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Electronic device, foldable-slider device, and method for displaying information

Abstract

An electronic device, a foldable-slider device, and a method for displaying information are disclosed. The electronic device may include a housing assembly (10) and a display screen (20). The housing assembly (10) may include a first housing portion (11), a second housing portion (12), and a foldable portion (13). The display screen (20) may have a shortcut display area (211). In a condition of the foldable portion (13) being in a folded state, the second housing portion (12) can be enabled to slide between a first folded position where the shortcut display area (211) is covered by the second housing portion (12) and a second folded position where the shortcut display area (211) is exposed from the second housing portion (12).

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Background/Summary

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS (1) This application is a continuation of International Patent Application No. PCT/CN2021/094186 filed on May 17, 2021, which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

(1) The described embodiments relate to electronic technology, and in particular relates to an electronic device, a foldable-slider device, and a method for displaying information.

BACKGROUND

(2) Nowadays, foldable electronic devices are becoming increasingly popular among users. In order to protect a display screen of an electronic device, the display screen is usually configured to be folded inside when the electronic device is closed, which reduces the convenience of the product.

SUMMARY

(3) In one embodiment, the present disclosure provides an electronic device. The electronic device may include a housing assembly and a display screen. The housing assembly may include a first housing portion, a second housing portion, and a foldable portion. The first housing portion and the second housing portion may be spaced from each other. The foldable portion may include two opposite ends. One end of the two opposite ends may be connected to the first housing portion. The other end of the two opposite ends may be connected to the second housing portion. The display screen may be connected to the housing assembly. The display screen may cover the first housing portion, the second housing portion, and the foldable portion. The display screen may have a shortcut display area. The shortcut display area may cover a part of the first housing portion away from the foldable portion. In a condition of the foldable portion being in a folded state, the two opposite ends may be configured to be slidable relative to each other such that the second housing portion may be enabled to slide between a first folded position where the shortcut display area is covered by the second housing portion and a second folded position where the shortcut display area is exposed from the second housing portion.

(4) In another embodiment, the present disclosure provides a method for displaying information for an electronic device. The electronic device may include a housing assembly and a display screen. The housing assembly may include a first housing portion, a second housing portion, and a foldable portion. The foldable portion may include two opposite ends. One end of the two opposite ends may be connected to the first housing portion. The other end of the two opposite ends may be connected to the second housing portion. The display screen may cover the first housing portion, the second housing portion, and the foldable portion. The display screen may have a shortcut display area. The shortcut display area may cover a part of the first housing portion away from the foldable portion. In a condition of the foldable portion is being in a folded state, the two opposite ends are configured to be slidable relative to each other such that the second housing portion may be enabled to slide between a first folded position where the shortcut display area is covered by the second housing portion and a second folded position where the shortcut display area is exposed from the second housing portion. The method may include displaying a first data on the shortcut

display area in response to the second housing portion sliding to the second folded position from the first folded position.

(5) In another embodiment, the present disclosure provides a foldable-slider device. The foldable-slider device may include a first part and a second part. The first part may have a first display surface. The second part may be connected with the first part. The second part may have a second display surface. The second part may be configured to slide relative to the first part between a first state and a second state in a condition of the device being folded. An area of the first display surface of the first part may gradually increase and an area of the second display surface of the second part may gradually decrease in response to a slide of the second part from the first state to the second state. The area of the first display surface of the first part may gradually decrease and the area of the second display surface of the second part may gradually increase in response to a slide of the second part from the second state to the first state.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- (1) In order to make the technical solution described in the embodiments of the present disclosure more clear, the drawings used for the description of the embodiments will be briefly described. Apparently, the drawings described below are only for illustration but not for limitation. It should be understood that, one skilled in the art might acquire other drawings based on these drawings, without paying any creative efforts.
- (2) FIG. 1 is a schematic structural view of an electronic device according to an embodiment of the present disclosure under a fully-open state.
- (3) FIG. 2 is a schematic structural view of an electronic device according to another embodiment of the present disclosure under a fully-open state.
- (4) FIG. 3 is a schematic structural view of an electronic device according to an embodiment of the present disclosure under a fully-closed state.
- (5) FIG. 4 is a schematic structural view of an electronic device according to another embodiment of the present disclosure under a fully-closed state.
- (6) FIG. 5 is a schematic structural view of an electronic device according to another embodiment of the present disclosure under a fully-closed state.
- (7) FIG. 6 is a schematic structural change view of an electronic device from the fully-closed state to a slide-open state according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.
- (8) FIG. 7 is a schematic structural change view of an electronic device from the fully-closed state to a slide-open state according to another embodiment of the present disclosure.
- (9) FIG. 8 is a schematic structural view of an electronic device according to an embodiment of the present disclosure under a slide-open state.
- (10) FIG. 9 is a schematic structural view of an electronic device according to another embodiment of the present disclosure under the slide-open state.
- (11) FIG. 10 is a schematic diagram of a display interface of an electronic device according to an embodiment of the present disclosure under the slide-open state.
- (12) FIG. 11 is a schematic diagram of another display interface of an electronic device according to an embodiment of the present disclosure under the slide-open state.
- (13) FIG. 12 is a schematic diagram of another display interface of an electronic device according to an embodiment of the present disclosure under the slide-open state.
- (14) FIG. 13 is a schematic diagram of another display interface of an electronic device according to an embodiment of the present disclosure under the slide-open state.
- (15) FIG. 14 is a schematic diagram of user's interaction with an electronic device according to an embodiment of the present disclosure under the slide-open state.

- (16) FIG. 15 is a schematic structural change view of an electronic device from the slide-open state to the fully-closed state according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.
- (17) FIG. 16 is a schematic structural change view of an electronic device from the slide-open state to the fully-closed state according to another embodiment of the present disclosure.
- (18) FIG. 17 is a schematic structural change view of an electronic device from the slide-open state to a half-open state according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.
- (19) FIG. 18 is a schematic structural change view of an electronic device from the slide-open state to the half-open state according to another embodiment of the present disclosure.
- (20) FIG. 19 is a schematic diagram of user's interaction with an electronic device according to an embodiment of the present disclosure under the slide-open state.
- (21) FIG. 20 is a schematic diagram of user's interaction with an electronic device according to another embodiment of the present disclosure under the slide-open state.
- (22) FIG. 21 is a schematic structural change view of an electronic device from the fully-closed state to the half-open state according to another embodiment of the present disclosure.
- (23) FIG. 22 is a schematic structural view of an electronic device according to an embodiment of the present disclosure under a half-open state.
- (24) FIG. 23 is a schematic structural view of an electronic device according to another embodiment of the present disclosure under the half-open state.
- (25) FIG. 24 is a schematic diagram of a display interface of an electronic device according to an embodiment of the present disclosure under the half-open state.
- (26) FIG. 25 is a schematic diagram of change on a display interface of an electronic device from the slide-open state to a half-unfolded state according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.
- (27) FIG. 26 is a schematic diagram of change on a display interface of an electronic device from the slide-open state to the half-unfolded state according to another embodiment of the present disclosure.
- (28) FIG. 27 is a schematic diagram of change on a display interface of an electronic device from the slide-open state to the half-unfolded state according to another embodiment of the present disclosure.
- (29) FIG. 28 is a schematic diagram of change on a display interface of an electronic device from the slide-open state to the half-unfolded state according to another embodiment of the present disclosure.
- (30) FIG. 29 is a schematic structural change view of an electronic device from the half-open state to a fully-unfolded state according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.
- (31) FIG. 30 is a schematic structural change view of an electronic device from the slide-open state to the fully-unfolded state according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.
- (32) FIG. 31 is a schematic structural change view of an electronic device from the fully-closed state to the fully-unfolded state according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.
- (33) FIG. 32 is a schematic structural view of an electronic device according to an embodiment of the present disclosure under a fully-open state.
- (34) FIG. 33 is a schematic diagram of change on a display interface of an electronic device from the half-open state to the fully-unfolded state according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

(35) Technical solutions of the embodiments of the present disclosure may be clearly and comprehensively described by referring to accompanying figures of the embodiments. Obviously, embodiments to be described are only a part of, but not all of, the embodiments of the present disclosure. Any ordinary skilled person in the art may obtain other embodiments based on the embodiments of the present disclosure without any creative work, and the other embodiments should be included in the scope of the present disclosure.

(36) FIG. 1 depicts an embodiment of an electronic device. The electronic device may be a portable electronic device such as a cellular telephone, a tablet, an e-reader, or the like.

(37) As illustrated in FIG. 1, the electronic device may include a housing assembly **10** and a display screen **20**. The housing assembly **10** may serve as a supporting frame and be configured to mount the display screen **20**. The display screen **20** may be connected to the housing assembly **10** and viewable through a side of the electronic device. The housing assembly **10** may be formed from materials such as polymer, glass, metal, crystalline materials such as sapphire, ceramic, fabric, foam, wood, other materials, and/or combinations of these materials. The display screen **20** may include any type of display screen for example a liquid crystal display, a light emitting diode display, an organic light-emitting diode display, a 3D display, and so on. In some embodiments, different parts of the display screen **20** may be of different types.

(38) The housing assembly **10** may form at least a portion of an exterior surface of the electronic device. In some embodiments, the housing assembly **10** may at least partially surround the display screen **20**. In some embodiments, the housing assembly **10** may form a backing or backing layer along a back face of the display screen **20**. In some cases, the housing assembly **10** may be integrally formed with the display screen **20**.

(39) In details, the electronic device may have a front face F, an opposing rear face R, and several sidewalls W. The rear face R may be formed by a back face of the housing assembly **10** away from the display screen **20**, and the front face F may be constituted of a display surface of the display screen **20** and an extension of the back face of the housing assembly **10**. The extension of the back face of the housing assembly **10** may surround the display surface. In some embodiments, the front face F may be only formed by the display surface of the display screen **20**, and not by the extension of the back face of the housing assembly **20**.

(40) Sidewalls W may be formed by an extension of the housing assembly **10**, an extension of the display screen **20**, or combinations of the extension of the housing assembly **10** and the extension of the display screen **2**, and/or may be formed using one or more separate sidewall members (as examples). Sidewalls W may be planar (e.g., to form vertical sidewalls extending between front F and rear R) and/or may have curved cross-sectional profiles. As a case, input-output devices such as one or more physical buttons may be mounted on the sidewalls W.

(41) In addition, each of the housing assembly **10** and the display screen **20** may have a planar shape, a shape with a curved cross-sectional profile, or other suitable shape. In the embodiment of FIG. 1, each of the front face F and the rear face R may have a planar shape and lie in the X-Y plane. The display screen may have a rectangular or a rectangular-like outline or other suitable outline. The electronic device may be elongated along the X axis. A thickness of the electronic device in dimension Z may be less than a length of the electronic device in dimension X and less than a width of the electronic device in dimension Y.

(42) To help satisfy a user's desire for compactness and portability while satisfying a user's desire for large-screen display, the electronic device can have structures that allow the shape and size of the electronic device to be adjusted. In particular, the structures can support folding motions and/or other behavior that allows the electronic device to be adjusted during use.

(43) When compact size is desired, the electronic device can be adjusted to be compact. The electronic device may, as an example, be folded inwardly or outwardly about a bending axis. When a large screen size is desired, the housing assembly **10** and the display screen **20** can be unfolded in one or more directions such as a direction parallel to the X axis or a direction perpendicular to the X axis and perpendicular to the thickness of the electronic device. When expanded, the display screen **20** can exhibit an expanded viewable area.

(44) FIG. 2 illustrates the electronic device in detail. In the embodiment in FIG. 2, the housing assembly may include a first housing portion **11**, a second housing portion **12**, and a foldable portion **13**. The first housing portion **11** and the second housing portion **12** may be spaced from each other. The foldable portion **13** may include two opposite ends (**131**, **132**) arranged along the X axis. The first housing portion **11** may include a first end **111**, and the second housing portion **12** may include a second end **121**. One end **131** of the two opposite ends (**131**, **132**) may be connected

to an end of the first housing portion **11** away from the first end **111**, and the other end **132** of the two opposite ends (**131**, **132**) may be connected to an end of the second housing portion **12** away from the second end **121**.

(45) A size of the first housing portion **11**, a size of the second housing portion **12**, and a size of the foldable portion **13** along the X axis may be equal to each other or not. In the embodiment of FIG. 2, the size of the second housing portion **12** and the size of the foldable portion **13** may be smaller than the size of the first housing portion **11**. In some other embodiments, the size of the first housing portion **11** may be approximately equal to the size of the second housing portion **12**, but greater than the size of the foldable portion **13**, and the first housing portion **11** and the second housing portion **12** may be substantially arranged symmetrically on both sides of the foldable portion **13**.

(46) The first housing portion **11**, the second housing portion **12**, and the foldable portion **13** may have a same shape or different shapes. In some embodiments, shapes of the first housing portion **11**, the second housing portion **12**, and the foldable portion **13** may be changeless, or may change with a state of the electronic device varying. In the embodiment of the FIG. 2, each of the first housing portion **11** and the second housing portion **12** may have a rectangular shape which is changeless. However, a shape of the foldable portion **13** may be variable as the state of the electronic device changes.

(47) In detail, the foldable portion **13** may be foldably provided and may have one or more bending axes around which the foldable portion **13** can be folded or unfolded. In this way, the second housing portion **12** can be folded or unfolded relative to the first housing portion **11**, and the state of the electronic device can be adjusted.

(48) As an example, the foldable portion **13** may include a hinge to achieve its foldable function. Two ends (**131**, **132**) of the hinge may be connected to the first housing portion **11** and the second housing portion **12** to drive the first housing portion **11** and the second housing portion **12** to perform corresponding actions while the hinge being folded or unfolded. In some embodiments, the foldable portion **13** may include a flexible appearance layer. The flexible appearance layer may be connected to a side of the hinge away from the display screen **20** and connected between the first housing portion **11** and the second housing portion **12**, such that the side of the housing assembly **10** away from the display screen **20** can have a consistent and smooth appearance surface.

(49) In some embodiments, both the first housing portion **11** and the second housing portion **12** have some mounting structures. The display screen **20** may be mounted to the first housing portion **11** and the second housing portion **12** by these mounting structures. In some embodiments, all of the first housing portion **11**, the second housing portion **12**, and the foldable portion **13** may include mounting structures by which the display screen **20** may be mounted to the housing assembly **10**. In detail, the display screen **20** may be mounted to the housing assembly **10** by at least one of screwing, snap-fitting, gluing, and other mounting methods.

(50) In the embodiment in FIG. 2, the display screen **20** may have a first display area **21**, a second display area **22**, and a foldable display area **23**. Each area may be a different area of a display surface of the display screen **20**. The first display area **21** may include a shortcut display area **211**. The foldable display area **23** may be connected between the first display area **21** and the second display area **22**. The shortcut display area **211** may be a part of the first display area **21** covering a part of the first housing portion **11** away from the foldable portion **13** and adjacent to the first end **111**. A size of the shortcut display area **211** may be smaller than a size of the first display area **21**, and may also be smaller than a size of the foldable display area **23** and a size of the second display area **22**. In some other embodiments, the shortcut display area **211** may be the same as the first display area **21**.

(51) Similar to the housing assembly **10**, the first display area **21**, the second display area **22**, and the foldable display area **23** may have a same shape or different shapes. In some embodiments, shapes of the first display area **21**, the second display area **22**, and the foldable display area **23** may

be changeless, or may change with a state of the electronic device varying. In the embodiment of the FIG. 2, each of the first display area **11** and the second display area **12** may have a rectangular shape which is changeless. However, a shape of the foldable display area **23** may be variable as the shape of the foldable portion **13** changes.

(52) A size of the first display area **21**, a size of the second display area **22**, and a size of the foldable display area **23** may be equal or not. In the embodiment of FIG. 2, each of the size of the second display area **22** and the size of the foldable display area **23** may be smaller than the size of the first display area **21**. In a case, the size of the first display area **21** may be approximately a half of a size of an entire display surface of the display screen **20**. In another example, the size of the first display area **21** may be approximately equal to the size of the second display area **22**, but greater than the size of the foldable display area **23**, and the first display area **21** and the second display area **22** may be substantially arranged symmetrically on both sides of the foldable display area **23**.

(53) Moreover, the first display area **21** may cover the first housing portion **11**, the shortcut display area **211** may cover a part of the first housing portion **11** away from the foldable portion **13** and adjacent to the first end **111**, the second display area **22** may cover the second housing portion **12**, and the foldable display area **23** may cover the foldable portion **13**. In the embodiment of FIG. 2 in conjunction with FIG. 1, a first part of sidewalls **W** closing to the first display area **21** may be formed by an extension of the first housing portion **11**, a second part of sidewalls **W** closing to the second display area **22** may be formed by an extension of the second housing portion **12**, and a third part of sidewalls **W** closing to the foldable display area **23** may be formed by an extension of the foldable portion **13**. In this embodiment, a vertical projection of the first display area **21** on the front face **F** may cover a part of a vertical projection of the first housing portion **11**, a vertical projection of the second display area **22** on the front face **F** may also cover a part of a vertical projection of the second housing portion **12**, and a vertical projection of the foldable display area **23** on the front face **F** may also cover a part of a vertical projection of the foldable portion **13**. In some other embodiments, the vertical projection of the first display area **21** and the vertical projection of the first housing portion **11** may coincide with each other. Similarly, the vertical projection of the second display area **22** and the vertical projection of the second housing portion **12** may coincide with each other, and the vertical projection of the foldable display area **23** may also coincide with the vertical projection of the foldable portion **13**.

(54) In detail, the foldable display area **23** may be flexible such that it can be folded or unfolded to adapt to the foldable portion **13**. The first display area **21** and the second display area **22** can be flexible or rigid, and it is not limited herein.

(55) It can be seen that, in the embodiment of FIG. 2, the electronic device is in a fully-open state, large in size and not portable. To help satisfy a user's desire for compactness and portability, the electronic device can be folded inwardly to be in a fully-closed state as illustrated in FIGS. 3-5.

(56) Before the electronic device in the fully-closed state being described, the structure of the electronic device is described again in conjunction with FIGS. 2-5 here.

(57) The electronic device may be divided into two parts along a bending axis of the foldable portion **13**. The two parts may include a first part **30** and a second part **40** connected with each other. The first part **30** may include the first housing portion **11**, a first section **133** of the foldable portion **13**, and a portion of the display screen **20** covering the first housing portion **11**, the first section **133**. The second part **40** may include the second housing portion **12**, a second section **134** of the foldable portion **13**, and a portion of the display screen **20** covering the second housing portion **12** and the second section **134**. The first section **133** and the second section **134** may be arranged at each side of the bending axis along which the electronic device is divided into the two parts.

(58) The first part **30** may have a first display surface **31**. The second part **40** may have a second display surface **41** which is connected with the first surface **31** to form an entire display surface of

the display screen **20**. The first display surface **31** may include the first display area **21** and a portion of the foldable display area **23** covering the first section **133**. The second display surface **41** may include the second display area **22** and another portion of the foldable display area **23** covering the second section **134**.

(59) Noted that the bending axis along which the electronic device is divided into the two parts may be any one of the one or more bending axes of the foldable portion **13**. When the bending axis varies, an area of the first display surface **31** and an area of the second display surface **41** may also change.

(60) As illustrated in FIGS. **3-5** in conjunction with FIG. **2**, in the fully-closed state, the electronic device may be folded into two parts. The second part **40** may be an upper one and located on the first part **30** which may be a lower one. The foldable portion **13** may also be folded into two portions. The first section **133** may be a lower portion and the second section **134** may be an upper portion. The first display surface **31** and the second surface **41** may face each other and be substantially parallel to each other. The area of the first display surface **31** may be substantially equal to the area of the second display surface **41**. It should be noted that, in this state, both the first display surface **31** and the second display surface **41** may be free of being exposed and not viewable to the user.

(61) In detail, the foldable portion **13** may be folded along a first bending axis **135** such that the first housing portion **11** and the second housing portion **12** can be laminated together. In this state, a length of the second section **134** may be longer than a length of the first section **133**. The length of the second section **134** and the length of the first section **133** may be along a direction perpendicular to the first bending axis **135**. The second housing portion **12** may be in a first folded position relative to the first housing portion **11** such that the first end **111** of the first housing portion **11** may be flush with the second end **121** of the second housing portion **12**. In other words, the electronic device may be folded in half when it is in the fully-closed state. For the display screen **20**, the foldable display area **23** may also be folded to adapt to a folded shape of the foldable portion **13**. The first display area **21** and the second display area **22** may be laminated together and sandwiched between the first housing portion **11** and the second housing portion **12**.

(62) A back face of the first housing portion **11** away from the display screen **20** and a back face of the second housing portion **12** away from the display screen **20** may be substantially parallel to each other, and the first display surface **31** and the second display surface **41** may also be substantially parallel to each other. As an example, edges of the housing assembly **10** may extend between the first display area **21** and the second display area **22** as a support such that the first display area **21** and the second display area **22** can be spaced apart from each other without a touch. In this way, the friction between the first display area **21** and the second display area **22** can be reduced, thereby protecting the display screen **20**. As another example, the first display area **21** and the second display area **22** can be in contact with each other. In this way, a thickness of the electronic device in the fully-closed state can be reduced, thus improving the portability. In order to protect the display screen **20**, a transparent protective film can be attached on the display screen **20**.

(63) The first display area **21** may be covered by the second housing portion **12**, and the second display area **22** may be covered by the first housing portion **11** such that the entire display surface of the display screen **20** can be covered. In this way, when the electronic device is in the fully-closed state, the display screen **20** can be fully protected especially when the display screen **20** is glass based which is prone to breakage.

(64) It should be noted that, when the electronic device is in the fully-closed state, the display screen **20** can be off or in a display-off state. When a short message or an incoming call is received, the electronic device can notify the user by at least one method of ringing, vibrating, and so on. In some embodiments, the electronic device may further include one or more indicator lights **50**. The one or more indicator lights **50** can be arranged on the back face of the housing assembly **10**. In the embodiment of the FIG. **5**, a plurality of indicator lights **50** can be arranged on the back face of the

second housing portion **12** away from the second display area **22** and closing to the second end **121**. The plurality of indicator lights **50** can be configured to emit indicating light. In some cases, the electronic device can notify the user by at least one of ringing, vibrating, emitting indicating light, and so on.

(65) In this way, when the electronic device is not needed by the user, it can be left in the fully-closed state, thereby being able to both save power and protect the display screen **20**.

(66) In related art, when the user wants to obtain information from the display screen **20**, the electronic device can be unfolded through the foldable portion **13** so as to reveal the display screen **20**. However, such an operation may require the user to operate with both hands, and it is often difficult to use the electronic device when the user is on the go and has difficulty operating with both hands.

(67) To further help satisfy a user's desire for convenience to view the display screen **20** when the electronic device is folded inwardly, the electronic device can also be adjusted to expose a portion of the display screen **20** by a sliding motion and/or other behavior. In this way, the user can check information from the portion of the display screen **20** without unfolding the electronic device and exposing the whole of the display screen **20**.

(68) In order to achieve the above purpose, as illustrated in FIGS. **6-7** in conjunction with FIG. **2**, the second part **40** can be configured to slide relative to the first part **30** from a first state to a second state in a condition of the electronic device (may also be called as a foldable-slider device) being folded. In this way, a portion of the first display surface **31** can be exposed when the second part **40** is in the second state.

(69) Specifically, in a condition of the foldable portion **13** being in a folded state and the electronic device being folded, the two opposite ends **131,132** of the foldable portion **13** may be configured to be slidable relative to each other, enabling the second housing portion **12** to slide towards the foldable portion **13** relative to the first housing portion **11**, such that the first end **111** of the first housing portion **11** and the second end **121** of the second housing portion **12** may be staggered and a part of the display surface of the display screen **20** such as the shortcut display area **211** can be exposed.

(70) As an embodiment, the foldable portion **13** may be a slider-pivot hinge mechanism, such as a variable radius hinge mechanism. The variable radius hinge may be a linear hinge or a geared hinge. As shown in FIGS. **6-7**, the electronic device may be in a fully-closed state initially, the second housing portion **12** is in the first folded position, and the entire display face of the display screen **20** can be covered by the housing assembly **10**. As an external force towards the foldable portion **13** is applied to the second end **121**, the external force can be transmitted to the end **132** of the foldable portion **13** through the second housing portion **12**, causing the foldable portion **13** to change radius such that the end **132** may slide relative to the end **131** along a direction of the external force, thereby driving the second housing portion **12** to slide relative to the first housing portion **11** in the direction of the external force, and the shortcut display area **211** can be gradually exposed from the second housing portion **12** until the second housing portion **12** arrives at a second folded position, at which the shortcut display area **211** may be completely exposed from the second housing portion **11** and the electronic device can be in a slide-open state.

(71) When the electronic device is in the fully-closed state, the second housing portion **12** is at the first folded position, and the second part is in the first state. When the electronic device is in the slide-open state, the second housing portion **12** is at the second folded position, or the second part is in the second state.

(72) It should be noted that, during the adjustment, the bending axis along which the electronic device may be unfolded into the two parts changes from the first bending axis **135** to a second bending axis **136**, the area of the first display surface **31** of the first part **30** may gradually increase and the area of the second display surface **41** of the second part **40** may gradually decrease, the back face of the first housing portion **11** away from the display screen **20** may keep substantially

parallel to the back face of the second housing portion **12** away from the display screen **20**, and the first display surface **31** may also keep substantially parallel to the second display surface **42**.

(73) In some embodiments, the foldable portion **13** may be electrically controlled. In detail, a control instruction may be issued via a corresponding physical button of the electronic device, and the foldable portion **13** may be controlled in response to the control instruction such that the end **132** may slide relative to the end **131**, thereby causing the second housing portion **12** to slide relative to the first housing portion **11**. The control instruction may also be a voice instruction, a gesture instruction, and the like.

(74) In addition, the electronic device may further include one or more locking mechanisms mounted to the housing assembly **10**, such as a locking mechanism **60** (may also be called as a latch mechanism) depicted in FIG. 2. In the embodiment of FIG. 2, the locking mechanism **60** may be located at a side of the shortcut display area **211** closing to the foldable portion **13**. The locking mechanism **60** can be configured to lock the second housing portion **12** at the second folded position such that the electronic device can keep in the slide-open state.

(75) In a case, the locking mechanism **60** may be a magnetic lock and can achieve a locking function by magnetic adsorption. As an example, the locking mechanism **60** may be an electromagnetic lock.

(76) In detail, when the second housing portion **12** reaches the second folded position, the locking mechanism **60** may be triggered and lock the second housing portion **12** at the second folded position to prevent a further sliding motion between the first housing portion **11** and the second housing portion **12** to a certain extent, so that the electronic device may keep in the slide-open state.

(77) As illustrated in FIGS. 8 and 9 in conjunction with FIG. 2, when in the slide-open state, the electronic device may still be folded, but not folded in half. The back face of the first housing portion **11** away from the display screen **20** and the back face of the second housing portion **12** away from the display screen **20** may still be substantially parallel to each other, and the first display area **21** and the second display area **22** may also still be substantially parallel to each other. The bending axis of the foldable portion **13** may be the second bending axis **136**. The length of the second section **134** (the upper portion) of the foldable portion **13** may be shorter than that of the first section **133** (the lower portion) of the foldable portion **13**. The second end **121** of the second housing portion **12** may be located at a side of the shortcut display area **211** away from the first end **111** of the first housing portion **11**, such that the shortcut display area **211** may no longer be covered by the second housing portion **12**.

(78) The shortcut display area **211** may be a part of the first display area **21** and big enough for essential and key interactions. In a direction perpendicular to a sliding direction of the second housing portion **12**, the shortcut display area **211** may have a same size as that of the first display area **21**. Along the sliding direction, a size of the shortcut display area **211** may be $\frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, etc. of a size of the first display area **21**. The shortcut display area **211** may have an elongated shape along the direction perpendicular to the sliding direction.

(79) In addition, the electronic device may further include one or more cameras, such as the camera **70** in FIGS. 2 and 8. The camera **70** may be a front camera and connected to the first housing portion **11**. The camera **70** may be located closing to the shortcut display area **211** and the first end **111** of and the first housing portion **11** such that when the second housing portion **12** is located at the second folded position, the camera **70** can also be exposed.

(80) In some other embodiments, the electronic device may also include other components, such as an earpiece, a microphone, etc., positioned closing to the shortcut display area **211** and the first end **111**, which can also be exposed when the electronic is in the slide-open state.

(81) It should be noted that when the electronic device is in the fully-closed state, the second housing portion **12** may be at the first folded position and the display screen **20** may be in the display-off state. When the second housing portion **12** slides to the second folded position from the

first folded position such that the shortcut display area **211** is exposed, a first data can be displayed on the shortcut display area **211**. As a case, the shortcut display area **211** can be started to display the first data only when the second housing portion **12** arrives at the second folded position. As another case, when the second housing portion **12** begins to slide, causing the second end **121** moving away from the first end **111**, the shortcut display area **211** can be activated and the first data can be displayed on an exposed portion. As an area of the exposed portion of the shortcut display area **211** increases, a display interface showing the first data on the shortcut display area **211** may gradually expand.

(82) The first data can be basic functional data of the electronic device and essential or key for the user especially when the user is on the go. As illustrated in FIGS. **10-13**, the first data may include at least one of a notification message **81** (can be seen in FIG. **10**), an operating widget for media control **82** (can also be seen in FIG. **10**), a setting panel **83** (can be seen in FIG. **11**), an adjustment slider **84** (can also be seen in FIG. **11**), an electronic payment interface **85** (can be seen in FIG. **12**), and a photographing interface **86** (can be seen in FIG. **13**).

(83) In detail, the notification message may include at least one of a short message, an alert message for a missed call, and an alert message for other applications. When a new notification message is received by the electronic device, it can be presented on the shortcut display area **211** for the user to preview or view. The operating widget for media control can be used to perform control operations on medium, and may include virtual buttons for start, pause, end, previous song, next song, and so on. In a case, a corresponding control operation can be performed by clicking a corresponding virtual button. The setting panel can include at least one of the virtual buttons for flight mode, wireless network, bluetooth, do not disturb mode, personal hotspot, and the like. A corresponding mode can be turned on and off by clicking a corresponding virtual button. The adjustment slider may be at least one of a slider for adjusting brightness of the display screen **20** as well as a slider for adjusting volume of the electronic device. The brightness and volume can be adjusted by dragging a corresponding slider up or down. The electronic payment interface can be a payment interface for bank card, a payment interface for electronic payments with built in services, a payment interface for payment application, and can include a corresponding QR code, bar code, or the like. The photographing interface can be used for the camera **70**, or one or more other cameras, and can include a photographing mode virtual button, a photographing preview screen, a photographing control virtual button, and the like. In addition, the first data may also include weather data, time data, date data, etc. The first data may be a default, or can be preset by the user according to an actual demand.

(84) In one embodiment, the first data can be removed from the shortcut display area **211** according to the user's actual requirements. In a case, the first data can be removed from the shortcut display area **211** in response to a swiping operation of the first data in a direction away from the foldable portion **13**. For example, as illustrated in FIG. **14**, a message **M** can be dragged in a direction towards the first end **111** of the first housing portion **11** and away from the foldable portion **13**, thereby the message **M** being removed from the shortcut display area **211**.

(85) In these embodiments described above, the shortcut display area **211** can be exposed to display essential and key information by a sliding motion of the second housing portion **12**. Since the sliding motion can be achieved by the user's pushing on the second housing portion **12**, making an entry point into the electronic device faster and easier to be performed with one hand on the go. In addition, in related art, for ease of use without unfolding the foldable electronic devices, external displays and cameras are used to exhibit essential information similar to the first data or achieve key interactions, which imply increase on bill of materials and redundancies at system level.

However, for the electronic device described in the above embodiments, the external displays and cameras may not be needed, since revealing the shortcut display area **211** that is big enough for key interactions, such as reading notifications, using quick replies, adjusting settings, accessing the camera **70** and performing payments on the go simplifies the user experience without unfolding the

electronic device, resulting in reduced costs and redundancies at system level.

(86) In an embodiment, with reference of FIGS. 2, 6-7 and 15-16, in the condition of the foldable portion 13 being in a folded state, the two opposite ends 131, 132 may be configured to be slidable relative to each other such that the second housing portion 12 may be enabled to slide between the first folded position and the second folded position. In other words, the second part 40 can slide relative to the first part 30 between the first state and the second state. In this way, after checking the information displayed on the shortcut display area 211, the user can pull the second housing portion 12 in a direction away from the foldable section 13 such that the second housing portion 12 may slide relative to the first housing portion 11 and return to the first folded position, causing the shortcut display area 211 and the camera 70 or other components located closing to the shortcut display area 211 being covered by the second housing portion 12. Then the display screen 20 may be off in response to the second housing portion 12 sliding back to the first folded position.

(87) It should be noted that, during the adjustment to the electronic device from the slide-open state to the fully-closed state, the length of the first section 133 (lower portion) of the foldable portion 13 and the area of the first display surface 31 of the first part 30 may gradually decrease, the length of the second section 134 (upper portion) of the foldable portion 13 and the area of the second display surface 41 of the second part 40 may gradually increase.

(88) Furthermore, in an embodiment, as illustrated in FIGS. 17-18, the foldable portion 13 may be configured to enable the second housing portion 12 to be unfolded relative to the first housing portion 11, thereby allowing a larger area of the display screen 20 to be exposed. In this way, when typing or more in depth application use is required, the second housing portion 12 can be unfolded from the second folded position to an unfolded position such as a half-unfolded position such that the electronic device can be in a half-open state.

(89) In other words, the second part 40 may be configured to be capable of opening relative to the first part 30 by rotating the second part 40 around the foldable portion 13 to a third state such that the electronic device may be in the half-open state.

(90) Specifically, the second housing portion 12 can be manually or automatically unfolded in one or more ways.

(91) As described above, when the electronic device is in the slide-open state, the second housing portion 12 may be locked to the second folded position relative to the first housing portion 11 by the locking mechanism 60. The second housing portion 12 can be unfolded from the second folded position when released from the locking mechanism 60. Similarly, the second housing portion 12 can be released manually or automatically.

(92) In an embodiment, the second housing portion 12 can be unlocked from the locking mechanism 60 in response to an unlocking instruction being received when the electronic device is in the slide-open state. Specifically, the unlocking instruction may be received in one or more ways. As a case, as depicted in FIG. 19, the unlocking instruction may be received in response to a certain first data (such as a notification message) on the shortcut display area 211 being dragged in the direction towards the foldable portion 13 and away from the first end 111. As another case, the unlocking instruction can also be received in response to a physical button on the housing assembly 10 or a virtual button displayed in the shortcut display area 211 being triggered.

(93) In another embodiment, as illustrated in FIG. 20, the locking mechanism 60 may define an unlocking point 61 (may also called as a de-latch point). The second housing portion 12 can also be released from the locking mechanism 60 by being pushed towards the foldable portion 13 and away from the first end 111 such that the second housing portion 12 can be beyond the unlocking point 61. Then the second housing portion 12 can be unfolded from the second folded position to the half-unfolded position. The second housing portion 12 sliding beyond the unlocking point 61 may mean the second end 121 of the second housing portion 12 sliding beyond the unlocking point 61, or a point of the second housing portion 12 corresponding to or covering the unlocking point 61 when the electronic device is in the slide-open state sliding beyond the unlocking point 61.

(94) In these ways, the unfolding of the second housing portion **12** may allow the electronic device to be opened from the slide-open state to the half-open state through a one-hand operation, which can further simplify the user experience.

(95) In another embodiment, when the electronic device is in the slide-open state, the user may manually apply a force to the second housing portion **12** in a direction away from the first housing portion **11** such that the second housing portion **12** can be directly unfolded relative to the first housing portion **11** about the second bending axis **136** without a sliding action.

(96) In addition, the electronic device can also be opened directly from the fully-closed state to the half-open state. As shown in FIG. **21**, the second housing portion **12** can be unfolded directly from the first folded position to the half-unfolded position around the first bending axis **135**. Specifically, the second housing portion **12** can also be manually or automatically unfolded.

(97) In one embodiment, in response to a corresponding physical button arranged on the housing assembly **10** being triggered, the second housing portion **12** can be opened from the first folded position to the half-unfolded position around the first bending axis **135**. In another embodiment, the user may manually apply a force to the second housing portion **12** in a direction away from the first housing portion **11** such that the second housing portion **12** may be directly unfolded relative to the first housing portion **11** around the first bending axis **135** without a sliding action.

(98) Moreover, when the electronic device is in the fully-closed state or the slide-open state, the first display area **21** and the second display area **22** may be parallel to each other. A predetermined angle θ between the first display area **21** and the second display area **22** may approximately be 0° . As the second housing portion **12** is gradually unfolded relative to the first housing portion **11**, the predetermined angle θ may gradually increase, and a distance between the first end **111** and the second end **121** may also gradually increase.

(99) In an embodiment, the foldable portion **13** may be configured to enable the second housing portion **12** to be relatively fixed at the half-unfolded position relative to the first housing portion **11**. As illustrated in FIGS. **22-23**, the electronic device may be in the half-open state. The predetermined angle θ between the first display area **21** and the second display area **22** may be greater than 0° and less than 180° . As a case, the predetermined angle θ can be greater than 60° and less than 150° . As another case, this predetermined angle can be greater than 90° less than 135° , such as 120° . The predetermined angle θ can be a system default or preset according to actual situation. In the case where the electronic device is manually adjusted to the half-open state by the user, the predetermined angle θ may be determined by a position at which the second housing portion **12** may be unfolded. It should be noted that the predetermined angle θ should be configured such that a vertical projection of the second housing portion **12** on a plane where the first display area **21** is located may not be overlapped with the first display area **21**. In this way, the first display area **21** can be presented to the user without being obscured by the second housing portion **12**.

(100) In addition, the half-unfolded position may be any position of the second housing portion **12** during the second housing portion **12** being unfolded from the first folded position to a fully-unfolded position where the predetermined angle θ may be larger around the first bending axis **135**, i.e., any position between the first folded position and the fully-unfolded position, and may also be any position of the second housing portion **12** during the second housing portion **12** being unfolded from the second folded position to the fully-unfolded position around the second bending axis **136**, i.e., any position between the second folded position and the fully-unfolded position. Noted that, the half-unfolded position may not be the fully-unfolded position.

(101) As illustrated in FIG. **24**, when the electronic device is in the half-open state, a second data may be displayed on the first display area **21** of the display screen **20**. The second data may include one or more of all functional data of the electronic device that the user can access, such as display interface or operation interface of each application. The second data may contain more data of the electronic device than the first data. It should be noted that, in this state, the second display area **22** and the foldable display area **23** may be off without having a display interface, and only the first

display area **21** has a display interface. The second data can be displayed on the first display area **21** in response to the first display area **21** being exposed. Further, the first display area **21** can be exposed by moving the second housing portion **12** to the half-unfolded position from the first folded position or the second folded position.

(102) During the electronic device being adjusted from the slide-open state to the half-open state, as the first display area **21** is gradually revealed, a display interface displaying the first data on the shortcut display area **211** of the display screen **20** may gradually expand until it occupies an entire first display area **21** and display the second data on the first display area **21**. It should be noted that different data can be displayed on the first display area **21** in different cases.

(103) In one embodiment, during the electronic device being adjusted from the slide-open state to the half-open state with a certain first data selected or dragged, a display interface presenting the application corresponding to the selected or dragged first data can gradually expand until it occupies the entire first display area **21**. As a case, the electronic device can be adjusted from the slide-open state to the half-open state in response to the first data being dragged towards the foldable portion **13**, and an application corresponding to the dragged first data may gradually expand in a manner as described above. For example, as shown in FIG. 25, when a messaging notification displayed on the shortcut display area **211** is dragged in, it can be expended to a half-screen sized application displayed on the first display area **21**, allowing full one-hand interaction, including for example the use of keyboard for typing. As another case, while a certain first data such as a widget is dragged and simultaneously the second housing portion **12** is pushed beyond the unlocking point **61**, the application relative to the widget that was dragged may also expand in the manner as described above.

(104) In another embodiment, during the electronic device being adjusted from the slide-open state to the half-open state without a certain first data being selected or dragged, a display interface for displaying the first data on the shortcut display area **211** can directly expand to an expanded display interface for displaying a second data on the entire first display area **21**. It should be noted that the second data may have a correspondence with the first data. When the first data contains only one type of data, the second data can be a display interface or an operation interface of an application corresponding to the first data. For example, referring to FIG. 26, when the second housing portion **12** is manually pushed beyond the unlock point **61**, a camera active in the shortcut display area **211** can gradually expand to occupy the first display area **21** in a wider format. When the first data contains two or more types of data (e.g., both notification messages and operating widgets for media control), the second data may contain the first data and may have a different arrangement compared to the first data.

(105) In the above embodiments, the electronic device can be easily opened by the user from the slide-open state to the half-open state by a one-handed operation. Moreover, since the display of the electronic device in the half-open state is a half-screen display, and the size of the half-screen allows the user to continue interactions with the electronic device by means of one-handed operation, thereby bringing more convenience to use.

(106) With continued reference to FIG. 21, the electronic device can also be adjusted directly from the fully-closed state to the half-open state without transitioning through the slide-open state. As described above, when the electronic device is in the fully-closed state, the display screen **20** may be in a display-off state without displaying any data. In this embodiment, as shown in FIGS. 27 and 28, the second data can be a locked interface **212** or a home interface **213**. The locked interface **212** or the home interface **213** can be displayed on the first display area **21** replacing the display-off state of the display screen **20** in response to the second housing portion **12** being unfolded directly from the first folded position to the half-unfolded position. As a case, during the second housing portion **12** being unfolded, as the first display area **21** is exposed gradually, a display interface for displaying the locked interface **212** or the home interface **213** on the display screen **20** may gradually expand until the display interface occupies the whole first display area **21**. As another

case, the first display area **21** may keep the display-off state until the second housing portion **12** arrives at the half-unfolded position. In some other embodiments, the second data can be preset to other data, such as an operation interface of a certain application, by the user according to actual demands.

(107) To satisfy user's desire for a larger screen display, the electronic device can also be adjusted to the fully-open state. As illustrated in FIG. **29**, the foldable portion **13** can be configured to enable the second housing portion **12** to be unfolded from the half-unfolded position to a fully-unfolded position and relatively fixed at the fully-unfolded position such that the electronic device can in a fully-open state. Specifically, the electronic device can be manually or automatically adjusted.

(108) In one embodiment, in a condition of the electronic device being in the half-open state, the foldable portion **13** can be controlled to be further unfolded until it is flattened in response to a control instruction received. The control instruction may be generated by a corresponding physical or virtual button being triggered, or it may be a voice instruction, a gesture instruction, and the like.

(109) In another embodiment, the second housing portion **12** can be manually pushed by the user in a direction further away from the first housing portion **11** such that the second housing portion **12** can be unfolded around a bending axis of the foldable portion **13** until it reaches the fully-unfolded position.

(110) Except for being adjusted from the half-open state to the fully-open state, the electronic device can also be manually or automatically adjusted from the slide-open state or the fully-closed state.

(111) In an embodiment, as illustrated in FIG. **30**, a method of the adjustment of the electronic device from the slide-open state to the fully-open state can be the same as a method of the adjustment of the electronic device from the slide-open state to the half-open state. As a case, the electronic device can be unfolded to the fully-open state in response to a certain first data displayed on the shortcut display area **211** being dragged towards the foldable portion **13**. As another case, the electronic device can be unfolded to the fully-open state in response to the second housing portion **12** being pushed beyond the unlocking point. As another case, the second housing portion **12** can be manually unfolded relative to the first housing portion **11** to the fully-unfolded position by the user, such that the electronic device can be adjusted to the fully-open state.

(112) Note that for the first two cases described above, since the second housing portion **12** is unfolded automatically, a final state can be preset to be either the half-open state or the fully-open state. If it is the half-open state, the second housing portion **12** can be further manually moved by the user to the fully-unfolded position.

(113) As illustrated in FIG. **31**, in the embodiment that the electronic device being unfolded from the fully-closed state to the fully-open state, as a case, the second housing portion **12** can be manually unfolded relative to the first housing portion **11** from the first folded position to the fully-unfolded position by the user, such that the electronic device can be adjusted to the fully-open state. As another case, the foldable portion **13** can be controlled to be further unfolded until it is flattened in response to a control instruction received by the electronic device. The control instruction may be generated by a corresponding physical or virtual button being triggered, or it may be a voice instruction, a gesture instruction, and the like.

(114) FIGS. **1-2** and **32** illustrate the electronic device in the fully-open state. When the electronic device is in this state, a degree of the predetermined angle θ between the first display area **21** and the second display area **22** may be greater than the degree when the electronic device in the fully-open state. In a case, the predetermined angle θ may be greater than 120° and not greater than 180° . In another case, the predetermined angle θ may be greater than 150° and not greater than 180° . In another case, the predetermined angle θ may be 180° . In other words, the first display area **21**, the foldable display area **23**, and the second display area **22** may cooperatively form a plane. In addition, the foldable portion **13** may also be unfolded substantially flat. The back face of the housing assembly **10** may also substantially be a plane. In a case, an entire back face of the housing

assembly **10** may be substantially parallel to the entire display surface of the display screen **20**. Moreover, the distance between the first end **111** and the second end **211** may be the greater than that between when the electronic device is in each of the other three states.

(115) As shown in FIG. **33** in conjunction with FIG. **2**, when the electronic device is in the half-open state, the second data can be displayed on the first display area **21** in a half-screen mode. A display interface for displaying the second data on the first display area **21** can expand to another display interface for displaying the third data on the whole display screen **20** in a full-screen mode in response to the second housing portion **12** being unfolded from the half-unfolded position to the fully-unfolded position. In this way, an area of the display interface of the display screen **20** can further expand, enriching user experience.

(116) Specifically, the display interface of the display screen **20** can be changed in one or more ways. In a case, as the second housing portion **12** is gradually unfolded relative to the first housing portion **13**, the display interface can gradually expand until it occupies the entire display screen **20** when the second housing portion **12** reaches the fully-unfolded position. In another case, the display interface of the display screen **20** may not expand until the second housing portion **12** reaches the fully-unfolded position.

(117) It should be noted that the third data may have a correspondence with the second data. In a case, the first data and the second data may correspond to a same application. However, the second data may have a different arrangement compared to the first data. For example, as shown in FIG. **33**, during the process of the second housing portion **12** unfolded from the half-unfolded position to the fully-unfolded position, a messaging application open in half-open state with a keyboard in one hand operation size can expand to a full-screen mode application, including a full-screen keyboard.

(118) With continued reference of FIGS. **2** and **10-13**, when the electronic device is in the slide-open state, the first data can be displayed on the shortcut display area **211**. During electronic device being unfolded from the slide-open state to the fully-open state, a display interface for displaying the first data on the shortcut display area **211** can expand to another display interface for displaying the third data in the full-screen mode in response to the second housing portion **12** being unfolded from the second folded position to the fully-unfolded position. In a case, as the display screen **20** is revealed gradually, the display interface of the display screen **20** can expand first to a half-screen size and then to a full-screen size. As another case, as the display screen **20** is revealed gradually, the display interface of the display screen **20** can expand directly to the full-screen size without transitioning the half-screen size.

(119) It should be noted that different data can be displayed on the display screen **20** in different cases when the second housing portion **12** reaches the fully-unfolded position, which can be determined by whether a certain first data is selected or dragged or not during the adjustment of the electronic device from the slide-open state to the fully-open state. This is similar to the display of the electronic device when the electronic device is adjusted from the slide-open state to the half-open state and is not repeated here.

(120) In addition, the third data may have a correspondence with the first data, which is also similar to the correspondence between the first data and the second data. The difference is that the second data and the third data may be arranged differently. The third data may be arranged in a full-screen display, and the second data may be arranged in a half-screen display.

(121) In an embodiment, with continued reference of FIG. **2**, the electronic device can be adjusted from the fully-closed state to the fully-open state. In this embodiment, the third data can be a locked interface or a home interface. The locked interface or the home interface can be displayed on the entire display screen **20** in the full-screen mode replacing the display-off state of the display screen **20** in response to the second housing portion **12** being unfolded directly from the first folded position to the fully-unfolded position. As a case, during the second housing portion **12** being unfolded, as the display screen **20** is exposed gradually, a display interface for displaying the locked interface or the home interface on the display screen **20** may gradually expand until the

display interface occupies the whole display screen **20**. As another case, the display screen **20** may keep the display-off state until the second housing portion **12** arrives at the fully-unfolded position. In some other embodiments, the second data can be preset to other data, such as an operation interface of a certain application by the user according to actual demands.

(122) In addition, the foldable portion **13** can further be configured to enable the second housing portion to be folded from the fully-unfolded position to the half-unfolded position, or the second folded position, or the first folded position. In this way, the electronic device can also be adjusted to the fully-closed state manually or automatically to leave the display screen **20** being covered and in the display-off state.

(123) The embodiments of the present disclosure have been described in detail above, and the principles and implementations of the present disclosure are described in the specific examples. The description of the above implementations is only used to help understand the method and core spirit of the present disclosure. In the meantime, one with ordinary skills in the art may obtain modifications on the specific embodiments and the application range according to the spirit of the present disclosure. In a word, the description shall not be considered as a limit to the present disclosure.

Claims

1. An electronic device, comprising: a housing assembly, comprising: a first housing portion and a second housing portion spaced from each other; and a foldable portion, comprising two opposite ends, wherein one end of the two opposite ends is connected to the first housing portion, the other end of the two opposite ends is connected to the second housing portion; and a display screen, connected to the housing assembly, covering the first housing portion, the second housing portion, and the foldable portion and having a shortcut display area covering a part of the first housing portion away from the foldable portion; wherein in a condition of the foldable portion being in a folded state, the two opposite ends are configured to be slidable relative to each other such that the second housing portion is enabled to slide between a first folded position where the shortcut display area is covered by the second housing portion and a second folded position where the shortcut display area is exposed from the second housing portion.
2. The electronic device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising: a locking mechanism, located at a side of the shortcut display area closing to the foldable portion and configured to lock the second housing portion at the second folded position when second housing portion is moved to the second folded position.
3. The electronic device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising: a camera, connected to the first housing portion and located closing to the shortcut display area; wherein when the second housing portion is located at the first folded position, the camera is covered by the second housing portion; when the second housing portion is located at the second folded position, the camera is exposed from the second housing portion.
4. The electronic device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first housing portion comprises a first end away from the foldable portion, the second housing portion comprises a second end away from the foldable portion; wherein in a condition of the second housing portion being located at the first folded position, the first end is flush with the second end; in a condition of the second housing portion being located at the second folded position, the first end is located at a side of the shortcut display area away from the second end.
5. The electronic device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the display screen has: a first display area, covering the first housing portion, wherein the shortcut display area is a part of the first display area and adjacent to the first end; a second display area, covering the second housing portion; and a foldable display area, connected between the first display area and the second display area and covering the foldable portion; wherein in the condition of the second housing portion being located

at the first folded position, the first display area is covered by the second housing portion, and the second display area is covered by the first housing portion.

6. The electronic device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the foldable portion is configured to enable the second housing portion to move between one of the first folded position and the second folded position and a fully-unfolded position where the second housing portion is fully-unfolded relative to the first housing portion; in a condition of the second housing portion being located at the fully-unfolded position, the first display area, the foldable display area, and the second display area cooperatively form a plane.

7. The electronic device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the foldable portion is configured to enable the second housing portion to be relatively fixed at a half-unfolded position between one of the first folded position and the second folded position and the fully-unfolded position; in a condition of the second housing portion being located at the half-unfolded position, the first display area and the second display area form a predetermined angle greater than 0° degree and less than 180° .

8. A method for displaying information for an electronic device, wherein the electronic device comprises a housing assembly and a display screen, the housing assembly comprises a first housing portion, a second housing portion, and a foldable portion comprising two opposite ends, one end of the two opposite ends is connected to the first housing portion, the other end of the two opposite ends is connected to the second housing portion, the display screen covers the first housing portion, the second housing portion, and the foldable portion and has a shortcut display area covering a part of the first housing portion away from the foldable portion, wherein in a condition of the foldable portion being in a folded state, the two opposite ends are configured to be slidable relative to each other such that the second housing portion is enabled to slide between a first folded position where the shortcut display area is covered by the second housing portion and a second folded position where the shortcut display area is exposed from the second housing portion, the method comprising: displaying a first data on the shortcut display area in response to the second housing portion sliding to the second folded position from the first folded position.

9. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the electronic device further comprises a camera, the method further comprises: starting the camera and displaying a photographing interface on the shortcut display area in response to the second housing portion sliding to the second folded position from the first folded position; wherein the electronic device further comprises a locking mechanism, the method further comprises: locking the second housing portion at the second folded position by the locking mechanism in response to the second housing portion sliding to the second folded position from the first folded position.

10. The method as claimed in claim 8, the first data is removed from the shortcut display area in response to a swiping operation of the first data in a direction away from the foldable portion.

11. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the display screen further has a first display area covering the first housing portion, the shortcut display area is a part of the first display area, a size of the shortcut display area is smaller than a size of the first display area, the method further comprises: displaying a second data on the first display area in response to the first display area being exposed by moving the second housing portion to a half-unfolded position; wherein the second data is one of a locked interface and a home interface; the one of the locked interface and the home interface is displayed on the first display area replacing a display-off state of the display screen in response to the second housing portion being unfolded from the first folded position to the half-unfolded position.

12. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein a display interface for displaying the first data on the shortcut display area expands to another display interface for displaying the second data on the first display area in response to the second housing portion being unfolded from the second folded position to the half-unfolded position; wherein the second data has a correspondence with the first data; wherein the method further comprises: unlocking the second housing portion and unfolding the second housing portion from the second folded position to the half-unfolded position in

response to an unlocking instruction being received; wherein the unlocking instruction is received in response to an operation of swiping the first data in a direction towards the foldable portion.

13. The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the locking mechanism defines an unlocking point at a side of the shortcut display area closing to the foldable portion, the method further comprises: unlocking the second housing portion and unfolding the second housing portion from the second folded position to the half-unfolded position in response to the second housing portion siding beyond the unlocking point from the second folded position.

14. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the display screen further has a second display area covering the second housing portion and a foldable display area covering the foldable portion and connected between the first display area and the second display area, when the second housing portion is located at a fully-unfolded position, the first display area, the foldable display area and the second display area cooperatively form a plane, the method further comprises: displaying a third data in a full-screen mode on the first display area, the second display area and the foldable display area in response to the second housing portion being unfolded to the fully-unfolded position; wherein the third data is one of a locked interface and a home interface; one of the locked interface and the home interface is displayed in the full-screen mode replacing a display-off state of the display screen in response to the second housing portion being unfolded to the fully-unfolded position from the first folded position.

15. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein a display interface for displaying the first data on the shortcut display area expands to another display interface for displaying the third data in the full-screen mode in response to the second housing portion being unfolded from the second folded position to the fully-unfolded position; wherein the third data has a correspondence with the first data; wherein a display interface for displaying the second data on the first display area expands to another display interface for displaying the third data in the full-screen mode in response to the second housing portion being unfolded from the half-unfolded position to the fully-unfolded position; wherein the third data has a correspondence with the second data.

16. The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising: turning off the display screen in response to the second housing portion being moved to the first folded position.

17. A foldable-slider device comprising: a first part having a first display surface; and a second part connected with the first part and having a second display surface; wherein the second part is configured to slide relative to the first part between a first state and a second state in a condition of the device being folded; wherein an area of the first display surface of the first part gradually increases and an area of the second display surface of the second part gradually decreases in response to a slide of the second part from the first state to the second state; wherein the area of the first display surface of the first part gradually decreases and the area of the second display surface of the second part gradually increases in response to a slide of the second part from the second state to the first state.

18. The foldable-slider device as claimed in claim 17, wherein the second part is located on the first part in the condition of the device being folded; the first part and the second part comprise a slider-pivot hinge mechanism, when the second part is in the first state, a length of an upper portion of the slider-pivot hinge mechanism is longer than that of a lower portion of the slider-pivot hinge mechanism; when the second part is in the second state, the length of the upper portion of the slider-pivot hinge mechanism is shorter than that of the lower portion of the slider-pivot hinge mechanism.

19. The foldable-slider device as claimed in claim 17, wherein the first display surface and the second display surface are free of being exposed when the second part is in the first state, a portion of the first display surface is exposed when the second part is in the second state; wherein the first display surface has a shortcut display portion, the portion exposed comprises a part of the shortcut display portion.

20. The foldable-slider device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the first part comprises a latch

mechanism which makes the second part latch to the second state such that there is a de-latch point in the first part, when the second part slides beyond the de-latch point, the second part is released from the first part and is capable of opening relative to the first part by rotating the second part around the hinge mechanism such that the second part is in a third state.
