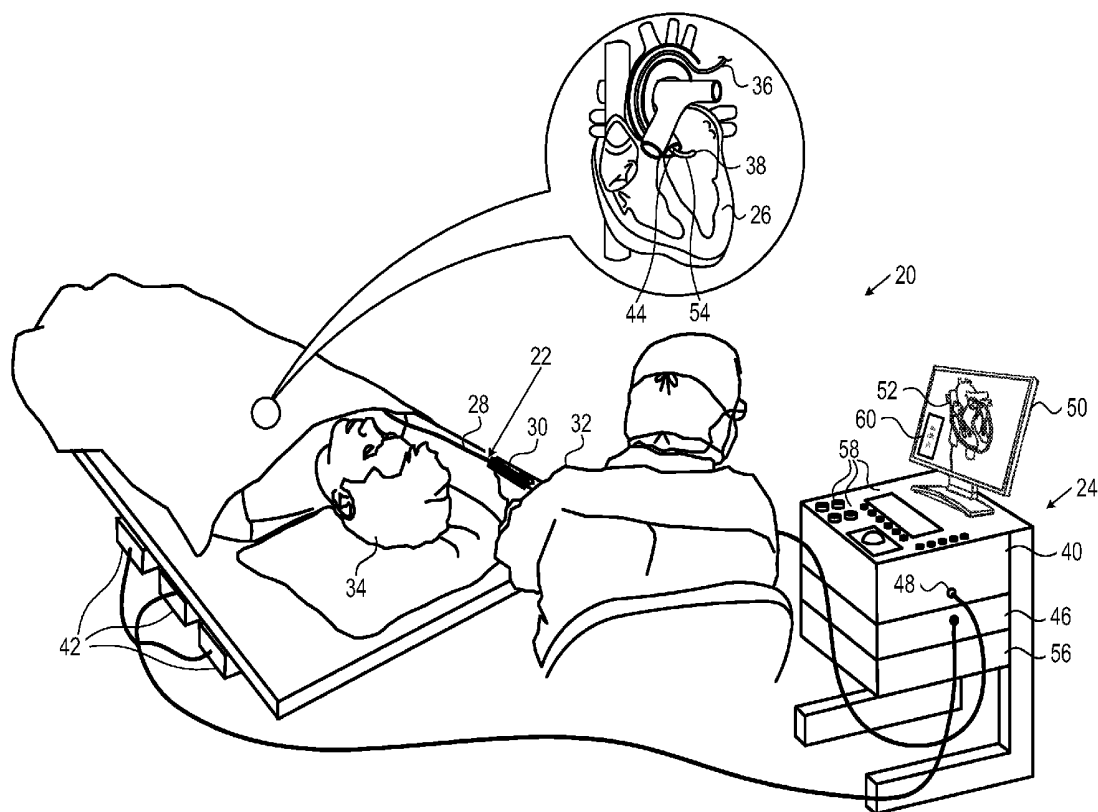


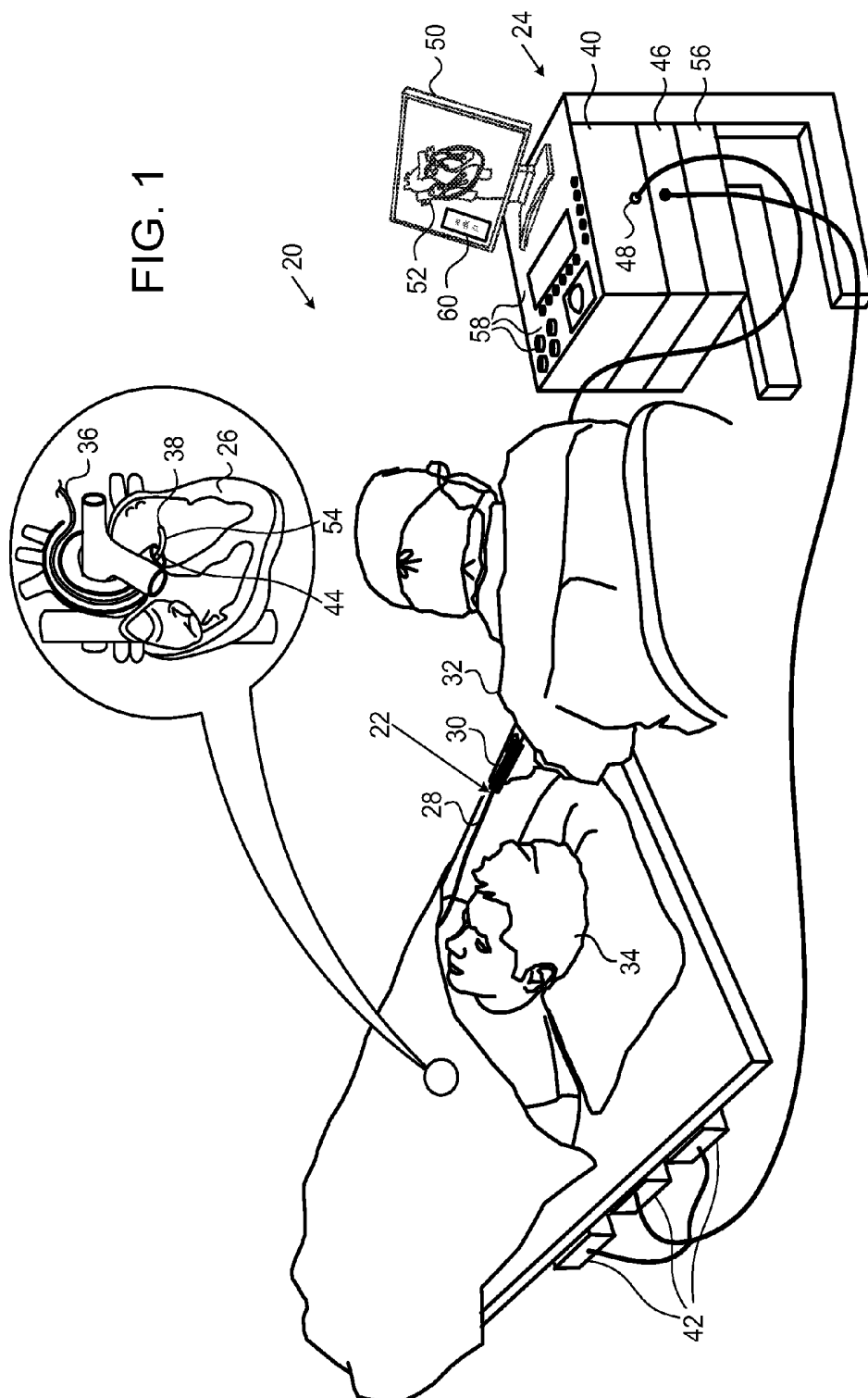


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Krupnik et al.(10) **Pub. No.: US 2014/0221768 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Aug. 7, 2014**(54) **OPERATOR CONTROLLED MIXED
MODALITY FEEDBACK**(71) Applicant: **BIOSENSE WEBSTER (ISRAEL),
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(2013.01)USPC **600/301**(57) **ABSTRACT**

Apparatus, including a flexible insertion tube having a distal end for insertion into a body cavity, a first sensor in the distal end configured to acquire a first signal from the cavity during a medical procedure, and a second sensor in the distal end configured to acquire a second signal from the cavity during the procedure. The apparatus also includes a display, and a processor configured to present, on the display, first and second measurements corresponding to the first and second signals, and to accept an input selecting one of the presented measurements so as to generate a selected measurement. The apparatus additionally includes a handle coupled to the tube's proximal end, and a haptic feedback device attached to the handle configured to provide, under direction of the processor, a tactile feedback in response to the selected measurement while deemphasizing a presentation of the selected measurement.





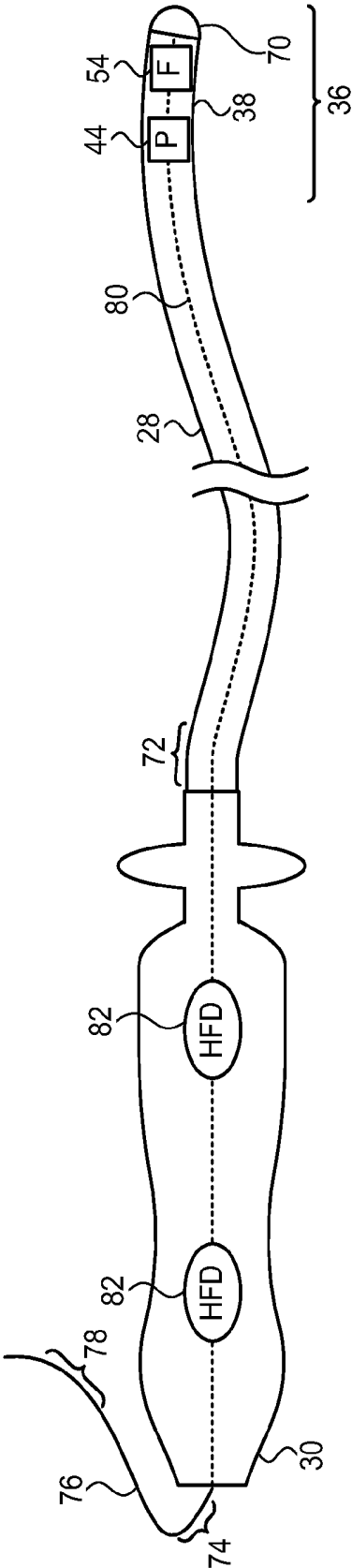


FIG. 2

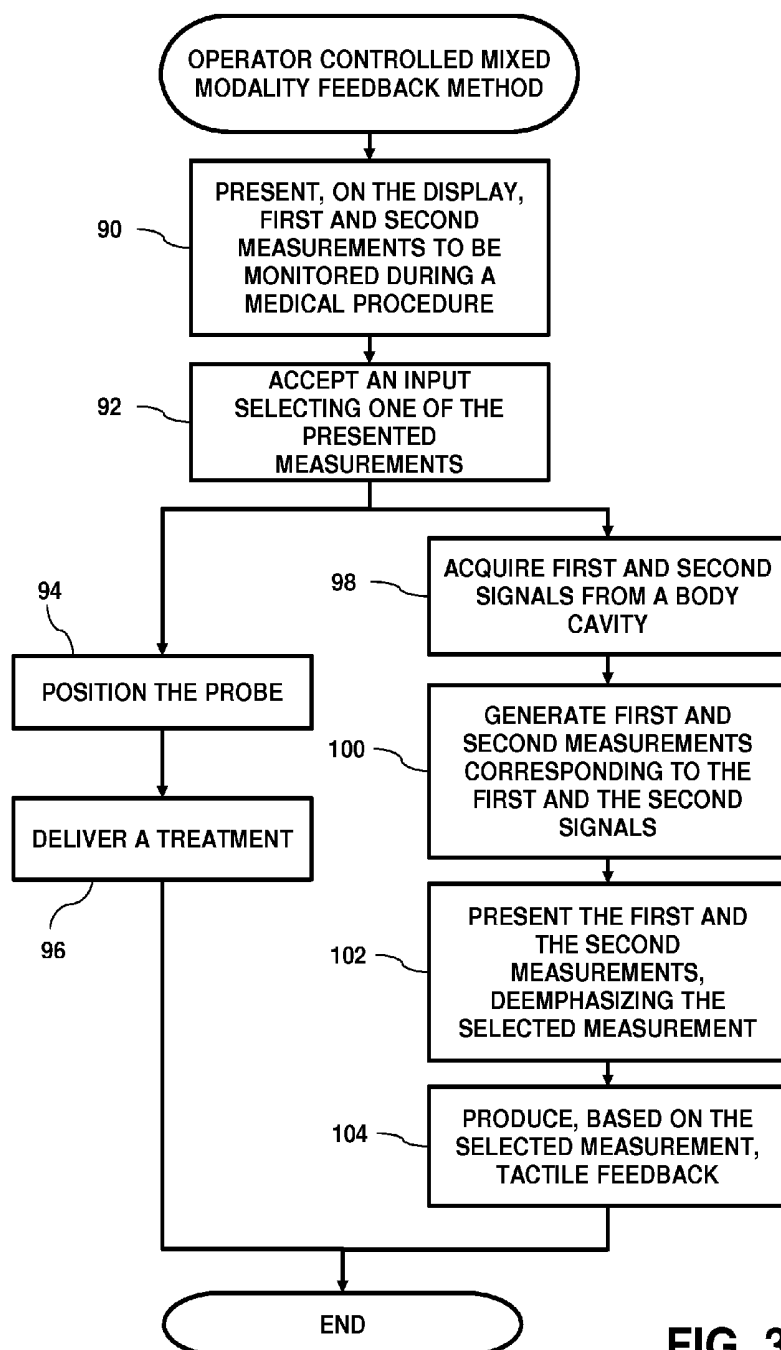


FIG. 3

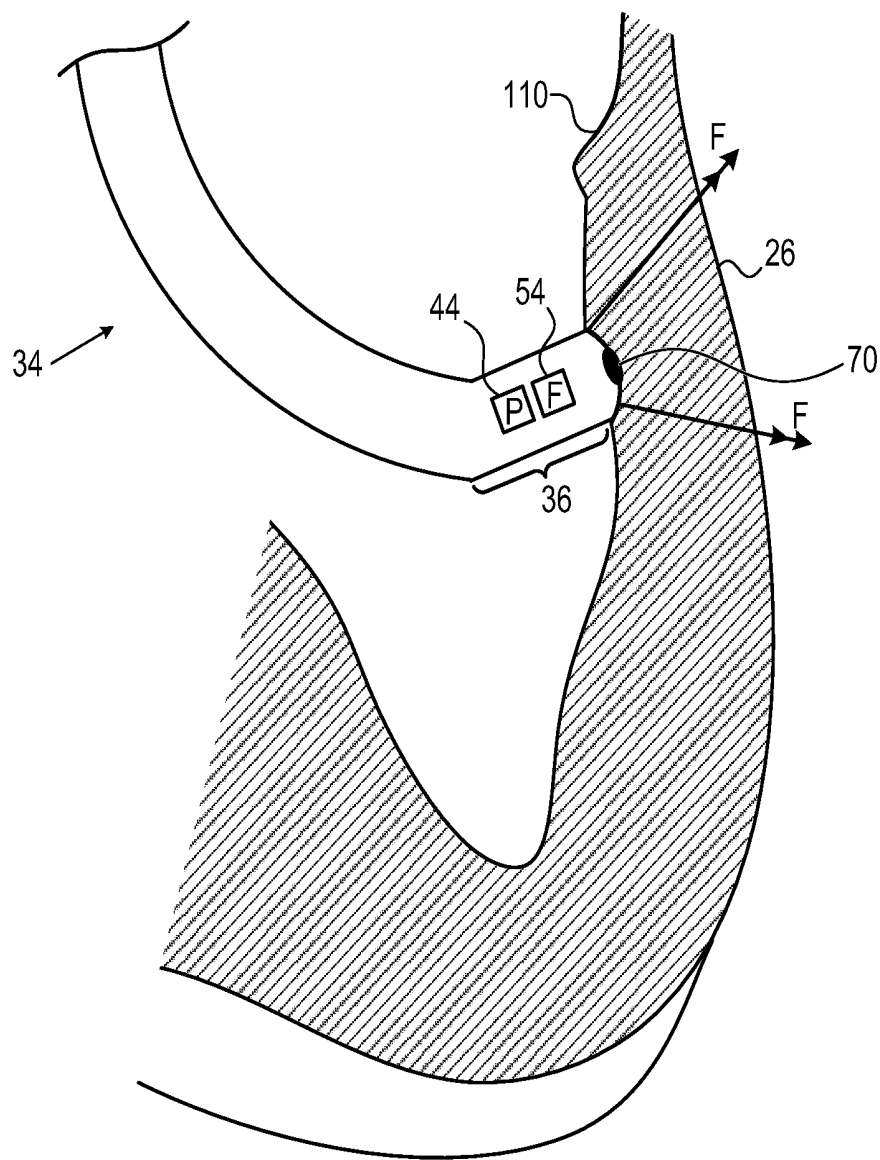


FIG. 4

OPERATOR CONTROLLED MIXED MODALITY FEEDBACK

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates generally to invasive probes, and specifically to a system that conveys operator controlled visual and tactile feedback during a medical procedure.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] A wide range of medical procedures involves placing objects, such as sensors, tubes, catheters, dispensing devices and implants, within a patient's body. Position sensing systems have been developed for tracking such objects. Magnetic position sensing is one of the methods known in the art. In magnetic position sensing, magnetic field generators are typically placed at known positions external to the patient. A magnetic field sensor within the distal end of a probe generates electrical signals in response to these magnetic fields, which are processed in order to determine the position coordinates of the distal end of the probe. These methods and systems are described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,391,199, 6,690,963, 6,484,118, 6,239,724, 6,618,612 and 6,332,089, in PCT International Publication WO 1996/005768, and in U.S. Patent Application Publications 2002/0065455 A1, 2003/0120150 A1 and 2004/0068178 A1, whose disclosures are all incorporated herein by reference.

[0003] When placing a probe within the body, it may be desirable to have the distal tip of the probe in direct contact with body tissue. The contact can be verified, for example, by measuring the contact pressure between the distal tip and the body tissue. U.S. Patent Application Publications 2007/0100332, 2009/0093806 and 2009/0138007, whose disclosures are incorporated herein by reference, describe methods of sensing contact pressure between the distal tip of a catheter and tissue in a body cavity using a force sensor embedded in the catheter.

[0004] Documents incorporated by reference in the present patent application are to be considered an integral part of the application except that to the extent any terms are defined in these incorporated documents in a manner that conflicts with the definitions made explicitly or implicitly in the present specification, only the definitions in the present specification should be considered.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] There is provided, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention an apparatus, including a flexible insertion tube including a distal end for insertion into a body cavity, a first internal sensor mounted in the distal end and configured to acquire a first signal from the body cavity during a medical procedure, and a second internal sensor mounted in the distal end and configured to acquire a second signal from the body cavity during the medical procedure. The apparatus also includes a display, and a processor configured to present, on the display, first and second measurements corresponding to the first and second signals, and to accept an input selecting one of the presented measurements so as to generate a selected measurement. The apparatus further includes a handle coupled to a proximal end of the flexible insertion tube, and a haptic feedback device fixedly attached to the handle and configured to provide, under direction of the processor, a tactile feedback in response to the

selected measurement while a presentation of the selected measurement is deemphasized on the display.

[0006] In some embodiments, the first and the second sensors are selected from a list including a position sensor, a force sensor, a temperature sensor and an electrode configured to measure electrical potential. In additional embodiments, the tactile feedback includes a vibration, and the haptic feedback device is configured to vary one of a frequency and an amplitude of the vibration.

[0007] In further embodiments, the processor is configured to accept an additional input selecting an additional one of the presented measurements so as to generate an additional selected measurement, and to deemphasize an additional presentation of the additional selected measurement on the display. In some embodiments, an additional haptic feedback device may be affixed to the handle and configured to provide, under direction from the processor, an additional tactile feedback in response to the additional selected measurement.

[0008] In supplementary embodiments, the processor is configured to deemphasize the selected measurement by applying an attribute selected from a list including removing the selected measurement from the display, presenting the selected measurement using a predetermined font size, presenting the selected measurement using a predetermined color, and presenting the measurement using a predetermined brightness.

[0009] In additional embodiments, the processor is configured to receive, from a device external to the flexible insertion tube, a third signal, and to present on the display a third measurement corresponding to the third signal, and wherein the input selects the third measurement. In some embodiments, the device is selected from a list including a blood pressure module, an irrigation module, an ablation module, an electrocardiography module and a timer module.

[0010] There is also provided, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, a method, including generating, during a medical procedure, first and second measurements corresponding to first and second signals received from first and second sensors mounted on a distal end of a flexible insertion tube configured for insertion into a body cavity, presenting, on a display, the first and the second measurements, accepting an input selecting one of the presented measurements so as to generate a selected measurement, and providing, by a haptic feedback device fixedly attached to a handle coupled to a proximal end of the flexible insertion tube, a tactile feedback in response to the selected measurement while deemphasizing a presentation of the selected measurement on the display.

[0011] There is additionally provided, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, a computer software product, the product including a non-transitory computer-readable medium, in which program instructions are stored, which instructions, when read by a computer, cause the computer to generate, during a medical procedure, first and second measurements corresponding to first and second signals received from first and second sensors mounted on a distal end of a flexible insertion tube configured for insertion into a body cavity, to present, on a display, the first and the second measurements, to accept an input selecting one of the presented measurements so as to generate a selected measurement, and to provide, by a haptic feedback device fixedly attached to a handle coupled to a proximal end of the flexible insertion tube, a tactile feedback in response to the selected

measurement while deemphasizing a presentation of the selected measurement on the display.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012] The disclosure is herein described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

[0013] FIG. 1 is a schematic pictorial illustration of a medical system that implements operator controlled mixed modality feedback, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

[0014] FIG. 2 is a schematic sectional view of a medical probe configured to generate tactile feedback, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

[0015] FIG. 3 is a flow diagram that schematically illustrates a method of operator controlled mixed modality feedback during a medical procedure, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention; and

[0016] FIG. 4 is a schematic detail view showing a distal tip of the medical probe in contact with endocardial tissue, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

Overview

[0017] During a medical procedure where a catheter is placed within a patient's body, an operator manipulating the catheter typically pays attention to a large number of parameters (also referred to herein as measurements). The parameters may be tracked by different sensors (internal and external to the catheter), and values of the parameters are typically presented to the operator on one or more displays.

[0018] Examples of parameters which may be tracked include a location and an orientation of a distal tip of the catheter, temperatures and/or forces registered by the catheter, potentials measured by one or more electrodes on the distal tip, and power dissipated by the one or more electrodes. Depending on the number of parameters being tracked (e.g., the medical procedure may utilize multiple catheters), the parameters may be presented on one large screen or on multiple smaller screens, and tracking the parameters may become difficult as the number of parameters increase.

[0019] Embodiments of the present invention provide methods and system to present values of at least one of the parameters to the operator tactilely, thereby allowing the operator to track fewer parameters on the display. In some embodiments, a haptic feedback system is incorporated into a catheter handle which the operator uses to manipulate the catheter, and the system provides the operator with a tactile feedback that can vary according to a magnitude of one of the parameters being tracked. The operator may choose which parameter is to be used to provide the tactile feedback.

[0020] For example, a force parameter may be selected, the tactile feedback may be configured to provide a vibration having a frequency that changes as the force changes, and a force measurement presented on the display may then be de-emphasized or even removed from the display. Alternative parameters that may be tracked in a similar manner comprise a temperature of a feature selected by the operator, or a proximity to a feature selected by the operator.

[0021] In some embodiments, multiple haptic feedback systems may be incorporated into the handle, and a different parameter can be assigned to each of the haptic feedback

systems. By increasing the number of parameters that are deemphasized on the display, embodiments of the present invention provide operator controlled mixed modality feedback that enables tracking of multiple parameters with greater ease, thereby enabling the operator to perform the medical procedure with greater accuracy and efficiency.

System Description

[0022] FIG. 1 is a schematic pictorial illustration of a medical system 20 that implements operator controlled mixed modality feedback, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. System 20 may be based, for example, on the CARTO™ system, produced by Biosense Webster Inc. (Diamond Bar, Calif.). System 20 comprises a probe 22, such as a catheter, and a control console 24. In the embodiment described hereinbelow, it is assumed that probe 22 is used for diagnostic or therapeutic treatment, such as for mapping electrical potentials in a heart 26 or performing ablation of heart tissue. Alternatively, probe 22 may be used, mutatis mutandis, for other therapeutic and/or diagnostic purposes in the heart or in other body organs.

[0023] Probe 22 comprises a flexible insertion tube 28, and a handle 30 coupled to a proximal end of the insertion tube. By manipulating handle 30, an operator 32 can insert probe 22 through the vascular system of a patient 34 so that a distal end of probe 22 enters a chamber of heart 26 and engages endocardial tissue at a desired location or locations. Probe 22 is typically connected by a suitable connector at its proximal end to console 24.

[0024] System 20 typically uses magnetic position sensing to determine position coordinates of distal end 36 inside heart 26. To determine the position coordinates, a driver circuit 40 in console 24 drives field generators 42 to generate magnetic fields within the body of patient 34. Typically, field generators 42 comprise coils, which are placed below the patient's torso at known positions external to patient 34. These coils generate magnetic fields in a predefined working volume that contains heart 26. A magnetic field sensor 44 (also referred to herein as a position sensor, and which is shown in more detail in FIG. 2) within distal end 36 of probe 22 generates electrical signals in response to these magnetic fields from the coils, thereby enabling console 24 to determine the position of distal end 36 within the chamber.

[0025] Although in the present example system 20 measures the position of distal end 36 using magnetic-based sensors, other position tracking techniques may be used (e.g., impedance-based sensors). Magnetic position tracking techniques are described, for example, in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,391,199 and 6,690,963 referenced above, and in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,443,489, 6,788,967, 5,558,091, 6,172,499 and 6,177,792, whose disclosures are incorporated herein by reference. Impedance-based position tracking techniques are described, for example, in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,983,126, 6,456,864 and 5,944,022, whose disclosures are incorporated herein by reference.

[0026] A signal processor 46 processes signals from sensor 44 in order to determine the position coordinates of distal end 36, which typically include both location and orientation coordinates. The method of position sensing described hereinabove is implemented in the above-mentioned CARTO™ system and is described in detail in the patents and patent applications cited above.

[0027] Signal processor 46 typically comprises a general-purpose computer, with suitable front end and interface cir-

uits for receiving signals from probe 22 and controlling the other components of console 24. Processor 46 may be programmed in software to carry out the functions that are described herein. The software may be downloaded to console 24 in electronic form, over a network, for example, or it may be provided on non-transitory tangible media, such as optical, magnetic or electronic memory media. Alternatively, some or all of the functions of processor 46 may be carried out by dedicated or programmable digital hardware components.

[0028] An input/output (I/O) interface 48 enables console 24 to interact with probe 22. Based on the signals received from probe 22 (via interface 48 and other components of system 20), processor 46 drives a display 50 to present operator 32 with an image 52 showing the position of distal end 36 in the patient's body, as well as status information and guidance regarding the procedure that is in progress.

[0029] In addition to presenting image 52, processor 46 may present, on the display, a list 60 of measurements that operator can monitor during the procedure. The measurements may be based on signals that probe 22 captures from heart 26, and conveys to console 24. Examples of measurements captured by probe 22 include, but are not limited to, electrical potential, force, temperature, distance from one or more pre-defined locations (e.g., a distance from a point on a map and/or a distance from an anatomical structure such as an esophagus), and a time at a location (typically when a distal tip 38 is relatively stationary).

[0030] Additionally or alternatively, the measurements may be based on signals that console 24 receives from a device external to probe 22. Examples of such external devices include, but are not limited to, blood pressure monitoring modules where the measurement indicates a blood pressure, irrigation modules where the measurement indicates an irrigation flow rate, an ablation module where the measurement indicates an ablation power and/or a time period wherein ablation is performed, electrocardiography (ECG) modules where the measurement indicates electrical activity of heart 26, and a timer module. Other types of modules will be apparent to those having ordinary skill in the art, and all such types are assumed to be included within the scope of the present invention.

[0031] In some embodiments, processor 46 monitors measurements received from position sensor 44 and a force sensor 54 within distal end 36 (force sensor 54 is shown in more detail in FIG. 2) during periods in which the catheter is believed to be pressing against endocardial tissue of heart 26. Processor 46 stores data representing image 52 in a memory 56. In some embodiments, using one or more input devices 58, operator 32 can manipulate image 52 and/or select a given measurement from list 60.

[0032] Alternatively or additionally, system 20 may comprise an automated mechanism (not shown) for maneuvering and operating probe 22 within the body of patient 34. Such mechanisms are typically capable of controlling both the longitudinal motion (advance/retract) of probe 22 and transverse motion (deflection/steering) of distal end 36 of the probe. In such embodiments, processor 46 generates a control input for controlling the motion of probe 22 based on the signals provided by the magnetic field sensor in the probe.

[0033] Although FIG. 1 shows a particular system configuration, other system configurations can also be employed to implement embodiments of the present invention, and are thus considered to be within the spirit and scope of this invention. For example, the methods described hereinbelow

may be applied using position transducers of types other than the magnetic field sensor described above, such as impedance-based or ultrasonic position sensors. The term "position transducer" as used herein refers to an element mounted on probe 22 which causes console 24 to receive signals indicative of the coordinates of the element. The position transducer may thus comprise a receiver on the probe, which generates a position signal to the control unit based on energy received by the transducer; or it may comprise a transmitter, emitting energy that is sensed by a receiver external to the probe. Furthermore, the methods described hereinbelow may similarly be applied in therapeutic and diagnostic applications using not only catheters, but also probes of other types, both in the heart and in other body organs and regions.

[0034] FIG. 2 is a schematic sectional view of probe 22, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. Specifically, FIG. 2 shows functional elements of the probe. An ablation electrode 70 at distal tip 38 of the probe is typically made of a metallic material, such as a platinum/iridium alloy or another suitable material. Alternatively, multiple electrodes (not shown) may be positioned along the length of the probe.

[0035] Position sensor 44 transmits a signal to console 24 that is indicative of the position coordinates of distal end 36. Position sensor 44 may comprise one or more miniature coils, and typically comprises multiple coils oriented along different axes. Alternatively, position sensor 44 may comprise either another type of magnetic sensor, an electrode which serves as a position sensor, or position sensors of other types, such as impedance-based or ultrasonic position sensors.

[0036] In an alternative embodiment, the roles of position sensor 44 and magnetic field generators 42 may be reversed. In other words, driver circuit 40 may drive a magnetic field generator in distal end 36 to generate one or more magnetic fields. The coils in generators 42 may be configured to sense the fields and generate signals indicative of the amplitudes of the components of these magnetic fields. Processor 46 receives and processes these signals in order to determine the position coordinates of distal end 36 within heart 26.

[0037] Force sensor 54 measures a force applied by distal tip 38 to the endocardial tissue of heart 26 by conveying a signal to the console that is indicative of the force exerted by the distal tip on the intra-body tissue. In one embodiment, the force sensor may comprise a magnetic field transmitter and receiver connected by a spring in distal end 36, and may generate an indication of the force based on measuring the deflection of the spring. Further details of this sort of probe and force sensor are described in U.S. Patent Application Publications 2009/0093806 and 2009/0138007 referenced above. Alternatively, distal end 36 may comprise another type of force sensor.

[0038] Handle 30 is configured to be grasped by operator 32, and is coupled to a proximal end 72 of insertion tube 28 and a distal end 74 of a cable 76. A proximal end 78 of cable 76 is coupled to I/O interface 48. The distal end of cable 76 is coupled to position sensor 44, force sensor 54 and electrode 70 via a connecting cable 80 that is contained within insertion tube 28 and handle 30. While (for illustrative purposes) FIG. 2 shows a single connecting cable 80 coupling the electrode and the sensors to cable 76, there are typically multiple connecting cables contained within the insertion tube and the handle. Connecting cable 80 typically comprises a metallic conductor and/or an optical fiber.

[0039] In embodiments of the present invention one or more haptic feedback devices (HFDs) **82** are fixedly attached to handle **30** and are configured to provide operator **32** with tactile feedback during the procedure. The tactile feedback may comprise vibrations at different amplitudes (i.e., vibration intensity) and/or frequencies (i.e., vibrations/beats per minute). Haptic feedback devices **82** may be based on electroactive polymers (EAPs) such as those used in a Vivi-Touch™ system, produced by Artificial Muscle Inc. (Sunnyvale, Calif.).

[0040] Typically, the haptic feedback provided by a specific HFD is based on one of the measurements described above. For example, processor **46** may configure the specific HFD **82** to set an amplitude of a vibration based on a contact pressure between distal tip **38** and tissue in a body cavity (e.g., heart **26**). Alternatively, processor **46** may configure the specific HFD to generate a frequency of the vibration based on the length of time the distal tip is applying the pressure.

[0041] In the example shown in FIG. 2, handle **30** comprises two haptic feedback devices **82**. For example, a first haptic feedback device **82** may be positioned at a proximal end of the handle to convey tactile feedback to the operator's palm, and a second haptic feedback device **82**, also referred to herein as an additional haptic feedback device **82**, may be positioned at a distal end of the handle to convey tactile feedback to the operator's fingers.

[0042] In some embodiments, each of the two haptic feedback devices may be configured to convey tactile feedback based on first and second signals received from console **24**. For example, processor **46** may select as a first measurement force, and as a second measurement ablation power. In this case, processor **46** can configure the first haptic feedback device **82** to convey tactile feedback based on first signals console **24** receives from force sensor **54** (corresponding to a first sensor), and the second haptic feedback device **82** to convey tactile feedback based on ablation power that console **24** delivers via electrode (corresponding to a second sensor).

[0043] Although FIG. 2 shows probe **22** with a single position sensor **44**, embodiments of the present invention may utilize probes with more than one position sensor. Additionally or alternatively, probe **22** may comprise additional sensors such as a temperature sensor or devices such as an irrigation delivery system.

Operator Controlled Visual and Tactile Feedback

[0044] FIG. 3 is a flow diagram that schematically illustrates a method of providing operator controlled mixed modality feedback during a medical procedure, and FIG. 4 is a schematic detail view showing distal tip **38** in contact with endocardial tissue **110** of heart **26**, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. In the flow diagram described hereinbelow, steps **98-104** are performed simultaneously with steps **94-96**.

[0045] In a presentation step **90**, processor **46** presents list of measurements **60** on display **50**. In the example described herein, list **60** comprises first and second measurements that correspond to first and second signals received from two different devices (e.g., position sensor **44** and force sensor **54**). In an input step **92**, operator **32** manipulates input devices **58** to select one of the presented measurements to be used for applying tactile feedback, and processor **46** accepts an input selecting the measurement. For example, operator **32** can select a force measurement for tactile feedback.

[0046] In a positioning step **94**, operator **32** positions probe **22**, and in a delivery step the probe delivers a treatment to heart **26**. In the example shown in FIG. 4, operator **32** advances probe **22** so that distal tip **38** of the probe engages endocardial tissue **110**, the distal tip exerts force **F** on the endocardial tissue. Upon engaging endocardial tissue **110**, distal tip **38** can deliver a treatment (e.g., an ablation of the endocardial tissue).

[0047] As described supra, while operator positions the probe and delivers the treatment, the following steps **98-104** are performed simultaneously. In an acquire step **98**, processor **46** acquires a first signal from position sensor **44** and a second signal, indicating a force **F**, from force sensor **54**. In a generation step **100**, the processor generates first and second measurements (i.e., position and force measurements) from the first and the second signals, and in a presentation step **102**, processor **46** presents the first and the second measurements on display **50**.

[0048] In embodiments of the present invention, processor **46** deemphasizes the measurement that is selected in step **92**. For example, if the first and the second measurements comprise position and force measurements and operator **32** selects the force measurements in step **92**, then processor **46** can deemphasize the force measurement on display **50** by applying any one or more of the following attributes:

[0049] Processor **46** can present the position measurement using a higher predetermined brightness than the brightness used to present the force measurement.

[0050] Processor **46** can decrease the brightness of the force measurement on the display by a predetermined amount, or remove the force measurement from the display.

[0051] Processor **46** can present the position measurement in a predetermined color such as yellow, and present the force measurement in a different predetermined color, such as green.

[0052] Processor **46** can present the force measurement using a smaller predetermined font size than a font size used to present the position measurement.

[0053] Other types of de-emphasis will be apparent to those having ordinary skill in the art, and all such types are assumed to be included within the scope of the present invention.

[0054] In a feedback step **104**, while deemphasizing the force measurement on display **50**, processor **46** conveys a feedback signal based on the force measurement (i.e., the selected measurement) to haptic feedback device **82**, and the haptic feedback device produces tactile feedback based on the received signal. As described supra, the tactile feedback may comprise a vibration with varying amplitudes and/or frequencies.

[0055] In embodiments where handle **30** comprises an additional haptic feedback device **82**, processor **46** may accept, in step **92**, an additional input indicating an additional selected measurement. Upon receiving the additional input, processor **46** can deemphasize the additional selected measurement on the display, and direct the additional haptic feedback device to provide an additional tactile feedback in response to the additional selected measurement.

[0056] Additionally or alternatively, in embodiments where processor **46** receives signals from a device external to probe **22** (e.g., a blood pressure monitoring module), the processor may receive, a third signal from the device, and present, on the display, a third measurement corresponding to

the third signal. In step 92, the received input may indicate the third measurement as the selected measurement.

[0057] It will be appreciated that the embodiments described above are cited by way of example, and that the present invention is not limited to what has been particularly shown and described hereinabove. Rather, the scope of the present invention includes both combinations and subcombinations of the various features described hereinabove, as well as variations and modifications thereof which would occur to persons skilled in the art upon reading the foregoing description and which are not disclosed in the prior art.

1. An apparatus, comprising:

- a flexible insertion tube comprising a distal end for insertion into a body cavity;
- a first internal sensor mounted in the distal end and configured to acquire a first signal from the body cavity during a medical procedure;
- a second internal sensor mounted in the distal end and configured to acquire a second signal from the body cavity during the medical procedure;
- a display;
- a processor configured to present, on the display, first and second measurements corresponding to the first and second signals, and to accept an input selecting one of the presented measurements so as to generate a selected measurement;
- a handle coupled to a proximal end of the flexible insertion tube; and
- a haptic feedback device fixedly attached to the handle and configured to provide, under direction of the processor, a tactile feedback in response to the selected measurement while a presentation of the selected measurement is deemphasized on the display.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first and the second sensors are selected from a list comprising a position sensor, a force sensor, a temperature sensor and an electrode configured to measure electrical potential.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the tactile feedback comprises a vibration, and wherein the haptic feedback device is configured to vary one of a frequency and an amplitude of the vibration.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the processor is configured to accept an additional input selecting an additional one of the presented measurements so as to generate an additional selected measurement, and to deemphasize an additional presentation of the additional selected measurement on the display.

5. The apparatus according to claim 4, and comprising an additional haptic feedback device affixed to the handle and configured to provide, under direction from the processor, an additional tactile feedback in response to the additional selected measurement.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the processor is configured to deemphasize the selected measurement by applying an attribute selected from a list comprising removing the selected measurement from the display, presenting the selected measurement using a predetermined font size, presenting the selected measurement using a predetermined color, and presenting the measurement using a predetermined brightness.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the processor is configured to receive, from a device external to the flexible insertion tube, a third signal, and to present on the

display a third measurement corresponding to the third signal, and wherein the input selects the third measurement.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the device is selected from a list comprising a blood pressure module, an irrigation module, an ablation module, an electrocardiography module and a timer module.

9. A method, comprising:

generating, during a medical procedure, first and second measurements corresponding to first and second signals received from first and second sensors mounted on a distal end of a flexible insertion tube configured for insertion into a body cavity;

presenting, on a display, the first and the second measurements;

accepting an input selecting one of the presented measurements so as to generate a selected measurement; and

providing, by a haptic feedback device fixedly attached to a handle coupled to a proximal end of the flexible insertion tube, a tactile feedback in response to the selected measurement while deemphasizing a presentation of the selected measurement on the display.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the first and the second sensors are selected from a list comprising a position sensor, a force sensor, a temperature sensor and an electrode configured to measure an electrical potential.

11. The method according to claim 9, wherein the tactile feedback comprises a vibration, and wherein the haptic feedback device is configured to vary one of a frequency and an amplitude of the vibration.

12. The method according to claim 9, and comprising accepting an additional input selecting an additional one of the presented measurements so as to generate an additional selected measurement, and deemphasizing an additional presentation of the additional selected measurement on the display.

13. The method according to claim 12, and comprising providing, by an additional haptic feedback device affixed to the handle, an additional tactile feedback in response to the additional selected measurement.

14. The method according to claim 9, wherein deemphasizing the selected measurement comprises applying an attribute selected from a list comprising removing the selected measurement from the display, presenting the selected measurement using a predetermined font size, presenting the selected measurement using a predetermined color and presenting the measurement using a predetermined brightness.

15. The method according to claim 9, and comprising receiving, from a device external to the flexible insertion tube, a third signal, and presenting on the display a third measurement corresponding to the third signal, and wherein the input selects the third measurement.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the device is selected from a list comprising a blood pressure module, an irrigation module, an ablation module, an electrocardiography module and a timer module.

17. A computer software product, the product comprising a non-transitory computer-readable medium, in which program instructions are stored, which instructions, when read by a computer, cause the computer to generate, during a medical procedure, first and second measurements corresponding to first and second signals received from first and second sensors mounted on a distal end of a flexible insertion tube configured for insertion into a body cavity, to present, on

a display, the first and the second measurements, to accept an input selecting one of the presented measurements so as to generate a selected measurement, and to provide, by a haptic feedback device fixedly attached to a handle coupled to a proximal end of the flexible insertion tube, a tactile feedback in response to the selected measurement while deemphasizing a presentation of the selected measurement on the display.

* * * * *

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其他公开文献	US9295430		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

装置，包括具有用于插入体腔的远端的柔性插入管，远端中的第一传感器，被配置为在医疗过程期间从腔获取第一信号，以及远端中的第二传感器，被配置为获取在手术期间来自腔的第二信号。该装置还包括显示器和处理器，处理器被配置为在显示器上呈现对应于第一和第二信号的第一和第二测量值，并接受选择所呈现的测量值之一的输入以便产生所选择的测量值。该装置还包括连接到管的近端的手柄，以及连接到手柄的触觉反馈装置，该触觉反馈装置被配置成在处理器的指导下响应于所选择的测量提供触觉反馈，同时不强调所选测量的呈现。

