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- (71) Applicant: **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.** [NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).
- (72) Inventor: **CHANG, Chin**; Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).
- (74) Agent: **DUSSELDORP, Jan, C.**; Internationaal Octrooibureau B.V., Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).

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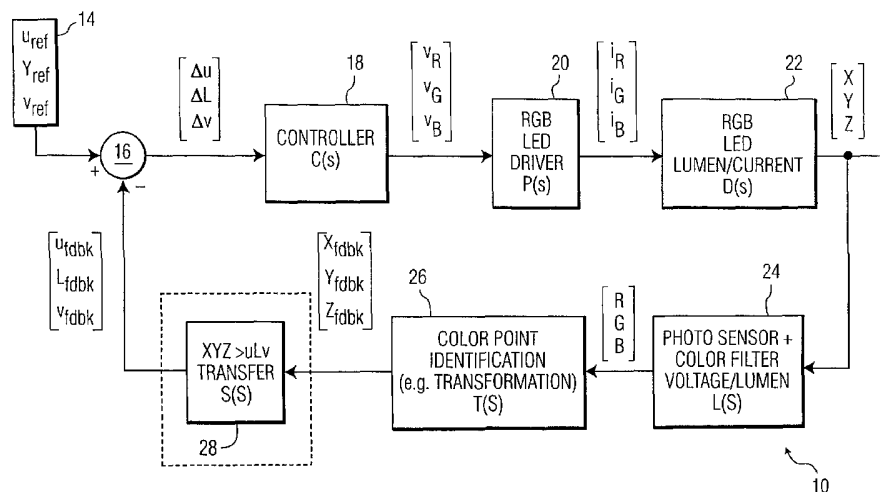
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(54) Title: LED BASED WHITE LIGHT CONTROL SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: The present invention is directed to a color control system for generating a desired white light by a plurality of Red, Green and Blue light emitting diodes (LEDs) comprised of a sensor responsive to a white light generated by the plurality of LEDs to measure the color coordinates of the white light, where the color coordinates are defined in a first color space. A transformation module is provided coupled to the sensor to transform the coordinates of the generated white light to a second color space. A reference module configured to provide reference color coordinates corresponding to the desired white light, where the reference color coordinates are expressed in the second color space. An adder is provided coupled to the transformation module and the reference module configured to generate an error color coordinate corresponding to a difference between the desired white light color coordinates and the generated white light color coordinates. A driver module is provided coupled to the adder and configured to generate a drive signal for driving the LEDs.

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*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

## LED based white light control system

This invention relates to a color mixing system and method and more specifically to an RGB, light emitting diode controller for providing desired colors.

5                   Conventional color control systems employ a feedback control arrangement to maintain a desired color emitted by for example an RGB, LED light source. However, it is known that visual sensitivity to small color differences is one of the considerations when determining the precision of a color control system.

10                   Traditionally, in order to control and maintain a desired light color and intensity, a color space diagram is employed and various primary color light sources, such as Red, Green and Blue are controlled in accordance with the values represented by the color space diagram.

15                   An exemplary color space is the RGB space, which is represented by a three-dimensional space whose components are the red, green, and blue intensities, along with their spectrum that make up a given color. For example, scanners read the amounts of red, green, and blue light that are reflected from an image and then convert those amounts into digital values. Displays receive the digital values and convert them into red, green, and blue light seen onscreen. RGB-based color spaces are the most commonly used color spaces in computer graphics, primarily because they are supported by many color displays and  
20                   scanners. However, a shortcoming with using an RGB color space is that it is device dependent and additive.

                    Some color spaces can express color in a device-independent way. Whereas RGB colors vary with display and scanner characteristics, device-independent colors are meant to be true representations of colors as perceived by the human eye. These color  
25                   representations, called device-independent color spaces, result from work carried out in 1931 by the Commission Internationale d'Eclairage (CIE) and for that reason they are also called CIE-based color spaces.

                    The CIE created a set of color spaces that specify color in terms of human perception. It then developed algorithms to derive three imaginary primary constituents of

color--X, Y, and Z--that can be combined at different levels to produce all the color the human eye can perceive. The resulting color model, CIE, and other CIE color models form the basis for all color management systems. Although the RGB and CMYK values differ from device to device, human perception of color remains consistent across devices. Colors can be specified in the CIE-based color spaces in a way that is independent of the characteristics of any particular display or reproduction device. The goal of this standard is for a given CIE-based color specification to produce consistent results on different devices, up to the limitations of each device.

There are several CIE-based color spaces, such as  $xyL$ ,  $uvL$ ,  $u^*v^*L$ ,  $a^*b^*l$ , etc., but all are derived from the fundamental XYZ space. The XYZ space allows colors to be expressed as a mixture of three tristimulus values X, Y, and Z. The term tristimulus comes from the fact that color perception results from the retina of the eye responding to three types of stimuli. After experimentation, the CIE set up a hypothetical set of primaries, XYZ, that correspond to the way the eye's retina behaves.

The CIE defined the primaries so that all visible light maps into a positive mixture of X, Y, and Z, and so that Y correlates approximately to the apparent lightness of a color. Generally, the mixtures of X, Y, and Z components used to describe a color are expressed as percentages ranging from 0 percent up to, in some cases, just over 100 percent. Other device-independent color spaces based on XYZ space are used primarily to relate some particular aspect of color or some perceptual color difference to XYZ values.

Fig. 1 is a plot of a chromaticity diagram as defined by CIE (Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage). Basically, the CIE chromaticity diagram of Fig.1 illustrates information relating to a standard set of reference color stimuli, and a standard set of tristimulus values for them. Typically, the reference color stimuli are radiations of wavelength 700 nm for the red stimulus (R), 546.1 nm for the green stimulus (G) and 435.8 nm for the blue stimulus (B). Different color points along curve 60 can be combined to generate a white light depicted at point 62. The chromaticity diagram shows only the proportions of tristimulus values; hence bright and dim colors having the same proportions belong to the same point.

As mentioned before, one drawback of the XYZ space as employed for controlling an RGB light source is that in a system that is configured to control a desired color point, for example,  $X_w$ ,  $Y_w$ ,  $Z_w$ , a deviation from this desired color point may have a different visual impact, depending on the direction of the deviation. That is the perceptual color difference for the same amount of error in the color point location, would be different

depending on where the color point with error is located, on the chromaticity diagram, in relation to the desired color point location.

Therefore, even if a system is employed with a very small error control scheme, the perceptual color difference may be still large for certain errors and excessively small for other color point errors. As such, the feedback system either over compensates or under compensates color point errors.

Thus, there is a need for an RGB LED controller system that employs a feedback control arrangement that substantially corrects all color point errors without visual perception of change in color.

10

In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, a control system for generating a desired white light by a plurality of Red, Green and Blue light emitting diodes (LEDs) comprises a sensor responsive to a white light generated by the LEDs to measure the color coordinates of the white light, wherein the color coordinates are defined in an  $X, Y, Z$ , color space. A transformation module is coupled to the sensor to transform the coordinates of the generated white light to a second color space, such as an  $L, u, v$  color space. A reference module is configured to provide reference color coordinates corresponding to the desired white light, wherein the reference color coordinates are expressed in the second color space. An error module is coupled to the transformation module and the reference module and is configured to generate an error color coordinate corresponding to a difference between the desired white light color coordinates and the generated white light color coordinates. A driver module is coupled to the error module and is configured to generate a drive signal for driving the LEDs.

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Fig. 1 illustrates a color space diagram in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 2 is block diagram of a control system in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

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Figs. 3(a)-3(c) illustrate various tristimulus filters employed in accordance with another embodiment of the invention.

Figs. 4(a)-4(b) illustrate plots employed in connection with tristimulus filters illustrated in Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a block diagram of a control system in accordance with another embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 6 illustrates a plot of a color space depicting error regions in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

5

Fig. 2 illustrates a control system 10 for controlling light generated by an RGB, LED luminary module 22 in accordance with one embodiment of the invention. More specifically, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, control system 10 is employed to control the LEDs to generate a white color light, having reference colorimetry coordinate values  $u_{ref}$ ,  $L_{ref}$  and  $v_{ref}$ .

Fig. 2 includes a buffer 14 that is configured to store the desired colorimetry coordinate values of a white light in  $u$ ,  $v$ ,  $L$  format. It is noted that the  $uLv$  space is a nonlinear transformation of XYZ space to create a perceptually linear color space.

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Thus, the coordinates stored in buffer 14 correspond to a color space that represents colors relative to a reference white point, which is a specific definition of what is considered white light, represented in terms of XYZ space, and usually based on the whitest light that can be generated by a given device.

The values stored in buffer 14 are referred to as  $u_{ref}$ ,  $L_{ref}$ , and  $v_{ref}$ .

20

Buffer 14 is coupled to a feedback adder 16, which is configured to provide an error signal  $\Delta u$ ,  $\Delta L$ ,  $\Delta v$ , based on the desired color coordinate values and the color coordinate values generated by control system 10.

An output port of feedback adder 16 is coupled to a controller 18, which is configured to provide control voltage signals corresponding to the color space error signals.

25

In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, controller 18 is configured to generate control voltage sources  $V_R$ ,  $V_G$ ,  $V_B$ , for driving the LEDs, in response to error signals provided by feedback adder 16.

An output port of controller 18 is coupled to an input control of power supply and RGB Driver unit 20. Power supply unit 20 generates appropriate forward current signal levels  $I_R$ ,  $I_G$ ,  $I_B$ , to each of the RGB LEDs so as to cause the LEDs to generate the corresponding lights for producing a desired white light.

30

An output port of power supply unit 20 is coupled to an input port of an RGB white LED luminary module 22. A plurality of red, green and blue LEDs within luminary module 22 are configured to receive their corresponding forward drive current signals so as

to generate the desired white light. Luminary module 22 provides red, green and blue lights in lumen in response to the current provided to the LEDs.

The white light that is generated by luminary 22 is measured by a tristimulus filter 24. Filter 24 is disposed in front of luminary 22 so as to measure certain characteristics of the white light generated, such as the color coordinates RGB. As will be explained in more detail later in reference with Fig. 3 and 4, filter 24 in accordance with one embodiment of the invention comprises a photo sensor with color filters that together operate as – what is known in the industry – a tristimulus filter.

Filter 24 is coupled to a color point identification module 26, which is configured to convert the RGB values measured by filter 24 to  $X_w$ ,  $Y_w$ ,  $Z_w$  coordinates.

In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, the operation of filter 24 and color point identification module 26 can be combined by a tristimulus filter, such as 140, illustrated in Figs 3(a)–3(c).

The operation and structure of tristimulus filter 140 is well known. Figs. 3(a), 3(b) and 3(c) illustrate block diagrams of three exemplary tristimulus filters that are employed in accordance with various embodiments of the invention. Basically, a tristimulus filter is configured such that the spectral response functions of the filters are directly proportional to the color-matching functions of CIE standard colorimetric observers.

Fig. 3(a) illustrates the arrangement and function of a tristimulus filter 140. The tristimulus filter of Fig. 3(a) includes three glass filters 142, 144 and 146, each of which are configured to filter respectively the red, green and blue lights contained in a light generated by source 122 and reflected by a test object 124. One or more photocells 154 are disposed behind the glass filters to measure the light output for each of the red, green and blue light components. Registers 148, 150 and 152 are configured to store the light information corresponding to CIE 1931 standard observer. Thus, register 148 stores information corresponding to the light passing through filter 142. Similarly, register 150 stores information corresponding to the light passing through filter 144. And, register 152 stores information corresponding to the light passing through filter 146.

To this end, Fig. 4(a) illustrates a plot which depicts the spectral response functions and the degree to which a photocell, such as 154, combined with tristimulus filters 140 may best duplicate the color-matching functions of the CIE 1931 standard observer. The solid curves illustrate the CIE standard observer data, and the dotted curves illustrate response of the photocell with tristimulus filter arrangement.

Other examples of tristimulus filters are illustrated in Figs. 3(b) and 3(c) wherein filter glass layers are disposed over a filter substrate. Therefore, as illustrated in Fig. 3(b) a substrate 168 receives a glass layer 166, overlapped by a glass layer 164, which in turn is overlapped with a glass layer 162. Fig. 3(c) illustrates another variation of glass layers wherein layer 172 does not completely cover layer 174, and layer 174 does not completely cover layer 176.

To this end, Fig. 4(b) illustrates a plot which depicts the spectral response functions and the degree to which a photocell, such as 154, combined with the tristimulus filters 160 or 170, may best duplicate the color-matching functions of the CIE 1931 standard observer. The solid curves illustrate the CIE standard observer data, and the dotted curves illustrate response of the photocell with tristimulus filter arrangement.

The output port of color identification module 26 is coupled to an input port of a transformation module 28, which is configured to transform the  $X_w, Y_w, Z_w$  coordinates of white light measured by module 26 to a  $uLv$  space governed by the following equations, for each of the colors red, blue and green:

$$L = 683Y$$

$$u = 4X / (X + 15Y + 3Z)$$

$$v = 6Y / (X + 15Y + 3Z)$$

It is noted that the operation and function of color control system 10 can be viewed in accordance with principles of system control theory. Fig. 5 illustrates a block diagram of a unified linearized color control system with RGB LEDs in accordance with one embodiment of the invention. To this end, control module 50 is configured to generate a control signal in accordance with a function  $C(s)$  in frequency domain, based on the error signal received from adder 52.

Control module 50 is coupled to a plant module 54, which in accordance with one embodiment of the invention is configured to provide a signal in accordance with a function  $G(s)$  in frequency domain, based on the operation of the driver circuitry and the corresponding Red, Green and Blue LEDs within the plant module. A plant module in a control system environment is driven by the control signal generated by the controller.

A feedback module 56, is coupled to the plant module and provides the measured white light color coordinate in accordance with a function  $Q(s)$  in frequency domain, to adder 52. Adder 52 also receives the desired white color coordinates as a reference value.



In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, the functions  $G(s)$  and  $Q(s)$  are defined as

$$G(s) = D(s)P(s)$$

$$Q(s) = S(s)T(s)L(s) \text{ and}$$

5

$$I_{ref}(s) = \begin{bmatrix} u_{ref} \\ L_{ref} \\ v_{ref} \end{bmatrix}$$

wherein  $D(s)$  is a transfer function matrix defining the operation of luminary module 22,  $P(s)$  is a transfer function matrix defining the operation of driver module 20,  $S(s)$  is a transfer function matrix defining the operation of transformation module 28,  $T(s)$  is a transfer function matrix defining the operation of transformation module 26, and  $L(s)$  is a transfer function matrix defining the operation of filter module 24.

It is noted that a general stability criteria for the color control system in accordance with one embodiment of the invention is that the system will remain stable if and only if

15

$\det(I - G(s)C(s)Q(s))$  has no zeroes in the closed right half-plane of a complex plane  $s$  defined by  $s = \alpha + j\beta$  wherein  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are real numbers and  $j = \sqrt{-1}$ , and

$[I - G(s)C(s)Q(s)]^{-1}G(s)C(s)$  is analytic at every closed right half-plane pole of  $G(s)C(s)$ , over the plane  $s$ .

In accordance with another embodiment of the invention the function of the controller as defined by transfer function  $C(s)$ , can be based on various controller arrangements as is well known in the art. For example, controller 20 can be based on the operation of a class of controllers known as proportional integration (PI) controllers, with a transfer function matrix as

20

$$C(s) = K_p + K_I/s, \text{ wherein } K_p \text{ and } K_I \text{ are } 3 \times 3 \text{ constant real matrices.}$$

25

Furthermore, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention, the controller is designed so that it dominates the system bandwidth, such that the bandwidth of the controller is smaller than the bandwidth of the driver portion of the RGB LEDs. In other words, the controller portion in this control system has a slower response time than the plant portion of the control system.

30

Under this condition, as mentioned above, the driver module and the luminary module are effectively configured such that the transfer function  $G(s)$ , at sufficiently low frequencies, is defined as

$$G = D(0)P(0),$$

wherein  $D(0)$  is the DC gain of the luminary module (Fig. 2) defined as lumens/ amps, and  $P(0)$  is the DC gain of the driver module (Fig. 2) defined as amps/volts.

Furthermore, the filter module, the color point identification module and the transformation module are configured such that the transfer function  $Q(s)$ , at sufficiently low frequencies is defined as

$$Q = S(0)T(0)L(0)$$

wherein  $L(0)$  is the DC gain of the filter module (Fig. 2) defined as volts/lumen, and  $T(0)$  is the DC gain of color point identification module (Fig.2) defined as a constant matrix, and  $S(0)$  is the DC gain of the transformation module (Fig. 2) also defined as a constant matrix.

In accordance with this embodiment of the invention, the color control system is stable, if and only if

$$\text{Re} \{ \text{eig} ((I-GK_pQ)^{-1} GK_IQ) \} < 0,$$

wherein  $\text{Re} \{ \text{eig} \}$  stands for the real part of the eigen value of the matrix, and  $I$  is the 3x3 identity matrix.

Thus, in accordance with the embodiment described above, the dynamic gain of the plant need not be considered when configuring the control system for stability. It is noted that the DC gain of the plant can be easily measured, and coefficients  $K_p$  and  $K_I$  can be determined in accordance with the stability requirement of the eigen value described above.

In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, typical values of the transfer function  $C(s)$  for controller 50, for a given RGB LED set, with peak wavelength  $\lambda_r = 643nm$   $\lambda_g = 523nm$   $\lambda_b = 464nm$  and a selected set of color sensing filters, such as those provided by Hamamatsu™, S6430®, S6429(G) and S6428(B), is

$$K_p = \begin{bmatrix} 0.4 & 0.1 & 0.12 \\ 0.17 & 0.6 & 0.1 \\ -0.14 & 0.03 & 0.7 \end{bmatrix} \quad K_I = \begin{bmatrix} 0.8 & 0.12 & 0.18 \\ 0.1 & 0.5 & 0.5 \\ -0.1 & 0.01 & 0.3 \end{bmatrix}$$

It is appreciated by those skilled in the art that the design of the controller system in accordance with the present invention is simplified significantly by measuring the DC gains, instead of considering the dynamic gain of the corresponding modules, when designing the various modules of the control system.

During operation, control system 10, measures the  $X, Y, Z$  coordinates of the desired white light generated by luminary module 22 by filter 24, and transforms to a  $L, u, v$

color space by transformation module 28. As such, control system 10 controls the color points of the desired white light in the  $u, v$  color space with error measured as

$$\Delta uv = \sqrt{(u - u_0)^2 + (v - v_0)^2} = \varepsilon$$

5                   Wherein  $(u_0, v_0)$  is the targeted or desired color point coordinate, and  $(u, v)$  is the actual color point coordinate in the  $u, v$  color space. As a result control system 10 is able to control white color errors in an arrangement wherein regardless of the location of error on the chromaticity diagram, the perception of color remains the same for the same amount of error. This means that the control system produces substantially a uniform error in color.  
10   Therefore, as  $\Delta uv$  becomes smaller, the color difference becomes smaller in all directions as well.

Fig. 6 is a plot illustrating the effect of transformation module 24 has on the  $XZ$  and  $uv$  color spaces, when  $Y$  is kept constant. Plot 310 depicts the error control area in  $XZ$  required for a system that does not employ transformation module 28. As illustrated, in order  
15   to perceive the same white color, control system 10 has to provide a control scheme wherein the  $XZ$  error values remain in an area that define an ellipse 310 around the desired white color value. However, a control scheme to provide such an elliptic control area is not without considerable technical challenges.

In contrast, the effect of the transformation module is that the control system  
20   provides a control scheme wherein the  $\Delta uv$  values are almost uniform in all directions in an area that defines a circle 312 in  $uv$ . As illustrated, plot 310 is defined in  $XZ$  coordinates and plot 312 is defined in  $uv$  coordinates. As a result, control system 10 can be assembled in an expeditious and a less costly manner.

Thus, in accordance with various aspects of the present invention, a control  
25   system can be designed, for an arrangement wherein the controller portion of the control system has a dominant bandwidth compared to the plant portion of the control system. As such, DC gain levels of the plan system can be measured, which significantly simplifies design considerations. Furthermore, for an RGB LED system, a white light can be generated such that deviations from the desired white light remain unperceivable regardless of the  
30   direction of error on the chromaticity plot.

## CLAIMS:

1. A color control system (10) for generating a desired white light by a plurality of Red, Green and Blue light emitting diodes (LEDs) (22) comprising:

a sensor (24) responsive to a white light generated by said plurality of LEDs (22) to measure the color coordinates of said white light, wherein said color coordinates are defined in a first color space;

a transformation module (28) coupled to said sensor (24) to transform said coordinates of said generated white light to a second color space;

a reference module (14) configured to provide reference color coordinates corresponding to said desired white light, wherein said reference color coordinates are expressed in said second color space;

an adder (16) coupled to said transformation module (28) and said reference module (14) configured to generate an error color coordinate corresponding to a difference between said desired white light color coordinates and said generated white light color coordinates; and

a driver module (20) coupled to said adder (16) and configured to generate a drive signal for driving said LEDs (22).

2. The system in accordance with claim 1 wherein said first color space is an  $X,Y,Z$  color space.

3. The system in accordance with claim 2, wherein said second color space is a  $uLv$  color space.

4. The system in accordance with claim 1 further comprising a controller (18) coupled to said adder, wherein said controller (18) generates control voltage signals corresponding to said Red, Green and Blue LEDs respectively.

5. The system in accordance with claim 3 wherein said sensor is a tristimulus filter.

6. The system in accordance with claim 5 wherein said transformation module transforms said  $X, Y, Z$  color coordinates such that

$$L = 683Y$$

$$5 \quad u = 4X / (X + 15Y + 3Z)$$

$$v = 6Y / (X + 15Y + 3Z).$$

7. A feedback control system for controlling a plant operation comprising:

10 a controller portion (50) for providing a control signal in response to an error signal, said controller (50) portion having a first response bandwidth and a transfer function  $C(s)$  defined as  $C(s) = K_p + K_I/s$ , wherein  $K_p$  and  $K_I$  are constant real matrices;

15 a plant portion (54) for receiving said control signal and generating an output signal, said plant portion (54) having a second response bandwidth, and a DC gain matrix defined as  $G$ , wherein said first response bandwidth is smaller than said second response bandwidth;

a feedback portion (56) for measuring said desired output signal having a DC gain matrix defined as  $Q$ ; and

20 an adder (52) coupled to said feedback portion configured to measure said error signal based on said measured output signal and a desired input signal such that

$$20 \quad \text{Re} \{ \text{eig} ((I - GK_p Q)^{-1} GK_I Q) \} < 0,$$

wherein  $\text{Re} \{ \text{eig} \dots \}$  stands for the real part of the eigen value of the matrix, and  $I$  is the identity matrix.

8. The system in accordance with claim 7, wherein said plant portion comprises an RGB LED driver module (20) coupled to an RGB luminary module (22).

9. The system in accordance with claim 8, wherein said feedback portion comprises a sensor (24) coupled to said luminary module;  
 a color point identification module (26) for transforming values received from said filter to a  
 30 first color space value system; and  
 a transformation module (28) for transforming signals received by said identification module (26) to a second color space value system.

10. The system in accordance with claim 9 wherein said first color space is an  $X,Y,Z$  color space.

11. The system in accordance with claim 10, wherein said second color space is a  
5  $uLv$  current space.

12. The system in accordance with claim 9, wherein said controller portion generates control voltage signals corresponding to said Red, Green and Blue LEDs respectively.

10

13. The system in accordance with claim 12 wherein said sensor is a tristimulus filter.

14. The system in accordance with claim 13 wherein said transformation module  
15 transforms said  $X,Y,Z$  color coordinates such that

$$L = 683Y$$

$$u = 4X / (X + 15Y + 3Z)$$

$$v = 6Y / (X + 15Y + 3Z).$$

20 15. A method in a control system (10) for generating a desired white light by a plurality of Red, Green and Blue light emitting diodes (LEDs) comprising the steps of :  
sensing a white light generated by said plurality of LEDs to measure the color coordinates of said white light, wherein said color coordinates are defined in a first color space;

25 transforming said coordinates of said generated white light to a second color space;

providing reference color coordinates corresponding to said desired white light, wherein said reference color coordinates are expressed in said second color space;

30 generating an error color coordinate corresponding to a difference between said desired white light color coordinates and said generated white light color coordinates;  
and

generating a drive signal for driving said LEDs.

16. The method in accordance with claim 15 further comprising the step

of defining said first color space as an  $X,Y,Z$  color space.

17. The method in accordance with claim 15, further comprising the step of defining said second color space as a  $uLv$  current space.

5

18. The method in accordance with claim 15 further comprising the step of generating control voltage signals corresponding to said Red, Green and Blue LEDs respectively.

10 19. The method in accordance with claim 18 wherein said step of transforming said  $X,Y,Z$  color coordinates further comprises the step of assigning values in accordance with

$$L = 683Y$$

$$u = 4X / (X + 15Y + 3Z)$$

15

$$v = 6Y / (X + 15Y + 3Z).$$

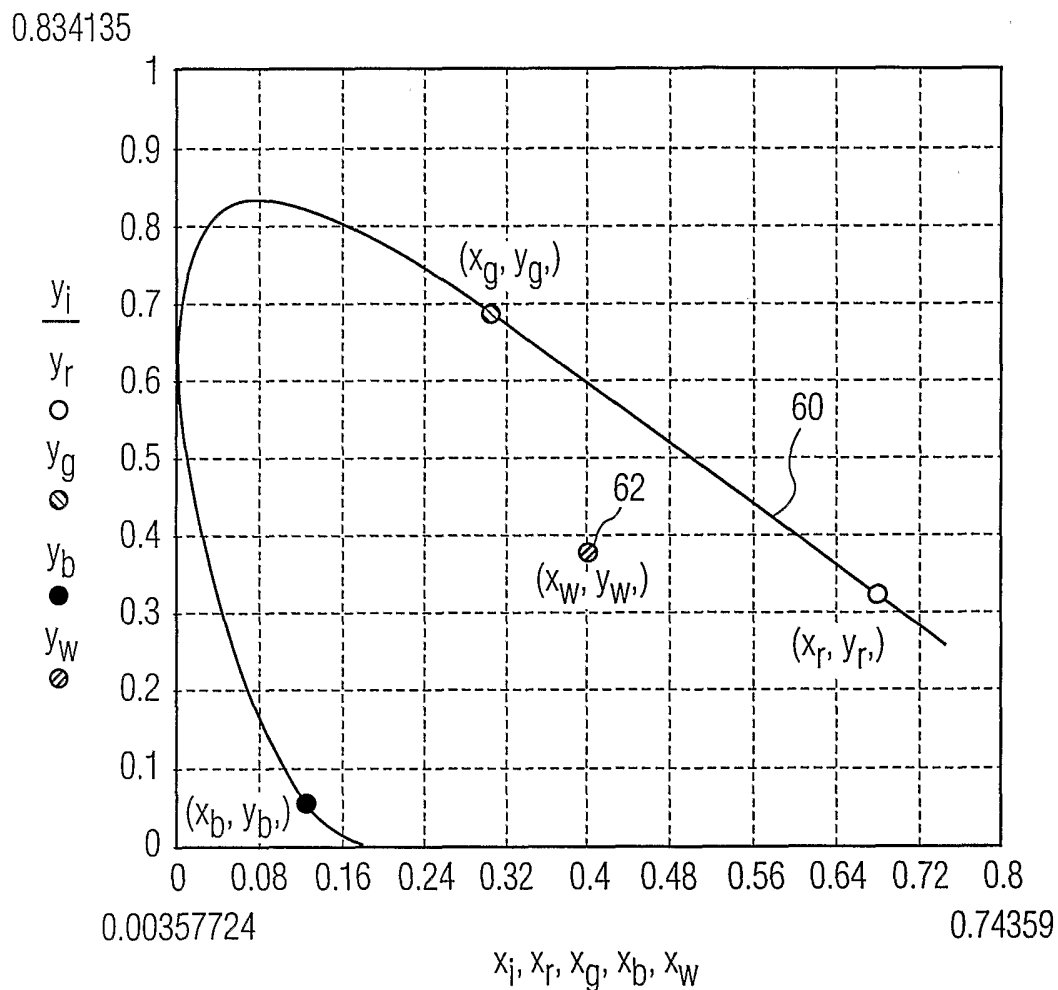


FIG. 1



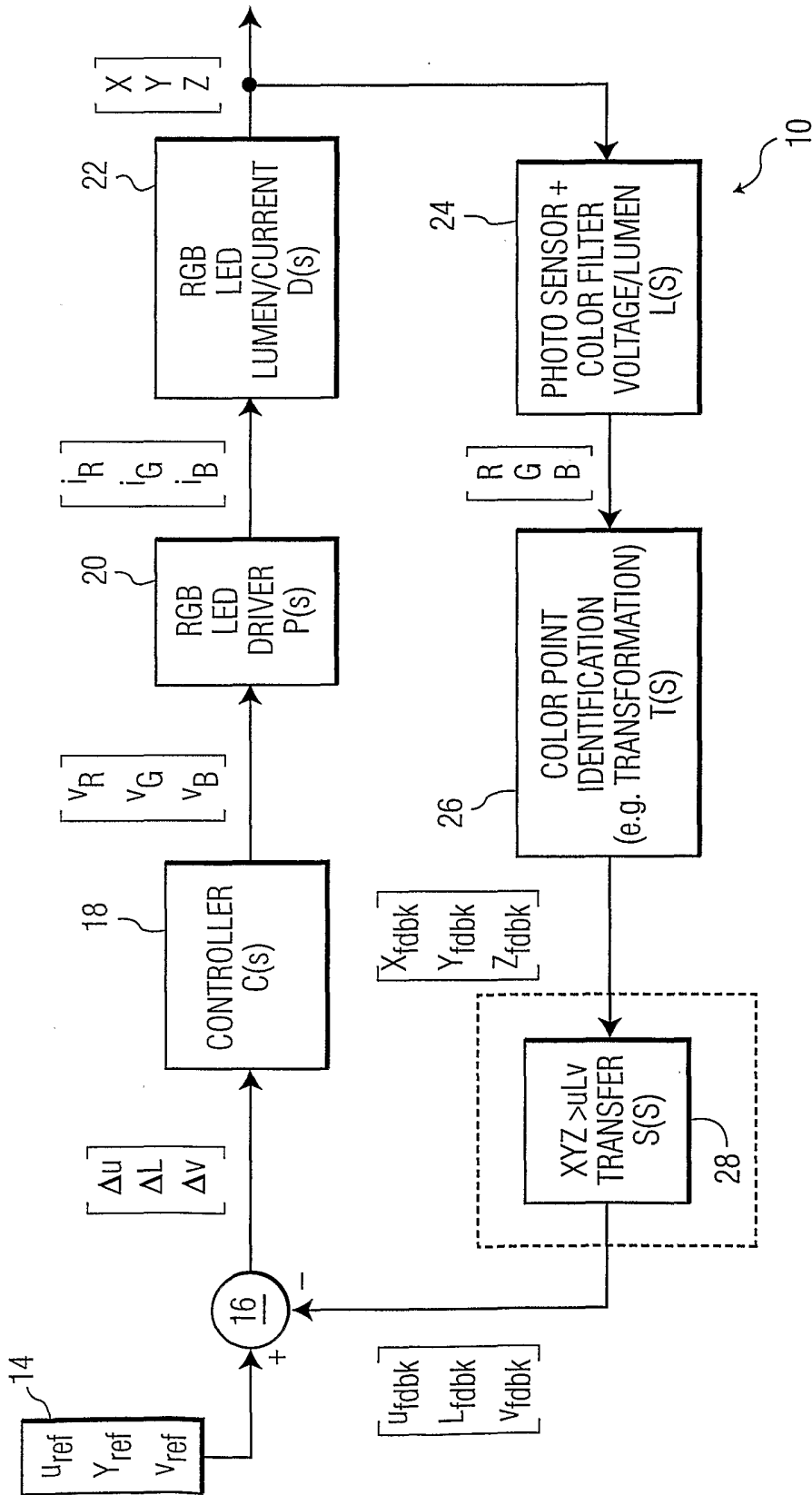
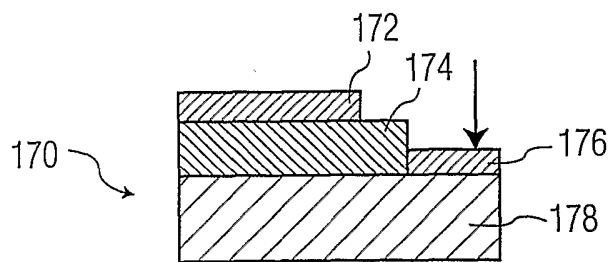
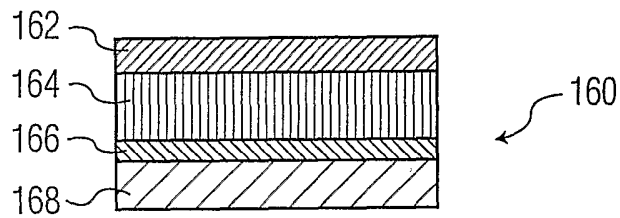
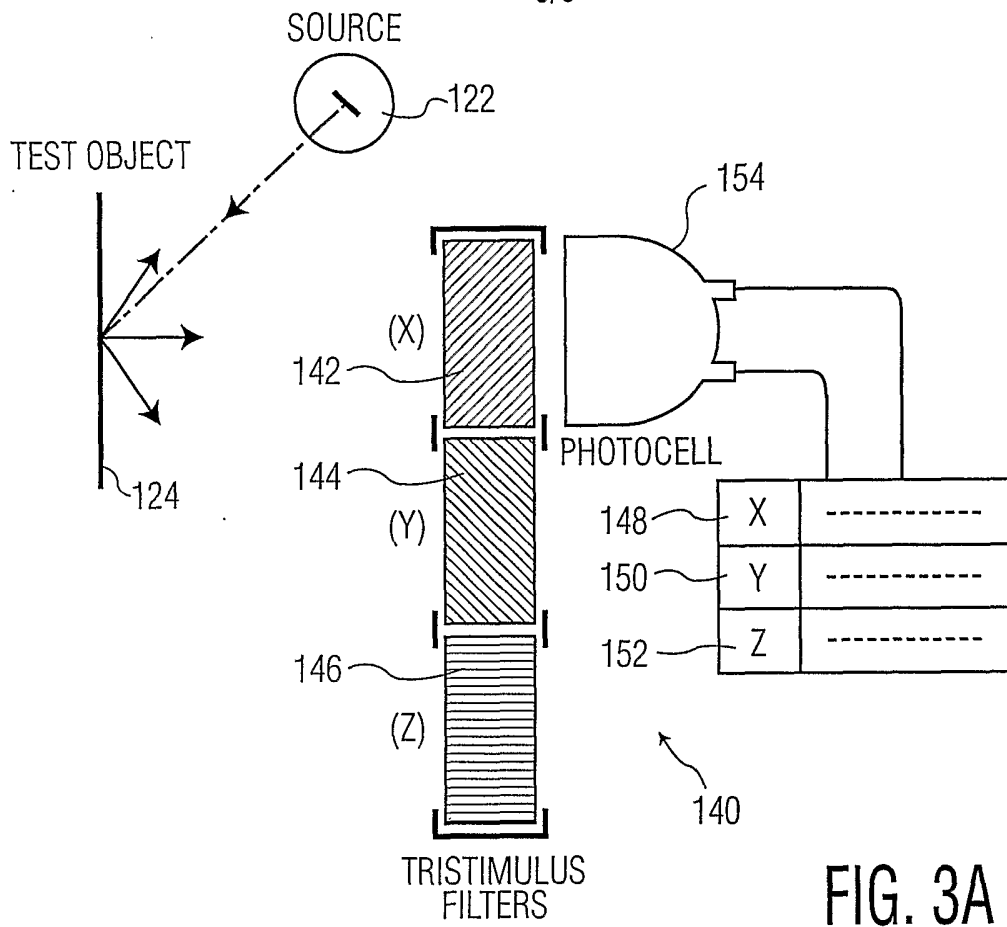


FIG. 2



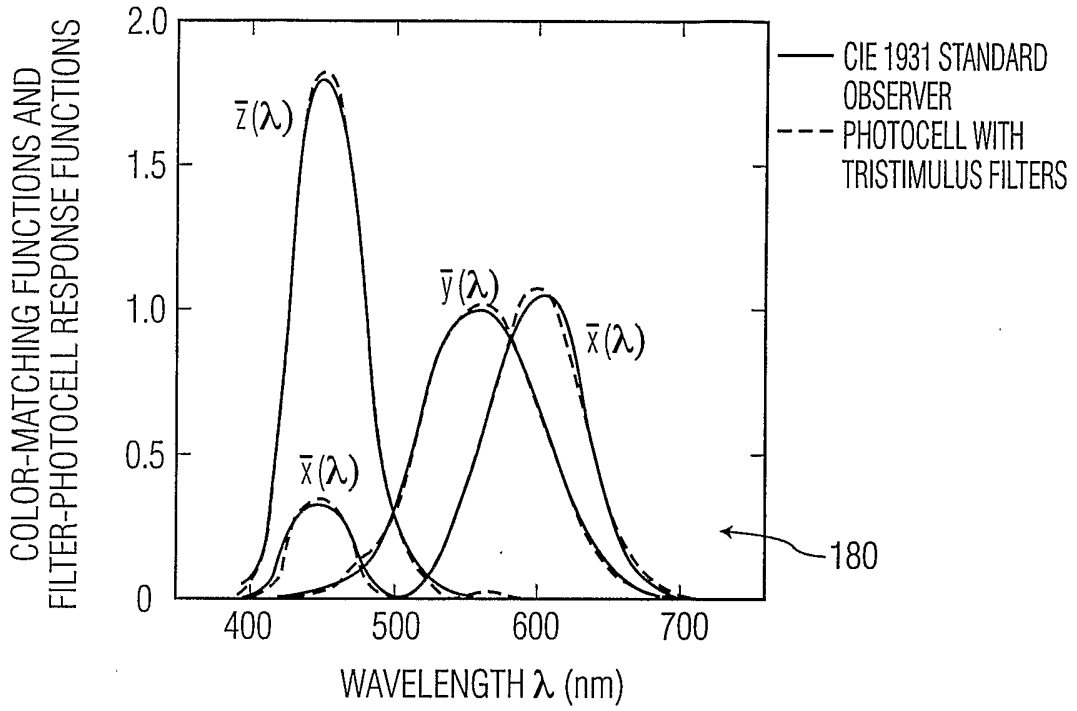


FIG. 4A

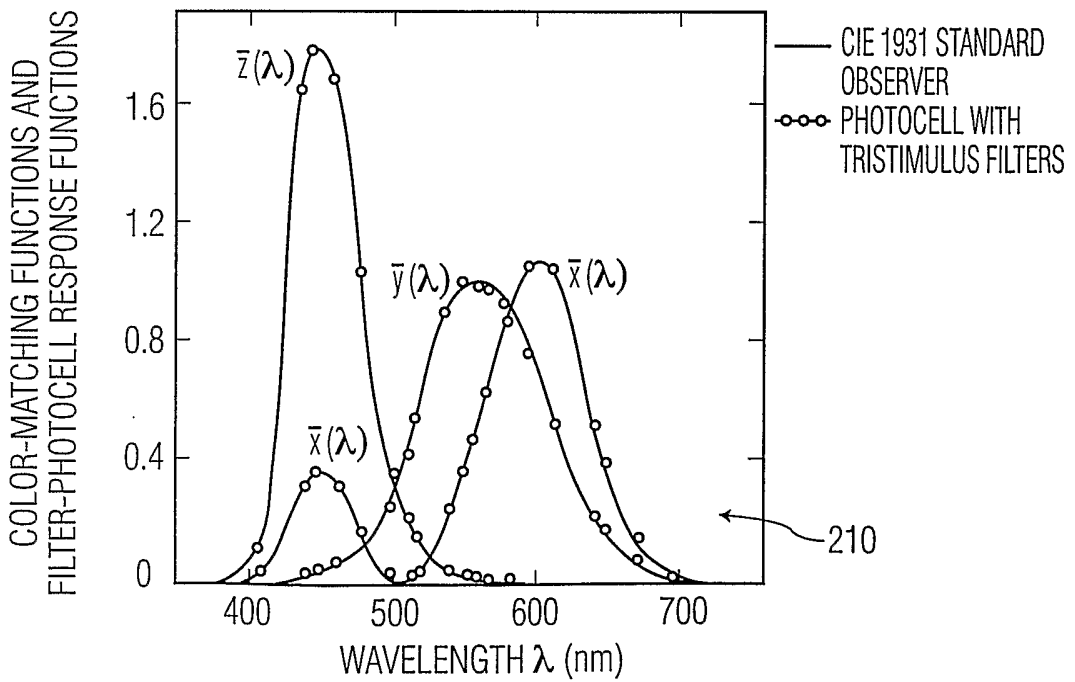


FIG. 4B

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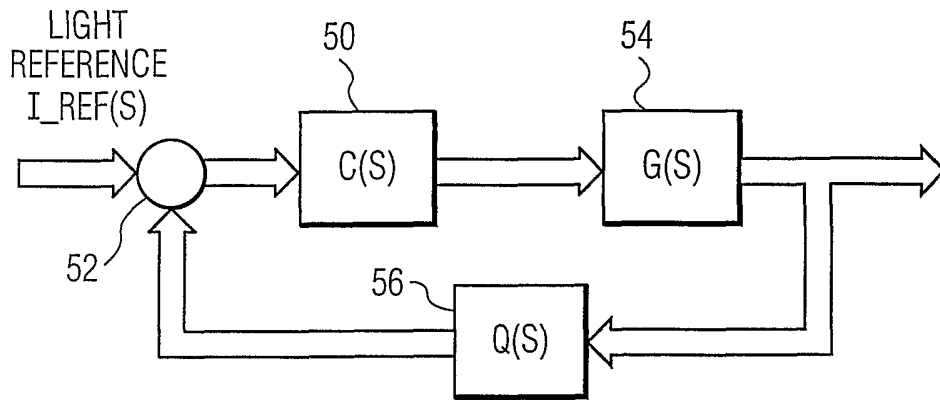


FIG. 5

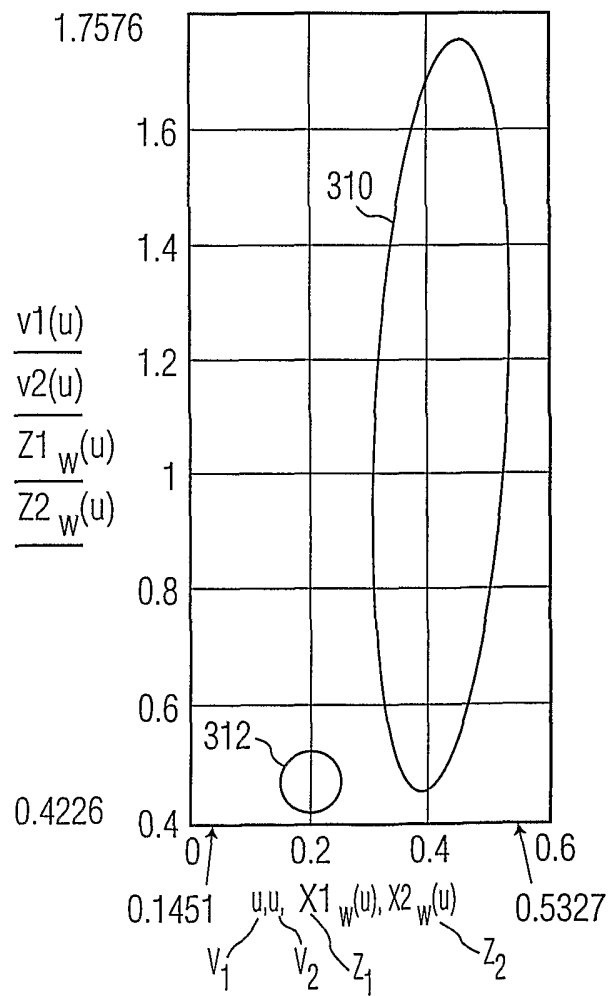


FIG. 6

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/IB 02/05197

|  |   |                       |   |   |
|--|---|-----------------------|---|---|
| <b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b><br>IPC 7 H05B33/08  |   |                       |   |   |
| According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC  |   |                       |   |   |
| <b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>  |   |                       |   |   |
| Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)<br>IPC 7 H05B  |   |                       |   |   |
| 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)<br><br>EPO-Internal   |   |                       |   |   |
| <b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>  |   |                       |   |   |
| Category °   | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages  | Relevant to claim No. |   |   |
| P,X  | US 2002/171373 A1 (MUTHU SUBRAMANIAN)<br>21 November 2002 (2002-11-21)<br>the whole document<br>---   | 1-19                  |   |   |
| X  | US 6 157 454 A (EMERSON GARY ET AL)<br>5 December 2000 (2000-12-05)<br>column 2, line 52 -column 2, line 65<br>column 5, line 33 -column 7, line 43;<br>figures 5-7<br>column 8, line 1 -column 8, line 32<br>---   | 1-19                  |   |   |
| Y  | US 6 020 583 A (DUKE RONALD J ET AL)<br>1 February 2000 (2000-02-01)<br>column 10, line 19 -column 18, line 18;<br>figures 7,8<br>---   | 1-19                  |   |   |
| --- /---   |   |                       |   |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.   |   |                       |   |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.   |   |                       |   |   |
| ° Special categories of cited documents :  |   |                       |   |   |
| <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top; border: none;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</li> <li>*E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</li> <li>*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)</li> <li>*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</li> <li>*P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</li> </ul> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top; border: none;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*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</li> <li>*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</li> <li>*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.</li> <li>*&amp;* document member of the same patent family</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table> |   |                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</li> <li>*E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</li> <li>*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)</li> <li>*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</li> <li>*P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*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</li> <li>*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</li> <li>*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.</li> <li>*&amp;* document member of the same patent family</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</li> <li>*E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</li> <li>*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)</li> <li>*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</li> <li>*P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*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</li> <li>*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</li> <li>*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.</li> <li>*&amp;* document member of the same patent family</li> </ul> |                       |   |   |
| Date of the actual completion of the international search  | Date of mailing of the international search report  |                       |   |   |
| 26 March 2003  | 03/04/2003  |                       |   |   |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA<br>European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2<br>NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk<br>Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,<br>Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016   | Authorized officer<br><br>Henderson, R  |                       |   |   |

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| 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 6 330 078 B1 (WANG SHEN-GE)<br>11 December 2001 (2001-12-11)<br>the whole document<br>----- | 1-19                  |

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