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(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANIPULATING TWO-DIMENSIONAL WINDOWS WITHIN A THREE-DIMENSIONAL DISPLAY MODEL**

(52) U.S. Cl. 345/157

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(76) Inventor: **Hideya Kawahara**, Mountain View, CA (US)

One embodiment of the present invention provides a system that facilitates manipulating a 2D window within a three-dimensional (3D) display model. During operation, the system receives an input from a 2D pointing device, wherein the input specifies a 2D offset within a 2D display, and wherein the 2D display provides a view into the 3D display model. Next, the system uses the 2D offset to move a cursor to a position in the 2D display, and then determines if the cursor overlaps a window within the 3D display model. If so, the system determines a 2D position of the cursor with respect to a 2D coordinate system for the window, and communicates this 2D position to an application associated with the window. This enables a user of the 2D pointing device to interact with the application.

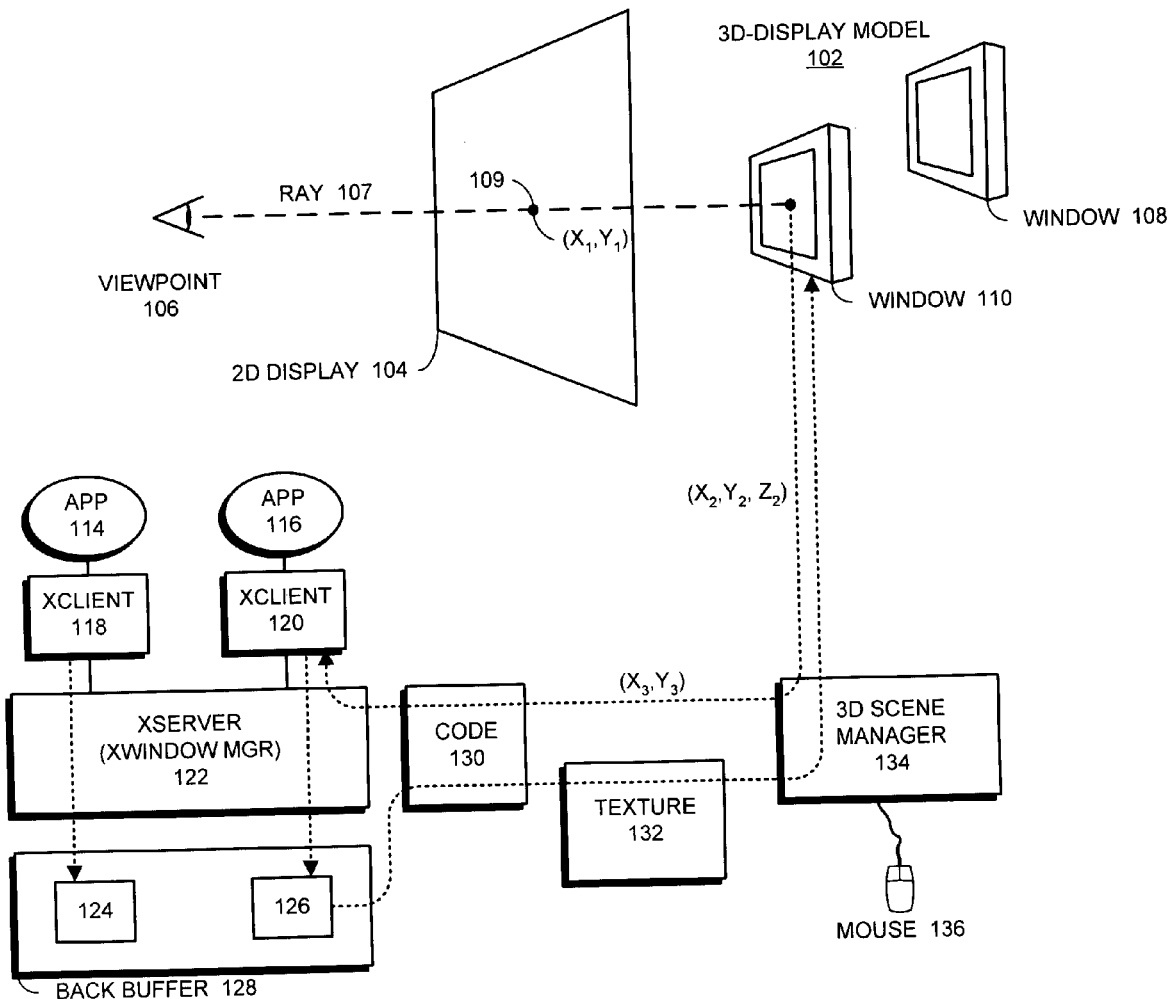
Correspondence Address:
 c/o A. RICHARD PARK, REG. NO. 41241
 PARK, VAUGHAN & FLEMING LLP
 2820 FIFTH STREET
 DAVIS, CA 95616 (US)

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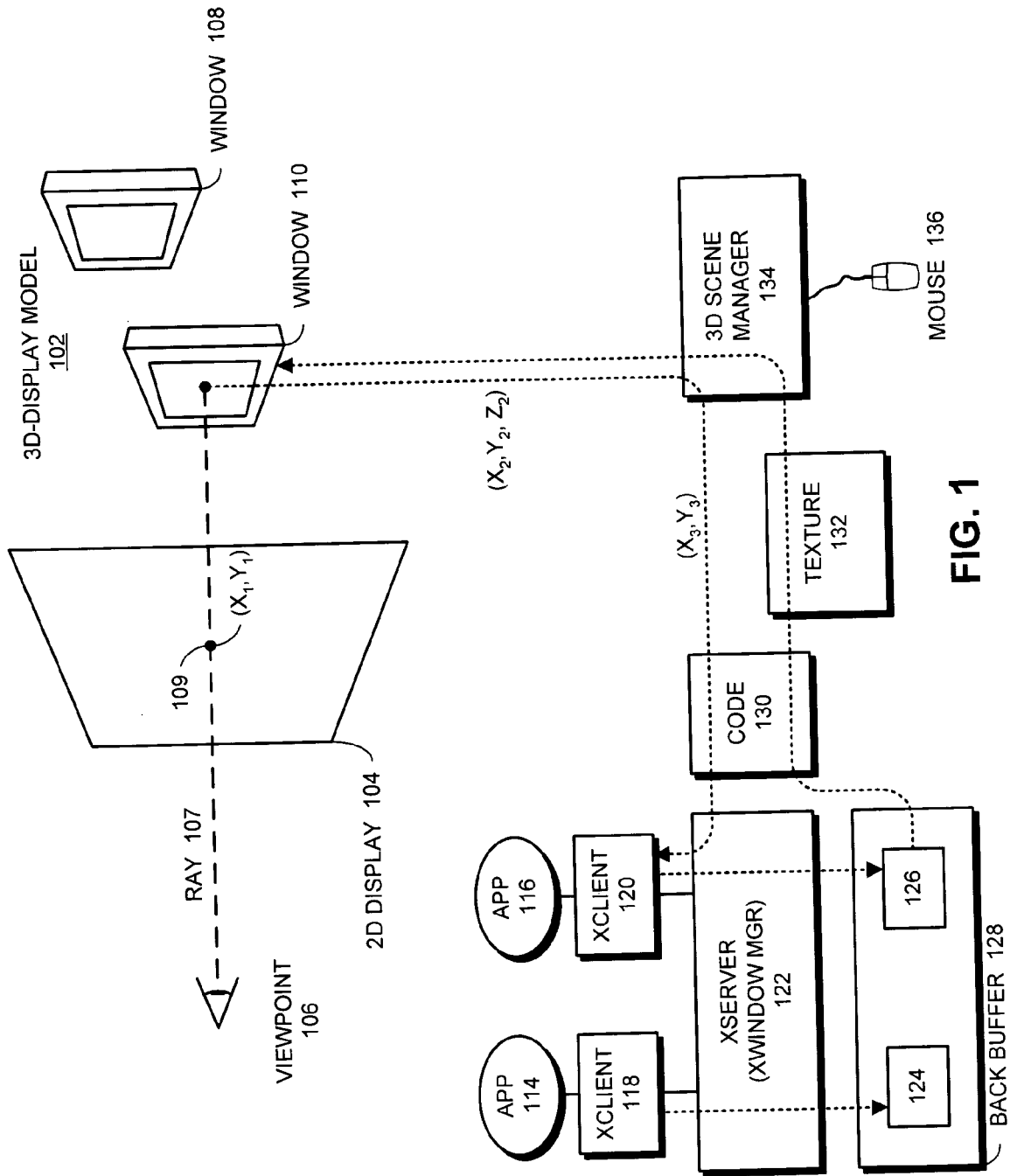


FIG. 1

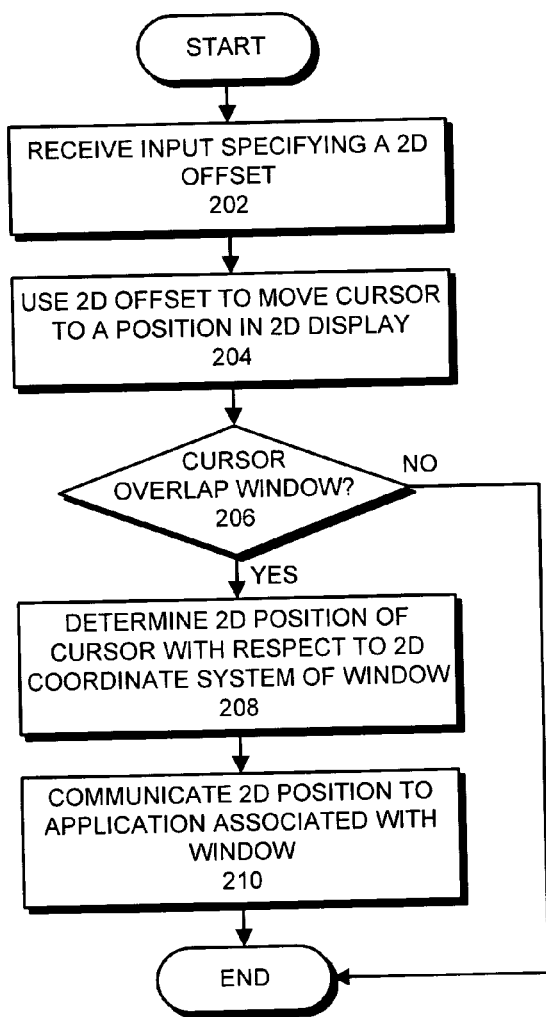


FIG. 2

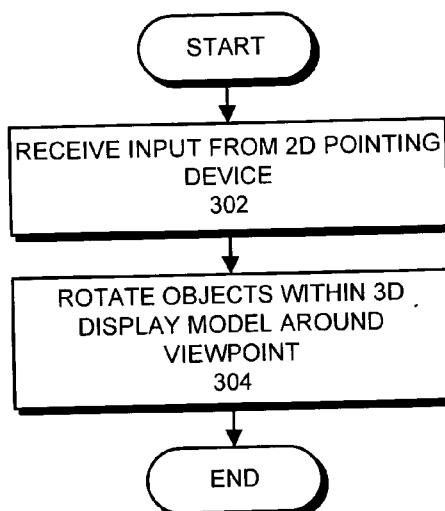


FIG. 3

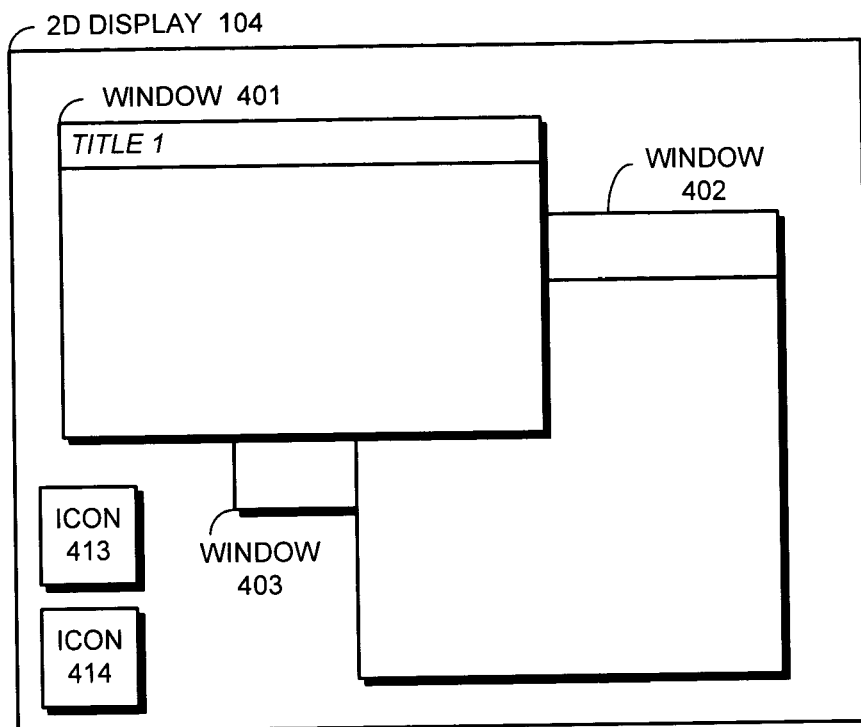


FIG. 4A

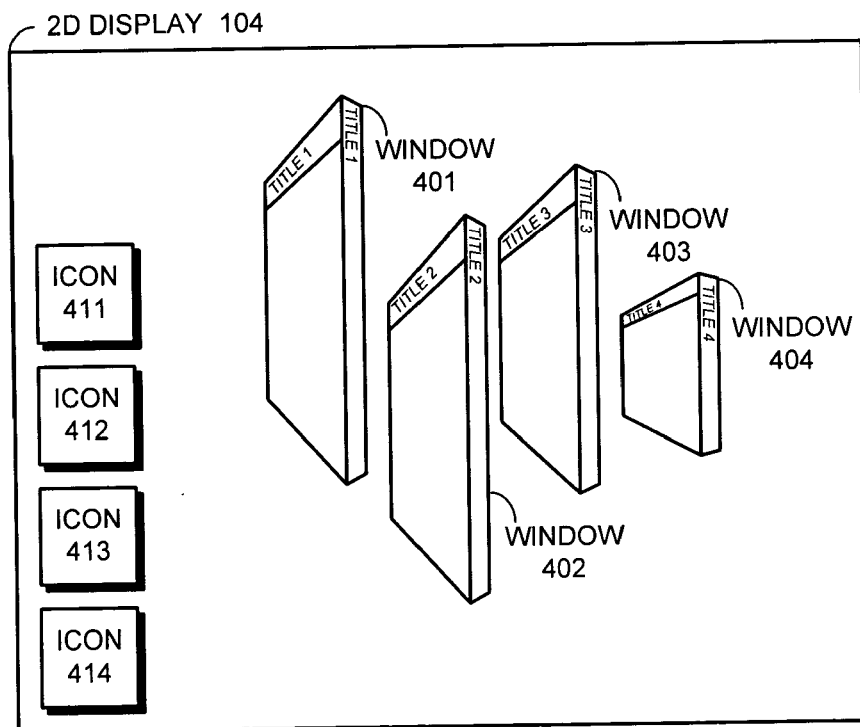


FIG. 4B

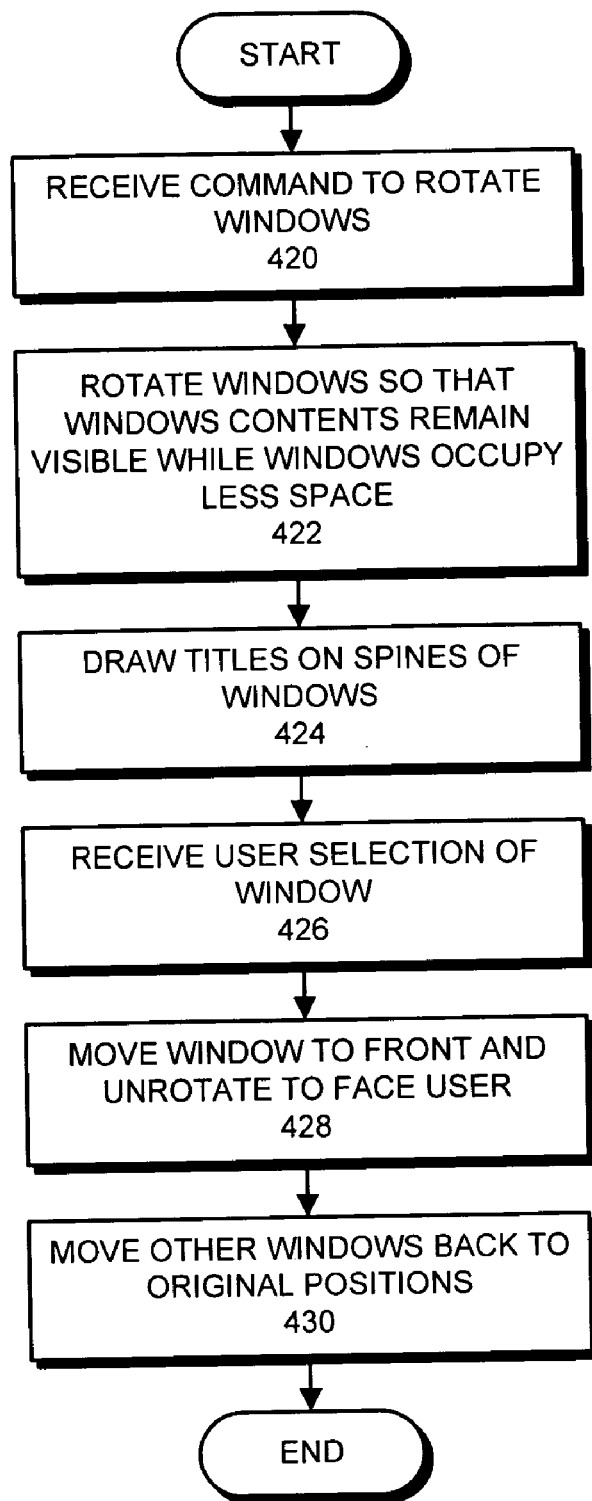


FIG. 4C

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