

Patent Classification and Search key

Japan Patent Office

---(Slide 0)---

We will now begin the patent classification and search key lecture.

- I. IPC
- II. FI
- III. F-term
- IV. Reference tool

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---(Slide 1)---

Here is the outline of this lecture.

- 1. IPC
- 2. FI
- 3. F term
- 4. Reference tool

- I. IPC**
- II. FI
- III. F-term
- IV. Reference tool

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First, let me explain IPC, or International Patent Classification.

A. History - 1/4

- In the past, patent documents were classified according to different classification systems originally developed in each individual country.
- In 1971, the Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification was sealed, and it came into effect in 1975.
- The IPC had been revised almost every five years, up to the seventh version, to address technological innovations and increased documents.

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This slide shows a brief history of patent classifications.

In the past, patent documents were classified according to the different classification systems in the individual countries where they originated.

These classification systems were not compatible with each other, however.

As patent documents are increasingly used globally, the problem of incompatibility has become a big issue.

The Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification was signed in 1971, and came into effect in 1975.

All member countries of the Paris Convention took part in the IPC system.

The IPC was revised almost every five years, up to the seventh version, in order to address technological innovations and an increasing number of documents.

A. History - 2/4

The first edition of the Classification was in force from September 1, 1968 to June 30, 1974.

IPC ver. 2	July 1, 1974 to Dec. 31, 1979
IPC ver. 3	Jan. 1, 1980 to Dec. 31, 1984
IPC ver. 4	Jan. 1, 1985 to Dec. 31, 1989
IPC ver. 5	Jan. 1, 1990 to Dec. 31, 1994
IPC ver. 6	Jan. 1, 1995 to Dec. 31, 1999
IPC ver. 7	Jan. 1, 2000 to Dec. 31, 2005
IPC ver. 8 (IPC 2006.01 -)	Jan. 1, 2006 to the present

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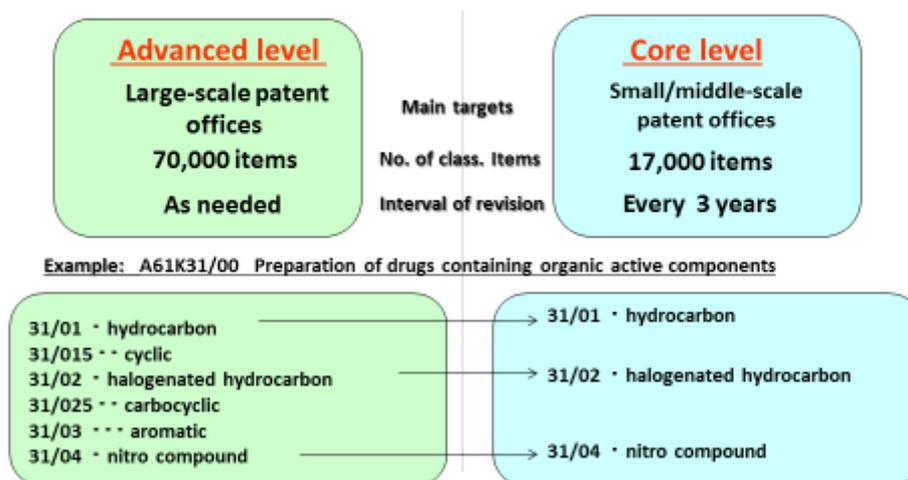
The first edition of the Classification was in force from September 1, 1968 to June 30, 1974.

The IPC is reviewed and revised regularly in order to make improvements in line with ever-evolving technology.

For now, IPC version 8 is the latest.

A. History - 3/4

IPC Reform (2006)



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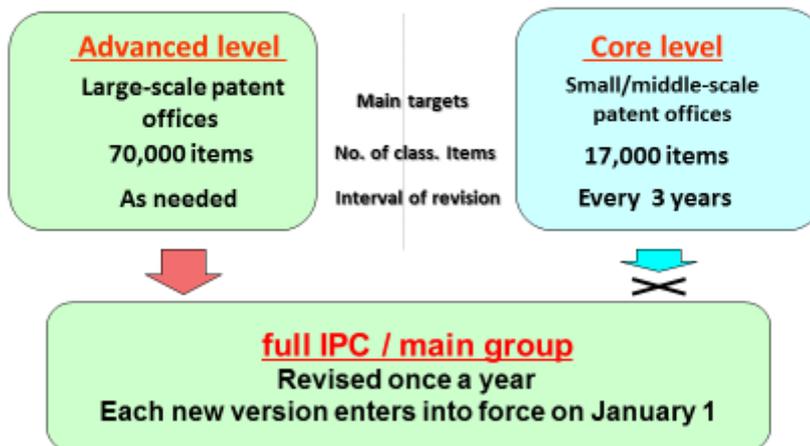
The IPC reform of 2006 divided IPC into two separate categories: the Core Level, or CL, and Advanced Level, or AL.

The revision cycle of the advanced level was three months in order to address flexible advanced techniques. Large-scale patent offices had introduced this level.

The revision cycle of the core level was three years. The number of its classification entries had been narrowed down to around 30% of the advanced level. Small- and mid-size patent offices had introduced this level.

A. History - 4/4

IPC Simplification (2011)



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Division of classifications into core and advanced levels was discontinued on January 1, 2011 in order to resolve conflicts and complications regarding the different revision procedures and publication cycles.

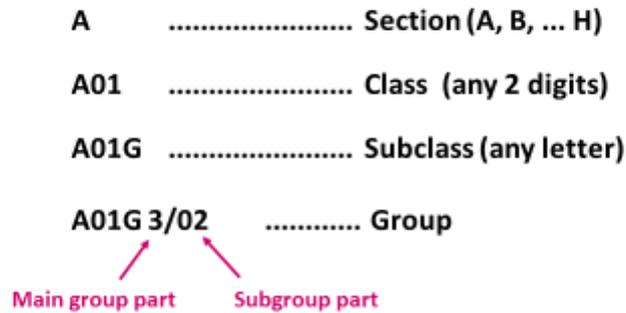
Core level users may now classify the patent documents that they publish using the main groups, which are subsets of the full IPC.

The IPC is revised once a year. Each new version enters into force on January 1.

B. Layout of classification symbols – 1/2

A01G 3/02

complete classification symbol; consists of different components



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Now, I will explain the layout of IPC symbols.

A01G 3/02 is a symbol representing an IPC group. Any group symbol consists of different components.

The first letter indicates the section of the IPC to which it belongs. There are 8 sections, represented by the letters A through H.

The section letter and the following two digits represent a class symbol. Adding another letter to the class symbol generates the symbol of a subclass being part of the class.

The subclass part of the symbol is followed by the group part, which consists of two different elements separated by a slash: the main group part and the subgroup part.

B. Layout of classification symbols – 2/2

Two types of groups:	Main groups	
	Subgroups of main groups	
A01G 3/00 Main group	xxx/00
A01G 3/02 Subgroup	xxx/yy (yy ≠ 00) xxx/yyyyyy

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Accordingly, there are two different types of groups: main groups and subgroups.

Main groups always have "00" after the slash, while subgroups have any other combination of digits.

Currently, the main group symbols have between 1 and 3 digits on the left side, although WIPO Standard ST.8 allows up to 4 digits.

The subgroup part uses between two and six digits.

It should be noted that patent documents are usually classified either by using the main group or subgroup symbols.

C. Hierarchical structure – 1/3

section	subsections
A: HUMAN NECESSITIES	AGRICULTURE; FOODSTUFFS/TOBACCO; PERSONAL OR DOMESTIC ARTICLES; HEALTH/LIFE-SAVING/AMUSEMENT
B: PERFORMING OPERATIONS; TRANSPORTING	SEPARATING/MIXING; SHAPING; PRINTING; TRANSPORTING; MICRO-STRUCTURAL TECHNOLOGY/NANO-TECHNOLOGY
C: CHEMISTRY; METALLURGY	CHEMISTRY; METALLURGY; COMBINATORIAL TECHNOLOGY
D: TEXTILES; PAPER	TEXTILES OR FLEXIBLE MATERIALS NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR; PAPER
E: FIXED CONSTRUCTIONS	BUILDING; EARTH OR ROCK DRILLING/MINING
F: MECHANICAL ENGINEERING; LIGHTING; HEATING; WEAPONS; BLASTING	ENGINES OR PUMPS; ENGINEERING IN GENERAL; LIGHTING/HEATING; WEAPONS/BLASTING
G: PHYSICS	INSTRUMENTS; NUCLEONICS
H: ELECTRICITY	

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Next, I will explain the organization of IPC.

The IPC is arranged in a hierarchy. At the top level, there are 8 different sections covering very broad areas of technology.

A section may have subsections as informative headings.

For example, section A, being HUMAN NECESSITIES, includes the following subsections:

AGRICULTURE

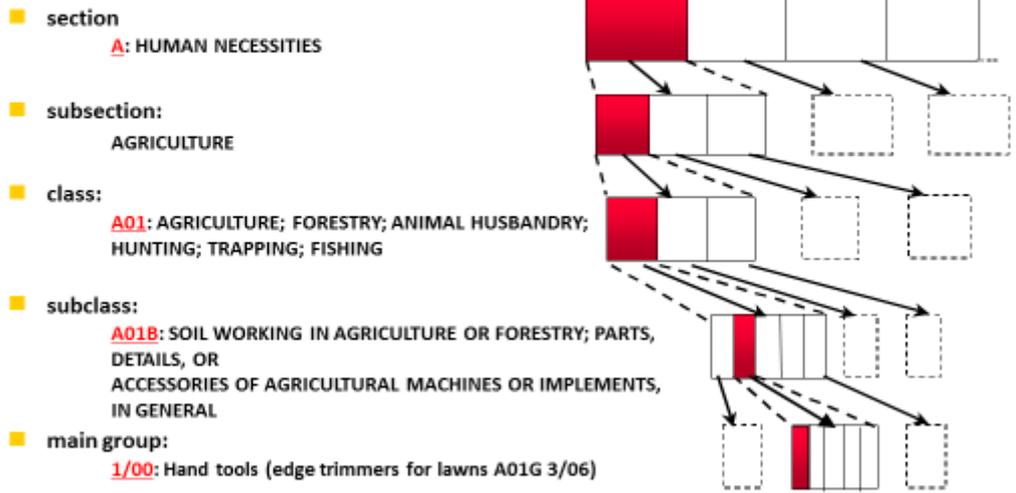
FOODSTUFFS and TOBACCO

PERSONAL OR DOMESTIC ARTICLES

HEALTH, LIFE SAVINGS and AMUSEMENT

Subsections do not have classification symbols.

C. Hierarchical structure – 2/3



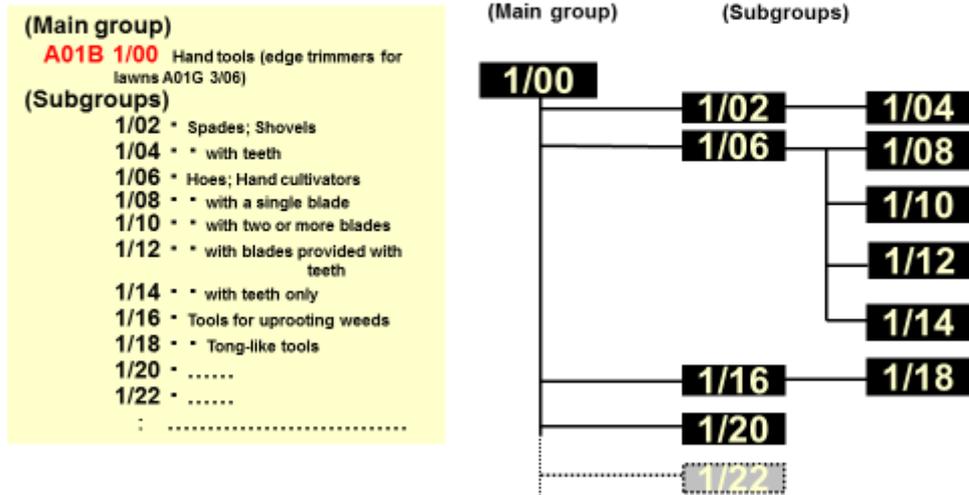
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Each section is subdivided into classes, each class into subclasses, each subclass into main groups, and many but not all main groups into subgroups. Subgroups can again be subdivided into further subgroups.

Thus, there can be many further hierarchical levels below the main groups. However, they all are called subgroups. These subgroups are distinguished by so-called "dots" that indicate their hierarchical position.

C. Hierarchical structure – 3/3



---(Slide 11)---

This shows that subgroup 1/02, which has one dot, is a subdivided classification of the main group 1/00. Subgroup 1/04, which has two dots, is a subdivided classification of the subgroup 1/02 located further down.

- I. IPC
- II. FI**
- III. F-term
- IV. Reference tool

---(Slide 12)---

Next, let me explain FI.

FI (File Index) is a domestic classification system developed and maintained by the JPO. It has the following features.

- Hierarchical tree structure which enables subdivision of Subgroups of the International Patent Classification (IPC)
- Assigned **mainly** to the Japanese patent publications and the Japanese utility model gazettes

➤ JPO recently started to assign FIs also to some Chinese documents.

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The FI, or File Index, is a domestic classification system developed and maintained by the JPO.

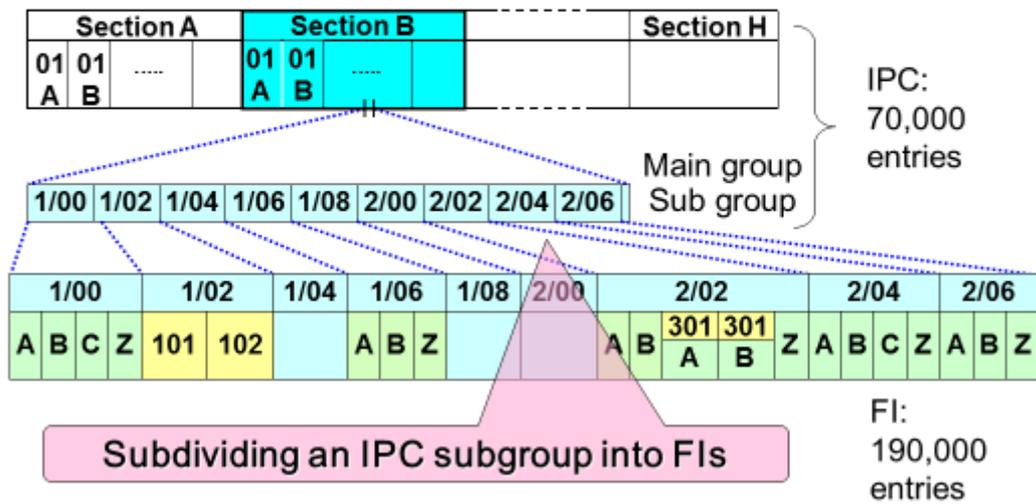
The FI has a hierarchical tree structure and subdivides the IPC into sub-groups.

In other words, all IPC symbols are a subset of the FI.

FIs are assigned mainly to Japanese patent publications and utility model gazettes.

The JPO recently also started to assign FIs to some Chinese documents.

Correspondence between FI and IPC



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This slide illustrates the correspondence between FI and IPC.

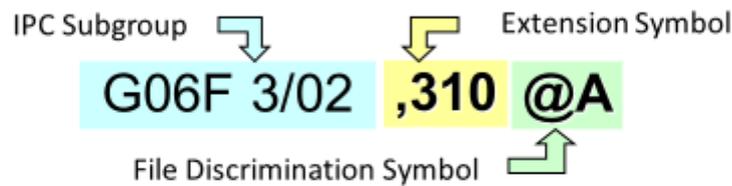
As described in Part I, IPC has a hierarchical structure consisting of sections, classes, and groups.

The sub-group is the smallest component of the IPC.

In rapidly developing technical fields, however, the IPC sub-group is not sufficient to categorize documents effectively.

Therefore, FI was introduced to subdivide and expand IPC sub-groups.

- General format of FI



- Other formats of FI

- G06K 9/18 (IPC subgroup *per se*)
- G06K 9/20 @A (no extension symbol)
- G06K 9/20 ,330 (no file discrimination symbol)

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This is the general format of FI.

It includes an extension symbol and a file discrimination symbol.

These were created to expand the hierarchical structure of the IPC.

An extension symbol consists of a three-digit number.

It subdivides the IPC into subgroups.

A file discrimination symbol consists of a single letter.

It subdivides the IPC subgroup or FI with an extension symbol.

In addition to this general format, these three other formats are also acceptable.

Hierarchical dots of FI, e.g., in G06K 9/20

9/20			. Image acquisition
9/20	,310		.. Mechanisms of character entry units
9/20	,310	@A	Character entry systems
9/20	,310	@G	.. Structure of photodetectors
9/20	,310	@H	.. Positioning of photodetectors
9/20	,330		.. Character reading methods

Annotations in the slide:

- 2 dots indicate lower level than 1 dot (pointing to the two dots in the title of the second row)
- FDSs subdivide an entry with ES (pointing to the @ symbols in the third, fourth, and fifth rows)

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This is a sample FI schedule in the subclass G06K.

The blue, yellow, and green areas indicate the IPC subgroup, extension symbol, and file discrimination symbol, respectively.

G06K9/20&310 has two dots in its title.

This indicates that its hierarchical level is lower than G06K9/20.

Here, please **note** that the File Discrimination symbols subdivide entries with extension symbols.

For instance, G06K9/20&310A - &310H are subdivisions of G06K9/20&310.

Although its title has no dot, G06K9/20&310A is located at a lower level than G06K9/20&310.

In other words, the first three hierarchical dots are **hidden** in the G06K9/20&310A - &310H titles.

“**Theme**” is a unique idea introduced by the JPO in order to categorize FI according to technical relevance.

Each theme is specified by a particular **code** and associated with ranges of FIs.

Range of FI	Theme code
→ G06F 3/01	5E555
G06F 3/02 - 3/027	5B020
G06F 3/03	5B068
G06F 3/033 - 3/041,340	5B087
G06F 3/041,350 - 3/047	5B068
→ G06F 3/048	5E555

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Now I would like to introduce the idea of “themes” as a basis of the “F-term.”

“**Theme**” is a unique idea introduced by the JPO in order to categorize FI according to technical relevance.

Each theme is specified by a particular **code** and connected with a range of FI.

Please look at this table.

FI entries in the left column are arranged in numerical order and divided into groups.

Theme codes in the right column are not arranged sequentially.

Therefore, if several FIs belong to the same theme, the technical features of each FI are similar.

For example, these FIs relate to the Man Machine Interface technique and belong to the same **theme, which is 5E555.**

- I. IPC
- II. FI
- III. F-terms**
- IV. Reference tool

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Next, let me explain the F-term.

First, I would like to tell you why the F-term was created.

As I mentioned, the function of the FI is to subdivide an IPC subgroup. In this regard, the FI is suitable for categorizing patent documents.

However, as many examiners know, other functions are also required for classification systems: namely, “analysis tools” and “search keys”.

The FI is assigned mainly to distinguishable technical features written in the claims. However, claims often include many technical features. In addition, detailed explanations of applications also disclose many technical matters.

Assigning plural FI or IPC entries is one solution, but it is not almighty. The JPO invented the F-term system as one additional method.

F-term (File forming term) is a unique classification system invented and maintained by the JPO. It has the following features.

- Hierarchical tree structure with multi-aspect enables analysis of a patent document from multiple -viewpoints
 - Assigned mainly to **MOST** Japanese patent publications and Japanese utility model gazettes
- JPO recently started to assign F-terms also to some Chinese documents.

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The F-term, short for “File forming term”, is a unique classification system invented and maintained by the JPO. It has the following features:

- A hierarchical tree structure with multi-aspects, which enable analysis of a patent document from multiple-viewpoints
- Assignment mainly to MOST Japanese patent publications and Japanese utility model gazettes
- F-terms recently assigned by the JPO to certain Chinese documents

III. F-term

Relationship between FI, Theme, and F-term

1/00				1/02		1/04		1/06		1/08		2/00		2/02				2/04				2/06				FI			
A	B	C	Z	101	102			A	B	Z			A	B	301 A	301 B	Z	A	B	C	Z	A	B	C	Z		A	B	C
Theme 1 (with F-term)												Theme 2 (without F-term)						Theme 3 (with F-term)						Theme					
																								F-term					

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---(Slide 20)---

This slide shows the relationship between FI, theme, and F-term.

Please remember that FI subdivides IPC, and themes are groups of FIs.

For example, "Theme 1" covers an FI range from 1/00 through 1/08.

Please also note that each F-term key belongs to one theme, and that every F-term key is always used with its theme code.

In other words, an F-term key without its theme code makes no sense.

I would also now like to make another point.

In this figure, themes 1 and 3 have F-term lists, but theme 2 doesn't.

When FI of a theme is organized enough to analyze and search patent documents, it is not necessary to create an F-term for the theme.

III. F-term

Comparison among FI, F-term, & IPC

	FI	F-term	IPC
Total number of entries	190,000	360,000	70,000
Coverage of patent documents	*Mainly JP documents	*Mainly JP documents	Global
Coverage of technical fields	100%	70%	100%
Function	Categorize	Analyze	Categorize

*JPO started to assign FI / F-term to some Chinese documents 21

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This shows a comparison among FI, F-term, and IPC.

The total number of FI entries is 190,000. This is more than twice that of IPC's.

F-term has 360,000 entries.

You can understand, therefore, that F-term is a useful tool to analyze and search patent documents.

FI and F-term also cover Japanese utility model gazettes, but they basically do **NOT** cover foreign patent publications.

FI covers all technical fields, but F-term is made for **only** 70% of them.

There are 2,600 themes in total, and 1,800 of them have F-term.

Please see this table for a current update.

Chinese patent publications have recently been increasing significantly, and many patent offices are trying to establish effective search tools for them.

As I said, the JPO has begun to classify Chinese patent publications using FI and F-term.

III. F-term

Theme code Subject of theme

5B020		INPUT FROM KEYBOARDS OR THE LIKE		The theme 5B020 as a whole covers this range of FIs				
G06F3/02-3/027								
Viewpoint	F-term							FI Cover Range
AA	AA00	AA01	AA02	AA03	AA04	AA05	A	G06F3/02-3/027
	INPUT DATA	Numbers	Alphanumeric characters	Keys	Japanese syllabaries	Roman characters	Chinese characters	
BB	BB00	BB01	BB02	BB03	BB04	BB05	BB10	G06F3/02,3800D
	INCORPORATING	Electronic	Terminals	Point-to-point	Clocks	Copiers	Others	
JJ	JJ00	JJ01	JJ02	JJ03	JJ04			G06F3/02,3800E; 3/02,3800Z
	ERROR	detecting input data errors	inputting identical data a plurality of times	comparing with registered data	compare with input from other sources			
KK	KK00	KK01	KK02	KK03	KK04	KK05	M	G06F3/02,3800A
		Failures of input equipment	checking circuits	Automatic testing	checking during operation			

Terms from AA01 through AA20 belong to the Viewpoint AA that means "INPUT DATA"

Terms from JJ11 through JJ14 are assigned only to documents having these FI ranges

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This is an F-term list of the theme "5B020".

I will explain later how to access it using Patent Map Guidance of J-PlatPat.

Now, let's take a look at each component of the schedule.

Utilizing F-term as a search key

- Specify the F-term theme based on FI or IPC
- Select F-terms that match technical elements of a search target
- Compose search queries by combining these terms

Example of a search target

*“Granular calcium oxide ceramics
with low heat expansion”*

-> Theme 4G031 Composition of oxide ceramics

F-term AA04, BA24, CA05

-> Query 4G031(AA04*BA24*CA05)

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---(Slide 23)---

The next topic utilizes F-term as a search key.

In the following slides, I will explain an outline of search methods and also show a conceptual example.

First, we specify the best theme based on FI or IPC assigned to the search target.

Next, we select appropriate F-terms from the F-term list of the theme.

Finally, we compose a search query combining these entries and logical operators.

Let’s look at an example where our search target is a patent publication that discloses “granular calcium oxide ceramics with low heat expansion.”

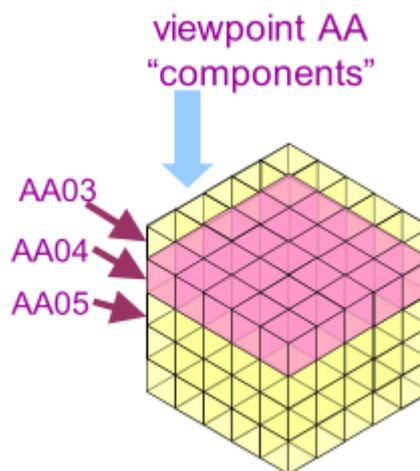
Let’s assume that 4G031 is selected as the best theme for the search, and that the highly related F-terms AA04, BA24, and CA05 are found.

Then we can compose the query “AA04 and BA24 and CA05”.

III. F-term

Example of a search target
“Granular calcium oxide ceramics with low heat expansion”

4G031		Composition of oxide ceramics COMB35/42-35/51					
Viewpoint	AA	BB	CC	DD	EE	FF	GG
AA	COMPONENTS	Alkali metal oxides	Alkali earth metal oxides	Magnesium oxides	Calcium oxides	Strontium oxides	Barium oxides
		Titanium oxide					
		Zinc oxide					
		Iron oxides					
		Tin oxides					
BA	FUNCTIONS AND USES	Electric and electronic functions and uses	Conductivity	Ion conductivity	Voltage ion-leak resistance bodies	High-conduction (PTC) semiconductors	High-conduction (NTC) semiconductors
		Current-collection characteristics	Insulation characteristics	Magnetic-heat support members	Optical functions and uses	Transmissivity	Electro-heat and optical characteristics
		Thermal functions and uses	Heat insulation	Heat- and shock-resistant characteristics	Low-heat expansion	Phase-change substances	Optical and thermal functions and uses
CA	STRUCTURES	Control of the grain shape	Arrangement of crystals	Structure where adjacent parts are composed of different compounds	Crystalline grains of amorphous phases and sizes	Granularity	



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---(Slide 24)---

This, along with the following two slides, shows a process to narrow down the scope of patent documents.

The large cube represents an entire collection of documents classified into the theme 4G031.

Please imagine that each small cube represents a single document.

Each cube, or document, is indexed by the F-terms of the theme.

The table to the left is an F-term list of the theme 4G031.

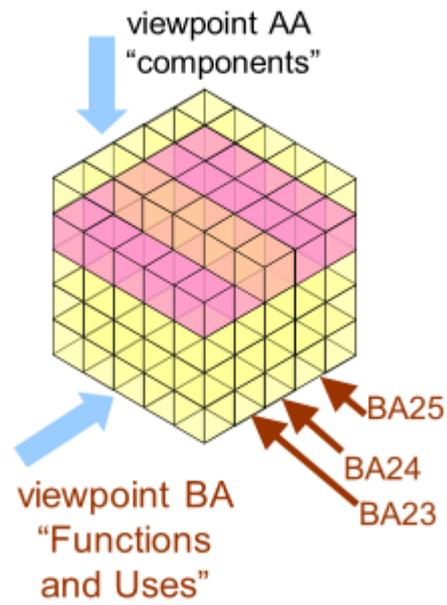
In the list we can find the viewpoint AA “components” along with one of its entries: AA04 “Calcium oxides.”

Using a query including the F-term AA04 enables us to narrow down the scope like the figure to the right.

III. F-term

Example of a search target
“Granular calcium oxide ceramics with low heat expansion”

SU2001		Composition of oxide ceramics COMB5/42-35/51							
Viewpoint	Category	AA1	AA2	AA3	AA4	AA5	AA6		
AA COMPONENTS	Alkali metal oxides	Alkali metal oxides	Alkali earth metal oxides	Magnesium oxides	Calcium oxides	Strontium oxides	Barium oxides		
		Titanium oxides	Zinc oxides	Vanadium oxides	Nickel oxides	Tantalum oxides	Chromium oxides		
		Iron oxides	Cobalt oxides	Niobium oxides	Oxides from Group B to Sn	Copper oxides	Zinc oxides		
		Ti oxides	Lead oxides	Bi oxides	Antimony	Bismuth oxides	Sn oxides		
		BA FUNCTIONS AND USES	BA24 <i>Low heat expansion</i>						
		GA STRUCTURES	Control of the grain shape	Management of crystals	Structure where coefficient of thermal expansion is suppressed or affected	Low heat expansion	Thermal substances	Thermal and physical functions and uses	
				Control of the grain shape	Management of crystals	Structure where coefficient of thermal expansion is suppressed or affected	Low heat expansion	Thermal substances	Thermal and physical functions and uses
				Control of the grain shape	Management of crystals	Structure where coefficient of thermal expansion is suppressed or affected	Low heat expansion	Thermal substances	Thermal and physical functions and uses



---(Slide 25)---

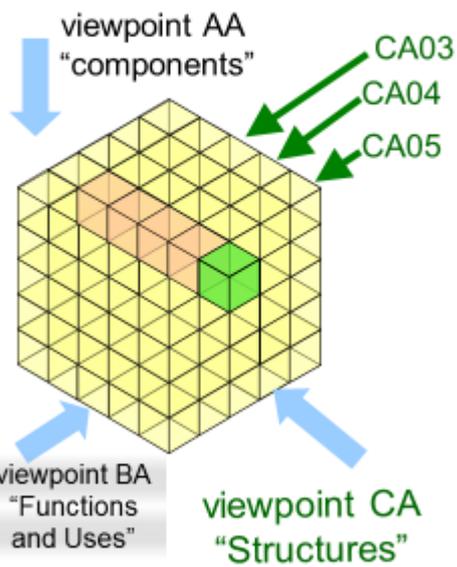
Next, we can find another viewpoint, BA “Functions and Uses”, and one of its entries, BA24 “Low heat expansion”.

Using a query combining two F-term entries enables us to narrow down the scope.

III. F-term

Example of a search target
“Granular calcium oxide ceramics with low heat expansion”

Viewpoint	AA	AA1	AA2	AA3	AA4	AA5	AA6		
AA COMPONENTS	Alkali metal oxides	Alkali earth metal oxides	Magnesium oxides	Calcium oxides	Strontium oxides	Barium oxides			
	Titanium oxides	Zinc oxides	Vanadium oxides	Nickel oxides	Tantalum oxides	Chromium oxides			
	Iron oxides	Cobalt oxides	Niobium oxides	Oxides from Group B to B6	Copper oxides	Zinc oxides			
	Tin oxides	Lead oxides	Phosphorus oxides	Antimony oxides	Bismuth oxides	SnOxides			
	BA FUNCTIONS AND USES	Electric and electronic functions and uses	Conductivity	Ion conductivity	Storage ion-leak resistance bodies	High-conductivity (HTC) semiconductors	High-conductivity (HFC) semiconductors		
		Current-carrying characteristics	Insulation characteristics	Magnetic heat support members	Optical functions and uses	Transmissivity	Electrical and optical characteristics		
		Thermal functions and uses	Heat insulation	Heat and shock-resistant members	Low heat expansion	Thermal stability	Thermal and physical functions and uses		
		CA STRUCTURES	Control of grain size			Granularity			



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Furthermore, we can find another viewpoint CA “structures”, and one of its entries, CA05 “granularity.”

Using a query combining three F-terms enables us to narrow down the scope the smallest.

In this way, we can perform effective searches by combining appropriate F-terms.

- I. IPC
- II. FI
- III. F-term
- IV. Reference tool**

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---(Slide 27)---

Next, I will explain reference tools: first for the IPC, and then for FI and F-term.

IV. Reference tool

A. IPC Home Page – 1/2

<http://www.wipo.int/classifications/ipc/en/>



International Patent Classification (IPC)

The International Patent Classification (IPC), established by the Strasbourg Agreement 1971, provides for a hierarchical system of language-independent symbols for the classification of patents and utility models according to the different areas of technology to which they pertain.

Browse and search the IPC
Click!

News
New version of the IPC (IPC 11) is available from 1st January 2014.
IPC 11 is available in 11 languages. Document IPC 11/11 (2013) and proceedings available.

Cited from
<http://www.wipo.int/classifications/ipc/en/>

Sections

SECTION A — HUMAN NECESSITIES
SECTION B — PERFORMING OPERATIONS; TRANSPORTING
SECTION C — CHEMISTRY; METALLURGY
SECTION D — TEXTILES; PAPER
SECTION E — FIXED CONSTRUCTIONS
SECTION F — MECHANICAL ENGINEERING; LIGHTING; HEATING; WEAPONS; BLASTING
SECTION G — PHYSICS
SECTION H — ELECTRICITY

Cited from <http://wipo.int/ipcpub/>

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---(Slide 28)---

You can access technical information on the IPC from the top menu of the IPC website.

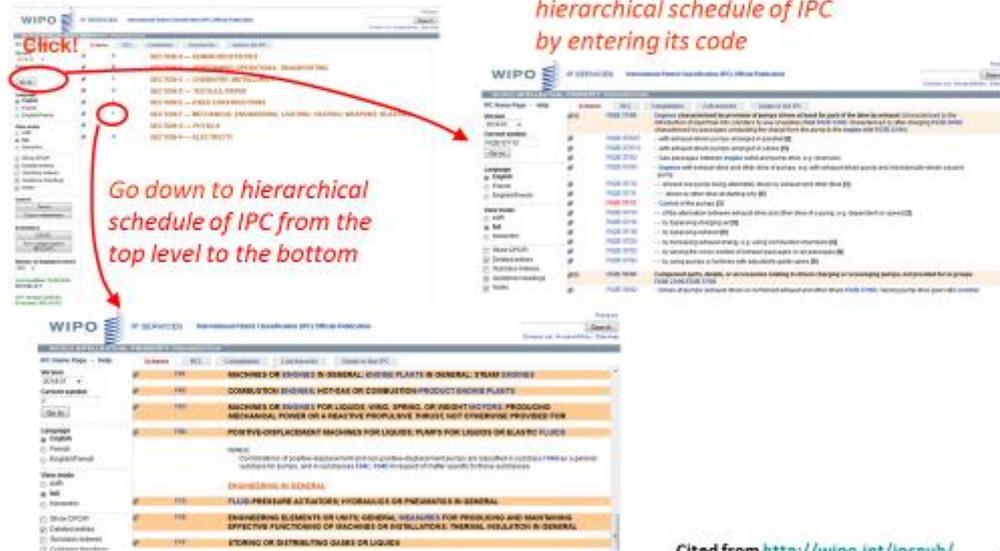
IV. Reference tool

A. IPC Home Page -2/2

Click!

Go down to hierarchical schedule of IPC from the top level to the bottom

Jump to a specific point in the hierarchical schedule of IPC by entering its code



Cited from <http://wipo.int/ipcpub/>

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---(Slide 29)---

There are two ways to obtain IPC data.

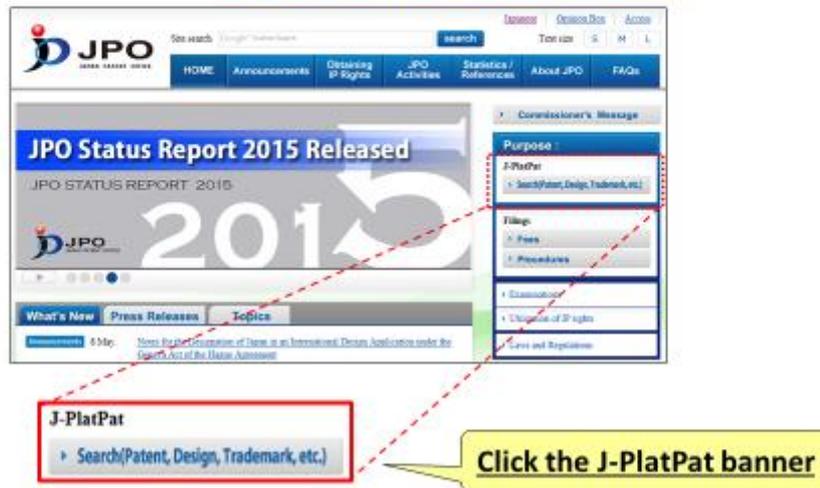
You can go down a hierarchical schedule from the section level by clicking the alphabetical link corresponding to the section.

Entering IPC in the search box will take you to the IPC hierarchy you entered.

IV. Reference tool

B. Patent Map Guidance (PMGS) – 1/14

JPO home page <http://www.jpo.go.jp/index.htm>



The screenshot shows the JPO homepage with a search bar at the top and a navigation menu. The main content area features a large banner for the 'JPO Status Report 2015 Released'. On the right side, there is a 'Commissioner's Message' sidebar containing a 'J-PlatPat' link. Below the main content, there is a 'What's New' section with a 'J-PlatPat' link. A red dashed line connects the 'J-PlatPat' link in the sidebar to the 'J-PlatPat' link in the 'What's New' section. A yellow callout bubble points to the 'J-PlatPat' link in the 'What's New' section with the text 'Click the J-PlatPat banner'.

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---(Slide 30)---

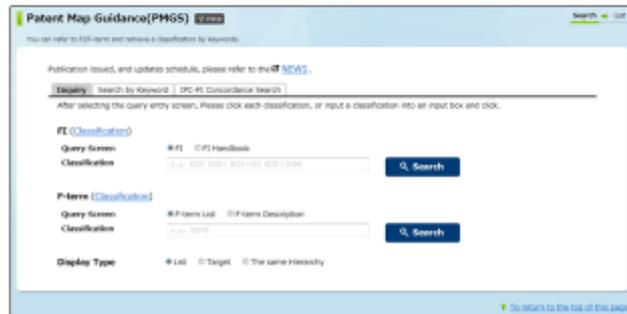
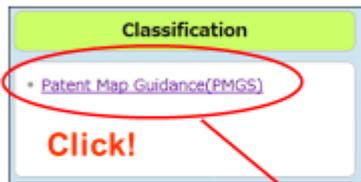
You can get FI lists, F-term lists and definitions of F-term keys from Patent Map Guidance, or PMGS, in J-Plat Pat.

To access J-PlatPat, click on the “J-PlatPat” banner on the JPO homepage.

IV. Reference tool

B. Patent Map Guidance (PMGS) – 2/14

Top menu of the J-PlatPat

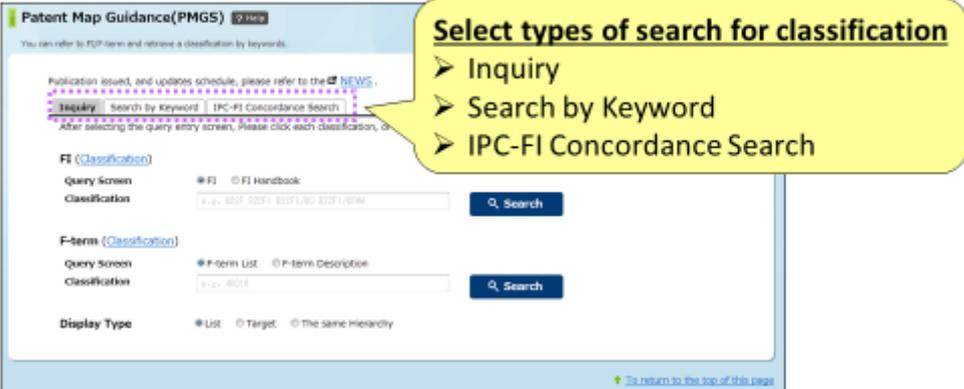


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---(Slide 31)---

You can access Patent Map Guidance, or PMGS, from the menu on the J-PlatPat website.

B. Patent Map Guidance (PMGS) – 3/14



The screenshot shows the Patent Map Guidance (PMGS) interface. A yellow callout box on the right side of the interface contains the following text:

Select types of search for classification

- Inquiry
- Search by Keyword
- IPC-FI Concordance Search

The interface itself has three main sections: "FI (Classification)", "F-term (Classification)", and "Display Type". Each section has a "Query Screen" and a "Classification" input field with a "Search" button. The "FI" section has radio buttons for "FI" and "FI Handbook". The "F-term" section has radio buttons for "F-term List" and "F-term Description". The "Display Type" section has radio buttons for "List", "Target", and "The same Hierarchy".

- ✓ Inquiry : **FI/F-term** search of specific **classification**
- ✓ Search by Keyword : **FI/F-term** search by using **keywords**
- ✓ IPC-FI Concordance Search : **FI** Search by using **IPC**

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---(Slide 32)---

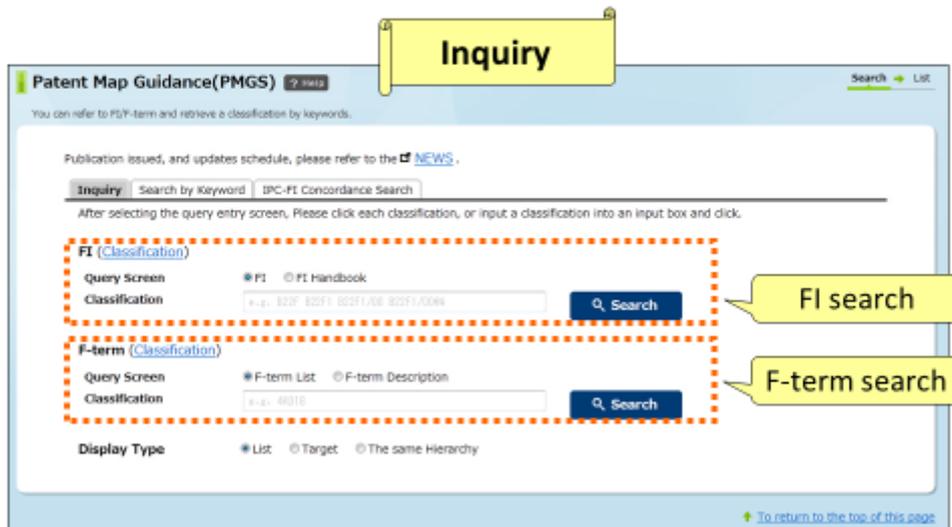
You can search for classification information from the PMGS page.

There are three ways to do this according to your purposes, which are as follows:

- 1) Use the "Inquiry" tab. Specify the FI or F-term and obtain the related classification information.
- 2) Use the "Search by Keyword" tab. Type in the keyword and obtain the related FI or F-term information.
- 3) Specify the IPC and obtain the related FI information. This is known as an "IPC-FI concordance search".

Let's look at each one in more detail.

B. Patent Map Guidance (PMGS) – 4/14



Inquiry

Patent Map Guidance(PMGS) 7/2014 Search List

You can refer to FI/F-term and retrieve a classification by keywords.

Publication issued, and updates schedule, please refer to the [NEWS](#).

Inquiry Search by keyword IPC-FI Concordance Search

After selecting the query entry screen, Please click each classification, or input a classification into an input box and click.

FI (Classification)

Query Screen FI FI Handbook

Classification

F-term (Classification)

Query Screen F-term List F-term Description

Classification

Display Type List Target The same Hierarchy

[To return to the top of this page](#)

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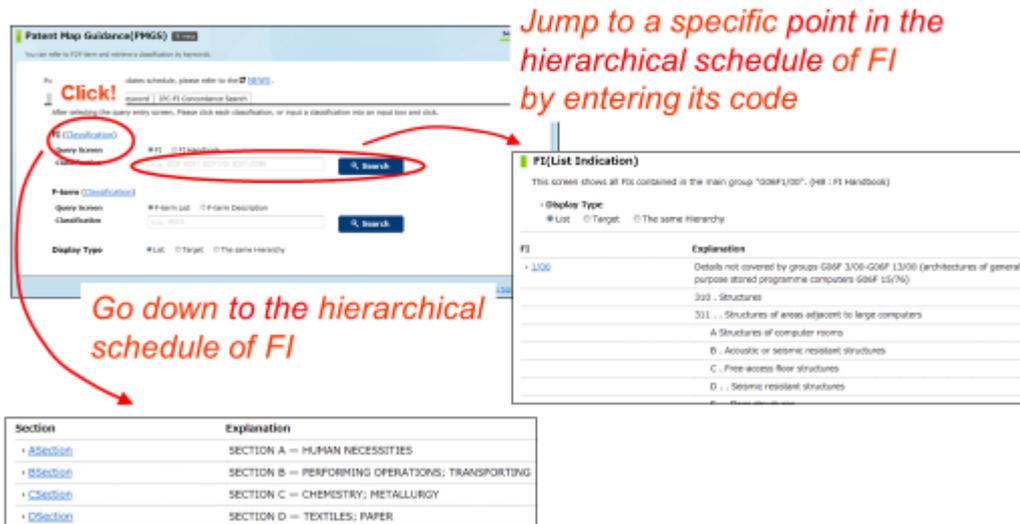
---(Slide 33)---

First, I'll explain the "inquiry" tab and its function.

You can specify the FI or F-term and obtain related classification information.

IV. Reference tool

B. Patent Map Guidance (PMGS) – 5/14



Click!

Jump to a specific point in the hierarchical schedule of FI by entering its code

Go down to the hierarchical schedule of FI

FI (List Indication)

This screen shows all FIs contained in the main group "06MF100". (448 : FI Handbook)

Display Type:
List Target: The same hierarchy

FI	Explanation
100	Details not covered by groups G06F 3/00-G06F 13/00 (architectures of general purpose stored programme computers G06F 15/76)
329	Structures
311	Structures of areas adjacent to large computers
A	Structures of computer rooms
B	Acoustic or seismic resistant structures
C	Free access floor structures
D	Seismic resistant structures
E	Floor structures

Section	Explanation
A Section	SECTION A == HUMAN NECESSITIES
B Section	SECTION B == PERFORMING OPERATIONS; TRANSPORTING
C Section	SECTION C == CHEMISTRY; METALLURGY
D Section	SECTION D == TEXTILES; PAPER

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--(Slide 34)---

There are two ways to acquire FI data using the "Inquiry" tab.

One way is to click on the "classification" link, which allows you to go down deeper from a section hierarchy.

Another way is to type the FI information into a search box.

This will take you to the corresponding FI hierarchy.

B. Patent Map Guidance (PMGS) – 6/14

FI(List Indication)

This screen shows all FIs contained in the main group "G06F3/00". (HB : FI Handbook)

• Display Type

List Target The same Hierarchy

FI	Explanation	Reference, etc.
• 300	Input arrangements for transferring data to be processed into a form capable of being handled by the computer; Output arrangements for transferring data from processing unit to output unit, e.g. interface arrangements [4]	5B041 HB
	A Related to connection, addition, cutoff, selection or switching the devices (W or Y takes precedence)	5B041 HB
	B . Active inserting or removal (inserting or withdrawing live wires) (Connections or disconnection without shutting off the power supply)	5B041 HB
	C . Non-contact connecting circuits (DC insulated connection)	5B041 HB
	D . . Optical coupling	5B041 HB
	E Optical transfer (including transfers with optical fibers) (including optical buses)	5B041 HB
	F Circuits for connecting or shutting off the bus lines (including circuit connection of abnormal buses) e.g. bus width conversion	5B041 HB
	G Bus driving circuits in general	5B041 HB
	H . Transmitters or receivers (including tristate buffers or latches)	5B041 HB

From FI, corresponding theme code can be known.

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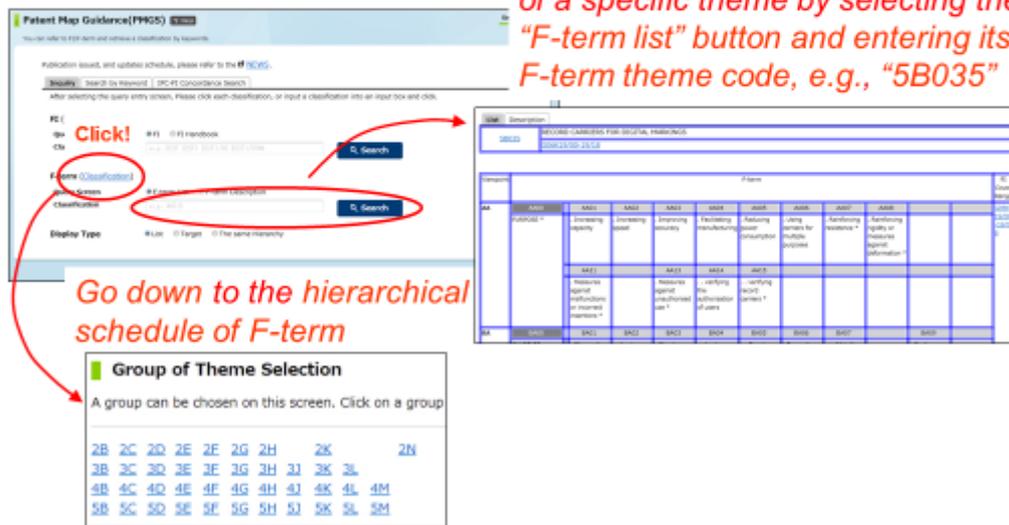
---(Slide 35)---

This is an example of an FI list. In addition to the FI explanation, you can also obtain the FI's corresponding theme code.

IV. Reference tool

B. Patent Map Guidance (PMGS) – 7/14

Jump to an F-term schedule of a specific theme by selecting the “F-term list” button and entering its F-term theme code, e.g., “5B035”



The screenshot shows the Patent Map Guidance (PMGS) interface. On the left, there are search options for 'F-term' and 'Classification'. A red circle highlights the 'F-term (Classification)' link, with an arrow pointing to the 'F-term list' button. Another red circle highlights the 'Search' button next to the 'F-term' search box. A red arrow points from the 'F-term list' button to the 'F-term list' table on the right. Below the main interface, there is a 'Group of Theme Selection' dialog box with a list of F-term codes.

Click!

Go down to the hierarchical schedule of F-term

Group	5B035	5B036	5B037	5B038	5B039	5B040	5B041	5B042	5B043	5B044	5B045	5B046	5B047	5B048	5B049	5B050	5B051	5B052	5B053	5B054	5B055	5B056	5B057	5B058	5B059	5B060	5B061	5B062	5B063	5B064	5B065	5B066	5B067	5B068	5B069	5B070	5B071	5B072	5B073	5B074	5B075	5B076	5B077	5B078	5B079	5B080	5B081	5B082	5B083	5B084	5B085	5B086	5B087	5B088	5B089	5B090	5B091	5B092	5B093	5B094	5B095	5B096	5B097	5B098	5B099	5B100	5B101	5B102	5B103	5B104	5B105	5B106	5B107	5B108	5B109	5B110	5B111	5B112	5B113	5B114	5B115	5B116	5B117	5B118	5B119	5B120	5B121	5B122	5B123	5B124	5B125	5B126	5B127	5B128	5B129	5B130	5B131	5B132	5B133	5B134	5B135	5B136	5B137	5B138	5B139	5B140	5B141	5B142	5B143	5B144	5B145	5B146	5B147	5B148	5B149	5B150	5B151	5B152	5B153	5B154	5B155	5B156	5B157	5B158	5B159	5B160	5B161	5B162	5B163	5B164	5B165	5B166	5B167	5B168	5B169	5B170	5B171	5B172	5B173	5B174	5B175	5B176	5B177	5B178	5B179	5B180	5B181	5B182	5B183	5B184	5B185	5B186	5B187	5B188	5B189	5B190	5B191	5B192	5B193	5B194	5B195	5B196	5B197	5B198	5B199	5B200	5B201	5B202	5B203	5B204	5B205	5B206	5B207	5B208	5B209	5B210	5B211	5B212	5B213	5B214	5B215	5B216	5B217	5B218	5B219	5B220	5B221	5B222	5B223	5B224	5B225	5B226	5B227	5B228	5B229	5B230	5B231	5B232	5B233	5B234	5B235	5B236	5B237	5B238	5B239	5B240	5B241	5B242	5B243	5B244	5B245	5B246	5B247	5B248	5B249	5B250	5B251	5B252	5B253	5B254	5B255	5B256	5B257	5B258	5B259	5B260	5B261	5B262	5B263	5B264	5B265	5B266	5B267	5B268	5B269	5B270	5B271	5B272	5B273	5B274	5B275	5B276	5B277	5B278	5B279	5B280	5B281	5B282	5B283	5B284	5B285	5B286	5B287	5B288	5B289	5B290	5B291	5B292	5B293	5B294	5B295	5B296	5B297	5B298	5B299	5B300	5B301	5B302	5B303	5B304	5B305	5B306	5B307	5B308	5B309	5B310	5B311	5B312	5B313	5B314	5B315	5B316	5B317	5B318	5B319	5B320	5B321	5B322	5B323	5B324	5B325	5B326	5B327	5B328	5B329	5B330	5B331	5B332	5B333	5B334	5B335	5B336	5B337	5B338	5B339	5B340	5B341	5B342	5B343	5B344	5B345	5B346	5B347	5B348	5B349	5B350	5B351	5B352	5B353	5B354	5B355	5B356	5B357	5B358	5B359	5B360	5B361	5B362	5B363	5B364	5B365	5B366	5B367	5B368	5B369	5B370	5B371	5B372	5B373	5B374	5B375	5B376	5B377	5B378	5B379	5B380	5B381	5B382	5B383	5B384	5B385	5B386	5B387	5B388	5B389	5B390	5B391	5B392	5B393	5B394	5B395	5B396	5B397	5B398	5B399	5B400	5B401	5B402	5B403	5B404	5B405	5B406	5B407	5B408	5B409	5B410	5B411	5B412	5B413	5B414	5B415	5B416	5B417	5B418	5B419	5B420	5B421	5B422	5B423	5B424	5B425	5B426	5B427	5B428	5B429	5B430	5B431	5B432	5B433	5B434	5B435	5B436	5B437	5B438	5B439	5B440	5B441	5B442	5B443	5B444	5B445	5B446	5B447	5B448	5B449	5B450	5B451	5B452	5B453	5B454	5B455	5B456	5B457	5B458	5B459	5B460	5B461	5B462	5B463	5B464	5B465	5B466	5B467	5B468	5B469	5B470	5B471	5B472	5B473	5B474	5B475	5B476	5B477	5B478	5B479	5B480	5B481	5B482	5B483	5B484	5B485	5B486	5B487	5B488	5B489	5B490	5B491	5B492	5B493	5B494	5B495	5B496	5B497	5B498	5B499	5B500	5B501	5B502	5B503	5B504	5B505	5B506	5B507	5B508	5B509	5B510	5B511	5B512	5B513	5B514	5B515	5B516	5B517	5B518	5B519	5B520	5B521	5B522	5B523	5B524	5B525	5B526	5B527	5B528	5B529	5B530	5B531	5B532	5B533	5B534	5B535	5B536	5B537	5B538	5B539	5B540	5B541	5B542	5B543	5B544	5B545	5B546	5B547	5B548	5B549	5B550	5B551	5B552	5B553	5B554	5B555	5B556	5B557	5B558	5B559	5B560	5B561	5B562	5B563	5B564	5B565	5B566	5B567	5B568	5B569	5B570	5B571	5B572	5B573	5B574	5B575	5B576	5B577	5B578	5B579	5B580	5B581	5B582	5B583	5B584	5B585	5B586	5B587	5B588	5B589	5B590	5B591	5B592	5B593	5B594	5B595	5B596	5B597	5B598	5B599	5B600	5B601	5B602	5B603	5B604	5B605	5B606	5B607	5B608	5B609	5B610	5B611	5B612	5B613	5B614	5B615	5B616	5B617	5B618	5B619	5B620	5B621	5B622	5B623	5B624	5B625	5B626	5B627	5B628	5B629	5B630	5B631	5B632	5B633	5B634	5B635	5B636	5B637	5B638	5B639	5B640	5B641	5B642	5B643	5B644	5B645	5B646	5B647	5B648	5B649	5B650	5B651	5B652	5B653	5B654	5B655	5B656	5B657	5B658	5B659	5B660	5B661	5B662	5B663	5B664	5B665	5B666	5B667	5B668	5B669	5B670	5B671	5B672	5B673	5B674	5B675	5B676	5B677	5B678	5B679	5B680	5B681	5B682	5B683	5B684	5B685	5B686	5B687	5B688	5B689	5B690	5B691	5B692	5B693	5B694	5B695	5B696	5B697	5B698	5B699	5B700	5B701	5B702	5B703	5B704	5B705	5B706	5B707	5B708	5B709	5B710	5B711	5B712	5B713	5B714	5B715	5B716	5B717	5B718	5B719	5B720	5B721	5B722	5B723	5B724	5B725	5B726	5B727	5B728	5B729	5B730	5B731	5B732	5B733	5B734	5B735	5B736	5B737	5B738	5B739	5B740	5B741	5B742	5B743	5B744	5B745	5B746	5B747	5B748	5B749	5B750	5B751	5B752	5B753	5B754	5B755	5B756	5B757	5B758	5B759	5B760	5B761	5B762	5B763	5B764	5B765	5B766	5B767	5B768	5B769	5B770	5B771	5B772	5B773	5B774	5B775	5B776	5B777	5B778	5B779	5B780	5B781	5B782	5B783	5B784	5B785	5B786	5B787	5B788	5B789	5B790	5B791	5B792	5B793	5B794	5B795	5B796	5B797	5B798	5B799	5B800	5B801	5B802	5B803	5B804	5B805	5B806	5B807	5B808	5B809	5B810	5B811	5B812	5B813	5B814	5B815	5B816	5B817	5B818	5B819	5B820	5B821	5B822	5B823	5B824	5B825	5B826	5B827	5B828	5B829	5B830	5B831	5B832	5B833	5B834	5B835	5B836	5B837	5B838	5B839	5B840	5B841	5B842	5B843	5B844	5B845	5B846	5B847	5B848	5B849	5B850	5B851	5B852	5B853	5B854	5B855	5B856	5B857	5B858	5B859	5B860	5B861	5B862	5B863	5B864	5B865	5B866	5B867	5B868	5B869	5B870	5B871	5B872	5B873	5B874	5B875	5B876	5B877	5B878	5B879	5B880	5B881	5B882	5B883	5B884	5B885	5B886	5B887	5B888	5B889	5B890	5B891	5B892	5B893	5B894	5B895	5B896	5B897	5B898	5B899	5B900	5B901	5B902	5B903	5B904	5B905	5B906	5B907	5B908	5B909	5B910	5B911	5B912	5B913	5B914	5B915	5B916	5B917	5B918	5B919	5B920	5B921	5B922	5B923	5B924	5B925	5B926	5B927	5B928	5B929	5B930	5B931	5B932	5B933	5B934	5B935	5B936	5B937	5B938	5B939	5B940	5B941	5B942	5B943	5B944	5B945	5B946	5B947	5B948	5B949	5B950	5B951	5B952	5B953	5B954	5B955	5B956	5B957	5B958	5B959	5B960	5B961	5B962	5B963	5B964	5B965	5B966	5B967	5B968	5B969	5B970	5B971	5B972	5B973	5B974	5B975	5B976	5B977	5B978	5B979	5B980	5B981	5B982	5B983	5B984	5B985	5B986	5B987	5B988	5B989	5B990	5B991	5B992	5B993	5B994	5B995	5B996	5B997	5B998	5B999	5C000	5C001	5C002	5C003	5C004	5C005	5C006	5C007	5C008	5C009	5C010	5C011	5C012	5C013	5C014	5C015	5C016	5C017	5C018	5C019	5C020	5C021	5C022	5C023	5C024	5C025	5C026	5C027	5C028	5C029	5C030	5C031	5C032	5C033	5C034	5C035	5C036	5C037	5C038	5C039	5C040	5C041	5C042	5C043	5C044	5C045	5C046	5C047	5C048	5C049	5C050	5C051	5C052	5C053	5C054	5C055	5C056	5C057	5C058	5C059	5C060	5C061	5C062	5C063	5C064	5C065	5C066	5C067	5C068	5C069	5C070	5C071	5C072	5C073	5C074	5C075	5C076	5C077	5C078	5C079	5C080	5C081	5C082	5C083	5C084	5C085	5C086	5C087	5C088	5C089	5C090	5C091	5C092	5C093	5C094	5C095	5C096	5C097	5C098	5C099	5C100	5C101	5C102	5C103	5C104	5C105	5C106	5C107	5C108	5C109	5C110	5C111	5C112	5C113	5C114	5C115	5C116	5C117	5C118	5C119	5C120	5C121	5C122	5C123	5C124	5C125	5C126	5C127	5C128	5C129	5C130	5C131	5C132	5C133	5C134	5C135	5C136	5C137	5C138	5C139	5C140	5C141	5C142	5C143	5C144	5C145	5C146	5C147	5C148	5C149	5C150	5C151	5C152	5C153	5C154	5C155	5C156	5C157	5C158	5C159	5C160	5C161	5C162	5C163	5C164	5C165	5C166	5C167	5C168	5C169	5C170	5C171	5C172	5C173	5C174	5C175	5C176	5C177	5C178	5C179	5C180	5C181	5C182	5C183	5C184	5C185	5C186	5C187	5C188	5C189	5C190	5C191	5C192	5C193	5C194	5C195	5C196	5C197	5C198	5C199	5C200	5C201	5C202	5C203	5C204	5C205	5C206	5C207	5C208	5C209	5C210	5C211	5C212	5C213	5C214	5C215	5C216	5C217	5C218	5C219	5C220	5C221	5C222	5C223	5C224	5C225	5C22
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IV. Reference tool

B. Patent Map Guidance (PMGS) – 8/14

Inquiry Search by keyword IPC-FI Concordance Search

After selecting the query entry screen, please click each classification, or input a classification into an input box and click.

FI (Classification)

Query Screen FI FI Handbook

Classification

F-term (Classification)

Query Screen F-term List F-term Description

Classification

Display Type List Target The same Hierarchy

Jump to the definition of each term and other information of a specific theme by selecting the “F-term description” button and entering its theme code, e.g., “5B020”

Descriptions of F-terms

This screen displays a description of the F-term theme code “5B020”. about the point of view“AA”.

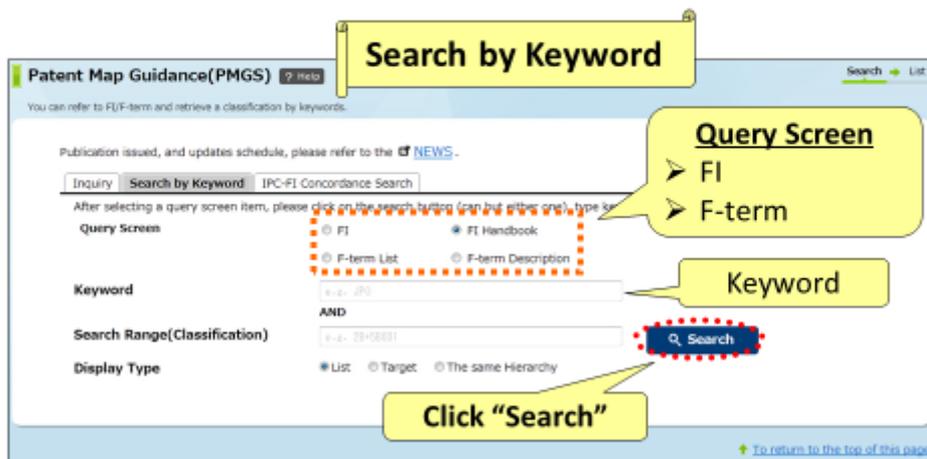
Term	Explanation
AA00	Input data This viewpoint covers the subject matter for data inputted with input devices. When input data are unknown, classification is not made under this viewpoint.
AA01	. Numbers
AA02	. Alphanumeric characters
AA03	. Kana This place covers the subject matter for kana input of word processors or the like.
AA04	. . Japanese syllabaries Example: A, I, U, E, O . . . in Kana

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---(Slide 37)---

You can obtain a definition of an F-term by checking the “F-term description” option, entering a theme code, and clicking the search button.

B. Patent Map Guidance (PMGS) – 9/14



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The “search by keyword” function will be explained next.

By typing a specified keyword, you can search for the FI or F-term information related to that term.

First, you choose the “query screen” depending on whether you want to search for FI or F-term. Then, type the keyword in the search box and click the search button.

B. Patent Map Guidance (PMGS) – 10/14

The search results list is displayed.

- Query Screen = FI
- Keyword = toy

Click the FI "**A41D11/00@K**".

FI	Explanation
A41D11/00@K	. Equipped with a toy
• A47G19/22@S	. having an accessory (toy , etc.)
• A63B69/04	. simulating the movement of ho

Click "A41D11/00@K"

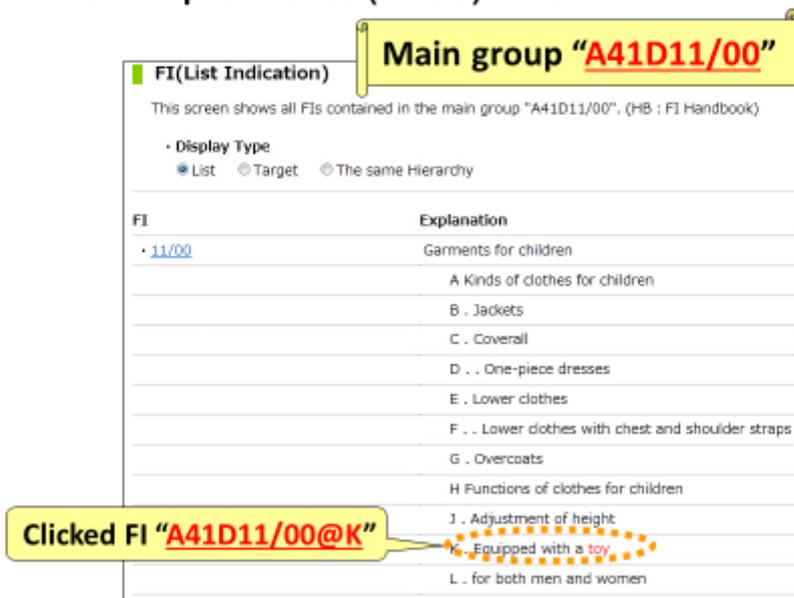
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---(Slide 39)---

This shows the search results obtained by choosing FI as a "query screen" and entering the keyword "toy".

Let's click on A41D11/00@K from among the list in the search results, for example.

B. Patent Map Guidance (PMGS) – 11/14



FI(List Indication)

This screen shows all FIs contained in the main group "A41D11/00", (HB : FI Handbook)

- Display Type
 List Target The same Hierarchy

FI	Explanation
• 11/00	Garments for children
	A Kinds of clothes for children
	B . Jackets
	C . Coverall
	D . . One-piece dresses
	E . Lower clothes
	F . . Lower clothes with chest and shoulder straps
	G . Overcoats
	H Functions of clothes for children
	J . Adjustment of height
	K . Equipped with a toy
	L . for both men and women

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---(Slide 40)---

The whole list of the main group “A41D11/00” is then displayed

You can see that there are many FIs that are subdivisions of “A41D11/00”. “A41D11/00@K”, which you just clicked, is shown in the list. You will be able to browse the explanations of each FI.

B. Patent Map Guidance (PMGS) – 12/14



Patent Map Guidance(PMGS) **IPC-FI Concordance Search** Search List

You can refer to FI/FI-term and retrieve a classification by keywords.

Publication issued, and updates schedule, please refer to the [NEWS](#).

[Inquiry](#) [Search by Keyword](#) **IPC-FI Concordance Search**

Input IPC code to the query box and click Search button.

Classification **Search**

Display Type List Target The same Hierarchy

Click "Search"

[To return to the top of this page](#)

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---(Slide 41)---

Lastly, I will explain searches using the “IPC-FI concordance search” function.

Click on the tab “IPC-FI concordance search” and specify the IPC to obtain the corresponding FI information.

If you already know the target IPC, type it in a search box and click the search button.

B. Patent Map Guidance (PMGS) – 13/14

Concordance List [IPC→FI]

IPC Code: G06T1/00

Display Type: List Target The same Hierarchy

Result
Hit count is 103.

IPC	FI
G06T1/00	G06T1/00
G06T1/00	G06T1/00@A
G06T1/00	G06T1/00@B
G06T1/00	G06T1/00@C
G06T1/00	G06T1/00@Z
G06T1/00	G06T1/00.200
G06T1/00	G06T1/00.200@A
G06T1/00	G06T1/00.200@B

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This example of the display shows a concordance list.

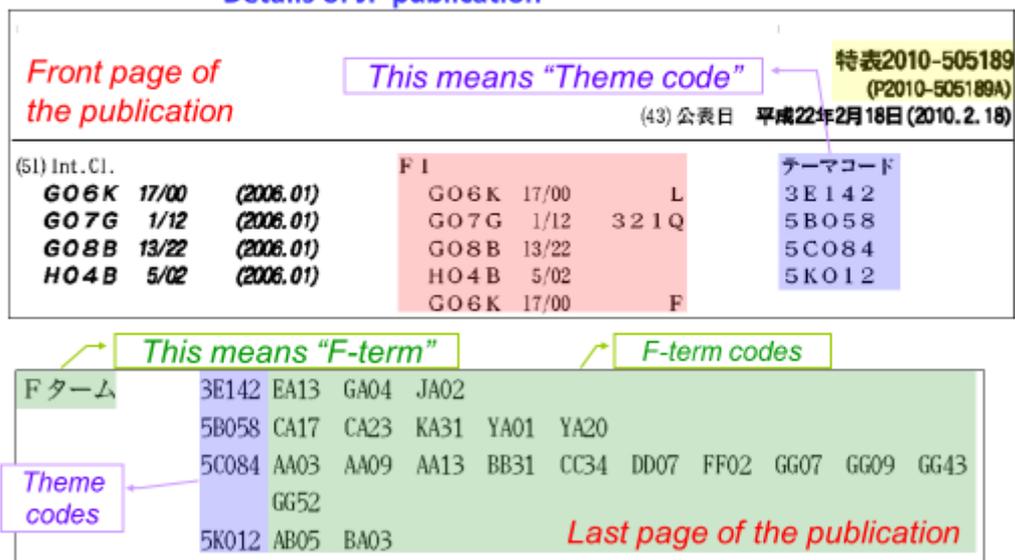
You're looking at the search result obtained by typing IPC "G06T1/00" in a search box.

FIs are listed on the right side, all of which fall under the IPC "G06T1/00", which is shown on the left side.

This is the end of the introduction to PMGS.

IV. Reference tool

B. Patent Map Guidance (PMGS) – 14/14 Details of JP publication



Front page of the publication

特表2010-505189 (P2010-505189A)
(43) 公表日 平成22年2月18日 (2010.2.18)

This means "Theme code"

(51) Int. Cl.	FI			テーマコード
GO6K 17/00 (2006.01)	GO6K 17/00		L	3E142
GO7G 1/12 (2006.01)	GO7G 1/12	321Q		5B058
GO8B 13/22 (2006.01)	GO8B 13/22			5C084
HO4B 5/02 (2006.01)	HO4B 5/02			5K012
	GO6K 17/00		F	

Last page of the publication

This means "F-term"

F-term codes

Fターム	Theme codes
3E142 EA13 GA04 JA02	
5B058 CA17 CA23 KA31 YA01 YA20	
5C084 AA03 AA09 AA13 BB31 CC34 DD07 FF02 GG07 GG09 GG43	
GG52	
5K012 AB05 BA03	

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Finally, I will explain how to obtain the classification information assigned to the Japanese patent publication.

The classification information assigned to the application can be very helpful in cases where there is a Japanese patent family with the patent application to be searched.

These are the partial images of the front and last pages of the Japanese patent publication information.

However, please note that the layout of the patent publication information may vary according to the year of publication.

Generally speaking, FI and F-term are posted on the front and last pages, although it depends on the year of publication.

Now we have finished the patent classification lecture.

As you can see, FI and F-term are very useful tools to use when searching for Japanese patent publications.

You can access the information regarding FI and F-term through the J-PlatPat. We hope all of you are utilizing this resource!