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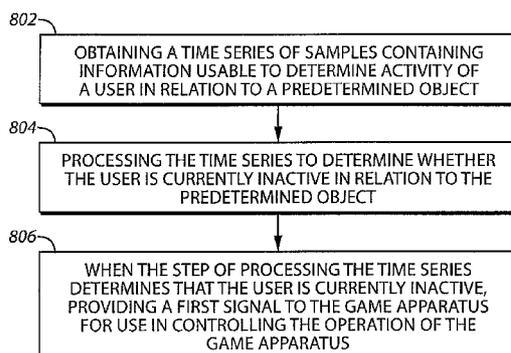
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR USE IN DETERMINING LACK OF USER ACTIVITY, DETERMINING AN ACTIVITY LEVEL OF A USER, AND/OR ADDING A NEW PLAYER IN RELATION TO A SYSTEM



800

(57) Abstract: A method for use in operation of a game apparatus or other system for determining a lack of user activity (800) in relation to the game apparatus includes obtaining a time series of samples containing information usable to determine activity of a user in relation to a predetermined object (802), processing the time series to determine whether the user is currently inactive in relation to the predetermined object (804), and, when the step of processing the time series determines that the user is currently inactive, providing a first signal to the game apparatus for use in controlling the operation of the game apparatus (806). A time series of samples may also be obtained containing information usable to determine an activity level of a user of the game apparatus (822). A method for use in operation of a game apparatus may include adding a new player to a game already in progress in response to a determination that one of a plurality of predetermined objects is currently active after determining that it was inactive. Machine-readable mediums having embodied thereon instructions for performing such methods and techniques are also included, as well as an example systems for implementation.

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(75) **Inventors/Applicants** (for US only): **HARRISON, Phil** [GB/GB]; A vacuum storage bag providing an int, an evacuated condition has air flexible sid, The gas permeable sidewalls can be made of (US). **ZALEWSKI, Gary, M** [US/US]; c/o Sony Computer Entertainment America Inc., 919 E. Hillsdale Boulevard, 2nd Floor, Foster City, CA 94404-2175 (US). **MARKS, Richard** [US/US]; c/o Sony Computer Entertainment America Inc., 919 E. Hillsdale Boulevard, 2nd Floor, Foster City, CA 94404-2175 (US). **MAO, Xiadong** [CN/US]; c/o Sony Computer Entertainment America Inc., 919 E. Hillsdale Boulevard, 2nd Floor, Foster City, CA 94404-2175 (US).

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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B. FIELDS SEARCHED
 Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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.
X ---	US 5,227,985 (DeMenthon) 13 July 1993 (13.07.1993), fig 1, col 1, col 9-11, 17-18	1-4, 7-17, 46-49, 52-53, 72, 81 75, 84, 55-56,
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

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"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
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"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	"&"	document member of the same patent family

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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.
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Y	US 2005/0282603 A1 (Parrot et al) 22 December 2005 (22.12.2005), par 65	33-39, 36, 44-45