



US007907106B2

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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,907,106 B2**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Mar. 15, 2011**

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

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(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 1363 days.

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(21) Appl. No.: **11/302,098**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 12, 2005**

A liquid crystal display (LCD) and a driving method thereof are provided. The LCD comprises a liquid crystal panel having a gate line, a data line, and a pixel defined by the intersection of the gate line and the data line; a grayscale voltage generating unit for generating a grayscale voltage; a driving voltage generating unit for generating a gate off voltage, a positive polarity gate on voltage, and a negative polarity gate on voltage, wherein the negative polarity gate on voltage is lower than the positive polarity gate on voltage; a gate driving unit for supplying the gate line with at least one of the positive polarity gate on voltage and the negative polarity gate on voltage; a data driving unit for supplying the pixel with a data voltage, wherein the data driving unit is supplied with the grayscale voltage from the grayscale voltage generating unit; and a signal control unit for controlling the data driving unit so that a positive polarity data voltage and a negative polarity data voltage are alternately applied to the pixel, and for controlling the gate driving unit so that the positive polarity gate on voltage is applied to the pixel supplied with the positive polarity data voltage and the negative polarity gate on voltage is applied to the pixel supplied with the negative polarity data voltage. Accordingly, the degree of flicker and image sticking is reduced.

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2007/0291190 A1 Dec. 20, 2007

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Feb. 26, 2005 (KR) ..... 10-2005-0016220

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**G09G 3/36** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... 345/87; 345/98; 345/100; 345/102

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... 345/87,  
345/98, 100, 102

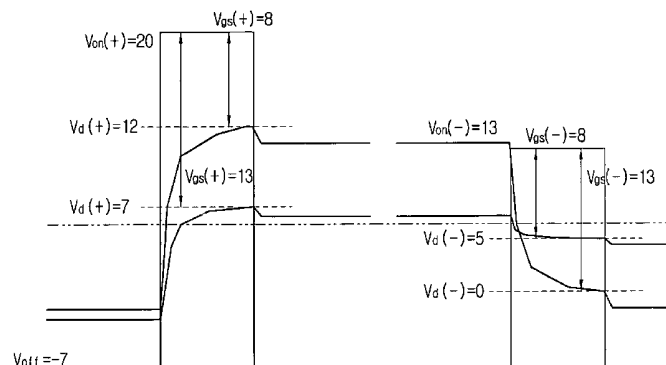
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**20 Claims, 13 Drawing Sheets**



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FIG. 1

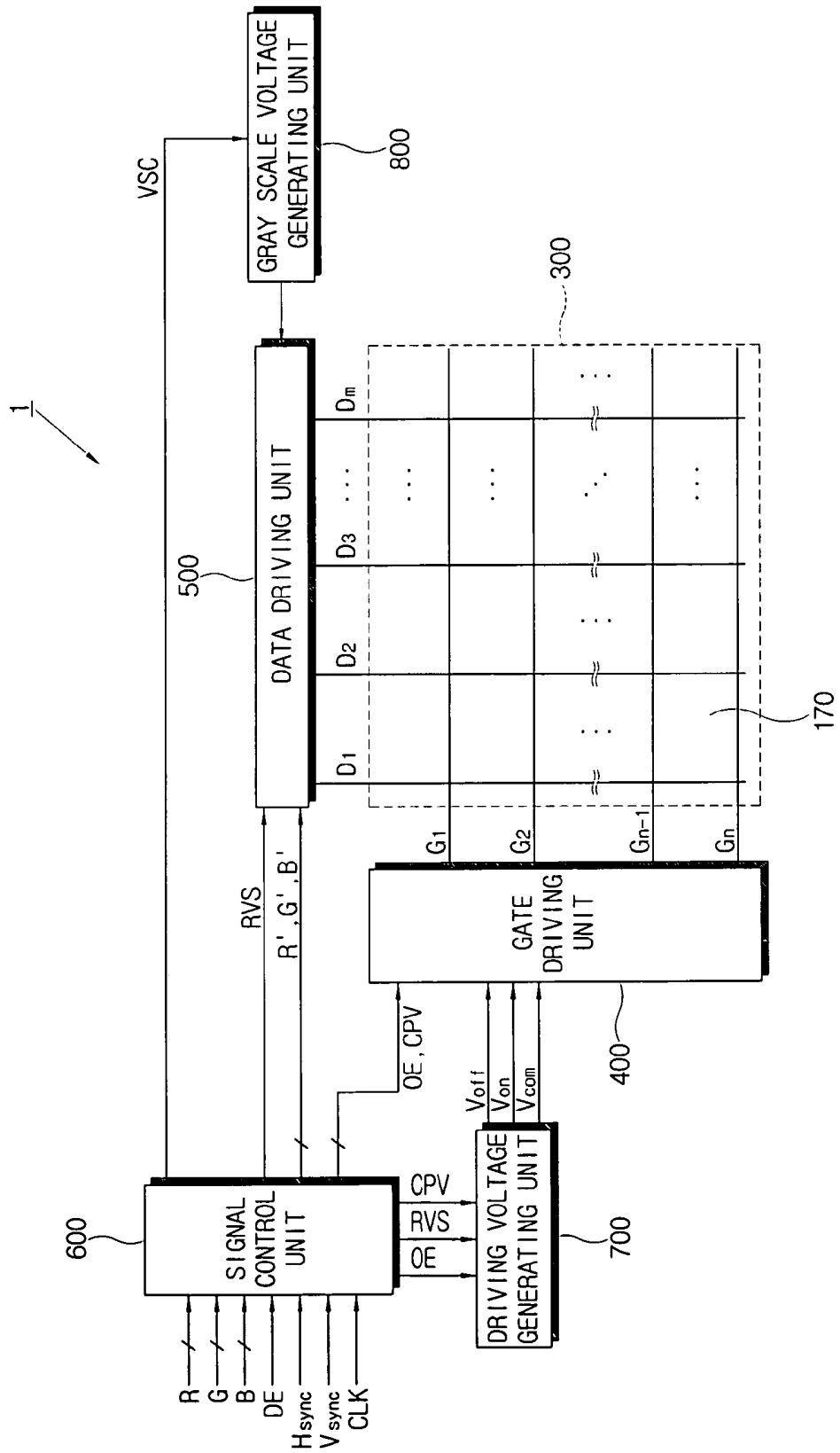


FIG. 2

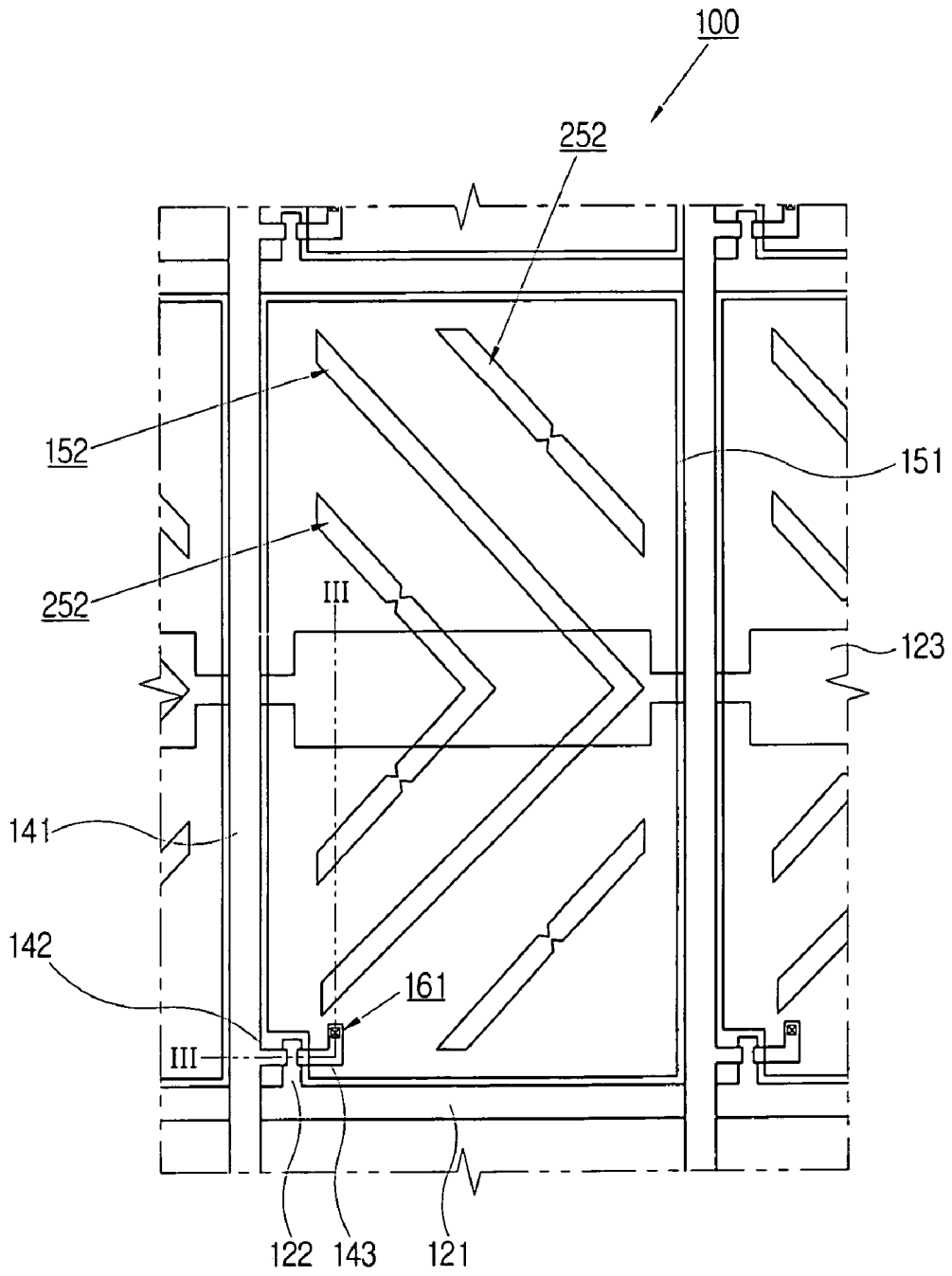


FIG. 3

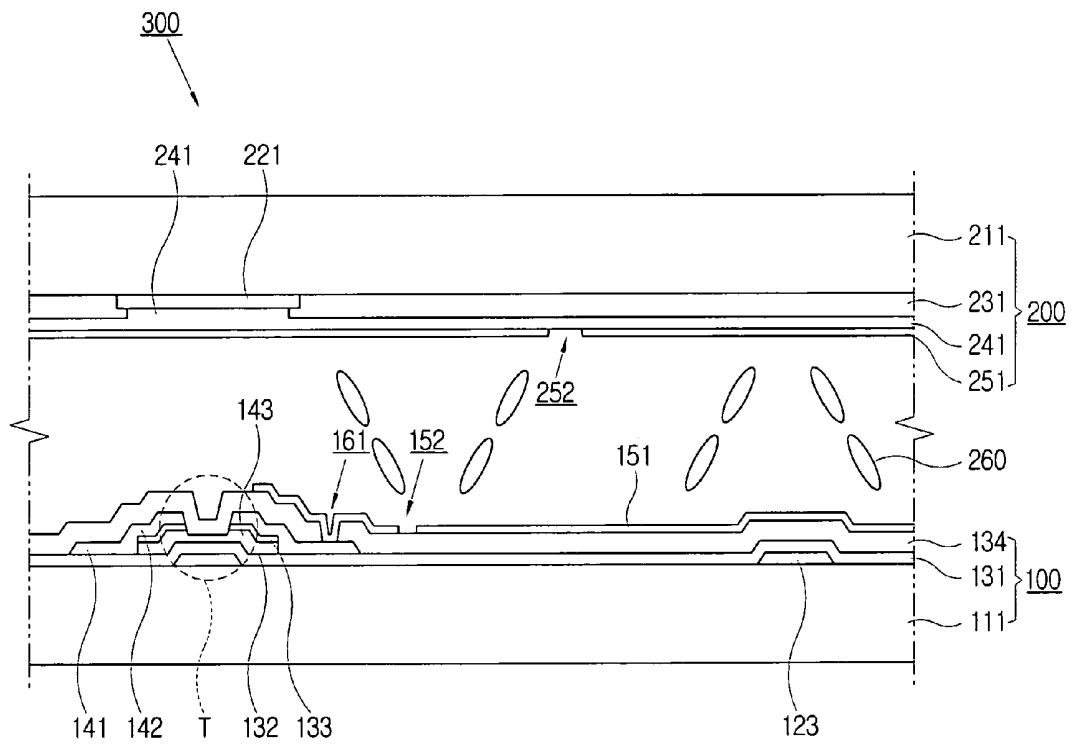


FIG. 4

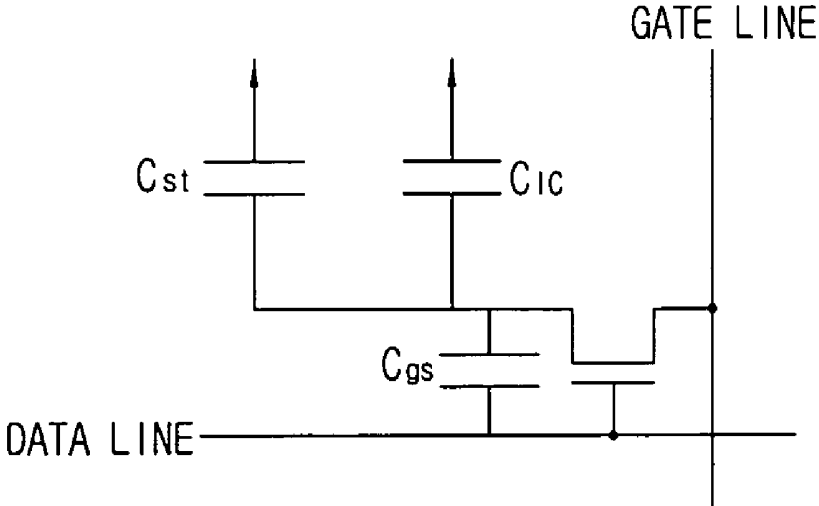


FIG. 5

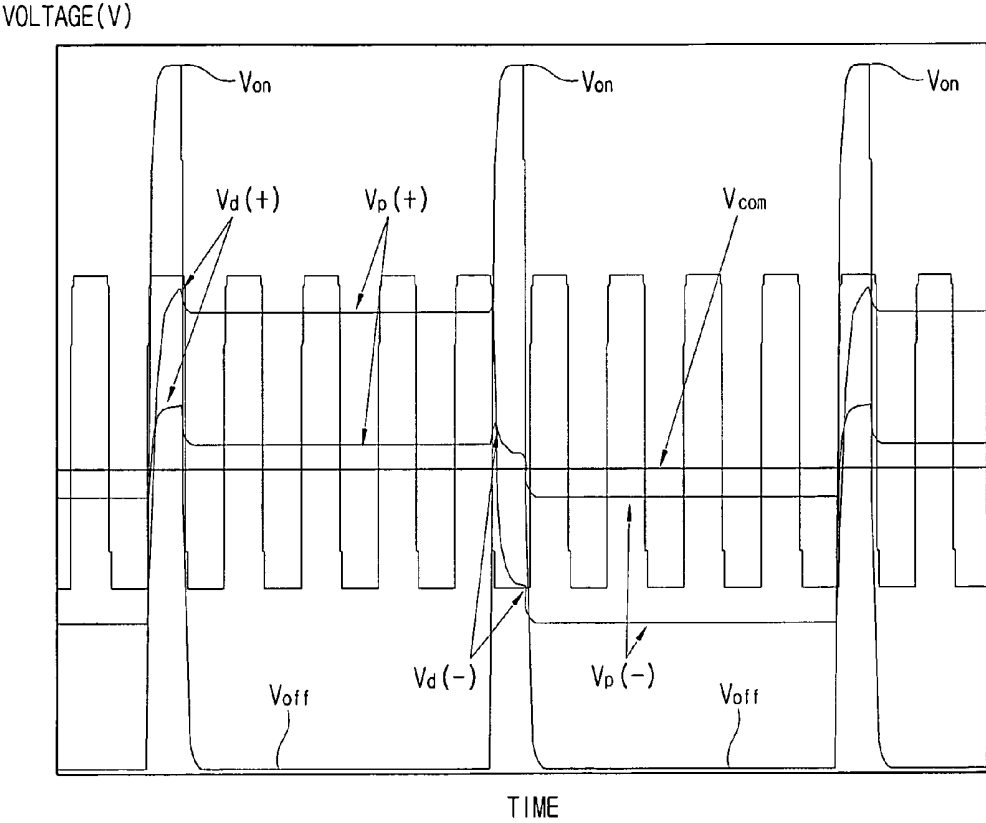


FIG. 6

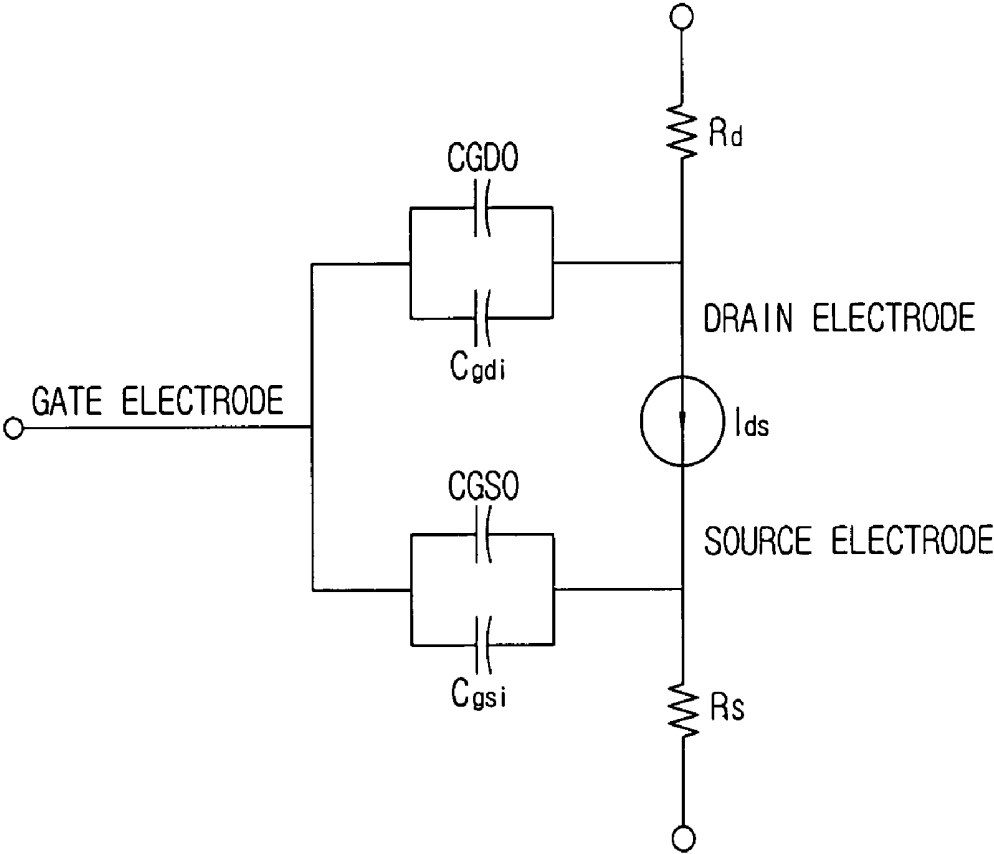


FIG. 7

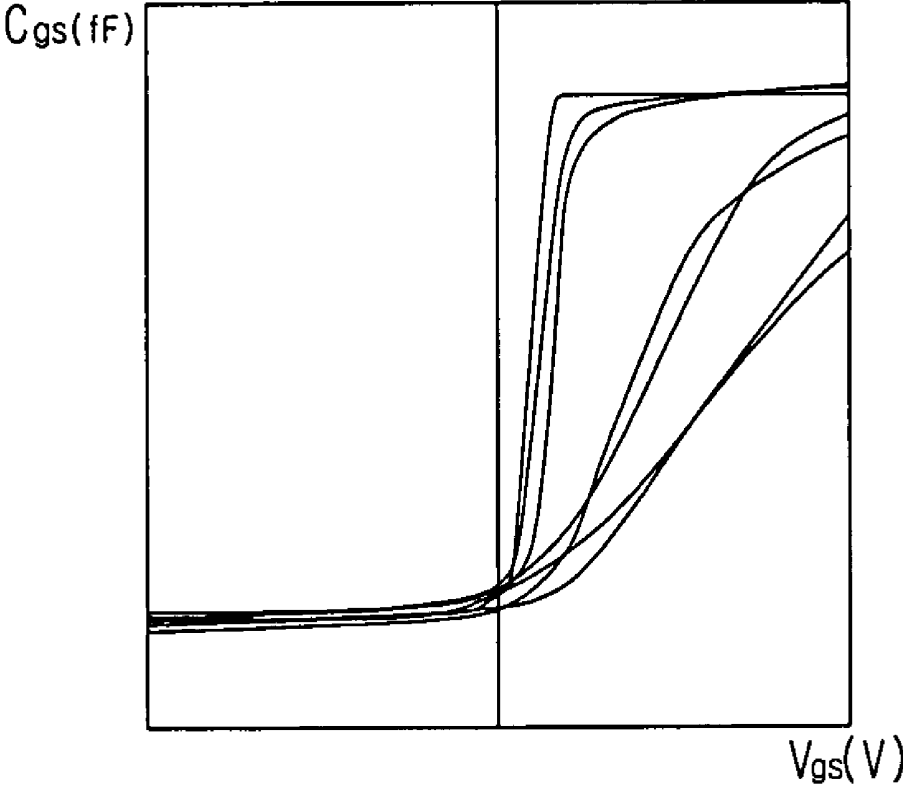


FIG. 8

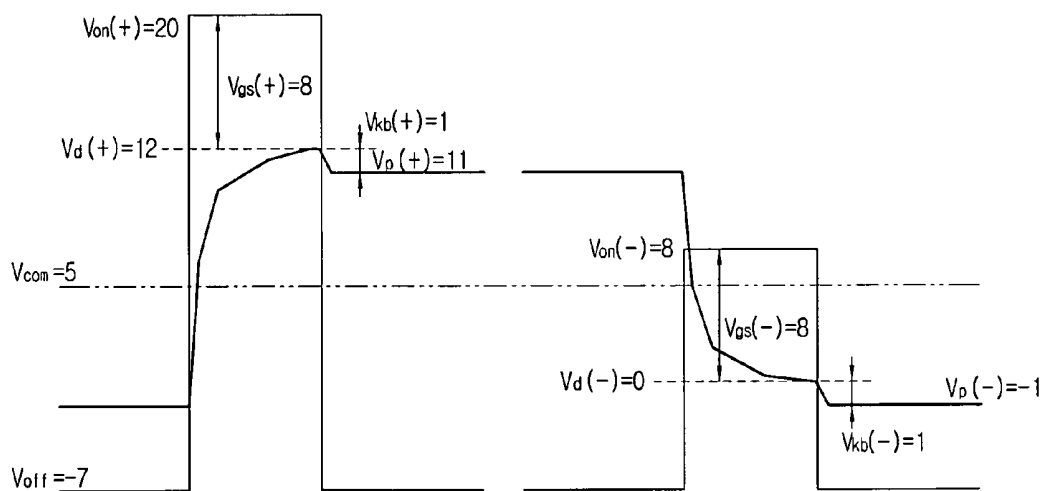


FIG. 9

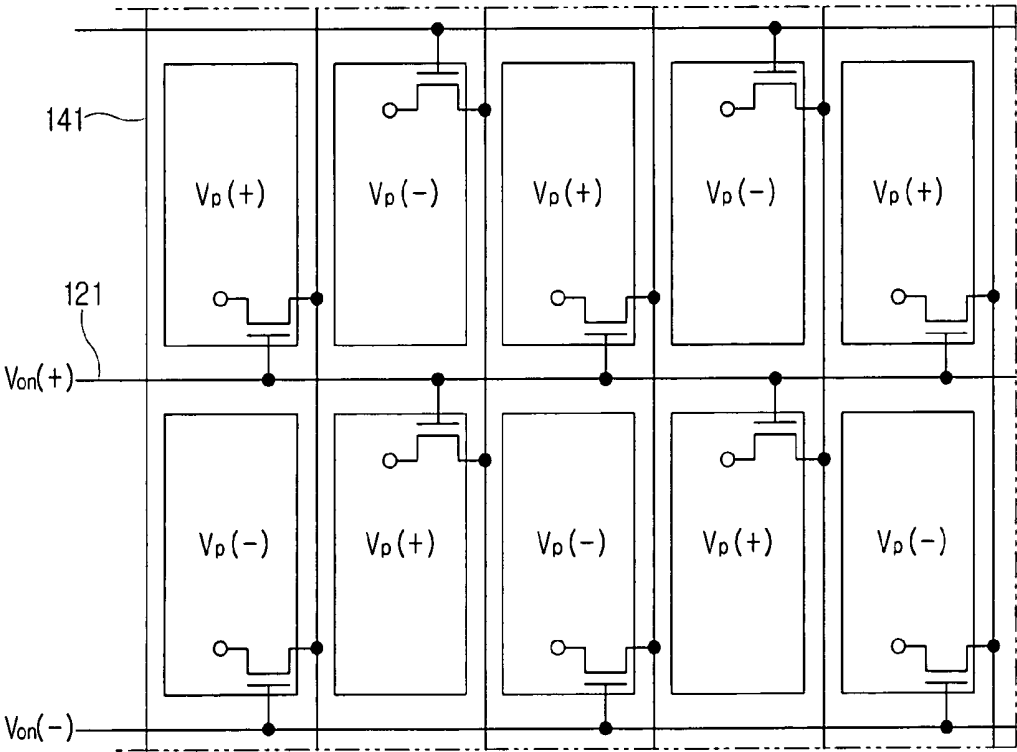


FIG. 10

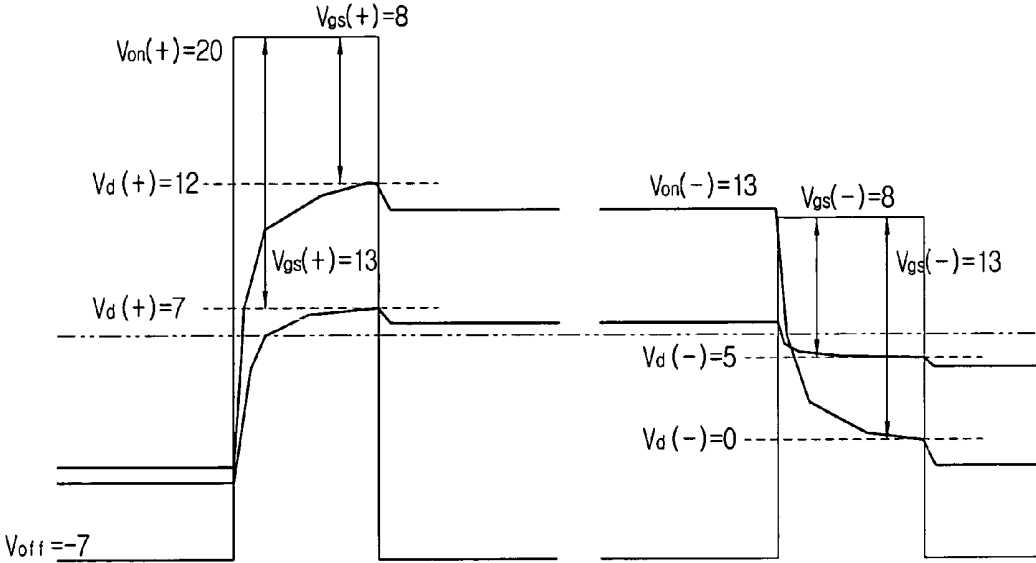


FIG. 11

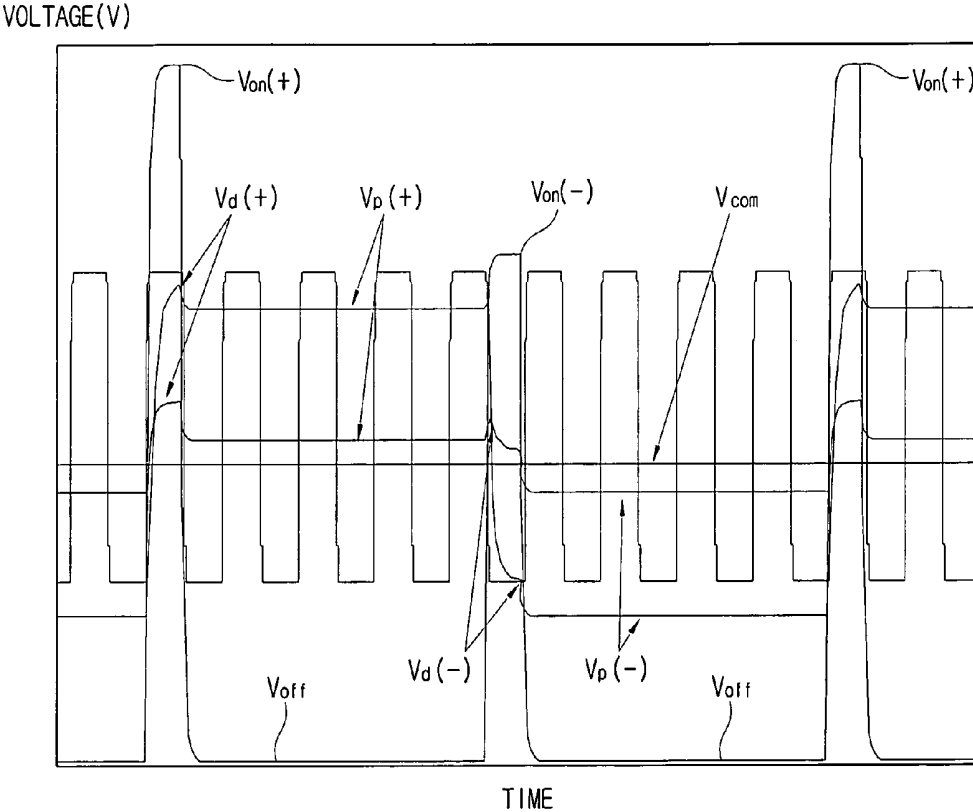


FIG. 12

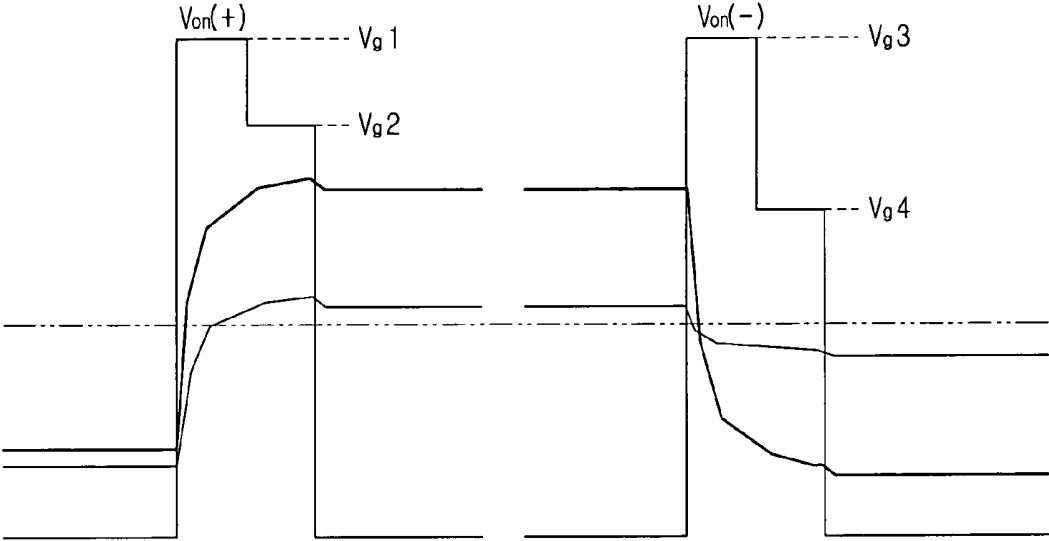
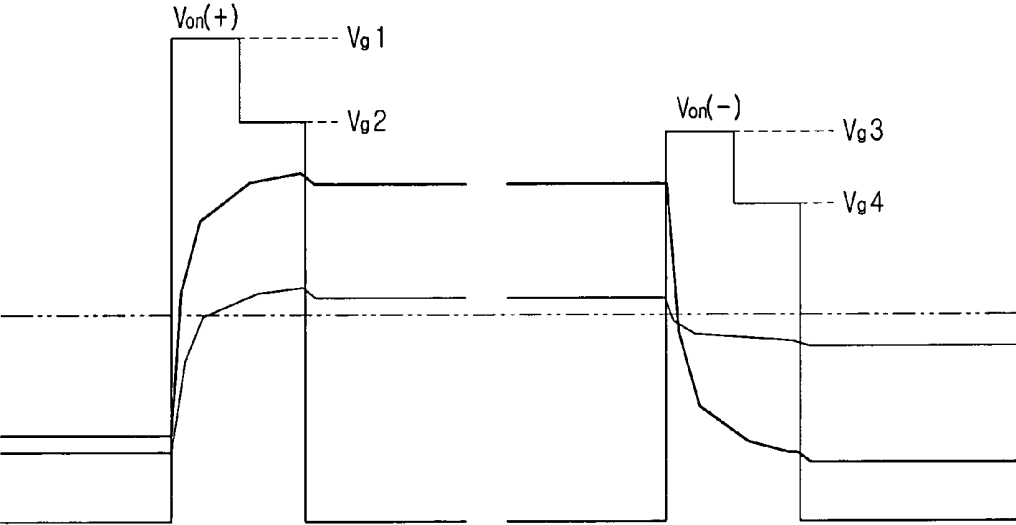


FIG. 13



## LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY AND DRIVING METHOD THEREOF

### CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority to Korean Patent Application No. 2005-0016220, filed on Feb. 26, 2005, the content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### 1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a liquid crystal display (LCD) and a driving method thereof. More particularly, the present invention relates to an LCD and a driving method that reduces the degree of flicker and image sticking.

#### 2. Description of the Related Art

An LCD comprises a liquid crystal panel having a thin film transistor (TFT) substrate on which a TFT is formed, a color filter substrate on which a color filter layer is formed, and a liquid crystal layer disposed between the two substrates. Since the liquid crystal panel is not self-emissive, a backlight unit may be provided in the rear of the TFT substrate. Light emitted from the backlight unit can pass through the liquid crystal panel. The transmittance of light through the liquid crystal panel depends on the alignment of the liquid crystal.

A gate line and a data line provided on the TFT substrate intersect each other, thereby forming a pixel. Each pixel is connected to the corresponding TFT. A gate on voltage  $V_{on}$  is applied to the gate line, and therefore the TFT is turned on, thereby a data voltage  $V_d$  applied through the data line is applied across the pixel. The alignment of the liquid crystal varies in accordance with an electric field formed between a pixel voltage  $V_p$  across the pixel and a common voltage  $V_{com}$  formed in a common electrode of the color filter substrate. The data voltage  $V_d$  is applied by frame with opposite polarity.

The data voltage  $V_d$  applied across the pixel is dropped by a parasitic capacitance  $C_{gs}$  formed between the gate electrode and the source electrode, thereby generating the pixel voltage  $V_p$ . The voltage difference between the data voltage  $V_d$  and the pixel voltage  $V_p$  is known as the kickback voltage  $V_{kb}$ .

The kickback voltage  $V_{kb}$  varies according to the grayscale and polarity, thereby causing the pixel voltage  $V_p$  to vary by frame. This induces both flicker caused by a brightness difference and image sticking (in which a fixed image remains immediately after its display as if it had been burnt in) caused by a residual DC voltage. Flicker and image sticking cause the quality of the display to deteriorate.

A need therefore exists for an LCD and a driving method that reduce the degree of flicker and image sticking.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In at least one exemplary embodiment of the present invention an LCD comprises a liquid crystal panel having a gate line, a data line, and a pixel defined by the intersection of the gate line and the data line, a grayscale voltage generating unit for generating a grayscale voltage; a driving voltage generating unit for generating a gate off voltage, a positive polarity gate on voltage, and a negative polarity gate on voltage, wherein the negative gate polarity gate on voltage is lower than the positive polarity gate on voltage; a gate driving unit for supplying the gate line with the positive polarity gate on voltage or the negative polarity gate on voltage; a data driving

unit for supplying the pixel with a data voltage, wherein the data driving unit is supplied with the grayscale voltage from the grayscale voltage generating unit; and a signal control unit for controlling the data driving unit so that a positive polarity data voltage and a negative polarity data voltage are applied alternately to the pixel, and for controlling the gate driving unit so that the positive polarity gate on voltage is applied to the pixel supplied with the positive polarity data voltage and the negative polarity gate on voltage is applied to the pixel supplied with the negative polarity data voltage.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the difference between the negative polarity gate on voltage and the gate off voltage is about 50 to about 80% of the difference between the positive polarity gate on voltage and the gate off voltage.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the adjacent pixels disposed in an extension direction of the gate line are connected to the different gate lines.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the signal control unit controls the gate driving unit so that the positive polarity gate on voltage and the negative polarity voltage are applied to the adjacent gate lines, respectively.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the signal control unit controls the data driving unit so that the same polarity of data voltage is applied to the pixels connected to the same gate line.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the image refreshment rate is higher than 120 Hz.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the negative polarity gate on voltage has a stepwise distribution that the negative polarity gate on voltage is reduced over time.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the positive polarity gate on voltage has a stepwise distribution that the positive polarity gate on voltage is reduced over time.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the liquid crystal panel further comprises a liquid crystal layer, and a liquid crystal in the liquid crystal layer has a negative dielectric anisotropy and aligns vertically in the absence of an electromagnetic field.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the LCD further comprises a lightsource unit disposed in the rear of the liquid crystal panel and repetitively supplying red, green and blue colors of light to the liquid crystal panel sequentially by frame.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, an image refreshment rate is higher than 180 Hz.

According to at least one exemplary embodiment of the present invention a driving method of an LCD including a liquid crystal panel in which a pixel is defined by an intersection of a gate line and a data line comprises applying a positive polarity gate on voltage across the pixel supplied with a positive polarity data voltage, and applying a negative polarity gate on voltage across the pixel supplied with the negative polarity data voltage, wherein the negative polarity gate on voltage is lower than the positive polarity gate on voltage.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a difference between the negative polarity gate on voltage and a gate off voltage is about 50 to about 80% of the difference between the positive polarity gate on voltage and the gate off voltage.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the adjacent gate lines are supplied with the gate on voltages having opposite polarity, and the adjacent data lines are supplied with the data voltages having opposite polarity.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will become more apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art when descriptions of exemplary embodiments thereof are read with reference to the accompanying drawings, of which:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a liquid crystal display (LCD) according to a first exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a schematic view of the LCD according to the first exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is an exemplary sectional view taken along the □-□ line of FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is an equivalent circuit diagram of a pixel.

FIG. 5 is a diagram illustrating a simulation result showing how a single gate on voltage is applied.

FIG. 6 is an equivalent circuit diagram of a TFT.

FIG. 7 is a graph showing how a parasitic capacitance  $C_{gs}$  changes with a bias voltage  $V_{gs}$ .

FIG. 8 is a diagram illustrating how a gate on voltage is applied according to the first exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 9 is a schematic view of a TFT substrate according to the first exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 10 is a diagram illustrating how a gate on voltage is applied according to a second exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 11 is a diagram illustrating a simulation result showing how a gate on voltage is applied according to the second exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 12 is a diagram illustrating how a gate on voltage is applied according to a third exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 13 is a diagram illustrating how a gate on voltage is applied according to a fourth exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

Hereinafter exemplary embodiments of the present invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an LCD according to a first exemplary embodiment of the present invention. As shown in FIG. 1, an LCD 1 comprises a liquid crystal panel 300 (shown by dotted line), a gate driving unit 400, and a data driving unit 500 connected to the liquid crystal panel 300. In accordance with the first exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the LCD 1 further comprises a driving voltage generating unit 700 connected to the gate driving unit 400, a grayscale voltage generating unit 800 connected to the data driving unit 500, and a signal control unit 600 for controlling the gate driving unit 400, data driving unit 500, voltage generating unit 700 and grayscale voltage generating unit 800.

FIG. 2 is a schematic view of the LCD according to the first exemplary embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 3 is an exemplary sectional view taken along the □-□ line of FIG. 2.

According to the first exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the liquid crystal panel 300 comprises a TFT substrate 100, as shown in FIGS. 2 and 3. As shown in FIG. 3, the liquid crystal panel 300 further comprises a color filter substrate 200 disposed opposing the TFT substrate 100 and a liquid crystal layer 260 interposed therebetween.

As shown in FIG. 2, a gate wiring 121, 122 and 123 is formed on a first insulating substrate 111 of the TFT substrate 100. It should be appreciated that any means for forming the

gate wiring 121, 122, 123 should be suitable for implementing the invention, including metallic single layer or multi layer. The gate wiring 121, 122 and 123 comprises a gate line 121 extended in a transverse direction, a gate electrode 122 of a TFT "T" (see FIG. 3) connected to the gate line 121, and a common electrode line 123 forming a storage capacitance by overlapping a pixel electrode 151.

A gate insulating layer 131 formed on the first insulating substrate 111 covers the gate wiring 121, 122 and 123. In at least one exemplary embodiment of the invention, the gate insulating layer 131 comprises silicon nitride ( $\text{SiN}_x$ ).

A semiconductor layer 132 is formed on the gate insulating layer 131 of the gate electrode 122. In at least one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the semiconductor layer 132 comprises amorphous silicon. An ohmic contact layer 133 is formed on the semiconductor layer 132. Preferably, the ohmic contact layer 133 comprises silicide or n+hydrogenated amorphous silicon heavily doped with n type impurities. The ohmic contact layer 133 above the gate electrode 122 is divided into two parts.

As shown in FIG. 3, a data wiring 141, 142 and 143 is formed on the ohmic contact layer 133 and the gate insulating layer 131. It should be appreciated that any means for forming the data wiring 141, 142 and 143 should be suitable for implementing the invention, including metallic single layer or multi layer. The data wiring 141, 142, 143 comprises a data line 141 extending in a vertical direction and intersecting the gate line 121, thereby defining: a pixel, a drain electrode 142 branching out from the data line 141 and extending onto an upper part of the ohmic contact layer 133, and a source electrode 143 separate from the drain electrode 142 and formed on the ohmic contact layer 133 opposite to the drain electrode 142.

A passivation layer 134 is formed on the data wiring 141, 142, 143 and the semiconductor layer 132, as shown in FIG. 3. In at least one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the passivation layer 134 comprises silicon nitride, a-Si:C:O layer or a-Si:O:F layer deposited by a plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD) process, and an acrylic based organic insulating layer. A contact hole 161 exposing the source electrode 143 is formed on the passivation layer 134.

The pixel electrode 151 is formed on the passivation layer 134. The pixel electrode 151 typically comprises a transparent conductive material. Transparent conductive materials that are suitable for implementing the invention include, but are not limited to, ITO (indium tin oxide) and IZO (indium zinc oxide).

The pixel electrode 151 is patterned with a pixel electrode cut out pattern 152. The pixel electrode cut out pattern 152 is formed to section the liquid crystal layer 260 into several domains according to a common electrode cut out pattern 252.

A black matrix 221 and a color filter layer 231 are formed on a surface of the second insulating substrate 211 of the color filter substrate 200 facing the first insulating substrate 111. The black matrix 221 borders a matrix array of red, green and blue filters, and blocks direct light to the TFT T of the TFT substrate 100. In an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the black matrix 221 comprises a photosensitive organic material containing black pigment. Any black pigment should be suitable for implementing the invention, such as carbon black or titanium oxide.

The color filter layer 231 includes a matrix array of red (R), green (G), and blue (B) filters that are bordered by the black matrix 221. The color filter layer 231 provides colors to the light emitted from a lightsource and passing through the

liquid crystal layer **260**. In an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the color filter layer **231** comprises a photosensitive organic material.

An overcoat layer **241** is formed on the color filter layer **231** and the portion of the black matrix **221** not covered by the color filter layer **231**. The overcoat layer **241** flattens the surface of the color filter layer **231**, and protects the color filter layer **231**. In an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the overcoat layer **241** comprises as acrylic based epoxy material.

A common electrode **251** is formed on the overcoat layer **241**. The common electrode **251** comprises a transparent conductive material. Transparent conductive materials suitable for implementing the present invention include, but are not limited to, ITO (indium tin oxide) and IZO (indium zinc oxide). The common electrode **251** supplies a voltage directly to the liquid crystal layer **260** using the pixel electrode **151** of the TFT substrate. The common electrode **251** is patterned according to the common electrode cut out pattern **252**. The common electrode cut out pattern **252** sections the liquid crystal layer **260** into several domains according to the pixel electrode cut out pattern **152** of the pixel electrode **151**. It should be understood that the pixel electrode cut out pattern **152** and the common electrode cut out pattern **252** can be formed in various arrangements. For example, the pixel electrode cut out pattern **152** and the common electrode cut out pattern **252** may be formed perpendicular to each other.

The liquid crystal layer **260** is interposed between the TFT substrate **100** and the color filter substrate **200**. In at least one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the liquid crystal layer **260** has a VA (vertically aligned) mode, so the liquid crystal molecules normally align at right angles to the substrates **100** and **200**. Since the liquid crystal molecules have negative dielectric anisotropy, the liquid crystal molecules lie parallel to the substrates **100** and **200** in the presence of an electromagnetic field. (If the pixel electrode cut out pattern **152** and the common electrode cut out pattern **252** are not formed, the liquid crystal molecules align without regularity, thereby generating defects called disclination lines.) When the voltage is applied to the liquid crystal layer **260**, the pixel electrode cut out pattern **152** and the common electrode cut out pattern **252** form a fringe field, thereby determining a declination angle for an orientation of the liquid crystal molecule. The liquid crystal layer **260** is sectioned into several domains according to an arrangement of the pixel electrode cut out pattern **152** and the common electrode cut out pattern **252**.

The driving voltage generating unit **700** generates a gate on voltage  $V_{on}$  for turning on the TFT **T**, a gate-off voltage  $V_{off}$  for turning off the TFT **T**, and a common voltage  $V_{com}$  applied to the common electrode **251**. In at least one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the gate on voltage  $V_{on}$  comprises a positive polarity gate on voltage  $V_{on}(+)$  and a negative polarity gate on voltage  $V_{on}(-)$  that is lower than the positive polarity gate on voltage  $V_{on}(+)$ .

The grayscale voltage generating unit **800** generates a plurality of grayscale voltages related to a brightness of the LCD **1**.

The gate driving unit **400** is also referred to as a scan driver. The gate driving unit **400** is connected to the gate line **121** so that it supplies the gate line **121** with a gate signal that is a combination of the gate on voltage  $V_{on}$  and the gate off voltage  $V_{off}$ .

The data driving unit **500** is also referred to as a source driver. The data driving unit **500** receives the grayscale voltage supplied from the grayscale voltage generating unit **800**,

selects the grayscale voltage based on a control of the signal control unit **600**, and then supplies the data line **141** with the data voltage  $V_d$ .

The signal control unit **600** generates a control signal for controlling the gate driving unit **400**, the data driving unit **500**, the driving voltage generating unit **700** and the grayscale voltage generating unit **800**, and supplies the control signal to the gate driving unit **400**, data driving unit **500**, driving voltage generating unit **700** and grayscale voltage generating unit **800**.

The operation of the LCD **1** will be described more fully hereinafter. The signal control unit **600** is supplied with a RGB grayscale signal R, G, B and an input control signal for controlling a display thereof. In at least one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the input control signal comprises a vertical synchronizing signal  $V_{sync}$ , a horizontal synchronizing signal  $H_{sync}$ , a main clock CLK, and a data enable signal DE from an outside graphic controller. The signal control unit **600** generates a gate control signal, a data control signal and a voltage selection control signal VSC based on the input control signal. The signal control unit **600** converts the grayscale signal R, G, B according to an operation condition of the liquid crystal panel **300**, and transmits the data control signal and the converted grayscale signal R', G', B' to the data driving unit **500**. The signal control unit **600** transmits the gate control signal to the gate driving unit **400** and the driving voltage generating unit **700**. The signal control unit **600** transmits the voltage selection control signal VSC to the grayscale voltage generating unit **800**.

The gate control signal comprises a vertical synchronization start signal STV providing an instruction to start a gate on pulse, a gate clock signal for controlling when to start the gate on pulse and a gate on enable signal OE defining the width of the gate on pulse. The gate on enable signal OE and the gate clock signal CPV are supplied to the driving voltage generating unit **700**. The data control signal comprises a horizontal synchronization start signal STH providing an instruction to start inputting the grayscale signal, a load signal LOAD or TP providing an instruction to supply the data line **141** with the corresponding data voltage  $V_d$ , a reverse control signal RVS for reversing a polarity of the data voltage, and a data clock signal HCLK.

The grayscale voltage generating unit **800** supplies the grayscale voltage as determined according to the voltage selection control signal VSC supplied to the data driving unit **500**.

The gate driving unit **400** supplies the gate on voltage  $V_{on}$  to the gate lines **121** sequentially, according to the gate control signal from the signal control unit **600**, thereby turning on the TFT **T** connected to the gate line **121**. The data driving unit **500** supplies the analog data voltage  $V_d$  from the grayscale voltage generating unit **800** corresponding to the grayscale signal R', G', B' to the pixel **170** connected to the turned on TFT **T** to the data line **141**, according to the data control signal from the signal control unit **600**. The signal control unit **600** controls the gate driving unit **400** so that the pixel **170** supplied with positive polarity data voltage  $V_d(+)$  is supplied with positive polarity gate on voltage  $V_{on}(+)$  and so that the pixel **170** supplied with the negative polarity data voltage  $V_d(-)$  is supplied with the negative polarity gate on voltage  $V_{on}(-)$ .

The data signal supplied to the data line **141** is applied to the corresponding pixel **170** through the turned on TFT **T**. In accordance with the above described process, during one frame period, the gate on voltage  $V_{on}$  is applied to all the gate lines **121** sequentially, thereby applying the data signals to all the pixels **170**. At a next frame period, the reverse control

signal RVS is supplied to the driving voltage generating unit 700 and the data driving unit 500, thereby reversing a polarity of all the data signals of the next frame.

As will be described more fully hereinafter with reference to FIGS. 4 to 7, the kickback voltage V<sub>kb</sub> varies according to the grayscale and the polarity of the data voltage, and different gate on voltages are applied according to the polarity of the data voltage.

The kickback voltage V<sub>kb</sub> is defined as follows.

$$V_{kb} = \frac{C_{gs}}{(C_{lc} + C_{st} + C_{gs})} (V_{on} - V_{off}) \quad \text{Eq. 1}$$

In Eq. 1, C<sub>gs</sub> represents a parasitic capacitance between the gate electrode and the source electrode. C<sub>lc</sub> represents a liquid crystal capacitance, and C<sub>st</sub> denotes a storage capacitance.

The liquid crystal capacitance C<sub>lc</sub> is defined as follows:

$$C_{lc} = \epsilon_0 \cdot \epsilon \cdot \frac{A}{d} \quad \text{Eq. 2}$$

In Eq. 2, ε<sub>0</sub> represents the dielectric constant of the liquid crystal in a vacuum, ε represents the dielectric constant of the liquid crystal, d represents a distance between the pixel electrode and the common electrode, and A denotes an area for which the pixel electrode and the common electrode are overlapped.

Since the liquid crystal has a dielectric anisotropy, the liquid crystal capacitance C<sub>lc</sub> varies according to an orientation of the liquid crystal. For example, in a normally black PVA mode, a parallel dielectric constant of the liquid crystal ε<sub>1</sub> is smaller than a perpendicular dielectric constant C<sub>2</sub>. Accordingly, the liquid crystal capacitance C<sub>lc</sub> is larger in a white state than in a black state. Whereas, the kickback voltage V<sub>kb</sub> is smaller in the white state than in the black state.

FIG. 5 is a diagram illustrating a simulation result showing how a single gate on voltage is applied to the LCD having PVA mode. Table 1 contains the data used in the above-mentioned simulation, and Table 2 contains the simulation results.

TABLE 1

	UNIT	WHITE	BLACK
DIELECTRIC CONSTANT	F/m	6.6 (PERPENDICULAR DIRECTION)	3.3 (PARALLEL DIRECTION)
STORAGE CAPACITANCE C <sub>st</sub>	pF	0.526	0.526
LIQUID CRYSTAL CAPACITANCE C <sub>lc</sub>	pF	0.553	0.310
DATA VOLTAGE V <sub>d</sub>	V	12 TO 0	7 TO 5
GATE ON VOLTAGE V <sub>on</sub>	V	20 TO -7	20 TO -7
PARASITIC CAPACITANCE C <sub>gs</sub>	ff	27	27

TABLE 2

	STATE	
	WHITE	BLACK
POSITIVE POLARITY DATA VOLTAGE V <sub>d</sub> (+)	11.51	6.97
NEGATIVE POLARITY DATA VOLTAGE V <sub>d</sub> (-)	0.04	5.03
POSITIVE POLARITY PIXEL VOLTAGE V <sub>p</sub> (+)	10.56	5.45
NEGATIVE POLARITY PIXEL VOLTAGE V <sub>p</sub> (-)	-1.43	3.40
POSITIVE POLARITY KICKBACK VOLTAGE (V <sub>d</sub> (+) - V <sub>p</sub> (+))	0.96	1.52
NEGATIVE POLARITY KICKBACK VOLTAGE (V <sub>d</sub> (-) - V <sub>p</sub> (-))	1.47	1.63
OPTIMUM COMMON VOLTAGE (V <sub>p</sub> (+) + V <sub>p</sub> (-))/2	4.56	4.43
ACTUAL COMMON VOLTAGE		4.49
ACTUAL COMMON VOLTAGE - OPTIMUM COMMON VOLTAGE	0.07	-0.06

As shown in Table 1, the liquid crystal capacitance C<sub>lc</sub> of the black state affected by the parallel dielectric constant ε<sub>1</sub> is smaller than that of the white state affected by the perpendicular dielectric constant ε<sub>2</sub>. According to this, the kickback voltage V<sub>kb</sub> of the black state is higher than that of the white state.

As shown in Table 2, the kickback voltage V<sub>kb</sub> is higher when the negative polarity gate on voltage V<sub>d</sub>(-) is applied than when the positive polarity gate on voltage V<sub>d</sub>(+) is applied. The kickback voltage V<sub>kb</sub> varies according to the polarity of the data voltage, and therefore the optimum common voltage V<sub>com</sub>, which is defined as an arithmetic average value of the positive polarity pixel electrode V<sub>p</sub>(+) and the negative polarity pixel voltage V<sub>p</sub>(-), also varies. The actual value of the common voltage V<sub>com</sub> is obtained through experiment in a mid grayscale. A voltage difference of 0.07V occurs between the common voltage V<sub>com</sub> obtained through experiment and the positive polarity optimum common voltage V<sub>com</sub>. A voltage difference of 0.06V occurs between the common voltage V<sub>com</sub> obtained through experiment and the negative polarity optimum common voltage V<sub>com</sub>. Owing to the voltage difference between the optimum common voltage V<sub>com</sub> and the actual common voltage V<sub>com</sub>, the voltage applied to the liquid crystal is different when the positive polarity gate on voltage V<sub>d</sub>(+) is applied, as compared to when the negative polarity gate on voltage V<sub>d</sub>(-) is applied, thereby generating flicker and image sticking which causes the quality of the display to deteriorate.

The parasitic capacitance C<sub>gs</sub> varies according to a bias voltage V<sub>gs</sub> between the gate electrode and the source electrode. Since the parasitic capacitance varies, but is presumed to be a constant, Eq. 1 is not sufficient to explain the difference in the kickback voltage V<sub>kb</sub> according to the polarity and the difference in the optimum common voltage V<sub>com</sub> according to the difference of the kickback voltage V<sub>kb</sub>.

FIG. 6 is an equivalent circuit diagram for the TFT. The parasitic capacitance C<sub>gs</sub> is defined as a capacitance that is formed between the gate electrode and the source electrode. To this point, only a capacitance C<sub>GSO</sub> caused by an overlapping of the gate electrode and the source electrode has been considered. However, as shown in FIG. 6, an accumulation of electric charge C<sub>gsi</sub> caused by a potential barrier between the semiconductor layer and the insulating layer must also be considered.

FIG. 7 is a graph showing how a parasitic capacitance C<sub>gs</sub> changes with a bias voltage V<sub>gs</sub>. As shown in FIG. 7, the accumulation of electric charge C<sub>gsi</sub> is in proportion to the bias voltage V<sub>gs</sub> of the TFT. FIG. 7 illustrates a relation between the parasitic capacitance and the bias voltage V<sub>gs</sub> before the charging of the pixel is finished, i.e., before the data

voltage  $V_d$  becomes equal to the pixel voltage  $V_p$ . That is, the gate on voltage  $V_{on}$  is switched to the gate off voltage  $V_{off}$ , as discussed in DYNAMIC CHARACTERIZATION OF a-Si TFT-LCD PIXELS, *IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices*, Vol. 43, No. 1, January 1996, pp. 31-39. Accordingly, the parasitic capacitance  $C_{gs}$  in the on state of the TFT is larger than the  $C_{gs}$  in the off state by  $C_{gs}'$ . Accordingly, an electric charge  $Q_{on}$  in the TFT on state and the electric charge  $Q_{off}$  in the TFT off state are defined as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{(on)} &= (V_d - V_{com})C_{lc} + (V_d - V_{com})C_{st} + (V_d - V_{on}) \\ & \quad (C_{gs} + C_{gs}') \\ Q_{(off)} &= (V_p - V_c)C_{lc} + (V_p - V_c)C_{st} + \\ & \quad (V_p - V_{off})C_{gs} \end{aligned} \quad \text{Eq. 3}$$

Substituting  $V_{kb} = V_d - V_p$  into Eq. 3 and using  $Q_{(on)} = Q_{(off)}$ , the equation for the kickback voltage  $V_{kb}$  becomes:

$$V_{kb} = \frac{C_{gs}}{(C_{lc} + C_{st} + C_{gs})} (V_{on} - V_{off}) + \frac{C_{gs}'}{(C_{lc} + C_{st} + C_{gs})} (V_{on} - V_d) \quad \text{Eq. 4}$$

From an examination of Eq. 4 and FIG. 7, reasons why the negative polarity kickback voltage  $V_{kb}(-)$  is larger than the positive polarity kickback voltage  $V_{kb}(+)$  are discernable. One reason is that the kickback voltage  $V_{kb}$  is proportional to the difference  $(V_{on} - V_d)$  between the gate on voltage  $V_{on}$  and the data voltage  $V_d$ . Accordingly, in at least one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the data voltage  $V_d$  is smaller in the negative polarity than in the positive polarity. Another reason is that the kickback voltage  $V_{kb}$  is proportional to the parasitic capacitance  $C_{gs}$ . Accordingly, in at least one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the parasitic capacitance  $C_{gs}$  is proportional to the bias voltage  $V_{gs}$ , and the bias voltage  $V_{gs}$  is higher in the negative polarity than in the positive polarity. In light of the TFT, the bias voltage  $V_{gs}$  is equal to the difference  $(V_{on} - V_d)$  between the gate on voltage  $V_{on}$  and the data voltage  $V_d$ .

Therefore, the difference  $(V_{on} - V_d)$  between the gate on voltage  $V_{on}$  and the data voltage  $V_d$  can be reduced by applying different gate on voltages  $V_{on}$  in the positive polarity and in the negative polarity, thereby reducing the difference of the kickback voltage  $V_{kb}$  difference according to the polarity.

While the positive polarity gate on voltage  $V_{on}(+)$  is maintained as 20V, the negative polarity gate on voltage  $V_{on}(-)$  is lowered to 8V. In the case that the positive polarity gate on voltage  $V_d(+)$  is 12V and the negative polarity gate on voltage  $V_d(-)$  is 0V in a white state, a difference  $(V_{on} - V_d)$  between a gate on voltage  $V_{on}$  and a data voltage  $V_d$  becomes 8V regardless of the polarity. Accordingly, the kickback voltage  $V_{kb}$  is maintained as 1V regardless of the polarity, thereby equalizing an optimum common voltage  $V_{com}$  and an actual common voltage  $V_{com}$ .

Since a frame inversion and a line inversion cause flicker, a dot inversion can be used. In the frame inversion, the polarity of the data voltage  $V_d$  is switched by frame. In the line inversion, the polarity of the data voltage  $V_d$  is switched by gate line 121. However, in the dot inversion, adjacent pixels have different polarities.

As shown in FIG. 9, adjacent pixels 170 disposed in an extension direction of the gate line 121 is connected to the gate lines 121 each having different polarity. That is, one pixel is supplied with the positive polarity gate on voltage  $V_{on}(+)$ , and then another pixel adjacent to the aforementioned pixel is supplied with the negative polarity gate on voltage  $V_{on}(-)$ . While the positive polarity gate on voltage  $V_{on}(+)$  is applied, the data driving unit 500 supplies the pixels 170, connected to

the gate line 121 in a zigzag form, with corresponding positive polarity data voltage  $V_d(+)$ . While the negative polarity gate on voltage  $V_{on}(-)$  is applied, the data driving unit 500 supplies the pixels 170, connected to the gate line 121 in a zigzag arrangement, with corresponding negative polarity data voltage  $V_d(-)$ . In a next frame, the polarity of the data voltage  $V_d$  applied across the pixels 170 is switched, and the gate on voltage  $V_{on}$  is also switched. With this configuration, the dot inversion is accomplished by applying different gate on voltage  $V_{on}$  according to the polarity of the data voltage  $V_d$ .

For the frame inversion and the line inversion, the conventional array of the TFT substrate 100 can be used. In at least one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the gate driving unit 400 supplies different gate on voltages  $V_{on}$  according to the polarity of the data voltage  $V_d$ .

The white state has been considered in the preceding description of the first exemplary embodiment. The black state will be described hereinafter. In the case where the positive polarity gate on voltage  $V_{on}(+)$  is 20V, negative polarity gate on voltage  $V_{on}(-)$  is 8V, positive polarity black voltage is 7V, and negative polarity black voltage is 5V, the bias voltage  $V_{gs}$  in the positive polarity becomes 13V (20V - 7V) and the bias voltage  $V_{gs}$  in the negative polarity becomes 3V (8V - 5V). In the case that 20V of a single gate on voltage  $V_{on}$  is applied, the bias voltage  $V_{gs}$  in the negative polarity becomes 15V (20V - 5V). Accordingly, a difference in the kickback voltage  $V_{kb}$  becomes larger in the black state. Further, the bias voltage  $V_{gs}$  in the negative polarity is reduced to 3V, deteriorating the charging properties of the pixel electrode.

Hereinafter, a second exemplary embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to FIGS. 10 and 11. In the second embodiment, in consideration of a black state, a negative polarity gate on voltage  $V_{on}(-)$  is 13V. The bias voltages  $V_{gs}$  in a white state are 8V (20V - 12V) in a positive polarity and 13V (13V - 0) in a negative polarity, respectively. The bias voltages  $V_{gs}$  in the black state are 13V (20V - 7V) in the positive polarity and 8V (13V - 5V) in the negative polarity, respectively. The bias voltage  $V_{gs}$  is maintained at least 8V, thereby enhancing a charge in a pixel electrode. Further, the bias voltage  $V_{gs}$  trade offs between the white state and the black state.

The simulation results are shown in Table 3.

TABLE 3

	STATE	
	WHITE	BLACK
POSITIVE POLARITY DATA VOLTAGE $V_d(+)$	11.52	6.98
NEGATIVE POLARITY DATA VOLTAGE $V_d(-)$	0.24	5.20
POSITIVE POLARITY PIXEL VOLTAGE $V_p(+)$	10.56	5.46
NEGATIVE POLARITY PIXEL VOLTAGE $V_p(-)$	-0.78	4.24
POSITIVE POLARITY KICKBACK VOLTAGE $V_{kb}(+)$ ( $V_d(+)$ - $V_p(+)$ )	0.96	1.52
NEGATIVE POLARITY KICKBACK VOLTAGE $V_{kb}(-)$ ( $V_d(-)$ - $V_p(-)$ )	1.01	0.96
OPTIMUM COMMON VOLTAGE ( $V_p(+)$ + $V_p(-)$ )/2	4.89	4.85
ACTUAL COMMON VOLTAGE		4.87
ACTUAL COMMON VOLTAGE	-0.02	-0.02
OPTIMUM COMMON VOLTAGE		

Where a single gate on voltage  $V_{on}$  is applied, the value of the positive polarity kickback voltage  $V_{kb}(+)$  in Table 3 is the same as in Table 2. In contrast, the negative polarity kickback voltage  $V_{kb}(-)$  is reduced from 1.47V to 1.01V in the white state, and from 1.63V to 0.96V in the black state. The difference in the negative polarity kickback voltage  $V_{kb}(-)$

between the white state and the black state, respectively, is reduced from 0.16V (1.63V–1.47V) to 0.05V (1.01V–0.96V), respectively. The optimum common voltages  $V_{com}$  are 4.89V in the white state and 4.85V in the black state, and the difference in the optimum voltage is reduced from 0.13V (4.56V–4.43V) to 0.04V. The difference between the optimum common voltage  $V_{com}$  and the actual common voltage  $V_{com}$  is 0.02V, and this is much smaller than the 0.06V to 0.07V value shown in Table 2.

In an LCD according to the second exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the difference between the actual common voltage  $V_{com}$  and the optimum common voltage  $V_{com}$  is small. Therefore, the difference in the pixel voltage  $V_p$  according to the polarity is lessened and therefore flicker and image sticking are also reduced.

The difference in the gate on voltage  $V_{on}$  according to the polarity must take into account a uniform bias voltage  $V_{gs}$  and a minimum bias voltage  $V_{gs}$  for appropriate charging. In addition, the difference in the gate on voltage  $V_{on}$  according to the polarity must take into account the value of  $V_{on}-V_{off}$  of Eq. 4. If the negative polarity gate on voltage  $V_{on}(-)$  is reduced to make the value of  $V_{on}-V_d$  same regardless of the polarity, a value of  $V_{on}-V_{off}$  in the negative polarity is also reduced. The negative polarity kickback voltage  $V_{kb}(-)$  becomes rather smaller than the positive polarity kickback voltage  $V_{kb}(+)$ .

In accordance with the above discussion, the actual common voltage  $V_{com}$  is determined through experimental application of various gate on voltages  $V_{on}$ . The difference between the negative polarity gate on voltage  $V_{on}(-)$  and the gate off voltage  $V_{off}$  may be about 50 to about 80% of the difference between the positive polarity gate on voltage  $V_{on}(+)$  and the gate off voltage  $V_{off}$ .

Third and fourth exemplary embodiments of the present invention are described hereinafter with reference to FIGS. 12 and 13. FIG. 12 is a diagram illustrating how a gate on voltage is applied according to a third exemplary embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 13 is a diagram illustrating how a gate on voltage is applied according to a fourth exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

As shown in FIG. 12, a gate on voltage  $V_{on}$  has a stepwise distribution that the voltage reduces over time. A positive polarity gate on voltage  $V_{on}(+)$  is composed of  $V_{g1}$  and  $V_{g2}$  that is lower than  $V_{g1}$ . The negative polarity gate on voltage  $V_{on}(-)$  is composed of  $V_{g3}$  and  $V_{g4}$  that is lower than  $V_{g3}$ . In at least one exemplary embodiment of the present invention,  $V_{g1}$  has the same value as  $V_{g2}$ , but  $V_{g4}$  is lower than  $V_{g3}$ . In the case that the gate on voltage  $V_{on}$  has various values, a voltage difference is calculated by an average value of the voltage.

In FIG. 13,  $V_{g3}$  is lower than  $V_{g1}$ . However, the difference between  $V_{g1}$  and  $V_{g2}$  can be larger or smaller than the difference between  $V_{g3}$  and  $V_{g4}$ .

The present invention can be employed to drive an LCD, including, but not limited to, a large size LCD, high transmission LCD, CSD (color sequential display) having a refreshment rate higher than 120 Hz and the like.

As the LCD becomes large in size, the load in the common voltage  $V_{com}$  becomes large and therefore a difference between the common voltages  $V_{com}$  according to a position increases, thereby generating flicker and image sticking which cause the display quality to deteriorate.

If a storage capacitance  $C_{lc}$  is reduced, an aperture ratio increases, thereby a high transmission rate LCD can be manufactured. In the case of an LCD having a refreshment rate higher than 120 Hz, the gate on time lessens and the pixel

capacitance increases, thereby decreasing the charging rate; therefore, the storage capacitance  $C_{lc}$  is reduced.

The CSD employs a method whereby a lightsource unit provides colors of light without a color filter layer 231. In this case, the lightsource unit supplies red, green and blue colors to a liquid crystal panel 300, and may be composed of LEDs (light emitting diode). The lightsource of the CSD repetitively supplies the three colors of light to the liquid crystal panel 300 sequentially by frame. Accordingly, one frame of the LCD using the color filter layer 231 corresponds to three frames of the CSD. Therefore, the CSD requires a refreshment rate higher than 180 Hz for a conventional 60 Hz driving. Due to the high frequency, the gate on time lessens and the pixel capacitance increases, so the storage capacitance  $C_{lc}$  is reduced.

According to at least one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the kickback voltage  $V_{kb}$  according to the polarity becomes constant. Therefore, a difference in the common voltage  $V_{com}$  can be compensated for and the storage capacitance  $C_{lc}$  can be reduced.

While the exemplary embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described in detail for the purpose of illustration, it is understood that the present invention should not be construed as limited thereby. It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that various changes and modifications to the foregoing exemplary embodiments can be made without departing from the principles and spirit of the invention, the scope of which is defined by the appended claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. An LCD comprising:

- a liquid crystal panel having a gate line, a data line, and a pixel connected to the gate line and the data line;
  - a grayscale voltage generating unit generating a grayscale voltage;
  - a driving voltage generating unit generating a gate off voltage, a positive polarity gate on voltage, and a negative polarity gate on voltage, wherein the negative polarity gate on voltage is lower than the positive polarity gate on voltage;
  - a gate driving unit supplying the gate line with the positive polarity gate on voltage or the negative polarity gate on voltage;
  - a data driving unit supplying the pixel with a data voltage, wherein the data driving unit is supplied with the grayscale voltage from the grayscale voltage generating unit; and
  - a signal control unit controlling the data driving unit to alternately apply a positive polarity data voltage or a negative polarity data voltage to the pixel, and controlling the gate driving unit to apply the positive polarity gate on voltage to the pixel supplied with the positive polarity data voltage and the negative polarity gate on voltage to the pixel supplied with the negative polarity data voltage,
- wherein the positive polarity gate on voltage comprises a first voltage  $V_{g1}$  and a second voltage  $V_{g2}$  less than the first voltage  $V_{g1}$ ,
- wherein the negative polarity gate on voltage comprises a third voltage  $V_{g3}$  and a fourth voltage  $V_{g4}$  less than the third voltage  $V_{g3}$ , and
- wherein the fourth voltage  $V_{g4}$  is lower than the second voltage  $V_{g2}$ .

2. The LCD of claim 1, wherein a difference between the negative polarity gate on voltage and the gate off voltage is about 50 to about 80% of a difference between the positive polarity gate on voltage and the gate off voltage.

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3. The LCD of claim 1, wherein a refreshment rate is higher than 120 Hz.

4. The LCD of claim 1, wherein the negative polarity gate on voltage has a stepwise distribution that the negative polarity gate on voltage is reduced over time.

5. The LCD of claim 4, wherein the positive polarity gate on voltage has a stepwise distribution that the positive polarity gate on voltage is reduced over time.

6. The LCD of claim 1, wherein the first voltage Vg1 is equal to the third voltage Vg3.

7. The LCD of claim 6, wherein a difference between the first voltage Vg1 and the second voltage Vg2 is less than a difference between the third voltage Vg3 and the fourth voltage Vg4.

8. The LCD of claim 1, wherein a difference between the first voltage Vg1 and the second voltage Vg2 is not equal to a difference between the third voltage Vg3 and the fourth voltage Vg4.

9. The LCD of claim 8, wherein the difference between the first voltage Vg1 and the second voltage Vg2 is less than the difference between the third voltage Vg3 and the fourth voltage Vg4.

10. The LCD of claim 1, wherein the liquid crystal panel further comprises a liquid crystal layer, and a liquid crystal in the liquid crystal layer has a negative dielectric anisotropy and aligns vertically in the absence of an electromagnetic field.

11. The LCD of claim 1, further comprising a lightsource unit disposed in the rear of the liquid crystal panel and repetitively supplying red, green and blue colors to the liquid crystal panel sequentially by frame.

12. The LCD of claim 11, wherein an image refreshment rate is higher than 180 Hz.

13. The LCD of claim 1, wherein adjacent pixels disposed in an extension direction of the gate line are connected to different gate lines.

14. The LCD of claim 13, wherein the signal control unit controls the gate driving unit so that the positive polarity gate

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on voltage and the negative polarity voltage are applied to the adjacent gate lines, respectively.

15. The LCD of claim 14, wherein the signal control unit controls the data driving unit so that the same polarity of data voltage is applied to the pixels connected to the same gate line.

16. A driving method of an LCD including a liquid crystal panel in which a pixel is connected to a gate line and a data line, comprising:

applying a positive polarity gate on voltage across the pixel supplied with a positive polarity data voltage; and applying a negative polarity gate on voltage that is lower than the positive polarity gate on voltage across the pixel supplied with the negative polarity data voltage,

wherein the positive polarity gate on voltage comprises a first voltage Vg1 and a second voltage Vg2 less than the first voltage Vg1,

wherein the negative polarity gate on voltage comprises a third voltage Vg3 and a fourth voltage Vg4 less than the third voltage Vg3, and

wherein the fourth voltage Vg4 is lower than the second voltage Vg2.

17. The driving method of claim 16, wherein a difference between the negative polarity gate on voltage and a gate off voltage is about 50 to about 80% of a difference between the positive polarity gate on voltage and the gate off voltage.

18. The driving method of claim 16, wherein the adjacent gate lines are supplied with the gate on voltages having opposite polarity, and the adjacent data lines are supplied with the data voltages having opposite polarity.

19. The driving method of claim 16, wherein the negative and positive polarity gate on voltages each have a stepwise distribution that the negative and positive polarity gate on voltages are reduced over time.

20. The driving method of claim 19, wherein a difference between the first voltage Vg1 and the second voltage Vg2 is less than a difference between the third voltage Vg3 and the fourth voltage Vg4.

\* \* \* \* \*

专利名称(译)	液晶显示器及其驱动方法		
公开(公告)号	<a href="#">US7907106</a>	公开(公告)日	2011-03-15
申请号	US11/302098	申请日	2005-12-12
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IPC分类号	G09G3/36		
CPC分类号	G09G3/3696 G02F2001/134318 G09G3/3614 G09G3/3648 G09G2320/0219 G09G2320/0247 A61G17/007		
优先权	1020050016220 2005-02-26 KR		
其他公开文献	US20070291190A1		
外部链接	<a href="#">Espacenet</a> <a href="#">USPTO</a>		

摘要(译)

提供一种液晶显示器 ( LCD ) 及其驱动方法。 LCD包括具有栅极线，数据线和由栅极线和数据线的交叉点限定的像素的液晶面板;灰阶电压发生单元，用于产生灰阶电压;驱动电压产生单元，用于产生栅极截止电压，正极性栅极导通电压和负极性栅极导通电压，其中负极性栅极导通电压低于正极性栅极导通电压;栅极驱动单元，用于向栅极线提供正极性栅极导通电压和负极性栅极导通电压中的至少一个;数据驱动单元，用于向像素提供数据电压，其中，数据驱动单元被提供有来自灰度级电压产生单元的灰度级电压;信号控制单元，用于控制数据驱动单元，使得正极性数据电压和负极性数据电压交替地施加到像素，并且用于控制栅极驱动单元，使得正极性栅极导通电压施加到提供有正极性数据电压和负极性栅极导通电压的像素被施加到提供有负极性数据电压的像素。因此，减少了闪烁程度和图像残留。

