Doc Code: PA..
Document Description: Power of Attorney

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TRANSMITTAL FOR POWER OF ATTORNEY TO ONE OR MORE REGISTERED PRACTITIONERS

NOTE: This form is to be submitted with the Power of Attorney by Applicant form (PTO/AIA/82B) to identify the application to which the Power of Attorney is directed, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.5, unless the application number and filing date are identified in the Power of Attorney by Applicant form. If neither form PTO/AIA/82A nor form PTO/AIA82B identifies the application to which the Power of Attorney is directed, the Power of Attorney will not be recognized in the application.

Application Number	TO BE ASSIGNED
Filing Date	Concurrently Herewith
First Named Inventor	Mehmet Oguz BICI et al.
Title	METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	042933/519745

SIGNATURE of Applicant or Patent Practitioner

Signature	/Guy R. Gosnell/	Date (Optional)	03/18/2019
Name	Guy R. Gosnell	Registration Number	34,610
Title (if Applicant is a juristic entity)	Patent Practitioner		
Applicant Name (if Applicant is a juristic entity)	NOKIA TECHNOLOGIES OY		

NOTE: This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4(d) for signature requirements and certifications. If more than one applicant, use multiple forms.

☐ *Total of _____ forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.131, 1.32, and 1.33. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 3 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

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Document Description: Power of Attorney

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POWER OF ATTORNEY BY APPLICANT

I hereby revoke all previous powers of attorney given in the application identified in either the attached transmittal letter or the boxes below.

Application Number	Filing Date

(Note: The boxes above may be left blank if information is provided on form PTO/AIA/82A.)

☑ I hereby appoint the Patent Practitioner(s) associated with the following Customer Number as my/our attorney(s) or agent(s), and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith for the application referenced in the attached transmittal letter (form PTO/AIA/82A) or identified above: 10949

OR

☐ I hereby appoint Practitioner(s) named in the attached list (form PTO/AIA/82C) as my/our attorney(s) or agent(s), and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith for the patent application referenced in the attached transmittal letter (form PTO/AIA/82A) or identified above. (Note: Complete form PTO/AIA/82C.)

Please recognize or change the correspondence address for the application identified in the attached transmittal letter or the boxes above to:

☑ The address associated with the above-mentioned Customer Number

OR

☐ The address associated with Customer Number:

OR

Firm or Individual Name					
Address					
City		State		Zip	
Country					
Telephone		Email			

I am the Applicant (if the Applicant is a juristic entity, list the Applicant name in the box):

NOKIA TECHNOLOGIES OY

☐ Inventor or Joint Inventor (title not required below)

☐ Legal Representative of a Deceased or Legally Incapacitated Inventor (title not required below)

☑ Assignee or Person to Whom the Inventor is Under an Obligation to Assign (provide signer's title if applicant is a juristic entity)

☐ Person Who Otherwise Shows Sufficient Proprietary Interest (e.g., a petition under 37 CFR 1.46(b)(2) was granted in the application or is concurrently being filed with this document) (provide signer's title if applicant is a juristic entity)

SIGNATURE of Applicant for Patent

The undersigned (whose title is supplied below) is authorized to act on behalf of the applicant (e.g., where the applicant is a juristic entity).

Signature	[signature]	Date (Optional)	23 January 2015
Name	Mark H... [illegible]		
Title	Director f... [illegible] Legal and I... [illegible] tual Property		

NOTE: Signature - This form must be signed by the applicant in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4 for signature requirements and certifications. If more than one applicant, use multiple forms.

☐ Total of forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.131, 1.32, and 1.33. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 3 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Jukka Nihtilä
Head, Business Development
Legal & IP

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal					
Application Number:					
Filing Date:					
Title of Invention:	METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS				
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Mehmet Oguz BICI				
Filer:	Guy Randall Gosnell/Janet Snider				
Attorney Docket Number:	042933/519745				
Filed as Large Entity					
Filing Fees for Utility under 35 USC 111(a)					
Description		**Fee Code**	**Quantity**	**Amount**	**Sub-Total in USD($)**
Basic Filing:					
UTILITY APPLICATION FILING		1011	1	300	300
UTILITY SEARCH FEE		1111	1	660	660
UTILITY EXAMINATION FEE		1311	1	760	760
Pages:					
Claims:					
CLAIMS IN EXCESS OF 20		1202	10	100	1000
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS IN EXCESS OF 3		1201	3	460	1380
Miscellaneous-Filing:					

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				
Miscellaneous:				
		Total in USD ($)		**4100**

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	35455593
Application Number:	16356733
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	3483
Title of Invention:	METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Mehmet Oguz BICI
Customer Number:	10949
Filer:	Guy Randall Gosnell/Janet Snider
Filer Authorized By:	Guy Randall Gosnell
Attorney Docket Number:	042933/519745
Receipt Date:	18-MAR-2019
Filing Date:	
Time Stamp:	16:43:47
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	DA
Payment was successfully received in RAM	$4100
RAM confirmation Number	031919INTEFSW00004120160605
Deposit Account	
Authorized User	
The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:	

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Application Data Sheet	519745_ADS.PDF	1828635 eef709681ff88df14d2233a6d94020d389acbe81	no	9
Warnings:					
Information:					
2		519745_Application.pdf	292170 e38fd8a6ef43f58648c274ae4aced8e376018f18	yes	60

	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description		
	Document Description	**Start**	**End**
	Abstract	60	60
	Claims	46	59
	Specification	1	45

Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Drawings-only black and white line drawings	519745_Drawings.PDF	257901 68dce893aba7cd5c3f4f434c98400f743bcf0ede	no	13
Warnings:					
Information:					
4	Oath or Declaration filed	519745_Declaration.PDF	327213 73b74c8a6c4c004618a63bdc3ee8f3791f1e987e	no	3
Warnings:					
Information:					
5	Power of Attorney	519745_POA.pdf	558171 e3d9ac9c38cd1eb15e507ddac7a55ce0ad31e8ca	no	2

Warnings:					
Information:					
6	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	38095 09a0fbb89900a04af40245d874c6126f38b6c073	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
			Total Files Size (in bytes):	3302185	

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

PTO/AIA/14 (02-18)
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Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76	Attorney Docket Number	042933/519745
	Application Number	
Title of Invention	METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS	

The application data sheet is part of the provisional or nonprovisional application for which it is being submitted. The following form contains the bibliographic data arranged in a format specified by the United States Patent and Trademark Office as outlined in 37 CFR 1.76.
This document may be completed electronically and submitted to the Office in electronic format using the Electronic Filing System (EFS) or the document may be printed and included in a paper filed application.

Secrecy Order 37 CFR 5.2:

☐ Portions or all of the application associated with this Application Data Sheet may fall under a Secrecy Order pursuant to 37 CFR 5.2 (Paper filers only. Applications that fall under Secrecy Order may not be filed electronically.)

Inventor Information:

Inventor 1 Remove

Legal Name

Prefix	Given Name	Middle Name	Family Name	Suffix
	Mehmet	Oguz	BICI	

Residence Information (Select One) US Residency ● Non US Residency Active US Military Service

City	Country of Residence [i]
Tampere	FI

Mailing Address of Inventor:

Address 1	Tammelan puistokatu 1-3 D 46
Address 2	
City	Tampere
State/Province	
Postal Code	33500
Country [i]	FI

Inventor 2 Remove

Legal Name

Prefix	Given Name	Middle Name	Family Name	Suffix
	Jani		LAINEMA	

Residence Information (Select One) US Residency ◉ Non US Residency Active US Military Service

City	Country of Residence [i]
Tampere	FI

Mailing Address of Inventor:

Address 1	Kisakentankatu 12 B 6
Address 2	
City	Tampere
State/Province	
Postal Code	33230
Country [i]	FI

Inventor 3 Remove

Legal Name

PTO/AIA/14 (02-18)
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Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76	Attorney Docket Number	042933/519745
	Application Number	
Title of Invention	METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS	

Prefix	Given Name	Middle Name	Family Name	Suffix
	Kemal		UGUR	

Residence Information (Select One) US Residency ◉ Non US Residency Active US Military Service

City	Tampere	Country of Residence [i]	FI

Mailing Address of Inventor:

Address 1	Lapintie 6D 25		
Address 2			
City	Tampere	**State/Province**	
Postal Code	33100	**Country** [i]	FI

All Inventors Must Be Listed - Additional Inventor Information blocks may be generated within this form by selecting the **Add** button. Add

Correspondence Information:

Enter either Customer Number or complete the Correspondence Information section below.
For further information see 37 CFR 1.33(a).

☐ **An Address is being provided for the correspondence Information of this application.**

Customer Number	10949		
Email Address		Add Email	Remove Email

Application Information:

Title of the Invention	METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS		
Attorney Docket Number	042933/519745	**Small Entity Status Claimed**	☐
Application Type	Nonprovisional		
Subject Matter	Utility		
Total Number of Drawing Sheets (if any)	13	**Suggested Figure for Publication (if any)**	

Filing By Reference:

Only complete this section when filing an application by reference under 35 U.S.C. 111(c) and 37 CFR 1.57(a). Do not complete this section if application papers including a specification and any drawings are being filed. Any domestic benefit or foreign priority information must be provided in the appropriate section(s) below (i.e., "Domestic Benefit/National Stage Information" and "Foreign Priority Information").

For the purposes of a filing date under 37 CFR 1.53(b), the description and any drawings of the present application are replaced by this reference to the previously filed application, subject to conditions and requirements of 37 CFR 1.57(a).

Application number of the previously filed application	Filing date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Intellectual Property Authority or Country [i]

PTO/AIA/14 (02-18)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76	Attorney Docket Number	042933/519745
	Application Number	
Title of Invention	METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS	

Publication Information:

☐ Request Early Publication (Fee required at time of Request 37 CFR 1.219)
☐ **Request Not to Publish.** I hereby request that the attached application not be published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b) and certify that the invention disclosed in the attached application **has not and will not** be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication at eighteen months after filing.

Representative Information:

Representative information should be provided for all practitioners having a power of attorney in the application. Providing this information in the Application Data Sheet does not constitute a power of attorney in the application (see 37 CFR 1.32).
Either enter Customer Number or complete the Representative Name section below. If both sections are completed the customer Number will be used for the Representative Information during processing.

Please Select One:	● Customer Number	US Patent Practitioner	◯ Limited Recognition (37 CFR 11.9)
Customer Number	10949		

Domestic Benefit/National Stage Information:

This section allows for the applicant to either claim benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, 121, 365(c), or 386(c) or indicate National Stage entry from a PCT application. Providing benefit claim information in the Application Data Sheet constitutes the specific reference required by 35 U.S.C. 119(e) or 120, and 37 CFR 1.78.
When referring to the current application, please leave the "Application Number" field blank.

Prior Application Status			Remove
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
	Continuation of	15/681725	2017-08-21
Prior Application Status			Remove
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
15/681725	Continuation of	15/426822	2017-02-07
Prior Application Status			Remove
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
15/426822	Continuation of	13/666680	2012-11-01

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Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76	Attorney Docket Number	042933/519745
	Application Number	
Title of Invention	METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS	

Prior Application Status			Remove
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
13/666680	Claims benefit of provisional	61/555703	2011-11-04
Additional Domestic Benefit/National Stage Data may be generated within this form by selecting the **Add** button.			Add

Foreign Priority Information:

This section allows for the applicant to claim priority to a foreign application. Providing this information in the application data sheet constitutes the claim for priority as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b) and 37 CFR 1.55. When priority is claimed to a foreign application that is eligible for retrieval under the priority document exchange program (PDX)[i] the information will be used by the Office to automatically attempt retrieval pursuant to 37 CFR 1.55(i)(1) and (2). Under the PDX program, applicant bears the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that a copy of the foreign application is received by the Office from the participating foreign intellectual property office, or a certified copy of the foreign priority application is filed, within the time period specified in 37 CFR 1.55(g)(1).

			Remove
Application Number	Country[i]	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Access Code[i] (if applicable)
Additional Foreign Priority Data may be generated within this form by selecting the **Add** button.			Add

Statement under 37 CFR 1.55 or 1.78 for AIA (First Inventor to File) Transition Applications

☐ This application (1) claims priority to or the benefit of an application filed before March 16, 2013 and (2) also contains, or contained at any time, a claim to a claimed invention that has an effective filing date on or after March 16, 2013.
NOTE: By providing this statement under 37 CFR 1.55 or 1.78, this application, with a filing date on or after March 16, 2013, will be examined under the first inventor to file provisions of the AIA.

PTO/AIA/14 (02-18)
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Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76	Attorney Docket Number	042933/519745
	Application Number	
Title of Invention	METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS	

Authorization or Opt-Out of Authorization to Permit Access:

When this Application Data Sheet is properly signed and filed with the application, applicant has provided written authority to permit a participating foreign intellectual property (IP) office access to the instant application-as-filed (see paragraph A in subsection 1 below) and the European Patent Office (EPO) access to any search results from the instant application (see paragraph B in subsection 1 below).

Should applicant choose not to provide an authorization identified in subsection 1 below, applicant **must opt-out** of the authorization by checking the corresponding box A or B or both in subsection 2 below.

NOTE: This section of the Application Data Sheet is **ONLY** reviewed and processed with the **INITIAL** filing of an application. After the initial filing of an application, an Application Data Sheet cannot be used to provide or rescind authorization for access by a foreign IP office(s). Instead, Form PTO/SB/39 or PTO/SB/69 must be used as appropriate.

1. Authorization to Permit Access by a Foreign Intellectual Property Office(s)

A. Priority Document Exchange (PDX) - Unless box A in subsection 2 (opt-out of authorization) is checked, the undersigned hereby **grants the USPTO authority** to provide the European Patent Office (EPO), the Japan Patent Office (JPO), the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China (SIPO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and any other foreign intellectual property office participating with the USPTO in a bilateral or multilateral priority document exchange agreement in which a foreign application claiming priority to the instant patent application is filed, access to: (1) the instant patent application-as-filed and its related bibliographic data, (2) any foreign or domestic application to which priority or benefit is claimed by the instant application and its related bibliographic data, and (3) the date of filing of this Authorization. See 37 CFR 1.14(h)(1).

B. Search Results from U.S. Application to EPO - Unless box B in subsection 2 (opt-out of authorization) is checked, the undersigned hereby **grants the USPTO authority** to provide the EPO access to the bibliographic data and search results from the instant patent application when a European patent application claiming priority to the instant patent application is filed. See 37 CFR 1.14(h)(2).

The applicant is reminded that the EPO's Rule 141(1) EPC (European Patent Convention) requires applicants to submit a copy of search results from the instant application without delay in a European patent application that claims priority to the instant application.

2. Opt-Out of Authorizations to Permit Access by a Foreign Intellectual Property Office(s)

☐ A. Applicant **DOES NOT** authorize the USPTO to permit a participating foreign IP office access to the instant application-as-filed. If this box is checked, the USPTO will not be providing a participating foreign IP office with any documents and information identified in subsection 1A above.

☐ B. Applicant **DOES NOT** authorize the USPTO to transmit to the EPO any search results from the instant patent application. If this box is checked, the USPTO will not be providing the EPO with search results from the instant application.

NOTE: Once the application has published or is otherwise publicly available, the USPTO may provide access to the application in accordance with 37 CFR 1.14.

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Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76	Attorney Docket Number	042933/519745
	Application Number	
Title of Invention	METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS	

Applicant Information:

Providing assignment information in this section does not substitute for compliance with any requirement of part 3 of Title 37 of CFR to have an assignment recorded by the Office.

Applicant 1 Remove

If the applicant is the inventor (or the remaining joint inventor or inventors under 37 CFR 1.45), this section should not be completed. The information to be provided in this section is the name and address of the legal representative who is the applicant under 37 CFR 1.43; or the name and address of the assignee, person to whom the inventor is under an obligation to assign the invention, or person who otherwise shows sufficient proprietary interest in the matter who is the applicant under 37 CFR 1.46. If the applicant is an applicant under 37 CFR 1.46 (assignee, person to whom the inventor is obligated to assign, or person who otherwise shows sufficient proprietary interest) together with one or more joint inventors, then the joint inventor or inventors who are also the applicant should be identified in this section.

Clear

● Assignee	Legal Representative under 35 U.S.C. 117	Joint Inventor
Person to whom the inventor is obligated to assign.	Person who shows sufficient proprietary interest	

If applicant is the legal representative, indicate the authority to file the patent application, the inventor is:

Name of the Deceased or Legally Incapacitated Inventor:

If the Applicant is an Organization check here. ☒

Organization Name	NOKIA TECHNOLOGIES OY		
Mailing Address Information For Applicant:			
Address 1	Karaportti 3		
Address 2			
City	Espoo	**State/Province**	
Country	FI	Postal Code	02610
Phone Number		Fax Number	
Email Address			

Additional Applicant Data may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button. Add

Assignee Information including Non-Applicant Assignee Information:

Providing assignment information in this section does not substitute for compliance with any requirement of part 3 of Title 37 of CFR to have an assignment recorded by the Office.

PTO/AIA/14 (02-18)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76	Attorney Docket Number	042933/519745
	Application Number	
Title of Invention	METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS	

Assignee 1

Complete this section if assignee information, including non-applicant assignee information, is desired to be included on the patent application publication. An assignee-applicant identified in the "Applicant Information" section will appear on the patent application publication as an applicant. For an assignee-applicant, complete this section only if identification as an assignee is also desired on the patent application publication.

Remove

If the Assignee or Non-Applicant Assignee is an Organization check here. ☒

Organization Name	NOKIA TECHNOLOGIES OY

Mailing Address Information For Assignee including Non-Applicant Assignee:

Address 1	Karaportti 3		
Address 2			
City	Espoo	**State/Province**	
Country i	FI	Postal Code	02610
Phone Number		Fax Number	
Email Address			

Additional Assignee or Non-Applicant Assignee Data may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button. Add

Signature:

Remove

NOTE: This Application Data Sheet must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33(b). **However, if this Application Data Sheet is submitted with the INITIAL filing of the application and either box A or B is not checked in subsection 2 of the "Authorization or Opt-Out of Authorization to Permit Access" section, then this form must also be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.14(c).**

This Application Data Sheet **must** be signed by a patent practitioner if one or more of the applicants is a **juristic entity** (e.g., corporation or association). If the applicant is two or more joint inventors, this form must be signed by a patent practitioner, **all** joint inventors who are the applicant, or one or more joint inventor-applicants who have been given power of attorney (e.g., see USPTO Form PTO/AIA/81) on behalf of **all** joint inventor-applicants.

See 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the manner of making signatures and certifications.

Signature	/Guy R. Gosnell/			Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2019-03-18
First Name	Guy	Last Name	Gosnell	Registration Number	34,610

Additional Signature may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button. Add

PTO/AIA/14 (02-18)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76	Attorney Docket Number	042933/519745
	Application Number	
Title of Invention	METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS	

Privacy Act Statement

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ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a method for encoding, a method for decoding, an apparatus, computer program products, an encoder and a decoder for video information. The motion vector for a block in a video image is predicted from a set of motion vector prediction candidates determined based on previously-coded motion vectors. A motion vector prediction candidate is included in the set based on the location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate and in comparison with motion vector prediction candidates already in the set.

Claims:

1. A method comprising:

selecting a first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from a set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates for a block of pixels as a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate to be included in a motion vector prediction list for a prediction unit of the block of pixels, where the motion vector prediction list comprises motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates and is utilized to identify motion vector prediction candidates of which one spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list is signaled as the motion information for the prediction unit;

determining a subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates based on a location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate;

comparing motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of spatial motion vector prediction candidates in the determined subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates without making a comparison of each pair from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

determining to include or exclude the first spatial motion vector prediction candiate in the motion vector prediction list based on the comparing; and

causing information identifying the one spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list to be transmitted to a decoder or to be stored.

2. The method according to claim 1 further comprising selecting spatial motion vector prediction candidates from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates as the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate in a predetermined order.

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising comparing motion information of the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of at most one other spatial motion vector prediction candidate of the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates.

4. The method according to claim 1 further comprising examining whether the block of pixels is divided into a first prediction unit and a second prediction unit; and if so, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if the prediction unit is the second prediction unit.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising

determining a maximum number of spatial motion vector prediction candidates to be included in the motion vector prediction list; and

limiting the number of spatial motion vector prediction candidates in the motion vector prediction list smaller or equal to the maximum number.

6. The method according to claim 5 comprising:

examining, if the number of spatial motion vector prediction candidates in the motion vector prediction list smaller than the maximum number;

if so, examining whether the prediction unit to which the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate belongs is available for motion prediction;

if so, performing at least one of the following:

for a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate on a left side of the prediction unit, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if any of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- the received block of pixels is vertically divided into a first prediction unit and a second prediction unit;
- the received block of pixels is horizontally divided into a first prediction unit and a second prediction unit, and if the prediction unit is the second prediction unit, and the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than a spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit;

for a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if any of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- the received block of pixels is horizontally divided into a first prediction unit and a second prediction unit, and the prediction unit is the second prediction unit;

– the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit;

for a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate, which is on a right side of the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit;

for a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate, which is below the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit;

for a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate cornerwise neighbouring the prediction unit, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if any of the following conditions are fulfilled:

– all the other potential spatial motion vector prediction candidates have been included in the motion vector prediction list;

– the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit;

– the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit.

7. The method according to claim 1 further comprising including a temporal motion prediction candidate into the motion vector prediction list.

8. The method according to claim 1 further comprising selecting one motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list to represent a motion vector prediction for the block of pixels.

9. A method comprising:

selecting a first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from a set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates for an encoded block of pixels as a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate to be included in a motion vector prediction list for a prediction unit of the encoded block of pixels, where the motion vector prediction list comprises motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

determining a subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates based on the location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate;

comparing motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of another spatial motion vector prediction candidate of the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates without making a comparison of each possible candidate pair from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

determining to include or exclude the first spatial motion vector prediction candiate in the motion vector prediction list based on the comparing; and

selecting a spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list for use in decoding the encoded block of pixels, wherein the spatial motion vector prediction candidate is selected from the motion vector prediction list using information that was received identifying a respective spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list constructed by an encoder.

10. The method according to claim 9 further comprising comparing motion information of the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of at most one other spatial motion vector prediction candidate of the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates.

11. The method according to claim 9 further comprising examining whether the received encoded block of pixels is divided into a first prediction unit and a second prediction unit; and if so, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if the prediction unit is the second prediction unit.

12. The method according to claim 9 further comprising

determining a maximum number of spatial motion vector prediction candidates to be included in the motion vector prediction list; and

limiting the number of spatial motion vector prediction candidates in the motion vector prediction list smaller or equal to the maximum number.

13. The method according to claim 12 further comprising:

examining, if the number of spatial motion vector prediction candidates in the motion vector prediction list smaller than the maximum number;

if so, examining whether the prediction unit to which the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate belongs is available for motion prediction;

if so, performing at least one of the following:

for a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate on a left side of the prediction unit, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if any of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- the received encoded block of pixels is vertically divided into a first prediction unit and a second prediction unit;
- the received encoded block of pixels is horizontally divided into a first prediction unit and a second prediction unit, and if the prediction unit is the second prediction unit, and the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than a spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit;

for a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if any of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- the received encoded block of pixels is horizontally divided into a first prediction unit and a second prediction unit, and the prediction unit is the second prediction unit;
- the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit;

for a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate, which is on a right side of the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit;

for a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate, which is below the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit; and

for a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate cornerwise neighbouring the prediction unit, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if any of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- all the other potential spatial motion vector prediction candidates have been included in the motion vector prediction list;
- the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit;
- the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit.

14. The method according to claim 9 further comprising selecting one motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list to represent a motion vector prediction for the encoded block of pixels.

15. An apparatus comprising a processor and a memory including computer program code, the memory and the computer program code configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to:

select a first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from a set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates for a block of pixels as a potential spatial motion vector prediction

candidate to be included in a motion vector prediction list for a prediction unit of the block of pixels, where the motion vector prediction list comprises motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates and is utilized to identify motion vector prediction candidates of which one spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list is signaled as the motion information for the prediction unit;

determine a subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates based on the location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate;

compare motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidate in the determined subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates without making a comparison of each possible candidate pair from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

determine to include or exclude the first spatial motion vector prediction candiate in the motion vector prediction list based on comparison of the motion information of the first spatial motion vector candidate with motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidate; and

cause information identifying the one spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list to be transmitted to a decoder or to be stored.

16. The apparatus according to claim 15 wherein the apparatus is further caused to select spatial motion vector prediction candidates from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates as the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate in a predetermined order.

17. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the apparatus is further caused to compare motion information of the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of at most one other spatial motion vector prediction candidate of the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates.

18. The apparatus according to claim 15 wherein the apparatus is further caused to examine whether the block of pixels is divided into a first prediction unit and a second prediction unit; and if so, exclude the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if the prediction unit is the second prediction unit.

19. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the apparatus is further caused to:

determine a maximum number of spatial motion vector prediction candidates to be included in the motion vector prediction list; and

limit the number of spatial motion vector prediction candidates in the motion vector prediction list smaller or equal to the maximum number .

20. The apparatus according to claim 19 wherein the apparatus is further caused to:

examine, if the number of spatial motion vector prediction candidates in the motion vector prediction list smaller than the maximum number;

if so, examine whether the prediction unit to which the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate belongs is available for motion prediction;

if so, perform at least one of the following:

for a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate on a left side of the prediction unit, exclude the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if any of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- the received block of pixels is vertically divided into a first prediction unit and a second prediction unit;
- the received block of pixels is horizontally divided into a first prediction unit and a second prediction unit, and if the prediction unit is the second prediction unit, and the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than a spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit;

for a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit, exclude the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if any of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- the received block of pixels is horizontally divided into a first prediction unit and a second prediction unit, and the prediction unit is the second prediction unit;
- the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit;

for a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate, which is on a right side of the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit, exclude the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit;

for a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate, which is below the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit, exclude the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit;

for a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate cornerwise neighbouring the prediction unit, exclude the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if any of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- all the other potential spatial motion vector prediction candidates have been included in the motion vector prediction list;
- the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit;
- the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit.

21. The apparatus according to claim 15 wherein the apparatus is further caused to include a temporal motion prediction candidate into the motion vector prediction list.

22. The apparatus according to claim 15 wherein the apparatus is further caused to select one motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list to represent a motion vector prediction for the block of pixels.

23. An apparatus comprising a processor and a memory including computer program code, the memory and the computer program code configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to:

select a first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from a set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates for an encoded block of pixels as a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate to be included in a motion vector prediction list for a prediction unit of the encoded block of pixels, where the motion vector prediction list comprises motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

determine a subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates based on the location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate;

compare motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidate in the determined subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates without making a comparison of each possible candidate pair from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

determine to include or exclude the first spatial motion vector prediction candiate in the motion vector prediction list based on comparison of the motion information of the first spatial motion vector candidate with motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidate; and

select a spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list for use in decoding the encoded block of pixels, wherein the spatial motion vector prediction candidate is selected from the motion vector prediction list using information that was received identifying a respective spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list constructed by an encoder.

24. The apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the apparatus is further caused to compare motion information of the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of at most one other spatial motion vector prediction candidate of the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates.

25. The apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the apparatus is further caused to examine whether the received encoded block of pixels is divided into a first prediction unit and a

second prediction unit; and if so, exclude the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if the prediction unit is the second prediction unit.

26. The apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the apparatus is further caused to:

determine a maximum number of spatial motion vector prediction candidates to be included in the motion vector prediction list; and

limit the number of spatial motion vector prediction candidates in the motion vector prediction list smaller or equal to the maximum number.

27. The apparatus according to claim 26 wherein the apparatus is further caused to:

examine if the number of spatial motion vector prediction candidates in the motion vector prediction list smaller than the maximum number;

if so, examine whether the prediction unit to which the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate belongs is available for motion prediction;

if so, perform at least one of the following:

for a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate on a left side of the prediction unit, exclude the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if any of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- the received encoded block of pixels is vertically divided into a first prediction unit and a second prediction unit;
- the received encoded block of pixels is horizontally divided into a first prediction unit and a second prediction unit, and if the prediction unit is the second prediction unit, and the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than a spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit;

for a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit, exclude the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if any of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- the received encoded block of pixels is horizontally divided into a first prediction unit and a second prediction unit, and the prediction unit is the second prediction unit;

– the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit;

for a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate, which is on a right side of the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit, exclude the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit;

for a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate, which is below the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit, exclude the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit; and

for a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate cornerwise neighbouring the prediction unit, exclude the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list if any of the following conditions are fulfilled:

– all the other potential spatial motion vector prediction candidates have been included in the motion vector prediction list;

– the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit;

– the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit.

28. The apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the apparatus is further caused to select one motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list to represent a motion vector prediction for the received encoded block of pixels.

29. A non-transitory computer readable medium having stored thereon a computer executable program code for use by an encoder, said program codes comprising instructions for:

selecting a first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from a set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates for a block of pixels as a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate to be included in a motion vector prediction list for a prediction unit of the block of pixels, where the motion vector prediction list comprises motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates and is utilized to identify motion vector prediction candidates of which one spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list is signaled as the motion information for the prediction unit;

determining a subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates based on the location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate;

comparing motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidate in the determined subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates without making a comparison of each possible candidate pair from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

determining to include or exclude the first spatial motion vector prediction candiate in the motion vector prediction list based on the comparing; and

causing information identifying the one spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list to be transmitted to a decoder or to be stored.

30. A non-transitory computer readable medium having stored thereon a computer executable program code for use by an encoder, said program codes comprising instructions for:

selecting a first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from a set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates for an encoded block of pixels as a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate to be included in a motion vector prediction list for a prediction unit of the encoded block of pixels, where the motion vector prediction list comprises motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

determining a subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates based on the location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate;

comparing motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidate in the determined subset of

spatial motion vector prediction candidates without making a comparison of each possible candidate pair from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

determining to include or exclude the first spatial motion vector prediction candiate in the motion vector prediction list based on the comparing; and

selecting a spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list for use in decoding the encoded block of pixels, wherein the spatial motion vector prediction candidate is selected from the motion vector prediction list using information that was received identifying a respective spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list constructed by an encoder.

METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 15/681,725, filed August 21, 2017, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 15/426,822, filed February 7, 2017, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 13/666,680, filed November 1, 2012, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/555,703, filed November 4, 2011, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] There is provided a method for encoding, a method for decoding, an apparatus, computer program products, an encoder and a decoder.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

[0003] This section is intended to provide a background or context to the invention that is recited in the claims. The description herein may include concepts that could be pursued, but are not necessarily ones that have been previously conceived or pursued. Therefore, unless otherwise indicated herein, what is described in this section is not prior art to the description and claims in this application and is not admitted to be prior art by inclusion in this section

[0004] A video codec may comprise an encoder which transforms input video into a compressed representation suitable for storage and/or transmission and a decoder that can uncompress the compressed video representation back into a viewable form, or either one of them. The encoder may discard some information in the original video sequence in order to represent the video in a more compact form, for example at a lower bit rate.

[0005] Many hybrid video codecs, operating for example according to the International Telecommunication Union's ITU-T H.263 and H.264 coding standards, encode video information in two phases. In the first phase, pixel values in a certain picture area or "block" are predicted. These pixel values can be predicted, for example, by motion compensation mechanisms, which involve finding and indicating an area in one of the previously encoded video frames (or a later coded video frame) that corresponds closely to the block being coded. Additionally, pixel values can be predicted by spatial mechanisms which involve finding and

indicating a spatial region relationship, for example by using pixel values around the block to be coded in a specified manner.

[0006] Prediction approaches using image information from a previous (or a later) image can also be called as Inter prediction methods, and prediction approaches using image information within the same image can also be called as Intra prediction methods.

[0007] The second phase is one of coding the error between the predicted block of pixels and the original block of pixels. This may be accomplished by transforming the difference in pixel values using a specified transform. This transform may be e.g. a Discrete Cosine Transform (DCT) or a variant thereof. After transforming the difference, the transformed difference may be quantized and entropy encoded.

[0008] By varying the fidelity of the quantization process, the encoder can control the balance between the accuracy of the pixel representation, (in other words, the quality of the picture) and the size of the resulting encoded video representation (in other words, the file size or transmission bit rate).

[0009] The decoder reconstructs the output video by applying a prediction mechanism similar to that used by the encoder in order to form a predicted representation of the pixel blocks (using the motion or spatial information created by the encoder and stored in the compressed representation of the image) and prediction error decoding (the inverse operation of the prediction error coding to recover the quantized prediction error signal in the spatial domain).

[0010] After applying pixel prediction and error decoding processes the decoder combines the prediction and the prediction error signals (the pixel values) to form the output video frame.

[0011] The decoder (and encoder) may also apply additional filtering processes in order to improve the quality of the output video before passing it for display and/or storing as a prediction reference for the forthcoming frames in the video sequence.

[0012] In some video codecs, such as High Efficiency Video Coding Working Draft 4, video pictures may be divided into coding units (CU) covering the area of a picture. A coding unit consists of one or more prediction units (PU) defining the prediction process for the samples within the coding unit and one or more transform units (TU) defining the prediction error coding process for the samples in the coding unit. A coding unit may consist of a square block of samples with a size selectable from a predefined set of possible coding unit sizes. A coding unit with the maximum allowed size can be named as a largest coding unit (LCU) and the video

picture may be divided into non-overlapping largest coding units. A largest coding unit can further be split into a combination of smaller coding units, e.g. by recursively splitting the largest coding unit and resultant coding units. Each resulting coding unit may have at least one prediction unit and at least one transform unit associated with it. Each prediction unit and transform unit can further be split into smaller prediction units and transform units in order to increase granularity of the prediction and prediction error coding processes, respectively. Each prediction unit may have prediction information associated with it defining what kind of a prediction is to be applied for the pixels within that prediction unit (e.g. motion vector information for inter predicted prediction units and intra prediction directionality information for intra predicted prediction units). Similarly, each transform unit may be associated with information describing the prediction error decoding process for samples within the transform unit (including e.g. discrete cosine transform (DCT) coefficient information). It may be signalled at coding unit level whether prediction error coding is applied or not for each coding unit. In the case there is no prediction error residual associated with the coding unit, it can be considered there are no transform units for the coding unit. The division of the image into coding units, and division of coding units into prediction units and transform units may be signalled in the bitstream allowing the decoder to reproduce the intended structure of these units.

[0013] In some video codecs, motion information is indicated by motion vectors associated with each motion compensated image block. These motion vectors represent the displacement of the image block in the picture to be coded (in the encoder) or decoded (at the decoder) and the prediction source block in one of the previously coded or decoded images (or pictures). In order to represent motion vectors efficiently, motion vectors may be coded differentially with respect to block specific predicted motion vector. In some video codecs, the predicted motion vectors are created in a predefined way, for example by calculating the median of the encoded or decoded motion vectors of the adjacent blocks.

[0014] Another way to create motion vector predictions is to generate a list or a set of candidate predictions from blocks in the current frame and/or co-located or other blocks in temporal reference pictures and signalling the chosen candidate as the motion vector prediction. A spatial motion vector prediction is a prediction obtained only on the basis of information of one or more blocks of the same frame than the current frame whereas temporal motion vector prediction is a prediction obtained on the basis of information of one or more blocks of a frame

different from the current frame. It may also be possible to obtain motion vector predictions by combining both spatial and temporal prediction information of one or more encoded blocks. These kinds of motion vector predictions are called as spatio-temporal motion vector predictions.

[0015] In addition to predicting the motion vector values, the reference index in the reference picture list can be predicted. The reference index may be predicted from blocks in the current frame and/or co-located or other blocks in a temporal reference picture. Moreover, some high efficiency video codecs employ an additional motion information coding/decoding mechanism, often called merging/merge mode, where all the motion field information, which includes motion vector and corresponding reference picture index for each available reference picture list, may be predicted and used without any modification or correction. Similarly, predicting the motion field information may be carried out using the motion field information of blocks in the current frame and/or co-located or other blocks in temporal reference pictures and the used motion field information is signalled among a list of motion field candidate list filled with motion field information of available blocks in the current frame and/or co-located or other blocks in temporal reference pictures.

[0016] In some video codecs the prediction residual after motion compensation is first transformed with a transform kernel (like DCT) and then coded. The reason for this is that often there still exists some correlation among the residual and transform can in many cases help reduce this correlation and provide more efficient coding.

[0017] Some video encoders utilize Lagrangian cost functions to find optimal coding modes, e.g. the desired Macroblock mode and associated motion vectors. This kind of cost function uses a weighting factor λ to tie together the (exact or estimated) image distortion due to lossy coding methods and the (exact or estimated) amount of information that is required to represent the pixel values in an image area:

$$C = D + \lambda R \quad (1)$$

where C is the Lagrangian cost to be minimized, D is the image distortion (e.g. Mean Squared Error) with the mode and motion vectors considered, and R the number of bits needed to represent the required data to reconstruct the image block in the decoder (including the amount of data to represent the candidate motion vectors).

[0018] Some video codecs such as hybrid video codecs may generate a list of motion vector predictions (MVP) consisting of motion vectors of spatial adjacent blocks (spatial MVP) and/or

motion vectors of blocks in a previously decoded frame (temporal MVP). One of the candidate motion vectors in the list is signalled to be used as the motion vector prediction of the current block. After the list is generated, some of the motion vector prediction candidates may have the same motion information. In this case, the identical motion vector prediction candidates may be removed to reduce redundancy. During the decoding, if the temporal motion vector prediction information is unavailable due to e.g. loss of reference frame, the decoder may not know if the temporal motion vector prediction candidate in the list is to be removed. This may lead to uncertainty for mapping the decoded candidate index to the candidates whose removal decision is based on comparing motion information with the temporal motion vector prediction. As a result, false assignment of motion vector prediction candidates may occur which may lead to degradation in the picture quality and drift of false motion information throughout the decoding process.

SUMMARY

[0019] The present invention introduces a method for generating a motion vector prediction list for an image block. In some embodiments video codecs employ in a motion prediction candidate list construction a way to reduce the complexity of the implementation. This can be achieved by performing a limited number of motion information comparisons between candidate pairs to remove the redundant candidates rather than comparing every available candidate pair. The decision of whether comparing two candidates may depend on the order of the candidates to be considered for the list and/or coding/prediction mode and/or location of the blocks associated with the candidates. In some embodiments a video codec employs a merge process for motion information coding and creates a list of motion prediction candidates from which one of the candidates is to be signalled as the motion information for the current coding or prediction unit. The motion prediction candidates may consist of several spatial motion predictions and a temporal motion prediction. The spatial candidates are obtained from the motion information of e.g. spatial neighbour blocks.

[0020] According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a method comprising:

receiving a block of pixels including a prediction unit; determining a set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates for the block of pixels; the spatial motion vector prediction candidates being provided with motion information;

selecting a first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates as a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate to be included in a merge list for the prediction unit;

determining a subset of spatial motion vector predictions based on the location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate;

comparing motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidate in the determined subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

if at least one of the comparisons indicates that the motion vector information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates correspond with each other, excluding the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list.

[0021] According to a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a method comprising:

receiving an encoded block of pixels including a prediction unit;

determining a set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates for the encoded block of pixels; the spatial motion vector prediction candidates being provided with motion information;

selecting a first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates as a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate to be included in a merge list for the prediction unit;

determining a subset of spatial motion vector predictions based on the location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate;

comparing motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of another spatial motion vector prediction candidate of the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

if at least one of the comparisons indicates that the motion vector information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates correspond with each other, excluding the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list.

[0022] According to a third aspect of the present invention there is provided an apparatus comprising a processor and a memory including computer program code, the memory and the computer program code configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to:

receive a block of pixels

including a prediction unit;

determining a set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates for the block of pixels; the spatial motion vector prediction candidates being provided with motion information;

selecting a first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates as a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate to be included in a merge list for the prediction unit;

determining a subset of spatial motion vector predictions based on the location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate;

comparing motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidate in the determined subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

if at least one the comparisons indicates that the motion vector information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates correspond with each other, excluding the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list.

[0023] According to a fourth aspect of the present invention there is provided an apparatus comprising a processor and a memory including computer program code, the memory and the computer program code configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to:

receive an encoded block of pixels

including a prediction unit;

determining a set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates for the encoded block of pixels; the spatial motion vector prediction candidates being provided with motion information;

selecting a first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates as a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate to be included in a merge list for the prediction unit;

determining a subset of spatial motion vector predictions based on the location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate;

comparing motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of another spatial motion vector prediction candidate of the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

if at least one of the comparisons indicates that the motion vector information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates correspond with each other, excluding the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list.

[0024] According to a fifth aspect of the present invention there is provided a storage medium having stored thereon a computer executable program code for use by an encoder, said program code comprises instructions for:

receiving a block of pixels including a prediction unit;

determining a set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates for the block of pixels; the spatial motion vector prediction candidates being provided with motion information;

select a first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates as a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate to be included in a merge list for the prediction unit;

determine a subset of spatial motion vector predictions based on the location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate;

compare motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidate in the determined subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

exclude the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list, if at least one of the comparisons indicates that the motion vector information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates correspond with each other

[0025] According to a sixth aspect of the present invention there is provided a storage medium having stored thereon a computer executable program code for use by a decoder, said program code comprises instructions for:

receiving an encoded block of pixels including a prediction unit;

determining a set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates for the encoded block of pixels; the spatial motion vector prediction candidates being provided with motion information;

selecting a first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates as a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate to be included in a merge list for the prediction unit;

determining a subset of spatial motion vector predictions based on the location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate;

comparing motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidate in the determined subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

if at least one of the comparisons indicates that the motion vector information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates correspond with each other, excluding the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list.

[0026] According to a seventh aspect of the present invention there is provided an apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a block of pixels including a prediction unit;

means for determining a set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates for the block of pixels; the spatial motion vector prediction candidates being provided with motion information;

selecting a first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates as a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate to be included in a merge list for the prediction unit;

determining a subset of spatial motion vector predictions based on the location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate;

comparing motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidate in the determined subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

if at least one of the comparisons indicates that the motion vector information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates correspond with each other, excluding the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list.

[0027] According to an eighth aspect of the present invention there is provided an apparatus comprising:

means for receiving an encoded block of pixels including a prediction unit;

means for determining a set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates for the encoded block of pixels; the spatial motion vector prediction candidates being provided with motion information;

means for selecting a first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates as a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate to be included in a merge list for the prediction unit;

means for determining a subset of spatial motion vector predictions based on the location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate;

means for comparing motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidate in the determined subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

means for excluding the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list, if at least one of the comparisons indicates that the motion vector information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates correspond with each other.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0028] For better understanding of the present invention, reference will now be made by way of example to the accompanying drawings in which:

[0029] Figure 1 shows schematically an electronic device employing some embodiments of the invention;

[0030] Figure 2 shows schematically a user equipment suitable for employing some embodiments of the invention;

[0031] Figure 3 further shows schematically electronic devices employing embodiments of the invention connected using wireless and wired network connections;

[0032] Figure 4a shows schematically an embodiment of the invention as incorporated within an encoder;

[0033] Figure 4b shows schematically an embodiment of a prediction reference list generation and modification according to some embodiments of the invention;

[0034] Figures 5a and 5b show a flow diagram showing the operation of an embodiment of the invention with respect to the encoder as shown in figure 4a;

[0035] Figure 6a illustrates an example of spatial and temporal prediction of a prediction unit;

[0036] Figure 6b illustrates another example of spatial and temporal prediction of a prediction unit;

[0037] Figure 7 shows schematically an embodiment of the invention as incorporated within a decoder;

[0038] Figures 8a and 8b show a flow diagram of showing the operation of an embodiment of the invention with respect to the decoder shown in figure 7;

[0039] Figure 9 illustrates an example of a coding unit and some neighbour blocks of the coding unit;

[0040] Figure 10a illustrates an example of a horizontal division of the coding unit;

[0041] Figure 10b illustrates an example of a vertical division of the coding unit;

[0042] Figure 11a illustrates locations of five spatial neighbours A0, A1, B0, B1, B2 for a prediction unit generated as the second prediction unit of a horizontally divided coding unit;

[0043] Figure 11b illustrates locations of five spatial neighbours for a prediction unit generated as the second prediction unit of a vertically divided coding unit; and

[0044] Figure 12 illustrates an example of blocks between some spatial neighbours of a coding unit.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SOME EXAMPLE EMBODIMENTS

[0045] The following describes in further detail suitable apparatus and possible mechanisms for the provision of improving the prediction accuracy and hence possibly reducing information to be transmitted in video coding systems. In this regard reference is first made to Figure 1 which shows a schematic block diagram of an exemplary apparatus or electronic device 50, which may incorporate a codec according to an embodiment of the invention.

[0046] The electronic device 50 may for example be a mobile terminal or user equipment of a wireless communication system. However, it would be appreciated that embodiments of the invention may be implemented within any electronic device or apparatus which may require encoding and decoding or encoding or decoding video images.

[0047] The apparatus 50 may comprise a housing 30 for incorporating and protecting the device. The apparatus 50 further may comprise a display 32 in the form of a liquid crystal

display. In other embodiments of the invention the display may be any suitable display technology suitable to display an image or video. The apparatus 50 may further comprise a keypad 34. In other embodiments of the invention any suitable data or user interface mechanism may be employed. For example the user interface may be implemented as a virtual keyboard or data entry system as part of a touch-sensitive display. The apparatus may comprise a microphone 36 or any suitable audio input which may be a digital or analogue signal input. The apparatus 50 may further comprise an audio output device which in embodiments of the invention may be any one of: an earpiece 38, speaker, or an analogue audio or digital audio output connection. The apparatus 50 may also comprise a battery 40 (or in other embodiments of the invention the device may be powered by any suitable mobile energy device such as solar cell, fuel cell or clockwork generator). The apparatus may further comprise an infrared port 42 for short range line of sight communication to other devices. In other embodiments the apparatus 50 may further comprise any suitable short range communication solution such as for example a Bluetooth wireless connection or a USB/firewire wired connection.

[0048] The apparatus 50 may comprise a controller 56 or processor for controlling the apparatus 50. The controller 56 may be connected to memory 58 which in embodiments of the invention may store both data in the form of image and audio data and/or may also store instructions for implementation on the controller 56. The controller 56 may further be connected to codec circuitry 54 suitable for carrying out coding and decoding of audio and/or video data or assisting in coding and decoding carried out by the controller 56.

[0049] The apparatus 50 may further comprise a card reader 48 and a smart card 46, for example a UICC and UICC reader for providing user information and being suitable for providing authentication information for authentication and authorization of the user at a network.

[0050] The apparatus 50 may comprise radio interface circuitry 52 connected to the controller and suitable for generating wireless communication signals for example for communication with a cellular communications network, a wireless communications system or a wireless local area network. The apparatus 50 may further comprise an antenna 44 connected to the radio interface circuitry 52 for transmitting radio frequency signals generated at the radio interface circuitry 52 to other apparatus(es) and for receiving radio frequency signals from other apparatus(es).

[0051] In some embodiments of the invention, the apparatus 50 comprises a camera capable of recording or detecting individual frames which are then passed to the codec 54 or controller for processing. In some embodiments of the invention, the apparatus may receive the video image data for processing from another device prior to transmission and/or storage. In some embodiments of the invention, the apparatus 50 may receive either wirelessly or by a wired connection the image for coding/decoding.

[0052] With respect to Figure 3, an example of a system within which embodiments of the present invention can be utilized is shown. The system 10 comprises multiple communication devices which can communicate through one or more networks. The system 10 may comprise any combination of wired or wireless networks including, but not limited to a wireless cellular telephone network (such as a GSM, UMTS, CDMA network etc), a wireless local area network (WLAN) such as defined by any of the IEEE 802.x standards, a Bluetooth personal area network, an Ethernet local area network, a token ring local area network, a wide area network, and the Internet.

[0053] The system 10 may include both wired and wireless communication devices or apparatus 50 suitable for implementing embodiments of the invention.

[0054] For example, the system shown in Figure 3 shows a mobile telephone network 11 and a representation of the internet 28. Connectivity to the internet 28 may include, but is not limited to, long range wireless connections, short range wireless connections, and various wired connections including, but not limited to, telephone lines, cable lines, power lines, and similar communication pathways.

[0055] The example communication devices shown in the system 10 may include, but are not limited to, an electronic device or apparatus 50, a combination of a personal digital assistant (PDA) and a mobile telephone 14, a PDA 16, an integrated messaging device (IMD) 18, a desktop computer 20, a notebook computer 22. The apparatus 50 may be stationary or mobile when carried by an individual who is moving. The apparatus 50 may also be located in a mode of transport including, but not limited to, a car, a truck, a taxi, a bus, a train, a boat, an airplane, a bicycle, a motorcycle or any similar suitable mode of transport.

[0056] Some or further apparatuses may send and receive calls and messages and communicate with service providers through a wireless connection 25 to a base station 24. The base station 24 may be connected to a network server 26 that allows communication between the

mobile telephone network 11 and the internet 28. The system may include additional communication devices and communication devices of various types.

[0057] The communication devices may communicate using various transmission technologies including, but not limited to, code division multiple access (CDMA), global systems for mobile communications (GSM), universal mobile telecommunications system (UMTS), time divisional multiple access (TDMA), frequency division multiple access (FDMA), transmission control protocol-internet protocol (TCP-IP), short messaging service (SMS), multimedia messaging service (MMS), email, instant messaging service (IMS), Bluetooth, IEEE 802.11 and any similar wireless communication technology. A communications device involved in implementing various embodiments of the present invention may communicate using various media including, but not limited to, radio, infrared, laser, cable connections, and any suitable connection.

[0058] With respect to Figure 4a, a block diagram of a video encoder suitable for carrying out embodiments of the invention is shown. Furthermore, with respect to Figures 5a and 5b, the operation of the encoder exemplifying embodiments of the invention specifically with respect to construction of the list of candidate predictions is shown as a flow diagram.

[0059] Figure 4a shows the encoder as comprising a pixel predictor 302, prediction error encoder 303 and prediction error decoder 304. Figure 4a also shows an embodiment of the pixel predictor 302 as comprising an inter-predictor 306, an intra-predictor 308, a mode selector 310, a filter 316, and a reference frame memory 318. In this embodiment the mode selector 310 comprises a block processor 381 and a cost evaluator 382. The encoder may further comprise an entropy encoder 330 for entropy encoding the bit stream.

[0060] Figure 4b depicts an embodiment of the inter predictor 306. The inter predictor 306 comprises a reference frame selector 360 for selecting reference frame or frames, a motion vector definer 361, a prediction list modifier 363 and a motion vector selector 364. These elements or some of them may be part of a prediction processor 362 or they may be implemented by using other means.

[0061] The pixel predictor 302 receives the image 300 to be encoded at both the inter-predictor 306 (which determines the difference between the image and a motion compensated reference frame 318) and the intra-predictor 308 (which determines a prediction for an image block based only on the already processed parts of the current frame or picture). The output of

both the inter-predictor and the intra-predictor may be passed to the mode selector 310. The intra-predictor 308 may have more than one intra-prediction modes. Hence, each mode may perform the intra-prediction and provide the predicted signal to the mode selector 310. The mode selector 310 also receives a copy of the image 300.

[0062] The mode selector 310 determines which encoding mode to use to encode the current block. If the mode selector 310 decides to use an inter-prediction mode it will pass the output of the inter-predictor 306 to the output of the mode selector 310. If the mode selector 310 decides to use an intra-prediction mode it will pass the output of one of the intra-predictor modes to the output of the mode selector 310.

[0063] The output of the mode selector is passed to a first summing device 321. The first summing device may subtract the pixel predictor 302 output from the image 300 to produce a first prediction error signal 320 which is input to the prediction error encoder 303.

[0064] The pixel predictor 302 further receives from a preliminary reconstructor 339 the combination of the prediction representation of the image block 312 and the output 338 of the prediction error decoder 304. The preliminary reconstructed image 314 may be passed to the intra-predictor 308 and to a filter 316. The filter 316 receiving the preliminary representation may filter the preliminary representation and output a final reconstructed image 340 which may be saved in a reference frame memory 318. The reference frame memory 318 may be connected to the inter-predictor 306 to be used as the reference image against which the future image 300 is compared in inter-prediction operations.

[0065] The operation of the pixel predictor 302 may be configured to carry out any known pixel prediction algorithm known in the art.

[0066] The pixel predictor 302 may also comprise a filter 385 to filter the predicted values before outputting them from the pixel predictor 302.

[0067] The operation of the prediction error encoder 302 and prediction error decoder 304 will be described hereafter in further detail. In the following examples the encoder generates images in terms of 16x16 pixel macroblocks which go to form the full image or picture. Thus, for the following examples the pixel predictor 302 outputs a series of predicted macroblocks of size 16x16 pixels and the first summing device 321 outputs a series of 16x16 pixel residual data macroblocks which may represent the difference between a first macro-block in the image 300

against a predicted macro-block (output of pixel predictor 302). It would be appreciated that other size macro blocks may be used.

[0068] The prediction error encoder 303 comprises a transform block 342 and a quantizer 344. The transform block 342 transforms the first prediction error signal 320 to a transform domain. The transform is, for example, the DCT transform. The quantizer 344 quantizes the transform domain signal, e.g. the DCT coefficients, to form quantized coefficients.

[0069] The prediction error decoder 304 receives the output from the prediction error encoder 303 and performs the opposite processes of the prediction error encoder 303 to produce a decoded prediction error signal 338 which when combined with the prediction representation of the image block 312 at the second summing device 339 produces the preliminary reconstructed image 314. The prediction error decoder may be considered to comprise a dequantizer 346, which dequantizes the quantized coefficient values, e.g. DCT coefficients, to reconstruct the transform signal and an inverse transformation block 348, which performs the inverse transformation to the reconstructed transform signal wherein the output of the inverse transformation block 348 contains reconstructed block(s). The prediction error decoder may also comprise a macroblock filter (not shown) which may filter the reconstructed macroblock according to further decoded information and filter parameters.

[0070] In the following the operation of an example embodiment of the inter predictor 306 will be described in more detail. The inter predictor 306 receives the current block for inter prediction. It is assumed that for the current block there already exists one or more neighbouring blocks which have been encoded and motion vectors have been defined for them. For example, the block on the left side and/or the block above the current block may be such blocks. Spatial motion vector predictions for the current block can be formed e.g. by using the motion vectors of the encoded neighbouring blocks and/or of non-neighbour blocks in the same slice or frame, using linear or non-linear functions of spatial motion vector predictions, using a combination of various spatial motion vector predictors with linear or non-linear operations, or by any other appropriate means that do not make use of temporal reference information. It may also be possible to obtain motion vector predictors by combining both spatial and temporal prediction information of one or more encoded blocks. These kinds of motion vector predictors may also be called as spatio-temporal motion vector predictors.

[0071] Reference frames used in encoding the neighbouring blocks have been stored to the reference frame memory 404. The reference frames may be short term references or long term references and each reference frame may have a unique index indicative of the location of the reference frame in the reference frame memory. When a reference frame is no longer used as a reference frame it may be removed from the reference frame memory or marked as a non-reference frame wherein the storage location of that reference frame may be occupied for a new reference frame. In addition to the reference frames of the neighbouring blocks the reference frame selector 360 may also select one or more other frames as potential reference frames and store them to the reference frame memory.

[0072] Motion vector information of encoded blocks is also stored into the memory so that the inter predictor 306 is able to retrieve the motion vector information when processing motion vector candidates for the current block.

[0073] In some embodiments the motion vectors are stored into one or more lists. For example, motion vectors of uni-directionally predicted frames (e.g. P-frames) may be stored to a list called as list 0. For bi-directionally predicted frames (e.g. B-frames) there may be two lists (list 0 and list 1) and for multi-predicted frames there may be more than two lists. Reference frame indices possibly associated with the motion vectors may also be stored in one or more lists.

[0074] In some embodiments there may be two or more motion vector prediction procedures and each procedure may have its own candidate set creation process. In one procedure, only the motion vector values are used. In another procedure, which may be called as a Merge Mode, each candidate element may comprise 1) The information whether 'block was uni-predicted using only list0' or 'block was uni-predicted using only list1' or 'block was bi-predicted using list0 and list1' 2) motion vector value for list0 3) Reference picture index in list0 4) motion vector value for list1 5) Reference picture index list1. Therefore, whenever two prediction candidates are to be compared, not only the motion vector values are compared, but also the five values mentioned above may be compared to determine whether they correspond with each other or not. On the other hand, if any of the comparisons indicate that the prediction candidates do not have equal motion information, no further comparisons need be performed.

[0075] The motion vector definer 361 defines candidate motion vectors for the current frame by using one or more of the motion vectors of one or more neighbour blocks and/or other blocks

of the current block in the same frame and/or co-located blocks and/or other blocks of the current block in one or more other frames. These candidate motion vectors can be called as a set of candidate predictors or a predictor set. Each candidate predictor thus represents the motion vector of one or more already encoded block. In some embodiments the motion vector of the candidate predictor is set equal to the motion vector of a neighbour block for the same list if the current block and the neighbour block refer to the same reference frames for that list. Also for temporal prediction there may be one or more previously encoded frames wherein motion vectors of a co-located block or other blocks in a previously encoded frame can be selected as candidate predictors for the current block. The temporal motion vector predictor candidate can be generated by any means that make use of the frames other than the current frame.

[0076] The candidate motion vectors can also be obtained by using more than one motion vector of one or more other blocks such as neighbour blocks of the current block and/or co-located blocks in one or more other frames. As an example, any combination of the motion vector of the block to the left of the current block, the motion vector of the block above the current block, and the motion vector of the block at the up-right corner of the current block may be used (i.e. the block to the right of the block above the current block). The combination may be a median of the motion vectors or calculated by using other formulas. For example, one or more of the motion vectors to be used in the combination may be scaled by a scaling factor, an offset may be added, and/or a constant motion vector may be added. In some embodiments the combined motion vector is based on both temporal and spatial motion vectors, e.g. the motion vector of one or more of the neighbour block or other block of the current block and the motion vector of a co-located block or other block in another frame.

[0077] If a neighbour block does not have any motion vector information a default motion vector such as a zero motion vector may be used instead.

[0078] Figure 9 illustrates an example of a coding unit 900 and some neighbour blocks 901—905 of the coding unit. As can be seen from Figure 9, if the coding unit 900 represents the current block, the neighbouring blocks 901—905 labelled A0, A1, B0, B1 and B2 could be such neighbour blocks which may be used when obtaining the candidate motion vectors.

[0079] Creating additional or extra motion vector predictions based on previously added predictors may be needed when the current number of candidates is limited or insufficient. This kind of creating additional candidates can be performed by combining previous two predictions

and/or processing one previous candidate by scaling or adding offset and/or adding a zero motion vector with various reference indices. Hence, the motion vector definer 361 may examine how many motion vector candidates can be defined and how many potential candidate motion vectors exist for the current block. If the number of potential motion vector candidates is smaller than a threshold, the motion vector definer 361 may create additional motion vector predictions.

[0080] In some embodiments the combined motion vector can be based on motion vectors in different lists. For example, one motion vector may be defined by combining one motion vector from the list 0 and one motion vector from the list 1 e.g. when the neighbouring or co-located block is a bi-directionally predicted block and there exists one motion vector in the list 0 and one motion vector in the list 1 for the bi-directionally predicted block.

[0081] To distinguish the current block from the encoded/decoded blocks the motion vectors of which are used as candidate motion vectors, those encoded/decoded blocks are also called as reference blocks in this application.

[0082] In some embodiments not only the motion vector information of the reference block(s) is obtained (e.g. by copying) but also a reference index of the reference block in the reference picture list may be copied to the candidate list. The information whether the block was uni-predicted using only list0 or the block was uni-predicted using only list1 or the block was bi-predicted using list0 and list1 may also be copied. The candidate list may also be called as a candidate set or a set of motion vector prediction candidates.

[0083] Figure 6a illustrates an example of spatial and temporal prediction of a prediction unit. There is depicted the current block 601 in the frame 600 and a neighbour block 602 which already has been encoded. The motion vector definer 361 has defined a motion vector 603 for the neighbour block 602 which points to a block 604 in the previous frame 605. This motion vector can be used as a potential spatial motion vector prediction 610 for the current block. Figure 6a depicts that a co-located block 606 in the previous frame 605, i.e. the block at the same location than the current block but in the previous frame, has a motion vector 607 pointing to a block 609 in another frame 608. This motion vector 607 can be used as a potential temporal motion vector prediction-611 for the current frame.

[0084] Figure 6b illustrates another example of spatial and temporal prediction of a prediction unit. In this example the block 606 of the previous frame 605 uses bi-directional prediction based on the block 609 of the frame preceding the frame 605 and on the block 612

succeeding the current frame 600. The temporal motion vector prediction for the current block 601 may be formed by using both the motion vectors 607, 614 or either of them.

[0085] The operation of the prediction list modifier 363 will now be described in more detail with reference to the flow diagram of Figures 5a and 5b. The prediction list modifier 363 initializes a motion vector prediction list to default values in block 500 of Figure 5a. The prediction list modifier 363 may also initialize a list index to an initial value such as zero. Then, in block 501 the prediction list modifier checks whether there are any motion vector candidates to process. If there is at least one motion vector candidate in the predictor set for processing, the prediction list modifier 363 generates the next motion vector candidate which may be a temporal motion vector or a spatial motion vector. The comparison can be an identicality/equivalence check or comparing the (absolute) difference against a threshold or any other similarity metric.

[0086] In the following, a merge process for motion information coding according to an example embodiment will be described in more detail. The encoder creates a list of motion prediction candidates from which one of the candidates is to be signalled as the motion information for the current coding unit or prediction unit. The motion prediction candidates may consist of several spatial motion predictions and a temporal motion prediction. The spatial candidates can be obtained from the motion information of e.g. the spatial neighbour blocks A0, A1, B0, B1, B2, whose motion information is used as spatial candidate motion predictions. The temporal motion prediction candidate may be obtained by processing the motion of a block in a frame other than the current frame. In this example embodiment, the encoder operations to construct the merge list for the spatial candidates may include the following. The operations may be carried out by the prediction list modifier 363, for example.

[0087] A maximum number of spatial motion prediction candidates to be included in the merge list may be defined. This maximum number may have been stored, for example, to the memory 58 of the apparatus 50, or to another appropriate place. It is also possible to determine the maximum number by using other means, or it may be determined in the software of the encoder of the apparatus 50.

[0088] In some embodiments the maximum number of spatial motion prediction candidates to be included in the merge list is four but in some embodiments the maximum number may be less than four or greater than four.

[0089] In this example the spatial motion prediction candidates are the spatial neighbour blocks A0, A1, B0, B1, B2. The spatial motion vector prediction candidate A1 is located on the left side of the prediction unit when the encoding/decoding order is from left to right and from top to bottom of the frame, slice or another entity to be encoded/decoded. Respectively, the spatial motion vector prediction candidate B1 is located above the prediction unit. third; the spatial motion vector prediction candidate B0 is on the right side of the spatial motion vector prediction candidate B1; the spatial motion vector prediction candidate A0 is below the spatial motion vector prediction candidate A1; and the spatial motion vector prediction candidate B2 is located on the same column than spatial motion vector prediction candidate A1 and on the same row than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate B1. In other words, the spatial motion vector prediction candidate B2 is cornerwise neighbouring the prediction unit as can be seen e.g. from Figure 9.

[0090] These spatial motion prediction candidates can be processed in a predetermined order, for example, A1, B1, B0, A0 and B2. The first spatial motion prediction candidate to be selected for further examination is thus A1. Before further examination is performed for the selected spatial motion prediction candidate, it may be determined whether the merge list already contains a maximum number of spatial motion prediction candidates. Hence, the prediction list modifier 363 compares 502 the number of spatial motion prediction candidates in the merge list with the maximum number, and if the number of spatial motion prediction candidates in the merge list is not less than the maximum number, the selected spatial motion prediction candidate is not included in the merge list and the process of constructing the merge list can be stopped 526. On the other hand, if the number of spatial motion prediction candidates in the merge list is less than the maximum number, a further analyses of the selected spatial motion prediction candidate is performed (blocks 504-522).

[0091] For all the spatial motion prediction candidates for which the further analyses is to be performed, some or all of the following conditions below may be tested for determining whether to include the spatial motion prediction candidate in the merge list.

[0092] The prediction list modifier 363 examines 504 if the prediction unit or block covering the spatial motion prediction candidate block is not available for motion prediction. If so, the candidate is not included in the merge list. The reason that the block is not available may be that the block is either coded in intra mode or resides in a different slice or outside of the picture area.

[0093] In addition to the common conditions above, for each spatial motion prediction candidate, if any of the following conditions holds, then the candidate is not included in the merge list, otherwise, it is included.

[0094] The prediction list modifier 363 determines 506 which spatial motion prediction candidate of the set of spatial motion prediction candidates is in question. If the spatial motion prediction candidate is the block A1, one or more of the following conditions may be examined 508, 510 to determine whether to include this spatial motion prediction candidate in the merge list or not. If the current coding unit 100 is vertically split into two rectangle prediction units 103, 104 as depicted in Figure 10b and the current prediction unit is the second prediction unit 104 in the coding/decoding order (508), this spatial motion prediction candidate is not included in the merge list. If the current coding unit 100 is not vertically split into two rectangle prediction units but it is horizontally split into two rectangle prediction units 101, 102 as depicted in Figure 10a and the current prediction unit is the second prediction unit in the coding/decoding order and the block A1 has the same motion information as the block B1 (510), this spatial motion prediction candidate (block A1) is not included in the merge list. In the example of Figure 10a the second prediction unit is the lower prediction unit 102 of the coding unit 100 and in the example of Figure 10b the second prediction unit is the rightmost prediction unit 104 of the coding unit 100. If none of the conditions above is fulfilled the block A1 is included in the merge list as a spatial motion prediction candidate (524).

[0095] If the spatial motion prediction candidate is the block B1, one or more of the following conditions may be examined 512, 514 to determine whether to include this spatial motion prediction candidate in the merge list or not. If the current coding unit 100 is horizontally split into two rectangle prediction units 101, 102 as depicted in Figure 10a and the current prediction unit is the second prediction unit 104 in the coding/decoding order (512), this spatial motion prediction candidate is not included in the merge list. If the current coding unit 100 is not horizontally split into two rectangle prediction units and if the block B1 has the same motion information than the block A1 (514), this spatial motion prediction candidate (block B1) is not included in the merge list. If none of the conditions above is fulfilled the block B1 is included in the merge list as a spatial motion prediction candidate (524).

[0096] If the spatial motion prediction candidate is the block B0, this spatial motion prediction candidate is not included in the merge list if the block B0 has the same motion

information than the block B1 (516). Otherwise, if the number of spatial motion prediction candidates in the merge list is less than the maximum number of spatial motion prediction candidates, this spatial motion prediction candidate (block B0) is included in the merge list (524).

[0097] If the spatial motion prediction candidate is the block A0, this spatial motion prediction candidate is not included in the merge list if the block A0 has the same motion information than the block A1 (518). Otherwise, if the number of spatial motion prediction candidates in the merge list is less than the maximum number of spatial motion prediction candidates, this spatial motion prediction candidate (block A0) is included in the merge list (524).

[0098] If the spatial motion prediction candidate is the block B2, this spatial motion prediction candidate is not included in the merge list if the maximum number of spatial motion prediction candidates is four and the other blocks A0, A1, B0, and B1 are all decided to be included in the merge list (520). Otherwise, if the number of spatial motion prediction candidates in the merge list is less than the maximum number of spatial motion prediction candidates, the block B2 is not included in the merge list if the block B2 has the same motion information than the block B1 or the block A1 (522).

[0099] Then, after processing the blocks A1, B1, B0, A0 and B2 and including a subset of them in the merge list based on the above described conditions, no more redundancy check between these candidates are performed and remaining temporal motion prediction candidate and/or other possible additional candidates may be processed.

[00100] Comparing two blocks whether they have the same motion may be performed by comparing all the elements of the motion information, namely 1) The information whether 'the prediction unit is uni-predicted using only reference picture list0' or 'the prediction unit is uni-predicted using only reference picture list1' or 'the prediction unit is bi-predicted using both reference picture list0 and list1' 2) Motion vector value corresponding to the reference picture list0 3) Reference picture index in the reference picture list0 4) Motion vector value corresponding to the reference picture list1 5) Reference picture index in the reference picture list1.

[00101] In some embodiments similar restrictions for comparing candidate pairs can be applied if the current coding unit is coded/decoded by splitting into four or any number of prediction units.

[00102] The maximum number of merge list candidates can be any non-zero value. In the example above the merger list candidates were the spatial neighbour blocks A0, A1, B0, B1, B2 and the temporal motion prediction candidate, but there may be more than one temporal motion prediction candidate and also other spatial motion prediction candidates than the spatial neighbour blocks. In some embodiments there may also be other spatial neighbour blocks than the blocks A0, A1, B0, B1, B2.

[00103] It is also possible that the maximum number of spatial motion prediction candidates included in the list can be different than four.

[00104] In some embodiments the maximum number of merge list candidates and maximum number of spatial motion prediction candidates included in the list can depend on whether a temporal motion vector candidate is included in the list or not.

[00105] A different number of spatial motion prediction candidates located at various locations in the current frame can be processed. The locations can be the same as or different than A1, B1, B0, A0 and B2.

[00106] The decision of including which spatial motion prediction candidates in the list can be realized in two steps. In the first step, some of the candidates are eliminated by checking whether the candidate block is available and/or the candidate block's prediction mode is intra and/or whether the current block is a second prediction unit of a coding unit coded with two prediction units and the candidate has the same motion with the first prediction unit. In the second step, remaining candidates are examined and some or all of them are included in the merge list. The examination in the second step does not include comparing motion information of each possible candidate pair but includes a subset of the possible comparison combinations.

[00107] The decisions for the candidates can be taken in any order of A1, B1, B0, A0 and B2 or independently in parallel.

[00108] For each candidate and/or a subset of the candidates, the following conditions may also be checked: Whether the candidate block has the same motion as the first prediction unit of the current coding unit when the current coding unit is split into two rectangle prediction units and the current prediction unit is the second prediction unit in the coding/decoding order.

[00109] Additional conditions related to various properties of current and/or previous slices and/or current and/or neighbour blocks can be utilized for determining whether to include a candidate in the list.

[00110] Motion comparison can be realized by comparing a subset of the whole motion information. For example, only the motion vector values for some or all reference picture lists and/or reference indices for some or all reference picture lists and/or an identifier value assigned to each block to represent its motion information can be compared. The comparison can be an identicality or an equivalence check or comparing the (absolute) difference against a threshold or any other similarity metric.

[00111] Conditions for deciding whether a candidate is to be included in the list can include motion information comparison with any subset of the candidates as long as not all possible candidate pairs are compared eventually.

[00112] Deciding whether a temporal motion vector candidate is to be included in the list can be based on comparing its motion information with motion information of a subset of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates.

[00113] When comparing motion information of two blocks, motion information of additional blocks can be considered too. For example, when comparing the block B2 and the block A1, all the blocks between the block B2 and the block A1 (illustrated in Figure 12) are checked whether they have the same motion; and when comparing the block B2 and the block B1, all the blocks between the block B2 and the block B1 (illustrated in Figure 12) are checked whether they have the same motion. This embodiment can be implemented so that the right-most block of each prediction unit or all blocks of each prediction unit may store the information of how many consecutive blocks to the above have the same motion information. Also the bottom-most block of each prediction unit or all blocks of each prediction unit may store the information of how many consecutive blocks to the left have the same motion information. Using this information the condition for not including B0 in the list can be realized by checking if the number of consecutive blocks with the same motion to the left of B0 is greater than 0. The condition for not including A0 in the list can be realized by checking if the number of consecutive blocks with same motion to the above of A0 is greater than 0. The conditions for not including B2 can be modified as follows:

[00114] It is not examined whether the block B2 has same motion as the block B1 or whether the block B2 has same motion as the block A1, but how many consecutive blocks exists to the left of the block B1 with the same motion than the block B1 and/or how many consecutive blocks exist above the block A1 with the same motion. If the number of consecutive blocks with the same motion to the left of the block B1 is greater than the number of blocks between B2 and B1, or if the number of consecutive blocks with the same motion above the block A1 is greater than the number of blocks between the block B2 and the block A1, the block B2 is not included in the merge list.

[00115] If the above implementation is used, the value of how many consecutive blocks to the left/above have the same motion information can be determined by direct comparison of motion information or checking the prediction mode and/or the merge index if the block employs a merge process.

[00116] When coding/decoding the selected merge index, the information whether the merge process is employed for coding/decoding a Skip mode coding unit or an Inter Merge mode prediction unit can be taken into account. For example, if a context adaptive binary arithmetic coder (CABAC) is used for entropy coding/decoding, different contexts can be used for the bins depending on the coding mode (Skip mode or inter merge mode) of the current block. Furthermore, assigning two contexts depending on whether the merge process is employed in a Skip mode coding unit or an inter Merge mode prediction unit can be applied for only the most significant bin of the merge index.

[00117] During the process of removal of redundant candidates, comparison between motion vector predictor candidates can also be based on any other information than the motion vector values. For example, it can be based on linear or non-linear functions of motion vector values, coding or prediction types of the blocks used to obtain the motion information, block size, the spatial location in the frame/(largest) coding unit/macroblock, the information whether blocks share the same motion with a block, the information whether blocks are in the same coding/prediction unit, etc.

[00118] The following pseudo code illustrates an example embodiment of the invention for constructing the merging list.

[00119] Inputs to this process are

– a luma location (xP, yP) specifying the top-left luma sample of the current prediction unit relative to the top-left sample of the current picture;

– variables specifying the width and the height of the prediction unit for luma, nPSW and nPSH; and

– a variable PartIdx specifying the index of the current prediction unit within the current coding unit.

[00120] Outputs of this process are (with N being replaced by A_0, A_1, B_0, B_1 or B_2 and with X being replaced by 0 or 1)

– the availability flags availableFlagN of the neighbouring prediction units,

– the reference indices refIdxLXN of the neighbouring prediction units,

– the prediction list utilization flags predFlagLXN of the neighbouring prediction units,

– the motion vectors mvLXN of the neighbouring prediction units.

[00121] For the derivation of availableFlagN, with N being A_0, A_1, B_0, B_1 or B_2 and (xN, yN) being (xP−1, yP + nPSH), (xP−1, yP + nPSH−1), (xP + nPSW, yP−1), (xP+nPSW−1, yP−1) or (xP−1, yP−1), the following applies.

– If one of the following conditions is true, the availableFlagN is set equal to 0, both components mvLXN are set equal to 0, refIdxLXN and predFlagLX[xN, yN] of the prediction unit covering luma location (xN, yN) are assigned respectively to mvLXN, refIdxLXN and predFlagLXN.

– N is equal to B_2 and availableFlagA_0 + availableFlagA_1 + availableFlagB_0 + availableFlagB_1 is equal to 4.

– The prediction unit covering luma location (xN, yN) is not available or PredMode is MODE_INTRA.

– N is equal to A1 and PartMode of the current prediction unit is PART_Nx2N or PART_nLx2N or PART_nRx2N and PartIdx is equal to 1.

– N is equal to A1 and PartMode of the current prediction unit is PART_2NxN or PART_2NxnU or PART_2NxnD and PartIdx is equal to 1 and the prediction units covering luma location (xP+nPSW−1, yP−1) (N = B1) and luma location (xN, yN) (Cand. N) have identical motion parameters:

– mvLX[xP+nPSW−1, yP−1] == mvLX[xN, yN]

– refIdxLX[xP+nPSW−1, yP−1] == refIdxLX[xN, yN]

– predFlagLX[xP+nPSW−1, yP−1] == predFlagLX[xN, yN]

– N is equal to B1 and PartMode of the current prediction unit is 2NxN or PART_2NxnU or PART_2NxnD and PartIdx is equal to 1.

– N is equal to B1 and the prediction units covering luma location (xP−1, yP+nPSH−1) (N = A1) and luma location (xN, yN) (Cand. N) have identical motion parameters:

– mvLX[xP−1, yP+nPSH−1] == mvLX[xN, yN]

– refIdxLX[xP−1, yP+nPSH−1] == refIdxLX[xN, yN]

– predFlagLX[xP−1, yP+nPSH−1] == predFlagLX[xN, yN]

– N is equal to B0 and the prediction units covering luma location (xP+nPSW−1, yP−1) (N = B1) and luma location (xN, yN) (Cand. N) have identical motion parameters:

– mvLX[xP+nPSW−1, yP−1] == mvLX[xN, yN]

– refIdxLX[xP+nPSW−1, yP−1] == refIdxLX[xN, yN]

– predFlagLX[xP+nPSW−1, yP−1] == predFlagLX[xN, yN]

– N is equal to A0 and the prediction units covering luma location (xP−1, yP+nPSH−1) (N = A1) and luma location (xN, yN) (Cand. N) have identical motion parameters:

– mvLX[xP−1, yP+nPSH−1] == mvLX[xN, yN]

– refIdxLX[xP−1, yP+nPSH−1] == refIdxLX[xN, yN]

– predFlagLX[xP−1, yP+nPSH−1] == predFlagLX[xN, yN]

– N is equal to B2 and the prediction units covering luma location (xP+nPSW−1, yP−1) (N = B1) and luma location (xN, yN) (Cand. N) have identical motion parameters:

– mvLX[xP+nPSW−1, yP−1] == mvLX[xN, yN]

– refIdxLX[xP+nPSW−1, yP−1] == refIdxLX[xN, yN]

– predFlagLX[xP+nPSW−1, yP−1] == predFlagLX[xN, yN]

– N is equal to B2 and the prediction units covering luma location (xP−1, yP+nPSH−1) (N = A1) and luma location (xN, yN) (Cand. N) have identical motion parameters:

– mvLX[xP−1, yP+nPSH−1] == mvLX[xN, yN]

– refIdxLX[xP−1, yP+nPSH−1] == refIdxLX[xN, yN]

– predFlagLX[xP−1, yP+nPSH−1] == predFlagLX[xN, yN]

– PartMode of the current prediction unit is PART_NxN and PartIdx is equal to 3 and the prediction units covering luma location (xP−1, yP) (PartIdx = 2) and luma location (xP−1, yP−1) (PartIdx = 0) have identical motion parameters:

– mvLX[xP−1, yP] == mvLX[xP−1, yP−1]

– refIdxLX[xP−1, yP] == refIdxLX[xP−1, yP−1]

– predFlagLX[xP−1, yP] == predFlagLX[xP−1, yP−1]

and the prediction units covering luma location (xP, yP−1) (PartIdx = 1) and luma location (xN, yN) (Cand. N) have identical motion parameters:

– mvLX[xP, yP−1] == mvLX[xN, yN]

– refIdxLX[xP, yP−1] == refIdxLX[xN, yN]

– predFlagLX[xP, yP−1] == predFlagLX[xN, yN]

– PartMode of the current prediction unit is PART_NxN and PartIdx is equal to 3 and the prediction units covering luma location (xP, yP−1) (PartIdx = 1) and luma location (xP−1, yP−1) (PartIdx = 0) have identical motion parameters:

– mvLX[xP, yP−1] == mvLX[xP−1, yP−1]

– refIdxLX[xP, yP−1] == refIdxLX[xP−1, yP−1]

– predFlagLX[xP, yP−1] == predFlagLX[xP−1, yP−1]

and the prediction units covering luma location (xP−1, yP) (PartIdx = 2) and luma location (xN, yN) (Cand. N) have identical motion parameters:

– mvLX[xP−1, yP] == mvLX[xN, yN]

– refIdxLX[xP−1, yP] == refIdxLX[xN, yN]

– predFlagLX[xP−1, yP] == predFlagLX[xN, yN]

– Otherwise, availableFlagN is set equal to 1 and the variables mvLX[xN, yN], refIdxLX[xN, yN] and predFlagLX[xN, yN] of the prediction unit covering luma location (xN, yN) are assigned respectively to mvLXN, refIdxLXN and predFlagLXN.

[00122] For the motion vector predictor candidate list generation process, each list candidate can include more information than the motion vector value, such as the reference lists used, the reference frames used in each list and motion vector for each list.

[00123] When all motion vector candidates have been examined, one motion vector is selected to be used as the motion vector for the current block. The motion vector selector 364 may examine different motion vectors in the list and determine which motion vector provides the most efficient encoding result, or the selection of the motion vector may be based on to other criteria as well. Information of the selected motion vector is provided for the mode selector for encoding and transmission to the decoder or for storage when the mode selector determines to

use inter prediction for the current block. The information may include the index of the motion vector in the list, and/or motion vector parameters or other appropriate information.

[00124] The selected motion vector and the block relating to the motion vector is used to generate the prediction representation of the image block 312 which is provided as the output of the mode selector. The output may be used by the first summing device 321 to produce the first prediction error signal 320, as was described above.

[00125] The selected motion vector predictor candidate can be modified by adding a motion vector difference or can be used directly as the motion vector of the block. Moreover, after the motion compensation is performed by using the selected motion vector predictor candidate, the residual signal of the block can be transform coded or skipped to be coded.

[00126] Although the embodiments above have been described with respect to the size of the macroblock being 16x16 pixels, it would be appreciated that the methods and apparatus described may be configured to handle macroblocks of different pixel sizes.

[00127] In the following the operation of an example embodiment of the decoder 600 is depicted in more detail with reference to Figure 7.

[00128] At the decoder side similar operations are performed to reconstruct the image blocks. Figure 7 shows a block diagram of a video decoder 700 suitable for employing embodiments of the invention and Figures 8a and 8b show a flow diagram of an example of a method in the video decoder. The bitstream to be decoded may be received from the encoder, from a network element, from a storage medium or from another source. The decoder is aware of the structure of the bitstream so that it can determine the meaning of the entropy coded codewords and may decode the bitstream by an entropy decoder 701 which performs entropy decoding on the received signal. The entropy decoder thus performs the inverse operation to the entropy encoder 330 of the encoder described above. The entropy decoder 701 outputs the results of the entropy decoding to a prediction error decoder 702 and a pixel predictor 704.

[00129] In some embodiments the entropy coding may not be used but another channel encoding may be in use, or the encoded bitstream may be provided to the decoder 700 without channel encoding. The decoder 700 may comprise a corresponding channel decoder to obtain the encoded codewords from the received signal.

[00130] The pixel predictor 704 receives the output of the entropy decoder 701. The output of the entropy decoder 701 may include an indication on the prediction mode used in encoding the

current block. A predictor selector 714 within the pixel predictor 704 determines that an intra-prediction or an inter-prediction is to be carried out. The predictor selector 714 may furthermore output a predicted representation of an image block 716 to a first combiner 713. The predicted representation of the image block 716 is used in conjunction with the reconstructed prediction error signal 712 to generate a preliminary reconstructed image 718. The preliminary reconstructed image 718 may be used in the predictor 714 or may be passed to a filter 720. The filter 720, if used, applies a filtering which outputs a final reconstructed signal 722. The final reconstructed signal 722 may be stored in a reference frame memory 724, the reference frame memory 724 further being connected to the predictor 714 for prediction operations.

[00131] Also the prediction error decoder 702 receives the output of the entropy decoder 701. A dequantizer 792 of the prediction error decoder 702 may dequantize the output of the entropy decoder 701 and the inverse transform block 793 may perform an inverse transform operation to the dequantized signal output by the dequantizer 792. The output of the entropy decoder 701 may also indicate that prediction error signal is not to be applied and in this case the prediction error decoder produces an all zero output signal.

[00132] The decoder selects the 16x16 pixel residual macroblock to reconstruct. This residual macroblock is also called as a current block.

[00133] The decoder may receive information on the encoding mode used in encoding of the current block. The indication is decoded, when necessary, and provided to the reconstruction processor 791 of the prediction selector 714. The reconstruction processor 791 examines the indication and selects one of the intra-prediction mode(s), if the indication indicates that the block has been encoded using intra-prediction, or the inter-prediction mode, if the indication indicates that the block has been encoded using inter-prediction.

[00134] For inter-prediction mode the reconstruction processor 791 may comprise one or more elements corresponding to the prediction processor 362 of the encoder, such as a motion vector definer, a prediction list modifier and/or a motion vector selector.

[00135] The reconstruction processor 791 initializes a motion vector prediction list to default values in block 800. As was the case in the encoding part, in this example the spatial motion prediction candidates are the spatial neighbour blocks A0, A1, B0, B1, B2 and these spatial motion prediction candidates are processed in the same predetermined order than in the encoder: A1, B1, B0, A0 and B2. The first spatial motion prediction candidate to be selected for further

examination is thus A1. Before further examination is performed for the selected spatial motion prediction candidate, it is examined whether the merge list already contains a maximum number of spatial motion prediction candidates. If the number of spatial motion prediction candidates in the merge list is not less than the maximum number, the selected spatial motion prediction candidate is not included in the merge list and the process of constructing the merge list can be stopped 826. On the other hand, if the number of spatial motion prediction candidates in the merge list is less than the maximum number, a further analyses of the selected spatial motion prediction candidate is performed (blocks 804-822).

[00136] The decoder examines 804 if the prediction unit or block covering the spatial motion prediction candidate block is not available for motion prediction. If so, the candidate is not included in the merge list. The reason that the block is not available may be that the block is either coded in intra mode or resides in a different slice or outside of the picture area.

[00137] In addition to the common conditions above, for each spatial motion prediction candidate, if any of the following conditions holds, then the candidate is not included in the merge list, otherwise, it is included.

[00138] The decoder determines 806 which spatial motion prediction candidate of the set of spatial motion prediction candidates is in question. If the spatial motion prediction candidate is the block A1, one or more of the following conditions may be examined 808, 810 to determine whether to include this spatial motion prediction candidate in the merge list or not. If the current coding unit 100 is vertically split into two rectangle prediction units 103, 104 as depicted in Figure 10b and the current prediction unit is the second prediction unit 104 in the coding/decoding order (808), this spatial motion prediction candidate is not included in the merge list. If the current coding unit 100 is not vertically split into two rectangle prediction units but it is horizontally split into two rectangle prediction units 101, 102 as depicted in Figure 10a and the current prediction unit is the second prediction unit in the coding/decoding order and the block A1 has the same motion information as the block B1 (810), this spatial motion prediction candidate (block A1) is not included in the merge list. In the example of Figure 10a the second prediction unit is the lower prediction unit 102 of the coding unit 100 and in the example of Figure 10b the second prediction unit is the rightmost prediction unit 104 of the coding unit 100. If none of the conditions above is fulfilled the block A1 is included in the merge list as a spatial motion prediction candidate (824).

[00139] If the spatial motion prediction candidate is the block B1, one or more of the following conditions may be examined 812, 814 to determine whether to include this spatial motion prediction candidate in the merge list or not. If the current coding unit 100 is horizontally split into two rectangle prediction units 101, 102 as depicted in Figure 10a and the current prediction unit is the second prediction unit 104 in the coding/decoding order (812), this spatial motion prediction candidate is not included in the merge list. If the current coding unit 100 is not horizontally split into two rectangle prediction units and if the block B1 has the same motion information than the block A1 (814), this spatial motion prediction candidate (block B1) is not included in the merge list. If none of the conditions above is fulfilled the block B1 is included in the merge list as a spatial motion prediction candidate (824).

[00140] If the spatial motion prediction candidate is the block B0, this spatial motion prediction candidate is not included in the merge list if the block B0 has the same motion information than the block B1 (816). Otherwise, if the number of spatial motion prediction candidates in the merge list is less than the maximum number of spatial motion prediction candidates, this spatial motion prediction candidate (block B0) is included in the merge list (824).

[00141] If the spatial motion prediction candidate is the block A0, this spatial motion prediction candidate is not included in the merge list if the block A0 has the same motion information than the block A1 (818). Otherwise, if the number of spatial motion prediction candidates in the merge list is less than the maximum number of spatial motion prediction candidates, this spatial motion prediction candidate (block A0) is included in the merge list (824).

[00142] If the spatial motion prediction candidate is the block B2, this spatial motion prediction candidate is not included in the merge list if the maximum number of spatial motion prediction candidates is four and the other blocks A0, A1, B0, and B1 are all decided to be included in the merge list (820). Otherwise, if the number of spatial motion prediction candidates in the merge list is less than the maximum number of spatial motion prediction candidates, the block B2 is not included in the merge list if the block B2 has the same motion information than the block B1 or the block A1 (822).

[00143] Then, after processing the blocks A1, B1, B0, A0 and B2 and including a subset of them in the merge list based on the above described conditions, no more redundancy check

between these candidates are performed and remaining temporal motion prediction candidate and/or other possible additional candidates may be processed.

[00144] When the merge list has been constructed the decoder may use 828 the indication of the motion vector received from the encoder to select the motion vector for decoding the current block. The indication may be, for example, an index to the merge list.

[00145] Basically, after the reconstruction processor 791 has constructed the merge list, it would correspond with the merge list constructed by the encoder if the reconstruction processor 791 has the same information available than the encoder had. If some information has been lost during transmission the information from the encoder to the decoder, it may affect the generation of the merge list in the decoder 700.

[00146] The above examples describe the operation mainly in the merge mode but the encoder and decoder may also operate in other modes.

[00147] The embodiments of the invention described above describe the codec in terms of separate encoder and decoder apparatus in order to assist the understanding of the processes involved. However, it would be appreciated that the apparatus, structures and operations may be implemented as a single encoder-decoder apparatus/structure/operation. Furthermore in some embodiments of the invention the coder and decoder may share some or all common elements.

[00148] Although the above examples describe embodiments of the invention operating within a codec within an electronic device, it would be appreciated that the invention as described below may be implemented as part of any video codec. Thus, for example, embodiments of the invention may be implemented in a video codec which may implement video coding over fixed or wired communication paths.

[00149] Thus, user equipment may comprise a video codec such as those described in embodiments of the invention above.

[00150] It shall be appreciated that the term user equipment is intended to cover any suitable type of wireless user equipment, such as mobile telephones, portable data processing devices or portable web browsers.

[00151] Furthermore elements of a public land mobile network (PLMN) may also comprise video codecs as described above.

[00152] In general, the various embodiments of the invention may be implemented in hardware or special purpose circuits, software, logic or any combination thereof. For example,

some aspects may be implemented in hardware, while other aspects may be implemented in firmware or software which may be executed by a controller, microprocessor or other computing device, although the invention is not limited thereto. While various aspects of the invention may be illustrated and described as block diagrams, flow charts, or using some other pictorial representation, it is well understood that these blocks, apparatus, systems, techniques or methods described herein may be implemented in, as non-limiting examples, hardware, software, firmware, special purpose circuits or logic, general purpose hardware or controller or other computing devices, or some combination thereof.

[00153] The embodiments of this invention may be implemented by computer software executable by a data processor of the mobile device, such as in the processor entity, or by hardware, or by a combination of software and hardware. Further in this regard it should be noted that any blocks of the logic flow as in the Figures may represent program steps, or interconnected logic circuits, blocks and functions, or a combination of program steps and logic circuits, blocks and functions. The software may be stored on such physical media as memory chips, or memory blocks implemented within the processor, magnetic media such as hard disk or floppy disks, and optical media such as for example DVD and the data variants thereof, CD.

[00154] The memory may be of any type suitable to the local technical environment and may be implemented using any suitable data storage technology, such as semiconductor based memory devices, magnetic memory devices and systems, optical memory devices and systems, fixed memory and removable memory. The data processors may be of any type suitable to the local technical environment, and may include one or more of general purpose computers, special purpose computers, microprocessors, digital signal processors (DSPs) and processors based on multi core processor architecture, as non limiting examples.

[00155] Embodiments of the inventions may be practiced in various components such as integrated circuit modules. The design of integrated circuits is by and large a highly automated process. Complex and powerful software tools are available for converting a logic level design into a semiconductor circuit design ready to be etched and formed on a semiconductor substrate.

[00156] Programs, such as those provided by Synopsys, Inc. of Mountain View, California and Cadence Design, of San Jose, California automatically route conductors and locate components on a semiconductor chip using well established rules of design as well as libraries of pre stored design modules. Once the design for a semiconductor circuit has been completed, the

resultant design, in a standardized electronic format (e.g., Opus, GDSII, or the like) may be transmitted to a semiconductor fabrication facility or "fab" for fabrication.

[00157] The foregoing description has provided by way of exemplary and non-limiting examples a full and informative description of the exemplary embodiment of this invention. However, various modifications and adaptations may become apparent to those skilled in the relevant arts in view of the foregoing description, when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings and the appended claims. However, all such and similar modifications of the teachings of this invention will still fall within the scope of this invention.

[00158] In the following some examples will be provided.

[00159] In some embodiments a method comprises:

receiving a block of pixels including a prediction unit; determining a set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates for the block of pixels; the spatial motion vector prediction candidates being provided with motion information;

selecting a first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates as a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate to be included in a merge list for the prediction unit;

determining a subset of spatial motion vector predictions based on the location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate;

comparing motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidate in the determined subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

if at least one of the comparisons indicates that the motion vector information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates correspond with each other, excluding the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list.

[00160] In some embodiments the method comprises including neighbouring blocks of the received block of pixels in the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates.

[00161] In some embodiments the method comprises constructing the set of spatial motion vector predictions by using motion vectors of one or more encoded blocks in a same frame than the block of pixels.

[00162] In some embodiments the method comprises selecting spatial motion vector prediction candidates from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates as the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate in a predetermined order.

[00163] In some embodiments the method comprises comparing motion information of the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of at most one other spatial motion vector prediction candidate of the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates.

[00164] In some embodiments the method comprises prediction unit and a second prediction unit; and if so, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list if the prediction unit is the second prediction unit.

[00165] In some embodiments the method comprises

determining a maximum number of spatial motion vector prediction candidates to be included in a merge list; and

limiting the number of spatial motion vector prediction candidates in the merge list smaller or equal to the maximum number .

[00166] In some embodiments the method comprises

examining, if the number of spatial motion vector prediction candidates in the merge list smaller than the maximum number;

if so, examining whether a prediction unit to which the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate belongs is available for motion prediction;

if so, performing at least one of the following:

for the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list if any of the following conditions are fulfilled:

– the received block of pixels is vertically divided into a first prediction unit and a second prediction unit, and the prediction unit is the second prediction unit;

– the received block of pixels is horizontally divided into a first prediction unit and a second prediction unit, and if the prediction unit is the second prediction unit, and the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit;

for the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list if any of the following conditions are fulfilled:

– the received block of pixels is horizontally divided into a first prediction unit and a second prediction unit, and the prediction unit is the second prediction unit;

– the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit;

for the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate, which is on the right side of the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list if the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit;

for the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate, which is below the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list if the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit;

for the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate cornerwise neighbouring the prediction unit, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list if any of the following conditions are fulfilled:

– all the other potential spatial motion vector prediction candidates have been included in the merge list;

– the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit;

– the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit.

[00167] In some embodiments the method comprises including a temporal motion prediction candidate into the merge list.

[00168] In some embodiments the method comprises selecting one motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list to represent a motion vector prediction for the block of pixels.

[00169] In some embodiments a method according to the second aspect comprises:

receiving an encoded block of pixels including a prediction unit;

determining a set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates for the encoded block of pixels; the spatial motion vector prediction candidates being provided with motion information;

selecting a first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates as a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate to be included in a merge list for the prediction unit;

determining a subset of spatial motion vector predictions based on the location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate;

comparing motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of another spatial motion vector prediction candidate of the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

if at least one of the comparisons indicates that the motion vector information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates correspond with each other, excluding the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list.

[00170] In some embodiments the method comprises including neighbouring blocks of the received encoded block of pixels in the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates.

[00171] In some embodiments the method comprises constructing the set of spatial motion vector predictions by using motion vectors of one or more decoded blocks in a same frame than the received encoded block of pixels.

[00172] In some embodiments the method comprises selecting spatial motion vector prediction candidates from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates as the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate in a predetermined order.

[00173] In some embodiments the method comprises comparing motion information of the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of at most one other spatial motion vector prediction candidate of the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates.

[00174] In some embodiments the method comprises examining whether the received encoded block of pixels is divided into a first prediction unit and a second prediction unit; and if so, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list if the prediction unit is the second prediction unit.

[00175] In some embodiments the method comprises

determining a maximum number of spatial motion vector prediction candidates to be included in a merge list; and

limiting the number of spatial motion vector prediction candidates in the merge list smaller or equal to the maximum number.

[00176] In some embodiments the method comprises

examining, if the number of spatial motion vector prediction candidates in the merge list smaller than the maximum number;

if so, examining whether a prediction unit to which the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate belongs is available for motion prediction;

if so, performing at least one of the following:

for the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list if any of the following conditions are fulfilled:

– the received encoded block of pixels is vertically divided into a first prediction unit and a second prediction unit, and the prediction unit is the second prediction unit;

– the received encoded block of pixels is horizontally divided into a first prediction unit and a second prediction unit, and if the prediction unit is the second prediction unit, and the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit;

for the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list if any of the following conditions are fulfilled:

– the received encoded block of pixels is horizontally divided into a first prediction unit and a second prediction unit, and the prediction unit is the second prediction unit;

– the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit;

for the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate, which is on the right side of the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list if the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit;

for the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate, which is below the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list if the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit;

for the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate cornerwise neighbouring the prediction unit, excluding the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list if any of the following conditions are fulfilled:

– all the other potential spatial motion vector prediction candidates have been included in the merge list;

– the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate above the prediction unit;

– the potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate has essentially similar motion information than the spatial motion vector prediction candidate on the left side of the prediction unit.

[00177] In some embodiments the method comprises including a temporal motion prediction candidate into the merge list.

[00178] In some embodiments the method comprises selecting one motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list to represent a motion vector prediction for the received encoded block of pixels.

[00179] In some embodiments an apparatus according to the third aspect comprises a processor and a memory including computer program code, the memory and the computer program code configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to:

receive a block of pixels

including a prediction unit;

determining a set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates for the block of pixels; the spatial motion vector prediction candidates being provided with motion information;

selecting a first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates as a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate to be included in a merge list for the prediction unit;

determining a subset of spatial motion vector predictions based on the location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate;

comparing motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidate in the determined subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

if at least one the comparisons indicates that the motion vector information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates correspond with each other, excluding the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list.

[00180] In some embodiments an apparatus according to the fourth aspect comprises a processor and a memory including computer program code, the memory and the computer program code configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to:

receive an encoded block of pixels including a prediction unit;

determine a set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates for the encoded block of pixels; the spatial motion vector prediction candidates being provided with motion information;

select a first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates as a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate to be included in a merge list for the prediction unit;

determine a subset of spatial motion vector predictions based on the location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate;

compare motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidate in the determined subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

exclude the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list, if at least one of the comparisons indicates that the motion vector information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates correspond with each other

[00181] In some embodiments a storage medium having stored thereon a computer program code a computer executable program code for use by an encoder, said program codes comprise instructions for use by an encoder, said program code comprises instructions for:

receiving a block of pixels including a prediction unit;

determining a set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates for the block of pixels; the spatial motion vector prediction candidates being provided with motion information;

selecting a first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates as a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate to be included in a merge list for the prediction unit;

determining a subset of spatial motion vector predictions based on the location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate;

comparing motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidate in the determined subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

if at least one of the comparisons indicates that the motion vector information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates correspond with each other, excluding the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list.

[00182] In some embodiments a storage medium having stored thereon a computer program code a computer executable program code for use by an encoder, said program codes comprise instructions for use by an encoder, said program code comprises instructions for:

receiving an encoded block of pixels including a prediction unit;

determining a set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates for the encoded block of pixels; the spatial motion vector prediction candidates being provided with motion information;

selecting a first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates as a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate to be included in a merge list for the prediction unit;

determining a subset of spatial motion vector predictions based on the location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate;

comparing motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidate in the determined subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

if at least one of the comparisons indicates that the motion vector information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates correspond with each other, excluding the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list.

[00183] In some embodiments an apparatus comprises:

means for receiving a block of pixels including a prediction unit;

means for selecting a first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates as a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate to be included in a merge list for the prediction unit;

means for determining a subset of spatial motion vector predictions based on the location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate;

means for comparing motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidate in the determined subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

means for excluding the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list, if at least one of the comparisons indicates that the motion vector information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates correspond with each other.

[00184] In some embodiments an apparatus comprises:

means for receiving an encoded block of pixels including a prediction unit;

means for determining a set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates for the encoded block of pixels; the spatial motion vector prediction candidates being provided with motion information;

means for selecting a first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates as a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate to be included in a merge list for the prediction unit;

means for determining a subset of spatial motion vector predictions based on the 58location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate;

means for comparing motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidate in the determined subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates;

means for excluding the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the merge list, if at least one of the comparisons indicates that the motion vector information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates correspond with each other.

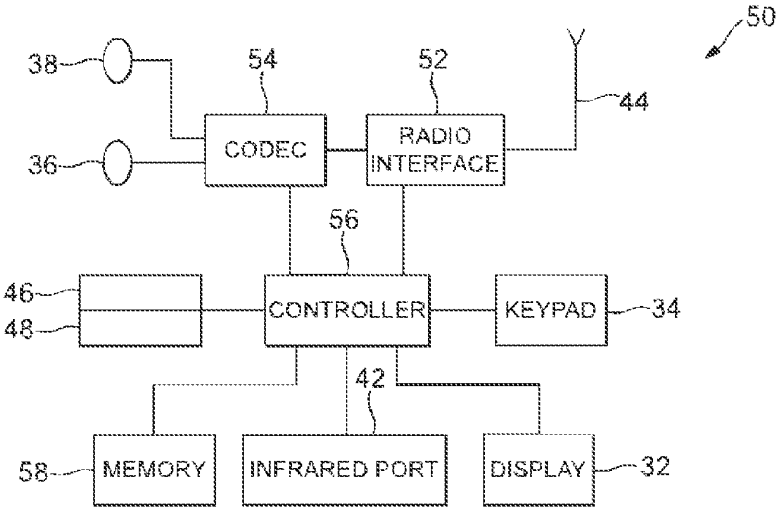
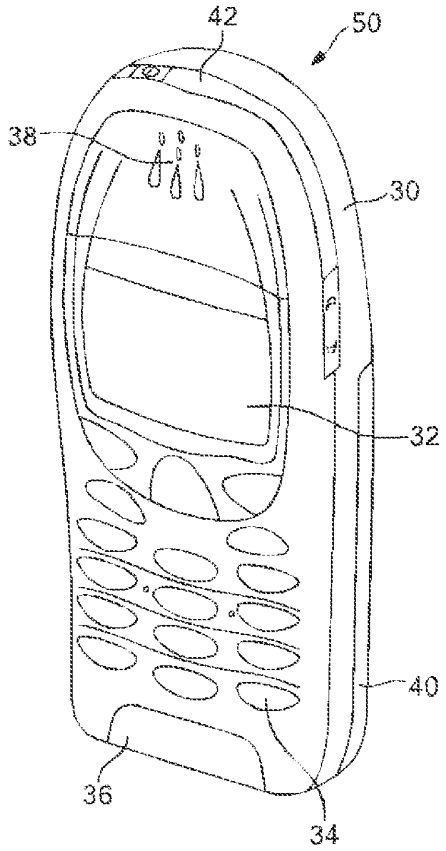

50
38
54
52
44
36
CODEC
RADIO INTERFACE
56
46
48
CONTROLLER
KEYPAD
34
42
58
MEMORY
INFRARED PORT
DISPLAY
32

FIG.1


42
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36
34

FIG. 2

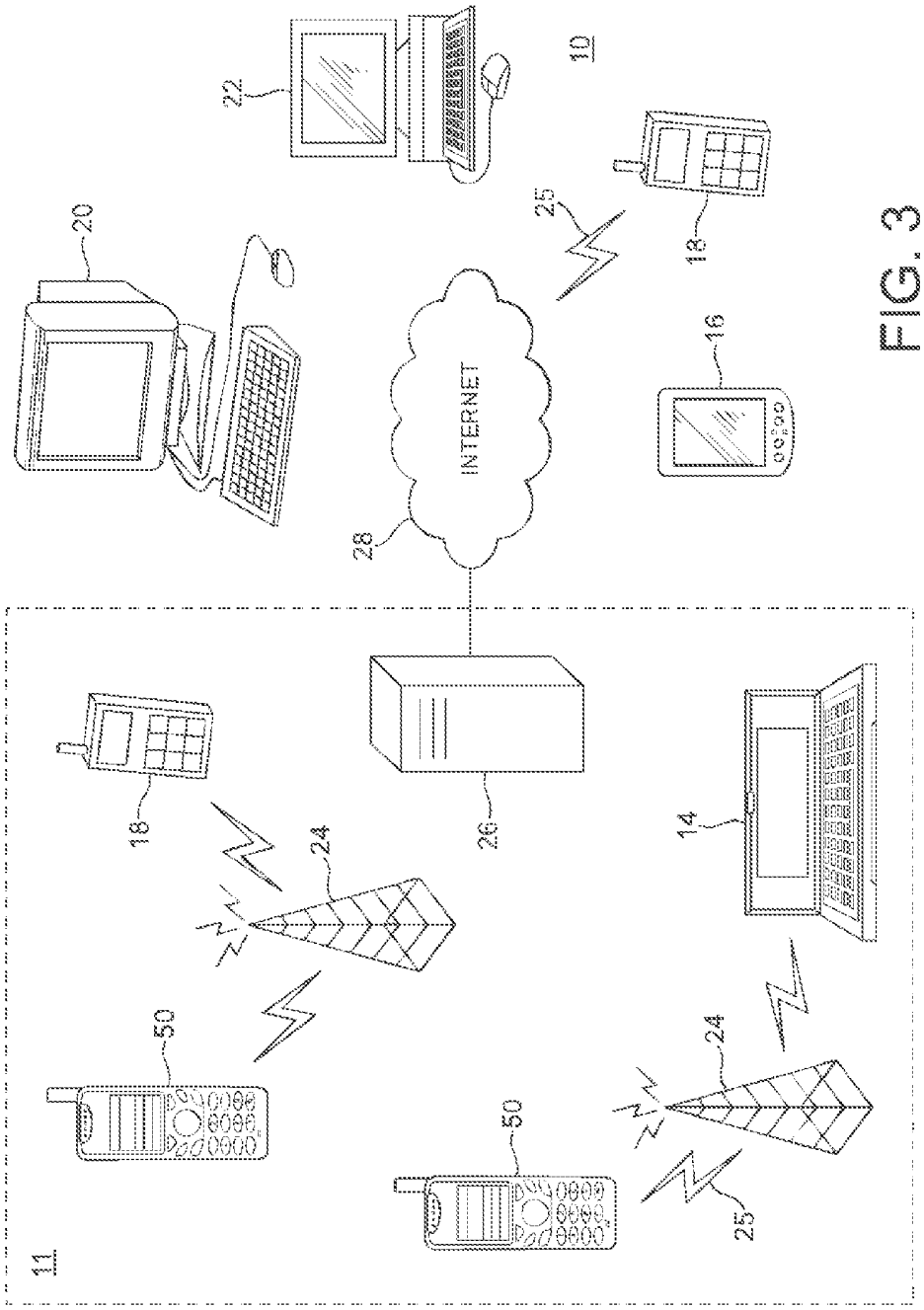


FIG. 3

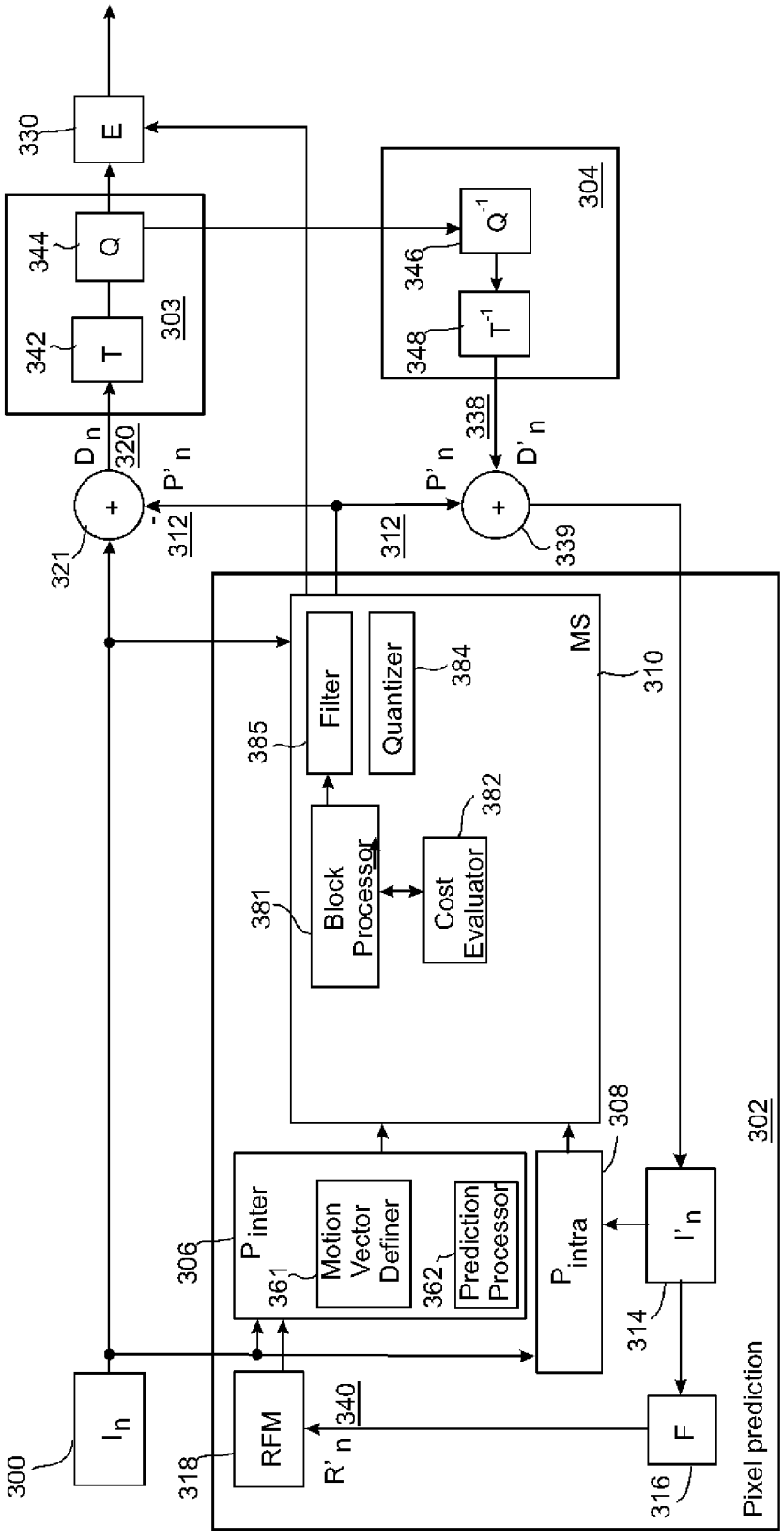

300
I_n
318
RFM
R'_n 340
306
P_{inter}
361
Motion Vector Definer
362
Prediction Processor
P_{intra}
308
314
I'_n
316
F
MS
310
385
Filter
Quantizer
384
381
Block Processor
382
Cost Evaluator
302
Pixel prediction
D_n 320
321
312
P'_n
330
E
342
T
344
Q
303
304
346
Q^{-1}
348
T^{-1}
338
D'_n
339

Fig. 4a

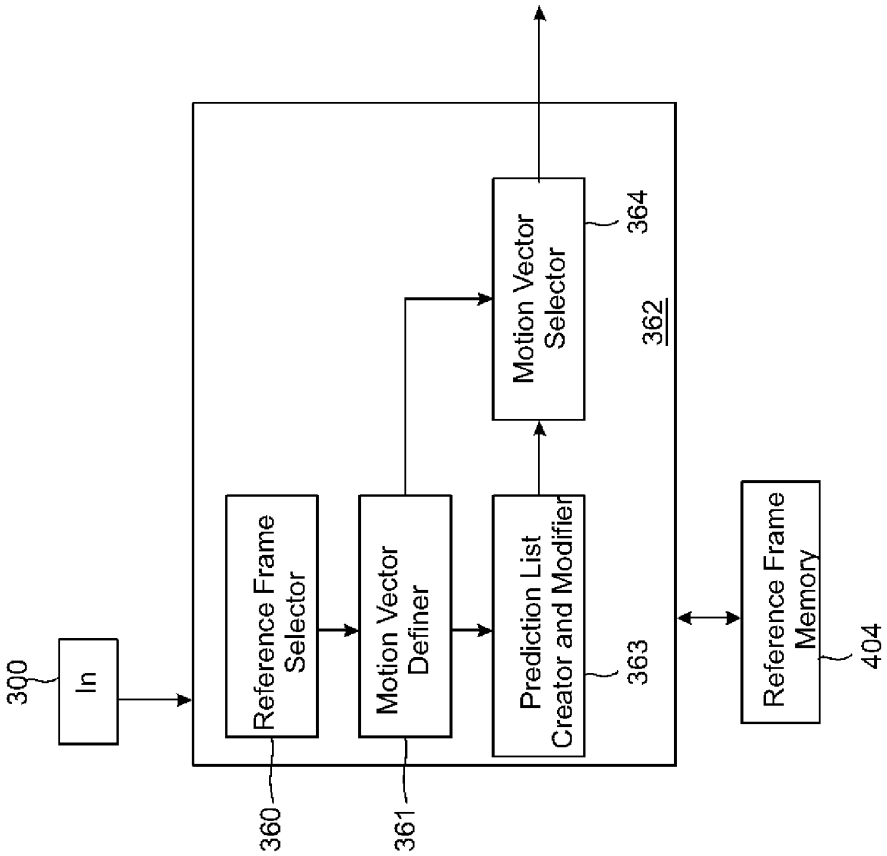

300
In
Reference Frame Selector
Motion Vector Definer
Prediction List Creator and Modifier
363
Motion Vector Selector
364
362
Reference Frame Memory
404
360
361

Fig. 4b

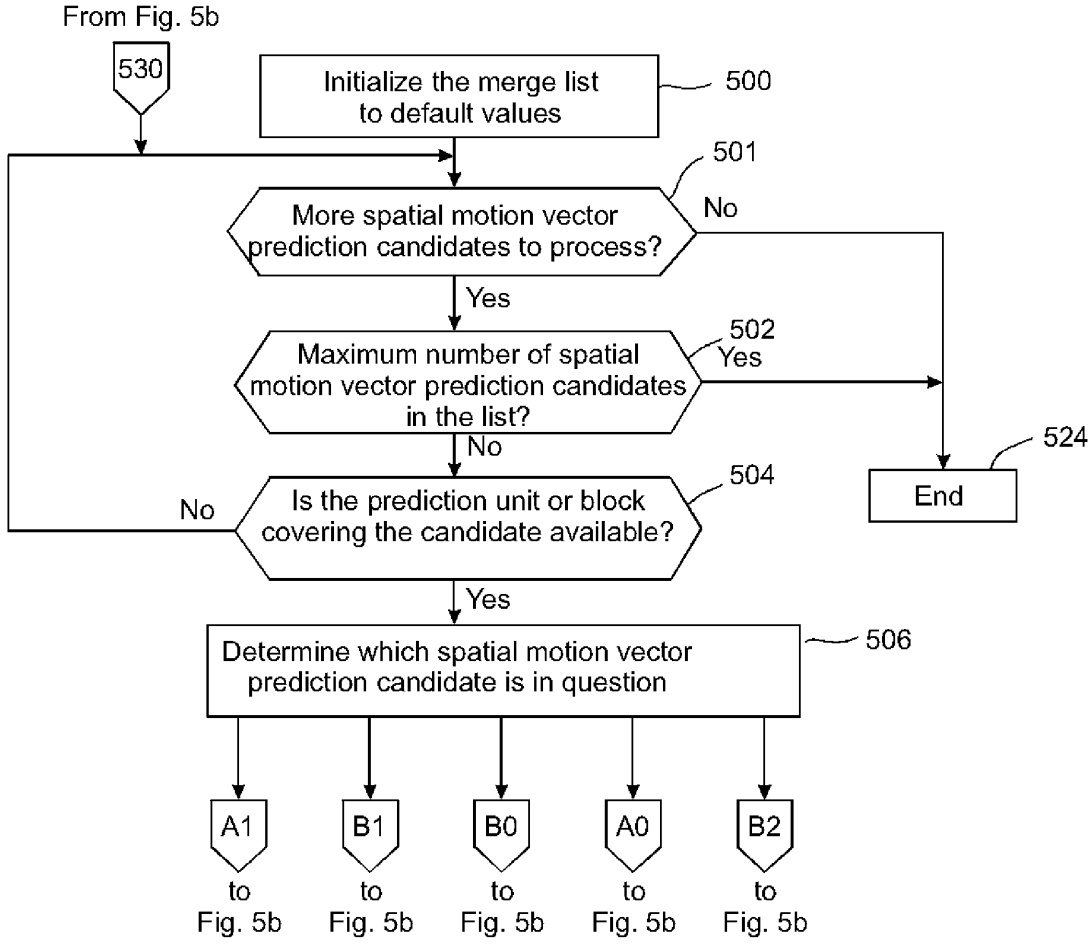

From Fig. 5b
530
Initialize the merge list to default values
500
501
More spatial motion vector prediction candidates to process?
No
Yes
502
Maximum number of spatial motion vector prediction candidates in the list?
Yes
No
524
End
504
No
Is the prediction unit or block covering the candidate available?
Yes
506
Determine which spatial motion vector prediction candidate is in question
A1
B1
B0
A0
B2
to Fig. 5b
to Fig. 5b
to Fig. 5b
to Fig. 5b
to Fig. 5b

Fig. 5a

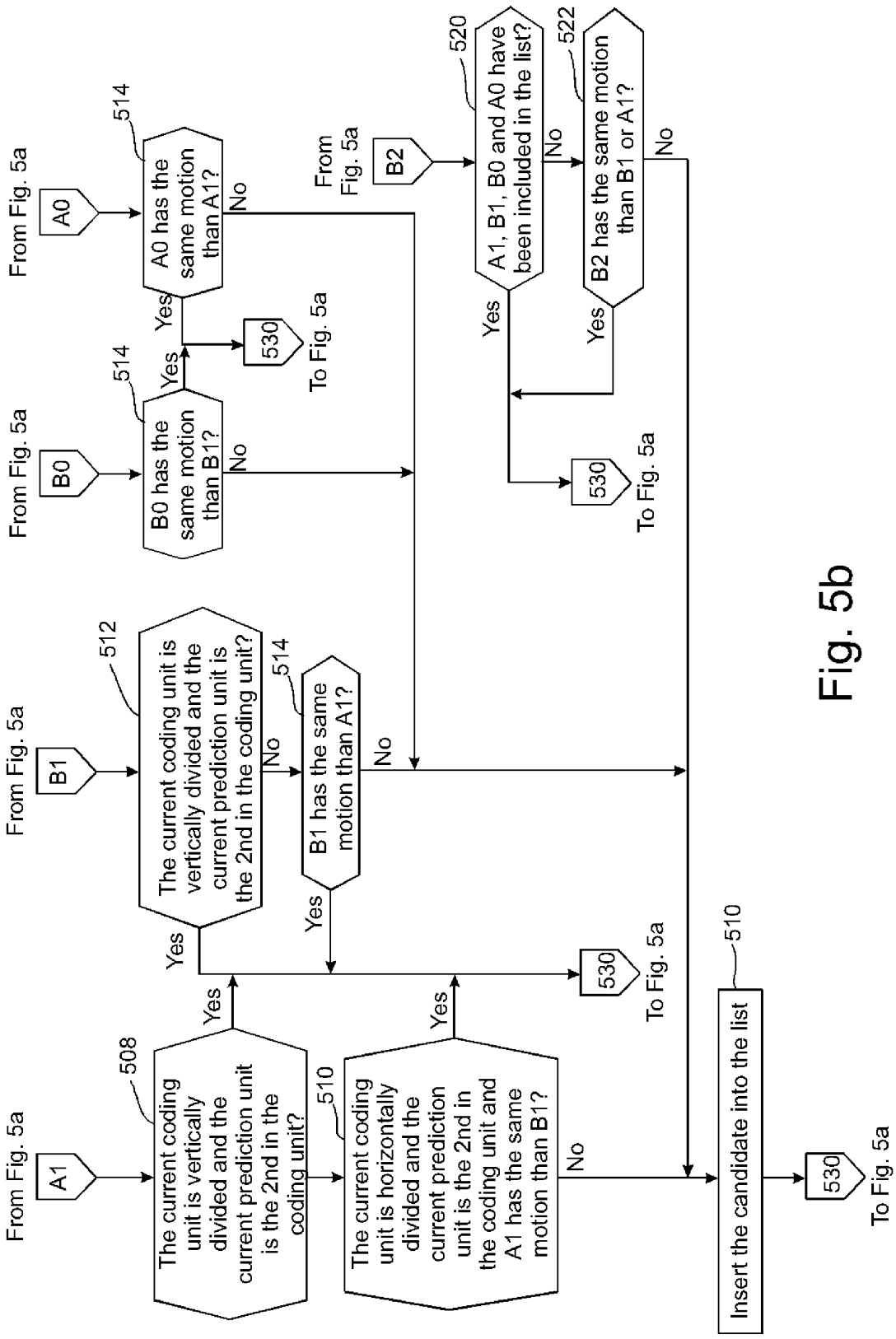

From Fig. 5a
A1
508
The current coding unit is vertically divided and the current prediction unit is the 2nd in the coding unit?
Yes
510
The current coding unit is horizontally divided and the current prediction unit is the 2nd in the coding unit and A1 has the same motion than B1?
Yes
No
Insert the candidate into the list
510
530
To Fig. 5a
From Fig. 5a
B1
512
The current coding unit is vertically divided and the current prediction unit is the 2nd in the coding unit?
Yes
No
514
B1 has the same motion than A1?
Yes
No
530
To Fig. 5a
From Fig. 5a
B0
514
B0 has the same motion than B1?
Yes
No
530
To Fig. 5a
From Fig. 5a
A0
514
A0 has the same motion than A1?
Yes
No
530
To Fig. 5a
From Fig. 5a
B2
520
A1, B1, B0 and A0 have been included in the list?
Yes
No
522
B2 has the same motion than B1 or A1?
Yes
No
530
To Fig. 5a

Fig. 5b

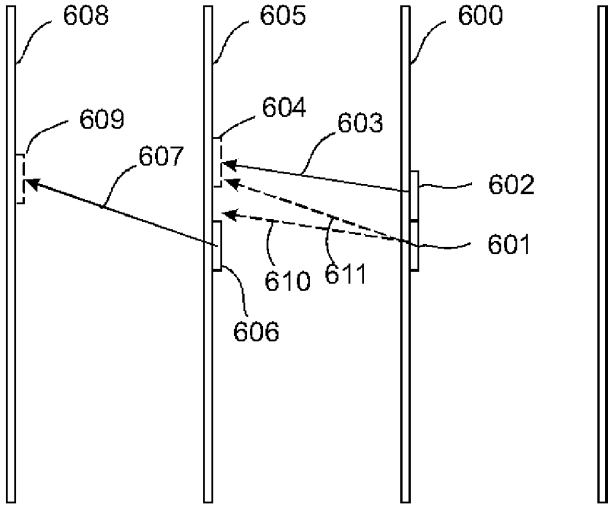
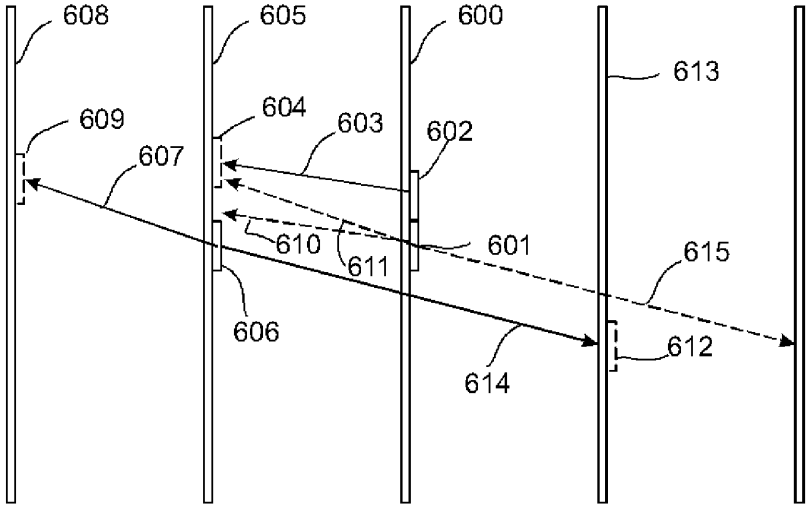

608
605
600
609
604
603
607
602
601
610
611
606

Fig. 6a


608
605
600
613
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604
603
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612
614

Fig. 6b

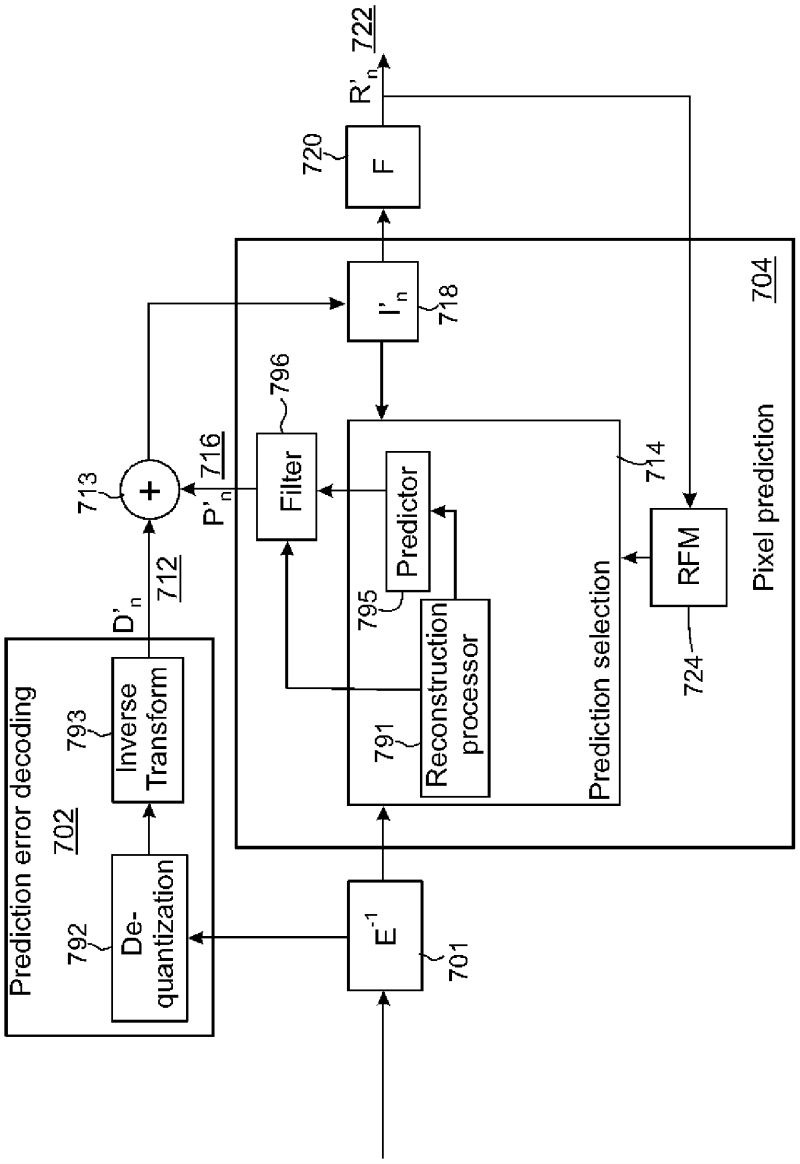
Prediction error decoding
702
792
De-quantization
793
Inverse Transform
D'n
712
713
+
P'n
716
Filter
796
Predictor
795
Reconstruction processor
791
Prediction selection
714
RFM
724
Pixel prediction
704
I'n
718
720
F
R'n
722
E-1
701

Fig. 7

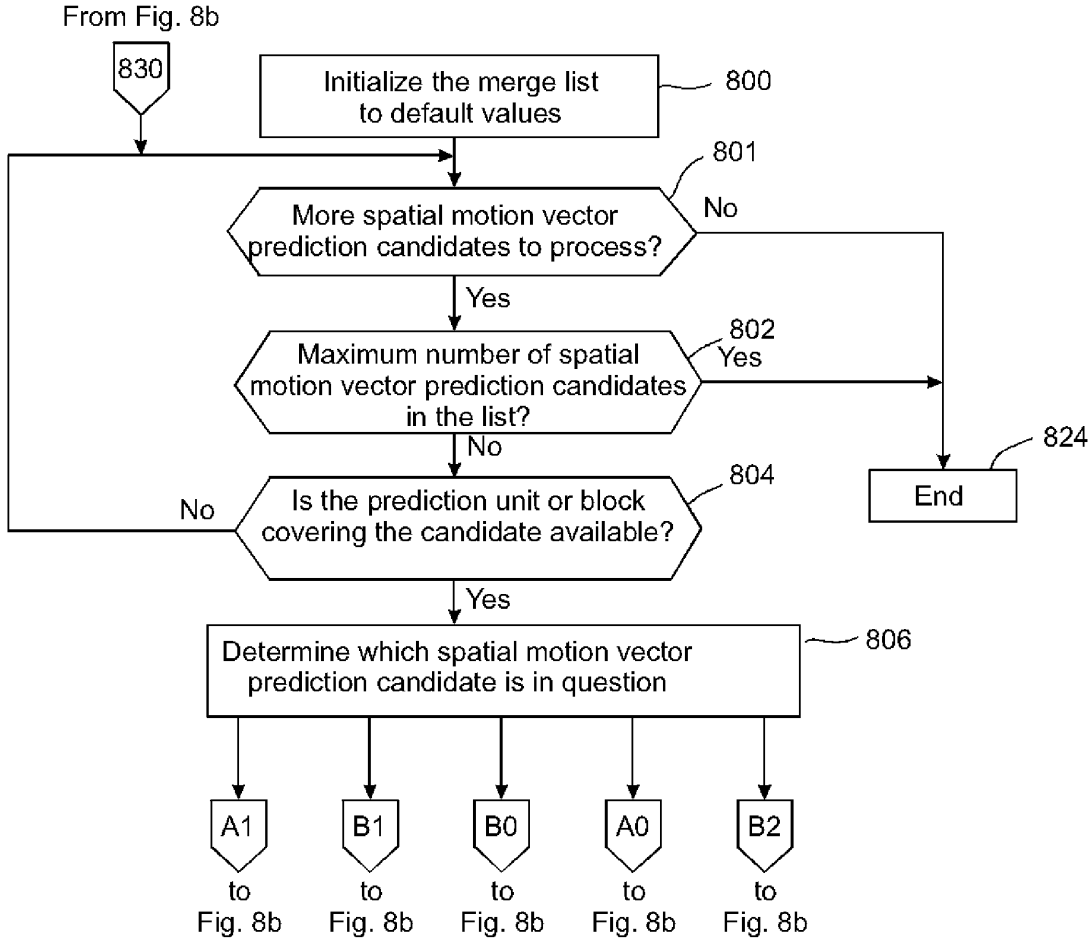
From Fig. 8b
830
Initialize the merge list to default values
800
801
More spatial motion vector prediction candidates to process?
No
Yes
802
Maximum number of spatial motion vector prediction candidates in the list?
Yes
No
824
End
804
No
Is the prediction unit or block covering the candidate available?
Yes
806
Determine which spatial motion vector prediction candidate is in question
A1
B1
B0
A0
B2
to Fig. 8b
to Fig. 8b
to Fig. 8b
to Fig. 8b
to Fig. 8b

Fig. 8a

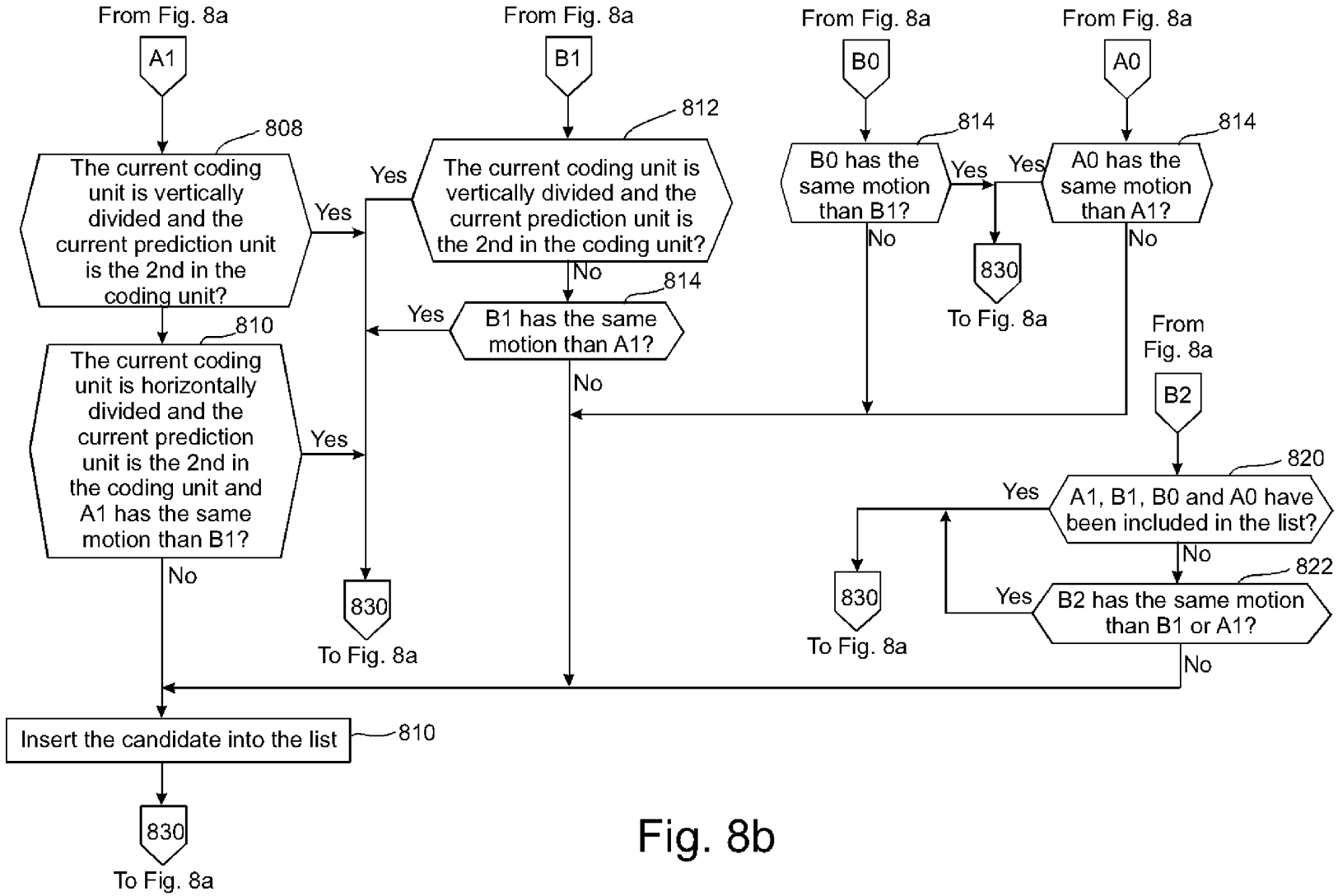
From Fig. 8a
A1
808
The current coding unit is vertically divided and the current prediction unit is the 2nd in the coding unit?
Yes
From Fig. 8a
B1
812
The current coding unit is vertically divided and the current prediction unit is the 2nd in the coding unit?
Yes
No
814
B1 has the same motion than A1?
Yes
No
From Fig. 8a
B0
814
B0 has the same motion than B1?
Yes
No
From Fig. 8a
A0
814
A0 has the same motion than A1?
Yes
No
830
To Fig. 8a
810
The current coding unit is horizontally divided and the current prediction unit is the 2nd in the coding unit and A1 has the same motion than B1?
Yes
No
830
To Fig. 8a
From Fig. 8a
B2
820
A1, B1, B0 and A0 have been included in the list?
Yes
No
822
B2 has the same motion than B1 or A1?
Yes
No
830
To Fig. 8a
Insert the candidate into the list
810
830
To Fig. 8a

Fig. 8b

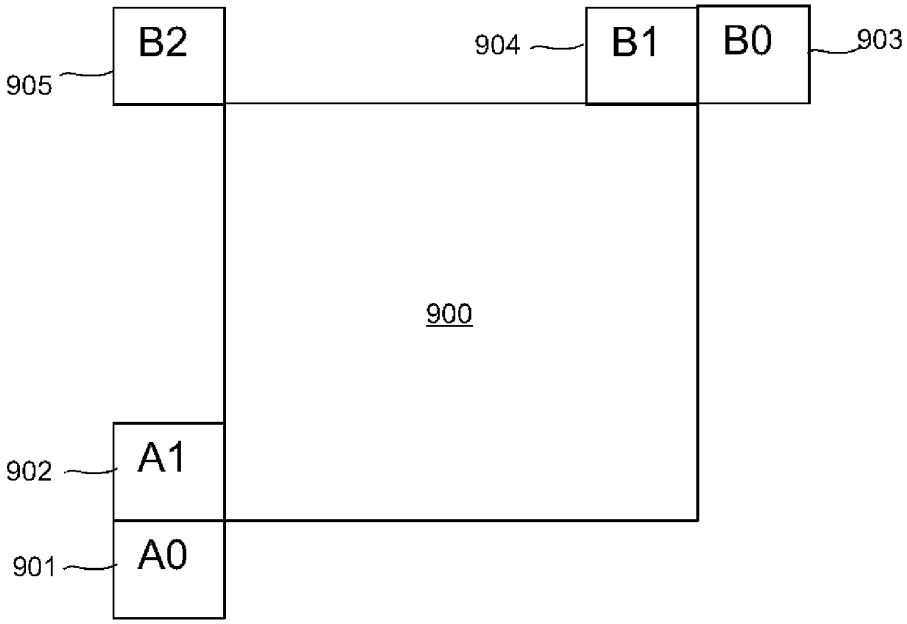

Fig. 9

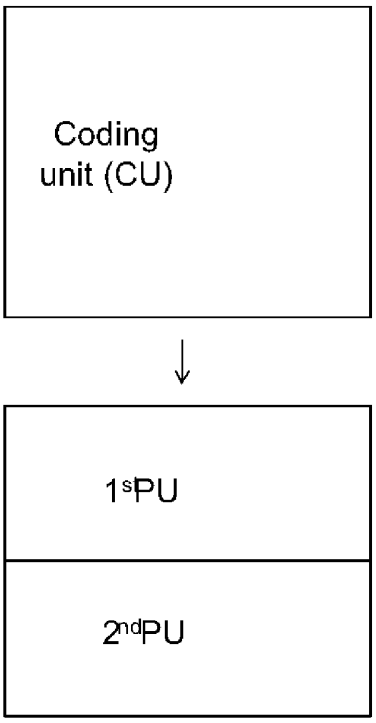

Fig. 10a

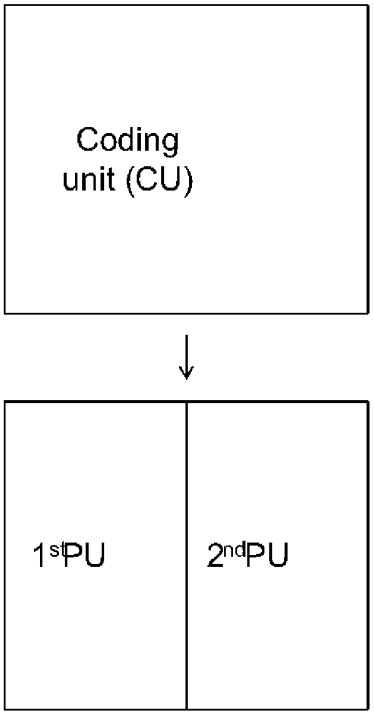

Fig. 10b

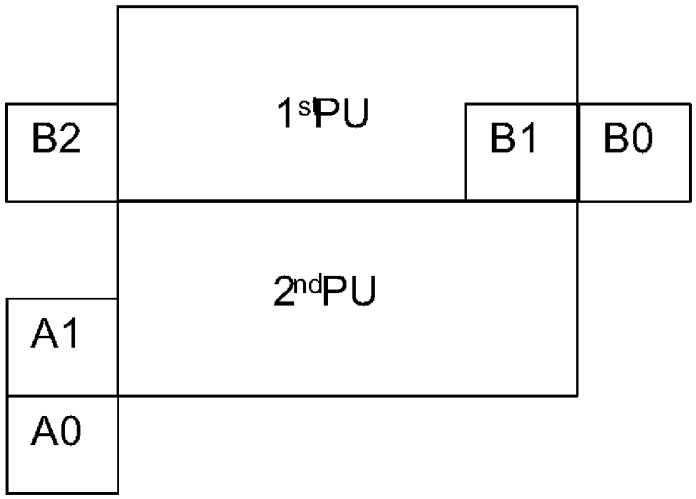

Fig. 11a

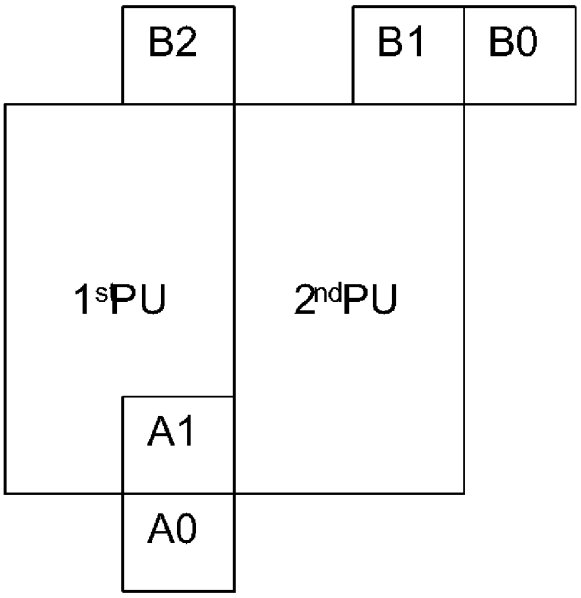

Fig. 11b

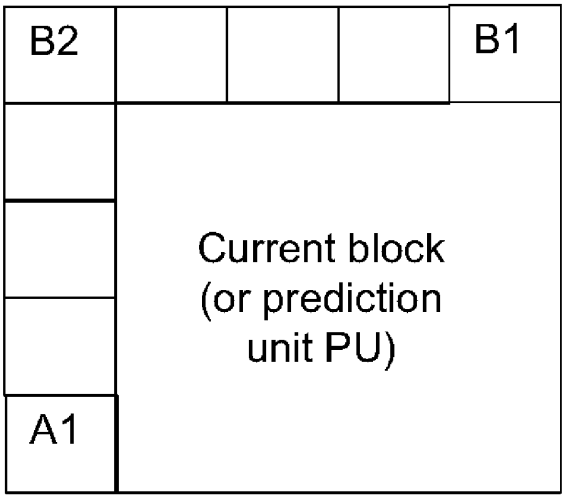

Fig. 12

PTO/AIA/01 (06-12)
Approved for use through 01/31/2014. OMB 0651-0032
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DECLARATION (37 CFR 1.63) FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN APPLICATION USING AN APPLICATION DATA SHEET (37 CFR 1.76)

Title of Invention	METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS

As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

This declaration is directed to:

☐ The attached application, or

☒ United States application or PCT international application number 13/666680

filed on November 1, 2012.

The above-identified application was made or authorized to be made by me.

I believe that I am the original inventor or an original joint inventor of a claimed invention in the application.

I hereby acknowledge that any willful false statement made in this declaration is punishable under 18 U.S.C. 1001 by fine or imprisonment of not more than five (5) years, or both.

WARNING:

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LEGAL NAME OF INVENTOR

Inventor: Mehmet Oguz BICI Date (Optional): NOV - 05 - 2012

Signature: MOBici

Note: An application data sheet (PTO/SB/14 or equivalent), including naming the entire inventive entity, must accompany this form. Use an additional PTO/AIA/01 form for each additional inventor.

PTO/AIA/01 (06-12)
Approved for use through 01/31/2014. OMB 0651-0032
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DECLARATION (37 CFR 1.63) FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN APPLICATION USING AN APPLICATION DATA SHEET (37 CFR 1.76)

Title of Invention	METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS

As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

This declaration is directed to:

☐ The attached application, or

☒ United States application or PCT international application number 13/666680

filed on November 1, 2012.

The above-identified application was made or authorized to be made by me.

I believe that I am the original inventor or an original joint inventor of a claimed invention in the application.

I hereby acknowledge that any willful false statement made in this declaration is punishable under 18 U.S.C. 1001 by fine or imprisonment of not more than **five** (5) years, or both.

WARNING:

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LEGAL NAME OF INVENTOR

Inventor: Jani LAINEMA Date (Optional): NOV-02-2012

Signature: 

Note: An application data sheet (PTO/SB/14 or equivalent), including naming the entire inventive entity, must accompany this form. Use an additional PTO/AIA/01 form for each additional inventor.

PTO/AIA/01 (06-12)
Approved for use through 01/31/2014. OMB 0651-0032
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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LEGAL NAME OF INVENTOR

Inventor: Kemal UGUR Date (Optional): Nov-02-2012

Signature: 

Note: An application data sheet (PTO/SB/14 or equivalent), including naming the entire inventive entity, must accompany this form. Use an additional PTO/AIA/01 form for each additional inventor.

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

Substitute for Form PTO-875

Application or Docket Number: 16/356,733

APPLICATION AS FILED - PART I

FOR	(Column 1) NUMBER FILED	(Column 2) NUMBER EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY RATE($)	SMALL ENTITY FEE($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY FEE($)
BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	300
SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (i), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	660
EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	760
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(i))	30 minus 20 =	* 10			OR	x 100 =	1000
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	6 minus 3 =	* 3				x 460 =	1380
APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is $310 ($155 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).						0.00
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))							0.00
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.			TOTAL			TOTAL	4100

APPLICATION AS AMENDED - PART II

		(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY RATE($)	SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE($)
AMENDMENT A	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	x =		OR	x =	
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	x =		OR	x =	
	Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	

		(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY RATE($)	SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE($)
AMENDMENT B	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	x =		OR	x =	
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	x =		OR	x =	
	Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.
** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".
*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".
The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest found in the appropriate box in column 1.

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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING or 371(c) DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY.DOCKET.NO	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
16/356,733	03/18/2019	2482	4100	042933/519745	30	6

CONFIRMATION NO. 3483

FILING RECEIPT

10949
Nokia Corporation and Alston & Bird LLP
c/o Alston & Bird LLP
Bank of America Plaza, 101 South Tryon Street
Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000

OC000000107107064

Date Mailed: 04/04/2019

Receipt is acknowledged of this non-provisional patent application. The application will be taken up for examination in due course. Applicant will be notified as to the results of the examination. Any correspondence concerning the application must include the following identification information: the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. **If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please submit a written request for a Filing Receipt Correction. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections**

Inventor(s)

Mehmet Oguz BICI, Tampere, FINLAND;
Jani LAINEMA, Tampere, FINLAND;
Kemal UGUR, Tampere, FINLAND;

Applicant(s)

NOKIA TECHNOLOGIES OY, Espoo, FINLAND;

Assignment For Published Patent Application

NOKIA TECHNOLOGIES OY, Espoo, FINLAND

Power of Attorney: The patent practitioners associated with Customer Number 10949

Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

This application is a CON of 15/681,725 08/21/2017 PAT 10237574
which is a CON of 15/426,822 02/07/2017 PAT 9743105
which is a CON of 13/666,680 11/01/2012 PAT 9571833
which claims benefit of 61/555,703 11/04/2011

Foreign Applications for which priority is claimed (You may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at the USPTO. Please see http://www.uspto.gov for more information.) - None.
Foreign application information must be provided in an Application Data Sheet in order to constitute a claim to foreign priority. See 37 CFR 1.55 and 1.76.

Permission to Access Application via Priority Document Exchange: Yes

Permission to Access Search Results: Yes

Applicant may provide or rescind an authorization for access using Form PTO/SB/39 or Form PTO/SB/69 as appropriate.

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 04/03/2019

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is **US 16/356,733**

Projected Publication Date: 07/11/2019

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

Title

METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS

Preliminary Class

375

Statement under 37 CFR 1.55 or 1.78 for AIA (First Inventor to File) Transition Applications: No

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Substitute for form SB08 (Revised 07/09)	Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT *(Use as many sheets as necessary)*	Application Number	16/356,733
	Filing Date	March 18, 2019
	First Named Inventor	Bici et al.
	Art Unit	2488
	Examiner Name	S. V. Perungavoor
Sheet 1 of 4	Attorney Docket Number	042933/519745

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Document Number Number - Kind Code (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages of Relevant Figures Appear
	1	US-2004/0234144 A1	11-25-2004	Sugimoto et al.	
	2	US-2007/0189389 A1	08-16-2007	Boisson et al.	
	3	US-2008/0159401 A1	07-03-2008	Lee et al.	
	4	US-2008/0232642 A1	09-25-2008	Chang	
	5	US-2011/0170602 A1	07-14-2011	Lee et al.	
	6	US-2011/0176013 A1	07-21-2011	Robertson et al.	
	7	US-2011/0176612 A1	07-21-2011	Tsai et al.	
	8	US-2011/0182362 A1	07-28-2011	Kim et al.	
	9	US-2012/0230408 A1	09-13-2012	Zhou	
	10	US-2012/0257678 A1	10-11-2012	Zhou et al.	
	11	US-2012/0269270 A1	10-25-2012	Chen et al.	
	12	US-2012/0300846 A1	11-29-2012	Sugio et al.	
	13	US-2012/0307905 A1	12-06-2012	Kim et al.	
	14	US-2012/0320984 A1	12-20-2012	Zhou	
	15	US-2013/0003850 A1	01-03-2013	Sugio et al.	
	16	US-2013/0004092 A1	01-03-2013	Sasai et al.	
	17	US-2013/0070855 A1	03-21-2013	Zheng et al.	
	18	US-2013/0083853 A1	04-04-2013	Coban et al.	
	19	US-2013/0272408 A1	10-17-2013	Chen et al.	

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	20	CN 101271580 A	09-24-2008	HIMAX Tech Ltd		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

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Submitted June 17, 2019

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				Filing Date	March 18, 2019
				First Named Inventor	Bici et al.
				Art Unit	2488
				Examiner Name	S. V. Perungavoor
Sheet	2	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	042933/519745

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	21	CN 101605255 B	05-04-2011	Huawei Tech Co Ltd		
	22	CN 1757238 A	04-05-2006	Thomson Licensing		
	23	WO 2011 115659 A1	09-22-2011	Thomson Licensing		
	24	WO 2011/062392 A2	05-26-2011	SK Telecom Co, Ltd.		

OTHER DOCUMENTS

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	25	Advisory Action for U.S. Patent Application No. 13/666,680 dated November 7, 2016, 4 pages.	
	26	**Bici, O. et al.**, *Non-CE13: Simplification of merge mode*, Joint Collaborative Team on Video Coding (JCT-VC) of ITU-T SG16 WP3 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11, 7th Meeting: Geneva, CH, 21-30 November, 2011, Document JCTVC-G593; URL: HTTP://WFTP3.ITU.INT/AV-ARCH/JCTVC-SITE/, 13 pages	
	27	**Bross, B. et al.**, *Core Experiment 9: MV Coding and Skip/Merge Operations*, Joint Collaborative Team on Video Coding (JCT-VC) of ITU-T SG16 WP3 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11, 6th Meeting, Torino, IT, 14-22 July, 2011; Document JCTVC-F909, 13 pages	
	28	**Bross, Benjamin, et al.**; *"WD4: Working Draft 4 of High-Efficiency Video Coding"*; Joint Collaborative Team on Video Coding (JCT-VC) of ITU-T SG16 WP3 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11; 6th Meeting; Torino, IT; 14-22 July 2011; Document JCTVC-F803_d; 232 pages	
	29	Extended European Search Report for corresponding European Application No. 12845839.5 dated March 21, 2016, 10 pages	
	30	Final Office Action for U.S. Patent Application No. 13/666,680 dated March 1, 2016, 35 pages.	
	31	**Han, Woo-Jin, et al.**; *"Improved Video Compression Efficiency Through Flexible Unit Representation and Corresponding Extension of Coding Tools"*; Circuits and Systems for Video Technology; IEEE Transactions on 20.12 (2010); 1709-1720	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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Substitute for form SB08
(Revised 07/09)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

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Art Unit	2488
Examiner Name	S. V. Perungavoor
Attorney Docket Number	042933/519745

Sheet 3 of 4

OTHER DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	English Language Translation Attached
	32	**Huang, Ai-Mei et al.**, *A multistage motion vector processing method for motion-compensated frame interpolation*, Image Processing, IEEE Transactions on 17.5 (2008) 694-708	
	33	International Search Report and Written Opinion from corresponding International Application No. PCT/FI2012/051070, dated March 27, 2013	
	34	**J.-L. Lin, Y.-W. Chen, Y.-W. Huang, S. Lei**; *"CE9: Results of Experiment ROB04"*; JCT-VC Doc. JCTVC-F052, Turin; Jul 2011	
	35	**Jeon, Y. et al.**, *On MVP list pruning process*, Joint Collaborative Team on Video Coding (JCT-VC) of ITU-T SG16 WP3 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11, 6th Meeting, Torino, IT, 14-22 July, 2011, Document JCTVC-F105, 7 pages	
	36	**Nakamura, H. et al.**, *Unification of derivation process for merge mode and MVP*, Joint Collaborative Team on Video Coding (JCT-VC) of ITU-T SG16 WP3 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11, 6th Meeting; Torino, IT, 14-22 July, 2011; Document JCTVC-F419; URL: http://wftp3.itu.int/AV-ARCH/JCTVC-SITE/2011_07_F_Torino/, 10 pages	
	37	Notice of Allowance for U.S. Patent Application No. 13/666,680 dated September 30, 2016, 17 pages.	
	38	Notice of Allowance for U.S. Patent Application No. 15/426,822 dated March 10, 2017, 8 pages	
	39	Office Action for Canadian Application No. 2,854,495 dated September 6, 2016	
	40	Office Action for Chinese Application No. 201280065777.5 dated October25, 2017 with English Translation, 8 pages	
	41	Office Action for Chinese Application No. 2012800657775 dated October 9, 2016	
	42	Office Action for corresponding Indian Application No. 4092/CHENP/2014 dated April 11, 2018 with English Translation, 7 pages	
	43	Office Action for U.S. Patent Application No. 13/666,680 dated July 6, 2015, 25 pages.	
	44	Office Action for U.S. Patent Application No. 15/681,725 dated September 21, 2017	
	45	Office Action from corresponding Canadian Patent Application No. 2,854,495, dated October 7, 2015	
	46	Office Action from corresponding Korean Patent Application No. 2014-7015093, dated August 21, 2015	
	47	Office Action from Korean Patent Application No. 2014-7015093 dated August 22, 2016	
	48	**Oudin, S. et al.**; *"Block Merging for Quadtree-Based Video Coding"*; IEEE Int. Conf. on Multimedia and Expo; July 11-15; 2011; 6 pages	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Submitted June 17, 2019

Substitute for form SB08 (Revised 07/09)				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT *(Use as many sheets as necessary)*				Application Number	16/356,733
				Filing Date	March 18, 2019
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				Art Unit	2488
				Examiner Name	S. V. Perungavoor
Sheet	4	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	042933/519745

OTHER DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	English Language Translation Attached
	49	**Sullivan, G.J.**; *"Overview of the High Efficiency Video Coding (HEVC) Standard"*; IEEE Trans. On Circuits and Systems for Video Technology; Vol. 22, No. 12; December 2012; pp. 1649-1668	
	50	**Tai, Shen-Chuan, et al.**; *"A Multi-Pass True Motion Estimation Scheme with Motion Vector Propagation for Frame Rate Up-Conversion Applications"*; Journal of Display Technology; 4.2 (2008): 188-197	
	51	Taiwanese Office Action and Search Report from Taiwanese Patent Application No. 101140777 dated December 2, 2015	
	52	**Wiegand, Tomas, et al.**; *"WD3: Working Draft 3 of High-Efficiency Video Coding"*; Joint Collaborative Team on Video Coding (JCT-VC) of ITU-T SG16 WP3 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11; 5th Meeting; Geneva, CH, 16-23 March, 2011; Document JCTVC-E603; 239 pages	
	53	**Zheng, Y. et al.**, *Merge Candidate Selection in 2NxN, Nx2N, and NxN Mode*, Joint Collaborative Team on Video Coding (JCT-VC) of ITU-T SG16 WP3 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11, 6th Meeting, Torino, IT, 14-22 July, 2011; Document JCTVC-F302, 6 pages	
	54	Notice of Allowance for U.S. Application No. 15/681,725 dated May 30, 2018	
	55	Notice of Allowance for U.S. Application No. 15/681,725 dated October 25, 2018	
	56	Office Action for U.S. Application No. 13/666,680 dated March 1, 2016	
	57	Office Action for European Application No. EP 12 845 839.5 dated June 6, 2019, 9 pages	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Submitted June 17, 2019

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	36316713
Application Number:	16356733
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	3483
Title of Invention:	METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Mehmet Oguz BICI
Customer Number:	10949
Filer:	Guy Randall Gosnell/Joyce Smith
Filer Authorized By:	Guy Randall Gosnell
Attorney Docket Number:	042933/519745
Receipt Date:	17-JUN-2019
Filing Date:	18-MAR-2019
Time Stamp:	13:42:43
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	no

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1		IDS519745.PDF	434732 528ad61e0922c1fc76319e175ede598c46a9476b	yes	5

	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description				
	Document Description		**Start**	**End**	
	Transmittal Letter		1	1	
	Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Form (SB08)		2	5	
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Non Patent Literature	519745_EPOA.PDF	414838 7f9a84aa7fae298e3fa0f58f930d0af4b7ace795	no	9
Warnings:					
Information:					
		Total Files Size (in bytes):	849570		

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

Attorney's Docket No. 042933/519745 PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re:	Bici et al.	Confirmation No.:	3483
Appl. No.:	16/356,733	Art Unit:	2488
Filed:	March 18, 2019	Examiner:	S.V. Perungavoor
For:	METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS		

Submitted via EFS-Web
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
CITATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

Attached is a list of documents on form PTO-SB08.

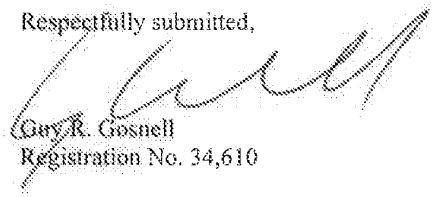
It is requested that the Examiner consider these documents and officially make them of record in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and Section 609 of the MPEP. By identifying the listed documents, Applicant in no way makes any admission as to the prior art status of the listed documents, but is instead identifying the listed documents for the sake of full disclosure.

Copies of all listed documents (other than U.S. patents, U.S. patent application publications, or patents or publications otherwise determined cumulative) are attached, except those (if any) that were previously submitted to, or cited by, the Office during the prosecution of any application(s) upon which the present application directly relies for an earlier effective filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. It is noted that 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d) establishes that copies of documents previously submitted to, or cited by, the Office during prosecution of said application(s) are not required to be furnished; however, copies of such documents will be furnished upon request.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d) the reference above to said application(s) includes those application(s) properly identified in the table below:

Application No.	Filing Date	Pub./Patent No.	Status
15/681,725	August 21, 2017	10,237,574	Patented
15/426,822	February 7, 2017	9,743,105	Patented
13/666,680	November 1, 2012	9,571,833	Patented

Respectfully submitted,



Guy R. Gosnell
Registration No. 34,610

Customer No. 10949
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

LEGAL02/39034874v1

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371(C) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO./TITLE
16/356,733	03/18/2019	Mehmet Oguz BICI	042933/519745

CONFIRMATION NO. 3483

10949
Nokia Corporation and Alston & Bird LLP
c/o Alston & Bird LLP
Bank of America Plaza, 101 South Tryon Street
Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000

PUBLICATION NOTICE

Title:METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS

Publication No.US-2019-0215530-A1
Publication Date:07/11/2019

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF APPLICATION

The above-identified application will be electronically published as a patent application publication pursuant to 37 CFR 1.211, et seq. The patent application publication number and publication date are set forth above.

The publication may be accessed through the USPTO's publically available Searchable Databases via the Internet at www.uspto.gov. The direct link to access the publication is currently http://www.uspto.gov/patft/.

The publication process established by the Office does not provide for mailing a copy of the publication to applicant. A copy of the publication may be obtained from the Office upon payment of the appropriate fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.19(a)(1). Orders for copies of patent application publications are handled by the USPTO's Public Records Division. The Public Records Division can be reached by telephone at (571) 272-3150 or (800) 972-6382, by facsimile at (571) 273-3250, by mail addressed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Public Records Division, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or via the Internet.

In addition, information on the status of the application, including the mailing date of Office actions and the dates of receipt of correspondence filed in the Office, may also be accessed via the Internet through the Patent Electronic Business Center at www.uspto.gov using the public side of the Patent Application Information and Retrieval (PAIR) system. The direct link to access this status information is currently https://portal.uspto.gov/pair/PublicPair. Prior to publication, such status information is confidential and may only be obtained by applicant using the private side of PAIR.

Further assistance in electronically accessing the publication, or about PAIR, is available by calling the Patent Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

Office of Data Managment, Application Assistance Unit (571) 272-4000, or (571) 272-4200, or 1-888-786-0101

Doc Code: DIST.E.FILE **Document Description: Electronic Terminal Disclaimer - Filed**	PTO/SB/26 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Department of Commerce

Electronic Petition Request	**TERMINAL DISCLAIMER TO OBVIATE A DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION OVER A "PRIOR" PATENT**
Application Number	16356733
Filing Date	18-Mar-2019
First Named Inventor	Mehmet BICI
Attorney Docket Number	042933/519745
Title of Invention	METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS

☒ Filing of terminal disclaimer does not obviate requirement for response under 37 CFR 1.111 to outstanding Office Action

☒ This electronic Terminal Disclaimer is not being used for a Joint Research Agreement.

Owner	Percent Interest
Nokia Technologies Oy	100%

The owner(s) with percent interest listed above in the instant application hereby disclaims, except as provided below, the terminal part of the statutory term of any patent granted on the instant application which would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term of prior patent number(s)

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9571833

as the term of said prior patent is presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer. The owner hereby agrees that any patent so granted on the instant application shall be enforceable only for and during such period that it and the prior patent are commonly owned. This agreement runs with any patent granted on the instant application and is binding upon the grantee, its successors or assigns.

In making the above disclaimer, the owner does not disclaim the terminal part of the term of any patent granted on the instant application that would extend to the expiration date of the full statutory term of the prior patent, "as the term of said prior patent is presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer," in the event that said prior patent later:
- expires for failure to pay a maintenance fee;
- is held unenforceable;
- is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction;
- is statutorily disclaimed in whole or terminally disclaimed under 37 CFR 1.321;
- has all claims canceled by a reexamination certificate;
- is reissued; or
- is in any manner terminated prior to the expiration of its full statutory term as presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer.

◉ Terminal disclaimer fee under 37 CFR 1.20(d) is included with Electronic Terminal Disclaimer request. ○ I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4), that the terminal disclaimer fee under 37 CFR 1.20(d) required for this terminal disclaimer has already been paid in the above-identified application.	
Applicant claims the following fee status: ○ Small Entity ○ Micro Entity ◉ Regular Undiscounted I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.	
THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am: ◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office who is of record in this application Registration Number 34610 ○ A sole inventor ○ A joint inventor; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all of the inventors as evidenced by the power of attorney in the application ○ A joint inventor; all of whom are signing this request	
Signature	/Guy R. Gosnell/
Name	Guy R. Gosnell

*Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is required if terminal disclaimer is signed by the assignee (owner).
Form PTO/SB/96 may be used for making this certification. See MPEP § 324.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	16356733
Filing Date:	18-Mar-2019
Title of Invention:	METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Mehmet Oguz BICI
Filer:	Guy Randall Gosnell/Janet Snider
Attorney Docket Number:	042933/519745

Filed as Large Entity

Filing Fees for Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Basic Filing:				
STATUTORY OR TERMINAL DISCLAIMER	1814	1	160	160
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Extension-of-Time:				
Miscellaneous:				
			Total in USD ($)	**160**

Doc Code: DISQ.E.FILE
Document Description: Electronic Terminal Disclaimer – Approved

Application No.: 16356733

Filing Date: 18-Mar-2019

Applicant/Patent under Reexamination: BICI

Electronic Terminal Disclaimer filed on August 8, 2019

☒ APPROVED

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer

☐ DISAPPROVED

Approved/Disapproved by: Electronic Terminal Disclaimer automatically approved by EFS-Web

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	36825625
Application Number:	16356733
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	3483
Title of Invention:	METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Mehmet Oguz BICI
Customer Number:	10949
Filer:	Guy Randall Gosnell/Janet Snider
Filer Authorized By:	Guy Randall Gosnell
Attorney Docket Number:	042933/519745
Receipt Date:	08-AUG-2019
Filing Date:	18-MAR-2019
Time Stamp:	16:42:52
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	DA
Payment was successfully received in RAM	$160
RAM confirmation Number	E201988G42505250
Deposit Account	
Authorized User	
The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:	

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Terminal Disclaimer-Filed (Electronic)	eTerminal-Disclaimer.pdf	33755 0d90cf4e90707fbb131493ed061dd0bff4b1e21c	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	30505 2539a59c7a397e7c5c2e7d162a3cb84e027be1b2	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
		Total Files Size (in bytes):	64260		

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111
If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.
National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371
If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.
New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office
If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

10949 7590 08/30/2019

Nokia Corporation and Alston & Bird LLP
c/o Alston & Bird LLP
Bank of America Plaza, 101 South Tryon Street
Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000

EXAMINER	
AYNALEM, NATHNAEL B	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2488	

DATE MAILED: 08/30/2019

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
16/356,733	03/18/2019	Mehmet Oguz BICI	042933/519745	3483

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	UNDISCOUNTED	$1000	$0.00	$0.00	$1000	12/02/2019

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the ENTITY STATUS shown above. If the ENTITY STATUS is shown as SMALL or MICRO, verify whether entitlement to that entity status still applies.

If the ENTITY STATUS is the same as shown above, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

If the ENTITY STATUS is changed from that shown above, on PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, complete section number 5 titled "Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)".

For purposes of this notice, small entity fees are 1/2 the amount of undiscounted fees, and micro entity fees are 1/2 the amount of small entity fees.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Maintenance fees are due in utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due. More information is available at www.uspto.gov/PatentMaintenanceFees.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), by mail or fax, or via EFS-Web.

By mail, send to: Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

By fax, send to: (571)-273-2885

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

10949 7590 08/30/2019

Nokia Corporation and Alston & Bird LLP
c/o Alston & Bird LLP
Bank of America Plaza, 101 South Tryon Street
Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being transmitted to the USPTO via EFS-Web or by facsimile to (571) 273-2885, on the date below.

(Typed or printed name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
16/356,733	03/18/2019	Mehmet Oguz BICI	042933/519745	3483

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	UNDISCOUNTED	$1000	$0.00	$0.00	$1000	12/02/2019

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
AYNALEM, NATHNAEL B	2488	375-240160

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

❑ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

❑ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-09 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list
(1) The names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
(2) The name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document must have been previously recorded, or filed for recordation, as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11 and 37 CFR 3.81(a). Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ❑ Individual ❑ Corporation or other private group entity ❑ Government

4a. Fees submitted: ❑ Issue Fee ❑ Publication Fee (if required) ❑ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Method of Payment: *(Please first reapply any previously paid fee shown above)*

❑ Electronic Payment via EFS-Web ❑ Enclosed check ❑ Non-electronic payment by credit card (Attach form PTO-2038)

❑ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. _____

5. **Change in Entity Status** (from status indicated above)

❑ Applicant certifying micro entity status. See 37 CFR 1.29

❑ Applicant asserting small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

❑ Applicant changing to regular undiscounted fee status.

NOTE: Absent a valid certification of Micro Entity Status (see forms PTO/SB/15A and 15B), issue fee payment in the micro entity amount will not be accepted at the risk of application abandonment.
NOTE: If the application was previously under micro entity status, checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to micro entity status.
NOTE: Checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to small or micro entity status, as applicable.

NOTE: This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.31 and 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4 for signature requirements and certifications.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

Typed or printed name _____ Registration No. _____

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
16/356,733	03/18/2019	Mehmet Oguz BICI	042933/519745	3483

10949 7590 08/30/2019

Nokia Corporation and Alston & Bird LLP
c/o Alston & Bird LLP
Bank of America Plaza, 101 South Tryon Street
Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000

EXAMINER	
AYNALEM, NATHNAEL B	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2488	

DATE MAILED: 08/30/2019

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)
(Applications filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Office has discontinued providing a Patent Term Adjustment (PTA) calculation with the Notice of Allowance.

Section 1(h)(2) of the AIA Technical Corrections Act amended 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(3)(B)(i) to eliminate the requirement that the Office provide a patent term adjustment determination with the notice of allowance. See Revisions to Patent Term Adjustment, 78 Fed. Reg. 19416, 19417 (Apr. 1, 2013). Therefore, the Office is no longer providing an initial patent term adjustment determination with the notice of allowance. The Office will continue to provide a patent term adjustment determination with the Issue Notification Letter that is mailed to applicant approximately three weeks prior to the issue date of the patent, and will include the patent term adjustment on the patent. Any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment determination (or reinstatement of patent term adjustment) should follow the process outlined in 37 CFR 1.705.

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

OMB Clearance and PRA Burden Statement for PTOL-85 Part B

The Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 requires Federal agencies to obtain Office of Management and Budget approval before requesting most types of information from the public. When OMB approves an agency request to collect information from the public, OMB (i) provides a valid OMB Control Number and expiration date for the agency to display on the instrument that will be used to collect the information and (ii) requires the agency to inform the public about the OMB Control Number's legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

The information collected by PTOL-85 Part B is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 30 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Notice of Allowability	Application No. 16/356,733	Applicant(s) BICI et al.	
	Examiner NATHNAEL AYNALEM	Art Unit 2488	AIA (FITF) Status No

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☑ This communication is responsive to application filed on 03/18/2019.
   ☐ A declaration(s)/affidavit(s) under **37 CFR 1.130(b)** was/were filed on _____.

2. ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.

3. ☑ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-30 . As a result of the allowed claim(s), you may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at a participating intellectual property office for the corresponding application. For more information, please see **http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp** or send an inquiry to **PPHfeedback@uspto.gov.**

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   Certified copies:

   a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some *c) ☐ None of the:

   1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
   2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
   3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

   Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☑ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☑ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
3. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material _____.
4. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date. _____.
5. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
6. ☑ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
7. ☐ Other _____.

/NATHNAEL AYNALEM/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2488

DETAILED ACTION

Notice of Pre-AIA or AIA Status

This is in response to Application No. 16/356,733 filed on March 18, 2019. The present application is being examined under the pre-AIA first to invent provisions.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-30 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1, the current application is a continuation of patent issued application no. 13/666,680 and includes limitations analogous to the claims of the patented application. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable in view of applicant's arguments submitted with the patented application (*See* Appl. No. 13/666,680, Remarks dated 06/01/2016, pp. 17-18). Specifically, the arguments regarding the difference between the prior arts of record and the feature of "comparing motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of spatial motion vector prediction candidates in the determined subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates without making a comparison of each pair from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates," as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in the independent claims 9, 15, 23, 29 and 30.

Furthermore, none of the cited prior arts (See PTO-892) teach the above feature of the independent claims.

The rest of the dependent claims are allowed based on their dependency from allowed claims 1, 9, 15 and 23.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NATHNAEL AYNALEM whose telephone number is (571)270-1482. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9AM-5:30 PM ET.

Examiner interviews are available via telephone, in-person, and video conferencing using a USPTO supplied web-based collaboration tool. To schedule an interview, applicant is encouraged to use the USPTO Automated Interview Request (AIR) at http://www.uspto.gov/interviewpractice.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, SATH PERUNGAVOOR can be reached on 571-272-7455. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would

like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/NATHNAEL AYNALEM/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2488

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 16/356,733	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination BICI et al.	
	Examiner NATHNAEL AYNALEM	Art Unit 2488	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	CPC Classification	US Classification
*	A	US-20110176013-A1	07-2011	Robertson; Mark	H04N5/145	348/208.4
*	B	US-20120230408-A1	09-2012	Zhou; Minhua	H04N19/105	375/240.15
*	C	US-20120257678-A1	10-2012	Zhou; Minhua	H04N19/52	375/240.16
*	D	US-20120269270-A1	10-2012	Chen; Ying	H04N19/597	375/240.16
*	E	US-20120300846-A1	11-2012	SUGIO; Toshiyasu	H04N19/521	375/240.16
*	F	US-20120320984-A1	12-2012	Zhou; Minhua	H04N19/50	375/240.16
*	G	US-20130003850-A1	01-2013	SUGIO; Toshiyasu	H04N19/105	375/240.16
*	H	US-20130004092-A1	01-2013	SASAI; Hisao	H04N19/70	382/233
*	I	US-20130070855-A1	03-2013	Zheng; Yunfei	H04N19/105	375/240.16
*	J	US-20130083853-A1	04-2013	Coban; Muhammed Zeyd	H04N19/563	375/240.16
*	K	US-20130272408-A1	10-2013	CHEN; Ying	H04N19/597	375/240.16
	L					
	M					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	CPC Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

Search Notes	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	16/356,733	BICI et al.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	NATHNAEL AYNALEM	2488

CPC - Searched*		
Symbol	**Date**	**Examiner**
H04N19/52 , H04N19/00684 , H04N19/00703 , H04N19/147 , H04N19/30 , H04N19/597 , H04N19/105 , H04N19/11 , H04N19/119 , H04N19/174 , H04N19/176 , H04N19/187 , H04N19/513 , H04N19/58 , H04N19/70	08/10/2019	NA

CPC Combination Sets - Searched*		
Symbol	**Date**	**Examiner**

US Classification - Searched*			
Class	**Subclass**	**Date**	**Examiner**
375	240.01-240.29	08/09/2019	NA

* See search history printout included with this form or the SEARCH NOTES box below to determine the scope of the search.

Search Notes		
Search Notes	**Date**	**Examiner**
Inventor's name search	08/10/2019	NA
Assignee search	08/10/2019	NA
East keyword search	08/10/2019	NA
NPL search on ip.com	08/10/2019	NA

Interference Search			
US Class/CPC Symbol	**US Subclass/CPC Group**	**Date**	**Examiner**
	Interference search of the claims (USPGPUB,USPAT)	08/09/2019	NA

Issue Classification	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	16/356,733	BICI et al.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	NATHNAEL AYNALEM	2488

CPC						
Symbol					**Type**	**Version**
H04N	/	19	/	521	F	2014-11-01
H04N	/	19	/	52	I	2014-11-01
H04N	/	19	/	176	A	2014-11-01
H04N	/	19	/	182	A	2014-11-01

CPC Combination Sets							
Symbol					**Type**	**Set**	**Ranking**	**Version**
	/		/					

NONE		Total Claims Allowed:	
(Assistant Examiner)	(Date)	30	
/NATHNAEL AYNALEM/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2488	09 August 2019	O.G. Print Claim(s)	O.G. Print Figure
(Primary Examiner)	(Date)	1	1

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office — Part of Paper No.: 20190808

Issue Classification	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	16/356,733	BICI et al.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	NATHNAEL AYNALEM	2488

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION				
CLAIMED				
H04N19/513	/	19	/	513
H04N19/52	/	19	/	52
H04N19/176	/	19	/	176
H04N19/182	/	19	/	182

NON-CLAIMED				
	/		/	

US ORIGINAL CLASSIFICATION	
CLASS	**SUBCLASS**

CROSS REFERENCES(S)						
CLASS	**SUBCLASS (ONE SUBCLASS PER BLOCK)**					

NONE		**Total Claims Allowed:**	
(Assistant Examiner)	(Date)	30	
/NATHNAEL AYNALEM/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2488	09 August 2019	O.G. Print Claim(s)	O.G. Print Figure
(Primary Examiner)	(Date)	1	1

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office — Part of Paper No.: 20190808

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	16/356,733	BICI et al.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	NATHNAEL AYNALEM	2488

☑ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIMS

Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original

NONE		**Total Claims Allowed:**	
(Assistant Examiner)	(Date)	30	
/NATHNAEL AYNALEM/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2488	09 August 2019	O.G. Print Claim(s)	O.G. Print Figure
(Primary Examiner)	(Date)	1	1

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office — Part of Paper No.: 20190808

Substitute for form SB08 (Revised 07/09)				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT *(Use as many sheets as necessary)*				Application Number	16/356,733
				Filing Date	March 18, 2019
				First Named Inventor	Bici et al.
				Art Unit	2488
				Examiner Name	S. V. Perungavoor
Sheet	1	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	042933/519745

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Document Number Number - Kind Code (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages of Relevant Figures Appear
	1	US-2004/0234144 A1	11-25-2004	Sugimoto et al.	
	2	US-2007/0189389 A1	08-16-2007	Boisson et al.	
	3	US-2008/0159401 A1	07-03-2008	Lee et al.	
	4	US-2008/0232642 A1	09-25-2008	Chang	
	5	US-2011/0170602 A1	07-14-2011	Lee et al.	
	6	US-2011/0176013 A1	07-21-2011	Robertson et al.	
	7	US-2011/0176612 A1	07-21-2011	Tsai et al.	
	8	US-2011/0182362 A1	07-28-2011	Kim et al.	
	9	US-2012/0230408 A1	09-13-2012	Zhou	
	10	US-2012/0257678 A1	10-11-2012	Zhou et al.	
	11	US-2012/0269270 A1	10-25-2012	Chen et al.	
	12	US-2012/0300846 A1	11-29-2012	Sugio et al.	
	13	US-2012/0307905 A1	12-06-2012	Kim et al.	
	14	US-2012/0320984 A1	12-20-2012	Zhou	
	15	US-2013/0003850 A1	01-03-2013	Sugio et al.	
	16	US-2013/0004092 A1	01-03-2013	Sasai et al.	
	17	US-2013/0070855 A1	03-21-2013	Zheng et al.	
	18	US-2013/0083853 A1	04-04-2013	Coban et al.	
	19	US-2013/0272408 A1	10-17-2013	Chen et al.	

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Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document Country Code - Number Kind Code (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	English Language Translation Attached
	20	CN 101271580 A	09-24-2008	HIMAX Tech Ltd		

Examiner Signature	/NATHNAEL AYNALEM/	Date Considered	08/09/2019

*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Submitted June 17, 2019

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT *(Use as many sheets as necessary)*				Application Number	16/356,733
				Filing Date	March 18, 2019
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Sheet	2	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	042933/519745

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	21	CN 101605255 B	05-04-2011	Huawei Tech Co Ltd		
	22	CN 1757238 A	04-05-2006	Thomson Licensing		
	23	WO 2011 115659 A1	09-22-2011	Thomson Licensing		
	24	WO 2011/062392 A2	05-26-2011	SK Telecom Co, Ltd.		

OTHER DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	English Language Translation Attached
	25	Advisory Action for U.S. Patent Application No. 13/666,680 dated November 7, 2016, 4 pages.	
	26	**Bici, O. et al.**, *Non-CE13: Simplification of merge mode*, Joint Collaborative Team on Video Coding (JCT-VC) of ITU-T SG16 WP3 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11, 7th Meeting: Geneva, CH, 21-30 November, 2011, Document JCTVC-G593; URL: HTTP://WFTP3.ITU.INT/AV-ARCH/JCTVC-SITE/, 13 pages	
	27	**Bross, B. et al.**, *Core Experiment 9: MV Coding and Skip/Merge Operations*, Joint Collaborative Team on Video Coding (JCT-VC) of ITU-T SG16 WP3 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11, 6th Meeting, Torino, IT, 14-22 July, 2011; Document JCTVC-F909, 13 pages	
	28	**Bross, Benjamin, et al.**; *"WD4: Working Draft 4 of High-Efficiency Video Coding"*; Joint Collaborative Team on Video Coding (JCT-VC) of ITU-T SG16 WP3 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11; 6th Meeting; Torino, IT; 14-22 July 2011; Document JCTVC-F803_d; 232 pages	
	29	Extended European Search Report for corresponding European Application No. 12845839.5 dated March 21, 2016, 10 pages	
	30	Final Office Action for U.S. Patent Application No. 13/666,680 dated March 1, 2016, 35 pages.	
	31	**Han, Woo-Jin, et al.**; *"Improved Video Compression Efficiency Through Flexible Unit Representation and Corresponding Extension of Coding Tools"*; Circuits and Systems for Video Technology; IEEE Transactions on 20.12 (2010); 1709-1720	

Examiner Signature	/NATHNAEL AYNALEM/	Date Considered	08/09/2019

*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Submitted June 17, 2019

Substitute for form SB08
(Revised 07/09)

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Art Unit	2488
Examiner Name	S. V. Perungavoor
Attorney Docket Number	042933/519745

Sheet 3 of 4

OTHER DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	English Language Translation Attached
	32	**Huang, Ai-Mei et al.**, *A multistage motion vector processing method for motion-compensated frame interpolation*, Image Processing, IEEE Transactions on 17.5 (2008) 694-708	
	33	International Search Report and Written Opinion from corresponding International Application No. PCT/FI2012/051070, dated March 27, 2013	
	34	**J.-L. Lin, Y.-W. Chen, Y.-W. Huang, S. Lei**; *"CE9: Results of Experiment ROB04"*; JCT-VC Doc. JCTVC-F052, Turin; Jul 2011	
	35	**Jeon, Y. et al.**, *On MVP list pruning process*, Joint Collaborative Team on Video Coding (JCT-VC) of ITU-T SG16 WP3 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11, 6th Meeting, Torino, IT, 14-22 July, 2011, Document JCTVC-F105, 7 pages	
	36	**Nakamura, H. et al.**, *Unification of derivation process for merge mode and MVP*, Joint Collaborative Team on Video Coding (JCT-VC) of ITU-T SG16 WP3 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11, 6th Meeting; Torino, IT, 14-22 July, 2011; Document JCTVC-F419; URL: http://wftp3.itu.int/AV-ARCH/JCTVC-SITE/2011_07_F_Torino/, 10 pages	
	37	Notice of Allowance for U.S. Patent Application No. 13/666,680 dated September 30, 2016, 17 pages.	
	38	Notice of Allowance for U.S. Patent Application No. 15/426,822 dated March 10, 2017, 8 pages	
	39	Office Action for Canadian Application No. 2,854,495 dated September 6, 2016	
	40	Office Action for Chinese Application No. 201280065777.5 dated October25, 2017 with English Translation, 8 pages	
	41	Office Action for Chinese Application No. 2012800657775 dated October 9, 2016	
	42	Office Action for corresponding Indian Application No. 4092/CHENP/2014 dated April 11, 2018 with English Translation, 7 pages	
	43	Office Action for U.S. Patent Application No. 13/666,680 dated July 6, 2015, 25 pages.	
	44	Office Action for U.S. Patent Application No. 15/681,725 dated September 21, 2017	
	45	Office Action from corresponding Canadian Patent Application No. 2,854,495, dated October 7, 2015	
	46	Office Action from corresponding Korean Patent Application No. 2014-7015093, dated August 21, 2015	
	47	Office Action from Korean Patent Application No. 2014-7015093 dated August 22, 2016	
	48	**Oudin, S. et al.**; *"Block Merging for Quadtree-Based Video Coding"*; IEEE Int. Conf. on Multimedia and Expo; July 11-15; 2011; 6 pages	

Examiner Signature	/NATHNAEL AYNALEM/	Date Considered	08/09/2019

*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Submitted June 17, 2019

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				First Named Inventor	Bici et al.
				Art Unit	2488
				Examiner Name	S. V. Perungavoor
Sheet	4	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	042933/519745

OTHER DOCUMENTS

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	49	**Sullivan, G.J.**; *"Overview of the High Efficiency Video Coding (HEVC) Standard"*; IEEE Trans. On Circuits and Systems for Video Technology; Vol. 22, No. 12; December 2012; pp. 1649-1668	
	50	**Tai, Shen-Chuan, et al.**; *"A Multi-Pass True Motion Estimation Scheme with Motion Vector Propagation for Frame Rate Up-Conversion Applications"*; Journal of Display Technology; 4.2 (2008): 188-197	
	51	Taiwanese Office Action and Search Report from Taiwanese Patent Application No. 101140777 dated December 2, 2015	
	52	**Wiegand, Tomas, et al.**; *"WD3: Working Draft 3 of High-Efficiency Video Coding"*; Joint Collaborative Team on Video Coding (JCT-VC) of ITU-T SG16 WP3 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11; 5th Meeting; Geneva, CH, 16-23 March, 2011; Document JCTVC-E603; 239 pages	
	53	**Zheng, Y. et al.**, *Merge Candidate Selection in 2NxN, Nx2N, and NxN Mode*, Joint Collaborative Team on Video Coding (JCT-VC) of ITU-T SG16 WP3 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11, 6th Meeting, Torino, IT, 14-22 July, 2011; Document JCTVC-F302, 6 pages	
	54	Notice of Allowance for U.S. Application No. 15/681,725 dated May 30, 2018	
	55	Notice of Allowance for U.S. Application No. 15/681,725 dated October 25, 2018	
	56	Office Action for U.S. Application No. 13/666,680 dated March 1, 2016	
	57	Office Action for European Application No. EP 12 845 839.5 dated June 6, 2019, 9 pages	

Examiner Signature	/NATHNAEL AYNALEM/	Date Considered	08/09/2019

*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Submitted June 17, 2019

EAST Search History

EAST Search History (Prior Art)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
L1	63216	(spatial or intra) with predict$3	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:14
L2	12150	(compar$3 or evaluat$3 or verif$7 or check$3 or examin$3 or comparison or match$3) with (predict$3 or candidate$1 or mv$1 or vector$1 or mvp$1 or imvc$1 or pmvc$1) with (subset$1 or sub adj1 set$1 or sub or limit$2) with (available or candidate$1)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:14
L3	512	L2 and L1	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:14
L4	395	L3 AND ((H04N19/52 OR H04N19/00684 OR H04N19/00703 OR H04N19/147 OR H04N19/30 OR H04N19/597 OR H04N19/105 OR H04N19/11 OR H04N19/119 OR H04N19/174 OR H04N19/176 OR H04N19/187 OR H04N19/513 OR H04N19/58 OR H04N19/70).CPC. OR (375/240.01-240.29).CCLS.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:14
L5	63647	(spatial or intra or spatio) with predict$3	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:16
L6	100	5 same 2	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:17
L7	19498	(select$3 or choos$3 or chos$2 or determin$3 or calculat$3 or elect$3 or pick$3 or decid$3) with (vector or mv or mvp$1 or mvc$1) with (spatial$2 or intra or spatio)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:17

L8	38	6 and 7	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:18
L9	964122	(includ$3 or add$3 or merg$3) with (list)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:19
L10	19299	(select$3 or choos$3 or chos$2 or determin$3 or calculat$3 or elect$3 or pick$3 or decid$3) with (vector or mv or mvp$1 or mvc$1) with (spatial$2 or intra)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:20
L11	708	9 same 10	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:20
L12	21431	(select$3 or choos$3 or chos$2 or determin$3 or calculat$3 or elect$3 or pick$3 or decid$3) with (vector or mv or mvp$1 or mvc$1) with (candidate$1)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:20
L13	959908	(includ$3 or add$3) with (list)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:20
L14	1992	L12 same L13	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:20
L15	218	((("BICI") near3 ("Mehmet")) OR (("LAINEMA") near3 ("Jani")) OR (("UGUR") near3 ("Kemal"))).INV.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:20
L16	47	L14 and L15	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:20

L17	1930	(select$3 or choos$3 or chos$2 or determin$3 or calculat$3 or elect$3 or pick$3 or decid$3) with (vector or mv or mvp$1 or mvc$1) with (candidate$1) with (spatial$2 or intra)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:20
L18	411	L17 same L13	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:20
L19	16910	(select$3 or choos$3 or chos$2 or determin$3 or calculat$3 or elect$3 or pick$3 or decid$3) with (vector or mv or mvp$1 or mvc$1) with (location or position or coordinate) with (block or macroblock or picture or frame)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:20
L20	74	L18 same L19	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:20
L21	72	L20 AND ((H04N19/52 OR H04N19/00684 OR H04N19/00703 OR H04N19/147 OR H04N19/30 OR H04N19/597 OR H04N19/105 OR H04N19/11 OR H04N19/119 OR H04N19/174 OR H04N19/176 OR H04N19/187 OR H04N19/513 OR H04N19/58 OR H04N19/70).CPC. OR (375/240.01-240.29).CCLS.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:20
L22	13	(US-20130070855-$ or US-20130004092-$ or US-20130016782-$ or US-20130077689-$ or US-20120230408-$ or US-20120257678-$ or US-20120269270-$ or US-20120300846-$ or US-20110176013-$ or US-20130003850-$ or US-20120320984-$).did. or (US-9473787-$ or US-9635383-$).did.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:22
L23	1	L22 and L18	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:22
L46	2413	((("NOKIA") near3 ("TECHNOLOGIES") near3 ("OY"))).AS.AANM.	USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:40
L47	29744	(select$3 or choos$3 or chos$2 or determin$3 or calculat$3 or elect$3 or pick$3 or decid$3) with (vector or mv or mvp$1 or mvc$1) with (list$3 or candidate$1)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT;	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:40

			IBM_TDB			
L48	41402	(compar$3 or evaluat$3 or verif$7 or check$3 or examin$3 or comparison or match$3) with (predict$3 or candidate$1 or mv$1 or vector$1 or mvp$1 or imvc$1 or pmvc$1 or motion$1) with (subset$1 or sub adj1 set$1 or sub or limit$2)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:40
L49	2252	L47 and L48	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:40
L50	8	L46 and L49	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:40

EAST Search History (Interference)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
L24	94725	((compar$3 or evaluat$3 or verif$7 or check$3 or search$3 or differenc$2 or examin$3 or comparison) with (predict$3 or candidate$1 or mv or vector$1)).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:23
L25	5544	((select$3 or choos$3 or chos$2 or determin$3 or calculat$3 or elect$3 or pick$3 or decid$3 or identify$3 or estimat$3 or recogni$5) with predict$3 with (list$3 or candidate$1)).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:23
L26	2243	L24 and L25	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:23
L27	2243	L24 and L25	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:24
L28	900	(candidate$1 with list with (exclud$3 or without or eliminat$3 or remov$3)).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:24
L29	67	L28 and L27	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:24
L30	5113	((select$3 or choos$3 or chos$2 or determin$3 or calculat$3 or elect$3 or pick$3 or decid$3) with predict$3 with (list$3 or candidate$1)).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:24
L31	94725	((compar$3 or evaluat$3 or verif$7 or check$3 or search$3 or differenc$2 or examin$3 or comparison) with (predict$3 or candidate$1 or mv or vector$1)).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:24
L32	2070	L30 and L31	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:24

L33	1440	(candidat$1 with merg$3).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:24
L34	142	L33 and L32	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:24
L35	108139	((includ$3 or add$3 or merg$3) with list).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:24
L36	371	((select$3 or choos$3 or chos$2 or determin$3 or calculat$3 or elect$3 or pick$3 or decid$3) with (vector or mv or mvp$1 or mvc$1) with (candidate$1) with (spatial$2 or intra)).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:24
L37	94725	((compar$3 or evaluat$3 or verif$7 or check$3 or search$3 or differenc$2 or examin$3 or comparison) with (predict$3 or candidate$1 or mv or vector$1)).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:24
L38	86	L35 same L36	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:24
L39	40	L37 and L38	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:24
L40	40	L37 and L38	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:24
L41	128323	((transmit$4 or transmission or send$3 or signaling or signaled or output$4) with (predict$3 or mv or vector or candidate or list or merg$3)).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:24
L42	9	L41 and L40	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:24
L43	1135	((compar$3 or evaluat$3 or verif$7 or check$3 or search$3 or differenc$2 or examin$3) with predict$3 with candidat$1).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:40
L44	900	(candidate$1 with list with (exclud$3 or without or eliminat$3 or remov$3)).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:40
L45	40	L43 and L44	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2019/08/10 12:40

8/10/2019 12:42:15 PM
C:\Users\naynalem\Documents\EAST\Workspaces\13666680.wsp

Complete Main Concept Text
==========
selecting a first spatial motion vector prediction candidate from a set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates for a block of pixels as a potential spatial motion vector prediction candidate to be included in a motion vector prediction list for a prediction unit of the block of pixels, where the motion vector prediction list comprises motion information of the spatial motion vector prediction candidates and is utilized to identify motion vector prediction candidates of which one spatial motion vector prediction candidate from the motion vector prediction list is signaled as the motion information for the prediction unit; determining a subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates based on a location of the block associated with the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate; comparing motion information of the first spatial motion vector prediction candidate with motion information of spatial motion vector prediction candidates in the determined subset of spatial motion vector prediction candidates without making a comparison of each pair from the set of spatial motion vector prediction candidates; determining to include or exclude the first spatial motion vector prediction candiate in the motion vector prediction list based on the comparing

(No Concept Modifiers)
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(No Filters)
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Options
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De-dup: None
Cut-off: None
Sort: Relevance

Collections (25)
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IEEE Xplore Publications: IEEE Periodicals
IEEE Xplore Publications: IEEE Conferences
IEEE Xplore Publications: IEEE Standards
IEEE Xplore Publications: IEEE Early Access
IEEE Xplore Publications: IET Periodicals
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OnePetro.org: Periodicals at OnePetro.org
OnePetro.org: Conferences at OnePetro.org
OnePetro.org: Standards at OnePetro.org
Other Literature: IBM Redbooks
Other Literature: PubMed Central

Bibliographic Data

Application No: 16/356,733

Foreign Priority claimed: ○ Yes ◉ No

35 USC 119 (a-d) conditions met: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Met After Allowance

Verified and Acknowledged: /NATHNAEL AYNALEM/ (Examiner's Signature) | (Initials)

Title: METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS

FILING or 371(c) DATE	CLASS	GROUP ART UNIT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
03/18/2019	375	2488	042933/519745
RULE			

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Jani LAINEMA Tampere, FINLAND

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CONTINUING DATA

This application is a CON of 15681725 08/21/2017 PAT 10237574

15681725 is a CON of 15426822 02/07/2017 PAT 9743105

15426822 is a CON of 13666680 11/01/2012 PAT 9571833

13666680 has PRO of 61555703 11/04/2011

FOREIGN APPLICATIONS

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UNITED STATES

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Substitute for form SB08 (Revised 07/09)	Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT *(Use as many sheets as necessary)*	Application Number	16/356,733
	Filing Date	March 18, 2019
	First Named Inventor	Bici et al.
	Art Unit	2488
	Examiner Name	S. V. Perungavoor
Sheet 1 of 4	Attorney Docket Number	042933/519745

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Document Number Number - Kind Code (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages of Relevant Figures Appear
	1	US-2004/0234144 A1	11-25-2004	Sugimoto et al.	
	2	US-2007/0189389 A1	08-16-2007	Boisson et al.	
	3	US-2008/0159401 A1	07-03-2008	Lee et al.	
	4	US-2008/0232642 A1	09-25-2008	Chang	
	5	US-2011/0170602 A1	07-14-2011	Lee et al.	
	6	US-2011/0176013 A1	07-21-2011	Robertson et al.	
	7	US-2011/0176612 A1	07-21-2011	Tsai et al.	
	8	US-2011/0182362 A1	07-28-2011	Kim et al.	
	9	US-2012/0230408 A1	09-13-2012	Zhou	
	10	US-2012/0257678 A1	10-11-2012	Zhou et al.	
	11	US-2012/0269270 A1	10-25-2012	Chen et al.	
	12	US-2012/0300846 A1	11-29-2012	Sugio et al.	
	13	US-2012/0307905 A1	12-06-2012	Kim et al.	
	14	US-2012/0320984 A1	12-20-2012	Zhou	
	15	US-2013/0003850 A1	01-03-2013	Sugio et al.	
	16	US-2013/0004092 A1	01-03-2013	Sasai et al.	
	17	US-2013/0070855 A1	03-21-2013	Zheng et al.	
	18	US-2013/0083853 A1	04-04-2013	Coban et al.	
	19	US-2013/0272408 A1	10-17-2013	Chen et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document Country Code - Number Kind Code (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	English Language Translation Attached
	20	CN 101271580 A	09-24-2008	HIMAX Tech Ltd		

Examiner Signature	/NATHNAEL AYNALEM/	Date Considered	08/09/2019

*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Submitted June 17, 2019

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /N.A./

Substitute for form SB08 (Revised 07/09)				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT *(Use as many sheets as necessary)*				Application Number	16/356,733
				Filing Date	March 18, 2019
				First Named Inventor	Bici et al.
				Art Unit	2488
				Examiner Name	S. V. Perungavoor
Sheet	2	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	042933/519745

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	21	CN 101605255 B	05-04-2011	Huawei Tech Co Ltd		
	22	CN 1757238 A	04-05-2006	Thomson Licensing		
	23	WO 2011 115659 A1	09-22-2011	Thomson Licensing		
	24	WO 2011/062392 A2	05-26-2011	SK Telecom Co, Ltd.		

OTHER DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	English Language Translation Attached
	25	Advisory Action for U.S. Patent Application No. 13/666,680 dated November 7, 2016, 4 pages.	
	26	**Bici, O. et al.**, *Non-CE13: Simplification of merge mode*, Joint Collaborative Team on Video Coding (JCT-VC) of ITU-T SG16 WP3 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11, 7th Meeting: Geneva, CH, 21-30 November, 2011, Document JCTVC-G593; URL: HTTP://WFTP3.ITU.INT/AV-ARCH/JCTVC-SITE/, 13 pages	
	27	**Bross, B. et al.**, *Core Experiment 9: MV Coding and Skip/Merge Operations*, Joint Collaborative Team on Video Coding (JCT-VC) of ITU-T SG16 WP3 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11, 6th Meeting, Torino, IT, 14-22 July, 2011; Document JCTVC-F909, 13 pages	
	28	**Bross, Benjamin, et al.**; *"WD4: Working Draft 4 of High-Efficiency Video Coding"*; Joint Collaborative Team on Video Coding (JCT-VC) of ITU-T SG16 WP3 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11; 6th Meeting; Torino, IT; 14-22 July 2011; Document JCTVC-F803_d; 232 pages	
	29	Extended European Search Report for corresponding European Application No. 12845839.5 dated March 21, 2016, 10 pages	
	30	Final Office Action for U.S. Patent Application No. 13/666,680 dated March 1, 2016, 35 pages.	
	31	**Han, Woo-Jin, et al.**; *"Improved Video Compression Efficiency Through Flexible Unit Representation and Corresponding Extension of Coding Tools"*; Circuits and Systems for Video Technology; IEEE Transactions on 20.12 (2010); 1709-1720	

Examiner Signature	/NATHNAEL AYNALEM/	Date Considered	08/09/2019

*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Submitted June 17, 2019

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /N.A./

Substitute for form SB08
(Revised 07/09)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known	
Application Number	16/356,733
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Examiner Name	S. V. Perungavoor
Attorney Docket Number	042933/519745

Sheet 3 of 4

OTHER DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	English Language Translation Attached
	32	**Huang, Ai-Mei et al.**, *A multistage motion vector processing method for motion-compensated frame interpolation*, Image Processing, IEEE Transactions on 17.5 (2008) 694-708	
	33	International Search Report and Written Opinion from corresponding International Application No. PCT/FI2012/051070, dated March 27, 2013	
	34	**J.-L. Lin, Y.-W. Chen, Y.-W. Huang, S. Lei**; *"CE9: Results of Experiment ROB04"*; JCT-VC Doc. JCTVC-F052, Turin; Jul 2011	
	35	**Jeon, Y. et al.**, *On MVP list pruning process*, Joint Collaborative Team on Video Coding (JCT-VC) of ITU-T SG16 WP3 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11, 6th Meeting, Torino, IT, 14-22 July, 2011, Document JCTVC-F105, 7 pages	
	36	**Nakamura, H. et al.**, *Unification of derivation process for merge mode and MVP*, Joint Collaborative Team on Video Coding (JCT-VC) of ITU-T SG16 WP3 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11, 6th Meeting; Torino, IT, 14-22 July, 2011; Document JCTVC-F419; URL: http://wftp3.itu.int/AV-ARCH/JCTVC-SITE/2011_07_F_Torino/, 10 pages	
	37	Notice of Allowance for U.S. Patent Application No. 13/666,680 dated September 30, 2016, 17 pages.	
	38	Notice of Allowance for U.S. Patent Application No. 15/426,822 dated March 10, 2017, 8 pages	
	39	Office Action for Canadian Application No. 2,854,495 dated September 6, 2016	
	40	Office Action for Chinese Application No. 201280065777.5 dated October25, 2017 with English Translation, 8 pages	
	41	Office Action for Chinese Application No. 2012800657775 dated October 9, 2016	
	42	Office Action for corresponding Indian Application No. 4092/CHENP/2014 dated April 11, 2018 with English Translation, 7 pages	
	43	Office Action for U.S. Patent Application No. 13/666,680 dated July 6, 2015, 25 pages.	
	44	Office Action for U.S. Patent Application No. 15/681,725 dated September 21, 2017	
	45	Office Action from corresponding Canadian Patent Application No. 2,854,495, dated October 7, 2015	
	46	Office Action from corresponding Korean Patent Application No. 2014-7015093, dated August 21, 2015	
	47	Office Action from Korean Patent Application No. 2014-7015093 dated August 22, 2016	
	48	**Oudin, S. et al.**; *"Block Merging for Quadtree-Based Video Coding"*; IEEE Int. Conf. on Multimedia and Expo; July 11-15; 2011; 6 pages	

Examiner Signature	/NATHNAEL AYNALEM/	Date Considered	08/09/2019

*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Submitted June 17, 2019

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /N.A./

Substitute for form SB08 (Revised 07/09)				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT *(Use as many sheets as necessary)*				Application Number	16/356,733
				Filing Date	March 18, 2019
				First Named Inventor	Bici et al.
				Art Unit	2488
				Examiner Name	S. V. Perungavoor
Sheet	4	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	042933/519745

OTHER DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	English Language Translation Attached
	49	**Sullivan, G.J.**; *"Overview of the High Efficiency Video Coding (HEVC) Standard"*; IEEE Trans. On Circuits and Systems for Video Technology; Vol. 22, No. 12; December 2012; pp. 1649-1668	
	50	**Tai, Shen-Chuan, et al.**; *"A Multi-Pass True Motion Estimation Scheme with Motion Vector Propagation for Frame Rate Up-Conversion Applications"*; Journal of Display Technology; 4.2 (2008): 188-197	
	51	Taiwanese Office Action and Search Report from Taiwanese Patent Application No. 101140777 dated December 2, 2015	
	52	**Wiegand, Tomas, et al.**; *"WD3: Working Draft 3 of High-Efficiency Video Coding"*; Joint Collaborative Team on Video Coding (JCT-VC) of ITU-T SG16 WP3 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11; 5th Meeting; Geneva, CH, 16-23 March, 2011; Document JCTVC-E603; 239 pages	
	53	**Zheng, Y. et al.**, *Merge Candidate Selection in 2NxN, Nx2N, and NxN Mode*, Joint Collaborative Team on Video Coding (JCT-VC) of ITU-T SG16 WP3 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11, 6th Meeting, Torino, IT, 14-22 July, 2011; Document JCTVC-F302, 6 pages	
	54	Notice of Allowance for U.S. Application No. 15/681,725 dated May 30, 2018	
	55	Notice of Allowance for U.S. Application No. 15/681,725 dated October 25, 2018	
	56	Office Action for U.S. Application No. 13/666,680 dated March 1, 2016	
	57	Office Action for European Application No. EP 12 845 839.5 dated June 6, 2019, 9 pages	

Examiner Signature	/NATHNAEL AYNALEM/	Date Considered	08/09/2019

*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Submitted June 17, 2019

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /N.A./

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), by mail or fax, or via EFS-Web.

By mail, send to: Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

By fax, send to: (571)-273-2885

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

10949 7590 08/30/2019
Nokia Corporation and Alston & Bird LLP
c/o Alston & Bird LLP
Bank of America Plaza, 101 South Tryon Street
Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being transmitted to the USPTO via EFS-Web or by facsimile to (571) 273-2885, on the date below.

(Typed or printed name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
16/356,733	03/18/2019	Mehmet Oguz BICI	042933/519743	3483

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	UNDISCOUNTED	$1000	$0.00	$0.00	$1000	12/02/2019

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
AYNALEM, NATHNAEL B	2488	375-240160

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-09 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list
(1) The names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
(2) The name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 Alston & Bird LLP
2
3

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document must have been previously recorded, or filed for recordation, as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11 and 37 CFR 3.81(a). Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE: Nokia Technologies Oy

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY): Espoo, Finland

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☒ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. Fees submitted: ☒ Issue Fee ☐ Publication Fee (if required) ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies .....

4b. Method of Payment: *(Please first reapply any previously paid fee shown above)*

☒ Electronic Payment via EFS-Web ☐ Enclosed check ☐ Non-electronic payment by credit card (Attach form PTO-2038)

☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 16-0605

5. **Change in Entity Status** (from status indicated above)

☐ Applicant certifying micro entity status. See 37 CFR 1.29

☐ Applicant asserting small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

☐ Applicant changing to regular undiscounted fee status.

NOTE: Absent a valid certification of Micro Entity Status (see forms PTO/SB/15A and 15B), issue fee payment in the micro entity amount will not be accepted at the risk of application abandonment.
NOTE: If the application was previously under micro entity status, checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to micro entity status.
NOTE: Checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to small or micro entity status, as applicable.

NOTE: This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.31 and 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4 for signature requirements and certifications.

Authorized Signature /Guy R. Gosnell/ Date November 27, 2019

Typed or printed name Guy R. Gosnell Registration No. 34,610

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	16356733
Filing Date:	18-Mar-2019
Title of Invention:	METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Mehmet Oguz BICI
Filer:	Guy Randall Gosnell/Joyce Smith
Attorney Docket Number:	042933/519745

Filed as Large Entity

Filing Fees for Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
UTILITY APPL ISSUE FEE	1501	1	1000	1000

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Extension-of-Time:				
Miscellaneous:				
			Total in USD ($)	**1000**

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	37877836
Application Number:	16356733
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	3483
Title of Invention:	METHOD FOR CODING AND AN APPARATUS
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Mehmet Oguz BICI
Customer Number:	10949
Filer:	Guy Randall Gosnell/Joyce Smith
Filer Authorized By:	Guy Randall Gosnell
Attorney Docket Number:	042933/519745
Receipt Date:	27-NOV-2019
Filing Date:	18-MAR-2019
Time Stamp:	12:23:45
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	DA
Payment was successfully received in RAM	$1000
RAM confirmation Number	E2019AQC24085136
Deposit Account	
Authorized User	
The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:	

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Issue Fee Payment (PTO-85B)	ISSUEFEE519745.PDF	111658 fcc2e1b480a6bd44c46e301b4797f5263aec1cba	no	1
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	30453 47aa112aa308642ebf4cc3d03125ce4f6b5c8562	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
		Total Files Size (in bytes):	142111		

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111
If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.
National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371
If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.
New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office
If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
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APPLICATION NO.	ISSUE DATE	PATENT NO.	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
16/356,733	01/14/2020	10536714	042933/519745	3483

10949 7590 12/24/2019

Nokia Corporation and Alston & Bird LLP
c/o Alston & Bird LLP
Bank of America Plaza, 101 South Tryon Street
Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000

ISSUE NOTIFICATION

The projected patent number and issue date are specified above.

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)
(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment is 0 day(s). Any patent to issue from the above-identified application will include an indication of the adjustment on the front page.

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Application Assistance Unit (AAU) of the Office of Data Management (ODM) at (571)-272-4200.

APPLICANT(s) (Please see PAIR WEB site http://pair.uspto.gov for additional applicants):

NOKIA TECHNOLOGIES OY, Espoo, FINLAND;
Mehmet Oguz BICI, Tampere, FINLAND;
Jani LAINEMA, Tampere, FINLAND;
Kemal UGUR, Tampere, FINLAND;

IR103 (Rev. 10/09)

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	PATENT NUMBER	GROUP ART UNIT	REQUEST ID
16/356,733	10536714	2488	110349

PAIR Correspondence Address/Fee Address Change

The following fields have been changed to Customer Number 00197 on 04/21/2020 via Private PAIR in view of the certification copied below that authorized the change.

- Maintenance Fee Address

The address for Customer Number 00197 is:
00197
CPA GLOBAL LIMITED
2318 Mill Road 12th Floor
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am:

An attorney or Agent of Record registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office who has been given power of attorney in this application

Signature:	/Guy R. Gosnell/
Name:	Guy R. Gosnell
Registration Number:	34610