



US009411036B2

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Igari et al.**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,411,036 B2**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Aug. 9, 2016**

(54) **LIGHT SOURCE POSITION DETECTION APPARATUS, LIGHT SOURCE TRACKING APPARATUS, CONTROL METHOD AND PROGRAM**

(71) Applicants: **NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**, Tokyo (JP); **SOFT WORKS CORPORATION**, Hamamatsu-shi, Shizuoka (JP); **ISHIKAWA TRADING CO., LTD.**, Mitaka-shi, Tokyo (JP)

(72) Inventors: **Sanekazu Igari**, Tsukuba (JP); **Katsuhiko Kikuchi**, Tokyo (JP); **Toshio Shiomi**, Hamamatsu (JP); **Hideo Ishikawa**, Mitaka (JP)

(73) Assignees: **NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**, Tokyo (JP); **ISHIKAWA TRADING CO., LTD.**, Tokyo (JP)

(\* ) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/652,077**

(22) PCT Filed: **Dec. 14, 2012**

(86) PCT No.: **PCT/JP2012/082550**

§ 371 (c)(1),  
(2) Date: **Jun. 12, 2015**

(87) PCT Pub. No.: **WO2014/091628**

PCT Pub. Date: **Jun. 19, 2014**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2015/0309153 A1 Oct. 29, 2015

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**G01S 3/786** (2006.01)  
**G01C 1/00** (2006.01)  
**H04N 5/235** (2006.01)  
**H04N 5/238** (2006.01)  
**H01L 31/042** (2014.01)  
**F24J 2/38** (2014.01)  
**F24J 2/54** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**  
CPC ..... **G01S 3/7861** (2013.01); **G01C 1/00** (2013.01); **H01L 31/042** (2013.01); **H04N 5/238** (2013.01); **H04N 5/2353** (2013.01); **F24J 2/38** (2013.01); **F24J 2/542** (2013.01); **Y02E 10/52** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**  
CPC ..... F24J 2/38; F24J 2/542; G01C 1/00; G01S 3/786; G01S 3/7861; H01L 31/042; H04N 5/2353; H04N 5/238; Y02E 10/52  
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

2010/0246900 A1 9/2010 Ge et al.

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

JP 03-051713 A 3/1991  
JP 05-126563 A 5/1993

(Continued)

**OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

International Search Report of PCT/JP2012/082550 dated Feb. 19, 2013.

*Primary Examiner* — Mark R Gaworecki

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Arent Fox LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A light source position detection apparatus (10) has a condensing lens (32) that condenses light emitted from the sun, an image pickup device (33) that receives the light condensed by the condensing lens (32), and a CPU (21) that detects the position of the sun based on per-pixel light reception information received by the image pickup device (33), and the CPU (21) changes the shutter speed of the image pickup device (33) and adjusts the quantity of the light received by the image pickup device in response to the quantity of light emitted from the sun. The light source position detection apparatus (10) can detect the position of a light source with high accuracy, and can detect the position of the light source with high accuracy even when the light source is hidden behind clouds, for example.

**13 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets**

