



- (51) International Patent Classification:
G06K 9/00 (2006.01) *G06T 7/20* (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2012/053564
- (22) International Filing Date:
12 July 2012 (12.07.2012)
- (25) Filing Language:
Hungarian
- (26) Publication Language:
English
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, 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, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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(54) Title: A METHOD FOR DETERMINING OF SELECTED PROPERTIES OF A SELECTED OBJECT BY ANALYZING SELECTED PARAMETERS OF AN ELECTRONICALLY ACCESSIBLE IMAGE

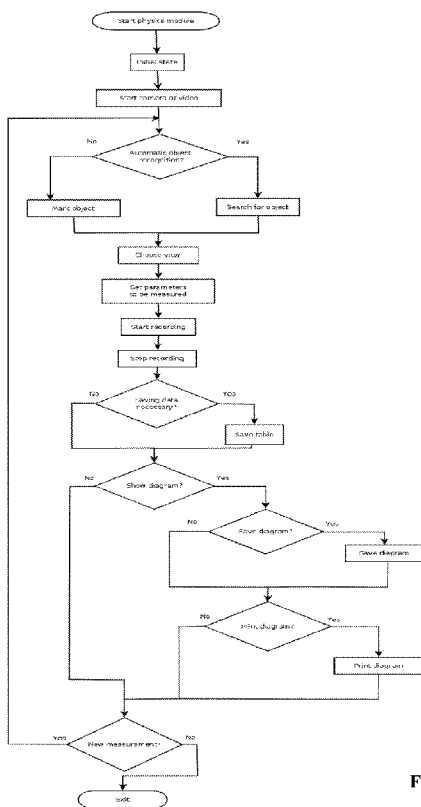


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: A method for defining a selected feature of a selected object by analyzing the content of a still image available in electronic form, comprising the steps of detecting the change of at least one selected parameter and drawing a conclusion regarding the change of the selected object based on the direction and amount of the detected change, and if appropriate, storing data regarding the change in a database, wherein in a kinematic monitoring mode, the at least one selected object based on color and/or form will be detected and the movement of the object will be observed; in a duration monitoring mode, the state of the at least one selected object will be recorded and the recorded states will be displayed at a serially accelerated speed; in a microscope mode, a known measuring value will be assigned to a part of the at least one selected object, and based on the already known measuring value the value of another selected part of the object will be determined; in a spy camera mode, a change exceeding a preset threshold in one or more selected parts of the at least one selected object will be detected, and in case of exceeding change, images of the object or about the environment containing the object will be recorded and/or a signal will be generated; in a log mode, the display of an analogue or digital gauge will be at least periodically monitored, displayed values recorded and the records stored in a database; and in a tracing mode, a section of a record of the at least one selected object, at which section a movement exceeding a preset threshold value is detected, will be visually marked proportionally to the frequency and/or intensity of the movement, and the markings will be displayed superimposed on the record of the object. The individual parts of the method are preferably assigned to each other in a module-like, advantageous way.

WO 2014/009776 A1

Published:

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*

A method for determining of selected properties of a selected object by analyzing selected parameters of an electronically accessible image

- The subject of the invention is a method to determine the selected properties of a selected object by means of analysis of the contents of an electronically available image, in the course of which the change of at least one selected parameter of the object is detected, and from the direction and rate of change, the changes of the selected property of the object is implicated, and such change is stored in a database, as the case may be.
- 5
- 10 The method based on the invention provides such a camera-based natural scientific observation and measurement system, which allows the users to perform scientific measurements, observations by means of a simple webcam or any other image or video recording device. All functions of the method are based on image processing, where the image can be received from any external image recording device or a file.
- 15 Numerous solutions are known in everyday practice, where a computer device, such as a camera connected to a computer, or directly to the Internet, known as a webcam, is applied to record various images – hereinafter called recordings – or to monitor specific objects. Images taken with the webcam are processed and stored according to the given purpose of use. A joint characteristic of these applications is that they are able to fulfill
- 20 one, or a maximum of two functions, thus for multiple functions, typically more, unrelated and not connectable applications need to be procured, learnt, operated, where in many cases it cannot be ensured, that such applications use the same webcam, while a single and uniform operation of the various applications is – to our best knowledge – yet unsolved.
- 25 Object of the invention is to provide a method, by means of which it can be ensured, that several webcam-based technical-scientific applications are accessed and operated through a single and uniform interface, without the need for additional resources, and that the webcam, making up the core of the methods can be universally applied.
- Said object has been solved by the subject matter of the independent claim defining a
- 30 method for defining a selected feature of a selected object by analyzing the content of a

still image available in electronic form, comprising the steps of detecting the change of at least one selected parameter and drawing a conclusion regarding the change of the selected object based on the direction and amount of the detected change, and if appropriate, storing data regarding the change in a database, wherein in a kinematic monitoring mode, the at least one selected object based on color and/or form will be detected and the movement of the object will be observed; in a duration monitoring mode, the state of the at least one selected object will be recorded and the recorded states will be displayed at a serially accelerated speed; in a microscope mode, a known measuring value will be assigned to a part of the at least one selected object, and based on the already known measuring value the value of another selected part of the object will be determined; in a spy camera mode, a change exceeding a preset threshold in one or more selected parts of the at least one selected object will be detected, and in case of exceeding change, images of the object or about the environment containing the object will be recorded and/or a signal will be generated; in a log mode, the display of an analogue or digital gauge will be at least periodically monitored, displayed values recorded and the records stored in a database; and in a tracing mode, a section of a record of the at least one selected object, at which section a movement exceeding a preset threshold value is detected, will be visually marked proportionally to the frequency and/or intensity of the movement, and the markings will be displayed superimposed on the record of the object. A preferred embodiment is defined by the dependent claim.

The following description and the annexed drawings set forth in detail certain illustrative aspects of one embodiment. These aspects are indicative, however, of but a few of the various ways in which the principles of various embodiments can be employed and the described embodiments are intended to include all such aspects and their equivalents. In the drawings

Fig. 1 shows the flowchart of a possible kinematic observation mode of the method,
Fig. 2 shows the flowchart of a possible time span observation mode of the method,
Fig. 3 shows the flowchart of a possible spy-cam mode of the method,
Fig. 4 shows the flowchart of a possible microscopic mode of the method,

Fig. 5 shows the flowchart of a possible logging mode of the method,

Fig. 6 shows a the flowchart of a possible tracking mode of the method, and

Figures 7 to 35 show examples of the possible operations and possible displays of the method modes presented in Figures 1 to 6.

- 5 The following description discloses only a preferred and advantageous embodiment of the method according to the invention. The method comprises stacked and connected method modules, with one important aspect, namely, that they are to be performed in the same or a similar way through the modules, thus a user does not only receive a universal and versatile tool for technical and measurement technological tasks, he/she is
- 10 also capable of acquiring the performance of each – and even future – module in a short time.

Kinematics Observation Mode

- The basics of the example method presented on Fig. 1 is that it is capable of recognizing and following the object selected by the user (or selected by the method automatically)
- 15 on the basis of either color or form and register, record and display the movement graphs of such object, or objects (as several objects can be recognized at once).

Object recognition based on form allows us to record rotation, spin, etc. in addition to position, speed and acceleration.

- The kinematic function is basically a novelty in terms of real-time monitoring of objects and real-time display of movement graphs.
- 20

- The simultaneous display of camera image and real-time movement graph is a significant characteristic of the method; on the main screen the live video image display window and the window displaying the movement graphs of the objects recognized on the live image, i.e. the movement of objects and the movement graphs of objects are
- 25 seen simultaneously, which is in favor of understanding the movements and a successful analysis of such later on.

A further special feature of the module is that it is capable of ordering objects in a hierarchy, thus in addition to absolute, also relative movement characteristics may be recorded.

Real-time Image

After starting the camera or video, we may select the object, the movement of which we intend to follow. Up to 3 objects may be added. Objects can be added in two different ways. We may either click on the object on the camera image, or have the program
5 detect the object through automatic object recognition. In addition to recognition according to color, recognition according to form may also be selected. The program follows objects based on their colors in real-time. In case of a 3D movement analysis, the distance of the object is derived from changes in its dimensions. Events seen through the camera may also be recorded, thus the experiment may be displayed.

10 Further functions are available through the icons on the left side.

In addition to normal camera image, the following display modes are available:

- Circle(s) indicating the position of object(s) on a white background;
- Object path, fading through time, with slider-adjustable rate of fading;
- Object path, without fading;
- 15 - Settings panel, where color sensitivity, graph filter can be set, or the origin (initial point) may be repositioned.

Movement graphs can be displayed directly on the live image, connected to the investigated object, based on x or y directions, thus change in position of the object and its relationship with the change in the respective movement value can be displayed
20 simultaneously.

Graph Image

Movement of objects can be observed on a graph to the right. Color of graph lines are equivalent to the color of the observed object. If the graph line is too "jagged", then it may be smoothed using the "Kálmán-filter". Monitoring of change in position relative
25 to the X and Y axis (thick line), speed (medium thick line) and acceleration (thin line) is possible. Following calibration, not only pixel, but also mm, cm, m, or inch units can be displayed on the graph.

After launching data recording, the program stores data on the graph, thus analysis of a

longer experiment is also possible. Data can be saved, which allows further analysis using external applications (Matlab, SciLab, Excel, etc.).

Analysis Window

Using the integrated analysis function, graphs can be cut, merged, compressed, and
5 smoothed. By means of the automatic graph tendency recognition function, breakpoints can be identified, and thus graph smoothing can be set to the characteristics of the given function. By moving the cursor above a graph, the values of the given graph, as well as the respective camera image are displayed. Graphs can be saved as an image or as an XLS file.

10 A specific feature of the analysis window is that in the bottom of the screen, the video recording is also displayed in the form of a film strip, according to the timing of the graphs, thus changes seen on the graphs and real-time events can be investigated simultaneously.

Time-span Observation (fast recording) Mode

15 Using the method module presented as an example on Fig. 2, slow natural processes can be accelerated to normal speed, thus observation of changes of a vivid, ever-changing world is possible, which seems static to the human eye.

The real-time camera image seen on screen, the recording timer, time setting and the list of recorded videos are displayed.

20 The method module operates as follows: following a manual or automatic start of recording, the program records an image at a preset interval (e.g. each second), until recording is stopped manually or automatically.

From the recorded images, a video is created, which can be viewed.

The method module provides the following functions:

25 Real-time image

The live image of the webcam, or any other camera.

The live image displays the following captions:

- Number of saved frames

- 6 -

- Duration of recording
- Time interval between frames
- Actual time

Using the setting buttons on the left side, captions can be turned on/off. The video will
5 only include the actual time caption, if it is enabled. During recording a red flashing
"REC" caption is displayed in the upper left corner of the screen.

When playing a video, the video image is displayed in this same window, yet without
the afore mentioned captions, only the ones, that have been recorded with the video.

While recording, previous video recordings can be viewed by selecting from the list to
10 the right.

Time Setting

A specific feature of the method module is that recordings can be launched both
manually and according to timing, thus observation of elongated events, or events,
which occur at a specific time is also possible automatically with timing. Recording of
15 images can be started in two different ways. Either by pressing the record button on the
key pad, or by ticking the checkbox above the clock on the upper right of the screen. In
the latter case, recording starts and stops according to the set times automatically.
Recording only starts, if a time is set, which has not yet passed.

Recording Timer

20 This is a slider setting button. It allows setting the frequency of saving image frames.
Setting is possible from 0,2 and 3600 seconds. A specific feature of the method is that
in addition to setting the speed of recording based on the time interval between image
frames, small icons also indicate the approximate time interval setting required for the
given type of phenomena. Along the slider a cloud, snail, icicle, flower, growing plant
25 and sun icons are shown.

List of Videos

The list of recorded videos is displayed on the bottom right side of the screen. The list is
ordered by date, with the latest recordings on top. Videos recorded on different days are

grouped separately for clarity. The list includes the serial number of videos, the start and end time of video recordings and the duration of the video.

Another specific feature of the method module is that an image frame of the video is displayed on a thumbnail image next to the captions, clicking on which, allows a
5 preview of the recording.

By clicking on a given video in the list, two buttons are displayed, which allow playing or deleting the given video. By clicking delete, the video is removed both from the list and from the hard drive. By clicking play, the video is started in the left-side window, and the video player toolbar is displayed under it.

10 Video Player

This toolbar is only displayed during the playing of a recorded video. The video recording can be started, paused, fast forwarded, or rewinded.

By clicking on the slider, the video is jumped to the given position. The video remains active until the user clicks on the red X; after which the real-time, live image shall be
15 displayed in the left-side window.

A specific feature of the method module is that it allows subsequent speeding up of already recorded videos.

Spy-cam Mode

This method module allows the recording of rarely occurring events.

20 Using this mode, the user need not wait hours long to capture an exciting event, such as the appearance of hiding animals, a spider catching its prey, etc. The user just prepares the tools, sets the program and waits for the event to occur.

The method module presented as an example on Fig. 3 can be used in two distinct modes:

25 In the basic mode 24 (or as many as set) previous image frames are stored continuously in the buffer, while the current and last image frame (or the one set) received from the camera are compared, analyzing the changes observed in the area selected by the user or in the entire image.

If the rate of changes exceed a preset threshold value (i.e. there is movement in the image), video recording is started, during which analysis is further continued, and if the rate of changes remains below the set level of action for a preset period of time (movement is stopped), the video recording stops.

- 5 A specific feature of the method module is that with the help of the recorded buffer, the programs is capable of recording the period prior to the occurrence of movement, and append it before the recording.

In extended mode, the type of movements are continuously analyzed on the recorded video flow (direction, speed, dynamics of motion), a typical movement map is plotted from the camera image, and recording is started (as described previously), when a user
10 determined parameter of movement changes in a rate higher, than the set threshold value (e.g. the direction, speed, etc. of movement changes).

Real-time Image

This is where live image or a recorded video are displayed.

- 15 In case of a live image the user can set the area of the image, where movement will be monitored. To reset the original observation area, simply click the image once. In the column to the left the various rates of movement observed by the camera are displayed. The more colored rectangles are seen in the column, the greater the rate of movement. In case of recording, the recording is only stored when the level of colored rectangles
20 reaches or exceeds the white rectangle. If intensity of movement falls under the threshold value, recording is stopped after a certain amount of time.

Recording cannot only be started by a given intensity of movement. When movements typical of the given environment are also investigated, storage of images is started also when abnormal movement is observed.

- 25 During recording, further captions are displayed on the screen: flashing "REC" sign, the number of saved image frames and the duration of the recording.

Settings

Starting of a recording can be set by means of two slides. With the upper slider the size of the object, while with the bottom slider, the rate of movement, that starts recording is

set. In the column shown in the left-side window, the user can verify if settings are appropriate.

List of Videos

The list of recorded videos is shown in the bottom right side of the screen. The list is
5 ordered by date, with the latest recordings on top. Videos recorded on different days are grouped separately for clarity. The list includes the serial number of videos, the start and end time of video recordings and the duration of the video. An image frame of the video is also displayed in a thumbnail image next to the captions.

By clicking on a given video in the list, two buttons are displayed, which allow playing
10 or deleting the given video. By clicking delete, the video is removed both from the list and from the hard drive. By clicking play, the video is started in the left-side window, and the video player toolbar is displayed under it.

Video Player

This toolbar is only displayed during the playing of a recorded video. The video
15 recording can be started, paused, fast forwarded, or rewinded. By clicking on the slider, the video is jumped to the given position. The video remains active until the user clicks on the red X; after which the real-time, live image shall be displayed in the left-side window.

Microscope Mode

20 The method module presented as an example on Fig. 4 is only microscopic in its name. It is actually a universal measurement tool. The basis of its operation is that, if a known dimension is set on an image captured with a camera or received from an external file (e.g. Moon diameter), i.e. the image is calibrated, then based on this piece of information, the method is capable of displaying any other dimensions on the screen. If
25 for example, we have a photographic image of the Moon, with a calibration dimension being the diameter of the Moon, then the diameter of any Moon crater can be measured.

Using the method module the user can measure distance, area and angle.

A specific feature of the method module is that in addition to managing a single image, it is suitable for the simultaneous (layered) display of multiple images as well (which

may be images loaded from file, images of a camera, or the selected frames of a video recording), and in the application the frames can be rotated or moved, the opacity of frames can be set, and pixel-level logical operations can be performed between the images, etc., as a result of which, measurements are not only possible within a single
5 image, but also changes between two or more image frames can be measured.

Another specific feature of the method module is that it is capable of immediate conversion of the measurement result, supported by an integrated program language. The basis of this function is that a given measurement result does not represent the final result of a measurement in all cases, but merely a piece of data for further computations.

10 In this case, measurement results can be immediately converted according to a preset, or user-defined function. For example, if we wish to measure the height of buildings on a satellite image by measuring the length of shadows (knowing the angle of entry of sunbeams), then only a simple trigonometric computation needs to be performed. In this case the user can enter the conversion function manually, or in a definite case, select the
15 appropriate function from among presets and only enter the angle of entry manually, as a parameter.

Upper Keys

In addition to usual commands, analysis of an already recorded image or video is also possible in addition to analysis of the camera image. To do so, the user shall click the
20 appropriate icon to load the image or video.

In order to receive true data during the measurement process, by clicking the calibration button, the calibration window is displayed, where the user can set the reference value and the applied unit of measurement (um, mm, cm, m, km, inch, mile, universal). If universal measurement unit is selected for calibration, then no measurement unit is
25 displayed next to the measured values.

Without calibration, length or area cannot be measured, only angles. Finally, the measurement can be saved (stored) or printed.

Real-time Image

After starting the camera, the live image is displayed on the screen. If pressing the

image capture button on the right button bar, the image on which measurements can be performed will be frozen. After the calibration is done, three types of measurements can be performed by clicking on the buttons on the left side. Distance, angle and area can be measured.

- 5 Besides the measured values the measurement itself will appear on the image in the color selected from the lower right corner. If you enlarge the image, the scaled down version of the original images appears in the upper left corner of the image, and a white rectangle indicates the current part of the original image.

- 10 Measurements can be performed possible not just on the freeze-frame image, but differences can be checked with help of a single interlaced image composed of images from single or multiple halt points.

- 15 In case of automatic object recognition, the data of recognized spots (smallest diameter, width, height) will be automatically drawn. With the sliders located on the edge of the image, guides can be placed to help with the measurements. These guides will not be visible on the saved image.

Right Key-bar

- 20 The control buttons are located here. With the first icon on the right you can open the color settings window, where brightness, contrast and RGB (red, green, blue) values can be adjusted. You can move the image by pressing the next icon, if you zoomed in on the original image. The moving can be performed by dragging the image while continuously pressing the left mouse button. With the next Undo icon you can delete the previous measurement. The measurement can be performed again in the left window with the Measure icon, if the Move Image was active before. The first icon on the left can be used to record an image. If you press it again after recording, you will see the
25 live image and the previous measurement will be deleted.

Zoom Slider

Use the slider to zoom in on the video, camera or recorded image displayed in the left window.

Measurement Data

All measurement data can be found in this window. You can assign a name to the measurement or you can delete any of the measurements at any time. The data shown in this window are also included on the print and saved image.

Logging Mode

5 Basically everything around you can be measured, you only need a suitable device.

Connecting the camera and software, you can record and display data from various analog (e.g. dial gauges, mercury thermometer) or digital displays, monitoring up to three instruments simultaneously.

10 The process module shown as an example in Fig. 5 is fundamentally new, its principle is to utilize the fact that each instrument designed for human observations is made with a display, which to varying degrees, but generally is easily readable to the human eye.

Given that the human eye and a camera are functionally very close to each other, we may be able to recognize the various values of measuring instruments with the help of the camera and a computer. The connected camera should be directed to the display to be read, then the user can choose from two options, or switch to auto mode, where the process attempts to identify the display type, its position and automatically calibrate itself, or to manual mode, where the user selects the measuring instrument's type, and can himself calibrate the reading frame to the actual instrument. With the process module we can read the values of the following measuring instruments and values associated with phenomena:

15
20

- Digital display meter
- Analog (pointer) meter
- Mercury column (fluid column) meter (e.g. analog thermometer)
- Counter recording the number of objects in the image
- 25 • Frequency meter, counting the passage of a spot in a designated area, while calculating the frequency from this value
- Chromatic meter
- Brightness Meter

The process module can of course store the readings, can display them in graphic form and can even assign alarms to the recognized values (if a certain value is reached, or change rate exceeds a value).

Real-time Image

5 The image of the live camera or loaded video appears here. Three different instruments can be added with the icons appearing on the left, but automatic instrument recognition is also available. The following instruments are available:

- Digital display meter
- Analog (pointer) reader
- 10 • Mercury column reader
- Counter recording the number of objects in the image
- Frequency meter, counting the passage of a spot in a designated area, calculating the frequency from this value
- Chromatic meter
- 15 • Brightness Meter

The diagram of readers, the size and position of which can be freely set, is drawn onto the image. At the bottom of the image the names (A, B, C), associated color and the current values of the instruments appear. The graph assigned to the readers will have the same color in the chart window. You can delete the desired reader with the Recycle Bin
20 icon.

Graph Image

If recording wasn't started yet, the image seen by the instruments will appear here. This is a binary image, which is compiled from the original image. The binary factor threshold value can be set with the slider on the right side. If the reader cannot read the
25 instrument, use the slider to set the value for the right instrument recognition. The reader can also be adjusted in size and position as well, furthermore you can set the number of digits to be recognized by the digital reader.

On the top of the chart the minimum and maximum values can be set, the graph values

will fall between these two values. In case of digital readers, the decimal point location can be specified.

When starting a recording, the data graph measured by instruments is shown in real time in the window. The captured data can not only be saved, but also a measurement video
5 can be recorded and played back later. An adjustable alarm threshold can also be set, and if the graph exceeds this value, an image / voice / e-mail alert is sent by the software.

Sliders

Use the left slider to adjust the frequency of measurements, and the right side to adjust
10 the density of the graphs displayed.

Analysis window

With the help of the analyzer integrated into the software the graphs can be enlarged, cut, offset, compressed and smoothened.

The automated graph trend detection can be used to identify the breakpoints and allows
15 the adjustment of graph smoothing in accordance with the characteristics of the function. Above the graphs the images recorded during the experiment and belonging to the given point will appear in a film strip fashion, if video capture was chosen at recording. If the mouse pointer is moved over a graph, the associated image is also displayed together with the graph values. The graphs can be saved as an image or XLS
20 file.

Tracking Mode

The main feat of the process module shown as an example in Fig. 6 is the ability to detect and monitor movements. This is achieved by marking the image where movement is detected on the video image (or on pre-loaded video frame), and the event
25 of movement is recorded. If the system detects motion in the same area, the image will be marked again, this time stronger, and the motion event will again be recorded, by increasing the movement value assigned to the given area. Thus, a gradually stronger movement map is plotted on the area of movement, which can be displayed as a live image or in the form of a separate static map.

The sensitivity of motion detection (size of moving objects, strength of movement, etc.) can be adjusted. The process module is unique in that not only is it able to create a static map of the movement quantities, but it also can display the change of motion in the form of a video through a process of erosion. This is due to the fact that the value of movement quantity belonging to a particular area can not only increase, when motion is detected, but can also decrease if there was no movement in the particular area. Thus a map is created that can change in both positive and negative directions. This map can be recorded in the form of a video with the time interval solution already known from the time-span function (that is, a real-time video of the changes can be recorded, but also a time-span video can be recorded).

What's more, the direction and speed of motion can also be recorded so that not just a simple movement map is created, but one where to each image area an average average speed and direction vector is assigned.

Real-time Image

The live image or the recorded video is provided here. Any movement detected there will be indicated on the image in red. The red color can be set to stay all along or to fade gradually (erosion). The speed of the erosion can be adjusted.

The result of the recording can be either still image or video recording. In the case of video recordings, image frames are saved real time, or at the specified frequency. The amount of movement is indicated on the frames. After a preliminary calibration, not only the changes can be shown but also the direction and speed of movement using arrows. The thickness of the vectors indicates the frequency at which that movement took place. After calibration the speed of motion can be shown. When setting the mouse on the object, the average speed and the average direction will appear.

Changing between the displays can be accomplished using the icons on the left side of the screen. One of the displays shows the movement on the video recording in red, while on the other one, changes are graphed on a homogeneous blue background.

Time Setting

Recording can be started in two ways: either by pushing the record pushbutton in the button line, or by checking the checkbox on the upper right part of the screen, above the

clock.

In such cases the recording takes place at the specified time and stops fully automatically. The recording starts only, if the time set is in the future.

Settings

- 5 With the upper slider sets the movement amount to be indicated on the image as a change, whilst with the lower slider you sets the extent of the indication of the detected movement on the image.

List of Videos

- 10 The list of recorded videos is displayed on the bottom right side of the screen. The list is ordered by date, with the latest recordings on top. Videos recorded on different days are grouped separately for clarity. The list includes the serial number of videos, the start and end time of video recordings and the duration of the video.

On the thumbnails next to the captions, one frame of the video is shown. In case of images, the time of saving of the given image is in that position.

- 15 When by clicking on a given video in the list, two buttons are displayed, which allow playing or deleting the given video. By clicking delete, the video is removed both from the list and from the hard drive. By clicking play, the video is started in the left-side window, and the video player toolbar is displayed under it. By clicking an image, two buttons also appear: one deletes the image, the other allows the user to rename the
20 image.

Claims

1. A method for defining a selected feature of a selected object by analyzing the content of a still image available in electronic form, comprising the steps:
- detecting the change of at least one selected parameter,
- 5 drawing a conclusion regarding the change of the selected object based on the direction and amount of the detected change, and
- if appropriate, storing data regarding the change in a database,
- characterizing by* the steps comprising
- in a kinematic monitoring mode, detecting the at least one selected object based on
- 10 color and/or form and observing the movement of the object;
- in a duration monitoring mode, recording the state of the at least one selected object and displaying the recorded states at a serially accelerated speed;
- in a microscope mode, assigning a known measuring value to a part of the at least one selected object, and based on the already known measuring value defining the
- 15 measuring value of another selected part of the object;
- in a spy camera mode, detecting a change exceeding a preset threshold in one or more selected parts of the at least one selected object, and in case of exceeding change, recording images of the object or about the environment containing the object and/or generating and outputting a signal;
- 20 in a log mode, at least periodically monitoring the display of an analogue or digital gauge, recording the displayed values and storing the records in a database;
- in a tracing mode, visually marking a section of a record of the at least one selected object, at which section a movement exceeding a preset threshold value is detected, proportionally to the frequency and/or intensity of the movement, and displaying the
- 25 markings superimposed on the record of the object.
2. A method according to claim 1 *characterized in that* the individual method modes are assigned to each other in a modular way.

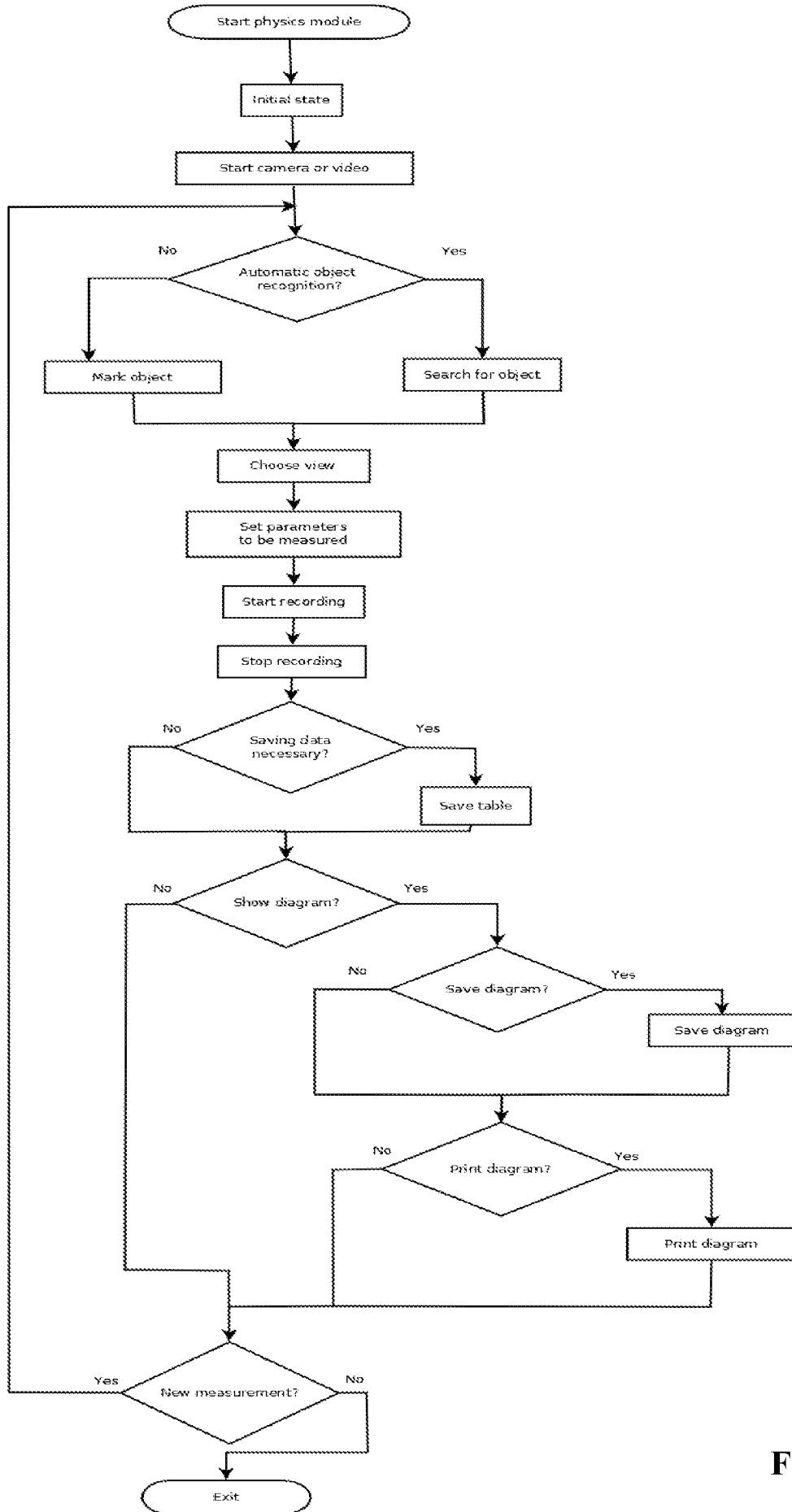


Fig. 1

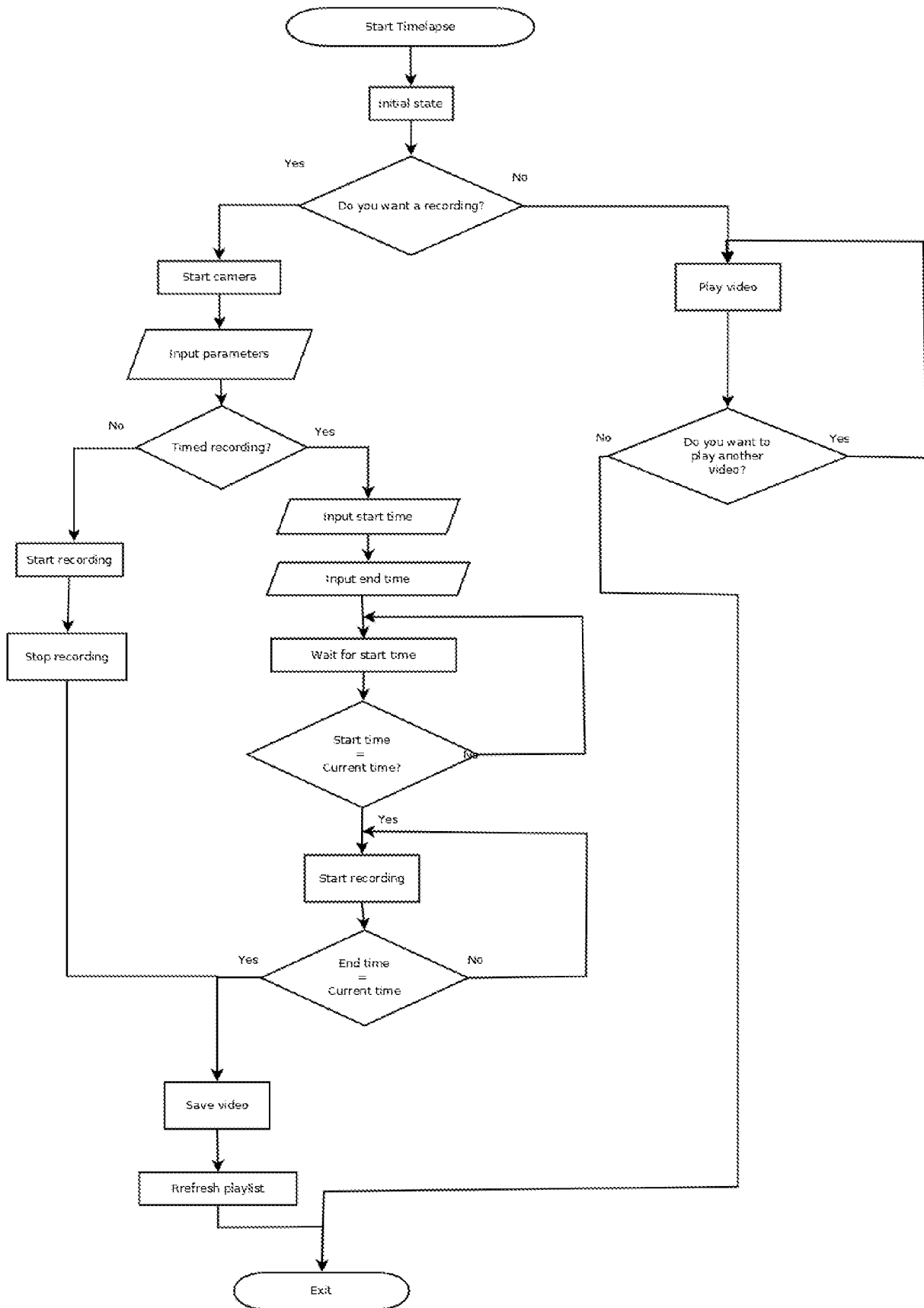


Fig. 2

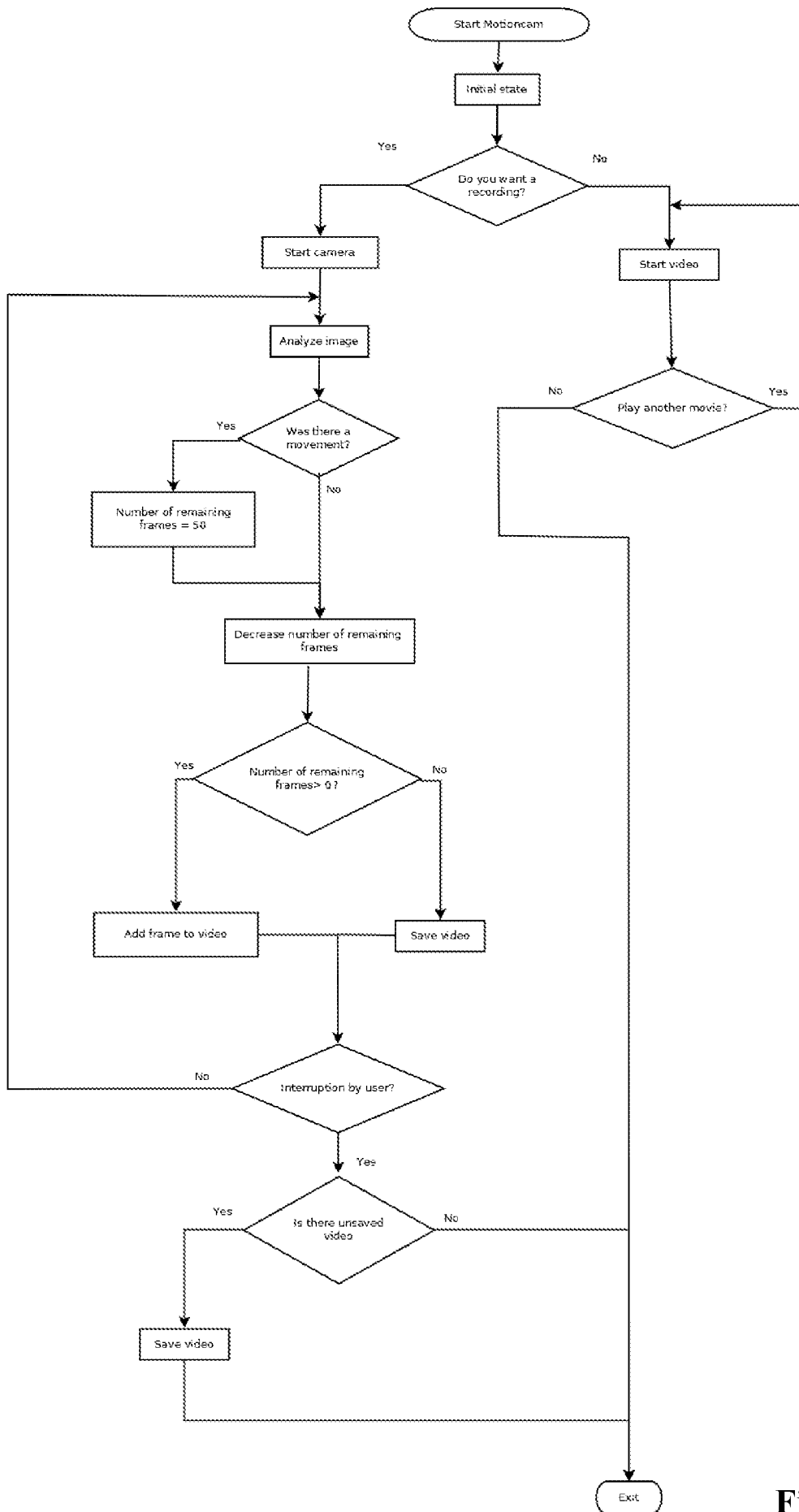


Fig. 3

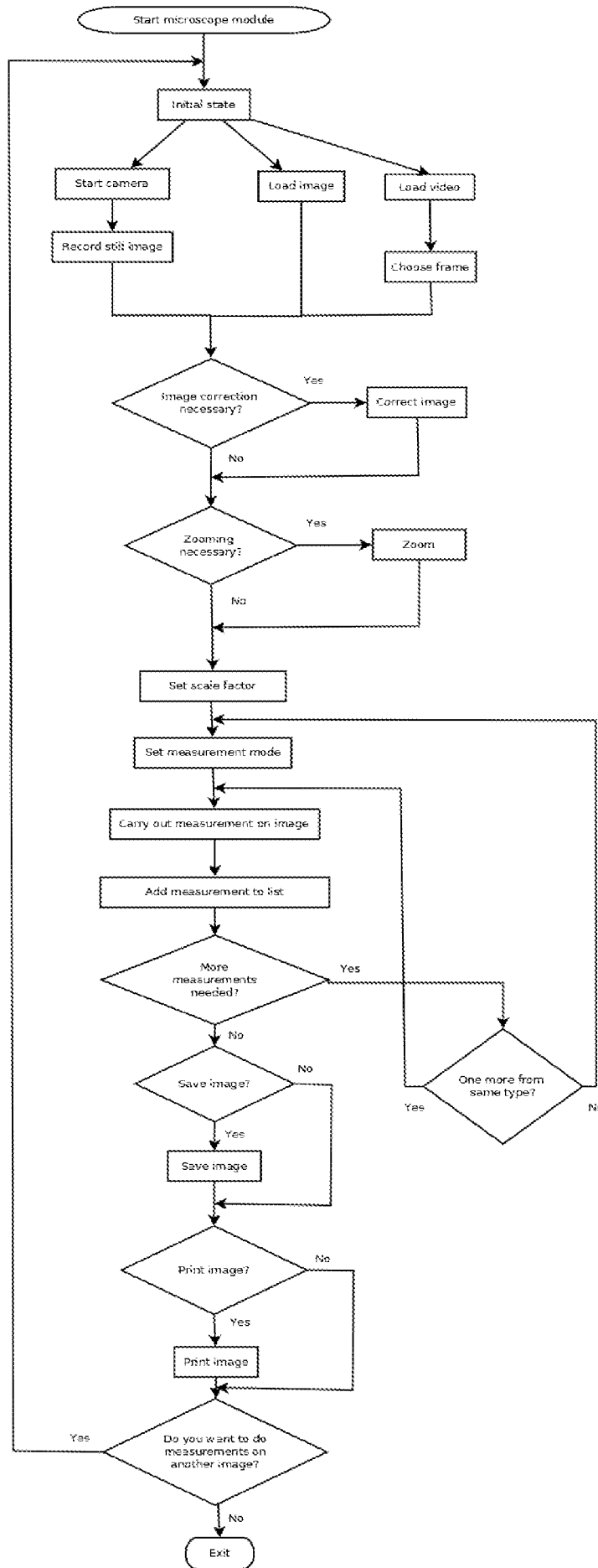


Fig. 4

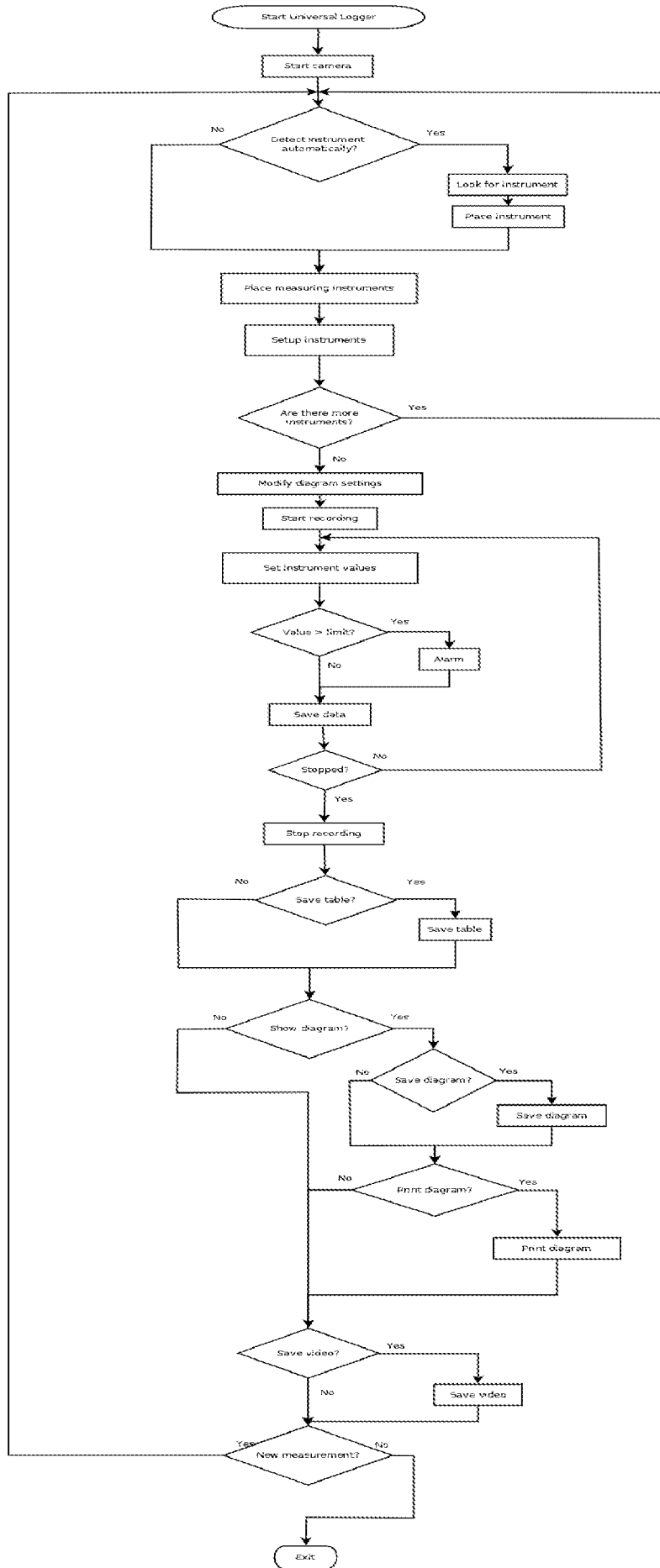


Fig. 5

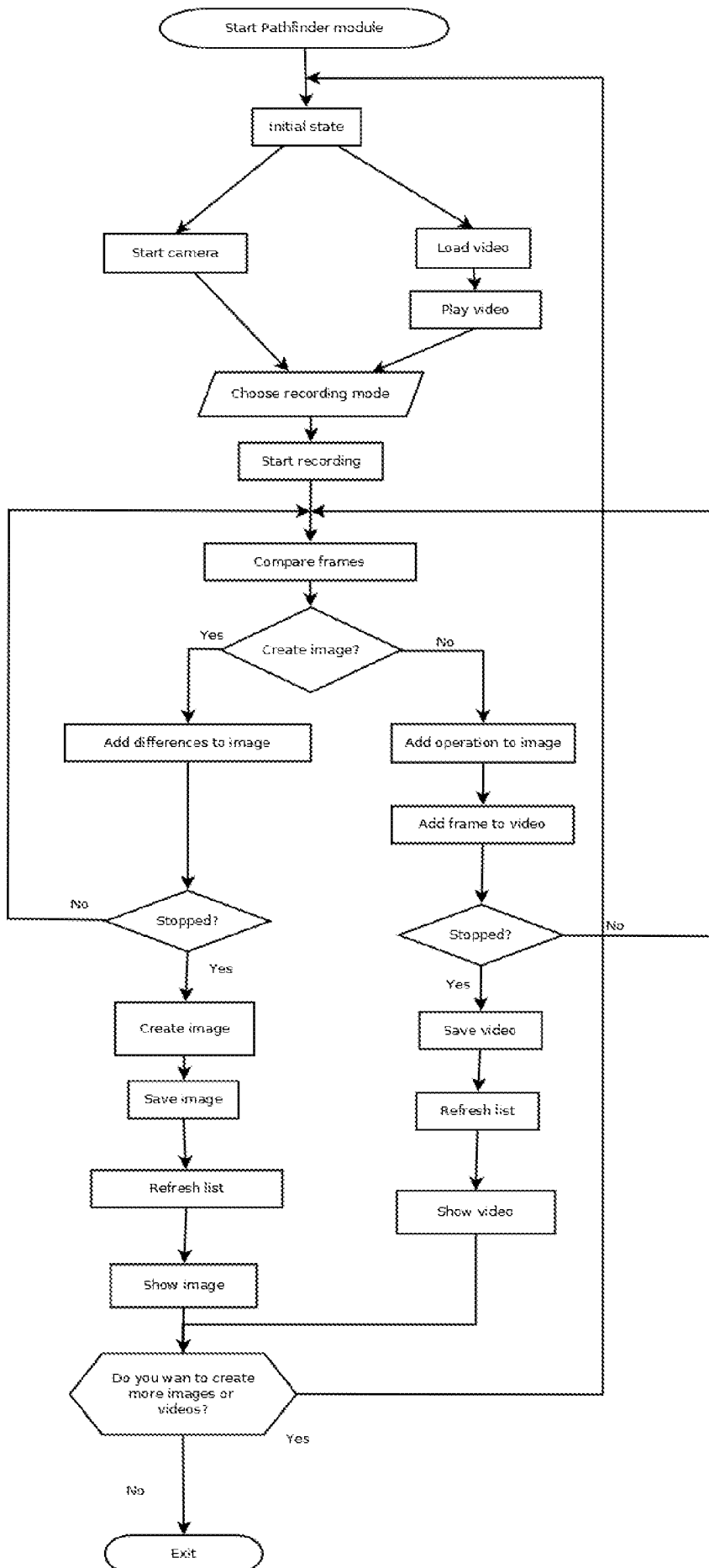


Fig. 6

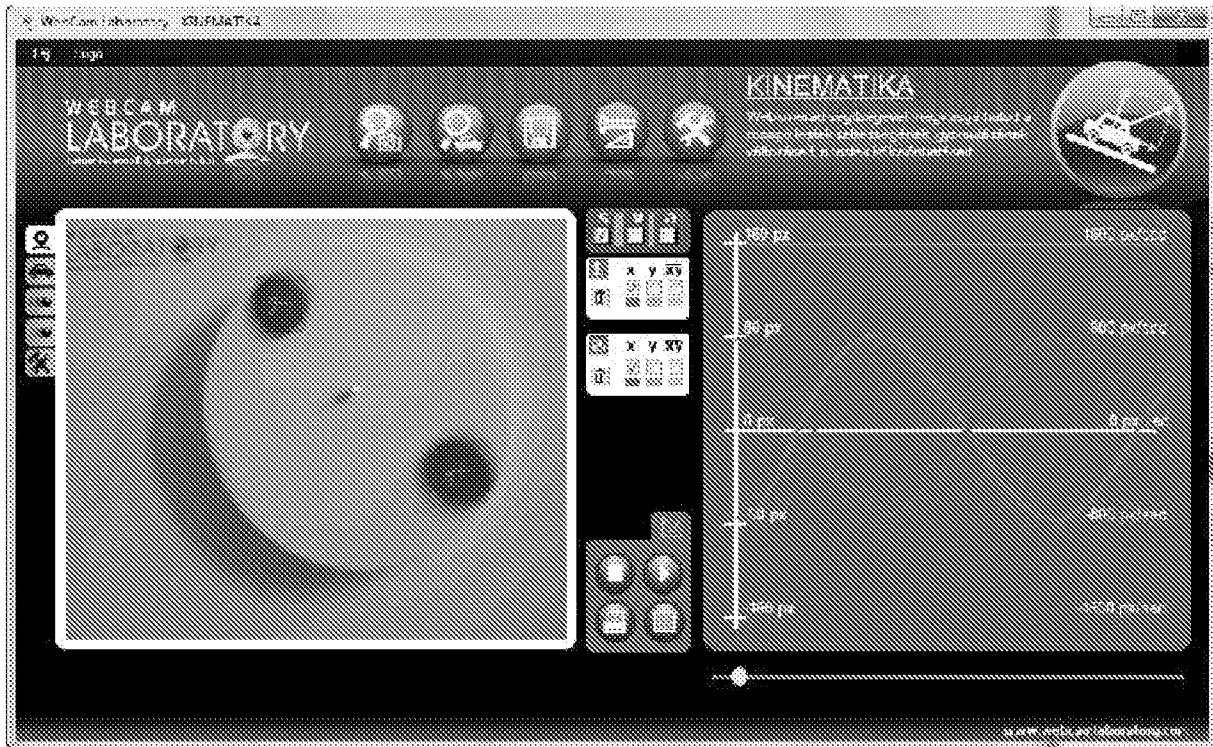


Fig. 7

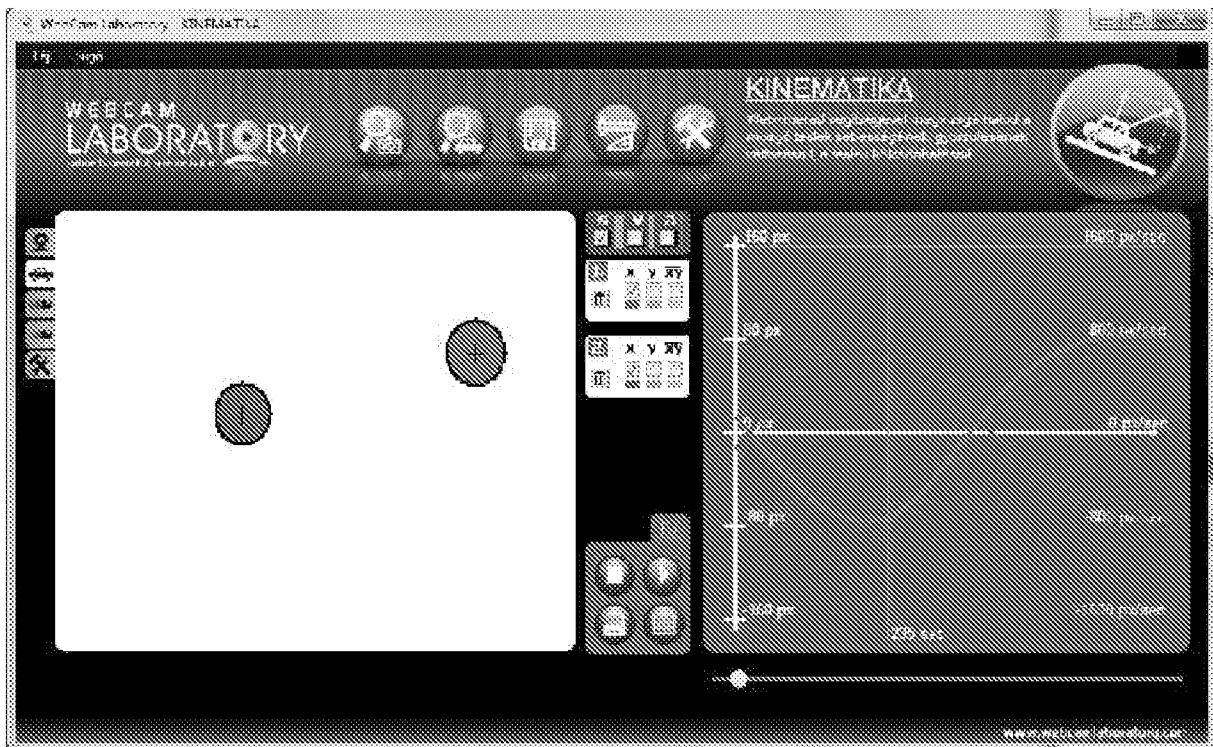


Fig. 8

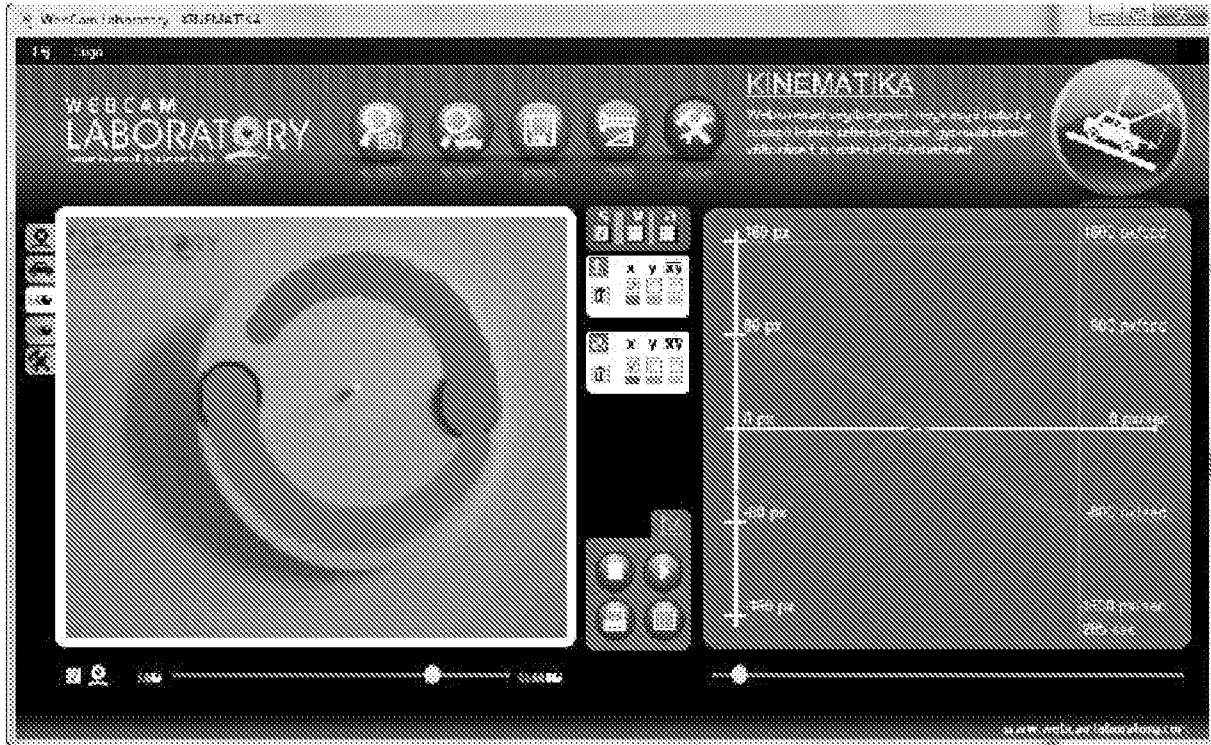


Fig. 9

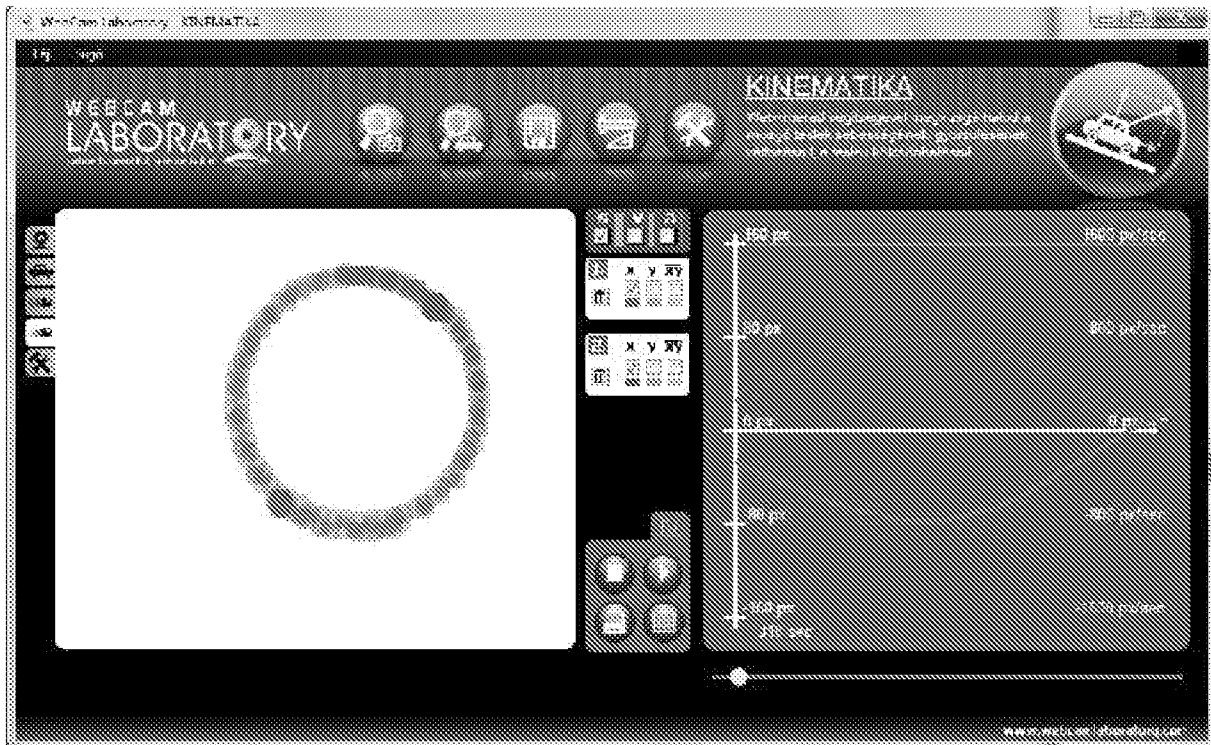


Fig. 10

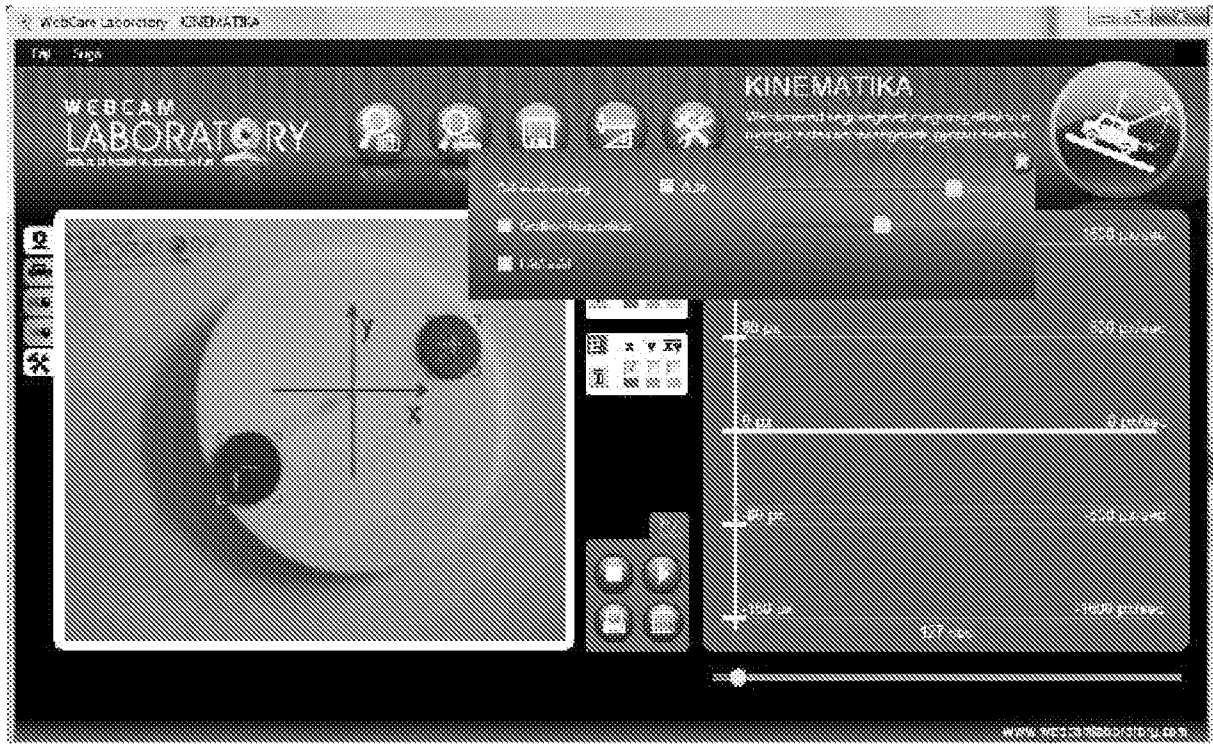


Fig. 11

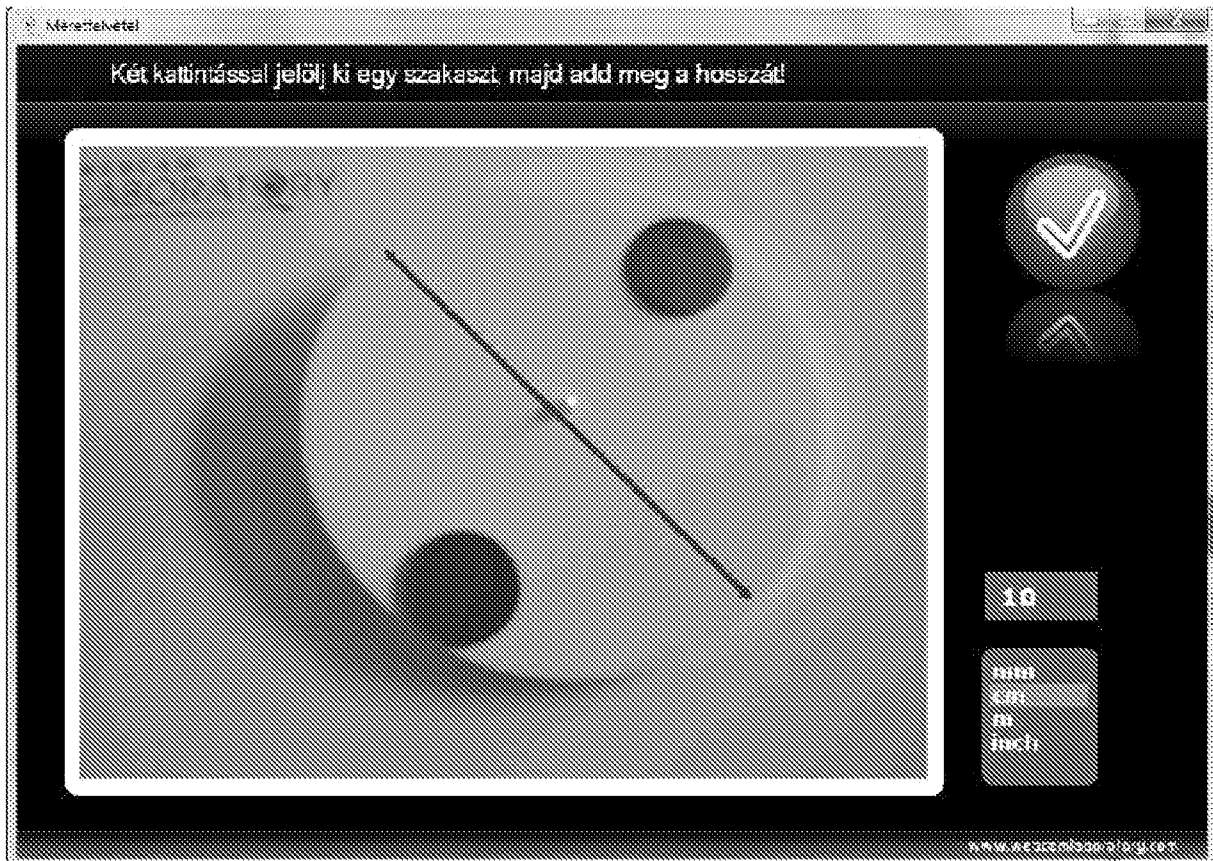


Fig. 12

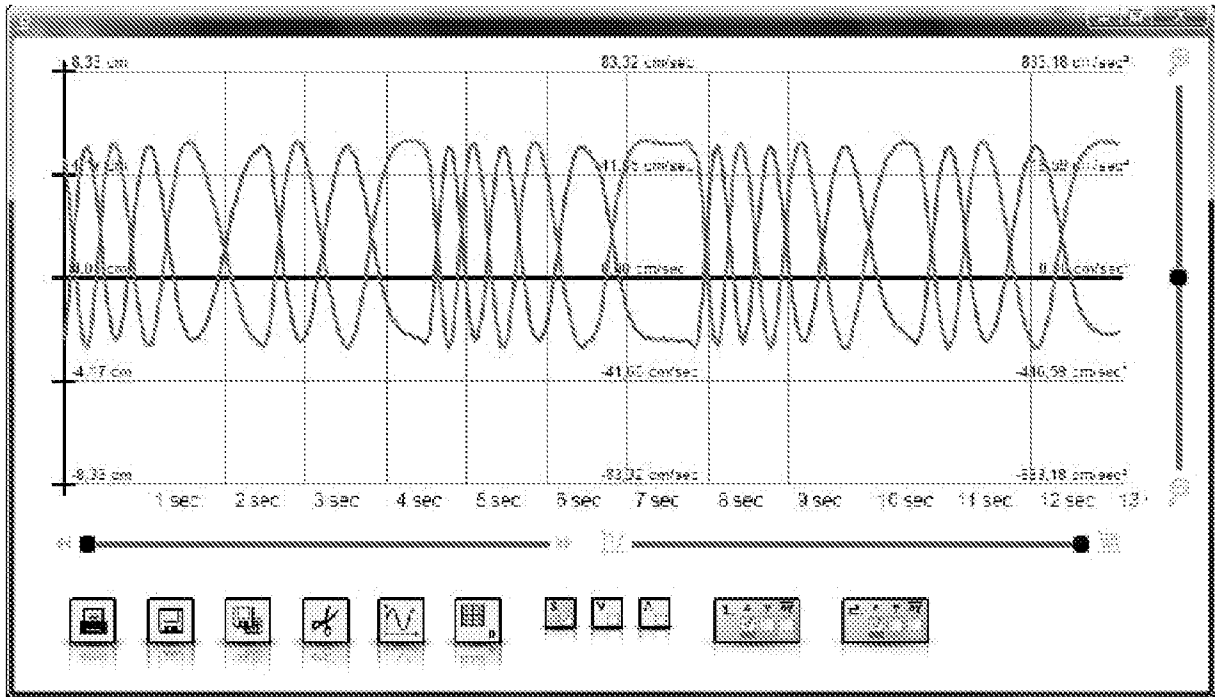


Fig. 13

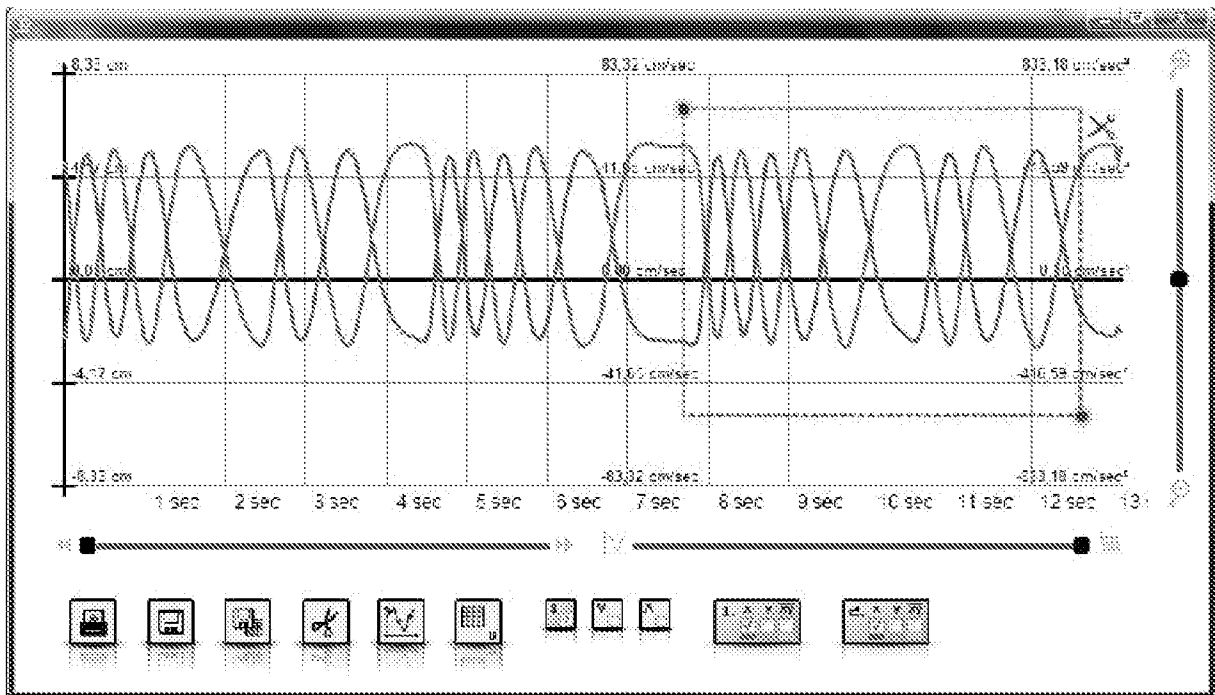


Fig. 14

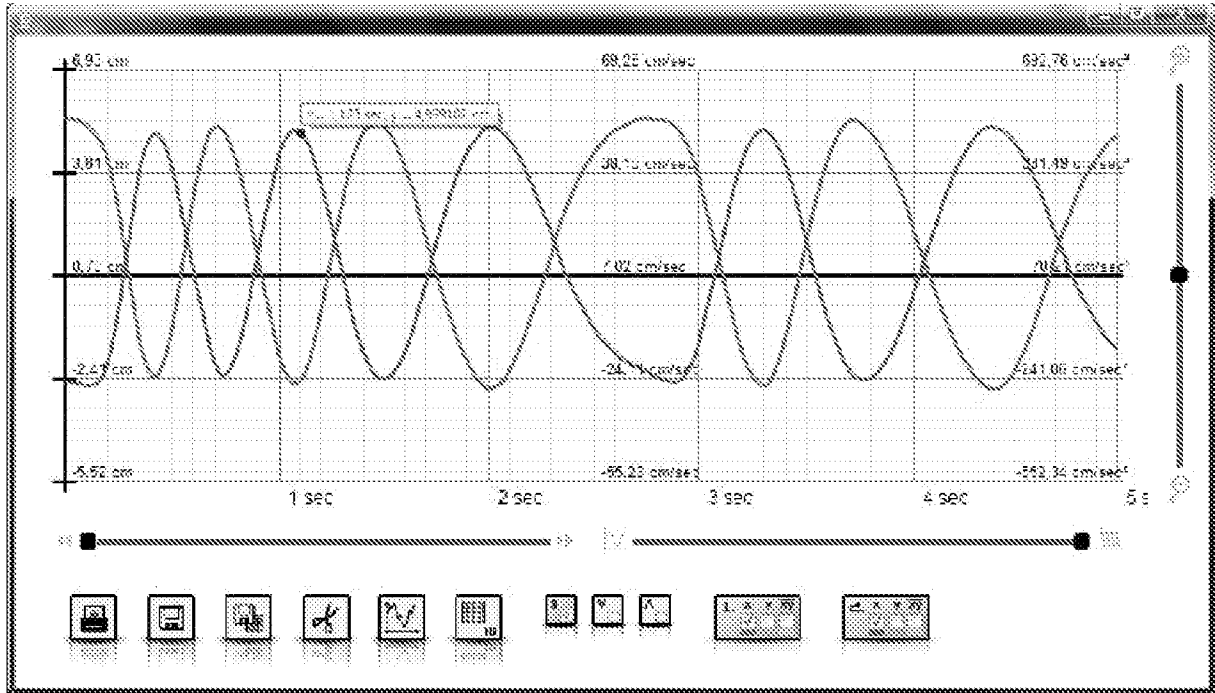


Fig. 15

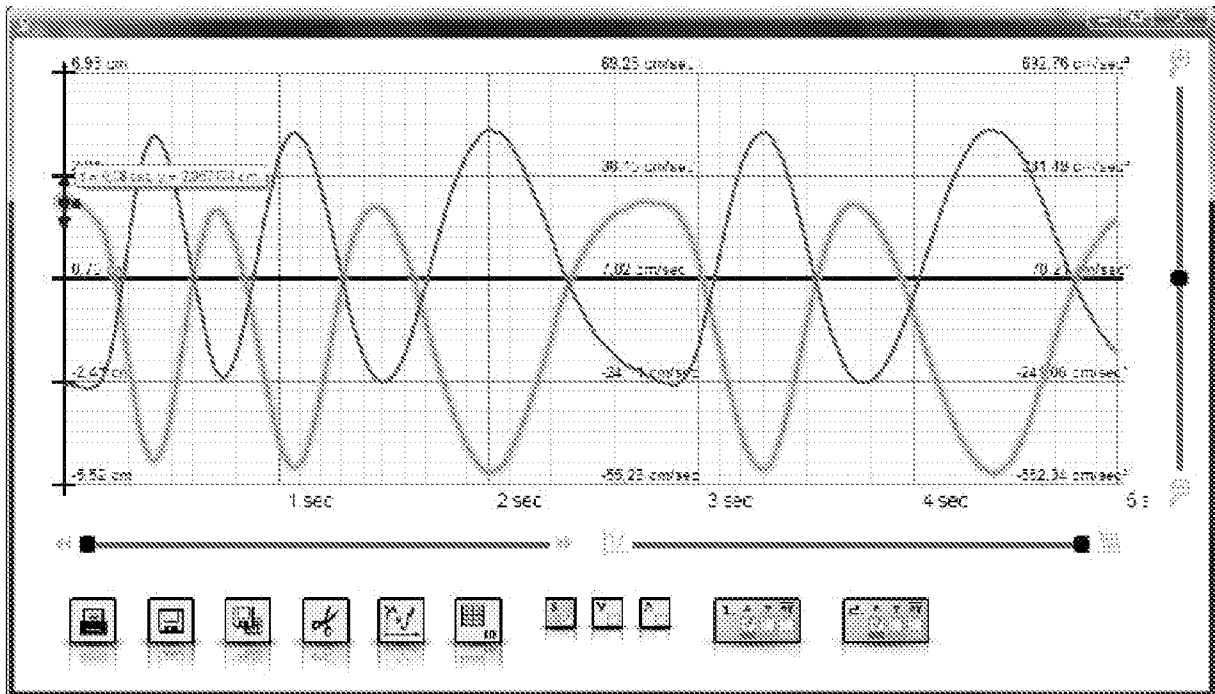


Fig. 16



Fig. 17

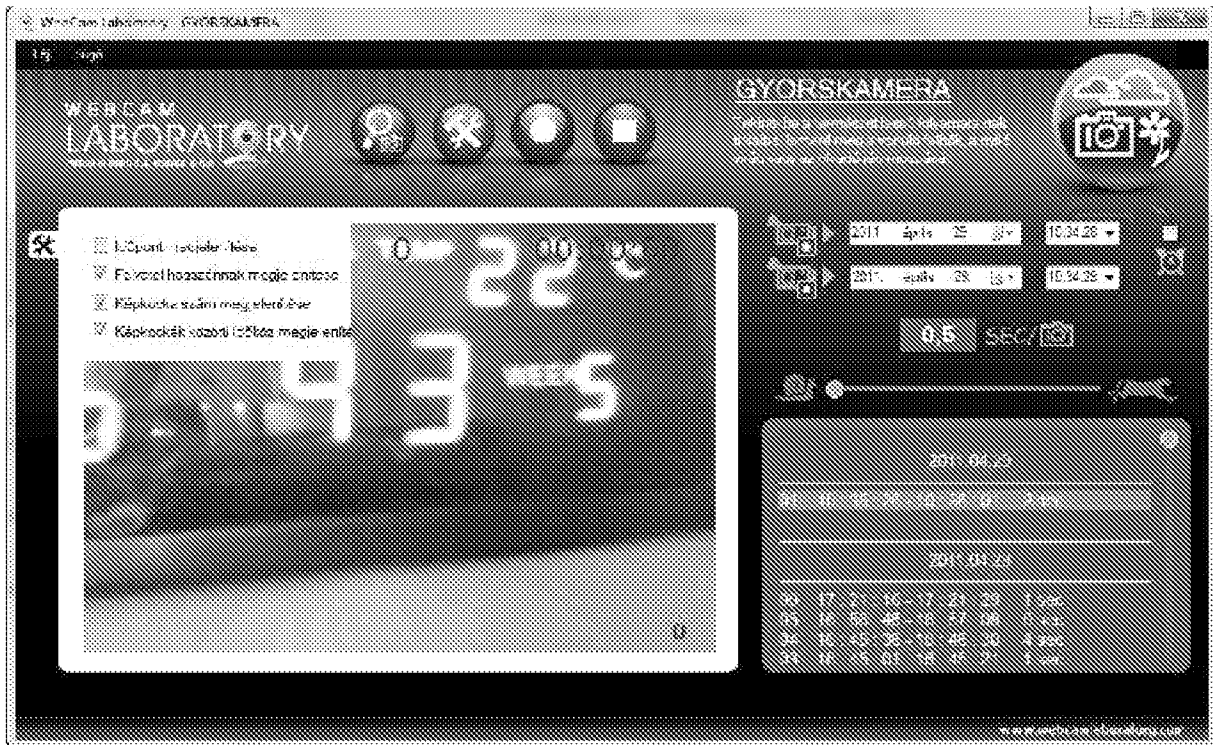


Fig. 18



Fig. 19



Fig. 20



Fig. 21

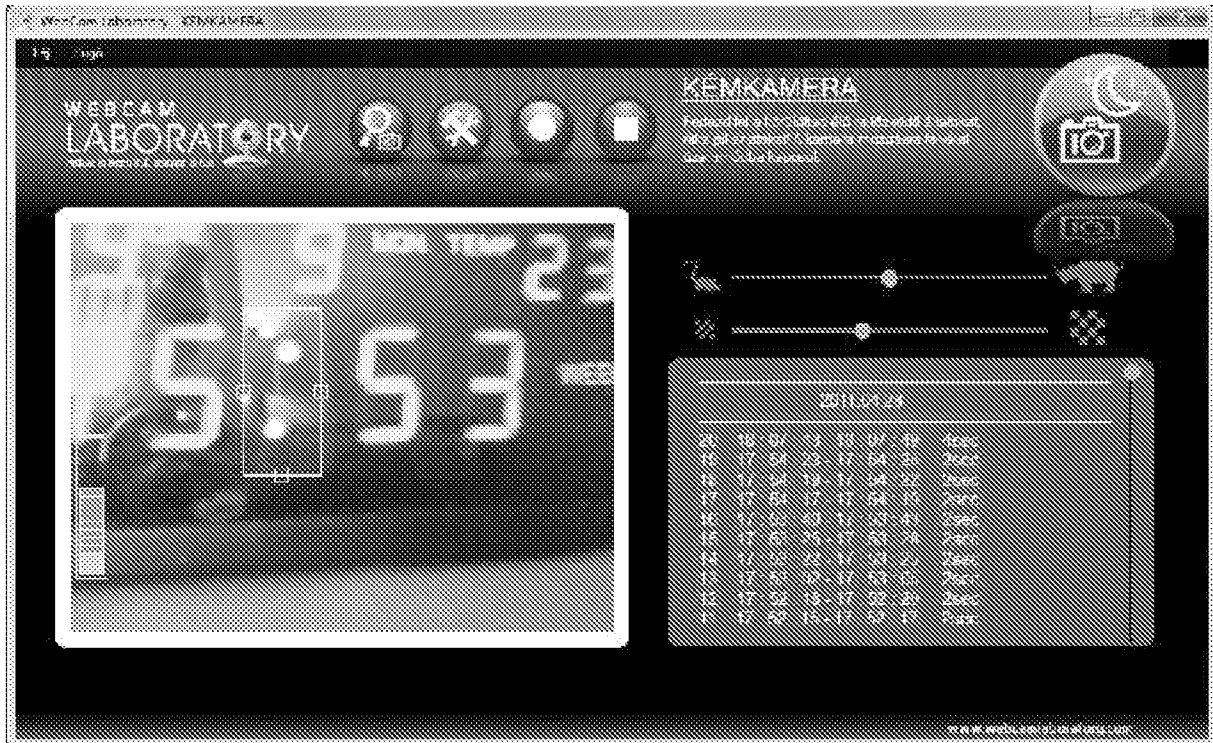


Fig. 22

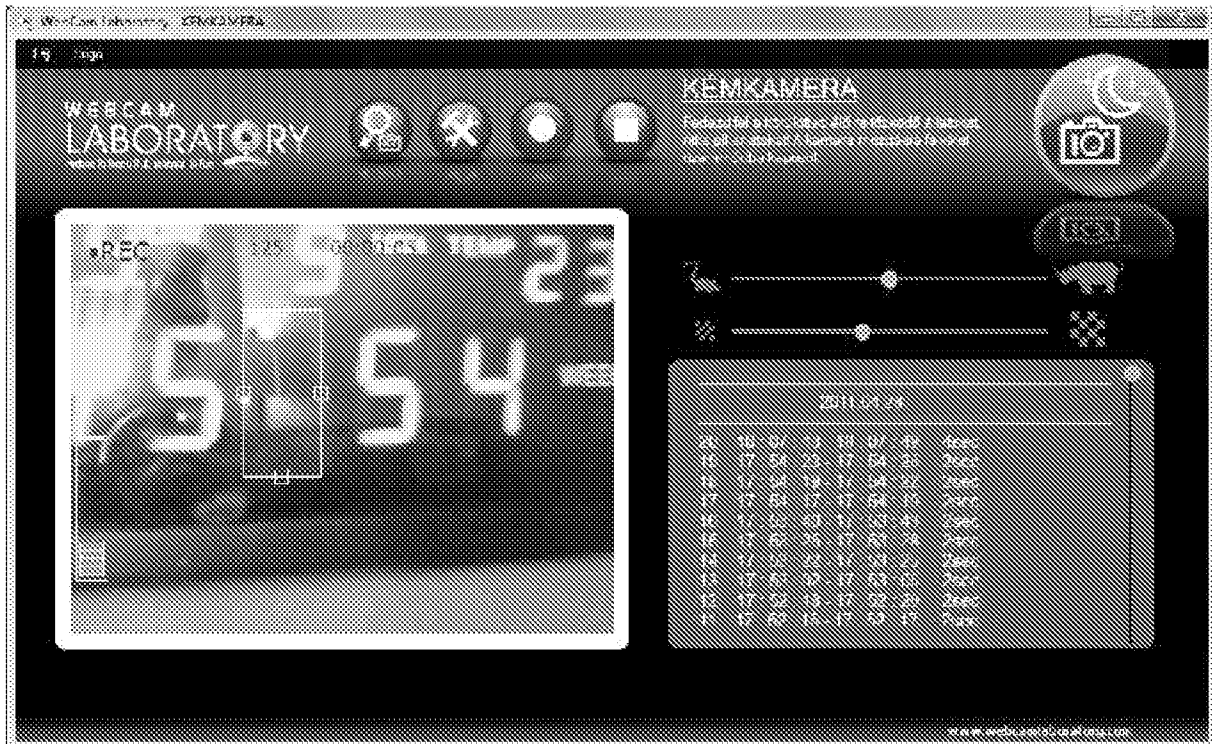


Fig. 23



Fig. 24

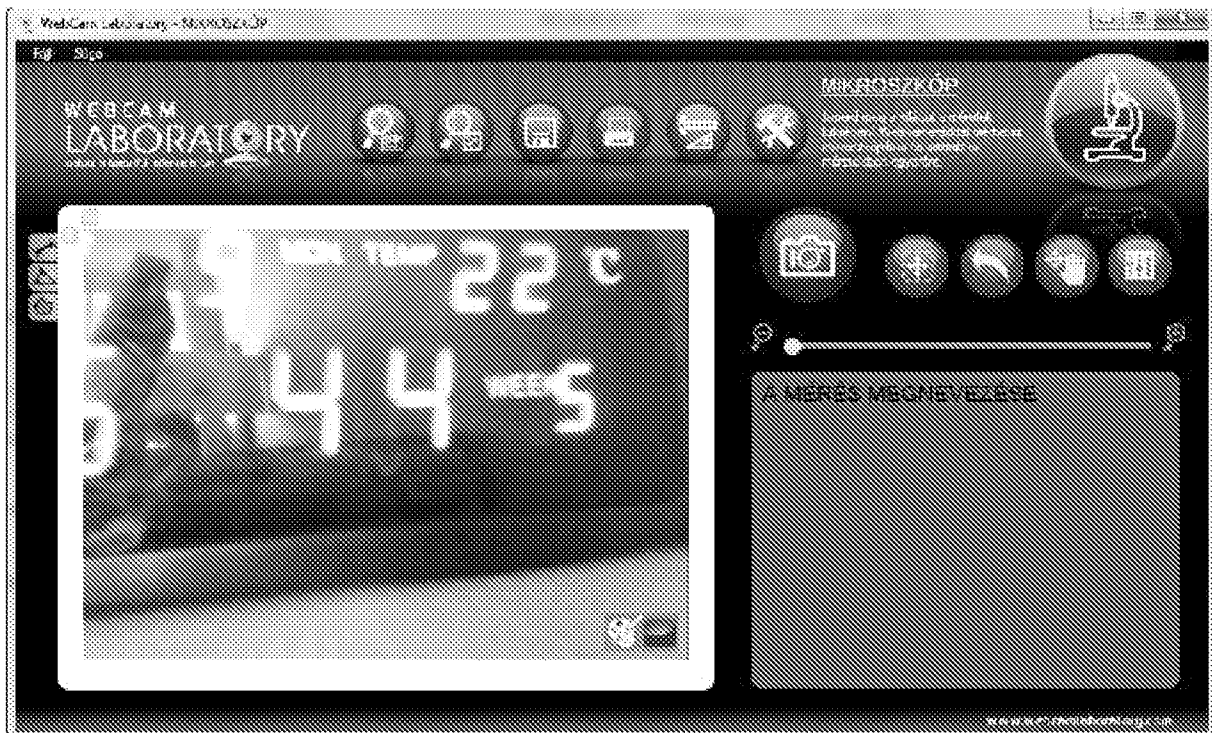


Fig. 25



Fig. 26

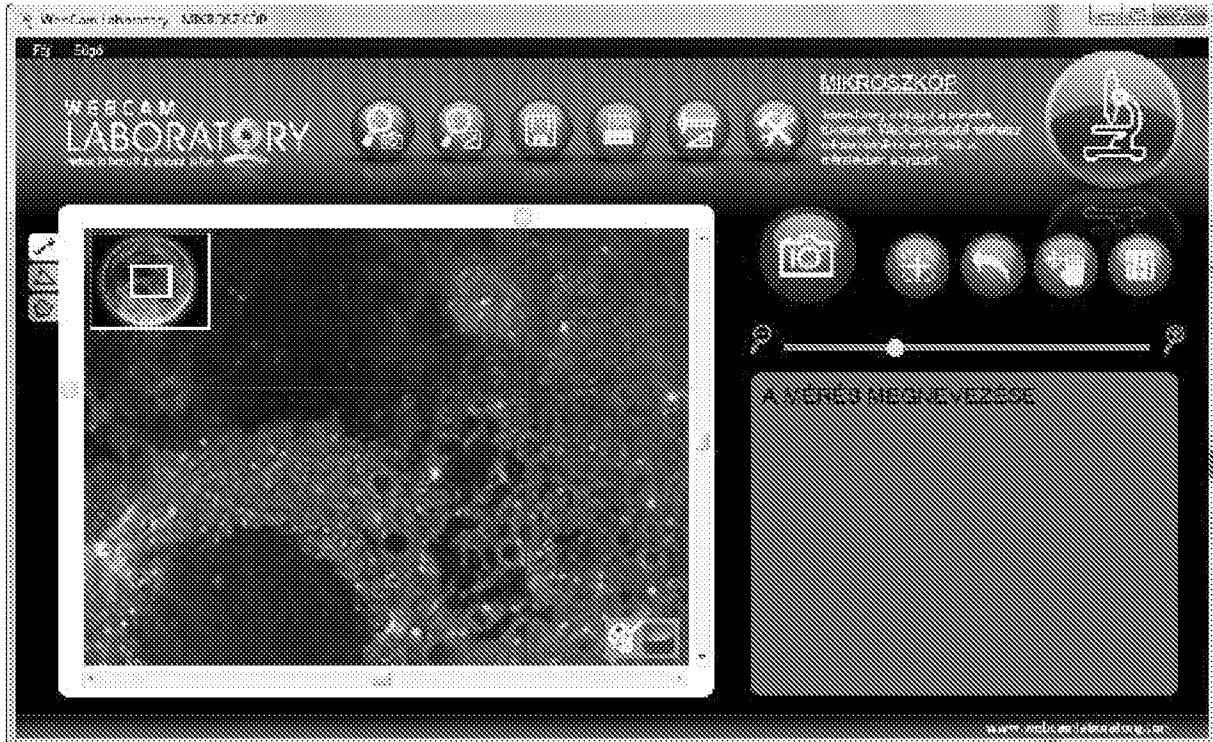


Fig. 27



Fig. 28

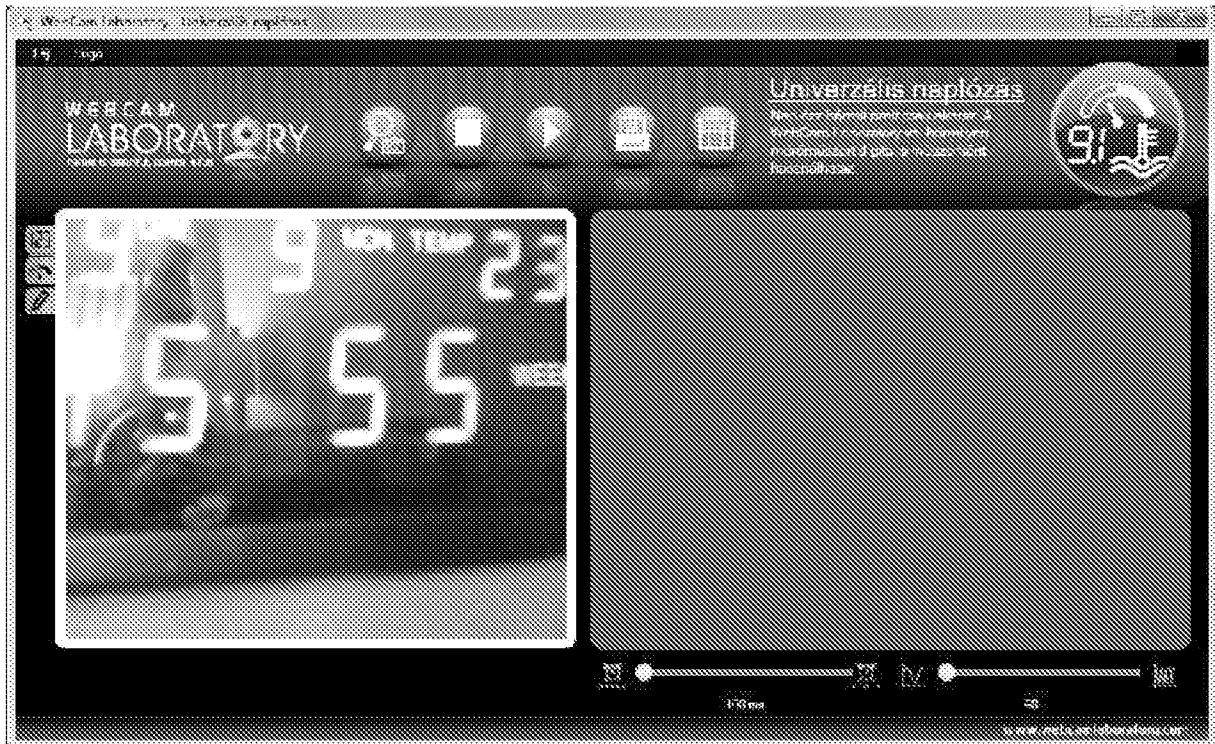


Fig. 29

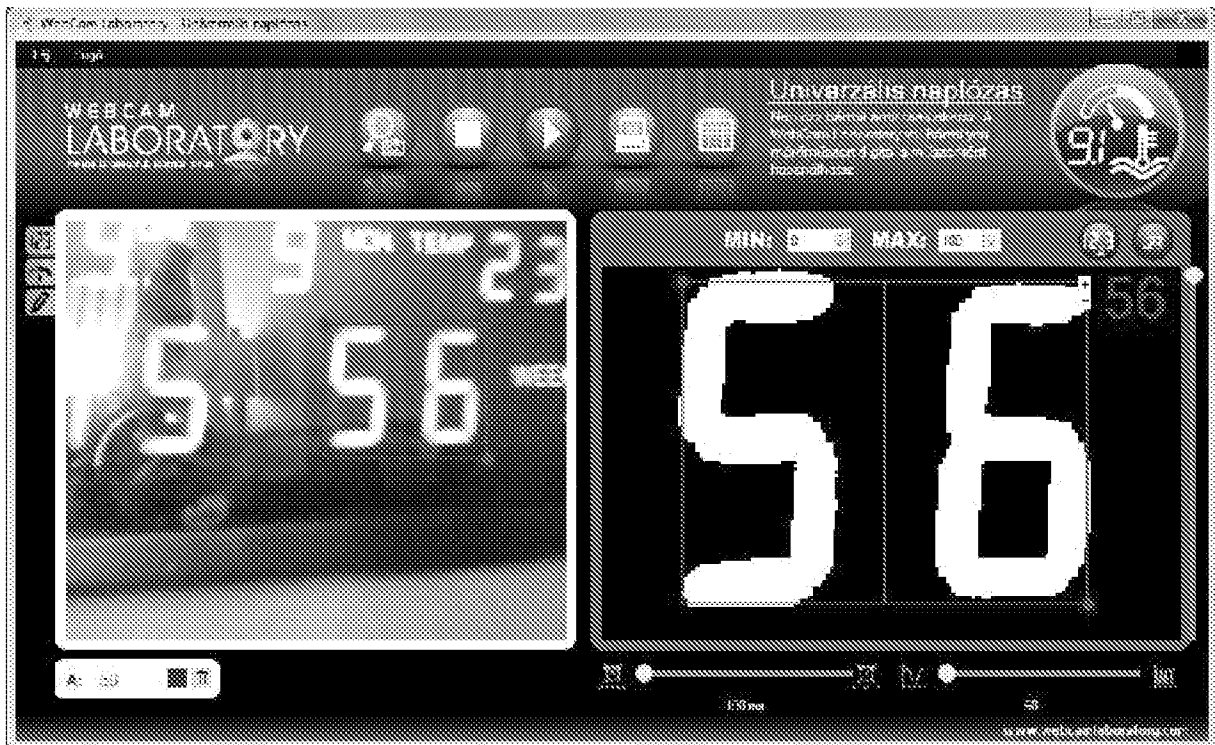


Fig. 30

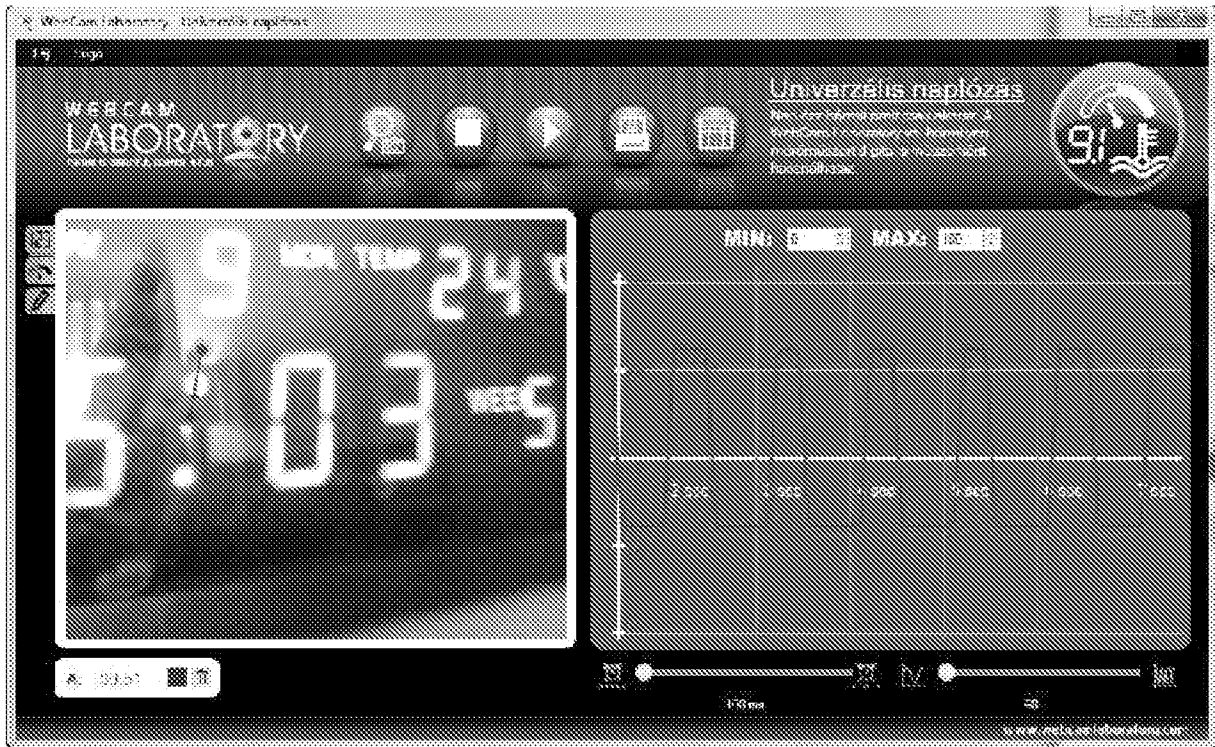


Fig. 31

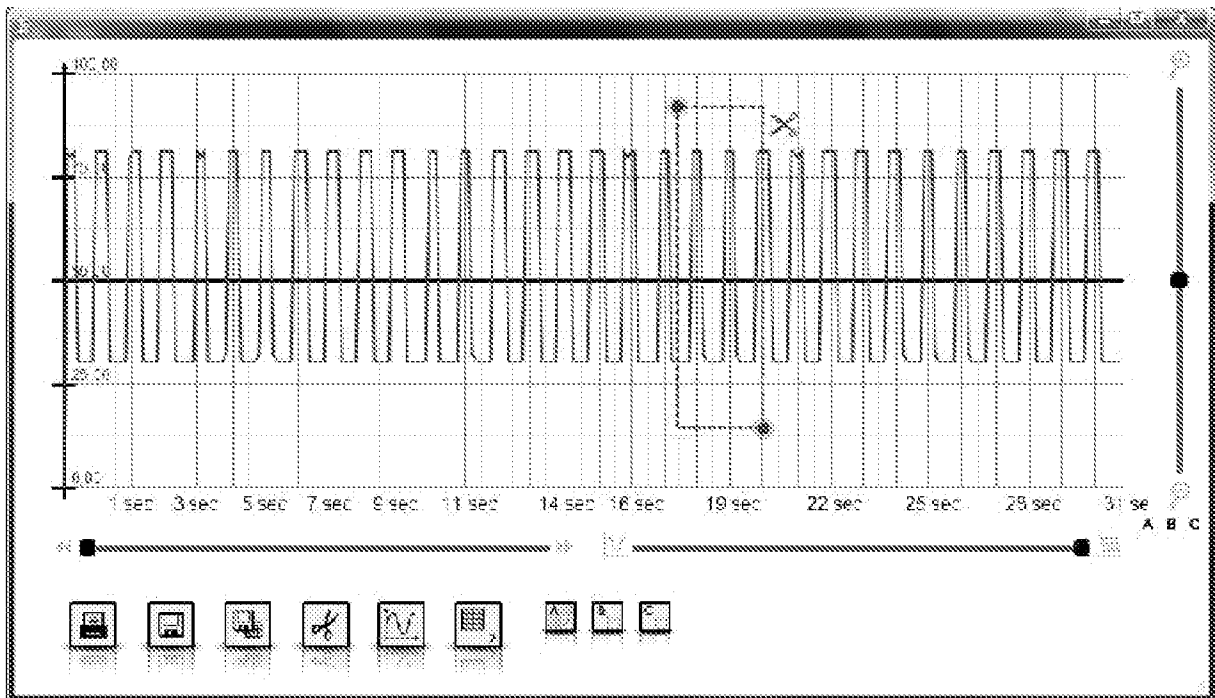


Fig. 32

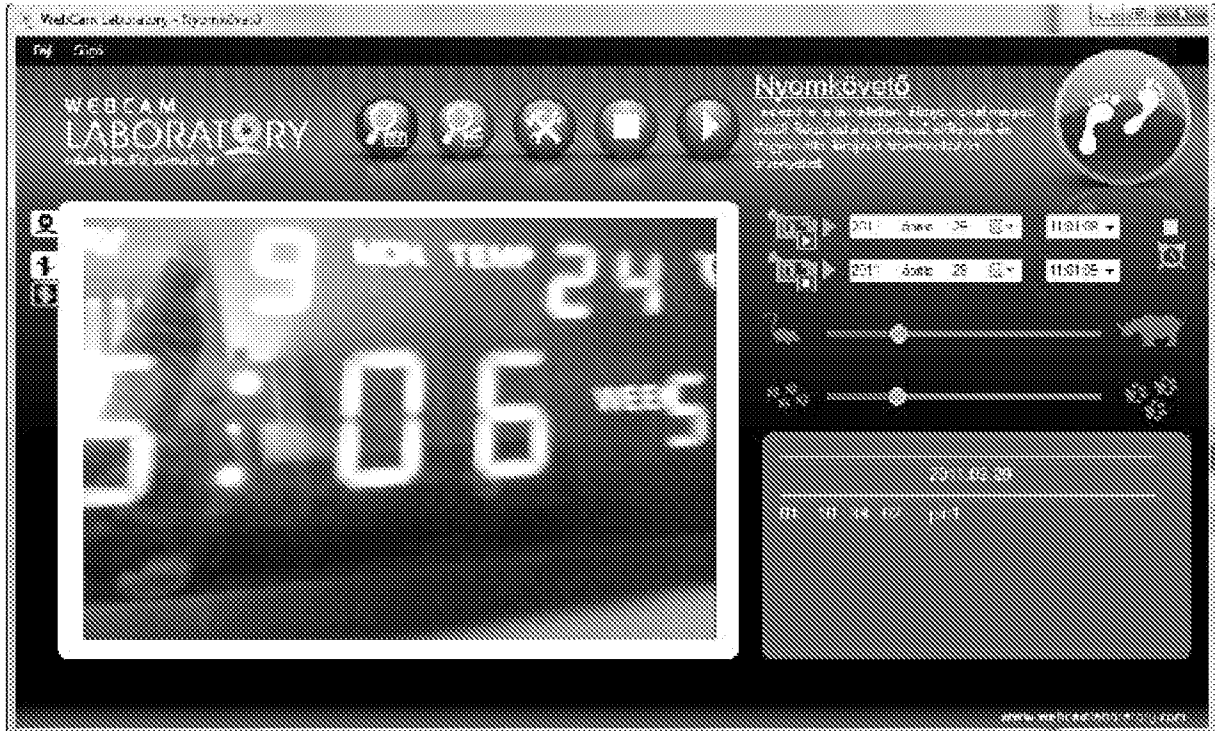


Fig. 33

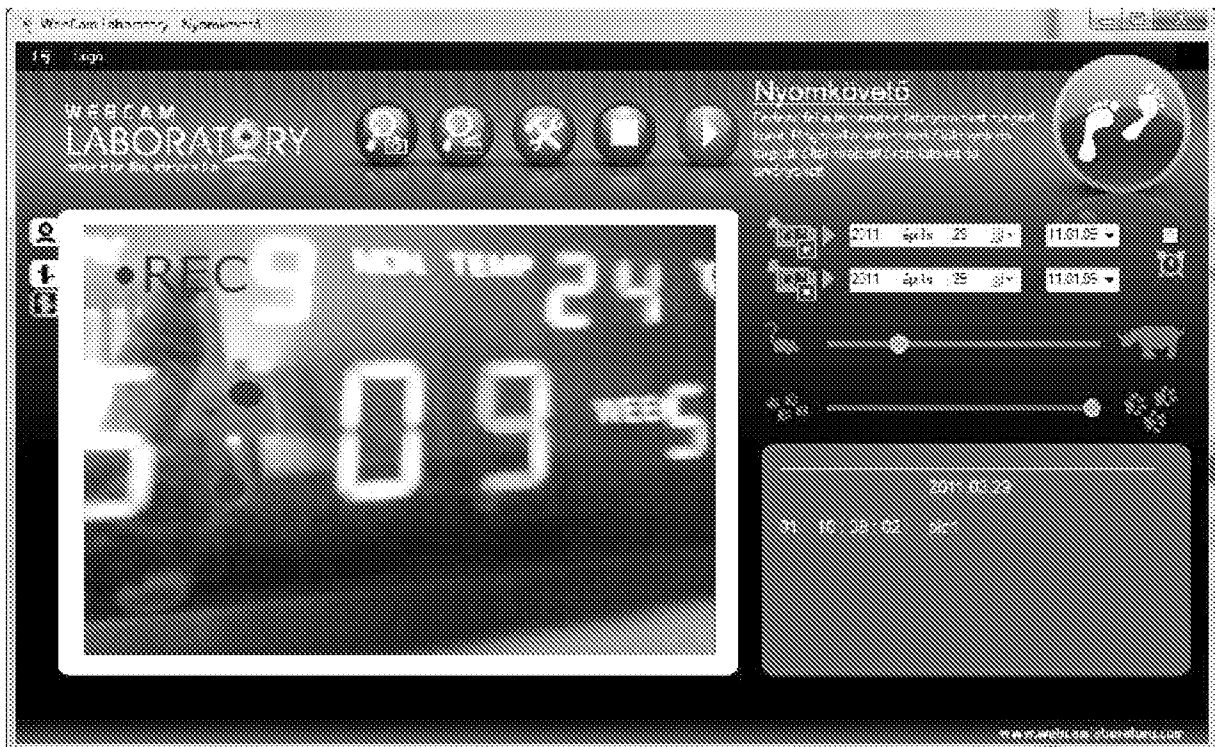


Fig. 34

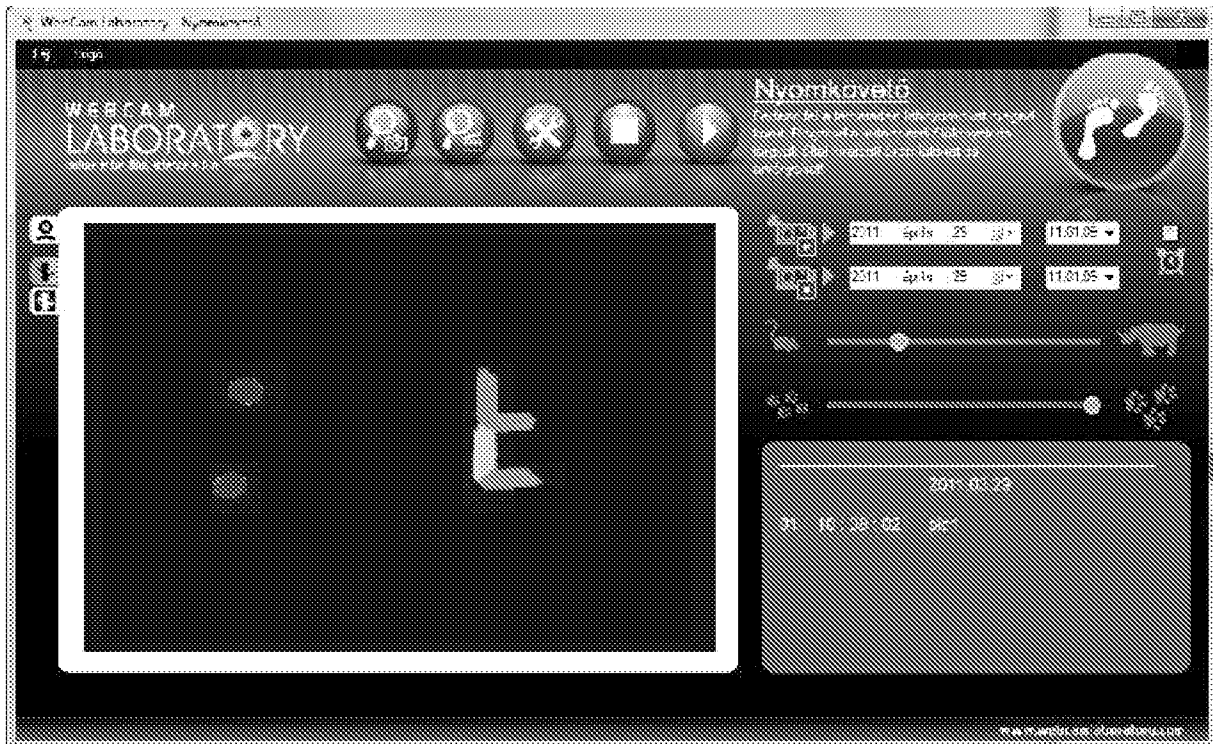


Fig. 35

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/IB2012/053564

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. G06K9/00 G06T7/20
ADD.

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)
G06K G06T

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 practicable, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	Peter Johnson: "Brochure WebcamLaboratory", PRWeb, 1 March 2011 (2011-03-01), pages 1-10, XP055056798, Retrieved from the Internet: URL: http://ww1.prweb.com/prfiles/2011/03/01/4706444/A5brossura.pdf [retrieved on 2013-03-15] page 4 - page 9 <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> ----- -/-- </div>	1,2

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 application or patent 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

18 March 2013

Date of mailing of the international search report

27/03/2013

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

Boltz, Sylvain

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/IB2012/053564

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	Intel: "Revealing Natural Sciences, through a Webcam", Intel Learning Series, 10 July 2012 (2012-07-10), pages 1-4, XP055056878, Retrieved from the Internet: URL: http://www.intel.com/content/dam/www/public/us/en/documents/application-briefs/ILS_LabCam_AppBrief_July2012_en.pdf [retrieved on 2013-03-18] the whole document	1,2
X	Prweb: "Students Can Now Measure the Width of a Moon-crater, Study a Storm, or Carry out Data Logging, Using Just a Webcam", PRWeb, 1 March 2011 (2011-03-01), pages 1-3, XP055056895, Retrieved from the Internet: URL: http://www.prweb.com/releases/blieducation/webcamlaboratory/prweb5117854.htm [retrieved on 2013-03-18] the whole document	1,2
L	the whole document	1,2
L	Webcamlaboratory: "Facebook account WebcamLaboratory", Facebook, 18 March 2013 (2013-03-18), pages 1-10, XP055056886, Retrieved from the Internet: URL: http://www.facebook.com/webcamlaboratory [retrieved on 2013-03-18] the whole document	1,2
L	Webcamlaboratory: "Youtube account WebcamLaboratory", Youtube, 18 March 2013 (2013-03-18), pages 1-3, XP055056884, Retrieved from the Internet: URL: http://www.youtube.com/user/WebCamLaboratory?feature=watch [retrieved on 2013-03-18] the whole document	1,2