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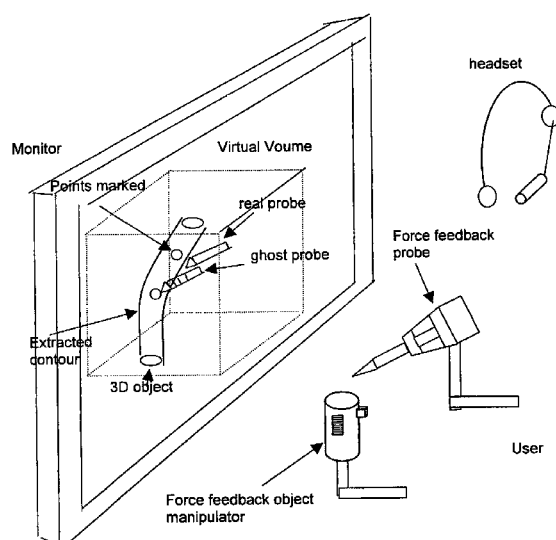
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(57) Abstract: In one aspect, the present invention provides a method of interacting with simulated three-dimensional objects, the method including the steps of the identification of three-dimensional objects from volume images; the association of physical properties with identified objects said properties including at least visual and haptic properties of the identified objects; and incorporating said identified objects and associated physical properties into a system including at least one visual interface device and at least one haptic interface device thus enabling the system to simulate visual and haptic properties of the identified objects, or any part thereof, to a human user interacting with the simulated three-dimensional objects, or any part thereof, said interaction including the generation of signals by the system for transmission to the at least one visual interface device in accordance with the physical properties associated with the objects and the reception of signals from the least one haptic interface device in accordance with user requests.