

The opinion in support of the decision being entered today was not written for publication and is not binding precedent of the Board.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte ERIC COHEN-SOLAL

Appeal No. 2005-2290
Application No. 09/896,199

ON BRIEF

Before HAIRSTON, KRASS, and NAPPI, Administrative Patent Judges.

KRASS, Administrative Patent Judge.

DECISION ON APPEAL

This is a decision on appeal from the final rejection of claims 1-20.

The invention is directed to a system for repositioning and resizing the picture-in-picture feature of a display based on speech and gesture control.

Representative independent claim 1 is reproduced as follows:

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why one having ordinary skill in the pertinent art would have been led to modify the prior art or to combine prior art references to arrive at the claimed invention. Such reason must stem from some teachings, suggestions or implications in the prior art as a whole or knowledge generally available to one having ordinary skill in the art. Uniroyal, Inc. v. Rudkin-Wiley Corp., 837 F.2d 1044, 1051, 5 USPQ2d 1434, 1438 (Fed. Cir.), cert. denied, 488 U.S. 825 (1988); Ashland Oil, Inc. v. Delta Resins & Refractories, Inc., 776 F.2d 281, 293, 227 USPQ 657, 664 (Fed. Cir. 1985), cert. denied, 475 U.S. 1017 (1986); ACS Hosp. Sys., Inc. v. Montefiore Hosp., 732 F.2d 1572, 1577, 221 USPQ 929, 933 (Fed. Cir. 1984). These showings by the examiner are an essential part of complying with the burden of presenting a prima facie case of obviousness. Note In re Oetiker, 977 F.2d 1443, 1445, 24 USPQ2d 1443, 1444 (Fed. Cir. 1992). If that burden is met, the burden then shifts to the applicant to overcome the prima facie case with argument and/or evidence. Obviousness is then determined on the basis of the evidence as a whole and the relative persuasiveness of the arguments. See Id.; In re Hedges, 783 F.2d 1038, 1040, 228 USPQ 685, 687 (Fed. Cir. 1986); In re Piasecki, 745 F.2d 1468, 1472, 223 USPQ 785, 788 (Fed. Cir. 1984); and In re Rinehart, 531 F.2d 1048, 1051, 189 USPQ 143, 146-147 (CCPA 1976). Only those arguments actually made by appellant have been considered in this decision. Arguments which

appellant could have made but chose not to make in the brief have not been

considered and are deemed to be waived [see 37 CFR §41.67(c)(1)(vii)].

With regard to independent claim 1, it is the examiner's position that Inagaki discloses the claimed subject matter but for the limitation "to change a PIP display characteristic in response to a received audio command and a related gesture from a user." Instead, the examiner points out, Inagaki detects and responds to any of the many sounds or audio indications in the form of a unique voice of a specific speaking attendee with the same command which moves the camera and highlights the PIP of the speaking attendee, but response is not dependent on a related gesture from a user.

The examiner turns to Pavlovic for the concept of a system utilizing a combination of audio commands and a related gesture "from a user as a means of controlling a graphical object on display which is analysis [analogous?] to where Inagaki controlled a specific graphical object such as a PIP on a display." The examiner referring to page 123 of Pavlovic, in the EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS section, (answer, page 4).

The examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to use a "received audio command and a related gesture from a user," as per Pavlovic, in the system of Inagaki because of Pavlovic's own reasoning, viz., "Psychological studies, for example,

show that people prefer to use hand gestures in combination with speech in a virtual environment, since they allow the user to interact without special training or special apparatus” (page 121 of Pavlovic-the examiner’s emphasis, at page 4 of the answer).

Appellant responds by arguing that Inagaki’s system merely detects the presence of speech (specifically, the presence of speech of a speaking attendee, and then highlights the PIP of the speaking attendee). Inagaki does not however, contends appellant, disclose or suggest the changing of a PIP display characteristic in response to a received audio command and a related gesture from a user. Since Inagaki does not detect any content of the speech of the speaking attendee, appellant contends that it cannot be said that Inagaki determines if a command is being spoken. Accordingly, argues appellant, there would have been no motivation for combining Inagaki with the gestures taught by Pavlovic.

We have considered the evidence before us, including the arguments of appellant and the examiner, and we conclude therefrom that the examiner has established a prima facie case of obviousness which has not been overcome by appellant. Accordingly, we will sustain the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Inagaki clearly teaches the movement of a camera to a different conference attendee, dependent on the attendee’s voice (see column 11, line 65, through column 12, line 25). Since a different attendee will appear larger on the display screen, clearly

there is a change in a “PIP display characteristic,” in response to an audio “command,” or “indication.” We note, as did the examiner, that only independent claim 1 calls for an audio “command.” The other independent claims call only for an audio “indication.” Moreover, as the examiner noted, the original disclosure appeared directed only to an “indication.” Therefore, we believe the examiner has rightly, and reasonably, interpreted the claimed “command” to be any type of audio “indication,”

The voice direction detection unit of Inagaki may be said to detect an audio “indication,” or “command.” But, in any event, Pavlovic clearly teaches a “command,” by any definition, which, along with a gesture, is used to perform some action. See, for example, page 123, right-hand column, of Pavlovic. When Pavlovic’s teaching is viewed in light of Inagaki’ disclosure of controlling a PIP display characteristic automatically, through voice, we conclude, as did the examiner, that the skilled artisan would have been led to employ Pavlovic’s dual, i.e., speech/gesture control system to control the panning of Inagaki’s camera.

We are unpersuaded by appellant’s argument anent not sensing the “content of the speech” in Inagaki, since not only is such a limitation not a part of the instant claim language, but Pavlovic clearly discloses sensing the content of the speech used to control the action, as at page 123, where the user points to an object, while simultaneously commanding, “move left” in order to effect such movement of the object pointed to.

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We are also unpersuaded by appellant's argument anent no motivation to combine the references since, as indicated supra, the skilled artisan had more than sufficient motivation to make the combination.

Specifically with regard to claim 2, appellant argues that Inagaki merely shows the detection of a voice of a speaking attendee and "highlights" the PIP of the speaking attendee to distinguish that attendee from the other attendees. But, argues appellant, highlighting is neither changing the position of the PIP nor the display size of the PIP, as required by instant claim 2.

The examiner contends that the limitations of claim 2 are met because Figure 8a of Inagaki "illustrates the concept of a relationship between who is speaking and the position of which PIP to be highlighted which further changes when speaker changes which is clearly illustrated in figure 8B so therefore it reads on this broad language" (sic, answer-page 4).

We agree with appellant that a different speaker may be highlighted in Inagaki, but the position and size of the speaker, i.e., the PIP display, appears to remain the same. There is no indication in Inagaki that either the position or size, or both, of the PIP display is changed.

However, Pavlovic does teach the movement of an object by a combination of spoken command and hand gesture, so the display of an object does change position. In making the combination of Inagaki with Pavlovic, for reasons enunciated supra, it

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would have been obvious to the artisan that the teaching, by Pavlovic, of moving the position of an object by spoken command/hand gesture would be applicable to the movement of any object on a display screen, including the PIP display of Inagaki.

Accordingly, we will sustain the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Specifically with regard to independent claim 11, appellant argues that neither of the cited references teaches or suggests “determining whether the received audio indication is one of a plurality of expected audio indications.”

We agree with the examiner that Figure 7 of Pavlovic clearly shows a plurality of expected hand gestures as well as a plurality of expected speech commands. In fact, in order to make the correct movement of an object, the system of Pavlovic must determine whether it has received an expected command, such as “move left,” which, in combination with the correct hand gesture, will effect that movement.

Accordingly, we will sustain the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Finally, appellant argues that the limitations of claims 5 and 6 are not taught or suggested by the cited references. In particular, appellant argues that since Pavlovic discloses issuing a spoken command and a gesture *simultaneously*, it cannot meet the claim language requiring the analysis of image information *after* the audio indication is received to identify the change in the PIP display characteristic that is expressed by the received gesture (see page 17 of the brief).

We agree with the examiner that the broad claimed subject matter language

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would have been obvious over the disclosure of Pavlovic, e.g., in Figure 5, of receiving audio information and gesture information and, thereafter, computing the likelihood of such a combination. Thus, the analysis does occur *after* receipt of the data to be analyzed, as it must. If appellant is contending that first the spoken command must be received and then, at a later time, the gesture information is received, and only then, at a still later time, an analysis is made from this data, we find no patentable distinction, and appellant has pointed to none, in receiving bits of data needed for an analysis at different times. If a processor requires data A and data B in order to make an analysis, it hardly matters, in our view, whether A and B are received simultaneously or at different times. The processor still cannot make the analysis until it has all the data necessary. Now, we suppose there may be some circumstances where some advantage may be gained by receiving data at different times, but, clearly, the instant specification and/or claims do not shed any light on what that might be. Thus, as disclosed and claimed, we find that the skilled artisan would have discerned no unobvious difference between receiving audio and visual data at different times or simultaneously.

Accordingly, we will sustain the rejection of claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Since appellant makes no separate arguments as to the merits of any other claim, we will sustain the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

The examiner's decision is affirmed.

No time period for taking any subsequent action in connection with this appeal

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