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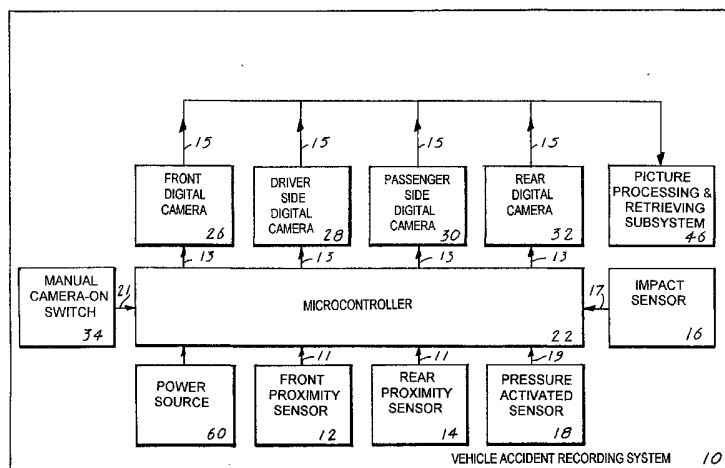
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(54) Title: VEHICLE ACCIDENT RECORDING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A vehicle accident recording system (10) comprising a front proximity sensor (12) a rear proximity sensor (14), a microcontroller (22), front and side facing cameras (26,28,30) and a rear facing camera (32), and a picture processing and retrieving subsystem (46). The proximity sensors (12,14) sense when a preset vehicle closing rate has been exceeded at which time a probable vehicle impact signal (11) is applied to the microcontroller (22). The microcontroller (22) processes the signal (11) and produces a camera shutter signal (13) that activates the cameras (26,28,30 and 32). The cameras produce a camera picture signal (15) that is applied to the subsystem (46) wherefrom a quadrature picture is produced that is available at the accident site. The system (10) can also include an impact sensor (16) that allows the system (10) to produce a picture at the instant of the impact, and a pressure activated sensor (18) that is activated and produces a braking signal (19) when a sudden, hard pressure is applied to the brake pedal.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/17233

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : GO6F 17/00; H04N 7/18
 US CL : 701/45; 340/436; 348/148

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)

U.S. : 701/1,35,36,45; 340/436; 348/148; 307/10.1; 369/21

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)
 Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,680,123 A (LEE) 21 October 1997 (21.10.1997)	1-24
A	US 5,463,384 A (JUDS) 31 October 1995 (31.10.1995)	1-24
A	US 5,959,552 A (CHO) 28 September 1999 (28.09.1999)	1-24
A	US 3,842,397 A (SINDLE) 15 October 1974 (15.10.1974)	1-24
A	US 6,339,369 B1 (PARANJPE) 15 January 2002 (15.01.2002)	1-24
A	US 6,389,340 B1 (RAYNER) 14 May 2002 (13.05.2002)	1-24
A	US 6,324,450 B1 (IWAMA) 27 November 2001 (27.11.2001)	1-24
A	US 6,298,290 B1 (ABE et al.) 02 October 2001 (02.10.2001)	1-24
A	US 6,246,933 B1 (BAGUE) 12 June 2001 (12.06.2001)	1-24

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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

USPAT; EPABS; JPABS; WPI

search terms: camera, vehicle, recorder, accident, crash, collision, impact, ultrasound, ultrasonic, video, proximity

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6,141,611 A (MACKY et al.) 31 October 2000 (31.10.2000)	1-24
A	US 5,815,093 A (KIKINIS) 29 September 1998 (29.09.1998)	1-24
A	US 5,596,382 A (BAMFORD) 21 January 1997 (21.01.1997)	1-24