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Touch panel, driving method thereof, and electronic terminal

Abstract

A touch panel, a driving method thereof and an electronic terminal are provided. The touch panel includes a touch controller, a touch layer and a wiring layer. The touch layer includes a plurality of touch units that are spaced apart. The wiring layer includes a plurality of touch lines connected between the touch controller and the plurality of touch units, and a plurality of switches each connected to two corresponding touch lines such that when the switch is turned on, at least two corresponding touch units form a same touch area to transmit a touch signal to the touch controller.

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Background/Summary

RELATED APPLICATIONS

(1) This application is a National Phase of PCT Patent Application No. PCT/CN2023/085708 having International filing date of Mar. 31, 2023, which claims the benefit of priority of China Patent Application No. 202310145108.9 filed on Feb. 17, 2023. The contents of the above applications are all incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein in their entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

(2) The present application relates to display technologies, especially relates to display panel manufacturing technologies, and more particularly to a touch panel, a driving method thereof, and an electronic terminal.

BACKGROUND ARTS

(3) Touch screens can achieve basic human-machine interaction functions without traditional data input systems such as buttons, keyboards or mice, among which capacitive touch screens are the most widely used touch screens.

(4) There are “sensing points” all over the touch screen, and each “sensing point” is electrically connected to a corresponding touch controller. When the “sensing point” is pressed by an external object or even the external object gets close to the “sensing point”, a change of capacitance at the “sensing point” causes a change of the amount of charges and that will be transmitted to the touch controller to identify whether the “sensing point” is touched. As the number of “sensing points” increases, the amount of data that the touch controller needs to process also increases. The power consumption of the touch controller has also increased.

(5) Therefore, the existing touch screens have the problem of high power consumption of the touch controller, which urgently needs to be improved.

SUMMARY

Technical Problems

(6) The embodiments of the present application provide a touch panel, a driving method thereof and an electronic terminal, for solving the technical problem of high power consumption of a touch controller in the existing touch screens.

Technical Solutions

(7) An embodiment of the present application provides a touch panel, including: a touch controller; a touch layer, including a plurality of touch units that are spaced apart; and a wiring layer, including a plurality of touch lines connected between the touch controller and corresponding touch units, wherein the touch panel further includes a plurality of switches each connected to two corresponding touch lines such that when the switch is turned on, at least two corresponding touch units form a same touch area to transmit a touch signal to the touch controller.

BENEFICIAL EFFECTS

(8) The touch panel, the driving method thereof and the electronic terminal provided in the embodiments of the present application include a touch controller; a touch layer, including a plurality of touch units that are spaced apart; and a wiring layer, including a plurality of touch lines connected between the touch controller and corresponding touch units. The present application deploys a switch connected between two touch lines so that when the switch is turned on, two corresponding touch units transmit a same touch signal to the touch controller. In such a way, two signals transmitted by at least two touch units connected to the switched-on switch will be neutralized to form the final “same touch signal” as mentioned above, thereby reducing the number of signals received by the touch controller from the touch layer, and this can reduce the power consumption of the touch controller.

Description

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

- (1) The technical solutions and other beneficial effects of the present application will be more apparent with reference to the detailed descriptions of the embodiments of the present application below in accompanying with the drawings.
- (2) FIGS. **1** to **3** are schematic top views of a touch layer in three types of touch panels provided in embodiments of the present application.
- (3) FIG. **4** is a schematic diagram illustrating the connection between a touch unit and a touch read controller in a touch panel corresponding to FIG. **1** provided in an embodiment of the present application.
- (4) FIG. **5** is a flowchart of a driving method for a touch panel provided in an embodiment of the present application.
- (5) FIG. **6** is a waveform diagram of a plurality of touch scanning signals of a touch panel provided in an embodiment of the present application.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS OF THE DISCLOSURE

- (6) The technical solutions in the embodiments of the present application will be clearly and incessantly described below with reference to appended drawings of the embodiments of the present application. Obviously, the described embodiments are merely a part of embodiments of the present application and are not all of the embodiments. Based on the embodiments of the present application, all the other embodiments obtained by those of ordinary skill in the art without making any inventive effort are within the scope of the present application.
- (7) In the description of the present application, it is to be understood that the orientation or positional relationship indicated by the terms “arrangement”, “extension”, “row”, “column”, and the like are based on the relationship of the position or orientation shown in the drawings, which is only for the purpose of facilitating description of the present application and simplifying the description, but is not intended to or implied that the device or element referred to must have a specific orientation, and be constructed and operated in a particular orientation. Therefore, it should not be construed as a limitation of the present disclosure. In addition, the terms “first” and “second” are used for descriptive purposes only and should not be taken to indicate or imply relative importance, or implicitly indicate the indicated number of technical features. Thus, by defining a feature with “first” or “second”, it may explicitly or implicitly include one or more features. In the description of the present application, “a plurality” means two or more unless explicitly defined.
- (8) The term “embodiment” or “implementation” referred to herein means that a particular feature, structure or property described in conjunction with the embodiment may be contained in at least one embodiment of the present application. The phrase appearing in various places in the specification does not necessarily refer to the same implementation, nor does it refer to an independent or alternative implementation that is mutually exclusive with other implementations. It is expressly and implicitly understood by those skilled in the art that an implementation described herein may be combined with other implementations.
- (9) The embodiments of the present invention provide a touch panel, which includes, but is not limited to, the following embodiments and any combination of the following embodiments.
- (10) In an embodiment, as shown in FIGS. **1** to **3**, a touch panel **100** includes a touch controller **10**; a touch layer, including a plurality of touch units **20** that are spaced apart; and a wiring layer, including a plurality of touch lines **30** connected between the touch controller **10** and corresponding touch units **20**, wherein the touch panel **100** further includes a plurality of switches **40** each connected to two corresponding touch lines **30** such that when the switch **40** is turned on, at least two corresponding touch units **20** form a same touch area to transmit a touch signal to the touch controller **10**. The touch signals transmitted from at least two touch units **20** in a same touch area to the touch controller **10** may be the same or identical.
- (11) In the present embodiment, as shown in FIG. **1** to FIG. **3**, the touch controllers **10** are not

limited to their types and quantity, the touch units **20** are not limited to their arrangements and types, and the types of the touch lines **30** and their correspondence and connection relationship with the touch units **20** are also not limited. Specifically, in the present embodiment, the touch lines **30** are connected between the touch controller **10** and corresponding touch units **20**. The touch line **30** may correspond to and connect to at least one touch unit **20**, and communication between the touch controller **10** and the at least one corresponding touch unit **20** can be maintained.

(12) It should be noted that in combination with the above discussion, there may be at least one of the following two situations in view of the connection of the touch lines **30**. The first one is that the touch controller **10** may transmit signals to corresponding touch units **20**, and the second one is that the touch units **20** may transmit corresponding signals to the touch controller **10**. Further, in this embodiment, a switch **40** is provided between two touch lines **30** so that when the switch **40** is turned on, two corresponding adjacent touch units **20** transmit a same signal to the touch controller **10**, that is, In this embodiment there are at least two touch lines **30** that meet the requirement of the afore-mentioned “switch” for transmitting the signal to the touch controller **10**. Of course, in this embodiment, it is not limited whether there are touch units **20** that may receive signals transmitted by the touch controller **10**.

(13) It can be understood that in the present embodiment, the switch **40** is provided between two touch lines **30** corresponding to two adjacent touch units **20** for transmitting signals to the touch controller **10** so that at least at the time the switch is turned on, the two touch units **20** transmit a same signal to the touch controller **10**. Compared to the two touch units **20** transmitting respective signals to the touch controller **10** for processing the signals separately in a case that the switch **40** is not provided, it can be considered that the two signals transmitted by at least two adjacent touch units **20** connected to the switched-on switch **40** will be neutralized to form the final “same signal” as mentioned above, thereby reducing the number of signals received by the touch controller **10** from the touch layer, and this can reduce the power consumption of the touch controller **10**.

(14) In an embodiment, as shown in FIG. 1, the touch controller **10** includes a touch scan controller **101** and a touch read controller **102**; the plurality of touch lines **30** include a plurality of touch scan lines **301** and a plurality of touch read lines **302**, the touch scanning lines **301** connecting to the touch scan controller **101** and corresponding touch units **20** and the touch read lines **302** connecting to the touch read controller **102** and corresponding touch units **20**; each of the touch scan lines **301** transmitting a corresponding touch scan signal to the corresponding touch unit **20** to control the touch read controller **102** to be electrically connected to the corresponding touch units **20**, wherein the switch **40** is connected between at least one of two of the touch scan lines **301** or two of the touch read lines **302**.

(15) As discussed above with respect to FIG. 1, the touch panel **100** in this embodiment can implement touch control in an active manner. The touch scan line **301** is connected between the touch scan controller **101** and corresponding touch units **20**. The touch scan controller **101** may include, but not limited to, a plurality of touch scan units that correspond to the plurality of touch scan lines **301** respectively, and are arranged in a cascaded fashion. The plurality of touch scan units are configured to generate corresponding touch scan signals which are transmitted to corresponding touch scan lines **301** to control the positions of the touch units **20** corresponding to a plurality of touch read signals read by the touch read controller **102** at the time. The touch read controller **102** may be a single chip.

(16) Based on the above discussion, in this embodiment, the switch **40** is connected between at least one of two touch scan lines **301** or two touch read lines **302**. Herein, it is illustrated by a plurality of touch units **20** arranged along a row direction and a column direction.

(17) When the switch **40** is connected between two touch scan lines **301**, the two corresponding touch scan lines **301** may transmit a same touch scan signal to two corresponding rows of touch units **20**, respectively, and during an effective time period of the touch scan signal, for two adjacent touch units **20** located along the column direction and connected to a same touch read line **302**,

what is read from the touch read line **302** is also the final “same signal” mentioned above, which is formed by neutralizing, via the touch read line **302**, two touch read signals generated by the two touch units **20**, respectively.

(18) When the switch **40** is connected between two touch read lines **302**, for the touch units **20** corresponding to a touch scan signal within an effective time period, for two adjacent touch units **20** located along the row direction and corresponding to two touch read lines **302** that are electrically connected to each other via the switch **40**, what is read from the two touch read lines **302** is also the final “same signal” mentioned above, which is formed by neutralizing, via the two touch read lines **302**, two touch read signals generated by the two touch units **20**, respectively.

(19) Therefore, the present embodiment can reduce the number of touch read signals received by the touch controller **10** from the touch layer, and this can reduce the power consumption of the touch controller **10**.

(20) In an embodiment, as shown in FIG. **1** and FIG. **4**, the touch unit **20** includes a touch drive circuit and a touch electrode **203**, and the touch drive circuit **204** includes a switch transistor T1, wherein each of the touch scan lines **301** is electrically connected to a gate of a corresponding switch transistor T1, each of the touch read lines **302** is electrically connected to one of a source or a drain of the corresponding switch transistor T1, and the other one of the source or the drain of the switch transistor T1 is electrically connected to a corresponding touch electrode.

(21) Specifically, in combination with the above discussion, the touch scan line **301** is electrically connected to the gates of corresponding switch transistors T1, and the sources and drains of the switch transistors T1 are electrically connected to corresponding touch electrodes **203** and corresponding touch read lines **302**, respectively, or vice versa. Accordingly, it can be considered that within an effective time period of the touch scan signal, a plurality of corresponding switch transistors T1 can be controlled to be turned on so as to control a plurality of corresponding touch electrodes **203** to be electrically connected to a plurality of corresponding touch read lines **302**, thereby transmitting a plurality of corresponding touch read signals to the touch read controller **102** via a plurality of corresponding touch read lines **302**.

(22) Further, as shown in FIG. **4**, the touch drive circuit in the touch unit **20** may further include a leakage transistor T2. The gate of the leakage transistor T2 may be loaded with a first voltage signal VGG, and one of the source or the drain of the leakage transistor T2 can be loaded with a second voltage signal VDD, and the other one of the source or the drain of the leakage transistor T2 can be electrically connected to a corresponding touch electrode **203**. A first capacitor C_i will be formed between the touch electrode **203** and the ground. When the touch panel **100** is to implement the touch function, the first voltage signal VGG can first control the leakage transistor T2 to turn on so that a current generated by the second voltage signal VDD also flows into “the other one of the source or the drain of the leakage transistor T2” so that there is a corresponding amount of charges on one electrode plate (i.e., the touch electrode **203**) of the first capacitor C_i . Then, the leakage transistor T2 can be controlled to turn off by the first voltage signal VGG to make the voltage of “the other one of the source or the drain of the leakage transistor T2” (i.e., the touch electrode **203**) remain unchanged.

(23) It can be understood that when an external object approaches the touch panel **100**, a second capacitance C_t will also be formed between the external object and the touch electrode **203**, resulting in a change of the capacitance, where the touch electrode **203** participates in formation of the capacitance. The voltage on the touch electrode **203** is unchanged, but the amount of charges on the touch electrode **203** does change. Further, when the capacitance of the second capacitor C_t formed between the external object and the touch electrode **203** meets a certain range, it can be realized that the amount of change of the capacitance on the touch electrode **203** meets a certain range, so that when a touch scan signal Gate-SW controls a corresponding switch transistor T1 to turn on, the touch read controller **102** can convert and analyze “the amount of change of charges” obtained by the touch read line **302** to determine whether a touch occurs and where the touch

occurs.

(24) Further, as shown in FIG. 4, the touch read controller **102** may at least include an operational amplifier **1021** and a variable capacitor Cf, and the source or the drain of the switch transistor T1 electrically connected to the corresponding touch read line **302** can be electrically connected to an inverting input terminal of the operational amplifier **1021**. Of course, in combination with the above discussion, there may be a process module connected between “the source or the drain of the switch transistor T1 electrically connected to the corresponding touch read line **302**” and “the inverting input terminal of the operational amplifier **1021**” so as to convert “the amount of change of charges” obtained by the touch read line **302** to obtain a corresponding voltage, for example, loaded to “the inverting input terminal of the operational amplifier **1021**”. In combination with a reference voltage Vref loaded by a non-inverting input terminal of the operational amplifier **1021**, an output terminal Vout of the operational amplifier **1021** can output a corresponding signal to indicate whether a touch occurs.

(25) In an embodiment, as shown in FIG. 2, a plurality of touch lines **30** correspond to a plurality of touch units **20** in a one-to-one correspondence, and each of the touch lines **30** is connected to the touch controller **10** and a corresponding touch unit **20**. The plurality of touch units **20** can be disposed in the same layer. In this embodiment, the relationship between the touch controller **10** and the touch lines **30** in quality is not limited. For example, as shown in FIG. 2, it is illustrated by a plurality of touch units **20** arranged in a row direction and a column direction. For example, a plurality of touch lines **30** connected to a plurality of touch units **20** in a same column can be electrically connected to a same touch controller **10**. Meanwhile, it can be considered that the number of the touch controllers **10** is equal to the number of columns of touch units **20**. Certainly, a plurality of touch lines **30** connected to a plurality of touch units **20** in a same row can be electrically connected to a same touch controller **10**, and the number of touch controllers **10** can be set in the same way.

(26) As discussed above with respect to FIG. 2, the touch panel **100** in this embodiment can implement touch control by way of self capacitance. The touch line **30** is connected between the touch controller **10** and the touch unit **20**. The touch controller **10** can simultaneously transmit a plurality of corresponding touch drive signals to a plurality of touch units **20** via a plurality of touch lines **30**. The touch unit **20** can transmit a touch feedback signal to a corresponding touch controller **10** via a corresponding touch line **30**.

(27) Based on the above discussion, in this embodiment, the switch **40** is connected between two touch lines **30**, so that when the switch **40** is turned on, two corresponding adjacent touch units **20** transmit a same signal to the touch controller **10**. Herein, it is illustrated by a plurality of touch units **20** arranged along a row direction and a column direction.

(28) For example, the switch **40** may be disposed between two touch lines **30** corresponding to two adjacent touch units **20** and a same touch controller **10** (herein, the touch units **20** located in the first column and the first two rows are taken as an example). When the switch **40** is turned on, two touch feedback signals generated by the two touch units **20** respectively, can be neutralized through two corresponding touch lines **30** to form the final “same signal” as mentioned above, to reduce the number of touch feedback signals received by a corresponding touch controller **10** from the touch layer, and this can reduce the power consumption of the touch controller **10**.

(29) For another example, the switch **40** may be disposed between two touch lines **30** corresponding to two adjacent touch units **20** corresponding to two touch controllers **10** (herein, the touch units **20** located in the first row and the third and fourth columns are taken as an example). When the switch **40** is turned on, two touch feedback signals generated by the two touch units **20** respectively, can be neutralized through two corresponding touch lines **30** to form the final “same signal” as mentioned above, to transmit to one of the touch controllers **10** to reduce the number of touch feedback signals received by the other touch controller **10** from the touch layer, and this can reduce the power consumption of the touch controller **10**.

(30) In an embodiment, as shown in FIG. 3, the touch controller **10** includes a first touch controller **103** and a second touch controller **104**; the plurality of touch units **20** include a plurality of first touch units **201** and a plurality of second touch units **202**, and the first touch units **201** and the second touch units **202** are arranged crosswise; the plurality of touch lines **30** include a plurality of first touch lines **303** corresponding to the plurality of first touch units **201** and a plurality of second touch lines **304** corresponding to the plurality of second touch units **202**, each of the first touch lines **303** is connected to the first touch controller **103** and a corresponding first touch unit **201**, and each of the second touch lines **304** is connected to the second touch controller **104** and a corresponding second touch unit **202**, wherein the switch **40** is connected between at least one of two of the first touch lines **303** or two of the second touch lines **304**. At least one of the first touch controller **103** or the second touch controller **104** may be a single chip.

(31) In this embodiment, the position of film layers of the first touch units **201** and the second touch units **202** are not limited. For example, as shown in FIG. 4, the first touch units **201** and the second touch units **202** may be disposed in different layers to achieve intersection and insulation. For another example, the first touch unit **201** may include a plurality of first touch parts arranged in a same layer as the second touch unit **202**, and a first connection part arranged in a different layer from the second touch unit **202** and crossed with the second touch unit **202** for connecting two adjacent first touch parts. Further, for example, in FIG. 4, the plurality of first touch units **201** may extend along the row direction and be arranged along the column direction, and the plurality of second touch units **202** may extend along the column direction and be arranged along the row direction.

(32) As discussed above with respect to FIG. 4, the touch panel **100** in this embodiment can implement touch control by way of mutual capacitance. The first touch line **303** is connected between the first touch controller **103** and the first touch unit **201**, and the second touch line **304** is connected between the second touch controller **104** and the second touch unit **202**. The first touch controller **103** may use a plurality of first touch lines **303** to transmit a plurality of corresponding touch drive signals to a plurality of first touch units **201**, respectively. A plurality of second touch units **202** may use a plurality of second touch lines **304** to transmit corresponding touch feedback signals, respectively, to a corresponding second touch controller **104**.

(33) Based on the above discussion, in this embodiment, the switch **40** is connected between at least one of two first touch lines **303** or two second touch lines **304**. Herein, it is illustrated by the arrangement of the first touch units **201** and the second touch units **202** in FIG. 4.

(34) In a case that the switch **40** is connected between two first touch lines **303**, when the switch **40** is turned on, within an effective time period of a touch scan signal, two corresponding first touch units **201** located in adjacent rows may receive a same touch drive signal, and a part of a plurality of second touch units **202** that intersects with the two first touch units **201** can start to effectively sense a touch. The charges on two parts of each second touch unit **202** that intersect with the two first touch units **201** may accumulate to be neutralized by the second touch units **202** themselves, so as to generate the final “same signal” as mentioned above, thereby reducing the number of signals received by the first touch controller **103** from the touch layer, and this can reduce the power consumption of the first touch controller **103** of the touch controller **10**.

(35) In a case that the switch **40** is connected between two second touch lines **304**, when the switch **40** is turned on, for two second touch units **202** located adjacent along the row direction and corresponding to a touch scan signal within an effective time period, the generated two touch feedback signals are neutralized via two second touch lines **304** that are electrically connected to each other to generate the final “same signal” as mentioned above, thereby reducing the number of signals received by the first touch controller **103** from the touch layer, and this can reduce the power consumption of the first touch controller **103** of the touch controller **10**.

(36) In an embodiment, as shown in FIG. 1 and FIG. 4, for the active manner to implement touch control, the plurality of touch units **20** form a plurality of first touch groups arranged along a first

direction D1 and form a plurality of second touch groups arranged along a second direction D2; the plurality of touch units **20** in a same first touch group are all connected to a corresponding touch scan line **301**, and the plurality of touch units **20** in a same second touch group are all connected to a corresponding touch read line **302**; in k touch scan lines **301** corresponding to k first touch groups that are consecutively arranged, a corresponding switch **40** is connected between every two adjacent touch scan lines **301**, and in k touch read lines **302** corresponding to k second touch groups that are consecutively arranged, a corresponding switch **40** is connected between every two adjacent touch read lines **302**, where k is a positive integer.

(37) In this embodiment, the first direction D1 and the second direction D2 are not limited. For ease of description, it is illustrated by taking the first direction D1 and the second direction D2 as the column direction and the row direction, respectively. Then, the first touch group can be understood or interpreted as the plurality of touch units **20** located in a same row, and the second touch group can be understood or interpreted as the plurality of touch units **20** located in a same column.

(38) Specifically, in combination with the above discussion, it is further defined in this embodiment that when the switch **40** is turned on, every two among the k touch scan lines **301** corresponding to the k consecutively-arranged first touch groups (that is, consecutive k rows of the touch units **20**) are electrically connected to each other, and every two among the k touch read lines **302** corresponding to the k consecutively-arranged second touch groups (that is, consecutive k columns of the touch units **20**) are electrically connected to each other. That is, it can be realized that $k*k$ touch read signals generated by corresponding $k*k$ touch units **20** can be neutralized by the electrically-connected k touch read lines **302** to form the final “same touch signal” as mentioned above, and this can reduce the power consumption of the first touch controller **103** of the touch controller **10**.

(39) It can be understood that in this application, it is equivalent to modifying an original minimum identifiable touch point from a single touch unit **20** to multiple touch units **20** when the switch **40** is turned on. That is, in comparison, modifying the minimum identifiable touch point from single touch unit **20** is equivalent to sacrificing the accuracy of touch recognition. However, in this embodiment, it is further defined that the minimum identifiable touch points are “ $k*k$ touch units **20**” when the switch **40** is turned on, that is, it ensures that the minimum identifiable touch point is still a square, so that the touch panel **100** has equal touch recognition accuracy in the row direction and the column direction, thereby improving the uniformity in touch recognition.

(40) The specific value of k is not limited here. For example, when k is equal to 2, the minimum identifiable touch point is “ $2*2$ touch units **20**” when the switch **40** is turned on. A “ $2*2$ touch units **20**” in the second row and the first column is indicated in FIG. 1.

(41) In an embodiment, as shown in FIG. 1 and FIG. 4, the touch layer includes: a first touch area, provided with $i1$ touch groups arranged along a first direction D1, and the touch group includes $j1$ touch units **20** arranged along a second direction D2, where $i1$ and $j1$ are positive integers; a second touch area, provided with $i2$ touch groups arranged along the first direction D1, and the touch group includes $j2$ touch units arranged along the second direction D2, where $i2$ and $j2$ are positive integers; the plurality of touch units **20** in a same touch group are all connected to a corresponding touch scan line **301**, and the touch read line **302** is connected to one of the touch units **20** corresponding to each of the touch groups, wherein there may be at least one of the following two cases, the first case is that the $i1$ is not equal to the $i2$, and the second case is that the $j1$ is not equal to the $j2$.

(42) Specifically, in combination with the above discussion, it can be considered that: when the plurality of switches **40** are all turned off, the plurality of touch units **20** form a plurality of first touch areas to transmit sub touch signals to the touch controller **10**, respectively; when some of the plurality of switches **40** are turned on, the touch units **20** connected via the turned-on switches **40** form a plurality of second touch areas to transmit the touch signals to the touch controller **10**,

respectively; when the plurality of switches **40** are all turned on, the touch units **20** connected via the turned-on switches **40** form a plurality of third touch areas to transmit the touch signals to the controller **10**, respectively, wherein the number of the touch units **20** in the first touch area is less than the number of the touch units **20** in the second touch area, and the number of the touch units **20** in the second touch area is less than the number of the touch units **20** in the third touch area.

(43) It can be understood that in this embodiment, for the different first touch areas and second touch areas, differences are made for the number of touch units **20** in the minimum identifiable touch point when the switches **40** are turned on. That is, it is further defined that when the switches **40** are turned on for different touch areas, corresponding accuracy in touch recognition may be different. The above difference in number may be related to the distance between two touch areas, and when the switches **40** are turned on for different touch areas, in an example, when the switches **40** are turned on, the closer the touch area to a central area of the touch panel **100**, the smaller the number of touch units **20** in the minimum identifiable touch point, so that a greater accuracy in touch recognition is yielded. The arrangement of the touch units **20** in the minimum identifiable touch point is not limited in this embodiment.

(44) It should be noted that referring to the relevant description of the principle of touch technologies in FIG. 2 and FIG. 3, by arranging the switches, the two embodiments can also implement different configurations regarding the number and the arrangement of touch units **20** in the “minimum identifiable touch point” when the switches are turned on. For example, in FIG. 2, if every two of the $k1*k2$ touch lines **30** corresponding to the “consecutively-arranged $k1*k2$ touch units **20**” are connected via the switches **40**, the minimum identifiable touch point can be realized as “ $k1*k2$ touch units **20**”. For another example, in FIG. 3, if every two of the $k3*k4$ touch lines **30** (i.e., $k3$ consecutively-arranged first touch lines **303** and $k4$ consecutively-arranged second touch lines **304**) corresponding to the “consecutively-arranged $k3*k4$ touch units **20** (i.e., $k3$ consecutively-arranged rows of the first touch units **201** and $k4$ consecutively-arranged columns of the second touch units **202**)” are connected via the switches **40**, the minimum identifiable touch point can be realized as “ $k3*k4$ touch units **20**”.

(45) The embodiments of the present application provide a touch panel driving method, for driving the touch panel described in any one of above embodiments. As shown in FIG. 5, the method may include, but is not limited to, the following steps.

(46) S1. determining, during a time period greater than a threshold period, whether no touch is detected based on signals transmitted by the plurality of touch units.

(47) Specifically, after starting up, the switches **40** may be controlled to be turned off, so that at least two corresponding touch units **20** transmit two touch signals to the touch controller **10**, respectively.

(48) Based on the touch panel **100** discussed above, for example, as shown in FIGS. 2 to 4, after starting up the touch panel **100**, the switches **40** are turned off such that touch recognition is performed using a single touch unit **20** as “the minimum identifiable touch point”. That is, two adjacent touch units **20** correspondingly connected to the switch **40** can transmit signals to the touch controller **10**, respectively, that is, each touch unit **20** can transmit a corresponding signal to a corresponding touch controller **10** via a corresponding touch line **30**. The touch controller **10** needs to process the signal transmitted by each corresponding touch unit **20**. By default, the touch recognition with the highest accuracy is performed first after power-on.

(49) It can be considered that at least within the threshold period, the touch panel **100** performs the touch recognition with the highest accuracy.

(50) If it is determined that no touch is detected, execute:

(51) S2. controlling at least some of the plurality of switches to be turned on such that at least two corresponding touch units form a same touch area to transmit the touch signal to the touch controller.

(52) Following the above discussion, if the touch controller determines that no touch is detected

according to the signals transmitted by the plurality of touch units during the time period greater than the threshold period, it can be considered that the touch panel still does not detect a touch for a long time. It can be considered that there is a high probability that there is no external object close to the touch panel **100** at the time. Meanwhile, the switches **40** are turned on to realize that two corresponding touch lines **30** are electrically connected. In combination with the above discussion, the signals transmitted by two adjacent touch units **20** can be neutralized via the two electrically-connected touch lines **30**, so that the touch signals eventually flowing into the touch controller **10** are a “same signal”.

(53) For the equivalent circuit shown in FIG. 4, it can be considered that the power P of the touch read controller **102** is equal to $\frac{1}{2} \cdot (f \cdot C \cdot U_{\text{sup}}^2)$, where C is the parasitic capacitance formed between the touch scan line **301** and other structures in the touch panel **100**, U is the amplitude of an effective pulse in the touch scan signal transmitted by the touch scan line **301** within an effective time period, and f is the frequency of changes of the signals received by the touch read controller **102**. That is, within a specific time period, since the effective pulses in the plurality of touch scan lines **301** have a same gap, it can be considered that the touch read controller **102** receives a plurality of corresponding touch read signals at a certain frequency.

(54) It can be understood that based on FIG. 1 with reference to FIGS. 6, X1 to X6 in FIG. 6 correspond to six touch scan signals transmitted by the first to sixth touch scan lines **301**, respectively. Further, in combination with the above discussion, one switch **40** may be connected between the first and the second touch scan lines **301**, one switch **40** may be connected between the third and the fourth touch scan lines **301**, and one switch **40** may be connected between the fifth and the sixth touch scan lines **301**. When the switches **40** are all turned on, the effective pulses of X1 and X2 are in the same time period, the effective pulses of X3 and X4 are in the same time period, and the effective pulses of X5 and X6 are in the same time period. In this manner, the switch transistors T1 in the first and second rows of touch units **20** are turned on at the same time. In combination with the above discussion, it can be seen that for a corresponding column of the touch units **20** in the first and the second rows that are connected to a same touch read line **302**, what is read by the touch read line **302** is also the final “same signal” mentioned above, which is formed by neutralizing, via the touch read line **302**, two touch read signals generated by the touch units **20**, respectively, so that the number of touch read signals received by the touch read controller **102** and corresponding to one row of touch units **20** can be halved, thereby reducing the frequency f of changes of the signals received by the touch read controller **102**, and this reduces the power P of the touch controller **10**.

(55) In an embodiment, Step S2 may include, but is not limited to, the following steps: controlling a first part of the plurality of switches to be turned on such that the touch units connected via the turned-on first part of switches form a plurality of first sub touch areas to transmit the touch signals to the touch controller, respectively; if determined, during the time period greater than the threshold period, that no touch is detected based on initial touch signals, controlling a second part of the plurality of switches to be turned on such that the touch units connected via the turned-on second part of switches form a plurality of second sub touch areas to transmit the touch signals to the touch controller, respectively, and the number of the touch units in the first sub touch area is less than the number of the touch units in the second sub touch area.

(56) Specifically, in combination with the above discussion, it can be seen that each time it is determined that no touch is detected, the number of switches **40** that are currently turned on can be increased, and the power consumption of the touch controller **10** can be further reduced by further reducing the accuracy in touch recognition.

(57) In an embodiment, after Step S2, the method may further include, but is not limited to, the following steps: If determined, during the time period greater than the threshold period, that a touch is detected according to initial touch signals, controlling the plurality of the switches to be turned off such that each of the touch units transmits a corresponding second touch signal to the touch

controller.

(58) Specifically, after Step S2, the way of “minimum identifiable touch point” equal to multiple touch units **20** (that is, with a lower accuracy of touch recognition) can be used for the touch recognition, and it can be determined at any time whether a touch is detected currently. Once a touch is detected, the switches are turned off, so that two corresponding adjacent touch units transmit signals respectively, that is, the touch recognition is recovered with the highest accuracy of touch recognition corresponding to the way of “minimum identifiable touch point” equal to a single touch unit **20**.

(59) Further, as shown in FIG. 6, when the switches **40** are turned on, each frame may include a display period **t1** and a touch period **t2**. A plurality of rows of sub-pixels of the touch panel **100** may illuminate within the display period **t1** and the screen is maintained during the touch period **t2**. Meanwhile, touch recognition can be performed during the touch period **t2**, and corresponding operations are performed based on different results of the touch recognition. For example, if it is determined that a touch is detected during the touch period **t2** of each frame, a corresponding screen can be displayed in the display period **t1** of a next frame based on the result of touch recognition in a previous frame. For example, “the result of touch recognition” is an action of drawing a line with a human finger, and then in the display period **t1** of the next frame, a corresponding “line” can be displayed based on the position touched by the human finger.

(60) The embodiments of the present application further provide an electronic terminal, which includes the touch panel described in any one of the above embodiments.

(61) The touch panel, the driving method thereof and the electronic terminal provided in the embodiments of the present application include a touch controller; a touch layer, including a plurality of touch units that are spaced apart; and a wiring layer, including a plurality of touch lines connected between the touch controller and corresponding touch units. The present application deploys a switch connected between two touch lines so that when the switch is turned on, two corresponding touch units transmit a same touch signal to the touch controller. In such a way, two signals transmitted by at least two touch units connected to the switched-on switch will be neutralized to form the final “same touch signal” as mentioned above, thereby reducing the number of signals received by the touch controller from the touch layer, and this can reduce the power consumption of the touch controller.

(62) Hereinbefore, the touch panel, the driving method thereof and the electronic terminal provided in the embodiments of the present application are introduced in detail, the principles and implementations of the embodiments are set forth herein with reference to specific examples, descriptions of the above embodiments are merely served to assist in understanding the technical solutions and essential ideas of the present application. Those having ordinary skill in the art should understand that they still can modify technical solutions recited in the aforesaid embodiments or equivalently replace partial technical features therein; these modifications or substitutions do not make essence of corresponding technical solutions depart from the spirit and scope of technical solutions of embodiments of the present application.

Claims

1. A touch panel, comprising: a touch controller; a touch layer, comprising a plurality of touch units that are spaced apart; and a wiring layer, comprising a plurality of touch lines connected between the touch controller and corresponding touch units, wherein the touch panel further comprises a plurality of switches each connected to two corresponding touch lines such that when the switch is turned on, at least two corresponding touch units form a same touch area to transmit a touch signal to the touch controller; wherein the touch controller comprises a touch scan controller and a touch read controller; the plurality of touch lines comprise a plurality of touch scan lines and a plurality of touch read lines, the touch scanning lines connecting to the touch scan controller and

corresponding touch units and the touch read lines connecting to the touch read controller and corresponding touch units; each of the touch scan lines transmitting a corresponding touch scan signal to the corresponding touch unit to control the touch read controller to be electrically connected to the corresponding touch units, wherein the switch is connected between at least one of two of the touch scan lines or two of the touch read lines; wherein the touch unit comprises a touch drive circuit and a touch electrode, and the touch drive circuit comprises a switch transistor, wherein each of the touch scan lines is electrically connected to a gate of a corresponding switch transistor, each of the touch read lines is electrically connected to one of a source or a drain of the corresponding switch transistor, and the other one of the source or the drain of the switch transistor is electrically connected to a corresponding touch electrode; wherein the touch drive circuit further comprises a leakage transistor, and wherein a gate of the leakage transistor is configured to be loaded with a first voltage signal, one of a source and a drain loaded of the leakage transistor is configured to be loaded with a second voltage signal, and the other one of the source and the drain of the leakage transistor is connected to the corresponding touch electrode.

2. The touch panel of claim 1, wherein the plurality of touch units form a plurality of first touch groups arranged along a first direction and form a plurality of second touch groups arranged along a second direction; the plurality of touch units in a same first touch group are all connected to a corresponding touch scan line, and the plurality of touch units in a same second touch group are all connected to a corresponding touch read line; in k touch scan lines corresponding to k first touch groups that are consecutively arranged, a corresponding switch is connected between every two adjacent touch scan lines, and in k touch read lines corresponding to k second touch groups that are consecutively arranged, a corresponding switch is connected between every two adjacent touch read lines, where k is a positive integer.

3. The touch panel of claim 1, wherein: when the plurality of switches are all turned off, the plurality of touch units form a plurality of first touch areas to transmit sub touch signals to the touch controller, respectively; when some of the plurality of switches are turned on, the touch units connected via the turned-on switches form a plurality of second touch areas to transmit the touch signals to the touch controller, respectively; when the plurality of switches are all turned on, the touch units connected via the turned-on switches form a plurality of third touch areas to transmit the touch signals to the controller, respectively, wherein the number of the touch units in the first touch area is less than the number of the touch units in the second touch area, and the number of the touch units in the second touch area is less than the number of the touch units in the third touch area.

4. A touch panel driving method, for driving the touch panel according to claim 1, comprising: if determined, during a time period greater than a threshold period, that no touch is detected based on first touch signals transmitted by the plurality of touch units, controlling at least some of the plurality of switches to be turned on such that at least two corresponding touch units form the same touch area to transmit the touch signal to the touch controller.

5. The touch panel driving method of claim 4, further comprising: if determined, during the time period greater than the threshold period, that a touch is detected according to initial touch signals, controlling the plurality of the switches to be turned off such that each of the touch units transmits a corresponding second touch signal to the touch controller.

6. The touch panel driving method of claim 4, wherein the step of controlling at least some of the plurality of switches to be turned on such that at least two corresponding touch units form the same touch area to transmit the touch signal to the touch controller comprises: controlling a first part of the plurality of switches to be turned on such that the touch units connected via the turned-on first part of switches form a plurality of first sub touch areas to transmit the touch signals to the touch controller, respectively; if determined, during the time period greater than the threshold period, that no touch is detected based on initial touch signals, controlling a second part of the plurality of switches to be turned on such that the touch units connected via the turned-on second part of

switches form a plurality of second sub touch areas to transmit the touch signals to the touch controller, respectively, and the number of the touch units in the first sub touch area is less than the number of the touch units in the second sub touch area.

7. An electronic terminal, comprising a touch panel, the touch panel comprising: a touch controller; a touch layer, comprising a plurality of touch units that are spaced apart; and a wiring layer, comprising a plurality of touch lines connected between the touch controller and corresponding touch units, wherein the touch panel further comprises a plurality of switches each connected to two corresponding touch lines such that when the switch is turned on, at least two corresponding touch units form a same touch area to transmit a touch signal to the touch controller; wherein the touch controller comprises a touch scan controller and a touch read controller; the plurality of touch lines comprise a plurality of touch scan lines and a plurality of touch read lines, the touch scanning lines connecting to the touch scan controller and corresponding touch units and the touch read lines connecting to the touch read controller and corresponding touch units; each of the touch scan lines transmitting a corresponding touch scan signal to the corresponding touch unit to control the touch read controller to be electrically connected to the corresponding touch units, wherein the switch is connected between at least one of two of the touch scan lines or two of the touch read lines; wherein the touch unit comprises a touch drive circuit and a touch electrode, and the touch drive circuit comprises a switch transistor, wherein each of the touch scan lines is electrically connected to a gate of a corresponding switch transistor, each of the touch read lines is electrically connected to one of a source or a drain of the corresponding switch transistor, and the other one of the source or the drain of the switch transistor is electrically connected to a corresponding touch electrode; wherein the touch drive circuit further comprises a leakage transistor, and wherein a gate of the leakage transistor is configured to be loaded with a first voltage signal, one of a source and a drain loaded of the leakage transistor is configured to be loaded with a second voltage signal, and the other one of the source and the drain of the leakage transistor is connected to the corresponding touch electrode.

8. The electronic terminal of claim 7, wherein the plurality of touch units form a plurality of first touch groups arranged along a first direction and form a plurality of second touch groups arranged along a second direction; the plurality of touch units in a same first touch group are all connected to a corresponding touch scan line, and the plurality of touch units in a same second touch group are all connected to a corresponding touch read line; in k touch scan lines corresponding to k first touch groups that are consecutively arranged, a corresponding switch is connected between every two adjacent touch scan lines, and in k touch read lines corresponding to k second touch groups that are consecutively arranged, a corresponding switch is connected between every two adjacent touch read lines, where k is a positive integer.

9. The electronic terminal of claim 7, wherein: when the plurality of switches are all turned off, the plurality of touch units form a plurality of first touch areas to transmit sub touch signals to the touch controller, respectively; when some of the plurality of switches are turned on, the touch units connected via the turned-on switches form a plurality of second touch areas to transmit the touch signals to the touch controller, respectively; when the plurality of switches are all turned on, the touch units connected via the turned-on switches form a plurality of third touch areas to transmit the touch signals to the controller, respectively, wherein the number of the touch units in the first touch area is less than the number of the touch units in the second touch area, and the number of the touch units in the second touch area is less than the number of the touch units in the third touch area.
