

ABSTRACT:

System for combining multiple-format multiple-source video signals.

The system generates a composite image on a pixel-by-pixel basis by selectively mapping source pixels provided by video sources of different video formats onto destination pixels in the composite image. The mapping is accomplished by encoding the source pixels into digital words, each word having a colour information part and a video format identifier, used to decode the colour information part upon processing to organize the composite image. Combining video signals with computer-generated graphics data is achieved under control of the graphics data being interpreted either as video format identifier or as colour. If the colour of the destination pixel is determined by one of the video sources, the graphics data is used to select the appropriate decoding. The system permits a modular architecture and simple merging with a PC.

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