Patent Drafting for Beginners Prof. Feroz Ali Department of Humanities and Social Sciences Indian Institute of Technology, Madras

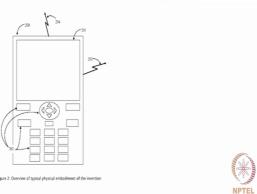
Lecture – 33 How to Catch an Invention

How to catch inventions.

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Look for the disclosure

Physical embodiments are different from written disclosure



To look for an invention, the first thing is to look for a disclosure. Inventions are nothing but disclosures which are made in a way in which you can get a pattern granted. So, if the disclosure is patentable that is what we call a patentable invention. So, where do you look for a disclosure? A disclosure you have to bear in mind is a written disclosure which is different from the physical embodiment of the invention itself. The physical embodiment is different from the written disclosure.

For instance, this is how a remote control device looks like. There is a interface; there are some buttons, and typically it is in a standard form. This could be understood as a physical embodiment or how it will look if it is in its physical state.

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Whereas, when the same invention is described in a written form it is described as a disclosure. Here you have an invention this pattern describes an intelligent programmable universal remote control device which can be used by a user to control any device that responds to commands sent via infrared, Bluetooth or other wireless personal network technology. Now, the description as you just saw, the written description is much different from the physical embodiment itself.

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Look for the disclosure

- Physical embodiments are different from written disclosure
- Invention disclosure form
- Interviewing the inventor



Now, normally you would expect the disclosure to be made and what is called an Invention Disclosure Form or IDF for short. The invention disclosure form will have various columns which you would ask the inventor to fill. It could have something on what is the field of knowledge; it could have something on the background art; it could have something on similarities with existing inventions; it could have something on uses advantages the inventor features. So, the invention disclosure form will have quiet lot of information for the, to be filled by the inventor.

Another way to get information from the inventor is by interviewing the inventor. This is the traditional way in which the patent attorney, interviews the inventor, asks a series of questions, gets replies to the questions. And eventually will be able to get a good disclosure from the inventor through the interview.

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Importance of disclosure

- Disclosure
 - Search the prior art
 - Draft the patent specification



How important is the disclosure. Now, the disclosure can be used to search the prior art, so that the how effective the disclosure is will result in how good the patent ability search report will eventually be. So, the disclosure can be used to search for the prior art, and it can also be used to draft the patent specification itself, because it is the disclosure that the inventor makes that eventually gets into the pattern specification.

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Requirements of disclosure

- Fully and particularly describe the invention
- Fully and particularly describe its operation / use
- Fully and particularly describe method of performance
- Disclose the best method of performance claim
- Claims
 - Clear and succinct
 - Fairly based on matter disclosed



Requirements of a disclosure. Now, this is the language that is there in the patents act. It should fully and particularly describe the invention, particularly means it should describe it in a with the details. It should also describe the operation or use; it should describe the method of performance and also the best method. Now, the best method is something which would be claimed, the best method of performing the invention will be claimed.

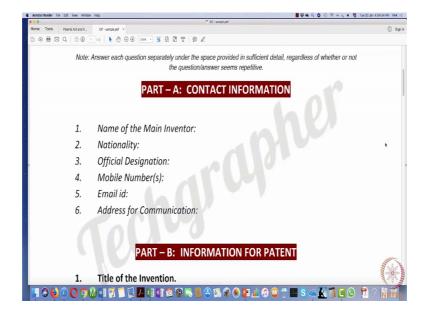
And the claims by itself should be clear and succinct, and it should be fairly based on what was disclosed. The claim offers pattern specification is the concluding part of the pattern specification, where a patented an invention is claimed. And the claim should itself be based on the matter disclosed. So, this disclosure is important because the claims are drafted or carved out of the disclosure.

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We have just mention that invention disclosure form is one way in which you can capture a disclosure from an inventor. Now, here in front of you there is a typical invention disclosure form. You can just have a look at this. And now this form has to be filled by the inventor.

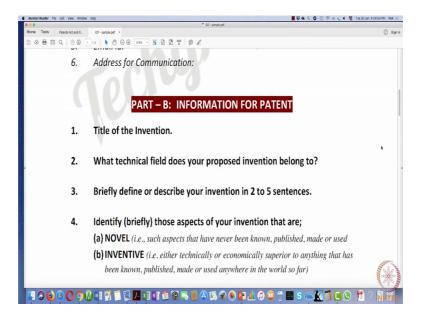
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So, there is part-A, which has the contact information, name of the invention, main inventor, there are multiple inventors they have to be mentioned, nationality because

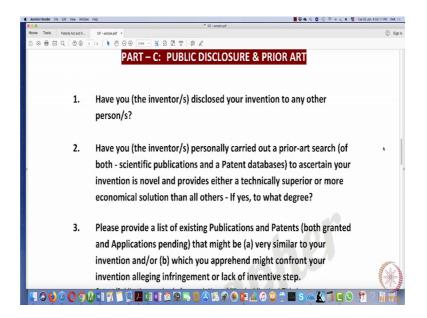
your residence can determine certain rules of filing official designation, contact information and address.

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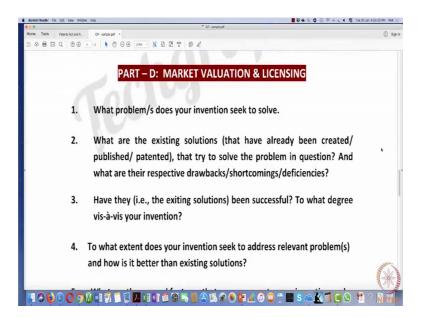
Now, information about the patent, title of the invention which technical field the invention belongs to, brief description, the novel feature, the inventor feature.

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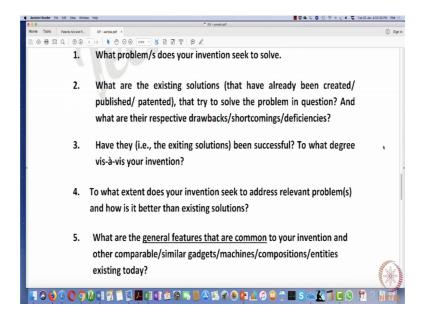
And part-C, public disclosure and prior art, whether the invention know some prior art, and you will find that whether there are scientific publications or patent databases, whether there are granted patterns on it.

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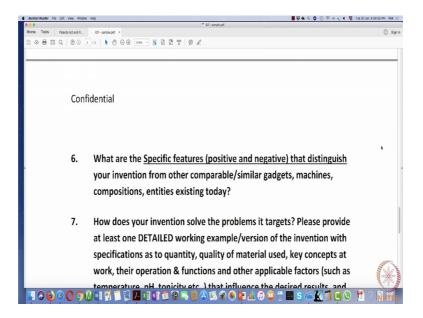
And part-D, you could ask for this is entirely an additional information which some disclosure forms may request from the inventor, market valuation and licensing. What was the problem that the invention solved? What are the existing solutions? Have the existing solutions been successful? What is the your invention seek to address in, at what extent it seeks to address and existing problem.

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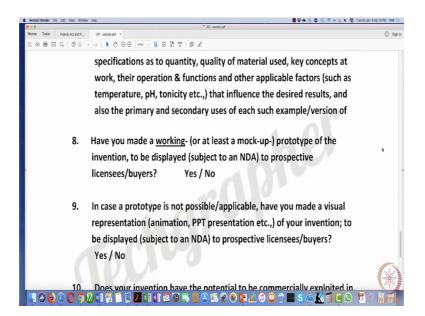
The general features that are common to your invention.

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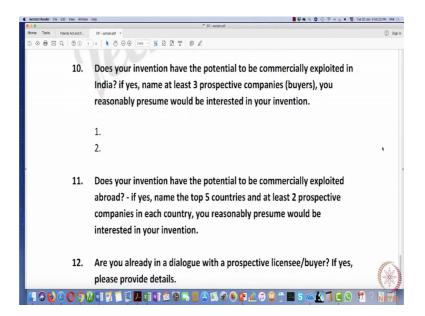
Specific features that distinguish your invention. Now, the specific feature is where we try to understand the inventor features, the ones that has to be patented that has to be claimed. So, understanding the general features and the specific features will be critical because based on that you will be using that input and drafting your claim.

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Working example of the invention, now is there a prototype of the invention.

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If it is not possible is there a visual representations say a drawing on and whether the invention has been commercially exploited, and whether it has been exploited abroad, and whether there are any dialogue or whether the inventor I mean in disclosure to prospective buyers and licensees.