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Mats, Petter [SE/SE]; Magistratsvägen 57E:27, S-226 44 Lund (SE). EDSÖ, Tomas [SE/SE]; Remmaregränd 3, S-226 51 Lund (SE).

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(74) Agent: AWAPATENT AB; Box 5117, S-200 71 Malmö (SE).



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POSITION DETERMINATION - CALCULATIONField of the Invention

This invention concerns a method of providing a position code in accordance with the preamble to claim 1. The invention also concerns a method of calculating a 5 position in accordance with the preamble to claim 18. The invention also concerns computer program products, a device for position determination and a product with a position code.

Background of the Invention

10 In many situations it is desirable to be able to determine an absolute position on a surface. One example concerns the digitisation of drawings. Another is when an electronic version of handwritten information is required.

15 US 5,852,434 describes a device for determining an absolute position. The device comprises a writing surface which is provided with a position-coding pattern by means of which X-Y-coordinates can be determined, a detector which can detect the position-coding pattern and a processor which, on the basis of the detected position-coding pattern, can determine the position of the detector 20 relative to the writing surface. The device makes it possible for a user to enter handwritten and hand-drawn information into a computer at the same time as the information is being written/drawn on the writing surface.

25 Three examples of position coding are given in US 5,852,434. The first example is symbols, each of which is constructed of three concentric circles. The outer circle represents the X-coordinate and the middle circle the Y-coordinate. Both the outer circles are additionally divided into 16 parts which, depending upon whether they 30 are filled in or not, indicate different numbers. This means that each pair of coordinates X, Y is coded by a complex symbol with a particular appearance.

In the second example the coordinates of each point on the writing surface are given by means of bar-codes, a bar-code for the X-coordinate being shown above a bar-code for the Y-coordinate.

5 A chequered pattern which can be used to code the X- and Y-coordinates is given as a third example. However, there is no explanation as to how the chequered pattern is constructed or how it can be converted into coordinates.

10 15 A problem with the known pattern is that it is constructed of complex symbols and the smaller these symbols are made, the more difficult it is to produce the patterned writing surface and the greater the risk of incorrect position determinations, while the larger the symbols are made, the poorer the position resolution becomes.

20 A further problem is that the processing of the detected position-coding pattern becomes rather complicated, due to the fact that a processor has to interpret complex symbols.

25 An additional problem is that the detector must be constructed in such a way that it can record four symbols at the same time so that it is certain to cover at least one symbol in its entirety, which is necessary in order for the position determination to be able to be carried out. The ratio between the required sensor surface and the surface of the position-coding pattern which defines a position is thus large.

30 Appendix A to WO 92/17859 gives the following example of how the pattern can be constructed and how a position can be decoded.

35 Take the following m-sequences: $s = (0,0,1,0,1,1,1)$ and $t = (0,1,1)$. Build up a position-coding pattern by letting a first column in the pattern be equal to the sequence s . In order to build up the following columns, look at the t -sequence. If the first element in the t -sequence is 0 then the second column consists of the

s-sequence. If the first element is 1 instead, then the second column consists of the s-sequence cyclic-shifted by one step. Subsequent columns are built up in a corresponding way in accordance with the values of the elements in the t-sequence. The following pattern is then obtained:

	0	0	1	1
	0	0	0	1
	1	1	0	0
10	0	0	1	0
	1	1	0	1
	1	1	1	0
	1	1	1	1

Assume now that one wants to find the position of a partial surface with the subset of the pattern shown below.

	1	0	0
	0	1	0
	1	0	1

20 The first column in the subset is (1,0,1). This subsequence appears in position 2 in the s-sequence. The cyclic shifts in the subset are (1,1). This sub-sequence appears in position 1 in the t-sequence. The accumulated shifts in the pattern is (0,0,1,2) and therefore the vertical position of the subset is $2 + 0 = 2$. The position of the subset on the partial surface is thus (1,2).

With this pattern the above-mentioned problems with complex symbols are avoided and the ratio is reduced between the required sensor surface and the surface of the position-coding pattern which defines a position.

An interesting characteristic of a position-coding pattern of this type is, however, the ability to code a large pattern with many unique positions so that position determination can be carried out on as large a surface as possible. In the example described above, the size in the vertical direction is limited by the length of the s-sequence and the size in the horizontal direction

by the length of the t-sequence. The length of these sequences can, however, not be increased without limit as the sequences should have the characteristic that if a sub-sequence of k bits is taken, this sub-sequence should 5 only occur in one position in the sequence. An increase in the length of the sequence can thus imply an increase in the length of the sub-sequence and thereby an increase of the partial surface which must be recorded in order to be able to determine a position.

10 Summary of the Invention

An object of this invention is to show how a position code which makes possible coding of a large number of positions can be provided.

This object is achieved wholly or partly by a method 15 according to claim 1, a method according to claim 8 and a computer program product according to claim 17.

According to a first aspect, the invention concerns more particularly a method of providing a position code on a surface, which position code codes a plurality of 20 positions in a first direction on the surface, comprising the steps of using a first cyclic number series, which has the characteristic that the position in the number series of each number sequence of a first predetermined length is determined unambiguously; printing out the first cyclic number series a plurality of times across 25 the surface, different rotations of the first cyclic number series being used so that predetermined displacements arise between adjacent number series.

The method is characterised in that the step of 30 printing out comprises dividing the surface into a plurality of first code windows in the first direction, each of which comprises at least three first cyclic number series and has one number series overlapping one number series of adjacent first code windows, and using such 35 rotations of the first cyclic number series when printing this out that the position of each first code window in the first direction is coded by means of the displace-

ments between the first cyclic number series belonging to the code window.

This differs from prior-art in that the position code is divided into a plurality of code windows, the 5 respective position of which is coded by the size of the displacements between the cyclic number series which belong to the code window. The code windows are so arranged that no displacement belongs to more than one code window. The coding in the first direction is thus no 10 longer based on displacements which follow a cyclic number series and consequently avoids the restrictions which this implies.

The above-mentioned displacements can in practice be determined as the difference between the corresponding 15 number sequences in the number series.

One rotation of the cyclic number series can also be referred to as a cyclic-shifted version of the number series. Different rotations thus start at different places in the number series.

20 As will be explained later, the printout of the cyclic number series does not need to be carried out with numbers in explicit form, but the numbers can preferably be printed out using graphic symbols which are easier to recognise, for example by image processing of the position code.

25 In a preferred embodiment, such rotations of the cyclic number series are used that at least some of the displacements are greater than one. As a result, a much greater number of positions can be coded in the first direction than if only displacements with one step had been used.

30 In a preferred embodiment, in addition such rotations of the first cyclic number series are used that the displacements of each code window define a position number in mixed base which indicates the position of the first code window in the first direction and in addition

the least significant displacement is indicated in the position number.

The position number can be n-adic, where n is the number of first cyclic number series within a code window 5 minus one.

The indication of the least significant displacement in the position number makes it possible to determine the position of partial surfaces which are the same size as the code windows but which do not coincide with any of 10 these but partly overlap two code windows in the first direction.

The least significant displacement can be indicated in various ways. One way comprises using such rotations of the first cyclic number series that the least significant displacement is less than other displacements. 15

Another way comprises using such rotations of the first cyclic number series that the least significant displacement lies within a first size range and other displacements lie within a second size range. The first way gives 20 the ability to code more positions.

In a preferred embodiment, the method further comprises the step of creating different variants of the position code by letting the first cyclic number series in the first direction, that is the cyclic number series 25 from which the first displacement is calculated, start in different positions for different variants.

As a result, the maximum number of codable positions is further increased. The number of possible variants is equal to the number of numbers in the first cyclic number 30 series.

In a preferred embodiment, the position code also codes a plurality of positions in a second direction on the surface and the method comprises for this purpose the steps of using a second cyclic number series, which has 35 the characteristic that the position in the number series of each number sequence of a second predetermined length is determined unambiguously, printing out the second

cyclic number series across the surface a plurality of times, different rotations of the second cyclic number series being used so that the second cyclic number series start at different start positions, the step of printing
5 out comprises dividing the surface into a plurality of non-overlapping second code windows, each of which comprises a predetermined plurality of second cyclic number series and using such rotations of the second cyclic number series that the position of each second code window
10 in the second direction is coded by means of the start positions of the associated second cyclic number series.

The coding in the second direction is based on the same principle as the coding in the first direction, namely on the use of code windows with the associated
15 advantages. However, here the start positions for the second cyclic number series are used instead of the displacements, which gives the possibility of more positions. This is based, however, on the position in the first direction being known.

20 The method of coding positions in the second direction can be used together with methods of coding positions in the first direction other than the method according to the invention.

The position in the second direction can be coded
25 by a position number in mixed base and the least significant start position can be indicated similarly to the code windows in the first direction and with corresponding advantages.

In a preferred embodiment, the second cyclic number
30 series is identical to the first cyclic number series, which is preferably binary. This is advantageous in connection with the decoding as it is sufficient to store a table with positions corresponding to the number sequences. In addition, the first and the second code
35 windows can be the same size and can overlap each other.

A simple position code for positions in a Cartesian coordinate system is obtained if the first cyclic number

series is printed out in columns across the surface and the second cyclic number series is printed out in rows across the surface or vice versa. The numbers in the number series can be printed out once in each row/column or 5 several times in succession. The same rotation of the number series is then used throughout the same row/column.

In a preferred embodiment, the printing out of the first and the second cyclic number series is carried out 10 in such a way that each intersection between raster lines in a raster which covers the surface is allocated a number from the first cyclic number sequence and a number from the second cyclic number sequence and the numbers belonging to each intersection are coded graphically by 15 a mark on the surface at the intersection. The raster can be printed out on the surface, but is preferably virtual.

At each intersection there is thus a number which belongs to the position coding for the first direction and a number which belongs to the position coding for 20 the second direction. These numbers can be separated when decoding, but they can be coded by a common mark on the surface. This makes possible a high resolution and a high density of information.

The intersections can also be called raster points. 25 In a preferred embodiment, the various possible combinations of numbers from the first and the second cyclic number series are coded by different locations of the mark relative to the intersection.

If both the number series are bit series, four different possible number combinations are obtained (0,0; 30 1,0; 0,1; and 1,1). These are coded by four different locations of the mark. The different locations can be a predetermined displacement from the intersection along the four different raster lines which extend from this. 35 The intersection can be regarded as a nominal position, relative to which the mark is displaced.

The use of marks which represent different values dependent upon their location has many advantages. Among other things, all marks can have the same appearance, which facilitates the arranging of the position code on 5 a surface.

The numbers which are allocated to the intersections can naturally be represented graphically in other ways than by means of a displaced mark. Instead, four marks with different appearances can be used, or a mark for 10 each of the numbers.

The method described above can be implemented in a computer program, in an ASIC (Application Specific Integrated Circuit) or an FPGA (Field Programmable Gate Array) or in some other suitable way.

15 Another object of the invention is to provide a method of determining a position, which method is suitable to be used together with a position code of the type which is described above.

This object is achieved wholly or partly by a method 20 according to claim 18 and a computer program product according to claim 30.

According to a second aspect, the invention thus concerns a method of calculating a position, in a first direction, for an arbitrary partial surface of a pre- 25 determined size on a surface which is provided with a position code, which for the position coding in the first direction is based on a first cyclic number series, which has the characteristic that the position in the number series of each first number sequence of a first predeter- 30 mined length is determined unambiguously and which is printed out a plurality of times on the surface with different rotations so that adjacent first cyclic number series are displaced relative to each other by predeter- 35 mined displacements, comprising the steps of identifying a plurality of first number sequences from the position code on the partial surface, determining the position of each first number sequence in the first cyclic number

series, determining on the basis of these positions the displacements between the adjacent first cyclic number series containing the first number sequences from the partial surface. The method is characterised by the steps
5 of determining from the displacements a position in the first direction of a first code window, which the said partial surface at least partly overlaps, which first code window is one of a plurality of code windows in the first direction, each of which comprises a predetermined
10 plurality of first cyclic number series and has one number series overlapping one number series of adjacent first code windows.

This method is advantageous as it makes possible position determination on a surface which has a position
15 code which codes a large number of positions.

The method can be implemented in a computer program, in an ASIC or an FPGA or in some other suitable way.

The method of determining a position can be implemented with additional steps which are adapted to decode
20 different implementations of the position-coding pattern which is obtained as a result of the method of providing a position code described above. These steps are also described in greater detail in the specific descriptive section.

25 In particular, a method of determining a position in a second direction on the surface can be implemented in accordance with claim 23. The steps which are defined in claim 23 can also be used together with other methods than that described above to determine the position in
30 the first direction.

A further object of this invention is to provide a device for position determination which is suitable to use for decoding a position-coding pattern of the type described above.

35 This object is achieved by a device according to claim 31.

According to a third aspect, the invention thus concerns a device for position determination, comprising a sensor for producing an image of a partial surface of a surface which is provided with a position code, and image processing means, which are arranged to calculate based on the subset of the position code which is present in the image of the partial surface a position of the partial surface in accordance with the method according to any one of claims 18-29.

10 A further object of the invention is to provide a product with a position-coding pattern which makes possible coding of a large number of positions.

This object is achieved by a product according to claim 34.

15 According to a fourth aspect, the invention thus concerns a product which makes possible determination of a position in a first direction for an arbitrary partial surface of a predetermined size on a surface of the product which is provided with a position code, which for 20 the position coding in the first direction is based on a first cyclic number series, which has the characteristic that the position in the number series of each first number sequence of a first predetermined length is determined unambiguously and which is printed out a plurality of 25 times on the surface with different rotations so that adjacent first cyclic number series are displaced relative to each other by predetermined displacements, a plurality of first number sequences from the position code being identifiable on the partial surface, in order 30 to determine the position of each first number sequence in the first cyclic number series, and the displacements between the adjacent first cyclic number series containing the first number sequences from the partial surface being determinable on the basis of these positions. The 35 product is characterised in that a position in the first direction of a first code window which said partial surface at least partly overlaps is determinable from the

displacements, which first code window is one of a plurality of code windows in the first direction, each of which comprises a predetermined plurality of first cyclic number series and has one number series overlapping one 5 number series of adjacent first code windows.

The advantages of the product are apparent from the discussion above. The features which are described in connection with the methods of providing a position code and determining a position are naturally also applicable 10 to the product.

Brief Description of the Drawings

In the following the invention will be described in greater detail by way of an embodiment and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which

15 Fig. 1 shows schematically an embodiment of a product which is provided with a position-coding pattern;

Fig. 2 shows schematically how the marks can be designed and positioned in an embodiment of the invention;

20 Fig. 3 shows schematically an example of 4*4 symbols which are used to code a position;

Fig. 4 shows schematically a device which can be used for position determination;

25 Fig. 5 shows schematically a position-coding pattern with a triangular raster; and

Fig. 6 shows schematically a position-coding pattern with a hexagonal raster.

Description of a Preferred Embodiment

Fig. 1 shows a part of a product in the form of a 30 sheet of paper 1, which on at least part of its surface 2 is provided with an optically readable position-coding pattern 3 which makes possible position determination.

The position-coding pattern comprises marks 4, which are systematically arranged across the surface 2, so that 35 it has a "patterned" appearance. The sheet of paper has an X-coordinate axis and a Y-coordinate axis. The position determination can be carried out on the whole sur-

face of the product. In other cases the surface which enables position determination can constitute a small part of the product.

The pattern can, for example, be used to provide an 5 electronic representation of information which is written or drawn on the surface. The electronic representation can be provided, while writing on the surface with a pen, by continuously determining the position of the pen on the sheet of paper by reading the position-coding pattern. 10

The position-coding pattern comprises a virtual raster, which is thus neither visible to the eye nor can be detected directly by a device which is to determine positions on the surface, and a plurality of marks 4, 15 each of which, depending upon its location, represents one of four values "1" to "4" as described below. In this connection it should be pointed out that for the sake of clarity the position-coding pattern in Fig. 1 is greatly enlarged. In addition, it is shown arranged only on part 20 of the sheet of paper.

The position-coding pattern is so arranged that the position of a partial surface on the total writing surface is determined unambiguously by the marks on this partial surface. A first and a second partial surface 25 5a, 5b are shown by broken lines in Fig. 1. The second partial surface partly overlaps the first partial surface. The part of the position-coding pattern (here 4*4 marks) on the first partial surface 5a codes a first position and the part of the position-coding pattern on 30 the second partial surface 5b codes a second position. The position-coding pattern is thus partly the same for the adjoining first and second positions. Such a position-coding pattern is called "floating" in this application. Each partial surface codes a specific position.

35 Figs 2a-d show how a mark can be designed and how it can be located relative to its nominal position 6. The nominal position 6, which also can be called a raster

point, is represented by the intersection of the raster lines 8. The mark 7 has the shape of a circular dot. A mark 7 and a raster point 6 can together be said to constitute a symbol.

5 In one embodiment, the distance between the raster lines is 300 μm and the angle between the raster lines is 90 degrees. Other raster intervals are possible, for example 254 μm to suit printers and scanners which often have a resolution which is a multiple of 100 dpi, which 10 corresponds to a distance between points of 25.4 mm/100, that is 254 μm .

15 The value of the mark thus depends upon where the mark is located relative to the nominal position. In the example in Fig. 2 there are four possible locations, one on each of the raster lines extending from the nominal position. The displacement from the nominal position is the same size for all values.

20 Each mark 7 is displaced relative to its nominal position 6, that is no mark is located at the nominal position. In addition, there is only one mark per nominal position and this mark is displaced relative to its nominal position. This applies to the marks which make up the pattern. There can be other marks on the surface which 25 are not part of the pattern and thus do not contribute to the coding. Such marks can be specks of dust, unintentional points or marks and intentional marks, from for example a picture or figure on the surface. Because the position of the pattern marks on the surface is so well-defined, the pattern is unaffected by such interference.

30 In one embodiment, the marks are displaced by 50 μm relative to the nominal positions 6 along the raster lines 8. The displacement is preferably 1/6 of the raster interval, as it is then relatively easy to determine to which nominal position a particular mark belongs. The 35 displacement should be at least approximately 1/8 of the raster interval, otherwise it becomes difficult to determine a displacement, that is the requirement for resolu-

tion becomes great. On the other hand, the displacement should be less than approximately 1/4 of the raster interval in order for it to be possible to determine to which nominal position a mark belongs.

5 The displacement does not need to be along the raster line, but the marks can be positioned in separate quadrants. However, if the marks are displaced along the raster lines, the advantage is obtained that the distance between the marks has a minimum which can be used to
10 recreate the raster lines, as described in greater detail below.

Each mark consists of a more or less circular dot with a radius which is approximately the same size as the displacement or somewhat less. The radius can be 25% to
15 120% of the displacement. If the radius is much larger than the displacement, it can be difficult to determine the raster lines. If the radius is too small, a greater resolution is required to record the marks.

The marks do not need to be circular or round, but
20 any suitable shape can be used, such as square or triangular, etc.

Normally, each mark covers a plurality of pixels on a sensor chip and, in one embodiment, the centre of gravity of these pixels is recorded or calculated and used
25 in the subsequent processing. Therefore the precise shape of the mark is of minor significance. Thus relatively simple printing processes can be used, provided it can be ensured that the centre of gravity of the mark has the required displacement.

30 In the following, the mark in Fig. 2a represents the value 1, in Fig. 2b the value 2, in Fig. 2c the value 3 and in Fig. 2d the value 4.

Each mark can thus represent one of four values "1 to 4". This means that the position-coding pattern can be
35 divided into a first position code for the x-coordinate and a second position code for the y-coordinate. The division is carried out as follows:

Mark value	x-code	y-code
1	1	1
2	0	1
3	1	0
4	0	0

The value of each mark is thus converted into a first value, here bit, for the x-code and a second value, here bit, for the y-code. In this way two completely independent bit patterns are obtained by means of the 5 pattern. Conversely, two or more bit patterns can be combined into a common pattern which is coded graphically by means of a plurality of marks in accordance with Fig. 2.

Each position is coded by means of a plurality of 10 marks. In this example, 4*4 marks are used to code a position in two dimensions, that is an x-coordinate and a y-coordinate.

The position code is constructed by means of a number series of ones and zeros, a bit series, which has the 15 characteristic that no four-bit-long bit sequence occurs more than once in the bit series. The bit series is cyclic, which means that the characteristic also applies when the end of the series is connected to its beginning. A four-bit sequence has thus always an unambiguously 20 determined position number in the bit series.

The bit series can be a maximum of 16 bits long if it is to have the characteristic described above for bit sequences of four bits. In this example, however, only a seven-bit-long bit series is used, as follows:

25 "0 0 0 1 0 1 0".

This bit series contains seven unique bit sequences of four bits which code a position number in the series as follows:

Position number in the series	Sequence
0	0001
1	0010
2	0101
3	1010
4	0100
5	1000
6	0000

To code the x-coordinate, the bit series is written sequentially in columns over all the surface which is to be coded, where the left column K_0 corresponds to the 5 x-coordinate zero (0). In one column the bit series can thus be repeated several times in succession.

The coding is based on differences or position displacements between adjacent bit series in adjacent 10 columns. The size of the difference is determined by the position number (that is the bit sequence) in the bit series with which the adjacent columns commence.

More precisely, if one takes the difference Δ_n modulo seven between, on the one hand, a position number 15 which is coded by a four-bit sequence in a first column K_n and which can thus have the value 0 to 6, and, on the other hand, a position number which is coded by an adjacent four-bit sequence at a corresponding "height" in an adjacent column K_{n+1} , the difference will be the same regardless of where, that is at what "height", along the 20 two columns the difference is created. Using the difference between the position numbers for two bit sequences in two adjacent columns, it is thus possible to code an x-coordinate which is independent of and constant for all y-coordinates.

25 As each position on the surface is coded by a partial surface consisting of 4*4 marks in this example, there are four vertical bit sequences available and thus three differences, each with the value 0 to 6, for coding the x-coordinate.

The pattern is divided into code windows F with the characteristic that each code window consists of 4×4 marks. There are thus four horizontal bit sequences and four vertical bit sequences available, so that three differences can be created in the x-direction and four positions can be obtained in the y-direction. These three differences and four positions code the position of the partial surface in the x-direction and the y-direction. Adjacent windows in the x-direction have a common column, see Fig. 1. Thus the first code window $F_{0,0}$ contains bit sequences from the columns K_0, K_1, K_2, K_3 , and bit sequences from the rows R_0, R_1, R_2, R_3 . As differences are used in the x-direction, the next window diagonally in the x-direction and y-direction, the window $F_{1,1}$, contains bit sequences from the columns K_3, K_4, K_5, K_6 , and the rows R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7 . Considering the coding in just the x-direction, the code window can be considered to have an unlimited extent in the y-direction.

Correspondingly, considering the coding in just the y-direction, the code window can be considered to have an unlimited extent in the x-direction. Such a first and second code window with unlimited extent in the y-direction and x-direction respectively together form a code window of the type shown in Fig. 1, for example $F_{0,0}$.

Each window has window coordinates F_x , which give the position of the window in the x-direction, and F_y , which give the position of the window in the y-direction. Thus the correspondence between the windows and columns is as follows.

$$30 \quad K_i = 3 F_x$$

$$R_j = 4 F_y$$

The coding is carried out in such a way that for the three differences, one of the differences Δ_0 always has the value 1 or 2, which indicates the least significant digit S_0 for the number which represents the position of the code window in the x-direction, and both the other differences Δ_1, Δ_2 , have values in the range 3 to 6, which

indicates the two most significant digits S_1 , S_2 , for the coordinate of the code window. Thus no difference can be zero for the x-coordinates, as that would result in too symmetrical a code pattern. In other words, the columns

5 are coded so that the differences are as follows:

(3 to 6); (3 to 6); (1 to 2); (3 to 6); (3 to 6); (1 to 2); (3 to 6); (3 to 6); (1 to 2); (3 to 6); (3 to 6); ...

Each x-coordinate is thus coded by two differences Δ_1 , Δ_2 of between 3 and 6 and a subsequent difference Δ_0 which is 1 or 2. By subtracting one (1) from the least difference Δ_0 and three (3) from the other differences, three digits are obtained, S_2 , S_1 , S_0 , which in a mixed base directly give the position number of the code window in the x-direction, from which the x-coordinate can then be determined directly, as shown in the example below.

15 The position number of the code window is:

$$S_2 * (4*2) + S_1 * 2 + S_0 * 1$$

Using the principle described above, it is thus possible to code code windows 0, 1, 2, ..., 31, using a position number for the code window consisting of three digits which are represented by three differences. These differences are coded by a bit pattern which is based on the number series above. The bit pattern can finally be coded graphically by means of the marks in Fig. 2.

25 In many cases, when a partial surface is recorded consisting of $4*4$ marks, a complete position number which codes the x-coordinate will not be obtained, but parts of two position numbers, as the partial surface in many cases does not coincide with one code window but covers parts of two adjacent code windows in the x-direction. However, as the difference for the least significant digit S_0 of each number is always 1 or 2, a complete position number can easily be reconstructed, as it is known what digit is the least significant.

35 The y-coordinates are coded in accordance with approximately the same principle as that used for the x-coordinates by means of code windows. The cyclic num-

ber series, that is the same number series as is used for the x-coding, is written repeatedly in horizontal rows across the surface which is to be position coded. Precisely as for the x-coordinates, the rows are made to 5 start in different positions, that is with different bit sequences, in the number series. For the y-coordinates, however, differences are not used, but the coordinates are coded by values which are based on the start position of the number series in each row. When the x-coordinate 10 has been determined for a partial surface with 4*4 marks, the start positions in the number series can in fact be determined for the rows which are included in the y-code for the 4*4 marks.

In the y-code, the least significant digit S_0 is 15 determined by letting this be the only digit which has a value in a particular range. In this example, a row of four starts in position 0 to 1 in the number series, in order to indicate that this row concerns the least significant digit S_0 in a code window, and the three other 20 rows start in any of the positions 2 to 6 in order to indicate the other digits S_1 S_2 S_3 in the code window. In the y-direction there is thus a series of values as follows:

(2 to 6); (2 to 6); (2 to 6); (0 to 1); (2 to 6); (2 to 25 6); (2 to 6); (0 to 1); (2 to 6); ...

Each code window is thus coded by three values between 2 and 6 and a subsequent value between 0 and 1.

If zero (0) is subtracted from the low value and two (2) from the other values, a position in the y-direction 30 S_3 S_2 S_1 S_0 in mixed base is obtained, in a way similarly to the x-direction, from which the position number of the code window can be determined directly, which is:

$$S_3 * (5*5*2) + S_2 * (5*2) + S_1 * 2 + S_0 * 1$$

Using the method above, it is possible to code 35 4 * 4 * 2 = 32 position numbers in the x-direction for the code windows. Each code window comprises bit sequences from three columns, which gives 3 * 32 = 96

columns or x-coordinates. In addition, it is possible to code $5 * 5 * 5 * 2 = 250$ position numbers in the y-direction for the code windows. Each such position number comprises horizontal bit sequences from 4 rows, which gives 5 $4 * 250 = 1000$ rows or y-coordinates. In total it is thus possible to code 96000 coordinate positions.

As the x-coding is based on differences, it is, however, possible to select the position in which the first number series in the first code window starts. If it is 10 taken into account that this first number series can start in seven different positions, it is possible to code $7 * 96000 = 672000$ positions. The start position of the first number series in the first column K_0 can be calculated when the x- and y-coordinates have been determined. The above-mentioned seven different start 15 positions for the first series can code different pages or writing surfaces of a product.

Theoretically, a partial surface with $4*4$ symbols, which each have four values, can code 4^{4*4} positions, 20 that is $4,294,967,296$ positions. In order to make possible floating determination of the position of a partial surface, there is thus a redundancy factor in excess of 6000 ($4294967296/672000$).

The redundancy consists partly in the restrictions 25 on the size of the differences, and partly in only seven bits out of 16 being used in the position code. This latter fact can, however, be used to determine the rotational position of the partial surface. If the next bit in the bit series is added to the four-bit sequence, a 30 five-bit sequence is obtained. The fifth bit is obtained by reading the adjacent bit immediately outside the partial surface which is being used. Such an additional bit is often easily available.

The partial surface which is read by the sensor can 35 have four different rotational positions, rotated through 0, 90, 180 or 270 degrees relative to the code window. In those cases where the partial surface is rotated, the

reading of the code will, however, be such that the code read will be inverted and reversed in either the x-direction or the y-direction or both, in comparison to the case where it had been read at 0 degrees. This assumes, 5 however, that a slightly different decoding of the value of the marks is used according to the table below.

Mark value	x-code	y-code
1	0	0
2	1	0
3	1	1
4	0	1

The above-mentioned five-bit sequence has the characteristic that it only occurs the right way round and not in inverted and reversed form in the seven-bit series. This is apparent from the fact that the bit series (0 0 0 1 0 1 0) contains only two "ones". Therefore all five-bit sequences must contain at least three zeros, which after inversion (and reversing, if any) results in three ones, which cannot occur. Thus if a five-bit sequence is found which does not have a position number in the bit series, it can be concluded that the partial surface should probably be rotated and the new position tested. 10 15 20

In order to provide further illustrations of the invention according to this embodiment, here follows a specific example which is based on the described embodiment of the position code.

25 Fig. 3 shows an example of an image with 4*4 marks which are read by a device for position determination.

These 4*4 marks have the following values:

4 4 4 2

3 2 3 4

30 4 4 2 4
1 3 2 4

These values represent the following binary x- and y-codes:

	<u>x-code:</u>	<u>y-code:</u>
	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 1
5	1 0 1 0	0 1 0 0
	0 0 0 0	0 0 1 0
	1 1 0 0	1 0 1 0

The vertical bit sequences in the x-code code the following positions in the bit series: 2 0 4 6. The differences between the columns are -2 4 2, which modulo 7 gives: 5 4 2, which in mixed base codes the position number of the code window: $(5-3) * 8 + (4-3) * 2 + (2-1) = 16 + 2 + 1 = 19$. The first coded code window has the position number 0. Thus the difference which lies in the range 1 to 2 and which appears in the 4*4 marks of the partial surface is the twentieth such difference. As additionally there are in total three columns for each such difference and there is a start column, the vertical sequence furthest to the right in the 4*4 x-code belongs to the 61st column (column 60) in the x-code ($3 * 20 + 1 = 61$) and the vertical sequence furthest to the left belongs to the 58th column (column 57).

The horizontal bit sequences in the y-code code the positions 0 4 1 3 in the number series. As these horizontal bit sequences start in the 58th column, the start position of the rows is the value of these minus 57 modulo 7, which gives the start positions 6 3 0 2. Converted to digits in the mixed base, this becomes 6-2, 3-2, 0-0, 2-2 = 4 1 0 0, where the third digit is the least significant digit in the number concerned. The fourth digit is then the most significant digit in the next number. It must in this case be the same as in the number concerned. (The exception is when the number concerned consists of the highest possible digits in all positions. Then it is known that the beginning of the next number is one greater than the beginning of the number concerned.)

The position number is in mixed base $0*50 + 4*10 + 1*2 + 0*1 = 42$.

5 The third horizontal bit sequence in the y-code thus belongs to the 43rd code window which has a start position 0 or 1, and as there are four rows in total for each such code window, the third row is number $43*4=172$.

In this example, the position of the top left corner of the partial surface with $4*4$ marks is (58,170).

10 As the vertical bit sequences in the x-code in the $4*4$ group start at row 170, the whole pattern's x-columns start in the positions of the number series $((2\ 0\ 4\ 6)\ -169)$ modulo $7 = 1\ 6\ 3\ 5$. Between the last start position (5) and the first start position the numbers 0-19 are coded in the mixed base, and by adding the 15 representations of the numbers 0-19 in the mixed base the total difference between these columns is obtained. A naive algorithm for doing this is to generate these twenty numbers and directly add their digits. Call the sum obtained s. The page or writing surface is then given 20 by $(5-s)\bmod 7$.

An alternative method for determining which bit is the least significant in a partial surface in order to be able to identify a code window in this way is as follows. The least significant bit (LSB) is defined as the digit 25 which is the lowest in a partial surface's differences or row position number. In this way the reduction (redundancy) of the maximum useable number of coordinates is relatively small. For example, the first code windows in the x-direction in the example above can all have LSB=1 30 and other digits between 2 and 6, which gives 25 code windows, the next can have LSB=2 and other digits between 3 and 6, which gives 16 code windows, the next can have LSB=3 and other digits between 4 and 6, which gives 9 code windows, the next can have LSB=4 and other digits 35 between 5 and 6, which gives 4 code windows, the next can have LSB=5 and other digits 6, which gives 1 code window,

that is a total of 55 code windows, compared to 32 in the example above.

In the example above, an embodiment has been described where each code window is coded by 4*4 marks and a number series with 7 bits is used. This is of course only one example. Positions can be coded by more or fewer marks. There does not need to be the same number in both directions. The number series can be of different length and does not need to be binary, but can be based on a different base, for example hex code. Different number series can be used for coding in the x-direction and coding in the y-direction. The marks can represent different numbers of values.

In a practical example, a partial surface is used consisting of 6*6 marks and where the bit series as a maximum can consist of 2^6 bits, that is 64 bits. However, a bit series consisting of 51 bits is used, and consequently 51 positions, in order to have the ability to determine the rotational position of the partial surface.

An example of such a bit series is:

```
0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 0 1 1  
0 1 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 1 0
```

Such a partial surface consisting of six by six marks can theoretically code 4^{6*6} positions, which with the above-mentioned raster dimensions of 0.3 mm is an extremely large surface.

In a similar way as described above for the seven-bit series, according to the present invention the characteristic is utilised that the partial surface is enlarged to include one bit on each side of the partial surface, at least at its centre, so that for the third and fourth rows in the partial surface of 6*6 symbols, 8 symbols are read, one on each side of the partial surface, and similarly in the y-direction. The above-mentioned bit series which contains 51 bits has the characteristic that a bit sequence of 6 bits occurs only once and that a bit sequence of 8 bits which contains the

above-mentioned bit sequence of 6 bits occurs only once and never in an inverted position or reversed and inverted. In this way, the rotational position of the partial surface can be determined by reading eight bits in row 3, 5 row 4, column 3 and/or column 4. When the rotational position is known, the partial surface can be rotated to the correct position before the processing is continued.

It is desirable to obtain a pattern which is as random as possible, that is where areas with excessive symmetry do not occur. It is desirable to obtain a pattern where a partial surface with 6*6 marks contains marks with all the different positions in accordance with Figs 2a to 2d. In order to increase the randomness further or avoid repetitive characteristics, a method can 15 be used which is called "shuffle". Each horizontal bit sequence starts in a predetermined start position. However, it is possible to displace the start position in the horizontal direction for each row, if the displacement is known. This can be carried out by each least 20 significant bit (LSB) being allocated a separate displacement vector for the adjacent rows. The displacement vector states by how much each row is displaced in the horizontal direction. Visually it can be regarded as if the y-axis in Fig. 1 is "spiky".

25 In the example above, with a 4*4 code window, the displacement vector can be 1, 2, 4, 0 for LSB=0 and 2, 2, 3, 0 for LSB=1. This means that after subtracting the number 2 and 0 respectively, the above displacement is to be subtracted (modulo five) from the bit sequence's 30 position number, before the processing continues. In the example above, for the y-coordinate the digits 4 1 0 0 (S_2, S_1, S_0, S_4) are obtained in the mixed base, where the second digit from the right is the least significant digit, LSB. As the displacement vector 1, 2, 4, 0 is to 35 be used (LSB=0) for the digits 4 and 1, 2 is subtracted from 4 to give $S_2=2$ and 4 is subtracted from 1 (modulo five) to give $S_1=2$. The digit $S_0=0$ remains unchanged (the

displacement vector's component for the least significant digit is always zero). Finally, the digit S_4 belongs to the next code window, which must have $LSB=1$, that is the second displacement vector is to be used. Thus 2 is subtracted from 0 (modulo five) which gives $S_4=3$.

A similar method can be used to change the codes for the x-coordinates. However, there is less need to change the x-coordinates, as they are already relatively randomly distributed, as the difference zero is not used, in the example above.

In the example above, the mark is a dot. Naturally it can have a different appearance. It can, for example, consist of a line or an ellipse, which starts at the virtual raster point and extends from this to a particular position. Other symbols than a dot can be used, such as a square, rectangle, triangle, circle or ellipse, filled-in or not.

In the example above, the marks are used within a square partial surface for coding a position. The partial surface can be another shape, for example hexagonal. The marks do not need to be arranged along the raster lines in an orthogonal raster but can also have other arrangements, such as along the raster lines in a raster with 60 degree angles, etc. A polar coordinate system can also be used.

Rasters in the form of triangles or hexagons can also be used, as shown in Figs 5 and 6. For example, a raster with triangles, see Fig. 5, enables each mark to be displaced in six different directions, which provides even greater possibilities, corresponding to 6^{*6} partial surface positions. For a hexagonal raster, Fig. 6, a honeycomb pattern, each mark can be displaced in three different directions along the raster lines.

As mentioned above, the marks do not need to be displaced along the raster lines but can be displaced in other directions, for example in order to be located each in a separate quadrant when using a square raster pat-

tern. In the hexagonal raster pattern the marks can be displaced in four or more different directions, for example in six different directions along the raster lines and along lines which are at 60 degrees to the raster lines.

In order for the position code to be able to be detected, it is necessary for the virtual raster to be determined. This can be carried out, in a square raster pattern, by examining the distance between different marks. The shortest distance between two marks must originate from two adjacent marks with the values 1 and 3 in the horizontal direction or 2 and 4 in the vertical direction, so that the marks lie on the same raster line between two raster points. When such a pair of marks has been detected, the associated raster points (the nominal positions) can be determined using knowledge of the distance between the raster points and the displacement of the marks from the raster points. Once two raster points have been located, additional raster points can be determined using the measured distance to other marks and from knowledge of the distance between the raster points.

If the marks are displaced 50 μm along the raster lines, which are a distance of 300 μm apart, the least distance between two marks will be 200 μm , for example between marks with the values 1 and 3. The next smallest distance arises between, for example, marks with the values 1 and 2, and is 255 μm . There is therefore a relatively distinct difference between the least and the next smallest distance. The difference to any diagonals is also great. However, if the displacement is larger than 50 μm , for example more than 75 μm (1/4), diagonals can cause problems and it can be difficult to determine to which nominal position a mark belongs. If the displacement is less than 50 μm , for example less than approximately 35 μm (1/8), the least distance will be 230 μm , which does not give a very large difference to the next

distance, which is then 267 μm . In addition, the demands on the optical reading increase.

The marks should not cover their own raster point and should therefore not have a larger diameter than 5 twice the displacement, that is 200%. This is, however, not critical, and a certain overlapping can be permitted, for example 240%. The least size is determined in the first place by the resolution of the sensor and the demands of the printing process used to produce the 10 pattern. However, the marks should not have a smaller diameter than approximately 50% of the displacement in practice, in order to avoid problems with particles and noise in the sensor.

An embodiment of a device for position determination 15 is shown schematically in Fig. 4. It comprises a casing 11 which has approximately the same shape as a pen. In the short side of the casing there is an opening 12. The short side is intended to abut against or to be held a short distance from the surface on which the position 20 determination is to be carried out.

The casing contains essentially an optics part, an electronic circuitry part and a power supply.

The optics part comprises at least one light-emitting diode 13 for illuminating the surface which is to be 25 imaged and a light-sensitive area sensor 14, for example a CCD or CMOS sensor, for recording a two-dimensional image. If required, the device can also contain an optical system, such as a mirror and/or lens system. The light-emitting diode can be an infrared light-emitting 30 diode and the sensor can be sensitive to infrared light.

The power supply for the device is obtained from a battery 15, which is mounted in a separate compartment in the casing.

The electronic circuitry part contains image-processing means 16 for determining a position on the 35 basis of the image recorded by the sensor 14 and in particular a processor unit with a processor which is pro-

grammed to read images from the sensor and carry out position determination on the basis of these images.

In this embodiment, the device also comprises a pen point 17, with the aid of which ordinary pigment-based writing can be written on the surface on which the position determination is to be carried out. The pen point 17 is extendable and retractable so that the user can control whether or not it is to be used. In certain applications the device does not need to have a pen point at all.

The pigment-based writing is suitably of a type that is transparent to infrared light and the marks suitably absorb infrared light. By using a light-emitting diode which emits infrared light and a sensor which is sensitive to infrared light, the detection of the pattern can be carried out without the above-mentioned writing interfering with the pattern.

The device also comprises buttons 18, by means of which the device can be activated and controlled. It has also a transceiver 19 for wireless transmission, for example using infrared light, radio waves or ultrasound, of information to and from the device. The device can also comprise a display 20 for displaying positions or recorded information.

A device for recording text is described in Applicant's Swedish Patent No. 9604008-4. This device can be used for position determination if it is programmed in a suitable way. If it is to be used for pigment-based writing, then it must also be given a pen point.

The device can be divided between different physical casings, a first casing containing components which are required for recording images of the position-coding pattern and for transmitting these to components which are contained in a second casing and which carry out the position determination on the basis of the recorded image(s).

As mentioned, the position determination is carried out by a processor which thus must have software for locating marks in an image and decoding them and for determining positions from the codes thus obtained. A 5 person skilled in the art will be able, based on the example above, to design software which carries out position determination on the basis of an image of a part of a position-coding pattern.

In addition, on the basis of the description above, 10 a person skilled in the art will be able to design software for printing out the position-coding pattern.

In the embodiment above, the pattern is optically readable and the sensor is therefore optical. As mentioned, the pattern can be based on a parameter other than 15 an optical parameter. In such a case the sensor must of course be of a type which can read the parameter concerned. Examples of such parameters are chemical, acoustic or electromagnetic marks. Capacitive or inductive marks can also be used.

20 In the embodiment above, the raster is an orthogonal grid. It can also have other forms, such as a rhombic grid, for example with 60 degree angles, a triangular or hexagonal grid, etc.

Displacement in more or less than four directions 25 can be used, for example displacement in three directions along a hexagonal virtual raster. In an orthogonal raster only two displacements can be used, in order to facilitate the recreation of the raster. However, a displacement in four directions is preferred, but six or eight 30 directions are also possible within the scope of the invention.

In the embodiment above, the longest possible cyclic 35 number series is not used. As a result, a degree of redundancy is obtained which can be used in various ways, for example to carry out error correcting, replace missing or hidden marks, etc.

CLAIMS

1. A method of providing a position code on a surface, which position code codes a plurality of positions in a first direction on the surface, comprising the steps of

5 using a first cyclic number series, which has the characteristic that the position in the number series of each number sequence of a predetermined length is determined unambiguously,

10 printing out the first cyclic number series a plurality of times across the surface, different rotations of the first cyclic number series being used in such a way that predetermined displacements arise between adjacent 15 number series,

characterised in that the step of printing out comprises

20 dividing the surface into a plurality of first code windows in the first direction, each of which comprises at least three first cyclic number series and has one number series overlapping one number series of adjacent first code windows, and using such rotations of the first cyclic number series when printing this out that the 25 position of each first code window in the first direction is coded by means of the displacements between the first cyclic number series belonging to the code window.

30 2. A method according to claim 1, in which such rotations of the cyclic number series are used that at least some of these displacements are greater than one.

35 3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising the step of using such rotations of the first cyclic number series that the displacements of each code window define a position number in mixed base which gives the position of the first code window in the first direction and indicating the least significant displacement in the position number.

4. A method according to claim 3, in which the step of indicating the least significant displacement in the position number comprises using such rotations of the first cyclic number series that the least significant 5 displacement is less than other displacements.

5. A method according to claim 3 or 4, in which the step of indicating the least significant displacement in the position number comprises using such rotations of the first cyclic number series that the least significant 10 displacement lies in a first size range and other displacements lie in a second size range.

6. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, comprising the step of creating different variants of the position code by letting the first cyclic number series in the first direction start in different positions for different variants.

7. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the position code also codes a plurality of positions in a second direction on the surface, comprising the steps of using a second cyclic number series, which has the characteristic that the position in the number series of each number sequence of a second predetermined length is determined unambiguously, printing out the second cyclic number series across the surface 20 a plurality of times, different rotations of the second cyclic number series being used so that the second cyclic number series start at different start positions, the step of printing out comprising dividing the surface into 25 a plurality of non-overlapping second code windows, each of which comprises a predetermined plurality of second cyclic number series, and using such rotations of the second cyclic number series that the position of each second code window in the second direction is coded by 30 means of the start positions of the associated second cyclic number series.

8. A method of providing a position code on a surface, which position code codes a plurality of positions

in a second direction on the surface, comprising the steps of using a second cyclic number series, which has the characteristic that the position in the number series of each number sequence of a second predetermined length 5 is determined unambiguously, printing out the second cyclic number series across the surface a plurality of times, different rotations of the second cyclic number series being used so that the second cyclic number series start in different start positions, character- 10 is ed in that the step of printing out comprises dividing the surface into a second plurality of non-overlapping code windows, each of which comprises a predetermined plurality of second cyclic number series, and using such rotations of the second cyclic number series that 15 the position of each second code window in the second direction is coded by means of the start positions of the associated second cyclic number series.

9. A method according to claim 7 or 8, further comprising the steps of using such rotations of the second 20 cyclic number series that the start position of each second code window forms a position number in mixed base which gives the position of the second code window in the second direction, and indicating the least significant start position in the position number.

25 10. A method according to claim 9, in which the step of indicating the least significant start position in the position number comprises using such rotations of the second cyclic number sequence that the least significant start position is less than other start positions.

30 11. A method according to claim 9 or 10, in which the step of indicating the least significant start position in the position number comprises using such rotations of the second cyclic number series that the least significant start position lies in a first size range and 35 other start positions lie in a second size range.

12. A method according to any one of claims 7-11, in which the second cyclic number series is identical to the first cyclic number series.

5 13. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the first cyclic number series is a binary number series.

10 14. A method according to any one of claims 7-13, in which the first cyclic number series is printed out in columns across the surface and the second cyclic number series is printed out in rows across the surface.

15 15. A method according to any one of claims 7-14, in which the printing out of the first and the second cyclic number series is carried out in such a way that each intersection of the raster lines in a raster which covers the surface is allocated a number from the first cyclic number sequence and a number from the second cyclic number sequence and the numbers belonging to each intersection are coded graphically by a mark on the surface in association with the intersection.

20 16. A method according to claim 15, in which the different possible combinations of numbers from the first and the second cyclic number series are coded by different locations of the mark relative to the intersection point.

25 17. A computer-readable computer program product which comprises a computer program with instructions to cause the computer to implement the method according to any one of claims 1-16.

30 18. A method of determining a position, in a first direction, of an arbitrary partial surface of a predetermined size on a surface which is provided with a position code, which for the position coding in the first direction is based on a first cyclic number series, which has the characteristic that the position in the number series 35 of each first number sequence of a first predetermined length is determined unambiguously and which is printed out a plurality of times on the surface with different

rotations so that adjacent first cyclic number series are displaced relative to each other by predetermined displacements, comprising the steps of

identifying a plurality of first number sequences
5 from the position code on the partial surface;
determining the position of each first number sequence in the first cyclic number series;
on the basis of these positions, determining the displacements between the adjacent cyclic number series
10 containing the first number sequences from the partial surface,
characterised by the steps of determining, based on the displacements, a position in the first direction of a first code window which said partial surface at least partly overlaps, which first code window is one of a plurality of code windows in a first direction, each of which comprises a predetermined plurality
15 of first cyclic number series and has one number series overlapping one number series of adjacent first code windows.

19. A method according to claim 18, in which the step of determining said position of the first code window comprises determining which of the displacements corresponds to the least significant digit in a position number in mixed base, which gives the position of the first code window in the first direction.

20. A method according to claim 19, in which the displacement which corresponds to the least significant digit in the position number is determined to be the least of the displacements.

21. A method according to claim 19, in which the displacement which corresponds to the least significant digit in the position number is determined to be the displacement that lies in a first size range.

35 22. A method according to any one of claims 19-21, further comprising the step of determining a first coordinate which gives the position of the partial surface in

the first direction on the basis of said position number which gives the position of the first code window in the first direction and on the basis of which of the displacements corresponds to the least significant digit in 5 the position number.

23. A method according to any one of claims 18-22, further comprising the step of determining a position of said partial surface in a second direction on the surface, the position-coding pattern for the coding in the 10 second direction being further based on a second cyclic number series, which has the characteristic that the position in the number series of each second number sequence of a second predetermined length is determined unambiguously and which is printed out a plurality of 15 times of the surface with different rotations so that the second cyclic number series start in different start positions, comprising the steps of identifying a plurality of second number sequences from the position code on the partial surface, determining the position of each 20 second number sequence in the second cyclic number series; calculating the start positions of each of the second cyclic number series containing the second number sequences on the partial surface, based on the position of the partial surface in the first direction, and determining 25 from the start positions a position in the second direction of a second code window which the partial surface at least partly overlaps, which second code window is one of a plurality of non-overlapping code windows in the second direction, each of which comprises a predetermined 30 plurality of second cyclic number series.

24. A method according to claim 23, in which the step of determining the position of the second code window in the second direction comprises determining which of the start positions corresponds to the least significant digit in a position number in mixed base, 35 which gives the position of the second code window in the second direction.

25. A method according to claim 24, in which the start position which corresponds to the least significant digit in the position number for the second code window is determined to be the least significant start position.

5 26. A method according to claim 24, in which the start position which corresponds to the least significant digit in the position number is determined to be the start position which lies within a first size range.

10 27. A method according to claims 18-26, further comprising the step of determining a second coordinate which gives the position of the partial surface in the second direction on the basis of said position number which gives the position of the second code window in the second direction and on the basis of which of the start 15 positions corresponds to the least significant digit in the position number.

28. A method according to any one of the claims 18-27, further comprising the step of determining a third coordinate for the position of the partial surface on the 20 surface by calculating, using the second coordinate, in which position the first cyclic number series in the first direction starts.

29. A method according to any one of claims 18-28, in which the position code comprises a raster which 25 extends over the surface, in which each intersection between the raster lines in said raster is allocated a number from the first cyclic number series and a number from the second cyclic number series, which numbers are coded by a graphic mark, in which the steps of identifying a plurality of first number sequences and identifying a plurality of second number sequences comprise decoding the marks which are found within said partial surface and separating the thus-obtained numbers in said plurality of first number sequences and said second number sequences.

30. A computer-readable computer program product which comprises a computer program with instructions to

cause the computer to implement the method according to any one of claims 18-29.

31. A device for position determination, comprising a sensor (14) for producing an image of a partial surface of a surface which is provided with a position code, and image processing means (16) which are arranged to calculate based on the subset of the position code which is to be found in the image of the partial surface a position of the partial surface in accordance with the method according to any one of claims 18-29.

32. A device according to claim 31, which device is handheld.

33. A device according to any one of claims 31 or 32, in which the device has means (19) for wireless transmission of position information.

34. A product which makes possible determination of a position, in a first direction, of an arbitrary partial surface of a predetermined size on a surface of the product which is provided with a position code, which for position-coding in the first direction is based on a first cyclic number series, which has the characteristic that the position in the number series of each first number sequence of a first predetermined length is determined unambiguously and which is printed out a plurality of times on the surface with different rotations so that adjacent first cyclic number series are displaced relative to each other by predetermined displacements, a plurality of first number sequences from the position code being identifiable on the partial surface, in order to determine the position of each first number sequence in the first cyclic number series, and the displacements between the adjacent first cyclic number series containing the first number sequences from the partial surface being determinable on the basis of these positions,

35 characterised in that, based on the displacements, a position in the first direction of a first code window, which said partial surface at least partly

overlaps, is determinable, which first code window is one of a plurality of code windows in the first direction, each of which comprises a predetermined plurality of first cyclic number series and has one number series 5 overlapping one number series of adjacent first code windows.

35. A product according to claim 34, in which for determining said position of the first code window, it is determined which of the displacements corresponds to the 10 least significant digit in a position number in mixed base, which gives the position of the first code window in the first direction.

36. A product according to claim 35, in which the displacement which corresponds to the least significant 15 digit in the position number is the least of the displacements.

37. A product according to claim 35, in which the displacement which corresponds to the least significant digit in the position number is the displacement which 20 lies within a first size range.

38. A product according to any one of claims 35-37, in which a first coordinate is arranged to give the position of the partial surface in the first direction on the basis of said position number which gives the position of 25 the first code window in the first direction and on the basis of which of the displacements corresponds to the least significant digit in the position number.

39. A product according to any one of claims 34-38, further comprising a position of said partial surface in 30 a second direction on the surface, the position-coding pattern for the coding in the second direction being further based on a second cyclic number series, which has the characteristic that the position in the number series of each second number sequence of a second predetermined 35 length is determined unambiguously and which is printed out a plurality of times on the surface with different rotations so that the second cyclic number series start

in different start positions, a plurality of second number sequences from the position code on the partial surface being identifiable, by determining the position of each second number sequence in the second cyclic number series; calculating, based on the position of the partial surface in the first direction, the start positions of each of the second cyclic number series containing the second number sequences on the partial surface, and determining from the start positions a position in the second direction of a second code window which the partial surface at least partly overlaps, which second code window is one of a plurality of non-overlapping code windows in the second direction, each of which comprises a predetermined plurality of second cyclic number series.

40. A product according to claim 39, in which the position of the second code window in the second direction is determined by which of the start positions corresponds to the least significant digit in a position number in mixed base, which gives the position of the second code window in the second direction.

41. A product according to claim 40, in which the start position which corresponds to the least significant digit in the position number of the second code window is determined to be the least significant start position.

42. A product according to claim 40, in which the start position which corresponds to the least significant digit in the position number is determined to be the start position which lies within a first size range.

43. A product according to any one of claims 36-40, in which a second coordinate is determined which gives the position of the partial surface in the second direction on the basis of said position number which gives the position of the second code window in the second direction and on the basis of which of the start positions corresponds to the least significant digit in the position number.

44. A product according to any one of claims 36-43, further comprising a third coordinate being determined for the position of the partial surface on the surface by calculating, using the second coordinate, in what 5 position the first cyclic number series in the first direction starts.

45. A product according to any one of claims 36-44, in which the position code comprises a raster which extends across the surface, each intersection between the 10 raster lines in said raster being allocated a number from the first cyclic number series and a number from the second cyclic number series, which numbers are coded by a graphic mark, said plurality of first number sequences and said plurality of second number sequences being 15 arranged to be identified by decoding the marks which are to be found within said partial surface and to separate the thus-obtained numbers in said plurality of first number sequences and said second number sequences.

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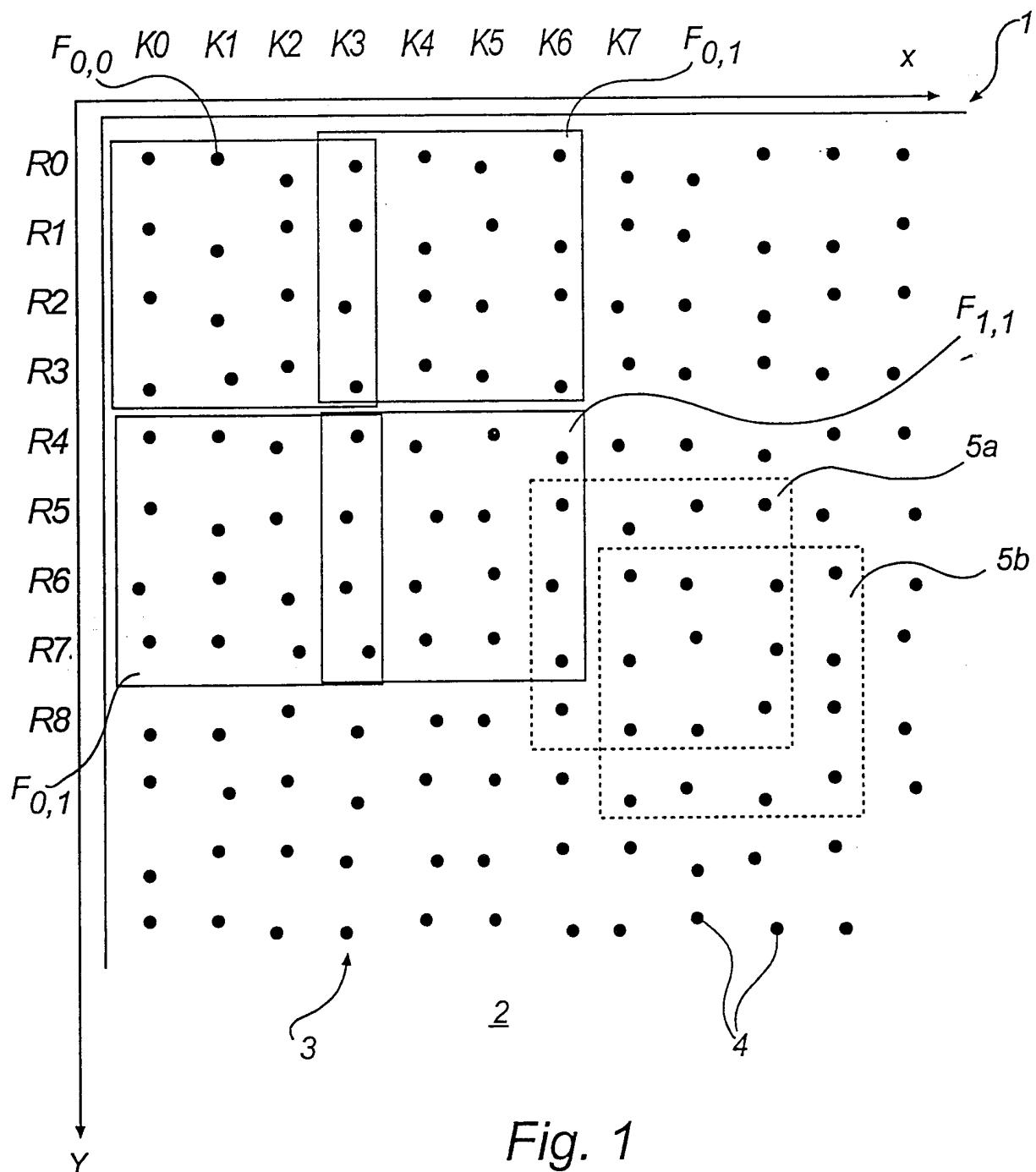


Fig. 1

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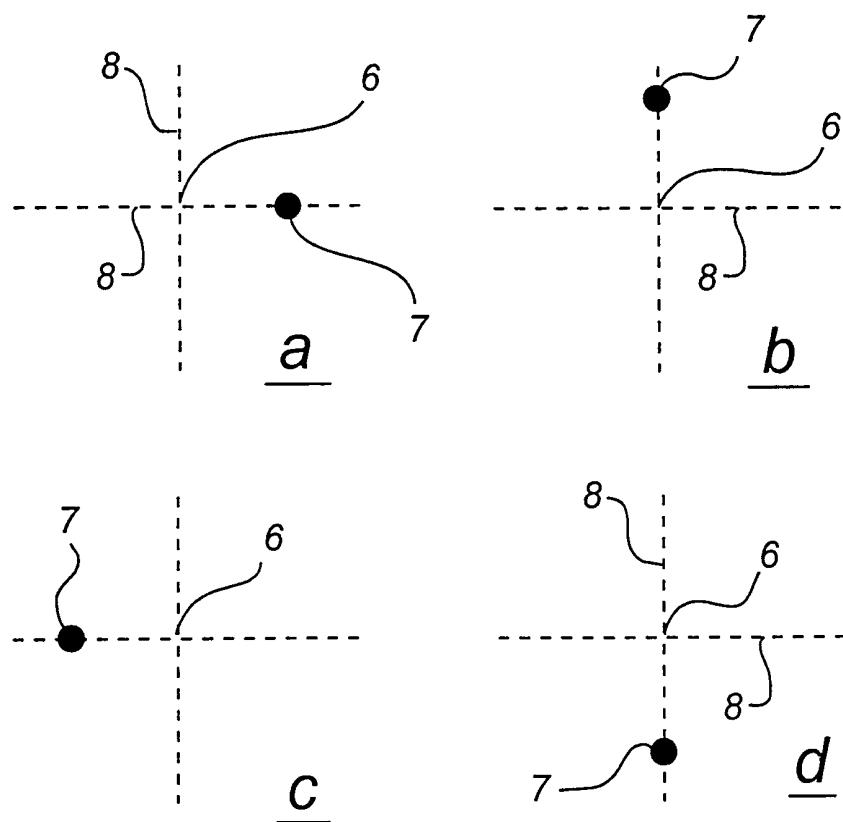


Fig. 2

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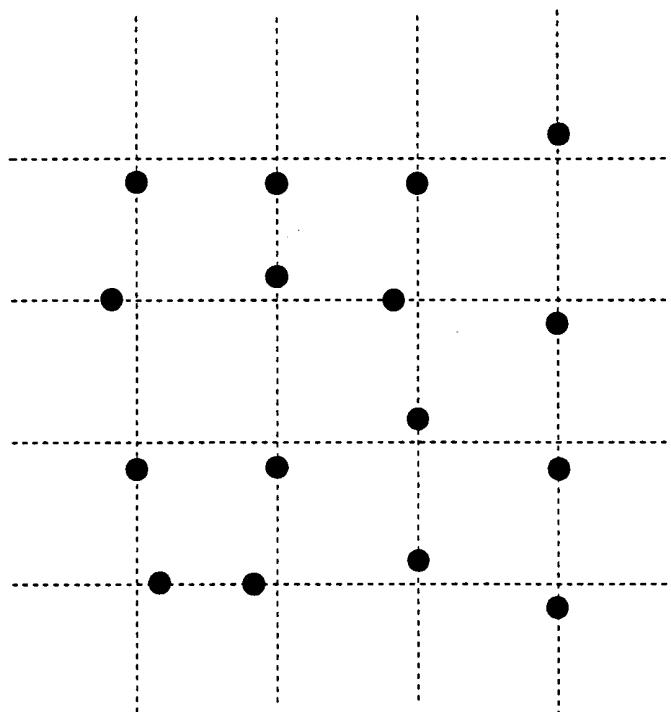


Fig. 3

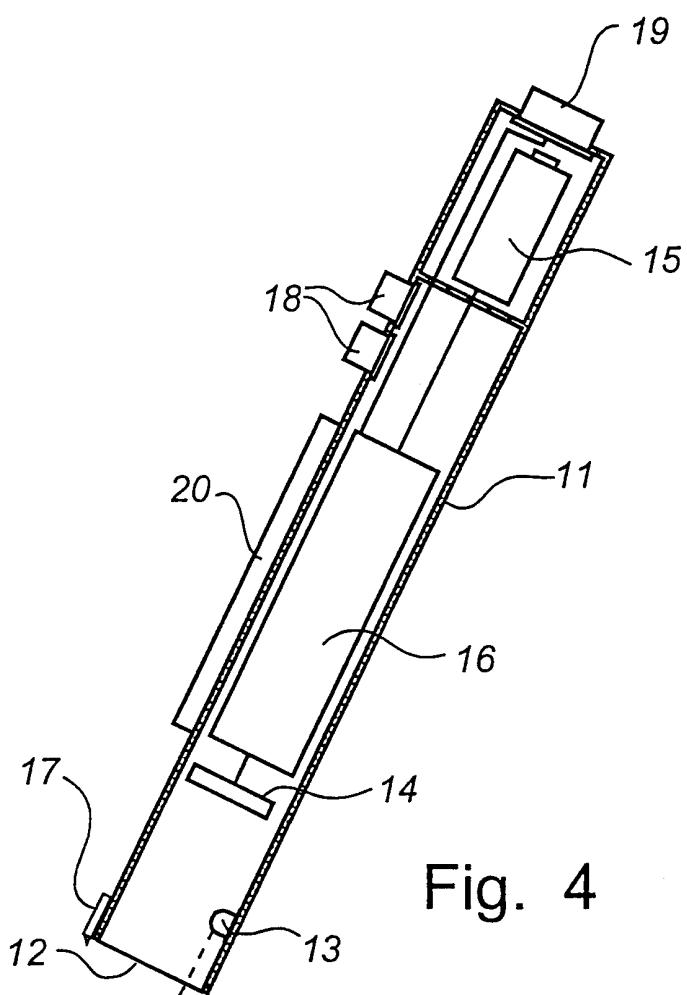


Fig. 4

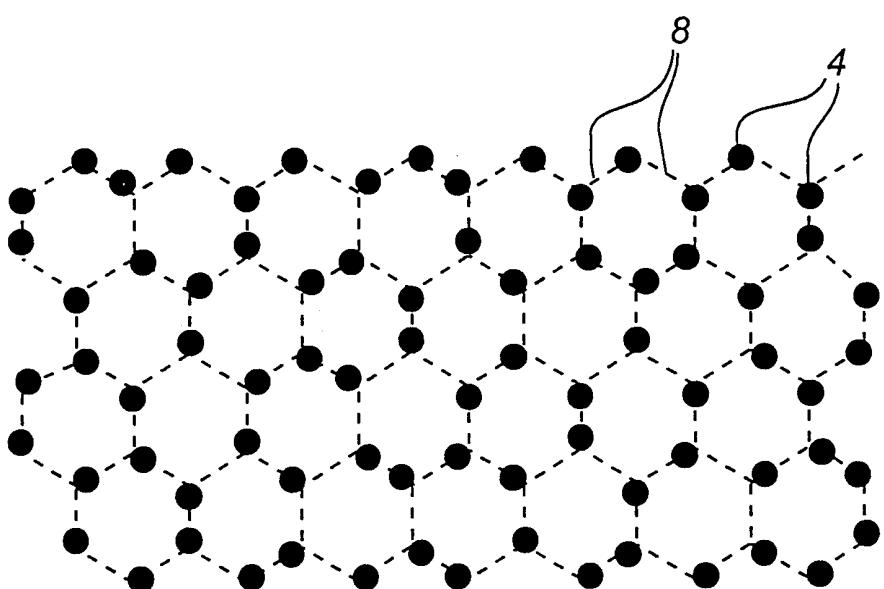
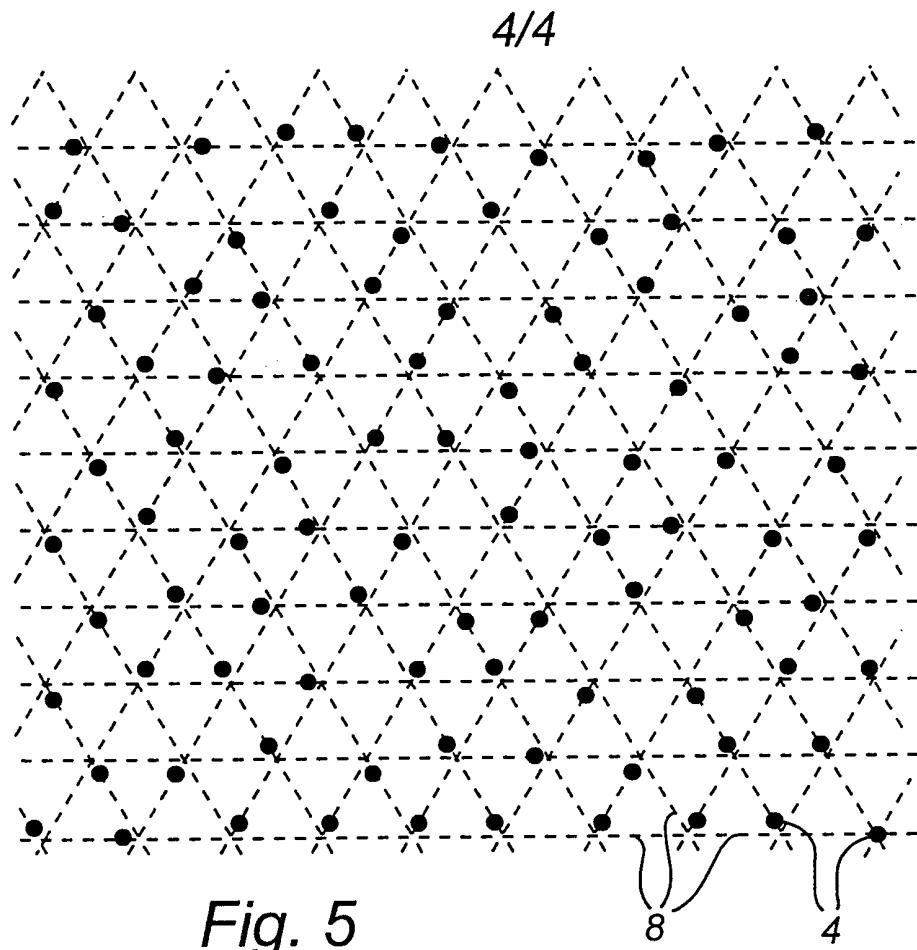


Fig. 6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/SE 00/01897

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: G06K 1/12, G06K 19/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: G06K, G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 9217859 A1 (HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY), 15 October 1992 (15.10.92), page 2, line 1 - page 7, line 14, claim 1, abstract, Appendix A --	1-45
A	EP 0206246 A2 (S.JOYCE), 30 December 1986 (30.12.86), page 10, line 26 - page 12, line 6, figure 3, claim 1, abstract --	1-45
A	US 5675129 A (J.BURNS ET AL.), 7 October 1997 (07.10.97), column 1, line 65 - column 3, line 67; column 5, line 47 - line 58 -- -----	1-45

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"U" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

3 January 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Swedish Patent Office
Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM
Facsimile No. +46 8 666 02 86

Authorized officer

Pär Heimdal/LR
Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

04/12/00

International application No.

PCT/SE 00/01897

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