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Chiou

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(54) **PIXEL CIRCUIT**
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(21) Appl. No.: **13/038,412**

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US 2011/0148843 A1 Jun. 23, 2011

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Related U.S. Application Data

Primary Examiner — Koosha Sharifi-Tafreshi

(62) Division of application No. 11/692,258, filed on Mar. 28, 2007, now Pat. No. 7,920,110.

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Lowe Hauptman & Ham

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G09G 3/30 (2006.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC 345/76; 345/82; 345/204; 315/169.3

A pixel circuit has an organic light emitting diode, a driving transistor, a capacitor and a first switch. The organic light emitting diode has a first end coupled to a first power source terminal. The driving transistor has a source and a drain respectively coupled to a second power source terminal and a second end of the light emitting diode. The capacitor couples a gate of the driving transistor to a reference voltage terminal. The first switch couples the second end of the light emitting diode to the capacitor, and couples the gate and the drain of the driving transistor together when a first scan signal is asserted.

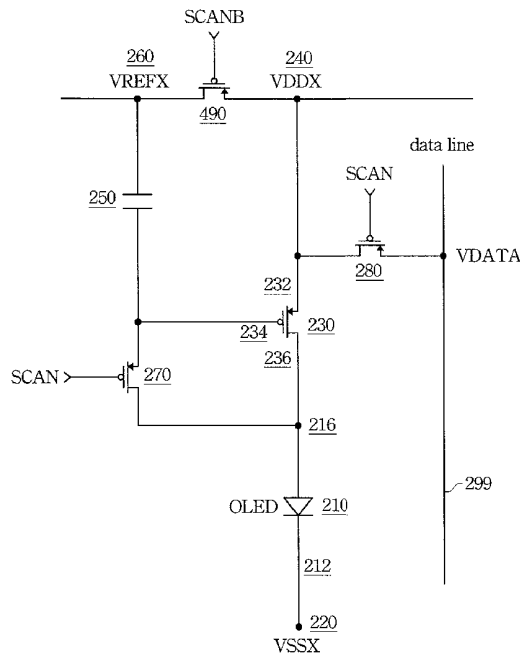
(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC 345/55, 76, 82, 204; 315/169.3
See application file for complete search history.

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10 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets



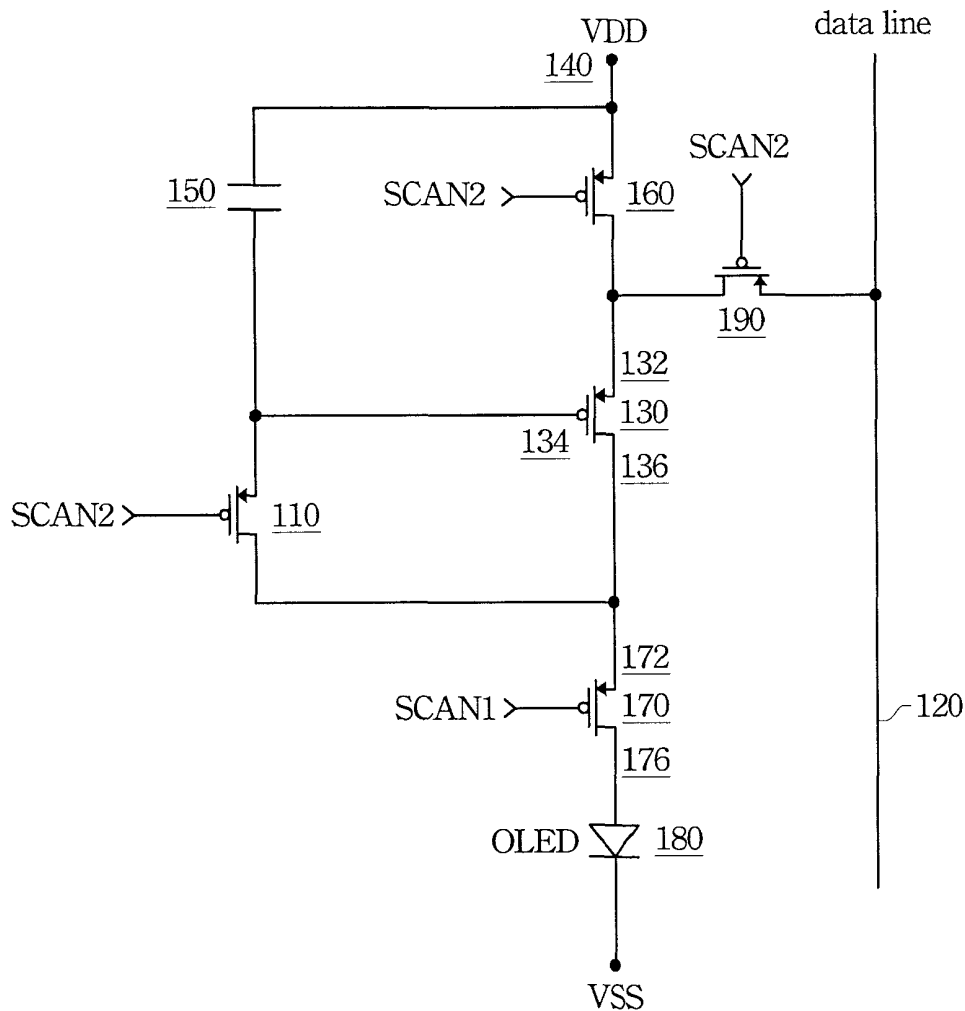


Fig. 1
(prior art)

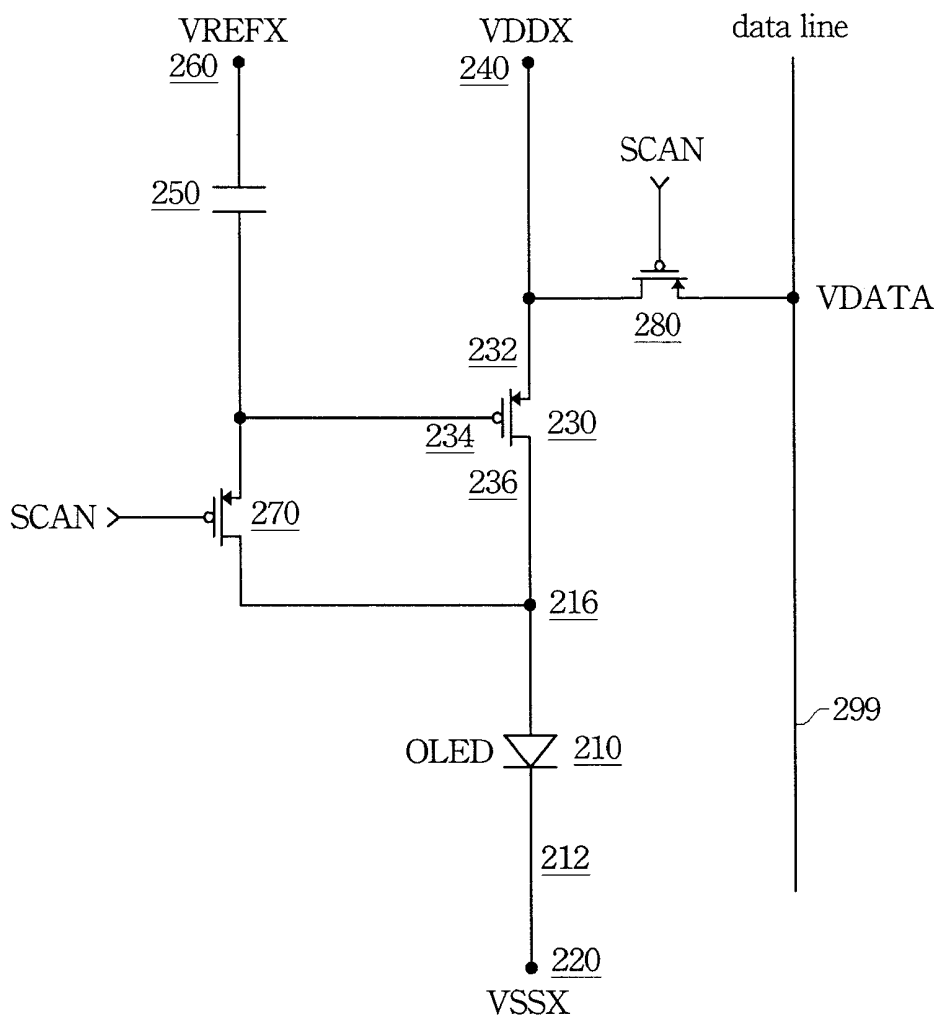


Fig. 2A

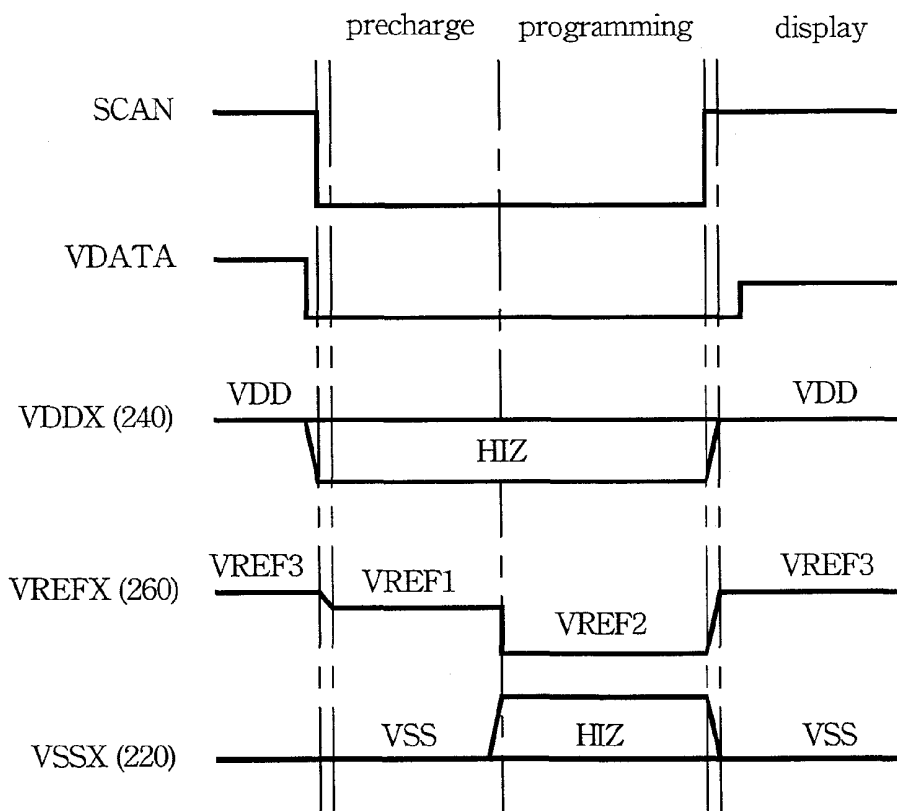


Fig. 2B

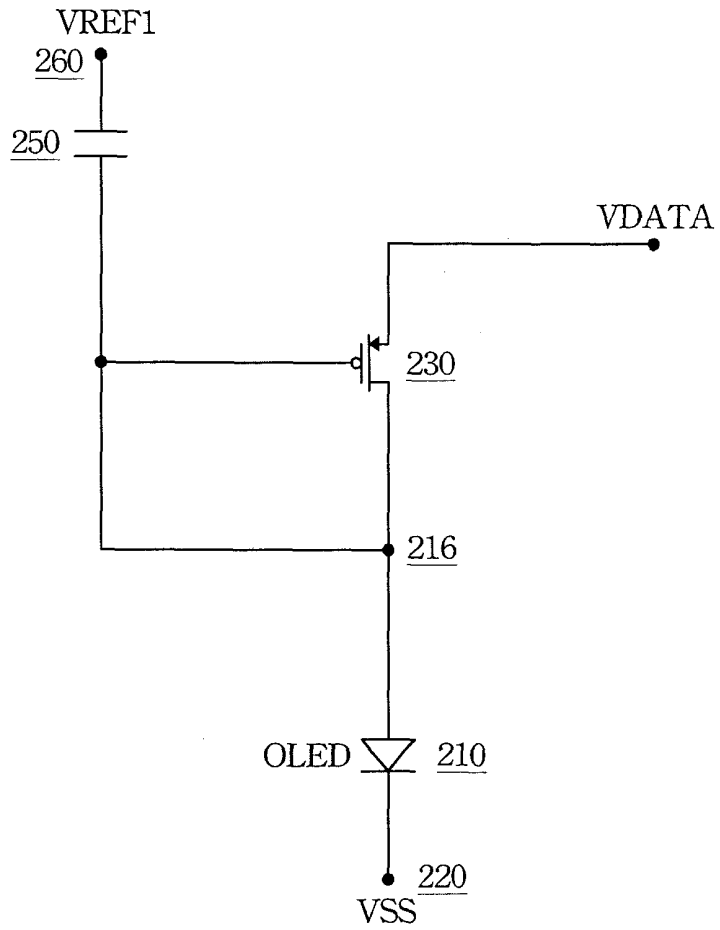


Fig. 2C

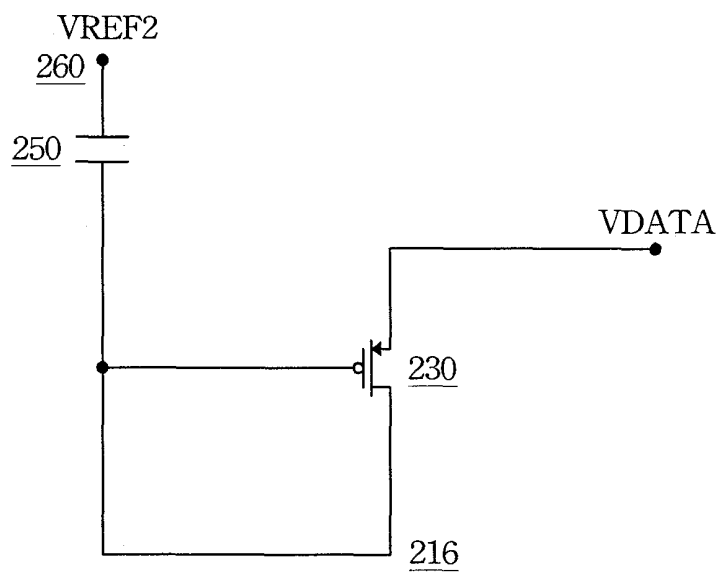


Fig. 2D

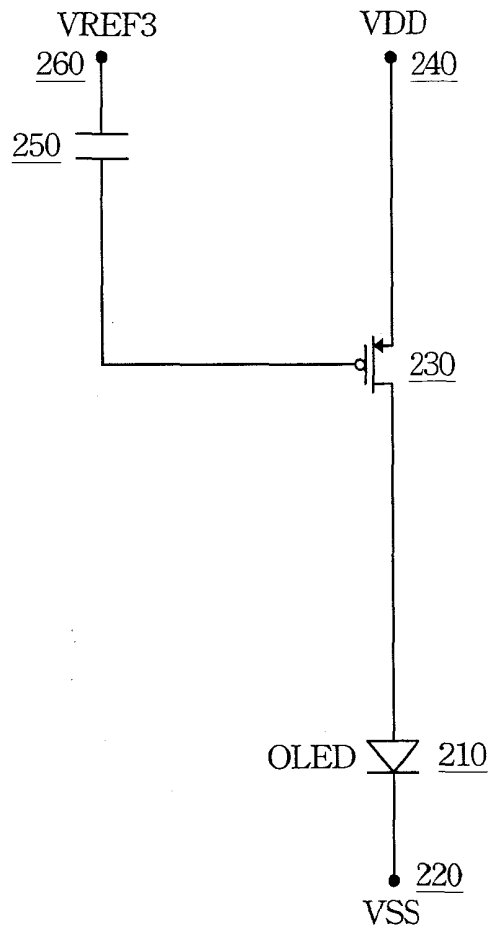


Fig. 2E

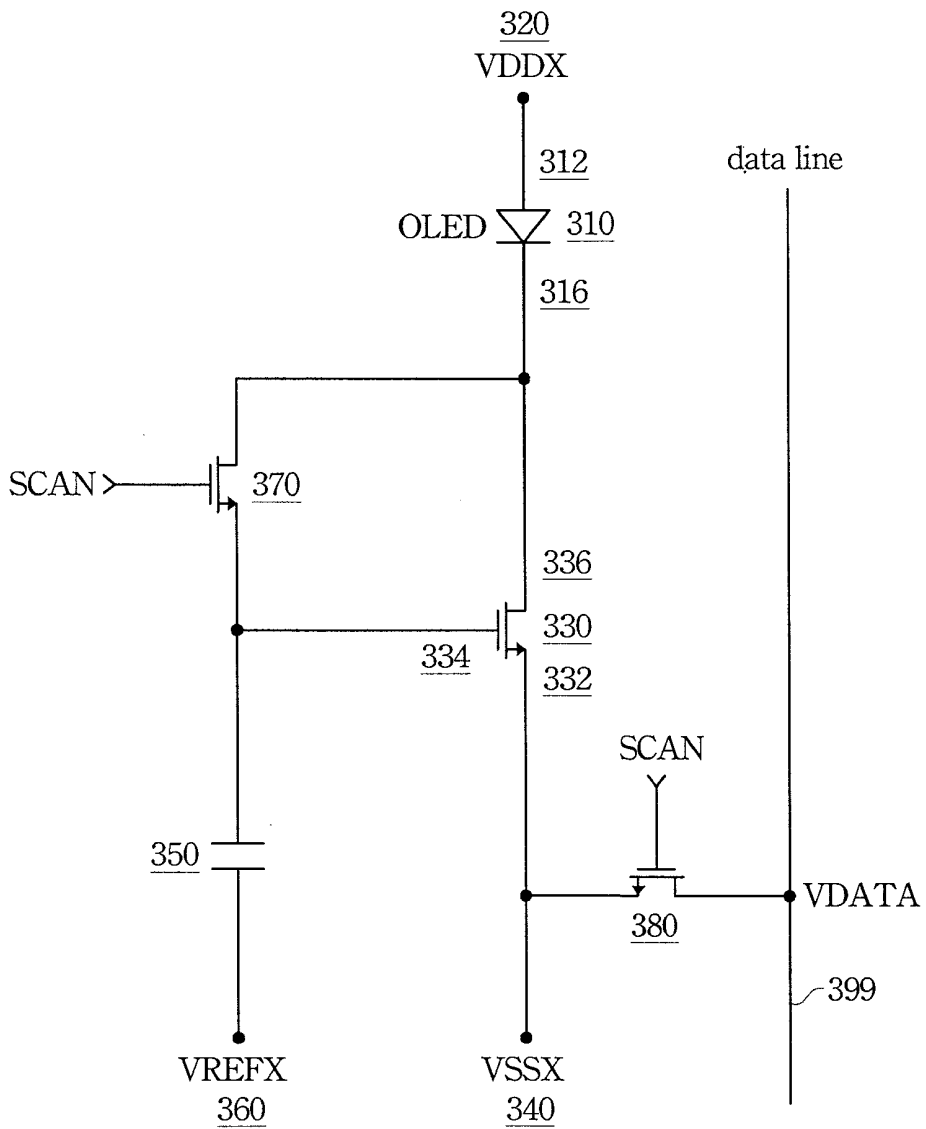


Fig. 3A

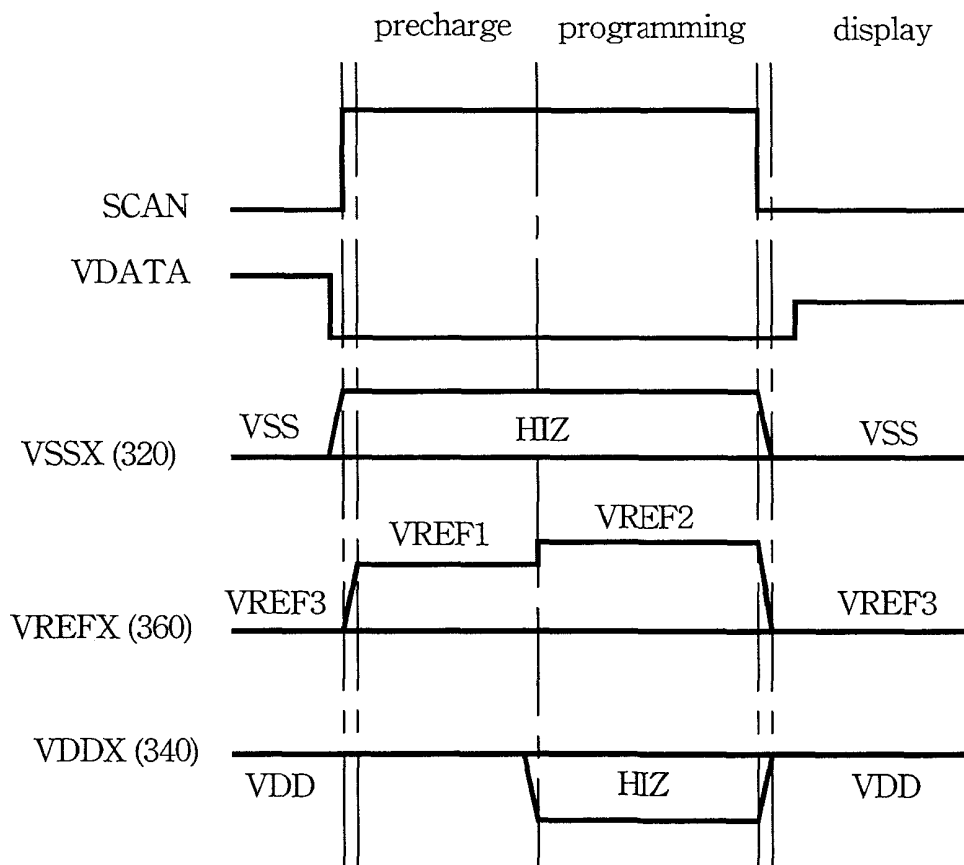


Fig. 3B

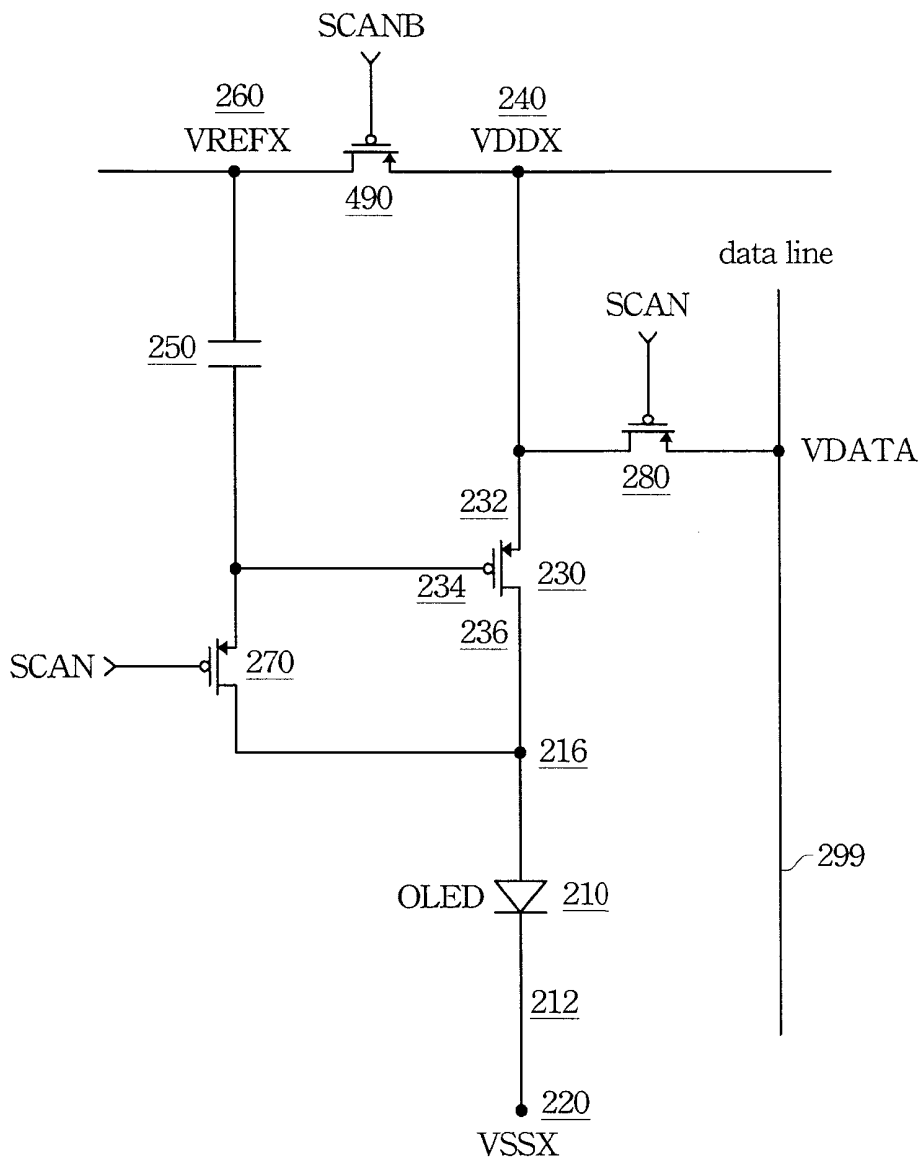


Fig. 4A

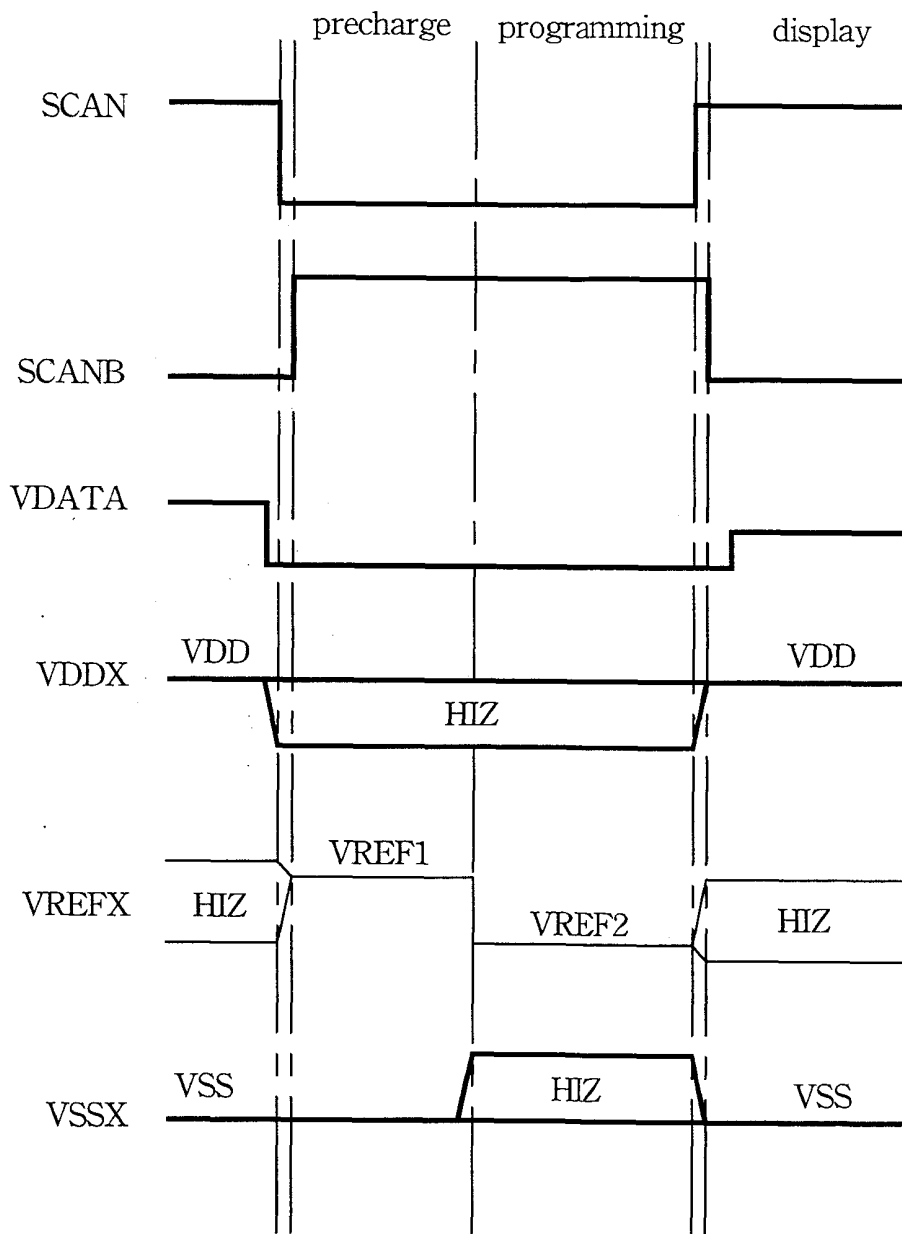


Fig. 4B

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PIXEL CIRCUIT

RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a divisional of U.S. application Ser. No. 11/692,258, filed on Mar. 28, 2007, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

1. Field of Invention

The present invention relates to a pixel circuit, and more particularly relates to an AMOLED voltage type compensation pixel circuit.

2. Description of Related Art

FIG. 1 shows an organic light emitting diode pixel circuit of the prior art. The pixel circuit is a voltage type compensation pixel circuit. The pixel circuit has an organic light emitting diode 180, a first transistor 170, a driving transistor 130, a capacitor 150, and a second transistor 110. The first transistor 170 has a source/drain 176 coupled to the light emitting diode 180, wherein the first transistor 170 is controlled by a first scan signal (SCAN1). The driving transistor 130 has source/drains 132 and 136. The source/drain 132 couples to a power source terminal 140 through the transistor 160, and the source/drain 136 couples to a source/drain 172 of the first transistor 170. The capacitor 150 couples a gate 134 of the driving transistor 130 to the power source terminal 140. When a second scan signal (SCAN2) is asserted, the second transistor 110 respectively couples the source/drain 172 of the first transistor 170 to the capacitor 150, and couples the gate 134 and the source/drain 136 of the driving transistor 130 together.

The pixel circuit also has a third transistor 190 controlled by the second scan signal to couple a data line 120 and the source/drain 132 of the driving transistor 130.

The drawback of the conventional pixel circuit is that it has five transistors (transistors 110, 130, 160, 170 and 190). These transistors reduce the aperture ratio of the pixel circuit.

SUMMARY

According to one embodiment of the present invention, the pixel circuit has an organic light emitting diode, a driving transistor, a capacitor and a first switch. The organic light emitting diode has a first end coupled to a first power source terminal. The driving transistor has a source and a drain respectively coupled to a second power source terminal and a second end of the light emitting diode. The capacitor couples a gate of the driving transistor to a reference voltage terminal. The first switch couples the second end of the light emitting diode to the capacitor, and couples the gate and the drain of the driving transistor together when a first scan signal is asserted.

According to another embodiment of the present invention, the pixel circuit operates during a precharge stage, a programming stage, and a display stage sequentially. The pixel circuit has an organic light emitting diode, a driving transistor, a capacitor, and a first switch. The organic light emitting diode has a first end coupled to a first power source terminal. The driving transistor has a source and a drain respectively coupled to a second power source terminal and a second end of the light emitting diode. The capacitor couples a gate of the driving transistor to a reference voltage terminal. The first switch is controlled by a first scan signal to couple/decouple the second end of the organic light emitting diode to/from the

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gate of the driving transistor. The first scan signal is asserted during the precharge and programming stages, and the first scan signal is deasserted during the display stage.

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

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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:

FIG. 1 shows an organic light emitting diode pixel circuit of the prior art;

FIG. 2A shows an organic light emitting diode pixel circuit according to an embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 2B shows the waveform diagrams of the signals of the embodiment shown in FIG. 2A;

FIG. 2C shows the organic light emitting diode pixel circuit during a precharge stage according to the embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 2D shows the organic light emitting diode pixel circuit during a programming stage according to the embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 2E shows the organic light emitting diode pixel circuit during a display stage according to the embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 3A shows an organic light emitting diode pixel circuit according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 3B shows the waveform diagrams of the signals of the embodiment shown in FIG. 3A;

FIG. 4A shows an organic light emitting diode pixel circuit according to another embodiment of the invention; and

FIG. 4B shows the waveform diagrams of the signals of the embodiment shown in FIG. 4A.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

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.

FIG. 2A shows an organic light emitting diode pixel circuit according to an embodiment of the invention. The pixel circuit is a voltage type compensation pixel circuit with PMOS transistors. The pixel circuit has an organic light emitting diode 210, a driving transistor 230, a capacitor 250 and a first switch 270. The organic light emitting diode 210 has a first end 212 coupled to a first power source terminal 220. The driving transistor 230 has a source 232 and a drain 236 respectively coupled to a second power source terminal 240 and a second end 216 of the light emitting diode 210. The capacitor 250 couples a gate 234 of the driving transistor 230 to a reference voltage terminal 260. The first switch 270 couples the second end 216 of the light emitting diode 210 to the capacitor 250, and couples the gate 234 and the drain 236 of the driving transistor 230 together when a first scan signal (SCAN) is asserted.

The pixel circuit has a second switch 280 controlled by the first scan signal (SCAN) to couple the source 232 of the driving transistor 230 to a data line 299. Therefore, when the first scan signal is asserted, the data signals from the data line 299 are transmitted to the pixel circuit.

FIG. 2B shows the waveform diagrams of the signals of the embodiment shown in FIG. 2A. The pixel circuit is a voltage compensation type pixel circuit. The first scan signal (SCAN) turns on the first switch 270 and the second switch 280 during a precharge and a programming stages, and turns off the first switch 270 and the second switch 280 during the display stage.

The second power source terminal 240 (VDDX) floats (HIZ, high impedance) during the precharge and programming stages (i.e. when the first scan signal, SCAN, is asserted) and has a high voltage (VDD) to supply power to the organic light emitting diode 210 during the display stage.

The reference voltage terminal 260 provides a first reference voltage (VREF1) when the pixel circuit is in the precharge stage, provides a second reference voltage (VREF2) when the pixel circuit is in the programming stage, and provides a third reference voltage (VREF3) when the pixel circuit is in the display stage. The driving transistor 230 is a PMOS transistor, thus the second reference voltage is not higher than (lower than or equal to) the first reference voltage. Therefore, the lower voltage, second reference voltage, makes writing the data signals (VDATA) into the pixel circuit easy in the programming stage. Moreover, the low second reference voltage also enables the pixel circuit to be driven by low voltage data signals. Thus, the pixel circuit can operate with low power consumption.

Otherwise, the first power source terminal 220 provides a ground voltage when the pixel circuit is in the precharge stage, makes the first end 212 of the organic light emitting diode 210 high impedance (HIZ) when the pixel circuit is in the programming stage, and provides the ground voltage when the pixel circuit is in the display stage. Therefore, the high impedance at the first end 212 of the organic light emitting diode 210 also improves the pixel circuit's performance of the programming stage.

The first switch 270, the second switch 210 and the third switch 290 can be implemented by transistors. In this embodiment shown in the FIG. 2A, the switches 270, 210 and 290 are PMOS transistors. If the switches 270, 210 and 290 are configured by NMOS transistors, the control signals have to be inverted.

Compared with the prior art in FIG. 1, there are only three transistors (switches 270, 280, and the driving transistor 230) in this embodiment. Therefore, the aperture ratio of each pixel circuit is increased thereby.

FIG. 2C, FIG. 2D and FIG. 2E respectively show the organic light emitting diode pixel circuit during the precharge, programming and display stages according to the embodiment of the invention. The pixel circuit operates during the precharge stage, the programming stage, and the display stage sequentially. Refer to the FIG. 2A at the same time, the pixel circuit has an organic light emitting diode 210, a driving transistor 230, a capacitor 250, and a first switch 270. The organic light emitting diode 210 has a first end 212 coupled to a first power source terminal 220. The driving transistor 230 has a source 232 and a drain 236 respectively coupled to a second power source terminal 240 and a second end 216 of the light emitting diode 210. The capacitor 250 couples a gate 234 of the driving transistor 230 to a reference voltage terminal 260. The first switch 270 controlled by a first scan signal to couple/decouple the second end 216 of the organic light emitting diode 210 to/from the gate 234 of the driving transistor 230.

The first scan signal is asserted during the precharge (FIG. 2C) and programming (FIG. 2D) stages, and the first scan signal is de-asserted during the display stage (FIG. 2E). Therefore, the capacitor 250 is coupled to the light emitting

diode 210 during the precharge and programming stages in the FIG. 2C and FIG. 2D, and is decoupled from the light emitting diode 210 during the display stage in the FIG. 2E.

FIG. 3A shows an organic light emitting diode pixel circuit according to another embodiment of the invention. The pixel circuit is a voltage type compensation pixel circuit with NMOS transistors. The pixel circuit has an organic light emitting diode 310, a driving transistor 330, a capacitor 350 and a first switch 370. The organic light emitting diode 310 has a first end 312 coupled to a first power source terminal 320. The driving transistor 330 has a source 332 and a drain 336 respectively coupled to a second power source terminal 340 and a second end 316 of the light emitting diode 310. The capacitor 350 couples a gate 334 of the driving transistor 330 to a reference voltage terminal 360. The first switch 370 couples the second end 316 of the light emitting diode 310 to the capacitor 350, and couples the gate 334 and the drain 336 of the driving transistor 330 together when a first scan signal (SCAN) is asserted.

The pixel circuit has a second switch 380 controlled by the first scan signal (SCAN) to couple the source 332 of the driving transistor 330 to a data line 399. Therefore, when the first scan signal is asserted, the data signals from the data line 399 are transmitted to the pixel circuit.

FIG. 3B shows the waveform diagrams of the signals of the embodiment shown in FIG. 3A. Since the pixel circuit of FIG. 2A is implemented by PMOS transistors, and the pixel circuit of FIG. 3A is implemented by NMOS transistors, the waveform diagrams of FIG. 2B and FIG. 3B are opposite. The driving transistor 330 is a NMOS transistor, thus the second reference voltage (VREF2) is not lower than (higher than or equal to) the first reference voltage (VREF1). Therefore, the lower voltage, second reference voltage, makes writing the data signals (VDATA) into the pixel circuit easy in the programming stage. Moreover, the low second reference voltage also enable the pixel circuit to be driven by the data signals with low voltages. Thus, the pixel circuit can operate with low power consumption.

FIG. 4A shows an organic light emitting diode pixel circuit according to another embodiment of the invention. This pixel circuit is implemented by PMOS transistors, and it also can be implemented by NMOS transistors. The difference between the embodiments of FIG. 2A and FIG. 4A is that the pixel circuit in FIG. 4A has a third switch 490 controlled by a second scan signal (SCANB) to couple the second power source terminal 240 to the reference voltage terminal 260.

FIG. 4B shows the waveform diagrams of the signals of the embodiment shown in FIG. 4A. The first scan signal (SCAN) and the second scan signal (SCANB) are opposite. Therefore, the second power source terminal 240 and the reference voltage terminal 260 are disconnected when the second scan signal is deasserted at the precharge and programming stages. The third switch 490 is turned on to couple the reference voltage terminal 260 to the second power source terminal 240 when the pixel circuit operates in the display stage. Thus the voltages at the reference voltage terminal 260 and the second power source terminal 240 in the display stage are VDD.

By the description above, the embodiments of this invention with the voltage compensation function has fewer transistors than the conventional pixel circuit. Otherwise, the variable voltages at the reference voltage terminal make the pixel circuit operates more efficiently than the conventional pixel circuit, too.

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 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 pixel circuit, comprising:
 - a light emitting diode with a first end coupled to a first power source terminal;
 - a driving transistor with a source and a drain respectively coupled to a second power source terminal and a second end of the light emitting diode;
 - a capacitor coupling a gate of the driving transistor to a reference voltage terminal; and
 - a first switch, when a first scan signal is asserted, coupling the second end of the light emitting diode to the capacitor, and coupling the gate and the drain of the driving transistor together, wherein both of the first switch and the drain of the driving transistor are in direct contact with the second end of the light emitting diode; and
 - a third switch controlled by a second scan signal to couple the second power source terminal to the reference voltage terminal,
 wherein
 - the third switch is a transistor having a source and a drain, both of the source of the third switch and the source of the driving transistor are in direct contact with the second power source terminal, and
 - the drain of the third switch is disconnected from the source of the driving transistor.
- 2. The pixel circuit as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a second switch controlled by the first scan signal to couple the source of the driving transistor to a data line.

- 3. The pixel circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second power source terminal
 - makes the source of the driving transistor high impedance when the pixel circuit operates in a precharge and programming stages.
- 4. The pixel circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reference voltage terminal provides a first reference voltage when the pixel circuit is in a precharge stage.
- 5. The pixel circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reference voltage terminal provides a second reference voltage when the pixel circuit is in a programming stage.
- 6. The pixel circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the light emitting diode is an organic light emitting diode, and the first power source terminal makes the first end of the organic light emitting diode high impedance when the pixel circuit operates in a programming stage.
- 7. The pixel circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first power source terminal provides the ground voltage when the pixel circuit operates in a display stage.
- 8. The pixel circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first scan signal and the second scan signal are opposite.
- 9. The pixel circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the third switch is turned on to couple the reference voltage terminal to the second power source terminal when the pixel circuit operates in a display stage.
- 10. The pixel circuit as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first switch and the second switch are transistors.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	像素电路		
公开(公告)号	US8531360	公开(公告)日	2013-09-10
申请号	US13/038412	申请日	2011-03-02
[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	G09G3/3233 G09G2300/0465 G09G2300/0819 G09G2300/0842 G09G2320/043 G09G2330/021		
其他公开文献	US20110148843A1		
外部链接	Espacenet	USPTO	

摘要(译)

像素电路具有有机发光二极管，驱动晶体管，电容器和第一开关。有机发光二极管的第一端耦合到第一电源端子。驱动晶体管具有分别耦合到第二电源端子和发光二极管的第二端的源极和漏极。电容器将驱动晶体管的栅极耦合到参考电压端子。第一开关将发光二极管的第二端耦合到电容器，并且当第一扫描信号被断言时将驱动晶体管的栅极和漏极耦合在一起。

