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(54) **LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAYING APPARATUS USING DATA LINE DRIVING CIRCUIT**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A liquid crystal display apparatus includes a plurality of data lines; a plurality of scan lines which intersect the plurality of data lines; pixels arranged at intersections of the plurality of data lines and the plurality of scanning lines; and a data line driving circuit configured to drive the plurality of data lines, and comprising a first data line driving section and a second data line driving section. $4 \times n$ (n : an optional natural number) frames are set as one cycle, and each of the plurality of data lines is circularly driven by one of the first data line driving section and the second data line driving section during one cycle.

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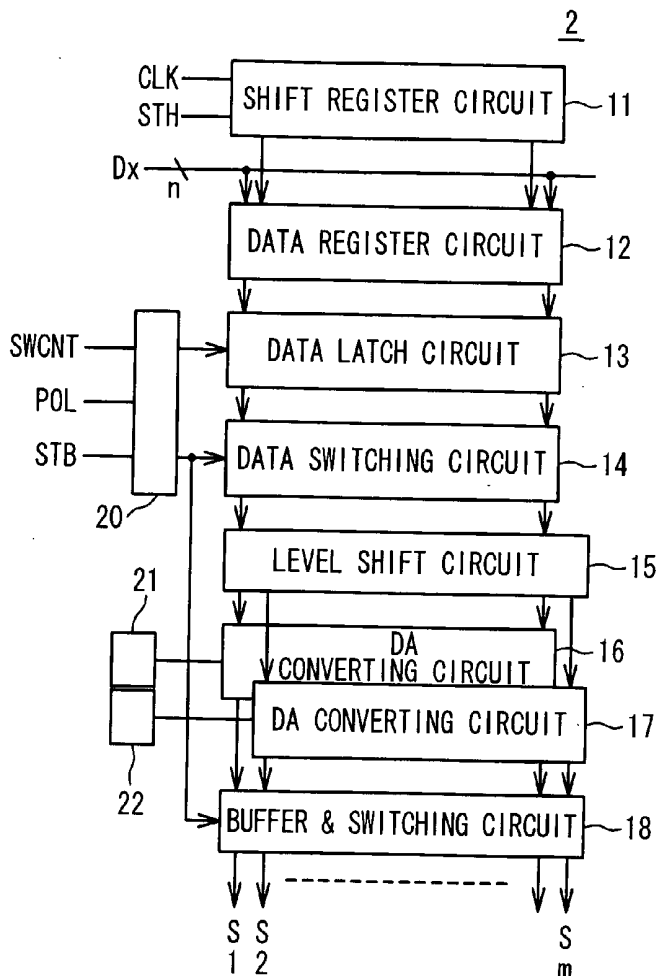
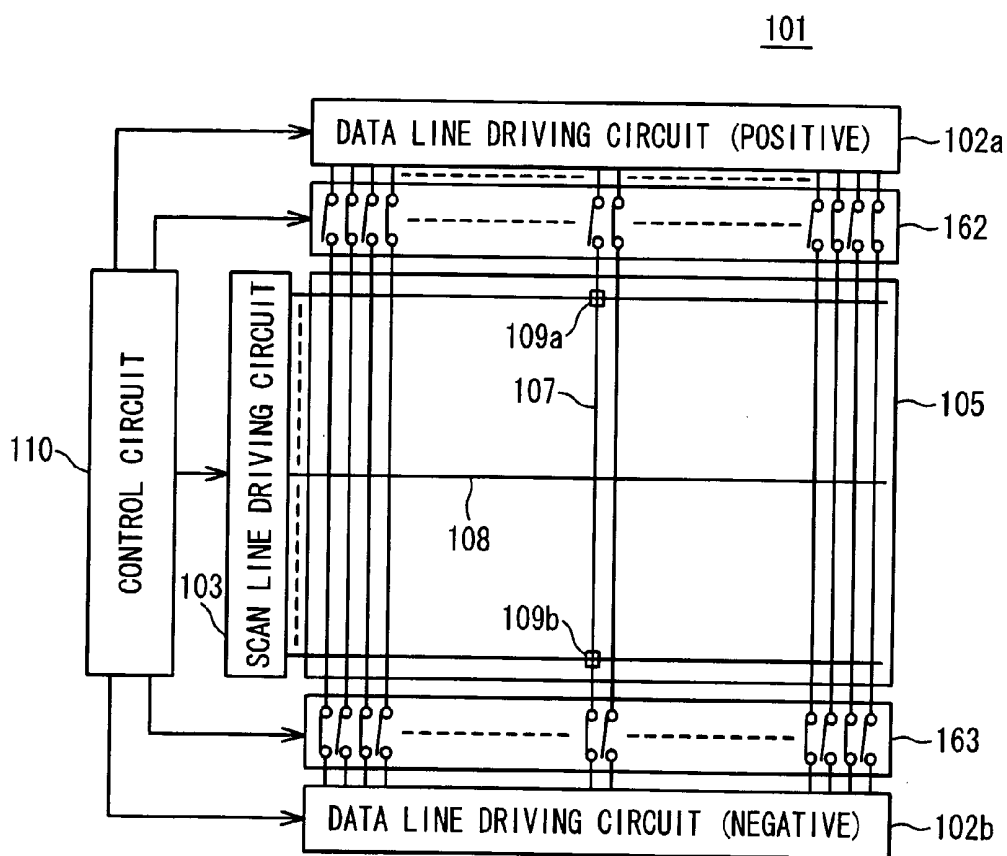


Fig. 1 PRIOR ART



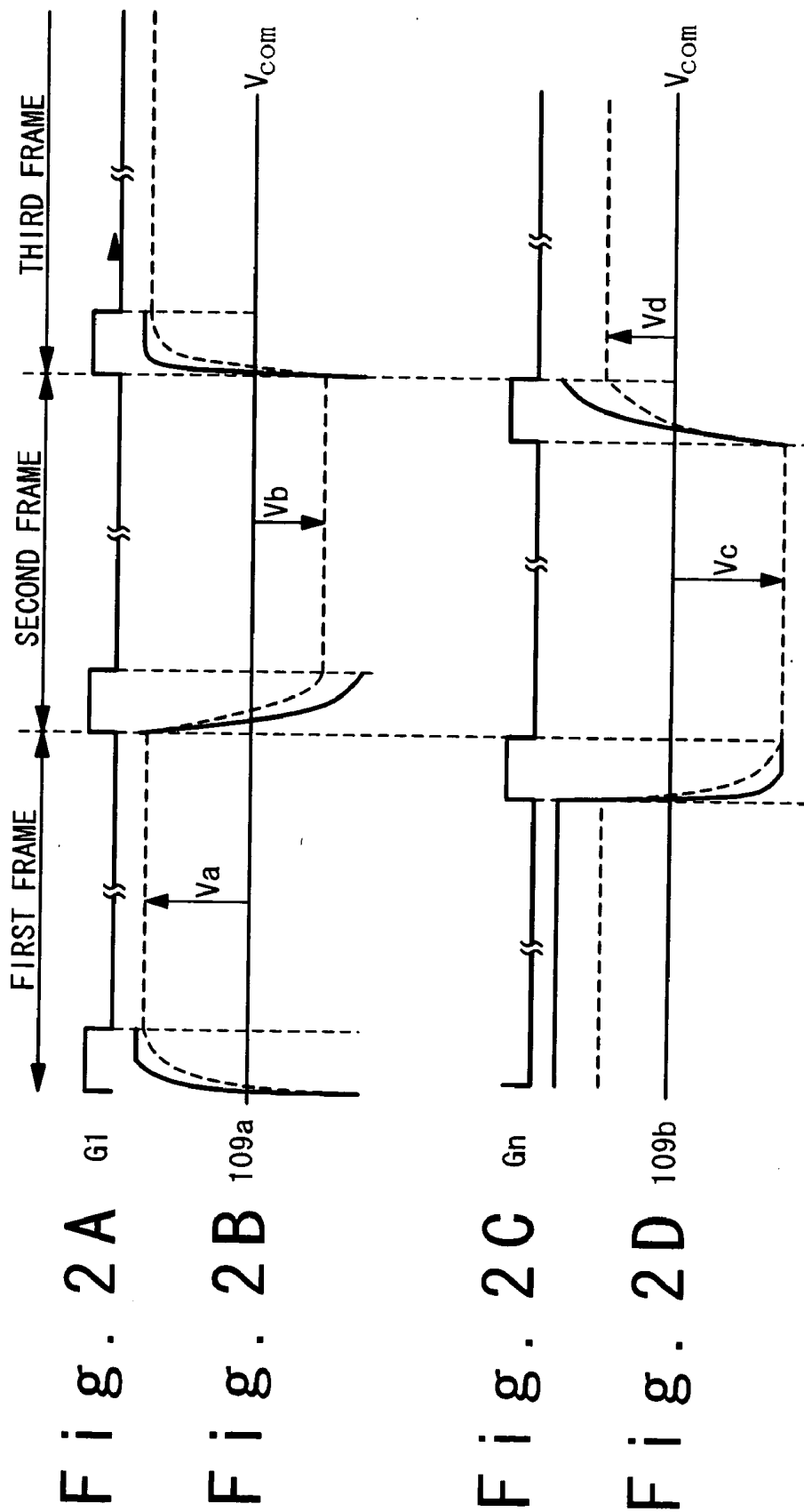


Fig. 3

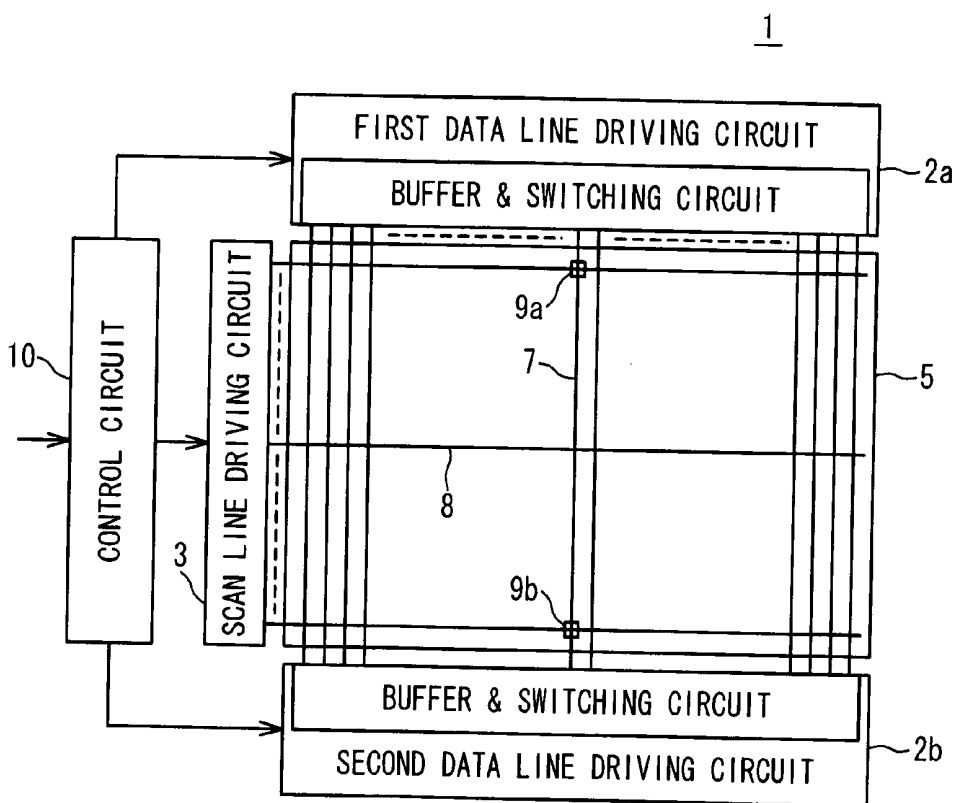


Fig. 4

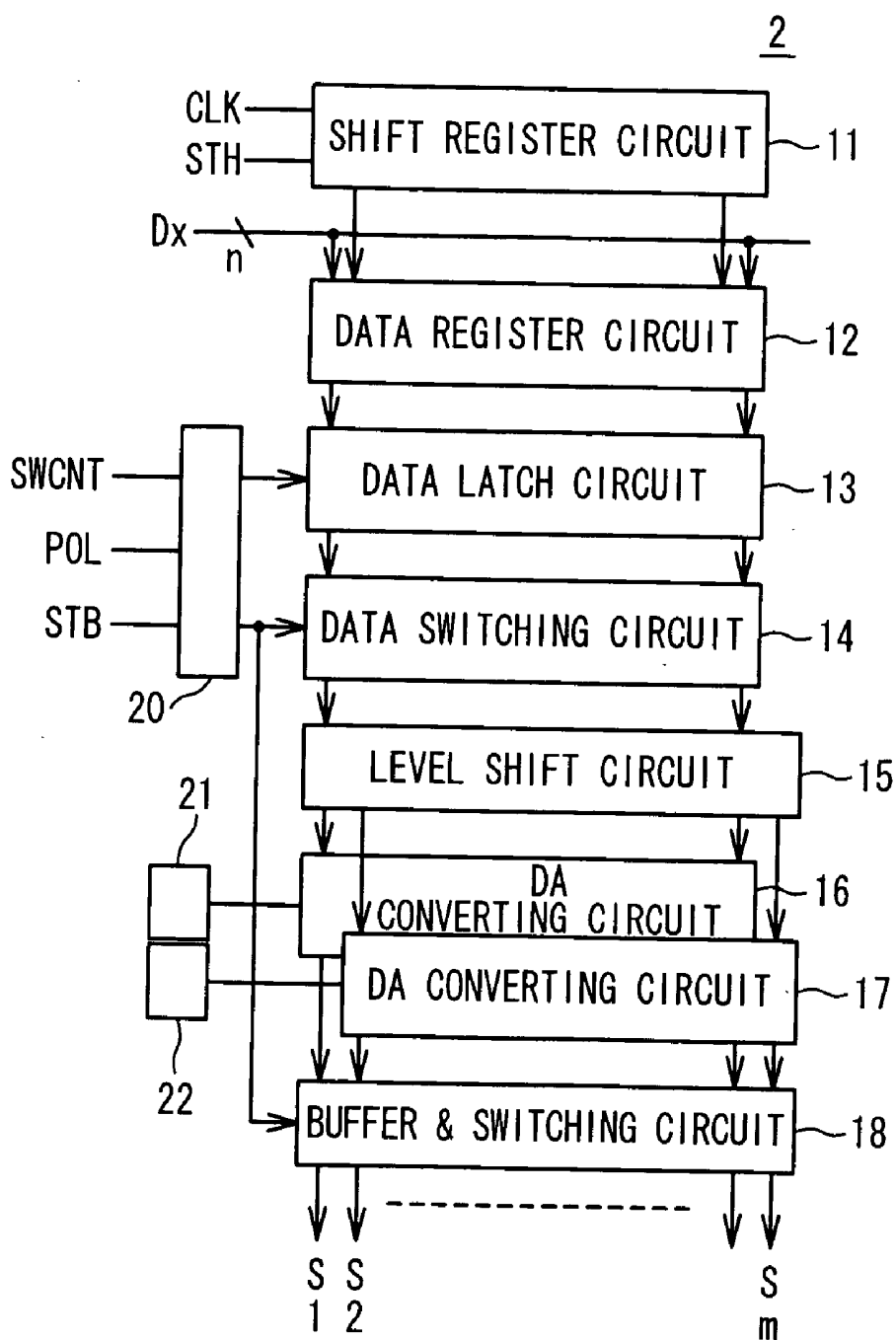


Fig. 5

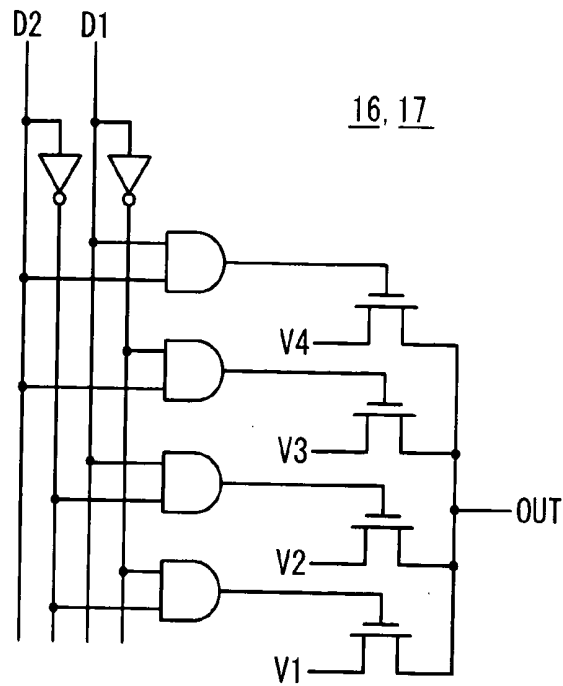


Fig. 6

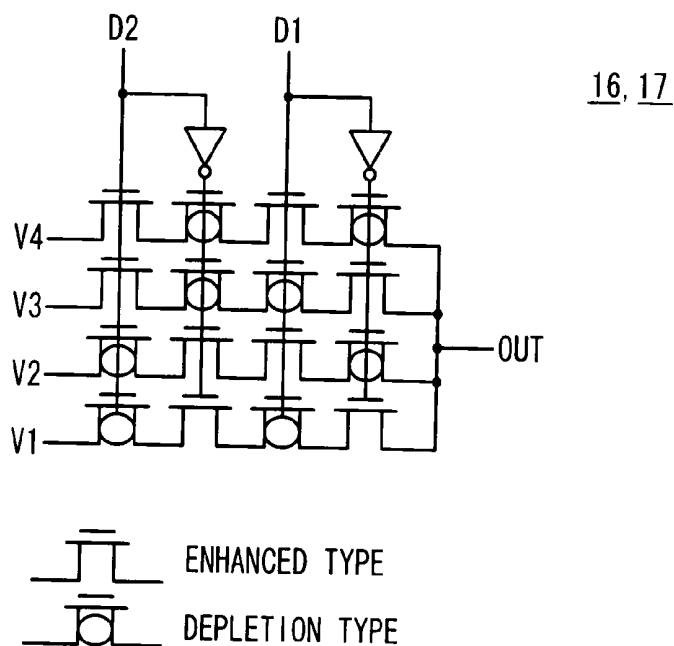


Fig. 7

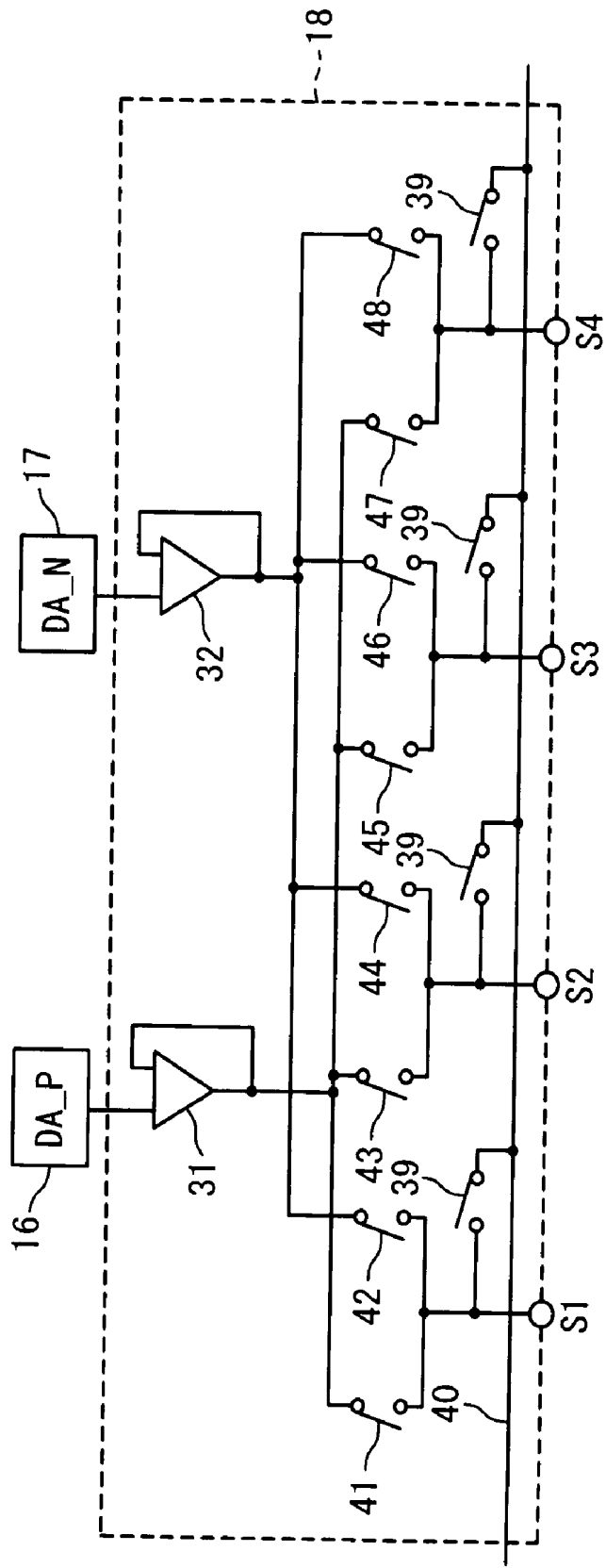
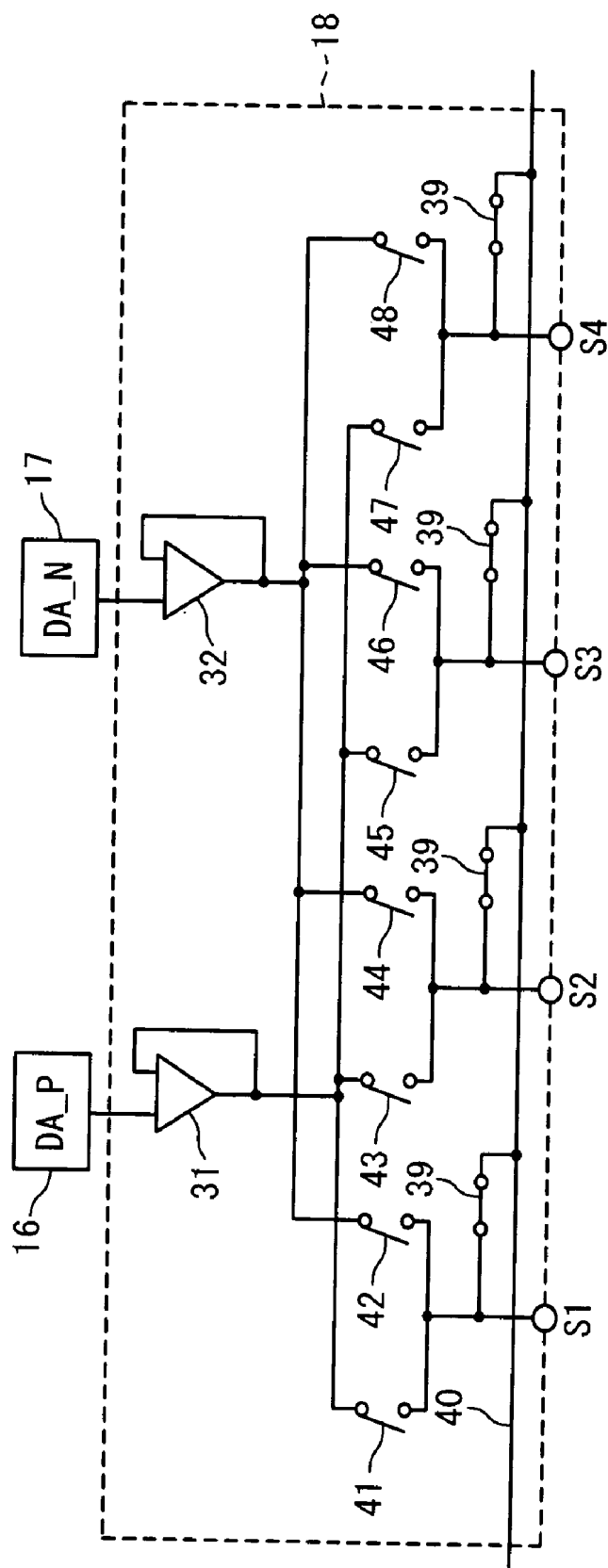


Fig. 8



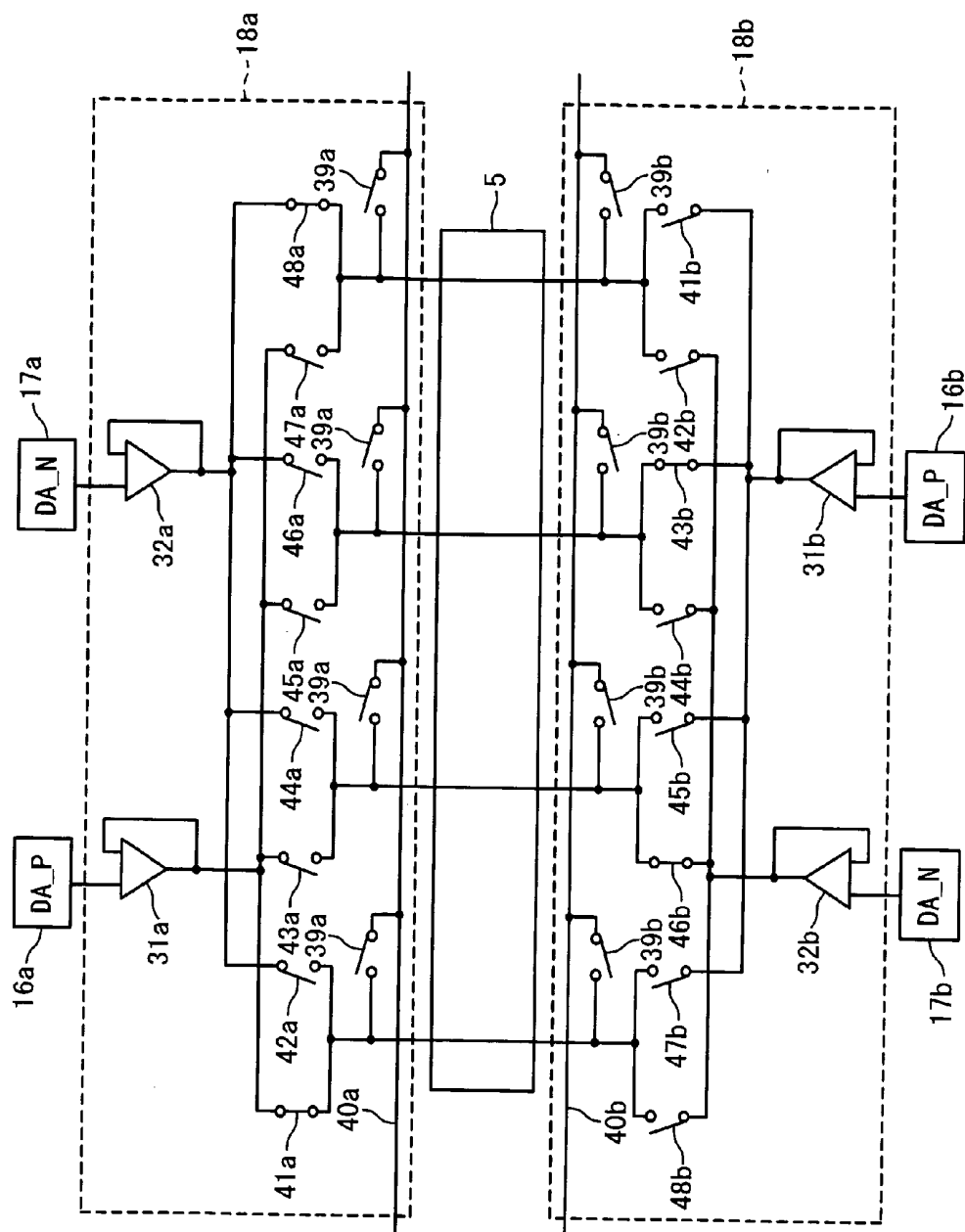


Fig. 9

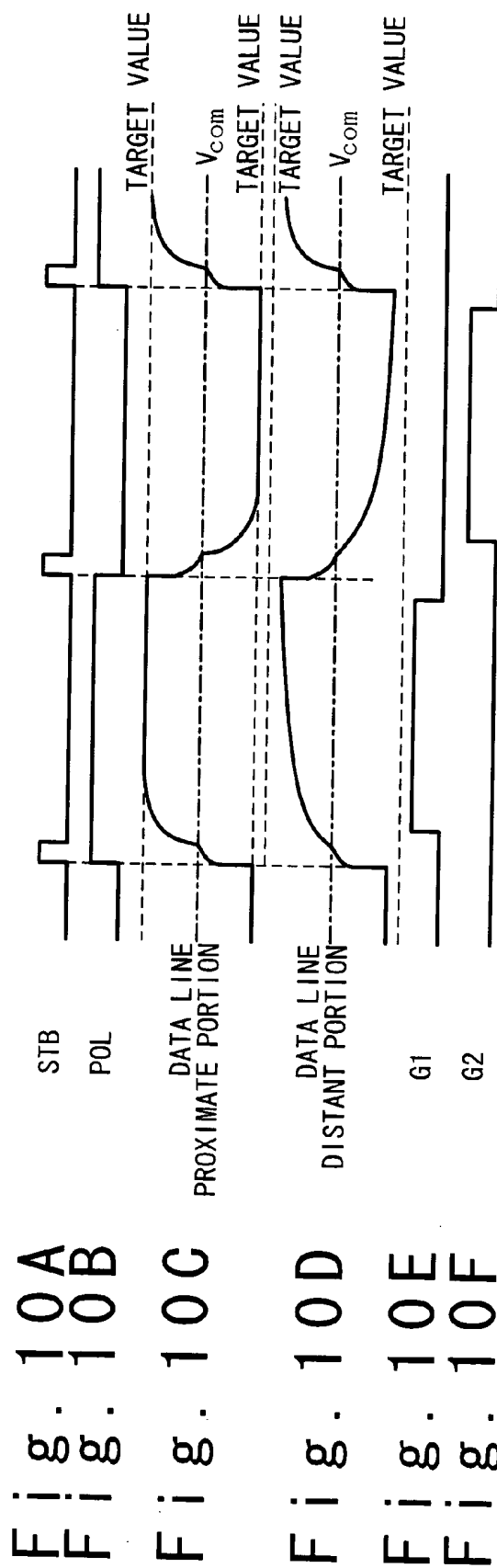


Fig. 11A

1ST FRAME	2ND FRAMES	3RD FRAME	4TH FRAME
UP +	DOWN -	DOWN +	UP -

Fig. 11B

1ST FRAME	2ND FRAMES	3RD FRAME	4TH FRAME
UP +	UP -	DOWN +	DOWN -

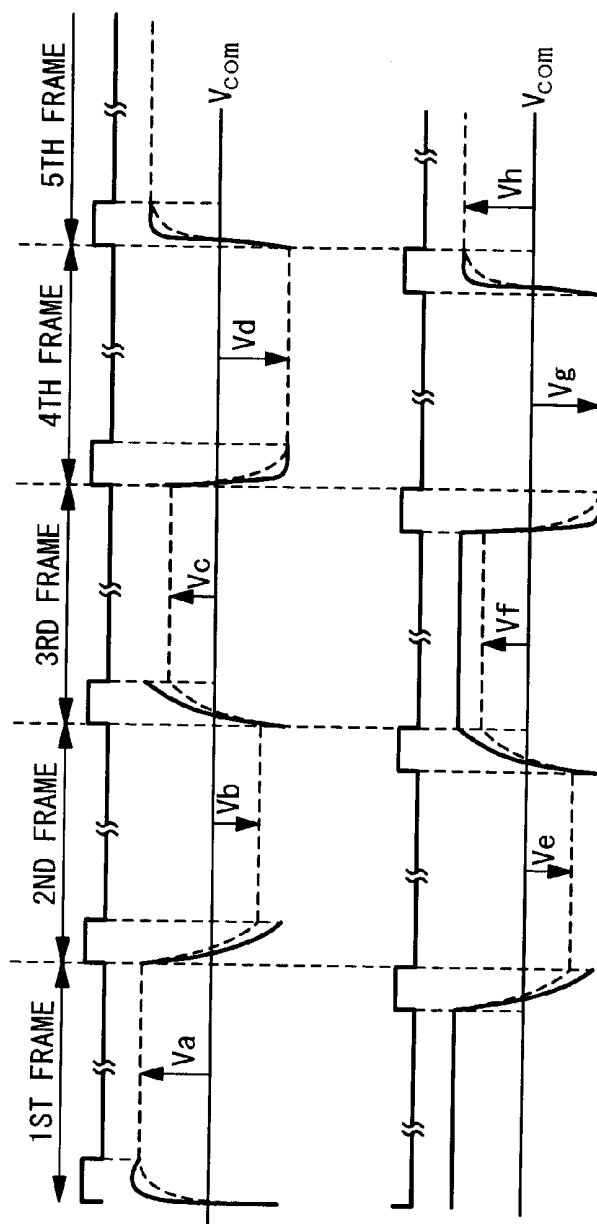


Fig. 12A G1

Fig. 12B Gn

Fig. 12C G1

Fig. 12D Gn

Fig. 13A

1ST FRAME

1	UP +	DOWN -	DOWN +	UP -
2	DOWN -	DOWN +	UP -	UP +
3	DOWN +	UP -	UP +	DOWN -
4	UP -	UP +	DOWN -	DOWN +

Fig. 13B

2ND FRAME

1	DOWN -	DOWN +	UP -	UP +
2	DOWN +	UP -	UP +	DOWN -
3	UP -	UP +	DOWN -	DOWN +
4	UP +	DOWN -	DOWN +	UP -

Fig. 13D

4TH FRAME

1	UP -	UP +	DOWN -	DOWN +
2	UP +	DOWN -	DOWN +	UP -
3	DOWN -	DOWN +	UP -	UP +
4	DOWN +	UP -	UP +	DOWN -

Fig. 13C

3RD FRAME

1	DOWN +	UP -	UP +	DOWN -
2	UP -	UP +	DOWN -	DOWN +
3	UP +	DOWN -	DOWN +	UP -
4	DOWN -	DOWN +	UP -	UP +

Fig. 14A

1ST FRAME

1	UP +	DOWN -	UP -	DOWN +
2	DOWN -	DOWN +	UP +	UP -
3	DOWN +	UP -	DOWN -	UP +
4	UP -	UP +	DOWN +	DOWN -

Fig. 14B

2ND FRAME

1	DOWN -	DOWN +	UP +	UP -
2	DOWN +	UP -	DOWN -	UP +
3	UP -	UP +	DOWN +	DOWN -
4	UP +	DOWN -	UP -	DOWN +

Fig. 14D

4TH FRAME

1	UP -	UP +	DOWN +	DOWN -
2	UP +	DOWN -	UP -	DOWN +
3	DOWN -	DOWN +	UP +	UP -
4	DOWN +	UP -	DOWN -	UP +

Fig. 14C

3RD FRAME

1	DOWN +	UP -	DOWN -	UP +
2	UP -	UP +	DOWN +	DOWN -
3	UP +	DOWN -	UP -	DOWN +
4	DOWN -	DOWN +	UP +	UP -

Fig. 15A Fig. 15B Fig. 15C Fig. 15D

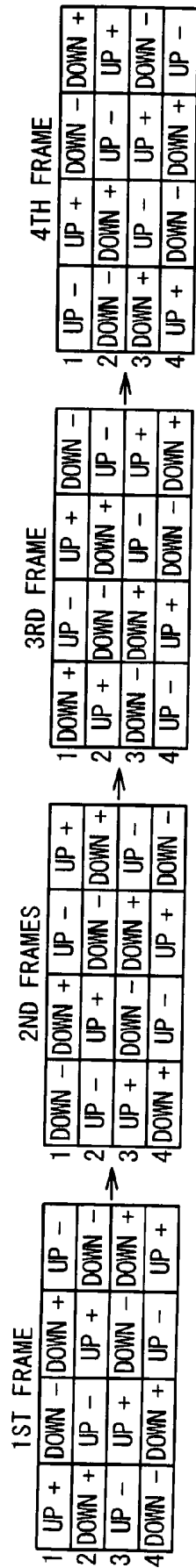


Fig. 15E Fig. 15F Fig. 15G Fig. 15H

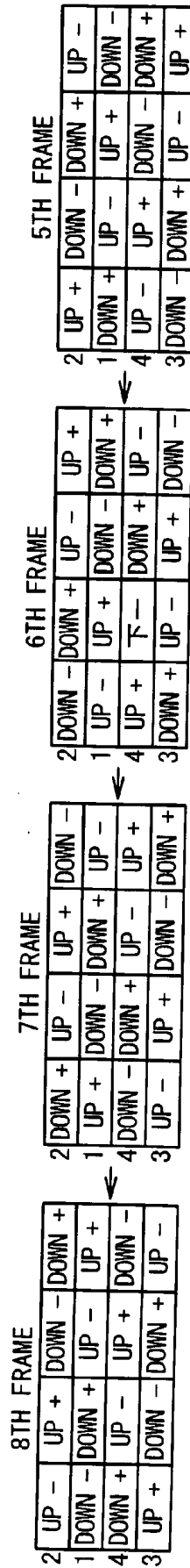


Fig. 16A Fig. 16B Fig. 16C Fig. 16D

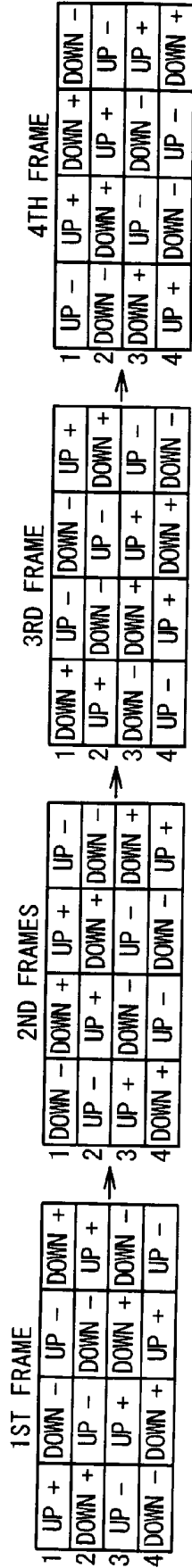


Fig. 16H Fig. 16G Fig. 16F Fig. 16E

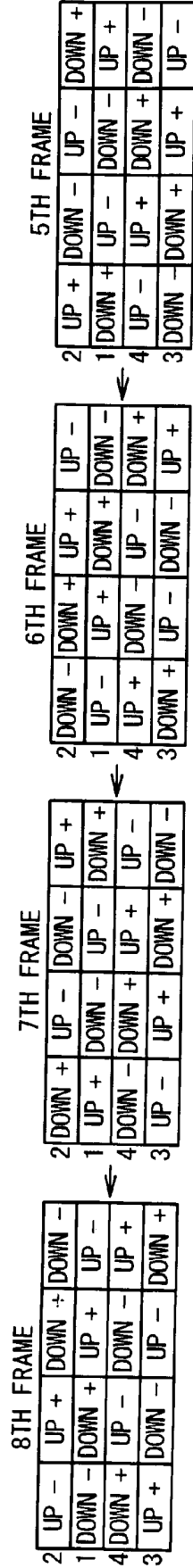


Fig. 17

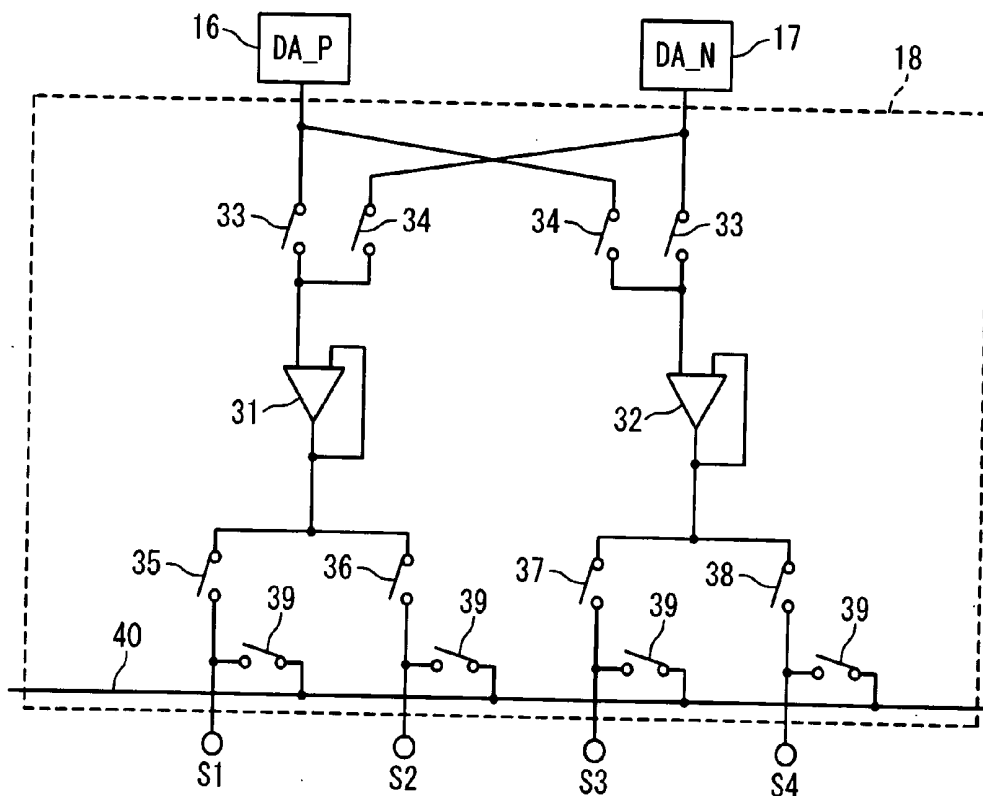
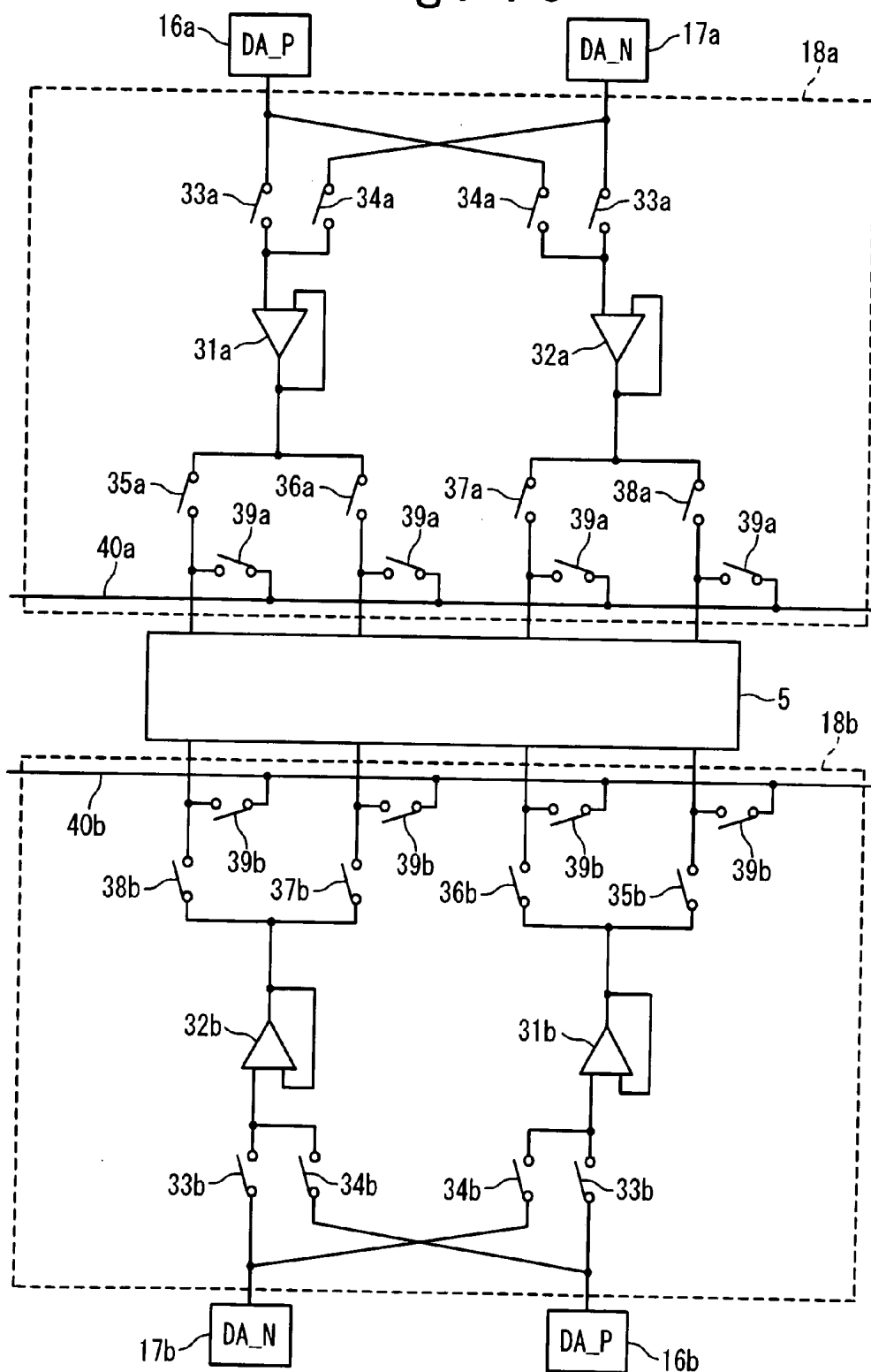


Fig. 18



LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAYING APPARATUS USING DATA LINE DRIVING CIRCUIT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] 1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to a driving circuit for driving data lines of a liquid crystal display panel and a liquid crystal display apparatus using the same.

[0003] 2. Description of the Related Art

[0004] As a man-machine interface, a flat panel display apparatus has been widely spread. Especially, a liquid crystal display apparatus is superior in manufacturing technique, yield and cost to other flat panel displays such as a plasma display apparatus. Thus, the liquid crystal display apparatus is applicable to various fields.

[0005] The liquid crystal display apparatus includes a display panel with a plurality of pixels arranged in a matrix. The display panel has two glass plates and liquid crystal material sealed in a gap between the glass plates. The liquid crystal material has the characteristic that the orientation of molecules is changed in accordance with an application voltage. The liquid crystal display apparatus uses its characteristic to display an image on the display panel. In short, the liquid crystal display apparatus controls the application voltage to each pixel and consequently changes a quantity of light transmitted through the two glass plates to display the image on the display panel.

[0006] As a driving method of displaying an image on a display panel, there are a simple matrix driving method and an active matrix driving method. At present, the liquid crystal display apparatus employing the active matrix driving method is generally used. An active element such as TFT (Thin Film Transistor) is provided for each pixel of the display panel in the active matrix liquid crystal display apparatus. Also, the display panel includes a plurality of scan lines and a plurality of data lines (signal lines) orthogonal to the plurality of scan lines. Also, each active element includes a gate electrode, a drain electrode and a source electrode. The gate electrode of each active element is connected to a corresponding one of the scan lines extending in a row direction. Similarly, the drain electrode of each active element is connected to a corresponding one of the data lines extending in a column direction. The active matrix liquid crystal display apparatus displays an image by using a displaying method typically called a sequential driving method. In the sequential driving method, the scan lines are sequentially scanned from an upper portion to a low portion or from the low portion to the upper portion on the display panel, and consequently displays an image on the display panel. This image is referred to as a frame (or a field).

[0007] When the display panel is driven, the continuous application of a DC voltage to the pixel cause deterioration of the liquid crystal material. The liquid crystal display apparatus typically employs a driving method called an inversion driving method, in order to prevent the deterioration of the liquid crystal material. In that method, the pixels in the liquid crystal display panel are driven in an AC manner while using the active matrix driving method. In the inversion driving method, the polarity of the pixel voltage to be applied is defined as a positive or negative voltage with respect to a voltage of a common electrode (a common

voltage), and the polarity is inverted for every predetermined period. In short, in the inversion driving method, the voltage higher or lower than the common voltage is defined as a positive or negative voltage. Then, the positive voltage and the negative voltage are alternately applied to a pixel from the data line through the TFT for every predetermined period. Thus, the voltage to drive the data line is also inverted for every predetermined period.

[0008] As the inversion driving method used in the liquid crystal display apparatus, there are known the [Line Inversion Driving] method in which the polarity of the pixel voltage is changed for every data line in a row direction, and a [Dot Inversion Driving] method in which the polarity of the pixel voltage is changed for every pixel. The [Dot Inversion Driving] method is employed in the recent liquid crystal display apparatus of large scale and high definition. As the dot inversion drive method, there are known a 1-line dot inversion driving method in which the polarity of the pixel voltage is inverted each time one scan lines is scanned, and a 2-line dot inversion driving method in which the polarity of the pixel voltage is inverted each time two scan lines are scanned. With the 1-line dot inversion driving method and the 2-line dot inversion driving method, flicker and the like are reduced to improve the image quality.

[0009] With the larger scale and higher definition of the liquid crystal display apparatus, there is a case that a parasitic capacitance and parasitic resistance of the data line and the scan line are increased. The increase in the parasitic capacitance and parasitic resistance of the data line causes a waveform dullness of a driving voltage signal applied to the data line from a data line driving circuit. Thus, brightnesses are sometimes different between a pixel near to the data line driving circuit and a pixel distant from it. In order to solve such a problem, a technique is proposed in Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication (JP-A-Heisei 6-149183). In this conventional technique, data line driving circuits are provided on upper and lower sides of a panel, and are switched by setting two frames as one cycle. Thus, signal voltages are averaged, thereby reducing the deviation in the brightness.

[0010] In the dot inversion driving method, the display panel is driven in the positive and negative voltages with respect to the common voltage as the reference voltage. Thus, the display panel is driven by setting the two frames as one cycle.

[0011] FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing the configuration of a conventional liquid crystal display apparatus 101 employing the conventional dot inversion driving method. With reference to FIG. 1, the conventional liquid crystal display apparatus 101 is provided with a data line driving circuit (positive) 102a for supplying a positive signal, a data line driving circuit (negative) 102b for supplying a negative signal, a scan line driving circuit 103 for supplying a scan signal; a control circuit for outputting a clock signal and an image signal to be supplied to the data line driving circuit (positive) 102a and the data line driving circuit (negative) 102b; a display panel 105, a switch circuit 162 and a switch circuit 163. Also, the display panel 105 has data lines 107, scan lines 108 and a plurality of pixels 109. As mentioned above, the conventional display panel is driven by using a first frame and a second frame in one cycle.

[0012] FIG. 1 shows the liquid crystal display apparatus 101 of the first frame cycle. As shown in FIG. 1, the

odd-numbered lines of the data lines in the liquid crystal display apparatus 101 are driven with the positive signal supplied from the data line driving circuit (positive) 102a in the first frame. The odd-numbered lines of the data lines are driven with the negative signal supplied from the data line driving circuit (negative) 102b in the second frame cycle. Here, it is supposed that the pixel near the data line driving circuit (positive) 102a is referred to as a pixel 109a, and the pixel distant from it is referred to as a pixel 109b. At this time, a difference between the common voltage and the pixel voltage applied to the pixel 109a is different from a difference between the common voltage and the pixel voltage applied to the pixel 109b.

[0013] FIGS. 2A to 2D are timing charts showing the voltages applied to the pixels 109a and 109b. With reference to FIGS. 2A to 2D, the waveform of voltage signal on the data line in the first and second frames is shown by a solid line, and the waveform of the pixel voltage is shown by a dotted line. As mentioned above, the pixels 109a and 109b are connected to the odd-numbered data line 107 in the liquid crystal display apparatus 101.

[0014] The pixels 109a and 109b are driven by the positive pixel voltage in the first frame. The data line driving circuit (positive) 102a drives the pixels 109a and 109b with the positive voltage in the first frame. Since the pixel 109a is located close the data line driving circuit 102a, the voltage waveform of the pixel 109a on the data line 107 reaches a target voltage without any dullness. The voltage supplied from the data line 107 is applied to the liquid crystal through the TFT of the pixel. Since the ON resistance of the TFT is as high as several MΩ, the waveform of the pixel voltage is made dull, and the pixel voltage has the value of a positive voltage Va with respect to the common voltage. After that, the drive of a scan line associated with the pixel 109a is ended, and the pixel 109a holds the voltage Va. As shown in the timing charts of FIGS. 2A and 2B, the data line driving circuit 102b drives the pixel 109a with the negative voltage in the second frame. The pixel 109a is located distant from the data line driving circuit 102b. Thus, the voltage waveform of the data line 107 becomes dull. The drive of the scan line 108 associated with the pixel 109a is ended before reaching the target voltage. In response to the end of the scan line drive, the TFT is turned off. At this time, the pixel voltage has the value of a negative voltage Vb with respect to the common voltage, and the pixel holds the voltage Vb.

[0015] On the other hand, the data line driving circuit 102b drives the pixels 109b with the negative voltage in the second frame. The pixel 109b is located close the data line driving circuit 102b. Thus, the voltage waveform of the data line 107 reaches the targeted voltage without any dullness. For this reason, the pixel voltage has the value of a negative voltage Vc with respect to the common voltage. At this time, the waveform of the pixel voltage applied to the liquid crystal through the TFT of the pixel becomes dull due to of the ON resistance of the TFT. After that, the scan line drive is ended, and the pixel 109b holds the voltage Vc.

[0016] In the third frame, the pixel 109b is driven with the positive voltage. As shown in the timing charts of FIGS. 2A to 2D, the data line driving circuit 102a drives the pixel 109b with the positive voltage in the third frame. The pixel 109b is located distant from the data line driving circuit 102a. Thus, the voltage waveform of the data line 107 becomes

dull, and the scan line drive is ended before reaching the targeted voltage. In response to the end of the scan line drive, the TFT of the pixel 109b is turned off. The pixel 109b holds a positive voltage Vd with respect to the common voltage.

[0017] Here, although the following voltage relation

$$Va+Vb \approx Vc+Vd$$

is met, the brightnesses resulting from the positive voltage Va, the negative voltage Vb, the positive voltage Vd and the negative voltage Vc are slightly different from each other. This is because a positive gamma property and a negative gamma property are slightly different from each other.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0018] In an aspect of the present invention, a liquid crystal display apparatus includes a plurality of data lines; a plurality of scan lines which intersect the plurality of data lines; pixels arranged at intersections of the plurality of data lines and the plurality of scanning lines; and a data line driving circuit configured to drive the plurality of data lines, and comprising a first data line driving section and a second data line driving section. 4xn (n: an optional natural number) frames are set as one cycle, and each of the plurality of data lines is circularly driven by one of the first data line driving section and the second data line driving section during one cycle.

[0019] Here, the first data line driving section generates a first positive voltage signal which is positive with respect to a common voltage and a first negative voltage signal which is negative with respect to the common voltage, and the second data line driving section generates a second positive voltage signal which is positive voltage with respect to the common voltage and a second negative voltage signal which is negative with respect to the common voltage. In such a case, a summation of voltages of the voltage signals applied to each pixel during the one cycle is almost equal to each other over the pixels.

[0020] Also, the first data line driving section generates a first positive voltage signal which is positive with respect to a common voltage and a first negative voltage signal which is negative with respect to the common voltage, and the second data line driving section generates a second positive voltage signal which is positive voltage with respect to the common voltage and a second negative voltage signal which is negative with respect to the common voltage. The first data line driving section drives one of the plurality of data lines in the first positive voltage signal in a first frame of the one cycle, and the second data line driving section drives the data line in the second negative voltage signal in a second frame next to the first frame in the one cycle. In addition, the second data line driving section drives the data line in the second positive voltage signal in a third frame next to the second frame in the one cycle, and the first data line driving section drives the data line in the first negative voltage signal in a fourth frame next to the third frame in the one cycle.

[0021] Also, the first data line driving section generates a first positive voltage signal which is positive with respect to a common voltage and a first negative voltage signal which is negative with respect to the common voltage, and the second data line driving section generates a second positive voltage signal which is positive voltage with respect to the common voltage and a second negative voltage signal which

is negative with respect to the common voltage. The first data line driving section drives one of the plurality of data lines in the first positive voltage signal in a first frame of the one cycle, and the first data line driving section drives the data line in the first negative voltage signal in a second frame next to the first frame in the one cycle. In addition, the second data line driving section drives the data line in the second positive voltage signal in a third frame subsequent to the second frame in the one cycle, and the second data line driving section drives the data line in the second negative voltage signal in a fourth frame next to the third frame in the one cycle.

[0022] Also, the liquid crystal display apparatus may further include a common line. The data line driving circuit includes a plurality of switches configured to control connection between the plurality of data lines and the common line, and the plurality of switches connect the plurality of data lines and the common line before a polarity of said voltage signal supplied to said data line is changed.

[0023] Also, the plurality of switches includes a first switch group provided for the first data line driving section and a second switch group provided for the second data line driving section. The common line includes a first common line connected with the plurality of data lines by the first switch group; and a second common line connected with the plurality of data lines by the second switch group. The first and second switch groups connect the plurality of data lines and the first and second common before the polarity of said voltage signal supplied to the data line is changed.

[0024] Also, a voltage applied to the common line may be a liquid crystal common voltage.

[0025] Also, the first data line driving section may be formed on a first substrate which is different from a panel substrate on which a display panel having the plurality of pixels is formed. The second data line driving section may be formed on a second substrate which is different from the panel substrate and the first substrate. The display panel may have a first side orthogonal to the plurality of data lines and a second side opposing to the first side. The first data line driving section may be provided for the first side, and the second data line driving section may be provided for the second side.

[0026] Also, each of the first and second substrates may be a semiconductor substrate.

[0027] In another aspect of the present invention, a data line driving circuit which supplies an analog image signal to $4 \times M$ (M is an optional natural number) data lines, includes M positive driving circuits configured to output a positive analog image signal which is positive with respect to a reference voltage; M negative driving circuits configured to output a negative analog image signal which is negative with respect to the reference voltage; $4 \times M$ analog image signal output terminals; and a switching circuit connected with the $4 \times M$ data lines through the $4 \times M$ analog image signal output terminals. The switching circuit switches between a first state in which the positive analog image signal is supplied to the data lines, a second state in which the negative analog image signal is supplied to ones of the data lines, and a third state as a high impedance state in which no signal is supplied to the data lines.

[0028] Here, the switching circuit includes a first buffer circuit connected with the positive driving circuits; a second

buffer circuit connected with the negative driving circuits; a first switch group provided between the first buffer circuit and the analog image signal output terminals to control connection between the first buffer circuit and the analog image signal output terminals; and a second switch group provided between the second buffer circuit and the analog image signal output terminals to control connection between the second buffer circuit and the analog image signal output terminals. The switching circuit may supply the positive analog image signal and the negative analog image signal to the $4 \times M$ data lines by closing the first switch group and the second switch group in a predetermined order.

[0029] Also, the switching circuit may include a first buffer circuit connected with the positive driving circuits; a second buffer circuit connected with the negative driving circuits; a first switch group configured to selectively control connection between the first buffer circuit and the positive driving circuits; and a second switch group configured to selectively control connection between the first buffer circuit and the positive driving circuits. The switching circuit may supply the positive analog image signal and the negative analog image signal to the $4 \times M$ data lines by closing the first switch group and the second switch group in a predetermined order.

[0030] Also, the switching circuit may further include a third switch group configured to control connection of the analog image signal output terminals and a common line of the liquid crystal display apparatus before a polarity of said voltage signal supplied to said data line is changed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0031] FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a conventional liquid crystal display apparatus;

[0032] FIGS. 2A to 2D are timing charts showing voltage waveforms in the conventional liquid crystal display apparatus;

[0033] FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a liquid crystal display apparatus of the present invention;

[0034] FIG. 4 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a data line driving circuit in the liquid crystal display apparatus according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

[0035] FIG. 5 is a circuit diagram showing a configuration of a DA converting circuit applied to the present invention;

[0036] FIG. 6 is a circuit diagram showing another configuration of the DA converting circuit applied to the present invention;

[0037] FIG. 7 is a circuit diagram showing configurations of the buffer & switching circuit in the first embodiment;

[0038] FIG. 8 is a circuit diagram showing a connection state when common line connection switches in the switching circuit are turned on at a same time in the first embodiment;

[0039] FIG. 9 is a circuit diagram showing the configuration of the switching circuit in the first embodiment;

[0040] FIGS. 10A to 10F are waveforms showing voltage waveform of a data line in the first embodiment;

[0041] FIGS. 11A and 11B are diagrams showing an operation when pixels are driven in the first embodiment;

[0042] FIGS. 12A to 12D are waveforms showing an operation when the pixels are driven in the period of four frames in the first embodiment;

[0043] FIGS. 13A to 13D are diagrams showing a pixel driving method in each frame in the first embodiment;

[0044] FIGS. 14A to 14D are diagrams showing a pixel driving method in each frame in the first embodiment;

[0045] FIGS. 15A to 15H are diagrams showing states in which the polarity of a signal is inverted for every two scan lines, in a second embodiment of the present invention;

[0046] FIGS. 16A to 16H are diagrams showing other states in which the polarity of a signal is inverted for every two scan lines, in a second embodiment of the present invention;

[0047] FIG. 17 is a circuit diagram showing configurations of the switching circuit in a third embodiment; and

[0048] FIG. 18 is a circuit diagram showing the configuration of the switching circuits in the third embodiment.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0049] Hereinafter, a liquid crystal display apparatus having a data line driving circuit of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to the attached drawings. In the following description, components will be described with the reference symbol of a or b to discriminate the two circuits having a same configuration and installed at different positions, as in "a first data line driving circuit 2a and a second data line driving circuit 2b". Thus, when it is not necessary to take the installation position into account, the symbols a and b are omitted. Also, the present invention is not limited to the following embodiments, and one skilled in the art can easily change, add and convert components in the following embodiments within the range of the present invention.

First Embodiment

[0050] FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing the configuration of a liquid crystal display apparatus 1 according to the first embodiment of the present invention. As shown in FIG. 3, the liquid crystal display apparatus 1 in this embodiment is provided with a liquid crystal display panel 5, a first data line driving circuit 2a, a second data line driving circuit 2b, a scan line driving circuit 3 and a display control circuit 10. The liquid crystal display panel 5 has a plurality of data lines 7 extending in a column direction and a plurality of scan lines 8 in a row direction orthogonal to the column direction. Also, the liquid crystal display panel 5 includes a plurality of pixels 9 arranged at the intersections of the data lines 7 and the scan lines 8. The pixels are arranged in a matrix, and an active element (not shown) such as a TFT (Thin Film Transistor) is arranged for each pixel. The active element has a gate electrode, a source electrode and a drain electrode. The gate electrode of the active element is connected to the scan line 8 extending in the row direction, and the source electrode thereof is connected to the data line 7 extending in the column direction.

[0051] The first data line driving circuit 2a and the second data line driving circuit 2b output positive signals and negative signals as analog image signals onto the plurality of data lines 7. As shown in FIG. 3, the first data line driving circuit 2a is provided near the upper end of the liquid crystal display panel 5, and the second data line driving circuit 2b is provided near the lower end of the liquid crystal display panel 5 opposing to the upper end. Each of the first data line driving circuit 2a and the second data line driving circuit 2b is connected to the plurality of data lines 7. As shown in FIG. 3, the scan line driving circuit 3 is arranged on a side between the sides on which the first data line driving circuit 2a and the second data line driving circuit 2b are provided, and is connected to the plurality of scan lines 8. The scan line driving circuit 3 outputs a scan signal. The display control circuit 10 supplies an image signal and control signals such as a clock signal to the data line driving circuits 2 and the scan line driving circuit 3. The display control circuit 10 is connected to the first data line driving circuit 2a, the second data line driving circuit 2b and the scan line driving circuit 3. The display control circuit 10 is supplied with an image signal Dx, a dot clock signal dCLK, a horizontal sync signal Hsync, a vertical sync signal Vsync and the like, and controls the image signal Dx to be supplied to which of the first data line driving circuit 2a and the second data line driving circuit 2b. The first data line driving circuit 2a has a first switching circuit 18a, and the second data line driving circuit 2b has a second switching circuit 18b. The detailed configuration of the first data line driving circuit 2a (or second data line driving circuit 2b) will be described later. As mentioned above, the liquid crystal display panel 5 includes the plurality of pixels 9. In the following description, a pixel 9a is assumed to be arranged on a position near the first data line driving circuit 2a and a pixel 9b is assumed to be arranged on a position near the second data line driving circuit 2b.

[0052] Since the first data line driving circuit 2a and the second data line driving circuit 2b have a same circuit configuration, the data line driving circuit 2 will be described. FIG. 4 is a block diagram showing the configuration of the data line driving circuit 2 in the first embodiment. As shown in FIG. 4, the data line driving circuit 2 is provided with a shift register circuit 11, a data register circuit 12, a data latching circuit 13, a data switching circuit 14, a level shift circuit 15, a positive DA converting circuit 16 for generating a positive signal, a negative DA converting circuit 17 for generating a negative signal, a buffer & switching circuit 18, a control circuit 20 for controlling various sections, a positive gradation voltage generating circuit 21 for generating a plurality of positive gradation voltages, and a negative gradation voltage generating circuit 22 for generating a plurality of negative gradation voltages. Here, the switching circuit 18 is composed of a plurality of switches and a plurality of buffers, to select the positive signal and the negative signal to supply to the data line. The detailed configuration thereof will be described below.

[0053] The shift register circuit 11 generates a sampling signal for the image signal in synchronization with a clock signal CLK. The data register circuit 12 holds the image signal in response to the sampling signal generated by the shift register circuit 11. The data latching circuit 13 latches the image signal held by the data register circuit 12 for a predetermined time period. The data switching circuit 14 selects the image signal supplied to predetermined pixels.

The level shift circuit 15 converts a voltage level of image signal from a voltage level for the data switching circuit 14 to a voltage level of the DA converting circuits 16 and 17. Although the data switching circuit 14 and the level shift circuit 15 are provided for the data line driving circuit 2 in this embodiment, it is possible to omit the data switching circuit 14 from the data line driving circuit 2, by the display control circuit 10 carrying out the switching of the image data. Also, by employing a buffer having a gain (output voltage/input voltage) greater than 1, it is possible to omit the level shift circuit 15 from the data line driving circuit 2.

[0054] The DA converting circuits 16 and 17 select ones of a plurality of gradation voltages generated by the gradation voltage generating circuits 21 and 22 in accordance with the image signal, respectively. In the following description, it is assumed that a portion of the image signal corresponding to each pixel has two bits for four gradations. FIG. 5 is a circuit diagram showing the configuration of the DA converting circuits 16 and 17 that use logic circuits. The converting circuit shown in FIG. 5 has four switches and the logic circuits connected to the switches. The four switches are used to select the gradation voltage to be sent to the switching circuit 18 from four gradation voltages V1, V2, V3 and V4 in response to signals outputted from the logic circuits in accordance with image data bits D1 and D2. FIG. 6 is a circuit diagram showing the configuration of the DA converting circuits 16 and 17 that use enhancement type transistors and depletion type transistors. The converting circuit shown in FIG. 6 has 16 switches and the logic circuits connected to the 16 switches. The 16 switches are used to select the gradation voltage to be sent to the switching circuit 18, from the four gradation voltages, because the ON/OFF states of the enhancement type transistors and the depletion type transistors are changed in accordance with the image data bits D1 and D2. The control circuit 20 controls the latch timing and carries out the control of the switching circuit 18 in accordance with control signals POL, STB, and SWCOT supplied from the display control circuit 10. Each of the gradation voltage generating circuits 21 and 22 generates the plurality of gradation voltages. The gradation voltage generating circuits 21 and 22 include resistor dividing circuits (not shown) in which a plurality of resistors are connected in series, and the resistor dividing circuits generate the plurality of gradation voltages from reference voltages through the resistor division. In this example, the positive gradation voltage generating circuit 21 generates the positive gradation voltages, and the negative gradation voltage generating circuit 22 generates the negative gradation voltages.

[0055] The buffer & switching circuit 18 provided in the data line driving circuit 2 will be described below in detail. FIG. 7 is a circuit diagram showing the configuration of the buffer & switching circuit 18. In the following description, it is assumed that the number of the data lines 7 is 4, for easy understanding the present invention. With reference to FIG. 7, the switching circuit 18 is provided with a first buffer 31, a second buffer 32, a plurality of switches 41 to 48, and a plurality of common line connection switches 39 connected to a common line 40. Also, the switching circuit 18 has a plurality of data line connection terminals S1 to S4, each of which is connected to the corresponding data line. As shown in FIG. 7, the switching circuit 18 is installed between the data line 7 and the positive DA converting circuit 16 or between the data line 7 and the negative DA converting

circuit 17. An output of the positive DA converting circuit 16 is connected to an input of the first buffer 31, and an output of the negative DA converting circuit 17 is connected to an input of the second buffer 32. Positive side switches 41, 43, 45 and 47 are provided between an output of the first buffer 31 and the respective data line connection terminals S1 to S4, and negative side switches 42, 44, 46 and 48 are provided between an output of the second buffer 32 and the respective data line connection terminals S1 to S4. The buffers 31 and 32 are composed of voltage followers, current sources and the like to generate desirable analog image signals (gradation voltage or gradation current) from the gradation voltages selected by the DA converting circuits 16 and 17. The switches may be controlled in response to control signals from the control circuit 10 or another section.

[0056] The common line connection switch 39 is set to an ON state before the polarity of the signal to be supplied to the data line 7 is changed from the positive side to the negative side or from the negative side to the positive side, i.e., a next scan line is driven. Thus, the data line 7 and the common line 40 are short-circuited. In the dot inversion drive, the number of the data lines charged positively is equal to the number of the data lines charged negatively. Therefore, before the positive analog image signal or negative analog image signal is supplied to each data line 7, the data lines 7 and the common line 40 are connected so that the voltages of the data lines 7 are neutralized. Consequently, the consumed power can be reduced.

[0057] FIG. 8 is a circuit diagram showing a connection state when the common line connection switches 39 in the switching circuit 18 are turned on at the same time. As shown in FIG. 8, when the switches 39 are turned on, the other switches 41 to 48 are turned off. Since the common line connection switches 39 on both of the upper and low sides of the liquid crystal display panel 5 are turned on at the same time, the heat generation of the data line driving circuit 2 at the time of connection of the common line can be dispersed. It should be noted that the voltage of the common electrode may be supplied to the common line 40 or not. The common line voltage may be the grounded voltage or another voltage.

[0058] FIG. 9 is a circuit diagram showing the circuit configuration of the switching circuit 18 when the data line driving circuits 2 are connected to the upper and low sides of the liquid crystal display panel 5 to oppose to each other, respectively. As mentioned above, in the following example, the data line driving circuit provided on the upper side of the liquid crystal display panel 5 is referred to as a first data line driving circuit 2a, and the data line driving circuit provided on the low side is referred to as a second data line driving circuit 2b. Also, when the first data line driving circuit 2a and the second data line driving circuit 2b are distinguished from each other, the symbol a is added after the number when the circuit is provided on the upper side, and the symbol b is added after the number when the circuit is provided on the low side.

[0059] Here, a signal waveform outputted from the data line driving circuit 2 will be described. FIGS. 10A to 10F are waveforms on the data line driving circuit 2. FIG. 10C is a waveform of a signal voltage applied to the pixel near to the data line driving circuit 2, and FIG. 10D is a waveform of a signal voltage applied to the pixel distant

from the data line driving circuit 2. With reference to FIGS. 10A to 10F, the voltage applied to the pixel near the data line driving circuit 2 reaches a target voltage, but the voltage applied to the pixel distant from the data line driving circuit 2 does not reach the target voltage. The dullness in the waveform of the signal voltage applied to the distant pixel is caused due to a load capacitance and a load resistance of the data line 7 because the liquid crystal display panel 5 is designed so as to be larger in scale and higher in definition. The signal voltage applied to the pixel is approximately determined based on a time constant $\tau=CR$, where R is resistance and C is capacitance. In short, as the pixel is located farther from the data line driving circuit 2, the product of CR is greater, and the waveform is duller.

[0060] FIGS. 11A and 11B are tables showing the operations when the pixels 9a and 9b are driven in the present invention. The table in FIG. 11A shows the data line driving circuit for driving the pixel 9 and a signal supplied to the pixel 9 from the data line driving circuit. Here, the symbols “up”, “down”, “+” and “-” are shown in FIG. 11A. The symbol “up” indicates the first data line driving circuit 2a, and “down” indicates the second data line driving circuit 2b. Also, “+” indicates the positive analog image signal, and “-” indicates the negative analog image signal. With reference to FIG. 11A, the pixel 9 is driven based on the positive analog image signal from the first data line driving circuit 2a in the first frame, driven based on the negative analog image signal from the second data line driving circuit 2b in the second frame, driven based on the positive analog image signal from the second data line driving circuit 2b in the third frame, and then driven based on the negative analog image signal from the first data line driving circuit 2a in the fourth frame. The operation in those four frames is cyclically executed.

[0061] Also, FIG. 11B is a table showing another operation when the pixels 9 are driven in the present invention. The symbols of “up”, “down”, “+” and “-” are shown in FIG. 11B and have the meanings similar to those of FIG. 11A. With reference to FIG. 11B, the pixel 9 is driven based on the positive analog image signal from the first data line driving circuit 2a in the first frame, driven based on the negative analog image signal from the first data line driving circuit 2a in the second frame, driven based on the positive analog image signal from the second data line driving circuit 2b in the third frame, and then driven based on the negative analog image signal from the second data line driving circuit 2b in the fourth frame. The operation in those four frames is cyclically executed.

[0062] The operation waveforms when the above operations are carried out will be described below. It should be noted that in the following description, a pixel 9a is assumed to be near the first data line driving circuit 2a arranged on the upper side of the liquid crystal display panel 5, and a pixel 9b is assumed to be near the second data line driving circuit 2b arranged on the low side of the liquid crystal display panel 5. Also, the scan line driving circuit 3 is assumed to sequentially scan the scan lines 8 from the upper side to the low side.

[0063] FIGS. 12A to 12D show the operation waveforms when the pixels 9 are driven in the period of four frames shown in FIG. 11A. As shown in FIGS. 12A to 12D, the pixel 9a receives the positive analog image signal from the

first data line driving circuit 2a in the first frame and holds a positive voltage Va approximately close to the target value, since the TFT is turned OFF; and receives the negative analog image signal from the second data line driving circuit 2b in the second frame and holds a negative voltage Vb that does not reach a target value. Also, the pixel 9a receives the positive analog image signal from the second data line driving circuit 2b in the third frame and holds a positive voltage Vc that does not reach the target value, and then receives the negative analog image signal from the first data line driving circuit 2a in the fourth frame and holds a negative voltage Vd approximately close to the target value. The pixel 9b receives the negative analog image signal from the first data line driving circuit 2a in the first frame and holds a negative voltage Ve that does not reach the target value, and receives the positive analog image signal from the first data line driving circuit 2a in the second frame and holds a positive voltage Vf that does not reach the target value. Also, the pixel 9b receives the negative analog image signal from the second data line driving circuit 2b in the third frame and holds a negative voltage Vg approximately close to the target value, and then receives the positive analog image signal from the second data line driving circuit 2b in the fourth frame and holds a positive voltage Vh approximately close to the target value. The relation between the voltages Va, Vb, Vc and Vd supplied to the pixel 9a and the voltages Ve, Vf, Vg and Vh supplied to the pixel 9b is $Va+Vb+Vc+Vd \approx Ve+Vf+Vg+Vh$. That is, from the combination of [Positive signal and Negative signal] and [Great and Small of Waveform Dullness], the charges accumulated in the pixels are averaged to eliminate the brightness deviation depending on the pixel position by setting the four frames as one cycle. Consequently, a summation of the voltages applied to the pixel 9a from the first frame to the fourth frame and a summation of the voltages applied to the pixel 9b from the first frame to the fourth frame become substantially equal. Thus, the difference in the brightness (transmission factor) is never generated between the pixel 9a and the pixel 9b.

[0064] Next, the control of the switching circuit 18 in the (1H1V) drive for inverting the polarity of the signal for each scan line, so that the polarity of the signal is different for every data line, will be described below. It should be noted that in the following description, pixels of 4x4 will be exemplified for easy understanding. Also, symbols “1” to “4” written on the left side of the table are the first to fourth scanning operations in FIGS. 13A to 13D.

[0065] With reference to FIGS. 13A to 13D, in the first scanning operation of the first frame, the first data line driving circuit 2a turns on a positive side switch 41a and a negative side switch 48a in the first switching circuit 18a. Also, the second data line driving circuit 2b turns on a positive side switch 43b and a negative side 46b in the second switching circuit 18b. At this time, the first data line driving circuit 2a turns off the other switches 42a to 47a, and the second data line driving circuit 2b turns off the other switches 41b, 42b, 44b, 45b, 47b and 48b. Through this switching control, the first data line driving circuit 2a and the second data line driving circuit 2b drive the respective data lines to (up +, down -, down +, and up -).

[0066] As mentioned above, “up +” indicates that the first data line driving circuit 2a drives the data line 7 to the positive voltage, “up -” indicates that the first data line

driving circuit **2a** drives the data line **7** to the negative voltage, "down +" indicates that the second data line driving circuit **2b** drives the data line **7** to the positive voltage, and "down -" indicates that the second data line driving circuit **2b** drives the data line **7** to the negative voltage.

[0067] The second to fourth scanning operations will be described below. It should be noted that in the following description, description of the switches in the off state is omitted. In the second scanning operation in the first frame, the switches **46a** and **47a** and the switches **45b** and **48b** are turned on, and the data lines are driven to (down -, down +, up -, and up +). In the third scanning operation in the first frame, the switches **44a** and **45a** and the switches **42b** and **47b** are turned on, and the data lines are driven to (down +, up -, up +, down -). At the fourth scanning operation of the one frame, the switches **42a** and **43a** and the switches **41b** and **44b** are turned on, and the data lines are driven to (up -, up +, down -, down +). Also, after the second frame, the switches **41a** to **48a**, and **41b** to **48b** are controlled, and the data lines are driven as shown in **FIGS. 13A** to **13D**. In the 1H1V drive, a drive cycle of four frames is cycled. Thus, the voltages applied to the pixels can be averaged, thereby improving the brightness difference between the upper and low portions of the panel.

[0068] Also, the control of the switching circuit **18** will be described in case of the (1H2V) drive for inverting the polarity of the signal for every scan line, in which the polarity of the signal is different for every two data lines. **FIGS. 14A** to **14D** are diagrams showing states of a table for the control operation of the switching circuit **18** in the case of the 1H2V drive. As shown in **FIGS. 14A** to **14D**, even in case of the 1H2V drive, the cycle of four frames is circulated. Thus, the voltages to be supplied to the pixels can be averaged, thereby improving the brightness difference between the upper and low portions of the panel.

Second Embodiment

[0069] The liquid crystal display apparatus according to the second embodiment of the present invention will be described below. In the first embodiment as mentioned above, the data line driving signal is inverted for each scan line, and the four frames are used as one cycle. In the second embodiment as described below, the data line driving signal is inverted for every two scan lines (2H inversion drive), and eight frames are used as one cycle.

[0070] **FIGS. 15A** to **15H** show an example in which the respective pixels in the (2H1V) drive for inverting the polarity of the signal for every two scan lines, in which the polarity of the signal is different for every data line. In the 2H inversion drive, the one scan line and the two scan lines are driven in the same polarity. For this reason, although the drive waveform of the first scan line is made dull, the drive waveform of the second scan line is not made dull. Thus, a lateral stripe is generated because the pixel voltages of the pixels of the first scan line and the pixel voltages of the pixels of the second scan line are different. In the second embodiment, in the first to fourth frames, the scan lines are sequentially driven from the upper portion to the low portion in an order of G1-G2-G3-G4, and in the fifth to eighth frames, the scan lines are driven by switching the order for each two scan lines in an order of G2- G1-G4-G3 - - - . Consequently, the drive waveforms of the data lines in the

first scan line and the second scan line can be averaged, thereby improving the image quality.

[0071] Also, **FIGS. 16A** to **16H** show an example in which the respective pixels in the (2H2V) drive for inverting the polarity of the signal for every two scan lines, in which the polarity of the signal is different for every two data lines. In this way, in the nH inversion drive, when the 4xn frames is set as one cycle, the data lines are cycled, the pixel voltages can be averaged, thereby removing the brightness difference and improving the image quality.

Third Embodiment

[0072] In the first embodiment as mentioned above, the first buffer **31** and the second buffer **32** which are installed in the switching circuit **18** are connected to the outputs of the DA converting circuits **16** and **17**. Switches may be provided between the DA converting circuits **16** and **17**, the first buffer **31** and the second buffer **32**.

[0073] **FIG. 17** is a circuit diagram showing the configuration of a switching circuit **18** in the third embodiment. With reference to **FIG. 17**, the switching circuit **18** in the third embodiment is provided with switching switches **33**, switching switches **34** and a plurality of connection switches **35** to **38**. As shown in **FIG. 17**, the switching switches **33** are provided between the positive DA converting circuit **16** and the buffer **31** and between the negative DA converting circuit **17** and the buffer **32**. Also, the switching switches **34** are provided between the positive DA converting circuit **16** and the buffer **32** and between the negative DA converting circuit **17** and the buffer **31**. Moreover, the connection switch **35** is provided between the first buffer **31** and a first data line connection terminal **S1**, and the connection switch **36** is provided between the first buffer **31** and a second data line connection terminal **S2**. Also, the connection switch **37** is provided between the second buffer **32** and a third data line connection terminal **S3**, and the connection switch **38** is provided between the second buffer **32** and a fourth data line connection terminal **S4**. Moreover, the common line connection switches **39** are provided between the respective data line connection terminals **S1**, **S2**, **S3** and **S4** and the common line **40**. The switching circuit **18** is controlled by using the 4xn frames as one cycle.

[0074] **FIG. 18** is a circuit diagram showing the configuration of the first switching circuit **18a** and the second switching circuit **18b** in the third embodiment. As shown in **FIG. 18**, the first data line driving circuit **2a** having the first switching circuit **18a** and the second data line driving circuit **2b** having the second switching circuit **18b** are installed on the upper side and lower side of the liquid crystal display panel **5** to oppose to each other. **FIG. 18** shows the connection state when in the first switching circuit **18a**, a switching switch **33a** is turned on, a connection switch **35a** and a connection switch **38a** are turned on, a switching switch **33b** is turned on, and a connection switch **37b** and a connection switch **36b** are turned on.

[0075] In the above embodiments, since the voltage precision in the DA converting circuits and the buffer circuits is higher on a semiconductor substrate than on a glass substrate, it is preferable that the first data line driving circuit **2a** and the second data line driving circuit **2b** are manufactured on different substrates. Also, the above embodiments may be

combined when any contradiction is not caused in their configurations and operations.

[0076] According to the present invention, the contrasts of the display panel installed in the large liquid crystal display apparatus can be made uniform, thereby improving the image quality. Also, the heat generation of the data line driving circuit can be dispersed, thereby improving the quality of the driving circuit.

What is claimed is:

1. A liquid crystal display apparatus comprising:
 - a plurality of data lines;
 - a plurality of scan lines which intersect said plurality of data lines;
 - pixels arranged at intersections of said plurality of data lines and said plurality of scanning lines; and
 - a data line driving circuit configured to drive said plurality of data lines, and comprising a first data line driving section and a second data line driving section,
 wherein $4 \times n$ (n : an optional natural number) frames are set as one cycle, and
 - each of said plurality of data lines is circularly driven by one of said first data line driving section and said second data line driving section during one cycle.
2. The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first data line driving section generates a first positive voltage signal which is positive with respect to a common voltage and a first negative voltage signal which is negative with respect to said common voltage,
 - said second data line driving section generates a second positive voltage signal which is positive voltage with respect to said common voltage and a second negative voltage signal which is negative with respect to said common voltage, and
 - a summation of voltages of said voltage signals applied to each pixel during said one cycle is equal to each other over said pixels.
3. The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first data line driving section generates a first positive voltage signal which is positive with respect to a common voltage and a first negative voltage signal which is negative with respect to said common voltage,
 - said second data line driving section generates a second positive voltage signal which is positive voltage with respect to said common voltage and a second negative voltage signal which is negative with respect to said common voltage,
 - said first data line driving section drives one of said plurality of data lines in said first positive voltage signal in a first frame of said one cycle,
 - said second data line driving section drives said data line in said second negative voltage signal in a second frame next to said first frame in said one cycle,
 - said second data line driving section drives said data line in said second positive voltage signal in a third frame next to said second frame in said one cycle, and

said first data line driving section drives said data line in said first negative voltage signal in a fourth frame next to said third frame in said one cycle.

4. The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first data line driving section generates a first positive voltage signal which is positive with respect to a common voltage and a first negative voltage signal which is negative with respect to said common voltage,

said second data line driving section generates a second positive voltage signal which is positive voltage with respect to said common voltage and a second negative voltage signal which is negative with respect to said common voltage,

said first data line driving section drives one of said plurality of data lines in said first positive voltage signal in a first frame of said one cycle,

said first data line driving section drives said data line in said first negative voltage signal in a second frame next to said first frame in said one cycle,

second data line driving section drives said data line in said second positive voltage signal in a third frame subsequent to said second frame in said one cycle, and

second data line driving section drives said data line in said second negative voltage signal in a fourth frame next to said third frame in said one cycle.

5. The liquid crystal display apparatus according to any of claim 1, further comprising:

a common line,

said data line driving circuit comprises:

a plurality of switches configured to control connection between said plurality of data lines and said common line, and

said plurality of switches connect said plurality of data lines and said common line before a polarity of said voltage signal supplied to said data line is changed.

6. The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said plurality of switches comprises a first switch group provided for said first data line driving section and a second switch group provided for said second data line driving section,

said common line comprises:

a first common line connected with said plurality of data lines by said first switch group; and

a second common line connected with said plurality of data lines by said second switch group, and

said first and second switch groups connect said plurality of data lines and said first and second common before the polarity of said voltage signal supplied to said data line is changed.

7. The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 5, wherein a voltage applied to said common line is a liquid crystal common voltage.

8. The liquid crystal display according to any of claim 1, wherein said first data line driving section is formed on a first substrate which is different from a panel substrate on which a display panel having said plurality of pixels is formed,

said second data line driving section is formed on a second substrate which is different from said panel substrate and said first substrate,

said display panel has a first side orthogonal to said plurality of data lines and a second side opposing to said first side,

said first data line driving section is provided for said first side, and

said second data line driving section is provided for said second side.

9. The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 8, wherein each of said first and second substrates are a semiconductor substrate.

10. A data line driving circuit which supplies an analog image signal to $4 \times M$ (M is an optional natural number) data lines, comprising:

M positive driving circuits configured to output a positive analog image signal which is positive with respect to a reference voltage;

M negative driving circuits configured to output a negative analog image signal which is negative with respect to said reference voltage;

$4 \times M$ analog image signal output terminals; and

a switching circuit connected with said $4 \times M$ data lines through said $4 \times M$ analog image signal output terminals,

wherein said switching circuit switches between a first state in which said positive analog image signal is supplied to said data lines, a second state in which said negative analog image signal is supplied to ones of said data lines, and a third state as a high impedance state in which no signal is supplied to said data lines.

11. The data line driving circuit according to claim 10, wherein said switching circuit comprises:

a first buffer circuit connected with said positive driving circuits;

a second buffer circuit connected with said negative driving circuits;

a first switch group provided between said first buffer circuit and said analog image signal output terminals to control connection between said first buffer circuit and said analog image signal output terminals; and

a second switch group provided between said second buffer circuit and said analog image signal output terminals to control connection between said second buffer circuit and said analog image signal output terminals, and

switching circuit supplies said positive analog image signal and said negative analog image signal to said $4 \times M$ data lines by closing said first switch group and said second switch group in a predetermined order.

12. The data line driving circuit according to claim 11, wherein said switching circuit comprises:

a first buffer circuit connected with said positive driving circuits;

a second buffer circuit connected with said negative driving circuits;

a first switch group configured to selectively control connection between said first buffer circuit and said positive driving circuits; and

a second switch group configured to selectively control connection between said first buffer circuit and said positive driving circuits, and

said switching circuit supplies said positive analog image signal and said negative analog image signal to said $4 \times M$ data lines by closing said first switch group and said second switch group in a predetermined order.

13. The data line driving circuit according to claim 11, wherein said switching circuit further comprises:

a third switch group configured to control connection of said analog image signal output terminals and a common line of said liquid crystal display apparatus before a polarity of said voltage signal supplied to said data line is changed.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	使用数据线驱动电路的液晶显示装置		
公开(公告)号	US20060279514A1	公开(公告)日	2006-12-14
申请号	US11/449773	申请日	2006-06-09
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	NEC电子股份有限公司		
申请(专利权)人(译)	NEC电子公司		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	瑞萨电子公司		
[标]发明人	YOKOTA JUNYA HASHIMOTO YOSHIHARU		
发明人	YOKOTA, JUNYA HASHIMOTO, YOSHIHARU		
IPC分类号	G09G3/36		
CPC分类号	G09G3/3614 G09G2310/027 G09G3/3688		
优先权	2005170534 2005-06-10 JP		
其他公开文献	US8094113		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

一种液晶显示装置，包括多条数据线；多条扫描线，与多条数据线交叉；像素布置在多条数据线和多条扫描线的交叉点处；数据线驱动电路，被配置为驱动多条数据线，并包括第一数据线驱动部分和第二数据线驱动部分。4×n（n：可选自然数）帧被设置为一个周期，并且多个数据线中的每一个在一个周期期间由第一数据线驱动部分和第二数据线驱动部分之一循环驱动。

