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(54) METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR USING A COMMON POINTING INPUT TO CONTROL 3D VIEWPOINT AND OBJECT TARGETING

(76) Inventor: **Mark Haigh-Hutchinson**, Austin, TX (US)

Correspondence Address:
NIXON & VANDERHYE, P.C.
901 NORTH GLEBE ROAD, 11TH FLOOR
ARLINGTON, VA 22203

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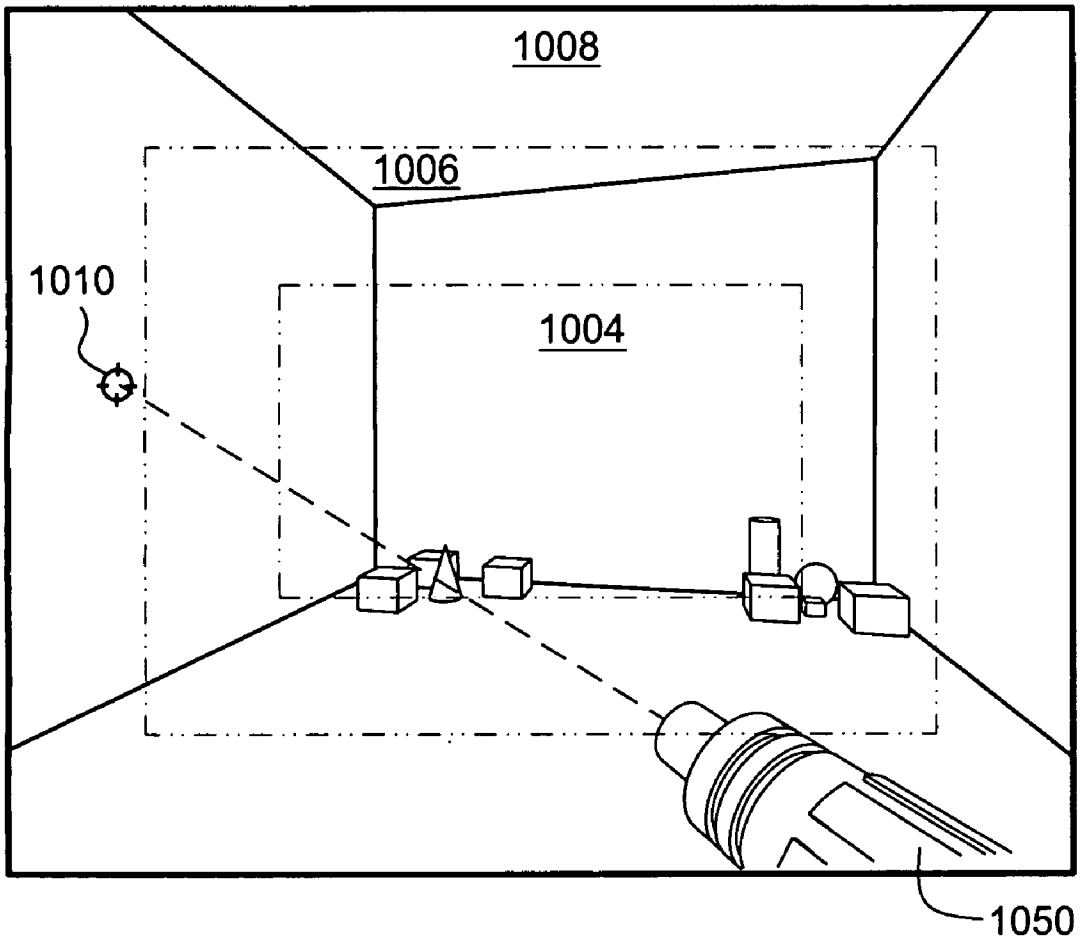
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A computer graphics display system such as a video game system provides virtual camera 3-D viewpoint panning control based on a pointer. When the pointer is displayed within a virtual camera panning control region, the system automatically pans the virtual camera toward the pointer. When the pointer is displayed within a different region, panning is deactivated and the user can freely move the cursor (e.g., to control the direction a weapon is pointed) without panning the virtual camera viewpoint. Flexible viewpoint control and other animated features are provided based on a pointing device such as a handheld video game optical pointing control. Useful applications include but are not limited to first person shooter type video games.



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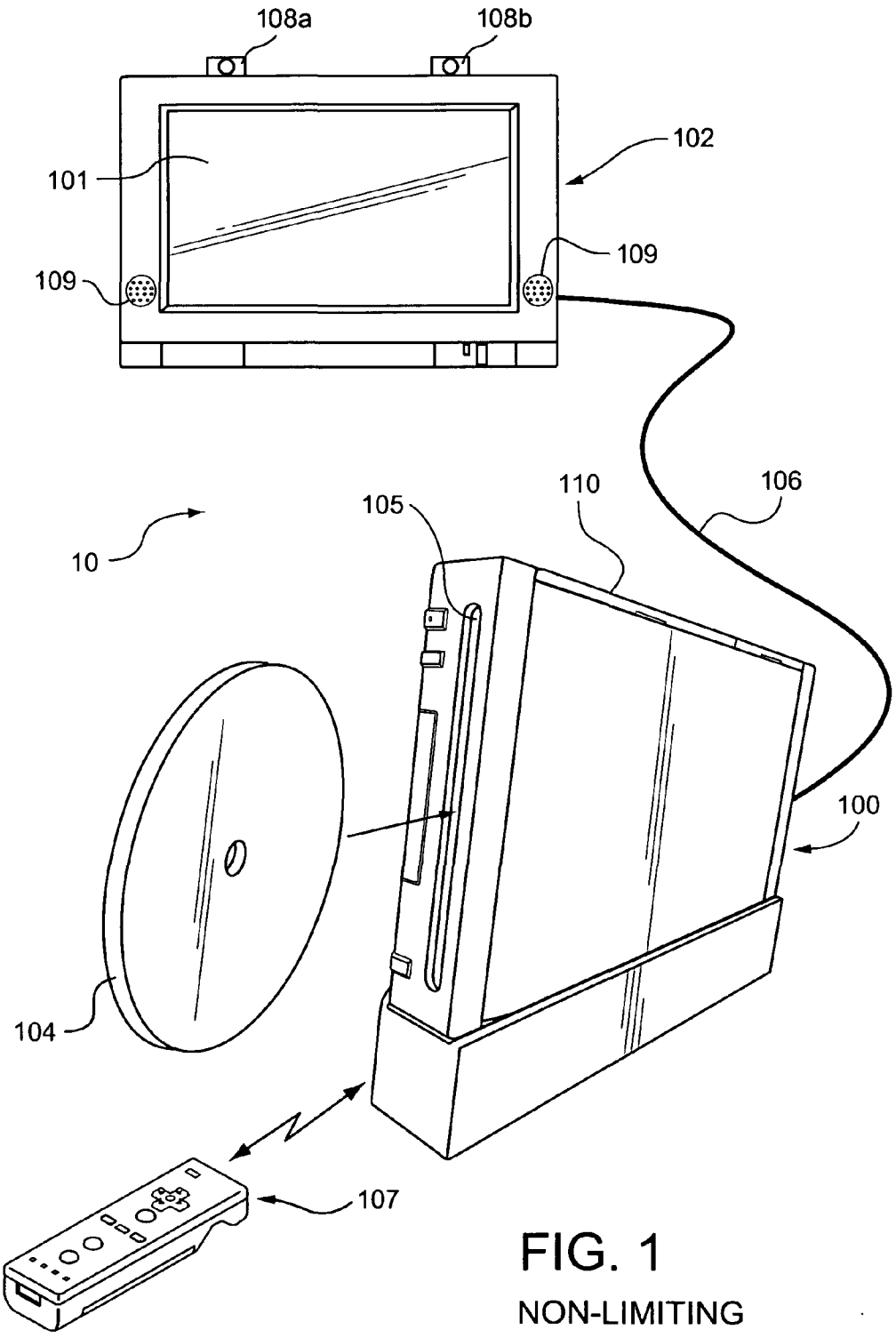

FIG. 1

NON-LIMITING
EXAMPLE GAME SYSTEM

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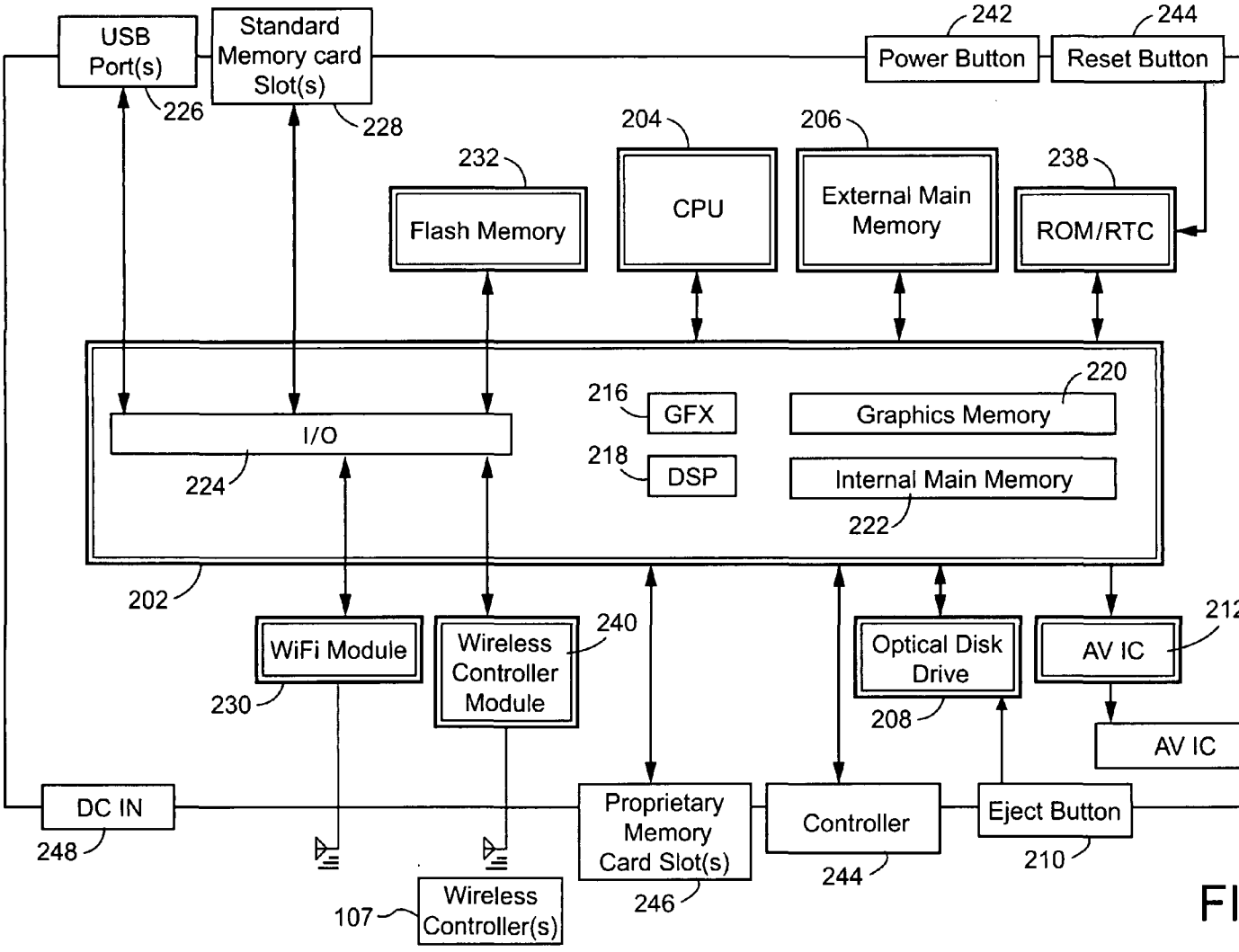

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FIG. 3A
NON-LIMITING
EXAMPLE CONTROLLER

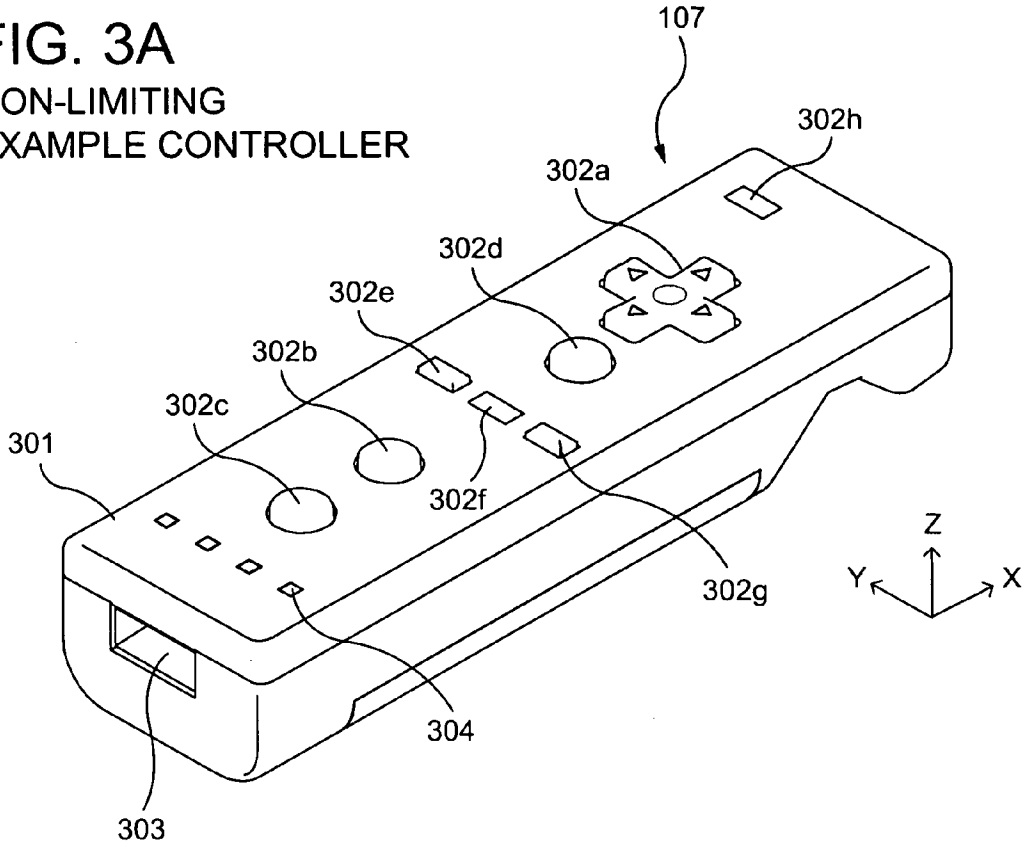

FIG. 3B
NON-LIMITING
EXAMPLE CONTROLLER

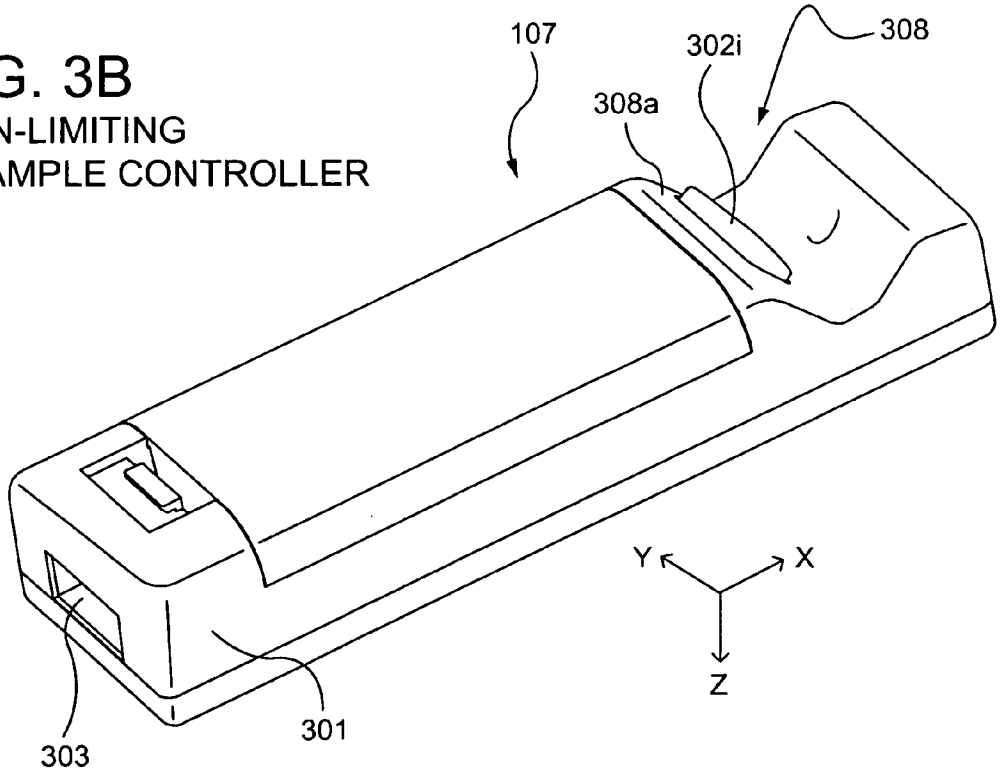

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FIG. 4

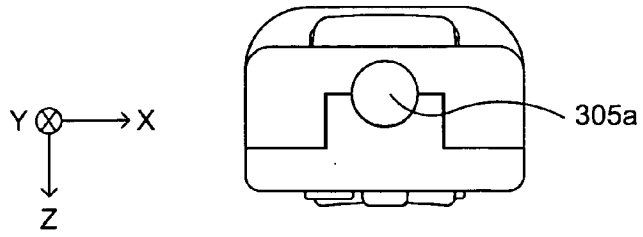
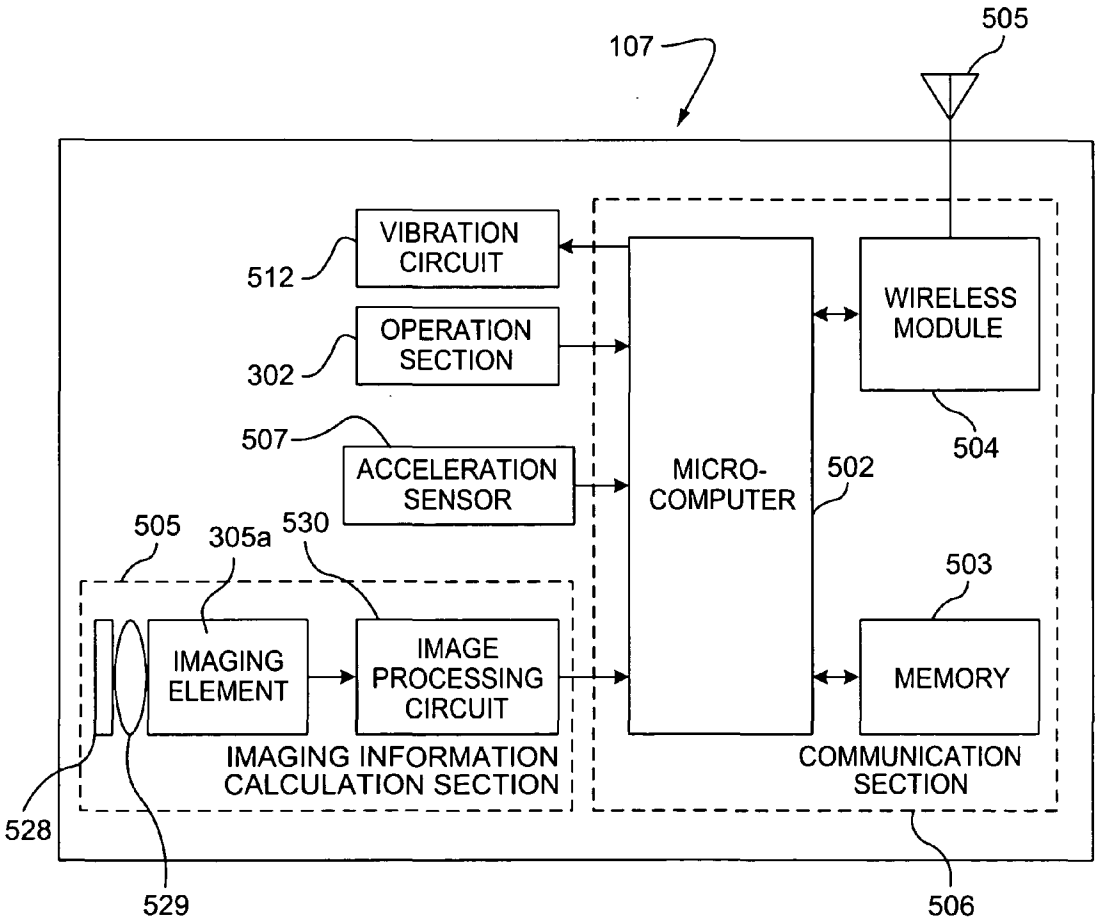


FIG. 5



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