



## METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OPTICAL CHARACTER RECOGNITION

## ABSTRACT

5        An optical character recognition system (400) first uses a boundary tracing process (415) to determine a boundary chain code (420) of a character pixel cluster (410). Then, a subsequent selective line-cutting process (455) is performed on the character pixel cluster (410) to identify the particular character represented by the character  
10 pixel cluster (410). The chain code (420) is used to determine a representation of the external character pixel boundary in the character pixel cluster (410), and is used to identify candidate characters (435). When there is more than one candidate character associated with the chain code (420), then predetermined line-cutting instructions (450)  
15 associated with the candidate characters (435) are applied to the character pixel cluster (410). Line-cutting data (460) is subsequently compared with possible outcomes for the candidate characters, and one of the candidate characters is identified, and the identified character (475) is then provided at output (480).

20

FIG. 4 accompanies the abstract.

