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Yousefpor et al.(10) **Pub. No.: US 2010/0060591 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Mar. 11, 2010**(54) **MULTIPLE STIMULATION PHASE
DETERMINATION****Publication Classification**(51) **Int. Cl.**
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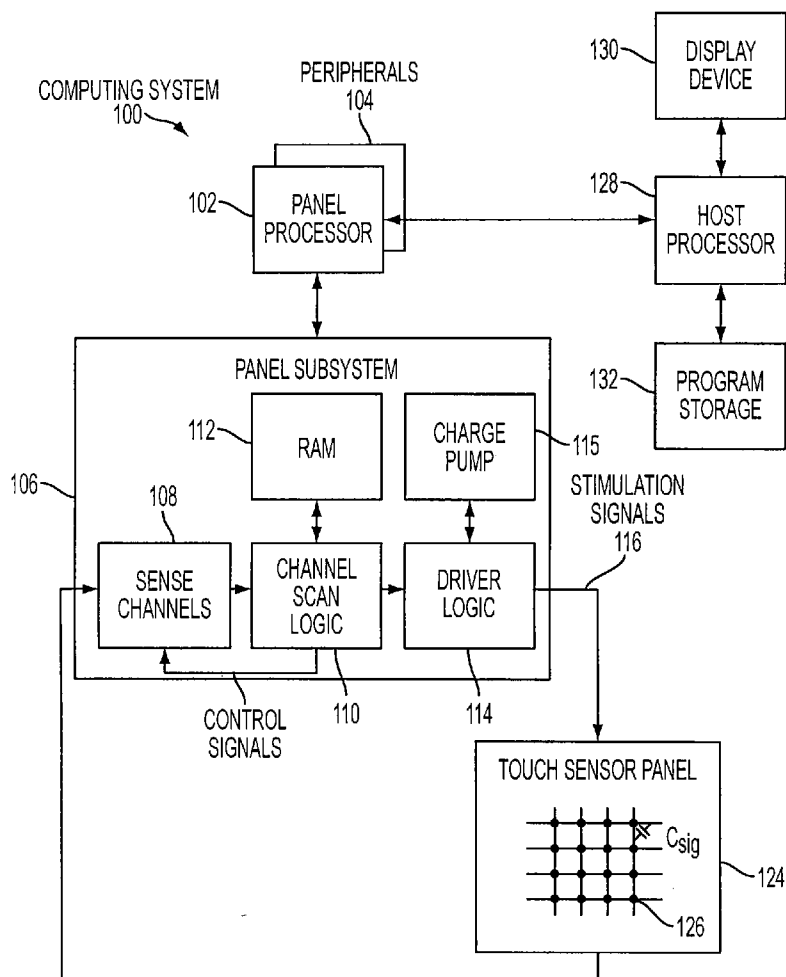
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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **345/173**(57) **ABSTRACT**

Determination of phases of multiple stimulation signals to be simultaneously applied to a touch sensor panel is disclosed. A matrix may be determined that is invertible and has a gain greater than one, where each row of the matrix may represent a single step among multiple steps needed to compute values for generating an image of touch, each column of the matrix may represent a drive line of the touch sensor panel to be stimulated, and each element of the matrix may represent the phase of the stimulation signal to be applied to a particular drive line in a particular step. For each step, stimulation signals having phases in accordance with the matrix elements may be simultaneously applied to the drive lines of the touch sensor panel.

(76) **Inventors:** **Marduke Yousefpor**, San Jose, CA
(US); **Steve Porter Hotelling**, San
Jose, CA (US)

Correspondence Address:

APPLE C/O MORRISON AND FOERSTER, LLP
LOS ANGELES
555 WEST FIFTH STREET SUITE 3500
LOS ANGELES, CA 90013-1024 (US)(21) **Appl. No.: 12/208,329**(22) **Filed: Sep. 10, 2008**

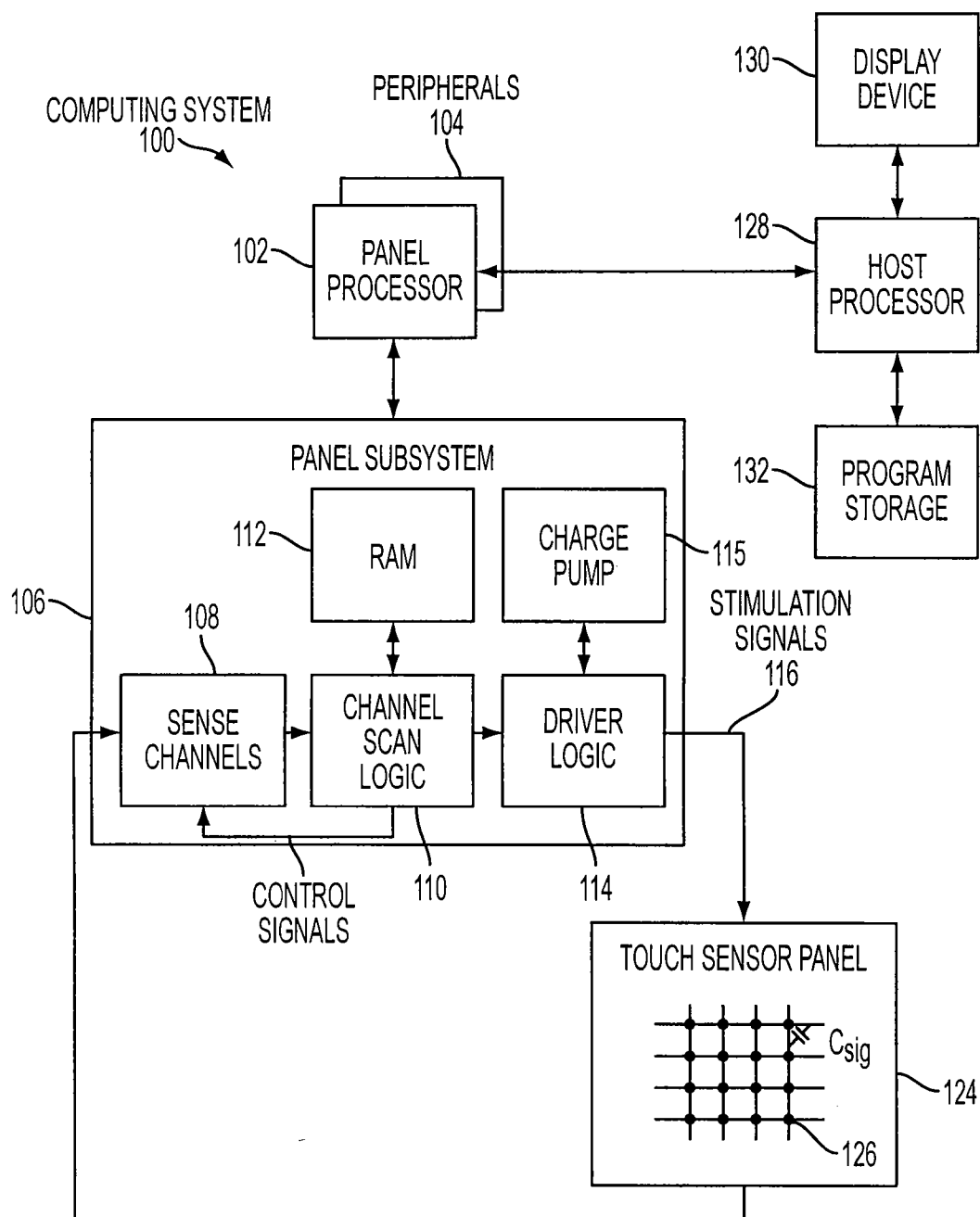


FIG. 1

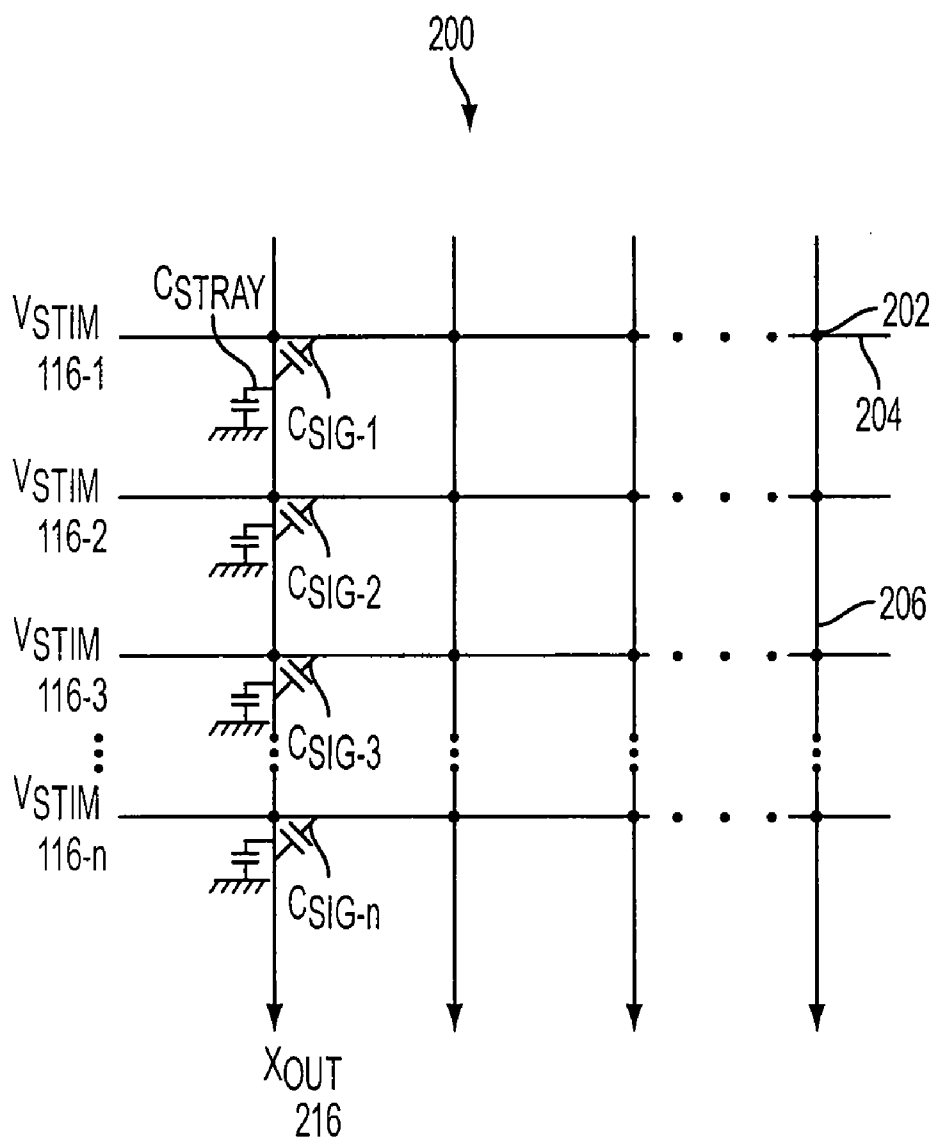


FIG. 2

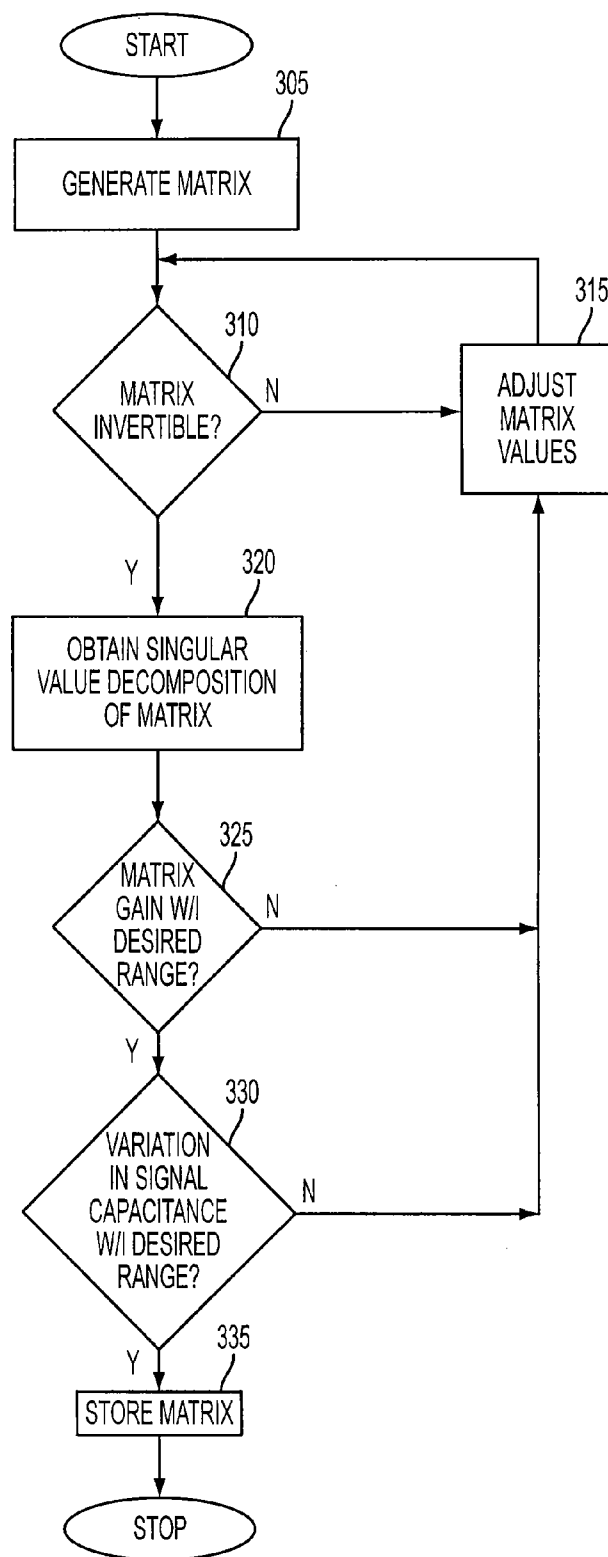


FIG. 3

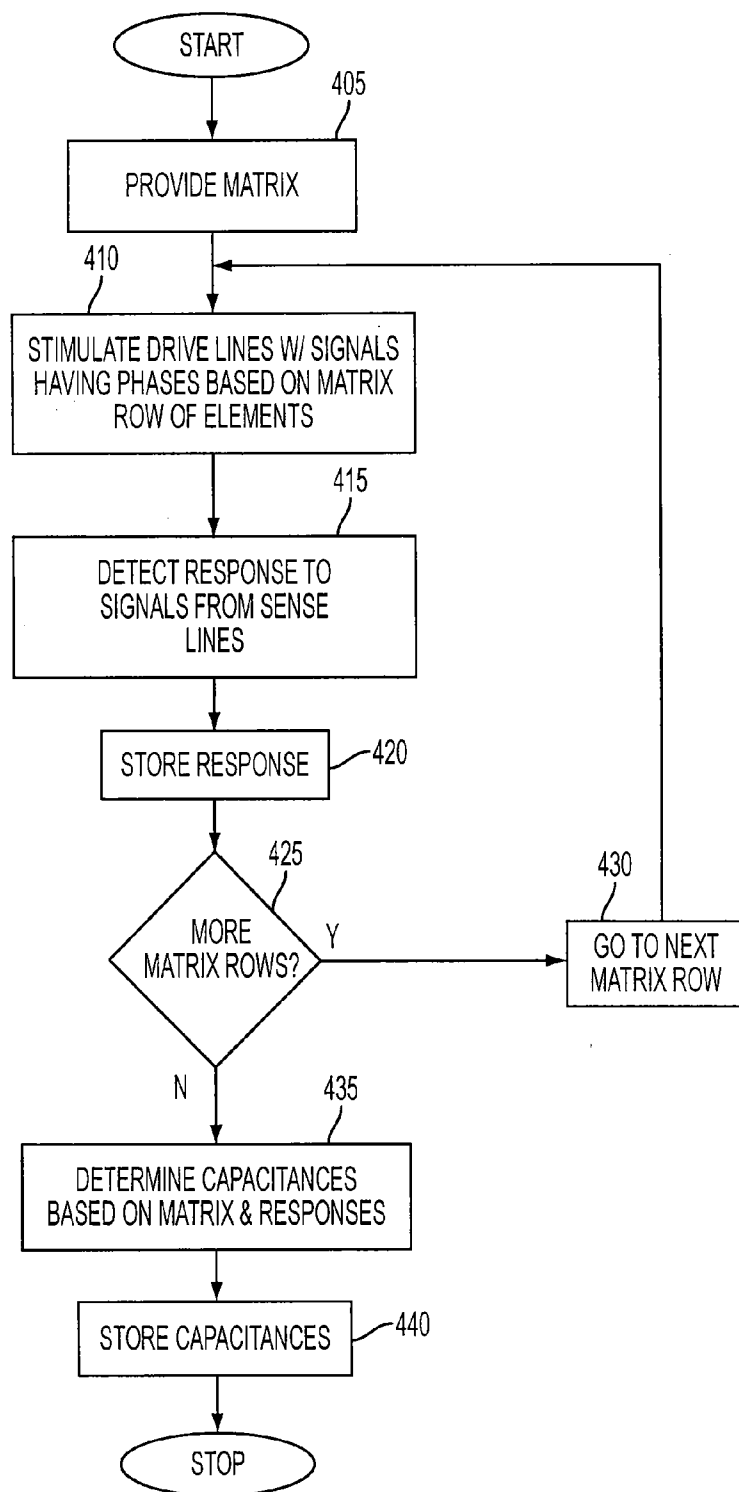


FIG. 4

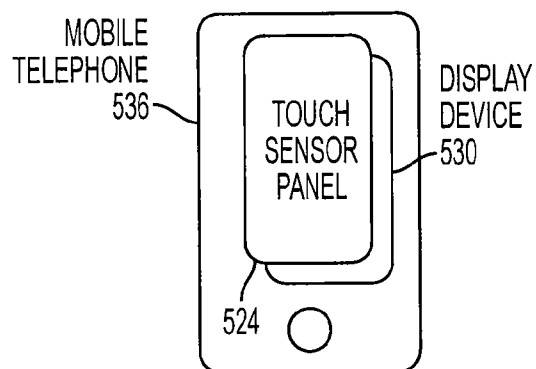


FIG. 5A

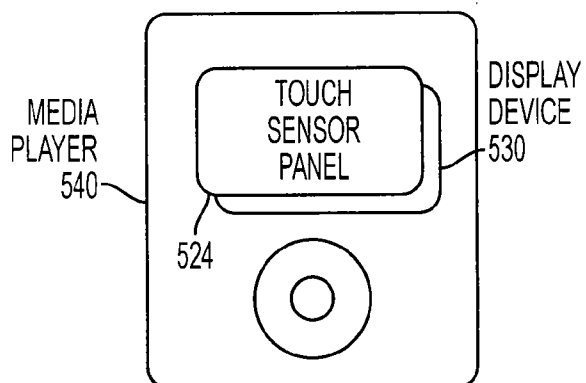


FIG. 5B

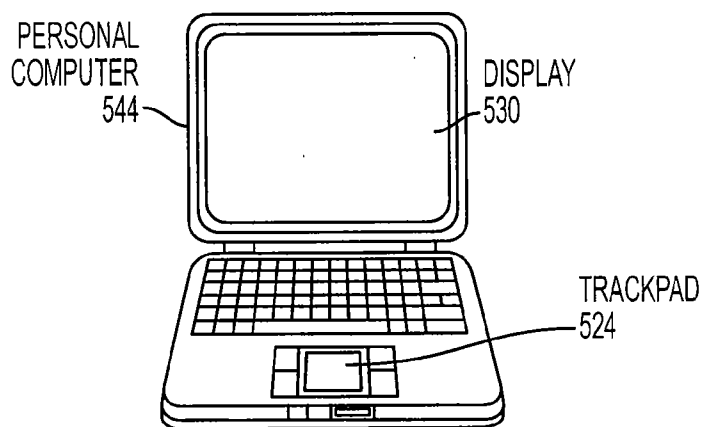


FIG. 5C

MULTIPLE STIMULATION PHASE DETERMINATION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] This relates to touch sensor panels and, more particularly, to the determination of phases of multiple stimulation signals to be simultaneously applied to a touch sensor panel and to the utilization of the determined phases to stimulate the panel to enable touch or hover detection at lower stimulation voltages.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Many types of input devices are presently available for performing operations in a computing system, such as buttons or keys, mice, trackballs, touch sensor panels, joysticks, touch screens and the like. Touch screens, in particular, are becoming increasingly popular because of their ease and versatility of operation as well as their declining price. Touch screens can include a touch sensor panel, which can be a clear panel with a touch-sensitive surface, and a display device that can be positioned behind the panel so that the touch-sensitive surface can substantially cover the viewable area of the display device. Touch screens can allow a user to perform various functions by touching the touch sensor panel using one or more fingers, a stylus or other object at a location dictated by a user interface (UI) being displayed by the display device. In general, touch screens can recognize a touch event and the position of the touch event on the touch sensor panel, and the computing system can then interpret the touch event in accordance with the display appearing at the time of the touch event, and thereafter can perform one or more actions based on the touch event.

[0003] Touch sensor panels can be formed from a plurality of drive lines and sense lines, with sensors or pixels present where the drive and sense lines intersect each other. The drive lines can be simultaneously stimulated by low-voltage stimulation signals and touch events can be detected because the charge injected into the sense lines due to the applied stimulation signals is proportional to the amount of touch. Many sources of noise can interfere with the sense lines' outputs, making it difficult to detect the outputs and hence identify touch events. The low supply voltages for the stimulation signals can reduce both the power requirements and the sizes of the touch screens. However, the low supply voltages increase the difficulty in detecting the sense lines' outputs over the noise.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] This relates to the determination and utilization of phases of multiple stimulation signals to be simultaneously applied to a touch sensor panel. In some embodiments, a matrix may be determined that is invertible and has a gain greater than one. Each row of the matrix may represent a single step among multiple steps needed to compute values for generating an image of touch. Each column of the matrix may represent a drive line of the touch sensor panel to be stimulated. Each element of the matrix may represent the phase of the stimulation signal to be applied to a particular drive line in a particular step. For each step, stimulation signals having phases according to the matrix elements may be simultaneously applied to the drive lines.

[0005] In some embodiments, a matrix may be determined that is invertible and has a gain greater than one. Each row of

the matrix may represent a single step among multiple steps needed to compute values for generating an image of touch. Each column of the matrix may represent a drive line of the touch sensor panel to be stimulated. Each element of the matrix may represent the phase of the stimulation signal to be applied to a particular drive line in a particular step. The matrix elements may be adjusted until a matrix is found having a gain within a predetermined range.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0006] FIG. 1 illustrates an exemplary computing system according to embodiments of the invention.

[0007] FIG. 2 illustrates an exemplary mutual capacitance touch sensor panel according to embodiments of the invention.

[0008] FIG. 3 illustrates an exemplary method for determining phases of stimulation signals to be simultaneously applied to drive lines of a touch sensor panel according to embodiments of the invention.

[0009] FIG. 4 illustrates another exemplary method for determining phases of stimulation signals to be simultaneously applied to drive lines of a touch sensor panel according to embodiments of the invention.

[0010] FIG. 5a illustrates an exemplary mobile telephone according to embodiments of the invention.

[0011] FIG. 5b illustrates an exemplary digital media player according to embodiments of the invention.

[0012] FIG. 5c illustrates an exemplary computer according to embodiments of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0013] In the following description of preferred embodiments, reference is made to the accompanying drawings in which it is shown by way of illustration specific embodiments in which the invention can be practiced. It is to be understood that other embodiments can be used and structural changes can be made without departing from the scope of the embodiments of this invention.

[0014] This relates to the determination of phases of multiple stimulation signals to be simultaneously applied to drive lines of a touch sensor panel and to the utilization of the determined phases to stimulate the drive lines. The phases can be determined using a matrix that is invertible and produces a gain greater than one, where each row of the matrix can represent one of several steps needed to compute capacitances for detecting and localizing touch or hover events on the touch sensor panel, each column of the matrix can represent a drive line to be stimulated, and each element of the matrix can represent the phase of the stimulation signal to be applied to a particular drive line in a particular step. This use of a matrix can provide a more effective and efficient scheme for determining appropriate phases of stimulation signals, thereby improving touch or hover detection at lower stimulation voltages.

[0015] As used herein, "simultaneously" can encompass precisely simultaneously as well as nearly simultaneously. For example, simultaneously may encompass beginning at about the same time, ending at about the same time, and/or taking place over at least partially overlapping time periods.

[0016] Although some embodiments of this invention may be described herein in terms of mutual capacitance touch sensors, it should be understood that embodiments of this

invention are not so limited, but are generally applicable to devices utilizing other types of touch and proximity sensing technologies as well, including but not limited to self capacitance sensors.

[0017] FIG. 1 illustrates an exemplary computing system that can include one or more of the embodiments of the invention described herein. In the example of FIG. 1, computing system 100 can include one or more panel processors 102 and peripherals 104, and panel subsystem 106. Peripherals 104 can include, but are not limited to, random access memory (RAM) or other types of memory or storage, watchdog timers and the like. Panel subsystem 106 can include, but is not limited to, one or more sense channels 108, channel scan logic (analog or digital) 110 and driver logic (analog or digital) 114. Channel scan logic 110 can access RAM 112, autonomously read data from sense channels 108 and provide control for the sense channels. In addition, channel scan logic 110 can control driver logic 114 to generate stimulation signals 116 at various phases that can be simultaneously applied to drive lines of touch sensor panel 124 according to embodiments of the invention. Panel subsystem 106 can operate at a low digital logic voltage level (e.g. 1.7 to 3.3V). Driver logic 114 can generate a supply voltage greater than the digital logic level supply voltages by cascading two charge storage devices, e.g., capacitors, together to form charge pump 115. Charge pump 115 can be used to generate stimulation signals 116 that can have amplitudes of about twice the digital logic level supply voltages (e.g. 3.4 to 6.6V). Although FIG. 1 shows charge pump 115 separate from driver logic 114, the charge pump can be part of the driver logic. In some embodiments, panel subsystem 106, panel processor 102 and peripherals 104 can be integrated into a single application specific integrated circuit (ASIC).

[0018] Touch sensor panel 124 can include a capacitive sensing medium having a plurality of drive lines and a plurality of sense lines, although other sensing media can also be used. The drive and sense lines can be formed from a transparent conductive medium such as Indium Tin Oxide (ITO) or Antimony Tin Oxide (ATO), although other transparent and non-transparent materials such as copper can also be used. The drive and sense lines can be formed on a single side of a substantially transparent substrate, on opposite sides of the substrate, or on two separate substrates separated by the dielectric material. Each intersection of drive and sense lines can represent a capacitive sensing node and can be viewed as picture element (pixel) 126, which can be particularly useful when touch sensor panel 124 is viewed as capturing an “image” of touch. (In other words, after panel subsystem 106 has determined whether a touch event has been detected at each touch sensor in the touch sensor panel, the pattern of touch sensors in the multi-touch panel at which a touch event occurred can be viewed as an “image” of touch (e.g. a pattern of fingers touching the panel).) The capacitance between the drive and sense lines and local system ground appears as a stray capacitance C_{stray} and the capacitance at the intersections of the drive and sense lines, i.e., the pixels, as a mutual signal capacitance C_{sig} when the given drive line is stimulated with an alternating current (AC) signal. The presence of a finger or other object near or on the touch sensor panel can be detected by measuring changes to a signal charge present at the pixels being touched, which is a function of C_{sig} . Each sense line of touch sensor panel 124 can drive sense channel 108 in panel subsystem 106.

[0019] Computing system 100 can also include host processor 128 for receiving outputs from panel processor 102 and performing actions based on the outputs that can include, but are not limited to, moving one or more objects such as a cursor or pointer, scrolling or panning, adjusting control settings, opening a file or document, viewing a menu, making a selection, executing instructions, operating a peripheral device coupled to the host device, answering a telephone call, placing a telephone call, terminating a telephone call, changing the volume or audio settings, storing information related to telephone communications such as addresses, frequently dialed numbers, received calls, missed calls, logging onto a computer or a computer network, permitting authorized individuals access to restricted areas of the computer or computer network, loading a user profile associated with a user's preferred arrangement of the computer desktop, permitting access to web content, launching a particular program, encrypting or decoding a message, and/or the like. Host processor 128 can also perform additional functions that may not be related to panel processing, and can be coupled to program storage 132 and display device 130 such as an LCD display for providing a UI to a user of the device. Display device 130 together with touch sensor panel 124, when located partially or entirely under the touch sensor panel, can form a touch screen.

[0020] Note that one or more of the functions described above can be performed by firmware stored in memory (e.g. one of the peripherals 104 in FIG. 1) and executed by panel processor 102, or stored in program storage 132 and executed by host processor 128. The firmware can also be stored and/or transported within any computer-readable medium for use by or in connection with an instruction execution system, apparatus, or device, such as a computer-based system, processor-containing system, or other system that can fetch the instructions from the instruction execution system, apparatus, or device and execute the instructions. In the context of this document, a “computer-readable medium” can be any medium that can contain or store the program for use by or in connection with the instruction execution system, apparatus, or device. The computer readable medium can include, but is not limited to, an electronic, magnetic, optical, electromagnetic, infrared, or semiconductor system, apparatus or device, a portable computer diskette (magnetic), a random access memory (RAM) (magnetic), a read-only memory (ROM) (magnetic), an erasable programmable read-only memory (EPROM) (magnetic), a portable optical disc such as a CD, CD-R, CD-RW, DVD, DVD-R, or DVD-RW, or flash memory such as compact flash cards, secured digital cards, USB memory devices, memory sticks, and the like.

[0021] The firmware can also be propagated within any transport medium for use by or in connection with an instruction execution system, apparatus, or device, such as a computer-based system, processor-containing system, or other system that can fetch the instructions from the instruction execution system, apparatus, or device and execute the instructions. In the context of this document, a “transport medium” can be any medium that can communicate, propagate or transport the program for use by or in connection with the instruction execution system, apparatus, or device. The transport readable medium can include, but is not limited to, an electronic, magnetic, optical, electromagnetic or infrared wired or wireless propagation medium.

[0022] It is to be understood that the sensor panel is not limited to a touch sensor panel, as described in FIG. 1, but

may be a proximity sensor panel or any other sensor panel capable of sensing a touch or hover event and determining phases of stimulation signals that simultaneously drive the sensor panel according to embodiments of the invention. Furthermore, although the touch sensors in the touch sensor panel may be described herein in terms of an orthogonal array of touch sensors having rows and columns, it should be understood that embodiments of this invention are not limited to orthogonal arrays, but can be generally applicable to touch sensors arranged in any number of dimensions and orientations, including diagonal, concentric circle, and three-dimensional and random orientations. In addition, the touch sensor panel described herein can be either a single-touch or a multi-touch sensor panel.

[0023] FIG. 2 illustrates an exemplary mutual capacitance touch sensor panel according to embodiments of the invention. In the example of FIG. 2, the panel 200 can include a plurality of drive lines 204 and a plurality of sense lines 206. An intersection of a drive line 204 and a sense line 206 can define a pixel 202. FIG. 2 indicates the presence of a stray capacitance Cstray and a mutual capacitance Csig at each pixel 202 located at the intersection of a drive line 204 and a sense line 206 (although Cstray and Csig for only one column are illustrated in FIG. 2 for purposes of simplifying the figure). Stimulation signals Vstim 116-1 through 116-n can be simultaneously applied to the n drive lines 204, where n can be any integer. Each stimulation signal Vstim 116 can be at a different phase, as will be explained later, and upon being applied to a drive line, can cause a charge Qsig=Csig*Vstim to be injected into the sense lines through the mutual capacitance Csig present at the affected pixels. A change in the injected charge can be detected when a finger, palm or other object is present at one or more of the affected pixels. The stimulation signals 116 can be sine waves or any other suitable waveform or combination of waveforms at a suitable frequency or combination of frequencies for stimulating the drive lines 204. Note that although FIG. 2 illustrates drive lines 204 and sense lines 206 as being substantially perpendicular, they need not be so aligned, as described above. As described above, each sense line 206 can be connected to a sense channel (see sense channels 108 in FIG. 1).

[0024] An example voltage of Vstim 116 can be about 4.16V. An example phase of Vstim 116 can be either 0° or 180°, which can be determined according to embodiments of the invention. A sense channel (see sense channel 108 in FIG. 1) having a charge amplifier, including feedback capacitor Cfb and feedback resistor Rfb, can receive the charge generated by the applied stimulation signal Vstim 116 and the signal capacitance Csig. The stray capacitance Cstray can be rendered ineffective at the charge amplifier using the virtual grounding provided by the feedback around the amplifier. An exemplary sense channel is disclosed in U.S. application Ser. No. 11/649,998, filed Jan. 3, 2007, the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety for all purposes.

[0025] All or most of the drive lines 204 can be simultaneously stimulated ("multi-stim") according to embodiments of the present invention. In multi-stim, charges Qsig can be generated by Vstim 116 and Csig for all of the drive lines. The total charge output Xout 216 may be the sum of all charge injected into the sense line by each stimulated drive line. The output may be the superposition of all stimulation signals Vstim 116 multiplied by each of the Csig values on the sense line. In one example, sense line 206 can have some pixels 202 which are driven by stimulation signals 116 having a phase of

0° and simultaneously have other pixels 202 which are driven by stimulation signals 116 having a phase of 180°, although other phases are possible.

[0026] While the stimulation signals drive the drive lines, the signal capacitance for each pixel may have a certain value Csig. When a touch or hover event occurs, Csig for the affected pixels may reduce by an amount ΔCsig. This reduction may be detected in the panel output signal, thereby detecting the event. In previous panel designs, the stimulation voltage was as high as 18V. The output signal in response to the stimulation was proportional to the stimulation voltage and therefore sufficiently large to distinguish the output from any signal noise, thereby effectively detecting the touch or hover event. In panel designs according to embodiments of the invention, the stimulation voltage can be lowered, e.g., to about 4.16 V. Signal-to-noise ratio is the power of the output signal over the power of the noise, where the power of the signal is one half the amplitude of the signal squared. Hence, a drop in stimulation voltage from 18V to 4.16 V results in more than 16 times less power to generate the sense signal due to change in the capacitances Csig. This power drop could significantly lower signal resolution at the panel and make it more difficult to detect the capacitance reduction ΔCsig and hence the touch or hover event. To resolve this difficulty, a desirable phase pattern for the stimulation signals can be determined to reduce the effect of the noise at the lower stimulation voltages.

[0027] Referring again to FIG. 2, signal capacitances Csig-1 through Csig-n can be formed at the pixels 202 when stimulation signals Vstim 116-1 through 116-n are simultaneously applied to the n drive lines 204. Charges Qsig can be generated by the stimulation signals Vstim 116 and the signal capacitances Csig, and injected onto one or more sense lines 206. FIG. 2 shows the signal capacitances Csig-1 through Csig-n for only one sense line. However, the signal capacitances for the other sense lines intersecting the same drive line may be roughly the same. For example, all the sense lines that intersect the first drive line may have signal capacitance of about Csig-1 at the corresponding pixels; all the sense lines that intersect the second drive line may have signal capacitance of about Csig-2 at the corresponding pixels; and so on. Therefore, only one sense line need be considered here.

[0028] Each charge Qsig can be calculated as follows.

$$Q_{sig} = V_{stim} * C_{sig} \quad (1)$$

where Vstim is the stimulation signal applied to a drive line and Csig is the signal capacitance formed at the pixel defined by the intersection of that drive line with a sense line. The output Xout 216 is the sum of the charges Qsig generated by the stimulation signals and the signal capacitances at all the pixels on a particular sense line and can be calculated as follows.

$$X_{out} = \sum_{i=1}^n Q_{sig}(i) \quad (2)$$

$$X_{out} = \sum_{i=1}^n V_{stim}(i) * C_{sig}(i) \quad (3)$$

where i is a summation index for drive lines 1 to n. Here, the stimulation signals Vstim and the output Xout can be measured and are therefore known. The n values of Csig are not. However, the n unknown Csig values can be determined, e.g., using linear algebra concepts. In order to determine the n unknown Csig values, n equations would be needed to show

the relationship between V_{stim} , X_{out} , and C_{sig} (see, e.g., Equation (3)). These n equations could be formulated by performing a series of n steps where, during each step, a different set of stimulation signals V_{stim} could be simultaneously applied to the drive lines of the panel, thereby generating C_{sig} s, and the resulting output X_{out} from a sense line of the panel could be measured.

[0029] Matrices can be a convenient way to represent these n equations as follows.

$$\begin{bmatrix} X1 \\ X2 \\ X3 \\ \dots \\ Xn \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} V11 & V12 & V13 & \dots & V1n \\ V21 & V22 & V23 & \dots & V2n \\ V31 & V32 & V33 & \dots & V3n \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ Vn1 & Vn2 & Vn3 & \dots & Vnn \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} C1 \\ C2 \\ C3 \\ \dots \\ Cn \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

where the X matrix has elements $X1$ through Xn which represent X_{out} measured from a particular sense line in steps 1 through n ; the V matrix has elements $V11$ through Vnn which represent V_{stim} applied to the drive lines in steps 1 through n , where each row represents the n stimulation signals simultaneously applied to the n drive lines during a particular step, each column represents a drive line to be stimulated, and each element represents a stimulation voltage; and the C matrix has elements $C1$ through Cn which represent C_{sig} formed at the pixels defined by the intersection of drive lines 1 through n and the particular sense line.

[0030] V_{stim} can be written as $AoG(\omega, a, \phi, T)\delta$, where Ao can be the drive amplitude, $G(\omega, a, \phi, T)$, the signal processing gain as a function of stimulation frequency ω , panel magnitude/phase response a/ϕ , and duration of signal processing integration time T , and δ , the drive phase. As such, the V_{stim} matrix V may become

$$\begin{bmatrix} AoG(\omega, a, \phi, T)\delta11 & AoG(\omega, a, \phi, T)\delta12 & AoG(\omega, a, \phi, T)\delta13 & \dots & AoG(\omega, a, \phi, T)\delta1n \\ AoG(\omega, a, \phi, T)\delta21 & AoG(\omega, a, \phi, T)\delta22 & AoG(\omega, a, \phi, T)\delta23 & \dots & AoG(\omega, a, \phi, T)\delta2n \\ AoG(\omega, a, \phi, T)\delta31 & AoG(\omega, a, \phi, T)\delta32 & AoG(\omega, a, \phi, T)\delta33 & \dots & AoG(\omega, a, \phi, T)\delta3n \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ AoG(\omega, a, \phi, T)\delta n1 & AoG(\omega, a, \phi, T)\delta n2 & AoG(\omega, a, \phi, T)\delta n3 & \dots & AoG(\omega, a, \phi, T)\delta nn \end{bmatrix} \quad (5)$$

In some embodiments, $AoG(\omega, a, \phi, T)$ may be constant. As such, the V_{stim} matrix V may become

$$AoG(\omega, a, \phi, T) \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \delta11 & \delta12 & \delta13 & \dots & \delta1n \\ \delta21 & \delta22 & \delta23 & \dots & \delta2n \\ \delta31 & \delta32 & \delta33 & \dots & \delta3n \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \delta n1 & \delta n2 & \delta n3 & \dots & \delta nn \end{bmatrix} \quad (6)$$

where the phase may vary for each of the steps 1 through n .

[0031] It is to be understood that the amplitude, waveform, and/or frequency of the stimulation signals may also vary in some embodiments.

[0032] In matrix notation, the matrices in Equation (4) may become

$$X=VC. \quad (7)$$

Ideally, Equation (7) models the behavior of a touch sensor panel. However, since noise is ever present, the following equation is more realistic.

$$X+\Delta X=VC_m, \quad (8)$$

where ΔX may be the noise and C_m may be the noise-altered signal capacitance C_{sig} . Written another way,

$$C_m=V^{-1}X+V^{-1}\Delta X, \quad (9)$$

$$C_m=V^{-1}(VC)+V^{-1}\Delta X, \quad (10)$$

$$C_m=C+V^{-1}\Delta X, \quad (11)$$

where V^{-1} may be the inverse matrix of V . C may be the ideal signal capacitance C_{sig} and $V^{-1}\Delta X$ may be the disturbance due to noise.

[0033] As stated above, noise may make the detection of an output signal difficult. However, the effect of the noise may be reduced by making the noise term $V^{-1}\Delta X$ in Equation (11) smaller. To do so, a stimulation signal matrix V can be found that can make its inverse matrix V^{-1} have as small a gain as possible in all vector space of noise vector ΔX , thereby reducing the effect of the noise in the panel. Equation (6) shows an exemplary matrix V in which the stimulation signal voltage amplitude, frequency, and waveform are constant and the phase is variable. In which case, only a phase matrix P of the stimulation signal V_{stim} need be determined that can reduce the effect of the noise. An exemplary phase matrix P may be

$$\begin{bmatrix} \delta11 & \delta12 & \delta13 & \dots & \delta1n \\ \delta21 & \delta22 & \delta23 & \dots & \delta2n \\ \delta31 & \delta32 & \delta33 & \dots & \delta3n \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \delta n1 & \delta n2 & \delta n3 & \dots & \delta nn \end{bmatrix} \quad (12)$$

[0034] The phase matrix P may be decomposed using singular value decomposition (SVD) to take the form

$$P=U\Sigma Y^T \quad (13)$$

where U may be a unitary $n \times n$ matrix that contains a set of output singular vectors of the phase matrix P , Y may be another unitary $n \times n$ matrix that contains a set of input singular vectors of the phase matrix P , and Σ may be a diagonal $n \times n$ matrix that contains the singular values of the phase matrix P . The diagonal matrix Σ may be

$$\begin{bmatrix} s11 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & s22 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & s33 & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & smm \end{bmatrix} \quad (14)$$

where the values along the diagonal $s_{11}, s_{22}, \dots, s_{nn}$ may be the singular values.

[0035] Conversely, the inverse of the phase matrix P^{-1} may take the form

$$P^{-1} = Y \Sigma^{-1} U^T. \quad (15)$$

[0036] The U , Σ , and Y matrices may be used in determining the phases of stimulation signals according to embodiments of the invention.

[0037] In one embodiment, the phase matrix P may be a circulant matrix. A circulant matrix is a special kind of Toeplitz matrix where each row of the matrix is shifted one element to the right relative to the preceding row. An exemplary circulant matrix may be

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ d & a & b & c \\ c & d & a & b \\ b & c & d & a \end{bmatrix} \quad (16)$$

which, for a phase matrix, may be

$$\begin{bmatrix} \delta_1 & \delta_2 & \delta_3 & \delta_4 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 & \delta_2 & \delta_3 \\ \delta_3 & \delta_4 & \delta_1 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_2 & \delta_3 & \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (17)$$

A phase pattern represented by δ_1 through δ_n may be shifted to the right in each subsequent row of a circulant matrix. Each row of the matrix may represent a step taken, as described above, in which n stimulation signals may be simultaneously applied to n drive lines to generate an output, where Equation (3), which shows the relationship between the stimulation signals V_{stim} , the output X_{out} , and the signal capacitance C_{sig} , may form the n equations to be used to compute the signal capacitances C_{sig} . In this example, $n=4$. Though the exemplary circulant matrix is shown as a square matrix, it need not always be so. Rather, the circulant matrix may have more rows than columns.

[0038] The circulant phase matrix may have the following characteristics. The matrix may be invertible, as illustrated in Equation (11). The matrix gain, which can be the singular value of the matrix, may be greater than one so as to maintain noise rejection comparable to that in the previous higher stimulation voltage design. In some embodiments, the matrix gain may be in a range between about three and about six. Also, the phase of a stimulation signal may be positive or negative, e.g., 0° or 180° respectively. As such, the phase may be represented in the phase matrix as $+1$ and -1 respectively. Additionally, the imbalance between the positive and negative phases in the rows of the matrix may be no greater than 50%. This means that, for each row, the number of $+1$ s can be no greater than twice the number of -1 s and vice versa. The imbalance requirement may be directly related to the dynamic range requirement of the sensing amplifier. For example, a large imbalance may lead to a large amplifier dynamic range, which can translate into higher power consumption and ASIC chip cost.

[0039] In another embodiment, the phase matrix P may be a Hadamard matrix. A Hadamard matrix is a square matrix of order 2^k , where k is an integer, and whose elements have

values of either $+1$ or -1 and whose rows are mutually orthogonal. Exemplary Hadamard matrices H may be as follows.

$$H_1 = [1] \quad (18)$$

$$H_2 = \begin{bmatrix} H_1 & -H_1 \\ -H_1 & -H_1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (19)$$

$$H_{2^k} = \begin{bmatrix} H_{2^{k-1}} & -H_{2^{k-1}} \\ -H_{2^{k-1}} & -H_{2^{k-1}} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (20)$$

For $k=2$, the Hadamard matrix may be

$$H_4 = \begin{bmatrix} +1 & -1 & -1 & +1 \\ -1 & -1 & +1 & +1 \\ -1 & +1 & -1 & +1 \\ +1 & +1 & +1 & +1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (21)$$

which, for a phase matrix, may be

$$\begin{bmatrix} \delta_{11} & \delta_{12} & \delta_{13} & \delta_{14} \\ \delta_{21} & \delta_{22} & \delta_{23} & \delta_{24} \\ \delta_{31} & \delta_{32} & \delta_{33} & \delta_{34} \\ \delta_{41} & \delta_{42} & \delta_{43} & \delta_{44} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (22)$$

Each row of the matrix may represent a step taken, as described above, in which n stimulation signals may be simultaneously applied to n drive lines to generate an output, where Equation (3), which shows the relationship between the stimulation signals V_{stim} , the output X_{out} , and the signal capacitance C_{sig} , may form the n equations to be used to compute the signal capacitances C_{sig} . In this example, $n=4$.

[0040] The Hadamard phase matrix may have the following characteristics. The matrix may be invertible, as illustrated in Equation (11). The matrix gain may be greater than one so as to maintain noise rejection comparable to that in the previous higher supply voltage design. In some embodiments, the matrix gain may be in a range between about three and about six. Also, the phase of a stimulation signal may be positive or negative, e.g., 0° or 180° respectively. As such, the phase may be represented in the phase matrix as $+1$ and -1 respectively, which is a characteristic of a Hadamard matrix. A characteristic of the Hadamard matrix is that the imbalance between the positive and negative phases in the rows of the matrix may be greater than 50%. Accordingly, additional circuitry and signal processing may be required to reduce the effects of a large imbalance.

[0041] It is to be understood that the phase matrix is not limited to a circulant or Hadamard matrix, but may be any matrix capable of being utilized for determining phases of stimulation signals to be simultaneously applied to drive lines of a touch sensor panel in accordance with embodiments of the invention.

[0042] FIG. 3 illustrates an exemplary method for determining phases of stimulation signals to be simultaneously applied to drive lines of a touch sensor panel according to embodiments of the invention. Initially, a processor may generate a stimulation matrix having at least n rows and n col-

umns of elements, where n may be the number of drive lines in the panel (305). Each row of the matrix may represent one of several steps needed in order to compute capacitances of the panel for later use in touch or hover detection, as discussed previously. Each column of the matrix may represent a drive line to be stimulated. Each element of the matrix may represent the phase of the stimulation signal to be applied to a particular drive line in a particular step. Example elements of the matrix may have values of -1 for a negative phase, e.g., a phase of 180° , and $+1$ for a positive phase, e.g., a phase of 0° .

[0043] The processor may determine whether the generated matrix is invertible (310). If the matrix is not invertible, the processor may adjust the matrix's element values (315). The matrix's element values may be adjusted by changing one or more of the values to its opposite value, e.g., by changing a -1 to a $+1$ and vice versa. The method may repeat at adjusted element values until the matrix is invertible (310, 315).

[0044] If the matrix is invertible, the processor may obtain a singular value decomposition of the matrix (320). To do so, the processor may generate two unitary matrices and a diagonal matrix of the stimulation matrix, as illustrated in Equations (13)-(15). From the diagonal matrix, the processor may determine the matrix gain based on the singular values of the diagonal matrix. For example, the matrix gain may be the minimum singular value in the diagonal matrix. Alternatively, any technique suitable for determining the matrix gain may be used.

[0045] The processor may determine whether the gain is within a desired range (325). For example, the gain may be in a desired range if the gain is greater than one and/or between three and six. If not, the processor may adjust the matrix's element values (315). The method may repeat at adjusted element values until the gain is within the desired range (310-325).

[0046] If the gain is within the desired range, the processor may determine whether the variation of the signal capacitance C_{sig} in the pixels due to noise is within a desired range (330). For example, the variation may be in a desired range if the variation is about 0.3 or less. The variation may be determined as follows. For each column of the Y unitary matrix, the difference between the maximum and minimum values in that column may be calculated. The maximum difference for the matrix may be determined from among these calculated column differences. This maximum difference may represent the variation of the signal capacitance C_{sig} in the pixels due to noise. If the variation is not within the desired range, the processor may adjust the matrix's element values (315). The method may repeat at adjusted element values until the variations are within the desired range (310-330).

[0047] If the variation is within the desired range, the processor may store the generated stimulation matrix for later use to compute capacitances that may be used to detect touch or hover events (335).

[0048] In an alternate embodiment, the processor may determine whether each row of the matrix has an imbalance of no more than 50% for its -1 to $+1$ values. This means that the number of either $+1$ s or -1 s in a row cannot exceed the other by more than 50%. If so, the matrix's element values may be adjusted to drop below a 50% imbalance.

[0049] This method may be performed in a computer simulation.

[0050] FIG. 4 illustrates another exemplary method for determining phases of stimulation signals to be simultaneously applied to drive lines of a touch sensor panel accord-

ing to embodiments of the invention. Initially, a device having a touch sensor panel may access a stimulation matrix (405). The matrix may be accessed from the memory of that device or another device. Each row of the matrix may represent one of several steps needed in order to compute capacitances of the panel for use in touch or hover detection, as discussed previously. Each column of the matrix may represent a drive line to be stimulated. Each element of the matrix may represent the phase of the stimulation signal to be applied to a particular drive line in a particular step. Example elements may have values of -1 for a negative phase, e.g., a phase of 180° , and $+1$ for a positive phase, e.g., a phase of 0° .

[0051] The device may simultaneously apply stimulation signals V_{stim} to the drive lines of the touch sensor panel based on a row of the matrix (410). To apply the stimulation signals, the device may form the first set of stimulation signals having a voltage amplitude, waveform, frequency, and phase. In some embodiments, the amplitude may be 4.16V and the waveform may be sinusoidal with a particular frequency. The phases of the first set of stimulation signals may be determined from the elements in the first row of the matrix. For example, the stimulation signal to stimulate the first drive line may have a phase represented by the first element in the first row of the matrix. Similarly, the stimulation signal to stimulate the second drive line may have a phase represented by the second element of the first row of the matrix. And so on for the remaining first set of stimulation signals. These stimulation signals may be applied simultaneously to the drive lines.

[0052] The device can detect a response from one or more of the sense lines of the touch sensor panel to the applied stimulation signals (415). The detected response may be temporarily stored until all of the steps have been completed (420). The device may determine whether there are more matrix rows to process (425). If so, the device may consider the next row of the matrix (430) and repeat the applying (410), the detecting (415), and the storing (420) at the phases of the set of stimulation signals based on that next row of the matrix.

[0053] After all the rows have been processed, the device may determine the signal capacitances C_{sig} formed at the sense lines by solving the matrix Equation (4), stated above (435). The determined capacitances C_{sig} may be used as baseline values for generating an image of touch, where a reduction in the capacitance ΔC_{sig} may be detected to indicate a touch or hover event. The determined capacitances C_{sig} may be stored for subsequent operations of the touch sensor panel (440).

[0054] FIG. 5a illustrates an exemplary mobile telephone 536 that can include touch sensor panel 524, display device 530, and other computing system blocks in computing system 100 of FIG. 1 that can be utilized for determining phases of multiple stimulation signals to be simultaneously applied to drive lines of the touch sensor panel 524.

[0055] FIG. 5b illustrates an exemplary digital media player 540 that can include touch sensor panel 524, display device 530, and other computing system blocks in computing system 100 of FIG. 1 that can be utilized for determining phases of multiple stimulation signals to be simultaneously applied to drive lines of the touch sensor panel 524.

[0056] FIG. 5c illustrates an exemplary personal computer 544 that can include touch sensor panel (trackpad) 524 and display 530, and other computing system blocks in computing system 100 of FIG. 1 that can be utilized for determining phases of multiple stimulation signals to be simultaneously applied to drive lines of the touch sensor panel 524.

[0057] The mobile telephone, media player, and personal computer of FIGS. 5a, 5b and 5c can provide improved signal detection at lower stimulation voltages by determining appropriate phases of stimulation signals that simultaneously drive touch sensor panels according to embodiments of the invention.

[0058] Although embodiments of this invention have been fully described with reference to the accompanying drawings, it is to be noted that various changes and modifications will become apparent to those skilled in the art. Such changes and modifications are to be understood as being included within the scope of embodiments of this invention as defined by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for determining phases of stimulation signals to be simultaneously applied to drive lines of a touch sensor panel, comprising:

forming a matrix having a plurality of rows and columns comprising elements, each row representing a single step in a plurality of steps needed to compute values for generating an image of touch, each column representing a drive line to be stimulated, and each element representing the phase of the stimulation signal to be applied to a particular drive line in a particular step, wherein the matrix is invertible and produces gains greater than one; and

for each step in the plurality of steps, stimulating the drive lines with stimulation signals having phases in accordance with the elements of the matrix.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein each element of the matrix has a value that is selected from a group consisting of -1 to represent a negative phase and +1 to represent a positive phase.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein each row of the matrix has an imbalance of no more than 50% of values of -1 to values of +1.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the matrix is a circulant matrix.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the matrix is a Hadamard matrix.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the matrix provides at least as many steps as there are values to compute for generating the image of touch.

7. In a system including a sensor panel having a plurality of drive lines being simultaneously driven with a plurality of stimulation signals having positive and negative phases in a particular distribution and a plurality of sense lines responding to the simultaneously driven stimulation signals, a method for determining the phases of the stimulation signals to be simultaneously applied to drive lines of a touch sensor panel, the method comprising:

forming a matrix having a plurality of rows and columns comprising elements, each row representing a single step in a plurality of steps needed to compute values used to generate an image of touch, each column representing a drive line to be driven, and each element representing either the positive or negative phase of the stimulation signal to drive a particular drive line in a particular step, wherein the matrix is invertible and produces gains greater than one; and

for each step in the plurality of steps,

driving the drive lines with stimulation signals having phases in accordance with the elements of the matrix; and

detecting a response from the sense lines of the sensor panel to the driven stimulation signals.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising: computing the values for generating the image of touch based on the elements of the matrix and the detected responses.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the computed values are capacitances formed between intersections of the drive lines and the sense lines.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising: storing the capacitances for use in generating the image of touch.

11. A sensing device, comprising:

a sensor panel having a plurality of drive lines and a plurality of sense lines; and

an integrated circuit coupled to the sensor panel, including driver logic configured to generate a plurality of stimulation signals to stimulate the plurality of drive lines, the stimulation signals having phases in accordance with elements of a matrix, each row of the matrix representing a single step in a plurality of steps needed to compute values for generating an image of touch, each column of the matrix representing a drive line to be stimulated, and each element of the matrix representing the phase of the stimulation signal to be applied to a particular drive line in a particular step, wherein the matrix is invertible and produces gains greater than one, and

a plurality of sense channels configured to receive a plurality of responses from the plurality of sense lines to the applied stimulation signals.

12. The device of claim 11, further comprising a memory configured to store the matrix.

13. The device of claim 11 incorporated within a computing system.

14. The device of claim 11, the sensor panel being a capacitive sensor panel.

15. A method for determining phases of stimulation signals to be simultaneously applied to drive lines of a touch sensor panel, comprising:

generating a matrix having a plurality of rows and columns of elements, each row representing a single step in a plurality of steps needed to compute values for generating an image of touch, each column representing a drive line to be stimulated, and each element representing the phase of the stimulation signal to be applied to a particular drive line in a particular step, the matrix both being invertible and having a gain greater than one; and adjusting the elements of the matrix until a matrix is found with a gain within a predetermined range.

16. The method of claim 15 being performed in a computer simulation.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the generating of the matrix comprises assigning each element of the matrix to have a value of either -1 to represent a phase of 180° or +1 to represent a phase of 0°.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the generating of the matrix comprises assigning each row of the matrix to have no more than twice as many values of -1 as values of +1 or vice versa.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein the matrix is a circulant matrix.

20. The method of claim 15, wherein the matrix is a Hadamard matrix.

21. The method of claim 15, wherein the generating of the matrix comprises generating at least as many rows of the matrix as there are columns of the matrix.

22. In a system including a sensor panel having a plurality of drive lines being simultaneously driven with a plurality of stimulation signals having positive and negative phases in a particular distribution and a plurality of sense lines responding to the simultaneously driven stimulation signals, a method for determining the phases of the stimulation signals that drive the drive lines, the method comprising:

generating a matrix having a plurality of rows and columns of elements, each row representing a single step in a plurality of steps needed to compute values used to generate an image of touch, each column representing a drive line to be driven, and each element representing the phase of the stimulation signal to drive a particular drive line in a particular step; and

adjusting the elements of the matrix until a matrix is found that is invertible and has a gain that is greater than one and within a predetermined range.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the adjusting of the elements comprises:

determining the gain; and

adjusting the elements of the matrix according to the determination.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the determining of the gain comprises:

obtaining a singular value decomposition of the matrix to form a diagonal matrix having at least one singular value; and

selecting the at least one singular value as the gain.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein the adjusting of the elements comprises:

determining whether the matrix is invertible from the elements of the matrix; and

adjusting the elements of the matrix according to the determination.

26. The method of claim 22, wherein the adjusting of the elements comprises:

determining performance variation due to noise; and

adjusting the elements of the matrix according to the determination.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the determining the performance variation comprises:

obtaining a singular value decomposition of the matrix to form a unitary matrix;

calculating a difference between the maximum and minimum elements of each column of the unitary matrix; and

determining the performance variation as the maximum of the calculated differences.

28. The method of claim 22, wherein the predetermined range is three to six.

29. A computer readable medium having stored thereon a set of instructions for determining phases of stimulation signals to be simultaneously applied to drive lines of a touch sensor panel, that when executed by a processor causes the processor to:

generate an invertible matrix, the matrix having a plurality of rows and columns comprising elements, each row representing a single step in a plurality of steps needed to compute values for generating an image of touch, each column representing a drive line to be stimulated, and

each element representing the phase of the stimulation signal to be applied to a particular drive line in a particular step; and

adjust the elements of the matrix until the matrix has a gain that is greater than one and within a predetermined range.

30. The computer readable medium of claim 29 having further stored thereon the generated matrix.

31. The computer readable medium of claim 29 incorporated into a computing system.

32. A method for determining phases of stimulation signals to be simultaneously applied to drive lines of a touch sensor panel, comprising:

providing phases for stimulation signals from a matrix having elements representing possible phases for the stimulation signals, the matrix being invertible and having a gain greater than one; and

utilizing the provided phases for the stimulation signals, the signals being formed of a predetermined amplitude, a predetermined waveform, and the provided phases.

33. The method of claim 32, further comprising:

forming the matrix, each row of the matrix representing a single step of a plurality of steps needed to compute values used to generate an image of touch, each column of the matrix representing a drive line to be stimulated, and each element of the matrix representing the phase of the stimulation signal to be applied to a particular drive line in a particular step.

34. The method of claim 32, further comprising:

forming the stimulation signals, including

for each stimulation signal, generating a voltage having the predetermined amplitude, the predetermined waveform, and one of the provided phases.

35. The method of claim 33, wherein the utilizing the provided phases comprises:

for each step of the plurality of steps,

simultaneously stimulating the drive lines with stimulation signals having phases in accordance with the elements of the row of the matrix represented by that step, and

detecting a response from sense lines of the touch sensor panel to the stimulating of the drive lines.

36. The method of claim 32, wherein the predetermined amplitude is about 4.16V.

37. The method of claim 32, wherein the predetermined waveform is sinusoidal at a predetermined frequency.

38. The method of claim 32, wherein each provided phase is either 0° or 180°.

39. A mobile telephone including an apparatus for determining phases of stimulation signals to be simultaneously applied to drive lines for a touch sensor panel, the apparatus comprising:

an integrated circuit coupled to the touch sensor panel, including

driver logic configured to generate the stimulation signals to stimulate the drive lines, the stimulation signals having phases in accordance with elements of a matrix, each row of the matrix representing a single step in a plurality of steps needed to compute values for generating an image of touch, each column of the matrix representing a drive line to be stimulated, and each element of the matrix representing the phase of the stimulation signal to be applied to a particular

drive line in a particular step, wherein the matrix is invertible and produces gains greater than one, and

a plurality of sense channels configured to receive responses to the applied stimulation signals from sense lines for the touch sensor panel.

40. A media player including an apparatus for determining phases of stimulation signals to be simultaneously applied to drive lines for a touch sensor panel, the apparatus comprising:

an integrated circuit coupled to the touch sensor panel, including

driver logic configured to generate the stimulation signals to stimulate the drive lines, the stimulation signals having phases in accordance with elements of a matrix, each row of the matrix representing a single step in a plurality of steps needed to compute values for generating an image of touch, each column of the matrix representing a drive line to be stimulated, and each element of the matrix representing the phase of the stimulation signal to be applied to a particular drive line in a particular step, wherein the matrix is invertible and produces gains greater than one, and

a plurality of sense channels configured to receive responses to the applied stimulation signals from sense lines for the touch sensor panel.

41. A computer including an apparatus for determining phases of stimulation signals to be simultaneously applied to drive lines for a touch sensor panel, the apparatus comprising:

an integrated circuit coupled to the touch sensor panel, including

driver logic configured to generate the stimulation signals to stimulate the drive lines, the stimulation signals having phases in accordance with elements of a matrix, each row of the matrix representing a single step in a plurality of steps needed to compute values for generating an image of touch, each column of the matrix representing a drive line to be stimulated, and each element of the matrix representing the phase of the stimulation signal to be applied to a particular drive line in a particular step, wherein the matrix is invertible and produces gains greater than one, and

a plurality of sense channels configured to receive responses to the applied stimulation signals from sense lines for the touch sensor panel.

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