

related by the y-dimensional relation criterion are displayed as being aligned on the non-selection axis 320. Also, in this case, other items of information relating to the specified information 300 via the x-dimensional relation criterion are displayed as being aligned on the non-selection axis 330. In the case where the x-dimensional relation criterion becomes the selected relation criterion, other items of information relating to the specified information 300 via the z-dimensional relation criterion are displayed as being aligned on the non-selection axis 320. Also, in this case, other items of information relating to the specified information 300 via the y-dimensional relation criterion are displayed as being aligned on the non-selection axis 330.

[0088] The user can, according to an up, down, left or right operation of the direction keys of the input device 104, change a selection of the selected relation criterion to another relation criterion relating to the specified information 300. For example, as shown in FIG. 3, in the event that values of parameters of the specified information 300 are (X_n, Y_n, Z_n) and the y-dimensional relation criterion is the selected relation criterion, besides the specified information 300, items of information (X_n, Y_{n+2}, Z_n) , (X_n, Y_{n+1}, Z_n) , (X_n, Y_{n-1}, Z_n) and (X_n, Y_{n-2}, Z_n) differing in values of parameters in the y-dimension are displayed aligned on the selection axis 310 as the items of information 312+, 311+, 311- and 312-. As shown in FIG. 3, items of information differing in parameter value in the x-dimension and the z-dimension, which are different relation criteria, are displayed aligned on the non-selection axes 320 and 330, respectively.

[0089] At this point, when the left direction key is operated, in accordance with the left direction, the selected relation criterion is changed from the y-dimensional relation criterion to the z-dimensional relation criterion, which is a relation criterion of the non-selection axis 330. Relation criteria of the non-selection axes 320 and 330 are also changed to the x-dimension and the y-dimension, respectively.

[0090] Furthermore, when an operation of the left direction key is carried out, the selected relation criterion is changed from the z-dimensional relation criterion to the x-dimensional relation criterion. Relation criteria of the non-selection axes 320 and 330 are also changed to the z-dimension and the y-dimension, respectively. Also in the event that the right direction key of the input device 104 is operated, relation criteria of the selection axis 310 and the non-selection axes 320 and 330 are changed in reverse order to that just described above with respect to the left direction key. By an input from the left and right direction keys, the selected relation criterion of the selection axis 310 and the relation criteria of the non-selection axes 320 and 330 are changed, but the specified information 300 is not changed.

[0091] Also, the user can, according to an operation of the up and down direction keys of the input device 104, change the specified information 300 to another item of information displayed in a position adjacent to the specified information 300 on the selection axis 310. For example, when an operation of the down direction key is carried out in FIG. 3, in accordance with the down direction, the specified information 300 is changed from an item of information having (X_n, Y_n, Z_n) as its parameter values to an item of information which, being located in an upper position on the

selection axis 310, has (X_n, Y_{n+1}, Z_n) as its parameter values. According to the change of the specified information 300, each of the other items of information displayed on the selection axis 310 is displayed as being shifted upward or downward by one according to the relevant input direction.

[0092] Also, according to the change of the specified information 300, the items of information displayed aligned on the non-selection axes 320 and 330 are changed to items of information corresponding to parameter values of the new specified information 300. For example, in the event that the specified information 300 is changed to (X_n, Y_{n+1}, Z_n) from the condition shown in exemplary FIG. 3, besides the specified information 300, items of information (X_{n+2}, Y_{n+1}, Z_n) , (X_{n+1}, Y_{n+1}, Z_n) , (X_{n-1}, Y_{n+1}, Z_n) and (X_{n-2}, Y_{n+1}, Z_n) differing in x-dimensional parameter value are displayed aligned on the non-selection axis 320 as items of information 322+, 321+, 321- and 322-, respectively. The same also applies to items of information 332+, 331+, 331- and 332- on the non-selection axis 330.

[0093] As described heretofore, an item of information selected as the specified information 300 is sequentially changed by operating the up and down direction keys of the input device 104, while the relation criteria of the items of information displayed on the selection axis 310 and the non-selection axes 320 and 330 is sequentially changed by an operation of the left and right direction keys of the input device 104. Each time the selection of the specified information 300 or selected relation criterion is changed, a history of the changes is recorded in the main memory 102. Also, a selection condition of the specified information 300 and selected relation criterion at any time is bookmarked, thereby enabling a restoration at any time of the selection condition and the selected relation criterion.

[0094] FIG. 4A is a diagram showing a configuration of a history buffer provided in the main memory 102. The history buffer 400 is configured of a ring buffer formed of a plurality of history storage areas 401 to 40n. The history storage area 401 includes a specified information area 401a and a selected criterion area 401b. The history storage areas 402 to 40n also have the same configuration as the history storage area 401. Also, a pointer 410 indicates a history storage area (such as, for example, the history storage area 401 in FIG. 4A) which records a selection condition of the specified information 300 and the selected relation criterion at the present time.

[0095] When the user actuates an up, down, left or right direction key, thereby inputting a corresponding up, down, left or right direction instruction, of the input device 104, the display mode of the display device 105 is changed according to the input direction instruction. Specifically, in the event of an input from the up and down direction keys, the specified information 300 is changed while, in the event of an input from the left and right direction keys, the selected relation criterion is changed. Each time the display mode is changed, an item of information indicating the specified information 300 and the selected relation criterion in the new display mode is stored in a history storage area subsequent to the history storage area indicated by the pointer at the present time, and the pointer 410 is moved to the subsequent storage area.

[0096] When the user actuates an X-button of the input device 104, the pointer 410 returns to a history storage area