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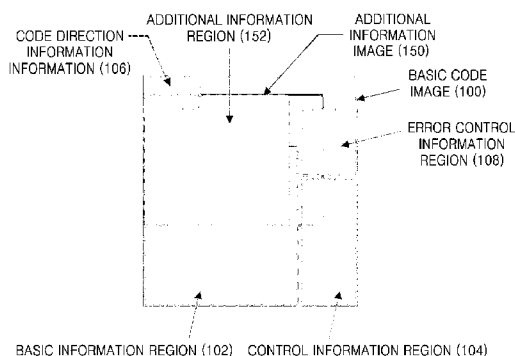
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(54) Title: MIXED CODE, AND METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR GENERATING THE SAME, AND METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DECODING THE SAME



(57) Abstract: A mixed code, and a method and apparatus for encoding the same are provided. The mixed code includes a first code image region storing a first code image obtained by encoding first information using color, shading, or a combination thereof, and a second code image region storing a second code image obtained by encoding second information using color, shading, or a combination thereof. The first code image and/or the second code image includes the results of encoding interpretation information, construction information, error control information, and code direction information. The mixed code is made by adjusting the difference in color and brightness between the first and second code images to a predetermined level and combining these images. Also Provided are a method and apparatus for decoding a mixed code that is a combination of first and second code images. In the method, a mixed code image is obtained by receiving the original image having the mixed code image and removing noise from the original image. Next, the colors, shades, and brightnesses of pixels of the mixed code image are categorized into groups based on a predetermined threshold, the mixed code image is divided into first and second code images, and first and second information are extracted by decoding the first and second code images, respectively. The first and second code images can be effectively decoded by decoding interpretation information, construction information, error control information, and code direction information stored in the first and/or second code images.

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