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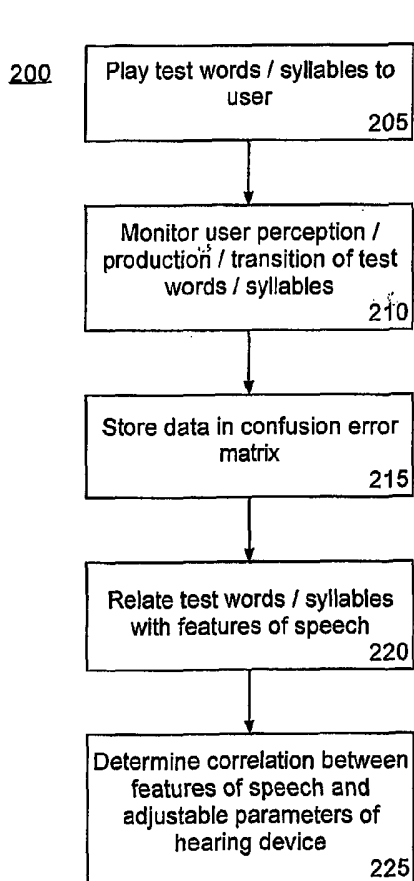
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SPEECH-BASED OPTIMIZATION OF DIGITAL HEARING DEVICES



(57) Abstract: A method of tuning a digital hearing device can include playing portions of test audio (205), wherein each portion of test audio represents one or more distinctive features of speech (210). The method also can include receiving user responses to played portions of test audio heard through the digital hearing device and comparing the user responses with the portions of test audio (220). An operational parameter of the digital hearing device can be adjusted according to the comparing step, wherein the operational parameter is associated with one or more of the distinctive features of speech (225).

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 381/60, 312, 315, 56, 58; 600/559; 704/271; 73/585 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) Please See Continuation Sheet		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,036,496 A (MILLER et al) 14 March 2000 (14.03.2000), see entire document.	1-7, 15-16, 19-25
Y		8-14, 17-18, 26-32
A	US 6,446,038 B1 (BAYYA et al) 03 September 2002 (03.09.2002), see entire document.	8-14, 17-18, 26-32
A	US 4,049,930 A (FLETCHER et al) 20 September 1977 (20.09.1977), see entire document.	1-32
A	US 4,327,252 A (TOMATIS) 27 April 1982 (27.04.1982), see entire document.	1-32
A	US 5,008,942 A (KIKUCHI) 16 April 1991 (16.04.1991), see entire document.	1-32
A	US 2002/01200440 A1 (ZHANG) 29 August 2002 (29.08.2002), see entire document.	1-32
Y	US 6,035,046 A (CHENG et al) 07 March 2000 (07.03.2000), see entire document.	8-14, 17-18, 26-32
☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.		
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 10 December 2005 (10.12.2005)		Date of mailing of the international search report 24 MAR 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 Xu Mei Telephone No. 571-272-2600

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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

BRS search.

Search terms: hearing aid, testing, speech/voice, distinct/different/diverse/separate, feature/character/aspect/pointer, parameter, G-force/Lombard effect, underwater, aviation, language.