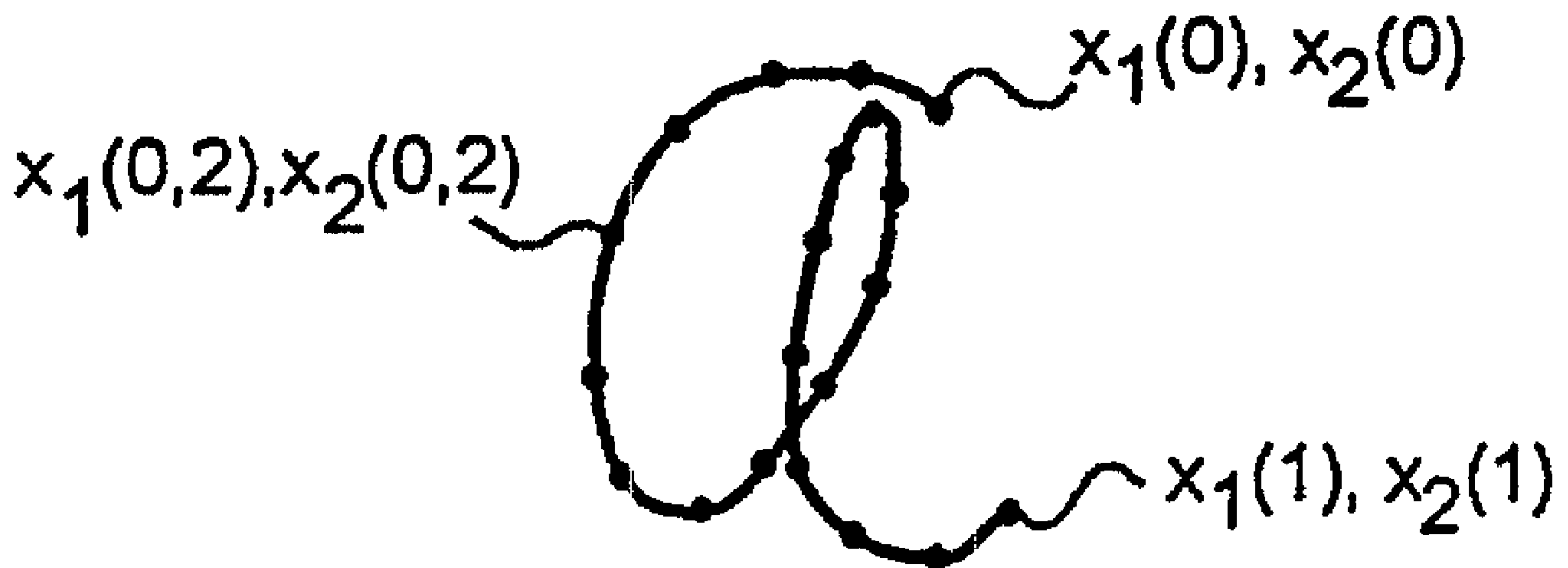




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Abstract

The invention relates to a method for character recognition comprising the steps of: detecting a union of characters, preprocessing the union of characters, comparing the preprocessed union of characters with one or more template symbols, and applying a decision rule in order to either reject a template symbol or decide that the template symbol is included in the union of characters. The step of preprocessing the union of characters comprising the steps of: representing the union of characters as one or more curves, and parameterising said curve or curves, and regarding various classes of transformations forming one or more shapes for said curve or curves. The step of comparing comprises the steps of: forming one or more geometric proximity measures, and determining for every shape the values of said geometric proximity measures between said shape and correspondingly determined shapes for the template symbols. Finally, the step of applying a decision rule comprises the step of: selecting one or more template symbols in consideration of said values.

