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Akutsu et al.(10) **Pub. No.: US 2006/0208992 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Sep. 21, 2006**(54) **ACTIVE MATRIX TYPE LIQUID CRYSTAL
DISPLAY DEVICE****Publication Classification**(75) Inventors: **Hikaru Akutsu**, Gifu (JP); **Yusuke
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MCLEAN, VA 22102 (US)(57) **ABSTRACT**(73) Assignee: **SANYO ELECTRIC CO., LTD.**, Osaka
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Power consumption in an active matrix type liquid crystal display device having partial display function is reduced. In one frame period, a display area corresponding to first 80 horizontal periods, that is the first line through the 80th line, is set as a partial display area and a display area corresponding to the remaining 239 lines is set as a background display area. And a partial display area control signal ENBSC is set at a low level and an SC inversion drive is performed in the partial display area. The partial display area control signal ENBSC is fixed at a high level in the background display area and all of SC inversion control units corresponding to the background display area halt their operation.

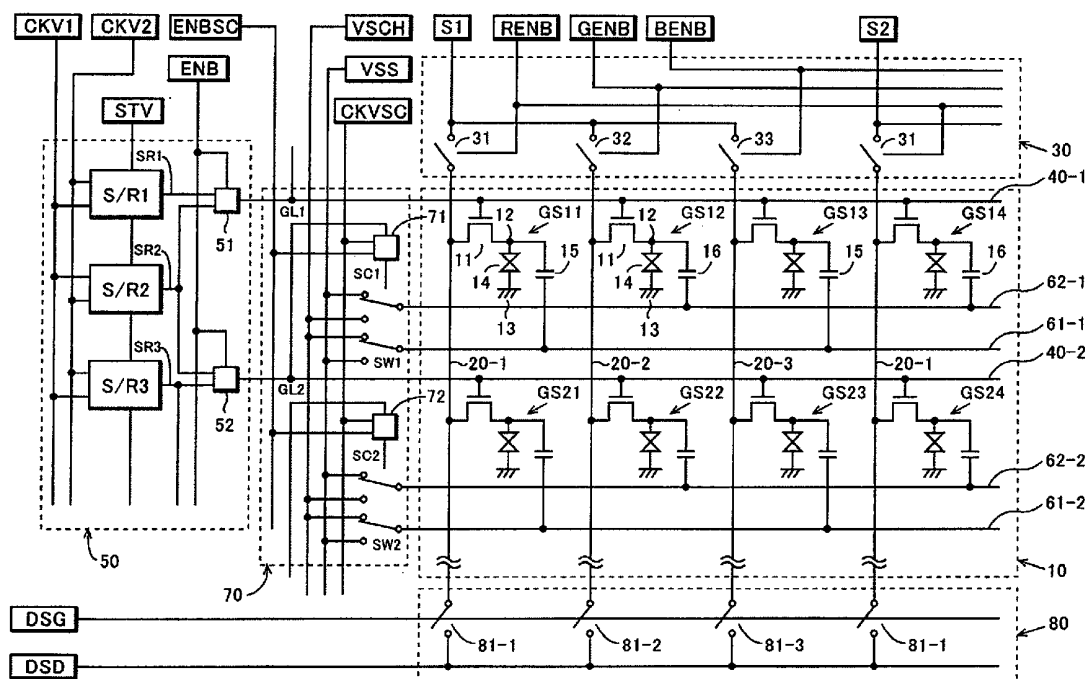


FIG. 1

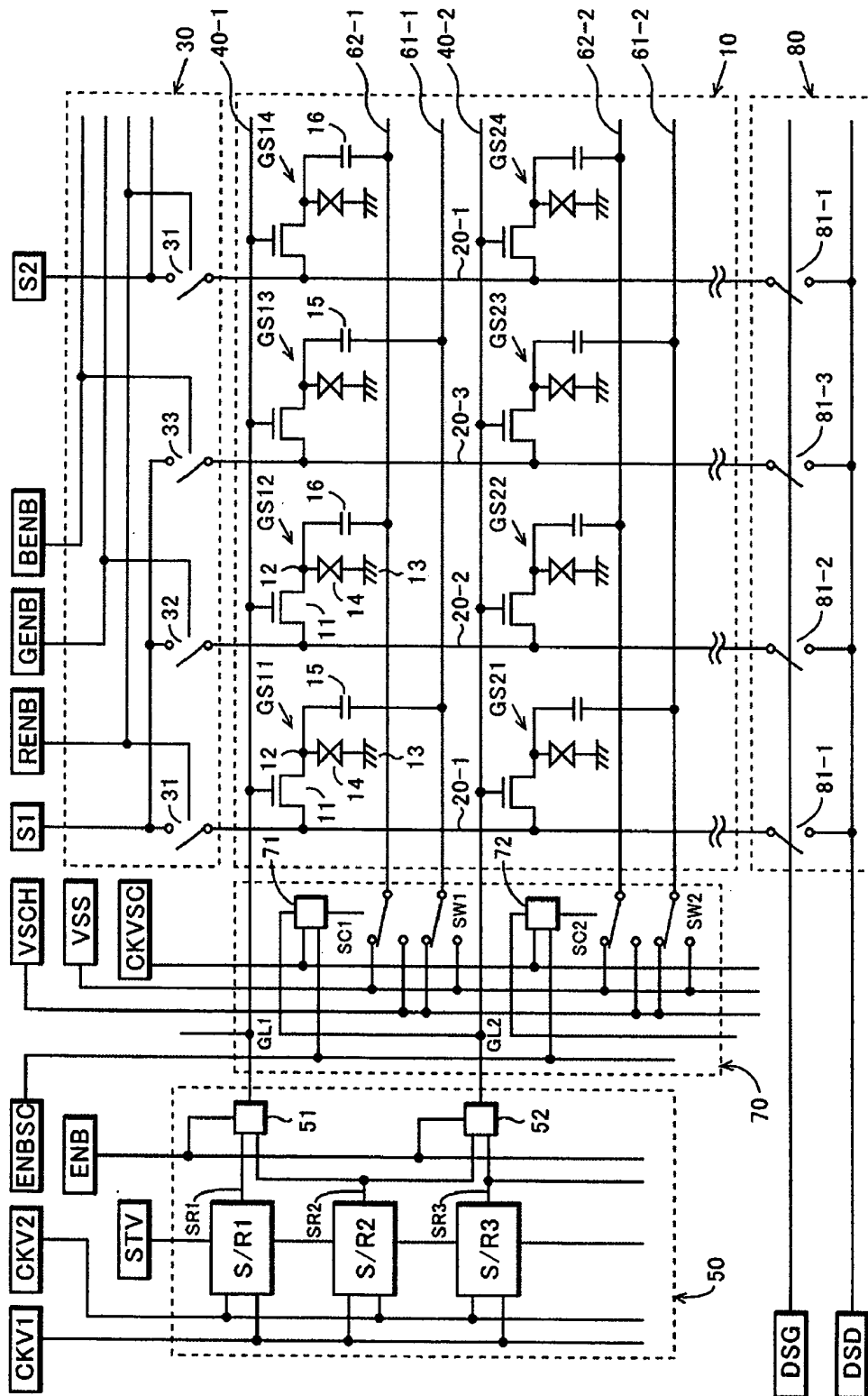


FIG.2A

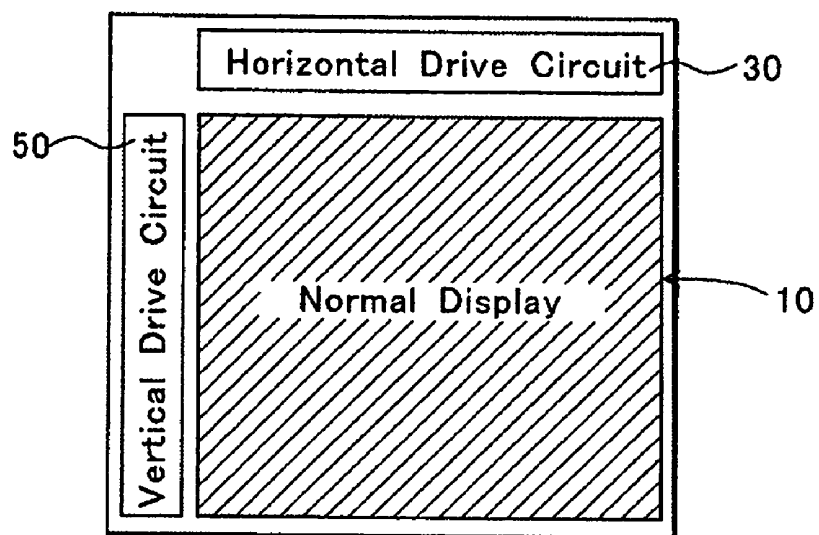


FIG.2B

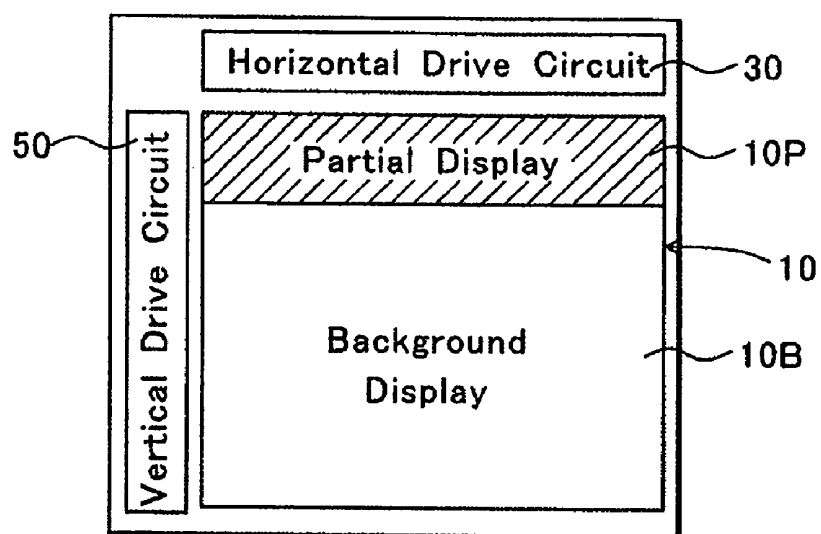


FIG.3

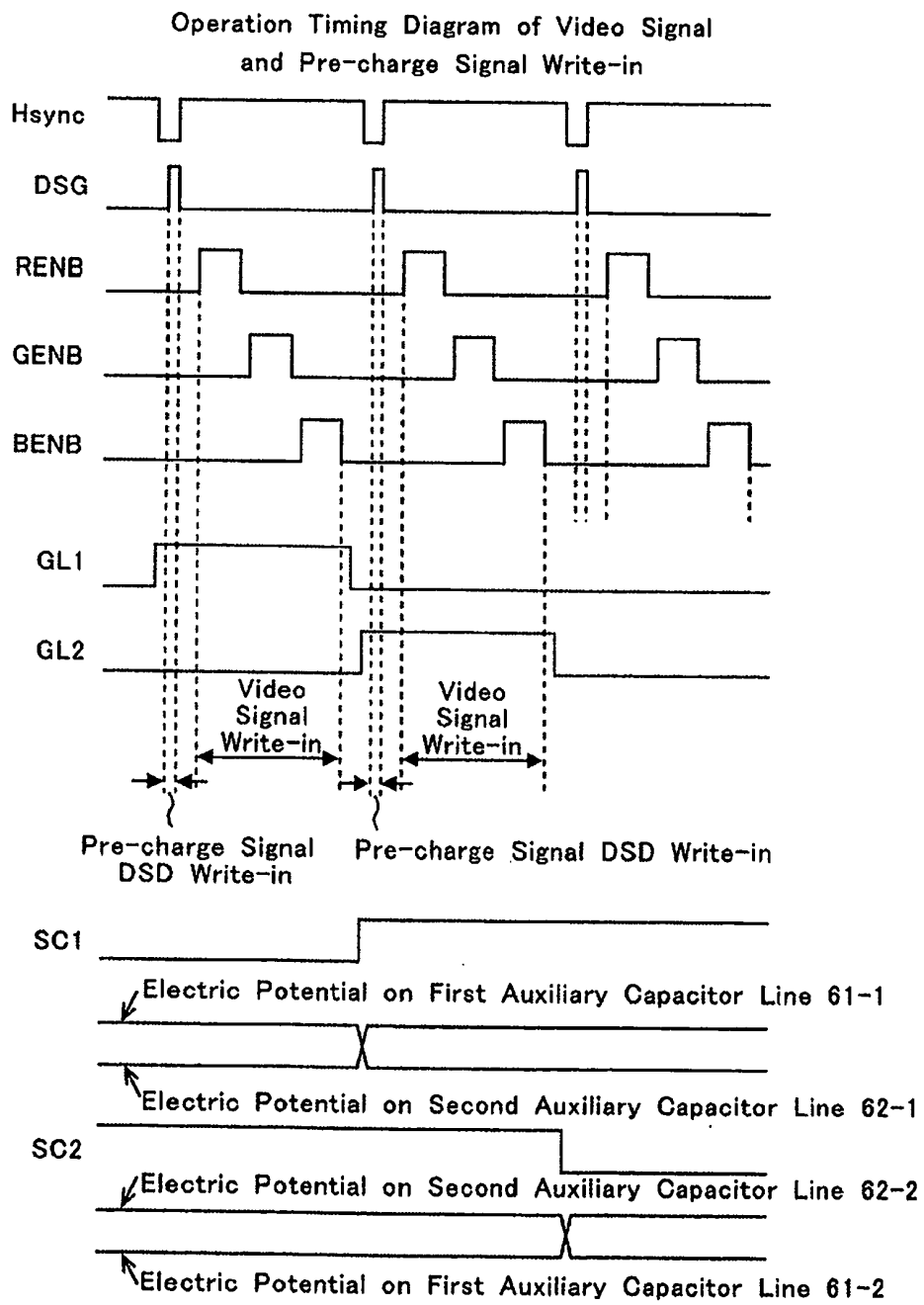


FIG. 4

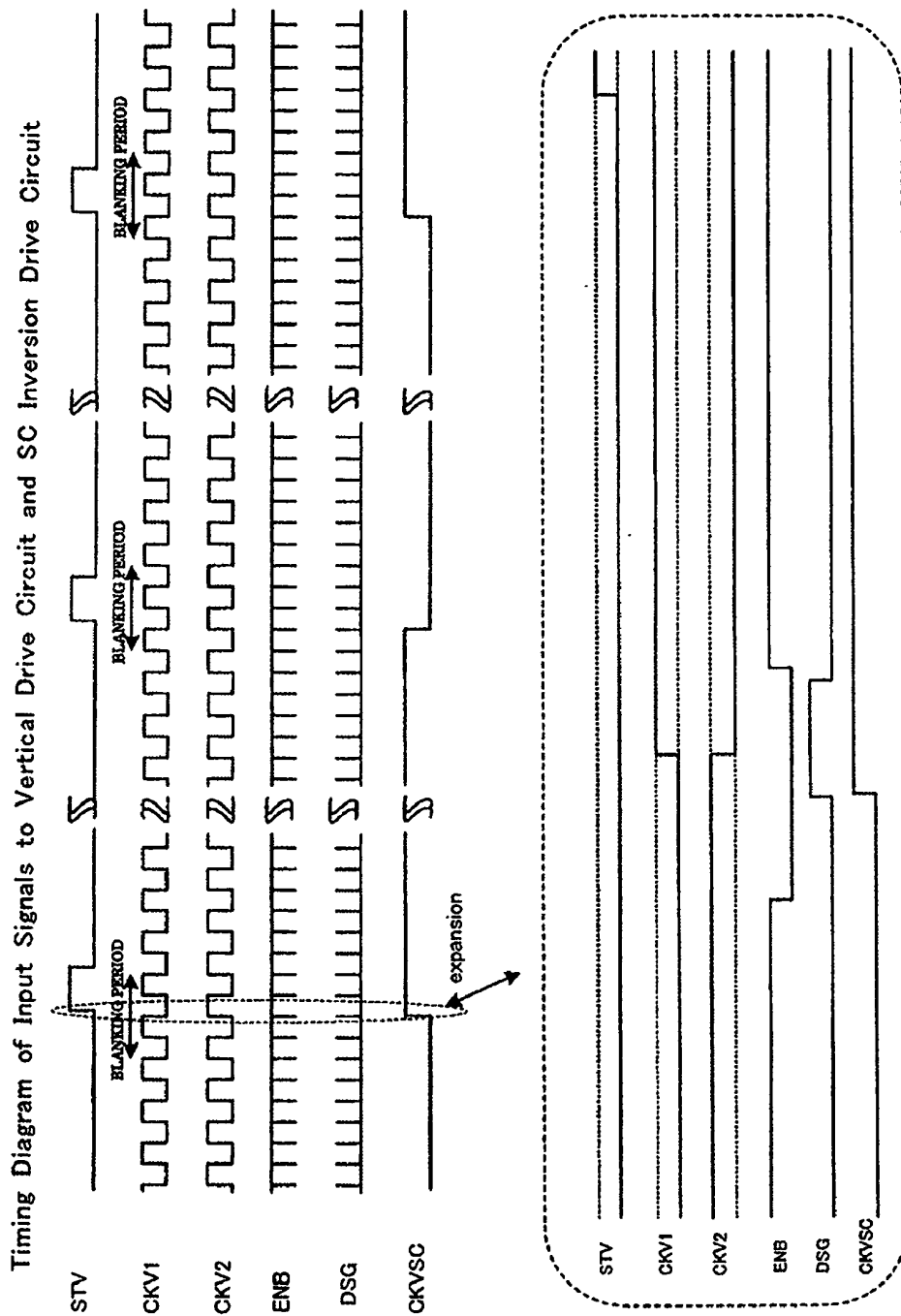


FIG. 5

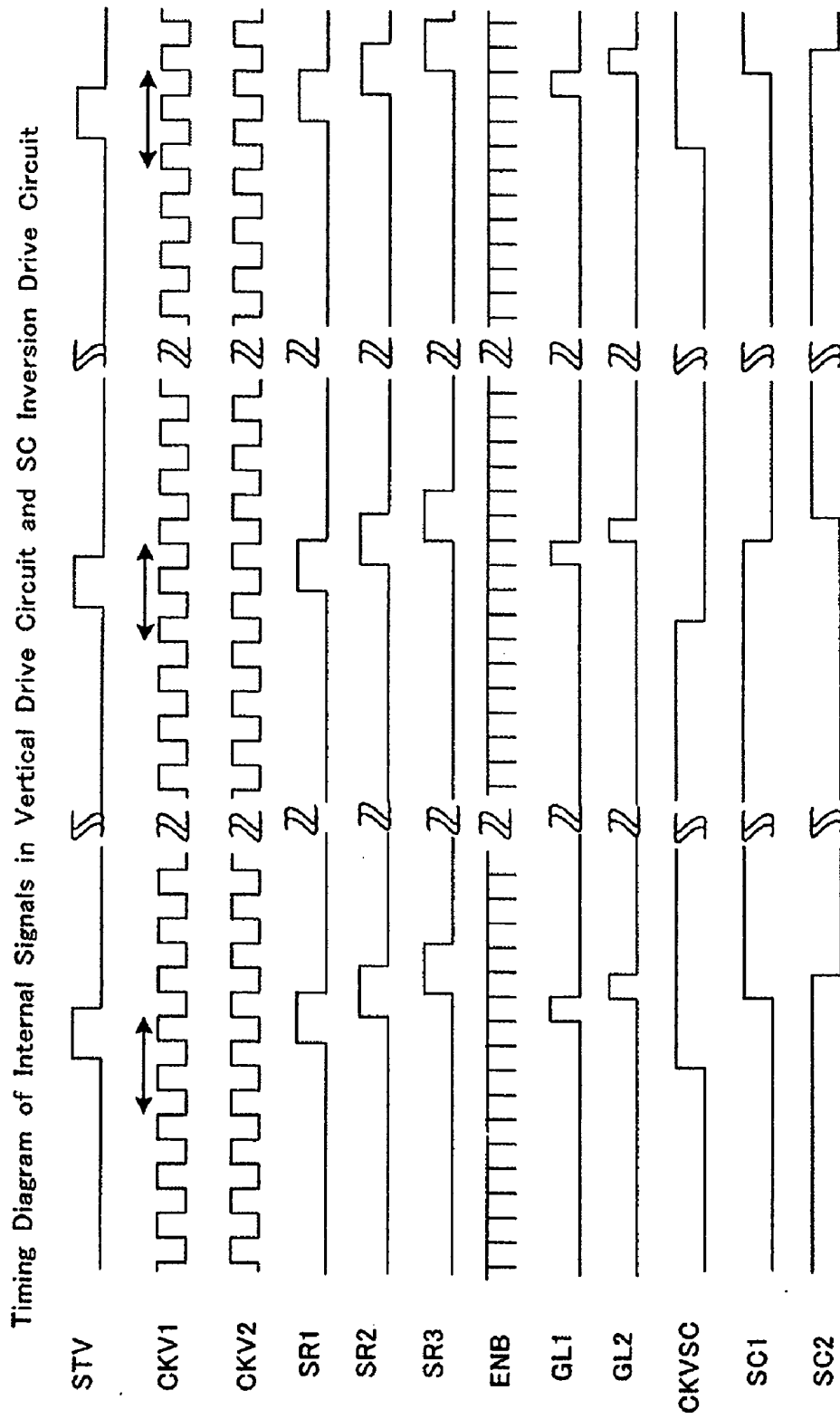


FIG. 6A Electric Potentials in Pixel GS11

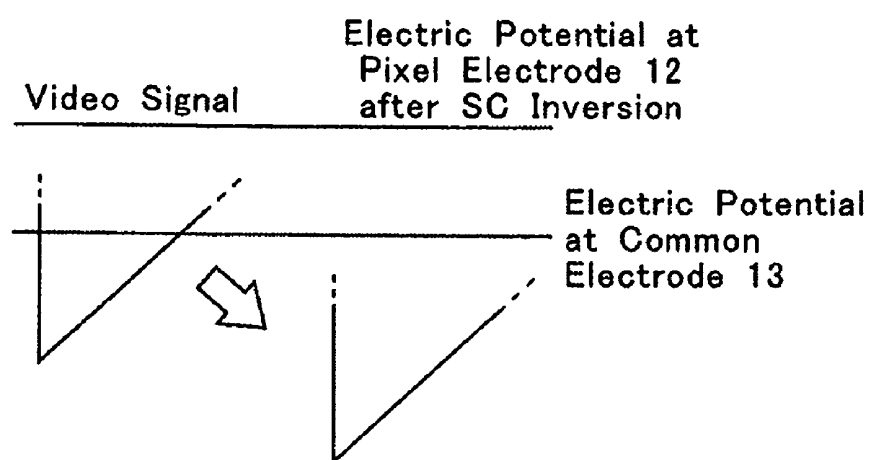


FIG. 6B Electric Potentials in Pixel GS12

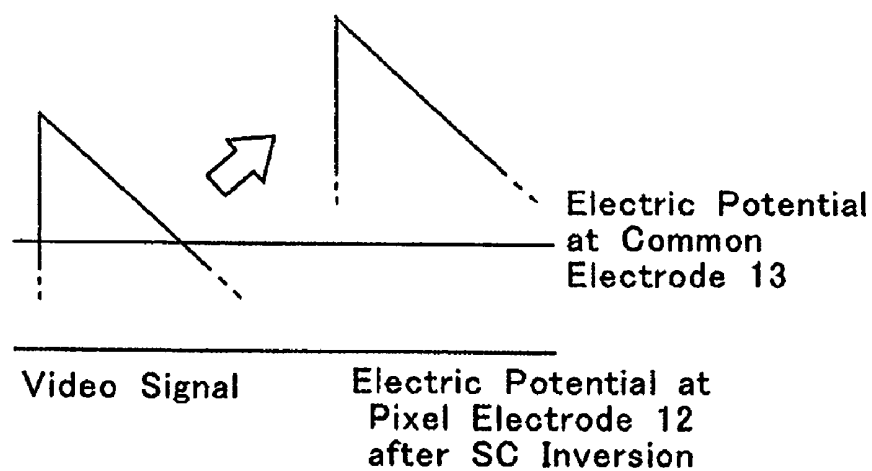


FIG. 7

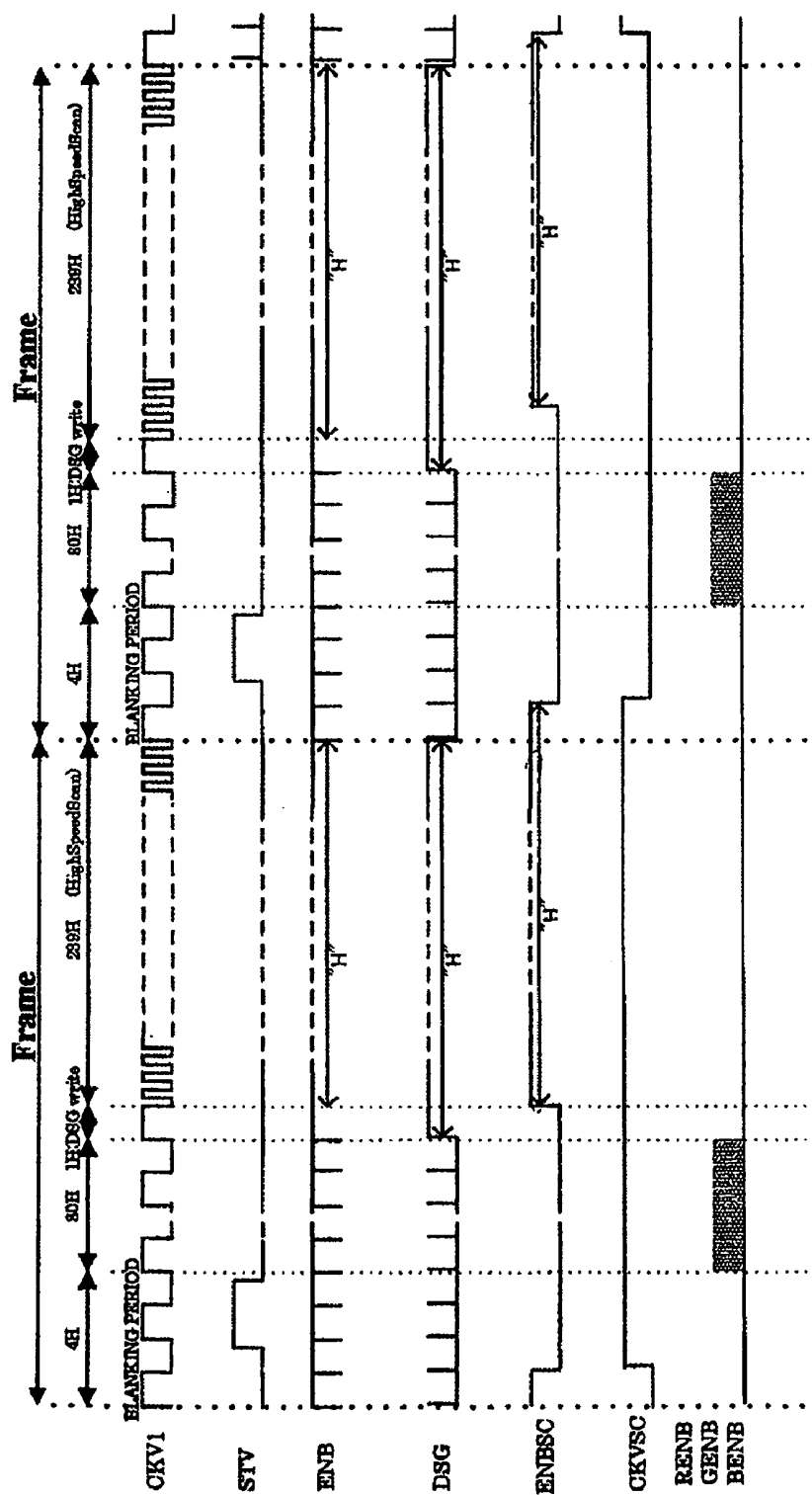
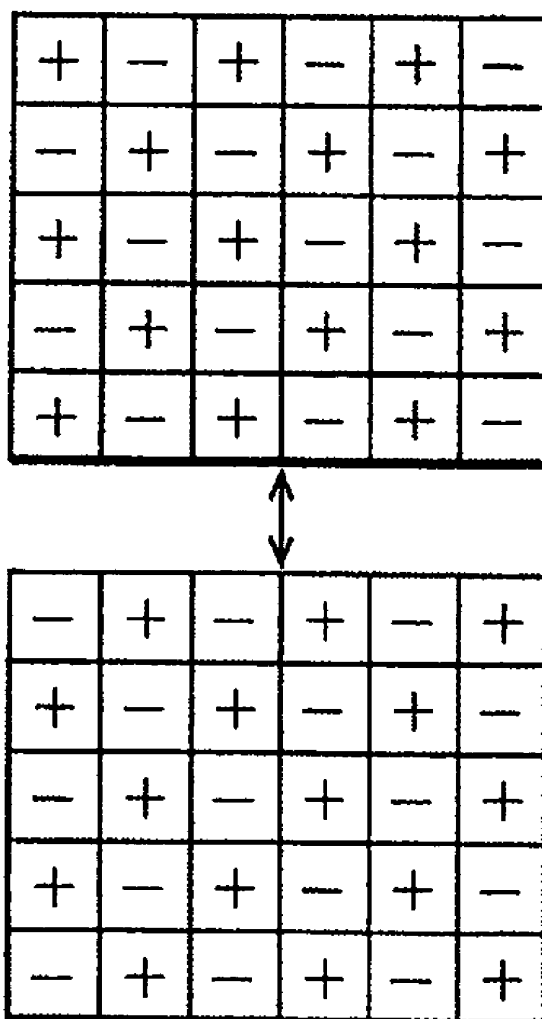


FIG. 8
PRIOR ART



ACTIVE MATRIX TYPE LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE

CROSS-REFERENCE OF THE INVENTION

[0001] This invention is based on Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-342366, the content of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] 1. Field of the Invention:

[0003] This invention relates to an active matrix type liquid crystal display device, specifically to an active matrix type liquid crystal display device having a partial display function and an auxiliary capacitor line inversion drive function.

[0004] 2. Description of the Related Art:

[0005] In the active matrix type liquid crystal display device in which a pixel electrode of each pixel is provided with a video signal through a switching device such as a TFT (Thin Film Transistor), deterioration of a liquid crystal has been prevented by common electrode AC driving, that is, applying alternating electric potential to auxiliary capacitors and a common electrode that is facing the pixel electrodes.

[0006] However, capacitive load arising from the common electrode and all auxiliary capacitor lines and power consumption due to them remain large, since the common electrode AC driving in which the polarity of the video signal provided to each drain line is inverted once every horizontal period requires inverting the polarity of the electric potential at the common electrode and all the auxiliary capacitor lines once every horizontal period.

[0007] Japanese Patent Application Publication No. H12-81606 discloses a driving method to reduce power consumption of a horizontal drive circuit by inverting the polarity of the electric potential at the auxiliary capacitor lines at a constant interval while keeping the electric potential at the common electrode constant so as to reduce potential difference between the positive polarity and the negative polarity of the video signal in order to realize further low power consumption. The method is hereafter referred to as SC inversion driving which is a short form for an auxiliary capacitor line inversion driving method.

[0008] Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2003-150127 discloses a dot inversion driving method in which voltages of different polarities are applied to pixel electrodes adjacent to each other in a direction of a gate line so that the pixels adjacent to each other in horizontal and vertical directions are applied voltages of different polarities as shown in FIG. 8, in order to prevent capacitive coupling caused in the SC inversion driving and resulting variations in a picture.

[0009] On the other hand, Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2004-12890 discloses an active matrix type liquid crystal display device having a partial display function that performs a partial display at a time of power saving by providing pixels only in a partial display area selected from a liquid crystal display area with a desired video signal through the switching devices and providing pixels in the rest of the display area, that is defined as a background display area, with a white signal or a black signal through the switching devices.

[0010] This invention is directed to reduce the power consumption of the active matrix type liquid crystal display device using the SC inversion driving as described above when it performs the partial display function.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0011] The invention provides an active matrix type liquid crystal display device configured to operate under a normal display mode and a partial display mode. The device includes a plurality of pixels arranged in a matrix form having rows and columns, a pixel electrode disposed in each of the pixels, a common electrode, a liquid crystal layer disposed between the common electrode and the pixel electrodes, a switching device disposed in each of the pixels, receiving a gate signal and connected with a corresponding pixel electrode, a vertical drive circuit outputting the gate signals to the switching devices based on a vertical clock, a first auxiliary capacitor line and a second auxiliary capacitor line that are disposed along each row of the matrix, an auxiliary capacitor line inversion drive circuit that performs an inversion drive to invert electric potentials at the first and second auxiliary capacitor lines at a predetermined interval so that the electric potentials at the first and second auxiliary capacitor lines are opposite in phase to each other, and a plurality of first auxiliary capacitors connected with the first auxiliary capacitor line and a plurality of second auxiliary capacitors connected with the second auxiliary capacitor line. Each of the pixel electrodes is connected with one of the first auxiliary capacitors or one of the second auxiliary capacitors. The device also includes a horizontal drive circuit that under the partial display mode provides each of pixels selected according to a partial display area control signal with an image signal that is supplied to a corresponding pixel electrode through a corresponding switching device. Under the partial display mode the auxiliary capacitor line inversion drive circuit is configured to perform the inversion drive for the selected pixels and halt the inversion drive for pixels not selected by the partial display area control signal.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012] FIG. 1 is a circuit diagram showing an active matrix type liquid crystal display device according to an embodiment of this invention.

[0013] FIGS. 2A and 2B show display modes in the active matrix type liquid crystal display device according to the embodiment of this invention.

[0014] FIG. 3 is a timing diagram showing horizontal scanning in the active matrix type liquid crystal display device according to the embodiment of this invention.

[0015] FIG. 4 is a timing diagram showing input signals to the vertical drive circuit 50 and the SC inversion drive circuit in the active matrix type liquid crystal display device according to the embodiment of this invention.

[0016] FIG. 5 is a timing diagram showing internal signals in the vertical drive circuit 50 and the SC inversion drive circuit in the active matrix type liquid crystal display device according to the embodiment of this invention.

[0017] FIGS. 6A and 6B show changes in electric potentials at pixels due to the SC inversion driving in the active

matrix type liquid crystal display device according to the embodiment of this invention.

[0018] **FIG. 7** is a timing diagram showing operation of the active matrix type liquid crystal display device according to the embodiment of this invention.

[0019] **FIG. 8** shows the dot inversion driving of an active matrix type liquid crystal display device.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0020] Next, an active matrix type liquid crystal display device according to an embodiment of this invention will be described hereafter, referring to the drawings. **FIG. 1** is a circuit diagram showing the active matrix type liquid crystal display device.

[0021] The active matrix type liquid crystal display device includes a display area **10** made of a plurality of pixels **GS11**, **GS12**, . . . disposed on a glass substrate in a matrix form, a horizontal drive circuit **30** that outputs video signals to drain lines **20-1**, **20-2**, . . . each connected with a drain of a switching TFT **11** in each of the pixels arrayed in a column direction, a vertical drive circuit **50** that outputs gate signals to gate lines **40-1**, **40-2**, . . . each connected with a gate of a switching TFT **11** in each of the pixels arrayed in a row direction, an auxiliary capacitor line inversion drive circuit (hereafter referred to as an SC inversion drive circuit) **70** that drives a first auxiliary capacitor line **61-1** and a second auxiliary capacitor line **62-1** extending in the row direction corresponding to each row of the pixels so that electric potentials at the first and the second auxiliary capacitor lines **61-1** and **62-1** are opposite in phase to each other and a pre-charge circuit **80** that provides drain lines **20-1**, **20-2**, . . . with a pre-charge signal.

[0022] A structure of each of the circuits described above will be explained hereinafter in detail. First, in a first row in the display area **10**, an array of a red pixel, a green pixel and a blue pixel is disposed and repeated in a row direction, in an order of red, green and blue, such as a red pixel **GS11**, a green pixel **GS12**, a blue pixel **GS13**, a red pixel **GS14** and so on. Similarly, in a second row, an array of a red pixel, a green pixel and a blue pixel is disposed and repeated in a row direction, in the order of red, green and blue, such as a red pixel **GS21**, a green pixel **GS22**, a blue pixel **GS23**, a red pixel **GS24** and so on.

[0023] In the pixel **GS11**, for example, there are provided the switching TFT the gate of which is connected with the gate line **40-1**, a pixel electrode **12** connected with a source of the switching TFT **11**, a liquid crystal **14** sealed between the pixel electrode **12** and a common electrode **13** and a first auxiliary capacitor **15** connected between the pixel electrode **12** and the first auxiliary capacitor line **61-1**. The pixel **GS12** adjacent the pixel **GS11** is structured similarly except that there is provided a second auxiliary capacitor **16** connected between the pixel electrode **12** and the second auxiliary capacitor line **62-1** instead of the first auxiliary capacitor **15**.

[0024] And in the pixel **GS13** adjacent the pixel **GS12**, there is provided the first auxiliary capacitor **15** connected between the pixel electrode **12** and the first auxiliary capacitor line **61-1**. That is, the auxiliary capacitor in each pixel is connected with either of the first auxiliary capacitor line

61-1 and the second auxiliary capacitor line **62-1** alternately in order to make the dot inversion driving possible.

[0025] The horizontal drive circuit **30** is provided with signal lines **S1**, **S2**, . . . , a first video switch **31**, a second video switch **32** and a third video switch **33** to selectively output the video signals from the signal lines **S1**, **S2**, . . . to the drain lines **20-1**, **20-2**,

[0026] For example, when a red video signal enable signal **RENB** becomes a high level, the first video switch **31** is turned on and the red video signal is outputted from the signal lines **S1**, **S2**, . . . to the drain line **20-1** in synchronization with it. Next, when a green video signal enable signal **GENB** becomes a high level, the second video switch **32** is turned on and the green video signal is outputted from the signal lines **S1**, **S2**, . . . to the drain line **20-2** in synchronization with it. Next, when a blue video signal enable signal **BENB** becomes a high level, the third video switch **33** is turned on and the blue video signal is outputted from the signal lines **S1**, **S2**, . . . to the drain line **20-3** in synchronization with it.

[0027] The horizontal drive circuit **30** provides each of the pixels in a partial display area selected, according to a partial display area control signal **ENBSC**, from the display area **10** composed of the plurality of pixels with the video signal. The partial display area control signal **ENBSC** is a control signal to specify the partial display area, and is supplied from a driver IC (not shown) that has received an external input. A period during which the partial display area control signal **ENBSC** is at a low level corresponds to the partial display area, while a period during which the partial display area control signal **ENBSC** is at a high level corresponds to a background display area.

[0028] The vertical drive circuit **50** outputs the gate signals **GL1**, **GL2**, . . . sequentially to the gate lines **40-1**, **40-2**, The vertical drive circuit **50** is provided with a shift register composed of a plurality of shift register units **S/R1**, **S/R2**, **S/R3**, The shift register sequentially transfers a vertical start signal **STV** inputted to the first shift register unit **S/R1** at its first stage, based on vertical clocks **CKV1** and **CKV2**. **CKV2** is a reverse clock of **CKV1**.

[0029] There is provided a first AND circuit **51** to which an output of the first shift register unit **S/R1**, an output of the second shift register unit **S/R2** and an output enable signal **ENB** are inputted. The first AND circuit **51** outputs the first gate signal **GL1** to the first row gate line **40-1**.

[0030] Also, there is provided a second AND circuit **52** to which an output of the second shift register unit **S/R2**, an output of the third shift register unit **S/R3** and the output enable signal **ENB** are inputted. The second AND circuit **52** outputs the second gate signal **GL2** to the second row gate line **40-2**. The output enable signal **ENB** is a clock that falls to a low level once every half period of the vertical clock **CKV1**, and serves as a signal to prevent the gate signals **GL1** and **GL2**, for example, outputted to adjacent gate lines from overlapping with each other to avoid interference between them. The SC inversion drive circuit **70** is provided with SC inversion control units **71**, **72**, . . . , each of which is provided corresponding to each of the rows and outputs each of inversion control signals **SC1**, **SC2**, . . . to invert electric potentials at the first and the second auxiliary capacitor lines **61** and **62** in corresponding each of the rows, respectively.

[0031] And each of the inversion control signals SC1, SC2, . . . controls each of switches SW1, SW2, . . . provided corresponding to each of the rows, respectively. The SC inversion control unit 71 corresponding to the first row outputs the inversion control signal SC1 based on a SC reference signal CKVSC that repeats inversion in a cycle of one frame period, the partial display area control signal ENBSC and the second gate signal GL2. The inversion control signal SC1 repeats inversion in a cycle of one frame period in synchronization with a rise of the second gate signal GL2.

[0032] For example, when the inversion control signal SC1 is turned into a high level, the electric potential at the first auxiliary capacitor line 61-1 is turned into a low level (VSS) and the electric potential at the second auxiliary capacitor line 62-1 is turned into a high level (VSCH) by the switch SW1. When the inversion control signal SC1 is turned into a low level, on the other hand, the electric potential at the first auxiliary capacitor line 61-1 is inverted to the high level (VSCH) and the electric potential at the second auxiliary capacitor line 62-1 is inverted to the low level (VSS) by the switch SW1.

[0033] As described above, this embodiment reduces the power consumption by performing the inversion drive with the SC inversion drive circuit 70 only in the partial display area selected from the display area 10 according to the partial display area control signal ENBSC, and halting the inversion drive in the background display area. That is, the inversion drive with the SC inversion drive circuit 70 is performed only in the partial display area where the partial display area control signal ENBSC is at the low level.

[0034] And the inversion drive with the SC inversion drive circuit 70 is halted in the background display area where the partial display area control signal ENBSC is at the high level. When the inversion drive with the SC inversion drive circuit 70 is halted, the inversion control signal corresponding to the background display area is kept constant, thus each of the first auxiliary capacitor line 61 and the second auxiliary capacitor line 62 corresponding to the background display area is kept at a constant electric potential of the high level or the low level.

[0035] The pre-charge circuit 80 is provided with pre-charge switches 81-1, 81-2, 81-3, . . . that output a pre-charge signal DSD to the drain lines 20-1, 20-2, 20-3, . . . according to a pre-charge control signal DSG. The pre-charge switches 81-1, 81-2, 81-3, . . . are turned on before the video signals from the horizontal drive circuit 30 are written into the pixels. Thus the drain lines 20-1, 20-2, 20-3, . . . are set at a level of the pre-charge signal DSD. The pre-charge signal DSD is utilized as a background display signal in this embodiment, and is written into each pixel in the background display area through the switching TFT 11.

[0036] Next, operation of the active matrix type liquid crystal display device structured as described above will be explained in detail. First, the operation in the case where the SC inversion drive is performed is explained. The operation accompanied by the SC inversion drive takes place when a normal display is performed on all of the display area 10 as shown in FIG. 2A and when the partial display is performed only on the partial display area 10P as shown in FIG. 2B.

[0037] FIG. 3 is a timing diagram of horizontal scanning to explain write-in operation of the pre-charge signal DSD

and the video signals into the pixels. FIGS. 4 and 5 are timing diagrams of vertical scanning. To be more specific, FIG. 4 is a timing diagram showing input signals to the vertical drive circuit 50 and SC inversion drive circuit 70, and FIG. 5 is a timing diagram showing internal signals in the vertical drive circuit 50 and the SC inversion drive circuit 70.

[0038] When the first gate signal GL1 rises to a high level, the switching TFT 11 in each of the pixels in the first row is turned on. The pre-charge control signal DSG is pulse-outputted according to a horizontal synchronization signal Hsync and the pre-charge signal DSD is written into the drain lines 20-1, 20-2, 20-3, After that, when the red video signal enable signal RENB is pulse-outputted, the first video switch 31 is turned on and the red video signal is outputted from the signal lines S1, S2, . . . to the drain line 20-1 and written into the corresponding red pixel GS11 through the switching TFT 11.

[0039] After that, when the green video signal enable signal GENB is pulse-outputted, the second video switch 32 is turned on and the green video signal is outputted from the signal lines S1, S2, . . . to the drain line 20-2 and written into the corresponding green pixel GS12 through the switching TFT 11. After that, when the blue video signal enable signal BENB is pulse-outputted, the third video switch 33 is turned on and the blue video signal is outputted from the signal lines S1, S2, . . . to the drain line 20-3 and written into the corresponding blue pixel GS13 through the switching TFT 11.

[0040] When the first gate signal GL1 falls and the second gate signal GL2 that corresponds to the next gate line rises, the inversion control signal SC1 from the SC inversion control unit 71 rises to the high level and the electric potential at the first auxiliary capacitor line 61-1 is turned into the low level (VSS) and the electric potential at the second auxiliary capacitor line 62-1 is turned into the high level (VSCH) accordingly. With this, an electric potential at the pixel electrode 12 in the pixel GS11 is changed toward a negative polarity by capacitive coupling through the first auxiliary capacitor 15 and an electric potential at the pixel electrode 12 in the adjacent pixel GS12 is changed toward a positive polarity by capacitive coupling through the second auxiliary capacitor 16, as shown in FIG. 6. In the dot inversion driving, the video signals supplied from the horizontal drive circuit 30 to the neighboring pixels GS11 and GS12 are opposite in polarity to each other.

[0041] The operation described above is regarding the first row. The operation regarding the second row is similar. However, polarities of the inversion control signal SC2 from the SC inversion control unit 72 and the electric potentials at the first auxiliary capacitor line 61-2 and the second auxiliary capacitor line 62-2 are opposite to those in the first row, as shown in FIG. 3.

[0042] With the SC inversion drive, it is possible to reduce the power consumption in the horizontal drive circuit by reducing the difference in the electric potentials between the positive and negative polarities of the video signal. However, the SC inversion itself is accompanied by the power consumption. Therefore, further reduction in the power consumption is realized by halting the SC inversion drive in the background display area 10B. The halting of the SC inversion drive is explained referring to FIG. 7.

[0043] In one frame period, the display area corresponding to first 80 horizontal periods, that is the first line through the 80th line, is set as the partial display area and the display area corresponding to the remaining 240 lines is set as the background display area in this embodiment. And the partial display area control signal ENBSC is set at the low level and the SC inversion drive as described above is performed in the partial display area 10P. The partial display area control signal ENBSC is fixed at the high level in the background display area 10B and all of the SC inversion control units 71 and 72 corresponding to the background display area 10B halt the operation.

[0044] At that time, although each of the pixels in the background display area 10B may be provided with the background display signal from the horizontal drive circuit 30, it is preferable that the pre-charge control signal DSG is fixed at the high level and the pre-charge signal DSD is supplied as the background display signal. The operation of the horizontal drive circuit 30 can be halted and the power consumption can be further reduced by doing so. The background display signal is a low voltage signal of about IV with reference to a constant electric potential at the common electrode 13, that causes white display on a normally-white liquid crystal display device or black display on a normally-black liquid crystal display device.

[0045] Also, it is preferable that a frequency of the vertical clocks CKV1 and CKV2 in the background display area 10B is higher than a frequency of the vertical clocks CKV1 and CKV2 in the partial display area 10P. That is because fast write-in is possible in the background display area 10B, since the same color signal is continuously written-in and thus there is no need for consideration on a rise time of the video signal, which is required in the partial display area 10P. As a result, assuming a frame rate is same as in the conventional art, faster display operation in the background display area 10B allows slower write-in operation of the video signals in the partial display area 10P accordingly, thus the power consumption can be reduced furthermore.

[0046] The power consumption can be further reduced by fixing the output enable signal ENB that is inputted to the vertical drive circuit 50 at the high level in the background display area 10B. No consideration is required for mutual interference among the gate signals (GL1 and GL2, for example) outputted to the adjacent gate lines and the video signal outputted to the drain line, since the same color signal is continuously written into the pixels in the background display area as described above. As a result, fixing the output enable signal ENB at the constant level is made possible to further reduce the power consumption.

[0047] According to this invention, the power consumption in the active matrix type liquid crystal display device having partial display function can be reduced.

What is claimed is:

1. An active matrix type liquid crystal display device configured to operate under a normal display mode and a partial display mode, comprising:

- a plurality of pixels arranged in a matrix form comprising rows and columns;
- a pixel electrode disposed in each of the pixels;
- a common electrode;

a liquid crystal layer disposed between the common electrode and the pixel electrodes;

a switching device disposed in each of the pixels, receiving a gate signal and connected with a corresponding pixel electrode;

a vertical drive circuit outputting the gate signals to the switching devices based on a vertical clock;

a first auxiliary capacitor line and a second auxiliary capacitor line that are disposed along each row of the matrix;

an auxiliary capacitor line inversion drive circuit that performs an inversion drive to invert electric potentials at the first and second auxiliary capacitor lines at a predetermined interval so that the electric potentials at the first and second auxiliary capacitor lines are opposite in phase to each other;

a plurality of first auxiliary capacitors connected with the first auxiliary capacitor line and a plurality of second auxiliary capacitors connected with the second auxiliary capacitor line, each of the pixel electrodes being connected with one of the first auxiliary capacitors or one of the second auxiliary capacitors; and

a horizontal drive circuit that under the partial display mode provides each of pixels selected according to a partial display area control signal with an image signal that is supplied to a corresponding pixel electrode through a corresponding switching device,

wherein under the partial display mode the auxiliary capacitor line inversion drive circuit is configured to perform the inversion drive for the selected pixels and halt the inversion drive for pixels not selected by the partial display area control signal.

2. The active matrix type liquid crystal display device of claim 1, wherein under the partial display mode the horizontal drive circuit provides each of the unselected pixels with a background display signal.

3. The active matrix type liquid crystal display device of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of drain lines connected with the pixels and a pre-charge circuit that provides the drain lines with a pre-charge signal, wherein under the partial display mode the pre-charge circuit provides each of the unselected pixels with the pre-charge signal as a background display signal.

4. The active matrix type liquid crystal display device of claim 3, wherein under the partial display mode the horizontal drive circuit provides no image signal to any of the unselected pixels.

5. The active matrix type liquid crystal display device of claim 1, wherein a frequency of the vertical clock for the unselected pixels is higher than a frequency of the vertical clock for the selected pixels.

6. The active matrix type liquid crystal display device of claim 1, wherein the vertical drive circuit comprises a plurality of shift register units connected in series and sequentially transferring a vertical start signal according to the vertical clock and an AND circuit to which an output of a first shift register unit of the plurality of shift register units, an output of a second shift register unit of the plurality of shift register units, the second shift register unit being adjacent the first shift register unit, and an output enable

signal are inputted, and a level of the output enable signal is fixed so that the gate signal can be outputted for the unselected pixels.

7. The active matrix type liquid crystal display device of claim 1, wherein the horizontal drive circuit provides each

pair of pixels that are next to each other in a row of the matrix with image signals that have opposite phases.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	有源矩阵型液晶显示装置		
公开(公告)号	US20060208992A1	公开(公告)日	2006-09-21
申请号	US11/287478	申请日	2005-11-28
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	三洋电机株式会社		
申请(专利权)人(译)	SANYO ELECTRIC CO. , LTD.		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	SANYO ELECTRIC CO. , LTD.		
[标]发明人	AKUTSU HIKARU TSUTSUI YUSUKE KITAGAWA MAKOTO		
发明人	AKUTSU, HIKARU TSUTSUI, YUSUKE KITAGAWA, MAKOTO		
IPC分类号	G09G3/36		
CPC分类号	G09G3/3666 G09G3/3677 G09G3/3688 G09G2310/0248 G09G2310/0267 G09G2310/0275 G09G2310/04 G09G2330/021		
优先权	2004342366 2004-11-26 JP		
其他公开文献	US7777737		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

具有部分显示功能的有源矩阵型液晶显示装置的功耗降低。在一个帧周期中，对应于前80个水平周期的显示区域，即第一行到第80行，被设置为部分显示区域，并且与剩余的239行对应的显示区域被设置为背景显示区域。并且部分显示区域控制信号ENBSC被设置为低电平，并且在部分显示区域中执行SC反转驱动。部分显示区域控制信号ENBSC在背景显示区域中固定在高电平，并且与背景显示区域对应的所有SC反转控制单元停止它们的操作。

