

# Oracle8™ Visual Information Retrieval

User's Guide and Reference

Release 8.1.5

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Part No. A67293-01

Visual Information Retrieval technology licensed  
from Virage, Inc.

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Oracle8i Visual Information Retrieval User's Guide and Reference

Part No. A67293-01

Release 8.1.5

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Primary Author: Jeff Hebert

Contributors: Sue Mavris, Dan Mullen, Todd Rowell, Melli Annamalai, Rajiv Chopra, Susan Shepard, and Rod Ward.

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# Contents

<b>Send Us Your Comments .....</b>	<b>xiii</b>
<b>Preface.....</b>	<b>xv</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b>	
1.1 If You Already Understand Oracle8i interMedia Image .....	1-2
1.2 Image Concepts .....	1-3
1.2.1 Digital Images.....	1-3
1.2.2 Image Components.....	1-3
1.2.3 Interchange Formats .....	1-4
1.3 Object Relational Technology .....	1-4
1.3.1 Storing Images .....	1-5
1.3.2 Querying Images.....	1-5
1.3.3 Accessing Images .....	1-6
1.4 Visual Information Retrieval Methods and Operations .....	1-6
1.4.1 Analyzing and Comparing Images .....	1-6
1.4.2 Extracting Properties from Images .....	1-6
1.4.3 Verifying Image Properties.....	1-7
1.4.4 Modifying Images .....	1-7
1.4.5 Moving Images.....	1-7
1.4.6 Deleting Images.....	1-8
1.4.7 Setting Image Characteristics Manually .....	1-8

## 2 Content-Based Retrieval Concepts

2.1	Overview and Benefits.....	2-1
2.2	How Content-Based Retrieval Works.....	2-2
2.2.1	Global Color and Local Color .....	2-4
2.2.2	Texture and Structure .....	2-5
2.2.3	Face Recognition.....	2-6
2.3	How Matching Works.....	2-6
2.3.1	Weight.....	2-6
2.3.2	Score .....	2-7
2.3.3	Similarity Calculation .....	2-8
2.3.4	Threshold Value .....	2-10
2.4	Using an Index to Compare Signatures .....	2-10
2.5	Preparing or Selecting Images for Useful Matching .....	2-12

## 3 Visual Information Retrieval Examples

3.1	Create a New Table Containing an Image .....	3-1
3.2	Add an Image Column to an Existing Table .....	3-2
3.3	Load Images from External Files.....	3-2
3.4	Load Images from External Files Using SQL*Loader .....	3-3
3.5	Retrieve an Image .....	3-4
3.6	Retrieve Images Similar to a Comparison Image.....	3-4
3.7	Create a Visual Information Retrieval Domain Index.....	3-6
3.8	Retrieve Images Similar to a Comparison Image Using Index Operations .....	3-7
3.9	Convert an Image to a Different Format .....	3-8
3.10	Extend the Object Type.....	3-8
3.11	Use Image Type with Object Views.....	3-10

## 4 Visual Information Retrieval Reference

4.1	Object Type.....	4-3
	ORDVir Object Type .....	4-4
4.2	Methods for Image Manipulation .....	4-8
	analyze() Method.....	4-11
	checkProperties() Method .....	4-13
	clearLocal() Method .....	4-14

copy() Method.....	4-15
deleteContent() Method .....	4-17
export() Method.....	4-18
getBFILE Method.....	4-20
getCompressionFormat Method .....	4-21
getContent Method .....	4-22
getContentFormat Method .....	4-24
getContentLength() Method .....	4-25
getFormat() Method.....	4-26
getHeight() Method.....	4-27
getMimeType() Method .....	4-28
getSignature() Method.....	4-29
getSource() Method .....	4-30
getSourceLocation() Method .....	4-31
getSourceName() Method .....	4-32
getSourceType() Method .....	4-33
getUpdateTime() Method.....	4-34
getWidth() Method.....	4-35
import() Method .....	4-36
importFrom() Method.....	4-38
isLocal() Method.....	4-40
migrateFromORDVirB() Method .....	4-41
migrateFromORDVirF() Method .....	4-43
process() Method .....	4-45
processCopy() Method .....	4-48
setLocal Method .....	4-50
setMimeType() Method.....	4-51
setProperties() Method .....	4-52
setProperties() Method for Foreign Images.....	4-54
setSource() Method .....	4-57
setUpdateTime() Method .....	4-59

4.3	Operators for Visual Information Retrieval.....	4-60
	Analyze() Operator.....	4-61
	Convert() Operator.....	4-63
	VIRScore() Operator.....	4-65
	VIRSimilar() Operator.....	4-67

## A File and Compression Formats

A.1	Supported File and Compression Formats.....	A-1
-----	---	-----

## B Sample Program

## C Process and ProcessCopy Operators

C.1	Common Concepts.....	D-1
C.1.1	Source and Destination Images.....	D-1
C.1.2	Process and ProcessCopy.....	D-1
C.1.3	Operator and Value.....	D-2
C.1.4	Combining Operators.....	D-2
C.2	Image Formatting Operators.....	D-2
C.2.1	FileFormat.....	D-2
C.2.2	ContentFormat.....	D-3
C.2.3	CompressionFormat.....	D-4
C.2.4	CompressionQuality.....	D-5
C.3	Image Processing Operators.....	D-5
C.3.1	Cut.....	D-5
C.3.2	Scale.....	D-5
C.3.3	XScale.....	D-6
C.3.4	YScale.....	D-6
C.3.5	FixedScale.....	D-6
C.3.6	MaxScale.....	D-7
C.4	Format-Specific Operators.....	D-7
C.4.1	ChannelOrder.....	D-8
C.4.2	Interleave.....	D-8
C.4.3	PixelOrder.....	D-8
C.4.4	ScanlineOrder.....	D-8

C.4.5	InputChannels .....	D-9
-------	---------------------	-----

## D Raw Pixel Format

D.1	Raw Pixel Introduction.....	E-1
D.2	Raw Pixel Image Structure.....	E-2
D.3	Raw Pixel Header Field Descriptions.....	E-3
D.4	Raw Pixel Post-Header Gap.....	E-7
D.5	Raw Pixel Data Section and Pixel Data Format .....	E-8
D.5.1	Scanline Ordering.....	E-8
D.5.2	Pixel Ordering.....	E-9
D.5.3	Band Interleaving.....	E-9
D.5.4	N-Band Data .....	E-10
D.6	Raw Pixel Header “C” Structure.....	E-11
D.7	Raw Pixel Header “C” Constants .....	E-12
D.8	Raw Pixel PL/SQL Constants.....	E-13
D.9	Raw Pixel Images Using CCITT Compression .....	E-13
D.10	Foreign Image Support and the Raw Pixel Format .....	E-14

## E Deprecated Features

E.1	Object Types.....	F-2
	ORDVirB Object Type.....	F-3
	ORDVirF Object Type.....	F-5
E.2	Methods .....	F-7
	analyze() Method.....	F-8
	checkProperties Method.....	F-10
	copyContent() Method .....	F-11
	deleteContent Method .....	F-12
	getCompressionFormat Method .....	F-13
	getContent Method .....	F-14
	getContentFormat Method .....	F-15
	getContentLength Method.....	F-16
	getFileFormat Method .....	F-17
	getHeight Method .....	F-18

	getMimeType Method .....	F-19
	getSignature Method.....	F-20
	getWidth Method .....	F-21
	process() Method .....	F-22
	processCopy() Method.....	F-25
	setProperties() Method .....	F-27
	setProperties() Method for Foreign Images .....	F-29
E.3	Operators .....	F-31
	Analyze() Operator.....	F-32
	Convert() Operator .....	F-34
	Score() Operator.....	F-36
	Similar() Operator.....	F-39

## **F Error Messages and Codes**

## List of Examples

3-1	Create a New Table Containing an Image.....	3-2
3-2	Add an Image Column to an Existing Table .....	3-2
3-3	Load Images into a Table .....	3-3
3-4	Load Image Using SQL*Loader .....	3-3
3-5	Retrieve an Image (Simple Read) .....	3-4
3-6	Retrieve Images Similar to a Comparison Image .....	3-5
3-7	Find photo_id and Score of Similar Image .....	3-6
3-8	Creating a VIR Index.....	3-6
3-9	Convert an Image to a Different Format .....	3-8
3-10	Extending the ORDVir Type.....	3-9
3-11	Using an Extended Type .....	3-10
B-1	Run the Sample Program with Included Images.....	B-2
B-2	Run the Sample Program with Your Own Images.....	B-2

## List of Figures

2-1	Image Comparison: Global Color and Local Color .....	2-4
2-2	Images Very Similar in Global Color .....	2-5
2-3	Images Very Similar in Local Color .....	2-5
2-4	Fabric Images with Similar Texture .....	2-5
2-5	Images with Very Similar Structure.....	2-6
2-6	Score and Distance Relationship .....	2-7
B-1	Sample Images in VIRDEMODIR .....	B-2

## List of Tables

2-1	Distances for Visual Attributes Between Image1 and Image2.....	2-8
4-1	ORDImage Object Type.....	4-6
4-2	ORDSource Object Type.....	4-7
4-3	srcLocation Values .....	4-7
4-4	Valid srcName Values .....	4-8
4-5	Image Processing Operators .....	4-45
4-6	Additional Image Processing Operators for Raw Pixel and Foreign Images.....	4-46
4-7	Image Characteristics for Headerless Files.....	4-55
A-1	BMP Data Format .....	A-1
A-2	CALS Raster Data Format .....	A-2
A-3	GIF Data Format .....	A-2
A-4	JFIF Data Format.....	A-3
A-5	PCX Data Format.....	A-3
A-6	PICT Data Format.....	A-4
A-7	Raw Pixel Data Format .....	A-4
A-8	Sun Raster Data Format.....	A-5
A-9	Targa Data Format .....	A-6
A-10	TIFF Data Format .....	A-7
D-1	Raw Pixel Header Structure.....	E-2
E-1	Image Processing Operators .....	F-22
E-2	Additional Image Processing Operators for Raw Pixel and Foreign Images.....	F-23
E-3	Image Characteristics for Foreign Files.....	F-29



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Part No. A67293-01

Oracle Corporation welcomes your comments and suggestions on the quality and usefulness of this publication. Your input is an important part of the information used for revision.

- Did you find any errors?
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# Preface

This guide describes how to use Oracle8i Visual Information Retrieval. This product, based on technology licensed from Virage, Inc., extends the imaging capabilities of Oracle8i *interMedia* by allowing content-based retrieval of images.

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**Note:** Visual Information Retrieval has undergone an architectural change for release 8.1.5. The ORDVirB and ORDVirF object types have been replaced by ORDVir. The new ORDVir type is based on the ORDImage type in the Oracle8i *interMedia* product. The old interface and object types (described in Appendix E) have been replaced by the interface described in Chapter 4. The old interface and object types will be removed in a future release.

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Visual Information Retrieval requires Oracle8i Enterprise Edition. Oracle8i and Oracle8i Enterprise Edition have the same basic features. However, several advanced features are available only with the Enterprise Edition, and some of these features are optional.

For information about the differences between Oracle8i and Oracle8i Enterprise Edition and the features and options that are available to you, see *Getting to Know Oracle8i*.

## Intended Audience

This guide is intended for anyone who is interested in storing, retrieving, and manipulating image data in an Oracle database, including developers of image specialization services.

## Structure

This guide contains the following chapters and appendixes:

Chapter 1	Introduces image information retrieval and explains image-related concepts.
Chapter 2	Explains concepts, operations, and techniques related to content-based retrieval.
Chapter 3	Provides basic examples of using Visual Information Retrieval types and methods.
Chapter 4	Provides reference information on the Visual Information Retrieval object type, procedures, and operators.
Appendix A	Describes the supported image data formats.
Appendix B	Describes how to run the included sample application.
Appendix C	Describes in detail many of the parameters used to modify images.
Appendix D	Describes the raw pixel format used by foreign images.
Appendix E	Describes the deprecated interface used with a previous release of Visual Information Retrieval.
Appendix F	Lists potential errors, their causes, and user actions to correct them.
Glossary	Defines important terms related to data services and image information retrieval.

## Related Documents

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**Note:** For information added after the release of this guide, refer to the online README.txt file under your *ORACLE\_HOME* directory. Depending on your operating system, this file may be in:

`ORACLE_HOME/ord/vir/admin/README.txt`

Please see your operating-system specific installation guide for more information.

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For more information about using this product in a development environment, see the following documents in the Oracle8i documentation set:

- *Oracle Call Interface Programmer's Guide*
- *Oracle8i Application Developer's Guide - Large Objects (LOBs)*

- *Oracle8i Concepts*
- *PL/SQL User's Guide and Reference*

For information about the basic imaging storage and retrieval, see the *Oracle8i Inter-Media Audio, Image, and Video User's Guide and Reference* guide.

Visual Information Retrieval is based on technology licensed from Virage, Inc. Visit the Virage Web site for additional information about this ongoing relationship: <http://www.virage.com/oracle>.

## Conventions

In this guide, Oracle8i Visual Information Retrieval is sometimes referred to as simply, “the product” or “the option”.

In examples, an implied carriage return occurs at the end of each line, unless otherwise noted. You must press the Return key at the end of a line of input.

The following conventions are also used in this guide:

Convention	Meaning
.	Vertical ellipsis points in an example mean that information not directly related to the example has been omitted.
...	Horizontal ellipsis points in statements or commands mean that parts of the statement or command not directly related to the example have been omitted.
<b>boldface text</b>	Boldface text indicates a term defined in the text, the glossary, or in both locations.
<i>italic text</i>	Italic text is used for emphasis, for user-supplied variables, and for book titles.
< >	Angle brackets enclose user-supplied names.
[ ]	Brackets enclose optional clauses from which you can choose one or none.



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# Introduction

Oracle8i Visual Information Retrieval is an extension to Oracle8i Enterprise Edition that provides image storage, content-based retrieval, and format conversion capabilities through an object type. The capabilities of this product encompass the storage, retrieval, and manipulation of image data managed by the Oracle8i Enterprise Edition database server. This product supports image storage using binary large objects (BLOBs) and references to image data residing externally in BFILEs or URLs.

Visual Information Retrieval is a building block for various imaging applications rather than being an end-user application in itself. It consists of an object type along with related methods for managing and processing image data. Some example applications are:

- Online digital art galleries or museums
- Real estate marketing
- Document imaging
- Stock photograph collections (for example, for fashion designers or architects)

These applications have certain distinct requirements and some degree of commonality. The image object type accommodates the commonality and supports extensions that address application-specific requirements. With Visual Information Retrieval, images can be managed as easily as standard attribute data.

Visual Information Retrieval supports static, two-dimensional images in Oracle databases. The images may be bitonal (black and white) document images, grayscale photographs, or color photographic images. The product provides the means to add image columns/objects to existing tables, insert and retrieve images, and convert between popular application formats. This enables database designers to extend existing application databases with images or to build new end-user

image database applications. Software developers can use the basic functions provided here to build specialized image applications.

Visual Information Retrieval can also be used for face recognition when used in conjunction with software from Viisage Technology, Inc. Face recognition has applications ranging from security ("is this the owner of this ATM card") to movie casting ("find the actor who looks most like this historical figure.")

## 1.1 If You Already Understand Oracle8i interMedia Image

If you are already familiar with Oracle8i interMedia Image service, either as a component of Oracle8i *interMedia* or in a previous release as Oracle8 Image Cartridge, you can skim much of the conceptual information in this chapter. The base Image component and Visual Information Retrieval both let you store an image as an object in the database or as a reference to an external file or URL. Both products let you store and query on the following attributes:

- Image height
- Image width
- Image size
- File type or format (such as TIFF)
- Compression type or format (such as JPEG)
- Image type (such as monochrome)
- MIME type

The Visual Information Retrieval object type is defined as the Image object, plus a signature attribute.

The main differences between the Image component and the Visual Information Retrieval product are that Visual Information Retrieval lets you create and use indexes, and perform **content-based retrieval**. Content-based retrieval lets you perform queries based on intrinsic visual attributes of the image (color, structure, texture), rather than being limited to keyword searches in textual annotations or descriptions. The underlying technology was developed by Virage, Inc., a leader in content-based retrieval.

For an example of a query using content-based retrieval, consider a database containing images of many automobiles. If you want to retrieve information on all the red automobiles, you would specify an image of a red automobile for comparison and request all records where the image looks like your picture. To

increase the accuracy of the query (because all the images are of automobiles and you are interested only in red ones), you specify that the greatest relative weight is to be given to the global color attribute, with no weight given to the structure and texture attributes.

For further information on content-based retrieval, including how and why to specify relative weights (importance) for different visual attributes, see Chapter 2.

## 1.2 Image Concepts

This section contains conceptual material about digital images. Chapter 2 contains conceptual information about content-based retrieval and using Visual Information Retrieval to build image applications or specialized image services.

### 1.2.1 Digital Images

Visual Information Retrieval supports two-dimensional, static, digital images stored as binary representations of real-world objects or scenes. Images may be produced by a document or photograph scanner, a video source such as a camera or video tape recorder connected to a video digitizer or frame grabber, other specialized image capture devices, or even by program algorithms. Capture devices take an analog or continuous signal, such as the light that falls onto the film in a camera, and convert it into digital values on a two-dimensional grid of data points known as pixels.

Visual Information Retrieval provides the mechanism to integrate the storage and retrieval of images in Oracle databases using the Oracle8i Enterprise Edition database server.

### 1.2.2 Image Components

A digital image can be thought of as consisting of the image data (digitized bits) and attributes that describe the characteristics of the image. Image applications sometimes associate application-specific information, such as the name of the person whose image a photograph represents, with an image by storing descriptive text in an attribute or column in the database table.

The minimal attributes carried along with an image may include such things as its size (height in scan lines and width in pixels), the resolution at which it was sampled, and the number of bits per pixel in each of the colors that were sampled. The data attributes describe the image as it was produced by the capture device.

The image data (pixels) can have varying depths (bits per pixel) depending upon how the image was captured, and the image data can be organized in various ways. The organization of the image data, known as the data format, is crucial to accessing and accurately representing the image.

The size of digital images (number of bytes) tends to be large compared to traditional computer objects such as numbers and text. Therefore, many compression schemes are in use that squeeze an image into fewer bytes, thus putting a smaller load on storage devices and networks. *Lossless* compression schemes squeeze an image in such a fashion that when it is decompressed, the resulting image is bit-for-bit identical to the original. *Lossy* compression schemes do not result in a bit-identical image when decompressed, but the differences may be imperceptible to the human eye, or at worst, tolerable.

Visual Information Retrieval also provides a signature attribute in the image type that permits content-based retrieval. The **signature** is a vector containing detailed information about the visual attributes of the image. The signature is created when the image is processed by Visual Information Retrieval, and is used in all content-based queries. For more information about the signature attribute, see Section 2.2.

### 1.2.3 Interchange Formats

An **image interchange format** describes a well-defined organization and use of image attributes, data, and often a compression scheme, allowing different applications to create, interchange, and use images. Interchange formats are often stored in or as disk files, but may also be exchanged in a sequential fashion over a network and be referred to as a protocol. There are many application subdomains within the digital imaging world and many applications that create or use digital images within these. To assist application developers, Visual Information Retrieval supports many popular interchange formats. (See Appendix A, “File and Compression Formats”.)

## 1.3 Object Relational Technology

The Oracle8i Enterprise Edition database server is an *object relational* database management system. That means that in addition to its traditional role in the safe and efficient management of relational data, it now provides support for the definition of object types including the data involved in an object and the operations that can be performed on it (methods). This powerful mechanism, well established in the object-oriented world, includes integral support for binary large

objects (BLOBs) to provide the basis for adding complex objects, such as digital images, to Oracle databases.

See the following for extensive information on using BLOBs and BFILEs:

- *Oracle8i Application Developer's Guide - Large Objects (LOBs)*
- *Oracle8i Concepts*

### 1.3.1 Storing Images

Visual Information Retrieval can store digital images within the Oracle database under transactional control through the BLOB mechanism. It can also externally reference digital images stored in flat files through the BFILE mechanism, or an HTTP server-based URL. Although this is particularly convenient for integrating pre-existing sets of flat-file images with an Oracle database, these images will not be under transactional control.

The object relational type is known as `ORDVIR`, and is based on the `ORDImage` object type, which in turn is based on the `ORDSource` object type. See the *Oracle8i interMedia Audio, Image, and Video User's Guide and Reference* for more details on `ORDSource` and `ORDImage`.

### 1.3.2 Querying Images

Once stored within an Oracle database, an image can be found using traditional queries by finding a row in a table that contains the image using the various alphanumeric columns (attributes) of the table. For example, select a photograph from the `Employee` table where the employee name is Jane Doe. An example of content-based retrieval might be as follows: compare a picture of the person trying to get in the front door to the stored photographs in the `employees` table, retrieve the most similar image, and check the access hours to determine if the door should unlock.

The meaning of "similar" can be refined in nonfacial image comparisons. You can experiment with different weight values for the visual attributes of global color, local color, texture, and structure.

The collection of digital images in the database can be related to some set of attributes or keywords that describe the associated content. The image content can be described with text and numbers such as dates and identification numbers. For *Oracle8i*, image attributes can reside in the same table as the image object type. Alternatively, an application designer could define a composite object type that contains the Visual Information Retrieval object type along with other attributes.

### 1.3.3 Accessing Images

Applications access and manipulate images using SQL, PL/SQL, or Java through the ORDVir image object type. The object syntax for accessing attributes within a complex object, such as an image, is the dot notation:

```
variable.data_attribute
```

The syntax for invoking methods of a complex object, such as an image, is also the dot notation:

```
variable.function(parameter1, parameter2, ...)
```

See *Oracle8i Concepts* for information on this and other SQL syntax.

See *Oracle8i Visual Information Retrieval Java Client User's Guide and Reference* for information on the Visual Information Retrieval Java interface.

## 1.4 Visual Information Retrieval Methods and Operations

Visual Information Retrieval provides several functions for performing format conversion, compression, and data manipulation operations on image data. It also provides the ability to extract image properties and to compare images based on their content. This section presents a conceptual overview of the Visual Information Retrieval methods and operations.

### 1.4.1 Analyzing and Comparing Images

The Analyze() operator and analyze method examine an image and create a signature based on the global and local colors, texture, and structure of the image content. Two additional operators, VIRScore() and VIRSimilar(), compare the signatures of two images to determine if the images match based on a set of user-supplied criteria.

For facial recognition, use software from Viisage Technology, Inc. to generate a facial signature. Then use the Visual Information Retrieval Convert() operator to convert the signature to a format usable by the VIRScore() and VIRSimilar() operators.

### 1.4.2 Extracting Properties from Images

The setProperties() method is used to extract important properties from natively supported image data, including the following:

- Height and width in pixels

- Total size in bytes
- File format (such as TIFF or BMP)
- Compression format (such as JPEG or LZW)
- Content format (such as monochrome or 8-bit grayscale)
- MIME type

The size of the image data may be machine dependent. Importing and exporting images may require a recalculation using the `setProperties()` method to determine the current properties.

A set of functions prefaced with "get" can be used to retrieve individually stored attributes of natively supported images. For example, `getHeight()` and `getWidth()` return the image height and width in pixels. See Chapter 4 for a complete list of these functions and their syntax.

### 1.4.3 Verifying Image Properties

The `checkProperties()` method is used to verify that the properties stored in attributes of an image object match the actual image properties. This function operates on any natively supported image format.

### 1.4.4 Modifying Images

The `process()` and `processCopy()` methods are used for image format conversion, compression, and basic manipulation functions including scaling and cutting. The image may be compressed using an algorithm from the set of supported image formats and compression schemes. For example, image data in the TIFF format may be compressed using Packbits, Huffman, JPEG, LZW, or one of the other supported schemes. Appendix A, "File and Compression Formats" lists the supported image formats and related compression schemes. Appendix C, "Process and ProcessCopy Operators" describes the characteristics that can be modified.

For this release, the output of any image manipulation function must be directed to a BLOB. In-place modification is supported for BLOBs, not for BFILES or URLs.

### 1.4.5 Moving Images

There are several ways to move images between systems, databases, or records:

- The `copy()` and `processCopy()` methods copy an image into another `ORDVir` object.

- The `export()`, `import()`, and `importFrom()` methods are useful in moving images between databases. The `Convert()` operator can be used to convert the image signature if you are moving images between different hardware platforms.
- The `setSource()` method sets or alters information about an image stored externally.

### 1.4.6 Deleting Images

The `deleteContent()` method allows you to remove the contents of the image BLOB.

Because external files are read-only, this method works only with images stored in BLOBs.

### 1.4.7 Setting Image Characteristics Manually

**Foreign images** are images not natively supported by Visual Information Retrieval. The characteristics of these files cannot be read from the image header automatically. A special version of the `setProperty()` method exists to let you set these characteristics explicitly. Note that there is no verification that you have set the characteristics appropriately.

Two methods, `setMimeType()` and `setUpdateTime()`, are called automatically whenever native images are modified. You must call these methods explicitly for foreign images.

---

# Content-Based Retrieval Concepts

This chapter explains, at a high level, why and how to use content-based retrieval. It covers the following topics:

- Overview and benefits of content-based retrieval
- How content-based retrieval works, including definitions and explanations of the visual attributes (global color, local color, texture, structure) and why you might emphasize specific attributes in certain situations
- Image matching using a specified comparison image, including comparing how the weights of visual attributes determine the degree of similarity between images
- Image preparation or selection to maximize the usefulness of comparisons
- Use of indexing to improve search and retrieval performance

## 2.1 Overview and Benefits

Inexpensive image-capture and storage technologies have allowed massive collections of digital images to be created. However, as a database grows, the difficulty of finding relevant images increases. Two general approaches to this problem have been developed, both of which use metadata for image retrieval:

- Using information manually entered or included in the table design, such as titles, descriptive keywords from a limited vocabulary, and predetermined classification schemes
- Using automated image feature extraction and object recognition to classify image content -- that is, using capabilities unique to content-based retrieval

With Visual Information Retrieval, you can combine both approaches in designing a table to accommodate images: use traditional text columns to describe the seman-

tic significance of the image (for example, that the pictured automobile won a particular award, or that its engine has six or eight cylinders), and use the Visual Information Retrieval type for the image, to permit content-based queries based on intrinsic attributes of the image (for example, how closely its color and shape match a picture of a specific automobile).

As an alternative to defining image-related attributes in columns separate from the image, a database designer could create a specialized composite data type that combines Visual Information Retrieval and the appropriate text, numeric, and date attributes.

The primary benefit of using content-based retrieval is reduced time and effort required to obtain image-based information. With frequent adding and updating of images in massive databases, it is often not practical to require manual entry of all attributes that might be needed for queries, and content-based retrieval provides increased flexibility and practical value. It is also useful in providing the ability to query on attributes such as texture or structure that are difficult to represent using keywords.

Examples of database applications where content-based retrieval is useful -- where the query is semantically of the form, "find objects that look like this one" -- include:

- Trademarks and copyrights
- Art galleries and museums
- Retailing
- Fashion and fabric design
- Interior design or decorating
- Law enforcement and criminal investigation

For example, a Web-based interface to a retail clothing catalog might allow users to search by traditional categories (such as style or price range) and also by image properties (such as color or texture). Thus, a user might ask for formal shirts in a particular price range that are off-white with pin stripes. Similarly, fashion designers could use a database with images of fabric swatches, designs, concept sketches, and finished garments to facilitate their creative processes.

## 2.2 How Content-Based Retrieval Works

A content-based retrieval system processes the information contained in image data and creates an abstraction of its content in terms of visual attributes. Any

query operations deal solely with this abstraction rather than with the image itself. Thus, every image inserted into the database is analyzed, and a compact representation of its content is stored in a feature vector, or **signature**.

The signature contains information about the following visual attributes:

- **Global color** represents the distribution of colors within the entire image. This distribution includes the amounts of each color, but not the locations of colors.
- **Local color** represents color distributions *and where they occur* in an image, such as the fact that a red-green-blue (RGB) vector for sky blue occurs in the upper half of an image.
- **Texture** represents the low-level patterns and textures within the image, such as graininess or smoothness. Unlike structure, texture is very sensitive to features that appear with great frequency in the image.
- **Structure** represents the shapes that appear in the image, as determined by shape-characterization techniques such as edge detection.
- **Facial** represents unique characteristics of human faces. For example, characteristics include the size and shape of the nose, the distance between the eyes, and various other attributes that cannot be easily disguised. Facial signatures are generated using separately purchasable software from Viisage Technology, Inc.

Feature data for all these visual attributes is stored in the signature, whose size typically ranges from 1000 to 2000 bytes. For better performance with large image databases, you can create an index based on the signatures of your images. See Section 2.4 for more information on indexing.

Images in the database can be retrieved by matching them with a comparison image. The comparison image can be: any image inside or outside the current database, a sketch, an algorithmically generated image, and so forth.

The matching process requires that signatures be generated for the comparison image and each image to be compared with it. Images are seldom identical, and therefore matching is based on a similarity-measuring function for the visual attributes and a set of weights for each attribute. The **score** is the relative distance between two images being compared. The score for each attribute is used to determine the degree of similarity when images are compared, with a smaller distance reflecting a closer match, as explained in Section 2.3.3.

## 2.2.1 Global Color and Local Color

Global color reflects the distribution of colors within the entire image, whereas local color reflects color distributions *and where they occur* in an image. To illustrate the difference between global color and local color, consider Figure 2–1.

*Figure 2–1 Image Comparison: Global Color and Local Color*

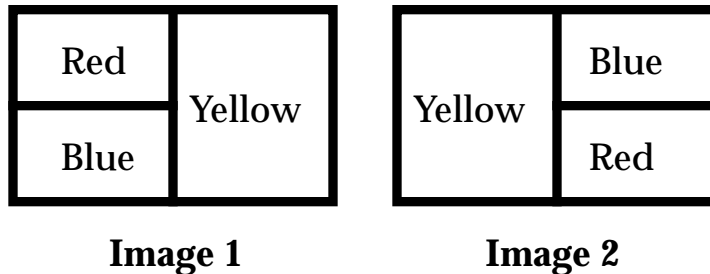


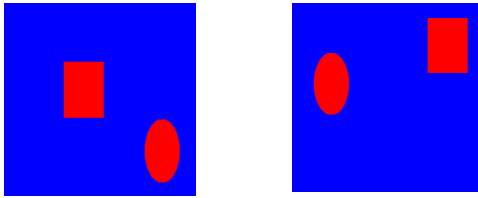
Image 1 and Image 2 are the same size and are filled with solid colors. In Image 1, the top left quarter (25%) is red, the bottom left quarter (25%) is blue, and the right half (50%) is yellow. In Image 2, the top right quarter (25%) is blue, the bottom right quarter (25%) is red, and the left half (50%) is yellow.

If the two images are compared first solely on global color and then solely on local color, the following are the similarity results:

- Global color: complete similarity (score = 0.0), because each color (red, blue, yellow) occupies the same percentage of the total image in each one
- Local color: no similarity (score = 100), because there is no overlap in the placement of any of the colors between the two images

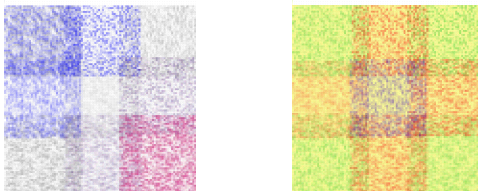
Thus, if you need to select images based on the dominant color or colors (for example, to find apartments with blue interiors), give greater relative weight to global color. If you need to find images with common colors in common locations (for example, red dominant in the upper portion to find sunsets), give greater relative weight to local color.

Figure 2–2 shows two images very close (score = 0.0) in global color. Figure 2–3 shows two images very close (score = 0.02461) in local color.

**Figure 2–2** *Images Very Similar in Global Color***Figure 2–3** *Images Very Similar in Local Color*

## 2.2.2 Texture and Structure

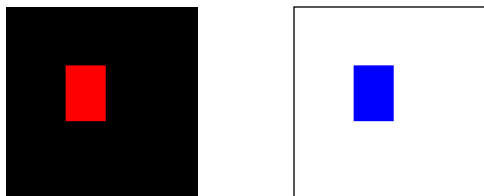
Texture is most useful for full images of textures, such as catalogs of wood grains, marble, sand, or stones. These images are generally hard to categorize using keywords alone because our vocabulary for textures is limited. Texture can be used effectively alone (without color) for pure textures, but also with a little bit of global color for some kinds of textures, like wood or fabrics. Figure 2–4 shows two similar fabric samples (score = 4.1).

**Figure 2–4** *Fabric Images with Similar Texture*

Structure is not strictly confined to certain sizes or positions. However, when objects are of the same size or position, they have a lower score (greater similarity) than objects of different sizes. Structure is useful to capture objects such as horizon

lines in landscapes, rectangular structures in buildings, and organic structures like trees. Structure is very useful for querying on simple shapes (like circles, polygons, or diagonal lines) especially when the query image is drawn by hand and color is not considered important when the drawing is made. Figure 2–5 shows two images very close (score = 0.61939) in structure.

**Figure 2–5 Images with Very Similar Structure**



## 2.2.3 Face Recognition

Visual Information Retrieval supports face recognition software developed by Viisage Technology, Inc. This third-party software analyzes images of faces and generates a *facial signature* based on various unique **biometric** characteristics.

After you have generated facial signatures with the Viisage software, you can use Visual Information Retrieval `Convert()`, `VIRScore()`, and `VIRSimilar()` operators to compare the images.

See the Viisage product documentation for more details.

## 2.3 How Matching Works

When you match images, you assign an importance measure, or weight, to each of the visual attributes, and Visual Information Retrieval calculates a similarity measure for each visual attribute.

### 2.3.1 Weight

Each *weight* value reflects how sensitive the matching process should be to the degree of similarity or dissimilarity between two images. For example, if you want global color to be completely ignored in matching, assign a weight of 0.0 to global color; in this case, any similarity or difference between the color of the two images is totally irrelevant in matching. On the other hand, if global color is extremely important, assign it a weight greater than any of the other attributes; this will cause

any similarity or dissimilarity between the two images with respect to global color to contribute greatly to whether or not the two images match.

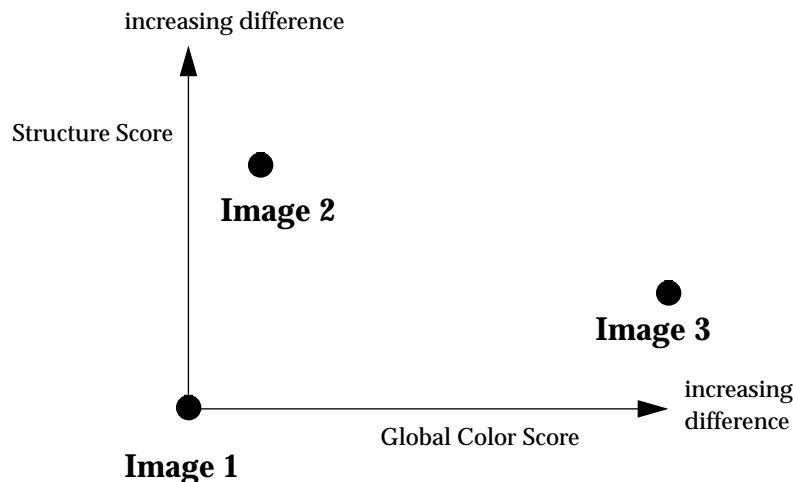
Weight values can be any positive real numbers. During processing, the values are normalized such that they sum to 100%. To avoid confusion, you should get into a habit of always using the same scale (0.00 to 1.00, or 0 to 100) when providing weight values. At least one of the visual attribute weights must be set greater than zero. See Section 2.3.3 for details of the calculation.

## 2.3.2 Score

The similarity measure for each visual attribute is calculated as the **score** or distance between the two images with respect to that attribute. The score can range from 0 (no difference) to 100 (maximum possible difference). Thus, the more similar two images are with respect to a visual attribute, the *smaller* the score will be for that attribute.

As an example of how distance is determined, assume that the dots in Figure 2–6 represent scores for three images with respect to two visual attributes, such as global color and structure, plotted along the X and Y axes of a graph.

**Figure 2–6** Score and Distance Relationship



For matching, assume Image 1 is the comparison image, and Image 2 and Image 3 are each being compared with Image 1. With respect to the global color attribute plotted on the X axis, the distance between Image 1 and Image 2 is relatively small

(for example, 15), whereas the distance between Image 1 and Image 3 is much greater (for example, 75). If the global color attribute is given more weight, then the fact that the two distance values differ by a great deal will probably be very important in determining whether or not Image 2 and Image 3 match Image 1. However, if global color is minimized and the structure attribute is emphasized instead, then Image 3 will match Image 1 better than Image 2 matches Image 1.

### 2.3.3 Similarity Calculation

In Section 2.3.2, Figure 2-6 showed a graph of only two of the attributes that Visual Information Retrieval can consider. In reality, when images are matched, the degree of similarity depends on a weighted sum reflecting the weight and distance of all four of the visual attributes of the comparison image and the test image.

For example, assume that for the comparison image (Image 1) and one of the images being tested for matching (Image 2), Table 2-1 lists the relative distances between the two images for each attribute. Note that you would never see these individual numbers unless you computed four separate scores, each time highlighting one attribute and setting the others to zero.

**Table 2-1 Distances for Visual Attributes Between Image1 and Image2**

Visual Attribute	Distance
Global color	15
Local color	90
Texture	5
Structure	50

In this example, the two images are most similar with respect to texture (distance = 5) and most different with respect to local color (distance = 90).

Assume that for the matching process, the following weights have been assigned to each visual attribute:

- Global color = 0.1
- Local color = 0.6
- Texture = 0.2
- Structure = 0.1

The weights are typically supplied in the range of 0.0 to 1.0. Within this range, a weight of 1 indicates the strongest emphasis, and a weight of 0 means the attribute should be ignored. You can use a different range (such as 0 to 100), but be careful not to accidentally combine different ranges. The values you supply are automatically normalized such that the weights total 100 percent, still maintaining the ratios you have supplied. In this example, the weights were specified such that normalization was not necessary.

The following formula is used to calculate the weighted sum of the distances, which is used to determine the degree of similarity between two images:

```
weighted_sum = global_color_weight * global_color_distance +
               local_color_weight * local_color_distance +
               texture_weight * texture_distance +
               structure_weight * structure_distance
```

The degree of similarity between two images in this case is computed as:

$$0.1*gc\_distance + 0.6*lc\_distance + 0.2*tex\_distance + 0.1*struc\_distance$$

Using the supplied values, this becomes:

$$(0.1*15 + 0.6*90 + 0.2*5 + 0.1*50) = (1.5 + 54.0 + 1.0 + 5.0) = 61.5$$

To illustrate the effect of different weights in this case, assume that the weights for global color and local color were reversed. In this case, the degree of similarity between two images is computed as:

$$0.6*gc\_distance + 0.1*lc\_distance + 0.2*tex\_distance + 0.1*struc\_distance$$

That is:

$$(0.6*15 + 0.1*90 + 0.2*5 + 0.1*50) = (9.0 + 9.0 + 1.0 + 5.0) = 24.0$$

In this second case, the images are considered to be more similar than in the first case, because the overall score (24.0) is smaller than in the first case (61.5). Whether or not the two images are considered matching depends on the threshold value (explained in Section 2.3.4): if the weighted sum is less than or equal to the threshold, the images match; if the weighted sum is greater than the threshold, the images do not match.

In these two cases, the *correct* weight assignments depend on what you are looking for in the images. If local color is extremely important, then the first set of weights is a better choice than the second, because the first set of weights grants greater significance to the disparity between these two specific images with respect to local color (weighted sum of 24 versus 61.5). Thus, with the first set of weights, these two images are less likely to match -- and a key goal of content-based retrieval is to

eliminate uninteresting images so that you can focus on images containing what you are looking for.

### 2.3.4 Threshold Value

When you match images, you assign a **threshold** value. If the weighted sum of the distances for the visual attributes is less than or equal to the threshold, the images match; if the weighted sum is greater than the threshold, the images do not match.

Using the examples in Section 2.3.3, if you assign a threshold of 50, the images do not match when the weighted sum is 61.5, but they do match when the weighted sum is 24. If the threshold is 20, the images do not match in either case; and if the threshold is 61.5 or greater, the images match in both cases.

The following example shows a cursor (`getphotos`) that selects the `photo_id`, `annotation`, and `photograph` from the `Pictures` table where the threshold value is 20 for comparing photographs with a comparison image:

```
CURSOR getphotos IS
SELECT photo_id, annotation, photo FROM Pictures WHERE
ORDSYS.VIRSimilar(photo.Signature, comparison_sig, 'globalcolor="0.4",
localcolor="0.2", texture="0.10", structure="0.3"', 20)=1;
```

Before the cursor executes, the `Analyze()` operator must be used to compute the signature of the comparison image (`comparison_sig`), and to compute signatures for each image in the table. Chapter 4 describes all the operators, including `Analyze()` and `Similar()`.

The number of matches returned generally increases as the threshold increases. Setting the threshold to 100 would return all images as matches. Such a result, of course, defeats the purpose of content-based retrieval. If your images are all very similar, you may find that even a threshold of 50 returns too many (or all) images as matches. Through trial and error, adjust the threshold to an appropriate value for your application.

You will probably want to experiment with different weights for the visual attributes and different threshold values, to see which combinations retrieve the kinds and approximate number of matches you want.

## 2.4 Using an Index to Compare Signatures

A domain index, or extensible index, is a new approach for supporting complex data objects. Oracle8i and Visual Information Retrieval cooperate to define, build, and maintain an index for image data. This index is of type `ORDVIRIDX`. Once created, the index automatically updates itself every time an image is inserted or

removed from the database table. The index is created, managed, and accessed by routines supplied by the index type.

For better performance with large image databases, you should always create and use an index for searching through the image signatures. The default search model compares the signature of the query image to the signatures of all images stored in the database. This works well for simple queries such as, "does this picture of an automobile match the image stored with the client's insurance records?" However, if you want to compare that image with thousands or millions of images in order to determine what kind of vehicle it is, then a linear search through the database would be impractical. In this case, an index based on the image signatures would greatly improve performance.

Assume you have a table T containing fabric ID numbers and pattern photographs:

```
CREATE TABLE T (fabric_id NUMBER, pattern_photo ORDSYS.ORDVIR);
```

Populate the table with images, and process each image using the Analyze() operator to generate the signatures.

---

---

**Note:** Performance is greatly improved by loading the data tables prior to creating the index.

---

---

Once the signatures have been created, the following command creates an index on this table, based on the data in the `photo` column. Note that you only build an index on image signatures generated by Visual Information Retrieval. You cannot build an index on facial signatures.

```
CREATE INDEX idx1 ON T(pattern_photo.signature) INDEXTYPE IS ORDSYS.ORDVIRIDX  
PARAMETERS ('ORDVIR_DATA_TABLESPACE = <name>,  
ORDVIR_INDEX_TABLESPACE = <name>');
```

The index name is limited to 24 or fewer characters.<sup>1</sup> As with any Oracle table, do not use pound signs (#) or dollar signs (\$) in the name. Also as usual, the tablespace must be created prior to creating the table.

The index data resides in two tablespaces. The first contains the actual index data, and the second is an internal index created on that data. See Section 3.7 for suggestions concerning the sizes of these tablespaces.

---

<sup>1</sup>The standard Oracle restriction is 30 characters for table or index names. However, Visual Information Retrieval requires an extra 6 characters for internal processing of the domain index.

Finally, as with other Oracle indexes, you should analyze the new index as follows:

```
ANALYZE INDEX idx1 COMPUTE STATISTICS;
```

Two operators, `VIRSimilar()` and `VIRScore()` support queries using the index. The operators automatically use the index if it is present. See Section 4.3 for syntax information and examples.

## 2.5 Preparing or Selecting Images for Useful Matching

The human mind is infinitely smarter than a computer in matching images. If we are near a street and want to identify all red automobiles, we can easily do so because our minds rapidly adjust for the following factors:

- Whether the automobile is stopped or moving
- The distinction between red automobiles, red motorcycles, and red trailers
- The absolute size of the automobile, as well as its relative size in our field of vision (because of its distance from us)
- The location of the automobile in our field of vision (center, left, right, top, bottom)
- The direction in which the automobile is pointing or traveling (left or right, toward us, or away from us)

However, for a computer to find red automobiles (retrieving all red automobiles and no or very few images that are not red or not automobiles), it is helpful if all the automobile images have the automobile occupy almost the entire image, have no extraneous elements (people, plants, decorations, and so on), and have the automobiles pointing in the same direction. In this case, a match emphasizing global color and structure would produce useful results. However, if the pictures show automobiles in different locations, with different relative sizes in the image, pointing in different directions, and with different backgrounds, it will be difficult to perform content-based retrieval with these images.

The following are some suggestions for selecting images or preparing images for comparison. The list is not exhaustive, but the basic principle to keep in mind is this: Know what you are looking for, and use common sense. If possible, crop and edit images in accordance with these suggestions before performing content-based retrieval.

- Have what you expect to be looking for occupy almost all of the image space, or at least occupy the same size and position on each image. For example, if you want to find suspected criminals with blue eyes, each image should show

only the face and should have the eyes in approximately the same position within the overall image.

- Minimize any extraneous elements that might prevent desired matches or cause unwanted matches. For example, if you want to match red automobiles and if each automobile has a person standing in front of it, the color, shape, and position of the person (skin and clothing) will cause color and shape similarities to be detected, and might reduce the importance of color and shape similarities between automobiles (because part of the automobile is behind the person and thus not visible). If you know that your images vary in this way, experiment with different thresholds and different weights for the various visual attributes until you find a combination that provides the best result set for your needs.
- During analysis, images are temporarily scaled to a common size such that the resulting signatures are based on a common frame of reference. If you crop a section of an image, and then compare that piece back to the original, Visual Information Retrieval will likely find that the images are less similar than you would expect.

---

---

**Note:** Visual Information Retrieval operates as a fuzzy search engine, and is not designed to do correlations. For example, Visual Information Retrieval cannot find a specific face in a crowd. However, if you crop an individual face from a picture of a crowd, you can then compare the face to known images.

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# Visual Information Retrieval Examples

This chapter provides examples of common operations with Visual Information Retrieval. These operations include:

- Creating a new table with an image column (based on the ORDVir object type)
- Modifying an existing table to add an image column
- Loading images into the table (includes generating the signatures)
- Retrieving images (simple read operation; no content-based retrieval)
- Retrieving images similar to a comparison image (content-based retrieval)
- Creating a domain index
- Retrieving images similar to a comparison image using indexing operations (indexed content-based retrieval)
- Converting an image from one format to another
- Extending the product with new object types
- Using object views

The examples in this chapter use a table of photographs. For each photograph, a photo ID, the photographer's name, a descriptive annotation, and the photographic image are stored.

Reference information on the functions used in these examples is presented in Chapter 4.

## 3.1 Create a New Table Containing an Image

This example creates a new table of photographic images that includes the following information for each photograph:

- Photo ID number
- Photographer's name (variable text, up to 64 characters)
- Descriptive annotation (variable text, up to 255 characters)
- Photographic image (defined using Visual Information Retrieval and stored in the database rather than referred to as an external file)

Example 3-1 creates the table.

**Example 3-1 Create a New Table Containing an Image**

```
SQL> CREATE TABLE stockphotos (photo_id NUMBER, photographer VARCHAR2(64),  
                                annotation VARCHAR2(255), photo ORDSYS.ORDVir);
```

The SQL DESCRIBE TABLE statement shows the following description:

Column Name	Null?	Type
PHOTO_ID		NUMBER
PHOTOGRAPHER		VARCHAR2(64)
ANNOTATION		VARCHAR2(255)
PHOTO		ADT(2880)

## 3.2 Add an Image Column to an Existing Table

This example modifies an existing table to store an image with each row. Assume that the table in Section 3.1 already exists, but does not include the actual photographic images.

Example 3-2 adds the `photo` column to the `stockphotos` table. Later, when the images are loaded, they can be stored either in the database itself or as references to external files.

**Example 3-2 Add an Image Column to an Existing Table**

```
ALTER TABLE stockphotos ADD (photo ORDSYS.ORDVir);
```

## 3.3 Load Images from External Files

Example 3-3 shows how to load external images and import them into the database.

**Example 3-3 Load Images into a Table**

```

DECLARE
    image      ORDSYS.ORDVIR;
    IdNum      NUMBER;
BEGIN
    -- Generate a photo ID and insert a row into the table.
    -- Note: empty_blob() is the initializer for the BLOB attribute.
    IdNum := 1;
    INSERT INTO stockphotos VALUES (IdNum, 'Janice Gray',
        'Living room, full-length drapes, modern furniture',
        ORDSYS.ORDVIR(ORDSYS.ORDImage( ORDSYS.ordsource(
            empty_blob(), 'FILE', 'ORDVIRDIR', 'virdemol.dat', sysdate, 0),
            NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL), NULL));
    SELECT photo INTO image FROM stockphotos WHERE photo_id = IdNum FOR UPDATE;

    -- Set property attributes for the image data.
    image.SetProperties;
    -- Read the data into the database.
    image.import(NULL);

    -- Generate the image signature.
    image.Analyze;

    -- Update the photo column with the contents of image.
    -- This also stores the signature and other image-specific attributes.
    UPDATE stockphotos SET photo = image WHERE photo_id = IdNum;
END;
/

```

## 3.4 Load Images from External Files Using SQL\*Loader

Oracle8i database utilities provide support for loading BLOBs using SQL\*Loader. This utility can be used to load external image files into image tables in the database. For more information on SQL\*Loader, see *Oracle8i Utilities*.

Example 3-4 is an example of a control file (filename.ctl) used to load images into a table of ORDVir objects.

**Example 3-4 Load Image Using SQL\*Loader**

```

LOAD DATA
INFILE *
INTO TABLE stockphotos
APPEND

```



- Global color: 0.2
  - Local color: 0.3
  - Texture: 0.1
  - Structure: 0.4
2. Generates the signature (`compare_sig`) of the comparison image (`compare_img`). Note: The program must have previously placed the comparison image in `compare_img`.
  3. Sets the threshold value at 25.
  4. Selects the matching images, using the cursor.

**Example 3–6 Retrieve Images Similar to a Comparison Image**

```

DECLARE
  threshold    NUMBER;
  compare_sig  RAW(2000);
  compare_img  ORDSYS.ORDVIR;
  photo_id     NUMBER;
  photographer VARCHAR2(64);
  annotation   VARCHAR2(255);
  photo        ORDSYS.ORDVIR;

-- Define cursor for matching. Set weights for the visual attributes.
CURSOR getphotos IS
  SELECT photo_id, photographer, annotation, photo FROM stockphotos T
  WHERE ORDSYS.VIRSimilar(T.photo.Signature, compare_sig,
    'globalcolor="0.2" localcolor="0.3" texture="0.1"
    structure="0.4"', threshold)=1;

BEGIN
  -- Create BLOB object
  SELECT s.photo INTO compare_img FROM stockphotos s
  WHERE photo_id = 1;

  -- Generate signature of comparison image, which resides in compare_img.
  compare_img.Analyze;
  compare_sig:= compare_img.signature;

  -- Set the threshold value.
  threshold := 25;

  -- Retrieve rows for matching images.

```

```

OPEN getphotos;
LOOP
    FETCH getphotos INTO photo_id, photographer, annotation, photo;
    EXIT WHEN getphotos%NOTFOUND;
    -- Display or store the results.
    .
    .
END LOOP;
CLOSE getphotos;
END;
```

Example 3–7 finds the photo\_id and score of the image that is most similar to a comparison image with respect to texture. None of the other image characteristics is considered. This example uses the VIRScore() operator, which is an ancillary operator used in conjunction with the VIRSimilar() operator. The parameter passed to VIRScore() (123 in this example) is a reference to the same parameter passed in the call to VIRSimilar().

**Example 3–7 Find photo\_id and Score of Similar Image**

```

SELECT Q.photo_id,
       ORDSYS.VIRScore(123) SCORE
FROM stockphotos Q, stockphotos S
WHERE S.photo_id=1234 AND Q.photo_id != S.photo_id AND
       ORDSYS.VIRSimilar(Q.photo.signature, S.photo.signature,
                        'texture=1', 20.0, 123)=1;
```

## 3.7 Create a Visual Information Retrieval Domain Index

To improve performance, you can create a domain index on the image signature column. Example 3–8 creates an index called imgindex.

**Example 3–8 Creating a VIR Index**

```

CREATE INDEX imgindex ON stockphotos(photo.signature)
    INDEXTYPE IS ordsys.ordviridx
    PARAMETERS ('ORDVIR_DATA_TABLESPACE = tbs_1,
                ORDVIR_INDEX_TABLESPACE = tbs_2');
```

As with any index, the tablespace (tbs\_1 and tbs\_2) must be created first.

The following recommendations are good starting points for further index tuning:

- `ORDVIR_DATA_TABLESPACE` -- Each signature requires around 350 bytes in this tablespace. The tablespace should be at least 350 times the number of signatures in the table.
- `ORDVIR_INDEX_TABLESPACE` -- The size of the tablespace should be 100 times the size of the initial and final extents specified. For example, if an extent is 10KB, the tablespace size should be 1MB. The initial and final extents should be equal to each other. The size of the tablespace should also be approximately equal to the size of `ORDVIR_DATA_TABLESPACE`.
- Typically, it will be much faster if you create the index after the images have been loaded into the database and analyzed.

Note that if a signature is corrupt, or is in incorrect byte order for your system, the `CREATE INDEX` statement exits and index creation is not completed. This incomplete index is not usable. Delete the index, delete the corrupt signature or correct the byte order (see the `Convert()` Operator), and re-create the index.

To prevent wasting time when creating an index for large tables, ensure that the signatures are in the correct format before creating the index. This can be accomplished by generating the signatures on the same system as they are used, or by using the `Convert()` operator.

- Creating an index for large tables can be very time consuming. When importing a large number of images, you should postpone index creation until after the import completes. Do this by specifying the following parameters to the import statement: `INDEXES=N` and `INDEXNAME=<filename>`. See *Oracle8i Utilities* for details.
- Rollback segments of an appropriate size are required. The size depends on the size of your transactions, such as, how many signatures are indexed at one time.
- Analyze the new index. See Section 2.4.

---

---

**Note:** A domain index cannot be created on a facial image signature column in this release of Visual Information Retrieval.

---

---

## 3.8 Retrieve Images Similar to a Comparison Image Using Index Operations

Queries for indexed and nonindexed comparisons are identical. The Oracle optimizer uses the domain index if it determines that the first argument passed to the `VIRSimilar()` operator is a domain-indexed column. Otherwise, the optimizer

invokes a functional implementation of the operator that compares the query signature with the stored signatures, one row at a time.

See Section 3.6 for examples of retrieving similar images. As in the example, be sure to specify the query signature as the second parameter.

## 3.9 Convert an Image to a Different Format

Example 3–9 converts an image from its current format to GIF format for display on a Web page. The program segment performs these operations:

1. Selects the desired photograph (where `photo_id = 1234`) and places it in an image storage area.
2. Uses the `process()` method to convert the format to "GIF". (You do not need to know the current image format.)
3. Updates the `photo` column with content of the converted image.

### **Example 3–9 Convert an Image to a Different Format**

```
DECLARE
    image      ORDSYS.ORDVIR;

BEGIN

    -- Select the desired photograph from the stockphotos table.
    SELECT photo INTO image FROM stockphotos WHERE photo_id = 1234 FOR UPDATE;

    -- Use Process method to perform the conversion.
    image.Process('fileFormat=GIF');
    -- Update the photo column with the contents of image.
    -- This also stores the signature and other image-specific attributes.
    UPDATE stockphotos SET photo = image WHERE photo_id = 1234;

END;
```

## 3.10 Extend the Object Type

You can use the `ORDVir` type as the basis for a new type of your own creation.

For example, the original table created in Section 3.1 had a column called `annotation`. You could move that annotation into a new object encapsulating the `ORDVir` type. This new type can have additional attributes and methods.

To simulate subtyping (which is not supported in this release), you can define wrappers for the `ORDVir` methods and access functions. Example 3–10 adds the annotation column to the `ORDVir` type and defines wrappers for three procedures, making a new type called `AnnotatedImage`. The ellipses in this example indicate that more methods could be included, but they are not being shown.

**Example 3–10 Extending the `ORDVir` Type**

```

create type AnnotatedImage as object
  ( image ordsys.ordvir,
    annotation varchar2(2000),

    MEMBER PROCEDURE SetPropertyies(SELF IN OUT AnnotatedImage),
    MEMBER PROCEDURE Copy(dest IN OUT AnnotatedImage),
    MEMBER PROCEDURE ProcessCopy(command in VARCHAR2,
                                   dest IN OUT AnnotatedImage)
    .
    .
    .
  );
/

create type body AnnotatedImage as
  MEMBER PROCEDURE SetPropertyies(SELF IN OUT AnnotatedImage) IS
  BEGIN
    SELF.image.setProperties;
    SELF.annotation :=
  'This is an example of using the VIR object as a subtype';
  END SetPropertyies;

  MEMBER PROCEDURE Copy(dest IN OUT AnnotatedImage) IS
  BEGIN
    SELF.image.copy(dest.image);
    dest.annotation := SELF.annotation;
  END CopyContent;

  MEMBER PROCEDURE ProcessCopy(command in VARCHAR2, dest IN OUT AnnotatedImage)
  IS
  BEGIN
    SELF.image.processCopy(command,dest.image);
    dest.annotation := SELF.annotation;
  END ProcessCopy;
  .
  .
  .

```

```
END;  
/
```

After creating the new type, you can use it as you would any other type. Notice the encapsulation structure in Example 3–11: `newType(ORDVir(OrdImage(OrdSource())))`. Because user-defined constructors are not supported in this release, inserting into a simulated subtype is only possible by being aware of the full encapsulation hierarchy.

**Example 3–11 Using an Extended Type**

```
create or replace directory TEST_DIR as 'C:\TESTS';  
  
create table my_example (id number,an_image AnnotatedImage);  
  
insert into my_example values ( 1,  
    AnnotatedImage(  
        ordsys.ordvir(  
            ordsys.ordimage(  
                ordsys.ordsource(empty_blob(),'file','TEST_DIR','test1.jpg',sysdate,0),  
                NULL,NULL,NULL,NULL,NULL,NULL,NULL),  
            NULL),  
        'some text describing the image');  
commit;  
  
declare  
    myimage AnnotatedImage;  
begin  
    select an_image into myimage from my_example for update;  
  
    myimage.setProperties;  
  
    dbms_output.put_line('This image has a description of ');  
    dbms_output.put_line( myimage.description);  
  
    update my_example set an_image=myimage;  
end;
```

## 3.11 Use Image Type with Object Views

Just as a view is a virtual table, an object view is a virtual object table.

Oracle provides object views as an extension of the basic relational view mechanism. By using object views, you can create virtual object tables from data, of either built-in or user-defined types, stored in the columns of relational or object tables in the database.

Object views provide the ability to offer specialized or restricted access to the data and objects in a database. For example, you might use an object view to provide a version of an employee object table that does not have attributes containing sensitive data and does not have a deletion method. Object views also allow you to try object-oriented programming without permanently converting your tables. Using object views, you can convert data gradually and transparently from relational tables to object-relational tables.

Consider the following non-object image table:

```
create table flat (
  id          number,
  localData   BLOB,
  srcType     varchar2(4000),
  srcLocation varchar2(4000),
  srcName     varchar2(4000),
  updateTime  date,
  local       number,
  height      integer,
  width       integer,
  contentLength integer,
  fileFormat  varchar2(4000),
  contentFormat varchar2(4000),
  compressionFormat varchar2(4000),
  mimeType    varchar2(4000)
  signature   raw(2000)
);
```

You can create an object view on the table as follows:

```
create or replace view object_images_v as
select
  id,
  ordsys.ORDVir(
    ordsys.ORDImage(
      ordSource(
        T.localData, T.srcType, T.srcLocation, T.srcName,
        T.updateTime, T.local),
        T.height,
        T.width,
```

```
T.contentLength,  
T.fileFormat,  
T.contentFormat  
T.compressionFormat,  
T.mimeType),  
T.signature) IMAGE  
from flat T;
```

Object views provide the flexibility of looking at the same relational or object data in more than one way. You can use different in-memory object representations for different applications without changing the way you store the data in the database. See *Oracle8i Concepts* for more information on defining, using, and updating object views.

---

# Visual Information Retrieval Reference

The Visual Information Retrieval library consists of:

- Object type -- see Section 4.1.
- Methods -- see Section 4.2.
- Operators -- see Section 4.3.

The examples in this chapter assume that the `stockphotos` table, referred to in Chapter 3, has been created and filled with some photographic images. The table was created using the following SQL statement:

```
CREATE TABLE stockphotos (photo_id NUMBER, photographer VARCHAR2(64),
                           annotation VARCHAR2(255), photo ORDSYS.ORDVIR);
```

When you are storing or copying images, you must first create an empty BLOB in the table. The following shows an empty Visual Information Retrieval object:

```
ORDSYS.ORDVIR(ORDIMAGE(ORDSOURCE(empty_blob()),NULL, NULL, NULL, SYSDATE, NULL),
              NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL),
              NULL);
```

---

---

**Note:** If you manipulate the image data itself by either directly modifying the BLOB, or changing the external source, then you must ensure that the object attributes stay synchronized and the update time is modified. Otherwise, the object attributes will not match the image data.

---

---

Methods invoked at the `ORDSource` level that are handed off to the source plug-in for processing have `ctx(RAW(4000))` as their first argument. Before calling any of these methods for the first time, the client must perform the following tasks:

- 
1. Allocate the ctx structure.
  2. Initialize the ctx structure to null.
  3. Invoke the `source.open()` method.

At this point, the source plug-in can initialize the context for this client.

4. When processing is complete, the client should invoke the `source.close()` method.

See *Oracle8i interMedia Audio, Image, and Video User's Guide and Reference* for descriptions of source methods.

Methods invoked from a source plug-in have their first argument as `ctx(RAW(4000))`.

---

---

**Note:** In the current release, not all source plug-ins will use the `ctx` argument, but if you code as previously described, your applications should work with any current or future source plug-in.

---

---

## 4.1 Object Type

The Visual Information Retrieval object type `ORDVir` is composed of the `ORDImage` type and a signature component. The `ORDImage` type is composed of the `ORDSource` type and a number of additional descriptive components.

This section presents reference information on the object types.

For more information on BLOBs and BFILEs, see *Oracle8i Application Developer's Guide - Large Objects (LOBs)*. For more information on the `ORDImage` and `ORDSource` types, see *Oracle8i interMedia Audio, Image, and Video User's Guide and Reference*.

---

## ORDVir Object Type

The ORDVir object type supports storage and retrieval of image data stored in a BLOB, external file, or referenced by a URL. This object type is defined as follows:

```
CREATE TYPE ORDVIR AS OBJECT
(
  -- TYPE ATTRIBUTES
  image          ORDImage,
  signature      RAW(2000)
  -- METHOD DECLARATION
  -- IMAGE COPY METHOD
  MEMBER PROCEDURE copy(dest IN OUT NOCOPY ORDVir),

  -- IMAGE PROCESSING RELATED METHODS
  MEMBER PROCEDURE process(SELF IN OUT ORDVir,
                           command IN VARCHAR2),
  MEMBER PROCEDURE processCopy(command IN VARCHAR2,
                               dest IN OUT NOCOPY ORDVir),

  -- IMAGE PROPERTY SET AND CHECK METHODS
  MEMBER PROCEDURE setProperties(SELF IN OUT ORDVir),
  MEMBER PROCEDURE setProperties(SELF IN OUT ORDVir,
                               description IN VARCHAR2),
  MEMBER FUNCTION checkProperties RETURN BOOLEAN,

  -- IMAGE ATTRIBUTE ACCESSOR METHODS
  MEMBER FUNCTION getHeight RETURN INTEGER,
  PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES(getHeight, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS),

  MEMBER FUNCTION getWidth RETURN INTEGER,
  PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES(getWidth, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS),

  MEMBER FUNCTION getFileFormat RETURN VARCHAR2,
  PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES(getFileFormat, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS),

  MEMBER FUNCTION getContentFormat RETURN VARCHAR2,
  PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES(getContentFormat, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS),

  MEMBER FUNCTION getCompressionFormat RETURN VARCHAR2,
  PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES(getCompressionFormat, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS),

  MEMBER FUNCTION getSignature RETURN RAW,
```

```
PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES(getSignature, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS),
-- DATE RELATED METHODS
MEMBER FUNCTION getUpdateTime RETURN DATE,
PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES(getUpdateTime, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS),
MEMBER PROCEDURE setUpdateTime(current_time DATE),

-- MIMETYPE RELATED METHODS
MEMBER FUNCTION getMimeType RETURN VARCHAR2,
PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES(getMimeType, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS),
MEMBER PROCEDURE setMimeType(mimetype IN VARCHAR),

-- SOURCE/CONTENT RELATED METHODS
MEMBER FUNCTION getContentLength RETURN INTEGER,
PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES(getContentLength, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS),

MEMBER FUNCTION getContent RETURN BLOB,
PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES(getContent, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS),

MEMBER FUNCTION getBFILE RETURN BFILE,
PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES(getBFILE, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS),

MEMBER PROCEDURE deleteContent(SELF IN OUT ORDVir),

MEMBER PROCEDURE setSource(source_type      IN VARCHAR2,
                           source_location IN VARCHAR2,
                           source_name     IN VARCHAR2),
MEMBER FUNCTION getSource RETURN VARCHAR2,
PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES(getSource, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS),

MEMBER FUNCTION getSourceType RETURN VARCHAR2,
PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES(getSourceType, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS),

MEMBER FUNCTION getSourceLocation RETURN VARCHAR2,
PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES(getSourceLocation, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS),

MEMBER FUNCTION getSourceName RETURN VARCHAR2,
PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES(getSourceName, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS),

MEMBER PROCEDURE import(ctx IN OUT RAW),
MEMBER PROCEDURE importFrom(ctx IN OUT RAW,
                             source_type IN VARCHAR2,
                             source_location IN VARCHAR2,
                             source_name IN VARCHAR2),
MEMBER PROCEDURE export(ctx      IN OUT RAW,
                        source_type IN VARCHAR2,
```

```

        source_location IN VARCHAR2,
        source_name     IN VARCHAR2),

MEMBER PROCEDURE setLocal,
MEMBER PROCEDURE clearLocal,
MEMBER FUNCTION isLocal RETURN BOOLEAN,
PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES(isLocal, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS),

-- MIGRATION RELATED METHODS
MEMBER PROCEDURE migrateFromORDVirB(
        SELF IN OUT ORDVIR,
        old_object IN ORDVirB),

MEMBER PROCEDURE migrateFromORDVirF(
        SELF IN OUT ORDVIR,
        old_object IN ORDVirF),

-- VIRAGE RELATED METHODS
MEMBER PROCEDURE analyze(SELF IN OUT ORDVIR)
);

```

The ORDImage object type consists of the fields shown in Table 4–1.

**Table 4–1** *ORDImage Object Type*

Attribute	Data Type	Description
source	ORDSource	Points to the source of the stored image data
height	INTEGER	Height of the image in pixels
width	INTEGER	Width of the image in pixels
contentLength	INTEGER	Size of the on-disk image file in bytes
fileFormat	VARCHAR2(4000)	File type of image (such as, TIFF or JFIF)
contentFormat	VARCHAR2(4000)	Type of image (such as, monochrome or 8-bit grayscale)
compressionFormat	VARCHAR2(4000)	Compression type of the image
mimeType	VARCHAR2(4000)	MIME type of the image

The ORDSource object type consists of the fields shown in Table 4-2.

**Table 4-2 ORDSource Object Type**

Attribute	Data Type	Description
localData	BLOB	Locally stored image data.
srcType	VARCHAR2(4000)	Identifies the source type as one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ NULL</li> <li>■ 'FILE' -- source is an external file</li> <li>■ 'HTTP' -- HTTP server name</li> <li>■ '&lt;name&gt;' -- name of another source</li> </ul>
srcLocation	VARCHAR2(4000)	Identifies where the data can be found based on the srcType. See Table 4-3.
srcName	VARCHAR2(4000)	Identifies the data object name based on the source type. See Table 4-4.
updateTime	DATE	The time at which the data was last updated.
local	NUMBER	Flag to determine if the data is local (1) or not (0).

Table 4-3 describes the valid srcLocation values.

**Table 4-3 srcLocation Values**

srcType	srcLocation
NULL	NULL or not accessed
FILE	<DIR> or name of the directory object
HTTP	<SourceBase> or URL needed to find the base directory
<name>	<iden> or identifier string required to access another server

Table 4–4 describes the valid srcName values.

**Table 4–4 Valid srcName Values**

<b>srcType</b>	<b>srcName</b>
NULL	NULL or not accessed
FILE	<FILE> or name of the file
HTTP	<Source> or name of the object
<name>	<object name> or name of the object

In PL/SQL, data is moved with the DBMS LOB package. From the client, data is moved using OCI LOB calls. The ORDVir object type does not supply routines for moving data piece by piece.

## 4.2 Methods for Image Manipulation

This section presents reference information on the methods used for image manipulation.

The Visual Information Retrieval methods are as follows:

- `analyze()`: creates the signature of an image based on the image characteristics.
- `checkProperties()`: verifies that the characteristics stored within an image object match the object attributes.
- `clearLocal()`: resets the flag to indicate that data is stored externally.
- `copy()`: copies an ORDVir image to another ORDVir object.
- `deleteContent()`: deletes the contents of an image stored in a BLOB.
- `export()`: transfers data from the local source to the specified external data source. Note that sources not natively supported by Visual Information Retrieval are not writable, and therefore do not support the `export()` method.
- `getBFILE()`: returns the external image as a BFILE.
- `getCompressionFormat()`: returns the compression type used on an image.
- `getContent()`: returns the content of the local data.
- `getContentFormat()`: returns the type of the image.
- `getContentLength()`: returns the size of the image in bytes.

- `getFormat()`: returns the file type of an image.
- `getHeight()`: returns the height of the image in pixels.
- `getMimeType()`: returns the MIME type of an image.
- `getSignature()`: returns the signature of an image.
- `getSource()`: returns a string containing complete information about the external data source, formatted as a URL.
- `getSourceLocation()`: returns the external source location of the image data.
- `getSourceName()`: returns the external source name of the image data.
- `getSourceType()`: returns the external source type of the image data.
- `getUpdateTime()`: returns the time when the image object was last updated.
- `getWidth()`: returns the width of an image in pixels.
- `import()`: transfers data from an external data source to the local source.
- `importFrom()`: transfers data from the specified external data source to the local source.
- `isLocal()`: returns TRUE if the data is stored locally in a BLOB, or FALSE if the data is external.
- `migrateFromORDVirB()`: copies an old ORDVirB image to an ORDVir object.
- `migrateFromORDVirF()`: copies an old ORDVirF image to an ORDVir object.
- `process()`: processes an image in place (for example, modifies it or converts it to another format); available for BLOBs only.
- `processCopy()`: copies an image and processes the copy (for example, modifies it or converts it to another format); available for any source, but the destination must be a BLOB.
- `setMimeType()`: sets the MIME type of the image. This method is called implicitly by any method that modifies native images.
- `setProperties()`: obtains and stores the attributes of an image for native image formats. A second version of this method does the same for foreign images.
- `setSource()`: sets the source information to where the external image data is located.
- `setUpdateTime()`: sets the `updateTime` attribute for the image object, indicating when the image was last changed.

For more information on object types and methods, see *Oracle8i Concepts*.

Note that some of the following methods have **pragma**, or compiler directives, associated with them. The pragma tells the PL/SQL compiler what sort of access the method needs to the database. The compiler can then deny the method read/write access to database tables, packaged variables, or both. Methods with defined pragma (such as the getXXX methods) can be called from SQL expressions.

Pragmas use the following syntax:

```
PRAGMA RESTRICT REFERENCES (function_name, WNDS, [,WNPS] [,RNDS] [RNPS]);
```

where:

- WNDS means "writes no database state"
- WNPS means "writes no package state"
- RNDS means "reads no database state"
- RNPS means "reads no package state"

## analyze() Method

---

### Format

```
analyze();
```

### Description

Analyzes an image, derives information relating to the visual attributes (including a score for each), and creates the image signature.

### Parameter

None.

### Usage

The `analyze()` method creates the image attribute signature, which is necessary for any content-based retrieval. Whenever you are working with a new or changed image, you should also use the `SetProperties()` method to set the other image characteristics.

Signatures for facial images can be created using an optional third-party software package from Viisage Technology, Inc. After creating a facial signature, Visual Information Retrieval can convert the signature to a standard format using the `Convert()` operator and then compare the signatures using the `VIRScore()` and `VIRSimilar()` operators.

The `analyze()` method is functionally equivalent to the `Analyze()` operator. You must use the `analyze()` method, and not the operator, when working with foreign images (images not natively supported).

### Pragmas

None.

### Exceptions

None.

### Example

Create the signatures for all images in the `stockphotos` table.

```
DECLARE
    temp_image  ORDSYS.ORDVIR;
    temp_id     INTEGER;
    cursor c1 is select id, image from stockphotos for update;
BEGIN
    OPEN c1;
    LOOP
        fetch c1 into temp_id, temp_image;
        EXIT WHEN c1%NOTFOUND;

        -- Generate signature and set the properties for the image.
        temp_image.analyze;
        temp_image.setProperties;
        UPDATE stockphotos SET photo = temp_image WHERE photo_id = temp_id;
    END LOOP;
    CLOSE c1;
END;
```

## checkProperties() Method

### Format

checkProperties RETURN BOOLEAN;

### Description

Verifies that the properties stored in attributes of the image object match the properties of the image. This method should not be used for foreign images.

### Parameter

None.

### Usage

Use this method to verify that the image attributes match the actual image.

### Pragma

None.

### Exception

None.

### Example

Check the image attributes:

```
image          ORDSYS.ORDVir;
properties_match BOOLEAN;
BEGIN
  SELECT large_photo INTO image FROM emp
     WHERE ename='John Doe' FOR UPDATE;
  properties_match := image.checkProperties;
  IF properties_match THEN DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Check Properties Succeeded');
  END IF;
END;
```

---

## clearLocal() Method

### Format

clearLocal;

### Description

Resets the local flag value from local (1) to nonlocal (0) for the source of the data.

### Parameter

None.

### Usage

When the local flag is clear (0), this means that the data is stored externally. In that case, Visual Information Retrieval methods look for image data in the srcType, srcName, and srcLocation attributes.

### Pragma

None.

### Exception

None.

### Example

```
DECLARE
    Image ORDSYS.ORDVir;
BEGIN
    SELECT large_photo INTO Image FROM emp WHERE ename = 'John Doe' FOR UPDATE;

    -- clear local so we look for image externally
    Image.clearLocal;

    UPDATE emp SET large_photo = Image WHERE ename = 'John Doe';
END;
/
```

## copy() Method

### Format

```
copy(dest IN OUT NOCOPY ORDVir);
```

### Description

Copies an image without changing it.

### Parameter

**dest**

The destination of the new image.

### Usage

This method copies the image data, as is, including all source and image attributes, into the supplied local destination image.

If the data is stored locally in the source, then calling this method copies the BLOB to the destination source.localData field.

Calling this method copies the external source information to the external source information of the new image, whether or not the source data is stored locally.

Calling this method implicitly calls the setUpdateTime method on the destination object to update its timestamp information.

### Pragma

None.

### Exception

NULL\_LOCAL\_DATA -- raised if the destination source.localData is not initialized, or if the source.isLocal value is 1 and source.localData is NULL.

## Example

Create a copy of the image:

```
DECLARE
  Image_1 ORDSYS.ORDVir;
  Image_2 ORDSYS.ORDVir;
BEGIN
  SELECT photo, large_photo
     INTO Image_2, Image_1
    FROM emp
   WHERE ename = 'John Doe' FOR UPDATE;
  -- copy the data from Image_1 to Image_2
  Image_1.copy(Image_2);
  UPDATE emp SET photo = Image_2
     WHERE ename = 'John Doe';
END;
```

## deleteContent() Method

---

### Format

deleteContent;

### Description

Deletes the local data from the current local source (localData).

### Parameter

None.

### Usage

This method can be called after you export the data from the local source to an external image data source and you no longer need this data in the local source.

### Pragma

None.

### Exception

None.

### Example

Delete the local data from the current local source:

```
DECLARE
    Image ORDSYS.ORDVir;
BEGIN
    SELECT large_photo INTO Image FROM emp
        WHERE ename = 'John Doe' FOR UPDATE;
    -- delete the local content of the image
    Image.deleteContent;
    UPDATE emp SET large_photo = Image WHERE ename = 'John Doe';
END;
/
```

---

## export() Method

### Format

```
export(ctx          IN OUT RAW,  
       source_type  IN VARCHAR2,  
       source_location IN VARCHAR2,  
       source_name   IN VARCHAR2);
```

### Description

Transfers image data from a local source (`localData`) within an Oracle database to an external image data source.

### Parameters

**ctx**

The source plug-in context information.

**source\_type**

The source type of the location where the image data is to be exported.

**source\_location**

The location where the image data is to be exported.

**source\_name**

The name of the image object where the image is to be exported.

### Usage

After exporting image data, all image attributes remain unchanged, except the source attribute and the value of the local attribute, which is set to zero, meaning nonlocal. After calling the export method, call the `deleteContent` method to delete the content of the local data if you want to delete the contents of `localData`.

There is no server-side native support for the export method. This method is available for user-defined sources that can support the export method.

Whenever you import or export images with signature data between platforms, you should use the `convert()` method to ensure that the signature is in the correct format.

**Pragma**

None.

**Exception**

None.

**Example**

None.

## getBFILE Method

### Format

```
getBFILE RETURN BFILE;
```

### Description

Returns the LOB locator of the BFILE containing the image.

### Parameter

None.

### Usage

This method constructs a BFILE using the stored `srcLocation` and `srcName`. `srcLocation` must contain a defined directory object, and `srcName` must contain a valid file name.

### Pragma

```
PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES(getBFILE, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS)
```

### Exceptions

`INCOMPLETE_SOURCE_INFORMATION` -- raised if the `srcType` is `NULL`.

`INVALID_SOURCE_TYPE` -- raised if `srcType` is not `FILE`.

### Example

Get the BFILE for the image:

```
DECLARE
    Image ORDSYS.ORDVir;
    imagebfile BFILE;
BEGIN
    SELECT large_photo INTO Image FROM emp
        WHERE ename = 'John Doe';

    -- get the image BFILE
    imagebfile := Image.getBFILE;
END;
```

## getCompressionFormat Method

### Format

getCompressionFormat RETURN VARCHAR2;

### Description

Returns the compression type of an image. This method does not actually read the image, it is a simple access method that returns the value of the compressionFormat attribute.

### Parameter

None.

### Usage

Use this method rather than accessing the compressionFormat attribute directly to protect yourself from potential changes to the internal representation of the ORDVir object.

### Pragma

PRAGMA RESTRICT\_REFERENCES(getCompressionFormat, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS)

### Exception

None.

### Example

Get the compression type of an image:

```
imgb1          ORDSYS.ORDVir;  
compressionFormat VARCHAR2(4000);  
  
...  
compressionFormat := imgb1.getCompressionFormat;
```

## getContent Method

### Format

```
getContent RETURN BLOB;
```

### Description

Returns the LOB locator of the BLOB containing the image. This is a simple access method that returns the value of the `localData` attribute.

### Parameter

None.

### Usage

This method can be used in conjunction with the `getMimeType` method. For example, a client trying to access image data to put it on a Web-based viewer can call `getMimeType` and publish the header and then call `getContent` to access the image data and send it over the wire.

Use this method rather than accessing the content attribute directly, to protect yourself from potential changes to the internal representation of the `ORDVir` object.

### Pragma

```
PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES(getContent, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS)
```

### Exception

None.

### Example

A client accesses image data:

```
DECLARE
    Image ORDSYS.ORDVir;
    localData BLOB;
BEGIN
    SELECT large_photo INTO Image FROM emp
        WHERE ename = 'John Doe';
    -- get the image BLOB
```

```
    localData := Image.getContent;  
END;
```

---

## getContentFormat Method

### Format

getContentFormat RETURN VARCHAR2;

### Description

Returns the format of an image (such as monochrome or 8-bit grayscale). This method does not actually read the image; it is a simple access method that returns the value of the contentFormat attribute.

### Parameter

None.

### Usage

Use this method rather than accessing the contentFormat attribute directly to protect yourself from potential changes to the internal representation of the ORDVir object.

### Pragma

PRAGMA RESTRICT\_REFERENCES(getContentFormat, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS)

### Exception

None.

### Example

Get the type of an image:

```
imgb1      ORDSYS.ORDVir;  
contentFormat VARCHAR2(4000);  
  
...  
contentFormat := imgb1.getContentFormat;
```

## getContentLength() Method

### Description

Returns the length of the image data content stored in the source. This method does not actually read the image; it is a simple access method that returns the value of the `contentLength` attribute.

### Format

`getContentLength` RETURN INTEGER;

### Parameter

None.

### Usage

Use this method rather than accessing the `contentLength` attribute directly, to protect yourself from potential changes to the internal representation of the `ORDVir` object.

### Pragma

PRAGMA RESTRICT\_REFERENCES(`getContentLength`, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS)

### Exception

None.

### Example

Get the length of the image data content stored in the source:

```
imgbl          ORDSYS.ORDVir;  
contentLength INTEGER;  
  
...  
contentLength := imgbl.getContentLength;
```

---

## getFileFormat() Method

### Format

getFileFormat RETURN VARCHAR2;

### Description

Returns the file type of an image (such as TIFF or JFIF). This method does not actually read the image; it is a simple access method that returns the value of the fileFormat attribute.

### Parameter

None.

### Usage

Use this method rather than accessing the fileFormat attribute directly to protect yourself from potential changes to the internal representation of the ORDVir object.

### Pragma

PRAGMA RESTRICT\_REFERENCES(getFileFormat, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS)

### Exception

None.

### Example

Get the file type of an image:

```
imgb1      ORDSYS.ORDVir;  
fileFormat VARCHAR2(4000);  
  
...  
fileFormat := imgb1.getFileFormat;
```

## getHeight() Method

### Format

```
getHeight RETURN INTEGER;
```

### Description

Returns the height of an image in pixels. This method does not actually read the image; it is a simple accessor method that returns the value of the height attribute.

### Parameter

None.

### Usage

Use this method rather than accessing the height attribute directly to protect yourself from potential changes to the internal representation of the ORDVir object.

### Pragma

```
PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES(getHeight, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS)
```

### Exception

None.

### Example

Get the height of an image:

```
imgbl ORDSYS.ORDVir;  
height INTEGER;  
  
...  
height := imgbl.getHeight;
```

## getMimeType() Method

### Format

```
getMimeType RETURN VARCHAR2;
```

### Description

Returns the MIME (Multipurpose Internet Mail Exchange) type of an image (such as image/jpeg or image/gif). This method does not actually read the image, it is a simple access method that returns the value of the mimeType attribute.

### Parameter

None.

### Usage

Use this method to obtain the MIME type of the image. The MIME type is required by Web browsers along with image content. It tells the web browser how to interpret the image.

For unrecognizable formats, you must call the setMimeType() method and specify the appropriate MIME type.

See Appendix A for the MIME type associated with each supported file type.

### Pragma

```
PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES(getMimeType, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS)
```

### Exception

None.

### Example

Return the MIME media type:

```
imgb1      ORDSYS.ORDVir;  
mimeType   VARCHAR2(4000);  
  
...  
mimeType := imgb1.getMimeType;
```

## getSignature() Method

---

### Format

getSignature RETURN RAW;

### Description

Returns the signature of an image. This method does not actually create the image signature, it is a simple access method that returns the contents of the signature attribute.

### Parameter

None.

### Usage

Use this method rather than accessing the signature attribute directly to protect yourself from potential changes to the internal representation of the ORDVir object.

### Pragma

None.

### Exception

None.

### Example

Get the signature of an image:

```
virbl   ORDSYS.ORDVir;  
signature RAW(2000);  
  
...  
signature := virbl.getSignature;
```

---

## getSource() Method

### Format

getSource RETURN VARCHAR2;

### Description

Returns information about the external location of the image data in URL format.

### Parameter

None.

### Usage

The possible return values for this method are:

- file://<DIR OBJECT NAME>/<FILE NAME>
- HTTP://<URL>
- <user-defined\_type>://<user\_defined\_location>/<user\_defined\_name>

### Pragma

PRAGMA RESTRICT\_REFERENCES(getSource, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS)

### Exception

None.

### Example

Get the source of the image data:

```
DECLARE
    Image ORDSYS.ORDVir;
    SourceInfo VARCHAR2(4000);
BEGIN
    SELECT large_photo INTO Image FROM emp
    WHERE ename = 'John Doe';
    -- get the image source information
    SourceInfo := Image.getSource;
END;
```

## getSourceLocation() Method

### Format

getSourceLocation RETURN VARCHAR2;

### Description

Returns a formatted string containing the external image data source location.

### Parameter

None.

### Usage

This method returns a VARCHAR2 string formatted as <location> for the current value of the srcLocation attribute.

### Pragma

PRAGMA RESTRICT\_REFERENCES(getSourceLocation, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS)

### Exception

INCOMPLETE\_SOURCE\_LOCATION -- raised if the location is not set in the image object.

### Example

Get the source information about an image data source location:

```
DECLARE
    Image ORDSYS.ORDVir;
    SourceLocation VARCHAR2(4000);
BEGIN
    SELECT large_photo INTO Image FROM emp
        WHERE ename = 'John Doe';

    -- get the image source location
    SourceLocation := Image.getSourceLocation;
END;
```

---

## getSourceName() Method

### Format

getSourceName RETURN VARCHAR2;

### Description

Returns a string containing the name of the external image data source.

### Parameter

None.

### Usage

This method returns a VARCHAR2 string containing the name of the external data source, for example, 'testing.dat' .

### Pragma

PRAGMA RESTRICT\_REFERENCES(getSourceName, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS)

### Exception

INCOMPLETE\_SOURCE\_NAME -- raised if the srcName is not set in the image object.

### Example

Get the source name information about an image data source:

```
DECLARE
    Image ORDSYS.ORDVir;
    SourceName VARCHAR2(4000);
BEGIN
    SELECT large_photo INTO Image FROM emp
        WHERE ename = 'John Doe';

    -- get the image source name
    SourceName := Image.getSourceName;
END;
/
```

## getSourceType() Method

### Format

```
getSourceType RETURN VARCHAR2;
```

### Description

Returns a string containing the type of the external data source.

### Parameter

None.

### Usage

This method returns a VARCHAR2 string containing the type of the external image data source, for example, 'FILE'.

### Pragma

```
PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES(getSourceType, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS)
```

### Exception

None.

### Example

Get the source type information about an image data source:

```
DECLARE
    Image ORDSYS.ORDVir;
    SourceType VARCHAR2(4000);
BEGIN
    SELECT large_photo INTO Image FROM emp
        WHERE ename = 'John Doe';

    -- get the image source type
    SourceType := Image.getSourceType;
END;
/
```

---

## getUpdateTime() Method

### Format

getUpdateTime RETURN DATE;

### Description

Returns the time when the image was last updated.

### Parameter

None.

### Usage

None.

### Pragma

PRAGMA RESTRICT\_REFERENCES(getUpdateTime, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS)

### Exception

None.

### Example

Get the updated time of some image data:

```
DECLARE
    Image          ORDSYS.ORDVir;
    UpdateTime    DATE;
BEGIN
    SELECT large_photo INTO Image FROM emp
        WHERE ename = 'John Doe';
    -- get the image update time
    UpdateTime := Image.getUpdateTime;
END;
/
```

## getWidth() Method

---

### Format

getWidth RETURN INTEGER;

### Description

Returns the width of an image in pixels. This method does not actually read the image; it is a simple access method that returns the value of the width attribute.

### Parameter

None.

### Usage

Use this method rather than accessing the width attribute directly to protect yourself from potential changes to the internal representation of the ORDVir object.

### Pragma

PRAGMA RESTRICT\_REFERENCES(getWidth, WNDS, WNPS, RNDS, RNPS)

### Exception

None.

### Example

Get the width of an image:

```
imgbl  ORDSYS.ORDVir;  
width  INTEGER;  
  
...  
width := imgbl.getWidth;
```

---

## import() Method

### Format

```
import(ctx IN OUT RAW);
```

### Description

Transfers image data from an external image data source to a local source (local-Data) within an Oracle database.

### Parameter

#### **ctx**

Specifies the source plug-in context information. The ctx structure must be allocated, and you must call the source.open() method. See the beginning of this chapter for more information.

### Usage

Use the setSource() method to set the external source type, location, and name, prior to calling the import() method.

After importing data from an external image data source to a local source (within an Oracle database), the source information remains unchanged (that is, it points to the source from where the data was imported).

Invoking this method implicitly calls the setUpdateTime() and setLocal methods.

If the file format of the imported image is native, the setProperties() method is also called.

Whenever you import or export images with signature data between platforms, you should use the convert() method to ensure that the signature is in the correct format.

### Pragma

None.

## Exceptions

- `INCOMPLETE_SOURCE_INFORMATION` --raised if the value of `srcType` is 'NULL'.
- `NULL_SOURCE` -- raised if the value of `BLOB` is 'NULL'.
- `METHOD_NOT_SUPPORTED` -- raised if the `import()` method is not supported by the source plug-in being used.

## Example

Import image data from an external image data source into the local source:

```
DECLARE
    Image ORDSYS.ORDVir;
    ctx RAW(4000) := NULL;
BEGIN
    -- select the image to be imported
    SELECT large_photo INTO Image FROM emp
           WHERE ename = 'John Doe' FOR UPDATE;

    -- import the image into the database
    Image.import(ctx);
END;
/
```

---

## importFrom() Method

### Format

```
importFrom(ctx          IN OUT RAW,  
           source_type  IN VARCHAR2,  
           source_location IN VARCHAR2,  
           source_name   IN VARCHAR2);
```

### Description

Transfers image data from the specified external image data source to a local source (localData) within an Oracle database.

### Parameters

**ctx**

Specifies the source plug-in context information. The ctx structure must be allocated, and you must call the source.open() method. See the beginning of this chapter for more information.

**source\_type**

Specifies the source type of the image data.

**source\_location**

Specifies the location from which the image data is to be imported.

**source\_name**

Specifies the name of the image data.

### Usage

This method is similar to the import() method except the source information is specified within the method instead of separately.

After importing data from an external image data source to a local source (within an Oracle database), the source information remains unchanged (that is, it points to the source from where the data was imported).

Invoking this method implicitly calls the `setUpdateTime()` and `setLocal` methods. If the file format of the imported image is natively supported, the `setProperty()` method is also called.

Whenever you import or export images with signature data between platforms, you should use the `convert()` method to ensure that the signature is in the correct format.

## Pragma

None.

## Exception

None.

## Example

Import image data from the specified external data source into the local source:

```
DECLARE
    Image ORDSYS.ORDVir;
    ctx RAW(4000):=NULL;
BEGIN
    -- select the image to be imported
    SELECT large_photo INTO Image FROM emp
        WHERE ename = 'John Doe' FOR UPDATE;

    -- import the image into the database
    Image.importFrom(ctx,
        'file',
        'ORDIMGDIR',
        'jdoe.gif');

    UPDATE emp SET large_photo = Image WHERE ename = 'John Doe';
END;
/
```

---

## isLocal() Method

### Format

isLocal RETURN BOOLEAN;

### Description

Returns the current value of the local flag, indicating whether or not the data is stored locally.

### Parameter

None.

### Usage

A value of TRUE means the data is local to the database. A value of FALSE means the data is external to the database.

### Pragma

Pragma RESTRICT\_REFERENCES(isLocal, WNDS, WNPS,RNDS,RNPS)

### Exception

None.

### Example

**Determine whether or not data is local:**

```
DECLARE
    Image ORDSYS.ORDVir;
BEGIN
    SELECT large_photo INTO Image FROM emp WHERE ename = 'John Doe';
    -- check to see if image is stored locally
    IF Image.isLocal THEN
        DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Image is stored locally');
    ELSE
        DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Image is stored externally');
    END IF;
END;
```

## migrateFromORDVirB() Method

### Format

```
migrateFromORDVirB(old_object ORDVirB);
```

### Description

Allows you to migrate old ORDVirB images to the new ORDVir object type.

### Parameter

**old\_object**  
The old ORDVirB image.

### Usage

This method copies images from the source BLOB to the destination BLOB, copies all image attributes from the old object to the new object, and sets the update time and local attribute.

### Pragma

None.

### Exceptions

- NULL\_SOURCE -- raised if src(old\_object) is NULL.
- NULL\_DESTINATION -- raised if destination ORDVir is NULL.
- NULL\_CONTENT -- raised if old object content attribute is NULL.
- NULL\_LOCAL\_DATA -- raised if destination ORDVir source.localData is NULL.

### Example

Migrate an old ORDVirB image to a new ORDVir image:

```
DECLARE
  image ORDSYS.ORDVir;
  old_image ORDSYS.ORDVirB;
BEGIN
```

```
-- Select the old image
SELECT imageb INTO old_image FROM old_images WHERE id = 1;

-- Select the new image
SELECT large_photo INTO Image FROM emp WHERE ename = 'John Doe' FOR UPDATE;

-- Migrate from the old to the new
Image.migrateFromORDVirB(old_image);

UPDATE emp SET large_photo = Image WHERE ename = 'John Doe';
END;
/
```

## migrateFromORDVirF() Method

### Format

```
migrateFromORDVirF(old_object ORDVirF);
```

### Description

Allows you to migrate old ORDVirF images to the new ORDVir object type.

### Parameter

**old\_object**  
The old ORDVirF image.

### Usage

Extracts the directory name and file name from the source image and copies them to the srcLocation and SrcName attributes of the destination image. This method copies all image attributes from the old object to the new object, sets the update time, and clears the local attribute.

### Pragma

None.

### Exception

None.

### Example

Migrate an old ORDVirF image to a new ORDVir image:

```
DECLARE
    Image ORDSYS.ORDVir;
    old_image ORDSYS.ORDVirF;
BEGIN
    -- Select the old image
    SELECT imagef INTO old_image FROM old_images WHERE id = 1;

    -- Select the new image
```

```
SELECT large_photo INTO Image FROM emp WHERE ename = 'John Doe' FOR UPDATE;

-- Migrate from the old to the new
Image.migrateFromORDVirF(old_image);

UPDATE emp SET large_photo = Image WHERE ename = 'John Doe';
END;
/
```

---

## process() Method

### Format

```
process(command IN VARCHAR2);
```

### Description

Performs one or more image processing techniques on a BLOB, writing the image back onto itself.

### Parameter

#### **command**

A list of image processing changes to make for the image.

### Usage

You can change one or more of the image attributes shown in Table 4-5. Table 4-6 shows additional changes that can be made only to raw pixel and foreign images.

**Table 4-5 Image Processing Operators**

Operator Name	Usage	Values
compressionFormat	Compression type/format	JPEG, SUNRLE, BMPRLE, TARGARLE, LZW, LZWHDIFF, FAX3, FAX4, HUFFMAN3, Packbits, GIFLZW
compressionQuality	Compression quality	MAXCOMPRATIO, MAXINTEGRITY, LOWCOMP, MEDCOMP, HIGHCOMP
contentFormat	Imagetype/pixel/data format	MONOCHROME, 8BITGRAYSCALE, 8BITGREYSCALE, 8BITLUT, 24BITRGB
cut	Window to cut or crop (origin.x origin.y width height)	(Integer Integer Integer Integer) maximum value is 65535
fileFormat	File format of the image	BMPE, CALS, GIFF, JFIF, PICT, RASE, RPIX, TGAF, TIFF
fixedScale	Scale to a specific size in pixels (Width, Height)	(INTEGER INTEGER)

**Table 4–5 Image Processing Operators (Cont.)**

Operator Name	Usage	Values
maxScale	Scale to a specific size in pixels, while maintaining the aspect ratio (maxWidth, maxHeight)	(INTEGER INTEGER)
scale	Scale factor (for example, 0.5 or 2.0)	<FLOAT> positive
xScale	X-axis scale factor (default is 1)	<FLOAT> positive
yScale	Y-axis scale factor (default is 1)	<FLOAT> positive

**Table 4–6 Additional Image Processing Operators for Raw Pixel and Foreign Images**

Operator Name	Usage	Values
ChannelOrder	Indicates the relative position of the red, green, and blue channels (bands) within the image.	RGB (default), RBG, GRB, GBR, BRG, BGR
InputChannels	For multiband images, specify either one (grayscale) or three integers indicating which channels to assign to red (first), green (second), and blue (third). Note that this parameter affects the source image, not the destination.	INTEGER or INTEGER INTEGER INTEGER
Interleave	Controls band layout within the image: Band Interleaved by Pixel Band Interleaved by Line Band Sequential	BIP (default), BIL, BSQ
PixelOrder	If NORMAL, then the leftmost pixel appears first in the image.	NORMAL (default), REVERSE
ScanlineOrder	If NORMAL, then the top scanline appears first in the image.	NORMAL (default), INVERSE

---

**Note:** When specifying values that include floating-point numbers, you must use double quotation marks (") around the value. If you do not, this may result in incorrect values being passed and you will get incorrect results.

---

There is no `implicit import()` or `importFrom()` call performed when you call this method; if data is external, you must first call `import()` or `importFrom()` to make the data local before you can process it.

Implicit `setProperty()`, `setUpdateTime()`, and `setMimeType()` methods are performed after the `process()` method is called.

Note that because you are changing the object, you must have the appropriate write access to the table. Also, you must select the object for update.

See Appendix C for complete descriptions of the `process()` operators.

## Pragma

None.

## Exception

`DATA_NOT_LOCAL` -- raised if data is not local or `source.localData` is `NULL`.

## Example

Change the file format of `image1` to GIF:

```
SELECT photo INTO image1 FROM ordimgtab FOR UPDATE
image1.process('fileFormat=GIFF');
```

Change `image1` to use lower quality JPEG compression and double the length of the image along the X-axis:

```
image1.process('compressionFormat=JPEG, compressionQuality=LOWCOMP,
xScale="2.0"');
```

Note that changing the length on only one axis (for example, `xScale=2.0`) does not affect the length on the other axis, and would result in image distortion. Also, only the `xScale` and `yScale` parameters can be combined in a single operation. Any other combinations of scaling operators result in an error.

The `maxScale` and `fixedScale` operators are especially useful for creating thumbnail images for use on a Web site from various-sized originals. The following line creates a 32-by-32 pixel thumbnail image, preserving the original aspect ratio:

```
image1.process(maxScale="32 32");
```

---

## processCopy() Method

### Format

```
processCopy(command IN VARCHAR2,  
             dest IN OUT NOCOPY ORDVir);
```

### Description

Copies an image stored internally or externally to another image stored internally as a BLOB.

### Parameters

**command**

A list of image processing changes to make for the image in the new copy.

**dest**

The destination of the new image.

### Usage

- See Table 4–5, “Image Processing Operators” and Table 4–6, “Additional Image Processing Operators for Raw Pixel and Foreign Images”. See Appendix C for complete descriptions of the processCopy() operators.
- You cannot specify the same BLOB as both the source and destination.
- Calling this method processes the image into the destination BLOB from any source (local or external).
- The destination source must be initialized prior to calling this method.
- The destination image must be local.
- Implicit setProperties(), setUpdateTime(), and setMimeType() methods are done after the processCopy() method is called.

### Pragma

None.

## Exceptions

NULL\_DESTINATION -- raised if the value of dest is NULL.

NULL\_LOCAL\_DATA -- raised if source.localData is NULL and source.isLocal is 1. Also raised if dest.source.localData is NULL.

DATA\_NOT\_LOCAL -- raised if the destination image is not local.

## Example

Copy an image, changing the file format, compression format, and data format in the destination image:

```
create or replace procedure copyit is
  imgB1      ORDSYS.ORDVIR;
  imgB4      ORDSYS.ORDVIR;
  mycommand  VARCHAR2(400);
begin
  select col2 into imgB1 from ordimgtab where coll = 1;
  select col2 into imgB4 from ordimgtab where coll = 4 for update;
  command:= 'fileFormat=tiff compressionFormat = packbits
  contentFormat = 8bitlut';
  imgB1.processcopy(mycommand,imgB4);
  update ordimgtab set col2 = imgB4 where coll = 4;
end;
```

## setLocal Method

---

### Format

```
setLocal;
```

### Description

Sets the local attribute to indicate that the data is stored internally in a BLOB. When local is set, image methods look for image data in the source.localData attribute.

### Parameter

None.

### Usage

This method sets the local attribute to "1," meaning the data is stored locally in localData.

### Pragma

None.

### Exception

NULL\_LOCAL\_DATA -- raised if source.localData is NULL.

### Example

Indicate that the image is stored locally:

```
DECLARE
    Image ORDSYS.ORDVir;
BEGIN
    SELECT large_photo INTO Image FROM emp WHERE ename = 'John Doe' FOR UPDATE;

    -- set local so we look for the image in the database
    Image.setLocal;

    UPDATE emp SET large_photo = Image WHERE ename = 'John Doe';
END;
/
```

---

## setMimeType() Method

### Format

```
setMimeType(mime IN VARCHAR2);
```

### Description

Allows you to set the MIME media type of the stored image data.

### Parameter

**mime**  
The MIME media type.

### Usage

You can override the automatic setting of MIME information by calling this method with a specified MIME value.

Visual Information Retrieval cannot automatically set the MIME type of foreign images. You must use this method to set the MIME type for foreign images.

### Pragma

None.

### Exception

None.

### Example

Set the MIME media type for some stored image data:

```
DECLARE
    Image ORDSYS.ORDVir;
BEGIN
    SELECT large_photo INTO Image FROM emp FOR UPDATE
    WHERE ename = 'John Doe';
    -- set the image mime type
    Image.setMimeType('image/bmp');
END;
```

---

## setProperty() Method

### Format

```
setProperty;
```

### Description

Reads the image data to get the values of the object attributes, then stores them in the appropriate attribute fields. The image data can be stored in the database in a BLOB, or externally in a BFILE or URL. If the data is stored externally in anything other than a BFILE, the data is read into a temporary BLOB in order to determine image characteristics.

This method should not be called for foreign images. Use the `setProperty(description)` method for foreign images.

### Parameter

None.

### Usage

After you have copied, stored, or processed a native format image, call this method to set the current characteristics of the new content. Note that some methods already call `setProperty()` implicitly.

This procedure sets the following information about an image:

- Height in pixels
- Width in pixels
- Data size of the image in bytes
- File type (TIFF, JFIF, and so forth)
- Image type (monochrome, 8-bit grayscale, and so forth)
- Compression type (JPEG, LZW, and so forth)
- MIME type (generated based on the file format)

This method implicitly sets the update time and MIME type.

## Pragma

None.

## Exception

`NULL_LOCAL_DATA` -- raised if the `source.localData` attribute is `NULL` and the `source.local` attribute indicates the data is local.

## Example

Select the image, and then set the attributes using the `setProperties` method.

```
imgB1 ORDSYS.ORDVir;  
.  
.  
.  
select col2 into imgB1 from ordimgtab where col1 = 1 for update;  
imgB1.setProperties;  
dbms_output.put_line('image width = '|| imgB1.getWidth );  
dbms_output.put_line('image height = '|| imgB1.getHeight );  
dbms_output.put_line('image size = '|| imgB1.getContentLength );  
dbms_output.put_line('image file type = '|| imgB1.getFileFormat );  
dbms_output.put_line('image type = '|| imgB1.getContentFormat );  
dbms_output.put_line('image compression = '|| imgB1.getCompressionFormat );  
dbms_output.put_line('image MIME type = '|| imgB1.getMimeType );
```

### Example output:

```
image width = 360  
image height = 490  
image size = 59650  
image file type = JFIF  
image type = 24BITRGB  
image compression = JPEG  
image MIME type = image/jpeg
```

---

## setProperty() Method for Foreign Images

### Format

```
setProperty(description IN VARCHAR2);
```

### Description

Allows you to write the characteristics of a foreign image (one not natively supported) into the appropriate attribute fields.

This method does not set the MIME type attribute. You must explicitly call the `setMimeType()` method to set the MIME type for foreign images.

### Parameter

**description**

The image characteristics to set for the foreign image.

### Usage

---

---

**Note:** Once you have set the properties for a foreign image, it is up to you to keep the properties consistent. If Visual Information Retrieval detects an unknown file format, it will not implicitly set the properties.

---

---

After you have copied, stored, or processed a foreign image, call this method to set the characteristics of the new image content. Unlike the native image types described in Appendix A, foreign (or headerless) images either do not contain information on how to interpret the bits in the file or Visual Information Retrieval does not understand the information. In this case, you must set the information explicitly.

You can set the following image characteristics for foreign images, as shown in Table 4-7.

**Table 4-7 Image Characteristics for Headerless Files**

Field	Data Type	Description
CompressionFormat	STRING	Value must be CCITG3, CCITG4, or NONE (default).
DataOffset	INTEGER	The offset allows the image to have a header that Visual Information Retrieval does not try to interpret. Set the offset to avoid any potential header. The value must be a positive integer less than the LOB length. Default is zero.
DefaultChannelSelection	INTEGER	For multiband images, specify either one (grayscale) or three integers indicating which channels to assign to red (first), green (second), and blue (third)
Height	INTEGER	Height of the image in pixels. Value must be a positive integer. There is no default, and a value must be specified.
Interleaving	STRING	Band layout within the image. Valid styles are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ BIP (default): Band Interleaved by Pixel</li> <li>■ BIL: Band Interleaved by Line</li> <li>■ BSQ: Band Sequential</li> </ul>
NumberOfBands	INTEGER	Value must be a positive integer less than 255 describing the number of color bands in the image. Default is 3.
PixelOrder	STRING	If NORMAL (default), the leftmost pixel appears first in the file. If REVERSE, the rightmost pixel appears first.
ScanlineOrder	STRING	If NORMAL (default), the top scanline appears first in the file. If INVERSE, then the bottom scanline appears first.
UserString	STRING	A 4-character descriptive string. If used, the string is stored in the fileFormat field, appended to the file format ("OTHER:"). Default is blank and fileFormat is set to "OTHER".
Width	INTEGER	Width of the image in pixels. Value must be a positive integer. There is no default, and a value must be specified.

Note that this method does not set the MIME type attribute. You must set the MIME type explicitly using the setMimeType() method.

The values supplied to `setProperty()` are written to the existing `ORDVir` data attributes. The `fileFormat` is set to 'OTHER' and includes the user string, if supplied, for example, 'OTHER: DICOM'.

## Pragma

None.

## Exception

`NULL_PROPERTIES_DESCRIPTION` -- raised if the description is `NULL`.

## Example

Select the foreign image and then set the properties for the image:

```
DECLARE
  Image ORDSYS.ORDVIR;
BEGIN
  SELECT large_photo INTO Image FROM emp
     WHERE ename = 'John Doe' FOR UPDATE;
  -- set property attributes for the image data
  Image.setProperty('width=123 height=321 compressionFormat=NONE' ||
                   ' userString=DJM dataOffset=128' ||
                   ' scanlineOrder=INVERSE pixelOrder=REVERSE' ||
                   ' interleaving=BIL numberOfBands=1' ||
                   ' defaultChannelSelection=1');
  UPDATE emp SET large_photo = Image WHERE ename = 'John Doe';
END;
/
```

## setSource() Method

---

### Format

```
setSource(source_type    IN VARCHAR2,  
          source_location IN VARCHAR2,  
          source_name     IN VARCHAR2);
```

### Description

Sets or alters information about the external source of the image data.

### Parameters

**source\_type**

Sets or alters the srcType attribute of the image data source.

**source\_location**

Sets or alters the srcLocation attribute of the image data source.

**source\_name**

Sets or alters the srcName attribute of the image data source.

### Usage

Users can use this method to set the image data source to a new external file or URL.

Calling this method implicitly calls the setUpdateTime() method.

### Pragma

None.

### Exception

None.

### Example

Set the source of the image data:

```
DECLARE
  Image ORDSYS.ORDVir;
BEGIN
  SELECT large_photo INTO Image FROM emp FOR UPDATE
    WHERE ename = 'John Doe';
  -- set source information for the image
  Image.setSource('file', 'ORDVIRDIR', 'jdoe.gif');
  UPDATE emp SET large_photo = Image WHERE ename = 'John Doe';
END;
/
```

---

## setUpdateTime() Method

### Format

```
setUpdateTime(current_time DATE);
```

### Description

Sets the time when the image data was last updated.

### Parameter

**current\_time**  
The updated time. Default is SYSDATE.

### Usage

Use this method whenever you modify the image data. The `process()`, `process-Copy()`, and `setProperties()` methods all call this method and `setMimeType()` implicitly.

### Pragma

None.

### Exception

None.

### Example

Set the updated time of some image data:

```
DECLARE
  Image ORDSYS.ORDVir;
BEGIN
  SELECT large_photo INTO Image FROM emp FOR UPDATE
  WHERE ename = 'John Doe';
  -- set image update time
  Image.setUpdateTime(SYSDATE);
  UPDATE emp SET large_photo = Image WHERE ename = 'John Doe';
END;
/
```

## 4.3 Operators for Visual Information Retrieval

The Visual Information Retrieval operators are located in the ORDSYS schema.

Two operators are located in the ORDSYS.VIR package:

- `Analyze()`: Produces the signature of an image.
- `Convert()`: Converts the signature to either big or little endian byte order based on the architecture of the host machine. This operator can also convert a Viisage facial signature to a signature usable by the `VIRScore()` and `VIRSimliar()` operators.

For ease of use, you can create a local synonym for the ORDSYS.VIR package. Connect to your schema and issue the following command:

```
SVRMGR> CREATE SYNONYM VIR FOR ORDSYS.VIR;
```

After creating the synonym, you can use it in calls to the operators: `VIR.Analyze()`, `VIR.Convert()`, and so forth. Note that you must have the default `CREATE SYNONYM` privilege.

Two additional operators are schema level operators and do not reside within the package. These operators use the domain index, if it exists.

- `ORDSYS.VIRSimilar()`: Compares two signatures and determines whether or not the images match, based on the weights and threshold. Returns 1 if the computed distance measure (weighted average) is less than or equal to the threshold value, and otherwise returns 0.
- `ORDSYS.VIRScore()`: Returns the score value computed by the primary operator, `VIRSimilar()`. `VIRScore()` is an ancillary operator to `VIRSimilar()`.

## Analyze() Operator

### Format

```
Analyze(image IN OUT ORDVir);
```

### Description

Analyzes an image, derives information relating to the visual attributes, and creates the image signature.

### Parameter

**image**

The ORDVir object to be analyzed.

### Usage

The Analyze() operator creates the image signature (or feature vector), which is necessary for any content-based retrieval. Whenever you are working with a new or changed image, you should call Analyze() to generate a signature and then use the setProperties() method to set the other image characteristics.

Signatures for facial images can be created using an optional third-party software package from Viisage Technology, Inc. After creating a facial signature, Visual Information Retrieval can convert the signature to a standard format using the Convert() operator and then compare the signatures using the VIRScore() and VIRSimilar() operators.

During analysis, images are temporarily scaled to a common size such that the signatures are based on a common reference.

### Example

Create the signatures for all images in the stockphotos table:

```
DECLARE
  temp_image  ORDSYS.ORDVir;
  temp_id     INTEGER;
  cursor c1 is select id, image from stockphotos for update;
BEGIN
  OPEN c1;
  LOOP
```

```
        fetch c1 into temp_id, temp_image;
        EXIT WHEN c1%NOTFOUND;

-- Generate signature and set the properties for the image.
        ORDSYS.VIR.Analyze(temp_image);
        temp_image.setProperties;
        UPDATE stockphotos SET photo = temp_image WHERE photo_id = temp_id;
    END LOOP;
    CLOSE c1;
END;
```

---

## Convert() Operator

### Format

Convert(signature IN OUT RAW, operation IN VARCHAR2);

### Description

Converts the image signature to a format usable by the host machine.

### Parameters

#### **signature**

The signature of the image, as created by the Analyze() operator or by Viisage software. Data type is RAW(2000).

#### **operation**

The kind of processing done to the image signature. The following operations are available:

Operation Keyword	Description
BYTEORDER	Converts the signature to the natural byte order of the host machine.
VIISAGE	Converts the signature from the format used for Viisage facial images to a signature usable by the VIRScore() and VIRSimilar() operators.

### Usage

When the operation is BYTEORDER, the signature is converted to the format of the host machine regardless of its initial state.

This procedure is useful if the database is stored on a remote system, but you want to do your processing locally. If your host machine is from Sun Microsystems, Inc., the Convert() operator sets the signature to the big endian byte order. On an Intel Corporation machine, the operator converts the signature to the little endian byte order. Note that the images themselves are platform-independent; only the signatures need to be converted.

When the operator is VIISAGE, the signature is converted from the format used by Viisage Technology for facial image recognition to the format usable by this prod-

uct for VIRScore and VIRSimilar operations. Note that you cannot use a domain index with facial signatures.

## Example

Convert the signature of the image with `photo_id=1` to the platform of the host system:

```
DECLARE
    myimage ORDSYS.ORDVir;
    myid     INTEGER;
BEGIN
    SELECT photo INTO myimage FROM stockphotos WHERE photo_id=1 FOR UPDATE;
    ORDSYS.VIR.Convert(myimage.signature, 'BYTEORDER');
    UPDATE stockphotos SET photo=myimage WHERE photo_id=1;
END;
```

Convert the signatures of the image with `photo_id=1` from the format used for Viisage facial image recognition software to a signature usable by the `VIRScore()` and `VIRSimilar()` operators:

```
DECLARE
    myimage ORDSYS.ORDVir;
    myid     INTEGER;
BEGIN
    SELECT photo INTO myimage FROM stockphotos WHERE photo_id=1 FOR UPDATE;
    ORDSYS.VIR.Convert(myimage.signature, 'VIISAGE');
    UPDATE stockphotos SET photo=myimage WHERE photo_id=1;
END;
```

---

## VIRScore() Operator

### Format

VIRScore(referencetoSimilar IN NUMBER);

### Description

Compares the signatures of two images and returns a number representing the weighted sum of the distances for the visual attributes. VIRScore() is an ancillary operator, used only in conjunction with the primary operator, VIRSimilar().

### Parameter

#### **referencetoSimilar**

The corresponding invocation of VIRSimilar. If there are multiple invocations of VIRSimilar in the same query, this parameter is used to maintain reference. Data type is NUMBER.

### Returns

This function returns a FLOAT value between 0.0 and 100.0, where 0.0 is identical and 100.0 is totally different.

### Usage

Before the VIRScore() operator can be used, the image signatures must be created with the VIR.Analyze() operator. Also, if you want the comparison to use the domain index, the index of type ORDVirIDX must have already been created. See Section 2.4 for information on creating and using the index, and Section 3.7 for additional performance tips.

The VIRScore() operator can be useful when an application wants to make finer distinctions about matching than the simple "Yes" or "No" returned by VIRSimilar(). For example, using the number for weighted sum returned by VIRScore(), the application might assign each image being compared to one of several categories, such as Definite Matches, Probable Matches, Possible Matches, and Non-matches. The VIRScore() operator can also be useful if the application needs to perform special processing based on the degree of similarity between images.

The VIRScore() operator also works with old signatures stored using the deprecated ORDVirB and ORDVirF object types. However, Oracle recommends that you

migrate to the new object type using the `migrateFromORDVirF()` and `migrateFromORDVirB()` methods.

## Example

Find the weighted sum of the distances between a test image and the other images in the `stockphotos` table, using a threshold of 50 and the following weights for the visual attributes:

- Global color: 0.2
- Local color: 0.2
- Texture: 0.1
- Structure: 0.5

This example assumes that the signatures have already been created using the `Analyze()` operator and they are stored in the database. Notice that both `VIRScore` and `VIRSimilar` are using 123 as the reference number in this example.

```
DECLARE
  img_score      NUMBER;
  i              INTEGER;
  query_signature RAW(2000);

BEGIN
  SELECT photo_id, ORDSYS.VIRScore(123) INTO i, img_score FROM T WHERE
    ORDSYS.VIRSimilar(img.signature, query_signature,
      'globalcolor="0.2" localcolor="0.2"
      texture="0.1" structure="0.5"', 50, 123) = 1
END;
```

The following shows possible results from this example. The first image has the lowest score, and therefore is the best match of the test image. Changing the weights used in the scoring would lead to different results.

```
PHOTO_ID  SCORE
-----  -
          2    3.79988
          4   47.8139
2 rows selected.
```

---

## VIRSimilar() Operator

### Format

```
VIRSimilar(signature      IN RAW,  
           querysignature IN RAW,  
           weightstring   IN VARCHAR2,  
           threshold      IN FLOAT  
           [ ,referencetoScore IN NUMBER] );
```

where weightstring is: 'globalcolor="val" localcolor="val" texture="val" structure="val"  
or: 'facial=1'

### Description

Determines whether or not two images match. Specifically, the operator compares the signatures of two images, computes a weighted sum of the distance between the two images using user-supplied weight values for the visual attributes, compares the weighted sum with the threshold value, and returns the integer value 1 if the weighted sum is less than or equal to the threshold value. Otherwise, the operator returns 0.

### Parameters

#### **signature**

The signature of the image to which you are comparing the test image. Data type is RAW(2000). To use the domain index for the comparison, this first parameter must be the signature column on which the domain index has been created. Otherwise, Oracle8i uses the non-indexed implementation of query evaluation.

#### **querysignature**

The signature of the query or test image. Data type is RAW(2000).

#### **weightstring**

A list of weights to apply to each visual attribute. Data type is VARCHAR2. The following attributes can be specified, with a value of 0.0 specifying no importance and a value of 1.0 specifying highest importance. You must specify a value greater than

zero for at least one of the attributes. The facial attribute is not compatible with any of the other attributes.

Attribute	Description
globalcolor	The weight value (0.0 to 1.0) assigned to the global color visual attribute. Data type is number. Default is 0.0.
localcolor	The weight value (0.0 to 1.0) assigned to the local color visual attribute. Data type is number. Default is 0.0.
texture	The weight value (0.0 to 1.0) assigned to the texture visual attribute. Data type is number. Default is 0.0.
structure	The weight value (0.0 to 1.0) assigned to the structure visual attribute. Data type is number. Default is 0.0.
facial	A value of 1 indicates that this is a facial signature. Data type is number. Default is 0.0

---



---

**Note:** When specifying parameter values that include floating-point numbers, you should use double quotation marks ( " ") around the value. If you do not, this may result in incorrect values being passed and you will get incorrect results.

---



---

### threshold

The threshold value with which the weighted sum of the distances is to be compared. If the weighted sum is less than or equal to the threshold value, the images are considered to match. This range of this parameter is from 0.0 to 100.0.

### referencetoScore

An optional parameter used when ancillary data (score of similarity) is required elsewhere in the query. Set this parameter to the same value here as used in the VIR-Score operator. Data type is NUMBER.

## Returns

Returns an integer value of 0 (not similar) or 1 (match).

## Usage

Before the VIRSimilar() operator can be used, the image signatures must be created with the Analyze() operator. Also, to use the domain index, the index of type ORD-

VIRIDX must have already been created. See Section 2.4 for information on creating and using the index and Section 3.7 for additional performance tips.

The VIRSimilar() operator is useful when the application needs a simple "Yes" or "No" for whether or not two images match. The VIRScore() operator is useful when an application wants to make finer distinctions about matching or to perform special processing based on the degree of similarity between images.

The weights supplied for the four visual attributes are normalized prior to processing such that they add up to 100 percent. To avoid confusion and meaningless results, you should develop a habit of always using the same scale, whether 0 to 100 or 0.0 to 1.0.

You must specify at least one of the four image attributes or the facial attribute in the weightstring. Note that facial signatures cannot be indexed.

The VIRSimilar() operator also works with old signatures stored using the deprecated ORDVirB and ORDVirF object types. However, Oracle recommends that you migrate to the new object type using the migrateFromORDVirF() and migrateFromORDVirB() methods.

## Example

Using the VIR index, find all images similar to the query image using a threshold value of 25 and the following weights for the visual attributes:

- Global color: 20
- Local color: 20
- Texture: 10
- Structure: 50

This example assumes you have already used the Analyze() operator to generate a signature for the query image. If an index exists on the signature column, it will be used automatically.

```
DECLARE
  t_img ORDSYS.ORDVIR;
  i      INTEGER;
  query_signature RAW(2000);
BEGIN
  SELECT id, img INTO i, t_img FROM T WHERE
    ORDSYS.VIRSimilar(t_img.signature, query_signature,
      'globalcolor="20" localcolor="20"
      texture="10" structure="50"', 25) = 1;
END;
```

# File and Compression Formats

## A.1 Supported File and Compression Formats

The following tables describe the file and compression formats supported by Visual Information Retrieval.

To use these tables, find the data format in which you are interested, and then determine the supported formats. For example, Table A-1 shows that Visual Information Retrieval supports BMP format in monochrome, for read and write access, and in 32-bit RGB for read access.

**Table A-1 BMP Data Format**

<b>Format</b>	<b>Pixel Format</b>	<b>Support</b>
<b>BMP</b>  File Format: 'BMPF' File Ext: .bmp Mime: image/bmp	Monochrome	Read/Write
	4-bit LUT	Read
	8-bit LUT	Read/Write
	16-bit RGB	Read
	24-bit RGB	Read/Write
	32-bit RGB	Read
	<b>Compression Format</b>	<b>Support</b>
Choose one of these compression formats:	Uncompressed	Read/Write
	BMPRLE (for 8-bit LUT)	Read/Write
	<b>Data Description</b>	<b>Support</b>
Choose one or more of these content formats:	Inverse DIB	Read
	OS/2 format	Read

**Table A-2 CALS Raster Data Format**

<b>Format</b>	<b>Pixel Format</b>	<b>Support</b>
<b>CALS Raster</b> File Format: 'CALs' File Ext: .cal Mime: image/x-ora-cals	Monochrome	Read/Write
	<b>Compression Format</b>	<b>Support</b>
	FAX4 (CCITT G4)	Read/Write
	<b>Data Description</b>	<b>Support</b>
	NA	NA

**Table A-3 GIF Data Format**

<b>Format</b>	<b>Pixel Format</b>	<b>Support</b>
<b>GIF</b> File Format: 'GIFF' File Ext: .gif Mime: image/gif NOTE: <i>interMedia</i> image has limited support for animated GIF images; there is <code>setProperty()</code> support; however, processing using the <code>process()</code> and <code>processCopy()</code> (or <code>Analyze</code> ) methods is not supported.	Monochrome 8-bit LUT	Read Read/Write
	<b>Compression Format</b>	<b>Support</b>
	GIFLZW (LZW)	Read/Write
	<b>Data Description</b>	<b>Support</b>
	NA	NA

**Table A-4 JFIF Data Format**

<b>Format</b>	<b>Pixel Format</b>	<b>Support</b>
<b>JFIF</b>  File Format: 'JFIF' File Ext: .jpg Mime: image/jpeg	8-bit grayscale	Read/Write
	24-bit RGB	Read/Write
	<b>Compression</b>	<b>Support</b>
	JPEG	Read/Write
	<b>Data Description</b>	<b>Support</b>
	NA	NA

**Table A-5 PCX Data Format**

<b>Format</b>	<b>Pixel Format</b>	<b>Support</b>
<b>PCX v 5</b>  File Format: 'PCXF' File Ext: .pcx Mime: image/x-ora-pcx	Monochrome	Read
	2-bit LUT	Read
	4-bit LUT	Read
	8-bit LUT	Read
	1-bit RGB	Read
	2-bit RGB	Read
	4-bit RGB	Read
	8-bit RGB	Read
	24-bit RGB	Read
	<b>Compression Format</b>	<b>Support</b>
	RLE	Read
	<b>Data Description</b>	<b>Support</b>
	NA	NA

**Table A-6 PICT Data Format**

<b>Format</b>	<b>Pixel Format</b>	<b>Support</b>
<b>PICT v. 1 &amp; 2</b>	Monochrome	Read/Write
	2-bit LUT	Read
File Format: 'PICT'	4-bit LUT	Read
File Ext: .pct	8-bit LUT	Read/Write
Mime: image/pict	16-bit RGB	Read
	24-bit RGB	Read/Write
	<b>Compression Format</b>	<b>Support</b>
Choose one of these compression formats:	Packbits	Read/Write
	JPEG (8-bit grayscale and RGB)	Read/Write
	<b>Data Description</b>	<b>Support</b>
Choose one or more of these content formats:	Vector/object graphics	Not supported

**Table A-7 Raw Pixel Data Format**

<b>Format</b>	<b>Pixel Format</b>	<b>Support</b>
<b>Raw Pixel</b>	Monochrome	Read/Write
File Format: 'RPIX'	8-bit grayscale	Read/Write
File Ext: .rpx	24-bit RGB	Read/Write
Mime: image/x-ora-rpix		
	<b>Compression Format</b>	<b>Support</b>
Choose one of these compression formats:99	Uncompressed	Read/Write 8-bit grayscale and RGB
	FAX3 (CCITT G3)	Read/Write mono-chrome only
	FAX4 (CCITT G4)	Read/Write mono-chrome only

**Table A-7 Raw Pixel Data Format (Cont.)**

	<b>Data Description</b>	<b>Support</b>
	Inverse scanline order	Read/Write
	Reverse pixel order	Read/Write
	BIP, BIL, or BSQ interleave	Read/Write
	Alternative band order	Read/Write
	>3 bands	Read

**Table A-8 Sun Raster Data Format**

<b>Format</b>	<b>Pixel Format</b>	<b>Support</b>
<b>Sun Raster</b>	Monochrome	Read/Write
	8-bit grayscale	Read/Write
File Format: 'RASf'	8-bit LUT	Read/Write
File Ext: .ras	24-bit RGB	Read/Write
Mime: image/x-ora-rasf		
	<b>Compression Format</b>	<b>Support</b>
Choose one of these compression formats:	Uncompressed	Read/Write
	SUNRLE (RLE)	Read/Write
	<b>Data Description</b>	<b>Support</b>
	NA	NA

**Table A-9 Targa Data Format**

<b>Format</b>	<b>Pixel Format</b>	<b>Support</b>
<b>Targa</b>  File Format: 'TGAF' File Ext: .tga Mime: image/x-ora-tgaf	8-bit grayscale	Read/Write
	8-bit LUT	Read/Write
	16-bit RGB	Read
	24-bit RGB	Read/Write
	32-bit RGB	Read
	<b>Compression Format</b>	<b>Support</b>
Choose one of these compression formats:	Uncompressed	Read/Write
	TARGARLE (RLE)	Read/Write
	<b>Data Description</b>	<b>Support</b>
	NA	NA

**Table A-10 TIFF Data Format**

<b>Format</b>	<b>Pixel Format</b>	<b>Support</b>
<b>TIFF v.4/5/6</b>	Monochrome	Read/Write
	8-bit grayscale	Read/Write
File Format: 'TIFF'	4 bit LUT	Read
File Ext: .tif	8-bit LUT	Read/Write
Mime: image/tiff	24-bit RGB	Read/Write
	<b>Compression Format</b>	<b>Support</b>
Choose one of these compression formats:	Uncompressed	Read/Write
	Packbits	Read/Write
	Huffman	Read/Write
	FAX3 (CCITT G3)	Read/Write
	FAX4 (CCITT G4)	Read/Write
	LZW	Read/Write
	LZWHDIFF	Read/Write
	JPEG (8-bit gray & RGB)	Read/Write
	<b>Data Description</b>	<b>Support</b>
Choose one or more of these content formats:	Planar data	Not supported
	Tiled data	Not supported
	Photometric interpretation	Read/Write
	MSB/LSB	Read/Write



---

## Sample Program

A sample program is included with Visual Information Retrieval to demonstrate how to load two images into the database, generate their signatures, and then compare their signatures using a weighted similarity function.

This program uses two data files, virdemo1.dat and virdemo2.dat, as its input. No other input or parameters are required.

### Environment

The following assumptions are made:

- Visual Information Retrieval has been installed and PUBLIC has EXECUTE privilege on it.
- Install script has been run. VIRDEMODIR directory has been created and granted PUBLIC READ access in order that the image data file can be read into the database.
- virdemo1.dat and virdemo2.dat are valid image files that reside in the VIRDEMODIR directory and the user has read/write access to the directory.
- User SCOTT has the default "TIGER" password. You may need to increase the tablespace allocated to Scott in order to successfully run this sample program.

### Running the Sample Program

There are two ways to run the sample program: using the included sample images, or using your own images.

Example B-1 runs the sample program using the included image files. The images are compared using equal attribute weights:

- Globalcolor = 1.0
- Localcolor = 1.0

- Texture = 1.0
- Structure = 1.0

### Example B-1 Run the Sample Program with Included Images

```
% virdemo  
Image 1 and 2 have a similarity score of 0.0
```

Example B-2 shows how to specify your own images on the command line. The images must reside in the <ORACLE\_HOME>/ord/vir/demo directory.

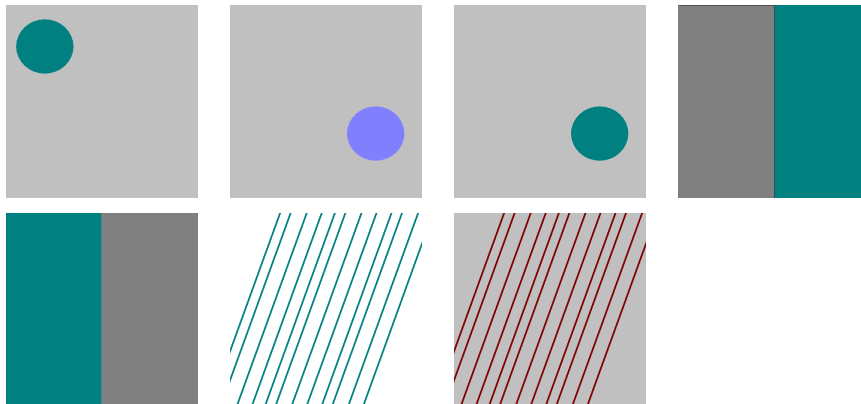
### Example B-2 Run the Sample Program with Your Own Images

```
% virdemo <image1> <image2> <global_color> <local_color> <texture> <structure>
```

All six parameters: the 2 file names and 4 attribute weights (ranging from 0.0 to 1.0) must be specified in this sample program. Note that when using the VIRScore() operator in your own applications, it is only necessary to provide at least one attribute weight.

Several other sample image files have been provided in the VIRDEMODIR directory to demonstrate the effects of emphasizing the different visual attributes. You can use an image viewer (such as xv) to display the images, and then compare them using the sample program, experimenting with different weights. Figure B-1 shows the sample images.

**Figure B-1 Sample Images in VIRDEMODIR**



---

## Understanding the Results

The relative distance between the images being compared is called the score and is output during the execution of the sample program. A lower score indicates a closer match. A score of zero would indicate a perfect match.

A score is valid only for a given set of weights for the four visual attributes. If you change the weights, the results will change. For example, consider a comparison of national flags. The flag of Cote d'Ivoire (the Ivory Coast) is composed of three equal vertical color stripes: orange, white, and green. The flag of Ireland is composed of three vertical stripes in the reverse order: green, white, and orange. A comparison of flag images based on global color or structure would consider these two flags identical. However, a comparison emphasizing local color would return a much larger distance between the two images, indicating a poor match<sup>1</sup>.

## Sample Program Source Code

The complete C language source code for the sample application is available in the <ORACLE\_HOME>/ord/vir/demo directory after installing Visual Information Retrieval. Note that the file specification may differ on your platform.

A small section of the program related to comparing images has been included here.

```
#ifndef RCSID
static char *RCSid =
"$Header: virdemo.c 18-nov-98.08:02:49 dmullen Exp $ ";
#endif /* RCSID */

/* Copyright (c) Oracle Corporation 1997, 1998. All Rights Reserved. */
/*

NAME
    virdemo.c - out-of-the-box demo using Oracle8i Visual Information
    Retrieval
.
.
.
/*
* -----
* test_1_vir = Analyze the contents of the BLOB and BFILE and return the
* score based on the weights assigned to the different features
```

---

<sup>1</sup>In the case of using Visual Information Retrieval for flag recognition, you would need to know which direction the flag was facing in the test images.

---

```

* -----
*/
sb4 test_l_vir(char *g_c, char * l_c, char * txtr, char * stre)
{
    float w_sum = -1.999; /* dummy value */
    text *sqlstmt = (text *)
        "DECLARE \
A          ORDSYS.ORDVir; \
B          ORDSYS.ORDVir; \
a_data    BFILE; \
b_data    BLOB; \
a_sig     RAW(2000);\
b_sig     RAW(2000);\
BEGIN \
SELECT FILEIMAGE INTO A FROM VIRDEMOTAB WHERE C1=1 FOR UPDATE;\
SELECT BLOBIMAGE INTO B FROM VIRDEMOTAB WHERE C1=2 FOR UPDATE;\
a_data := A.getBfile();\
b_data := B.getContent();\
ORDSYS.VIR.Analyze(a_data, a_sig);\
ORDSYS.VIR.Analyze(b_data, b_sig);\
:weighted_sum := ORDSYS.VIR.score(a_sig, b_sig, 'globalcolor=' || :g_color || ',
localcolor= ' || :l_col
or || ', texture=' || :texture || ', structure=' || :strct);\
END;";

```

---

# Process and ProcessCopy Operators

This appendix describes the command options, or “operators,” used in the process and processCopy methods.

The available operators fall into three broad categories, each described in its own section. Those categories are Section C.2, “Image Formatting Operators”, Section C.3, “Image Processing Operators”, and Section C.4, “Format-Specific Operators”. An additional section describes the relative order of these operators.

## C.1 Common Concepts

This section describes concepts common to all the image operators and the process() and processCopy() methods.

### C.1.1 Source and Destination Images

The process() and processCopy() methods operate on one image, called the “source image,” and produce another image, called the “destination image.” In the case of the process() method, the destination image is written into the same storage space as the source image, replacing it permanently. For the processCopy() method, the storage for the destination image is distinct from the storage for the source image.

### C.1.2 Process and ProcessCopy

The process() and processCopy() methods are functionally identical except for the fact that process() writes its output into the same BLOB from which it takes its input while processCopy() writes its output into a different BLOB. Their command string options are identical, and no distinction is drawn between them.

For the rest of this appendix, the names process() and processCopy() are used interchangeably, and the use of the name process implies both process() and processCopy(), unless explicitly noted otherwise.

### C.1.3 Operator and Value

All the `process()` operators appear in the command string in the form `<operator> = <value>`. No operator takes effect merely by being present in the command string. The right side of the expression is called the “value” of the operator, and determines how the operator will be applied.

### C.1.4 Combining Operators

In general, any number of operators can be combined in the command string passed into the `process()` method if the combination makes sense. However, certain operators are only supported if other operators are present or if other conditions are met. For example, the `compressionQuality` operator is only supported if the compression format of the destination image is JPEG. Other operators require that the source or destination image be a raw pixel or foreign image.

The flexibility in combining operators allows a single operation to change the format of an image, reduce or increase the number of colors, compress the data, and cut and/or scale the resulting image. This is highly preferable to making multiple calls to do each of these operations sequentially.

## C.2 Image Formatting Operators

At the most abstract level, the image formatting operators are used to change the layout of the data within the image storage. They do not change the semantic content of the image, and unless the source image contains more information than the destination image can store, they do not change the visual appearance of the image at all. Examples of a source image with more information than the destination image can store are:

- Converting a 24-bit image to an 8-bit image (too many bits per pixel)
- Converting a color image to a grayscale or monochrome image (too many color planes)
- Converting an uncompressed image, or an image stored in a lossless compression format to a lossy compression format (too much detail)

### C.2.1 FileFormat

The **FileFormat** operator determines the image file type, or format, of the output image. The value of this operator is a 4-character code that is a mnemonic for the new file format name. The list of allowable values for the file format operator is shown in Table 4–5. Appendix A contains basic information about each file format, including its mnemonic, typical file extension, allowable compression and content formats, and other notable features.

The value given to the file format operator is the single most important detail when specifying the output for `process()`. This value determines the range of allowable content and compression formats, whether or not compression quality will be useful, and whether or not the format specific operators will be useful.

If the file format operator is not used in the `process()` command string, Visual Information Retrieval will determine the file format of the source image and use that as the default file format value. If the file format of the source image does not support output, then an error will occur. If the source image is a foreign image then the output image will be written as raw pixel.

### C.2.2 ContentFormat

The **ContentFormat** operator determines the format of the image “content”. The content is taken to mean the number of colors supported by the image and the manner in which they are supported. Depending on which file format is used to store the output image, some or most of the content formats may not be supported.

The supported values for the ContentFormat operator fall into three broad classes with three additional special values. The actual mnemonics for these values are listed in Table 4–5.

The content formats whose names include “grayscale” or “greyscale” support only shades of gray. The differences between these content formats is how many shades are allowed. The “4bit” formats support 16 shades while the formats with “8bit” support 256 shades of gray. There is no distinction between “grayscale” and “greyscale.”

The content formats whose names include “LUT” use a color look-up table to support various colors. The “1bitlut” format allows two distinct colors, the “2bitlut” format supports 4 colors, the “4bitlut” supports 16 unique colors, and the “8bitlut” supports 256 colors.

The content formats whose names include “RGB” store the color values directly in the pixel data as a red, green, blue triplet. The number of bits of total RGB data is specified in the format name and individual formats allocate these bits to red, green, and blue in different ways. However, more bits of data allow for finer distinctions between different shades in any case. Not all bits are used by some image formats.

The “monochrome” content format allows only black and white to be stored, with no gray shades in between. The “raw” and “24bitplanar” formats are not currently supported.

If the `ContentFormat` operator is not passed to the `process()` method, then Visual Information Retrieval attempts to duplicate the content format of the source image, if it is supported by the file format of the destination image. Otherwise, a default content format is chosen depending on the destination file format.

### C.2.3 `CompressionFormat`

The **`CompressionFormat`** operator determines the compression algorithm used to compress the image data. The range of supported compression formats depends heavily upon the file format of the output image. Some file formats support but a single compression format, and some compression formats are only supported by one file format.

The supported values for the `CompressionFormat` operator are listed in Table 4–5.

All compression formats that include “RLE” in their mnemonic are “run-length encoding” compression schemes, and work well only for images that contain large areas of identical color. The “PACKBITS” compression type is a run-length encoding scheme that originates from the Macintosh system but is supported by other systems. It has limitations that are similar to other run-length encoding compression formats. Formats that contain “LZW” or “HUFFMAN” are more complex compression schemes that examine the image for redundant information and are more useful for a broader class of images. “FAX3” and “FAX4” are the CCITT Group 3 and Group 4 standards for compressing facsimile data and are useful only for monochrome images. All the compression formats mentioned in this paragraph are “lossless” compression schemes, which means that compressing the image does not discard data. An image compressed into a lossless format and then decompressed will look the same as the original image.

The “JPEG” compression format is a special case. Developed to compress photographic images, the JPEG format is a “lossy” format, which means that it compresses the image by discarding unimportant details. Because this format is optimized for compressing photographic and similarly complex images, it often produces poor results for other image types, such as line art images and images with large areas of similar color. JPEG is the only lossy compression scheme currently supported by Visual Information Retrieval.

If the `CompressionFormat` operator is not used, then Visual Information Retrieval will attempt to use the compression format of the source image if it is supported by the destination image file and content format. Otherwise, a default compression scheme is used depending on the destination file format. This default scheme is often “none” or “no compression.”

### C.2.4 CompressionQuality

The **CompressionQuality** operator determines the relative quality of an image compressed with a lossy compression format. This operator has no meaning for “lossless” compression formats, and hence is not currently supported for any compression format except JPEG.

The **CompressionQuality** operator accepts five values, ranging from most compressed image (lowest visual quality) to least compressed image (highest visual quality): “MAXCOMPRATIO”, “HIGHCOMP”, “MEDCOMP”, “LOWCOMP”, and “MAXINTEGRITY.” Using the “MAXCOMPRATIO” value allows the image to be stored in the smallest amount of space but may introduce visible aberrations into the image. Using the “MAXINTEGRITY” value keeps the resulting image more faithful to the original, but will require more space to store.

If the **CompressionQuality** operator is not supplied and the destination compression format supports compression quality control, the quality defaults to “MEDCOMP”.

## C.3 Image Processing Operators

The image processing operators supported by Visual Information Retrieval directly change the way the image looks on the display. The operators supported by Visual Information Retrieval represent only a fraction of all possible image processing operations, and are not intended for users performing intricate image analysis.

### C.3.1 Cut

The **Cut** operator is used to create a subset of the original image. The values supplied to the cut operator are the origin coordinates (x,y) of the cut window in the source image, and the width and height of the cut window in pixels. This operator is applied before any scaling that is requested.

If the **Cut** operator is not supplied, the entire source image is used.

### C.3.2 Scale

The **Scale** operator enlarges or reduces the image by the ratio given as the value for the operator. If the value is greater than 1.0, then the destination image will be scaled up (enlarged). If the value is less than 1.0, then the output will be scaled down (reduced). A scale value of 1.0 has no effect, but is not an error. No scaling is applied to the source image if the **Scale** operator is not passed to the `process()` method.

There are two scaling techniques used by Visual Information Retrieval. The first technique is “scaling by sampling” and is used only if the requested compression

quality is “MAXCOMPRATIO” or “HIGHCOMP,” or if the image is being scaled up in both dimensions. This scaling technique works by selecting the source image pixel that is closest to the pixel being computed by the scaling algorithm and using the color of that pixel. This technique is faster, but results in a poorer quality image.

The second scaling technique is “scaling by averaging,” and is used in all other cases. This technique works by selecting several pixels that are close to the pixel being computed by the scaling algorithm and computing the average color. This technique is slower but results in a better quality image.

If the Scale operator is not used, the default scaling value is 1.0. This operator may not be combined with other scaling operators.

### C.3.3 XScale

The **XScale** operator is similar to the scale operator but only affects the width (x-dimension) of the image. The important difference between XScale and Scale is that with XScale, scaling by sampling is used whenever the image quality is specified to be “MAXCOMPRATIO” or “HIGHCOMP,” and is not dependent on whether the image is being scaled up or down.

This operator may be combined with the YScale operator to scale each axis differently. It may not be combined with other scaling operators (Scale, FixedScale, MaxScale).

### C.3.4 YScale

The **YScale** operator is similar to the scale operator but only affects the height (y-dimension) of the image. The important difference between YScale and Scale is that with YScale, scaling by sampling is used whenever the image quality is specified to be “MAXCOMPRATIO” or “HIGHCOMP,” and is not dependent on whether the image is being scaled up or down.

This operator may be combined with the XScale operator to scale each axis differently. It may not be combined with other scaling operators (Scale, FixedScale, MaxScale).

### C.3.5 FixedScale

The **FixedScale** operator provides an alternate method for specifying scaling values. The Scale, XScale, and YScale operators all accept floating-point scaling ratios, while the FixedScale (and MaxScale) operators specify scaling values in **pixels**. This operator is intended to simplify the creation of images with a specific size, such as thumbnail images.

The two integer values supplied to the `FixedScale` operator are the desired dimensions (width and height) of the destination image. The supplied dimensions may be larger or smaller (or one larger and one smaller) than the dimensions of the source image.

The scaling method used by this operator will be the same as used by the `Scale` operator in all cases. This operator cannot be combined with other scaling operators.

### C.3.6 MaxScale

The **MaxScale** operator is a variant of the `FixedScale` operator that preserves the aspect ratio (relative width and height) of the source image. The `MaxScale` operator also accepts two integer dimensions, but these values represent the maximum value of the appropriate dimension after scaling. The final dimension may actually be less than the supplied value.

Like the `FixedScale` operator, this operator is also intended to simplify the creation of images with a specific size. The `MaxScale` operator is even better suited to thumbnail creation than the `FixedScale` operator because thumbnail images created using the `MaxScale` operator will have the correct aspect ratios.

The `MaxScale` operator scales the source image to fit within the dimensions specified while preserving the aspect ratio of the source image. Because the aspect ratio is preserved, only one dimension of the destination image may actually be equal to the values supplied to the operator. The other dimension may be smaller than or equal to the supplied value. Another way to think of this scaling method is that the source image is scaled by a single scale factor that is as large as possible with the constraint that the destination image fit entirely within the dimensions specified by the `MaxScale` operator.

If the `Cut` operator is used in conjunction with the `MaxScale` operator, then the aspect ratio of the cut window is preserved instead of the aspect ratio of the input image.

The scaling method used by this operator is the same as used by the `Scale` operator in all cases. This operator cannot be combined with other scaling operators.

## C.4 Format-Specific Operators

The following operators are supported only when the destination image file format is raw pixel, with the exception of the `InputChannels` operator, which is supported only when the source image is raw pixel or a foreign image. It does not matter if the destination image format is set to raw pixel explicitly using the `FileFormat` oper-

ator, or if the raw pixel format is selected by Visual Information Retrieval automatically because the source format is raw pixel or a foreign image.

### C.4.1 ChannelOrder

The **ChannelOrder** operator determines the relative order of the red, green, and blue channels (bands) within the destination raw pixel image. The order of the characters “R,” “G,” and “B” within the mnemonic value passed to this operator determines the order of these channels within the output. The header of the raw pixel image will be written such that this ordering is not lost.

For more information about the raw pixel file format and the ordering of channels in that format, see Appendix D.

### C.4.2 Interleave

The **Interleave** operator controls the layout of the red, green, and blue channels (bands) within the destination raw pixel image. The three mnemonic values supported by this operator (“BIP,” “BIL,” and “BSQ”) force the output image to be “band interleaved by pixel,” “band interleaved by line,” and “band sequential” respectively.

For more information about the raw pixel file format, the interleaving of channels in that format, or the meaning of these interleaving values, see Appendix D.

### C.4.3 PixelOrder

The **PixelOrder** operator controls the direction of pixels within a scanline in a raw pixel image. The value "Normal" indicates that the leftmost pixel of a scanline will appear first in the image data stream. The value "Reverse" causes the rightmost pixel of the scanline to appear first.

For more information about the raw pixel file format and pixel ordering, see Appendix D.

### C.4.4 ScanlineOrder

The **ScanlineOrder** operator controls the order of scanlines within a raw pixel image. The value "Normal" indicates that the top display scanline will appear first in the image data stream. The value "Inverse" causes the bottom scanline to appear first.

For more information about the raw pixel file format and scanline ordering, see Appendix D.

## C.4.5 InputChannels

As stated previously, the **InputChannels** operator is supported only when the source image is in raw pixel format or if the source is a foreign image.

The InputChannels operator assigns individual bands from a multiband image to be the red, green, and blue channels for later image processing. Any band within the source image can be assigned to any channel. If desired, only a single band may be specified and the selected band will be used as the gray channel, resulting in a grayscale output image. The first band in the image is number 1, and the band numbers passed to the Input Channels operator must be greater than or equal to one and less than or equal to the total number of bands in the source image. Only the bands selected by the InputChannels operator are written to the output. Other bands are not transferred, even if the output image is in raw pixel format.

It should be noted that every raw pixel or foreign image has these input channel assignments written into its header block, but that this operator overrides those default assignments.

For more information about the raw pixel file format and input channels, see Appendix D.



---

## Raw Pixel Format

This appendix describes the Oracle raw pixel image format and is intended for developers and advanced users who wish to use the raw pixel format as a gateway to import unsupported image formats into Visual Information Retrieval, or who wish to use the raw pixel format as a means to directly access the pixel data in an image.

Much of this appendix is also applicable to foreign images.

### D.1 Raw Pixel Introduction

Visual Information Retrieval supports many popular image formats suitable for storing artwork, photographs, and other images in an efficient, compressed way, and provides the capability to convert between these formats. However, most of these formats are proprietary to at least some degree, and the format of their content is often widely variable, and not particularly suited for easy access to the pixel data of the image.

The raw pixel format is useful for applications that need direct access to the pixel data without the encumbrance of the complex computations required to determine the location of pixels within a compressed data stream. This simplifies reading the image for applications that are performing pixel-oriented image processing, such as filtering and edge detection. This format is even more useful to applications that need to write data back to the image. Because changing even a single pixel in a compressed image can have implications for the entire image stream, providing an uncompressed format enables applications to write pixel data directly, and later compress the image with a single call to the `process()` method.

This format is also useful to users who have data in a format not directly supported by Visual Information Retrieval, but that is in a simple, uncompressed format. These users can simply prepend a raw pixel identifier and header onto their data and import it directly into the product. For users who only need to read these images (such as for import or conversion), this capability is built into the product

as “Foreign Image Support”. How this capability is related to the raw pixel format is described in Section D.10.

In addition to supporting image types not already built into the product, the raw pixel format also permits the interpretation of N-band imagery, such as satellite images. Using the raw pixel format, one or three bands of an N-band image may be selected during conversion to another image format, allowing easy visualization within programs that do not otherwise support N-band images. Note that images written with the raw pixel format still may only have one or three bands.

The current version of the raw pixel format is “1.0”. This appendix is applicable to raw pixel images of this release only, as the particulars of the format may change with other releases.

## D.2 Raw Pixel Image Structure

A raw pixel image consists of a 4-byte image identifier, followed by a 30-byte image header, followed by an arbitrary gap of zero or more bytes, followed by pixel data.

It is worth noting that raw pixel images are never color-mapped, and therefore do not contain color look-up tables.

The raw pixel “header” consists of the “Image Identifier” and the “Image Header”. The image header is actually composed of several fields. Table D-1 describes the header structure.

Note that the first byte in the image is actually offset ‘0’. All integer fields are unsigned and are stored in big-endian byte order.

**Table D-1 Raw Pixel Header Structure**

Name	Bytes	Description
Image Identifier	0:3	4-byte character array containing ASCII values for "RPIX". This array identifies the image as a raw pixel image.
Image Header Length	4:7	Length of this header in bytes, excluding the identifier field. The value of this field may be increased to create a gap between the header fields and the pixel data in the image.
Major Version	8	Major version number of the raw pixel format used in the image.
Minor Version	9	Minor version number of the raw pixel format used in the image.

**Table D-1 Raw Pixel Header Structure (Cont.)**

Image Width	10:13	Width of the image in pixels.
Image Height	14:17	Height of the image in pixels.
Compression Type	18	Compression type of the image: None, CCITT FAX Group 3, or CCITT FAX Group 4.
Pixel Order	19	Pixel order of the image: Normal or Reverse.
Scanline Order	20	Scanline order of the image: Normal or Inverse.
Interleave	21	Interleave type of the image: BIP, BIL, or BSQ.
Number of Bands	22	Number of bands in the image. Must be in the range 1 to 255.
Red Channel Number	23	The band number of the channel to use as a default for “red”.  This field is the gray channel number if the image is grayscale.
Green Channel Number	24	The band number of the channel to use as a default for “green”.  This field is zero if the image is grayscale.
Blue Channel Number	25	The band number of the channel to use as a default for “blue”.  This field is zero if the image is grayscale.
Reserved Area	26:33	Not currently used. All bytes <b>must</b> be zero.

## D.3 Raw Pixel Header Field Descriptions

This section describes the fields of the raw pixel header in greater detail.

### Image Identifier

Occupying the first 4 bytes of a raw pixel image, the identifier string must always be set to the ASCII values “RPIX” (hex 52 50 49 58). These characters identify the image as being encoded in RPIX format.

This string is currently independent of the raw pixel version.

### Image Header Length

The raw pixel reader uses the value stored in this field to find the start of the pixel data section within a raw pixel image. To find the offset of the pixel data in the image, the reader adds the length of the image identifier (always ‘4’) to the value in the image header-length field. Thus, for raw pixel 1.0 images with no post-header gap, the pixel data starts at offset 34.

For raw pixel version 1.0 images, this field normally contains the integer value '30', which is the length of the raw pixel image header (not including the image identifier). However, the raw pixel format allows this field to contain any value equal to or greater than 30. Any information in the space between the end of the header data and the start of the pixel data specified by this header length is ignored by the raw pixel reader. This is useful for users who wish to prepend a raw pixel header onto an existing image whose pixel data area is compatible with the raw pixel format. In this case, the header length would be set to 30 plus the length of the existing header. The maximum length of this header is 4294967265 bytes (the maximum value that can be stored in the 4-byte unsigned field minus the 30 byte header required by the raw pixel image format).

This field is stored in big-endian byte order.

### **Major Version**

A single-byte integer containing the major version number of the raw pixel format version used to encode the image. The current raw pixel version is "1.0", therefore this field is '1'.

### **Minor Version**

A single-byte integer containing the minor version number of the raw pixel format version used to encode the image. The current raw pixel version is "1.0", therefore this field is '0'.

### **Image Width**

The width (x-dimension) of the image in pixels.

Although this field is capable of storing an image dimension in excess of 4 billion pixels, limitations within the product require that this field be in the range  $1 \leq \text{width} \leq 32767$ .

This field is stored in big-endian byte order.

### **Image Height**

The height (y-dimension) of the image in pixels.

Although this field is capable of storing an image dimension in excess of 4 billion pixels, limitations within this product require that this field be in the range  $1 \leq \text{height} \leq 32767$ .

This field is stored in big-endian byte order.

### Compression Type

This field contains the compression type of the raw pixel image. As of version 1.0, this field may contain the following values:

Value	Name	Compression
1	NONE	No compression
2	FAX3	CCITT Group 3 compression
3	FAX4	CCITT Group 4 compression

For grayscale, RGB, and N-band images, the image is always uncompressed, and only a value of '0' is valid. If the compression type is value '1' or '2', then the image is presumed to be monochrome. In this case, the image is presumed to contain only a single band, and must specify "normal" pixel order, "normal" scanline order, and "BIP" interleave.

### Pixel Order

This field describes the pixel order within the raw pixel image. Normally, pixels in a scanline are ordered from left to right, along the traditional positive x-axis. However, some applications require that scanlines be ordered from right to left.

This field may contain the following values:

Value	Name	Pixel Order
1	NORMAL	Left-most pixel first
2	REVERSE	Right-most pixel first

This field cannot contain '0', as this indicates an unspecified pixel order; if it does contain '0', the image cannot be interpreted. For images with FAX3 and FAX4 compression types, this field must contain the value '1'.

### Scanline Order

This field describes the scanline order within the raw pixel image. Normally, scanlines in an image are ordered from top to bottom. However, some applications require that scanlines are ordered from bottom to top.

This field may contain the following values:

Value	Name	Scanline Order
1	NORMAL	Top-most scanline first
2	INVERSE	Bottom-most scanline first

This field cannot contain '0', as this indicates an unspecified scanline order; if it does contain '0', the image cannot be interpreted. For images with FAX3 and FAX4 compression types, this field must contain the value '1'.

### Interleave

This field describes the interleaving of the various bands within a raw pixel image. For more information on the meaning of the various interleave options, see Section D.5.3.

This field may contain the following values:

Value	Name	Interleave
1	BIP	Band Interleave by Pixel, also known as "chunky"
2	BIL	Band Interleave by Line
3	BSQ	Band SeQuential, also known as "planar"

This field cannot contain '0', as this indicates an unspecified interleave; if it does contain '0', the image cannot be interpreted. For images with FAX3 and FAX4 compression types, this field must contain the value '1'.

### Number of Bands

This field contains the number of bands or planes in the image, and must be in the range  $1 \leq \text{number of bands} \leq 255$ . This field may not contain the value '0'.

For CCITT images, this field must contain the value '1'.

### Red Channel Number

This field contains the number of the band that is to be used as the "red" channel during image conversion operations. This may be used to change the interpretation of a normal RGB image, or to specify a default band to be used as "red" in an N-band image. This default may be overridden using the "inputChannels" operator in the process() or processCopy() methods.

If the image has only one band, or only one band from an N-band image should be selected for display, then the band number should be encoded as the red channel. In this case, the green and blue channels should be set to '0'.

This field may not contain the value '0'. Only values in the range  $1 \leq \text{red} \leq \text{number-of-bands}$  may be specified.

#### **Green Channel Number**

This field contains the number of the band that is to be used as the “green” channel during image conversion operations. This may be used to change the interpretation of a normal RGB image, or to specify a default band to be used as “green” in an N-band image. This default may be overridden using the “inputChannels” operator in the `process()` or `processCopy()` methods.

If the image has only one band, or only one band from an N-band image should be selected for display, then the band number should be encoded as the red channel. In this case, the green and blue channels should be set to '0'.

This field may contain values in the range  $1 \leq \text{green} \leq \text{number-of-bands}$ .

#### **Blue Channel Number**

This field contains the number of the band that is to be used as the “blue” channel during image conversion operations. This may be used to change the interpretation of a normal RGB image, or to specify a default band to be used as “blue” in an N-band image. This default may be overridden using the “inputChannels” operator in the `process()` or `processCopy()` command.

If the image has only one band, or only one band from an N-band image should be selected for display, then the band number should be encoded as the red channel. In this case, the green and blue channels should be set to '0'.

This field may contain values in the range  $1 \leq \text{blue} \leq \text{number-of-bands}$ .

#### **Reserved Area**

The application of these 8 bytes is currently under development, but they are reserved even within raw pixel version 1.0 images. These bytes must all be cleared to zero. Failure to do so will create undefined results.

## **D.4 Raw Pixel Post-Header Gap**

Apart from the image identifier and the image header, raw pixel version 1.0 images contain an optional post-header “gap”, which precedes the actual pixel data. Unlike the “reserved area” part of the image header, the bytes in this gap can contain any values the user wishes. This is useful to store additional metadata about the image, which in some cases may be the actual image header from another file format.

However, because there is no standard for the information stored in this gap, care must be taken if metadata is stored in this area as other users may interpret this

data differently. It is also worth noting that when a raw pixel image is processed, information stored in this gap is not copied to the destination image. In the case of the `process()` method, which writes its output to the same location as the input, the source information will be lost unless the transaction in which the processing took place is rolled back.

## D.5 Raw Pixel Data Section and Pixel Data Format

The data section of a raw pixel image is where the actual pixel data of an image is stored; this area is sometimes called the *bitmap data*. This section describes the layout of the bitmap data.

For images using CCITT compression, the bitmap data area stores the raw CCITT stream with no additional header. The rest of this section applies only to uncompressed images.

Bitmap data in a raw pixel image is stored as 8-bit per plane, per-pixel, direct-color packed data. There is no pixel, scanline, or band blocking or padding. Scanlines may be presented in the image as either top-most first, or bottom-most first. Within a scanline, pixels may be ordered left-most first, or right-most first. All these options are affected by the `interleave` field in a relatively straightforward way. Examples are provided in the following sections.

### D.5.1 Scanline Ordering

On the screen, an image may look like the following:

```
1111111111...
2222222222...
3333333333...
4444444444...
```

Each digit represents a single pixel; the value of the digit is the scanline that the pixel is on.

Generally, the scanline that forms the upper or top-most row of pixels is stored in the image data stream before lower scanlines. The image would appear as follows in the bitmap data stream:

```
...1111111111...2222222222...3333333333...4444444444...
```

Note that the first scanline appears earlier than the remaining scanlines. The raw pixel format refers to this scanline ordering as “normal.”

However, some applications prefer that the bottom-most scanline appear in the data stream first:

```
...4444444444...3333333333...2222222222...1111111111...
```

The raw pixel format refers to this scanline ordering as “inverse.”

## D.5.2 Pixel Ordering

On the screen, a scanline of an image may look like the following:

```
...123456789...
```

Each digit represents a single pixel; the value of the digit is the column that the pixel is on.

Generally, the data that forms the left-most pixels is stored in the image data stream before pixels toward the right. The scanline would appear as follows in the bitmap data stream:

```
...123456789...
```

Note that the left pixel appears earlier than the remaining pixels. The raw pixel format refers to this pixel ordering as “normal.”

However, some applications prefer that the right-most pixel appear in the data stream first:

```
...987654321...
```

The raw pixel format refers to this pixel ordering as “reverse.”

## D.5.3 Band Interleaving

Band interleaving describes the relative location of different bands of pixel data within the image buffer.

Note that for the purposes of this project, bands are ordered by their appearance in an image data stream, with ‘1’ being the first band, ‘n’ being the last band. Band ‘0’ would indicate ‘no band’ or ‘no data.’

### **Band Interleaved by Pixel (BIP), or “Chunky”**

BIP, or “chunky”, images place the various bands or channels of pixel data sequentially by pixel, so that all data for one pixel is in one place. If the bands of the image are the red, green, and blue channels, then a BIP image might look like this:

```
scanline 1: RGBRGBRGBRGBRGBRGB...
```

```
scanline 2: RGBRGBRGBRGBRGBRGB...
```

```
scanline 3: RGBRGBRGBRGBRGBRGB...
```

```
...
```

### **Band Interleaved by Line (BIL)**

BIL images place the various bands of pixel data sequentially by scanline, so that data for one pixel is spread across multiple notional “rows” of the image. This reflects the data organization of a sensor that buffers data by scanline. If the bands

of the image are the red, green, and blue channels, then a BIL image might look like this:

```
scanline 1: RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR...
             GGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG...
             BBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBB...
scanline 2: RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR...
             GGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG...
             BBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBB...
scanline 3: RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR...
             GGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG...
             BBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBB...
```

...

### Band Sequential (BSQ), or Planar

Planar images place the various bands of pixel data sequentially by bit-plane, so that data for one pixel is spread across multiple “planes” of the image. This reflects the data organization of some video buffer systems, which control the different electron guns of a display from different locations in memory. If the bands of the image are the red, green, and blue channels, then a planar image might look like this:

```
plane 1: RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR... (part of scanline 1)
         RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR... (part of scanline 2)
         RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR... (part of scanline 3)
...
plane 2: GGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG... (part of scanline 1)
         GGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG... (part of scanline 2)
         GGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG... (part of scanline 3)
...
plane 3: BBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBB... (part of scanline 1)
         BBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBB... (part of scanline 2)
         BBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBB... (part of scanline 3)
```

...

## D.5.4 N-Band Data

The raw pixel format supports up to 255 bands of data in an image. The relative location of these bands of data in the image is described in Section D.5.3, which gives examples of interleaving for 3 bands of data.

In the case of a single band of data, there is no interleaving; all three schemes are equivalent. Examples of interleaving other numbers of bands are given in the following table. All images have three scanlines and four columns. Each band of each

pixel is represented by a single-digit band number. Numbers in *italic* represent the second scanline of the image, and numbers in **boldface** represent the third scanline of the image.

Bands	BIP	BIL	BSQ
2	12121212 <i>12121212</i> <b>12121212</b>	11112222 <i>11112222</i> <b>11112222</b>	111111111111 <i>222222222222</i>
4	1234123412341234 <i>1234123412341234</i> <b>1234123412341234</b>	1111222233334444 <i>1111222233334444</i> <b>1111222233334444</b>	111111111111 <i>222222222222</i> <b>333333333333</b> <b>444444444444</b>
5	12345123451234512345 <i>12345123451234512345</i> <b>12345123451234512345</b>	11112222333344445555 <i>11112222333344445555</i> <b>11112222333344445555</b>	111111111111 <i>222222222222</i> <b>333333333333</b> <b>444444444444</b> <b>555555555555</b>

## D.6 Raw Pixel Header "C" Structure

The following C language structure describes the raw pixel header in a programmatic way. This structure is stored unaligned in the image file (fields are aligned on 1-byte boundaries), and all integers are stored in big-endian byte order.

```
struct RawPixelHeader
{
    unsigned char identifier[4]; /* Always "RPIX" */

    unsigned long hdrlength; /* Length of this header in bytes */
    /* Including the hdrlength field */
    /* Not including the identifier field */
    /* &k.hdrlength + k.hdrlength = pixels */

    unsigned char majorversion; /* Major revision # of RPIX format */
    unsigned char minorversion; /* Minor revision # of RPIX format */

    unsigned long width; /* Image width in pixels */
    unsigned long height; /* Image height in pixels */

    unsigned char comptype; /* Compression (none, FAXG3, FAXG4, ... ) */
}
```

```
unsigned char pixelorder; /* Pixel order */
unsigned char scnlover; /* Scanline order */
unsigned char interleave; /* Interleaving (BIP/BIL/Planar) */

unsigned char numbands; /* Number of bands in image (1-255) */
unsigned char rchannel; /* Default red channel assignment */
unsigned char gchannel; /* Default green channel assignment */
unsigned char bchannel; /* Default blue channel assignment */
/* Grayscale images are encoded in R */
/* The first band is '1', not '0' */
/* A value of '0' means "no band" */

unsigned charreserved[8];/* For later use */
};
```

## D.7 Raw Pixel Header “C” Constants

The following C language constants define the values used in the raw pixel header.

```
#define RPIX_IDENTIFIER"RPIX"

#define RPIX_HEADERLENGTH          30

#define RPIX_MAJOR_VERSION         1
#define RPIX_MINOR_VERSION0

#define RPIX_COMPRESSION_UNDEFINED  0
#define RPIX_COMPRESSION_NONE      1
#define RPIX_COMPRESSION_CCITT_FAX_G3 2
#define RPIX_COMPRESSION_CCITT_FAX_G4 3
#define RPIX_COMPRESSION_DEFAULT    RPIX_COMPRESSION_NONE

#define RPIX_PIXEL_ORDER_UNDEFINED  0
#define RPIX_PIXEL_ORDER_NORMAL     1
#define RPIX_PIXEL_ORDER_REVERSE    2
#define RPIX_PIXEL_ORDER_DEFAULT    RPIX_PIXEL_ORDER_NORMAL

#define RPIX_SCANLINE_ORDER_UNDEFINED 0
#define RPIX_SCANLINE_ORDER_NORMAL   1
```

```

#define RPIX_SCANLINE_ORDER_INVERSE      2
#define RPIX_SCANLINE_ORDER_DEFAULT      RPIX_SCANLINE_ORDER_NORMAL

#define RPIX_INTERLEAVING_UNDEFINED      0
#define RPIX_INTERLEAVING_BIP           1
#define RPIX_INTERLEAVING_BIL           2
#define RPIX_INTERLEAVING_BSQ           3
#define RPIX_INTERLEAVING_DEFAULT        RPIX_INTERLEAVING_BIP

#define RPIX_CHANNEL_UNDEFINED           0

```

Note that the various macros for the "undefined" values are meant to be illustrative and not necessarily used, except for "RPIX\_CHANNEL\_UNDEFINED" which is used for the green and blue channels of single band images.

## D.8 Raw Pixel PL/SQL Constants

The following PL/SQL constants define the values used in the raw pixel information:

```

CREATE OR REPLACE PACKAGE ORDVirConstants AS
    RPIX_HEADER_LENGTH_1_0    CONSTANT INTEGER := 34;
END ORDVirConstants;

```

## D.9 Raw Pixel Images Using CCITT Compression

Although the raw pixel format is generally aimed at uncompressed direct color images, provision is also made to store monochrome images using CCITT Fax Group 3 or Fax Group 4 compression. This is useful for storing scans of black and white pages, such as for document management applications. These images are generally infeasible to store even as merely grayscale, as the unused data bits combined with the very high resolution used in these images would use excessive disk space.

Raw pixel images using CCITT compression are treated as normal Raw Pixel images, with the following restrictions:

- The "compression type" field must contain the value "1" or "2" as outlined in Section D.3 (FAX3 or FAX4).
- The "pixel order" field must contain the value "1" (normal pixel order).
- The "scanline order" field must contain the value "1" (normal scanline order).
- The "interleave" field must contain the value "1" (BIP interleave).
- The "number of bands" field must contain the value "1" (one band).

- The “red channel number” field must contain the value “1”.
- The “green channel number” and “blue channel number” fields must contain the value “0” (no band).

In addition to these restrictions, applications that attempt to access pixel data directly will need to understand how to read and write the CCITT formatted data.

## D.10 Foreign Image Support and the Raw Pixel Format

Visual Information Retrieval provides support for reading certain “foreign images” that can be described in terms of a few simple parameters, and whose data is arranged in a certain straightforward way within the image file. There is no list of the supported formats because the list would be so large and continually changing. Instead, there are some simple guidelines to determine if an image can be read using the foreign image support in the product. These rules are summarized in the following sections.

### **Header**

Foreign images may have any header, in any format, as long as its length does not exceed 4294967265 bytes. As has been noted before, all information in this header will be ignored.

### **Image Width**

Foreign images may be up to 32767 pixels wide.

### **Image Height**

Foreign images may be up to 32767 pixels high.

### **Compression Type**

Foreign images must be uncompressed or compressed using CCITT Fax Group 3 or Fax Group 4. Other compression schemes, such as run-length encoding, are not currently supported.

### **Pixel Order**

Foreign images may store pixels from left-to-right or right-to-left. Other pixel ordering schemes are not currently supported.

### **Scanline Order**

Foreign images may have top-first or bottom-first scanline orders. Scanlines that are adjacent in the image display must be adjacent in the image storage. Some image formats stagger their image scanlines so that, for example, scanlines 1,5,9, and so forth, are adjacent, and then 2,6,10 are also adjacent. This is not currently allowed.

**Interleave**

Foreign images must use BIP, BIL, or BSQ interleaving. Other arrangements of data bands are not allowed, nor may bands have any pixel, scanline, or band-level blocking or padding.

**Number of Bands**

Foreign images may have up to 255 bands of data. If there are more bands of data, the first 255 can be accessed *if* the interleaving of the image is “band sequential.” In this case, the additional bands of data lie past the accessible bands and do not affect the layout of the first 255 bands. Images with other interleaving types may not have more than 255 bands because the additional bands will change the layout of the bitmap data.

**Trailer**

Foreign images may have an image trailer following the bitmap data, and this trailer may be of arbitrary length. However, such data is completely ignored by the product, and there is no method (or need) to specify the presence or length of such a trailer.

If an image with such a trailer is modified with the `process()` or `processCopy()` methods, the resulting image will not contain this trailer. In the case of the `processCopy` method, the source image will still be intact.



---

## Deprecated Features

Visual Information Retrieval has undergone an architectural change for release 8.1.5. The `ORDVirB` and `ORDVirF` object types have been replaced by `ORDVir`. The new `ORDVir` type is based on the `ORDImage` type in the Oracle8i *interMedia* product. The old interface and object types have been replaced by the interface described in Chapter 4.

This appendix describes the old interface, for those users who still need to access legacy data. Please see the migration functions (`migrateFromORDVirB()` and `migrateFromORDVirF()` methods) in Chapter 4 for information on moving to the new object type.

The old interface will be removed in a future release.

The obsolete Visual Information Retrieval library consists of:

- Object types -- see Section E.1.
- Methods -- see Section E.2.
- Operators -- see Section E.3.

The examples in this chapter assume that the `stockphotos` table has been created and filled with some photographic images. The table was created using the following SQL statement:

```
CREATE TABLE stockphotos (photo_id NUMBER, photographer (VARCHAR2(64),  
                        annotation (VARCHAR2(255), photo ORDSYS.ORDVIRB);
```

When you are storing or copying images, you must first create an empty BLOB in the table. Use the `empty_blob()` function, which has the following format:

```
ORDSYS.ORDVIRB(empty_blob(), NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL)
```

## E.1 Object Types

The obsolete Visual Information Retrieval object types are as follows:

- **ORDVirB**: supports images stored in an Oracle8i BLOB
- **ORDVirF**: supports images stored in an Oracle8i external file (BFILE)

This section presents reference information on the object types.

For more information on BLOBs and BFILES, see *Oracle8i Application Developers Guide: Large Objects (LOBs)*.

---

## ORDVirB Object Type

The ORDVirB object type supports storage and retrieval of image data in a BLOB within an Oracle database. This object type is defined as follows:

```
CREATE TYPE ORDVIRB
(
  -- TYPE ATTRIBUTES
  content          BLOB,
  height           INTEGER,
  width            INTEGER,
  contentLength    INTEGER,
  fileFormat       VARCHAR2(64),
  contentFormat    VARCHAR2(64),
  compressionFormat VARCHAR2(64),
  signature        RAW(2000),
  -- METHOD DECLARATION
  MEMBER PROCEDURE copyContent(dest IN OUT NOCOPY BLOB),
  MEMBER PROCEDURE setProperties(SELF IN OUT ORDVIRB),
  MEMBER PROCEDURE setProperties(SELF IN OUT ORDVIRB, description IN VARCHAR2),
  MEMBER PROCEDURE process      (SELF      IN OUT ORDVIRB,
                                command IN   VARCHAR2)
  MEMBER PROCEDURE processCopy(command IN   VARCHAR2,
                                dest      IN OUT NOCOPY BLOB),
  MEMBER FUNCTION  getMimeType RETURN VARCHAR2,
  MEMBER FUNCTION  getContent  RETURN BLOB,
  MEMBER FUNCTION  getContentLength RETURN INTEGER,
  MEMBER PROCEDURE deleteContent (SELF IN OUT ORDVIRB),
  MEMBER PROCEDURE Analyze (SELF IN OUT ORDVIRB),
  MEMBER FUNCTION  getHeight   RETURN INTEGER,
  MEMBER FUNCTION  getWidth    RETURN INTEGER,
  MEMBER FUNCTION  getFileFormat RETURN VARCHAR2,
  MEMBER FUNCTION  getContentFormat RETURN VARCHAR2,
  MEMBER FUNCTION  getCompressionFormat RETURN VARCHAR2,
  MEMBER FUNCTION  getSignature RETURN RAW,
  MEMBER FUNCTION  checkProperties RETURN BOOLEAN
);
```

Where the attributes are:

- **content**: Stored image
- **height**: Height of the image in pixels
- **width**: Width of image in pixels
- **contentLength**: Size of the *on-disk* image file in bytes
- **fileFormat**: File type of image (such as, TIFF, JFIF)
- **contentFormat**: Type of image (such as, monochrome, 8-bit grayscale)
- **compressionFormat**: Compression type of image
- **signature**: Feature vector (signature) for content-based retrieval

In PL/SQL, data is moved with the DBMS LOB package. From the client, data is moved using OCI LOB calls. The ORDVirB object type does not supply routines for moving data piece-by-piece.

---

## ORDVirF Object Type

The ORDVirF object type supports storage and retrieval of image data in external files (BFILES, which are not stored in the database). BFILES are assumed to be read-only, and this is reflected in the member procedures. This object type is defined as follows:

```
CREATE TYPE ORDVIRF
(
  -- TYPE ATTRIBUTES
  content          BFILE,
  height           INTEGER,
  width            INTEGER,
  contentLength    INTEGER,
  fileFormat       VARCHAR2(64),
  contentFormat    VARCHAR2(64),
  compressionFormat VARCHAR2(64),
  signature        RAW(2000),
  -- METHOD DECLARATION
  MEMBER PROCEDURE copyContent(dest IN OUT NOCOPY BLOB),
  MEMBER PROCEDURE setProperties(SELF IN OUT ORDVIRF),
  MEMBER PROCEDURE setProperties(SELF IN OUT ORDVIRF, description IN VARCHAR2),
  MEMBER PROCEDURE processCopy(command IN VARCHAR2,
                                dest    IN OUT NOCOPY BLOB),
  MEMBER FUNCTION  getMimeType RETURN VARCHAR2,
  MEMBER FUNCTION  getContent  RETURN BFILE,
  MEMBER FUNCTION  getContentLength RETURN INTEGER,
  MEMBER PROCEDURE Analyze (SELF IN OUT ORDVIRF),
  MEMBER FUNCTION  getHeight   RETURN INTEGER,
  MEMBER FUNCTION  getWidth    RETURN INTEGER,
  MEMBER FUNCTION  getFileFormat RETURN VARCHAR2,
  MEMBER FUNCTION  getContentFormat RETURN VARCHAR2,
  MEMBER FUNCTION  getCompressionFormat RETURN VARCHAR2,
  MEMBER FUNCTION  getSignature RETURN RAW,
  MEMBER FUNCTION  checkProperties RETURN BOOLEAN
);
```

Where the attributes are:

- **content:** Stored image
- **height:** Height of the image in pixels
- **width:** Width of image in pixels
- **contentLength:** Size of the *on-disk* image file in bytes
- **fileFormat:** File type of image (such as, TIFF, JFIF)
- **contentFormat:** Type of image (such as, monochrome, 8-bit grayscale)
- **compressionFormat:** Compression type of image
- **signature:** Feature vector (signature) for content-based retrieval

## E.2 Methods

This section presents reference information on the methods used for image manipulation.

Visual Information Retrieval methods are as follows:

- `analyze()`: Creates the signature of an image based on the image characteristics.
- `checkProperties()`: Verifies that the characteristics stored as image attributes match the properties of the actual image.
- `copyContent()`: Copies only the image portion of a BLOB or BFILE to a BLOB.
- `deleteContent()`: Deletes the contents of an image stored in a BLOB.
- `getCompressionFormat()`: Returns the compression type used on an image.
- `getContent()`: Returns the BLOB or BFILE containing an image.
- `getContentFormat()`: Returns the type of the image.
- `getContentLength()`: Returns the size of the image in bytes.
- `getFileFormat()`: Returns the file type of an image.
- `getHeight()`: Returns the height of the image in pixels.
- `getMimeType()`: Returns the MIME type of an image.
- `getSignature()`: Returns the signature of an image.
- `getWidth()`: Returns the width of an image in pixels.
- `process()`: Processes an image in place (for example, modifies it or converts it to another format); available for BLOBs only.
- `processCopy()`: Copies an image and processes the copy (for example, modifies it or converts it to another format); available for BLOBs and BFILES, but the destination must be a BLOB.
- `setProperties()`: Obtains and stores the attributes of an image.

For more information on object types and methods, see *Oracle8i Concepts*.

## analyze() Method

### Format

```
Analyze();
```

### Description

Analyzes an image BLOB or BFILE, derives information relating to the visual attributes (including a score for each), and creates the image signature.

### Usage

The Analyze() method creates the image attribute signature, which is necessary for any content-based retrieval. Whenever you are working with a new or changed image, you should also use the SetProperty() method to set the other image characteristics.

Signatures for facial images can be created using an optional third-party software package from Viisage Technology, Inc. After creating a facial signature, Visual Information Retrieval can convert the signature to a standard format and then compare the signatures using the Score() and Similar() operators.

The Analyze method is functionally equivalent to the Analyze() operator. You must use the Analyze method when working with foreign images.

### Example

Create the signatures for all images in the stockphotos table:

```
DECLARE
    temp_image  ORDSYS.ORDVIRB;
    temp_id     INTEGER;
    cursor c1 is select id, image from stockphotos for update;
BEGIN
    OPEN c1;
    LOOP
        fetch c1 into temp_id, temp_image;
        EXIT WHEN c1%NOTFOUND;
```

```
-- Generate signature and set the properties for the image.  
    temp_image.analyze;  
    temp_image.setProperties;  
    UPDATE stockphotos SET photo = temp_image WHERE photo_id = temp_id;  
END LOOP;  
CLOSE c1;  
END;
```

---

## checkProperties Method

### Format

```
checkProperties RETURN BOOLEAN;
```

### Description

Verifies that the properties stored in attributes of the image object match the properties of the image stored in the BLOB or BFILE. This method should not be used for foreign images.

### Parameter

None.

### Returns

BOOLEAN

### Usage

Use this method to verify that the image attributes match the actual image.

### Example

Check the image attributes:

```
virbl          ORDSYS.ORDVirB;  
properties_match BOOLEAN;  
  
...  
properties_match := virbl.checkProperties;
```

## copyContent() Method

---

### Format

```
copyContent (dest IN OUT NOCOPY BLOB);
```

### Description

Copies an image without changing it.

### Parameter

**dest**

The destination of the new image.

### Usage

This method copies the image data into the supplied BLOB.

### Example

Create a copy of the image in image1 into myblob:

```
image1.copyContent(myblob);
```

---

## deleteContent Method

### Format

```
deleteContent;
```

### Description

Deletes the contents of the image.

### Parameter

None.

### Usage

Use this method to delete the contents of the image BLOB. This procedure works only with BLOBs, not BFILES.

### Example

```
virb1 ORDSYS.ORDVirB;  
  
...  
virb1.deleteContent;
```

## getCompressionFormat Method

### Format

getCompressionFormat RETURN VARCHAR2;

### Description

Returns the compression type of an image. This method does not actually read the LOB; it is a simple access method that returns the value of the compressionFormat attribute.

### Parameter

None.

### Returns

VARCHAR2

### Usage

Use this method rather than accessing the compressionFormat attribute directly to protect yourself from potential changes to the internal representation of the ORDVirB or ORDVirF object.

### Example

Get the compression type of an image:

```
virb1          ORDSYS.ORDVirB;  
compressionFormat VARCHAR2(64);  
  
...  
compressionFormat := virb1.getCompressionFormat;
```

---

## getContent Method

### Format

```
getContent RETURN BLOB;  
getContent RETURN BFILE;
```

### Description

Returns the LOB locator of the BLOB or BFILE containing the image. This is a simple access method that returns the value of the content attribute.

### Parameter

None.

### Returns

BLOB or BFILE, depending on how the image is stored.

### Usage

Use this method rather than accessing the content attribute directly to protect yourself from potential changes to the internal representation of the ORDVirB or ORDVirF object.

### Example

Get the LOB locator for an image:

```
virbl  ORDSYS.ORDVirB;  
content BLOB;  
...  
content := virbl.getContent;
```

## getContentFormat Method

---

### Format

getContentFormat RETURN VARCHAR2;

### Description

Returns the type of an image (such as monochrome or 8-bit grayscale). This method does not actually read the LOB; it is a simple access method that returns the value of the contentFormat attribute.

### Parameter

None.

### Returns

VARCHAR2

### Usage

Use this method rather than accessing the contentFormat attribute directly to protect yourself from potential changes to the internal representation of the ORDVirB or ORDVirF object.

### Example

Get the type of an image:

```
virbl          ORDSYS.ORDVirB;  
contentFormat VARCHAR2(64);  
  
...  
contentFormat := virbl.getContentFormat;
```

---

## getContentLength Method

### Format

```
getContentLength RETURN INTEGER;
```

### Description

Returns the size of the on-disk image in bytes. This method does not actually read the LOB; it is a simple access method that returns the value of the `contentLength` attribute.

### Parameter

None.

### Returns

INTEGER

### Usage

Use this method rather than accessing the `contentLength` attribute directly to protect yourself from potential changes to the internal representation of the `ORDVirB` or `ORDVirF` object.

### Example

Get the content length of an image:

```
virbl          ORDSYS.ORDVirB;  
contentLength INTEGER;  
  
...  
contentLength := virbl.getContentLength;
```

## getFileFormat Method

### Format

getFileFormat RETURN VARCHAR2

### Description

Returns the file type of an image (such as TIFF or JFIF). This method does not actually read the LOB; it is a simple access method that returns the value of the fileFormat attribute.

### Parameter

None.

### Returns

VARCHAR2

### Usage

Use this method rather than accessing the fileFormat attribute directly to protect yourself from potential changes to the internal representation of the ORDVirB or ORDVirF object.

### Example

Get the file type of an image:

```
virb1      ORDSYS.ORDVirB;  
fileFormat VARCHAR2(64);  
  
...  
fileFormat := virb1.getFileFormat;
```

---

## getHeight Method

### Format

```
getHeight RETURN INTEGER;
```

### Description

Returns the height of an image in pixels. This method does not actually read the LOB; it is a simple access method that returns the value of the height attribute.

### Parameter

None.

### Returns

INTEGER

### Usage

Use this method rather than accessing the height attribute directly to protect yourself from potential changes to the internal representation of the ORDVirB or ORDVirF object.

### Example

Get the height of an image:

```
virbl ORDSYS.ORDVirB;  
height INTEGER;  
  
...  
height := virbl.getHeight;
```

## getMimeType Method

### Format

```
getMimeType RETURN VARCHAR2;
```

### Description

Returns the MIME (Multipurpose Internet Mail Extension) type of an image (such as image/jpeg or image/tiff). This method returns the MIME type based on the fileFormat of the image. See Appendix A for the MIME type associated with each supported file format.

### Parameter

None.

### Returns

VARCHAR2

### Usage

Use this method to obtain the MIME type of the image. The MIME type is required by Web browsers along with the image content. It tells the Web browser how to interpret the image content.

### Example

Get the MIME type of an image:

```
virb1      ORDSYS.ORDVirB;  
mimeType  VARCHAR2(64);  
  
...  
mimeType := virb1.getMimeType;
```

---

## getSignature Method

### Format

getSignature RETURN RAW;

### Description

Returns the signature of an image. This method does not actually create the image signature; it is a simple access method that returns the contents of the signature attribute.

### Parameter

None.

### Returns

RAW

### Usage

Use this method rather than accessing the signature attribute directly to protect yourself from potential changes to the internal representation of the ORDVirB or ORDVirF object.

### Example

Get the signature of an image:

```
virb1    ORDSYS.ORDVirB;
signature RAW(2000);

...
signature := virb1.getSignature;
```

## getWidth Method

---

### Format

```
getWidth RETURN INTEGER;
```

### Description

Returns the width of an image in pixels. This method does not actually read the LOB; it is a simple access method that returns the value of the width attribute.

### Parameter

None.

### Returns

INTEGER

### Usage

Use this method rather than accessing the width attribute directly to protect yourself from potential changes to the internal representation of the `ORDVirB` or `ORDVirF` object.

### Example

Get the width of an image:

```
virb1 ORDSYS.ORDVirB;  
width INTEGER;  
  
...  
width := virb1.getWidth;
```

---

## process() Method

### Format

```
process (command IN VARCHAR2 );
```

### Description

Performs one or more image processing techniques on a BLOB, writing the image back on itself.

### Parameter

#### **command**

A list of image processing changes to make for the image.

### Usage

You can change one or more of the image attributes shown in Table E-1. Table E-2 shows additional changes can be made to raw pixel and foreign images. See Appendix A for information on the supported format combinations. See Appendix C for a more complete description of each operator.

**Table E-1 Image Processing Operators**

Parameter Name	Usage	Values
compressionFormat	compression type/format	JPEG, SUNRLE, BMPRLE, TARGARLE, LZW, LZWHDIFF, FAX3, FAX4, HUFFMAN3, Packbits, GIFLZW
compressionQuality	compression quality	MAXCOMPRATIO, MAXINTEGRITY, LOWCOMP, MEDCOMP, HIGHCOMP
contentFormat	image type/pixel/data format	MONOCHROME, 8BITGRAYSCALE, 8BITGREYSCALE, 8BITLUT, 24BITRGB
cut	window to cut (origin.x origin.y width height)	(INTEGER INTEGER INTEGER INTEGER) maximum value is 65535
fileFormat	file format of the image	BMPF, CALS, GIFF, JFIF, PICT, RASF, RPIX, TGAF, TIFF
fixedScale	scale to a specific size in pixels (width, height)	(INTEGER INTEGER)

**Table E-1 Image Processing Operators (Cont.)**

Parameter Name	Usage	Values
maxScale	scale to a specific size in pixels, while maintaining the aspect ratio (maxWidth, maxHeight)	(INTEGER INTEGER)
scale	scale factor (for example, 0.5 or 2.0); preserves aspect ratio	<FLOAT> positive
xScale	X-axis scale factor (default is 1)	<FLOAT> positive
yScale	Y-axis scale factor (default is 1)	<FLOAT> positive

**Table E-2 Additional Image Processing Operators for Raw Pixel and Foreign Images**

Parameter Name	Usage	Values
ChannelOrder	Indicates the relative position of the red, green, and blue channels (bands) within the image.	RGB (default), RBC, GRB, GBR, BRG, BGR
InputChannels	For multiband images, specify either one (grayscale) or three integers indicating which channels to assign to red (first), green (second), and blue (third). Note that this parameter affects the source image, not the destination.	INTEGER or INTEGER INTEGER INTEGER
Interleave	Controls band layout within the image: Band Interleaved by Pixel Band Interleaved by Line Band Sequential	BIP (default), BIL, BSQ
PixelOrder	If NORMAL, then the leftmost pixel appears first in the image.	NORMAL (default), REVERSE
ScanlineOrder	If NORMAL, then the top scanline appears first in the image.	NORMAL (default), INVERSE

---



---

**Note**

When specifying parameter values that include floating-point numbers, you must use double quotation marks ( " ") around the value. If you do not, this may result in incorrect values being passed and you will get incorrect results.

---



---

## Example

Change the file format of image1 to GIF:

```
image1.process('fileFormat=GIF');
```

Change image1 to use lower quality JPEG compression and double the size of the image, preserving the aspect ratio:

```
image1.process('compressionFormat=JPEG, compressionQuality=LOWCOMP,  
scale="2.0"');
```

Note that changing the length on only one axis (for example, `xScale=2.0`) does not affect the length on the other axis, and would result in image distortion. Also, only the `xScale` and `yScale` parameters can be combined in a single operation. Any other combinations result in an error.

The `maxScale` and `fixedScale` parameters are especially useful for creating thumbnail images from various-sized originals. The following line creates a 32-by-32 pixel thumbnail image, preserving the original aspect ratio:

```
image1.process(maxScale="32 32");
```

---

## processCopy() Method

### Format

```
processCopy (command IN VARCHAR2,  
            dest IN OUT NOCOPY BLOB);
```

### Description

Copies an image BLOB or BFILE to another BLOB.

### Parameters

**command**

A list of image processing changes to make for the image in the new copy.

**dest**

The destination of the new image.

### Usage

See Table E-1, “Image Processing Operators” and Table E-2, “Additional Image Processing Operators for Raw Pixel and Foreign Images”.

When using temporary LOBs, you cannot specify the same temporary LOB as both the source and the destination.

### Example

Copy an image, changing the file format, compression format, and data format in the destination image:

```
create or replace procedure copyit is  
  virB1    ORDSYS.ORDVIRF;  
  virB4    ORDSYS.ORDVIRB;  
  mycommand VARCHAR2(400);  
begin  
  select col2 into virB1 from ordvirtab where coll = 1;  
  select col2 into virB4 from ordvirtab where coll = 4 for update;  
  mycommand:= 'fileFormat=tiff compressionFormat = packbits  
  contentFormat = 8bitlut';
```

```
virB1.processcopy(mycommand,virB4.content);  
virB4.setproperties;  
update ordvirtab set col2 = virB4 where col1 = 4;  
end;
```

## setProperties() Method

### Format

```
setProperties();
```

### Description

Writes the characteristics of an image (BLOB or BFILE) into the appropriate attribute fields.

### Parameters

None.

### Usage

After you have copied, stored, or processed an image, call this method to set the characteristics of the new image content.

This method sets the following information about an image:

- Height in pixels
- Width in pixels
- Data size of the *on-disk* image in bytes
- File type (TIFF, JFIF, and so forth)
- Image type (monochrome, 8-bit grayscale, and so forth)
- Compression type (JPEG, LZW, and so forth)

Note that the `setProperties()` method does not create the signature required for content-based retrieval. See the `Analyze()` operator in Section E.3 for details.

### Example

Select the image type, and then set the attributes using the `setProperties` procedure:

```
virB1 ORDSYS.ORDVIRB;  
.  
.  
.  
select col2 into virB1 from ordvirtab where col1 = 1 for update;
```

```
virB1.setProperties;  
dbms_output.put_line('image width = '|| virB1.width );  
dbms_output.put_line('image height = '|| virB1.height );  
dbms_output.put_line('image size = '|| virB1.contentLength );  
dbms_output.put_line('image file type = '|| virB1.fileFormat );  
dbms_output.put_line('image type = '|| virB1.contentType );  
dbms_output.put_line('image compression = '|| virB1.compressionFormat );  
-- Note: signature not meaningful as displayed output.
```

### Example output:

```
image width = 360  
image height = 490  
image size = 59650  
image file type = JFIF  
image type = 24BITRGB  
image compression = JPEG
```

---

## setProperties() Method for Foreign Images

### Format

```
setProperties(description IN VARCHAR2);
```

### Description

Allows you to write the characteristics of a foreign image (BLOB or BFILE) into the appropriate attribute fields.

### Parameter

#### **description**

The image characteristics to set for the foreign image.

### Usage

After you have copied, stored, or processed a foreign image, call this method to set the characteristics of the new image content. Unlike the native image types described in Appendix A, foreign images do not contain information on how to interpret the bits in the file (or contain information that the product cannot understand), and you must set them explicitly.

You can set the following image characteristics for foreign files, as shown in Table E-3.

**Table E-3 Image Characteristics for Foreign Files**

Field	Data Type	Description
CompressionFormat	STRING	Value must be CCITTG3, CCITTG4, or NONE (default).
DataOffset	INTEGER	The offset allows the image to have a header that the product does not try to interpret. Set the offset to ignore any potential header. The value must be a positive integer less than the LOB length. Default is zero.
DefaultChannelSelection	INTEGER	For multiband images, specify either one (grayscale) or three integers indicating which channels to assign to red (first), green (second), and blue (third).
Height	INTEGER	Height of the image in pixels. Value must be a positive integer. There is no default, and a value must be specified.

**Table E-3 Image Characteristics for Foreign Files(Cont.)**

Field	Data Type	Description
Interleaving	STRING	Band layout within the image. Valid styles are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BIP (default): Band Interleaved by Pixel</li> <li>• BIL: Band Interleaved by Line</li> <li>• BSQ: Band Sequential</li> </ul>
NumberOfBands	INTEGER	Value must be a positive integer less than 255 describing the number of color bands in the image. Default is 3.
PixelOrder	STRING	If NORMAL (default), the leftmost pixel appears first in the file. If REVERSE, the rightmost pixel appears first.
ScanlineOrder	STRING	If NORMAL (default), the top scanline appears first in the file. If INVERSE, then the bottom scanline appears first.
UserString	STRING	A 4-character descriptive string. If used, the string is stored in the fileFormat field, appended to the file format ("OTHER:"). Default is blank.
Width	INTEGER	Width of the image in pixels. Value must be a positive integer. There is no default, and a value must be specified.

The values supplied to setProperties() are written to the existing ORDVirB and ORDVirF object attributes. The fileFormat is set to "OTHER:" and includes the user string, if supplied.

Note that setProperties() does not create the signature required for content-based retrieval. See the Analyze() operator in Section E.3 for details.

## Example

Select the image type, and then set the attributes using the SetProperties method:

```
virB1 ORDSYS.ORDVIRB;
select col2 into virB1 from ordvirtab where col1 = 1 for update;
virB1.setProperties('width=380 height=407 dataOffset=128 bandOrder=BIL
userString="LSAT"');
```

## E.3 Operators

Visual Information Retrieval operators are located in the ORDSYS.VIR package. The operators, which are specific to content-based retrieval, are as follows:

- `Analyze()`: Produces the signature of an image.
- `Convert()`: Converts the signature to either big or little endian byte order based on the architecture of the host machine. This operator can also convert a Viisage facial signature to a signature usable by the `Score()` and `Similar()` or `VIRScore()` and `VIRSimliar()` operators.
- `Score()`: Compares two signatures, considers the weights for the visual attributes, and computes an overall score that is the weighted sum of the distances. For example, in Section 2.3.3, overall scores (weighted sums) of 61.5 and 24 were computed for comparisons of the same two images using two different sets of weights.
- `Similar()`: Compares two signatures and determines whether or not the images match, based on the weights and threshold; returns 1 if the computed distance measure (weighted average) is less than or equal to the threshold value, and otherwise returns 0.

For ease of use, you can create a local synonym for the ORDSYS.VIR package. Connect to your schema and issue the following command:

```
SVRMGR> CREATE SYNONYM VIR FOR ORDSYS.VIR;
```

After creating the synonym, you can use it in calls to the operators: `VIR.Analyze()`, `VIR.Score()`, and so forth. Note that you must have the default `CREATE SYNONYM` privilege.

This section presents reference information on the operators.

---

## Analyze() Operator

### Format

Analyze(image IN BLOB, signature OUT RAW);

or

Analyze(image IN BFILE, signature OUT RAW);

### Description

Analyzes an image BLOB or BFILE, derives information relating to the visual attributes, and creates the image signature.

### Parameters

#### **image**

The BLOB or BFILE to be analyzed.

#### **signature**

The vector to contain the signature.

### Usage

The Analyze() operator creates the image signature (or feature vector), which is necessary for any content-based retrieval. Whenever you are working with a new or changed image, you should call Analyze() to generate a signature and then use the SetProperty() method to set the other image characteristics.

Signatures for facial images can be created using an optional third-party software package from Viisage Technology, Inc. After creating a facial signature, Visual Information Retrieval can convert the signature to a standard format and then compare the signatures using the Score() and Similar() operators.

### Example

Create the signatures for all images in the stockphotos table:

```
DECLARE
    temp_image  ORDSYS.ORDVirB;
    temp_id     INTEGER;
    cursor c1 is select id, image from stockphotos for update;
BEGIN
    OPEN c1;
    LOOP
        fetch c1 into temp_id, temp_image;
        EXIT WHEN c1%NOTFOUND;

        -- Generate signature and set the properties for the image.
        ORDSYS.VIR.Analyze(temp_image.content, temp_image.signature);
        temp_image.setProperties;
        UPDATE stockphotos SET photo = temp_image WHERE photo_id = temp_id;
    END LOOP;
    CLOSE c1;
END;
```

## Convert() Operator

---

### Format

Convert(signature IN OUT RAW, operation IN VARCHAR2);

### Description

Converts the image signature to a format usable by the host machine.

### Parameters

#### **signature**

The signature of the image, as created by the Analyze() operator or by Viisage software. Data type is raw(2000).

#### **operation**

The processing to be done to the image signature. The following operations are available:

<b>Operation Keyword</b>	<b>Description</b>
BYTEORDER	Converts the signature to the natural byte order of the host machine.
VIISAGE	Converts the signature from the format used for Viisage face recognition to a signature usable by the Score() and Similar() operators.

### Usage

When the operation is BYTEORDER, the signature is converted to the format of the host machine regardless of its initial state.

This procedure is useful if the database is stored on a remote system, but you want to do your processing locally. If your host machine is from Sun Microsystems, Inc., the Convert() operator sets the signature to the big endian byte order. On an Intel Corporation machine, the operator converts the signature to the little endian byte order. Note that the images themselves are machine-independent; only the signatures need to be converted.

When the operator is VIISAGE, the signature is converted from the format used by Viisage Technology for face recognition to the format usable by this product for Score and Similar operations.

## Example

Convert the signature of the image with `photo_id=1` to that usable by the host system:

```
DECLARE
    myimage ORDSYS.ORDVirB;
    myid    INTEGER;
BEGIN
    SELECT photo INTO myimage FROM stockphotos WHERE photo_id=1 FOR UPDATE;
    ORDSYS.VIR.Convert(myimage.signature, 'BYTEORDER');
    UPDATE stockphotos SET photo=myimage WHERE photo_id=1;
END;
```

Convert the signatures of the image with `photo_id=1` from the format used for Viisage facial image recognition software to a signature usable by the `Score()` and `Similar()` operators:

```
DECLARE
    myimage ORDSYS.ORDVirB;
    myid    INTEGER;
BEGIN
    SELECT photo INTO myimage FROM stockphotos WHERE photo_id=1 FOR UPDATE;
    ORDSYS.VIR.Convert(myimage.signature, 'VIISAGE');
    UPDATE stockphotos SET photo=myimage WHERE photo_id=1;
END;
```

---

## Score() Operator

### Format

```
Score(signature1 IN RAW,  
       signature2 IN RAW,  
       weightstring IN VARCHAR2);  
where weightstring is: 'globalcolor="val" localcolor="val" texture="val" structure="val"  
                       or: 'facial=1'
```

### Description

Compares the signatures of two images and returns a number representing the weighted sum of the distances for the visual attributes.

### Parameters

#### **signature1**

The signature of the comparison image (the image with which other images are being compared to test for matches). Data type is RAW(2000).

#### **signature2**

The signature of the image being compared with the comparison image. Data type is RAW(2000).

#### **weightstring**

A list of weights to apply to each visual attribute. Data type is VARCHAR2.

The following attributes can be specified, with a value of 0.0 specifying no importance and a value of 1.0 specifying highest importance:

<b>Attribute</b>	<b>Description</b>
globalcolor	The weight value (0.0 to 1.0) assigned to the global color visual attribute. Data type is NUMBER. Default is 0.0.
localcolor	The weight value (0.0 to 1.0) assigned to the local color visual attribute. Data type is NUMBER. Default is 0.0.
texture	The weight value (0.0 to 1.0) assigned to the texture visual attribute. Data type is NUMBER. Default is 0.0.

---

Attribute	Description
structure	The weight value (0.0 to 1.0) assigned to the structure visual attribute. Data type is NUMBER. Default is 0.0.
facial	The two signatures are Viisage facial signatures. When comparing facial signatures, no other attributes can be included in the weightstring. Data type is NUMBER, and must be set to 1 if used.

---

---

---

### Note

When specifying parameter values that include floating-point numbers, you should use double quotation marks ( " ") around the value. If you do not, this may result in incorrect values being passed and you will get incorrect results.

---

---

## Returns

A FLOAT value between 0.0 and 100.0, where 0.0 is identical and 100.0 is totally different.

## Usage

Before the Score() operator can be used, the image signatures must be created with the Analyze() operator.

The Score() operator can be useful when an application wants to make finer distinctions about matching than the simple "Yes" or "No" returned by the Similar() operator. For example, using the number for weighted sum returned by Score(), the application might assign each image being compared to one of several categories, such as Definite Matches, Probable Matches, Possible Matches, and Non-Matches. The Score() operator can also be useful if the application needs to perform special processing based on the degree of similarity between images.

The weights supplied for the four visual attributes are normalized prior to processing such that they add up to 100 percent. To avoid confusion and meaningless results, you should develop a habit of always using the same scale, whether 0 to 100 or 0.0 to 1.0.

You must specify at least one of the four image attributes or the facial attribute, in the weightstring. You cannot combine the facial attribute with any of the other attributes.

## Example

The following example finds the weighted sum of the distances between image 1 and the other images in the stockphotos table, using the following weights for the visual attributes:

- Global color: 0.2
- Local color: 0.2
- Texture: 0.1
- Structure: 0.5

This example assumes that the signatures have already been created using the Analyze() operator and they are stored in the database.

```
DECLARE
    weighted_sum    NUMBER;
BEGIN
    SELECT Q.photo_id,
           ORDSYS.VIR.Score(S.photo.signature,
                           Q.photo.signature,
                           'globalcolor="0.2"
                            localcolor="0.2"
                            texture="0.1"
                            structure="0.5"') weighted_sum
    FROM stockphotos Q, stockphotos S
    WHERE S.photo_id=1 and Q.photo_id !=S.photo_id;
END;
```

The following shows possible output from this example. The first image has the lowest score, and therefore is the best match of the test image (photo\_id=1). Changing the weights used in the scoring would lead to different results.

```
PHOTO_ID    WEIGHTED_SUM
-----
          2      3.79988
          3      76.0807
          4      47.8139
          5      80.451
          6      91.2473

5 rows selected.
```

---

## Similar() Operator

### Format

```
Similar(signature1 IN RAW
        signature2 IN RAW,
        weightstring IN VARCHAR2
        threshold IN FLOAT);
```

where weightstring is: 'globalcolor="val" localcolor="val" texture="val" structure="val"  
or: 'facial=1'

### Description

Determines whether or not two images match. Specifically, compares the signatures of two images, computes a weighted sum of the distance between the two images using weight values for the visual attributes, compares the weighted sum with the threshold value, and returns the integer value 1 if the weighted sum is less than or equal to the threshold value. Otherwise, the Similar() operator returns 0.

### Parameters

#### **signature1**

The signature of the comparison image (the image with which other images are being compared to test for matches).

#### **signature2**

The signature of the image being compared with the comparison image.

#### **weightstring**

A list of weights to apply to each visual attribute. Data type is VARCHAR2.

The following attributes can be specified, with a value of 0.0 specifying no importance and a value of 1.0 specifying highest importance:

Attribute	Description
globalcolor	The weight value (0.0 to 1.0) assigned to the global color visual attribute. Data type is NUMBER. Default is 0.0.

Attribute	Description
localcolor	The weight value (0.0 to 1.0) assigned to the local color visual attribute. Data type is NUMBER. Default is 0.0.
texture	The weight value (0.0 to 1.0) assigned to the texture visual attribute. Data type is NUMBER. Default is 0.0.
structure	The weight value (0.0 to 1.0) assigned to the structure visual attribute. Data type is NUMBER. Default is 0.0.
facial	The two signatures are Viisage facial signatures. When comparing facial signatures, no other attributes can be included in the weightstring. Data type is NUMBER, and must be set to 1 if used.

---



---

### Note

When specifying parameter values that include floating-point numbers, you should use double quotation marks ( " ") around the value. If you do not, this may result in incorrect values being passed and you will get incorrect results.

---



---

### threshold

The value with which the weighted sum of the distances is to be compared. If the weighted sum is less than or equal to the threshold value, the images are considered to match. The range of this parameter is from 0.0 to 100.0.

### Returns

An integer value of 0 (not similar) or 1 (match).

### Usage

Before the Similar() operator can be used, the image signatures must be created with the Analyze() operator.

The Similar() operator is useful when the application needs a simple "Yes" or "No" for whether or not two images match. The Score() operator is useful when an application wants to make finer distinctions about matching or to perform special processing based on the degree of similarity between images.

The weights supplied for the four visual attributes are normalized prior to processing such that they add up to 100 percent. To avoid confusion and meaningless results, you should develop a habit of always using the same scale, whether 0 to 100 or 0.0 to 1.0.

You must specify at least one of the four image attributes, or the facial attribute, in the weightstring. You cannot combine the facial attribute with any of the other attributes.

## Example

This example checks the first image against all the other images in the table and determines if there are any matches, using a threshold value of 75 and the following weights for the visual attributes:

- Global color: 20
- Local color: 20
- Texture: 10
- Structure: 50

```
BEGIN
SELECT Q.photo_id FROM stockphotos Q, stockphotos S
WHERE S.photo_id=1 and Q.photo_id != S.photo_id
AND ORDSYS.VIR.Similar(S.photo.signature,
                        Q.photo.signature,
                        'globalcolor="20"
localcolor="20"
texture="10"
structure="50"', 75)=1;
END;
```

The following shows a possible output from this example. See the Example section of the Score() operator for a different way of viewing the results using the same images and weights.

```
PHOTO_ID
-----
         2
         4
2 rows selected.
```



---

## Error Messages and Codes

**VIR-01001, "ANALYZE failed to generate the SIGNATURE"**

**Cause:** The Analyze function could not generate the signature.

**Action:** Verify the image being analyzed is valid.

**VIR-01002, "SCORE failed to compare the SIGNATURES"**

**Cause:** The Score function could not compare the two signatures.

**Action:** Verify that the signatures were generated correctly.

**VIR-01003, "SIGNATURE buffer too small"**

**Cause:** The signature being generated is larger than the storage allocated to receive it.

**Action:** Allocate more space for the signature, reduce the complexity of the image being analyzed, or crop the image to remove extraneous features.

**VIR-01005, "empty or null attribute string"**

**Cause:** An empty or null weightstring was passed to the Score or Similar function.

**Action:** Refer to the Oracle8i Visual Information Retrieval documentation for a description of the correct usage and syntax for the attribute weightstring.

**VIR-01006, "invalid attribute value"**

**Cause:** An invalid value was found while parsing the attribute weightstring for the Score or Similar functions.

**Action:** Correct the statement by using a valid attribute value. Refer to the Oracle8i Visual Information Retrieval documentation for a description of the correct usage and syntax for the Score and Similar attribute weightstring.

---

**VIR-01007, "internal error"**

**Cause:** An internal error has occurred.

**Action:** Contact Oracle Worldwide Customer Support Services.

**VIR-01008, application specific message**

**Cause:** A syntax error was found while parsing the attribute weightstring for the Score or Similar functions.

**Action:** Correct the statement by using valid parameter values. Refer to the Oracle8i Visual Information Retrieval documentation for a description of the correct usage and syntax of the attribute weightstring.

**VIR-01009, "unable to read image data"**

**Cause:** There is no image data in the image object.

**Action:** Refer to the Oracle8i Visual Information Retrieval documentation for information on how to populate image data into the image object.

**VIR-01010, "SIGNATURE data has been corrupted or is invalid"**

**Cause:** The data in the signature is not a valid Virage signature.

**Action:** Re-create the signature using the Analyze method.

**VIR-01011, "SIGNATURE is in incorrect byte order"**

**Cause:** The data in the signature may be a valid Virage signature, but is in the incorrect byte order.

**Action:** Use the Convert method to change the byte order.

**VIR-01012, "SIGNATURE conversion failed"**

**Cause:** The data in the signature may not be a valid Viisage signature.

**Action:** Rewrite the signature with a valid Viisage signature.

**VIR-01013, "invalid conversion operation"**

**Cause:** The specified conversion operation is not valid.

**Action:** Refer to the Oracle8i Visual Information Retrieval documentation for a description of the correct usage and syntax for the Convert operation string.

**VIR-01014, "specified weights are not valid"**

**Cause:** The weights specified are not valid for Score. Both standard and facial weights were specified.

**Action:** Do not specify both standard and facial attribute weights.

---

**VIR-01015, "no weights specified"**

**Cause:** All weights passed were zero. At least one attribute must be weighted.

**Action:** Specify a weight for at least one attribute.

**VIR-01016, "internal error during initialization"**

**Cause:** An internal error has occurred while trying to initialize the Visual Information Retrieval image engine.

**Action:** Contact Oracle Worldwide Customer Support Services.

**VIR-01017, "out of memory while analyzing image"**

**Cause:** The external process agent has exhausted operating system memory while analyzing the image.

**Action:** See the database administrator or operating system administrator to increase the process memory quota for the external process agent.

**VIR-01018, "unable to convert SIGNATURE to native byte order"**

**Cause:** The signature data might have been corrupted.

**Action:** Re-create the signature using the Analyze method.

**VIR-01019, "signature is not a Viisage SIGNATURE"**

**Cause:** The incoming signature is not a Viisage signature.

**Action:** Rewrite the signature with a valid Viisage signature.

**IMG-00001, "unable to initialize Oracle8i interMedia environment"**

**Cause:** The image processing external procedure initialization process failed.

**Action:** Contact Oracle Worldwide Customer Support Services.

**IMG-00502, "invalid scale value"**

**Cause:** An invalid scale value was found while parsing the parameters for the image process function.

**Action:** Correct the statement by using a valid scale value. Refer to the Oracle8i interMedia documentation for a description of the correct usage and syntax for the image processing command string.

**IMG-00505, "missing value in CUT rectangle"**

**Cause:** An incorrect number of values was used to specify a rectangle.

**Action:** Use exactly 4 integer values for the lower left and upper right vertices.

---

**IMG-00506, "extra value in CUT rectangle"**

**Cause:** An incorrect number of values were used to specify a rectangle.

**Action:** Use exactly 4 integer values for the lower left and upper right vertices.

**IMG-00510, application-specific message**

**Cause:** A syntax error was found while parsing the parameters for the image process function.

**Action:** Correct the statement by using valid parameter values. Refer to the Oracle8i *interMedia* documentation for a description of the correct usage and syntax for the image processing command string.

**IMG-00511, application-specific message**

**Cause:** An error was found while accessing image data.

**Action:** Contact Oracle Worldwide Customer Support Services.

**IMG-00512, "multiple incompatible scaling parameters found"**

**Cause:** Multiple incompatible scaling parameters were found in the image process command string. With the exception of xScale and yScale, which can be used together in a process command string, scaling functions are mutually exclusive and cannot be combined.

**Action:** Remove scaling functions until only one remains (or two if they are xScale and yScale.)

**IMG-00513, "missing value in scaling operation"**

**Cause:** An incorrect number of values was used to specify image dimensions. fixedScale and maxScale require exactly two integer values for the X and Y dimensions of the desired image.

**Action:** Use two values for fixedScale and maxScale.

**IMG-00514, "extra value in scaling operation"**

**Cause:** An incorrect number of values was used to specify image dimensions. FixedScale and maxScale require exactly two integer values for the X and Y dimensions of the desired image.

**Action:** Use two values for fixedScale and maxScale.

**IMG-00515, "incorrect number of input channels"**

**Cause:** An incorrect number of values was used to specify input channels. inputChannels requires either one or three channel numbers for the grayscale or red, green, and blue channel assignments.

---

**Action:** Use either one or three values to specify the input channels.

**IMG-00516, "default channel out of range"**

**Cause:** An incorrect value was used to specify the default channel selection.

**Action:** Use a channel number that is less than or equal to the number of bands and greater than zero.

**IMG-00517, "height or width not present in parameter string"**

**Cause:** Height and/or width were not specified in the setProperties parameter string.

**Action:** Specify both the height and width.

**IMG-00518, "invalid value for height or width"**

**Cause:** Height and width must be positive integers.

**Action:** Specify both the height and width as positive integers.

**IMG-00519, "illegal combination of parameters"**

**Cause:** Other than height, width, dataOffset, and userString, no other parameters may be specified in the setProperties parameter string when CCITTG3 or CCITTG4 is used as the compressionFormat.

**Action:** Supply only the height and width when compressionFormat is either CCITTG3 or CCITTG4. The dataOffset and userString may optionally be supplied as well.

**IMG-00530, "internal error while parsing command"**

**Cause:** An internal error occurred while parsing the comand passed to the image processing function or to the foreign image setProperties() function.

**Action:** Check the command passed to the function. Refer to the Oracle8i *InterMedia* documentation for a description of the correct usage and syntax for the image processing command string or the foreign image setProperties() function. If you are certain that your command is correct, then contact Oracle Worldwide Customer Support Services.

---

**IMG-00531, "empty or null image processing command"**

**Cause:** An empty or null image processing command was passed to the image process function.

**Action:** Refer to the Oracle8i *interMedia* documentation for a description of the correct usage and syntax for the image processing command string.

**IMG-00599, "internal error"**

**Cause:** An internal error has occurred.

**Action:** Contact Oracle Worldwide Customer Support Services.

**IMG-00601, "out of memory while copying image"**

**Cause:** Operating system process memory has been exhausted while copying the image.

**Action:** See the database administrator or operating system administrator to increase process memory quota.

**IMG-00602, "unable to access image data"**

**Cause:** An error occurred while reading or writing image data.

**Action:** Contact your system administrator.

**IMG-00603, "unable to access source image data"**

**Cause:** The source image source attribute is invalid.

**Action:** Ensure that the source attribute of the source image is populated with image data.

**IMG-00604, "unable to access destination image data"**

**Cause:** The destination image source attribute is invalid.

**Action:** Ensure that the source attribute of the destination image is populated with image data.

**IMG-00606, "unable to access image data"**

**Cause:** An attempt was made to access an invalid image.

**Action:** Ensure that the source attribute of the image is populated with image data.

**IMG-00607, "unable to write to destination image"**

**Cause:** The destination image source attribute is invalid.

---

**Action:** Ensure that the source attribute of the destination image is initialized correctly and that you have sufficient tablespace.

**IMG-00609, "unable to read image stored in a BFILE"**

**Cause:** The image stored in a BFILE cannot be opened for reading.

**Action:** Ensure that the access privileges of the image file and the image file's directory allow read access.

**IMG-00701, "unable to set the properties of an empty image"**

**Cause:** There is no data in the image object.

**Action:** Refer to the Oracle8i *interMedia* documentation for information on how to populate image data into the image object.

**IMG-00702, "unable to initialize image processing environment"**

**Cause:** The image processing external procedure initialization process failed.

**Action:** Contact Oracle Worldwide Customer Support Services.

**IMG-00703, "unable to read image data"**

**Cause:** There is no image data in the image object.

**Action:** Refer to the Oracle8i *interMedia* documentation for information on how to populate image data into the image object.

**IMG-00704, "unable to read image data"**

**Cause:** There is no image data in the image object.

**Action:** Refer to the Oracle8i *interMedia* documentation for information on how to populate image data into the image object.

**IMG-00705, "unsupported or corrupted input format"**

**Cause:** This is an internal error.

**Action:** Contact Oracle Worldwide Customer Support Services.

**IMG-00706, "unsupported or corrupted output format"**

**Cause:** This is an internal error.

**Action:** Contact Oracle Worldwide Customer Support Services.

**IMG-00707, "unable to access image data"**

**Cause:** An error occurred while reading or writing image data.

**Action:** Contact your system administrator.

---

**IMG-00710, "unable write to destination image"**

**Cause:** The destination image is invalid.

**Action:** Ensure that the source attribute of the destination image is initialized and that you have sufficient tablespace.

**IMG-00711, "unable to set properties of destination image"**

**Cause:** This is an internal error.

**Action:** Contact Oracle Worldwide Customer Support Services.

**IMG-00712, "unable to write to destination image"**

**Cause:** The destination image is invalid.

**Action:** Ensure that the source attribute of the destination image is initialized and that you have sufficient tablespace. Ensure that the row containing the destination image has been locked (this does not apply to temporary BLOBs).

**IMG-00713, "unsupported destination image format"**

**Cause:** A request was made to convert an image to a format that is not supported.

**Action:** Refer to the Oracle8i *interMedia* documentation for supported formats.

**IMG-00714, "internal error"**

**Cause:** This is an internal error.

**Action:** Contact Oracle Worldwide Customer Support Services.

**IMG-00715, "Unable to open image stored in a BFILE"**

**Cause:** The image stored in a BFILE could not be opened for reading.

**Action:** Ensure that the access privileges of the image file and the image file's directory allow read access.

**IMG-00716, "source image format does not support process options"**

**Cause:** A request was made to apply a processing option not supported by the source image format.

**Action:** Refer to the Oracle8i *interMedia* documentation for a discussion of supported processing options.

---

**IMG-00717, "destination image format does not support process options"**

**Cause:** A request was made to apply a processing option not supported by the destination image format.

**Action:** Refer to the Oracle8i *interMedia* documentation for a discussion of supported processing options.

**IMG-00718, "the same temporary LOB cannot be used as both source and destination"**

**Cause:** A call was made to processCopy with the same temporary LOB being specified as both the source and destination.

**Action:** Specify a different LOB for parameter "dest".

**ORA-06502, "PL/SQL: numeric or value error"**

**Cause:** The valid range for the threshold argument to the Similar() function is from 0.0 to 100.0.

**Action:** Correct the statement and try again.



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# Glossary

## **ADT**

*See* object type.

## **aspect ratio**

Proportions of height versus width.

## **BFILE**

A large object whose value is composed of binary data, and is stored outside of the database in an operating system file. The file itself is not stored in the database, but a pointer to the file is stored in the database. Because they are outside of the database, BFILES are read-only.

## **binary large object**

*See* BLOB.

## **biometrics**

The science of using personal characteristics to verify identity. This method uses a non-intrusive test, such as face or fingerprint recognition, rather than an intrusive test such as DNA or blood type analysis.

## **BLOB**

Binary large object. Large objects are stored in the database tablespace in a way that optimizes space and provides efficient access. Only a pointer to the object is actually stored in the row.

## **content format**

A description of the image data, such as the pixel or color format.

**cropping**

Selecting the portion of an image within a specified rectangle and removing everything outside of that rectangle. *See also* cutting.

**cutting**

Selecting the portion of an image within a specified rectangle to create a subimage. If the subimage is copied to a new image, the effect is a cut. If the subimage replaces the original, the effect is a crop. Use the `Process()` or `ProcessCopy()` procedures to cut or crop an image.

**data service**

The mechanism by which clients, application-specific servers, and database servers can be easily and reliably extended.

**default constructor**

The type of constructor in an Oracle Call Interface (OCI) call that creates an empty instance of the constructor.

**distance**

A measure of how similar two images are. When two images are compared, a distance value for visual attribute and an overall distance value (weighted sum of the attribute distances) are calculated. The distance for each visual attribute can range from 0 (no difference) to 100 (maximum possible difference). Thus, the more similar two images are with respect to a visual attribute, the smaller the distance will be between their scores for that attribute.

**file format**

The file format of the image data, such as BMPF or GIFF.

**foreign images**

An image whose type is not natively supported by Visual Information Retrieval. Instead, the product provides direct access to the pixel data.

**global color**

The visual attribute that represents the distribution of colors within the entire image. This distribution includes the amounts of each color, but not the locations of color.

**IDL**

Interface Definition Language.

**image**

A graphic picture. The source could be a photograph, drawing, or generated image.

**image processing**

A change to the properties of an image, such as through scaling, rotation, or compression.

**local color**

The visual attribute that represents color distributions *and where they occur* in an image, such as the fact that an RGB vector for sky blue occurs in the upper half of an image.

**lossless compression**

A means for reducing the storage space required for an image. The decompressed image is bit-for-bit identical to the original.

**lossy compression**

A means for reducing the storage space required for an image. The decompressed image has less resolution than the original, although this might not be noticeable to the naked eye.

**MIME**

Multi-purpose Internet Mail Extensions. MIME is an Internet specification describing file types. Servers and browsers read the MIME type in the file header and decide what to do with the file, such as displaying it with a viewer or playing it as an audio file.

**Network Computing Architecture**

A fully integrated design integrating text, spatial, and image data. The architecture supports the design, development, installation, and integration of manageable components across entire organizations.

**object relational database**

A database having both object-oriented and relational characteristics. Objects can be defined and stored, and then retrieved using standard relational methods.

**object type**

A data type that encapsulates attributes of the data and methods (functions and procedures) for operating on the data.

An object data type is sometimes referred to as an abstract data type (ADT).

**OCI**

Oracle Call Interface.

**raw pixel format**

An uncompressed image format with a simple, fixed-size header.

**scaling**

A change to the proportions of an image in one or both dimensions. To enlarge an image, scale by a factor greater than one. To shrink an image, scale by a factor between zero and one. Use the Process() or ProcessCopy() procedures to scale an image.

**structure**

The visual attribute that represents the shapes that appear in the image, as determined by shape-characterization techniques, rather than by local shape-segmentation methods (which are affected by problems due to lighting effects and occlusion).

**texture**

The visual attribute that represents the low-level patterns and textures within the image, such as graininess or smoothness. Unlike structure, texture is very sensitive to high-frequency features in the image.

**threshold**

The numeric value used in a comparison to determine whether or not two images match. If the weighted sum of the distances for the visual attributes is less than or equal to the threshold, the images match; if the weighted sum is greater than the threshold, the images do not match.

**weight**

A numeric value assigned to a visual attribute to determine how important that attribute is in determining whether or not two images being compared match. Each weight value can range from 0.0 (no importance) to 1.0 (highest importance), and reflects how sensitive the matching process should be to the degree of similarity or dissimilarity between two images with respect to that attribute.

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---

# Index

## A

---

### adding

image column to table, 3-2

analyze() method, 4-11

Analyze() operator, 4-61

aspect ratio, Glossary-1

## B

---

binary large object, Glossary-1

biometrics, Glossary-1

BMP data format, A-1

## C

---

CALS Raster Data Format, A-2

checkProperties() method, 4-13

clearLocal() method, 4-14

### color

global, 2-3, 2-4

local, 2-3, 2-4

### compression

formats, A-1

lossless, 1-4

lossy, 1-4

content format, Glossary-1

### content-based retrieval

benefits, 2-1

definition, 1-2

example, 3-4

overview, 2-1

### converting

image to different format, 3-8

copy() method, 4-15

cropping images, Glossary-2

cutting images, Glossary-2

## D

---

data service, Glossary-2

deleteContent() method, 4-17

deprecated methods, F-7

distance, 2-7

domain index, 2-10

## E

---

error messages, G-1

### examples

adding image column to table, 3-2

converting image to different format, 3-8

retrieving an image (simple read), 3-4

retrieving images similar to an image  
(content-based), 3-4

export() method, 4-18

extensible index, 2-10

## F

---

face recognition, 2-2, 2-6

facial (visual attribute), 2-3

facial signature, 2-3, 2-6

file format, A-1, Glossary-2

foreign images, Glossary-2

format conversion, 3-8

### formats

compression, A-1

file, A-1

## G

---

getBFILE() method, 4-20  
getCompressionFormat() method, 4-21  
getContent() method, 4-22  
getContentFormat() method, 4-24  
getContentLength() method, 4-24  
getFileFormat() method, 4-26  
getHeight() method, 4-27  
getMimeType() method, 4-28  
getSignature() method, 4-29  
getSource() method, 4-30  
getSourceLocation() method, 4-31  
getSourceName() method, 4-32  
getSourceObject() method, 4-33  
getSourceType() method, 4-18  
getUpdateTime() method, 4-34  
getWidth() method, 4-35  
GIF Data Format, A-2  
global color, 2-3, 2-4

## I

---

IDL, Glossary-2  
image, Glossary-3  
    attributes, 2-2  
    thumbnail, 4-47  
image interchange formats  
    overview, 1-4  
image processing, Glossary-3  
import() method, 4-18, 4-36  
importFrom() method, 4-38  
indexing signatures, 2-10  
interchange formats  
    overview, 1-4  
isLocal() method, 4-40

## J

---

JFIF Data Format, A-3

## L

---

local color, 2-3, 2-4  
lossless compression, 1-4, Glossary-3  
lossy compression, 1-4, Glossary-3

## M

---

matching  
    preparing or selecting images for, 2-12  
messages, error, G-1  
methods, 4-8  
    analyze(), 4-11  
    checkProperties(), 4-13  
    clearLocal(), 4-14  
    copy(), 4-15  
    deleteContent(), 4-17  
    deprecated, F-7  
    export(), 4-18  
    getBFILE(), 4-20  
    getCompressionFormat(), 4-21  
    getContent(), 4-22  
    getContentFormat(), 4-24  
    getContentLength(), 4-24  
    getFileFormat(), 4-26  
    getHeight(), 4-27  
    getMimeType(), 4-28  
    getSignature(), 4-29  
    getSource(), 4-30  
    getSourceLocation(), 4-31  
    getSourceName(), 4-32  
    getSourceObject(), 4-33  
    getSourceType(), 4-18  
    getUpdateTime(), 4-34  
    getWidth(), 4-35  
    import(), 4-18, 4-36  
    importFrom(), 4-38  
    isLocal(), 4-40  
    migrateFromORDVirB(), 4-41  
    migrateFromORDVirF(), 4-43  
    process(), 4-52  
    processCopy(), 4-48  
    setMimeType(), 4-51  
    setProperties() for foreign images, 4-54  
    setSource(), 4-52

setUpdateTime(), 4-59  
migrateFromORDVirB() method, 4-41  
migrateFromORDVirF() method, 4-43  
MIME, Glossary-3

## N

---

Network Computing Architecture, Glossary-3

## O

---

object relational database, Glossary-3  
object relational technology, 1-4  
object views, 3-10  
OCI, Glossary-4  
operators  
    Analyze(), 4-61  
    VIRScore(), 4-65  
    VIRSimilar(), 4-67  
ORDVir  
    methods, 4-8  
    reference information, 4-4  
ORDVirB  
    reference information, F-3  
ORDVirF  
    reference information, F-5

## P

---

PCX Data Format, A-3  
PICT Data Format, A-4  
preparing  
    images for matching, 2-12  
process() method, 4-52  
processCopy() method, 4-48

## R

---

Raw Pixel Data Format, A-4  
raw pixel data format, Glossary-4  
reference information, 4-1  
retrieval, content-based  
    benefits, 2-1  
    definition, 1-2  
    overview, 2-1

retrieving  
    images from tables, 3-4  
    images similar to an image (content-based), 3-4

## S

---

scaling, Glossary-4  
selecting  
    images for matching, 2-12  
setMimeType() method, 4-51  
setProperties() method for foreign images, 4-54  
setSource() method, 4-52  
setUpdateTime() method, 4-59  
signature, 2-2  
    indexing, 2-10  
similarity calculation, 2-8  
structure (visual attribute), 2-3  
Sun Raster Data Format, A-5

## T

---

Targa Data Format, A-6  
texture (visual attribute), 2-3  
threshold, 2-10  
thumbnail images, 4-47, F-23, F-24  
TIFF Data Format, A-7

## V

---

VIRScore() operator, 4-65  
VIRSimilar() operator, 4-67  
visual attributes, 2-2

## W

---

weight, 2-6

