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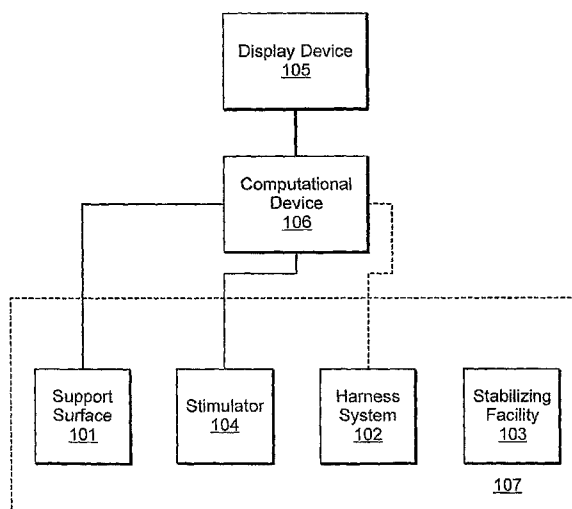
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(57) Abstract: A method for assessing a subject's ability to sense orientation using somatosensory inputs derived from contact of the subject with a support surface includes, while partially assisting the subject in bearing the subject's weight on the support surface, performing a protocol. The protocol includes tilting the support surface away from an actual horizontal position in a given direction and having the subject cause repositioning of the support surface until it is in a perceived horizontal position. The perceived horizontal position is compared with the actual horizontal position.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER INV. A61B5/103		
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B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	BRINGOUX LIONEL ET AL: "Contribution of somesthetic information to the perception of body orientation in the pitch dimension." QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY SECTION A HUMAN EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY, vol. 56A, no. 5, July 2003 (2003-07), pages 909-923, XP008071861 ISSN: 0272-4987	1,2, 4-10, 14-20, 25,26
Y	page 909 - page 916; figure 1 ----- -/--	11-13, 21-24
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents : "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "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) "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 "T" 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 "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 "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family		
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer Dhervé, Gwénaëlle

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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	MAURER C ET AL: "Human balance control during cutaneous stimulation of the plantar soles." NEUROSCIENCE LETTERS. 13 APR 2001, vol. 302, no. 1, 13 April 2001 (2001-04-13), pages 45-48, XP002409323 ISSN: 0304-3940 the whole document	11-13, 21-24
X	PERENNOU D: "Vers une meilleure comprehension et une evaluation quantifiee du << pushing >>, un comportement postural du a certains AVC" ANNALES DE READAPTATION ET DE MEDECINE PHYSIQUE, ELSEVIER, PARIS, FR, vol. 48, no. 4, 4 May 2005 (2005-05-04), pages 198-206, XP004857944 ISSN: 0168-6054 item "3. La mesure du sens de verticalité" figure 1c	1,3-5, 8-10,18, 19,21,25
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