(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication** (10) Pub. No.: **US 2008/0198107 A1**
   Park et al.   (43) **Pub. Date:** **Aug. 21, 2008**

(54) **APPARATUS AND METHOD OF DRIVING LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY**

(76) Inventors: **Dong-Won Park**, Seoul (KR);
   Sang-Soo Kim, Seoul (KR)

   Correspondence Address:
   MACPHERSON KWOK CHEN & HEID LLP
   2033 GATEWAY PLACE, SUITE 400
   **SAN JOSE, CA 95110**

(21) Appl. No.: **12/038,520**

(22) Filed: **Feb. 27, 2008**

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 10/799,021, filed on Mar. 11, 2004, now Pat. No. 7,362,295.

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

   Mar. 11, 2003   (KR) 2003-0015127

Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**
   G09G 3/34 (2006.01)
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **345/84**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An apparatus of driving a liquid crystal display includes a signal controller. The signal controller has a frame memory and an image type detector. The signal controller compares image data for a present frame from an external device with image data for a previous frame stored in the frame memory and determines whether the image data represent still image. If the image data represent a sill image, the signal controller suspends a predetermined control operation and also suspends supply voltages to elements required for the predetermined control operation.
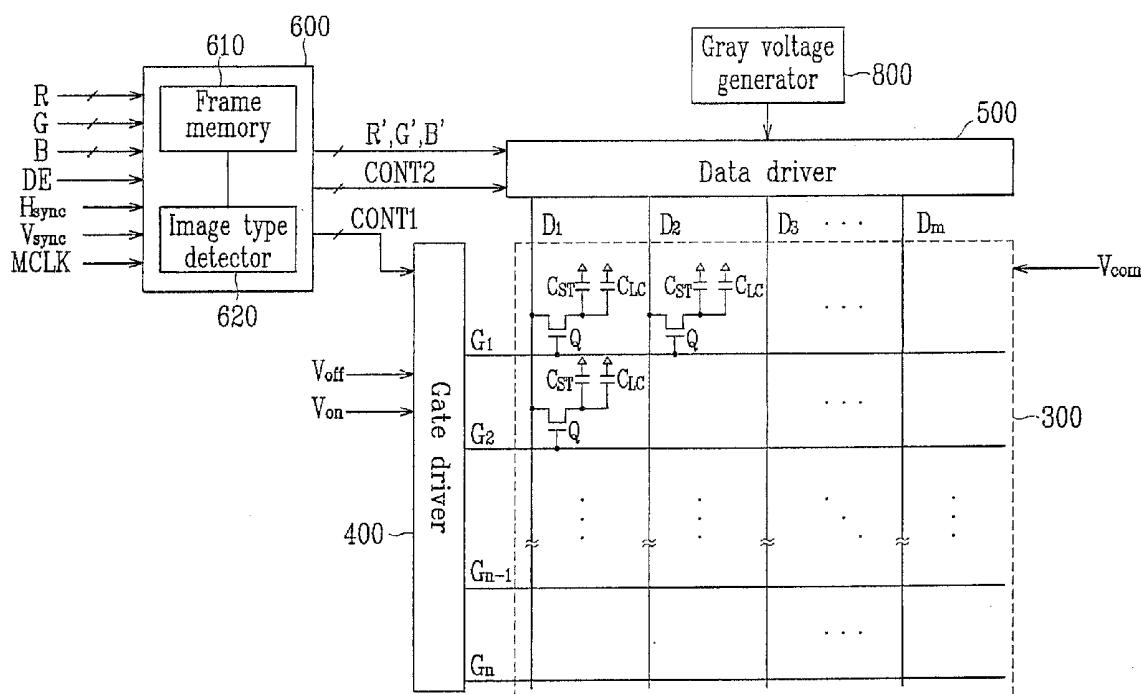
FIG. 1

FIG.2

FIG. 3

FIG. 4A

Pixel No.

N-th frame	1	2	3	4	5	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1022	1023	1024

(N-1)-th frame	1	2	3	4	5	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1022	1023	1024

PFS

LFS

FIG. 4B

Row No.

N-th frame	1	2	3	4	5	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	766	767	768

(N-1)-th frame	1	2	3	4	5	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	766	767	768

LFS

FFS

FIG. 4C

Frame No.

Present data	N	N+1	N+2	N+3	N+4
Previous data	N-1	N	N+1	N+2	N+3

FFS

MS_SEL

FIG. 4D

5 frames	25 frames	5 frames	25 frames	5 frames	25 frames	5 frames

Input data timing

t_p t_p t_p t_p

MS_SEL

DCC

Memory Activation
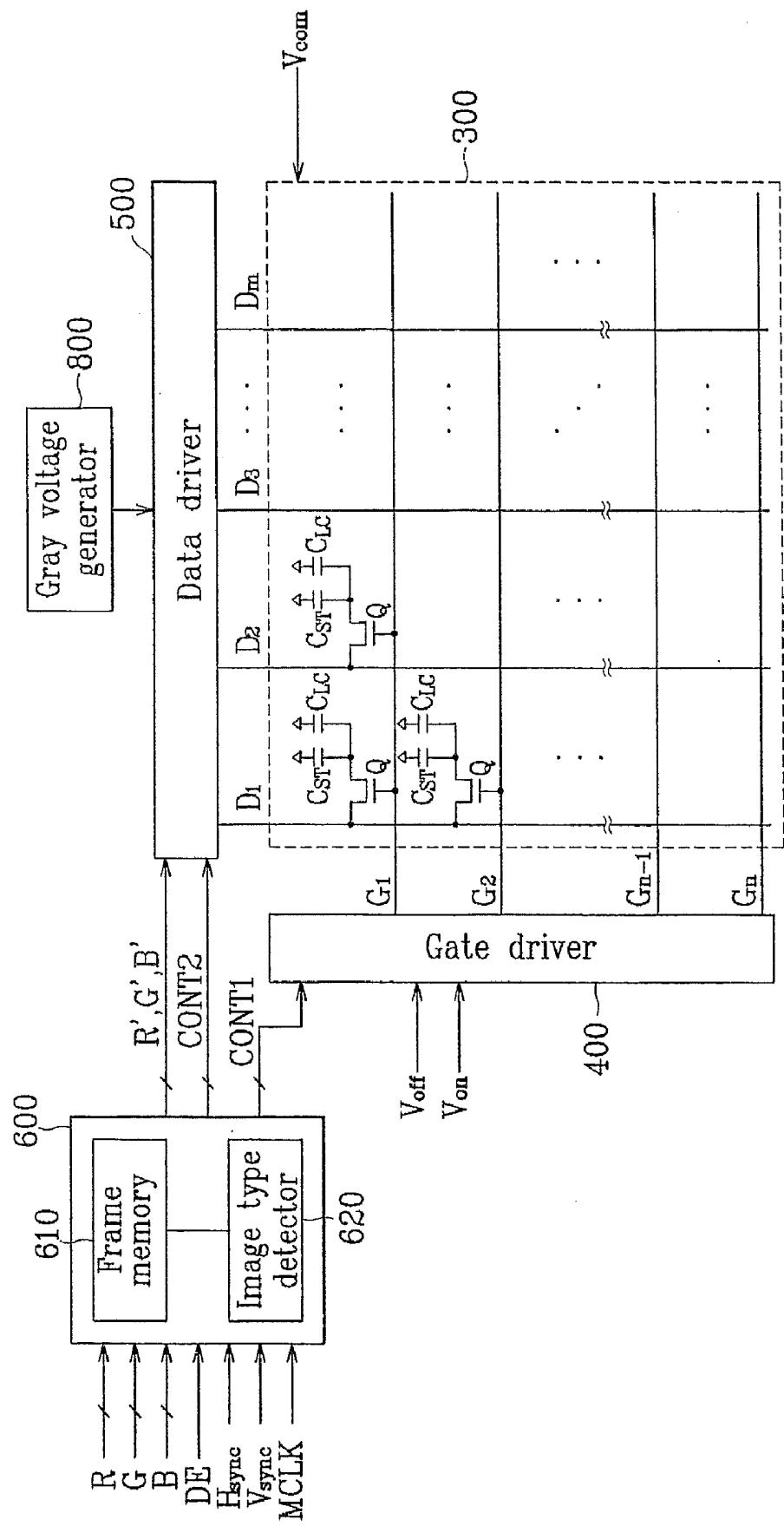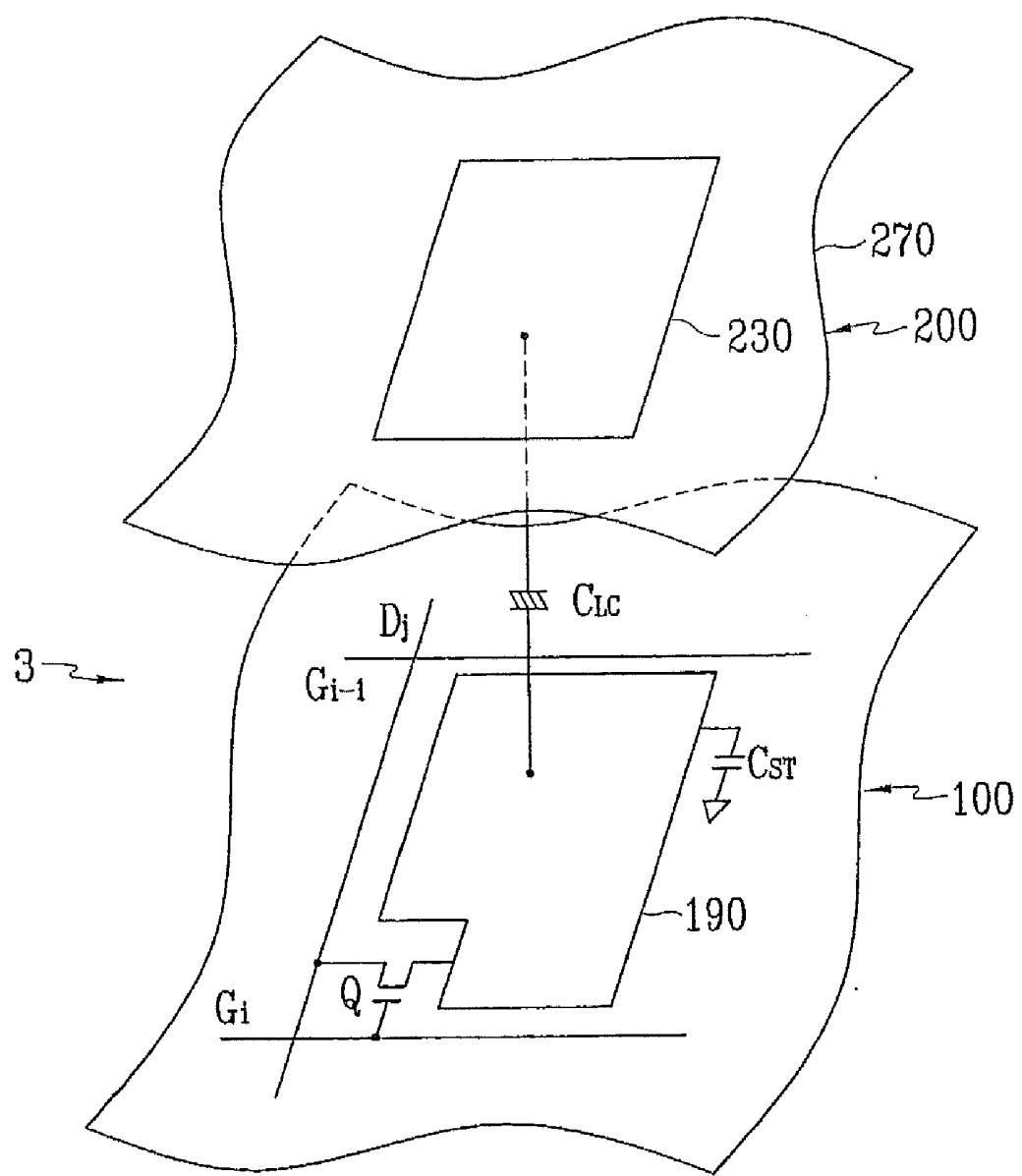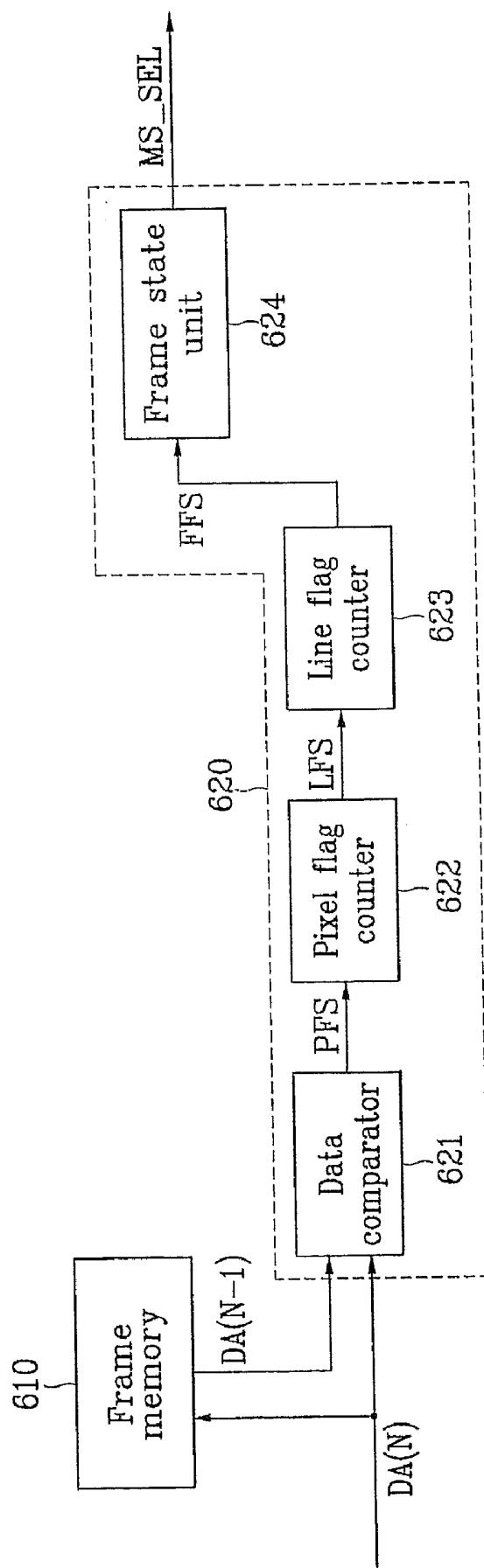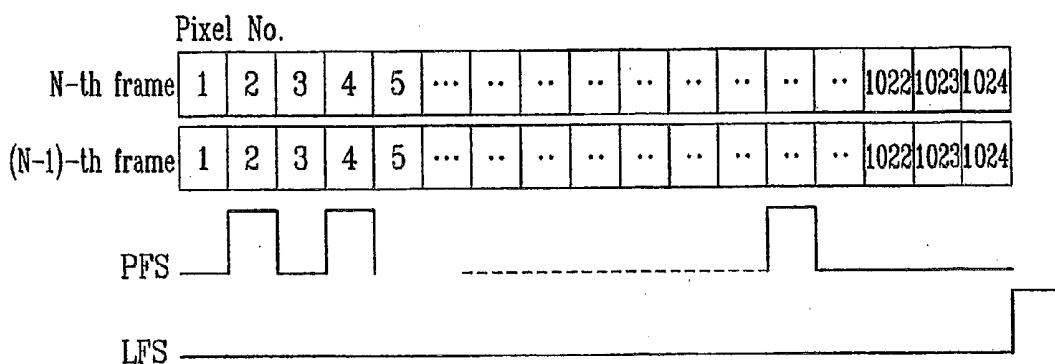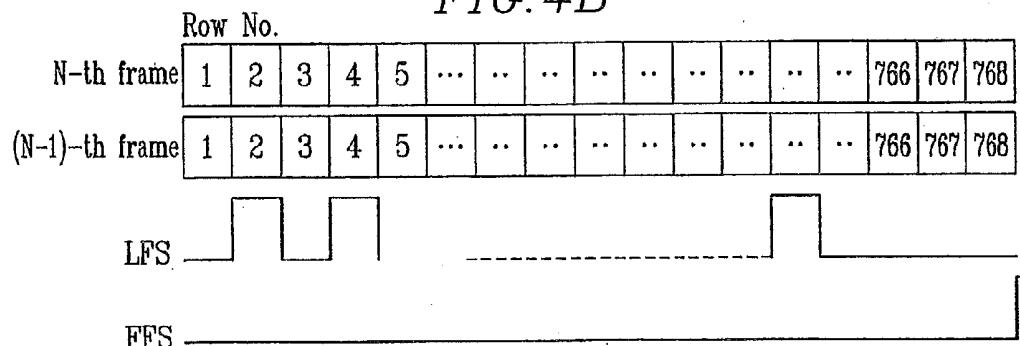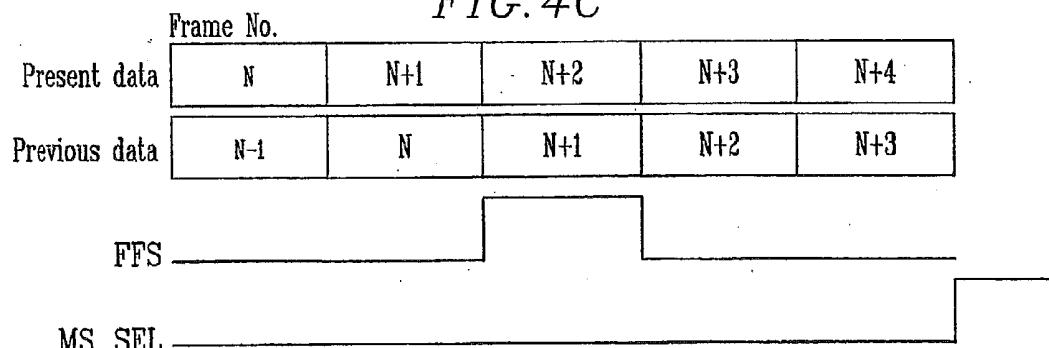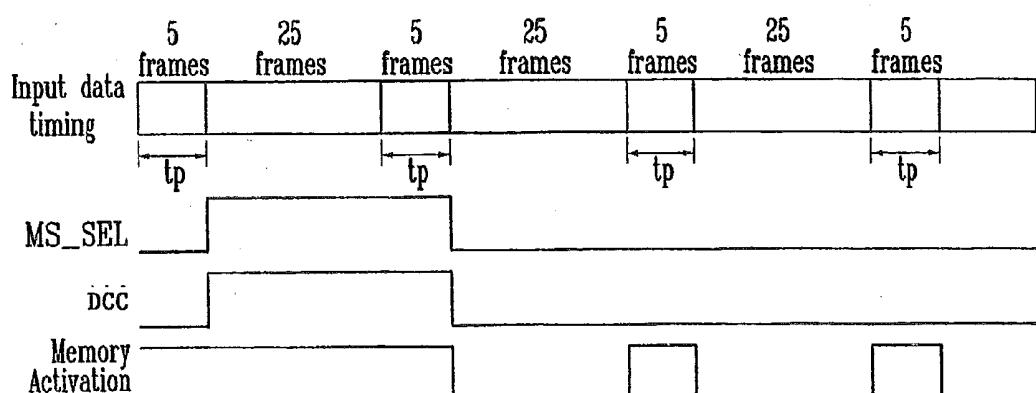
APPARATUS AND METHOD OF DRIVING LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY

RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application is a continuation application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/799,021 filed on Mar. 11, 2004; which claims priority, under 35 USC § 119, from Korean Patent Application No. 2003-0015127 filed on Mar. 11, 2003, the content of which are both incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] (a) Field of the Invention
[0003] The present invention relates to an apparatus and a method of driving a liquid crystal display.
[0004] (b) Description of Related Art
[0005] Liquid crystal displays (LCDs) include two panes having pixel electrodes and a common electrode and a liquid crystal (LC) layer with dielectric anisotropy, which is interposed between the two panels. The pixel electrodes are arranged in a matrix, connected to switching elements such as thin film transistors (TFTs), and supplied with data voltages through the switching elements. The common electrode covers entire surface of one of the two panels and is supplied with a common voltage. The pixel electrode, the common electrode, and the LC layer form a LC capacitor in circuital view, which is a basic element of a pixel along with the switching element connected thereto.
[0006] In the LCD, the two electrodes supplied with the voltages generate electric field in the LC layer, and the transmittance of light passing through the LC layer is adjusted by controlling the strength of the electric field, thereby obtaining desired images. In order to prevent image deterioration due to the unidirectional electric field, polarity of the data voltages with respect to the common voltage is reversed every frame, every row, or every dot.
[0007] However, since the response time of LC molecules is slow, it takes time for a voltage charged in the LC capacitor (referred to as a "pixel voltage" hereinafter) to reach a target voltage, which gives a desired luminance, thereby deteriorating the image quality of the LCD. In order to improve the image deterioration due to the response delay, several techniques such as DCC (dynamic capacitance compensation), ACCE (adaptive color contrast enhancement), and ACC (accurate color capture) are suggested to be applied.
[0008] However, these techniques require large power consumption.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0009] An apparatus for driving a liquid crystal display including a plurality of pixels arranged in a matrix is provided, which includes: a gray voltage generator generating a plurality of gray voltages; a data driver selecting data voltages from the gray voltages corresponding to image data and applying the data voltages to the pixels; and a signal controller supplying the image data for the data driver, determining whether image represented by the image data is motion image or still image based on the difference in the image data between frames, and suspending predetermined control operation if the image is determined to be a still image.
[0010] The predetermined control operation may include at least one of image data modifications that include DCC (dy-

namic capacitance compensation), ACCE (adaptive color contrast enhancement), and ACC (accurate color capture).
[0011] Preferably, the signal controller determines the image as a motion image when the number of the pixels having different image data between two adjacent frames or the number of the pixels having the difference in the image data between two adjacent frames larger than a predetermined value is more than a predetermined number.
[0012] The signal controller may include: a data comparator comparing a present image data with a previous image data for each pixel and generating a first comparison signal for each pixel row, the first comparison signal having pulses generated when the present image data differs from the previous image data or when the difference between the present image data and the previous image data is larger than a predetermined value; a first counter counting the number of the pulses contained in each of the first comparison signals and generating a second comparison signal for each frame, the second comparison signal having pulses generated when the number of the counted pulses in the respective first comparison signals is larger than a first predetermined number; a second counter counting the number of the pulses contained in each of the second comparison signals and generating a third comparison signal for each of first periods, the third comparison signal having pulses generated when the number of the counted pulses in the respective second comparison signals is larger than a second predetermined number; and a frame state detector determining that image data for respective second periods following the first periods represent motion images if the respective number of the pulses contained in the third comparison signals for the first periods is more than a third predetermined number and, that if not, the image data for the second periods represent as still images, and outputting an image type selection signal having a first state or a second state based on the determination.
[0013] The first predetermined number may be larger than 30% of the total number of possible pulses in the first comparison signal, the second predetermined number may be larger than 30% of the total number of possible pulses in the second comparison signal, and the third predetermined number may be equal to or larger than one.
[0014] The image type selection signal may maintain either the first state or the second state during a second period and a following first period, and the first state is one of a high state or a low state.
[0015] The signal controller may further include a frame memory storing image data for at least one frame.
[0016] A method for driving a liquid crystal display including a plurality of pixels arranged in a matrix is provided, which includes: reading out image data of a previous frame and of a present frame; comparing the image data of the previous frame with the image data of the present frame for every pixel; generating a first comparison signal for each pixel row, the first comparison signal including pulses generated when the image data of the previous frame differs from the image data of the present frame or the difference between the image data of the previous frame and the image data of the present frame is larger than a predetermined value; counting the number of the pulses included in each of the first comparison signals; generating a second comparison signal for each frame, the second comparison signal including pulses generated when the number of the counted pulses in the respective first comparison signals is larger than the first predetermined number; counting the number of the pulses

included in each of the second comparison signals; generating a third comparison signal for each of first periods, the third comparison signal including pulses generated when the number of the counted pulses in the respective second comparison signals is larger than a second predetermined number; determining that image data for respective second periods following the first periods represent motion image when the respective number of the pulses included in the third comparison signals is larger than a third determined number, determining as still image if not; and suspending predetermined control operation if the image data represent still image.

[0017] A first period may include five sequential frames, and a second period may include twenty five sequential frames.

[0018] A type of an image for a first period may be determined to be the same as the type of the image for a preceding second period.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0019] The present invention will become more apparent by describing embodiments thereof in detail with reference to the accompanying drawing in which:

[0020] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an LCD according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0021] FIG. 2 is an equivalent circuit diagram of a pixel of an LCD according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0022] FIG. 3 is a block diagram of an image type detector according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

[0023] FIGS. 4A to 4D are exemplary timing diagrams of the image type detector shown in FIG. 3.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

[0024] The present invention now will be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which preferred embodiments of the invention are shown. This invention may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein. Like numerals refer to like elements throughout.

[0025] In the drawings, the thickness of layers and regions are exaggerated for clarity. Like numerals refer to like elements throughout. It will be understood that when an element such as a layer, region or substrate is referred to as being "on" another element, it can be directly on the other element or intervening elements may also be present. In contrast, when an element is referred to as being "directly on" another element, there are no intervening elements present.

[0026] Then, apparatus and methods of driving a liquid crystal display according to embodiments of the present invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

[0027] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an LCD according to an embodiment of the present invention, and FIG. 2 is an equivalent circuit diagram of a pixel of an LCD according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0028] Referring to FIG. 1, an LCD according to an embodiment includes a LC panel assembly 300, a gate driver 400 and a data driver 500 that are connected to the panel assembly 300, a gray voltage generator connected to the data driver 500, and a signal controller 600 controlling the above elements.

[0029] In circuital view, the panel assembly 300 includes a plurality of display signal lines G_1-G_n and D_1-D_m and a plurality of pixels connected thereto and arranged substantially in a matrix.

[0030] The display signal lines G_1-G_n and D_1-D_m include a plurality of gate lines G_1-G_n transmitting gate signals (also referred to as "scanning signals"), and a plurality of data lines D_1-D_n transmitting data signals. The gate lines G_1-G_n extend substantially in a row direction and substantially parallel to each other, while the data lines D_1-D_m extend substantially in a column direction and substantially parallel to each other.

[0031] Each pixel includes a switching element Q connected to the signal lines G_1-G_n and D_1-D_m, and a LC capacitor C_{LC} and a storage capacitor C_{ST} that are connected to the switching element Q. If necessary, the storage capacitor C_{ST} may be omitted.

[0032] The switching element Q is provided on a lower panel 100 and has three terminals, a control terminal connected to one of the gate lines G_1-G_n, an input terminal connected to one of the data lines D_1-D_m, and an output terminal connected to both the LC capacitor C_{LC} and the storage capacitor C_{ST}.

[0033] The LC capacitor C_{LC} includes a pixel electrode 190 provided on the lower panel 100 and a common electrode 270 provided on an upper panel 200 as two terminals. The LC layer 3 disposed between the two electrodes 190 and 270 functions as dielectric of the LC capacitor C_{LC}. The pixel electrode 190 is connected to the switching element Q, and the common electrode 270 is connected to the common voltage V_{com} and covers entire surface of the upper panel 200. Unlike FIG. 2, the common electrode 270 may be provided on the lower panel 100, and both electrodes 190 and 270 may have shapes of bars or stripes.

[0034] The storage capacitor C_{ST} is an auxiliary capacitor for the LC capacitor C_{LC}. The storage capacitor C_{ST} includes the pixel electrode 190 and a separate signal line (not shown), which is provided on the lower panel 100, overlaps the pixel electrode 190 via an insulator, and is supplied with a predetermined voltage such as the common voltage V_{com}. Alternatively, the storage capacitor C_{ST} includes the pixel electrode 190 and an adjacent gate line called a previous gate line, which overlaps the pixel electrode 190 via an insulator.

[0035] For color display, each pixel can represent its own color by providing one of a plurality of red, green and blue color filters 230 in an area corresponding to the pixel electrode 190. The color filter 230 shown in FIG. 2 is provided in the corresponding area of the upper panel 200. Alternatively, the color filters 230 are provided on or under the pixel electrode 190 on the lower panel 100.

[0036] A polarizer or polarizers (not shown) are attached to at least one of the panels 100 and 200.

[0037] Referring to FIG. 1 again, the gray voltage generator 800 generates two sets of a plurality of gray voltages related to the transmittance of the pixels. The gray voltages in one set have a positive polarity with respect to the common voltage Vcom, while those in the other set have a negative polarity with respect to the common voltage Vcom.

[0038] The gate driver 400 is connected to the gate lines G_1-G_n of the panel assembly 300 and synthesizes the gate-on voltage V_{on} and the gate off voltage V_{off} from an external device to generate gate signals for application to the gate lines G_1-G_n.

[0039] The data driver 500 is connected to the data lines D_1-D_m of the panel assembly 300 and applies data voltages,

selected from the gray voltages supplied from the gray voltage generator **800**, to the data lines D_1-D_m.

[0040] The signal controller **600** controls the gate driver **400** and the data driver **500** and it includes a frame memory **610** and an image type detector **620** connected to the frame memory **610**. The frame memory **610** stores image signals R, G and B for one frame. The image type detector **620** may be a stand-alone device separated from the signal controller **600**.

[0041] Now, the operation of the LCD will be described in detail.

[0042] The signal controller **600** is supplied with input image signals R, G and B and input control signals controlling the display thereof such as a vertical synchronization signal Vsync, a horizontal synchronization signal Hsync, a main clock MCLK, and a data enable signal DE, from an external graphics controller (not shown). After generating gate control signals CONT1 and data control signals CONT2 and processing the image signals R, G and B suitable for the operation of the panel assembly **300** on the basis of the input control signals and the input image signals R, G and B, the signal controller **600** provides the gate control signals CONT1 for the gate driver **400**, and the processed image signals R', G' and B' and the data control signals CONT2 for the data driver **500**. At this time, the image type detector **620** of the signal controller **600** determines the type of the image, still image or motion image, based on the difference in grays of the image data R, G and B between a previous frame and a present frame. Thereafter, the signal controller **600** modifies the image data in accordance with the image type. This operation of the image type detector **620** will be described later in detail.

[0043] The gate control signals CONT1 include a vertical synchronization start signal STV for informing of start of a frame, a gate clock signal CPV for controlling the output time of the gate-on voltage V_{on}, and an output enable signal OE for defining the duration of the gate-on voltage V_{on}.

[0044] The data control signals CONT2 include a horizontal synchronization start signal STH for informing of start of a horizontal period, a load signal LOAD for instructing to apply the data voltages to the data lines D_1-D_m, a inversion control signal RVS for reversing the polarity of the data voltages (with respect to the common voltage V_{com}), and a data clock signal HCLK.

[0045] The data driver **500** receives a packet of the image data R', G' and B' for a pixel row from the signal controller **600** and converts the image data R', G' and B' into analog data voltages selected from the gray voltages supplied from the gray voltage generator **800** in response to the data control signals CONT2 from the signal controller **600**. Thereafter, the data driver **500** applies the data voltages to the data lines D_1-D_m.

[0046] Responsive to the gate control signals CONT1 from the signal controller **600**, the gate driver **400** applies the gate-on voltage V_{on} to the gate line G_1-G_n, thereby turning on the switching elements Q connected thereto. The data voltages applied to the data lines D1-Dm are supplied to the pixels through the activated switching elements Q.

[0047] The difference between the data voltage and the common voltage V_{com} is represented as a voltage across the LC capacitor C_{LC}, i.e., a pixel voltage. The LC molecules in the LC capacitor C_{LC} have orientations depending on the magnitude of the pixel voltage, and the molecular orientations determine the polarization of light passing through the LC layer **3**. The polarizer(s) converts the light polarization into the light transmittance.

[0048] By repeating this procedure by a unit of the horizontal period (which is indicated by 1 H and equal to one period of the horizontal synchronization signal Hsync, the data enable signal DE, and a gate clock signal), all gate lines G_1-G_n are sequentially supplied with the gate-on voltage V_{on} during a frame, thereby applying the data voltages to all pixels. When the next frame starts after finishing one frame, the inversion control signal RVS applied to the data driver **500** is controlled such that the polarity of the data voltages is reversed (which is called "frame inversion"). The inversion control signal RVS may be also controlled such that the polarity of the data voltages flowing in a data line in one frame are reversed (which is called "line inversion"), or the polarity of the data voltages in one packet are reversed (which is called "dot inversion").

[0049] Next, the operation detecting the image type to be displayed, still image or motion image, according to an embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to FIGS. **3** and **4**.

[0050] FIG. **3** is a block diagram of an image type detector according to an embodiment of the present invention and FIGS. **4A** to **4D** are timing diagrams of the image type detector shown in FIG. **3** according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0051] As shown in FIG. **3**, the image type detector **620** includes a data comparator **621**, a pixel flag counter **622** connected to the data comparator **621**, a line flag counter **623** connected to the pixel flag counter **622**, and a frame state detector **624** connected to the line flag counter **623**.

[0052] The data comparator **621** is connected to a frame memory **610** and supplied with image data DA(N) for a present frame (for example, the N-th frame) and image data DA(N−1) for a previous frame (for example, the (N−1)-th frame).

[0053] In detail, the image data DA(N) for a frame are sequentially inputted to the frame memory **610** and the image type detector **620**, and then they are stored in the frame memory **610**. At this time, the image type detector **620** reads out the image data DA(N) for the present frame (referred to as "present data" hereinafter) and the image data DA(N−1) for the previous frame (referred to as "previous data" hereinafter) already stored in the frame memory **610**.

[0054] The image type detector **620** compares the present data DA(N) with the previous data DA(N−1) and determines whether the image to be displayed is still image or motion image.

[0055] Referring to FIG. **4A**, when the present data DA(N) and the previous data DA(N−1) are applied to the data comparator **621** of the image type detector **620**, the data comparator **621** compares the previous data DA(N−1) with the present data DA(N) That is, the data comparator **621** compares gray values of the image data for each pixel between the previous frame and the present frame.

[0056] As shown in FIG. **4A**, after the data comparator **621** compares the image data DA(N) and DA(N−1) for each pixel row, it generates and provides a pixel flag signal PFS for the pixel flag counter **622**. The data comparator **621** generates a pulse in the pixel flag signal PFS whenever the previous data DA(N−1) differs from the present data DA(N) or the difference between the previous data DA(N−1) and the present data DA(N) is larger than a predetermined value.

[0057] The pixel flag counter **622** counts the number of pulses in each pixel flag signal PFS and determines whether the data state of the pixel row for the present frame differs

from that for the previous frame and it generates a line flag signal LFS based on the determination. For example, when the number of pulses in one pixel flag signal PFS is more than about 30% of the total number of pixels of the corresponding pixel row, that is, the number of pixels having the previous data DA(N−1) different from the present data DA(N) is more than about 30% of the number of the pixel in the row, the pixel flag counter **622** determines that a data state of the row for the present frame differs from that for the previous frame and it generates a pulse in the line flag signal LFS. The duration of the pulse preferably coincides with the duration of the corresponding row data.

[0058] For an XGA LCD including 1024 pixels in a row, when the present data DA(N) for about more than 312 pixels differs from the previous data DA(N−1), the pixel flag counter **622** generates a pulse in the line flag signal LFS.

[0059] The line flag counter **623** counts the number of pulses contained in the line flag signal LFS supplied from the pixel flag counter **622**, determines whether the state of the present frame is different from the state of the previous frame, and generates a frame flag signal FFS to be supplied to the frame state detector **624**. As shown in FIG. **4B**, when the number of pulses in the line flag signal LFS is more than a predetermined number, for example, when the present data DA(N) for more than about 30% of all rows differ from the previous data DA(N−1), the line flag counter **623** determines that the image data DA(N) for the present frame is different from the image data DA(N−1) for the previous frame. In this case, the image data DA(N) of the present frame are considered to represent a motion image compared with the image data DA(N−1) of the previous frame. Then, the line flag counter **623** generates a pulse. The duration of the pulse preferably coincides with the duration of the corresponding frame data.

[0060] For the XGA LCD having 768 pixel rows (or gate lines), when the number of pulses contained in the line flag signal LFS is about 265 (i.e., about 30% of the total number of possible pulses), the line flag counter **623** generates a pulse in the frame flag signal FFS (FIG. **4B**).

[0061] A frame flag signal FFS may be generated five successive frames as shown in FIG. **4C**.

[0062] The frame state detector **624** generates an image type detection signal MS_SEL having a state depending on the frame flag signal FFS supplied from the line flag counter **623**. For example, when any one of the five consecutive frames (referred to as a "filtering period" hereinafter) differs from the previous frame, that is, when even a pulse is contained in the frame flag signal FFS, the frame state detector **624** changes the state of the image type detection signal MS_SEL from a low level to a high level at the end of the filtering period. The interval between adjacent filtering periods may be 25 frames as shown in FIG. **4D**. Then, the signal controller **600** regards the image represented by the image

data for 25 frames after the filtering period and for the next filtering period as motion image. Accordingly, the image type detection signal MS_SEL maintains the high level for 30 consecutive frames after the filtering period, i.e., the 25 successive frames after the filtering period and the next filtering period, as shown in FIG. **4D**.

[0063] When the image type detection signal MS_SEL maintains in the low state, the signal controller **600** suspends image data modification such as DCC and also suspends operations of memories such as the frame memory **610** required for the image data modification by blocking off supply voltages, etc. However, the frame memory **610** is activated during the filtering period for data comparison as shown in FIG. **4D**.

[0064] When the image type detection signal MS_SEL maintains the high level, the signal controller **600** normally performs the image data modification, and supplies supply voltages for operation to the memories.

[0065] As described above, the signal controller **600** determines whether image for a predefined number of frames is motion image or still image, and, if the image is the still image, the signal controller **600** may stops voltage supply to elements that need not be substantially activated, thereby decreasing the power consumption.

[0066] For example, the cut off of the supply voltages to the memories may decrease the power consumption to about 5%.

[0067] The numerical values in the above-described embodiments of the present invention are chosen by experiments, and they may be changed depending on the circumferential environment.

[0068] Although preferred embodiments of the present invention have been described in detail hereinabove, it should be clearly understood that many variations and/or modifications of the basic inventive concepts herein taught which may appear to those skilled in the present art will still fall within the spirit and scope of the present invention, as defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for driving a liquid crystal display including a plurality of pixels arranged in a matrix, the apparatus comprising:

a gray voltage generator generating a plurality of gray voltages;

a data driver selecting data voltages from the gray voltages corresponding to image data and applying the data voltages to the pixels; and

a signal controller supplying the image data for the data driver, determining whether image represented by the image data is motion image or still image based on the difference in the image data between frames, and suspending predetermined control operation if the image is determined to be a still image.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	驱动液晶显示器的装置和方法		
公开(公告)号	US20080198107A1	公开(公告)日	2008-08-21
申请号	US12/038520	申请日	2008-02-27
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	朴东WON 金相SOO		
申请(专利权)人(译)	朴东WON 金相洙		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	朴东WON 金相洙		
[标]发明人	PARK DONG WON KIM SANG SOO		
发明人	PARK, DONG-WON KIM, SANG-SOO		
IPC分类号	G09G3/34 G02F1/133 G09G3/20 G09G3/36 G09G5/00		
CPC分类号	G09G3/3611 G09G3/3648 G09G2360/18 G09G2320/103 G09G2330/021 G09G2310/02		
优先权	1020030015127 2003-03-11 KR		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

一种驱动液晶显示器的装置包括信号控制器。信号控制器具有帧存储器和图像类型检测器。信号控制器将来自外部设备的当前帧的图像数据与存储在帧存储器中的先前帧的图像数据进行比较，并确定图像数据是否表示静止图像。如果图像数据表示门槛图像，则信号控制器暂停预定的控制操作，并且还将供电电压暂停到预定控制操作所需的元件。