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(71) Applicant: **Slipstream Data, Inc.**
Waterloo, ON N2L 5V4 (CA)
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(72) Inventors:
• **Yang, En-hui**
Waterloo, Ontario N2T 2R8 (CA)
• **Zeng, Jianfen**
Zhongshan Guangdong (CN)

(74) Representative: **Rickard, David John**
Ipulse
26 Mallinson Road
London
SW11 1BP (GB)

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(54) **Method, system and software product for color image encoding**

(57) The present invention relates to a method and
system and computer program product for deriving a new
index sequence representing a pixel mapping and a new
output function representing a colour palette applying a
soft decision optimization process to a new digitized col-
our image derived from an original digitized colour image
both defined on n pixels, wherein the original digitized

colour image is provided by N distinct colours being al-
located to the n pixels, the new digitized colour image is
provided by M distinct colours being allocated to the n
pixels, the new index sequence has n index members
for representing the n pixels and the new output function
is for mapping the n index members to the M colours.

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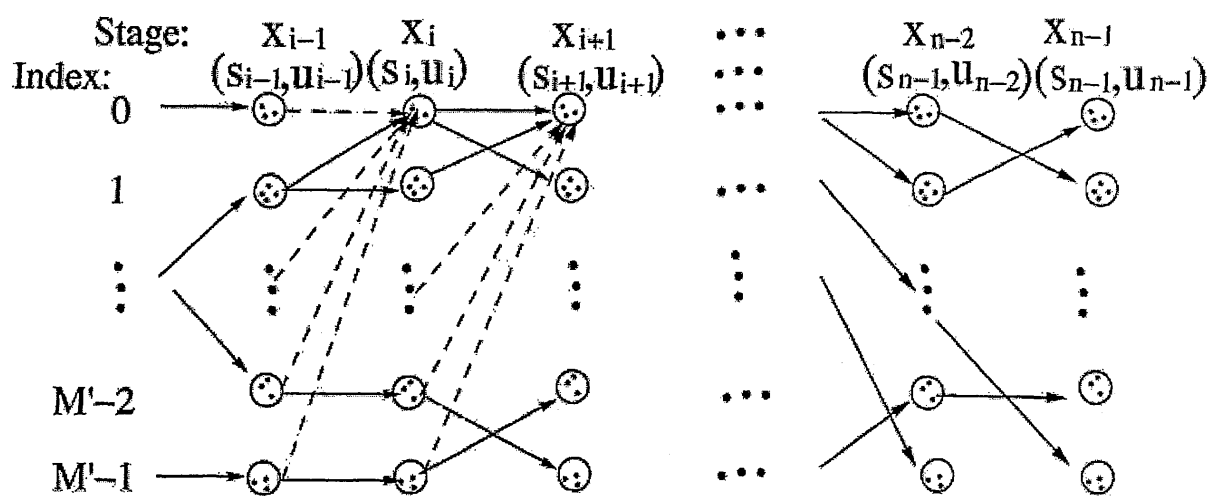


FIG. 4