

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
29 April 2004 (29.04.2004)

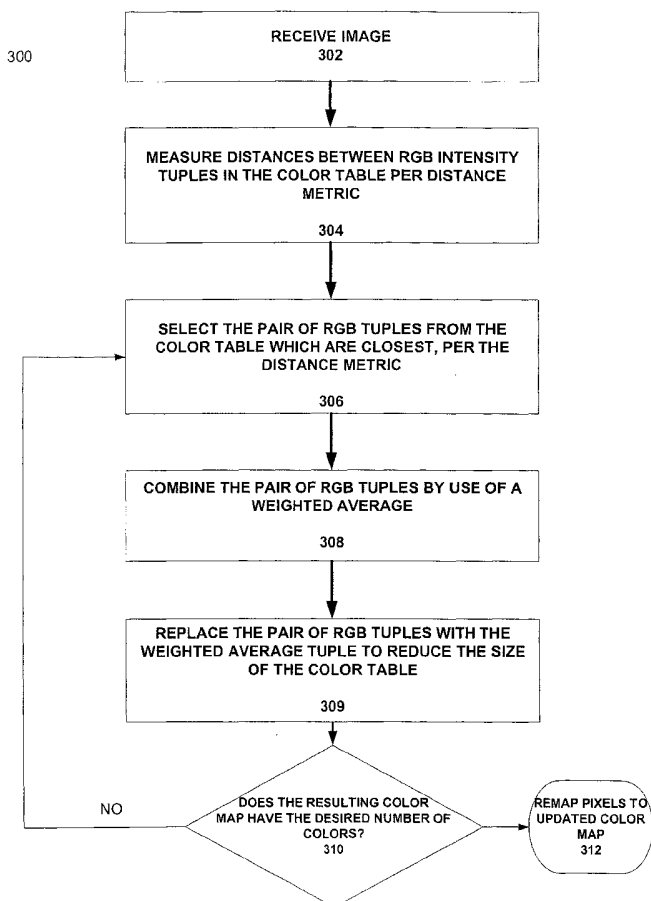
PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/036487 A3**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G06K 9/36**
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US2003/032563
- (22) International Filing Date: 15 October 2003 (15.10.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: 60/418,878 15 October 2002 (15.10.2002) US
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- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR COMPRESSION OF IMAGE COLOR MAPS



(57) Abstract: Systems and methods for compressing color images while maintaining a high image quality are described. Such mechanisms combine colors which are closest to one another as measured by Euclidean distance (304). Such colors may be combined by taking a weighted average reflecting the frequency of the colors in a given image (308). This weighted average may be employed to replace the originally combined color in the appropriate regions of the image (309). The methods described are compatible with standard image formats and facilitate storage and encryption of large image files.

WO 2004/036487 A3



**Published:**

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

**(88) Date of publication of the international search report:**

3 June 2004

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/32563

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b>				
IPC(7) : G06K 9/36				
US CL : 382/166				
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC				
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>				
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 382/166, 240, 253				
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched				
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) IEEE, ACM				
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>				
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
X	US 5,825,917 A (SUZUKI) 20 October 1998 (20.10.1998), column 10, lines 4-25.	35		
A	US 5,142,272 A (KONDO) 25 August 1992 (25.08.1992).	1-35		
A	US 5,463,702 A (TRUEBLOOD) 31 October 1995 (31.10.1995).	1-35		
A	US 5,557,712 A (GUAY) 17 September 1996 (17.09.1996).	1-35		
A	US 5,734,744A (WITTENSTEIN et al) 31 March 1998 (31.03.1998).	1-35		
A	US 2002/0012473 A1 (KONDO et al) 31 January 2002 (31.01.2002).	1-35		
A	US 5,764,235A (HUNT et al) 09 June 1998 (09.06.1998).	16-34		
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.				
* Special categories of cited documents: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">           "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance            "E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date            "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)            "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means            "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed         </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">           "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention            "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone            "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art            "&amp;" document member of the same patent family         </td> </tr> </table>			"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family			
Date of the actual completion of the international search		Date of mailing of the international search report		
12 March 2004 (12.03.2004)		<b>25 MAR 2004</b>		
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