the control element. In an interactive control device in the form of a touch screen, this is normally the surface of graphical representation. In a control device having a contactless sensor, this may be a spatial region, which is defined preferably at a short distance in front of the graphical representation of the control element or bordering to the graphical representation.

[0066] If the body part, in this case finger **71**, is located in the activation region, then the control action associated with the control element is activated.

[0067] FIG. **6**A shows a schematic view of a display device **150**, on which control elements **151** are situated in two groups **152**, **153**. In first group **152**, associated control elements **151** are arranged as a list. In the second group, control elements **151** are arranged as a number pad. In FIG. **6**A, control elements **151** of the two groups **152**, **153** only take up a small area on display device **150**. A large part of the surface may be used for representing additional information.

[0068] If a finger **155** approaches display device **150**, control elements **151** in one of the two groups **152**, **153** will be magnified. If a control intention is ascertained for one of control elements **151** of the first group **152** developed as a list, then the list is magnified, as shown in FIG. **6**B. If finger **155** rather approaches second group **153** of control elements **151** developed as a number pad, then these control elements are magnified, as shown in FIG. **6**C.

[0069] While in the exemplary embodiment described in connection with FIGS. **5**A through **5**D, the center points of the control elements may not be shifted on the display device, in the exemplary embodiment described in connection with FIGS. **6**A through **6**C, the positions of the control elements are markedly changed.

[0070] The following will describe, with reference to FIGS. **7**A and **7**B, how an ascertained control intention may be utilized in order to select a control element from a list.

[0071] FIG. **7**A shows a horizontal list **160** of control elements **161-169** on a display device **170**. If a control intention is ascertained, then a focus is assigned to one of control elements **165** of list **160**. In this case, the focus is assigned to control element **165** labeled by the number "5". This is indicated in that control element **165** is magnified. Normally, the focus is assigned to a control element of list **160** shown at the center of control device **170**. Alternatively, the focus may also be assigned to a control element displayed on an edge.

[0072] The focus may be "shifted" in that the user moves his finger **171** to an edge of display device **170**. In FIG. **7**A, Finger **171** is located on a right edge **172** of display device **170**. In example embodiments, this allows for the focus to be shifted to the right.

[0073] Alternatively, there may be provision for the focus to remain at the center of display device **170** and for control elements **161-169** to be shifted relative to the focus. That is, the control fields move to the left, as is indicated by an arrow **173**. This means that the focus is next assigned to control field **166** having the number "6", control field **166** being magnified at the center of display device **170**.

[0074] In both exemplary embodiments, the focus scrolls or leafs through the list of control elements.

[0075] This process may be terminated in that finger **171** is moved across the center of display device **170**. Subsequently, the control element to which the focus is assigned may be activated in order to trigger the associated control action.

[0076] The scrolling or leafing speed may vary as a function of the position of finger **171**. That is, the further the finger is moved from the center, the faster the scrolling/leafing occurs.

[0077] The leafing/scrolling direction may coincide with the direction in which the finger is moved or may be opposite. In the case of a list there may be a further provision for the list to be considered endless. This means that a final list element is again followed by the first list element.

[0078] FIG. **7**B shows a display device **180**, on which a list of control elements **181-186** is displayed. If a finger **187** approaches display device **180**, then a focus is assigned to one of control elements **181-186**. Control element **183**, to which the focus is assigned, is magnified for optimal operation. Finger **187** is located on a lower edge **188** of display device **180**. This has the effect that control element **181-186** move upward "through the focus", as indicated by arrow **189**. If finger **187** moves into a center of display device **180**, the scrolling process stops. The control element in the focus may be activated in an optimal manner. If finger **187** is moved into a position between the focus and an upper edge **190** of display device **180**, then control elements **181-186** move downward. Thus is it possible to scroll in both directions.

[0079] It is not necessary for the focus to remain fixed in one position on the display device. Rather, it may move along with the control element to which it is assigned. If this control element is further away from a predefined setpoint position of the focus than the subsequent control element of the list, then the focus jumps to this subsequent control element.

[0080] Example embodiments may provide for multiple control elements to be magnified. For example, a primary focus and two secondary focuses may be provided. The control elements assigned to the secondary focuses are magnified, for example, but somewhat smaller than the control element assigned to the primary focus.

[0081] Example embodiments may provide for a control element, for which the highest control probability is ascertained (for example, the control element that is located in the fixed focus or the center of the control spotlight), to be activated if the body part of the user, for example the finger, abides unchanged for a predefined dwell time without an adaptation of the represented information occurring. This applies particularly also if the finger is not located in the actual activation region of the control element. This allows for a quasi activationless control of a control element.

[0082] FIG. **8** schematically show an example embodiment of an interactive control device **100** in a motor vehicle **101**. This includes a display device **102**, on which information may be represented in a visual and a haptic layout. Control device **100** has receiving sensors **104** integrated into it, which are able to receive in a contactless manner high-frequency signals transmitted via a body **106**, **108** of a user, which are fed into the bodies by transducers **110**, **112**, which are situated in proximity to bodies **106**, **108**. Signal transducers **110**, **112** are connected to a transducer unit **113**, which in turn is coupled to a vehicle bus system **126**. Together with receiving sensors **104**, which already represent a sensor unit in the narrower sense, transducer unit **113** may also be regarded as a sensor system or a sensor unit. Interactive control device **100** further includes a control unit **120**, which includes a representation module **122**. Representation module **122** processes the information to be represented on display device **102**. In particular, representation module **122** adapts the information to a visual or a haptic layout. Interactive control device **100** further includes a receiver unit **124**, which