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Electronic device, method, and non-transitory computer-readable storage medium for displaying visual object for changing size of display region of flexible display

Abstract

An electronic device is provided. The electronic device includes a housing, a flexible display configured to slide into or out of the housing, an actuator configured to pull in at least a portion of the flexible display into the housing or pull out at least a portion of the flexible display from the housing, a memory, and a processor. The processor is configured to display a visual object for guiding to change a state of a display region to a reference state, based on identifying that the state of the display region is distinguished from the reference state.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S) (1) This application is a continuation application, claiming priority under § 365(c), of an International application No. PCT/KR2022/020389, filed on Dec. 14, 2022, which is based on and claims the benefit of a Korean patent application number 10-2022-0046572, filed on Apr. 14, 2022, in the Korean Intellectual Property Office, and of a Korean patent application number 10-2022-0086597, filed on Jul. 13, 2022, in the Korean Intellectual Property Office, the disclosure of each of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

(1) The disclosure relates to an electronic device, a method, and a non-transitory computer-readable storage medium for displaying a visual object for changing a size of a display region of a flexible display.

BACKGROUND ART

(2) An electronic device including a flexible display such as e.g., a rollable display may provide a state in which a part of the flexible display is slid into a housing of the electronic device and a state in which the part of the flexible display is exposed outside the housing. The electronic device can provide a relatively wide display region while having a relatively compact structure by means of providing those states.

(3) The above information is presented as background information only to assist with an understanding of the disclosure. No determination has been made, and no assertion is made, as to

whether any of the above might be applicable as prior art with regard to the disclosure.

DISCLOSURE

Technical Solution

(4) In accordance with an aspect of the disclosure, an electronic device is provided. The electronic device includes a housing, a flexible display configured to slide into or out of the housing, an actuator configured to pull in at least a portion of the flexible display into the housing or pull out at least a portion of the flexible display from the housing, a memory configured to store instructions, and a processor operatively coupled to the flexible display. The processor may be configured to receive a user input for changing an execution state of a software application when the instructions are executed, when the instructions are executed, identify whether a state of a display region of the flexible display exposed out of the housing is a reference state, in response to the user input, when the instructions are executed, display a visual object for guiding to change the state of the display region to the reference state, based on identifying that the state of the display region is distinguished from the reference state, when the instructions are executed, control the actuator to change a size of the display region from a first size to a second size corresponding to the reference state, based at least in part on the user input received while the visual object is displayed, and when the instructions are executed, display a user interface of the software application in the display region having the second size.

(5) In accordance with another aspect of the disclosure, a method for operating an electronic device including a housing, a flexible display that is slidable into or slidable out of the housing, and an actuator for pulling in at least a portion of the flexible display into the housing or pulling out at least a portion of the flexible display from the housing is provided. The method includes receiving a user input for changing an execution state of a software application. The method includes identifying whether a state of a display region of the flexible display exposed out of the housing is a reference state, in response to the user input. The method includes displaying a visual object for guiding to change the state of the display region to the reference state, based on identifying that the state of the display region is distinguished from the reference state. The method includes changing a size of the display region from a first size to a second size corresponding to the reference state through the actuator, based at least in part on the user input received while the visual object is displayed. The method includes displaying a user interface of the software application in the display region having the second size.

(6) In accordance with another aspect of the disclosure, a non-transitory computer-readable storage medium is provided. The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium stores at least one program including instructions that, when executed by a processor of an electronic device including a housing, a flexible display that is slidable into or slidable out of the housing, and an actuator for pulling in at least a portion of the flexible display into the housing or pulling out at least a portion of the flexible display from the housing, cause the electronic device to receive a user input for changing an execution state of a software application when the instructions are executed. The at least one program includes instructions that causes, when executed by the processor of the electronic device, the electronic device to identify whether a state of a display region of the flexible display exposed out of the housing is a reference state, in response to the user input. The at least one program includes instructions that causes, when executed by the processor of the electronic device, the electronic device to display a visual object for guiding to change the state of the display region to the reference state, based on identifying that the state of the display region is distinguished from the reference state. The at least one program includes instructions that causes, when executed by the processor of the electronic device, the electronic device to change a size of the display region from a first size to a second size corresponding to the reference state through the actuator, based at least in part on the user input received while the visual object is displayed. The at least one program includes instructions that causes, when executed by the processor of the electronic device, the electronic device to display a user interface of the software application in the

display region having the second size.

(7) In accordance with another aspect of the disclosure, an electronic device is provided. The electronic device includes a housing, a flexible display that is slidable into or slidable out of the housing, an actuator for pulling in at least a portion of the flexible display into the housing or pulling out at least a portion of the flexible display from the housing, a memory configured to store instructions, and a processor operatively coupled to the flexible display. The processor may be configured to identify, when the instructions are executed, that, while a user interface of a software application is displayed, a content in the user interface is intersected with an edge of a display region of the flexible display exposed out of the housing. The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, display a visual object for guiding to change a state of the display region around the content, based on the identifying. The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, extend the display region through the actuator to resume displaying of a portion of the content that was interrupted according to the intersection with the edge, in response to a user input on the visual object.

(8) In accordance with another aspect of the disclosure, a method for operating an electronic device including a housing, a flexible display that is slidable into or slidable out of the housing, and an actuator for pulling in at least a portion of the flexible display into the housing or pulling-out at least a portion of the flexible display from the housing is provided. The method includes identifying that, while a user interface of a software application is displayed, a content in the user interface is intersected with an edge of a display region of the flexible display exposed out of the housing. The method includes displaying a visual object for guiding to change a state of the display region around the content, based on the identifying. The method includes extending the display region through the actuator to resume displaying of a portion of the content that was interrupted upon the intersection with the edge, in response to a user input on the visual object.

(9) In accordance with another aspect of the disclosure, a non-transitory computer-readable storage medium is provided. The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium stores at least one program including instructions that, when executed by a processor of an electronic device including a housing, a flexible display that is slidable into or slidable out of the housing, and an actuator for pulling-in at least a portion of the flexible display into the housing or pulling-out at least a portion of the flexible display from the housing, cause the electronic device to identify that, while a user interface of a software application is displayed, a content in the user interface is intersected with an edge of a display region of the flexible display exposed out of the housing. The at least one program includes instructions that, when executed by the processor of the electronic device, cause the electronic device to display a visual object for guiding to change a state of the display region around the content, based on the identifying. The at least one program includes instructions that, when executed by the processor of the electronic device, cause the electronic device to extend the display region through the actuator to resume displaying of a portion of the content that was interrupted upon the intersection with the edge, in response to a user input on the visual object.

Description

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) The above and other aspects, features, and advantages of certain embodiments of the disclosure will be more apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

(2) FIG. 1 illustrates elements of an electronic device according to an embodiment of the disclosure;

(3) FIG. 2 illustrates an example of a change in size of a display region of a flexible display of an electronic device according to an embodiment of the disclosure;

(4) FIG. 3 illustrates an example method of displaying a visual object for changing a size of a display region according to an embodiment of the disclosure;

(5) FIGS. 4 and 5 illustrate examples of user inputs for changing an execution state of a software application according to various embodiments of the disclosure;

(6) FIGS. 6, 7, 8A, and 8B each illustrate examples of visual objects for changing a size of a display region according to various embodiments of the disclosure;

(7) FIG. 9 illustrates an example method of displaying information for identifying whether to change a size of a display region according to an embodiment of the disclosure;

(8) FIG. 10 illustrates an example of information for identifying whether to change a size of a display region according to an embodiment of the disclosure;

(9) FIG. 11 illustrates an example method of displaying other visual object according to an embodiment of the disclosure;

(10) FIGS. 12 and 13 illustrate examples of other visual objects according to various embodiments of the disclosure;

(11) FIG. 14 illustrates an example method for adaptively changing a size of a display region according to a user input for an image associated with a visual object according to an embodiment of the disclosure;

(12) FIG. 15 illustrates an example of an adaptive change in size of a display region according to a user input according to an embodiment of the disclosure;

(13) FIG. 16 illustrates an example method of ceasing displaying of a visual object with the lapse of a predetermined time according to an embodiment of the disclosure;

(14) FIG. 17 illustrates an example of a visual object of which displaying ceases with the lapse of a predetermined time according to an embodiment of the disclosure;

(15) FIG. 18 illustrates an example method of identifying a size of a display region by means of at least one input to a visual object according to an embodiment of the disclosure;

(16) FIG. 19 illustrates an example of a visual object including a visual element for identifying a size of a display region according to an embodiment of the disclosure;

(17) FIG. 20 illustrates an example method of displaying a visual object based on identification of a content intersected with a periphery of a display region according to an embodiment of the disclosure;

(18) FIG. 21 illustrates an example of a visual object displayed based on identification of a content intersected with a periphery of a display region according to an embodiment of the disclosure;

(19) FIG. 22A is a front view illustrating a first state of an electronic device according to an embodiment of the disclosure;

(20) FIG. 22B is a rear view illustrating a first state of an electronic device according to an embodiment of the disclosure;

(21) FIG. 22C is a front view illustrating a second state of an electronic device according to an embodiment of the disclosure;

(22) FIG. 22D is a rear view illustrating a second state of an electronic device according to an embodiment of the disclosure;

(23) FIG. 23A is an exploded perspective view of an electronic device according to an embodiment of the disclosure; and

(24) FIG. 23B is a cross-sectional view illustrating an example of the electronic device according to an embodiment taken along a line A-A' of FIG. 22A according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

(25) The same reference numerals are used to represent the same elements throughout the drawings.

MODE FOR INVENTION

(26) An electronic device may comprise a flexible display that is at least partially slidable into a housing of the electronic device or at least partially slidable out of the housing. A size of a display region of the flexible display exposed outside the housing may be changed according to the sliding-

in or sliding-out operation. For example, the size of the display region may be changed from a first size to a second size different from the first size according to the sliding-in or sliding-out operation. For example, a user experience provided through the display region having the first size may be different from a user experience provided through the display region having the second size. Accordingly, there are demands for a solution for adaptively changing the size of the display region according to circumstances.

(27) FIG. 1 illustrates elements of an electronic device according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

(28) Referring to FIG. 1, an electronic device **101** may be implemented with an electronic device **2001** illustrated in FIG. 20, an electronic device **2200** illustrated in FIGS. 22A to 22D, and an electronic device **2200** illustrated in FIGS. 23A and 23B.

(29) The electronic device **101** may include a processor **120**, a memory **130**, a flexible display **140**, and an actuator **150**. The processor **120** may be operatively coupled with the memory **130**, the flexible display **140**, and the actuator **150**.

(30) The memory **130** may store one or more programs (or one or more software applications) including instructions. The instructions may be included to execute at least some of the operations illustrated through the descriptions of FIGS. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8A, 8B, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21.

(31) The flexible display **140** may change a display state of a display region of the flexible display **140** based on the control of the processor **120**.

(32) The actuator **150** may include a driving unit **2260** illustrated in FIGS. 23A and 23B. The actuator **150** may be configured to pull-in at least a portion of the flexible display **140** into the housing of the electronic device **101** or pull-out at least a portion of the flexible display **140** from the housing, based on the control of the processor **120**.

(33) The flexible display **140** may be at least partially pulled-in into the housing of the electronic device **101** by means of the actuator **150**. The flexible display **140** may be a display that can be at least partially rolled up into the housing. The flexible display **140** may be at least partially pulled-out from the housing through by means of the actuator **150**. The flexible display **140** may be at least partially exposed outside the housing. The flexible display **140** may include a display region at least partially exposed out of the housing. The flexible display **140** may provide a plurality of states according to the pull-in into the housing or the pull-out from the housing. A size of the display region may be different from each other in each of the plurality of states. An example of the plurality of states provided by the flexible display **140** is provided below with reference to FIG. 2.

(34) FIG. 2 illustrates an example of a change in an area of the display region of a display of an electronic device according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

(35) Referring to FIG. 2, the flexible display **140** may provide a first state **210**, as one of the plurality of states, in which a portion of the flexible display **140** is exposed and the other portion of the flexible display **140** is inserted into a first housing **201** amongst the first housing **201** and a second housing **202**. The first state **210** may be a state in which a viewable area of a minimum area (or size) is provided. The first state **210** may be a state in which the flexible display **140** provides a display region of a minimum area. In the first state **210**, the display region having the minimum area may be referred to as a first area **220**. In the first state **210**, an area of the flexible display **140** that is inserted into the first housing **201** may be referred to as a second area **230**. In the first state **210**, the first area **220** may be a viewable area. In the first state **210**, the first area **220** may be an area exposed outside the first housing **201**. In the first state **210**, the second area **230** may be a non-viewable area inserted into the first housing **201**. In the first state **210**, the second area **230** may be an area covered with the first housing **201** by being inserted into the first housing **201**. For convenience of explanation, the disclosure assumes that the first housing **201** and the second housing **202** are formed of an opaque material and is not viewable when the second area **230** is inserted into the first housing **201**. However, the disclosure is only an example, and at least a

portion of the first housing **201** and/or the second housing **202** may be formed of a transparent material. In such a case, even when the second area **230** is inserted into the first housing **201**, at least a portion of the second area **230** may be viewable through the first housing **201**.

(36) The flexible display **140** may provide a second state **250**, as another state of the plurality of states, in which the flexible display **140** is exposed to the maximum. The second state **250** may be a state in which the flexible display **140** provides a viewable area of a maximum area (or size). The second state **250** may be a state in which the flexible display **140** provides a display region of a maximum area. In the second state **250**, both the first area **220** and the second area **230** may be viewable areas. In the second state **250**, the first area **220** and the second area **230** may be an area exposed out of the first housing **201**.

(37) Although not shown in FIG. 2, the flexible display **140** may provide an intermediate state between the first state **210** and the second state **250**. The intermediate state may refer to a state in which the first area **220** and a portion of the second area **230** are exposed and the remaining portion of the second area **230** is inserted into the first housing **201**. In the intermediate state, the first area **220** and the portion of the second area **230** may be viewable regions. In the intermediate state, the first area **220** and the portion of the second area **230** may be regions exposed outside the first housing **201**. In the intermediate state, the remaining portion of the second area **230** may be a non-viewable region inserted into the first housing **201**. In the intermediate state, the remaining portion of the second area **230** may be a display region covered with the first housing **201** being drawn into the first housing **201**.

(38) FIG. 2 illustrates an example in which the second housing **202** is moved or slid in a first direction **235** for switching from the first state **210** to the second state **250**, but it is merely for convenience of explanation. For example, depending on the implementation or design of the electronic device **101**, the first housing **201** may be moved or slid in a second direction **237** opposite to the first direction **235**, for switching from the first state **210** to the second state **250**.

(39) The direction in which the display region is extended in case the display region is changed from the first state **210** to the second state **250**, and the direction in which the display region is reduced in case the display region is changed from the second state **250** to the first state **210**, may vary depending on a type of the electronic device **101**. For example, the electronic device **101** may be implemented as the electronic device **260** including the flexible display **140** providing the display region extending in a first horizontal direction or reducing in a second horizontal direction opposite to the first horizontal direction, in a portrait mode. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(40) FIG. 3 illustrates an example method of displaying a visual object for changing a size of a display region according to an embodiment of the disclosure. This method may be executed by the electronic device **101** or the processor **120** of the electronic device **101** illustrated in FIG. 1.

(41) FIGS. 4 and 5 each illustrate examples of user inputs for changing an execution state of a software application according to various embodiments of the disclosure.

(42) FIGS. 6, 7, 8A, and 8B each illustrate example visual objects for changing the size of the display region according to various embodiments of the disclosure.

(43) Referring to FIG. 3, in operation **301**, the processor **120** may receive a user input for changing an execution state of a software application.

(44) The user input may be a user input for changing a state in which the software application is executed in a background to another state in which the software application is executed in a foreground. For example, the user input may be a user input for changing a state in which a user interface of a software application in execution is not displayed to another state in which the user interface is displayed.

(45) The user input may be a user input for displaying a screen including a list of software applications in execution in the electronic device **101**. For example, the user input may be a user input for calling the screen to change the state of each of the software applications from a state

executed in the background to a state executed in the foreground, or change the state of each of the software applications from a state executed in the foreground to a state executed in the background. (46) For example, referring to FIG. 4, the processor **120** may display, in a state **400**, a home screen **401** and a navigation bar **402**. The processor **120** may receive, in the state **400**, a user input **404** for an executable object **403** in the navigation bar **402** as the user input for displaying the screen. The processor **120** may change the state **400** to a state **410** in response to the user input **404**. In the state **410**, the processor **120** may display a screen **411** including a list of the software applications being executed in the electronic device **101**. In the state **410**, the screen **411** may include an image **412** corresponding to a user interface of a first software application having a reduced size amongst the software applications being executed in the electronic device **101**. In the state **410**, the screen **411** may further include a portion of an image **413** corresponding to a user interface of a second software application having a reduced size amongst the software applications and a portion of an image **414** corresponding to a user interface of a third software application having a reduced size amongst the software applications. For example, the screen **411** may be referred to as a recent apps (recent apps), an app switcher (app switcher), or a task manager, but the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(47) As another example, the processor **120** may display the home screen **401** in a state **420**. The processor **120** may receive, in the state **420**, a touch input **422** caused around an edge **421** of the home screen **401**, as the user input for displaying the screen, the touch input **422** having a predetermined pattern. The processor **120** may change the state **420** to the state **410** in response to the touch input **422**, but the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(48) Referring back to FIG. 3, the user input may be a user input for executing the software application. For example, the user input may be a user input for changing the state in which the software application is not executed to the state in which the software application is executed. In another example, the user input may be a user input in which an operating system (OS) installed in the electronic device **101** provides the software application with a process identifier.

(49) For example, referring to FIG. 5, in a state **500**, the processor **120** may display the home screen **501**. In the state **500**, the processor **120** may receive a user input **503** for an executable object **502** in the home screen **501** for executing a software application, as the user input for executing the software application, but the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(50) Referring back to FIG. 3, in operation **303**, the processor **120** may identify that the state of the display region of the flexible display **140** exposed out of the housing (e.g., the first housing **201**) of the electronic device **101** is distinguished from a reference state, based on the user input received in operation **301**.

(51) The state of the display region may be identified based on identifying a size of the display region when the user input is received.

(52) Identifying the state of the display region may include identifying that the display region has a first size corresponding to the first state **210** illustrated through the description of FIG. 2.

Identifying the state of the display region may also include identifying that the display region has a second size corresponding to the second state **250** illustrated through the description of FIG. 2.

Identifying the state of the display region may also include identifying that the display region has a third size corresponding to the intermediate state illustrated through the description of FIG. 2.

(53) Identifying the state of the display region may include identifying that the display region has a first height corresponding to the first state **210** illustrated through the description of FIG. 2.

Identifying the state of the display region may include identifying that the display region has a second height corresponding to the second state **250** illustrated through the description of FIG. 2.

Identifying the state of the display region may include identifying that the display region has a third height corresponding to the intermediate state illustrated through the description of FIG. 2.

(54) In response to the user input, the processor **120** may identify whether the state of the display region is the reference state, and may identify that the state of the display region is distinguished

from the reference state based on identifying that the state of the display region is not the reference state.

(55) The reference state may be a state of the display region when the user interface of the software application has been displayed before the user input is received in operation **301**. For example, when the user interface has been displayed in the first state **210** defined through the description of FIG. 2 before the user input is received, the reference state may be the first state **210**. As another example, when the user interface has been displayed in the second state **250** defined through the description of FIG. 2 before the user input is received, the reference state may be the second state **250**. As another example, when the user interface has been displayed in the intermediate state defined through the description of FIG. 2 before the user input is received, the reference state may be the intermediate state.

(56) When the user interface that has been last (or most recently) displayed before the user input is received is a user interface **1021** to be illustrated below with reference to FIG. 10, the reference state is a state **1020**. When the user interface that has been last displayed before the user input is received is a user interface **1221** to be illustrated below with reference to FIG. 12, the reference state may be a state **1220**. When the user interface that has been last displayed before the user input is received is a user interface **1321** to be illustrated below with reference to FIG. 13, the reference state may be a state **1320**. When the user interface that has been last displayed before the user input is received is a user interface **1511**, the reference state may be a state **1510**. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(57) The processor **120** may store data on a state of the display region while displaying the user interface under a condition that the user interface is displayed, and identify the reference state in response to the user input, using the stored data.

(58) The data may be stored in response to a change in the execution state of the software application. For example, in response to identifying that the execution state of the software application changes from a foreground state to a background state, the processor **120** may store the data on the state (or size) of the display region immediately before changing to the background state. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(59) The data may be stored in response to identifying the change in the size of the display region while the user interface is displayed. For example, in case where the state of the display region is changed multiple times while the user interface is displayed, the processor **120** may store and update the data whenever the state of the display region changes. The processor **120** may store the data on the most recent state of the display region based on the update; however, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(60) The data may include a value indicating a width of the display region and/or a value indicating a height of the display region. The data may include a value indicating a width of the user interface and/or a value indicating a height of the user interface. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(61) The reference state may be a state of the display region that has been most frequently provided to display the user interface. For example, when the user interface is displayed 'a' number of times in the display region having a first size and is displayed 'b' number of times, which is larger than the number 'a', in the display region having a second size, the reference state may be a state of providing the display region having the second size. For example, the reference state may be identified based on past display heuristics including a usage history of the software application. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(62) The reference state may be a state of the display region identified based on a user input. For example, the processor **120** may receive the user input for setting a state (e.g., size) of the display region when displaying the user interface. The processor **120** may identify the reference state based on the user input. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(63) The reference state may be a state of the display region identified based on arrangement of

content in the user interface. In response to the user input, the processor **120** may identify the arrangement of the content in the user interface, and identify the reference state as a state of the display region having a width or a height corresponding to the arrangement of the content. The processor **120** may identify the reference state as either one of the first state **210**, the second state **250**, and the intermediate state, based on the identified arrangement. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(64) The reference state may be a state of the display region identified based on attributes of at least some of the content in the user interface. In response to the user input, the processor **120** may identify attributes of at least some of the content, and identify a state of the display region having a width or a height corresponding to the identified attributes, as the reference state. The processor **120** may identify the reference state as either one of the first state **210**, the second state **250**, and the intermediate state, based on the identified attributes. The processor **120** may identify the reference state as the first state **210**, based on identifying that the aspect ratio of at least some of the content is 1:1. The processor **120** may identify the reference state as the second state **250**, based on identifying that the height of at least some of the content is greater than the width of at least some of the content. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(65) The reference state may be a state of the display region identified based on the size of content in the user interface. In response to the user input, the processor **120** may identify a size of each of the content, and identify a state of the display region having a width or a height corresponding to the identified size, as the reference state can do. The processor **120** may identify the reference state as one of the first state **210**, the second state **250**, and the intermediate state, based on the identified size. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(66) The reference state may be a state of the display region identified based on the number of content items displayed in the user interface. For example, in case where the number of the content items in the user interface in the first state **210** is equal to the number of the content in the user interface in the second state **250**, the processor **120** may identify the reference state as the first state **210**. As another example, in case where the number of the content items in the user interface in the first state **210** is less than the number of the content items in the user interface in the second state **250**, the processor **120** may identify the reference state as the second state **250**. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(67) In operation **305**, the processor **120** may display a visual object for guiding to change the state of the display region to the reference state, based on identifying that the state of the display region is distinguished from the reference state.

(68) The visual object may be displayed in the screen including a list of software applications being executed in the electronic device **101**. The visual object may be displayed in association with an image corresponding to the user interface of the software application having a reduced size.

(69) For example, referring to FIG. **6**, in a state **600**, while the display region has a first size corresponding to the first state **210**, the processor **120** may display a visual object **603** associated with an image **602** corresponding to the user interface of the software application having a reduced size, in the screen **601** including the list of software applications being executed in the electronic device **101**. The visual object **603** may have a representation for indicating a second size, which is a size of the display region corresponding to the reference state, in order to indicate that the state of the display region is different from the reference state. The visual object **603**, together with the image **602**, may indicate the size of the user interface of the software application to be displayed in the display region having the second size.

(70) The visual object **603** may be extended from an edge **604** of the image **602** by a height **605** corresponding to a difference between the first size and the second size. The height **605** may be changed depending on the difference between the first size and the second size. For example, when the second size corresponds to the second state **250**, the height **605** may be 'Ha', and when the second size corresponds to an intermediate state between the first state **210** and the second state

205, the height **605** may be 'Hb' which is shorter than 'Ha'. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto; for example, the height **605** may be independent of the difference between the first size and the second size.

(71) The height **605** may correspond to a ratio of the first size to the second size. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto; for example, the height **605** may be independent of the ratio of the first size to the second size.

(72) The visual object **603** may further include a visual element **610** for indicating a direction in which the user interface of the software application is extended when the display region is changed to the second size. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(73) Although FIG. **6** illustrates an example in which visual object **603** is extended from the edge **604** of the image **602**, the visual object **603** may be extended from an edge **611** of the image **602**. The visual object **603** extending from the edge **611** of the image **602** may further include a visual element for indicating a direction opposite to the direction in which the user interface extends. For example, a shape of the visual element may correspond to that of the visual element **610**. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(74) As another example, referring to FIG. **7**, in a state **700**, while the display region has the first size corresponding to the second state **250**, the processor **120** may display a visual object **703** associated with an image **702** corresponding to the user interface of a software application having a reduced size, in a screen **701** including a list of the software applications being executed in the electronic device **101**. The image **702** may have the second size, which is a size to indicate the reference state, unlike the image **602** in the state **600**. The image **702** may correspond to the user interface displayed in the display region having the second size corresponding to the first state **210**. In order to indicate that the state of the display region is different from the reference state, the visual object **703** may have a representation for indicating a difference between the first size and the second size (or a ratio of the first size to the second size) of the display region, unlike the visual object **603** in the state **600**. Since the size of the area that are occupied by the image **702** and the visual object **703** adjacent to the image **702** corresponds to the first size, the visual object **703** may represent the difference. The visual object **703** may be extended by a height **705** corresponding to the difference between the first size and the second size (or a ratio of the first size to the second size) from an edge **704** of the image **702**. The height **705** may change depending on the difference between the first size and the second size. For example, when the second size corresponds to the intermediate state between the first state **210** and the second state **250**, the height **705** may be 'Hc', and when the second size corresponds to the first state, the height **705** may be which is greater than 'Hc'. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto. For example, the height **705** may be independent of the difference between the first size and the second size (or the ratio of the first size to the second size).

(75) The visual object **703** may further include a visual element **710** for indicating a direction in which the user interface of the software application is reduced when the display region is changed to the second size. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(76) Although FIG. **7** illustrates an example case where the visual object **703** extends from the edge **704** of the image **702**, the visual object **703** may extend from an edge **711** of the image **702**. For example, the visual object **703** extending from the edge **711** of the image **702** may further include a visual element for indicating a direction in which the user interface or the display region is to be reduced. A shape of the visual element may correspond to that of the visual element **710**. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(77) Although FIG. **7** illustrates an example case that the visual object **703** is adjacent to the image **702**, it is only for convenience of description. For example, the visual object **703** may be replaced with another visual object superimposed on the image **702**. The other visual object may be superimposed on the image **702** at a location adjacent to the edge **704**. The other visual object may be superimposed on the image **702** at a location adjacent to the edge **711**. A shape of the other

visual object may correspond to that of the visual element **710**.

(78) Referring again to FIG. **3**, the visual object may be displayed together with a user interface of the software application. For example, when the user input received in operation **301** is a user input to execute the software application, the processor **120** may display the visual object together with the user interface displayed in response to the execution of the software application, based on identifying that the state of the display region is distinguished from the reference state.

(79) For example, referring to FIG. **8A**, the processor **120** may provide a state **800**, based on identifying that the state of the display region is distinguished from the reference state, in response to a user input **503** received in the state **500**. For example, in the state **800**, the processor **120** may display, in the display region having the first size, a visual object **802**, which is the visual object, together with a user interface **801** of the software application executed in response to user input **503**. The visual object **802** may be displayed at a position where the user input **503** was received in operation **301**. For example, the visual object **802** may be displayed at the position where the user input **503** was received, so as to guide that it may be more appropriate to change the size of the display region to the second size. According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the visual object **802** may be superimposed or floated on the user interface **801**. For example, the visual object **802** may be moved according to a drag input to the visual object **802**. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(80) The visual object, such as the visual object **802**, may have various shapes.

(81) The visual object may include a visual element for indicating the second size corresponding to the reference state. For example, the visual object may include a bar-shaped indicator **803** including a gauge corresponding to the second size. The gauge in the bar-shaped indicator **803** may be provided to illustrate a length corresponding to the second size. The state of the gauge of the bar-shaped indicator **803** may vary depending on the second size. For example, when the second size corresponds to the first state **210**, the bar-shaped indicator **803** may be displayed as a state **803-1**; when the second size corresponds to the intermediate state in between the first state **210** and the second state **250**, the bar-shaped indicator **803** may be displayed as a state **803-2**; and the second size corresponds to the second state **250**, the bar-shaped indicator **803** may be displayed as a state **803-3**.

(82) As another example, the visual object may include a visual element to indicate the second size, and to indicate whether the change from the first size to the second size is either a reduction in the display region or an extension in the display region. The visual object may include a visual element **804** having a length corresponding to the second size and having a different shape according to whether the change from the first size to the second size is a reduction in the display region or an extension in the display region. In the case where the first size corresponds to the first state **210** and the second size corresponds to the second state **250**, the visual element **804** may be displayed as the state **804-1**; in the case where the first size corresponds to the first state **210** and the second size corresponds to the intermediate state between the first state **210** and the second state **250**, the visual element **804** may be displayed as the state **804-2**; in the case where the first size corresponds to the second state **250** and the second size corresponds to the first state **210**, the visual element **804** may be displayed as the state **804-3**; and in the case where the first size corresponds to the second state **250** and the second size corresponds to the intermediate state, the visual element **804** may be displayed as the state **804-4**.

(83) The visual object may include a visual element including text to indicate the second size, and including an arrow **807** to indicate whether the change from the first size to the second size is a reduction in the display region or an extension in the display region. For example, the visual object may include a visual element **805** having a length corresponding to the second size, including text **806** corresponding to the second size, and including arrows to indicate whether the change from the first size to the second size is a reduction in the display region or an extension in the display region. When the change from the first size to the second size is an extension in the display region, the

visual element **805** may be displayed as state **805-1**, state **805-2**, or state **805-3**, while when the change from the first size to the second size is a reduction in the display region, the visual element **805** may be displayed as state **805-4**, state **805-5**, or state **805-6**.

(84) Referring back to FIG. 3, in operation **307**, the processor **120** may change the size of the display region from the first size to the second size via the actuator **150**, based at least in part on a user input received while the visual object is displayed. For example, the processor **120** may change the size of the display region from the first size to the second size, in response to the user input for the visual object. For example, the processor **120** may change the size of the display region from the first size to the second size, in response to a user input for other visual object displayed in response to a user input for the visual object. Examples of the user input in operation **307** are described below with respect to FIGS. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(85) Although not illustrated in FIG. 3, in operation **303**, the processor **120** may identify that the state of the display region corresponds to the reference state. The processor **120** may bypass or refrain from executing operations **305** to **307**, based on identifying that the state of the display region corresponds to the reference state. For example, the processor **120** may refrain from displaying the visual object, based on identifying that the state of the display region corresponds to the reference state. Based on identifying that the state of the display region corresponds to the reference state, the processor **120** may refrain from displaying an image corresponding to a user interface of each of the software applications having a reduced size, and displaying the visual object in association with the image, in a screen including a list of software applications being executed in the electronic device **101**. The processor **120** may refrain from displaying the visual object together with the user interface of the software application, based on identifying that the state of the display region corresponds to the reference state.

(86) Although not shown in FIG. 3, according to an embodiment of the disclosure, the visual object may be displayed around an executable object for executing a software application. For example, the visual object may be displayed around the executable object for executing the software application to guide the size of the display region identified for displaying of the user interface of the software application.

(87) For example, referring to FIG. 8B, as in a state **850**, the processor **120** may display a visual object **853**, which is the visual object, next to an executable object **852** in a home screen **851** for executing the software application. For example, the visual object **853** may have a shape to indicate the second size. Although not shown in FIG. 8B, the processor **120** may change the size of the display region to the second size via the actuator **150**, in response to a user input for the visual object **853**, and display the user interface of the software application indicated by the executable object **852**, in the display region having the second size. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(88) As described above, the electronic device **101** may display the visual object under the condition that the state of the display region is different from the reference state. Since the visual object guides that the state of the display region is different from the reference state and is used to change the state of the display region to the reference state, the electronic device **101** can provide an enhanced user experience by means of displaying of the visual object. The electronic device **101** may enhance usability of the user interface of the software application, by changing the size of the display region to the second size indicated by the visual object. The electronic device **101** may display the user interface having a recommended size by changing the size of the display region to the second size indicated by the visual object. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(89) FIG. 9 illustrates an example method of displaying information for identifying whether to change the size of the display region according to an embodiment of the disclosure. This method can be executed by the electronic device **101** or the processor **120** of the electronic device **101** illustrated in FIG. 1.

(90) Referring to FIG. 9, operation **901** of FIG. 9 may be included in operation **305** of FIG. 3, and operations **903** to **911** of FIG. 9 may be included in operation **307** of FIG. 3.

(91) FIG. 10 illustrates an example of information for identifying whether to change the size of the display region according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

(92) Referring to FIG. 9, in operation **901**, the processor **120** may display an image corresponding to a user interface having a reduced size, the image being associated with the visual object in the display region having the first size, in the display region having the first size. For example, the image may be displayed in a screen including a list of software applications being executed in the electronic device **101**.

(93) For example, referring to FIG. 10, in a state **1000**, the processor **120** may display a screen **1001** including a list of software applications being executed in the electronic device **101**, based on identifying that the state of the display region is distinguished from the reference state. In the state **1000**, the screen **1001** may include an image **1002** corresponding to a user interface of one of the software applications. In the state **1000**, the image **1002** in the screen **1001** may be associated with a visual object **1003** to guide changing the state of the display region to the reference state. The visual object **1003** may further include a visual element **1003-1** for indicating a direction in which the user interface of the software application is to be extended when the display region is changed to the second size. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(94) Referring back to FIG. 9, in operation **903**, the processor **120** may receive a user input for the image. For example, referring to FIG. 10, the processor **120** may receive a user input **1005** for the image **1002**, in the state **1000**.

(95) Referring back to FIG. 9, in operation **905**, the processor **120** may display information for identifying whether to change the size of the display region to the second size, in response to the user input. For example, referring to FIG. 10, the processor **120** may change the state **1000** to a state **1010** in response to the user input **1005**. In the state **1010**, the processor **120** may display information **1011** for identifying whether to change the size of the display region to the second size. The information **1011** may be superimposed on the screen **1001**. According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the information **1011** may be visually highlighted with respect to screen **1001**. For example, while the information **1011** is displayed, the screen **1001** may be blurred. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(96) The information **1011** may include a visual element **1012** indicating the first size that is the current size of the display region, and a visual element **1013** indicating the second size corresponding to the reference state. According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the visual element **1012** may include an image corresponding to the user interface displayed in the display region having the first size, and the visual element **1013** may include an image corresponding to the user interface displayed in the display region having the second size. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(97) Referring back to FIG. 9, in operation **907**, the processor **120** may identify whether a first user input or a second user input is received while the information is displayed. For example, the first user input may be a user input for maintaining the size of the display region at the first size, and the second user input is a user input for changing the size of the display region to the second size. The processor **120** may perform operation **909** on condition that the first user input is received while the information is displayed, and perform operation **911** on condition that the second user input is received while the information is displayed.

(98) In operation **909**, the processor **120** may change the size of the display region to the second size, based on identifying that the second user input is received while the information is displayed. For example, referring to FIG. 10, in the state **1010**, the processor **120** may receive a second user input **1015** to select a visual element **1013** among the visual element **1012** and the visual element **1013** in the information **1011**. The processor **120** may change the state **1010** to the state **1020** in response to the second user input **1015**. For example, the processor **120** may change the state **1010**

to the state **1020**, based on changing the size of the display region to the second size through the actuator **150**. In the state **1020**, the processor **120** may display the user interface **1021** of the software application in the display region having the second size.

(99) Referring back to FIG. **9**, in operation **911**, the processor **120** may maintain the size of the display region as the first size, based on identifying that the first user input is received while the information is displayed. For example, referring to FIG. **10**, in the state **1010**, the processor **120** may receive a first user input **1014** to select a visual element **1012** from among the visual element **1012** and the visual element **1013** in the information **1011**. The processor **120** may change the state **1010** to a state **1025** in response to the first user input **1014**. In the state **1025**, the processor **120** may maintain the size of the display region as the first size. For example, the processor **120** may display a user interface **1026** of the software application in the display region having the first size. Although not shown in FIG. **10**, according to an embodiment of the disclosure, the user interface **1026** may be visually different from the user interface **1021**. For example, since the first size and the second size are different from each other, the user interface **1026** may provide a smaller amount of information than the user interface **1021**, or a size of at least some of the content in the user interface **1026** may be smaller than a size of at least some of the content in the user interface **1021**. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(100) As described above, the electronic device **101** may display the information in response to a user input for the image associated with the visual object displayed based on identifying that the state of the display region is distinguished from the reference state. Since the information is available to inquire as to whether to maintain or change the size of the display region, the electronic device **101** may recognize the user's intention associated with the size of the display region through the display of the information. For example, the electronic device **101** may provide an enhanced user experience related to determination of the size of the display region through the information.

(101) FIG. **11** illustrates an example method of displaying another visual object. This method may be executed by the electronic device **101** or the processor **120** of the electronic device **101** illustrated in FIG. **1** according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

(102) Referring to FIG. **11**, operation **1101** of FIG. **11** may be included in operation **305** of FIG. **3**, and operations **1103** to **1107** of FIG. **11** may be included in operation **307** of FIG. **3**.

(103) FIGS. **12** and **13** each illustrate examples of other visual objects according to various embodiments of the disclosure.

(104) Referring to FIG. **11**, in operation **1101**, the processor **120** may display an image corresponding to a user interface associated with the visual object in the display region having the first size. For example, the image may be displayed in the screen including a list of software applications being executed in the electronic device **101**.

(105) For example, referring to FIGS. **12** and **13**, in a state **1200**, the processor **120** may display a screen **1201** including a list of software applications being executed in the electronic device **101**, based on identifying that the state of the display region is distinguished from the reference state. In the state **1200**, the screen **1201** may include an image **1202** corresponding to a user interface of one of the software applications. In the state **1200**, the image **1202** in the screen **1201** may be associated with a visual object **1203** for guiding to change the state of the display region to the reference state. The visual object **1203** may further include a visual element **1203-1** for indicating a direction in which the user interface of the software application is extended when the display region is changed to the second size. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(106) Referring back to FIG. **11**, in operation **1103**, the processor **120** may receive a user input for the image. For example, the user input may be a single tap input for the image, which may be an input for executing the software application indicated by the image in the foreground. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(107) In operation **1105**, in response to the user input for the image, the processor **120** may display the user interface together with another visual object in the display region having the first size. For

example, the other visual object may be a visual object for changing the size of the display region to the second size.

(108) The other visual object may include an image corresponding to the user interface displayed in the display region having the second size. For example, referring to FIG. 12, in the state **1200**, the processor **120** may receive a user input **1205** for the image **1202**. The processor **120** may change the state **1200** to the state **1210** in response to the user input **1205**. In the state **1210**, the processor **120** may display a user interface **1211** of the software application. In the state **1210**, the processor **120** may display another visual object **1212**, along with user interface **1211**. A size of the other visual object **1212** may correspond to a size of a user interface (e.g., the user interface **1221** in the state **1220**) of the software application displayed within the display region having the second size. The other visual object **1212** may be superimposed or floated on the user interface **1211**. For example, the other visual object **1212** may be moved in response to a drag input to the other visual object **1212**. In the state **1210**, the other visual object **1212** may disappear after being displayed for a predetermined time duration. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(109) Referring again to FIG. 11, the other visual object may be displayed in a navigation bar. For example, referring to FIG. 13, in the state **1200**, the processor **120** may receive a user input **1305** for the image **1202**. The processor **120** may change the state **1200** to a state **1310** in response to the user input **1305**. In the state **1310**, the processor **120** may display a user interface **1311** of the software application. In the state **1310**, the processor **120** may display another visual object **1313** along with the user interface **1311**. The other visual object **1313** may be displayed in the navigation bar **1312**, unlike the other visual object **1212**. The other visual object **1313** may be superimposed or floated on the navigation bar **1312**. The other visual objects **1313** may be included within the navigation bar **1312** as an additional executable element in the bar **1312**. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto. In the state **1310**, the other visual object **1312** may disappear after being displayed for a predetermined time duration. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(110) Referring back to FIG. 11, in operation **1107**, the processor **120** may change the size of the display region to the second size, in response to a user input for the other visual object. For example, referring to FIG. 12, in the state **1210**, the processor **120** may receive a user input **1215** for the other visual object **1212**. The processor **120** may change the state **1210** to the state **1220** in response to the user input **1215**. The processor **120** may change the state **1210** to the state **1220** by changing the size of the display region from the first size to the second size via the actuator **150** in response to the user input **1215**. For example, in the state **1220**, the processor **120** may display the user interface **1221** of the software application in the display region having the second size.

(111) In another example, referring to FIG. 13, the processor **120** may receive a user input **1315** for the other visual object **1312** in the state **1310**. The processor **120** may change the state **1310** to the state **1320** in response to the user input **1315**. For example, the processor **120** may change the state **1310** to the state **1320** by changing the size of the display region from the first size to the second size via the actuator **150** in response to the user input **1315**. In the state **1320**, the processor **120** may display the user interface **1321** of the software application in the display region having the second size.

(112) As described above, the electronic device **101** can display the other visual object, in response to a user input for changing the state of the software application being executed in the electronic device **101** to a state to execute in the foreground, as the user input received in operation **1103**. Since the other visual object is available to change the size of the display region to the second size, the electronic device **101** can provide enhanced usability of the user interface through the other visual object. For example, in order to enhance accessibility of changing the size of the display region through the other visual object, the electronic device **101** may display the other visual object as being superposed on the user interface or display the other visual object in the navigation bar.

(113) FIG. 14 illustrates an example method of adaptively changing a size of a display region according to a user input for an image associated with a visual object according to an embodiment

of the disclosure. This method may be executed by the electronic device **101** or the processor **120** of the electronic device **101** illustrated in FIG. **1**.

(114) Referring to FIG. **14**, operation **1401** of FIG. **14** may be included in operation **305** of FIG. **3**, and operations **1403** to **1407** of FIG. **14** may be included in operation **307** of FIG. **3**.

(115) FIG. **15** illustrates an example of an adaptive change in size of a display region according to a user input according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

(116) Referring to FIG. **14**, in operation **1401**, the processor **120** may display an image associated with the visual object in the display region having the first size. For example, the image may be an executable object displayed in a screen including a list of software applications being executed in the electronic device **101**.

(117) For example, referring to FIG. **15**, in a state **1500**, the processor **120** may display a screen **1501** including a list of software applications being executed in the electronic device **101**, based on identifying that the state of the display region is distinguished from the reference state. For example, in the state **1500**, the screen **1501** may include an image **1502** corresponding to a user interface of one of the software applications. In the state **1500**, the image **1502** in the screen may be associated with a visual object **1503** for guiding to change the state of the display region to the reference state. For example, the visual object **1503** may further include a visual element **1503-1** for indicating a direction in which the user interface of the software application is to be extended when the display region is changed to the second size. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(118) Referring back to FIG. **14**, in operation **1403**, the processor **120** may identify whether a first user input is received or a second user input is received while the image associated with the visual object is displayed. For example, the first user input may be an input indicating that the image is selected from among the image and the visual object, and the second user input may be an input indicating that the visual object is selected from the image and the visual object. For example, the processor **120** may execute operation **1407** on condition that the first user input is received while the image associated with the visual object is displayed, and may execute operation **1405** on condition that the second user input is received while the image associated with the visual object is displayed.

(119) In operation **1405**, the processor **120** may change the size of the display region to the second size, based on identifying that the second user input is received while the image associated with the visual object is displayed. For example, referring to FIG. **15**, the processor **120** may receive, in the state **1500**, a second user input **1505** for a visual object **1503** from among the image **1502** and the visual object **1503**. The processor **120** may change the state **1500** to the state **1510** in response to the second user input **1505**. For example, the processor **120** may change the state **1500** to the state **1510** by changing the size of the display region to the second size via actuator **150** in response to the second user input **1505**. In the state **1510**, the processor **120** may display the user interface **1511** of the software application. According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the second user input **1505** may be a touch input having a point of contact on the visual element **1503-1** in the visual object **1503**. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(120) Referring back to FIG. **14**, in operation **1407**, the processor **120** may maintain the size of the display region at the first size, based on identifying that the first user input is received while the image associated with the visual object is displayed. For example, referring to FIG. **15**, the processor **120** may receive, in the state **1500**, a first user input **1506** for the image **1502** from among the image **1502** and the visual object **1503**. The processor **120** may change the state **1500** to the state **1520** in response to the first user input **1506**. In the state **1520**, the processor **120** may display a user interface **1521** of the software application in the display region having the first size. According to an embodiment of the disclosure, although not shown in FIG. **15**, the processor **120** may display another visual object, such as the other visual object **1212** in FIG. **12** or the other visual object **1313** in FIG. **13**, along with the user interface **1521**. However, the disclosure is not

limited thereto.

(121) As described above, the electronic device **101** may change or maintain the size of the display region according to a touch input received while the image associated with the visual object is displayed. For example, the electronic device **101** may maintain the size of the display region when the touch input is received for the image, and change the size of the display region when the touch input is received for the visual object, thereby enhancing the user's convenience related to adjustment of the size of the display region.

(122) FIG. **16** illustrates an example method of ceasing displaying of the visual object with the lapse of a predetermined time according to an embodiment of the disclosure. This method may be executed by the electronic device **101** or the processor **120** of the electronic device **101** illustrated in FIG. **1**.

(123) Referring to FIG. **16**, operations **1601** to **1607** of FIG. **16** may be included in operation **305** of FIG. **3**.

(124) FIG. **17** illustrates an example of a visual object of which displaying is ceased with the lapse of a predetermined time according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

(125) Referring to FIG. **16**, in operation **1601**, the processor **120** may display the visual object together with the user interface of the software application, in the display region having the first size.

(126) For example, referring to FIG. **17**, as in the state **800**, the processor **120** may display the visual object **802** together with the user interface **801** in the display region having the first size.

(127) Referring again to FIG. **16**, in operation **1603**, in response to displaying of the visual object, the processor **120** may identify whether a predetermined time has elapsed from the timing point of displaying the visual object. For example, the processor **120** may execute operation **1605** while the predetermined time has not yet elapsed from the timing point, and execute operation **1607** on condition that the predetermined time has elapsed from the timing point.

(128) In operation **1605**, the processor **120** may maintain displaying the visual object while identifying that the predetermined time has not elapsed from the timing point. In order to provide a function of changing the size of the display region while the predetermined time has not elapsed from the timing point, the processor **120** may maintain displaying the visual object. For example, referring to FIG. **17**, the processor **120** may maintain the state **800** while the predetermined time has not elapsed from the timing point.

(129) Referring again to FIG. **16**, in operation **1607**, the processor **120** may cease displaying the visual object in response to identifying that the predetermined time has elapsed from the timing point. Since the predetermined time elapsing from the timing point may mean that the user intends to maintain the size of the display region at the first size, the processor **120** may cease displaying of the visual object on condition that the predetermined time has elapsed from the timing point. For example, referring to FIG. **17**, in the state **800**, the processor **120** may identify that the predetermined time has elapsed from the timing point. The processor **120** may change the state **800** to a state **1700** in response to the identification. In the state **1700**, the processor **120** may cease to display the visual object **802** along with the user interface **801**, as opposed to the state **800**. In the state **1700**, the visual object **802** may disappear from the display region having the first size.

(130) As described above, the electronic device **101** may adaptively cease displaying of the visual object. For example, the predetermined time elapsing after displaying the visual object may mean that the user's intention is to maintain the size of the display region, and thus, the electronic device **101** can cease displaying the visual object, thereby providing enhanced visibility of the user interface displayed together with the visual object.

(131) FIG. **18** illustrates an example method of identifying a size of a display region through at least one input to a visual object according to an embodiment of the disclosure. This method may be executed by the electronic device **101** or the processor **120** of the electronic device **101** illustrated in FIG. **1**.

(132) Referring to FIG. 18, operations 1801 to 1809 of FIG. 18 may be included in operation 307 of FIG. 3.

(133) FIG. 19 illustrates an example of a visual object including a visual element for identifying a size of a display region according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

(134) Referring to FIG. 18, in operation 1801, the processor 120 may receive a touch input for the visual object displayed together with the user interface.

(135) For example, referring to FIG. 19, the processor 120 may display a visual object 802 together with a user interface 801 in the display region having the first size, as in the state 800.

(136) Referring again to FIG. 18, in operation 1803, the processor 120 may identify whether a time duration for which the touch input is maintained is equal to or greater than a predetermined time. For example, the processor 120 may execute operation 1805 on condition that the touch input is released before the predetermined time elapses, and execute operation 1807 on condition that the touch input is maintained until the predetermined time elapses.

(137) In operation 1805, the processor 120 may change the size of the display region to the second size, in response to the touch input on the visual object that is released before the predetermined time elapses. In operation 1805, the processor 120 may change the size of the display region to the second size, by recognizing the touch input as a single tap input for the visual object. For example, referring to FIG. 19, in the state 800, the processor 120 may receive a touch input 1905 released before the predetermined time elapses. The processor 120 may change the state 800 to the state 1910 in response to the touch input 1905. In the state 1910, the processor 120 may change the state 800 to the state 1910, by changing the size of the display region to the second size via the actuator 150 in response to touch input 1905. In the state 1910, the processor 120 may display a user interface 1911 of the software application.

(138) Referring again to FIG. 18, in operation 1807, in response to a touch input on the visual object maintained for the predetermined time or longer, the processor 120 may display the visual object including a bar-shaped indicator having an enlarged size. In order to provide a function of changing the size of the display region to a different size distinguished from the second size, the processor 120 may display the visual object including the bar-shaped indicator having the enlarged size. For example, referring to FIG. 19, in the state 800, the processor 120 may receive a touch input 1907 maintained for the predetermined time or longer. The processor 120 may change the state 800 to the state 1920 in response to the touch input 1907. In the state 1920, the processor 120 may display the visual object 802 having the enlarged size along with the user interface 801. The visual object 802 displayed in the state 1920 may, in contrast to the visual object 802 displayed in the state 800, be enlarged to provide a function to control the size of the display region. According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the visual object 802 in the state 1920 may be visually highlighted with respect to the user interface 801 or with respect to the visual object 802 in the state 800. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(139) Referring again to FIG. 18, in operation 1809, the processor 120 may change the size of the display region to a size corresponding to a user input received via the bar-shaped indicator having the enlarged size. For example, referring to FIG. 19, in the state 1920, the processor 120 may receive a user input 1921 through the visual object 802 having the enlarged size. The user input 1921 may be defined with maintaining the touch input 1907. The user input 1921 may be an input subsequent to the touch input 1907. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto. For example, the user input 1921 may be an input for adjusting a length of a gauge in the visual object 802. The processor 120 may change the state 1920 to a state 1930 in response to the user input 1921. The processor 120 may change the state 1920 to the state 1930, by changing the size of the display region to a size defined based on the user input 1921 through the actuator 150 in response to the user input 1921. In the state 1930, the processor 120 may display a user interface 1931 of the software application in the display region having a size defined based on the user input 1921. A height h of the display region provided in the state 1930 may be longer than a height provided

through the first state **210**, and shorter than a height provided through the second state **250**. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(140) As described above, the electronic device **101** can provide, in response to a long press input for the visual object, a function capable of enlarging the visual object and inputting the size of the display region through the enlarged visual object. For example, the electronic device **101** can adaptively provide the size of the display region by means of providing such a function.

(141) FIG. **20** illustrates an example method of displaying a visual object based on identification of a content intersected with an edge of a display region according to an embodiment of the disclosure. This method may be executed by the electronic device **101** or the processor **120** of the electronic device **101** illustrated in FIG. **1**.

(142) FIG. **21** illustrates an example of a visual object displayed based on the identification of a content intersected with an edge of a display region according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

(143) Referring to FIG. **20**, in operation **2001**, the processor **120** may identify, while a user interface of a software application is displayed, that the content in the user interface intersects an edge of a display region of the flexible display **140** exposed out of the housing (e.g., the first housing **201**). For example, the content may intersect the edge by a scroll input (or a sweeping input) received while the user interface is displayed. For example, the content may intersect the edge according to a drag and drop touch input of the content. However, the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(144) For example, referring to FIG. **21**, in a state **2100**, the processor **120** may receive a user input **2103** to move a content **2102** in a user interface **2101** while the user interface **2101** of a software application is displayed. The processor **120** may change the state **2100** to a state **2110** in response to the user input **2103**. In the state **2110**, the processor **120** may display the user interface **2101** including the content **2102** at a location identified based on the user input **2103**. In the state **2110**, the processor **120** may identify that the content **2102** moved to the position is intersected with an edge **2111** of the display region. In the state **2110**, displaying of a portion of the content **2102** may cease upon intersection with the edge **2111**.

(145) Referring back again to FIG. **20**, in operation **2003**, the processor **120** may display a visual object for guiding a change in the state of the display region around the content based on the identification. For example, referring to FIG. **21**, in the state **2110**, the processor **120** may change the state **2110** to a state **2120**, in response to identifying that the content **2102** is intersected with the edge **2111**, or displaying of a portion of the content **2102** ceases according to the intersection with the edge **2111**. In the state **2120**, the processor **120** may further display a visual object **2121**. For example, the visual object **2121** may be displayed around the content **2102** of which displaying has partially ceased.

(146) Referring again to FIG. **20**, in operation **2005**, the processor **120** may, in response to a user input for the visual object, extend the display region through the actuator **150** so as to resume displaying of the portion of the content that was ceased according to the intersection with the edge. For example, referring to FIG. **21**, the processor **120** may receive a user input **2125** for the visual object **2121** in the state **2120**. The processor **120** may change the state **2120** to a state **2130** in response to the user input **2125**. For example, the processor **120** may change the state **2120** to the state **2130** by extending the display region via the actuator **150** in response to the user input **2125**. The extended display region, provided in the state **2130**, may display a user interface **2131** including the entirety of the content **2102**, as opposed to the display region in the state **2120**.

(147) The operations illustrated through FIGS. **20** and **21** are not inextricably linked with the operations illustrated through FIGS. **3**, **4**, **5**, **6**, **7**, **8A**, **8B**, **9**, **10**, **11**, **12**, **13**, **14**, **15**, **16**, **17**, **18**, and **19**.

(148) As described above, in the state that the display region is extendable, the electronic device **101** may display the visual object, in response to identifying whether the display of a portion of the content in the display region is ceased, and identifying that the display of the portion of the content

has ceased. The electronic device **101** can reduce the user's inconvenience that may be caused when the display of the portion of the content has ceased, by providing a function capable of extending the display region through displaying of the visual object. For example, the electronic device **101** can provide an enhanced user experience through displaying of the visual object.

(149) FIG. **22A** is a front view of an electronic device in a first state according to an embodiment of the disclosure. FIG. **22B** is a rear view of an electronic device in a first state according to an embodiment of the disclosure. FIG. **22C** is a front view of an electronic device in a second state according to an embodiment of the disclosure. FIG. **22D** is a rear view of an electronic device in a second state according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

(150) Referring to FIGS. **22A**, **22B**, **22C**, and **22D**, an electronic device **2200** (e.g., the electronic device **101** of FIG. **1**) according to an embodiment of the disclosure may include a first housing **2210**, a second housing **2220**, a display **2230** (e.g., the display **140** of FIG. **1**), and a camera **2240**. The second housing **2220** may be slidable with respect to the first housing **2210**. For example, the second housing **2220** may move within a range of a designated distance in a first direction (e.g., +y direction) with respect to the first housing **2210**. When the second housing **2220** moves in the first direction, a distance between the side surface **2220a** of the second housing **2220** facing the first direction and the first housing **2210** may increase. As another example, the second housing **2220** may move within a range of a designated distance in a second direction (e.g., -y direction) opposite to the first direction with respect to the first housing **2210**. When the second housing **2220** moves in the second direction, the distance between the side surface **2220a** of the second housing **2220** facing the first direction and the first housing **2210** may decrease. The second housing **2220** may linearly reciprocate with respect to the first housing **2210** by sliding relative to the first housing **2210**. For example, at least a portion of the second housing **2220** may be slidable (pulled-in) into the first housing **2210** or slidable (pulled-out) out of the first housing **2210**.

(151) According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the electronic device **2200** may be referred to as a “slidable electronic device”, when the second housing **2220** is designed to be slidable with respect to the first housing **2210**. According to another embodiment of the disclosure, the electronic device **2200** may be referred to as a “rollable electronic device”, when at least a portion of the display **2230** is designed to be rolled up within the second housing **2220** (or the first housing **2210** based on the sliding movement of the second housing **2220**).

(152) The first state of the electronic device **2200** may be defined as a state that the second housing **2220** is moved in the second direction (e.g., -y direction) (e.g., a contracted state or a slide-in state). For example, in the first state of the electronic device **2200**, the second housing **2220** may be movable in the first direction, but may not be movable in the second direction. In the first state of the electronic device **2200**, a distance between the side surface **2220a** of the second housing **2220** and the first housing **2210** may increase as the second housing **2220** moves. In another example, in the first state of the electronic device **2200**, a portion of the second housing **2220** may be slidable-out the first housing **2210**. In the first state of the electronic device **2200**, it may be impossible that the second housing **2220** is slid in with respect to the first housing **2210**. According to an embodiment, the first state of the electronic device **2200** may be defined as a state in which a second area **2230b** of the display **2230** is not visually exposed from the outside of the electronic device **2200**. For example, in the first state of the electronic device **2200**, the second area **2230b** of the display **2230** is located in an internal space (not shown) within the electronic device **2200** formed by the first housing **2210** and/or the second housing **2220**, so that it may not be visible from the outside of the electronic device **2200**.

(153) The second state of the electronic device **2200** may be defined as a state (e.g., an extended state or a slide-out state) in which the second housing **2220** is moved in the first direction. For example, in the second state of the electronic device **2200**, the second housing **2220** may be movable in the second direction, but the second housing **2220** may not be movable in the first direction. In the second state of the electronic device **2200**, the distance between a side surface

2220a of the second housing **2220** and the first housing **2210** may decrease as the second housing **2220** moves, but it may not increase. In another example, in the second state of the electronic device **2200**, a portion of the second housing **2220** may be able to slide in into the first housing **2210**, but the second housing may not be able to slide out from the first housing **2210**. The second state of the electronic device **2200** may be defined as a state in which the second area **2230b** of the display **2230** is visually exposed from the outside of the electronic device **2200**. For example, in the second state of the electronic device **2200**, the second area **2230b** of the display **2230** may be pulled-out from the internal space of the electronic device **2200**, so that the second area **2230b** is visible from the outside of the electronic device **2200**.

(154) When the second housing **2220** moves from the first housing **2210** in the first direction (e.g., +y direction), at least a portion of the second housing **2220** and/or the second area **2230b** of the display **2230** may slide out from the first housing **2210** by a pull-out length **d1** corresponding to a movement distance of the second housing **2220**. The second housing **2220** may reciprocate within a designated distance **d2**. The pull-out length **d1** may have a size in a range of substantially zero to the designated distance **d2**.

(155) The state of the electronic device **2200** may be convertible between the second state and/or the first state, by means of either a manual operation by a user or an automatic operation by a driving module (not shown) disposed in the first housing **2210** or the second housing **2220**.

According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the operation of the driving module may be triggered based on a user input. The user input for triggering the operation of the driving module may include a touch input, a force touch input, and/or a gesture input through the display **2230**.

According to another embodiment of the disclosure, the user input for triggering the operation of the driving module may include, for example, a voice input or a user input onto a physical button exposed out of the first housing **2210** or the second housing **2220**. The driving module may be driven in a semi-automatic manner in which an operation is triggered upon detection of a manual manipulation by a user's external force is detected.

(156) The first state of the electronic device **2200** may be referred to as a first shape, and the second state of the electronic device **2200** may be referred to as a second shape. For example, the first shape may include a normal state, a reduced state, or a closed state, and the second shape may include an open state. The electronic device **2200** may have a third state (e.g., an intermediate state) in between the first state and the second state. The third state may be referred to as a third shape, and the third shape may include a free stop state.

(157) The display **2230** may be visible or viewable from the outside through a front direction (e.g., -z direction) of the electronic device **2200** so as to display visual information to the user. For example, the display **2230** may include a flexible display. The display **2230** may be disposed in the second housing **2220** and may be pulled out from an internal space (not shown) of the electronic device **2200** according to the movement of the second housing **2220** or may be pulled-in into the internal space of **2200** of the electronic device. The internal space of the electronic device **2200** may refer to an internal space within the first housing **2210** and the second housing **2220**, being formed by a coupling of the first housing **2210** and the second housing **2220**. For example, in the first state of the electronic device **2200**, at least a portion of the display **2230** may be slid in to be rolled up into the internal space of the electronic device **2200**. When the second housing **2220** moves in the first direction from the state of the at least a portion of the display **2230** being inserted into the internal space of the electronic device **2200**, at least a portion of the display **2230** may slide out from the internal space of the electronic device **2200**. In another example, when the second housing **2220** moves in the second direction, the at least a portion of the display **2230** may be rolled up into the inside of the electronic device **2200** to be slid-in into the internal space of the electronic device **2200**. As the at least a portion of the display **2230** is pulled out or pulled in, the area of the display **2230** viewable from the outside of the electronic device **2200** may be expanded or reduced. The display **2230** may include a first area **2230a** and a second area **2230b**.

(158) The first area **2230a** of the display **2230** may refer to an area of the display **2230** that is viewable from the outside of the electronic device **2200**, irrespective of whether the electronic device **2200** is either in the second state or the first state. For example, the first area **2230a** may refer to a partial area of the display **2230** that is not rolled up into the internal space of the electronic device **2200**. When the second housing **2220** moves, the first area **2230a** may move together with the second housing **2220**. For example, when the second housing **2220** moves either in the first direction or in the second direction, the first area **2230a** may move in the first direction or the second direction, on the front surface of the electronic device **2200** together with the second housing **2220**.

(159) The second area **2230b** of the display **2230** may be connected to the first area **2230a**, and may be pulled in to the internal space or pulled out from the internal space of the electronic device **2200**, according to the movement of the second housing **2220**. For example, in the first state of the electronic device **2200**, the second area **2230b** of the display **2230** may be in a rolled state to be pulled-in into the internal space of the electronic device **2200**. In the first state of the electronic device **2200**, the second area **2230b** of the display **2230** may not be viewable from the outside as it is inserted into the internal space of the electronic device **2200**. In another example, in the second state of the electronic device **2200**, the second area **2230b** of the display **2230** may be in a state pulled-out from the internal space of the electronic device **2200**. The second area **2230b** of the display **2230** may be, in the second state, visible from the outside of the electronic device **2200**.

(160) In the first state of the electronic device **2200**, the area of the display **2230** that is viewable from the outside of the electronic device **2200** may include only the first area **2230a** of the display **2230**. In the second state of the electronic device **2200**, the area of the display **2230** that is viewable from the outside of the electronic device **2200** may include the first area **2230a** and at least a portion of the second area **2230b** of the display **2230**.

(161) The first housing **2210** of the electronic device **2200** may include a book cover **2211** surrounding the internal space of the first housing **2210** and a back plate **2212** covering a back surface of the book cover **2211**. The second housing **2220** of the electronic device **2200** may include a front cover **2221** covering up the internal space of the electronic device **2200**.

(162) The front cover **2221** may include a first cover area **2221a** of the front cover **2221** that is not inserted into the first housing **2210**, and a second cover area **2221b** that is inserted into the first housing **2210** or pulled-out therefrom. The first cover area **2221a** of the front cover **2221** may always be visible from the outside, regardless of whether the electronic device **2200** is either in the second state or the first state. At least a portion of the first cover area **2221a** of the front cover **2221** may form the side surface **2220a** of the second housing **2220**. According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the second cover area **2221b** of the second housing **2220** is not visible from the outside in the first state, but may be visible in the second state.

(163) The camera **2240** may acquire an image of a subject based on receiving light from the outside of the electronic device **2200**. The camera **2240** may include one or more lenses, an image sensor, and/or an image signal processor. The camera **2240** may be arranged on the second housing **2220** to face the rear surface of the electronic device **2200** opposite to the front surface of the electronic device **2200** on which the first area **2230a** of the display **2230** is disposed. For example, the camera **2240** may be arranged on the front cover **2221** of the second housing **2220**, and in the first state of the electronic device **2200**, may be viewable from the outside of the electronic device **2200**, through an opening **2211a** and formed in the book cover **2211**. In another example, the camera **2240** may be arranged on the front cover **2221** of the second housing **2220**, and may not be visible from the outside of the electronic device **2200**, by being covered with the book cover **2211** and/or the rear plate **2212**, when the electronic device **2200** is in the first state.

(164) The camera **2240** may include a plurality of cameras. For example, the camera **2240** may include a wide-angle camera, an ultra-wide-angle camera, a telephoto camera, a close-up camera, and/or a depth camera. However, the camera **2240** is not necessarily limited to including a plurality

of cameras, and may include only one camera.

(165) The camera **2240** may further include a camera (not shown) arranged to face the front surface of the electronic device **2200** on which the first area **2230a** of the display **2230** is disposed. When the camera **2240** is arranged to face the front surface of the electronic device **2200**, the camera **2240** may be an under display camera (UDC) disposed below the display **2230** (e.g., in +z direction from the display **2230**), but the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(166) The electronic device **2200** may include a sensor module (not shown) and/or a camera module (not shown) disposed underneath the display **2230**. The sensor module may detect an external environment based on information (e.g., light) received through the display **2230**. The sensor module may include at least one of, for example, a receiver, a proximity sensor, an ultrasonic sensor, a gesture sensor, a gyro sensor, a barometric pressure sensor, a magnetic sensor, an acceleration sensor, a grip sensor, a color sensor, an IR (infrared) sensor, a biometric sensor, a temperature, a humidity sensor, a motor encoder, or an indicator. At least two sensor modules of the electronic device **2200** may be visually exposed to the outside through a partial area of the display **2230**. The electronic device **2200** may detect a pull-out length (e.g., a pull-out length d1) using a sensor module. The electronic device **2200** may generate pull-out information on a degree of the pulling-out detected by the sensor. For example, the electronic device **2200** may detect and/or identify the degree of pulling-out of the second housing **2220**, using the pull-out information. The pull-out information may include information on a pull-out length of the second housing **2220**.

(167) The shape of the coupling of the first housing **2210** and the second housing **2220** is not limited to the shape of coupling shown in FIGS. **22A**, **22B**, **22C**, and **22D**. The shape may be implemented with a combination and/or a coupling of other shapes or components.

(168) FIG. **23A** is an exploded perspective view of an electronic device according to an embodiment of the disclosure, and FIG. **23B** is a cross-sectional view illustrating an example of an electronic device taken along a line A-A' of FIG. **22A**, according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

(169) Referring to FIGS. **23A** and **23B**, the electronic device **2200** may include the first housing **2210**, the second housing **2220**, the display **2230**, the camera **2240**, a battery **2250** and a driving unit **2260**. The first housing **2210** and the second housing **2220** may be coupled to each other to form an internal space **2201** of the electronic device **2200**. For example, in the first state of the electronic device **2200**, the second area **2230b** of the display **2230** may be accommodated in the internal space **2201**.

(170) The first housing **2210** may include the book cover **2211**, the rear plate **2212**, and a frame cover **2213**. The book cover **2211**, the rear plate **2212**, and the frame cover **2213** included in the first housing **2210** may be coupled to each other, so that they do not move as the second housing **2220** moves relative to the first housing **2210**. The book cover **2211** may form at least a portion of an outer surface of the electronic device **2200**. For example, the book cover **2211** may form at least a portion of a side surface of the electronic device **2200** and form at least a portion of a rear surface of the electronic device **2200**. The book cover **2211** may provide a surface on which the back plate **2212** is seated. The back plate **2212** may be seated on one surface of the book cover **2211**.

(171) The frame cover **2213** may be configured to support internal components of the electronic device **2200**. For example, the frame cover **2213** may accommodate the battery **2250** and at least a portion of the driving unit **2260**. The battery **2250** and the driving unit **2260** may be housed in at least one of a recess or a hole positioned in the frame cover **2213**. The frame cover **2213** may be surrounded by the book cover **2211**. For example, in the first state of the electronic device **2200**, one surface **2213a** of the frame cover **2213** on which the battery **2250** is disposed may face at least a portion of the book cover **2211** and/or the second surface **2230b** of the display **2230**. In another example, in the first state of the electronic device **2200**, the other surface **2213b** of the frame cover **2213** facing the one surface **2213a** of the frame cover **2213** may be arranged to face the first area **2230a** of the display **2230** or the front cover **2221**. The frame cover **2213** may include an aluminum

material, but the disclosure is not limited thereto.

(172) The second housing **2220** may include the front cover **2221**, the rear cover **2222**, and a slide cover **2223**. The front cover **2221**, the rear cover **2222** and the slide cover **2223** may be coupled to each other, so that when the second housing **2220** moves relative to the first housing **2210**, they may move together with the second housing **2220**. The front cover **2221** may be configured to support internal components of the electronic device **2200**. For example, a printed circuit board **2224** on which the electronic components (e.g., the processor **120** of FIG. 1) of the electronic device **2200** are disposed, and/or the camera **2240** may be arranged on one surface **2221c** of the front cover **2221** facing the internal space **2201**. The other surface **2221d** of the front cover **2221** facing the one surface **2221c** of the front cover **2221** may be configured to face the first area **2230a** of the display **2230**, when the electronic device **2200** is in the first state. The rear cover **2222** may be coupled to the front cover **2221** to protect components of the electronic device **2200** disposed on the front cover **2221**. For example, the rear cover **2222** may cover a portion of one surface **2221c** of the front cover **2221**. The slide cover **2223** may be disposed on the rear cover **2222** (e.g., in +z direction) to form an external surface of the electronic device **2200** together with the rear plate **2212** and the book cover **2211**. The slide cover **2223** may be coupled to one surface of the rear cover **2222** to protect the rear cover **2222** and/or the front cover **2221**.

(173) When the electronic device **2200** is in the first state, at least a part of the display **2230** may be rolled up into the internal space **2201**, so that it may be bent therein. The display **2230** may cover at least a portion of the frame cover **2213** and at least a portion of the front cover **2221**. For example, when the electronic device **2200** is in the first state, the display **2230** may cover the other surface **2221d** of the front cover **2221** and pass between the front cover **2221** and the book cover **2211**, extending toward the internal space **2201**. After passing between the front cover **2221** and the book cover **2211**, the display **2230** may surround the frame cover **2213**. The display **2230** may cover one surface **2213a** of the frame cover **2213** in the internal space **2201**. When the second housing **2220** moves in the first direction, the second area **2230b** of the display **2230** may be pulled out from the internal space **2201**. For example, as the second housing **2220** moves in the second direction, the display **2230** may pass between the front cover **2221** and the book cover **2211** and may be then pulled out from the internal space **2201**.

(174) The electronic device **2200** may include a guide rail **2232** and a support bar **2231** supporting the display **2230**. The support bar **2231** may include a plurality of bars coupled to each other and may be made in a shape corresponding to the shape of the second area **2230b** of the display **2230**. The support bar **2231** may move together with the display **2230** as the display **2230** moves. In the first state in which the second area **2230b** of the display **2230** is rolled up in the internal space **2201**, the support bar **2231** may be rolled up in the internal space **2201** together with the second area **2230b** of the display **2230**. The support bar **2231** may move together with the second area **2230b** of the display **2230** as the second housing **2220** moves in the first direction. The guide rail **2232** may guide the movement of the support bar **2231**. For example, as the display **2230** moves, the support bar **2231** may move along the guide rail **2232** coupled to the frame cover **2213**. The guide rail **2232** may be coupled to the frame cover **2213**. The guide rail **2232** may include a plurality of guide rails **2232** disposed to be spaced apart from each other at both edges of the frame cover **2213** spaced apart from each other in a third direction (e.g., +x direction) substantially perpendicular to the first direction (e.g., +y direction).

(175) The driving unit **2260** may provide a driving force to the second housing **2220** so that the second housing **2220** can move relative to the first housing **2210**. The driving unit **2260** may include a motor **2261**, a pinion gear **2262** and a rack gear **2263**. The motor **2261** may receive power from the battery **2250** to provide the driving force to the second housing **2220**. The motor **2261** may be disposed in the first housing **2210** so that the motor **2261** does not move when the second housing **2220** moves with respect to the first housing **2210**. For example, the motor **2261** may be disposed in a recess formed in the frame cover **2213**. The pinion gear **2262** may be rotatably

coupled to the motor **2261** and rotate by a driving force supplied from the motor **2261**. According to one embodiment, the rack gear **2263** may be engaged with the pinion gear **2262**, and may move according to the rotation of the pinion gear **2262**. For example, the rack gear **2263** may linearly reciprocate in either the first direction or the second direction according to the rotation of the pinion gear **2262**. According to an embodiment, the rack gear **2263** may be disposed in the second housing **2220**. For example, the rack gear **2263** may be coupled to the front cover **2221** included in the second housing **2220**. According to an embodiment, the rack gear **2263** may be movable in a working space **2213p** formed in the frame cover **2213**.

(176) According to one embodiment, when the pinion gear **2262** rotates along the first rotational direction (e.g., clockwise in FIG. 23B), the rack gear **2263** may move in the first direction (e.g., +y direction). When the rack gear **2263** moves in the first direction, the second housing **2220** coupled to the rack gear **2263** may also move in the first direction. As the second housing **2220** moves in the first direction, the area of the display **2230** viewable from the outside of the electronic device **2200** may be expanded. When the pinion gear **2262** rotates in the second rotational direction (e.g., counterclockwise in FIG. 23B), the rack gear **2263** may also move in the second direction (e.g., -y direction). When the rack gear **2263** moves in the second direction, the second housing **2220** coupled to the rack gear **2263** may also move in the second direction. As the second housing **2220** moves in the second direction, the area of the display **2230** viewable from the outside of the electronic device **2200** may be reduced.

(177) Although the foregoing description was made of the arrangement that the motor **2261** and the pinion gear **2262** are disposed in the first housing **2210**, and the rack gear **2263** is disposed in the second housing **2220**, the embodiments of the disclosure may not be limited thereto. According to another embodiment of the disclosure, the motor **2261** and the pinion gear **2262** may be disposed in the second housing **2220**, and the rack gear **2263** may be disposed in the first housing **2210**.

(178) An electronic device, a method, and a non-transitory computer-readable storage medium according to an embodiment can display a visual object for changing a size of a display region of a flexible display, thereby providing its user with enhanced user experience (UX).

(179) According to an embodiment of the disclosure, an electronic device may include a housing, a flexible display that is slidable into the housing or slidable out from the housing, an actuator for pulling in at least a portion of the flexible display into the housing or pulling out at least a portion of the flexible display from the housing, a memory configured to store instructions, and a processor operatively coupled to the flexible display. The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, receive a user input for changing an execution state of a software application. The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, identify whether a state of a display region of the flexible display exposed out of the housing is a reference state, in response to the user input. The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, display a visual object for guiding to change the state of the display region to the reference state, based on identifying that the state of the display region is distinguished from the reference state. The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, change a size of the display region from a first size to a second size corresponding to the reference state via the actuator, based at least in part on the user input received while the visual object is displayed. The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, display a user interface of the software application in the display region having the second size.

(180) The processor may be further configured to, when the instructions are executed, refrain from displaying the visual object, based on identifying that the state of the display region corresponds to the reference state.

(181) The user input for changing the execution state of the software application may include a user input for displaying a screen including a list of software applications being executed in the electronic device. The visual object may be displayed in the screen.

(182) The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, display an image,

included in the screen, corresponding to the user interface in the display region having the first size, based on identifying that the state of the display region corresponds to the reference state. The processor may be further configured to, when the instructions are executed, display the image associated with the visual object in the display region having the first size, based on identifying that the state of the display region is distinguished from the reference state. The visual object may have a representation for indicating the second size.

(183) The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, receive a user input for the image while the image associated with the visual object is displayed in the screen. The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, display information for identifying whether to change the size of the display region to the second size, in response to the user input for the image. The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, in response to a user input received while the information is displayed, change the size of the display region to the second size, and display the user interface in the display region having the second size. The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, in response to another user input received while the information is displayed, maintain the size of the display region at the first size, and display the user interface in the display region having the first size.

(184) The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, receive a user input for the image while the image associated with the visual object is displayed in the screen. The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, display the user interface in the display region having the first size, together with another visual object including a reduced image of the user interface in the display region having the second size, in response to the user input for the image. The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, in response to a user input for the other visual object, change the size of the display region to the second size, and display the user interface in the display region having the second size.

(185) The other visual object may be superimposed or floated on the user interface.

(186) The processor may be configured to receive, when the instructions are executed, a user input for the image, while the image associated with the visual object is displayed in the screen. The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, in response to the user input for the image, display the user interface in the display region having the first size, together with another visual object to change the state of the display region to the reference state. The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, in response to a user input for the other visual object, change the size of the display region to the second size, and display the user interface in the display region having the second size. The other visual object may be displayed within a navigation bar displayed in the display region.

(187) The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, in response to receiving a user input for the visual object while the image associated with the visual object is displayed in the screen, change the size of the display region to the second size, and display the user interface in the display region having the second size. The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, in response to receiving a user input for the image while the image associated with the visual object is displayed in the screen, display the user interface in the display region having the first size.

(188) The user input for changing the execution state of the software application may include a user input for executing the software application. The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, based on identifying that the state of the display region is distinguished from the reference state, display the visual object in the display region having the first size, together with the user interface displayed in response to execution of the software application. The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, refrain from displaying the visual object, based on identifying that the state of the display region corresponds to the reference state.

(189) The visual object may be displayed at a position where the user input for executing the

software application is received.

(190) The visual object may be superimposed or floated on the user interface.

(191) The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, identify whether a predetermined time elapses from a timing point of displaying the visual object. The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, maintain displaying the visual object with the user interface while identifying that the predetermined time has not elapsed from the timing point. The processor may be further configured to, when the instructions are executed, cease displaying the visual object in response to identifying that the predetermined time has elapsed from the timing point.

(192) The reference state may be a state of the display region when the user interface is displayed before receiving the user input for changing the execution state of the software application.

(193) The reference state may be a state of the display region identified based on an arrangement of content in the user interface.

(194) The reference state may be a state of the display region identified based on attributes of at least some of the content in the user interface.

(195) The reference state may be a state of the display region identified based on a size of content in the user interface.

(196) The visual object may include a visual element for indicating the second size.

(197) The visual element may include a bar-shaped indicator for showing a length corresponding to the second size.

(198) The processor may be further configured to, when the instructions are executed, change the size of the display region to the second size, in response to a touch input on the visual object that is released before a predetermined time elapses. The processor may be further configured to, when the instructions are executed, display the visual object including the bar-shaped indicator having an enlarged size, in response to a touch input on the visual object that is maintained for the predetermined time or longer. The processor may be further configured to, when the instructions are executed, change the size of the display region to a size corresponding to a user input received through the bar-shaped indicator having the enlarged size, via the actuator.

(199) According to an embodiment of the disclosure, an electronic device may include a housing, a flexible display that is slidable into or slidable out of the housing, an actuator for pulling-in at least a portion of the flexible display into the housing or pulling-out at least a portion of the flexible display from the housing, a memory configured to store instructions, and a processor operatively coupled to the flexible display. The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, identify that, while a user interface of a software application is displayed, a content in the user interface is intersected with an edge of a display region of the flexible display exposed out of the housing. The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, display a visual object for guiding to change a state of the display region around the content, based on the identifying. The processor may be configured to, when the instructions are executed, extend the display region via the actuator to resume displaying of a portion of the content that was interrupted according to the intersection with the periphery, in response to a user input on the visual object.

(200) An electronic device according to various embodiments of the disclosure may be one of various types of electronic devices. The electronic devices may include, for example, a portable communication device (e.g., a smartphone), a computer device, a portable multimedia device, a portable medical device, a camera, a wearable device, or a home appliance. According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the electronic devices are not limited to those described above.

(201) It should be appreciated that various embodiments of the disclosure and the terms used therein are not intended to limit the technological features set forth herein to particular embodiments and include various changes, equivalents, or replacements for a corresponding embodiment of the disclosure. With regard to the description of the drawings, similar reference numerals may be used to refer to similar or related elements. As used herein, each of such phrases

as “A or B”, “at least one of A and B”, “at least one of A or B”, “A, B, or C”, “at least one of A, B, and C”, and “at least one of A, B, or C” may include any one of, or all possible combinations of the items enumerated together in a corresponding one of the phrases. As used herein, such terms as “1st” and “2nd”, or “first” and “second” may be used to simply distinguish a corresponding component from another, and does not limit the components in other aspect (e.g., importance or order). It is to be understood that if an element (e.g., a first element) is referred to, with or without the term “operatively” or “communicatively”, as “coupled with”, “coupled to”, “connected with”, or “connected to” another element (e.g., a second element), it means that the element may be coupled with the other element directly (e.g., wiredly), wirelessly, or via a third element.

(202) As used herein, the term “module” may include a unit implemented in hardware, software, or firmware, and may interchangeably be used with other terms, for example, “logic”, “logic block”, “part”, or “circuitry”. A module may be a single integral component, or a minimum unit or part thereof, adapted to perform one or more functions. For example, according to an embodiment of the disclosure, the module may be implemented in a form of an application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC).

(203) Various embodiments as set forth herein may be implemented as software (e.g., the program **1540**) including one or more instructions that are stored in a storage medium (e.g., an internal memory **1536** or an external memory **1538**) that is readable by a machine (e.g., the electronic device **1501**). For example, a processor (e.g., the processor **1520**) of the machine (e.g., the electronic device **1501**) may invoke at least one of the one or more instructions stored in the storage medium, and execute it, with or without using one or more other components under the control of the processor. This allows the machine to be operated to perform at least one function according to the at least one instruction invoked. The one or more instructions may include a code generated by a compiler or a code executable by an interpreter. The machine-readable storage medium may be provided in the form of a non-transitory storage medium. Wherein, the term “non-transitory” simply means that the storage medium is a tangible device, and does not include a signal (e.g., an electromagnetic wave), but this term does not differentiate between where data is semi-permanently stored in the storage medium and where the data is temporarily stored in the storage medium.

(204) According to an embodiment of the disclosure, a method according to various embodiments of the disclosure may be included and provided in a computer program product. The computer program product may be traded as a product between a seller and a buyer. The computer program product may be distributed in the form of a machine-readable storage medium (e.g., a compact disc read only memory (CD-ROM)), or be distributed (e.g., downloaded or uploaded) online via an application store (e.g., PlayStore™), or between two user devices (e.g., smart phones) directly. If distributed online, at least part of the computer program product may be temporarily generated or at least temporarily stored in the machine-readable storage medium, such as memory of the manufacturer's server, a server of the application store, or a relay server.

(205) According to various embodiments of the disclosure, each component (e.g., a module or a program) of the above-described components may include a single entity or multiple entities. According to various embodiments of the disclosure, one or more of the above-described components may be omitted, or one or more other components may be added. Alternatively or additionally, a plurality of components (e.g., modules or programs) may be integrated into a single component. In such a case, according to various embodiments of the disclosure, the integrated component may still perform one or more functions of each of the plurality of components in the same or similar manner as they are performed by a corresponding one of the plurality of components before the integration. According to various embodiments of the disclosure, operations performed by the module, the program, or another component may be carried out sequentially, in parallel, repeatedly, or heuristically, or one or more of the operations may be executed in a different order or omitted, or one or more other operations may be added.

(206) While the disclosure has been shown and described with reference to various embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the disclosure as defined by the appended claims and their equivalents.

Claims

1. An electronic device comprising: a housing including a first housing part and a second housing part configured to movably engage with the first housing part between a retracted position and an extended position; a flexible display coupled to the first housing part and the second housing part such that a size of a display region of the flexible display that is visible from a front side of the housing changes as the housing is moved between the retracted position and the extended position; an actuator; at least one processor comprising processing circuitry; and memory comprising one or more storage media storing instructions that, when executed by the at least one processor individually or collectively, cause the electronic device to: receive a user input for selecting a software application, based on the user input, identify a reference size of a user interface of the software application in accordance with an execution history of the software application, compare a size of the user interface to be displayed in the display region having a first size, with the reference size, based on the size of the user interface being different from the reference size, display a visual object for guiding to change the size of the display region in which the user interface is to be displayed, based on at least one user input received with respect to the visual object, control the actuator to change the size of the display region from the first size to a second size corresponding to the reference size, and display the user interface of the software application in the display region having the second size.
2. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the instructions, when executed by the at least one processor individually or collectively, cause the electronic device to: refrain from displaying the visual object, based on the size of the user interface corresponding to the reference size.
3. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the user input for selecting the software application includes a user input for displaying a screen including a list of software applications being executed in the electronic device, wherein the list of software applications, included in the screen, includes an image of the user interface, and wherein the visual object is displayed in the screen.
4. The electronic device of claim 3, wherein the instructions, when executed by the at least one processor individually or collectively, cause the electronic device to: in response to the user input, display the image of the user interface, included in the screen, in the display region having the first size, based on the size of the user interface corresponding to the reference size, and in response to the user input, display the image associated with the visual object in the display region having the first size, based on the size of the user interface being different from the reference size, and wherein the visual object has a representation for indicating the second size.
5. The electronic device of claim 4, wherein the instructions, when executed by the at least one processor individually or collectively, cause the electronic device to: receive a user input for the image while the image associated with the visual object is displayed in the screen, in response to the user input for the image, display information for identifying whether to change the size of the display region to the second size, in response to a first user input received with respect to the displayed information, change the size of the display region to the second size, and display the user interface in the display region having the second size, and in response to a second user input received with respect to the displayed information, maintain the size of the display region at the first size, and display the user interface in the display region having the first size.
6. The electronic device of claim 4, wherein the instructions, when executed by the at least one processor individually or collectively, cause the electronic device to: receive a user input for the image while the image associated with the visual object is displayed in the screen, in response to

the user input for the image, display the user interface in the display region having the first size, together with another visual object including a reduced image of the user interface to be displayed in the display region having the second size, and in response to a user input for the other visual object, change the size of the display region to the second size, and display the user interface in the display region having the second size.

7. The electronic device of claim 6, wherein the other visual object is superimposed or floated on the user interface.

8. The electronic device of claim 4, wherein the instructions, when executed by the at least one processor individually or collectively, cause the electronic device to: receive a user input for the image, while the image associated with the visual object is displayed in the screen, in response to the user input for the image, display the user interface in the display region having the first size, together with another visual object to change the size of the display region to the second size, and in response to a user input for the other visual object, change the size of the display region to the second size, and display the user interface in the display region having the second size, and wherein the other visual object is displayed within a navigation bar displayed in the display region.

9. The electronic device of claim 4, wherein the instructions, when executed by the at least one processor individually or collectively, cause the electronic device to: in response to receiving a user input for the visual object while the image associated with the visual object is displayed in the screen, change the size of the display region to the second size, and display the user interface in the display region having the second size, and in response to receiving a user input for the image while the image associated with the visual object is displayed in the screen, display the user interface in the display region having the first size.

10. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the user input for selecting the software application includes a user input for executing the software application, and wherein the instructions, when executed by the at least one processor individually or collectively, cause the electronic device to: based on the size of the user interface being different from the reference size, display the visual object in the display region having the first size, together with the user interface displayed in response to execution of the software application, and based on the size of the user interface corresponding to the reference size, refrain from displaying the visual object.

11. The electronic device of claim 10, wherein the visual object is displayed at a position where the user input for executing the software application is received.

12. The electronic device of claim 11, wherein the visual object is superimposed or floated on the user interface.

13. The electronic device of claim 10, wherein the instructions, when executed by the at least one processor individually or collectively, cause the electronic device to: identify whether a predetermined time elapses from a timing point of displaying the visual object, maintain displaying the visual object with the user interface, while identifying that the predetermined time has not elapsed from the timing point, and cease displaying the visual object in response to identifying that the predetermined time has elapsed from the timing point.

14. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the reference size, identified in accordance with the execution history of the software application, is a size of the user interface that was displayed before receiving the user input.

15. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the reference size is identified further based on an arrangement of content in the user interface.

16. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the reference size is identified further based on attributes of content in the user interface.

17. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the reference size is identified further based on a size of content in the user interface.

18. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the visual object includes a visual element for indicating the second size.

19. The electronic device of claim 18, wherein the visual element includes a bar-shaped indicator for showing a length corresponding to the second size.

20. The electronic device of claim 19, wherein the instructions, when executed by the at least one processor individually or collectively, cause the electronic device to: in response to a touch input on the visual object that is released before a predetermined time elapses, change the size of the display region to the second size, in response to a touch input on the visual object that is maintained for the predetermined time or longer, display the visual object including the bar-shaped indicator having an enlarged size, and change the size of the display region to a size corresponding to a user input received through the bar-shaped indicator having the enlarged size, via the actuator.
