



US012392474B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Shen et al.(10) **Patent No.:** US 12,392,474 B2
(45) **Date of Patent:** Aug. 19, 2025(54) **MICROSTRUCTURES FOR
TRANSFORMING LIGHT HAVING
LAMBERTIAN DISTRIBUTION INTO
BATWING DISTRIBUTIONS**(71) Applicant: **Brightview Technologies, Inc.**,
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Thomas A. Rinehart, Durham, NC (US); **John W. Wilson**, Durham, NC (US)(73) Assignee: **Brightview Technologies, Inc.**,
Durham, NC (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **18/950,026**(22) Filed: **Nov. 16, 2024**(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 18/297,880, filed on Apr. 10, 2023, now Pat. No. 12,169,064, which is a (Continued)

(51) **Int. Cl.**
F21V 5/00 (2018.01)
F21Y 115/10 (2016.01)(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC *F21V 5/005* (2013.01); *F21Y 2115/10* (2016.08)(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC ... F21V 5/005; F21Y 2115/10; G02B 5/0231;
G02B 5/0278; G02B 5/045

See application file for complete search history.

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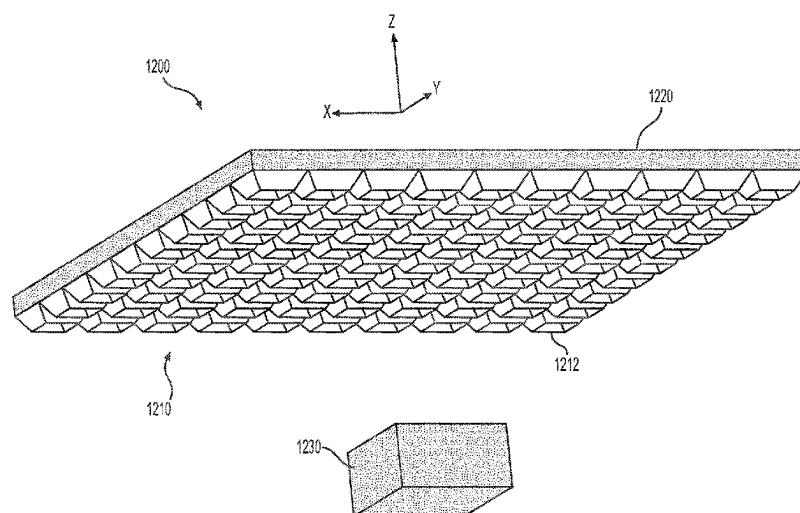
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(Continued)

Primary Examiner — Evan P Dzierzynski(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Rauschenbach Patent Law Group, PLLC; Kurt Rauschenbach(57) **ABSTRACT**

A light transmissive substrate that transforms light having a Lambertian distribution includes a substrate having a plurality of microstructures on a first surface, where each of the plurality of microstructures comprises an array of folded micro-pyramid microstructures, wherein each folded micro-pyramid microstructure comprises a base section with a roof angle and a recess being formed in a shape of a micro-pyramid and comprising a recess roof angle, wherein light having a Lambertian distribution that enters the first surface of the substrate is transformed into light having a distribution with a maximum intensity at an angle away from nadir and a minimum intensity at nadir that exits a second surface of the substrate.

15 Claims, 44 Drawing Sheets

Related U.S. Application Data

continuation of application No. 17/841,713, filed on Jun. 16, 2022, now Pat. No. 11,655,957, which is a continuation of application No. 16/962,155, filed as application No. PCT/US2019/015600 on Jan. 29, 2019, now Pat. No. 11,391,437.

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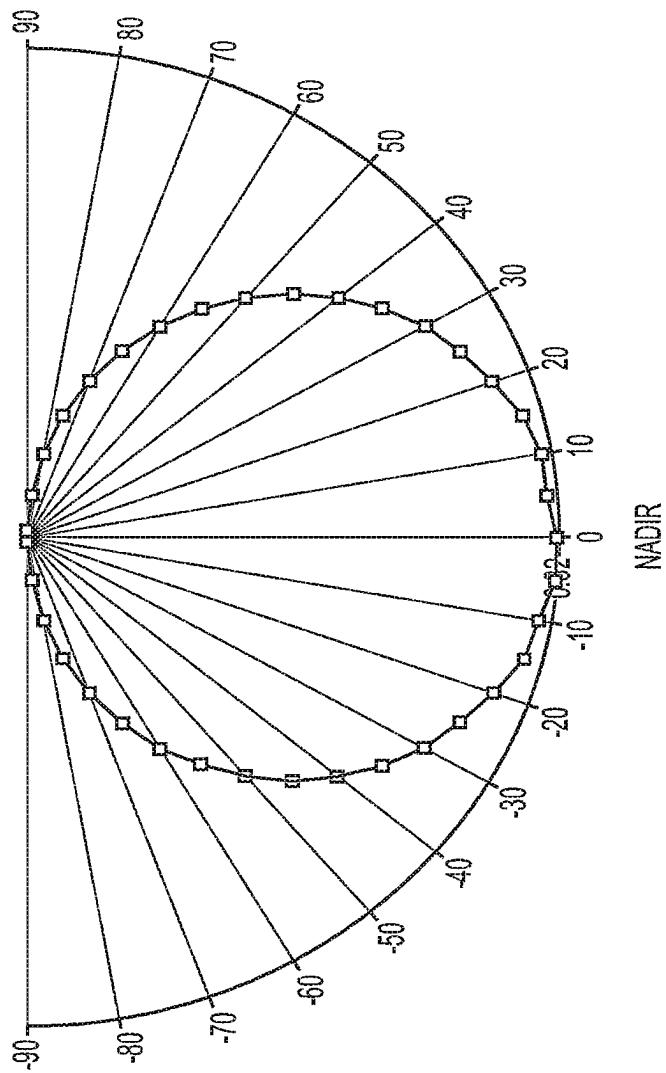
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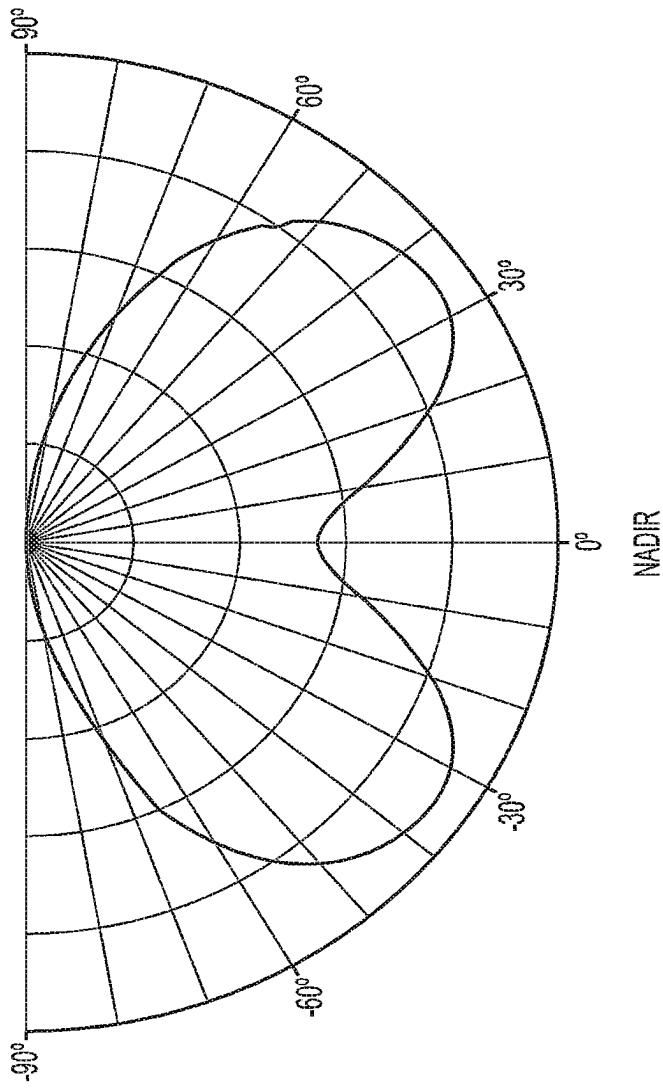
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**FIG. 1**

**FIG. 2**

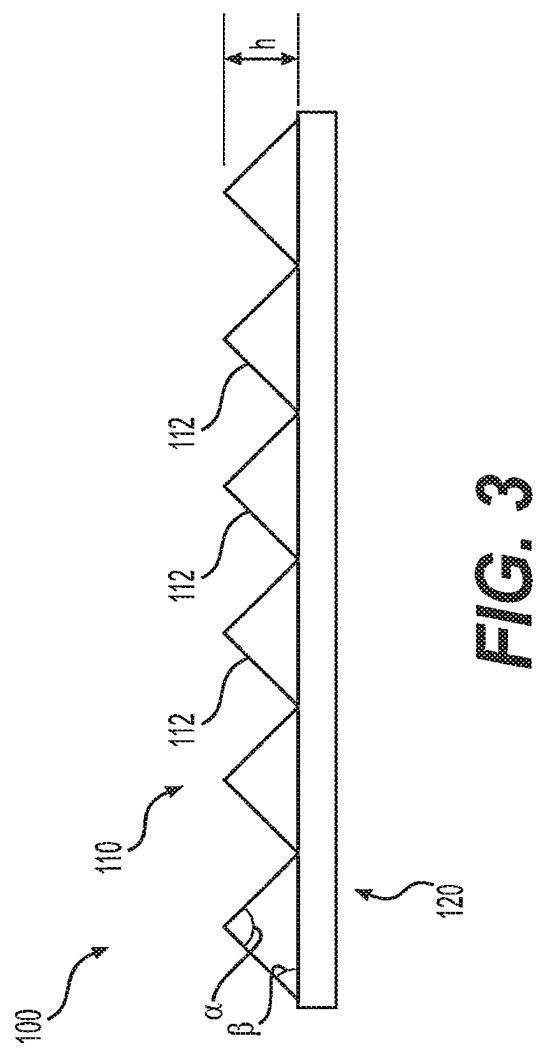


FIG. 3

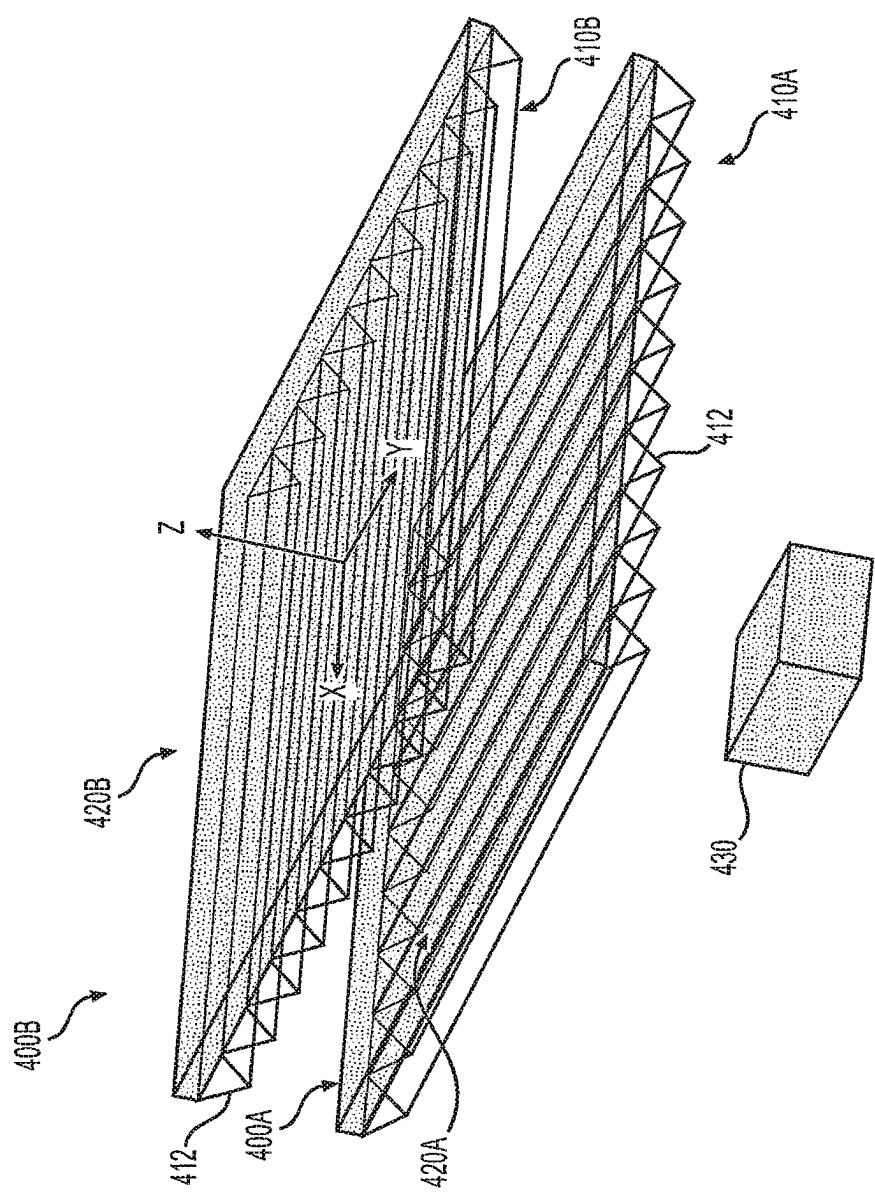


FIG. 4A

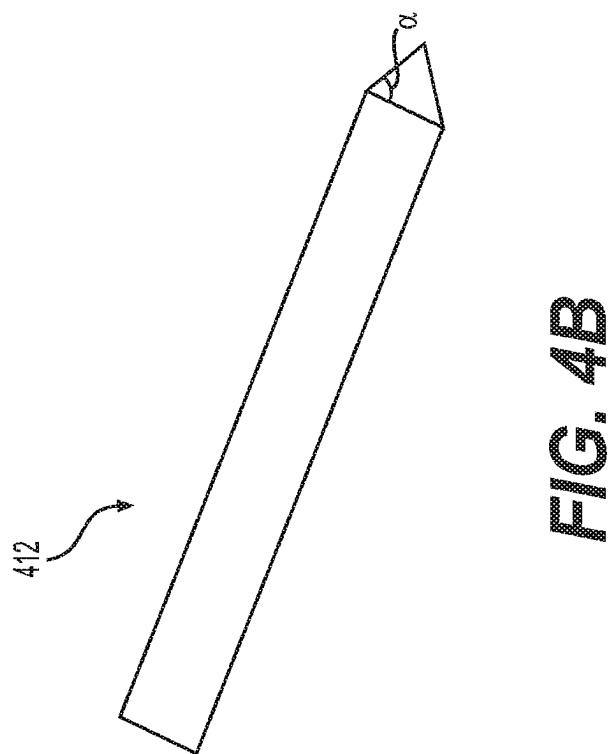


FIG. 4B

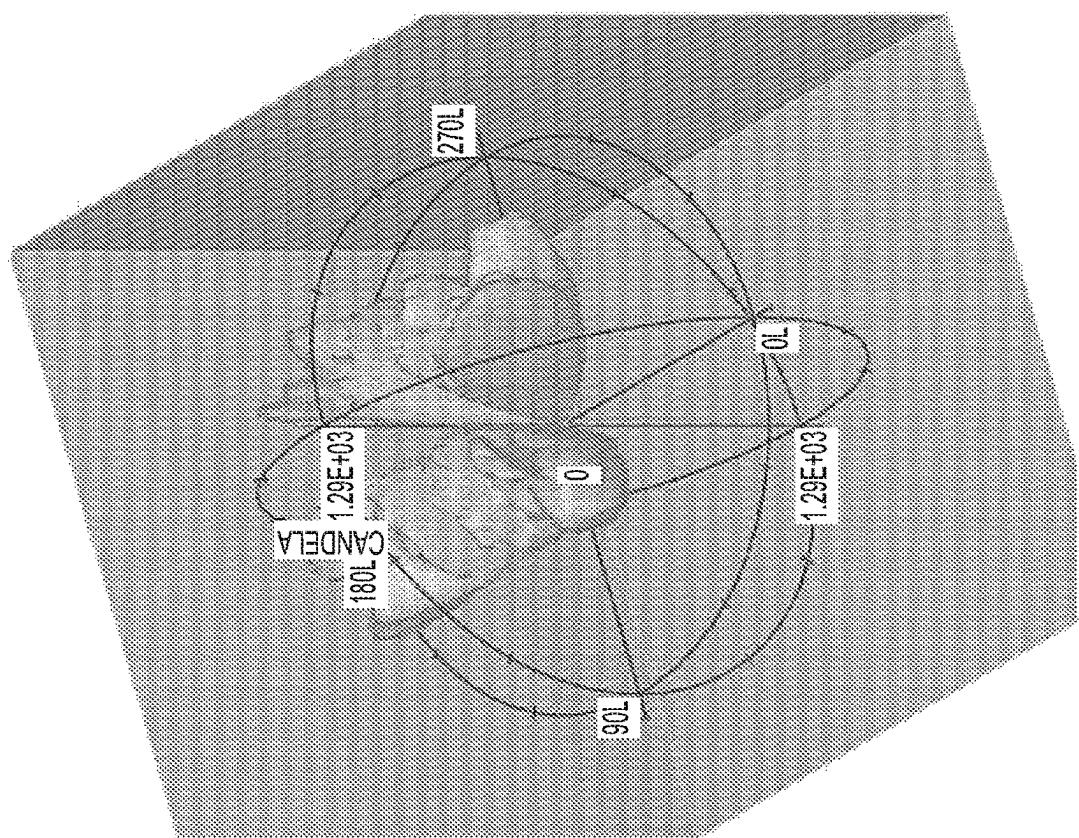
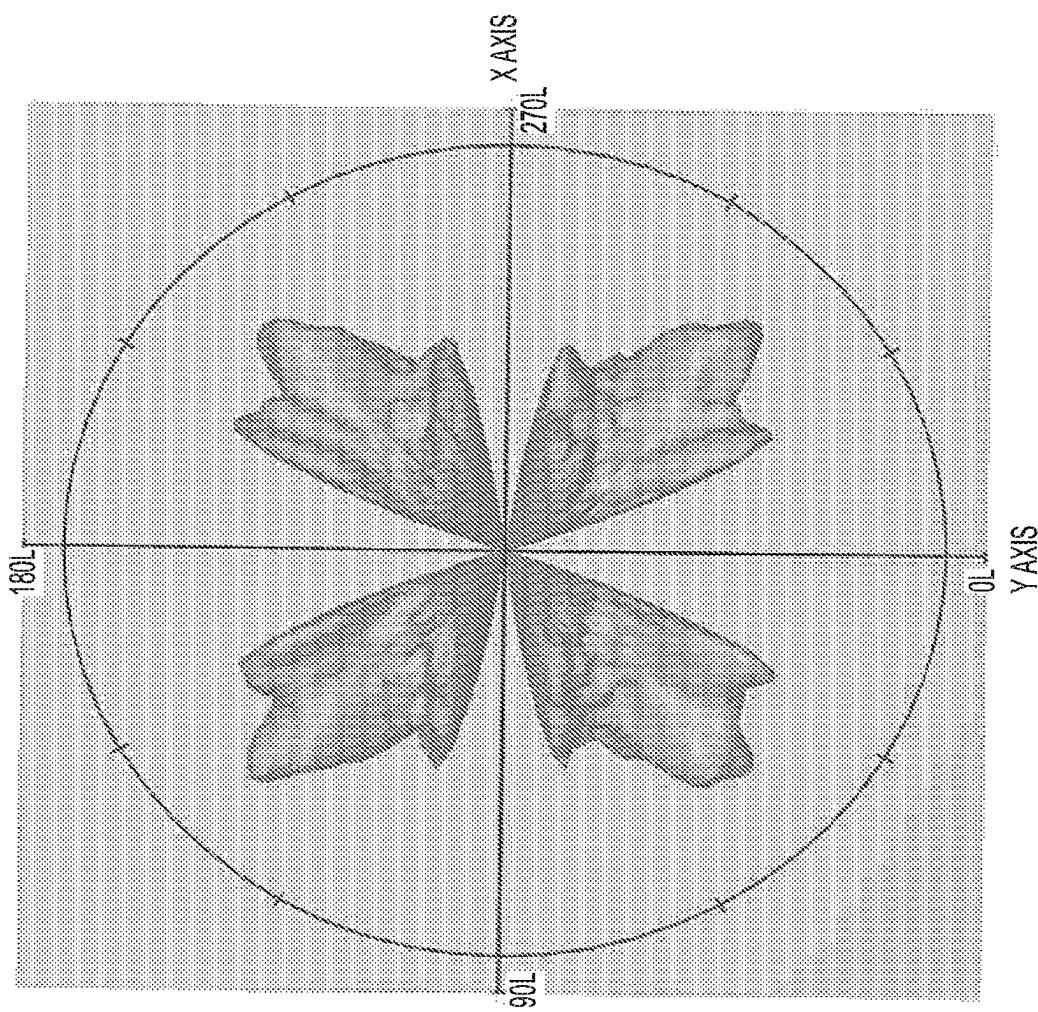


FIG. 5A

**FIG. 5B**

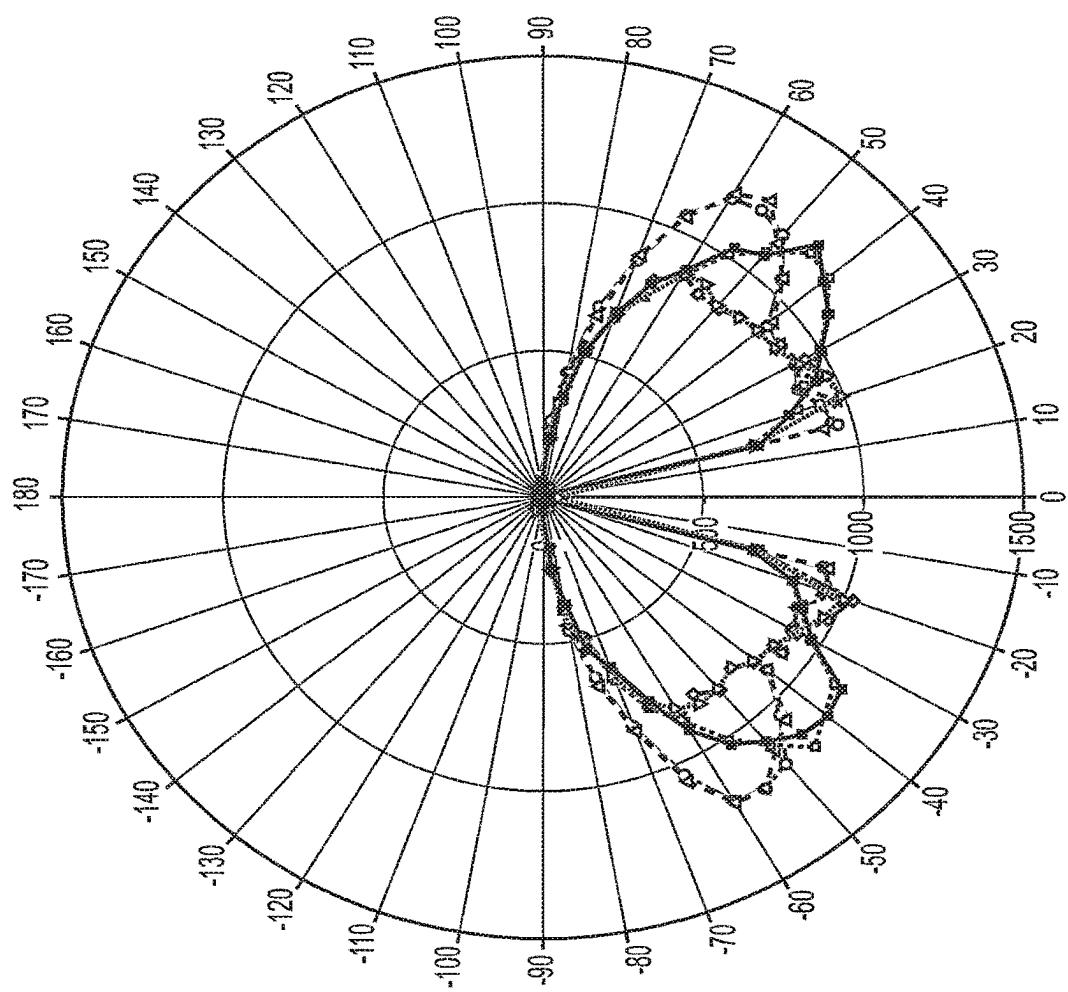


FIG. 5C

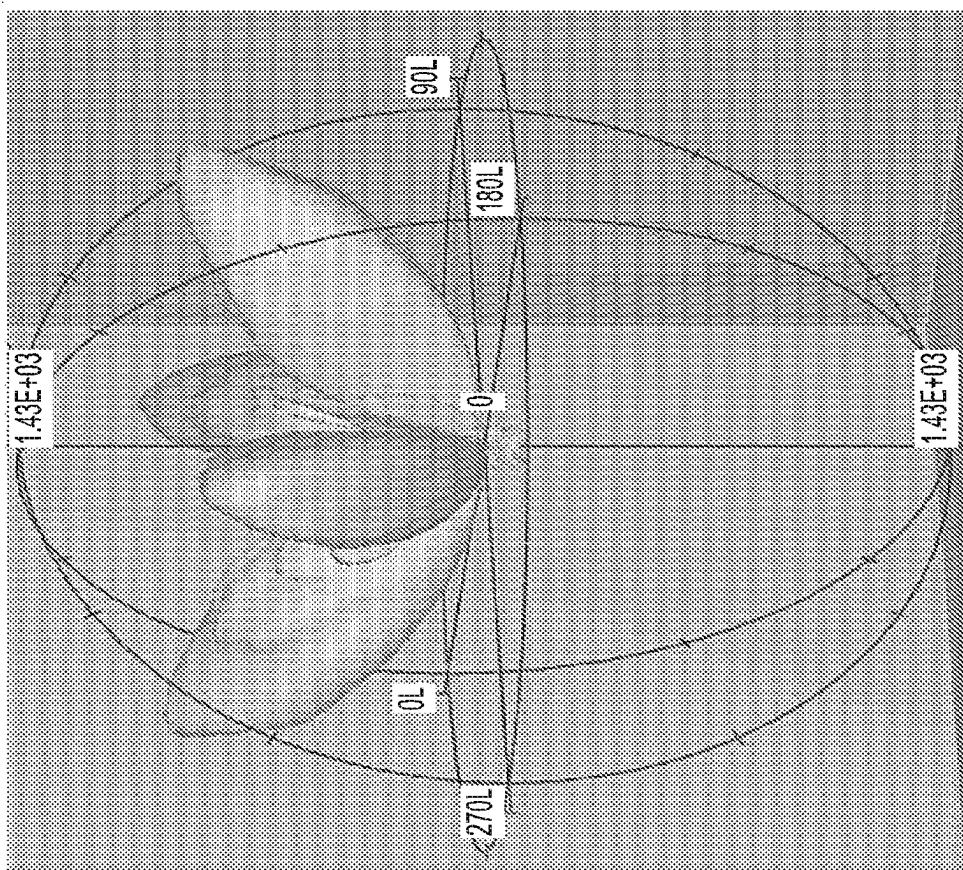


FIG. 5D

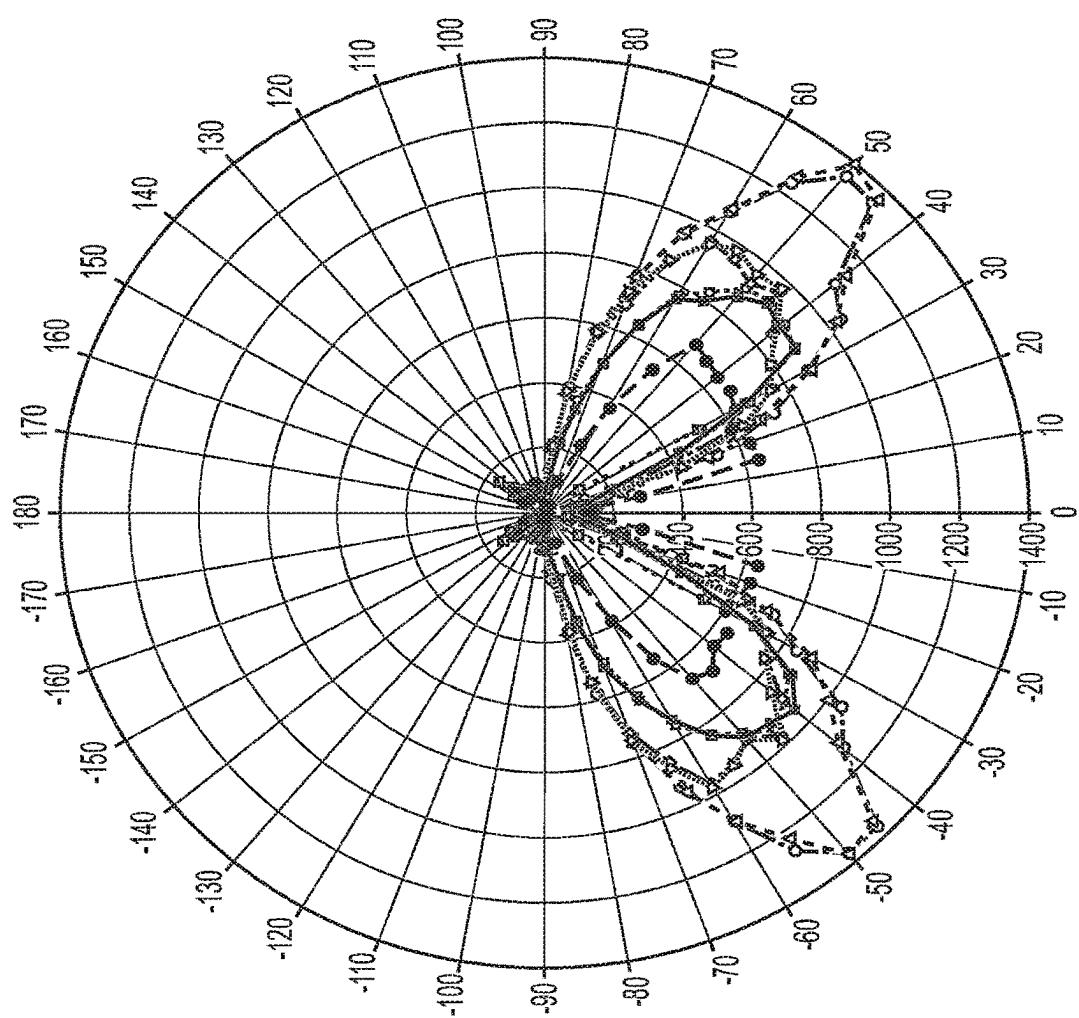


FIG. 5E

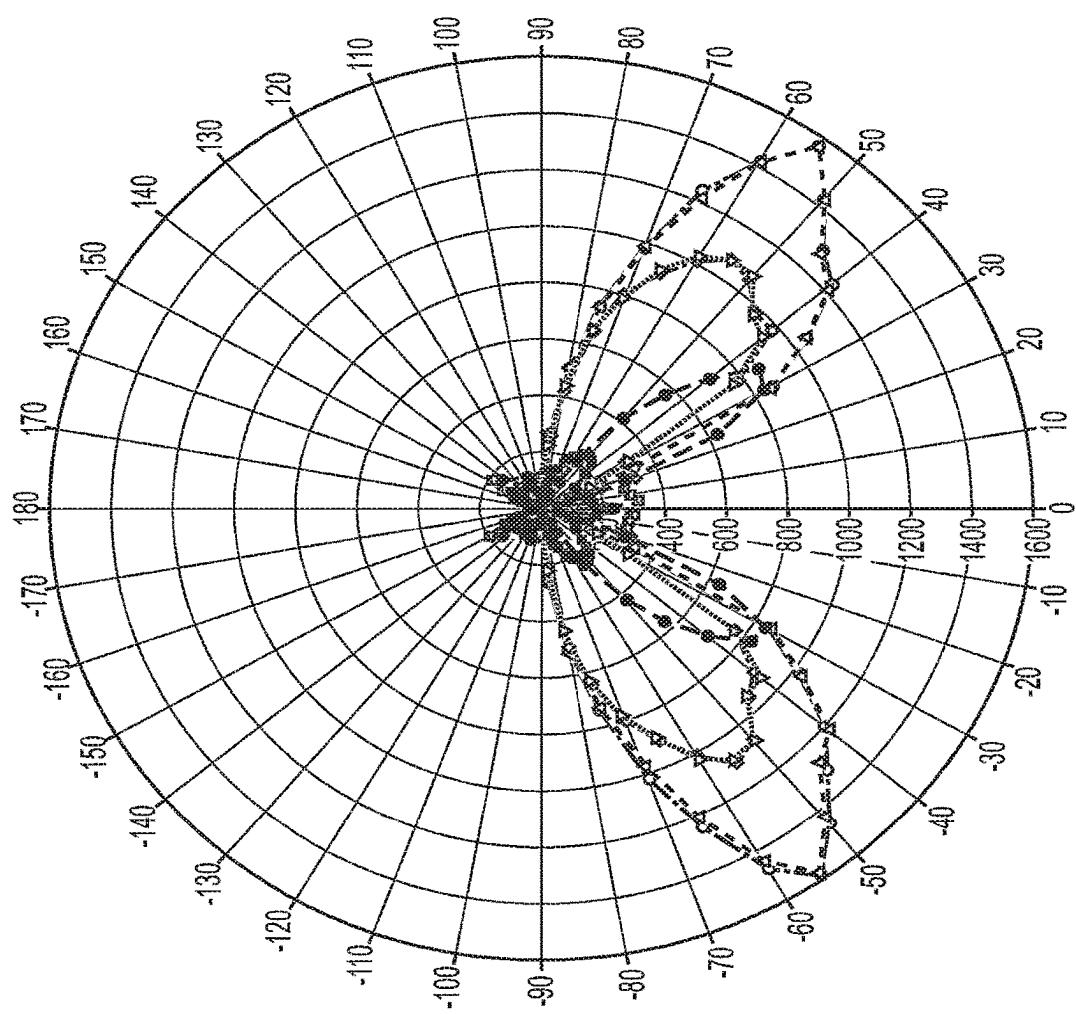


FIG. 5F

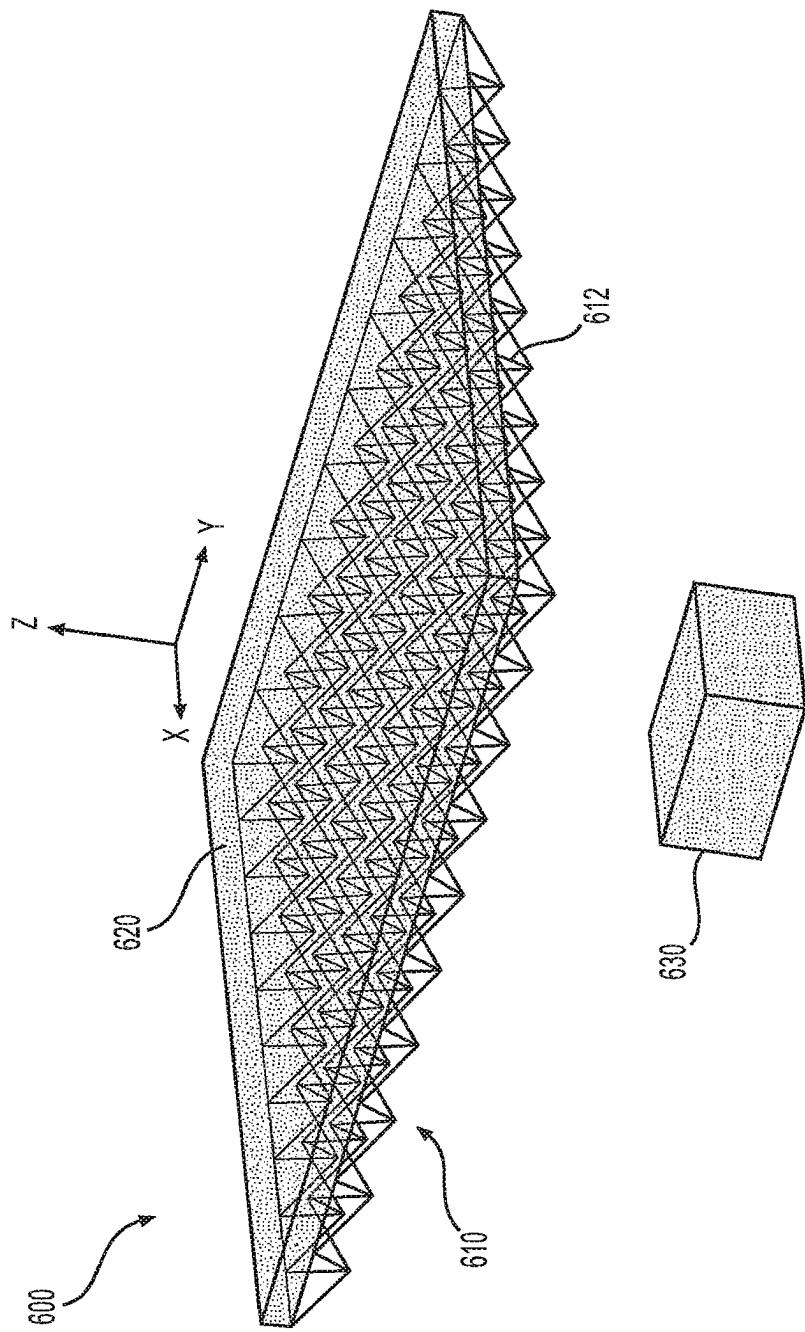


FIG. 6A

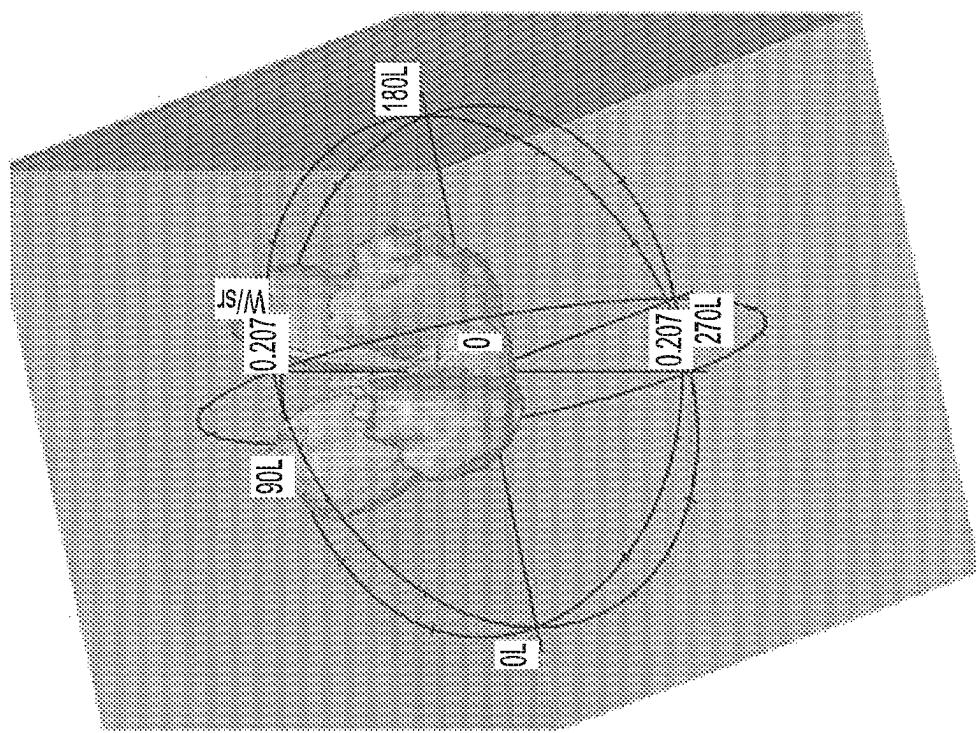


FIG. 7A

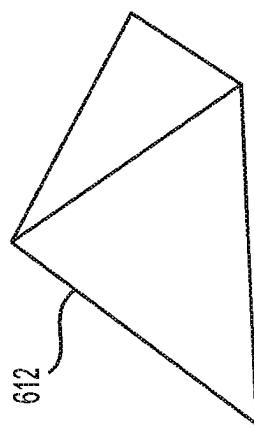


FIG. 6B

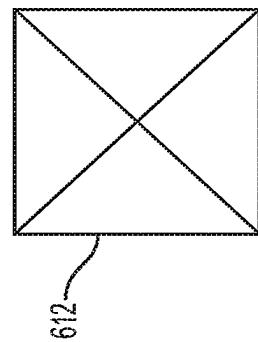


FIG. 6C

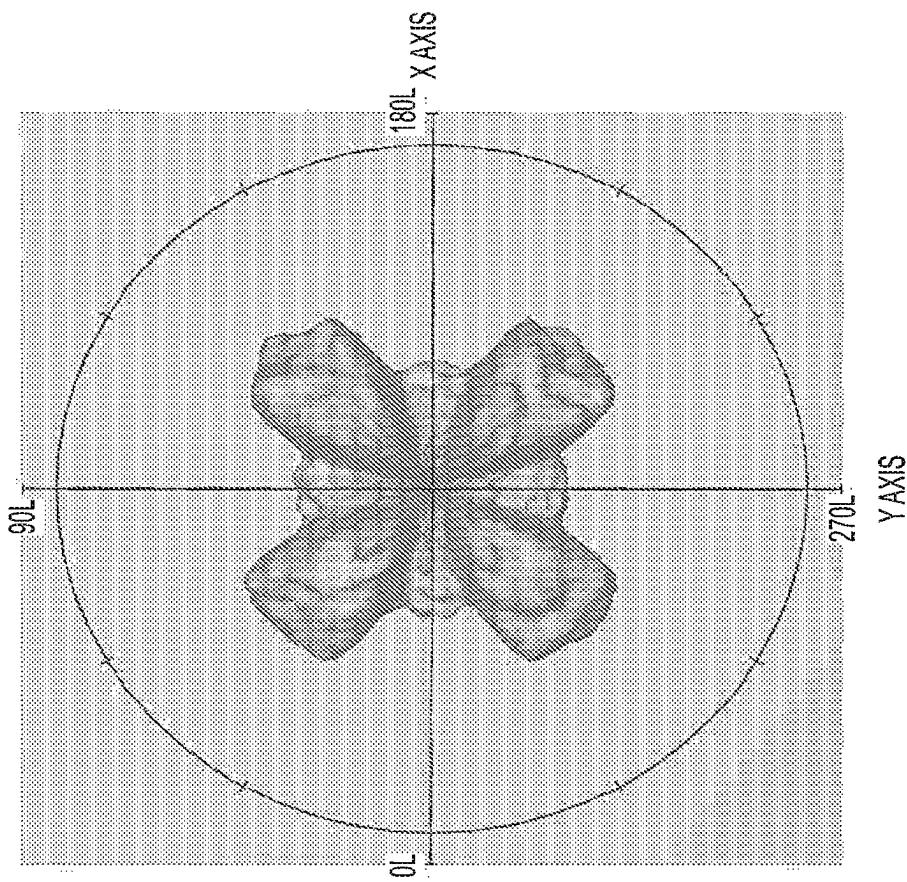


FIG. 7B

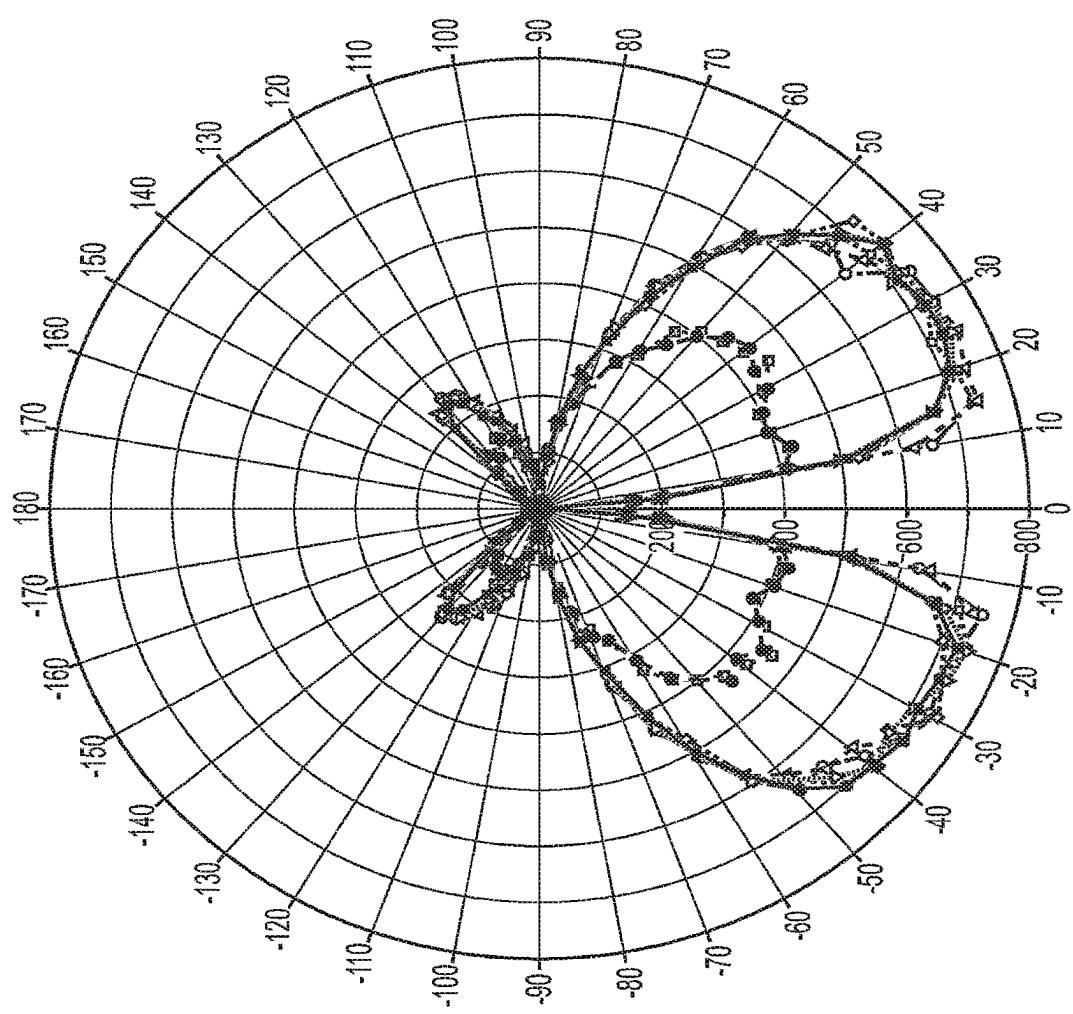
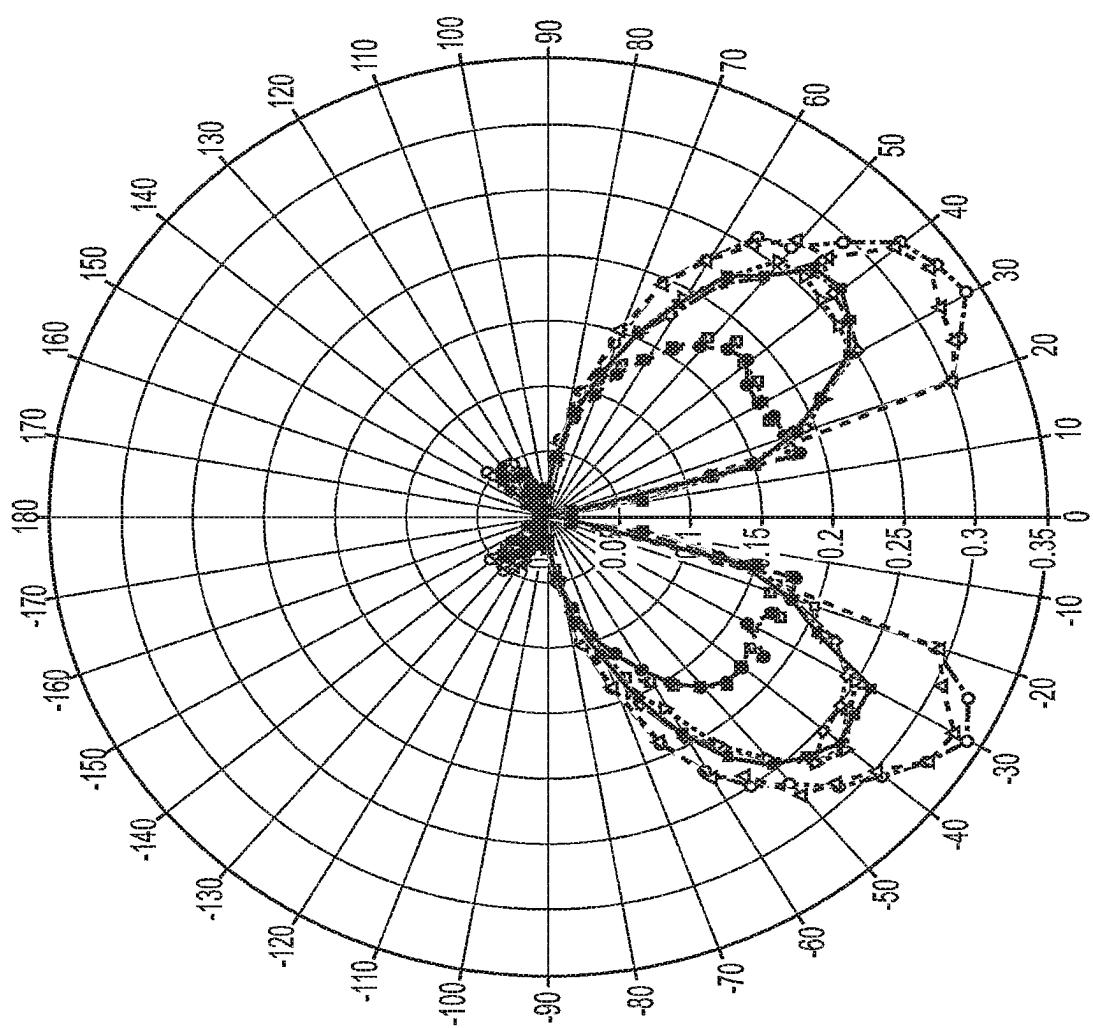


FIG. 7C

**FIG. 7D**

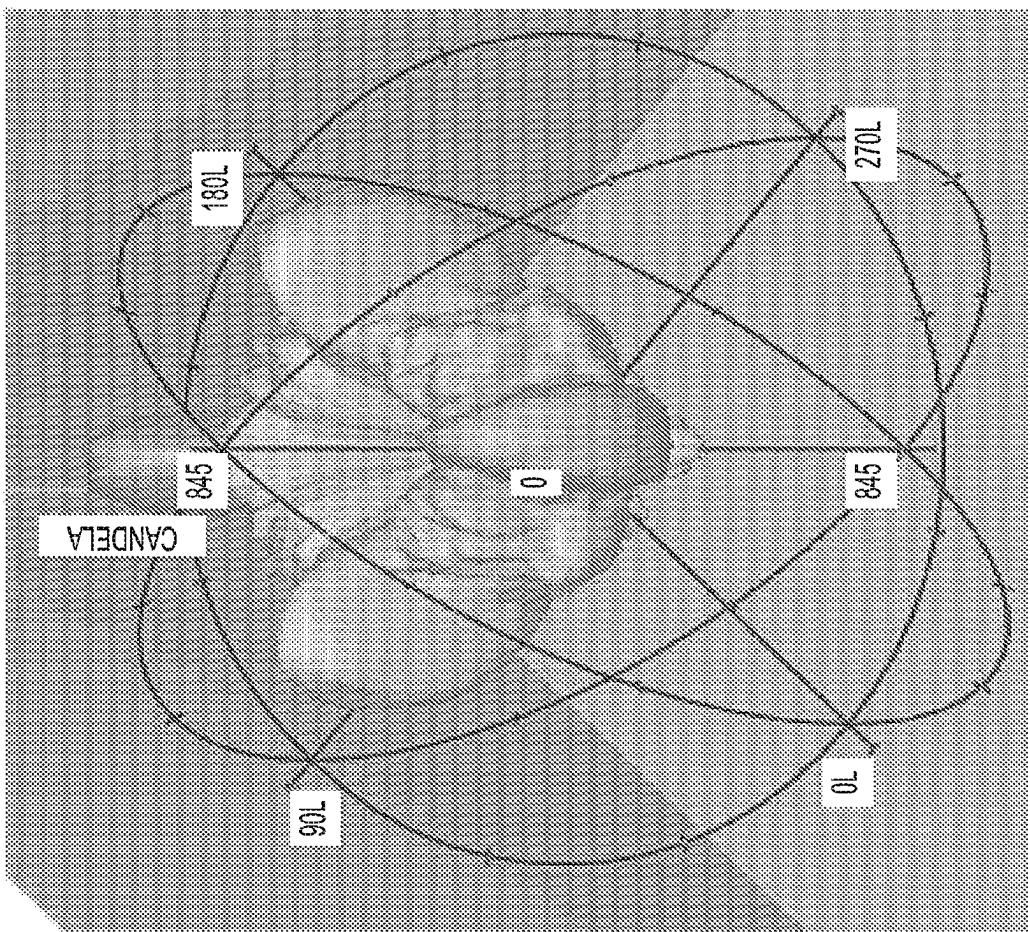


FIG. 7E

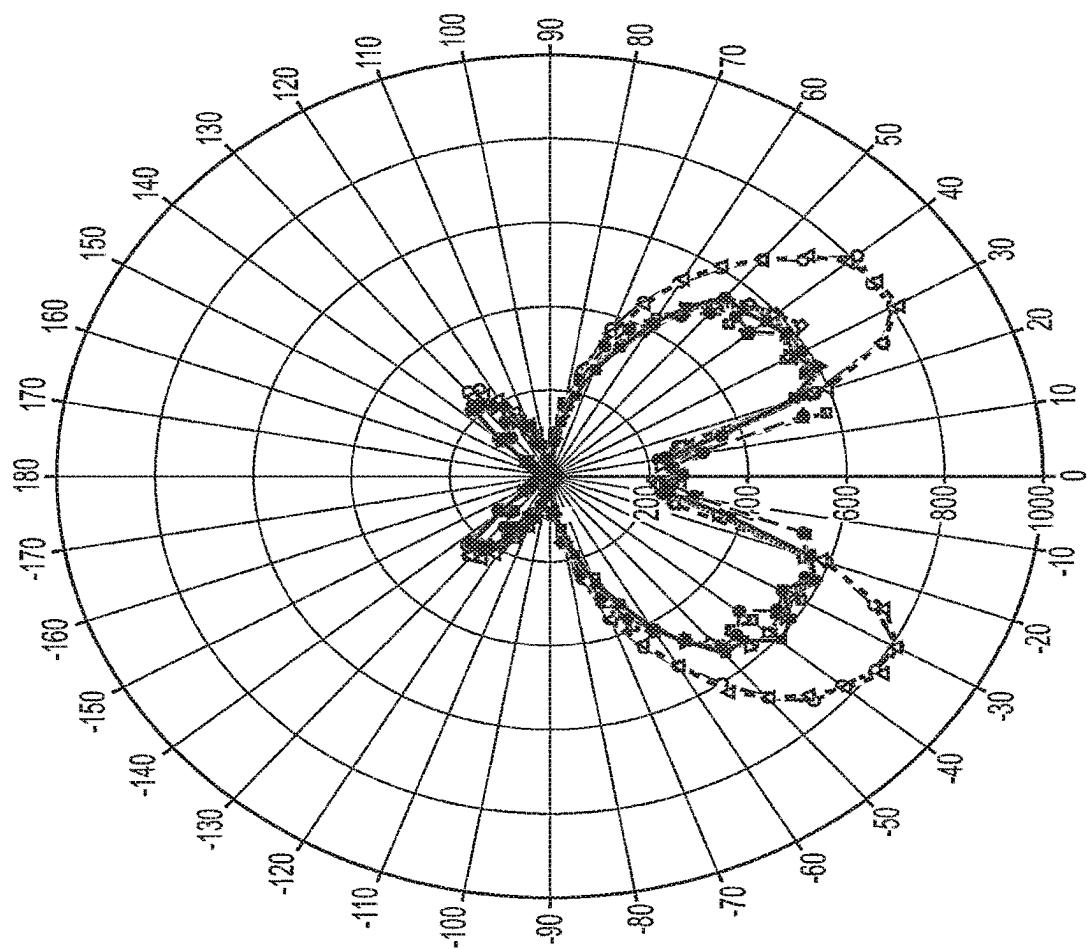


FIG. 7F

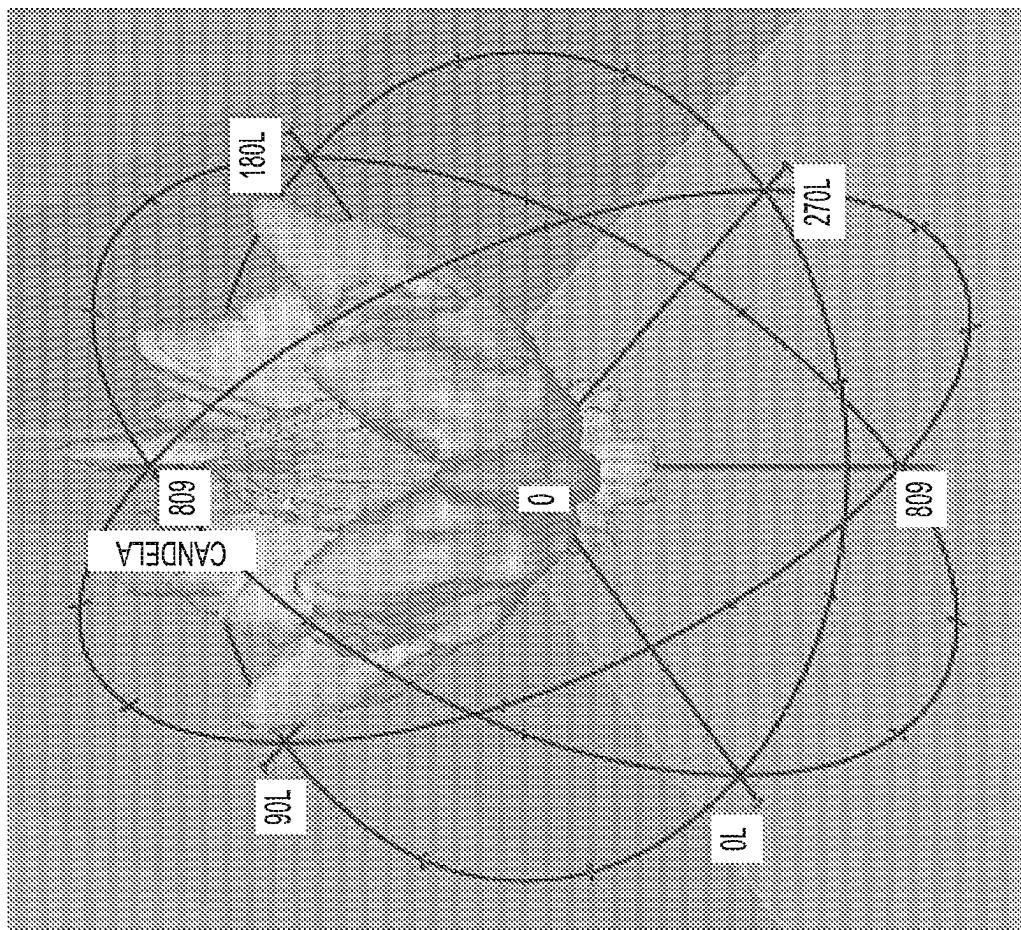


FIG. 7G

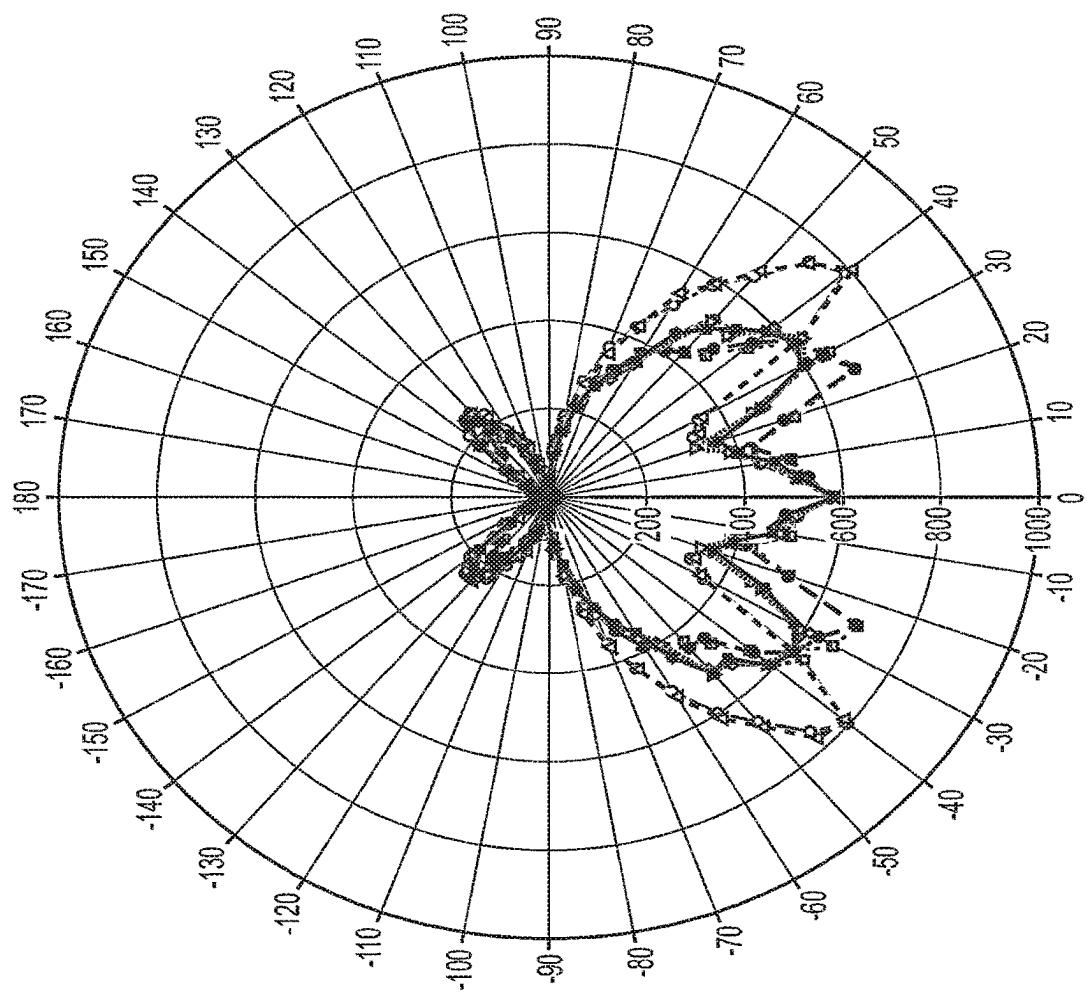


FIG. 7H

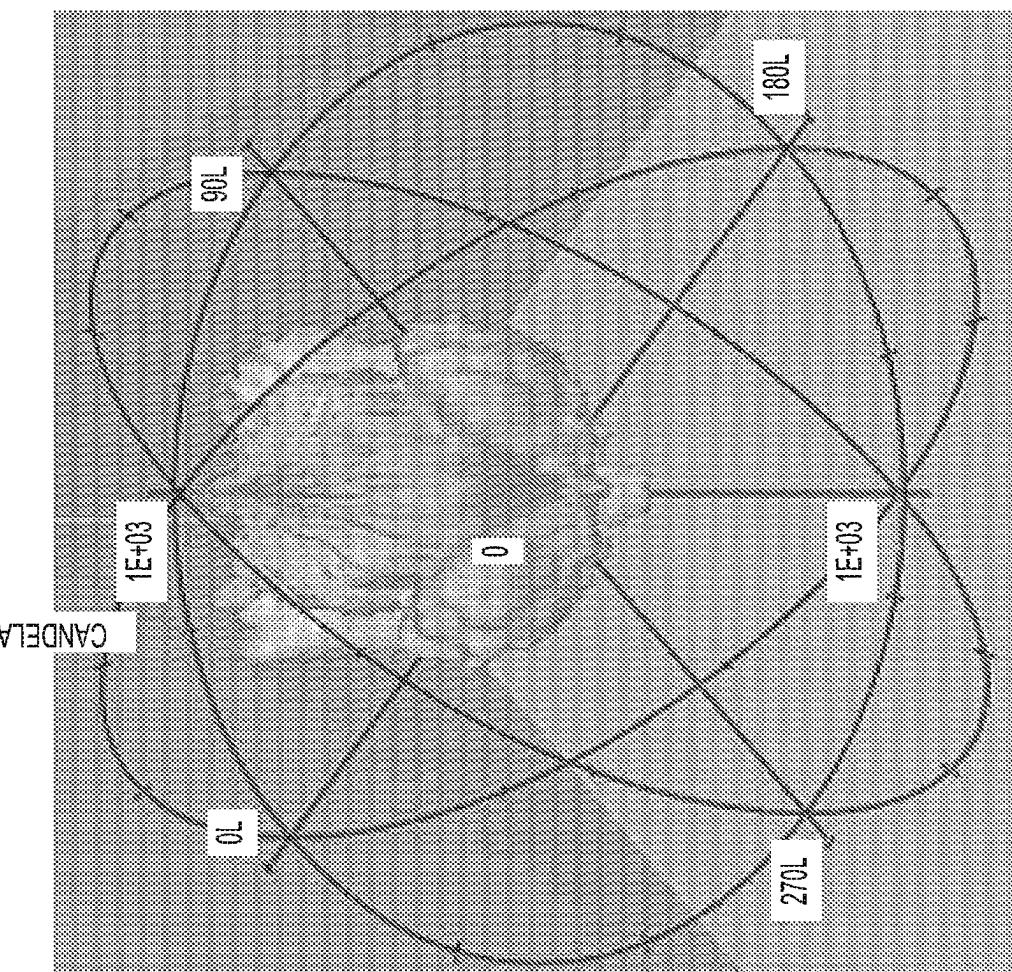


FIG. 71

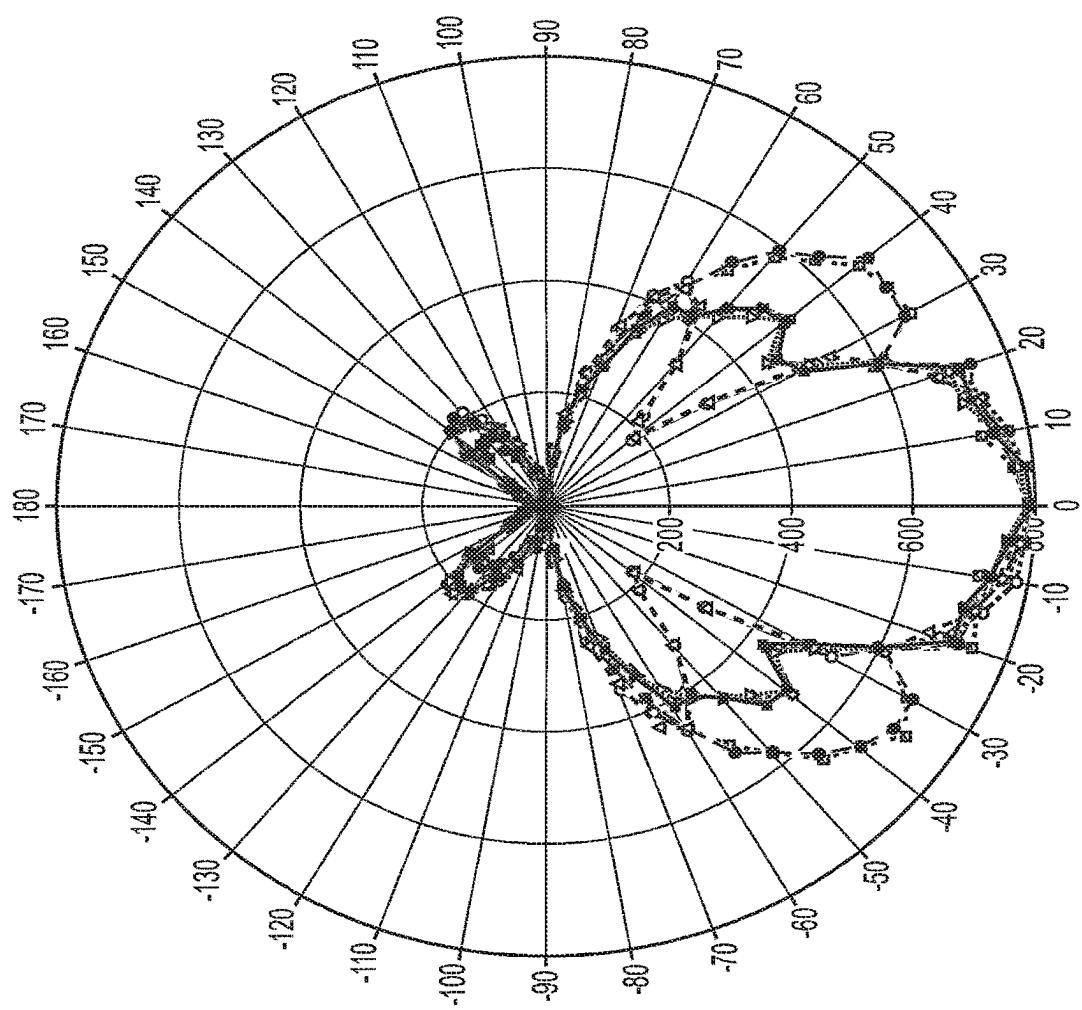


FIG. 7J

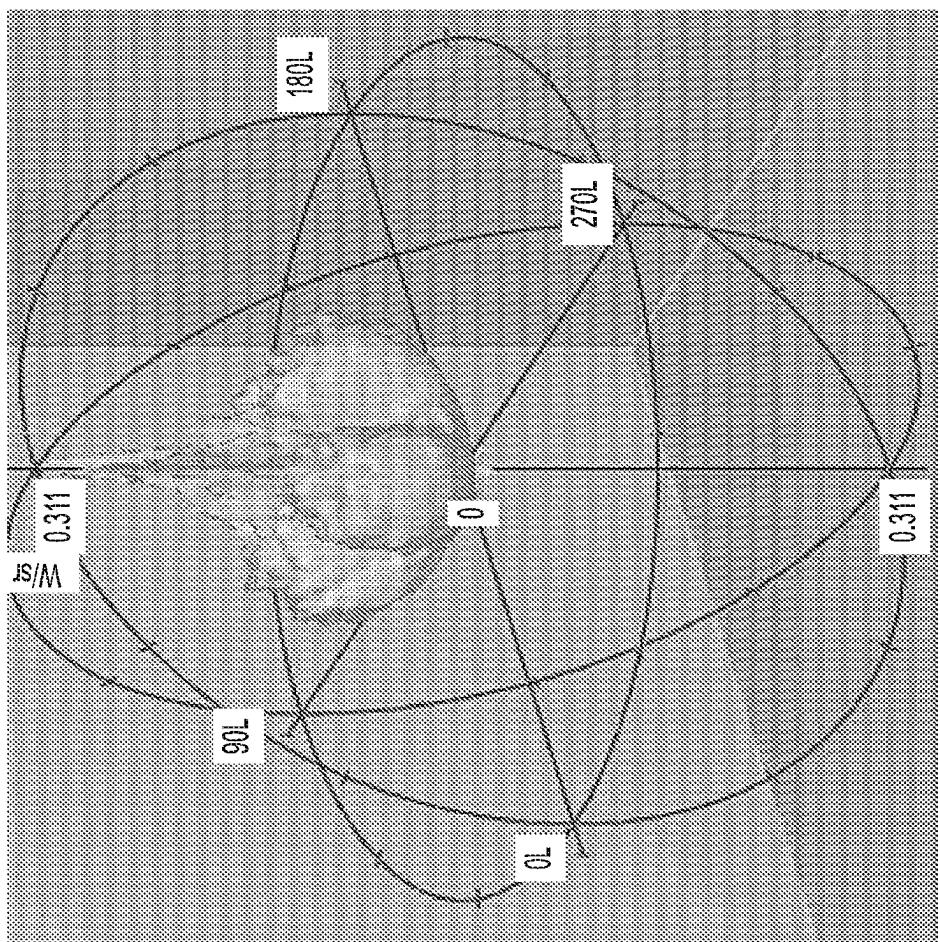


FIG. 7K

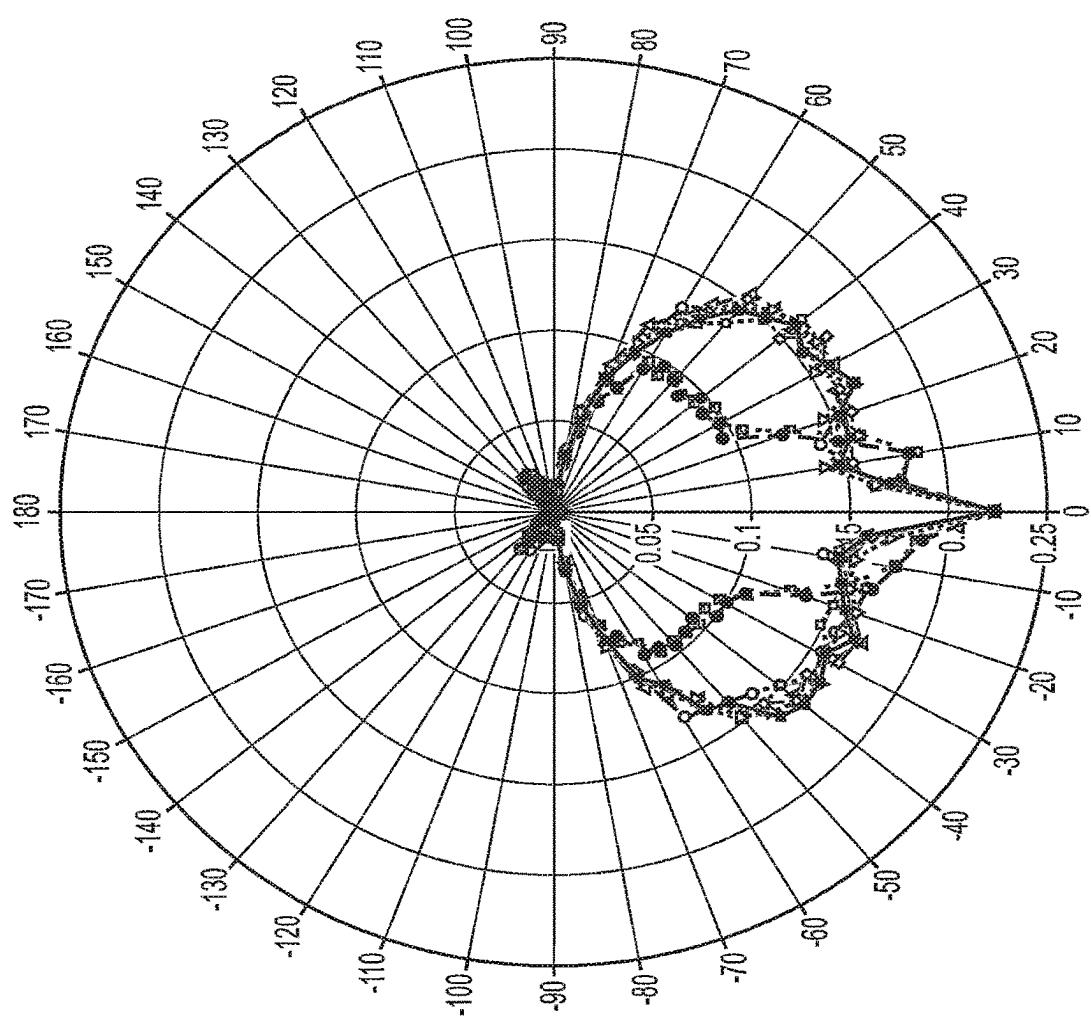


FIG. 7L

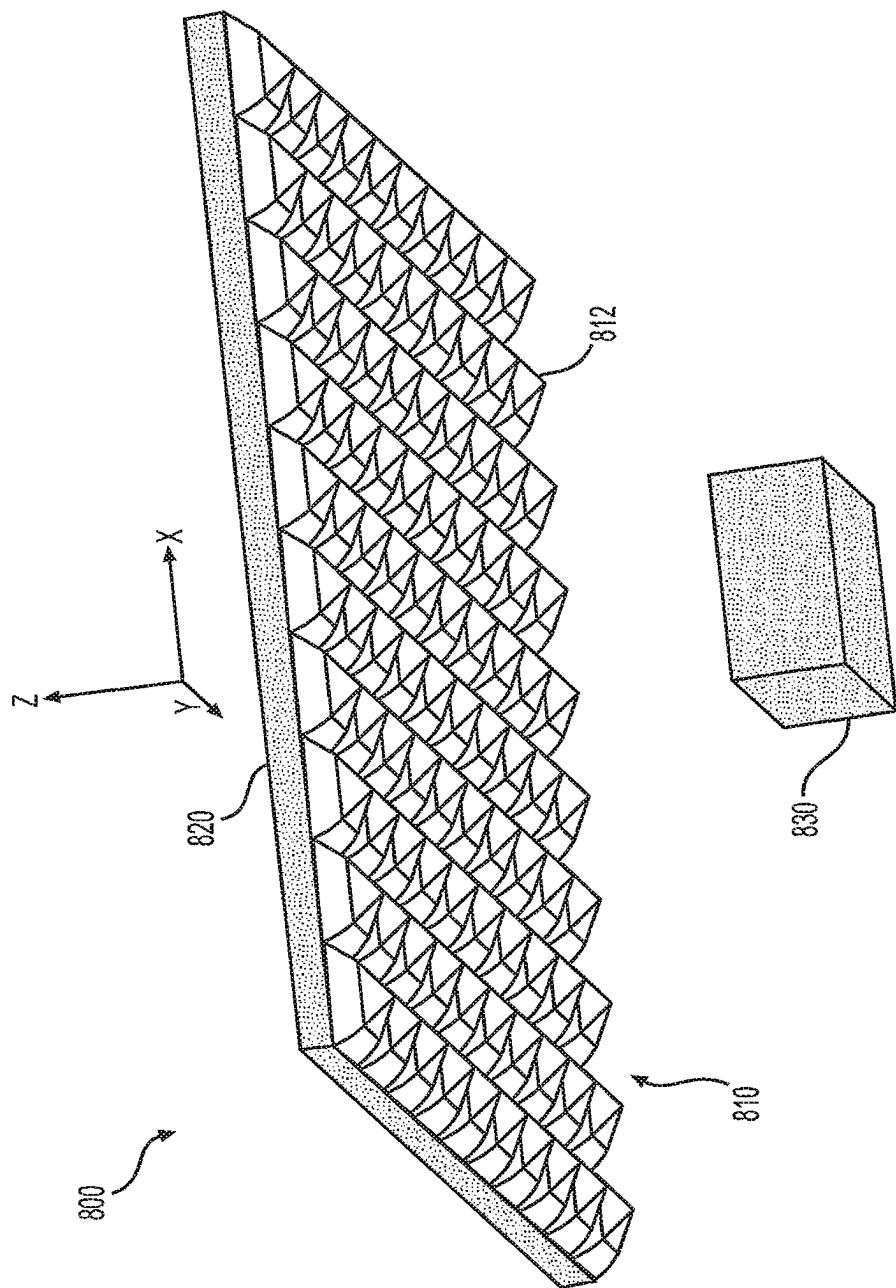


FIG. 8A

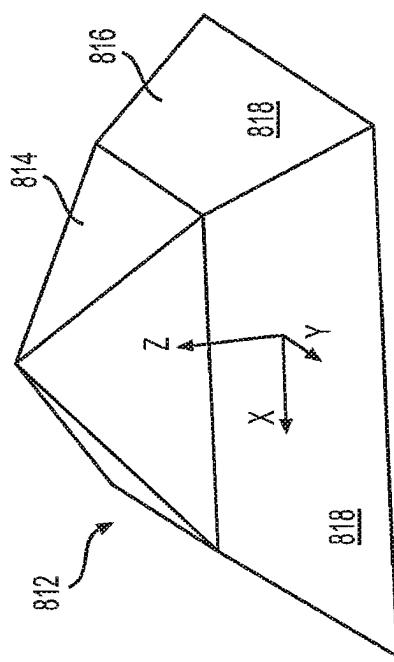


FIG. 8B

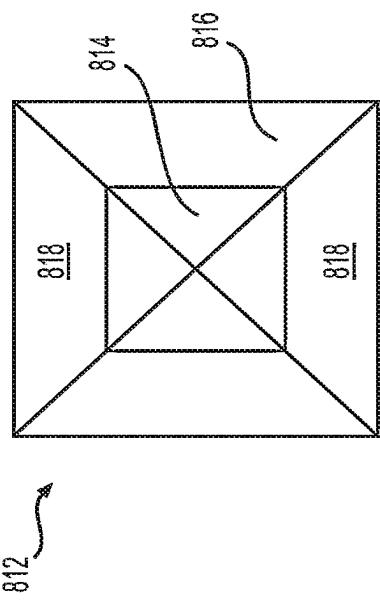


FIG. 8C

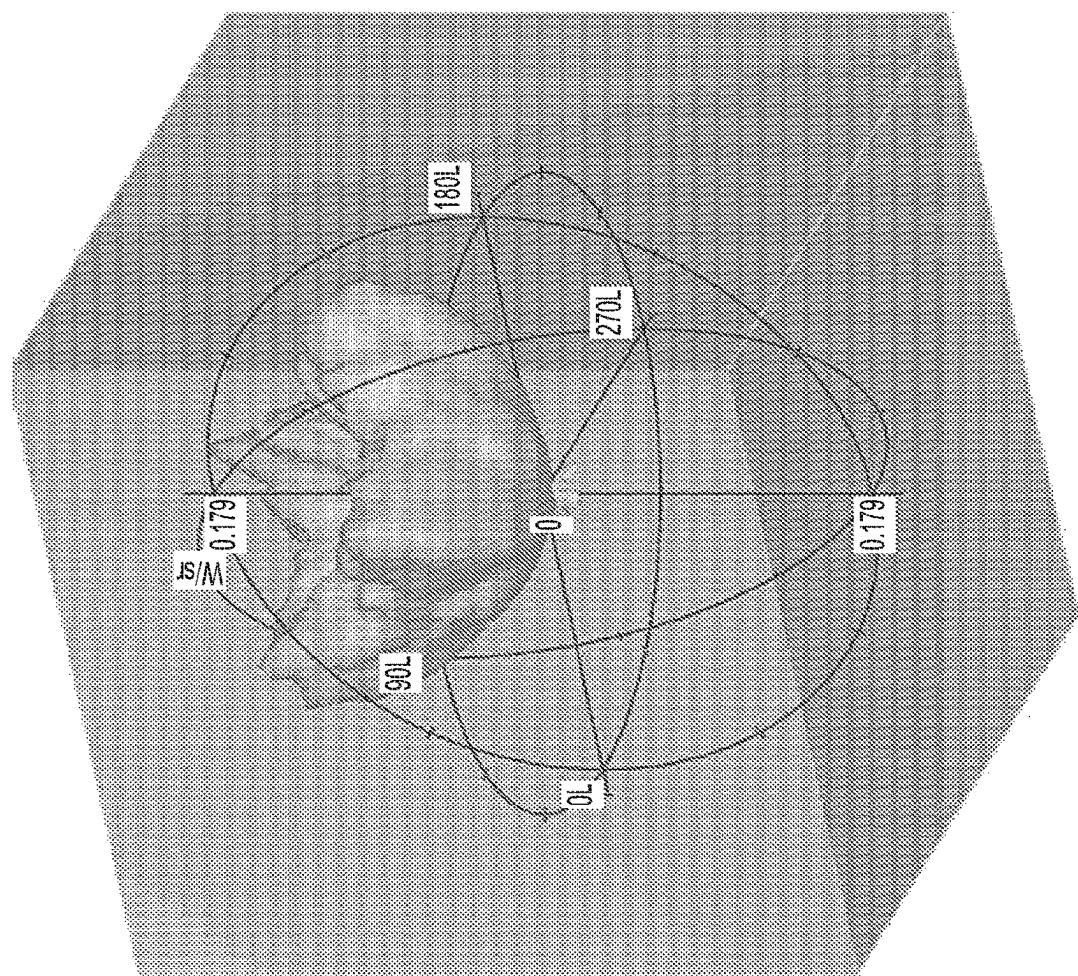


FIG. 9A

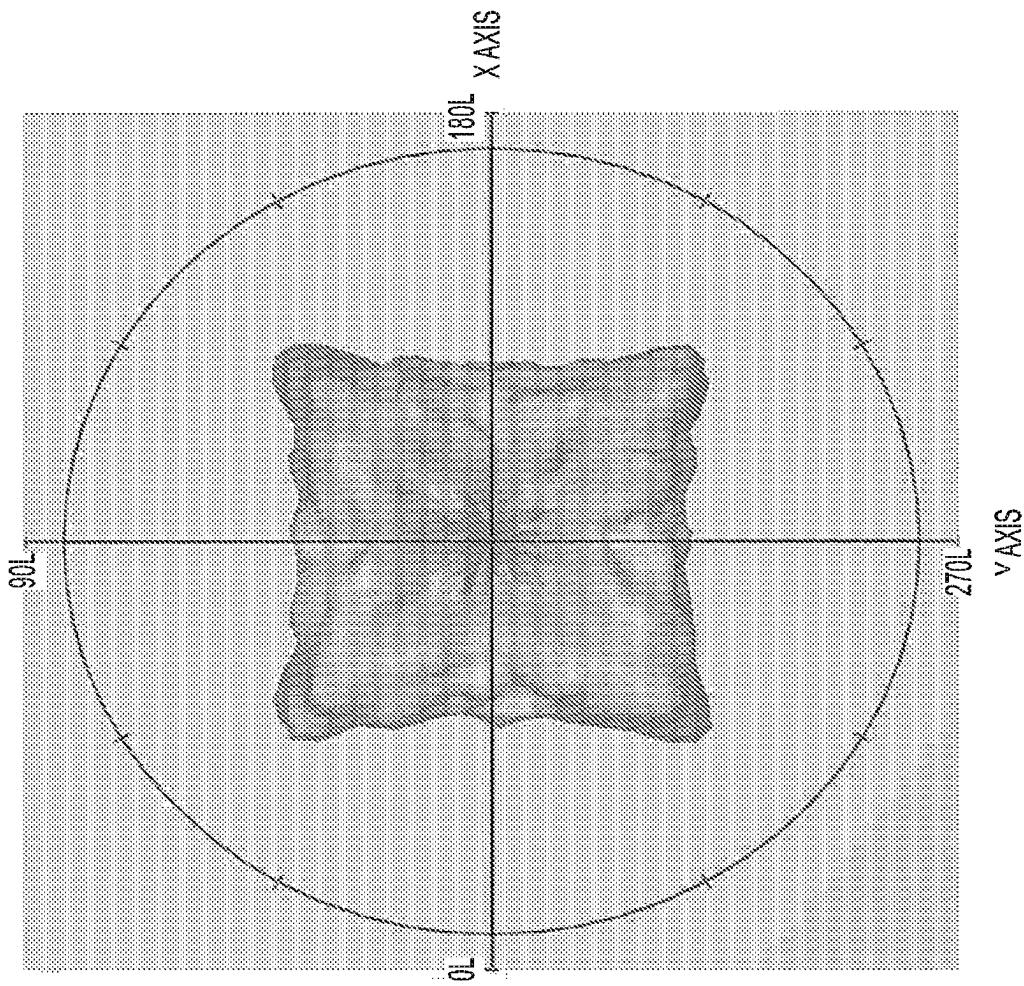


FIG. 9B

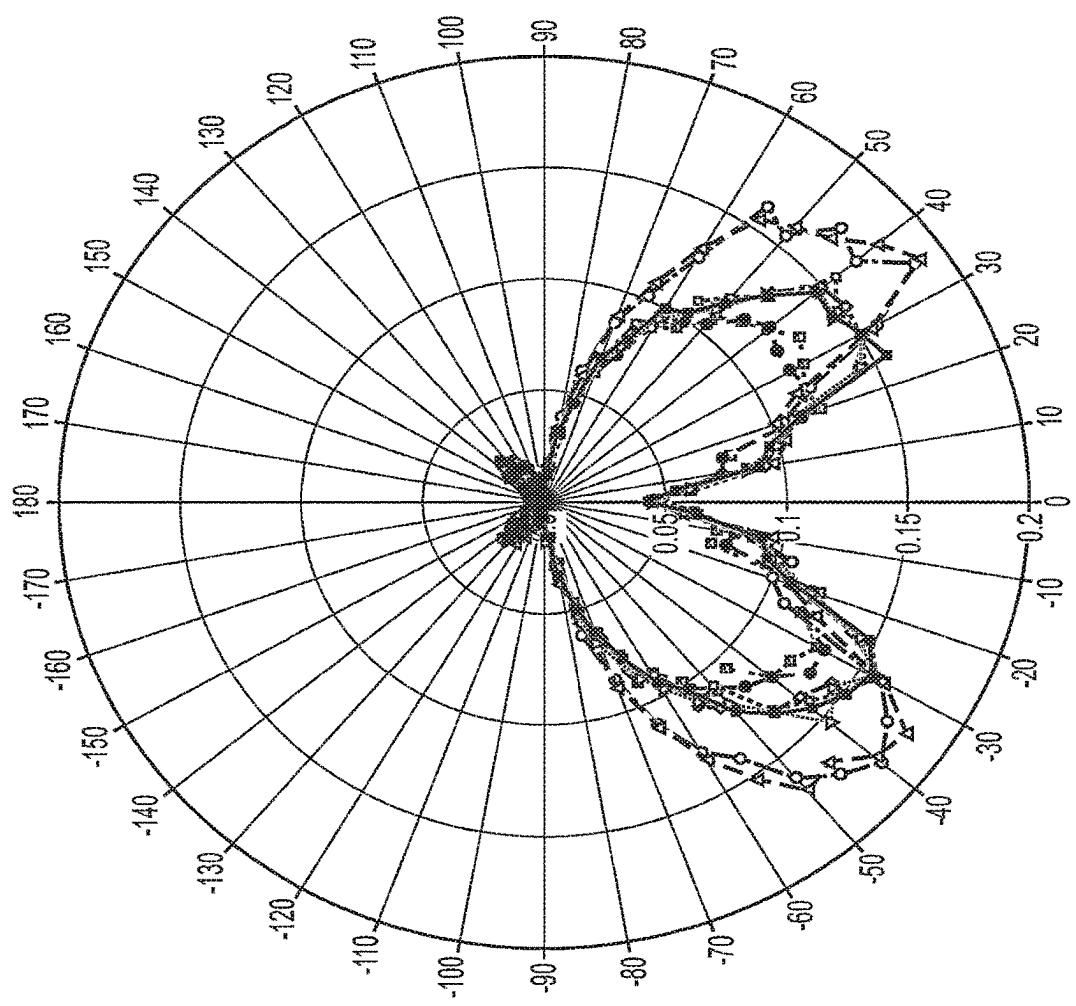
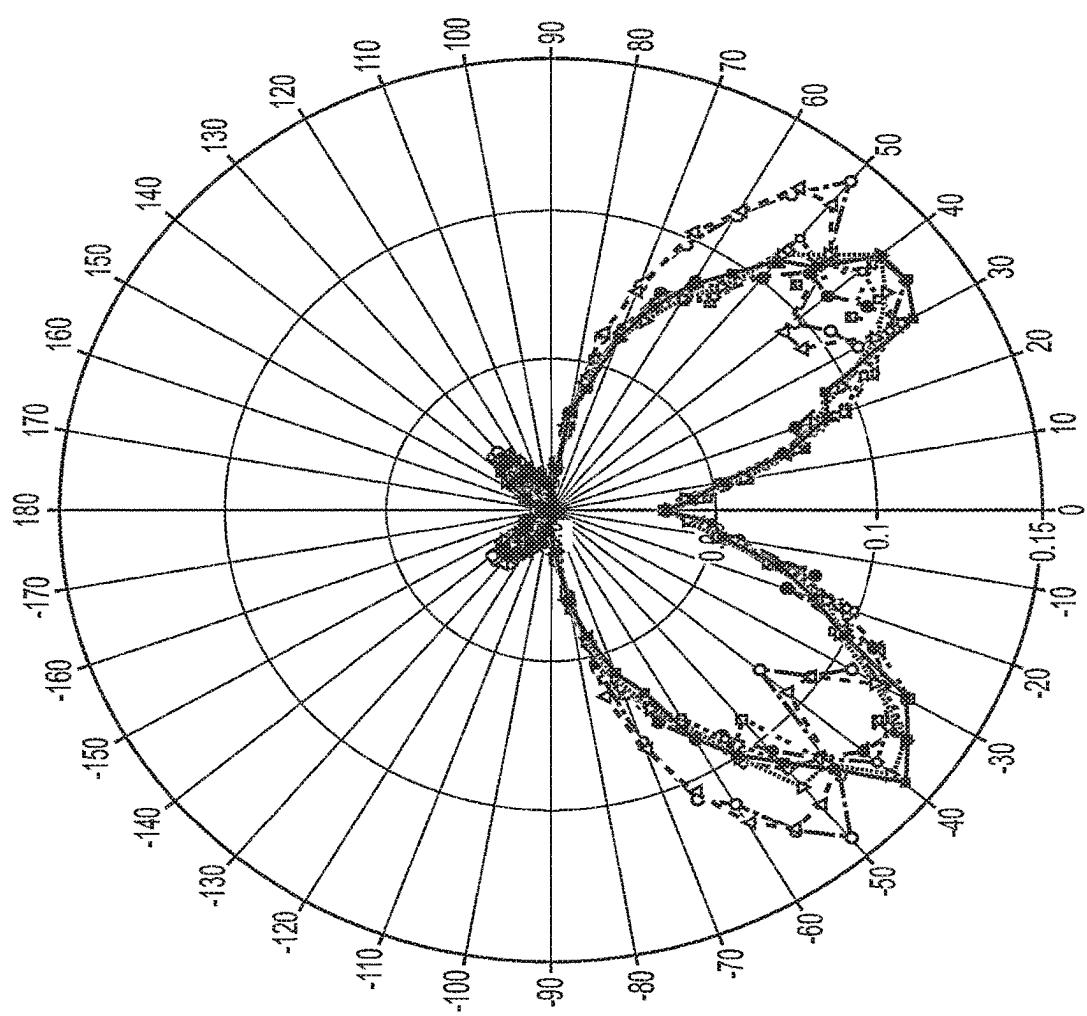


FIG. 9C

**FIG. 9D**

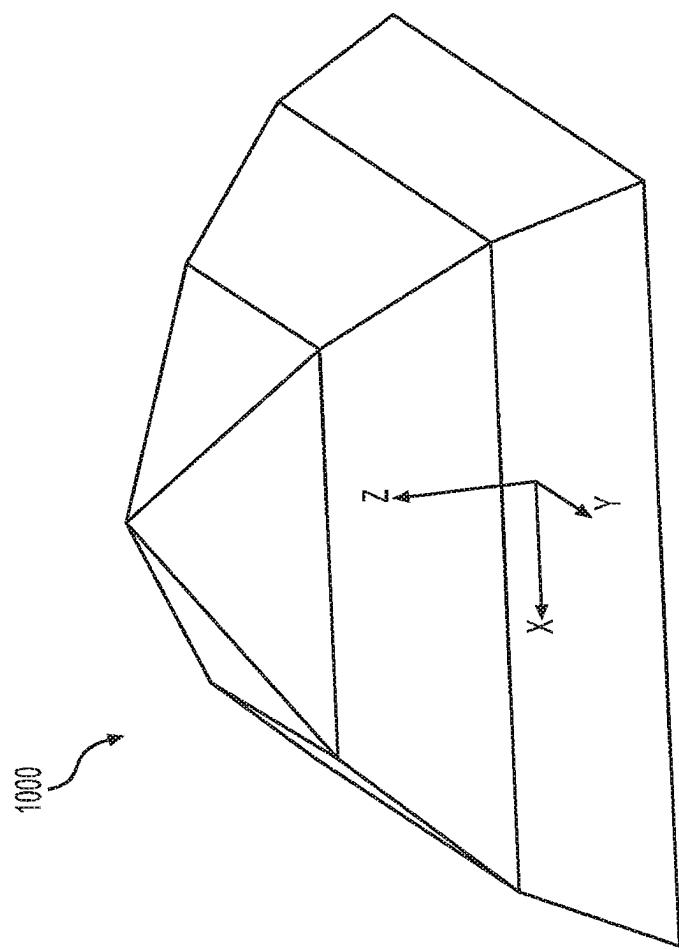


FIG. 10

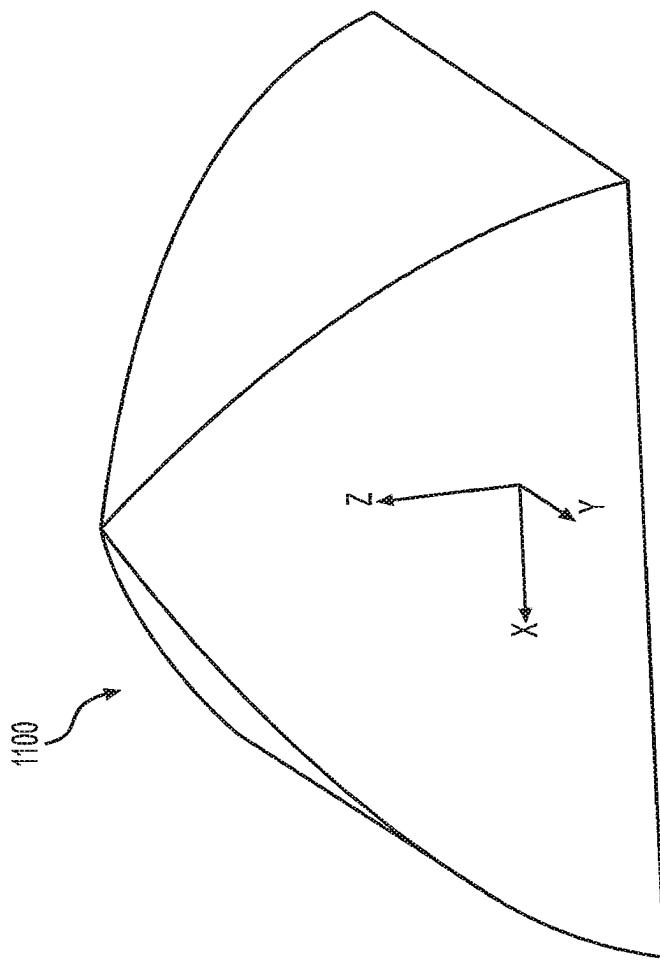


FIG. 11

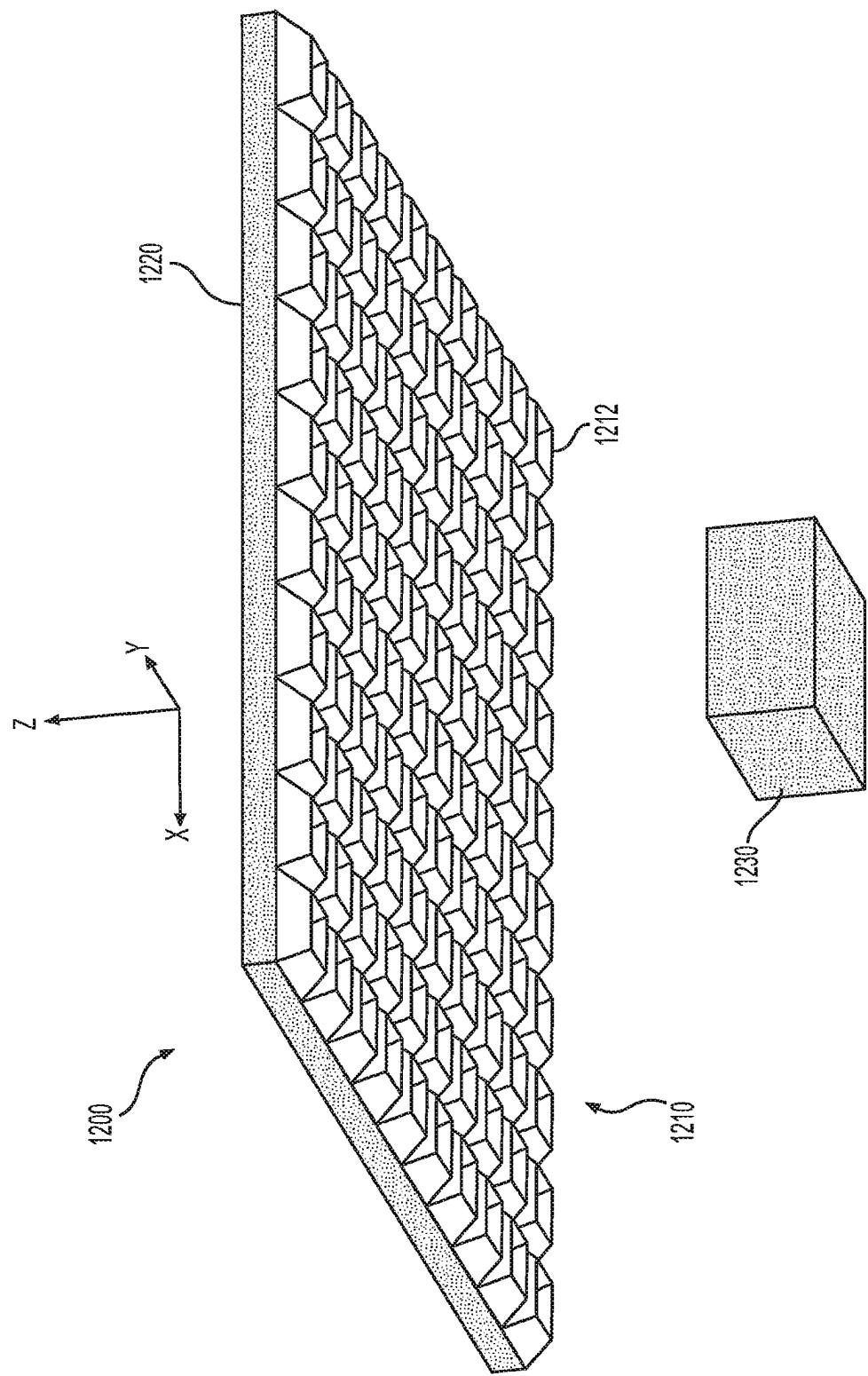


FIG. 12A

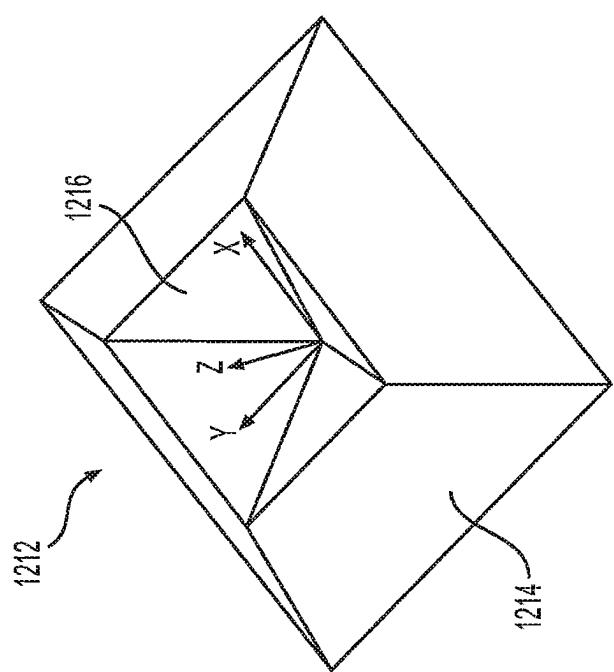


FIG. 12B

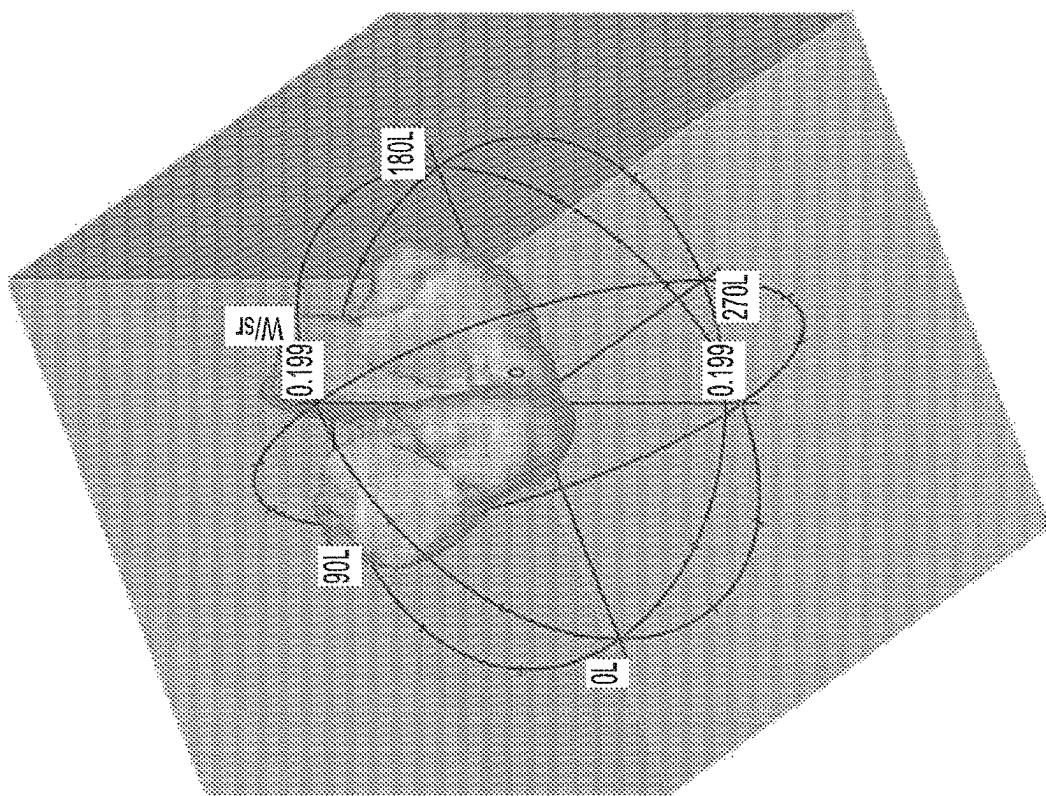


FIG. 13A

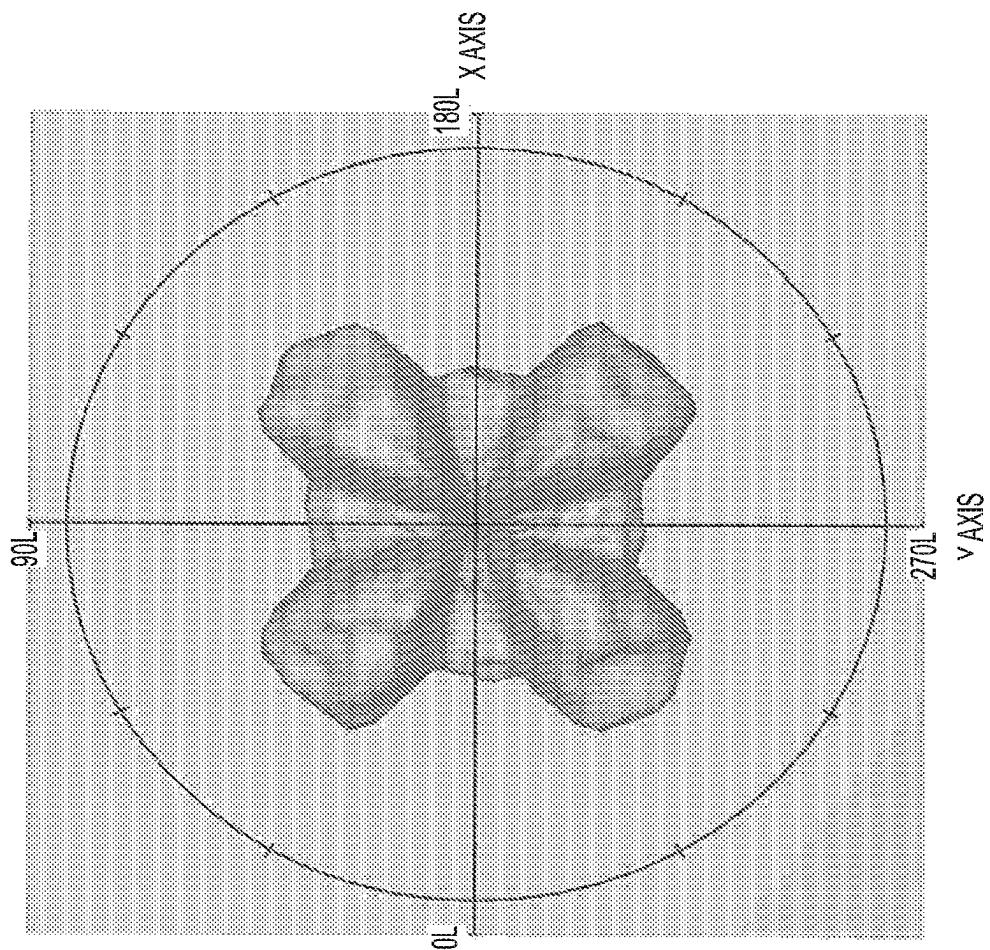


FIG. 13B

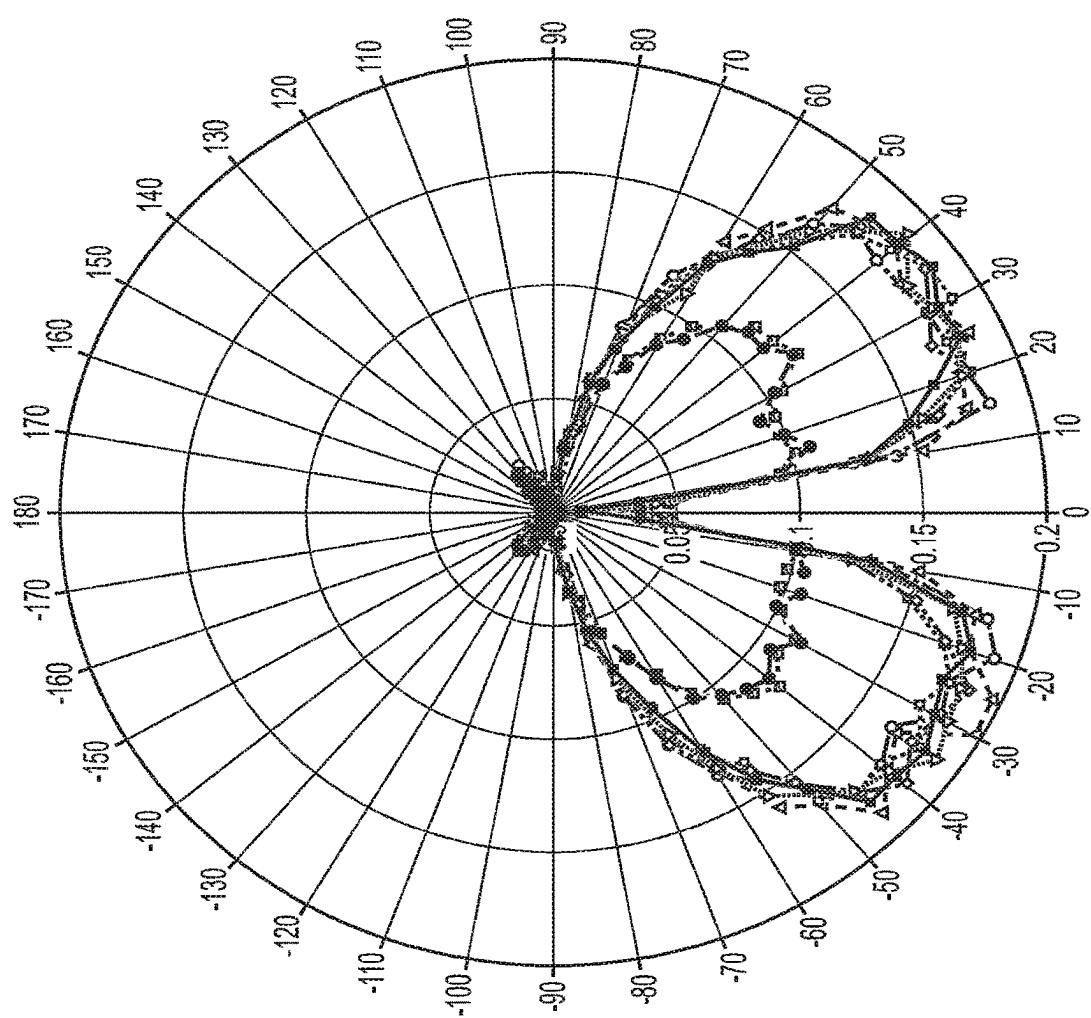


FIG. 13C

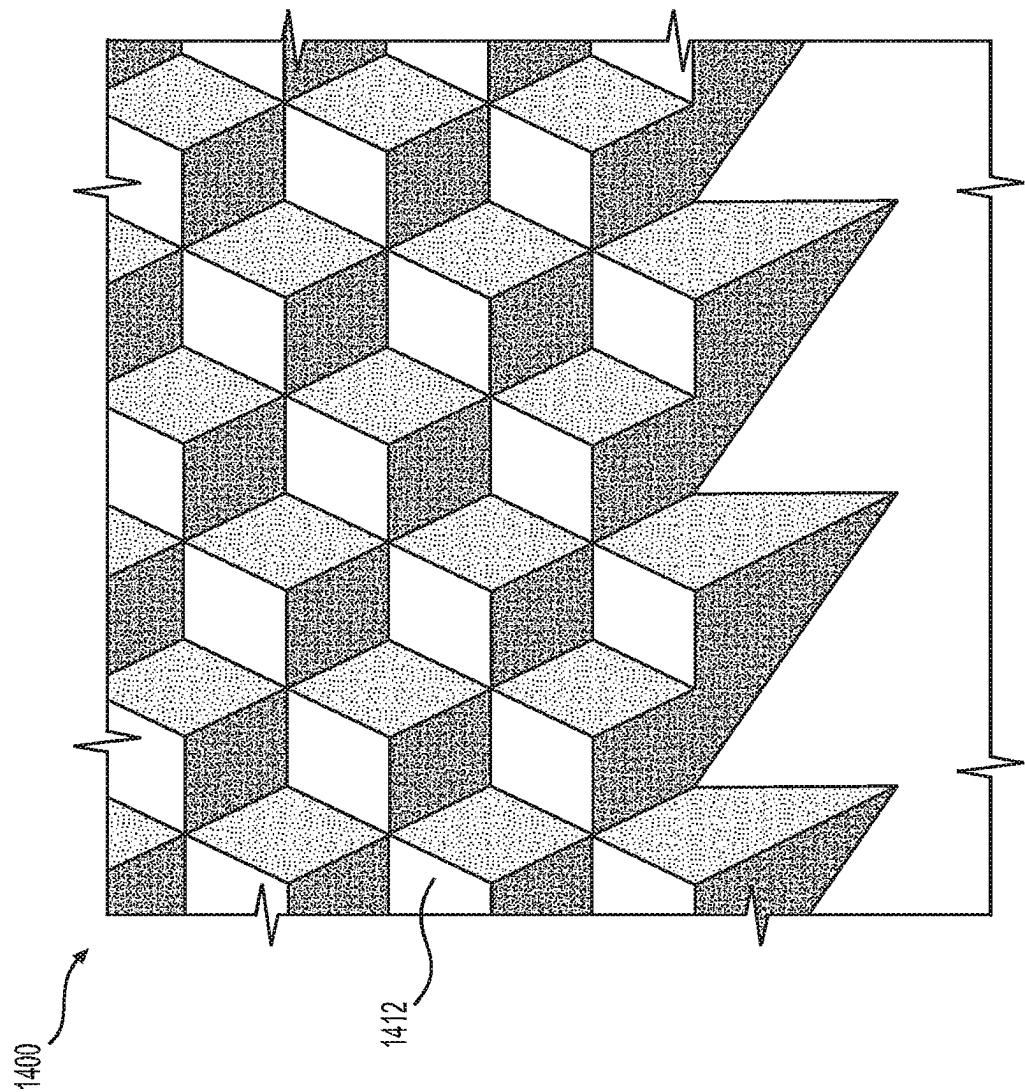


FIG. 14A

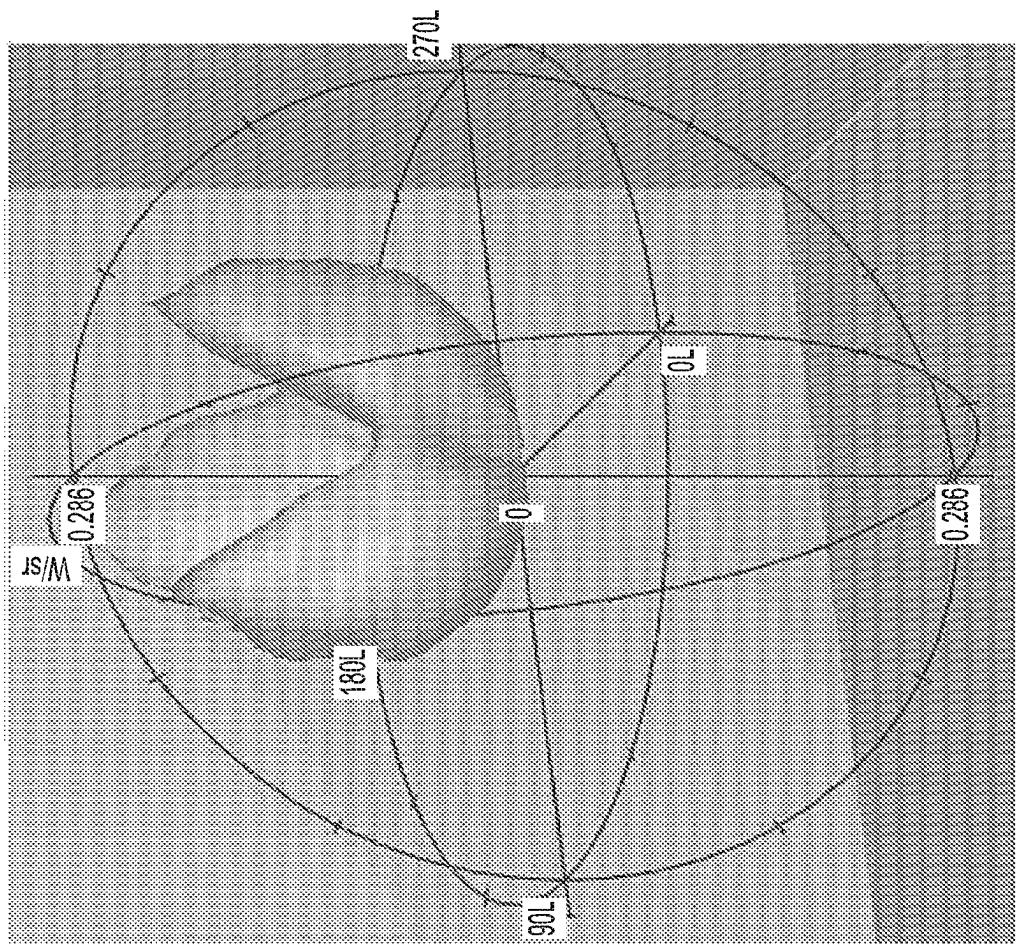


FIG. 14B

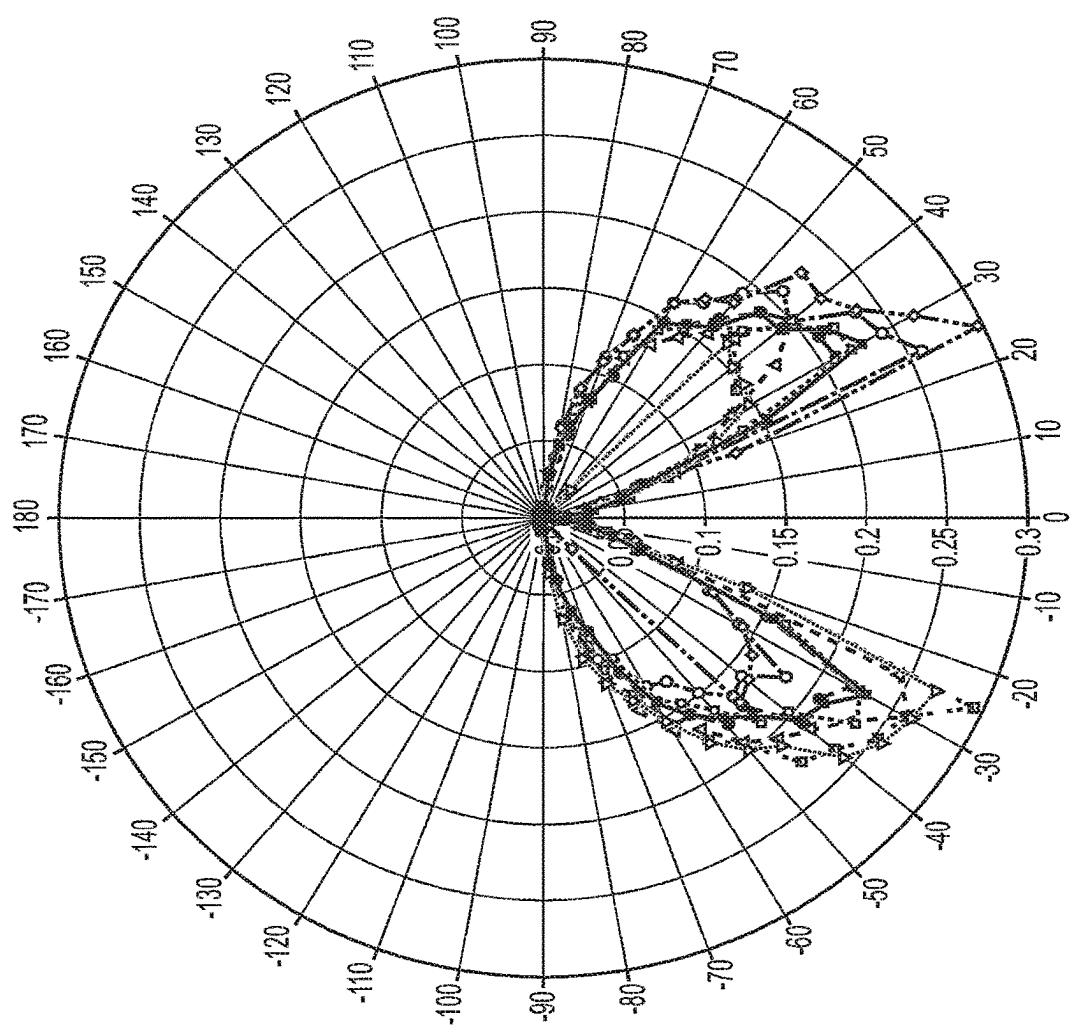


FIG. 14C

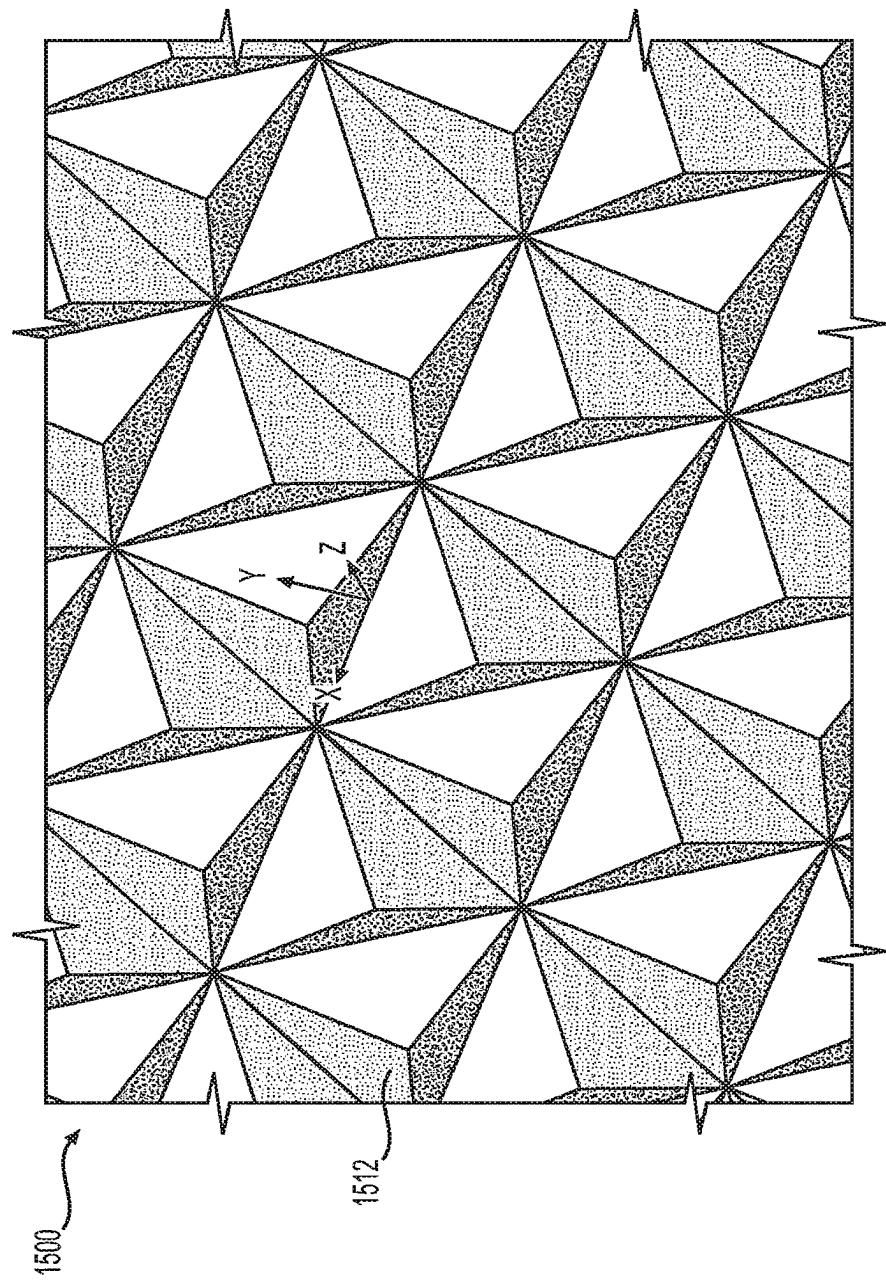


FIG. 15A

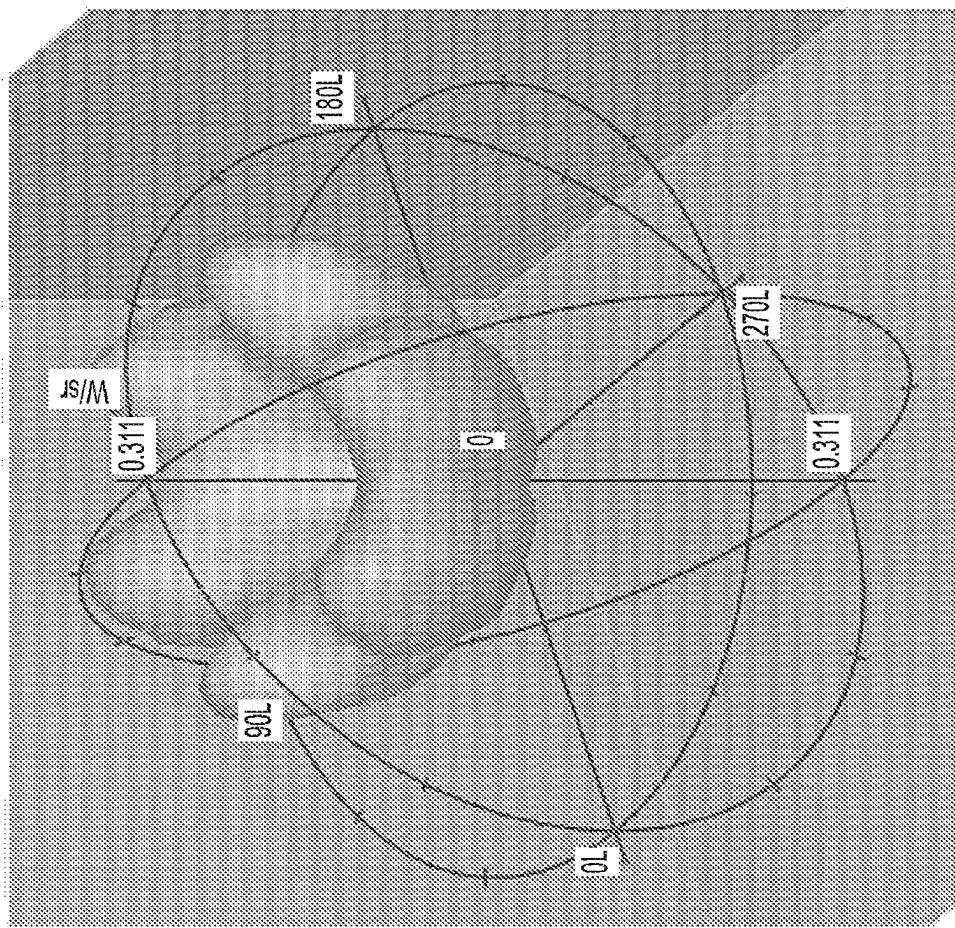


FIG. 15B

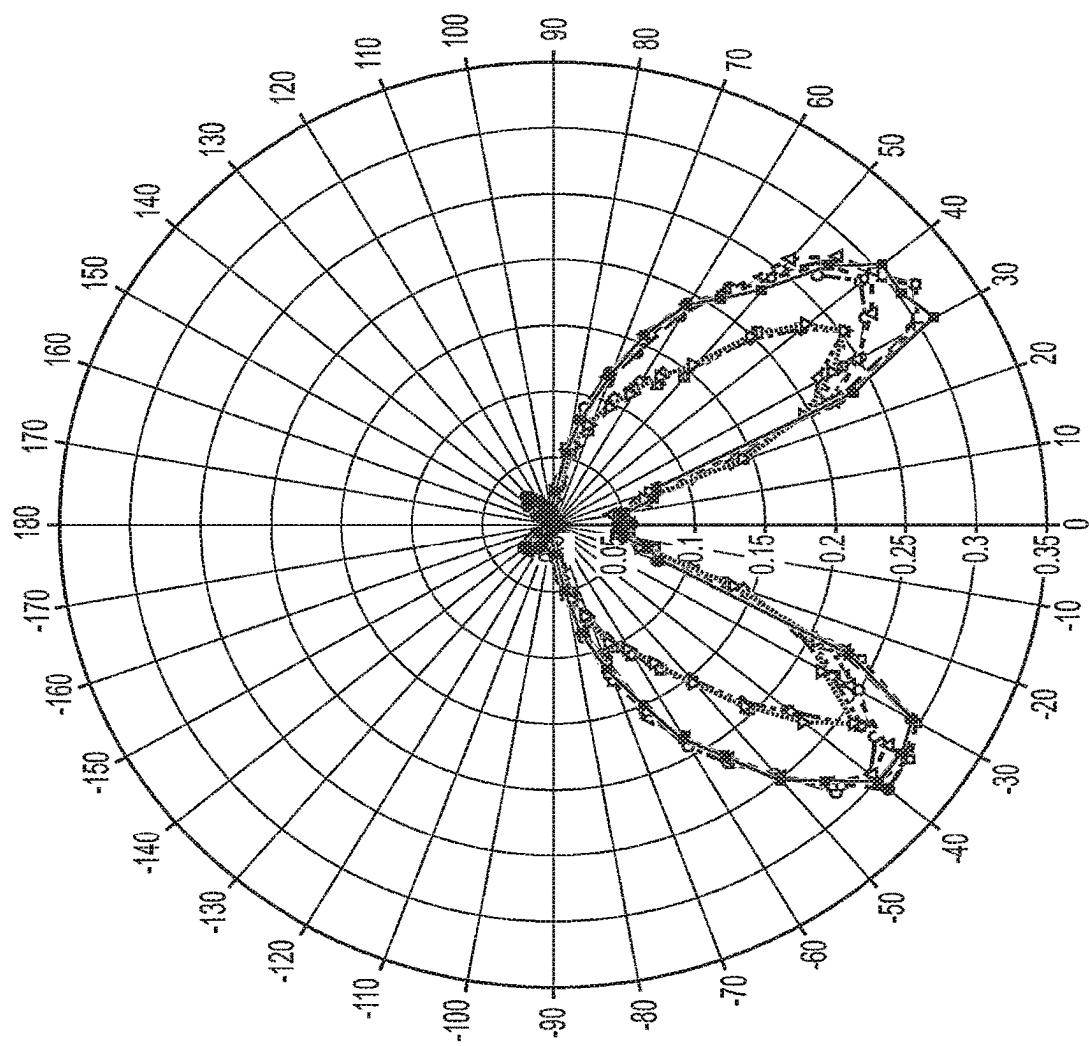


FIG. 15C

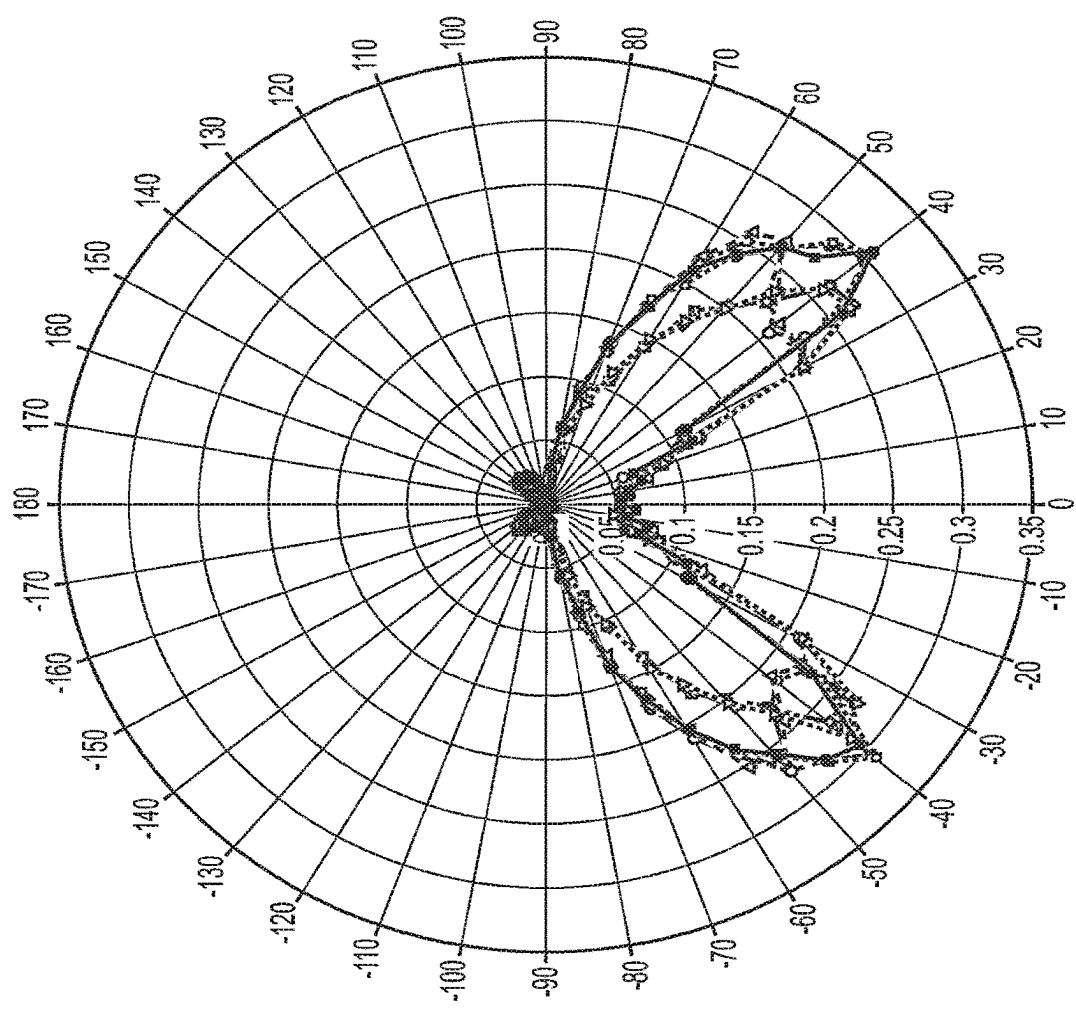


FIG. 15D

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**MICROSTRUCTURES FOR
TRANSFORMING LIGHT HAVING
LAMBERTIAN DISTRIBUTION INTO
BATWING DISTRIBUTIONS**

RELATED APPLICATION SECTION

The present application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 18/297,880, entitled "Microstructures for Transforming Light Having Lambertian Distribution into Batwing Distributions", filed on Apr. 10, 2023, now granted as U.S. Pat. No. 12,169,064 on Dec. 17, 2024, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/841,713, entitled "Microstructures for Transforming Light Having Lambertian Distribution into Batwing Distributions", filed on Jun. 16, 2022, now granted as U.S. Pat. No. 11,655,957 on May 23, 2023, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/962,155, entitled "Microstructures for Transforming Light Having Lambertian Distribution Into Batwing Distributions", filed on Jul. 14, 2020, now granted as U.S. Pat. No. 11,391,437 on Jul. 19, 2022, which is a National Stage Entry from International Patent Application No. PCT/US2019/015600, entitled "Microstructures for Transforming Light Having Lambertian Distribution into Batwing Distributions", filed on Jan. 29, 2019, which claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 62/623,894, entitled "Microstructures for Transforming Light Having Lambertian Distribution into Batwings Distributions," filed Jan. 30, 2018. The entire contents of U.S. Pat. Nos. 12,169,064, 11,655,957 and 11,391,437, International Patent Application No. PCT/US2019/015600, and Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 62/623,894 are hereby incorporated by reference.

FIELD

The present invention is related to micro light transmitting optics and microstructures for transforming light having a Lambertian distribution into batwing distributions for large area uniform illumination.

BACKGROUND

Light emitting diodes (LEDs) have quickly become the primary light generating device for current applications. Intrinsically, an LED emits the light in a Lambertian distribution, characterized by the strongest intensity at the emitting direction (zero degrees or "nadir"). Light intensity decreases following the cosine function of the angles deviated from the zero-degree (nadir) emitting direction and reduces to zero as the angle reaches 90 degrees from nadir, as illustrated in FIG. 1. When an LED is used to illuminate a flat surface target, the light traveling path length varies for different target locations. Typically, the path length is the shortest at the zero-degree direction where the LED emits the highest light intensity, which forces designers to increase the light source density to achieve a good illumination uniformity.

For applications that require uniform or even illumination over a desired area of a flat plane with low light source density, such as the back light units for displays or lighting projects for a large area, the light source should deliver light energy in the reverse fashion of a Lambertian distribution, i.e. reduced intensity at zero degrees (nadir) and high intensity at angles away from nadir, as shown in FIG. 2, for example. Such a distribution profile (illustrated in FIG. 2) is

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often referred as a "batwing" distribution and is more desirable for achieving uniform illumination.

Transforming a Lambertian distribution emitted by, for example, an LED light source into a batwing distribution may be achieved efficiently for some applications, such as some lighting applications, by using bulk optical lenses with specifically designed shapes. Such structures may not be feasible for many applications in which LEDs are used, such as in displays of cell phones, smart phones, tablets, laptop computers, etc., due to the structure bulkiness of implanting such solutions. It is desirable to transform a Lambertian distribution into a batwing distribution with structures that are more compact than current optical lenses.

SUMMARY

It has been found that micro optical transmissive structures that are fabricated on a light transmissible substrate may be used to perform the desired transformation functions to transform a Lambertian distribution into a desired batwing distribution so that a substantially uniform illumination may be provided to a large area relative to the size of an LED light source. Embodiments of the present invention are described below.

According to an aspect of the invention, there is provided a light transmissive substrate for transforming a Lambertian light distribution into a batwing light distribution. The light transmissive substrate includes a first surface comprising a plurality of microstructures, and a second surface on a side of the substrate opposite the first surface. The substrate is configured to receive light in a Lambertian distribution from a light source at the first surface and transform the light into a batwing distribution exiting the second surface. The batwing distribution has a peak intensity at about $\pm 30^\circ$ to about $\pm 60^\circ$ from X and Y axes and a minimum intensity at nadir.

In an embodiment, each of the plurality of microstructures has a shape of a pyramid extending in a direction away from the second surface. In an embodiment, at least the microstructures are made from material having a refractive index of about 1.5, and the pyramid has a roof angle of between about 70° and about 95° .

In an embodiment, each pyramid has a base portion and a top portion connected to the base portion. The top portion includes a tip of the pyramid and has sides disposed at different angles than sides of the base portion.

In an embodiment, at least the microstructures are made from material having a refractive index of about 1.5, the sides of the base portion are disposed at angles of about 55° relative to a plane substantially parallel to the second surface, and the top portion has a roof angle of between about 85° and about 90° .

In an embodiment, each of the plurality of microstructures has a shape of a frustum of a pyramid and a recess in a shape of a reverse pyramid. In an embodiment, at least the microstructures are made from material having a refractive index of about 1.5, sides of the frustum are disposed at angles of about 55° relative to a plane substantially parallel to the second surface, and the reverse pyramid has a roof angle of between about 85° and about 90° .

In an embodiment, each of the plurality of microstructures has a shape of a corner cube.

In an embodiment, the second surface is substantially planar.

In an embodiment, the second surface comprises a texture.

These and other aspects, features, and characteristics of the present invention, as well as the methods of operation and functions of the related elements of structure and the combination of parts and economies of manufacture, will become more apparent upon consideration of the following description and the appended claims with reference to the accompanying drawings, all of which form a part of this specification. It is to be expressly understood, however, that the drawings are for the purpose of illustration and description only and are not intended as a definition of the limits of the invention. As used in the specification and in the claims, the singular form of "a", "an", and "the" include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The components of the following figures are illustrated to emphasize the general principles of the present disclosure and are not necessarily drawn to scale, although at least one of the figures may be drawn to scale. Reference characters designating corresponding components are repeated as necessary throughout the figures for the sake of consistency and clarity.

FIG. 1 is a two-dimensional polar chart of a Lambertian intensity distribution;

FIG. 2 is a two-dimensional polar chart of a batwing-type intensity distribution;

FIG. 3 is a schematic side view of a light transmissive substrate in accordance with embodiments of the invention;

FIG. 4A is an isometric schematic view of an LED light source and a pair of light transmissive substrates with microstructures;

FIG. 4B is an isometric schematic view of a single microstructure of the substrates of FIG. 4A;

FIG. 5A is an isometric view of a transferred batwing intensity distribution three-dimensional polar chart for the embodiment of FIG. 4A having microstructures with roof angles of 90 degrees;

FIG. 5B is a top view of the three-dimensional polar chart of FIG. 5A;

FIG. 5C is a two-dimensional polar chart of the transferred batwing intensity distribution for the embodiment of FIG. 4A having microstructures with roof angles of 90 degrees;

FIG. 5D is an isometric view of a transferred batwing intensity distribution three-dimensional polar chart for the embodiment of FIG. 4A having microstructures with roof angles of 85 degrees;

FIG. 5E is a two-dimensional polar chart of the transferred batwing intensity distribution for the embodiment of FIG. 4A with the microstructures having a refractive index of 1.5 and roof angles of 85 degrees;

FIG. 5F is a two-dimensional polar chart of the transferred batwing intensity distribution for the embodiment of FIG. 4A with the microstructures having a refractive index of 1.6 and roof angles of 85 degrees;

FIG. 6A is an isometric schematic view of an LED light source and a single light transmissive substrate with microstructures in accordance with an embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 6B is an isometric schematic view of a single microstructure of the substrate of FIG. 6A;

FIG. 6C is a top schematic view of the single microstructure of FIG. 6B;

FIG. 7A illustrates an isometric view of a transferred batwing intensity distribution three-dimensional polar chart for the embodiment of FIG. 6A having microstructures with roof angles of 90 degrees;

FIG. 7B illustrates a top view of the three-dimensional polar chart of FIG. 7A;

FIG. 7C illustrates a two-dimensional polar chart of the transferred batwing intensity distribution for the embodiment of FIG. 6A with the microstructures having a refractive index of 1.5 and roof angles of 90 degrees;

FIG. 7D illustrates a two-dimensional polar chart of the transferred batwing intensity distribution for the embodiment of FIG. 6A with the microstructures a refractive index of 1.6 and roof angles of 90 degrees;

FIG. 7E illustrates an isometric view of a transferred batwing intensity distribution three-dimensional polar chart for the embodiment of FIG. 6A having microstructures with roof angles of 80 degrees;

FIG. 7F illustrates a two-dimensional polar chart of the transferred batwing intensity distribution for the embodiment of FIG. 6A having microstructures with roof angles of 80 degrees;

FIG. 7G illustrates an isometric view of a transferred batwing intensity distribution three-dimensional polar chart for the embodiment of FIG. 6A having microstructures with roof angles of 70 degrees;

FIG. 7H illustrates a two-dimensional polar chart of the transferred batwing intensity distribution for the embodiment of FIG. 6A having microstructures with roof angles of 70 degrees;

FIG. 7I illustrates an isometric view of a transferred batwing intensity distribution three-dimensional polar chart for the embodiment of FIG. 6A having microstructures with roof angles of 60 degrees;

FIG. 7J illustrates a two-dimensional polar chart of the transferred batwing intensity distribution for the embodiment of FIG. 6A having microstructures with roof angles of 60 degrees;

FIG. 7K illustrates an isometric view of a transferred batwing intensity distribution three-dimensional polar chart for the embodiment of FIG. 6A having microstructures with roof angles of 100 degrees;

FIG. 7L illustrates a two-dimensional polar chart of the transferred batwing intensity distribution for the embodiment of FIG. 6A having microstructures with roof angles of 100 degrees;

FIG. 8A is an isometric schematic view of an LED light source and a single light transmissive substrate with microstructures in accordance with an embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 8B is an isometric schematic view of a single microstructure of the substrate of FIG. 8A;

FIG. 8C is a top schematic view of the single microstructure of FIG. 8B;

FIG. 9A is an isometric view of a transferred batwing intensity distribution three-dimensional polar chart for the embodiment of FIG. 8A;

FIG. 9B is a top view of the three-dimensional polar chart of FIG. 9A;

FIG. 9C is a two-dimensional polar chart of the transferred batwing intensity distribution for the embodiment of FIG. 8A with the microstructures having a refractive index of 1.5;

FIG. 9D illustrates a two-dimensional polar chart of the transferred batwing intensity distribution for the embodiment of FIG. 8A with the microstructures having a refractive index of 1.6;

FIG. 10 is an isometric schematic view of a microstructure in accordance with an embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 11 is an isometric schematic view of a microstructure in accordance with an embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 12A illustrates an LED light source and a single light transmissive substrate with microstructures in accordance with an embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 12B illustrates a single microstructure of FIG. 12A;

FIG. 13A illustrates an isometric view of a transferred batwing intensity distribution three-dimensional polar chart for the embodiment of FIG. 12A;

FIG. 13B illustrates a top view of the three-dimensional polar chart of FIG. 13A;

FIG. 13C illustrates a two-dimensional polar chart of the transferred batwing intensity distribution for the embodiment of FIG. 12A;

FIG. 14A illustrates an isometric view of a light transmissive substrate with microstructures in accordance with an embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 14B illustrates an isometric view of a transferred batwing intensity distribution three-dimensional polar chart for the embodiment of FIG. 14A;

FIG. 14C illustrates a two-dimensional polar chart of the transferred batwing intensity distribution for the embodiment of FIG. 14A;

FIG. 15A illustrates an isometric view of a light transmissive substrate with microstructures in accordance with an embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 15B illustrates an isometric view of a transferred batwing intensity distribution three-dimensional polar chart for the embodiment of FIG. 15A;

FIG. 15C illustrates a two-dimensional polar chart of the transferred batwing intensity distribution for the embodiment of FIG. 15A with the microstructures having a refractive index of 1.5; and

FIG. 15D illustrates a two-dimensional polar chart of the transferred batwing intensity distribution for the embodiment of FIG. 15A with the microstructures having a refractive index of 1.6.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Embodiments of the present invention provide light transmissive substrates having microstructures that may provide the desired effect of transforming a Lambertian intensity distribution received from a light source, such as an LED, into a batwing intensity distribution that has maximum intensity away from nadir and at about $\pm 30^\circ$ to about $\pm 60^\circ$ from X and Y axes, and minimum intensity at nadir.

FIG. 3 is a schematic illustration of a light transmissive substrate 100 for transforming a Lambertian light distribution into a batwing light distribution in accordance with embodiments of the invention. The substrate 100 includes a first surface 110 that includes a plurality of microstructures 112, and a second surface 120 on a side of the substrate 100 opposite the first surface 110.

As discussed in further detail below, the substrate 100 is configured to receive light in a Lambertian distribution from a light source at the first surface 110 and transform the light into a batwing distribution exiting the second surface 120. The resulting batwing distribution desirably has a peak intensity in a range of about $\pm 30^\circ$ to about $\pm 60^\circ$ from X and Y axes and a minimum intensity at nadir. In an embodiment, the light transmissive substrate 100 may provide a batwing distribution that has a peak intensity at about $\pm 45^\circ$ from X and Y axes and a minimum (near zero) intensity at nadir. In some embodiments of the invention, at least the light trans-

missive microstructures are made from a material having a refractive index of about 1.5, although materials having different refractive indices may also be used as long as the desired effect can be achieved. In some embodiments of the invention, the rest of the substrate is a film made of a material that also has a refractive index of about 1.5, or a refractive index that matches or substantially matches the refractive index of the microstructures. For light sources that emit infrared beams, infrared transmitting materials that may not be transparent in the visible range of light may be used. Various embodiments of the invention are described in further detail below.

FIG. 4A illustrates two light transmissive substrates 400A, 400B, each having a plurality of microstructures 412 on first surfaces 410A, 410B thereof, that are oriented orthogonally to each other and placed above a light source 430 that outputs light in a Lambertian distribution. The first surfaces 410A, 410B of the light transmissive substrates 400A, 400B are oriented towards the light source 430 and second surfaces 420A, 420B of the substrates 400A, 400B are oriented away from the light source 430. FIG. 4B illustrates a single microstructure 412 in further detail. As illustrated, the microstructure 412 is in the form of a ridge that has a so-called roof angle or vertex α (see FIG. 3) of 90 degrees.

Light emitting from the light source 430 enters the first substrate 400A closest to the light source 430 via its first surface 410A, exits the first substrate 400A at its second surface 420A, enters the second substrate 400B at its first surface 410B, and exits the second substrate 400B at its second surface 420B. The different orientations of the microstructures 412 (i.e. being substantially perpendicular to each other) cause the light to bend and spread in two different directions and result in a net spread that is that is stronger and in a different direction relative to X and Y axes than if only one of the light transmissive substrates 400A, 400B is used.

FIGS. 5A-5C illustrate three dimensional and two-dimensional representations of the light distribution provided by the combination of the two light transmissive substrates 400 having a refractive index of 1.5 and arranged as illustrated in FIG. 4A. As illustrated, light energy is not only steered away from the 0 degree (nadir) emitting direction, but also pushed toward four directions approximately 45 degrees from the primary X and Y axes as shown in FIGS. 5A and 5B. Along those directions, light typically travels the longest path length reaching the target area where stronger intensity is desired. Such a distribution may be desirable when there are multiple light sources arranged in a substantially square array, such as in back-lit displays or large area lighting applications (such as when lighting a warehouse). FIG. 5C is a 2D polar plot of the light intensity distributions represented by FIGS. 5A and 5B.

The prism angles α on both substrates 400 may be adjusted to optimize the output distribution. For example, in an embodiment, the roof angle α of the ridges 412 on the substrates 400 may be 85 degrees. FIG. 5D illustrates a three dimensional representation of the light distribution provided by the combination of the two light transmissive substrates 400 having a refractive index of 1.5 with the ridges 412 having a roof angles of 85 degrees, and arranged as illustrated in FIG. 4A. FIG. 5E is a 2D polar plot of the light intensity distribution represented by FIG. 5D. FIG. 5F is a 2D polar plot of the light intensity distribution provided by the combination of the two light transmissive substrates 400 having a refractive index of 1.6 with the ridges 412 having a roof angles of 85 degrees, and arranged as illustrated in

FIG. 4A. A comparison of FIGS. 5E and 5F shows the influence the refractive index has on the batwing spreading performance of the substrates.

Textures may be added to the second surface 420 of either or both substrates to fine tune the distribution profile and to enhance the optical transmission efficiencies.

FIG. 6A illustrates an embodiment of a light transmissive substrate 600 that has a plurality of microstructures 612 on a first surface 610 thereof. In this embodiment, the micro-structures 612 are in the form of an array of micro-pyramids, each having four faces, that are placed above an LED light source 630 that outputs light in a Lambertian distribution. As depicted in FIG. 6A, the light enters the substrate 600 via the first surface 610 having the array of micro-pyramids 612 and exits a second surface 620 on an opposite side of the substrate 600 as the first surface 610. Each of the micro-structures 612 has a roof angle α (see FIG. 3) of 90 degrees, and is shown in further detail in FIGS. 6B (perspective view) and 6C (top view). Pyramid roof angles may be adjusted to optimize the output distribution, and textures may be added to the second surface 620 of the substrate 600 to fine tune the distribution profile and to enhance the optical transmission efficiencies.

A representation of the three dimensional transformation of the light distribution provided by the substrate 600 having a refractive index of 1.5 is shown in FIGS. 7A and 7B. In this embodiment, light energy is not only steered away from the 0 degree emitting direction, but also pushed toward four directions approximately 45 degrees from the primary X and Y axes as shown. Along those directions, light typically travels the longest path length reaching the target area where stronger intensity is desired. FIG. 7C is a 2D polar plot of the light intensity distributions represented by FIGS. 7A and 7B.

FIG. 7D is a 2D polar plot of a representation of the light intensity distribution provided by the substrate 600 having a refractive index of 1.6 with the micro-pyramids having a roof angle α of 90 degrees. A comparison of FIGS. 7C and 7D shows the influence the refractive index has on the batwing spreading performance of the substrate 600.

The roof angle α of the micro-pyramids 612 affects the light distribution provided by the substrate 600 having a refractive index of 1.5, as illustrated by FIGS. 7A-7C and 7E-7L. As illustrated, roof angles α of 80 degrees (represented by FIGS. 7E and 7F) and 70 degrees (represented by FIGS. 7G and 7H) as compared to 90 degrees (represented by FIGS. 7A-7C) provide different zero degree light intensities as well as shapes of the batwing distribution. Roof angles α of 60 degrees (represented by FIGS. 7I and 7J) and 100 degrees (represented by FIGS. 7K and 7L) provide different zero degree light intensities, but do not provide batwing distributions. According to embodiments of the invention, the roof angle α of the micro-pyramids 612 is in the range of 70 degrees to 95 degrees for substrates having a refractive index of 1.5.

FIG. 8A illustrates a light transmissive substrate 800 that has an array of microstructures 812 on a first surface 810 thereof. In this embodiment, the microstructures 812 are in the form of an array of hybrid micro-pyramids that are placed above an LED light source 830 that outputs light in a Lambertian distribution. As illustrated in FIG. 8A, the light enters the substrate 800 via the first surface 810 having the array of hybrid micro-pyramids 812 and exits a second surface 820 on an opposite side of the substrate 800 as the first surface 810. FIGS. 8B and 8C illustrate the hybrid micro-pyramid 812 in further detail. As illustrated, a top portion 814 of the hybrid micro-pyramid 812 may have a roof angle α (see FIG. 3) of 85 degrees, and a bottom portion

(frustum) 816 of the hybrid micro-pyramid 812 may have a roof angle α of 70 degrees. In embodiments in which the roof angle α of the bottom portion 816 is 70 degrees, sides 818 of the bottom portion 816 are each disposed at an angle β (see FIG. 3) of 55 degrees. In an embodiment, the top portion 814 may have a roof angle α of between 85 degrees and 90 degrees.

A representation of the three dimensional transformation of the light distribution provided by the substrate 800 having a refractive index of 1.5 is shown in FIGS. 9A and 9B. As illustrated, the hybrid micro-pyramid may provide enhanced performance when compared to a “simple” pyramid, such as the pyramid 612 described above. In this embodiment, light energy is not only steered farther away from the 0 degree emitting direction, but also pushed toward four directions approximately 45 degrees from the primary X and Y axes as shown. Along those directions, light typically travels the longest path length reaching the target area where stronger intensity is desired. FIG. 9C is a 2D polar plot of the light intensity distributions represented by FIGS. 9A and 9B.

FIG. 9D is a 2D polar plot of a representation of the light intensity distribution provided by the substrate 800 having a refractive index of 1.6 with the hybrid micro-pyramids 812 having the top portion 814 with a roof angle α (see FIG. 3) of 85 degrees, and the bottom portion 816 with a roof angle α of 70 degrees. A comparison of FIGS. 9C and 9D shows the influence the refractive index has on the batwing spreading performance of the substrate 600.

Pyramid roof angles α for the top portion 814 and the bottom portion 816 may be adjusted to optimize the output distribution. Textures may be added to the second surface 820 of the substrate 800 to fine tune the distribution profile and to enhance the optical transmission efficiencies. Although FIGS. 9A-9C illustrate a hybrid pyramid that has two portions and sharp edges and transitions between the two portions, it is contemplated that the hybrid pyramid may have more than two portions and/or facets of the hybrid pyramid may be curved, thereby adding flexibilities for further transformation fine tuning and performance optimizations. For example, FIG. 10 illustrates a three-section hybrid micro-pyramid 1000 that may be used for the micro-structure 812 of FIG. 8A, and FIG. 11 illustrates a curved-facet hybrid micro-pyramid 1100 that may be used for the microstructure 812 of FIG. 8A.

FIG. 12A illustrates a light transmissive substrate 1200 that has an array of microstructures 1212 on a first surface 1210 thereof. In this embodiment, the microstructures 1212 are in the form of an array of “folded” micro-pyramids that are placed above an LED light source 1230 that outputs light in a Lambertian distribution. As illustrated in FIG. 12A, the light enters the substrate 1200 via the first surface 1210 having the array of folded micro-pyramids 1212 and exits a second surface 1220 on an opposite side of the substrate 1200 as the first surface 1210. FIG. 12B illustrates the folded micro-pyramid 1212 in further detail. As illustrated, the folded micro-pyramid has a frustum or base section 1214 and a recess 1216 having the shape of a micro-pyramid in the base section 1214, thereby giving the pyramid a configuration that looks as though the tip of a simple pyramid was pressed downward and into the base section 1214 or “folded” into the base section 1214. Both the base section 1214 and the recess 1216 may have roof angles α (see FIG. 3) of 90 degrees.

Folded pyramids may enhance the manufacturability of the light transmissive substrate to overcome a restriction on the height of the microstructures in the Z-direction (represented by ‘h’ in FIG. 3) for many microstructure fabrication

processes. Folded pyramids also offer possibilities of achieving functionalities of structures of larger heights (h in FIG. 3) than the fabrication process may allow. In an embodiment, the height h of the microstructures may be in the range of about 10 micrometers to about 50 micrometers. Pyramid roof angles may be adjusted to optimize the output distribution. Textures may be added to the second surface 1220 of the substrate 1200 to fine tune the distribution profile and to enhance the optical transmission efficiencies.

A representation of the three dimensional transformation of the light distribution provided by the substrate 1200 is shown in FIGS. 13A and 13B. In this embodiment, light energy is not only steered away from the 0 degree emitting direction, but also pushed toward four directions approximately 45 degrees from the primary X and Y axes as shown. Along those directions, light typically travels the longest path length reaching the target area where stronger intensity is desired. FIG. 13C is a 2D polar plot of the light intensity distributions represented by FIGS. 13A and 13B.

FIG. 14A illustrates an embodiment of a light transmissive substrate 1400 with an array of microstructures 1412 in the form of corner cubes having square shaped faces that may be used in place of the light transmissive substrates described above. A representation of the three dimensional transformation of the light distribution provided by the substrate having a refractive index of 1.5 and the microstructures 1412 is shown in FIG. 14B. FIG. 14C is a 2D polar plot of the light intensity distribution represented by FIGS. 14B.

FIG. 15A illustrates an embodiment of a light transmissive substrate 1500 with an array of microstructures 1512 in the form of corner cubes having triangular shaped faces. A representation of the three dimensional transformation of the light distribution provided by the microstructures 1512 having a refractive index of 1.5 is shown in FIG. 15B. FIG. 15C is a 2D polar plot of the light intensity distribution represented by FIGS. 15B.

FIG. 15D is a 2D polar plot of a representation of the light intensity distribution provided by the microstructures 1512 having a refractive index of 1.6. A comparison of FIGS. 15C and 15D shows the influence the refractive index has on the batwing spreading performance of the substrate 1500.

The light transmissive structures according to any of the embodiments described herein may be created using many techniques known in the art. For example, in an embodiment, the shape of the microstructures may be cast onto a substrate using a suitable master mold, and thermally-curing polymer or ultraviolet (UV) light curing polymer, or the shape may be impressed into a thermoplastic substrate through compression molding or other molding, or may be created at the same time as the substrate using extrusion-embossing or injection molding. The microstructures may be produced by replicating a master. For example, an optical diffuser may be made by replication of a master containing the desired shapes as described in U.S. Pat. No. 7,190,387 B2 to Rinehart et al., entitled "Systems And Methods for Fabricating Optical Microstructures Using a Cylindrical Platform and a Rastered Radiation Beam"; U.S. Pat. No. 7,867,695 B2 to Freese et al., entitled "Methods for Mastering Microstructures Through a Substrate Using Negative Photoresist"; and/or U.S. Pat. No. 7,192,692 B2 to Wood et al., entitled "Methods for Fabricating Microstructures by Imaging a Radiation Sensitive Layer Sandwiched Between Outer Layers", assigned to the assignee of the present invention, the disclosures of all of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety as if set forth fully herein. The masters themselves may be fabricated using

laser scanning techniques described in these patents, and may also be replicated to provide diffusers using replicating techniques described in these patents.

In an embodiment, laser holography, known in the art, 5 may be used to create a holographic pattern that creates the desired microstructures in a photosensitive material. In an embodiment, projection or contact photolithography, such as used in semiconductor, display, circuit board, and other common technologies known in the art, may be used to expose the microstructures into a photosensitive material. In an embodiment, laser ablation, either using a mask or using a focused and modulated laser beam, may be used to create the microstructures including the indicia in a material. In an embodiment, micromachining (also known as diamond machining), known in the art, may be used to create the desired microstructures from a solid material. In an embodiment, additive manufacturing (also known as 3D printing), known in the art, may be used to create the desired microstructure in a solid material.

For any of the embodiments of the light transmissive substrate described herein, roof angles of the microstructures may be adjusted, and or textures may be added to the second surface of the substrate to fine tune the distribution profile and to enhance the optical transmission efficiencies. 20 25 As described above, the refractive index of the microstructures also has an influence on the batwing spreading performance and may be adjusted to optimize performance.

The embodiments described herein represent a number of possible implementations and examples and are not intended 30 to necessarily limit the present disclosure to any specific embodiments. Instead, various modifications can be made to these embodiments, and different combinations of various embodiments described herein may be used as part of the invention, even if not expressly described, as would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art.

For example, although four-sided pyramids have been 35 described, it is contemplated that other geometries, such as microstructures having 3, 5 or 6 sides or circular (cone) geometries may be used. Also, it is contemplated that the 40 surfaces of the microstructures may have variations and either in a pattern or random variations or combinations thereof. In some embodiments, the microstructures may have asymmetrical instead of symmetrical shapes and arrays 45 of microstructures may include microstructures having different shapes and/or sizes, either in a pattern or random variations or combinations thereof. Any such modifications are intended to be included within the spirit and scope of the present disclosure and protected by the following claims.

50 What is claimed is:

1. A light transmissive substrate that transforms light having a Lambertian distribution, the light transmissive substrate comprising a substrate having a plurality of microstructures on a first surface, each of the plurality of microstructures comprising an array of folded micro-pyramid microstructures, wherein each folded micro-pyramid microstructure comprises a base section with a roof angle and a recess being formed in a shape of a micro-pyramid and comprising a recess roof angle, wherein light having a Lambertian distribution that enters the first surface of the substrate is transformed into light having a distribution with a maximum intensity at an angle away from nadir and a minimum intensity at nadir that exits a second surface of the substrate.
2. The light transmissive substrate according to claim 1, 55 60 65 wherein a refractive index of the microstructures is within in a range of 1.5 to 1.6.

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3. The light transmissive substrate according to claim 1, wherein a refractive index of the microstructures is 1.5.

4. The light transmissive substrate according to claim 1, wherein the recess roof angle is 90°.

5. The light transmissive substrate according to claim 1, wherein the recess roof angle is 85°.

6. The light transmissive substrate according to claim 1, wherein the recess roof angle is within a range of 85°-90°.

7. The light transmissive substrate according to claim 1, wherein the base section roof angle is 90°.

8. The light transmissive substrate according to claim 1, wherein sides of the base section are disposed at angles of 55° relative to a plane substantially parallel to the second surface of the substrate.

9. The light transmissive substrate according to claim 1, wherein the light that exits the second surface of the substrate having the distribution with the maximum intensity at the angle away from nadir and the minimum intensity at nadir comprises light that exits the second surface of the substrate having a distribution with an intensity at nadir that is greater than zero and a maximum intensity at an angle between ±30° to about ±60° from X and Y axes.

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10. The light transmissive substrate according to claim 1, wherein the light that exits the second surface of the substrate having the distribution with the maximum intensity at the angle away from nadir and the minimum intensity at nadir comprises light that exits the second surface of the substrate having a distribution with an intensity at nadir that is greater than zero and a maximum intensity at angles of ±45° from X axis and ±45° from Y axis.

11. The light transmissive substrate according to claim 1, wherein the second surface comprises a textured surface.

12. The light transmissive substrate according to claim 11, wherein the texture on the second surface of the substrate is configured to improve optical transmission efficiency.

13. The light transmissive substrate according to claim 11, wherein the texture on the second surface of the substrate is configured to achieve a desired optical distribution profile.

14. The light transmissive substrate according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of microstructures has a height in a range between 10 micrometers and 50 micrometers.

15. The light transmissive substrate according to claim 1, wherein the roof angle of the base section is selected to optimize output distribution.

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