

[0337] [K: Eleventh Embodiment]

[0338] In this embodiment, description will be given on an electronic device having a plurality of vibration generators and controlling the signal waveforms of the drive signals applied to each of the vibration generators based on a touched position on the touch panel. Note that in this embodiment, the same reference numerals will be used for portions common with the fifth embodiment. Further, explanations of portions common with the fifth embodiment will be omitted.

[0339] [K-1: Configuration of Eleventh Embodiment]

[0340] FIG. 55 is a view for explaining an ATM according to this embodiment. As shown in the figure, the back surface of the liquid crystal display panel 501 over which the touch panel 502 is laid is provided at its four corners with a total of four oscillatory actuators 115a, 115b, 115c, and 115d. The plurality of oscillatory actuators 115a to 115d are provided in this way because in an electronic device having a large sized display screen such as an ATM or a personal computer it is difficult to give sufficient vibration by a single vibration generator to the fingertip of a user performing a touch operation.

[0341] In this embodiment, description will be given of the control for efficiently driving the oscillatory actuators 115a to 115d to give a larger vibration to the fingertip of the user while keeping down the power consumption required for the vibration report when performing reporting operation by vibration using these plurality of oscillatory actuators 115a to 115d.

[0342] FIG. 56 is a block diagram illustrating the hardware configuration of the ATM 90 according to this embodiment. As shown in this figure, the ATM 90 has a touch panel 502, a display unit 901, a memory 902, a drive signal generation circuit 903, oscillatory actuators 115a to 115d, and a CPU 904.

[0343] The touch panel 502 outputs to the CPU 904a touch signal showing a touched position on the touch panel 502 in response to a touch operation. Further, the display unit 901 has a liquid crystal display panel 501 and a drive circuit for controlling the display of the liquid crystal display panel 501. The memory 902 stores programs and data etc. for controlling the ATM 90. Further, the memory 902 stores waveform data of drive signals to be applied to the oscillatory actuators 115a to 115d. Note that in the present embodiment, the shapes of the waveforms of the drive signals to be applied to the oscillatory actuators 115a to 115d are the same. Further, the frequencies of the drive signals are made to match with the frequency causing the liquid crystal display panel 501 provided with the touch panel 502 to resonate or the frequency causing the oscillatory actuators 115a to 115d themselves to resonate.

[0344] The drive signal generation circuit 903 generates drive signals for driving each of the oscillatory actuators 115a to 115d in accordance with waveform data and phase data supplied from the CPU 904. Further, the drive signal generation circuit 903 applies drive signals to the oscillatory actuators 115a to 115d in accordance with instructions from the CPU 904. The oscillatory actuators 115a to 115d are the same as the oscillatory actuator 115 explained in the first embodiment.

[0345] The CPU 904 controls the parts of the device interconnected through a bus 905 by executing a program stored in the memory 902. The CPU 904 executes the vibration control processing 6 (see FIG. 57 and FIG. 58). In the case of detecting a touch operation on the touch panel 502, it drives each of the oscillatory actuators 115a to 115d through the drive signal generation circuit 903 to cause the touch panel 502 and the liquid crystal display panel 501 to vibrate.

[0346] [K-2: Operation of Eleventh Embodiment]

[0347] FIG. 57 and FIG. 58 show a flow chart for explaining the operation of the vibration control processing 6 executed by the CPU 904 in the ATM 90 according to this embodiment. This vibration control processing 6 is executed by the CPU 904 at every predetermined period in a period in which a touch operation on the touch panel 502 is permitted.

[0348] As shown in FIG. 57, first, the CPU 904 determines whether a touch signal has been input from the touch panel 502 (step S701). When it is determined that a touch signal has not been input, the CPU 904 ends the vibration control processing 6. Further, when it is determined that a touch signal has been input, the CPU 904 identifies a touched position (XY coordinates) on the touch panel 502 based on the touch signal (step S702). Note that when it is determined that a touched position on the touch panel 502 falls outside of the display areas of the touch buttons displayed on the display screen, the CPU 904 need not execute the processing of step S703 and may end the vibration control processing 6.

[0349] Next, the CPU 904, as shown in FIG. 55, finds the positional relationship between a touched position and each of the oscillatory actuators 115a to 115d such as calculating the straight line distance between the touched position and each of the oscillatory actuators 115a to 115d (step S703). Further, the CPU 904 performs vibration analysis using as parameters the positional relationship between the touched position and each of the oscillatory actuators 115a to 115d, the material of the liquid crystal display panel 501 where the oscillatory actuators 115a to 115d are placed, the elasticity of the damper 503, and others. Note that it is also possible to store in advance the data of the results of vibration analysis for different touched positions on the touch panel 502 in the memory 902 and utilize them. By adopting such a configuration, there is no need to perform the vibration analysis for each touched position in real time. Further, the CPU 904 calculates the phase of a drive signal to be applied to each of the oscillatory actuators 115a to 115d so that the amplitude of the vibration at each touched position becomes the greatest due to mutual interference of oscillatory waves generated from each of the oscillatory actuators 115a to 115d (step S704).

[0350] Next, the CPU 904 reads the waveform data of the same drive signal to be applied to the oscillatory actuators 115 from the memory 902 (step S705). Next, the CPU 904 outputs to the drive signal generation circuit 903 the waveform data read from the memory 904 and the phase data for each of the oscillatory actuators 115a to 115d calculated at step S704. At the same time, the CPU 904 instructs the drive signal generation circuit 903 to generate a drive signal (step S706). The drive signal generation circuit 903 uses the waveform data and the phase data supplied from the CPU