CONTOUR MAPPING SYSTEM AND METHOD PARTICULARLY USEFUL AS A SPINE ANALYZER AND PROBE THEREFORE

A contour mapping system useful as a spine analyzer includes a probe (2) for application to a user’s hand with the outer tip of at least one finger of the hand movable along the outer surface of the person’s spine or other object whose contour is to be mapped. A position sensor (4) carried by the probe is movable with the user’s finger as the finger moves along the outer surface of the object. The system tracks and displays the movements of the position sensor (4) as the probe (2) is moved with the user’s hand along the outer surface of the object. An ultrasonic transducer may be combined with the position sensor (4) on the same probe (2) and used to examine particular vertebrae, such as apex vertebrae, for rotation and/or deformation.

Date of publication of the international search report: 9 January 2003

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.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(7) : A61B 5/103
US CL : 600/594
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. : 600/594, 409, 587

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 5,042,505 A (MAYER et al) 27 August 1991 (27.08.1991), see entire document.</td>
<td>1-43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>DE 4402562 A1 (SEICHERT) 03 August 1995 (03.08.1995), see entire document.</td>
<td>1-43</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* 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
  
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Date of the actual completion of the international search
07 September 2002 (07.09.2002)

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02 OCT 2002

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)
Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:
EAST BRS Search
Search terms: contour, mapping, sensor, probe, finger, spine, spinal, profile, scoliosis, posture