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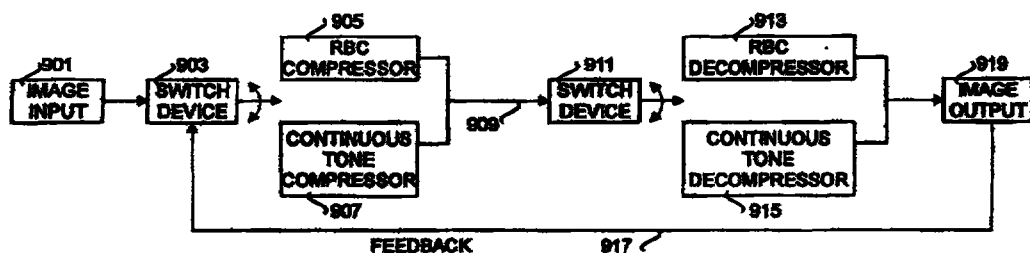
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International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : H04N 1/41, 7/26		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 97/33425
			(43) International Publication Date: 12 September 1997 (12.09.97)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/SE97/00376		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(22) International Filing Date: 5 March 1997 (05.03.97)			
(30) Priority Data: 9600853-7 5 March 1996 (05.03.96) SE 9603979-7 31 October 1996 (31.10.96) SE			
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(54) Title: PROGRESSIVE IMAGE CODING



(57) Abstract

A method and a transmission system for use in coding and Progressive Image Transmission (PIT), in which the transmitter at the initial stages of the transmission uses a Region Based Coding (RBC) scheme (905) in order to provide the receiver with an image of good visual quality at a high compression ratio, which the RBC is known to be able to provide. At a later stage of the transmission, when the visual quality of the RBC image is no longer superior to other compression techniques such as JPEG, the PIT switches (903) use a continuous tone compressor (907) for the further transmission, without losing the information contained in the RBC image already transmitted. Also a hybrid RBC-DCT (Discrete Cosine Transform) is used for further improving the performance of the transmission scheme, in which the image segmented by the RBC algorithm is divided into rectangular blocks, and those blocs that are fully contained inside a region of the segmented image are transmitted using predefined base functions such as DCT base functions. Also a method for video coding using a similar scheme is disclosed.