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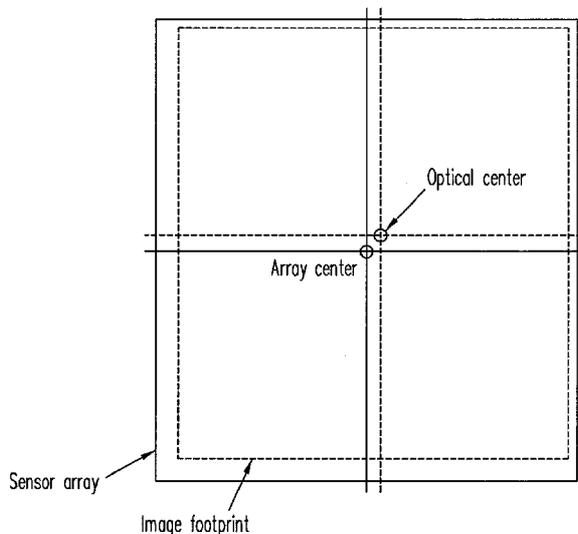
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHODS TO COMPENSATE MANUFACTURING VARIATIONS AND DESIGN IMPERFECTIONS IN A CAPSULE CAMERA



(57) Abstract: A method is provided for characterizing manufacturing variations in a camera and imperfections in its operating environment to allow images captured by the camera to be compensated for these defects. In one embodiment, a method for characterizing a camera includes: (a) illuminating a field of view of the optical elements under a controlled condition; (b) exposing multiple images onto the image sensor under the controlled condition; (c) extracting parameter values of a model for the image provided on the image sensor from the multiple images; and (d) compensating images taken subsequently in the camera using the parameter values.

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METHODS TO COMPENSATE MANUFACTURING VARIATIONS AND DESIGN
IMPERFECTIONS IN A CAPSULE CAMERA

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5 CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present invention is related to and claims priority to (1) U.S. Non-Provisional Patent Application No. 11/621,486, entitled "Method to Compensate Manufacturing Variations and Design Imperfections in a Capsule Camera," filed on January 9, 2007; and (2) U.S. Non-Provisional Patent Application No. 11/926,640, entitled "Methods to Compensate
10 Manufacturing Variations and Design Imperfections in a Capsule Camera," filed on October 29, 2007. For the U.S. designation, the present application is a continuation of the aforementioned U.S. Non-Provisional Patent Application No. 11/926,640, filed on October 29, 2007.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to methods for compensating for variations in a manufacturing process. In particular, the present invention relates to applying such methods to optical instruments.

2. Discussion of the Related Art

20 The capsule camera has proved to be an effective minimally-invasive way for examining the gastrointestinal (GI) tract. One example of a swallowable capsule camera is described in the U.S. Patent 5,604,531, issued to the Ministry of Defense, State of Israel. A number of patents assigned to Given Imaging describe in greater detail a capsule camera system which uses a transmitter to send images captured by the camera to an external
25 receiver. Other capsule camera examples include U.S. Patents 6,709,387 and 6,428,469. There are also other patents to the Olympus Corporation regarding capsule cameras. For example, U.S. Patent 4,278,077 discloses a film camera in a capsule designed for the stomach. U.S. Patent 6,939,292 discloses a capsule camera with a buffering memory and a transmitter. U.S. patent 6,800,060 discloses a capsule camera which stores image data in an
30 atomic resolution storage (ARS) device.

Various advancements in electronics may now be incorporated into the capsule camera. For example, an LED provides a compact and low-power lighting source. CMOS image sensors reduce the component count and power. The further miniaturizing of integrated circuit geometry allows SOC (system-on-a-chip) techniques to be used, which
5 reduce the size and power of the capsule camera. However, size reduction pushes the limits of manufacturing tolerances. For example, manufacturing processes for semiconductor image sensors inherently include not only lot-to-lot, wafer-to-wafer, and die-to-die variations, but also pixel-to-pixel variations within a die. Even the analog circuits sensing the charge stored in a cell to provide digital image data vary from location to location within a die. In
10 addition, LEDs are known for variations in their light spectrum and intensity. Also, because the center of a lens passes light better than at the edge, a higher intensity results in the center of the image than at the edges. There are also variations from lens to lens, even if the lenses are fabricated from the same mold.

Another example results from the fact that illumination sources in a capsule camera
15 illuminate objects only a few centimeters away, the objects receive non-uniform light intensities. Moreover, the transparent window provided in the capsule housing for the LED light to pass through is not perfectly transparent. Thus, when the light sources in the capsule (e.g., LEDs) are turned on, the transparent window reflects some of the light within the camera's field of view back to the light sources and the image sensor.

20 As the capsule camera is intended to allow a physician to examine the inside of a patient's GI tract, its accuracy and image quality are of paramount concern.

SUMMARY

According to one embodiment of the present invention, a method for characterizing a camera includes: (a) illuminating a field of view of the optical elements of the camera under a
25 controlled condition; (b) exposing multiple images onto the image sensor of the camera under the controlled condition; (c) extracting from the multiple images parameter values of a model for images to be taken with the camera; and (d) compensating images taken subsequently with the camera using the parameter values. The images for extracting the parameter values may be provided by objects of a predetermined color, contrast or pattern. The field of view
30 may be illuminated by an external light source. In one embodiment, the compensated image is compressed for storage in the camera or for transmission by wireless.

According to one embodiment, the camera stores images and parameter values in an archival memory. Alternatively, the camera may transmit by wireless the images or the parameter values to an external processing or service station.

According to one embodiment, the model is temperature dependent. The model includes a function for compensating pixel-to-pixel variations. One example of such a function, includes a term which is a product of a multiplicative factor and a measured value of an image. The function is intended to compensate for a non-uniformity in pixel
5 responsivity. In addition, the function may further include a term that compensates for a leakage current in a pixel of the image sensor. The leakage current increases with the time of exposure, and may also be temperature dependent.

According to one embodiment, the parameter values are calculated for each pixel for compensation for that pixel. Alternatively, the parameter values are calculated based on a
10 group of pixels and wherein the calculated parameter values are then applied to each pixel in the group of pixels for compensation. In one implementation, the group of pixels may be selected from pixels in a rectangular area. When transmitted, an identifier identifying the camera is transmitted with the images.

The present invention is better understood upon consideration of the detailed
15 description and the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 shows an example of a capsule camera in the GI tract.

Figure 2 illustrates a method for characterizing pixel-to-pixel variations and design
20 imperfection in a capsule camera, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 3 illustrates a method for characterizing pixel-to-pixel variations and design imperfection in a capsule camera under its own illumination, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 4 shows a method for using a capsule camera using the characterization
25 procedures described above, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 5 illustrates an alternative embodiment of the present invention described in conjunction with Figure 4.

Figure 7 illustrates the alignment between an image sensor array and the footprint of an image produced by an optical system, such as the lens system of a capsule camera.

30 Figure 8A shows a Lambertian curve of a radiation pattern of an LED (i.e., angle versus illuminance) and Figure 8B the luminance of LED versus angle.

Figure 9 shows a grid-distortion plot of a lens.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Figure 1 shows an exemplary capsule camera in the GI tract. As shown in Figure 1, swallowable capsule camera system 01 is seen inside body lumen 00, which may be, for example, the colon, the small intestines, the esophagus, or the stomach. Capsule camera system 01 is entirely autonomous while inside the body, with all of its elements encapsulated in a capsule housing 10 that provides a moisture barrier, protecting the internal components from bodily fluids. Capsule housing 10 includes at least a transparent window, so as to allow light from the light-emitting diodes (LEDs) of illuminating system 12 to pass through the wall of capsule housing 10 to illuminate the walls of lumen, and to allow the scattered light from the lumen 00 walls to be collected and imaged within the capsule camera. Capsule housing 10 also protects lumen 00 from direct contact with the foreign material inside capsule housing 10. Capsule housing 10 is provided a shape that enables it to be swallowed easily and later to pass through the GI tract efficiently. Generally, capsule housing 10 is sterile, made of a non-toxic material, and is sufficiently smooth to minimize the chance of lodging within the lumen.

As shown in Figure 1, capsule camera system 01 includes illuminating system 12 and a camera that includes optical system 14 and image sensor 16. An image captured by image sensor 16 may be processed by image processor 18, which performs various image processing functions, such as determining whether or not the capsule is moving relative to the portion of the GI tract within the optical view of the camera. Image processor 18 may be implemented by a digital signal processor (DSP) or a central processing unit (CPU). Image processor 18 may have one or more partial frame buffers. A semiconductor non-volatile archival memory 20 may be provided to allow the images to be retrieved throughout output port 28 at a docking station or workstation outside the body, after the capsule is recovered. The image in archival memory 20 may be stored in a compressed form, using data compression module 22. (Data compression module 22 may be implemented in hardware, or in software running on image processor 18). Capsule camera system 01 is powered by battery power supply 24. Capsule camera system 01 may be propelled through the GI tract by peristalsis.

Illuminating system 12 may be implemented by LEDs. In Figure 1, the LEDs are located adjacent the camera's aperture, although other configurations are possible. The light source may also be provided, for example, behind the aperture. Other light sources, such as laser diodes, may also be used. Alternatively, white light sources or a combination of two or more narrow-wavelength-band sources may also be used. In one embodiment, white LEDs may be formed by various components, such as a blue LED or a violet LED, along with

phosphorescent materials that are excited by the LEDs' light to emit light at longer wavelengths. The portion of capsule housing 10 that allows light to pass through may be made from bio-compatible glass or polymer.

Optical system 14, which may include multiple refractive, diffractive, or reflective lens elements, provides an image of lumen 00 within its field of view on image sensor 16. Image sensor 16 may include charged-coupled devices (CCD) or complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor (CMOS) type sensor devices that convert the received light intensities into corresponding electrical signals. Image sensor 16 may have a monochromatic response or include a color filter array to allow a color image to be captured (e.g. using the RGB or CYM color space representations). The analog signals from image sensor 16 are preferably converted into digital form to allow use of digital processing techniques. Such a conversion may be accomplished using an analog-to-digital (A/D) converter inside image sensor 16 (as in the current case), or at another location inside capsule housing 10. The A/D unit may be provided between image sensor 16 and the rest of the system. LEDs in illuminating system 12 are synchronized with the operations of image sensor 16. One function of control module 26 (not shown) is to control the LEDs during image capture operation.

Image processor 18 may select an image to retain when the image shows enough motion relative to a previous image in order to conserve the limited storage space available. The captured images may be stored in on-board archival memory system 20. Output port 28 shown in Figure 1 is not operational *in vivo*, but uploads data to a workstation after the capsule camera is recovered from a journey through the body.

When the LEDs are turned on, their light passes through the transparent window in capsule housing 10 to illuminate objects in the GI tract. The reflected light from these objects passes through the transparent window and reaches lens 14, which focuses the image on imaging sensor 16. Some of the light emitted from the LEDs is reflected back from from the surface of the transparent window, as shown in long-short dash line 103, through lens 14 onto image sensor 16. Because every pixel in a cell array in image sensor 16 is in some sense unique, image sensor 16 may be characterized under a uniform lighting condition provided externally – with the LEDs in capsule camera system 01 turned off -- to determine pixel-to-pixel variations in image sensor 16. In fact, the different readouts of these pixels represent both the pixels' variations and the lens' contribution to non-uniform pixel values.

Figure 2 illustrates a method for characterizing pixel-to-pixel variations and design imperfection in a capsule camera, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. As shown in Figure 2, a capsule camera including at least a lens system, an image sensor and a transmitter or an archival memory is prepared (step 201). Next, at step 202, objects illuminated by light of a known color, intensity, contrast or pattern is placed in the

field of view of the lens system and exposures are made. These images are then used to characterize or calibrate the capsule camera system. The images may be stored in the archival memory or transmitted. At a subsequent time (step 203), these images are used to calibrate the images captured from a patient for clinical diagnosis purposes.

5 One method for compensating variations in pixel responsivity and the field dependence on the camera's response (i.e., the non-uniformity in sensor illumination, even in the presence of a uniform object illumination) is to present the camera with a field of uniform color and brightness during calibration. A test image is then taken under this illumination condition and used to obtain an average value A_R for the red component of all pixels. If a
10 particular pixel's red component signal is PR_i , the red component of this pixel may be compensated during normal operation by multiplying the red component of the measured pixel value by a factor A_R/PR_i . Other color components may be compensated in a like manner. (This method may also be applied likewise to color components in other color space domains).

15 Characterization of the capsule camera system under its own illumination (e.g., illumination system 12) may be carried out. Figure 3 illustrates a method for characterizing pixel-to-pixel variations and design imperfection in a capsule camera under its own illumination, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. The "white balance" of the combined illumination and imaging system can be corrected. As shown in
20 Figure 3, a capsule camera including at least a lens system, an image sensor, an illumination system within the capsule camera's housing, and a transmitter or an archival memory is prepared (step 301). Next, at step 302, objects of known color, contrast, and pattern are illuminated by the illumination system in the field of view of the lens system and exposures are made. These images are then used to characterize or calibrate the capsule camera system.
25 The images may be stored in the archival memory or transmitted. At a subsequent time (step 303), these images are used to calibrate the images captured from a patient for clinical diagnosis purposes.

During calibration, images may be taken of various colored fields. The average red, green, and blue pixel responses for each test field can be compared to an ideal responses and
30 correction factors determined. For example, if a measured average value for the red component is A_R and the expected average pixel value is A_R^E then the factor A_R^E / A_R may be used to correct color fidelity -- by multiplying each pixel in a measured image by this factor. Similar factors may be derived for the green and blue components. Different test color fields may yield different calibration factors for the three primary colors. Alternatively a white field
35 may be used to calibrate all colors. Multiple images of the same test pattern may be taken and the results averaged so that time-dependent noise is reduced in the measured pixel values.

A weighted average of calibration factors over the test conditions can be determined and stored for later image correction. The compensation factors can be stored in capsule the camera system 01, in the data recorder, or in the workstation software. The compensation factors may each be defined using an equation, a curve, a piecewise curve or a lookup table.

5 The number of parameters per pixel may also be more than one.

Within image sensor 16, each pixel value is also affected by effects not relating to light input. Such effects may be seen in an output value of a "dark" pixel. A dark pixel may be a pixel not within the field of view of the optical system 14 and which is typically covered by an opaque material. An output value of such a pixel is not attributed to light input, but
 10 effects such as thermally-induced charge leakage. An operational pixel may be compensated by adding as an offset the thermally-induced leakage current measured at a dark pixel (or the average thermally-induced leakage current of a group of dark pixels). The thermally-induced leakage current is a function of both temperature and time. The temperature of a capsule camera in operation is expected to be relatively fixed at the human body temperature, plus a
 15 few degrees determined by both the power consumption of the capsule camera and the thermal conductance. As a first-order estimate, the thermally-induced leakage current is proportional to the time between a pre-charge of the pixel and the readout.

The pixel-to-pixel variations or non-uniform pixel responsivity, including the effects of lens system 14, may be compensated according to the following equations (1) for the R, G
 20 and B color components, respectively:

$$\begin{aligned} R &= F_R \times P_R + C_{IR} \times t_l + C_R \\ G &= F_G \times P_G + C_{IG} \times t_l + C_G \\ B &= F_B \times P_B + C_{IB} \times t_l + C_B \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where, P_R , P_G , and P_B , are the measured component values for the three color components read from a pixel in image sensor 16, F_R , F_G , and F_B are multiplication factors provided for correcting pixel-to-pixel variations and for adjusting the average pixel value, and C_R , C_G and
 25 C_B are offsets -- which may be positive or negative -- for each pixel. In this model, the pixel response is assumed to be linearly dependent on the received radiant energy absorbed by the pixel. The slope of the linear dependency is the "responsivity." At a dark pixel (i.e., at zero input radiant energy), the zero-light response ("dark current") represent an offset. It is convenient to use multiplicative factors for compensation because of its simplicity. However,
 30 if the pixel characteristics are non-linear with respect to the component values, a more sophisticated compensation function may be required. In the general case, the term $F_k \times P_k$, $k = R, G, B$ may be replaced by $f_k(P_k)$. Such a function may be, for example, a polynomial, or a function that includes logarithmic or exponential terms. Of course, $f_k(P_k)$ may also be

a function of other parameters – such as temperature, as discussed below. R, G, and B are the primary colors. P_R , P_G and P_B are non-negative values (each value is clamped to zero, when its calculated value is negative, or clamped to $2^N - 1$ for N bit resolution, when the calculated value exceeds $2^N - 1$).

5 Parameters C_{lr} , C_{lg} and C_{lb} are provided to compensate for the thermally-induced leakage current. The contribution of the leakage current to each color component is proportional to time t_l , which is the time duration between cell pre-charge and cell readout. In order to solve for F_R , C_{lR} , and C_R , three test images must be taken that include two different illumination intensities and two different values of t_l .

10 The data for each color component is read out. As a first-order estimate (e.g., without compensating for thermally-induced leakage current, discussed below), two parameters F_i and C_i may be stored or transmitted for each color component. Raw color image data may also be stored or transmitted to reduce the space requirement or transmission power. These raw color image data may correspond to a small number of images of red, blue, and green
15 objects illuminated at different intensities. Alternatively, images of a number of objects each with a uniform known color may be used to derive these coefficients. For example, lighting conditions in which the same RGB ratio is used, but different intensities are provided may be used to solve for the C_r , C_g and C_b parameters.

 Parameters C_{lr} , C_{lg} and C_{lb} are provided to compensate for the thermally-induced
20 leakage current. The contribution of the leakage current to each color component is proportional to time t_l , which is the time duration between cell pre-charge and cell readout. This leakage current may be calculated either in the capsule camera or outside the capsule camera. For calculation outside the capsule camera, the timing parameters for each image are stored in the flash memory or transmitted by wireless. The memory space needed to store
25 these timing parameters is miniscule relative to the size of the image. In the above discussion, although an RGB space is used in this example for illustrative purposes, other color spaces may also be used.

 Because both the dark current and the responsivity vary from pixel to pixel, the values of these parameters are calculated for each pixel, and compensation is applied to each pixel
30 according the values of the parameters associated with the pixel. Alternatively, compensation may be provided for each pixel in a block of pixels, using the same parameter values (e.g., the same additive and multiplicative factors) calculated over the pixels of the entire block. A block may be any group of pixels, not necessarily pixels over a rectangular area of the image.

 The inventors also recognize that the method of the present invention is applicable
35 also to cameras used for applications other than as a capsule camera operating under body

cavity conditions. For these other applications, the temperature dependences in C_{lr} , C_{lg} and C_{lb} , C_r , C_g and C_b and multiplicative factors F_R , F_G , and F_B (or their functional forms), may have to be taken into consideration. In one embodiment, for example, measurements are taken at multiple temperatures. At each temperature, the values of F_k (or its functional form), C_{lk} , and C_k , $k=r, g, b$ are solved according to the procedure described above.

As discussed above, to make compensation available during operations, the coefficients may be calculated for each pixel at the time of manufacture and stored. Alternatively, the images data taken under known uniform illumination conditions may be stored for subsequent calculations of the coefficients. As the number of images taken during operations in a capsule camera is in the order of tens of thousands, the data storage requirement for a few or even a few tens of test images for characterization is minimal, and may be stored in the on-board archival memory (e.g., memory 20). These test data may also be transmitted by wireless to an external recorder, which may be used later in a physician's examination of the images. Each capsule camera may be provided an identification number (ID). Based on the ID, the test data may be provided on and downloaded from a website at the time the physician examines the captured image data.

The computational requirement (e.g., in terms of circuit area and power) for extracting the coefficients based on the simple relationships discussed above is relatively low and, either the test image data (e.g. values for each color component) or the coefficients, which may be calculated by on-board circuits, may be easily stored or transmitted. To illustrate the power and circuit requirements, consider an order-of-magnitude estimate for a JPEG circuit required to process thirty 300k resolution images. (There are many selections of JPEG circuits available from various popular foundries' libraries, each consisting of no more than about 50k gates.) For a 0.09 μm process, the average intrinsic gate capacitance is estimated to be:

$$4 C_i WL \approx (5 \text{ ff}/\mu\text{m}^2) (0.5 \mu\text{m}) (0.09\mu\text{m}+0.2\mu\text{m}) \approx 3\text{ff}$$

(The factor of 4 assumes that an equivalent gate has 4 transistors.) The 0.2 μm term represents fringing capacitance. For a one-clock-per-code-word JPEG standard widely adopted today, about 30MHz is needed to run a thirty frames per second real time speed. Therefore, assuming a wiring capacitance of twice the intrinsic capacitance and an activation rate of 1/3 of all circuits, the power required is estimated to be:

$$0.5 CV^2 * 30 \text{ MHz} = 0.5 * (2+1) * 3\text{ff} * 50\text{k} * (1/3) * (1\text{V})^2 * 30\text{MHz} = 2.25 \text{ mW}$$

The energy for processing 30 frames is 2.25mW x 1sec = 2.25 mJ, which is a miniscule value within the capability of the batteries of the capsule camera. By comparison, the equations for

calculating the compensation coefficients above are much simpler than the computational requirements for JPEG processing, which includes space-frequency domain discrete cosine transform (DCT) operations and entropy encoding, among other steps specified in ISO 10918-2 JPEG coding standard. Further, the number of test images required for
5 characterization is normally substantially less than 30 images. Therefore, extracting the coefficients in the capsule camera itself may also be easily achieved in practice.

Thus, the cost of correcting the captured images using the methods discussed herein, and other methods are not cumbersome operations. In addition, both the compression ratio and the quality of the compressed image are more favorable in a corrected image than an
10 uncorrected image because the pixel-to-pixel variations in the uncorrected image are presented as noise in the image data. Without an elimination procedure, such noise is blended in with the useful information and, consequently, increases the number of the bits in a compressed image. The short range differences (e.g., between adjacent pixels) increase the frequency-domain data, thus impacting both the compressed file size and the image quality.
15 During compression, the processing of the noise in the image data further increases power consumption. For example, in the case of MPEG processing, a previous reference frame has to be decompressed in order to code differences between the current frame and a reference frame. The long range differences (i.e., between pixels a substantial distance away from each other within the sensor array) affect motion estimation in MPEG-like compression. Motion
20 estimation in such a compression algorithm is affected by both short range differences and long range differences, because the compression is carried out by space- and frequency-domain transformations after motion estimation.

A method of the present invention is applicable to characterizing image sensors outside of the camera. Such a method achieves better quality, a better compression ratio and
25 provides a lesser power requirement, because the method introduces less noise, allows better matching, and results in less frequency domain terms. The impact on MPEG compression is two-folds: both short-range and long-range variations are corrected. The corrections improve compression ratio of short-range, adjacent or proximal pixels within a sensor, with the long-range pixel-to-pixel variations higher than the short-range variations by an order of
30 magnitude. The camera's objective optical elements may also be separately characterized. Typically, each individual objective optical element need not be separately measured. The calibration data for the image sensor and the objective optical elements may be combined.

In one embodiment of the present invention, an image sensor is characterized using one of the methods discussed above (with or without providing a lens and under uniform or
35 known conditions). An image sensor typically has more high frequency components due to

compression noise. If a lens is provided, a nearly ideal¹ lens should be used. Otherwise, the lens should be optically characterized offline before use, with its imperfections taken into account. Correction data is then derived, which is then associated with the particular sensor. The correction data may then be provided to the camera manufacturer for subsequent use.

5 Light from the illumination sources are, to some extent, reflected by the inner and outer surfaces of capsule housing 10 and other objects within capsule housing 10 (e.g., particulate contamination). Such reflections may be both specular and scattered. Some reflected light may pass into the camera's input pupil to collect on the image sensor. Light may reflect multiple times from multiple objects before reaching image sensor 16.

10 The spurious signals resulting from reflections of the LED light are independent of the scene photographed. To characterize the reflected illuminating light picked up by image sensor 16 from the surface of the transparent window in capsule housing 10, the capsule camera may be placed completely in a light-absorbing environment (i.e., no light reflects from the environment). Under this arrangement, the light sensed at image sensor 16 consists
 15 only of the light emitted from the LEDs that is reflected from capsule housing 10 or from other objects within the capsule. For simplicity, the following discussion assumes LED light sources but other light sources could be used instead, such as those based on incandescence, fluorescence, field-ionization, phosphorescence, or any other light emission process.

The measured red, green, and blue pixel signals may be expressed as,

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_R &= \sum_{i=1}^n C_{ir} I_i t_{LEDi} - C_{IR} \times t_l - C_R \\
 P_G &= \sum_{i=1}^n C_{ig} I_i t_{LEDi} - C_{IG} \times t_l - C_G \\
 P_B &= \sum_{i=1}^n C_{ib} I_i t_{LEDi} - C_{IB} \times t_l - C_B
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{2}$$

where I_1, \dots, I_n are the currents in LED₁ to LED_n, respectively, and times $t_{LED1}, \dots, t_{LEDn}$ are the durations of the corresponding LED currents. The subtractive terms such as C_{IR} and C_R are offsets determined using the previously described procedures. Since the LED emitted
 25 optical power is roughly linear with current, the reflected light sensed at the image sensor is expected to depend linearly on the currents flowing in individual LEDs integrated over time. For simplicity, equations (2) assume the current I_i for LED_{*i*} is constant but the current terms in equations (2) may also each be expressed as an integral of the instantaneous current over time, rather than multiplication of current and time.

¹ Such lens would be expensive.

Measurements are made with n different combinations of LED currents to allow solving the n independent linear equations for each color. Ideally, each LED is turned on by itself in turn. The n equations for red may be solved using n images, and the values of leakage current factor, C_{IR} , and offset C_R obtained from the image tests of equations (1).

5 Alternatively, two additional images may be taken and, using equations (2), the leakage current and offset factors may be obtained. In that case, the number of total images needed is $n+2$.)

The reflections from the outer surface of capsule housing 10 depend on the medium in which the capsule camera is immersed. Often, in the GI tract, the capsule is immersed in a watery liquid. In some cases, the capsule will be only partially covered in liquid. One set of calibration data of LED reflections may be taken with the capsule in a black container filled with water. Another set of calibration data may be taken without water. When the GI image data are corrected, the calibration data set which provides optimal correction can be selected. A different set of calibration data may be selected to correct a different image region. The suitable correction for an image region may be indicated by various criteria such as:

1. Minimize high frequency components of spatial frequency spectrum.
2. Minimize sharp edges in the image, using image processing algorithms for detecting edges.
3. Maximize change between successive images. Usually, the medium touching the capsule within an image region is the same from one frame to the next, so that the suitable correction in each pixel for LED reflections off the capsule housing 10's outer surface is invariant from one frame to the next. If the correction is correctly identified (i.e., using the proper calibration data set), the change in image is maximized.
4. Yield only non-negative corrected pixel signals. A negative value indicates that the wrong calibration data set is applied.

The uniqueness of each LED and the non-uniform light that is cast on objects by the LEDs -- due to both their respective positions and the finite distances between the objects and the light sources -- may also be compensated. Even without knowing the distances inside the small intestines and inside the large intestine, a correction may still be made since the light sources' locations and strengths are known and an average human being's intestines have certain characteristic range in shape and size.

Tests or characterizations designed to extract the compensation parameters may be carried out during the manufacturing process (e.g. during the assembly process), storing the

resulting images and the associated information or derived coefficients inside the capsule camera or externally.

Alternatively, the characterization or test may be performed by a hospital technician or by a physician, who runs an automatic test program with the capsule camera placed into a container providing the controlled characterization environment. The test images with associated information or extracted coefficients may be stored in an on-board memory or, if the capsule camera has a wireless transmitter and an antenna, the coefficients database or the images with associated information may be transmitted outside. These data may be retrieved at a later time at a workstation for display and archiving. The characterization data may be archived with a patient's health record or with the raw (i.e., uncorrected) image data. Alternatively, the corrected image and the characterization data are stored, with a description of how the compensation procedures are carried out. The physicians may have the freedom to undo the compensation using the characterization data.

Figure 4 shows a method for using a capsule camera using the characterization procedures described above, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. As shown in Figure 4, a capsule camera including at least a lens system, an image sensor, an illumination system with two LEDs inside the capsule housing, an archival memory and an output port is prepared (step 401). Next, at step 402, the capsule camera is placed in a light absorbing environment without external light sources. Two images are then taken using illuminations by the illumination system at different relative illuminations². The images are then stored in the archival memory. At step 403, the capsule camera is placed in an environment of uniform lighting condition using an external lighting source. Three images of different uniform lighting conditions and pixel precharge to readout times are captured. The images are then stored in the archival memory.

Alternatively, at step 402, images are taken each with one LED on by itself in a dark environment. Then, two images are then taken with both LEDs off for two different time periods. The time-dependent and time-independent leakage signals as well as the LED reflections are characterized. The characterization data is then stored in the archival memory. Then, at step 403, one or more images are taken with a uniform white background and not LED illumination. (Only one image is required to determine responsivity.)

At step 404, the capsule camera is swallowed by a patient to take images of the patient's GI tract, using the capsule camera's illumination system as light source. These images are captured into the archival memory system. At step 405, after the capsule camera is expelled from the patient's body, the capsule camera is recovered, and the captured image

² The term "relative illumination" refers to the product of exposure time and light intensity.

and the images taken at steps 402 and 403 (if stored) are retrieved through the output port of the capsule camera. The images taken at steps 402 and 403 are used to extract the parameter values in accordance with equations (2) and (1), respectively, for characterization or calibration of the capsule camera system. The captured images are then compensated using the extracted parameter values.

Alternatively, the test or characterization data may be transmitted through an output port (e.g., output port 28) or transmitted by wireless means to outside the capsule camera for external storage. Figure 5 illustrates an alternative embodiment of the present invention described in conjunction with Figure 4. In the method illustrated in Figure 5, instead of an archival memory, the capsule camera is provided with a non-volatile memory buffer and a transmitter. The images taken in the capsule camera, including the images taken at steps 502 and 503, are first stored in non-volatile memory buffer and transmitted to an external receiver, where the images are stored for use in the subsequent steps. In one embodiment, the stored correcting image data or the coefficients are transmitted to the receiver wirelessly just before the capsule takes measurements of the patient.

The capsule camera may be marked with an ID and the externally stored test data or the parameters extracted from the test data, may be made available on websites, by e-mail, in a flash memory, on a VCD or another means. In one embodiment, after the capsule camera is recovered from traversing the GI tract, the measurements data may be downloaded to a workstation, where the test data, or the parameters extracted from the test data, may be retrieved to compensate the captured image data. Alternatively, an ID or ID information may be embedded in the test or characterization image or coefficient data. A technician at a workstation may use the embedded ID to retrieve the test or characterization data or coefficients over the internet, or from another storage media, to perform compensation.

Figure 6 illustrates an alternative embodiment of the present invention described in conjunction with Figure 4. In the method illustrated in Figure 6, instead of an archival memory, the capsule camera is provided with device ID and a transmitter and antenna. The images taken in the capsule camera, including the images taken at steps 602 and 603, are transmitted to an external receiver together with the device ID. The images are stored at an external depository, which may be made available for retrieval over the internet. These images retrieved from the depository are used in the subsequent steps.

Figure 7 illustrates the alignment between an image sensor array (e.g., sensor array 16) and the footprint of an image produced by an optical system, such as lens 14 of capsule camera 01 of Figure 1. Ideally, as shown in figure 7, if all the components are defect-free and are perfectly aligned, the optical center of a captured image coincides perfectly with the center of the sensor array. In practice, however, the center of the captured image and the

center of the sensor array are not perfectly aligned. In addition, imperfections typically exist in the components of the optical system. Normally, the captured image is designed to be slightly smaller than the size of the sensor array to ensure that the entire image is captured within the sensor array. Using the test images for characterization discussed above, a misalignment of the captured image and the center of the sensory array may be derived. For example, under uniform lighting, the average value of a color component in each column of the sensor array indicates where the edges of the captured image are (e.g., scanning from left to right, the column on the right at which the intensity transitions from dark to light, and the column on the left where the image transitions from light to dark). The same procedure along the rows indicates where the edges are at the top and at the bottom of the image.

As another example, when a test image consists of a repetitive pattern, a DCT -- such as that used in JPEG or MPEG processing -- may be used to calculate the frequency-domain image information. The image footprint is located at where the DCT values increase abruptly, corresponding to the positions at which the pattern becomes clear and discernible. An offset between the optical center and the center of the sensor array (e.g., the displacement expressed in x- and y- coordinates) may be stored for later reference in registers or in the non-volatile memory (e.g., archival memory 20). By cropping the operational boundaries of the sensor array to the actual image footprint, or a "meaningful" portion of the image footprint (i.e., the area where the actual field of view is expected), power is not wasted on the areas in the sensor array outside of the actual useful field of view. In addition, the space required for storing the image, or the bandwidth required for transmitting the image, is also reduced. The workstation utilization rate is enhanced and archiving management is also made easier.

The DCT may be performed in 8x8 blocks for luminance. Therefore, in one embodiment, to process an area of M columns of pixels, $(\frac{M}{8} + 1)$ blocks are used for each row. Under such an arrangement, the resolution is 8 pixels in both row and column directions. Once an 8x8 block is found where its 64 DCT values start to increase or decrease over previous blocks, the current 8x8 block is reformed by including the last column of the previous block in the same row, and a new DCT value is computed. If the DCT value increases or decreases further still, the procedure is repeated to include one further column of that previous block. This procedure is repeated until the maximum or minimum DCT value is found, representing where DCT values start to increase or decrease in the row direction. When applied in the column direction, this method locates the pixel at which DCT values start to increase or decrease in the column direction.

In another example, the edge information may be used to provide the alignment information. Edge enhancement is used in many of today's commercial cameras or image

post processing software. One way to extract an edge is to find the difference in luminance between pixels in adjacent columns. The difference provides edge information in one direction. The same procedure may be used on corresponding pixels in adjacent rows to get edge information in the direction to the columns. The edges obtained for the column and row directions may be used together.

Illustrated also in Figure 7 is the fact that, due to individual variations in the lens, the magnification factor for each lens is not the same across capsule cameras, thereby resulting in different footprints from camera to camera. An alternative representation of the image footprint may be, for example, two vertices of the rectangular image footprint.

As discussed above, image compensation may be carried out within the capsule camera (e.g., image processor 18, or by controlling the sensor analog gain and providing an offset to each color components of every pixel.) The storage space required for compensation or characterization parameter values may be provided in a separate non-volatile flash memory, in a memory provided in an application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC) or in the image sensor. Alternatively, the compensation or characterization parameter values may also be stored in the same flash non-volatile storage for captured image data (e.g., archival memory 20).

Figure 8A shows a Lambertian curve of a radiation pattern of an LED (a polar plot showing illuminance as a function angle relative to an axis of the LED) and Figure 8B the luminance as a function of the angle (linear scale). These figures show the imperfections of an actual LED design.

Figure 9 shows a grid-distortion plot of a lens. As shown in Figure 9, the distortion in the middle is minimal (i.e., the actual grid points match well with the reference grid) but the distortion becomes pronounced away from the center.

There is a fundamental difference between the design issues posed by Figures 8A and 8B and Figure 9, as large manufacturing variations exist among the LED products. Alternatively, in lens manufacturing, as measured by grid distortion, variations are small and deterministic. The problem shown in Figure 9 may be compensated in the most part, even after data acquisition by just inverse mapping of the acquired image on the work station or another computer before displaying. The imperfections in Figure 8A and 8B are caused by both design imperfections and manufacturing variations. Such imperfection or variations may be efficiently handled using the methods in figure 2-6 above.

In one embodiment, the grid distortion could be compensated using the methods in Figure 2-6 by imaging a known pattern, for example a grid, and detecting an edge (as

previously described) to calculate the degree of distortion of the image on the sensor surface caused by optical imperfections (design imperfection as well as manufacturing variations) before displaying. Other problems (e.g., lateral color) may be solved similarly. If deterministic, the image may be compensated on a work station before the image is
5 displayed, and if the defects are caused by both by design imperfection and manufacturing variations, only the methods in figure 2-6 may be used realistically to compensate to get a higher fidelity of image and higher detection rate in case of medical device application.

The above detailed description is provided to illustrate the specific embodiments of the present invention and is not intended to be limiting. Numerous variations and
10 modifications within the scope of the present invention are possible. The present invention is set forth in the accompanying claims.

Claims

We claim:

1. A method for characterizing an image sensor, comprising:
Illuminating the image sensor under a controlled condition;
5 exposing multiple images onto the image sensor under the controlled condition;
extracting from the multiple images parameter values of a model for images exposed onto the image sensor; and
compensating images taken subsequently with the image sensor using the
10 parameter values.
2. A method as in Claim 1, further comprises exposing to the image sensor objects having a predetermined color, contrast or pattern.
3. A method as in Claim 1, further comprises preparing the controlled condition by providing an external light source for illuminating the image sensor.
- 15 4. A method as in Claim 3, wherein the image sensor is sensitive to a plurality of color components.
5. A method as in Claim 4, wherein the exposing comprises providing the illumination at a predetermined light intensity for each of the color components.
- 20 6. A method as in Claim 5, wherein objects provide predetermined patterns in the multiple images.
7. A method as in Claim 1, further comprising storing the images taken under the controlled condition in an archival memory.
8. A method as in Claim 1, further comprising storing parameters calculated in an archival memory.
- 25 9. A method as in Claim 1, wherein the parameter values are expressed in a form selected from the group consisting of: an equation, a curve, a piecewise curve and a lookup table.

10. A method as in Claim 9, further comprising measuring signals from one or more dark pixels at various temperatures.

11. A method as in Claim 9, wherein compensating the images further comprises measuring the temperature at which said images are captured and using temperature
5 measurements as input to the model.

12. A method as in claim 9, wherein compensating the images further comprises measuring one or more dark pixels within a predetermined time before or after an image is captured at a temperature substantially equal to the temperature at which the image was captured and using the measurement of the dark pixels as input to the model.

10 13. A method as in Claim 1, wherein the model of the image comprises a function for compensating pixel-to-pixel variations.

14. A method as in Claim 13, wherein the function comprises a product of a multiplicative factor and a measured value of an image.

15 15. A method as in Claim 13, wherein the function compensates an average pixel value across a plurality of pixels.

16. A method as in Claim 13, wherein the function compensates for a non-uniform pixel responsivity.

17. A method as in Claim 13, wherein the function compensates for an average pixel value.

20 18. A method as in Claim 13, wherein the function is based on expected pixel values obtained from controlled conditions.

19. A method as in Claim 1, wherein the model of the image comprises an additive factor for compensating a leakage current in a pixel of the image sensor.

25 20. A method as in Claim 19, wherein the leakage current is integrated over a time of exposure.

21. A method as in Claim 19, wherein the additive factor is temperature dependent.

22. A method as in Claim 1, wherein the parameter values are calculated for each pixel for compensation for that pixel.

30 23. A method as in Claim 1, wherein the parameter values are calculated based on

a group of pixels and wherein the calculated parameter values are then applied to each pixel in the group of pixels for compensation.

24. A method as in Claim 23, wherein the group of pixels are selected from pixels in a rectangular area.

5 25. A method as in Claim 1, further comprising compressing the compensated images.

26. A method as in Claim 25, wherein further comprises transmitting the compressed images taken to an external depository.

10 27. A method as in Claim 26, wherein the image sensor is associated with an identifier, and wherein the images are transmitted together with the identifier to identify the compressed images sent.

28. A method as in Claim 26, wherein the compressed images are stored in an archival memory.

15 29. A method as in Claim 1, further comprising transmitting images taken to an external depository.

30. A method as in Claim 29, wherein the image sensor is associated with an identifier, and wherein the images are transmitted together with the identifier to identify the images sent.

20 31. A method as in Claim 1, further comprises preparing the controlled condition by providing an illumination system from within the camera.

32. A method as in Claim 31, wherein the model comprises a correction for reflected light.

33. A method as in Claim 32, wherein the correction is a function of a current in a light emitting diode.

25 34. A method as in Claim 33, wherein the correction is further a function of a time of exposure.

30 35. A method as in Claim 34, wherein the image sensor is provided in a camera having a plurality of optical elements, the method further comprising characterizing the optical elements independently of the image sensor, and wherein the images are compensated using both the characterization of the optical elements and the parameter values.

36. A camera, comprising:

an image sensor; and

means for preserving a record of characterization data created based on a model for images to be taken with the camera, the characterization data being derived from multiple images projected onto the image sensor.

37. A camera as in Claim 36, wherein the means for preserving a record comprises a storage device.

38. A camera as in Claim 36, wherein the means for preserving a record comprises a transmitter for transmitting the record for an external recording device.

39. A camera as in Claim 36, wherein the camera is associated with an identifier and wherein the record is subsequently retrieved from the external recording device using the identifier.

40. A camera as in Claim 36, wherein the model comprises a multiplicative factor for compensating pixel-to-pixel variations.

41. A camera as in Claim 36, further comprising means for compressing an image, after compensating the pixel-to-pixel variations in the image.

42. A camera as in Claim 36, wherein the projected images are of objects provided in the field of view of a predetermined color, contrast or pattern.

43. A camera as in Claim 36, wherein the image sensor is sensitive to a plurality of color components.

44. A camera as in Claim 36, wherein the camera further comprises an archival memory for storing the images taken.

45. A camera as in Claim 36, further comprising an archival memory for storing parameters calculated.

46. A camera as in Claim 36, wherein the model is temperature dependent.

47. A camera as in Claim 36, wherein the model of the image comprises a function for compensating pixel-to-pixel variations.

48. A camera as in Claim 36, wherein the function comprises a product of a multiplicative factor and a measured value of an image.

49. A camera as in Claim 36, wherein the function compensates an average pixel value across a plurality of pixels.

50. A camera as in Claim 36, wherein the function compensates for a non-uniform pixel responsivity.

5 51. A camera as in Claim 36, wherein the function compensates for an average pixel value.

52. A camera as in Claim 36, wherein the function is based on expected pixel values obtained from controlled conditions.

10 53. A camera as in Claim 36, wherein the model of the image comprises an additive factor for compensating a leakage current in a pixel of the image sensor.

54. A camera as in Claim 53, wherein the leakage current is integrated over a time of exposure.

55. A camera as in Claim 53, wherein the additive factor is temperature dependent.

15 56. A camera as in Claim 36, wherein the characterization data are calculated for each pixel for compensation for that pixel.

57. A camera as in Claim 36, wherein the characterization data are calculated based on a group of pixels and wherein the calculated parameter values are then applied to each pixel in the group of pixels for compensation.

20 58. A camera as in Claim 57, wherein the group of pixels are selected from pixels in a rectangular area.

59. A camera as in Claim 36, wherein the camera stores compressed compensated images.

25 60. A camera as in Claim 59, wherein the camera further comprises a transmitter for sending the compressed images taken to an external depository.

61. A camera as in Claim 60, wherein the camera is associated with an identifier, and wherein the transmitter sends the images together with the identifier to identify the compressed images sent.

30 62. A camera as in Claim 61, wherein the compressed images are stored in an archival memory.

63. A method as in Claim 36, wherein the camera further comprises a transmitter for sending images taken to an external depository.

64. A camera as in Claim 63, wherein the camera is associated with an identifier, and wherein the transmitter sends the images together with the identifier to identify the
5 images sent.

65. A camera as in Claim 36, further comprising a transparent housing encapsulating the image sensor; and a light source within the transparent housing for preparing controlled condition for preparing the characterization data.

66. A camera as in Claim 65, further comprising means for providing a light
10 absorption environment for preparing the controlled condition.

67. A camera as in Claim 65, wherein the model comprises a correction for light reflected from the transparent housing.

68. A camera as in Claim 67, wherein the correction is a function of a current in a light emitting diode.

69. A camera as in Claim 68, wherein the correction is further a function of a time
15 of exposure.

70. A camera as in Claim 35, wherein the model comprises a multiplicative factor for compensating an average pixel value across a plurality of pixels.

71. A camera as in Claim 35, wherein the characterization data is obtained by
20 taking exposure based on an external light source of predetermined characteristics.

72. A method for characterizing a camera with a transparent housing and a light source within the transparent housing, comprising:

Placing the camera inside a light absorption environment, and taking a first plurality of exposures;

25 Placing the camera within a field-dependent reflectance environment, and taking a second plurality of exposures; and

Processing the first and second pluralities of exposures to extract parameter values of a model for images to be taken with the camera.

73. A method as in Claim 72, wherein the first plurality of exposures are taken
30 using an illumination system within the camera.

74. A method as in Claim 72, wherein the first plurality of exposures are taken for different relative illuminations.

75. A method as in claim 72, wherein the second plurality of exposures are taken for different exposure times.

5 76. A method as in Claim 72, wherein some of the first and second pluralities of exposures are taken in a liquid environment.

77. A method as in Claim 72, further comprising compensating images taken by the camera based on the parameter values.

10 78. A method as in Claim 72, wherein the model is based on the first and second pluralities of exposures as sensed in the image sensor.

79. A method as in Claim 78, wherein the model comprises a function for compensating pixel-to-pixel variations.

80. A method as in Claim 79, wherein the function is temperature dependent.

15 81. A method as in Claim 79, wherein the function comprises a term for compensating a non-uniform pixel responsivity across a plurality of pixels.

82. A method as in Claim 79, wherein the function comprises a term for compensating a leakage current in a pixel of the image sensor.

83. A method as in Claim 82, wherein the leakage current is integrated over a time of exposure.

20 84. A method as in Claim 79, wherein the function is based on a current in a light emitting diode.

85. A method as in Claim 84, wherein the current is a function of a time of exposure.

25 86. A method as in Claim 79, wherein the extracted parameter values are calculated based on a group of pixels and wherein the calculated parameter values are then applied to each pixel in the group of pixels for compensation.

87. A method as in Claim 79, wherein the extracted parameter values are calculated for each pixel and wherein the calculated parameter values are applied to that pixel in subsequent exposures.

88. A method as in Claim 74, wherein the first and second plurality of exposures are stored in an archival memory in the camera.

89. A method as in Claim 74, wherein extracted coefficients or parameters are stored in an archival memory in the camera.

5 90. A method as in claim 74, wherein the first and second pluralities of exposures are transmitted to an external receiver for storage.

91. A method as in claim 74, wherein extracted parameter values are transmitted to an external receiver for storage.

10 92. A method as in Claim 74, wherein the camera is associated with an identification, and wherein the first and second pluralities of images are transmitted with the identification to allow subsequent retrieval for use in the compensating.

93. A method for efficiently operating a camera having a sensor array organized as a two-dimensional array of picture elements (pixels), comprising:

Providing an image on the sensor array;

15 Measuring the responses of the pixels along a first dimension of the two-dimensional array to detect a first edge of the image and a second edge of the image;

Measuring the responses of the pixels along a second dimension of the two-dimensional array to detect a third edge of the image and a fourth edge of the image;

20 recording the area bounded by the first, second, third and fourth edges of the image as an active area of the image sensor; and

processing and storing or transmitting only the responses of the pixels in the active area of the image sensor to subsequent image exposures.

94. A method as in Claim 93, wherein the recorded active area is specified by two vertices of a rectangular area.

25 95. A method as in Claim 93, further comprising mapping the centers of the subsequent image exposures to the center of the active area.

96. A method as in Claim 95, wherein the mapping is achieved using a displacement vector representing a displacement joining the center of the sensor array to the center of the active area.

97. A method as in Claim 93, further comprising scaling subsequent image exposures by a scaling factor representing a ratio between an expected size of the active area and the actual size of the active area.

98. A method for correcting a distortion in an optical element of a camera,
5 comprising:

Taking an image of a known pattern including a plurality of edges with the camera;

10 Determining distortions at predetermined locations on the image relative to the known pattern by identifying the edges of the known pattern and detecting corresponding edges in the image;

Taking an image of a subject with the camera; and

using the determined distortions at the predetermined locations, undoing the determined distortions from the image of the subject.

99. A method as in Claim 98, further comprising:

15 Sending the image of the subject after it is taken to a workstation with a display; and

Correcting the image of the subject by undoing of the determined distortions on the workstation and displaying the corrected image of the subject on the display.

20 100. A method for determining a boundary of an image based on frequency-domain information of the image, comprising:

(a) selecting an area of the image M pixels by $M+n$ pixels into a plurality of $n \times n$ blocks, wherein M is divisible by n ;

(b) computing a discrete cosine transform over each of the blocks;

25 (c) identifying, along the direction of the $M+n$ pixels, one of the $n \times n$ blocks where the n^2 DCT values increase over a previous block;

(d) reforming the $n \times n$ blocks of the image beginning at the identified block by including into the identified block the last column of the previous block; and

(e) repeating steps (b), (c) and (d) until the block with maximum DCT values is found.

101. A method for characterizing a camera having optical elements and an image sensor, the camera being housed in a swallowable capsule, comprising:

 Illuminating a field of view of the optical elements of the camera under a controlled condition;

5 exposing multiple images onto the image sensor of the camera through a transparent window provided in the swallowable capsule under the controlled condition;

 extracting from the multiple images parameter values of a model for images to be taken with the camera; and

10 compensating images taken subsequently with the camera using the parameter values.

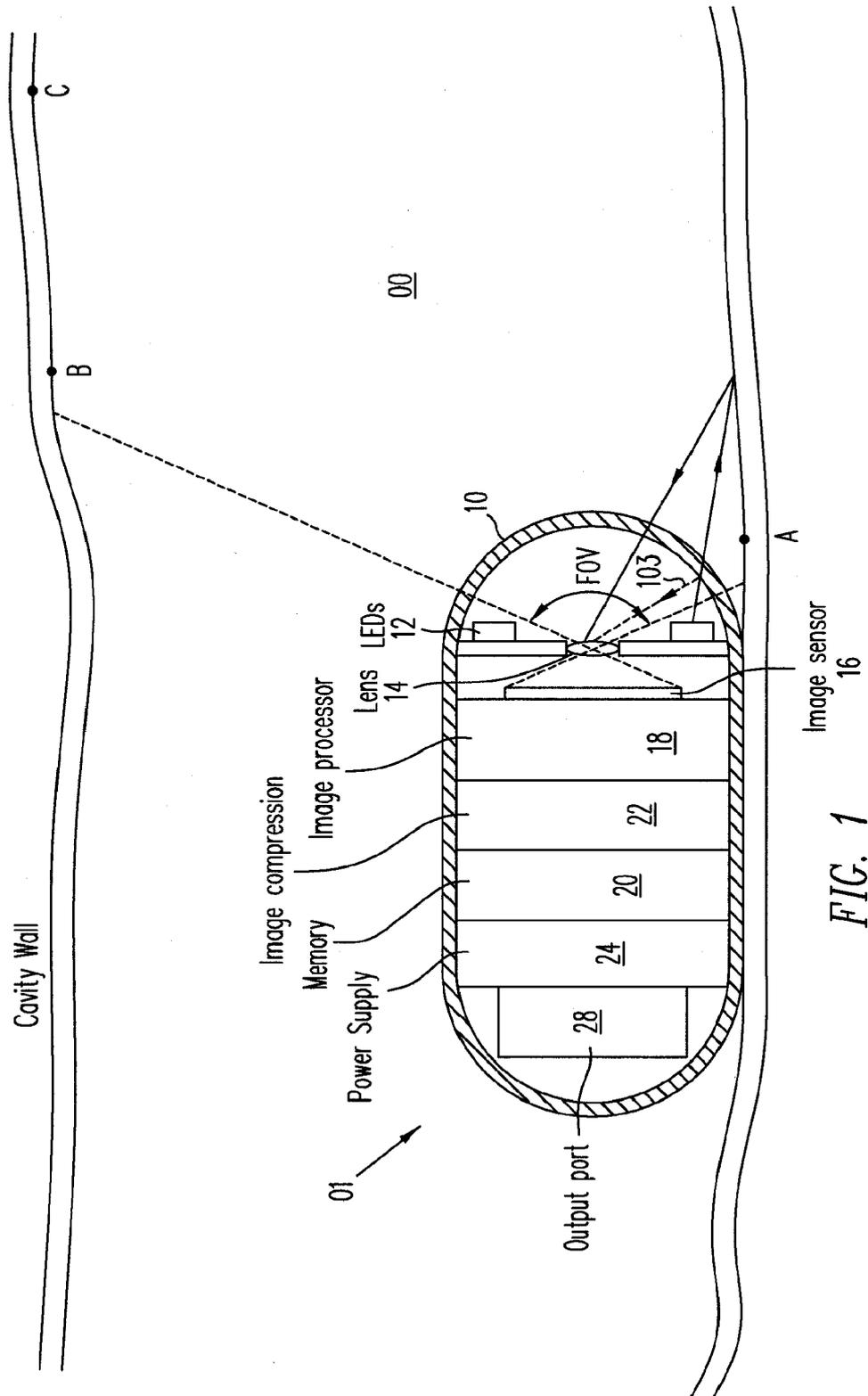


FIG. 1

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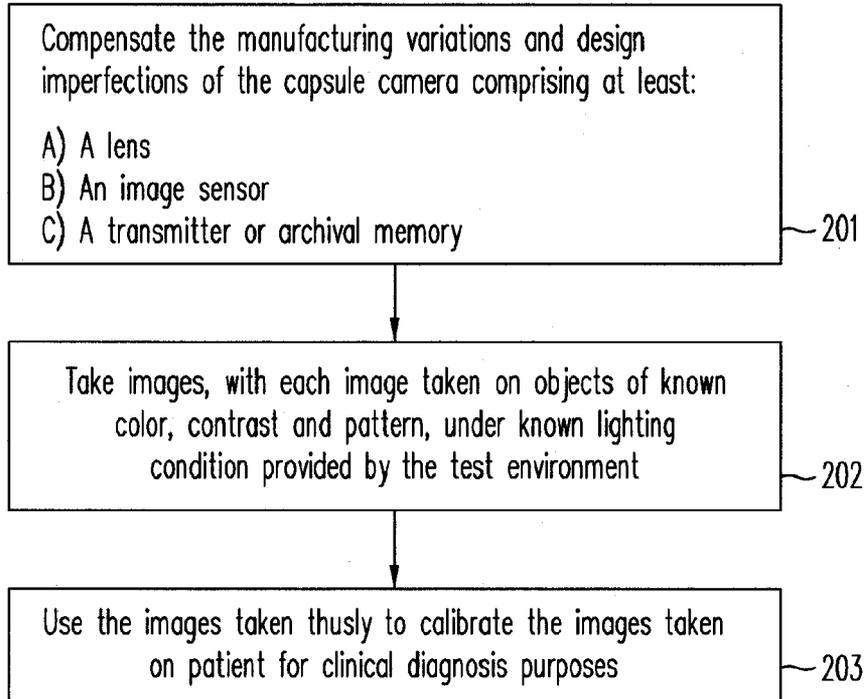


FIG. 2

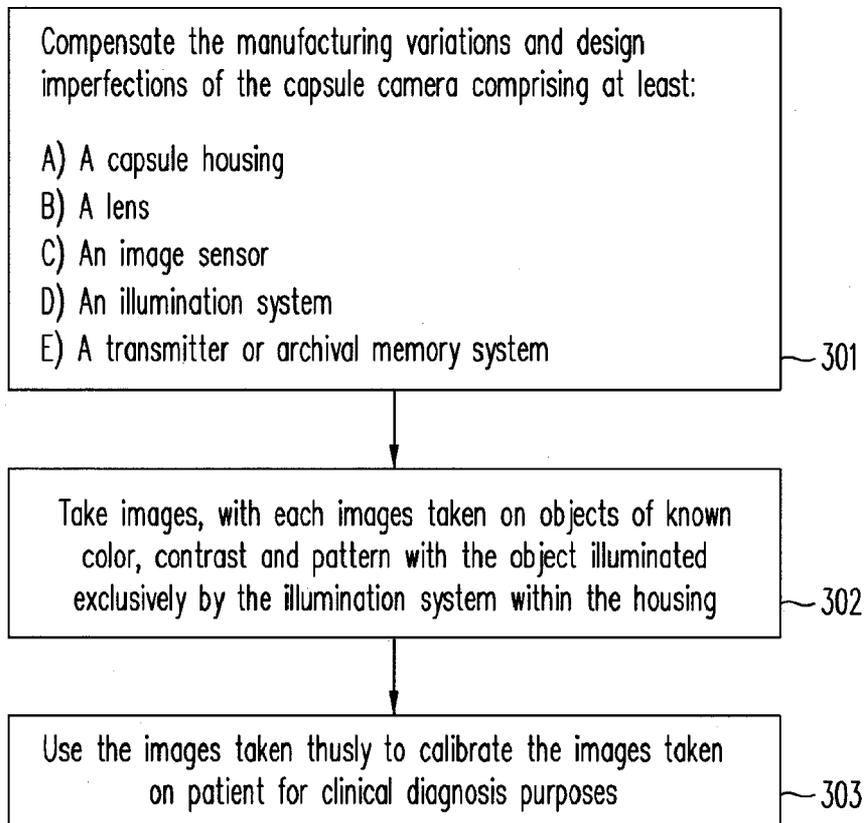


FIG. 3

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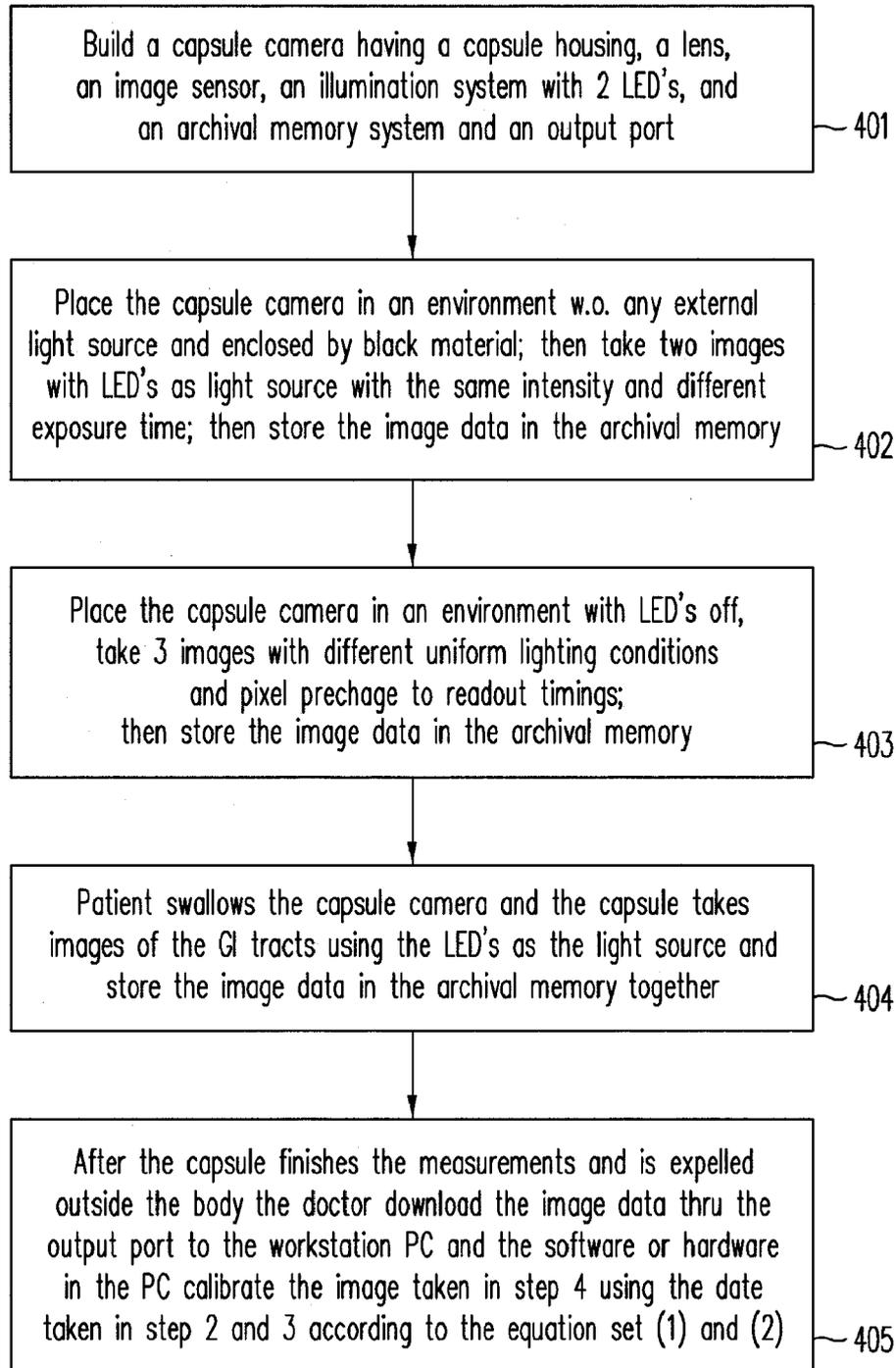


FIG. 4

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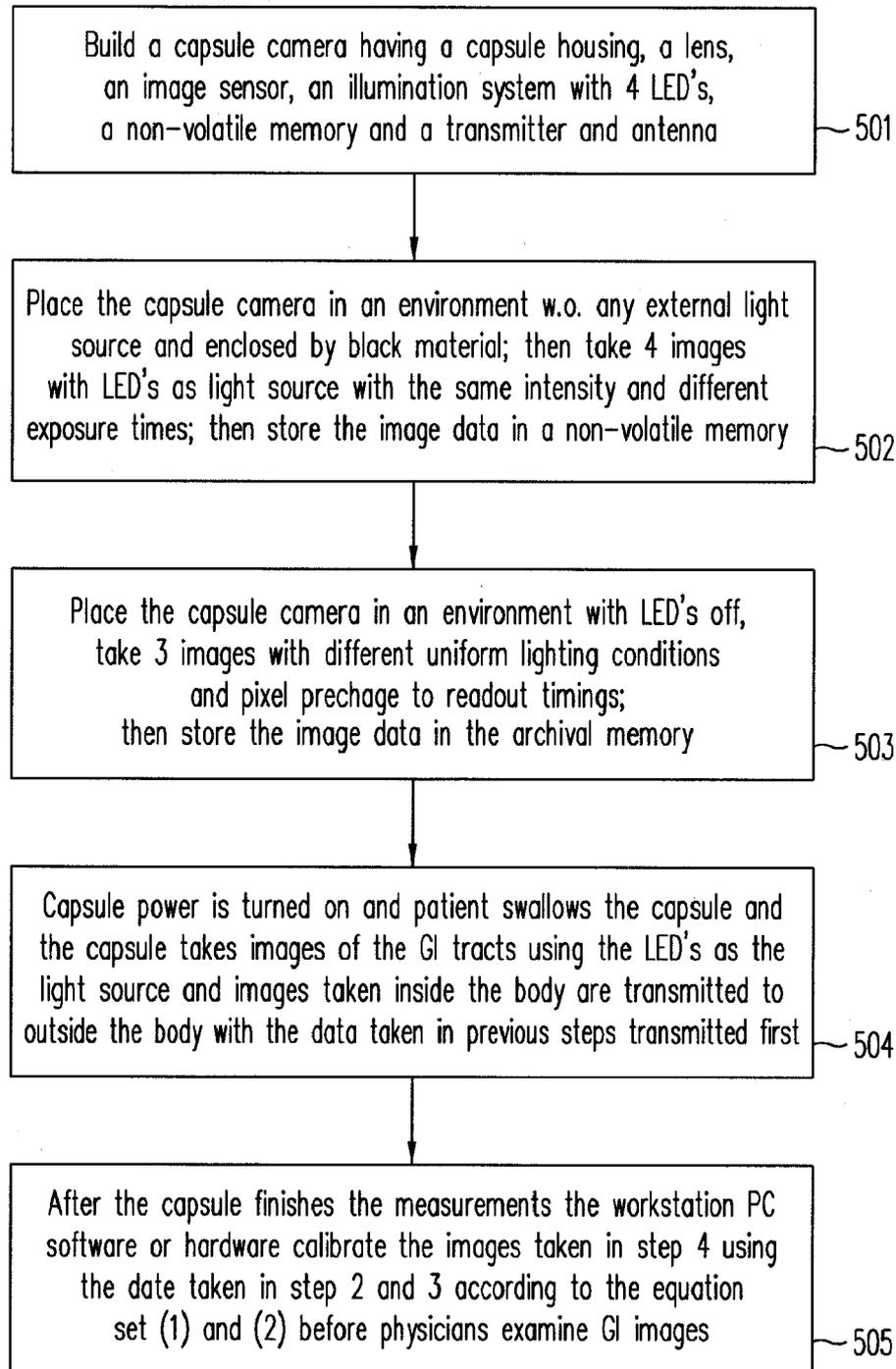


FIG. 5

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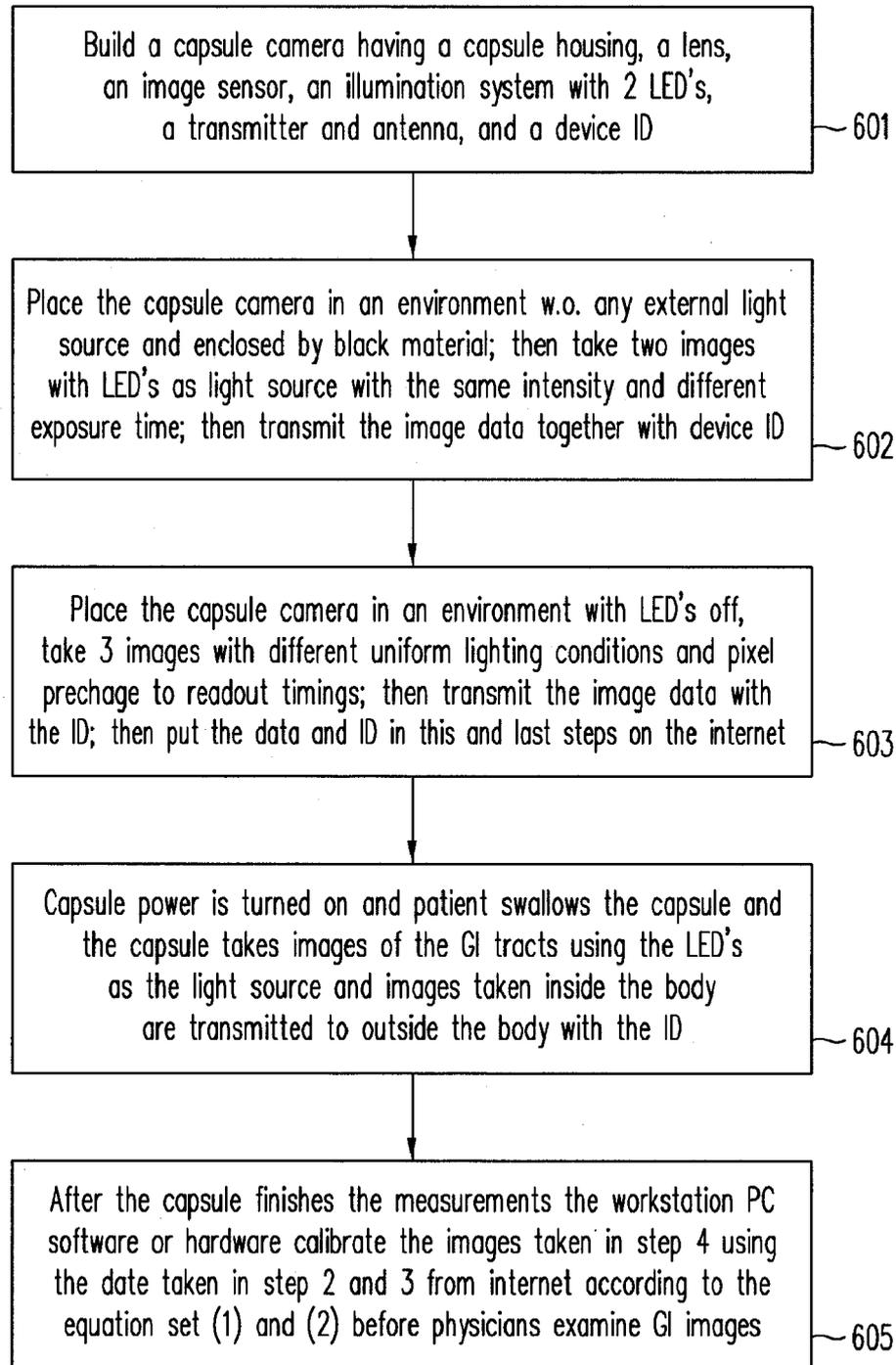


FIG. 6

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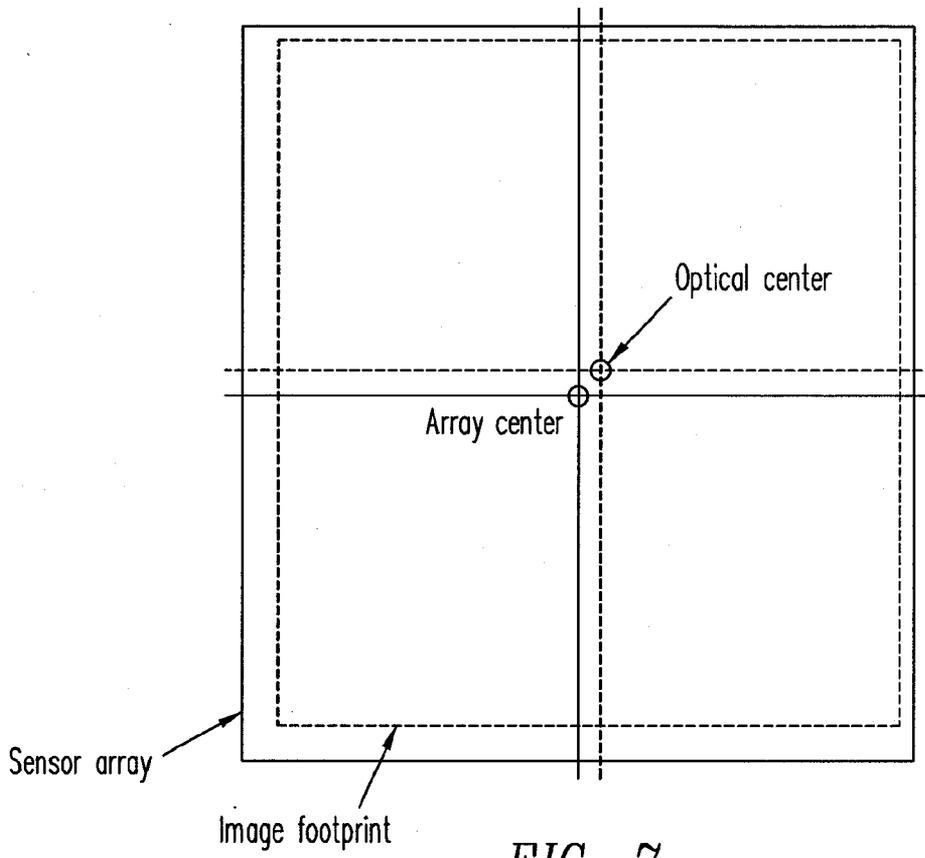


FIG. 7

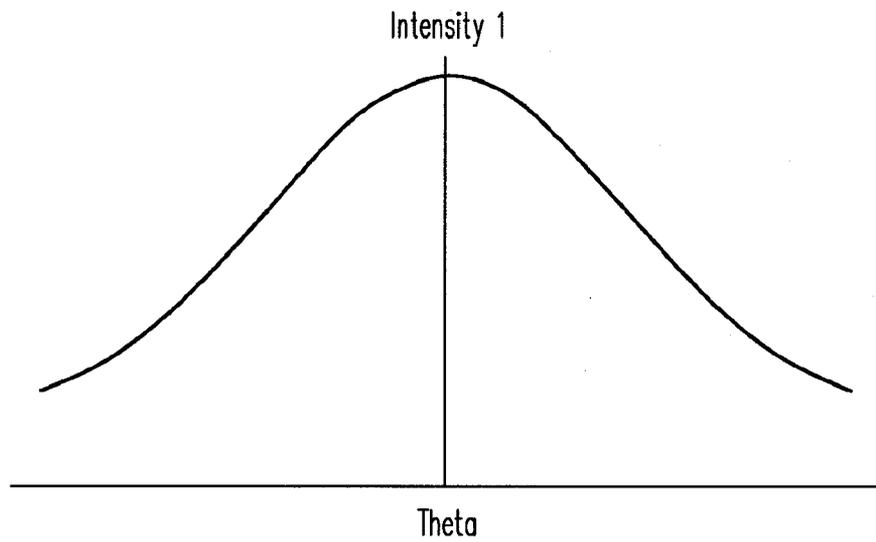


FIG. 8B

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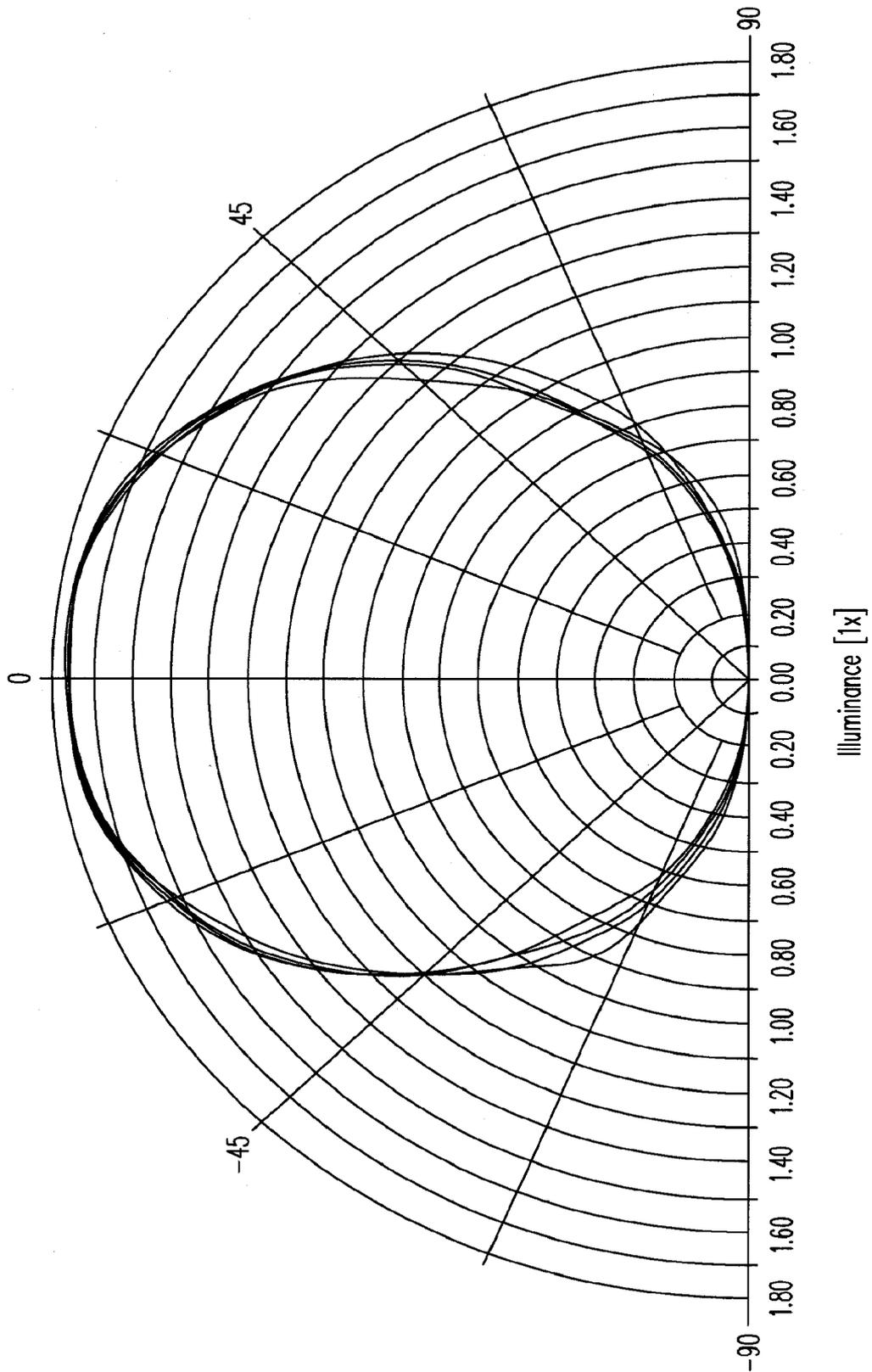


FIG. 8A

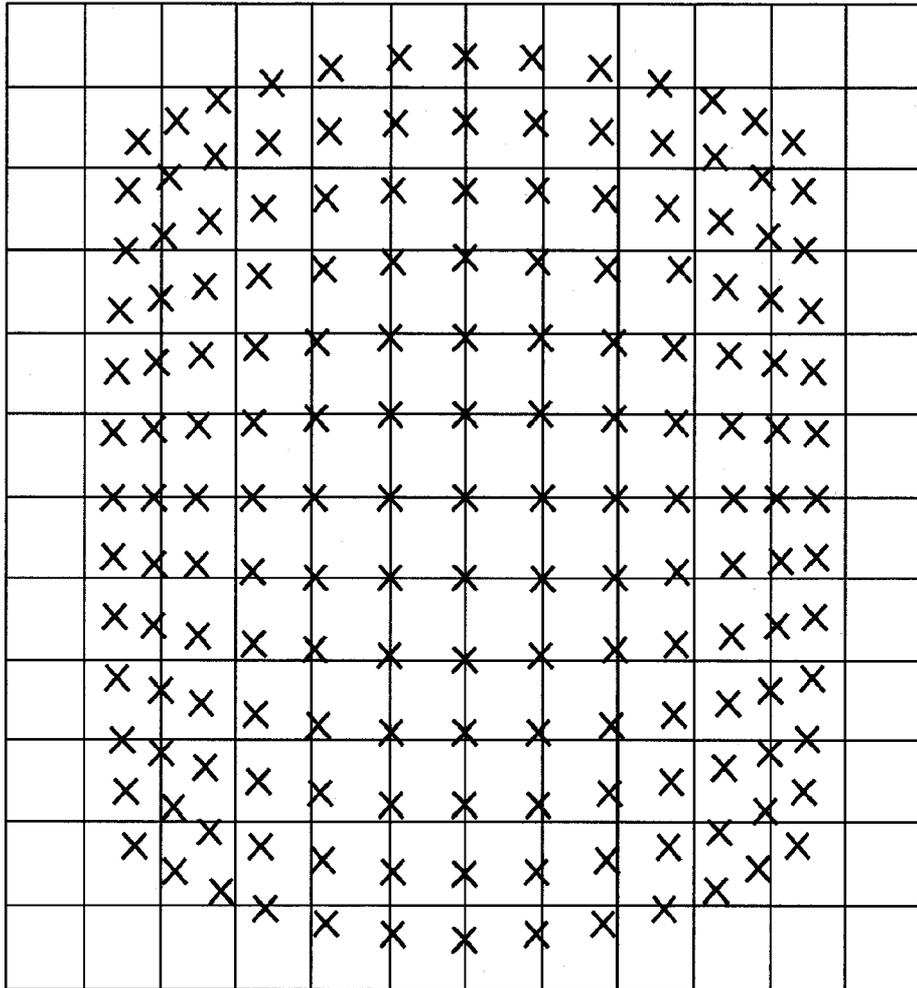


FIG. 9

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 07/87184

<p>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(8) - H04N 5/228 (2008.01) USPC - 348/222.1 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC</p>																				
<p>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</p> <p>Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC(8): H04N 5/228 (2008.01) USPC: 348/222.1</p> <p>Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched USPC: 348/222.1, 333.11, 312 (text search)</p> <p>Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) WEST(USPT,PGPB,EPAB,JPAB,USOCR); DialogWEB(Engineering); Google Search terms: ccd image camera photo sensor array capture calibrate compensate error distortion table model matrix temperature leakage dct mdct cosine transform</p>																				
<p>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</p> <table border="1"> <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> <tbody> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>US 2006/0001765 A1 (SUDA et al.) 05 January 2006 (05.01.2006) abstract; fig 4, 23; para [0007]-[0009], [0079], [0082]-[0087], . [0094], . [0115], [0124], [0130], [0146], . [0188], [0225]-[0243], [0250]-[0276].</td> <td>1-75, 77-99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td></td> <td>76, 100, 101</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 2006/0082879 A1 (MIYOSHI et al.) 20 April 2006 (20.04.2006), para [0070], [0110], [0132].</td> <td>76</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 6,304,990 B1 (SHIKAKURA et al.) 16 October 2001 (16.10.2001), Fig 18B, 19, 20; col 5 ln 40-50; col 6 ln 52-58, 65-67; col 10 ln 63 to col 11 ln 33; col 16 ln 42-55.</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 2005/0215876 A1 (CHEN et al.) 29 September 2005 (29.09.2005), abstract; para [0034], [0038], [0040].</td> <td>101</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	X	US 2006/0001765 A1 (SUDA et al.) 05 January 2006 (05.01.2006) abstract; fig 4, 23; para [0007]-[0009], [0079], [0082]-[0087], . [0094], . [0115], [0124], [0130], [0146], . [0188], [0225]-[0243], [0250]-[0276].	1-75, 77-99	Y		76, 100, 101	Y	US 2006/0082879 A1 (MIYOSHI et al.) 20 April 2006 (20.04.2006), para [0070], [0110], [0132].	76	Y	US 6,304,990 B1 (SHIKAKURA et al.) 16 October 2001 (16.10.2001), Fig 18B, 19, 20; col 5 ln 40-50; col 6 ln 52-58, 65-67; col 10 ln 63 to col 11 ln 33; col 16 ln 42-55.	100	Y	US 2005/0215876 A1 (CHEN et al.) 29 September 2005 (29.09.2005), abstract; para [0034], [0038], [0040].	101
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<p><input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/></p>																				
<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td> <td>"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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</td> <td>"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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"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)</td> <td>"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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td> <td>"&" document member of the same patent family</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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	"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"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	"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)	"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	"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family	"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed									
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<p>Date of the actual completion of the international search 24 March 2008 (24.03.2008)</p>		<p>Date of mailing of the international search report 08 MAY 2008</p>																		
<p>Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. 571-273-3201</p>		<p>Authorized officer: <i>B. Young</i> Lee W. Young</p> <p>PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774</p>																		