

05/11/03
200 306 5471

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



162162

(43) International Publication Date
5 December 2002 (05.12.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/097792 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G10L 11/00**

US

10/045,644 (CIP)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US02/05999

Filed on

11 January 2002 (11.01.2002)

US

PCT/US02/04317 (CIP)

Filed on

12 February 2002 (12.02.2002)

(22) International Filing Date: 26 February 2002 (26.02.2002)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

60/293,825 25 May 2001 (25.05.2001) US

10/045,644 11 January 2002 (11.01.2002) US

60/351,498 23 January 2002 (23.01.2002) US

PCT/US02/04317

12 February 2002 (12.02.2002) US

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(63) Related by continuation (CON) or continuation-in-part (CIP) to earlier applications:

US 60/293,825 (CIP)

Filed on 25 May 2001 (25.05.2001)

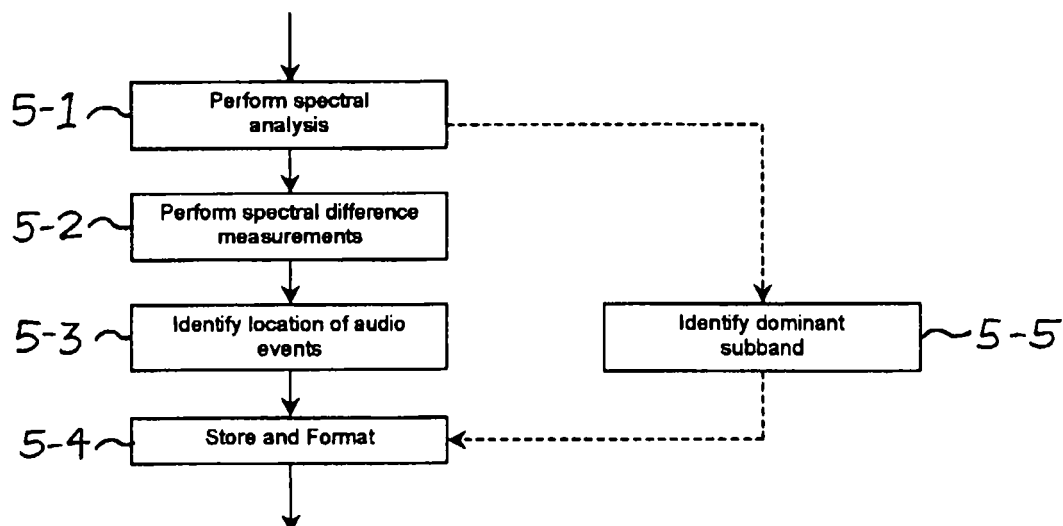
US 60/351,498 (CIP)

Filed on 23 January 2002 (23.01.2002)

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT (utility model), AT, AU (petty patent), AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ (utility model), CZ, DE (utility model), DE, DK (utility model), DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE (utility model), EE, ES, FI (utility model), FI,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SEGMENTING AUDIO SIGNALS INTO AUDITORY EVENTS



(57) Abstract: In one aspect, the invention divides an audio signal into auditory events, each of which tends to be perceived as separate and distinct, by calculating the spectral content of successive time blocks of the audio signal (5-1), calculating the difference in spectral content between successive time blocks of the audio signal (5-2), and identifying an auditory event boundary as the boundary between successive time blocks when the difference in the spectral content between such successive time blocks exceeds a threshold (5-3). In another aspect, the invention generates a reduced-information representation of an audio signal by dividing an audio signal into auditory events, each of which tends to be perceived as separate and distinct, and formatting and storing information relating to the auditory events (5-4). Optionally, the invention may also assign a characteristic to one or more of the auditory events (5-5).

WO 02/097792 A1



ACTION

GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK (utility model), SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent

(BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

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