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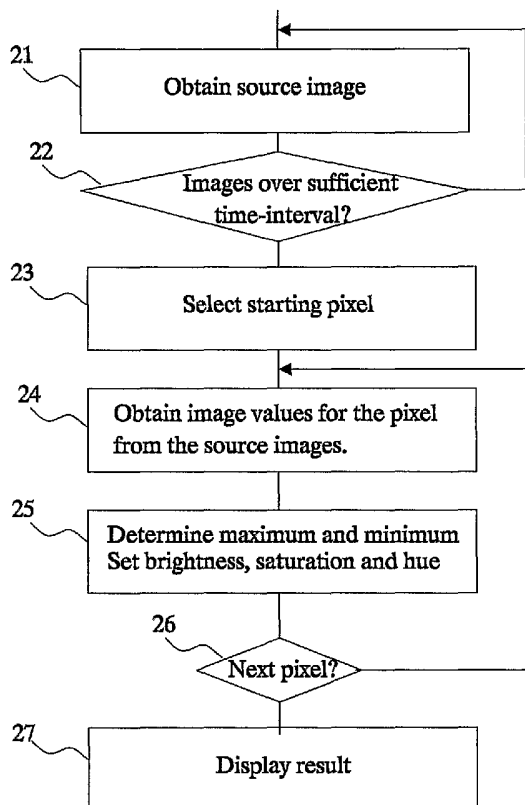
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(54) Title: IMAGING APPARATUS AND METHOD OF FORMING COMPOSITE IMAGE FROM A PLURALITY OF SOURCE IMAGES



(57) Abstract: Source images, in particular images used for the planning radiotherapy, using internal images of the human body obtained with techniques such as X ray techniques, are processed to form a colored composite image that depends in a robust way on differences between different ones of the source images. For each pixel position in the composite image, the maximum image value in the different source images is determined and used to control brightness of the composite image. For each pixel position, an amount of spread in the images values among the source images is determined and used to control a color saturation in the composite image.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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<p>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER INV. G06T5/50 A61N5/00 A61B6/00</p>		
<p>According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC</p>		
<p>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</p>		
<p>Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) G06T</p>		
<p>Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched</p>		
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<p>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</p>		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 970 167 A (COLVIN ET AL) 19 October 1999 (1999-10-19) column 1, line 14 - line 42 column 2, line 14 - line 45	1,4-11, 14-24
X	EP 1 107 012 A (NIDEK CO., LTD) 13 June 2001 (2001-06-13) column 5, paragraph 18 - paragraph 19 column 6, line 23, paragraph 21 - column 9, line 7, paragraph 33 figures 2,3	1,4-11, 14-24
<p style="text-align: center;">----- -/--</p>		
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.</p>		
<p>* Special categories of cited documents :</p>		
<p>*A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>*E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>*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)</p> <p>*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>*P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p>		<p>*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</p> <p>*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</p> <p>*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.</p> <p>* & * document member of the same patent family</p>
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<p>Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016</p>		<p>Authorized officer Gauthier, J-C</p>

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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.
X	<p>DIEZ S ET AL: "Analysis and evaluation of periodic physiological organ motion in radiotherapy treatments" RADIOTHERAPY AND ONCOLOGY, ELSEVIER, vol. 73, no. 3, December 2004 (2004-12), pages 325-329, XP004674748 ISSN: 0167-8140 cited in the application page 326, paragraph 2.1 - page 327, paragraph 2.3 figures 1-3</p>	<p>1,4-11, 14-24</p>
A	<p>----- US 5 216 602 A (WOLFKIEL ET AL) 1 June 1993 (1993-06-01) figures 3-6 column 4, line 35 - line 54 column 5, line 7 - line 31 column 7, line 5 - column 8, line 63</p>	<p>1-24</p>
A	<p>----- TAXT T ET AL: "Advances in medical imaging" PATTERN RECOGNITION, 1998. PROCEEDINGS. FOURTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BRISBANE, QLD., AUSTRALIA 16-20 AUG. 1998, LOS ALAMITOS, CA, USA, IEEE COMPUT. SOC, US, vol. 1, 16 August 1998 (1998-08-16), pages 505-508, XP010297652 ISBN: 0-8186-8512-3 page 507, left-hand column, line 3 - last line</p>	<p>1-24</p>

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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EP 1107012	A	13-06-2001	JP 2001153621 A US 2001012393 A1	08-06-2001 09-08-2001
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