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(54) APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MEDICAL IMAGE SEARCHING

VORRICHTUNG UND VERFAHREN ZUR SUCHE NACH MEDIZINISCHEN BILDERN

APPAREIL ET PROCÉDÉ DE RECHERCHE DANS DES IMAGES MÉDICALES

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Description

Background

[0001] The invention is defined in the independent claims 1,8 and 12. Preferred embodiments are defined in the dependent claims. The subject matter disclosed herein generally relates to medical imaging systems, search methods within medical imaging systems and intravascular ultrasound (IVUS) imaging systems. In medical imaging in general, luminal structures of a living body can be visualized by using a medical imaging device that acquires a sequence of images. The sequence of images may include thousands of images about a specific part of the human anatomy. For clinical diagnosis, an operator may need to search the sequence of images to identify at least one image feature of interest. For example, an IVUS imaging system and catheter may be used by an interventional cardiologist to locate a minimum lumen area within a segment of an atherosclerotic-diseased coronary artery.

[0002] An IVUS system generally displays at least a single plane (tomographic) image of the coronary artery. The IVUS system may further display a longitudinal view of the coronary artery wherein the longitudinal view is a cut-plane of a sequence of tomographic images that are acquired as an IVUS catheter transducer is translated through the coronary artery. The image sequence may include many thousands of tomographic images depending on the imaging frame rate and translation rate of the sensor through the coronary artery.

[0003] Document US2010/0042084 discloses a user interface for an IVUS device, wherein the user input for the selection of the tomographic image is applied on the longitudinal image and the user input for the rotation of the cut-plane is applied to the tomographic image. Further, document US2009/0043195 discloses a touch input for an ultrasound apparatus.Tactile inputs of different directions at the same point of a touch screen are supported and these directions define the way the displayed images should be manipulated (translation, rotation). Thus, with thousands of potential tomographic images to view, a need for a display technology that provides a more intuitive approach and rapid interaction for the operator to guide interventional cardiology procedures arises. Further, it is desirable that such a display technology reduce to time to identify at least one image feature of interest in a sequence of images.

Brief Description Of The Drawings

[0004] The foregoing aspects and many of the attendant advantages of the claims will become more readily appreciated as the same become better understood by reference to the following detailed description, when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 shows a diagram of a suitable computing environment for practicing various aspects of a medical imaging system and method according to an embodiment of the subject matter disclosed herein;

FIG. 2 shows a high-level diagram of an IVUS system and catheter according to an embodiment of the subject matter disclosed herein;

FIG. 3 illustrates an IVUS imaging touch screen including a longitudinal image and tomographic image according to an embodiment of the subject matter disclosed herein;

FIG. 4 illustrates a touch movement with an imaging touch screen of **FIG. 3** according to an embodiment of the subject matter disclosed herein;

FIG. 5 illustrates a horizontal touch movement on a longitudinal image with an imaging touch screen of **FIG. 3** according to an embodiment of the subject matter disclosed herein;

FIG. 6 illustrates a vertical touch movement on a longitudinal image with an imaging touch screen of **FIG. 3** according to an embodiment of the subject matter disclosed herein; and

FIG. 7 is a flow diagram illustrating processing stages for a touch movement with an imaging touch screen of **FIG. 3** according to an embodiment of the subject matter disclosed herein.

Detailed Description

[0005] The following discussion is presented to enable a person skilled in the art to make and use the subject matter disclosed herein. The general principles described herein may be applied to embodiments and applications other than those detailed above without departing from the spirit and scope of the present detailed description. The present disclosure is not intended to be limited to the embodiments shown, but is to be accorded the widest scope consistent with the principles and features disclosed or suggested herein.

[0006] In embodiments described herein, an intravascular ultrasound (IVUS) imaging system and catheter provides an intuitive interface for rapid operator interaction with acquired medical images. The IVUS imaging system and catheter are used to acquire a sequence of a specific area of interest in the human anatomy, for example, tomographic images of a coronary artery. The IVUS imaging system displays at least one tomographic image of the area of interest. The IVUS imaging system generates and displays at least one longitudinal image, wherein the longitudinal image represents a cut-plane of the sequence of tomographic images. In the coronary artery example, the longitudinal image includes a longitudinal axis along the coronary artery axis and a transverse axis perpendicular to the coronary artery axis.

[0007] The IVUS imaging system further includes a touch screen, wherein the system recognizes touch movements to facilitate searching the sequence of images. Touch movements in the longitudinal direction of

the longitudinal image may pan the longitudinal image in the longitudinal direction. Touch movements in the transverse direction of the longitudinal image may rotate the cut-plane of the longitudinal image. The IVUS imaging system further includes touch movement (heuristic) processing to preferentially pan the longitudinal image in one direction or another. These and other aspects are discussed in greater detail below with respect to the **FIGs.** As briefly introduced above.

[0008] **FIG. 1** and the following discussion are intended to provide a brief, general description of a suitable computing environment in which the subject matter disclosed herein may be implemented. Although not required, aspects of a system and method for manipulating a medical image will be described in the general context of computer-executable instructions, such as program modules, being executed by a personal computer. Generally, program modules include routines, programs, objects, components, data structures, *etc.,* that perform particular tasks or implement particular abstract data types. Such program module may be embodied in both a transitory and/or a non-transitory computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions. Moreover, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the invention may be practiced with other computer system configurations, including hand-held devices, cellular or mobile telephones, multiprocessor systems, microprocessor-based or programmable consumer electronics, network PCs, minicomputers, mainframe computers, and the like. The invention may also be practiced in distributed computing environments where tasks are performed by remote processing devices that are linked through a communications network. In a distributed computing environment, program modules may be located in both local and remote memory storage devices.

[0009] With reference to **FIG. 1,** an exemplary system for implementing the systems and methods disclosed herein includes a general purpose computing device in the form of a conventional personal computer ***120,*** including a processing unit ***121,*** a system memory ***122,*** and a system bus ***123*** that couples various system components including the system memory to the processing unit ***121.*** The system bus ***123*** may be any of several types of bus structures including a memory bus or memory controller, a peripheral bus, and a local bus using any of a variety of bus architectures. By way of example, and not limitation, such architectures include Industry Standard Architecture (ISA) bus, Micro Channel Architecture (MCA) bus, Enhanced ISA (EISA) bus, Video Electronics Standards Association (VESA) local bus, and Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) bus also known as Mezzanine bus.

[0010] The system memory includes read only memory (ROM) ***124*** and random access memory (RAM) ***125.*** A basic input/output system (BIOS) ***126,*** containing the basic routines that help to transfer information between elements within the personal computer ***120,*** such as during start-up, is stored in ROM ***124.*** The personal computer ***120*** further includes a hard disk drive ***127*** for reading from and writing to a hard disk, not shown, a magnetic disk drive ***128*** for reading from or writing to a removable magnetic disk ***129,*** and an optical disk drive ***130*** for reading from or writing to a removable optical disk ***131*** such as a CD ROM or other optical media. The hard disk drive ***127,*** magnetic disk drive ***128,*** and optical disk drive ***130*** are connected to the system bus ***123*** by a hard disk drive interface ***132,*** a magnetic disk drive interface ***133,*** and an optical drive interface ***134,*** respectively. The drives and their associated computer-readable media provide nonvolatile storage of computer readable instructions, data structures, program modules and other data for the personal computer ***120.*** Although the exemplary environment described herein employs a hard disk, a removable magnetic disk ***129*** and a removable optical disk ***131,*** it should be appreciated by those skilled in the art that other types of computer-readable media which can store data that is accessible by a computer, such as magnetic cassettes, flash memory cards, digital versatile disks, Bernoulli cartridges, random access memories (RAMs), read only memories (ROM), and the like, may also be used in the exemplary operating environment.

[0011] A number of program modules may be stored on the hard disk, magnetic disk ***129,*** optical disk ***131,*** ROM ***124*** or RAM ***125,*** including an operating system ***135,*** one or more application programs ***136,*** other program modules ***137,*** and program data ***138.*** A user may enter commands and information into the personal computer ***120*** through input devices such as a keyboard ***140*** and pointing device ***142.*** Other input devices (not shown) may include a microphone, joystick, game pad, satellite dish, scanner, or the like. These and other input devices are often connected to the processing unit ***121*** through a serial port interface ***146*** that is coupled to the system bus, but may be connected by other interfaces, such as a parallel port, game port or a universal serial bus (USB). A monitor ***147*** or other type of display device is also connected to the system bus ***123*** via an interface, such as a video adapter ***148.*** One or more speakers ***157*** are also connected to the system bus ***123*** via an interface, such as an audio adapter ***156.*** In addition to the monitor and speakers, personal computers typically include other peripheral output devices (not shown), such as printers.

[0012] The personal computer ***120*** may also operate in a networked environment using logical connections to one or more remote computers, such as remote computers ***149*** and ***160.*** Each remote computer ***149*** or ***160*** may be another personal computer, a server, a router, a network PC, a peer device or other common network node, and typically includes many or all of the elements described above relative to the personal computer ***120,*** although only a memory storage device ***150*** or ***161*** has been illustrated in **FIG. 1.** The logical connections depicted in **FIG. 1** include a local area network (LAN) ***151*** and a wide area network (WAN) ***152.*** Such networking environments are commonplace in offices, enterprise-wide computer networks, intranets and the Internet. As depict-

ed in **FIG. 1,** the remote computer ***149*** communicates with the personal computer ***120*** via the local area network ***151.*** The remote computer ***160*** communicates with the personal computer ***120*** via the wide area network ***152.***

[0013] When used in a LAN networking environment, the personal computer ***120*** is connected to the local network ***151*** through a network interface or adapter ***153.*** When used in a WAN networking environment, the personal computer ***120*** typically includes a modem ***154*** or other means for establishing communications over the wide area network ***152,*** such as the Internet. The modem ***154,*** which may be internal or external, is connected to the system bus ***123.*** In a networked environment, program modules depicted relative to the personal computer ***120,*** or portions thereof, may be stored in the remote memory storage device. It will be appreciated that the network connections shown are exemplary and other means of establishing a communications link between the computers may be used.

[0014] With such a computing environment as described with respect to **FIG. 1,** an IVUS system having various embodiments as discussed herein may be practiced and used. **FIG. 2** shows a high-level block diagram of an intravascular ultrasound catheter system ***200*** including a catheter ***202,*** a patient interface module ***204,*** and a console ***206.*** The patient interface module ***204*** may be electrically and mechanically coupled to the catheter ***202*** such that the catheter may collect raw data about a part of human anatomy and send the raw data to patient interface module ***204.*** The patient interface module ***204*** may process the incoming data for transmission to a coupled console ***206*** and further provides electrical isolation of the patient from the system. The patient interface module ***204*** is described in additional detail in United States Patent Application Serial No. 12/633,278 by Moore et at.

[0015] The patient interface module ***204*** and console ***206*** may be communicatively coupled by physical analog and digital signal lines. Such physical couplings may include proprietary cabling, common universal serial bus coupling or other suitable coupling that allows for signal communications and/or power to be provided to the patient interface module ***204.*** In other embodiments, the patient interface module ***204*** may be powered by a local battery and communicatively coupled to the console ***206*** through a wireless communication protocol, such as a local Wi-Fi network. Further, the console ***206*** may be communicatively coupled to a server computer ***149*** having medical images stored thereon for accessing and downloading. These stored images may represent images captured from a previous deployment of a catheter in a specific area of the human anatomy.

[0016] The console ***206*** may receive processed data from the patient interface module ***204*** and produce images about the scanned area of human anatomy. The images may generally comprise one or more tomographic images which may be a specific location of a part of a human anatomy. A tomographic image (sometimes called a transverse image) results from a rotating sonic signal emanating from a point source at the end of the catheter and then receiving echo signals that yield data about surroundings in a single plane. As the catheter moves forward (or backward), a tomographic image in a different plane may be derived. Together, the multiple tomographic plane images may then be thought of as a series of tomographic images. If stacked side-by-side (in a pancake-like manner), a longitudinal image may be revealed that represents a three-dimensional image of the human anatomy that was scanned. Further, such a longitudinal image may be "cut" along a cut-plane axis such that a display may show the series of tomographic images from a [particular cut plane.

[0017] In conventional systems, the tomographic image and longitudinal image are generally displayed on a non-touch screen. The operator may use a pointing device, such as a touch pad or track ball, to select a different tomographic image or select a different cut-plane for the longitudinal image. The operator can search the sequence of images for the minimum lumen area by repeatedly adjusting the tomographic image and longitudinal image. For example, the operator may use the pointing device to select an on-screen control handle to select a different image or change the longitudinal image cut-plane. The use of a non-touch screen for image display, however, may limit user interaction and effectively increase procedure time. The use of pointing devices may require additional steps, such as hovering a display cursor for a pre-determined duration over an on-screen control handle, before the operator can interact with the on-screen control handle. The use of control handles may further impede operator interaction if the control handles are small and located at only a specific screen location. Operator interaction can be still further impeded if the system requires precise proximity of the display cursor to the control handle before the control handle can be activated. Thus, better operational control of the images is desirable.

[0018] Thus, in embodiments herein, the console ***206*** may include a touch screen ***210.*** In this manner, the console ***206*** may be used to control operation of the patient interface module ***204*** and the imaging aspect of the catheter ***202*** through the use of a touch screen ***210.*** The touch screen ***210*** is configured to detect tactile input when an object comes into contact or is near the touch screen, *e.g.,* engages the touch screen. Further, as the console ***206*** will be subject to repeated touching, a sterile cover ***212*** that is interchangeable may be present surrounding the entire console ***206.***

[0019] In an embodiment, the intravascular ultrasound catheter system ***200*** provides for image guidance of percutaneous coronary interventions such as stent deployment. As such, to further facilitate ease of use by an operator when viewing images, the console ***206*** includes a touch screen ***210*** configured for image display and operator interaction as illustrated in **FIG. 3.**

[0020] Referring now to **FIG. 3,** a view of the touch screen ***210*** of the console ***206*** of **FIG. 2** is shown during

operation with an example image displayed. The touch screen ***210*** here displays a tomographic image ***312,*** a longitudinal image ***314,*** and common controls ***316*** for manipulating these images as well as image analysis and archiving. In this embodiment, the tomographic image ***312*** is a cross-sectional view of a diseased coronary artery. Throughout the remainder of this disclosure, the example of a diseased coronary artery will be used to illustrate the concepts claimed herein, however, a skilled artisan understands that any tomographic image in any medical context may be used with the systems and methods described herein.

[0021] The tomographic image is spatially limited to a field of view ***318.*** The tomographic image ***312*** of the coronary artery may include a catheter mask ***320*** that identifies catheter location within the diseased coronary artery. The tomographic image ***312*** also generally includes a coronary artery lumen ***322,*** intimal plaque ***324,*** and surrounding tissue ***326*** which may include membranous adventitia tissue. The tomographic image ***312*** may further include a cut-plane indicator ***328*** to indicate the cut-plane along an axis of the longitudinal image ***314.***

[0022] The longitudinal image ***314*** is constructed from a cut-plane of a sequence of the tomographic images generally acquired by a catheter ***202*** and assembled by a program module executing on the console ***206.*** The longitudinal image ***314*** includes a longitudinal axis in the horizontal direction and a transverse axis in the vertical direction. The longitudinal image ***314*** further includes a catheter mask ***330,*** the coronary artery lumen ***322,*** intimal plaque ***324,*** and the surrounding tissue ***326.*** The longitudinal image ***314*** still further includes a longitudinal position indicator ***338*** to indicate the longitudinal cut-plane position of the tomographic image ***312.***

[0023] In a procedure according to one embodiment, an operator positions the IVUS catheter ***202*** distal to a coronary artery segment of interest. A sequence of tomographic images of the coronary artery is acquired at different longitudinal positions as the IVUS catheter transducer is translated longitudinally from a distal position to a proximal position. The tomographic image ***312*** and longitudinal image ***314*** may be shown in real time and the sequence of images may include many thousands of tomographic images. In an embodiment, the longitudinal image includes a "one pixel-wide" cut-plane for each tomographic image. For a touch screen having a 1280 pixel width, the longitudinal image is limited to showing the cut-plane for at most 1280 tomographic images. For image sequences including more than 1280 tomographic images, a limited section of the longitudinal image ***314*** can be displayed. Sections of the longitudinal image ***314*** that are not displayed may be stored in an off-screen buffer. An IVUS system that includes touch movement recognition according to an embodiment enables the operator to intuitively and rapidly search the sequence of images for an area of interest, such as the minimum lumen area. Such operator movements are discussed below with respect to **FIGs. 4-6.**

[0024] Referring now to **FIG. 4,** a touch movement is illustrated. In an embodiment, a hand ***460*** in an initial position is dragged to the right as indicated by arrow ***462*** in a substantially horizontal direction to a final position where the hand ***460*** is illustrated in dashed lines. During this touch movement process, the finger of hand ***460*** is in contact with the touch screen ***210.*** In other embodiments, the hand may include a glove such that only the glove material comes into contact with the touch screen ***210.*** In still other embodiments, an operator may use an instrument, such as a stylus or pen to effect movement detection by the touch screen ***210.***

[0025] **FIG. 5** illustrates a substantially horizontal touch movement that is applied to the longitudinal image ***314.*** In this embodiment the touch movement is initiated at a section of the longitudinal image with a minimum lumen area ***574.*** The finger of hand ***460*** touches the touch screen ***210*** at the minimum lumen area ***574.*** The finger of hand ***460*** then moves across the touch screen ***210*** in a substantially horizontal direction ***572.*** The finger of hand ***460*** stops at the longitudinal position indicator ***338*** and is lifted off the touch screen ***210.*** The substantially horizontal touch movement causes the longitudinal image ***314*** to pan in the direction of the touch movement.

[0026] In one embodiment with a touch screen ***210*** having a 1280 pixel width, the longitudinal image ***314*** is updated to include the cut-plane of the 1280 tomographic images having the middle tomographic image centered at the longitudinal position indicator ***338.*** The tomographic image ***314*** is updated to correspond to the longitudinal position represented by the longitudinal position indicator ***338.***

[0027] **FIG. 6** illustrates a substantially vertical touch movement that is applied to the longitudinal image ***314.*** The finger of hand ***460*** touches the touch screen ***210*** and then moves across the touch screen in a substantially vertical direction ***682.*** The finger stops as indicated by the hand ***460*** in dashed lines and is lifted off the touch screen. The substantially vertical touch movement causes the cut-plane of the longitudinal image to rotate. The longitudinal image ***314*** is updated. The cut-plane indicator ***328*** as illustrated in **FIG. 3** is also updated.

[0028] With these touch screen operations and movements available to an operator, one can manipulate a medical image quickly and easily to find specific areas of interest. Such a method for doing so is shown and described with respect to **FIG. 7** below which may be implemented as a method in a computing environment in a program module such as a heuristics engine that may be part of the console ***206*** of **FIG. 2.**

[0029] One set of processing steps for processing touch movements on the longitudinal image in accordance with aspects of one embodiment is illustrated in **FIG. 7.** The process initiates with a touch movement being detected in step ***700.*** One or more horizontal movement values, which may include direction and speed, are weighted in step ***702.*** Further, one or more vertical movement values, which may also include direction and speed,

are weighted in step ***704.*** Generally speaking, when a horizontal movement is detected, a selection marker may be moved along a central axis of the longitudinal image and may correspond to one of the sequence of tomographic images that comprise the longitudinal image. Thus, a horizontal movement, in effect, may change the displayed tomographic image. Similarly, if a vertical movement is detected, the entire longitudinal image (*i.e.,* each of the tomographic images) may be rotated about the central axis.

[0030] The horizontal movement values can be weighted such that the longitudinal image is preferentially panned by a touch movement. A running average of the weighted horizontal movement values is calculated in step ***706*** wherein the running average may use the last 10 sets of horizontal movement values. A running average of the weighted vertical movement values is then calculated in step ***708*** wherein the running average may use the last 10 sets of vertical movement values. In an alternative embodiment, the weighted average may be calculated from a set of data points within a specific time window (for example, 100 ms) that may include a suitable number of movement values. The set of averaged, weighted horizontal movement values is then compared to the set of averaged, weighted vertical movement values in step ***710.*** If the horizontal movement is considered greater than the vertical movement, the touch movement is limited to the horizontal direction in step ***712.*** If the vertical movement is considered greater than the horizontal movement, the touch movement is limited to the vertical direction in step ***714.*** The touch movement is then processed in step ***716.*** Here, the horizontal movement results in a pan of the longitudinal image and a vertical movement results in a cut-plane rotation of the longitudinal image. Touch movements can be processed in a repeated manner.

[0031] In another aspect of various embodiments, the IVUS imaging system may be used to acquire a sequence of tomographic images of a coronary artery. The touch screen displays at least one of images in the sequence of tomographic images. The touch screen further displays at least one longitudinal image, wherein the longitudinal image represents a cut-plane of the sequence of tomographic images. A further aspect of various embodiments is a method to search the sequence of images to identify at least one image feature of interest. An image feature of interest may be a minimum lumen area. The image search methods may involve the use of touch movements applied to regions of the touch screen wherein the longitudinal image is shown. Touch movements in the longitudinal direction of the longitudinal image may be processed to pan the longitudinal image. Touch movements in the transverse direction of the longitudinal image may be processed to rotate the cut-plane of the longitudinal image. Yet another aspect of various embodiments is touch movement processing to enable either longitudinal image panning or longitudinal image cut-plane rotation for a discrete touch movement, but not simultaneous panning and rotation. Touch movement processing provides a preference for longitudinal image panning.

Claims

1. A method in a computing environment for an intravascular ultrasound imaging system, comprising:

displaying at least one of a sequence of tomographic images on a display having a touch screen;
displaying a longitudinal image having a central axis point, the longitudinal image corresponding to the sequence of tomographic images;
displaying, near the longitudinal image, one tomographic image amongst the sequence of tomographic images that corresponds to a selection marker;
detecting a tactile input applied to the longitudinal image corresponding to a horizontal movement and/or to a vertical movement;
determining which of the horizontal tactile input and vertical tactile input is the more prominent;
in response to determining that the horizontal tactile input is the more prominent movement, moving the selection marker proportional to the detected horizontal movement to a new position with respect to the longitudinal image and displaying a different one of the sequence of tomographic images, the different one corresponding to the new position; and,
in response to determining that the vertical tactile input is the more prominent movement, rotating the cut plane of the longitudinal image proportional to detected vertical movement.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the vertical movement or the horizontal movement is more prominent comprises using at least one heuristic.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the vertical movement or the horizontal movement is more prominent comprises:

determine a weighted average of detected horizontal movements;
determine a weighted average of detected vertical movements; determine the prominent tactile input as the movement for which the weighted average is higher.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising calculating a lumen area corresponding to the displayed tomographic image.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining a lumen area for each tomographic image; and
displaying the tomographic image corresponding to the lowest lumen area calculated.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the sequence of tomographic images from a catheter coupled to the display.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the sequence of tomographic images from a server computer coupled to the display.

8. A console for use in an intravascular ultrasound imaging system, comprising:

a display for displaying at least one of a sequence of tomographic images and having a touch screen for receiving tactile input, the display being configures to display a longitudinal image having a central axis point, the longitudinal image corresponding to the sequence of tomographic images and, near the longitudinal image, one tomographic image amongst the sequence of tomographic images that corresponds to a selection marker; and
a decision engine configured to process detected tactile inputs applied to the longitudinal image to determine which of the horizontal tactile input and the vertical tactile input is the more prominent,
wherein, in response to determining that the horizontal tactile input is more prominent, moving the selection marker proportional to the detected horizontal movement to a new position with respect to the longitudinal image and displaying a different one of the sequence of tomographic images, the different one corresponding to the new position; and
wherein, in response to determining that the vertical tactile input is more prominent, rotating the cut plane of the longitudinal image proportional to detected vertical movement.

9. The console of claim 8, wherein the decision engine is further configured to determine which of the horizontal tactile input and the vertical tactile input is more prominent by:

determining a weighted average of detected horizontal movements;
determining a weighted average of detected vertical movements; and
determine the more prominent tactile input as the tactile input for which the weighted average is higher.

10. The console of claim 8, further comprising a communication module configured to receive a sequence of images, the sequence of images received from a coupled catheter.

11. The console of claim 8, further comprising a communication module configured to receive a sequence of images, the sequence of images received from a communicatively coupled server computer.

12. A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions that when executed on a computer cause the computer to perform the method according to any one of claims 1 to 7.

Patentansprüche

1. Verfahren in einer Datenverarbeitungsumgebung für ein System für intravaskuläre Ultraschallbildgebung, das Folgendes aufweist:

Anzeigen von wenigstens einem aus einer Folge tomographischer Bilder auf einer Anzeige mit einem Berührungsbildschirm;
Anzeigen eines Längsbilds mit einem Mittelachsenpunkt, wobei das Längsbild der Folge tomographischer Bilder entspricht;
Anzeigen eines tomographischen Bilds unter der Folge tomographischer Bilder, das einer Auswahlmarkierung entspricht, in der Nähe des Längsbilds;
Erkennen einer auf das Längsbild angewendeten taktilen Eingabe, die einer horizontalen Bewegung und/oder einer vertikalen Bewegung entspricht;
Bestimmen, welche von der horizontalen taktilen Eingabe und der vertikalen taktilen Eingabe prominenter ist;
als Reaktion auf das Bestimmen, dass die horizontale taktische Eingabe die prominentere Bewegung ist, Bewegen der Auswahlmarkierung proportional zur erkannten horizontalen Bewegung auf eine neue Position in Bezug auf das Längsbild und Anzeigen eines anderen aus der Folge tomographischer Bilder, wobei das andere der neuen Position entspricht; und
als Reaktion auf das Bestimmen, dass die vertikale taktische Eingabe die prominentere Bewegung ist, Drehen der Schnittebene des Längsbilds proportional zur erkannten vertikalen Bewegung.

2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei das Bestimmen, ob die vertikale Bewegung oder die horizontale Bewegung prominenter ist, das Verwenden von wenigstens einer Heuristik aufweist.

3. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei das Bestimmen, ob die vertikale Bewegung oder die horizontale Bewegung prominenter ist, Folgendes aufweist:

Bestimmen eines gewichteten Mittels erkannter horizontaler Bewegungen;
Bestimmen eines gewichteten Mittels erkannter vertikaler Bewegungen;
Bestimmen der prominenten taktilen Eingabe als die Bewegung, für die das gewichtete Mittel höher ist.

4. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, das ferner das Berechnen einer Lumenfläche aufweist, die dem angezeigten tomographischen Bild entspricht.

5. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, das ferner Folgendes aufweist:

Bestimmen einer Lumenfläche für jedes tomographische Bild und
Anzeigen des tomographischen Bilds, das der kleinsten berechneten Lumenfläche entspricht.

6. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, das ferner das Empfangen der Folge tomographischer Bilder aus einem an die Anzeige angeschlossenen Katheter aufweist.

7. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, das ferner das Empfangen der Folge tomographischer Bilder aus einem an die Anzeige angeschlossenen Servercomputer aufweist.

8. Konsole zur Verwendung in einem System für intravaskuläre Ultraschallbildgebung, die Folgendes aufweist:

eine Anzeige zum Anzeigen von wenigstens einem aus einer Folge tomographischer Bilder und mit einem Berührungsbildschirm zum Empfangen taktiler Eingaben, wobei die Anzeige zum Anzeigen eines Längsbilds mit einem Mittelachsenpunkt konfiguriert ist, wobei das Längsbild der Folge tomographischer Bilder entspricht, und eines tomographischen Bilds unter der Folge tomographischer Bilder, das einer Auswahlmarkierung entspricht, in der Nähe des Längsbilds; und
eine Entscheidungsmaschine, die konfiguriert ist zum Verarbeiten von auf das Längsbild angewendeten erkannten taktilen Eingaben zum Bestimmen, welche von der horizontalen taktilen Eingabe und der vertikalen taktilen Eingabe prominenter ist;
wobei als Reaktion auf das Bestimmen, dass die horizontale taktische Eingabe prominenter ist, die Auswahlmarkierung proportional zur erkannten horizontalen Bewegung auf eine neue Position in Bezug auf das Längsbild und Anzeigen eines anderen aus der Folge tomographischer Bilder bewegt wird, wobei das andere der neuen Position entspricht; und
wobei als Reaktion auf das Bestimmen, dass die vertikale taktische Eingabe prominenter ist, die Schnittebene des Längsbilds proportional zur erkannten vertikalen Bewegung gedreht wird.

9. Konsole nach Anspruch 8, wobei die Entscheidungsmaschine ferner konfiguriert ist zum Bestimmen, welche von der horizontalen taktilen Eingabe und der vertikalen taktilen Eingabe prominenter ist, durch:

Bestimmen eines gewichteten Mittels erkannter horizontaler Bewegungen;
Bestimmen eines gewichteten Mittels erkannter vertikaler Bewegungen; und
Bestimmen der prominenteren taktilen Eingabe als die taktile Eingabe, für die das gewichtete Mittel höher ist.

10. Konsole nach Anspruch 8, das ferner ein Kommunikationsmodul aufweist, das zum Empfangen einer Bilderfolge konfiguriert ist, wobei die Bilderfolge aus einem angeschlossenen Katheter empfangen wird.

11. Konsole nach Anspruch 8, das ferner ein Kommunikationsmodul aufweist, das zum Empfangen einer Bilderfolge konfiguriert ist, wobei die Bilderfolge aus einem kommunikationsfähig angeschlossenen Servercomputer empfangen wird.

12. Computerlesbares Speichermedium mit durch Computer ausführbaren Anweisungen, die bei Ausführung an einem Computer den Computer zum Durchführen des Verfahrens nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 7 veranlassen.

Revendications

1. Procédé destiné à un système d'imagerie intravasculaire par ultrasons dans un environnement informatique, comprenant :

afficher au moins l'une d'une séquence d'images tomographiques sur un affichage ayant un écran tactile ;
afficher une image longitudinale ayant un point d'axe central, l'image longitudinale correspondant à la séquence d'images tomographiques ;
afficher, près de l'image longitudinale, une image tomographique qui correspond à un marqueur de sélection parmi la séquence d'images tomographiques ;

détecter une entrée tactile appliquée à l'image longitudinale correspondant à un mouvement horizontal et/ou à un mouvement vertical ;
déterminer laquelle de l'entrée tactile horizontale et de l'entrée tactile verticale est la plus proéminente ;
en réponse au fait de déterminer que l'entrée tactile horizontale est le mouvement plus proéminent, déplacer le marqueur de sélection proportionnellement au mouvement horizontal détecté à une nouvelle position par rapport à l'image longitudinale et afficher une image différente de la séquence d'images tomographique, l'image différente correspondant à la nouvelle position ; et
en réponse au fait de déterminer que l'entrée tactile verticale est le mouvement plus proéminent, faire pivoter le plan de coupe de l'image longitudinale proportionnellement au mouvement vertical détecté.

2. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le fait de déterminer si le mouvement vertical ou le mouvement horizontal est plus proéminent comprend utiliser au moins une heuristique.

3. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le fait de déterminer que le mouvement vertical ou le mouvement horizontal est plus proéminent comprend :

déterminer une moyenne pondérée des mouvements horizontaux détectés ;
déterminer une moyenne pondérée des mouvements verticaux détectés ;
déterminer l'entrée tactile proéminente comme le mouvement pour lequel la moyenne pondérée est plus haute.

4. Procédé selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre calculer une surface de lumen correspondant à l'image tomographique affichée.

5. Procédé selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre :

déterminer une surface de lumen pour chaque image tomographique ; et
afficher l'image tomographique correspondant à la surface de lumen calculée la plus basse.

6. Procédé selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre recevoir la séquence d'images tomographiques d'un cathéter couplé à l'affichage.

7. Procédé selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre recevoir la séquence d'images tomographiques d'un ordinateur serveur couplé à l'affichage.

8. Console à utiliser dans un système d'imagerie intravasculaire par ultrasons, comprenant :

un affichage pour afficher au moins l'une d'une séquence d'images tomographiques et ayant un écran tactile pour recevoir une entrée tactile, l'affichage étant configuré pour afficher une image longitudinale ayant un point d'axe central, l'image longitudinale correspondant à la séquence d'images tomographiques et, près de l'image longitudinale, une image tomographique qui correspond à un marqueur de sélection parmi la séquence d'images tomographiques ; et
un moteur de décision configuré pour traiter des entrées tactiles détectées appliquées à l'image longitudinale afin de déterminer laquelle de l'entrée tactile horizontale et de l'entrée tactile verticale est la plus proéminente,
où, en réponse au fait de déterminer que l'entrée tactile horizontale est plus proéminente, déplacer le marqueur de sélection proportionnellement au mouvement horizontal détecté à une nouvelle position par rapport à l'image longitudinale et afficher une image différente de la séquence d'images tomographiques, l'image différente correspondant à la nouvelle position ; et
où, en réponse au fait de déterminer que l'entrée tactile verticale est plus proéminente, faire pivoter le plan de coupe de l'image longitudinale proportionnellement au mouvement vertical détecté.

9. Console selon la revendication 8, dans laquelle le moteur de décision est configuré en outre pour déterminer laquelle de l'entrée tactile horizontale et l'entrée tactile verticale est plus proéminente en :

déterminant une moyenne pondérée des mouvements horizontaux détectés ;
déterminant une moyenne pondérée des mouvements verticaux détectés ; et
déterminant l'entrée tactile la plus proéminente comme l'entrée tactile pour laquelle la moyenne pondérée est plus haute.

10. Console selon la revendication 8, comprenant en outre un module de communication configuré pour recevoir une séquence d'images, la séquence d'images étant reçue d'un cathéter couplé.

11. Console selon la revendication 8, comprenant en outre un module de communication configuré pour recevoir une séquence d'images, la séquence d'images étant reçue d'un ordinateur serveur couplé d'une manière communicative.

12. Support de stockage lisible par ordinateur ayant des instructions exécutables par ordinateur qui, lorsque

exécutées sur un ordinateur, font que l'ordinateur mette en oeuvre le procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 7.

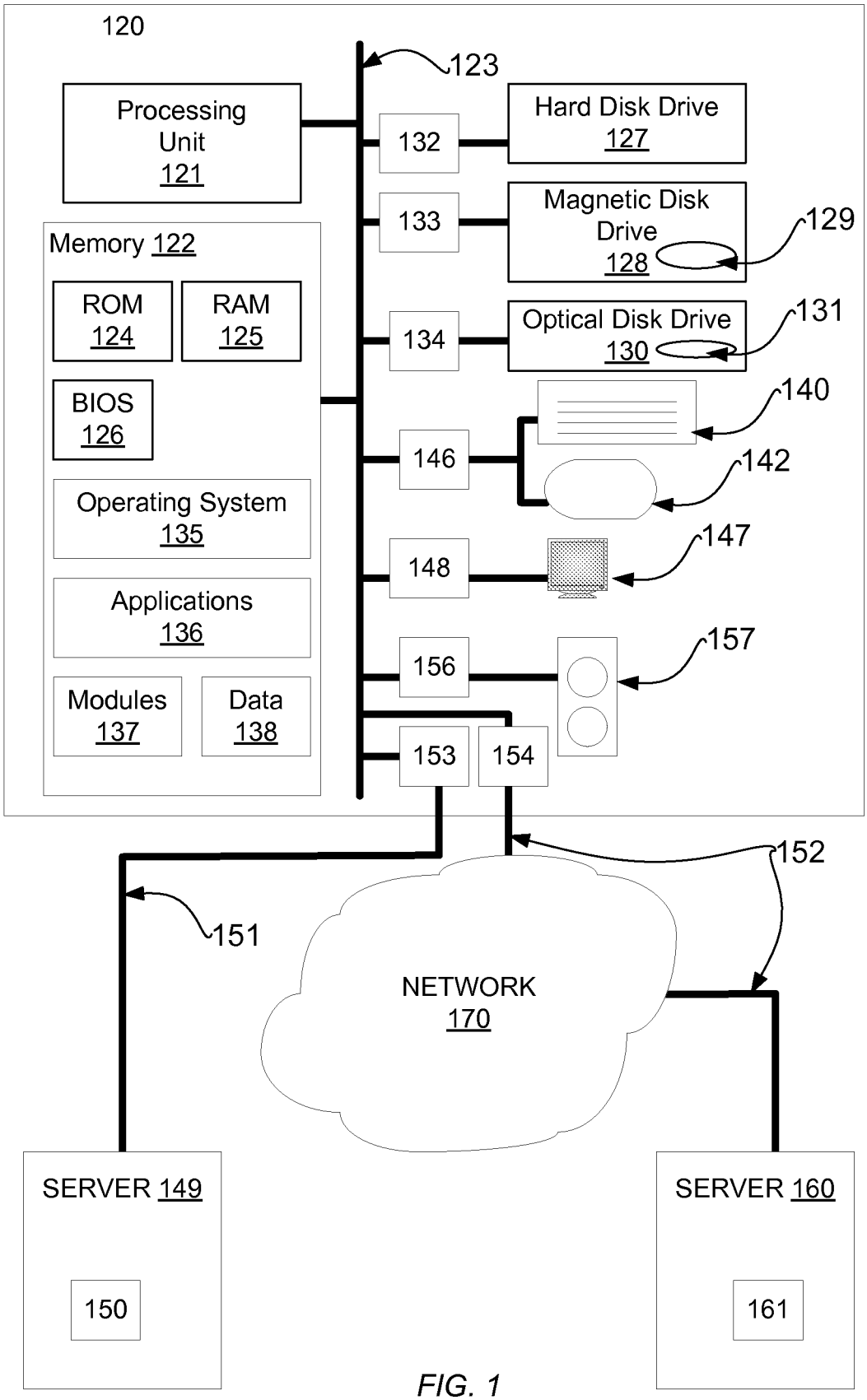
120
123
Processing Unit 121
132
Hard Disk Drive 127
133
Magnetic Disk Drive 128
129
Memory 122
ROM 124
RAM 125
134
Optical Disk Drive 130
131
BIOS 126
140
146
142
Operating System 135
148
147
Applications 136
156
157
Modules 137
Data 138
153
154
152
151
NETWORK 170
SERVER 149
150
SERVER 160
161

FIG. 1

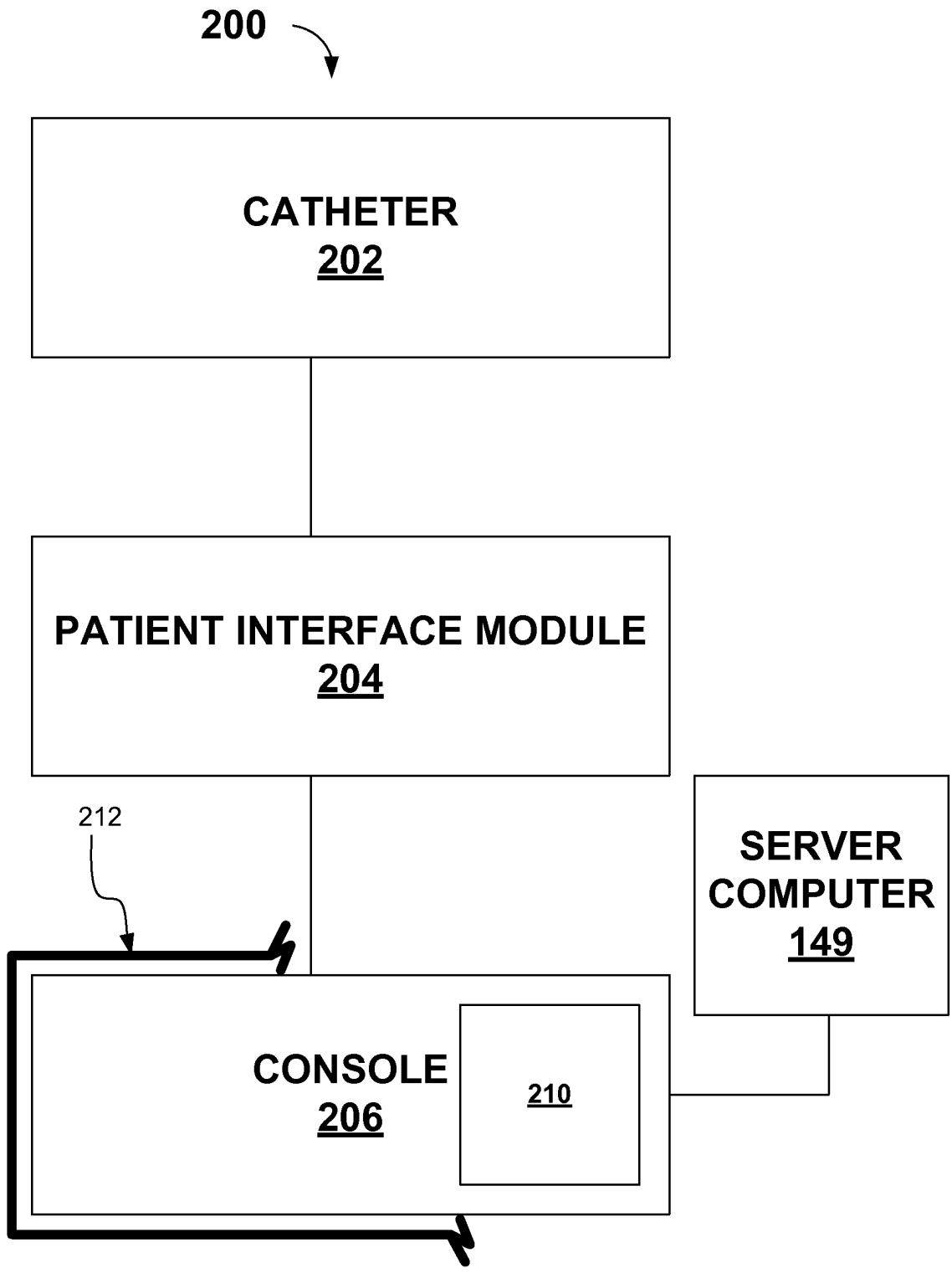
200
CATHETER
202
PATIENT INTERFACE MODULE
204
212
SERVER
COMPUTER
149
CONSOLE
206
210

FIG. 2

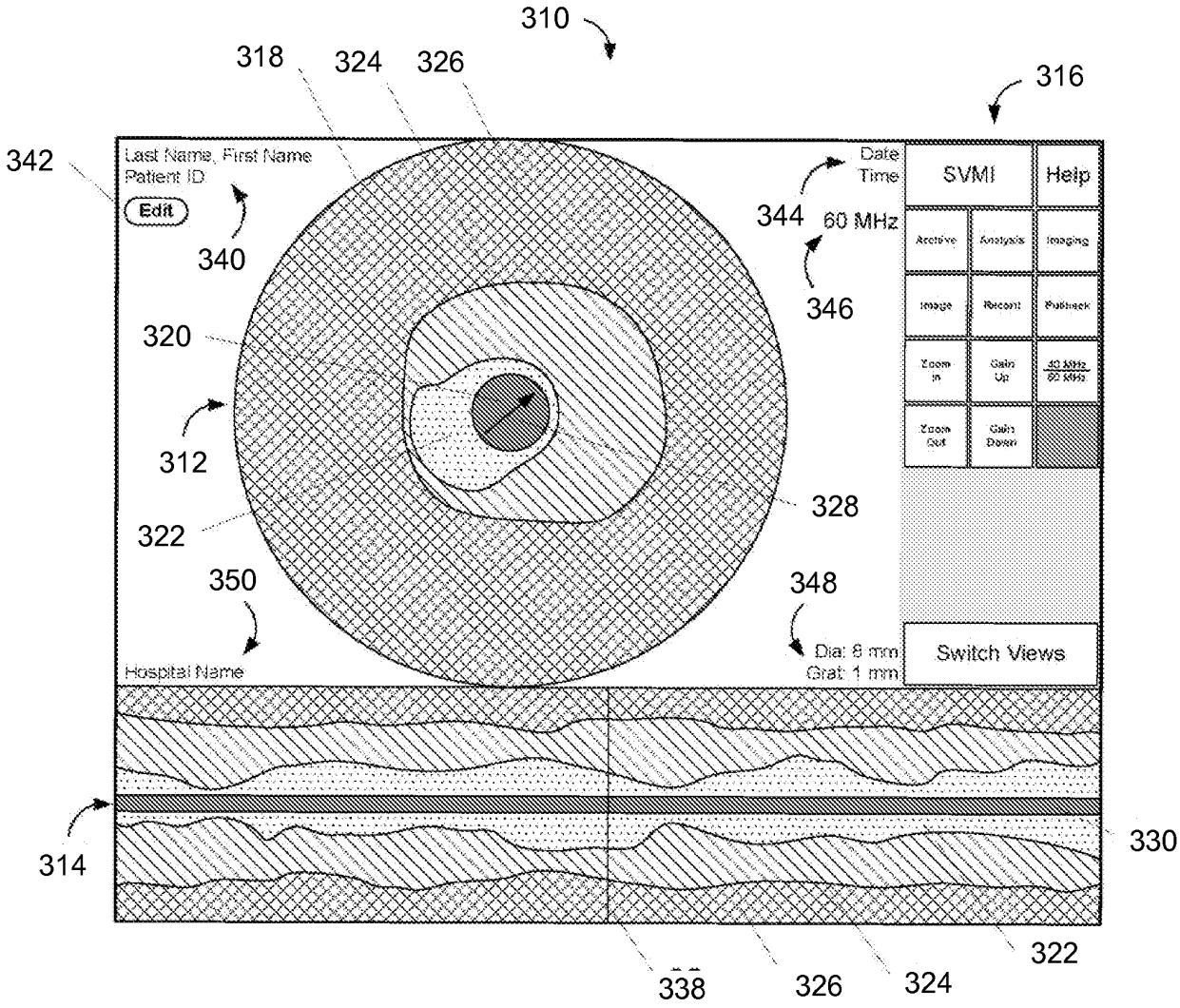
310
318
324
326
316
342
Last Name, First Name
Patient ID
Edit
340
Date
Time
344
60 MHz
346
SVMI
Help
Archive
Analysis
Imaging
Image
Recent
Playback
Zoom In
Gain Up
40 MHz
60 MHz
Zoom Out
Gain Down
320
312
322
328
350
348
Hospital Name
Dia: 8 mm
Grat: 1 mm
Switch Views
314
330
322
338
326
324

FIG. 3

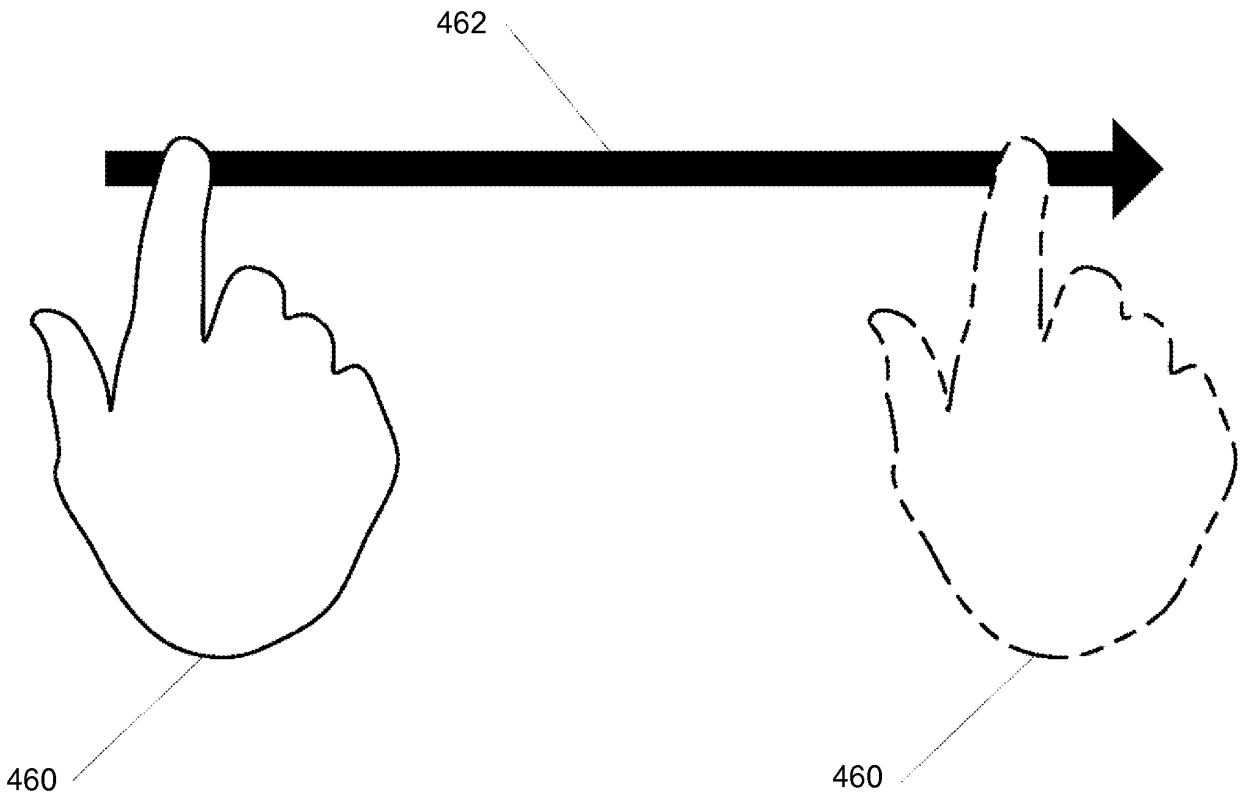

FIG. 4

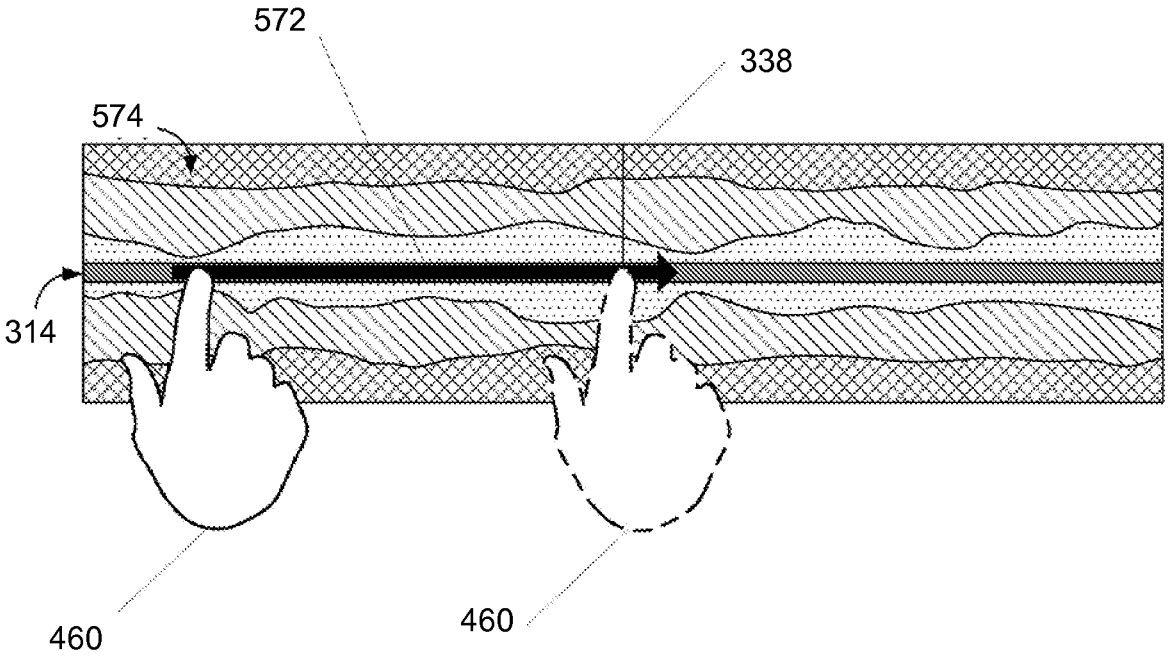

FIG. 5

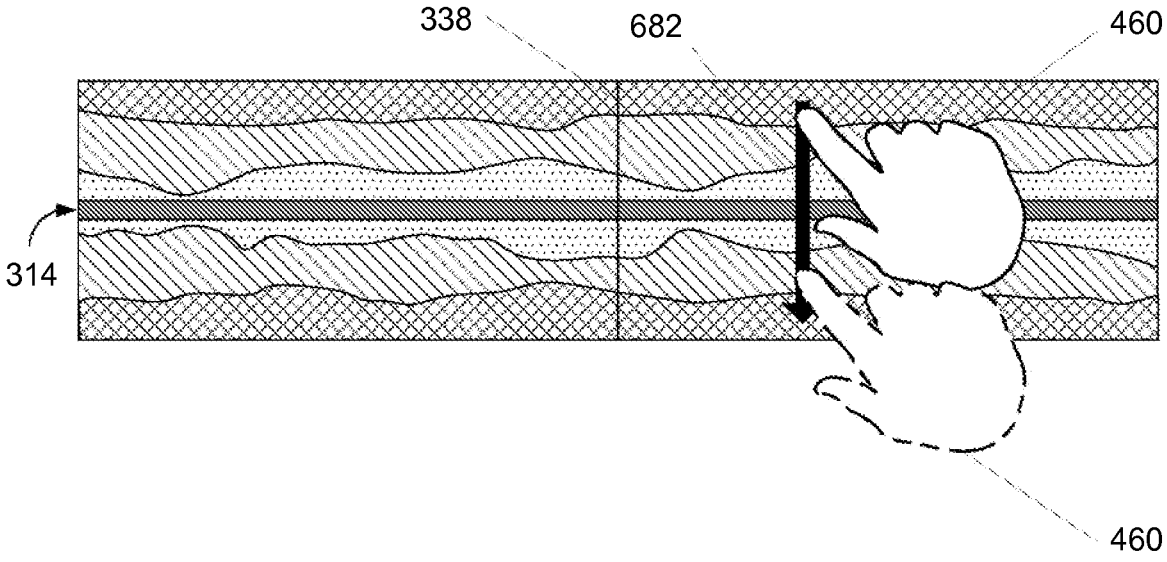

FIG. 6

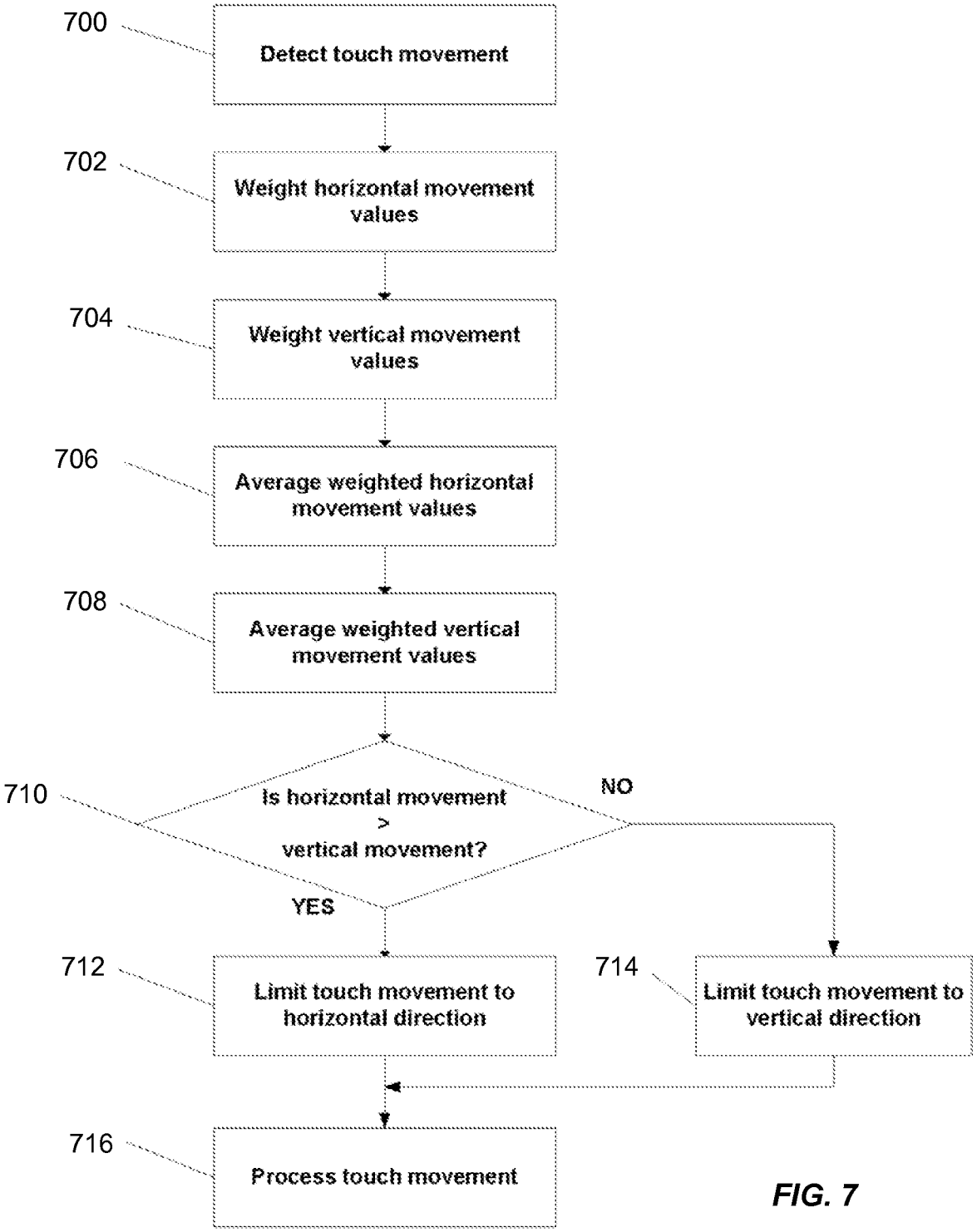
700
Detect touch movement
702
Weight horizontal movement values
704
Weight vertical movement values
706
Average weighted horizontal movement values
708
Average weighted vertical movement values
710
Is horizontal movement > vertical movement?
NO
YES
712
Limit touch movement to horizontal direction
714
Limit touch movement to vertical direction
716
Process touch movement

FIG. 7

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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- US 20100042084 A **[0003]**
- US 20090043195 A **[0003]**
- US 12633278 B, Moore **[0014]**

专利名称(译)	用于医学图像搜索的设备和方法		
公开(公告)号	EP2613706B1	公开(公告)日	2018-04-04
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申请(专利权)人(译)	ACIST医疗系统，INC.		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	ACIST医疗系统，INC.		
[标]发明人	JAMELLO III JOSEPH A		
发明人	JAMELLO III, JOSEPH A.		
IPC分类号	A61B8/12 A61B8/13 G06F3/041		
CPC分类号	A61B8/0883 A61B8/0891 A61B8/12 A61B8/13 A61B8/14 A61B8/463 A61B8/465 A61B8/466 A61B8/467 A61B8/565 G06F3/03545 G06F3/04815 G06F3/04842 G06F3/04845 G06F3/0485 G06F3/04883 G06T3/60 G06T11/003 G06F19/321 G06F2203/04808 G16H30/20 G16H30/40 G06F3/041 G06T15/00 G06T2219/008		
代理机构(译)	HOWE，史蒂芬		
优先权	61/381528 2010-09-10 US		
其他公开文献	EP2613706A4 EP2613706A2		
外部链接	Espacenet		

摘要(译)

血管内超声（IVUS）成像系统和导管，具有直观界面，可使用获得的医学图像进行快速操作员交互。在一个实施例中，IVUS成像系统和导管用于获取人体解剖结构中的特定感兴趣区域的序列，例如，冠状动脉的断层图像。IVUS成像系统显示感兴趣区域的至少一个断层图像。IVUS成像系统产生并显示至少一个纵向图像，其中纵向图像表示断层图像序列的切面。IVUS成像系统还包括触摸屏，其中系统识别触摸移动以便于搜索图像序列。沿纵向的触摸运动可以沿纵向平移纵向图像。横向上的触摸运动可以旋转纵向图像的切割平面。

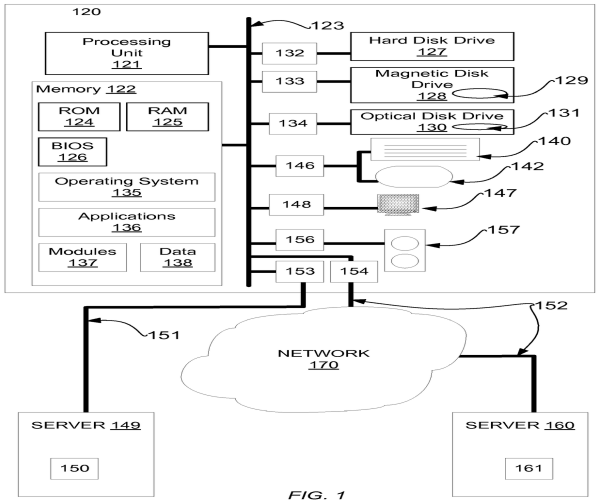

FIG. 1