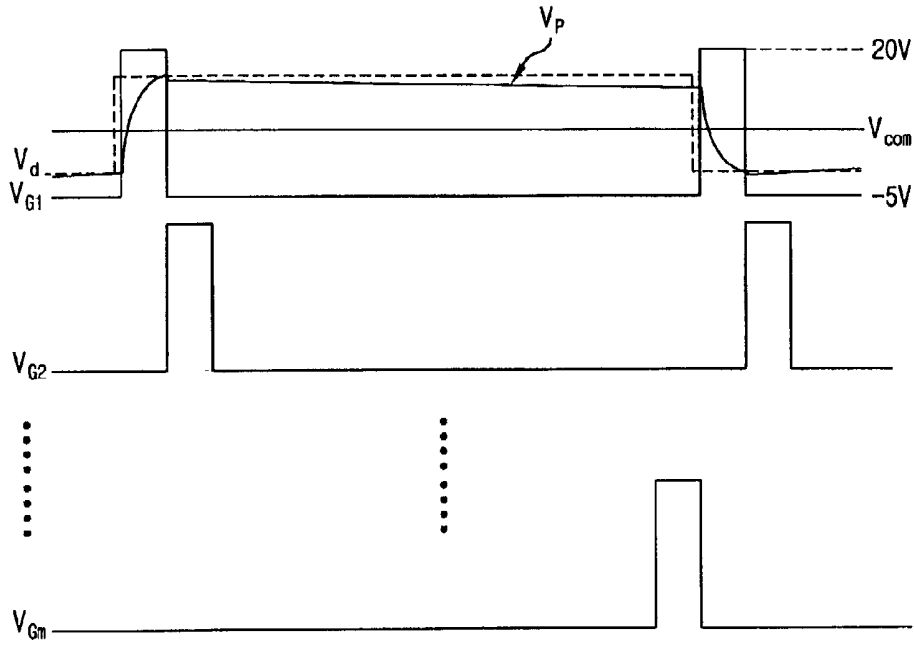


FIG. 10



LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE AND DRIVING METHOD THEREOF

[0001] This application claims the benefit of Korean Patent Application No. 81968/2001, filed on Dec. 20, 2001, which is hereby incorporated by reference for all purposes as if fully set forth herein.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] 1. Field of the Invention

[0003] This invention relates to liquid crystal displays. More particularly, this invention relates liquid crystal displays having reduced photo leakage current and improved picture quality.

[0004] 2. Discussion of the Related Art

[0005] Cathode ray tubes (CRT) are widely used display devices in television sets, measurement instrumentation, and information terminals. However, because they are heavy and consume significant power, CRTs are not well suited to applications that require compact, lightweight, low power displays.

[0006] A substitute for CRTs, liquid crystal displays, is compact, lightweight, and consumes low power. A liquid crystal display device incorporates a matrix of liquid crystal cells that are sequentially selected, line-by-line, to produce picture information. To do so, liquid crystal cells vary their light transmittance in accord with data signals that carry picture information.

[0007] A liquid crystal display includes a liquid crystal panel having liquid crystal cells and driver integrated circuits (IC) for driving those liquid crystal cells. A liquid crystal panel is usually comprised of a thin film transistor array substrate and of a color filter substrate that are disposed in a facing relationship. Additionally, a liquid crystal layer is interposed between the thin film transistor array substrate and the color filter substrate.

[0008] A thin film transistor array substrate includes a plurality of data lines for transmitting data signals from data driver integrated circuits to the liquid crystal cells, and a plurality of gate lines for transmitting scan signals supplied from gate driver integrated circuits to the liquid crystal cells. The liquid crystal cells are defined by intersections of the data lines and the gate lines. As a gate driver integrated circuit sequentially supplies scan signals to the gate lines, data signals are supplied to the liquid crystal cells.

[0009] A common electrode on the color filter substrate and pixel electrodes on the thin film transistor array substrate are used to produce electric fields across the liquid crystal layer. By controlling the voltage applied to the pixel electrodes the light transmittance of each liquid crystal cell can be controlled.

[0010] To control the voltage applied to a pixel electrode, a thin film transistor is formed in each liquid crystal cell. When a scan signal is supplied to a gate electrode of the thin film transistor, a conductive channel is formed between a source electrode, which is connected to a data line, and a drain electrode, which is connected to an associated pixel electrode. Thus, the thin film transistor controls the flow of data signals to the pixel electrodes. Thin film transistors usually use amorphous silicon, which can be formed at a low

temperature on a large-scale insulation substrate, such as a low-priced glass substrate, as an active layer. Accordingly, controlling data signals applied to each liquid crystal cell by selective switching of the thin film transistors, the light transmittance of the liquid crystal cells can be controlled.

[0011] The light transmitting process of a liquid crystal display device will now be described. First, a common electrode voltage is supplied to the common electrode. Then, scan signals are sequentially supplied to the gate lines by gate driver integrated circuits. The scan signals are applied to the gate electrodes of the thin film transistors. Meanwhile, data signals are supplied to the liquid crystal cells by data driver integrated circuits via data lines. The data signals are applied to the source electrodes of the thin film transistor.

[0012] Accordingly, the data signals are supplied to the drain electrodes through conductive channels formed when a scan signal is applied to a particular transistor. The data signal is supplied to the drain electrode through the channel. The data signal is thus supplied to the pixel electrode that is connected to the drain electrode. In practice, the pixel electrode is also connected to a storage electrode. Thus, the data signal voltage supplied to each pixel electrode is stored in a storage electrode. When a thin film transistor is turned off, the voltage across its storage capacitor continues to be applied to the pixel electrode, thereby maintaining the liquid crystal cell drive.

[0013] As mentioned, since a common electrode voltage is applied to the common electrode, and a data signal voltage is applied to the pixel electrode, electric fields are produced across the liquid crystal layer by the potentials of the common electrode and of the pixel electrodes.

[0014] When an electric field is applied across the liquid crystal layer, the liquid crystal is rotated by dielectric anisotropy to selectively transmit light emitted from a back light unit through the pixel electrode. The electric field strength is controlled by the data signal voltage that is applied to the pixel electrode, and the light transmittance of the liquid crystal layer is controlled by the electric field strength.

[0015] Unfortunately, continuous applying a single electric field polarity degrades the liquid crystal. To prevent such degradation the data signals alternately switch polarity relative to the common voltage. This general technique is called inversion driving.

[0016] FIG. 1 is an exemplary view showing voltage waveforms applied to a liquid crystal display device. As shown, a common electrode voltage (V_{com}) is applied to the common electrode, while a data signal voltage (V_{DATA}) is applied to the source electrode of a thin film transistor via the data line. Additionally, a scan signal (V_G) is applied to the gate electrode of the thin film transistor via the gate line.

[0017] During the turn-on period of the thin film transistor, when the scan signal (V_G) is applied at a high potential, the positive data signal voltage (V_{DATA}) is supplied to the pixel electrode and to the source capacitor by the drain electrode. At that time, the positive data signal voltage (V_{DATA}) is charged into the storage capacitance. Thus, as shown, a pixel electrode voltage (V_P) is produced.

[0018] When the thin film transistor is turned off by removal of the scan signal (V_G), a voltage drop from the

charged pixel electrode voltage (V_p) occurs because of a parasitic capacitance. The voltage drop is called a kick-back voltage (" ΔV_p "), reference **FIG. 1**.

[0019] During the turn-off period the pixel electrode voltage (V_p) charged into the storage capacitor is applied to the pixel electrode, thus maintaining drive to the liquid crystal cell.

[0020] Meanwhile, in the $n+1$ th frame, since the above-described inversion driving method is used, a negative data signal voltage (V_{DATA}) is supplied through the source and drain electrodes to the pixel electrode and to the storage capacitor. Accordingly, as shown in **FIG. 1**, the pixel electrode voltage (V_p) in the $n+1$ th frame has a voltage waveform that is symmetrical relative to the common electrode voltage (V_{com}) with the pixel electrode voltage (V_p) of the n th frame,

[0021] Meanwhile, since the thin film transistor channel is amorphous silicon, if an external light is irradiated onto the channel a photo-induced leakage current results. The photo-induced leakage current decreases the voltage of the storage capacitor during the turnoff period, which reduces the pixel electrode voltage (V_p) as shown in **FIG. 1**.

[0022] Since a transmission type liquid crystal display device does not emit light, it requires an optical source such as a back light unit or external light. A liquid crystal display device that uses a back light unit is called a transmission type liquid crystal display device, while a liquid crystal display device that uses external natural light is called a reflective type liquid crystal display device.

[0023] The transmission type liquid crystal display device usually locates the back light unit either below the liquid crystal display panel or along an edge. Currently, the edge-type transmission type is more common.

[0024] However, the transmission type liquid crystal display device is inefficient in that only 3% to 8% of the light from the back light unit is actually transmitted. For example, using the reasonable assumptions that the transmittance of two polarization plates is about 45%, that the transmittance of two glass substrates is about 94%, that the transmittance of a thin film transistor array and pixel is about 65%, and that the transmittance of a color filter is about 27%, then the overall transmittance of a liquid crystal display device is about 7.4%.

[0025] Thus, the amount of light from a transmission type liquid crystal display device is only about 7% of the light from the back light unit. Thus, if a high luminance is required the back light unit needs to be very bright, something that causes great power consumption. Thus, in order to supply enough power to the back light unit a large, heavy, high capacity battery is required. Even with such a battery there is a limit on how long the liquid crystal display device can be used while traveling. Further, such a large capacity battery is an obstacle to achieving the desired size, weight, and portability.

[0026] A solution to the power problems of the transmission type liquid crystal display device is the reflective type liquid crystal display device. The reflective type liquid crystal display produces an image using external light. Thus, only a small amount of power is required. Accordingly, a reflective type liquid crystal display device can be used for

extended periods of time, is more compact, lightweight and portable. Furthermore, since the entire unit pixel can be used, the aperture ratio of a reflective type liquid crystal display device is excellent.

[0027] The reflective type liquid crystal display device includes a translucent reflective electrode that is made of a light reflective metal, instead of the transparent conductive material used in a transmission type liquid crystal display device. The reflective electrode produces an electric field across the liquid crystal layer in conjunction with a common transparent electrode on the color filter substrate.

[0028] When an electric field is applied across the liquid crystal layer, the liquid crystal is rotated by the dielectric anisotropy. This controls the amount of external light that is transmitted through the color filter substrate, and thus the amount of light reflected by the reflective electrode. The reflected light is thus controlled by voltages applied to the reflective electrodes.

[0029] However, the reflective type liquid crystal display device has a problem in that since the materials of the reflective electrode and the common transparent electrode are different, the driving characteristics of the liquid crystal are deteriorated, which results in degradation of the image produced on the liquid crystal display device.

[0030] In addition, the external light required for the reflective type liquid crystal display device is not constant. That is, while a reflective liquid crystal display device can be used during the day or when artificial light exists, it will not work in the dark.

[0031] Consequently, transmission/reflective type liquid crystal display devices have been proposed. The transmission/reflective type liquid crystal display device adopts a reflection mode when external light is available, but a transmission mode when external light is not available.

[0032] The transmission/reflective type liquid crystal display device will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings. **FIG. 2** shows a plan view of a unit pixel of a transmission/reflective type liquid crystal display device. With reference to **FIG. 2**, gate lines **104** are arranged at regular intervals on a substrate, and data lines **102** are arranged at regular intervals, but in a crossing relationship. Accordingly, the gate lines **104** and the data lines **102** form a matrix of liquid crystal cells. A thin film transistor (TFT), a reflective electrode **114** and a pixel electrode **115** are provided in each liquid crystal cell.

[0033] Each thin film transistor includes a gate electrode **110** that extends from a gate line **104**, and a source electrode **108** that extends from a data line **102** and that overlaps the gate electrode **110**. Additionally, each thin film transistor includes a drain electrode **112** that corresponds to the source electrode **108** on the gate electrode **110**. Each thin film transistor (TFT) also includes an active layer (not shown in **FIG. 2**) for forming a conductive channel between the source electrode **108** and the drain electrode **112** when a scan signal is supplied to the gate electrode **110**. As the active layer, amorphous silicon is beneficial in that it can be formed at a low temperature on a low-priced glass substrate.

[0034] Extending the conductive channel tends to improve the characteristics of the thin film transistor (TFT). Thus, the conductive channel is preferably formed in an "L" shape or

in a “U” shape. **FIG. 2** illustrates the “U” shape. To achieve a “U”-shaped conductive channel, the source electrode **108** extends with a hook shape from the data line **102**, and the drain electrode **112** is inside the hook.

[0035] Compared to an “L”-shaped conductive channel, the “U”-shaped conductive channel is longer. Furthermore, the overlap between the drain electrode **112** and the gate electrode **110** can be formed despite some misalignment in the fabrication process. However, the overlap between the drain electrode **112** and the gate electrode **110** is significantly influenced by misalignment. Thus, the parasitic capacitance (C_{gd}) between the drain electrode **112** and the gate electrode **110** can be changed enough that picture quality degradation results.

[0036] The pixel electrode **115** and the drain electrode **112** electrically connect through a drain contact hole **116** that is formed through an insulation film (not shown in **FIG. 2**). The pixel electrode **115** is formed in the pixel region of each liquid crystal cell and is comprised of a transparent conductive material.

[0037] At marginal portions of the each pixel region is a translucent reflective electrode **114** that is comprised of a highly reflective and conductive material. The reflective electrode **114** is overlapped by the insulation film and by the pixel electrode **115**. The reflective electrode **114** is also formed near the thin film transistor (TFT). Thus, the reflective electrode acts as a shielding plate **114A** that blocks light that is directed toward the conductive channel of the thin film transistor (TFT). Because of the shielding plate **114A**, light irradiated toward the conductive channel is blocked, and thus photo-induced current leakage of the thin film transistor (TFT) is reduced or prevented.

[0038] Referring once again to **FIG. 1**, by minimizing the reduction of the pixel electrode voltage (V_p) charged into the storage capacitor during the turn-off period of the thin film transistor (TFT), the picture quality of the liquid crystal display device could be improved.

[0039] In conventional transmission/reflective type liquid crystal displays of the type used in notebook personal computers, if the external illumination is below about 50,000 to 60,000 (Lux), that light is blocked by the shielding plate **114A**. Referring now to **FIG. 3**, but if the external illumination is around 100,000~110,000 (Lux), something like noon sun light, incident light having an incident angle of less than 30° relative to the display unit of the notebook type personal computer is not blocked. Problems can arise because the shielding plate **114A** does not sufficiently block the light.

[0040] Referring once again to **FIG. 2**, if the shielding plate **114A** fails to sufficiently block the light incident at regions “A” to “D” photo-induced leakage currents and their consequent picture quality degradation can result.

[0041] **FIG. 4** is a sectional view of the thin film transistor taken along line I-I' of **FIG. 2**. As shown, the sectional structure includes the gate electrode **110** on a substrate **101**, and a gate insulation film **130** over the substrate **101** and over the gate electrode **110**. Beneficially, the gate electrode **110** is formed along with the gate line **104**.

[0042] Still referring to **FIG. 4**, an active layer **136** is on the gate insulation film **130** and over the gate electrode **110**.

The active layer **136** includes an amorphous silicon semiconductor layer **132** and an n+ amorphous silicon ohmic contact layer **134** that is highly doped with phosphor. The drain electrode **112** is located above the center of the active layer **136**, while the source electrode **108**, which is also above the active layer **136**, is located away from the drain electrode **112** toward the edges of the active layer **136**.

[0043] The ohmic contact layer **134** is partially removed during patterning of the source electrode **108** and the drain electrode **112** to assist defining the “U” shaped channel.

[0044] Still referring to **FIG. 4**, a passivation film **138** is formed over the source electrode **108** and the drain electrode **112**, over the active layer **136**, and over the gate insulation film **130**. The passivation film **138** can be an inorganic insulation film, such as SiNx or SiOx, or to improve the aperture ratio, the passivation film **138** can be an organic insulation film such as benzocyclobutane (BSB), spin-on-glass (SOG) or acryl having a low dielectric constant. If the reflective electrode **114** (described in more detail subsequently) is directly deposited on an organic insulation film, to prevent contamination of the deposition chamber by organic materials, the passivation film **138** can be formed by stacking organic and insulation films.

[0045] Still referring to **FIG. 4**, the reflective electrode **114** and the shielding plate **114A** are on the passivation film **138**. Those structures can be simultaneously patterned. Then, an inorganic insulation film **140**, such as SiNx or SiOx, is formed over the passivation film **138** and over the reflective electrode **114**. The inorganic insulation film **140** electrically insulates the reflective electrode **114** and a pixel electrode **124** (described below) such that when an electric field is applied between the common electrode (not shown) on the transparent color filter substrate and the translucent reflective electrode **114**, deterioration of the liquid crystal due to different materials is prevented.

[0046] Still referring to **FIG. 4**, a drain contact hole **116** is then formed through the passivation film **138** and through the inorganic insulation film **140** so as to expose a portion of the drain electrode **112**. Then, the pixel electrode **124** is formed over the inorganic insulation film **140** and into the drain contact hole **116** so as to contact the drain electrode **112**.

[0047] Referring now back to **FIG. 2**, the gate lines **104** extend perpendicular to the gate electrodes **110**. The gate lines **104** act as a first electrode of a storage capacitor. An insulation film overlaps the first electrode, and then a storage electrode (not shown) overlaps the first electrode with the insulation film acting as a dielectric layer, thus forming a storage capacitor **118**. The storage electrode **118** connects to a pixel electrode **115** through a storage contact hole **122**.

[0048] **FIG. 5** is a cross-sectional view of the storage capacitor **118** taken along line II-II' of **FIG. 2**. As shown, the storage electrode includes the first electrode **119** on the substrate **101**. The gate insulation film **130** covers the substrate **101** and the first electrode **119**. The storage electrode **120** is formed on the gate insulation film **130** and over part (reference **FIG. 2**) of the first electrode **119**.

[0049] Still referring to **FIG. 5**, the passivation film **138** and the inorganic insulation film **140** are stacked over the gate insulation film **130** and over the storage electrode **120**. The reflective electrode **114** is formed as previously

described. A storage contact hole **122** is formed through the inorganic insulation film **140** and through the passivation film **138** to expose a portion of the storage electrode **120**. A pixel electrode **124** is then formed over the inorganic insulation film **140**, into the storage contact hole **122**, and in electrical contact with the storage electrode **120**.

[0050] Accordingly, the storage electrode **120** overlaps the first electrode **119** with an interposed gate insulation film **130**, thereby forming the storage capacitor **118**.

[0051] The storage capacitor **118** is charged to a data signal voltage during the turn-on period of the thin film transistor (TFT) (when a scan signal is applied to the gate line **104**). The charged voltage is then applied to the pixel electrode **124** during the turn-off period of the thin film transistor (TFT), thereby maintaining the state of the liquid crystal in the OFF period.

[0052] As mentioned, a conventional liquid crystal display device in a notebook type personal computer can have a degraded picture when light is incident at an angle of less than 30° . This is because the thin film transistor conductive channel receives such incident light, which creates photo-induced leakage current, which causes picture quality degradation.

[0053] Therefore, a new liquid crystal display that does not suffer from photo-induced leakage current when light is incident at an angle of less than 30° would be beneficial.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0054] Accordingly, the present invention is directed to a liquid crystal display device and driving method thereof that substantially obviates one or more of the problems due to limitations and disadvantages of the related art.

[0055] An advantage of the present invention is to provide a liquid crystal display device and its driving method that improves picture quality by minimizing photo-induced leakage current.

[0056] Additional features and advantages of the invention will be set forth in the description which follows, and in part will be apparent from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention. The objectives and other advantages of the invention will be realized and attained by the structure particularly pointed out in the written description and claims hereof as well as the appended drawings.

[0057] To achieve these and other advantages and in accordance with the purpose of the present invention, as embodied and broadly described, there is provided a liquid crystal display device having a plurality of gate lines and a plurality of data lines that cross the gate lines. Gate electrodes extend from the gate lines, and source electrodes of thin film transistors having active layers extend from the data lines and overlap the gate electrodes. Furthermore, drain electrodes of the thin film transistors define conductive channels. The drain electrodes are formed in an inverted "U" shape such the source electrodes form shielding plates for blocking incident light that is directed toward the conductive channel of the thin film transistor.

[0058] Another advantage of the present invention is to provide a driving method for driving M gate lines G_1 through G_M . The method including applying a gate signal voltage

pulse to a $p+1$ th gate line so as to form a plurality of inverted "U" shaped channels. Then, sequentially applying a gate signal voltage pulse to the p th gate line so as to form a plurality of inverted "U" shaped channels, and sequentially applying a gate signal voltage pulse to the $p-1$ th gate line so as to form a plurality of inverted "U" shaped channels, wherein $p+1$ is less than or equal to M , and wherein $p-1$ is greater than or equal to 1.

[0059] It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory and are intended to provide further explanation of the invention as claimed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0060] 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 and together with the description serve to explain the principles of the invention.

[0061] In the drawings:

[0062] **FIG. 1** is an exemplary view showing voltage waveforms applied to a conventional art liquid crystal display device;

[0063] **FIG. 2** illustrates a unit pixel of a conventional art general transmission/reflective type liquid crystal display device;

[0064] **FIG. 3** is an exemplary view showing the incident angle of light;

[0065] **FIG. 4** is a sectional view taken along line I-I' of **FIG. 2**;

[0066] **FIG. 5** is a sectional view taken along line II-II" of **FIG. 2**;

[0067] **FIG. 6** illustrates a transmission/reflective type liquid crystal display device that is in accord with the principles of the present invention;

[0068] **FIG. 7** is an exemplary view showing a conventional method of applying scan signals;

[0069] **FIG. 8** illustrates applied voltage waveforms of **FIG. 7**;

[0070] **FIG. 9** is an exemplary view showing a method of applying scan signals in accordance with the principles of the present invention; and

[0071] **FIG. 10** is an exemplary view showing voltage waveforms of **FIG. 9**.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATED EMBODIMENTS

[0072] Reference will now be made in detail to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

[0073] **FIG. 6** is an exemplary view of a transmission/reflective type liquid crystal display device that is in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. With reference to **FIG. 6**, gate lines **204** are arranged at regular intervals on a substrate, and data lines **202** are arranged at regular intervals so as to cross the gate lines **204**.

The gate and data lines are isolated from each other. Accordingly, the gate lines **204** and the data lines **202** form a matrix of unit liquid crystal cell that are defined by the data lines **202** and the gate lines **204**. Each liquid crystal cell includes a thin film transistor (TFT), a reflection electrode **214**, and a pixel electrode **215**.

[0074] Each thin film transistor (TFT) includes a gate electrode **210** that extends in a predetermined direction (see below) from the gate line **204**, a source electrode **208** that extends from the data line **202** (as is subsequently explained) so as to overlap part of the gate electrode **210**, and a drain electrode **212** that is formed on the gate electrode **210** so as to correspond with the source electrode **208**. The thin film transistor (TFT) also includes an active layer (which is not shown in **FIG. 6** for clarity) wherein a conductive channel is formed between the source electrode **208** and the drain electrode **212** when a scan signal is applied to the gate electrode **210** via the gate line **204**. The active layer is beneficially comprised of amorphous silicon, which can be formed at a relatively low temperature on a low-priced glass substrate.

[0075] As shown in **FIG. 6**, the source electrode **208** extends from the data line **202** in an inverted hook shape, which is in contrast to the upright hook shape of the source electrode in **FIG. 2**. The drain electrode **212** is isolated by a predetermined interval from the inside of the source electrode **208**, but extends into the hook portion. Accordingly, the conductive channel formed in the active layer has an inverted "U" shape. Additionally, the gate electrode **210** extends downward toward the bottom of the display.

[0076] Still referring to **FIG. 6**, a pixel electrode **215** electrically contacts the drain electrode **212** through a drain contact hole **216** that is formed in an insulation film (not shown in **FIG. 6**) over the drain electrode **212**. The pixel electrode **215** is made of a transparent conductive material and is formed in the pixel region defined by the liquid crystal cell. Furthermore, at marginal portions of the pixel region **215** and on the insulation film (again, which is not shown in **FIG. 6**) is a translucent reflection electrode **214** that is comprised of a reflective and conductive material. The reflection electrode **214** is also formed over an upper portion of the thin film transistor (TFT). That part of the reflection electrode serves as a shielding plate **214A** that blocks light that is directed toward the conductive channel from reaching the thin film transistor (TFT).

[0077] Still referring to **FIG. 6**, the gate line **204** extends in the direction opposite the gate electrode **210**. Part of the gate line **204** acts as a first electrode of a storage capacitor **218**. That storage capacitor further includes part of the insulation film, which acts as a dielectric, and a storage electrode that overlaps the first electrode. The storage electrode (which is below the pixel electrode) is connected to the pixel electrode **215** through the storage contact hole **222**.

[0078] Thus, a transmission/reflective type liquid crystal display device in accord with **FIG. 6** includes both a thin film transistor (TFT) that forms an inverted "U" conductive channel, and a shielding plate **214A** that protects that conductive channel. Accordingly, light that is incident at an angle of less than 30° (reference **FIG. 3**) to a display unit of a notebook type personal computer that is in accord with the principles of the present invention is blocked by the source electrode **208** that helps form the inverted "U"-shaped

conductive channel. Thus, light that would be incident on the regions "A" to "D" of **FIG. 2** is blocked. Such blocking reduces or prevents photo-induced leakage current in the thin film transistor (TFT).

[0079] The transmission/reflective type liquid crystal display device of the conventional art as shown in **FIG. 2** and the transmission/reflective type liquid crystal display device in accordance with the present invention as shown in **FIG. 6** will now be compared. First, referring to the conventional liquid crystal display device shown in **FIG. 2**, the liquid crystal cells defined by intersections of the data lines **102** and the gate lines **104** include a thin film transistor (TFT) and the storage capacitor **118**. The thin film transistors (TFT) of the pth gate line **104** include gate electrodes **110** that extend in the direction of the p-1th gate line **104**. The drain electrode **112** and the source electrode **108** that overlap the gate electrode **110** form a "U"-shaped conductive channel.

[0080] Additionally, the storage capacitors **118** for the drains of the pth gate line **104** include a first electrode **119** formed by the p-1th gate line **104** and a storage electrode **120** that overlaps the first electrode **119**. Additionally, the storage electrode **120** connects to the pixel electrode **115** through a storage contact hole **122** over the p-1th gate line.

[0081] In contrast, a transmission/reflective type liquid crystal display device in accord with **FIG. 6** has unit liquid crystal cells defined by intersections of data lines **202** and gate lines **204**. Those unit liquid crystal cells include thin film transistors (TFT) and storage capacitors **218**. Each of those thin film transistors (TFT) includes a gate electrode **210** that extends from the pth gate line **204** toward the p+1th gate line **204**. Additionally, each thin film transistor (TFT) includes a drain electrode **212** and a source electrode **208** that overlap the gate electrode **210** so as to form an inverted "U" shaped conductive channel.

[0082] Additionally, the storage capacitors **218** for the thin film transistors on the pth gate line **204** each include a first electrode that is part of the p+1th gate line **204**, part of the gate insulation film, and a storage electrode that is connected to the pixel electrode **215** through a storage contact hole **222** over the p+1th gate line **204**. The storage capacitor **218** is charged to a data signal voltage during a turn-on period of the thin film transistor (TFT) when a scan signal is applied to the pth gate line **204**. The storage capacitor **218** then supplies the charged voltage to the pixel electrode **224** during the turn-off period of the thin film transistor (TFT) to maintain the drive of the liquid crystal.

[0083] A general driving method of a conventional liquid crystal display device will now be described in detail with reference to **FIGS. 7 and 8**. First, a common electrode voltage (V_{com}) is applied to the common electrode. Then scan signals (V_{G1} to V_{Gm}) are sequentially supplied to the first gate lines (G_1) through the mth gate line (G_m) by a gate driver integrated circuit **300**. The scan signals (V_{G1} to V_{Gm}) are applied as pulses having a low potential of -5V and a high potential of 20V. Accordingly, when a scan signal (V_{G1}) is applied to the first gate line (G_1), the 20V high potential applied to the gate electrodes connected to the first gate line (G_1) turn on their associated thin film transistors. Accordingly, conductive channels are formed. Then, the data signal voltages (V_d) supplied by the data driver integrated circuit **310** to the data lines (D_1 to D_n) are applied to the source electrodes of the thin film transistors connected to the first

gate line (G_1). The data signal voltages (V_d) pass through the thin film transistor channels to the drain electrodes. Since the drain electrodes connect to the pixel electrodes through the drain contact holes, the data signal voltages (V_d) are applied to the pixel electrodes. This forms electric fields to the common electrode. Thus, the liquid crystal is driven to control its light transmittance. Furthermore, since the pixel electrodes are connected to the storage electrodes through the storage contact holes, the data signal voltages (V_d) applied to the pixel electrodes are charged into the storage capacitors during turn-on. When the scan signal (V_{G1}) applied to the first gate line (G_1) returns to $-5V$, a $20V$ scan signal (V_{G2}) is applied to the second gate line (G_2). Then, the thin film transistors connected to the first gate line (G_1) turn off, while those connected to the second gate line turn on. The data signal voltages (V_d) charged into the storage capacitors associated with the first gate line (G_1) continue to be supplied to the pixel electrodes. This maintains the drive to the liquid crystal cells of the first gate line (G_1). As the thin film transistors associated with the second gate line (G_2) turn on, the foregoing process is repeated for the liquid crystal cells associated with the second gate line.

[0084] However, with a transmission/reflective type liquid crystal display device in accord with FIG. 6, since the storage capacitors associated with the first gate line (G_1) include part of the second gate line (G_2), the data signal voltages (V_d) charged into the storage capacitors associated with the first gate line (G_1) would fluctuate if they were driven as in the conventional art. This is because the data signal voltages (V_d) charged into the storage capacitors associated with the first gate line (G_1) would be impacted by the scan signal voltage (V_{G2}) applied to the second gate line (G_2). Such fluctuations would degrade picture quality due to flicker or an image stain.

[0085] Accordingly, to prevent such problems, a better driving method for a liquid crystal display device in accord with FIG. 6 will be described with reference to FIGS. 9 and 10. First, a common electrode voltage (V_{com}) is applied to the common electrode. Then, scan signals (V_{G1} to V_{Gm}) are sequentially supplied for the m gate lines (G_1 through G_m) from a gate driver integrated circuit 400. The scan signals (V_{G1} to V_{Gm}) are applied as pulses having a low potential of $-5V$ and a high potential of $20V$. Accordingly, when a scan signal (V_{G2}) is applied to the second gate line (G_2), a high potential is applied to the gate electrodes of the thin film transistors associated with the second gate line (G_2). Conductive channels are then formed between the source electrodes and the drain electrodes of the associated thin film transistors. Data signal voltages (V_d) are then supplied from a data driver integrated circuit 410 to the data lines (D_1 to D_n). Those data signal voltages (V_d) are applied to the source electrodes of the thin film transistors associated with the second gate line (G_2). Since those transistors are turned ON, the data signal voltages (V_d) are applied to the drain electrodes. Since the drain electrodes are connected to pixel electrodes via drain contact holes, the data signal voltages (V_d) are applied to the pixel electrodes that are associated with the second gate line (G_2). Thus, an electric field is applied formed with the common electrode, and thus the liquid crystal is driven to control the light transmittance. Since the pixel electrodes are connected to storage electrodes through storage contact holes, the data signal voltages (V_d) applied to the pixel electrodes are charged into the storage capacitors associated with the second gate line (G_2).

When the scan signal (V_{G2}) applied to the second gate line (G_2) returns to $-5V$ (LOW) and a scan signal (V_{G1}) applied to the first gate line (G_1) goes to $20V$, the thin film transistors associated with the second gate line (G_2) turn off while the thin film transistors associated with the first gate line turn on.

[0086] At this time, the data signal voltage (V_d) charged into the storage capacitors associated with the second gate line (G_2) are continuously supplied to the pixel electrode such that the drive to the liquid crystal cells associated with the second gate line (G_2) is maintained.

[0087] In addition, as the thin film transistors associated with the first gate line (G_1) turn on, the liquid crystal cells, the thin film transistors, and the storage capacitors associated with the first gate line (G_1) are driven in the same manner as described above.

[0088] As indicated above, in the driving method of a liquid crystal display devices of the present invention, unlike the general driving method, the scan signals (V_{G1} to V_{Gm}) are sequentially applied from the m th gate line (G_m) up to the first gate line (G_1). Thus, the data signal voltages (V_d) charged into the storage capacitors have reduced fluctuations. When the liquid crystal display device is driven by the driving method of the present invention, after a scan signal (V_{G2}) is applied to the second gate line (G_2) a scan signal (V_{G1}) is applied to the first gate line (G_1). Thus, the data signal voltage (V_d) charged into the storage capacitor corresponding to the second gate line (G_2) is not affected by the scan signal (V_{G1}) applied to the first gate line (G_1). Accordingly, the driving method of a liquid crystal display device in accordance with the present invention prevents degradation of a picture quality caused by flicker or an image stain.

[0089] As described, the inventive liquid crystal display device and its driving method have the following advantages. Since the conductive channels of the thin film transistors are formed in an inverted "U"-shape, the source electrodes block light incident at an incident angle of less than 30° from reaching the conductive channels of the thin film transistors. Therefore, photo-induced leakage current is reduced or eliminated. This can prevent or reduce picture quality degradation. To drive a liquid crystal display device according to the present invention, the scan signals are sequentially applied from the m th gate line up to the first gate line. Thus, the data signal voltage charged in the storage capacitors are maintained, preventing pixel voltage fluctuations caused by following scan signals. This also prevents picture quality degradation such as flicker or image stains.

[0090] As the present invention may be embodied in several forms without departing from the spirit or essential characteristics thereof, it should also be understood that the above-described embodiments are not limited by any of the details of the foregoing description, unless otherwise specified, but rather should be construed broadly within its spirit and scope as defined in the appended claims, and therefore all changes and modifications that fall within the meets and bounds of the claims, or equivalence of such meets and bounds are therefore intended to be embraced by the appended claims.

[0091] It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variation can be made in the present invention without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Thus, it is intended that the present inven-

tion cover the modifications and variations of this invention provided they come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. A liquid crystal display device comprising:
 - a plurality of G gate lines;
 - a plurality of D data lines that are perpendicular to and that cross the gate lines;
 - a gate electrode that extends from a pth gate line toward a p+1th gate line, wherein p is greater than 1 and p+1 is less than or equal to G; and
 - a thin film transistor comprised of a semiconductor layer over the gate electrode, a source electrode that extends over the semiconductor layer from a data line, and a drain electrode, wherein an inverted "U" shaped conductive channel is formed in the semiconductor layer when a gate signal is applied to the gate electrode; and
 - a shielding plate for blocking incident light from reaching the conductive channel;

wherein the source electrode blocks incident light from reaching the conductive channel.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein intersections of the plurality of gate lines and data lines define a plurality of liquid crystal cells, and wherein a pixel electrode is provided in each liquid crystal cell.
3. The device of claim 1, wherein intersections of the plurality of gate lines and data lines define a plurality of liquid crystal cells, and wherein a pixel electrode and a reflective electrode are provided in each liquid crystal cell.
4. The device of claim 2, further comprising:
 - a pixel electrode that is electrically connected to the drain electrode through a drain contact hole in an insulation layer; and
 - a reflective electrode on an insulation film that overlaps the pixel electrode.
5. The device of claim 4, wherein the reflective electrode is provided at marginal portions of the liquid crystal cell.
6. The device of claim 2, further comprising a storage capacitor that is electrically connected to the pixel electrode, wherein the storage capacitor includes a portion of the p+1th gate line.
7. The device of claim 6, wherein the storage capacitor further includes a storage electrode that overlaps the portion of the p+1 gate line.
8. The device of claim 1, wherein the conductive channel is made of amorphous silicon.
9. A notebook computer, comprising:
 - a housing comprised of a base and of a display case having an upper edge and a bottom edge; and
 - a transmissive/reflective liquid crystal display device in the display case, the liquid crystal display device having a top that is adjacent the upper edge, wherein the liquid crystal display device includes
 - a plurality of G gate lines, wherein the first gate line is adjacent the upper edge, and wherein the Gth gate line is adjacent the bottom edge;
 - a plurality of data lines that are perpendicular to and cross the gate lines;
 - a gate electrode on the pth gate line that extends toward the bottom edge; and

a thin film transistor comprised of a semiconductor layer over the gate electrode, a source electrode that extends over the semiconductor layer from a data line, and a drain electrode, wherein an inverted "U" shaped conductive channel is formed in the semiconductor layer when a gate signal is applied to the gate electrode; and

a shielding plate for blocking incident light from reaching the conductive channel;

wherein the source electrode also blocks incident light from reaching the conductive channel.

10. The notebook computer of claim 9, wherein intersections of the plurality of gate lines and data lines define a plurality of liquid crystal cells, and wherein a pixel electrode is provided in each liquid crystal cell.

11. The notebook computer of claim 9, wherein intersections of the plurality of gate lines and data lines define a plurality of liquid crystal cells, and wherein a pixel electrode and a reflective electrode are provided in each liquid crystal cell.

12. The notebook computer of claim 10, further comprising:

- a pixel electrode that is electrically connected to the drain electrode through a drain contact hole in an insulation layer; and

- a reflective electrode on an insulation film that overlaps the pixel electrode.

13. The notebook computer of claim 11, wherein the reflective electrode is provided at marginal portions of the liquid crystal cell.

14. The notebook computer of claim 10, further comprising a storage capacitor that is electrically connected to the pixel electrode, wherein the storage capacitor includes a portion of the p+1th gate line.

15. The notebook computer of claim 14, wherein the storage capacitor further includes a storage electrode that overlaps the portion of the p+1 gate line.

16. The notebook computer of claim 9, wherein the conductive channel is made of amorphous silicon.

17. A method of driving a liquid crystal display device comprised of gate lines G_1 through G_M , comprising:

- applying a gate signal voltage pulse to a p+1th gate line so as to form a plurality of inverted "U" shaped channels; and

- sequentially applying a gate signal voltage pulse to the pth gate line so as to form a plurality of inverted "U" shaped channels; and

- sequentially applying a gate signal voltage pulse to the p-1th gate line so as to form a plurality of inverted "U" shaped channels;

wherein p+1 is less than or equal to M; and

wherein p-1 is greater than or equal to 1.

18. The method of driving a liquid crystal display device of claim 17, wherein each "U" shaped channel formed by applying a gate signal voltage pulse to the pth gate line charges a storage capacitor disposed over the a p+1th gate line.

19. The method of driving a liquid crystal display device of claim 18, wherein the charge of each storage capacitor is not discharged by photo-induced leakage current.

