

this point, the specified information **300** is related to other items of information by three relation criteria X, Y and Z, and one relation criterion is selected as the selected relation criterion. Other items of information relating to the specified information **300** via the selected relation criterion are displayed aligned on the selection axis **310**. In this way, the user can visually perceive other items of information relating to the specified information **300** via the selected relation criterion with the focus on the specified information **300** displayed on the display device **105**.

[0121] Also, not only are other items of information relating to the specified information **300** by way of selected relation criterion displayed, but also other items of information related to the specified information **300** by other relation criteria, other than the selected relation criterion, are displayed on the display device **105** as being aligned on the non-selection axes **320** and **330** for each relation criterion. Thus, the other items of information relating to the specified information **300** via other relation criteria, other than the selected relation criterion, can also be visually perceived simultaneously with the items of information relating to the specified information **300** via the selected relation criterion.

[0122] At this point, if an actuation of the up or down keys of the input device **104** is carried out, the specified information **300** can be changed to another item of information which is displayed in a position adjacent to the specified information **300** on the selection axis **310** according to the input direction. For example, on the selection axis **310** displayed on the display device **105**, in order to change the specified information **300** to the information **311+** displayed in an upper position (as shown in FIG. 3), the down direction key of the input device **104** may be operated. Also, in order to change the specified information **300** to the information **311-** displayed in a lower position, the up direction key of the input device **104** may be operated. By repeatedly carrying out this kind of input from the up and down direction keys, items of information related by the same relation criterion can be sequentially displayed in the center of the display device **105** as the specified information **300**.

[0123] When the specified information **300** is changed by an input from the up and down direction keys, items of information displayed aligned on the selection axes **320** and **330** also change in accordance with the new specified information **300**. That is, when the up or down direction keys of the input device **104** are actuated, it becomes possible to change the specified information **300** and to change other items of information aligned on the non-selection axes **320** and **330** by relation criteria according to the changed specified information **300**. For at least this reason, when the specified information **300** is changed, the user can easily visually perceive items of information related to the new specified information **300**.

[0124] Also, should the user become interested in other items of information displayed on the non-selection axes **320** and **330**, or the like, by actuating the left or right direction keys of the input device **104**, it becomes possible to change a relation criterion, which has not been selected as the selected relation criterion, to the selected relation criterion. For example, in order to change the selected relation criterion to a relation criterion of the non-selection axis **330** displayed in a right position relative to the selection axis **310** on the display device **105** (as shown, for example, in FIG.

3), the left direction key of the input device **104** may be operated. Also, in order to change the selected relation criterion to a relation criterion of the non-selection axis **320** displayed in a left position relative to the selection axis **310**, the right direction key of the input device **104** may be operated. An item of information that may next be specified as the information **300** is limited to items of information relating to the specified information **300** via the selected relation criterion. However, the user can select an item of information relating to the present specified information **300** via any relation criterion as the next specified information **300** by making the selected relation criterion changeable as described above.

[0125] Then, by combining an actuation of the up or down direction keys of the input device **104** with an actuation of the left or right direction keys of the input device **104**, the user can reach a desired item of information by a visual comparison from an item of information which has been made the specified information **300** at a certain time. By sequentially changing the specified information **300** and the selected relation criterion by an input from the input device **104** in this way, it becomes possible to easily reach a desired item of information from among a plurality of items of information intricately related to each other, by visual perception. In this way, even from among the plurality of items of information intricately related to each other, as the specified information **300** is temporarily changed between comparatively closely related items of information, even though the user has not previously decided a target item of information, it is possible to locate an item of information in accordance with a user's taste.

[0126] Also, on the display device **105**, as the specified information **300** is displayed in the center as being larger than the other items of information, an item of information selected as the specified information **300** at the present time becomes easier for the user to visually comprehend than the other items of information.

[0127] Meanwhile, of the items of information **312+**, **311+**, **311-** and **312-** displayed on the selection axis **310** besides the specified information **300** (as shown, for example, in FIG. 3), the closer to the specified information **300** in values of parameters corresponding to the selected relation criterion, (the more similar in contents to the specified information **300**), the closer an item of information is displayed to the specified information **300**. Also, the items of information **311+** and **311-**, which are adjacent to the specified information **300**, are displayed larger than the items of information **312+** and **312-** not adjoining the specified information **300**. Also, the same applies to items of information displayed on the non-selection axes **320** and **330**.

[0128] In this way, by displaying an item of information, which is more similar in contents to the specified information **300**, closer to the specified information **300**, it becomes easier for the user to comprehend how to select a next specified information **300** to reach a desired item of information. Also, by displaying an item of information that is adjacent to the specified information **300** larger than an item of information that is not adjacent, another item of information, which can be selected as specified information **300** subsequently to the present specified information **300** by an input from the input device **104**, becomes easier for the user