FI and F-terms

February 2022

Japan Patent Office

Contents

- Outline of FI/F-term
    - FI
   - F-term
    - Facet

- English information on FI/F-term

- Current status of FI/F-term

Patent Classification Systems in IPC and FI/F-term

System	Governance	Approx. Number of Entries	Documentation coverage
IPC	IPC/CE (Committee of Experts); supervised by WIPO	80,000	- almost all patent documents published worldwide
FI	JPO	190,000	- JP patent documents
F-term	JPO	340,000	- JP patent documents

What is FI?

IPC

FI
(File Index)
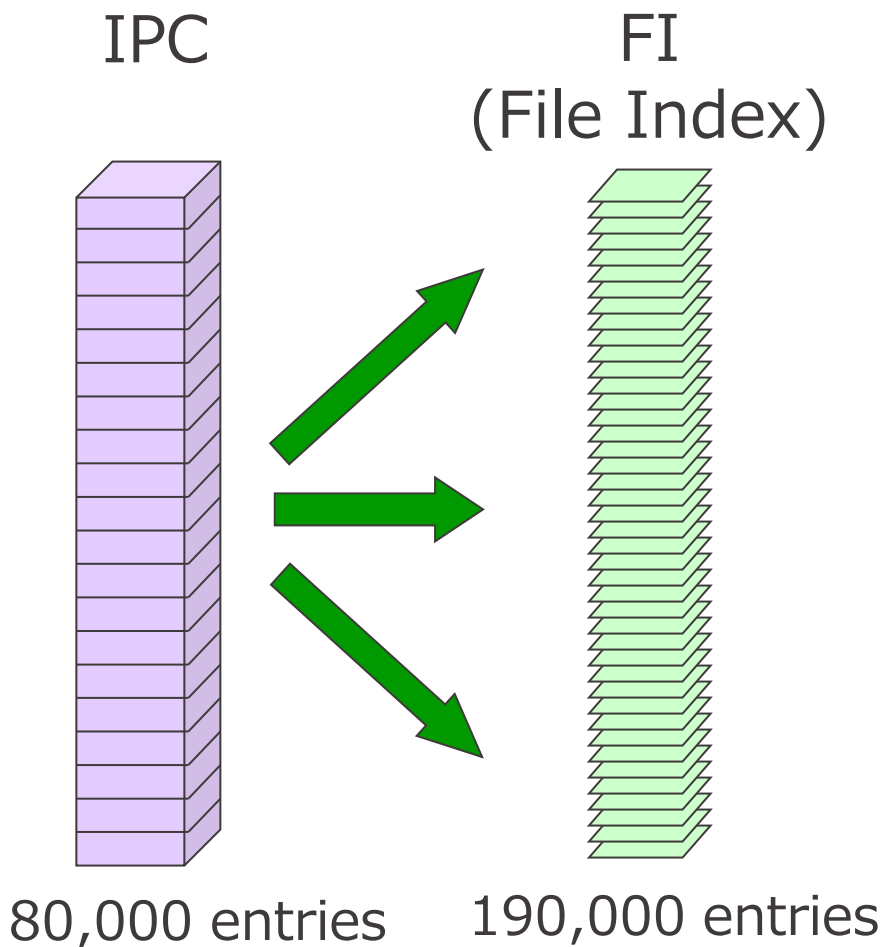
[Features]
- Subdivision of IPC
  (around 190,000 entries)
- Covers all technical fields
- Covers all JP patent documents
- Backlog reclassification
- Biannual revision to keep pace with technology development

80,000 entries

190,000 entries
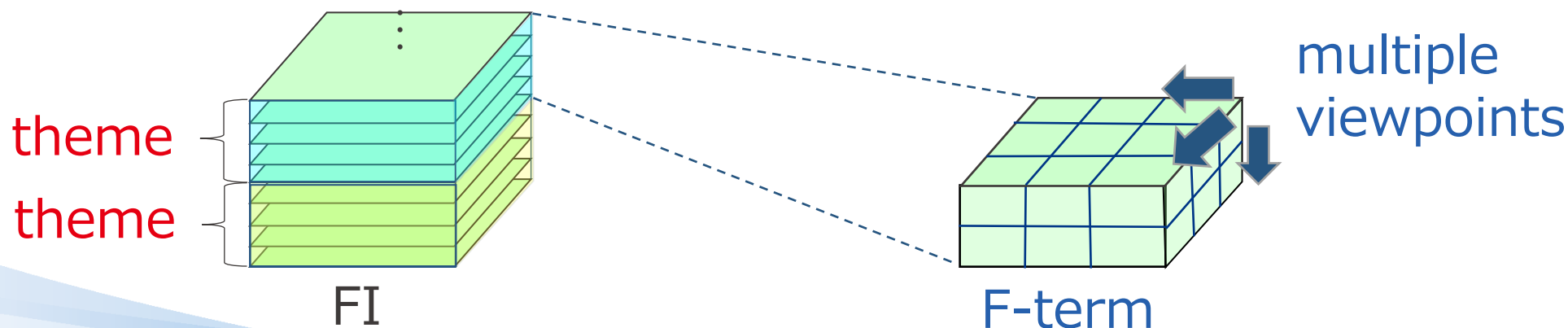
FI - symbol

➢   IPC symbol
          ex) A61B 5/00

➢   IPC symbol + extension symbol
          ex) A61B 5/00, 101

➢   IPC symbol + extension symbol + file discrimination symbol
          ex) A61B 5/00, 101 A

➢   IPC symbol + file discrimination symbol
          ex) A61B 5/00 A

A61B 5/00 Measuring for diagnostic purposes (radiation diagnosis A61B6/00; diagnosis by
         ultrasonic, sonic or infrasonic waves A61B8/00); Identification of persons
    A   Measurement and recording device for diagnosis
    B   ・ Detection unit
    ⋮
    Z   Others
   101   ・ Measuring colour, pressure or vibration of human body or parts thereof
   101 A   Colour measurement

Example of FI subdivisions for A61B5/00

What is F-term?

- The entire technical field of FI, which has section A to section H, is divided into about 2,500 areas and each area is referred to as "a theme"

- About 1,600 themes out of 2,500 themes have "F-terms", which are search keys and we analyze patent documents in each "theme".

- The F-term indexing system is based on multiple viewpoints that are different from those of FI.

theme

theme

FI

multiple viewpoints

F-term

F-term list for theme "4C117" (excerpted in part)

- F-term symbols consist of 3 parts: "theme code", "aspect", and "numeral" (e.g. 4C117XA01)
  - The "theme code" part consists of 5 alphanumeric letters and is assigned to each "theme".
  - The "aspect" part consists of 2 letters (selected from A to Z) and represents an aspect (object, purpose, etc.).
  - The "numeral" part consists of 2 digits (selected from 00 to 99) and represents an element of each aspect.

Theme code	4C117
Descriptions	MEASURING AND RECORDING APPARATUS FOR DIAGNOSIS
Scope of FI	A61B5/00-5/01,350

Aspect						F-term						Scope of FI
XA	XA00	XA01	XA02	XA03	XA04	XA05		XA07			XA10	A61B5/00 -5/01,350
	OBJECT, E.G. PERSON, MACHINE OR DATA	. One single object	. . Measuring for ladies	. . Measuring for dementia patients or elderly persons	. . measuring patients in hospitals	. . measu able-bodied persons or healthy persons		. Multiple objects			. Others	
XB	XB00	XB01	XB02	XB03	XB04	XB05	XB06	XB07	XB08	XB09	XB10	
		. Measuring	. Health care	. Instrument management	. Patient monitoring	. Management in hospitals	. Biometric data management	. Person identification	. Production of diagnostic reports or medical records	. Diagnostic support or CAD	. Clinical trial management or medical tests	
	PURPOSE	XB11	XB12	XB13	XB14	XB15	XB16	XB17	XB18		XB20	

What is Facet?

"Facet" is a set of classification codes other than FI and F-term.

- ➤ Facet covers all the fields of FI (sections A to H) or a part of them, e.g. subclasses or groups. The former is called "Broad Facet".
- ➤ Facet enables the search of patent documents from cross-sectional perspective, which is different from those in FI and F-term.
- ➤ Each Facet consists of three-alphabet symbols (e.g. BRA).
- ➤ As to Broad Facet, leftmost symbol must be "Z".
- ➤ As of February 2022, 83 Facets (including 22 Broad Facets) are available.

Example of front page of publication

・e.g. Published Unexamined Patent Application

JP 2007-00000 A 2007.1.1

(19)日本国特許庁(JP)　　(12)公 開 特 許 公 報(A)　　(11)特許出願公開番号

特開2007-000000

(P2007-00000A)

(43)公開日　平成19年1月1日(2007.1.1)

(51)Int.Cl.

FI

テーマコード（参考）

G 2 1 B　12/345 (2006. 01)
G 0 2 C　　9/87　(2006. 01)
G 0 1 B　67/89　(2006. 04)
G 0 1 B　12/345 (2006. 07)
G 0 1 B　34/56　(2007. 01)

F I

G 0 1 B 12/34　1 0 1 B
G 0 2 C　9/87　　　　　Z N A
G 0 1 B 67/89　　　　　Z
G 0 1 B 12/345　　　　U
G 0 1 B 34/56

2 E 1 1 0
3 B 0 0 5

FI

Facet

Theme code

審査請求 有 請求項の数 2　ＯＬ 外国語出願 公開請求 （全 7 頁）　最終頁に続く
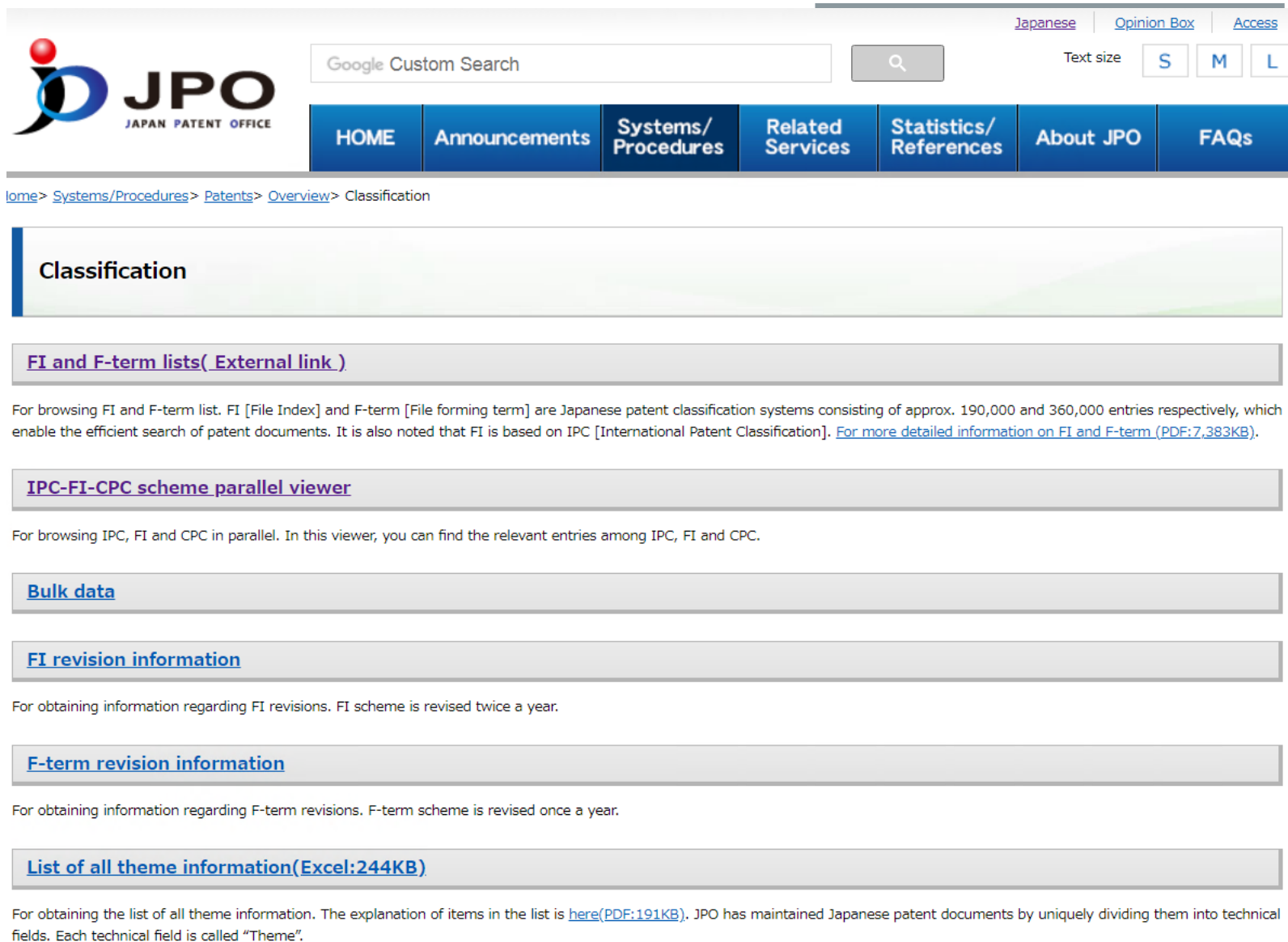
Contents

- Outline of FI/F-term

- English information on FI/F-term
  - Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)
  - IPC-FI-CPC scheme parallel viewer
  - Bulk data
  - FI (English ver.) scheme download
  - FI/F-term revision information

- Current status of FI/F-term

JPO website on classification

Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)

Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)

https://www.j-platpat.inpit.go.jp/p1101

Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)

・Simple display of FI/Facet and F-term is available
　(newly released on Feb. 1, 2021)

Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)

・Simple display of FI/Facet and F-term is available
  (newly released on Feb. 1, 2021)

Classification Display (F-term)

F-term-List (simple display)

Theme-Group-Choice web page
https://www.j-platpat.inpit.go.jp/cache/classify/patent/PMGS_HTML/jpp/F_TERM/en/themeGroup/themeGroup_en.html

IPC-FI-CPC scheme parallel viewer

https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/system/patent/gaiyo/seido-bunrui/index.html

IPC-FI-CPC scheme parallel viewer

☆ **Scheme parallel viewer** ☆   concordance ver.   rawdata download

| IPC ▼ | B60G17/015 | Display | Clear | Sample : G06F3 or G06F3/ or G06F3/00 or G06F3/02 etc...   help

IPC symbol only: ○ JP ● EN ○ Both ○ non-display ○

FI: ○ JP ● EN ○ Both ○ non-display

CPC: ● EN ○ JP ○ Both ○ non-display

Display ipc level only : ● Off ○ On

FI without same-symbol IPC : ● display ○ non-display

FI dot pattern : ○ pattern1 ● pattern2

IPC doc number : ● On ○ Off

FI doc number : ● On ○ Off

CPC doc number : ● On ○ Off

ECLA: ○ EN ○ JP ○ Both ● non-display

ICO: ○ EN ○ JP ○ Both ● non-display

Keyword Search [   ] Display

Clear

☑ FI ☐ IPC ☐ CPC

IPC   **FI**   **CPC**

B60G 17/015	·	the regulating means comprising electric or electronic elements(B60G17/005 takes precedence)	15675 docs	B60G 17/015	·	the regulating means comprising electric or electronic elements (B60G 17/005 takes precedence) [5,8]	3641 docs	3D301	HB	B60G17/015	· the regulating means comprising electric or electronic elements ({B60G17/002}, B60G17/005 take precedence)	2014 docs
				B60G 17/015 A	· ·	Controlling damping force (controlling damper venturi and the like)	5078 docs	3D301	HB	B60G17/0152	· · {characterised by the action on a particular type of suspension unit (B60G17/01941 takes precedence)}	826 docs
				B60G 17/015 B	· ·	Controlling working fluid (control of hydro, full active, control of spring constant)	5028 docs	3D301	HB	B60G17/0155	· · · {pneumatic unit}	783 docs
				B60G 17/015 C	· · ·	controlling air	3040 docs	3D301	HB	B60G17/0157	· · · {non-fluid unit, e.g. electric motor}	602 docs
				B60G 17/015 Z	· ·	Others	1941 docs	3D301	HB			

Japan Patent Office   http://www.jpo.go.jp/cgi/cgi-bin/search-portal/narabe_tool_e/narabe_e.cgi

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IPC-FI-CPC scheme parallel viewer

☆ Scheme parallel viewer ☆   concordance ver.   rawdata download

IPC ▼ [ ] Display Clear   Sample : G06F3 or G06F3/ or G06F3/00 or G06F3/02 etc...   help

IPC ○ JP ◉ EN ○ Both ○ non-display ○   Display ipc level only : ◉ Off ○ On   ECLA: ○ EN ○ JP ○ Both ◉ non-display
symbol only

Keyword search available

●mbol IPC : ◉ display ○ non-   ICO: ○ EN ○ JP ○ Both ◉ non-display

Keyword Search [karaoke] Display   pattern1 ◉ pattern2
Clear
☑ FI ☑ IPC ☑ CPC   IPC doc number : ◉ On ○ Off
FI doc number : ◉ On ○ Off
CPC doc number : ◉ On ○ Off

Keyword : karaoke   Classification : FI, IPC, CPC

FI G09B 15/00 D   2C030   Learning instruments for vocal music, **karaoke** (electronic musical   声楽、カラオケの教習具（電子楽器・カラオケ装置：Ｇ１０）
ke systems : G10)

Link to the scheme   カラオケ関係
カラオケ採点

FI B 20/02 M   5D080   **Karaoke**   カラオケ

FI R 1/02 107 ¥   5D017   combined with another component e.g. microphone ●ombined with an   他の機器と組み合わされて用いられるもの，例．装身具と組み合わされたマイク
accessory, e.g. zoom microphone supporting device, **karaoke** microphone   ロホン〔例．ズームマイクロホン支持装置，カラオケマイク〕

CPC G10H1/361   {Recording/reproducing of accompaniment for use with an external   ｛外部音源と共に使用する伴奏を記録／再生するもの，〔例．カラオケ装置〕｝
source, e.g. **karaoke** systems}

CPC G10H2220/011   Lyrics displays, e.g. for **karaoke** applications   歌詞表示，例．カラオケ

CPC G10H2220/145   Multiplayer musical games, e.g. **karaoke**-like multiplayer videogames   マルチプレーヤー音楽ゲーム，例．カラオケのようなマルチプレーヤービデオゲーム

CPC G10H2220/211   for microphones, i.e. control of musical parameters either directly from   マイクロフォンのためのもの，例．マイクロフォン信号から直接または関連周辺
microphone signals or by physically associated peripherals, e.g. **karaoke**   機器を物理的に介在させた音楽パラメータの制御，例．マイクロフォンケーシン
control switches or rhythm sensing accelerometer within the microphone   グの中のカラオケ制御スイッチまたはリズム感知加速度計（マイクロフォンそれ
casing (microphones per seH04R)   自体Ｈ０４Ｒ）

CPC G10H2240/036   File multilingual, e.g. multilingual lyrics for **karaoke**   多国語ファイル，例．カラオケ用多国語歌詞

CPC G10H2240/325   Synchronizing two or more audio tracks or files according to musical   音楽機能や音楽タイミングにより２以上のオーディオトラックやファイルと同期
features or musical timings (synchronised lyrics, e.g. for **karaoke**   すること（同期歌詞，例．カラオケ用Ｇ１０Ｈ２２２０／０１１）
G10H2220/011)

Japan Patent Office   http://www.jpo.go.jp/cgi/cgi-bin/search-portal/narabe_tool_e/narabe_e.cgi   17

Bulk data

- FI scheme (in English) and Raw data for IPC-FI-CPC scheme parallel viewer can be downloaded from JPO website.

https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/system/patent/gaiyo/seido-bunrui/bulkdata.html

FI/F-term revision information

Contents

■ Outline of FI/F-term

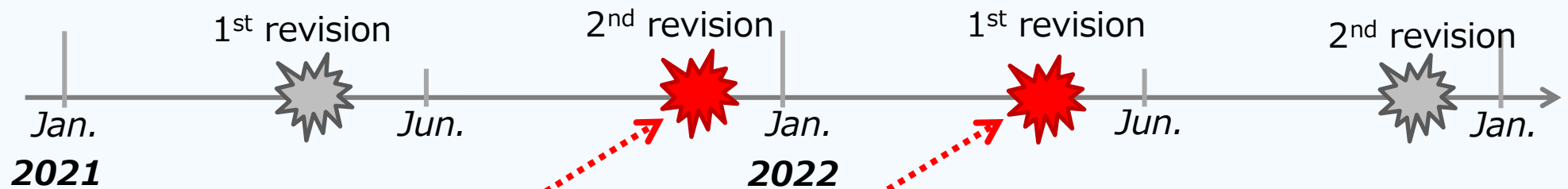■ English information on FI/F-term

■ Current status of FI/F-term
  ➤ FI revision schedule
  ➤ Updating FI scheme according to the latest version of IPC
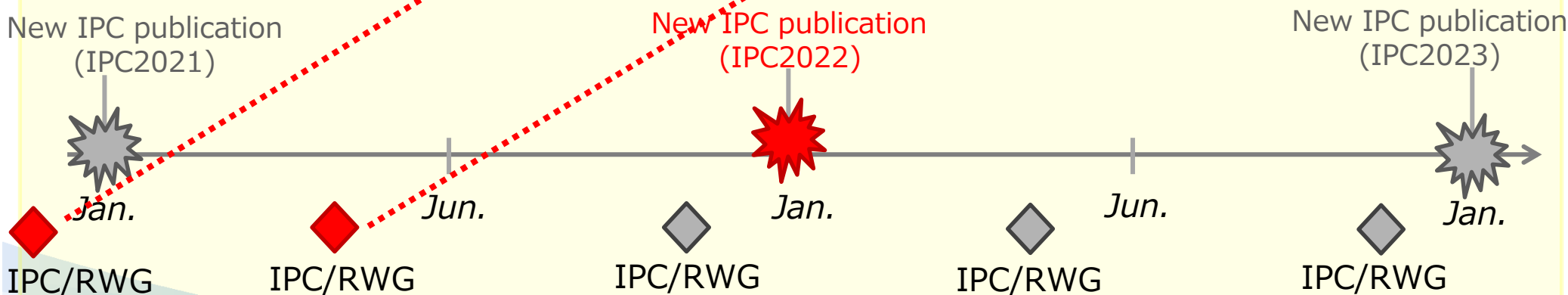 ➤ FI/F-term revision in FY2021

FI revision schedule

- ➢ **FI system reform**
  - ➢ FI revision corresponding to new IPC publication **twice a year**
  - ➢ FI revision **in November 2021** before new IPC entering into force **in January 2022**
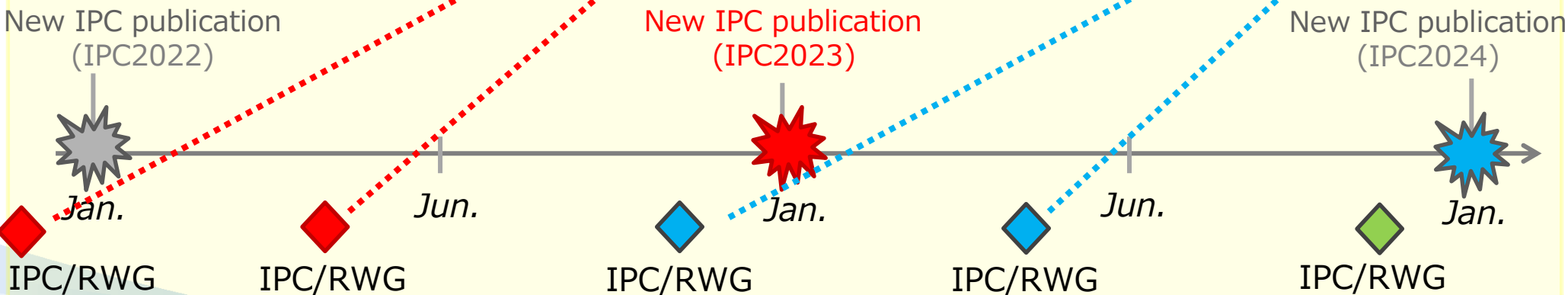
FI revision schedule

> FI system reform
> From 2023, FI revision and new IPC publication will be carried out **in January at the same time**.

FI revision schedule

1st revision

FI revision

FI revision

Jan. **2022**   Jun.   Jan. **2023**   Jun.   Jan. **2024**

IPC schedule

New IPC publication (IPC2022)

New IPC publication (IPC2023)

New IPC publication (IPC2024)

Jan.   Jun.   Jan.   Jun.   Jan.

IPC/RWG   IPC/RWG   IPC/RWG   IPC/RWG   IPC/RWG

> Upon completion of FI revision in Apr. 2021, rate of FI adopting the latest IPC reached approximately 99.74 %.
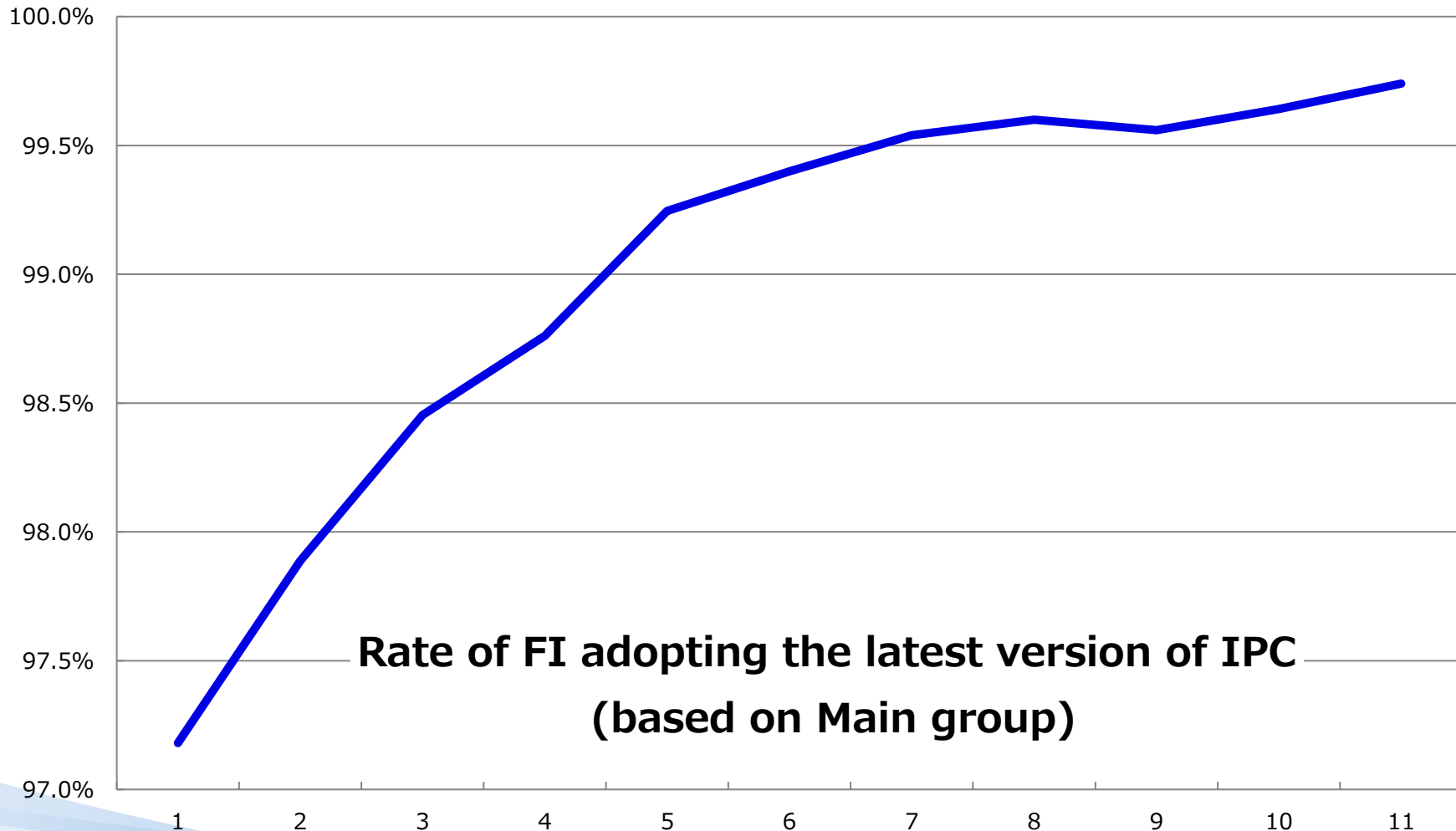
Rate of FI adopting the latest version of IPC (based on Main group)

FI/F-term revision in FY2021

- In FY2021, the JPO carried out FI/F-term revision for the following numbers of FI main groups / themes.

    ➢ FI revision: 212 main groups

    ➢ F-term revision: 44 themes

Thank you!