



(51) International Patent Classification:

G06T 5/00 (2006.01) H04N 19/147 (2014.01)
H04N 19/154 (2014.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/EP2014/053625

(22) International Filing Date:

25 February 2014 (25.02.2014)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

1351721 27 February 2013 (27.02.2013)

FR

(71) Applicant: THOMSON LICENSING [FR/FR]; 1-5 Rue
Jeanne d'Arc, F-92130 Issy Les Moulineaux (FR).(72) Inventors: BOITARD, Ronan; c/o Technicolor R&D
France, 975 Avenue des Champs-Blancs, CS17616, F-
35576 Cesson Sevigné (FR). THOREAU, Dominique; c/o
Technicolor R&D France, 975 Avenue des Champs-
Blancs, CS17616, F-35576 Cesson Sevigné (FR). BOU-
ATOUCH, Kadi; Université de Rennes 1, Campus de
Beaulieu, 263 Avenue du Général Leclerc, F-35042
Rennes (FR). COZOT, Rémi; Université de Rennes 1,
Campus de Beaulieu, 263 Avenue du Général Leclerc, F-
35042 Rennes (FR).(74) Agents: LABELLE, Lilian et al.; Technicolor, 1-5 Rue
Jeanne d'Arc, F-92130 Issy Les Moulineaux (FR).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY,
BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM,
DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT,
HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR,
KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ,
OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA,
SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM,
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM,
ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ,
UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ,
TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK,
EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV,
MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM,
TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW,
KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a
patent (Rule 4.17(ii))

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(54) Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR SELECTING AN IMAGE DYNAMIC RANGE CONVERSION OPERATOR

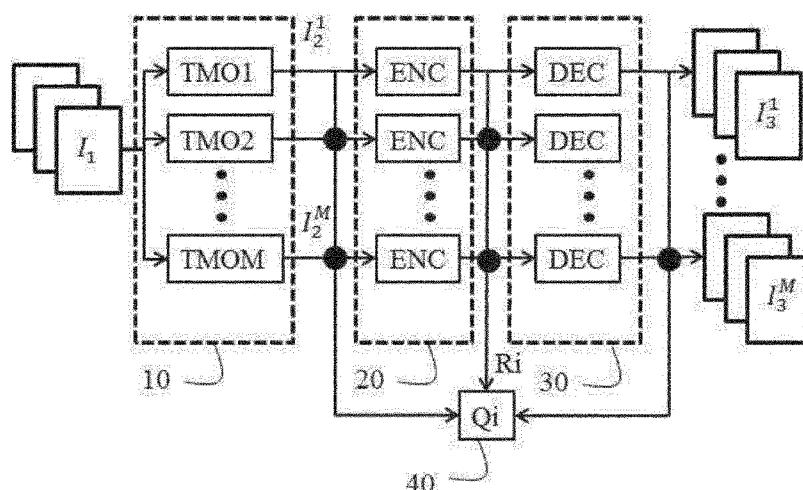


FIGURE 1

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method for selecting an image dynamic range conversion operator from among a set of im-
age dynamic range conversion operators by optimising a quality criterion, each image dynamic range conversion operator (TMOi)
being applied (10) to an original image (I_1) to obtain an image, called the modified image (I_2^i), whose dynamic range is lower than
that of the original image, characterised in that said quality criterion (Q_i) is calculated, for each image dynamic range conversion op-
erator (TMOi), as a function of a distortion (D_i) calculated from a reconstructed version (I_3^i) after coding and decoding the original
image modified (I_2^i) by said image dynamic range conversion operator (TMOi).

METHOD AND DEVICE FOR SELECTING AN IMAGE DYNAMIC RANGE CONVERSION OPERATOR

1. Field of the invention

5 The invention relates to the general field of converting the dynamic range of images and coding images whose dynamic range has been converted.

The invention relates to a device and a method for selecting an image dynamic range conversion operator from among a set of image dynamic
10 range conversion operators.

This device and method can be used, for example, to reduce the dynamic range of an image, or of an image sequence, that is to say to modify the luminance values of the pixels of this image (or of each of the images of an image sequence) which belong to a given dynamic value range so as to
15 obtain luminance values which belong to a lower dynamic value range than that of the original image (of the original image sequence).

Such a method or device can be used in a method respectively device for coding images or image sequences such as those used to code images (or image sequences) of significant and/or reduced dynamic range.

2. Prior art

It is known to use tone mapping operators (TMOs) or tone reproducers to modify (also referred to as convert or adapt) the dynamic range of an image
25 called the original image which can be, for example, acquired by a high dynamic range camera so as to obtain an image whose dynamic range is lower (a low dynamic range image) so as to adapt the dynamic range of the original image to that, for example, of a screen on which this image is displayed.

30 Hereafter, converting, adapting or modifying the dynamic range of an image is equivalent to converting, adapting or modifying the luminance component (values) of this image.

If once its dynamic range is modified the original image is intended for a display system, the luminance component of this adapted image is

quantised and encoded so as to be compatible with a display standard (BT 709, etc.). In this case, we usually refer to luma components rather than luminance components. The luminance, for its part, corresponds to a physical unit expressed in cd/m².

5 The invention is equally applicable to a luminance component and a luma component.

One of these TMOs is that developed by Reinhard which is commonly called a PTR operator (*Reinhard, E., Stark, M., Shirley, P., and Ferwerda, J., "Photographic tone reproduction for digital images," ACM Transactions on Graphics 21 (July 2002)*).

The principle of this image dynamic range conversion operator is to modify the luminance component L_w of an original image so as to obtain a modified luminance component L_d of the image by using a sigmoid mapping curve given by equation (1):

$$15 \quad L_d = \frac{L_s}{1+L_s} \cdot \left(1 + \frac{L_s}{L_{white}^2}\right) \quad (1)$$

where L_{white} is a luminance value used to reduce zones with high luminance values, L_d is a matrix whose size is that of the image and which comprises the luminance values of the pixels of the image which are expressed in a lower dynamic value range than that of the original image and

20 L_s is a matrix whose size is that of the image and which comprises the luminance values obtained by equation (2):

$$L_s = \frac{a}{k} \cdot L_w \quad (2)$$

where a is a chosen exposure value, and k , commonly called a key, defines an indication of the brightness of the image given by equation (3):

$$25 \quad k = \exp\left(\frac{1}{N} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^N \log(\delta + L_w(i))\right) \quad (3)$$

where N is the number of pixels in the image, δ is a value which avoids any singularity and $L_w(i)$ is the luminance value of a pixel i of the luminance component L_w of the image.

The values a and L_{white} are two parameters of this TMO which are

30 fixed, for example, at 18% for parameter a and at the maximum luminance value of the original image for parameter L_{white} . Equation (1) can be

reformulated ignoring the factor used to reduce zones with high luminance values:

$$L_d = \frac{L_s}{1+L_s} \quad (4)$$

It is also known to use operators which modify the dynamic range of each image of an image sequence independently of the dynamic range of the other images of this image sequence and to choose, for each conversion of an image, a key according to the pixels of this image and the pixels of a predetermined number of images which temporally precede the image to be converted in the image sequence (*Kang, S. B., Uyttendaele, M., Winder, S., and Szeliski, R., "High dynamic range video," in [ACM SIG-GRAPH 2003 Papers on - SIGGRAPH '03], 319, ACM Press, New York, New York, USA (2003).*

More specifically, the key is calculated from equation (3) wherein **N** is equal to the sum of the number of pixels in the image to be converted and the numbers of pixels in the images which temporally precede it in the image sequence.

It is also known to use operators which use a number of preceding images which is dynamically adapted according to the key of the current image and those of the preceding images (*Ramsey, S., III, J. J., and Hansen, C., "Adaptive temporal tone mapping," Computer Graphics and Imaging- 2004 (3), 3–7 (2004).*

It is also known to use operators which compare an original image using a visual response of the humans visual system (HVS) with an image whose luminance values belong to a dynamic range adapted to a screen (*Mantiuk, R., Daly, S., and Kerofsky, L., "Display adaptive tone mapping" ACM Transactions on Graphics 27, 1 (Aug. 2008)*) which makes it possible to obtain an image whose visual perception on this screen is as little distorted as possible. A minimisation of a residual error between the results of the responses of the human visual system is calculated during these methods. This minimisation results in a conversion curve which is piece-wise linear and calculated image by image.

It is also known to apply processing to an image sequence resulting from the application of an image dynamic range conversion operator,

previously mentioned, to each image of an original sequence, in order to preserve the temporal coherence of the brightness between the images of the original image sequence.

For example, Boitard et al. (*R. Boitard et al., "Temporal coherency for video tone mapping," in Proc. SPIE 8499, Applications of Digital Image Processing XXXV, 2012.*) propose that the dynamic range of the values of the luminance component L_d of an image of an original image sequence modified by one of the image dynamic range conversion operators previously mentioned is reduced by a value calculated from a global characteristic of the original image sequence.

The reduced dynamic range luminance component L'_d is then given by equation (5):

$$L'_d = R \cdot L_d \quad (5)$$

According to a variant, the reduced dynamic range luminance component L'_d is the given by equation (6):

$$L'_d = (x + (1 - x) \cdot R) L_d \quad (6)$$

where x is an offset in the reduction value fixed for example by a user.

In the particular case where the image dynamic range conversion operator is a PTR operator, the value R is given by equation (7):

$$R = \frac{k_p}{k_p + k_v} \quad (7)$$

This latter embodiment makes it possible to preserve the perception of an object present in the original image sequence and to ensure the temporal coherence of the brightness between the images of the original image sequence.

According to an embodiment, the value R is given by equation (8):

$$\frac{k_i^{HDR} \cdot k_{i,max}^{LDR}}{k_{i,max}^{HDR} \cdot k_i^{LDR}} \quad (8)$$

where k_i^{HDR} is the key of the luminance component of the image to be converted of the original image sequence, $k_{i,max}^{HDR}$ is the maximum key from among the keys of the luminance components of the original image sequence, k_i^{LDR} is the key of the modified luminance component L_d of the image to be converted and $k_{i,max}^{LDR}$ is the maximum key from among the keys of the

modified luminance components L_d originating from the original image sequence.

It is also known to evaluate an image dynamic range conversion operator such as those previously mentioned. These operators can, potentially, be supplemented by processing which preserves the temporal coherence of the brightness between the images of the original image sequence.

For such an evaluation, it is known to use evaluation criteria which quantify the subjective quality of the image resulting from the application of this operator (*Ledda et al.*, "Evaluation of tone mapping operators using a high dynamic range display," in *ACMSIG-GRAPH 2005 Papers*, New York, NY, USA, 2005, *SIGGRAPH'05*, pp.640–648, ACM., and *Akiko Yoshida*, "Perceptual evaluation of tone mapping operators with real-world scenes," in *Proceedings of SPIE 2005*, vol.5666, pp.192–203, SPIE).

However, as these resultant images are very often coded in order to limit their sizes for the purposes of storage or in order to limit their bitrates for the purposes of transmission over communication channels, the inventor has observed that these resultant images once reconstructed after coding and decoding do not systematically have a rendering quality which corresponds to the subjective quality of these resultant images which have been evaluated by said criteria.

3. Summary of the invention

The purpose of the invention is to overcome at least one of the disadvantages previously mentioned.

For this purpose, in a general way, the selection of an image dynamic range conversion operator is based on the optimisation of a quality criterion which is a function of a distortion calculated from a reconstructed version after coding and decoding the original image modified by said image dynamic range conversion operator.

Thus, for a given bitrate, the subjective quality of the image of modified dynamic range is optimal for a given bitrate.

According to one of its aspects, the invention relates to a method for selecting an image dynamic range conversion operator from among a set of image dynamic range conversion operators by optimisation of a quality criterion. Each image dynamic range conversion operator being applied to an original image in order to obtain an image, called the modified image, whose dynamic range is lower than that of the original image, the method is characterised in that said quality criterion is calculated, for each image dynamic range conversion operator, as a function of a distortion calculated from a reconstructed version after coding and decoding the image modified by said image dynamic range conversion operator.

According to an embodiment, the distortion is calculated between the original image modified by said image dynamic range conversion operator and said reconstructed version.

According to a variant, the distortion is calculated between said modified original image and said reconstructed version once their dynamic ranges have been extended by application of an operator which is the inverse of that used to obtain said modified original image.

According to a variant, the distortion is calculated between the original image and said reconstructed version once the dynamic range of this reconstructed version has been extended by application of an operator which is the inverse of that used to obtain said modified image.

According to a variant of the method, said quality criterion is also a function of the bitrate of the modified and coded original image.

According to another of its aspects, the invention relates to a device for selecting an image dynamic range conversion operator from among a set of image dynamic range operators. Said device comprising means for applying an image dynamic range conversion operator to an original image in order to obtain an image, called the modified image, whose dynamic range is lower than that of the original image, and means for optimising a quality criterion to select a dynamic range conversion operator, the device is characterised in that the means for optimising the quality criterion are configured so that said quality criterion is calculated for each image dynamic range conversion operator as a function of a distortion calculated from a reconstructed version

after coding and decoding the image modified by said image dynamic range conversion operator.

According to another of its aspects, the invention relates to a system for converting an original image sequence whose luminance values belong to a given dynamic value range. Said system comprising several dynamic range conversion operators intended to be applied to the luminance component of each image of the original image sequence in order to obtain a modified luminance component whose values belong to a dynamic value range lower than that of the original image sequence, the system is characterised in that it also comprises a device for selecting a dynamic range conversion operator from among said image dynamic range conversion operators which is in accordance with that previously mentioned.

According to another of its aspects, the invention also relates to a method for coding an original image of given dynamic range using an image whose dynamic range lower than that of the original image has been obtained by application of an image dynamic range conversion operator to the original image. The method is characterised in that the image dynamic range conversion operator is selected from among a set of image dynamic range conversion operators according to a method in accordance with that previously mentioned.

According to another of its aspects, the invention also relates to a device for coding an original image of given dynamic range using an image whose dynamic range lower than that of the original image has been obtained by application of an image dynamic range conversion operator to the original image. The device is characterised in that the image dynamic range conversion operator is selected from among a set of image dynamic range conversion operators according to a device in accordance with that previously mentioned.

4. List of figures

The invention will be better understood and illustrated by means of non-restrictive embodiments and advantageous implementations, with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

- **Figure1** shows a diagram of an embodiment of the method for selecting an image dynamic range conversion operator;
- **Figure2** shows a diagram of a variant of the method for selecting an image dynamic range conversion operator;
- 5 – **Figure3** shows a diagram of a variant of the method for selecting an image dynamic range conversion operator;
- **Figure 4** shows a block diagram of a device for selecting an image dynamic range conversion operator which implements a method according to the invention;
- 10 – **Figure5** shows a block diagram of a system for converting image dynamic range according to the invention.

5. Detailed description of the invention

15 Hereafter are described several embodiments and variants of a method for selecting an image dynamic range conversion operator from among a set of M image dynamic range conversion operators TMO_i (i=1 to M). The references common to these embodiments and variants designate the same entities.

20 This set can, according to an example, comprise one or more of the image dynamic range conversion operators described in the introductory section. Moreover, this term of image dynamic range conversion operator can also include processing which makes it possible to ensure temporal coherence of the brightness between the images of the original image
25 sequence such as that described in the introductory section. This processing, which is applied following an operator, can be applied to one or more of the operators of the set.

In the case where the dynamic range of all the images of an image sequence must be modified (converted or adapted), the image dynamic range
30 conversion operator is applied to each image of the image sequence.

Fig. 1 diagrammatically shows an embodiment of the method for selecting an image dynamic range conversion operator TMO₀ from among a set of M image dynamic range conversion operators TMO_i (i=1 to M).

The method comprises a step 10 of applying image dynamic range conversion operators during which each operator TMO_i of the set is applied to each image I_1 presenting itself at the input of the method. A number M of images I_2^i are then obtained at the output of step 10. Each of these images I_2^i is an image called a modified image that is to say an image whose dynamic range is lower than that of the original image I_1 . Note that there are M images I_2^i for each image I_1 .

The method also comprises a step 20 of coding during which each image I_2^i is coded according to a known method. This coding method can be, for example, of JPEG type in the case of still images or an image sequence coder for example of ITU-T H.265/MPEG-H Part 2 'High Efficiency Video Codec' (HEVC) type.

The method also comprises a step 30 of reconstructing an image during which an image I_3^i is reconstructed after decoding the code obtained by coding each image I_2^i . For this purpose, the code at the output of step 20 is decoded by a dual method of the coding method used during step 20. As many images I_3^i are therefore reconstructed as images I_2^i .

In a general way, the method also comprises a step 40 of optimising a quality criterion during which a quality criterion Q_i is calculated for each image dynamic range conversion operator TMO_i as a function of a distortion D_i calculated from a reconstructed version I_3^i after coding and decoding the image I_2^i modified by the image dynamic range conversion operator TMO_i.

According to the embodiment of Fig. 1, during step 40, the distortion D_i is calculated between an image I_2^i and an image I_3^i .

Fig. 2 diagrammatically shows a variant of the embodiment described in relation to **Fig. 1**.

According to this variant, the method comprises a step 50 of expanding dynamic range during which the dynamic ranges of each image I_3^i and of each image I_2^i are extended by application of an operator EO_i which is the inverse of that TMO_i used to obtain said image I_2^i .

The distortion D_i is thus calculated between two images whose dynamic range is that of the original image. More specifically, the distortion D_i is calculated between the original image modified I_2^i by said image dynamic

range conversion operator TMOi, and a reconstructed version after coding and decoding the original image modified I_2^i by said image dynamic range conversion operator TMOi, the dynamic ranges of the image I_2^i and of this reconstructed version having been extended during step 50.

5 This variant makes it possible to know which is the image dynamic range conversion operator which makes it possible to obtain a better compression rate without needing to refer to the original image.

Fig. 3 diagrammatically shows a variant of the embodiment described in relation to **Fig. 1**.

10 According to this variant, the distortion D_i is calculated between the original image I_1 and an image I_3^i , the dynamic range of this reconstructed version I_3^i being extended by application of an operator EOi which is the inverse of that TMOi used to obtain the modified image I_2^i (step 50).

The invention is in no way limited to one type of image or image sequence coding or image dynamic range conversion operator.

15 However, in the case where a method for image sequence coding uses a temporal predictor, the inventor has observed that the image dynamic range conversion operator selected was that (or one of those) whose resultant images were processed in order to preserve the temporal coherence between the images of the original image sequence. In fact, there are two major reasons which cause the degradation of the performances of a motion estimator used in a temporal predictor.

25 The first comes from a flickering in the luminance values from one image to another which appears when no processing is applied to the images modified by an image dynamic range conversion operator. These flickering artefacts are due to the change in the key values relative to temporally successive images. In fact, if the key **k** changes from one image to another, the modification curve (of sigmoid form) also changes, which results in different modifications for luminance values nevertheless similar in the original images.

30 The second comes from the non-preservation of the temporal coherence of the brightness of the original images. In fact, as the quality of a motion estimator lies in the low dynamic range of the residue image obtained

from the difference between the original image and the predicted image, the more incoherent the prediction image with the original image in terms of brightness, the more this residue image will have a high dynamic range.

According to a variant of the method, the quality criterion Q_i is also a
 5 function of the bitrate R_i of the modified I_2^i and coded original image.

The quality criterion Q_i is then given by:

$$Q_i = \gamma * R_i + D_i$$

where R_i is the size of an image or the bitrate of an image sequence calculated from the images I_2^i .

The distortion D_i is for example given by a distance of mean square
 10 error (MSE) type. The invention is not limited to such a metric and any other metric can be used.

The image dynamic range conversion operator which is selected at the end of the method is therefore that which optimises (minimises in the case of a square error) the quality criterion Q_i .

15 In the case where the image dynamic range conversion operator is given by equations (2) and (4), the corresponding operator EO_i is given by:

$$L_s = \frac{L_d}{1 - L_d}$$

where

$$L_w = L_s \cdot \frac{k}{a}$$

and where a is the chosen exposure value and k is the key given by equation (3).

20 If the operator calculates a key as a function of the pixels of this image and the pixels of a predetermined number of images which temporally precede the image to be converted in the image sequence then the new key must be used.

25 In the case where the image dynamic range conversion operator compares an original image using a visual response of the human visual system (HVS) with an image whose luminance values belong to a dynamic range adapted to a screen, a minimisation of a residual error between the results of the responses of the human visual system is calculated during these methods. This minimisation results in a conversion curve which is piece-wise

linear and calculated image by image. The corresponding operator EO_i is then calculated by inverting the conversion curve which is piece-wise linear and calculated image by image, and this for each image.

According to a variant relating to the case where an image dynamic range conversion operator is followed by processing which preserves the temporal coherence of the images of the original image sequence, the inverse processing of this processing is applied to the image I_3^i before the inverse operator is applied to this image.

For example, in the case where the processing is that given by equation (9), the inverse processing will be given by:

$$L_d = \frac{1}{R} L'_d$$

where L'_d is the luminance component of the image I_3^i .

According to one of its hardware aspects, the invention relates to a device 400 for selecting an image dynamic range conversion operator described with reference to **Figure 4**.

Device 400 comprises the following elements, interconnected by a digital address and data bus 40:

- A calculation unit 43 (also called a central processing unit);
- A memory 45;
- A network interface 44, for interconnections between device 400 and other remote devices connected via a connection 41;

The calculation unit 43 can be implemented by a (possibly dedicated) microprocessor, a (possibly also dedicated) microcontroller, etc. The memory 45 can be implemented in a volatile and/or non-volatile form such as a RAM (random access memory), a hard disc, an EPROM (erasable programmable ROM), etc. Device 400 is configured to implement a method according to the invention described in relation to **Figures 1 to 3**.

For this purpose, means 43, 44 and possibly 45 cooperate with each other to apply an image dynamic range conversion operator TMO_i to an original image I_1 to obtain a modified image I_2^i , whose dynamic range is lower than that of the original image, and to optimise a quality criterion to select a dynamic range conversion operator. The means for optimising the quality criterion are configured so that said quality criterion Q_i is calculated for each

image dynamic range conversion operator TMO_i as a function of a distortion D_i calculated from a reconstructed version I_3^i after coding and decoding the original image modified I_2^i by said image dynamic range conversion operator TMO_i.

5 According to another hardware aspect, the invention relates to a system CONV for converting the dynamic range of an image whose luminance values belong to a given dynamic value range (HDR) to an image whose luminance values belong to a lower dynamic value range (LDR) than that of the original image. This is usually referred to as HDR to LDR dynamic
10 range reduction.

Figure 5 shows a block diagram of such a system for converting an image which implements a method according to the invention.

The system CONV comprises M (>1) dynamic range conversion operators TMO_i which are intended to be applied to luminance component L_w of an original image SIO to obtain a modified image whose luminance values
15 belong to a lower dynamic value range LDR than that of image SIO (HDR).

In the case of a colour image, the system CONV comprises means GLW for obtaining the luminance component L_w of this colour image SIO. For example if an image SIO is expressed in an (R,G,B) colour space, the image
20 is transformed in order to be expressed in the (X,Y,Z) colour space so as to recover the Y channel of the (X,Y,Z) space which forms the luminance component L_w. It is widely known to use such colour space transformation means. Other examples of means GLW can be used without leaving the scope of the invention. The system CONV also comprises means DIV and
25 MULT for the purpose of conserving a constant saturation and the hue of the colours. These means DIV are configured to divide the R, G and B colour components corresponding to a colour image SIO by component L_w and means MULT are configured to multiply the R, G and B colour components thus modified by the modified luminance component. The three components
30 originating from this multiplication are then expressed in floating values. To obtain a modified image LDR, these three components originating from this multiplication are submitted at the input of means Ftol of the system CONV and undergo a conversion of their values to whole values which belong to a

dynamic value range for the screen on which the modified colour image must be displayed.

According to the invention, the conversion system also comprises a device for selecting the dynamic range conversion operator TMO_o from
5 among the M conversion operators TMO_i. This device is in accordance with device 400 described in relation to **Fig. 4**.

According to another of its aspects, the invention relates to a method for coding an original image of given dynamic range and an image whose dynamic range lower than that of the original image has been obtained by
10 application of an image dynamic range conversion operator to the original image.

An example of such a coding method is to predict each original image (an image often called the HDR image) using an image whose dynamic range is lower (an image often called the LDR image). This type of coding method
15 also includes those which encode both the HDR image and the LDR image.

This type of coding method is characterised, according to the invention, in that the image dynamic range conversion operator used to obtain the LDR image is selected from among a set of image dynamic range conversion operators according to one of the methods described in relation to **Figures 1**
20 **to 4**. Moreover, in the case where an operator EO_i is used by the selection method, the operator EO_i carries out an operation which is the inverse of that produced by an operator TMO_i.

In **Figures 1 to 5**, the modules shown are functional units that may or may not correspond to physically distinguishable units. For example, these
25 modules or some of them can be grouped together in a single component or circuit, or constitute functions of the same software. On the contrary, some modules may be composed of separate physical entities. The devices and systems compatible with the invention are implemented according to a purely hardware embodiment, for example in the form of a dedicated component (for
30 example in an ASIC (application specific integrated circuit) or FPGA (field-programmable gate array) or VLSI (very large scale integration) or of several electronic components integrated into a device or even in the form of a mixture of hardware elements and software elements.

Claims

1. Method for selecting an image dynamic range conversion operator
5 from among a set of image dynamic range conversion operators by optimising a quality criterion, each image dynamic range conversion operator (TMOi) being applied (10) to an original image (I_1) to obtain an image, called the modified image (I_2^i), whose dynamic range is lower than that of the original image, characterised in that said quality criterion (Qi) is calculated, for each
10 image dynamic range conversion operator (TMOi), as a function of a distortion (Di) calculated from a reconstructed version (I_3^i) after coding and decoding the image (I_2^i) modified by said image dynamic range conversion operator (TMOi).
2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the distortion (Di) is calculated
15 between the original image modified (I_2^i) by said image dynamic range conversion operator (TMOi) and said reconstructed version (I_3^i).
3. Method according to claim 2, wherein the distortion (Di) is calculated
20 between said modified original image (I_2^i) and said reconstructed version (I_3^i) once their dynamic ranges have been extended by application of an operator (EOi) which is the inverse of that (TMOi) used to obtain said modified original image (I_2^i).
4. Method according to claim 1, wherein the distortion is calculated
25 between the original image and said reconstructed version (I_3^i) once the dynamic range of this reconstructed version has been extended by application of an operator (EOi) which is the inverse of that (TMOi) used to obtain said modified image.
- 30 5. Method according to one of claims 2 to 4, wherein said quality criterion (Qi) is also a function of the bitrate (Di) of the modified and coded original image.

6. Device for selecting an image dynamic range conversion operator from among a set of image dynamic range operators, said device comprising means for applying an image dynamic range conversion operator (TMO_i) to an original image (I_1) to obtain an image, called the modified image (I_2^i),
5 whose dynamic range is lower than that of the original image, and means for optimising a quality criterion to select a dynamic range conversion operator, characterised in that the means for optimising the quality criterion are configured so that said quality criterion (Q_i) is calculated for each image dynamic range conversion operator (TMO_i) as a function of a distortion (D_i)
10 calculated from a reconstructed version (I_3^i) after coding and decoding the image (I_2^i) modified by said image dynamic range conversion operator (TMO_i).

7. System for converting an original image sequence (SIO) whose luminance values belong to a given dynamic value range, said system
15 comprising several dynamic range conversion operators (TMO_i) intended to be applied to luminance component (L_w) of each image of the original image sequence (SIO) to obtain a modified luminance component (L_d) whose values belong to a lower dynamic value range than that of the original image sequence (SIO), characterised in that it also comprises a device for selecting
20 a dynamic range conversion operator (TMO) from among said image dynamic range conversion operators which is in accordance with claim 6.

8. Method for coding an original image of given dynamic range using an image whose dynamic range lower than that of the original image has been
25 obtained by application of an image dynamic range conversion operator to the original image, characterised in that the image dynamic range conversion operator is selected from among a set of image dynamic range conversion operators according to a method in accordance with one of claims 1 to 5.

30 9. Device for coding an original image of given dynamic range using an image whose dynamic range lower than that of the original image has been obtained by application of an image dynamic range conversion operator to the original image, characterised in that the image dynamic range conversion

operator is selected from among a set of image dynamic range conversion operators according to a device in accordance with claim 6.

1/3

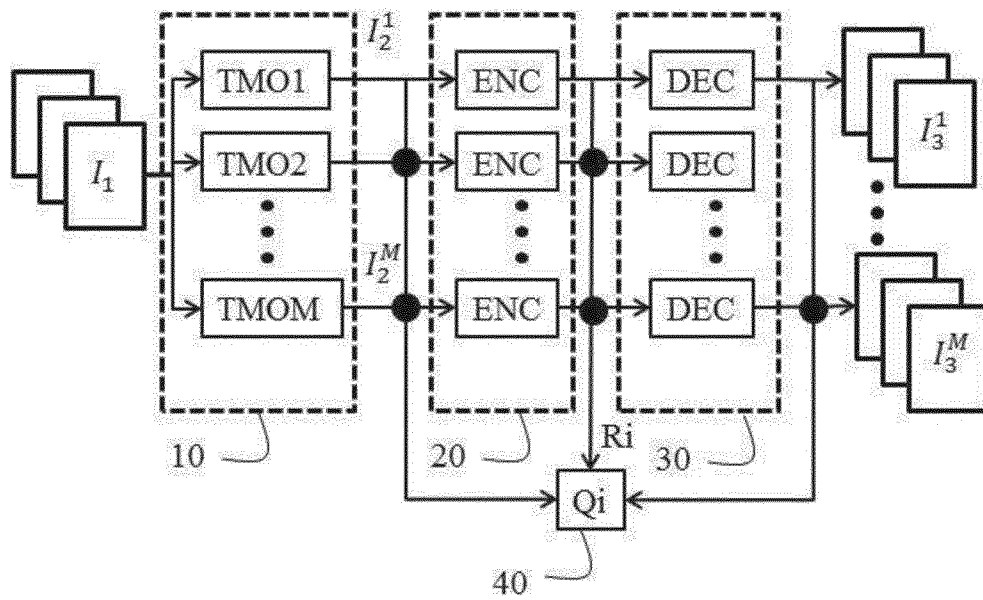


FIGURE 1

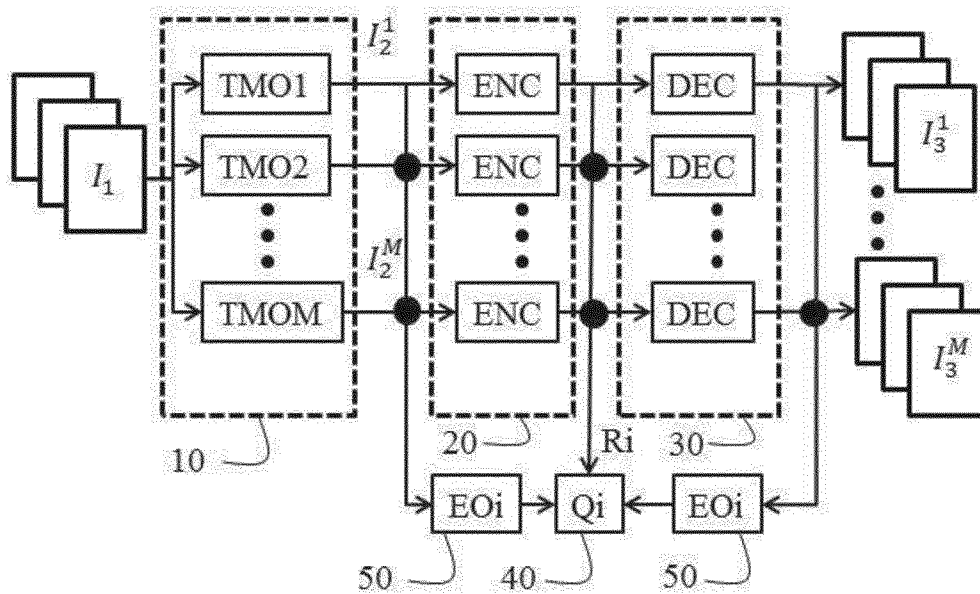


FIGURE 2

2/3

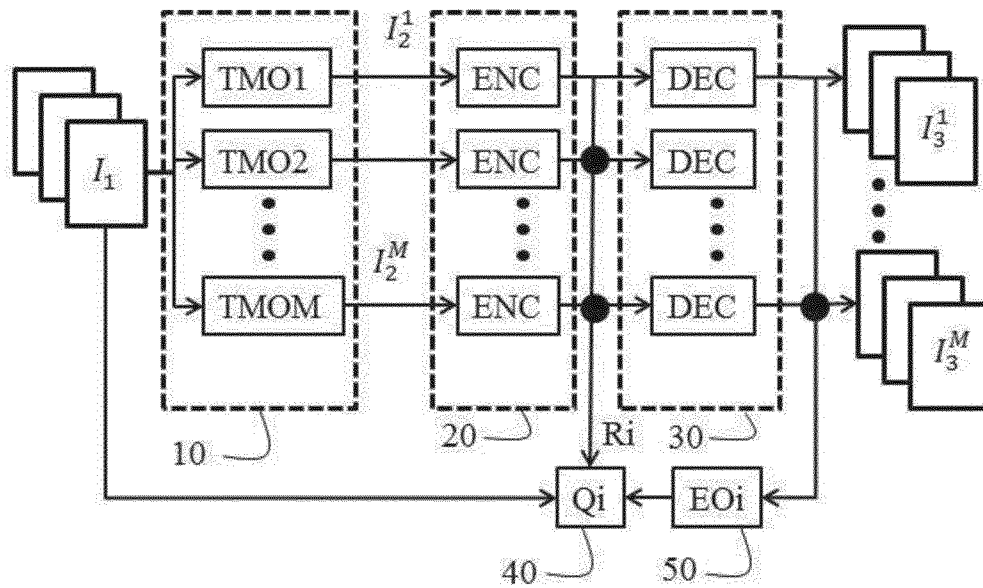


FIGURE 3

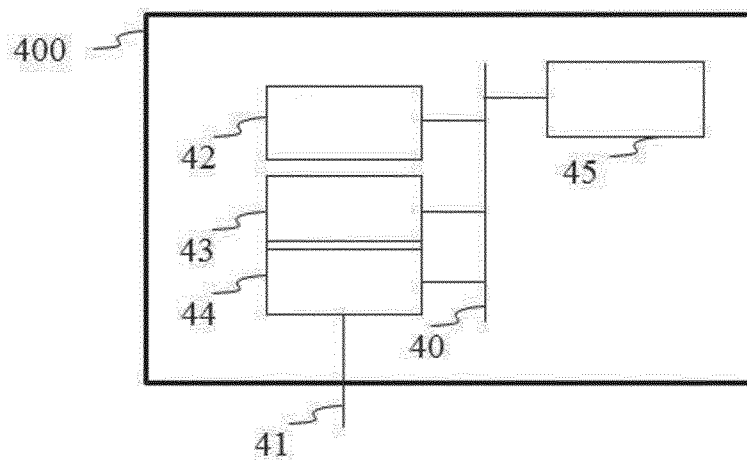


FIGURE 4

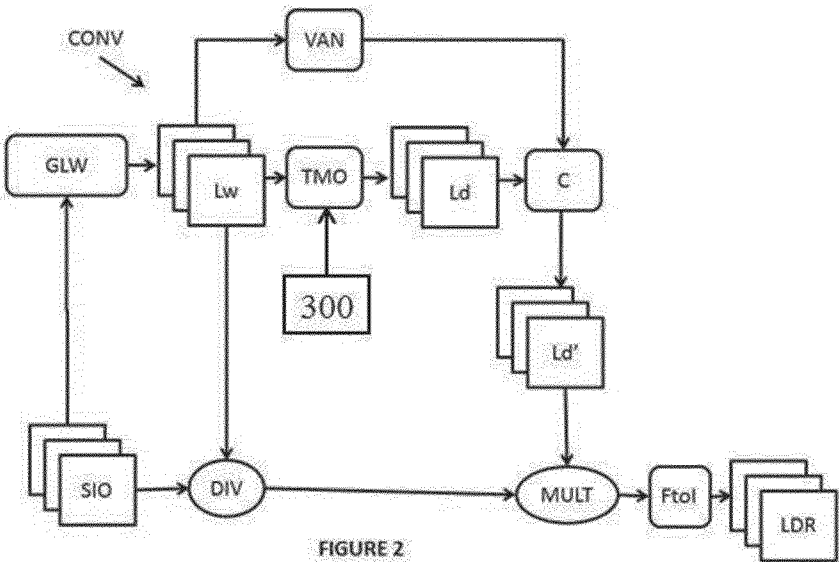


FIGURE 5

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2014/053625

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. G06T5/00 H04N19/154 H04N19/147
ADD.

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)

G06T 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 practicable, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	<p>Zicong Mai ET AL: "Tone-mapping high dynamic range images and videos for bit-depth scalable coding and 3D displaying",</p> <p>1 January 2012 (2012-01-01), XP055117738, Retrieved from the Internet: URL: http://hdl.handle.net/2429/42630 [retrieved on 2014-05-14] chapter 2, first section, and sections 2.1-2.2 chapter 3, first section and sections 3.1-3.2 figure 2.1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">----- -/-</p>	1-9



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but 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

19 May 2014

Date of mailing of the international search report

27/05/2014

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Mayer, Claudia

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2014/053625

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 2 144 444 A1 (UNIV WARWICK [GB]) 13 January 2010 (2010-01-13) paragraphs [0020] - [0032], [0038] - [0041] figure 1	1-9
Y	----- MIN CHEN ET AL: "JPEG Compatible Coding of High Dynamic Range Imagery using Tone Mapping Operators", 25. PICTURE CODING SYMPOSIUM;24-4-2006 - 26-4-2006; BEIJING,, 24 April 2006 (2006-04-24), XP030080209, abstract sections 2-3 figures 1-2	2,3
A	----- NAGISA SUGIYAMA ET AL: "HDR image compression using optimized tone mapping model", ACOUSTICS, SPEECH AND SIGNAL PROCESSING, 2009. ICASSP 2009. IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON, IEEE, PISCATAWAY, NJ, USA, 19 April 2009 (2009-04-19), pages 1001-1004, XP031459401, ISBN: 978-1-4244-2353-8 abstract sections 1-3	1-9
A	----- EP 2 009 921 A2 (MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP [JP]) 31 December 2008 (2008-12-31) abstract paragraphs [0020] - [0022] paragraph [0034] paragraphs [0039] - [0041] paragraph [0047] -----	1-9

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/EP2014/053625

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
EP 2144444	A1	13-01-2010	EP	2144444 A1		13-01-2010
			ES	2389458 T3		26-10-2012
			US	2011235720 A1		29-09-2011
			WO	2010003692 A1		14-01-2010

EP 2009921	A2	31-12-2008	CN	101335894 A		31-12-2008
			EP	2009921 A2		31-12-2008
			JP	5153454 B2		27-02-2013
			JP	2009010943 A		15-01-2009
			US	2009003457 A1		01-01-2009
