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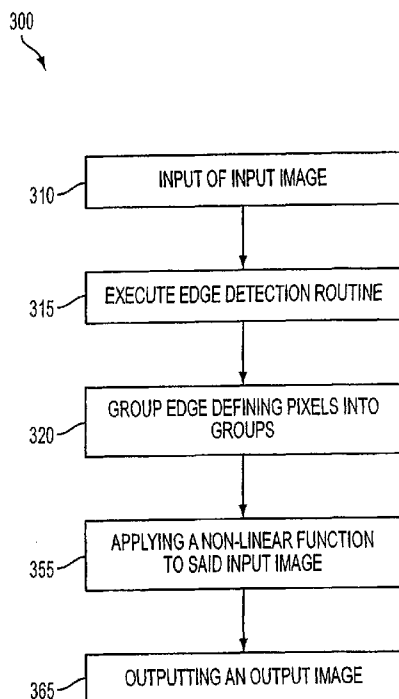
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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROCESSING IMAGES



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for processing an image. Specifically, one exemplary embodiment of the method comprises inputting an image into a pixel array producing pixel output signals, executing an image edge detection routine on the pixel output signals that detects pixels defining an image edge, grouping the edge defining pixels into a predetermine plurality of regions based on luminance intensity values of the edge defining pixels, using the grouping to define a non-linear transform function operation over a range of luminance intensity values of the edge defining pixels, applying the non-linear transform function to luminance intensity values, and using the edge defining pixels having the applied non-linear transform function to produce an enhanced image from the input image. One exemplary embodiment of the apparatus comprises a programmed processor that executes the method described above.

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