Appeal decision

Appeal No. 2015-17487

USA
Appellant   ORACLE INTERNATIONAL CORP

Osaka, Japan
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    The case of appeal against the examiner's decision of refusal of Japanese Patent Application No. 2014-511330, entitled "Temporally-correlated Activity Streams for Conferences" (the application internationally published on November 22, 2012, WO2012 /158177, and nationally published on August 7, 2014, National Publication of International Patent Application No. 2014-519262) has resulted in the following appeal decision.

Conclusion
    The appeal of the case was groundless.

Reason
No. 1 History of the procedures and the invention
1 History of the procedures
    The application of the case was originally filed on May 20, 2011 (H23) (priority claim under the Paris Convention received by the foreign receiving office on May 19, 2011, U.S.) as an International Patent Application, a written amendment was submitted on January 22, 2014, and a notice of reasons for refusal was issued on December 15, 2014.   Despite submission of a written amendment against that on April 3, 2015, the examiner's decision of refusal was issued on May 19, 2015 (dispatch date: May 26, 2015).
    The case is an appeal against an examiner's decision of refusal made on September 25, 2015 by appealing the examiner's decision of refusal.

2 The Invention
    The invention relating to Claims 1 to 24 of the application is acknowledged as specified by the matters described in Claims 1 to 24 in the scope of claims for patent, as viewed from the claims, the patent specification, and the description of the drawings, which have been amended by the procedures of amendment as of April 3, 2015, and the invention relating to Claim 1 is acknowledged as follows (hereinafter referred to as the "Invention").

(The Invention)
(A) A method comprising:
(B) while a conference is occurring, generating activity records for activities related to the conference in response to detecting occurrence of the activities,
(B-1) wherein the activity records are generated while recording of the conference is conducted,

(B-2) the activity records are generated independently from the recording of the conference,

(B-3) the activity records include a particular activity record about a particular activity whose generation has not been recorded in the recording of the conference,

(B-4) the particular activity record uses sources which are not involved in the conference and are not involved in the recording of the conference, and is at least partially detected by monitoring actions of one or more conference participants separately from the recording of the conference, and

(B-5) each activity record includes at least (a) information about a corresponding activity specified by the activity records, and (b) timing data that indicate when, within the conference, the corresponding activity occurred;

(C) after the conference has ended, extracting the timing data from an particular activity record for a particular activity that occurred during the conference; and

(D) using the timing data to locate a position, within a recording of the conference, that corresponds to when the particular activity occurred;

(E) wherein the method is performed by one or more computing devices.

(The headings (A) to (E) are added by the body. Hereinafter, each constituent component is referred to as a "constituent component A" and the like.)

No. 2 Description matters of Cited Document 1 and Invention described in Cited Document 1

1 Description matters of Cited Document 1

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2004-173058 (hereinafter referred to as the "Cited Document 1") cited in reasons for refusal of the examiner's decision describes the following matters with drawings, about "Method, Device, and Program for Visualizing Conference Information, and Recording Medium with the Program Recorded" (Title of the invention) (underlines are drawn by the body).

"[0012]

This remote conference system is composed of a network 1 such as a LAN (Local Area Network) or the Internet, a server 2 connected to the network 1, and a plurality of client PCs (personal computers) 3 connected to the network 1. Each client PC 3 is provided with a microphone 11 which inputs voice information, a camera 12 which inputs video information, a keyboard 13 used for inputting a chat and the like, a mouse 14 used for writing on share data, pointing, and the like, and other sensors 15, as input devices for various types of information from conference participants. As other sensors 15, sensors collecting various types of information related to the conference participants are appropriately used. As the sensors 15, multiple kinds of sensors may be equipped. For example, as the sensors 15, a sensor detecting the perspiration, pulse, posture information, a myoelectric signal, and the like of the conference participants, a sensor detecting electronic pen input information, and further a motion capture and the like may be used. Of course, a sensor obtaining information other than that illustrated here may also be used. The client PC 3 is provided with a display device 16 such as a liquid crystal display panel, and a speaker 17, as output devices.

[0013]

In this remote conference system, <u>information on each modality inputted from the input devices connected to each client PC 3 is sent out to the network 1 via the client PC 3, and reaches the server 2. In the server 2, each information is accumulated in an external storage device connected to the server 2, and writing information to the share data and pointing information by the video, the voice, the chat input, and the mouse are mixed on the server 2 and are sent out to each client PC 3 again....</u>"

"[0015]

Fig. 2 is a block diagram which indicates the structure of the client PC 3 on the basis of a flow of processing inside thereof. <u>The client PC 3 is equipped with a voice input portion 21 into which a voice signal from the microphone 11 is inputted, a video signal input portion 22 into which a video signal from the camera 12 is inputted</u>, a keyboard input management portion 23 into which a keyboard input signal from the keyboard 13 is inputted, a mouse input management portion 24 into which a signal from the mouse 14 is inputted, and <u>a sensor input management portion 25 into which detection signals (sensor signals) from the sensors 15 are inputted</u>. The voice signal from the microphone 11 is properly amplified by the voice input portion 21, and then is inputted into a VAD (voice activity detection) portion 26 which detects an utterance portion (voiced sound period) in the voice signal. Furthermore, the client PC 3 is provided with a coding portion 27 which codes voice or video, keyboard input, mouse input, sensor input and the like, a time management portion 28 which generates time information, and a network management portion 29 which sends out a signal coded by the coding portion 27 onto the network 1.
[0016]

The VAD portion 26 monitors an utterance state of voice, and when voice utterance is detected, sends an instruction to the coding portion 27 to start the coding of the voice in the coding portion 27. <u>About the voice signal, only while the audio utterance is performed, coding is performed.</u> As a technology of utterance detection, various technologies are known until now, and a general technology mounted in a cellular phone and the like can be used here."

"[0017]

<u>Camera input is coded in the coding portion 27 through the video input portion 22.</u> About mouse input, similarly, the rotary amount of a rotary encoder of the mouse and a state of a click of a button are inputted into the mouse input management portion 24. The mouse input management portion 24 calculates a pixel coordinate of pixels pointed on a screen from the relative amount of rotations of the rotary encoder, and outputs the coordinate as a mouse coordinate value (pixel value). Button input in the mouse 14 is distinguished as states of a click and a double click from timing at which a button is pushed, and is outputted from the mouse input management portion 24. In this case, the pixel value (mouse coordinate value) is always transmitted to the coding portion 27, and information on the click and the double click is transmitted to the coding portion 27 upon the generation of events. About the keyboard input, the input from the keyboard input management portion 23 is also transmitted to the coding portion 27 as it is. However, the client PC 3 is equipped with a function of converting kana into kanji, and if there is keyboard input using the function of converting kana into kanji, a result obtained by converting kana into kanji with reference to a dictionary (not

shown) inside the client PC 3 is also coded."

"[0018]

The sensors 15 are classified into analog sensors and binary sensors according to whether kinds of output signals are analog signals or binary signals. To the analog sensor, the sensor input management portion 25 is equipped with an A/D (analog/digital) converter, and a value obtained by converting the analog signal from the sensor into digital is transmitted to the coding portion 27. About the binary sensor such as a switch, when there is a transition between those binary values (for example, "0" and "1, or "on" and "off"), information (an event) at the transmission time is transmitted from the sensor input management portion 25 to the coding portion 27. The analog sensor is used for obtaining, for example, biological information such as an electroencephalogram and an electrocardiogram or information on a motion sensor equipped to the conference participant. Also, as the binary sensor, for example, a seated sensor (pressure sensor and the like installed in a seat) and the like are assumed, and are used for obtaining an event such as a transition from being seated to a leaving seat state of the conference participant or a transition to the reversed state."

"[0019]

The coding portion 27 is configured to code the inputted information, give time information to the coded information with reference to time information from a time information management portion 28, and transmit the information by carrying out network coding. A network control portion 29 properly buffers and packetizes the coded information to send the same out to the network 1."

"[0021]

Referring to Fig. 3, the server 2 is equipped with a network control device 41 connected to the network 1, a buffer 42 which temporarily keeps packets received with the network control device 41, a network decoding portion 43 which decodes the packets, a separating portion 44 which separates the decoded information from each client PC 3 into voice information, video information, a keyboard input method, mouse input information, sensor information and the like, and a memory control portion 45 which accumulates the voice information of the information separated by the separating portion 44 in a voice accumulating portion 31, the video information in a video accumulating portion 32, the sensor information in a sensor information accumulating portion 33, and time and address corresponding information in a time and address corresponding information accumulating portion 34. Here, the time and address corresponding information is information which brings the time information into correspondence with an address of a retracting position in each accumulating portion 31 to 33 of the voice information, the video information, and the sensor information corresponding to the time information."

"[0024]

Next, a structure of a conference information visualizing portion is described by reference to Fig. 4. The conference information visualizing portion obtains information in a range designated by a user from each accumulating portion 31 to 33 of the external storage device by using the time and address corresponding information in

the time and address corresponding information accumulating portion 34. A characteristic quantity about the voice information or the video information is calculated, and the calculated characteristic quantity can be outputted.
[0025]

Such a conference information visualizing portion is equipped with a user operation input portion 51 which distinguishes designated contents of the user, by using the mouse information or the keyboard information as inputs in the separating portion 44; a time information converting portion 52 which refers to the time and address corresponding information accumulating portion 34 on the basis of contents distinguished by the user operation input portion 51, and expresses the range designated by the user as address information in each accumulating portion 31 to 33; a data obtaining portion 53 which obtains the voice information, the video information, and the sensor information from each accumulating portion 31 to 33 according to the address information obtained by the time information converting portion 52; a voice reproducing portion 54 which reproduces the obtained voice information to output; a video reproducing portion 55 which reproduces the obtained video information to output; a signal characteristic quantity processing portion 56 which calculates the characteristic quantity from the obtained voice information, video information, sensor information, and the like to output; and a notes processing portion 57 which performs processing for adding notes to the visualized conference information, on the basis of the contents distinguished by the user operation input portion 51. The characteristic quantity calculated by the signal characteristic quantity processing portion 56 is accumulated in a signal characteristic quantity result storage portion 36, and the notes added by the notes processing portion 57 are accumulated in a notes storage portion 35."

"[0054]

By performing the above-mentioned conference information visualization, each type of information is accumulated in each accumulating portion 31 to 34, and on the display device 16 of the client PC 3 of each user, the accumulated various types of information are displayed in a list form. Fig. 6 shows an example of display by a browsing tool for perusing the accumulated various types of information. A browsing tool screen is displayed on a screen of the display device 16 of the client PC 3 of the conference participants and the like. Namely, a screen displayed according to outputs from the video reproducing portion 55 and the signal characteristic quantity processing portion 56 of the conference information visualizing portion is shown. Thus, a technology itself which combines a plurality of outputs to display on the screen of the client PC is well known by a person skilled in the art, as a method of dynamically creating a web page including an animation image or a method of displaying (reproducing) such a web page. For example, if the conference information visualizing portion is provided in the server 2, as described as follows by reference to Fig. 6, it is enough that a screen creating portion dynamically creates a display screen capable of being simultaneously perused by combining the video information and the characteristic quantity is provided in the server 2. Also, a voice signal is outputted from the voice reproducing portion 54 in synchronism with the reproduction of the video information, and thus, voice reproducing the conference is outputted from the speaker 17 of the client PC 3.
[0055]

In the browsing tool, a horizontal axis expresses time information, and a diamond-shaped mark 80 expresses time reproducing at the present time. The sensor information, voice information, video information, and the characteristic quantity information of each person are aligned and displayed about each participant as shown in the Fig. Hereinafter, the information area aligned for each participant is called a personal information display track. A rectangle in the personal information display track is a voice bar 84, and expresses that the voice utterance of the participant exists at that timing. Here, the voice bar 84 expresses a pitch frequency of a speaker by its shade. By indicating voice bar information, a clue to distinguish a state that the speaker is greatly excited or a number of utterances per time can be understood at a glance, so that, for example, by monitoring the number of the utterances per time, it becomes a clue to know a swelling degree of the conference.
[0056]
A dashed line in the Fig. expresses an index 86 inserted by the user. What the user thought during agenda browsing may be attached in a form like a sticky note, as a sticky note memo 83. A photograph of a face on a left side expresses accumulated animation information (an image 81). Text information on a lower side expresses an input by a text chat 88. The color change of a thin rectangle in the personal information display track expresses the size of an optical flow 85 of image information, and it becomes a clue to finding intense gesturing during the conference.
[0057]
A triangle mark in the image expresses event information from the binary sensor (binary sensor event 87), and becomes a clue to find the transition from being seated to the leaving seat state of the conference participants and the reversed state.
[0058]
In a data displaying portion in an upper part of the screen, share data 82 and writing information to the share data are expressed. The writing to the share data 82 or the share data of the share data are also a big clue of conference reference. The writing information of each user may be displayed in the personal information track of each user.
[0059]
On the screen bottom, a so-called scroll bar 89 is displayed. By operating the scroll bar 89, the user can select any time during the holding of the conference and reproduce the conference from that time.
[0060]
As described above, the user of the browsing tool can quickly peruse the accumulated information about the conference by using the sticky note, the index information by the dashed line, the image information, the shade of the voice bar, an amount of temporal change of the image, the share data information display information, and the sensor information as clues."

(A block diagram showing the structure of the client PC)
"[Fig. 2]

"
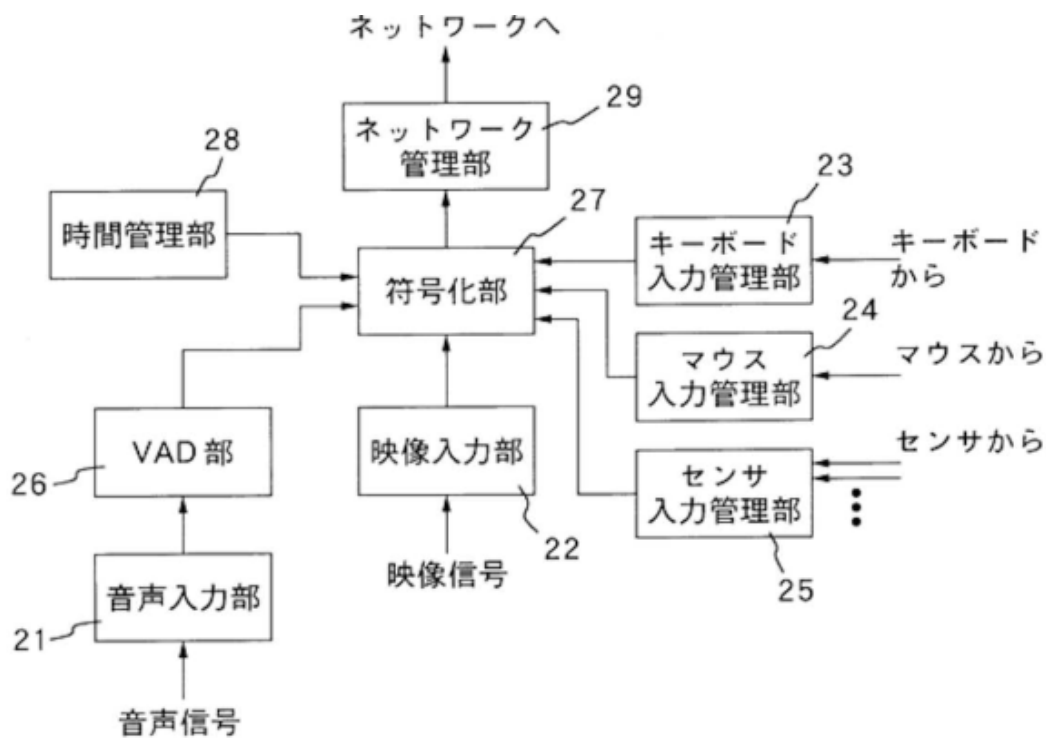
28 時間管理部　Time management portion
26 ＶＡＤ部　　VAD portion
21 音声入力部　Voice input portion
音声信号　　　　Voice signal
ネットワークへ　　　　To a network
29 ネットワーク管理部　Network management portion
27 符号化部　　Coding portion
22 映像入力部　Video input portion
映像信号　　　　Video signal
23 キーボード入力管理部　　Keyboard input management portion
24 マウス入力管理部　Mouse input management portion
25 センサ入力管理部　Sensor input management portion
キーボードから　　　　From a keyboard
マウスから　　From a mouse
センサから　　From a sensor

(A block diagram showing a structure of accumulating portions in a server)
"[Fig. 3]
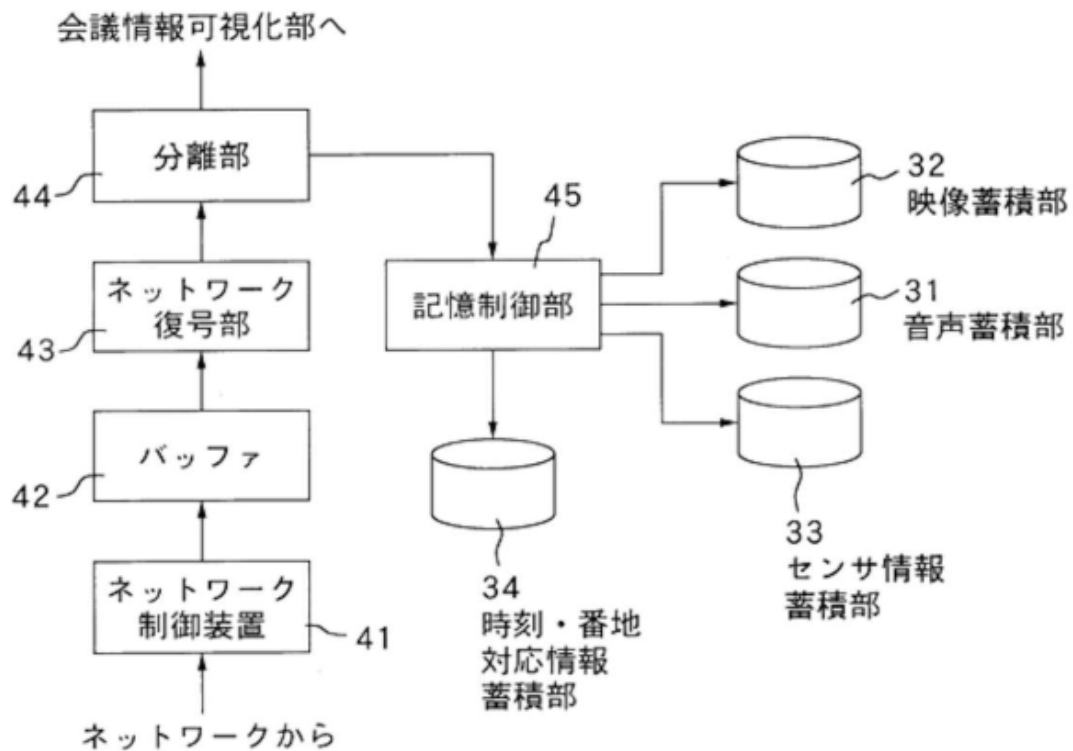
会議情報可視化部へ　　　To a conference information visualizing portion
44 分離部　　　Separating portion
43 ネットワーク復号部　　　Network decoding portion
42 バッファ　　Buffer
41 ネットワーク制御装置　　　Network control device
ネットワークから　　　From a network
45 記憶制御部　Memory control portion
34 時刻・番地対応情報蓄積部 Time and address corresponding information accumulating portion
32 映像蓄積部　Video accumulating portion
31 音声蓄積部　Voice accumulating portion
33 センサ情報蓄積部　　Sensor information accumulating portion

"

(A block diagram showing a structure of a conference information visualizing portion)
"[Fig. 4]
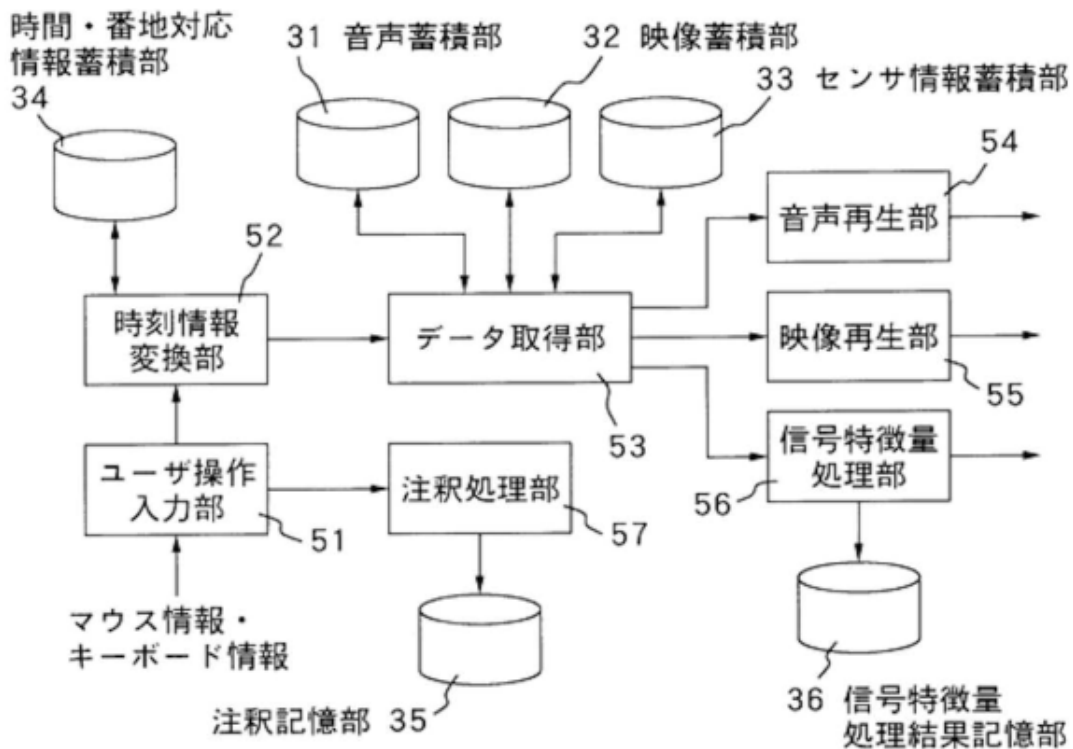
34 時間・番地対応情報蓄積部 Time and address corresponding information accumulating portion
52 時刻情報変換部　　　Time information converting portion
51 ユーザ操作入力部　User operation input portion
マウス情報・キーボード情報　Mouse information and keyboard information
31 音声蓄積部　Voice accumulating portion
53 データ取得部　　　　Data obtaining portion
57 注釈処理部　Notes processing portion
35 注釈記憶部　Note storage portion
32 映像蓄積部　Video accumulating portion
33 センサ情報蓄積部　Sensor information accumulating portion
54 音声再生部　Voice reproducing portion
55 映像再生部　Video reproducing portion
56 信号特徴量処理部　Signal characteristic quantity processing portion
36 信号特徴量処理結果記憶部 Signal characteristic quantity processing result storage portion

"

(Fig. showing one example of a conference search interface GUI)
"[Fig. 6]
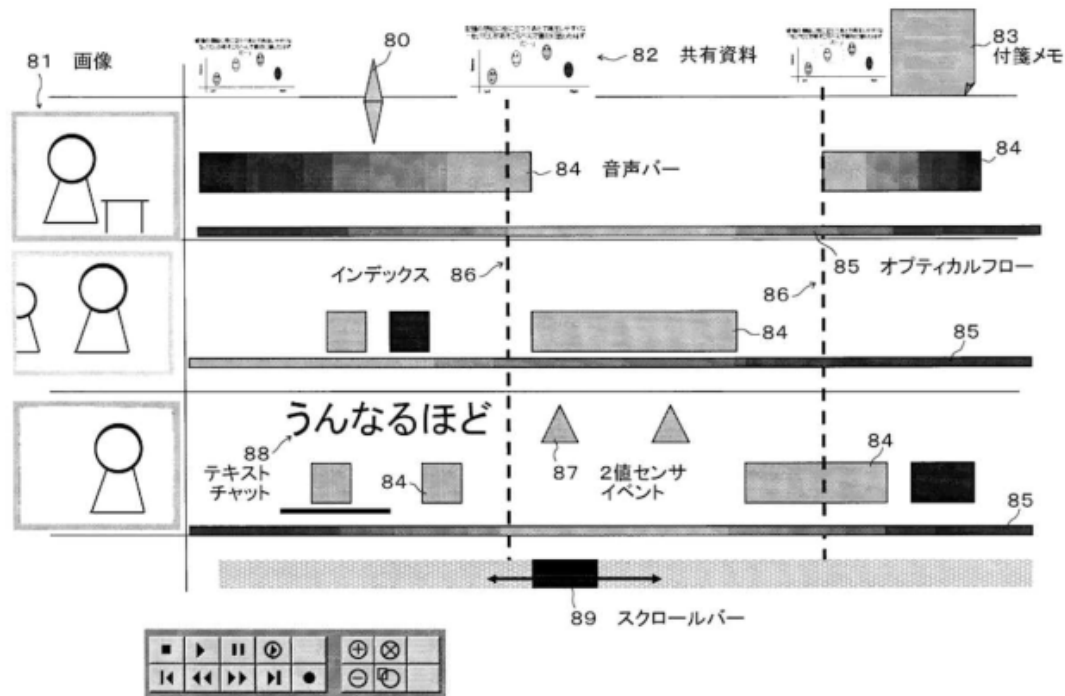
81 画像　　　　　Image
86 インデックス　　　Index
88 テキストチャット　Text chat
うんなるほど　Yes. I see.
84 音声バー　Voice bar
87 ２値センサイベント　　　Binary sensor event
89 スクロールバー　Scroll bar
83 付箋メモ　Sticky note memo
85 オプティカルフロー　　　Optical flow
82 共有資料　Share data

"

2 The invention described in Cited Document 1

　　　Cited Document 1 describes the following matters.
(1) The remote conference system is composed of a network 1, a server 2 connected to the network 1, and a plurality of client PCs 3 connected to the network 1 (Paragraph [0012]).
(2) The client PC 3 is provided with a microphone 11 which inputs voice information, a camera 12 which inputs video information, and other sensors 15 collecting various types of information relating to the conference participants as input devices for various types of information from conference participants (Paragraph [0012]), information on each modality inputted from the input devices connected to each client PC 3 is sent to the server 2, and the server 2 accumulates each type of information in an external storage

device connected to the server 2 (Paragraph [0013]).

The client PC 3 codes the voice information, the video information, and the detection information from the sensor, gives time information to those types of information, and transmits those types of information (Paragraphs [0015] to [0019]).

(3) The server 2 accumulates the voice information in the voice accumulating portion 31, the video information in the video accumulating portion 32, the sensor information in the sensor information accumulating portion 33, and time and address corresponding information in the time and address corresponding information accumulating portion 34. Here, the time and address corresponding information is information which brings the time information into correspondence with the address of a retracting position in each accumulating portion 31 to 33 of the voice information, the video information, and the sensor information corresponding to the time information. (Paragraph [0021])

(4) The conference information visualizing portion obtains information in a range designated by a user from each accumulating portion 31 to 33 of the external storage device by using the time and address corresponding information in the time and address corresponding information accumulating portion 34 (Paragraph [0024]), reproduces the obtained voice information to output, reproduces the obtained video information to output, and calculates the characteristic quantity from the sensor information and the like to output (Paragraph [0025]).

Fig. 6 shows an example of display by a browsing tool for perusing the accumulated various types of information. A browsing tool screen displays a screen displayed according to outputs from the video reproducing portion 55 and the signal characteristic quantity processing portion 56 of the conference information visualizing portion, and a voice signal is outputted from the voice reproducing portion 54 in synchronism with the reproduction of the video information (Paragraph [0054]).

By operating the scroll bar 89, the user can select any time during the holding of the conference and reproduce the conference from that time (Paragraph [0059]), a triangle mark in the image expresses event information from the binary sensor and becomes a clue to find the transition from being seated to the leaving seat state of the conference participants and the reversed state (Paragraph [0057]), and the user of the browsing tool can quickly peruse the accumulated information about the conference by using the sensor information as a clue (Paragraph [0060]).

Then, the invention described in Cited Document 1 is determined as a method of recording detection information from a sensor, and perusing information on a conference by using a browsing tool screen.

The voice information and video information from the client PC are accumulated in the voice accumulating portion and the video accumulating portion of the server, and the accumulated voice information and video information are acknowledged as "the recording of the conference" ((2) and (3)).

The detection information from the sensor from the client PC is information from the conference participants, and is accumulated in the sensor information accumulating portion of the server, so that "while a conference is occurring, detection information from a sensor related to conference participants is recorded". Therefore, it can be said that "a method" described in the Cited Document 1 includes 'while a conference is occurring, recording detection information from a sensor related to

conference participants'. The 'records of detection information from a sensor' is generated while 'recording of the conference' is recorded, and 'recording of the conference' is 'independent' and its 'generation has not been recorded in the recording of the conference' ((3)).

Then, the 'records of detection information from a sensor' mean that detection information from a sensor in the detection information from the sensor to which time information sent from the client PC added, is accumulated in the sensor information accumulating portion, and accessed by using the time and address corresponding information accumulated in the time and address corresponding information accumulating portion, so that the 'records of detection information from a sensor' 'are recorded at an address at which the detection information from the sensor in the sent detection information from the sensor with time information added corresponds to time and address corresponding information' ((2) and (3)).

Furthermore, according to (4), 'by using a browsing tool screen including event information (detection information from a sensor) which becomes a clue to find the transition from being seated to the leaving seat state of the conference participants and the reversed state, information on conference is perused'.

The actions mentioned above are performed by the client PC and the server, so that it can be said that those 'are performed by one or more computing devices'.

Consequently, it is acknowledged that Cited Document 1 describes the following invention (hereinafter referred to as the "Cited Invention").

(the Cited Invention)
(a) A method comprising:
(b) while a conference is occurring, recording detection information from a sensor related to conference participants,
(b-1) wherein records of the detection information from the sensor are recorded while recording of the conference is recorded,
(b-2) the records of the detection information from the sensor are independent from the recording of the conference,
(b-3) the records of the detection information from the sensor are not recorded about its generation in the recording of the conference,
(b-4) the records of the detection information from the sensor are recorded at an address at which the detection information from the sensor in the sent detection information from the sensor with time information added corresponds to time and address corresponding information; and
(c) perusing information on the conference by using a browsing tool screen including the detection information from the sensor which becomes a clue to find a transition from being seated to the leaving seat state of the conference participants and the reversed state;
(d) wherein the method is performed by one or more computing devices.

The headings (a) to (d) are added for distinguishing components.   Hereinafter, each component is referred to as the "component a" and the like.

No. 3 Comparison
1 Comparison
      The Invention and the Cited Invention are compared.

(1) In comparison of the constituent component A and the component a, those are in correspondence as "a method".

(2) The constituent component B and the component b are compared.
      It can be said that things recorded by "recording detection information from a sensor related to conference participants" of the component b are "activity records for activities related to the conference".
      Also, it can be said that "recording detection information from a sensor related to conference participants" of the component b is recording detection information detected by a sensor about activities of conference participants, so that the Invention and the Cited Invention are correspondence in a point of "comprising while a conference is occurring, generating activity records for activities related to the conference in response to detecting occurrence of the activities".

(3) The constituent component B-1 and the component b-1 are compared.
      In the component b-1, "records of the detection information from the sensor are recorded while recording of the conference is recorded", so that the component b-1 corresponds to the constituent component B-1 in which "the activity records are generated while recording of the conference is recorded".

(4) The constituent component B-2 and the component b-2 are compared.
      In the component b-2, "the records of the detection information from the sensor are independent from the recording of the conference", so that the component b-2 corresponds to the constituent component B-2 in which "the activity records are generated independently from the recording of the conference".

(5) The constituent components B-3, B-4, and the component b-3 are compared.
      In the component b-3, "the records of detection information from the sensor" are "not recorded about its generation in the recording of the conference", and can be said to be "a particular activity record about a particular activity", so that the component b-3 corresponds to the constituent component B-3 in which "the activity records include a particular activity record about a particular activity whose generation has not been recorded in the recording of the conference".
      Furthermore, "the detection information from the sensor" is different from the voice information and video information as "the recording of the conference", thus "is not involved in the conference", and because of using the sensor, it can be said to be "use sources which are not involved in the recording of the conference". Also, the sensor is related to the conference participants, so that it can be said that the record of activity "is at least partially detected by monitoring actions of one or more conference participants separately from the recording of the conference".
      Therefore, the Invention and the Cited Invention are in correspondence as "the particular activity record uses sources which are not involved in the conference and are not involved in the recording of the conference, and is at least partially detected by

monitoring actions of one or more conference participants separately from the recording of the conference".

(6) The constituent component B-5 and the component b-4 are compared.

"the records of the detection information from the sensor" and the "detection information from the sensor" in the component b-4 correspond to "activity records" and "information about a corresponding activity specified by the activity records" in the constituent component B-5.

In the component b-4, "each activity record" includes "the detection information from the sensor" corresponding to "information about a corresponding activity specified by the activity records", but does not include "timing data that indicate when, within the conference, the corresponding activity occurred", and is different from the Invention in a point that the detection information from the sensor are recorded at an address corresponding to time and address corresponding information.

As described above, the Invention and the Cited Invention are common in a point that "each activity record includes at least (a) information about a corresponding activity specified by the activity records".

However, they are different in a point that in the Invention "each activity record" includes "(b) timing data that indicate when, within the conference, the corresponding activity occurred", whereas, in the Cited Invention, "each activity record" does not include "(b) timing data that indicate when, within the conference, the corresponding activity occurred" and are "recorded at an address corresponding to time and address corresponding information".

(7) The constituent components C, D and the component c are compared.

The Invention includes "comprising: after the conference has ended, extracting the timing data from the particular activity record for the particular activity that occurred during the conference; and using the timing data to locate a position, within the recording of the conference, that corresponds to when the particular activity occurred", whereas, the Cited Invention includes "comprising: perusing information on the conference by using a browsing tool screen including the detection information from the sensor which becomes a clue to find transition from being seated to the leaving seat state of the conference participants and the reversed state".   Therefore, the Invention and the Cited Invention are different.

(8) In comparison of the constituent component E and the component d, those are in correspondence as "the method is performed by one or more computing devices".

2 Corresponding features and different features
As described above, corresponding features and different features of the Invention and the Cited Invention are as follows.

(Corresponding features)
A method comprising:
while a conference is occurring, generating activity records for activities related to the conference in response to detecting occurrence of the activities,
wherein the activity records are generated while recording of the conference is

conducted,

the activity records are generated independently from the recording of the conference,

the activity records include a particular activity record about a particular activity whose generation has not been recorded in the recording of the conference,

the particular activity record uses sources which are not involved in the conference and are not involved in the recording of the conference, and is at least partially detected by monitoring actions of one or more conference participants separately from the recording of the conference,

each activity record includes at least (a) information about a corresponding activity specified by the activity records, and

the method is performed by one or more computing devices.

(The different feature 1)

Regarding "each activity record includes at least (a) information about a corresponding activity specified by the activity records",

in the Invention, "each activity record" includes "(b) timing data that indicate when, within the conference, the corresponding activity occurred", whereas,

in the Cited Invention, "each activity record" does not include "(b) timing data that indicate when, within the conference, the corresponding activity occurred" and is "recorded at an address corresponding to time and address corresponding information".

(The different feature 2)

The Invention "comprises: after the conference has ended, extracting the timing data from the particular activity record for the particular activity that occurred during the conference; and using the timing data to locate a position, within the recording of the conference, that corresponds to when the particular activity occurred", whereas,

the Cited Invention does not comprise such steps, and "comprises: perusing information on the conference by using a browsing tool screen including the detection information from the sensor which becomes a clue to find transition from being seated to the leaving seat state of the conference participants and the reversed state".

No. 4 Judgment
1 Regarding the different feature 1

In the Cited Invention, although "the records of the detection information from the sensor are recorded at an address at which the detection information from the sensor in the sent detection information from the sensor with time information added corresponds to time and address corresponding information", the sent "detection information from the sensor" is added with "time information", so that it could be easily conceived by a person skilled in the art that "the records of the detection information from the sensor" are recorded with time information. Thus, it is obvious that the detection information from the sensor can be obtained from the time information.

Then, in the Cited Invention, it could be easily conceived by a person skilled in the art that "each activity record includes at least (a) information about a corresponding activity specified by the activity records, and (b) timing data that indicate when, within the conference, the corresponding activity occurred".

2 Regarding the different feature 2

The Cited Invention "peruses information on the conference by using a browsing tool screen including the detection information from the sensor which becomes a clue to find a transition from being seated to the leaving seat state of the conference participants and the reversed state"; the detection information from the sensor on the browsing tool screen becomes a clue when information on the conference is perused, so that it could be easily conceived by a person skilled in the art that the conference is perused from the position of the detection information from the sensor.

Then, it could be easily conceived by a person skilled in the art that the Cited Invention comprises "extracting the timing data from the particular activity record for the particular activity that occurred during the conference; and using the timing data to locate a position, within the recording of the conference, that corresponds to when the particular activity occurred" so as to peruse the conference from the position of the detection information from the sensor.

Also, as "the browsing tool" is used after the conference has ended, "extracting the timing data from the particular activity record for the particular activity that occurred during the conference" becomes "after the conference has ended, extracting the timing data from the particular activity record for the particular activity that occurred during the conference".

3 Effect

Effects exerted by the Invention are within a range that could be easily predicted by a person skilled in the art from its easily conceivable configuration, and are not prominent effects that exceed the range.

No. 5 Closing

As described above, the invention relating to Claim 1 of the present application could be provided easily by a person skilled in the art according to the invention described in the Cited Document 1, and thus, the appellant should not be granted a patent for the invention under the provisions of Article 29(2) of the Patent Act.

Consequently, the present application should be rejected without examining other claims.

Therefore, the appeal decision shall be made as described in the conclusion.

July 19, 2016

Chief administrative judge: SHIMIZU, Masakazu
Administrative judge: KOIKE, Masahiko
Administrative judge: FUJII, Hiroshi