

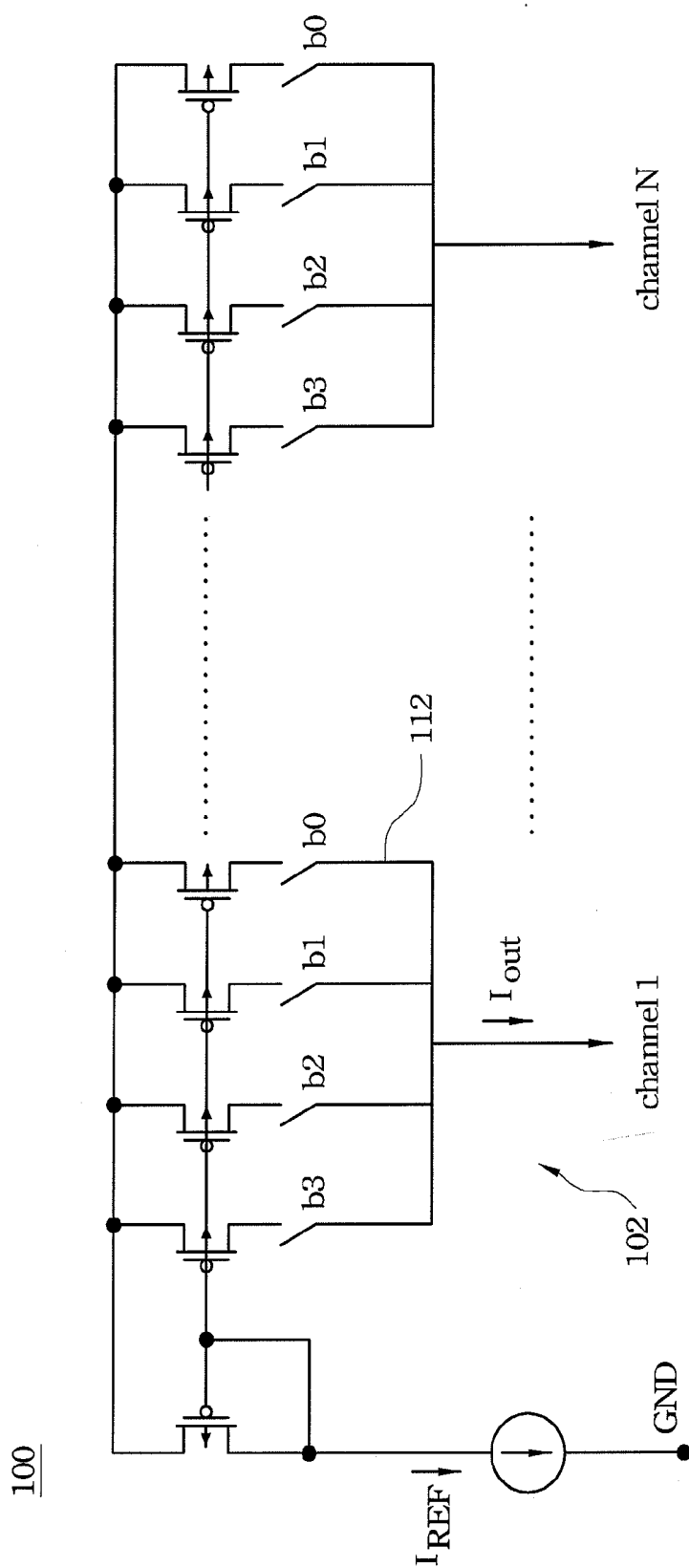


Fig. 1
(Prior Art)

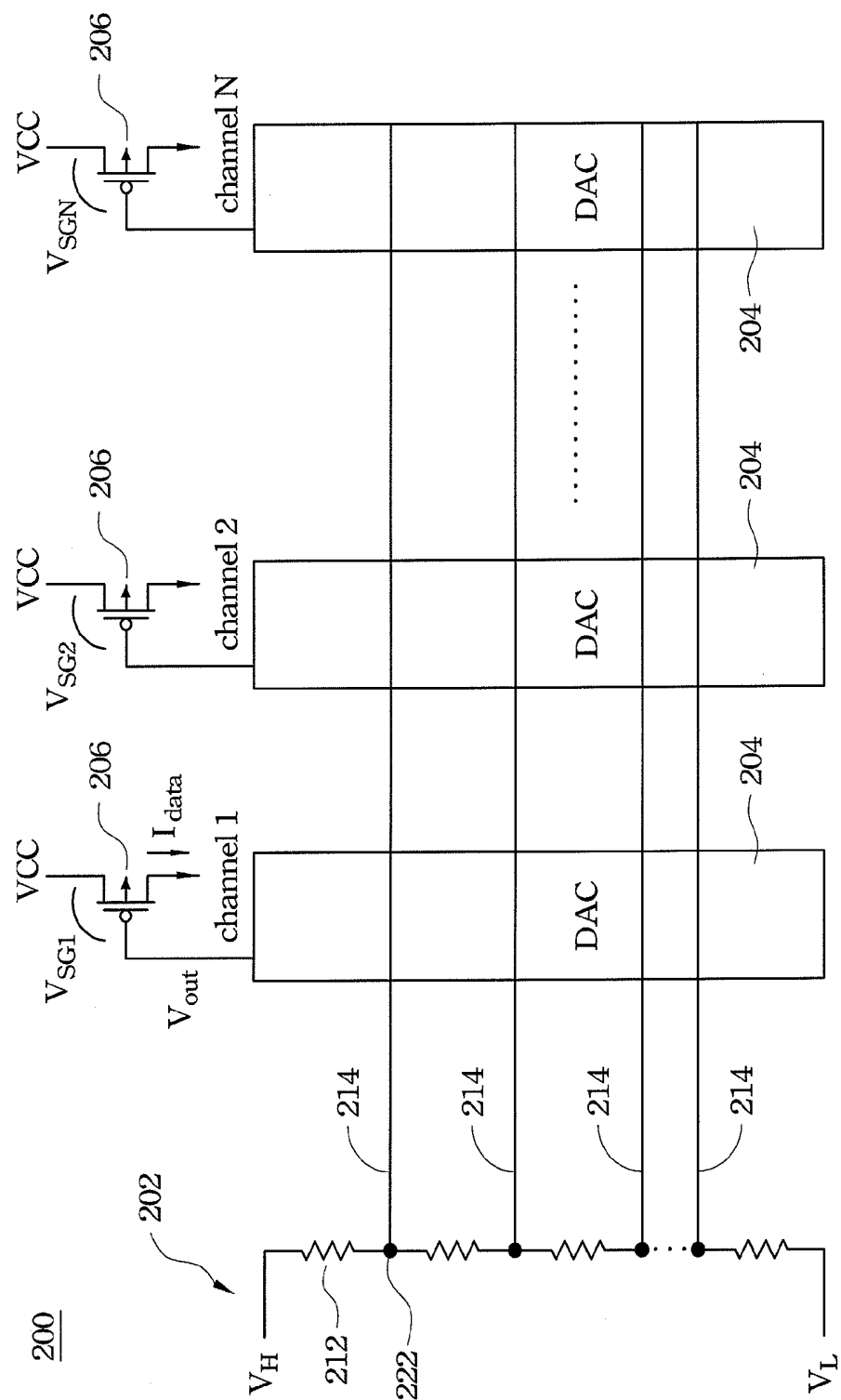


Fig. 2A

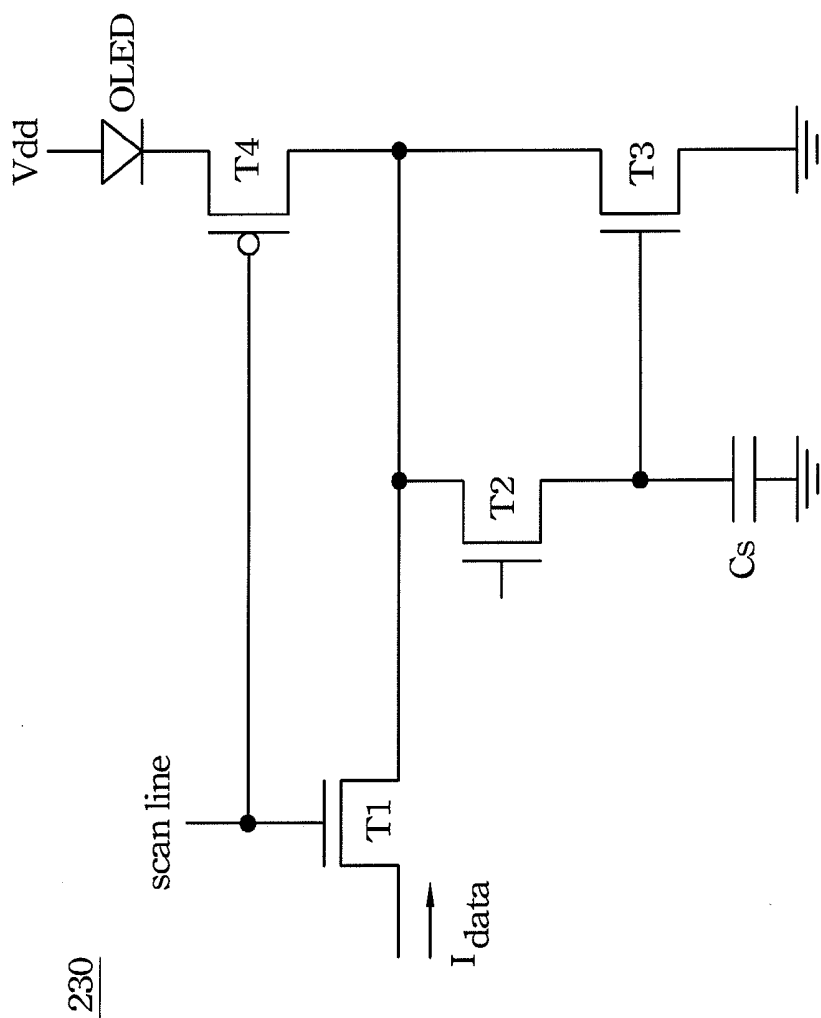


Fig. 2B

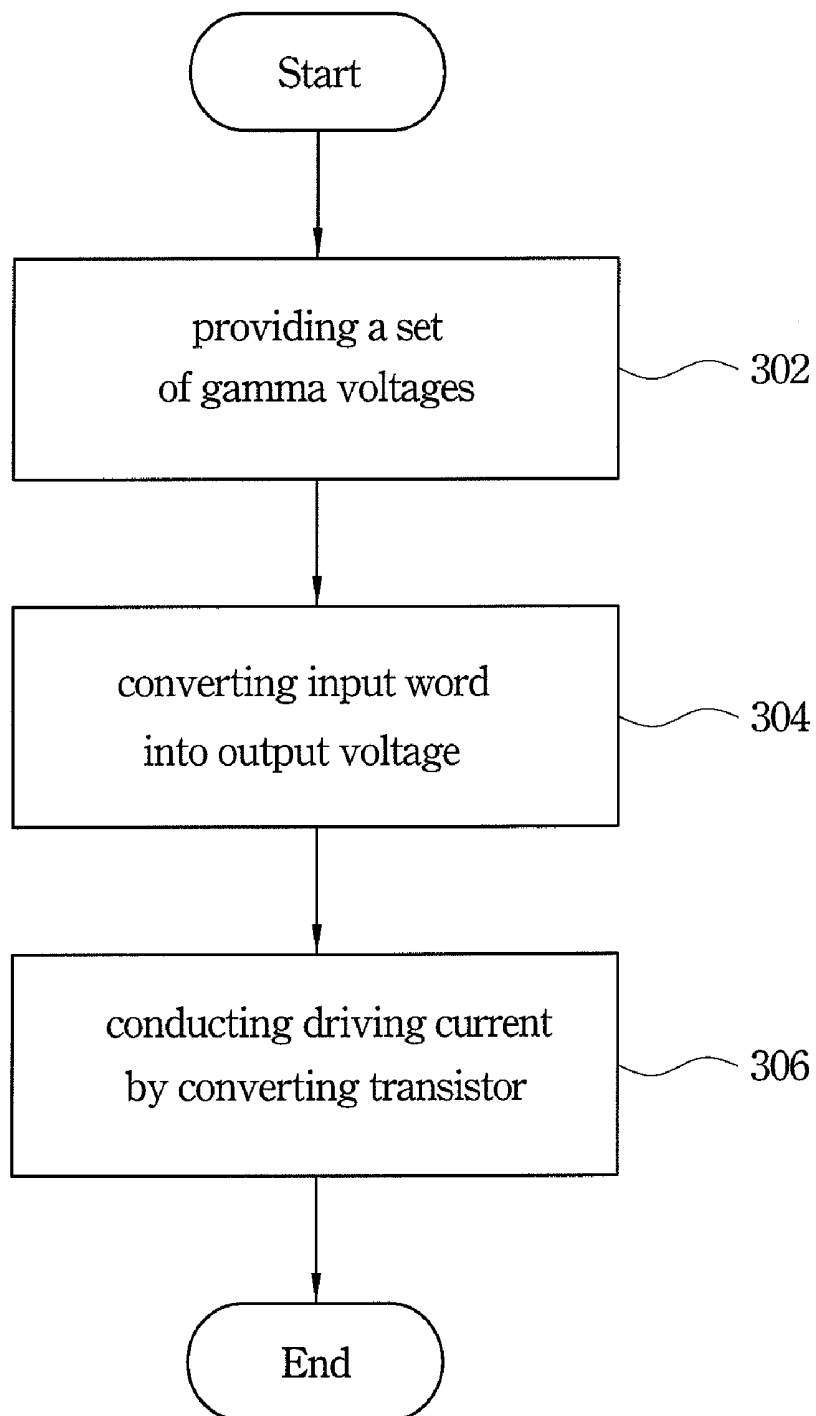


Fig. 3

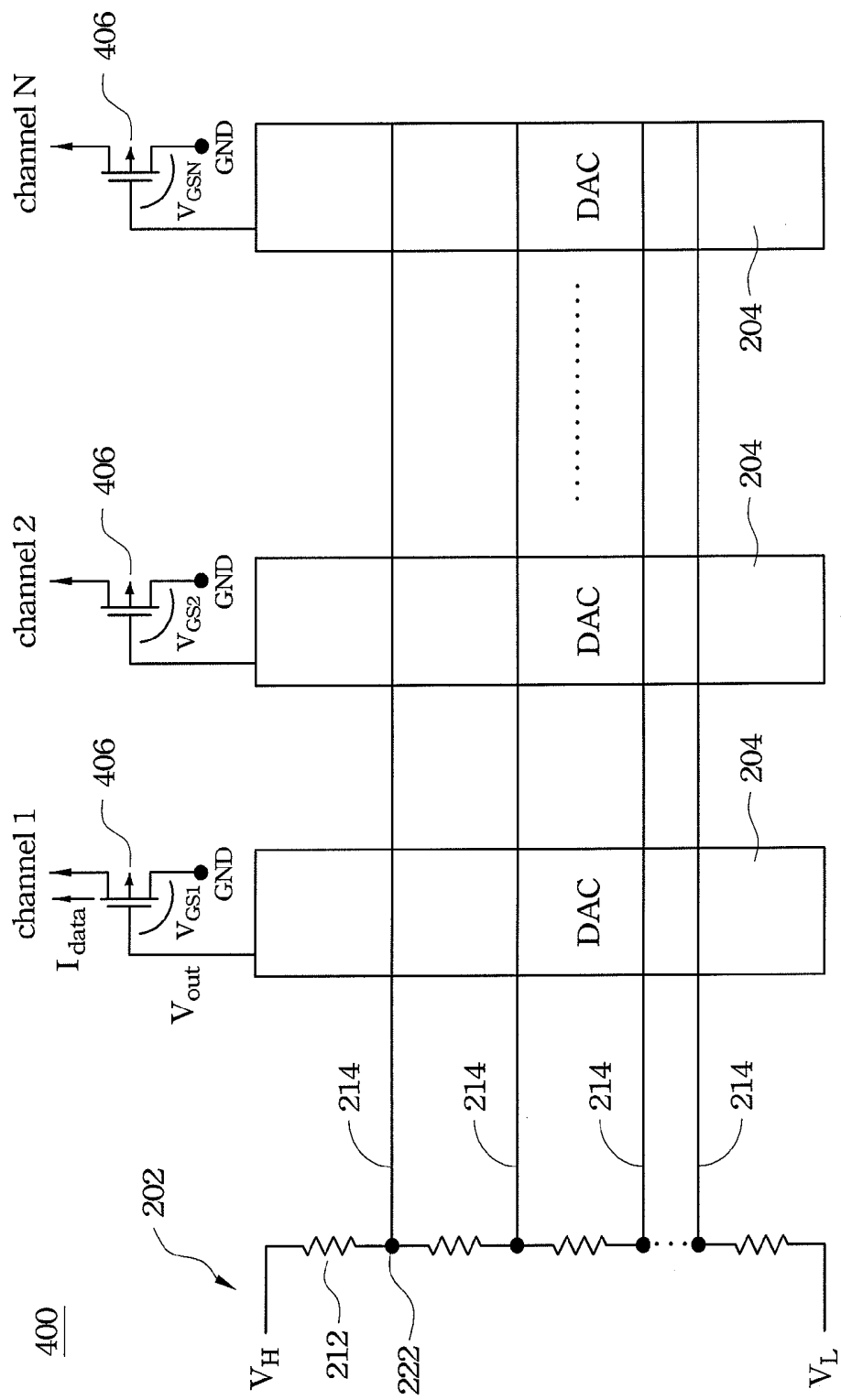


Fig. 4A

430

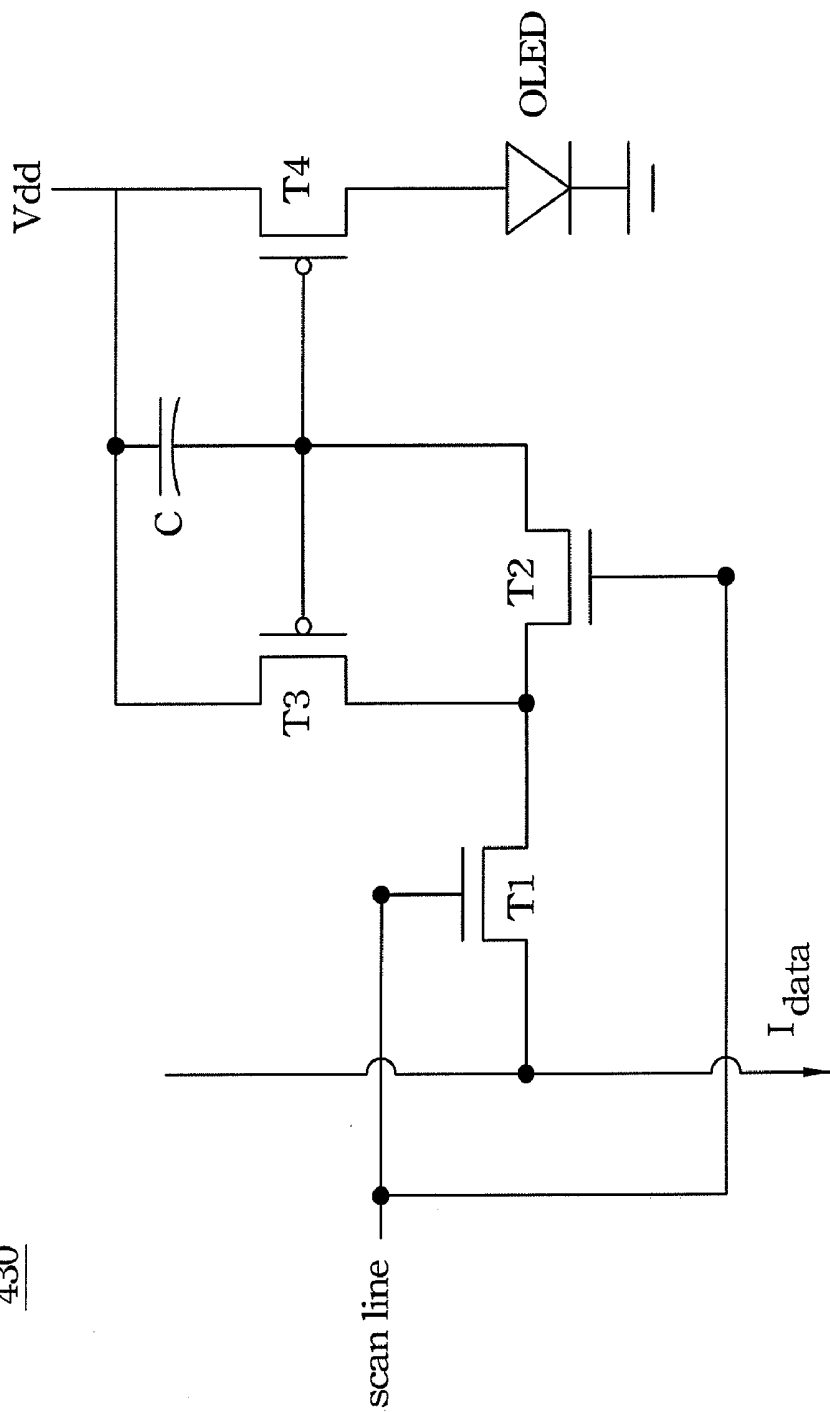


Fig. 4B

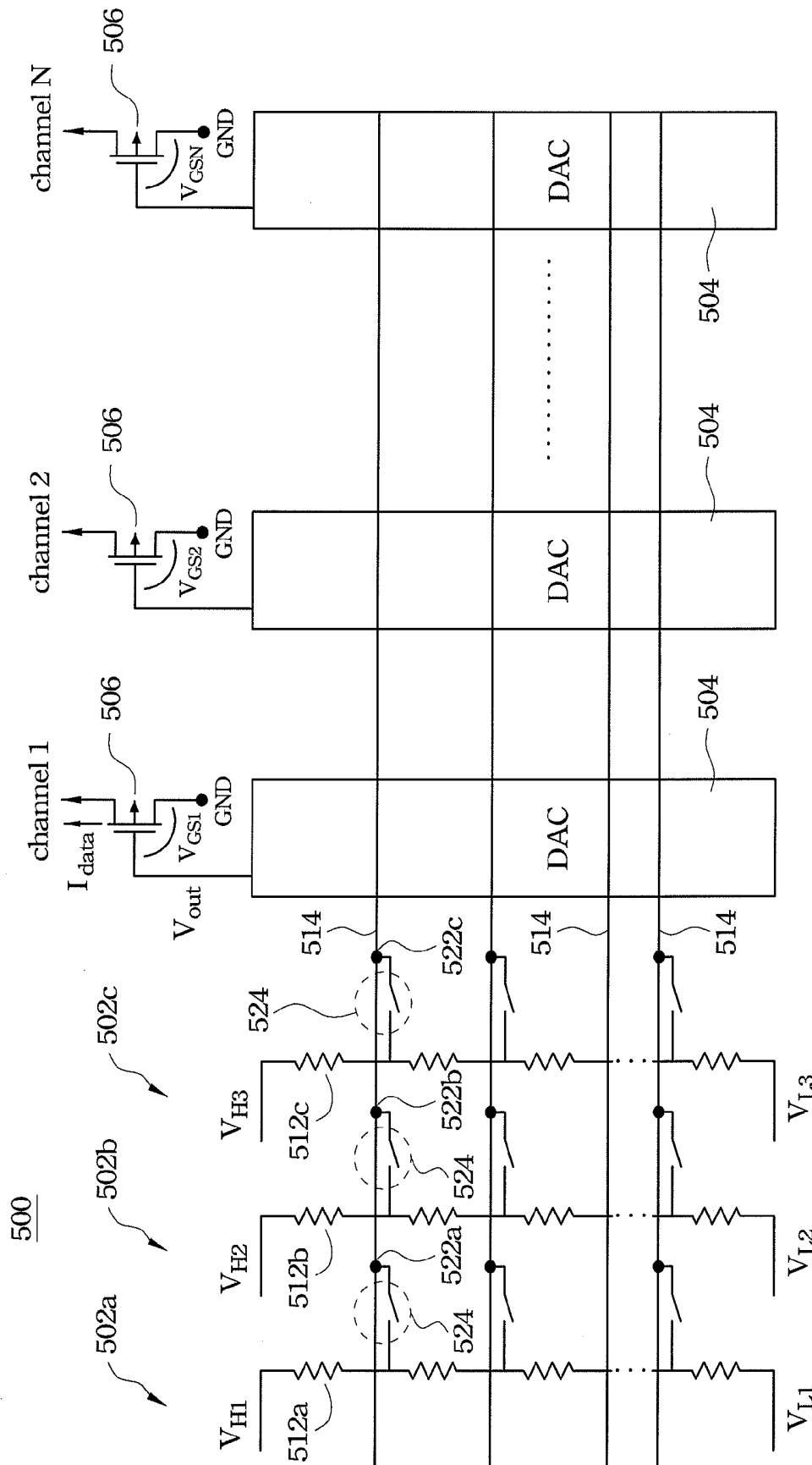


Fig. 5

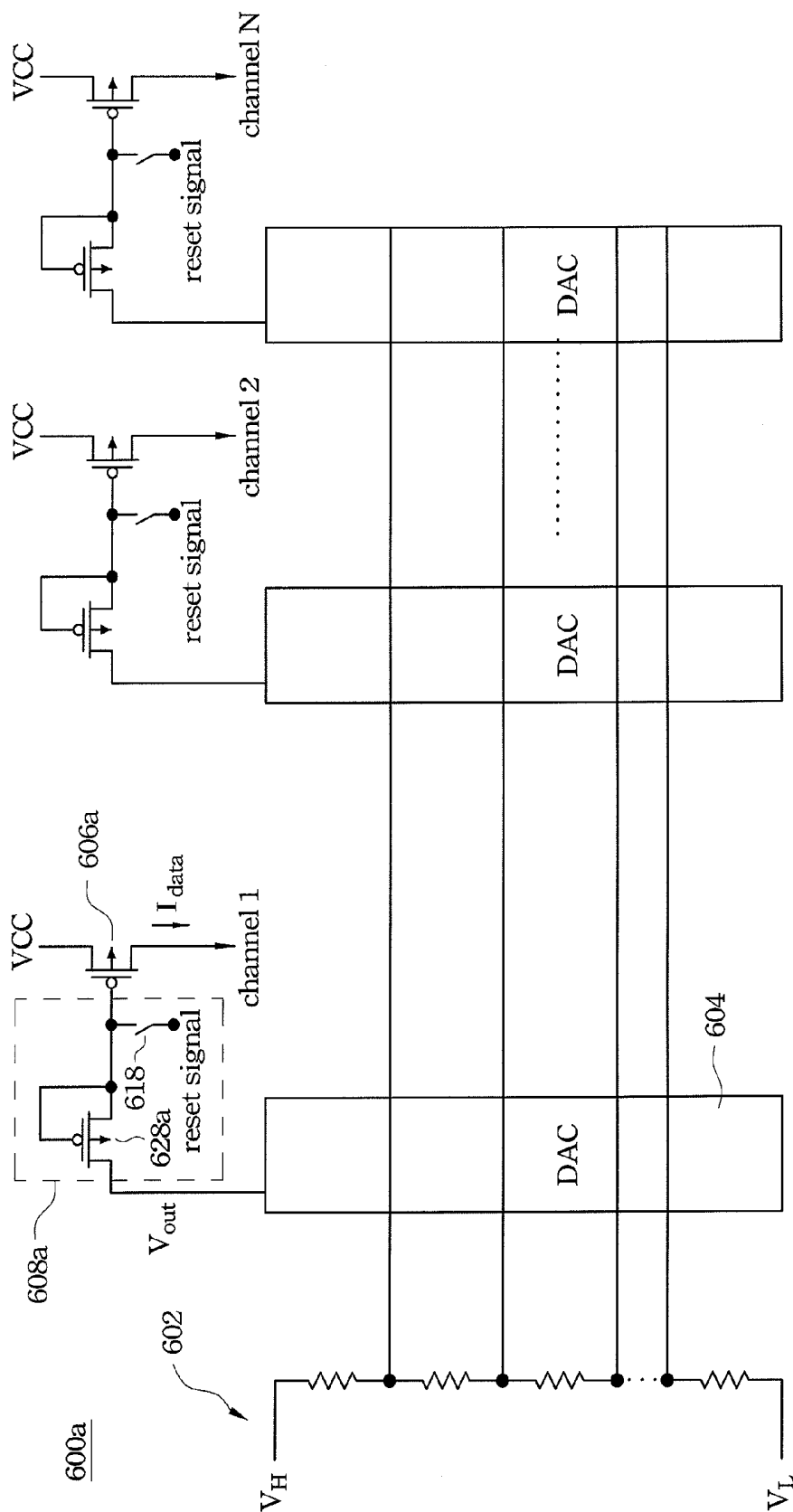


Fig. 6A

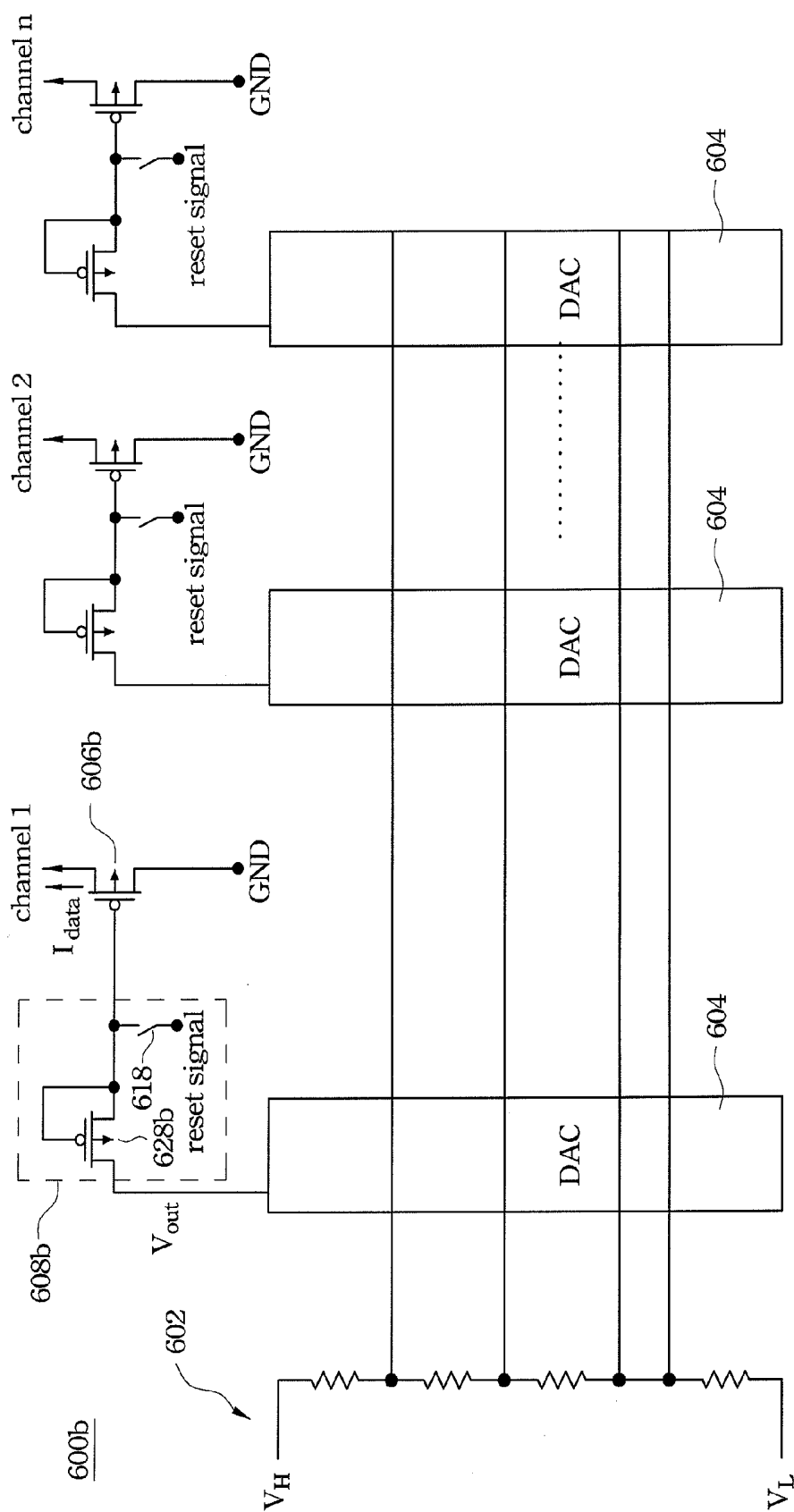


Fig. 6B

DATADRIVER AND METHOD FOR AN OLED DISPLAY

BACKGROUND

[0001] 1. Field of Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to an OLED display. More particularly, the present invention relates to a data driver of an OLED display.

[0003] 2. Description of Related Art

[0004] FIG. 1 is a conventional current-type data driver 100 of an OLED display. A set of current mirror 102 mirrors a multiple of the reference current I_{REF} to each of several current paths 112 coupled to one of the channel 1 to N. Each current path 112 is conducted according to one bit (e.g. b0, b1, b2 or b3) of an input word and the current signal I_{OUT} outputting to the channel is a sum of currents flowing through the conducted current paths 112. However, the conventional data driver 100 performs a linear gamma curve of its digital to analog conversion without any gamma correction. Therefore, the prior art needs to combine two or more sets of current mirror 102 for one channel to obtain a non-linear gamma curve with gamma correction.

SUMMARY

[0005] According to one embodiment of the present invention, a data driver for an OLED display comprises a resistor string, a plurality of digital-to-analog converters and a plurality of converting transistors. The resistor string provides a set of gamma voltages. Each of the digital-to-analog converters converts an input word into an output voltage selected from the gamma voltages. Each of the converting transistors conducts a driving current and having a gate-to-source voltage determined by the output voltage from one of the digital-to-analog converters.

[0006] According to another embodiment of the present invention, a method of data driving for an OLED display is provided. A set of gamma voltages is provided. An input word is converted into an output voltage selected from the gamma voltages. A driving current is conducted by a converting transistor having a gate-to-source voltage which is determined by the output voltage.

[0007] It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are examples, and are intended to provide further explanation of the invention as claimed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0008] These and other features, aspects, and advantages of the present invention will become better understood with regard to the following description, appended claims, and accompanying drawings where:

[0009] FIG. 1 is a conventional current-type data driver of an OLED display.

[0010] FIG. 2A is a data driver for an OLED display according to one embodiment of the present invention;

[0011] FIG. 2B is an exemplary current-sink type pixel circuit receiving the driving current from the data driver of FIG. 2A;

[0012] FIG. 3 is a method of data driving for an OLED display according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0013] FIG. 4A is a data driver for an OLED display according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0014] FIG. 4B is an exemplary current-source type pixel circuit receiving the driving current from the data driver of FIG. 4A;

[0015] FIG. 5 is a data driver for an OLED display according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0016] FIG. 6A is a data driver for an OLED display according to another embodiment of the present invention; and

[0017] FIG. 6B is a data driver for an OLED display according to another embodiment of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0018] Reference will now be made in detail to the present preferred embodiments of the invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. Wherever possible, the same reference numbers are used in the drawings and the description to refer to the same or like parts.

[0019] FIG. 2A is a data driver 200 for an OLED display according to one embodiment of the present invention. The data driver 200 has a resistor string (R-string) 202, digital-to-analog converters (DACs) 204 and converting transistors 206. The resistor string 202 provides a set of gamma voltages. Each of the digital-to-analog converters 204 converts an input word into an output voltage V_{out} selected from the gamma voltages. Each of the converting transistors 206 conducts a driving current I_{data} and having a gate-to-source voltage VSG determined by the output voltage V_{out} from one of the digital-to-analog converters 204.

[0020] FIG. 3 is a method of data driving for an OLED display according to another embodiment of the present invention. The following description is made with reference to FIGS. 2A and 3. A set of gamma voltages is firstly provided (step 302). An input word is converted into an output voltage V_{out} selected from the gamma voltages (step 304). A driving current I_{data} is conducted by a converting transistor 206 having a gate-to-source voltage VSG which is determined by the output voltage V_{out} (step 306).

[0021] The data driver 200 is provided for use in an OLED display to accomplish the modulations of brightness, contrast or gray scale of OLED pixels. The resistor string 202 has resistors 212 connected in series between a high reference voltage V_H and a low reference voltage V_L and constitutes tap points 222 to provide the set of gamma voltages. Each of the digital-to-analog converters 204 corresponds to one of the channel 1 to N of the OLED display. The digital-to-analog converters 204 include selecting lines 214, and each of the selecting lines 214 is coupled to one of the tap points 222 constituted by the series-connected resistors 212. The selecting line 214 has several switching elements (not illustrated), of which each is switched by one bit of the input word, respectively. In practice, what is used to switch the switching elements may be one bit of the input word itself or the complement of the bit.

[0022] By the digital-to-analog converter 204, the output voltage V_{out} which is selected from the gamma voltages to couple to the converting transistor 206, can be an inherently monotonic analog representation of the input word. The output voltage V_{out} is coupled to a gate of the converting transistor 206, the driving current I_{data} is outputted from a drain of the converting transistor 206 and a supply voltage VCC is coupled to a source of the converting transistor 206. That is,

the converting transistor **206** thus converts the output voltage V_{out} into the driving current I_{data} for the corresponding channel.

[0023] The driving current I_{data} is generated according to the output voltage V_{out} and the supply voltage VCC coupled to the gate and the source of the converting transistor **206**, respectively. In the embodiment in FIG. 2A, the converting transistor **206** is a PMOS transistor, which conducts the driving current I_{data} provided for a pixel circuit **230** of the current-sink type as illustrated in FIG. 2B. The driving current I_{data} is input into the exemplary current-sink type pixel circuit **230** including four transistors T1, T2, T3, T4 and an OLED.

[0024] According to another embodiment, the converting transistor **406** can be a NMOS transistor having the gate-to-source voltage VGS, as the data driver **400** illustrated in FIG. 4A, which conducts the driving current I_{data} for a pixel circuit **430** of the current-source type as illustrated in FIG. 4B. In the embodiment, the output voltage V_{out} is coupled to a gate of the converting transistor **406**, the driving current I_{data} is outputted from a drain of the converting transistor **406** and a supply voltage GND is coupled to a source of the converting transistor **406**. The driving current I_{data} is input into the exemplary current-sink type pixel circuit **430** including four transistors T1, T2, T3, T4 and an OLED. Persons skilled in the art should utilize the converting transistor of the suitable type according to the type of the pixel circuit.

[0025] Accordingly, the output voltage V_{out} is selected from the voltages of the tap points **222** which are constituted by the resistors **212** of the resistors string **202**. Therefore, it is easy to modify the resistance values of the resistors **212** to achieve the gamma correction of the driving current V_{out} provided for the pixel circuit **230** or **430** in the channel.

[0026] FIG. 5 is a data driver **500** for an OLED display according to another embodiment of the present invention. The data driver **500** has resistor strings **502a**, **502b** and **502c**, digital-to-analog converters **504** and converting transistors **506**. The resistor strings **502a**, **502b** and **502c** provides several sets of gamma voltages. Each of the digital-to-analog converters **504** converts an input word into an output voltage V_{out} selected from the gamma voltages. Each of the converting transistors **506** conducts a driving current I_{data} and having a gate-to-source voltage VGS determined by the output voltage V_{out} from one of the digital-to-analog converters **504**.

[0027] The embodiment illustrated in FIG. 5 has more than one resistor strings **502a**, **502b** and **502c**, which provide several sets of gamma voltages, selectively coupled to the digital-to-analog converters **504**, for example, by the switches **524**. The resistor string **502a** (or **502b**, **502c**) has resistors **512a** (or **512b**, **512c**) connected in series between a high reference voltage V_{H1} (or V_{H2} , V_{H3}) and a low reference voltage V_{L1} (or V_{L2} , V_{L3}) and constitutes tap points **522a** (or **522b**, **522c**) to provide the sets of gamma voltages.

[0028] The different sets of gamma voltages can correspond to the gamma curves of different colors, respectively, such as red, green, blue, white or other colors. As stated above, the resistance values of the resistors **512a**, **512b** and **512c** in the resistor strings **502a**, **502b** and **502c** can be modified according to the gamma curves of different colors with gamma correction. In addition, the resistor strings **502a**, **502b** and **502c**, the digital-to-analog converters **504** and the converting transistors **506** of the data driver **500** can be manufactured in a single chip.

[0029] FIG. 6A is a data driver for an OLED display according to another embodiment of the present invention.

The data driver **600a** has a resistor string **602**, digital-to-analog converters **604**, converting transistors **606a** and threshold voltage compensation circuits **608a**. The resistor string **602** provides a set of gamma voltages. Each of the digital-to-analog converters **604** converts an input word into an output voltage V_{out} selected from the gamma voltages. Each of the converting transistors **606a** conducts a driving current I_{data} and having a gate-to-source voltage determined by the output voltage V_{out} from one of the digital-to-analog converters **604**. Each of the threshold voltage compensation circuits **608a** is connected between one of the converting transistors **606a** and one of the digital-to-analog converters **604**.

[0030] More particularly, the threshold voltage compensation circuit **606a** has a compensation transistor **628a** and a reset switch **618**. The compensation transistor **628a** has a gate and a first source/drain coupled to a gate of the converting transistor **606a**, and a second source/drain coupled to the output voltage V_{out} . The reset switch **618** couples a reset signal to the gate of the converting transistor **606a**. In the embodiment, the voltage of the reset signal is lower than a lowest gamma voltage of the gamma voltages by a threshold voltage of the compensation transistor **606a**. Moreover, when the driving current I_{data} is outputted into a pixel circuit, the reset switch **618** is turned off. The embodiment thus can be applied to compensate the threshold voltage offsets among the data drivers formed on different IC chips when the data drivers are cascade in the OLED display.

[0031] The data driver **600a** as illustrated in FIG. 6A utilizes PMOS transistors as the converting transistors **606a**, which are provided for the current-sink type pixel circuits in the channels of the OLED display. However, the converting transistors **606b** also can be NMOS transistors, as the data driver **600b** illustrated in FIG. 6B, which are provided for the current-source type pixel circuits in the channels of the OLED display. In the data driver **600b**, the compensation transistors **628b** of the threshold voltage compensation circuits **606b** as well are NMOS transistors.

[0032] It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made to the structure of the present invention without departing from the scope or spirit of the invention. In view of the foregoing, it is intended that the present invention cover modifications and variations of this invention provided they fall within the scope of the following claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. A data driver for an OLED display, comprising:
 - a resistor string providing a set of gamma voltages;
 - a plurality of digital-to-analog converters each converting an input word into an output voltage selected from the gamma voltages; and
 - a plurality of converting transistors each conducting a driving current and having a gate-to-source voltage determined by the output voltage from one of the digital-to-analog converters.
2. The data driver for an OLED display as claimed in claim 1, wherein the output voltage is coupled to a gate of the converting transistor, the driving current is outputted from a drain of the converting transistor and a supply voltage is coupled to a source of the converting transistor.
3. The data driver for an OLED display as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a plurality of the resistor strings providing different sets of gamma voltages.

4. The data driver for an OLED display as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a plurality of threshold voltage compensation circuits each connected between one of the converting transistors and one of the digital-to-analog converters.

5. The data driver for an OLED display as claimed in claim 4, wherein each of the threshold voltage compensation circuit comprises:

a compensation transistor having a gate and a first source/drain coupled to a gate of the converting transistor, and a second source/drain coupled to the output voltage;

a reset switch coupling a reset signal to the gate of the converting transistor.

6. The data driver for an OLED display as claimed in claim 5, wherein a voltage of the reset signal is lower than a lowest gamma voltage of the gamma voltages by a threshold voltage of the compensation transistor.

7. The data driver for an OLED display as claimed in claim 5, wherein when the driving current is provided to a pixel circuit, the reset switch is turned off.

8. A method of data driving for an OLED display, comprising the steps of:

providing a set of gamma voltages;

converting an input word into an output voltage selected from the gamma voltages; and

conducting a driving current by a converting transistor having a gate-to-source voltage determined by the output voltage.

9. The method of data driving for an OLED display as claimed in claim 8, wherein the output voltage is coupled to a gate of the converting transistor, the driving current is outputted from a drain of the converting transistor and a supply voltage is coupled to a source of the converting transistor.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	用于OLED显示器的数据驱动器和方法		
公开(公告)号	US20090091520A1	公开(公告)日	2009-04-09
申请号	US11/866744	申请日	2007-10-03
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	奇景光电股份有限公司		
申请(专利权)人(译)	HIMAX TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	HIMAX TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED		
[标]发明人	CHIOU YU WEN		
发明人	CHIOU, YU-WEN		
IPC分类号	G09G3/30		
CPC分类号	G09G3/3241 G09G3/325 G09G3/3283 G09G2320/043 G09G2310/027 G09G2320/0233 G09G2320/0276 G09G2300/0842		
其他公开文献	US7973748		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

用于OLED显示器的数据驱动器具有电阻器串，数模转换器和转换晶体管。电阻串提供一组伽马电压。每个数模转换器将输入字转换为从伽马电压中选择的输出电压。每个转换晶体管传导驱动电流并具有由来自数模转换器之一的输出电压确定的栅极 - 源极电压。还公开了一种用于OLED显示器的数据驱动方法。

