

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
26 March 2009 (26.03.2009)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2009/038596 A1

- (51) **International Patent Classification:**
G06F 3/033 (2006.01) H04B 1/20 (2006.01)
H04N 5/445 (2006.01) H04N 7/173 (2006.01)
 - (21) **International Application Number:**
PCT/US2008/001458
 - (22) **International Filing Date:** 4 February 2008 (04.02.2008)
 - (25) **Filing Language:** English
 - (26) **Publication Language:** English
 - (30) **Priority Data:**
 60/994,186 18 September 2007 (18.09.2007) US
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 - (81) **Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available):** AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, **BR**, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, **HR**, HU, **ID**, IL, IN, IS, **JP**, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW
 - (84) **Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available):** ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:**
 — with international search report

(54) **Title:** USER INTERFACE FOR SET TOP BOX

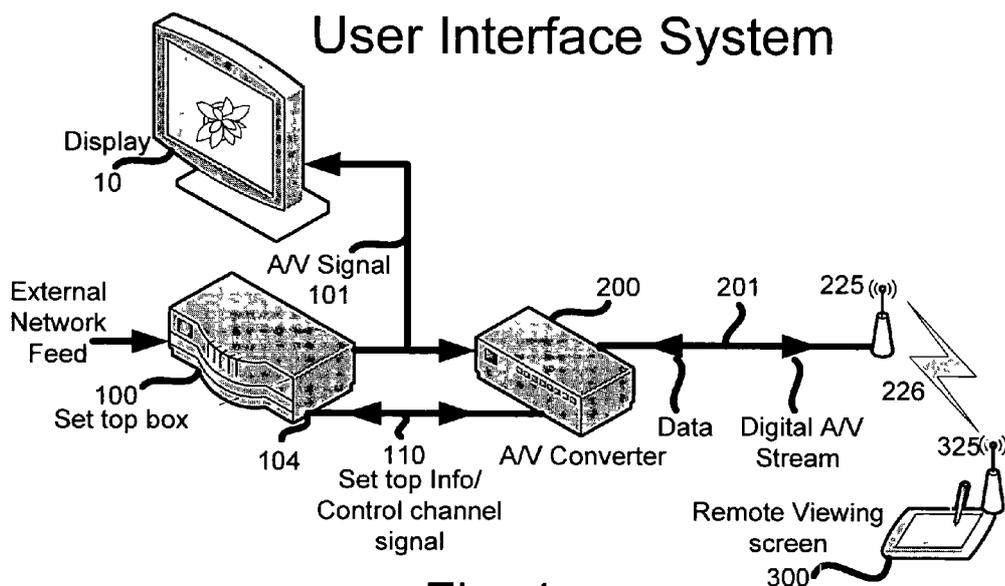


Fig. 1

(57) **Abstract:** A method for control comprises a set top box receiving coordinates from a touch sensing screen. The coordinates are interpreted for controlling the set top box, and in accordance with the interpreted coordinates an action is performed. A further method for control comprises a set top box receiving a signal representative of displacement. A control function is determined from the displacement representative signal and the control function is activated. In accordance with the control function a signal is formed for communication.

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USER INTERFACE FOR SET TOP BOX

This application claims benefit of US Provisional Application 60/994186 filed September 18, 2007.

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Technical Field

This disclosure relates to the field of remote control of home entertainment equipment, and in particular to a remote controller including motion sensing and or a touch sensing display screen.

10

Background

A typical set top box provides a user interface to allow control of the set top box menu and or an electronic program guide. The menu and electronic program guide are respectively resident, or received, formatted and stored, within in the set top box and can be viewed as on screen displays (OSD) or graphic overlays. Typically the guide or menu features may be activated by physical button pushes or by remote control commands via an exemplary modulated IR link. The guide and menu are intended for user interaction via an on screen display on a TV or video display monitor. Normal display viewing distances dictate that the screen is physically distant from the user and certainly beyond arms reach. A remote audio video display, television, video monitor or viewing tablet may be coupled to view the set top box output signals and clearly substantially the same set top box control as provided to a local viewer must be available to the remote display viewer.

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Summary of the invention

In an inventive arrangement a touch sensitive viewing device has bidirectional communication with a set top box. The touch sensitive viewing device facilitates sound and image display and provides information to control the set top box and ancillary equipment. In a further inventive arrangement transitory motion and or spatial reorientation of the touch sensitive viewing device can control selections within the set top box and ancillary equipment.

30

Brief description of the drawings

Figure 1 is a block representation of an inventive arrangement for remote viewing and control.

Figure 2 depicts an exemplary inventive viewing tablet for use in the
5 arrangement of figure 1.

Figures 3a and 3b are exemplary sequences used in the arrangements of figures 1 and 2.

Figure 4 shows a typical electronic program guide arranged as a grid display.

Figure 5 is a data structure representative of the electronic program guide of
10 figure 4.

Figures 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d depict the viewing tablet of figure 2 when subject to twisting, tilting and rotation.

Detailed description

15 Figure 1 shows an inventive arrangement where a set top box is coupled to an audio video (A/V) display device. In addition the set top box user interface also facilitates the use of a remote A/V display, television, video monitor or viewing tablet 300. Clearly the remote viewing device 300 must allow substantially the same control of the set top box as provided to a local viewer.

20 An external network feed is coupled to set top box (STB) 100 for user program selection, resulting in tuning, demodulation, decoding etc. to generate the audio video signals of the desired program. The video part of the audio video signal may have an on screen display (OSD) graphic overlay added or substituted to form an output video signal 101 for coupling to audio video
25 display 10. Video signal 101 may be in the form of an composite analog signal, an analog component signal or as a digital representation of the composite or component video signals. The on screen display (OSD) or graphic overlay can, for example, represent an electronic program guide (EPG) or set top box menu.

30 Set top box (STB) 100 also has a separate information and control channel connection (104) which couples a bidirectional data bus signal 110 between set top box 100 and audio video (A/V) interface converter 200. Advantageously the output audio video signal, possibly with graphic overlay, which is coupled to display 10 is also coupled to the audio video interface converter 200 which

forms a digital A/V stream using for example, a compression algorithm such as MPEG 4. This compressed digital A/V stream is processed or modulated for transmission by antenna 225 to a remote viewing device 300 using an exemplary Wi-Fi or digital wireless link 226 operating in accordance with an exemplary standard such as IEEE 802.11. An antenna 325 at or within viewing device 300 receives the digital A/V stream 226 and forms therefrom an image with sound, substantially as provided to display 10.

However, as discussed previously, the program guide and set top box menu information are resident and/or generated within the set top box and may be activated by physical button pushes or remote control commands. The guide and the menu, are intended for user interaction via an OSD or graphical image on a video display. Furthermore, optimal viewing conditions suggest a certain minimum viewing distance which places the screen of display 10 distant from the user and certainly beyond his reach. Thus, the user set top box interaction is usually performed remotely from the display screen which tends to preclude the concept of screen touch control of the STB user interface, not to mention the undesirability of finger-prints on the screen.

Figure 2 shows a remote viewing device 300 which facilitates the reception of the digital A/V stream comprising content which can be identical to that coupled to display 10 or which may advantageously be user selected to be different from the content coupled to display 10. Viewing device 300 employs an image display 301 which is overlaid by a touch sensitive interface 302 to provide the user the ability to select a portion of a screen image by touch. However as discussed, a standard set top box user interface is not capable of touch screen control.

A user viewing display screen 301 may select, by means of a finger or exemplary stylus 310, a particular screen portion, for example a section of an OSD 305 forming part of image 303. As is known, the touch sensitive interface of viewing tablet 300 includes circuitry which generates coordinates 315 that locate the screen touch within the touch sensitive area 302. These touch coordinates 315 are transmitted from viewing tablet 300 via antenna 325 to

STB 110 socket 104, via interface converter 200. A bidirectional path 201, 226 provides A/V content 101 for viewing as image 303 on screen 301, and also provides a reverse channel to couple the touch coordinates or control instructions to STB100. The touch coordinate or coordinates are input to STB 5 100 for processing and mapping to the current screen display, typically the OSD or guide grid. Image mapping for viewing tablet 300 may be performed based on certain parameters such as the aspect ratio of tablet 300 and possibly the aspect ratio of the source image, for example to view wide screen movies. Tablet 300 of Figure 6a may have a screen ratio of width to height the same as 10 or similar to those associated with current TV standard, i.e. 16:9. In Figure 6a the display tablet 300 is depicted with an exemplary ratio of 16:9, however, the user may choose to physically orient the display differently by rotating through approximately 90 degrees which results in a ratio of 9:16 as shown in Figures 6c, and 6d. Furthermore display tablet 300 may be of a physical size 15 that may be rotated, twisted, turned or tilted. Thus to accommodate a rotated display and to avoid geometric distortion of the displayed image various choices are possible for source image mapping on display 300. However, such source image mapping must be performed without disturbance to signal 101 feeding display 10. Control and implementation of such image 20 mapping will be described later.

The remote viewing space 301 of display tablet 300 is mapped to the STB user interface space in order that touch coordinates from the remote viewing device are interpreted to initiate the user desired set top box command. The 25 interpreted command may result for example, in a change to the OSD information or change in program selection, and this result is then communicated to both display 10 and remote display 300. Furthermore, manipulation and orientation of display tablet 300 also forms not only an essential part of the mapping to the STB user interface space but in addition 30 may provide control capabilities. As mentioned previously, twisting or rotating tablet 300 through approximately 90 degrees must be accommodated, not only in terms of the image but also to maintain user operability by altering the functional mapping of specific touch screen areas. For example, a user

function associated with sense area 302a of Figure 6a must be mapped to sense area 302aa when display 300 is rotated clockwise by approximately 90 degrees.

5 Display tablet 300 advantageously includes a device for detecting the orientation and or movement of the tablet as depicted in Figure 6b. For example, by detecting orientation it can be determined which display edge, long or short is approximately pointing down, and such information can be provided by devices such as, tilt sensors, inclinometers, accelerometer, gyroscopes and the like. Information relating to the positioning, or change in
10 orientation of the display tablet is communicated to interface converter 200 and set top box 100 to be used in mapping or interpreting user motion and or touch commands. Detection of display orientation may be used advantageously to provide functional control of, for example, remote display image selection as shown in Figures 6c and 6c, channel change, audio volume up down or mute,
15 etc. The sensing of display motion provides an alternative user control mechanism, which in addition can reduce or eliminate a number of screen touches and associated control mapping.

Figure 2 shows viewing device or tablet 300 with display 301 and touch screen
20 302 which is used to update the user interface in the set top box. The touch screen 302 may be activated by button or rocker switch 320 or by touching a specific screen location, such as a particular screen corner 302a of Figure 6a. Switch 320 may allow a double push, to and fro rock or sustained activation to select between desired STB control features. The use of specific screen
25 locations can be employed to select which STB features the user wishes to control, for example STB menu or program guide. Furthermore, a double screen touch or sustained touch may provide a dual control function. For example, with a double touch arrangement the initial screen touch determines the on screen image (OSD) part or portion to be controlled by the remote
30 viewer. The second touch may for example be required to occur within a specific, relatively short time window in order to be recognized as a double touch command and as such this second touch may represent an enter, activate or go command. Similarly, a sustained touch arrangement may for example,

determine the on screen image (OSD) part or portion to be controlled and following an extended, but relatively short touch time, may represent an enter, activate or go command. In addition to double touch or sustained touch user control, screen 302 may advantageously provide the ability to scroll to the
5 left or right or up or down simply by dragging a finger or stylus over a plurality of screen sensing areas or cells in a given interval. For example, a short drag over a limited number of cells may cause a minor change in on screen image position where dragging over a greater number of cells in a similar time interval may cause the on screen image to change pages, i.e. scroll to a future
10 event in the program guide.

As mentioned previously, display tablet 300 may include an accelerometer such as type LIS302DL manufactured by ST Microelectronics, or similar device for detecting motion and orientation of the tablet. Tablet orientation or motion
15 information is supplied to interface 200 and set top box 100 to advantageously provide control commands, and for certain tablet orientations to remap only video signal 101 for display on the rotated display tablet 300. In addition the touch coordinates may be remapped in accordance with the display orientation and chosen display layout. Tablet 300 orientation with consequential image
20 size and layout changes must be implemented independently from the video representative signal 101 supplied to display 10. To facilitate the image size and layout changes resulting from reorienting tablet 300 audio video interface converter 200 includes a digital image processing arrangement which includes image processing control, image scaling, and memory. In addition interface
25 converter 200 may receive from set top box 100 data representing the electronic program guide and the set top box menu. These data may be provided separately from and not combined with video representative signal 101. In this way interface converter 200 can format an image signal specifically for display by tablet 300 without effecting the image on display 10.

30

Figure 3a shows an exemplary sequence of touch screen control operations 350 - 365 occurring between remote viewer 300 and set top box 100 and applies to the case where the program guide is generated entirely within the set top box

and is to be viewed with the remote viewing device. In block 350 the touch screen senses that a touch has occurred. The coordinates 315 of the screen touch are determined, modulated and transmitted by exemplary digital wireless link 226 to converter 200 for demodulation and coupling as signal 110 to set top box 100. The coordinates are received in the set top box where a state machine containing the local state of the menu system and the current location computes the desired location and the appropriate commands to reach that position. In addition, the state machine may also determine that a particular action, for example a change of channels, may be required. This may be communicated as described previously by a second touch or double tap on the screen with similar coordinates to indicate, in addition to possible cursor movement, a particular action is requested. The user interface then receives the appropriate commands and if necessary sends a new cursor location and menu status to the set top box state machine.

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Figure 3b shows an exemplary sequence relating to movement of viewing tablet 300 as has been described and illustrated in Figure 6b. An accelerometer device or the like within viewing tablet 300 generates values in three planes X,Y,Z which resolve the motion depicted by arrows 601, 602 and 603, 604. Block 370 of Figure 3b represents the generation of acceleration values in response to a user movement of the display tablet. Clearly such movement is likely to be substantially radial however the movement may be resolved as Cartesian values X,Y,Z sensed by the accelerometer. The acceleration values resulting from rotating, twisting or tilting the display are transmitted to interface 200 at block 375. At block 380 the accelerometer values are interpreted, for example by use of a lookup table, as being representative of certain control functions. Interpretation may be performed at either interface 200, set top box 100 or at both locations. However, certain acceleration values, for example representative of display rotation, rather than transitory to and fro twists or tilts, are utilized within interface 200 to reformat images for display and if necessary to reorder the touch sensing layout. Accelerometer values which are analogs of to and fro twists or tilts, may interpreted to be representative of, for example, control functions such as channel up, channel down, volume up or down or mute. At block 380 the interpreted control

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functions are asserted. Advantageously such transitory to and fro motion of the viewing tablet can provide user control without touch screen contact.

The operational sequence depicted in Figure 3a can be implemented by the following exemplary arrangement. Screen 301 of Figure 2 is divided into rectangular regions which are mapped into a canonical version of the guide (EPG) as shown in Figure 4. In this case, each of the regions represents a section of a grid guide which describes programming content. Sections AO to EO of Figure 4 represent home areas (channels) and column zero (0) describes programming that is currently occurring, however, this graphical arrangement represents one of many possible display arrangements. Each rectangle of Figure 4 can be uniquely identified, e.g., with an upper left corner address, height and width. In one exemplary implementation the on-screen guide data is stored as a linked list as shown in Figure 5, where each channel (AO - EO) may display a number of programs (i.e. BO shows 1 - 8) with selection by lateral navigation. However, to access other channels it is necessary to navigate up and down the list. In a conventional implementation of the grid guide, up and down arrows are used to select a program. However, inevitably program junctions do not align, i.e. their respective beginning and end times are different between each channel, hence it is possible that multiple and non-required program selections could fulfill an up / down movement command. For example, when moving up from C1 to the B row, it is unclear which of the 6 programs, B1 through B6 should be selected. This ambiguity is remedied by the user choosing a specific program then selecting a cursor move to the right or left as appropriate. However, with remote touch screen operation this option may not be available. Assume a data structure as shown in Figure 5, then determination of the correct sequence of commands for the user interface is straightforward. For example, in Figure 5 assume the current cursor location is A2. Within each program area (data structure) are the unique identifiers of the location, e.g. the upper left corner and the height and width. A first interpretive method may be performed as follows. The y or vertical coordinate of the touch is received by STB 100 from remote display tablet 300, and then by sequencing through AO through EO via the linked list and the coordinates contained therein it is determined which row was selected. Within that row,

the x or horizontal touch coordinate would be used to determine which program area was selected by incrementing through the linked list in the horizontal direction. Using the information contained in the linked list, a sequence of direction commands, if required, could be sent to the User
5 Interface to implement the command. For this example, if the program E2 were touched, then four down commands could be used to get from A2 to the E row, but it is unclear whether E2 or E3 should be selected. This ambiguity of the first interpretive operation is obviated by the following commands as determined from the linked list in Figure 5. Commands Left, Left, locate
10 column 0, commands Down, Down, Down, Down select the desired program E0 and Right, Right select the required time period, or program E2. In this way the correct area of the screen is selected with no chance of ambiguity, and without changing the STB user interface paradigm for non-touch screen applications.

15

It is important to note that the linked list data structure depicted in Figure 5 must be updated after each operation, since the screen itself can change in response to a command. For example, selection of any of the boxes on the right hand side of the Figure 4 guide would cause the display to page right to
20 reveal future programs, and consequently require the data structure to be changed.

The exemplary sequence of coordinate mapping described with respect to Figure 5 may result in a command sequences which are similar to those
25 commands emanating from a conventional IR remote control and as such are readily interpretable by the set top box control logic.

Figure 6a shows an image 600 on display tablet 300 with an orientation which produces an aspect ratio of, for example, 16:9. Image 600 is shown, for ease
30 of illustration, with only a peripheral array of broken line rectangles, for example 302a and 302aa. These broken line rectangles are representative of individual sensing areas forming touch sensor 302 and these sensing areas may substantially cover display 301. As mentioned previously, by sensing motion of display 300 it is possible to cause or generate control commands without any

requirement for a screen touch. Furthermore, certain control functions can be generated by a momentarily to and fro inclination of the display to left or right or forward and back to reduce or obviate the need for screen touches.

5 Figure 6b shows possible user movements or displacements of display tablet 300. Displacement of tablet 300 may be resolved by a device such as an accelerometer which resolves motion in three planes X,Y,Z as depicted. Twisting the tablet in the plane of the display is depicted by arrows 601 , 602 is resolved by accelerometer values occurring in at least the X and Y sensing
10 planes. Back and forward motion, depicted by arrows 603, 604 is represented by accelerometer values generated in the Z plane or axis.

Arrow 601 shows a possible clockwise directional rotation in the plane of the display. Clearly rotation is also possible in a counter clockwise direction and,
15 in addition, such clockwise and or counter clockwise rotation may be recognized and used to provide differing control commands for selection different functions in the set top box and or interface 200.

However, such spatial reorientation may also be combined with a screen touch
20 at a particular location, for example sensing area 302a, to minimize the number of touches required for a specific control function. For example, a user may grip the display in the left hand with a thumb covering sensing area 302a. Upon rotating display 300 clockwise, information from both the tilt sensor and the touch coordinates are sent to interface 200 and set top box 100.
25 Interface 200 may currently be processing image 600 from the set top box and in addition acquires data representative of the electronic program guide (EPG). Image 600 and the EPG data are scaled and combined to form an exemplary 9:16 image formatted as a picture out of picture by scaler circuitry resident within interface 200. In this way the remote viewer with display 300 may
30 observe a second or alternative image source without interrupting signal 101 coupled to display 10. However, if a selection is made within the exemplary program guide 620b then signal 101 coupled to display 10 will change accordingly.

In Figure 6c display tablet 300 is reoriented by 90 degrees yielding an exemplary 9:16 ratio display. Figure 6c shows two exemplary images, 600b, 620b having different sizes and arranged with a picture out of picture format. Source image 600 is scaled or minified to form image 600b which fits within the display width whilst maintaining the geometry of image 600. The consequence of image 600 minification is that the display screen may have an area or areas that may be utilized to display other images such as the program guide 620b, set top box menu, personal pictures or wall paper.

Figure 6d shows a further image mapping selection where the height of the image 600 is maintained as in the 16:9 tablet orientation of Figure 6a but image 600 is cropped horizontally producing an incomplete picture 600d. This image selection may in addition allow horizontal image panning, represented by arrow 605c to reveal the missing or cropped picture content 610c. image panning may be performed by directional finger motion or by transitory display tilting. Figures 6c and 6d may, for example, be facilitated by the direction of rotation of display 300. For example if the display 300 of Figure 6a is rotated clockwise then the Figure 6c format may result whereas a counter clockwise motion may result the format of Figure 6d. Thus by rotating the display the viewer may rapidly review a second or supplementary image without any button or touch screen contact and without disturbing the image provided to display 10.

It will be appreciated that the touch and motion interface of viewing tablet 300 can offer the remote viewer control capabilities which are different from, or absent in the user interface repertoire of a standard set top box. Furthermore these advantageous control capabilities can be translated to utilize appropriate standard set top box commands by software resident within viewing tablet 300 or by supplemental interpretive algorithms added to a standard set top box. These various advantageous arrangements allow the set top box user interface to remain visually and operationally substantially similar regardless of how the set top box guide or menu is controlled i.e. by push buttons switches, remote control commands, touch or motion commands.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for controlling a set top box comprising:
 - receiving coordinates from a touch sensing screen;
 - interpreting said coordinates for controlling said set top box,
 - 5 performing an action in accordance with said interpreted coordinates
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said performing step includes
 - 10 communicating a result of said action to said touch sensing screen
3. The method of claim 2, wherein said communicating step includes
 - 15 sending said result of said action only to said touch sensing screen.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving step includes
 - 20 acquiring said coordinates from a remotely located touch sensing screen
5. A control method for a set top box comprising:
 - 25 acquiring coordinates from a remotely located touch sensing screen,
 - interpreting said coordinates for controlling said set top box,
 - forming a cursor position in accordance with said interpreted coordinates;
 - activating a set top box function in accordance with said cursor; and,
 - communicating said activated set top box function to said remote screen.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said forming step comprises, selecting said cursor position in accordance with said coordinates occupying a predetermined range of coordinate values
- 5 7. The method of claim 5, wherein said forming step comprises, selecting a function in accordance with said cursor position.
8. A method for controlling a set top box comprising:
receiving a signal indicative of acceleration;
10 interpreting said signal as a control command;
activating a control function in accordance with said control command.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein said interpreting step comprises using a lookup table to identify said control command in accordance
15 with said signal.
10. The method of claim 8, wherein said interpreting step comprises identifying in accordance with said signal, contra directional displacement;
20 activating a control function in accordance with said identified contra directional displacement.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein said identifying step comprises detecting said contra directional displacement occurring within a time interval
25
12. The method of claim 8 wherein said determining step comprises identifying in accordance with said signal, directional displacement greater than a certain value.
- 30 13. The method of claim 8 wherein said determining step comprises detecting a direction of said directional displacement.

14. A method for control comprising:
a set top box receiving a signal representative of displacement;
determining a control function from said signal representative of
5 displacement ;
activating said control function; and,
forming a signal in accordance with said control function for
communication.
- 10 15. The method of claim 14, where in said receiving step includes
generating said signal representative of displacement responsive to movement
of a viewing tablet.
- 15 16. The method of claim 14, where in said signal forming step includes
communicating said signal responsive to said control function a viewing tablet.
17. The method of claim 14, where in said receiving step includes a signal
indicative of a touch coordinate.
- 20 18. The method of claim 17, where in said determining step includes
evaluating said signal representative of displacement and said signal indicative
of said touch coordinate and forming therefrom a control function.

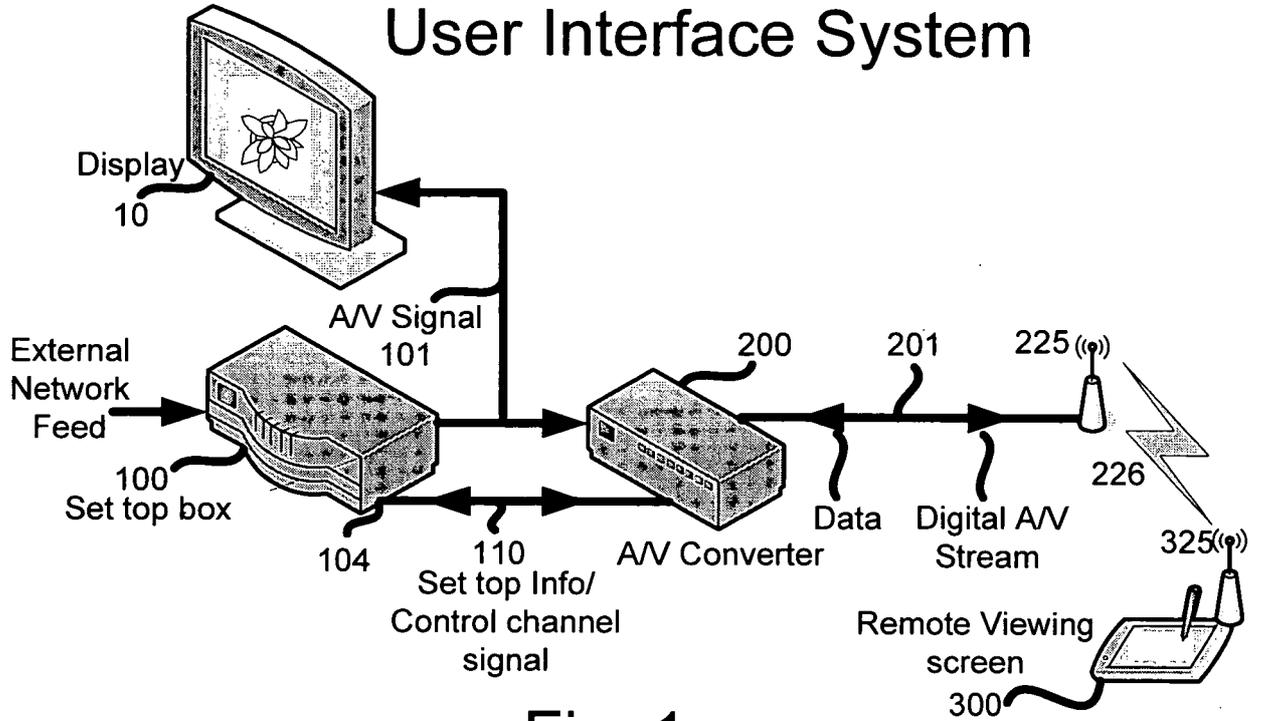


Fig. 1

Remote Viewing Tablet

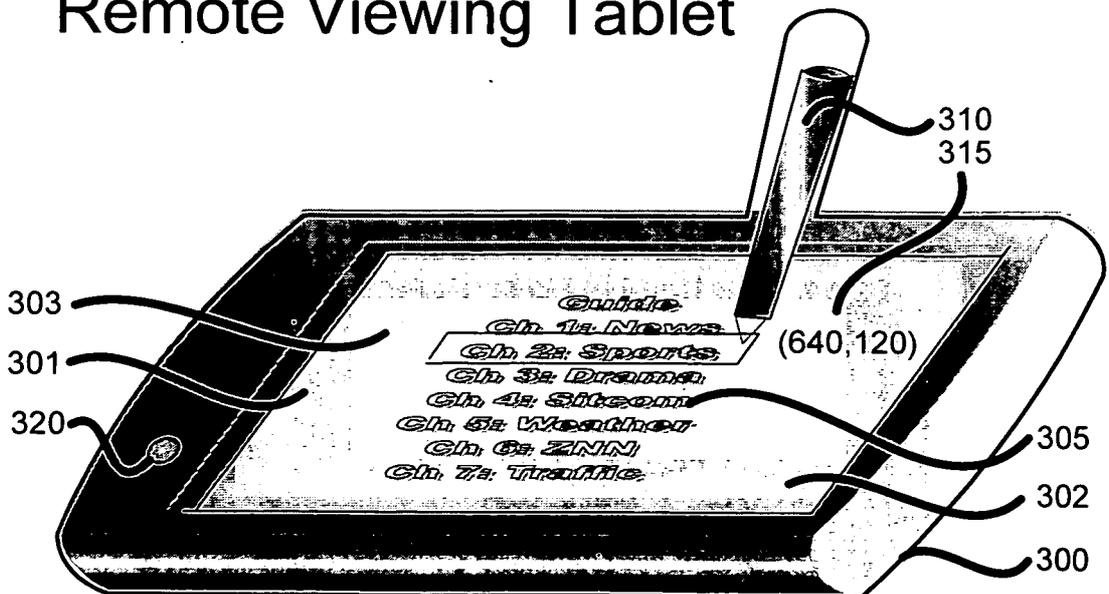


Fig. 2

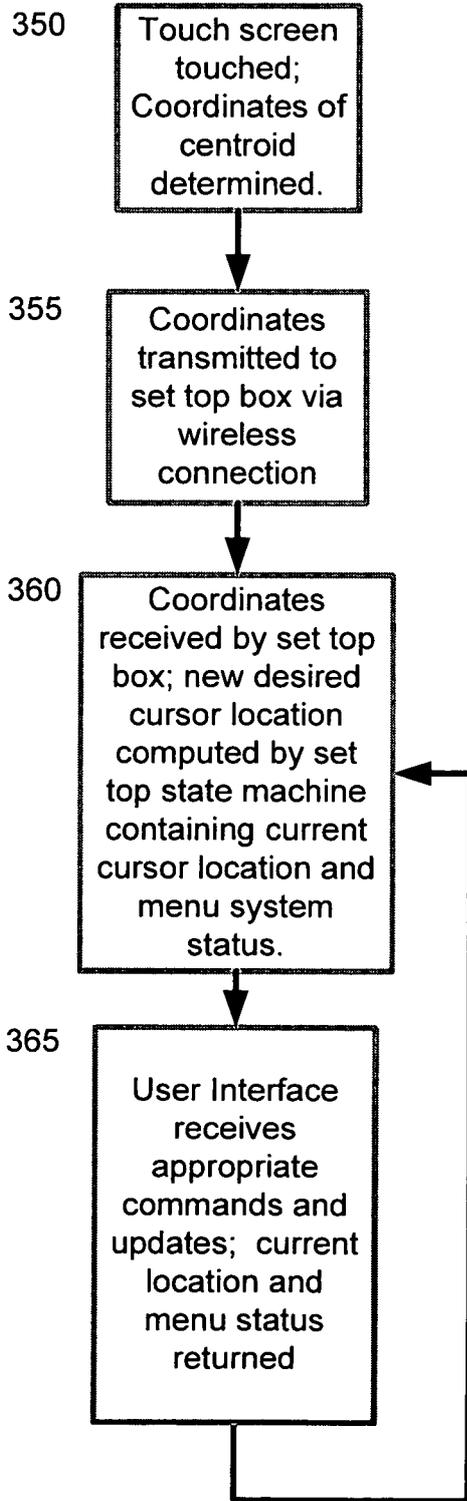


Fig. 3a

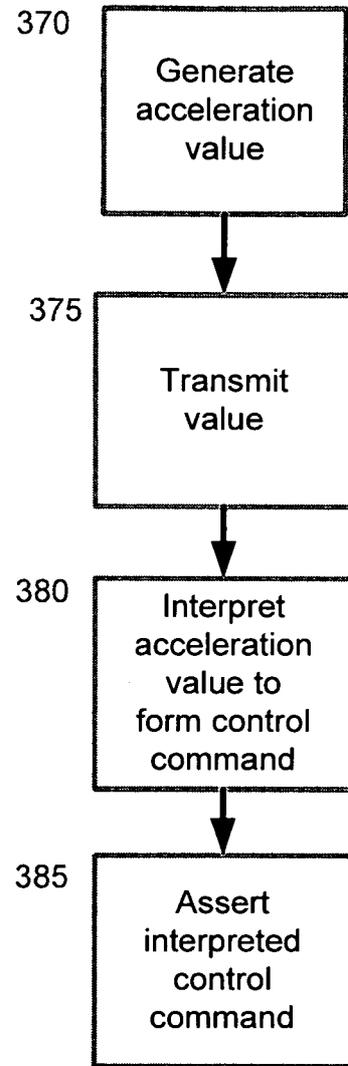


Fig. 3b

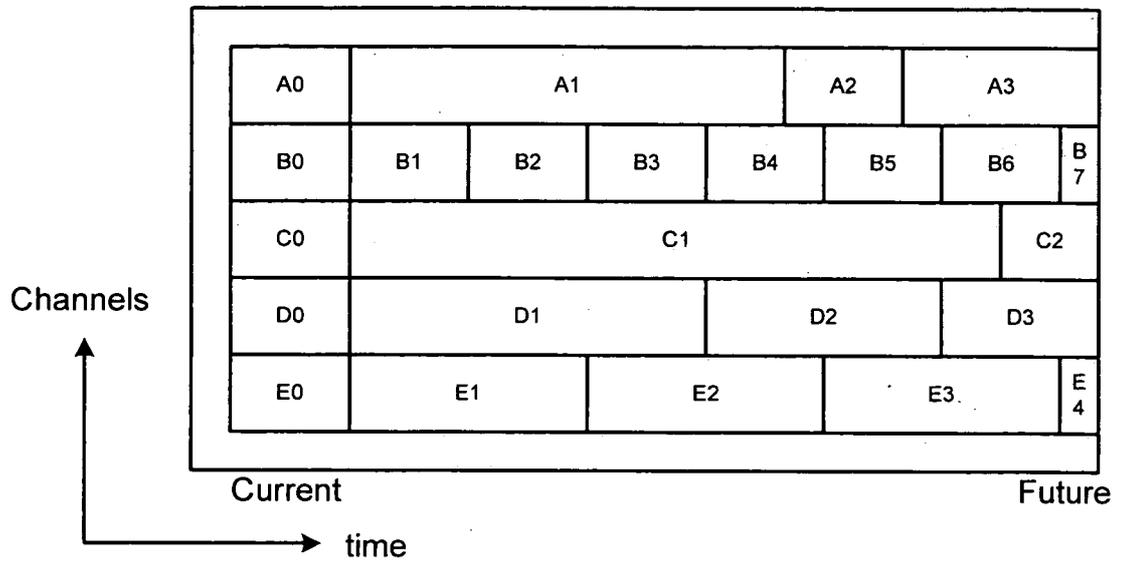


Fig. 4 Grid Guide

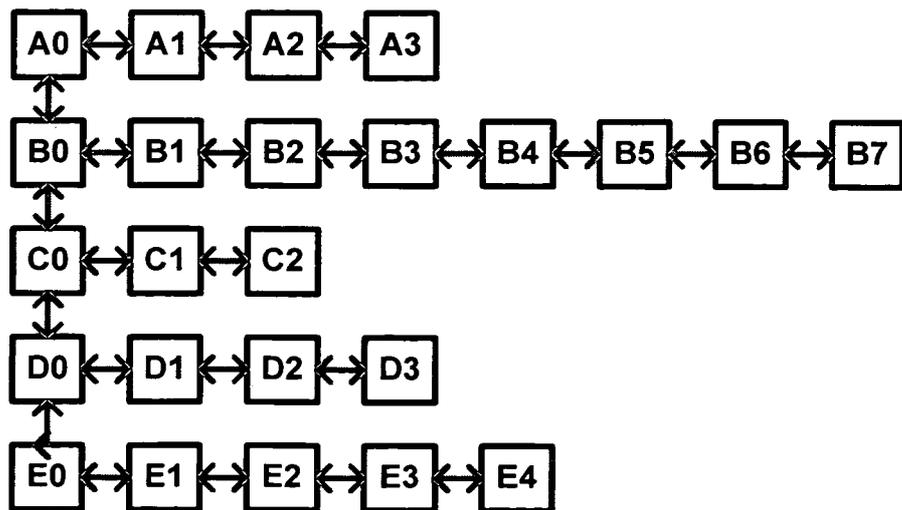


Fig. 5 Data Structure

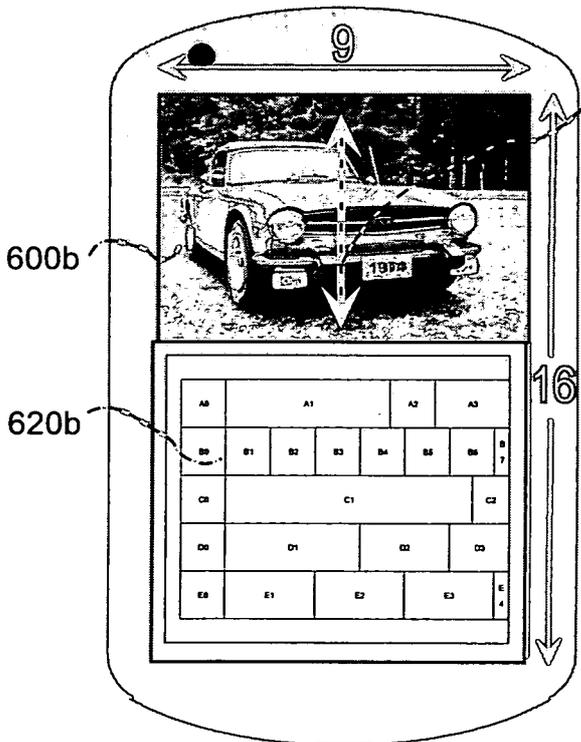
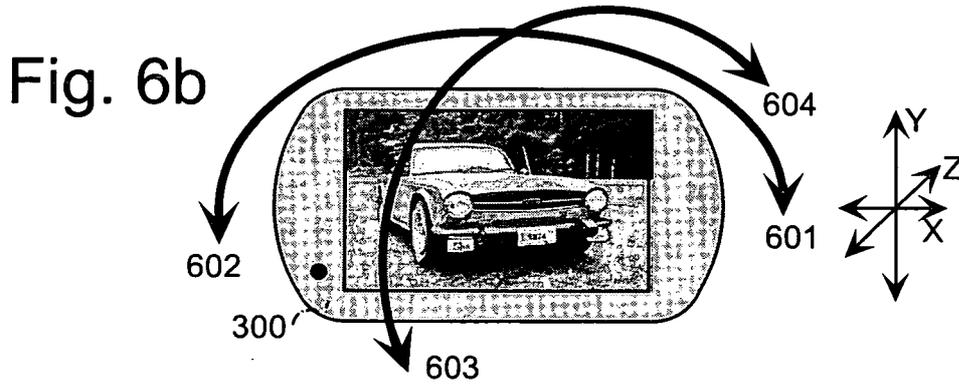
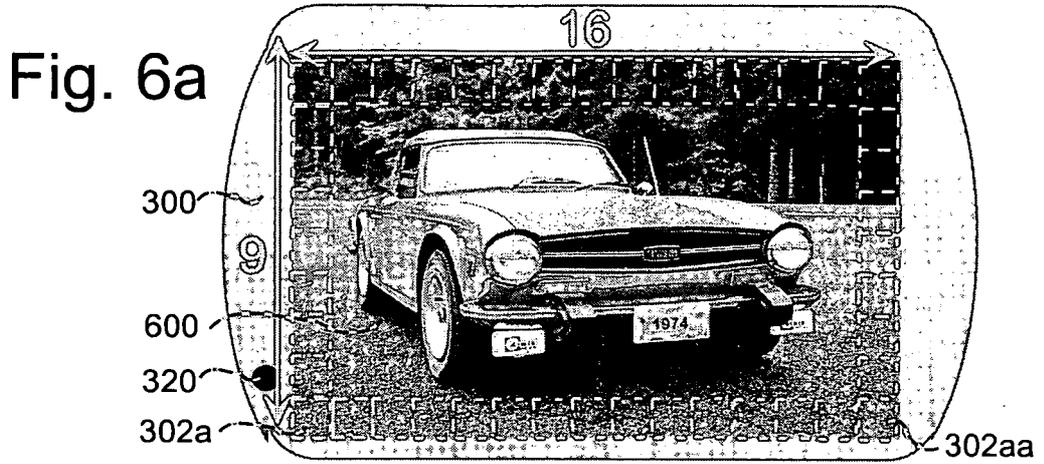


Fig. 6c

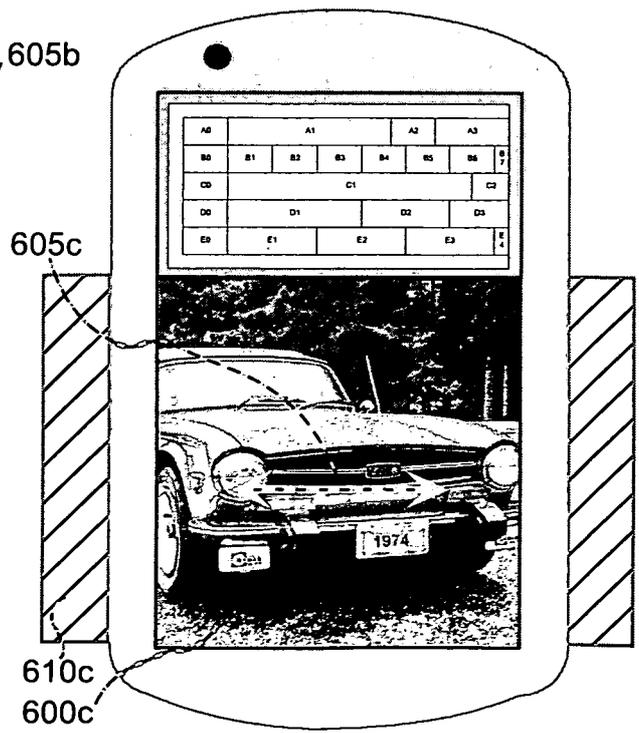


Fig. 6d

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2008/001458

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 INV. 606F3/033 H04N5/445 H04B1/20 H04N7/173

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)
G06F H04N H04B

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 practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal , WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2003/035075 A1 (BUTLER MICHELLE A [US] ET AL) 20 February 2003 (2003-02-20) the whole document	1-18
Y	WO 99/34599 A (VSIS INC [US]) 8 July 1999 U999-07-08) the whole document	1-18
Y	WO 03/085965 A (KONINKL PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NV [NL]; STAUNTON DECLAN M [IE]; SALOMONS) 16 October 2003 (2003-10-16) the whole document	1-18
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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
2 June 2008	12/06/2008

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 <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">Luckett , Paul</p>
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International application No
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