

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

TRANSLATION

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:

Date of mailing (day/month/year)	09.05.2017
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Applicant's or agent's file reference S2576AIP0014	FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
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International application No. PCT/JP2017/005130	International filing date (day/month/year) 13.02.2017	Priority date (day/month/year)
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International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
A63F13/80 (2014.01) i, A63F5/04 (2006.01) i

Applicant
SEGA SAMMY CREATION INC.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP	Date of completion of this opinion	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.		Telephone No.

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Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b)).
2. This opinion has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43bis.1(a))
3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, this opinion has been established on the basis of a sequence listing:
 - a. forming part of the international application as filed:
 - in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file.
 - on paper or in the form of an image file.
 - b. furnished together with the international application under PCT Rule 13ter.1(a) for the purposes of international search only in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file.
 - c. furnished subsequent to the international filing date for the purposes of international search only:
 - in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file (Rule 13ter.1(a)).
 - on paper or in the form of an image file (Rule 13ter.1(b) and Administrative Instructions, Section 713).
4. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that forming part of the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
5. Additional comments:

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
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1. Statement			
Novelty (N)		Claims <u>1-8</u>	YES
		Claims _____	NO
Inventive step (IS)		Claims _____	YES
		Claims <u>1-8</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)		Claims <u>1-8</u>	YES
		Claims _____	NO

2. Citations and explanations:	
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Document 1: JP 2009-450 A (ARUZE CORP.) 08 January 2009, paragraphs [0016], [0032], [0059], [0078], [0095], [0096], fig. 1, 19, 24 & US 2008/0318667 A1, paragraphs [0043], [0062], [0091], [0110], [0127], [0128], fig. 1, 19, 24

Document 2: JP 2016-165408 A (YUME GAMING SINGAPORE PTE. LTD.) 15 September 2016, paragraph [0083] & WO 2016/143614 A1

Document 3: JP 2004-236828 A (DAIICHI SHOKAI CO., LTD.) 26 August 2004, paragraph [0049] (Family: none)

Document 4: JP 2006-263319 A (SAMMY CORP.) 05 October 2006, paragraph [0057] (Family: none)

The invention as in claims 1 and 7-8 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 and 2 cited in the ISR.

Document 1 (in particular, paragraphs [0032], [0078], fig. 19) discloses:

"A game device (slot machine 1) that comprises a

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control unit (main CPU 42) and a storage unit (ROM 44) and is configured so that the control unit realizes, by executing a program stored in the storage unit,

a situation (normal game) where the display of symbols in a plurality of display regions is changed by sequentially displaying, in each of the plurality of display regions, the symbols included in a first symbol set (normal reel band 55) comprising a plurality of symbols including a prescribed symbol (wild symbol 45H), and where the display of the symbols stops being changed at a prescribed time; and

another situation (free game) where, when a prescribed condition is satisfied, the display of the symbols in the plurality of display regions is changed by sequentially displaying, in each of the plurality of display regions, the symbols included in a second symbol set (special reel band 56) comprising a plurality of symbols including the predetermined symbol at a higher percentage than in the first symbol set, and where the display of the symbols stops being changed at a prescribed time".

Document 2 (paragraph [0083]) discloses a game machine wherein a background image changes in accordance with a win expectation value.

Considering that document 1 (paragraph [0059]) indicates that the wild symbol 45H can be substituted for any symbol except a scatter symbol, it is clear that in the game device disclosed in document 1, the second symbol set (special reel band 56) containing the predetermined symbol (wild symbol 45H) at the higher percentage has a larger win expectation value than the first symbol set (normal reel band 55). Accordingly, a

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

person skilled in the art could easily have arrived at displaying a prescribed rendering effect (image) when displaying the second symbol set (special reel band 56).

Further, the same applies to claims 7-8.

The invention as in claims 2-3 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 and 2.

Document 1 (in particular, paragraphs [0095], [0096], fig. 24) discloses providing a first special reel band containing the wild symbol at a higher percentage than in the reel bands used in the normal game, and a second special reel band containing the wild symbol at a higher percentage than in the first special reel band.

In the game device disclosed in document 1, it is clear that the win expectation value increases as the percentage of the wild symbol increases. Accordingly, a person skilled in the art could easily have arrived at displaying an image corresponding to the percentage of the wild symbol.

The invention as in claim 4 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 and 2.

Document 1 (in particular, paragraph [0016], fig. 1) discloses changing a reel band displaying a scatter symbol in the normal game to a special reel band.

In the game device disclosed in document 1, it is clear that the win expectation value increases as the quantity of the special reel bands increases. Accordingly, a person skilled in the art could easily have arrived at displaying an image corresponding to the quantity of the special reel bands.

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The invention as in claim 5 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1-3.

Document 3 (paragraph [0049]) discloses a game machine wherein a rendering effect different from that in an actual mode is carried out with a prescribed probability.

In the game device disclosed in document 1, a person skilled in the art could easily have arrived at carrying out with a prescribed probability, during the normal game, a rendering effect different from that in the normal game.

The invention as in claim 6 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1-4.

Document 4 (paragraph [0057]) discloses a slot machine wherein, before a gaming result is determined (while at least one of the reels is rotating), a notification is provided to indicate the possibility of winning or the like.

In the game device disclosed in document 1, a person skilled in the art could easily have arrived at providing a notification to indicate the possibility of winning or the like after one or more reels stops (while at least one of the reels is rotating).