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Ko et al.

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(54) **METHOD AND VIDEO RECORDING APPARATUS FOR RECORDING A TELEVISION PROGRAM**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 386/46, 386/83, 95, 112, 125
See application file for complete search history.

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(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Aug. 6, 1997 (KR) 1997-37546

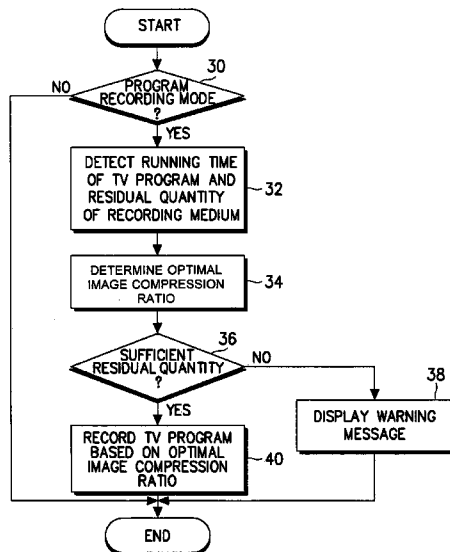
(51) **Int. Cl.**
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(52) **U.S. Cl.** 386/83; 386/112

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A video recording apparatus to record a television program with an optimal quality according to a residual quantity of a recording medium and a method therefor. The video recording apparatus detects the residual quantity of the recording medium and a running time of the television program to be recorded on the recording medium, to determine an optimal image compression ratio. Then, the video recording apparatus records the television program based on the determined optimal image compression ratio, making the best use of the residual quantity of the recording medium.

18 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets



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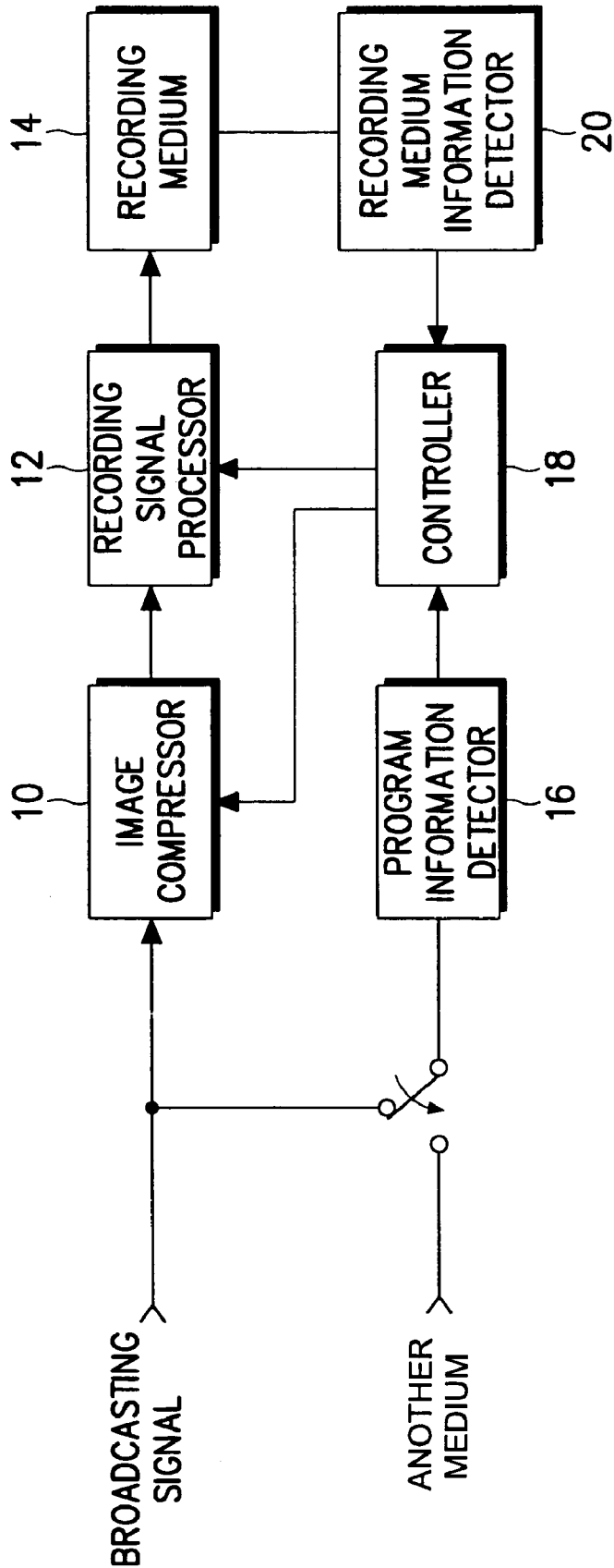


FIG. 1

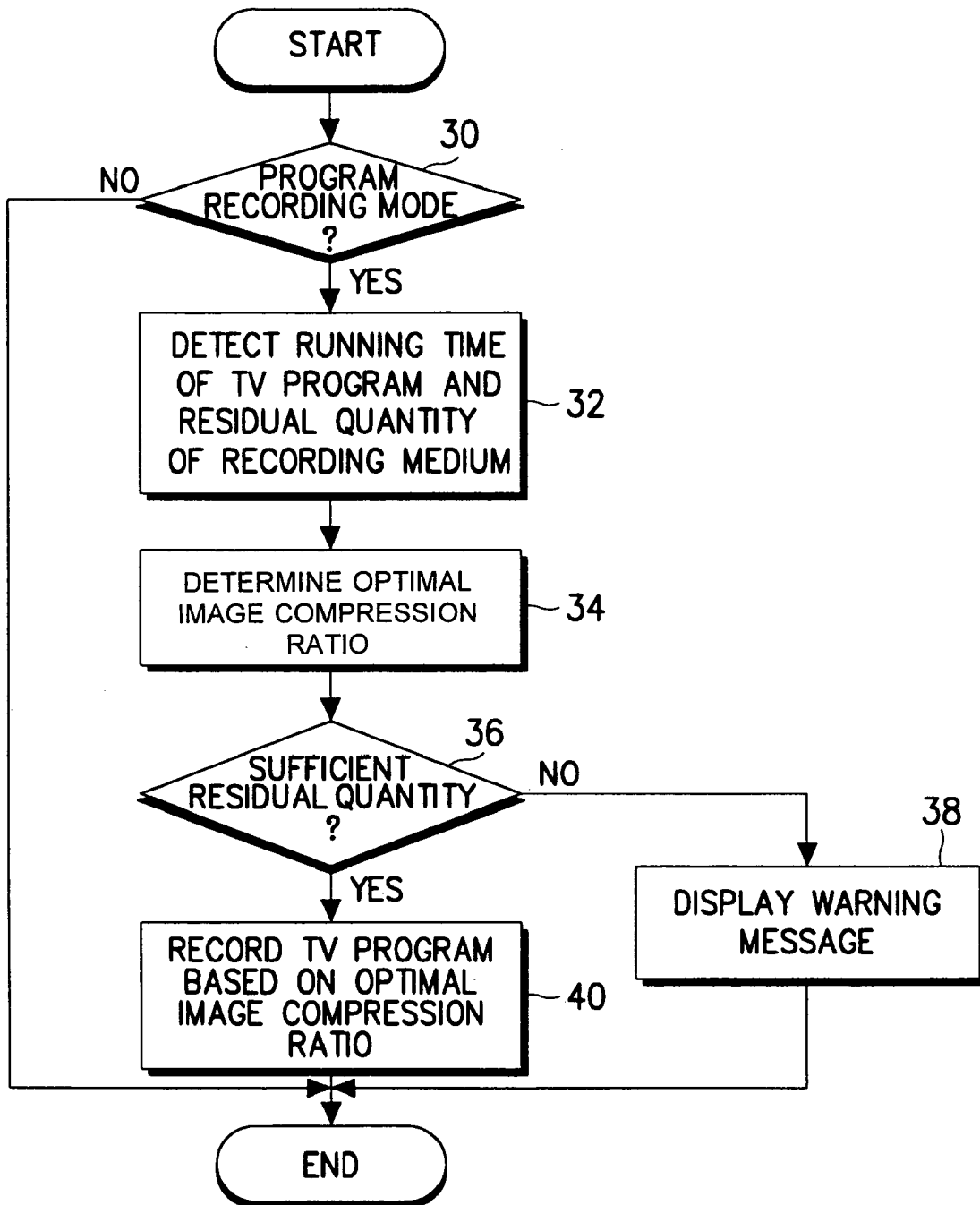


FIG. 2

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METHOD AND VIDEO RECORDING APPARATUS FOR RECORDING A TELEVISION PROGRAM

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/000,928 filed on Dec. 30, 1997, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,804,451, which claims the benefit of Korean Application No. 1997-37546 filed on Aug. 6, 1997, in the Korean Intellectual Property Office, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a video recording apparatus for recording a television program, and more particularly, to a method for comparing a running time of the television program to be recorded with a residual quantity of a recording medium, so as to record the television program on the recording medium with an optimal image compression ratio.

2. Description of the Related Art

In general, a broadcasting station provides a broadcasting program information service, such as KBPS (Korea Broadcasting Program Service) in the Republic of Korea. For that purpose, the broadcasting station broadcasts the television program together with broadcasting program information which includes a televising time, a running time and a classification of the television program, and the name of the broadcasting station, etc.

Upon receiving the broadcasting program information broadcast from the broadcasting station, a video recording apparatus, such as a video cassette recorder (VCR) or a digital video disc (DVD) system combined with a television receiver, detects the televising time of the television program to punctually record the television program on a recording medium. Further, the video recording apparatus determines the type and residual quantity of the recording medium on which the television program is to be recorded and a recording mode selected by a user, to determine a recording mode in which the television program is to be recorded, or to generate a warning message in case the residual quantity of the recording medium is not enough to fully record the television program. Commonly, the video recording apparatus compresses an image signal of the television program based on a particular fixed image compression ratio to record the compressed image signal on the recording medium regardless of the residual quantity.

The conventional video recording apparatus records the television program simply based on the type of the recording medium, and the recording mode selected by the user, to the extent of the residual quantity of recording medium. Thus, even in case the residual quantity of the recording medium is large enough, the image signal of the television program is compressed with the fixed image compression ratio, so that the recording medium may have an unrecorded residual portion. However, the unrecorded residual portion is commonly too short to record a new television program thereon, so that the residual portion may be wasted undesirably. Besides, since the television program is compressed with the fixed image compression ratio, the television program can not be recorded with an optimal quality, even in case the recording medium has a sufficient residual quantity.

Thus, the video recording apparatus records the television program in full only when the residual quantity of the record-

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ing medium is larger than or equal to the running time of the television program. However, when the residual quantity is somewhat smaller than the running time, a warning message is generated to indicate not to perform the recording operation. In this instance, if the recording operation is performed anyway, the end portion of the television program is not recorded on the recording medium.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a method for recording a television program on a recording medium, making the best use of a residual quantity of the recording medium.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a method for recording a television program with an optimal quality according to a residual quantity of a recording medium.

Additional objects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows and, in part, will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention.

The foregoing objects of the present invention are achieved by providing a video recording apparatus which receives broadcasting program information transmitted from a broadcasting station; detects a running time of the television program to be recorded from the broadcasting program information; detects a residual quantity of a recording medium on which the television program is to be recorded; compares the running time of the television program with the residual quantity of the recording medium to determine an optimal image compression ratio; and records the television program on the recording medium based on the optimal image compression ratio.

Further, the video recording apparatus checks whether or not the residual quantity is large enough to fully record the television program; records the television program on the recording medium based on the optimal image compression ratio, if the residual quantity is sufficient to record the television program; and displays a warning message, if the residual quantity is not sufficient to record the television program.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent in the light of the following detailed description of an exemplary embodiment thereof taken with the attached drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a schematic block diagram of a general video recording apparatus for recording a television program according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 2 is a flow chart for recording a television program with an optimal quality on a recording medium according to the embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described in detail hereinbelow with reference to the attached drawings. Further, it should be clearly understood that many specifics such as the detailed circuit elements are shown only by way of an example to bring a better understanding of the present invention and the present invention may be embodied without those specifics. Moreover, it should be noted that detailed descriptions on the related prior art may be intention-

ally omitted if it is believed to be unnecessary in describing the concepts of the present invention.

FIG. 1 illustrates a general video recording apparatus for recording a television program, to which the present invention is applicable. As illustrated, a program information detector **16** detects broadcasting program information from a broadcasting signal received in real time from the broadcasting station, or detects the program information from another medium (e.g., a bar code). A recording medium information detector **20** detects the type and residual quantity of a recording medium **14** on which a television program is to be recorded. An image compressor **10** compresses an image signal of the television program according to an image compression ratio control signal from a controller **18**. A recording signal processor **12** records the compressed image signal of the television program from the image compressor **10** on the recording medium **14** according to a recording control signal from the controller **18**. The controller **18** generates the image compression ratio signal and the recording control signal to record the television program based on the particular image compression ratio.

In operation, the program information detector **16** detects the broadcasting program information from the broadcasting signal transmitted in real time from the broadcasting station, or scans a bar code to detect therefrom the program information. In the meantime, a user can choose a desired television program by means of an interface such as a remote controller. Then, the controller **18** detects a running time of the television program to be recorded from the broadcasting program information by means of the program information detector **16**, and detects the residual quantity of the recording medium **14** by means of the recording medium information detector **20**, to determine an optimal image compression ratio. The video recording apparatus records the television program on the recording medium **14** with the determined optimal image compression ratio.

For example, an MPEG2 (Moving Picture Experts Group 2) compression module with a variable bit rate continuously varies the bit rate of an image according to the residual quantity of the recording medium and the running time of the television program. For example, the image signal of a normal image is encoded with a normal bit rate, the image signal of a complex image is encoded with a higher bit rate, and the image signal of a simple image is encoded with a lower bit rate. In this manner, it is possible to enhance a quality of the image, and adjust the recording time. That is, the controller **18** detects the residual quantity of the recording medium **14** and the running time of the television program, to determine an optimal average bit rate (or an optimal image compression ratio). Then, the video recording apparatus records the television program based on the optimal image compression ratio, to make the best use of the residual quantity of the recording medium **14**.

In continuously varying the bit rate, the MPEG2 compression module continuously changes the image compression ratio during the recording of the television program. Concretely, pixels in the simple image are varied only to a small degree compared with the adjacent pixels, whereas the pixels in the complex image are varied to a greater extent. Through analyzing variation degrees as stated above, the complex image, the normal image, and the simple image can be distinguishable. In particular, the present invention sets the image compression ratio based on the residual quantity of the recording medium and the running time of the television program. In the real recording operation, on the basis of the set image compression ratio, the MPEG 2 compression module can assign a higher image compression ratio to the simple

image, a middle image compression ratio to the normal image, and a lower image compression ratio to the complex image.

Now, referring to FIG. 2, the controller **18** checks at a step **30** whether or not the video recording apparatus is set to a program recording mode. If the video recording apparatus is not set to the program recording mode, the procedure will be completed. However, if the video recording apparatus is set to the program recording mode, the controller **18** detects the running time of the television program to be recorded by means of the program information detector **16**, and the residual quantity of the recording medium **14** by means of the recording medium information detector **20**. Then, at a step **34**, the controller **18** determines the optimal image compression ratio based on the running time of the television program and the residual quantity of the recording medium **14**. The controller **18** checks at a step **36** whether the residual quantity of the recording medium **14** is sufficient to fully record the television program. As a result if the residual quantity is too short to fully record the television program, the controller **18** displays at a step **38** a warning message, on a display, that the recording medium **14** lacks the residual quantity. However, if the recording medium **14** has a sufficient residual quantity, the controller **18** records at a step **40** the television program on the recording medium **14** based on the determined optimal image compression ratio.

For instance, on the assumption that an average bit rate for the optimal compression ratio is about 3-5 Mbps, and the image quality begins to degrade at an average bit rate of 3 Mbps and seriously degrades at an average bit rate of 1 Mbps, if the average bit rate for the optimal compression ratio based on the residual quantity of the recording medium **14** and the running time of the television program to be recorded is lower than 1 Mbps, it is considered at the step **36** that the residual quantity of the recording medium **14** is not sufficient.

Furthermore, the video recording apparatus according to another preferred embodiment of the present invention may display a warning message indicating that the image quality may be degraded, if the average bit rate is set between 1-3 Mbps, and thereafter, ask a user whether or not to record the television program nevertheless. If the average bit rate is over 5 Mbps because the residual quantity of the recording medium is more than sufficient as compared to the running time of the television program to be recorded, the video recording apparatus may display a message indicating a sufficiency of the recording medium **14** and ask the user whether or not to record the television program with a high quality.

As can be clearly understood from the foregoing descriptions, the video recording apparatus according to the present invention detects the residual quantity of the recording medium and the running time of the television program to be recorded on the recording medium, to determine the optimal image compression ratio. Then, the video recording apparatus records the television program based on the determined optimal image compression ratio, making the best use of the residual quantity of the recording medium. Therefore, it is possible to record the television program with an optimal quality according to the residual quantity of the recording medium.

Although preferred embodiments of the present invention have been described in detail hereinabove, it should be clearly understood that many variations and/or modifications of the basic inventive concepts herein taught which may appear to those skilled in the art will still fall within the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined in the appended claims.

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What is claimed is:

1. A method for recording a television program in a recording apparatus, comprising:
 - receiving broadcasting information;
 - detecting a running time of the television program to be recorded from the broadcasting information;
 - detecting a residual quantity of a recording medium on which the television program is to be recorded;
 - comparing said running time of the television program and said residual quantity of the recording medium;
 - displaying a message if said residual quantity is not sufficient to record the television program at a predetermined quality prior to receiving the television program to be recorded; and
 - requesting from a user whether to record the television program based upon a quality lower than the predetermined quality if said residual quantity is not sufficient to record the television program at the predetermined quality.
2. A method for recording a television program in a recording apparatus, comprising:
 - receiving broadcasting information;
 - detecting a running time of the television program to be recorded from the broadcasting information;
 - detecting a residual quantity of a recording medium on which the television program is to be recorded;
 - comparing said running time of the television program and said residual quantity of the recording medium;
 - displaying a message indicative that the residual quantity is not sufficient to record the television program at a predetermined quality prior to receiving the television program to be recorded; and
 - requesting from a user whether to record the television program based upon a quality lower than the predetermined quality if said residual quantity is not sufficient to record the television program at the predetermined quality.
3. A controller readable medium encoded with processing instructions for implementing the method of recording a television program in a recording apparatus as recited in claim 1 performed by the controller.
4. A controller readable medium encoded with processing instructions for implementing the method of recording a television program in a recording apparatus as recited in claim 2 performed by the controller.
5. An apparatus for recording and/or reproducing a television program with respect to a recording medium, the apparatus comprising:
 - a receiver to receive broadcasting information;
 - a first detector to detect a running time of the television program to be recorded from the received broadcasting information;
 - a second detector to detect a residual quantity of the recording medium on which the television program is to be recorded;
 - a controller to compare the detected running time of the television program and the detected residual quantity of the recording medium, to display a message if said detected residual quantity is not sufficient to record the television program at a predetermined quality prior to receiving the television program to be recorded at the receiver, and to send a request to a user as to whether to record the television program based upon a quality lower than the predetermined quality if said detected residual

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- quantity is not sufficient to record the television program at the predetermined quality.
6. An apparatus for recording and/or reproducing a television program with respect to a recording medium, the apparatus comprising:
 - a receiver to receive broadcasting information;
 - a first detector to detect a running time of the television program to be recorded from the received broadcasting information;
 - a second detector to detect a residual quantity of the recording medium on which the television program is to be recorded;
 - a controller to display a message indicative that the detected residual quantity is not sufficient to record the television program at a predetermined quality based on the detected running time prior to receiving the television program to be recorded at the receiver, and to send a request to a user as to whether to record the television program based upon a quality lower than the predetermined quality if said detected residual quantity is not sufficient to record the television program at the predetermined quality.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined quality is determined without any input from the user.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined quality is an average bit rate at which the television program will be recorded if the user requests to record the television signal.
9. The method of claim 2, wherein the predetermined quality is determined without any input from the user.
10. The method of claim 2, wherein the predetermined quality is an average bit rate at which the television program will be recorded if the user requests to record the television signal.
11. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the controller determines the predetermined quality without any input from the user.
12. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the predetermined quality is an average bit rate determined by the controller at which the television program will be recorded if the user requests to record the television signal.
13. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the controller determines the predetermined quality without any input from the user.
14. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the predetermined quality is an average bit rate determined by the controller at which the television program will be recorded if the user requests to record the television signal.
15. The method of claim 1, wherein the quality lower than the predetermined quality is a quality that allows an entirety of the television program to be recorded in the residual quantity of the recording medium.
16. The method of claim 2, wherein the quality lower than the predetermined quality is a quality that allows an entirety of the television program to be recorded in the residual quantity of the recording medium.
17. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the quality lower than the predetermined quality is a quality that allows an entirety of the television program to be recorded in the detected residual quantity of the recording medium.
18. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the quality lower than the predetermined quality is a quality that allows an entirety of the television program to be recorded in the detected residual quantity of the recording medium.

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