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(30) Priority: 21.05.1996 GB 9610603	(72) Inventors: • Panzeri, Ezio 20156 Milan (IT) • Al-Hashemi, Burhan Dubai (AE)
(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in accordance with Art. 76 EPC: 97918315.9 / 0 900 431	(74) Representative: Robinson, Nigel Alexander Julian D. Young & Co., 21 New Fetter Lane London EC4A 1DA (GB)
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(54)

Coin testing apparatus and method

(57)

A method of coin testing is provided in which a laser beam (13) is directed onto a face of a coin (4) and a laser detector (3) is used to detect where the laser beam is intercepted by the coin and where the laser beam is not intercepted by the coin, so as to obtain an indication of a characteristic of the face of the coin. The characteristic of the coin is used to identify the coin. The invention also relates to an apparatus for coin testing, which comprises a laser source (11) to direct a laser beam (13) onto a face of a coin (4), a laser detector (3) for detecting where the laser is intercepted by the coin and where the laser is not intercepted by the coin, and a signal-processor (14) which obtains an indication, from an output of the laser detector (3), of a characteristic of the face of the coin which is used to identify the coin.

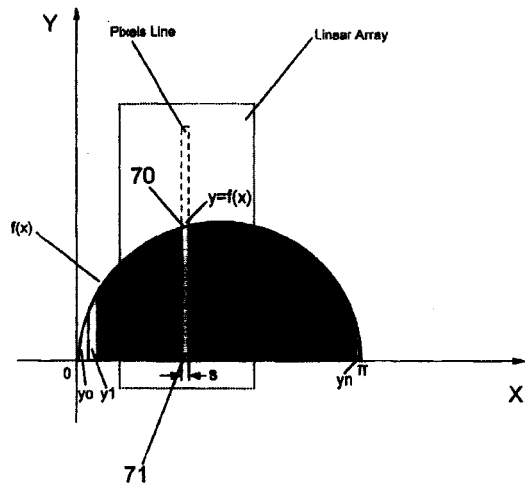


Fig. 13



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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 10 June 2002	Examiner David, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
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