

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
5 June 2008 (05.06.2008)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2008/065528 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification:
G06T 11/00 (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2007/003820
- (22) International Filing Date:
29 November 2007 (29.11.2007)
- (25) Filing Language:
Italian
- (26) Publication Language:
English
- (30) Priority Data:
MI2006A002313
30 November 2006 (30.11.2006) IT

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.

- (71) Applicants and
- (72) Inventors: TAGLIABUE, Bruno Luca [IT/IT]; Via Solferino, 66, I-20035 Lissone (Milano) (IT). MANGIA-ROTTI, Roberto [IT/IT]; Via Giacinto Bruzzesi, 21, I-20146 Milano (IT).
- (74) Agent: PESCE, Michele; Giambrocono & C. S.p.A., Via R. Pilo, 19/B, I-20129 Milano (IT).

(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, 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

- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
- (88) Date of publication of the international search report:
19 March 2009

(54) Title: IMAGE ACQUISITION METHOD, SOFTWARE AND DEVICE

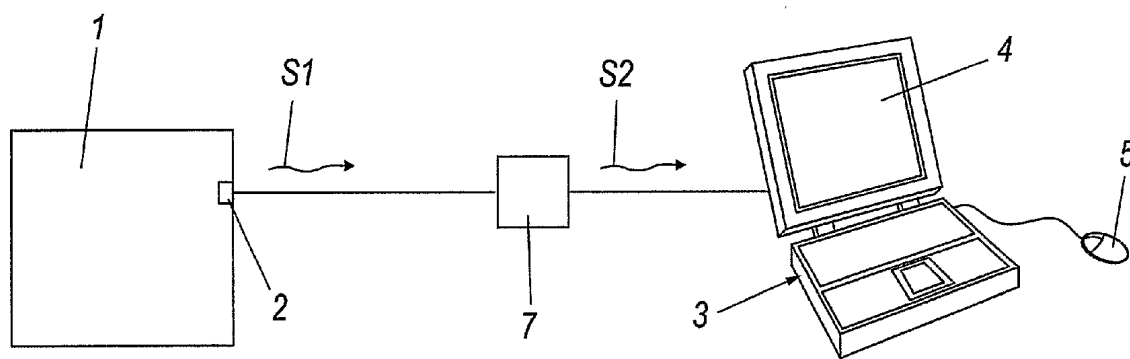


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: The method for image acquisition by an ultrasound scanner consists of withdrawing a first signal (generally analogical) from a video port of the ultrasound scanner, converting this first signal into a second signal (generally digital) interpretable by a personal computer, and feeding this second signal to the personal computer. The software for image acquisition by the ultrasound scanner comprises a first code portion for processing the first signal and for converting it into a second signal interpretable by the personal computer, and a second code portion for feeding this second signal to the personal computer.



WO 2008/065528 A3

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. G06T11/00

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)
G06T G06F

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, 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 2003/016850 A1 (KAUFMAN LEON [US] ET AL) 23 January 2003 (2003-01-23)	1-6, 13, 18-25, 27, 28, 33, 35-37
Y	page 4, left-hand column, paragraph 54 - paragraph 55 page 5, paragraph 65 - paragraph 66 page 7, paragraph 81 - page 8, paragraph 85	7-11, 14, 15, 26, 29-31
Y	----- US 5 581 460 A (KOTAKE TAKASHI [JP] ET AL) 3 December 1996 (1996-12-03) abstract; figures 2, 3, 6 ----- -/--	7, 14, 15, 26, 29

 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

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"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)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"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

"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

"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.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 January 2009

Date of mailing of the international search report

26/01/2009

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Perez Molina, E

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/IB2007/003820

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2003/184770 A1 (MOTOKI WATARU [JP] ET AL) 2 October 2003 (2003-10-02) page 1, paragraph 5 - paragraph 7; figure 3. -----	8-11, 30, 31
X	WO 03/101303 A (SYSTEMS. INC U [US]; WANG SHIH-PING [US]; RAO FANGYI [US]; CHIN DONALD) 11 December 2003 (2003-12-11) page 40, paragraph 186 - paragraph 187 page 70, paragraph 262 - paragraph 263 page 67, paragraph 256 - paragraph 257 page 94, paragraph 323 - paragraph 324 page 123, paragraph 400 - paragraph 401 -----	1-6, 13, 14, 19-28, 33, 36, 37
X	US 6 063 030 A (VARA ALBERT [US] ET AL) 16 May 2000 (2000-05-16) column 15, line 61 - column 16, line 28; figure 26 column 14, line 42 - line 56 column 7, line 30 - line 46 -----	1-4, 19-23, 36
A	US 2006/212317 A1 (HAHN JERAD J [US] ET AL) 21 September 2006 (2006-09-21) abstract; figures 4, 34 -----	1-37

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/IB2007/003820

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2003016850	A1	23-01-2003	US 2007019849 A1	25-01-2007
US 5581460	A	03-12-1996	NONE	
US 2003184770	A1	02-10-2003	NONE	
WO 03101303	A	11-12-2003	AU 2003239925 A1 EP 1531730 A1	19-12-2003 25-05-2005
US 6063030	A	16-05-2000	AU 1294995 A WO 9515521 A2	19-06-1995 08-06-1995
US 2006212317	A1	21-09-2006	NONE	