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Bhattacharjya

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(54) **TECHNIQUES FOR SCRATCH AND DATE REMOVAL FROM SCANNED FILM**

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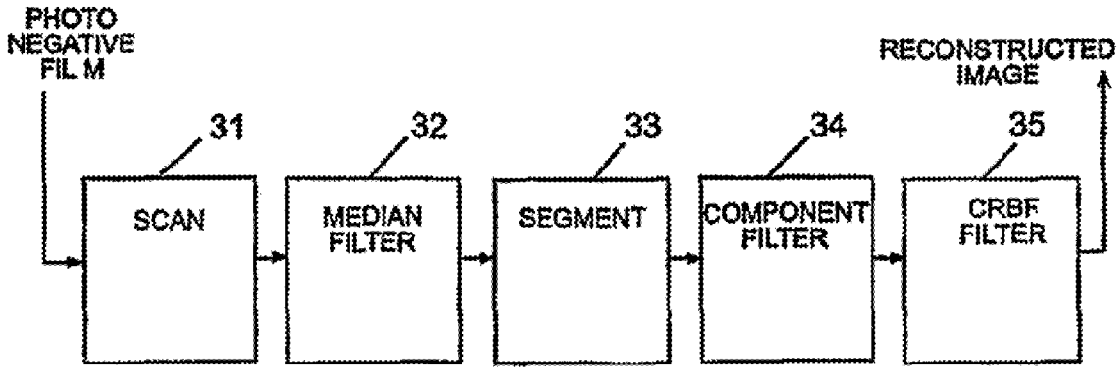
(57) **ABSTRACT**

Techniques for removing from scanned film regions of "missing data" which may include date regions, or may be the result of spots, scratches or folds on the film. Such techniques are particularly designed to handle larger regions of missing data, such as "thick" scratches. The techniques of the present invention segment missing data regions (which may include characters in a date field) and perform component filtering which involves determining the area/perimeter ratio of each segmented missing data region. Only those regions whose area/perimeter ratio is less than a certain threshold are kept for closest-to-radial-based-function (CRBF) filtering to estimate colors from neighboring pixels to fill in the missing data regions.

21 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets