

FIG. 1

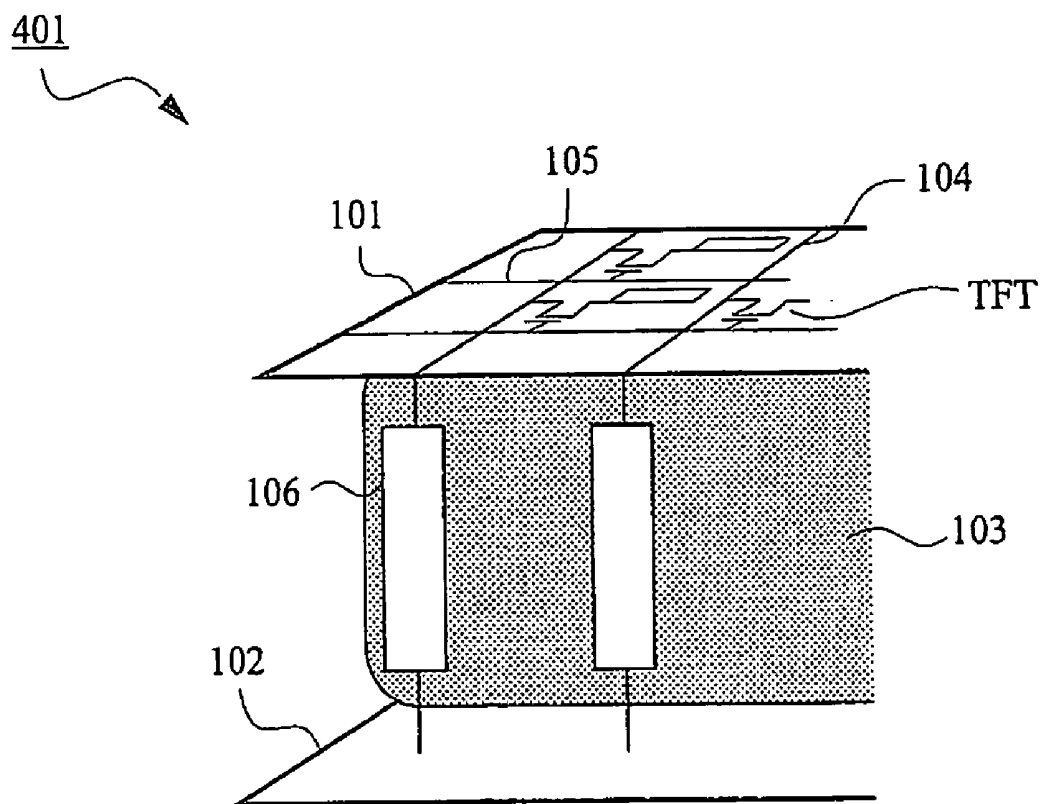


FIG. 2A

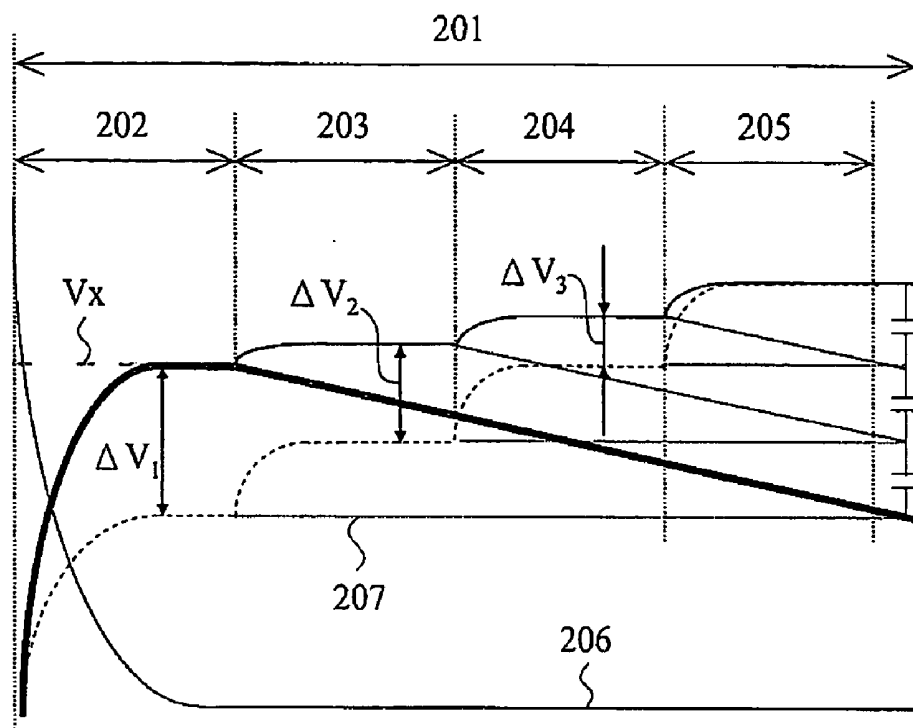


FIG. 2B

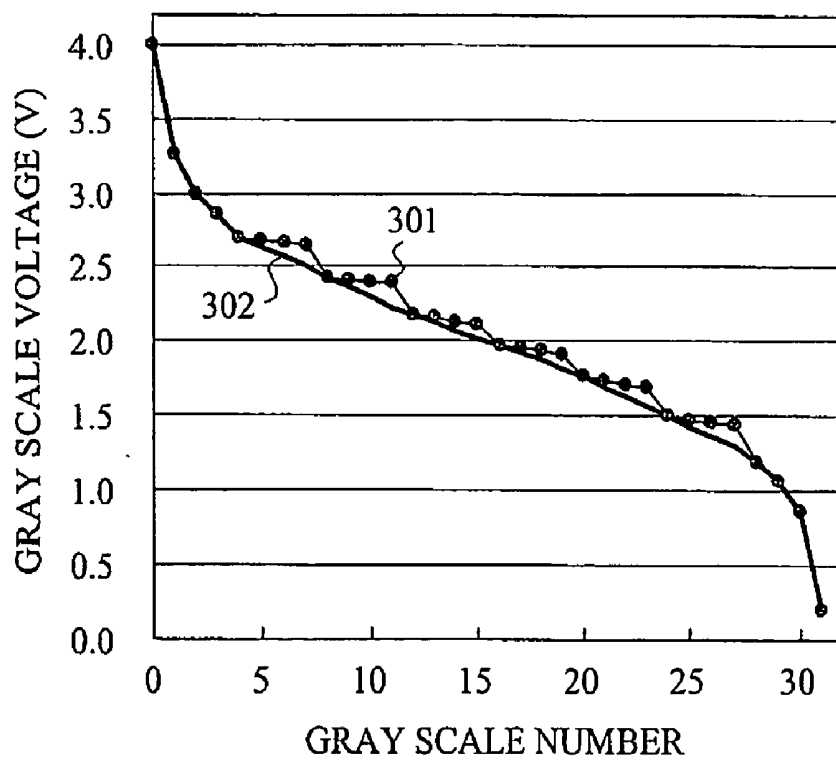


FIG. 4A

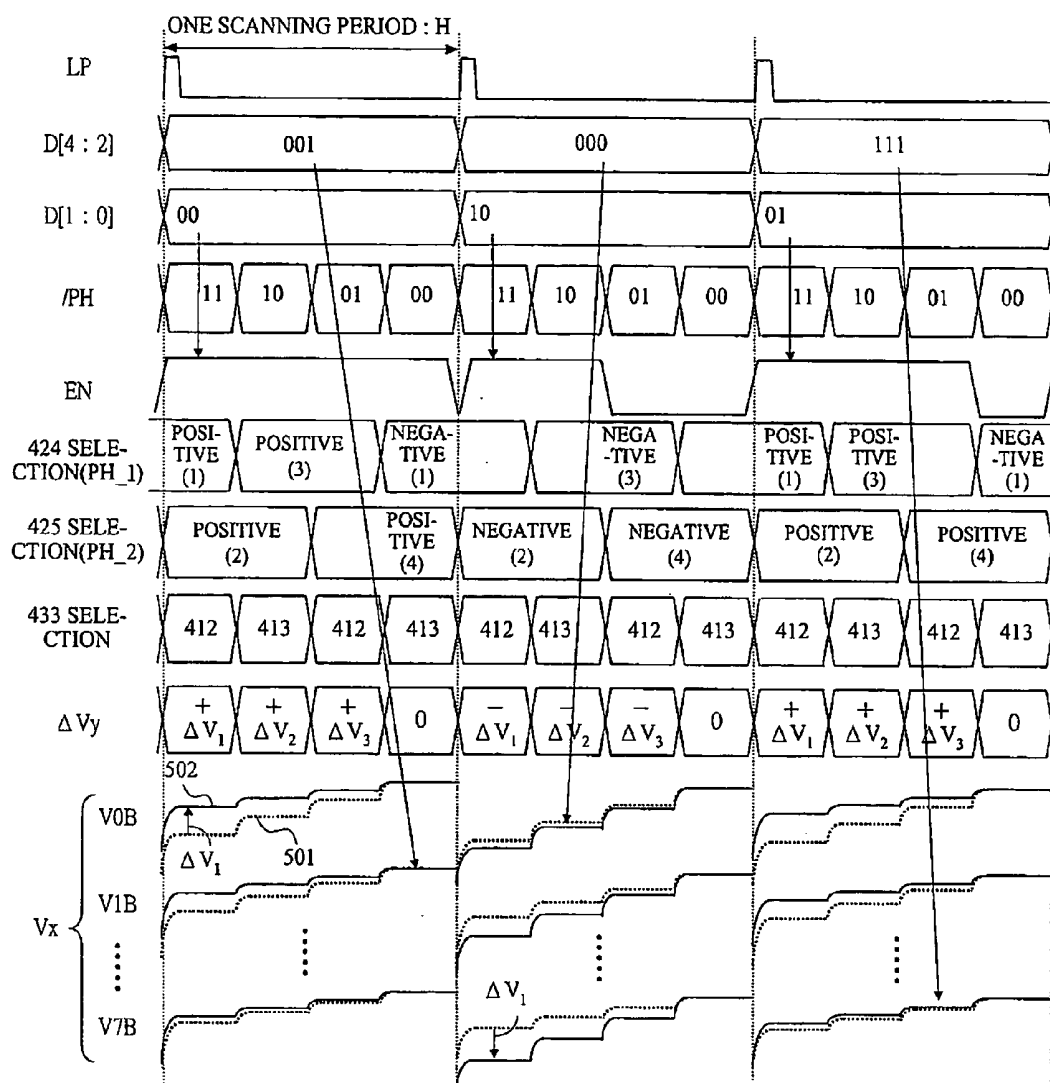


FIG. 4B

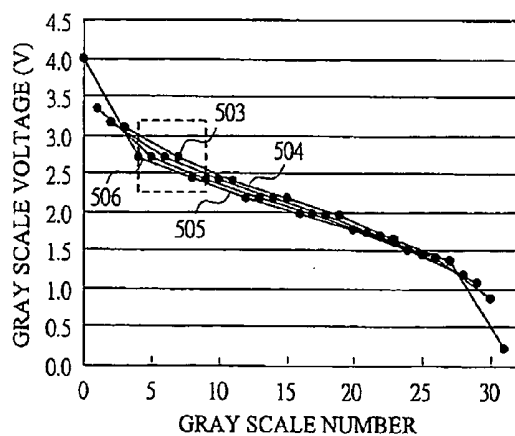


FIG. 4C

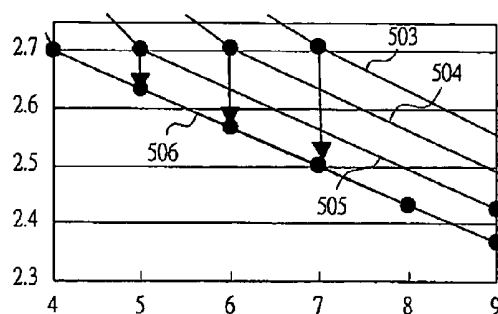


FIG. 5A

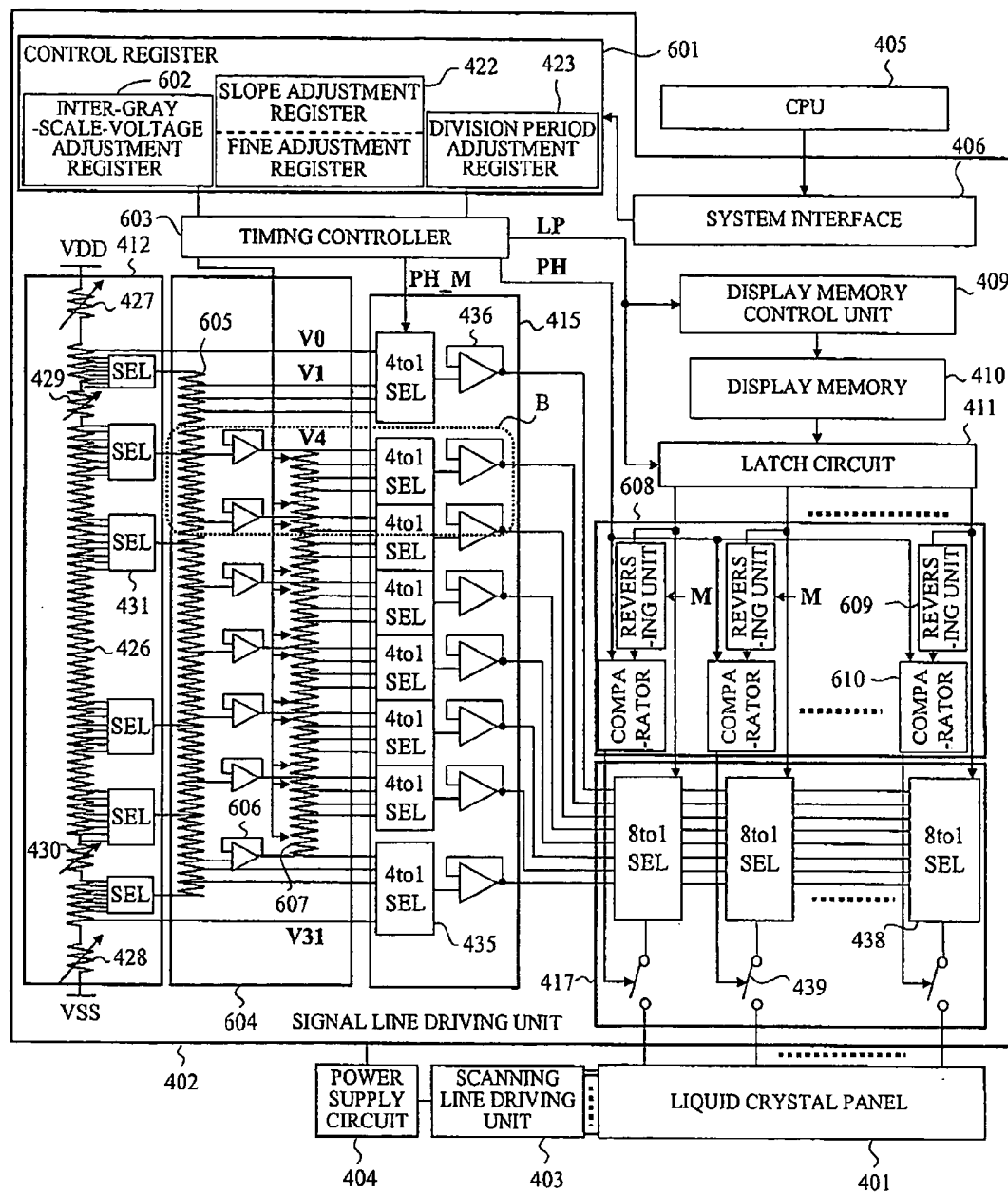


FIG. 5B

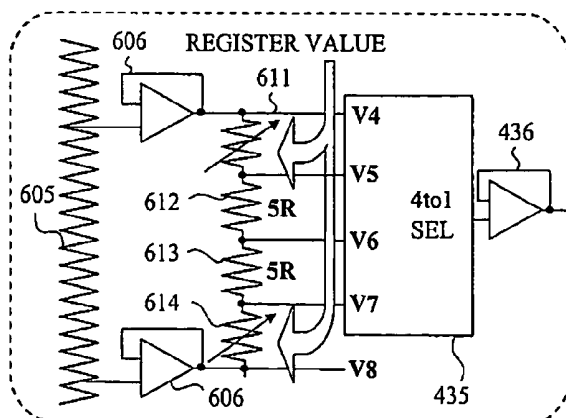


FIG. 5C

Reg	611	Reg	614
00	5R	00	5R
01	10R	01	10R
10	25R	10	25R
11	50R	11	50R

FIG. 6A

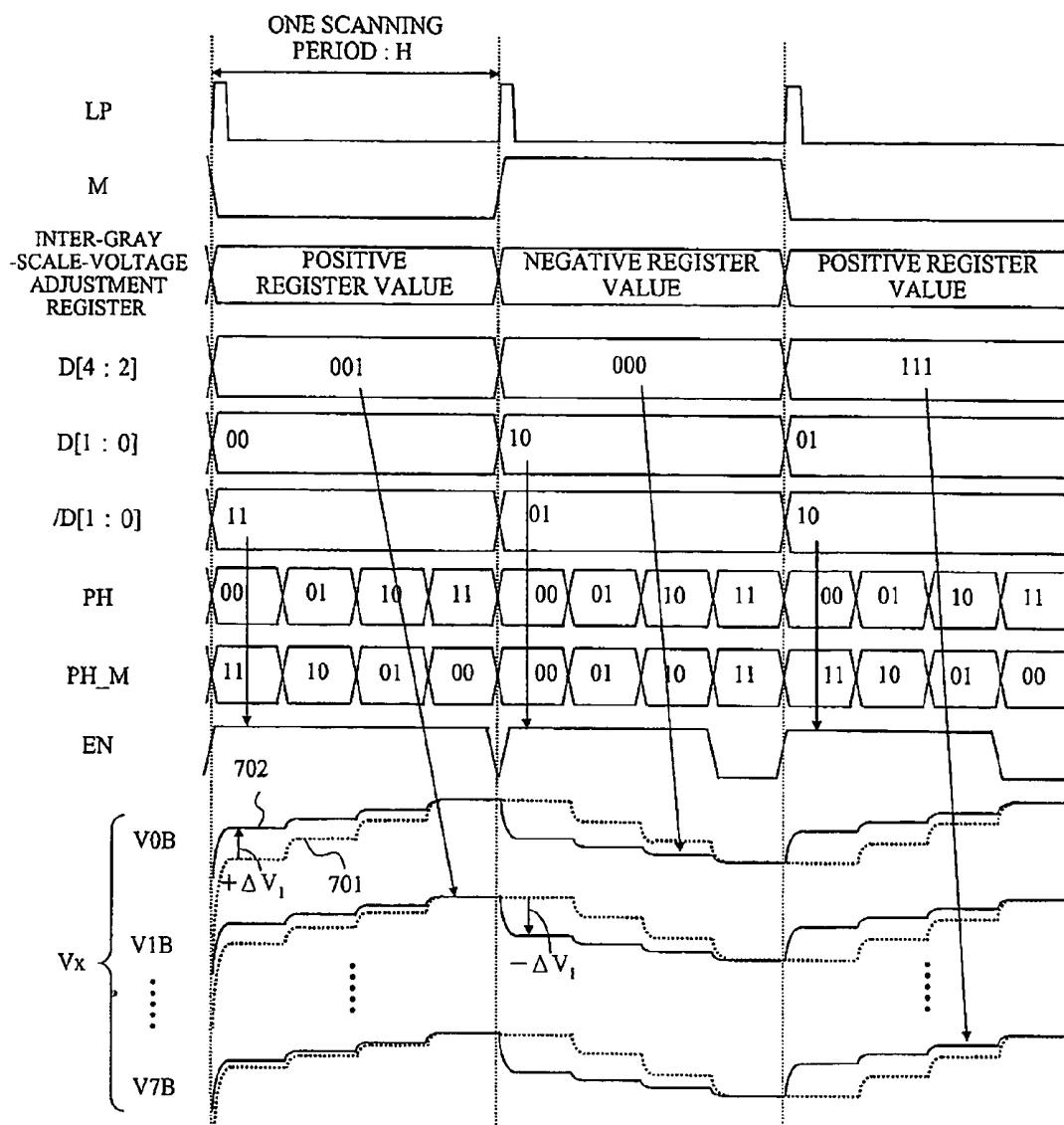


FIG. 6B

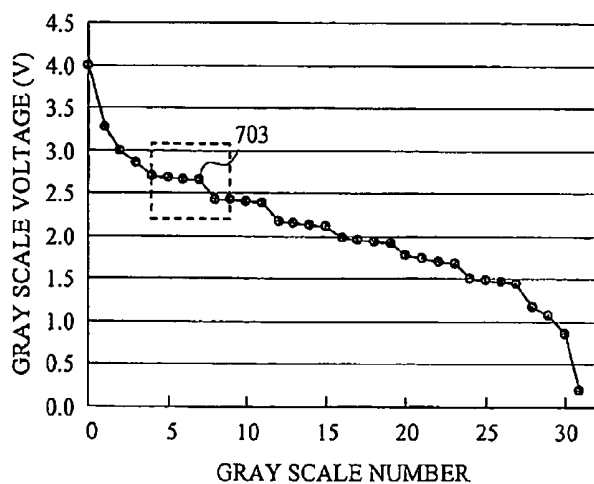


FIG. 6C

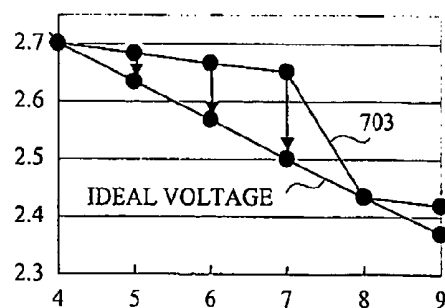


FIG. 7B

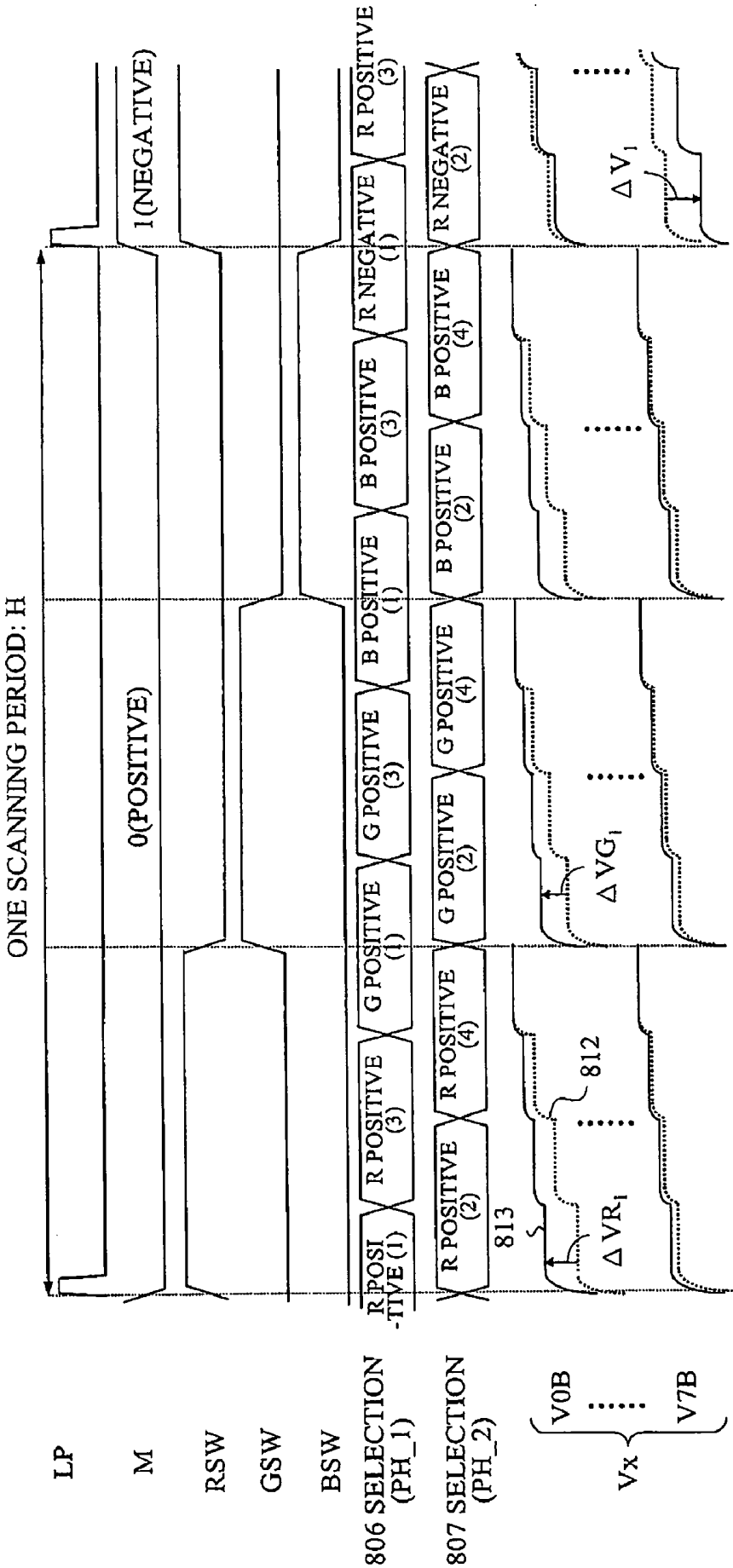


FIG. 8A

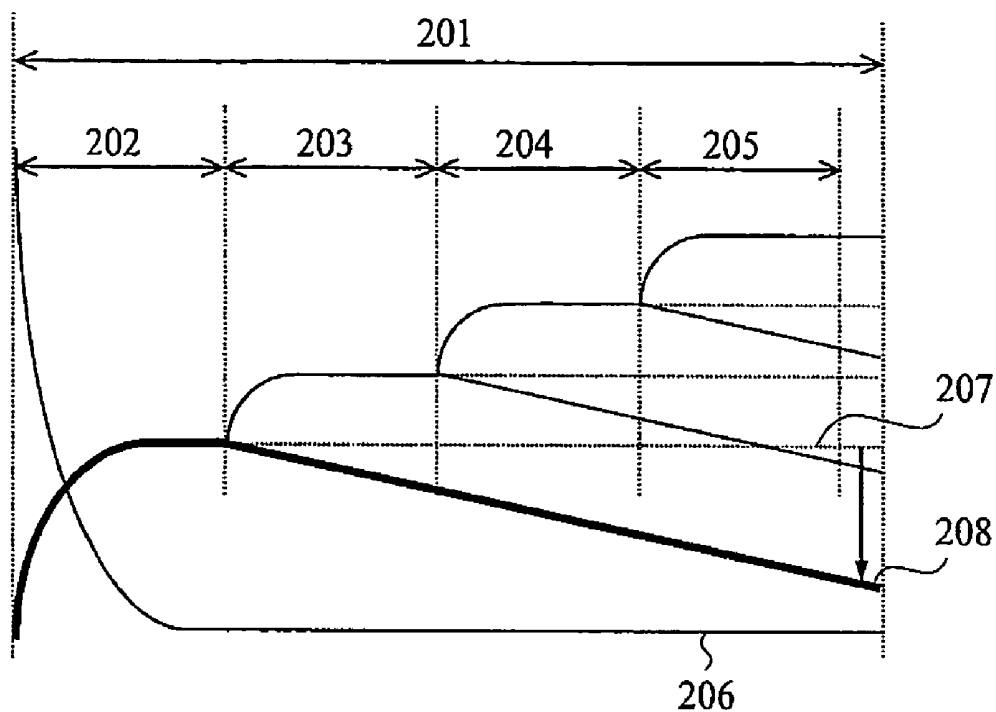
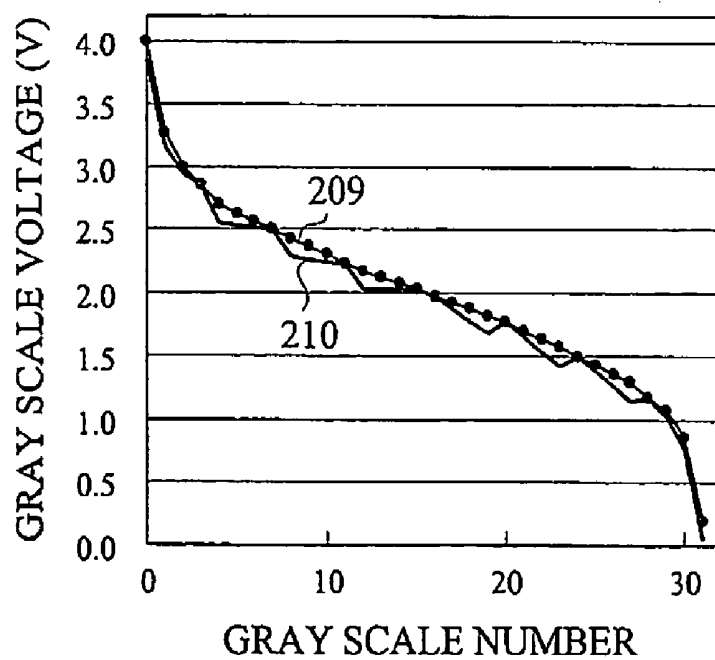


FIG. 8B



DISPLAY DRIVER

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

[0001] The present application claims priority from Japanese Patent Application No. JP 2005-261924 filed on Sep. 9, 2005, the content of which is hereby incorporated by reference into this application.

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to the technology for a display driver (such as IC mounted with a driving circuit) to be provided in a mobile device such as a cellular phone. More particularly, it relates to the technology for a driving method and a driving circuit of a display device operable with small power consumption and small-scale circuit.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Conventionally, as a technology for a driving circuit for a display device such as TFT liquid crystal display, the technology for a driving circuit disclosed in U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005-052477 (JP-A No. 2005-99665) has been known. This driving circuit has gray scale voltage lines in accordance with the number of gray scales of high-order bits of display data, a selector which receives a pulse signal at each time determined in advance so as to correspond to low-order bits of the display data and selects a gray scale voltage line in accordance with the contents of the high-order bits to output the voltage to a signal line only during the period when the pulse signal is kept active, and a gray scale voltage generating unit for supplying a gray scale voltage, which is changed by the number of gray scales of low-order bits of image data, to each gray scale voltage line. In the driving method disclosed in U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005-052477, one gray scale voltage is selected from a gray scale voltage group whose voltage levels are changed every predetermined divided period in accordance with a high-order bit of display data, and the selected gray scale voltage is outputted to a signal line only during the period in accordance with the information of a low-order bit of the display data. This method is hereinafter referred to as a first driving method. According to the configuration and operation described above, it is possible to realize more gray scale displays in smaller circuit scale.

[0004] Moreover, as a conventional method for realizing the γ adjusting function, the driving circuit disclosed in JP-A No. 2005-49868 has been known. In the circuit and method thereof, amplitude adjustment, slope adjustment, and fine adjustment for an S-shaped γ -characteristic curve can be made by an amplitude adjustment register, slope adjustment register, and fine adjustment register so that each gray scale voltage corresponding to a desired γ -characteristic in the characteristics of each liquid crystal panel can be adjusted.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] In the case of the above first driving method, when a gray scale display is performed on a liquid crystal panel having a certain structure and its display device, display luminance does not uniformly change and a streak-like image quality deterioration occurs in some cases. For example, when there is a current leakage path between a signal line and an opposite electrode in a liquid crystal panel, electric charges charged in the signal line and a selected

pixel electrode move to the opposite electrode and the gray scale voltage level applied to the signal line and pixel electrode is fluctuated in some cases. Accordingly, image quality deterioration occurs and a desired display luminance cannot be obtained.

[0006] FIG. 1 shows an example of a liquid crystal panel 401 according to a known technology, to which a technology of the present invention is to be applied. The liquid crystal panel 401 has a TFT substrate 101, an opposite electrode 102, a liquid-crystal layer 103, signal lines (also referred to as data line) 104, scanning lines 105, and current leakage paths 106. It is known that image quality deterioration occurs in the liquid crystal panel 401 particularly having the current leakage path 106 between the signal line 104 and the opposite electrode 102.

[0007] In this case, a cause of the image quality deterioration will be described below with reference to FIG. 8A and FIG. 8B. FIG. 8A shows voltage transitions of the signal line (104) and opposite electrode (102) in one scanning period. A reference numeral 201 denotes one scanning period, 202 denotes a first divided period, 203 denotes a second divided period, 204 denotes a third divided period, and 205 denotes a fourth divided period. Moreover, a reference numeral 206 denotes an opposite electrode voltage, 207 denotes the ideal voltage of the gray scale in which a voltage application period is the first divided period 202, and 208 denotes the voltage transition of the signal line (104) when the first driving method is applied to the liquid crystal panel 401 shown in FIG. 1.

[0008] First, in the case of the first driving method, when focusing attention on the gray scale in which a voltage application period is the first divided period 202, after the first division period ends, the signal line 104 is turned to a floating state in the time of "one scanning period 201-first divided period 202" (rest of the one scanning period 201). Then, when the current leakage path 106 is present between the signal line 104 and the opposite electrode 102, the gray scale voltage of the signal line 104 fluctuates to the side of the opposite electrode 206 and the signal line voltage transition 208 actually occurs relative to the ideal voltage 207. On the other hand, when focusing attention on the gray scale in which a voltage application period is the fourth divided period 205, a TFT is turned to an off-state immediately after the fourth divided period 205 is completed. Therefore, the gray scale voltage of the signal line 104 is hardly fluctuated.

[0009] As described above, voltage fluctuation different in each divided period (202 to 205) occurs in the signal line 104. For example, when assuming display data as 32 levels and the number of divisions of one scanning period 201 as 4, the deviation of this voltage fluctuation value is repeated eight times for each four gray scales.

[0010] FIG. 8B shows the gray scale number-gray scale voltage characteristics based on the output voltage of the signal line driving unit connected to the signal line 104 and the voltage of the signal line (104) immediately after a TFT is turned to an off-state. A reference numeral 209 denotes the characteristics between a gray scale number of the output voltage of a signal-line driving unit and a gray scale voltage, and 210 denotes the characteristics between a gray scale number of a pixel electrode voltage (signal line voltage) immediately after a TFT is turned to an off-state and a gray

scale voltage. The display luminance of the liquid crystal panel **401** is determined by a pixel electrode voltage (**210**). Therefore, when gray scale display is performed, image quality deterioration in which 8 streaks are observed occurs. Note that a mechanism in which image quality deterioration occurs has been described here based on the case where the voltage of the signal line **104** is changed from a low level to a high level as shown in FIG. **8A**. However, in the case of the first driving method, image quality deterioration occurs similarly also when the voltage of the signal line **104** is changed from a high level to a low level.

[**0011**] An object of the present invention is to provide the technology capable of solving the problem of the image quality deterioration as described above and achieving the multi-gray scale display and reduction of image quality deterioration with a small-scale circuit.

[**0012**] The cause of the above-described image quality deterioration lies in the fact that the voltage fluctuation value of the signal line **104** changes in each of the divided periods (**202-205**). Therefore, in the technology of the present invention, a function and means for adjusting the γ -characteristic in each divided period (**202 to 205**) is used. The γ -characteristic corresponds to a relation of display data, gray scale voltage, and actual display luminance (pixel electrode voltage). As a conventional method for achieving the γ adjusting function, the driving circuit disclosed in JP-A No. 2005-49868 is known.

[**0013**] In such a circumstance, in order to achieve the object described above, the technology of the present invention has the configuration in which the γ adjusting function disclosed in JP-A No. 2005-49868 (hereinafter, referred to as second driving method) is applied to the first driving method. More specifically, in this configuration, for the voltage fluctuations in the signal line (**104**) and a pixel electrode generated when applying the first driving method to a display panel such as the liquid crystal panel (**401**) having the current leakage path (**106**) between the signal line (**104**) and the opposite electrode (**102**), means for applying and outputting a gray scale voltage, to which level adjustment such as addition or subtraction is applied in consideration of the voltage fluctuation value, that is, so as to cancel the influence of the voltage fluctuations, to the signal line (**104**) is provided.

[**0014**] FIG. **2A** shows a transition of voltage levels of the signal line (**104**) in the driving method and the configuration of the driving circuit in which the second driving method is applied to the first driving method in the technology of the present invention. A gray scale voltage V_x ($V_x = V_{data} + \Delta V_y$, $x=0, 1, 2, \dots, 31$) obtained by previously adding voltage fluctuation values ΔV_1 , ΔV_2 , and ΔV_3 different in each divided periods (**202-205**) is generated for the ideal voltage **207**, and a signal-line driving unit applies the voltage (V_x) to the signal line **104** of the liquid crystal panel **401**. As a result, it is possible to adjust a voltage difference between adjacent gray scales immediately after a TFT is turned to an off-state.

[**0015**] FIG. **2B** shows gray scale number-gray scale voltage characteristics based on the voltage of the signal line (**104**). A reference numeral **301** denotes a characteristic between gray scale number of an output voltage of a signal line driving unit and the voltage, **302** denotes a characteristic between gray scale number of a pixel electrode voltage

(signal line voltage) and the voltage at the timing when a TFT is turned to an off-state. As shown by the pixel electrode voltage (**302**) for actually determining a display luminance, the characteristic curve becomes smooth, and a streak-like image quality deterioration generated in the conventional technology can be avoided.

[**0016**] As described above, by using a driver of the present invention, it is possible to achieve the multi-gray scale display in a small-scale circuit and reduction of image quality deterioration which is the first object of the present invention at the same time.

[**0017**] The driver of the present invention has a gray scale voltage generating unit for generating gray scale voltages corresponding to each of a plurality of gray scales and a gray scale voltage selecting unit for selecting a gray scale voltage to be output to the signal line of a display panel in accordance with inputted display data. The gray scale voltage selecting unit selects a gray scale voltage to be outputted to each of the signal lines from gray scale voltages outputted from the gray scale voltage generating unit in a time division manner to control the length of a period for outputting a selected gray scale voltage in accordance with the display data. The gray scale voltage generating unit can generate the gray scale voltage whose level to an ideal voltage fluctuates in each of a plurality of periods obtained by time division of one scanning period for outputting the gray scale voltage to the signal line. Moreover, the driver of the present invention has means for generating the gray scale voltage whose level differs in each of the time-divided periods obtained by adding or subtracting a voltage fluctuation value in accordance with the voltage fluctuation value in each time-divided period on the signal line. Alternatively, the driver of the present invention has means for applying level adjustment such as addition or subtraction or performing conversion to the gray scale voltage generated by the gray scale voltage generating unit and then outputting the voltage. Particularly, the gray scale voltage generating unit outputs a gray scale voltage in which the level gradually (stepwise) fluctuates. Moreover, the driver of the present invention has a register for level adjustment for each of the time-divided periods.

[**0018**] The driver of the present invention has an output circuit (corresponding to **412** and **413** in the embodiment) for outputting a voltage which changes stepwise in the time-divided periods in one horizontal period, selecting circuits (**414 to 417**) for determining the level of the voltage which changes stepwise based on the display data, and circuits (**427** and **428**) for shifting the level of the voltage which changes stepwise for each of the time-divided periods. Moreover, the driver of the present invention has an output circuit for outputting a voltage which changes stepwise in the time-divided periods in one horizontal period, selecting circuits for determining the level of the voltage which changes stepwise based on the display data, and setting circuits (amplitude adjustment registers **418 to 421**) for setting the level of the voltage which changes stepwise for each of the divided periods.

[**0019**] According to the present invention, it is possible to realize a driving circuit capable of achieving multi-gray scale display with a small scale circuit and reducing the image quality deterioration.

BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF THE DRAWINGS

[0020] FIG. 1 is an explanatory diagram showing a configuration example of a liquid crystal panel which is a known technology to which a driver of an embodiment of the present invention is to be applied and a factor of the voltage level fluctuation (current leakage path) of the signal line of the liquid crystal panel;

[0021] FIG. 2A is a diagram showing a change of signal line voltage level illustrating the effect obtained by the gray scale voltage adjusting function of the driving method and the driver according to an embodiment in which a second driving method is applied to a first driving method;

[0022] FIG. 2B is a diagram showing a gray scale number-gray scale voltage characteristic;

[0023] FIG. 3 is a diagram showing a configuration of a system (liquid crystal display) including the driver (TFT liquid crystal driving circuit) of the first embodiment of the present invention, particularly a block diagram of a signal line driving unit;

[0024] FIG. 4A is a timing chart of each signal in the driving method of the first embodiment of the present invention;

[0025] FIG. 4B is a diagram showing a gray scale number-gray scale voltage characteristic illustrating the effect of the driving method;

[0026] FIG. 4C is an enlarged view of a part of FIG. 4B;

[0027] FIG. 5A is a diagram showing a configuration of a system (liquid crystal display) including the driver (TFT liquid crystal driving circuit) of the second embodiment of the present invention, particularly a block diagram of a signal line driving unit;

[0028] FIG. 5B is an enlarged view showing the configuration of a part of the system;

[0029] FIG. 5C is a table showing a setting example of the register in FIG. 5B;

[0030] FIG. 6A is a timing chart of each signal in the driving method of the second embodiment of the present invention;

[0031] FIG. 6B is a diagram showing a gray scale number-gray scale voltage characteristic illustrating the effect of the driving method;

[0032] FIG. and FIG. 6C is an enlarged view of a part in FIG. 6B;

[0033] FIG. 7A is a diagram showing a configuration of a system (liquid crystal display) including the driver (TFT liquid crystal driving circuit) of the third embodiment of the present invention;

[0034] FIG. 7B is a timing chart of each signal in the driving method of the third embodiment;

[0035] FIG. 8A is a diagram showing a signal line voltage when the first driving method is applied to the liquid crystal panel shown in FIG. 1 and a voltage level is changed from a low voltage to a high voltage; and

[0036] FIG. 8B is a diagram showing a gray scale number-gray scale voltage characteristic when a voltage level is changed from a low voltage to a high voltage.

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0037] Hereinafter, embodiments of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings. Note that components having the same function are denoted by the same reference symbols throughout the drawings for describing the embodiment, and the repetitive description thereof will be omitted. FIG. 1 to FIG. 7 are drawings for describing the embodiment. FIG. 8A and FIG. 8B are drawing for describing prior arts. Note that, when there are a plurality of components having the same function in each drawing, a symbol or numeral is provided only for some of them.

[0038] The driver of this embodiment is provided with a gray scale voltage adjusting function capable of adjusting a gray scale voltage output in consideration of the voltage fluctuation in a signal line of a display device. The function is used to drive a display device according to the driving method of this embodiment. The driving method of this embodiment is obtained by combining the second driving method with the first driving method.

[0039] Hereinafter, the prior art is briefly described for comparison with this embodiment. In the case where an active matrix display panel, for example, a TFT liquid crystal panel is driven in accordance with the first driving method as a prior art, when the selecting period of the signal line 104 ends, supply of electric charges from the driving circuit is stopped, electric charges of the signal line 104 are retained by the capacitance between wirings in the liquid crystal panel 401, for example, the capacitance coupling between the signal line 104 and the scanning line 105, and the signal line 104 is turned to a floating state. Moreover, the gray scale voltage of a pixel electrode in a selected state retains the same voltage as that of the signal line 104 until a TFT is turned to an off-state.

[0040] However, when the driving circuit to be driven by the first driving method is connected to the TFT liquid crystal panel 401 having the current leakage path 106 between the signal line 104 and the opposite electrode 102 as shown in FIG. 1, electric charges constantly charged to the signal line 104 continuously move to the opposite electrode 102. Therefore, a signal line voltage V_{data} starts to fluctuate from the moment when the signal line 104 becomes a floating state. Consequently, a desired effective value cannot be obtained and streak-like image quality deterioration occurs when the gray scale display is performed.

[0041] Incidentally, as shown by the following expression 1, the above-described voltage fluctuation value ΔV_y ($y=1, 2, 3, \text{ or } 4$) is determined depending on the potential difference between the signal line voltage V_{data} and the opposite electrode voltage V_{com} , capacitive load CLCD in the liquid crystal panel 401, impedance R_{leak} of the current leakage path 106, and a period of the floating state of the signal line 104 (one scanning period 201-signal line selecting period).

$$\Delta V_y = -(V_{data} - V_{com}) \times e^{-\{(4-y) \times t + \tau\}} \quad \text{Expression 1}$$

[0042] First, when focusing attention on the liquid crystal panel 401, the voltage fluctuation value ΔV_y increases as the capacitive load CLCD in the panel decreases. Moreover, the voltage fluctuation value ΔV_y increases as the impedance R_{leak} of the current leakage path 106 decreases. Therefore,

it is found that the degree of image quality deterioration differs in each liquid crystal panel 401 to be driven.

[0043] Then, when focusing attention on the period in which the signal line 104 becomes a floating state, based on time t ($t=H/4$) obtained by dividing one scanning period H into four equal periods, the floating period of the first gray scale group in which the signal line 104 is selected only in the first period is $3t$, the floating period of the second gray scale group in which the signal line 104 is selected up to the third period is $2t$, the floating period of the third gray scale group in which the signal line 104 is selected up to the third period is t , and the floating period of the fourth gray scale group in which the signal line 104 is selected up to the fourth period is 0 . Then, the voltage fluctuation value $\Delta V1$ of the first gray scale group is largest, $\Delta V2$ and $\Delta V3$ gradually decrease in order, and the voltage fluctuation value $\Delta V4$ of the fourth gray scale group is 0 .

[0044] In the case of this embodiment, in consideration of the fact that the portion of $e^{-\{(4-y) \times t + \tau\}}$ in expression 1 becomes constant when the y -th gray scale group is the same in the same liquid crystal panel 401, the gray scale voltage V_x ($V_x = V_{data} + \Delta V_y$) to which the voltage fluctuation value ΔV_y is added is generated for each gray scale group and applied to the signal line 104.

[0045] Hereinafter, a driving method and a driver of this embodiment and a system including the driver will be described.

First Embodiment

[0046] A configuration and operations of the first embodiment will be described below with reference to FIG. 3 and FIG. 4. FIG. 3 shows a configuration of a system (liquid crystal display) including the driver of the first embodiment. FIG. 4A is a timing chart of each signal showing the control of a register and a switch in the driving method of the first embodiment. FIG. 4B and FIG. 4C show the gray scale number-gray scale voltage characteristics in the driving method.

[0047] First, as shown in FIG. 3, the liquid crystal display has a configuration including a signal line driving unit 402, a scanning line driving portion 403, a power supply circuit 404, and a CPU 405 for the liquid crystal panel 401. The signal line driving unit 402 is a driving circuit for driving the liquid crystal panel 401 in accordance with the driving method of this embodiment.

[0048] The liquid crystal panel 401 has a structure in which liquid crystal is sealed between two glass substrates. As shown in FIG. 1, TFTs are disposed for each pixel on one glass substrate and the opposite electrodes 102 are disposed on the other glass substrate. Moreover, the liquid crystal panel 401 is a TFT liquid crystal panel referred to as the active matrix type in which the scanning line s105 and the signal lines 104 to be connected to TFTs are arranged in matrix, the drain terminal of the TFT is connected to the output of the gray scale voltage selecting unit 417 via the signal line 104, the gate terminal of the TFT is connected to the output of the scanning line driving unit 403 via the scanning line 105, and the source terminal of the TFT is connected to a pixel electrode. Furthermore, this embodiment is particularly directed to the liquid crystal panel 401 having the current leakage path 106 between the signal line 104 and the opposite electrode 102.

[0049] Note that, although the description is progressed based on the liquid crystal panel 401, the present invention can be applied to another device capable of controlling a display luminance at a voltage level and having a signal line corresponding to the above-described current leakage path 106, for example, an organic EL device.

[0050] A signal line 490 connected to the gray scale voltage selecting unit 417 is an extended portion of the signal line 104 in the liquid crystal panel 401 in FIG. 1. Signal line voltage fluctuation occurs in the signal line 490 extending to the panel side from the gray scale voltage selecting unit 417 and the signal line 104 in the panel.

[0051] The signal line driving unit 402 is a block which controls the display luminance of the liquid crystal panel 401 by converting digital display data into analog gray scale voltage V_{data} and applying the gray scale voltage V_{data} to a pixel electrode via the signal line 104 of the liquid crystal panel 401.

[0052] The scanning line driving unit 403 is a block for line-sequentially applying a selection signal synchronizing with a line clock LP generated by the timing controller 408 in the signal line driving unit 402 described later to the scanning line 105 of the liquid crystal panel 401.

[0053] The power supply circuit 404 is a block for generating a power supply voltage level necessary in the signal line driving unit 402 and the scanning line driving unit 403 from a power supply voltage V_{ci} supplied from outside. Note that the generation of the power supply voltage level is achieved by multiplying a power supply voltage V_{ci} by a charge pump circuit or the like by n .

[0054] Next, blocks constituting the signal line driving unit 402 will be described below. The signal line driving unit 402 has a system interface 406, a display memory control unit 409, a display memory 410, a latch circuit 411, a control register 407, a timing controller 408, a first reference voltage generating unit 412, a second reference voltage generating unit 413, a gray scale voltage generating unit 414, a gray scale voltage time-division output unit 415, a comparison computing unit 416, a gray scale voltage selecting unit 417, and register switching circuits 424 and 425.

[0055] The control register 407 includes amplitude adjustment registers (418 to 421), slope adjustment register and fine adjustment register 422, and a divided period adjustment register (divided period PH setting register) 423. The amplitude adjustment register has amplitude adjustment registers (for positive electrode and negative electrode) such as an amplitude adjustment register for first gray scale group (first period amplitude adjustment register) 418, an amplitude adjustment register for second gray scale group (second period amplitude adjustment register) 419, an amplitude adjustment register for third gray scale group (third period amplitude adjustment register) 420, and an amplitude adjustment register for fourth gray scale group (fourth period amplitude adjustment register) 421. The slope adjustment register and fine adjustment register 422 are the same as those described in JP-A No. 2005-49868.

[0056] The first reference voltage generating unit 412 has a resistor 426, variable resistors 427, 428, 429, and 430, and selector circuits 431. Reference numerals 427 and 428 denote amplitude adjusting variable resistors, and 429 and 430 denote slope adjusting variable resistors. The gray scale

voltage generating unit 414 has a ladder resistor 432, 2-to-1 switches 433, and operational amplifiers 434. The gray scale voltage time-division output unit 415 has 4-to-1 selectors 435 and operational amplifier circuits 436. The comparison computing unit 416 has comparators 437. The gray scale voltage selecting unit 417 has 8-to-1 selectors 438 and switch circuits 439 and is connected to the signal line 490.

[0057] The first driving method is realized by the gray scale voltage time-division output unit 415, the comparison computing unit 416, and the gray scale voltage selecting unit 417. However, the slope adjustment register and the fine adjustment register 422 can be omitted.

[0058] Operations of the internal blocks of the signal line driving unit 402 are described below.

[0059] The system interface 406 receives display data and instructions from the CPU 405 and transfers them to the control register 407. In this case, the instructions correspond to the information for determining an internal operation of a driving circuit, which include a frame frequency, the number of driving lines, divided period information at the time of gray scale time-division driving, a set value of a register of various adjusting functions regarding the γ -characteristic.

[0060] In the control register 407, a register for the γ adjusting function (second method) is set for each polarity of voltage applied for driving the liquid crystal panel 401. That is, amplitude adjustment registers for positive electrode (418 to 421) and similar amplitude adjustment registers for negative electrodes are provided. Basically, the control register 407 is a block for storing instruction data and transferring the data to each block. For example, instructions regarding the frame frequency, the number of driving lines, and divided period information are transferred to a timing controller 408 described later. Moreover, instructions to be stored in the amplitude adjustment registers (418 to 421) are transferred to register switching circuits 424 and 425 described later, and instructions to be stored in the slope adjustment register and fine adjustment register 422 are transferred to the reference voltage generating units (412 and 413) described later. Note that the display data is once stored in the control register 407 and is outputted to the display memory control unit 409 described later together with an instruction for designating a display position.

[0061] The timing controller 408 has a dot counter and generates a line clock LP based on a dot clock inputted from outside. Moreover, the timing controller 408 generates a PH signal for specifying the divided period of each gray scale group for one scanning period from the divided period information transferred from the divided period adjustment register 423. The gray scale groups in this case are a first gray scale group including gray scale numbers of $4n$, a second gray scale group including gray scale numbers of $4n+1$, a third gray scale group including gray scale numbers of $4n+2$, and a fourth gray scale group including gray scale numbers of $4n+3$ in 32 gray scale numbers from 0 to 31.

[0062] The PH signal is a two-bit signal which is changed in the order of 00, 01, 10, and 11 in one scanning period and used for the register switching circuits 424 and 425 described later. Note that the timing controller 408 outputs $\overline{\text{PH}}$ which is a reverse signal of the PH signal and $\overline{\text{PH}}$ is used by the 4-to-1 selector 435 in the gray scale voltage time-division output unit 415. Moreover, the timing control-

ler 408 has a two-bit counter which counts in each state change in $\text{PH}[0]$ (PH signal low-order one bit) $\Rightarrow \text{PH}[1]$ (PH signal high-order one bit) $\Rightarrow \text{PH}[0] \neq \text{PH}[1]$ and a two-bit counter which counts in each state change in $\text{PH}[1]=0 \Rightarrow \text{PH}[1]=1$, and the former outputs a PH_1 signal and the latter outputs a PH_2 signal.

[0063] The display memory control unit 409 is a block for performing the read and write operations of the display memory 410. At the time of the write operation, the control unit 409 outputs a signal for selecting the address of the display memory 410 based on an instruction for display position transferred from the control register 407, and simultaneously transfers the display data to the display memory 410. Moreover, at the time of the read operation, the control unit 409 collectively selects the display data for one line based on an instruction for display position transferred from the control register 407.

[0064] The display memory 410 has storage areas corresponding to the number of pixels of the liquid crystal panel 401, and its operations are controlled by the display memory control unit 409. Note that the display data read and designated by the display memory control unit 409 is transferred to the latch circuit 411.

[0065] The first and second reference voltage generating units (412 and 413) have the same circuit configuration and are constituted of a ladder resistor composed of a fixed resistor group (resistor 426), variable resistors 427 and 428 for performing amplitude adjustment, and variable resistors 429 and 430 for performing slope adjustment between the reference voltage VDD and the reference voltage VSS set in the power supply circuit 404 and selector circuits 431 for performing the fine adjustment. In this case, resistance values of the variable resistors 427 and 428 can be adjusted in accordance with register values transferred from the register switch circuits 424 and 425.

[0066] In FIG. 3, amplitude adjustment is performed by disposing the variable resistors 427 and 428 near reference voltages VDD and VSS and adjusting the resistance values thereof. Alternatively, it is also possible to use the configuration in which the variable resistors 427, 428, 429, and 430 are replaced with fixed resistors and the amplitude adjustment is performed by using the selector circuit based on a plurality of voltage levels divided by the resistors.

[0067] The gray scale voltage generating unit 414 is composed of the 2-to-1 switches 433 for selecting the reference voltages inputted from the first and second reference voltage generating units (412 and 413), operational amplifier circuits 434 for impedance-converting an output thereof, and a ladder resistor 432 for generating 32 gray scale voltage levels based on the output voltage of the operational amplifier circuits 434 when display data is a 5-bit data. Note that the 2-to-1 switch 433 can be switched by low-order one bit $\text{PH}[0]$ of a PH signal generated by the timing controller 408. For example, when $\text{PH}[0]$ is "0", an output voltage of the first reference voltage generating unit 412 is selected, and when $\text{PH}[0]$ is "1", an output voltage of the second reference voltage generating unit 413 is selected.

[0068] The gray scale voltage time-division output unit 415 is constituted of the 4-to-1 selectors 435 for sequentially selecting adjacent gray scale voltages of four levels from the output of the gray scale voltage generating unit 414, that is,

32 voltage levels when display data is 5 bits and operational amplifier circuits **436** for impedance-converting the output of the 4-to-1 selectors **435**. The switching of the 4-to-1 selector **435** is operated by a /PH signal generated in the timing controller **408**, and gray scale voltages V0B to V7B whose voltage levels are changed four times from low-voltage side to high voltage side in one scanning period are outputted. Alternatively, the switching of the 4-to-1 selector **435** is operated by a PH signal, and gray scale voltages V0B to V7B whose voltage levels are changed four times from low voltage side to high voltage side in one scanning period are outputted.

[0069] The comparison computing unit **416** compares D[1:0] which is low-order two bit of display data D[4:0] and /PH signal by the comparator **437** to output an EN signal which becomes "1" (high) under the condition of /PH>D[1:0] and "0" (low) under the condition of /PH<D[1:0].

[0070] When the switching of the 4-to-1 selector **435** is performed by a PH signal, D[1:0] is compared with the PH signal by the comparator **437** to output an EN signal which becomes "1" (high) under the condition of PH>D[1:0] and "0" under the condition of PH<D[1:0].

[0071] The gray scale voltage selecting unit **417** is constituted of 8-to-1 selectors **438** as many as the number of signal lines **104** of the liquid crystal panel **401** and the switch circuit **439**. In this case, when an EN signal transferred from the comparison computing unit **416** is "1" (high), the switch circuit **439** is turned on and the 8-to-1 selector **438** selects and outputs one of the gray scale voltages V0B to V7B in accordance with the value of D[4:2] which is high-order three bit of the display data. For example, when D[4:2] is 000, V0B is selected and outputted, and when D[4:2] is 111, V7B is selected and outputted. Meanwhile, when the EN signal is 0, the switch circuit **439** is turned off regardless of the value of D[4:2] and an output becomes high-impedance. Note that an output of the gray scale voltage selecting unit **417** is connected to the signal line **104** of the display panel **401** via the signal line **490**.

[0072] The first register switch circuit **424** sequentially switches register values transferred from the amplitude adjustment registers **418** and **420** in accordance with a PH₁ signal transferred from the timing controller **408**. Then, the register switch circuit **424** transfers its value to the variable resistors **427** and **428** in the first reference voltage generating unit **412**. Similarly, the second register switch circuit **425** sequentially switches register values transferred from the amplitude adjustment resistors **419** and **421** in accordance with a PH₂ signal transferred from the timing controller **408**. Then, the register switch circuit **425** transfers its value to a variable resistor in the second reference voltage generating unit **413**. In this case, it is assumed that register values of the amplitude adjustment registers **418** and **420** of an odd-number gray scale group are transferred to the first register switch circuit **424** regardless of the polarity of an applied voltage and register values of the amplitude adjustment registers **419** and **421** of an even-number gray scale group are transferred to the second register switch circuit **425** regardless of the polarity of the applied voltage.

[0073] Next, control of registers and switches according to this first embodiment will be described with reference to FIG. 4A. In FIG. 4A, a reference numeral **501** denotes a gray scale voltage (output voltage) to be originally applied to the

signal line **104** (pixel electrode) and **502** denotes an output voltage of the gray scale voltage time-division output unit **415** in this first embodiment.

[0074] First, display data is collectively transferred to the comparison computing unit **416**, the gray scale voltage selecting unit **417**, and the 2-to-1 switch **433** from the latch circuit **411** at the rise timing of a line clock LP generated by the timing controller **408**. At the same time, a /PH signal generated by the timing controller **408** is transferred to the comparison computing unit **416** and the 4-to-1 selector **435**, and PH₁ and PH₂ signals are transferred to the register switch circuits **424** and **425**.

[0075] Note that the EN signal is generated by the comparison computing unit **416** as described above. Specifically, D[1:0] which is low-order two bit of the display data transferred from the latch circuit **411** is compared with a /PH signal to generate the EN signal.

[0076] The first register switch circuit **424** sequentially selects register values transferred from the positive amplitude adjustment registers **418** and **420** and negative amplitude adjustment register at the switch timing of a PH₁ signal transferred from the timing controller **408** and transfers them to the variable resistors **427** and **428**. As a result, resistance values of the variable resistors **427** and **428** are changed four times in the time corresponding to two scanning periods in accordance with the set values. Moreover, the second register switch circuit **425** sequentially selects register values transferred from the positive amplitude adjustment registers **419** and **421** and the negative amplitude adjustment register at the switch timing of a PH₂ signal transferred from the timing controller **408** and transfers them to the variable resistors in the second reference voltage generating unit **413**. As a result, the resistance values of the variable resistors are changed four times in the time corresponding to the two scanning periods in accordance with the set values.

[0077] Then, the 2-to-1 switch **433** selects an output voltage of the first reference voltage generating unit **412** or an output voltage of the second reference voltage generating unit **413** by the switch of the low-order one bit PH[0] of a PH signal. FIG. 4A shows the case where an output voltage of the first reference voltage generating unit **412** is selected at PH[0]=0 and an output voltage of the second reference voltage generating unit **413** is selected at PH[0]=1. Therefore, the γ -characteristic is changed in the order of amplitude setting of positive first gray scale group, amplitude setting of positive second gray scale group, amplitude setting of positive third gray scale group, amplitude setting of positive fourth gray scale group, amplitude setting of negative first gray scale group, amplitude setting of negative second gray scale group, amplitude setting of negative third gray scale group, and amplitude setting of negative fourth gray scale group. Note that, when the 2-to-1 switch **433** selects the first reference voltage generating unit **412** and selects, for example, an output voltage of the positive first gray scale group, the unselected second reference voltage generating unit **413** generates an output voltage of the positive second gray scale group. Consequently, the outputs of the first and second reference voltage generating units (**412** and **413**) can determine the voltage before the selection by the 2-to-1 switch **433**, and a problem such as delay does not occur in the convergence at the time of the switching of the amplitude setting.

[0078] The 4-to-1 selector **435** sequentially selects one level of gray scale voltage from the four levels of adjacent gray scale voltages in accordance with a /PH signal and an operational amplifier circuit **436** serving as a voltage follower transfers the voltage to the gray scale voltage selecting unit **417**. The voltages V0B to V7B which are the outputs of the eight operational amplifiers **436** are changed stepwise from low voltage side to high voltage side as shown in FIG. 4A. Also, the feature of this embodiment lies in that each of V0B to V7B is the output voltage **502** obtained by adding a voltage fluctuation value ΔV_y to the gray scale voltage (output voltage) **501** to be originally applied to the signal line **104** (pixel electrode) when an applied voltage polarity is positive and that obtained by subtracting a voltage fluctuation value ΔV_y from the gray scale voltage **501** when the applied voltage polarity is negative.

[0079] FIG. 4B shows characteristics of gray scale numbers and gray scale voltages of output voltages outputted in one scanning period in the gray scale voltage time-division output unit **415**. A reference numeral **503** denotes a gray scale number-gray scale voltage characteristic of the first gray scale group. Similarly, a reference numeral **504** denotes the characteristic of second gray scale group, **505** denotes the characteristic of third gray scale group, and **506** denotes the characteristic of fourth gray scale group. The voltage levels other than that of the gray scale number-gray scale voltage characteristic **506** are obtained by adding or subtracting the voltage fluctuation value ΔV_y and a characteristic similar to the gray scale number-gray scale voltage characteristic in FIG. 2B is obtained. FIG. 4C is an enlarged view of the portion of gray scale numbers **4** to **9** in FIG. 4B. When a voltage drop corresponding to each high-impedance period occurs, it can be expected that the gray scale number-gray scale voltage characteristics **503** to **505** become the same characteristic as the gray scale number-gray scale voltage characteristic **506** of the fourth gray scale group in which voltage drop does not occur. Consequently, it is possible to avoid the steak-like image quality deterioration which occurs in the prior art.

[0080] According to the circuit configuration and operation timing described above, even when the current leakage path **106** is present in the liquid crystal panel **401** of a liquid crystal display having the driver of this first embodiment, the first driving method can be applied. Therefore, it is possible to achieve the multi-gray scale display with small steady current and small-scale circuit and reduce the image quality deterioration due to the driving method.

[0081] Note that, in the first embodiment, the output voltage V_x to the signal line **104** is changed stepwise from low gray scale side to high gray scale side. However, the output voltage can also be changed stepwise from high gray scale side to low gray scale side as long as the change direction of the gray scale voltage is fixed in one scanning period. Moreover, though two register switch circuits and two reference voltage generating units are disposed, it is allowed to dispose one register switch circuit and one reference voltage generating unit. In this case, resistance values of the variable resistors **427** and **428** are changed eight times in two scanning periods by sequentially switching register values of positive amplitude adjustment registers (**418** to **421**) and the register value of the negative amplitude adjustment register for each divided period. Moreover, though input display data is described as five bits, it is

allowed that the display data is 6 bits. Also, although the case where the gray scale voltage selecting unit **417** selects a voltage from adjacent gray scale voltages of four levels changed stepwise in one scanning period has been described, a configuration of selecting a voltage from gray scale voltages of two levels is also available. Moreover, though a driver including the display memory (**410**) and a liquid crystal display have been described, the present embodiment can be applied to a driver not including a display memory. Furthermore, in the case of this embodiment, a method for generating a γ -characteristic curve for each gray scale group has been described with using a case of applying the amplitude adjusting function disclosed in JP-A No. 2005-49868 as an example. However, it is also possible to apply the present invention to other adjusting functions.

Second Embodiment

[0082] A configuration and operations of the second embodiment will be described below with reference to FIG. 5 and FIG. 6. Though the γ -characteristic is switched in each divided period in one scanning period H in the above-described first embodiment, the gray scale voltage generating unit does not switch the γ -characteristic in one scanning period and the voltage level of a gray scale voltage is adjusted in accordance with the above-described fluctuation value ΔV_y in the second embodiment.

[0083] FIG. 5A shows a system (liquid crystal display) including the driver of the second embodiment. FIG. 5B shows a configuration of the circuit portion (B) in FIG. 5A. FIG. 5C shows a register setting example in FIG. 5B. FIG. 6A is the timing chart of each signal showing the control of a register and a switch in the driving method of the second embodiment. FIG. 6B and FIG. 6C show gray scale number-gray scale voltage characteristics in this driving method.

[0084] In FIG. 5A, configurations and operations of blocks other than a control register **601**, a timing controller **603**, a reference voltage generating unit **412**, a gray scale voltage generating unit **604**, and a comparison computing unit **608** are the same as those of the first embodiment. The gray scale voltage generating unit **604** has a ladder resistor **605**, operational amplifier circuits **606**, and an output ladder resistor **607**.

[0085] The control register **601** includes an inter-gray-scale-voltage adjustment register **602**, a slope adjustment register and fine adjustment register **422**, and a divided period adjustment register **423**. A register for the γ adjusting function is disposed for each polarity of the applied voltage for driving the liquid crystal panel **401**. However, the slope adjustment register and fine adjustment register **422** are not always necessary. Also, the amplitude adjustment register can be provided though the register is omitted in FIG. 5A.

[0086] The timing controller **603** has a dot counter and generates a line clock LP based on the dot clock inputted from outside. Moreover, similar to the first embodiment, the controller **603** generates a PH signal for specifying the divided period of each gray scale group based on the divided period information transferred from the division period adjustment register **423**, and the PH signal is used by a comparator **610** in a comparison computing unit **608** described later. Meanwhile, the timing controller **603** generates a signal obtained by reversing all bits of a PH signal

when M="0" and a PH_M signal which becomes a PH signal when M="1" based on an M signal showing the polarity of a voltage applied to liquid crystal. Note that the PH_M signal is used in the 4-to-1 selector 435.

[0087] In the above-described first embodiment, the reference voltage generating unit 412 changes resistance values of the variable resistors 427 and 428 for each gray scale group to generate four types of γ -characteristic curves shifted by the voltage fluctuation value ΔV_y , and the image quality deterioration is reduced by switching the characteristics in each division periods. Meanwhile, this second embodiment does not change the resistance values of the variable resistors 427 and 428 in one scanning period as described above.

[0088] The gray scale voltage generating unit 604 is constituted of a ladder resistor 605 for generating gray scale voltages of 32 levels through resistance division based on a reference voltage transferred from the reference voltage generating unit 412, operational amplifier circuits 606 for buffering each four gray scales, that is, voltage levels corresponding to V0, v4, . . . , and V29 from the voltage levels generated by the ladder resistor 605, and an output ladder resistor 607 for generating a voltage level obtained by adding or subtracting the above-described voltage fluctuation value ΔV_y . Note that the operational amplifier circuit 606 is disposed so as to prevent an output voltage of the gray scale voltage generating unit 604 from being determined by a partial voltage generated by the combined resistance of the ladder resistor 605 and the output ladder resistor 607.

[0089] As shown in FIG. 5B, the output ladder resistor 607 has a variable resistors 611 and 614 and resistors 612 and 613. The output ladder resistor 607 generates three levels through resistance division of four resistors (611 to 614) between outputs of the operational amplifier circuits 606. Among these four resistors, two resistors (611 and 614) near the outputs of the operational amplifier circuits 606 are variable resistors. Moreover, resistance values of the resistors (611 and 614) can be set in accordance with a two-bit set value stored in the inter-gray-scale-voltage adjustment register 602 as shown in FIG. 5C. For example, four types of 5R, 10R, 25R, and 50R can be set. In this case, R is a constant resistance value.

[0090] Output voltages of the output ladder resistor 607, for example, V5 to V7 can be obtained by the following expressions 2 to 4. For example, when increasing the resistance value of the variable resistor 614, terms of the portions other than (V4-V8) and +V8 of expressions 2 to 4 become a value close to 1. Therefore, it is possible to raise only V5, V6, and V7 to a high potential at the V4 side while fixing V4 level and V8 level. Moreover, when increasing the resistance value of the variable resistor 611, terms of the same portions of expressions 2 to 4 become a value close to 0. Therefore, it is possible to lower only V5, V6, and V7 to a low potential at the V8 side while fixing V4 level and V8 level. In the following, for example, r612 is assumed as the resistance value of the resistor 612.

$$V5 = (V4 - V8) \times (r612 + r613 + r614) / (r611 + r612 + r613 + r614) + V8 \quad \text{Expression 2}$$

$$V6 = (V4 - V8) \times (r613 + r614) / (r611 + r612 + r613 + r614) + V8 \quad \text{Expression 3}$$

$$V7 = (V4 - V8) \times (r614) / (r611 + r612 + r613 + r614) + V8 \quad \text{Expression 4}$$

[0091] Therefore, when the polarity of a voltage applied to liquid crystal is positive polarity and M="0", the signal line voltage Vdata is higher than the opposite electrode voltage Vcom and the voltage level of the signal line voltage Vdata is lowered by current leakage. Therefore, the resistance value of the variable resistor 614 is increased and the voltage fluctuation value ΔV_y is added to the signal line voltage Vdata. Also, when the polarity of a voltage applied to liquid crystal is negative and M="1", the signal line voltage Vdata is lower than the opposite electrode voltage Vcom and the voltage level of the signal line voltage Vdata is raised by current leakage. Therefore, the resistance value of the variable resistor 611 is increased and the voltage fluctuation value ΔV_y is added to the signal line voltage Vdata.

[0092] In this case, in FIG. 5B, resistance values r612 and r613 of the resistors 612 and 613 of the above-described four resistors are fixed to 5R. However, the configuration in which the resistances values are adjustable is also available. Also, as shown in FIG. 5C, resistance values r611 and r614 of the variable resistors 611 and 614 can be selected by two bits of the set value of the inter-gray-scale-voltage adjustment register 602. However, the number of bits is not limited to two bits. In general, although the number of switch circuits can be decreased and it is possible to reduce a circuit scale as the number of adjustment bits is decreased, since the adjustment width and adjustment accuracy are correspondingly lowered, sufficient image quality improvement effect may not be expected. Therefore, it is preferable to decide the number of adjustment bits and settable resistance value by considering the relation between the divided periods in one scanning period and the value of the impedance Rleak of the current leakage path 106 in the liquid crystal panel 401.

[0093] The comparison computing unit 608 is constituted of reversing units 609 and comparators 610. The reversing unit 609 receives low-order two bit D[1:0] of the display data D[4:0] and an M signal showing the polarity of an applied voltage from the latch circuit 411, and it transfers a signal obtained by reversing all bits of D[1:0] to the comparator 610 in the case of positive polarity and M="0" and transfers D[1:0] to the comparator 610 in the case of negative polarity and M="1". In this case, when assuming an output signal of the reversing unit 609 as C[1:0], the comparator 610 compares C[1:0] with a PH signal transferred from the timing controller 603 and outputs an EN signal which becomes "1" (high) under the condition of $PH \leq C[1:0]$ and becomes "0" (low) under the condition of $PH > C[1:0]$. Operations from the gray scale voltage selecting unit 417 are the same as those of the first embodiment.

[0094] Next, controls of a register and a switch in this embodiment will be described below with reference to FIG. 6A. In FIG. 6A, a reference numeral 701 denotes an ideal gray scale voltage (output voltage) and 702 denotes an output voltage of the gray scale voltage time-division output unit 415 in this second embodiment.

[0095] First, a transfer method of a line clock LP and display data D[4:0] up to the comparison computing unit 608 is the same as that of the first embodiment. Regarding the inter-gray-scale-voltage adjustment, which is a feature of the embodiments of the present invention, register values retained in the inter-gray-scale-voltage adjustment registers 602 for positive and negative polarities are transferred to the variable resistors 611 and 614 in synchronization with a

switch timing of an M signal indicating the polarity of the applied voltage by the timing controller 603.

[0096] Moreover, an EN signal is generated by using a PH signal and C[1:0] which is a signal obtained by normally rotating D[1:0] at M signal="0" and reversing D[1:0] at M signal="1" in accordance with operations of the above-described comparison computing unit 608.

[0097] In this case, the 4-to-1 selector 435 sequentially selects one level from the adjacent four level gray scale voltages in accordance with a PH_M signal, and the operational amplifier circuit 436 serving as a voltage follower transfers its voltage to the gray scale voltage selecting unit 417. The voltages V0B to V7B which are the outputs of eight operational amplifier circuits 436 are changed stepwise from low voltage side to high voltage side in the case of M signal="0" and positive polarity. Moreover, the voltages V0B to V7B are changed stepwise from high voltage side to low voltage side in the case of M signal="1" and negative polarity with respect to the gray scale voltage 701 to be originally applied to the signal line (pixel electrode). Also, the feature of this embodiment lies in that each of V0B to V7B is the output voltage 702 obtained by adding a voltage fluctuation value ΔV_y to the gray scale voltage 701 to be originally applied to the signal line (pixel electrode) when an applied voltage polarity is positive and that obtained by subtracting a voltage fluctuation value ΔV_y from the gray scale voltage 701 when the applied voltage polarity is negative.

[0098] In FIG. 6B, a reference numeral 703 denotes the gray scale number-gray scale voltage characteristic in the gray scale voltage time-division output unit 415, in which the same characteristic as that of the case of the reference numeral 301 in FIG. 2B is obtained. As a result, it is possible to avoid streak-like image quality deterioration which occurs in the prior art.

[0099] According to the above-described circuit configuration and operation timing, the first driving method can be applied to the display device having the driver of this second embodiment even when the current leakage path 106 is inserted into the liquid crystal panel 401. Therefore, it is possible to achieve the multi-gray scale display with small steady current and small scale circuit and decrease the image quality deterioration due to the driving method.

[0100] Note that, in the second embodiment, one reference voltage generating unit 412 is provided. However, it is also possible to provide two reference voltage generating units for each polarity of an applied voltage. Moreover, it is allowed that the input display data is 6 bits, and the present embodiment can be applied to a driver not including a display memory. Furthermore, in the second embodiment, the variable resistors 611 and 614 are disposed in the gray scale voltage generating unit 604 in order to achieve the feature of the present invention. However, other circuit configuration can be used as the driver as long as the gray scale number-gray scale voltage characteristic shown in FIG. 6B can be obtained.

Third Embodiment

[0101] A configuration and operations of third embodiment will be described below with reference to FIG. 7. In the third embodiment, the above-described first embodiment is

combined with RGB time-division driving in which one scanning period is divided into three periods and the three periods are allocated to the signal lines 104 (R line, G line, and B line) of the liquid crystal panel 401, so that the γ -characteristic can be individually adjusted for each of display colors R (Red), G (Green), and B (Blue) which are display colors of the liquid crystal panel 401.

[0102] FIG. 7A shows a system (liquid crystal display) including the driver of the third embodiment. FIG. 7B is a timing chart of each signal showing the control of a register and a switch in the driving method of the third embodiment.

[0103] In FIG. 7A, the control register 407 of the first embodiment is individually provided for R, G, and B. Note that configurations and operations of blocks other than the timing controller 805 and register switch circuits 806 and 807 are basically the same as those of the first embodiment. However, a RGB time-division switch 808 is added to the latter stage of the gray scale voltage selecting unit 417.

[0104] A control register 801 includes a RGB selecting period adjustment register 802 used to perform the RGB time-division driving. For the γ adjusting function, a R-line control register 407b and a G-line control register 803 and a B-line control register 804 having the same configuration as the R-line control register 407b are independently disposed.

[0105] The timing controller 805 has a dot counter and generates a line clock LP based on a dot clock inputted from outside. Also, the timing controller 805 generates a signal RSW which becomes "1" (high) in a R-line selecting period in one scanning period and becomes "0" in a R-line non-selecting period from the R-line selecting period information transferred from the RGB selecting period adjustment register 802, a signal GSW which becomes "1" (high) in a G-line selecting period in one scanning period and becomes "0" in a G-line non-selecting period from the G-line selecting period information, and a signal BSW which becomes "1" (high) in a B-line selecting period in one scanning period and becomes "0" in a B-line non-selecting period from the B-line selecting period information. Note that the signals RSW, GSW, and BSW are used by register switch circuits 806 and 807 and a RGB time-division switch 808 described later.

[0106] Also, the timing controller 805 generates a PH signal for specifying divided periods of gray scale groups in R-line, G-line, and B-line selecting periods based on the divided period information transferred from the divided period adjustment register 423. In this case, the gray scale groups mentioned here are a first gray scale group including gray scale numbers of 4n, a second gray scale group including gray scale numbers of 4n+1, a third gray scale group including gray scale numbers of 4n+2, and a fourth gray scale group including gray scale numbers of 4n+3 in 32 gray scale numbers. In this case, a PH signal is a two-bit signal which changes as 00, 01, 10, and 11 in R-line, G-line, and B-line selecting periods and is used in a gray scale voltage generating unit 414 described later. Moreover, the timing controller 805 also outputs a reverse signal /PH of a PH signal and /PH is used in the gray scale voltage time-division output unit 415.

[0107] The first register switch circuit 806 is inputted with amplitude adjustment register values of a positive first gray

scale group, positive third gray scale group, negative first gray scale group, and negative third gray scale group from the R-line control register **407b**, amplitude adjustment register values of the positive first gray scale group, positive third gray scale group, negative first gray scale group, and negative third gray scale group from the G-line control register **803**, and amplitude adjustment register values of the positive first gray scale group, positive third gray scale group, negative first gray scale group, and negative third gray scale group from the B-line control register **804**. Then, the first register switch circuit **806** sequentially selects the above-described register values based on RSW, GSW, and BSW generated by the timing controller **805** and the PH₁ signal similar to that of the above-described first embodiment and transfers them to the variable resistors **427** and **428** of the first reference voltage generating unit **412**.

[**0108**] Also, the second register switch circuit **807** is inputted with amplitude adjustment register values of a positive second gray scale group, positive fourth gray scale group, negative second gray scale group, and negative fourth gray scale group from the R-line control register **407b**, amplitude adjustment register values of the positive second gray scale group, positive fourth gray scale group, negative second gray scale group, and negative fourth gray scale group from the G-line control register **803**, and amplitude adjustment register values of the positive second gray scale group, positive fourth gray scale group, negative second gray scale group, and negative fourth gray scale group from the B-line control register **804**. Then, the second register switch circuit **807** sequentially selects the above-described register values based on RSW, GSW, and BSW generated by the timing controller **805** and the PH₂ signal similar to that of the above-described first embodiment and transfers them to the variable resistor of the second reference voltage generating unit **413**. Note that selection order of register values will be described later with reference to FIG. 7B.

[**0109**] The RGB time-division switch **808** provided in the third embodiment is constituted of switches (**809** to **810**) as many as the number of signal lines **104** of the liquid crystal panel **401**, and one ends of the switches are connected to the signal lines **104** of the liquid crystal panel **401**. Also, the other ends of the R line, G line, and B line which are the adjacent signal lines **104** are connected to the same switch circuit **439**. In this case, the switch circuit **809** is controlled by RSW transferred from the timing controller **805**, and is turned on at RSW="1" and turned off at RSW="0". Also, the switch circuit **810** and the switch circuit **811** are similarly controlled in accordance with GSW and BSW, respectively. Consequently, the liquid crystal panel **401** can be driven through the time division of RGB. Therefore, since only one 8-to-1 selector **438** is enough for three signal lines **104** of RGB, it is possible to reduce the circuit scale.

[**0110**] Then, controls of a register and a switch of this third embodiment will be described below with reference to FIG. 7B. In FIG. 7B, a reference numeral **812** denotes a gray scale voltage (output voltage) to be originally applied to a signal line (pixel electrode) and **813** denotes an output voltage of the gray scale voltage time-division output unit **415** in the third embodiment.

[**0111**] First, RSW, GSW, and BSW are generated for the line clock LP in accordance with the R-line selecting period, G-line selecting period, and B-line selecting period set by

the RGB selecting period adjustment register **802**. Then, the first register switch circuit **806** changes resistance values of the variable resistors **427** and **428** in the first reference voltage generating unit **412** in accordance with the PH₁ signal generated by the timing controller **805** and RSW, GSW, and BSW signals to execute γ adjustment by means of amplitude adjustment. Similarly, the second register switch circuit **807** changes resistance values of the variable resistor in the second reference voltage generating unit **413** in accordance with the PH₂ signal generated by the timing controller **805** and RSW, GSW, and BSW signals to execute γ adjustment by means of amplitude adjustment.

[**0112**] A feature of this embodiment lies in that each of V_{0B} to V_{7B} is an output voltage **813** obtained by adding a voltage fluctuation value $\Delta V \cdot \gamma$ different for each of R line, G line, and B line to the gray scale voltage (output voltage) **812** to be originally applied to a signal line (pixel electrode) when an applied voltage polarity is positive and that obtained by subtracting the voltage fluctuation value $\Delta V \cdot \gamma$ different for each of R line, G line, and B line when the applied voltage polarity is negative.

[**0113**] As described above, in the third embodiment, the γ -characteristics of R, G, and B which are display colors of the liquid crystal panel **401** can be individually adjusted. Consequently, it is possible to realize a liquid crystal display capable of achieving the low power consumption and reduction in circuit scale in accordance with the gray scale time-division method, reduction in image quality deterioration by the above-described first embodiment, and higher image quality by this embodiment.

[**0114**] Note that, in the third embodiment, the output voltage V_x to the signal line **104** is changed stepwise from low gray scale side to high gray scale side. However, the output voltage can also be changed stepwise from high gray scale side to low gray scale side as long as the change direction of the gray scale voltage is fixed in one scanning period. Also, similar to the first embodiment, it is allowed that the input display data is 6 bits. Also, although the case where the gray scale voltage selecting unit **417** selects a voltage from adjacent gray scale voltages of four levels changed stepwise in selecting periods of the R line, G line and B line has been described, a configuration of selecting a voltage from gray scale voltages of two levels is also available. Further, the present embodiment can be applied to a driver not including a display memory. In addition, this third embodiment has been described based on the case where the RGB time-division switch **808** is disposed in the signal line driving unit **402**. However, it is allowed to include a switch corresponding to the RGB time-division switch **808** in the liquid crystal panel **401**. Furthermore, this third embodiment can adjust the γ -characteristic for each of R, G, and B on the basis of the configuration of the above-described first embodiment. However, it is also allowed that R, G, and B can be individually adjusted on the basis of the configuration of the above-described second embodiment.

[**0115**] In the foregoing, the invention made by the inventors of the present invention has been concretely described based on the embodiments. However, it is needless to say that the present invention is not limited to the foregoing embodiments and various modifications and alterations can be made within the scope of the present invention.

[0116] The present invention can be used for a display driving circuit (display driver) and a display device.

What is claimed is:

1. A display driver comprising:

- a generating circuit for generating gray scale voltages corresponding to each of a plurality of gray scales; and
- a selecting circuit for selecting a gray scale voltage to be outputted to a signal line of a display panel in accordance with inputted display data from said gray scale voltages corresponding to each of the plurality of gray scales,

wherein said display driver applies a gray scale voltage, to which level adjustment corresponding to a voltage fluctuation value of the signal line in each of time-divided periods of a scanning period is performed, to said signal line in accordance with the time-divided periods.

2. A display driver comprising:

- a generating circuit for generating gray scale voltages corresponding to each of a plurality of gray scales; and
- a selecting circuit for selecting a gray scale voltage to be outputted to a signal line of a display panel in accordance with inputted display data,

wherein said selecting circuit selects a gray scale voltage to be outputted to said signal line from the gray scale voltages outputted through time division from said generating circuit for each signal line and controls a length of a period for outputting the selected gray scale voltage based on said display data,

said generating circuit can generate the gray scale voltage whose level to an ideal voltage is fluctuated in accordance with each of a plurality of periods obtained by time-division of one scanning period for outputting said gray scale voltage to said signal line, and

said generating circuit generates the gray scale voltages whose levels differ in each divided period, which are obtained by adding or subtracting said voltage fluctuation value to/from said gray scale voltage in accordance with the voltage fluctuation value in said signal line in each of the time-divided periods.

3. The display driver according to claim 2,

wherein said generating circuit outputs a gray scale voltage in which said level is fluctuated stepwise from a high-potential gray scale voltage to a low-potential gray scale voltage or from a low-potential gray scale voltage to a high-potential gray scale voltage from among said gray scale voltages.

4. The display driver according to claim 2,

wherein said generating circuit has a ladder resistor for dividing a reference voltage and variable resistors located between said ladder resistor and said reference voltage.

5. The display driver according to claim 4, further comprising:

adjustment registers for adjusting the resistance values of said variable resistors.

6. The display driver according to claim 5,

wherein said adjustment register sets an amplitude on a graph of a relation between a gray scale number and a gray scale voltage.

7. The display driver according to claim 6, further comprising:

said adjustment registers as many as the number of time-divided periods of said the one scanning period; and

switch circuits for sequentially selecting set values stored in said adjustment registers.

8. The display driver according to claim 7,

wherein said switch circuits transfer the set values stored in said adjustment registers to said variable resistors at the timing of time division.

9. A display driver comprising:

- a generating circuit for generating gray scale voltages corresponding to each of a plurality of gray scales; and

- a selecting circuit for selecting a gray scale voltage to be outputted to a signal line of a display panel in accordance with inputted display data,

wherein said selecting circuit selects a gray scale voltage to be outputted to said signal line from the gray scale voltages outputted through time division from said generating circuit for each signal line and controls a length of a period for outputting the selected gray scale voltage based on said display data,

said generating circuit can generate the gray scale voltage whose level to an ideal voltage is fluctuated in accordance with each of a plurality of periods obtained by time-division of one scanning period for outputting said gray scale voltage to said signal line, and

said display driver has means for outputting gray scale voltages whose levels differ in each divided period by performing level adjustment or conversion to the gray scale voltages generated by said generating circuit in accordance with the voltage fluctuation value corresponding to each time-divided period in said signal line.

10. A display driver comprising:

- a generating circuit for generating gray scale voltages corresponding to each of a plurality of gray scales; and

- a selecting circuit for selecting a gray scale voltage to be outputted to a signal line of a display panel in accordance with inputted display data,

wherein said selecting circuit selects a gray scale voltage to be outputted to said signal line from the gray scale voltages outputted through time division from said generating circuit for each signal line and controls a length of a period for outputting the selected gray scale voltage based on said display data,

said generating circuit can generate the gray scale voltage whose level to an ideal voltage is fluctuated in accordance with each of a plurality of periods obtained by time-division of one scanning period for outputting said gray scale voltage to said signal line,

said display driver divides said scanning period into three periods and performs the driving in combination with a driving method in which the three periods are allocated to R line, G line, and B line corresponding to display colors, which are the signal lines of said display panel, and

said display driver has means for outputting gray scale voltages whose levels differ in each divided period, which are obtained by adding or subtracting said voltage fluctuation value to/from a gray scale voltage generated in said generating circuit in accordance with the voltage fluctuation value corresponding to each time-divided period in said signal line for each of R, G, and B.

11. A display driver for outputting a voltage corresponding to externally provided display data to a display panel, comprising:

an output circuit for outputting a voltage which is changed stepwise in accordance with the divided periods in one horizontal period;

a selecting circuit for determining a level of said voltage changed stepwise in accordance with said display data; and

a circuit for shifting the level of said voltage changed stepwise for each divided period.

12. A display driver for outputting a voltage corresponding to externally provided display data to a display panel, comprising:

an output circuit for outputting a voltage which is changed stepwise in accordance with the divided periods in one horizontal period;

a selecting circuit for determining a level of said voltage changed stepwise in accordance with said display data; and

a setting circuit for setting the level of said voltage changed stepwise for each divided period.

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考虑到液晶面板的电流泄漏路径和由于电流泄漏路径引起的信号线电压波动，在第一驱动方法中对每个分割周期应用 γ 调整功能（第二驱动方法）。在信号线驱动单元中，产生通过加上或减去在每个灰度级的每个输出周期中不同的电压波动值而获得的灰度电压，并且将考虑电压波动值的灰度电压应用于信号线。

