CLAIMS

1. A method for generating a stereoscopic video stream (101) comprising composite images (C), said composite images (C) comprising information about a right image (R) and a left image (L), wherein

pixels of said right image (R) and pixels of said left image (L) are selected, and

said selected pixels are entered into a composite image (C) of said stereoscopic video stream,

the method being characterised in that all the pixels of said right image (R) and all the pixels of said left image (L) are entered into said composite image (C) by leaving one of said two images unchanged and breaking up the other one into regions (R1, R2, R3) comprising a plurality of pixels and entering said regions into said composite image (C).

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said other image is broken up into the smallest possible number of regions by taking into account the space available in the composite image (C) and the space occupied by said one image (L) left unchanged.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein said smallest number is the minimum number necessary to occupy the space left free by said unchanged image.

4. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said regions are obtained through the steps of:

dividing said other image (R) into two equally sized portions,

dividing one of said two portions into two equally sized portions.

5. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said regions (R1, R2, R3) are entered into said composite image by means of translation operations only.

6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said regions (R1, R2, R3) are entered into said composite image (C) by means of translation and/or rotation operations.

7. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one portion of the space remained free in the composite image is used for entering a signal necessary for reconstructing the right and left images at demultiplexer level.

8. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein, before entering one of said regions into said composite image, a specular inversion operation is carried out along one side of said one region.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein said one region is entered into said composite image with one side bordering on one side of another image or region, so that pixels relating to a same spatial area are arranged side by side.

10. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said regions have a rectangular shape.

11. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said regions comprise contiguous groups of columns of pixels of said image.

12. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least two of said regions have at least one pixel group in common, said pixel group being arranged in a boundary area between said at least two of said regions.

13. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one of said regions that is entered into said composite image is separated from other regions of the composite image that comprise pixels copied from said right image or said left image.

14. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein

a sequence of right images and a sequence of left images are received,

a sequence of composite images is generated by starting from said sequences of right and left images,

said sequence of composite images is compressed.

15. A method for reconstructing a pair of images by starting from a composite image, comprising the steps of:

- generating a first one of said right (R) and left (L) images by copying one single group of contiguous pixels from a region of said composite image,

- generating a second image of said right (R) and left (L) images by copying other groups of contiguous pixels from different regions (R1, R2, R3) of said composite image.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein the information for generating said pair of images is extracted from an area of said composite image.

17. A method according to claim 20, wherein said information is encoded according to a bar code.

18. A method according to claim 15 or 17, wherein the generation of said second image comprises at least one phase of specular inversion of a group of pixels of at least one of said different regions.

19. A method according to any one of claims 15 to 18, wherein the generation of said second image comprises at least one phase of removing pixels from at least one of said regions.

20. A method according to claim 19, wherein the pixels are removed from a boundary area of said at least one region.

21. A method according to any one of claims 15 to 20, wherein said second image is generated by subjecting said pixel regions to translation operations only.

22. A method according to any one of claims 15 to 21, wherein said second image is generated by subjecting said pixel regions to rotation and/or translation operations.

23. A device (100) for generating composite images (C), comprising means (104) for receiving a right image and a left image and means (105) for generating a composite image (C) comprising information about said right image and said left image, characterised by comprising means adapted to implement the method according to any one of claims 1 to 14.

24. A device (1100) for reconstructing a pair of images by starting from a composite image, characterised by implementing the method according to any one of claims 15 to 22.

25. A stereoscopic video stream (1101) characterised by comprising at least one composite image (C) generated by means of the method according to any one of claims 1 to 14.

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CLAIMS

1. An invention not claimed in any divisional application.