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### (54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING THE RENDERING OF AT LEAST ONE MEDIA SIGNAL

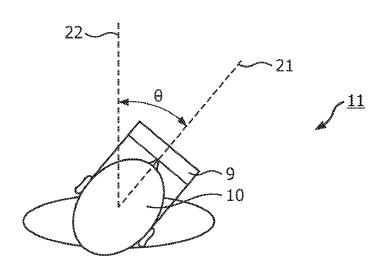


FIG. 2

(57) Abstract: A method of controlling a system for rendering in perceptible form at least one media signal, includes obtaining at least one media signal. A deviation of a user's viewing direction from a reference direction is determined. At least one rendering device is caused to reproduce an obtained media signal in perceptible form through an associated modality, wherein the at least one rendering device is controlled to make an environment of the user relatively more perceptible through the same modality when the user's viewing direction deviates from the reference direction. A direction generally fixed to at least part of a body of the user, at least when the user is positioned in a pre-determined orientation relative to at least one of the rendering devices, is used as the reference direction.





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Method and system for controlling the rendering of at least one media signal

## FIELD OF THE INVENTION

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The invention relates to a method of controlling a system for rendering in perceptible form at least one media signal, including:

obtaining at least one media signal;

determining a deviation of a user's viewing direction from a reference direction; and

causing at least one rendering device to render an obtained media signal in perceptible form through an associated modality, wherein the at least one rendering device is controlled to make an environment of the user relatively more perceptible through the same modality when the user's viewing direction deviates from the reference direction.

The invention also relates to a system for controlling the rendering in perceptible form of at least one media signal, including:

an interface for obtaining at least one media signal;

a system for determining a deviation of a user's viewing direction from a reference direction; and

at least one rendering device for rendering an obtained media signal in perceptible form through an associated modality, the system controlling the at least one rendering device to make an environment of the user relatively more perceptible through the same modality when the user's viewing direction deviates from the reference direction.

The invention also relates to an apparatus for rendering a media signal in perceptible form through an associated modality, including an interface for obtaining the media signal.

The invention also relates to a computer program.

## **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTIOIN**

US 2002/0044152 discloses a body-mounted wearable computer worn by a user. The computer includes a central processing unit, a memory and a storage device. The computer has a variety of body-worn output devices, including a head-mounted display in the form of an eyeglass-mounted display. The eyeglass-mounted display is implemented as a display type that allows the user to view real world images from their surroundings while simultaneously overlaying or otherwise presenting computergenerated information to the user. A condition-dependent output supplier (CDOS) system is stored in memory. The CDOS system monitors the user and the user's environment, and creates and maintains an updated model of the current condition of the user. If an application program is generating geographical or spatial relevant information that should only be displayed when the user is looking in a specific direction, the CDOS system may be used to generate data indicating where the user is looking. If the user is looking in the correct direction, a transparent User Interface presents data in conjunction with the real world view of that direction. If the user turns his or her head, the CDOS system detects the movement and informs the application program, enabling the transparent User Interface to remove the information from the display.

A problem of the known system is that it is configured to add auxiliary information to a view of the real world, but is less suitable for providing an immersive viewing experience. If the view of the real world is blocked to provide an immersive viewing experience, the user would be cut off from his or her environment.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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It is an object of the invention to provide a method, system, apparatus and computer program of the types defined above that allow the media signal to be rendered in perceptible form so as to provide an immersive experience without making contact with the real-world environment of the user impossible.

includes:

This object is achieved by the method according to the invention, which

obtaining at least one media signal;

determining a deviation of a user's viewing direction from a reference direction; and

causing at least one rendering device to render an obtained media signal in perceptible form through an associated modality, wherein the at least one rendering device is controlled to make an environment of the user relatively more perceptible through the same modality when the user's viewing direction deviates from the reference direction,

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wherein a direction generally fixed to at least part of a body of the user, at least when the user is positioned in a pre-determined orientation relative to at least one of the rendering devices, is used as the reference direction.

The viewing direction can be determined using only head tracking, only eye tracking or a combination of both methods.

By causing at least one rendering device to render an obtained media signal in perceptible form through an associated modality, wherein the at least one rendering device is controlled to make an environment of the user relatively more perceptible through the same modality when the user's viewing direction deviates from the reference direction, it is possible to provide a totally immersive experience when the user is looking in the reference direction, but to allow the user to interact with his or her environment when he or she turns away from the reference direction. In this context, the modality, that is to say the sense through which the user can receive the output of a system comprising the rendering device, can be vision, hearing, tactition, olfaction or thermoception, for example. By using as the reference direction a direction generally fixed to at least part of a body of the user, at least when the user is positioned in a predetermined orientation relative to at least one of the rendering devices, the user is not disoriented and a natural interface is provided to the user. The reference direction will generally be the direction in which the user looks straight ahead, which is the most comfortable direction for listening to a reproduction of an audio signal and/or viewing a reproduction of a video signal. When the user turns to one side, the environment becomes more perceptible, so that interaction with the environment becomes possible. Because the reference direction is fixed to at least part of a body of the user, at least when

the user is positioned in a pre-determined orientation relative to at least one of the

function of changing the level of immersion. Moreover, the system can be implemented in portable media reproduction apparatus without needing sensors to determine its own position and/or orientation relative to a landmark in its environment.

In an embodiment, the at least one rendering device is controlled to make an environment of the user relatively more perceptible through the same modality with increasing deviation of the user's viewing direction from the reference direction, at least to a certain limit.

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Thus, the environment is gradually blended in as the user turns further away from the reference direction. This embodiment has the effect that a user becomes more sensitive to events in his or her environment as he or she turns away. An increase in awareness without complete loss of the reproduction of the media signal is achievable with a relatively small movement of the head (or eyes).

In an embodiment, the reference direction is a direction in which the user's head is oriented in an essentially forward-looking direction relative to the user's trunk.

This embodiment allows the user to listen to and/or watch a reproduction in perceptible form of the at least one media signal in a natural posture. It provides a natural interface, because people's head movement from a forward-looking direction is generally indicative of a shift in momentary attention from whatever it is they are doing to events, objects or persons in their environment.

In an embodiment, the deviation of a user's viewing direction from a reference direction is measured as a deviation from a reference direction fixed to and moving with at least part of the body of the user.

This embodiment does not rely on the user being in a particular position or orientation, e.g. in a particular position in a chair, for reliable results. The user can listen to and/or watch a reproduction in perceptible form of the at least one media signal in a natural posture, but can move around. This embodiment is therefore also suitable for use with portable rendering devices.

In an embodiment, the at least one rendering device includes a head-30 mounted rendering device.

This embodiment provides an easy implementation of the method, because devices to measure the user's viewing direction can easily be integrated in the head-

mounted apparatus that comprises the rendering device. In particular head tracking is easy to implement.

In an embodiment, the at least one rendering device includes at least one head-mounted loudspeaker.

This embodiment is relatively lightweight, easy and cheap to implement and can be combined with many different types of common rendering apparatus, in particular headphones.

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In a variant, the at least one rendering device is comprised in a system for active noise cancellation, and wherein controlling at least one rendering device to make an environment of the user relatively more perceptible includes varying a level of active noise cancellation.

This embodiment allows for a fully immersive experience to be provided when the viewing direction is generally aligned with the reference direction. The noise cancellation makes the environment generally imperceptible in a controlled way. It also provides an easy way of mixing in more or less sound from the user's environment.

An embodiment includes applying to a signal representative of at least one of the user's viewing direction and deviation of the user's viewing direction from a reference direction a filter for at least partially rejecting at least one of rapidly varying and small variations in the user's viewing direction, wherein the at least one rendering device is controlled on the basis of the filtered signal.

This embodiment ensures that the user's viewing or listening experience is not disturbed by unintended head movements or a limited degree of shaking.

A further embodiment includes adding a perceptible cue to at least one reproduction in perceptible form of at least one media signal upon detecting an event of a pre-determined type in an environment of the user.

This embodiment provides a user with a cue to turn his or her head to take heed of the environment whenever a certain event takes place. An example would be when someone sits down or gets up next to the user. The user can then decide to turn their head, whereas they might otherwise not have done so. The cue is provided independently of the user's viewing direction, so that the user who does not turn his or her head can still be made aware of important changes in his or her environment.

In an embodiment of the method, the at least one rendering device includes a head-mounted display.

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This embodiment provides a particularly suitable implementation of the method, because the head-mounted display will generally block out all of a user's environment. A further feature of this embodiment is that it becomes relatively easy to track at least a user's head movements by means of sensors in the head-mounted system that comprises the display.

In a variant, this embodiment of the method includes obtaining a video signal representative of a user's environment using a camera, in particular a camera following movement of the user's viewing direction, and combining a video signal from the camera with at least one video signal comprised in the at least one media signal for rendering on the display.

This embodiment can be implemented with a wide range of display types. Different types of mixing of the environment and the perceptible reproduction of the media signal are also relatively easy to implement through appropriate video signal processing techniques.

In one implementation of this variant, combining includes overlaying as a picture-in-picture a window for rendering the video signal obtained from the camera on a background image representative of the video signal comprised in the at least one media signal.

This type of combination avoids that the user sees nothing very clearly when the two video signals are combined.

In an alternative variant, the head-mounted display device includes a device for optically mixing a representation of a video signal comprised in the at least one media signal and at least a component of light admitted from the environment.

This variant can be implemented using a relatively lightweight system, as no camera is required. Furthermore, the computational burden of video processing is avoided. There are also no problems of camera focus, since the user focuses on whatever is visible of the environment.

According to another aspect, the system for controlling the rendering in perceptible form of at least one media signal according to the invention includes: an interface for obtaining at least one media signal;

a system for determining a deviation of a user's viewing direction from a reference direction; and

at least one rendering device for rendering an obtained media signal in perceptible form through an associated modality, the system controlling the at least one rendering device to make an environment of the user relatively more perceptible through the same modality when the user's viewing direction deviates from the reference direction,

wherein the reference direction is a direction generally fixed to at least part of a body of the user, at least when the user is positioned in a pre-determined orientation relative to at least one of the rendering devices.

In an embodiment, the system is configured to carry out a method according to the invention.

According to another aspect, the apparatus for rendering a media signal in perceptible form through an associated modality according to the invention includes an interface for obtaining the media signal and a control system according to the invention.

According to a further aspect of the invention, there is provided a computer program including a set of instructions capable, when incorporated in a machine-readable medium, of causing a system having information processing capabilities to perform a method according to the invention.

# BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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The invention will be explained in further detail with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram illustrating some components of a head-mounted system for rendering audiovisual media;

Fig. 2 is a sketch to illustrate a variable on the basis of which settings of the system of Fig. 1 are adjusted;

Fig. 3 is a flow chart showing steps in the adjustment of the settings of the system of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 4 is a sketch providing a top view of a system for rendering media signals in perceptible form to illustrate an alternative variable on which an alternative adjustment method is based.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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Fig. 1 illustrates an apparatus for rendering in perceptible form an audio signal, video signal or audiovisual signal. The apparatus includes a portable data processing device 1, e.g. a smart phone, media player, PDA (Personal Digital Assistant), or the like. The portable data processing device 1 includes a network interface 2 for receiving the media signal, which can be an interface to a wireless local area network, cellular phone network, Wide-Area Network (such as a WiMax network), etc. Thus, the interface provides access to a data transfer medium for receiving media signals. The portable data processing device 1 can also obtain such signals from a portable data storage medium using an appropriate reader 3. Suitable storage media include solid-state memory devices, optical disks, magnetic and magneto-optical recording media, etc. Although media signals in the illustrated embodiment are pre-recorded, the principles outlined herein apply equally to locally generated media signals. In particular, such signals include audio, visual and audiovisual signals generated in a gaming device. In all these variants, the media signals are signals independent of a direct environment of the portable data processing device 1, more particularly artificial or pre-recorded media signals.

The portable data processing device 1 operates under the control of a data processing unit 4 interfacing with main memory 5 to execute instructions stored in non-volatile memory, e.g. on a data storage device 6. Video signals are processed by a video codec 7 to provide a video signal to a display device 8 comprised in a head-mounted device 9 worn on a head 10 of a user 11 (see also Fig. 2).

The head-mounted device 9 illustrated in Fig. 1 comprises optics (not shown in detail) for optically mixing the representation of the video signal generated by the display device 8 and at least a component of light admitted from the environment through a device 12 for admitting a variable amount of ambient light in the form of an image of the environment of the user 11. In particular, the device 12 can be a polariser.

The portable data processing device 1 includes an interface 13 for generating control signals for this device 12. The image of the environment and the representation of the video signal can be combined in a polarising beam splitter, for instance. Structural details of a display engine for the head-mounted device 9 are provided e.g. in US 2007/0081256 A1.

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An alternative embodiment is illustrated in dotted lines in Fig. 1. In the alternative embodiment, a head-mounted device 9' includes a display device 8' and a camera 14, which is fixed in position relative to the head-mounted device 9', generally such that it is directed in the direction in which a user wearing the head-mounted device 9' is looking. The camera 14 provides a video signal to a camera interface 15 of the portable data processing device 1. The latter combines the video signal from the camera 14 with a video signal obtained from a media signal to provide a video signal for the display device 8'.

The illustrated portable data processing device 1 also includes an audio output stage 16 for providing signals to speakers 17,18 combined with the head-mounted device 9,9°. In the illustrated embodiment, the system comprising the speakers 17,18, a microphone 19 connected to an interface 20 of the portable data processing device 1 and the portable data processing device 1 implement a system for active noise cancellation that cancels more or less of at least certain types of ambient sound through the generation of phase-shifted sound.

The portable data processing device 1 is programmed to control at least one of the audio and video rendering systems in such a way as to make more or less of the environment audible and/or visible relative to the audio and video obtained from an external source that it is rendering.

Generally, the representation of the video signal from the media signal is generated so as to cover essentially all of the displayable area of a screen of the display device 8,8°. To allow the user to see the environment properly and with little effort, the environment is made visible to a greater or lesser degree. This degree of perceptibility is controlled on the basis of an input signal representative of a deviation  $|\theta|$  of a user's viewing direction 21 from a reference direction 22 (see Fig. 2). The reference direction 22 as shown in Fig. 2 is a direction generally fixed to at least part of the body of

a user 11. It is fixed to and moves with at least part of the body of the user 11. As illustrated, the reference direction is fixed to the trunk of the user 11, or at least some other part than the head 10. The portable data processing device 1 has an interface 23 to one or more sensors 24,25 for determining the deviation  $|\theta|$ . It is noted that the deviation  $|\theta|$  is determined in one plane, corresponding essentially to the magnitude of the yaw of the user's head 10. Pitch is not taken into account.

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In one embodiment, the deviation can be determined by integrating signals from accelerometers, electronic compasses or gyroscopes comprised in the head-mounted device 9. In such an embodiment, a calibration step is carried out to determine where the reference direction 22, corresponding to the direction in which the user's head 10 is oriented in an essentially forward-looking direction, is located.

In another embodiment, one or more of the sensors 24,25 is provided to locate and determine the orientation of the part of the body to which the reference direction 22 is fixed and with which it moves. As an example, the location of the shoulders could be determined. More detailed examples of suitable methods are given in European patent application 09152769.7, filed on 13 February 2009 in the name of the present applicant (PH012962).

The tracking of the head position can be combined or replaced by the tracking of the eye position. Thus, the viewing direction 21 can be determined as a combination of the yaw angle of the head 10 and the eyes of the user 11. In general, tracking of the head will suffice. This would leave the user free to move his or her eyes to focus on different aspects of the video being rendered without any effects on how much of the environment is made visible.

Turning to Fig. 3, when the portable data processing device 1 has been commanded to render at least one of an audio signal, a video signal and an audiovisual signal, the portable data processing device 1 continually carries out a method comprising the step of determining the deviation  $|\theta|$  (step 26).

Optionally, the signal representative of the deviation  $|\theta|$  or the signal representative of the viewing direction 21, if that direction is determined separately from the reference direction 22 and then subtracted, is filtered (step 27). The filter is a filter

arranged to reject rapidly varying and/or small variations in the deviation  $|\theta|$ . As an example, hysteresis can be applied, so that only sustained changes in deviation  $|\theta|$  are taken into account. Another type of filter would be a low-pass filter or similar integrating system.

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Then (step 28), a suitable ratio between the perceptibility of the environment and the reproduction of the audio and/or video signal is determined, and the settings of the devices 12,17,18 are adjusted (step 29). In principle, where the (filtered) viewing direction 21 essentially coincides with the reference direction 22, the environment of the user 11 is imperceptible to a maximum extent. In the case of the video signal, the reproduction of the video signal occupies essentially the entire available viewing area on a screen of the display device 8, and the light-admitting device 12 is controlled so as to admit no light for forming an image of the environment. Similarly, in the alternative embodiment illustrated in Fig. 1, the video signal from the camera 14 is not combined with the video signal comprised in the media signal being rendered.

As far as the audio signal is concerned, the level of noise cancellation is set to maximum. Additionally, or alternatively, the volume of the sound from the speakers 17,18 can be set to a (local) maximum within the settings provided by the user 11. In yet a further embodiment, the portable data processing device 1 is configured to create an at least two-dimensional sound image, e.g. using head-related transfer functions. In that case, the apparent distance from the virtual sound source to the user 11 can be set to a minimum when the viewing direction 21 and the reference direction 22 coincide.

With increasing deviation  $|\theta|$ , more of the environment of the user is made perceptible. The relation between the ratio of perceptibility of the media signal and the environment can increase continuously or in discrete steps. The relation can be linear, but will generally be non-linear, such that the relative perceptibility of the environment increases more rapidly with the deviation  $|\theta|$  at larger deviations  $|\theta|$ . Thus, the user 11 turning his or her head 10 to one side in a definite manner need not turn very far for the environment to become dominant.

The image of the environment is generally combined with the entire image rendered from the video signal obtained through the network interface 2, from a recording medium in the reader 3 or a file on the data storage device 6. Thus, in effect, the rendered video signal will become more or less transparent over the entire displayed area. Eye movements to obtain a clear view of the environment are therefore not necessary. In another embodiment, the environment may be represented in a, possibly more or less transparent, window overlaid on the video image, with the window increasing in at least one of size and opaqueness as the deviation  $|\theta|$  increases.

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As far as the audio rendering is concerned, the level of active noise cancellation will decrease with increasing deviation  $|\theta|$ . The volume may also decrease. Where a soundscape is being created, the virtual source of sound will be caused to move further away from the user 11 with increasing deviation  $|\theta|$ .

As an option – illustrated in Fig. 3 – the portable data processing device 1 is arranged to monitor (step 30) the environment of the user 11 for events of a predetermined type, in particular, the arrival of another person. In one embodiment, the wireless network interface 2 can be used to detect the arrival of another portable data processing device 1, e.g. one belonging to a particular designated other user, in the immediate vicinity of the user 11. If such an event is detected, then an audible and/or visible cue is provided (step 31). In one embodiment, this cue also gives directional information to the user 11. For example, an audible cue may be given via only one of left and right speakers 17,18. A visible cue may be given on the left or right side of an area of display provided by the display device 8,8°. Thus, where the user 11 is concentrating fully on the audio and/or video being rendered, he or she is given a cue to turn his or her head 10 to take account of the environment.

Referring to Fig. 4, an alternative embodiment is sketched in outline. In this case, the method of Fig. 3 is carried out, but a different type of reference direction 22' is used. This reference direction 22 is fixed to at least part of the body of a user (not shown in Fig. 4) only in the sense that it relies on the user being positioned in a pre-determined orientation relative to speakers 17',18' and a television set 32. A chair 33 is used as an example of a device for limiting the range of positions the user can assume, with the speakers 17',18' being fixed to the chair 33. This embodiment, like the

embodiment discussed in relation to Fig. 1, has the effect that the system need not determine the position of any objects external to the system. It need not be aware of what is in the room or how the room is laid out. All that is required is an arrangement for determining a viewing direction 21' of a user, the reference direction 22 being known and fixed by the system.

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It should be noted that the above-mentioned embodiments illustrate, rather than limit, the invention, and that those skilled in the art will be able to design many alternative embodiments without departing from the scope of the appended claims. In the claims, any reference signs placed between parentheses shall not be construed as limiting the claim. The word "comprising" does not exclude the presence of elements or steps other than those listed in a claim. The word "a" or "an" preceding an element does not exclude the presence of a plurality of such elements. The mere fact that certain measures are recited in mutually different dependent claims does not indicate that a combination of these measures cannot be used to advantage.

In an alternative variant of the embodiment of Fig. 1, the head-mounted device 9, 9' is dispensed with, so that an audio-only variant results. In such a variant, the user need not operate any special controls when e.g. watching television and turning to someone else in the room. This other person need not be provided with any special beacons to enable the system to adjust the volume and/or level of noise cancellation in response to the user turning his or her head.

In another embodiment, a stationary video camera and image analysis is used to determine the deviation  $|\theta|$  of the user's viewing direction 21 from a reference direction fixed to at least part of the body of the user 11.

## **CLAIMS:**

1. Method of controlling a system for rendering in perceptible form at least one media signal, including:

obtaining at least one media signal;

determining a deviation of a user's viewing direction from a reference

5 direction; and

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causing at least one rendering device to render an obtained media signal in perceptible form through an associated modality, wherein the at least one rendering device is controlled to make an environment of the user relatively more perceptible through the same modality when the user's viewing direction deviates from the reference direction,

wherein a direction generally fixed to at least part of a body of the user, at least when the user is positioned in a pre-determined orientation relative to at least one of the rendering devices, is used as the reference direction.

- 2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one rendering device is controlled to make an environment of the user relatively more perceptible through the same modality with increasing deviation of the user's viewing direction from the reference direction, at least to a certain limit.
- 3. Method according to claim 1, wherein the reference direction is a direction in which the user's head is oriented in an essentially forward-looking direction relative to the user's trunk.
- 4. Method according to claim 1, wherein the deviation of a user's viewing direction from a reference direction is measured as a deviation from a reference direction fixed to and moving with at least part of the body of the user.
- 5. Method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one rendering device includes a head-mounted rendering device.
  - 6. Method according to claim 5, wherein the at least one rendering device includes at least one head-mounted loudspeaker.
  - 7. Method according to claim 6, wherein the at least one rendering device is comprised in a system for active noise cancellation, and wherein controlling at

least one rendering device to make an environment of the user relatively more perceptible includes varying a level of active noise cancellation.

8. Method according to claim 1, including applying to a signal representative of at least one of the user's viewing direction and deviation of the user's viewing direction from a reference direction a filter for at least partially rejecting at least one of rapidly varying and small variations in the user's viewing direction, wherein the at least one rendering device is controlled on the basis of the filtered signal.

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- 9. Method according to claim 1, including adding a perceptible cue to at least one reproduction of at least one media signal upon detecting an event of a predetermined type in an environment of the user.
- 10. System for controlling the rendering in perceptible form of at least one media signal, including:

an interface for obtaining at least one media signal;

a system for determining a deviation of a user's viewing direction from a reference direction; and

at least one rendering device for rendering an obtained media signal in perceptible form through an associated modality, the system controlling the at least one rendering device to make an environment of the user relatively more perceptible through the same modality when the user's viewing direction deviates from the reference direction,

wherein the reference direction is a direction generally fixed to at least part of a body of the user, at least when the user is positioned in a pre-determined orientation relative to at least one of the rendering devices.

- 11. System according to claim 10, configured to carry out a method according to any one of claims 1- 9.
  - 12. Apparatus for rendering a media signal in perceptible form through an associated modality, including an interface for obtaining the media signal and a control system according to claim 10 or 11.
- 13. Computer program including a set of instructions capable, when incorporated in a machine-readable medium, of causing a system having information processing capabilities to perform a method according to any one of claims 1-9.

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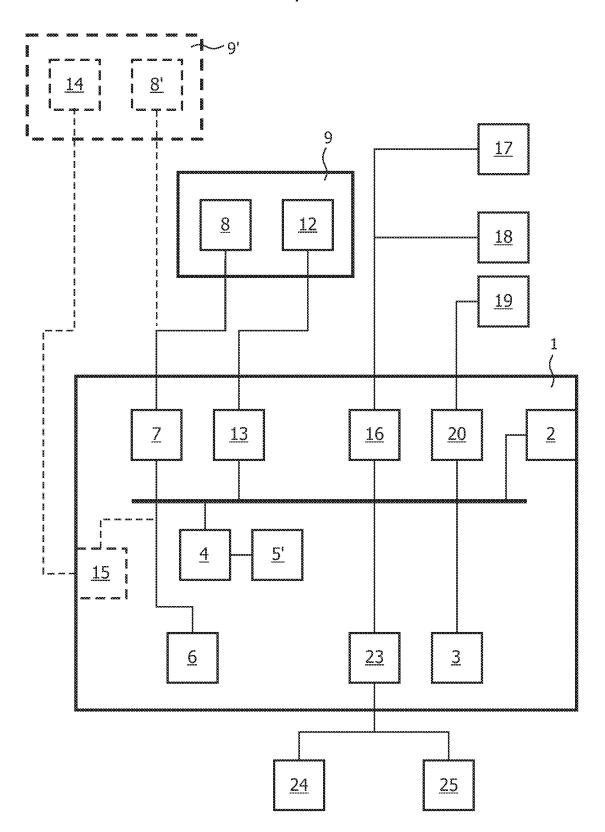


FIG. 1

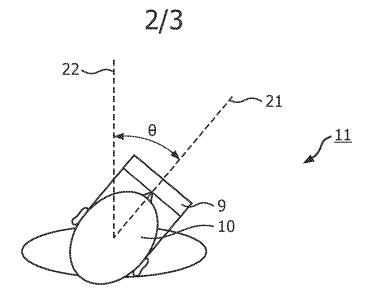


FIG. 2

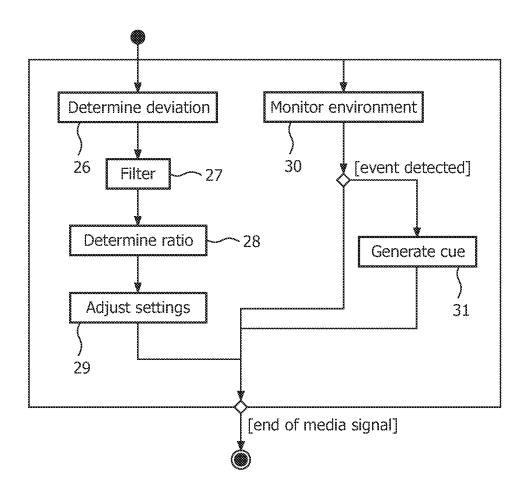


FIG. 3

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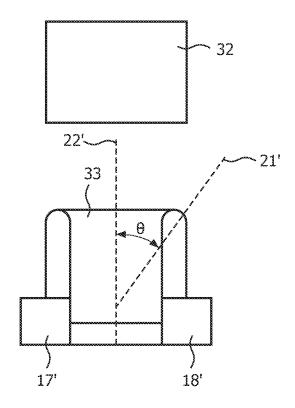


FIG. 4

### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No PCT/IB2010/052882

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER INV. G06F3/048 G06F3 G02B27/00 G06T11/00 G06F3/01 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) G06T G06F G02B Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) FPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category\* Relevant to claim No. X EP 1 898 634 A2 (SONY CORP [JP]) 1.3 - 1312 March 2008 (2008-03-12) paragraphs [0027] - [0032], Υ [0049] -2 [0052], [0058], [0060], [0067] -[0095] -[0069], [0071] - [0085],[0101], [0112] - [0116], [0176] paragraphs [0232], [0235], [0301] -[0305], [0440] - [0444] Υ US 2006/119576 A1 (RICHARDSON JIM [US] ET 2 AL) 8 June 2006 (2006-06-08) paragraphs [0010] - [0011], [0015], [0048] - [0050]Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex. Special categories of cited documents: \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 21 October 2010 29/10/2010 Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fournier, Nicolas Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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