CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   An image depth augmentation method for providing three-dimensional views of a two-dimensional image comprising:

assigning depth information from a depth map to areas in a first image captured from a first
   viewpoint;

enlarging foreground objects to cover empty background areas based on an offset distance to a
   second viewpoint;

regenerating said first image with foreground objects enlarged; and,

generating a second image at said second viewpoint displaced by said offset distance with
   respect to said first image comprising said foreground objects that have been enlarged to
   yield a pair of offset images for three-dimensional viewing wherein said empty
   background areas are covered in said second image.

ABSTRACT

[0057] Image depth augmentation system and method for providing three-dimensional views from a two-dimensional image. Depth information is assigned by the system to areas of a first image via a depth map. Foreground objects are enlarged to cover empty areas in the background as seen from a second viewpoint at an offset distance from a first viewpoint of the first image. The enlarged objects are used to regenerate the first image and to generate the second image so that empty background areas are covered with the enlarged foreground objects. The resulting image pair may be viewed using any type of three-dimensional encoding and viewing apparatus. Can use existing masks from non-3D projects to perform depth augmentation and dither mask edges to provide for realistic soft edges for depth augmented objects.
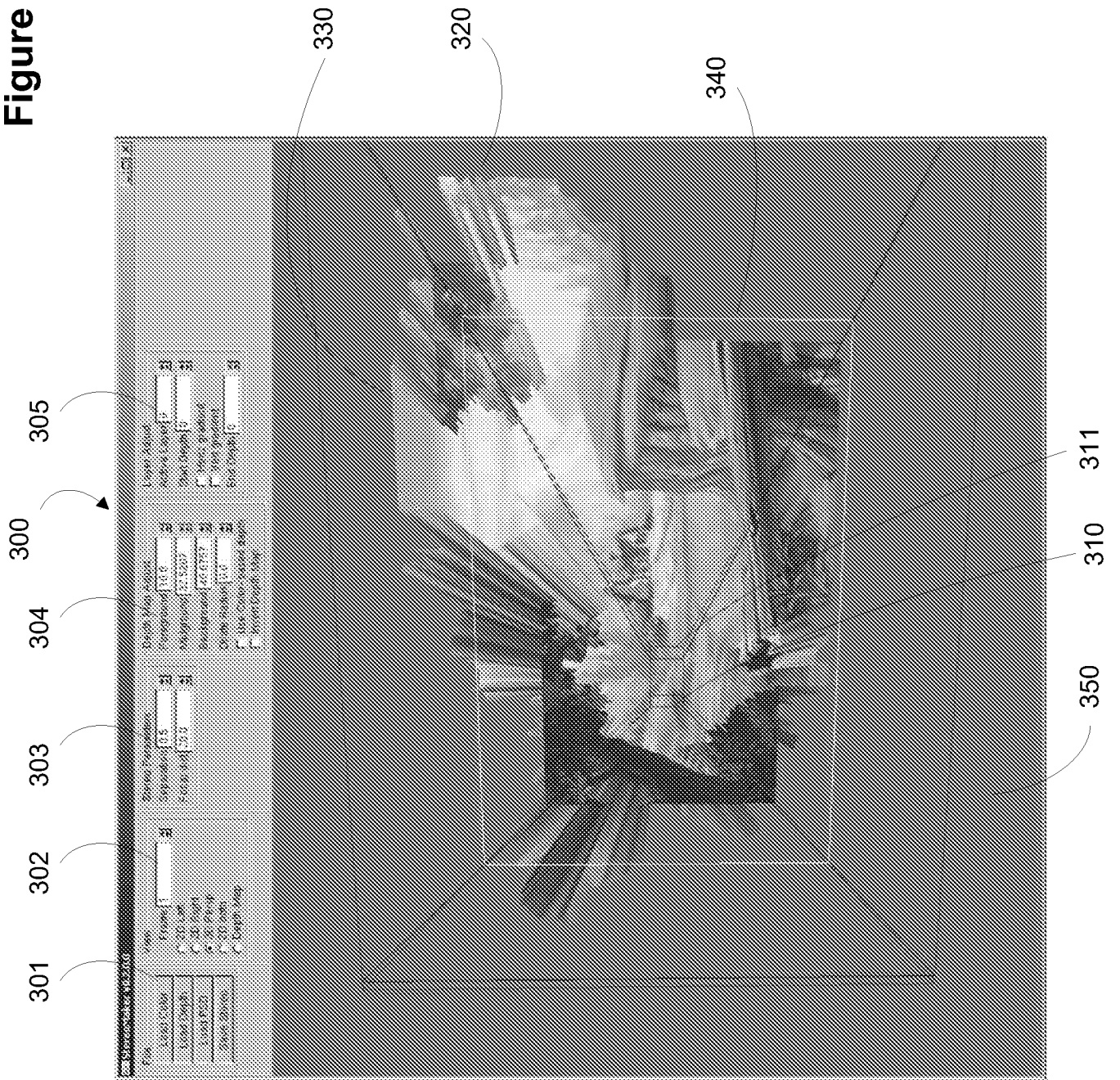
Figure 1

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Figure 2

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Figure 3

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