

obtained from an image source, such as from memory coupled with the IPD. The correspondence of image pixels with the next M screen positions are not necessarily one-to-one. For example, one image pixel may cover and correspond to multiple screen positions, depending on the resolution of the image to be displayed. The obtained image is then projected by the IPD onto one or more of the M screen positions. In one embodiment, the next M screen positions are determined on a continuous basis, for example, using another sliding window with a width of M. The process terminates at block 892. Additional process details are described below with respect to FIG. 8B.

[0143] FIG. 8B shows a flow diagram of one embodiment of a process of generating an image with the IPD of FIG. 1. With reference to FIGS. 1 and 8, the overall process of generating an image using an IPD starts at block 800 and proceeds to block 805 where tracer beam 122 pulses are projected onto screen 114. As discussed above, tracer beam 122 may be IR pulses that are projected in parallel with combined image beam 120 onto screen 114 and subsequently detected by detector 112. Tracer beam 122 is used to predict the next screen position on the current scan line being swept across screen 114 by scanner 110. The process proceeds to block 810.

[0144] At block 810, detector 112 is used to detect tracer beam 122 pulses, and provide the raw data and/or preprocessed data associated with the pulses to processor 116. In one embodiment, a sliding window algorithm is utilized to collect data about the N preceding pulses corresponding with the N preceding screen positions. The process proceeds to block 815.

[0145] At block 815, processor 116 calculates the trajectory of the current scan line to predict and/or estimate the next screen position on the current scanline for display of image pixel from memory 118. In one embodiment, next M screen positions are predicted based on the N preceding tracer beam 122 pulses on the current scanline. In one embodiment, the determination/prediction of the next M screen positions is repeated for each of the M pixels as the current scanline sweep continues by the scanner 110, thus implementing a sliding window algorithm both at the feedback end where data are collected about N preceding pulses and at the prediction end where M next screen positions are predicted. The sliding window at the feedback end is N pulses wide while the sliding window at the prediction end is M pixels wide. The process moves on to decision block 820.

[0146] At decision block 820, the process determines whether adjustment coefficients are updated and whether pixel color values, such as intensity or saturation, need adjustment before display. If so, the process proceeds to block 825 where the pixel values obtained from memory 118 are adjusted using the adjustment coefficients before proceeding to block 830. Otherwise, the process proceeds directly to block 830.

[0147] At block 830, the next M screen positions on the current scanline are determined. As noted above, in one embodiment, the next M screen positions are predicted based on dual sliding windows, one at the feedback end where data about preceding N screen positions are collected, and one at the prediction end where each of the next M screen positions are determined based on the data collected about the preceding N screen positions. The process proceeds to block 835.

[0148] At block 835, component image beams outputted by light sources 104 are modulated according to the correspond-

ing values of color components of the pixels of image in memory 118, where the pixels correspond to the next screen position on the current scanline predicted at block 830. For example, the intensity of the R (Red) component image beam may be set to the red component value of the image in memory 118 for the pixel to be displayed next on the current scanline. The process proceeds to block 840.

[0149] At block 840, the component image beams, for example, RGB components, are combined together to form one combined image beam 120. In one embodiment, a prism may be used to combine the component image beam. In other embodiments other methods currently known in the art or methods to be discovered in the future may be used to combine the component image beams. The process proceeds to block 845.

[0150] At block 845, a scanner 110, for example a MEMS device with a rotating mirror with two degrees of rotational freedom, for example, two orthogonal planes of rotation, reflects the combined image beam 120 as pseudorandom scanlines sweeping across screen 114. Different methods may be used to inject randomness into the direction of the scanlines from one scan cycle to the next. These methods range from mechanical and physical means, such as imprecisely controlled off-center vibrations at microscopic level, to electronic and software means, such as random number generators. The process proceeds to block 850.

[0151] At block 850, detector 112 or another image detection camera optionally detects the reflection of combined image beam 120 from screen 114. In one embodiment, combined image beam 120 is scattered off screen 114 and is refocused onto detector 112, or the other image detection camera, using a lens 510 (see FIG. 5). Data collected about projected pixel values and positions are used to improve the projected pixel values (the image) on the next scan cycle. The process proceeds to decision block 855.

[0152] At decision block 855, the data collected about projected pixel values are compared with the corresponding pixel value of the image stored in memory 118 to determine any deviations. If any deviations are detected, for example, because of screen 114 color or texture, adjustment coefficients for the pixel values of the image in memory 118 are updated at block 860 to adjust such pixel values for the next scan cycle. Otherwise, the process proceeds to block 805 and the process is repeated for the next screen position on the current scanline. As one scanline is completed, another scanline is started and the same process described above is repeated with respect to the new scanline.

[0153] It will be understood that each block of the flowchart illustration, and combinations of blocks in the flowchart illustration, can be implemented by computer program instructions. These program instructions may be provided to a processor to produce a machine, such that the instructions, which execute on the processor, create means for implementing the actions specified in the flowchart block or blocks. The computer program instructions may be executed by a processor to cause a series of operational steps to be performed by the processor to produce a computer implemented process such that the instructions, which execute on the processor to provide steps for implementing the actions specified in the flowchart block or blocks. The computer program instructions may also cause at least some of the operational steps shown in the blocks of the flowchart to be performed in parallel. Moreover, some of the steps may also be performed across more than one processor, such as might arise in a multi-processor