



(12) **United States Patent**
Edelsbrunner et al.

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(54) **METHODS OF GENERATING THREE-DIMENSIONAL DIGITAL MODELS OF OBJECTS BY WRAPPING POINT CLOUD DATA POINTS**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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(21) Appl. No.: **09/248,587**

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Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 60/074,415, filed on Feb. 11, 1998.

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(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **G06F 19/00**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **700/98; 703/2; 345/419**

(58) **Field of Search** 700/98, 97, 117, 700/118, 119, 120, 182; 345/419, 420; 703/2

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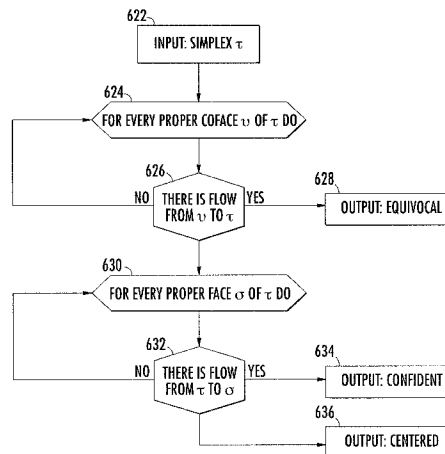
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method of automatic conversion of a physical object into a three-dimensional digital model. The method acquires a set of measured data points on the surface of a physical model. From the measured data points, the method reconstructs a digital model of the physical object using a Delaunay complex of the points, a flow structure of the simplicies in the Delaunay complex and retracting the Delaunay complex into a digital model of the physical object using the flow structure. The method then outputs the digital model of the physical object.

30 Claims, 19 Drawing Sheets



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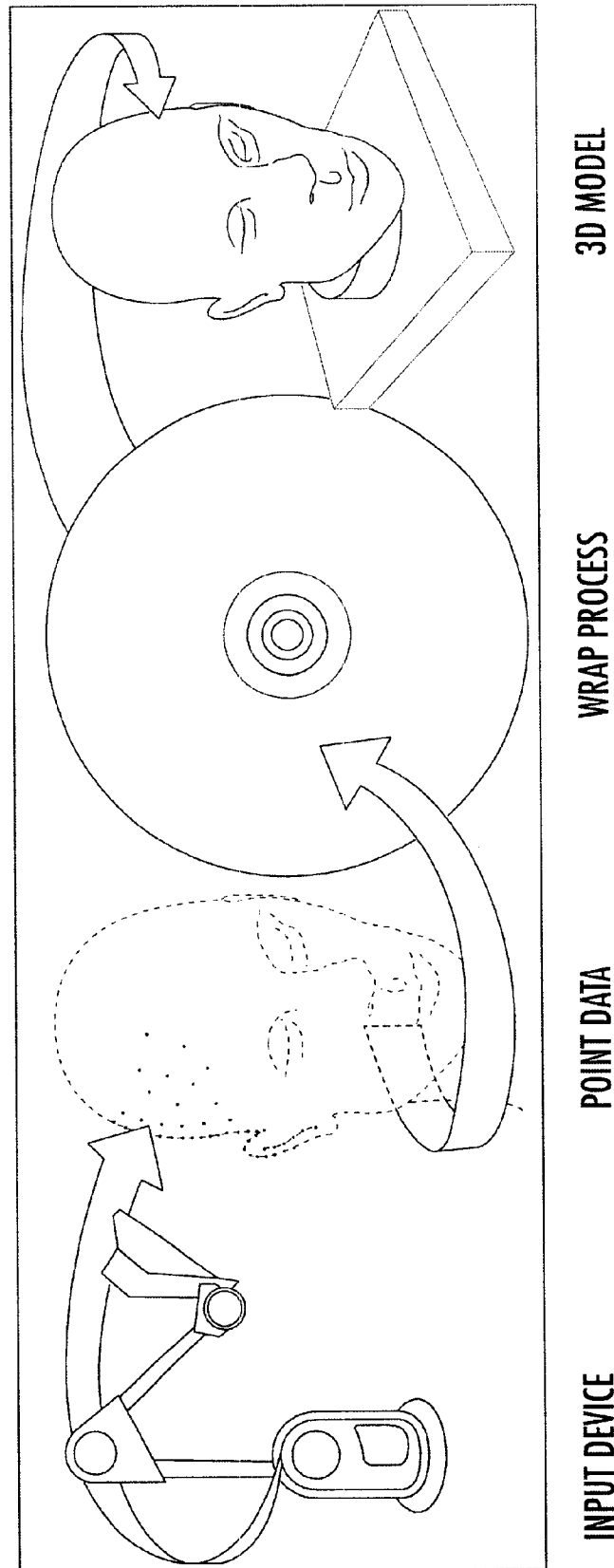
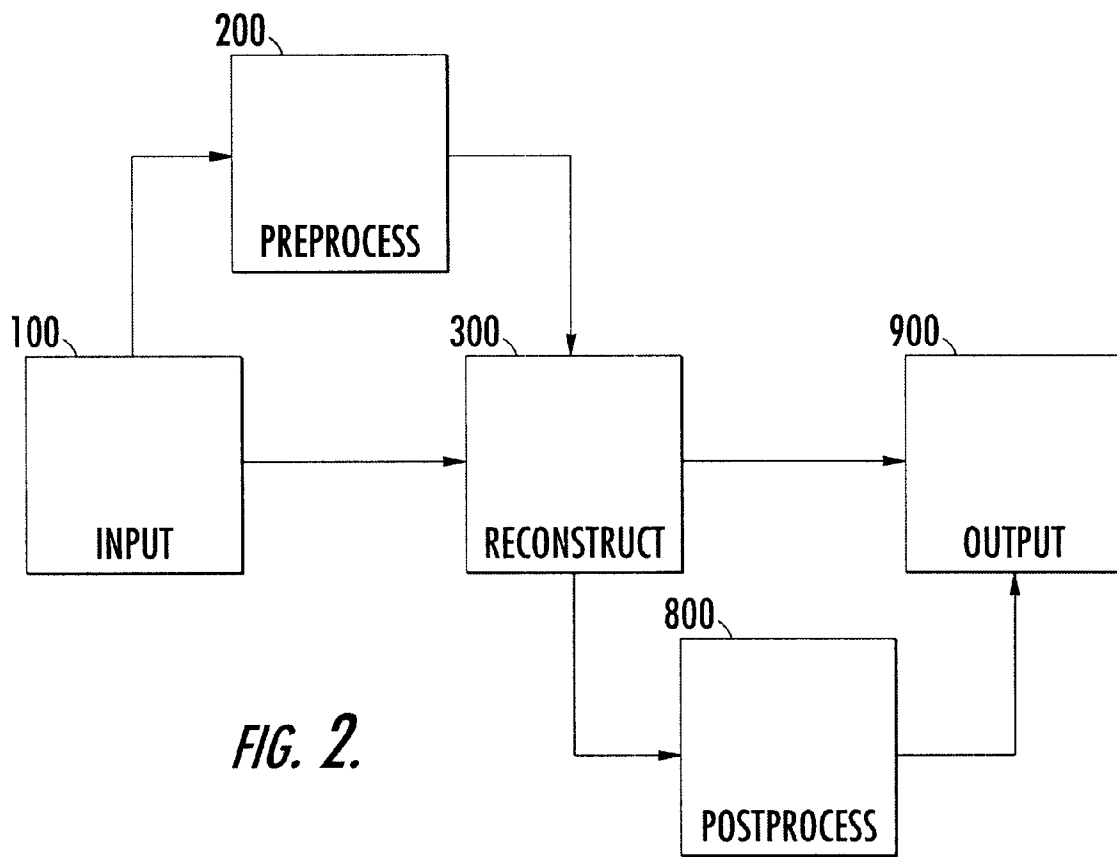


FIG. 1.



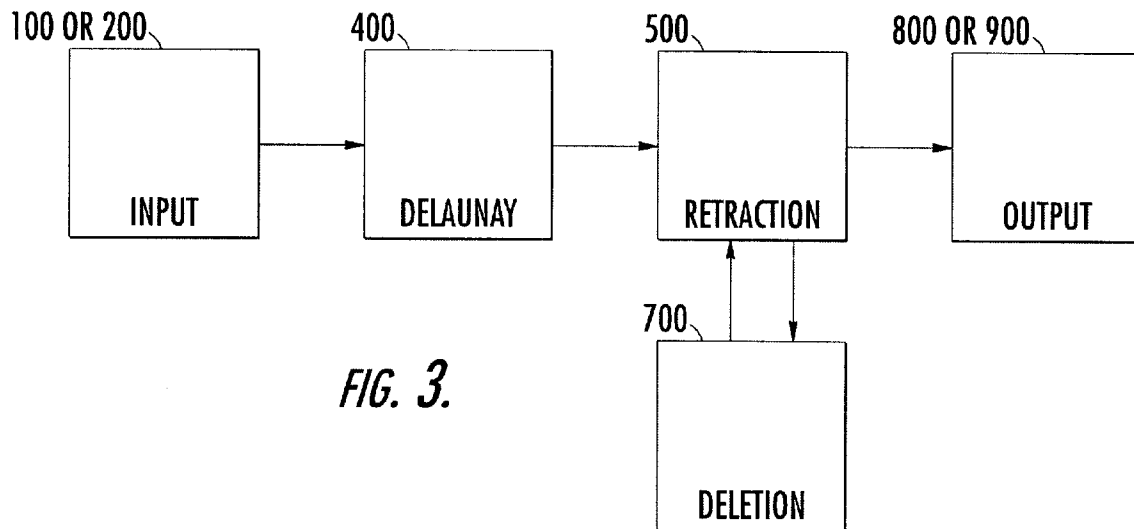


FIG. 3.

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