



## Find the most adequate FI and F-terms



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### ABSTRACT

New patent information service, J-PlatPat, was launched on March 23rd 2015. The major update for English speaker is a keyword search service in English for Japanese classification (FI, F-terms) in Patent Map Guidance (PMGS). Some other tools and information are provided to find adequate FI and F-terms for English speaker. This article addresses FI/ F-terms, keyword search and these tools.

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## 1. Introduction

The JPO and the National Center for Industrial Property Information and Training (INPIT) launched the Japan Platform for Patent Information (J-PlatPat) on March 23rd 2015. The major update from IPDL for English speaker is a keyword search service in English for Japanese classification (FI, F-terms) in Patent Map Guidance (PMGS).

In this paper, I will explain about FI and F-terms and introduce the keyword search service. In addition, I will introduce some useful tools and information which are available on the JPO website. Finally, I will introduce some ways to find the most adequate FI and F-terms.

## 2. FI and F-terms

### 2.1. What is FI?

FI and F-terms are the internal classifications of JPO [1–3].

As shown in Fig. 1, FI consists of IPC and subdivisions under IPC main groups or subgroups. As shown in Fig. 2, two types of symbols, extension symbol and file discrimination symbol, are used to subdivide. IPC has about 70,000 groups and FI has about 190,000 groups. FI is based on several generations of IPC (from 4th) depending on technical area (subsection).

IPC and FI are classifications to divide patent documents into

real or imaginary bookshelves or files. FI is abbreviation for File Index. Long time ago, Japanese patent documents were divided into physical files made of paper based on FI for patent examiners in the JPO before the search system was launched.

### 2.2. What is F-term?

F-term is a kind of classification but its philosophy is different from IPC and FI.

As shown in Fig. 3, FI groups are separated into technical areas. In other words, every FI group, every FI symbol, belongs to only one of these themes. Around 1800 themes out of about 2600 have their own F-terms. Themes having own F-terms are “F-term theme” and themes without F-terms are “FI theme”. In other words, F-terms are used in limited technical area. Each F-term theme has some technical viewpoints like multi-aspect classification of IPC. However we don't say “classifying documents by F-terms” but “analyzing documents by F-terms”.

Theme code is given to each theme. Theme code comprises one number, one alphabet and three numbers, such as 5K023. First two digits corresponded to code of examination group some time ago but recently these two digits don't indicate them because of many organization restructurings.

Each F-term theme has many F-terms which are small pieces of technical information. We give F-terms as machine readable codes to patent documents to analyze technical information written in the documents. It looks like translation from Japanese language to machine readable codes (=F-terms). Part of information is lost in

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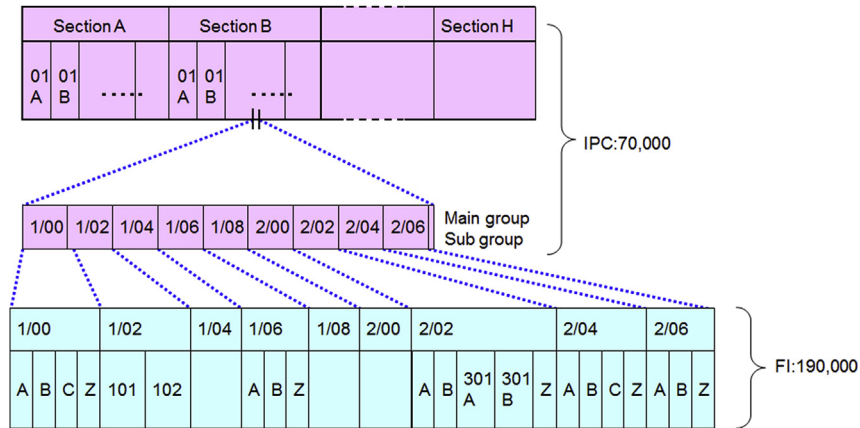


Fig. 1. Relationship between IPC and FI.

- ❑ IPC symbol  
ex) G06F 9/00
- ❑ IPC symbol + extension symbol  
ex) G06F 9/00, 320
- ❑ IPC symbol + extension symbol + file discrimination symbol  
ex) G06F 9/00, 320 A  
(G06F9/00,320@A (Search at J-PlatPat))
- ❑ IPC symbol + file discrimination symbol  
ex) B60G 17/015 A  
(B60G17/015@A (Search at J-PlatPat))

Fig. 2. FI symbol structure.

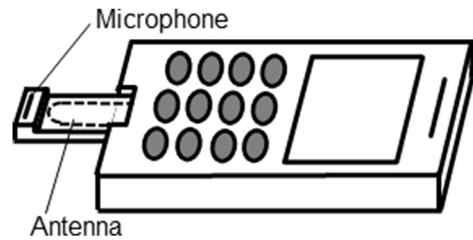


Fig. 4. Imaginary invention.

this analysis for lack of vocabulary, of course, but at least useful information is analyzed because F-terms are prepared to pick up important and useful information in each technical area.

### 2.3. Make query like talking by F-terms

As mentioned above, F-term analysis is like translation. Therefore, queries are made like talking. I will explain basic method to make query by using F-terms.

Fig. 4 is an imaginary invention based on JPH11-261,679 (A) applied by Panasonic Corporation. This invention is a cellular phone comprising a slide arm allowing for extension and storage of microphone, and an antenna built in the slide arm. The purpose of

this invention is making a cellular phone smaller.

One of adequate FI is H04M1/02@C (H04M is “TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION”, H04M1/00 is “Substation equipment, e.g. for use by subscribers”, H04M1/02 is “Constructional features of telephone sets” and H04M1/02@C is “Cordless telephone”). Theme code for H04M1/02@C is 5K023. You should correctly understand limitation of each group with hierarchical structure in mind when you use FI and also F-terms.

Let's see 5K023 F-term sheet. Open PMGS of J-PlatPat.

[https://www5-j-platpat.inpit.go.jp/pms/tokujitsu/pmgs\\_en/PMGS\\_EN\\_GM101\\_Top.action](https://www5-j-platpat.inpit.go.jp/pms/tokujitsu/pmgs_en/PMGS_EN_GM101_Top.action).

This address is direct access to PMGS. I will mention an access from top page later.

As shown Fig. 5, “Inquiry” tab is selected by default. Input

1/00	1/02	1/04	1/06	1/08	2/00	2/02	2/04	2/06	FI	
A B C Z	101 102		A B Z		A B	301 A 301 B	Z A B C Z	A B C Z		
Theme 1 (F-term theme)					Theme 2 (FI theme)			Theme 3 (F-term theme)		Theme
1/00A - 1/08	AA00 AA01 AA02 AA03 AA04				2/04A	AA00 AA01 AA02 AA03				
	BB00 BB01 BB02				2/04B	BB00 BB01 BB02			F-term	
	CC00 CC01 CC02 CC03				2/04C	CC00 CC01 CC02 CC03 CC04				
	DD00 DD01 DD02 DD03				—	— — —				

Fig. 3. Relationship between FI and F-terms.

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