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MULTIFUNCTIONAL OBJECT

ABSTRACT

A mechanism is provided for controlling the selection, in a single object, of multiple activities implemented by plural data structures. The control mechanism associates many selection points with many actions. That is, instead of associating data with an action, the mechanism associates the action with the data. Therefore, the object of selection becomes the control element, rather than merely the initiator of the action. Since, the control is understood to be a mechanism for initiating an action, the period in which it is an object of selection must be indicated to a user. This will indicate to the user that the state of the control has changed. The control mechanism provides a single object that can change its appearance and represent different functions that can be implemented by a user. To do this, a mechanism is provided to associate the various representations of the object with the data that will implement the different functions.

Fig. 4

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