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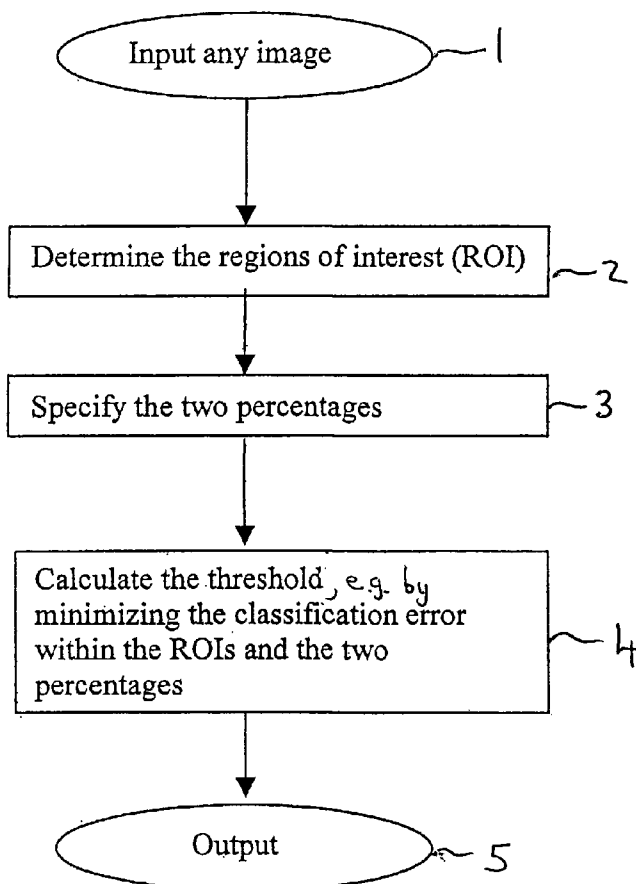
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(54) Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR BINARISING IMAGES



(57) Abstract: A method is proposed for binarising an image by deriving an intensity threshold and classifying pixels according to whether their intensity is below or above the threshold. In the derivation of the threshold, prior knowledge is used to define a region of interest (ROI) in the image. Furthermore, prior knowledge is used to select a range in the frequency distribution of the intensities of the pixels in the ROI, and that only data within this frequency range is used to derive the threshold. These techniques provide a highly effective mechanism for incorporating prior knowledge into the threshold selection which is critical whether the image is a medical image or not. In particular, a threshold can be found to binarise images which exhibits high robustness to imaging artefacts such as a gray level inhomogeneity and noise.

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