

FI and F-terms

February 2023

Japan Patent Office



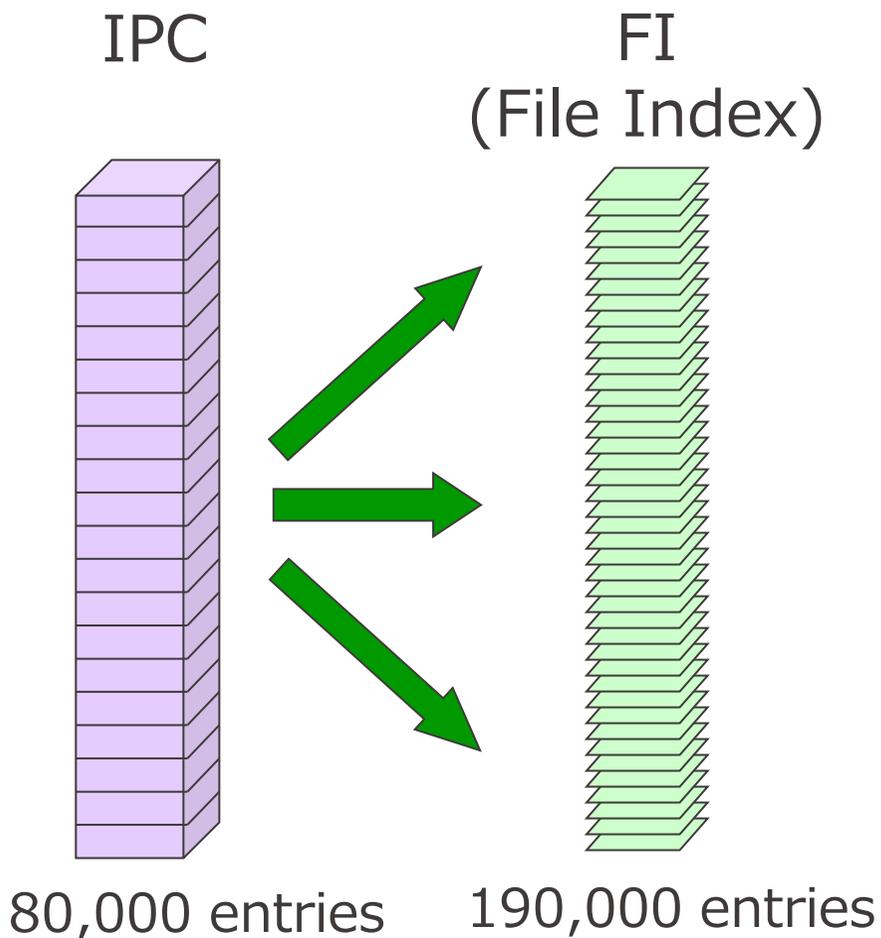
Contents

- Outline of FI/F-term
 - FI
 - F-term
 - Facet
- English information on FI/F-term
- Current status of FI/F-term

Patent Classification Systems in IPC and FI/F-term

System	Governance	Approx. Number of Entries	Documentation coverage
IPC	IPC/CE (Committee of Experts); supervised by WIPO	80,000	- almost all patent documents published worldwide
FI	JPO	190,000	- JP patent documents
F-term	JPO	330,000	- JP patent documents

What is FI?



[Features]

- Subdivision of IPC
(around 190,000 entries)
- Covers all technical fields
- Covers all JP patent documents
- Backlog reclassification
- Biannual revision to keep pace with technology development

FI - symbol

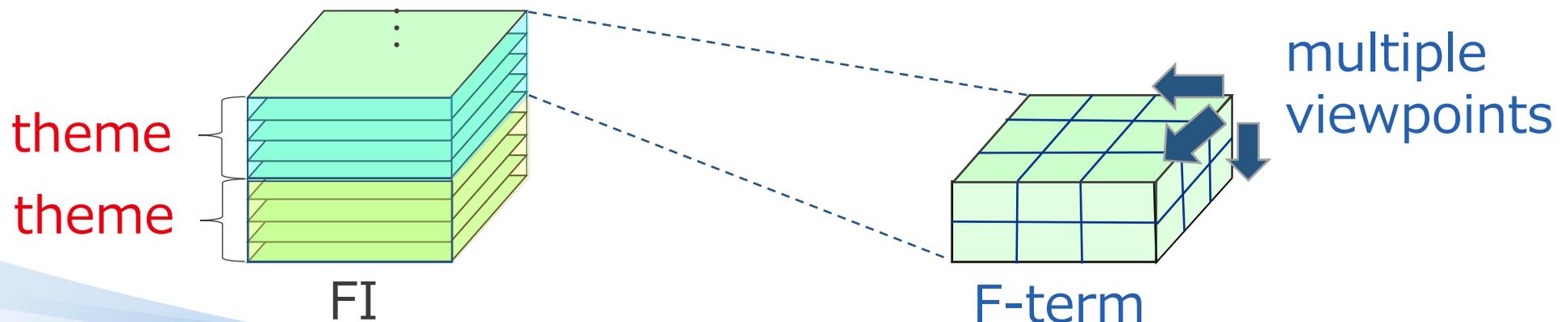
- IPC symbol
ex) A61B 5/00
- IPC symbol + extension symbol
ex) A61B 5/00, 101
- IPC symbol + extension symbol + file discrimination symbol
ex) A61B 5/00, 101 A
- IPC symbol + file discrimination symbol
ex) A61B 5/00 A

A61B 5/00 Measuring for diagnostic purposes (radiation diagnosis A61B6/00; diagnosis by ultrasonic, sonic or infrasonic waves A61B8/00); Identification of persons
A Measurement and recording device for diagnosis
B · Detection unit
:
Z Others
101 · Measuring colour, pressure or vibration of human body or parts thereof
101 A Colour measurement

Example of FI subdivisions for A61B5/00

What is F-term?

- The entire technical field of FI, which has section A to section H, is divided into about **2,500 areas** and each area is referred to as **"a theme"**
- About **1,600 themes** out of 2,500 themes have **"F-terms"**, which are search keys and we analyze patent documents in each "theme".
- The **F-term** indexing system is based on **multiple viewpoints** that are different from those of FI.



F-term list for theme “4C117” (excerpted in part)

- F-term symbols consist of 3 parts: “theme code”, “aspect”, and “numeral” (e.g. 4C117XA01)
 - The “theme code” part consists of 5 alphanumeric letters and is assigned to each “theme”.
 - The “aspect” part consists of 2 letters (selected from A to Z) and represents an aspect (object, purpose, etc.).
 - The “numeral” part consists of 2 digits (selected from 00 to 99) and represents an element of each aspect.

Theme code	4C117
Descriptions	MEASURING AND RECORDING APPARATUS FOR DIAGNOSIS
Scope of FI	A61B5/00-5/01,350

Aspect	F-term											Scope of FI
XA	XA00	XA01	XA02	XA03	XA04	XA05		XA07			XA10	A61B5/00-5/01,350
	OBJECT, E.G. PERSON, MACHINE OR DATA	. One single object	. . Measuring for ladies	. . Measuring for dementia patients or elderly persons	. . measuring patients in hospitals	. . measuring able-bodied persons or healthy persons		. Multiple objects			. Others	
XB	XB00	XB01	XB02	XB03	XB04	XB05	XB06	XB07	XB08	XB09	XB10	
		. Measuring	. Health care	. Instrument management	. Patient monitoring	. Management in hospitals	. Biometric data management	. Person identification	. Production of diagnostic reports or medical records	. Diagnostic support or CAD	. Clinical trial management or medical tests	
	PURPOSE	XB11	XB12	XB13	XB14	XB15	XB16	XB17	XB18		XB20	

| What is Facet?

“Facet” is a set of classification codes other than FI and F-term.

- Facet covers all the fields of FI (sections A to H) or a part of them, e.g. subclasses or groups. The former is called “Broad Facet”.
- Facet enables the search of patent documents from cross-sectional perspective, which is different from those in FI and F-term.
- Each Facet consists of three-alphabet symbols (e.g. BRA).
- As to Broad Facet, leftmost symbol must be “Z”.
- As of February 2023, 70 Facets (including 9 Broad Facets) are available.

Example of front page of publication

- e.g. Published Unexamined Patent Application

JP 2007-00000 A 2007. 1 .1

(19)日本国特許庁(JP) (12)公開特許公報(A) (11)特許出願公開番号
特開2007-000000
(P2007-00000A)
(43)公開日 平成19年1月1日(2007. 1. 1)

Facet

(51)Int. Cl.

G 2 1 B 12/345 (2006. 01)
G 0 2 C 9/87 (2006. 01)
G 0 1 B 67/89 (2006. 04)
G 0 1 B 12/345 (2006. 07)
G 0 1 B 34/56 (2007. 01)

FI
FI
G 0 1 B 12/34 1 0 1 B
G 0 2 C 9/87
G 0 1 B 67/89 Z
G 0 1 B 12/345 U
G 0 1 B 34/56

テーマコード (参考)

2 E 1 1 0
3 B 0 0 5

Theme code

審査請求 有 請求項の数 2 O L 外国語出願 公開請求 (全 7 頁) 最終頁に続く

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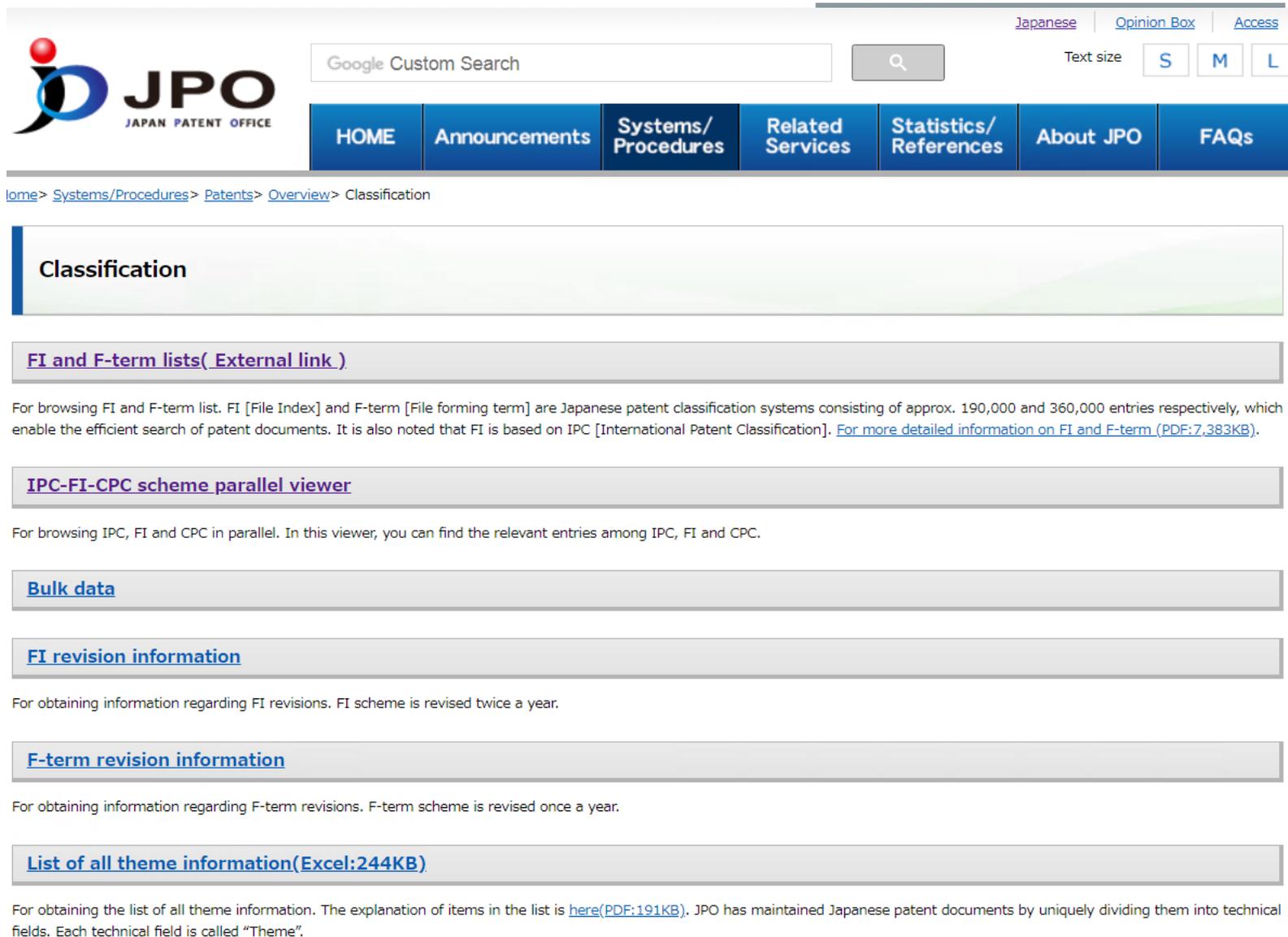
- English information on FI/F-term
 - Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)
 - IPC-FI-CPC scheme parallel viewer
 - Bulk data
 - FI (English ver.) scheme download
 - FI/F-term revision information

- Current status of FI/F-term

JPO website on classification

The image shows a screenshot of the Japan Patent Office (JPO) website. The main navigation menu at the top includes 'HOME', 'Announcements', 'Systems/Procedures', 'Related Services', 'Statistics/References', 'About JPO', and 'FAQs'. The 'Systems/Procedures' menu item is circled in red. Below it, the 'Patents' sub-menu is expanded, showing 'Overview', 'Filing', 'Examinations', and 'PCT International Application'. The 'Overview' item is also circled in red. A red arrow points from the 'Overview' item in the sub-menu to the 'Classification' item in the 'Classification' section of the page. The 'Classification' section is also circled in red. The page content includes a search bar, a text size selector, and a list of links for 'Overview (Patents)', 'Overview of IP system', 'Classification', and 'Patent Related Policies'. The 'Classification' section lists 'Classification' and 'Outline of Technology Examined in Examination Departments'. The 'Patent Related Policies' section lists 'AI-related Inventions', 'Recent Trends in Business-related Inventions', 'Applicants can obtain high quality search reports before publication', and 'Revision of the Time Limit for Submitting a Request for Examination'. At the bottom left, there is a banner for 'GXTI Green Transformation Technologies Inventory'.

JPO website on classification



JPO
JAPAN PATENT OFFICE

Google Custom Search

Japanese | Opinion Box | Access

Text size: S M L

HOME | Announcements | Systems/Procedures | Related Services | Statistics/References | About JPO | FAQs

Home > Systems/Procedures > Patents > Overview > Classification

Classification

[FI and F-term lists\(External link \)](#)

For browsing FI and F-term list. FI [File Index] and F-term [File forming term] are Japanese patent classification systems consisting of approx. 190,000 and 360,000 entries respectively, which enable the efficient search of patent documents. It is also noted that FI is based on IPC [International Patent Classification]. [For more detailed information on FI and F-term \(PDF:7,383KB\)](#).

[IPC-FI-CPC scheme parallel viewer](#)

For browsing IPC, FI and CPC in parallel. In this viewer, you can find the relevant entries among IPC, FI and CPC.

[Bulk data](#)

[FI revision information](#)

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[F-term revision information](#)

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[List of all theme information\(Excel:244KB\)](#)

For obtaining the list of all theme information. The explanation of items in the list is [here\(PDF:191KB\)](#). JPO has maintained Japanese patent documents by uniquely dividing them into technical fields. Each technical field is called "Theme".

Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)

[Japanese](#) | [Opinion Box](#) | [Access](#)

Google Custom Search

Text size

JPO
JAPAN PATENT OFFICE

[HOME](#) | [Announcements](#) | [Systems/Procedures](#) | [Related Services](#) | [Statistics/References](#) | [About JPO](#) | [FAQs](#)

[Home](#) > [Systems/Procedures](#) > [Patents](#) > [Overview](#) > Classification

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Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)

The screenshot displays the J-PlatPat website interface. At the top left is the J-PlatPat logo. The main navigation bar includes 'Patents/Utility Models', 'Images', 'Trademarks', and 'Trade & Awards'. A dropdown menu is open under 'Patents/Utility Models', with 'Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)' circled in red. Below the navigation is a search bar with a 'Clear' button. A modal window titled 'Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)' is overlaid on the page. It contains a search target section with radio buttons for 'FI/Facet' (selected), 'F-term', and 'IPC (latest version)'. There are also links for 'FI/Facet Simple Display', 'F-term Simple Display', and 'IPC (latest version) Simple Display'. A 'Classification' input field contains the text 'Ex: B22F'. At the bottom of the modal are 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons. A large red arrow on the right side of the page points towards the search input field.

Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)

- Simple display of FI/Facet and F-term is available (newly released on Feb. 1, 2021)



Help desk
(weekdays 9:00-21:00 JST) [\(+81\)3-3588-2751](tel:+81335882751)
helpdesk@j-platpat.inpit.go.jp

[Japanese](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Help list](#)

Patents/Utility Models

Designs

Trademark

Trials & Appeals

[Home](#) > Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)

Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)

[Help](#)

You can retrieve classifications by keywords for FI/F-terms and IPC (latest version). You can also retrieve classifications by code. You can set classifications for patent/utility model searches using the code retrieval.

Simple display (FI/Facet Simple Display, F-term Simple Display, IPC (latest version) Simple Display) is convenient for viewing the listed classifications or printing the listed classifications.

- For revision/abolition information, refer to [FI Revision Information](#), [Theme Revision/Abolition Information](#), [Theme Code Table](#), [IPC Revision Table](#), [IPC Guidelines](#), and [Former IPC Version](#).

- For information related to classification, refer to [Patent Map Guidance \(Former\) Information](#), [IPC Classification Table and Update Information](#), [CPC Information](#), [WIPO-IPC](#), and [Additional code list](#).

Code Inquiry

Search by Keyword

Search target

FI/Facet F-term IPC (latest version)

FI/Facet

F-term

[FI/Facet Simple Display](#)

[F-term Simple Display](#)

[IPC \(latest version\) Simple Display](#)

Classification

Ex: B22F

Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)

- Simple display of FI/Facet and F-term is available (newly released on Feb. 1, 2021)

Classification Display

F-term

Add

Highlighted search keywords:
4C117

(Remarks)
(Not Translated)

Theme code	4C117	Explanation
Descriptions	MEASURING AND RECORDING APPARATUS FOR DIAGNOSIS (Category : -)	
Scope of FI	A61B5/00 -5/01,350	

XA00 OBJECT, E.G. PERSON, MACHINE OR DATA Open +

XB00 PURPOSE Open +

XC00 CHARACTERISTIC FEATURE OF MEASURING INSTRUMENT Open +

XD00 MEASURED PART Open +

XE00 CHARACTERISTIC FEATURE OF MEASURING PART Open +

XF00 CHARACTERISTIC FEATURE OF STORAGE UNIT Open +

Classification Display (F-term)

F-Term-List

ReturnTo Theme-Group-Choice Onelevelup

(Not Translated)

4C117		MEASURING AND RECORDING APPARATUS FOR DIAGNOSIS		A61B5/00 -5/01,350	
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A61B5/00-5/01,350	XA	XA00	XA01	XA02	XA03	XA04	XA05		XA07		XA10		
		OBJECT, E. G. PERSON, MACHINE OR DATA	One single object	Measuring for ladies	Measuring for dementia patients or elderly persons	measuring patients in hospitals	measuring able-bodied persons or healthy persons		Multiple objects		Others		
	XB	XB00	PURPOSE	YB01	YB02	YB03	YB04	YB05	YB06	YB07	YB08	YB09	YB10
			Telemedicine	Disease prediction	Ready diagnosis e.g. cosmetics or esthetic clinics	Medical teaching	providing services or information	Simulation calculation for bodies	Correlated calculation by data processing	measuring mental state e.g. degree of stress or sleep		Others	
	XC	XC00	CHARACTERISTIC FEATURE OF MEASURING INSTRUMENT	XC01	XC02	XC03	XC04	XC05	XC06	XC07			
				Stationary-type	Beds	Chairs	Toilets	Baths	Cars	Hair washing machines			
				wearable or mobile	worn on arms	Wrist watch type	with memory or storage	with data transfer units	with display units		Separate instruments and data processing units being separated	measuring units	Network type
				Implantable type	Robots	Robot pets		Instrumental devices	Connectors	Cables	Switches	Electric circuits	
				Functional change	Program change	Hardware change							Others

F-term-List (simple display)

Theme-Group-Choice web page
https://www.j-platpat.inpit.go.jp/cache/classify/patent/PMGS_HTML/jpp/F_TERM/en/themeGroup/themeGroup_en.html

IPC-FI-CPC scheme parallel viewer

The screenshot shows the JPO website interface. At the top left is the JPO logo (Japan Patent Office). To its right is a search bar labeled 'Google Custom Search' and a search button. Further right are links for 'Japanese', 'Opinion Box', and 'Access', along with text size options 'S', 'M', and 'L'. Below the search bar is a navigation menu with buttons for 'HOME', 'Announcements', 'Systems/Procedures', 'Related Services', 'Statistics/References', 'About JPO', and 'FAQs'. The breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > Systems/Procedures > Patents > Overview > Classification'. The main content area has a header 'Classification' and a list of links. The link 'IPC-FI-CPC scheme parallel viewer' is highlighted with a red rectangular box. Below it is a description: 'For browsing IPC, FI and CPC in parallel. In this viewer, you can find the relevant entries among IPC, FI and CPC.' Other links include 'FI and F-term lists(External link)', 'Bulk data', 'FI revision information', 'F-term revision information', and 'List of all theme information(Excel:244KB)'. Each link is followed by a brief description of its function.

Japanese | Opinion Box | Access

Text size S M L

HOME Announcements Systems/Procedures Related Services Statistics/References About JPO FAQs

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IPC-FI-CPC scheme parallel viewer

☆ Scheme parallel viewer ☆ [concordance ver.](#) [rawdata download](#)

IPC Sample : G06F3 or G06F3/ or G06F3/00 or G06F3/02 etc... [help](#)

IPC JP EN Both non-display Display ipc level only : Off On ECLA: EN JP Both non-display

FI: JP EN Both non-display FI without same-symbol IPC : display non-display ICO: EN JP Both non-display

CPC: EN JP Both non-display FI dot pattern : pattern1 pattern2

Keyword Search IPC doc number : On Off

FI doc number : On Off

FI IPC CPC CPC doc number : On Off

IPC			FI			CPC				
B60G 17/015	the regulating means comprising electric or electronic elements(B60G17/005 takes precedence)	15675 docs	B60G 17/015	the regulating means comprising electric or electronic elements (B60G 17/005 takes precedence) [5,8]	3641 docs	3D301	HB	B60G17/015	the regulating means comprising electric or electronic elements ({B60G17/002}, B60G17/005 take precedence)	2014 docs
			B60G 17/015 A	Controlling damping force (controlling damper venturi and the like)	5078 docs	3D301	HB	B60G17/0152	{characterised by the action on a particular type of suspension unit (B60G17/01941 takes precedence)}	826 docs
			B60G 17/015 B	Controlling working fluid (control of hydro, full active, control of spring constant)	5028 docs	3D301	HB	B60G17/0155	{pneumatic unit}	783 docs
			B60G 17/015 C	controlling air	3040 docs	3D301	HB	B60G17/0157	{non-fluid unit, e.g. electric motor}	602 docs

Already Updated: IPC Ver.2023.01, FI Ver.2023.01, CPC Ver.2023.02

IPC-FI-CPC scheme parallel viewer

← → ↻ jpo.go.jp/cgi/cgi-bin/search-portal/narabe_tool_e/narabe_e.cgi 🔍 ☆ ⌂ ⋮

☆ **Scheme parallel viewer** ☆

[concordance ver.](#)

[rawdata download](#)

IPC ▾

Display

Clear

Sample : G06F3 or G06F3/ or G06F3/00 or G06F3/02 etc...

[help](#)

IPC JP EN Both non-display

symbol only

Display ipc level only : Off On

ECLA: EN JP Both non-

display

ICO: EN JP Both non-

display

Keyword search available

Keyword Search

Display

Clear

FI IPC CPC

IPC doc number : On Off

FI doc number : On Off

CPC doc number : On Off

Keyword : karaoke Classification : FI, IPC, CPC

FI [G09B 15/00 D](#) 2C030 Learning instruments for vocal music, **karaoke** (electronic musical **ke** systems : G10)

Link to the scheme

FI [B 20/02 M](#) 5D080 **Karaoke**

FI [R 1/02 107 ¥](#) 5D017 combined with another component e.g. microphone combined with an accessory, e.g. zoom microphone supporting device, **karaoke** microphone {Recording/reproducing of accompaniment for use with an external source, e.g. **karaoke** systems}

CPC [G10H1/361](#)

CPC [G10H2220/011](#) Lyrics displays, e.g. for **karaoke** applications

CPC [G10H2220/145](#) Multiplayer musical games, e.g. **karaoke**-like multiplayer videogames

CPC [G10H2220/211](#) for microphones, i.e. control of musical parameters either directly from microphone signals or by physically associated peripherals, e.g. **karaoke** control switches or rhythm sensing accelerometer within the microphone casing (microphones per seH04R)

CPC [G10H2240/036](#) File multilingual, e.g. multilingual lyrics for **karaoke**

CPC [G10H2240/325](#) Synchronizing two or more audio tracks or files according to musical features or musical timings (synchronised lyrics, e.g. for **karaoke** G10H2220/011)

声楽、カラオケの教習具（電子楽器・カラオケ装置：G 1 0）

カラオケ関係

カラオケ採点

カラオケ

他の機器と組み合わされて用いられるもの、例。装身具と組み合わされたマイクロホン（例。ズームマイクロホン支持装置、カラオケマイク）

（外部音源と共に使用する伴奏を記録／再生するもの、〔例。カラオケ装置〕）

歌詞表示、例。カラオケ

マルチプレイヤー音楽ゲーム、例。カラオケのようなマルチプレイヤービデオゲーム

マイクロフンのためのもの、例。マイクロホン信号から直接または関連周辺機器を物理的に介在させた音楽パラメータの制御、例。マイクロホンケーシングの中のカラオケ制御スイッチまたはリズム感知加速度計（マイクロホンそれ自体H 0 4 R）

多国語ファイル、例。カラオケ用多国語歌詞

音楽機能や音楽タイミングにより2以上のオーディオトラックやファイルと同期すること（同期歌詞、例。カラオケ用G 1 0 H 2 2 2 0 / 0 1 1）

Bulk data

- FI scheme (in English) and Raw data for IPC-FI-CPC scheme parallel viewer can be downloaded from JPO website.

The screenshot shows the JPO website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, Announcements, Systems/Procedures, Related Services, Statistics/References, About JPO, and FAQs. Below this is a search bar and a text size selector (S, M, L). The main content area is titled "Classification" and contains several links: "FI and F-term lists(External link)", "IPC-FI-CPC scheme parallel viewer", and "Bulk data". The "Bulk data" link is highlighted with a red box and a blue arrow pointing to a list of download options. The list includes "FI scheme in XML format" (2022-04 version, ZIP:48.9MB) and "Rawdata for IPC-FI-CPC scheme parallel viewer" (2023-01 version, ZIP:36.5MB). Both options are also highlighted with red boxes. At the bottom right, there is a note "[Last updated 19 January 2023]" and a "Top of page" link.

Japanese | Opinion Box | Access

Google Custom Search

Text size S M L

HOME Announcements Systems/Procedures Related Services Statistics/References About JPO FAQs

ome> Systems/Procedures> Patents> Overview> Classification

Japanese | Opinion Box | How to use JPO website | Access

ENHANCED BY Google

Text size S M L

HOME Announcements Systems/Procedures Related Services Statistics/References About JPO FAQs

Home> Systems/Procedures> Patents> Overview> Classification> Bulk data

Bulk data

FI scheme in XML format
2022-04 version (ZIP:48.9MB)

Rawdata for IPC-FI-CPC scheme parallel viewer
2023-01 version (ZIP:36.5MB)

[Last updated 19 January 2023]

[Top of page](#)

FI/F-term revision information

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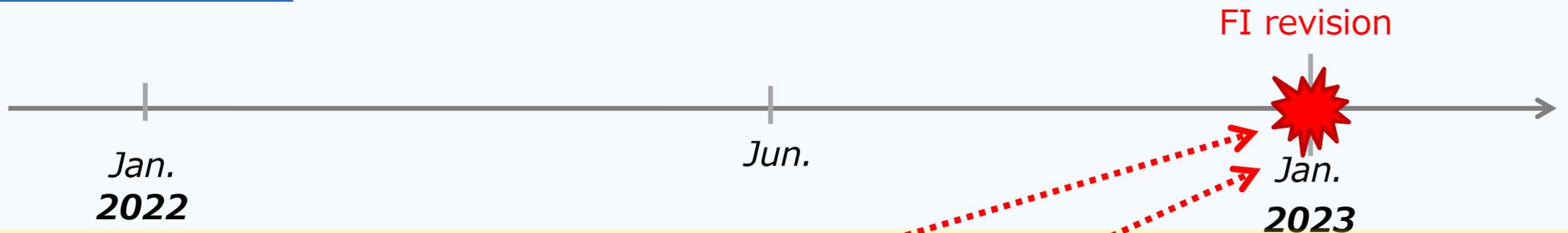
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- Current status of FI/F-term
 - FI revision schedule
 - Updating FI scheme according to the latest version of IPC
 - FI/F-term revision in FY2022

FI revision schedule

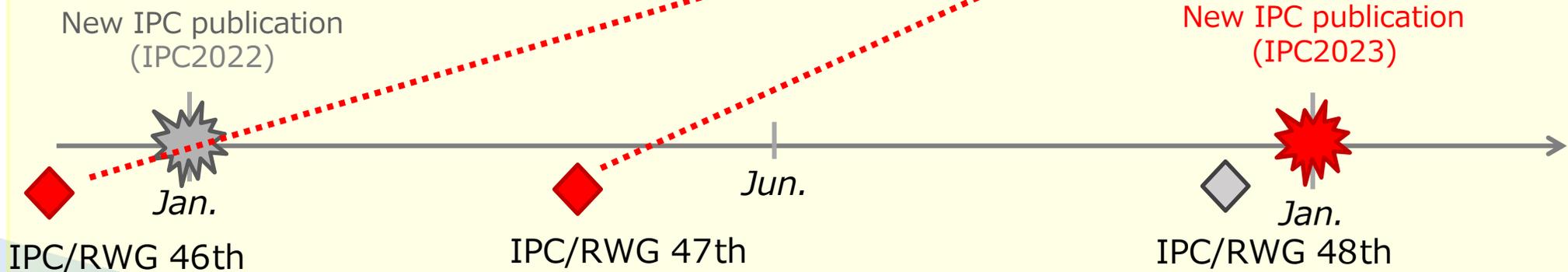
➤ FI system reform

From 2023, FI revision and new IPC publication **in January at the same time.**

FI revision schedule



IPC schedule



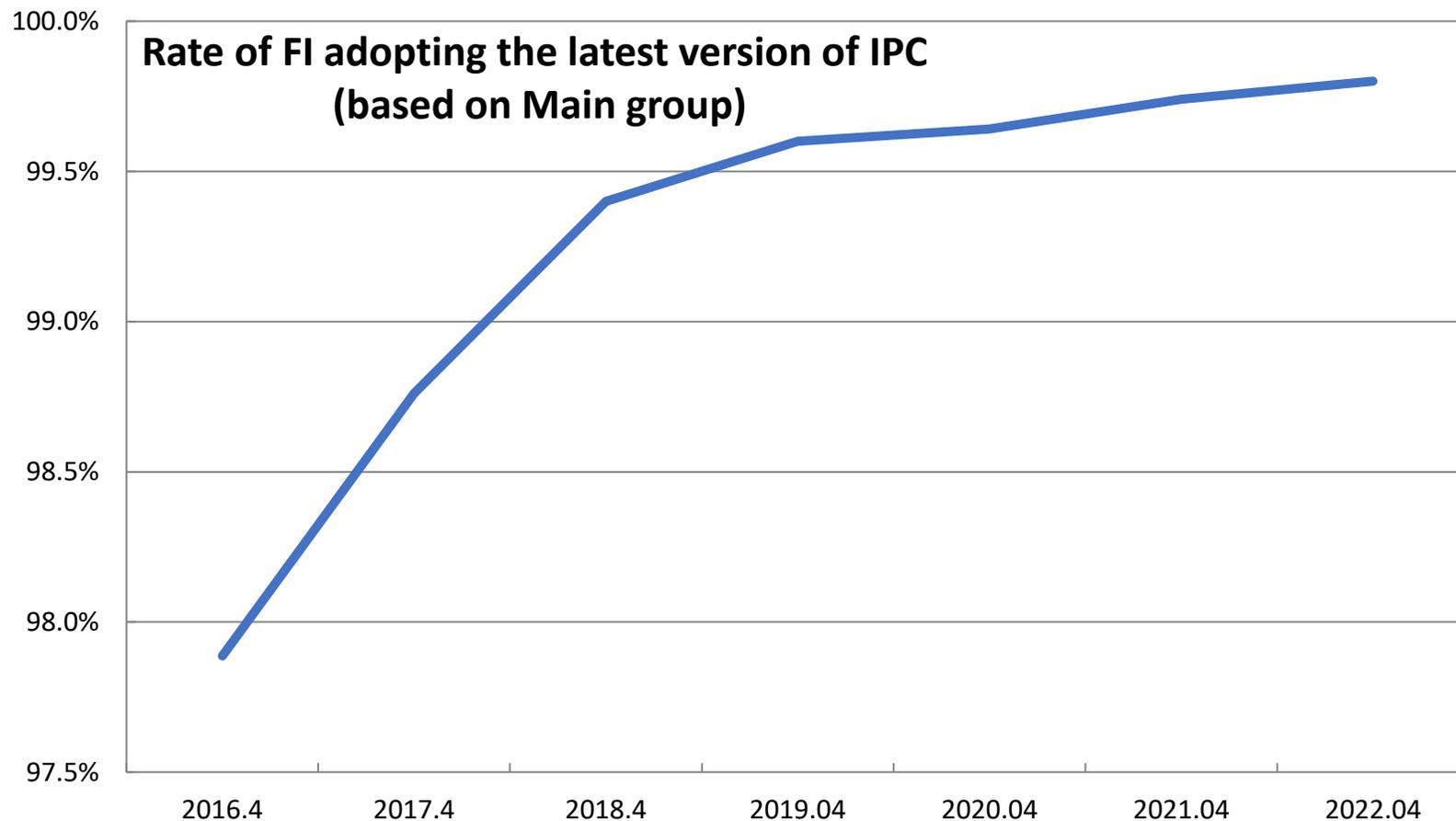
IPC/RWG 46th

IPC/RWG 47th

IPC/RWG 48th

Updating FI scheme according to the latest version of IPC

- Upon completion of FI revision in Apr. 2022, rate of FI adopting the latest IPC reached approximately **99.80 %**.



FI/F-term revision in FY2022

In FY2022, the JPO carried out FI/F-term revision for the following numbers of FI main groups / themes.

- New FI and F-terms created
 - Unused FI and F-terms deleted
-
- FI revision: 454 main groups
 - F-term revision: 18 themes

GXTI enables GX patent trend analysis with IPC based search formulae

A bird's-eye view of GX technologies through 5 large technology categories and 4 transversal perspective

Patent search formulae are published so anyone can search patent documents in the same way

The patent search Formulae based on IPCs can be used for worldwide patent document searches



<https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/resources/statistics/gxti.html>

Japan Patent Office

GXTI Green Transformation Technologies Inventory

GX (Green Transformation) is a hot topic these days. So, I want to promote our company's GX achievements from an intellectual property perspective. But, I wonder what kind of technologies can be called "GX technology"? I wish there was an easy way to check how many patents we have that can be called "GX technology" ...

You are in luck. **The JPO has the solution to your wish. It's the "GXTI" that we created, which responds exactly to what you want!**

4 Perspectives for Cross Tabulation (gxY)

	gxY01 Control	gxY02 Measuring	gxY03 Business	gxY04 ICT
gxA Energy Supply e.g., Solar Photovoltaic Power Generation, Fuel Cells, Hydrogen Technology				
gxB Energy Saving, Electrification, Demand-Supply Flexibility e.g., Energy Saving in Buildings, Electromobilities				
gxC Batteries, Energy Storage e.g., Secondary Batteries, Pumped Storage Power Generation, Thermal Storage Materials				
gxD CO2 Reduction in Non-Energy Sector e.g., Hydrogen Reduction Steelmaking, Recycling				
gxE Capture, Storage, Utilization and Removal of Greenhouse Gas e.g., CCS, Green Refrigerants				

The GXTI shows how to categorize GX technologies and how to search for patent documents that include the category "GX technology". The GXTI gives a bird's-eye view of GX technology from **5 GX Technologies** (gxA–gxE) and **4 Perspectives for Cross Tabulation** (gxY). It was developed based on discussions by a panel comprised of six external experts with in-depth knowledge of GX technology, who received cooperation from members at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry; and the Ministry of the Environment.

Japan Patent Office GXTI search

Read here to go to the GXTI page
<https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/resources/statistics/gxti.html>

Thank you!

