G06E

OPTICAL COMPUTING DEVICES; {COMPUTING DEVICES USING OTHER RADIATIONS WITH SIMILAR PROPERTIES} (optical logic elements per se G02F 3/00; digital storage using optical elements G11C 13/04)

Definition statement

This place covers:

All devices in which at least one computing function is performed by optical means.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Optical logic elements per se	G02F 3/00
Computer systems based on specific computational models	G06N
Digital storage using optical elements	G11C 13/04

Special rules of classification

This technology is hardly used anymore.

Optical computers were a technology that was popular between 1900 - 2000.

After 2000 there are virtually no patent applications in this field anymore.

If other aspects, for example mechanical, fluid pressure or electrical computing, are of interest, classification is also made in the relevant subclass for such aspects.

G06E 1/00

Devices for processing exclusively digital data

Definition statement

This place covers:

Optical computers working exclusively on digital data.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Optical logic elements	G02F 3/00
Electronic digital computers	G06F
Quantum computers	G06N 99/002
Optical digital storage	G11C 13/04

Special rules of classification

Documents should be classified in the subgroups of G06E 1/00 only if they deal with purely digital optical computing.

G06E 3/00

Devices not provided for in group G06E 1/00, e.g. for processing analogue or hybrid data

Definition statement

This place covers:

Optical computers operating not exclusively on digital data, but on analogue data or a combination of digital and analogue data (hybrid).

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Optical logic elements	G02F 3/00
Electronic digital computers	G06F
Analog electronic computers	G06G 7/00
Hybrid non-optical computing devices	G06J
Quantum computers	G06N 99/002
Optical digital storage	G11C 13/04

Special rules of classification

Documents should be classified in the subgroups of G06E 3/00 only if they deal with purely optical computing on a combination of digital and analogue data or on analogue data only.