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(54) **LAMP DRIVING DEVICE, BACKLIGHT ASSEMBLY AND LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY APPARATUS HAVING THE SAME**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A lamp driving device includes a power supplying part and a feedback detection part. The power supplying part provides a plurality of lamps electrically connected in parallel to each other with power. The feedback detection part receives current that flows via the lamps to provide the power supplying part with a feedback signal that prevents the power supplying part from providing normal lamps with power, when at least one of the lamps are abnormal. Although one power supply provides all lamps with power, when at least one of the lamps is abnormal, then whole circuit is opened. Thus, excess current does not flow via remaining lamps that are normal. Thus, a life span of the lamps is not reduced, and a lamp driving device is safe.

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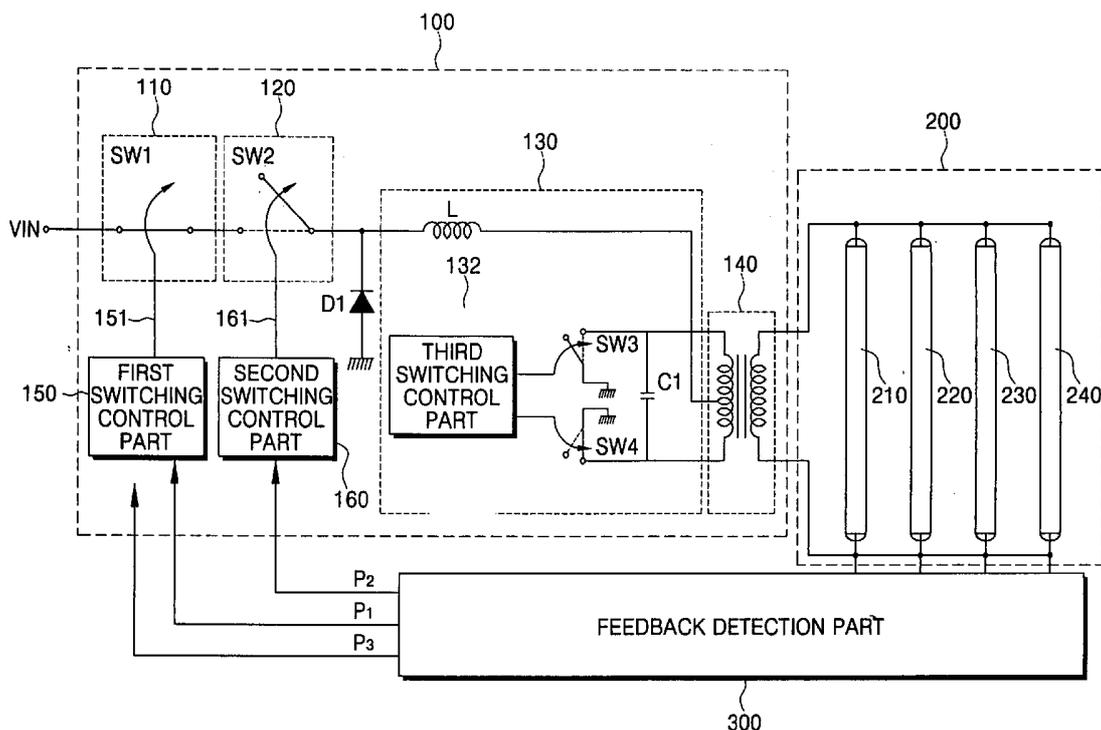


FIG. 1

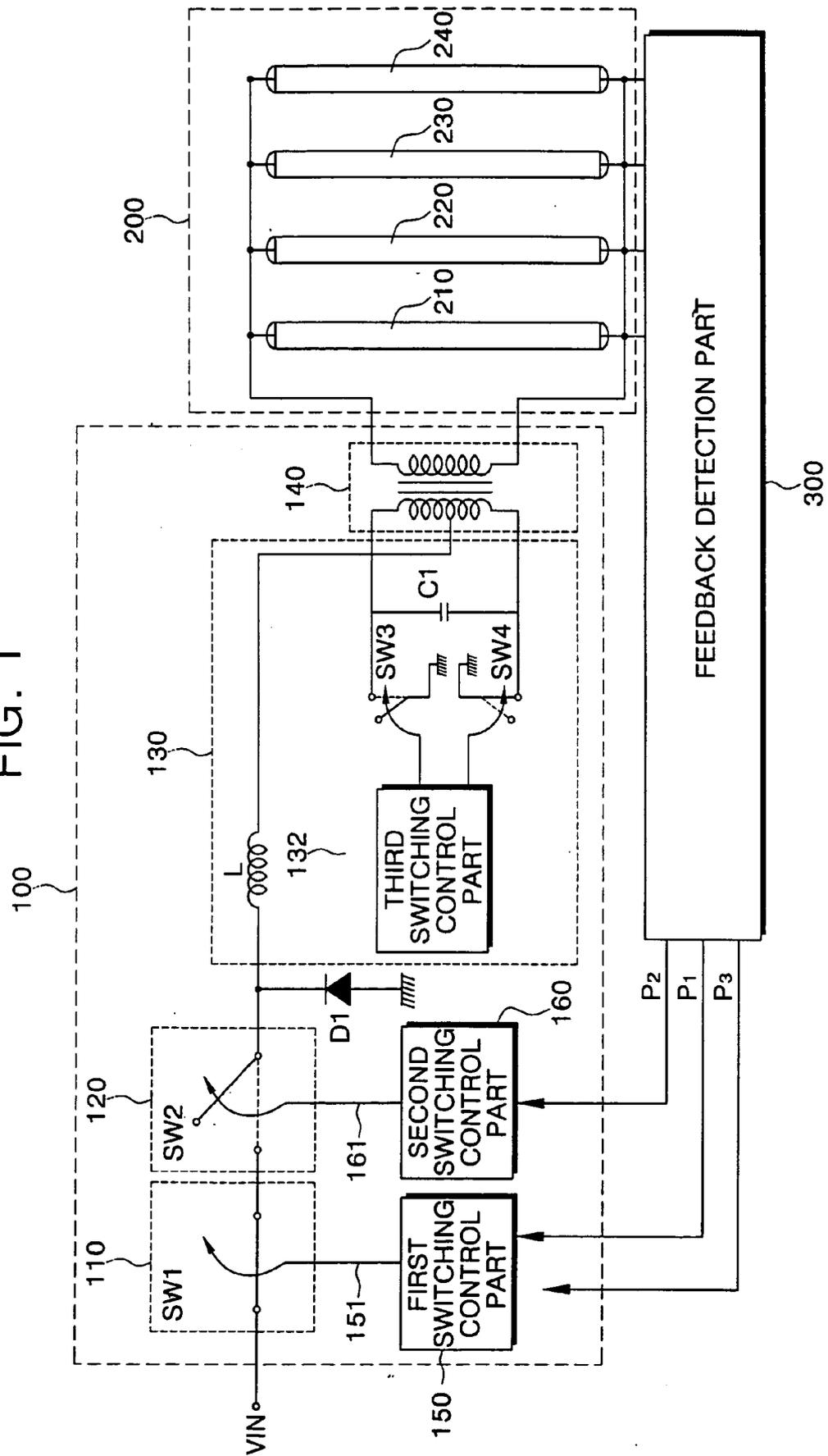


FIG. 2

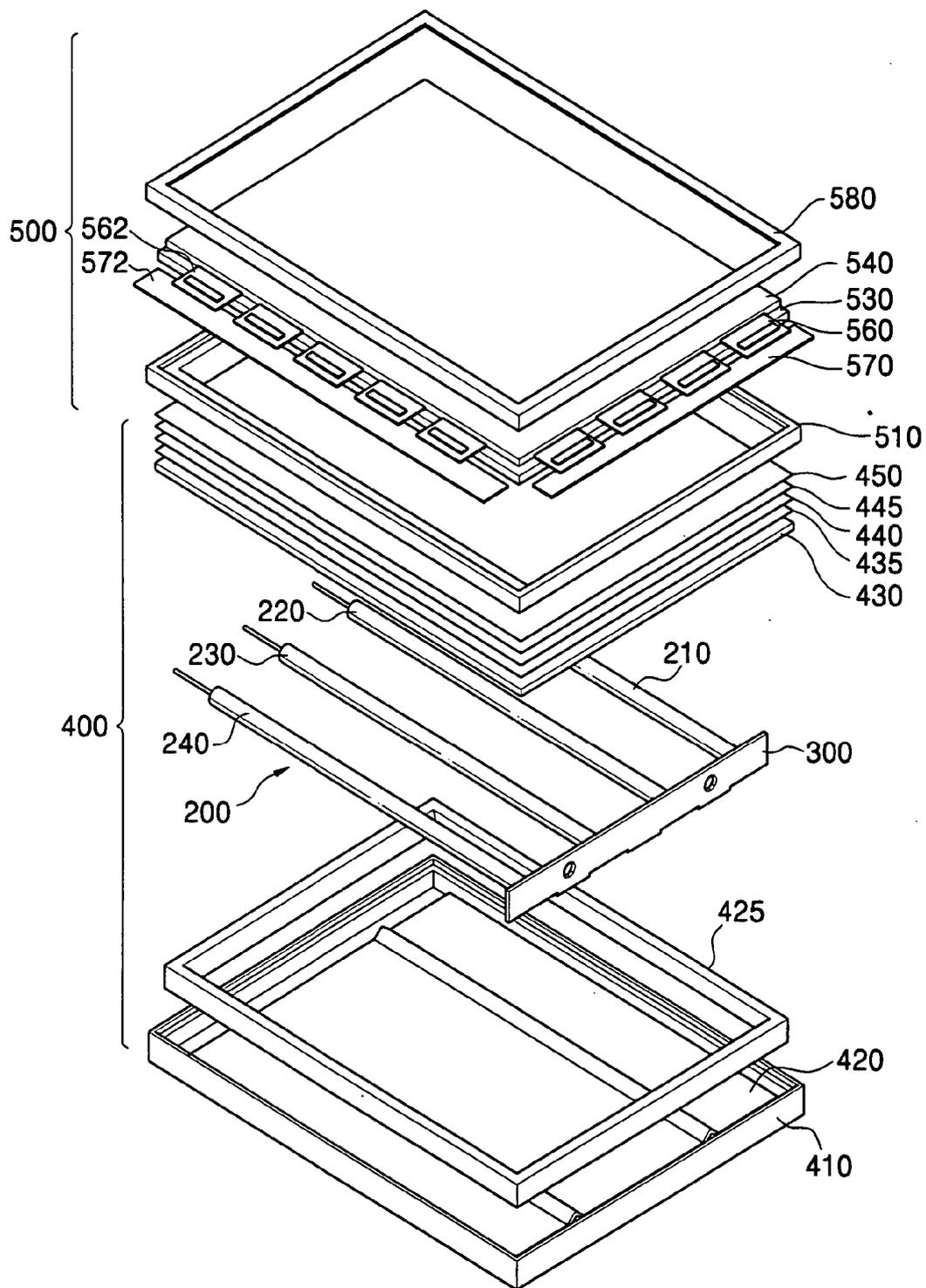


FIG. 3

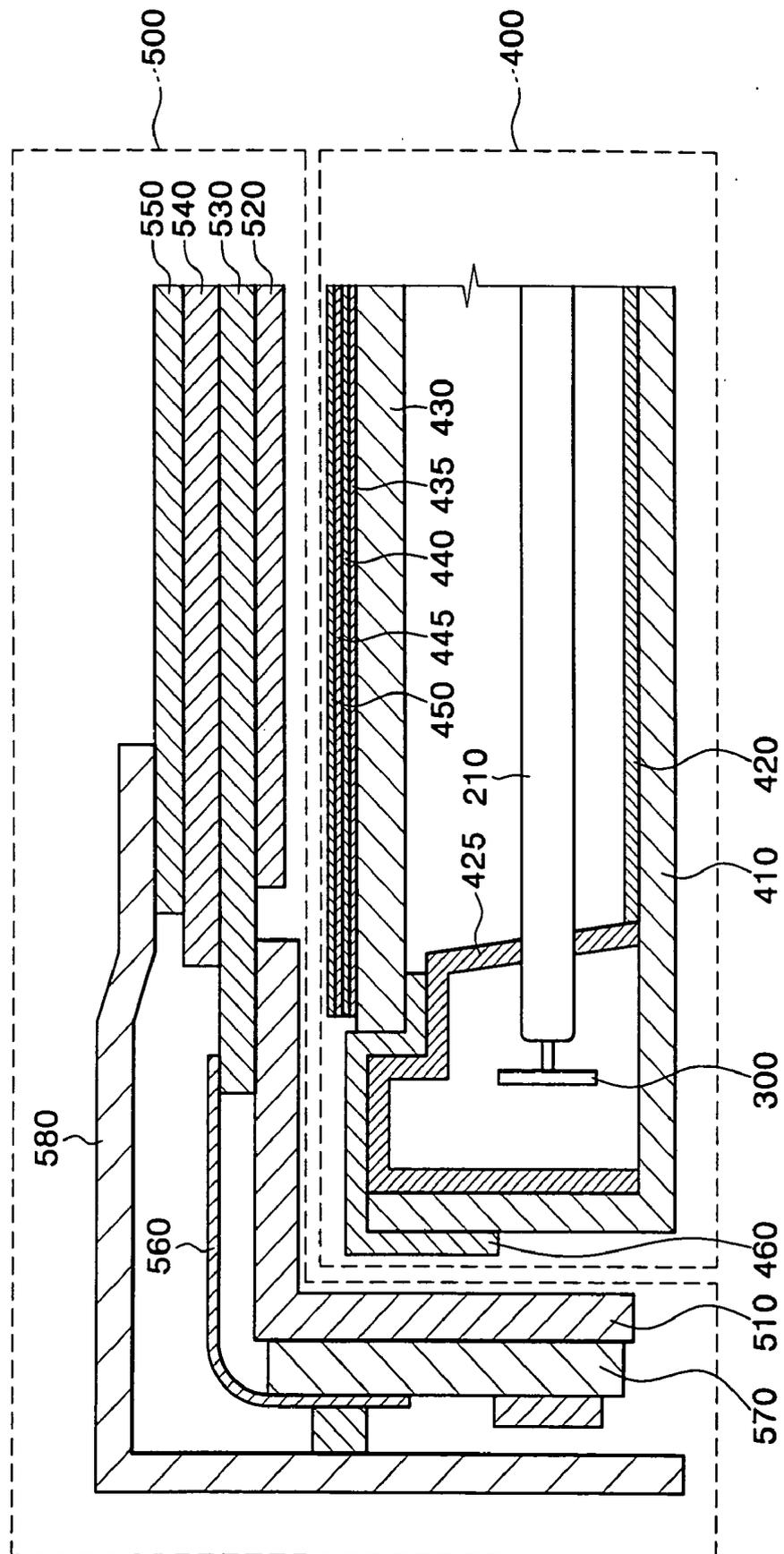


FIG. 4

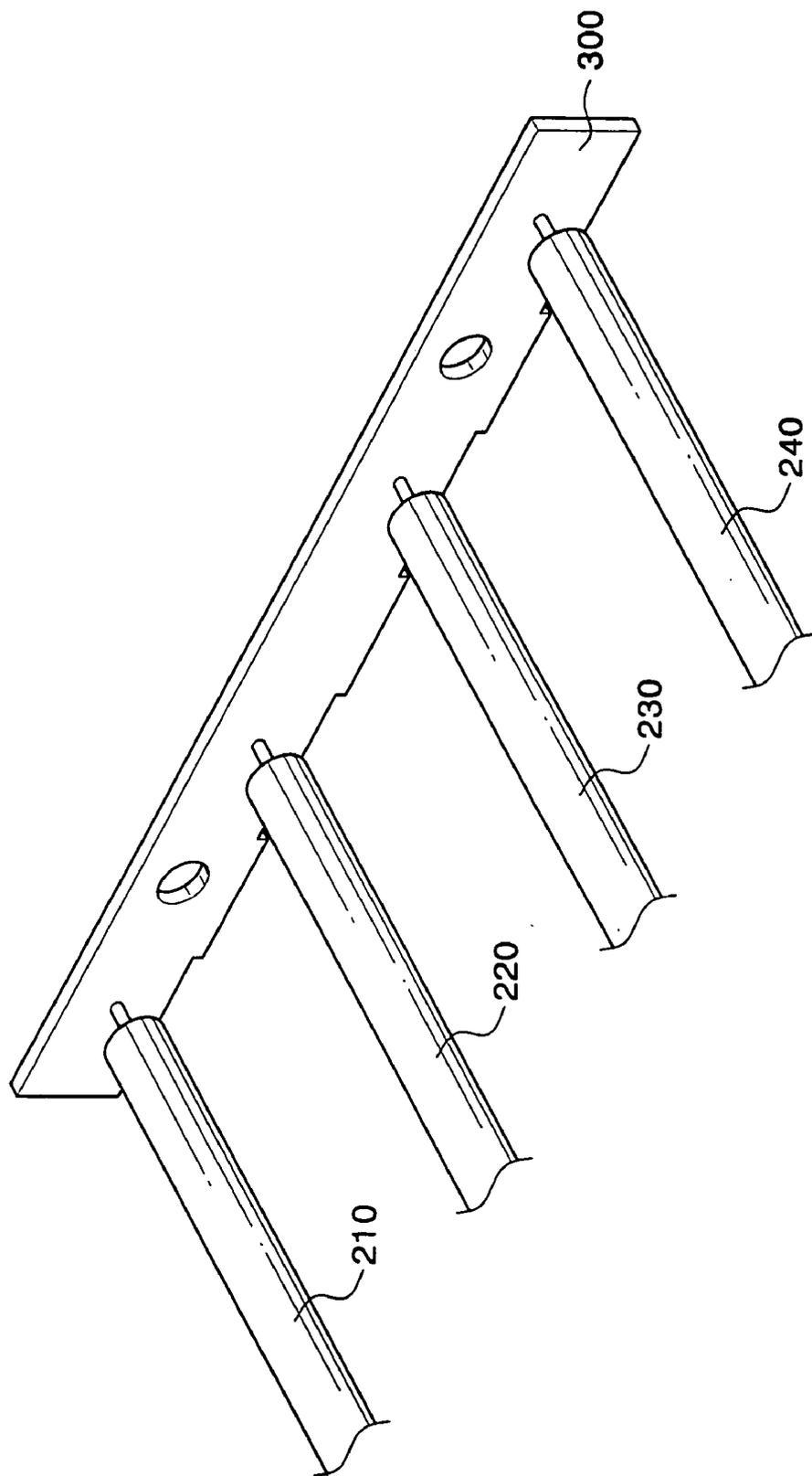


FIG. 5

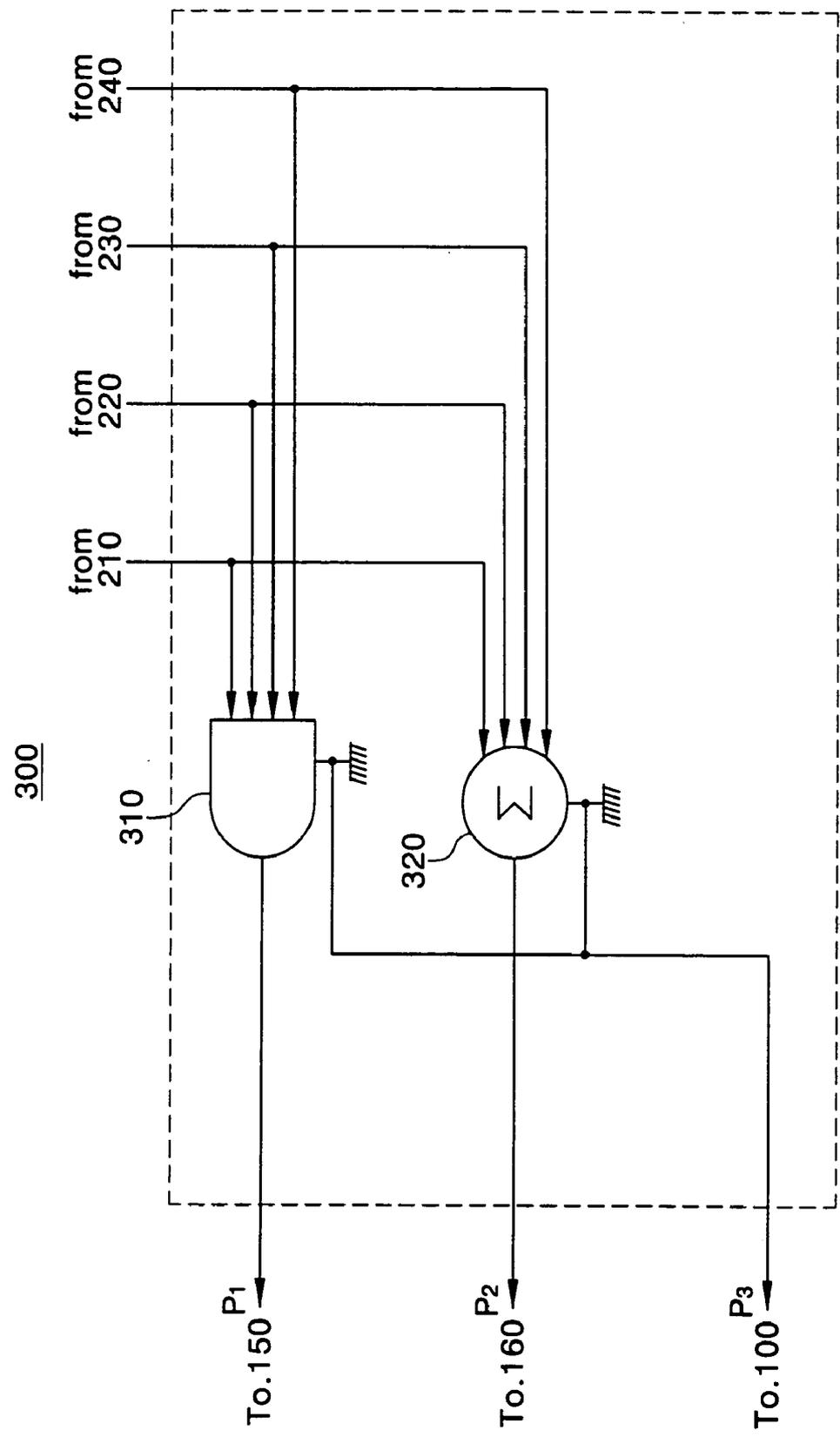


FIG. 6

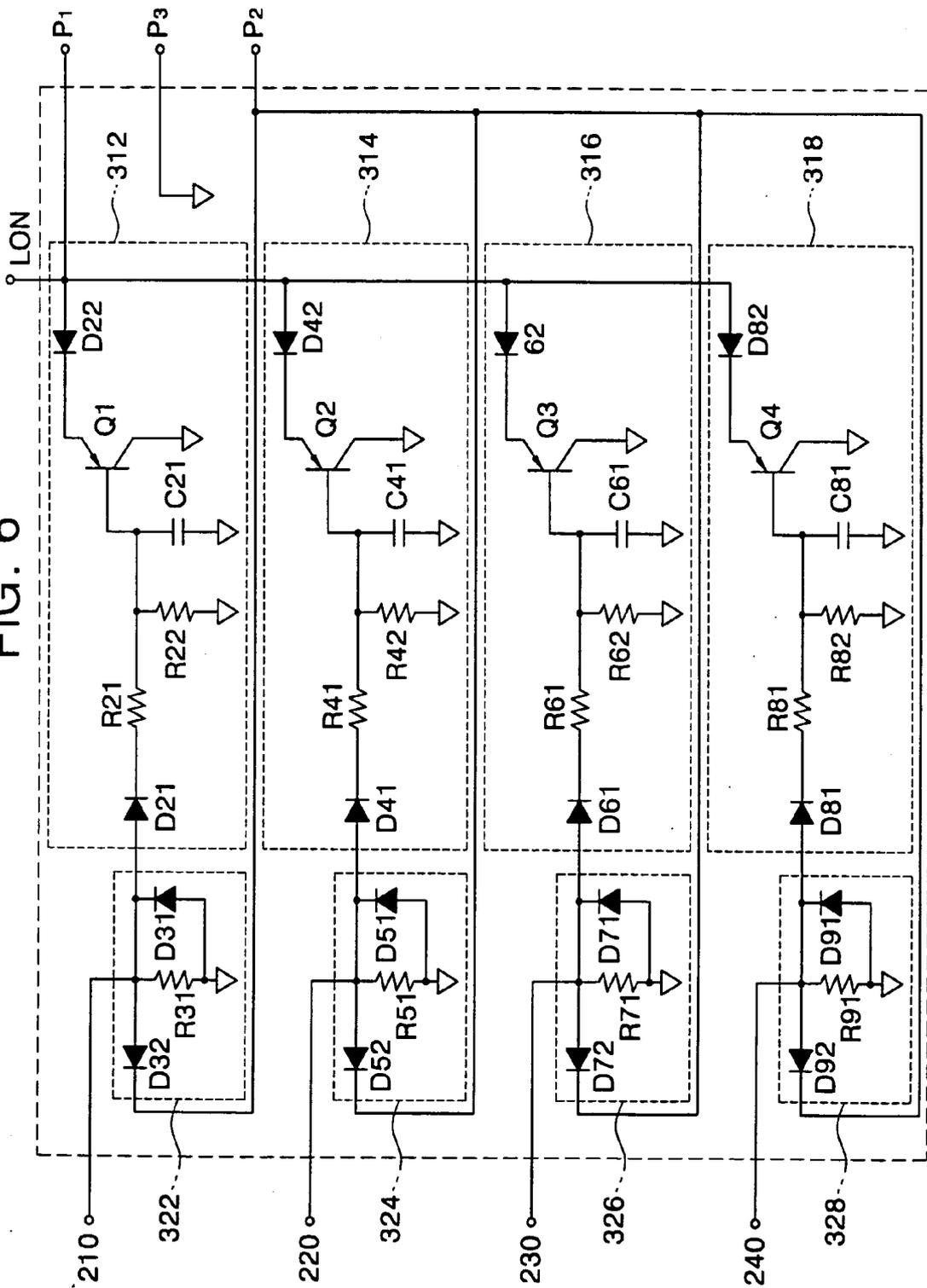


FIG. 7

150

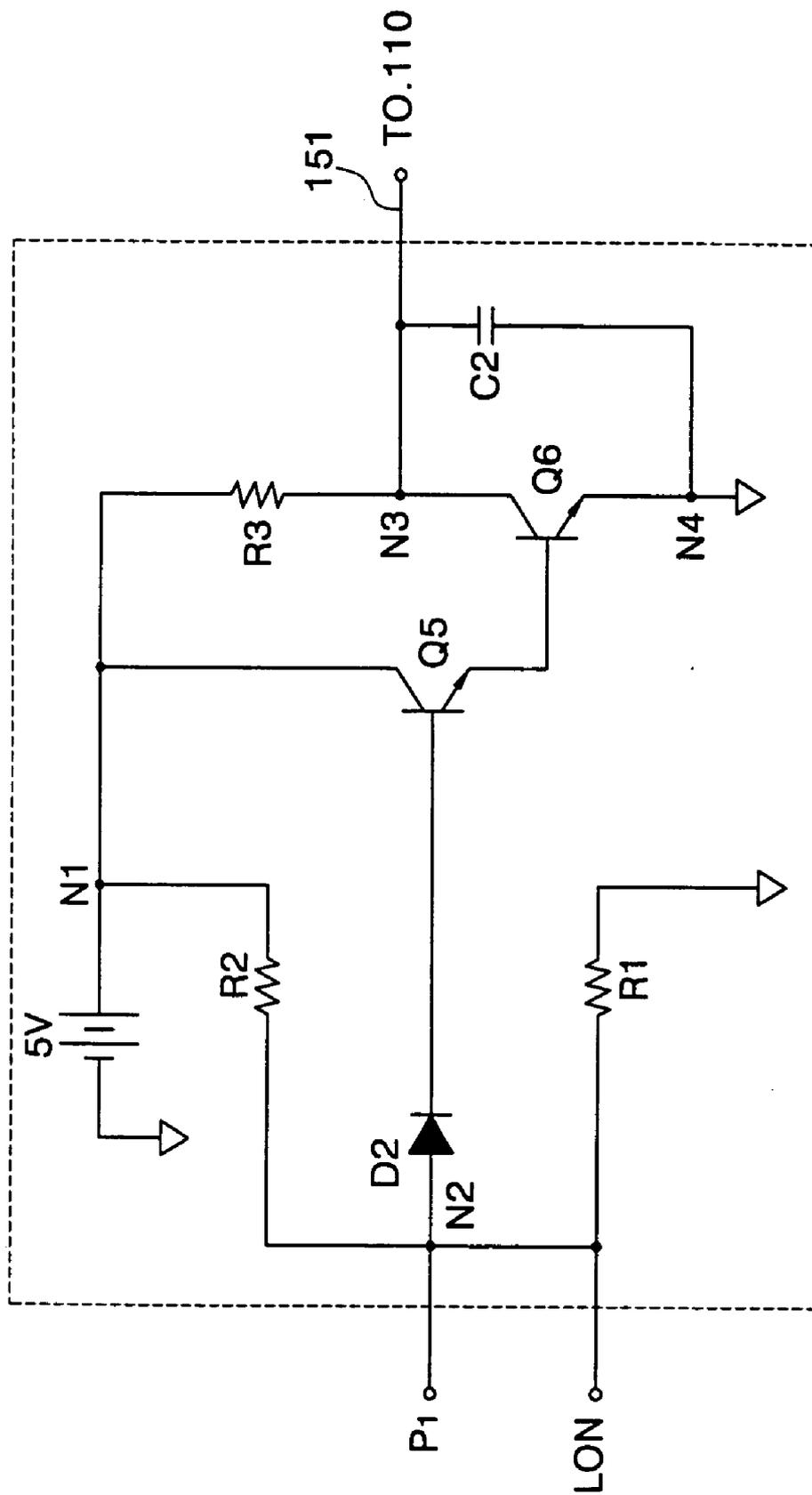
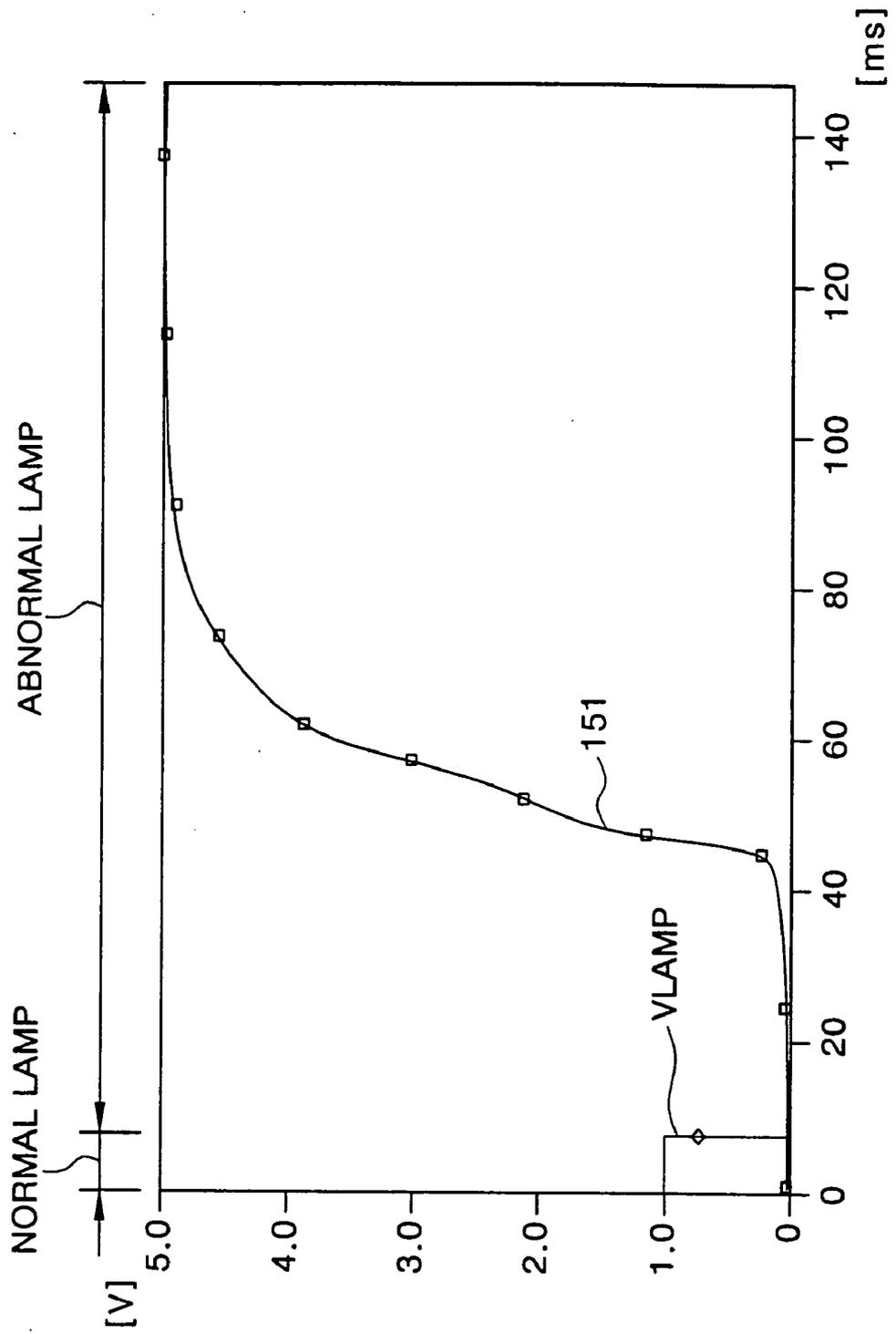


FIG. 8



**LAMP DRIVING DEVICE, BACKLIGHT
ASSEMBLY AND LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY
APPARATUS HAVING THE SAME**

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATIONS**

[0001] This application relies for priority upon Korean Patent Application No.2002-72490 filed on Nov. 20, 2002, the contents of which are herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] 1. Field of the Invention

[0003] The present invention relates to a lamp driving device, and a backlight assembly and a liquid crystal display apparatus having the lamp driving device, and more particularly to a lamp driving device having opening detecting function, a backlight assembly and a liquid crystal display apparatus having the lamp driving device.

[0004] 2. Description of the Related Art

[0005] Generally, a liquid crystal display apparatus is a passive display apparatus that uses an external light so as to display an image. Thus, the liquid crystal display apparatus includes a backlight assembly attached at a backside of the liquid crystal display apparatus.

[0006] The backlight assembly requires characters, such as a high luminance, a high efficiency, a uniformity of the luminance, a long life span, a thin thickness, a lightweight, a low cost, etc. For example, a backlight assembly for a portable computer and a monitor of a desktop PC requires especially the long life span and the high efficiency. On the contrary, a backlight assembly for a television set requires especially the high luminance. Further, the backlight assembly for the television set requires a longer life span and a higher luminance than the backlight assembly for the monitor.

[0007] In order to satisfy the requirement, a parallel driving method has been researched. In the parallel driving method, one inverter drives a plurality of lamps. In case of the parallel driving method, when one of the lamps is in trouble, a display quality is lowered and the backlight assembly may be on fire. Thus, a feedback is essential.

[0008] However, in the parallel driving method in which one inverter drives a plurality of lamps, there is only one return path for a current. Thus, even when one or more lamps are in trouble (or opened), current flows through other normal lamps. That is, the lamp (or lamps) that is in trouble may be detected.

[0009] Further, same current flows even when at least one of the lamps is abnormal, so that over current may flow through the other lamps. Thus, the life span of the lamps is reduced, and the lamps generate over heat endangering its safety.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0010] Accordingly, the present invention is provided to substantially obviate one or more problems due to limitations and disadvantages of the related art.

[0011] In one aspect of the present invention, a lamp driving device that detects an abnormality of the lamp and the abnormality is fed back to the lamp driving device so as to prevent normal lamps from having reduced life span.

[0012] In another aspect of the present invention, a backlight assembly having the lamp driving device is provided.

[0013] In still another aspect of the present invention, a liquid crystal display apparatus having the lamp driving device is provided.

[0014] The lamp driving device includes a power supplying part and a feedback detection part. The power supplying part provides a plurality of lamps electrically connected in parallel to each other with power. The feedback detection part receives current that flows via the lamps to provide the power supplying part with a feedback signal that prevents the power supplying part from providing normal lamps with power, when at least one of the lamps is abnormal.

[0015] The backlight assembly includes a lamp assembly, a lamp driving part and a receiving container. The lamp assembly includes a plurality of lamps generating a light. The lamp driving part includes i) a power supplying part that provides a plurality of lamps electrically connected in parallel to each other with power and ii) a feedback detection part. The feedback detection part receives current that flows via the lamps to provide the power supplying part with a feedback signal that prevents the power supplying part from providing normal lamps with power, when at least one of the lamps is abnormal. The receiving container receives the lamp assembly and the lamp driving part.

[0016] The liquid crystal display apparatus includes the backlight assembly described above and a liquid crystal display panel assembly. The liquid crystal display panel assembly transforms a light generated from the lamps of the backlight assembly into an image.

[0017] According to the present invention, although one power supply provides all lamps with power, when at least one of the lamps is abnormal, then whole circuit is opened. Thus, excess current does not flow via remaining lamps that are normal. As a result, a life span of the lamps is not reduced, and a lamp driving device is safe.

[0018] Further, the lamp feedback detection part receiving a plurality of lamps and detecting the tube current may be formed on one printed circuit board. Thus, when a backlight assembly adopts the feedback detection part, productivity is enhanced.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0019] The above and other features and advantage points of the present invention will become more apparent by describing in detailed exemplary embodiments thereof with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

[0020] **FIG. 1** is a circuit diagram showing a lamp driving device according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0021] **FIG. 2** is a perspective view showing a liquid crystal display apparatus according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0022] **FIG. 3** is a cross-sectional view showing a liquid crystal display apparatus of **FIG. 2**;

[0023] FIG. 4 is a perspective view showing a feedback detection part of FIG. 2;

[0024] FIG. 5 is a schematic diagram showing an operation of a feedback detection part of FIG. 1;

[0025] FIG. 6 is a circuit diagram showing a feedback detection part of FIG. 1;

[0026] FIG. 7 is a circuit diagram showing a first switching control part of FIG. 1; and

[0027] FIG. 8 is a graph showing a result of simulation according to the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0028] Hereinafter, the preferred embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to the accompanied drawings.

[0029] FIG. 1 is a circuit diagram showing a lamp driving device according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0030] Referring to FIG. 1, a lamp driving device according to an embodiment of the present invention includes a power supplying part 100 and a feedback detection part 300. The power supplying part 100 provides a lamp assembly 200 with a power. The feedback detection part 300 detects the power applied to the lamp assembly 200 so as to detect whether at least one of lamps is abnormal. When at least one of the lamps is abnormal, the feedback detection part 300 provides an open signal to the power supplying part 100.

[0031] The lamp assembly 200 includes a plurality of the lamps. The lamps are electrically connected in parallel to each other. The lamps may include a cold cathode fluorescent lamp (CCFL) that has a lamp tube and two internal electrodes disposed in the lamp tube, an external electrode fluorescent lamp (EEFL) that has a lamp tube and two external electrodes disposed outside of the lamp tube, or an external and internal electrode fluorescent lamp (EIFL) that has a lamp tube, one internal electrode and one external electrode.

[0032] The power supplying part 100 includes first and second switching parts 110 and 120, a diode D1, an inverting part 130, a transforming part 140, and first and second switching control parts 150 and 160. The power supplying part 100 provides the lamps 210, 220, 230 and 240 of the lamp assembly 200 with the power. That is, the power supplying part 100 transforms a direct current provided from an external device into an alternating current, and the power supplying part 100 amplifies the alternating current to provide the lamp assembly 200.

[0033] Further, an electricity source is fed back to the power supplying part 100, so that the power supplying part 100 controls an electricity source to be in a determined level.

[0034] The first switching part 110 includes a first switch SW1. The first switch SW1 connects or opens a current path through which the direct current flows in response to a first switching control signal 151. When all lamps are normal, the first switching part 110 is connected the current path, so that current flows from an external device toward the second switching part 120. However, when one of the lamps is in trouble, the first switching part 110 opens the current path.

[0035] The second switching part 120 includes a second switch SW2. The second switch SW2 connects or opens the current path through the direct current flows in response to a second switching control signal 161. When the current path is connected, the current flows from the first switching part 110 toward the inverting part 130. A switch such as a bipolar junction transistor (BJT) and a field effect transistor (FET) may be used for the first and second switches SW1 and SW2.

[0036] The diode D1 is electrically connected to a first node between the second switching part 120 and the inverting part 130, and the diode D1 is electrically connected to a second node corresponding to a ground voltage. In detail, the diode D1 includes a cathode that is electrically connected to an output terminal of the second switching part 120, and an anode that is electrically connected to the ground voltage to prevent an inrush current generated from the inverting part from flowing toward the second switch SW2.

[0037] The inverting part 130 includes a reactor L, a capacitor C1, third and fourth switches SW3 and SW4 and a third switching control part, so that the inverting part 130 transforms a direct current generated by the second switching part 120 into an alternating current. The alternating current is applied to the transforming part 140. The capacitor C1 is electrically connected in parallel to the transforming part 140. The capacitor C1 is electrically connected to the third and fourth switches SW3 and SW4 that are electrically connected to the ground voltage respectively.

[0038] The inverting part 130 may be embodied via a Royer inverter, so that detailed description will be omitted.

[0039] The transforming part 140 corresponds to a transformer that has first and second coils. The transforming part 140 transforms a low level alternating current that is applied to the first coil into a high level alternating current via the second coil. The high level alternating current is applied to the lamp assembly 200.

[0040] The first switching control part 150 receives a feedback signal P1 when at least one of lamps 210, 220, 230 and 240 is abnormal, so that the first switching control part 150 applies the first switching control signal 151 to the first switching part 110 so as to turn off the first switching part 110.

[0041] For example, the first switching control part 150 turns on the first switching part 110 when a high level feedback signal P1 is applied to the first switching control part 150, and the first switching control part 150 turns off the first switching part 110 when a low level feedback signal P1 is applied to the first switching part 150. When the first switching control signal 151 that turns on the first switching part 110 corresponds to a high level, and the first switching control signal 151 that turns off the first switching part 110 corresponds to a low level, the first switch SW1 is formed preferably via N-type MOSFET. On the contrary, when the first switching control signal 151 that turns on the first switching part 110 corresponds to a low level, and the first switching control signal 151 that turns off the first switching part 110 corresponds to a high level, the first switch SW1 is formed preferably via P-type MOSFET.

[0042] When an alternating current outputted from the transforming part changes, the opening detecting part 300

generates a signal corresponding to a change of the alternating current. The signal is transferred to the second switching control part 160. The second switching control part 160 compares the signal corresponding to the change of the alternating current with a predetermined reference signal to generate a detection signal. The detection signal corresponding to a second switching control signal 161 is applied to the second switching part 120.

[0043] The lamp assembly 200 includes a plurality of lamps 210, 220, 230 and 240 that are electrically connected in parallel with each other. The plurality of lamps 210, 220, 230 and 240 receive the alternating current transformed to be a high level to generate a light.

[0044] The feedback detection part 300 receives a feedback current from the lamps 210, 220, 230 and 240. When at least one of the lamps 210, 220, 230 and 240 corresponds to a low level, the feedback detection part 300 provides the first switching control part 150 with the feedback signal P1 to control the first switching part 110. In FIG. 1, four lamps are described for example. However, more or less lamps may be used.

[0045] As described above, when one power supplying device (or inverter) drives a plurality of lamps, the power supplying device controls a rated current that is applied to the lamps. When at least one of the lamps is abnormal, the feedback detection part 300 detects an amount of current to break circuit. Thus, an excess current is not applied to the remained lamps, so that a life span of the lamps is not reduced.

[0046] FIG. 2 is a perspective view showing a liquid crystal display apparatus according to another embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view showing a liquid crystal display apparatus of FIG. 2, and FIG. 4 is a perspective view showing a feedback detection part of FIG. 2.

[0047] Referring to FIGS. 1 to 4, a liquid crystal display apparatus according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention includes a backlight assembly 400 and a liquid crystal display panel assembly 500. The backlight assembly 400 provides the liquid crystal display panel assembly 500 with a light. The liquid crystal display panel assembly uses the light to display an image.

[0048] The backlight assembly 400 includes a bottom chassis 410, a reflection plate 420, a lamp assembly 200, a lower mold 425, a diffusion plate 430, a diffusion sheet 435, first and second prism sheets 440 and 445, a protection sheet 450, a feedback detection part 300 and an upper mold 460.

[0049] The bottom chassis 410 has a rectangular shape corresponding to the liquid crystal display panel assembly 500. The bottom chassis 410 has a space for receiving the reflection plate 420, a lamp assembly 200 and a lower mold 425.

[0050] The diffusion plate 430, the diffusion sheet 435, the first and second prism sheets 440 and 445, and the protection sheet 450 are disposed over the bottom chassis 410 in sequence, such that the diffusion plate 430, the diffusion sheet 435, the first and second prism sheets 440 and 445, and the protection sheet 450 are disposed on the bottom chassis 410 are spaced apart from the lamps 210, 220, 230 and 240 so as to be prevented from heat generated by the lamps 210, 220, 230 and 240.

[0051] The reflection plate 420 is disposed on a bottom face of the bottom chassis 410, so that the reflection plate 420 reflects light toward the liquid crystal display panel assembly 500. The reflection plate 420 may have a rectangular plate shape. The reflection plate 420 may include a groove for receiving a wire through which voltage is applied to the lamp assembly 200.

[0052] The lamp assembly 200 including lamps 210, 220, 230 and 240 is disposed over the reflection plate 420. The lamp assembly 200 provides the liquid crystal display panel assembly 500 with a light.

[0053] The lower mold 425 includes a pair of first walls and a pair of second sidewalls. The first sidewalls and the second sidewalls are perpendicular to each other, so that the lower mold 425 has a rectangular frame shape. The lower mold 425 fixes the reflection plate 420 and the lower mold 425 receives hot electrode and a cold electrode of the lamps 210, 220, 230 and 240. A hole formed on the second sidewall receives the hot electrode and the cold electrode. The lower mold 425 having the first and second sidewalls receives the feedback detection part 300 that is electrically connected to the wire drawn out from the hot electrode and the cold electrode. Preferably, the feedback detection part 300 is formed on a printed circuit board receiving a first end of a lamp unit. The printed circuit board is erected as shown in FIG. 3.

[0054] The lower mold 425 further includes a reflector (not shown) that is disposed inside of the lower mold 425 so as to reflect a light toward the liquid crystal display panel.

[0055] The diffusion plate 430 and the diffusion sheet 435 are spaced apart from the lamp assembly 200. The diffusion plate 430 and the diffusion sheet 435 diffuse a light generated from the lamp assembly 200 so as to uniformize a luminance of the light.

[0056] The first and second prism sheets 440 and 445 condense the light diffused by the diffusion plate 430 and diffusion sheet 435.

[0057] The protection sheet 450 protects the second prism sheet 445. That is, the protection sheet 450 prevents dusts from adhering to the second prism sheet 445.

[0058] The light that exits from the protection sheet 450 enters the liquid crystal display panel assembly 500.

[0059] The upper mold 460 is disposed on the bottom chassis 410. The upper mold 460 supports the diffusion plate 430, and the upper mold 460 is combined with the bottom chassis 410 to prevent the diffusion plate from being floating and separating from the backlight assembly 400. The upper mold 460 also fixes the diffusion sheet 435, the first and second prism sheets 440 and 445, and the protection sheet 450.

[0060] The liquid crystal display panel assembly 500 includes a middle chassis 510, a first polarizing plate 520, an array substrate 530, a color filter substrate 540, a liquid crystal layer (not shown) interposed between the array substrate 530 and the color filter substrate 540, a second polarizing plate 550, a gate tape carrier package (hereinafter, referred to as gate TCP) 560, a data tape carrier package (hereinafter, referred to as data TCP) 562, a gate printed circuit board (hereinafter, referred to as gate PCB) 570, a data printed circuit board (hereinafter, referred to as data

PCB) **572**, and a top chassis **580** that combined with the bottom chassis **410** of the backlight assembly **400**. The liquid crystal display panel assembly **500** receives a light generated from the backlight assembly **400**, and displays an image.

[0061] The middle chassis **510** surrounds the upper mold **460** of the backlight assembly **400**, so that the middle chassis **510** compresses the diffusion plate **430**, and optical sheets **435**, **440**, **445** and **450** to fix the diffusion plate **430**, and optical sheets **435**, **440**, **445** and **450**. The middle chassis **510** also supports the array substrate **530**.

[0062] The first polarizing plate **520** polarizes a light generated from the backlight assembly **400** to form a first polarized light.

[0063] The array substrate **530** and the color filter substrate **540** are combined together, and the liquid crystal layer (not shown) is interposed between the array substrate **530** and the color filter substrate **540**. The first polarized light passes through the array substrate **530**, a liquid crystal layer and the color filter substrate **540**.

[0064] When electric fields are applied to the liquid crystal layer, a transmissivity of the liquid crystal layer is adjusted. The first polarized light sequentially passes through the array substrate **530**, the liquid crystal layer, the color filter substrate **540** and the second polarizing plate **550**, so that the second polarizing plate **550** polarizes the first polarized light to form a second polarized light.

[0065] A first end of the gate TCP **560** is connected to an ineffective display region of the array substrate **530**, and a second end of the gate TCP **560** is connected to the gate PCB **570** to transfer an image signal generated from the gate PCB **570** to the array substrate **530**.

[0066] The top chassis **580** surrounds the second polarizing plate **550**, and the top chassis **580** is combined with the middle chassis **510** or the bottom chassis **410** to prevent the first polarizing plate **520**, the array substrate **530**, the color filter substrate **540** and the second polarizing plate **550** from being separated.

[0067] FIG. 5 is a schematic diagram showing an operation of a feedback detection part of FIG. 1.

[0068] Referring to FIGS. 1 and 5, the feedback detection part **300** includes an AND gate **310** and an adder **320**. The feedback detection part **300** controls the power supplying part **100** to turn on or turn off the power supplying part **100**. The feedback detection part **300** also controls a level of voltage that is applied to the lamp assembly **200**.

[0069] When the first to fourth lamps **210**, **220**, **230** and **240** provide the AND gate **310** with a signal respectively, the AND gate **310** outputs the feedback signal P1 of a first level. When one of the lamps **210**, **220**, **230** and **240** is in trouble, so that one of the signal is abnormal, the AND gate **310** outputs the feedback signal P1 of a second level. The feedback signal P1 is applied to the first switching control part **150**.

[0070] Thus, for example, when the first lamp **210** is abnormal, the feedback detection part **300** provides the first switching control part **150** with the feedback signal P1, so that an excess current may not flow via the second, third and

fourth lamps **220**, **230** and **240**. Thus, a life span of the second, third and fourth lamps **220**, **230** and **240** is not reduced.

[0071] The adder **320** sums a feedback signal from the first to fourth lamps **210**, **220**, **230** and **240** to form a summed signal P2. The summed signal P2 is transferred to the second switching part **160**.

[0072] Thus, problems occurring due to an excess or shortage of an electricity source applied to the lamps **210**, **220**, **230** and **240** are solved. In FIG. 5, the feedback detection part **300** is formed via one AND gate **310** and one adder **320**. However, the feedback detection part **300** may be embodied via various logic gates.

[0073] Then, hereinafter, an exemplary circuit of the feedback detection part will be explained.

[0074] FIG. 6 is a circuit diagram showing a feedback detection part of FIG. 1. The feedback detection part of FIG. 6 corresponds to four lamps for example.

[0075] Referring to FIGS. 1 and 6, the feedback detection part **300** includes first, second, third and fourth pull down sections **312**, **314**, **316** and **318**, and first, second, third and fourth tube current detection sections **322**, **324**, **326** and **328**. The feedback detection part **300** detects a tube current flowing through a tube of each lamp. The feedback detection part **300** outputs a first feedback signal P1 according to an opening of the lamp, and the feedback detection part **300** outputs also a tube current sum P2 of the lamps.

[0076] A ground port P3 of the feedback detection part **300** is electrically connected to a ground port of the power supplying part **100**, so that the feedback detection part **300** and the power supplying part **100** are electrically connected to the same ground voltage.

[0077] The first pull down section **312** includes first and second diodes D21 and D22, first and second resistors R21 and R22, a capacitor C21 and a first transistor Q1. The first pull down section **312** receives a tube current of the first lamp **210** and reference voltage LON, so that the first pull down section **312** outputs the feedback signal P1 that is in a high level or in a low level in response to the tube current. The feedback signal P1 is transferred to the first switching control part **150**. In detail, the tube current having half wave is applied to the first diode D21, and the tube current is rectified via the first and second resistors R21 and R22, and the capacitor C21. The rectified tube current is applied to a base electrode of the first transistor Q1. The reference voltage LON is applied to an emitter electrode of the first transistor Q1. The first transistor Q1 is turned on or off according to the level of the tube current that is applied to the base electrode. When the first transistor Q1 is turned on, the reference voltage LON applied to the emitter electrode is drained via a collector electrode that is connected to the ground voltage, so that a low leveled feedback signal P1 is applied to the first switching control part **150**.

[0078] When the first transistor Q1 is turned off, the reference voltage LON is outputted as the high leveled feedback signal P1. The high leveled feedback signal is applied also to the first switching control part **150**.

[0079] The first tube current detection section **322** includes third and fourth diodes D31 and D32, and a third resistor R31. The first tubes current detection section **322** is

electrically connected to the first lamp **210** so as to detect tube current, and the first tube current detection section **322** provides the second switching control part **160** with the detected tube current.

[**0080**] The second pull down section **314** includes first and second diodes **D41** and **D42**, first and second resistors **R41** and **R42**, a capacitor **C41** and a second transistor **Q2**. The second pull down section **314** receives a tube current of the second lamp **220** and reference voltage LON, so that the second pull down section **314** outputs the feedback signal **P1** that is in a high level or in a low level in response to the tube current. The feedback signal **P1** is transferred to the first switching control part **150**. In detail, the tube current having half wave is applied to the first diode **D41**, and the tube current is rectified via the first and second resistors **R41** and **R42**, and the capacitor **C41**. The rectified tube current is applied to a base electrode of the second transistor **Q2**. The reference voltage LON is applied to an emitter electrode of the second transistor **Q2**. The second transistor **Q2** is turned on or off according to the level of the tube current that is applied to the base electrode. When the second transistor **Q2** is turned on, the reference voltage LON applied to the emitter electrode is drained via a collector electrode that is connected to the ground voltage, so that a low leveled feedback signal **P1** is applied to the first switching control part **150**.

[**0081**] When the second transistor **Q2** is turned off, the reference voltage LON is outputted as the high leveled feedback signal **P1**. The high leveled feedback signal is applied also to the first switching control part **150**.

[**0082**] The second tube current detection section **324** includes third and fourth diodes **D51** and **D52**, and a third resistor **R51**. The second tubes current detection section **324** is electrically connected to the second lamp **220** so as to detect tube current, and the second tube current detection section **324** provides the second switching control part **160** with the detected tube current.

[**0083**] The third pull down section **316** includes first and second diodes **D61** and **D62**, first and second resistors **R61** and **R62**, a capacitor **C61** and a transistor third **Q3**. The third pull down section **316** receives a tube current of the third lamp **230** and reference voltage LON, so that the third pull down section **316** outputs the feedback signal **P1** that is in a high level or in a low level in response to the tube current. The feedback signal **P1** is transferred to the first switching control part **150**. In detail, the tube current having half wave is applied to the first diode **D61**, and the tube current is rectified via the first and second resistors **R61** and **R62**, and the capacitor **C61**. The rectified tube current is applied to a base electrode of the third transistor **Q3**. The reference voltage LON is applied to an emitter electrode of the third transistor **Q3**. The third transistor **Q3** is turned on or off according to the level of the tube current that is applied to the base electrode. When the third transistor **Q3** is turned on, the reference voltage LON applied to the emitter electrode is drained via a collector electrode that is connected to the ground voltage, so that a low leveled feedback signal **P1** is applied to the first switching control part **150**.

[**0084**] When the third transistor **Q3** is turned off, the reference voltage LON is outputted as the high leveled feedback signal **P1**. The high leveled feedback signal is applied also to the first switching control part **150**.

[**0085**] The third tube current detection section **326** includes third and fourth diodes **D71** and **D72**, and a third resistor **R71**. The third tubes current detection section **326** is electrically connected to the third lamp **230** so as to detect tube current, and the third tube current detection section **326** provides the second switching control part **160** with the detected tube current.

[**0086**] The fourth pull down section **318** includes first and second diodes **D81** and **D82**, first and second resistors **R81** and **R82**, a capacitor **C81** and a fourth transistor **Q4**. The fourth pull down section **318** receives a tube current of the fourth lamp **240** and reference voltage LON, so that the fourth pull down section **318** outputs the feedback signal **P1** that is in a high level or in a low level in response to the tube current. The feedback signal **P1** is transferred to the first switching control part **150**. In detail, the tube current having half wave is applied to the first diode **D81**, and the tube current is rectified via the first and second resistors **R81** and **R82**, and the capacitor **C81**. The rectified tube current is applied to a base electrode of the fourth transistor **Q4**. The reference voltage LON is applied to an emitter electrode of the fourth transistor **Q4**. The fourth transistor **Q4** is turned on or off according to the level of the tube current that is applied to the base electrode. When the fourth transistor **Q4** is turned on, the reference voltage LON applied to the emitter electrode is drained via a collector electrode that is connected to the ground voltage, so that a low leveled feedback signal **P1** is applied to the first switching control part **150**.

[**0087**] When the fourth transistor **Q4** is turned off, the reference voltage LON is outputted as the high leveled feedback signal **P1**. The high leveled feedback signal is applied also to the first switching control part **150**.

[**0088**] The fourth tube current detection section **328** includes third and fourth diodes **D91** and **D92**, and a third resistor **R91**. The fourth tubes current detection section **328** is electrically connected to the fourth lamp **240** so as to detect tube current, and the fourth tube current detection section **328** provides the second switching control part **160** with the detected tube current.

[**0089**] Preferably, ground terminals of the first to fourth pull down sections **312**, **314**, **316** and **318**, and the first to fourth tube current detection sections **322**, **324**, **326** and **328** are connected to a common ground voltage. More preferably, the ground terminals are electrically connected to the ground terminals of the power supplying part **100**.

[**0090**] As explained above, the feedback detection part outputs a low leveled feedback signal when a tube current flows via tubes of the lamps. The feedback detection part outputs a high leveled feedback signal when the tube current does not flow through one of the tubes of the lamps. Thus, the feedback detection part detects an operation of each of the lamps.

[**0091**] FIG. 7 is a circuit diagram showing a first switching control part of FIG. 1.

[**0092**] Referring to FIG. 7, a first switching control part **150** includes a diode **D2**, first, second and third resistors **R1**, **R2** and **R3**, a voltage source, fifth and sixth transistors **Q5** and **Q6**, and a capacitor **C2**. A cathode of the voltage source is electrically connected to a ground voltage, and an anode of the voltage source is electrically connected to a first node **N1**. The second resistor **R2** electrically connects the first

node N1 to a second node N2. An anode electrode of the diode D2 is electrically connected to the second node N2, and a cathode electrode of the diode D2 is electrically connected to a base electrode of the fifth transistor Q5. A collector electrode of the fifth transistor Q5 is electrically connected to the first node N1, and an emitter electrode of the fifth transistor Q5 is electrically connected to a base electrode of the sixth transistor Q6. A collector electrode of the sixth transistor Q6 is electrically connected to a third node N3, and an emitter electrode of the sixth transistor Q6 is electrically connected to a fourth node N4 that is electrically connected to a ground voltage. The third resistor R3 electrically connects the third node N3 to the first node N1. The capacitor C2 electrically connects the third node N3 to the fourth node N4. A first end of the first resistor R1 is electrically connected to the second node N2, and a second end of the first resistor R1 is electrically connected to a ground voltage.

[0093] The first switching control part 150 outputs the first switching signal 151 via a collector electrode of the sixth transistor Q6 so as to turn on or turn off the first switching part 110 in response to the feedback signal P1 provided from the feedback detection part 300 via the diode D2.

[0094] When the feedback signal P1 is in a low level, the fifth and sixth transistors Q5 and Q6 are turned off, so that a voltage provided from the voltage source is outputted via the collector electrode of the sixth transistor Q6. Thus, the first switching signal 151 is in a high level. The high leveled signal 151 turns on the first switching part 110, so that an electricity source VIN provided from an external device is continuously applied to the second switching part 120.

[0095] When the feedback signal P1 is in a high level, the fifth and sixth transistors Q5 and Q6 are turned on, so that a voltage provided from the voltage source is drained via the emitter electrode of the sixth transistor Q6. Thus, a low leveled first switching signal is outputted via the collector electrode of the sixth transistor Q6. The low leveled signal 151 turns off the first switching part 110, so that an electricity source VIN is not applied to the second switching part 120.

[0096] Hereinbefore, when all lamps operate normally, the feedback signal P1 provided from the feedback detection part 300 is set to be in a low level, and when at least one of the lamps is abnormal, the feedback signal P1 is set to be in a high level. However, the feedback signal P1 may be set to be inverse. That is, when all lamps operate normally, the feedback signal P1 may be set to be in a high level, and when at least one of the lamps is abnormal, the feedback signal P1 may be set to be in a low level.

[0097] FIG. 8 is a graph showing a result of simulation according to the present invention. Especially, FIG. 8 shows a voltage when one of lamps is abnormal.

[0098] Referring to FIG. 8, when all lamps 210, 220, 230 and 240 of the lamp assembly 200 operate normally, the feedback detection part 300 detects high leveled voltage V_{lamp} of the lamp. When at least one of the lamps 210, 220, 230 and 240 is abnormal, the voltage V_{lamp} of the lamp drops to be in a low level.

[0099] When the voltage V_{lamp} is in a low level, the first switching control part 150 provides the first switching part 110 with a first switching control signal 151 that is trans-

formed from a low level to a high level. The first switching part 110 in a turned on state is turned off according to the high leveled first control signal 151. Thus, a power provided from an external device is not provided to remaining lamps that are in normal state, so that an excess current does not flow via the remaining lamps.

[0100] Having described the exemplary embodiments of the present invention and its advantages, it is noted that various changes, substitutions and alterations can be made herein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by appended claims.

[0101] As described above, although one power supply provides all lamps with power, when at least one of the lamps is abnormal, then whole circuit is opened. Thus, excess current does not flow via remaining lamps that are normal. As a result, a life span of the lamps is not reduced, and a lamp driving device is safe.

[0102] Further, the lamp feedback detection part receiving a plurality of lamps and detecting the tube current may be formed on one printed circuit board. Thus, when a backlight assembly adopts the feedback detection part, productivity is enhanced.

What is claimed is:

1. A lamp driving device comprising:

a power supplying part that provides a plurality of lamps electrically connected in parallel to each other with power; and

a feedback detection part, the feedback detection part receiving current that flows via the lamps to provide the power supplying part with a feedback signal that prevents the power supplying part from providing normal lamps with power, when at least one of the lamps is abnormal.

2. The lamp driving device of claim 1, wherein the feedback detection part sums the currents that flow each of the lamps to form a summed current, and the feedback detection part provides the power supplying part with the summed current.

3. The lamp driving device of claim 1, wherein the power supplying part comprises:

a first switching part that connects or opens a current path through which a direct current provided from an external device flows;

an inverting part that transforms the direct current into a first alternating current;

a transforming part that transforming the first alternating current that is in a low level state to a second alternating current that is in a high level state to provide the lamps with the second alternating current; and

a first switching control part that provides the first switching part with a first switching control signal to turn off the first switching part, when the first switching control part receives the feedback signal from the feedback detection part.

4. The lamp driving device of claim 3, wherein the first switching control part comprises a diode, first, second and third resistors, a voltage source, fifth and sixth transistors and a capacitor, a) a cathode of the voltage source is electrically connected to a ground voltage and an anode of

the voltage source is electrically connected to a first node, b) the second resistor electrically connects the first node to a second node, c) an anode electrode of the diode is electrically connected to the second node and a cathode electrode of the diode is electrically connected to a base electrode of the fifth transistor, d) a collector electrode of the fifth transistor is electrically connected to the first node and an emitter electrode of the fifth transistor is electrically connected to a base electrode of the sixth transistor, e) a collector electrode of the sixth transistor is electrically connected to a third node and an emitter electrode of the sixth transistor is electrically connected to a fourth node that is electrically connected to a ground voltage, f) the third resistor electrically connects the third node to the first node, g) the capacitor electrically connects the third node to the fourth node, and h) a first end of the first resistor is electrically connected to the second node and a second end of the first resistor is electrically connected to a ground voltage.

5. The lamp driving device of claim 3, wherein the power supplying part further comprises:

a second switching part that connects or opens a current path through which a direct current provided from the first switching part device flows toward the inverting part; and

a second switching control part that receives a signal from the feedback detection part, the signal corresponding to a sum of the currents that flow each of the lamps, the second switching control part comparing the signal with a predetermined reference signal to form a second switching control signal, and the second switching control part providing the second switching part with the second switching control signal.

6. The lamp driving device of claim 1, wherein the feedback detection part comprises:

an AND operation section that receives currents that flow each of the lamps, so that the AND operation section provides the power supplying part with the feedback signal when one of the currents is out of a predetermined range; and

an adding section that sums the currents that flow each of the lamps to provide the power supplying part.

7. The lamp driving device of claim 6, wherein the AND operation section outputs the feedback signal, when one of the currents that flows each of the lamps is below the predetermined range.

8. The lamp driving device of claim 6, wherein the power supplying part, the AND operation section and the adding section are commonly grounded.

9. The lamp driving device of claim 1, wherein the feedback detection part detects an opening of the lamps.

10. The lamp driving device of claim 1, wherein the feedback detection part controls an amount of currents that flows the lamp.

11. A backlight assembly comprising:

i) a lamp assembly that includes a plurality of lamps generating a light;

ii) a lamp driving part including:

a power supplying part that provides a plurality of lamps electrically connected in parallel to each other with power; and

a feedback detection part receiving current that flows via the lamps to provide the power supplying part with a feedback signal that prevents the power supplying part from providing normal lamps with power, when at least one of the lamps is abnormal; and

iii) a receiving container that receives the lamp assembly and the lamp driving part.

12. The backlight assembly of claim 11, wherein the feedback detection part sums the currents that flow each of the lamps to form a summed current, and the feedback detection part provides the power supplying part with the summed current.

13. The backlight assembly of claim 11, wherein the power supplying part comprises:

a first switching part that connects or opens a current path through which a direct current provided from an external device flows;

an inverting part that transforms the direct current into a first alternating current;

a transforming part that transforms the first alternating current that is in a low level state to a second alternating current that is in a high level state to provide the lamps with the second alternating current; and

a first switching control part that provides the first switching part with a first switching control signal to turn off the first switching part, when the first switching control part receives the feedback signal from the feedback detection part.

14. The backlight assembly of claim 13, wherein the first switching control part comprises a diode, first, second and third resistors, a voltage source, fifth and sixth transistors and a capacitor, a) a cathode of the voltage source is electrically connected to a ground voltage and an anode of the voltage source is electrically connected to a first node, b) the second resistor electrically connects the first node to a second node, c) an anode electrode of the diode is electrically connected to the second node and a cathode electrode of the diode is electrically connected to a base electrode of the fifth transistor, d) a collector electrode of the fifth transistor is electrically connected to the first node and an emitter electrode of the fifth transistor is electrically connected to a base electrode of the sixth transistor, e) a collector electrode of the sixth transistor is electrically connected to a third node and an emitter electrode of the sixth transistor is electrically connected to a fourth node that is electrically connected to a ground voltage, f) the third resistor electrically connects the third node to the first node, g) the capacitor electrically connects the third node to the fourth node, and h) a first end of the first resistor is electrically connected to the second node and a second end of the first resistor is electrically connected to a ground voltage.

15. The backlight assembly of claim 13, wherein the power supplying part further comprises:

a second switching part that connects or opens a current path through which a direct current provided from the first switching part device flows toward the inverting part; and

a second switching control part that receives a signal from the feedback detection part, the signal corresponding to

a sum of the currents that flow each of the lamps, the second switching control part comparing the signal with a predetermined reference signal to form a second switching control signal, and the second switching control part providing the second switching part with the second switching control signal.

16. The backlight assembly of claim 11, wherein the feedback detection part comprises:

an AND operation section that receives currents that flow each of the lamps, so that the AND operation section provides the power supplying part with the feedback signal when one of the currents is out of a predetermined range; and

an adding section that sums the currents that flow each of the lamps to provide the power supplying part.

17. The backlight assembly of claim 16, wherein the AND operation section outputs the feedback signal, when one of the currents that flows each of the lamps is below the predetermined range.

18. The backlight assembly of claim 16, wherein the power supplying part, the AND operation section and the adding section are commonly grounded.

19. The backlight assembly of claim 11, wherein the feedback detection part is formed on a printed circuit board that includes first receiving holes, and each of the lamps is inserted into the respective first receiving holes.

20. The backlight assembly of claim 19, wherein the receiving container comprises:

a first receiving container including a bottom plate and a first sidewall protruding from an edge of the bottom plate; and

a second receiving container including a second sidewall, the second receiving container being disposed inside of

the first receiving container, the second sidewall including second receiving hole corresponding to the first side hole that allows the lamps penetrating the second sidewall so that the printed circuit board is disposed between the first and second sidewalls.

21. The backlight assembly of claim 11, wherein each of the lamp corresponds to a cold cathode fluorescent lamp (CCFL) that has a lamp tube and two internal electrodes disposed in the lamp tube, an external electrode fluorescent lamp (EEFL) that has a lamp tube and two external electrodes disposed outside of the lamp tube, or a external and internal electrode fluorescent lamp (EIFL) that has a lamp tube, one internal electrode and one external electrode.

22. A liquid crystal display apparatus comprising:

a backlight assembly including i) a lamp assembly that includes a plurality of lamps generating a light, and ii) a lamp driving part having a) a power supplying part that provides a plurality of lamps electrically connected in parallel to each other with power, and b) a feedback detection part, the feedback detection part receiving current that flows via the lamps to provide the power supplying part with a feedback signal that prevents the power supplying part from providing normal lamps with power, when at least one of the lamps is abnormal; and

a liquid crystal display panel assembly that transforms a light generated from the lamps of the backlight assembly into an image.

23. The liquid crystal display apparatus of claim 22, wherein the feedback detection part is formed on a printed circuit board.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	灯驱动装置，背光组件和具有该灯驱动装置的液晶显示装置		
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摘要(译)

灯驱动装置包括供电部分和反馈检测部分。供电部件提供多个彼此并联电连接的灯。当至少一个灯异常时，反馈检测部件接收经由灯流动的电流，以向供电部件提供反馈信号，该反馈信号防止供电部件为普通灯提供电力。虽然一个电源为所有灯提供电源，但当至少一个灯发生异常时，整个电路都会打开。因此，过剩的电流不会通过正常的剩余灯流动。因此，灯的寿命不会减少，并且灯驱动装置是安全的。

