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(74) Agents: SKINDER, Jason, A. et al.; Walker Digital Management, LLC, Five High Ridge Park, Stamford, CT 06905 (US).

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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): WALKER DIGITAL, LLC [US/US]; 1177 High Ridge Road, Suite 128, Stamford, CT 06905 (US).

(71) Applicants and

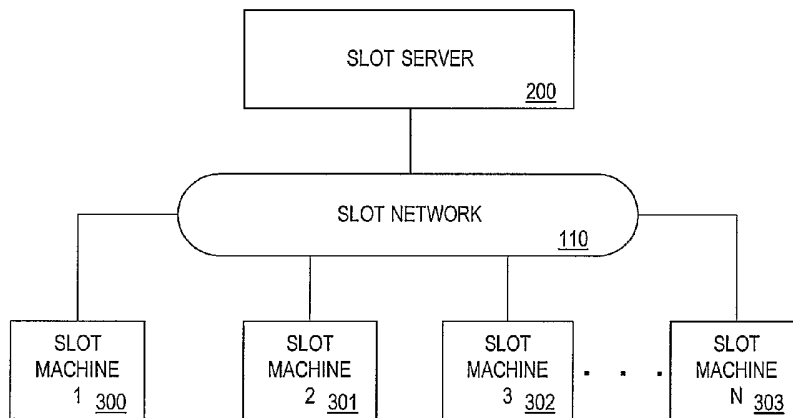
(72) Inventors: WALKER, Jay, S. [US/US]; 260 Osaleta Road, Ridgefield, CT 06877 (US). JORASCH, James, A. [US/US]; 240 East 39th Street, Apt. 35J, New York, NY 10016 (US). FINCHAM, Magdalena, M. [US/US]; 125 Florida Road, Ridgefield, CT 06877 (US). GELMAN, Geoffrey, M. [US/US]; 1134 HBS Student Mail Center, Boston, MA 02163 (US). TEDESCO, Robert, C. [US/US]; 1951 Congress Street, Fairfield, CT 06824 (US).

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING TEAM PLAY OF SLOT MACHINES



(57) Abstract: A method for team play of slot machines (fig.15A-15B), including determining a first result corresponding to a first player on a team, determining a second result corresponding to a second player, determining whether the second player is on the team, and determining a result based on the first result and the second result if the second player is on the team. The method may further include awarding comp points to the team based on the play of the first player and the second player. The method may also include joint participation in a bonus round by members of a team.

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US05/10559

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC: **A63F 9/24(2006.01);G06F 17/00(2006.01);G06Q 30/00(2006.01)**

 USPC: 463/25;463/20;705/14
 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
 NONE

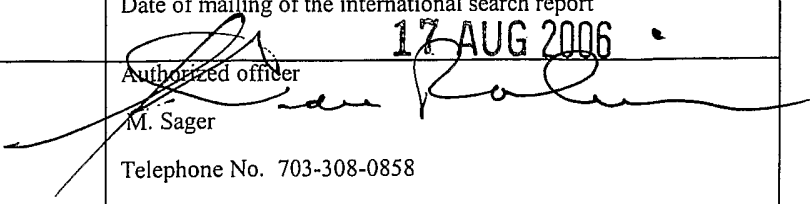
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 NONE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5761647 A (BOUSHY) 2 June 1998, entire document.	1-5

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 21 June 2006 (21.06.2006)	Date of mailing of the international search report 17 AUG 2006
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT. Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201	Authorized officer  M. Sager Telephone No. 703-308-0858

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/10559

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please See Continuation Sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fees.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-5

- Remark on Protest**
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
 - The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
 - No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

BOX III. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s) 1-5, drawn to a method.

Group II, claim(s) 6-13, drawn to a method.

Group III, claim(s) 14, drawn to a method.

Group IV, claim(s) 15-17 and 33-34, drawn to a method.

Group V, claim(s) 18, drawn to a method.

Group VI, claim(s) 19-20, drawn to a method.

Group VII, claim(s) 21-32, drawn to a method

The inventions listed as Groups I-VII do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The invention of Group I claims lie in the providing/incrementing or decrementing (adjusting) of comp points for a plurality of players, as particularly claimed, that is not present in the claims of Groups II-VII; while, the invention of Group II claims lie in the awarding a number of comp points to an entity that is not an individual person, as particularly claimed, that is not present in the claims of Group I and III-VII; while, the invention of Group III lies in the use of tracking card as particularly claimed, that is not present in claims of Group I-II and IV-VII; while, the invention of Group IV claims lie in the generating an outcome, as particularly claimed, or lies in the combining first and second row to form a grid, and determining a payline and payout, as particularly claimed that is not present in the claims of Group I-III and V-VII; while, the invention of Group V claims lie in the receiving an outcome providing entry into a bonus round, determining first and second players are on a team and transmitting instructions to provide entry into second bonus round, as particularly claimed, that is not present in claims of Group I-IV and VI-VII; while, the invention of Group VI claims lie in the determining a sum of a first number and second number, determining whether the sum is not less than a threshold number and instructing the first gaming device to provide entry into bonus round, as particularly claimed, that is not present in the claims of Group I-V and VII; while, the invention of Group VII claims lie in the determining first and second state, determining a final state and determining compensation as particularly claimed that is not present in the claims of Group I-VI; thus, unity of invention is lacking.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/10559

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 1:

463/25-26;463/12-13, 16-20, 40-43; 273/143R, 292-293, 269; 700/91-93; 340/323R; 235/375, 380-382; 902/22-24; 705/14