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(54) **Cursor positioning method by a handheld camera**

(57) A method for positioning a cursor on a computer screen by a handheld camera shooting continuous images to detect movements of user's hand is disclosed. In a preferred embodiment, the camera is disposed in a handheld device such as laser pointer. The camera shoots a set of serial images of a locale scene and instantly sends to a computer. The computer selects particular feature spots within a first image and records their positions in the image. The computer then search the feature spots in a second image next to the first image. If one of the feature spots can be searched out, a movement of the handheld device can be obtained by calculating relatively positional change of the feature spot in between the two images. The computer can drive the cursor to move correspondingly. If no feature spots can be searched out, the computer abandons the selected feature spots and then selects new feature spots in the second image and search the new feature spots in a third

image.

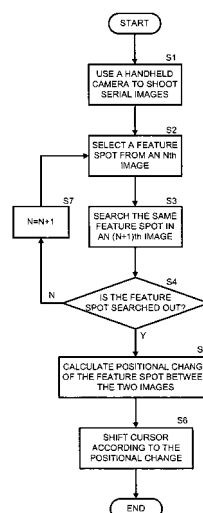


FIG. 3