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(54) **IMAGE RECOGNITION METHOD AND APPARATUS USING IMAGE ROTATION INFORMATION**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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An image recognition apparatus for recognizing a specific image in an object image using image signals of the object image, the specific image having a possibility of being rotated. The image recognition apparatus includes an image information extraction unit for extracting an object image from the image signals as a candidate for recognition of the specific image and for extracting feature values from the object image using the image signals, and a match determining device coupled to the image information extraction unit for recognizing the specific image in the object image by a comparison of the extracted feature values from the object image with reference data for the specific image. The match determining device is controlled using the reference data according to an easy to determine rotation characteristic and difficult to determine rotation characteristic in the reference data for the specific image.

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

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(58) **Field of Search 382/216, 286, 382/289, 209, 217, 218**

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19 Claims, 21 Drawing Sheets

