

optimum number of items of information to be displayed according to a display mode displayed on the display area or the display device **105**, it becomes easier for the user to visually perceive items of information displayed on the display device **105**, and to more easily carry out information selection and/or retrieval.

[0191] Also, in the first and second embodiments too, in the same way as in the third embodiment, on the display device **105**, the number of items of information displayed on the selection axes **310**, **810** and **1110** may be larger than the number of items of information displayed on the non-selection axes **320**, **330**, **820** to **850** and **1111b** to **1111p**. In this way, by making the number of items of information on the selection axes **310**, **810** and **1110** larger than the number of items of information on the non-selection axes **320**, **330**, **820** to **850** and **1111b** to **1111p**, it becomes easier to perceive other items of information that can be selected as the new specified information **300**, **800**, **1100** by only an input from the up and/or down direction keys of the input device **104**.

[0192] In case that three or more items of information, besides the specified information **300**, **800**, **1100**, are displayed aligned in the same direction (for example, here, up and down are considered to be different directions) on one axis, the closer relationship to the specified information **300**, **800**, **1100** an item of information has, as well as it being displayed closer to the specified information **300**, **800**, **1100**, the larger it may be displayed. For example, with regard to the items of information A, D and X aligned on the selection axis **1110** in FIG. **11**, not only are they displayed close to the specified information **1100** in the order named in a descending order of similarity in contents to the specified information **1100**, but they may be also displayed in a size which decreases in that order. For example, the information A can be displayed larger than the information D, and the information D can be displayed larger than the information X. With such a configuration, it becomes easier for the user to visually perceive a relationship between the specified information **300**, **800**, **1100** and other items of information. Thus, it also becomes easier for the user to visually comprehend how to select new specified information in order to reach a user's desired item of information from the present specified information **300**, **800**, **1100**.

[0193] In the first to third embodiments, each time the specified information **300**, **800**, **1100** and/or the selected relation criterion is changed, a new selection condition of the specified information **300**, **800**, **1100** and selected relation criterion is stored in the history storage areas **401** to **40n**. However, besides the case in which the bookmarked display mode is restored, as a past selection condition of the specified information and/or selected relation criterion can be specified even by an input history of the up, down, left and/or right direction keys from the input device **104**, the input history of the up, down, left and/or right direction keys may be stored in the history storage areas **401** to **40n**.

[0194] In the first to third embodiments, only one bookmark buffer **420** is provided in the main memory **102**, but a plurality of bookmark buffers may be provided. In this case, a bookmark buffer may be preferably configured of a ring buffer including a plurality of bookmark areas, and each of the bookmark areas includes a specified information area and a selected criterion area. Then, a pointer is provided. In this case, a control executed when there is an input from the

square button and the triangle button changes in the following way from that in the first to third embodiments.

[0195] When the user carries out an input from the square button of the input device **104**, in a bookmark area subsequent to a bookmark area indicated by the pointer, information selected as the specified information **300**, **800**, **1100** at that instant in time is recorded in the specified information area. At the same time, a relation criterion selected as the selected relation criterion at that time is recorded in the selected criterion area. Then, the pointer moves to the subsequent bookmark area.

[0196] When the user actuates the triangle button of the input device **104**, the specified information recorded in the specified information area of the bookmark area indicated by the pointer and a relation criterion recorded in the selected criterion area are read. Then, the bookmarked display mode is restored and the read-out specified information and relation criterion are recorded as a new selection condition of the specified information **300**, **800**, **1100** and the selected relation criterion in the history storage area. With this, the pointer of the bookmark buffer is returned to the previous bookmark area. Accordingly, when there are two successive inputs from the triangle button, the display mode corresponding to the specified information and the selected relation criterion bookmarked the time before last is restored. In case that the plurality of bookmark areas are provided in this way, not only an input to return the pointer (for example, here, an input by the triangle button), but also an input to advance the pointer may be provided.

[0197] In the first to third embodiments, at the time of actuation of the square button of the input device **104**, in the event that there is data registered in the bookmark buffer **420** by an operation of the square button prior to an operation of the square button at this time, the data registered by the input from the square button at this time is overwritten. However, the invention is not limited to this configuration, and the user may be inquired as to whether to overwrite data. In this case, in case that there is already data registered in the bookmark buffer **420** at the time of an input from the square button, a screen, in which one of "overwrite data as it is?" (bookmark present display mode), "display past bookmark?" (bookmark present display mode) and "do not overwrite" may be selected by an input from the circle button, and may be preferably displayed on the display device **105**, thereby enabling a selection by a user's decision.

[0198] With such a configuration, even when bookmarking a newly intriguing selection condition of the specified information **300**, **800**, **1100** and selected relation criterion by an input from the square button, it becomes possible for the user to confirm a selection condition of the specified information and the selected relation criterion about which the user became curious at a certain point in the past. Thus, the situation where a selection condition of the specified information and the selected relation criterion, which should have been bookmarked, cannot be restored without being noticed, thereby it becomes easier for the user to select a desired item of information.

[0199] In the first to third embodiments, a difference between items of information displayed on the display device **105** can be evaluated by changing a display size and a display position, but the invention is not limited to this configuration. For example, items of information, which are