interpreting the force as a command to increase the firmness of the deformed deformable region of the surface.

7. The method of claim **1**, wherein the tactile interface layer further includes a second deformable region, and further comprising the step of interpreting the force on the deformable region as a command to adjust the firmness of the second deformable region.

8. The method of claim **7**, further comprising the step of deforming the second deformable region of the surface into a formation tactilely distinguishable from the surface.

9. The method of claim **7**, wherein the step of interpreting the force on the first deformable region as a command includes interpreting the force as a command to increase the firmness of the deformable region and a command to decrease the firmness of the second deformable region.

10. The method of claim **1**, wherein the tactile interface layer includes fluid that is manipulated to deform deformable regions of the surface and the step of manipulating the firmness of the deformable region of the surface based on the command includes manipulating the volume of fluid within the tactile interface layer.

11. The method of claim **10**, wherein the step of manipulating the volume of fluid within the tactile interface layer includes increasing the pressure of the fluid within the tactile interface layer to increase the firmness of the deformed deformable region.

12. The method of claim **1**, further comprising interpreting the force on the deformable region as a command for the device.

13. The method of claim **12**, wherein the command for the device is selected from a range of values, and wherein the step of interpreting the force on the deformable region as a command for the firmness of the deformed deformable region includes determining the firmness of the deformed deformable region value of the command relative to the range of values.

14. The method of claim **13**, wherein the range of values for the device includes a range of volumes from low to high for the device, and wherein the step of determining the firmness based on the value of the command relative to the range of values includes increasing the firmness for a high volume and decreasing the firmness for a low volume.

15. A method for actuating a tactile interface layer of a device that defines a surface with a first and second deformable region, comprising the steps of:

deforming the first deformable region of the surface into a formation tactilely distinguishable from the surface;

detecting a force from the user on the deformed first deformable region of the surface;

interpreting the force on the first deformable region as a command to undeform the first deformable region and to deform the second deformable region into a formation tactilely distinguishable from the surface; and

manipulating the first and second deformable regions based on the command.

16. The method of claim **15**, wherein the step of deforming a deformable region of the surface includes expanding the deformable region outward from the surface to form a raised portion of the surface that is tactilely distinguishable from the surface.

17. The method of claim **15**, wherein the undeformation and the deformation of the first and second deformable regions are substantially gradual.

18. The method of claim **17**, wherein the step of interpreting the force on the first deformed region as a command to undeform and deform the first and second regions, respectively, includes interpreting a degree of undeformation and deformation of the first and second deformable regions, respectively, based on the force detected on the first deformed region.

19. The method of claim **18**, wherein the step of manipulating the first and second deformable regions based on the command includes undeforming the first deformable region to the interpreted degree and deforming the second deformable region to the interpreted degree.

20. The method of claim **18**, wherein the step of interpreting a degree of undeformation and deformation for the first and second deformable regions includes interpreting a percentage of full deformation for the first and second deformable regions.

21. The method of claim **20**, wherein the step of interpreting a percentage includes interpreting a first percentage for the first deformable region and a second percentage for the second deformable region, wherein the sum of the first and second percentages is 100.

22. The method of claim **18**, wherein interpreting the degree of undeformation and deformation based on the force detected includes interpreting the degree based on the length of time a force is detected.

23. The method of claim **18**, wherein interpreting the degree of undeformation and deformation based on the force detected includes interpreting the degree based on the magnitude of the force detected.

24. The method of claim **15**, wherein the first deformable region is undeformed and the second deformable region is deformed substantially concurrently.

25. The method of claim **15**, wherein the tactile interface layer includes fluid that is manipulated to deform deformable regions of the surface and the step of manipulating the first and second deformable regions based on the command includes decreasing the volume of fluid under the first deformable region to undeform the first deformable region and increasing the volume of fluid under the second deformable region to deform the second deformable region.

26. The method of claim **15**, further comprising interpreting the force on the deformable region as a command for the device.

27. The method of claim **26**, wherein the command for the device includes selecting the first of two options, wherein the first deformable region represents the first option and the second deformable region represents the second option.

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