

same direction therefore it is not essential for planes 1621 and 1622 to have equivalent mechanical constructions.

[0110] In the configuration shown in FIG. 16, a detector is constructed from fabric having electrically conductive elements to define at least two electrically conductive planes and configured to produce an electrical output in response to a mechanical interaction. A second electrically conductive plane, such as plane 1622 of the detector, has at least one electrical characteristic that differs significantly in value from the value of said characteristic of the first plane 1621.

[0111] In the detector shown in FIG. 16, the upper receiving plane 1622 has a significantly lower resistance than the lower transmitting plane 1621. In this way, as the area of mechanical interaction increases, the amount of current flow increases significantly, thereby improving the definition of the system with respect to changes in the size of the mechanical interaction, and allowing for less intensive calculations when determining force etc.

1. A position detector constructed from fabric having electrically conductive elements, comprising at least two electrically conducting planes, wherein

an electric potential is applied across at least one of said planes to determine the position of a mechanical interaction; and

a second electrical property is determined to identify additional properties of said mechanical interactions.

2. A position detector according to claim 1, configured to measure current or resistance as said second electrical property.

3. A detector according to claim 1, configured to determine applied force, applied pressure, area of contact or orientation of an object as the additional property of said mechanical interactions.

4. A detector according to claim 1, including processing means for modifying a second electrical characteristic with respect to a measurement made for said first electrical characteristic.

5. A detector according to claim 1, wherein said fabric is constructed to facilitate measurement of area or said fabric is constructed to facilitate the measurement of pressure or force.

6. A detector according to claim 1, wherein composite layers of fabric are provided to enhance measurement of a property or to facilitate the measurement of multiple properties.

7. A detector according to claim 6, wherein multiple properties are measured and a measurement of a first property is used to compensate measurement of a second property.

8. A detector according to claim 1, wherein a stylus is applied to the detector such that a first electrical property of a mechanical interaction determines the position of the interaction and a second electrical property determines the force or pressure applied to the stylus.

9. A detector according to claim 1, wherein the detector interacts mechanically with parts of a human body; a first electrical property determines the position of a mechanical interaction and a second electrical property determines the area of coverage.

10. A detector according to claim 1, wherein electronic switching means are provided to change electrical configurations to the detector and analogue to digital conversion

means are configured to convert analogue signals to digital representations of said signals for subsequent mechanical property calculations.

11. A method of detection, performed with respect to a detector constructed from fabric and having electrically conducting elements configured to provide at least two electrically conducting planes, comprising the steps of

applying a potential across at least one of said planes to determine the position of a mechanical interaction; and

measuring a second electrical property to identify additional properties of said mechanical interactions.

12. A detector constructed from fabric having electrically conductive elements to define at least two electrically conductive planes and configured to produce an electrical output in response to a mechanical interaction, wherein

at least one of said planes includes first portions and second portions, said first portions have a higher resistance than said second portions and said first higher resistance portions are more flexible than said second portions.

13. A detector according to claim 12, wherein said high resistance portions are configured as flexible portions to facilitate rotational movement about similar portions in a co-operating conductive plane.

14. A detector according to claim 13, wherein said conductive elements are separated from similar elements of a co-operating plane by being supported by said flexible portions.

15. A detector according to claim 12, wherein said second portions are further supported by solid portions.

16. A detector according to claim 15, wherein said solid portions are constructed from rubber, silicon or plastics.

17. A detector according to claim 12, wherein only one of said planes includes first high resistive flexible portions with second portions and a co-operating plane is substantially homogeneous.

18. A detector according to claim 17, wherein said homogeneous plane facilitates elastic expansion.

19. A method of constructing a detector from fabric, wherein electrically conductive elements are configured to define at least two electrically conductive planes so as to produce an electrical output in response to a mechanical interaction; wherein

at least one of said planes includes first portions and second portions;

said first portions have a higher resistance than said second portions; and

said first higher resistance portions are more flexible than said second portions.

20. A detector constructed from fabric having electrically conductive elements and configured to produce electrical outputs in response to mechanical interactions, wherein

said detector is divided into a plurality of regions;

each of said regions includes a first conducting plane and a second conducting plane;

a mechanical interaction results in conducting planes of at least one of said regions being brought closer together; and