

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: said gesture identification module inferring an initiation or termination of a contact from inception, continuation, and ceasing of position information for a particular contact.
13. The method of claim 1, wherein said touch sensor explicitly reports motion of a contact point within contact information.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein said gesture identification module stores contact information reported by said touch sensor at successive updates.
15. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: comparing a position for each contact point over two or more updates to detect motion.
16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of: computing a difference between at least two consecutive updates.
17. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of: computing a motion threshold below which motion is not detected.
18. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: adding a smoothing capability to address intermittent loss of contact.
19. The method of claim 18, wherein a minimum time is required before a termination of a contact is acknowledged; wherein if said touch sensor reports that position information is no longer available for a contact and then shortly thereafter reports a new contact in an immediate vicinity, a new contact is considered a continuation of a prior contact.
20. The method of claim 1, wherein said gesture identification module operates as a series of transitions between a set of possible states; wherein upon receipt of updated contact information from said touch sensor, said gesture identification module determines, based on initiation, termination, and motion of said contacts, whether it transitions into another state or remains in a current state; wherein depending on a current state, said gesture identification module also identifies a user gesture and sends an appropriate display command to said display control module.
21. The method of claim 20, wherein upon initialization, said gesture identification module enters an idle state; wherein in said idle state, said gesture identification module identifies no gesture and issues no display command to said display control module; wherein said gesture identification module remains in said idle state until initiation of a first contact.
22. The method of claim 21, wherein upon initiation of a first contact, said gesture identification module enters a tracking one state; wherein in said tracking one state, said gesture identification module identifies no gesture and issues no display command to said display control module; wherein said gesture identification module continues to monitor said first contact.
23. The method of claim 22, wherein if said first contact is terminated, said gesture identification module enters a clicking state.
24. The method of claim 23, wherein if motion of said first contact is detected, said gesture identification module enters an awaiting click state.
25. The method of claim 24, wherein if initiation of a second contact is detected, said gesture identification module enters a tracking two state.
26. The method of claim 25, wherein in an awaiting click state, said gesture identification module identifies no gesture and issues no display command to said display control module; wherein said gesture identification module continues to monitor behavior of said first contact and awaits a possible second contact.
27. The method of claim 26, wherein if a first contact is terminated within a predetermined time period, said gesture identification module enters a clicking state.
28. The method of claim 27, wherein if a second contact is initiated within a predetermined time period, said gesture identification module enters a tracking two state.
29. The method of claim 28, wherein if a first contact is not terminated and a second contact is not initiated within a predetermined time period, said gesture identification module enters an assume panning state.
30. The method of claim 29, wherein in a clicking state, said gesture identification module identifies a clicking gesture and issues a click command to said display control module that, when executed by said display control module, provides a visual confirmation that a location or object on said display has been designated.
31. The method of claim 30, wherein in an assume panning state, said gesture identification module identifies no gesture and issues no display command to said display control module; wherein said gesture identification module continues to monitor behavior of said first contact and awaits a possible second contact.
32. The method of claim 31, wherein if said first contact is terminated within a predetermined time period, said gesture identification module returns to an idle state.
33. The method of claim 32, wherein if a second contact is initiated within a predetermined time period, said gesture identification module enters a tracking two state.
34. The method of claim 33, wherein if said first contact is not terminated and a second contact is not initiated within a predetermined time period, said gesture identification module determines that neither a click nor a gesture requiring two contacts is forthcoming and enters a panning state.
35. The method of claim 34, wherein in a panning state, said gesture identification module identifies a panning gesture and issues a pan command to said display control module that, when executed by said display control module, translates displayed imagery; wherein said pan command specifies that imagery be translated a distance proportional to a distance said first contact has moved between previous and current updates of said first contact position.
36. The method of claim 35, wherein if said first contact is terminated, said gesture identification module returns to an idle state.
37. The method of claim 36, wherein if said first contact continues to move, said gesture identification module remains in a panning state to identify another panning gesture and issues another pan command to said display control module; wherein panning continues until one of said contacts is terminated.
38. The method of claim 37, wherein in a tracking two state, said gesture identification module identifies no gesture and issues no display command to said display control module; wherein said gesture identification module continues to monitor behavior of said first and second contacts; wherein if either said first or second contact is terminated, said gesture identification module enters a tracking two state.