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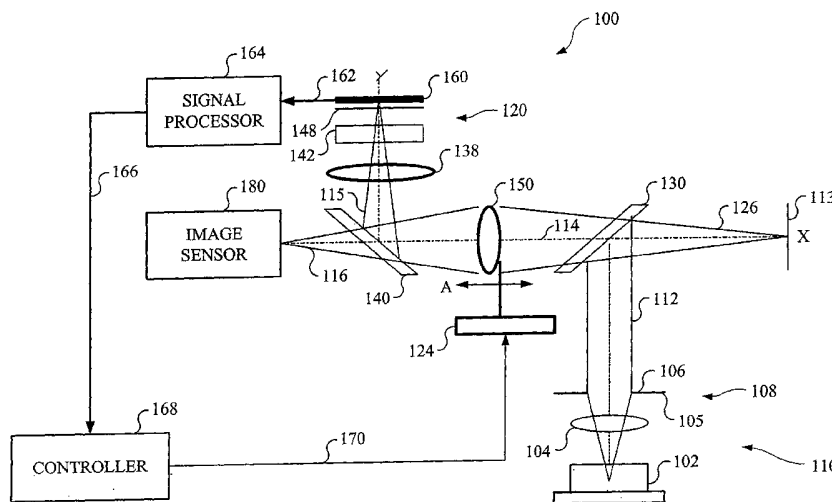
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(54) Title: NON-PARALLAX OPTICAL AUTO-FOCUSING SYSTEM AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: A non-parallax optical auto-focusing system focuses an image and determines a distance to an optical target without being prone to errors due to parallax. The system includes a first beam splitter, a second beam splitter, and a lens positioned therebetween on an optical axis. An aiming beam is directed towards an optical target and the redirected reflected beam is received by a quadrant sensor assembly for generating an output signal indicative of a parameter of the redirected reflected aiming beam. A processor receives the output signal and generates a control signal for actuating an actuator to reposition the lens. The system continues to position the lens until the measured parameter is within a predetermined range for optimally focusing the optical target on an image sensor. The distance to the optical target is determined by using a look-up table to correlate the measured parameter to the distance to the optical target.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G06K7/10 G02B21/24

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)
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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 practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, IBM-TDB, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 604 344 A (FINAROV MOSHE) 18 February 1997 (1997-02-18) column 4, line 32 - column 5, line 12; figure 3	1-23
A	US 6 276 606 B1 (TIEN KAI-YUAN ET AL) 21 August 2001 (2001-08-21) the whole document	1,11,22

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in 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
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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 January 2005	Date of mailing of the international search report 31/01/2005
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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