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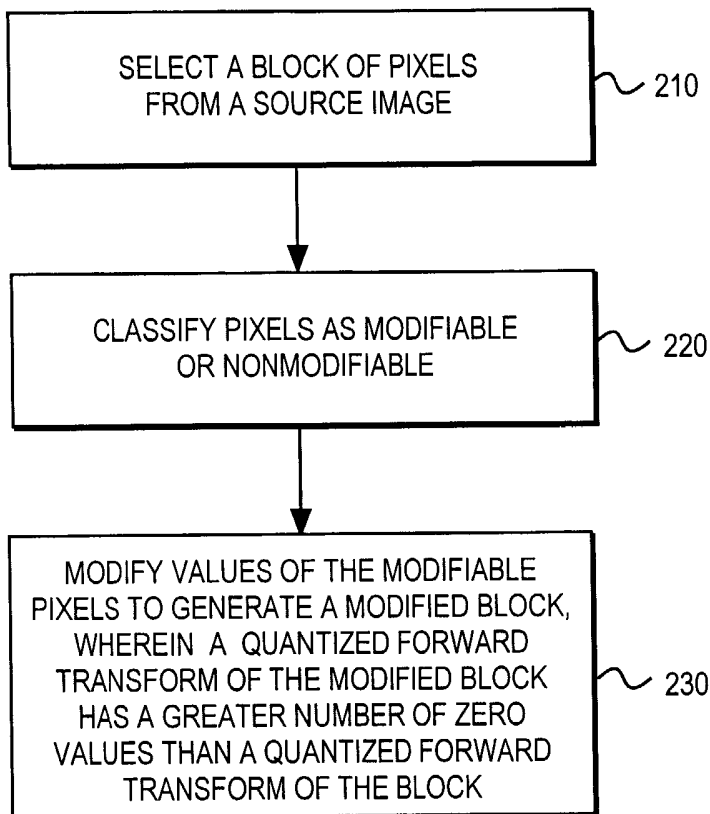
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD OF COMPRESSING IMAGES OF ARBITRARILY SHAPED OBJECTS



(57) Abstract: A method of manipulating spectral content of a block of pixels for compression includes the step (620) of classifying each pixel within a selected block (110) of pixels as relevant (114) or irrelevant (112). A forward transform is applied (720) to the selected block to generate a coefficient block. The coefficient values are modified (754) to generate a modified coefficient block subject to a set of pre-determined constraints including a constraint that the relevant pixels have a same value in an inverse transformation of the modified coefficient block as in the selected block. Proceeding (740) in a reverse zig zag coefficient order, the method is repeated for other coefficients having non-zero quantized values.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 02/40947

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H04N7/30

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 H04N

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, INSPEC, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 649 258 A (AT & T CORP) 19 April 1995 (1995-04-19)	1,2,5-10
A	the whole document	3,4
X	YANBIN YU ET AL: "PICTORIAL TRANSFORM CODING FOR TESSELLATING ARBITRARY SHAPED REGIONS" SIGNAL PROCESSING THEORIES AND APPLICATIONS. BARCELONA, SEPT. 18 - 21, 1990, PROCEEDINGS OF THE EUROPEAN SIGNAL PROCESSING CONFERENCE, AMSTERDAM, ELSEVIER, NL, vol. 2 CONF. 5, 18 September 1990 (1990-09-18), pages 901-904, XP000365734	1,2,5-10
A	page 902, paragraph 3.2 -page 903, paragraph 3.3; figures 1-3	3,4

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- * & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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