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Field Sequential Fullcolor LCDs using FLC Technology

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We constructed field sequential fullcolor (FS-FC) LCDs using two kinds of mesogenic polymer stabilized FLCs; the first one is the Half V type (HV-FLCD) that exhibits asymmetric EO performance and the other is the V type (V-FLCD) exhibiting symmetric EO performance. As back a light system, we used a 2D array of red, green, and blue LEDs. We compared the performance of these two types of FS-FC-LCDs using two different kinds of FLCDs. It is concluded that a FS-FC LCD using a HV response may yield higher luminance at the white (light) state than that uses a V-FLCD.

Keywords: FLCD; polymer stabilization; field sequential fullcolor LCD

1. INTRODUCTION

Comparing to the conventional color LCDs that use color filters, field sequential fullcolor (FS-FC) LCDs have several superiorities in such as high luminance capability due to color filterless, the high resolution,

and the simplicity in the production compare.

In the early age, FS-FC displays using LCD technologies were produced by combining a resolution monochrome(black and white) CRTs with LCD cells such as a ECB cell[1] and π cells[2], and also by combining a optical fiber coupled three R, G, and B CRT tubes and a fast response TN-LCD with $2\mu\text{m}$ thick and FLC[3]. The first flat panel type FS-FC-LCDs were demonstrated by Kobayashi's group, where a 2D array of color LEDs were used as a sequential back light systems together with fast TN-LCD(with $2\mu\text{m}$ thick) and FLC, where the thin TN-LCD cell exhibits response time of several ms.[4] After that recently, several research groups reported FS-FC LCDs adopting the following combinations: color LEDs and a reflective micro FLC[5]; cold cathode tube and an OCB cell[6]; LEDs and a bistable FLC cell[7]; LEDs and a PS-HV-FLC cell[8]; and LEDs and a HV-FLC[9]. Here in the present paper, we report a FS-FC-LCD using the combination of LEDs and a PS-V-FLC in comparison with that uses a PS-HV-FLC.

In regarding the development of FLC technology, it has been being done in the following manners: SSFLC was reported by Clark and Lagerwall in 1980[10]; Fukuda's group reported an antiferroelectric LCD exhibiting double hysteresis[11]; FLCs that exhibit V-shape EO response without polymer stabilization, which is called "intrinsic type" in this papers, were reported by several groups such as CASIO, University of Colorado group, and TIT group[12,13,14]. An intrinsic type HV-FLC was reported by Asao et al[9]. Mesogenic polymer stabilized (MPS) HV-FLC[15], and MPS-V-FLC[16] were reported by the present authors' group. Polymer stabilized FLCs are referred to as "extrinsic type" in this paper.

In this present paper we report addressing schemes, a consideration the luminance, and the performance of two FS-FC-LCDs using PS-HV-FLC and PS-V-FLC.

2. Characteristics of PS-HV-FLC and PS-V-FLC compared to other FLCs

On Table 1, we compare characteristics of extrinsic type HV-FLC and V-FLC developed by our group in comparison with intrinsic type

FLCDs. It is shown that the extrinsic PS-FLCDs have response times of around $100\mu\text{s}$ or less, owing to the function of polymer stabilization, and they are free from the restriction of P_s values when they are driven with TFT. These favorable features will be taken advantage for implementing a field sequential fullcolor (FS-FC) LCD.

TABLE 1. Comparison of FLC Family Technology

Intrinsic	$\tau_f (\mu\text{s})$	$\tau_f (\mu\text{s})$	$P_s (\text{nC}/\text{cm}^2)$	$\phi (\text{deg.})$	Firms
SS-FLCD	100	∞	5~200	45	UC, Chalmers UT
V-FLCD	100~1000	100~1000	100~200	± 30	Casio, TIT, UC, Sony, SUT-Y
HV-FLCD	400	300	5~10	45	Canon, Chisso, SUT-Y
Extrinsic(PS)	$\tau_f (\mu\text{s})$	$\tau_f (\mu\text{s})$	$P_s (\text{nC}/\text{cm}^2)$	$\phi (\text{deg.})$	Firms
V-FLCD	100	60	5~10	± 27	SUT-Y, Kyocera, DIC
HV-FLCD	100	100	5~10	45	SUT-Y, DIC

3. System consideration of FS-FC-LCD:

In Fig.1 (a) and (b), two timig charts are shown: on the left, the scheme for a system using HV-FLCD is shown as Fig.1(a), and on the right the case where V-FLCD is used (Fig.1(b)), together with formulas giving luminance level. In this figure, T_F stands for the frame periode (we take $T_F=16.7\text{ms}$, 60Hz), and T_s is the scanning periode. The ratio $\tau_{LC}/(T_F/3) \doteq 2 \times 10^{-2}$, where τ_{LC} is the response time of FLCD. Therefore the effect of the response time is negligible for drawing such figures as shown Fig.1, when we use FLCDs whose response time is around $100\mu\text{s}$. In our case the light on time for one color $\tau_{BL}/(T_F/3)=1$ or 0.5 depending on the use of HV or V-FLCD. On the other hand, when a nematic LCD is used $\tau_{LC}/(T_F/3)=0.36$ where $\tau_{LC}=2\text{ms}$; in this case, it is difficult to neglect the effect of τ_{LC} and, in turn, lighting periode of the back light becomes short such that $\tau_{BL}/(T_F/3) \doteq 0.44$. [17] These values are summarized on Table2.

Now, we discuss the luminance levels of FS-FC-LCDs using HV-FLCD and V-FLCD. The formulas expressing these quantities are also shown in Fig.1, where ϕ stands for the deflection angle as

individually shown Fig.1 (a) and (b). Fig.2 shows the relationship between the optical intensity I and the deflection angle ϕ both for HV-FLCD and V-FLCD. Normally I_{HV} is larger than I_V , but I_V is nearly equal I_{HV} only when $\phi = 45^\circ$ and $T_s = 1\text{ms}$, which corresponds the case where the frame rate is 162Hz.

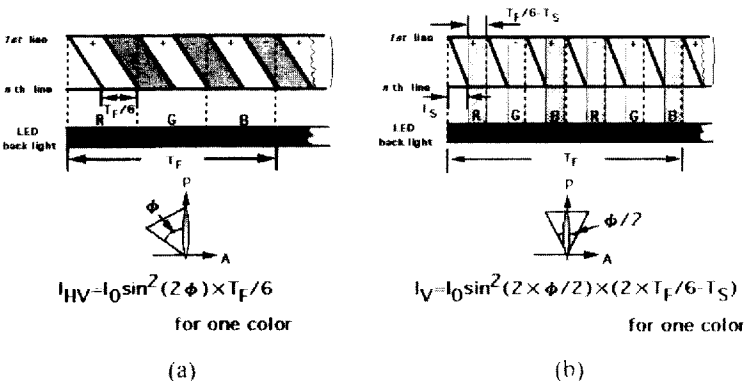


FIGURE 1 Timing charts of FS-FC-LCDs

TABLE 2			
	τ_{LC}	$\tau_{LC}/(T_F/3)$	$\tau_{BL}/(T_F/3)$
Nematic LCD	2ms	0.36	0.44
FLCD	100 μ s	0.02	1 or 0.5

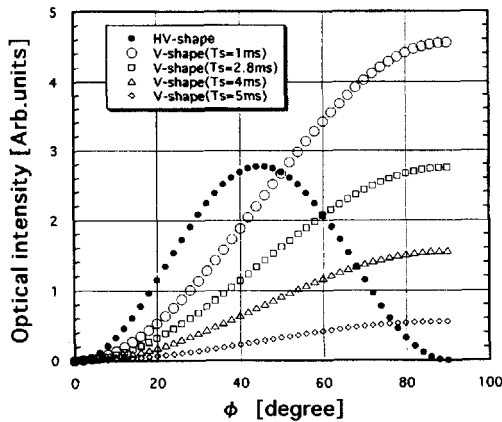


FIGURE 2 Luminance level of FS-FC-LCD using HV-FLCD and V-FLCD

4. Experimental demonstrations of FS-FC-LCDs

We have constructed three FS-FC-LCD sets as follows: A) 8 color bars in $3 \times 4 \text{ cm}^2$ display area that displays uniform colors, graded colors and moving bars; B) fixed electrodes format having 160 electrode connections with area of $11 \times 7.5 \text{ cm}^2$; and C) VGA TFT matrix with $5 \times 4 \text{ cm}^2$. Figure 3 demonstrates letters and color bars displayed on the screen of the FS-FC-LCD type(B). Research on the type (C) LCD is now underway.

We investigated the performance of these displays; and as a preliminary result, it is shown the display type A) using HV-FLCD yield higher luminance that using V-FLCD by the factor of 2 particularly when $T_s=2.8 \text{ ms}$ ($T_s=T_F/6$) and, when we used the same FLC material. However, the cone angle or deflection angle strongly depends on the FLC material, so that it is that better FLC material will be synthesized.

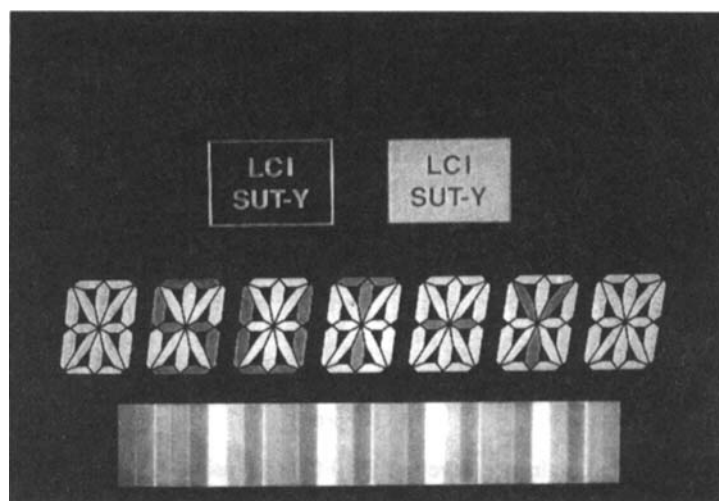


FIGURE 3 An example of field sequential color LCD using ferroelectric liquid crystal

5. Concluding summary

We have developed FLCs exhibiting Half V (asymmetric) and V shape (symmetric) EO performance by adopting sidechain mesogenic polymer stabilization. They are referred to as extrinsic type HV-FLCD and V-FLCD. We used these two kinds of FLCs to construct field sequential fullcolor LCD by combining with a 2D array of RGB color LEDs. We take the frame rate at 60Hz and investigated attainable luminance depending on the difference of HV and V characteristic FLCs. When we use the same FLC material; the optimum deflection angle is $\phi = 45^\circ$ for HV-FLCD; while in the V-FLCD $\phi = 22.5^\circ$. This difference gives rise to the difference in the luminance, and it is shown that a FS-FC LCD using HV-FLCD produces higher luminance than that using V-FLCD. However, if it is possible to use better FLC material that gives $\phi > \pm 22.5^\circ$, say $\pm 40^\circ$, then a system using V-FLC becomes more promising one.

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