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(71) Applicant: UNIVERSAL CITY STUDIOS LLC [US/US]; 100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City, California 91608 (US).

(72) Inventors: VYAS, Anisha; 1000 Universal Studios Plaza, Orlando, Florida 32819 (US). CORRELL, Caitlin Amanda; 1000 Universal Studios Plaza, Orlando, Florida 32819 (US). MCCRACKEN, Sean David; 1000 Universal Studios Plaza, Orlando, Florida 32819 (US). MCGEHEE, William V.; 1000 Universal Studios Plaza, Orlando, Florida 32819 (US).

(74) Agent: POWELL, W. Allen et al.; P.O. Box 692289, Houston, Texas 77269 (US).

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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

(54) Title: ANIMATED CHARACTER HEAD SYSTEMS AND METHODS

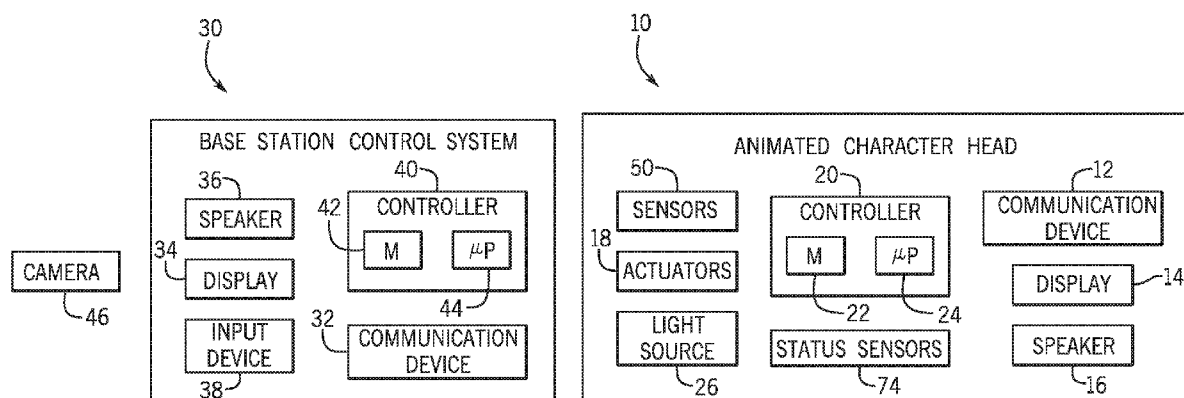


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A system includes an animated character head having one or more processors configured to receive an input, to make an animation selection based on the input, and to provide a first control based on the animation selection. The animated character head also includes a display configured to provide an indication of the animation selection for visualization by a performer operating the animated character head.

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Published:

- *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))*

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2017/063513

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:

see additional 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 an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of 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.:

1-9

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.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No PCT/US2017/063513

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER INV. A63J7/00 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) A63J				
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, WPI Data				
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
A	US 2010/144239 A1 (ECK TIMOTHY J [US] ET AL) 10 June 2010 (2010-06-10) paragraph [0024] - paragraph [0027]; figures -----	1-9		
A	EP 2 070 571 A1 (ON ART CORP [JP]) 17 June 2009 (2009-06-17) paragraph [0035] - paragraph [0039]; figures -----	1-9		
A	CN 2 598 084 Y (JIN YAO [CN]) 7 January 2004 (2004-01-07) the whole document -----	1-9		
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.				
* Special categories of cited documents : <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> "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 </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> "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 </td> </tr> </table>			"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
"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	Date of mailing of the international search report			
20 February 2018	27/08/2018			
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 Lucas, Peter			

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No PCT/US2017/063513

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2010144239	A1	10-06-2010	US 2010144239 A1 10-06-2010
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			US 2010233932 A1 16-09-2010
			WO 2009037741 A1 26-03-2009

CN 2598084	Y	07-01-2004	NONE

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-9

A system, comprising:
an animated character head, comprising:
one or more processors configured to receive an input, to make an animation selection based on the input, and to provide a first control signal based on the animation selection; and
a display configured to provide an indication of the animation selection for visualization by a performer operating the animated character head.
Solving the problem of making it easier for the performer to follow which animation has been selected.

2. claims: 10-20

A system, comprising:
an animated character head, comprising:
one or more processors configured to receive an input, to make an animation selection based on the input, and to provide a control signal based on the animation selection, wherein the input comprises a first signal indicative of eye movement of a performer operating the animated character head, a second signal indicative of facial gestures of the performer operating the animated character head, or a combination thereof.
Claims 15-20 are directed to the corresponding method.
The problem solve by this group is how to provide a system and a corresponding method which makes it easier for the performer to control the animated character head.
