Title: IMAGE CODING WITH BLOCK DROPPING

Abstract: Image and video encoding with motion prediction and compensation, wherein the coding of the motion prediction error signal is inhibited based on a combination of two parameters: a value representing the motion prediction error and a value representing the motion vector inconsistency (homogeneity of the motion vector field).
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.
A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 HO4N7/50

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 HO4N

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 practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, WPI Data, COMPENDEX, IBM-TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| X        | US 5 737 537 A (GARDOS THOMAS R ET AL)  
7 April 1998 (1998-04-07)  
column 4, line 36 - line 56  
column 5, line 12 - line 15  
column 5, line 28 - column 6, line 41  
column 8, line 7 - line 10  
table 1  
claims 1,4,7,10,11  
figures 1-3,6,6B,7 | 1-4, 14-23 |
| Y        | US 5 815 670 A (GARDOS THOMAS R ET AL)  
29 September 1998 (1998-09-29)  
column 4, line 51 - column 5, line 2  
column 5, line 25 - line 30  
column 5, line 42 - column 6, line 56  
column 8, line 22 - line 25  
table 1  
figures 1-3,6,6B,7 | 1-4, 14-23 |

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search: 27 May 2003
Date of mailing of the international search report: 13/06/2003

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Authorized officer: Sampels, M
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<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>EP 1 061 750 A (THOMSON MULTIMEDIA SA) 20 December 2000 (2000-12-20) abstract page 3, paragraph 11 figure 3</td>
<td>9-11</td>
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