Claims:

1. A system for detecting defects in a contact lens including lens material having fluorescent material therein, comprising:

a first ultra violet, light source to illuminate said lens with ultra violet light in a first color spectrum designed to excite light emission by said lens material of light in a second color spectrum caused by the fluorescent emission therein;

a camera having a lens and a digital image output for inspecting, said lens suspended in saline solution, wherein said camera's digital image output includes only an~~the~~ image produced by light in the second color spectrum;

~~in a color spectrum corresponding to a portion of the spectrum of light produced by fluorescent emission of said lens material;~~

~~a first Ultra violet light source to illuminate said lens and excite fluorescent emission therein;~~

a first optical filter positioned between the camera and said lens to filter the emitted light from the lens which is illuminated by Ultra violet light,

said optical filter arranged to prevent the camera from picking up stray light and other spectrums of light; and

a computer having an associated memory, an input for accepting the digital image output from said camera, and an output representative of an analyzed digital image wherein said analyzed digital image includes visible indications of any imperfections

detected in said lens material; wherein the ultraviolet light from the ultra violet light source is arranged to excite the fluorescent material in said lens, such that the fluorescent material appears white in said image captured by the camera.

2. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said light source comprises an array of UV light emitting diodes.

3. A system as claimed in claim 2 wherein said array of UV light emitting diodes is disposed around the lens of said camera.

4. A system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, further comprising a strobe controller capable of energizing said light source in synchronous operation with the image acquisition of said camera.

5. A system as claimed in claim 4 further comprising a feature within the strobe controller capable of energizing said light source with different timing pulses in synchronous operation with the image acquisition of said camera.

~~6. A method for detecting defects in the lens material having fluorescent material therein comprising the steps of:~~

~~illuminating said lens with light in a first spectrum designed to excite light emission by said lens material of light in a second spectrum;~~

~~capturing an image of said lens representative of the second spectrum of light caused by fluorescent emission of said lens material;~~

~~analyzing said image to determine pixels being representative of imperfections in said lens; and~~

~~providing said analyzed digital image with visible indications of any imperfections detected in said lens material.~~

~~7. A method for detecting defects in the lens material therein as claimed in claim 7 further comprising outlining any imperfections in said digital image with a contrasting color.~~

~~8. A method for detecting defects in the lens material therein as claimed in claim 7 further comprising outlining any imperfections in said digital image greater than a predetermined area.~~

~~9. A method for detecting defects in the lens material therein as claimed in claim 7 further comprising outlining any imperfections in said digital image greater than a predetermined length.~~