EXHIBIT B

Attorney Docket No. ALPH.P010X Patent

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Atty. Docket No. ALPH.P010X *PATENT*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

In Re Patent Application of:
Gregory C. Burnett, et al.
Application No.: 10/667,207
Filed: September 18, 2003
For: VOICE ACTIVITY DETECTION (VAD)-BASED MULTIPLE-MICROPHONE ACOUSTIC NOISE SUPPRESSION

Examiner: Lun S. Lao
Art Unit: 2615

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Sir:

This is in response to the Office action mailed February 7, 2007. Please enter and consider the following amendments and Remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for removing noise from acoustic signals, comprising:

receiving a plurality of acoustic signals, wherein receiving the plurality of acoustic signals includes receiving using a plurality of independently located microphones;

receiving information on the vibration of human tissue associated with human voicing activity;

generating at least one first transfer function representative of the plurality of acoustic signals upon determining that voicing information is absent from the plurality of acoustic signals for at least one specified period of time; and

removing noise from the plurality of acoustic signals using the first transfer function to produce at least one denoised acoustic data stream.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein removing noise further comprises:

generating at least one second transfer function representative of the plurality of acoustic signals upon determining that voicing information is present in the plurality of acoustic signals for the at least one specified period of time; and

removing noise from the plurality of acoustic signals using at least one combination of the at least one first transfer function and the at least one second transfer function to produce at least one denoised acoustic data stream.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of acoustic signals include at least one reflection of at least one associated noise source signal and at least one reflection of at least one acoustic source signal.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the plurality of acoustic signals includes receiving using a plurality of independently located microphones.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein removing noise further includes generating at least one third transfer function using the at least one first transfer function and the at least one second transfer function.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein generating the at least one first transfer function comprises recalculating the at least one first transfer function during at least one prespecified interval.

7. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein generating the at least one second transfer function comprises recalculating the at least one second transfer function during at least one prespecified interval.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein generating the at least one first transfer function comprises use of at least one technique selected from a group consisting of adaptive techniques and recursive techniques.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein information on the vibration of human tissue is provided by a mechanical sensor in contact with the skin.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein information on the vibration of human tissue is provided via at least one sensor selected from among at least one of an accelerometer, a skin surface microphone in physical contact with skin of a user, a human tissue vibration detector, a radio frequency (RF) vibration detector, and a laser vibration detector.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the human tissue is at least one of on a surface of a head, near the surface of the head, on a surface of a neck, near the surface of the neck, on a surface of a chest, and near the surface of the chest.

12. (Currently amended) A method for removing noise from electronic signals, comprising:

detecting an absence of voiced information during at least one period, wherein detecting includes measuring the vibration of human tissue, wherein detecting the plurality of acoustic signals includes detecting using a plurality of independently located microphones;

receiving at least one noise source signal during the at least one period;

generating at least one transfer function representative of the at least one noise source signal;

receiving at least one composite signal comprising acoustic and noise signals; and

removing the noise signal from the at least one composite signal using the at least one transfer function to produce at least one denoised acoustic data stream.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one noise source signal includes at least one reflection of at least one associated noise source signal.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one composite signal includes at least one reflection of at least one associated composite signal.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the human tissue is at least one of on a surface of a head, near the surface of the head, on a surface of a neck, near the surface of the neck, on a surface of a chest, and near the surface of the chest.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein detecting includes use of a mechanical sensor in contact with the human tissue.

17. (Currently amended) The method ~~system~~ of claim 12, wherein detecting includes use of a sensor selected from among at least one of an accelerometer, a skin surface microphone in physical contact with a user, a human tissue vibration detector, a radio frequency (RF) vibration detector, and a laser vibration detector.

18. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein receiving includes receiving the at least one noise source signal using at least one microphone.

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