

I. IPC

II. FI

III. F-term

IV. Reference tool

**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.

## Correspondence between FI and IPC

Section A				Section B					Section H
01	01	.....		01	01	.....			
A	B			A	B				

IPC:  
70,000  
entries

1/00	1/02	1/04	1/06	1/08	2/00	2/02	2/04	2/06
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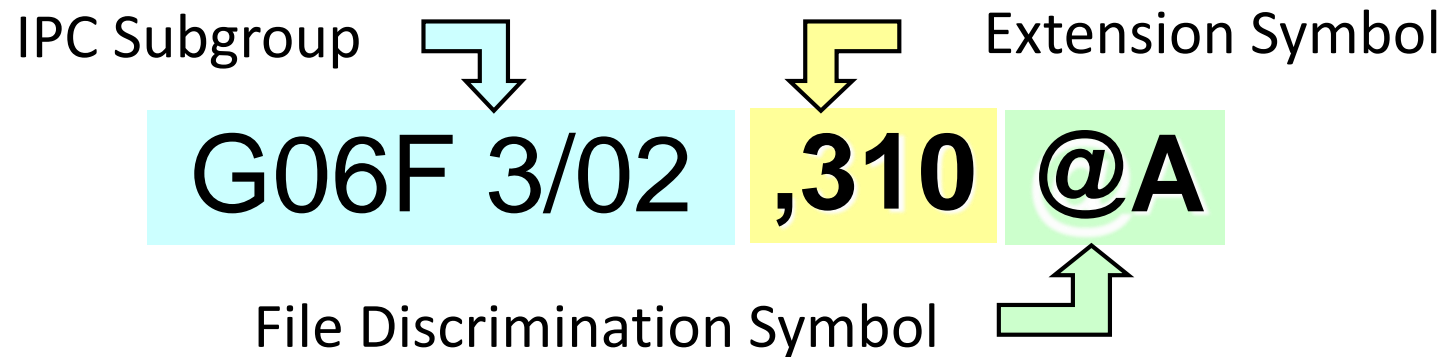
Main group  
Sub group

1/00				1/02		1/04	1/06			1/08	2/00	2/02				2/04				2/06			
A	B	C	Z	101	102		A	B	Z			A	B	301	301	Z	A	B	C	Z	A	B	Z
														A	B								

Subdividing an IPC subgroup into FIs

FI:  
190,000  
entries

### ■ 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)

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

2 dots indicate lower level than 1 dot

FDSs subdivide an entry with ES

“**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