



US009316495B2

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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,316,495 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Apr. 19, 2016**

(54) **DISTANCE MEASUREMENT APPARATUS**

(56) **References Cited**

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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 308 days.

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(21) Appl. No.: **13/962,196**

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(22) Filed: **Aug. 8, 2013**

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U.S. Appl. No. 13/930,030, filed Jun. 28, 2013.
U.S. Appl. No. 13/909,340, filed Jun. 4, 2013.

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2014/0071428 A1 Mar. 13, 2014

(Continued)

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Sep. 13, 2012 (JP) 2012-201054

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(51) **Int. Cl.**

G01C 3/08	(2006.01)
G01S 17/00	(2006.01)
G01S 7/484	(2006.01)
G01S 7/486	(2006.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A distance measurement apparatus that measures distance to a target by irradiating the target with laser beams and detecting light reflected by the target includes a light projection unit. The distance measurement apparatus also includes a plurality of light emission units to emit a plurality of laser beams onto the target while setting optical paths of the plurality of laser beams radially along a given virtual plane; and a light receiving unit including a plurality of light receivers to receive the plurality of laser beams projected from the light projection unit and reflected by the target.

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

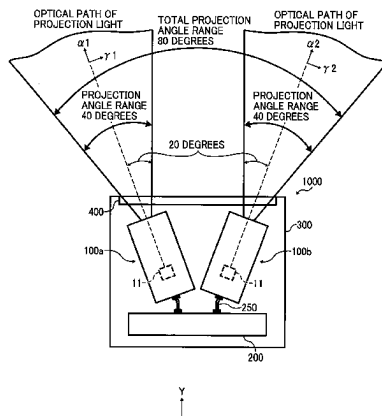
CPC . **G01C 3/08** (2013.01); **G01S 7/484** (2013.01);
G01S 7/4863 (2013.01); **G01S 17/00** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC **G01S 17/02**; **G01S 17/10**; **G01S 7/4811**
USPC 356/3.01-5.15

See application file for complete search history.

16 Claims, 16 Drawing Sheets



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FIG. 1

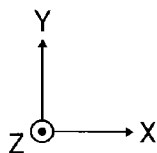
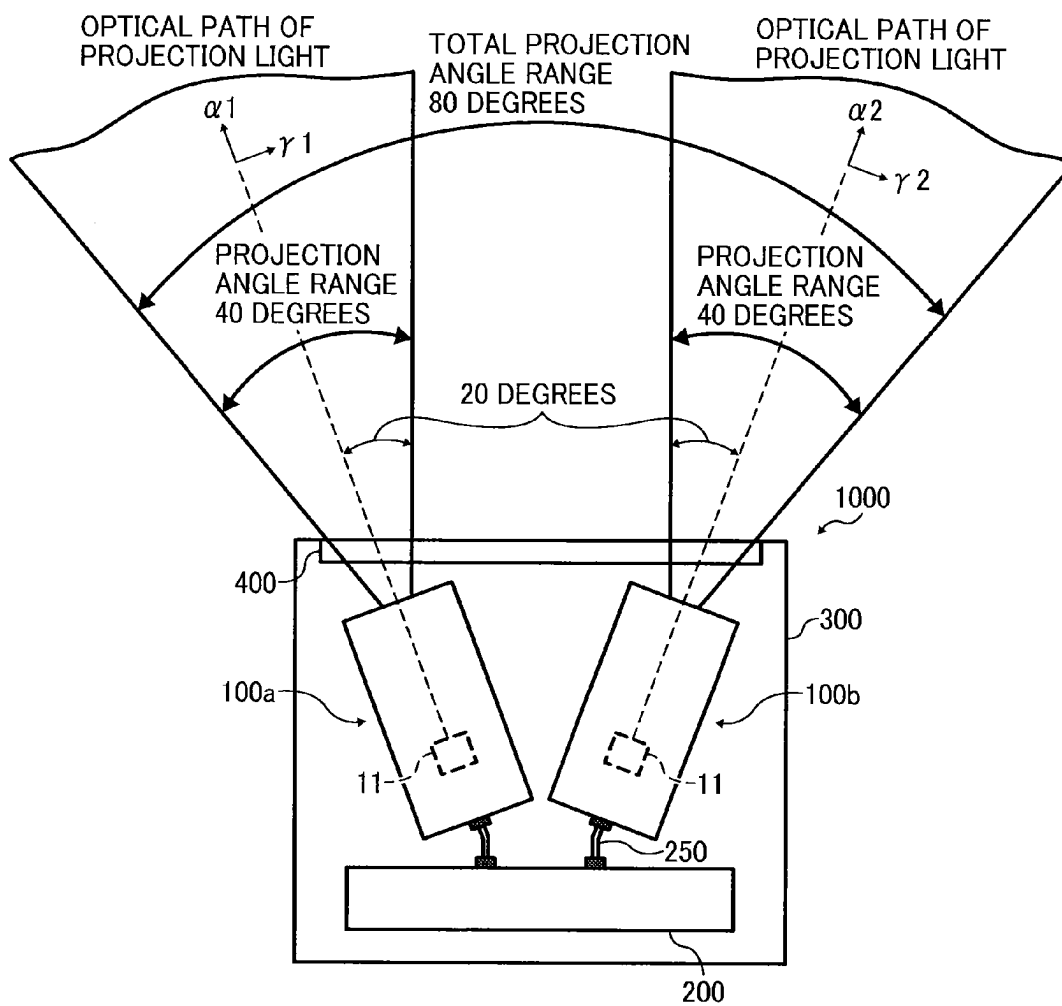


FIG. 2

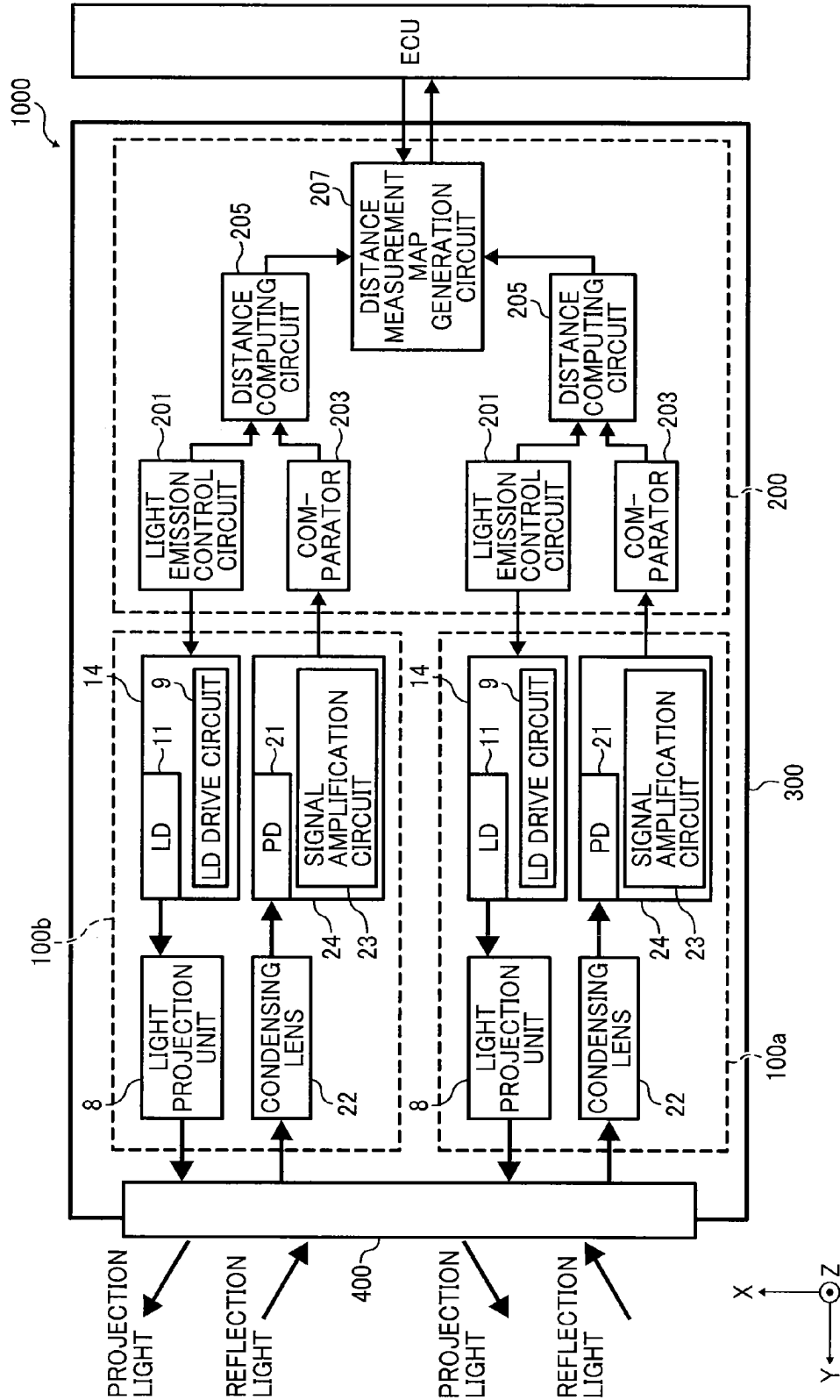
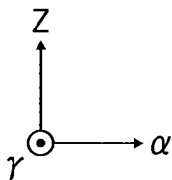
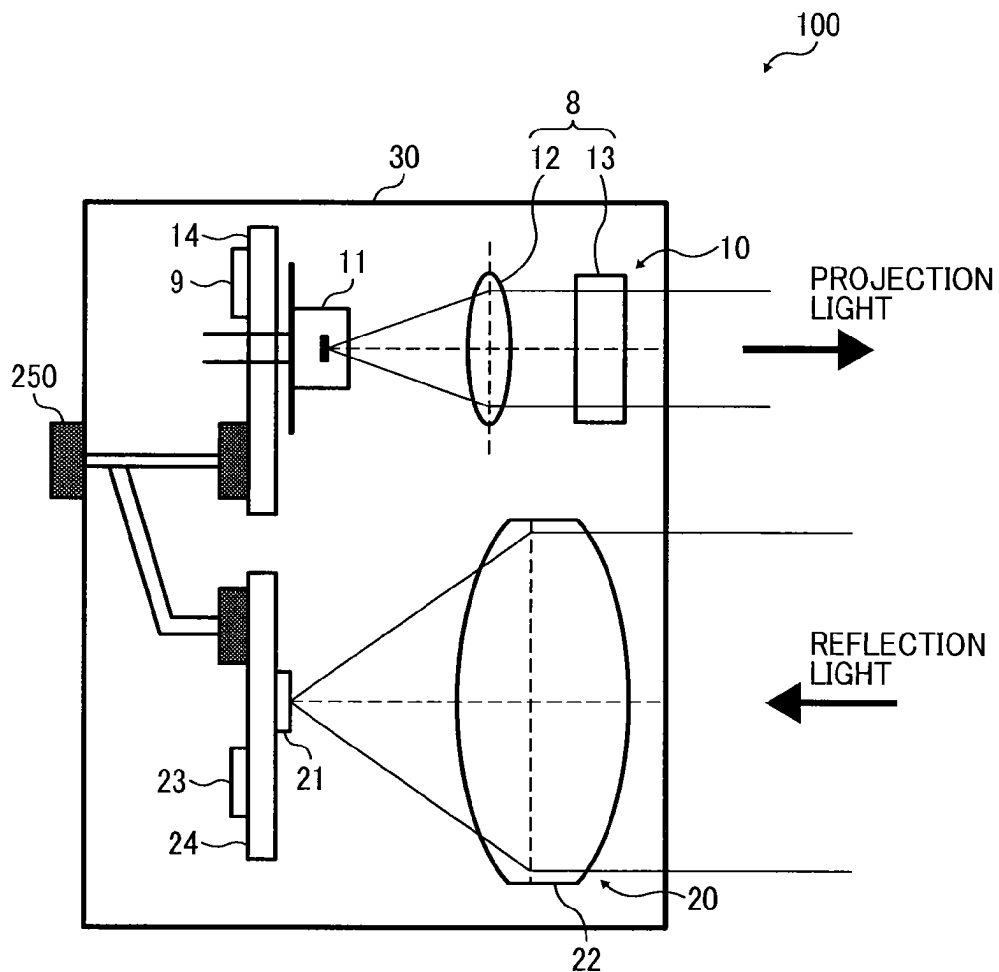


FIG. 3



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