



IPC - International Patent Classification

Introduction

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History of the IPC

- ✓ IPOs handling huge numbers of patent documents were faced with:
 - administrative processing of patent applications
 - maintenance of search files containing published patent documents
- ✓ National classification systems created at:
 - the Patent Office of United States of America in 1831
 - the German Patent Office in 1877
 - the United Kingdom Patent Office in 1880
- ✓ Inclusion of the universal state of the art:
 - Establish concordance tables between two different national classifications
 - Reclassify foreign patent documents according to its own national classification
 - Inefficient
 - Need for International Patent Classification system

Modern History of the IPC

- 1952 Council of Europe initiates work on patent classification
- 1968 European Classification of Patents for Invention – 1st edition
- 1971 Diplomatic Conference on the IPC Strasbourg
- 1975 **Strasbourg Agreement** entered into force
 - New editions of the IPC – every 5 years
- 2006 8th edition of the IPC – **IPC Reform**
 - Publication cycle – every 3 years(Core) to 3 months(Advanced)
- 2009 Yearly publications
- 2011 **IPC Simplification**
 - Discontinuation of Advanced/Core levels (full IPC/main group)
- 2013 **IPC Revision Roadmap**
 - Identify areas for revision / Accelerate the publication procedure

Strasbourg Agreement

1975 - Strasbourg Agreement entered into force

IPC Union

- initially 13 members
- currently 62 member states (as of November 2013)
- in addition 4 organizations (EPO, EAPO, ARIPO, OAPI)

Rights of Member States - participate in improving the IPC

Obligation of Member States - allot IPC symbols to national published patent documents

IPC applied by more than 100 countries

(e.g. 148 PCT members as of November 2013)

Bodies of IPC Union

Assembly of IPC Union - every two years with WIPO General Assembly

Committee of Experts (CE) - once a year

- executive body which adopts IPC new versions and general rules (IPC Guide, Guidelines, etc.),
- create new revision projects, etc.

IPC Revision Working Group (WG) - twice a year

- technical body which approves IPC new versions, Definitions, etc.

Ad hoc Task Forces - particular tasks, e.g. systematic maintenance, etc.

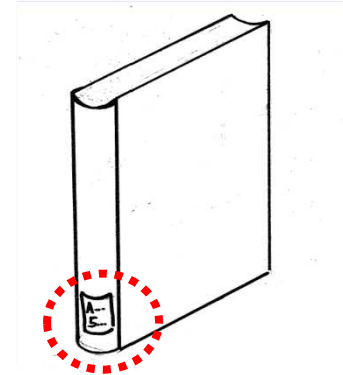
International Bureau (IB) at WIPO

- administrative support,
- prepare IPC-related meetings and provide secretariat,
- preparation of IPC publication,
- maintenance of Master Files and IPC-related IT systems, etc.

What is the IPC ?

✓ Similar to library classification systems, e.g.

- Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC)
- Library of Congress Classification (LCC)



✓ Somehow similar to other classification systems:

- ICD: International Classification of Diseases (WHO)
- ISCO: International Standard Classification of Occupations (ILO)
- CAS registry numbers (Chemical Abstracts Service)
- Nice Classification: International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registrations of Marks
- Locarno Classification: International Classification for Industrial Designs
- Vienna Classification: International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks (WIPO)

What is the IPC ?

- ✓ System for classifying technical subject matter, mainly patent documents
 - Specially adapted for needs of patent documents
 - Applied to >95% of patent documents worldwide
 - Available in most databases for patent search
- Efficient tool for searching patent documents

Purposes of the IPC

- ✓ Primary purposes:
 - effective search tool for the retrieval of patent documents
 - ordering patent documents in order to facilitate access to the technological and legal information
- ✓ Other purposes:
 - selective dissemination of patent information
 - investigation of the state of the art
 - preparation of industrial property statistics

What is the IPC ?

- ✓ Large set of **symbols/codes** (~70000)

e.g.: A23G 9/00

- ✓ **Title** for each symbol

A23G 9/00 Frozen sweets, e.g. ice confectionery,
ice-cream; Mixtures therefor


- **"IPC scheme":** all **symbols** and **titles**
 - + hierarchy
 - + additional elements

Symbols presented on front pages of patent documents


(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
9 February 2012 (09.02.2012)



(10) International Publication Number
WO 2012/016816 A1



(51) International Patent Classification:
A23G 9/34 (2006.01) A23G 9/42 (2006.01)
A23G 9/32 (2006.01) A23G 9/46 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2011/062272

(22) International Filing Date:
18 July 2011 (18.07.2011)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

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10171992.0 5 August 2010 (05.08.2010) EP

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):
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(74) Agent: BAUMGARTNER-HARRIS, Pauline; Av. Nestlé 55, CH-1800 Vevey (CH).

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LI, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BI, CI, CG, CO, CM, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:
— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
— as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))
— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))

Published:
— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(54) Title: FROZEN CONFECTIONERY PRODUCT WITH A NATURAL STABILISER

(57) Abstract: A frozen confectionary product comprising a natural stabiliser composition is an object of the invention. The frozen confectionary product has an overrun of preferably 0%–120%. The frozen confectionary product comprises a relatively low protein content. The stabiliser composition comprises egg yolk, a gum and preferably an acidifier. Use of the stabiliser composition is described. A method for the manufacture of the frozen confectionary product is also described.

WO 2012/016816 A1

(43) International Publication Date
9 February 2012 (09.02.2012)



PCT

(51) International Patent Classification:
A23G 9/34 (2006.01) A23G 9/42 (2006.01)
A23G 9/32 (2006.01) A23G 9/46 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2011/062272

Symbols presented in International Search Reports

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT					International application No
					PCT/EP2011/066973
A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER					
INV.	A23G9/20	A23G9/38	A23G9/48	A23G9/32	A23G9/52
	A23G9/46				
ADD.					
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC					
B. FIELDS SEARCHED					
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)					
A23G F25C					
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched					
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)					
EPO-Internal, WPI Data, FSTA					
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT					
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages				Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 2010/069770 A1 (UNILEVER PLC [GB]; UNILEVER NV [NL]; UNILEVER HINDUSTAN [IN];				1-12

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Field Combination

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AND	Inventor Name	=	<input type="text"/>	?
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AND	English Claims	=	<input type="text"/>	?
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AND	Inventor Name	Is Empty:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> N/A <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	

Symbols presented as database contents

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Results 1-10 of 315 for Criteria:IC:A23G9/34 Office(s):all Language:EN Stemming:true

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Refine Search IC:A23G9/34 Search   Query Tree

Analysis >

Sort by: Pub Date Desc Machine translation

No	Ctr	Title	PubDate	Int.Class	Appl.No	Applicant	Inventor
1.	WO	WO/2012/076641 - FROZEN CONFECTIONARY PRODUCTS COMPRISING HYDROLYSED WHOLE GRAIN	14.06.2012	A23L 1/09	PCT/EP2011/072173	NESTEC S.A.	SCHAFFER-LEQUART, Christelle
2.	EP	2463378 - Alpha isomaltosylglucosaccharide synthase, process for producing the same and use thereof	13.06.2012	C12P 19/00	10184877	HAYASHIBARA BIOCHEM LAB	KUBOTA MICHIO
3.	EP	2442669 - A SLUSH	25.04.2012	A23G 9/04	10127497	DIAGEO GREAT BRITAIN LTD	WINSTON SCOTT
4.	WO	WO/2012/037620 - FAT REPLACER COMBINATION FOR PARTIAL OR TOTAL SUBSTITUTION OF FAT IN FOOD PRODUCTS, AND A FOOD PRODUCT COMPRISING THE SAME	29.03.2012	A21D 2/16	PCT/BR2010/000314	CARGILL, INCORPORATED	PEIXOTO, Erivelton
5.	WO	WO/2012/016816 - FROZEN CONFECTIONERY PRODUCT WITH A NATURAL STABILISER	09.02.2012	A23G 9/34	PCT/EP2011/062272	NESTEC S.A.	LALLEMAND, Maud, Isabelle

Why classification?

- ✓ Databases can be searched by keywords, specific terms
- ✓ More sophisticated approaches, e.g.
 - Natural language search
 - Text mining techniques

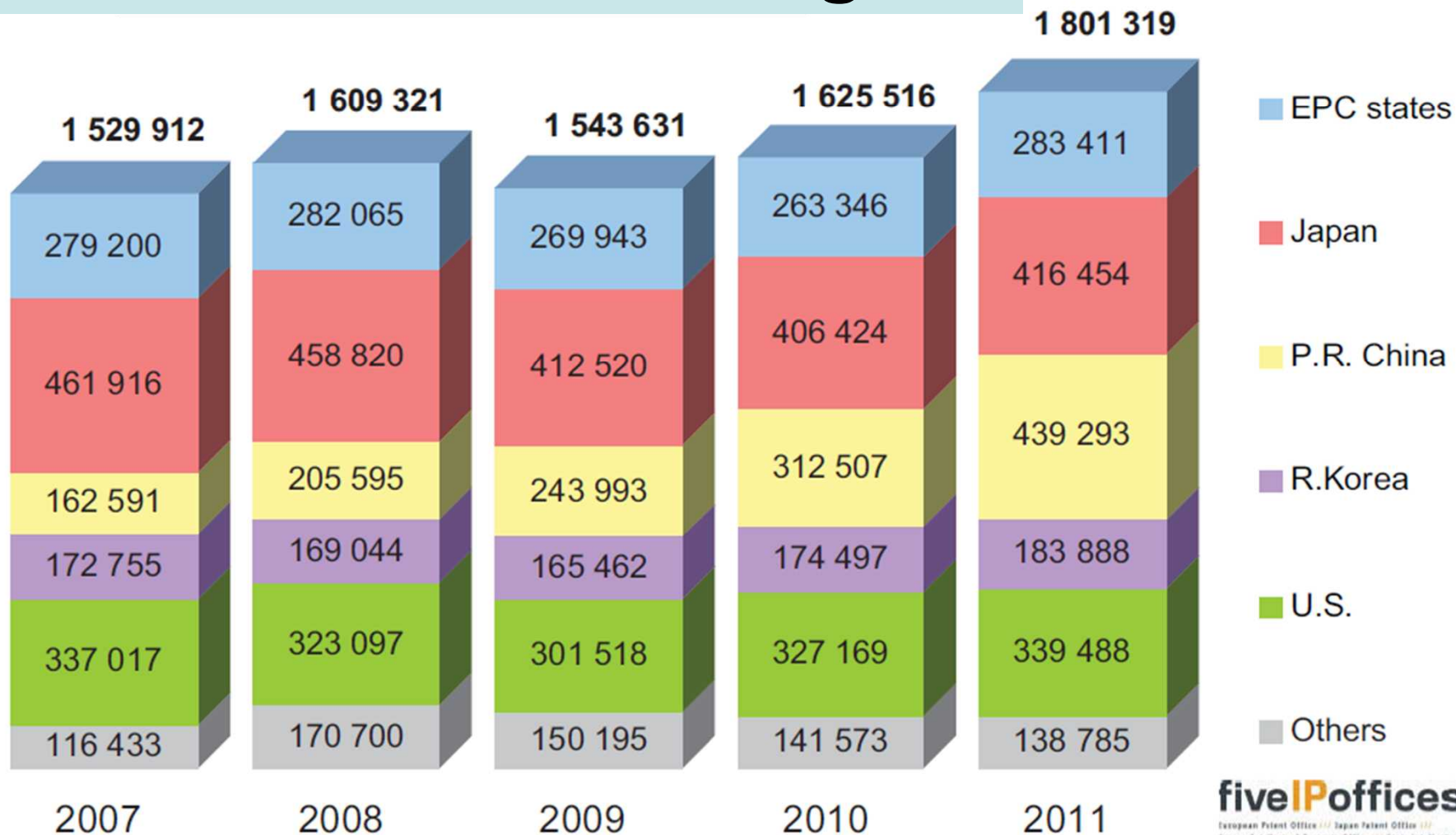
Advantage of using IPC in comparison to keyword search?

Advantages of using IPC

✓ Language independent

- e.g. searching Chinese, Korean, Japanese patent documents (> 50% of weekly publications)
- often only English abstracts, titles

Worldwide Patent Filing



Source: IP5 Statistics Report 2012 Edition, p.30 (<http://www.fiveipoffices.org/stats/statisticalreports/2012edition.html>)

Searching Chinese Patent Documents

SIPO 中华人民共和国国家知识产权局
STATE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE OF P.R.C.

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公开(公告)日： 公开(公告)号：

分类号：G01S13/93 主分类号：

申请(专利权)人： 发明(设计)人：

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Number <small>guide</small>	Application No.(AN) ex) 1020020012345 and ▼ Registration No.(GN) ex) 100012345 and ▼ ^ close Unex. Pub. No.(OPN) ex) 1020020012345 and ▼ Publication No.(PN) ex) 1019800001264 and ▼ Int'l Application No.(FN) ex) PCTUS2002019728 and ▼ Int'l Unex. Pub. No.(FON) ex) WO2003008308 and ▼ Priority No.(RN) ex) KR2020030030648 and ▼ ?
Date <small>guide</small>	Publication Date(PD) ex) 20101130 ~ ex) 20101130 and ▼ Application Date(AD) ~ and ▼ Registration Date(GD) ~ and ▼ Unex. Pub. Date(OPD) ~ and ▼ Int'l Application Date(FD) ~ and ▼ Int'l Unex. Pub. Date(FOD) ~ and ▼ Priority Date(RD) ~ and ▼
Text	Title of Invention(TL) ex) phone touch screen, electronic*cash, "cellular phone case" and ▼ ^ close Abstract(AB) ex) car + clutch, "data signal" and ▼ Claims(CL) ex) car + clutch, "data signal" and ▼

Searching Japanese Patent Documents

Searching PAJ

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Text Search

For 'Number Search', please click on the right button.

Number Search

Applicant, Title of invention, Abstract --- e.g. computer semiconductor

Please input a **SPACE** between each keyword when you use more than one keyword.
One letter word or **Stopwords** are not searchable.

AND ▾

AND

AND ▾

AND

AND ▾

AND

Date of publication of application --- e.g. 19980401 - 19980405

-

AND

IPC --- e.g. D01B7/04 A01C11/02

Please input a **SPACE** between each IPC symbol, when you use more than one IPC symbol.



Search

Stored data

Advantages of using IPC

✓ Terminology / "jargon" independent

Scientific literature ↔ Patent documents/specifications

Patent documents/specifications often written by lawyers:

- > non-experts: not familiar with specific terminology
- > prefer generic, unspecific terminology for legal reasons, e.g. to avoid any unnecessary limitation of the scope of protection as defined by claims

Examples

Swimming pool = “water retaining recreational structure”

Balloon = “spherical device filled with gas for recreational purposes”

Paper bin = “arrangement for the disposal of refuse”

Shoe = “footwear”

Advantages of using IPC

✓ Terminology / "jargon" independent

Problems with keyword searching:

- Use of inappropriate terminology, avoiding appropriate terminology
- Occurring of unwanted/"competing" terminology
- Variety of options for describing features
- Different content of different parts of specification

Advantages of using IPC

- ✓ **Standardized application to documents by experts of patent offices**
 - indexing, added value
 - Early classification after application
 - > used for publication (18 months after filing)
 - Reviewed by examiner at examination
 - > classification of granted patents may differ

Advantages of using IPC

✓ **Concept search:**

title of classification entry = standardized set of keywords

- Well defined technical subject matter
- Stable, i.e. not changing with the times
- Therefore useful for:
 - preparing industrial property statistics
 - monitoring the progress of technology, patent landscaping
 - selective dissemination of information (SDI) in enterprises

Advantages of using IPC

Summary

- ✓ Language independent
- ✓ Terminology / "jargon" independent
- ✓ Standardized application to documents (by experts of patent offices)
- ✓ Available for (old) patent documents where no full text of claims / description is available
- ✓ Concept search

➤ More complete search results than pure text search

Example

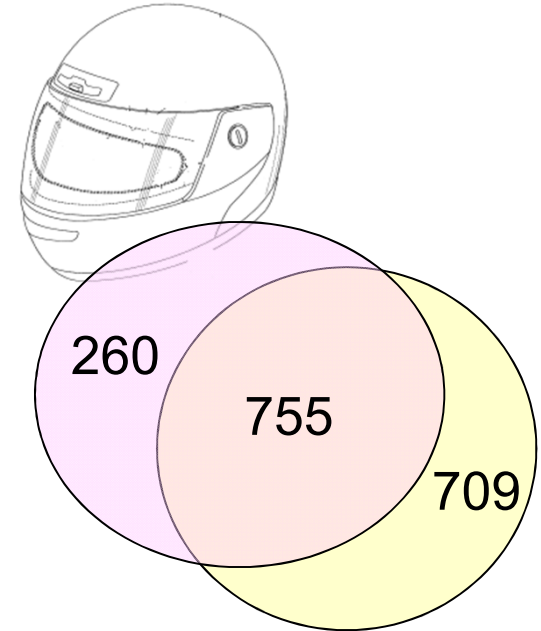
✓ Search in PATENTSCOPE all PCT documents with IPC:

- Q1: A42B 3/00 (Helmets) **1015 hits**

✓ Keyword search with:

- Q2: "helmet*" **1167 hits**
- Q3: "headgear*" **343 hits**
- Q2 OR Q3 **1464 hits**

✓ Q1 AND (Q2 OR Q3) **755 hits**



- **260 documents classified in A42B 3/00 have neither "helmet*" nor "headgear*" in their abstract!**
- **Search results by text search include non-relevant information**