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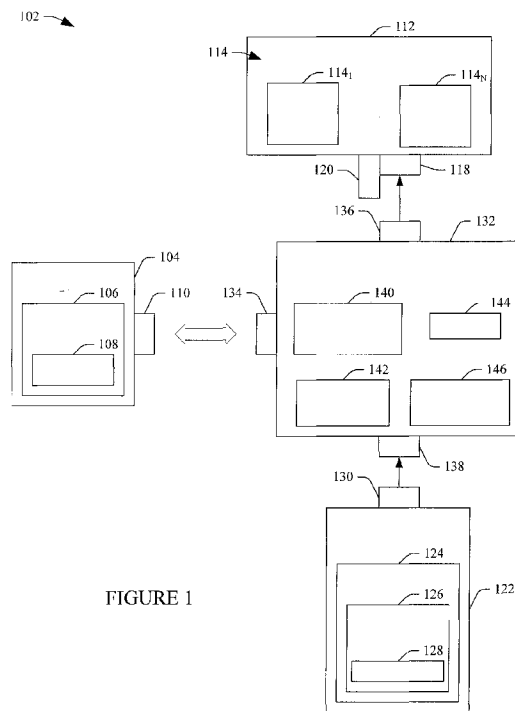


FIGURE 1

(57) Abstract: A method includes receiving, at a console (132) of an ultrasound imaging system (102), a first signal indicative of actuation of a touch control (128) of a touch screen user interface (122) of the ultrasound imaging system, wherein the touch control is one of a plurality of different touch controls of the ultrasound imaging system. The method further includes identifying, with a processor of the ultrasound imaging system, the touch control from the plurality of different touch controls based on the first signal. The method further includes identifying, with the processor of the ultrasound imaging system, a graphic representation of the touch control based on the identification of the touch control. The method further includes visually displaying, with the processor of the ultrasound imaging system, the graphic representation on a display monitor concurrently with displaying an image.



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GRAPHICAL VIRTUAL CONTROLS OF AN ULTRASOUND IMAGING SYSTEM

TECHNICAL FIELD

The following generally relates to ultrasound imaging and more particular to displaying, on a display monitor, a virtual control or representation mimicking an active touch screen user interface control and operation thereof.

BACKGROUND

An ultrasound imaging system has included an ultrasound probe with a transducer, a console with an integrated or external display monitor, and a user interface. The transducer transmits an ultrasound signal into a field of view and receives echoes produced in response to the signal interacting with structure therein. The echoes are conveyed to the console and are processed, producing images of the scanned structure, which may be visually presented through the display monitor.

The display monitor may include a cathode ray tube (CRT), a liquid crystal display (LCD), a light emitting diode (LED) display, and/or other type of display. The display monitor has been a “dumb” monitor with no processor or processing capabilities and that is simply an output device that displays images and other information (e.g., transducer frequency, gain, etc.). The user interface has included a keyboard or keypad with mechanical depressible buttons and/or a flat touch screen area (e.g., LCD, CRT, etc.).

The display monitor has been placed in an upright vertical position so that the clinician can look at images and/or the other information displayed via the display monitor. The user interface has been placed in a generally horizontal position, approximately perpendicular to the upright vertical position. This arrangement is similar to that of a desktop computer monitor and corresponding keyboard. The user controls features such as gain, zoom, pans, etc. with the controls of the user interface.

Unfortunately, with such a user interface / display monitor arrangement, where the user interface includes a touch screen with a flat surface, it may not be readily easy for the user to locate and/or operate touch sensitive controls of the user interface while observing an image and/or patient. Rather, the user may have to look away from the image and/or

patient and down at the user interface to find and/or operate the control, adding complexity and inefficiency to the procedure.

SUMMARY

Aspects of the application address the above matters, and others.

In one aspect, a method includes receiving, at a console of an ultrasound imaging system, a first signal indicative of actuation of a touch control of a touch screen user interface of the ultrasound imaging system, wherein the touch control is one of a plurality of different touch controls of the ultrasound imaging system. The method further includes identifying, with a processor of the ultrasound imaging system, the touch control from the plurality of different touch controls based on the first signal. The method further includes identifying, with the processor of the ultrasound imaging system, a graphic representation of the touch control based on the identification of the touch control. The method further includes visually displaying, with the processor of the ultrasound imaging system, the graphic representation on a display monitor concurrently with displaying an image.

In another aspect, an ultrasound imaging system includes a touch screen user interface including a touch panel active region with one or more touch controls, an ultrasound scanner console including a transducer controller, an echo processor and a display controller, and a display monitor, including at least two display regions. The display controller, in response to activation of one of the one or more touch controls, renders a virtual graphical control, which represents the one of the touch controls, in one of the display regions.

In another aspect, a computer readable storage medium is encoded with computer readable instructions which, when executed by a computer processor, cause the computer process to: display, in a display region of a display monitor of an ultrasound imaging system, a graphic that visually mimics an operation of a touch control of a touch screen user interface of the ultrasound imaging system, wherein the touch screen user interface and the display monitor are separate and distinct elements of the ultrasound imaging system.

Those skilled in the art will recognize still other aspects of the present application upon reading and understanding the attached description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The application is illustrated by way of example and not limitation in the figures of the accompanying drawings, in which like references indicate similar elements and in which:

Figure 1 schematically illustrates an example ultrasound imaging system that includes a touch screen user interface, a display monitor, and a console with a display controller that renders a virtual control on the display in response to activation and/or operation of a corresponding control of the touch screen user interface;

Figure 2 illustrates an example of the touch screen user interface, including variously shaped controls;

Figure 3 illustrates another example of the touch screen user interface, including a 2D array of controls;

Figure 4 illustrates yet another example of the touch screen user interface, including controls of a keyboard;

Figure 5 illustrates an example of the ultrasound imaging system integrated as part of a mobile cart;

Figure 6 illustrates another example of the ultrasound imaging system configuration integrated as part of a mobile cart;

Figure 7 schematically illustrates an example of the display controller of the ultrasound imaging system;

Figures 8-13 illustrate example operation of the display controller in connection with a first type of touch control;

Figures 14-19 illustrate other example operation of the display controller in connection with another type of touch control;

Figure 20 illustrates example method for displaying a virtual control mimicking a touch control of the touch screen user interface;

Figure 21 illustrates example method for removing a displayed virtual control after lapse of a predetermined inactivity time; and

Figure 22 illustrates example method for resetting a timer in response to subsequent use of the touch control of the touch screen user interface before lapse of the predetermined inactivity time.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Figure 1 schematically illustrates an ultrasound (US) imaging system 102.

The ultrasound imaging system 102 includes a probe 104 with a one-dimensional (1D) or two-dimensional (2D) transducer array 106 with at least one transducer element 108. Suitable array configurations include, but are not limited to, linear, curved (e.g., concave, convex, etc.), circular, etc., full populated or sparse, etc. The probe 104 further includes a console interface 110, which may include a connector (e.g., an electro-mechanical device for joining electrical circuits) and/or wireless transceiver.

The ultrasound imaging system 102 further includes a display monitor 112. The display monitor 112 can be a cathode ray tube (CRT), a liquid crystal display (LCD), a light emitting diode (LED), and/or other display monitor. The display monitor 112 includes a display area 114 with a multiple sub-display regions 114₁, ..., 114_N, where N is a positive integer. The display monitor 122 further includes a console interface 110, which may include a connector (e.g., an electro-mechanical device for joining electrical circuits) and/or wireless receiver.

The display monitor 112 can be affixed to a support 120 (as shown in Figure 1) such as a stand, a bracket, etc. that rests on or is affixed to a surface (e.g., a desk, a table, etc.) and holds the display monitor 112 in a generally upright vertical viewing position. In another instance, the support 120 can be a wall bracket that mounts to a wall, a ceiling, etc., thereby indirectly mounting the display monitor 112 thereto. Other supports are also contemplated herein. The support 120 may be configured to rotate, tilt, translate, and/or otherwise move, which selectively allows for spatially orienting the region 124.

The ultrasound imaging system 102 further includes a touch screen user interface 122. The touch screen user interface 122 includes a touch panel 124. At least a sub-portion of the touch panel 124 includes one or more active regions 126 with one or more touch sensitive control(s) 128 such as a time-gain control (TGC), a mode (e.g., 2D, 3D, 4D, etc.) selector control, a CINE control, a measurement control, a zoom control, a depth control, a focus control, etc. The touch panel 214 may include a resistive, a capacitive, an acoustic, an infrared, an optical, a piezoelectric, and/or other region. Furthermore, the touch panel 214 may include an LCD, thin film transistor (TFT) LCD, organic light-emitting diode (OLED), and/or other display.

The one or more controls 128, in one instance, are kept in a normally deactivate state, but are activatable. A deactivated control 128, when actuated by a gesture (e.g., a press, a swipe, a touch, etc.) on the control 128 with one or more fingers, a stylus, a glove, etc., transitions to an active state. An activate control 128, when operated, generates an electrical signal corresponding to the operation of the control 128. Generally, when a control 128 is active, one or more other non-active controls transition to a non-activatable state. In a variation, one or more controls can be kept in a normally active state. In this variation, the normally active control may transition to a de-active state in response to activation of another control, a gesture over the control, an input signal including a control signal that deactivates the control, etc.

As an example of activation and operation, a gain control is activated by touching the control and then the gain is increased or decreased (i.e., operated) through the control through a predetermined gesture. For example, circling clockwise, sliding over in direction, etc. the gain control with a suitable object increases gain, and circling counter-clockwise, sliding in another direction, etc. over the gain control with the suitable object decreases gain. A reset control may be provided to quickly return on or more of the touch controls 128 to the initial or starting conditions. An active control can be configured to automatically transition back to a deactivate state, e.g., in response to lapse of a pre-determined length of time of inactivity, activation of another control 126, on demand, etc.

Briefly turning to Figures 2, 3 and 4, non-limiting examples of the touch screen user interface 122 are illustrated.

In Figure 2, the controls 128 include circular shaped controls 202 including one control 202₁ with one diameter and another control 202₂ with a different larger diameter, a ring shape control 204 with a non-active area 206 in the hole of the ring, concentric controls 208 including one control 208₁ surrounded by another control 208₁, a rectangular control 210 with rounded edges, and curved rectangular controls 212 with rounded edges. A control 214 includes a plurality of touch activated slides 216₁, 216₂, 216₃, ..., 216_N, collectively referred to herein as virtual slides 216, which reside in a recess 218 in the touch panel 124. Again, the controls 128 can be activated and used by pressing, tapping, swiping, etc.

Turning to Figure 3, the controls 128 include a two-dimensional (2D) array 302 of rectangular controls 304 and other controls 306. In Figure 4, the controls 128 include

controls 402 of a computer keyboard as well as other controls 128, such as a search box 404, and custom configure controls 406. Another example touch screen user interface 122 includes a combination of Figures 2, 3 and/or 4, optionally with alternative and/or additional controls. Still other controls can also include physical mechanical controls such as a trackball, a track pad, etc. Other examples of touch screen controls are described in application serial number 13/748,653, filed on January 24, 2013, entitled "Ultrasound Imaging System," and assigned to B-K Medical Aps, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Returning to Figure 1, the touch screen user interface 122 may also include visual indicators (e.g., lights, etc.), audible indicators (e.g., speakers, etc.), tactile indicators (e.g., vibration, etc.), other controls (e.g., physical mechanical buttons, physical mechanical slides, physical mechanical rotary knobs, etc.), an image display region, etc. The touch screen user interface 122 further includes a console interface 130, which may include a connector (e.g., an electro-mechanical device for joining electrical circuits) and/or wireless transceiver.

The ultrasound imaging system 102 further includes an ultrasound scanner console 132. The console 132 includes a probe interface 134, a display monitor interface 136, and a touch screen user interface interface 138, which, respectively are complementary to the console interfaces 110, 118 and 130. For example, the probe interface 134 is complementary to the console interface 110 in that the probe interface 134 and the console interface 110 physically engage and provide an electrical pathway between the probe 104 and the ultrasound scanner console 132. For instance, the console interface 110 may include a female connector and the probe interface 134 may include a male connector, wherein the connectors physically engage and physically connect electrodes.

The ultrasound scanner console 132 further includes a transducer controller 140. The transducer controller 140 controls excitation of the at least one transducer element 108. The transducer controller 140 also controls detection of echoes with the at least one transducer element 108. In a variation, the excitation and detection can be through separate components such as transmit and receive circuitry. The console 132 further includes an echo processor 142 (e.g., microprocessor, central processing unit, etc.) that processes detected echoes. Such processing may include generating an image, estimating

flow velocity, and/or processing. The ultrasound scanner console 132 further includes a physical memory device (memory) 144, which can be used to store ultrasound data.

A display controller 146 controls the information visually presented in at least one of the display regions 114 of the display monitor 112. By way of example, in one non-limiting instance, the display controller 146 renders an ultrasound image in at least one of the display regions 114. In another example, the display controller 146 renders a graphical representation of one of the controls 128 in at least one of the display regions 114. As described in greater detail below, for the latter, the display controller 146 identifies activation and/or operation of a touch control 128 and renders the graphical representation in the at least one of the display regions 114, where the graphical representation may include alpha-numeric information and/or graphics, shows a current value and/or any changes thereto, shows movement of the actual control, etc.

Generally, the graphical representation provides a virtual control of a touch control 128, on the display monitor 112, that mirrors or mimics the touch control 128 of the touch screen user interface 122 and operation of the touch control 128 through the touch screen user interface 122. The graphical representation shows in the display monitor 112, for example, where the user's finger (or other object) is located on the touch screen user interface 122 with respect to the control 128, thereby allowing the user to adjust a control 128 without looking at the control 128 on the touch screen user interface 122. In one instance, this provides a more intuitive adaptation of the touch controls, and may reduce complexity and inefficiency, relative to a configuration in which the display controller 146 does not render virtual controls on a display region of the display monitor 112.

Figures 5 and 6 illustrate non-limiting examples of the ultrasound imaging system 102. In the non-limiting examples, the display monitor 112, the touch screen user interface 122 and the ultrasound scanner console 132 are integrated and part of respective mobile carts 500 and 600, which include movers 502 and 602 such as wheels, casters, etc. In another configuration, the ultrasound imaging system 102 rests on a table, desk, etc., and does not include movers and is not integrated into a cart, is also contemplated herein. In this configuration, the ultrasound imaging system 102 may be portable in that a user can pick it up and carry it around or not. Further, the illustrated probe 104 does not limit the type of probe and shown for explanatory purposes.

Figure 7 schematically illustrates an example of the display controller 146.

The display controller 146 includes a user interface (US) signal sensor 702. The user interface signal sensor 702 senses when a touch control 128 of the touchscreen user interface 122 is activated and/or operated. By way of example, as described herein, activating a control 128 or operating the control 128 with an activate control 128 (e.g., through touch, etc.) invokes the control 128 to generate a signal, which is conveyed to the ultrasound scanner console 132. The user interface signal sensor 702 senses actuation and/or operation of a control 128 through this signal.

The display controller 146 further includes a control identifier 704, which, based on the sensed signal, determines which control 128 of the controls 128 generated the signal. Known and/or other approaches for identifying the control 128 can be used. For example, with a capacitive based touchscreen, when an object touches the control 128, a measureable change in capacitance occurs, and the location of the touch, and hence, the function corresponding to the control 128, can be determined.

The display controller 146 further includes visual graphic library 706, which can be stored in memory 144 and/or other memory. The visual graphic library 706, in the illustrated embodiment, includes instructions for generating a different graphic representation for each of the controls 128. In general, the graphic representation for a control 128 graphics mimics the appearance and/or operation of the control 128 on the touchscreen user interface 122.

The display controller 146 further includes virtual control renderer 708. The virtual control renderer 708 renders the graphic representation on the display region 114 not displaying the image. The virtual control renderer 708 also removes graphic representation from the display region 114. The display controller 146 further includes virtual control updater 710. The virtual control renderer 708 updates the graphic representation on the display region 114 in response to a signal indicating operation such as a change (e.g., an increase in gain) invoked by the control 128.

The display controller 146 further includes a timer 712. The timer 712 is invoked to start a count (increment or decrement) based on a pre-determined time duration in response to receiving a control activating signal, re-start the count in response to receiving a change in value signal for the activated control, start a count for another control in response to a control activating signal for another control, cease the count in response to the pre-determined time duration lapsed before another change in value signal is received.

The display controller 146 can be implemented by a computer processor (e.g., a microprocessor, a central processing unit, etc.) executing computer readable instructions stored on computer readable storage medium (which exclude transitory medium) such as hardware memory. Additionally or alternatively, at least one of the computer readable instructions is carried by a signal, a carrier wave and/or other transitory medium.

Figures 8-13 illustrate example operation of the display controller;

In Figure 8, the display region 114₁ is used to display an image. The display region 114_N is used to display a virtual control. The touchscreen user interface 122 includes at least a set of controls 802₁, 802₂, 802₃, ..., 802_N, collectively referred to herein as controls 802, and a set of controls 804₁, 804₂, ..., 804_N, collectively referred to herein as controls 804. The controls 804 are located in a region 806. All of the controls 802 and 804 are activatable.

In Figure 9, a user 210 actuates the control 802₃ by pressing on the control 802₃. In this example, in response thereto, the controls 802 and 804 transition to a state in which they cannot be activated, and a value line 902, a current value 904, end limits 906 and 908 (e.g., minimum and maximum values), and a value selector 910 are rendered above the control 802₃, and a value selector 912, a current value 914, and minimum and maximum values 916 and 918 are rendered in the display region 114_N. In this example, the selectors 910 and 920 are at a center position.

In Figure 10, the user 210 moves the selector 910 by touching the selector 910 and sliding their finger across the touch screen user interface 122. Concurrently therewith, the selector 912 in the display region 114_N moves in coordination therewith, and the current values 904 and 914 increment by the same amount. In Figure 11, the user moves the selector 910 in the opposite direction. Concurrently therewith, the selector 912 moves in coordination therewith, and the current values 904 and 914 decrement.

In Figure 12, the user 210 ceases touching the touch screen user interface 122. In Figure 13, after lapse of a pre-determined time duration in which the user 210 does not operate the control 802₃, the value line 902, the current value 904, the end limits 906 and 908, the value selector 910, the value selector 912, the current value 914, and the minimum and maximum values limits 916 and 918, are removed from touch screen user interface 122 and the display region 114₂ (or are no longer rendered), and the controls 802 and 804 transition to a state in which they are activatable.

Figures 14-19 illustrate other example operation of the display controller;

In Figure 14, the display region 114₁ is used to display an image. The display region 114_N is used to display a virtual control. The touchscreen user interface 122 includes the set of push controls 802₁, 802₂, 802₃, ..., 802_N and the set of slide controls 804₁, 804₂, ..., 804_N. All of the controls 802 and 804 are activatable.

In Figure 15, the user 210 actuates the set of slide controls 804 by pressing on the region 806. In this example, in response thereto, the controls 802 transition to a state in which they cannot be used, and a virtual slide control 1502, including virtual adjusters 1502₁, 1502₂, ... 1502_N, is rendered in the display region 114_N. In this example, the virtual adjuster 1502₁, 1502₂, ... 1502_N are each at a center position.

In Figure 16, the user 210 moves the adjuster 804₁ by touching the adjuster 804₁ and sliding their finger across the touch screen user interface 122. Concurrently therewith, the virtual adjuster 1504₁ in the display region 114_N moves in coordination therewith. In Figure 17, the user 210 moves the adjuster 804₂ by touching the adjuster 804₂ and sliding their finger across the touchscreen user interface 122. Concurrently therewith, the virtual adjuster 1504₂ in the display region 114_N moves in coordination therewith.

In Figure 18, the user ceases touching the controls 804. In Figure 19, after lapse of a pre-determined time duration in which the user does not operate any of the controls 804, the virtual control 1502 and the virtual adjusters 1502₁, 1502₂, ... 1502_N are removed from the display region 114_N, and the controls 802 transition to a state in which they are activatable.

In Figures 8-13, the virtual controls are placed under the image. In Figures 14-19, the virtual controls are placed to one side of the image. In other embodiments, the virtual controls are placed on top, on multiple sides of, within, etc. the image.

Figure 20 illustrates example method for displaying a virtual control mimicking a control of the touch screen user interface;

At 2002, a touchscreen control of a touchscreen user interface of an ultrasound scanning apparatus generates a signal in response to actuation of the touchscreen control.

At 2004, a display controller of an ultrasound console of the ultrasound scanning apparatus receives the signal.

At 2006, the display controller identifies the function assigned to the touchscreen control

At 2008, the display controller identifies a visual graphic for the control, where the visual graphic mimics the appearance and/or operation of the control on the touchscreen user interface.

At 2101, the display controller renders the visual graphic on a display monitor.

At 2102, the display controller updates the displayed visual graphic in coordination with operation of the control on the touchscreen user interface, where the update mimics the appearance and/or operation of the control on the touchscreen user interface.

Figure 21 illustrates example method for removing a displayed virtual control after lapse of a predetermined inactivity time; and

At 2102, a touchscreen control of a touchscreen user interface of an ultrasound scanning apparatus generates a signal in response to actuation of the touchscreen control.

At 2104, a display controller of an ultrasound console of the ultrasound scanning apparatus receives the signal.

At 2106, the display controller identifies the function assigned to the touchscreen control

At 2108, the display controller identifies a visual graphic for the control, where the visual graphic mimics the appearance and/or operation of the control on the touchscreen user interface.

At 2110, the display controller renders the visual graphic on a display monitor.

At 2112, the display controller starts a timer.

At 2111, the display controller removes the graphic from the display monitor in response to lapse of a predetermine time duration in which a subsequent signal is not received from the control.

Figure 22 illustrates example method for resetting a timer in response to subsequent use of the control of the touch screen user interface.

At 2202, a touchscreen control of a touchscreen user interface of an ultrasound scanning apparatus generates a signal in response to actuation of the touchscreen control.

At 2204, a display controller of an ultrasound console of the ultrasound scanning apparatus receives the signal.

At 2206, the display controller identifies the function assigned to the touchscreen control

At 2208, the display controller identifies a visual graphic for the control, where the visual graphic mimics the appearance and/or operation of the control on the touchscreen user interface.

At 2210, the display controller renders the visual graphic on a display monitor.

At 2212, a timer is started.

At 2214, it is determined if the timer time out.

If, the timer timed out, then at 2116, the display controller removes the graphic from the display monitor in response to lapse of a predetermine time duration in which a subsequent signal is not received from the control.

If the timer did not time out, then at 2218, the touchscreen control generates a subsequent signal in response to subsequent actuation of the touchscreen control.

At 2220, the display controller of the US console receives the subsequent signal.

At 2222, the display controller recognizes the control as the active control.

At 2224, the display controller updates the displayed visual graphic in coordination with operation of the control on the touchscreen user interface based on the subsequent signal

At 2226, the timer is reset, and act 2214 is repeated.

At least a portion of the methods discussed herein may be implemented by way of computer readable instructions, encoded or embedded on computer readable storage medium (which excludes transitory medium), which, when executed by a computer processor(s), causes the processor(s) to carry out the described acts. Additionally or alternatively, at least one of the computer readable instructions is carried by a signal, carrier wave or other transitory medium.

The application has been described with reference to various embodiments. Modifications and alterations will occur to others upon reading the application. It is intended that the invention be construed as including all such modifications and alterations, including insofar as they come within the scope of the appended claims and the equivalents thereof.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:
 - receiving, at a console (132) of an ultrasound imaging system (102), a first signal indicative of actuation of a touch control (128) of a touch screen user interface (122) of the ultrasound imaging system, wherein the touch control is one of a plurality of different touch controls of the ultrasound imaging system;
 - identifying, with a processor of the ultrasound imaging system, the touch control from the plurality of different touch controls based on the first signal;
 - identifying, with the processor of the ultrasound imaging system, a graphic representation of the touch control based on the identification of the touch control; and
 - visually displaying, with the processor of the ultrasound imaging system, the graphic representation on a display monitor concurrently with displaying an image.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the graphic representation is a virtual control that visually mimics the touch control of the touch screen user interface.
3. The method of any of claims 1 to 2, further comprising:
 - receiving, from the touch screen user interface, a second signal indicative of an operation of the touch control; and
 - updating the visually displayed graphic representation based on the second signal.
4. The method of any of claims 1 to 3, further comprising:
 - alternatively receiving, at the touch control, a first actuation, which increases a value of a parameter, or a second actuation, which decreases the value of the parameter;
 - visually displaying, on the touch screen user interface, a current value of the parameter concurrently with receiving the first or second actuation; and
 - visually displaying, with the graphic representation on the display monitor, the current value of the parameter concurrently with receiving the first or second actuation.
5. The method of any of claims 1 to 3, further comprising:

alternatively receiving, at the touch control, a first actuation, which increases a value of a parameter, or a second actuation, which decreases the value of the parameter;

visually displaying, at the touch screen user interface, first graphical indicia showing a change in the value of the parameter concurrently with receiving the first or second actuation; and

visually displaying, with the graphic representation on the display monitor, second graphical indicia showing the change in the value of the parameter concurrently with receiving the first or second actuation.

6. The method of any of claims 4 to 6, further comprising:
starting a timer in response to receiving second signal.
7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
ceasing to visually display the graphic representation on the display monitor only in response to not receiving a subsequent signal from the touch screen user interface indicating subsequent actuation of the touch control for a pre-determined time duration, which is measured by the timer.
8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
ceasing to visually display the first graphical indicia on the touch screen user interface only in response to not receiving the subsequent signal from the touch screen user interface for the pre-determined time duration, which is measured by the timer.
9. The method of any of claims 6 to 8, further comprising:
re-starting the timer only in response to receiving a subsequent signal from the touch screen user interface indicating subsequent actuation of the touch control before lapse of the pre-determined time duration.
10. The method of any of claims 6 to 8, further comprising:
re-starting the timer only in response to receiving a subsequent signal from the touch screen user interface before lapse of the pre-determined time duration, which is measured by the timer.

11. An ultrasound imaging system (102), comprising:
 - a touch screen user interface (122) including a touch panel active region (126) with one or more touch controls (128);
 - an ultrasound scanner console (132) including a transducer controller (140), an echo processor (142) and a display controller (146); and
 - a display monitor (112), including at least two display regions (114);wherein the display controller, in response to activation of one of the one or more touch controls, renders a virtual graphical control, which represents the one of the touch controls, in one of the display regions (114).
12. The ultrasound imaging system of claim 11, the display controller, comprising:
 - a touch control sensor (702) that senses the activation of one of the one or more touch controls;
 - a control identifier (704) that identified the sensed one of the one or more touch controls;
 - a memory (144) that includes a visual graphic library with instructions for rendering the virtual graphical control for the one of the one or more touch controls; and
 - a virtual control renderer (708) that identifies the instructions for rendering the virtual graphical control based on the identified the sensed one of the one or more touch controls and renders the virtual graphical control in the one of the display regions.
13. The ultrasound imaging system of any of claims 11 to 12, wherein the display controller, in response to lapse of a predetermined time interval in which the one of the one or more touch controls is not subsequently activated, removes the virtual graphical control from the one of the display regions.
14. The ultrasound imaging system of any of claims 12 to 13, wherein the touch control sensor senses an operation of the activated one of the one or more touch controls, and the display controller, further comprising:
 - a virtual control updater (710), which, in response to the touch control sensor sensing the operation, updates the virtual graphical control to reflect the operation.

15. The ultrasound imaging system of claim 14, wherein the operation is one of an increase or a decrease in a value of a variable, the virtual graphical control visually displays the value, and the virtual control updater updates the visually displayed value based on the increase or decrease in the value of a variable to visually show a current value of the variable in the display region.
16. The ultrasound imaging system of claim 14, wherein the operation is one of an increase or a decrease in a value of a variable, the virtual graphical control visually displays non-numerical graphical indicia indicative of the a relative value of the variable, and the virtual control updater updates the non-numerical graphical indicia in coordination with the operation to visually reflect the increase or a decrease in the display region.
17. The ultrasound imaging system of any of claims 14 to 15, wherein the display controller, in response to lapse of a predetermined time interval in which the one of the one or more touch controls is not subsequently operated, removes the virtual graphical control form the one of the display regions.
18. The ultrasound imaging system of any of claims 13 or 17, further comprising:
a timer (712) the measures the predetermined time interval.
19. The ultrasound imaging system of claim 18, wherein the display controller re-starts the timer in response to receiving a signal indicating the one or more touch controls is subsequently operated.
20. A computer readable storage medium encoded with computer readable instructions which, when executed by a computer processor, cause the computer processor to:
display, in a display region of a display monitor of an ultrasound imaging system, a graphic that visually mimics an operation of a touch control of a touch screen user interface of the ultrasound imaging system, wherein the touch screen user interface and the display monitor are separate and distinct elements of the ultrasound imaging system.

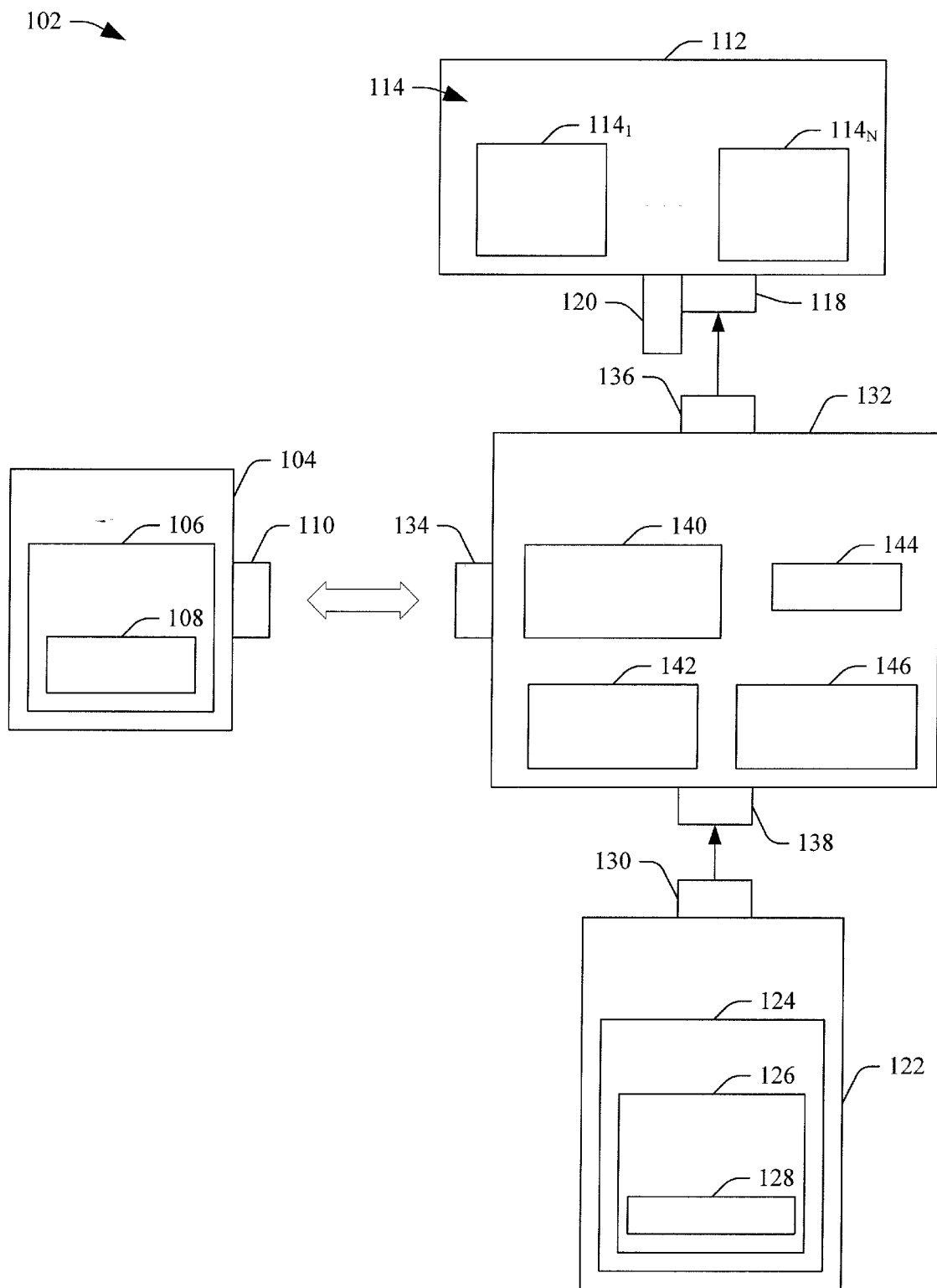


FIGURE 1

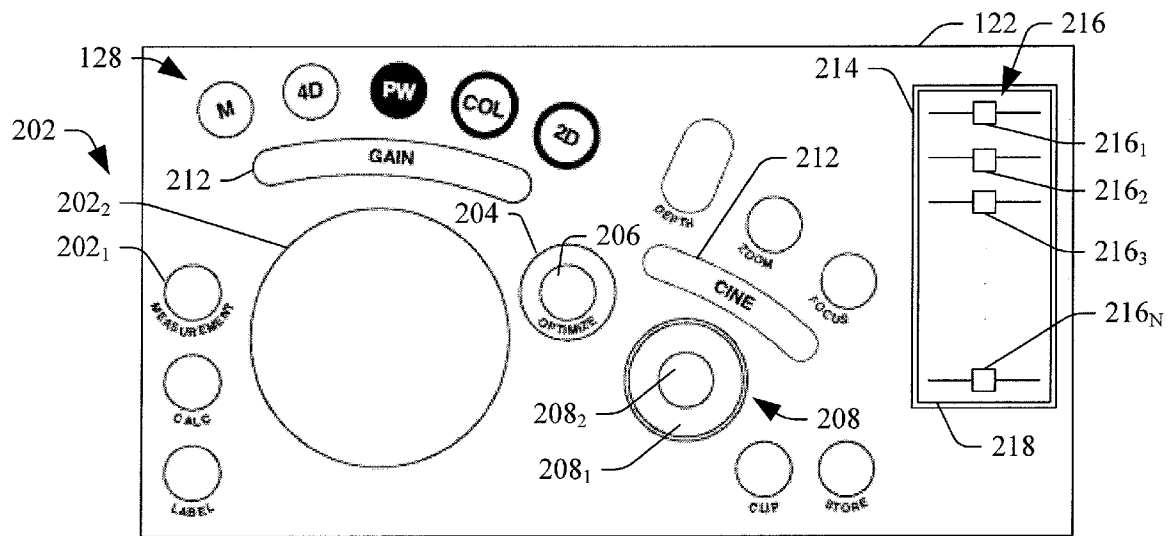


FIGURE 2

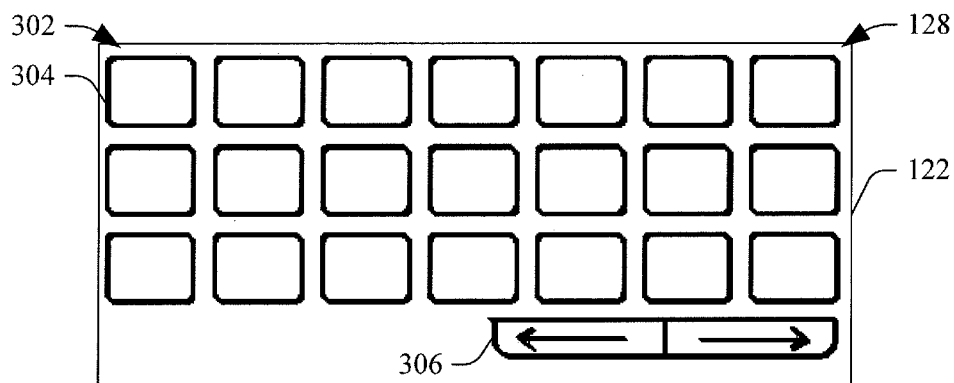


FIGURE 3

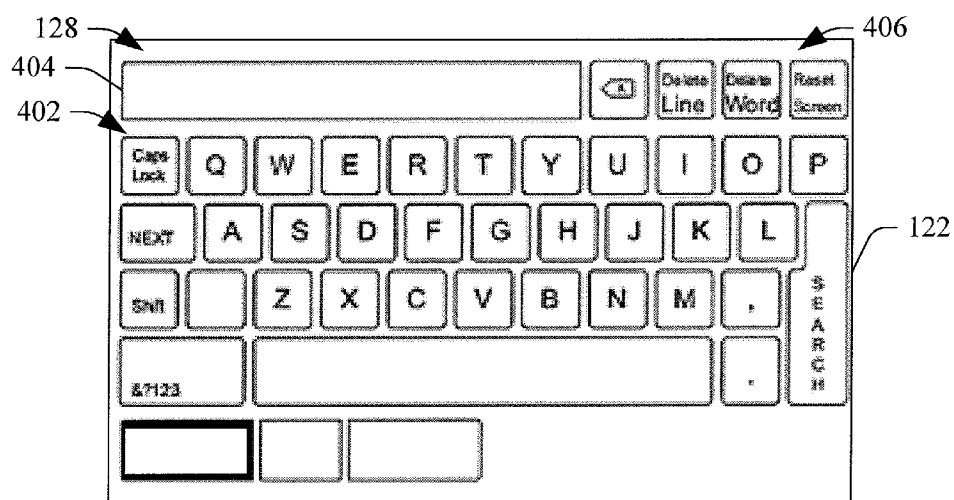


FIGURE 4

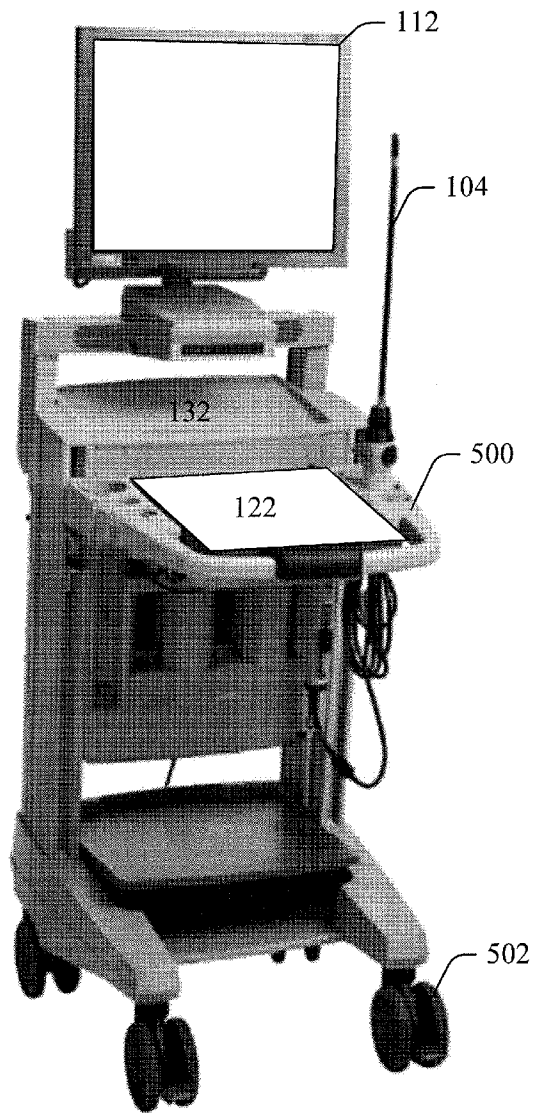


FIGURE 5

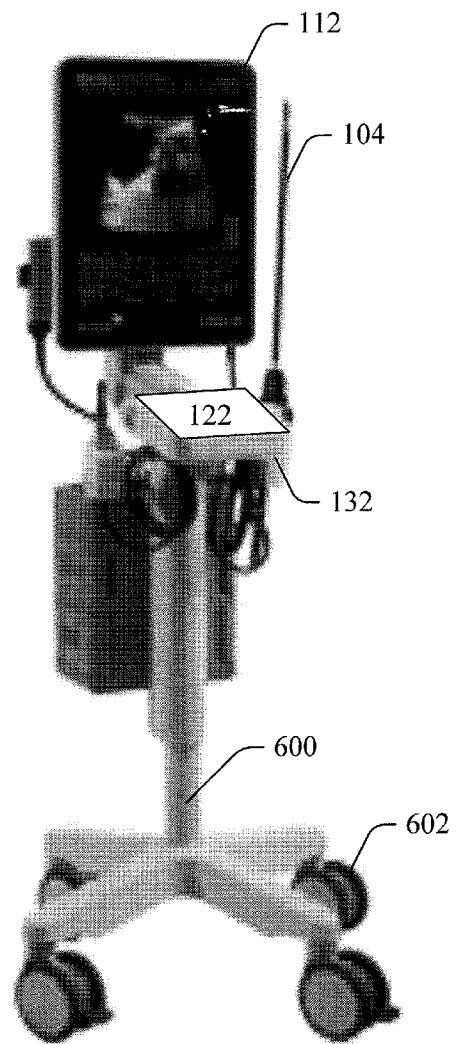


FIGURE 6

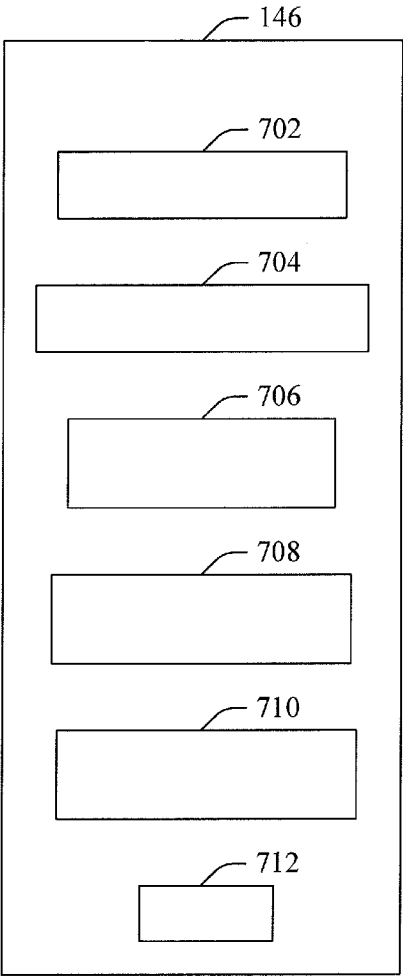


FIGURE 7

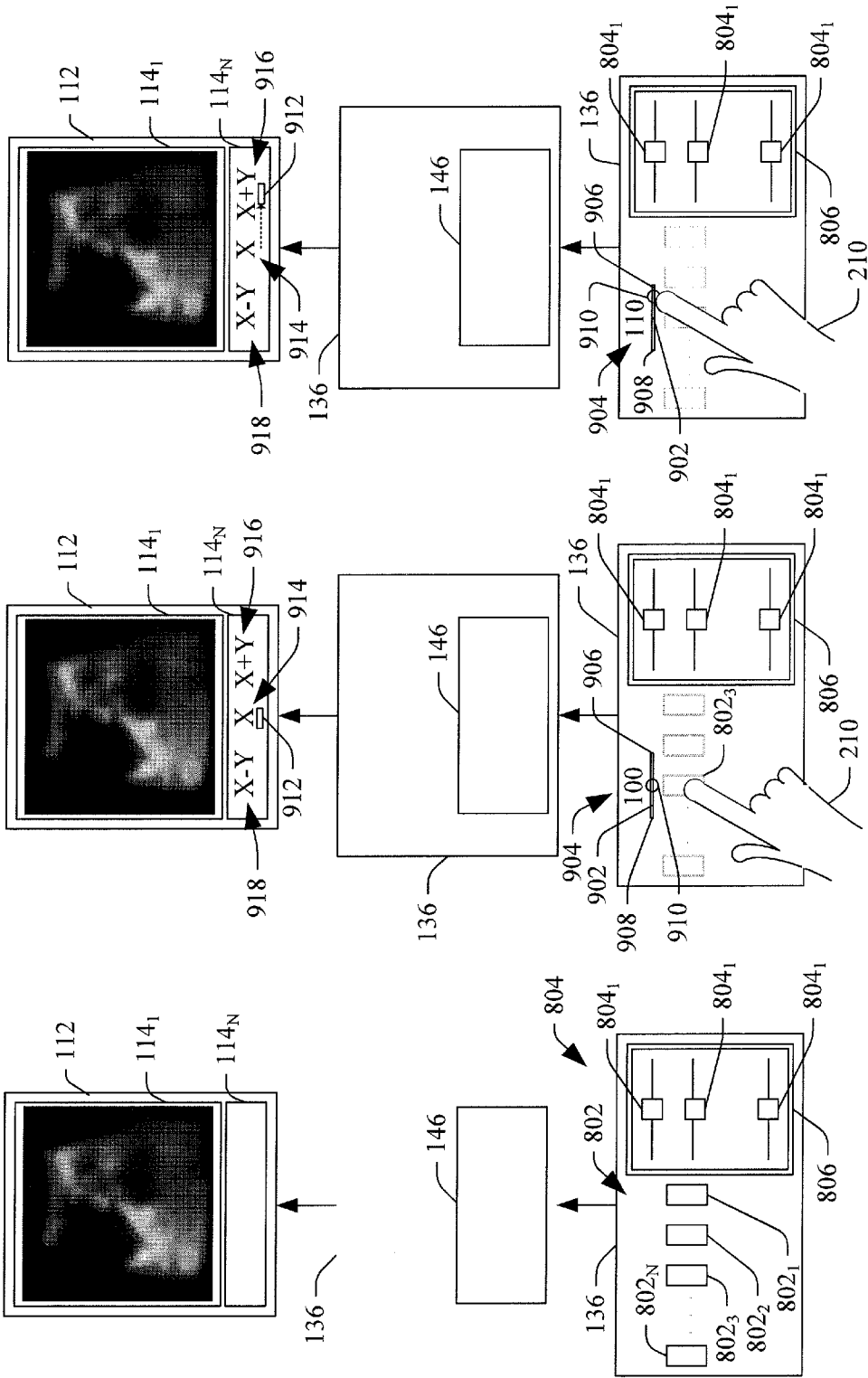
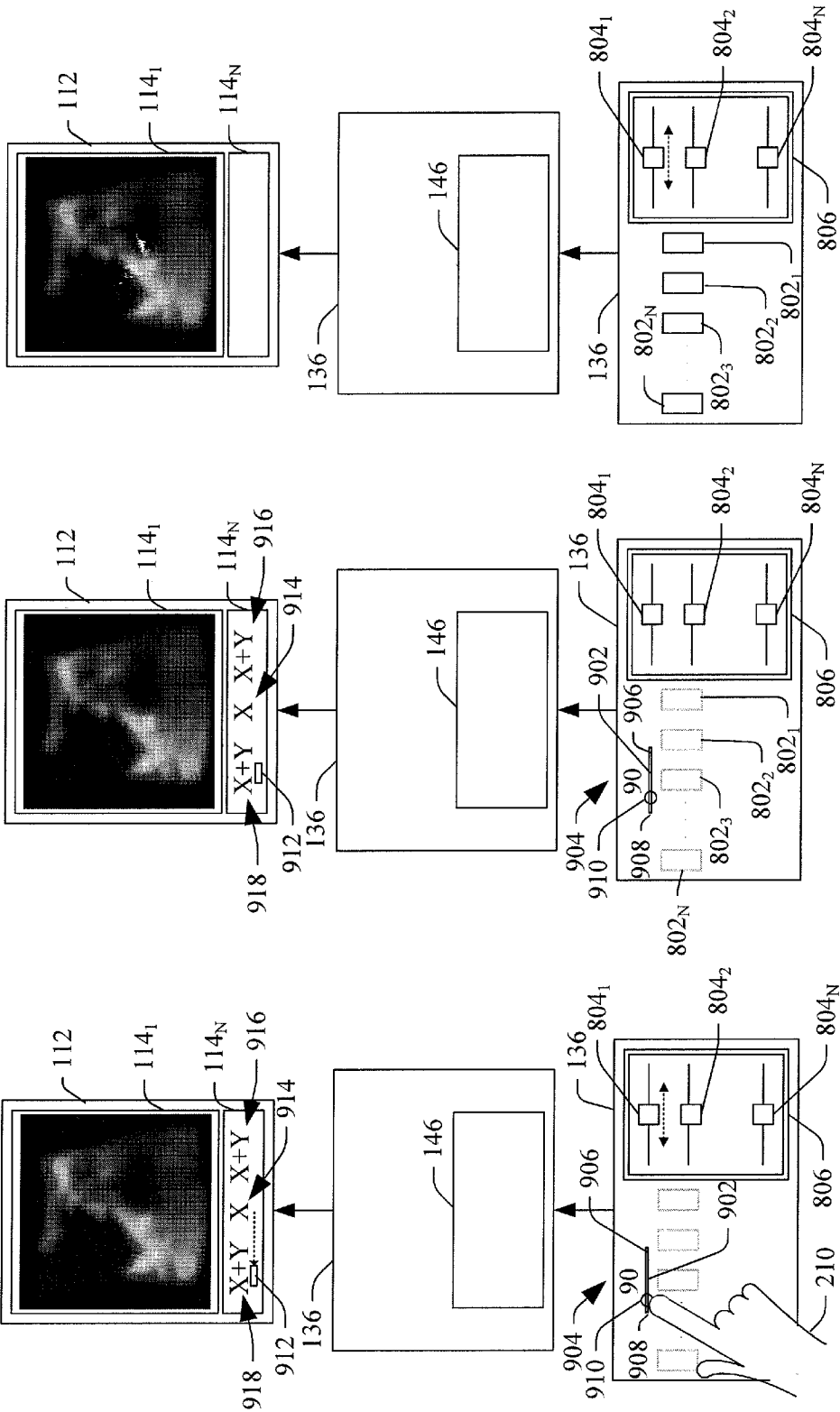


FIGURE 10

FIGURE 9

FIGURE 8



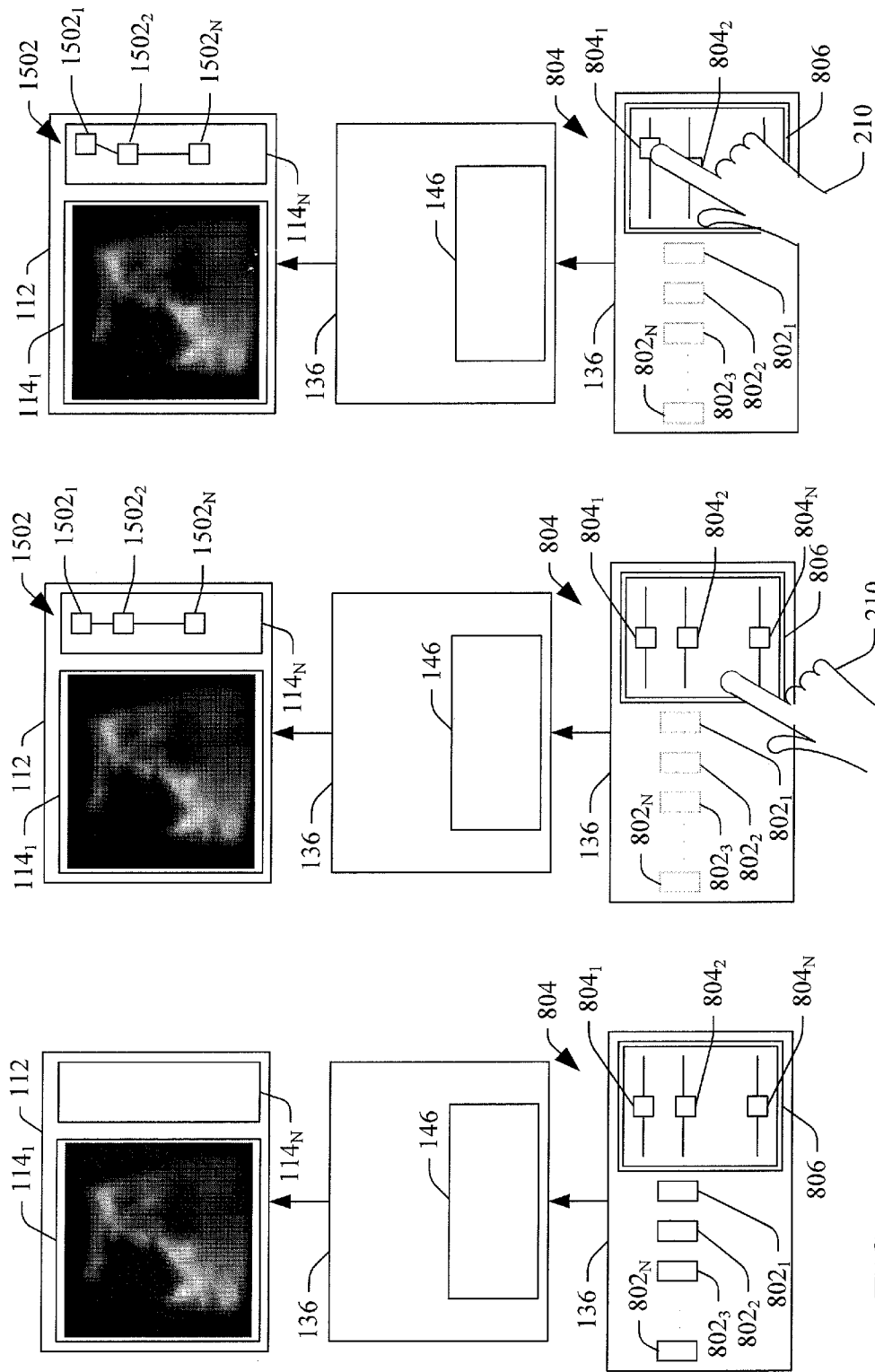


FIGURE 16

FIGURE 15

FIGURE 14

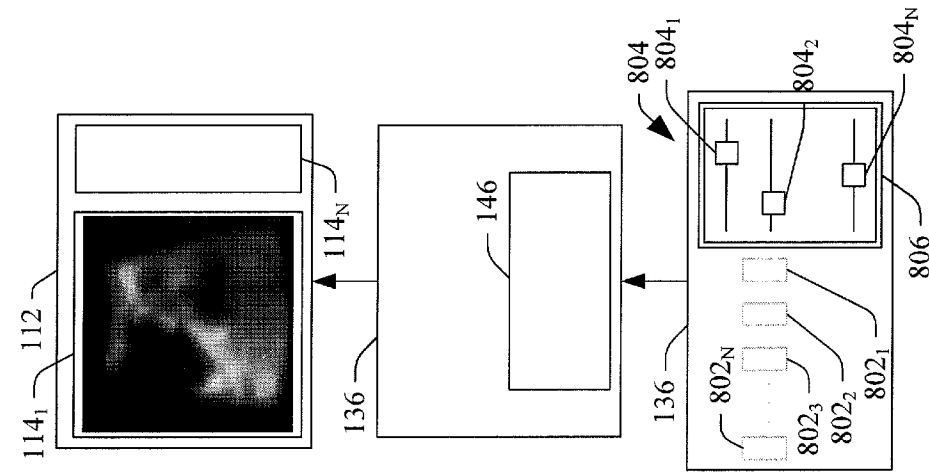


FIGURE 19

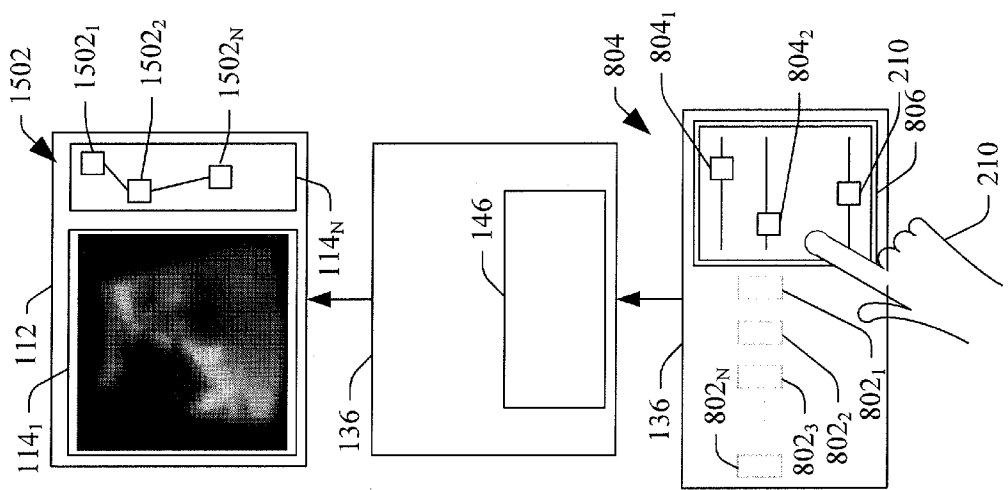


FIGURE 18

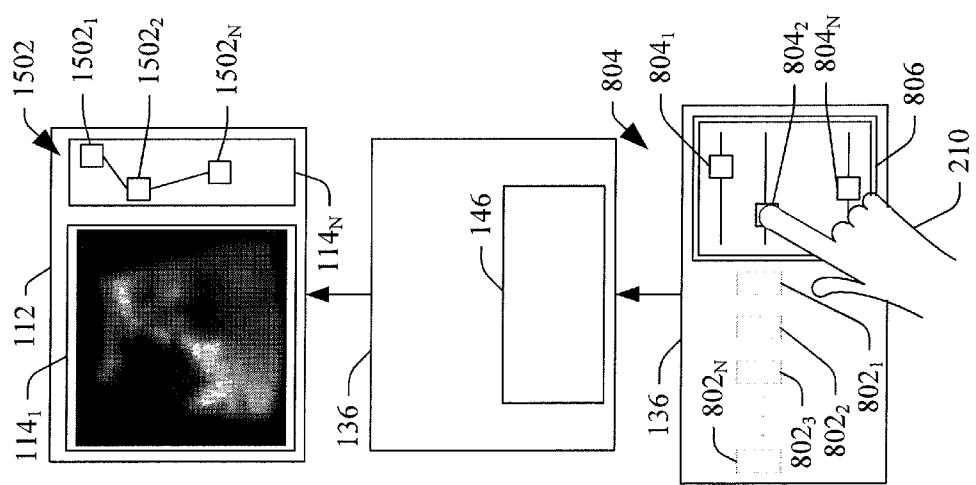


FIGURE 17

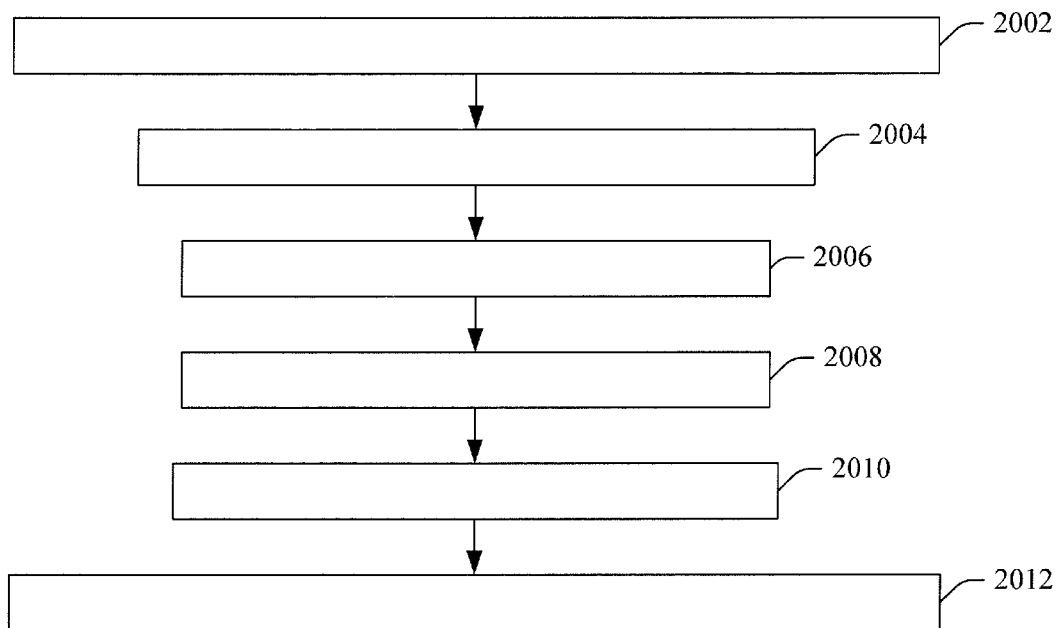


FIGURE 20

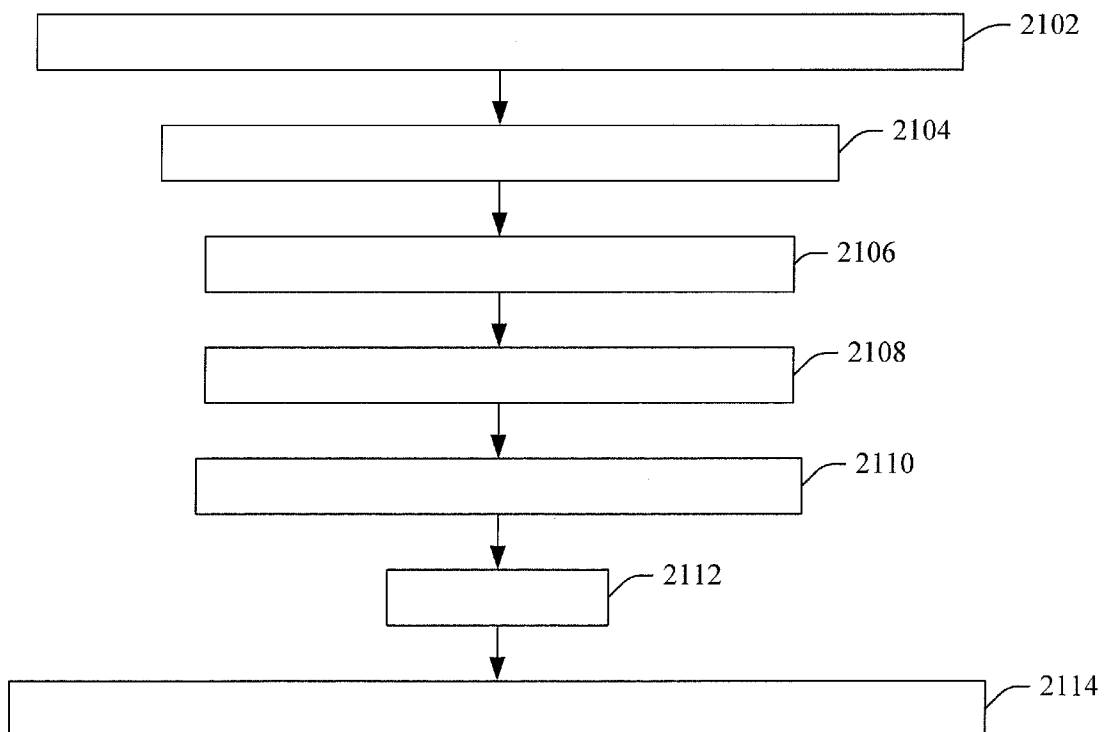


FIGURE 21

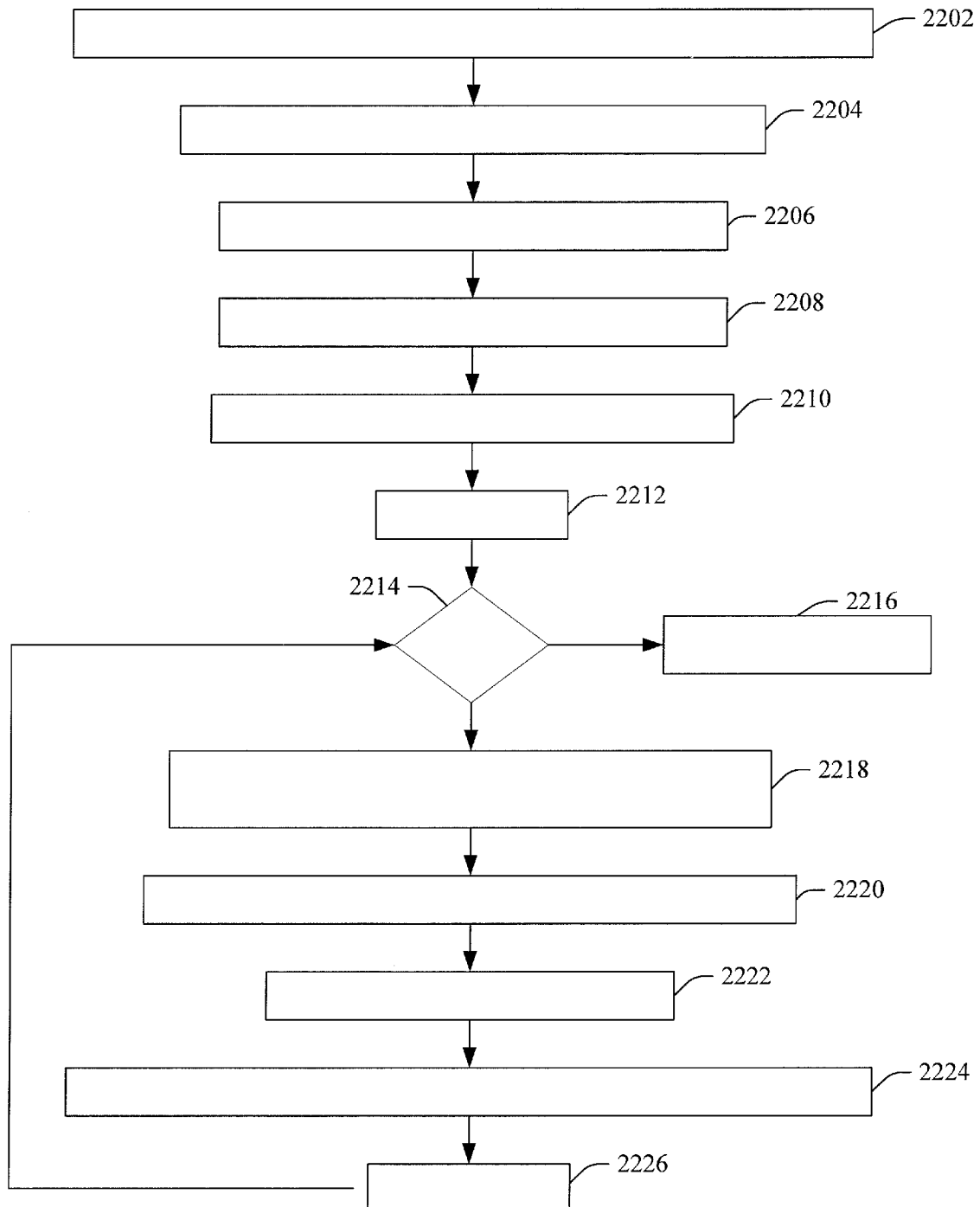


FIGURE 22

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/IB2014/059836

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. G06F19/00 A61B8/00
ADD.

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 A61B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

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.
X	WO 2013/077291 A1 (HITACHI ALOKA MEDICAL LTD [JP]) 30 May 2013 (2013-05-30) the whole document & US 2014/325442 A1 (EGUCHI TARO [JP] ET AL) 30 October 2014 (2014-10-30) abstract figures 1,2,5,6 paragraphs [0001], [0034] - [0071] -----	1-20
X	US 2011/182137 A1 (OZAKI HIROSHI [JP]) 28 July 2011 (2011-07-28) abstract figure 1 paragraphs [0001], [0007] - [0009], [0017] paragraphs [0031] - [0037] paragraphs [0083] - [0100] ----- -/--	1-20

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

6 November 2014

Date of mailing of the international search report

13/11/2014

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Authorized officer

Philips, Petra

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/IB2014/059836

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2013/197364 A1 (HAN KI-WOOK [KR]) 1 August 2013 (2013-08-01) figure 1 paragraphs [0028] - [0039], [0062] -----	1-20
X	EP 2 191 776 A1 (HITACHI MEDICAL CORP [JP]) 2 June 2010 (2010-06-02) abstract paragraphs [0074] - [0082] paragraphs [0096] - [0105] figures 18, 19 -----	1-20
A	US 2004/024384 A1 (NOVAK PAVEL [CH]) 5 February 2004 (2004-02-05) paragraph [0032] -----	1,2,20
A	US 2012/232367 A1 (ALLEGRI LUIS ENRIQUE [US] ET AL) 13 September 2012 (2012-09-13) figure 4B paragraph [0075] -----	1,2,20
A	EP 2 702 947 A1 (CHISON MEDICAL IMAGING CO LTD [CN]) 5 March 2014 (2014-03-05) paragraph [0111] -----	1-20
A	US 2013/120402 A1 (ADAMS TYLER ROBERT [US] ET AL) 16 May 2013 (2013-05-16) paragraph [0025] -----	6-10,13, 17-20
A	US 2007/152984 A1 (ORDING BAS [US] ET AL) 5 July 2007 (2007-07-05) claim 8 -----	6-10,13, 17-20

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/IB2014/059836

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WO 2013077291 A1	30-05-2013	CN 103945770 A JP 5345724 B2 JP 2013128747 A US 2014325442 A1 WO 2013077291 A1	23-07-2014 20-11-2013 04-07-2013 30-10-2014 30-05-2013
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专利名称(译)	超声成像系统的图形虚拟控制		
公开(公告)号	EP3117352A1	公开(公告)日	2017-01-18
申请号	EP2014720251	申请日	2014-03-14
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	B-K医疗公司		
申请(专利权)人(译)	B-k医疗APS		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	B-k医疗APS		
[标]发明人	NIELSEN TORBEN DUNKAN KAJ HANSEN JESPER ANTOL JOHN LEISMANN MICHAEL		
发明人	NIELSEN, TORBEN DUNKAN, KAJ HANSEN, JESPER ANTOL, JOHN LEISMANN, MICHAEL		
IPC分类号	G06F19/00 A61B8/00		
CPC分类号	A61B8/4405 A61B8/465 A61B8/467 G06F3/04847 G06F3/04886 G06F19/321 G16H30/40 G16H40/63 A61B8/4483 A61B8/52 A61B8/54 G16H30/20		
外部链接	Espacenet		

摘要(译)

一种方法包括在超声成像系统 (102) 的控制台 (132) 处接收指示超声成像系统的触摸屏用户界面 (122) 的触摸控制 (128) 的致动的第一信号，其中触摸控制是超声成像系统的多个不同触摸控制之一。该方法还包括利用超声成像系统的处理器基于第一信号从多个不同的触摸控制中识别触摸控制。该方法还包括利用超声成像系统的处理器基于触摸控制的识别来识别触摸控制的图形表示。该方法还包括利用超声成像系统的处理器在显示监视器上可视地显示图形表示，同时显示图像。