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54 **Method and apparatus for generating a set of signals representing a curve.**

57 Disclosed is a method and system for generating a series of signals representing nodes on a locus of a curve partially defined by a set of related knots, using a compiler in the form of a Hermite cubic parametric polynomial with said knots defining the end points of respective segments of said curve locus, and with said knots being in a successive order in relation to said locus. The method and system are also provided for encoding and decoding said node signals as data and for use of said data in an imaging process responsive to the shape for said curve segments as represented by said encoded data, and encoding the node signals derived in a data base to represent the curve segment. The imaging process involves accessing the encoded data base signals and controlling an imaging means responsive to said accessed signals to reproduce said curve.

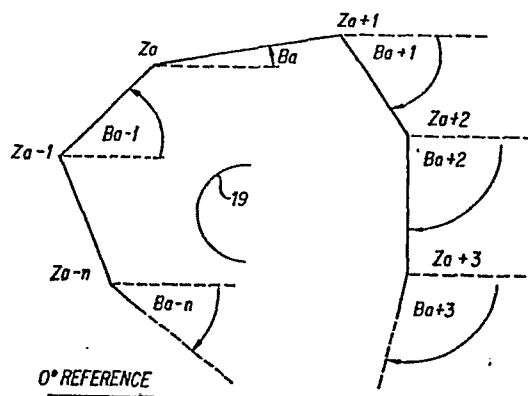


FIG. 1a



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
A	COMPUTER, vol. 17, no. 5, May 1984, pages 40-48, IEEE, Long Beach, California, US; J. FLOWERS: "Digital type manufacture: an interactive approach" * Page 43, left-hand column, line 6 - page 47, left-hand column, line 5 *	1,2,9	B 41 B 19/00 B 41 B 19/01 G 09 G 1/14
A	--- WO-A-8 302 179 (DICOMED CORP.) * Figures 4-13; claims 1-5 *	1,2,9, 29	
A,D	--- US-A-4 199 815 (KYTE et al.) * Figures 1-11; column 6, line 27 - column 14, line 36; column 16, line 40 - column 17, line 15 *	1,2,29	
A,D	--- J.D. FOLEY et al.: "Fundamentals of computer graphics", 1982, pages 514-523, Addison-Wesley Publ. Co., Reading, US * Pages 516-519, chapter 13.5.1 *	1,3	B 41 B G 09 G G 06 F
A	--- US-A-4 331 955 (HANSEN)		
A,D	--- US-A-4 029 947 (EVANS et al.) -----		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 10-07-1987	Examiner GYSEN L.A.D.
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			