

# Search tools and the International Patent Classification

Kigali June, 2017

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#### Overview

- Elements of a patent application
- Boolean operators
- Proximity operators
- Phrases
- Nesting
- Wildcard operators
- Range operators



(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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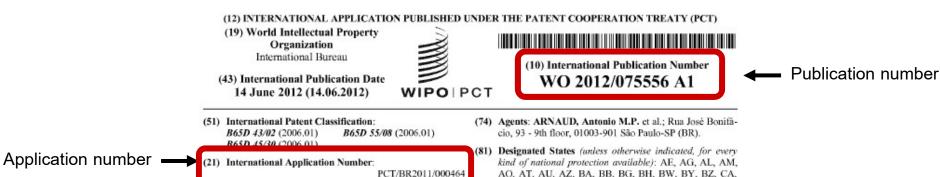
English

(30) Priority Data:

PI1005786-2 8 December 2010 (08.12.2010)

- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BRASIL-ATA S/A EMBALAGENS METÁLICAS [BR/BR]; Rua Robert Bosch, 332, 01141-010 São Paulo-SP (BR).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): ALVARES, Antonio Carlos Teixeira [BR/BR]; Rua Robert Bosch, 332, 01141-010 São Paulo-SP (BR), DA CUNHA, Silvério Cândido [BR/BR]; Rua Francisco Oscar Karnal, 398 - Ap. 604, 959-000 Lajeado-RS (BR).

- (74) Agents: ARNAUD, Antonio M.P. ct al.; Rua José Bonifácio. 93 - 9th floor, 01003-901 São Paulo-SP (BR).
- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FL GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, OA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.
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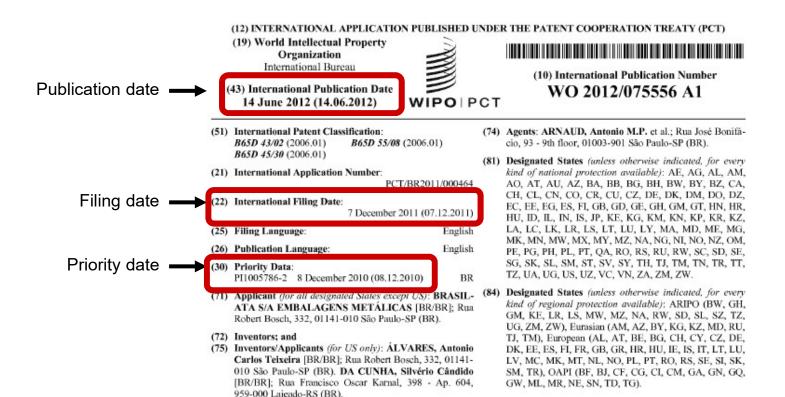
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Inventor (72)

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Designated states

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#### Description (specification)

#### "CLOSURE DEVICE FOR METALLIC CONTAINERS" Field of the Invention

The present invention refers to a closure device to be applied in metallic containers, such as pails, comprising a tubular body having a peripheral side wall which has a lower end portion to which is attached a bottom wall, and an upper end portion surrounding an opening, inside which is fitted and axially locked an also metallic lid with a peripheral upper skirt provided with at least one sealing element which cooperates with an upper end portion of the peripheral side wall of the tubular body of the container, to guarantee the tightness of the closure by the lid.

#### Prior Art

There are well known from the prior art the closure arrangements of the type mentioned above and which present one of the parts defined by the upper end portion of the tubular body of the container, or by the peripheral upper skirt of the lid provided with at least one circumferential rib which is fitted and axially retained into a respective and confronting circumferential groove provided on the other of said parts, in order to guarantee a reliable axial retention of the lid when fitted into the upper opening of the tubular body of the container.

These closure arrangements are provided with at least one annular sealing element, usually an elastic sealing ring or a synthetic resin gasket, which is

- Describes how the invention works (addresses a particular technical problem)
- Provides background information on this problem
- Indicates other known solutions to the problem ("prior art")



#### Claims

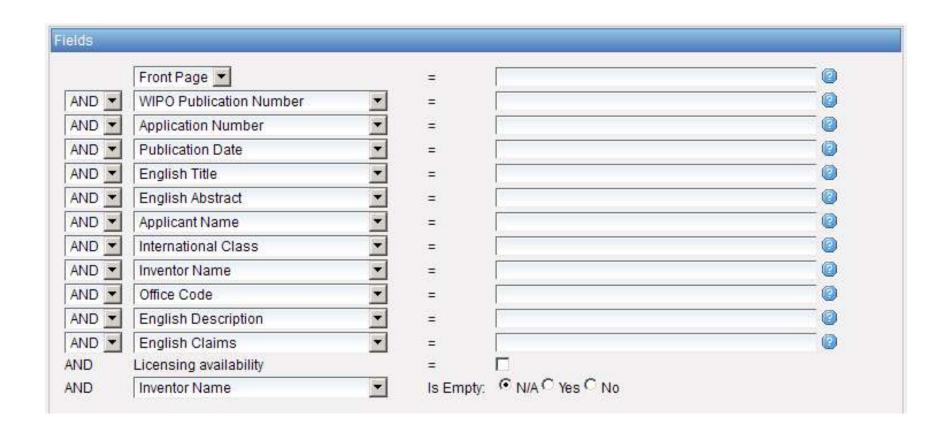
#### CLAIMS

1.Closure device for metallic containers comprising: a tubular body (10) having an upper end portion (11) which incorporates an outer and upper finishing cord (13), and an outer and lower peripheral rib (14); and a lid (20) including a peripheral upper skirt (22) to be fitted inside said upper end portion and externally incorporating an outer curl, characterized in that said device comprises: a retention ring (40) seated around the tubular body (10) and axially locked between the finishing cord (13) and the peripheral rib

Define the scope of protection sought by the applicant



#### **Fields**



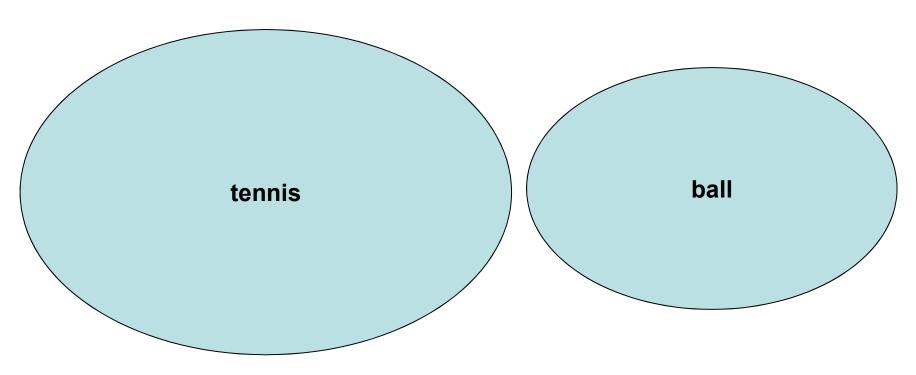


#### Boolean operators

- Also known as "logical operators"
  - AND (or +)
  - OR
  - NOT (or ANDNOT or -)



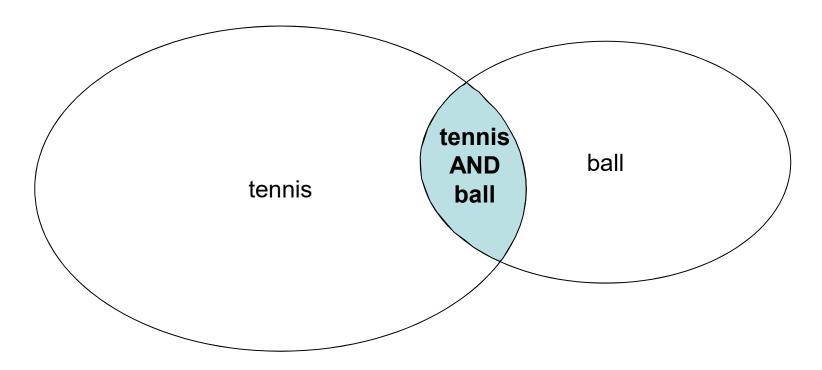
### Boolean operators



- Results in PCT collection (English titles):
  - **219** (tennis)
  - **2'829** (ball)
  - 3'048 total



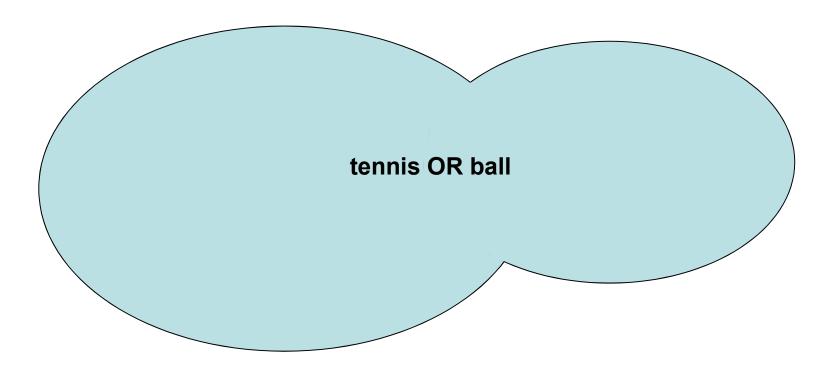
## Boolean operators: AND



- Results in PCT collection (English titles)
  - 38 (tennis AND ball)



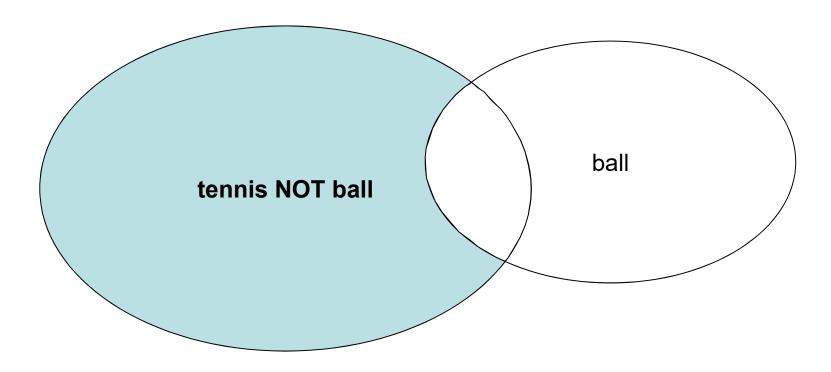
#### Boolean operators: OR



- Results in PCT collection (English titles)
  - 3'010 (tennis OR ball)
- → Avoids double counting tennis AND ball



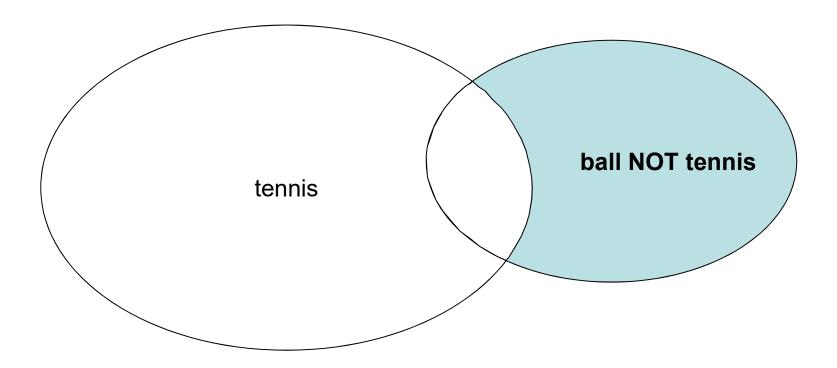
#### Boolean operators: NOT



- Results in PCT collection (English titles)
  - 181 (tennis NOT ball)



#### Boolean operators: NOT



- Results in PCT collection (English titles)
  - 2'791 (ball NOT tennis)
- → Order of terms matters!



#### Boolean operators: Uses

- OR: synonyms or related concepts corn OR maize → synonyms corn OR plant → related concepts
- AND: additional concepts corn AND fertilizer



#### Proximity operators

- Define the maximum "distance" (number of terms) between search terms
- → Ensure that search terms are "in context" with each other



#### Proximity operators: Ordered

Ordered: Search terms must be in given order (and within specified distance)
 corn BEFORE5 fertilizer (in PATENTSCOPE)

A process is provided for the dry treatment of agricultural products such as corn and tobacco to remove fertilizer derived nitrate. The process involves a short duration contact of the agricultural product with HCl gas under conditions which minimize generation of non-volatile chlorocarbons that could form by interaction of the agricultural product with the gaseous products of the reaction of the HCl with the nitrate.



#### Proximity operators: Unordered

Unordered: Search terms can be in any order (and within specified distance)

corn NEAR5 fertilizer (in PATENTSCOPE)

A process is provided for the dry treatment of agricultural products such as corn and tobacco to remove fertilizer-derived nitrate. The process involves a short duration contact of the agricultural product with HCl gas under conditions which minimize generation of non-volatile chlorocarbons that could form by interaction of the agricultural product with the gaseous products of the reaction of the HCl with the nitrate.

The organic fertilizer comprises oilseed extract and/or corn teep liquor in combination with whey and/or other protein supplements, which provide a natural, nitrate free, nitrogen to the termizer. Additionally, a method of manufacturing an organic fertilizer comprising heating an oilseed extract, dissolving whey in the heated extract, and filtering the resultant mixture for use domestically and abroad.



#### Question

How would you carry out a search for inventions related to blood pressure?



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#### Boolean operator: AND

- How would you carry out a search for inventions related to blood pressure?
- blood AND pressure
- → No context



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#### Proximity operator

- How would you carry out a search for inventions related to blood pressure?
- blood AND pressure
- → No context
- blood BEFORE1 pressure
- → Works, but not supported by all database systems



#### **Phrases**

- How would you carry out a search for inventions related to blood pressure?
- blood AND pressure
- → No context
- blood BEFORE1 pressure
- → Works, but not supported by all database systems
- → "blood pressure"



Photo source: Pia von Lützau

#### Comparison: AND, proximity, phrases

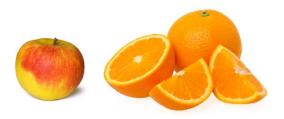
- AND: both terms required, no context required
- → Broadest search
- Proximity: both terms required, in context
- → Narrower search (depending on distance)
- Phrases: exact phrase required (e.g. compound words)
- → Narrowest search



apples AND oranges OR bananas



apples AND oranges OR bananas



or







apples AND oranges OR bananas



or





Photo source: Evan Amos, Zoofari, Amada44 (Wikimedia)

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apples AND oranges OR bananas

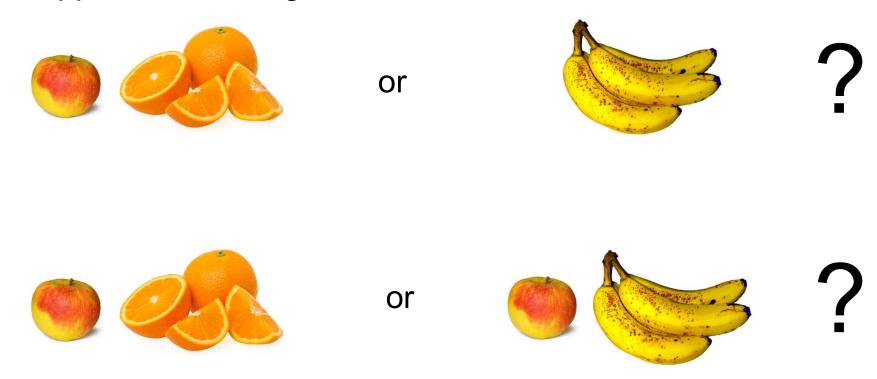
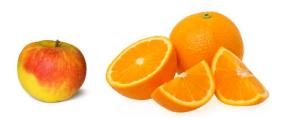


Photo source: Evan Amos, Zoofari, Amada44 (Wikimedia)

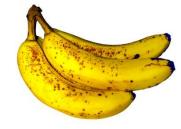
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### Nesting

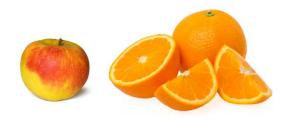
(apples AND oranges) OR bananas



or



apples AND (oranges OR bananas)



or





#### Question

How would you carry out a search for all manner of inventions related to electricity?



Photo source: Dmitri G (Wikimedia)

# Key concepts

- electricity
- electrical
- electric
- electronic
- electromagnetic
- ...



#### Boolean operators: OR

- electricity
- electrical
- electric
- electronic
- electromagnetic
- ...
- → electricity OR electrical OR electric OR electronic OR electromagnetic ...



### Wildcard operators

- electricity
- electrical
- electric
- electronic
- electromagnetic
- ...



### Wildcard operators

- electricity
- electrical
- electric
- electronic
- electromagnetic
- ...



# Wildcard operators

- electricity
- electrical
- electric
- electronic
- electromagnetic
- ...
- → electr\*
- (\* represents a given number of characters)



# Wildcard operators

Any number of characters : \* electr\* → electric, electron, electronic ...

One character exactly (stackable):?
coll?sion → collision, collusion ...
foc?? → focus, focal ...

Can be used at the end of a term or inside a term



# Range operators

- Range including end points : [term1 TO term2]
- Range excluding end points : {term1 TO term2}
- ID number ranges [WO1999012345 TO WO1999012350]
- Date ranges [20100101 TO 20100601]
- Name ranges PA:[m\* TO n\*]



#### Scenario

- A shipping company would like to improve its logistics management.
- You've been asked to perform a search for inventions related to radio frequency identification (RFID) tags used to track the movement of containers.



# Key concepts

radio frequency identification

**RFID** 

containers



# **Phrases**

"radio frequency identification"

RFID

containers

→ Identify compound words



# Boolean operators

"radio frequency identification" OR RFID AND containers

→ Indicate relationships between concepts (synonyms and additional concepts)



# Nesting

("radio frequency identification" OR RFID) AND containers

→ Resolve ambiguous logic

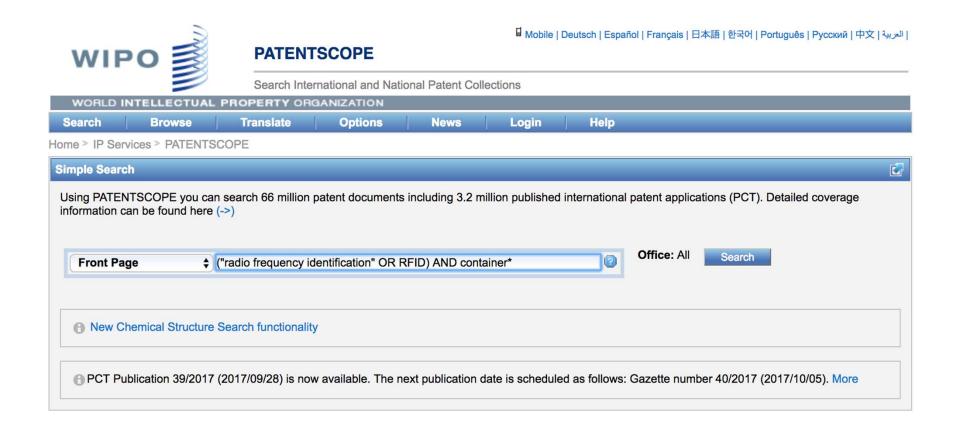


# Wildcard operators

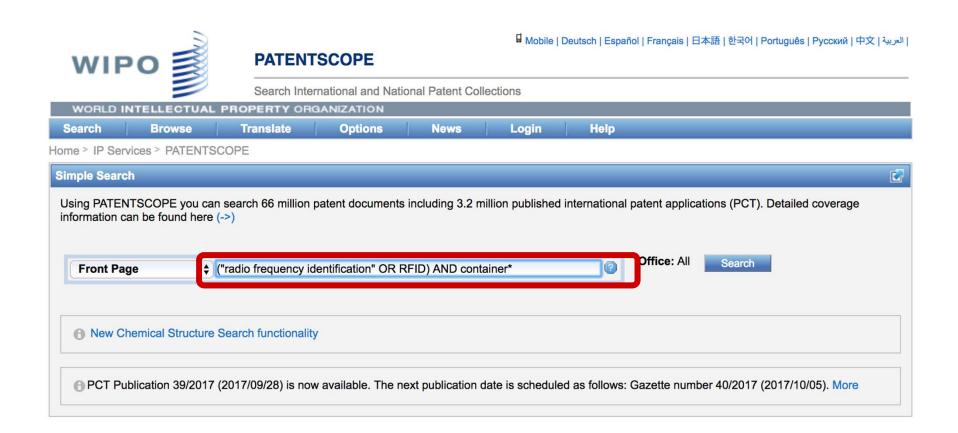
('radio frequency identification" OR RFID) AND container\*

→ Include variants (here: plural form)

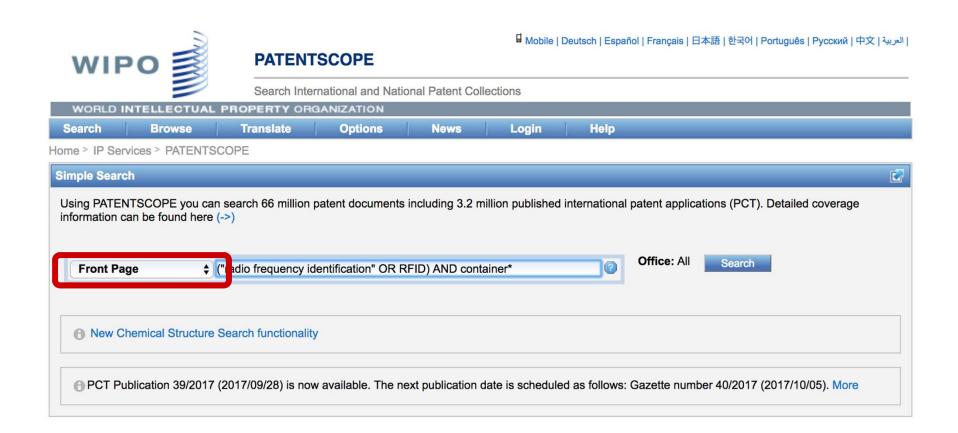






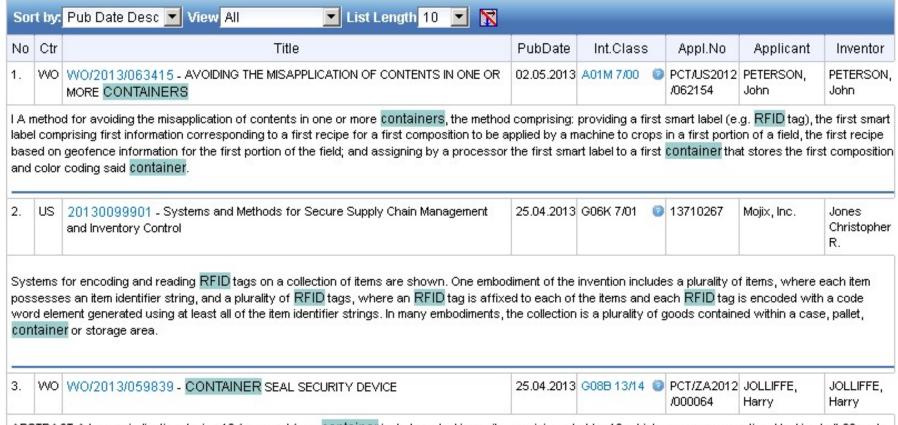








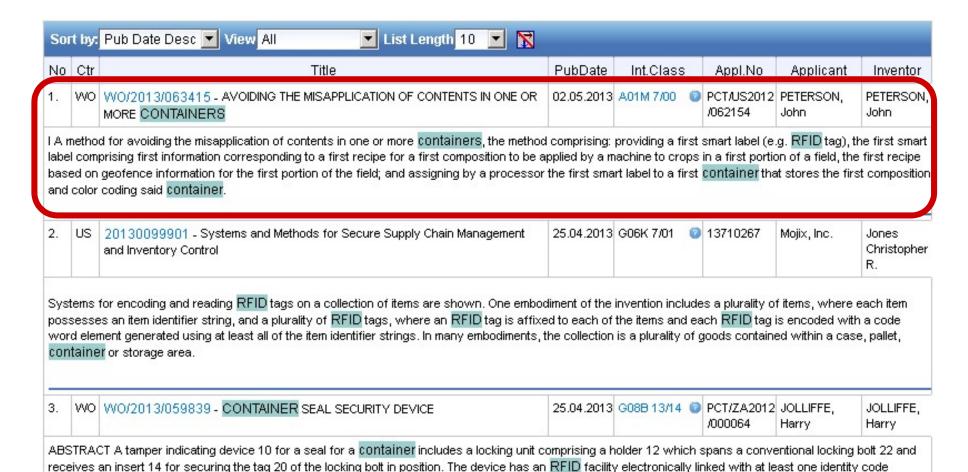
# Search: Results



ABSTRACT A tamper indicating device 10 for a seal for a container includes a locking unit comprising a holder 12 which spans a conventional locking bott 22 and receives an insert 14 for securing the tag 20 of the locking bott in position. The device has an RFID facility electronically linked with at least one identity code associated with the locking bott 22 and/or the container number. The device 10 is for single - use and once locked in place is required to be broken to be removed.



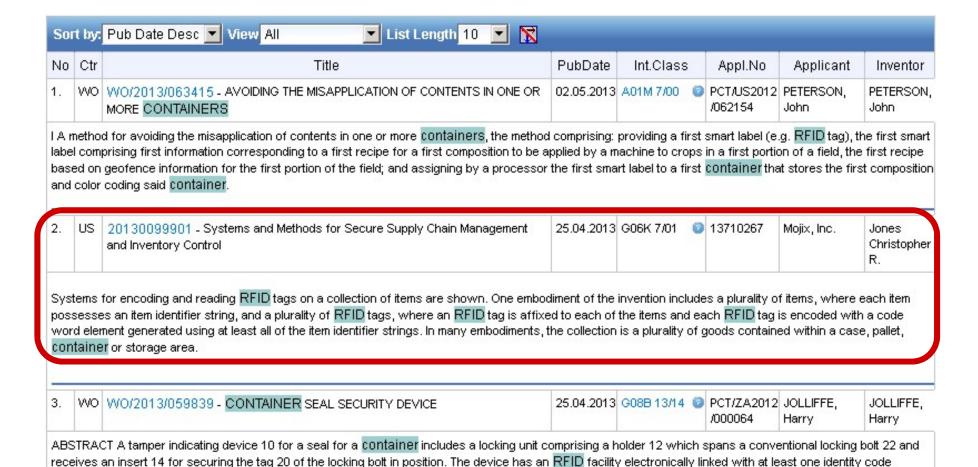
# Search: Results



associated with the locking bolt 22 and/or the container number. The device 10 is for single - use and once locked in place is required to be broken to be removed.

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# Search: Results



associated with the locking bolt 22 and/or the container number. The device 10 is for single - use and once locked in place is required to be broken to be removed.



#### Patent Classification: Overview

- What are advantages and disadvantages of patent classification?
- How is the IPC structured?
- How can I find relevant IPC symbols?



# Advantages of classification vs. keywords

- Terminology and jargon independent (including changes in terms used over time)
- Language independent
- Obfuscation
- → A more complete and precise search



# Advantages of patent classification vs. keywords

- Applied in a standardized manner to patent documents
- Available for patent documents published (nearly) anywhere in the world
- Available for (old) patent documents for which little or no searchable text is available
- Specially adapted for patent documentation



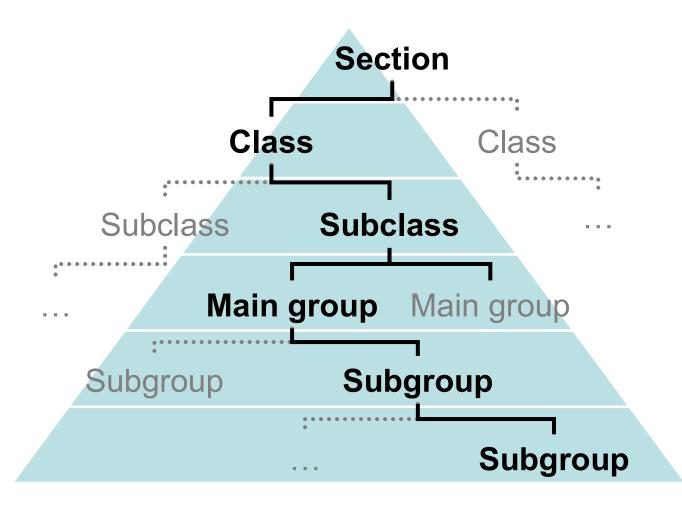
# Disadvantages of patent classification vs. keywords

- May not be available for all areas of technology
- May not be specific enough for a particular search
- May not be available for all documents
- Potentially complex

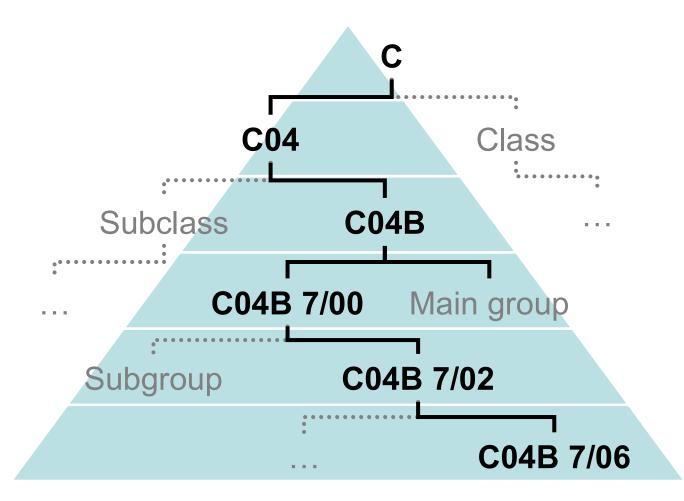


- Hierarchical
  - Section
  - Class
  - Subclass
  - Main group
  - Subgroup





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C → Chemistry

Concrete; artificial stone; ceramics; refractories

O4B → Lime; magnesia; slag; cements; compositions thereof...; artificial stone; ceramics; refractories; treatment of natural stone

C04B 7/00 → Hydraulic cements

C04B 7/02 → Portland cement

C04B 7/06 → using alkaline raw materials



# IPC: Structure (subgroups)

C04B 7/00	Hydraulic cements
C04B 7/02	Portland cement
C04B 7/04	· · using raw materials containing gypsum
C04B 7/06	· · using alkaline raw materials
C04B 7/12	Natural pozzuolanas; Natural pozzuolana cements [4]
C04B 7/13	· · Mixtures thereof with inorganic cementitious materials, e.g. Portland cements [4]
C04B 7/14	Cements containing slag
C04B 7/147	·· Meta lurgical slag [4]
C04B 7/153	· · · Mixtures thereof with other inorganic cementitious materials or other activators [4]
C04B 7/17	· · · · with calcium oxide containing activators [4]
C04B 7/19	· · · · · Portland cements [4]
C04B 7/21	· · · · with calcium sulfate containing activators [4]
C04B 7/22	· Iron ore cements
C04B 7/24	· Cements from oil shales, residues or waste other than slag [4]
C04B 7/26	· · from raw materials containing flue dust
C04B 7/28	· · from combustion residues (C04B 7/26 takes precedence) [4]

→ More dots = lower hierarchical level



# IPC: Structure (subgroups)

C04B 7/00	Hydraulic cements
C04B 7/02	· Portland cement
C04B 7/04	· · using raw materials containing gypsum
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C04B 7/153	· · · Mixtures thereof with other inorganic cementitious materials or other activators [4]
C04B 7/17	· · · · with calcium oxide containing activators [4]
C04B 7/19	· · · · · Portland cements [4]
C04B 7/21	· · · · with calcium sulfate containing activators [4]
C04B 7/22	· Iron ore cements
C04B 7/24	<ul> <li>Cements from oil shales, residues or waste other than slag [4]</li> </ul>
C04B 7/26	· · from raw materials containing flue dust
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# IPC: Structure (notes and references)

A23	FOODS OR FOODSTUFFS; THEIR TREATMENT, NOT COVERED BY OTHER CLASSES
	Note(s)
	Attention is drawn to the following places:
	C08B Polysaccharides, derivatives thereof
	C11 Animal or vegetable oils, fats, fatty substances or waxes
	C12 Biochemistry, beer, spirits, wine, vinegar
	C13 Sugar industry.
A23B	PRESERVING, e.g. BY CANNING, MEAT, FISH, EGGS, FRUIT, VEGETABLES, EDIBLE SEEDS; CHEMICAL RIPENING OF FRUIT OF VEGETABLES: THE PRESERVED, RIPENED, OR CANNED PRODUCTS (preserving foodstuffs in general A23L 3/00; applying food preservatives in packages B65D 81/28)
A23C	DAIRY PRODUCTS, e.g. MILK, BUTTER, CHEESE; MILK OR CHEESE SUBSTITUTES;  MAKING THEREOF (obtaining protein compositions for foodstuffs A23J 1/00) preparation of peptides, e.g. of proteins, in general C07K 1/00)

#### Note(s)

This subclass covers:

- the chemical aspects of making dairy products [3]
- the apparatus used for performing techniques provided for therein, e.g. for concentration, evaporation, drying, preservation, or sterilisation, unless such apparatus is specifically provided for in another subclass, e.g. A01J for treatment of milk or cream for manufacture of butter or cheese. [3]
- → Relevant symbols, definitions, versions



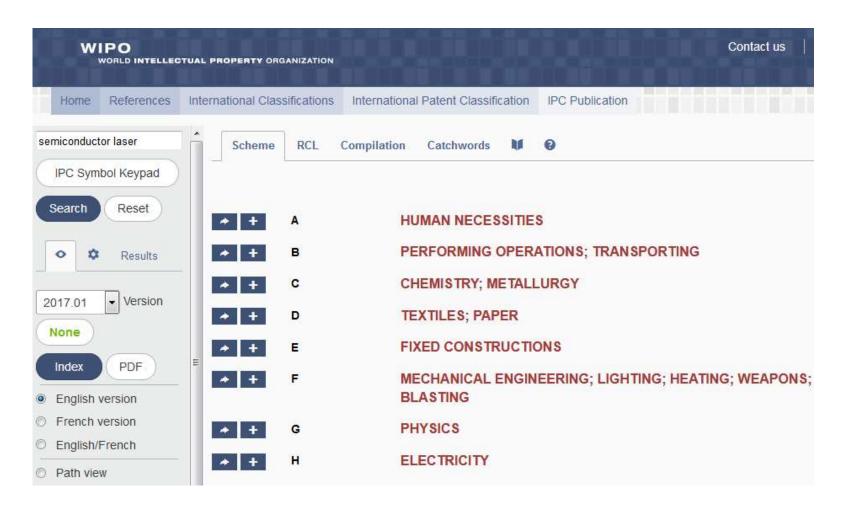
#### Scenario

You have been requested to retrieve patent documents related to semiconductor lasers and have decided to use IPC classification for this purpose.



Photo source: NASA

# **IPC Official Publication**

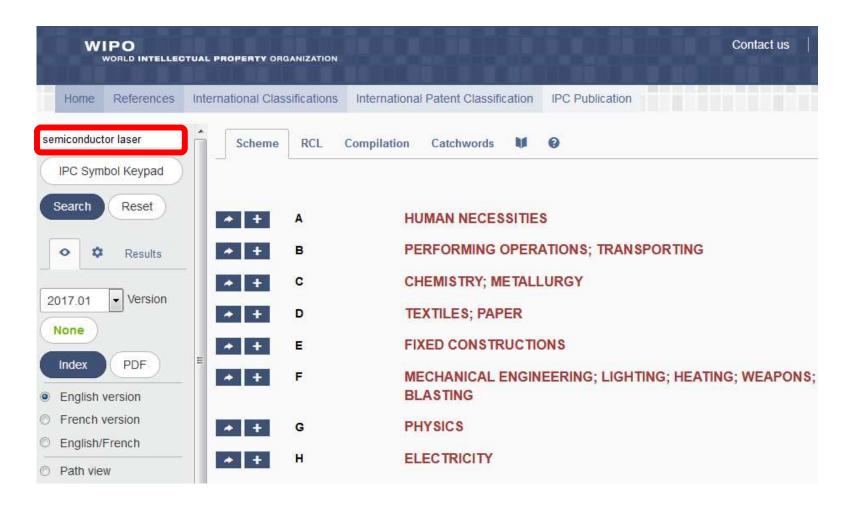




- Catchwords
- Definitions
- Scheme
- STATS

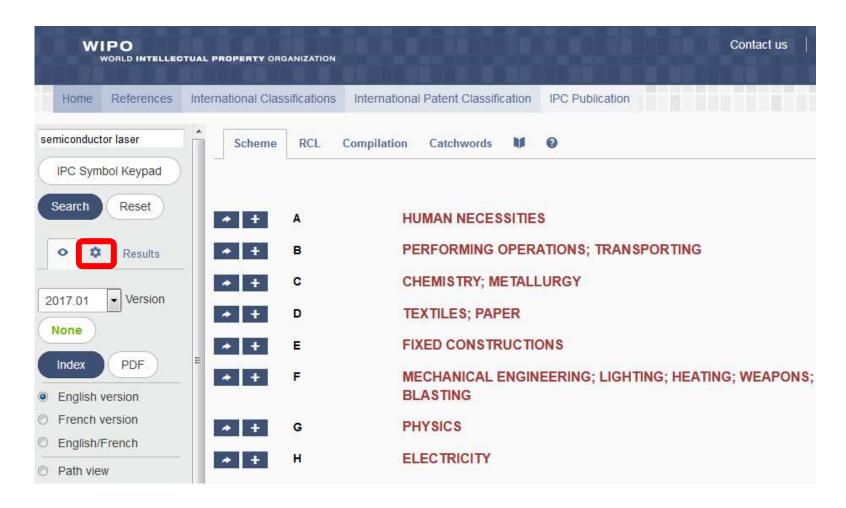


# **IPC Official Publication**



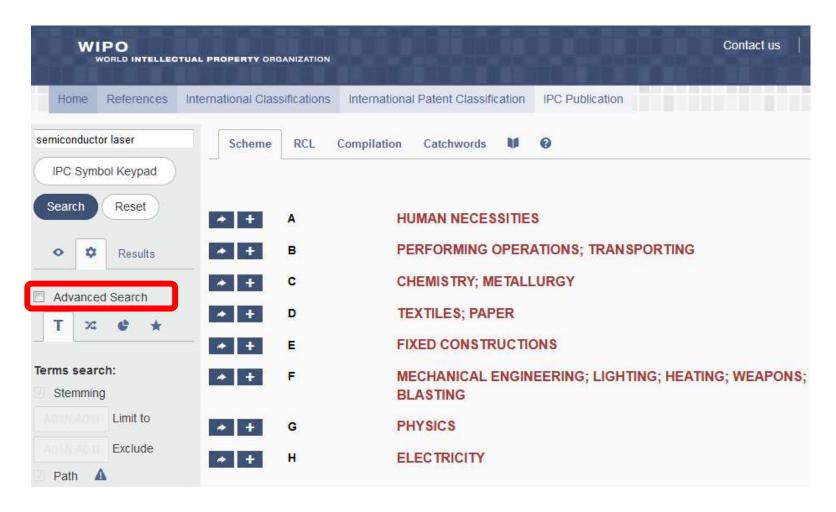


# **IPC Official Publication**



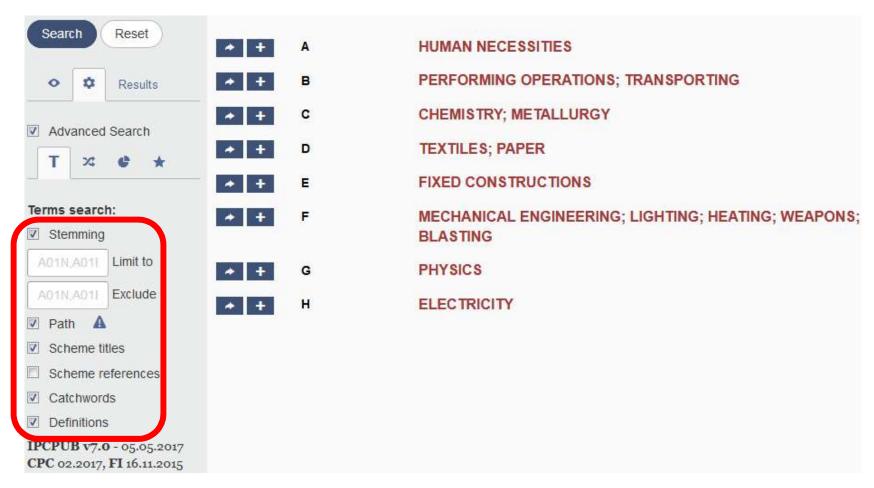


# **IPC** Search



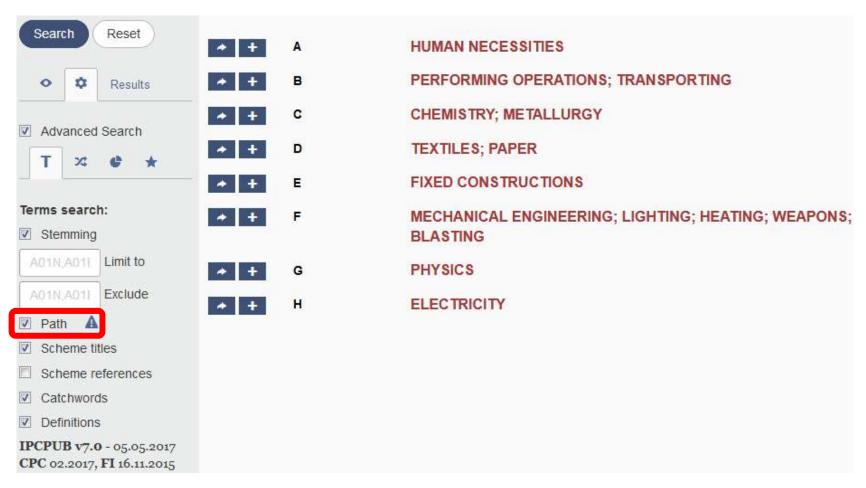


# **IPC Advanced Search**



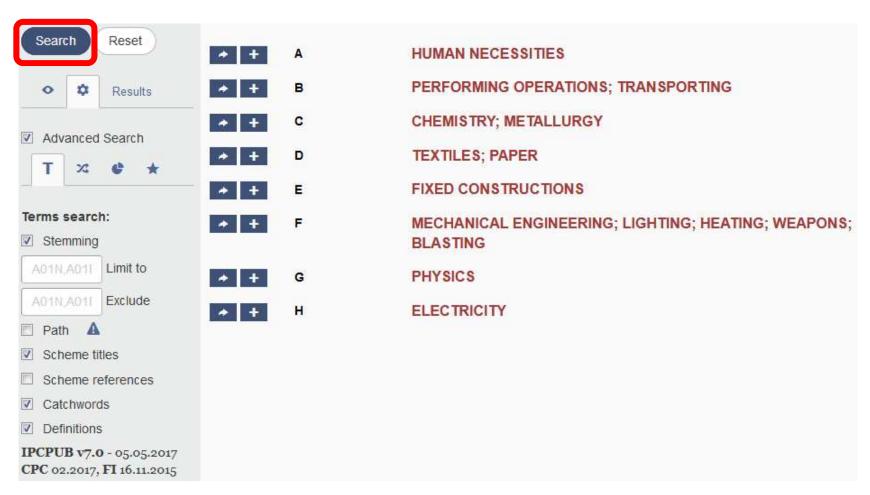


#### **IPC Advanced Search**

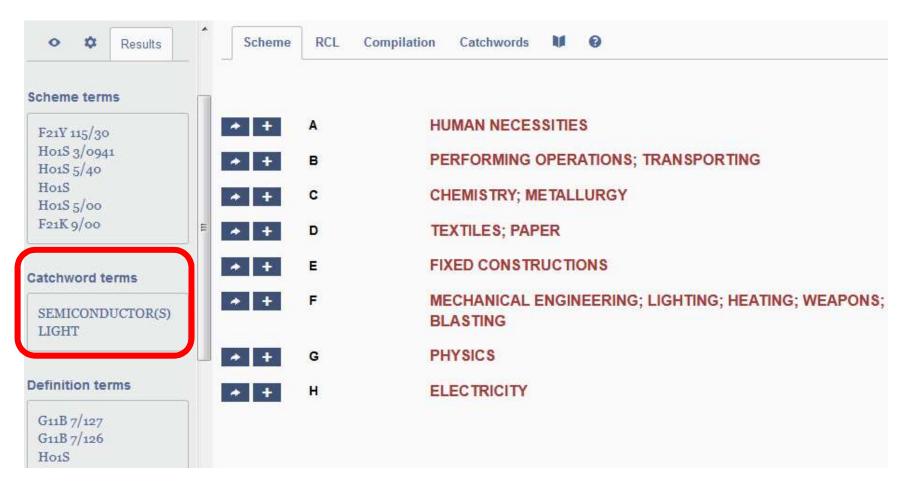




#### **IPC Advanced Search**

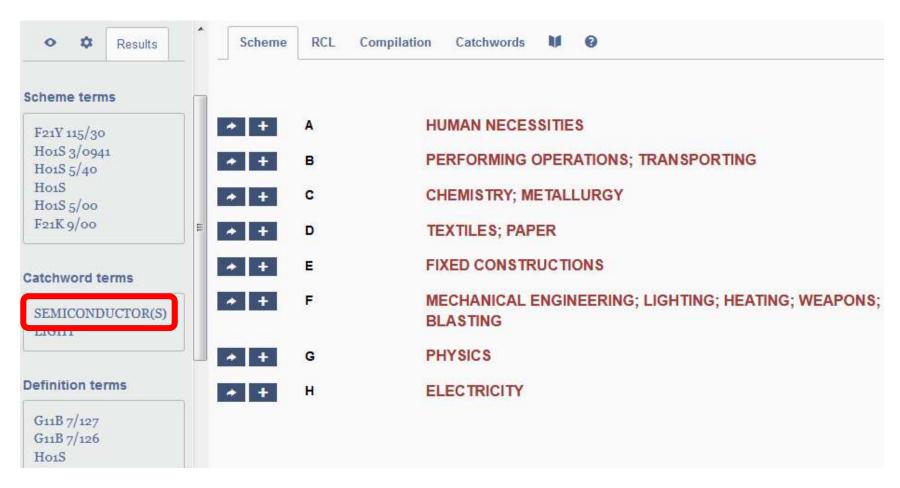


### **IPC Search Results**



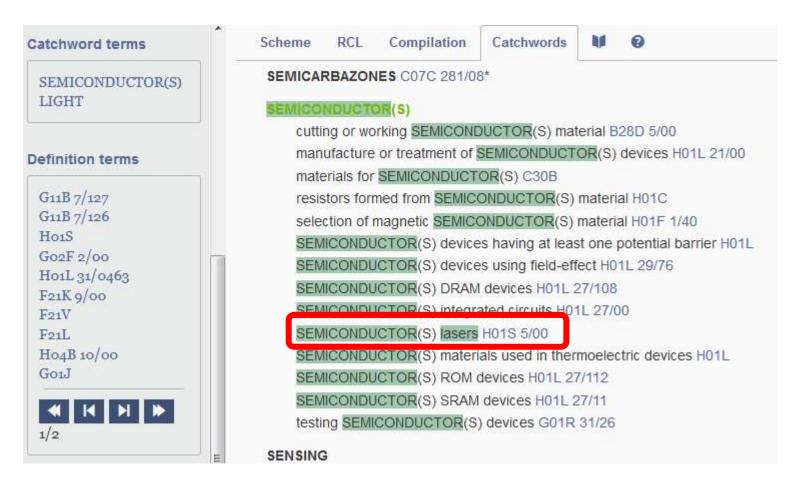


## IPC Search Results (Catchwords)



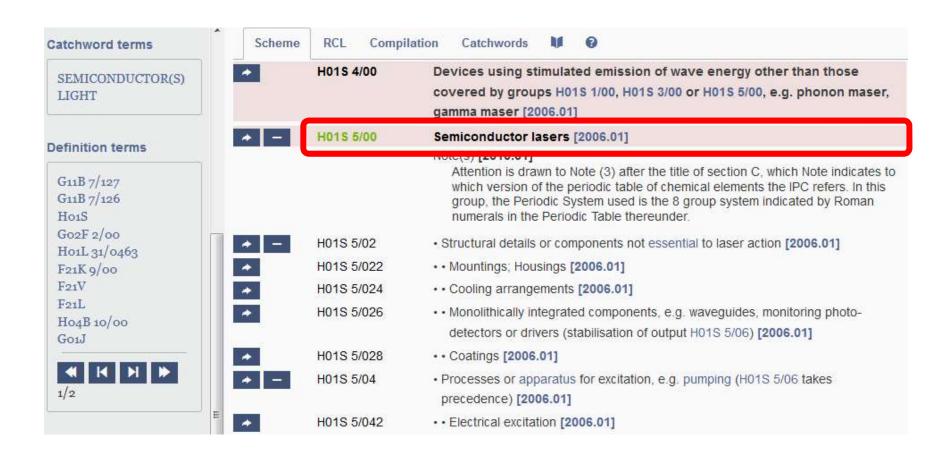


### **IPC Catchword Index**





### **IPC Scheme**





## IPC Search Results (Definitions)



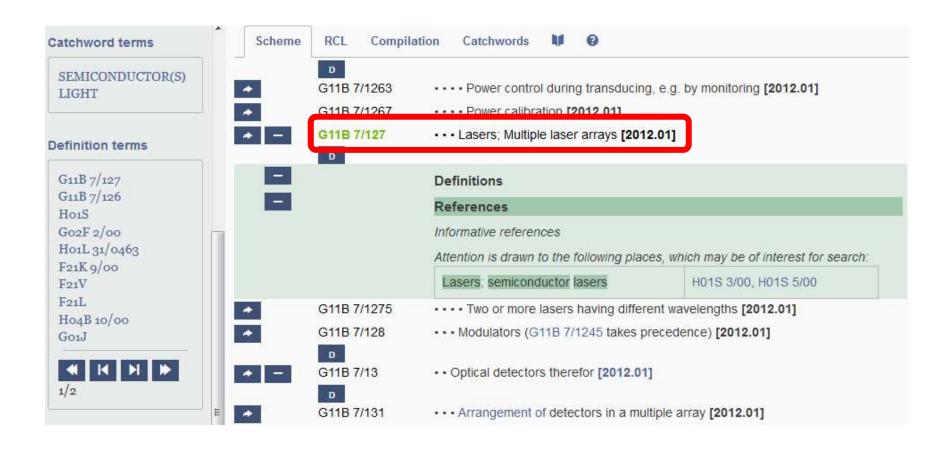


## IPC Search Results (Definitions)





### **IPC Scheme**



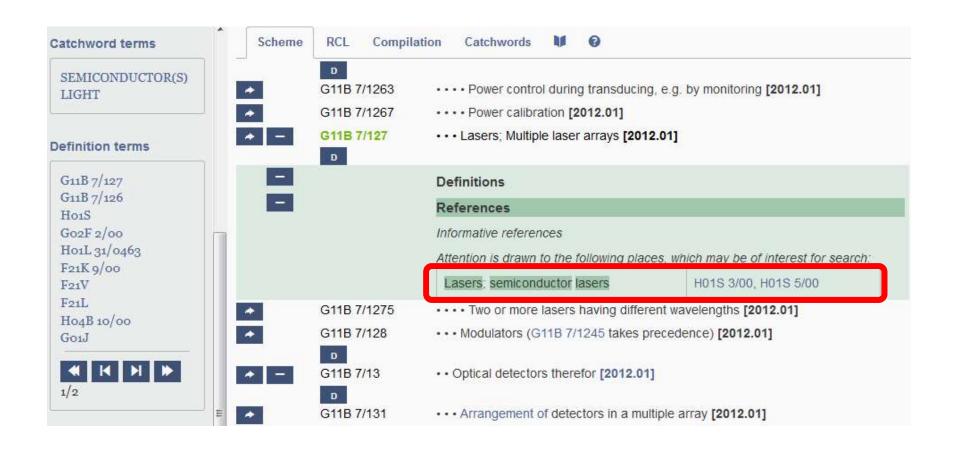


## IPC Scheme (Definitions)



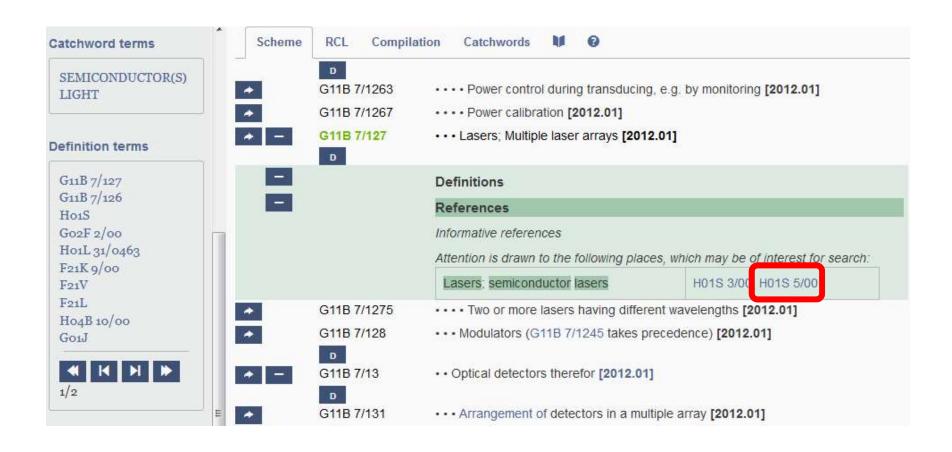


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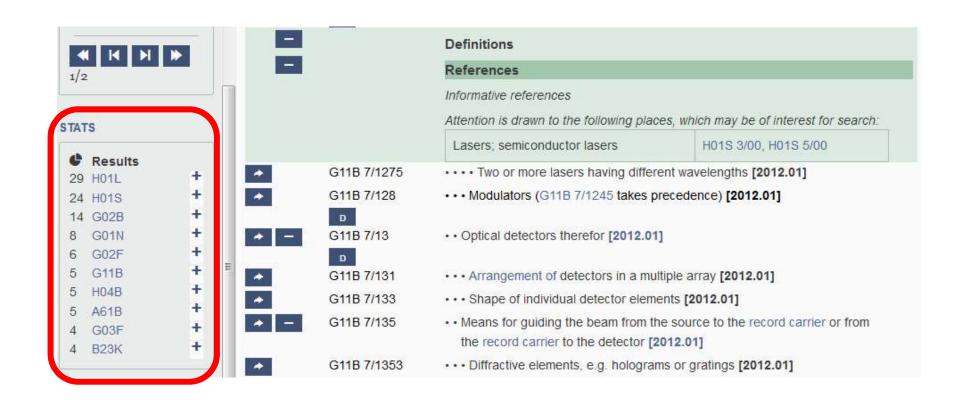




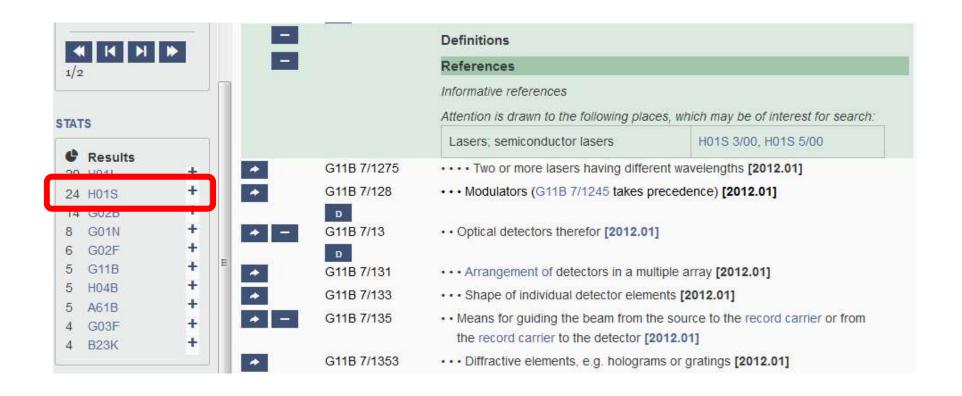
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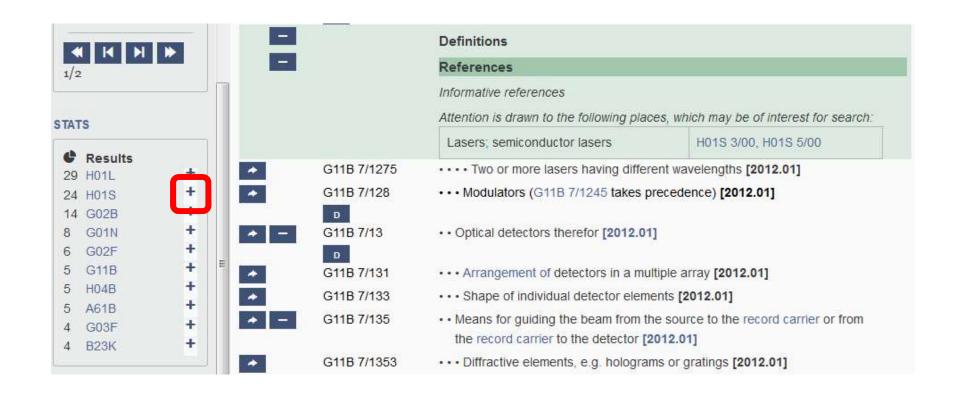










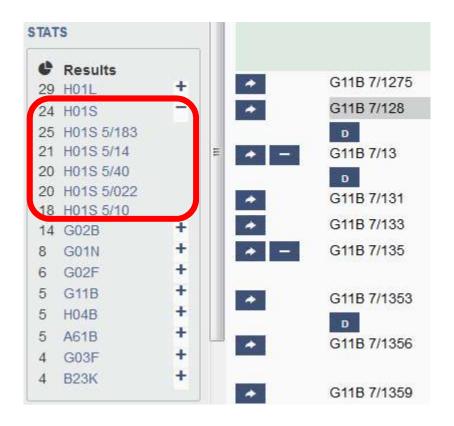






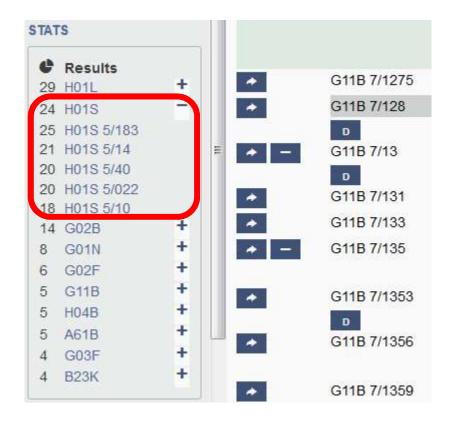


H01S 5/183 H01S 5/14 H01S 5/40





H01S 5/00





### Classification

- Structure
  - Arrangement
  - Composition
- Function



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