



(12) **CORRECTED EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(15) Correction information:
Corrected version no 1 (W1 A1)
Corrections, see Abstract

(51) Int Cl.:
G06F 3/033 (2006.01) G01C 21/16 (2006.01)

(48) Corrigendum issued on:
29.07.2009 Bulletin 2009/31

(43) Date of publication:
25.02.2009 Bulletin 2009/09

(21) Application number: **07425538.1**

(22) Date of filing: **23.08.2007**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MT NL PL PT RO SE SI SK TR
Designated Extension States:
AL BA HR MK RS

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(54) **Pointing and control device and method for a computer system**

(57) A pointing and control device for a computer system includes: a body (9) that can be manoeuvred by a user; and an inertial sensor (12), fixed to the body (9), for supplying first signals ($S_{AX'}$, $S_{AY'}$, $S_{AZ'}$) correlated to the orientation of the body (9) with respect to a gravitational field ($\underline{G}$) acting on the inertial sensor (12). The device moreover includes: a magnetometer (11), fixed to the body (9) for supplying second signals ($S_{MX'}$, $S_{MY'}$, $S_{MZ'}$) correlated to the orientation of the body (9) with respect to the Earth's magnetic field ($\underline{M}$) acting on the magnetometer (11); and processing modules (17, 18; 317) for determining an orientation (A , X' , Y' , Z') of the body (9) in an absolute reference system (X , Y , Z ; $\underline{G}$, $\underline{P}$, $\underline{N}$), fixed with respect to the Earth's magnetic field ($\underline{M}$) and gravitational field ($\underline{G}$), on the basis of the first signals ($S_{AX'}$, $S_{AY'}$, $S_{AZ'}$) and second signals ($S_{MX'}$, $S_{MY'}$, $S_{MZ'}$).

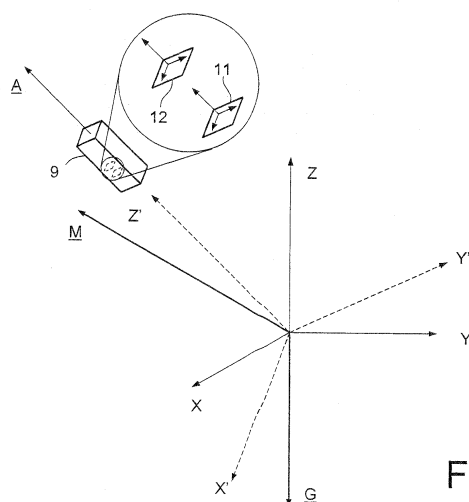


Fig.2