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(54) **MULTI-TOUCH INPUT DEVICE WITH ORIENTATION SENSING**

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USPC 345/156–179; 178/19.01–19.05; 715/863

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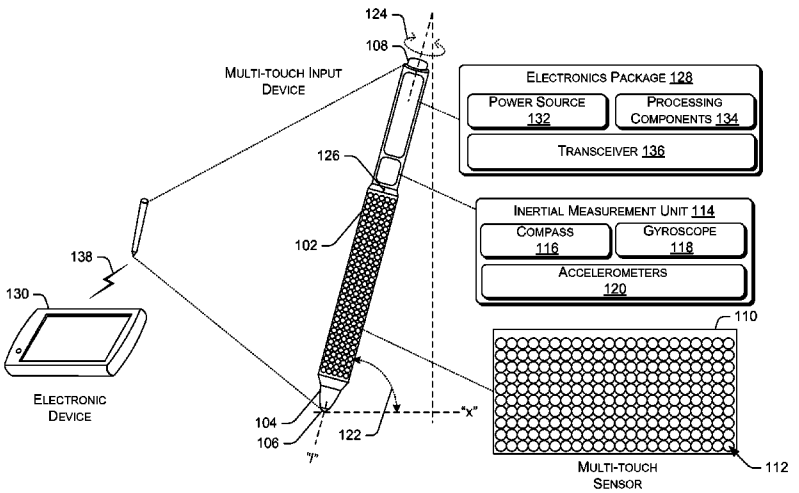
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A multi-touch orientation sensing input device may enhance task performance efficiency. The multi-touch orientation sensing input device may include a device body that is partially enclosed or completely enclosed by a multi-touch sensor. The multi-touch orientation sensing input device may further include an inertia measurement unit that is disposed on the device body, The inertia measurement unit may measures a tilt angle of the device body with respect to a horizontal surface, as well as a roll angle of the device body along a length-wise axis of the device body with respect to an initial point on the device body.

20 Claims, 15 Drawing Sheets



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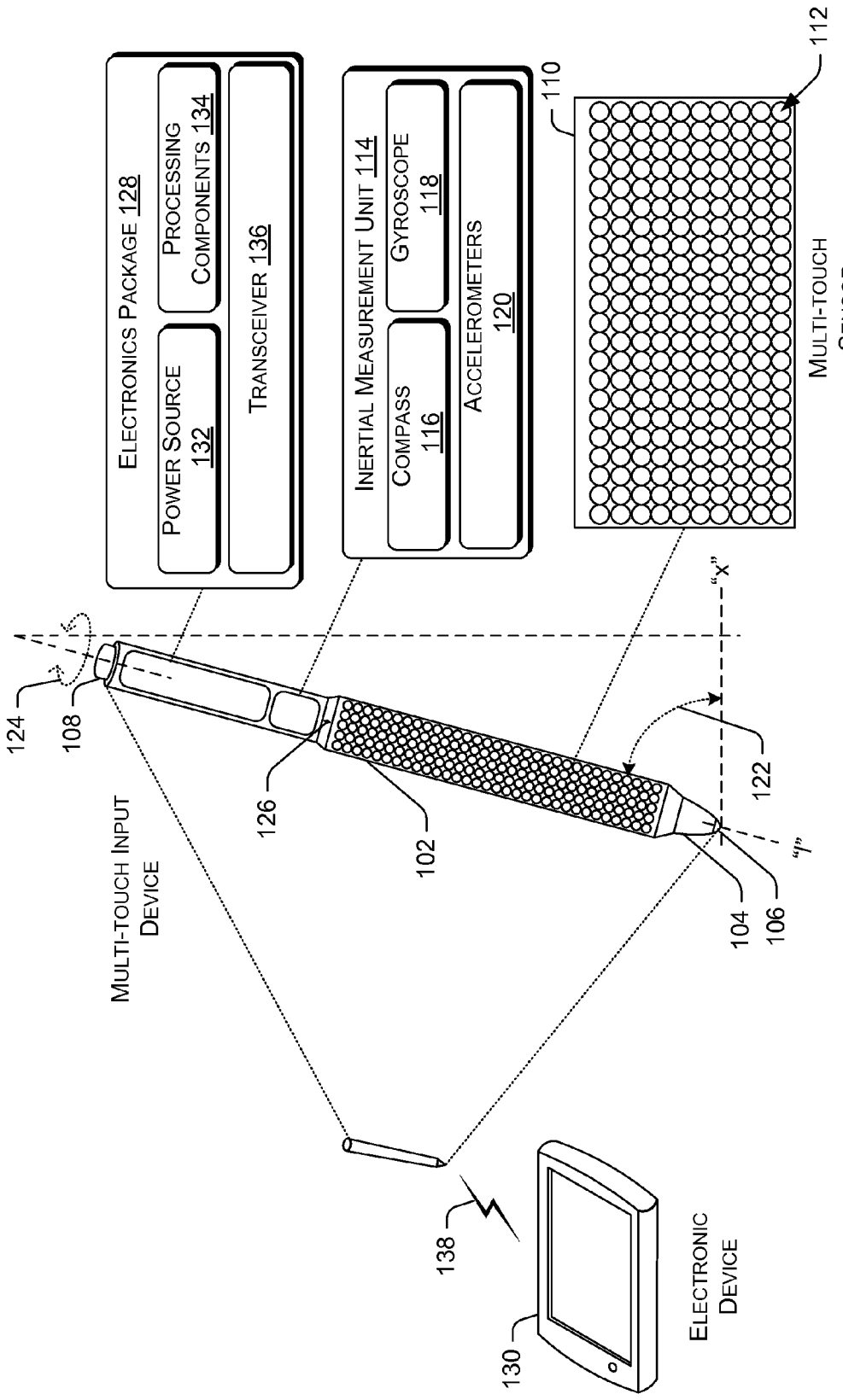

ELECTRONICS PACKAGE 128
POWER SOURCE 132
PROCESSING COMPONENTS 134
TRANSCEIVER 136
INERTIAL MEASUREMENT UNIT 114
COMPASS 116
GYROSCOPE 118
ACCELEROMETERS 120
110
112
MULTI-TOUCH SENSOR
MULTI-TOUCH INPUT DEVICE
124
108
126
102
104
106
122
"x"
"y"
138
130
ELECTRONIC DEVICE

FIG. 1

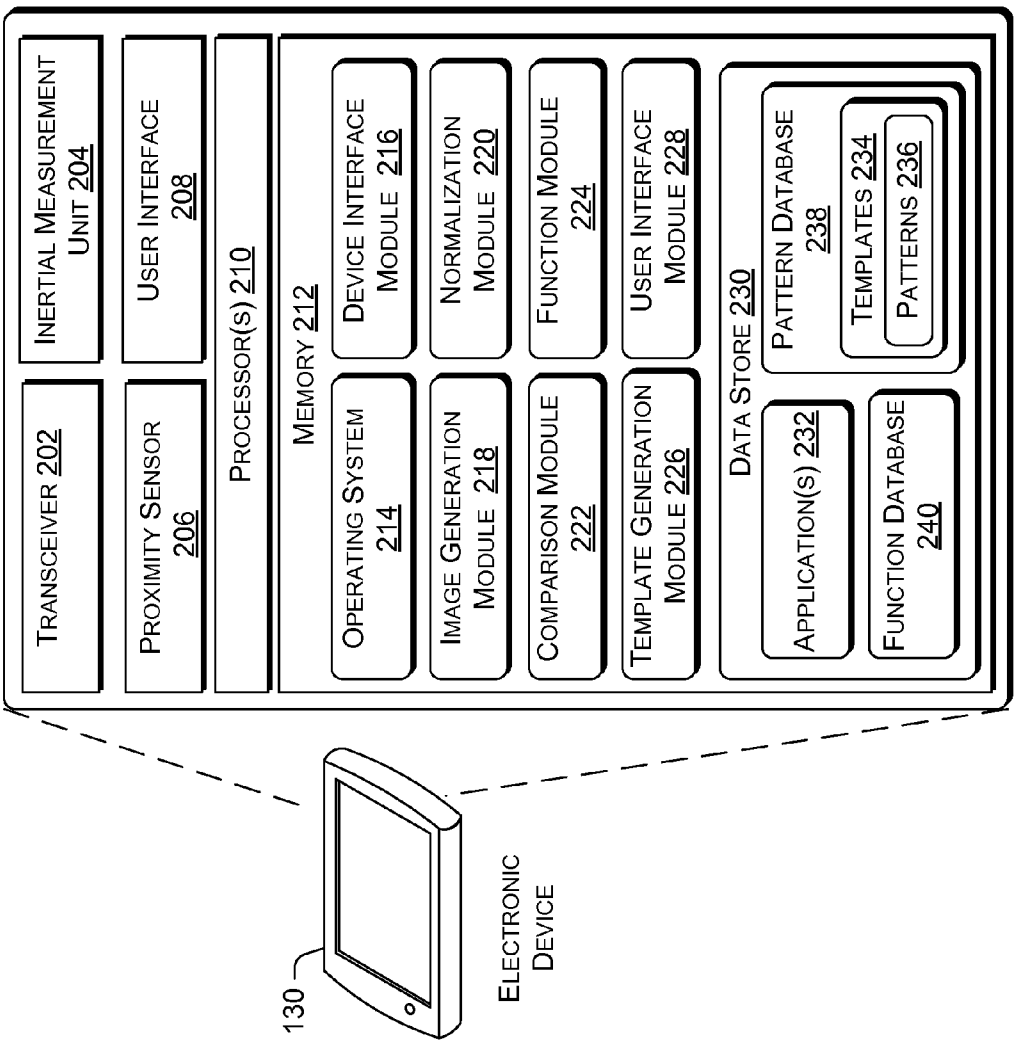

TRANSCEIVER 202
INERTIAL MEASUREMENT UNIT 204
PROXIMITY SENSOR 206
USER INTERFACE 208
PROCESSOR(S) 210
MEMORY 212
OPERATING SYSTEM 214
DEVICE INTERFACE MODULE 216
IMAGE GENERATION MODULE 218
NORMALIZATION MODULE 220
COMPARISON MODULE 222
FUNCTION MODULE 224
TEMPLATE GENERATION MODULE 226
USER INTERFACE MODULE 228
DATA STORE 230
APPLICATION(S) 232
PATTERN DATABASE 238
TEMPLATES 234
PATTERNS 236
FUNCTION DATABASE 240
130
ELECTRONIC DEVICE

FIG. 2

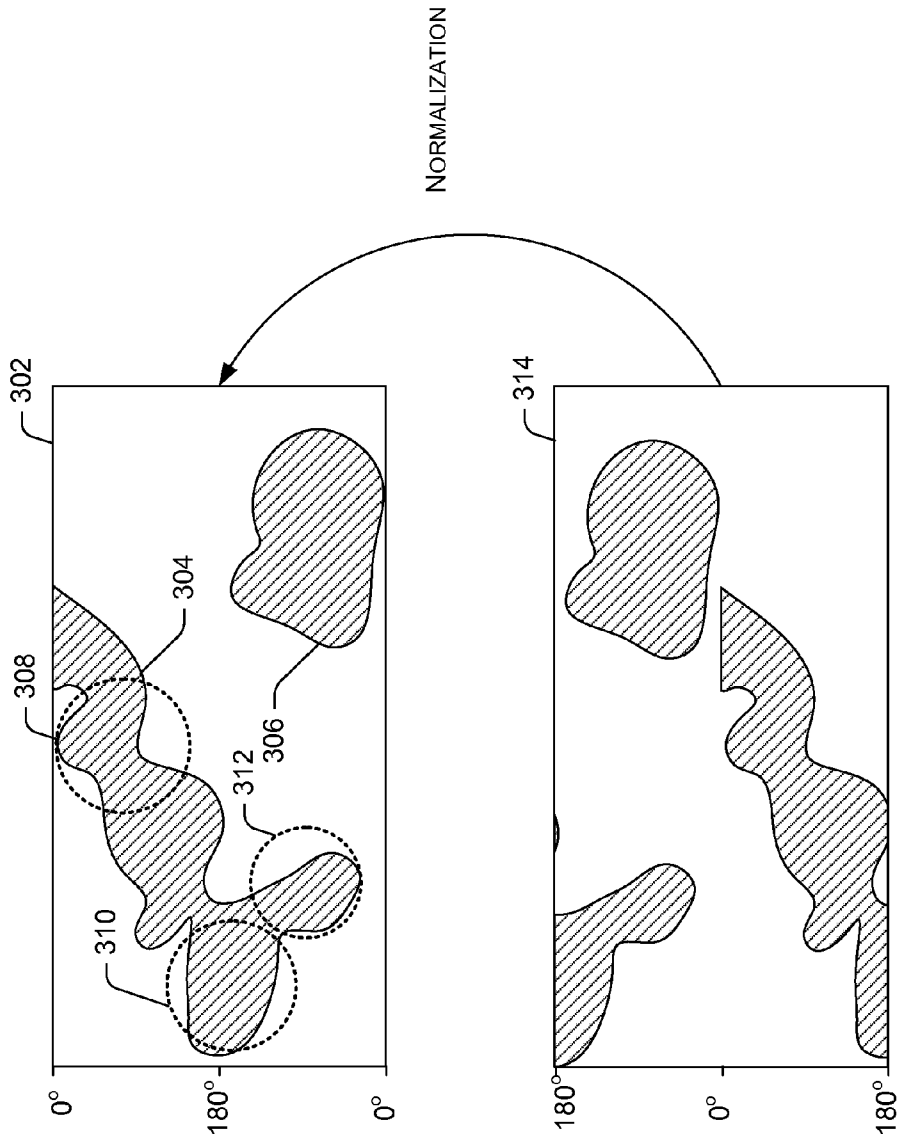


FIG. 3

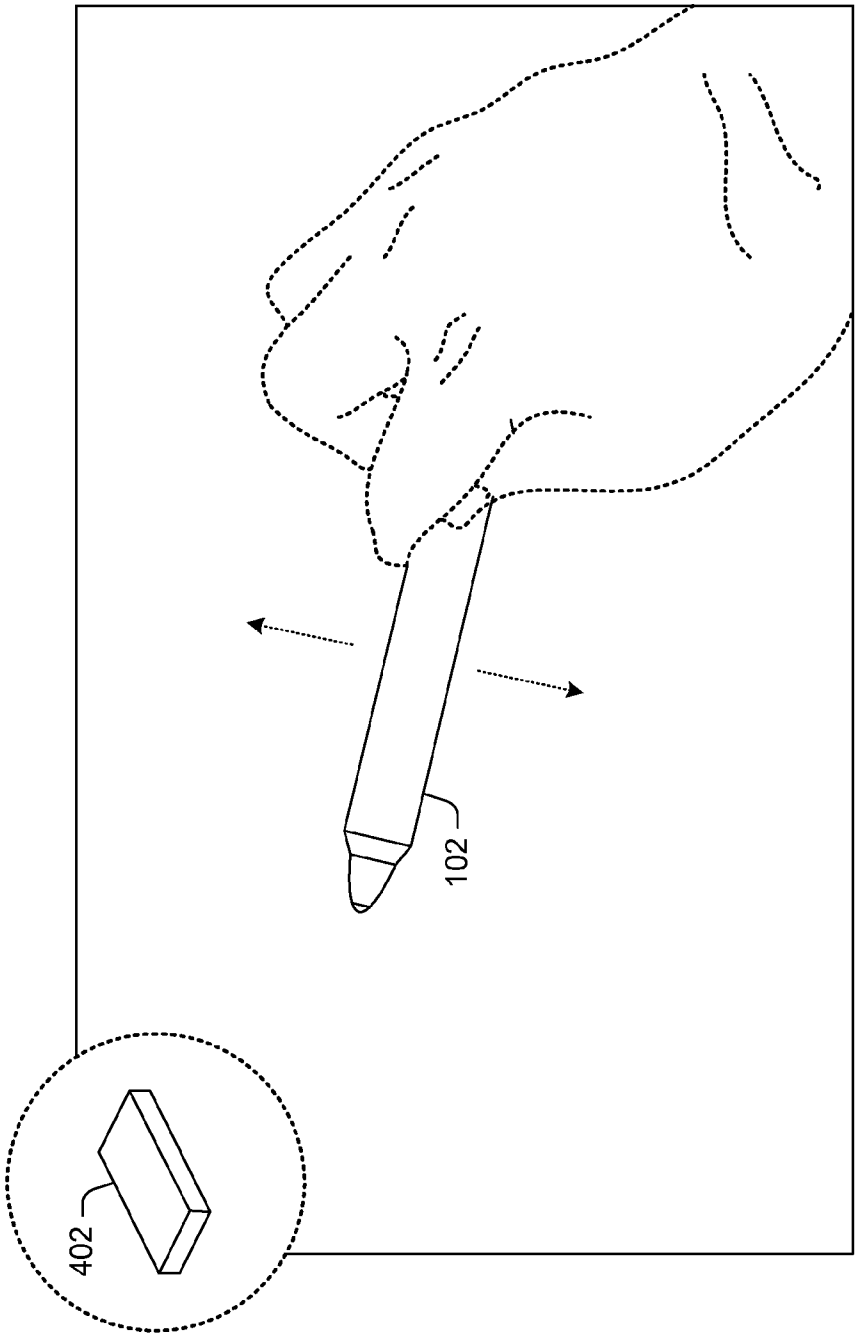


FIG. 4

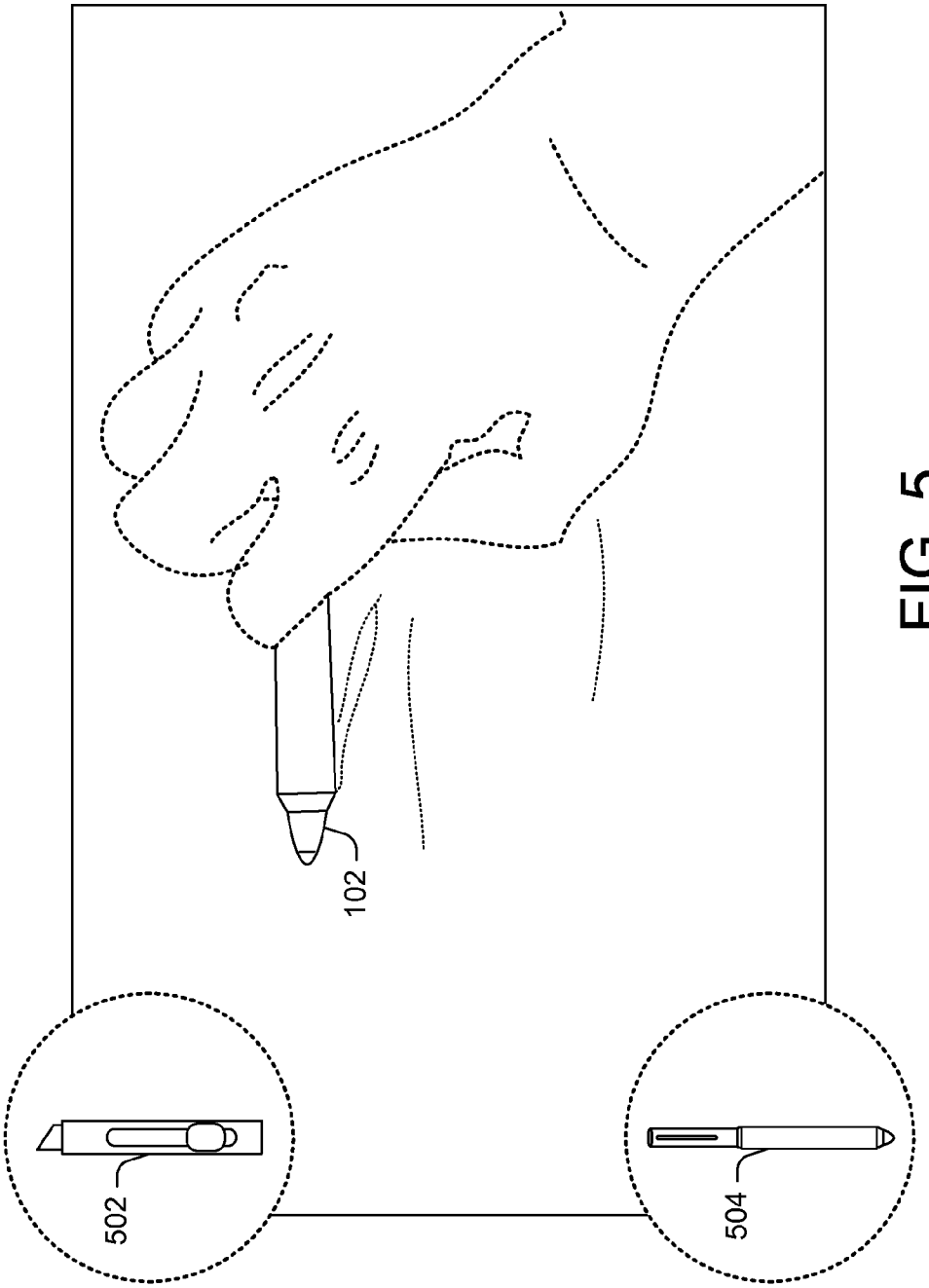


FIG. 5

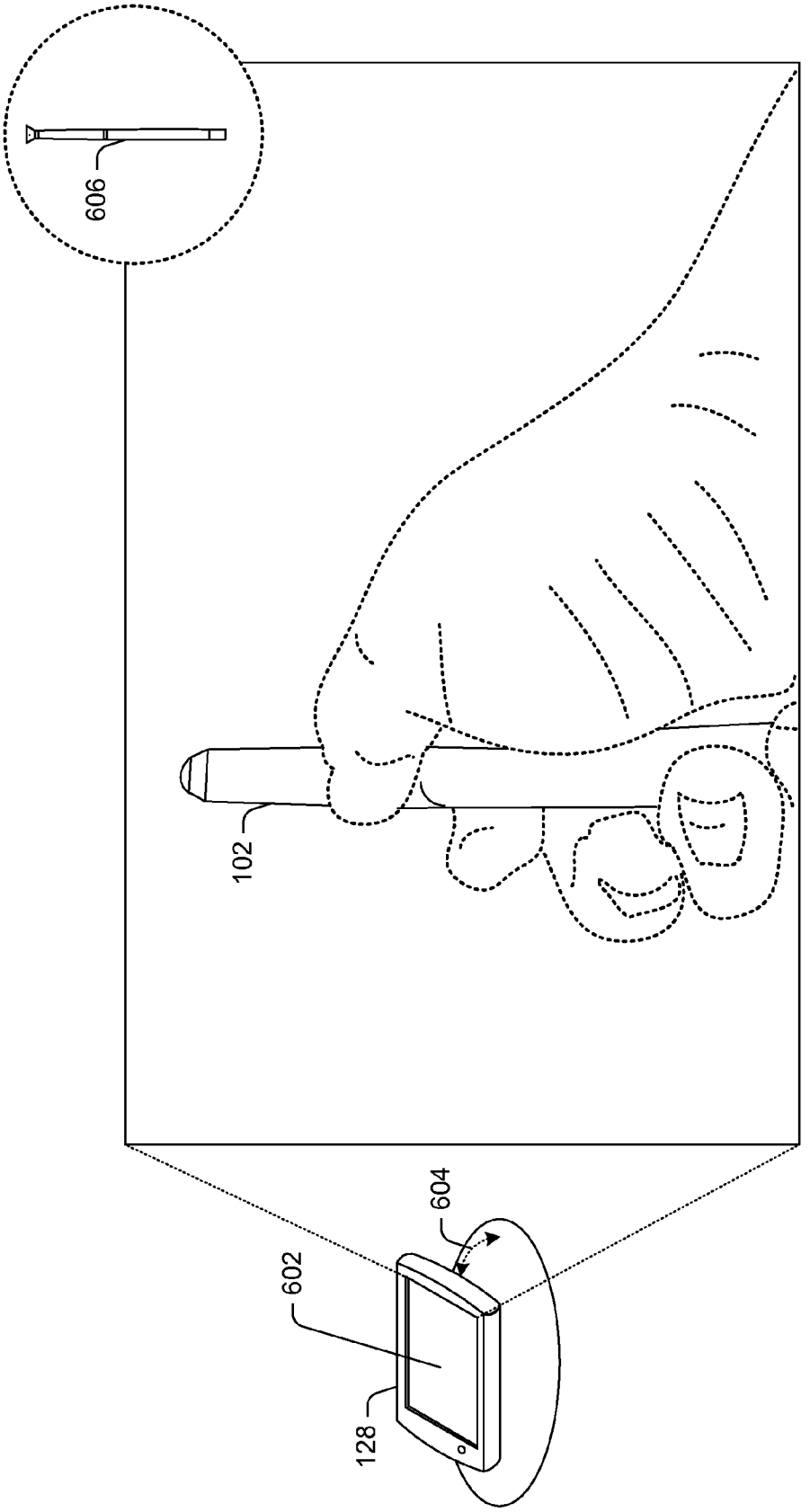


FIG. 6

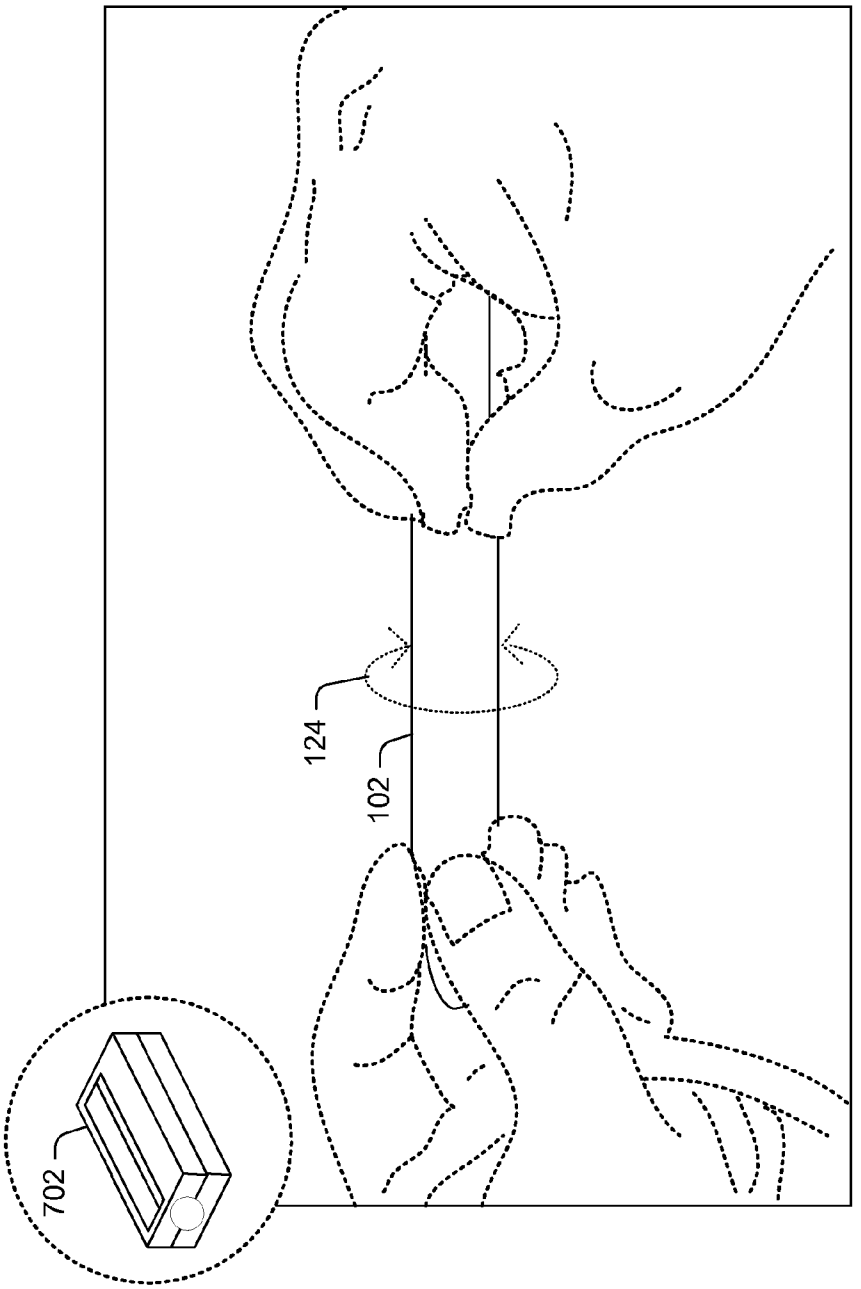


FIG. 7

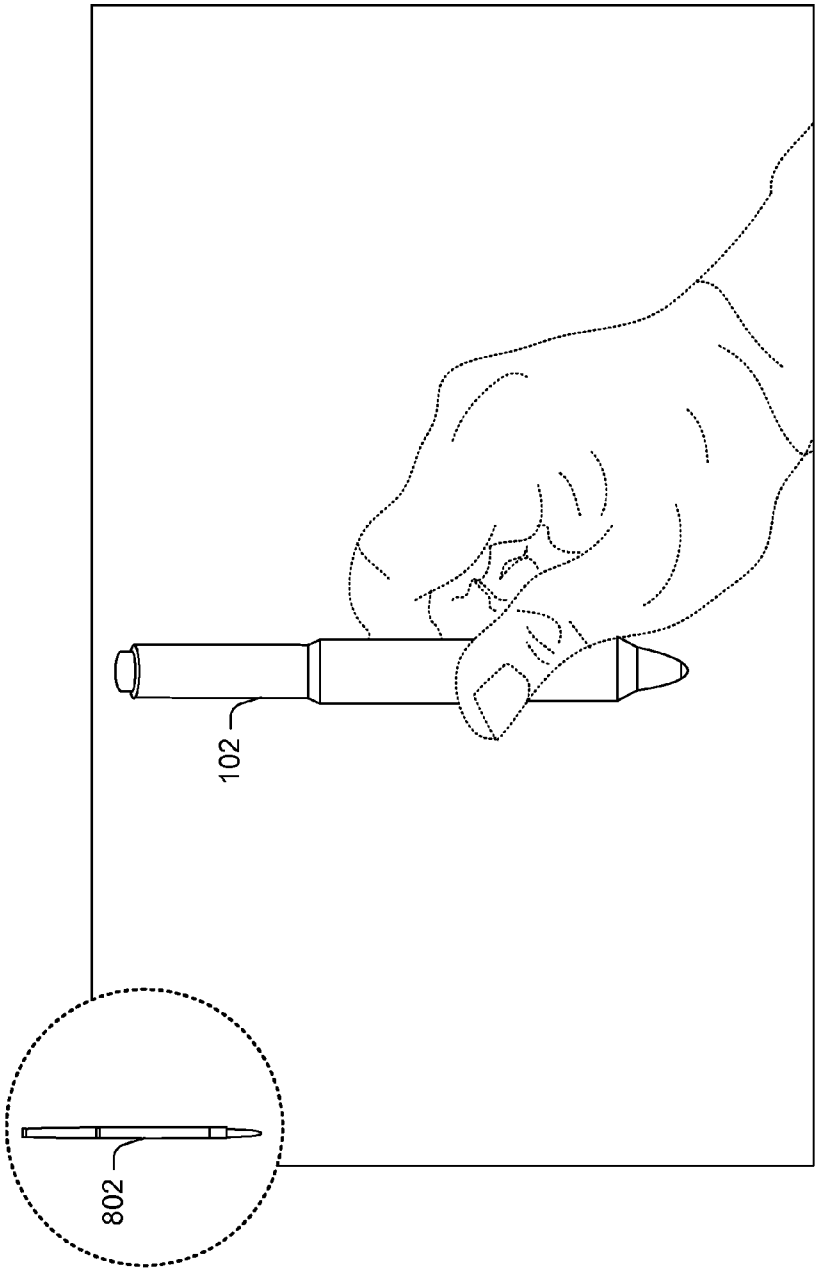


FIG. 8

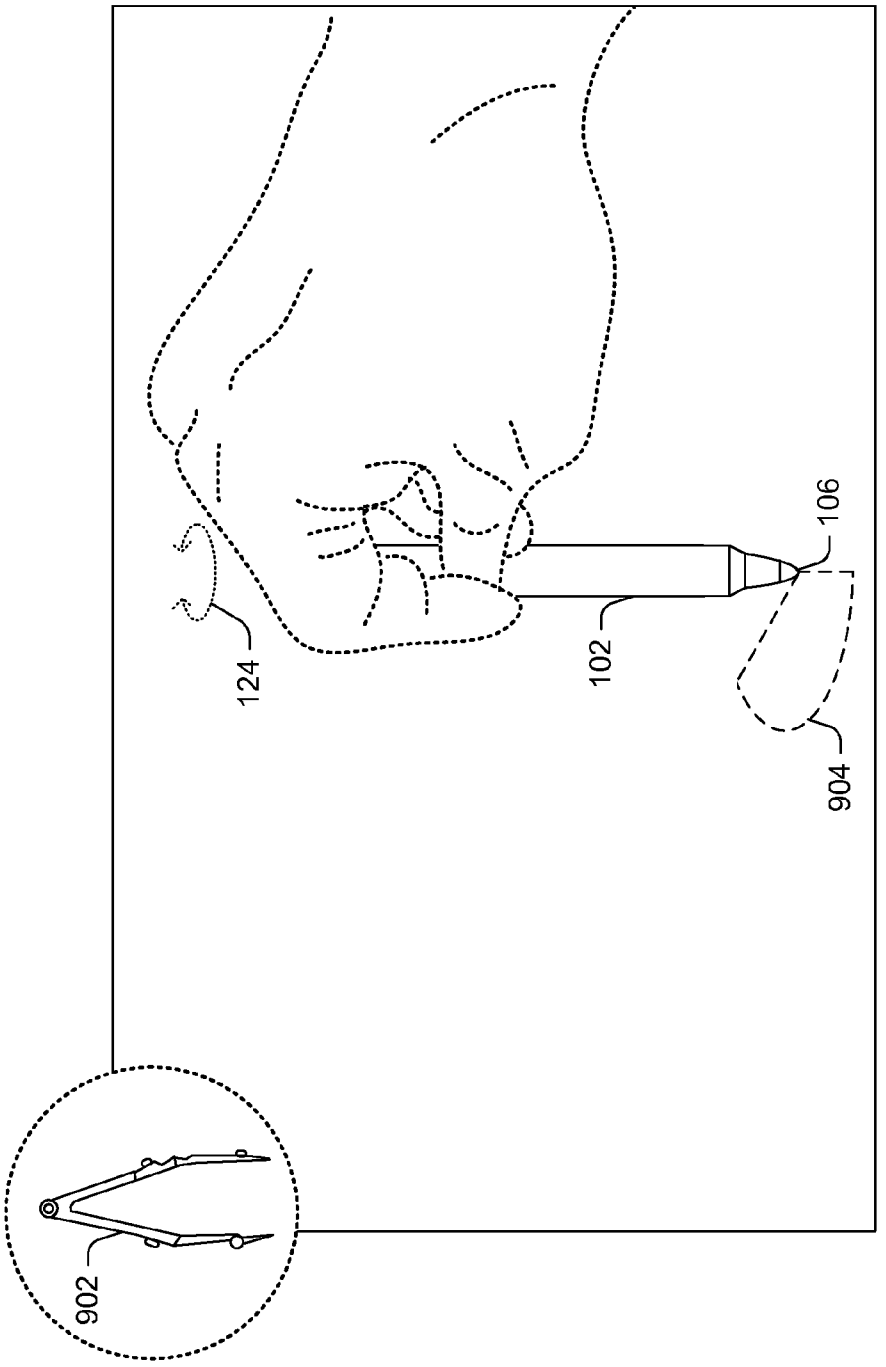


FIG. 9

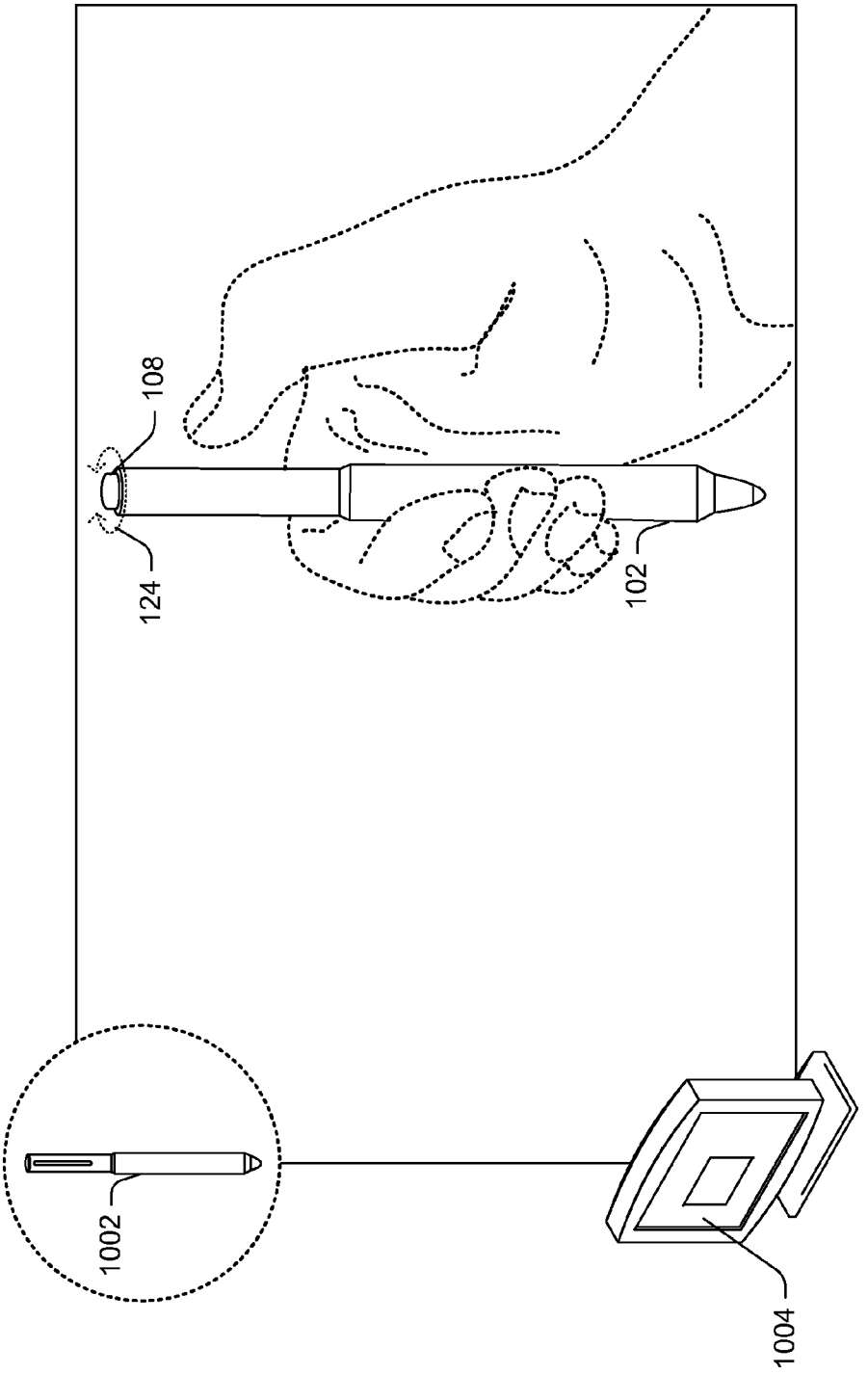


FIG. 10

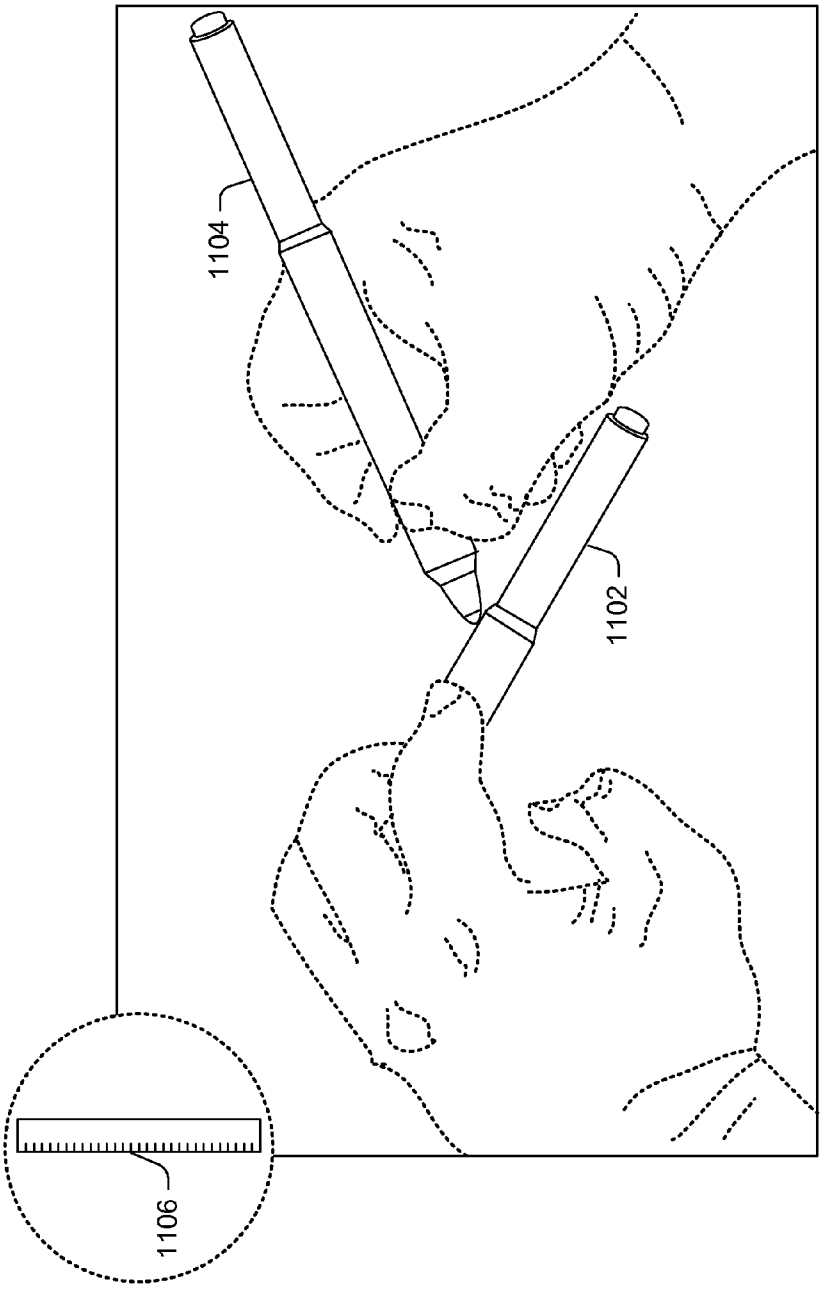


FIG. 11

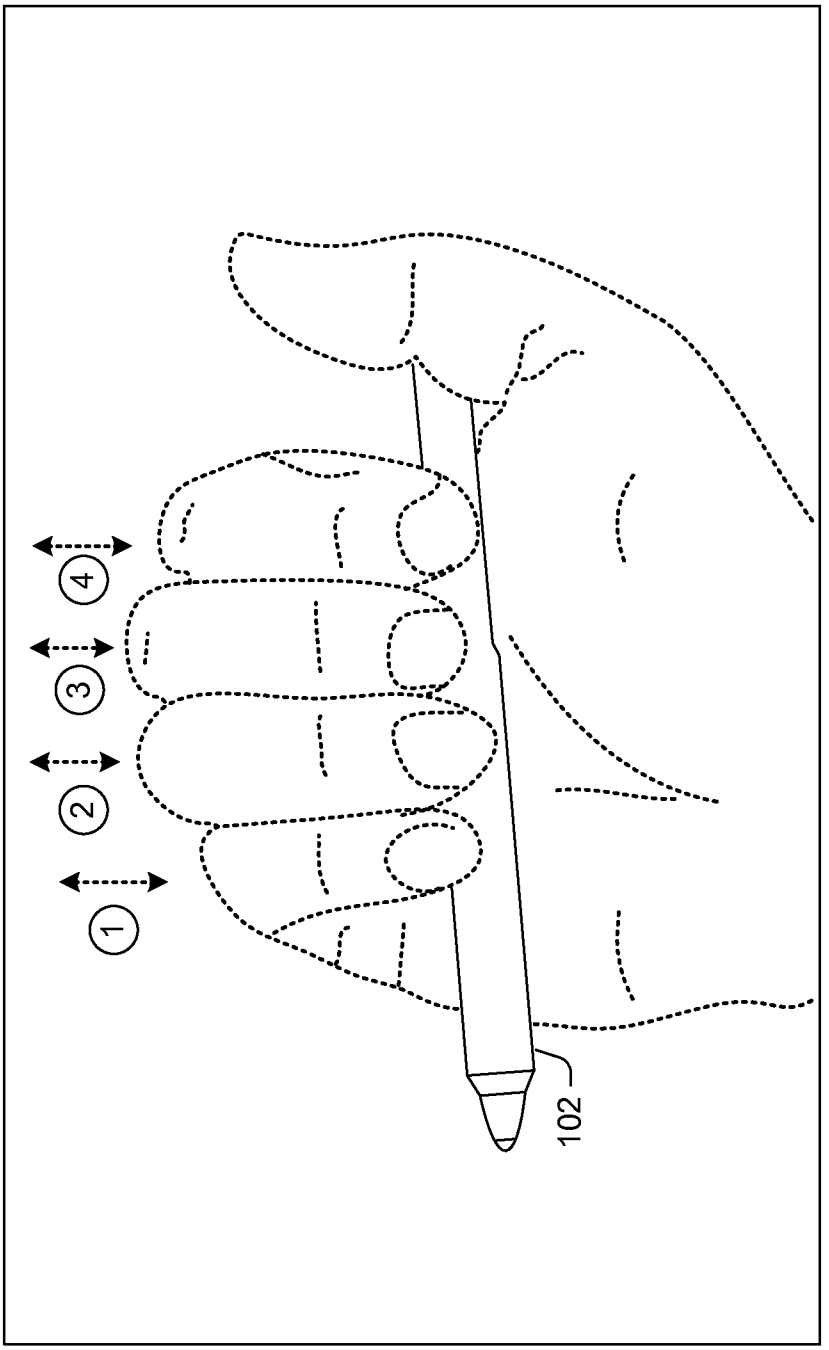


FIG. 12

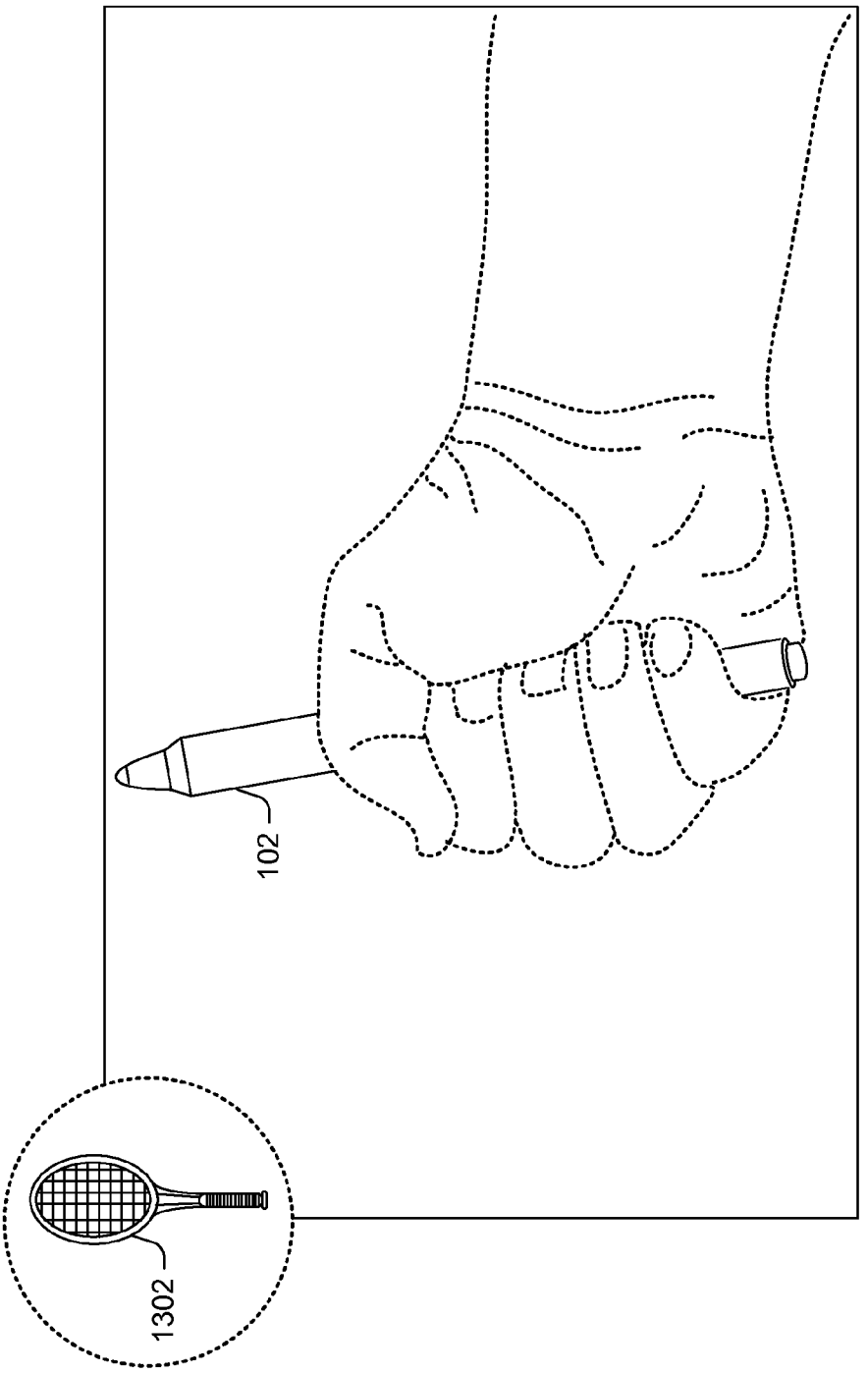


FIG. 13

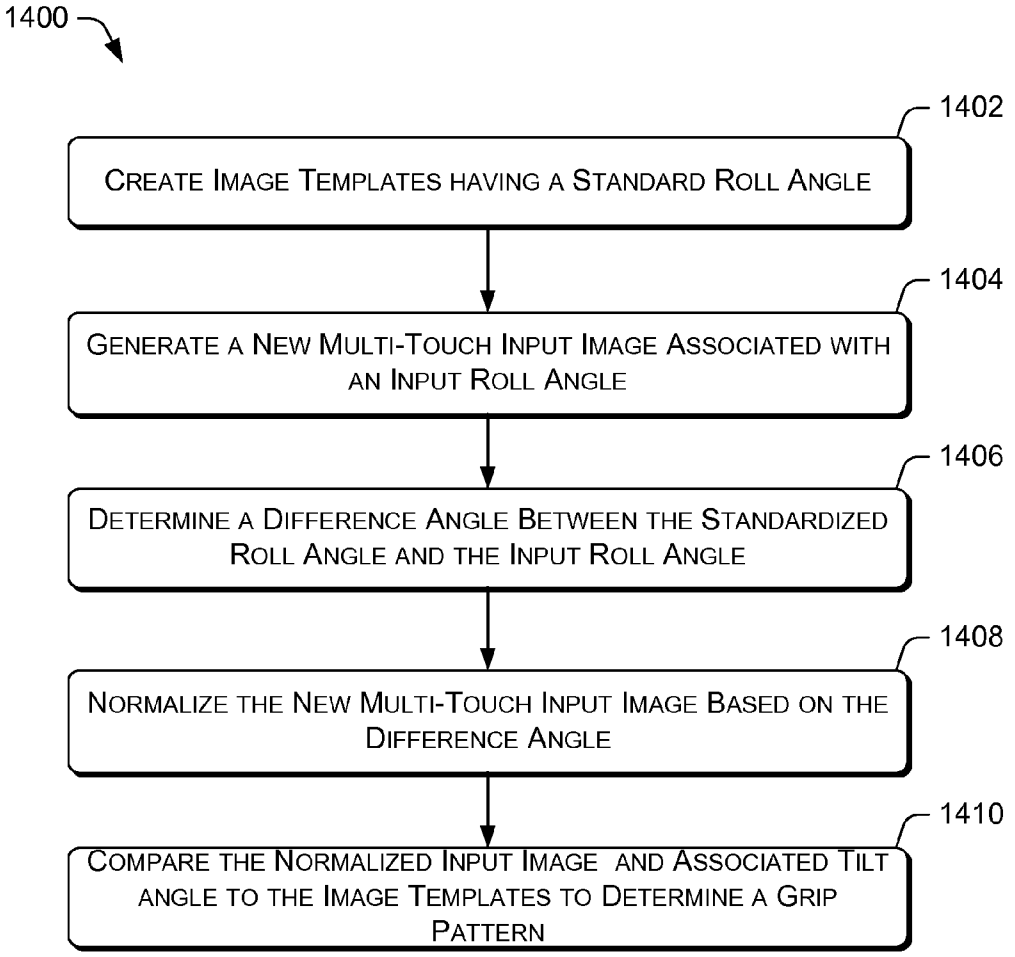

1400
1402
CREATE IMAGE TEMPLATES HAVING A STANDARD ROLL ANGLE
1404
GENERATE A NEW MULTI-TOUCH INPUT IMAGE ASSOCIATED WITH AN INPUT ROLL ANGLE
1406
DETERMINE A DIFFERENCE ANGLE BETWEEN THE STANDARDIZED ROLL ANGLE AND THE INPUT ROLL ANGLE
1408
NORMALIZE THE NEW MULTI-TOUCH INPUT IMAGE BASED ON THE DIFFERENCE ANGLE
1410
COMPARE THE NORMALIZED INPUT IMAGE AND ASSOCIATED TILT ANGLE TO THE IMAGE TEMPLATES TO DETERMINE A GRIP PATTERN

FIG. 14

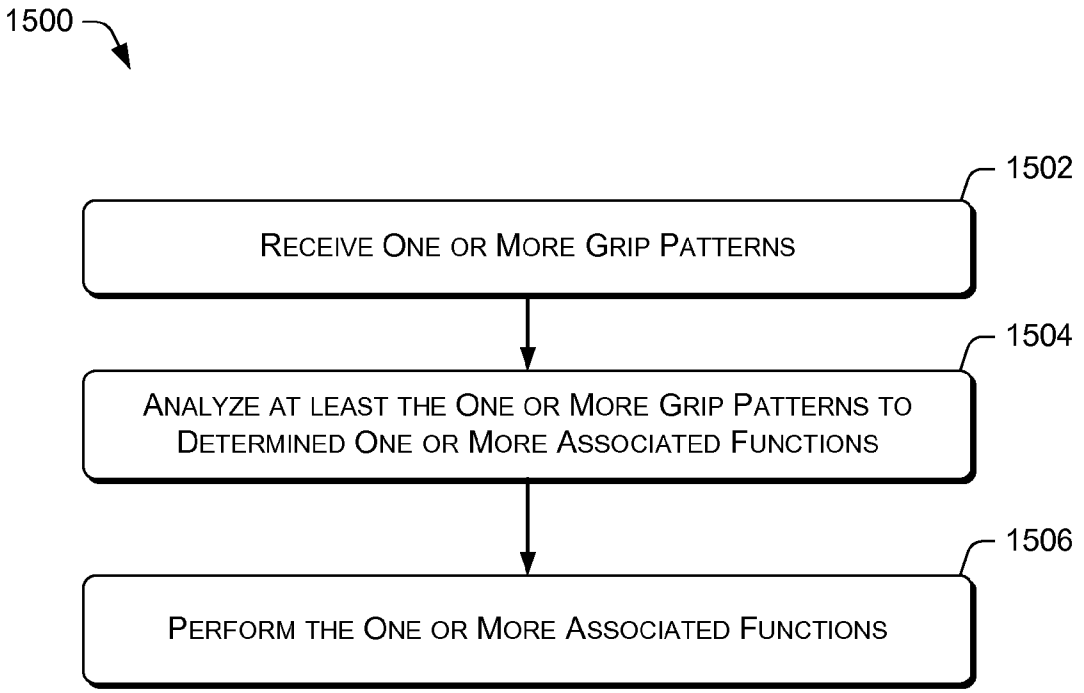

1500
1502
RECEIVE ONE OR MORE GRIP PATTERNS
1504
ANALYZE AT LEAST THE ONE OR MORE GRIP PATTERNS TO DETERMINED ONE OR MORE ASSOCIATED FUNCTIONS
1506
PERFORM THE ONE OR MORE ASSOCIATED FUNCTIONS

FIG. 15

MULTI-TOUCH INPUT DEVICE WITH ORIENTATION SENSING

BACKGROUND

Input devices are used to control a variety of electronic devices. For example, keyboards and mice are used to provide input to computers, while controllers are used to provide input to game consoles, televisions, and other entertainment devices. However, the usage paradigms for input devices have generally changed little. A user generally first selects a particular input device that controls an electronic device, and then uses the particular input device to send a control command to the electronic device. However, the performance of certain complex tasks may involve the user learning to use and switching between multiple input devices.

SUMMARY

Described herein are techniques for using a multi-touch input device that is equipped with an orientation sensor to perform multiple tasks. The multi-touch input device may have the ability to detect a grip pattern that is used by a user to hold and manipulate the input device. The grip pattern may include a particular hand grip that the user uses to hold the input device and the orientation of the input device in the user's hand. In turn, the multi-touch input device may act as different tools or perform different functions in response to the way the multi-touch input device is gripped and oriented by a user.

The multi-touch orientation sensing input device may enhance the task performance efficiency of the user by making it possible to perform different tasks with a single input device, instead of with the use of multiple input devices. Further, since the user may switch the multi-touch orientation sensing input device from performing one function to another function by simply changing the grip pattern, a user learning curve associated with mastering the use of new input devices may be reduced. Additionally, since the use of the multi-touch orientation sensing input device does not force the user to hold the input device in unnatural ways, user comfort and perceived quality of the input device may be improved.

In at least one embodiment, a multi-touch orientation sensing input device may include a device body that is partially or completely enclosed by a multi-touch sensor. The multi-touch orientation sensing input device may further include an inertia measurement unit that is disposed on the device body. The inertia measurement unit may measure a tilt angle of the device body with respect to a horizontal surface, as well as a roll angle of the device body along a length-wise axis of the device body with respect to an initial point on the device body.

This Summary is provided to introduce a selection of concepts in a simplified form that is further described below in the Detailed Description. This Summary is not intended to identify key features or essential features of the claimed subject matter, nor is it intended to be used to limit the scope of the claimed subject matter.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The detailed description is described with reference to the accompanying figures. In the figures, the left-most digit(s) of a reference number identifies the figure in which the reference number first appears. The use of the same reference number in different figures indicates similar or identical items.

FIG. **1** is an illustrative diagram showing example components of a multi-touch orientation sensing input device.

FIG. **2** is a block diagram that illustrates selected components of an electronic device that is paired with the multi-touch orientation sensing input device.

FIG. **3** is a schematic diagram that illustrates an example conversion of data from the multi-touch sensor of a multi-touch orientation sensing input device into a corresponding multi-touch input image.

FIG. **4** is an illustrative diagram showing an example grip pattern that commands the multi-touch orientation sensing input device to function as a digital eraser tool.

FIG. **5** is an illustrative diagram showing an example grip patterns that command the multi-touch orientation sensing input device to perform different functions.

FIG. **6** is an illustrative diagram showing the determination of a function of a multi-touch orientation sensing input device based on an example grip pattern from multiple devices.

FIG. **7** is an illustrative diagram showing an example grip pattern that leads to change ink impression size when the multi-touch orientation sensing input device is functioning as a digital sketching tool.

FIG. **8** is an illustrative diagram showing an example grip pattern that commands the multi-touch orientation sensing input device to function as a digital calligraphy brush tool.

FIG. **9** is an illustrative diagram showing an example grip pattern that commands the multi-touch orientation sensing input device to function as a digital compass tool.

FIG. **10** is an illustrative diagram showing a manipulation of the multi-touch orientation sensing input device to change ink color when the multi-touch orientation sensing input device is functioning as a digital sketching tool.

FIG. **11** is an illustrative diagram showing example grip patterns of multiple multi-touch orientation sensing input devices that are collectively performing a digital ruler function.

FIG. **12** is an illustrative diagram showing the use of a series of touches on the multi-touch orientation sensing tool to input commands to an electronic device.

FIG. **13** is an illustrative diagram showing an example grip pattern that commands the multi-touch orientation sensing input device to function as a digital racquet in the context of a video game.

FIG. **14** is a flow diagram that illustrates an example process to determine a grip pattern that is used to grasp the multi-touch orientation sensing input device.

FIG. **15** is a flow diagram that illustrates an example process to perform a function that is inputted via the multi-touch orientation sensing input device.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The embodiments described herein pertain to the use of a multi-touch input device that is equipped with a multi-touch sensor and an orientation sensor to perform multiple tasks. The multi-touch input device may have the ability to detect the grip pattern that is used by a user to hold and manipulate the input device. The grip pattern may include a particular hand grip that the user uses to hold the input device and an orientation of the input device in the user's hand. In turn, the multi-touch input device may act as different tools, or perform different functions in response to the way the multi-touch input device is gripped and oriented by a user.

For instance, the multi-touch orientation sensing input device may be paired with an electronic device that is an electronic drawing tablet. In such an instance, the different ways that the input device is gripped and oriented by the user may cause the multi-touch orientating sensing input device to act as different digital writing and drawing tools. For

example, depending on the particular grip pattern, the multi-touch orientation sensing input device may function as one of a digital paint brush, a digital sketch pen, a digital eraser, and so forth. In a further instance, information regarding the grip pattern may be analyzed in conjunction with the orientation of the electronic device to determine the function of the input device.

In other instances, the multi-touch orientation sensing input device may be paired with another input processing device that is a game console. In such instances, the different ways that the input device is gripped and oriented by the user may cause the multi-touch orientation sensing device to act as different game controllers. For example, depending on the particular grip pattern, the multi-touch orientation sensing input device may function as a martial arts staff, a ball racquet, an edged weapon, a gun, and so forth.

In additional instances, the multi-touch orientation sensing input device may detect a series of grip pattern changes and feed the series to an electronic device. Accordingly, rather than determine a command associated with a single grip pattern, the electronic device may analyze the entire series of grip patterns to determine a function. For example, while gripping the multi-touch orientation sensing input device, the user may simultaneously tap his or her fingers on the input device in a particular sequence. As such, the electronic device may interpret the sequence as a corresponding command to perform a function (e.g., performing a copy function in a word processing application, start a new game, play music notes), and may perform the function accordingly.

In various embodiments, the multi-touch orientation sensing input device may be rod-like in shape so that the input device may be easily grasped by the hand of the user. The outside of the input device may be at least partially covered with a multi-touch sensor that detects the different grip patterns of the user. For example, the multi-touch sensor may sense a grip pattern that is in the form of palm and fingers impressions of the user. The multi-touch orientation sensing input device may further include an orientation sensor that is able to sense the movement of the input device within a three-dimensional space.

The multi-touch orientation sensing input device may enhance the task performance efficiency of the user by making it possible to perform different tasks with a single input device, instead of with the use of multiple input devices or controllers. Further, since the user may switch the multi-touch orientation sensing input device from performing one function to another function by simply changing a combination of grip pattern and device orientation, a user learning curve associated with mastering the use of new input devices may be reduced. Additionally, since the use of the multi-touch orientation sensing input device does not force the user to hold the input device in unnatural ways, user comfort and perceived quality of the device may be improved. Various examples of the multi-touch orientation sensing input device and example techniques for using the input device in accordance with the embodiments are described below with reference to FIGS. **1-15**.

Example Multi-Touch Orientation Sensing Input Device

FIG. **1** is an illustrative diagram showing the example components of a multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102**. The input device **102** may be rod-like in shape so that the input device may be easily grasped by the hand of a user. In some embodiments, the input device **102** may be shaped like a stylus or pen, with a taper end **104**. The taper end **104** may include a retractable tip **106** that activates a pressure switch housed in the input device **102**. The pressure switch may output a signal when sufficient pressure actuates the switch. In other embodiments, the body of the input device **102** may also be equipped with at least one button, such as a clickable button **108**, which activates a corresponding pressure switch when depressed.

The body of the input device **102** may be partially or completely covered with a multi-touch sensor **110**. The multi-touch sensor **110** may detect contact between one or more conductive objects (e.g., different hand parts of a user) and the body of the input device **102**. In some embodiments, the multi-touch sensor **110** may be a capacitive sensor that includes a membrane of capacitive sensing elements **112** in which each element converts a contact by a conductive object into a corresponding electrical signal. The membrane of capacitive sensing elements **112** may be enclosed within a protective coating that prevents direct electrical contact between the hand of the user and the sensing elements. In some instances, the protective coating may be an elastic material that also provides cushioning properties. The capacitive sensing elements **112** may be organized as a sensor grid that is capable of tracking multiple simultaneous touches on the body of the input device **102** and provide two-dimensional locations of the touches. As further described below, such capability of the capacitive sensing elements **112** may be used to form multi-touch input images. In other embodiments, the multi-touch sensor **110** may be a resistive sensor or a pressure switch that is also capable of detecting contacts between one or more conductive objects and the body of the input device **102** for the purpose of forming multi-touch input images.

An inertia measurement unit **114** may be positioned on or inside the body of the input device **102**. The inertia measurement unit **114** may detect and report the orientation and movement of the input device **102**. In various embodiments, the inertia measurement unit **114** may include a compass **116**, a gyroscope **118**, and one or more accelerometers **120**. The inertia measurement unit **114** may measure and output a pitch, that is, a tilt angle **122** of the input device **102**. The tilt angle **122** of the input device **102** is the angular difference between an axis "1" along the length of the input device **102** and a horizontal surface "x". For example, an input device **102** that is perpendicular to a horizontal surface may have a tilt angle of 90°, while an input device **102** that is parallel to a horizontal surface may have a tilt angle of 0°.

The inertia measurement unit **114** may also measure and output a roll angle **124** of the input device **102**. The roll angle **124** is the rotational angle of the input device **102** as it spins along the "1" axis. An initial roll angle **124** of 0° may be fixed with respect to an arbitrary point **126** on the body of the input device **102**. Subsequently, any spin of the input device **102** along the "1" may either increase or decrease the roll angle with respect to this arbitrary point **126** independent of the tilt angle **122**.

The input device **102** may also include an electronics package **128** that powers the multi-touch sensor **110** and the inertia measurement unit **114**. The electronic package **128** may also pass the output data of the multi-touch sensor **110** and the inertia measurement unit **114** to an electric device **130**. The electronics package **128** may include a power source **132**, processing components **134**, and a transceiver **136**. The power source **132** may be a self-contained battery and/or an electrical component that feeds electrical power to the multi-touch sensor **110** and the inertia measurement unit **114** from another power source. For example, the input device **102** may be electrically hardwired to the electronic device **130**, and the power source **132** may be a component that regulates the flow of electrical power from the electronic device **130** to the input device **102** through the wired connection.

The processing components **134** may include hardware and/or software that obtain the outputted data from the multi-touch sensor **110**, the inertia measurement unit **114**, as well as the pressure switches that are associated with the retractable tip **106** and the clickable button **108**. In turn, the processing components **134** may transform the data into a format that is readily received and understood by the electronic device **130**. For example, the processing components **134** may convert analogy signals into digital data, or vice versa. In another example, the processing components **134** may encode the data into a data format that is specified by the electronic device **130**. Any software that is included in the processing components **134** may be stored in a memory. The memory may include computer readable media, such as computer storage media. Computer-readable media includes, at least, two types of computer-readable media, namely computer storage media and communications media. Computer storage media includes volatile and non-volatile, removable and non-removable media implemented in any method or technology for storage of information such as computer readable instructions, data structures, program modules, or other data. Computer storage media includes, but is not limited to, RAM, ROM, EEPROM, flash memory or other memory technology, CD-ROM, digital versatile disks (DVD) or other optical storage, magnetic cassettes, magnetic tape, magnetic disk storage or other magnetic storage devices, or any other non-transmission medium that can be used to store information for access by a electronic device. In contrast, communication media may embody computer readable instructions, data structures, program modules, or other data in a modulated data signal, such as a carrier wave, or other transmission mechanism. As defined herein, computer storage media does not include communication media.

The transceiver **136** may include wireless or wired communication components that enable the input device **102** to transmit data to and receive data from the electronic device **130** via a wireless or wired connection **138**. For example, the transceiver **136** may be a Bluetooth® transceiver, or a universal serial bus (USB) transceiver.

The electronic device **130** may be a general purpose computer, such as a desktop computer, a tablet computer, a laptop computer, and so forth. In other embodiments, the electronic device **130** may be one of a smart phone, a game console, a personal digital assistant (PDA), a drawing tablet, and so forth. The electronic device **130** may interpret the input received from the input device **102** as commands, and perform function based on the commands. As further described below, the commands may cause the electronic device **130** to perform different functions.

Example Electronic Device Components

FIG. **2** is a block diagram that illustrates selected components of an electronic device **130** that is paired with the multi-touch orientation sensing input device. The electronic device **130** may include a transceiver **202**, an inertial measurement unit **204**, a proximity sensor **206**, user interfaces **208**, one or more processors **210**, and memory **212**.

The transceiver **202** may include wireless and/or wired communication components that enable the electronic device **130** to transmit data to and receive data from the multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102** via a wireless and/or wired connection **138**. For example, the transceiver **202** may be a Bluetooth® transceiver or a universal serial bus (USB) transceiver.

The inertial measurement unit **204** may detect and report the orientation and movement of the electronic device **130**. For example, the inertial measurement unit **204** may detect a tilt of the electronic device **130** with respect to a horizontal surface, a rotation of the electronic device **130**, and so forth. In various embodiments, the inertial measurement unit **204** may be similar to the inertial measurement unit **204** that is embedded in the multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102**.

The proximity sensor **206** may detect the movements of the input device **102** proximate to the electronic device **130**. The proximity sensor **206** may detect movements of the multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102** in one or more dimensions using different detection techniques, or a combination of different detection techniques. These detection techniques may include image recognition and tracking, electromagnetic induction sensing, infrared ranging, acoustic ranging, laser ranging, capacitive or resistive touch sensing, and/or other technologies. In some embodiments, the proximity sensor **206** may include an electromagnetic digitizer having a flat surface that senses the movement of the input device **102** without direct contact, and on which the user may activate the pressure switch associated with the retractable tip **106** of the input device **102**. In other embodiments, the digitizer may have a flat surface that uses capacitive or resistive contact sensing to detect the movement of the input device **102**.

The user interface **208** may include a data output device (e.g., visual display, audio speakers), and one or more data input devices. The data input devices may include, but are not limited to, combinations of one or more of keypads, keyboards, mouse devices, touch screens, microphones, speech recognition packages, and any other suitable devices. In at least one embodiment, the output devices may include a display screen that presents data corresponding to the movement of the input device **102** as detected by the proximity sensor **206**. In some embodiments, the display screen and the digitizer may be integrated into a single unit that both detects and display the movements of the multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102**.

The memory **212** may be implemented using computer readable media, such as computer storage media. Computer-readable media includes, at least, two types of computer-readable media, namely computer storage media and communications media. Computer storage media includes volatile and non-volatile, removable and non-removable media implemented in any method or technology for storage of information such as computer readable instructions, data structures, program modules, or other data. Computer storage media includes, but is not limited to, RAM, ROM, EEPROM, flash memory or other memory technology, CD-ROM, digital versatile disks (DVD) or other optical storage, magnetic cassettes, magnetic tape, magnetic disk storage or other magnetic storage devices, or any other non-transmission medium that can be used to store information for access by a electronic device. In contrast, communication media may embody computer readable instructions, data structures, program modules, or other data in a modulated data signal, such as a carrier wave, or other transmission mechanism. As defined herein, computer storage media does not include communication media.

The one or more processors **210** and memory **212** of the electronic device **130** may implement an operating system **214**, a device interface module **216**, an image generation module **218**, a normalization module **220**, a comparison module **222**, a function module **224**, a template generation module **226**, a user interface module **228**, and a data store **230**. The modules of the electronic device **130** may process the data from the multi-touch sensor **110**, the inertia measurement unit **114**, as well as the pressure switches that are associated with the retractable tip **106** and the clickable button **108**. In turn,

the modules of the electronic device **130** may determine the different functions that a user desires the multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102** to perform in various scenarios.

The operating system **214** may include at least one operating system that enables the electronic device **130** to receive data via various inputs (e.g., user controls, network interfaces, and/or memory devices), and processes data using the one or more processors **210** to generate output. The operating system may also include a display function that presents the output (e.g., displays the output on an electronic display, stores data in memory, transmits data to another electronic device, etc.). The operating system may further provide resources and services for the implementation and execution of various modules and applications, such as the applications **232** stored in the data store **230**. Additionally, the operating system may perform various other functions generally associated with such a system, such as enabling a user to interact with the various modules on the electronic device **130** and the applications **232** using the user interface **208**. Nevertheless, in some embodiments, the modules and the applications **232** stored in the memory **212** may be configured to function without the operating system **214**.

The device interface module **216** may enable the other modules of the electronic device **130** to exchange data with other wireless devices via the transceiver **202**. The device interface module **216** may include software that facilitates the operations of the transceivers **202** (e.g., protocol layer, network layer, link layer, transport layer, application layer, session layer, encryption layer, and/or the like). In some embodiments, the device interface module **216** may detect the input device **102** by broadcast an identifier signal, and monitor for reply signals from the input device **102** for establishing a communication connection. In other embodiments, the device interface module **216** may monitor for identifier signals from the input device **102**, and transmit reply signals to establish a communication connection. Accordingly, once the communication connection is established, the device interface module **216** may transmit output data that is generated by the various modules of the electronic device **130** to the multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102**, as well as receive input data from the input device **102**.

The image generation module **218** may receive data associated with different instances of touches with the multi-touch sensor **110** of the input device **102**, depending on the particular patterns of capacitive sensing elements **112** that are triggered in the different instances. In turn, the image generation module **218** may process the data into corresponding representative multi-touch input images. Each of the images may include one or more image areas that represent where contact by a body part, e.g., a hand of the user with the multi-touch sensor **110** occurred, as well as image areas that represent the lack of contact with the multi-touch sensor **110**. As further described below, each of the multi-touch input images may be further compared with grip templates **234** that are stored in the data store **230**. Since each of the grip templates **234** already corresponds to a particular grip pattern, the grip captured in each of the multi-touch input images may be deduced by using the grip templates **234**. The initial generation of a multi-touch input image from data received from the input device **102** is illustrated in FIG. **3**.

FIG. **3** is a schematic diagram that illustrates an example conversion of data from the multi-touch sensor of a multi-touch orientation sensing input device into a corresponding multi-touch input image. As shown, the image generation module **218** may generate an example two-dimensional multi-touch input image **302** from data received from the multi-touch sensor **110**. The generation of the multi-touch input image **302** may be conceptualized as slicing the three-dimensional data from the multi-touch sensor **110** at some point along the "1" axis, flattening the three-dimensional data, and expressing the data as a two-dimensional image. In some embodiments, the example multi-touch input image **302** may be further blurred with a Gaussian function or similar image blurring functions to increase recognition rate during the eventual image comparison with the grip template **234**.

As shown, the example multi-touch input image **302** may include an image area **304** and an image area **306** that represent where at least some contact between objects (e.g., different hand parts of a user) and at least some sensor elements **112** on the body of the input device **102** occurred. For example, in the context of the input device **102** being gripped by the hand of a user, region **308** of the image area **304** may represent a contact impression between a thumb of the user and the body of the input device **102**. Likewise, region **310** may represent a contact impression between an index finger of the user and the body of the input device **102**, while region **312** may represent a contact impression between a middle finger of the user and the body of the input device **102**. Further, the image **306** may represent a contact impression between a web of the user's hand and the body of the input device **102**.

The image generation module **218** may further use a normalization module **220** to normalize each of the multi-touch input images based on differences between their respective roll angles and a standardized roll angle. In such embodiments, the image generation module **218** may further capture an associated roll angle of the input device **102** as the image generation module **218** receives the multi-touch sensor data from the input device **102**. Image normalization according to roll angle compensates for the fact that the body of the input device **102** may have a different rotational orientation along the "1" axis with respect to the hand of the user each time the user handles the multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102**. For example, in an instance in which the body of the input device **102** is cylindrical and has a line of imprinted writing (e.g., brand name) parallel to the "1" axis, the user may pick up and hold the input device **102** repeatedly without regard to whether the writing is visible or covered by the user's hand. Nevertheless, in such scenarios, the inertial measurement unit **114** of the input device **102** may record different roll angles each time the input device **102** is picked up and held (e.g., 0°, 120°, 180°, −45°, and so forth).

Accordingly, the normalization module **220** may use the corresponding roll angles of the multi-touch input images to normalize the images. For example, as shown in FIG. **3**, the multi-touch input image **302** may be generated by the image generation module **218** when the user picked up the input device **102** for a first time at a roll angle of 0°. As such, the top and bottom of the multi-touch input image **302** may correspond to 0°, while the middle of the multi-touch input image **302** may correspond to 180°.

On the other hand, the multi-touch input image **314** may be generated by the image generation module **218** when the user picked up the input device for a second time at a roll angle of 180°. As such, the top and bottom of the multi-touch input image **302** may correspond to 180°, while the middle of the multi-touch input image **302** may correspond to 0°. The user may have used the same grip both the first time and the second time, but the resultant multi-touch input images are different without normalization due to the difference in roll angles.

In such an instance, assuming that the normalization module **220** is configured to normalize all images according to a

standardized roll angle of 0°, the normalization module **220** may rotate the multi-touch input image **314** so that the top and bottom of the multi-touch input image **314** correspond to 0°, while the middle of the multi-touch input image **314** correspond to 180°. Subsequently, the multi-touch input image **302** and the multi-touch input image **314** may then be directly compared to determine if they match. In some embodiments, the normalization module **220** may use linear transformation and/or linear translation techniques to rotate the multi-touch input images according to the difference between the roll angle of the multi-touch input image **314** and the standardized roll angle. It will be appreciated that while the normalization example illustrated in FIG. **3** is discussed in the context of roll angle 0°, the normalization module **220** may normalize the multi-touch input images according to any arbitrary standardized roll angle in other embodiments.

Returning to FIG. **2**, the comparison module **222** may compare and match the normalized multi-touch input images to grip templates **234**. Each of the grip templates **234** may include a particular pre-stored multi-touch input image that is normalized to the standardized roll angle, as well as a specific tilt angle that corresponds to the particular pre-stored multi-touch image. The particular pre-stored multi-touch image may represent a particular grip that the user uses to grip the input device **102**. The specific tilt angle may be a tilt angle of an input device, such as the multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102**, at the time that the input device provided the particular pre-stored multi-touch input image. Accordingly, a combination of a grip represented by a multi-touch image included in a grip template **234** and the specific tilt angle of the input device at the time the multi-touch image is captured may constitute a grip pattern. As such, multiple grip templates **234** may share the same multi-touch image, but have entirely different tilt angles. The grip templates **234** that include the corresponding multi-touch input images and tilt angles, and their associated grip patterns **236** may be stored in a pattern database **238**.

In various embodiments, the comparison module **222** may match a normalized multi-touch input image with an associated tilt angle to a grip template **234** using a classification algorithm. The associate tilt angle may be the tilt angle **122** of the multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102** at the time the data input for the normalized multi-touch input image was captured by the multi-sensor **110**.

The comparison module **222** may initially obtain a weighted sum of difference for the normalized multi-touch input image and each of the grip templates **234**. Each weighted sum of difference may include (1) the image difference between the normalized multi-touch input image and a particular template; and (2) the tilt angle difference between the associated tilt angle of the normalized multi-touch input image and a specific tilt angle of the particular template. Subsequently, the comparison module **222** may use a k-nearest neighbor (K-NN) algorithm to determine a grip template from the grip templates **234** that is the closest match to the normalized multi-touch input image based on the obtained weighted sums.

Thus, by performing such comparisons using the weighted sums, the comparison module **222** may identify a grip pattern that corresponds to the new normalized multi-touch input image and its associated tilt angle. Subsequently, the comparison module **222** may assign the corresponding identified grip pattern to the new normalized multi-touch input image with the associated tilt angle. Conversely, if no match between the new normalized multi-touch input image with the associated tilt angle and any of the grip templates **234** is found, the comparison module **222** may discard the new normalized multi-touch input image and/or process the next available normalized multi-touch input image that has another associated tilt angle. In some embodiments, the comparison module **222** may present a message to the user via the user interface module **228** that indicates that no grip pattern is detected and/or direct the user to modify the input device **102** is being held.

In various embodiments, the comparison module **222** may employ various classification schemes (explicitly and/or implicitly trained) and/or systems (e.g., support vector machines, neural networks, expert systems, Bayesian belief networks, fuzzy logic, data fusion engine, and/or the like) to perform the comparison and matching based on the normalized images and the tilt angles.

The function module **224** may determine functions that are to be performed based on the inputs received from one or more multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102**, and/or the orientation of the electronic device **130**. The inputs obtained from an input device **102** may include one or more detected grip patterns, detected roll angles **124**, detected activations of the retractable tip **106**, and/or detected activations of one or more clickable buttons, such as the clickable button **108**. The inputs obtained from the electronic device **130** may include device roll angle, i.e., rotation of the device, and device tilt angle from the inertial measurement unit **204**, and input device **102** movement data from the proximity sensor **206**. In various embodiments, the function module **224** may determine one or more functions to be performed using a function database **240** that correlates specific combinations of the one or more inputs from the input device **102** and the electronic device **130** to different functions.

In additional embodiments, the function module **224** may also provide a user interface via the user interface module **228** that enables a user add, delete, or modify the function database **240**. In other words, the user interface provided by the function module **224** may enable the user to add entries that associate particular functions with specific combinations of one or more inputs from the input device **102** and/or electronic device **130**, as well as modify or delete those entries. In some embodiments, the function module **224** may be part of an application, such as one of the applications **232**, rather than a standalone module. Examples of functions that are determined by the function module **224** are illustrated in FIGS. **4-12**.

The template generation module **226** may be used by the user to generate the normalized grip templates **234**. For example, the template generation module **226** may provide a user interface via the user interface module **228** that enables a user to associate different multi-touch input images with corresponding grip patterns and tilt angles. In some embodiments, in order to decrease the amount of template data, the template generation module **226** may prevent the user from associating each new multi-touch input image with a new grip pattern until the template generation module **226** determines that the image difference between each new multi-touch input image and previously inputted multi-touch input images exceeds a predetermined difference threshold. In such embodiments, the template generation module **226** may employ the comparison module **222** to ascertain differences between multi-touch input images.

The user interface module **228** may enable the user to interact with the other modules that are stored in the memory **212**. In various embodiments, the user interface module **228** may generate user interface menus and/or indicators according to the instructions of the other modules that are stored in the memory **212**. The user interface module **228** may also receive and process user inputs entered according to the user

interface menus and/or indicators. In some embodiments, the user interface module **228** may be an integral part of the operating system **214**.

The data store **230** may store data used by the modules that are stored in the memory **212**. In various embodiments, the data store may store the applications **232** and the pattern database **238**. The pattern database **238** may be downloaded to the data store **230** from an external source, or created using the template generation module **226**. The data store **230** may also store the function database **240**, as well as the inputs from the various sensors of the multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102** and the electronic device **130**.

FIG. **4** is an illustrative diagram showing an example grip pattern that commands the multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102** to function as an electronic eraser tool **402**. In this scenario, the function module **224** may be part of a graphical illustration application that is running on the electronic device **130**. The electronic device **130** may be a drawing tablet that uses the proximity sensor **206** to sense movement of the input device **102**.

As such, the function module **224** may detect via a multi-touch input image that the user is holding the multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102** in a grip pattern corresponding to the grip shown in FIG. **4**. The grip pattern may indicate that the user is holding the input device **102** at a tilt angle **122** that is within a predetermined angle range (e.g., 0°-5°), i.e., the input device **102** is parallel or substantially parallel to a horizontal surface. In such an instance, the function module **224** may determine that the input device **102** is to function as an electronic eraser tool **402** for the graphical illustration application. Accordingly, any lateral movement of the input device **102** detected by the proximity sensor **206** of the electronic device **130** may cause the graphical illustration application to digitally erase any previous drawn objects.

FIG. **5** is an illustrative diagram showing an example grip patterns that command the multi-touch orientation sensing input device to perform different functions. In this scenario, the function module **224** may be part of a graphical illustration application that is running on the electronic device **130**. The electronic device **130** may be a drawing tablet that uses the proximity sensor **206** to sense movement of the input device **102**. Accordingly, if the user holds the multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102** in a grip pattern corresponding to the grip shown in FIG. **4** with a tilt angle **122** that is within a first predetermined range (e.g., 65°-90°), the function module **224** may determine that the input device **102** is to function as a digital cutting tool **502** (e.g., digital razor) that may be used to digitally slice apart an existing drawing. However, if the user holds the input device **102** in a grip pattern with the same grip but at a tilt angle **122** that is within a second predetermined range (e.g., 0°-64°), the function module **224** may determine that the input device **102** is to function as a digital sketching tool **504** (e.g., digital pen) for creating drawings.

FIG. **6** is an illustrative diagram showing the determination of a function of a multi-touch orientation sensing input device based on an example grip pattern from multiple devices. In this scenario, the function module **224** may be part of a graphical illustration application that is running on the electronic device **130**. The electronic device **130** may be a drawing tablet that uses the proximity sensor **206** to sense movement of the input device **102**. As such, the function module **224** may detect via a multi-touch input image that the user is holding the multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102** in a grip pattern corresponding to the grip shown in FIG. **6**. The grip pattern may indicate that the user is holding the input device **102** at a tilt angle **604** that is within a predetermined angle range (e.g., 0°-15°). Additionally, the function module **224** may also detect that the user is also holding the electronic device **130** at a tilt angle such that a digitizer surface **602** of the electronic device **130** is inclined above a horizontal surface. For example, the electronic device **130** may be at a tilt angle **604** that is within a predetermined angle range of 65°-90°, in which 0° represents parallel to a horizontal surface, and 90° represents perpendicular to a horizontal surface. When this occurs, the function module **224** may determine that the input device **102** is to function as a digital paintbrush **606** for creating drawings. In other instances, such an occurrence may also cause the function module **224** to switch between layers in a drawing that is being worked on using the graphical illustration application.

FIG. **7** is an illustrative diagram showing an example grip pattern that leads to change ink impression size when the multi-touch orientation sensing input device is functioning as a digital sketching tool. In this scenario, the function module **224** may be part of a graphical illustration application that is running on the electronic device **130**. The electronic device **130** may be a drawing tablet that includes a proximity sensor **206** that senses movement of the input device **102**. As such, the function module **224** may detect via a multi-touch input image that the user is holding the multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102** in the handgrips shown in FIG. **7**.

Further, the grip patterns corresponding to the handgrips may indicate that the user is holding the input device **10** at a tilt angle **122** that is within a predetermined angle range (e.g., 0°-15°). In such an instance, the function module **214** may determine that the user is attempting to change the ink size of an input device **102** that is functioning as a digital sketching tool. In other words, the user is attempting to use a virtual pencil sharpener **702** on the input device **102**. Accordingly, when the user rotates the input device **102**, i.e., increase or decrease the roll angle **124**, the function module **224** may correspondingly increase or decrease the size of the ink impression made by the digital sketching tool. For example, an increase in the roll angle **124** may lead to a corresponding increase in the size of the ink impression, while a decrease in the roll angle **124** may lead to a corresponding decrease in the size of the ink impression.

FIG. **8** is an illustrative diagram showing an example grip pattern that commands the multi-touch orientation sensing input device to function as a digital calligraphy brush tool. In this scenario, the function module **224** may be part of a graphical illustration application that is running on the electronic device **130**. The electronic device **130** may be a drawing tablet that includes a proximity sensor **206** that senses movement of the input device **102**. As such, the function module **224** may detect via a multi-touch input image that the user is holding the multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102** in a grip pattern corresponding to the grip shown in FIG. **8**. The grip pattern may indicate that the user is holding the input device **102** at a tilt angle **122** that is within a predetermined angle range (e.g., 75°-90°). In such an instance, the function module **224** may determine that the input device **102** is to function as a calligraphy brush **802** for writing.

FIG. **9** is an illustrative diagram showing an example grip pattern that commands the multi-touch orientation sensing input device to function as a digital compass tool. In this scenario, the function module **224** may be part of a graphical illustration application that is running on the electronic device **130**. The electronic device **130** may be a drawing tablet that includes a proximity sensor **206** that senses movement of the input device **102**. As such, the function module **224** may detect via a multi-touch input image that the user is holding

the multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102** in a grip pattern corresponding to the grip shown in FIG. **9**. The grip pattern may indicate that the user is holding the input device **102** at a tilt angle **122** that is within a predetermined angle range (e.g., 75°-90°). In such an instance, the function module **224** may determine that the input device **102** is to function as a digital compass tool **902**.

Accordingly, while the input device **102** is functioning as the digital compass **902**, the user may press the input device **102** against a digitizer surface of the electronic device **130** to activate the pressure switch associated with the retractable tip **106**. The pressure switch may include a pressure sensor. The activation of this pressure switch may cause an arc **904** to be digitally drawn. In some embodiments, the radius of the arc drawn may be directly proportional to the amount of the pressure sensed by the pressure switch. Further, the rotations of the input device **102**, i.e., changes in the roll angle **124**, may correspondingly increase or decrease the length of the arc **904**.

FIG. **10** is an illustrative diagram showing a manipulation of the multi-touch orientation sensing input device to change ink color when the multi-touch orientation sensing input device is functioning as a digital sketching tool. In this scenario, the function module **224** may be part of a graphical illustration application that is running on the electronic device **130**. The electronic device **130** may be a drawing tablet that includes a proximity sensor **206** that senses movement of the input device **102**. As such, the function module **224** may determine from the multi-touch input image of the handgrip on the input device **102** and the tilt angle **124** of the input device **102** that the input device **102** is functioning as a digital sketch tool **1002**.

Further, the function module **224** may also interpret additional inputs from the input device **102** to perform color selection for the digital sketch tool **1002**. For example, the user may change the color of the digital sketch tool **1002** by rotating the input device **102**, i.e., change the roll angle **124**, to cause the graphical illustration application to cycle through each color in a spectrum of colors until a desired color is being previewed on a display **1004**. Once the desired color is show on the display **1004**, the user may press the clickable button **108** to select the color for use with the graphical illustration application.

FIG. **11** is an illustrative diagram showing example grip patterns of multiple multi-touch orientation sensing input devices that are collectively performing a digital ruler function. In this scenario, the function module **224** may be part of a graphical illustration application that is running on the electronic device **130**. The electronic device **130** may be a drawing tablet that includes a proximity sensor **206** that senses movement of the input device **102**. As such, the function module **224** may detect via a multi-touch input image that the user is holding the multiple multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102** using grip patterns corresponding to the grips shown in FIG. **11**. The grip pattern for one of the input devices **102**, designated as device **1102**, may indicate that the device **1102** is being held at a tilt angle **124** that is within a predetermined angle range (e.g., 0°-5°), i.e., the device **1102** is parallel or substantially parallel to a horizontal surface. Thus, the function module **224** may determine that the device **1102** and the device **1104** are in ruler mode **1106**. Additionally, the function module **224** may also detect that a grip on the second of the input devices **102**, designated as device **1104**, indicates that the device **1104** is being used as a digital sketching tool. As such, the device **1104** may function as a digital sketch tool that draws straight lines regardless of whether the movement of the device **1104** is actually in a straight line.

FIG. **12** is an illustrative diagram showing the use of a series of touches on the multi-touch orientation sensing tool to input commands to an electronic device. In this scenario, the function module **224** may detect a series of different grip patterns via corresponding multi-touch input images in a predetermined time period. The series of multi-touch input images may correspond to multiple instances of different contacts performed on the multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102**. For example, as shown, the user may move each of his fingers up away and then back down on the input device **102** in a particular sequence, as illustrated by the numerical sequence depicted in FIG. **12**. Each finger movement may produce a different instance of hand contact with the input device **102** that is different in pattern from a previous instance of contact. The sequence of grip patterns resulting from these instances of contact may be interpreted by the function module **224** as correlating to a specific function command. For example, the specific function command may be for an application **232** that is a word processing application to perform a copy text function. In another example, the function module **224** may have determined from an initial grip pattern and/or tilt angle that the input device **102** is acting as an input device (e.g., a virtual flute) to a music generation application (e.g., an electronic flute application). Accordingly, the sequence of grip patterns may be interpreted by the function module **224** as correlating to a series of music notes to be recorded or played.

FIG. **13** is an illustrative diagram showing an example grip pattern that commands the multi-touch orientation sensing input device to function as a digital racquet in the context of a video game. In this scenario, the function module **224** may be part of a game application that is running on the electronic device **130**. The electronic device **130** may be a game console that includes a proximity sensor **206** that senses movement of the input device **102**. As such, the function module **224** may assign different controller functions according to detected grip patterns. For example, if a multi-touch input image detected by the function module **224** indicates that the user is holding to input device **102** in a grip pattern corresponding to the grip shown in FIG. **13**, the function module **224** may configure the input device **102** to function as a tennis racquet **1322** for a tennis game application. In other example instances, the function module **224** may correlate other grip patterns, different single or double-handed grip patterns, with functions such as having the input device **102** acting as a gun controller for a shooting game application, acting as a fishing rod controller for a fishing game application, acting as a sword controller in a martial arts game application, a flute for a music game application, and so forth. In this way, the user may adapt the input device **102** to different games by simply switch the hand grip. In such instances, the detection of movements by the proximity sensor **206** may be translated by the corresponding application on the electronic device **130** as movements that facilitate game play. Further, additional controls on the input device **102**, such as the clickable button **108**, may provide additional game functions during game play.

Example Processes

FIGS. **14-15** describe various example processes that describe the operations of a multi-touch orientation sensing input device. The order in which the operations are described in each example process is not intended to be construed as a limitation, and any number of the described blocks can be combined in any order and/or in parallel to implement each process. Moreover, the blocks in each of the FIGS. **14-15** may

be operations that can be implemented in hardware, software, and a combination thereof. In the context of software, the blocks represent computer-executable instructions that, when executed by one or more processors, cause one or more processors to perform the recited operations. Generally, computer-executable instructions include routines, programs, objects, components, data structures, and so forth that cause the particular functions to be performed or particular abstract data types to be implemented.

FIG. **14** is a flow diagram that illustrates an example process **1400** to determine a grip pattern that is used to grasp the multi-touch orientation sensing input device. At block **1402**, a user may use the template generation module **226** to create multiple grip templates **234** from data inputs received from the multi-touch sensor **110** of multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102**. The grip templates **234** may be multi-touch input images that are normalized to a standardized roll angle. Each of the grip templates **234** may include a particular grip pattern that is a combination a grip represented by a particular multi-touch image and the specific tilt angle of the input device at the time the particular multi-touch image is captured. The grip templates **234** may be stored in a pattern database **238**.

At block **1404**, the image generation module **218** may generate a new multi-touch input image. The new multi-touch input image may be generated from data inputs received from the multi-touch sensor **110** of the multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102**. The multi-touch input image may include one or more image areas that represent where contact by a hand of the user with the multi-touch sensor **110** occurred, as well as image areas that represent the lack of contact with the multi-touch sensor **110**.

At block **1406**, the normalization module **220** may obtain a difference angle between the standardized roll angle of the grip templates **234** and the input roll angle. In some embodiments, the image generation module **218** may obtain the input roll angle by capturing a roll angle of the input device **102** as the image generation module **218** receives the multi-touch sensor data of the new multi-touch input image from the input device **102**. Subsequently, the image generation module **218** passes the captured input roll angle to the normalization module **220**.

At block **1408**, the normalization module **220** may normalize the new multi-touch input image based on the difference angle between the standardized roll angle of the grip templates **234** and the input roll angle. In various embodiments, the normalization module **220** may use linear transformation and/or linear translation techniques to normalize the multi-touch input images according to the difference angle.

At block **1410**, the comparison module **222** may compare the normalized multi-touch input image and its associated tilt angle, such as the tilt angle **122**, to the grip templates **234** in the pattern database **238**. The associated tilt angle may be the tilt angle of the input device **102** at the time that the normalized multi-touch input image is captured by the input device **102**. The comparison may determine a grip pattern for the normalized multi-touch input image and its associated tilt angle. In various embodiments, the comparison module **222** may employ various classification schemes to find a template **234** that matches the normalized multi-touch input image and its associated tilt angle. Once a matching grip template is found, the comparison module **222** may designate the grip pattern of the matching grip template as the grip pattern for the normalized multi-touch input image with the associated tilt angle. Conversely, if no match between the normalized multi-touch input image and any of the grip templates **234** is found, the comparison module **222** may discard the new normalized multi-touch input image with the associated tilt angle. In some embodiments, the comparison module **222** may present a message to the user via the user interface module **228** that no grip pattern is detected.

FIG. **15** is a flow diagram that illustrates an example process to perform a function that is inputted via the multi-touch orientation sensing input device. At block **1502**, the function module **224** may receive one or more grip patterns that are performed on the multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102**. In some embodiments, the function module **224** may receive a single grip pattern at a time. In alternative embodiments, the function module **224** may obtain a series of grip patterns that were inputted within a predetermined time period. Each grip patterns may be derived using the example process **1400**.

At block **1504**, the function module **224** may analyze at least the one or more grip patterns to determine one or more associated functions that are to be performed by the electronic device **130**. In some embodiments, the function module **224** may also analyze additional inputs from the input device **102** and the electronic device **130**. Additional inputs from the multi-touch orientation sensing input device **102** that the function module **224** may also analyze includes detected roll angles **124**, detected activations of the retractable tip **106**, and/or detected activations of one or more clickable buttons, such as the clickable button **108**. In further embodiments, the function module **224** may also analyze inputs provided by the electronic device **130**. Such inputs from the electronic device **130** may include device roll angle and device tilt angle from the inertial measurement unit **204** and movement data from the proximity sensor **206**. During the analysis, the function module **224** may determine one or more functions to be performed using a function database **240** that correlates specific combinations of one or more inputs from the input device **102** and the electronic device **130** to different functions.

At block **1506**, an application on the electronic device **130** may perform the one or more associated functions. For example, in the context of a graphic illustration application, the application may perform an associated function to transform the input device **102** into a digital paintbrush tool. In another example in which the application is a game application, the application may perform an associated function to transform the input device **102** into a tennis racquet controller for use with the game application. In still another example, a series of inputted grip patterns may correspond to a copy function in a word processing application.

The multi-touch orientation sensing input device as described herein may enhance the task performance efficiency of the user by making it possible to perform different tasks with a single input device, instead of using multiple input devices. Further, since the use of the multi-touch orientation sensing input device does not force the user to hold the input device in unnatural ways, user comfort and perceived quality of the device may be enhanced. Further, when compared to other techniques for switching functions, such as using a menu selection in a user interface, the multi-touch orientation sensing input device described herein may provide the user with an experience that more closely approximates the experience of using different physical input devices.

CONCLUSION

In closing, although the various embodiments have been described in language specific to structural features and/or methodological acts, it is to be understood that the subject

matter defined in the appended representations is not necessarily limited to the specific features or acts described. Rather, the specific features and acts are disclosed as exemplary forms of implementing the claimed subject matter.

The invention claimed is:

1. An input device, comprising:

a multi-touch sensor that at least partially encloses a body of the input device and that senses one or more contacts with the body;

an inertia measurement unit that is attached to the body and that at least measures a tilt angle of the body with respect to a horizontal surface and a roll angle of the body along a length-wise axis of the body with respect to an initial point on the body;

determining a difference angle between the roll angle of the body and a standardized roll angle of a plurality of grip templates, each grip template having a corresponding grip pattern that represents a corresponding grip on the input device and a corresponding tilt angle of the input device; and

comparing the tilt angle and the difference angle to each of the plurality of grip templates to determine a grip pattern that corresponds to a predefined function.

2. The input device of claim **1**, further comprising a pressure switch that is activated by a retractable tip or a clickable button that is housed in the body.

3. The input device of claim **2**, wherein the input device is a pen-shaped stylus that includes the retractable tip at a first end and the clickable button at a second end.

4. The input device of claim **1**, further comprising a transceiver to transmit data related to the one or more contacts, the tilt angle, and the roll angle to another electronic device.

5. The input device of claim **1**, wherein the inertia measurement unit includes at least one of an accelerometer, a compass, or a gyroscope.

6. The input device of claim **1**, wherein the multi-touch sensor includes a plurality of capacitive sensing elements.

7. A computer-readable storage device storing computer-executable instructions that, when executed, cause one or more processors to perform acts comprising:

receiving multi-touch sensor data that indicates an instance of contact with a body of an input device, and an associated roll angle and an associated tilt angle of the body for the instance of contact;

generating a multi-touch input image based at least on the multi-touch sensor data;

determining a difference angle between the associated roll angle and a standardized roll angle of a plurality of grip templates, each grip template having a corresponding grip pattern that represents a corresponding grip on the input device and a corresponding tilt angle of the input device;

normalizing the multi-touch input image based at least on the difference angle to generate a normalized multi-touch input image; and

comparing the normalized multi-touch input image and the associated tilt angle to each of the plurality of grip templates to determine a grip pattern that corresponds to the normalized multi-touch input image.

8. The computer-readable storage device of claim **7**, further comprising instructions that, when executed, cause the one or more processors to perform an act of indicating a lack of grip pattern detection when the normalized multi-touch input image and the associated tilt angle does not match corresponding grips and corresponding tilt angles included in the grip templates.

9. The computer-readable storage device of claim **7**, further comprising instructions that, when executed, cause the one or more processors to perform an act of assigning a grip pattern of a particular grip template to the normalized multi-touch input image when the normalized multi-touch input image and the associated tilt angle matches a grip and a tilt angle included in the particular grip template.

10. The computer-readable storage device of claim **9**, further comprising instructions that, when executed, cause the one or more processors to perform acts comprising:

determining a function based at least on the grip pattern assigned to the multi-touch input image; and

performing the function determined at least from the grip pattern.

11. The computer-readable storage device of claim **10**, further comprising instructions that, when executed, cause the one or more processors to perform an act of receiving one or more additional inputs that includes at least one of a change in the roll angle of the input device, an activation of at least one pressure switch on the input device, a tilt angle of an electronic device that is connected to the input device, a rotation of the electronic device, movement sensed by a proximity sensor of the electronic device, an additional grip pattern from an additional input device that is connected to the electronic device, a tilt angle of the additional input device, or a change in the roll angle of the additional input device.

12. The computer-readable storage device of claim **11**, wherein the determining includes determining the function based on the grip pattern assigned to the multi-touch image and the one or more additional inputs.

13. The computer-readable storage device of claim **10**, wherein the function is to change a functionality of the input device with respect to a graphics illustration application, a game application, or a word processing application.

14. The computer-readable storage device of claim **7**, further comprising instructions that, when executed, cause the one or more processors to perform an act of creating a grip template by correlating an additional multi-touch input image and an additional tilt angle with a grip pattern.

15. A computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving multi-touch sensor data that indicates one or more contact instances with a body of an input device;

generating multi-touch input image for each of the one or more contact instances based at least on the multi-touch sensor data, each multi-touch input image being correlated with a respective tilt angle and a roll angle of the body of the input device;

determining a corresponding difference angle between the roll angle for a multi-touch input image of the contact instance and a standardized roll angle of a plurality of grip templates;

determining a corresponding grip pattern that represents a corresponding way that a user holds the input device at a corresponding tilt angle and with a corresponding difference angle for each multi-touch input image; and

identifying a function to be performed using the input device based on at least one grip pattern.

16. The computer-implemented method of claim **15**, wherein determining the corresponding grip pattern further includes:

normalizing the multi-touch input image based at least on the corresponding difference angle;

matching the multi-touch input image and a particular tilt angle of the input device correlated with the multi-touch input image to a grip template of a plurality of grip templates, each of the grip templates including data on

an associated grip on the input device and an associated tilt angle of the input device; and

assigning an associated grip pattern of a matching grip template from the plurality of templates to the multi-touch input image and the particular tilt angle.

17. The computer-implemented method of claim **15**, further comprising performing the function that is identified based on the at least one grip pattern.

18. The computer-implemented method of claim **15**, wherein the identifying includes identifying the function based on a specific sequence of grip patterns.

19. The computer-implemented method of claim **15**, wherein the function is to change a functionality of the input device with respect to a graphics illustration application, a game application, or a word processing application.

20. The computer-implemented method of claim **15**, further comprising receiving one or more additional inputs that includes at least one of a change in the roll angle of the input device, an activation of at least one pressure switch on the input device, a tilt angle of an electronic device that is connected to the input device, a rotation of the electronic device, movement sensed by a proximity sensor of the electronic device, an additional grip pattern from an additional input device that is connected to the electronic device, a tilt angle of the additional input device, or a change in the roll angle of the additional input device, and wherein the identifying includes identifying a function based on at least one grip pattern and the one or more additional inputs.

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