

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

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
26 January 2023 (26.01.2023)



(10) International Publication Number
WO 2023/003507 A2

(51) International Patent Classification:
Not classified

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/SG2022/050456

(22) International Filing Date:
30 June 2022 (30.06.2022)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
10202107890Y 19 July 2021 (19.07.2021) SG

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(54) Title: DATA COLLECTION APPARATUS AND COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED DATA COLLECTION METHOD USING SAME

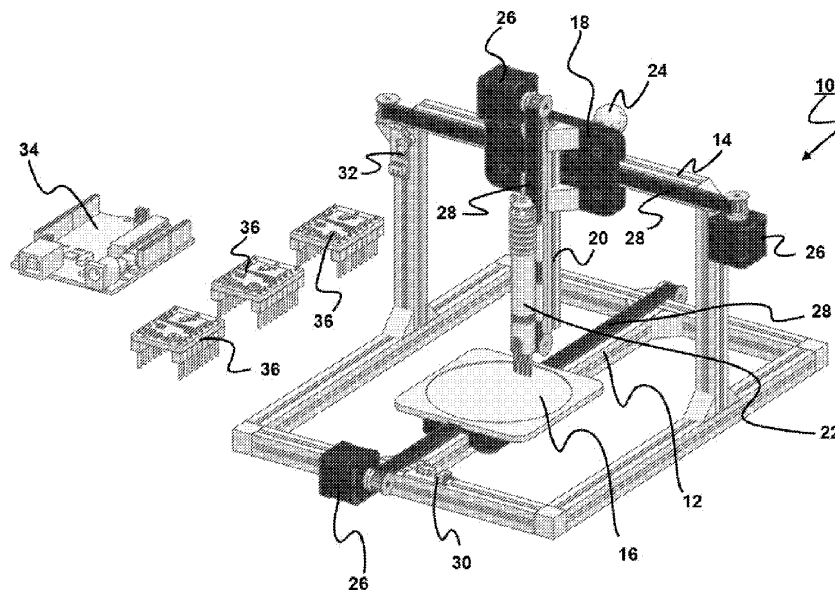


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A data collection apparatus (10) and a computer-implemented data collection method (50) using the same are provided. The data collection apparatus (10) includes a first linear stage (12) and a second linear stage (14). A sample carriage (16) is attached to the first linear stage (12), the first linear stage (12) being operable to move the sample carriage (16) along a first axis. A probe carriage (18) is attached to the second linear stage (14), the second linear stage (14) being operable to move the probe carriage (18) along a second axis. A third linear stage (20) is attached to the probe carriage (18). In use, the third linear stage (20) is operable to receive a detachable characterisation probe (22) and to move the characterisation probe (22) along a third axis. A camera (24) is attached to the probe carriage (18). In use, the camera (24) is configured to capture an image of one or more samples on the sample carriage (16).

[Continued on next page]

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(81) **Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IQ, IR, IS, IT, JM, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) **Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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