Claims

1. A method of authenticating a mark comprising a marker that emits light under illumination, the method comprising the steps of:
   - obtaining a light spectrum from the mark, the light spectrum comprising values, each value indicating a light intensity of the light emitted from the mark for a corresponding wavelength;
   - applying a set of rules onto the values of the light spectrum to obtain a first result indicating whether the mark is authentic or not;
   - applying statistical processing onto the values of the light spectrum to obtain a second result indicating whether the mark is authentic or not; and
   - generating an output result indicating whether the mark is authentic or not from the first result and the second result, wherein a more indifferent first or second result is weighted less than a more definite second or first result.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein applying a set of rules includes applying a decision tree onto the values of the light spectrum, wherein the decision tree defines the set of rules.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the method further comprises a step of applying a further decision tree onto the values of the light spectrum to obtain a further first result indicating whether the mark is authentic or not and generating the output result additionally from the further first result.

4. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein applying the set of rules comprises comparing a value of the light spectrum to a comparison value, and wherein the comparison values are stored as a parameter list.

~~5. The method of claim 4, wherein the comparison values are stored as a parameter list.~~

~~6~~5. The method of any one of claims 1 to ~~5~~4, wherein a decision tree is applied to any one of a difference, ratio, sum, and derivative of the values of the light spectrum.

~~7~~6. The method of any one of claims 1 to ~~6~~5, wherein the method further comprises a step of applying further statistical processing onto the values of the light spectrum to obtain a further second result indicating whether the mark is authentic or not and generating the output result additionally from the further second result, and wherein statistical processing includes any of a correlation, regression, and distance analysis.

~~8. The method of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein statistical processing includes any of a correlation, regression, and distance analysis.~~

~~9~~7. The method of any one of claims 1 to ~~8~~6, wherein generating the output result comprises a voting mechanism for each one of the first and second results.

~~10. The method of claim 9, wherein at least one of the first and second results is weighted by a weighting factor.~~

~~11~~8. The method of any one of claims 1 to ~~10~~7, wherein the light spectrum values indicate a light intensity for a corresponding wavelength band.

~~12~~9. The method of any one of claims 1 to ~~11~~8, further comprising a step of acquiring the values of the light spectrum.

~~13~~10. The method of claim ~~12~~9, further comprising a step of controlling illumination of the mark during the acquiring of the light spectrum values.

~~14~~11. A device for authenticating a mark comprising a marker that emits light under illumination, the device comprising processing resources being configured to:

- obtain a light spectrum from the mark, the light spectrum comprising values, each value indicating a light intensity of the light emitted from the mark for a corresponding wavelength;
- apply a set of rules onto the values of the light spectrum to obtain a first result indicating whether the mark is authentic or not;
- apply statistical processing onto the values of the light spectrum to obtain a second result indicating whether the mark is authentic or not; and to
- generate an output result indicating whether the mark is authentic or not from the first result and the second result, wherein a more indifferent first or second result is weighted less than a more definite second or first result.

~~15. The device of claim 14, wherein the processing resources are configured to implement a method of any one of claims 1 to 11.~~

~~16~~12. The device of claim ~~14 or 15~~11, further comprising means for acquiring the light spectrum and a light source, wherein the processing resources are configured to implement a method of claim ~~12~~ 9 or ~~13~~10.

~~17. The device of any one of claims 14 to 16, wherein the processing resources comprise a processing unit and a memory unit, the memory unit being configured to store code executable by the processing unit.~~

~~18~~13. The device of any one of claims ~~14~~ 11 to ~~17~~12, further being arranged as a hand-held device and including a display unit to communicate the output result to a user.

~~19~~14. The device of any one of claims ~~14~~ 11 to ~~17~~12, further being arranged as a fixed device and including a communication unit to communicate the output result.

~~20~~15. A computer program comprising code executable by a processing unit, the code when executed implementing a method of any one of claims 1 to ~~13~~10.

~~21. A computer program product comprising a tangible medium storing the code of the computer program of claim 20.~~