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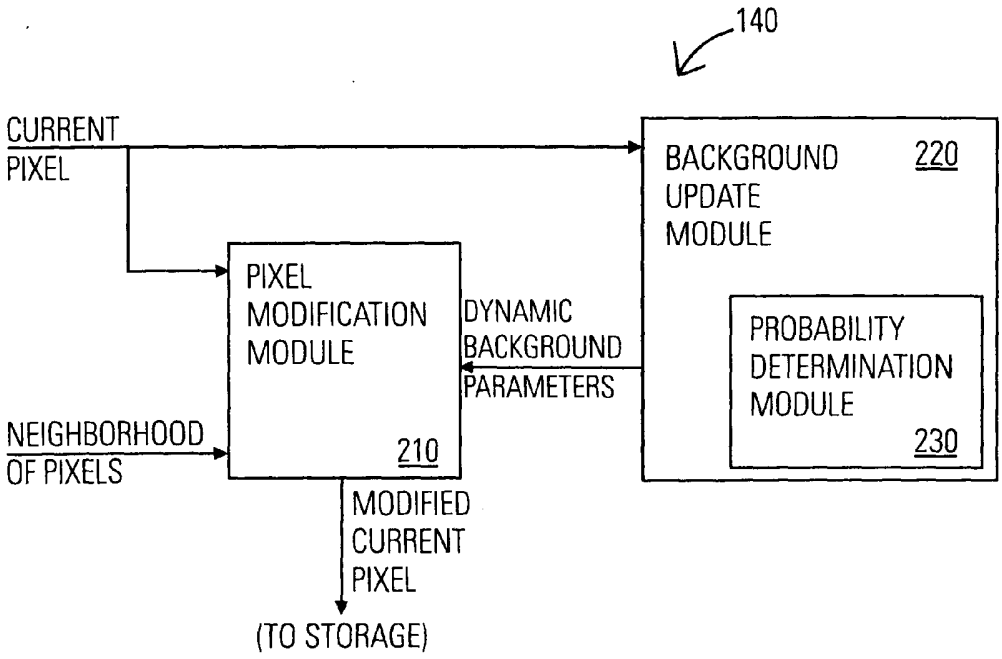
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(54) Title: AUTOMATIC BACKGROUND REMOVAL METHOD AND SYSTEM




(57) Abstract: A method and system for automatically removing noise from images. First, a current pixel is received (300). Next an activity metric of the current pixel is computed (310) by using the current pixel and a neighborhoodo of pixels related to the current pixel. Then a distance metric that indicates the likelihood that the current pixel is a background pixel is computed (320) by using the activity metric and at least one background parameter. The distance metric provides a soft thresholding framework fo rthe background removal. The current pixel is modified (330) based no the distance metric.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 02/06874

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G06T5/20 G06T5/00

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

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G06T

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

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC, EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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| Date of the actual completion of the international search | Date of mailing of the international search report |
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| 1 August 2003 | 13/08/2003 |

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