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(54) **CONTROLLER DRIVER AND LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY APPARATUS USING THE SAME**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A controller driver includes an overdrive processing unit generating corrected image data based on image data and image data of one frame previous to the image data, a data line driver generating a liquid crystal driving voltage, a roundabout route bypassing the overdrive processing unit and allowing the one frame previous image data to be input to the data line driver, a second expander outputting the one frame previous image data to one of a connection route to the overdrive processing unit and the roundabout route, a command controller supplying a moving/still image switching signal S1 for indicating switching between moving image display and still image display to the second expander. The second expander selects the connection route to the overdrive processing unit in displaying a moving image and selects the roundabout route in displaying a still image.

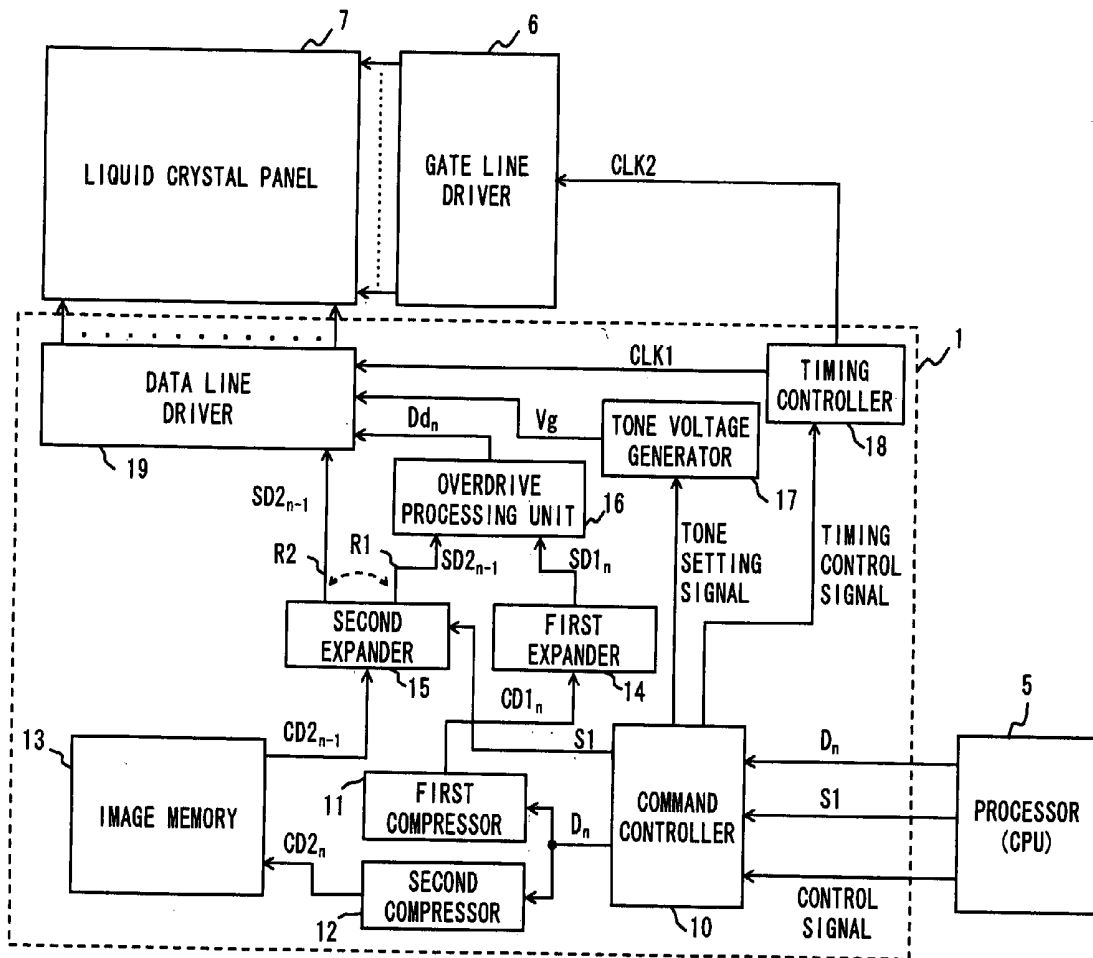
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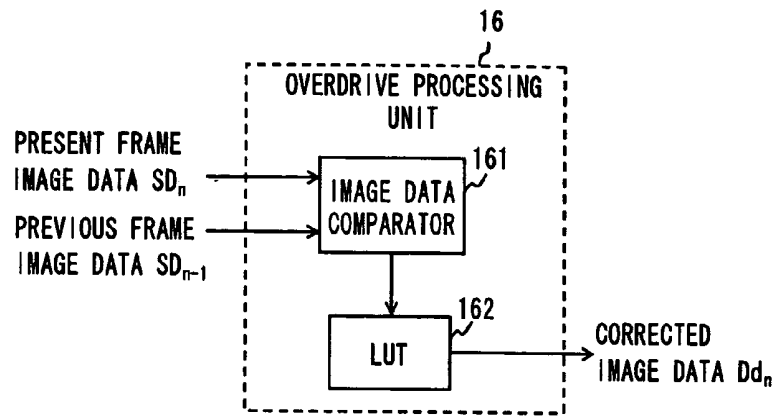


Fig. 2

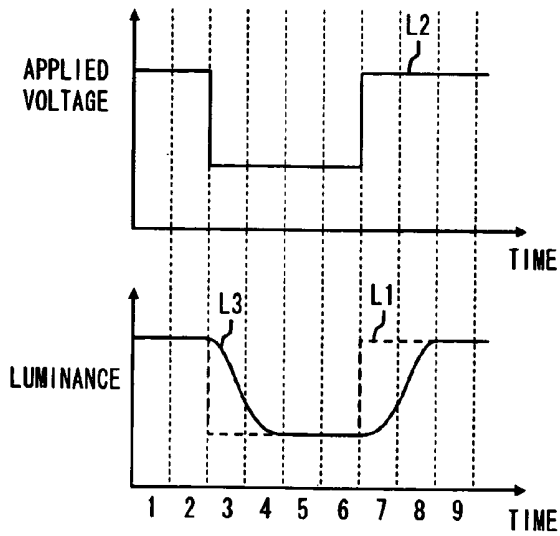


Fig. 3A

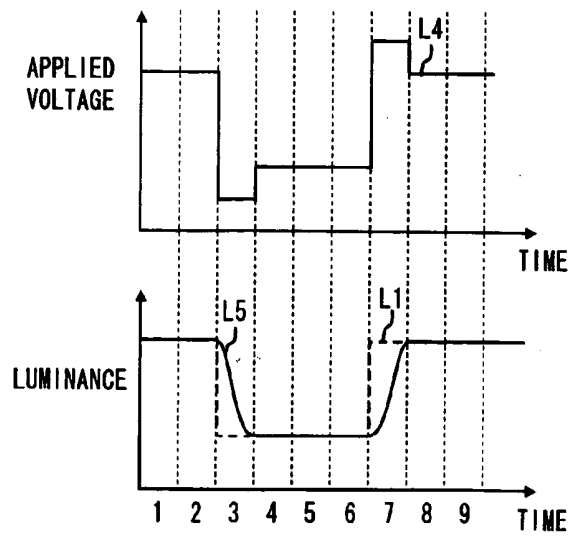


Fig. 3B

Fig. 4A

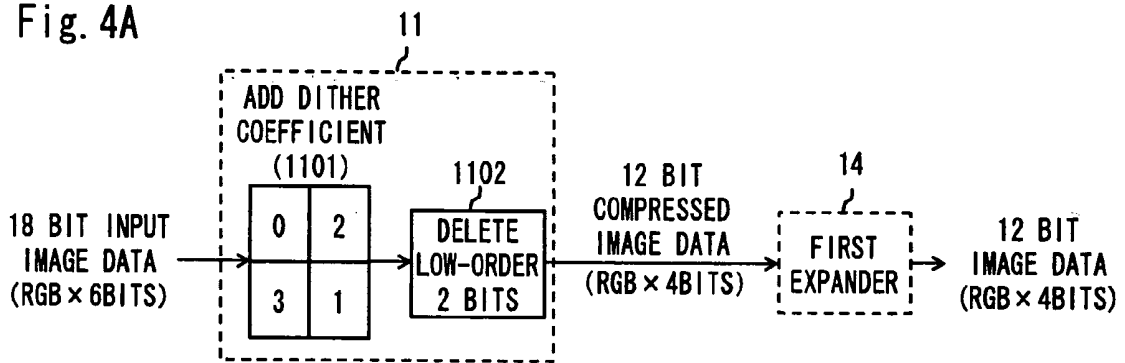


Fig. 4B

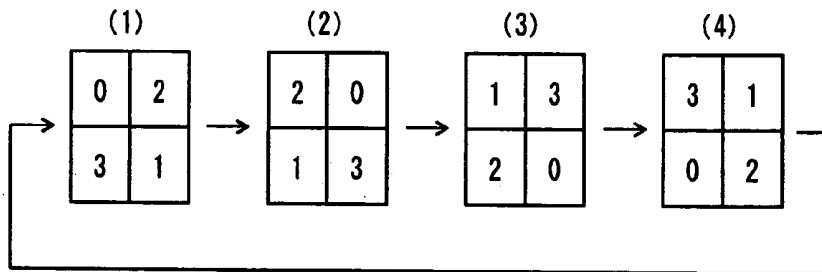
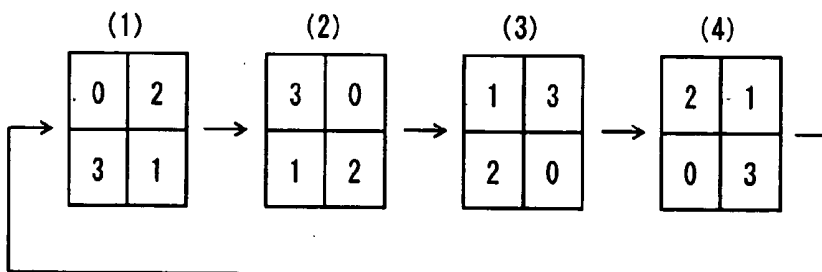


Fig. 4C



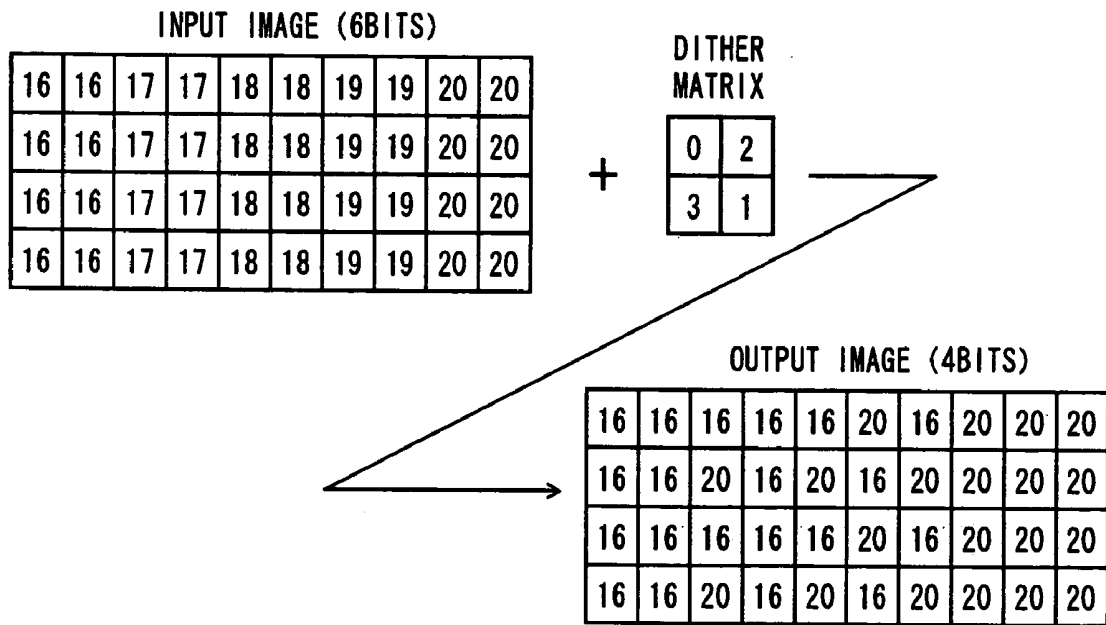


Fig. 5

Fig. 6A

		SUBSEQUENT FRAME TONE			
		...	20~23	24~28	...
PRESENT FRAME TONE
	16~19	...	24	32	...
	20~23	...	PRESENT FRAME TONE VALUE	30	...

Fig. 6B

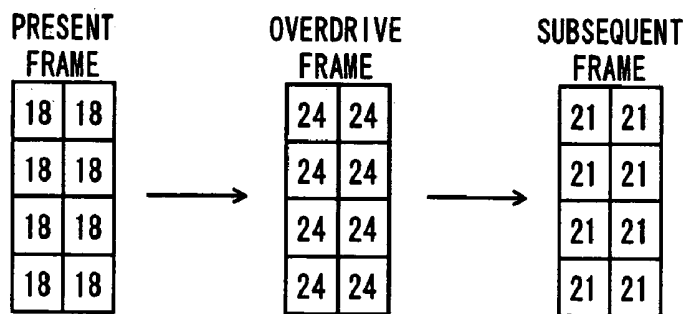
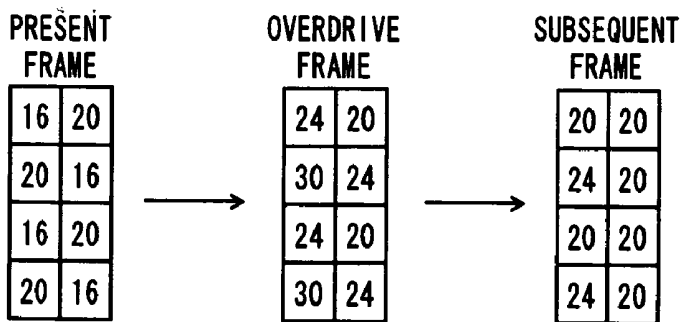


Fig. 6C



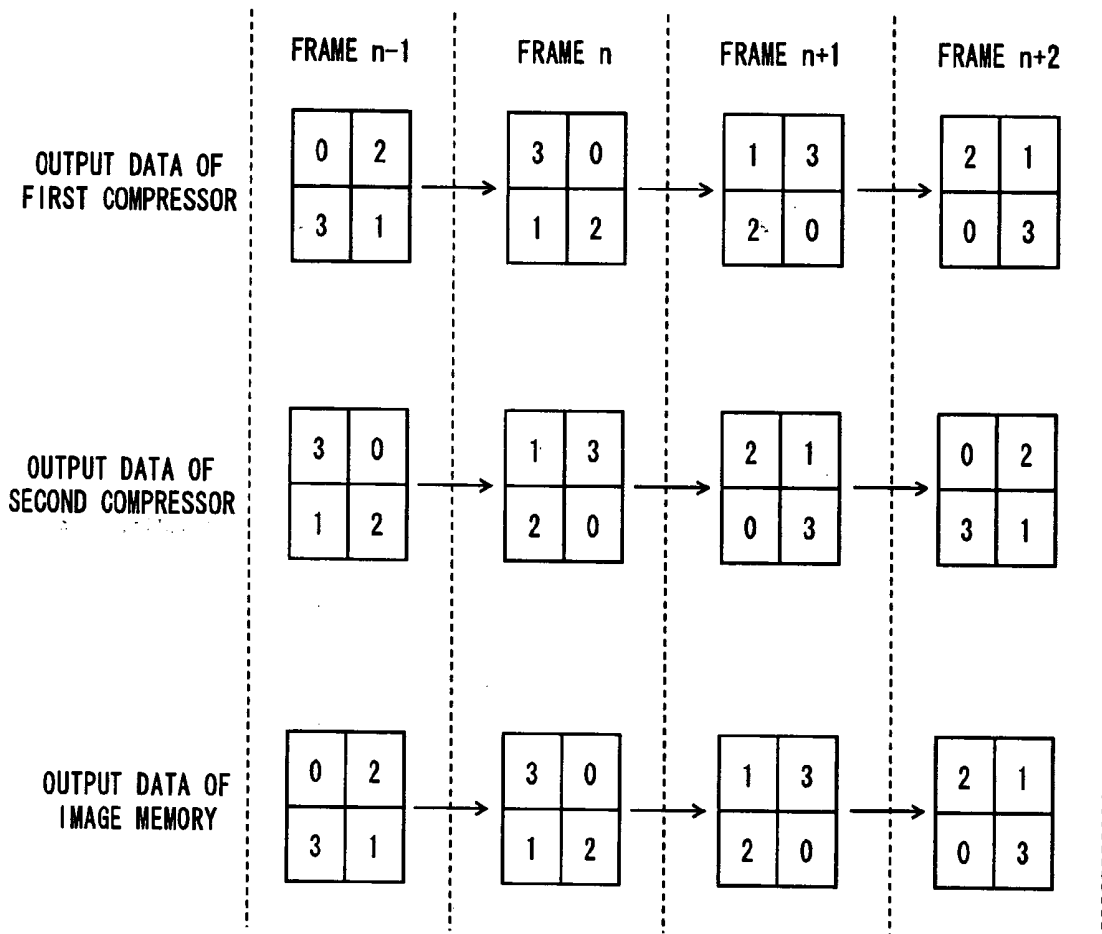


Fig. 7

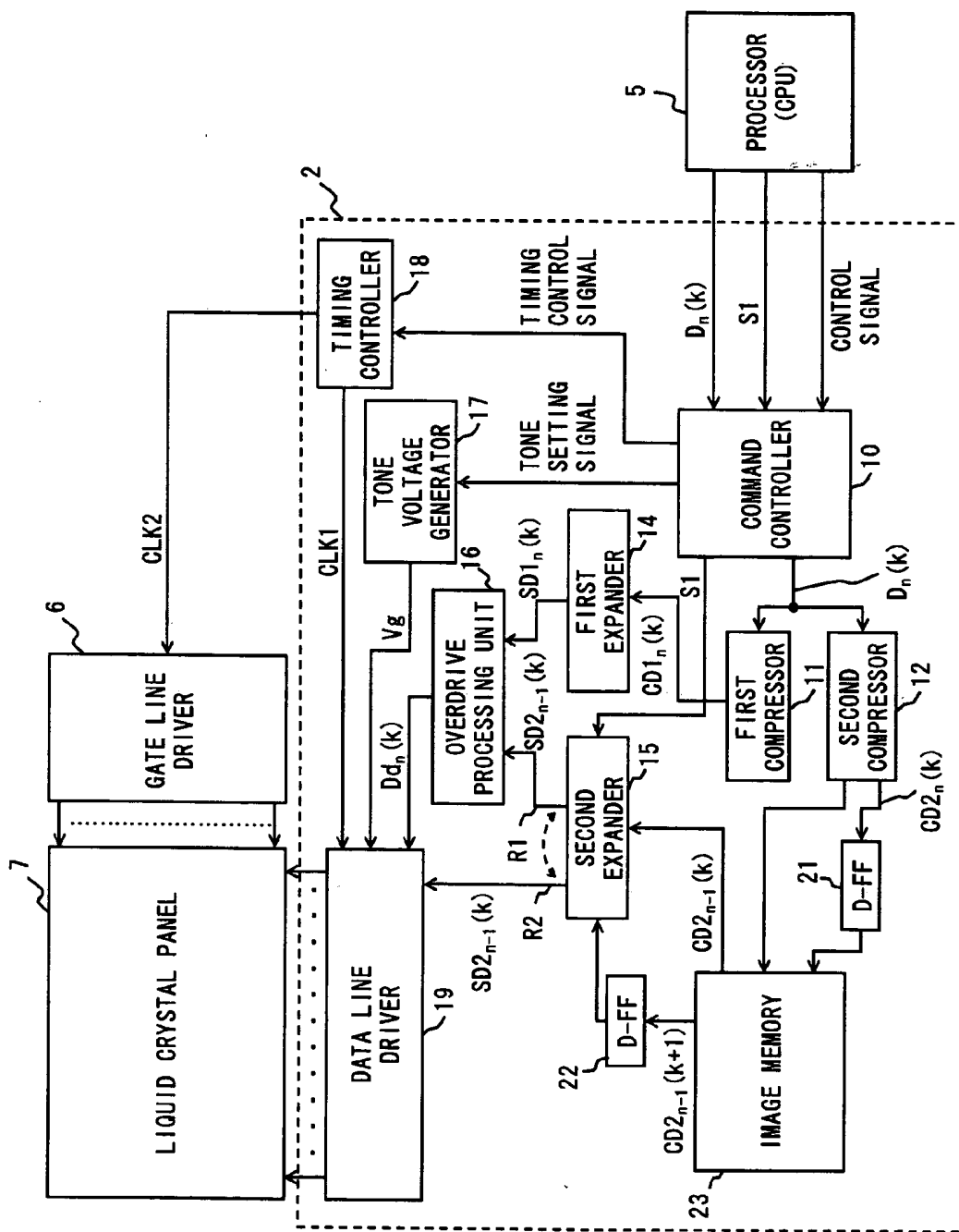


Fig. 8

Fig. 9A FIRST STATE : MEMORY READ

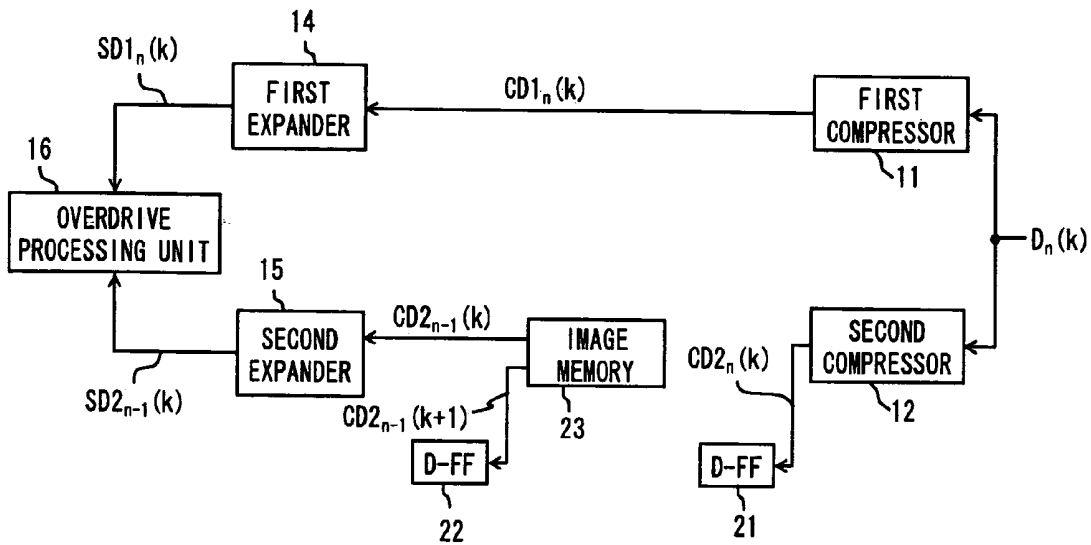
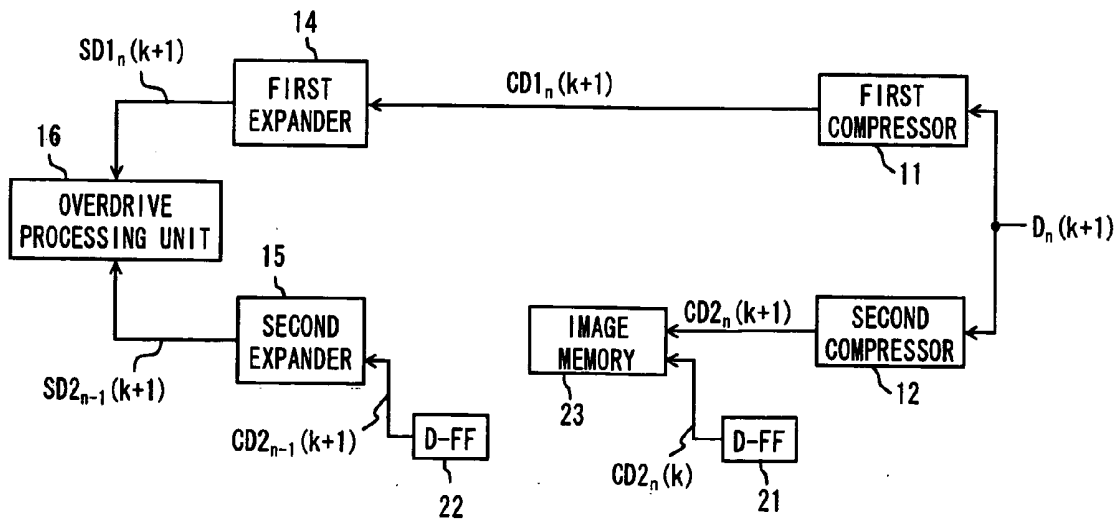


Fig. 9B SECOND STATE : MEMORY WRITE



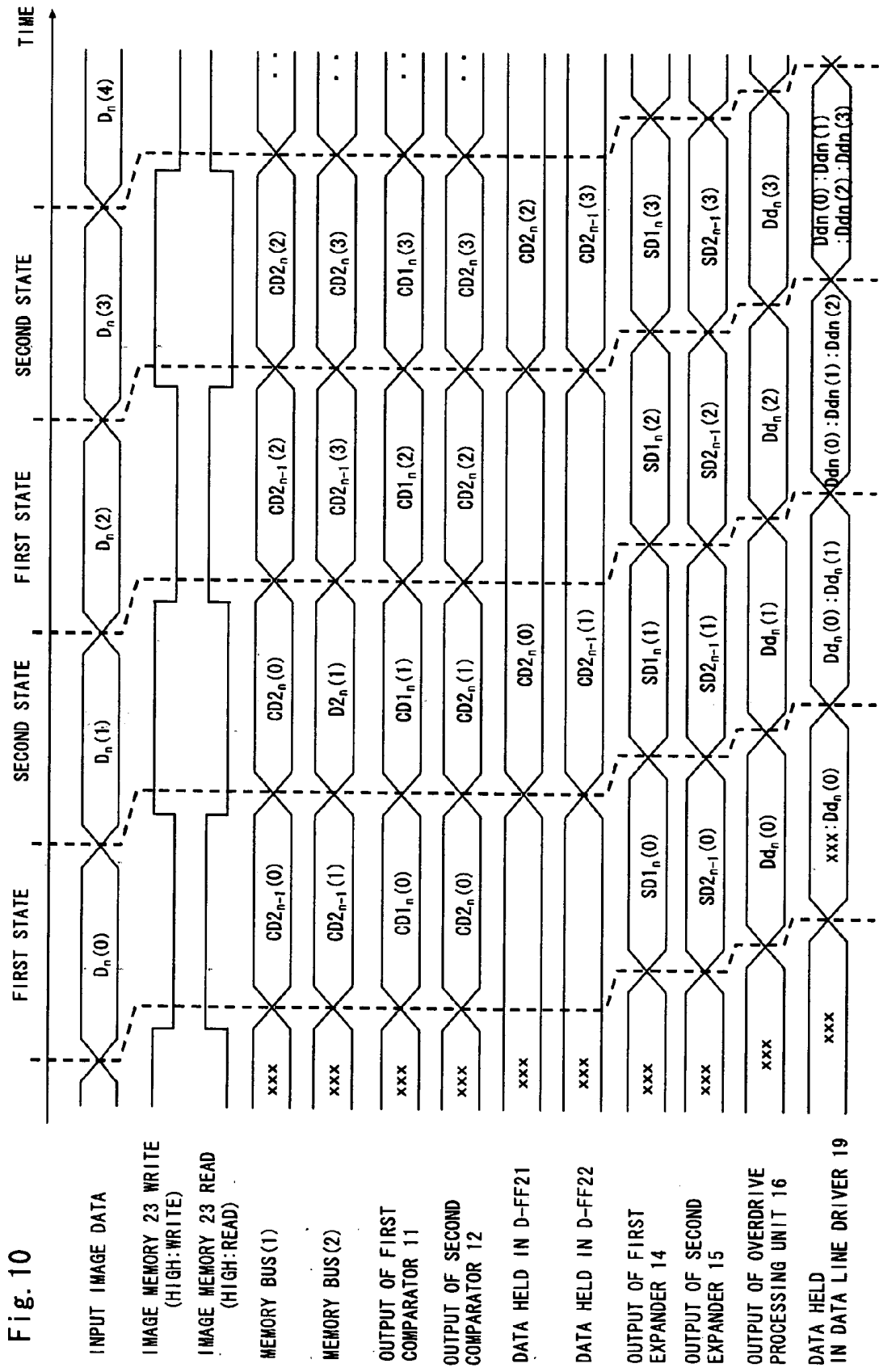


Fig. 10

INPUT IMAGE DATA
 IMAGE MEMORY 23 WRITE (HIGH: WRITE)
 IMAGE MEMORY 23 READ (HIGH: READ)
 MEMORY BUS (1)
 MEMORY BUS (2)
 OUTPUT OF FIRST COMPARATOR 11
 OUTPUT OF SECOND COMPARATOR 12
 DATA HELD IN D-FF21
 DATA HELD IN D-FF22
 OUTPUT OF FIRST EXPANDER 14
 OUTPUT OF SECOND EXPANDER 15
 OUTPUT OF OVERDRIVE PROCESSING UNIT 16
 DATA HELD IN DATA LINE DRIVER 19

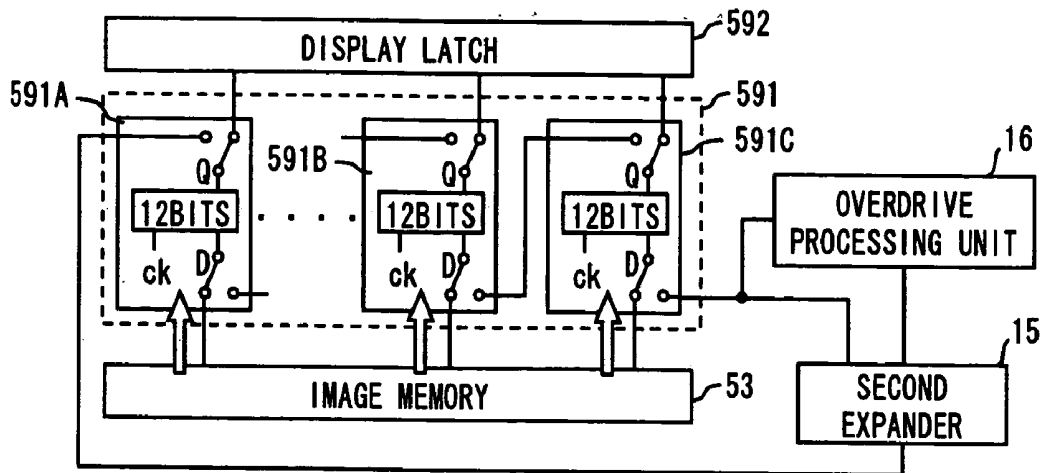


Fig. 12A

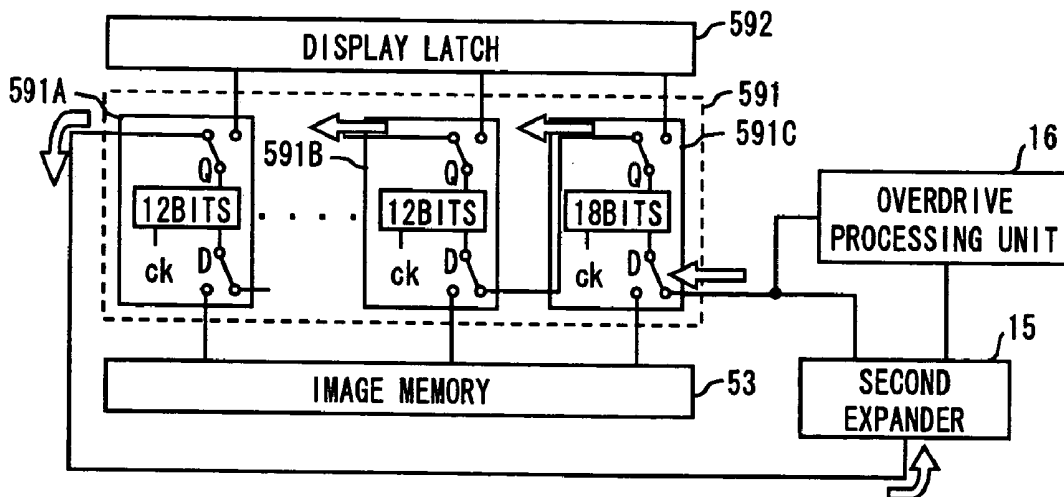


Fig. 12B

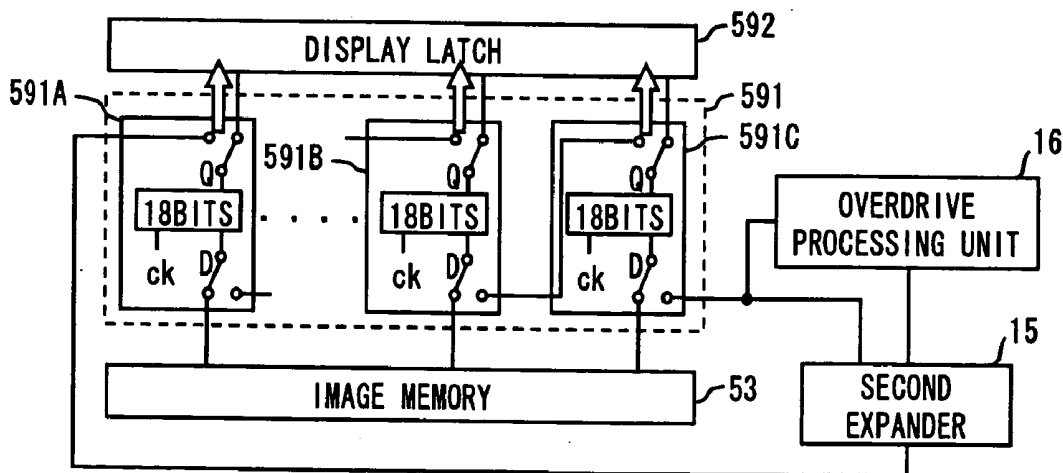


Fig. 12C

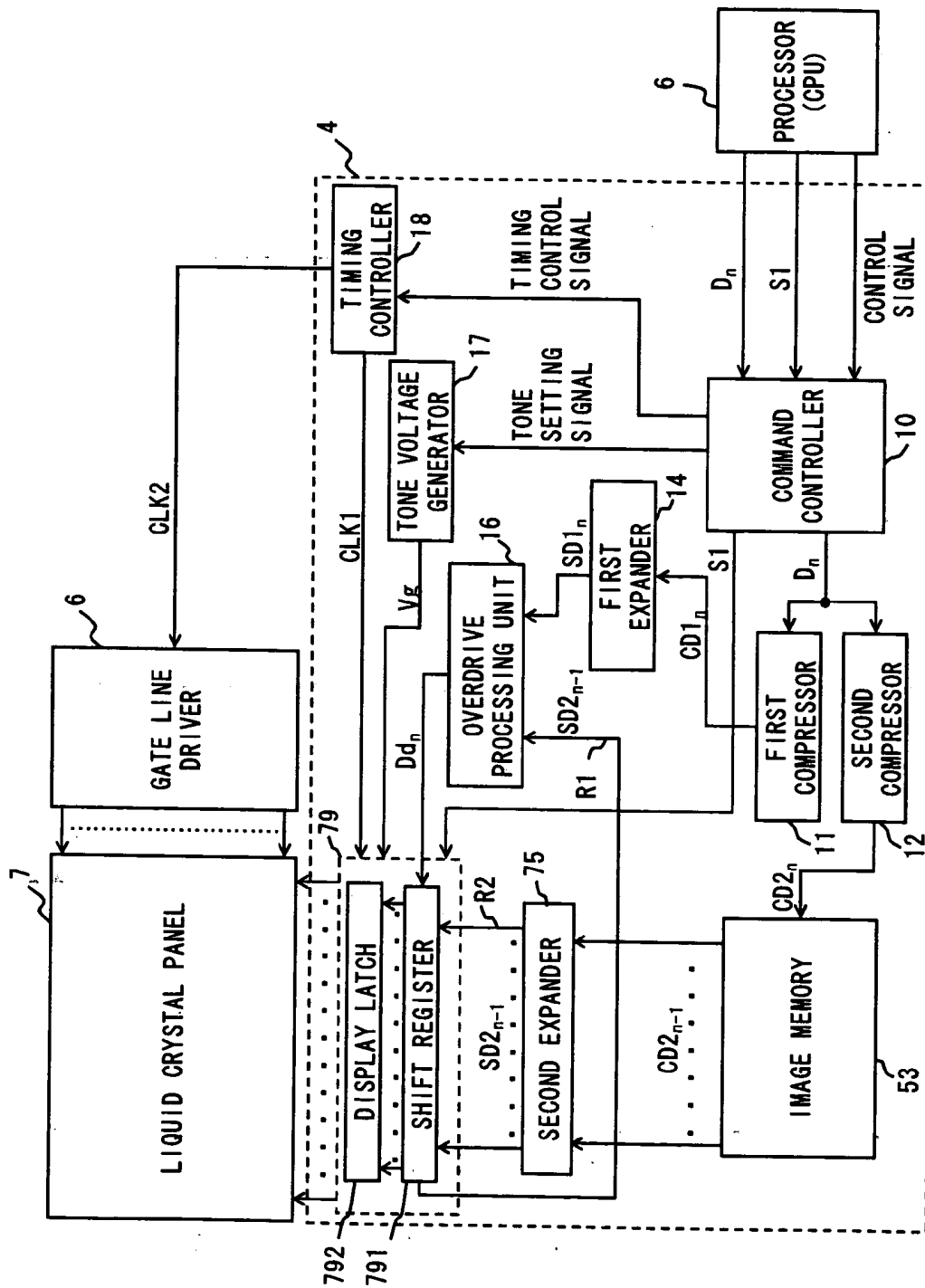


Fig. 13

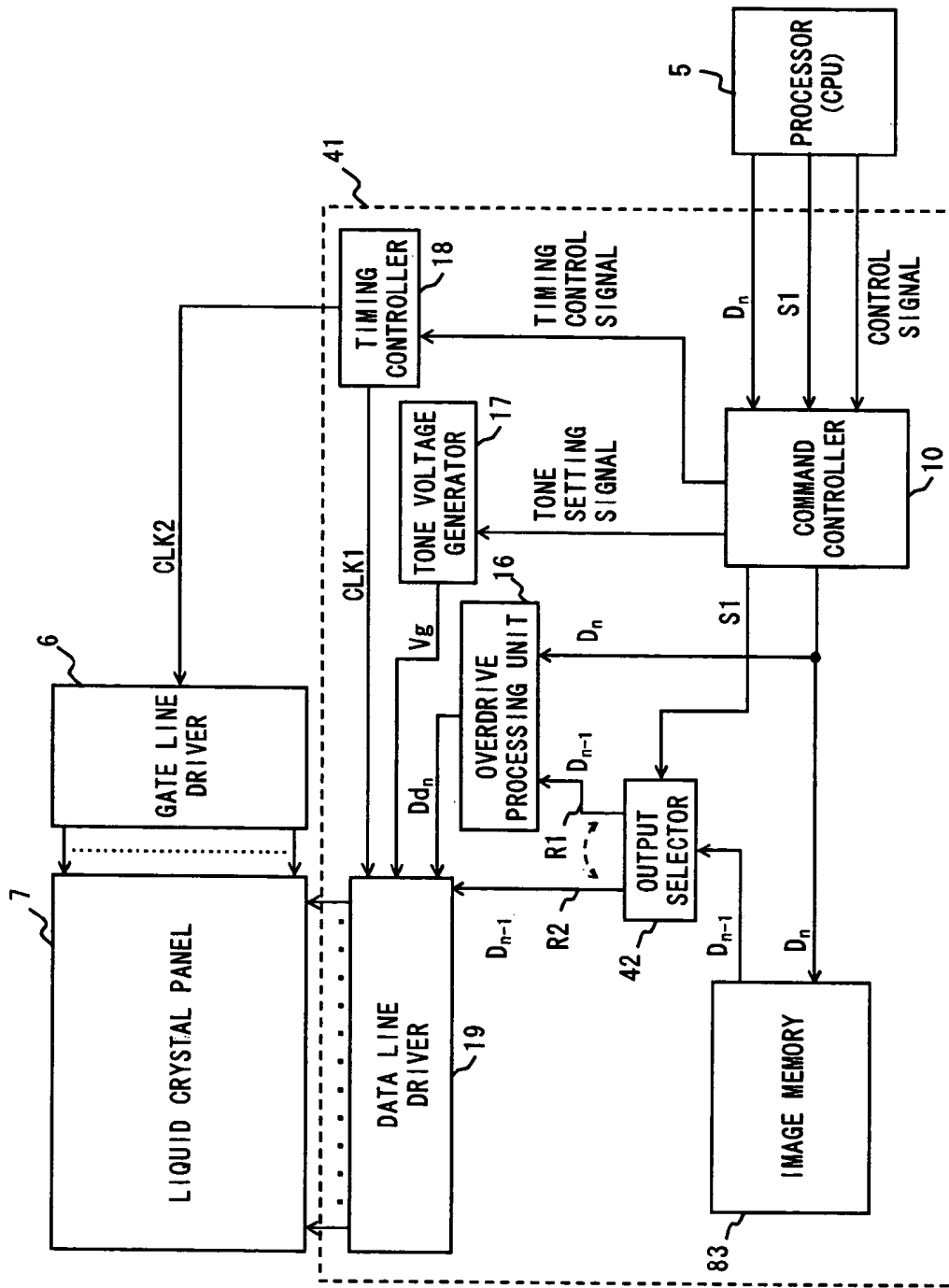
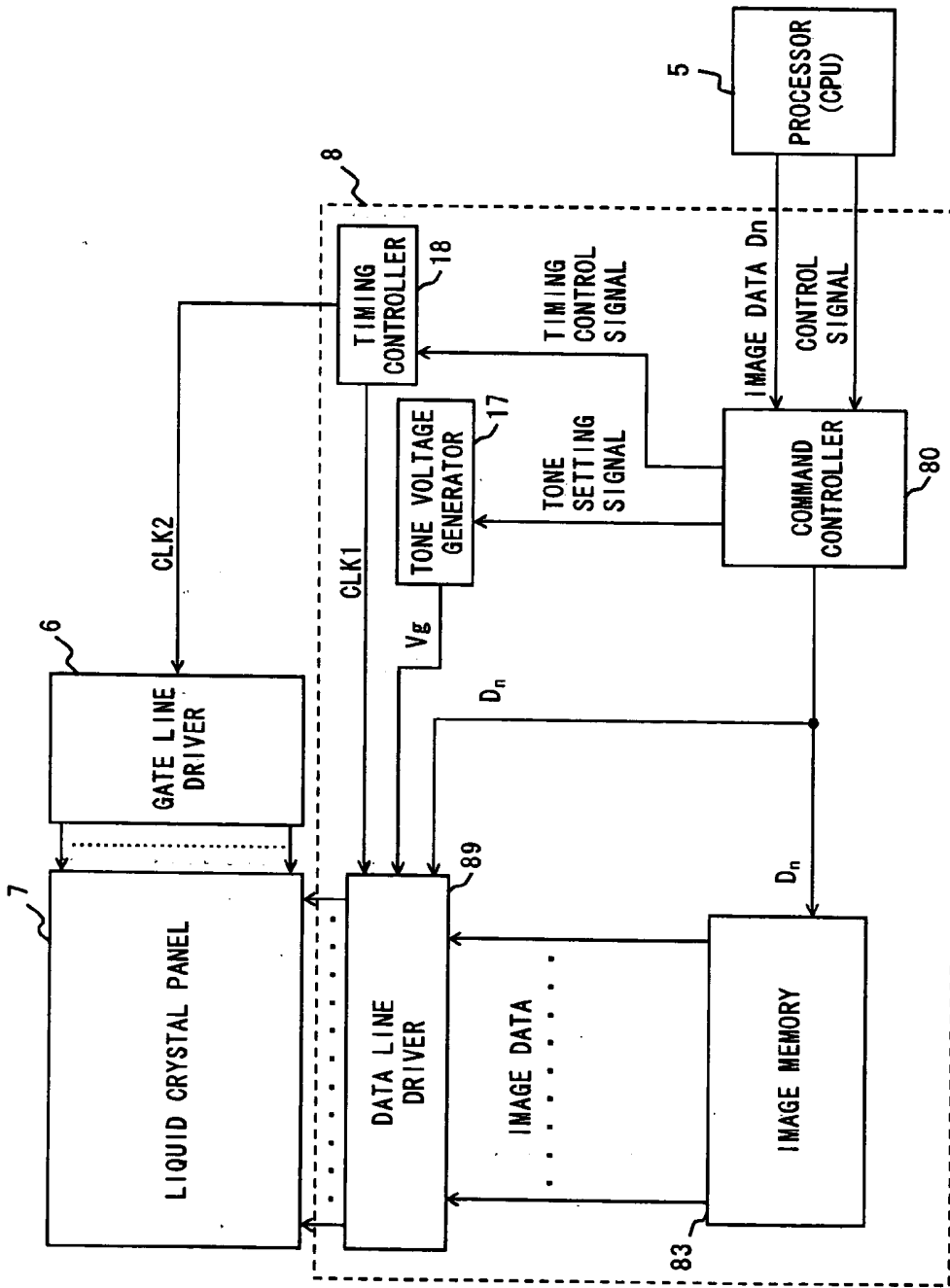
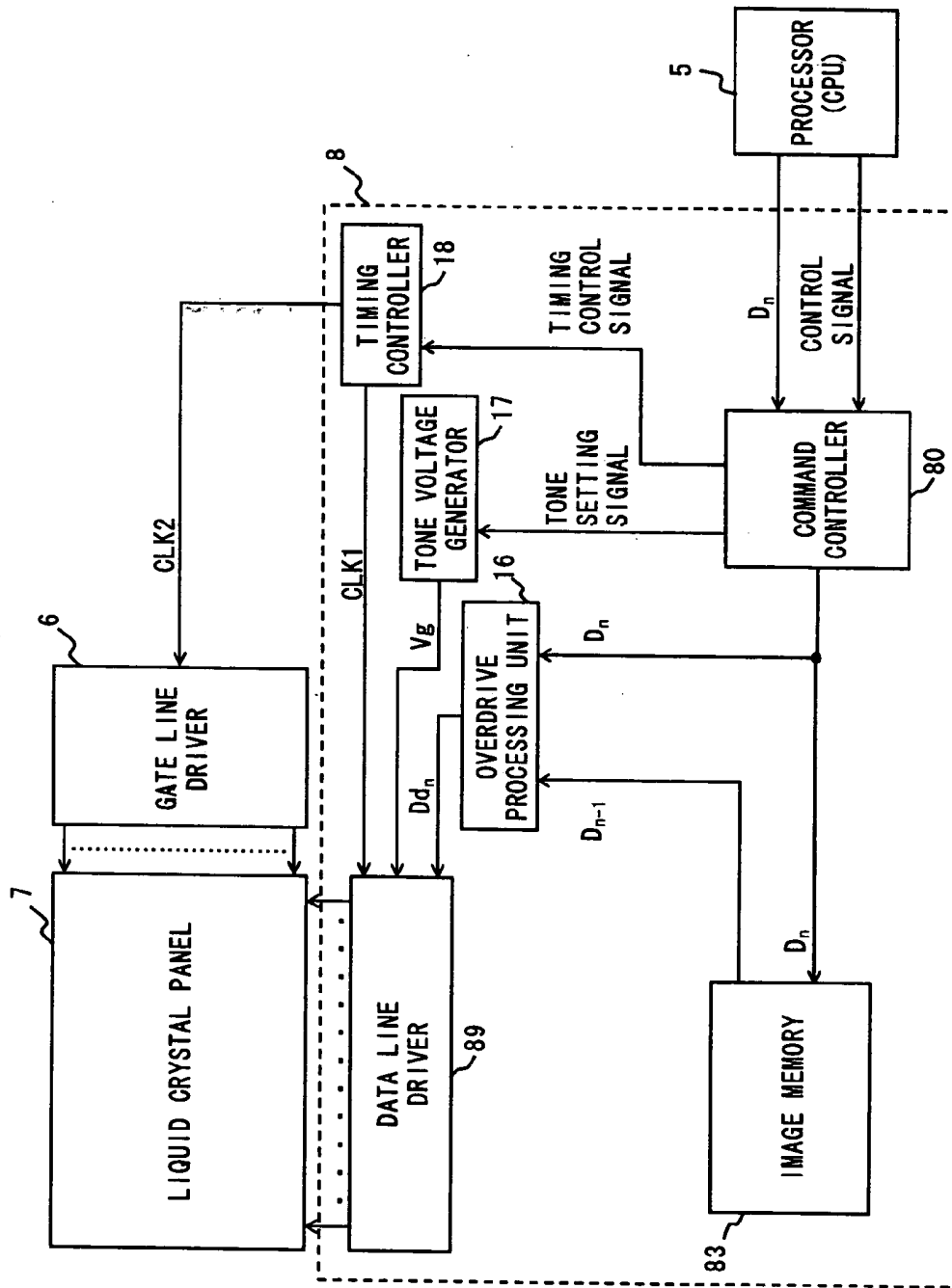


Fig. 14



RELATED ART
Fig. 15



RELATED ART
Fig. 16

CONTROLLER DRIVER AND LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY APPARATUS USING THE SAME

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] 1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to a controller driver for driving a liquid crystal panel and a liquid crystal display apparatus using the same.

[0003] 2. Description of Related Art

[0004] Portable information equipment such as mobile phones and PDA includes a controller driver for driving a liquid crystal panel. Some controller drivers have an image memory capable of storing image data of one frame and a simple controller for generating a synchronization signal to indicate a display timing of the image data stored in the image memory. In this configuration, if there is no need to switch display images such as when displaying a still image, it is possible to display a still image by displaying the image data stored in the image memory on a liquid crystal panel without receiving image data from an external processor such as CPU. Such a configuration is effective for reducing power consumption.

[0005] FIG. 16 shows an example of a conventional liquid crystal display apparatus that has a controller driver with a built in memory. The conventional liquid crystal display apparatus includes a liquid crystal panel 7, a gate line driver 6 for driving a gate line of the liquid crystal panel 7, and a controller driver 8 for receiving image data D_n from a processor 5 such as CPU and displaying it on the liquid crystal panel 7 of a mobile phone terminal or the like. The controller driver 8 includes an image memory 83 capable of storing image data of at least one frame, a tone voltage generator 17 for generating a tone voltage, a data line driver 89 for driving a data line of the liquid crystal panel 7, a timing controller 18 for indicating the data line driver 89 and the gate line driver 6 of a display timing, and a command controller 80 for indicating the tone voltage generator 17 of a setting of a tone voltage and indicating the timing controller 17 of an image display timing and so on. The configuration of the controller driver 8 shown in FIG. 1 is merely an example, and a controller driver may include a gate line driver or may further include a power supply circuit.

[0006] As described above, since the controller driver 8 has the image memory 83 capable of storing image data of at least one frame, it is possible to display a still image that is stored in the image memory 83 on the liquid crystal panel 7 without a need to transfer image data from the external processor 5. Specifically, the command controller 80 indicates the image memory 83 to transfer image data to the data line driver 89 and further indicates the data line driver 89 and the gate line driver 6 of a timing to display the image. This configuration allows stopping the operation of the external processor 5 during still image display and thereby reducing power consumption.

[0007] As mobile phone terminals become highly functional, they are required to have a function to display moving images. However, a liquid crystal panel has a slow speed of response to a change in display images, which causes an image out of focus when displaying moving images. To overcome this drawback, overdrive processing is performed

in a large-sized liquid crystal panel or the like in order to improve a response speed of liquid crystal. The overdrive processing compares present image data with one frame previous image data. If a tone increases and thus luminance is higher, it drives a liquid crystal panel with a higher liquid crystal driving voltage than a normal level. If, on the other hand, a tone decreases and thus luminance is lower, it drives a liquid crystal panel with a lower driving voltage than a normal level. This processing increases a response speed of a liquid crystal panel. The overdrive processing is detailed in Japanese Patent No. 2616652, Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 4-365094 and 2003-202845, for example.

[0008] Adding an overdrive processor to the controller driver 8 with the image memory 83 enables to improve a response speed of liquid crystal. However, there is a restriction in power consumption for portable information equipment such as a mobile phone terminal, and thus a power consumption of the controller driver 8 is preferably small. Merely adding the overdrive processor to the controller driver 8 results in an increase in power consumption of the controller driver 8.

[0009] FIG. 16 shows the configuration where an overdrive processor is merely added to the controller driver 8. The overdrive processor 16 compares present image data D_n that is supplied from the command controller 80 with image data D_{n-1} of immediately previous frame that is supplied from the image memory 83 so as to detect a change in tone between the two image data. Further, it supplies corrected image data Dd_n in accordance with a tone change between the image data D_n and D_{n-1} to the data line driver 89. The data line driver 89 drives the liquid crystal panel 7 based on the corrected image data Dd_n , thereby improving a response speed of the liquid crystal panel 7.

[0010] When the controller driver with the configuration of FIG. 16 outputs a still image in, the overdrive processing unit 16 compares present frame image data D_n with previous frame image data D_{n-1} and, if the comparison result matches, it supplies the original image data, not corrected image data, to the data line driver 89. Therefore, the conventional controller driver shown in FIG. 16 require the overdrive processing unit 16 to operate when outputting a still image as well, which hinders reduction of power consumption in still image display.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0011] According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a controller driver that includes an overdrive processing unit generating corrected image data where a tone value of received image data is corrected based on the received image data and image data of at least one frame previous to the received image data, a data line driver supplying a liquid crystal driving voltage based on the corrected image data, a roundabout route bypassing the overdrive processing unit and allowing the one frame previous image data to be input to the data line driver, and an output selector outputting the one frame previous image data to one of a connection route to the overdrive processing unit and the roundabout route, wherein the output selector selects the connection route to the overdrive processing unit in displaying a moving image and selects the roundabout route in displaying a still image.

[0012] According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a liquid crystal display apparatus that

includes the controller driver according to the above aspect of the invention and a liquid crystal display section driven by the controller driver.

[0013] When displaying a still image in this configuration, it is possible to send display image data to the data line driver by bypassing the overdrive processing unit. This eliminates a need for the overdrive processing unit to operate during still image display, thereby reducing power consumption.

[0014] The present invention can provide a controller driver capable of reducing power consumption in displaying a still image and a liquid crystal display apparatus using the same.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0015] The above and other objects, advantages and features of the present invention will be more apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

[0016] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a controller driver according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0017] FIG. 2 is a block diagram of an overdrive processing unit;

[0018] FIGS. 3A and 3B are views to describe the operation of the overdrive processing unit;

[0019] FIGS. 4A to 4C are views to describe an example of an image compressing method;

[0020] FIG. 5 is a view to describe an example of an image compressing method;

[0021] FIGS. 6A to 6C are views to describe an object of the present invention;

[0022] FIG. 7 is a view to describe relationship in compression error according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

[0023] FIG. 8 is a block diagram of a controller driver according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0024] FIGS. 9A and 9B are views showing the flow of image data in a controller driver according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0025] FIG. 10 is a timing chart of a controller driver according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0026] FIG. 11 is a block diagram of a controller driver according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0027] FIGS. 12A to 12C are views to describe the operation of a controller driver according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0028] FIG. 13 is a block diagram of a controller driver according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0029] FIG. 14 is a block diagram of a controller driver according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0030] FIG. 15 is a block diagram of a controller driver according to a conventional technique; and

[0031] FIG. 16 is a configuration example of a controller driver to describe an object.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0032] The invention will be now described herein with reference to illustrative embodiments. Those skilled in the art will recognize that many alternative embodiments can be accomplished using the teachings of the present invention and that the invention is not limited to the embodiments illustrated for explanatory purposes.

First Embodiment

[0033] FIG. 1 shows the configuration of a liquid crystal display apparatus that has a controller driver 1 according to a first embodiment of the invention. The controller driver 1 has two compressors: a first compressor 11 and a second compressor 12, which perform compression independently of each other so as to change a compression error that is contained in compressed image data to be transferred to a first compressor 11 and a compression error that is contained in compressed image data to be stored in an image memory 13. Further, in the controller driver 1, a command controller 10 receives a moving/still image switching signal S1 from an external processor 5 and a second expander 15 switches an output destination of expanded image data according to the received signal S1. The controller driver 1 is described in detail below. The elements having the same function as those in FIG. 16 are denoted by the same reference numerals and not detailed herein.

[0034] The command controller 10 receives image data D_n , a control signal and a moving/still image switching signal S1 from the processor 5. The control signal contains a timing control signal for controlling a display timing when the image data D_n is a moving image. The processor 5 controls the controller driver 1 with the control signal. The command controller 10 supplies the received image data D_n to the first compressor 11 and the second compressor 12. Further, the command controller 10 supplies the moving/still image switching signal S1 to the second expander 15.

[0035] The first compressor 11 compresses the received image data D_n in units of one pixel and supplies compressed image data $CD1_n$ to the first expander 14. The second compressor 12, on the other hand, compresses the image data D_n and stores compressed image data $CD2_n$ into the image memory 13. The image memory 13 is capable of storing compressed image data of at least one frame. The first compressor 11 and the second compressor 12 can perform separate compression processing on the image data D_n . The compression processing that is performed in the first compressor 11 and the second compressor 12 is detailed later.

[0036] The first expander 14 expands the compressed image data $CD1$ and transfers expanded image data $SD1_n$ to the overdrive processing unit 16. The second expander 15 reads image data $CD2_{n-1}$ that is one frame previous to the compressed image data $CD1_n$ and compressed by the second compressor 12 from the image memory 13 and performs expansion processing thereon.

[0037] The second expander 15 selects between supplying the expanded image data $SD2_{n-1}$ to the overdrive processing unit 16 or supplying it directly to the data line driver 19 by bypassing the overdrive processing unit 16 according to the moving/still image switching signal S1. This operation may

be implemented by various specific configurations. A specific configuration is not particularly limited as long as it can change the connection destination of the second expander **15** according to the moving/still image switching signal **S1**. For example, a output terminal of the second expander **15** may have a selector that operates according to the moving/still image switching signal **S1** so as to select a route **R1** to be connected to the overdrive processing unit **16** when displaying a moving image and select a route **R2** to be connected to the data line driver **19** by bypassing the overdrive processing unit **16** when displaying a still image.

[0038] The configuration example of the overdrive processing unit **16** is described herein with reference to **FIG. 2**. In the overdrive processing unit **16**, an image data comparator **161** compares present frame image data SD_n supplied from the first expander **14** and previous frame image data SD_{n-1} supplied from the second expander **15** to detect a tone change between the both image data. Further, the image data comparator **161** refers to a look-up table (LUT) **162** to select corrected image data according to a tone change between the input image data SD_n and SD_{n-1} and supplies it as corrected image data Dd_n to the data line driver **19**.

[0039] The LUT **162** is a table that stores predetermined corrected image data Dd_n in association with a combination of the present frame image data SD_n and the previous frame image data SD_{n-1} . The corrected image data is determined so as to enhance the tone change between the input image data SD_n and SD_{n-1} . If the data line, driver **19** drives the liquid crystal panel **7** according to the corrected image data, a response speed of the liquid crystal panel **7** increases.

[0040] If the comparison between the present frame image data SD_n and the previous frame image data SD_{n-1} shows that they are the same, the image data comparator **161** outputs either the present frame image data SD_n or the previous frame image data SD_{n-1} as it is as corrected image data Dd_n . This is because there is no need to perform overdrive processing in this case.

[0041] The effect of the overdrive processing is described with reference to **FIGS. 3A and 3B**. **FIG. 3A** shows the state of a voltage applied to the liquid crystal panel **7** and luminance of the liquid crystal panel **7** that changes in accordance with the applied voltage in the case where the overdrive processing is not performed. The horizontal axis of the graph indicates time in units of image frames. If image data to be displayed on the liquid crystal panel **7** changes as indicated by a dotted line **L1**, the applied voltage to the liquid crystal panel **7** changes as indicated by a solid line **L2** in accordance with a change in luminance of the image data. Since a response speed of liquid crystal is slow, a change in display luminance of the liquid crystal panel delays from a change in the image data and the applied voltage as indicated by a solid line **L3**.

[0042] On the other hand, **FIG. 3B** shows the state where the overdrive processing has been performed. Just like in **FIG. 3A**, if the image data changes like **L1**, the overdrive processing unit **16** supplies corrected image data for enhancing a tone change in the image data to the data line driver **19**, thereby changing the applied voltage to the liquid crystal panel **7** as indicated by **L4**. The display luminance **L5** of the liquid crystal panel **7** when performing the overdrive processing reaches desired display luminance earlier than the

display luminance **L3** when not performing the overdrive processing. A response speed of liquid crystal is thus, improved.

[0043] Referring back to **FIG. 1**, the data line driver **19** sequentially receives the corrected image data Dd_n that is supplied from the overdrive processing unit **16** or the expanded image data SD_{n-1} that is supplied from the second expander **15** by bypassing the overdrive processing unit **16** and latches the image data of one line. Then, the data line driver **19** applies a voltage that is selected from a tone voltage Vg generated by a tone voltage generator **17** according to the image data to the liquid crystal panel **7** in accordance with a timing signal **CLK1** from the timing controller **18**. The gate line driver **6** applies a gate pulse to the liquid crystal panel **7** in accordance with a timing signal **CLK2** from the timing controller **18**.

[0044] In this configuration, the data line driver **19** drives the liquid crystal panel **7** to display a still image by latching the expanded image data SD_{n-1} that is output from the second expander **15**, and it is thereby possible to display the image not through the overdrive processing unit **16**.

[0045] Since a conventional configuration where the controller driver **8** merely has an overdrive processor needs an input to the overdrive processor for displaying a still image as well, it requires power for the input. It also requires power for access to the image memory. This is because the controller driver **8** always operates in the way of displaying a moving image due to its lack of using the moving/still image switching signal **S1**. Thus, the conventional configuration that merely adds an overdrive processor to the controller driver **8** fails to reduce power consumption. Further, in displaying a still image in such a configuration, the overdrive processor keeps performing overdrive processing by comparison with the image data that has been input last time due to lack of image data input to the overdrive processor. The overdrive processor selects and outputs corrected image data after comparing the image data that is displayed in the last place before turning to still image display with the image data that remains in the image memory, and it is thus unable to display the still image correctly.

[0046] On the other hand, since the controller driver **1** of this embodiment has a roundabout route **R2** and selects an output destination of the second expander **15** according to the type of image, it is possible to display a still image by bypassing the overdrive processing unit **16**. This configuration allows display of a still image without a need for the overdrive processing unit **16** to operate, thereby saving power consumption for displaying still images. Further, this configuration prevents the overdrive processing unit **16** from outputting erroneous corrected image data in displaying a still image, thus allowing correct still image display.

[0047] The compression processing performed by the first compressor **11** and the second compressor **12** is described herein. The compression process of image data in the first compressor **11** and the second compressor **12** may employ a systematic dither method. The systematic dither method creates pseudo-display image by spatially dispersing errors caused by image compression. This method artificially represents an intermediate tone corresponding to a tone that has been lost by image compression with use of a dither matrix that combines a plurality of adjacent pixels as one set. The systematic dither method is described in detail herein with reference to **FIGS. 4A to 4C** and **5**.

[0048] FIG. 4A shows a case of obtaining compressed image data of 12 bits (4 bits per each color of RGB) from input image data of 18 bits (6 bits per RGB) by using a dither matrix of 2x2 pixels. Upon input of image data of 18 bits to the first compressor 11, a processing of adding a dither coefficient (1101) and a processing of deleting low-order 2 bits from each subpixel of RGB added with the dither coefficient (1102) are performed, and image data of 12 bits (4 bits per RGB) is output. Though the 12-bit compressed image data that is output from the first compressor 11 is then transferred to the first expander 14, since the systematic dither method cannot perform expansion processing, the first expander 14 in this case merely serves as a through circuit or contains a line only.

[0049] FIG. 5 shows an example of image compression by the systematic dither method. FIG. 5 shows input image of 10x4 pixels composed of image data with 6 bits per pixel and output image that is compressed to 4 bits per pixel with use of a 2x2 dither matrix shown therein. The values of the input image and the output image are the tone value of each pixel represented in decimal numbers. The processing of adding a dither coefficient to an input image in FIG. 5 adds dither coefficients 0, 2, 0, 2 . . . to an odd line of input image sequentially from a top pixel of the line and further adds dither coefficients 3, 1, 3, 1, . . . to an even line of input image sequentially from a top pixel of the line. As a result of the processing of deleting low-order 2 bits from the image data added with the dither coefficients, intermediate tones (17, 18, 19) are lost from the input image containing four tones from a tone 16 to a tone 20, and output image that is compressed to contain only the tone 16 and the tone 20 is acquired. Though the output image is compressed to 4 bits per pixel, it can express the tone equivalent to 6 bits because of visual integral effect, which is the characteristics of the systematic dither method.

[0050] As described above, fixed use of one dither matrix causes the errors spatially distributed by the dither processing to be enhanced by the overdrive processing, leading to a more granular image displayed on the liquid crystal panel. This is described more specifically with reference to FIGS. 6A to 6C. FIGS. 6A to 6C show overdrive processing where an image of 8 pixels displayed with 18 tone is changed to an image with 21 tone. FIG. 6A is an example of a look-up table 162 and it shows that changing from an image with 18 tone to an image with 21 tone requires overdrive at an applied voltage corresponding to an image of 24 tone.

[0051] FIG. 6B shows overdrive processing for an image on which dither processing is not performed. Since a present frame image is 18 tone and a changed frame image is 21 tone, a voltage corresponding to an image with 24 tone is applied to liquid crystal in a frame when changing (overdrive frame). In a frame after that (subsequent frame), a voltage of 21 tone is applied to liquid crystal, thereby improving a response speed as described earlier with reference to FIG. 3A to 3C.

[0052] FIG. 6C, on the other hand, shows overdrive processing for an image that has been 2-bit compressed with a 2x2 dither matrix as shown in FIG. 5. In the systematic dither method, the image before compression with 18 tone is represented as an image in which 16 tone and 20 tone pixels are mixed as shown in FIG. 6C. Further, the image with 21 tone is represented after change as an image in

which 20 tone and 24 tone pixels are mixed. Compared with the frame before change (present frame), three kinds of pixels, a pixel changed from 16 tone to 20 tone, a pixel remained at 20 tone and a pixel changed from 20 tone to 24 tone, exist in the frame after change.

[0053] In implementation of the overdrive processing to such an image change according to the LUT 162 shown in FIG. 6A, overdrive is not performed on the pixel remaining at 20 tone while it is performed on the other pixels. This causes a difference in strength of overdrive among pixels. As a result, a difference of 10 tones occurs between the pixel of 20 tone and the pixel of 30 tone in the overdrive frame shown in FIG. 6C. An error of 4 tones due to the systematic dithering is thereby further enhanced to increase granularity of a display image.

[0054] To overcome this drawback, the present invention performs overdrive processing for dispersing errors in terms of time to suppress granularity of a display image by changing a dither matrix to be used for image data with time. For example, compression processing to be applied to each frame is changed by changing the dither matrix with 4 frames in one cycle as shown in FIG. 4B. It is also feasible to rotate dither coefficients clockwise for each frame and change the dither matrix with 4 frames in one cycle.

[0055] In this case, if there is no change to an input image, an image after dither processing is output. If, on the other hand, there is a change to an input image, overdrive processing is performed on the image after dither processing. Therefore, as described above, the strength of overdrive can differ in some places in the display image and an error by the dither processing is enhanced, causing a more granular image. However, since the present invention disperses errors in terms of time by rotating the dither matrix per frame, it is possible to suppress granularity of an output image.

[0056] Further, when compressing image data by using a $n \times n$ dither matrix (n is an integer of 2 or greater), it is feasible to use n^2 number of different dither matrixes that are obtained by displacing dither coefficients and change the dither matrixes sequentially with n^2 frame in one cycle. For example, in the case of deleting low-order 4 bits of image data, use of a 4x4 dither matrix with dither coefficients of 0 to 15 to sequentially change 16 patterns of dither matrixes for each frame allows overdrive processing that disperses errors in terms of time and suppresses granularity of a display image.

[0057] However, changing the compression processing on image data with time causes a compression error contained in compressed image data or expanded image data, which raises a new problem. In an example of a systematic dither method, if data is compressed by using a dither matrix where present image data and image data of immediately previous frame having the same tone are different, since compression errors contained in these images are different, comparison in the overdrive processing unit recognizes the two images as images having different tones, thus performing wrong overdrive processing.

[0058] In order to solve this new problem, the present invention determines the compression processing to be performed on the first compressor 11 and the second compressor 12 so that a compression error to be contained in compressed image data when compressing image data D_n

with the first compressor **11** and a compression error to be contained in compressed image data when compressing image data D_{n-1} of immediately previous frame with the second compressor **12** are the same. For example, a systematic dither method may set the dither matrix to be used for image data D_n in the first compressor **11** to be the same as the dither matrix used for image data D_{n-1} of immediately previous frame in the second compressor **12**. In other words, the dither matrix used in the second compressor **12** may be changed so as to be the same as the dither matrix used in the first compressor **11** when compressing image data of immediately subsequent frame.

[0059] This is described in further detail with reference to **FIG. 7**. **FIG. 7** shows dither matrixes to be applied to output data of the first compressor **11**, the second compressor **12**, and the image memory **13**. As shown therein, the dither matrix applied to the first compressor **11** for a frame n at a given time is the same as the dither matrix applied to the second compressor **12** for a frame $n-1$ of an immediately previous frame. In this way, the dither matrix applied to the first compressor **11** delays by one frame from the dither matrix applied to the second compressor **12**. On the other hand, since the output data of the image memory **13** is image data compressed in the second compressor **12** in an immediately previous frame, the dither matrix applied to the first compressor **11** at a given time (e.g. frame n) and the dither matrix applied to the image data output from the image memory **13** at this time are the same. The overdrive processing unit **16** compares the output data of the first compressor **11** with the output data of the image memory **13**. The dither matrixes used for the both, which are compression errors, are common.

[0060] This configuration allows equalizing a compression error contained in the image data $SD1_n$ and a compression error contained in compressed image data $SD2_{n-1}$ of immediately previous frame, which are compared in the overdrive processing unit **16**.

[0061] As described above, the controller driver **1** of this embodiment changes the compression processing to be applied to the first compressor **11** and the second compressor **12** with time and equalizes compression errors contained in two image data compared in the overdrive processing unit **16**. This configuration allows reducing granularity and block noise due to overdrive and compression errors while reducing a circuit size of the controller driver. It is thereby possible to perform an appropriate overdrive processing without application of unnecessary voltage due to a difference in compression errors to the liquid crystal panel **7**.

[0062] It is important for obtaining the above effects to equalize compression errors contained in the image data $SD1_n$ and the image data $SD2_{n-1}$ of immediately previous frame that are compared in the overdrive processing unit **16**. Therefore, the configuration of the controller driver **1** that includes two compressors, the first compressor **11** and the second compressor **12**, is merely an example. For example, it is feasible to compress one image data D_n with different compression errors by time division processing in one compressor.

[0063] Further, the method for image compression used for the first compressor **11** and the second compressor **12** is not limited to the systematic dither method. Use of another irreversible compression method also enables appropriate

overdrive processing by performing the same compression processing on the present image data in the first compressor **11** as the compression processing performed on the image data of immediately previous frame in the second processor **12**. For example, it is feasible to perform compression and expansion processing for minimizing errors by expanding the data compressed by the dither processing disclosed in Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 2003-162272 by way of reverse processing to the dither processing in compression.

Second Embodiment

[0064] **FIG. 8** shows the configuration of a liquid crystal display apparatus that has a controller driver **2** according to a second embodiment of the invention. The controller driver **2** is different from the controller driver **1** in the first embodiment in having a D-type flip-flop (D-FF) **21** between the second compressor **12** and the image memory **23** and a D-FF **22** between the image memory **23** and the second expander **15**. Since the other elements are the same as those in the controller driver **1**, they are denoted by the same reference numerals and not detailed herein. The operation of the controller driver **2** having the D-FFs **21** and **22** is described hereinafter.

[0065] **FIGS. 9A and 9B** are views showing the flow of image data from the first compressor **11** and the second compressor **12** to the overdrive processing unit **16**. **FIGS. 9A and 9B** show the processing on image data of successive two pixels. The input image data in **FIG. 9A** is represented by $D_n(k)$ and the input image data in **FIG. 9B** is represented by $D_n(k+1)$. The symbol n is a number assigned to a frame and the symbol k is a number assigned to a pixel.

[0066] In the first state shown in **FIG. 9A**, image data $D_n(k)$ is input to the first compressor **11** and the second compressor **12**. The first compressor **11** compresses the image data $D_n(k)$ by the systematic dither method or the like and supplies compressed image data $CD1_n(k)$ to the first expander **14**. On the other hand, the second compressor **12** outputs compressed image data $CD2_n(k)$ to the D-FF **21** and does not write it into the image memory **23**. The second expander **15** acquires the compressed image data $CD2_{n-1}(k)$ of an immediately previous frame from the image memory **23** and supplies expanded image data $SD2_{n-1}(k)$ to the overdrive processing circuit **16**. At this time, compressed image data $CD2_{n-1}(k+1)$ at $(k+1)$ th pixel that follows the data $CD2_{n-1}(k)$ is input to the D-FF **22** from the image memory **23** and the D-FF **22** holds it. In this way, the processing shown in **FIG. 9A** performs only reading from the image memory **23** and does not perform writing to the image memory **23**.

[0067] In the second state shown in **FIG. 9B**, image data $D_n(k+1)$ is input. The first compressor **11** compresses the image data $D_n(k+1)$ and supplies compressed image data $CD1_n(k+1)$ to the first expander **14**. The second compressor **12** reads compressed image data $CD2_n(k+1)$ to the image memory **23**. At this time, $CD2_n(k)$ held by the D-FF **21** is also written to the image memory **23**. On the other hand, the second expander **15** reads $CD2_{n-1}(k+1)$ held by the D-FF **22** and does not perform reading of image data from the image memory **23**. In this way, the processing shown in **FIG. 9B** performs only writing to the image memory **23** and does not perform reading from the image memory **23**.

[0068] FIG. 10 is a view showing input/output timing of image data to the controller driver 2. As shown therein, reading and writing operations on the image memory 23 are performed alternately in the first state and the second state. In FIG. 10, a memory bus (1) indicates data that is supplied from the image memory 23 to the second expander 15 in the first state and indicates data that is supplied from the D-FF 21 to the image memory 23 in the second state. A memory bus (2) indicates data that is supplied from the image memory 23 to the D-FF 22 in the first state and indicates data that is supplied from the second compressor 12 to the image memory 23 in the second state.

[0069] As described above, the controller driver 2 performs writing or reading on the image memory 23 in units of 2 pixels. The controller driver 1 of the first embodiment needs to perform writing of $CD2_n$ and reading of $CD2_{n-1}$ on the image memory 13 in the controller driver 1 during outputting image data of one pixel. It is thereby necessary to perform access to the image memory 13 with a clock frequency doubled from an image display clock frequency or from the image memory 13 as a dual port memory. On the other hand, the controller driver 2 of this embodiment performs either writing or reading on the image memory during outputting image data of one pixel. This eliminates the need for a clock frequency doubled from an image display clock frequency, and the image memory 3 can be formed as a single port memory.

[0070] Though this embodiment includes the D-FFs 21 and 22, it is not limited thereto as long as a circuit can hold compressed image data temporarily during outputting image data of one pixel. It is thus feasible to use a temporary data holding circuit such as a latch circuit instead of the D-FFs 21 and 22.

[0071] If the controller driver 2 of this embodiment is configured to have a roundabout route R2 so as to select an output destination of the second expander 15 according to a moving/still image switching signal S1 output from the command controller 10 just like the controller driver 1 of the first embodiment, it is possible to display a still image by bypassing the overdrive processing circuit 16. This configuration allows display of a still image without a need for the overdrive processing unit 16 to operate, thereby reducing power consumption in displaying the still image. Further, this configuration prevents the overdrive processing unit 16 from outputting erroneous corrected image data in displaying a still image, thus displaying the still image correctly.

Third Embodiment

[0072] FIG. 11 shows the configuration of a liquid crystal display apparatus that has a controller driver 3 according to a third embodiment of the invention. The controller driver 3 is different from the controller driver 1 of the first embodiment in transferring compressed image data of one line in block from the image memory 53 to a shift register 591 included in the data line driver 59 and then inputting the compressed image data from the shift register 591 to the second expander 15 to perform expansion processing thereon. The expansion processing through the shift register 591 is described hereinafter.

[0073] Firstly, compressed image data of one line is transferred in block from the image memory 53 to the shift register 591 in the data line driver 59. Then, the compressed

data stored in the shift register 591 is transferred to the second expander 15 where expansion processing is performed.

[0074] The data transfer operation between the shift register 591 and the second expander 15 is described herein with reference to FIGS. 12A to 12C. FIGS. 12A to 12C show a case where compressed image data is 12 bits and expanded image data is 18 bits as an example. Firstly, compressed image data of one line is transferred in block from the image memory 53 to the shift register 591 as shown in FIG. 12A. The image memory is a memory that can store compressed image data of at least one frame.

[0075] Then, the compressed data is transferred to the second expander 15 sequentially from the data held by a flip-flop (FF) 591A by shift operation. At the same time, FFs 591B and 591C shifts the image data sequentially to the left in the figure. Further, 18-bit corrected image data output from the overdrive processing circuit 15 or 18-bit expanded image data output from the second expander 15 are held by the FF 591C. By repeating the shift operation for image data of one line, the shift register 591 is rewritten with display image data.

[0076] Finally, the image data is transferred to a display latch 592, thereby driving the liquid crystal panel 7 as shown in FIG. 12C. In accordance with the latch operation to transfer the image data to the display latch 592, compressed image data of the next one line is transferred in block from the image memory 53 to the shift register 591, and the above process is repeated after that.

[0077] In this way, since the controller driver 3 performs expansion processing after transferring compressed image data of one line in block to the shift register 591, it is possible to suppress an access to the image memory 53 to one time for image data of one line. This reduces the number of memory accesses compared with the controller driver 1 of the first embodiment that performs memory access for each pixel, thereby lowering power consumption required for memory access.

[0078] If the controller driver 3 of this embodiment is configured to have a roundabout route R2 so as to select an output destination of the second expander 15 according to a moving/still image switching signal S1 output from the command controller 10 just like the controller driver 1 of the first embodiment, it is possible to display a still image by bypassing the overdrive processing circuit 16. This configuration allows display of a still image without a need for the overdrive processing unit 16 to operate, thereby reducing power consumption in displaying the still image. Further, this configuration prevents the overdrive processing unit 16 from outputting erroneous corrected image data in displaying a still image, thus displaying the still image correctly.

Fourth Embodiment

[0079] FIG. 13 shows the configuration of a liquid crystal display apparatus that has a controller driver 4 according to a fourth embodiment of the invention. The controller driver 4 first transfers compressed image data of one line in block from the image memory 53 to a second expander 75. The second expander 75 is capable of performing expansion processing on compressed image data of one line in parallel. The second expander 75 may be configured by arranging the

same number of conventional second expanders 15 as the number of pixels in one line in parallel. Image data $SD_{2,n-1}$ expanded in the second expander 75 is transferred to the shift register 791 in the data line driver 79.

[0080] In the case of performing the overdrive processing, expanded image data $SD_{2,n-1}$ is sequentially supplied to the overdrive processing unit 16 by the shift operation of the shift register 791 so that the overdrive processing unit 16 compares it with present expanded image data $SD_{1,n}$. The corrected image data D_{dn} output from the overdrive processing unit 16 is stored in the shift register 791. Thus, every time the shift register 791 supplies the image data $SD_{2,n-1}$ of immediately previous frame to the overdrive processing unit 16, the overdrive processing unit 16 supplies the corrected image data D_{dn} to the shift register 791. By repeating this operation for one line, the shift register 791 is rewritten with display image data. After acquiring display image data for one line, the image data is transferred to the display latch 792 to drive the liquid crystal panel 7.

[0081] On the other hand, in the case of not performing the overdrive processing such as when displaying a still image, expanded image data $SD_{2,n-1}$ is transferred from the second expander 75 to the shift register 791. Then, the image data $SD_{2,n-1}$ is transferred from the shift register 791 to the display latch 592 to drive the liquid crystal panel 7. The switching of the output destination of the shift register 791 between moving image display and still image display may be performed by inputting a moving/still image switching signal $S1$ output from the command controller 10 to the data line driver 79 and not connecting the shift register 791 to the overdrive processing unit 16 when displaying a still image.

[0082] In this configuration, the controller driver 4 allows reduction of power consumption by suppressing the number of times of memory access just like the controller driver 3 of the third embodiment. Further, since it eliminates the need for shift operation of the shift register 791 when displaying a still image, it allows further reduction of power consumption in still image display compared to the controller driver 3. Furthermore, the controller driver 4 allows display of a still image without a need for the overdrive processing unit 16 to operate, thereby reducing power consumption in displaying the still image. Further, this configuration prevents the overdrive processing unit 16 from outputting erroneous corrected image data in displaying a still image, thus displaying the still image correctly.

Fifth Embodiment

[0083] FIG. 14 shows the configuration of a liquid crystal display apparatus that has a controller driver 41. The configuration of the controller driver 41 shown therein is the one in the case of not performing compression and expansion processing on input image data D . An output selector 42 selects between supplying the image data D_{n-1} from the image memory 83 to the overdrive processing unit 16 or supplying it directly to the data line driver 19 by bypassing the overdrive processing unit 16 according to the moving/still image switching signal $S1$. The output selector 42 selects a route $R1$ to be connected to the overdrive processing unit 16 when displaying a moving image and selects a route $R2$ to be connected to the data line driver 19 by bypassing the overdrive processing unit 16 when displaying a still image.

[0084] Such a simplified configuration with no compressor or expander also allows displaying a still image without through the overdrive processing unit 16.

[0085] Although the controller drivers 1 to 4 and 41 do not include the gate line driver 6 in the first to fifth embodiments described above, this configuration is merely an example. The controller drivers 1 to 4 and 41 may include the gate line driver 6 or may further include a power supply circuit or the like, which can also achieve the functions and effects of the present invention.

[0086] It is apparent that the present invention is not limited to the above embodiment that may be modified and changed without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A controller driver comprising:

an overdrive processing unit generating corrected image data where a tone value of received image data is corrected based on the received image data and image data of at least one frame previous to the received image data;

a data line driver supplying a liquid crystal driving voltage based on the corrected image data;

a roundabout route bypassing the overdrive processing unit and allowing the one frame previous image data to be input to the data line driver; and

an output selector outputting the one frame previous image data to one of a connection route to the overdrive processing unit and the roundabout route,

wherein the output selector selects the connection route to the overdrive processing unit in displaying a moving image and selects the roundabout route in displaying a still image.

2. A controller driver according to claim 1, comprising:

a compressor compressing received image data to generate compressed image data;

an image memory delaying the compressed image data supplied from the compressor by at least one frame;

a first expander expanding the compressed image data supplied from the compressor;

a second expander expanding the compressed image data supplied from the image memory;

wherein the overdrive processing unit generates the corrected image data by comparing a expanded image data generated in the first expander with a expanded image data generated in the second expander, and

the output selector outputs the expanded image data generated in the second expander to one of the connection route to the overdrive processing unit and the roundabout route.

3. A controller driver according to claim 2, wherein the first expander and the second expander are composed of a through circuit or a line, and the overdrive processing unit generates corrected image data based on the compressed image data.

4. A controller driver according to claim 3, wherein the first expander and the second expander are composed of a

through circuit or a line, and the compressed image data is the received image data itself.

5. A controller driver according to claim 2, comprising:

a first temporary data holding circuit capable of holding compressed image data output from the compressor and accessible from the image memory; and

a second temporary data holding circuit capable of holding the compressed image data output from the image memory and accessible from the second expander.

6. The controller driver according to claim 2, comprising:

a shift register storing the corrected image data,

wherein the shift register is connected to the image memory so as to acquire the compressed image data of one line at a time from the image memory, and

the shift register is also connected to the second expander so as to supply held data to the second expander by shift operation.

7. The controller driver according to claim 2, comprising:

a shift register storing the corrected image data,

wherein the second expander is connected to the image memory so as to acquire the compressed image data of one line at a time from the image memory,

the shift register is connected to the second expander so as to acquire image data of one line expanded from the compressed image data at a time, and

the shift register is also connected to the overdrive processing unit so as to supply held data to the overdrive processing unit by shift operation.

8. A liquid crystal display apparatus including a controller driver and a liquid crystal display section driven by the controller driver, wherein the controller driver comprises:

an overdrive processing unit generating corrected image data where a tone value of received image data is corrected based on the received image data and image data of at least one frame previous to the received image data;

a data line driver supplying a liquid crystal driving voltage based on the corrected image data;

a roundabout route bypassing the overdrive processing unit and allowing the one frame previous image data to be input to the data line driver; and

an output selector outputting the one frame previous image data to one of a connection route to the overdrive processing unit and the roundabout route,

wherein the output selector selects the connection route to the overdrive processing unit in displaying a moving image and selects the roundabout route in displaying a still image.

9. The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the controller driver comprises:

a compressor compressing received image data to generate compressed image data;

an image memory delaying the compressed image data supplied from the compressor by at least one frame;

a first expander expanding the compressed image data supplied from the compressor;

a second expander expanding the compressed image data supplied from the image memory;

wherein the overdrive processing unit generates corrected image data where a tone value of the received image data is corrected based on expanded image data generated in the first expander and the second expander, and

the output selector outputs the expanded image data generated in the second expander to one of the connection route to the overdrive processing unit and the roundabout route.

10. The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the controller driver comprises:

a first temporary data holding circuit capable of holding compressed image data output from the compressor and accessible from the image memory; and

a second temporary data holding circuit capable of holding the compressed image data output from the image memory and accessible from the second expander.

11. The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the controller driver comprises:

a shift register storing the corrected image data,

wherein the shift register is connected to the image memory so as to acquire the compressed image data of one line at a time from the image memory, and

the shift register is also connected to the second expander so as to supply held data to the second expander by shift operation.

12. The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the controller driver comprises:

a shift register storing the corrected image data,

wherein the second expander is connected to the image memory so as to acquire the compressed image data of one line at a time from the image memory,

the shift register is connected to the second expander so as to acquire image data of one line expanded from the compressed image data at a time, and

the shift register is also connected to the overdrive processing unit so as to supply held data to the overdrive processing unit by shift operation.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	控制器驱动器和和使用其的液晶显示装置		
公开(公告)号	US20060152463A1	公开(公告)日	2006-07-13
申请号	US11/304694	申请日	2005-12-16
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	NEC电子股份有限公司		
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当前申请(专利权)人(译)	瑞萨电子公司		
[标]发明人	FURIHATA HIROBUMI NOSE TAKASHI		
发明人	FURIHATA, HIROBUMI NOSE, TAKASHI		
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摘要(译)

控制器驱动器包括：过驱动处理单元，基于图像数据和图像数据之前的一帧的图像数据生成校正的图像数据；数据线驱动器，产生液晶驱动电压；环形路径，绕过过驱动处理单元，并允许一帧先前图像数据输入到数据线驱动器，第二扩展器将一帧先前图像数据输出到到过驱动处理单元和迂回路径的连接路径之一，命令控制器提供移动/静止图像切换信号S1，用于指示运动图像显示和静止图像显示之间的切换到第二扩展器。第二扩展器在显示运动图像时选择到过驱动处理单元的连接路径，并在显示静止图像时选择环形路径。

