

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
28 February 2008 (28.02.2008)

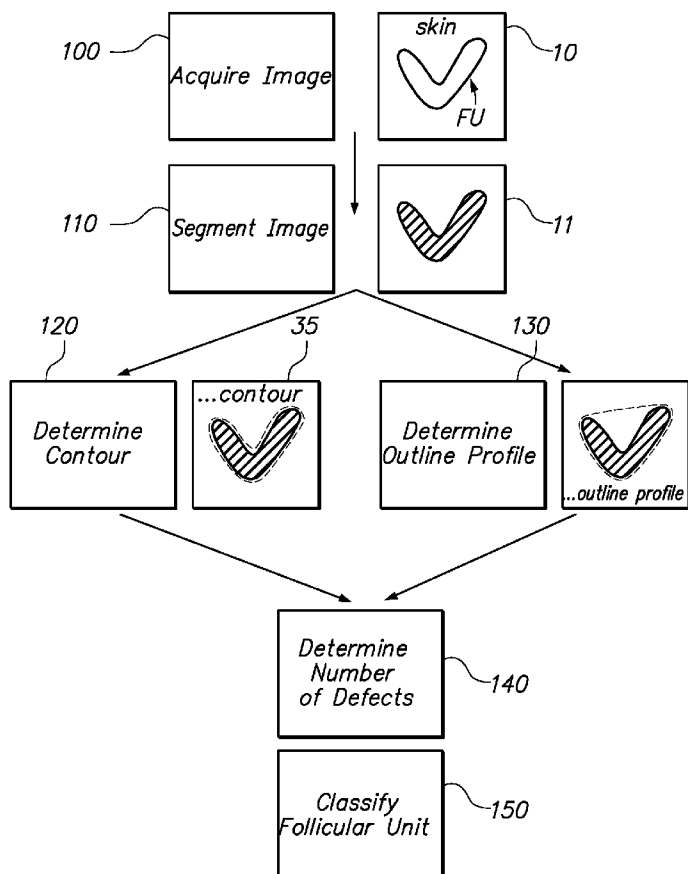
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2008/024954 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification: *G06K 9/00* (2006.01) California 94303 (US). **BODDULURI, Mohan** [US/US]; 2746 Cowper Street, Palo Alto, California 94036 (US).
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US2007/076726
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- (22) International Filing Date: 24 August 2007 (24.08.2007)
- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: 11/467,268 25 August 2006 (25.08.2006) US
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- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CLASSIFYING FOLLICULAR UNITS



(57) Abstract: A system and method for classifying follicular units based on the number of hairs in a follicular unit of interest comprises acquiring an image of a body surface having a follicular unit of interest, processing the image to calculate a contour of the follicular unit and an outline profile which disregards concavities in the contour, and determining the number of defects in the outline profile to determine the number of hairs in the follicular unit. The system and method may also adjust for hairs which converge beneath the skin and for images which appear as a single wide hair but which are actually multiple hairs. In another aspect, a system and method for determining the end points of a follicular unit comprises generating a skeleton of a segmented image and identifying the end points from the skeletonized image.

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ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL,
PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
26 June 2008

(15) Information about Correction:
Previous Correction:
see Notice of 10 April 2008

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US07/76726

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC: **G06K 9/00(2006.01)**

USPC: Please See Continuation Sheet
 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 U.S. : Please See Continuation Sheet

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 EAST

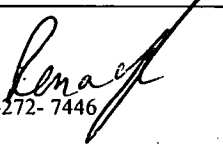
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2005/0267506 A1(HARRIS) 1 December 2005 (01.12.2005), entire document .	1-37
A	US 5,782,851 (RASSMAN) 7 July 1998 (07.07.1998), entire document.	1-37
A	US 7,094,569 B2 (KIM et al) 22 August 2006 (22.08.2006), entire document.	1-37
A	US 6,949,115 B2 (MASCIO) 27 September 2005 (27.09.2005), entire document .	1-37

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search 09 April 2008 (09.04.2008)	Date of mailing of the international search report 24 APR 2008
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US07/76726

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 1:

382/171; 606/9,133,187,13,167; 424/73, 70.1,727, 60; 128/ 898; 514/2, 859, 880, 165, 848, 21, 513, 12, 44; 435/ 6, 69.1, 320.1, 7.1

Continuation of USPC:

382/171;606/9,133,187,13,167;424/73,70.1,727,60;128/898;514/2,859,880,165,848,21,513,12,44;435/6,69.1,320.1,7.1