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(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR VISUALLY SUMMARIZING AND INTERACTIVELY BROWSING HIERARCHICALLY STRUCTURED DIGITAL OBJECTS**

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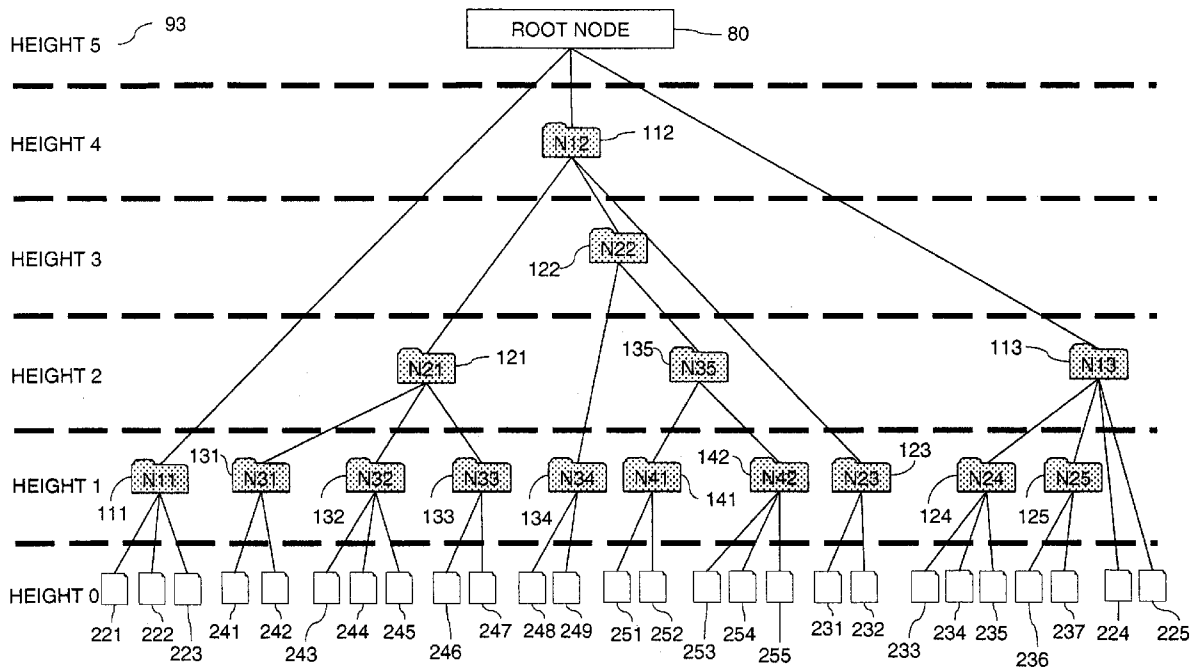
(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A system and method of visually summarizing a hierarchically structured set of digital objects and for facilitating efficient access to such objects through the selection of representative summary objects. These digital objects are typically media objects such as digital image files, digital video clips, digital audio objects, such as "MP3" files, or other digital documents, such as text documents, that can be collected by a user and distributed over a variety of storage media and storage locations.

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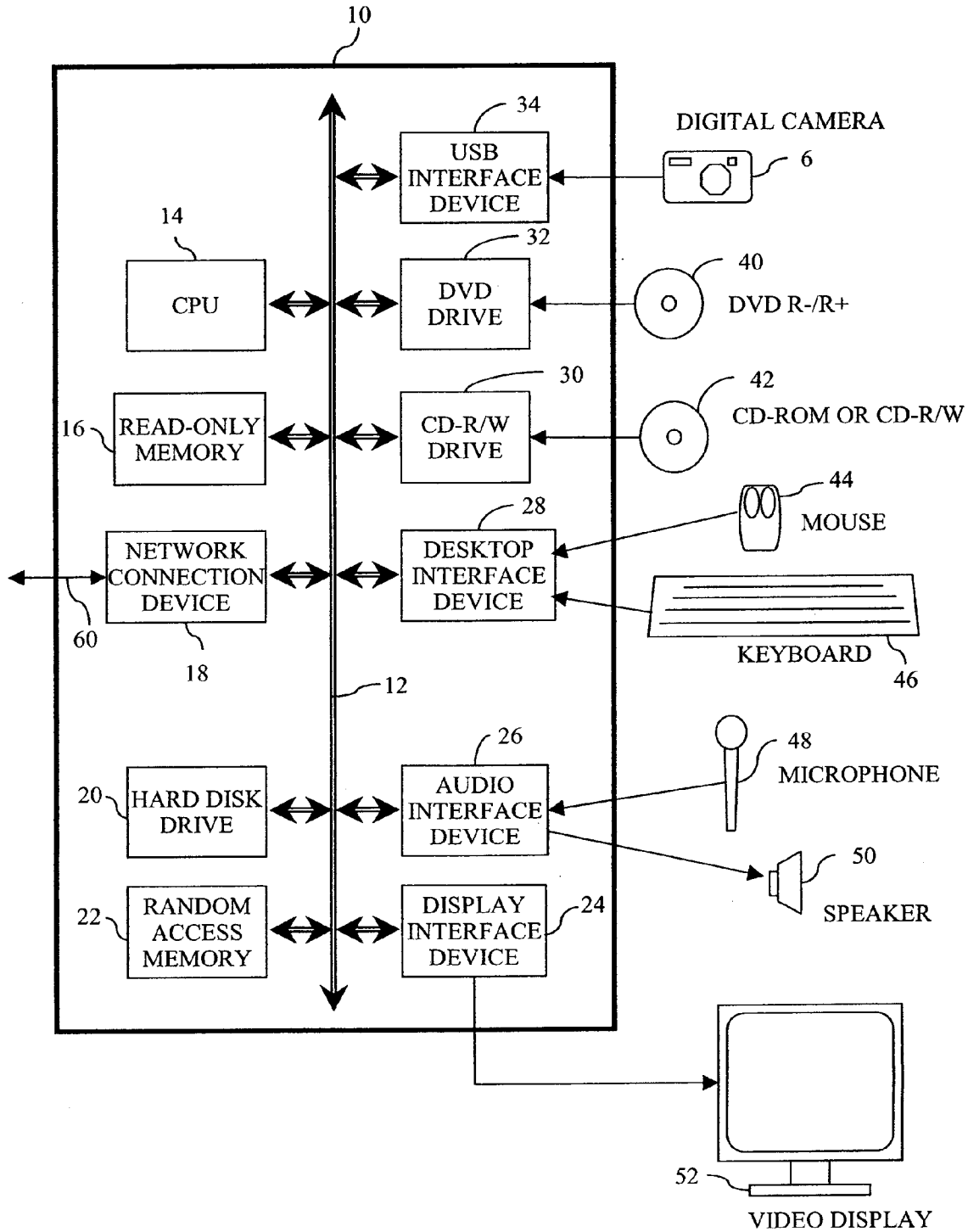


FIG. 1

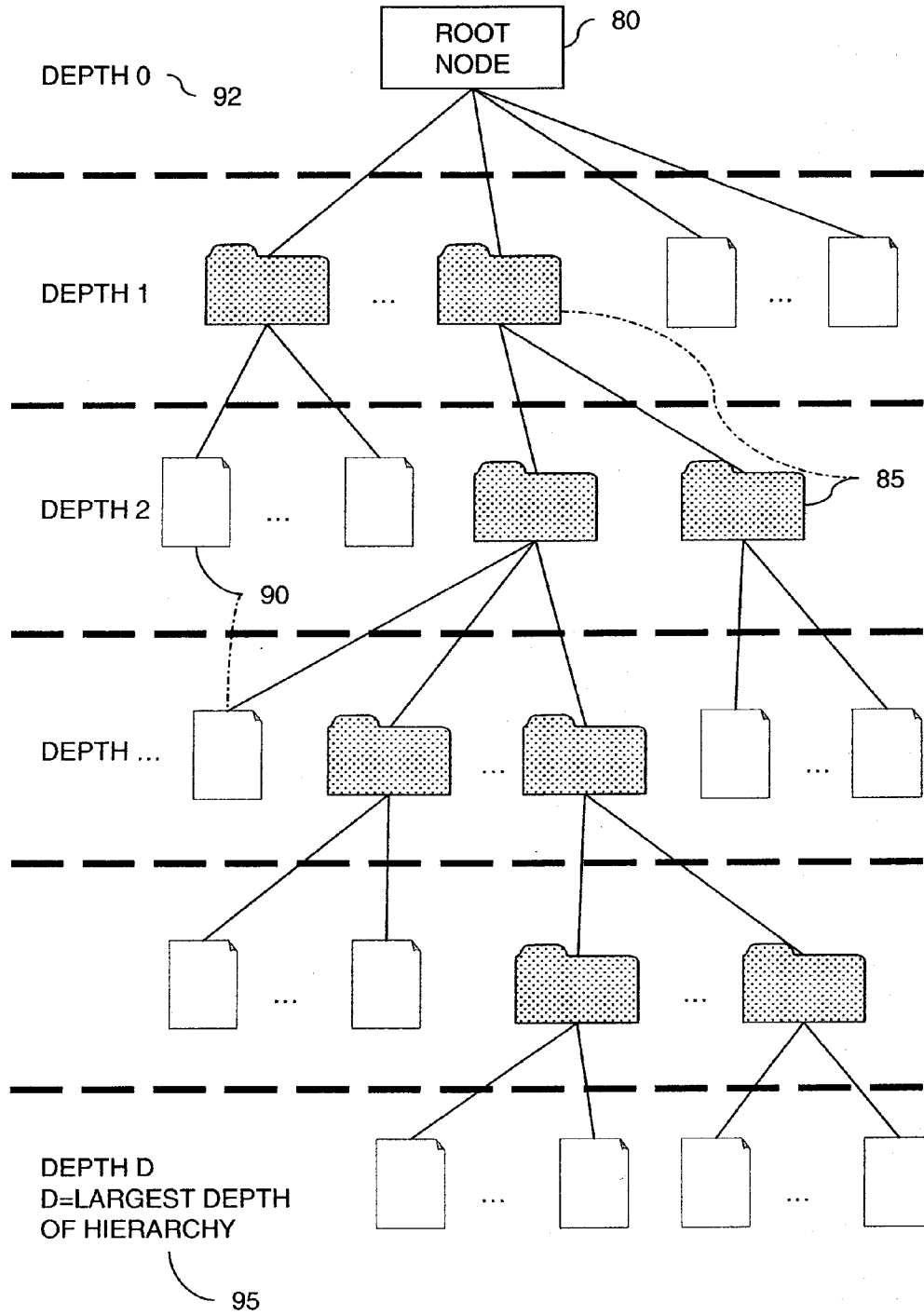


FIG. 2

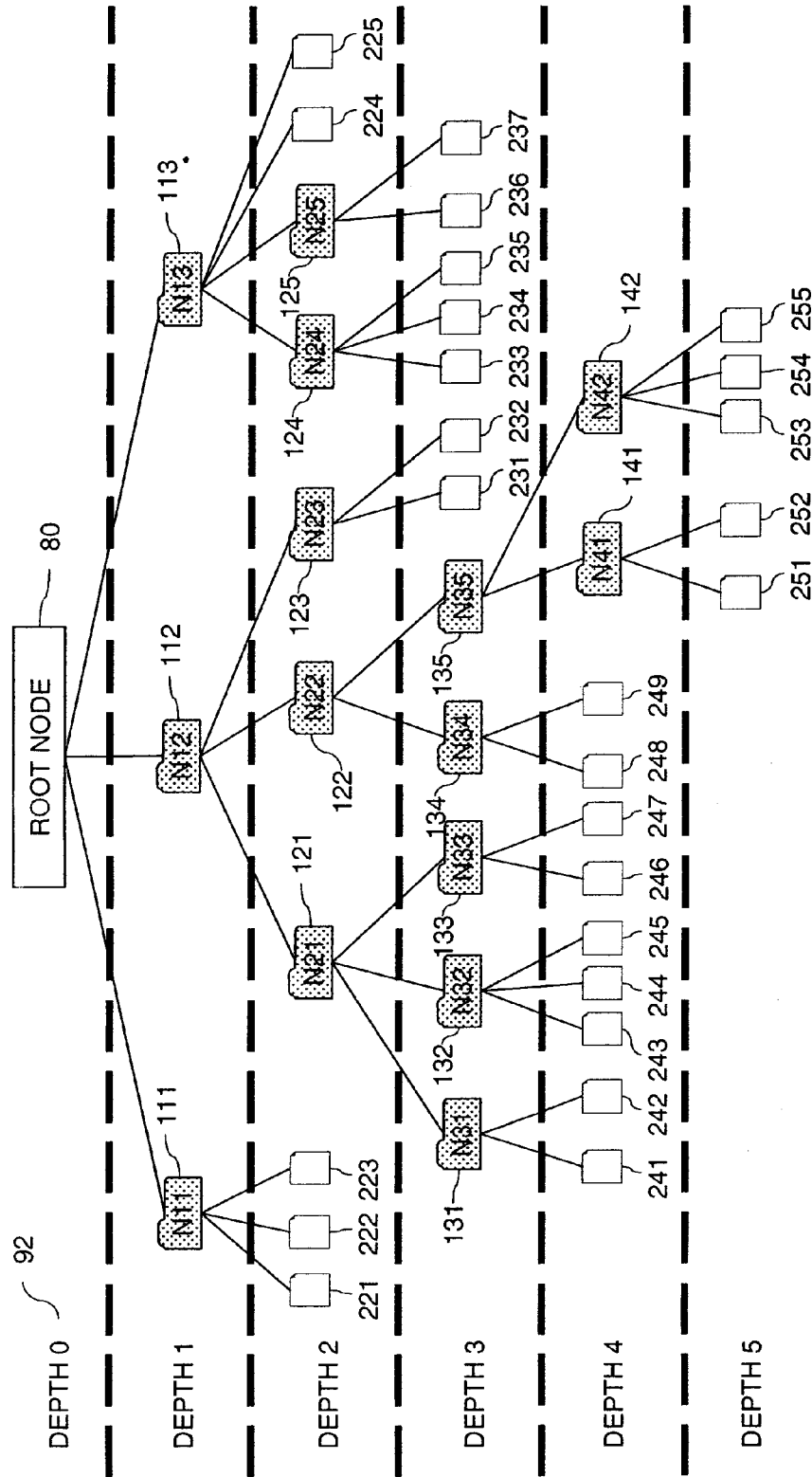


FIG. 3

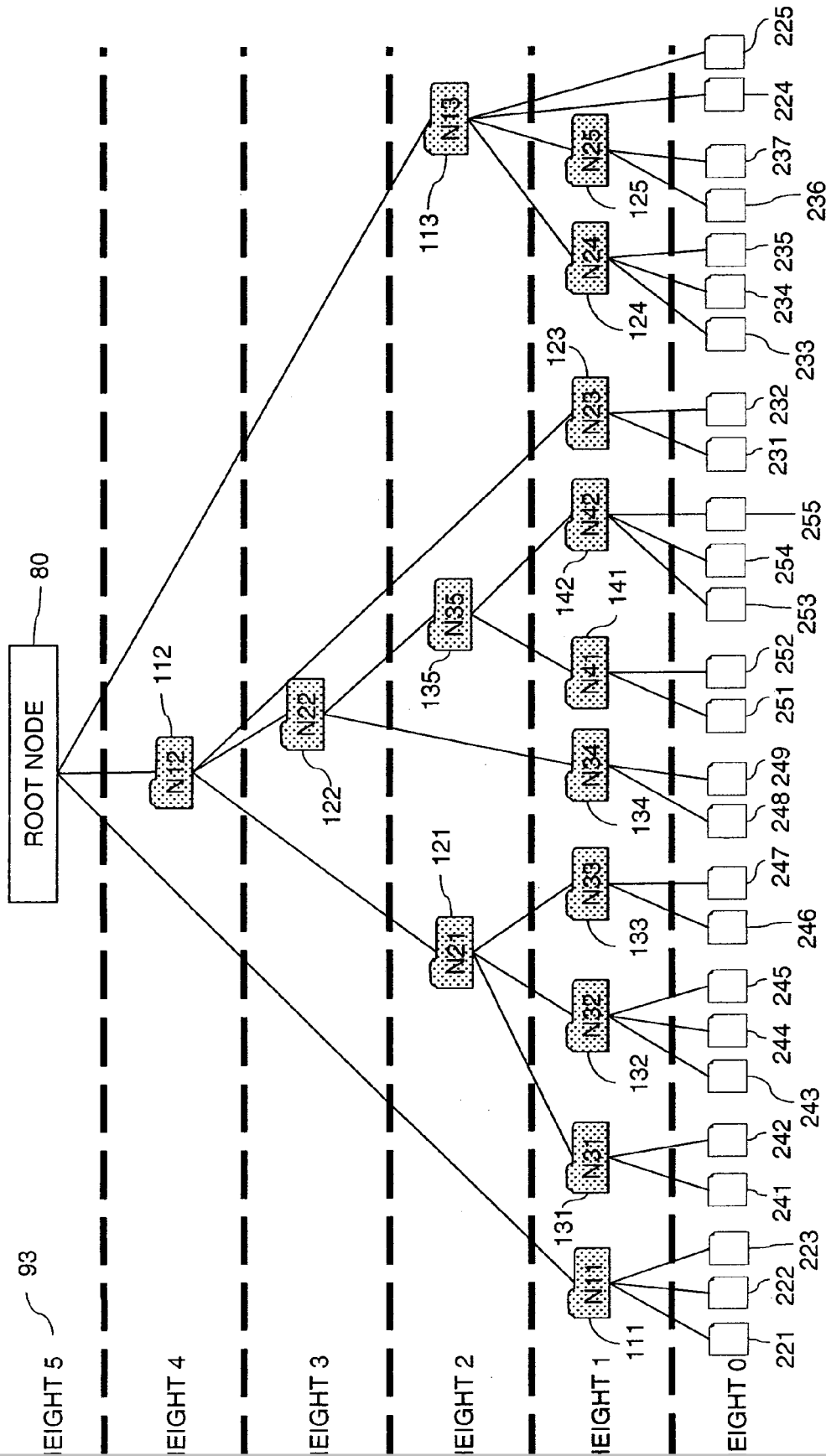


FIG. 4

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