

Abstract

When comparing comparison minutiae of a comparison fingerprint (23) with reference minutiae (19) of a reference fingerprint stored on a chip card (10), proceeding from a baseline pair, consisting of respectively two comparison minutiae and reference minutiae (19) corresponding to each other, further pairs of minutiae are searched, which form one single coherent chain of pairs of minutiae throughout the comparison fingerprint or reference fingerprint. Therein the minutiae of a potential pair of minutiae are evaluated with reference to at least three predetermined relation pairs of minutiae of the chain of already determined pairs of minutiae, wherein the relation pairs of minutiae are determined on the basis of their position within the chain. On the basis of individual comparisons of distances and/or angles to the respective reference minutiae, the correspondence of a selected comparison minutia to a selected reference minutia (19) is evaluated. In the case that one single possible path is strictly predetermined, reference minutiae (19) can also be skipped if no corresponding comparison minutiae can be found for them.