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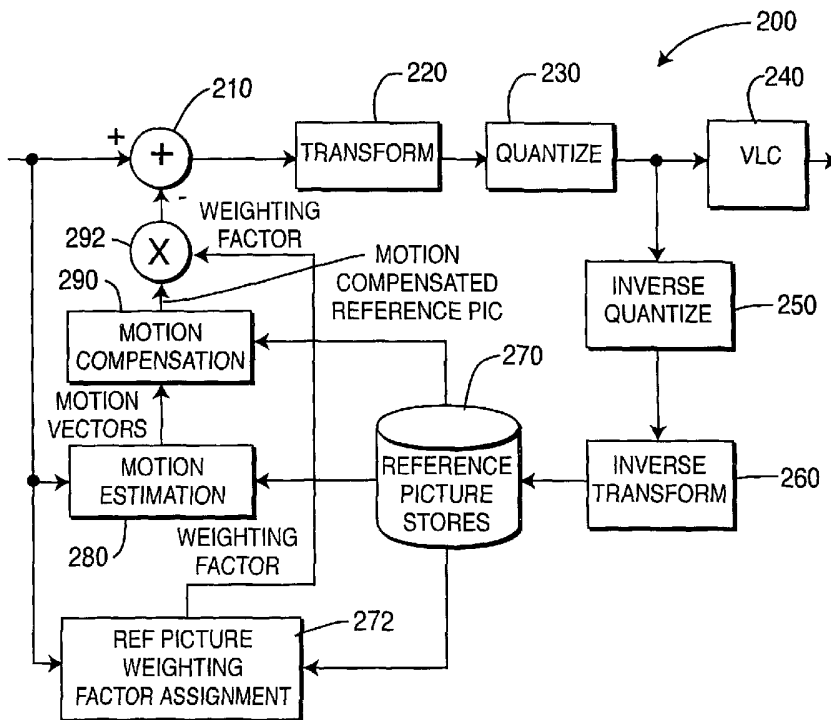
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THOMSON LICENSING S.A. [FR/FR]; 46, Quai A. Le Gallo, F-92648 Boulogne (FR).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): BOYCE, Jill, MacDonald [US/US]; 3 Brandywine Court, Manalapan, NJ 07726 (US).
- (74) Agents: TRIPOLI, Joseph, S. et al.; c/o Thomson Licensing Inc., Two Independence Way, Suite #200, Princeton, NJ 08540 (US).
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Published:
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ENCODING OF VIDEO CROSS-FADES USING WEIGHTED PREDICTION



(57) Abstract: A video encoder (200) is provided for encoding video signal data for at least one cross-fade picture disposed between a fade-out start picture and a fade-in end picture. The encoder portion includes a reference picture weighting factor unit (272) for assigning weighting factors corresponding to each of the fade-out start picture and the fade-in end picture.

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— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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

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7 October 2004

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/36413

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : H04N 7/12, 11/02, 11/04
 US CL : 375/240.01, 240.12, 240.16; 348/590,699,700

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)
 U.S. : 375/240.01, 240.12, 240.16; 348/590,699,700

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 IEEE search terms: dissolve, fade, mpeg, encode, video

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6,570,923 B2 (SAUNDERS et al) 27 May 2003 (27.05.2003), column 2, lines 35-49 and 65-67; column 3 lines 1-7; column 4 lines 41-67; column 5 lines 1-25; column 7 lines 6-38, figures 2 and 8.	1-8
Y	YONEYAMA et al, Fast Dissolve Operations For Mpeg Video Contents, IEEE 2000, pages 291-294, especially pages 292 and 293.	1-8
A	US 6,606,409 B2 (WARNICK et al) 12 August 2003 (12.08.2003), all	1-8

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	"I" same document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to underpin the principle or theory underlying the invention
"B" earlier application or patent 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	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

12 July 2004 (12.07.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report

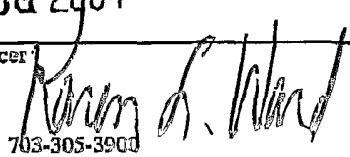
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

Chris Kelley
 Telephone No. 703-305-3900



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/36413

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claim Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claim Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claim Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Claims 1-8 deal with a generic video encoder for encoding a cross-fade picture with limited description of the method used for the encoding. Claims 9-17 are related to a specific method of cross-fade picture encoding including steps not included in claims 1-8, such as the step of identifying pictures for which a cross-fade is defined. Claims 18-25 describe a CODEC that describes a decoder for decoding cross-fade pictures.

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-8

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.