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(54) **METHOD OF PROVIDING USER
INTERFACE AND FLEXIBLE DEVICE FOR
PERFORMING THE SAME**

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(57)

ABSTRACT

Disclosed is a method of providing a user interface in a flexible device, the method comprising: determining whether the device is released; displaying at least one user interface on the device on the basis of the determination; and receiving a touch input to the displayed user interface.

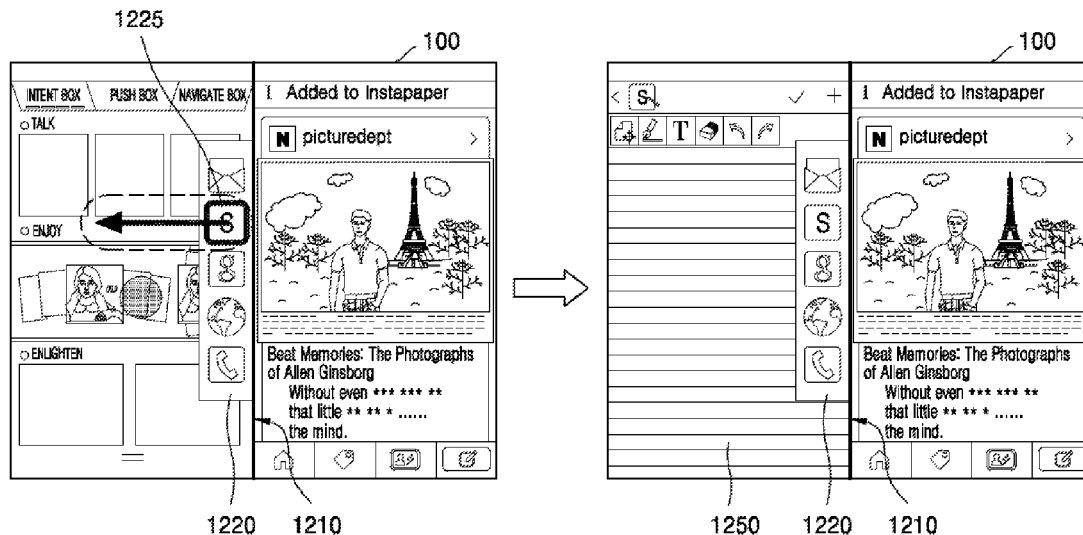


FIG. 1A

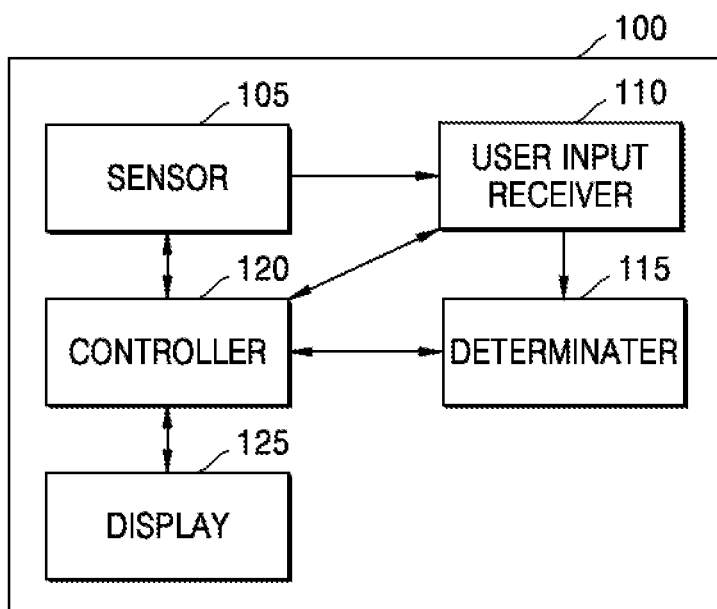


FIG. 1B

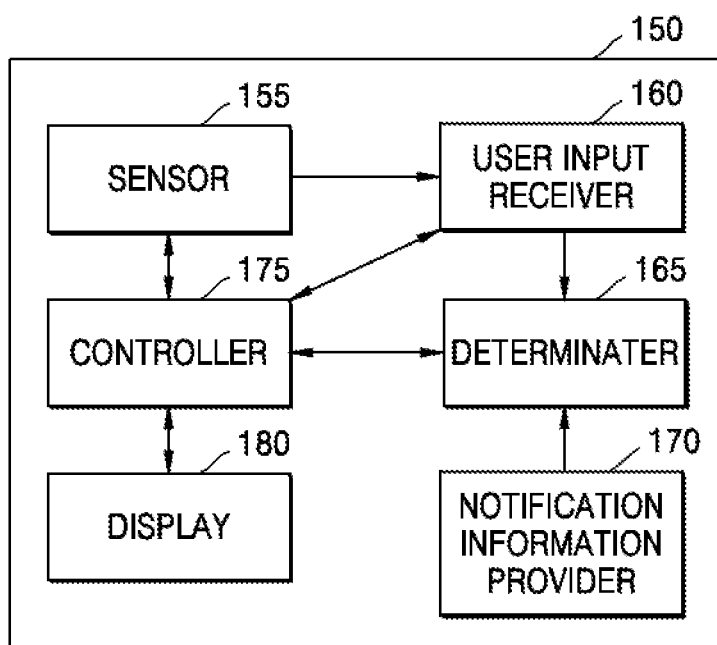


FIG. 2

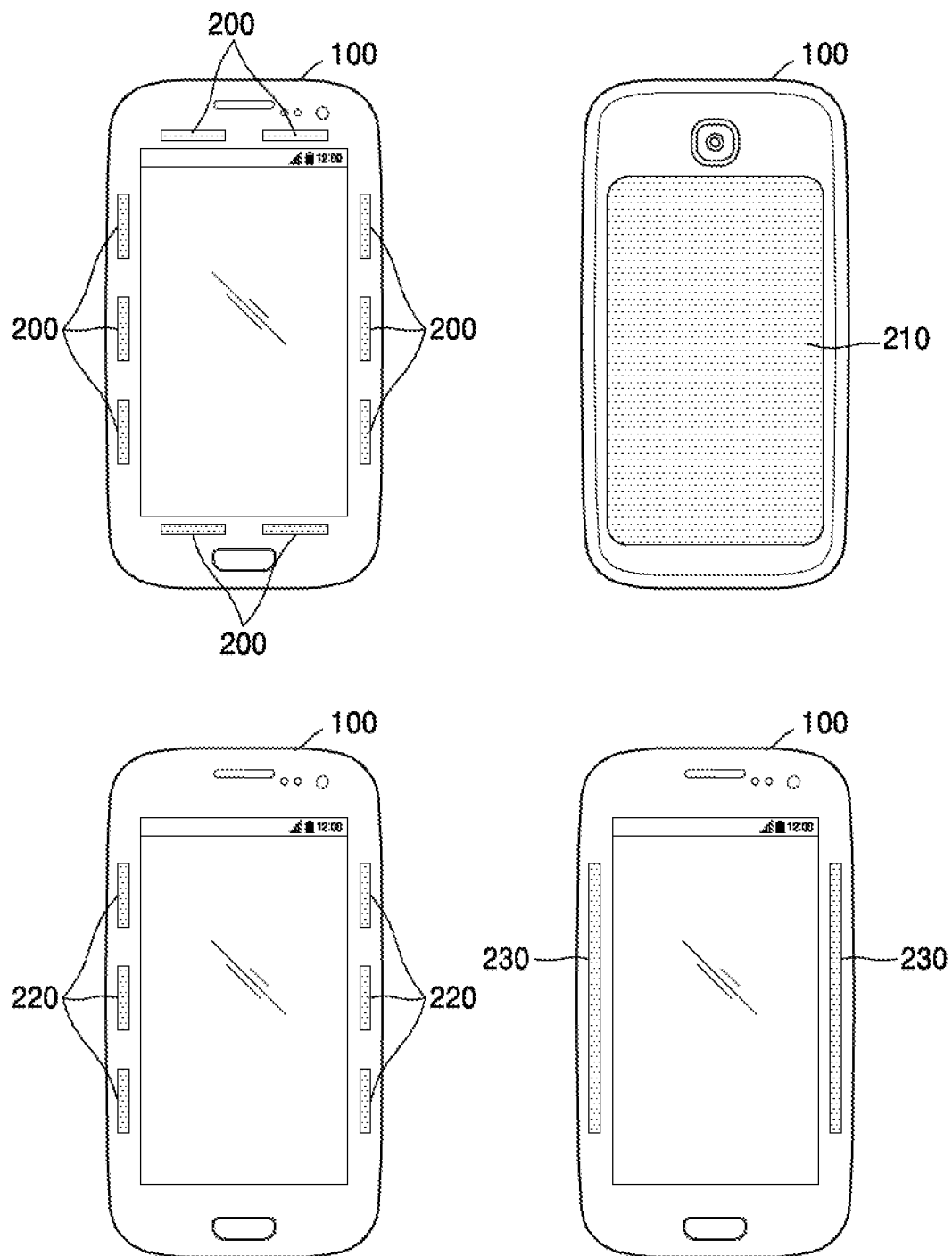


FIG. 3

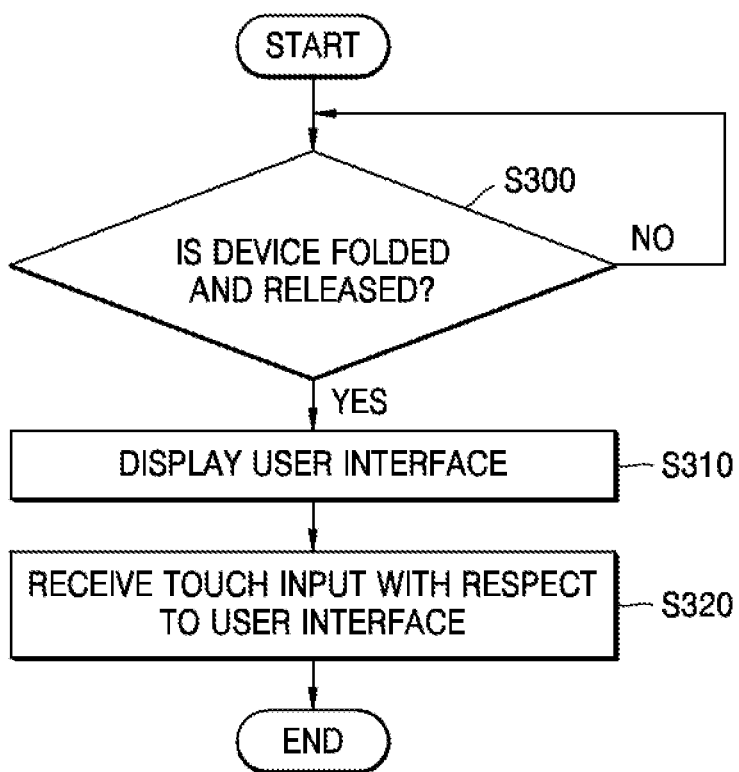


FIG. 4

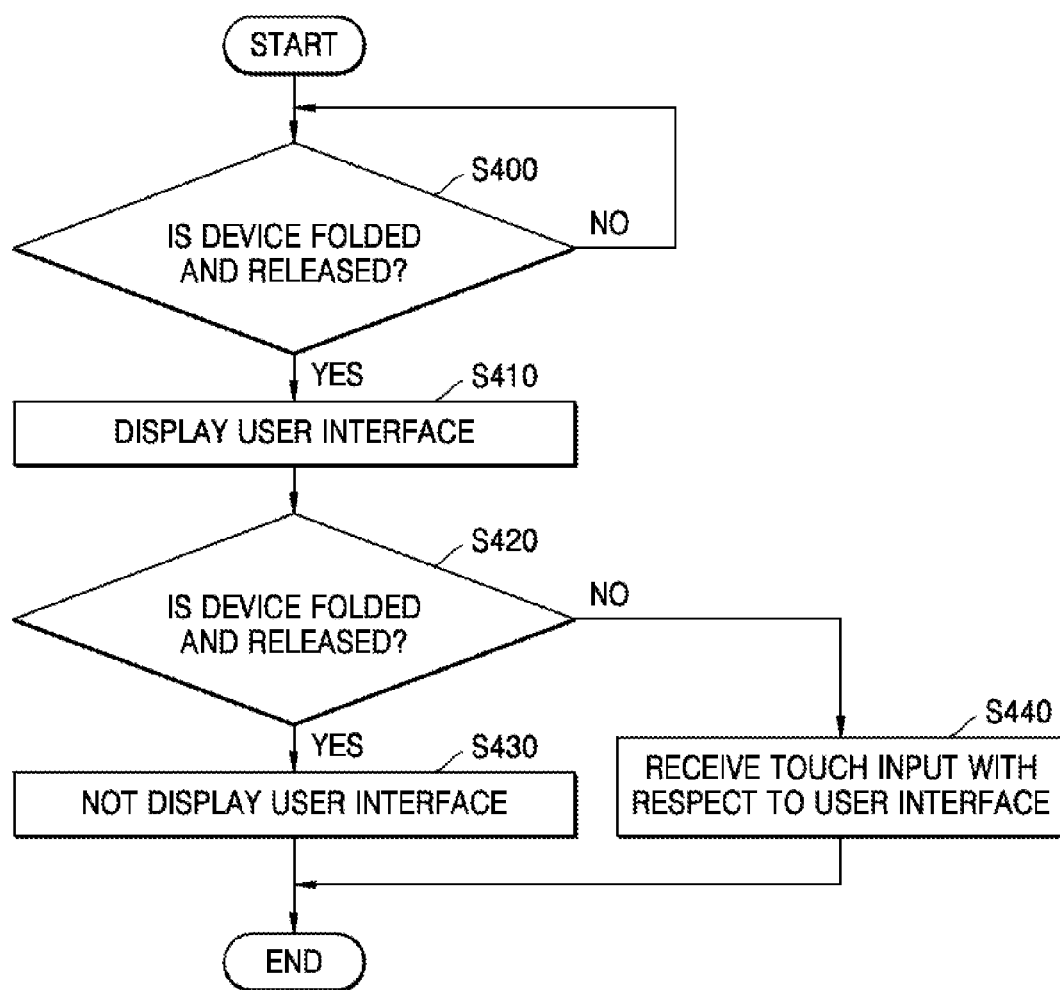


FIG. 5

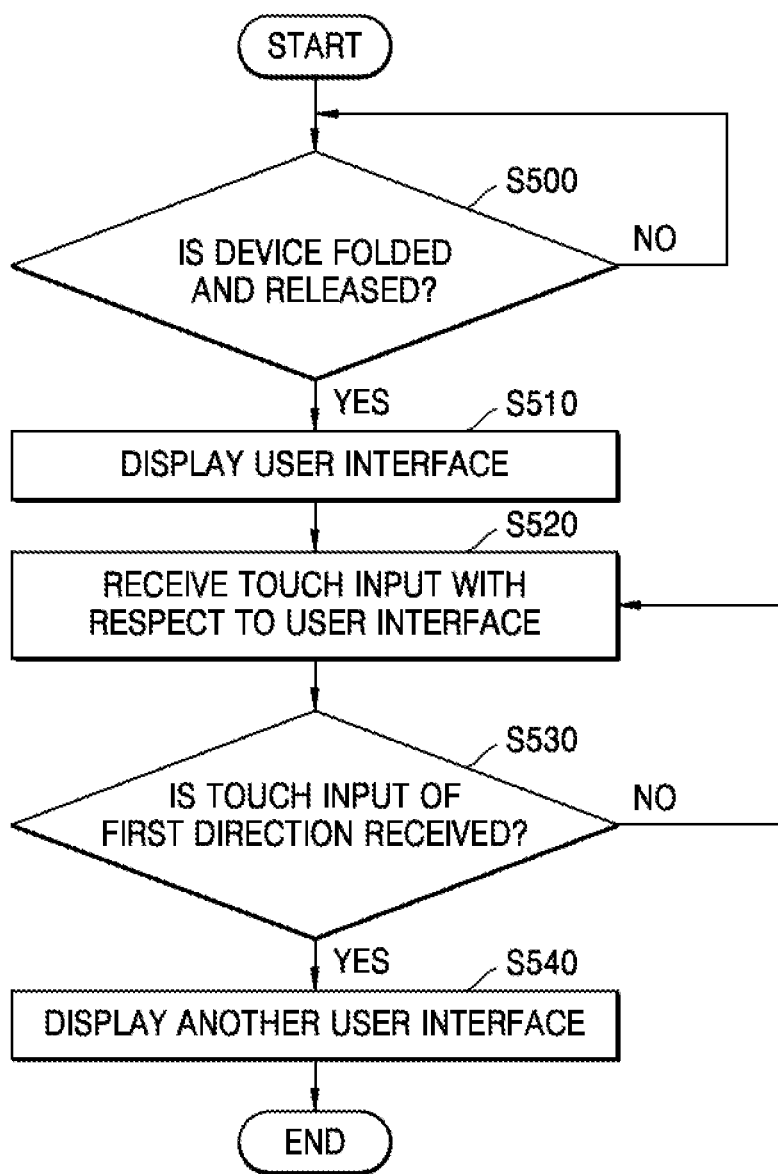


FIG. 6

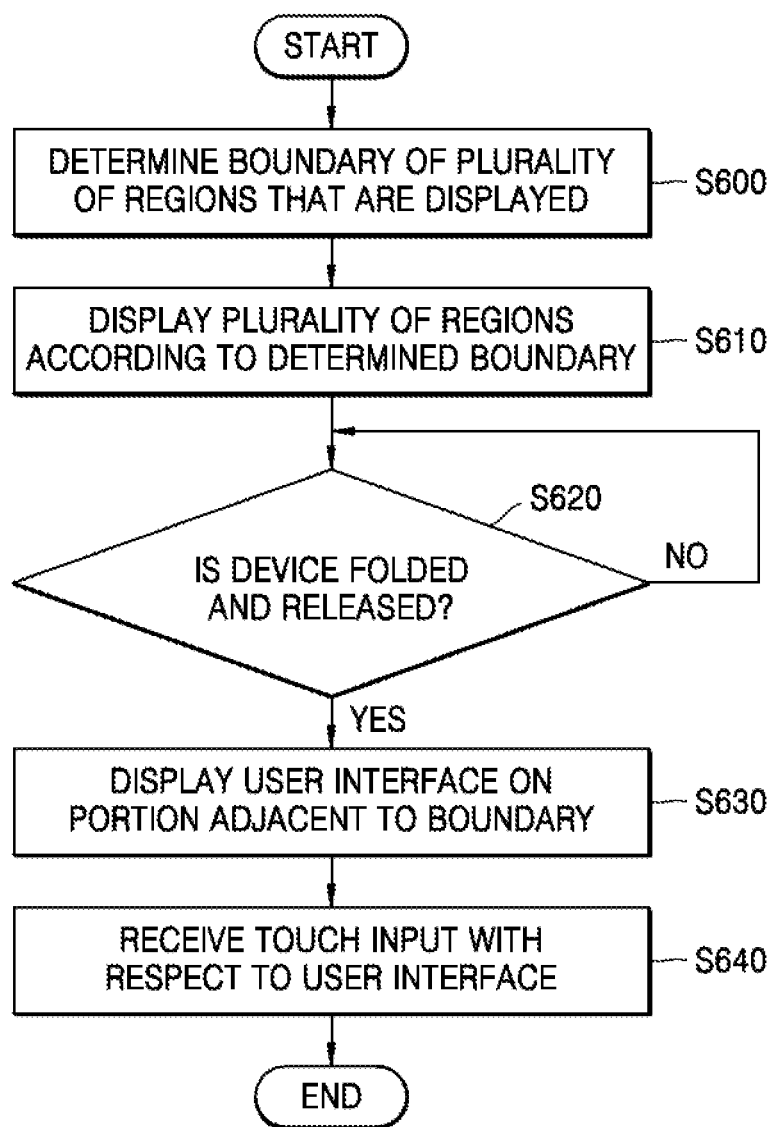


FIG. 7

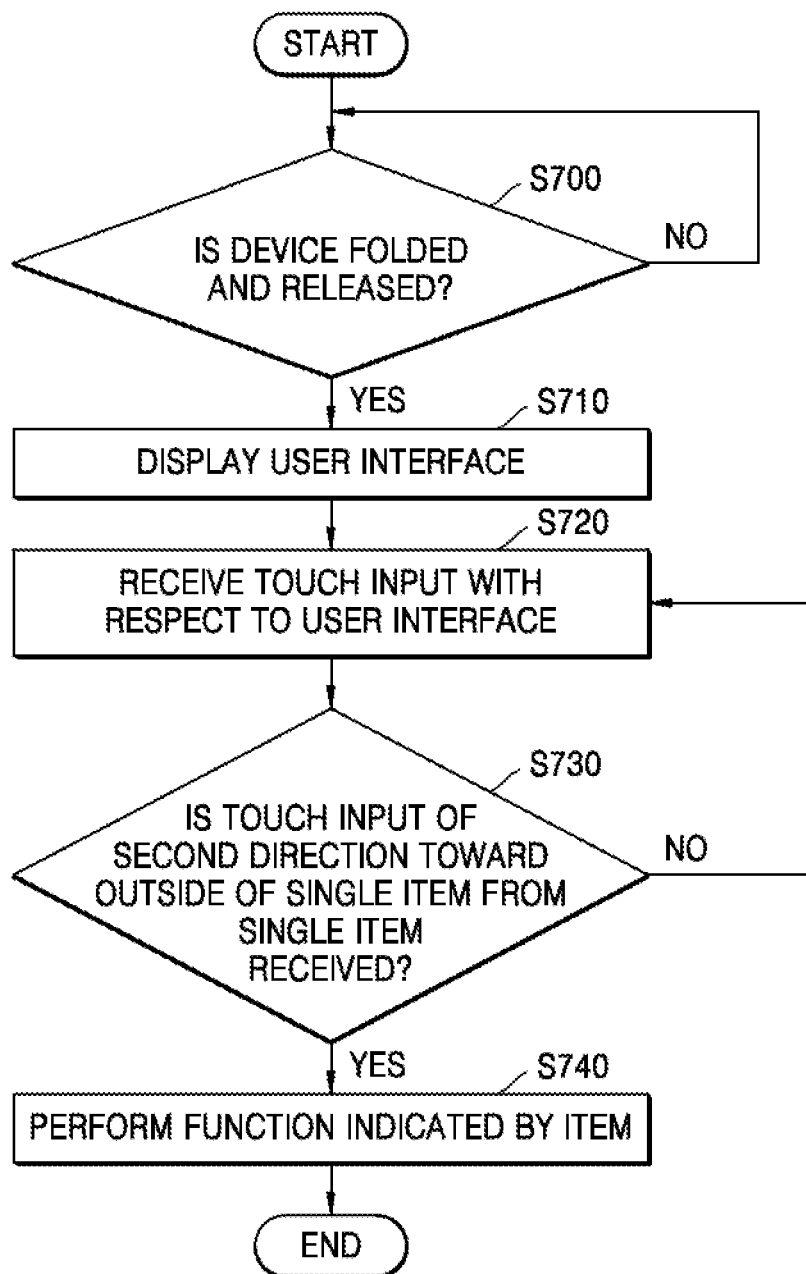


FIG. 8

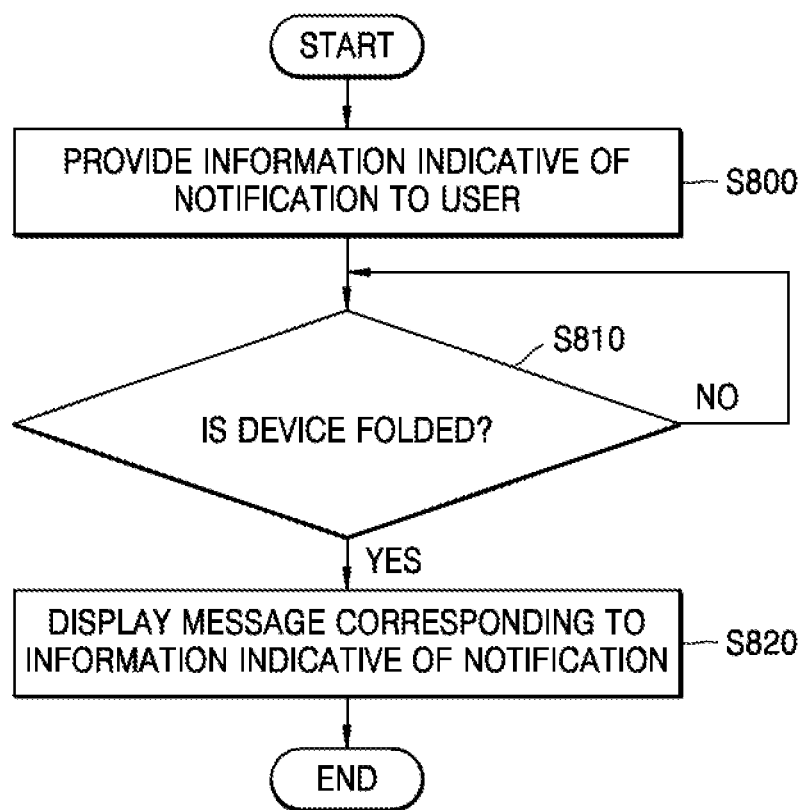


FIG. 9

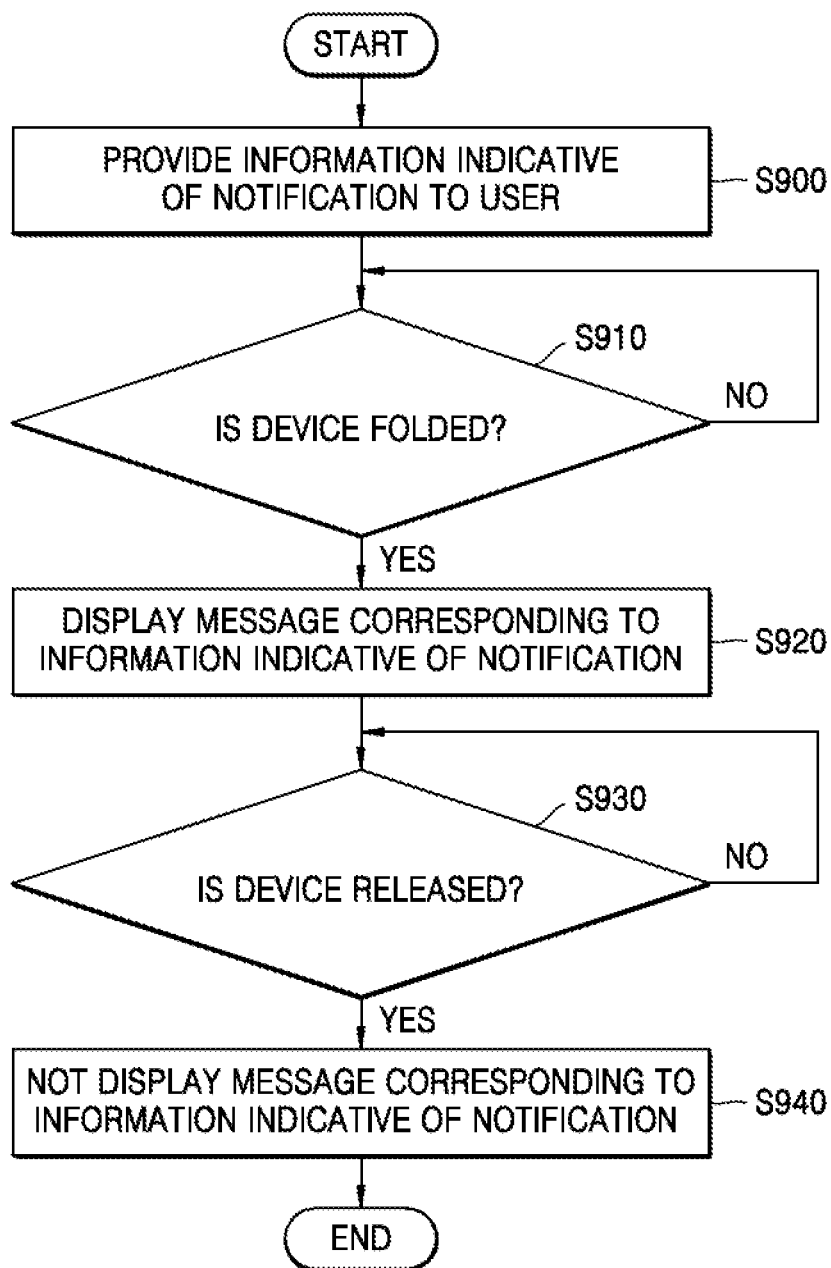


FIG. 10

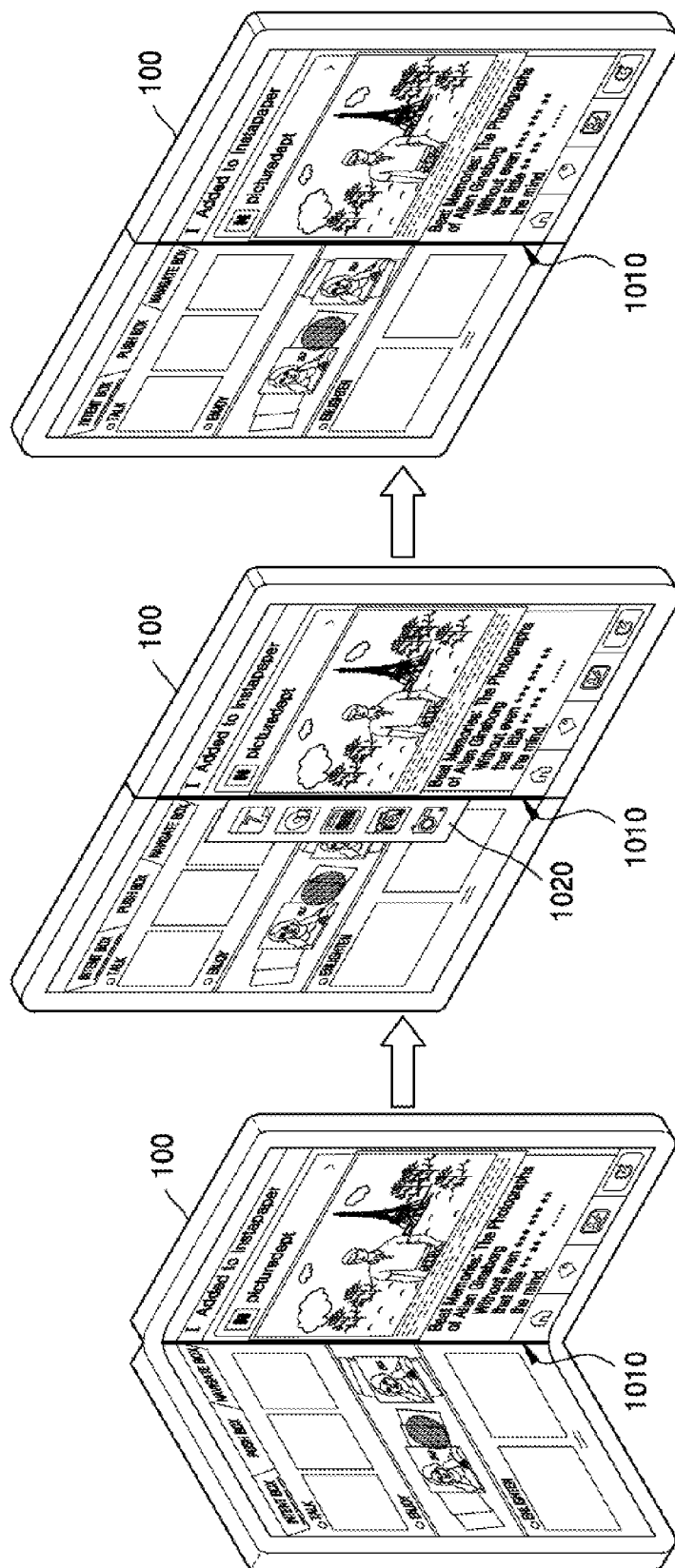


FIG. 11

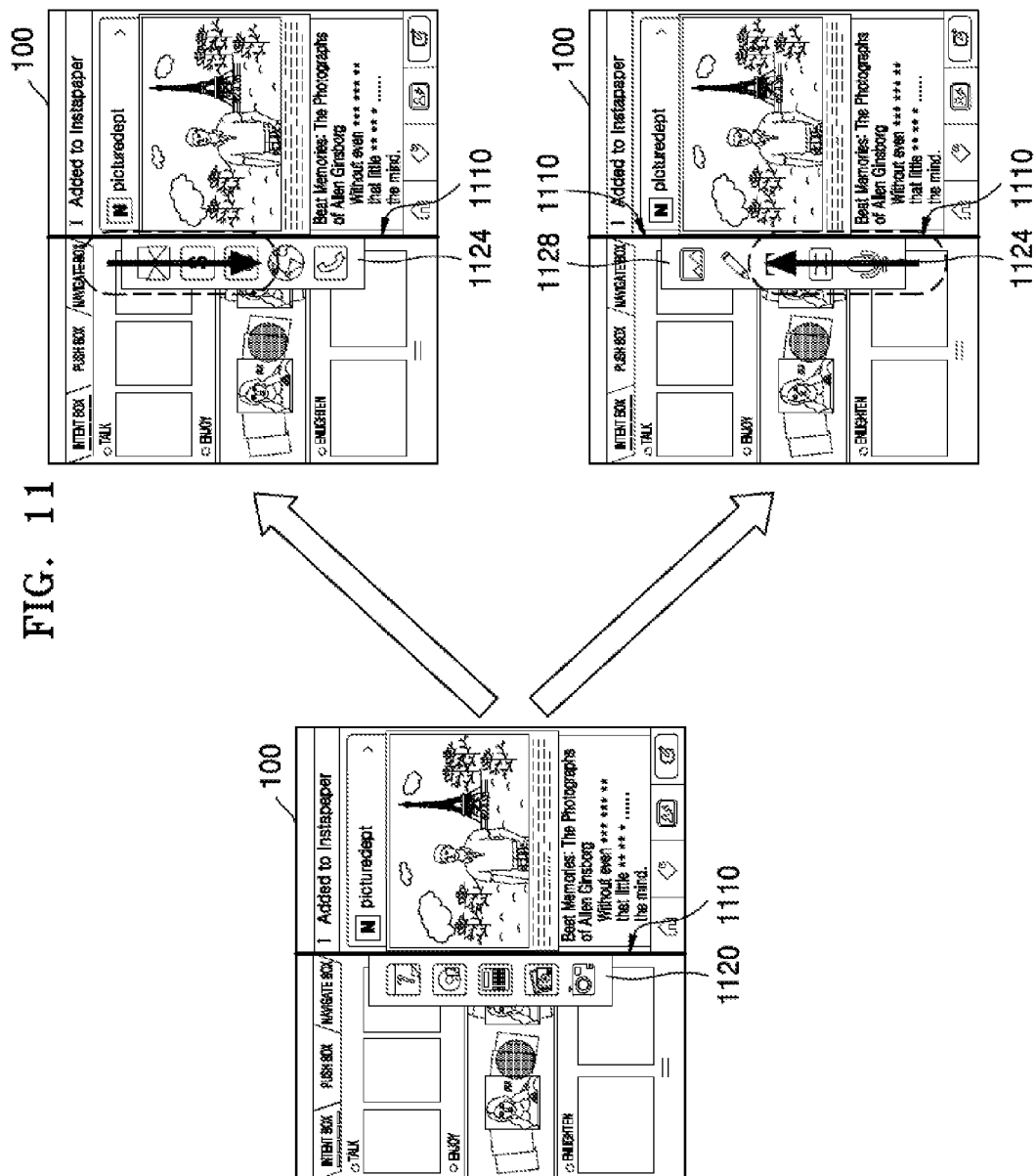
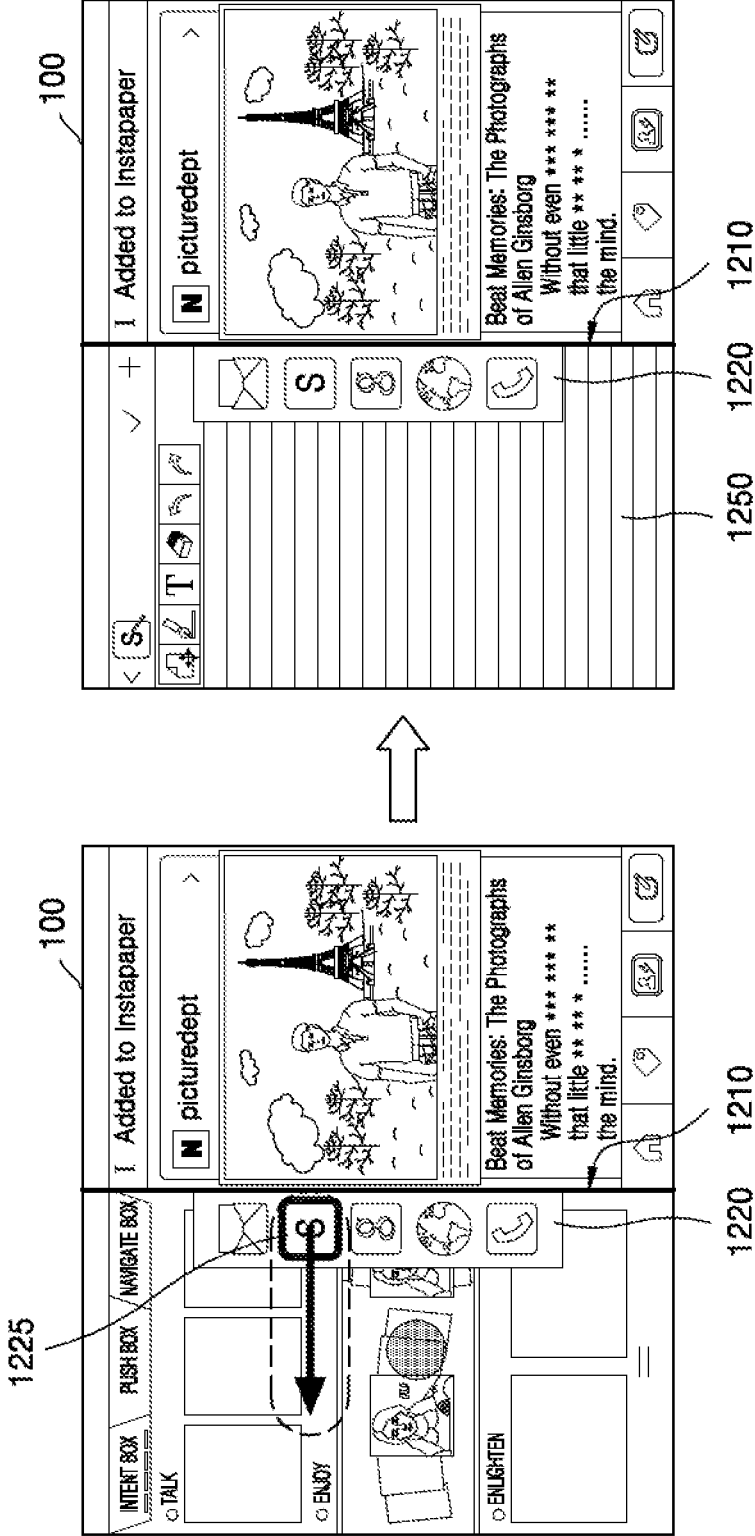


FIG. 12



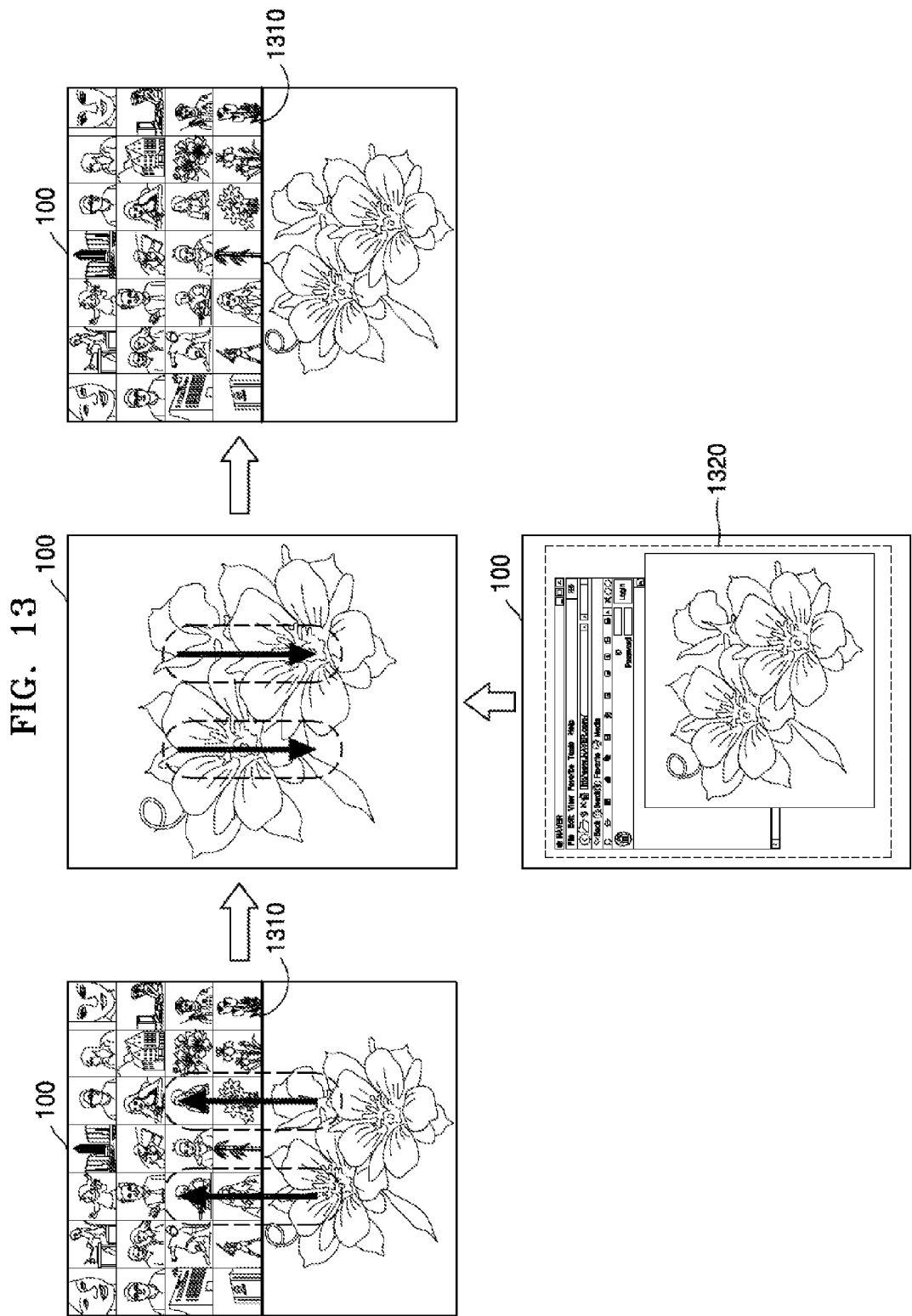
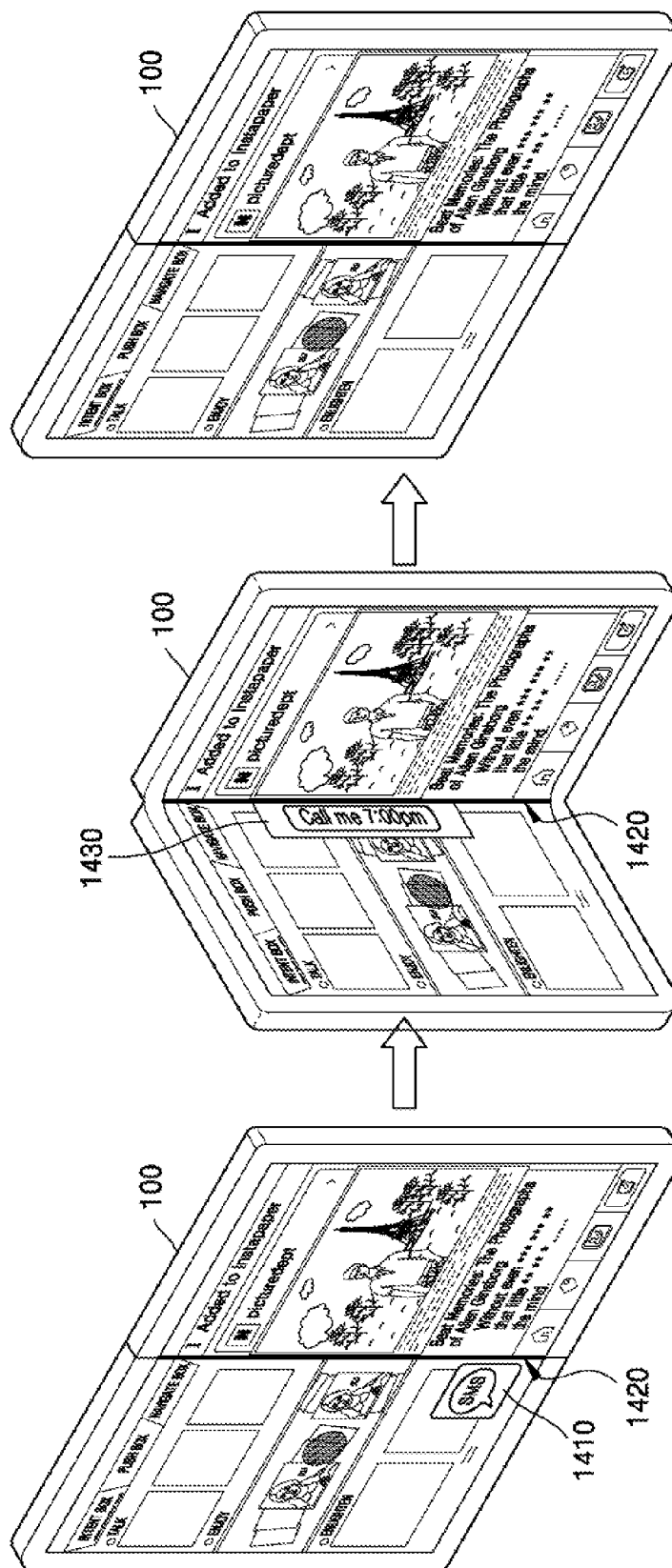
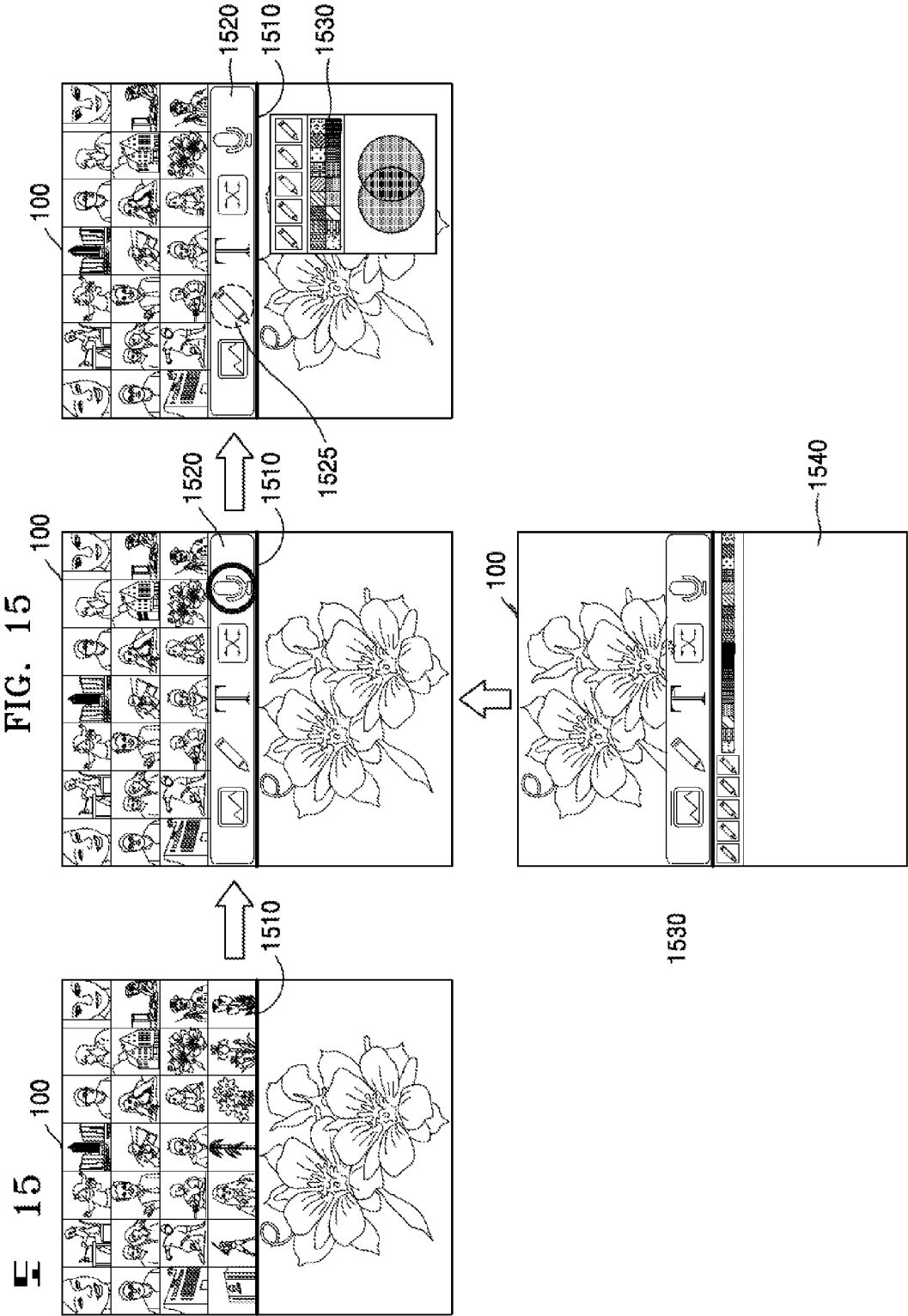


FIG. 14





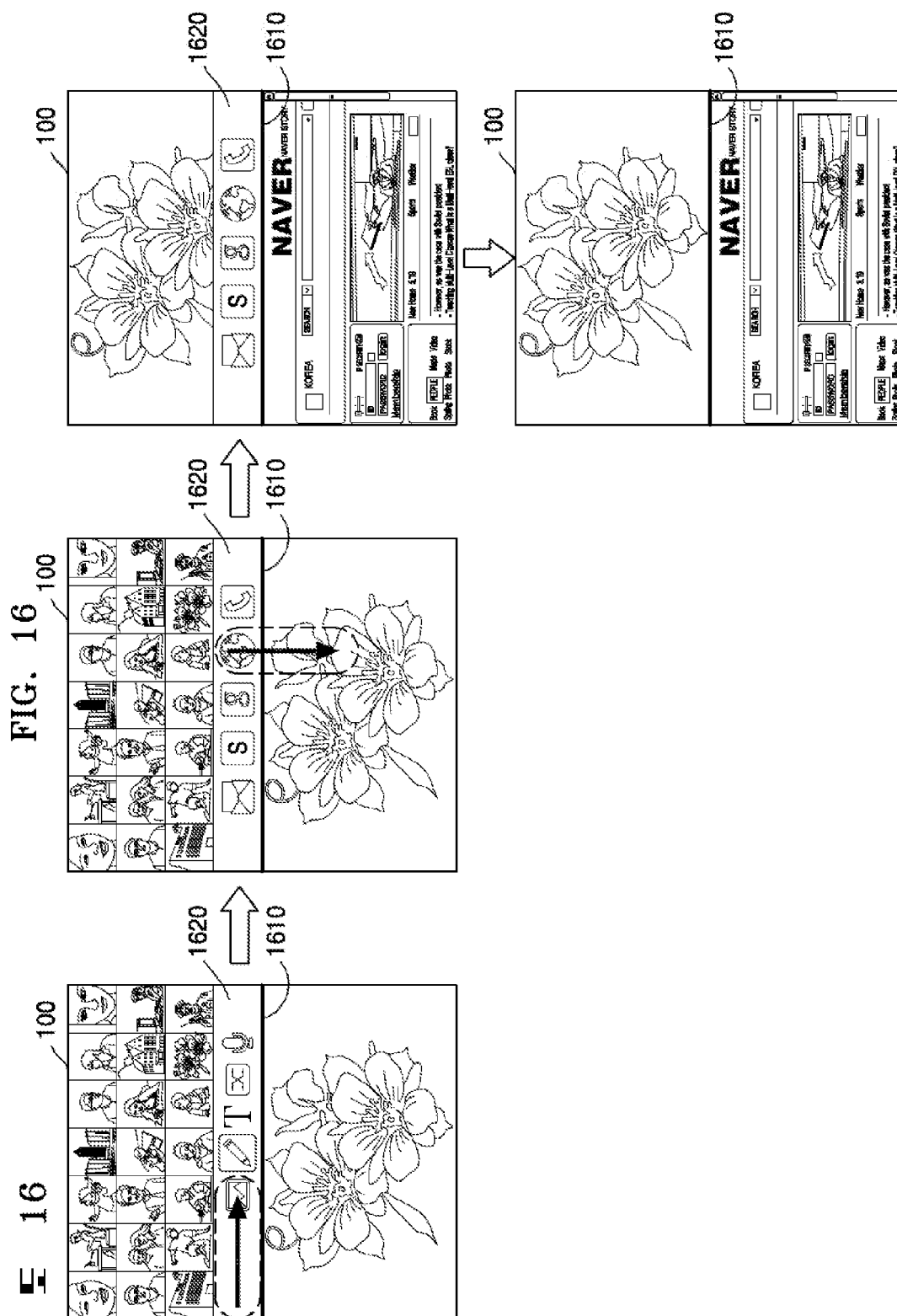


FIG. 17

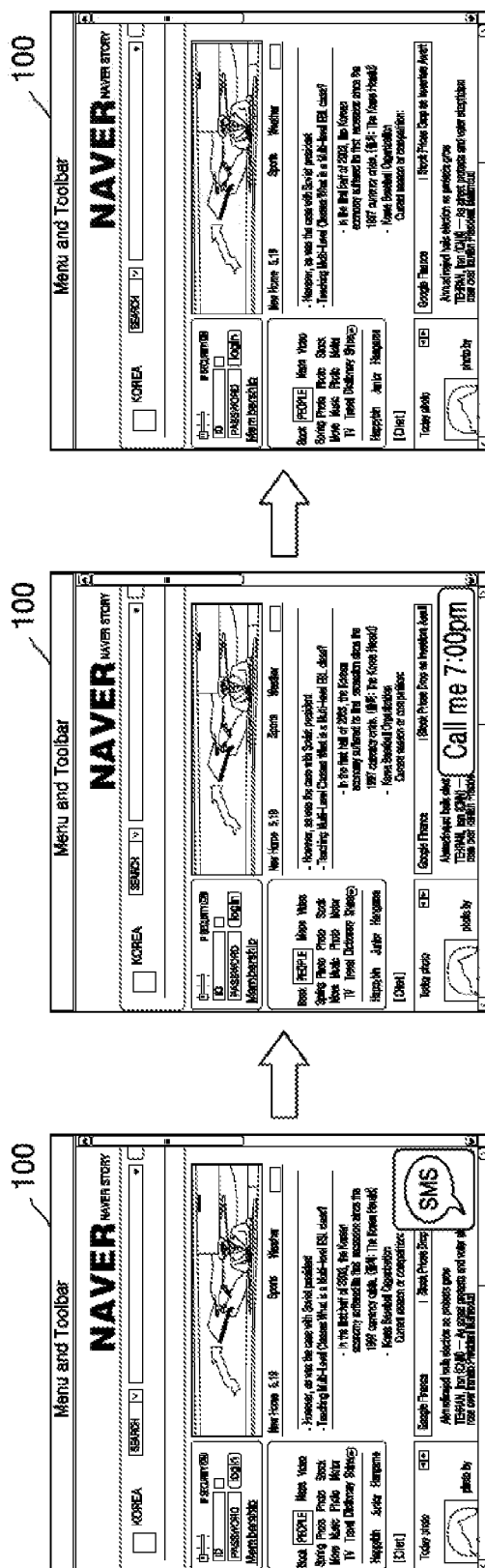
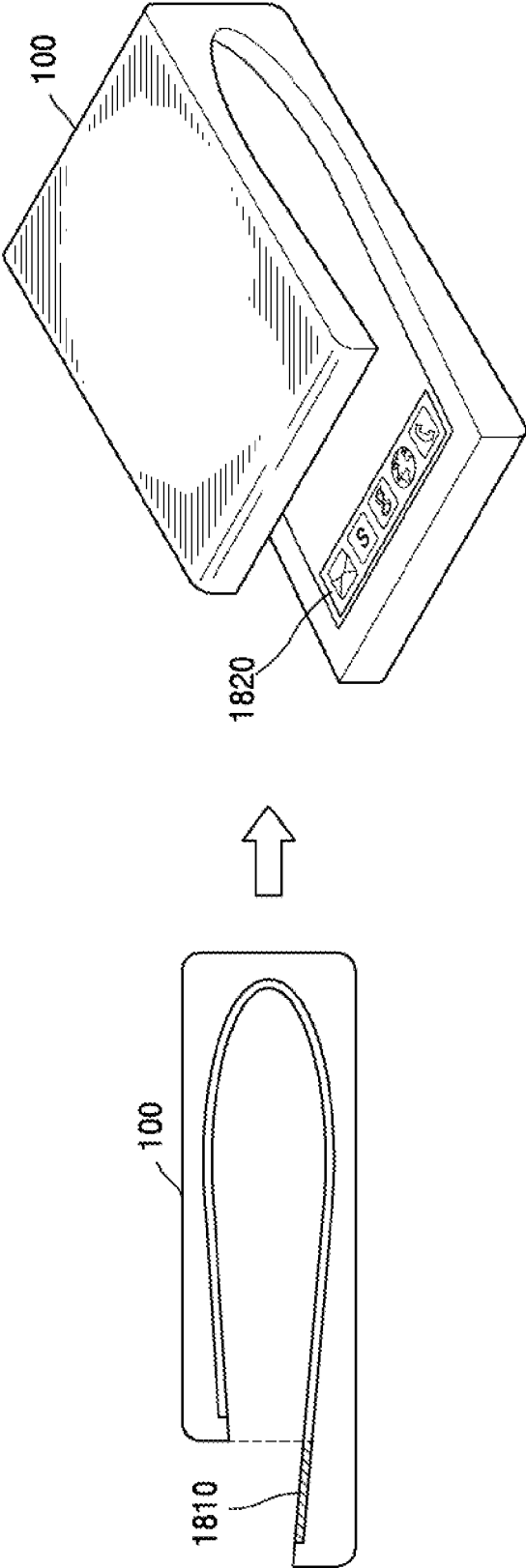


FIG. 18



METHOD OF PROVIDING USER INTERFACE AND FLEXIBLE DEVICE FOR PERFORMING THE SAME

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to a technology of providing a user interface in a flexible device.

BACKGROUND ART

[0002] A conventional device is a bar-type device of which a shape is not deformed and is capable of receiving an input through a touch or a button on a part of a front, rear, or side surfaces. When the conventional device is used, a user is interrupted by temporarily terminating an application that is currently being used in order to check many notifications that frequently occur. That is, a conventional notification method and check method have to terminate the application that is currently being used in order to check a notification, undergo several inconvenient procedures, and return to the application that is currently being used through several inconvenient procedures again. In order to another application related to the application that is currently being used, the user should instantly terminate the application that is currently being used and inconveniently execute the application again.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Technical Problem

[0003] The present invention provides a method of providing a user interface by using a characteristic that a shape of a flexible device is deformed and a flexible device for providing a user interface by using a characteristic that a shape of the flexible device is deformed.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0004] FIG. 1 is a diagram of a flexible device according to an embodiment.

[0005] FIG. 2 is a diagram for describing a hardware configuration of a flexible device according to an embodiment.

[0006] FIG. 3 is a flowchart of a method of providing a user interface, according to an embodiment.

[0007] FIG. 4 is a flowchart of a method of providing a user interface, according to another embodiment.

[0008] FIG. 5 is a flowchart of a method of providing a user interface, according to another embodiment.

[0009] FIG. 6 is a flowchart of a method of providing a user interface, according to another embodiment.

[0010] FIG. 7 is a flowchart of a method of providing a user interface, according to another embodiment.

[0011] FIG. 8 is a flowchart of a method of providing a user interface, according to another embodiment.

[0012] FIG. 9 is a flowchart of a method of providing a user interface, according to another embodiment.

[0013] FIG. 10 is a diagram for describing a process of displaying a user interface in a flexible device, according to an embodiment.

[0014] FIG. 11 is a diagram for describing a process of switching a user interface in a flexible device, according to an embodiment.

[0015] FIG. 12 is a diagram for describing a process of performing a function of an item included in a user interface, according to an embodiment.

[0016] FIG. 13 is a diagram for describing a process of changing a screen mode and displaying an application history, according to an embodiment.

[0017] FIG. 14 is a diagram for describing a process of checking a real-time notification, according to an embodiment.

[0018] FIG. 15 is a diagram for describing a process in which a user uses a user interface in an executed gallery application, according to an embodiment.

[0019] FIG. 16 is a diagram for describing a process in which a user uses a user interface in an executed gallery application, according to another embodiment.

[0020] FIG. 17 is a diagram for describing a process in which a user checks a real-time notification, according to an embodiment.

[0021] FIG. 18 is a diagram for describing a process of displaying a user interface on a specific portion when a user folds a flexible device, according to another embodiment.

BEST MODE

[0022] According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of providing a user interface in a flexible device, the method including determining whether the flexible device is released; displaying at least one user interface on the flexible device on the basis of the determination; and receiving a touch input with respect to the displayed at least one user interface.

[0023] The displaying includes: while the user interface is displayed, determining whether the flexible device is folded and released; and not displaying the user interface on a display on the basis of the determination.

[0024] The method may further include: determining whether a touch input in a first direction is received on the at least one user interface; and when it is determined that the touch input in the first direction is received, switching and displaying the displayed at least one user interface to another user interface.

[0025] The method may further include: determining whether a touch input in an opposite direction to the first direction is received; and when it is determined that the touch input in opposite direction to the first direction is received, switching and displaying another user interface to the displayed at least one user interface.

[0026] The method may further include: determining a boundary of a plurality of regions that are displayed; and displaying the plurality of regions according to the determined boundary.

[0027] The displaying of the at least one user interface may include: displaying the at least one user interface on a portion adjacent to the boundary.

[0028] The method may further include: determining whether a touch input toward another region from a predetermined region including the boundary is received; changing a location of the boundary according to the touch input toward another region from the predetermined region including the boundary; and displaying the plurality of regions according to the determined region.

[0029] The method may further include: determining whether a touch input in a second direction toward an outside of the at least one user interface is received on a single item included in the at least one user interface; and

performing a function indicated by the single item based on the received touch input in the second direction toward the outside of the at least one user interface.

[0030] The displaying of the at least one user interface may include: determining whether the flexible device is asymmetrically folded; and when it is determined that the flexible device is asymmetrically folded, dividing the flexible device into a first surface and a second surface with respect to a folded boundary and displaying the at least one user interface on a part of the second surface that is not covered by the first surface of the flexible device.

[0031] According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of providing a notification service in a flexible device, the method including providing information indicative of a notification to a user; determining whether the flexible device is folded; while the information indicative of the notification is provided, when it is determined that the flexible device is folded, displaying a message corresponding to the information indicative of the notification on a display of the flexible device.

[0032] The displaying includes: determining whether the flexible device is released on the basis of a received input; and when it is determined that the flexible device is released, not displaying the message corresponding to the information indicative of the notification on the display.

[0033] According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a flexible device including a sensor configured to sense deformation of the flexible device; a user input receiver configured to receive an input from the sensor; a determiner configured to determine whether the flexible device is released based on the received input; a display configured to display a screen; and a controller configured to control the display to display at least one user interface on the basis of the determination.

[0034] While the user interface is displayed, the determiner may determine whether the flexible device is folded and released on the basis of the received input and the controller may control the display not to display the user interface on a display on the basis of the determination.

[0035] The determiner may determine whether a touch input in a first direction is received on the at least one user interface, and when the determiner determines that the touch input in the first direction is received, the controller may control the display to switch and display the displayed at least one user interface to another user interface.

[0036] The determiner may determine a boundary of a plurality of regions that are displayed, and the controller may control the display to display the plurality of regions according to the determined boundary.

[0037] The controller may control the display to display the at least one user interface on a portion adjacent to the boundary.

[0038] The determiner may determine whether a touch input toward another region from a predetermined region including the boundary is received, and the controller may change a location of the boundary according to the touch input toward another region from the predetermined region including the boundary and controls the display to display the plurality of regions according to the determined region.

[0039] The determiner may determine whether the flexible device is asymmetrically folded on the basis of the received input; and when the determiner determines that the flexible device is asymmetrically folded, the controller may divide the flexible device into a first surface and a second surface

with respect to a folded boundary and control the display to display the at least one user interface on a part of the second surface that is not covered by the first surface of the flexible device.

[0040] The determiner may determine whether a touch input in a direction toward an outside of the at least one user interface is received on a single item included in the at least one user interface and the controller may control the display to perform a function indicated by the single item based on the received touch input in the direction toward the outside of the at least one user interface.

[0041] The determiner may determine whether the flexible device is asymmetrically folded on the basis of the received input; and when the determiner determines that the flexible device is asymmetrically folded, the controller may divide the flexible device into a first surface and a second surface with respect to a folded boundary and control the display to display the at least one user interface on a part of the second surface that is not covered by the first surface of the flexible device.

[0042] The determiner may determine whether a touch input in a direction toward an outside of the at least one user interface is received on a single item included in the at least one user interface and the controller may control the display to perform a function indicated by the single item on a screen of the flexible device based on the received touch input in the direction toward the outside of the at least one user interface.

[0043] According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a flexible device including a sensor configured to sense deformation of the flexible device; a notification provider configured to provide information indicative of a notification to a user; a user input receiver configured to receive an input from the sensor; a display configured to display a screen; a determiner configured to determine whether the flexible device is folded based on the received input; and a controller configured to control the display to display a message corresponding to the information indicative of the notification on the basis of the determination.

[0044] The determiner may determine whether the flexible device is released on the basis of the received input and when the determiner determines that the flexible device is released, the controller may control the display not to display the message corresponding to the information indicative of the notification.

[0045] According to another aspect of the present invention, a computer-readable recording medium has recorded thereon a computer program for executing the methods.

Mode of the Invention

[0046] Embodiments will be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings below. For better clear description of features of the embodiments, detailed descriptions of matters widely known to one of ordinary skill in the art to which the embodiments below pertain are omitted.

[0047] FIG. 1 is a diagram of a flexible device according to an embodiment.

[0048] Referring to FIG. 1A, a flexible device 100 according to an embodiment may include a sensor 105, a user input receiver 110, a determiner 115, a controller 120, and a display 125.

[0049] The sensor 105 may sense deformation of the flexible device 100. For example, since the sensor 105

includes a bending sensor, the sensor **105** may sense a degree of bending the flexible device **100**.

[0050] The user input receiver **110** may receive an input from the sensor **105**. The user input receiver **110** may receive a touch input with respect to a user interface displayed on the display **125**.

[0051] The determiner **115** may determine whether the flexible device **100** is released based on the input received from the sensor **105**. Alternatively, the determiner **115** may determine whether the flexible device **100** is folded and released based on the input received from the sensor **105**.

[0052] The controller **120** may control the display **125** to display at least one user interface on a screen of the flexible device **100** based on a determination of the determiner **115**. That is, the controller **120** may control the display **125** to display one of a plurality of user interfaces if the determiner **115** determines that the flexible device **100** is released. Alternatively, the controller **120** may control the display **125** to display one of a plurality of user interfaces if the determiner **115** determines that the flexible device **100** is folded and released.

[0053] The display **125** may display a screen via which an application is executed and various user interfaces related to the application.

[0054] Another embodiment will be described below with reference to FIG. 1A.

[0055] A flexible device according to another embodiment may include a function of the flexible device **100** according to an embodiment. For brevity of description, a detailed description of the function is omitted.

[0056] The determiner **115** may determine whether the flexible device **100** is folded and released based on an input received from the sensor **105** while a user interface is displayed. The determiner **115** may also determine whether a touch input in a first direction is received on the user interface. In this regard, the first direction may be a direction parallel to a boundary line of a displayed screen. The determiner **115** may determine a boundary of a plurality of regions that will be displayed. The determiner **115** may determine whether a touch input toward another region from a predetermined region including the boundary is received. The determiner **115** may determine whether the flexible device **100** is asymmetrically folded based on the received input. The determiner **115** may also determine whether a touch input in a direction toward the outside of the user interface on a single item included in the user interface is received. In this regard, the direction toward the outside of the user interface on the single item may be a direction perpendicular to the boundary line of the screen.

[0057] The controller **120** may control the display **125** not to display the user interface if the determiner **115** determines that the flexible device **100** is folded and released while the user interface is displayed. When the determiner **115** also determines that the touch input in the first direction is received, the controller **120** may switch the displayed user interface to another user interface and control the display **125** to display another user interface. In addition, the controller **120** may control the display **125** to display the plurality of regions according to the determined boundary. The controller **120** may control the display **125** to display the user interface on a portion adjacent to the determined boundary. When the determiner **115** determines that the flexible device **100** is asymmetrically folded, the controller **120** may divide the flexible device **100** into a first surface

and a second surface and control the display **125** to display the user interface on a part of the second surface of the flexible device **100** that is not covered by the first surface of the flexible device **100**. The controller **120** may switch a location of the boundary according to the touch input toward another region from the predetermined region including the boundary and control the display **125** to display the plurality of regions according to the switched boundary. The controller **120** may control the display **125** to perform a function indicated by a single item based on the touch input toward the outside of the user interface.

[0058] A flexible device **150** according to an embodiment will be described below with reference to FIG. 1B.

[0059] The flexible device **150** may include a sensor **155**, a user input receiver **160**, a determiner **165**, a notification information provider **170**, a controller **175**, and a display **180**.

[0060] The sensor **155** may sense deformation of the flexible device **150**. For example, since the sensor **155** includes a bending sensor, the sensor **155** may sense a degree of bending the flexible device **150**. The user input receiver **160** may receive an input from the sensor **155**.

[0061] The determiner **165** may determine whether the flexible device **150** is folded based on the input received from the sensor **155**.

[0062] The notification information provider **170** may provide information indicative of a notification to a user. For example, when a notification event occurs, the notification information provider **170** may provide the information indicative of the notification as vibration and sound to the user. Alternatively, the notification information provider **170** may make the display **180** display the information indicative of the notification.

[0063] When the determiner **165** determines that the flexible device **150** is folded while the information indicative of the notification is provided, the controller **175** may control the display **180** to display a message corresponding to the information indicative of the notification.

[0064] The display **180** may display a screen via which an application is executed and various user interfaces related to the application.

[0065] Another embodiment will be described below with reference to FIG. 1B.

[0066] The flexible device **150** according to another embodiment may include a function of the flexible device **150** according to an embodiment described with reference to FIG. 1B. For brevity of description, a detailed description of the function is omitted.

[0067] The determiner **165** may determine whether the flexible device **150** is folded based on an input received from the sensor **155**. When the determiner **165** determines that the flexible device **150** is folded, the controller **175** may control the display **180** not to display a message indicative of content of a notification.

[0068] FIG. 2 is a diagram for describing a hardware configuration of a flexible device according to an embodiment.

[0069] The flexible device **100** may include a flexible display formed of a deformable material. Thus, a user may deform shapes of the flexible devices **100** and **150**.

[0070] The flexible device **100** may include a sensor such as a gyroscope sensor, a magnetic sensor, and an acceleration sensor capable of sensing a state change of the flexible

device **100** and a bending sensor capable of sensing a degree of bending the flexible device **100**.

[0071] Referring to FIG. 2, the flexible device **100** may include bending sensors **200-230**.

[0072] The bending sensor **200** may be mounted on a side surface of a front portion of the flexible device **100** at the upper left location in FIG. 2 according to an embodiment. Alternatively, the bending sensor **200** may be mounted on a side surface of a rear portion of the flexible device **100**.

[0073] The flexible bending sensor **210** may be mounted on the rear portion of the flexible device **100** at the upper right location in FIG. 2 according to an embodiment. However, when the bending sensor **210** is transparent, the bending sensor **210** may be mounted on the uppermost portion of the flexible device **100**. Alternatively, the bending sensor **210** may be mounted below a flexible display block of the front portion of the flexible device **100**. Several pairs of the bending sensors **220** may be mounted on sides facing the front portion of the flexible device **100** at the lower left location in FIG. 2 according to an embodiment. The bending sensors **230** may be mounted on a pair of sides facing the flexible device **100** at the lower right location in FIG. 2 according to an embodiment. However, the bending sensors **220** and **230** are not limited to being mounted on the front portion of the flexible device **100** and may be mounted on the rear portion thereof.

[0074] FIG. 3 is a flowchart of a method of providing a user interface, according to an embodiment.

[0075] In operation S300, the flexible device **100** may determine whether the flexible device **100** is released. When the flexible device **100** determines that the flexible device **100** is not released, the flexible device **100** may determine whether the flexible device **100** is released again. Alternatively, the flexible device **100** may determine whether the flexible device **100** is folded and released.

[0076] In operation S310, when the flexible device **100** determines that the flexible device **100** is released, the flexible device **100** may display at least one user interface on a display unit of the flexible device **100**.

[0077] In operation S320, the flexible device **100** may receive a touch input with respect to the displayed user interface.

[0078] FIG. 4 is a flowchart of a method of providing a user interface, according to another embodiment.

[0079] In operation S400, the flexible device **100** may determine whether the flexible device **100** is folded and released. When the flexible device **100** determines that the flexible device **100** is not folded and released, the flexible device **100** may determine whether the flexible device **100** is folded and released again.

[0080] In operation S410, when the flexible device **100** determines that the flexible device **100** is folded and released, the flexible device **100** may display a user interface on the display **125**.

[0081] In operation S420, the flexible device **100** may determine whether the flexible device **100** is folded and released while the user interface is displayed on the display **125**.

[0082] In operation S430, when the flexible device **100** determines that the flexible device **100** is folded and released, the flexible device **100** may not display the user interface on the display **125**.

[0083] When the flexible device **100** determines that the flexible device **100** is not folded and released in operation

S420, in operation S440, the flexible device **100** may receive a touch input with respect to the user interface.

[0084] FIG. 5 is a flowchart of a method of providing a user interface, according to another embodiment.

[0085] In operation S500, the flexible device **100** may determine whether the flexible device **100** is folded and released. When the flexible device **100** determines that the flexible device **100** is not folded and released, the flexible device **100** may determine whether the flexible device **100** is folded and released again.

[0086] In operation S510, when the flexible device **100** determines that the flexible device **100** is folded and released, the flexible device **100** may display a user interface on the display **125**.

[0087] In operation S520, the flexible device **100** may receive a touch input with respect to the user interface.

[0088] In operation S530, the flexible device **100** may determine whether a touch input in a first direction is received on the user interface.

[0089] When the flexible device **100** determines that the touch input in the first direction is received, in operation S540, the flexible device **100** may switch the user interface to another user interface and display another user interface on the display **125**.

[0090] When the flexible device **100** determines that the touch input in the first direction is not received in operation S530, the flexible device **100** may proceed with operation S520.

[0091] FIG. 6 is a flowchart of a method of providing a user interface, according to another embodiment.

[0092] In operation S600, the flexible device **100** may determine a boundary of a plurality of regions that are displayed.

[0093] In operation S610, the flexible device **100** may display the plurality of regions according to the determined boundary.

[0094] In operation S620, the flexible device **100** may determine whether the flexible device **100** is folded and released. When the flexible device **100** determines that the flexible device **100** is not folded and released, the flexible device **100** may determine whether the flexible device **100** is folded and released again.

[0095] In operation S630, when the flexible device **100** determines that the flexible device **100** is folded and released, the flexible device **100** may display a user interface on a portion adjacent to the display **125**.

[0096] In operation S640, the flexible device **100** may receive a touch input with respect to the user interface.

[0097] FIG. 7 is a flowchart of a method of providing a user interface, according to another embodiment.

[0098] In operation S700, the flexible device **100** may determine whether the flexible device **100** is folded and released. When the flexible device **100** determines that the flexible device **100** is not folded and released, the flexible device **100** may determine whether the flexible device **100** is folded and released again.

[0099] In operation S710, the flexible device **100** may display a user interface on the display unit **125**.

[0100] In operation S720, the flexible device **100** may receive a touch input with respect to the user interface.

[0101] In operation S730, the flexible device **100** may determine whether a touch input in a second direction toward the outside of a single item from the single item included in the user interface is received.

[0102] In operation S740, when the flexible device 100 determines that the touch input in the second direction is received, the flexible device 100 may perform a function indicated by an item of the flexible device 100.

[0103] Otherwise, the flexible device 100 determines that the touch input in the second direction toward the outside of a single item from the single item included in the user interface is not received in operation S730, the flexible device 100 may proceed with operation S720.

[0104] FIG. 8 is a flowchart of a method of providing a user interface, according to another embodiment.

[0105] In operation S800, the flexible device 150 may provide information indicative of a notification to a user.

[0106] In operation S810, the flexible device 150 may determine whether the flexible device 100 is folded. When the flexible device 150 determines that the flexible device 150 is not folded, the flexible device 150 may determine whether the flexible device 100 is folded again.

[0107] In operation S820, when the flexible device 150 determines that the flexible device 150 is folded, the flexible device 150 may display a message corresponding to the information indicative of the notification.

[0108] FIG. 9 is a flowchart of a method of providing a user interface, according to another embodiment.

[0109] In operation S900, the flexible device 150 may provide information indicative of a notification to a user.

[0110] In operation S910, the flexible device 150 may determine whether the flexible device 100 is folded. When the flexible device 150 determines that the flexible device 150 is not folded, the flexible device 150 may determine whether the flexible device 100 is folded again.

[0111] In operation S920, when the flexible device 150 determines that the flexible device 150 is folded, the flexible device 150 may display a message corresponding to the information indicative of the notification.

[0112] In operation S930, the flexible device 150 may determine whether the flexible device 100 is released. When the flexible device 150 determines that the flexible device 150 is not released, the flexible device 150 may determine whether the flexible device 100 is released again.

[0113] In operation S940, when the flexible device 150 determines that the flexible device 150 is released, the flexible device 150 may not display the message corresponding to the information indicative of the notification.

[0114] FIG. 10 is a diagram for describing a process of displaying a user interface in a flexible device, according to an embodiment.

[0115] Referring to FIG. 10, a user executes an application on each of both screens that are adjacent to each other with respect to a screen boundary 1010 on the flexible device 100.

[0116] The user may perform a folding-flap input to the flexible device 100 while using the application. In this regard, the folding-flap input may mean an input of folding the flexible device 100 at more than a predetermined angle and instantly releasing the flexible device 100 while the user is using the flexible device 100. For example, the folding-flap input may mean an input of folding the flexible device 100 at 30 or more degrees and instantly releasing the flexible device 100 while the user is using the flexible device 100. If the flexible device 100 receives the folding-flap input, the flexible device 100 may display a user interface 1020 on a portion adjacent to the screen boundary 1010.

[0117] The user may perform an appropriate function of the flexible device 100 by using the displayed user interface

1020. If the user completely performs the appropriate function, the user may perform the folding-flap input to the flexible device 100.

[0118] If the flexible device 100 receives the folding-flap input, the flexible device 100 may remove the user interface 1020 displayed on the portion adjacent to the screen boundary 1010.

[0119] FIG. 11 is a diagram for describing a process of switching a user interface in a flexible device, according to an embodiment.

[0120] Referring to FIG. 11, a user may perform a folding-flap input to the flexible device 100 and display a user interface 1120 on a portion adjacent to a screen boundary 1110. The displayed user interface 1120 may be a recently used bar interface.

[0121] If the user moves the user's finger down from an upper boundary of the user interface 1120 on a display of the flexible device 100, as shown on the upper right of FIG. 11, the user interface 1120 may be switched to an application history bar 1124.

[0122] If the user moves the user's finger up from a lower boundary of the user interface 1120 on the display of the flexible device 100, as shown on a lower right of FIG. 11, the user interface 1120 may be switched to a toolset bar 1128. Meanwhile, when a display mode is changed to a full screen mode, the displayed user interface 1120 may move to the left of a screen or the uppermost end thereof.

[0123] FIG. 12 is a diagram for describing a process of performing a function of an item included in a user interface according to an embodiment.

[0124] Referring to FIG. 12, a user interface 1220 may be an application history bar or a toolset bar. In this regard, if a finger moves to a screen that is to be executed while a single item included in the user interface 1220 has been tapped, a function indicated by the single item may be performed on the screen. For example, in the present embodiment, if the finger moves to a screen 1250 that is executed by tapping a note application icon 1225 included in the application history bar, a note application may be executed and displayed on the screen 1250.

[0125] FIG. 13 is a diagram for describing a process of changing a screen mode and displaying an application history, according to an embodiment;

[0126] Referring to FIG. 13, a user executes a gallery application on the flexible device 100. In this regard, it is assumed that the user performs a folding-flap input to the flexible device 100 on the gallery application. The flexible device 100 may display a screen by changing a display mode to a split mode according to the folding-flap input. In the present embodiment, an image file may be displayed on a boundary upper end of a split screen in a thumbnail and a specific image file may be previewed on a boundary lower end of the split screen. In this regard, if the user moves user's two fingers up on a display, the display mode may be changed to a full screen mode. In this regard, a full screen may preview the specific image file. If the user moves user's two fingers down again on the full screen, the full screen mode may be changed to the split mode and thus the split screen may be displayed.

[0127] Meanwhile, if the user repeatedly moves user's fingers down while the full screen mode is used, an application screen executed on a background and a current screen may be displayed in an overlapping form 1320 like a bookshelf. The user may check a previously executed appli-

cation through a screen displayed in the overlapping form 1320. In this regard, if the user moves user's fingers down, a current application may be changed to the application screen executed on the background.

[0128] FIG. 14 is a diagram for describing a process of checking a real-time notification according to an embodiment.

[0129] Referring to FIG. 14, if a notification event occurs in the flexible device 100, the flexible device 100 may display a notification icon 1410. In this regard, if a user performs a folding-hold input to the flexible device 100, a popup 1430 indicative of a message corresponding to a notification may be displayed on a portion adjacent to a folded boundary 1420. However, the present embodiment is not limited thereto. If the user performs the folding-hold input to the flexible device 100, the flexible device 100 may check detailed content of the message corresponding to the notification by automatically executing an application in which the notification event occurs.

[0130] If the user checks the content of the message and performs a folding-hold release input to the flexible device 100, the popup 1430 may disappear. However, the present embodiment is not limited thereto. If the user performs the folding-hold release input to the flexible device 100, the flexible device 100 may end the application in which the notification event occurs and return to a previously used application.

[0131] In this regard, the folding-hold input may mean an input of folding the flexible device 100 at more than a predetermined angle and holding the flexible device 100 while the flexible device 100 is used, and the folding-hold release input may mean an input of folding the flexible device 100 at more than a predetermined angle and releasing the flexible device 100.

[0132] For example, the folding-hold input may mean an input of folding the flexible device 100 at 30 or more degrees and holding the flexible device 100 while the flexible device 100 is used, and the folding-hold release input may mean an input of folding the flexible device 100 at 30 or more degrees and releasing the flexible device 100.

[0133] FIG. 15 is a diagram for describing a process in which a user uses a user interface in an executed gallery application according to an embodiment.

[0134] Referring to FIG. 15, a user executes a gallery application in the flexible device 100. In this regard, it is assumed that the user performs a folding-flap input to the flexible device 100 on the gallery application. The flexible device 100 may display a screen by changing a display mode to a split mode according to the folding-flap input.

[0135] If the user performs the folding-flap input to the flexible device 100, a user interface 1520 may be generated. In this regard, it is assumed that the user interface 1520 may be a toolset bar. If the user taps one of items of the toolset bar by using a user's finger, a corresponding function may be performed. For example, if the user may tap a pencil icon 1525 by using the user's finger, a popup 1530 for selecting a color of a pencil that is to be colored may be executed. In this regard, the user may continuously tap the pencil icon 1525 twice by using the user's finger, and the popup 1530 for selecting the color of the pencil that is to be colored may expand, and thus the expanded popup 1530 may be displayed on a lower screen 1540 of a screen boundary 1510.

[0136] FIG. 16 is a diagram for describing a process in which a user uses a user interface in an executed gallery application according to another embodiment.

[0137] Referring to FIG. 16, a user performs a folding-flap input to the flexible device 100. The flexible device 100 may receive the folding-flap input and display a user interface 1620. In this regard, the displayed user interface 1620 may be a toolset bar. In this regard, if the user moves a user's finger from the left of a left boundary of the user interface 1620 to the right, the user interface 1620 may be switched. In this regard, the displayed user interface 1620 may be an application history bar. Among icons included in the application history bar, if the user moves the user's finger from an icon indicative of the Internet below a boundary 1610, the Internet may be executed below the boundary 1610. In this regard, a gallery preview screen that was originally displayed on the lower end of the boundary 1610 may be moved to an upper end of the boundary 1610 and displayed. Thereafter, if the user performs the folding-flap input to the flexible device 100, the user interface 1620 may disappear.

[0138] FIG. 17 is a diagram for describing a process in which a user checks a real-time notification according to an embodiment.

[0139] If a notification event occurs, a notification icon 1710 may be displayed on the flexible device 100. In this regard, if a user performs a folding-hold input to the flexible device 100, a message 1720 simply indicative of notification event content may be displayed on a screen. However, the present embodiment is not limited thereto. If the user performs the folding-hold input to the flexible device 100, the flexible device 100 may automatically execute an application in which the notification event occurs so that the user may check detailed content of a message corresponding to a notification.

[0140] After the user checks the notification event content, if the user performs a folding-hold release input to the flexible device 100, the message 1720 indicative of the notification event content may disappear from the screen. However, the present embodiment is not limited thereto. If the user performs the folding-hold release input to the flexible device 100, the flexible device 100 may end the application in which the notification event occurs and return to a previously used application.

[0141] FIG. 18 is a diagram for describing a process of displaying a user interface on a specific portion when a user folds a flexible device according to another embodiment.

[0142] When a user performs a folding-flap input to the flexible device 100, the user may asymmetrically fold the flexible device 100. When the flexible device 100 is asymmetrically folded, a portion 1810 may not be covered. When the user releases the flexible device 100 again, a user interface 1820 may be displayed on the portion 1810 that is not covered.

[0143] The embodiments described above can be written as computer programs and can be implemented in general-use digital computers that execute the programs using a computer-readable recording medium.

[0144] Examples of the computer-readable recording medium include magnetic storage media (e.g., ROM, floppy disks, hard disks, etc.), optical recording media (e.g., CD-ROMs, or DVDs), etc.

[0145] While one or more embodiments have been described with reference to the figures, it will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art that various changes in

form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope as defined by the following claims. Therefore, it should be understood that embodiments described herein should be considered in a descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation.

1. A method of providing a user interface in a flexible device, the method comprising:

determining whether the flexible device is released;
displaying at least one user interface on the flexible device on the basis of the determination; and
receiving a touch input with respect to the displayed at least one user interface.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining whether the flexible device is released comprises:
determining whether the flexible device is folded and released.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining whether a touch input in a first direction is received on the at least one user interface; and
when it is determined that the touch input in the first direction is received, switching and displaying the displayed at least one user interface to another user interface.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining a boundary of a plurality of regions that are displayed; and
displaying the plurality of regions according to the determined boundary.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the displaying of the at least one user interface comprises:
displaying the at least one user interface on a portion adjacent to the boundary.

6. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
determining whether a touch input toward another region from a predetermined region including the boundary is received;

changing a location of the boundary according to the touch input toward another region from the predetermined region including the boundary; and
displaying the plurality of regions according to the determined region.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining whether a touch input in a second direction toward an outside of the at least one user interface is received on a single item included in the at least one user interface; and

performing a function indicated by the single item based on the received touch input in the second direction toward the outside of the at least one user interface.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the displaying of the at least one user interface comprises:

determining whether the flexible device is asymmetrically folded; and

when it is determined that the flexible device is asymmetrically folded, dividing the flexible device into a first surface and a second surface with respect to a folded boundary and displaying the at least one user interface on a part of the second surface that is not covered by the first surface of the flexible device.

9. A flexible device comprising:

a sensor configured to sense deformation of the flexible device;

a user input receiver configured to receive an input from the sensor;

a determiner configured to determine whether the flexible device is released based on the received input;

a display configured to display a screen; and

a controller configured to control the display to display at least one user interface on the basis of the determination,

wherein the user interface receiver receives a touch input with respect to the displayed at least one user interface.

10. The flexible device of claim 9, wherein the determiner determines whether the flexible device is folded and released based on the received input.

11. The flexible device of claim 9,

wherein the determiner determines whether a touch input in a first direction is received on the at least one user interface, and

wherein, when the determiner determines that the touch input in the first direction is received, the controller controls the display to switch and display the displayed at least one user interface to another user interface.

12. The flexible device of claim 9,

wherein the determiner determines a boundary of a plurality of regions that are displayed, and
wherein the controller controls the display to display the plurality of regions according to the determined boundary.

13. The flexible device of claim 12, wherein the controller controls the display to display the at least one user interface on a portion adjacent to the boundary.

14. The flexible device of claim 13,

wherein the determiner determines whether a touch input toward another region from a predetermined region including the boundary is received, and

wherein the controller changes a location of the boundary according to the touch input toward another region from the predetermined region including the boundary and controls the display to display the plurality of regions according to the determined region.

15. A non-transitory computer-readable recording medium having recorded thereon at least one computer program comprising commands which, when executed by a computer, performs the method of claim 1.

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