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Aloe et al.

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(54) **APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR
THREE-DIMENSIONAL IMAGING USING A
STATIC LIGHT SCREEN**

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H04N 3/02 (2006.01)
H04N 13/02 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **348/142**; 348/48; 348/153; 348/154;
348/195

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC 348/48, 195, 202, 143, 152, 154, 155,
348/156
See application file for complete search history.

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Primary Examiner — Dave Czekaj

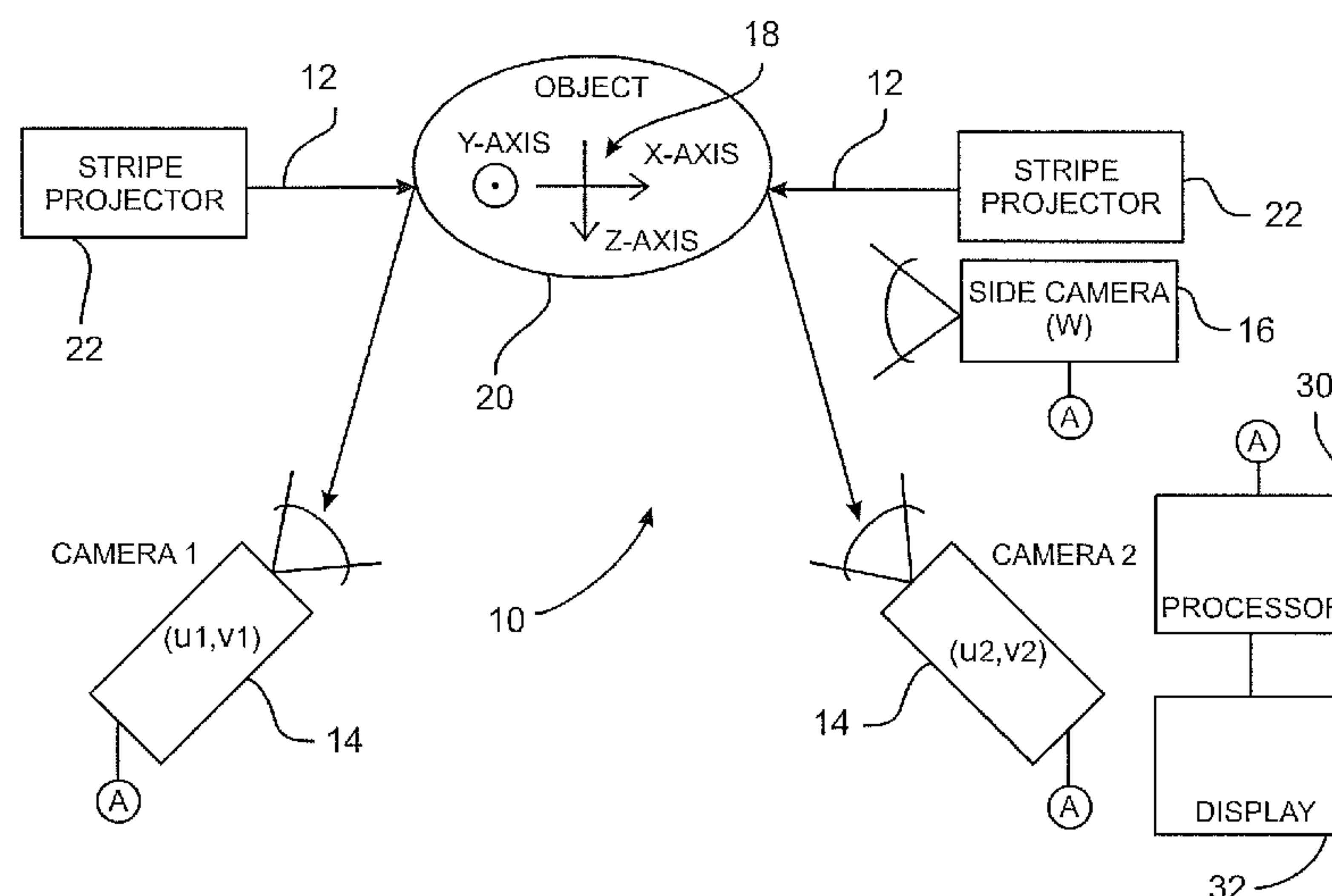
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A three-dimensional imaging apparatus is disclosed. The
apparatus includes a generated first planar light screen, and a
first and second detector offset from the perpendicular plane
of the light screen. The first detector is located on a first side
of the perpendicular plane, and the second detector is located
on the opposite side of the perpendicular plane. The first and
second detectors detect the instantaneous projection of the
first planar light screen upon an object within the first planar
light screen, and to output first and second data corresponding
to the detected projection. A velocity sensor determines the
instantaneous velocity of the object as the object moves rela-
tive to the first planar light screen, and to output third data
corresponding to the determined velocity. A processor
acquires the data from the first and second detector, and the
velocity sensor at least two instantaneous times as the object
moves relative to the first planar light screen and combines the
first, second, and third data to create a three-dimensional
image of the object.

20 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets



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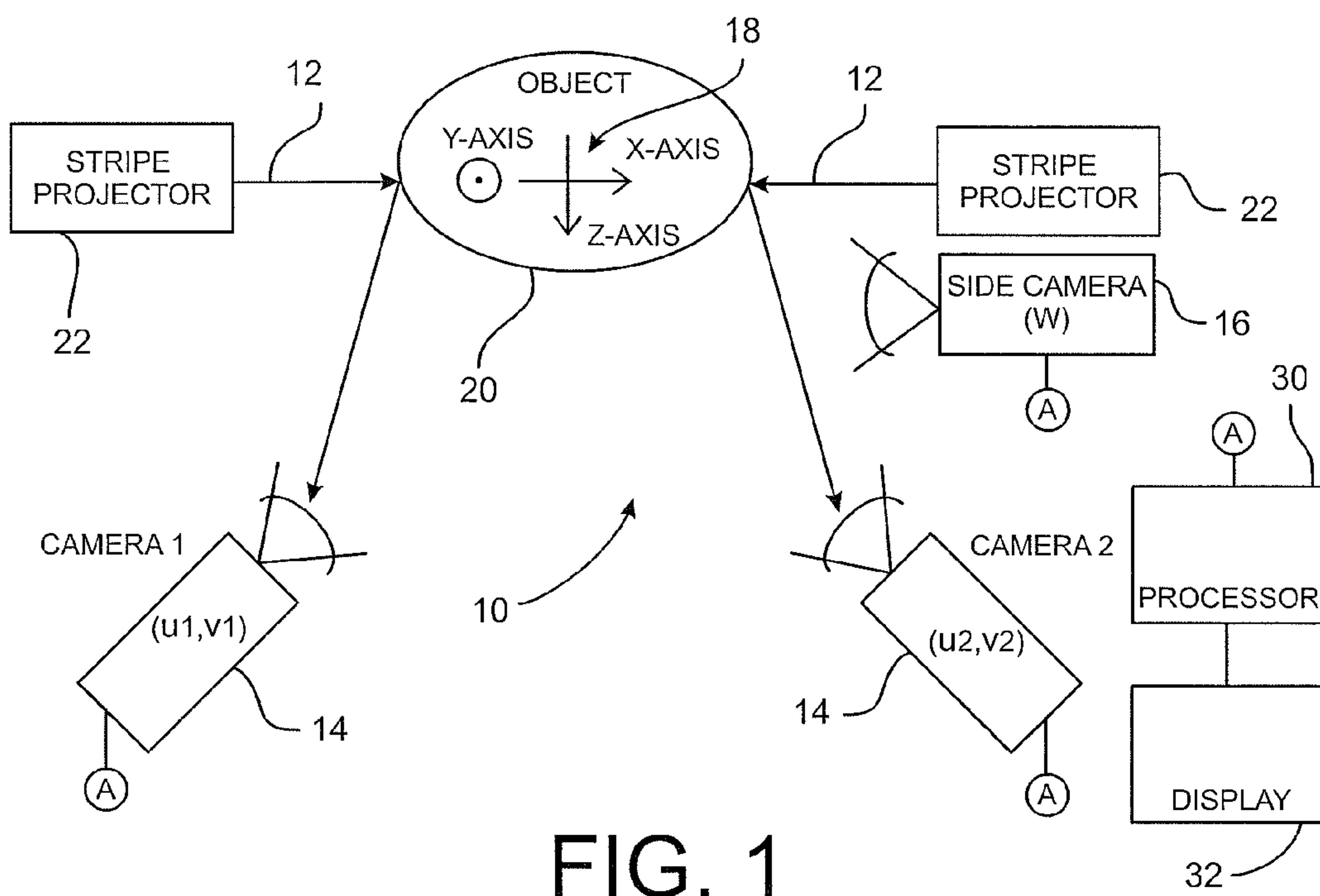


FIG. 1

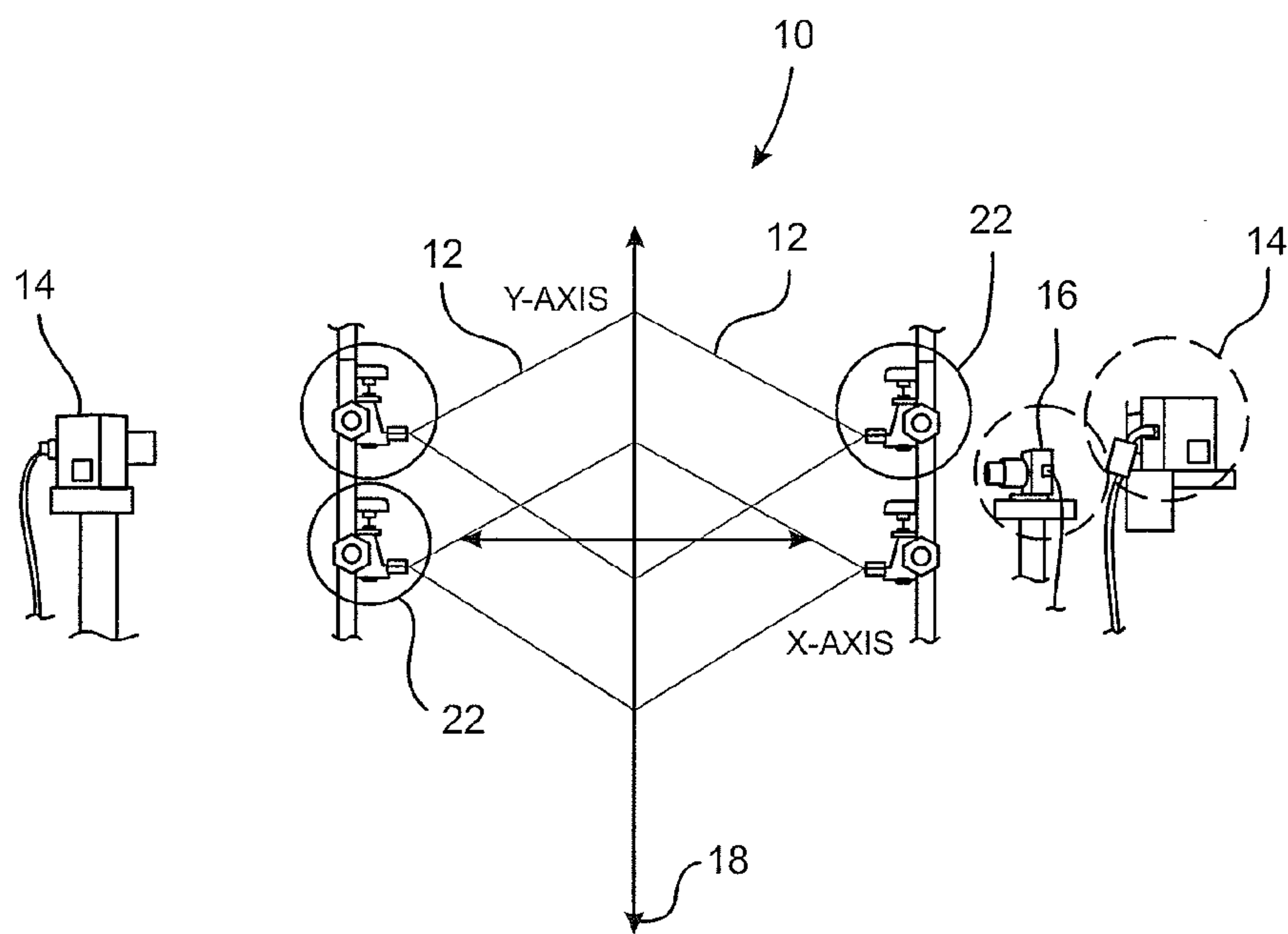


FIG. 2

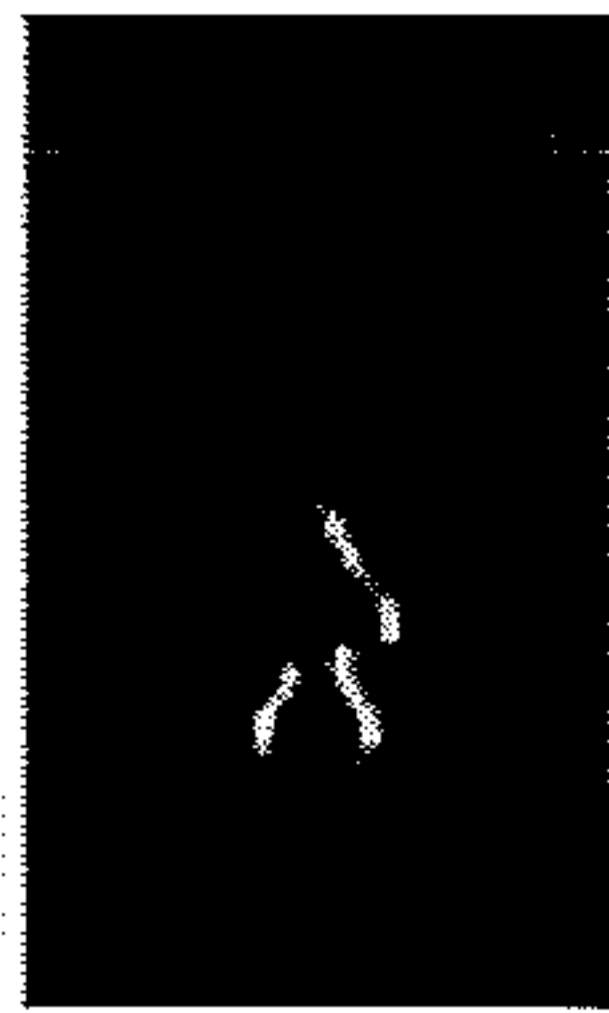


FIG. 3A



FIG. 3B



FIG. 3C

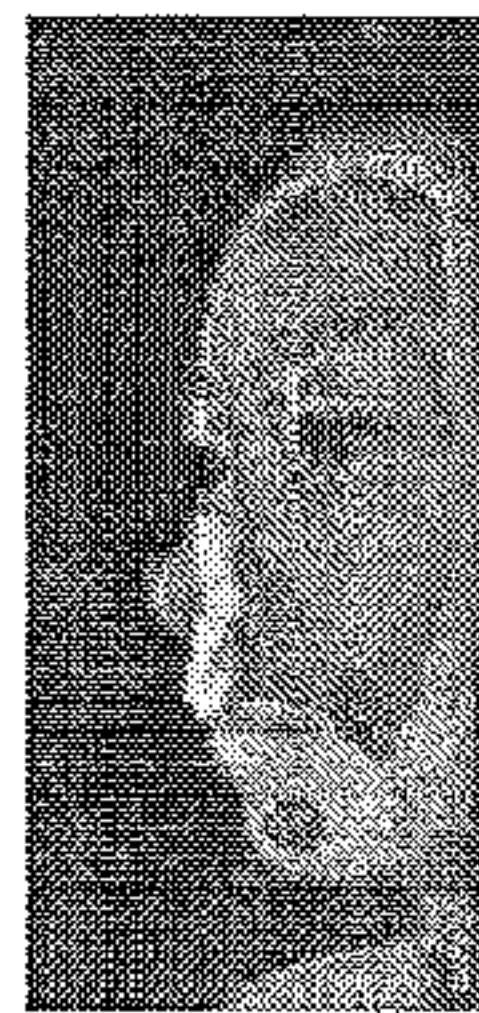


FIG. 3D

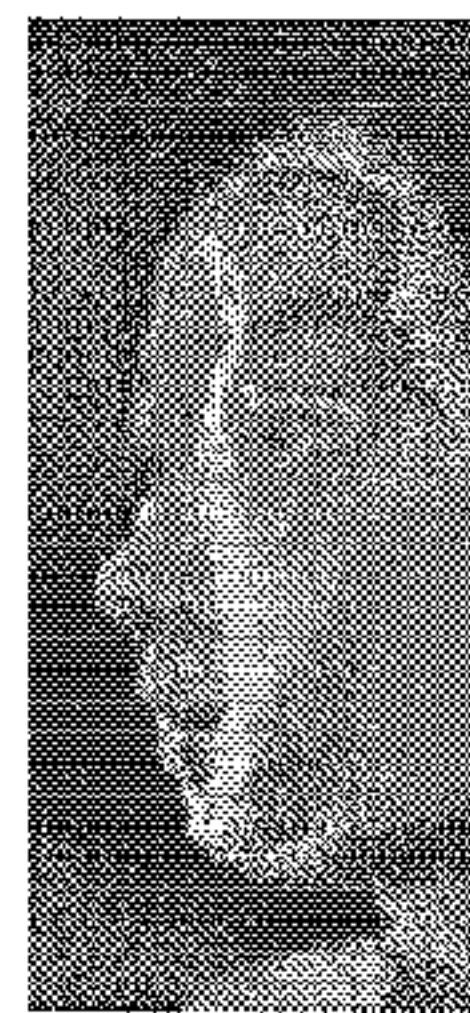


FIG. 3E

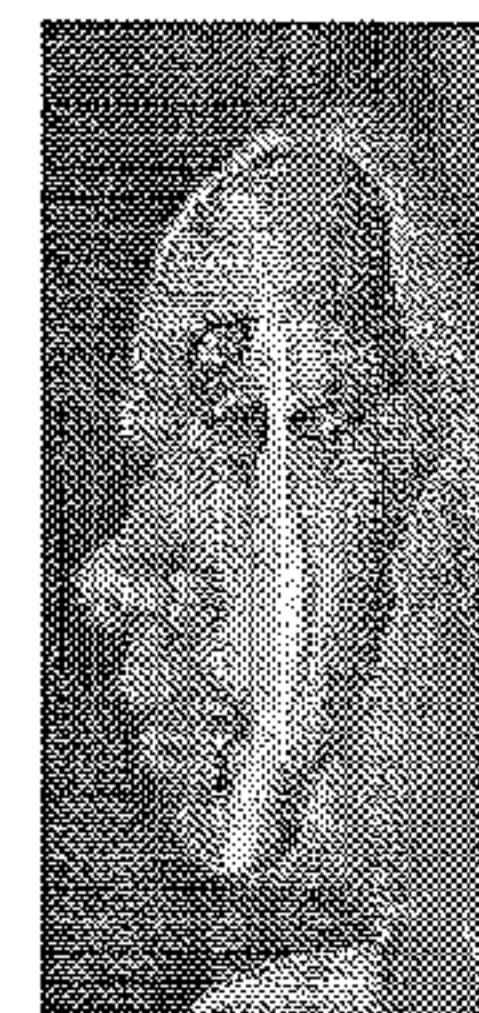


FIG. 3F

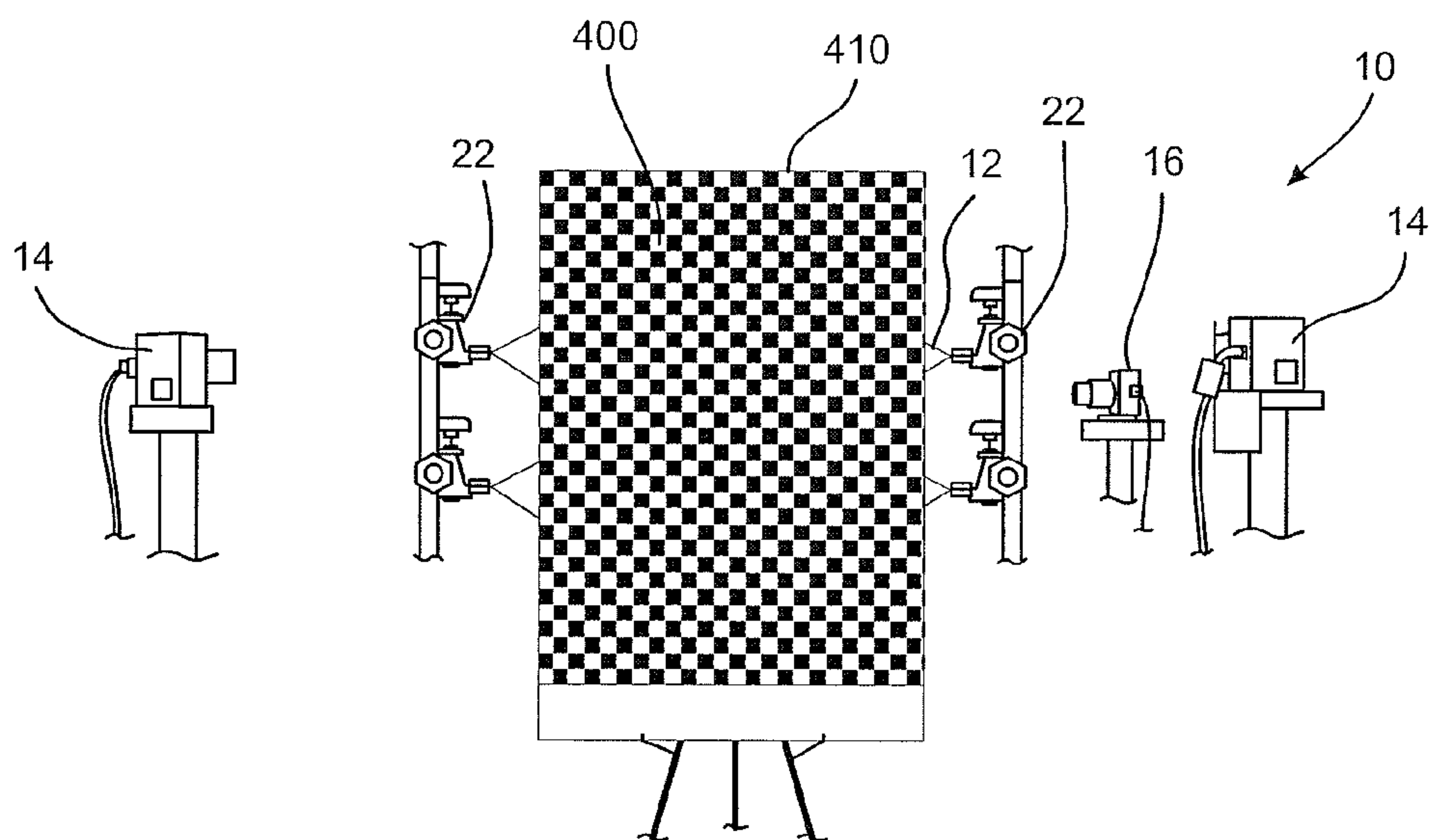


FIG. 4

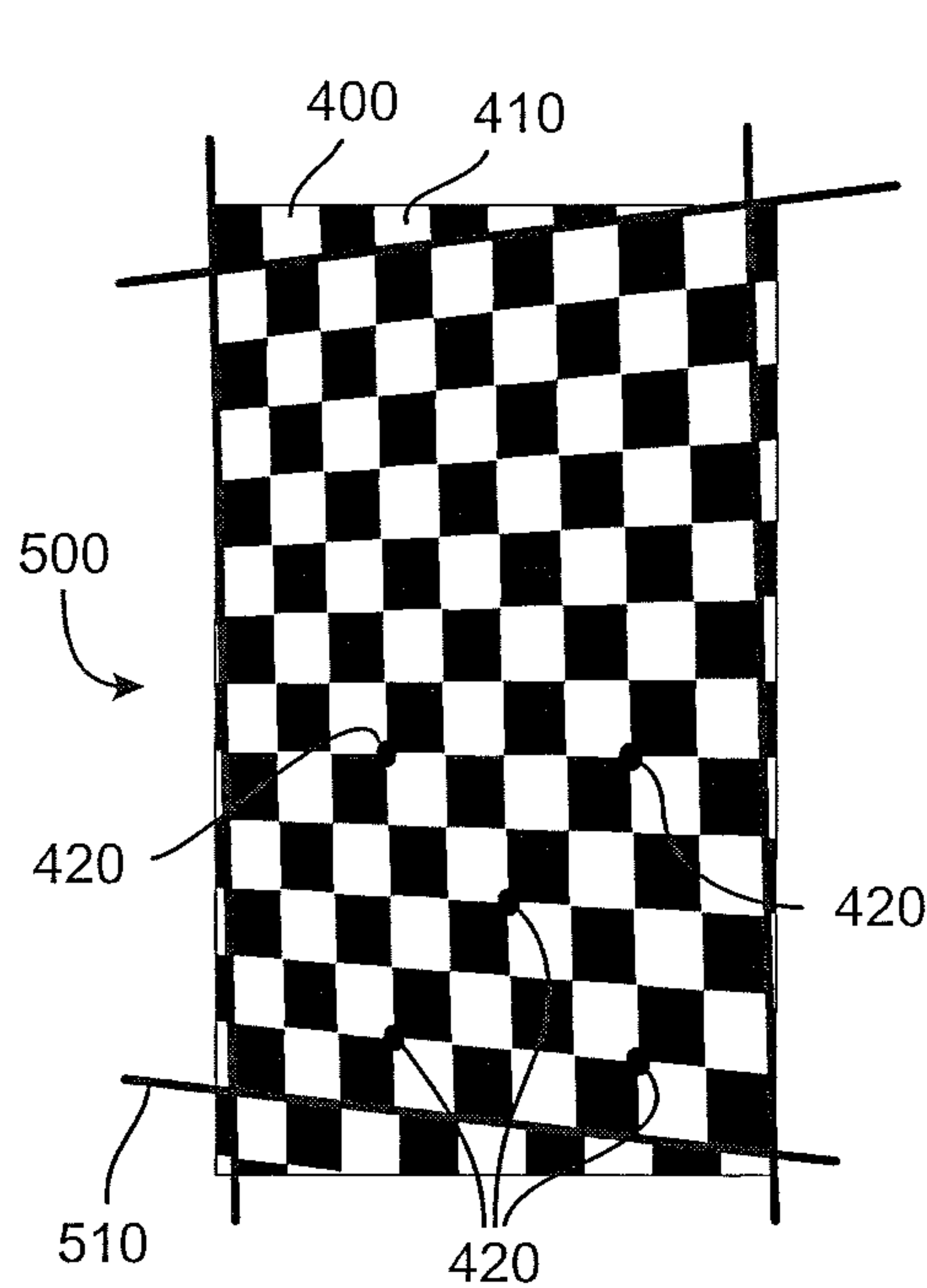


FIG. 5

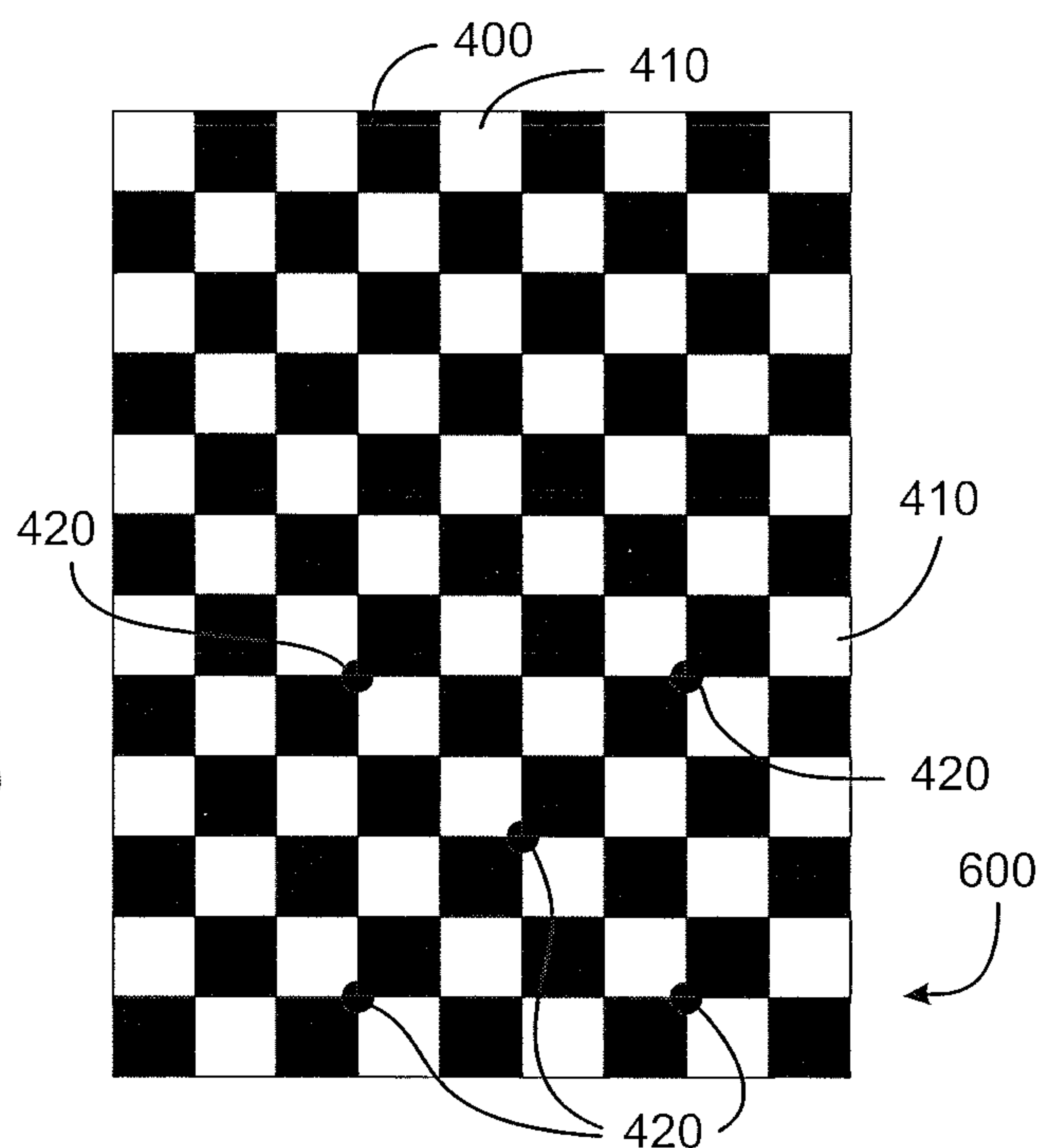


FIG. 6

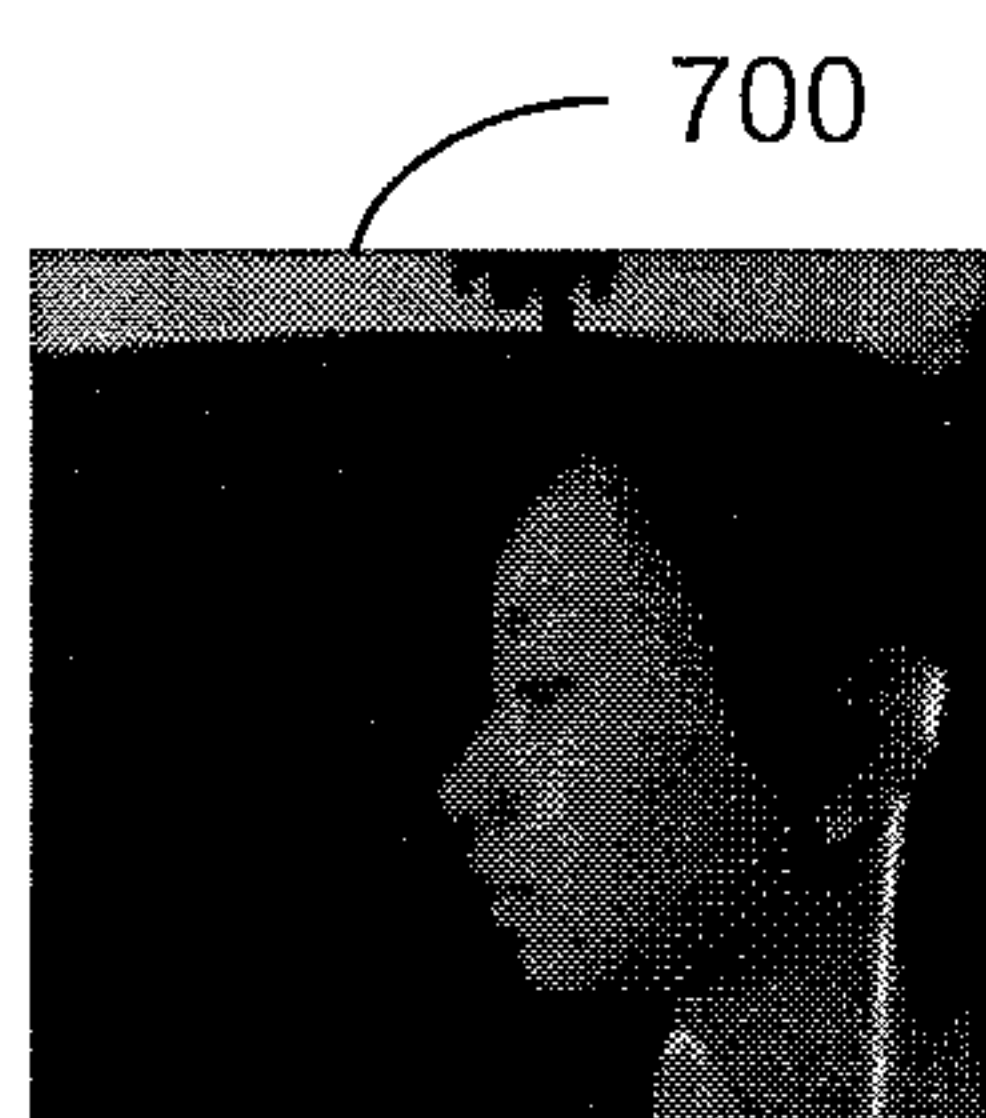


FIG. 7A

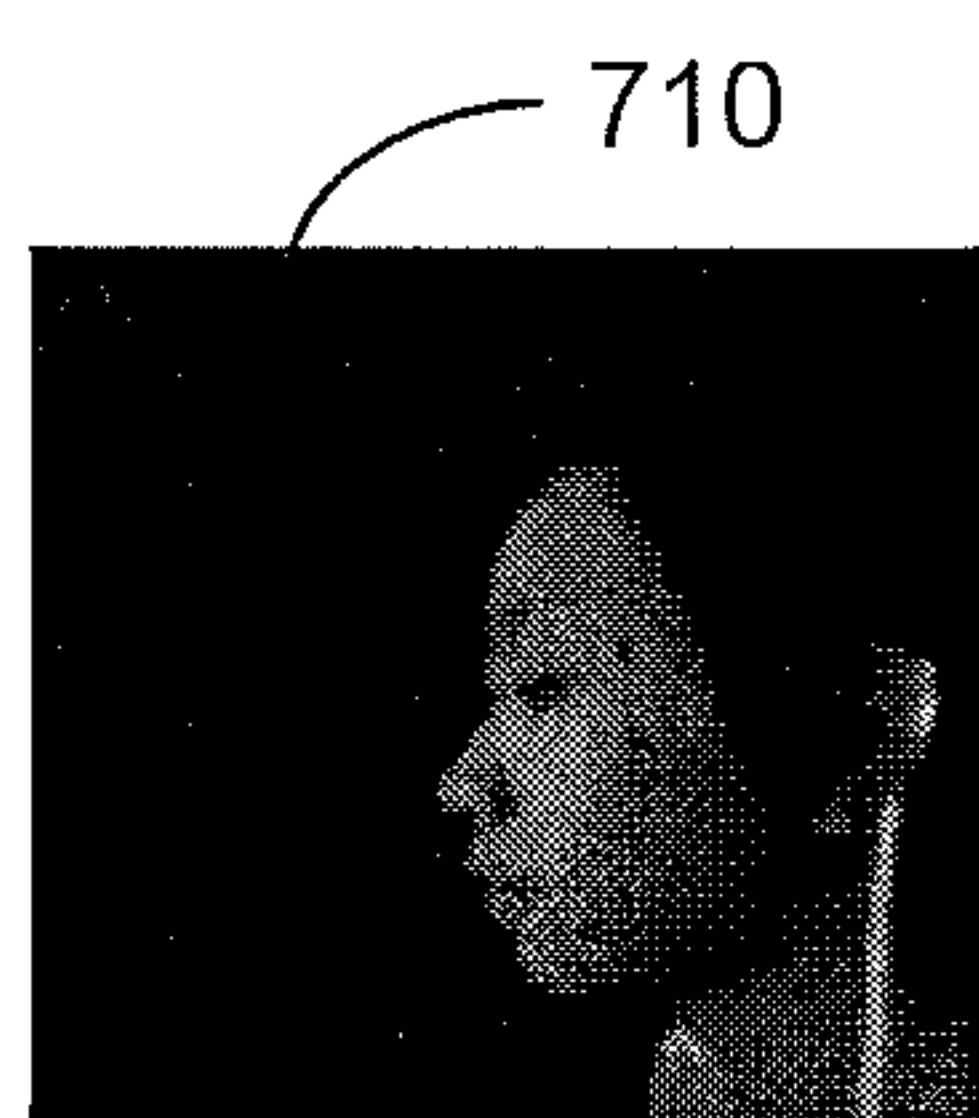


FIG. 7B

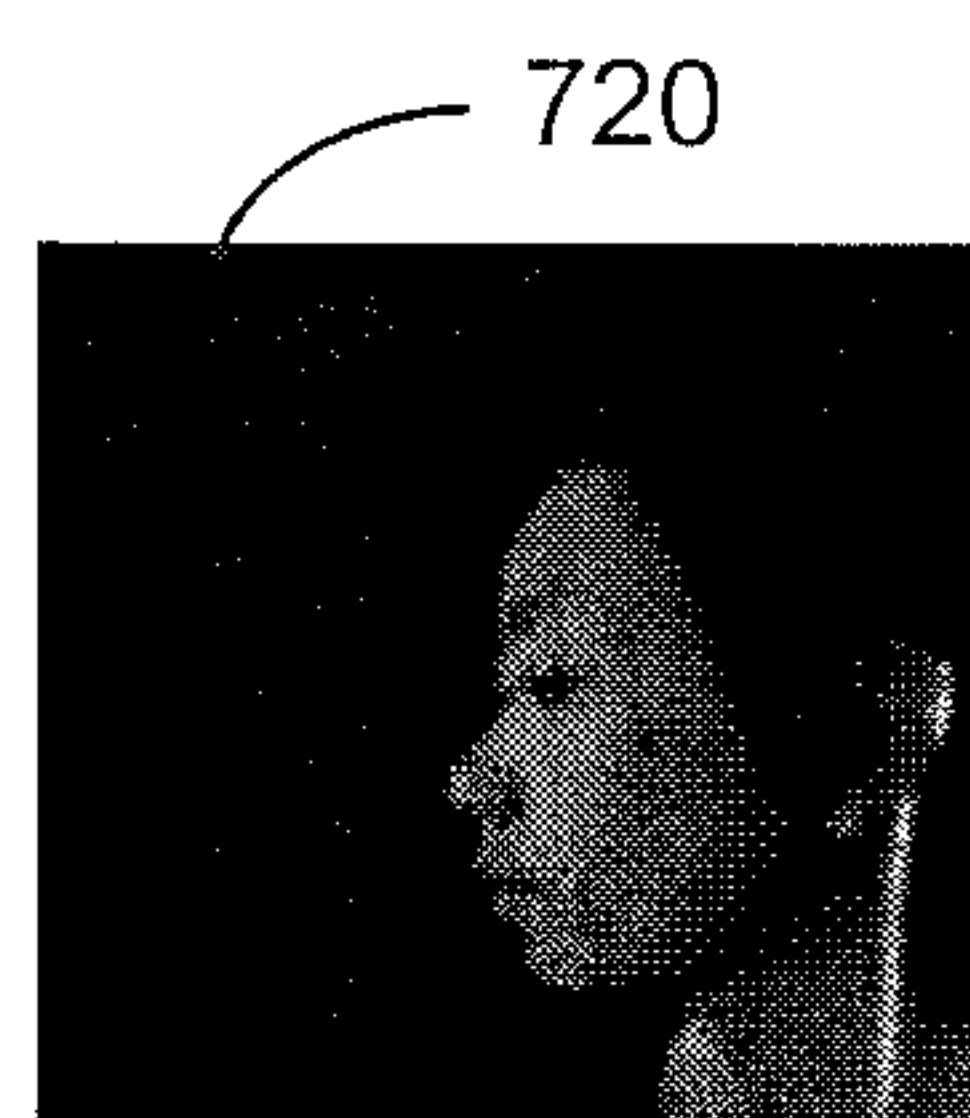


FIG. 7C

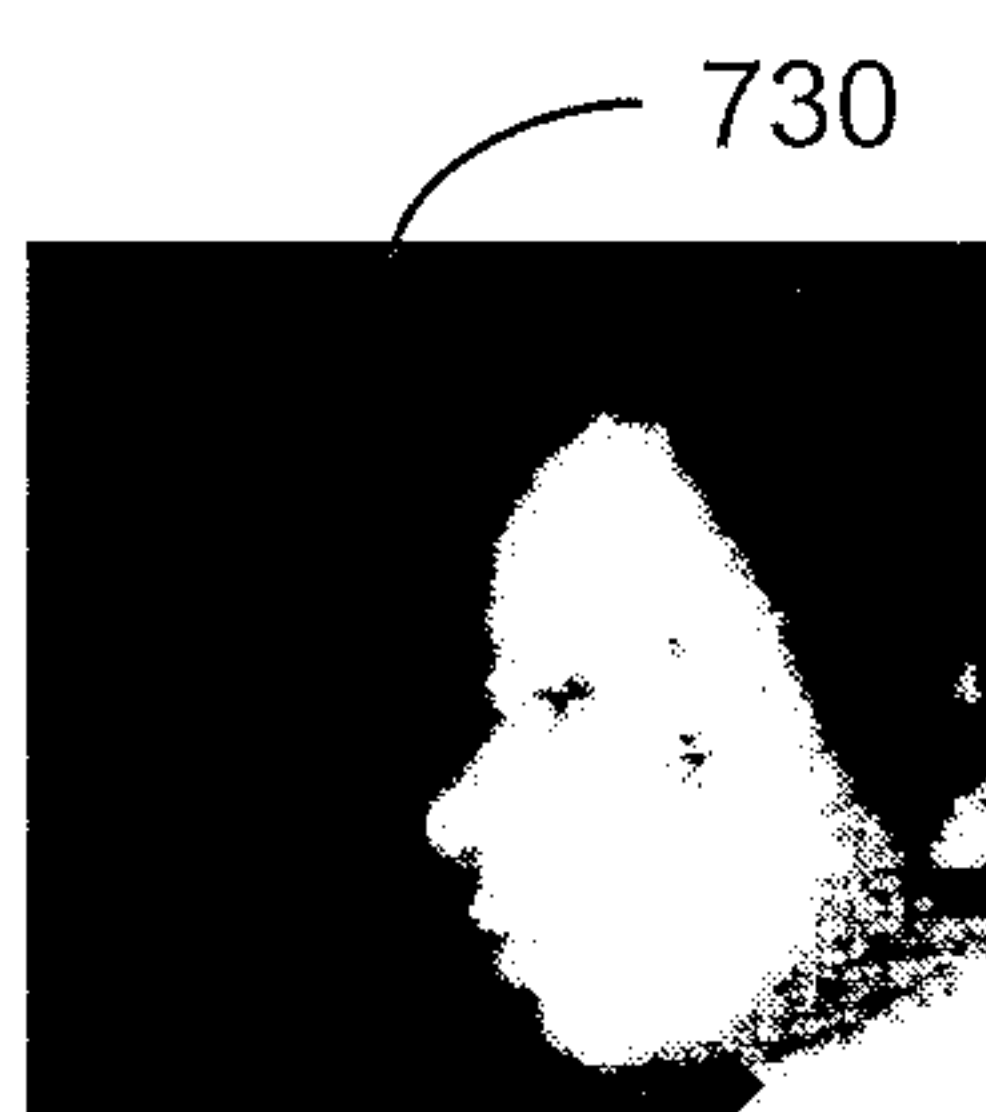


FIG. 7D

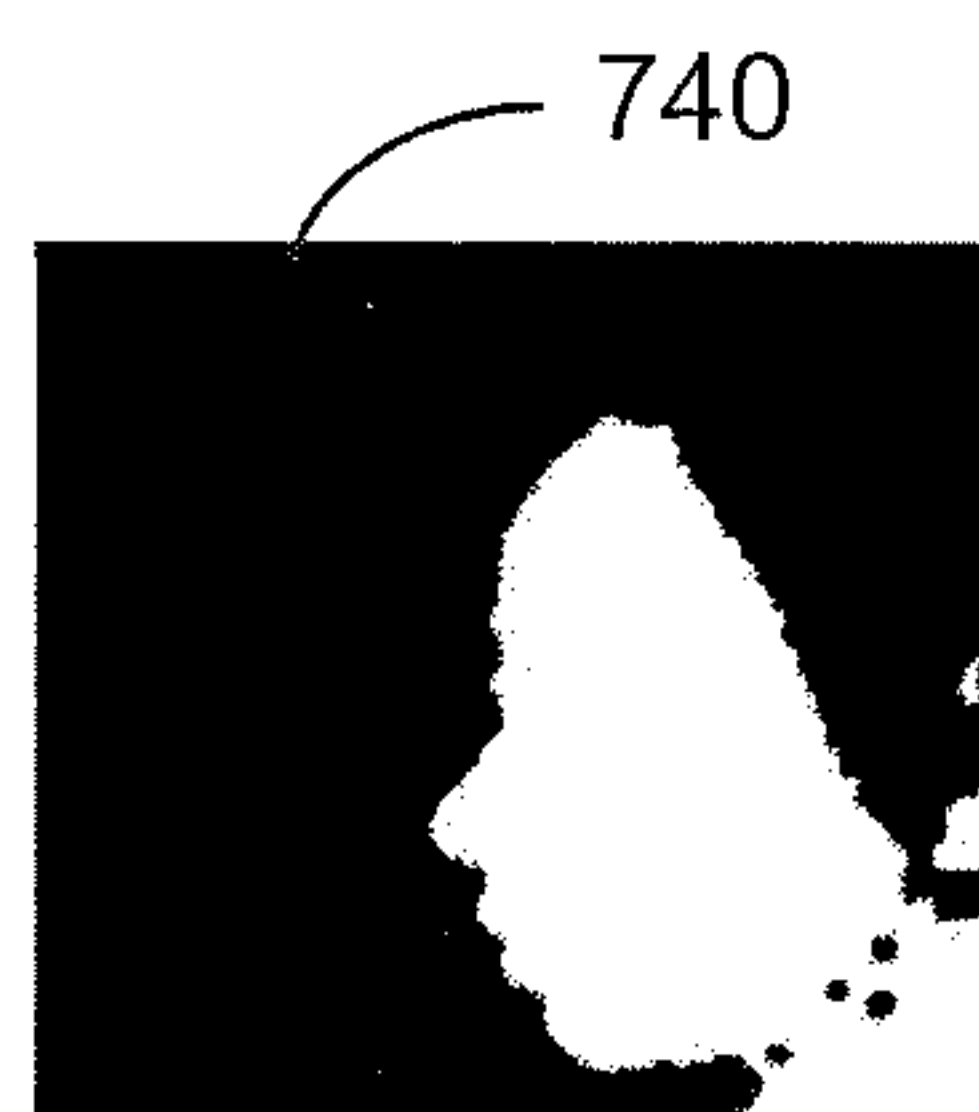


FIG. 7E

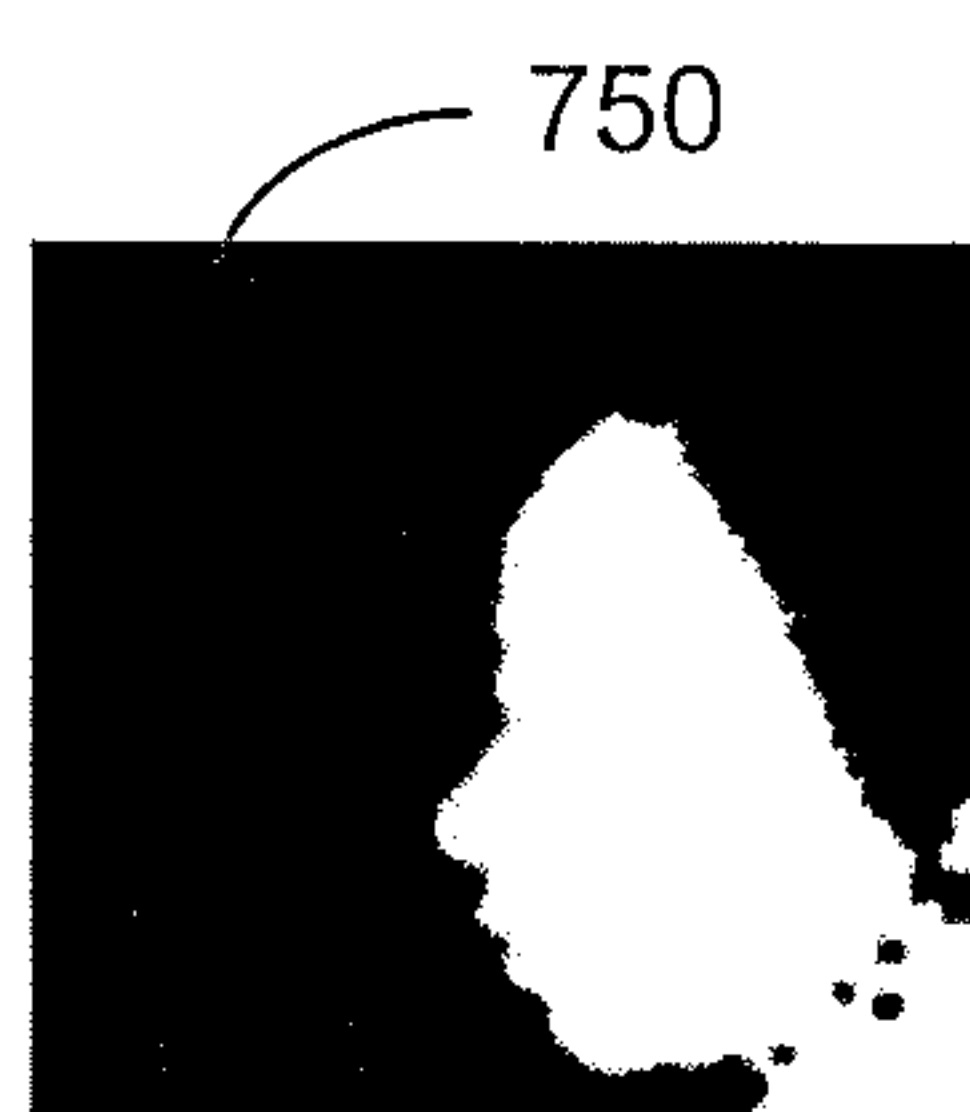
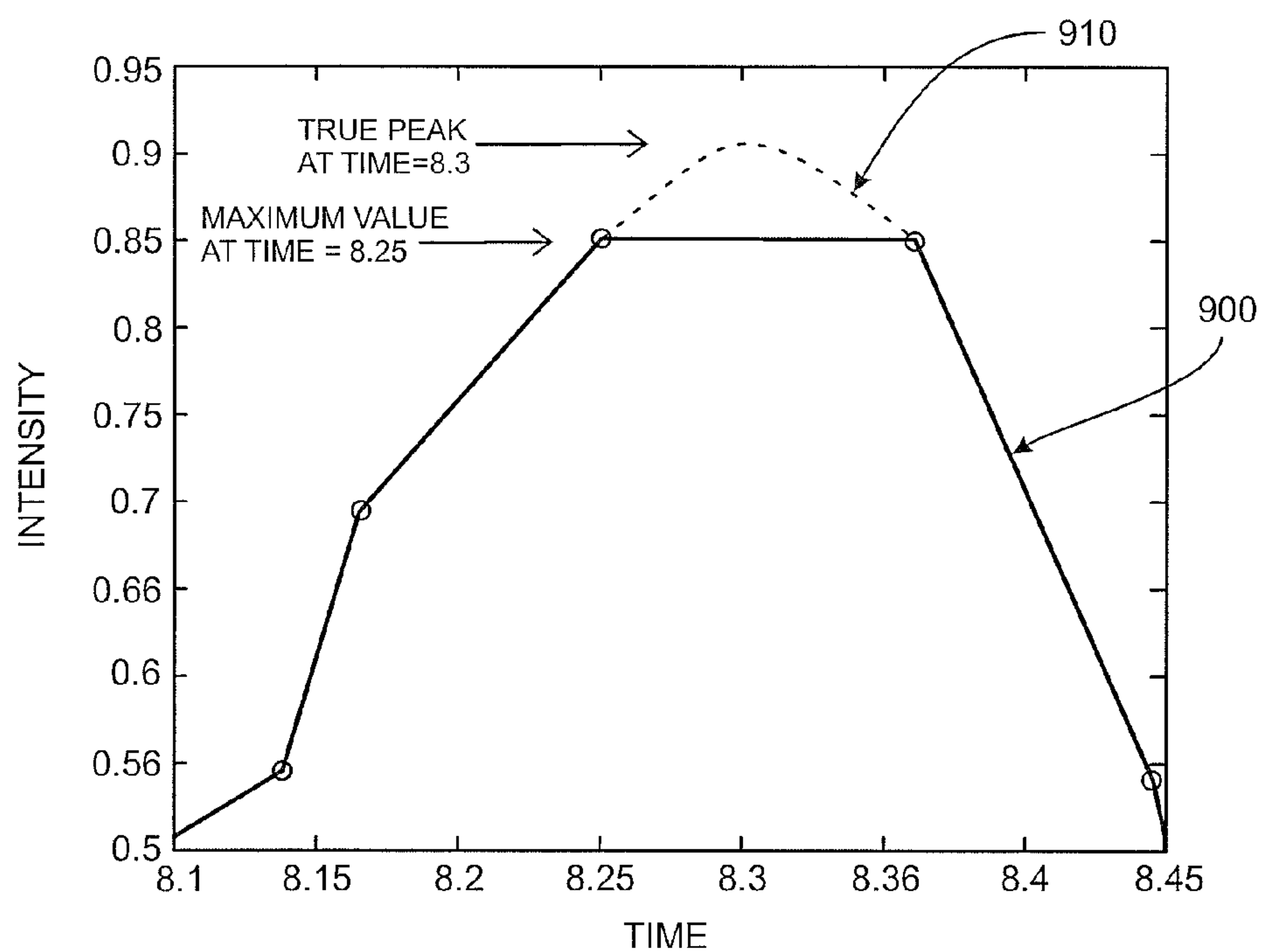
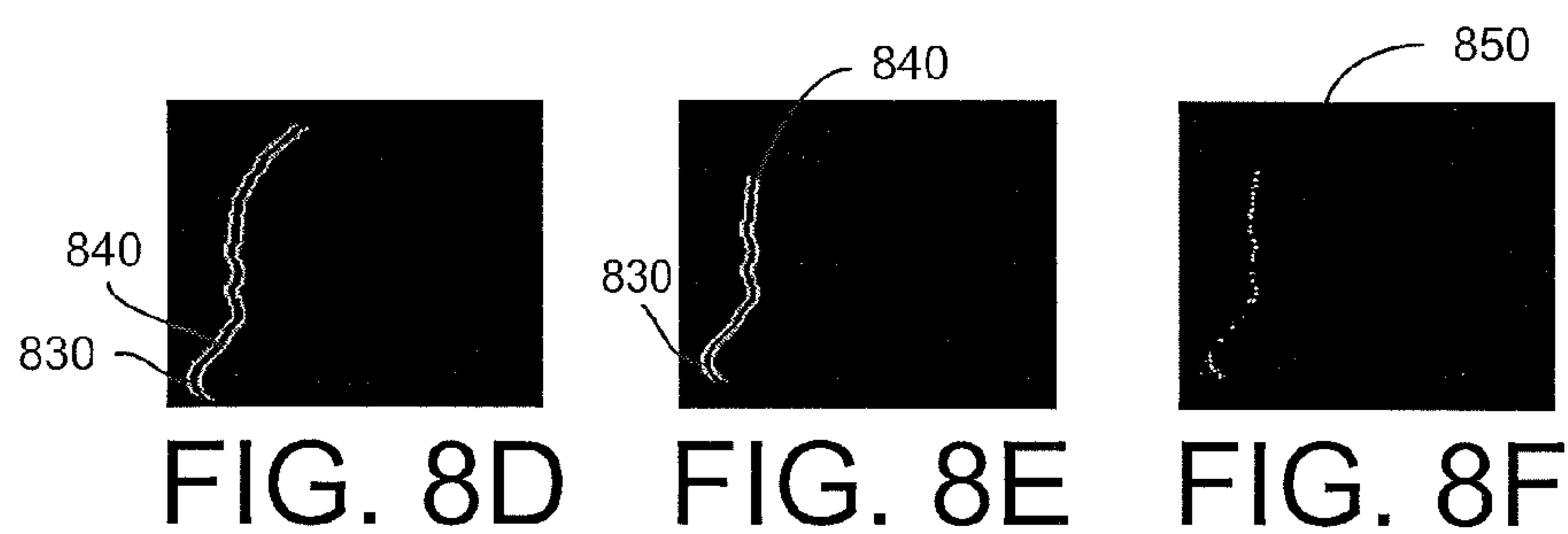
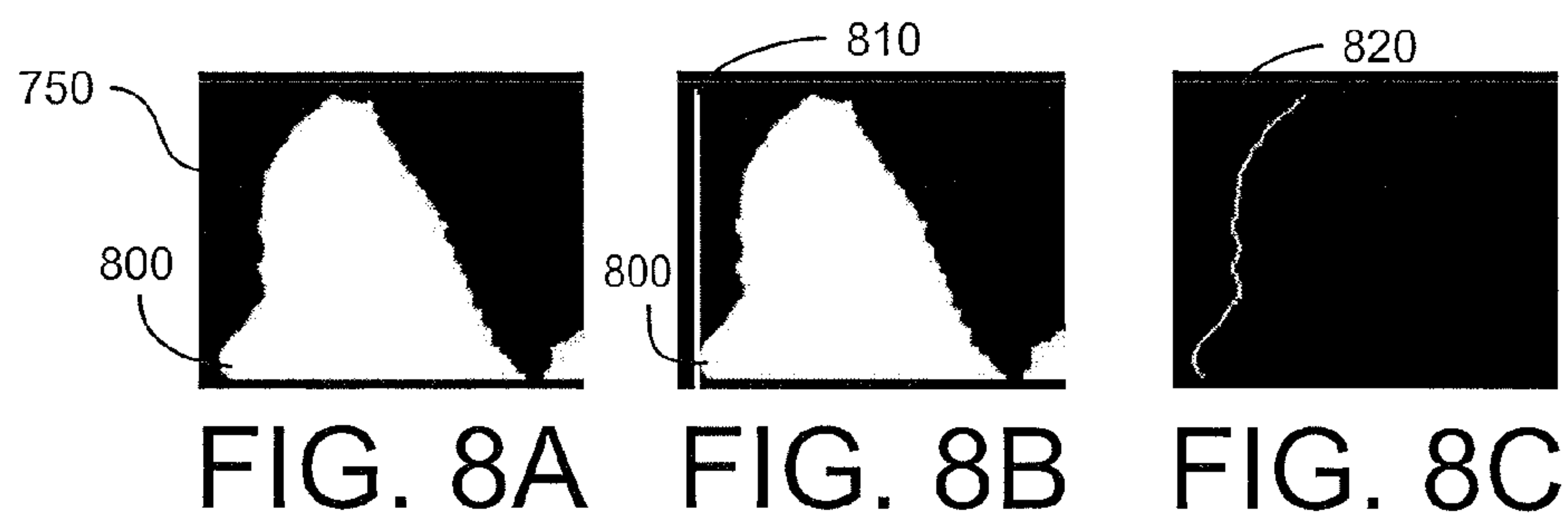


FIG. 7F



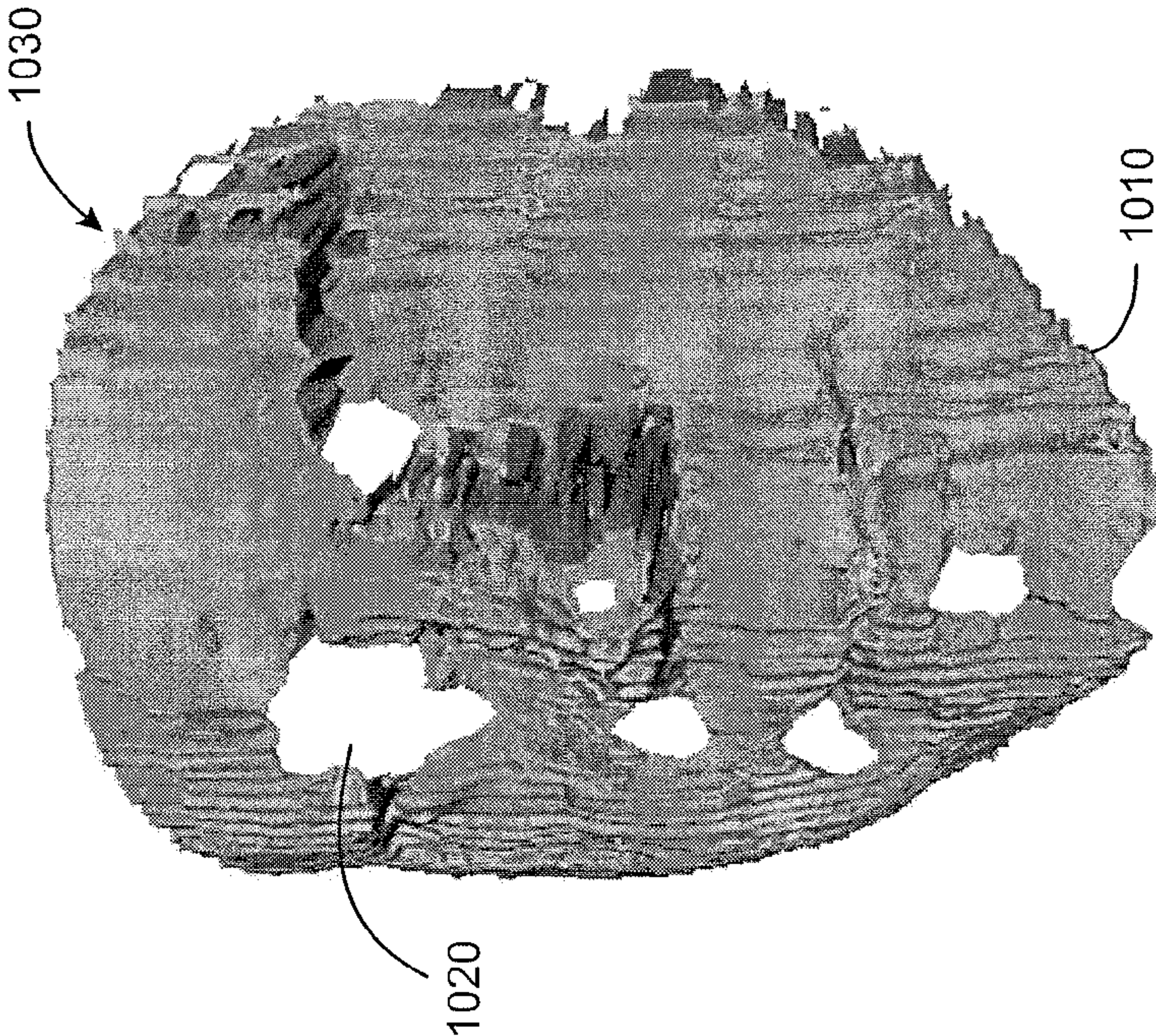


FIG. 10B

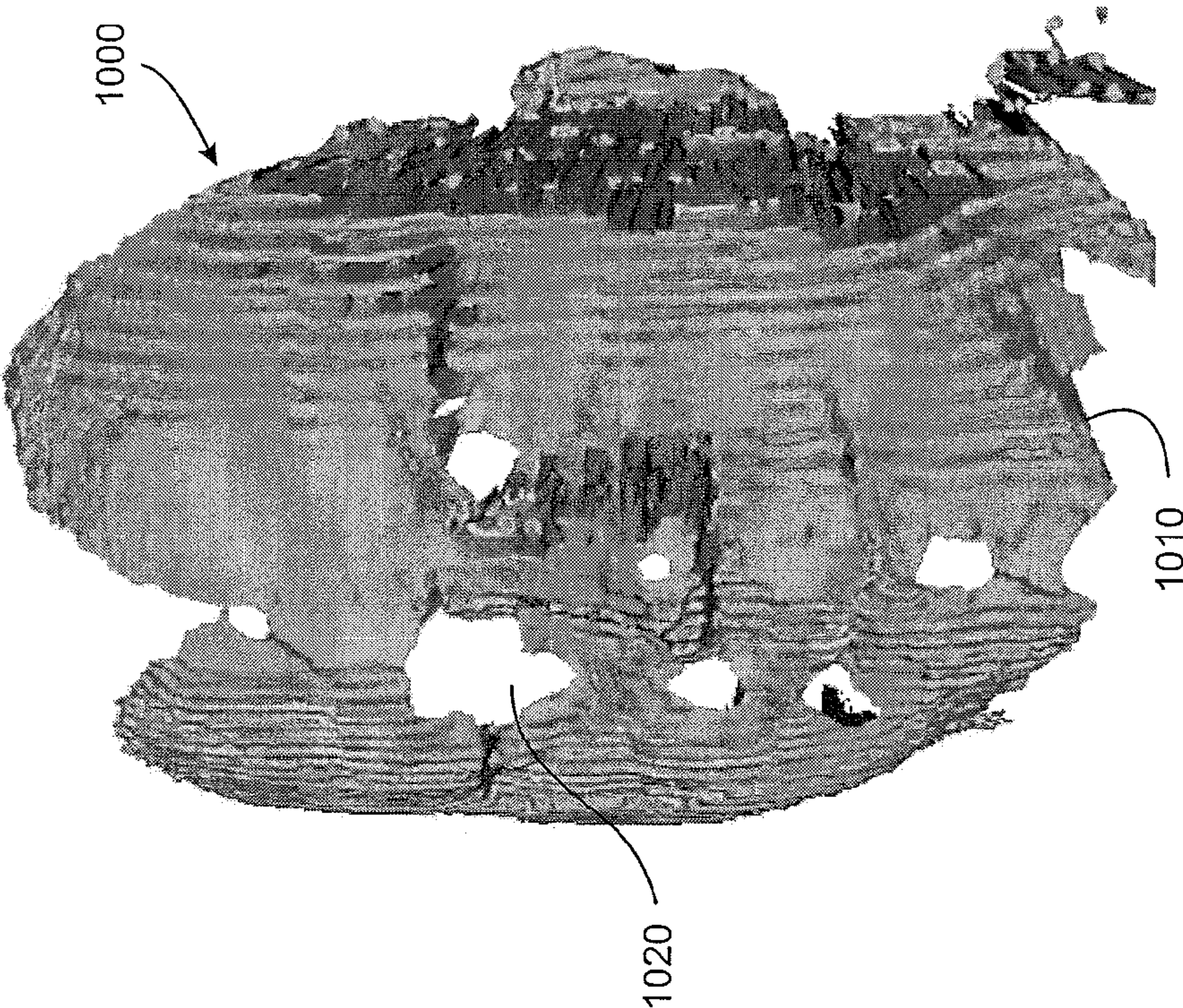


FIG. 10A

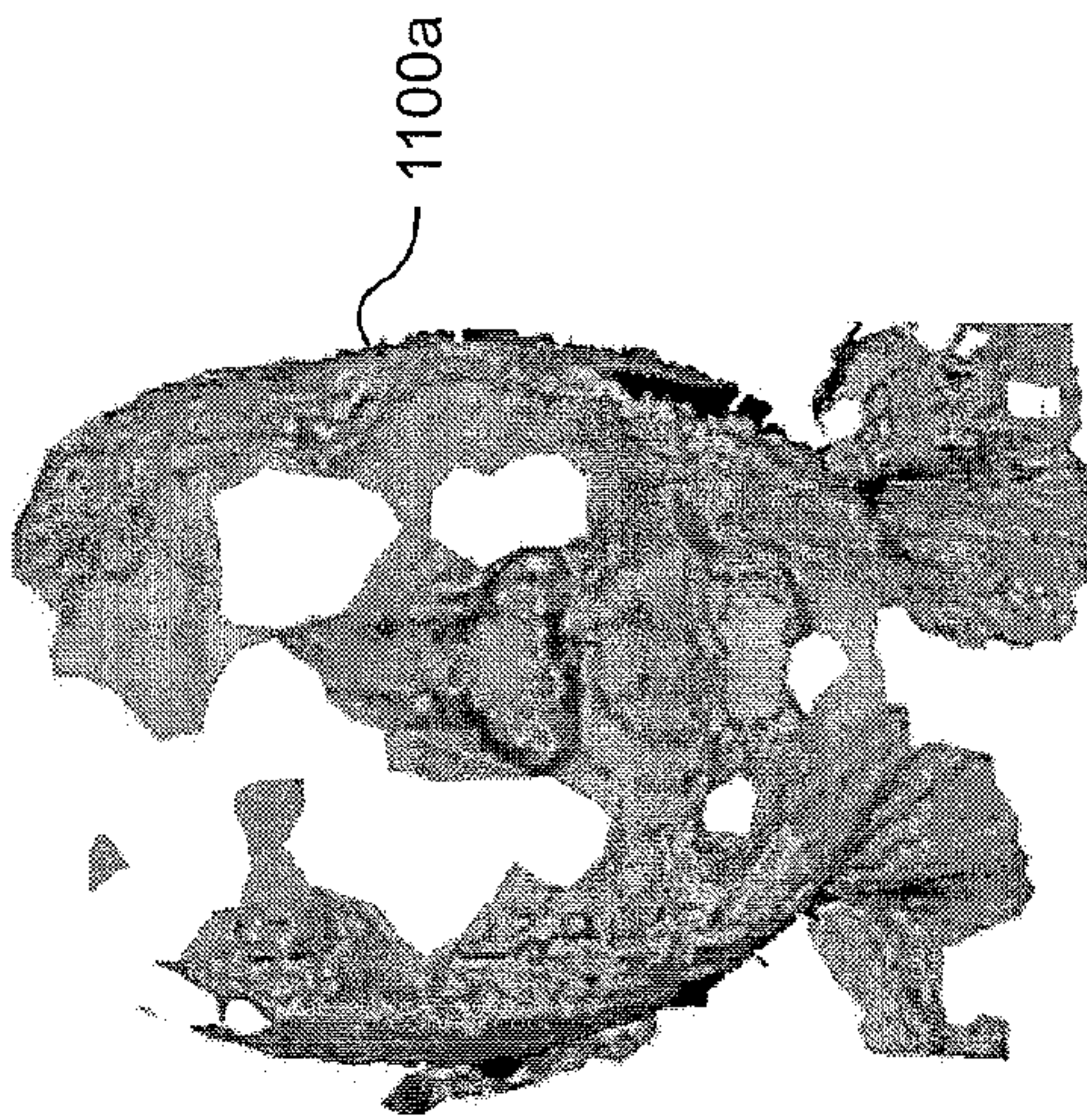


FIG. 11A

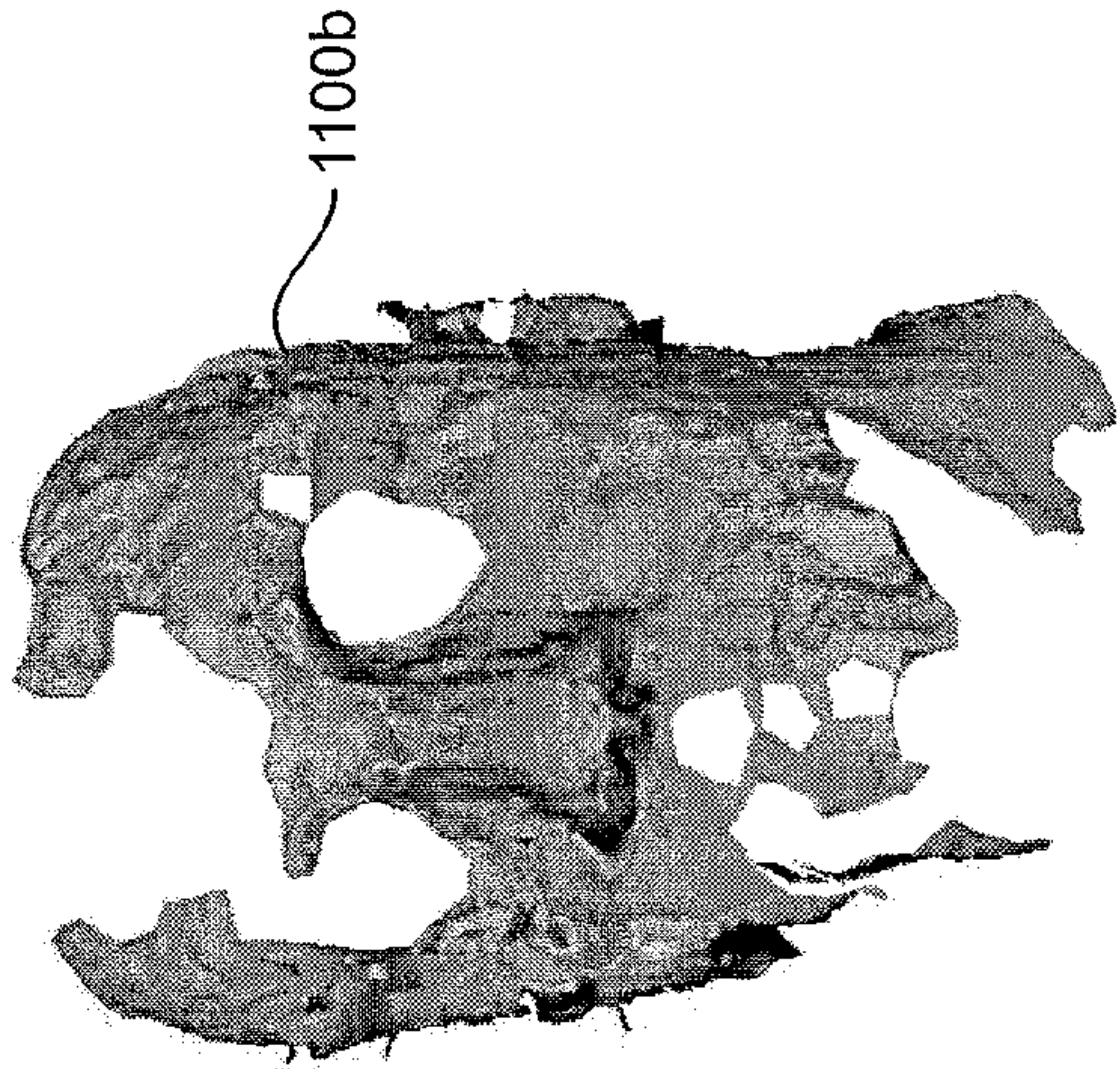


FIG. 11B

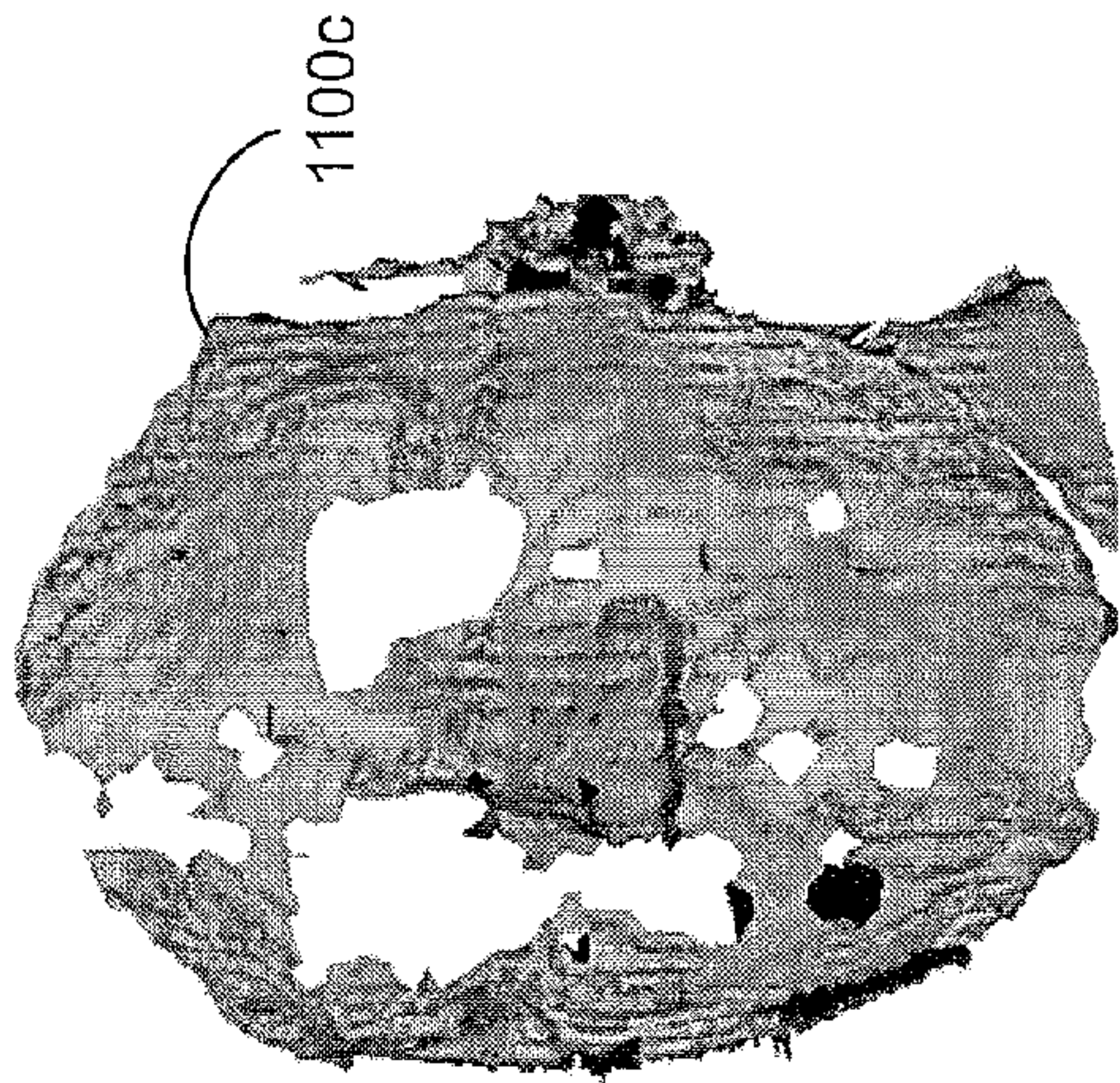
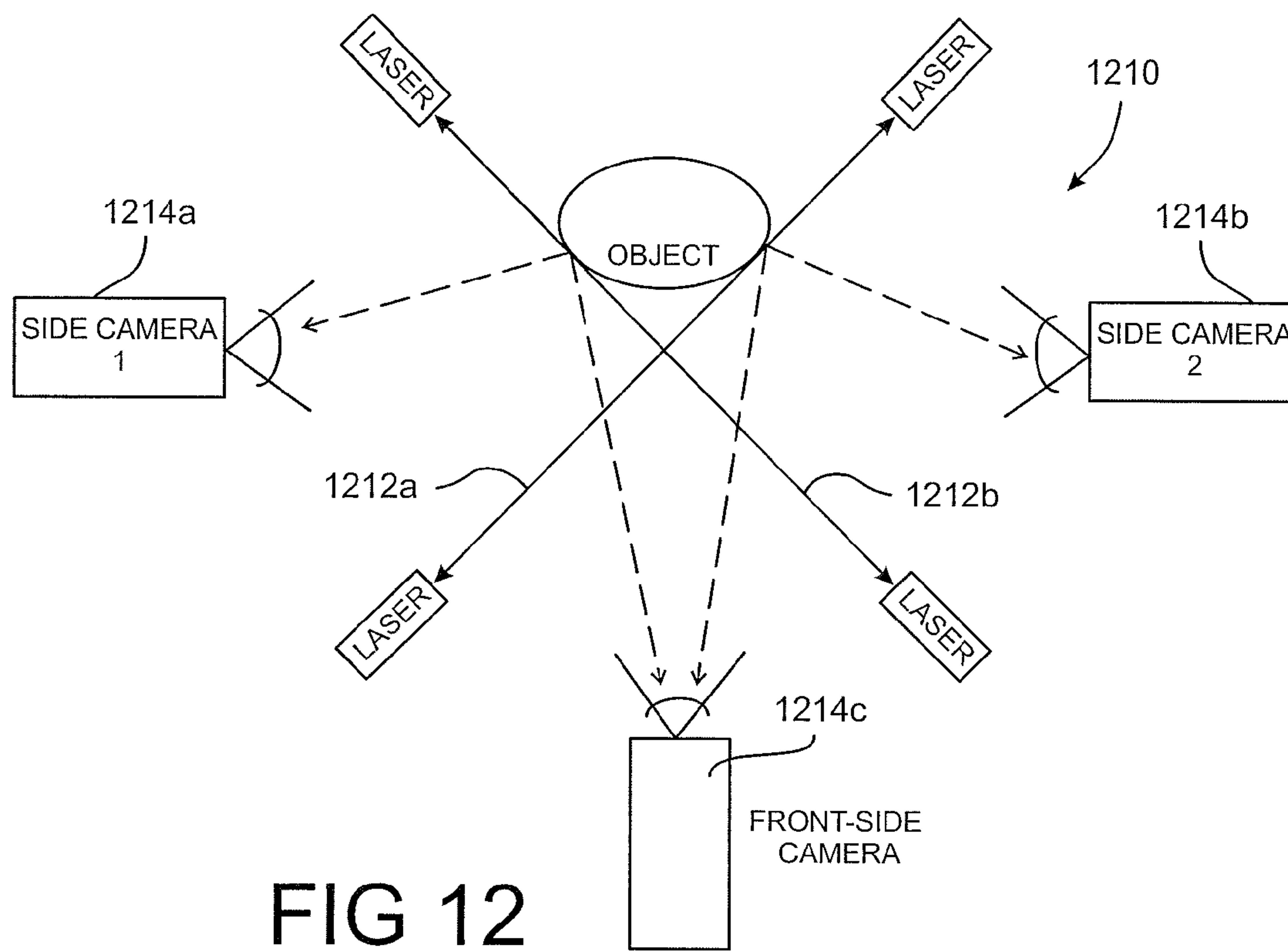


FIG. 11C



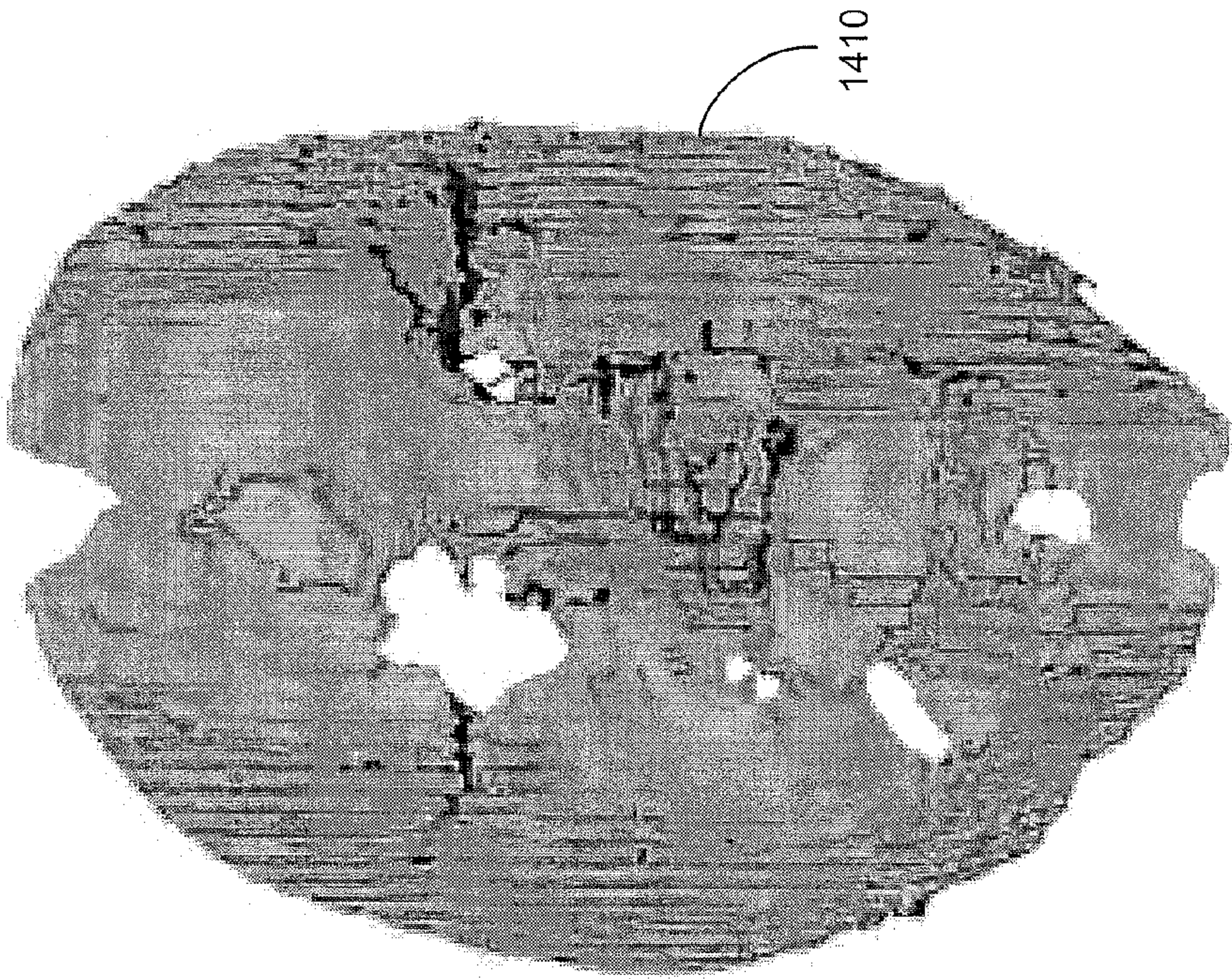


FIG. 14A

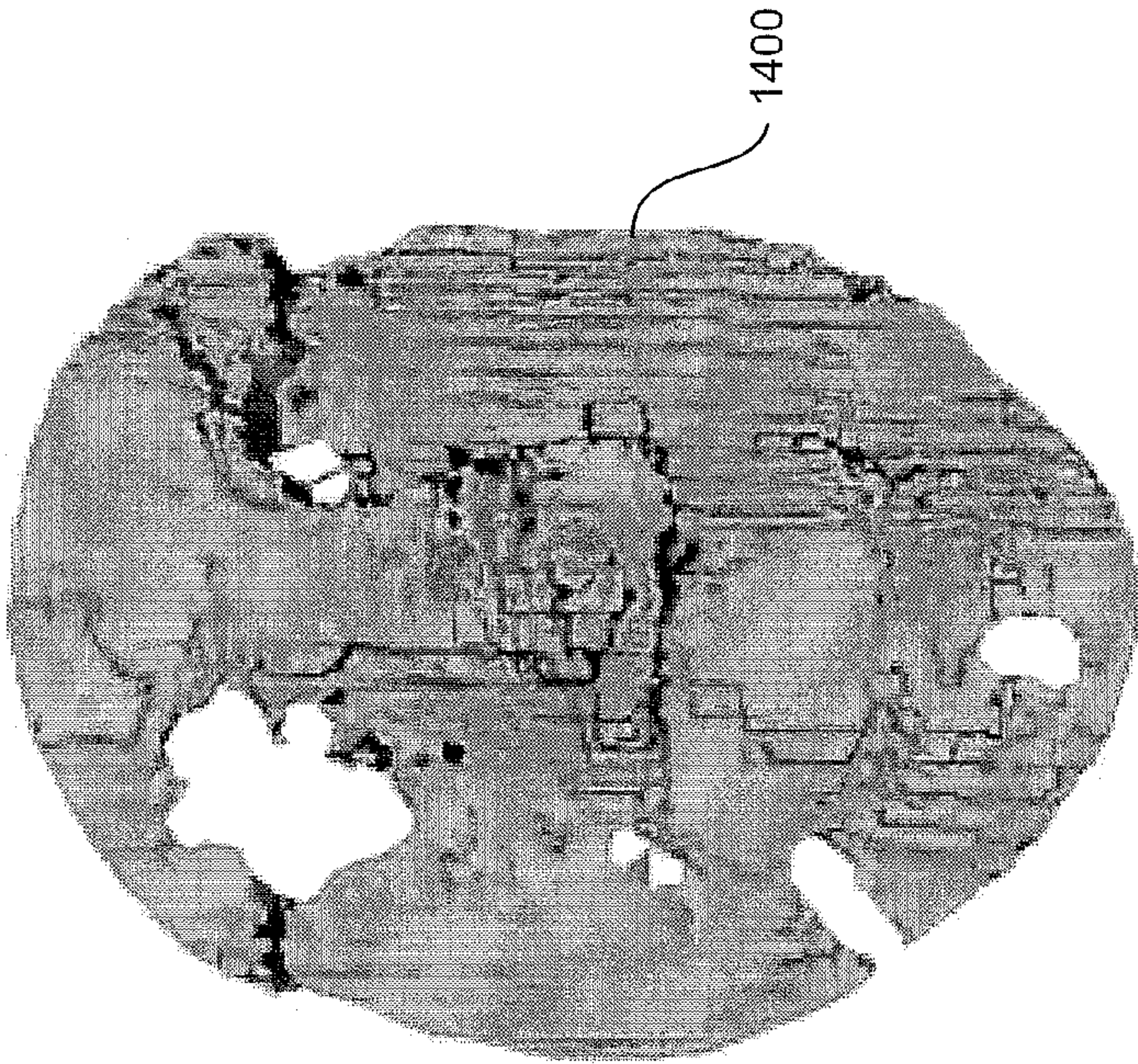


FIG. 14B

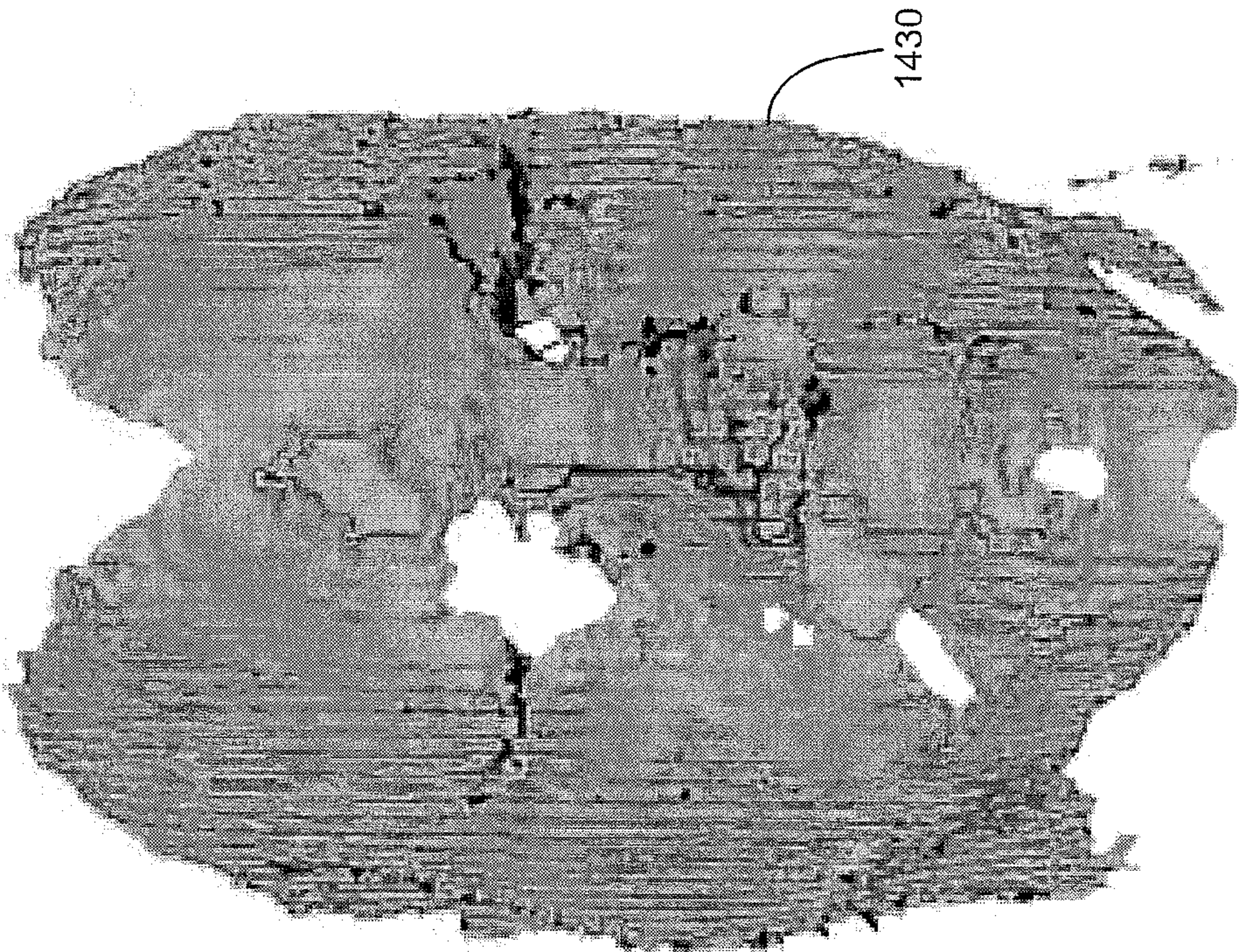


FIG. 14D

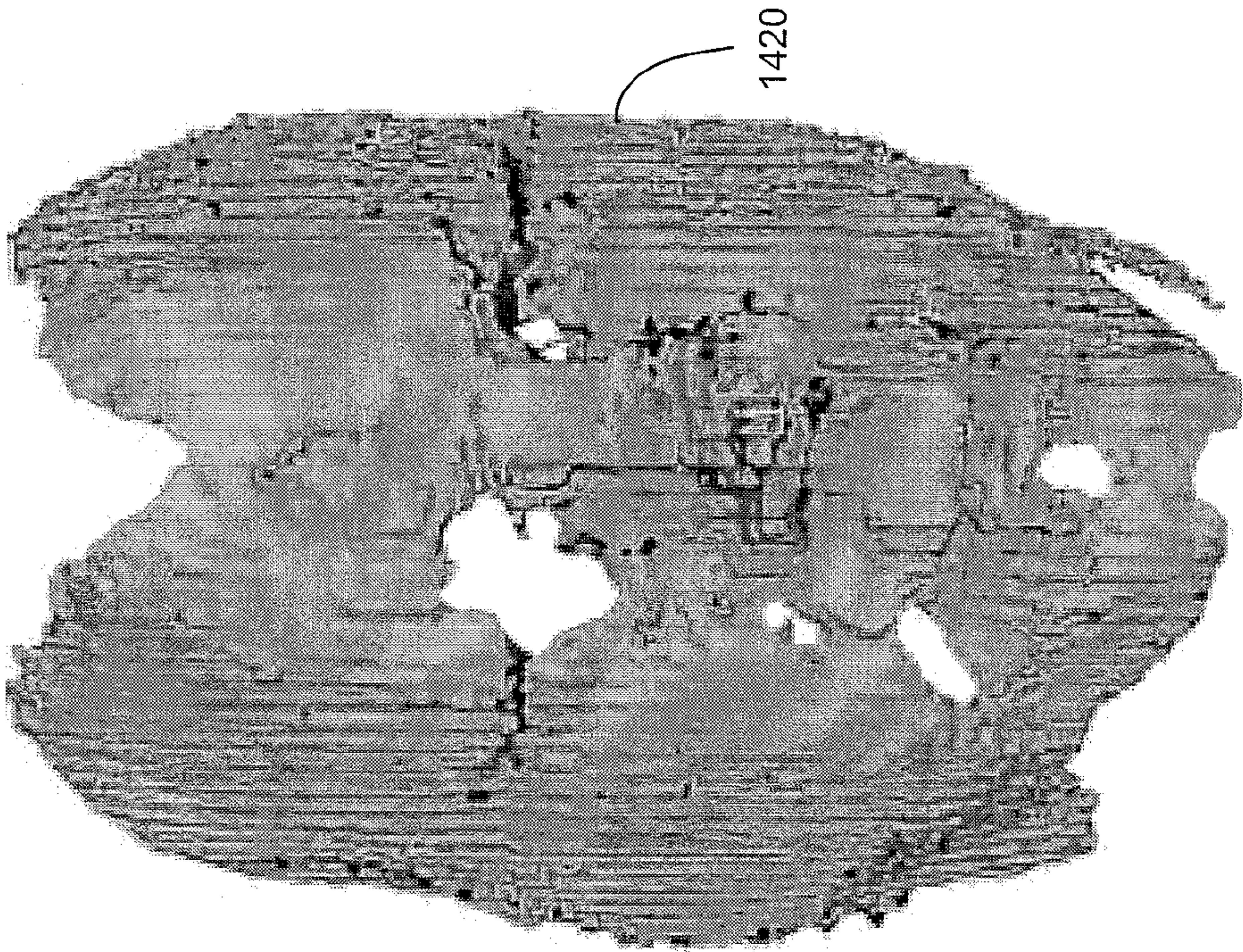


FIG. 14C

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APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR THREE-DIMENSIONAL IMAGING USING A STATIC LIGHT SCREEN

STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT

At least a portion of the invention disclosed and claimed herein was made in part utilizing funds supplied by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. CNS01-30839, by the Technical Support Working Group under U.S. Army Contract No. W91CRB-08-C-0093, and by the U.S. Dept. of Justice/National Institute for Justice under Grant No. 2006-IJ-CX-K041. The United States Government has certain rights in this invention.

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a non-provisional application claiming priority from U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 61/200,272, filed Nov. 26, 2008, entitled "Static Light Screen Scanner" and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present disclosure relates generally to three-dimensional imaging and more particularly to apparatus and methods for three-dimensional imaging using a static light screen.

BACKGROUND OF RELATED ART

Three-dimensional imaging is increasingly becoming more relevant to security applications, such as, for example, for facial recognition in both the public and private sectors. Three-dimensional facial recognition can exploit the relative insensitivities of three-dimensional facial shape images to facial color variations and facial illumination changes versus traditional two-dimensional images. Triangulation is one method typically used to acquire a three-dimensional image of an object at short range.

Some commercially available three-dimensional image capturing systems employ passive or texture-assisted stereo imaging or structured illumination with a moving light stripe. These techniques, however, require a stationary subject. For example, one traditional method of triangulation uses an active light that translates a line and/or line pattern across an object and recovers the three-dimensional profile at each position based on the deformation of the line in the image. This process requires the calibration of both the line projector and the motion platform. Still another example method utilizes a single camera, a single laser line projector, and a controlled conveyor belt to image objects by assembling a series of two-dimensional profiles obtained by object displacement. This process similarly requires moving parts as well as calibration between movement of the object and the camera.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a schematic drawing of an example apparatus for three-dimensional imaging of a moving object.

FIG. 2 is an example construction of the example apparatus of FIG. 1.

FIGS. 3A-3C are examples of the captured image data from the velocity sensor of the example apparatus of FIG. 1.

FIGS. 3D-3F are examples of the captured image data from the side image detector of the example apparatus of FIG. 1.

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FIG. 4 illustrates an example grid used to calibrate the example apparatus of FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is an example image of the calibration grid of FIG. 4, prior to calibration of the example apparatus of FIG. 1.

FIG. 6 is an example image of the calibration grid of FIG. 4, after calibration of the example apparatus of FIG. 1.

FIGS. 7A-7F are examples of side images captured and utilized to calibrate the example apparatus of FIG. 1.

FIGS. 8A-8F illustrates an example calibration of the example apparatus of FIG. 1, utilizing the image of FIG. 7F.

FIG. 9 is a graph illustrating an example temporal domain stripe peak estimation used by the example apparatus of FIG. 1.

FIG. 10A is an example three-dimensional image produced by the example apparatus of FIG. 1.

FIG. 10B is a cropped version of the example three-dimensional image of FIG. 10A.

FIGS. 11A-11C are addition example three-dimensional images produced by the example apparatus of FIG. 1.

FIG. 12 is a schematic drawing of another example apparatus for three-dimensional imaging of a moving object.

FIG. 13 is an example of two overlapping three-dimensional images produced by the example apparatus of FIG. 1 and used for facial recognition.

FIGS. 14A-14D illustrate example three-dimensional images produced by the example apparatus of FIG. 1, including various radius croppings and used for facial recognition.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The following description of the disclosed examples is not intended to limit the scope of the disclosure to the precise form or forms detailed herein. Instead the following description is intended to be illustrative of the principles of the disclosure so that others may follow its teachings.

As described above, one traditional method for triangulation using active light translates a line or pattern across an object, such as, for example, a face of a human subject, and recovers a three-dimensional profile at each position based on the deformation of the line in the image. This process involves the calibration of both the line projector and the motion platform. By contrast, the examples described herein employ a static light screen through which the object moves. In this fashion, a detection device, such as, for example, a camera, sees the deformation of the projected static light screen, yielding a profile. The detected profile images are assembled in a three-dimensional image from multiple images by knowing the deformation of the static light screen and the object's instantaneous velocity. In particular, the example cameras are calibrated for a single, fixed plane of light and rely upon subject motion to provide the multiple stripe positions needed to acquire a three-dimensional image. The example apparatus and methods described herein require no moving parts and are not subject to mechanical failure and/or errors oftentimes associated with other triangulation methods. The apparatus and methods described herein allow a subject to travel (e.g., walk) through the sensor naturally, which is one advantage.

Referring now to FIG. 1, an example apparatus 10 for imaging using a static light screen is schematically illustrated. In particular, the example apparatus 10 includes a light screen 12, at least one detector 14, and a velocity sensor 16. For ease of calculation, the apparatus 10 may be referenced within a three-dimensional Cartesian coordinate system 18. The reference coordinate system, however, may be chosen and adapted from any suitable reference system.

In this example, an x-axis and y-axis are co-planar with the light screen 12, while a z-axis extends perpendicular to the

plane of the light screen, in the general direction of travel of any object, such as for example, a human subject **20** moving through the light screen **12** with an instantaneous velocity v . As the subject **20** moves through the light screen **12**, the subject **20** is imaged, as described in detail herein.

In the example apparatus **10** illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2, the light screen **12** is formed using two projectors **22** spaced apart from one another and located on opposite sides of the subject **20**. The example projectors **22** used to form the light screen **12** in the apparatus **10** are laser stripe projectors. Each of the projectors **22**, however, may be any suitable projector, including, for example, a single light source (e.g., a single light source split into a screen via a beam splitter), a plurality of light sources, and/or any number of projectors capable of creating electromagnetic radiation, such as, for example, light in any suitable wavelength (e.g., visible light, invisible light, etc.), or any other detectable projection. Accordingly, as used herein, a light screen may be any suitable electromagnetic radiation and/or otherwise detectable screen. In this example, the projectors **22** produce a visible laser light (e.g., a visible red laser light) and are aligned such that the opposed projectors **22** create a light screen **12** that is coplanar. Additionally, in this example, the light screen **12** corresponds to the zero axis (e.g. the $z=0$ plane) of the reference Cartesian coordinate system **18**.

The example apparatus **10** includes a pair of detectors **14**, located in front of the subject **20**, i.e., in the predominant direction of movement of the subject **20**, and a velocity sensor **16**. In this example, the detectors **14** are each located and offset from either side of a plane extending perpendicular to the plane of the light screen **12**. Each of the example detectors **14** is a high-speed light camera capable of detecting the presence of the light screen **12** on the surface of the subject **20** as illustrated in FIGS. 3A-3B. The example velocity sensor **16** is a digital video camera used to track a velocity v of the subject **20** in the z direction of the Cartesian coordinate system **18**. An example of the images detected by the velocity sensor **16** is illustrated in FIGS. 3D-3F. Each of the detectors **14**, **16**, however, may be any suitable detector and/or combination of detectors, capable of performing the necessary functions, such as, for example, detecting the light screen **12**, (e.g., detection of visible and/or non-visible light detectors, etc.) or the detection of the velocity v of the subject **20**.

In the example configuration, three-dimension data is acquired from the detectors **14**, and the velocity sensor **16** using a time domain analysis as the subject **20** moves through the light screen **12**. More particularly, the detectors **14** each acquire a two-dimensional image and the image coordinates are referred to as (u_1, v_1) for the first of two detectors **14** and (u_2, v_2) for the other one of the detectors **14**. The two-dimensional images are transmitted to a processor **30**. In some examples, the detector **14** may be adjusted so that only the portion of the light screen **12** on the subject **20**, the "laser stripe" is detected (e.g., the intensity gain is adjusted) as illustrated in FIG. 3A-3C. Additionally, the velocity sensor **16** determines the instantaneous velocity (e.g., movement) by detecting the movement of the subject through the light screen **12** as illustrated in FIGS. 3D-3F. The detected movement is similarly transmitted to the processor **30**.

The processor **30**, as described herein, receives the transmitted data and utilizes the data to create a three-dimensional image of the subject **20**. The produced image of the subject **20** may be stored as data, displayed, modeled, assembled, and/or otherwise transformed or further processed as desired. In one example, the processor **30** renders the three-dimensional image on a display **32** (e.g., converts the image from a file into visual form). In other examples, the three-dimensional image

may be stored on a computer readable medium and/or utilized for further processing including, for example, for biometric (e.g., facial) recognition.

As described, the example apparatus **10** includes two frontal detectors **14** that capture images of a laser stripe whose plane is not parallel to the optical axes of the detectors **14**. In this example, one of the detectors **14** is offset from the plane perpendicular to the light screen **12** in a first direction, while the other of the detectors **14** may be offset from the plane perpendicular to the light screen **12** in a second direction opposite the first direction. Thus, each of the detectors **14** should be calibrated to convert detected image coordinates to the reference Cartesian coordinate system **18**, by, for example, obtaining the affine transformation that relates the image plane coordinates (x_i, y_i) of the detector **14** to the image plane of the Cartesian coordinate system **18**.

In one example calibration, illustrated in FIGS. 4-6, each of the detectors **14** is calibrated independently and commonly referenced. In this example, a checkerboard-type grid **400** comprising one-inch-by-one-inch squares **410** is placed in the detectors field of view coincident with the plane of the light screen **12**. An image of the grid **400** is then acquired by each of the detectors **14** individually. An example image **500** captured by one of the detectors **14** is shown in FIG. 5, while an example image **600** after rectification is illustrated in FIG. 6. The affine distortion of the outer border of the checkerboard pattern of the grid **400** is modeled using linear fits to the boundaries of a large trapezoidal region **510** encompassing most of the squares **410** defined by the grid **400**. A position at any point within the region **510** can be rectified by interpolating known values from the region corners. Thus, a measurement (u_1, v_1) in the field of view of either of the detectors **14** maps via interpolation to stripe plane coordinates (x_i, y_i) .

The example calibration process accounts for perspective distortion by knowing the dimensions of the squares **410** of the grid **400**. Least-squares fits are obtained for each boundary line using an automated process. The fit equations yield calibration equations (Equation 1, Equation 2) that serve to transform the image plane coordinates (x, y) into world coordinates (x', y') .

$$y' = \frac{M}{y_2 - y_1} (y - y_1) \quad \text{Equation 1}$$

$$x' = \frac{N}{x_2 - x_1} (x - x_1) \quad \text{Equation 2}$$

where M is the height of each of the squares **410** in the grid **400**, N is width of each of the squares **410** in the grid **400**, and x_1, x_2, y_1 , and y_2 are intercepts obtained from the linear fits.

After rectification, the images **600** obtained from each of the two detectors **14** are placed in the common Cartesian coordinate system **18**, by obtaining a common origin. In this example, five markers **420** are statically located on the grid **400**. The two-dimensional offset $(\Delta y_1, \Delta x_1)$ that coincides with each marker **420** is computed. In some instances, noise may be generated by a calibration marker **420** that is not exactly coincident with the plane of the laser screen **12**, therefore, an object, such as a nonplanar sphere (not shown), may be used to validate the computed offsets, and the process may be repeated as necessary. Furthermore, any number of markers and/or identification means may be used.

As described herein, as part of the three-dimensional reconstruction, the apparatus **10** tracks the movement of the subject **20** as the subject walks through the light screen **12** via the velocity sensor **16**. As noted above, in one example, the

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subject **20** is a human subject walking through the light screen **12**. Accordingly, even under ideal movement scenarios, it is possible and likely that the subject **20** will not only move forward along the z-axis of the Cartesian coordinate system **18**, but also will shift up and down along the y-axis and rotate slightly because of joint articulation through a rotation angle θ . Any suitable algorithm, such as for example the Iterative Closest Point (ICP) algorithm, may be used to find the changes in the y-axis, the z-axis, and the rotation angle θ from one frame to another.

In one example illustrated in FIGS. 7A-7F, the position of the face of the example subject **20** is found utilizing the ICP algorithm. For instance, an image **700** of the subject **20** is acquired with the velocity sensor **16** configured with a low gain setting (FIG. 7A). The background of the obtained image **700** is suppressed using a standard background subtraction technique to produce a second image **710** (FIG. 7B) and the image **710** is mapped to a y-z coordinate view within the Cartesian coordinate system **18** to produce an image **720** (FIG. 7C). Small difference pixels in the image **720** are then removed by standard thresholding techniques to produce an image **730** (FIG. 7D). The resultant image **730** is then morphologically closed to remove small gaps caused by the background elimination or the eyes to produce an image **740** (FIG. 7E). Finally, any connected components in the image **740** containing fewer than 100 pixels are deleted, leaving just an image **750** of the face of the subject **20**.

The ICP algorithm is sensitive to data outliers, which can exist in the captured image **750** due to unwanted noise. To reduce the impact of data outliers, in one example illustrated in FIG. 8A-8F, all data below a predetermined distance (e.g., 25.4 cm) below the top of the face region of the image **750** of the face of the subject **20** is deleted. In this instance, the top of the face region of the image **750** of the subject **20** is assumed to be the location of the highest white pixel. The farthest point **800** to the left in the largest remaining connected component is defined to be the nose tip of the subject (FIG. 8B) as illustrated by the line **810**. The edge **820** of the profile containing the nose tip **800** is then extracted from the image **750** (FIG. 8C). The (z, y) coordinates of the edge **820** of the profiles are found for all images **750**, and each edge **820** is centered at the origin. Then the ICP algorithm is run on successive pairs of profiles to output an angular rotation ($\Delta\theta$) and a spatial translation (Δy , Δz) for the best alignment of the two outlines (m and d) based on root-mean-square registration error (Err) as expressed in Equation 3.

$$[\Delta\theta\Delta y\Delta z\text{Err}]=\text{ICP}(m,d) \quad \text{Equation 3}$$

To visualize this process, FIG. 8D shows an outline of a current frame **830** and previous frame **840**. The outlines **830**, **840** are cropped from the initial nose to discard pixels as shown in FIG. 8E. As image **850** showing the final alignment results after the ICP algorithm is shown in FIG. 8F.

The ICP algorithm is also sensitive to noise, and accordingly, bad alignments can occur. To minimize the chances of bad alignments, the ICP algorithm may be used multiple times for each pair of images, inverting the roles of the current and previous frames. For example, the ICP algorithm may be used to compute a transform for one of its input data sets to align it with the other, and is thus asymmetric in its treatment. The transform parameters $\Delta\theta$, Δy , and Δz from these multiple runs may be averaged to yield a final transformation.

A cumulative sum of angle changes and translations provides the required information for the global alignment of all the face frames from the side camera. To account for noise, angle changes below a threshold (T_θ) are discarded as are spatial translations less than half a pixel (e.g., in this example

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0.06 cm). T_θ is defined as the rotation of the face outline required to produce a one pixel (e.g., 0.12 cm) change of location in the image, and is image-dependent.

Detection of the laser stripe **12** by the detectors **14** (as shown in the example of FIGS. 3A-3C) is accomplished by identifying pixels with maximal red color component of the RGB pixel. In one instance, the ambient lighting around the apparatus **10** was dimmed to improve the ability to detect the laser stripe **12**. Additionally, because the example subject **20** is a human face, it is known that the diversity of color in a human face resides mostly in the red and green planes, and the blue plane value tends to be nearly constant due to the saturation setting of the detector **14**. From the a priori knowledge of the face color, a grayscale image (I_{gray}) is formed from the RGB image I (Equation 4), a threshold (T_{image}) is derived from I_{gray} (Equation 5), and pixels below T_{image} are discarded (Equation 6). The example red laser line produced by the laser screen **12** tends to be intensified by this process and the background noise suppressed.

$$I_{gray}=I_{red}-I_{green} \quad \text{Equation 4}$$

$$T_{image}=0.15*\text{mean}(I_{gray}) \quad \text{Equation 5}$$

$$I_{new}(i,j)=I_{gray}(i,j)\cdot(I_{gray}(i,j)>T_{image}) \quad \text{Equation 6}$$

The center of the laser line in the image (the line's width is not constant due to the Gaussian profile of the stripe cross-section, whose spread increases with standoff) is determined using any suitable method, including, for example temporal domain processing. In this method, as a laser stripe passes over a given image pixel (u, v), the intensity $I(u, v)$ can be assumed to sample a Gaussian curve **900** over time, as shown in FIG. 9. A subpixel estimate of a peak **910** of the Gaussian curve **900** is obtained utilizing a suitable method, including, for example, by calculating the time value, t, yielding the maximum intensity t_{max} , and computing the weighted sum of t values within 5 pixels of t_{max} . This yields a subpixel estimate t_{peak} for which a z_{peak} will be found for that time. This calculation is illustrated in Equation 7.

$$z_{peak} = \frac{\sum_{i=t_{max}-5}^{t_{max}+5} z(t_i) * I(u, v, t_i)}{\sum_{i=t_{max}-5}^{t_{max}+5} I(u, v, t_i)} \quad \text{Equation 7}$$

where $I(u,v,t_i)$ is the intensity of the pixel at the (u, v) coordinate in the image at the time instance t_i .

After calibration and laser stripe detection, the sample apparatus **10**, and more particularly, the processor **30** may be utilized to create a three-dimensional image of the subject **20**. In particular, by transforming pixel coordinates to real coordinates within the Cartesian coordinate system **18** using the calibration data, real world three-dimensionality of the subject **20** may be produced by the processor **30** utilizing any suitable modeling method. For example, with the fused data from the detectors **14** using the calibration offset, a three-dimensional image **1000** may be created by making a mesh using triangulation, such as, for example Delaunay triangulation as illustrated in FIG. 10A. Specifically, in this example, a mesh surface **1010** is superimposed on the detected data. In this illustration, the largest triangle surfaces are discarded to illustrate the holes of the image. As can be seen, there may be a few large holes **1020**, particularly by the nose on the cheek, below the nose, on the forehead, and on the chin. The holes **1020** may be attributed to concavities in the subject **20**,

e.g., the eye sockets, and/or regions of the subject **20** that are substantially parallel to the light screen **12**, e.g. the middle of the forehead, the bridge of the nose, the tip of the nose, the chin, a small part of the cheeks near the nose, and the lips. Temporal processing alleviates this problem to some degree as these points do have at least part of the laser stripe passing over them.

As described herein, in some instances, the produced image **1000** may be utilized for facial recognition. In practice, it has been found that many of the acquired three-dimensional points are not helpful for facial recognition such as parts of the neck, the shoulders, and the ears. Accordingly, in some instance, such as illustrated in FIG. **10B**, these points were cropped using ground truth nose locations found by an operator manually examining each mesh, to produce a cropped image **1030**. Once the nose was found, only the points within a threshold interval of Euclidean distance were kept. This process may be conducted manually and/or automatically, and may be varied as desired. Additional examples of faces **1100a**, **1100b**, **1100c** imaged by the sample apparatus **10** are illustrated in FIGS. **11A**, **11B**, and **11C**, respectively.

In the examples above, triangulation error may occur, wherein the error is a function of the cross-sectional thickness of the light screen **12**, the speed of the subject **20**, and the frame rate of the detector **14**. In one example, the detector **14** captures one hundred frames per second (100 fps), but even at this frame rate, the subject **20** could travel through the light screen **12** too quickly. One way to reduce this error is to limit the speed by which the subject **20** passes through the light screen **12** giving a suitable number of frames, such as, for instance, between 30 and 60 frames for the face of the subject **20**. Because it may not always be practical to limit the speed of the subject **20** through the light screen **12**, it will be appreciated that detectors **14** with higher sensitivities (e.g., frame rates, etc) may be utilized to reduce any associated triangulation error.

Additionally, some subjects **20**, and especially human subjects, can change their position and orientation as they intersect the light screen **12**. For example, the subject **20** may stop, turn, move laterally, retreat, etc. This can be seen by the apparatus **10** as shifts along the x-axis, y-axis, and z-axis of the Cartesian coordinate system **18**, as well as changes in the pitch, yaw, and roll of the subject **20**. A shift along the z-axis happens in all cases because the subject **20** moves through the light screen **12**. As described above, the velocity sensor **16** tracks the z-shift, the y-shift, and the pitch angle, θ . By using the ICP algorithm with the output of the velocity sensor **16**, changes in the pitch angle θ may be tracked.

In some instances, the changes in the pitch angle θ are not taken into account. However, in those instances, the pitch angle θ data may be obtained and may be integrated into the produced image as desired. Additionally, in some examples, an assumption may be made that the shift in the x-axis is minimal, there is zero yaw change, and/or zero roll change. These changes in the movement of the subject **20** can be tracked with a frontal detector in conjunction with a topside detector using the same technique as used for the velocity sensor **16**.

Referring to FIG. **12**, another example of an apparatus **1210** for imaging using a static light screen is illustrated. In particular, the example apparatus **1210** includes two light screens **1212a** and **1212b**, and three detectors **1214a**, **1214b**, **1214c**. As the subject **20** moves through the light screens **1212a**, **1212b**, the subject **20** is imaged by each of the three detectors **1214a**, **1214b**, **1214c**, which results in two three-dimensional images from each of the three detectors **1214a**, **1214b**, **1214c** for a total of six three-dimensional images. The

six images are then merged into one final three-dimensional image, utilizing any suitable merger method, including those described herein.

While the example apparatus **1210** may result in increased complexity, including, for example, in calibrating the three detectors **1214a**, **1214b**, **1214c**, in determining the detectors' global positions, in processing the data, and in distinguishing between one light screen and the other, the benefit is added coverage of the subject **20**. In particular, when the subject **20** is a human being, the apparatus **1210** may result in more complete coverage of the forehead, nose, and chin.

The example apparatus **1210** may also yield additional information valuable for certain types of biometrics as described below. For instance, assuming an ear of the subject **20** is visible, two-dimensional ear images and three-dimensional ear images may be available from each side of the subject **20** using the detectors **1214a**, **1214b** located on the sides of the subject **20**. Two-dimensional profile images from each side of the face of the subject **20** may be acquired with the same detectors, and two-dimensional frontal images may be acquired from the detector **1214c**, located at the front-side of the subject **20**. For the three-dimensional images, two images of each ear can be acquired which may be helpful in multi-probe biometric matching and ear registration in two-dimensional ear images.

In the example where the apparatus **10**, **1210** collect three-dimensional images of a human face, these images may be used for biometric matching (e.g., facial recognition) using any suitable biometric matching technique. On such approach for three-dimensional face matching is to calculate and tabulate an alignment error obtained using the ICP algorithm. In this approach, the ICP algorithm iteratively calculates the least squares fit of two three-dimensional images, and after each iteration, one of the images is translated and rotated such that the error for the least squares fit decreases. This process continues until the change in the least squares error between iterations is below a predefined tolerance level or a maximum number of iterations is exceeded. Smaller alignment error values indicate a closer match between the two images.

The example biometric matching techniques may be used to identify and/or verify a person's identity. Both tasks compare a scanned image to an existing database of gallery templates where the scanned images and gallery templates are both three-dimensional. An identification task compares the scanned image against every template in the gallery and returns the identity of the best match. A verification task compares the scanned image only against templates that match an identity claim that accompanies the scanned image.

The example apparatus **10**, **1210** may be used for both identification and verification purposes. In the examples described herein, however, the apparatus **10**, **1210**, utilizes the ICP algorithm to compute a match score in an identification experiment. For purposes of this experiment, the matching score is the alignment error. FIG. **13** illustrates the result of an ICP alignment of two images **1310**, **1320** scanned by the by the apparatus **10** from the same subject **20**. As shown, the two image **1310**, **1320** align well with one another, indicating, the images **1310**, **1320**, are similarly constructed.

For purposes of biometric matching experimentation, a plurality of images for multiple subjects were compared to each other using ICP. In this example, the experiment took $O(ip^2n^2)$ where i is the number of iterations in ICP, p is the average number of points in each face, and n is the number of faces. In this experiment, to compare two faces using ICP took between one and two seconds. For a sample size of 354 faces, an all-vs-all experiment took between 34 and 68 hours. To scale the all-vs-all experiment, Condor, a distributed com-

puting system was utilized. Specifically, Condor allows a user to submit jobs to a number of hosts for execution. With 300 hosts, a 354 face all-vs-all experiment took approximately 7 minutes once all the jobs were distributed. The hosts in Condor range from state-of-the-art to four-year-old computers.

Experiments were performed on three data sets acquired in two sessions detailed in Table I. Each subject **20** had between three and eight images with an average of four images. The first set of data, Set 1, was scanned by the apparatus **10** in March, 2008. The second set of data, Set 2, had the same images as Set 1 with the addition of 52 images taken in January 2008. The third set of data, Set 3, was data acquired by a MINOLTA® 910 three-dimensional scanner of the same subjects in Set 1 during the same acquisition. Each of the subjects **20** was asked to have a neutral expression.

TABLE I

Data Sets	Sensor/Time of Acquisition	Number Of Images	Number of Unique Subjects	Average Resolution (# of Points)
Set 1	March 2008	302	75	33000
Set 2	January and March 2008	354	81	38729
Set 3	Minolta March 2008	297	75	28000

As described herein, each of the produced images were cropped and centered at the origin. In this example, the images were cropped based on the ground truth nose to a predetermined crop radius from the nose. The nose of each subject **20** was found manually; however, an automated nose finding, technique could be utilized as desired. The performance as a function of the cropping radius was also investigated. Specifically, the experiment evaluated a radius cut with a range of 5 cm to 15 cm in 1 cm increments for both probe and gallery images. Some examples of an image subject to various cropping radius are in FIG. **14**. In particular, FIG. **14A** shows a produced image **1400** with a 7 cm cropping radius, FIG. **14B** shows a produced image **1410** with an 11 cm cropping radius, FIG. **14C** shows a produced image **1420** with a 15 cm cropping radius, and FIG. **14D** shows a produced image **1430** with a 20 cm cropping radius. In this experiment, the radius cut was selected to be 11 cm, and this cut was used for both the scanned image and gallery sets.

As noted above, to compare images to each other, the ICP algorithm was used to align two images and output an error value. The error value was identified as a matching score. The ICP algorithm employs two geometric sets: a fixed model shape and a data shape that is moved and oriented to minimize the alignment error. In our application, both the scanned image and the gallery image were utilized as the model shape.

In the resultant data, matching score **1** ("Method 1") is the smaller of the two matching errors obtained, and matching score **2** ("Method 2") is their product. Matching score **2** decreases the error values for true positives with respect to the error values for false positives. The data supports that the use of Method 1 and Method 2 improves rank one recognition over using only one of the two matching alignments, and illustrates that Method 2 alone performs better than Method 1 alone.

It was observed that the error values are not normalized along the range of the possible alignment errors for a gallery image. Additional, normalization improves recognition results. Therefore, to normalize the data, Err_{pg} (Equation 8) was normalized by the mean of all Err_{jk} (Equation 9) as shown in (Equation 10). This increases error values above the mean

and decreases error values below the mean, and results in the mean value for all the galleries compared to one another is equal to one.

$$[\Delta\theta\Delta\lambda\Delta\phi\Delta x\Delta y\Delta z Err_{pk}] = ICP(P, G_k) \quad \text{Equation 8}$$

where P is a scanned (probe) image, and G is a gallery image. P is best matched to G when applying $\Delta\theta \Delta\lambda \Delta\phi$ angle rotations and $\Delta x \Delta y \Delta z$ translational shifts to G.

$$[\Delta\theta\Delta\lambda\Delta\phi\Delta x\Delta y\Delta z Err_{jk}] = ICP(G_j, G_k) \quad \text{Equation 9}$$

where G_j is the j^{th} gallery image, and G_k is a gallery image.

$$Err_{pkn} = \frac{Err_{pk}}{\sum_{j=1}^L \frac{Err_{pk}}{L}} \quad \text{Equation 10}$$

where L is the total number of images in the gallery, n is for the normalized value, and p is the error for the probe.

Due to the difference in resolution between the January 2008 images the March 2008 images, results for both data sets are both significant. The recognition results decreased between the Set 1 and Set 2 because the January 2008 acquisition was the first full scale data set acquired using the apparatus **10**, and as such, there were some operator errors.

Referring to Table II, the recognition results are for two types of experiments: one gallery image per subject (1 G/s) and two gallery images per subject (2 G/s). The results from the experiment are given as root mean square ("RMS") errors between the scanned image and the gallery image, and these error results are to be refereed to as the raw results because these values have not been treated with Method 1 or Method 2, and they have not been normalized.

Normalization was found to improve our recognition results as well as Method 1 and Method 2 as reported in Table II. The addition of the January 2008 acquisition to the March 2008 data forming data Set 2 results in a decrease in the maximum rank one recognition rate, which we have determined is due to a change in resolution.

TABLE II

THE BEST RANK-ONE RECOGNITION ACROSS ALL SETS AND METHODS					
Set 1	Without Normalization	With Normalization	Set 2	Without Normalization	With Normalization
Raw Err 1 G/S	63.2%	73.7%	Raw Err 1 G/S	54.2%	66.7%
Raw Err 2 G/S	77.9%	87.7%	Raw Err 2 G/S	69.8%	78.6%
Method 1 1 G/S	62.3%	70.6%	Method 1 1 G/S	54.2%	64.8%
Method 1 2 G/S	77.9%	83.1%	Method 1 2 G/S	69.3%	75.5%
Method 2 1 G/S	74.6%	77.6%	Method 2 1 G/S	68.1%	71.1%
Method 2 2 G/S	83.8%	89.6%	Method 2 2 G/S	74.0%	78.1%

In another example, the apparatus **10**, **1210** may capture height information regarding the subject **20**, which allows for a soft biometric to help in recognition. For example, any of the detectors **14**, and/or the velocity sensor **16** can be utilized to determine a range corresponding to the height of the subject by converting the captured image into a fixed coordinate system, such as, for instance, the Cartesian coordinate system

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18. Accordingly, the determined height interval may be used to narrow the potential biometric matches, when height data is available. In one experiment, the height interval was utilized as a soft biometric where an image was only compared to images of subjects whose height was within an interval. It was found for the normalized results of Method 2 were improved to 91.6% as compared to 89.6%.

In yet another example, the apparatus 10, 1210 may include an addition biometric detector(s) to improve recognition, such as, for example, an iris scanner. One example scanner is the IRIS ON THE MOVE® (IOM) iris scanner. The iris biometric data may similarly be combined with the produced three-dimensional image to narrow the potential biometric matches, when iris data is available.

Although certain example methods and apparatus have been described herein, the scope of coverage of this patent is not limited thereto. On the contrary, this patent covers all methods, apparatus and articles of manufacture fairly falling within the scope of the appended claims either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

We claim:

1. A three-dimensional imaging apparatus comprising:
at least one planar light screen;
at least one projection detector having a detection axis offset from at the least one planar light screen, the at least one projection detector optically adapted to detect the instantaneous projection of the at least one planar light screen, and to output projection data;
at least one relative motion detector having a detection axis offset from the plane of motion, the relative motion detector adapted to detect motion in at least two axes, and further adapted to output relative motion data;
a processor adapted to acquire at least the projection data and the relative motion data;
wherein the processor is further adapted to use an object tracking algorithm to determine the instantaneous velocity from the relative motion data to generate three-dimensional image data.
2. A three-dimensional imaging apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the at least one relative motion detector is a camera.
3. A three-dimensional imaging apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the at least one projection detector is a camera.
4. A three-dimensional imaging apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the processor utilizes triangulation to produce the three-dimensional image data.
5. A three-dimensional imaging apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein a Cartesian coordinate system is referenced coplanar to the at least one planar light screen, and wherein at least one projection detector is calibrated to convert the output data to the Cartesian coordinate system.
6. A three-dimensional imaging apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the at least one relative motion detector is a plurality of relative motion detectors, collectively adapted to detect rotation about at least one axis.
7. A three-dimensional imaging apparatus as defined in claim 1, including a second planar light screen, wherein the second planar light screen is substantially perpendicular to the first planar light screen.

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8. A three-dimensional imaging apparatus as defined in claim 1, including a second planar light screen.

9. A three-dimensional imaging apparatus as defined in claim 1, further comprising a height detector adapted to detect a height of the object proximate the first planar light screen, and adapted to output height data corresponding to the detected height.

10. A three-dimensional imaging apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the processor is further adapted to biometrically match at least a portion of the generated three dimensional image data with at least a portion of at least one three-dimensional image.

11. A three-dimensional imaging apparatus as defined in claim 10, wherein the three dimensional image is a face.

12. A three-dimensional imaging apparatus as defined in claim 1, further comprising a supplemental biometric detector adapted to detect at least one biometric characteristic.

13. A three-dimensional imaging apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein the supplemental biometric detector is an iris detector, a two dimensional face detector, a two dimensional ear detector, or a three dimensional ear detector.

14. A three-dimensional imaging apparatus as defined in claim 10, wherein the processor utilized triangulation to create the three-dimensional image data.

15. A three-dimensional imaging apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the processor renders the three-dimensional image data to a display.

16. A three-dimensional imaging apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the first detector is offset from the plane perpendicular to the first planar light screen in a first direction, and wherein a second detector is offset from the plane perpendicular to the first planar light screen in a second direction, different from the first direction.

17. A method of generating a three-dimensional image of an object comprising:

- creating at least one planar light screen;
- detecting the projection of the at least one planar light screen upon the object;
- outputting data corresponding to the detected projection from the at least one planar light screen;
- determining the velocity along at least two axes of the object relative to the light screen using an object tracking algorithm;
- creating at least one three-dimensional image data output by combining at least the velocity with data from at least one planar light screen.

18. The method of generating a three-dimensional image of an object as defined in claim 17, wherein at least a portion of the generated three dimensional image data is compared with at least a portion of at least a second three-dimensional image.

19. The method of generating a three-dimensional image of an object as defined in claim 18, wherein the three dimensional image is a face.

20. The method of generating a three-dimensional image of an object as defined in claim 17, further comprising rendering the three-dimensional image data to a display.

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