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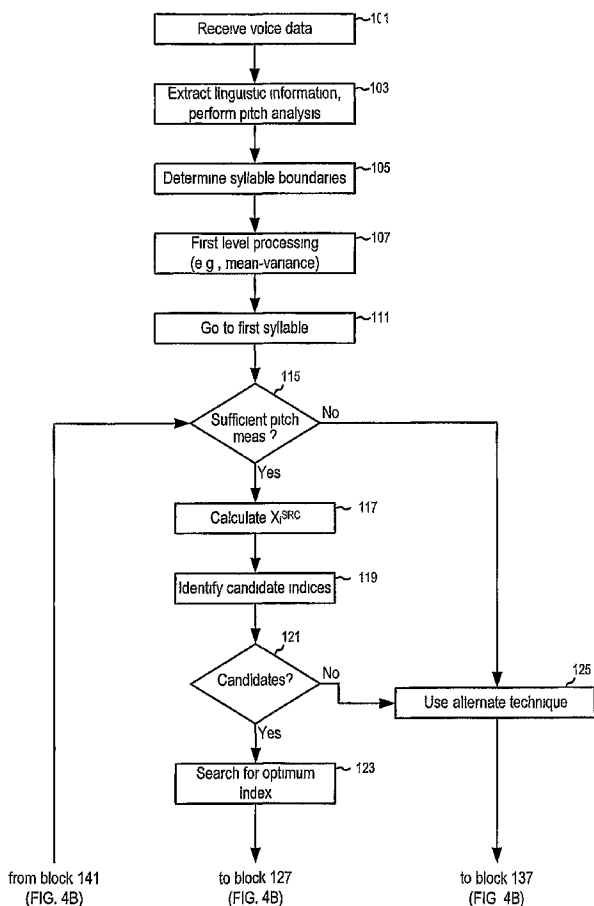
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(54) Title: PROSODY CONVERSION



(57) **Abstract:** A contour for a syllable (or other speech segment) in a voice undergoing conversion is transformed. The transform of that contour is then used to identify one or more source syllable transforms in a codebook. Information regarding the context and/or linguistic features of the contour being converted can also be compared to similar information in the codebook when identifying an appropriate source transform. Once a codebook source transform is selected, an inverse transformation is performed on a corresponding codebook target transform to yield an output contour. The corresponding codebook target transform represents a target voice version of the same syllable represented by the selected codebook source transform. The output contour may be further processed to improve conversion quality.

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ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: see extra sheet
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)

IPC: GIOL, G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE, DK, FI, NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-INTERNAL, WPI DATA, PAJ, INSPEC, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	YONGGUO KANG ET AL: "Applying Pitch Target Model to Convert FO Contour for Expressive Mandarin Speech Synthesis", Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing, 2006, ICASSP 2006 Proceedings, 2006 IEEE International Conference on, vol.1, pages I-I, 14-19 May 2006, ISSN 1520-6149, ISBN 1-4244-0469-X, the whole document	1-2,7-10, 19-22,31-34
A	--	3-6, 11-18, 23-30,35
A	wo 2006053256 A2 (VOXONIC, INC), 18 May 2006 (18.05.2006)	1-35
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"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
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 1 July 2008	Date of mailing of the international search report 03-07-2008
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Swedish Patent Office Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM Facsimile No. +46 8 666 02 86	Authorized officer Henrik Andersson /LR Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00
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International application No.

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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.
A	ARSLAN, L M ET AL: "Speaker transformation using sentence HMM based alignments and detailed prosody modification", Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing, 1998. Proceedings of the 1998 IEEE International Conference on, vol.1, pages 289-292 vol.1, 12-15 May 1998 --	1-35
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G1OL 21/00 (2006.01)

G1OL 13/02 (2006.01)

G1OL 19/04 (2006.01)

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Cited literature, if any, will be enclosed in paper form.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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