

Method and apparatus for OCR reading a digit-display meter

ABSTRACT

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A method in the form of an algorithm for recognizing characters of a character set in a predetermined sequence or order, including numerals appearing in a plurality of digit display of a utility meter such as an electric (watt-hour) meter so that the meter may be read remotely. The method
10 enables learning of the characters' font and font size on-the-fly by first marking an image of the last digit (usually the decimal digit) and when that same image (which may even be a transition between 2 characters) reappears, the algorithm recognises that the last digit has completed a cycle. It follows that the second last digit would have advanced to the next number from an initial
15 number which is noted when the method is first set in operation. When repeated, thus for each the decimal digit cycle is completed, the subsequent number of the second last digit is captured as a template until all the numbers (or characters in the character set) have been saved. Subsequent digits, i.e. third last digit, fourth last digit, etc. can thus be recognised with this completed
20 template set.

FIGURE 2 accompanies the abstract.