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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR HYBRID COMPRESSION OF RASTER DATA

(57) Abstract

From a raster page, patches of connected pixels of the same color are identified. Patches of at least a predetermined size, typically corresponding to text or line art objects, are subjected to a lossless compression. Patches below the predetermined size, typically corresponding to image or photo objects, are substantially subjected to a lossy compression. The patch predetermined size controls the mix of lossless and lossy compression procedures. Optimum compression is achieved by maximizing the lossless compression while attaining a targeted compression ratio. Various features include efficient recognition and encoding of patches, refined treatment of the boundaries between the lossless- and the lossy-compressed pixels, adaptive compression ratio control, and fail-safe compression provisions.

