PCT WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : H04N 7/50	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/49664
		(43) International Publication Date: 30 September 1999 (30.09.99)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/SG98/00022

(22) International Filing Date: 20 March 1998 (20.03.98)

(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: SGS–THOMSON MICROELECTRONICS ASIA PACIFIC (PTE) LTD. [SG/SG]; 28 Ang Mo Kio Industrial Park 2, Singapore 569508 (SG).

(72) Inventors; and

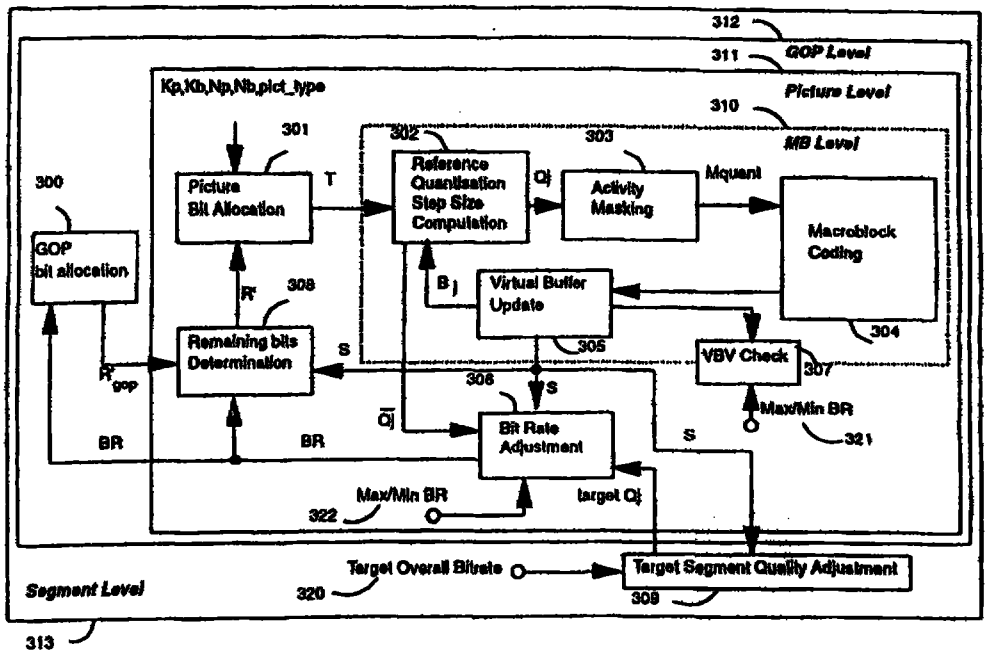
(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: HUI, Yau, Wai, Lucas [SG/SG]; 10H Braddell Hill #24–31, Singapore 579727 (SG). OH, Hong, Lye [SG/SG]; Block 455, Sin Ming Avenue #07–483, Singapore 570455 (SG).

(74) Agent: DONALDSON & BURKINSHAW; P.O. Box 3667, Singapore 905667 (SG).

(81) Designated States: JP, SG, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).

Published
With international search report.

(54) Title: MOVING PICTURES ENCODING WITH CONSTANT OVERALL BIT RATE



(57) Abstract

A method and apparatus for controlling bit rates used in a moving pictures encoder, such as an MPEG standard encoder. A sequence of moving pictures is divided into segments each of which comprises one or more group of pictures. A constant overall bit rate is specified for the sequence of pictures, but variable bit rate encoding used within each segment. A difference between the number of bits allocated for encoding the segment and the actual bits used for encoding is determined, and the difference distributed over one or more subsequent segments.