

VOICE FUNCTION CONTROL METHOD AND APPARATUS

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present application relates to the field of network communications
5 technologies, and in particular, to a voice function control method and apparatus.

BACKGROUND

[0002] A voice assistant is software running on a terminal, and can communicate
with a user by voice and assist the user to implement various functions specified by
the user, such as information searching and terminal operating. Since Apple launched
10 the voice assistant Siri, users pay more attention to voice assistant field and more
frequently use software of a voice assistant type, which helps the development of the
voice assistant.

[0003] Currently, the voice assistant can be combined with an application program
installed in the terminal. A user sends an instruction for executing a certain task to the
15 voice assistant, and the voice assistant invokes a corresponding application program
to complete the task. It greatly enriches functions that can be completed by the user by
using the voice assistant as a single entry.

[0004] In the existing technology, Siri is used as an example. Siri can cooperate
with six types of application programs (taxi hailing, communication, photo searching,
20 payment transactions, network phone, and fitness). When receiving voice input of a
user, Siri determines an intention of the user, and determines whether to process the
intention or invoke an application program to process the intention. If Siri determines
to invoke the application program, Siri extracts related information from a result of
user voice recognition generated by Siri, and provides the related information for the
25 application program. The application program implements a function specified in the
information based on the information provided by Siri.

[0005] It can be learned that the information provided by Siri is a basis for
correctly completing a task specified by the user. When Siri cannot accurately identify

the input voice, it is difficult for the user to achieve a satisfactory level of function control by voice.

SUMMARY

[0006] In view of the previous descriptions, the present application provides a voice function control method. The voice function control method is applied to a voice assistant of a terminal, and includes: determining an associated application program based on a result of recognizing an input voice of a user, where the associated application program is configured to implement a function to be used by the user; and passing the input voice of the user to the associated application program, so that the associated application program recognizes the input voice of the user, and implements the function based on a recognition result.

[0007] The present application provides a voice function control method. The voice function control method is applied to a terminal application program configured to implement another function different from a voice assistant, and includes: receiving an input voice of a user from a voice assistant; and recognizing the input voice of the user, and implementing a function to be used by the user based on a recognition result.

[0008] The present application further provides a voice function control apparatus. The voice function control apparatus is applied to a voice assistant of a terminal, and includes: an associated application program unit, configured to determine an associated application program based on a result of recognizing an input voice of a user, where the associated application program is configured to implement a function to be used by the user; and an input voice passing unit, configured to pass the input voice of the user to the associated application program, so that the associated application program recognizes the input voice of the user, and implements the function based on a recognition result.

[0009] The present application provides a voice function control apparatus. The voice function control apparatus is applied to a terminal application program configured to implement another function different from a voice assistant, and includes: an input voice receiving unit, configured to receive an input voice of a user from a voice assistant; and a function implementation unit, configured to recognize the input voice of the user, and implement a function to be used by the user based on a recognition result.

[0010] It can be learned from the previous technical solutions that, in the implementations of the present application, after determining the associated application program based on the result of recognizing the input voice of the user, the voice assistant passes the input voice of the user to the associated application program, and the associated application program recognizes the input voice and then executes a user instruction. Each associated application program is applied to a dedicated field. For example, the Gaode map application program is applied to the map and navigation field. Therefore, in most cases, voice recognition accuracy of the associated application program in a function type that the associated application program belongs to is higher than accuracy of the voice assistant that is common to all function types, so that the function required by the user can be more accurately and quickly completed, thereby improving voice function control efficiency.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0011] FIG. 1 is a flowchart illustrating a voice function control method applied to a voice assistant of a terminal, according to an implementation of the present application;

[0012] FIG. 2 is a flowchart illustrating a voice function control method applied to an application program of a terminal, according to an implementation of the present application;

[0013] FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram illustrating a working principle of an application example, according to the present application;

[0014] FIG. 4 is a structural hardware diagram illustrating a terminal;

[0015] FIG. 5 is a logical structural diagram illustrating a voice function control apparatus applied to a voice assistant of a terminal, according to an implementation of the present application; and

[0016] FIG. 6 is a logical structural diagram illustrating a voice function control apparatus applied to an application program of a terminal, according to an implementation of the present application.

DESCRIPTION OF IMPLEMENTATIONS

[0017] In the existing technology, many application programs of a

non-voice-assistant type that are installed in a terminal also can receive voice input of a user, recognize and execute a voice instruction of the user, and implement a function to be used by the user. For simplicity, in the following, an application program of a voice assistant type is referred to as a voice assistant, and an application program that
 5 is of a non-voice-assistant type and that is configured to implement another function different from the voice assistant is referred to as an application program.

[0018] The voice assistant is originally designed to serve as a unified entry for voice interaction with a user, and the voice assistant needs to chat with the user in addition to recognizing instructions of all function types that the user may involve in.
 10 Therefore, a lexicon of the voice assistant has a very wide lexical range, and recognition rates of all types of vocabularies need to be considered during optimization of a voice recognition algorithm of the voice assistant. However, an application program usually focuses on implementing several main functions. For example, an application program of a map type focuses on addressing, positioning,
 15 and navigation, and an application program of a shopping type focuses on commodities and transactions. When the user uses these application programs, it is basically determined that the user intends to use functions that the application programs focus on. Therefore, a lexical range of a lexicon used for voice recognition in an application program also focuses on a function field that the application program
 20 focuses on, and optimization of a voice recognition algorithm also focuses on the function field that the application program focuses on.

[0019] Waiting duration from a time when a user sends a voice instruction to a time when a terminal gives a response greatly affects user experience. Therefore, time available for voice recognition is very limited. Within the limited time, in any specific
 25 function field, when the voice assistant recognizes a voice that is input by a user because the user intends to use a certain function in the field, in terms of accuracy, it is difficult for the voice assistant to catch up with an application program that belongs to the function field.

[0020] For example, in terms of a location name, a lexicon of the Gaode map
 30 application program is more comprehensive and accurate than a lexicon of Siri. In addition, due to long-term accumulation with respect to location searching, a recognition algorithm of the Gaode map application program is also more accurate than a recognition algorithm of Siri in terms of location name recognition. In the present application scenario, Siri does not have more reliable data such as location

names and locations as references for optimizing the recognition algorithm of Siri.

[0021] It can be learned that in the existing technology, that a voice assistant delivers a recognition result to an application program actually means that a party that is not good at certain work completes the work and delivers an inaccurate working
 5 result to the other party that is good at the work, and the other party has to complete a task based on the relatively poor working result. Therefore, it is naturally difficult to achieve a good result.

[0022] Based on the previous idea, the implementations of the present application provide a new voice function control method. A voice assistant determines, by
 10 recognizing an input voice of a user, an associated application program that can implement an intention of the user, and then passes the input voice to the associated application program. The associated application program recognizes the voice and then implements a function to be used by the user. Therefore, the application program executes a user instruction based on the original input voice, so that the application
 15 program can implement the function based on its own recognition result rather than an undesired result of the voice assistant. As such, the function required by the user can be implemented more accurately and quickly, to alleviate the problem in the existing technology.

[0023] In the implementations of the present application, both a voice assistant
 20 and an application program run on a terminal of a user. The voice assistant can run at an operating system layer of the terminal, or can run as an upper-layer application of an operating system. Implementations are not limited. The terminal of the user can be any device that has a voice input function, a calculation function, and a storage function, such as a mobile phone, a tablet computer, a personal computer (PC), a
 25 notebook computer, or a server. Implementations are not limited, either.

[0024] In the implementations of the present application, a process in which the voice function control method is applied to a voice assistant is shown in FIG. 1, and a process in which the voice function control method is applied to an application
 program is shown in FIG. 2.

30 **[0025]** Step 110: The voice assistant determines an associated application program based on a result of recognizing an input voice of a user, where the associated application program is configured to implement a function to be used by the user.

[0026] After receiving the voice input of the user, the voice assistant recognizes

the voice of the user. If a user instruction does not involve use of a certain function or if the function to be used by the user can be implemented by the voice assistant, the voice assistant replies to the input of the user or executes the user instruction based on the recognition result. If the recognition result of the voice assistant is that a user
 5 needs to use a certain function implemented by an application program, the voice assistant determines the associated application program that implements the function.

[0027] The user can specify, in the input voice, an application program that the user wants to use. In this case, the voice assistant can extract an application program name from the result of recognizing the input voice of the user, and use the
 10 application program (namely, the application program specified by the user in the input voice) as the associated application program. For example, if the user says "hail a taxi for me with DiDi" to the voice assistant, the voice assistant recognizes the application program name "DiDi", and therefore uses the application program DiDi as the associated application program.

[0028] If the user does not specify, in the input voice, an application program that the user wants to use, the voice assistant can determine the function to be used by the user based on the result of recognizing the input voice of the user, and then determine the associated application program from application programs installed in the terminal based on the function to be used by the user. A method for determining, by the voice
 20 assistant, the function to be used by the user from the recognition result can be implemented with reference to various existing technologies. For example, several keywords of each function can be predetermined. If a certain function keyword is hit in the result of recognizing the voice of the user, a function that the user wants to use can be known.

[0029] A way of determining the associated application program based on the function to be used by the user can be determined based on a demand of an actual application scenario. The following uses two implementations as examples for description.

[0030] In a first implementation, after recognizing the function to be used by the
 30 user, the voice assistant can use one application program to more application programs that can implement the function to be used by the user and support voice input in the terminal as candidate application programs, and display names of the candidate application programs to the user for selection. After receiving a selection result of the user, the voice assistant determines an application program selected by

the user as the associated application program.

[0031] In a second implementation, a mapping relationship between a function to be used and an application program can be maintained in the terminal. After recognizing the function to be used by the user, the voice assistant can use an application program that has a mapping relationship with the function to be used by the user as the associated application program. In the previous example in which the function keyword is used to reflect the function to be used by the user, a table of a mapping relationship between a function keyword and an application program can be stored in the terminal. After extracting a function keyword from the result of recognizing the input voice of the user, the voice assistant can use an application program that has a mapping relationship with the function keyword as the associated application program.

[0032] In the second implementation, the mapping relationship between a function to be used and an application program can be set and/or modified by the user, or can be generated by the voice assistant or an operating system, or can be generated in both ways. Implementations are not limited in the implementations of the present application. In an example, when inputting a voice, the user can set a mapping relationship between a function to be used and an associated application program (one function to more functions correspond to one application program) in setting items provided by the voice assistant or the operating system. In another example, an application program that is most frequently used by the user to implement a certain function can be used as an application program that has a mapping relationship with the function. If only one application program installed in the terminal can implement a certain function, the application program is used as an application program that has a mapping relationship with the function. If more than one application program installed in the terminal can implement a certain function, the most frequently used application program can be used as an application program that has a mapping relationship with the function based on frequency that is counted by the operating system and at which the user uses each application program that can implement the function. In a third example, in an application program that can implement a certain function, the user can further set the application program to an application program that has a mapping relationship with the function when a voice is input. After receiving a setting instruction of the user, the application program submits a mapping relationship between the application program and the function to be used to the voice

assistant. For example, in the Gaode map application program, the user sets the Gaode map application program to be in a mapping relationship with a function keyword "navigation" when a voice is input. In this case, the Gaode map application program submits the setting item to Siri based on the user operation, and Siri stores the mapping relationship and subsequently uses the Gaode map application program as an associated application program based on the mapping relationship when the user inputs a voice "navigate to ...".

[0033] It should be noted that the previous two ways of determining the associated application program can alternatively be applied in combination. For example, after determining the function to be used by the user, the voice assistant queries the stored mapping relationship between a function and an application program. If the voice assistant can find an application program that has a mapping relationship with the function to be used, the voice assistant determines the associated application program based on the mapping relationship. If the voice assistant cannot find an application program that has a mapping relationship with the function to be used, the voice assistant provides application programs that can implement the function to be used and support voice input in the terminal for the user for selection, and determines the associated application program based on user selection. After the user selection, the user may be requested to set a default associated application program of the function. If the user sets the default associated application program of the function, the voice assistant stores a mapping relationship between the function and the application program set by the user. If the user does not set the default associated application program of the function, the voice assistant can store a mapping relationship between an application program and the function after both a quantity of times the user selects the application program to implement the function and a frequency at which the user selects the application program to implement the function exceed specified thresholds. For example, a table, maintained by Siri, of a mapping relationship between a function and an application program does not include a mapping relationship of a "navigation" function. After the user gives a voice instruction "navigate to ..." for five times, Siri displays application program names of the Gaode map application program, Baidu map, and Sogou map that are installed in the terminal to the user, and the user chooses to use one application program for navigation. If the user selects the Gaode map application program four times, Siri stores a mapping relationship between the "navigation" function and the Gaode map

application program in the mapping relationship table. Then, when the user gives a voice instruction for navigation, Siri directly uses the Gaode map application program as an associated application program.

5 **[0034]** Step 120: The voice assistant passes the input voice of the user to the associated application program, so that the associated application program recognizes the input voice of the user, and implements the function based on a recognition result.

[0035] Step 210: The associated application program receives the input voice of the user from the voice assistant.

10 **[0036]** After determining the associated application program that can implement the function to be used by the user, the voice assistant opens the associated application program (including starting the associated application program, placing the associated application program in the foreground for running, etc.), and passes the input voice of the user to the associated application program.

15 **[0037]** Step 220: The associated application program recognizes the input voice of the user, and implements the function to be used by the user based on a recognition result.

20 **[0038]** The associated application program recognizes the input voice of the user from the voice assistant, and runs service processing logic of the associated application program based on the recognition result, to implement the function to be used by the user. The associated application program can perform voice recognition and function implementation based on the existing technology. Details are omitted here for simplicity.

25 **[0039]** In an example, the voice assistant can pass the input voice of the user together with its own result of recognizing the input voice of the user to the associated application program. The associated application program recognizes the input voice of the user, and implements the function to be used by the user based on the recognition result of the associated application program and the recognition result from the voice assistant. The recognition result of the voice assistant can be used as a reference for recognizing the voice by the associated application program, to further improve
30 recognition accuracy.

[0040] It can be learned that in the implementations of the present application, the voice assistant determines, by recognizing the input voice of the user, the associated application program that can implement the function to be used by the user, and passes the input voice to the associated application program, and the associated

application program recognizes the input voice and then executes a user instruction. Therefore, a more accurate voice recognition result of the application program in a function type that the application program belongs to can be used to more accurately and quickly complete the function required by the user, thereby improving voice function control efficiency.

[0041] In an application example of the present application, the voice assistant Siri and application programs that can complete various functions are installed in an Apple terminal of a user. Siri stores a table of a mapping relationship between a function keyword and an application program. An example of the mapping relationship table is shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Sequence number	Function keyword	Application program name
1	Navigation	Gaode map
2	Taxi booking	DiDi
3	Taxi hailing	DiDi
4	Transfer	ALIPAY
⋮	⋮	⋮

[0042] A working principle of the present application example is shown in FIG. 3. After receiving an input voice of the user, Siri recognizes the input voice. Assume that a function to be used by the user needs to be implemented by another application program, Siri extracts a function keyword that describes the function to be used by the user from a recognition result, and searches the mapping relationship table based on the function keyword. If Siri finds an application program corresponding to the function keyword, Siri uses the application program as an associated application program. If Siri does not find the function keyword in the table, Siri displays names of all application programs that are installed in the terminal and that can implement the function and support voice input to the user, to request the user to select a wanted application program. Siri uses an application program selected by the user as an associated application program.

[0043] Siri places the associated application program in the foreground for

running, and transmits the input voice of the user to the associated application program by using an operating system. The associated application program recognizes the input voice of the user, and completes a task specified by the user based on a recognition result and a service process of the associated application program.

5 **[0044]** For example, the user said "transfer 2000 to Zhang San" to Siri. In this case, Siri recognizes the function keyword "transfer", and finds, from Table 1, that an associated application program is ALIPAY. Siri opens ALIPAY and passes the input voice of the user to ALIPAY. ALIPAY recognizes the input voice, starts a transfer service process, and displays contents such as "recipient: Zhang San" and "transfer
10 amount: 2000" to the user. The transfer can be completed after the user enters a password or completes fingerprint verification.

[0045] Corresponding to the previous process implementation, the implementations of the present application further provide a voice function control apparatus applied to a terminal voice assistant, and a voice function control apparatus
15 applied to a terminal application program. Both the voice function control apparatuses can be implemented by software, can be implemented by hardware, or can be implemented by a combination of hardware and software. Software implementation is used as an example. As a logical apparatus, the voice function control apparatus is formed by reading a corresponding computer program instruction into a memory by
20 using a central processing unit (CPU) of a terminal. In terms of hardware implementation, in addition to the CPU, the memory, and the nonvolatile memory that are shown in FIG. 4, a terminal that the voice control apparatus is located in usually further includes other hardware such as a chip for sending and receiving radio signals, and/or other hardware such as a card configured to implement a network
25 communication function.

[0046] FIG. 5 illustrates a voice function control apparatus, according to an implementation of the present application. The voice function control apparatus is applied to a voice assistant of a terminal, and includes an associated application program unit and an input voice passing unit. The associated application program unit
30 is configured to determine an associated application program based on a result of recognizing an input voice of a user, where the associated application program is configured to implement a function to be used by the user. The input voice passing unit is configured to pass the input voice of the user to the associated application program, so that the associated application program recognizes the input voice of the

user, and implements the function based on a recognition result.

[0047] In an example, a mapping relationship between a function to be used and an application program is maintained in the terminal; and the associated application program unit is specifically configured to determine the function to be used by the user based on the result of recognizing the input voice of the user, and use an application program that has a mapping relationship with the function to be used by the user as the associated application program.

[0048] In the previous example, the mapping relationship between a function to be used and an application program includes: a mapping relationship between a function keyword and an application program; and the associated application program unit is specifically configured to extract a function keyword from the result of recognizing the input voice of the user, and use an application program that has a mapping relationship with the function keyword as the associated application program.

[0049] In the previous example, the mapping relationship between a function to be used and an application program includes: a mapping relationship, set by the user, between a function to be used and an application program; and/or determining an application program that is most frequently used by the user to implement a function to be used as an application program that has a mapping relationship with the function to be used; and/or a mapping relationship, submitted by a certain application program, between the application program and a function to be used.

[0050] Optionally, the associated application program unit is configured to determine the function to be used by the user based on the result of recognizing the input voice of the user, display names of application programs that can implement the function and support voice input to the user for selection, and determine an application program selected by the user as the associated application program.

[0051] Optionally, the associated application program unit is configured to extract an application program name from the result of recognizing the input voice of the user, and use an application program specified in the input voice as the associated application program.

[0052] Optionally, the input voice passing unit is configured to pass the recognition result and the input voice of the user to the associated application program, so that the associated application program recognizes the input voice of the user, and implements the function based on the recognition result of the associated application

program and the recognition result of the voice assistant.

[0053] FIG. 6 illustrates a voice function control apparatus, according to an implementation of the present application. The voice function control apparatus is applied to a terminal application program configured to implement another function different from a voice assistant, and includes an input voice receiving unit and a function implementation unit. The input voice receiving unit is configured to receive an input voice of a user from a voice assistant. The function implementation unit is configured to recognize the input voice of the user, and implement a function to be used by the user based on a recognition result.

5 **[0054]** Optionally, the input voice receiving unit is configured to receive the input voice of the user and a result of recognizing the input voice by the voice assistant from the voice assistant; and the function implementation unit is configured to recognize the input voice of the user, and implement the function to be used by the user based on its own recognition result and the recognition result from the voice assistant.

15 **[0055]** In an example, the voice function control apparatus further includes a mapping relationship submission unit, configured to submit a mapping relationship between the application program and the function to be used to the voice assistant based on a user instruction.

20 **[0056]** In the previous example, the mapping relationship between the application program and the function to be used includes: a mapping relationship between the application program and a function keyword.

[0057] The previous descriptions are merely examples of implementations of the present application, but are not intended to limit the present application. Any modification, equivalent replacement, improvement, etc. made without departing from the spirit and principle of the present application should fall within the protection scope of the present application.

25 **[0058]** In a typical configuration, a computing device includes one or more processors (CPUs), one or more input/output interfaces, one or more network interfaces, and one or more memories.

30 **[0059]** The memory can include a non-persistent memory, a random access memory (RAM), and/or a nonvolatile memory in a computer readable medium, for example, a read-only memory (ROM) or a flash memory (flash RAM). The memory is an example of the computer readable medium.

[0060] The computer readable medium includes persistent, non-persistent, movable, and unmovable media that can store information by using any method or technology. The information can be a computer readable instruction, a data structure, a program module, or other data. Examples of the computer storage medium include
5 but are not limited to a phase-change RAM (PRAM), a static RAM (SRAM), a dynamic RAM (DRAM), a RAM of another type, a ROM, an electrically erasable programmable ROM (EEPROM), a flash memory or another memory technology, a compact disc ROM (CD-ROM), a digital versatile disc (DVD) or another optical storage, a cassette, a cassette magnetic disk storage or another magnetic storage
10 device, or any other non-transmission medium. The computer storage medium can be configured to store information available to a computing device. As described in the present application, the computer readable medium does not include computer readable transitory media such as a modulated data signal and a carrier.

[0061] It is worthwhile to further note that, the terms "include" and "comprise" or
15 their any other variants are intended to cover a non-exclusive inclusion, so that a process, a method, a product, or a device that includes a list of elements not only includes those elements but also includes other elements that are not expressly listed, or further includes elements inherent to such process, method, product, or device. Without more constraints, an element preceded by "includes a ..." does not preclude
20 the existence of additional identical elements in the process, method, product, or device that includes the element.

[0062] A person skilled in the art should understand that the implementations of the present application can be provided as a method, a system, or a computer program product. Therefore, the present application can use a form of hardware only
25 implementations, software only implementations, or implementations with a combination of software and hardware. In addition, the present application can use a form of a computer program product that is implemented on one or more computer-usable storage media (including but not limited to a magnetic disk storage, a CD-ROM, an optical memory, etc.) that include computer-usable program code.

CLAIMS

1. A method for voice function control, the method comprising:

determining an associated application program of a terminal based on a first recognition result of recognizing an input voice of a user by a voice assistant of the terminal, wherein the associated application program is configured to implement a function to be used by the user (110);

passing the first recognition result and the input voice of the user to the associated application program, so that the associated application program recognizes the input voice of the user and generates a second recognition result (120) based on the input voice of the user and the first recognition result; and

implementing the function based on the second recognition result (120) and the first recognition result.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein a mapping relationship between the function to be used and an application program is maintained in the terminal.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein determining the associated application program based on the first recognition result of recognizing an input voice of the user comprises:

determining the function to be used by the user based on the first recognition result of recognizing the input voice of the user; and

determining the application program that has the mapping relationship with the function to be used by the user as the associated application program.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the mapping relationship between the function to be used and the application program comprises: the mapping relationship between a function keyword and the application program.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein determining the associated application program based on the first recognition result of recognizing the input voice of the user comprises:

extracting the function keyword from the first recognition result of recognizing the input voice of the user; and

determining the application program that has the mapping relationship with the function keyword as the associated application program.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the mapping relationship between the function to be used and the application program comprises:

the mapping relationship, set by the user, between the function to be used and the application program;

determining the application program that is most frequently used by the user to implement the function to be used as the application program that has the mapping relationship with the function to be used; or

the mapping relationship, submitted by a certain application program, between the application program and the function to be used.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein determining the associated application program based on the first recognition result of recognizing the input voice of the user comprises:

determining the function to be used by the user based on the first recognition result of recognizing the input voice of the user, displaying names of application programs that can implement the function and support voice input to the user for selection; and

determining the application program selected by the user as the associated application program.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein determining the associated application program based on the first recognition result of recognizing the input voice of the user comprises:

extracting an application program name from the first recognition result of recognizing the input voice of the user; and

determining an application program specified in the input voice as the associated application program.

9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
receiving an input voice of the user from the voice assistant (210).
10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the application program comprises:
a lexical range that focuses on a function field of the application program.
11. An apparatus for voice function control, the apparatus comprising a plurality of modules
configured to perform the method of any one of claims 1 to 10.