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(54) **MEDICAL INSTRUMENT WITH LOW POWER, HIGH CONTRAST DISPLAY**

MEDIZINISCHES INSTRUMENT MIT DISPLAY MIT GERINGER ENERGIE UND HOHEM KONTRAST

INSTRUMENT MEDICAL A FAIBLE PUISSANCE, ET AFFICHAGE A CONTRASTE ELEVE

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Description

[0001] This invention relates to medical instruments and, in particular, to patient monitoring and resuscitation instruments for use in a variety of ambient lighting conditions. The present invention also relates to a method of operating a portable patient monitor/defibrillator instrument.

[0002] Patient monitors and defibrillators are in widespread use in hospitals and by emergency medical personnel for monitoring the vital signs of patients and responding thereto as, for instance, by defibrillating ventricular fibrillation. In the past these monitors have been of substantial size and weight and employed a cathode ray tube monitor to display patient vital signs such as heartbeat, respiration, blood oxygen, and other parameters of bodily functions. Today these monitors are becoming smaller and lighter and, in many instances, are designed for portability. This portability enables the monitors to be used in their conventional settings in emergency rooms and intensive care units, and also enables them to be hung on a bedrail as a patient is moved from one location in a hospital to another. It also enables the monitors and defibrillators to be used in ambulances and other emergency vehicles, and even to be used at the site of an accident or other medical emergency. Such a portable instrument can even be placed in use out-of-doors, enabling emergency personnel to immediately begin monitoring a patient's vital signs and administering life-saving treatments afforded by the instrument.

[0003] Patient monitors and defibrillators typically include a display in which the aforementioned patient vital signs are graphically and numerically displayed. The portability of the instrument can mean that the display must be viewed in a wide range of ambient lighting conditions. For example, the instrument may at times be used in a dimly lighted lab or clinic where ambient lighting is kept low to optimally view the images on diagnostic imaging equipment. At other times a portable instrument may be used in bright sunlight. Regardless of the ambient lighting conditions the monitor display must be easy to view against brightly or dimly lighted backgrounds. In sunlight, where the ambient light reduces the contrast and apparent brightness of the display, the immediate inclination of a user is to turn up the display brightness or contrast. However, such higher display drive levels can require more power and decrease the operating time of the battery-powered instrument. Accordingly it is desirable to enable the display to be viewed under varying lighting conditions but without resorting to a mode of operation which will excessively reduce the battery operating time.

[0004] US Patent No. 5,829,878 issued to Micro Idea Instruments, Ltd., Taipei, Taiwan, discloses a digital fever thermometer that includes a backlit LCD display, which may act as a non-audible annunciator indicating that a stable temperature has been achieved. The digital fever thermometer includes a photo detector and a single mode-select switch to determine when the backlight should be enabled. The operation of a backlight typically is particularly power consuming.

[0005] In accordance with the principles of the present invention, a patient monitor/defibrillator is provided with a display that will selectively increase the contrast of displayed numerical and graphical information without excessively reducing battery life. This is provided by a display which displays brightly colored numbers and traces against a dark background in dimly lighted or normal room lighted environments. When the monitor is used is sunlight or in brightly lighted conditions, the display pixels are remapped to display dark numbers and traces against a bright background. While such a remapping of the display would seem out-of-place - and actually uncomfortable - at normal indoor light levels, the remapping provides an acceptable display contrast under brightly lighted conditions. The remapping can avoid the need to compensate for bright ambient lighting by significantly increasing the power supplied to the display. In particular, , the display is remapped from brightly colored numbers and traces against a black or gray background to dark grey or green traces and numbers against a yellow or orange background, affording a contrast improvement in bright daylight operation without adjustment of the brightness or contrast control of the display.

[0006] In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 illustrates in block diagram form a portable patient monitor/defibrillator constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

FIGURE 2 illustrates a patient monitor/defibrillator display of the present invention with colored numbers and traces against black and gray backgrounds for room lighted operating conditions.

FIGURE 3 illustrates the patient monitor/defibrillator display of FIGURE 2 when remapped for outdoor display of black numbers and traces against a yellow background.

FIGURES 4a and 4b illustrate the menu of a patient monitor/defibrillator constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention showing the selection of normal and high contrast operating modes.

FIGURE 5 illustrates in block diagram form a process for switching between normal and high contrast operating modes in response to the menu settings of FIGURE 4A and 4B.

[0007] Referring first to FIGURE 1, a patient monitor/defibrillator constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention is shown in block diagram form. The instrument shown in FIGURE 1 is capable of performing defibrillation of a patient who is experiencing ventricular fibrillation. It is also capable of performing ECG monitoring including the cardiac monitoring necessary for automatic defibrillation decision-making. The illustrated monitor is also capable of SpO_2 oxygen sensing, non-

invasive blood pressure monitoring, and end tidal CO_2 monitoring. Other functions such as invasive blood pressure monitoring and patient temperature monitoring may also be found in such a multifunctional instrument. The monitor has a plurality of patient front-ends, which are input circuitry for the sensors attached to the patient. This circuitry includes conventional sensing and amplification circuitry for ECG electrodes, for optical oxygen sensors, for pressure sensing and for carbon dioxide sensing, among others. The information received by the patient sensors and processed by the front-end circuitry 10 is digitized by front-end A/D converters 12. The digitized information is coupled to processing circuitry of the instrument by a communications bus 60 which connects data between the various modules of the instrument.

[0008] The instrument includes high voltage circuitry 16 for defibrillator operation. The high voltage circuitry produces the high voltage pulse necessary for defibrillation which is connected at the appropriate time by switching logic 14 to defibrillator electrodes coupled to the patient. This circuitry provides the high voltage shock needed to disrupt the ventricular fibrillation and returns the heart to a normal rhythm. The shock level and waveform delivered for defibrillation can be automatically calculated by a processor in the monitor or can be manually set by an experienced medical technician or physician.

[0009] Power for the modules within the instrument is distributed by power handling circuits 20. The power handling circuits 20 will distribute power from batteries 22, from an AC supply 24, or from a DC supply 26. The AC and DC supplies are also coupled to circuitry which charges the batteries when the monitor is powered from these external power sources.

[0010] The information obtained by the instrument may be sent to other instruments or locations by communications circuitry 30. This may include a network connection, an RS232 connection, or a wireless connection (e.g. Bluetooth, WiFi or infrared, etc.).

[0011] The instrument is operated and adjusted by means of a keypad and controls 32. In a constructed embodiment the keypad is a membrane keypad providing integrity against environmental conditions. Controls such as an on/off switch, power level and shock delivery controls for defibrillation, a printer, and other functions may also be provided.

[0012] The monitor is operated under control of a central processing unit (CPU) 40. The CPU runs software stored on a read-only memory (ROM) 38. Flash ROM is also provided for the control of feature setups and new or special capabilities such as waveform information. Removable memory 36 is provided for storage of information generated during a patient episode such a ventricular fibrillation. Patient information such as cardiac waveforms before and after defibrillation are also stored on the removable memory 36, which can be removed and given to a subsequent care-giver for review, record-keeping, and subsequent diagnosis. The removable memory 36 could also record voice information from a care-giver speaking into a microphone 48.

[0013] Beepers 34 are used to drive a solid-state sound source that produces short "chirping" sounds. These sounds indicate that the instrument's resident self-test has detected a low battery level or a malfunction in a patient-critical circuit group. There is also a dedicated display on the front of the instrument that presents a large, flashing, red X to indicate a low battery level or a large, fixed, red X to identify a circuit failure.

[0014] Tones 46 are produced by the software and then used to drive the speaker 42. This capability is used during certain monitoring functions such as a short tone in response to each heart cycle. Combinations of tones are used to issue audible alerts and alarms when a patient's vital measurements fall outside the alarm limits selected.

[0015] The speaker 42 can reproduce pre-recorded voice instructions and information stored and reproduced from voice out circuitry 44.

[0016] In accordance with the principles of the present invention a display 50 is provided for the display of patient parameters and waveforms as discussed more particularly below. The information to be displayed is provided to a display controller 52 which provides the necessary drive signals for display of the information on the display. In a constructed embodiment the display is a color LCD display, although other types of display such as a CRT display may be used in a particular embodiment. The display controller 52 displays information in accordance with a color map provided by color map store 54. In a constructed embodiment the color map is stored in tabular form. In other embodiments the color map may be stored as an algorithm or other programmed information. In the constructed embodiment the display information is coupled to the display with a color code by which the display controller selects the pixels for display of the desired information and background colors, as explained more fully below.

[0017] FIGURE 2 illustrates the display 70 of a monitor constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention during normal operation as might be found inside a hospital. Under such room light conditions the background of the display 70 is black, or gray as indicated by reference numeral 78. The graphical information at the very top of the display 70 is displayed in which against the black background. To readily distinguish and associate the different types of information displayed, the numerical and graphical information is displayed in color. For instance the numerical heart rate 80 and the heart traces below as indicated at 72 are displayed in green. The numerical CO_2 reading of 28 and the CO_2 trace indicated at 74 are displayed in light blue. The plethysmograph trace 76 is displayed in purple. Such a color display against a black or gray background has been found to be pleasing to view in an indoors environment where ambient light conditions are not high.

[0018] FIGURE 3 illustrates the information of FIGURE 2 when displayed in a high contrast display 80 for brightly

lighted or sunlight conditions in accordance with the present invention. In FIGURE 3 the display colors have all been remapped so that the background color 86 is yellow instead of black. In the illustrated embodiment some of the rows of information such as that indicated at 88 are contrasted from other rows by being offset by a slightly grayed yellow color. The graphical information 82 at the top of the display and the traces and numbers in other areas of the display are all displayed in black. While this display appearance might be irritating and seem out of place indoors, it has been found to convey a satisfactory and highly contrasted and readable display in sunlight and brightly lighted conditions. Other contrasting color combinations such as dark gray or green against an orange background may also be suitable for the high contrast display 80.

[0019] FIGURES 4a and 4b illustrate the selection of the normal and high contrast viewing modes in a constructed embodiment of the present invention. The user depresses a "Menu" button on the keypad which displays a pop-up menu 90 as shown in FIGURE 4a. The user then depresses the "up" or "down" arrow buttons to highlight the "High Contrast On" menu row 92 in Figure 4a. When the "Enter" button is depressed, the menu disappears, and the display is remapped to the high contrast mode shown in Figure 3. When the user desires to return to the normal display mode the "Menu" button is depressed again, the arrow buttons are used if necessary to highlight the "High Contrast Off" menu row 94 as shown in FIGURE 4b. When the "Enter" button is depressed, the menu disappears and the display is remapped to the conventional format shown in Figure 2.

[0020] FIGURE 5 illustrates in greater detail a process for changing the display mode. The user selects the new display mode as shown by menu pick 102. The user interface software 100 responds to this selection by setting a new color map 106 from the normal light level and bright light level color maps stored in the color map store 54. A new graphics request is issued to a graphics library 104 which provides new display commands for the new color map to the display controller 52. The newly selected color map is loaded into the active color map buffer 108, making the colors of the new map available to the display controller. The display controller then commands the display 50 to display the currently displayed information in accordance with the new color map.

[0021] FIGURE 5 illustrates two other alternative implementations of the present invention. Instead of selecting the display map from a pop-up menu as shown in FIGURES 4a and 4b, the keypad may have a dedicated key 110 for changing the display contrast. Each time the user depresses the dedicated key, a key handler 112 responds by toggling the display to the other display mode. Another alternative is to have an ambient light sensor 120 on the instrument which senses the ambient light level in which the monitor is operating. The user interface software responds to a change in light level above or below a preset or user adjustable threshold or thresholds by changing the display automatically. In a constructed embodiment the user may be given a choice of automatic or manual selection of the display mode.

Claims

1. A patient monitoring instrument which may be operated in different ambient lighting conditions comprising:

circuitry (10) which produces a measure of one or more patient bodily functions;
a color LCD (p.6 1.31) display (50), coupled to the circuitry (10), which displays the bodily function measure in numeric or graphical form;
a user control (102; 110) for selecting one of a plurality of color (p. 61.35) maps of different contrasting color combinations (p. 71.8, p. 71. 25-29, p. 71. 32-34, p. 81.11; p. 8. 1.5-p.91.2);
a display controller (52), coupled to the display (50) and responsive to the user control (102; 110), for setting the display (50) to display the bodily function measure in accordance with a selected color map,
wherein one of the color maps acts to cause the display of a brightly colored (p. 2 1. 28) bodily function measure against a black or gray background, and another of the color maps acts to cause the display of a dark gray or green bodily function measure against a yellow or an orange background.

2. The patient monitoring instrument of Claim 1, wherein the user control (102; 110) comprises a menu pick (102) on the display (50).

3. The patient monitoring instrument of Claim 1, wherein the user control (102; 110) comprises a dedicated button (110) for display contrast control.

4. The patient monitoring instrument of Claim 1, wherein the color map is stored in the instrument in tabular form.

5. The patient monitoring instrument of Claim 1, wherein the color map is stored in the instrument in algorithmic form.

6. The patient monitoring instrument of Claim 1, further comprising a light sensor (120), coupled to the display controller (52), and responsive to ambient light.

7. The patient monitoring instrument of Claim 1, further comprising a battery (22) coupled to the display (50) for powering the display.

8. A method for operating a portable patient monitor/

defibrillator instrument comprising:

locating the instrument in an outdoor setting;
changing the display contrast to one which displays numeric or graphical information in dark gray or green against a yellow or orange background, or
locating the instrument in an indoor setting;
changing the display contrast to one which displays numeric or graphical information in a bright color against a black or gray background.

Patentansprüche

1. Patientenüberwachungsinstrument, das unter verschiedenen Umgebungslichtbedingungen betrieben werden kann und Folgendes umfasst:

Schaltungen (10), die einen Messwert für eine oder mehrere Körperfunktionen des Patienten erzeugen;
ein farbiges LCD-Display (p. 6 1. 31) (50), das mit den Schaltungen (10) verbunden ist und die Messwerte für die Körperfunktionen in numerischer oder grafischer Form anzeigt;
ein Bedienelement (102; 110) zum Auswählen von einer aus einer Vielzahl von Farbkarten (p. 6 1.35) mit verschiedenen kontrastierenden Farbkombinationen (p. 7 1. 8, p. 71. 25-29, p. 7 1. 32-34, p. 81.11; p. 8. 1.5-p.9 1.2);
eine Display-Steuereinheit (52), die mit dem Display (50) verbunden ist und auf das Bedienelement (102; 110) reagiert, um das Display (50) so einzustellen, dass die Messwerte für die Körperfunktionen gemäß einer ausgewählten Farbkarte angezeigt werden,
wobei eine der Farbkarten agiert, um die Anzeige eines hellfarbigen (p. 2 1. 28) Messwerts einer Körperfunktion auf einem schwarzen oder grauen Hintergrund zu veranlassen, und eine andere der Farbkarten agiert, um die Anzeige eines dunkelgrauen oder grünen Messwerts einer Körperfunktion auf einem gelben oder einem orangefarbenem Hintergrund zu veranlassen.

2. Patientenüberwachungsinstrument nach Anspruch 1, wobei das Bedienelement (102; 110) eine Menüauswahl (102) auf dem Display (50) umfasst.

3. Patientenüberwachungsinstrument nach Anspruch 1, wobei das Bedienelement (102; 110) eine spezielle Taste (110) zur Steuerung des Anzeigekontrasts umfasst.

4. Patientenüberwachungsinstrument nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Farbkarte in Tabellenform in dem Instrument gespeichert ist.

5. Patientenüberwachungsinstrument nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Farbkarte in algorithmischer Form in dem Instrument gespeichert ist.

6. Patientenüberwachungsinstrument nach Anspruch 1, weiterhin mit einem Lichtsensor (120), der mit der Display-Steuereinheit (52) gekoppelt ist und auf Umgebungslicht reagiert.

7. Patientenüberwachungsinstrument nach Anspruch 1, weiterhin mit einer Batterie (22), die mit dem Display (50) gekoppelt ist, um das Display mit Energie zu versorgen.

8. Verfahren zum Betreiben eines tragbaren Patientenmonitors/Defibrillator-Instruments, wobei das Verfahren Folgendes umfasst:

Anordnen des Instruments in einem Außenbereich;
Wechseln des Anzeigekontrasts auf einen, der numerische oder grafische Informationen in Dunkelgrau oder Grün auf einem gelben oder orangefarbenem Hintergrund anzeigt, oder
Anordnen des Instruments in einem Innenbereich;
Wechseln des Anzeigekontrasts auf einen, der numerische oder grafische Informationen in einer hellen Farbe auf schwarzem oder grauem Hintergrund anzeigt.

Revendications

1. Instrument de surveillance de patient qui peut être mis en fonctionnement dans des conditions différentes d'éclairage ambiant, comprenant :

une circuiterie (10) qui produit une mesure d'une ou de plusieurs fonctions corporelles de patient ;
un affichage LCD couleur (p.6, 1.31) (50), couplé à la circuiterie (10), qui affiche la mesure de fonction corporelle sous forme numérique ou graphique ;
une commande utilisateur (102 ; 110) pour sélectionner une parmi une pluralité de tables de couleurs (p. 6, 1. 35) d'associations différentes de couleurs de contraste (p.7, 1.8 ; p.7, 1.25 à 29 ; p.7, 1.32 à 34 ; p.8, 1.11 ; p.8, 1.5 à p.9, 1.2) ;
un dispositif de commande d'affichage (52), couplé à l'affichage (50) et répondant à la commande utilisateur (102 ; 110), pour régler l'affichage (50) pour afficher la mesure de fonction corporelle conformément à une table sélectionnée de couleurs,
dans lequel une des tables de couleurs agit pour entraîner l'affichage d'une mesure de fonction

corporelle de couleur vive (p. 2, 1. 28) contre un arrière-plan noir ou gris, et une autre des tables de couleurs agit pour entraîner l'affichage d'une mesure de fonction corporelle en gris foncé ou en vert contre un arrière-plan jaune ou orange.

2. Instrument de surveillance de patient selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la commande utilisateur (102 ; 110) comprend une sélection de menu (102) sur l'affichage (50).

3. Instrument de surveillance de patient selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la commande utilisateur (102 ; 110) comprend un bouton dédié (110) pour la commande de contraste d'affichage.

4. Instrument de surveillance de patient selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la table de couleurs est stockée dans l'instrument sous forme tubulaire.

5. Instrument de surveillance de patient selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la table de couleurs est stockée dans l'instrument sous forme algorithmique.

6. Instrument de surveillance de patient selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre un capteur de lumière (120), couplé au dispositif de commande d'affichage (52), et répondant à la lumière ambiante.

7. Instrument de surveillance de patient selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre une batterie (22) couplée à l'affichage (50) pour alimenter l'affichage.

8. Procédé de fonctionnement d'un instrument portable de surveillance de patient/défibrillateur, comprenant les étapes consistant à :

positionner l'instrument dans un environnement extérieur ;
changer le contraste d'affichage à un contraste d'affichage qui affiche des informations numériques ou graphiques en gris foncé ou en vert contre un arrière-plan jaune ou orange, ou
positionner l'instrument dans un environnement intérieur ;
changer le contraste d'affichage à un contraste d'affichage qui affiche des informations numériques ou graphiques en une couleur vive contre un arrière-plan noir ou gris.

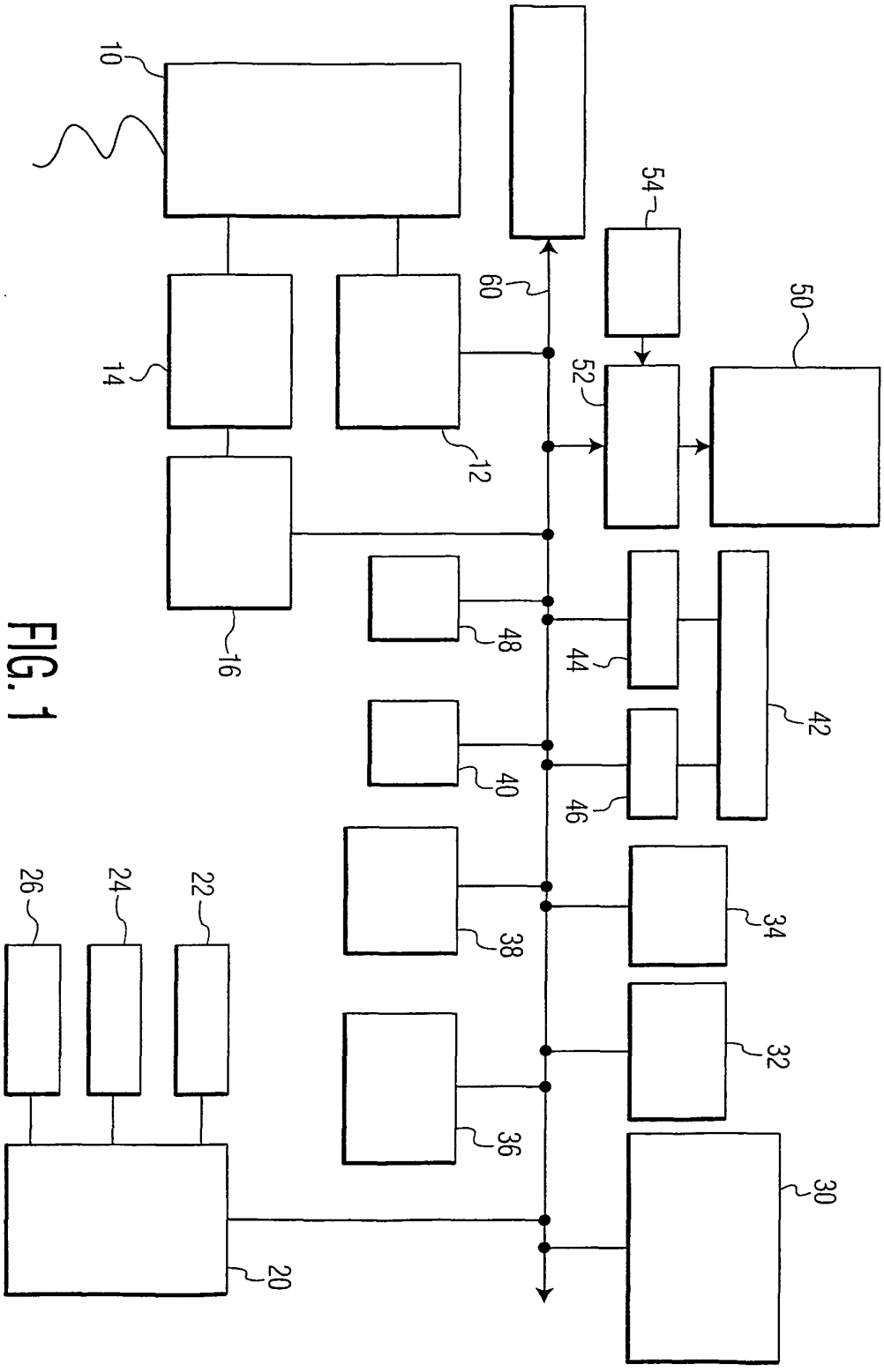
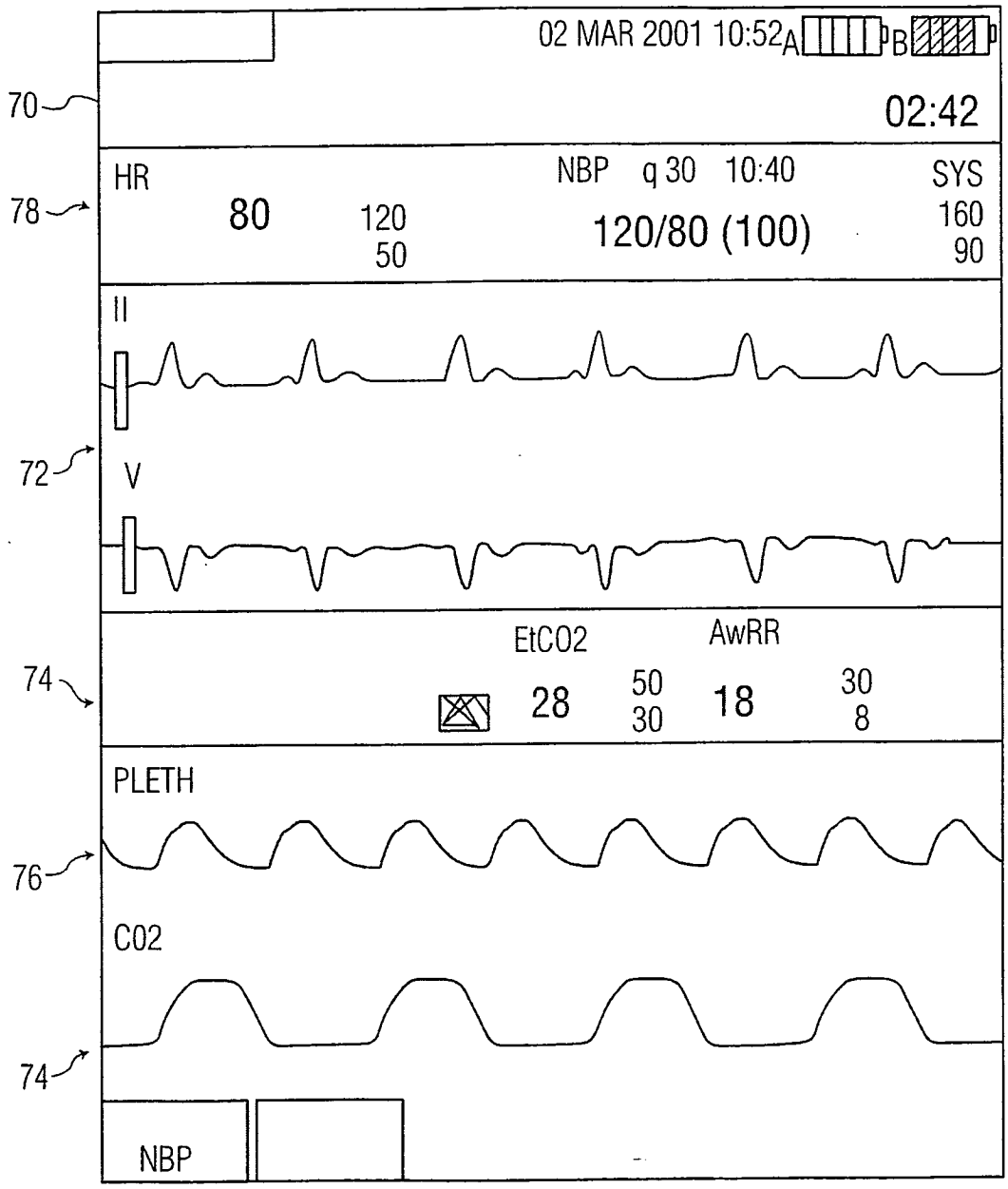


FIG. 1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SYS
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80
120
50
120/80 (100)
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90
II
72
V
EtCO2
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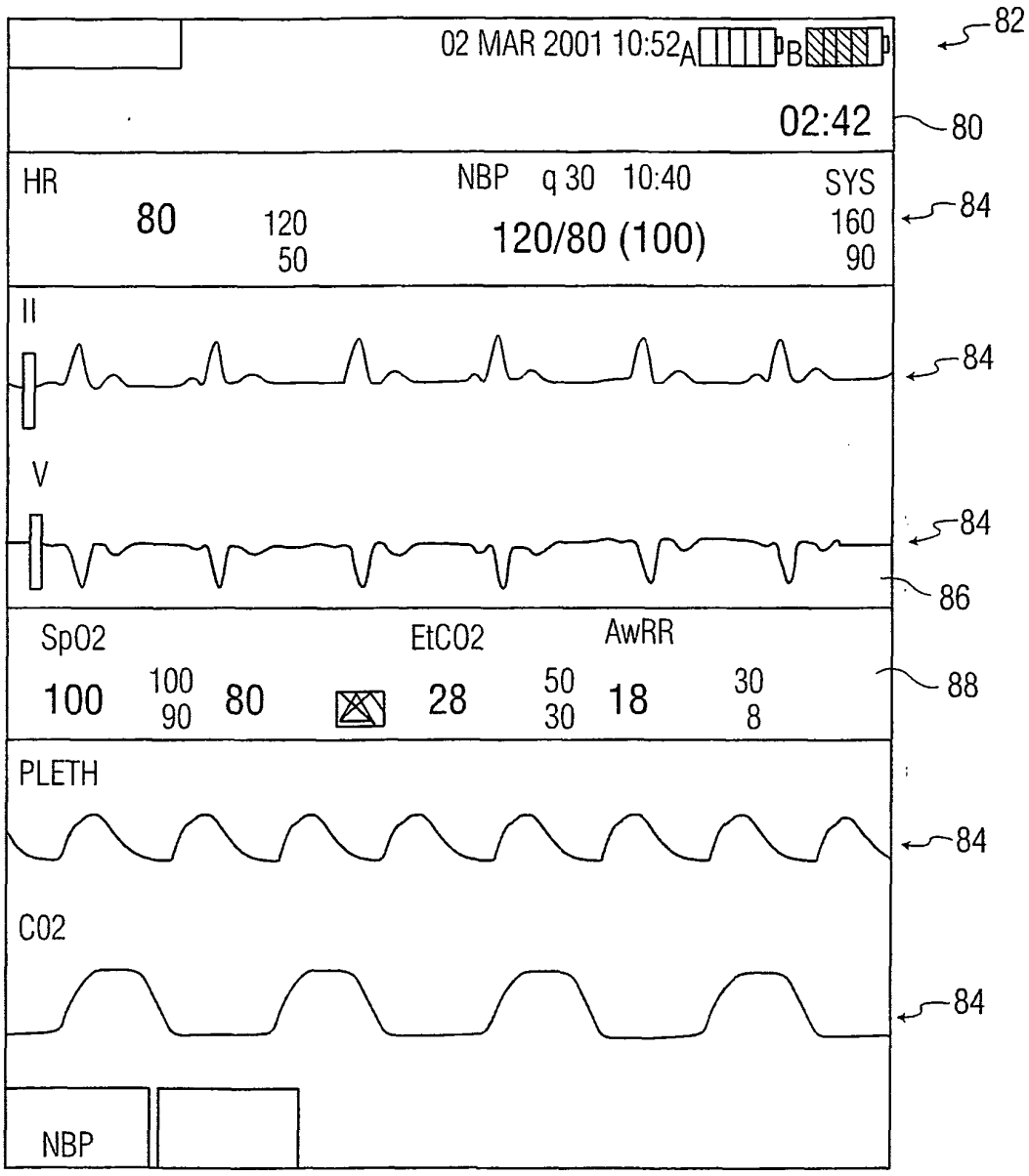
74
28
50
30
18
30
8
PLETH
76
CO2
74
NBP

FIG. 2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100
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NBP

FIG. 3

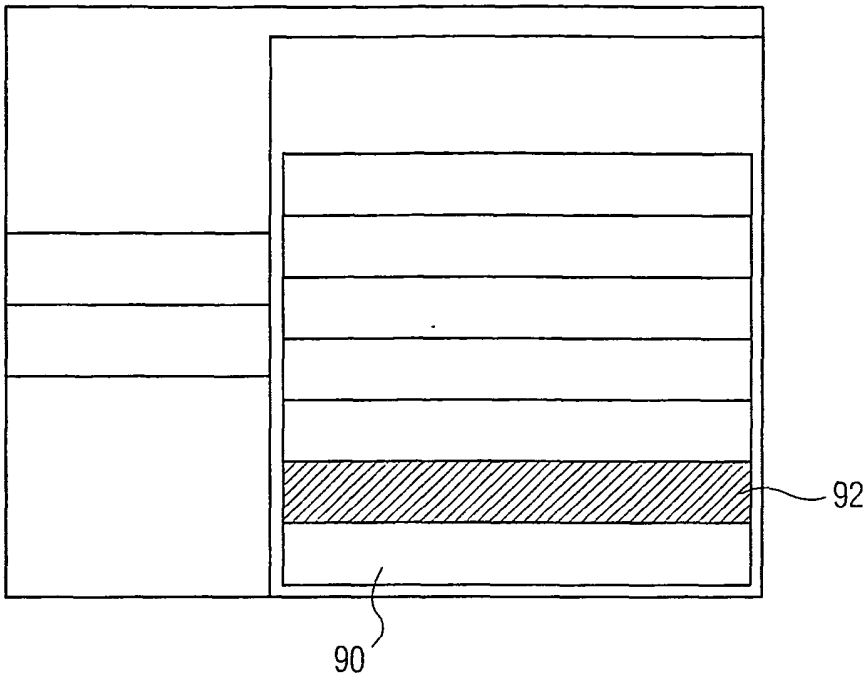

FIG. 4A

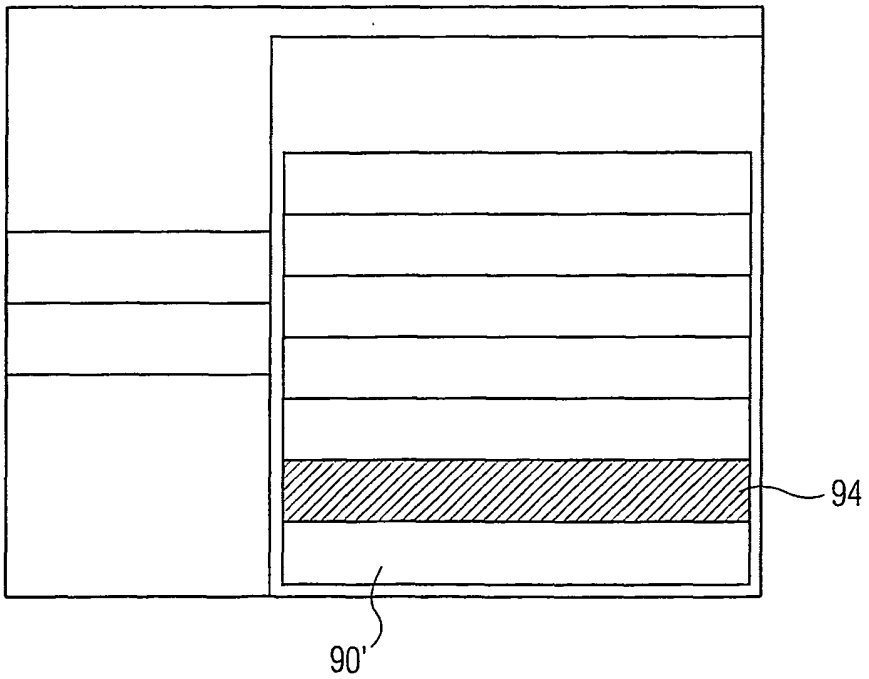

FIG. 4B

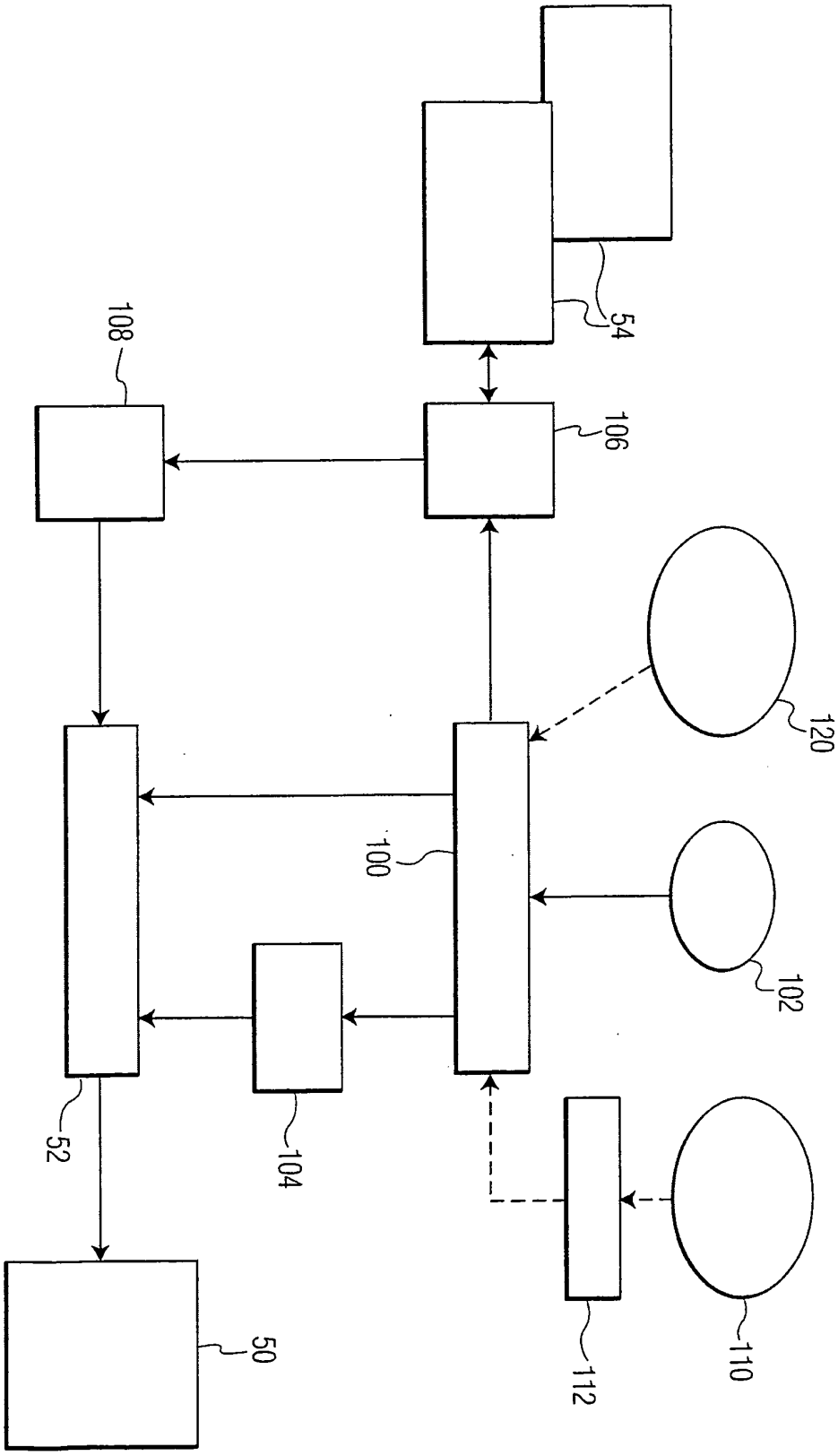

FIG. 5

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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Patent documents cited in the description

- US 5829878 A **[0004]**

专利名称(译)	医疗仪器具有低功率，高对比度显示		
公开(公告)号	EP1761161B1	公开(公告)日	2011-10-19
申请号	EP2005744770	申请日	2005-06-06
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	皇家飞利浦电子股份有限公司		
申请(专利权)人(译)	皇家飞利浦电子N.V.		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	皇家飞利浦电子N.V.		
[标]发明人	PARNAGIAN EDWARD C		
发明人	PARNAGIAN, EDWARD, C.		
IPC分类号	A61N1/39 A61B5/00 G09G3/00 G09G5/00		
CPC分类号	G09G5/02 A61B5/0205 A61B5/021 A61B5/0402 A61B5/044 A61B5/046 A61B5/0836 A61B5/145 A61B5/742 A61B5/7445 A61B2560/0209 A61N1/37247 A61N1/3968 G06T11/001 G09G3/3611 G09G2320/0606 G09G2320/0626 G09G2320/066 G09G2320/0666 G09G2330/021 G09G2340/14 G09G2360/144 H04N1/6058 Y10S128/92		
优先权	60/582613 2004-06-24 US		
其他公开文献	EP1761161A1		
外部链接	Espacenet		

摘要(译)

患者监测/除颤仪器以数字形式或以图形波形迹线显示患者生命体征。在正常室内照明条件下，数字和波形信息在黑色或灰色背景下以彩色显示。当患者监视器在室外或在强光下操作时，用户可以选择以高对比度方式显示患者生命体征信息的颜色图，例如针对诸如黄色的明亮背景的黑色数字或波形信息。已经发现高对比度显示器虽然在大多数室内环境中令人讨厌，但是在不需要增加显示器功率的情况下，可以舒适且有效地在阳光下显示所监视的信息。

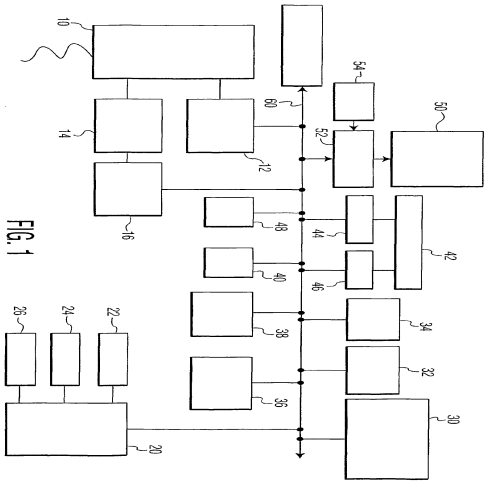

FIG. 1