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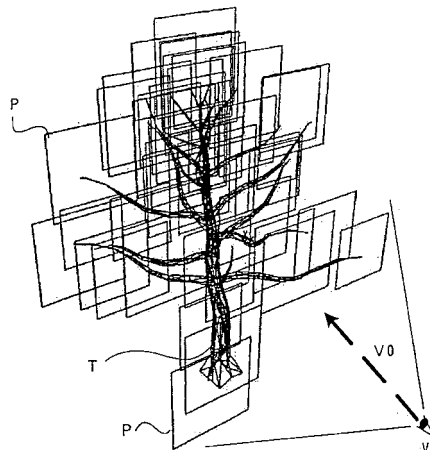
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(54) **Image processing unit, game machine, image processing method, and recording medium**

(57) An image processing unit is provided that is configured so that it can display one or more objects deployed in virtual space and a character established so that it can move relative to such object or objects. A processing unit is comprised that is configured so that, when a character has met a certain condition (such as entering or leaving a building) relative to an object (the building), of the display elements configuring an object deployed in an area related to the movement of the character, the display density of at least some specific display elements (such as a wall existing in front of the building) can be gradually altered. It is possible, with such processing, to provide roll-playing games that feature a high sense of realism.

Fig. 14



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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	MAX N ET AL: "Rendering trees from precomputed z-buffer views" RENDERING TECHNIQUES '95. PROCEEDINGS OF THE EUROGRAPHICS WORKSHOP SPRINGER-VERLAG WIEN, AUSTRIA, 1995, pages 74-81 , 359, XP002377741 ISBN: 3-211-82733-1	1-3,5	INV. G06T15/00
Y	page 2, first full para. -----	1-3,5	
Y	KUWAHARA N ET AL: "A METHOD FOR DISPLAYING VIRTUAL SPACES OF NATURAL SCENES EMPLOYING FRACTAL-BASED SHAPE DATA SIMPLIFICATION AND VISUAL PROPERTIES" IEICE TRANSACTIONS ON INFORMATION AND SYSTEMS, INFORMATION & SYSTEMS SOCIETY, TOKYO, JP, vol. E79-D, no. 6, 1 June 1996 (1996-06-01), pages 781-791, XP000595185 ISSN: 0916-8532 * page 786 - page 788; figures 10,11 *	1-3,5	
X	BLOOMENTHAL J: "Modeling the mighty maple" COMPUTER GRAPHICS USA, vol. 19, no. 3, July 1985 (1985-07), pages 305-311, XP002377742 ISSN: 0097-8930	11,20	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) G06T
A	* page 309 - page 310 * -----	12-14	
A	EP 0 778 548 A (SEGA ENTERPRISES, LTD) 11 June 1997 (1997-06-11) * figures 15,16 * ----- -/--	1-5, 11-14	
-The present search report has been drawn up for all claims-			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 20 April 2006	Examiner Meinl, W
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
A	<p>WEBER J ET AL: "Creation and rendering of realistic trees" COMPUTER GRAPHICS PROCEEDINGS. SIGGRAPH 95 ACM NEW YORK, NY, USA, 1995, pages 119-128, XP002377743 ISBN: 0-89791-701-4 * page 122 - page 124 * -----</p>		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 20 April 2006	Examiner Meinl, W
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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**CLAIMS INCURRING FEES**

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:
- 1-5, 11-14, 18, 20, 23



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-5, 11-14, 18, 20, 23

Tree modelling and rendering using textured polygons.

2. claims: 6-10,19

Gradually modifying the density of a self-contained object when a player character enters; this aspect corresponds to the first claimed and searched invention of the parent application.

3. claims: 15-17,21,22

Shadowing

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 06 07 5264

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

20-04-2006

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		US 6514142 B1	04-02-2003

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82