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(54) **THRESHOLD VOLTAGE SENSING CIRCUIT OF ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DIODE DISPLAY DEVICE**

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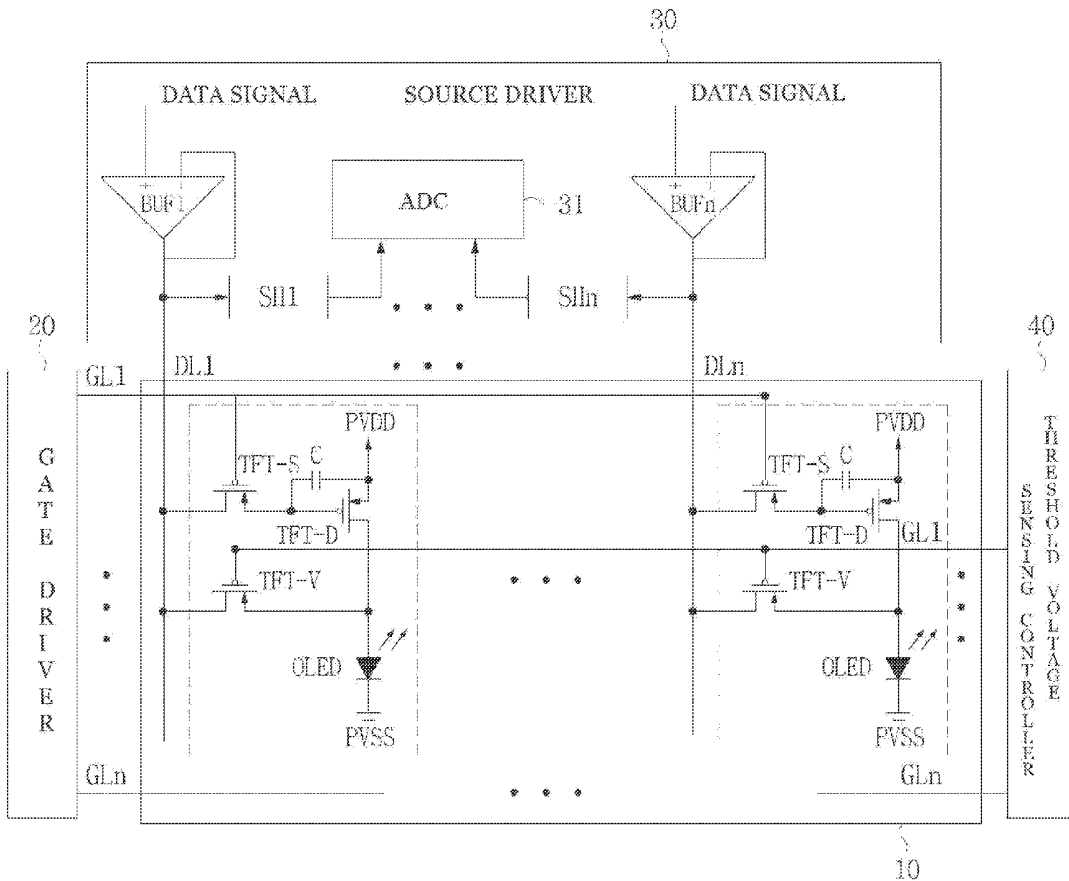
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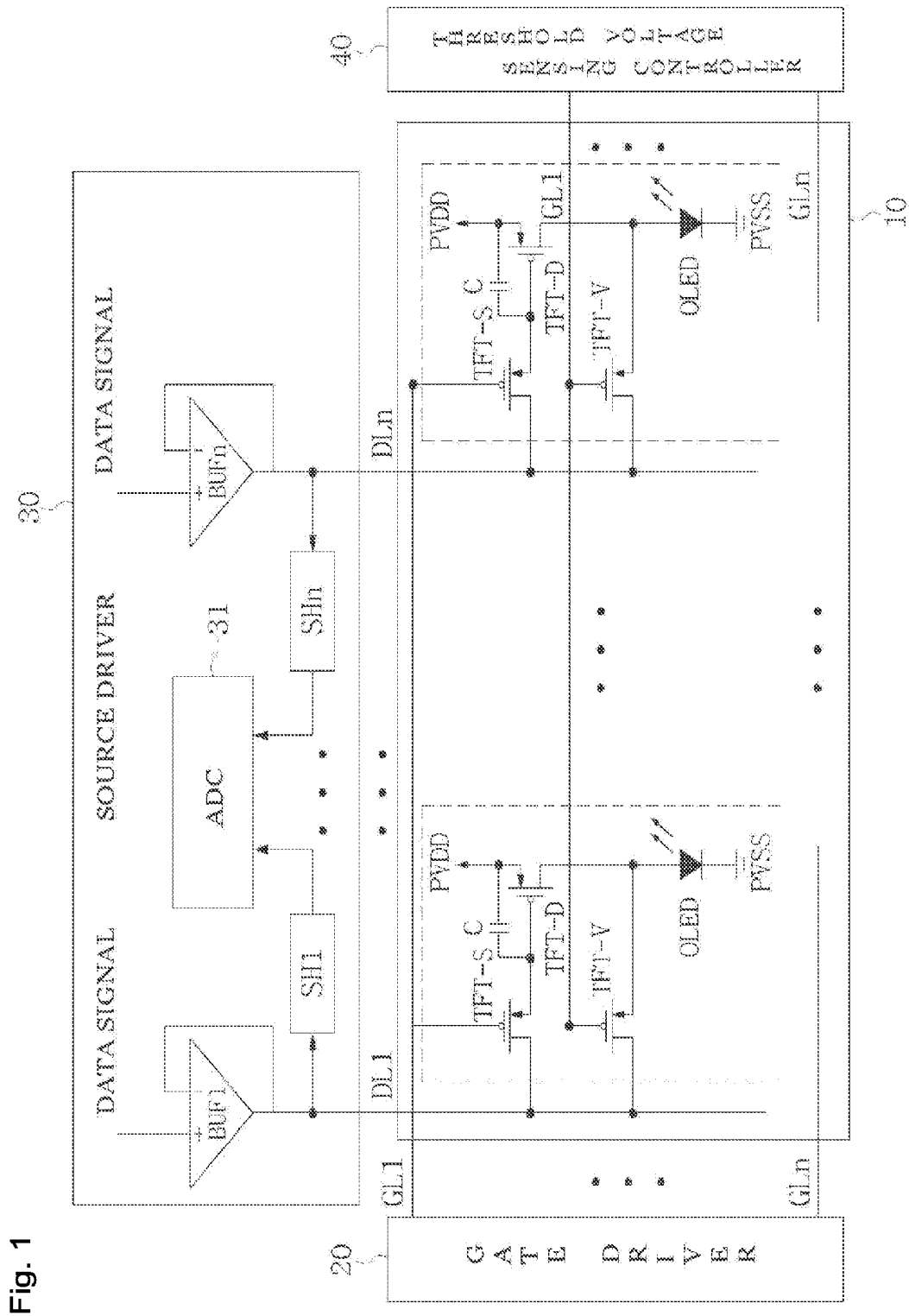
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to a technique for outputting threshold voltages by properly changing the threshold voltages such that the threshold voltages can protect low-voltage driving elements within an analog to digital converter when the threshold voltages of an OLED display panel are sensed and outputted to the analog to digital converter. The present invention comprises: a sampling capacitor which samples threshold voltages sensed and inputted from an organic light-emitting diode on a display panel; a charge-sharing capacitor which charges and shares the threshold voltages sampled from the sampling capacitor, or solely charges the threshold voltages to bypass the threshold voltages; and a sample-and-hold unit which has a plurality of switches for performing switching operations for the sampling operation of the sampling capacitor and the charging and the sharing of the charge-sharing capacitor, and scales the threshold voltages to threshold voltage areas having a certain value or less.





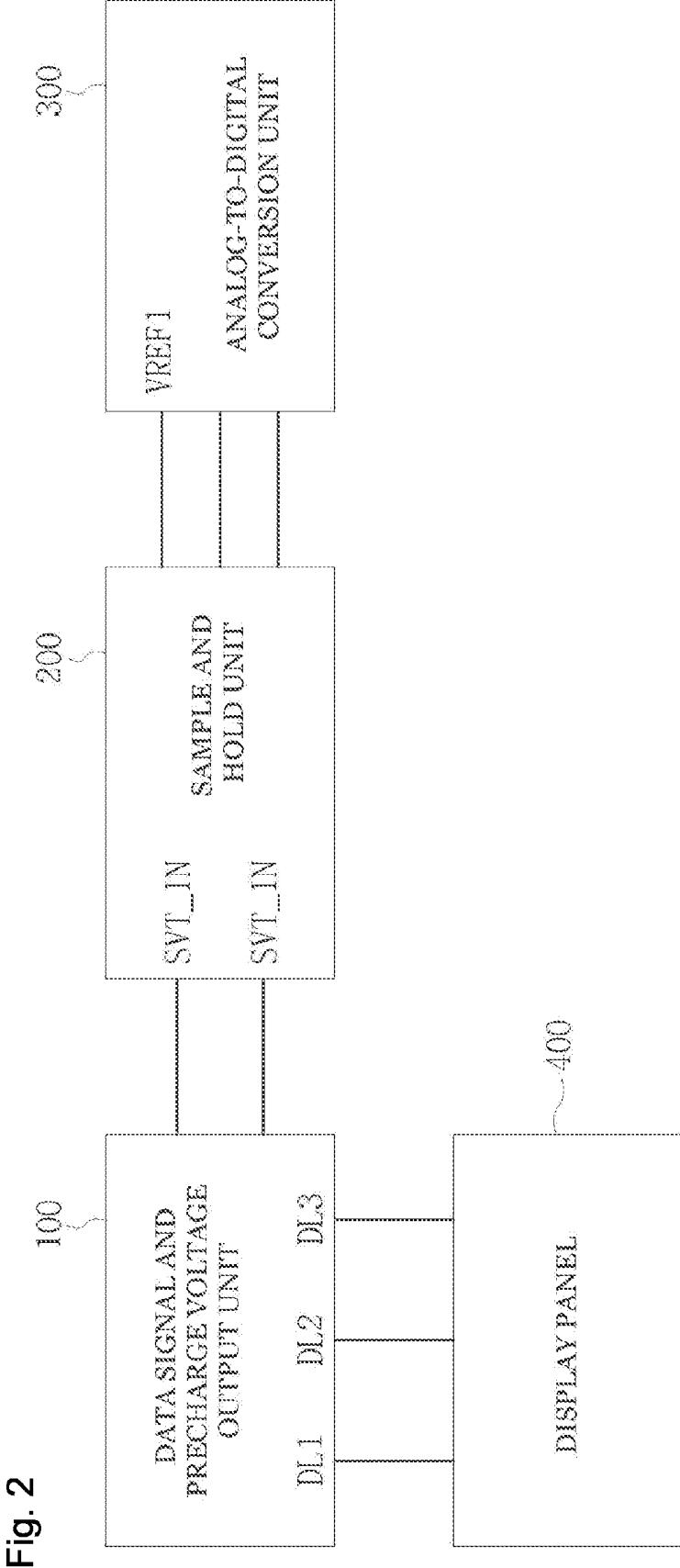


Fig. 2

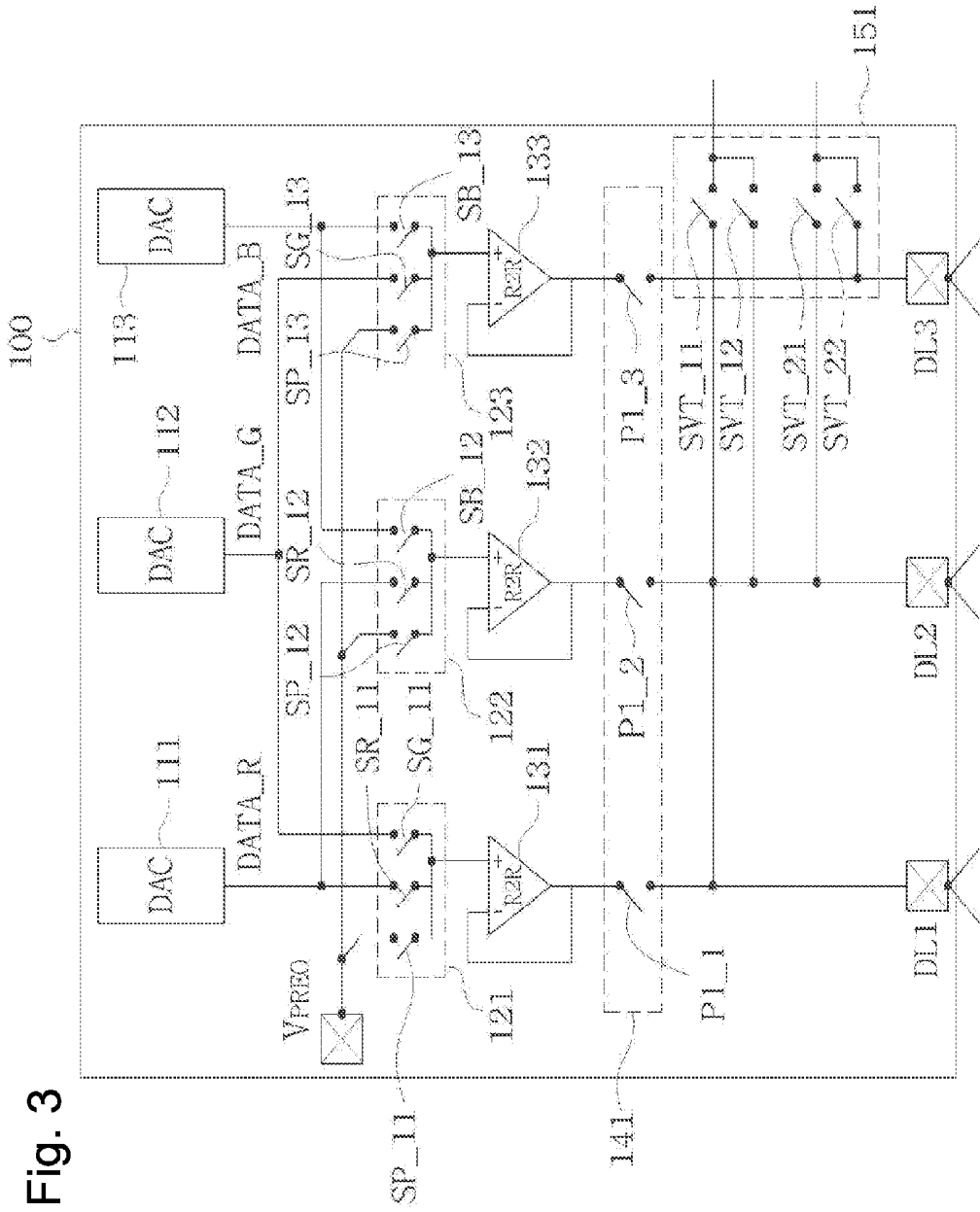
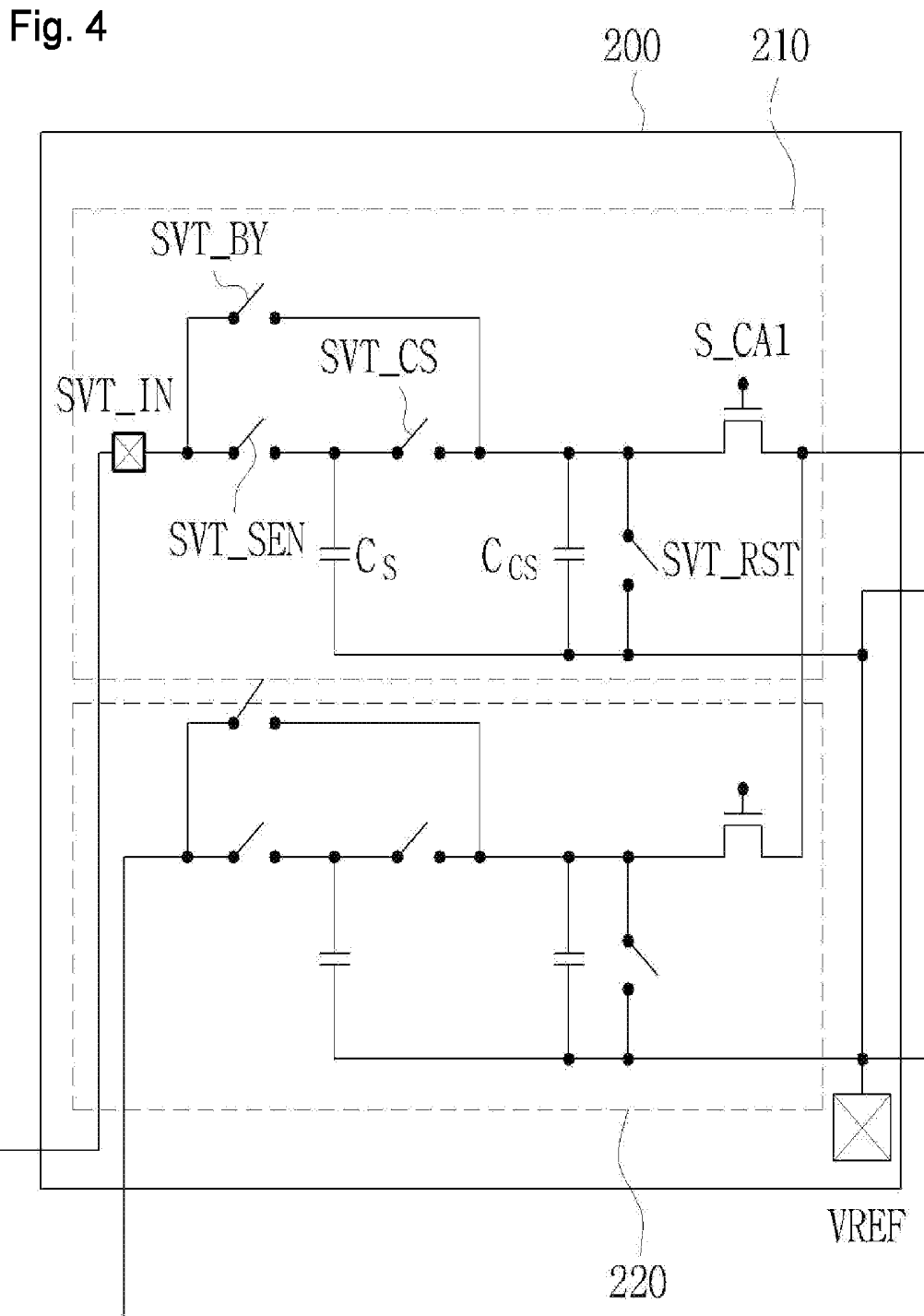


Fig. 3





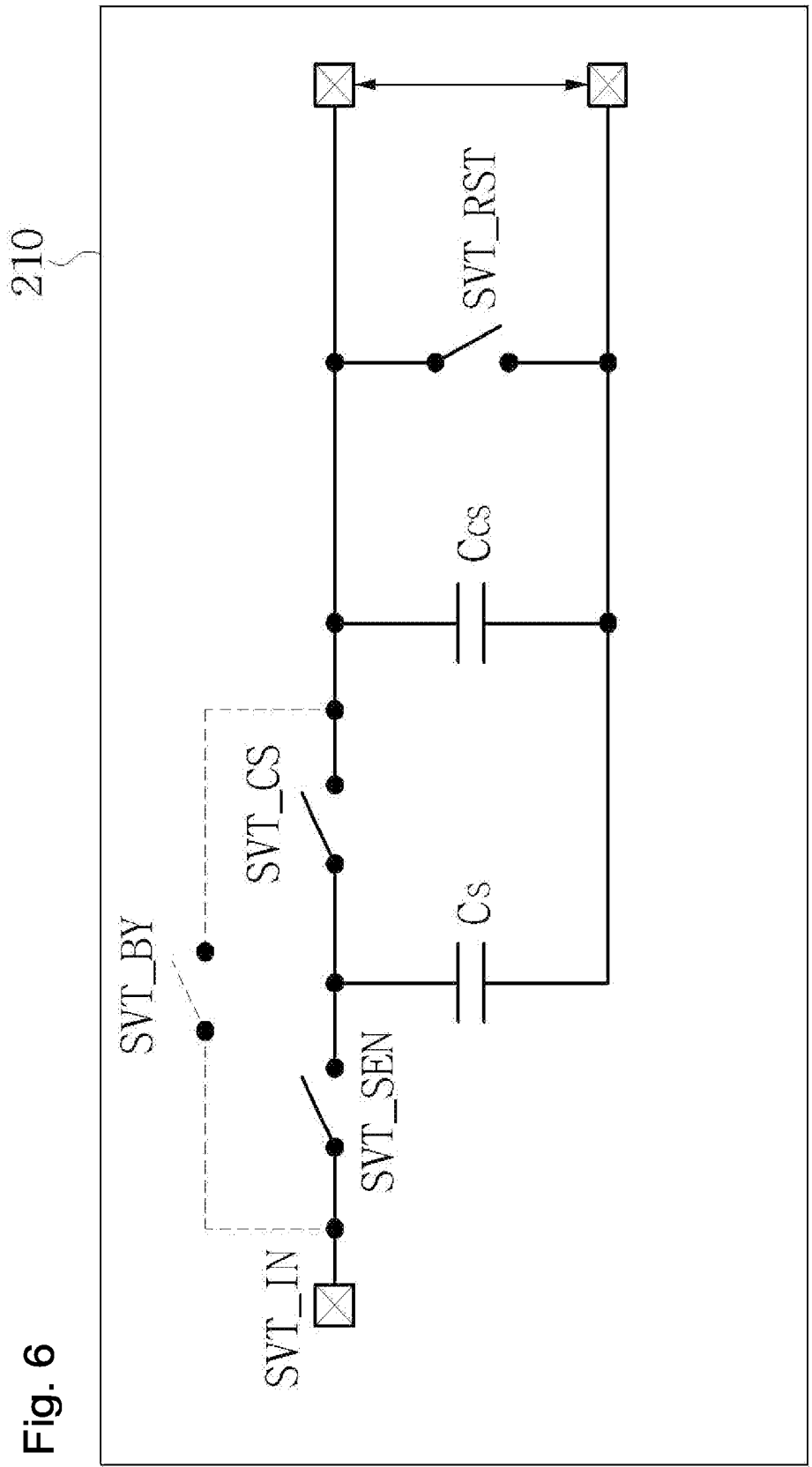


Fig. 6

210

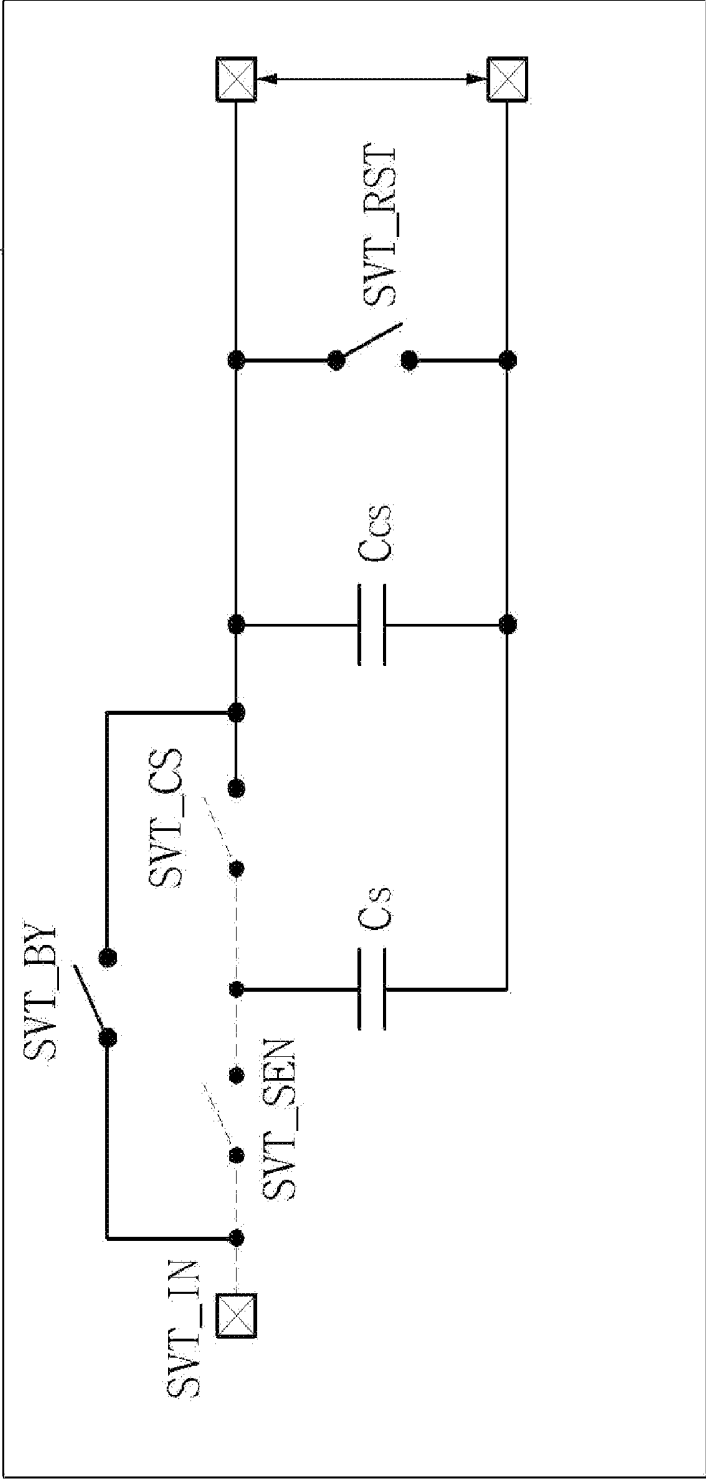


Fig. 7

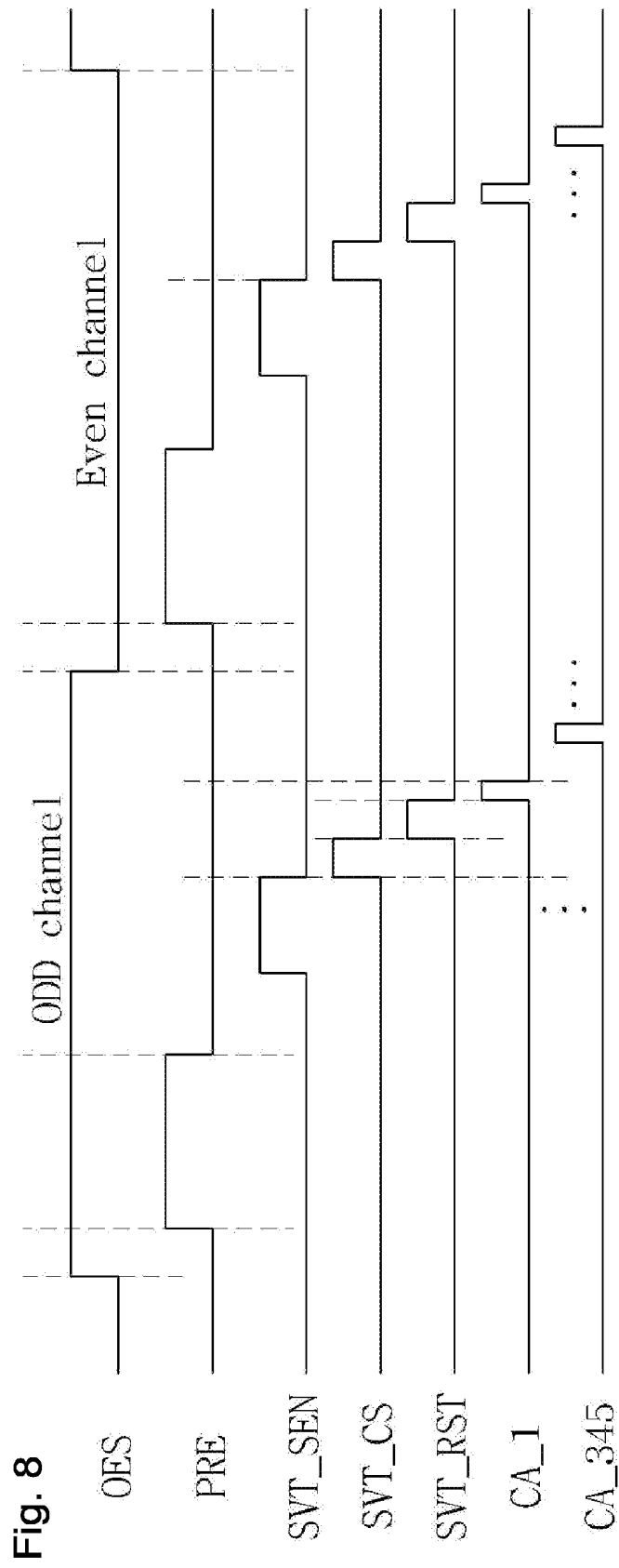


Fig. 8

Fig. 9

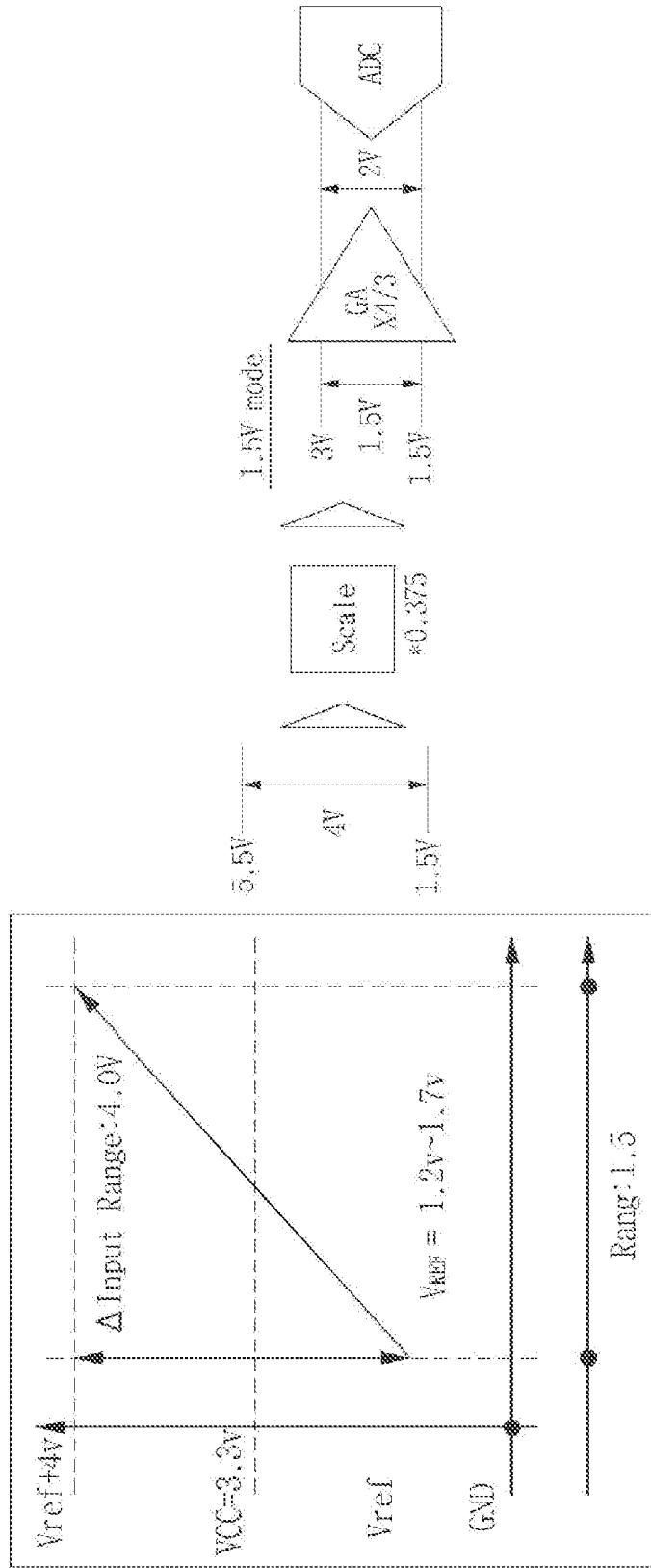
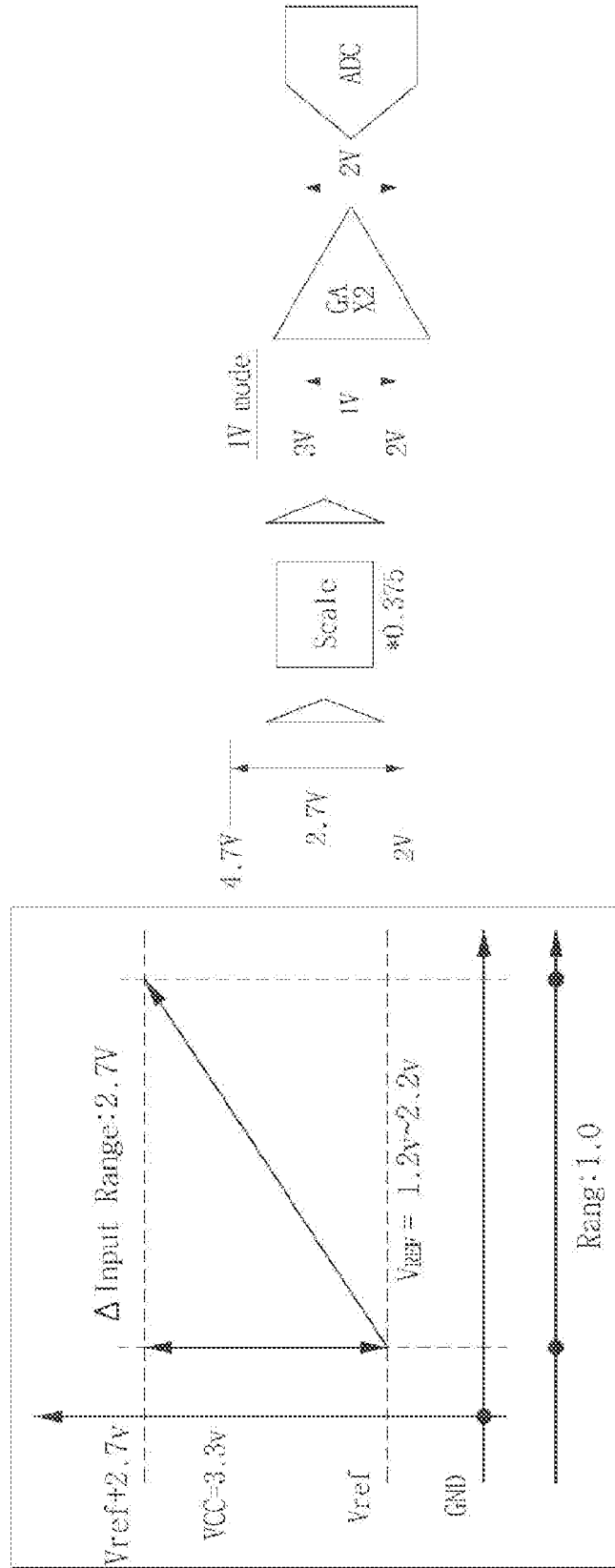


Fig. 10



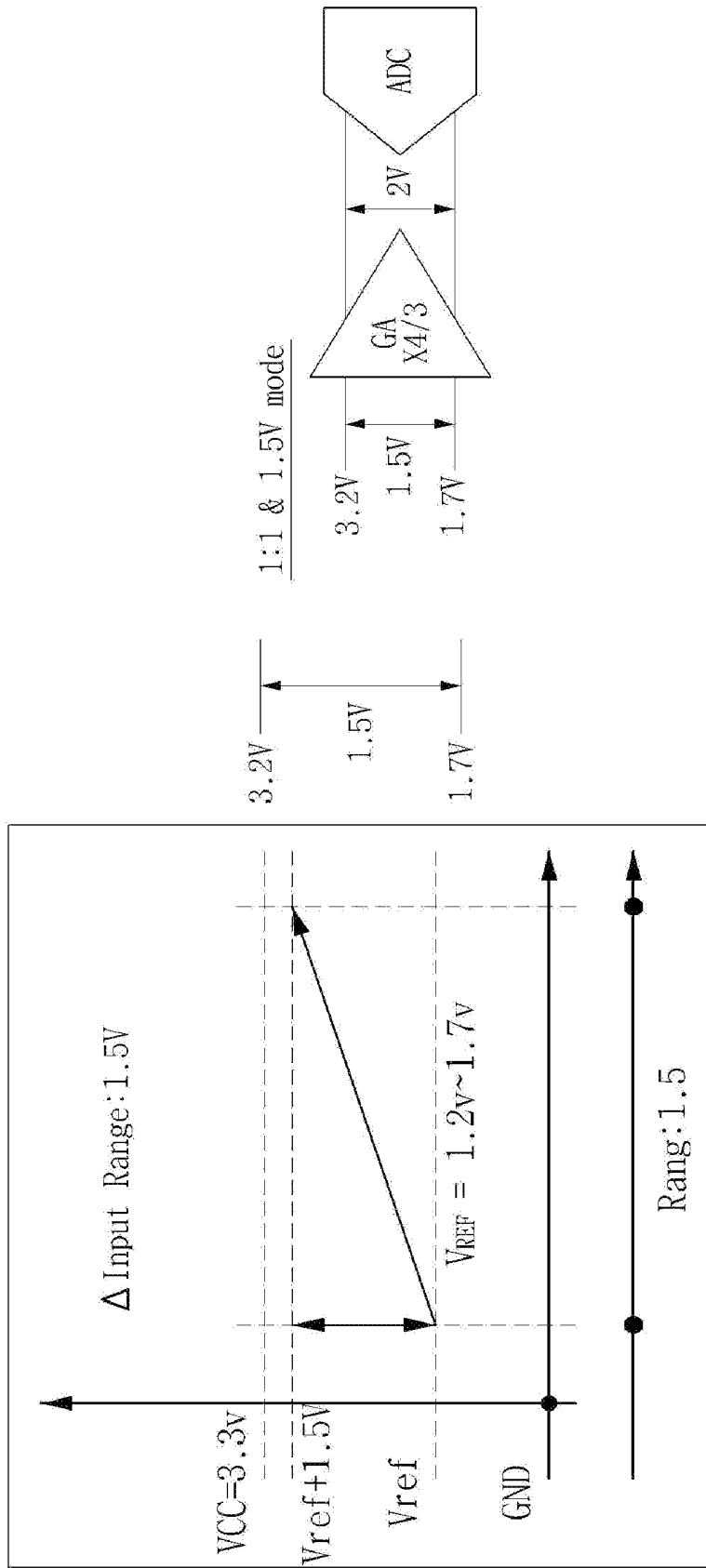


Fig. 11

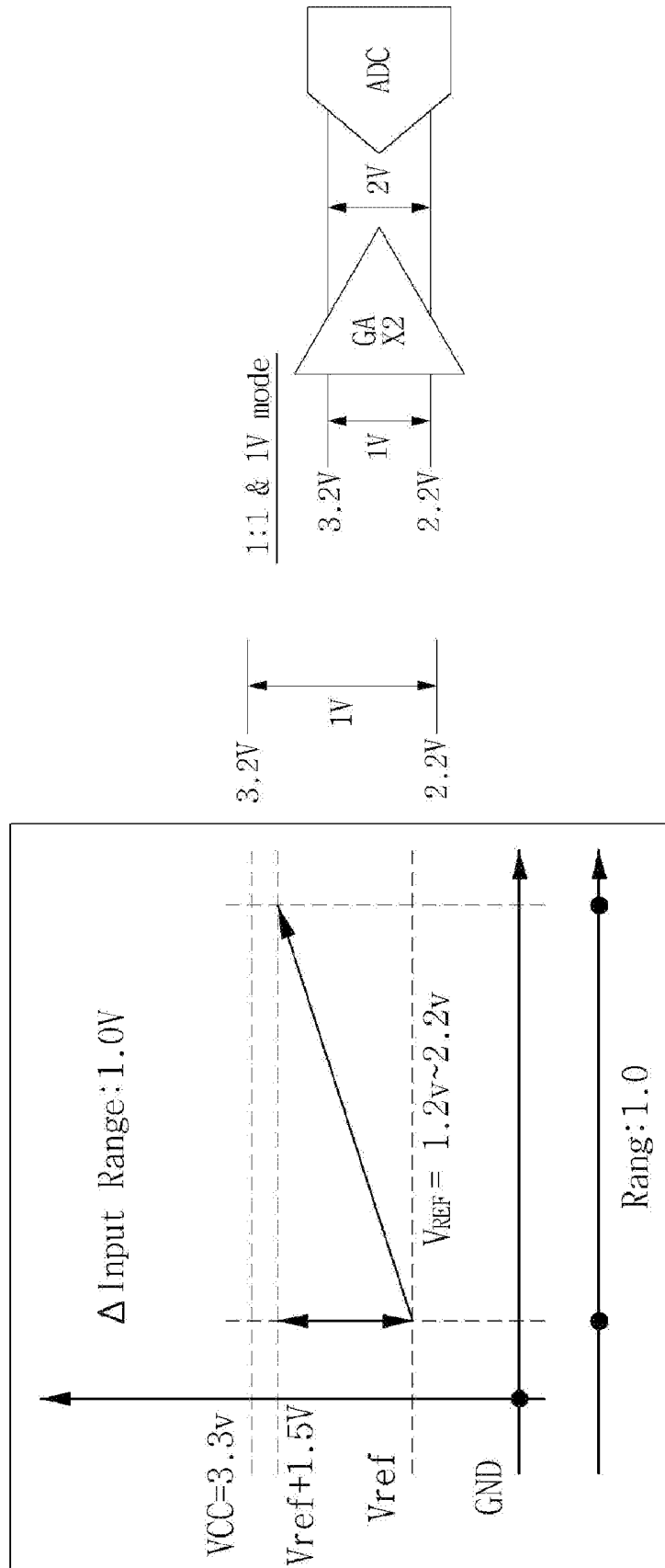


Fig. 12

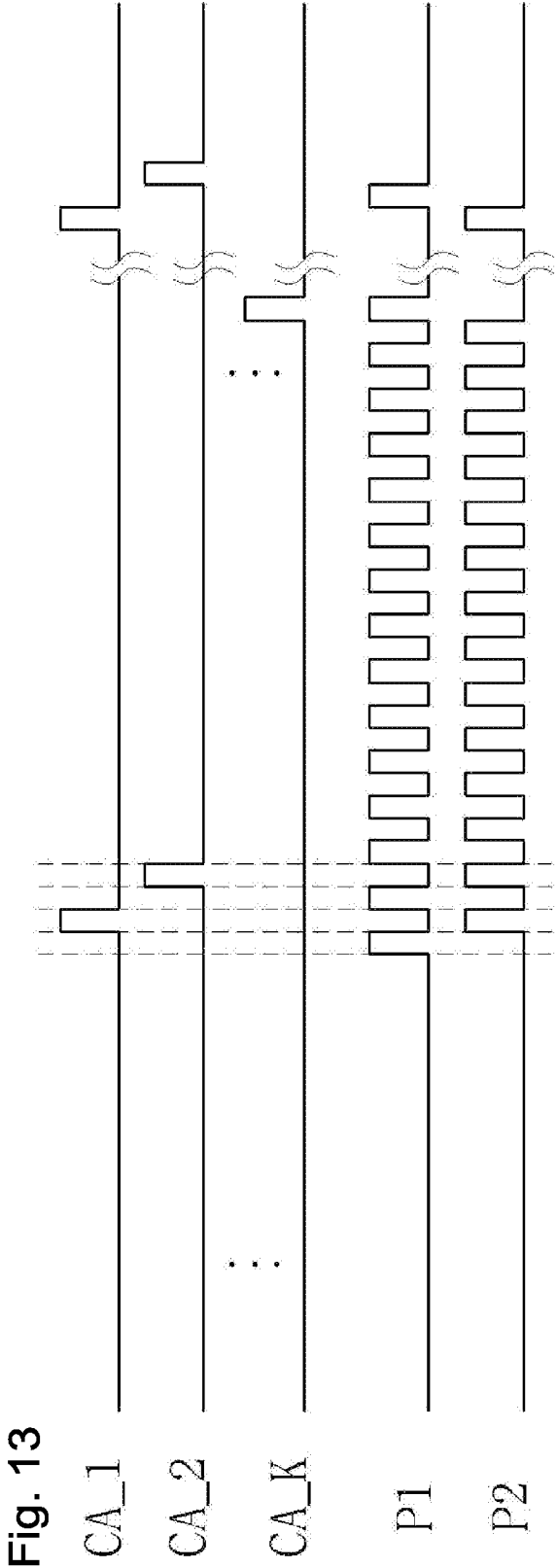
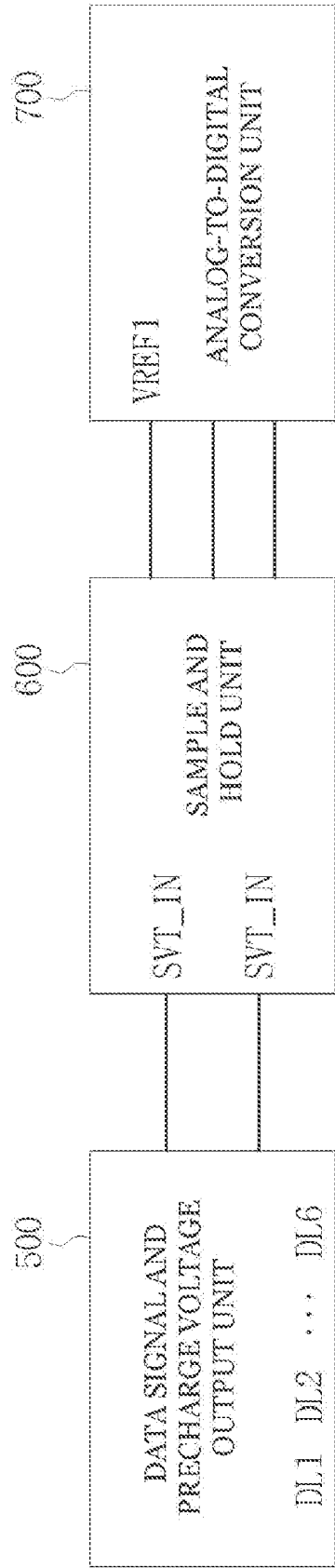


Fig. 13

Fig. 14



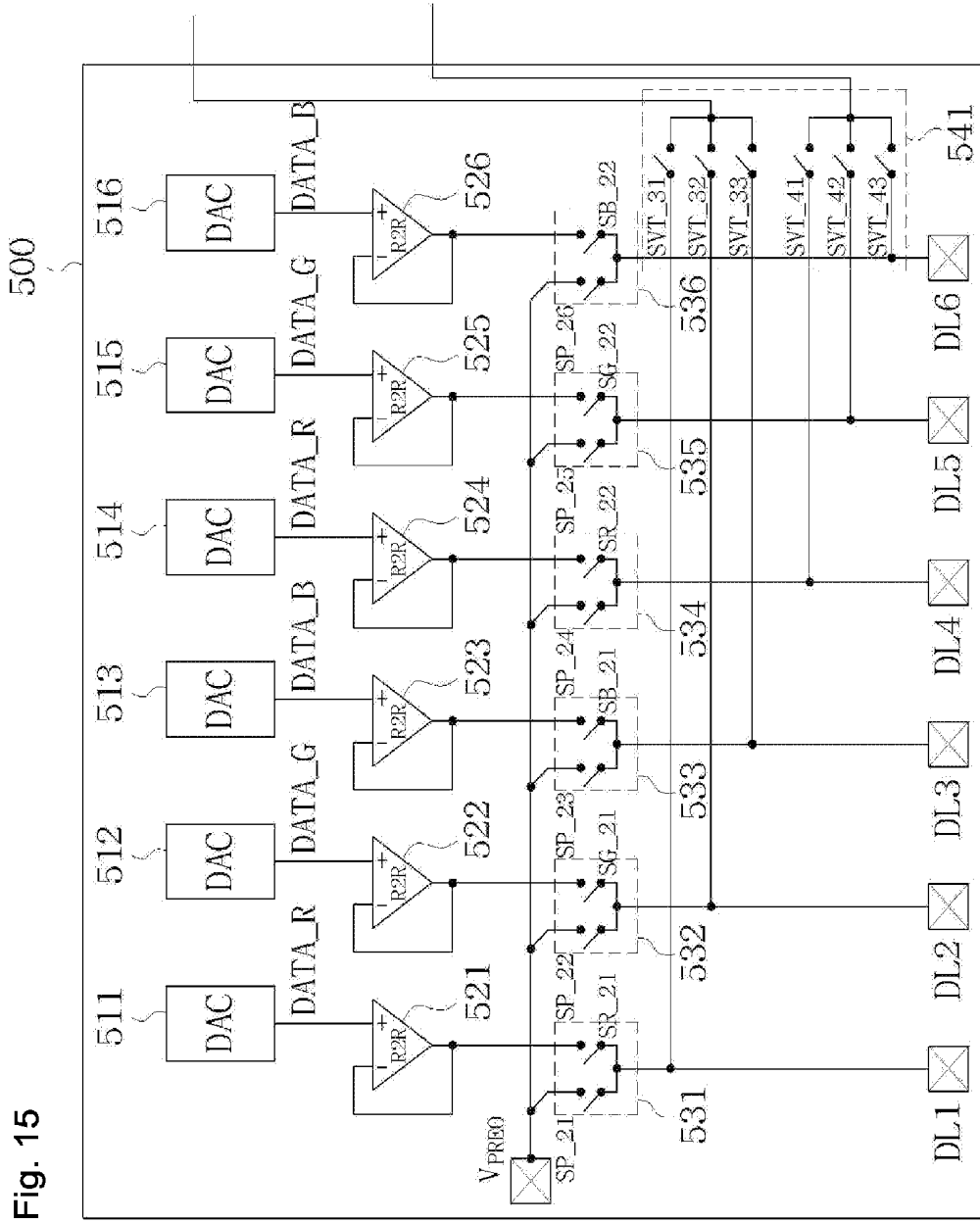
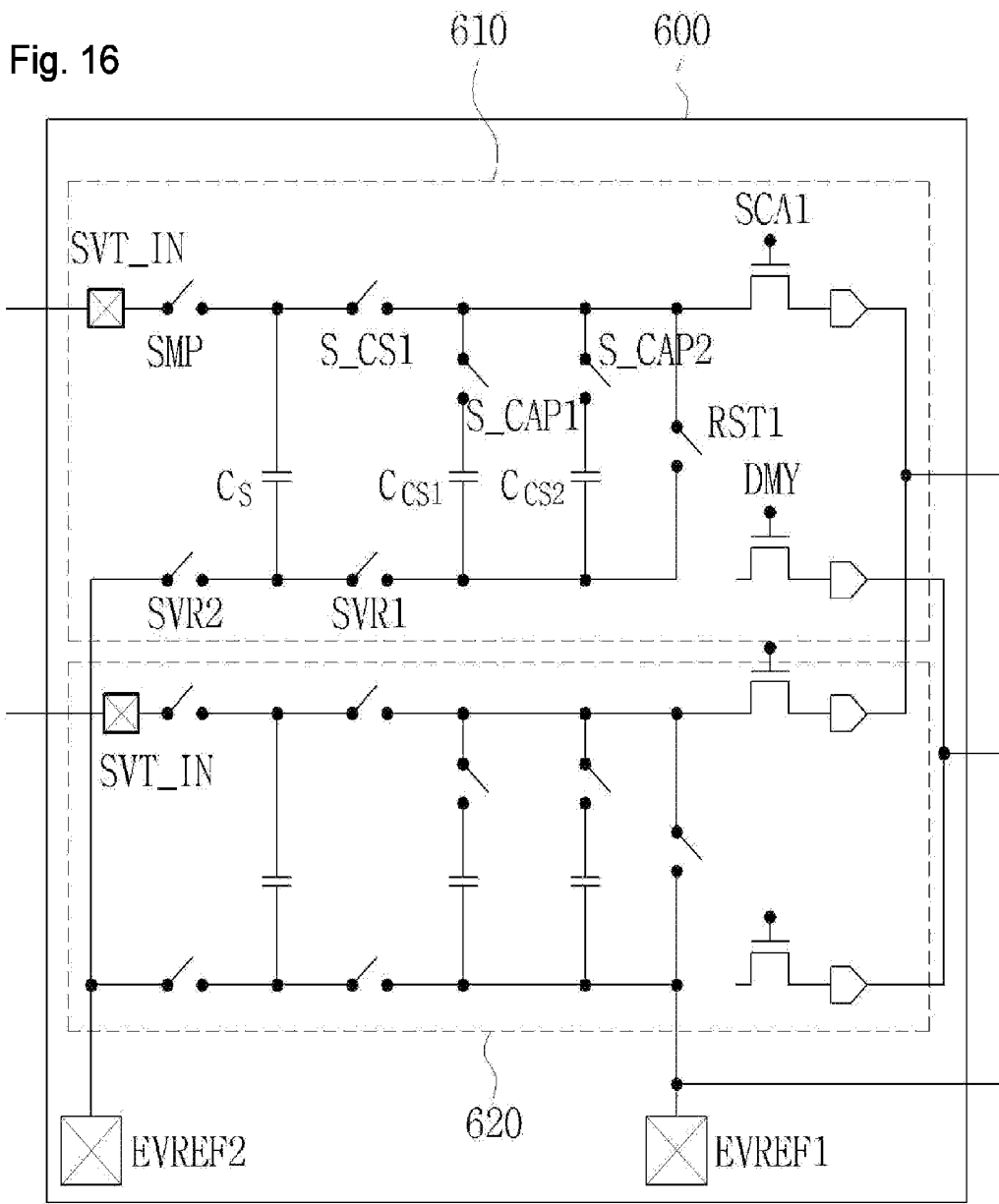


Fig. 15



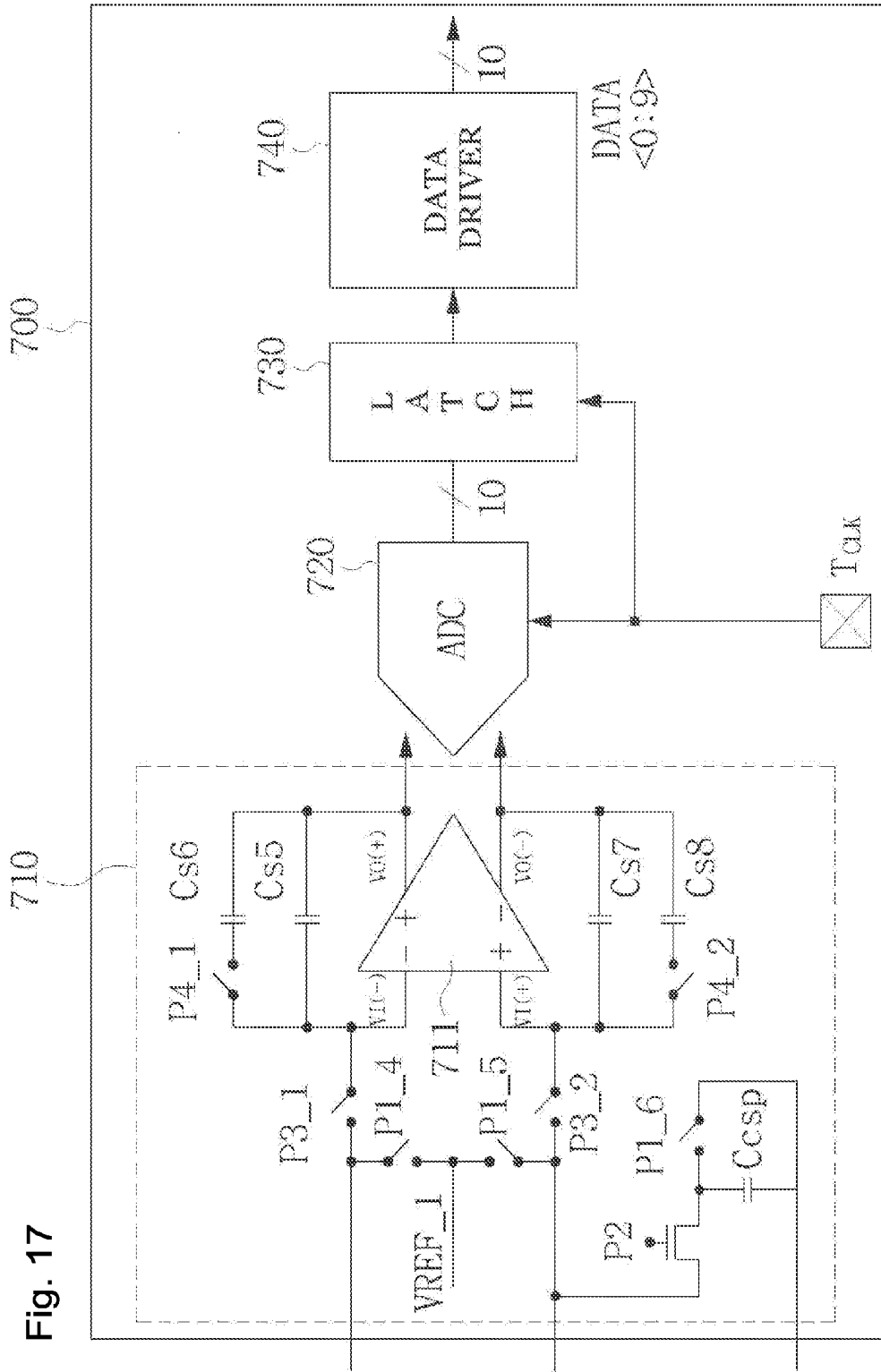


Fig. 17

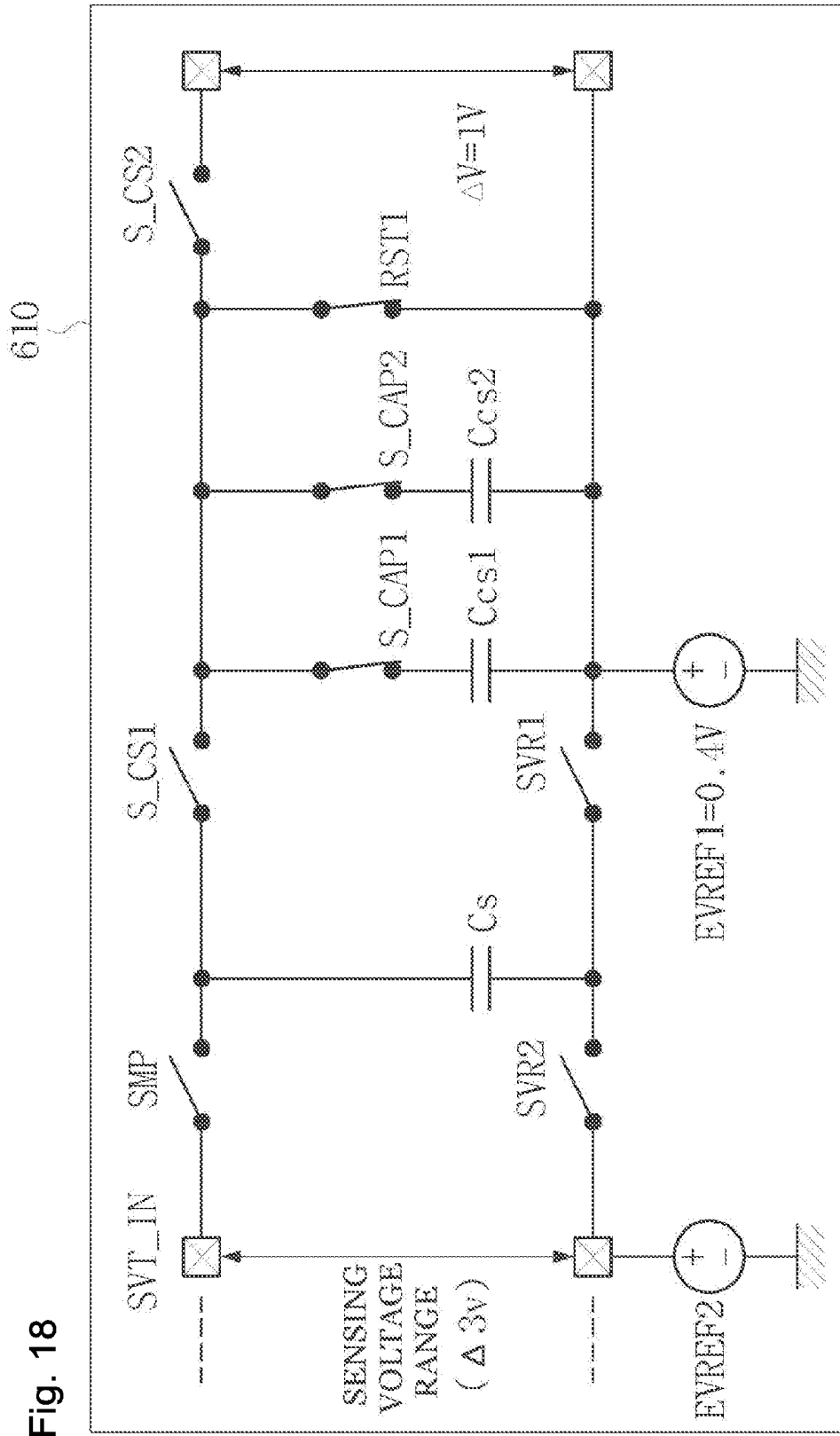
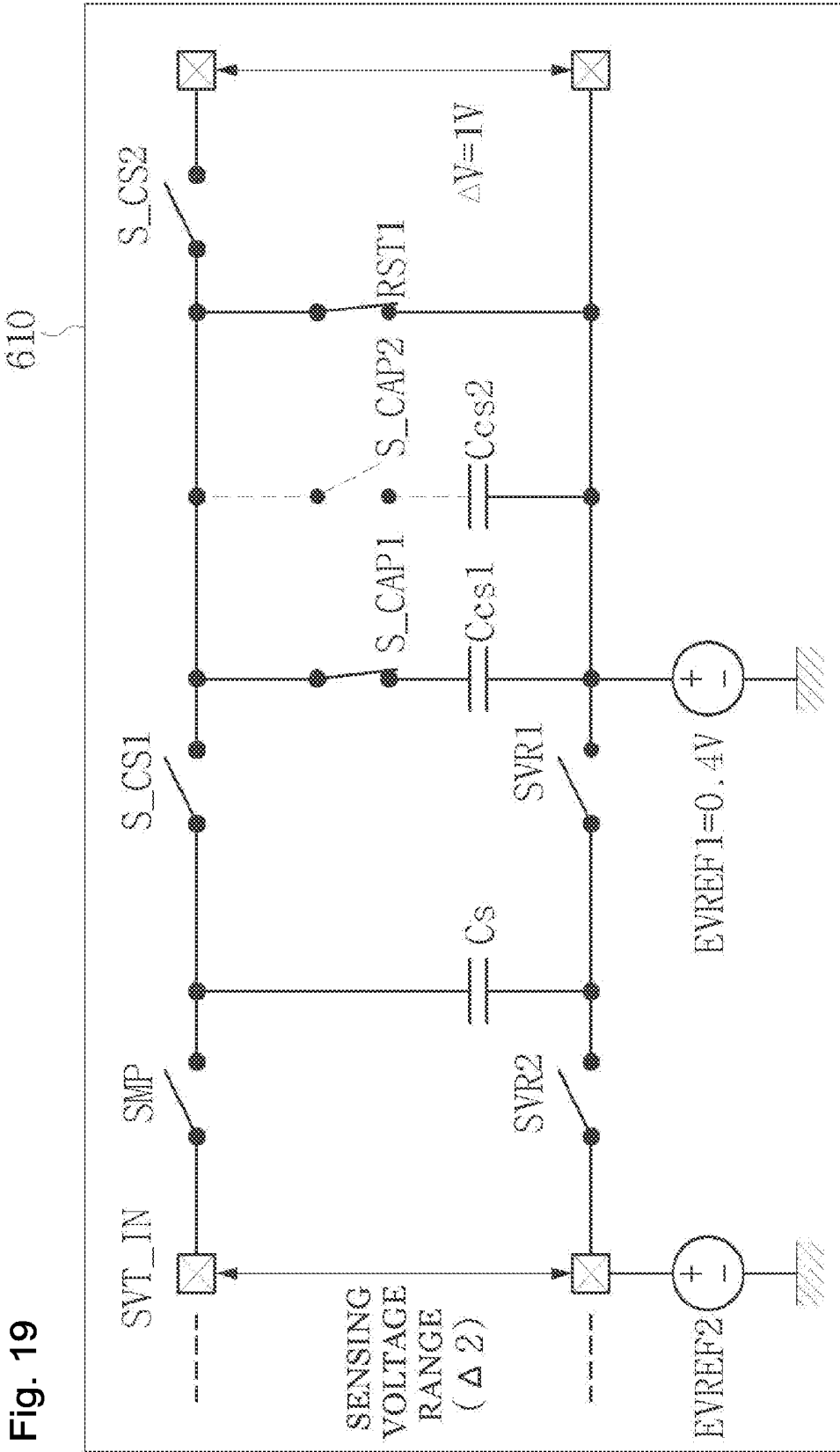


Fig. 18



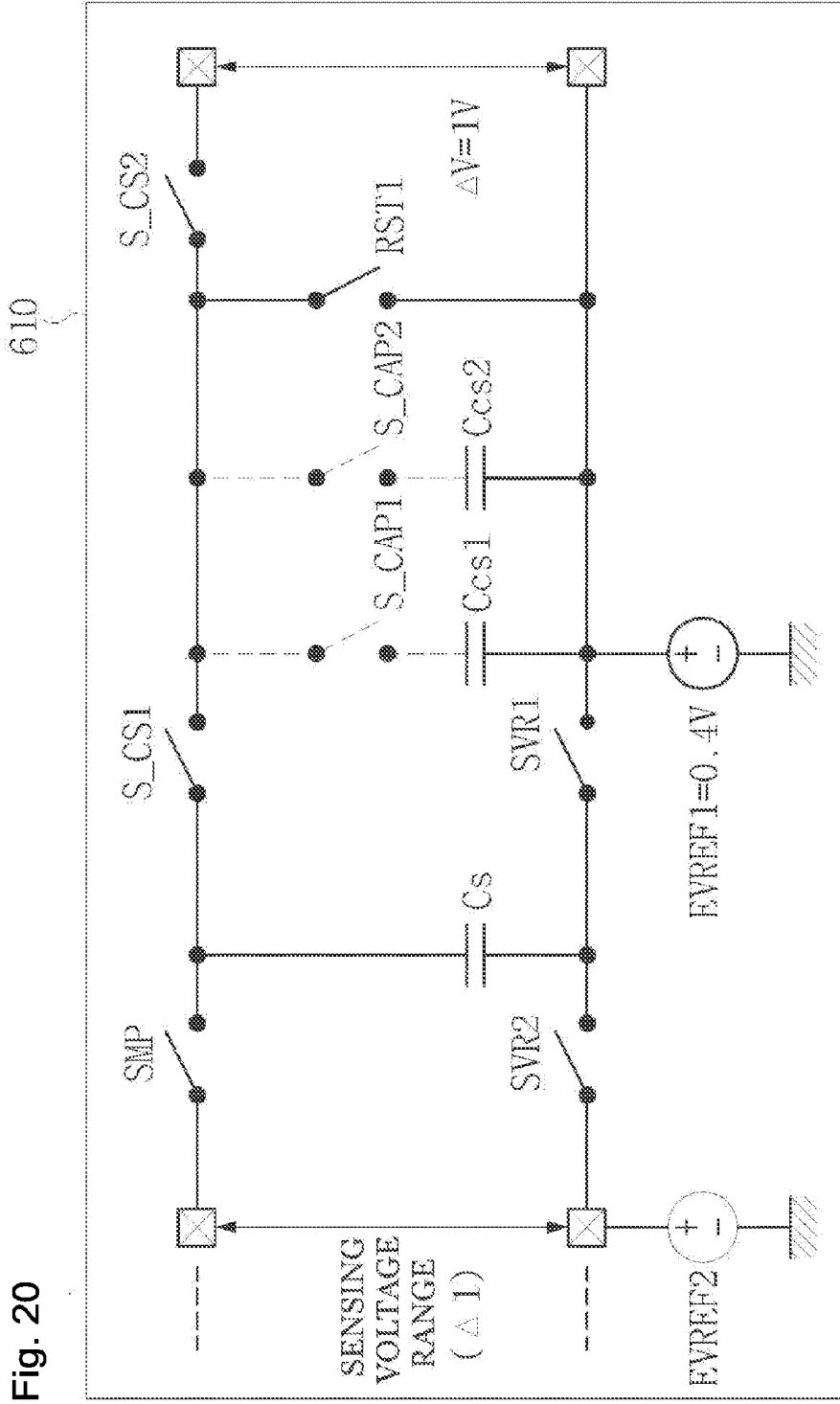


Fig. 20

Fig. 21

SENSING VOLTAGE RANGE	
INPUT CONDITION (V)	
$\Delta 3$	5~8
	4~7
	3~6
	2~5

(a)

SENSING VOLTAGE RANGE	
INPUT CONDITION (V)	
$\Delta 2$	6~8
	5~7
	4~6
	3~5
2~4	

(b)

SENSING VOLTAGE RANGE	
INPUT CONDITION (V)	
$\Delta 1$	7~8
	6~7
	5~6
	4~5
	3~4
	2~3

(c)

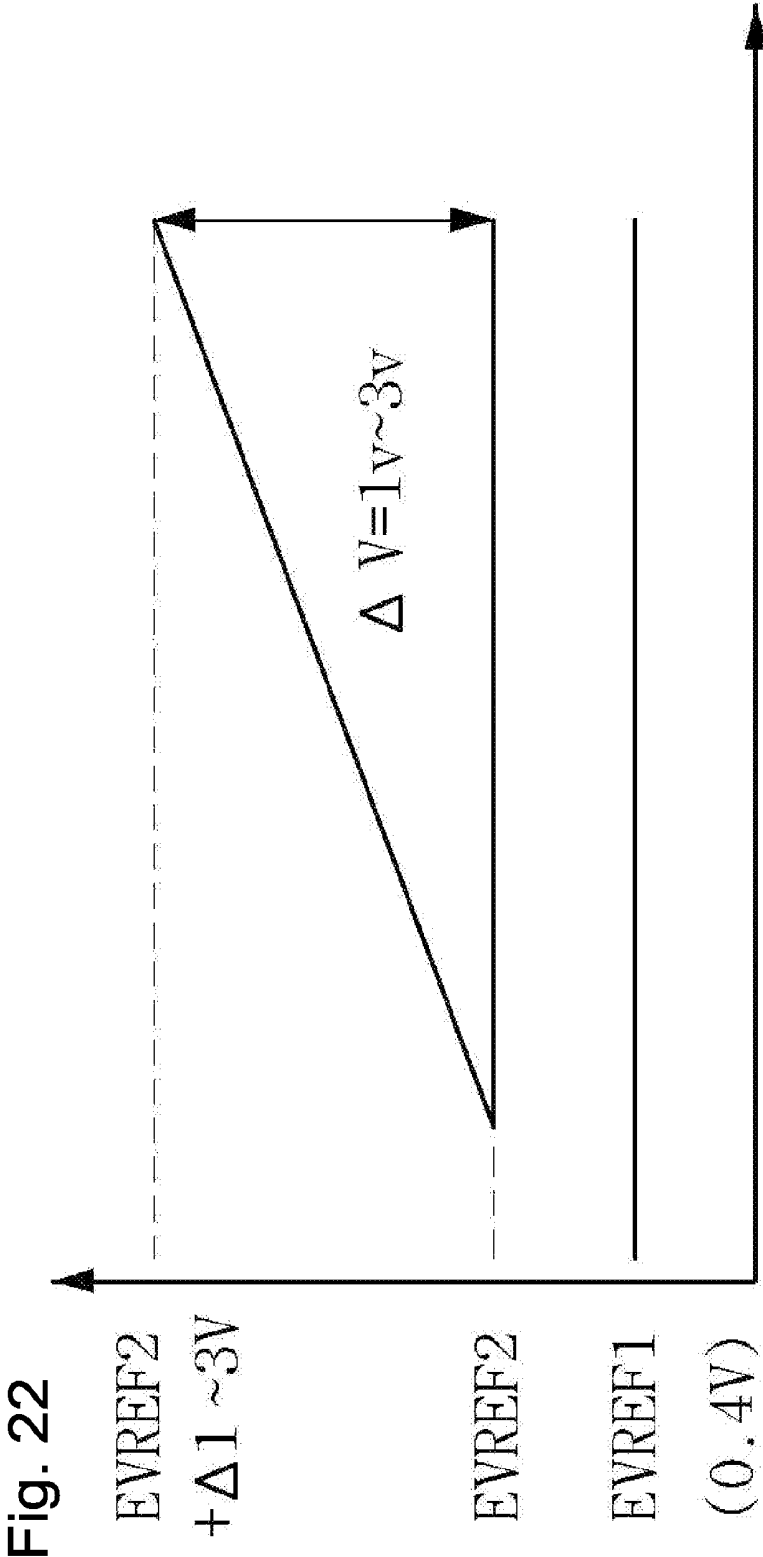


Fig. 22

## THRESHOLD VOLTAGE SENSING CIRCUIT OF ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DIODE DISPLAY DEVICE

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] 1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to a threshold voltage sensing circuit of an organic light-emitting diode (OLED) display device, and more particularly, to a threshold voltage sensing circuit of an OLED display device, which changes the threshold voltage of an OLED to a voltage suitable for protecting a low-voltage driving element in an analog-to-digital converter, when sensing the threshold voltage of the OLED and outputting the sensed threshold voltage to the analog-to-digital converter.

[0003] 2. Description of the Related Art

[0004] In general, a display panel of an OLED display device includes a plurality of pixels arranged in a matrix shape, and each of the pixels includes an OLED. When a signal is supplied to a gate line, each of the pixels is turned on by a data signal supplied from a data line, and emits light. The unit pixels of the display panel include OLEDs arranged therein and showing a unique color of red, green, and blue. The colors of the OLEDs may be combined to express a target color.

[0005] However, since the OLEDs on the display panel gradually deteriorate with time, the threshold values thereof are changed. Thus, although the same driving current is supplied to the OLEDs, the brightness of the OLEDs may be gradually changed with time.

[0006] Thus, the threshold voltages of the OLEDs may be sensed and stored in a memory. When a data signal is outputted to the display panel, the data signal may be compensated for according to the changes of the threshold voltages based on the stored threshold voltages. Therefore, the OLEDs may maintain constant brightness at all times, regardless of the use time of the OLEDs.

[0007] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a conventional threshold voltage sensing device of an OLED display device. As illustrated in FIG. 1, the conventional threshold voltage sensing device includes a display panel 10, a gate driver 20, a source driver 30, and a threshold voltage sensing controller 40.

[0008] Each of pixels arranged in the display panel 10 includes a switching transistor TFT-S which transmits a data signal to a driving transistor TFT-D through data lines DL1 to DLn of the source driver 30. The driving transistor TFT-D supplies a driving current corresponding to the data signal supplied through the switching transistor TFT-S to the corresponding OLED. A capacitor C coupled between one terminal and the gate of the driving transistor TFT-D and maintains the turn-on state of the driving transistor TFT-D during one frame, the corresponding OLED may maintain the light-emitting state during one frame.

[0009] Before the system is powered on to display an image on the display panel 10 or in a threshold voltage sensing mode, the threshold voltage sensing controller 40 sequentially outputs a control signal to threshold voltage compensation control lines CL1 to CLn. Thus, threshold voltage sensing transistors TFT-V of a corresponding horizontal line are sequentially turned on.

[0010] When the control signal is supplied to the first threshold voltage compensation control line CL1 to turn on the threshold voltage sensing transistors TFT-V, the source

driver 30 transmits precharge voltages to the data lines DL1 to DLn through buffers BUF1 to BUFn, respectively. At this time, the precharge voltages are supplied to the anodes of the OLEDs, respectively.

[0011] Then, when the precharge voltages of the OLEDs are sufficiently discharged, sample and hold circuits SH1 to SHn sample and hold the threshold voltages Vth of the OLEDs, sensed through the threshold voltage sensing transistors TFT-V and the corresponding data lines DL, respectively. The analog threshold voltages Vth sampled and held through the sample and hold circuits SH1 to SHn are converted into digital signals through an analog-to-digital converter 31, and stored in a memory.

[0012] Subsequently, the same operation is repeated on the next horizontal line. Whenever the same operation is repeated on each horizontal line, the threshold voltages of the OLEDs are converted into digital signals and stored in the memory.

[0013] In an image display mode, when data signals are outputted to the OLEDs, the data signals may be compensated for as much as the changes of the threshold voltages based on the threshold voltages stored in the memory. Thus, the OLEDs maintain the constant brightness regardless of the changes of the threshold voltages.

[0014] However, since the sample and hold circuits SH1 to SHn and the analog-to-digital converter 31 perform a digital logical circuit operation, the sample and hold circuits SH1 to SHn and the analog-to-digital converter 31 are typically implemented with transistors which are driven at a low voltage. Thus, when a threshold voltage is sensed and transmitted to the analog-to-digital converter 31, the PN-junction diode of the transistor (for example, LV PMOS transistor) may be turned on in case where the threshold voltage is higher than the limit voltage (for example, VDD+Vth) which guarantees stable operations of the transistors within the analog-to-digital converter 31. Thus, a discharge operation may occur due to leakage current in the analog-to-digital converter 31.

[0015] Nevertheless, the conventional threshold voltage sensing device does not include a function of changing or limiting a sampled and held threshold voltage to the limit voltage or less, which guarantees the stable operations of the transistors within the analog-to-digital converter. Thus, a discharge operation may be caused by leakage current, and the values of the threshold voltages sensed from the OLEDs may not be normally stored in the memory.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0016] Accordingly, the present invention has been made in an effort to solve the problems occurring in the related art, and an object of the present invention is to provide a threshold voltage sensing circuit of an OLED display device, which is capable of scaling down threshold voltages sensed from OLEDs of a display panel to threshold voltages within a predetermined range through charge sharing, when the threshold voltages are sampled and held and then transmitted to an analog-to-digital converter (ADC).

[0017] In order to achieve the above object, according to one aspect of the present invention, a threshold voltage sensing circuit of an OLED display device including an OLED may include: a sampling capacitor configured to sample a threshold voltage of the OLED; a charge-share capacitor configured to charge-share the voltage sampled in the sampling capacitor; and a comparator configured to compare the variation range of the threshold voltage to a reference value, wherein when the variation range of the threshold voltage is

larger than the reference value, the threshold voltage is stored in the sampling capacitor and the charge-share capacitor to make the variation range of the threshold voltage smaller than the reference value.

**[0018]** According to another aspect of the present invention, a threshold voltage sensing circuit of an OLED display device including an OLED may include: a sampling capacitor configured to sample a threshold voltage of the OLED; a charge-share capacitor configured to charge-share the voltage sampled in the sampling capacitor; an amplification section configured to variably amplify the threshold voltage outputted from the charge-share capacitor; and a comparator configured to compare the variation range of the threshold voltage to a reference value, wherein when the variation of the threshold voltage is larger than the reference value, the threshold voltage is stored in the sampling capacitor and the charge-share capacitor to make the variation range of the threshold voltage smaller than the reference value, and then transmitted to the amplification section.

**[0019]** According to another aspect of the present invention, a threshold voltage sensing circuit of an OLED display device including an OLED may include: a sampling capacitor configured to sample a threshold voltage of the OLED; one or more charge-share capacitors configured to charge-share the voltage sampled in the sampling capacitor; and a comparator configured to compare the variation range of the threshold voltage to a reference value, wherein when the variation range of the threshold voltage is larger than the reference value, the threshold voltage is stored in the sampling capacitor and the charge-share capacitor to make the variation range of the threshold voltage smaller than the reference value.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

**[0020]** The above objects, and other features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent after a reading of the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the drawings, in which:

**[0021]** FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a conventional threshold voltage sensing device of an OLED display device;

**[0022]** FIG. 2 is the entire block diagram of a threshold voltage sensing circuit of an organic light emitting diode (OLED) display device according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

**[0023]** FIGS. 3 to 5 are detailed circuit diagrams of respective units of FIG. 2;

**[0024]** FIGS. 6 and 7 are circuit diagrams for explaining the operation of a first sample and hold section of FIG. 4;

**[0025]** FIG. 8 is a timing diagram of the first sample and hold section of FIG. 4;

**[0026]** FIGS. 9 to 12 are diagrams for explaining the operation of the first sample and hold section of FIG. 4;

**[0027]** FIG. 13 is an analog-to-digital conversion timing diagram of an analog-to-digital conversion unit of FIG. 5;

**[0028]** FIG. 14 is the entire block diagram of a threshold voltage sensing circuit of an OLED display device according to a second embodiment of the present invention;

**[0029]** FIGS. 15 to 17 are detailed circuit diagrams of respective units of FIG. 14;

**[0030]** FIGS. 18 to 20 are circuit diagrams for explaining the operation of a first sample and hold section of FIG. 16;

**[0031]** FIGS. 21A to 21C are diagrams showing sensing voltage ranges and input conditions in FIGS. 18 to 20; and

**[0032]** FIG. 22 is a diagram illustrating a range of sensed and inputted threshold voltages in the second embodiment of the present invention.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

**[0033]** Through the specification, when an element is referred to as being 'electrically coupled', 'coupled', or 'connected' between other elements, it may indicate that the elements are directly coupled or connected to each other or indirectly coupled or connected to each other through an intermediate medium, while each of the elements maintains its property to some extent or more. Furthermore, when a signal is referred to as being 'transmitted' or 'derived', it may indicate that the signal is directly transmitted or derived or indirectly transmitted or derived through an intermediate medium, while the signal maintains its property to some extent or more. Furthermore, when a voltage or signal is referred to as being 'applied' or 'inputted', it may indicate that the signal is directly applied or inputted or indirectly applied or inputted through an intermediate medium.

**[0034]** Furthermore, plural expressions of each element may be omitted. For example, although an element includes a plurality of switches or a plurality of signal lines, the plurality of switches or signal lines may be represented as 'switches' or 'signal lines' or 'switch' or 'signal line'. This is because the switches may complementarily operate or independently operate depending on cases, and when a plurality of signals having the same property, for example, data signal lines are provided as a bundle of signals lines, the signal lines do not need to be divided into singular and plural forms. Thus, throughout the specification, similar expressions may be analyzed in the same manner.

**[0035]** The advantages and purpose accomplished by embodiments of the present invention will be understood with reference to the following descriptions and the accompanying drawings.

**[0036]** Hereafter, the embodiments of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

**[0037]** FIG. 2 is the entire block diagram of a threshold voltage sensing circuit of an organic light emitting diode (OLED) display device according to a first embodiment of the present invention. The threshold voltage sensing circuit includes a data signal and precharge voltage output unit **100**, a sample and hold unit **200**, and an analog-to-digital conversion unit **300**. FIGS. 3 to 5 are detailed circuit diagrams of the respective units.

**[0038]** The installation positions of the data signal and precharge voltage output unit **100**, the sample and hold unit **200**, and the analog-to-digital conversion unit **300** are not limited, but may be installed within a source driver for driving a display panel **400**.

**[0039]** Referring to FIGS. 2 to 5, the embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail.

**[0040]** The data signal and precharge voltage output unit **100** includes first to third digital to analog converters (DAC) **111** to **113**, the first to third switch sections **121** to **123**, first to third buffers **131** to **133**, an output signal control section **141**, and a threshold voltage sensing switch **151**.

**[0041]** In an image display mode for the display panel **400**, the first to third DACs **111** to **113** output a red data signal DATA\_R, a green data signal DATA\_G, and a blue data signal DATA\_B, respectively.

[0042] The first to third switch sections **121** to **123** include a plurality of switches SP\_11, SR\_11, and SG\_11, a plurality of switches SP\_12, SR\_12, and SG\_12, and a plurality of switches SP\_13, SR\_13, and SG\_13, respectively. The first switch section **121** selects and outputs the red data signal DATA\_R through the first-first red switch SR\_11 or selects and outputs the green data signal DATA\_G through the first-first green switch SG\_11 in the image display mode, and selects and outputs a threshold voltage detection precharge voltage  $V_{PREO}$  through the first-first output switch SP\_11 in a threshold voltage sensing mode.

[0043] The second switch section **122** selects the red data signal DATA\_R through the first-second red switch SR\_12 or selects and outputs the blue data signal DATA\_B through the first-second blue switch SB\_12 in the image display mode, and selects and outputs the threshold voltage detection precharge voltage  $V_{PREO}$  through the first-second output switch SP\_12 in the threshold voltage sensing mode.

[0044] The third switch section **123** selects and output the red data signal DATA\_G through the first-third green switch SG\_13 or selects and outputs the blue data signal DATA\_B through the first-third blue switch SB\_13 in the image display mode, and selects and outputs the threshold voltage detection precharge voltage  $V_{PREO}$  through the first-third output switch SP\_13 in the threshold voltage sensing mode.

[0045] The first to third buffers **131** to **133** buffer a corresponding output signal among output signals of the first to third switch sections **121** to **123**.

[0046] The output signal control section **141** includes the first to third output signal control switches P1\_1 to P1\_3 for controlling signals which are outputted to data lines DL1 to DL3 from the first to third buffers **131** to **133**.

[0047] The threshold voltage sensing switch **151** selectively receives threshold voltages sensed from a corresponding pixel, after the threshold voltage detection precharge voltage  $V_{PREO}$  is supplied to the OLED of the pixel. For this operation, the threshold voltage sensing switch **151** includes threshold voltage sensing switches SVT\_11, SVT\_12, SVT\_21, and SVT\_22. The first-first threshold voltage sensing switch SVT\_11 selects and outputs a threshold voltage sensed from an arbitrary red OLED or green OLED coupled to the data line DL1. The first-second threshold voltage sensing switch SVT\_12 and the second-first threshold voltage sensing switch SVT\_21 select and output a threshold voltage sensed from an arbitrary blue OLED or red OLED coupled to the data line DL2. The second-second threshold voltage sensing switch SVT\_22 selects and outputs a threshold voltage sensed from an arbitrary green OLED or blue OLED coupled to the data line DL3.

[0048] The method of selecting threshold voltages sensed from the OLEDs arranged in each horizontal line on the display panel and transmitting the selected threshold voltages to the sample and hold unit **200** may be implemented in various manners, but the present invention is not limited to a specific method. In the first embodiment of the present invention, a pair of threshold voltages are selected through the first-first to second-second threshold voltage sensing switches SVT\_11, SVT\_12, SVT\_21, and SVT\_22, and then transmitted to the sample and hold unit **200**.

[0049] For example, when the first-first threshold voltage sensing switch SVT\_11 selects and outputs a threshold voltage sensed from an arbitrary red OLED coupled to the first data line DL1, the second-first threshold voltage sensing

switch SVT\_21 selects and outputs a threshold voltage sensed from an arbitrary red OLED coupled to the second data line DL2.

[0050] When the first-first threshold voltage sensing switch SVT\_11 selects and outputs a threshold voltage sensed from an arbitrary green OLED coupled to the first data line DL1, the second-second threshold voltage sensing switch SVT\_22 selects and outputs a threshold voltage sensed from an arbitrary green OLED coupled to the third data line DL3.

[0051] When the first-second threshold voltage sensing switch SVT\_12 selects and outputs a threshold voltage sensed from an arbitrary blue OLED coupled to the second data line DL2, the second-second threshold voltage sensing switch SVT\_22 selects and outputs a threshold voltage sensed from an arbitrary blue OLED coupled to the third data line DL3.

[0052] For reference, on the display panel **400**, a MOS transistor M\_R for red serves to transmit the threshold voltage sensed from the red OLED to the corresponding data line. A MOS transistor M\_G for green and a MOS transistor M\_B for blue perform the same operation.

[0053] The sample and hold unit **200** includes first and second sample and hold sections **210** and **220** corresponding to a pair of threshold voltages inputted from the data signal and precharge voltage output unit **100**. The second sample and hold section **220** serves to provide a differential input to the sample and hold unit **200**, and has the same configuration as the first sample and hold section **210**. Thus, the following descriptions will be focused on the first sample and hold section **210**, for convenience of description.

[0054] The first sample and hold section **210** includes a sensing switch SVT\_SEN, a sampling capacitor  $C_S$ , a charge-share switch SVT\_CS, a bypass switch SVT\_BY, a charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS}$ , a reset switch SVT\_RST, a MOS transistor S\_CA1, and a reference voltage source VREF.

[0055] The sensing switch SVT\_SEN is coupled between a sensing voltage input terminal SVT\_IN and one terminal of the sampling capacitor  $C_S$ , and transmits a threshold voltage sensed from a corresponding OLED on the display panel **400** to the sampling capacitor  $C_S$ . The sampling capacitor  $C_S$  is coupled between the other terminal of the sensing switch SVT\_SEN and the reference voltage source VREF, and samples a threshold voltage inputted through the sensing switch SVT\_SEN.

[0056] The charge-share switch SVT\_CS is coupled between the one terminal of the sampling capacitor  $C_S$  and one terminal of the charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS}$ , and transmits the sampled threshold voltage to the charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS}$ .

[0057] The bypass switch SVT\_BY is coupled between a sensing voltage input terminal SVT\_IN and the one terminal of the charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS}$ , and transmits the sensed threshold voltage to the charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS}$ .

[0058] The charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS}$  is coupled between the reference voltage source VREF and the other terminals of the charge-share switch SVT\_CS and the bypass switch SVT\_BY, and charge-shares the threshold voltage stored in the sampling capacitor  $C_S$  or temporarily stores the threshold voltage inputted through the bypass switch SVT\_BY and bypasses the threshold voltage.

[0059] The reset switch SVT\_RST is coupled in parallel to both terminals of the charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS}$ , and resets the voltage stored in the charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS}$ .

**[0060]** The MOS transistor S\_CA1 is coupled between one terminal of the charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS}$  and the analog-to-digital conversion unit **300**, and transmits the threshold voltage stored in the charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS}$  to the analog-to-digital converter **300**.

**[0061]** The reference voltage source VREF is coupled between the ground terminal and the other terminals of the sampling capacitor  $C_S$  and the charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS}$ , and supplies a predetermined reference voltage to the other terminals of the sampling capacitor  $C_S$  and the charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS}$ .

**[0062]** When the first sample and hold section **210** samples and holds the sensed threshold voltages inputted through the data signal and precharge voltage output unit **100** and outputs the sampled and held threshold voltages to the analog-to-digital conversion unit **300** at the next stage, the first sample and hold section **210** may scale down the threshold voltages to threshold voltages having a variation within a predetermined range through charge sharing.

**[0063]** For example, when the variation ranges of the threshold voltages inputted to the first sample and hold section **210** correspond to  $\Delta 4V$ ,  $\Delta 2.7V$ ,  $\Delta 1.5V$ , and  $\Delta 1V$ , respectively, the first sample and hold section **210** scales down the threshold voltages of  $\Delta 4V$  and  $\Delta 2.7V$  using a scale factor of 0.375, and outputs threshold voltages of  $\Delta 1.5V$  and  $\Delta 1V$ , respectively. Furthermore, the first sample and hold section **210** bypasses the threshold voltages of  $\Delta 1.5V$  and  $\Delta 1V$  without scaling. Here, ' $\Delta$ ' represents the variation range of a voltage. For example, ' $\Delta 4V$ ' may indicate that the corresponding voltage has a variation range of 4V. In the following descriptions, ' $\Delta$ ' will be used as the same meaning.

**[0064]** The second sample and hold section **220** serves to supply a differential input to the analog-to-digital conversion unit **300**, and performs the same operation as the first sample and hold section **210**. Thus, the detailed descriptions thereof are omitted therein. As a result, the first sample and hold section **210** may output threshold voltages having a variation range of  $\Delta 1.5V$  to  $\Delta 1V$ , even though threshold voltages having various variation ranges are inputted. Such a process will be described with reference to FIGS. 6 to 12.

**[0065]** First, as illustrated in FIG. 8, precharge and sensing operations are performed on the OLEDs arranged on the display panel **400** of FIG. 2 according to a precharge signal PRE and a sensing signal SEN. In FIG. 8, a channel select signal OES is used to determine whether to select unit pixels belonging to an odd channel on the display panel **400** or unit pixels belonging to an even channel on the display panel **400**. While the precharge signal PRE is activated, the precharge operation is performed. When the precharge operation is ended, the sensing switch SVT\_SEN, the charge-share switch SVT\_CS, and the reset switch SVT\_RST are sequentially turned on. The first to 345th switching signals CA\_1 to CA\_345 indicate that 345 sample and hold operations are sequentially performed on the analog-to-digital conversion unit **300**.

**[0066]** At this time, when a threshold voltage having a variation of 4V ( $\Delta 4V$ ) is transmitted to the sensing voltage input terminal SVT\_IN of the first sample and hold section **210** through the first-first threshold voltage sensing switch SVT\_11 or the first-second threshold voltage sensing switch SVT\_12 from the threshold voltage sensing switch **151** of the data signal and precharge voltage output unit **100**, the first sample and hold section **210** is set in the scale mode by a controller (not illustrated), because the variation range of

$\Delta 4V$  is larger than the variation range of a threshold voltage to be outputted through the first sample and hold section **210**, that is, the variation range of  $\Delta 1.5V$  to  $\Delta 1.0V$ . Then, the first sample and hold section **210** performs a scaling operation as illustrated in FIG. 9. The controller includes a comparator (not illustrated) configured to compare the variation range of the threshold voltage to a reference value. According to the comparison result of the comparator, the controller performs the scale mode when the variation range of the threshold voltage is larger than the reference value, and performs the bypass mode when the variation range of the threshold voltage is smaller than the reference value. The reference value may be set in the range of 1.2V to 2.2V as in the embodiment of the present invention.

**[0067]** In the scale mode, since the sensing switch SVT\_SEN is turned on as illustrated in FIG. 6, the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 4V$ , transmitted to the sensing voltage input terminal SVT\_IN, is sampled into the sampling capacitor  $C_S$  through the sensing switch SVT\_SEN. At this time, a voltage ranging from 1.2V to 1.7V is supplied to the reference voltage source VREF. In the present embodiment, the case in which a voltage of 1.5V is supplied to the reference voltage source VREF will be taken as an example for description.

**[0068]** After the charge voltage of the charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS}$  is reset by a turn-on operation of the reset switch SVT\_RST, the charge-share switch SVT\_CS is then turned on. Thus, the threshold voltage sampled in the sampling capacitor  $C_S$  is scaled (divided) by the charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS}$ . At this time, in order to change the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 4V$ , sampled in the sampling capacitor  $C_S$ , into a threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1.5V$ , the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 4V$  needs to be scaled down through a scale factor of 0.375. The operation of scaling down the threshold voltage through the scale factor of 0.375 may be accomplished by properly setting the capacitance values of the sampling capacitor  $C_S$  and the charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS}$ .

**[0069]** The threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1.5V$ , scaled down through the above-described process, is outputted to the analog-to-digital conversion unit **300** through the MOS transistor S\_CA1.

**[0070]** When a threshold voltage of  $\Delta 2.7V$  is transmitted to the sensing voltage input terminal SVT\_IN as illustrated in FIG. 10, the operation mode is set to the scale mode, because  $\Delta 2.7V$  is larger than the variation range of  $\Delta 1.5V$  to  $\Delta 1.0V$ . Thus, the following scaling operation is performed.

**[0071]** In the scale mode, since the sensing switch SVT\_SEN is turned on, the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 2.7V$ , transmitted to the sensing voltage input terminal SVT\_IN, is sampled into the sampling capacitor  $C_S$  through the sensing switch SVT\_SEN. At this time, a voltage ranging from 1.2V to 2.2V is supplied to the reference voltage source VREF. In the present embodiment, the case in which a voltage of 2V is supplied to the reference voltage source VREF will be taken as an example for description.

**[0072]** After the charge voltage of the charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS}$  is reset by a turn-on operation of the reset switch SVT\_RST, the charge-share switch SVT\_CS is turned on. Thus, the threshold voltage sampled in the sampling capacitor  $C_S$  is scaled down by the charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS}$ . At this time, in order to change the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 2.7V$ , sampled in the sampling capacitor  $C_S$ , to a threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1V$ , the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 2.7V$  needs to be scaled down through a scale factor of 0.375. The operation of scaling down the threshold voltage through the scale factor of 0.375

may be accomplished by properly setting the capacitance values of the sampling capacitor  $C_S$  and the charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS}$ .

**[0073]** The threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1V$ , scaled down through the above-described process, is outputted to the analog-to-digital conversion unit **300** through the MOS transistor  $S\_CA1$ .

**[0074]** However, when the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1.5V$  is transmitted to the sensing voltage input terminal  $SVT\_IN$ , no scaling operation is required because  $\Delta 1.5V$  falls within the variation range of a threshold voltage to be outputted by the first sample and hold section **210**. Thus, the operation mode is set in the bypass mode (1:1 mode) to perform the following operation.

**[0075]** In the bypass mode, the charge voltage of the charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS}$  is reset by the turn-on operation of the reset switch  $SVT\_RST$ . Then, as illustrated in FIG. 7, the bypass switch  $SVT\_BY$  is turned on to bypass the threshold voltage transmitted to the sensing voltage input terminal  $SVT\_IN$  to the charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS}$  through the bypass switch  $SVT\_BY$ .

**[0076]** At this time, a voltage ranging from 1.2V to 1.7V is supplied to the reference voltage source  $VREF$ . In the present embodiment, the case in which a voltage of 1.7V is supplied to the reference voltage source  $VREF$  will be taken as an example for description. The threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1.5V$ , bypassed through the above-described process, is outputted to the analog-to-digital conversion unit **300** through the MOS transistor  $S\_CA1$ .

**[0077]** Furthermore, when a threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1V$  is transmitted to the sensing voltage input terminal  $SVT\_IN$ , the operation mode is set to the bypass mode, because  $\Delta 1V$  falls within the variation range of a threshold voltage to be outputted by the first sample and hold section **210**. Then, the following operation is performed.

**[0078]** In the bypass mode, the charge voltage of the charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS}$  is reset by a turn-on operation of the reset switch  $SVT\_RST$ . Then, the bypass switch  $SVT\_BY$  is turned on to bypass the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1V$ , transmitted to the sensing voltage input terminal  $SVT\_IN$ , to the charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS}$  through the bypass switch  $SVT\_BY$ .

**[0079]** At this time, a voltage ranging from 1.2V to 2.2V is supplied to the reference voltage source  $VREF$ . In the present invention, the case in which a voltage of 2.2V is supplied to the reference voltage source  $VREF$  will be taken as an example for description.

**[0080]** The threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1V$ , bypassed through the above-described process, is outputted to the analog-to-digital conversion unit **300** through the MOS transistor  $S\_CA1$ .

**[0081]** The analog-to-digital conversion unit **300** converts the threshold voltage scaled down or bypassed through the sample and hold unit **200** into a digital signal, and outputs the digital signal. For this operation, the analog-to-digital conversion unit **300** includes an amplification section **310**, an analog-to-digital converter (ADC) **320**, a latch **330**, and a data driver **340** as illustrated in FIG. 5.

**[0082]** The amplification section **310** includes input switches  $P1\_4$  to  $P1\_6$  and input switches  $P3\_1$  and  $P3\_2$  for inputting the threshold voltages sampled and held through the first and second sample and hold sections **210** and **220**, a capacitor  $C_{CSP}$ , a MOS transistor  $P2$ , an amplifier **311** for amplifying the input threshold voltages, capacitors  $C_{85}$  to  $C_{88}$  for adjusting the amplification factor of the amplifier **311**, and

feedback switches  $P4\_1$  and  $P4\_2$ . The amplifier **311** includes two input terminals and two output terminals, in order to amplify the threshold voltages outputted from the first and second sample and hold sections **210** and **220**.

**[0083]** As described above, the amplification section **310** amplifies and outputs the threshold voltages outputted from the first and second sample and hold units **210** and **220**. However, the following descriptions will be focused on the case in which the amplification section **310** amplifies and outputs the threshold voltage outputted from the first sample and hold section **210**.

**[0084]** In the scale mode or bypass mode, when a threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1.5V$  is sampled and held by the first sample and hold section **210**, the fourth-first feedback switch  $P4\_1$  is turned on. Thus, the first and second capacitors  $C_{S5}$  and  $C_{S6}$  are coupled in parallel to each other between input and output terminals at one side of the amplifier **311**. Therefore, the amplifier **311** amplifies the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1.5V$ , inputted from the first sample and hold section **210** through the switch  $P3\_1$ , at an amplification factor of  $4/3$  using the first and second capacitors  $C_{S5}$  and  $C_{S6}$  coupled in parallel to each other, and outputs the changed threshold voltage of  $\Delta 2V$  to the ADC **320** (refer to FIGS. 9 and 11).

**[0085]** In the scale mode or bypass mode, when a threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1V$  is sampled and held by the first sample and hold section **210**, the fourth-first feedback switch  $P4\_1$  is turned off. Thus, the first capacitor  $C_{S5}$  is solely coupled between the input and output terminals at one side of the amplifier **311**. Therefore, the amplifier **311** amplifies the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1V$ , inputted from the first sample and hold section **210** through the third-first input switch  $P3\_1$ , at an amplification factor of 2 using the capacitor  $C_{S5}$ , and outputs the changed threshold voltage of  $\Delta 2V$  to the analog-to-digital conversion unit **320** (refer to FIGS. 10 and 12).

**[0086]** When the capacitance of the capacitor for one-time amplification in the amplifier **311** is set to  $C_A$ , the capacitance of the capacitor for two-times amplification may be set to  $1/2 * C_A$ , and the capacitance of the capacitor for  $4/3$ -time amplification may be set to  $1/4 * C_A$ .

**[0087]** The analog threshold voltage of  $\Delta 2V$ , outputted from the amplification section **310**, is converted into a predetermined-bit digital signal (for example, 10-bit digital signal) by the ADC **320**, and latched in the latch **330**.

**[0088]** Furthermore, the digital signal latched in the latch **330** is outputted through the data driver **340**.

**[0089]** Therefore, when a threshold voltage of  $\Delta 4V$  or  $2.7V$  is inputted to the sample and hold unit **200**, the threshold voltage may be scaled down as described above, and when a threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1.5$  or  $\Delta 1V$  is inputted, the threshold voltage may be bypassed as described above. Then, the threshold voltage may be amplified through the amplification section **310**. Thus, even when four kinds of threshold voltages having different variation ranges are inputted as illustrated in FIGS. 9 to 12, an analog threshold voltage having a variation range of 2V may be inputted to the analog-to-digital conversion unit **320**.

**[0090]** FIG. 13 is a timing diagram of the analog-to-digital conversion unit **300**. In FIG. 13,  $CA\_1$  to  $CA\_K$  represent the output timings of threshold voltages supplied to the ADC **320** from a predetermined number of sample and hold units (for example, 240 sample and hold units),  $P1$  represents the reset timing of the amplifier **311**, and  $P2$  represents the timing of the reference voltage supplied to the amplifier **311**. As illus-

trated in FIG. 13, the reference voltage may be supplied in synchronization with the output timings of the threshold voltages.

[0091] FIG. 14 is a circuit diagram of a threshold voltage sensing circuit of an OLED display device according to a second embodiment of the present invention. As illustrated in FIG. 14, the threshold voltage sensing circuit includes a data signal and precharge voltage output unit 500, a sample and hold unit 600, and an analog-to-digital conversion unit 700.

[0092] The installation positions of the data signal and precharge voltage output unit 500, the sample and hold unit 600, and the analog-to-digital conversion unit 700 are not limited, but may be installed within a source driver.

[0093] The data signal and precharge voltage output unit 500 includes first to sixth DACs 511 to 516, first to sixth buffers 521 to 526, first to sixth switch sections 531 to 536, and a threshold voltage sensing switch section 541.

[0094] In the image display mode for a display panel, the first DAC 511 and the fourth DAC 514 output a red data signal DATA\_R, the second DAC 512 and the fifth DAC 515 output a green data signal DATA\_G, and the third DAC 513 and the sixth DAC 516 output a blue data signal DATA\_B.

[0095] Each of the first to sixth buffers 521 to 526 buffers and outputs the corresponding data signal among the red, green, and blue data signals DATA\_R, DATA\_G, and DATA\_B outputted from the first to sixth DACs 511 to 516.

[0096] The first to sixth switch sections 531 to 536 include switches SP<sub>21</sub> and SR<sub>21</sub>, switches SP<sub>22</sub> and SG<sub>21</sub>, switches SP<sub>23</sub> and SB<sub>21</sub>, switches SP<sub>24</sub> and SR<sub>22</sub>, switches SP<sub>25</sub> and SG<sub>22</sub>, and switches SP<sub>26</sub> and SB<sub>22</sub>, respectively. The first switch section 531 selects and outputs the red data signal DATA\_R through the second-first red switch SR<sub>21</sub> in the image display mode, and selects and outputs a threshold voltage detection precharge voltage  $V_{PRE0}$  through the second-first output switch SP<sub>21</sub> in the threshold voltage sensing mode. The second switch section 532 selects and outputs the green data signal DATA\_G through the second-first green switch SG<sub>21</sub> in the image display mode, and selects and outputs the threshold voltage detection precharge voltage  $V_{PRE0}$  through the second-second output switch SP<sub>22</sub> in the threshold voltage sensing mode. The third switch section 533 selects and outputs the blue data signal DATA\_B through the second-first blue switch SB<sub>21</sub> in the image display mode, and selects and outputs the threshold voltage detection precharge voltage  $V_{PRE0}$  through the second-third output switch SP<sub>23</sub> in the threshold voltage sensing mode. The fourth switch section 534 selects and outputs the red data signal DATA\_R through the second-second blue switch SR<sub>22</sub> in the image display mode, and selects and outputs the threshold voltage detection precharge voltage  $V_{PRE0}$  through the second-fourth output switch SP<sub>24</sub> in the threshold voltage sensing mode. The fifth switch section 535 selects and outputs the green data signal DATA\_G through the second-second green switch SG<sub>22</sub> in the image display mode, and selects and outputs the threshold voltage detection precharge voltage  $V_{PRE0}$  through the second-fifth output switch SP<sub>25</sub> in the threshold voltage sensing mode. The sixth switch section 536 selects and outputs the blue data signal DATA\_B through the second-second blue switch SB<sub>22</sub> in the image display mode, and selects and outputs the threshold voltage detection precharge voltage  $V_{PRE0}$  through the second-sixth output switch SP<sub>26</sub> in the threshold voltage sensing mode.

[0097] The threshold voltage sensing switch section 541 includes a plurality of threshold voltage sensing switches SVT<sub>31</sub> to SVT<sub>33</sub> and SVT<sub>41</sub> to SVT<sub>43</sub>. The third-first threshold voltage sensing switch SVT<sub>31</sub> selects and outputs a threshold voltage sensed from an arbitrary red OLED coupled to a first data line DL1. The third-second threshold voltage sensing switch SVT<sub>32</sub> selects and outputs a threshold voltage sensed from an arbitrary green OLED coupled to a second data line DL2. The third-third threshold voltage sensing switch SVT<sub>33</sub> selects and outputs a threshold voltage sensed from an arbitrary blue OLED coupled to a third data line DL3. The fourth-first threshold voltage sensing switch SVT<sub>41</sub> selects and outputs a threshold voltage sensed from an arbitrary red OLED coupled to a fourth data line DL4. The fourth-second threshold voltage sensing switch SVT<sub>42</sub> selects and outputs a threshold voltage sensed from an arbitrary green OLED coupled to a fifth data line DL5. The fourth-third threshold voltage sensing switch SVT<sub>43</sub> selects and outputs a threshold voltage sensed from an arbitrary blue OLED coupled to a sixth data line DL6.

[0098] The method of selecting a threshold voltage sensed from an OLED arranged in each horizontal line on the display panel and transmitting the selected threshold voltage to the sample and hold unit 600 may be implemented in various manners, and the present invention is not limited to a specific method. In the second embodiment of the present invention, a pair of threshold voltages among the threshold voltages for red, green, and blue may be selected through the threshold voltage sensing switches SVT<sub>31</sub> to SVT<sub>33</sub> and SVT<sub>41</sub> to SVT<sub>43</sub>, and then transmitted to the sample and hold unit 600.

[0099] For example, when the third-first threshold voltage sensing switch SVT<sub>31</sub> selects and outputs a threshold voltage sensed from an arbitrary red OLED coupled to the first data line DL1, the fourth-first threshold voltage sensing switch SVT<sub>41</sub> may select and output a threshold voltage sensed from an arbitrary red OLED coupled to the fourth data line DL4.

[0100] The sample and hold unit 600 includes first and second sample and hold sections 610 and 620 having the same configuration, in response to a pair of threshold voltages inputted from the data signal and precharge voltage output unit 500. In the present embodiment, the first sample and hold section 610 will be taken as an example for description.

[0101] The first sample and hold section 610 includes a sensing switch SMP, a second reference voltage switch SVR2, a sampling capacitor  $C_S$ , a first charge-share switch S\_CS1, a first reference voltage switch SVR1, a first charge-sharing operation switch SCAP1, a first charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS1}$ , a second charge-sharing operation switch SCAP2, a second charge-share capacitor  $C_{CS2}$ , a reset switch RST1, a second charge-share switch S\_CS2, a second reference voltage source VREF2, and a first reference voltage source VREF1.

[0102] The sensing switch SMP is coupled between a sensing voltage input terminal SVT\_IN and one terminal of the sampling capacitor  $C_S$ , and transmits a threshold voltage sensed from an OLED of the display panel to the sampling capacitor  $C_S$ . The second reference voltage switch SVR2 is coupled between the second reference voltage source VREF2 and the other terminal of the sampling capacitor  $C_S$ , and transmits the voltage of the second reference voltage source VREF2 to the other terminal of the sampling capacitor  $C_S$ . The sampling capacitor  $C_S$  is coupled between the other ter-

terminal of the sensing switch SMP and the other terminal of the second reference voltage switch SVR2, and samples the threshold voltage inputted through the sensing switch SMP. The first charge-share switch S\_CS1 is coupled to one terminal of the sampling capacitor C<sub>S</sub>. The first reference voltage switch SVR1 is coupled between the other terminal of the second reference voltage switch SVR2 and the other terminal of the first charge-share capacitor C<sub>CS1</sub>, and transmits the voltage of the second reference voltage source VREF2 to the first and second charge-share capacitors C<sub>CS1</sub> and C<sub>CS2</sub>. The first charge-sharing operation switch S\_CAP1 is coupled between the other terminal of the first charge-share switch S\_CS1 and one terminal of the first charge-share capacitor C<sub>CS1</sub>, and determines whether to enable the charge-sharing operation of the first charge-share capacitor C<sub>CS1</sub>. The first charge-share capacitor C<sub>CS1</sub> is coupled between the other terminal of the first charge-sharing operation switch S\_CAP1 and the other terminal of the first reference voltage switch SVR1, and charge-shares the threshold voltage sampled in the sampling capacitor C<sub>S</sub>. The second charge-sharing operation switch S\_CAP2 is coupled between the other terminal of the first charge-share switch S\_CS1 and one terminal of the second charge-share capacitor C<sub>CS2</sub>, and determines whether to enable the charge-sharing operation of the second charge-share capacitor C<sub>CS2</sub>. The second charge-share capacitor C<sub>CS2</sub> is coupled between the other terminal of the second charge-sharing operation switch S\_CAP2 and the other terminal of the first reference voltage switch SVR1, and charge-shares the threshold voltage sampled in the sampling capacitor C<sub>S</sub>. The reset switch RST1 is coupled between the other terminal of the first charge-share switch S\_CS1 and the other terminal of the first reference voltage switch SVR1, and resets the threshold voltages stored in the first and second charge-share capacitors C<sub>CS1</sub> and C<sub>CS2</sub>. The second charge-share switch S\_CS2 is coupled between the other terminal of the first charge-share switch S\_CS1 and an input terminal of the analog-to-digital conversion unit 700, and transmits the threshold voltages stored in the first and second charge-share capacitors C<sub>CS1</sub> and C<sub>CS2</sub> to the input terminal. When the first sample and hold section 610 samples and holds threshold voltages sensed and inputted from arbitrary OLEDs on the display panel through the data signal and precharge voltage output unit 500 and outputs the sampled and held threshold voltages to the analog-to-digital conversion unit 700 at the next stage, the first sample and hold section 610 may scale down the threshold voltages having a range of a reference value or more (for example, 2 or more) into threshold voltages having a range of a predetermined value or less (for example, the minimum integer 1 or less).

[0103] For example, when a threshold voltage having a variation range of 3V ( $\Delta 3V$ ) or 2V ( $\Delta 2V$ ) is inputted to the first sample and hold section 610, the first sample and hold section 610 may scale down the threshold voltage to a threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1V$  through charge sharing. When a threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1V$  is inputted, the first sample and hold section 610 may not perform the charge-sharing operation, but bypass the threshold voltage. Such a process will be described below with reference to FIGS. 18 to 22.

[0104] First, a precharge and sensing operation is performed on the OLEDs of the display panel.

[0105] At this time, when a threshold voltage having a variation range of 3V ( $\Delta 3V$ ), for example, one of a threshold voltage ranging from 2V to 5V, a threshold voltage ranging from 3V to 6V, a threshold voltage ranging from 4V to 7V, and

a threshold voltage ranging from 5V to 8V as illustrated in FIG. 21A is transmitted to the sensing voltage input terminal SVT\_IN of the first sample and hold section 610 through any one of the threshold voltage sensing switches SVT\_31 to SVT\_33 in the threshold voltage sensing switch section 541 of the data signal and precharge output unit 500, the threshold voltage may be scaled down to a threshold voltage having a variation range of  $\Delta 1V$ , that is, one of a threshold voltage ranging from 2V to 3V, a threshold voltage ranging from 3V to 4V, a threshold voltage ranging from 4V to 5V, and a threshold voltage ranging from 5V to 6V by a controller (not illustrated) through the following process. The scaling process will be described with reference to FIG. 18.

[0106] First, the first and second charge-sharing operation switches S\_CAP1 and S\_CAAP2 and the reset switch RST1 are turned on. Thus, voltages remaining in the first and second charge-share capacitors C<sub>CS1</sub> and C<sub>CS2</sub> are discharged by the reset switch RST1. At this time, the second reference voltage switch SVR2 is turned on to supply the voltage of the second reference voltage source VREF2 to the other terminal of the sampling capacitor C<sub>S</sub> through the second reference voltage switch SVR2.

[0107] Subsequently, the sensing switch SMP is turned on to sample a threshold voltage of  $\Delta 3V$ , inputted through the sensing voltage input terminal SVT\_IN, into the sampling capacitor C<sub>S</sub>. Thus, the threshold voltage sampled in the sampling capacitor C<sub>S</sub> may have a potential obtained by adding the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 3V$  to the voltage of the second reference voltage source VREF2.

[0108] According to a user's request, a voltage range to be sensed may be set to a packet, and a threshold voltage may be sensed through the above-described process. Then, the voltage of the second reference voltage source EVREF2 may be set to a proper value ranging from 2V to 5V, for example, such that the sensed threshold voltage falls within the range of a target threshold voltage.

[0109] Then, the second reference voltage switch SVR2 and the sensing switch SMP are turned off, and the first reference voltage switch SVR1 and the first charge-share switch S\_SC1 are turned on. Thus, the sampling capacitor C<sub>S</sub> and the first and second charge-share capacitors C<sub>CS1</sub> and C<sub>CS2</sub> are coupled in parallel to each other. Therefore, the voltage sampled in the sampling capacitor C<sub>S</sub> is charge-shared by the first and second charge-share capacitors C<sub>CS1</sub> and C<sub>CS2</sub>, and reduced to  $\frac{1}{3}$ . That is, the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 3V$  is scaled down to a threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1V$ . At this time, in order to convert the sensed high-voltage level into a low-voltage level of the amplifier 711 of the analog-to-digital conversion unit 700, the voltage of the first reference voltage source VREF1 is supplied to the sampling capacitor C<sub>S</sub> and the first and second charge-share capacitors C<sub>CS1</sub> and C<sub>CS2</sub>.

[0110] The threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1V$ , reduced to  $\frac{1}{3}$  as described above, is transmitted to the analog-to-digital conversion unit 700 at the next stage through the second charge-share switch S\_CS2. The second charge-share switch S\_CS2 illustrated in FIGS. 18 to 20 may be implemented with various types of switching elements, and FIG. 16 illustrates an example in which the second charge-share switch S\_CS2 is implemented with a MOS transistor.

[0111] When a threshold voltage of  $\Delta 2V$ , for example, one of a threshold voltage ranging from 2V to 4V, a threshold voltage ranging from 3V to 5V, a threshold voltage ranging from 4V to 6V, and a threshold voltage ranging from 5V to 7V as illustrated in FIG. 21B is transmitted to the sensing voltage

input terminal SVT\_IN of the first sample and hold section 610, the threshold voltage is scaled down to a threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1V$ , for example, one of a threshold voltage ranging from 2V to 3V, a threshold voltage ranging from 3V to 4V, a threshold voltage ranging from 4V to 5V, and a threshold voltage ranging from 5V to 6V is scaled down, and then outputted. The scaling process will be described with reference to FIG. 19.

[0112] The process of scaling down the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 2V$  to the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1V$  is similar to the process of scaling down the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 3V$  to the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1V$ . However, the process of scaling down the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 2V$  to the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1V$  is different from the process of scaling down the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 3V$  to the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1V$  in that the second reference voltage source VREF2 is set in the range of 2V to 6V, one of the first and second charge-sharing operation switches S\_CAP1 and S\_CAP2, for example, the first charge-sharing operation switch S\_CAP1 is turned on, the second charge-sharing operation switch S\_CAP2 is turned off, and the voltage sampled in the sampling capacitor  $C_S$  is scaled down to  $\frac{1}{2}$  by the first charge-sharing operation switch S\_CAP1.

[0113] When a threshold voltage having a variation range of 1V ( $\Delta 1V$ ), for example, one of a threshold voltage ranging from 2V to 3V, a threshold voltage ranging from 3V to 4V, a threshold voltage ranging from 4V to 5V, a threshold voltage ranging from 5V to 6V, and a threshold voltage ranging from 7V to 8V as illustrated in FIG. 21C is transmitted to the sensing voltage input terminal SVT\_IN of the first sample and hold section 610, the above-described scaling process is not performed, and the threshold voltage is bypassed. This process will be described with reference to FIG. 20.

[0114] The largest difference between the process of bypassing the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1V$  and the process of scaling down the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 3V$  to the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1V$  is that both of the first and second charge-sharing operation switches S\_CAP1 and S\_CAP2 are turned off and no scaling operation is performed. Furthermore, the voltage of the second reference voltage source VREF2 is set in the range of 2V to 7V.

[0115] Then, the analog-to-digital conversion unit 700 processes the threshold voltage of  $\Delta 1V$ , scaled down or bypassed by the sample and hold unit 600 through the above-described process, in the same manner as the analog-to-digital conversion unit 300 of FIG. 2, and outputs the corresponding digital signal.

[0116] According to the embodiments of the present invention, when the threshold voltage of the OLED display panel is sensed and transmitted to the ADC, the threshold voltage may be scaled down to threshold voltages within a predetermined range through charge sharing. Thus, the low-voltage driving elements within the ADC may be protected, and the OLEDs may maintain constant brightness.

[0117] Although a preferred embodiment of the present invention has been described for illustrative purposes, those skilled in the art will appreciate that various modifications, additions and substitutions are possible, without departing from the scope and the spirit of the invention as disclosed in the accompanying claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A threshold voltage sensing circuit of an organic light emitting diode (OLED) display device including an OLED, comprising:

a sampling capacitor configured to sample a threshold voltage of the OLED;

a charge-share capacitor configured to charge-share the voltage sampled in the sampling capacitor; and

a comparator configured to compare the variation range of the threshold voltage to a reference value,

wherein when the variation range of the threshold voltage is larger than the reference value, the threshold voltage is stored in the sampling capacitor and the charge-share capacitor to make the variation range of the threshold voltage smaller than the reference value.

2. The threshold voltage sensing circuit of claim 1, further comprising a pair of circuits which include another sampling capacitor having the same function as the sampling capacitor and another charge-share capacitor having the same function as the charge-share capacitor.

3. The threshold voltage sensing circuit of claim 1, further comprising a controller configured to perform a scale mode to reduce the threshold voltage, when the variation range of the threshold voltage is larger than the reference value, and perform a bypass mode to output the threshold voltage as it is, when the variation range of the threshold voltage is smaller than the reference value.

4. The threshold voltage sensing circuit of claim 1, further comprising a reference voltage source configured to supply a reference voltage to the sampling capacitor and the charge-share capacitor.

5. The threshold voltage sensing circuit of claim 1, wherein the charge-share capacitor is coupled in parallel to the sampling capacitor.

6. The threshold voltage sensing circuit of claim 1, further comprising:

a sensing switch coupled between one terminal of the sampling capacitor and a sensing voltage input terminal to which the threshold voltage is inputted;

a charge-share switch coupled between the one terminal of the sampling capacitor and one terminal of the charge-share capacitor;

a bypass switch coupled between the sensing voltage input terminal and the one terminal of the charge-share capacitor; and

a reset switch coupled in parallel to the charge-share capacitor and configured to reset the voltage stored in the charge-share capacitor.

7. The threshold voltage sensing circuit of claim 6, wherein the bypass switch is turned on when the threshold voltage inputted to the sensing voltage input terminal is bypassed to the charge-share capacitor.

8. The threshold voltage sensing circuit of claim 1, further comprising a MOS transistor configured to transmit the threshold voltage stored in the charge-share capacitor to an output terminal.

9. The threshold voltage sensing circuit of claim 1, wherein when the variation range of the threshold voltage is smaller than the reference value, the sampling capacitor is blocked, and the threshold voltage is stored in the charge-share capacitor and outputted as it is.

10. A threshold voltage sensing circuit of an OLED display device including an OLED, comprising:

a sampling capacitor configured to sample a threshold voltage of the OLED;

a charge-share capacitor configured to charge-share the voltage sampled in the sampling capacitor;

an amplification section configured to variably amplify the threshold voltage outputted from the charge-share capacitor; and

a comparator configured to compare the variation range of the threshold voltage to a reference value,

wherein when the variation of the threshold voltage is larger than the reference value, the threshold voltage is stored in the sampling capacitor and the charge-share capacitor to make the variation range of the threshold voltage smaller than the reference value, and then transmitted to the amplification section.

**11.** The threshold voltage sensing circuit of claim **10**, wherein the amplification section comprises:

an amplifier configured to amplify the threshold voltage outputted from the charge-share capacitor;

a first capacitor coupled between input and output terminals of the amplifier; and

a second capacitor selectively coupled in parallel to the first capacitor so as to adjust an amplification factor of the amplifier.

**12.** The threshold voltage sensing circuit of claim **11**, further comprising a switch configured to selectively couple the second capacitor in parallel to the first capacitor.

**13.** The threshold voltage sensing circuit of claim **10**, wherein when the variation range of the threshold voltage is smaller than the reference value, the sampling capacitor is blocked, and the threshold voltage is stored in the charge-share capacitor and transmitted to the amplification section as it is.

**14.** A threshold voltage sensing circuit of an OLED display device including an OLED, comprising:

a sampling capacitor configured to sample a threshold voltage of the OLED;

one or more charge-share capacitors configured to charge-share the voltage sampled in the sampling capacitor; and  
a comparator configured to compare the variation range of the threshold voltage to a reference value,

wherein when the variation range of the threshold voltage is larger than the reference value, the threshold voltage is stored in the sampling capacitor and the charge-share capacitor to make the variation range of the threshold voltage smaller than the reference value.

**15.** The threshold voltage sensing circuit of claim **14**, further comprising a pair of circuits including another sampling capacitor having the same function as the sampling capacitor and another charge-share capacitor having the same function as the charge-share capacitor.

**16.** The threshold voltage sensing circuit of claim **14**, wherein when the variation range of the threshold voltage is larger than 2V, the variation range of the threshold voltage is

scaled down to a range of 1V to 1.5V, and when the variation range of the threshold voltage is 1V to 1.5V, the threshold voltage is bypassed as it is.

**17.** The threshold voltage sensing circuit of claim **14**, wherein a second reference voltage is supplied to the sampling capacitor, and a first reference voltage lower than the second reference voltage is supplied to the one or more charge-share capacitors.

**18.** The threshold voltage sensing circuit of claim **14**, wherein the one or more charge-share capacitors comprises:

a first charge-share capacitor coupled in parallel to the sampling capacitor; and

a second charge-share capacitor coupled in parallel to the first charge-share capacitor.

**19.** The threshold voltage sensing circuit of claim **18**, further comprising:

a sensing switch coupled between one terminal of the sampling capacitor and a sensing voltage input terminal to which the threshold voltage is inputted;

a second reference voltage switch coupled between the other terminal of the sampling capacitor and one terminal of a second reference voltage source for supplying a second reference voltage;

a first charge-share switch having one terminal coupled to the one terminal of the sampling capacitor;

a first reference voltage switch having one terminal coupled to the other terminal of the sampling capacitor and the other terminal commonly coupled to a first reference voltage source for supplying the first reference voltage and the other terminal of the first charge-share capacitor;

a first charge-sharing operation switch having one terminal coupled to the one terminal of the first charge-share capacitor and the other terminal coupled to the other terminal of the first charge-share switch;

a second charge-sharing operation switch having one terminal coupled to one terminal of the second charge-share capacitor and the other terminal coupled to the other terminal of the first charge-share switch;

a reset switch having one terminal coupled to the other terminal of the first charge-share switch and the other terminal coupled to the other terminal of the first reference voltage switch; and

a second charge-share switch coupled to the other terminal of the first charge-share switch.

**20.** The threshold voltage sensing circuit of claim **14**, wherein when the variation range of the threshold voltage is smaller than the reference value, the one or more charge-share capacitors are blocked, and the threshold voltage is stored in the sampling capacitor and transmitted as it is.

\* \* \* \* \*

专利名称(译)	有机发光二极管显示装置的阈值电压检测电路		
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摘要(译)

本发明涉及一种通过适当地改变阈值电压来输出阈值电压的技术，使得当感测OLED显示面板的阈值电压并将其输出到阈值电压时，阈值电压可以保护模数转换器内的低压驱动元件。模数转换器。本发明包括：采样电容器，对从显示板上的有机发光二极管感测和输入的阈值电压进行采样；电荷共享电容器，其对从采样电容器采样的阈值电压进行充电和共享，或者仅对阈值电压进行充电以绕过阈值电压；采样保持单元，具有多个开关，用于对采样电容器的采样操作和电荷共享电容器的充电和共享进行切换操作，并将阈值电压调整为具有一定价值或更少。

