



(51) International Patent Classification:

H04N 19/119 (2014.01) H04N 19/70 (2014.01)

H04N 19/50 (2014.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/EP2020/054831

(22) International Filing Date:

25 February 2020 (25.02.2020)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

1902829.9	01 March 2019 (01.03.2019)	GB
1903379.4	12 March 2019 (12.03.2019)	GB
1904461.9	29 March 2019 (29.03.2019)	GB
1918658.4	17 December 2019 (17.12.2019)	GB
2000479.2	13 January 2020 (13.01.2020)	GB

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ,
CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO,
DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN,
HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP,
KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ,
OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA,
SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR,
TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ,
UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ,

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ENCODING AND DECODING A VIDEO BITSTREAM FOR MERGING
REGIONS OF INTEREST

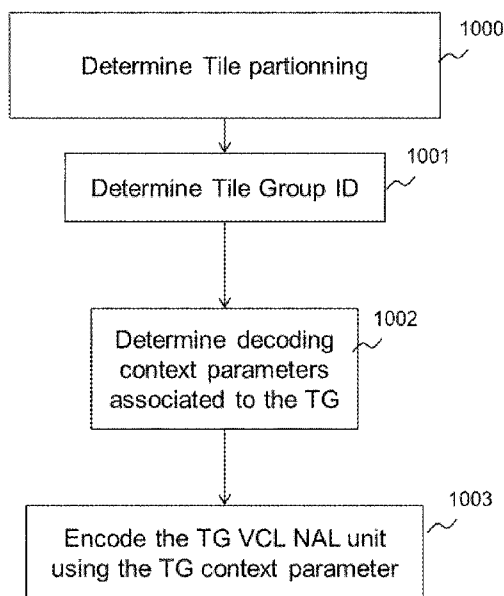


Fig. 10

(57) Abstract: The present invention concerns an encoding and decoding method for a bitstream that allow solving APS or PPS identifier collision when merging tile groups or sub-pictures from different bitstreams without amending the tile group structure by introducing a second identification information associated to each tile group in a parameter set of the bitstream.

TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ENCODING AND DECODING A VIDEO
BITSTREAM FOR MERGING REGIONS OF INTEREST**

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present disclosure concerns a method and a device for encoding and decoding a video bitstream that facilitates the merge of regions of interest. It concerns more particularly the encoding and decoding of a video bitstream resulting of the merging of regions coming from different video bitstreams. In addition, it is proposed a corresponding method of generating such bitstream resulting from the merge of different
10 regions coming from different video bitstreams.

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

Figures 1a and **1b** illustrate two different application examples for the combination of regions of interest.

15 For instance, **Figure 1a** illustrates an example where a picture (or frame) **100** from a first video bitstream and a picture **101** from a second video bitstream are merged into a picture **102** of the resulting bitstream. Each picture is composed of four regions of interest numbered from 1 to 4. The picture **100** has been encoded using encoding parameters resulting in a high quality encoding. The picture **101** has been encoded using
20 encoding parameters resulting in a low quality encoding. As well known, the picture encoded with a low quality is associated with a lower bitrate than the picture encoded with a high quality. The resulting picture **102** combines the regions of interest 1, 2 and 4 from the picture **101**, thus encoded with a low quality, with the region of interest 3 from picture **100** encoded with a high quality. The goal of such combination is generally to get
25 a region of interest, here the region 3, in high quality, while keeping the resulting bitrate reasonable by having regions 1, 2 and 4 encoded in low quality. Such kind of scenario may happen in particular in the context of omnidirectional content allowing a higher quality for the content actually visible while the remaining parts have a lower quality.

Figure 1b illustrates a second example where four different videos A, B, C and
30 D are merged to form a resulting video. A picture **103** of video A is composed of regions of interest A1, A2, A3, and A4. A picture **104** of video B is composed of regions of interest B1, B2, B3, and B4. A picture **105** of video C is composed of regions of interest C1, C2, C3, and C4. A picture **106** of video D is composed of regions of interest D1, D2, D3, and D4. The picture 107 of the resulting video is composed by regions B4, A3, C3, and D1.
35 In this example, the resulting video is a mosaic video of different regions of interest of

each original video stream. The regions of interest of the original video streams are rearranged and combined in a new location of the resulting video stream.

The compression of video relies on block-based video coding in most coding
5 systems like HEVC, standing for High Efficiency Video Coding, or the emerging VVC,
standing for Versatile Video Coding, standard. In these encoding systems, a video is
composed of a sequence of frames or pictures or images or samples which may be
displayed at several different times. In the case of multilayered video (for example
scalable, stereo, 3D videos), several pictures may be decoded to compose the resulting
10 image to display at one instant. A picture can also be composed of different image
components. For instance, for encoding the luminance, the chrominance or depth
information.

The compression of a video sequence relies on several partitioning techniques
for each picture. **Figure 2** illustrates some partitioning in encoding systems. The pictures
15 **201** and **202** are divided in coded tree units (CTU) illustrated by the dotted lines. A CTU
is the elementary unit of encoding and decoding. For example, the CTU can encode an
area of 128 by 128 pixels.

A Coding Tree Unit (CTU) could also be named block, macro block, coding unit.
It can encode simultaneously the different image components or it can be limited to only
20 one image component.

As illustrated by **Figure 2a**, the picture can be partitioned according to a grid of
tiles, illustrated by the thin solid lines. The tiles are picture parts, thus rectangular regions
of pixels that may be defined independently of the CTU partitioning. The boundaries of
tiles and the boundaries of the CTU may be different. A tile may also correspond to a
25 sequence of CTUs, as in the represented example, meaning that the boundaries of tiles
and CTUs coincide.

Tiles definition provides that tile boundaries break the spatial encoding
dependencies. This means that encoding of a CTU in a tile is not based on pixel data
from another tile in the picture.

30 Some encoding systems, like for example VVC, provide the notion of tile groups.
This mechanism allows the partitioning of the picture into one or several groups of tiles.
Each group of tiles is composed by one or several tiles. Two different kinds of tile groups
are provided as illustrated by pictures **201** and **202**. A first kind of tile group is restricted
to tile groups forming a rectangular area in the picture. Picture **201** illustrates the
35 portioning of a picture into five different rectangular tile groups. A second kind of tile

group is restricted to successive tiles in raster scan order. Picture **202** illustrates the partitioning of a picture into three different tile groups composed of successive tiles in raster scan order. Rectangular tile groups is a structure of choice for dealing with regions of interest in a video. A tile group can be encoded in the bitstream as one or several NAL units. A NAL unit, standing for a Network Abstraction Layer unit, is a logical unit of data for the encapsulation of data in the encoded bitstream. In the example of VVC encoding system, a tile group is encoded as a single NAL unit. When a tile group is encoded in the bitstream as several NAL units, each NAL unit of the Tile Group is a Tile Group Segment. A tile group segment includes a tile group segment header that contains the coding parameters of the tile group segment. The header of the first segment NAL unit of the tile group contains all the coding parameters of the tile group. The tile group segment header of the subsequent NAL unit of the tile group may contain fewer parameters than the first NAL units. In such a case, the first tile group segment is an independent tile group segment and the subsequent segments are dependent tile group segments.

In OMAF v2 ISO/IEC 23090-2, a sub-picture is a portion of a picture that represents a spatial subset of the original video content, which has been split into spatial subsets before video encoding at the content production side. A sub-picture is for example one or more Tile Groups.

Figure 2b illustrates an example of partitioning of a picture in sub-pictures. A sub-picture represents a picture portion that covers a rectangular region of a picture. Each sub-picture may have different sizes and coding parameters. For instance, different tile grids and tile groups partitioning may be defined for each sub-picture. In **Figure 2b**, the picture **204** is subdivided in 24 sub-pictures including the sub-pictures **205** and **206**. These two sub-pictures further describe a tile grid and a partitioning in tile group similar to the pictures **201** and **202** of figure 2.

In a variant a picture is first decomposed in tiles and tile groups or slices. Then the subpictures are defined as sets of tile groups or slices with the constraints that each subpicture covers a rectangular area of a picture and the subpictures create a partition of the picture.

In a variant, rather than considering sub-pictures, a picture could be partitioned into several regions that may be independently coded as layers (e.g., a VVC or HEVC layers). We may refer to such layer as “sub-picture layer” or “region layer”. Each sub-picture layer could be independently coded. When combined, the pictures of the sub-picture layers may form a new picture of greater size equal to the size of the combination of the sub-picture layers. In other words, on one hand, a picture may be spatially divided

into sub-pictures, each sub-picture defining a grid of tiles and being spatially divided into tile groups. Moreover, on another hand, a picture may be divided into layers, each layer defining a grid of tiles and being spatially divided into tile groups. Tiles and tile groups may be defined at the picture level, at the sub-picture level, or at the layer level. The invention will apply to all these configurations.

Figure 3 illustrates the organisation of the bitstream in the exemplary coding system VVC.

A bitstream **300** according to the VVC coding system is composed of an ordered sequence of syntax elements and coded data. The syntax element and coded data are placed into NAL units **301-305**. There are different NAL unit types. The network abstraction layer provides the ability to encapsulate the bitstream into different protocols, like RTP/IP, standing for Real Time Protocol / Internet Protocol, ISO Base Media File Format, etc. The network abstraction layer also provides a framework for packet loss resilience.

NAL units are divided into VCL NAL units and non-VCL NAL units, VCL standing for Video Coding Layer. The VCL NAL units contain the actual encoded video data. The non-VCL NAL units contain additional information. This additional information may be parameters needed for the decoding of the encoded video data or supplemental data that may enhance usability of the decoded video data. NAL units **305** correspond to tile groups and constitute the VCL NAL units of the bitstream. Different NAL units **301-304** correspond to different parameter sets, these NAL units are non-VCL NAL units. The VPS NAL unit **301**, VPS standing for Video Parameter Set, contains parameters defined for the whole video, and thus the whole bitstream. The naming of VPS may change and for instance becomes DPS in VVC. In an alternative, the VPS and DPS are different Parameter Sets NAL Units. The DPS (that stands for Decoder Parameter Set) NAL unit may define parameters more static than the parameters in the VPS. In other words, the parameters of DPS change less frequently than the parameter of the VPS. The SPS NAL unit **302**, SPS standing for Sequence Parameter Set, contains parameters defined for a video sequence. In particular, the SPS NAL unit may define the sub-pictures of the video sequences. The syntax of the SPS contains for example the following syntax elements:

seq_parameter_set_rbsp() {	Descriptor
sps_max_sub_layers_minus1	u(3)
sps_reserved_zero_5bits	u(5)
profile_tier_level(sps_max_sub_layers_minus1)	
sps_seq_parameter_set_id	ue(v)
[...]	

num_sub_pics_minus1	ue(v)
sub_pic_id_len_minus1	ue(v)
if(num_sub_pics_minus1 > 0)	
for (i = 0; i <= num_sub_pics_minus1; i++) {	
sub_pic_id[i]	u(v)
if(num_sub_pics_minus1 > 0) {	
sub_pic_treated_as_pic_flag[i]	u(1)
sub_pic_x_offset[i]	ue(v)
sub_pic_y_offset[i]	ue(v)
sub_pic_width_in_luma_samples[i]	ue(v)
sub_pic_height_in_luma_samples[i]	ue(v)
}	
}	
[...]	

The descriptor column gives the encoding of a syntax element, u(1) means that the syntax element is encoded using one bit, ue(v) means that the syntax element is encoded using unsigned integer 0-th order Exp-Golomb-coded syntax element with the left bit first that is a variable length encoding.

The syntax element num_sub_pics_minus1 specifies the number of sub-pictures in a picture of the video sequence. Then, sub_pic_id_len_minus1 represents the number of bits used to encode the sub_pic_id[i] syntax elements. There are as many sub_pic_id[i] as sub-pictures in each picture of the video sequence. The sub_pic_id[i] syntax element is an identifier of sub-picture. The sub_pic_treated_as_pic_flag[i] syntax element indicates whether the sub-picture boundaries should be treated as picture boundaries except for the loop filtering process. The sub_pic_x_offset[i], sub_pic_y_offset[i] specifies the location of the first pixel of the sub-picture with reference to the picture referential. The sub_pic_width_in_luma_samples[i] and sub_pic_height_in_luma_samples[i] syntax elements indicate respectively the width and the height of the sub-picture.

When using sub-picture layer partitioning, the decoding layout of the different layers could be described in a Parameter Set unit such as the VPS or the DPS NAL units or in an SEI NAL unit. The identifier of the sub-picture layer may be for example a NAL unit layer identifier. The embodiments described in this invention also apply to sub-picture layers. The identification information described in Parameter Sets for sub-pictures or tile group could be defined in the same NAL unit that specify the decoding layout.

The PPS NAL unit **303**, PPS standing for Picture Parameter Set, contains parameters defined for a picture or a group of pictures. The APS NAL unit **304**, APS standing for Adaptation Parameter Set, contains parameters for loop filters typically the
5 Adaptive Loop Filter (ALF) and the reshaper model (or luma mapping with chroma scaling model) that are defined at the tile group level. The bitstream may also contain SEI, standing for Supplemental Enhancement Information, NAL units. The periodicity of occurrence of these parameter sets in the bitstream is variable. A VPS that is defined for the whole bitstream needs to occur only once in the bitstream. At the opposite, an APS
10 that is defined for a tile group may occur once for each tile group in each picture. Actually, different tile groups may rely on the same APS and thus there are generally fewer APS than tile groups in each picture. When a picture is divided into sub-pictures, a PPS may be defined for each sub-picture or a group of sub-pictures.

The VCL NAL units **305** contain each a tile group. A tile group may correspond
15 to the whole picture or sub-picture, a single tile or a plurality of tiles. A tile group is composed of a tile group header **310** and a raw byte sequence payload, RBSP, **311** that contains the tiles.

The tile group index is the index of the tile group in the picture in raster scan order. For example, in **Figure 2**, the number in a round represents the tile group index
20 for each tile group. Tile group **203** has a tile group index of 0.

The tile group identifier is a value, meaning an integer or any bit sequence, which is associated to a tile group. Typically, the PPS contains the association for each tile group between the tile group index and the tile group identifier for one or several pictures. For example, in **Figure 2**, the tile group **203** with tile group index 0 can have a tile group
25 identifier of '345'.

The tile group address is a syntax element present in the header of the tile group NAL unit. The tile group address may refer to the tile group index, to the tile group identifier or even to the tile index. In the latter case, it will be the index of the first tile in the tile group. The semantic of the tile group address is defined by several flags present
30 in one of the Parameters Set NAL units. In the example of tile group 203 in Figure 2, the tile group address may be the tile group index 0, the tile group identifier 345 or the tile index 0.

The tile group index, identifier and address are used to define the partitioning of the picture into tile groups. The tile group index is related with the location of the tile
35 group in the picture. The decoder parses the tile group address in the tile group NAL unit

- header and uses it to locate the tile group in the picture and determine the location of the first sample in the NAL unit. When the tile group address refers to the tile group identifier, the decoder uses the association indicated by the PPS to retrieve the tile group index associated with the tile group identifier and thus determine the location of the tile group
- 5 and of the first sample in the NAL unit.

The syntax of the PPS as proposed in the current version of VVC is as follows:

pic_parameter_set_rbsp() {	Descriptor
pps_pic_parameter_set_id	ue(v)
pps_seq_parameter_set_id	ue(v)
transform_skip_enabled_flag	u(1)
single_tile_in_pic_flag	u(1)
if(!single_tile_in_pic_flag) {	
num_tile_columns_minus1	ue(v)
num_tile_rows_minus1	ue(v)
uniform_tile_spacing_flag	u(1)
if(!uniform_tile_spacing_flag) {	
for(i = 0; i < num_tile_columns_minus1; i++)	
tile_column_width_minus1[i]	ue(v)
for(i = 0; i < num_tile_rows_minus1; i++)	
tile_row_height_minus1[i]	ue(v)
}	
single_tile_per_tile_group_flag	u(1)
if(!single_tile_per_tile_group_flag)	
rect_tile_group_flag	u(1)
if(rect_tile_group_flag && !single_tile_per_tile_group_flag) {	
num_tile_groups_in_pic_minus1	ue(v)
for(i = 0; i <= num_tile_groups_in_pic_minus1; i++) {	
if(i > 0)	
top_left_tile_idx[i]	u(v)
bottom_right_tile_idx[i]	u(v)
}	
}	
loop_filter_across_tiles_enabled_flag	u(1)
}	
if(rect_tile_group_flag) {	
signalled_tile_group_id_flag	u(1)
if(signalled_tile_group_id_flag) {	
signalled_tile_group_id_length_minus1	ue(v)
for(i = 0; i <= num_tile_groups_in_pic_minus1; i++)	
tile_group_id[i]	u(v)
}	

[...] // Additional syntax elements not represented	
rbsp_trailing_bits()	
}	

The descriptor column gives the encoding of a syntax element, u(1) means that the syntax element is encoded using one bit, ue(v) means that the syntax element is encoded using unsigned integer 0-th order Exp-Golomb-coded syntax element with the left bit first that is a variable length encoding. The syntax elements num_tile_columns_minus1 and num_tile_rows_minus1 respectively indicate the number of tile columns and rows in the picture. When the tile grid is not uniform (uniform_tile_spacing_flag equal 0) the syntax element tile_column_width_minus1[] and tile_row_height_minus1[] specify the widths and heights of each column and rows of the tile grid.

The tile group partitioning is expressed with the following syntax elements:

The syntax element single_tile_in_pic_flag states whether the picture contains a single tile. In other words, there is only one tile and one tile group in the picture when this flag is true.

single_tile_per_tile_group_flag states whether each tile group contains a single tile. In other words, all the tiles of the picture belong to a different tile group when this flag is true.

The syntax element rect_tile_group_flag indicates that tile groups of the pictures form a rectangular shape as represented in the picture **201**.

When present, the syntax element num_tile_groups_in_pic_minus1 is equal to the number of rectangular tile groups in the picture minus one.

Syntax elements top_left_tile_idx[] and bottom_right_tile_idx[] are arrays that respectively specify the first tile (top left) tile and the last (bottom right) tile in a rectangular tile group. These arrays are indexed by tile group index.

The tile group identifiers are specified when the signalled_tile_group_id_flag is equal to 1. In this case, the signalled_tile_group_id_length_minus1 syntax element indicates the number of bits used to code each tile group identifier value. The tile_group_id[] association table is indexed by tile group index and contains the identifier of the tile group. When the signalled_tile_group_id_flag equal to 0 the tile_group_id is indexed by tile group index and contains the tile group index of the tile group.

The tile group header comprises the tile group address according to the following syntax in the current VVC version:

tile_group_header() {	Descriptor
tile_group_pic_parameter_set_id	ue(v)
if(rect_tile_group_flag NumTilesInPic > 1)	
tile_group_address	u(v)
if(!rect_tile_group_flag && !single_tile_per_tile_group_flag)	
num_tiles_in_tile_group_minus1	ue(v)
[...]	

When the tile group is not rectangular, the tile group header indicates the number of tiles in the tile group NAL unit with help of num_tiles_in_tile_group_minus1 syntax element.

- 5 Each tile **320** may comprise a tile segment header **330** and a tile segment data **331**. The tile segment data **331** comprises the encoded coding units **340**. In current version of the VVC standard, the tile segment header is not present and tile segment data contains the coding unit data **340**.

- 10 In a variant, the video sequence includes sub-pictures; the syntax of the tile group header may be the following:

tile_group_header() {	Descriptor
tile_group_pic_parameter_set_id	ue(v)
tile_group_sub_pic_id	u(v)
if(rect_tile_group_flag NumTilesInSubPic > 1)	
tile_group_address	u(v)
[..]	

The tile group header includes the tile_group_sub_pic_id syntax element which specifies the identifier (i.e., corresponding to one of the sub_pic_id[i] defined in the SPS) of the sub-pictures it belongs to. As a result, all the tile groups that share the same tile_group_sub_pic_id in the video sequence belong to the same sub-picture.

15

Figure 4 illustrates the process of generating a video bitstream composed of different regions of interest from one or several original bitstreams.

- 20 In a step **400**, the regions to be extracted from the original bitstreams are selected. The regions may correspond for instance to a specific region of interest or a specific viewing direction in an omnidirectional content. The tile groups comprising encoded samples present in the selected set of regions are selected in the original bitstreams. At the end of this step, the identifier of each tile group in the original bitstreams, which will be merged in the resulting bitstreams, is determined. For example,

the identifiers of the tile groups 1, 2, and 4 of picture **101** and of the tile group 3 of picture **100** in **Figure 1** are determined.

In a step **401**, a new arrangement for the selected tile groups in the resulting video is determined. This consists in determining the size and location of each selected
5 tile group in the resulting video. For instance, the new arrangement conforms to a predetermined ROI composition. Alternatively, a user defines a new arrangement.

In a step **402**, the tile partitioning of the resulting video needs to be determined. When the tile partitioning of the original bitstreams are identical, the same tile partitioning is kept for the resulting video. At the end of this step, the number of rows and columns
10 of the tile grid with the width and height of the tiles is determined and, advantageously stored in memory.

When determining the new arrangement, determined in step **401**, of the tile groups in the resulting video, the location of a tile group in the video may change regarding its location in the original video. In a step **403**, the new locations of the tile
15 groups are determined. In particular, the tile group partitioning of the resulting video is determined. The location of the tile groups are determined in reference with the new tile grid as determined in step **402**.

In a step **404**, new parameters sets are generated for the resulting bitstream. In particular, new PPS NAL units are generated. These new PPS contains syntax elements
20 to encode the tile grid partitioning, the tile group partitioning and positioning and the association of the tile group identifier and the tile group index. To do so, the tile group identifier is extracted from each tile group and associated with the tile group index depending of the new decoding location of the tile group. It is reminded that each tile group, in the exemplary embodiment, is identified by an identifier in the tile group header
25 and that each tile group identifier is associated with an index corresponding to the tile group index of the tile group in the picture in raster scan order. This association is stored in a PPS NAL unit. Assuming that there is no collision in the identifiers of the tile groups, when changing the position of a tile group in a picture, and thus changing the tile group index, there is no need to change the tile groups identifiers and thus to amend the tile
30 group structure. Only PPS NAL units need to be amended.

In a step **405**, the VCL NAL units, namely the tile groups, are extracted from the original bitstreams to be inserted in the resulting bitstream. It may happen that these VCL NAL units need to be amended. In particular, some parameters in the tile group header may not be compatible with the resulting bitstream and need to be amended. It would be

advantageous to avoid this amending step, as decoding, amending and recoding the tile group header is resource consuming.

In particular, APS NAL units may generate a need to amend tile group headers. It is reminded that APS stores the parameters needed for the adaptive loop filtering of the picture. Each APS comprises an identifier to identify this APS. Each tile group header comprises a flag that indicates if adaptive loop filtering is to be applied, and if this flag is true, the identifier of the APS containing the parameters to be used for adaptive loop filtering is stored in the tile header. In the current version of the standard, the APS identifier can take 32 values. Due to the low number of possible values, when merging tile groups from different bitstreams, there is a high risk of collision between these identifiers. Solving these collisions implies to change some APS identifiers and thus to amend the APS identifier in some tile group headers.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

The present invention has been devised to address one or more of the foregoing concerns. It concerns an encoding and decoding method for a bitstream that allows solving APS identifier collision when merging tile groups from different bitstreams without amending the tile group encoded data.

According to a first aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of encoding video data comprising pictures into a bitstream of logical units, pictures being divided into picture portions, picture portions being spatially divided into sub-portions, the method comprising:

- determining a parameter set applying to a sub-portion;
- determining a first identification information of the determined parameter set;
- determining a second identification information associated with the sub-portion;
- encoding the sub-portion into a first logical unit comprising the first identification information;
- encoding the parameter set into a second logical unit comprising a parameter set identifier determined based on the first identification information and on the second identification information; and,
- encoding the association between the second identification information and the sub-portion and into a logical unit.

According to an embodiment, the association between the second identification information and the sub-portion is an association between the second identification information and the picture portion the sub-portion belongs to.

According to an embodiment:

- 5 – the second identification information is an extension identifier; and,
- the parameter set identifier comprises the first identification information and the extension identifier.

According to an embodiment:

- the second identification information is an offset; and,
- 10 – the parameter set identifier is the addition of the first identification information and of the offset.

According to an embodiment, the second identification information is an index of a parameter set.

15 According to an embodiment, the association between the second identification information and the sub-portion is encoded into a third logical unit.

 According to an embodiment, the second and third logical units are parameter set logical units applying at different levels of the bitstream.

 According to an embodiment, the association between the second identification information and the sub-portion is encoded into the second logical unit.

20 According to an embodiment, a plurality of parameter sets are determined, the method further comprising:

- encoding the plurality of parameter sets into the second logical unit, each parameter set being associated with an index, the second logical unit comprising for each picture portion, the association of an index of the
- 25 picture portions and the index of a parameter set.

 According to an embodiment, the parameter set is a filter parameter set.

 According to an embodiment, the parameter set is a picture parameter set.

 According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a method for decoding a bitstream of logical units of video data comprising pictures, pictures being

30 divided into picture portions, picture portions being spatially divided into sub-portions, the method comprising:

- parsing a first logical unit comprising a sub-portion to determine a first identification information of a parameter set applying to the sub-portion;
- parsing a second logical unit comprising the association between a
- 35 second identification information and the sub-portion;

- determining a parameter set identifier based on the first identification information and the second identification information;
- decoding a logical unit comprising the parameter set identified by the parameter set identifier;
- 5 – decoding the sub-portion comprised in the first logical unit using the decoded parameter set.

According to an embodiment, the association between the second identification information and the sub-portion is an association between the second identification information and the picture portion the sub-portion belongs to.

10 According to an embodiment:

- the second identification information is an extension identifier; and,
- the parameter set identifier comprises the first identification information and the extension identifier.

According to an embodiment:

- 15 – the second identification information is an offset; and,
- the parameter set identifier is the addition of the first identification information and the offset.

According to an embodiment, the second identification information is an index of a parameter set.

20 According to an embodiment, the logical unit comprising the parameter set is a third logical unit.

According to an embodiment, the second and third logical units are parameter set logical units applying at different levels of the bitstream.

25 According to an embodiment, the logical unit comprising the parameter set is the second logical unit.

According to an embodiment, a plurality of parameter sets are determined, the method further comprising:

- decoding the plurality of parameter sets from the second logical unit, each parameter set being associated with an index, the second logical unit comprising for each sub-portion, the association of an index of the sub-portion and the index of a parameter set.

According to an embodiment, the parameter set is a filter parameter set.

According to an embodiment, the parameter set is a picture parameter set.

35 According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a method for merging sub-portions from a plurality of original bitstreams of video data into a resulting

bitstream, bitstreams being composed of logical units comprising pictures, pictures being divided into picture portions, picture portions being spatially divided into sub-portions, the method comprising:

- 5 – parsing the logical units comprising the sub-portions to determine a first identification information of a parameter set associated with each sub-portion;
- extracting logical units comprising a parameter set applying to a sub-portion, the logical unit being identified by the first identification information;
- 10 – encoding a logical unit comprising the association of a second identification information with a sub-portion for each sub-portion;
- encoding each extracted logical unit comprising a parameter set into a logical unit comprising the parameter set and a parameter set identifier determined based on the first identification information and the second
- 15 identification information;
- generating the resulting bitstream comprising the logical units comprising the sub-portions, the encoded logical unit comprising the association of a second identification information with the sub-portions and the encoded logical units comprising the parameter sets.

20 According to an embodiment, the association between the second identification information and the sub-portion is an association between the second identification information and the picture portion the sub-portion belongs to.

 According to an embodiment:

- the second identification information is an extension identifier; and
- 25 – the parameter set identifier comprises the first identification information and the extension identifier.

 According to an embodiment:

- the second identification information is an offset; and
- the parameter set identifier is the addition of the first identification
- 30 information and of the offset.

 According to an embodiment, the second identification information is an index of a parameter set.

 According to an embodiment, the parameter set is a filter parameter set.

 According to an embodiment, the parameter set is a picture parameter set.

According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of generating a file comprising a bitstream of logical units of encoded video data comprising pictures, pictures being divided into picture portions, picture portions being spatially divided into sub-portions, the method comprising:

- 5 – encoding the bitstream according to the invention;
- generating a first track comprising the logical units containing the parameter sets, and the logical unit containing the association between the second identification information and the sub-portions;
- generating for a sub-portion, a track containing the logical unit containing
- 10 the sub-portion; and,
- generating the file comprising the generated tracks.

According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a bitstream of logical units, the bitstream comprising encoded video data comprising pictures, pictures being divided into picture portions, picture portions being spatially divided into sub-

15 portions, the bitstream comprising:

- a first logical unit comprising a sub-portion;
- a second logical unit comprising a parameter set applying to the sub-portion and a parameter set identifier determined based on a first identification information of the parameter set and on a second
- 20 identification information associated with the sub-portion; and,
- a logical unit comprising the association between the second identification information and the sub-portion.

According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a computer program product for a programmable apparatus, the computer program product

25 comprising a sequence of instructions for implementing a method according to the invention, when loaded into and executed by the programmable apparatus.

According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a computer-readable storage medium storing instructions of a computer program for implementing a method according to the invention.

30 According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a computer program which upon execution causes the methods of the invention to be performed.

At least parts of the methods according to the invention may be computer implemented. Accordingly, the present invention may take the form of an entirely

35 hardware embodiment, an entirely software embodiment (including firmware, resident

software, microcode, etc.) or an embodiment combining software and hardware aspects that may all generally be referred to herein as a "circuit", "module" or "system". Furthermore, the present invention may take the form of a computer program product embodied in any tangible medium of expression having computer usable program code embodied in the medium.

Since the present invention can be implemented in software, the present invention can be embodied as computer-readable code for provision to a programmable apparatus on any suitable carrier medium. A tangible, non-transitory carrier medium may comprise a storage medium such as a floppy disk, a CD-ROM, a hard disk drive, a magnetic tape device or a solid-state memory device and the like. A transient carrier medium may include a signal such as an electrical signal, an electronic signal, an optical signal, an acoustic signal, a magnetic signal or an electromagnetic signal, e.g., a microwave or RF signal.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Embodiments of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, and with reference to the following drawings in which:

Figures 1a and 1b illustrate two different application examples for the combination of regions of interest;

Figure 2a and 2b illustrate some partitioning in encoding systems;

Figure 3 illustrates the organisation of the bitstream in the exemplary coding system VVC;

Figure 4 illustrates an example of the process of generating a video bitstream composed of different regions of interest from one or several original bitstreams;

Figure 5 illustrates issues with APS NAL unit when merging tile groups from different bitstreams;

Figure 6 illustrates the encoding of an APS extension identifier according to an embodiment of the invention;

Figure 7 illustrates another embodiment where the second identification information is implemented as an offset to be applied to the APS identifier;

Figure 8 illustrates an embodiment where the APS associated with different tile groups are merged;

Figure 9 illustrates an embodiment where a plurality of APS can be associated with a tile group;

Figure 10 illustrates the main steps of an encoding process according to an embodiment of the invention;

Figure 11 illustrates the main steps of a decoding process according to an embodiment of the invention;

5 **Figure 12** illustrates the extraction and merge operation of two bitstreams stored in a file to form a resulting bitstream stored in a resulting file in an embodiment of the invention;

Figure 13 illustrates the main step of the extraction and merge process at file format level in an embodiment of the invention;

10 **Figure 14** the encoding of an APS extension identifier according to an embodiment of the invention;

Figure 15 is a schematic block diagram of a computing device for implementation of one or more embodiments of the invention.

15 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Figure 5 illustrates issues with APS NAL unit when merging tile groups from different bitstreams.

Adaptive loop filtering (ALF) may be used as an in-loop filter for each picture. ALF requires the transmission of a set of parameters named ALF parameters. The ALF parameters are typically transmitted in a dedicated parameter set called APS for ALF Parameter Set. The APS is transmitted as a non-VCL NAL unit. It contains an identifier of the APS and the ALF parameters to be used in one or several tile groups of one or several pictures. The identifier is a value comprised in the range 0-31. The update mechanism is the following: when a new APS is received with a same identifier as a previous one, it replaces the previous one. The APS can change very rapidly, for each picture, the ALF parameters may be recomputed and new APS may be generated either as replacement or in addition to previous ones. The APS may typically take the following syntax:

adaptation_parameter_set_rbsp() {	Descriptor
adaptation_parameter_set_id	ue(v)
alf_data()	
...	
}	

30 A tile group header comprises a flag, typically called tile_group_alf_enabled_flag, to indicate if the ALF filter is used. When ALF filter is used, the tile group header

comprises the identifier of the APS to be used. In each successive picture, a tile group with the same index is likely to change its APS identifier. These syntax elements of the tile group header are typically encoded according to the following syntax:

tile_group_header() {	Descriptor
...	
if(sps_alf_enabled_flag) {	
tile_group_alf_enabled_flag	u(1)
if(tile_group_alf_enabled_flag)	
tile_group_aps_id	ue(v)
}	
...	u(1)
}	

- 5 In a variant, the APS may comprise data for other loop filters such as the luma mapping chroma scaling filtering. Each APS includes a syntax element that specifies if the APS contains parameters for ALF or LMCS filters. The APS may typically take the following syntax:

adaptation_parameter_set_rbsp() {	Descriptor
adaptation_parameter_set_id	u(5)
aps_params_type	u(3)
if(aps_params_type == ALF_APS) // 0	
alf_data()	
else if (aps_params_type == LMCS_APS) // 1	
lmcs_data()	
else if(aps_params_type == SCALING_APS)	
scaling_list_data()	
[...]	
}	

- 10 The tile group header may include several APS identifiers typically one for the ALF and one for the LMCS or Reshaper filter or also scaling list data. For example, the identifier for the ALF filter is named tile_group_alf_aps_id and tile_group_lmcs_aps_id. All the embodiments described below apply the same way to all the APS identifiers described in the tile group header.

15

When merging different tile groups from different bitstreams, this design generates a possibility of collision between the APS identifiers. **Figure 5** illustrates an example of such collision. In **Figure 5**, the tile group 3 of a first bitstream **500** refers to an APS **510** having an identifier with the value 0 in bitstream **500**. The tile group 4 in a

second bitstream **501** also refers to an APS **511** having an identifier having the value 0 in bitstream **501**. APS **510** and APS **511**, while having the same identifier “0”, are likely to contain different ALF parameters as they are defined in different bitstreams.

When generating the resulting bitstream **502**, it is necessary to modify the
5 identifier of at least one of the APS **520** and **521** in order to provide each tile group with the right ALF parameters. In the example, APS **521** corresponds to APS **511** with an amended identifier now taking the value “1”. To do so, it is necessary to read, decode, amend and re-encode the APS **521** with the new identifier. This is not a too complex operation as APS are relatively small NAL units with mainly fixed variable length
10 elements. It is also necessary to change the APS identifier referenced in the tile header group of the tile group 4 to correctly reference the APS **521** with its new identifier. This is a much more complex operation as the tile header is a complex structure with a lot of variable length elements. This means that the complete header needs to be decoded, amended and re-encoded, especially since the APS identifier is encoded in the last part
15 of the tile group header.

In order to improve the merging operation, it may be contemplated to amend the structure of the tile group header. For example, the APS identifier may be encoded at the beginning of the tile group header using a fixed length syntax element. By doing so, the rewriting of the tile group header would only need to decode this first syntax element,
20 to amend it and then to copy the rest of the tile group header. However, this copy would still be a costly operation due to the size of the tile group header and the tile group payload.

It may also be contemplated to increase the range of possible values for the APS identifier. The length of the APS identifier field could be indicated in the PPS. With this
25 improvement, it would be possible for several communicating encoders to use different sub ranges of APS identifiers for encoding bitstreams in order to allow the merge of tile groups from these bitstreams with no collision in APS identifiers. However, this solution has some drawbacks. It increases the number of bits needed for the encoding of the APS identifier that is present in each tile group, so typically several times per picture.
30 This implies a decrease of the compression ratio, which is not desirable. Moreover, it may not be possible to know at encoding time all the merging operation that will be necessary in order to manage the sub ranges of APS identifiers in order to plan all the merging operations. It may also be contemplated to generate randomly the APS identifiers in order to decrease the risk of collision. However, due to the high number of

APS needed to encode a typical bitstream, it is unlikely to solve entirely the collision problem.

According to an embodiment of the invention, the APS identifier that is based on the original bitstream from which the APS and associated tile groups are issued forms a first identification information. It is completed with a second identification information. In this embodiment, each APS comprises the APS identifier and this second identification information, each tile group comprises only the APS identifier while the PPS, or another parameter set, comprises for each tile group, the second identification information.

According to this embodiment, the merge operation comprises the insertion of the second identification information in each APS based on the original bitstream it comes from and the insertion in the PPS of the second identification information associated with each tile group. The tile group NAL unit is not modified, and the tile group header keeps its APS identifier.

At decoding, when decoding a tile group, the decoder needs to identify the right APS corresponding to the tile group. This is done by obtaining the APS identifier from the tile group header. Then the second identification information associated with this tile group is obtained from the PPS. The right APS is then identified by both the APS identifier and the second identification information. It must be noted that collisions are solved as, even in case of APS identifier collision, as both APS come from two different original bitstreams, the associated second identification information is different, meaning that the identification based on both the APS identifier and the second identification information correctly identify the right APS. This solution does not imply the rewriting of the tile group header, thus simplifying the merging operation.

In a first example of this embodiment, the second identification information is implemented as an APS extension identifier. The syntax of the APS can be, for example

adaptation_parameter_set_rbsp() {	Descriptor
adaptation_parameter_set_id	u(5)
aps_id_extension_flag	u(1)
if(aps_id_extension_flag) {	
aps_extension_id	u(5)
alf_data()	
...	
}	

The presence of the APS extension identifier in the APS is signalled using a flag, for example named `aps_id_extension_flag`, encoded on one bit. The APS extension identifier, for example called `aps_extension_id`, is encoded on a fixed length for example

5 bits. In a variant, the encoding length in bits is signalled in one of the Parameters Set NAL unit. For instance, the SPS or the PPS. In the table above, the coding method (descriptor column) is u(v) for `aps_extension_id`. In yet another variant, when `aps_id_extension_flag` equals 1, the `aps_extension_id` flag is preceded by an `aps_extension_length` syntax element that specifies the length in bits of `aps_extension_id`. In another variant, Exp-Golomb coding is used and the new syntax element (`aps_extension_id`) is encoded for instance using `ue(v)` coding method.

For example, the semantics of syntax elements are the following:

- `adaptation_parameter_set_id` provides an identifier for the APS for reference by other syntax elements. The value of `adaptation_parameter_set_id` shall be in the range of 0 to 31.
- `aps_id_extension_flag` equal to 1 specifies the presence of `aps_extension_id` in the APS. `aps_id_extension_flag` equal to 0 specifies the absence of the `aps_extension_id`.
- `aps_extension_id` when present, provides extended identifier for reference by other syntax elements. The value of `aps_extension_id` shall be in the range of 0 to 31. When not present the value of `aps_extension_id` is inferred to be equal 0.

At decoding, the replacement rule of APS becomes that a new APS replaces a previous one if it has the same APS identifier and the same APS extension identifier.

The PPS contains an association for each tile group of the associated APS extension identifier, according, for example, to the following syntax:

pic_parameter_set_rbsp() {	Descriptor
...	
if(rect_tile_group_flag) {	
signalled_tile_group_id_flag	u(1)
if(signalled_tile_group_id_flag) {	
signalled_tile_group_id_length_minus1	ue(v)
for(i = 0; i <= num_tile_groups_in_pic_minus1; i++)	
tile_group_id[i]	u(v)
}	
if(rect_tile_group_flag) {	
signalled_aps_id_extension_flag	u(1)
if(signalled_aps_id_extension_flag) {	
for(i = 0; i <= num_tile_groups_in_pic_minus1; i++)	
tile_group_aps_extension_id[i]	u(5)
}	

The presence of the APS extension identifier association table is indicated with the flag `signalled_aps_id_extension_flag`, encoded on one bit. When present (the flag equals 1) a table associating each tile group index with an APS extension identifier is encoded using fixed length encoding.

5 For example, the semantics of syntax elements are the following:

- `signalled_aps_id_extension_flag` equal to 1 specifies the presence of `tile_group_aps_extension_id[ i ]` in the PPS. `signalled_aps_id_extension_flag` equal to 0 specifies the absence of the `tile_group_aps_extension_id[ i ]` in the PPS.
- 10 – `tile_group_aps_extension_id[ i ]` specifies the tile group extension ID of the *i*-th tile group, when present. When not present, the `tile_group_aps_extension_id[ i ]` is inferred equal to 0, for each *i* in the range of 0 to `num_tile_group_in_pic_minus1` inclusive.

15 In a variant, the length of the APS extension identifier field decreased by one is first encoded using variable length encoding before the table for example according to the following syntax:

pic_parameter_set_rbsp() {	Descriptor
...	
if(rect_tile_group_flag) {	
signalled_tile_group_id_flag	u(1)
if(signalled_tile_group_id_flag) {	
signalled_tile_group_id_length_minus1	ue(v)
for(i = 0; i <= num_tile_groups_in_pic_minus1; i++)	
tile_group_id[i]	u(v)
}	
if(rect_tile_group_flag) {	
signalled_aps_id_extension_flag	u(1)
if(signalled_aps_id_extension_flag) {	
signalled_aps_id_extension_length_minus1	ue(v)
for(i = 0; i <= num_tile_groups_in_pic_minus1; i++)	
tile_group_aps_extension_id[i]	u(v)
}	

For example, the semantics of syntax elements are the following:

- 20 – `signalled_aps_id_extension_flag` equal to 1 specifies the presence of `signalled_aps_id_extension_length_minus1` and `tile_group_aps_extension_id[ i ]` in the PPS. `signalled_aps_id_extension_flag` equal to 0 specifies the absence

of the signalled_aps_id_extension_length_minus1 and tile_group_aps_extension_id[i] in the PPS.

- signalled_aps_id_extension_length_minus1 when present, specifies the number of bits used to represent the syntax element tile_group_extension_id and aps_extension_id of the PPS. The value of signalled_aps_id_extension_length_minus1 shall be in the range of 0 to 15, inclusive. When not present the value of signalled_aps_id_extension_length_minus1 is inferred to be equal to $\text{Ceil}(\text{Log2}(\text{num_tile_groups_in_pic_minus1} + 1)) - 1$.
- tile_group_aps_extension_id[i] specifies the tile group extension ID of the i-th tile group, when present. When not present, the tile_group_aps_extension_id[i] is inferred equal to 0, for each i in the range of 0 to num_tile_group_in_pic_minus1 inclusive.

A variable length encoding of the extension identifier may have been used. This would have been more compact but more complex to parse.

No modification of the tile group header is contemplated. The presence of the APS identifier when combined with the APS extension identifier obtained from the PPS allows determining the right APS in all configurations.

tile_group_header() {	Descriptor
...	
if(sps_alf_enabled_flag) {	
tile_group_alf_enabled_flag	u(1)
if(tile_group_alf_enabled_flag)	
tile_group_aps_id	ue(v)
}	
...	u(1)
}	

The semantics of some syntax elements of the tile group header is the following:

tile_group_aps_id specifies the identifier of the APS in use.

The variable tileGroupExtensionIdx which specifies the index of the tile group APS extension identifier is derived as follows:

```

if( rect_tile_group_flag ) {
    tileGroupExtensionIdx = 0
    while( tile_group_address !=

```

```

        tile_group_id[ tileGroupExtensionIdx] )
        tileGroupExtensionIdx ++
    }
    else {
5        tileGroupExtensionIdx = 0;
    }

```

The APS in use is the APS NAL unit having adaptation_parameter_set_id equal to tile_group_aps_id and the aps_extension_id equal to tile_group_aps_extension_id[tileGroupExtensionIdx].

10 The TemporalId, an identifier indicative of the temporal level, of the APS NAL unit having adaptation_parameter_set_id equal to tile_group_aps_id and the aps_extension_id equal to tile_group_aps_extension_id[tileGroupExtensionIdx] shall be less than or equal to the TemporalId of the coded tile group NAL unit.

When multiple APSs with the same value of adaptation_parameter_set_id and
 15 aps_extension_id are referred to by two or more tile groups of the same picture, the multiple APSs with the same value of adaptation_parameter_set_id and aps_extension_id shall have the same content.

Figure 6 illustrates this embodiment. Original bitstreams **600** and **601** with
 respective tile groups 3 and 4 to be merged, each referring to an APS, respectively **610**
 20 and **611**, having both an APS identifier with a value 0, are identical to those of **Figure 5**.

In the resulting bitstream **602**, both tile groups 3 and 4 are unmodified and
 continue to refer to the associated APS using the APS identifier with a value of 0. What
 changed is that now, the APS originated from bitstream **600** and corresponding to APS
610 comprises both an APS identifier with a value 0 and an APS extension identifier with
 25 a value of 0. The APS **621** corresponding to APS **611** from bitstream **601** comprises an
 APS identifier with a value 0 and an APS extension identifier with a value 1. The PPS
 comprises a table **630** that associates the tile group 3 with the APS extension identifier
 0 and the tile group 4 with the APS extension identifier 1. At decoding, the decoder is
 therefore able to decode the tile group 3 with the correct identification of the associated
 30 APS **620** based on the APS identifier stored in the tile group 3 and the associated APS
 extension identifier from the PPS. The same is true for the decoding of the tile group 4.

It is to be noted that this mechanism works even if the APS identifier changes
 from a picture to another for the tile groups with the same identifier. The APS extension
 identifier will stay the same, still allowing the identification of the right APS.

This proposed embodiment allows solving the APS identifier collisions while keeping the tile group structure intact. Accordingly, the merge process of tile group from different original bitstreams is simplified.

In a variant of this embodiment, the APS extension identifier is called an APS group identifier. The semantics are the same except the naming of syntax element for which extension is replaced with group. In another variant extension is replaced with extended.

In order to simplify the parsing of the PPS, the different loops could be merged as illustrated by the following syntax when the fixed length encoding length equal 5 is used:

pic_parameter_set_rbsp() {	Descriptor
...	
if(rect_tile_group_flag) {	
signalled_tile_group_id_flag	u(1)
if(signalled_tile_group_id_flag) {	
signalled_tile_group_id_length_minus1	ue(v)
}	
signalled_aps_id_extension_flag	u(1)
for(i = 0; i <= num_tile_groups_in_pic_minus1; i++) {	
if(signalled_tile_group_id_flag)	
tile_group_id[i]	u(v)
if(signalled_aps_id_extension_flag)	
tile_group_aps_extension_id[i]	u(5)
}	

In a variant the signalled_aps_group_id_length_minus1 specifies the length of the identifier extension code, the syntax of the PPS is illustrated by the following syntax:

pic_parameter_set_rbsp() {	Descriptor
...	
if(rect_tile_group_flag) {	
signalled_tile_group_id_flag	u(1)
if(signalled_tile_group_id_flag)	
signalled_tile_group_id_length_minus1	ue(v)
signalled_aps_group_flag	u(1)
if(signalled_aps_group_flag)	
signalled_aps_group_id_length_minus1	ue(v)
for(i = 0; i <= num_tile_groups_in_pic_minus1; i++) {	
if(signalled_tile_group_id_flag)	
tile_group_id[i]	u(v)

if(signalled_aps_group_flag) {	
tile_group_aps_group_id[i]	u(v)
}	
}	

Figure 7 illustrates another variant of this embodiment where the second identification information is implemented as an offset to be applied to the APS identifier.

According to this embodiment, the APS contains an identifier field that is named
5 adaptation_parameter_set_id. It corresponds to the original APS identifier as defined in the original bitstream the APS comes from.

adaptation_parameter_set_rbsp() {	Descriptor
adaptation_parameter_set_id	u(5)
alf_data()	
...	
}	

For example, the semantics of syntax elements are the following:

- adaptation_parameter_set_id provides an identifier for the APS for reference by
10 other syntax elements. The value of adaptation_parameter_set_id shall be in the range of 0 to 31.

The PPS associates each tile group with a signed offset that is computed to avoid APS identifier collision in the merged bitstream. This offset corresponds to the aps_offset syntax element described in the table below.

pic_parameter_set_rbsp() {	Descriptor
...	
if(rect_tile_group_flag) {	
signalled_tile_group_id_flag	u(1)
if(signalled_tile_group_id_flag) {	
signalled_tile_group_id_length_minus1	ue(v)
for(i = 0; i <= num_tile_groups_in_pic_minus1; i++)	
tile_group_id[i]	u(v)
}	
if(rect_tile_group_flag) {	
signalled_aps_id_offset_flag	u(1)
if(signalled_aps_id_offset_flag) {	
for(i = 0; i <= num_tile_groups_in_pic_minus1; i++)	
tile_group_aps_offset[i]	se(v)
}	

- 15 For example, the semantics of syntax elements are the following:

- signalled_aps_id_offset_flag equal to 1 specifies the presence of tile_group_aps_offset_id[i] in the PPS. signalled_aps_id_offset_flag equal to 0 specifies the absence of the tile_group_aps_offset_id[i] in the PPS.
- tile_group_aps_offset_id[i] specifies the tile group ID offset of the i-th tile group, when present. tile_group_aps_offset_id should be in range of -32 to 32. When not present, the tile_group_aps_offset_id[i] is inferred equal to i, for each i in the range of 0 to num_tile_group_in_pic_minus1 inclusive.

The tile group header is left unchanged indicating the APS identifier associated with the tile group.

At decoding, the decoder identifies the APS for a tile group by adding the offset obtained from the PPS to the APS identifier obtained from the tile group header to obtain the actual APS identifier comprised in the APS.

The semantics of some syntax elements of the tile group header is the following: tile_group_aps_id specifies the identifier of the APS in use.

The variable tileGroupOffsetIdx which specifies the index of the tile group APS offset identifier is derived as follows:

```

        if( rect_tile_group_flag ) {
            tileGroupOffsetIdx = 0
            while( tile_group_address != tile_group_id[ tileGroupOffsetIdx ] )
                tileGroupOffsetIdx ++
        }
        else {
            tileGroupOffsetIdx = 0;
        }

```

The APS in use is the APS NAL unit having adaptation_parameter_set_id equal to tile_group_aps_id + tile_group_aps_offset_id[tileGroupOffsetIdx].

The TemporalId of the APS NAL unit having adaptation_parameter_set_id equal to tile_group_aps_id + tile_group_aps_offset_id[tileGroupOffsetIdx] shall be less than or equal to the TemporalId of the coded tile group NAL unit.

When multiple APSs with the same value of adaptation_parameter_set_id are referred to by two or more tile groups of the same picture, the multiple APSs with the same value of adaptation_parameter_set_id shall have the same content.

Figure 7 illustrates this embodiment. Original bitstreams **700** and **701** with respective tile groups 3 and 4 to be merged, each referring to an APS, respectively **710** and **711**, having both an APS identifier with a value 0, are identical to those of **Figure 5**.

In the resulting bitstream **702**, both tile groups 3 and 4 are unmodified and
 5 continue to refer to the associated APS using the APS identifier with a value of 0. What changed is that now, the APS originated from bitstream **700** and corresponding to APS **710** comprises an APS identifier with a value 0 corresponding to the original APS identifier of 0 added to the offset 0. The APS **721** corresponding to APS **711** from
 10 bitstream **701** comprises an APS identifier with a value 3 corresponding to the original APS identifier of 0 added to the offset of 3. The PPS comprises a table **730** that associates the tile group 3 with the offset 0 and the tile group 4 with the offset 3. At decoding, the decoder is therefore able to decode the tile group 3 with the correct identification of the associated APS **720** based on the APS identifier stored in the tile group 3 added to the offset from the PPS. The same is true for the decoding of the tile
 15 group 4.

In a variant, the PPS provides an additional field called `tile_group_aps_base_id`, which is an integer that will be added to the APS identifier to obtain the actual identifier. The goal is to keep the APS identifier stored in the APS structure and the offsets stored in the PPS association table smaller to save on the encoding. The PPS syntax according
 20 to this variant may be:

pic_parameter_set_rbsp() {	Descriptor
...	
if(rect_tile_group_flag) {	
signalled_tile_group_id_flag	u(1)
if(signalled_tile_group_id_flag) {	
signalled_tile_group_id_length_minus1	ue(v)
for(i = 0; i <= num_tile_groups_in_pic_minus1; i++)	
tile_group_id[i]	u(v)
}	
if(rect_tile_group_flag) {	
signalled_aps_id_offset_flag	u(1)
if(signalled_aps_id_offset_flag) {	
tile_group_aps_id_base	ue(v)
for(i = 0; i <= num_tile_groups_in_pic_minus1; i++)	
tile_group_aps_offset[i]	se(v)
}	

For example, the semantics of syntax elements are the following:

- signalled_aps_id_offset_flag equal to 1 specifies the presence of tile_group_aps_id_base and tile_group_aps_offset_id[i] in the PPS. signalled_aps_id_offset_flag equal to 0 specifies the absence of the tile_group_aps_id_base and tile_group_aps_offset_id[i] in the PPS.
- 5 – tile_group_aps_id_base is the base value of all the tile group APS identifiers. The range of tile_group_aps_id_base shall be in range of 0 to 31, inclusive.
- tile_group_aps_offset_id[i] specifies the tile group ID offset of the i-th tile group, when present. tile_group_aps_offset_id should be in range of -32 to 32. . When not present, the tile_group_aps_offset_id[i] is inferred equal to i, for each i in the
- 10 range of 0 to num_tile_group_in_pic_minus1 inclusive.

According to this embodiment, the APS contains an identifier field that is named adaptation_parameter_set_id_minus_base that is a signed integer. It corresponds to the original APS identifier as defined in the original bitstream the APS comes from at which

15 the aps_id_base has been removed. The descriptor encoding se(v) corresponds to a variable length encoding of a signed integer.

adaptation_parameter_set_rbsp() {	Descriptor
adaptation_parameter_set_id_minus_base	se(v)
alf_data()	
...	
}	

For example, the semantics of syntax elements are the following:

20 adaptation_parameter_set_id_minus_base provides an identifier for the APS for reference by other syntax elements. The value of adaptation_parameter_set_id_minus_base shall be in the range of -15 to +14, inclusive.

25 The semantics of some syntax elements of the tile group header is the following: tile_group_aps_id specifies the identifier of the APS in use.

The variable tileGroupOffsetIdx which specifies the index of the tile group APS offset identifier is derived as follows:

```

        if( rect_tile_group_flag ) {
30             tileGroupOffsetIdx = 0
    
```

```

        while( tile_group_address != tile_group_id[ tileGroupOffsetIdx ] )
            tileGroupOffsetIdx ++
    }
    else {
5        tileGroupOffsetIdx = 0;
    }

```

The APS in use is the APS NAL unit having adaptation_parameter_set_id_minus_base + tile_group_aps_id_base equal to

10 tile_group_aps_id_base + tile_group_aps_id + tile_group_aps_offset_id[tileGroupOffsetIdx].

The TemporalId of the APS NAL unit having adaptation_parameter_set_id_minus_base + tile_group_aps_id_base equal to tile_group_aps_id_base + tile_group_aps_id +

15 tile_group_aps_offset_id[tileGroupOffsetIdx] shall be less than or equal to the TemporalId of the coded tile group NAL unit.

When multiple APSs with the same value of adaptation_parameter_set_id_minus_base are referred to by two or more tile groups of the same picture, the multiple APSs with the same value of

20 adaptation_parameter_set_id_minus_base id shall have the same content.

According to another embodiment, the APS NAL unit syntax is modified in order to allow the APS to store several ALF parameter sets. The idea is to merge the APS from different bitstreams having the same APS identifier into a single APS in the resulting

25 bitstream having the same identifier and storing the sets of ALF parameters that were included into the original APS. An additional table is included in the resulting APS to indicate for each tile group referring this APS identifier, which set of ALF parameters must be used.

The syntax of the new APS may be as follows:

adaptation_parameter_set_rbsp() {	Descriptor
adaptation_parameter_set_id_offset	se(v)
extended_aps_flag	u(1)
if (extended_aps_flag) {	
aps_num_tile_group_signaled_minus1	ue(v)
for(i = 0; i < aps_num_tile_group_signaled_minus1; i++) {	
aps_tile_group_address[i]	u(v)
aps_tile_group_alf_idx[i]	ue(v)

}	
aps_num_alf_data_minus1	ue(v)
}	
for(i = 0; i < aps_num_alf_data; i++) {	
alf_data(i)	
}	
...	
}	

For example, the semantics of syntax elements are the following:

- 5 • extended_aps_flag equal to 1 specifies the presence of
aps_num_tile_group_signaled_minus1, aps_tile_group_address[i] and aps_tile_group_alf_idx[i]. extended_aps_flag equal to 0 specifies the absence of aps_num_tile_group_signaled_minus1, aps_tile_group_address[i] and aps_tile_group_alf_idx[i].
- 10 • aps_num_tile_group_signaled_minus1 plus 1 specifies the
number of aps_tile_group_address[i] and aps_tile_group_alf_idx[i] specified in the APS; aps_num_tile_group_signaled_minus1 shall be in the range of 0 to num_tile_group_in_pic_minus1, inclusive.
- 15 • aps_tile_group_address[i] specifies the tile group address of each
tile group signalled in the APS.
- 20 • In a variant, aps_tile_group_address[i] specifies the tile group
index of each tile group signalled in the APS. The range of aps_tile_group_address[i] shall be in range of 0 to num_tile_group_in_pic_minus1, inclusive.
- 25 • aps_tile_group_alf_idx[i] specifies the index of the set of ALF
parameters in the APS to be used for the tile group with a tile_group_address equal to aps_tile_group_address[i]. aps_tile_group_alf_idx[i] shall be in range of 0 to aps_num_alf_data_minus1, inclusive.
- In a variant, aps_tile_group_alf_idx[i] specifies the index of the set
of ALF parameters in the APS to be used for the tile group with a tile_group_index equal to aps_tile_group_address[i]. aps_tile_group_alf_idx[i] shall be in range of 0 to aps_num_alf_data_minus1, inclusive

- `aps_num_alf_data_minus1` specifies the number of ALF parameter sets specified in the APS.

The semantics of some syntax elements of the tile group header is the following:

5

The TemporalId of the APS NAL unit having
 $\text{adaptation_parameter_set_id_minus_base} + \text{tile_group_aps_id_base}$ equal to
 $\text{tile_group_aps_id_base} + \text{tile_group_aps_id} +$
 $\text{tile_group_aps_offset_id}[\text{tileGroupOffsetIdx}]$ shall be less than or equal to the

10 TemporalId of the coded tile group NAL unit.

When multiple APSs with the same value of
 $\text{adaptation_parameter_set_id_minus_base}$ are referred to by two or more tile groups of
the same picture, the multiple APSs with the same value of
 $\text{adaptation_parameter_set_id_minus_base}$ id shall have the same content.

15 **Figure 8** illustrates this embodiment. A first bitstream **800** comprises a tile group
3 referring an APS **810** containing a set of ALF parameters called ALF data 1. A second
bitstream **801** comprises a tile group 4 referring an APS **811** containing a set of ALF
parameters called ALF data 2. Both APS in the two bitstreams have the same APS
identifier with a value 0. The resulting bitstream **802** comprises both tile groups 3 and 4.
20 These tile groups still refer to an APS with an APS identifier with a value 0. This APS
820 with an APS identifier with a value 0 comprises two ALF parameter sets, namely
ALF data 1 and ALF data 2, indexed respectively 0 and 1. The APS also comprises a
table that associates the tile group 3 with the index 0 of the ALF parameter set ALF data
1. The tile group 4 is associated with the index 1 of the ALF parameters set ALF data 2.

25 Accordingly, the decoder is able to retrieve the APS from the APS identifier stored
in the tile group header and then to identify in the APS the ALF parameter set to be used
for filtering based on the tile group identifier. The merge process does not need to rewrite
the tile group NAL units or the PPS. All the mechanism implies only the APS.

30 **Figure 9** illustrates an embodiment where a plurality of APS can be associated
with a tile group. This may allow applying different ALF parameter sets to different coding
units within the tile group. A first bitstream **900** comprises a tile group 3 referring three
different APS **910** with respective APS ids 0, 1, and 2. A second bitstream **901** comprises
a tile group 4 referring three different APS **911** with respective APS ids 0, 2, and 3.

- When generating a resulting bitstream 902 comprising tile group 3, and 4, APS identifiers collisions may occur as it was the case with a single APS referred in a tile group. The previous embodiments described above to solve the APS identifier collisions may be applied successively to the plurality of APS referred in the tile groups. For
- 5 instance, an APS extension identifier may be used.

In a first embodiment of a tile group referring to a plurality of APS, assuming a fixed number of APS is provided, the syntax of the tile group header may be as follows:

tile_group_header() {	Descriptor
...	
if(sps_alf_enabled_flag) {	
tile_group_alf_enabled_flag	u(1)
if(tile_group_alf_enabled_flag)	
for(i = 0; i <= num_tile_group_aps_ids_minus1; i++) {	
tile_group_aps_id[i]	ue(v)
}	
}	
...	u(1)
}	

- In a second embodiment of a tile group referring to a plurality of APS, assuming
- 10 a variable number of APS is provided, the syntax of the tile group header may be as follows:

tile_group_header() {	Descriptor
...	
if(sps_alf_enabled_flag) {	
tile_group_alf_enabled_flag	u(1)
if(tile_group_alf_enabled_flag)	
num_tile_group_aps_id_minus1	
for(i = 0; i <= num_tile_group_aps_ids_minus1; i++) {	
tile_group_aps_id[i]	ue(v)
}	
}	
...	u(1)
}	

Figure 10 illustrates the main steps of an encoding process according to an embodiment of the invention.

- 15 The described encoding process concerns the encoding according to an embodiment of the invention of a single bitstream. The obtained encoded bitstream may

be used in a merging operation as described above as an original bitstream or as the resulting bitstream.

In a step **1000**, a tile portioning of the pictures is determined. For instance, the encoder defines the number of columns and rows so that each region of interest of the video is covered by at least one tile. In another example, the encoder is encoding an omnidirectional video where each tile corresponds to a predetermined field of view in the video. The tile partitioning of the picture according to a tile grid is typically represented in a parameter set NAL unit, for example a PPS according to the syntax presented in reference to **Figure 3**.

In a step **1001**, a set of tile groups are defined, each tile group comprising one or more tiles. In a particular embodiment, a tile group is defined for each tile of the picture. Advantageously, in order to avoid some VCL NAL unit rewriting in merge operation, a tile group identifier is defined for each tile group in the bitstream. The tile group identifiers are determined in order to be unique for the tile group. The unicity of the tile group identifiers may be defined at the level of a set of bitstreams comprising the bitstream currently encoded.

The number of bits used to encode the tile group identifier, corresponding to the length of the tile group identifier, is determined as a function of the number of tile groups in the encoded bitstream or as a function of a number of tile groups in a set of different bitstreams comprising the bitstream being currently encoded.

The length of the tile group identifier and the association of each tile group with an identifier is specifically specified in parameter set NAL unit as the PPS.

In a step **1002**, each tile group is associated to decoding context parameters and in particular to an APS when adaptive loop filtering is to be applied. The association comprises the insertion in the tile group header of an APS identifier. Then, the PPS is generated comprising for each tile group a second identification information. The APS is generated with an APS identifier based on both the APS identifier inserted in the tile group header and the second identification information associated with the tile group in the PPS. The second identification information may be an APS extension identifier or an offset to be added to the APS identifier.

In a variant, the APS is defined with a plurality of ALF parameter sets, an association table being inserted to associate a tile group with an index of an ALF parameter set within the APS. The second identification information is the index of the ALF data associated with the tile group.

In a step **1003**, the samples of each tile group are encoded according to the parameters defined in the different parameter sets. In particular, the encoding will be based on the ALF parameters in the APS associated with the tile group. A complete bitstream is generated comprising both the non-VCL NAL units corresponding to the different parameter sets and the VCL NAL units corresponding to the encoded data of the different tile groups.

In an embodiment, the encoding process defines sub-picture partitioning. When pictures are divided into sub-pictures, merging of parts of pictures from different video sequences are based on sub-pictures and not individual tile groups in these sub-pictures. Thus, a second identification information is defined at the level of the sub-picture and will apply to all the tile groups in this sub-picture. In such a case, the step **1000** includes a preliminary step of determination of sub-picture partitioning. Typically, the sub-picture location and size are made to cover a specific region of interests. Following this preliminary step, each sub-picture may be further divided into tiles as described previously in step **1001** applying to the sub-picture instead of the picture. In step **1002**, the association comprises the insertion in the tile group header of an APS identifier. In a variant, several APS identifiers are inserted, one for each loop filter. Then, the SPS is generated comprising for each sub-picture a second identification information. The APS is generated with an APS identifier based on both the APS identifier inserted in the tile group header and the second identification information associated with the Sub-picture of the tile group in the SPS. The second identification information may be an APS extension identifier or an offset to be added to the APS identifier.

Figure 11 illustrates the main steps of a decoding process according to an embodiment of the invention.

In a step **1100**, the decoder parses the bitstream in order to determine the tile partitioning of the picture, or of each sub-picture of the picture when present. This information is obtained from a parameter set, typically from the PPS NAL unit. The syntax elements of the PPS are parsed and decoded to determine the grid of tiles.

In a step **1101**, the decoder determines the tile group partitioning of the picture and in particular obtain the number of tile groups associated with an identification information of each tile group. This information is valid for at least one picture, but stay valid generally for many pictures. It may take the form of the tile group identifier that may be obtained from a parameter set as the PPS NAL unit as described in **Figures 6, 7, 8, and 9**.

In a variant, in a step **1101** the decoder determines the number of tile groups associated with an identification information of each sub-picture when present.

In a step **1102**, the decoder parses the bitstream to determine the APS identifier that is associated with each tile group. This is typically done by extracting an APS identification information from the tile group header and by combining this information with a second identification information associated with the tile group in a parameter set, typically in a PPS or SPS for example when sub-pictures are present. Based on both the APS identification information and the second identification information, an actual APS identifier is determined that allows the determination of an APS NAL unit associated with the tile group.

In an alternate embodiment, the decoder parses the tile group header to determine an APS identifier associated with the tile group. Then, the decoder parses the APS NAL unit to determine an ALF parameter set in the APS that is associated with the tile group identifier.

In a step **1103**, the decoder decodes the VCL NAL units corresponding to the tile groups according to the parameters determined in the previous steps. In particular, the decoding may include an adaptive loop filtering step with parameters obtained from the APS identified in the previous steps as being associated with the tile group.

Figure 12 illustrates the merge operation of two bitstreams stored in a file to form a resulting bitstream stored in a resulting file in an embodiment of the invention.

Figure 13 illustrates the main step of the merge process at file format level in an embodiment of the invention.

Figure 12 illustrates the merge of two ISO BMFF files **1200** and **1201** resulting in a new ISO BMFF file **1202** according to the method of **Figure 13**.

The encapsulation of the VVC streams consists in this embodiment in defining one tile track for each tile group of the stream and one tile base track for the NAL units common to the tile groups. It could also be possible to group more than one tile group for example as a sub-picture in one tile track. For example, the file **1200** contains two tile groups one with the identifier '1.1' and another one with identifier '1.2'. The samples corresponding to each tile group '1.1' and '1.2' are described respectively in one tile track similarly to tile tracks in ISO/IEC 14496-15. While initially designed for HEVC, the VVC tile groups could be encapsulated in tile tracks. This VVC tile track could be differentiated from HEVC tile track by defining a new sample entry for instance 'vvt1' instead of 'hvt1'. Similarly, a tile base track for HEVC is extended to support VVC format. This VVC tile base track could be differentiated from HEVC tile base track by defining a different

sample entry. The VVC tile base track describes NAL units common to the two tile groups. Typically, it contains mainly non-VCL NAL unit such as the Parameter Sets and the SEI NAL units. For example, it can be one of the Parameters Sets NAL units.

First, the merging method consists in determining in step **1300** the set of tile
5 tracks from the two streams to be merged in a single bitstream. For instance, it corresponds to the tile tracks of the tile group with the identifier '2.1' of **1201** file and of the tile group with identifier '1.2' of the file **1200**.

Then the method in a step **1301** determines the new decoding locations of the tile groups and generates new Parameter Sets NAL units (i.e., SPS or PPS and APS) to
10 describe these new decoding locations in the resulting stream accordingly to the embodiments described above. Since all the modifications consist in modifying only the non-VCL NAL units, it is equivalent to generating in a step **1302** a new Tile Base Track. The samples of the original tile tracks corresponding to the extracted tile groups remain identical. The 'tile tracks of the file 1202 reference the tile base tracks with a track
15 reference type set to 'tbas'. The tile base track references as well the tile tracks with a track reference type set to 'sbat'.

The advantage of this method is that combining two streams consists mainly in generating a new tile base track and update the track reference boxes and copying as is the tile tracks samples corresponding to the selected tile groups. The processing is
20 simplified since rewriting process of the tile tracks samples is avoided compared to prior art.

According to an embodiment of the invention, the video sequence includes sub-pictures. The APS identifier that is based on the original bitstream from which the APS
25 and associated tile groups are issued forms a first identification information. It is completed with a second identification information. In this embodiment, each APS comprises the APS identifier and this second identification information, each tile group comprises only the APS identifier while the SPS, the PPS, or another parameter set, comprises for each sub-picture, the second identification information.

30 According to this embodiment, the merge operation comprises the insertion of the second identification information in each APS based on the original bitstream it comes from and the insertion in the SPS of the second identification information associated with each sub-picture. The tile group NAL unit is not modified, and the tile group header keeps its APS identifier.

At decoding, when decoding a tile group, the decoder needs to identify the right APS corresponding to the tile group. This is done by obtaining the APS identifier from the tile group header. Then the second identification information associated with this tile group is obtained from the SPS. The second identification information is associated with the sub-picture, which the tile group is belonging to. The right APS is then identified by both the APS identifier and the second identification information. It must be noted that collisions are solved as, even in case of APS identifier collision, as both APS come from two different original bitstreams, the associated second identification information is different, meaning that the identification based on both the APS identifier and the second identification information correctly identify the right APS. This solution does not imply the rewriting of the tile group header, thus simplifying the merging operation.

Figure 14 illustrates this embodiment similarly to Figure 6. The sub-pictures of the two bitstreams **1400** and **1401** are combined to form a new bitstream **1402**. The tile groups of sub-picture #3 of the bitstream **1400** use a first APS NAL unit **1410**, which as the same identifier value as the APS **1411** associated with the tile groups of sub-picture #4 of the second bitstream **1401**. As a result, the APS **1410** and **1411** are rewritten as new APS **1420** and **1421** in the new bitstream to include extension identifiers. In addition, the SPS specifies one extension identifier associated with each sub-picture with identifier equal to 3 and 4. The merged bitstream **1402** includes the tile groups of the sub-picture #3 (resp. #4) that rely on the extension identifier defined in the SPS **1430** that is associated with the sub-picture defined in the tile group header to determine the APS that is activated. As a result, a decoder can determine the APS to use when decoding the tile groups of both sub-picture without need to rewrite the tile group headers. While this example illustrates a case where all tile groups of a given sub-picture use the same APS, this may not be the case and each tile group may refer to a different APS.

For example, the Sequence Parameter Sets may include the following syntax elements:

seq_parameter_set_rbsp() {	Descriptor
sps_max_sub_layers_minus1	u(3)
sps_reserved_zero_5bits	u(5)
profile_tier_level(sps_max_sub_layers_minus1)	
[...]	
num_sub_pics_minus1	ue(v)
sub_pic_id_len_minus1	ue(v)
if(num_sub_pics_minus1 > 0)	

signalled_aps_id_extension_flag	u(1)
for (i = 0; i <= num_sub_pics_minus1; i++) {	
sub_pic_id[i]	u(v)
if (signalled_aps_id_extension_flag) {	
sub_pic_aps_extension_id[i]	u(v)
}	
if(num_sub_pics_minus1 > 0) {	
sub_pic_treated_as_pic_flag[i]	u(1)
sub_pic_x_offset[i]	ue(v)
sub_pic_y_offset[i]	ue(v)
sub_pic_width_in_luma_samples[i]	ue(v)
sub_pic_height_in_luma_samples[i]	ue(v)
}	
}	
[...]	

15

For example, the semantics of some of the syntax elements of the PPS is the following:

- 20 – signalled_aps_id_extension_flag equal to 1 specifies the presence of sub_pic_aps_extension_id [i] in the SPS. signalled_aps_id_extension_flag equal to 0 specifies the absence of the sub_pic_aps_extension_id [i] in the SPS.
- 25 – sub_pic_aps_extension_id [i] specifies the sub-picture extension ID of the i-th sub-picture, when present. When not present, the sub_pic_aps_extension_id [i] is inferred equal to 0, for each i in the range of 0 to num_sub_pics_minus1 inclusive. The length in bits of this syntax element is for example a fix length of 5 bits. In a variant, the length of the syntax element is encoded in one of the parameters sets NAL units such as the SPS, the VPS or the DPS. In a second variant, Exp-Golomb encoding is used.

- 30 In a first example of this embodiment, the second identification information is implemented as an APS extension identifier. The syntax of the APS can be, for example:

adaptation_parameter_set_rbsp() {	Descriptor
adaptation_parameter_set_id	u(5)

aps_id_extension_flag	u(1)
if(aps_id_extension_flag) {	
aps_extension_id	u(5)
alf_data()	
...	
}	

The presence of the APS extension identifier in the APS is signalled using a flag, for example named `aps_id_extension_flag`, encoded on one bit. The APS extension identifier, for example called `aps_extension_id`, is encoded on a fixed length for example 5 bits. In a variant, the encoding length in bits is signalled in one of the Parameters Set NAL unit, for instance, the SPS or the PPS. In the table above, the coding method (descriptor column) is `u(v)` for `aps_extension_id`. In yet another variant, when `aps_id_extension_flag` equals 1, the `aps_extension_id` flag is preceded by an `aps_extension_length` syntax element that specifies the length in bits of `aps_extension_id`. In another variant, Exp-Golomb coding is used and the new syntax element (`aps_extension_id`) is encoded for instance using `ue(v)` coding method.

For example, the semantics of syntax elements may be the following:

- `adaptation_parameter_set_id` provides an identifier for the APS for reference by other syntax elements. The value of `adaptation_parameter_set_id` shall be in the range of 0 to 31.
- `aps_id_extension_flag` equal to 1 specifies the presence of `aps_extension_id` in the APS. `aps_extension_flag` equal to 0 specifies the absence of the `aps_extension_id`.
- `aps_extension_id` when present, provides extended identifier for reference by other syntax elements. The value of `aps_extension_id` shall be in the range of 0 to 31. When not present the value of `aps_extension_id` is inferred to be equal 0.

The syntax of the PPS is not modified.

The syntax of the tile group header remains unchanged. The semantics of some syntax elements of the tile group header is the following:

`tile_group_aps_id` specifies the identifier of the APS in use.

The APS in use is the APS NAL unit having `adaptation_parameter_set_id` equal to `tile_group_aps_id` and the `aps_extension_id` equal to `sub_pic_aps_extension_id` [`SubPicIdx`[`tile_group_sub_pic_id`]].

The `TemporalId` of the APS NAL unit having `adaptation_parameter_set_id` equal to `tile_group_aps_id` and the `aps_extension_id` equal to `sub_pic_aps_extension_id`

[SubPicIdx[tile_group_sub_pic_id]] shall be less than or equal to the TemporalId of the coded tile group NAL unit.

When multiple APSs with the same value of adaptation_parameter_set_id and aps_extension_id are referred to by two or more tile groups of the same picture, the multiple APSs with the same value of adaptation_parameter_set_id and aps_extension_id shall have the same content.

Any embodiment described previously for tile group also applies for sub-picture by defining the second identification information described in PPS in the SPS: the second identification information is associated to one sub-picture identifier instead of one tile group identifier. The second identification information applies for each tile groups that signalled a sub-picture identifier equal to the sub-picture identifier associated with the second identification information.

In a variant, the presence of the extension identifiers in the Parameter Sets (e.g., PPS or SPS) is defined in a top-level parameter set NAL unit such as the VPS or the DPS. For example, the flag signalled_aps_id_extension_flag of the PPS or SPS (when sub-pictures are present) and the aps_id_extension_flag of the APS are not coded. The presence of the aps_extension_id of the APS and the tile_group_aps_extension_id[i] or sub_pic_aps_extension_id[i] depend on the flag defined in the top-level parameter set NAL Unit.

In some embodiments, sub-pictures are divided into slices instead of tile groups. Slices comprises the notion of tile groups with the addition that slices may also correspond to a sub part of a tile, namely a number of lines of CTU within a tile. In other words, a picture is divided into picture portion corresponding to sub-pictures. Sub-pictures are divided into sub-portions that correspond to slices. As slices cover the notion of tile groups, the picture sub-portions may also correspond to tile groups. In some embodiments, where the extension id is associated with sub-pictures, the extension identifiers associated with each sub-picture may be defined in the SPS (Sequence Parameter Set) that provides the sub-picture definitions. In some embodiments they may be defined in the PPS or in the picture header. Picture header is a non-VCL NAL units comprising syntax element applying to all slices of a picture. In some embodiments, the extension identifiers are searched, in this order, in the SPS, the PPS and the picture header. If not found, it takes the default value zero.

The SPS, the PPS, like the other parameter sets and the Picture Header are Non-VCL NAL units, they are parameter logical units.

According to one embodiment, the SPS may take the following exemplary syntax for defining the APS extension identifiers:

	Descriptor
seq_parameter_set_rbsp() {	
sps_decoding_parameter_set_id	u(4)
sps_video_parameter_set_id	u(4)
[...]	
pic_width_max_in_luma_samples	ue(v)
pic_height_max_in_luma_samples	ue(v)
sps_log2_ctu_size_minus5	u(2)
subpics_present_flag	u(1)
if(subpics_present_flag) {	
sps_num_subpics_minus1	u(8)
for(i = 0; i <= sps_num_subpics_minus1; i++) {	
subpic_ctu_top_left_x[i]	u(v)
subpic_ctu_top_left_y[i]	u(v)
subpic_width_minus1[i]	u(v)
subpic_height_minus1[i]	u(v)
subpic_treated_as_pic_flag[i]	u(1)
loop_filter_across_subpic_enabled_flag[i]	u(1)
}	
}	
sps_subpic_id_present_flag	u(1)
if(sps_subpics_id_present_flag) {	
sps_subpic_id_signalling_present_flag	u(1)
if(sps_subpics_id_signalling_present_flag) {	
sps_subpic_id_len_minus1	ue(v)
for(i = 0; i <= sps_num_subpics_minus1; i++)	
sps_subpic_id[i]	u(v)
}	
}	
sps_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag	u(1)
if(sps_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag) {	
for(i = 0; i <= sps_num_subpics_minus1; i++)	
sps_subpic_signalled_aps_extension_id_flag[i]	u(1)
if(sps_subpic_signalled_aps_extension_id_flag[i])	
sps_subpic_aps_extension_id[i]	u(7)
}	
}	
[...]	

5

In this example, the introduced syntax element may have the following semantic:

sps_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag equal to 1 specifies that APS extension ID is present in the SPS. **sps_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag** equal to 0 specifies the absence of the APS extension ID in the SPS.

sps_subpic_signalled_aps_extension_id_flag[i] equal to 1 specifies the presence of **sps_subpic_signalled_aps_extension_id[i]** for the i-th sub-picture in the SPS. **sps_subpic_signalled_aps_extension_id_flag[i]** equal to 0 specifies the absence of the **sps_subpic_signalled_aps_extension_id[i]** in the SPS for the i-th sub-picture.

sps_subpic_aps_extension_id[i] specifies the extension ID of the i-th sub-picture for APS, when present. When not present, the **sps_subpic_aps_extension_id[i]** is inferred equal to 0, for each i in the range of 0 to **sps_num_subpics_minus1** (which is the number of sub-pictures minus 1 as specified in the SPS) inclusive. In a variant, the syntax the length of this syntax element is specified in a syntax element (e.g. **sps_subpic_extension_id_length**) specified in the same NAL unit (typically prior to the for loop on each sub-picture. The coding descriptor of the **sps_subpic_aps_extension_id[i]** is then u(v). This allows to avoid wasting bits to signal for instance four extension IDs values. In this example, the length in bits specified by **sps_subpic_extension_id_length** is equal to 2 bits. In another alternative, the length of the extension ID is limited to a single bit. Extension ID can then be considered as a flag indicating whether the sub-picture refers to an APS with a conflicted APS ID. In another variant the syntax element is coded using variable length encoding such as ue(v).

According to one embodiment, the PPS may take the following exemplary syntax for defining the APS extension identifiers:

pic_parameter_set_rbsp() {	Descriptor
pps_pic_parameter_set_id	ue(v)
pps_seq_parameter_set_id	u(4)
[...]	
pps_subpic_id_signalling_present_flag	u(1)
pps_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag	u(1)
if(pps_subpic_id_signalling_present_flag pps_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag)	u(1)
pps_num_subpics_minus1	ue(v)
if(pps_subpics_id_signalling_present_flag) {	
pps_subpic_id_len_minus1	ue(v)
for(i = 0; i <= pps_num_subpic_minus1; i++)	
pps_subpic_id[i]	u(v)
}	
if(pps_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag) {	
for(i = 0; i <= pps_num_subpics_minus1; i++)	
pps_subpic_signalled_aps_extension_id_flag[i]	u(1)

if(pps_subpic_signalled_aps_extension_id_flag[i])	
pps_subpic_aps_extension_id[i]	u(7)
}	
}	

In this example, the introduced syntax element may have the following semantic:

pps_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag equal to 1 specifies that APS extension ID is present in the PPS. pps_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag equal to 0 specifies the absence of the APS extension ID in the PPS. When
5 sps_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag is 1, pps_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag shall be equal to 0.

pps_subpic_signalled_aps_extension_id_flag[i] equal to 1 specifies the presence of pps_subpic_aps_extension_id[i] for the i-th sub-picture in the PPS.
10 pps_subpic_signalled_aps_extension_id_flag[i] equal to 0 specifies the absence of the pps_subpic_aps_extension_id[i] in the PPS for the i-th sub-picture.

pps_subpic_aps_extension_id[i] specifies the extension ID of the i-th sub-picture for APS, when present. When not present, the pps_subpic_aps_extension_id[i] is inferred equal to 0, for each i in the range of 0 to pps_num_subpics_minus1 inclusive.
15 In a variant, the syntax the length of this syntax element is specified in a syntax element (e.g. pps_subpic_extension_id_length) specified in the same NAL unit (typically prior to the “for” loop on each sub-picture. The coding descriptor of the pps_subpic_aps_extension_id[i] is then u(v). This allows to avoid wasting bits to signal for instance four extension IDs values. In this example, the length in bits specified by
20 pps_subpic_extension_id_length is equal to 2 bits. In another alternative, the length of the extension ID is limited to a single bit. Extension ID can then be considered as a flag indicating whether the sub-picture refers to an APS with a conflicted APS ID. In another variant the syntax element is coded using variable length encoding such as ue(v).

According to one embodiment, the Picture Header NAL unit is a syntax structure
25 containing syntax elements that apply to all slices of a coded picture. It may take the following exemplary syntax for defining the APS extension identifiers:

picture_header_rbsp() {	Descriptor
non_reference_picture_flag	u(1)
[...]	
if(sps_subpic_id_present_flag && !sps_subpic_id_signalling_flag) {	
ph_subpic_id_signalling_present_flag	u(1)
if(ph_subpics_id_signalling_present_flag) {	
ph_subpic_id_len_minus1	ue(v)

for(i = 0; i <= sps_num_subpics_minus1; i++)	
ph_subpic_id[i]	u(v)
}	
}	
if(!sps_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag) {	
ph_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag	u(1)
if(ph_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag)	
for(i = 0; i <= pps_num_subpics_minus1; i++) {	
ph_subpic_signalled_aps_extension_id_flag[i]	u(1)
if(ph_subpic_signalled_aps_extension_id_flag[i])	
ph_subpic_aps_extension_id[i]	u(7)
}	
}	

In this example, the introduced syntax elements may have the following semantic:

ph_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag equal to 1 specifies that APS extension ID is present in the PH. **ph_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag** equal to 0 specifies the absence of the APS extension ID in the PH (Picture Header). When
5 **sps_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag** is 1 **ph_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag** shall be equal to 0.

ph_subpic_signalled_aps_extension_id_flag[i] equal to 1 specifies the presence of **ph_subpic_aps_extension_id[i]** for the i-th sub-picture in the PH.
10 **ph_subpic_signalled_aps_extension_id_flag[i]** equal to 0 specifies the absence of the **ph_subpic_aps_extension_id[i]** in the PH for the i-th sub-picture.

ph_subpic_aps_extension_id[i] specifies the extension ID of the i-th sub-picture for APS, when present. When not present, the **ph_subpic_aps_extension_id[i]** is inferred equal to 0, for each i in the range of 0 to **ph_num_subpics_minus1** inclusive.

15 In one embodiment, the list **SubpicAPSExtensionIdList[i]**, containing the extension identifiers for each sub-picture, is derived as follows:

for(i = 0; i <= sps_num_subpics_minus1; i++)

SubpicAPSExtensionIdList[i] = sps_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag ?
sps_subpic_aps_extension_id[i] : (ph_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag ?
20 ph_subpic_aps_extension_id[i] : (pps_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag ?
pps_subpic_aps_extension_id[i] : 0))

In a variant, the syntax the length of this syntax element is specified in a syntax element (e.g. `ph_subpic_extension_id_length`) specified in the same NAL unit (typically prior to the for loop on each sub-picture. The coding descriptor of the `ph_subpic_aps_extension_id[ i ]` is then `u(v)`. This allows to avoid wasting bits to signal for instance four extension IDs values. In this example, the length in bits specified by `ph_subpic_extension_id_length` is equal to 2 bits. In another alternative, the length of the extension ID is limited to a single bit. Extension ID can then be considered as a flag indicating whether the sub-picture refers to an APS with a conflicted APS ID. In another variant the syntax element is coded using variable length encoding such as `ue(v)`.

No modification of the slice header syntax is contemplated. The presence of the APS identifiers when combined with the APS extension identifier obtained from the PPS allows determining the right APS in all configurations.

In current VVC specification, the APS id shall be the same for all slices of a picture for LMCS and Scaling lists. As a result, the extension identifier is used only for ALF parameters.

The semantics of some syntax elements of the slice header may be updated as follows:

`slice_alf_aps_id_luma[ i ]` specifies the `adaptation_parameter_set_id` of the *i*-th ALF APS that the luma component of the slice refers to.

The *i*-th ALF APS that the slice refers to is the APS NAL unit having `adaptation_parameter_set_id` equal to `slice_alf_aps_id_luma[ i ]` and having the `aps_extension_id` equal to `SubpicAPSExtensionIdList[ SubPicIdx ]`.

The `TemporalId` of the APS NAL unit having `aps_params_type` equal to `ALF_APS` `adaptation_parameter_set_id` equal to `slice_alf_aps_id_luma[ i ]` and the `aps_extension_id` equal to `SubpicAPSExtensionIdList[ SubPicIdx ]` shall be less than or equal to the `TemporalId` of the coded slice NAL unit.

When `slice_alf_enabled_flag` is equal to 1 and `slice_alf_aps_id_luma[ i ]` is not present, the value of `slice_alf_aps_id_luma[ i ]` is inferred to be equal to the value of `pic_alf_aps_id_luma[ i ]`

The semantics for **`slice_alf_chroma_idc`** remains unchanged compared to VVC specification.

`slice_alf_aps_id_chroma` specifies the `adaptation_parameter_set_id` of the ALF APS that the chroma component of the slice refers to.

The APS that the slice refers to is the APS NAL unit having adaptation_parameter_set_id equal to slice_alf_aps_id_chroma and having the aps_extension_id equal to SubpicAPSExtensionIdList[SubPicIdx].

The TemporalId of the APS NAL unit having aps_params_type equal to ALF_APS
 5 adaptation_parameter_set_id equal to slice_alf_aps_id_chroma and the
 aps_extension_id equal to SubpicAPSExtensionIdList[SubPicIdx] shall be less than or
 equal to the TemporalId of the coded slice NAL unit.

When slice_alf_enabled_flag is equal to 1 and slice_alf_aps_id_chroma is not
 present, the value of slice_alf_aps_id_chroma is inferred to be equal to the value of
 10 pic_alf_aps_id_chroma.

The semantic of some Picture Header element may be updated as follows:

pic_alf_aps_id_luma[i] specifies the adaptation_parameter_set_id of the i-th
 ALF APS that the luma component of the slices associated with the PH refers to.

The i-th ALF APS that the slice associated with the PH refers to is the APS NAL
 15 unit having adaptation_parameter_set_id equal to pic_alf_aps_id_luma[i] and having
 the aps_extension_id equal to SubpicAPSExtensionIdList[SubPicIdx].

The value of alf_luma_filter_signal_flag of the APS NAL unit having
 aps_params_type equal to ALF_APS, adaptation_parameter_set_id equal to
 pic_alf_aps_id_luma[i] and having the aps_extension_id equal to
 20 SubpicAPSExtensionIdList[SubPicIdx] shall be equal to 1.

The semantics for **pic_alf_chroma_idc** remains unchanged compared to the
 VVC specification.

pic_alf_aps_id_chroma specifies the adaptation_parameter_set_id of the ALF
 APS that the chroma component of the slices associated with the PH refers to.

25 The ALF APS that the slice associated with the PH refers to is the APS NAL unit
 having adaptation_parameter_set_id equal to pic_alf_aps_id_chroma and having the
 aps_extension_id equal to SubpicAPSExtensionIdList[SubPicIdx].

The value of alf_chroma_filter_signal_flag of the APS NAL unit having
 aps_params_type equal to ALF_APS, adaptation_parameter_set_id equal to
 30 pic_alf_aps_id_chroma and having the aps_extension_id equal to
 SubpicAPSExtensionIdList[SubPicIdx] shall be equal to 1.

In one embodiment, the length in bits of sps_subpic_aps_extension_id[i],
 pps_subpic_aps_extension_id[i] and ph_subpic_aps_extension_id[i], shall be the

same as the length in bits of `aps_extension_id`. For example, when equal to 7, the APS may have the following syntax element:

<code>adaptation_parameter_set_rbsp() {</code>	Descriptor
<code> adaptation_parameter_set_id</code>	<code>u(5)</code>
<code> aps_params_type</code>	<code>u(3)</code>
<code> aps_id_extension_flag</code>	<code>u(1)</code>
<code> if(aps_id_extension_flag) {</code>	
<code> aps_extension_id</code>	<code>u(7)</code>
<code> if(aps_params_type == ALF_APS)</code>	
<code> alf_data()</code>	
<code> else if(aps_params_type == LMCS_APS)</code>	
<code> lmcs_data()</code>	
<code> else if(aps_params_type == SCALING_APS)</code>	
<code> scaling_list_data()</code>	
<code> aps_extension_flag</code>	<code>u(1)</code>
<code> if(aps_extension_flag)</code>	
<code> while(more_rbsp_data())</code>	
<code> aps_extension_data_flag</code>	<code>u(1)</code>
<code> rbsp_trailing_bits()</code>	
<code> }</code>	

With the following semantics for the syntax elements related to the extension id:

- aps_id_extension_flag** equal to 1 specifies the presence of `aps_extension_id` in the APS. `aps_extension_flag` equal to 0 specifies the absence of the `aps_extension_id`.

- aps_extension_id** when present, provides extended identifier for the APS to use as reference by other syntax elements. The value of `aps_extension_id` shall be in the range of 0 to 127. When not present, the value of `aps_extension_id` is inferred to be equal 0.

- In a variant, the extension ID length is reduced to a single bit and thus is equivalent to a flag. The `sps_subpic_aps_extension_id[ i ]`, `pps_subpic_aps_extension_id[ i ]` and `ph_subpic_aps_extension_id[ i ]`, syntax elements are replaced by a flag. For example, `sps_conflicting_aps_flag` when in the SPS, `pps_conflicting_aps_flag` when in PPS, `aps_conflicting_aps_flag` in Picture Header. In this particular case, the flags that control the presence of the extension ID in the SPS, PPS or Picture Header are removed. In this case, both the `aps_id_extension_flag` and `aps_extension_id` are replaced by a flag for example `aps_id_conflicted_flag` with a value that corresponds to the extension ID flag value associated with the sub-picture. As a result, the number of bits used to indicate extension ID is reduced to the minimal number

of bits which improves the coding efficiency of the extension ID information and thus reduces the size of the compressed video sequence.

In yet another alternative, the `aps_conflicting_aps_flag` flag in the APS NAL unit is encoded as new type of the APS NAL unit. For example, `aps_conflicting_aps_flag` is
5 inferred equal to 0 when `aps_params_type` is `CONFLICTING_APS` (e.g., coded as 3) value. Optionally, when the `aps_params_type` is `CONFLICTING_APS`, the APS may include several sets of APS filter parameters values that are associated to one or more sub-picture indexes. As a result, a slice that belongs to a sub-picture for which one of the `sps_conflicting_aps_flag`, or `pps_conflicting_aps_flag` or `aps_conflicting_aps_flag` is
10 equal to 1, refers to the APS NAL units with a `CONFLICTING_APS` type value and with the APS parameter set id equal to the one specified in the slice header. When the APS contains several sets of APS filter parameters, the decoder determines the APS filter parameters which are associated with the sub-picture index of the slice. As a result, a single APS can contain all the APS filter parameters that had a conflicting APS identifier
15 instead of multiple APS NAL units which simplifies the detection of the APS identifiers with conflicting parameters on the decoder.

In a variant, the extension identifier of the APS is derived from specific bits of the APS parameter set identifier syntax element specified in the APS. This variant offers the advantage to reduce the number of bits added in each APS, which improve compression
20 of the bitstream.

This may happen, when the range of allowed IDs for a parameter set of a given type of APS represents a subrange of the range that can be represented by the syntax element. For example, the VVC Draft 7 specification limits the range of APS identifiers from 0 to 7, inclusive for ALF APS. However, the length in bits of the extension identifier
25 in the APS is equal to 7 bits. As a result, only the 3 least significant bits (LSB) of the extension identifier are used to indicate the APS identifier. Therefore, in this variant the extension identifier is derived from the most significant bits of the extension identifier value of the APS identifier (`adaptation_parameter_set_id`). For example, the extension identifier is the result of an arithmetic right shift operation of the two's complement integer representation of the syntax element specified in the APS coding the APS ID (e.g.
30 `adaptation_parameter_set_id`) by a predetermined number of binary digits. For example, the number of binary digits corresponds to the number of bits not used for specifying any identifiers in the allowed range values.

The value of the identifier of the APS is also derived from the APS identifier syntax
35 element (`adaptation_parameter_set_id`). For example, it is the result of a bit-wise AND

operation between the two's complement integer representation adaptation_parameter_set_id and a binary mask which digits may be equal to 1 for the bits specifying value inside the allowed range of APS ids and equal to 0 for the other bits of the binary mask.

5

For example, when the identifier of ALF APS is allowed to be in the range from 0 to 7 inclusive, and the length in bits of adaptation_parameter_set_id is equal to 5, the variable apsId specifying the APS Id of the ALF APS and the variable apsExtId specifying the extension id of the ALF APS may be derived as follows:

- 10 – if sps_subpic_aps_extension_id_enabled_flag equals 0, apsId is equal to adaptation_parameter_set_id and apsExtId is equal to 0.
- otherwise, apsId and apsExtId are derived as follows:

apsId = adaptation_parameter_set_id & 0x07

apsExtId = adaptation_parameter_set_id >> 3

15

Wherein sps_subpic_aps_extension_id_enabled_flag is a flag present in the SPS which indicates if the adaptation_parameter_set_id syntax element includes information for deriving the APS extension ID. The presence of the extension ID in the SPS or in the PPS may be conditional to the value of this flag.

- 20 In a variant, the flag is present in another Parameter Set NAL unit such as the VPS so that it applies to all SPS that refers to this VPS which reduces the number of flag to transmit in SPS.

For example, the semantics of this syntax element may be the following:

- sps_subpic_aps_extension_id_enabled_flag** equal to 1 specifies that APS extension ID is present either in the SPS or in the PPS that refers to the SPS.
- 25 sps_subpic_aps_extension_id_enabled_flag equal to 0 specifies the absence of the APS extension ID in the SPS and in the PPS that refers to the SPS.

- It is a requirement of the bitstream that pps_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag equals 0 when sps_subpic_aps_extension_id_enabled_flag is equal to 1. It is a
- 30 requirement of the bitstream that sps_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag is absent when sps_subpic_aps_extension_id_enabled_flag is equal to 1. When not present, sps_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag is inferred to be equal to 0.

For example, the SPS syntax may include the following syntax elements:

seq_parameter_set_rbsp() {	Descriptor
-----------------------------	------------

[...]	
sps_subpic_aps_extension_id_enabled_flag	u(1)
if (sps_subpic_aps_extension_id_enabled_flag) {	
sps_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag	u(1)
if(sps_subpic_aps_extension_id_present_flag) {	
for(i = 0; i <= sps_num_subpics_minus1; i++)	
sps_subpic_signalled_aps_extension_id_flag[i]	u(1)
if(sps_subpic_signalled_aps_extension_id_flag[i])	
sps_subpic_aps_extension_id[i]	u(2)
}	
}	
}	
[...]	
}	

The `apsId` variable is equal to the result of a bit-wise AND operation (&) between the `adaptation_parameter_set_id` syntax element (providing the APS identifier) and the binary mask 0x07 in hexadecimal representation. The `apsExtId` variable is equal to the result of the arithmetic right shift operation (>>) of the two's complement integer representation of `adaptation_parameter_set_id` by 3 binary digits.

Based on the `apsId` and `apsExtId` variables, the slice and/or picture headers may refer to an APS using the following semantics for their syntax elements:

10 **slice_alf_aps_id_luma[i]** specifies the `apsId` of the *i*-th ALF APS that the luma component of the slice refers to.

The *i*-th ALF APS that the slice refers to is the APS NAL unit having the `apsId` equal to `slice_alf_aps_id_luma[ i ]` and having the `apsExtId` equal to `SubpicAPSExtensionIdList[ SubPicIdx ]`.

The `TemporalId` of the APS NAL unit having `aps_params_type` equal to `ALF_APS`, having the `apsId` equal to `slice_alf_aps_id_luma[ i ]` and having the `apsExtId` equal to `SubpicAPSExtensionIdList[ SubPicIdx ]` may be less than or equal to the `TemporalId` of the coded slice NAL unit.

When `slice_alf_enabled_flag` is equal to 1 and `slice_alf_aps_id_luma[ i ]` is not present, the value of `slice_alf_aps_id_luma[ i ]` is inferred to be equal to the value of `pic_alf_aps_id_luma[i]`

slice_alf_aps_id_chroma specifies the apsid of the ALF APS that the chroma component of the slice refers to.

The APS that the slice refers to is the APS NAL unit having the apsid equal to slice_alf_aps_id_chroma and having the apsExtId equal to
5 SubpicAPSExtensionIdList[SubPicIdx].

The TemporalId of the APS NAL unit having aps_params_type equal to ALF_APS,—apsid equal to slice_alf_aps_id_chroma and apsExtId equal to SubpicAPSExtensionIdList[SubPicIdx] may be less than or equal to the TemporalId of the coded slice NAL unit.

10

pic_alf_aps_id_luma[i] specifies the apsid of the i-th ALF APS that the luma component of the slices associated with the PH refers to.

The i-th ALF APS that the slice associated with the PH refers to is the APS NAL unit having apsid equal to pic_alf_aps_id_luma[i] and having the apsExtId equal to
15 SubpicAPSExtensionIdList[SubPicIdx].

The value of alf_luma_filter_signal_flag of the APS NAL unit having aps_params_type equal to ALF_APS, having apsid equal to pic_alf_aps_id_luma[i] and having the apsExtId equal to SubpicAPSExtensionIdList[SubPicIdx] shall be equal to 1.

pic_alf_aps_id_chroma specifies the adaptation_parameter_set_id of the ALF
20 APS that the chroma component of the slices associated with the PH refers to.

The ALF APS that the slice associated with the PH refers to is the APS NAL unit having apsid equal to pic_alf_aps_id_chroma and having the apsExtId equal to SubpicAPSExtensionIdList[SubPicIdx].

25 The value of alf_chroma_filter_signal_flag of the APS NAL unit having aps_params_type equal to ALF_APS, apsid equal to pic_alf_aps_id_chroma and having the apsExtId equal to SubpicAPSExtensionIdList[SubPicIdx] may be equal to 1. This variant is illustrated with an example using 7 bits for the adaptation_parameter_set_id syntax element with 3 used bits and 4 available bits used for an aps extension identifier.
30 However, the invention works whatever the number of bits N used to encode the adaptation_parameter_set_id. Let us M be the bits which are used for the value range, then N-M bits could be used for the aps extension identifier.

In another embodiment, the second identification information is used for another
35 Parameter Set type typically the PPS. For example, a bitstream contains at least two

sub-pictures with different tile grids. Since the tile grid is specified in the PPS, the number of activated PPS for each picture may be high. As a result, when merging different bitstreams there is a high risk of having two PPS with different coding parameters but same PPS identifiers. The merging process would also have to rewrite the PPS identifiers and modify the tile group headers to replace the value of the identifier of PPS that applies to the tile group with the new rewritten value.

Similarly, to the APS, the PPS may include an extension identifier to resolve PPS identifiers collision. When decoding a tile group, the decoder activates the PPS that has an identifier (for example, picture_parameter_set_id) equal to the value of tile_group_pic_parameter_set_id identifier and an extension identifier (for example pps_extension_id) equal to the extension identifier (for example sub_pic_ps_extension_id[i]) associated with the sub-picture of the tile group typically in the SPS NAL unit.

For example, the Sequence Parameters Set includes the following syntax elements:

seq_parameter_set_rbsp() {	Descriptor
sps_max_sub_layers_minus1	u(3)
sps_reserved_zero_5bits	u(5)
profile_tier_level(sps_max_sub_layers_minus1)	
[...]	
num_sub_pics_minus1	ue(v)
sub_pic_id_len_minus1	ue(v)
if(num_sub_pics_minus1 > 0)	
signalled_ps_id_extension_flag	u(1)
for (i = 0; i <= num_sub_pics_minus1; i++) {	
sub_pic_id[i]	u(v)
if (signalled_ps_id_extension_flag) {	
sub_pic_ps_extension_id[i]	u(v)
}	
if(num_sub_pics_minus1 > 0) {	
sub_pic_treated_as_pic_flag[i]	u(1)
sub_pic_x_offset[i]	ue(v)
sub_pic_y_offset[i]	ue(v)
sub_pic_width_in_luma_samples[i]	ue(v)
sub_pic_height_in_luma_samples[i]	ue(v)
}	
}	
[...]	

For example, the semantics of some of the syntax elements of the PPS is the following:

- signalled_ps_id_extension_flag equal to 1 specifies the presence of sub_pic_ps_extension_id [i] in the SPS. signalled_ps_id_extension_flag equal to 0 specifies the absence of the sub_pic_ps_extension_id [i] in the SPS.
- sub_pic_ps_extension_id [i] specifies the sub-picture extension ID of the i-th sub-picture, when present. When not present, the sub_pic_ps_extension_id [i] is inferred equal to 0, for each i in the range of 0 to num_sub_pics_minus1 inclusive.

For example , the syntax of the Picture Parameter Set is the following:

picture_parameter_set_rbsp() {	Descriptor
picture_parameter_set_id	u(v)
pps_id_extension_flag	u(1)
if (pps_id_extension_flag) {	
pps_extension_id	u(5)
...	
}	

For example, the semantics of syntax elements are the following:

- picture_parameter_set_id provides an identifier for the PPS for reference by other syntax elements.
- pps_id_extension_flag equal to 1 specifies the presence of pps_extension_id in the PPS. pps_id_extension_flag equal to 0 specifies the absence of the pps_extension_id in the PPS.
- pps_extension_id when present, provides a PPS extended identifier for reference by other syntax elements. The value of pps_extension_id shall be in the range of 0 to 31. When not present the value of pps_extension_id is inferred to be equal 0.

The syntax of the tile group header remains unchanged. The semantics of some syntax elements of the tile group header is the following:

- tile_group_pic_parameter_set_id specifies the identifier of the PPS in use. The value of tile_group_pic_parameter_set_id shall be in the range of 0 to 63, inclusive.

The PPS in use is the PPS NAL unit having picture_parameter_set_id equal to tile_group_pic_parameter_set_id and the pps_extension_id equal to sub_pic_ps_extension_id [SubPicIdx[tile_group_sub_pic_id]]. It is a requirement of bitstream conformance that the value of TemporalId of the current picture shall be greater than or equal to the value of TemporalId of the PPS that has pps_pic_parameter_set_id equal to tile_group_pic_parameter_set_id and the pps_extension_id equal to sub_pic_ps_extension_id [SubPicIdx[tile_group_sub_pic_id]]. The variable SubPicIdx is an array for which the indexes are identifiers of sub-pictures and the values are the index of the sub-pictures in the declaration order used in the SPS.

- tile_group_aps_id specifies the identifier of the APS in use.

The APS in use is the APS NAL unit having adaptation_parameter_set_id equal to tile_group_aps_id and the aps_extension_id equal to sub_pic_ps_extension_id [SubPicIdx[tile_group_sub_pic_id]].

The TemporalId of the APS NAL unit having adaptation_parameter_set_id equal to tile_group_aps_id and the aps_extension_id equal to sub_pic_ps_extension_id [SubPicIdx[tile_group_sub_pic_id]] shall be less than or equal to the TemporalId of the coded tile group NAL unit.

When multiple APSs with the same value of adaptation_parameter_set_id and aps_extension_id are referred to by two or more tile groups of the same picture, the multiple APSs with the same value of adaptation_parameter_set_id and aps_extension_id shall have the same content.

In this example, the same extension identifier associated with the sub-picture is used for both the APS and the PPS identification. In some embodiments, a different extension identifier may be used, one for the APS and one for the PPS.

In a variant, to avoid coding one extension identifier for each sub-picture, a second flag indicates the presence of the extension identifier for each sub-picture instead of a single flag for all the sub-pictures. The syntax of the SPS NAL units becomes:

seq_parameter_set_rbsp() {	Descriptor
sps_max_sub_layers_minus1	u(3)
sps_reserved_zero_5bits	u(5)
profile_tier_level(sps_max_sub_layers_minus1)	
[...]	
num_sub_pics_minus1	ue(v)
sub_pic_id_len_minus1	ue(v)

if(num_sub_pics_minus1 > 0)	
for (i = 0; i <= num_sub_pics_minus1; i++) {	
sub_pic_id[i]	u(v)
signalled_ps_id_extension_flag	u(1)
if (signalled_ps_id_extension_flag) {	
sub_pic_ps_extension_id[i]	u(v)
}	
if(num_sub_pics_minus1 > 0) {	
sub_pic_treated_as_pic_flag[i]	u(1)
sub_pic_x_offset[i]	ue(v)
sub_pic_y_offset[i]	ue(v)
sub_pic_width_in_luma_samples[i]	ue(v)
sub_pic_height_in_luma_samples[i]	ue(v)
}	
}	
[...]	

For example, the semantics of some of the syntax elements of the PPS is the following:

- signalled_ps_id_extension_flag [i] equal to 1 specifies the presence of the sub_pic_ps_extension_id [i] in the SPS for the i-th sub-picture. signalled_ps_id_extension_flag equal to 0 specifies the absence of the sub_pic_ps_extension_id [i] in the SPS for the i-th sub-picture.
- sub_pic_ps_extension_id [i] specifies the parameter sets extension ID of the i-th sub-picture, when present. When not present, the sub_pic_ps_extension_id [i] is inferred equal to 0, for each i in the range of 0 to num_sub_pics_minus1 inclusive.

Figure 15 is a schematic block diagram of a computing device **1500** for implementation of one or more embodiments of the invention. The computing device **1500** may be a device such as a microcomputer, a workstation or a light portable device. The computing device **1500** comprises a communication bus connected to:

- a central processing unit **1501**, such as a microprocessor, denoted CPU;
- a random access memory **1502**, denoted RAM, for storing the executable code of the method of embodiments of the invention as well as the registers adapted to record variables and parameters necessary for implementing the method according to

embodiments of the invention, the memory capacity thereof can be expanded by an optional RAM connected to an expansion port, for example;

- a read only memory **1503**, denoted ROM, for storing computer programs for implementing embodiments of the invention;

5 - a network interface **1504** is typically connected to a communication network over which digital data to be processed are transmitted or received. The network interface **1504** can be a single network interface, or composed of a set of different network interfaces (for instance wired and wireless interfaces, or different kinds of wired or wireless interfaces). Data packets are written to the network interface for transmission
10 or are read from the network interface for reception under the control of the software application running in the CPU **1501**;

- a user interface **1505** may be used for receiving inputs from a user or to display information to a user;

- a hard disk **1506** denoted HD may be provided as a mass storage device;

15 - an I/O module **1507** may be used for receiving/sending data from/to external devices such as a video source or display.

The executable code may be stored either in read only memory **1503**, on the hard disk **1506** or on a removable digital medium such as for example a disk. According to a variant, the executable code of the programs can be received by means of a
20 communication network, via the network interface **1504**, in order to be stored in one of the storage means of the communication device **1500**, such as the hard disk **1506**, before being executed.

The central processing unit **1501** is adapted to control and direct the execution of
25 the instructions or portions of software code of the program or programs according to embodiments of the invention, which instructions are stored in one of the aforementioned storage means. After powering on, the CPU **1501** is capable of executing instructions from main RAM memory **1502** relating to a software application after those instructions have been loaded from the program ROM **1503** or the hard disk (HD) **1506**, for example.
30 Such a software application, when executed by the CPU **1501**, causes the steps of the flowcharts of the invention to be performed.

Any step of the algorithms of the invention may be implemented in software by execution of a set of instructions or program by a programmable computing machine, such as a PC ("Personal Computer"), a DSP ("Digital Signal Processor") or a
35 microcontroller; or else implemented in hardware by a machine or a dedicated

component, such as an FPGA ("Field-Programmable Gate Array") or an ASIC ("Application-Specific Integrated Circuit").

Although the present invention has been described herein above with reference to specific embodiments, the present invention is not limited to the specific embodiments, and modifications will be apparent to a skilled person in the art which lie within the scope of the present invention.

Many further modifications and variations will suggest themselves to those versed in the art upon making reference to the foregoing illustrative embodiments, which are given by way of example only and which are not intended to limit the scope of the invention, that being determined solely by the appended claims. In particular the different features from different embodiments may be interchanged, where appropriate.

Each of the embodiments of the invention described above can be implemented solely or as a combination of a plurality of the embodiments. Also, features from different embodiments can be combined where necessary or where the combination of elements or features from individual embodiments in a single embodiment is beneficial.

Each feature disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings) may be replaced by alternative features serving the same, equivalent or similar purpose, unless expressly stated otherwise. Thus, unless expressly stated otherwise, each feature disclosed is one example only of a generic series of equivalent or similar features.

The information coded in the Tile Group may also be encoded in all the Tile Group Segment headers. Alternatively, the information is encoded only in the independent tile group segment header to reduce the size of the dependent tile group segment headers.

The information coded in the Picture Parameter Set PPS could also be encoded in other non-VCL units like a Video Parameter Set VPS, Sequence Parameter Set SPS or the DPS or new units like Layer Parameter Set, or Tile Group Parameter Set. These units define parameters valid for several pictures and thus there are at a higher hierarchical level than the tile group units or the APS units in the video bitstream. The tile group units are valid only inside one picture. The APS units can be valid for some pictures but their usage changes rapidly from one picture to another.

The Adaptation Parameter Set unit (APS) contains parameters defined for the Adaptive Loop Filter (ALF). In some variants, the APS may contain several loop filters parameter sets with different characteristics. The CTU using a particular APS can then select which particular loop filter parameter set is used. In another variant, the video can also use other types of filters (SAO, deblocking filters, post-processing filter, Reshaper

or LMCS model based filtering, denoising ...). Some parameters for some other filters (in-loop and out of loop filters) could also be encoded and stored in some other Parameter Set NAL units (filter parameter set units) referenced by the tile group. The same invention could be applied to these new types of units.

- 5 In the claims, the word “comprising” does not exclude other elements or steps, and the indefinite article “a” or “an” does not exclude a plurality. The mere fact that different features are recited in mutually different dependent claims does not indicate that a combination of these features cannot be advantageously used.

CLAIMS

1. A method of encoding video data comprising pictures into a bitstream of logical units, pictures being spatially divided into picture portions, picture portions being spatially divided into sub-portions, the method comprising:
- 5
- determining a parameter set applying to a sub-portion;
 - determining a first identification information of the determined parameter set;
 - determining a second identification information associated with the sub-portion;

10

 - encoding the sub-portion into a first logical unit comprising the first identification information;
 - encoding the parameter set into a second logical unit comprising a parameter set identifier determined based on the first identification information and on the second identification information; and,

15

 - encoding the association between the second identification information and the sub-portion and into a logical unit.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the association between the second identification information and the sub-portion is an association between the
- 20
- second identification information and a picture portion the sub-portion belongs to.
3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein:
- 25
- the second identification information is an extension identifier; and,
 - the parameter set identifier comprises the first identification information and the extension identifier.
4. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein:
- 30
- the second identification information is an offset; and,
 - the parameter set identifier is the addition of the first identification information and of the offset.
5. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein:
- 35
- the second identification information is an index of a parameter set.

- 5 6. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the association between the second identification information and the sub-portion is encoded into a third logical unit.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the second and third logical units are parameter set logical units applying at different levels of the bitstream.
- 10 8. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the association between the second identification information and the sub-portion is encoded into the second logical unit.
- 15 9. The method of claim 5, wherein a plurality of parameter sets are determined, the method further comprising:
- encoding the plurality of parameter sets into the second logical unit, each parameter set being associated with an index, the second logical unit comprising for each picture portion, the association of an index of the picture portions and the index of a parameter set.
- 20 10. The method of any one claim 1 to 9, wherein the parameter set is a filter parameter set.
11. The method of any one claim 1 to 9, wherein the parameter set is a picture parameter set.
- 25 12. A method for decoding a bitstream of logical units of video data comprising pictures, pictures being divided into picture portions, picture portions being spatially divided into sub-portions, the method comprising:
- parsing a first logical unit comprising a sub-portion to determine a first identification information of a parameter set applying to the sub-portion;
 - parsing a second logical unit comprising the association between a second identification information and the sub-portion;
 - determining a parameter set identifier based on the first identification information and the second identification information;
- 30

- decoding a logical unit comprising the parameter set identified by the parameter set identifier;
- decoding the sub-portion comprised in the first logical unit using the decoded parameter set.

5

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the association between the second identification information and the sub-portion is an association between the second identification information and the picture portion the sub-portion belongs to.

10

14. The method of claim 12 or 13, wherein:

- the second identification information is an extension identifier; and,
- the parameter set identifier comprises the first identification information and the extension identifier.

15

15. The method of claim 12 or 13, wherein:

- the second identification information is an offset; and,
- the parameter set identifier is the addition of the first identification information and the offset.

20

16. The method of claim 12 or 13, wherein:

- the second identification information is an index of a parameter set.

17. The method of claim 12 or 13, wherein the logical unit comprising the parameter set is a third logical unit.

25

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the second and third logical units are parameter set logical units applying at different levels of the bitstream.

30

19. The method of claim 12 or 13, wherein the logical unit comprising the parameter set is the second logical unit.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein a plurality of parameter sets are determined, the method further comprising:

- decoding the plurality of parameter sets from the second logical unit, each parameter set being associated with an index, the second logical unit comprising for each sub-portion, the association of an index of the sub-portion and the index of a parameter set.

5

21. The method of any one claim 12 to 20, wherein the parameter set is a filter parameter set.

10

22. The method of any one claim 12 to 20, wherein the parameter set is a picture parameter set.

15

23. A method for merging sub-portions from a plurality of original bitstreams of video data into a resulting bitstream, bitstreams being composed of logical units comprising pictures, pictures being divided into picture portions, picture portions being spatially divided into sub-portions, the method comprising:

20

- parsing the logical units comprising the sub-portions to determine a first identification information of a parameter set associated with each sub-portion;
- extracting logical units comprising a parameter set applying to a sub-portion, the logical unit being identified by the first identification information;

25

- encoding a logical unit comprising the association of a second identification information with a sub-portion for each sub-portion;
- encoding each extracted logical unit comprising a parameter set into a logical unit comprising the parameter set and a parameter set identifier determined based on the first identification information and the second identification information;

30

- generating the resulting bitstream comprising the logical units comprising the sub-portions, the encoded logical unit comprising the association of a second identification information with the sub-portions and the encoded logical units comprising the parameter sets.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the association between the second identification information and the sub-portion is an association between the

second identification information and the picture portion the sub-portion belongs to.

25. The method of claim 23 or 24, wherein:

- 5
- the second identification information is an extension identifier; and
 - the parameter set identifier comprises the first identification information and the extension identifier.

26. The method of claim 23 or 24, wherein:

- 10
- the second identification information is an offset; and
 - the parameter set identifier is the addition of the first identification information and of the offset.

27. The method of claim 23 or 24, wherein:

- 15
- the second identification information is an index of a parameter set.

28. The method of any one claim 23 to 27, wherein the parameter set is a filter parameter set.

20

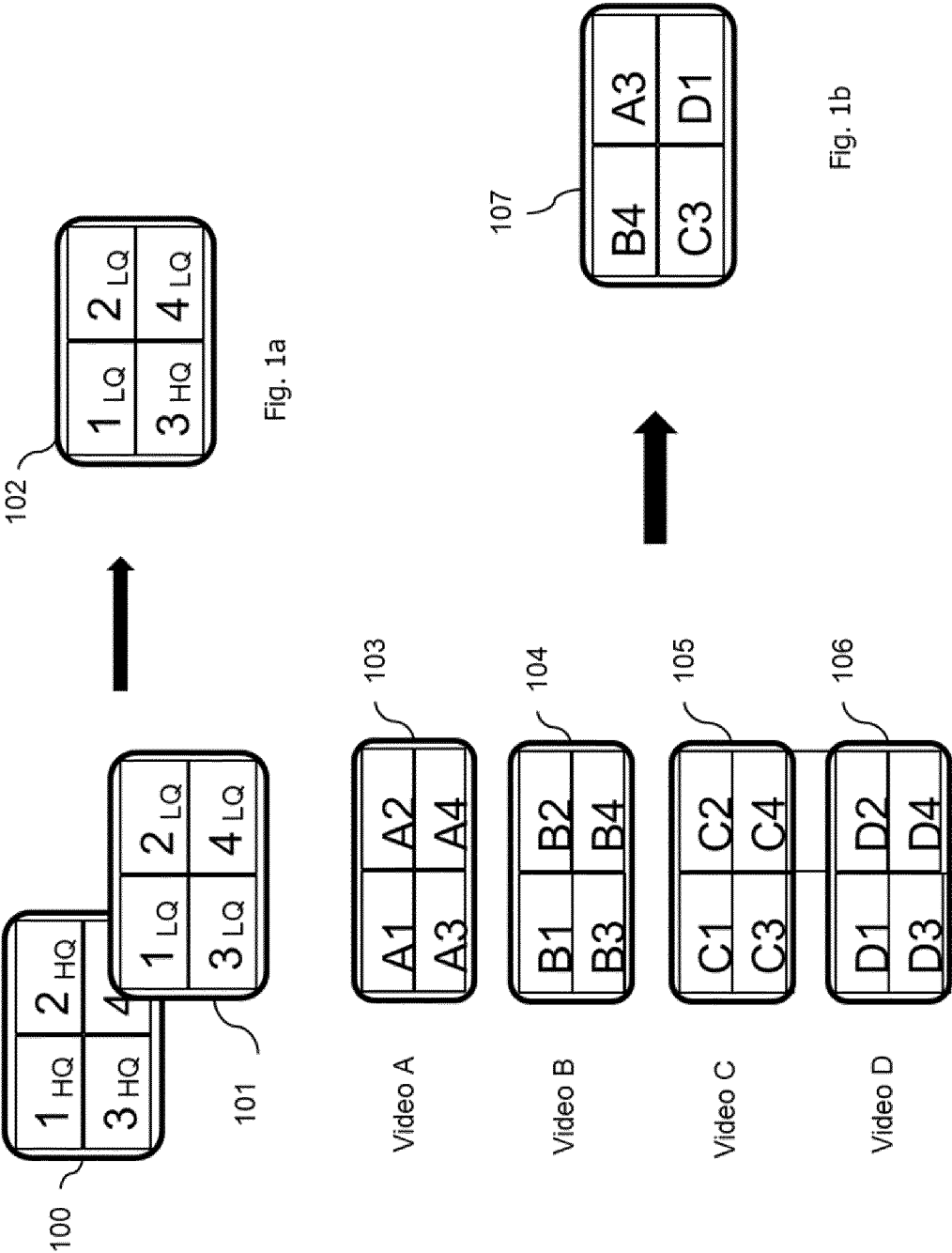
29. The method of any one claim 23 to 27, wherein the parameter set is a picture parameter set.

25

30. A method of generating a file comprising a bitstream of logical units of encoded video data comprising pictures, pictures being divided into picture portions, picture portions being spatially divided into sub-portions, the method comprising:

- encoding the bitstream according to any one of claims 1 to 11;
- generating a first track comprising the logical units containing the parameter sets, and the logical unit containing the association between
- 30 the second identification information and the sub-portion;
- generating for a sub-portion, a track containing the logical unit containing the sub-portion; and,
- generating the file comprising the generated tracks.

31. A bitstream of logical units, the bitstream comprising encoded video data comprising pictures, pictures being divided into picture portions, picture portions being spatially divided into sub-portions, the bitstream comprising:
- a first logical unit comprising a sub-portion;
 - 5 – a second logical unit comprising a parameter set applying to the sub-portion and a parameter set identifier determined based on a first identification information of the parameter set and on a second identification information associated with the sub-portion; and,
 - 10 – a logical unit comprising the association between the second identification information and the sub-portion.
32. A computer program product for a programmable apparatus, the computer program product comprising a sequence of instructions for implementing a method according to any one of claims 1 to 21, when loaded into and executed
- 15 by the programmable apparatus.
33. A computer-readable storage medium storing instructions of a computer program for implementing a method according to any one of claims 1 to 21.
- 20 34. A computer program which upon execution causes the method of any one of claims 1 to 21 to be performed.



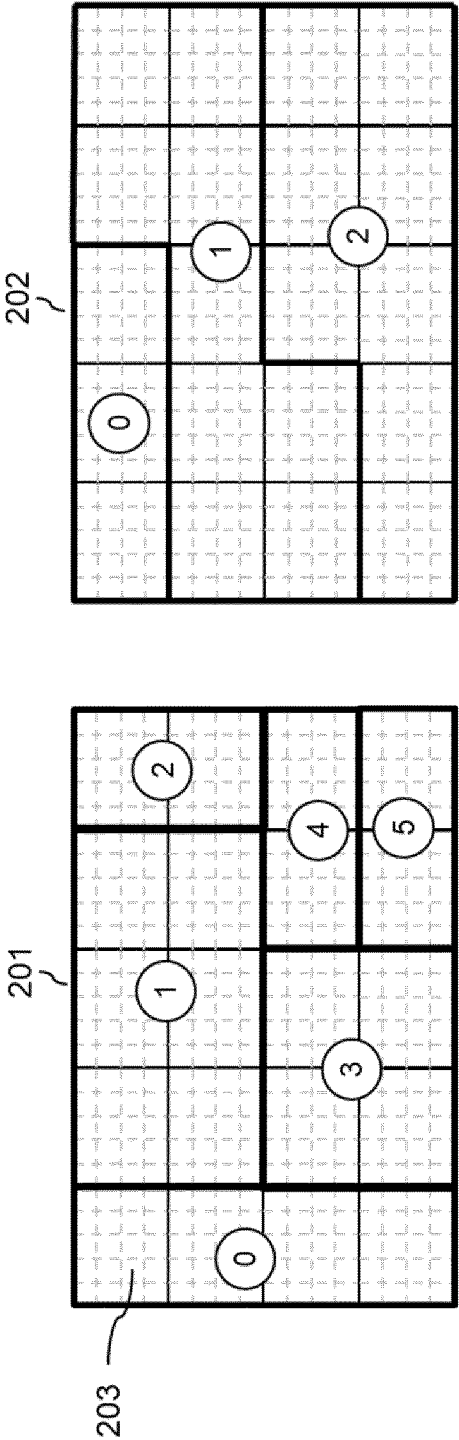


Fig. 2a

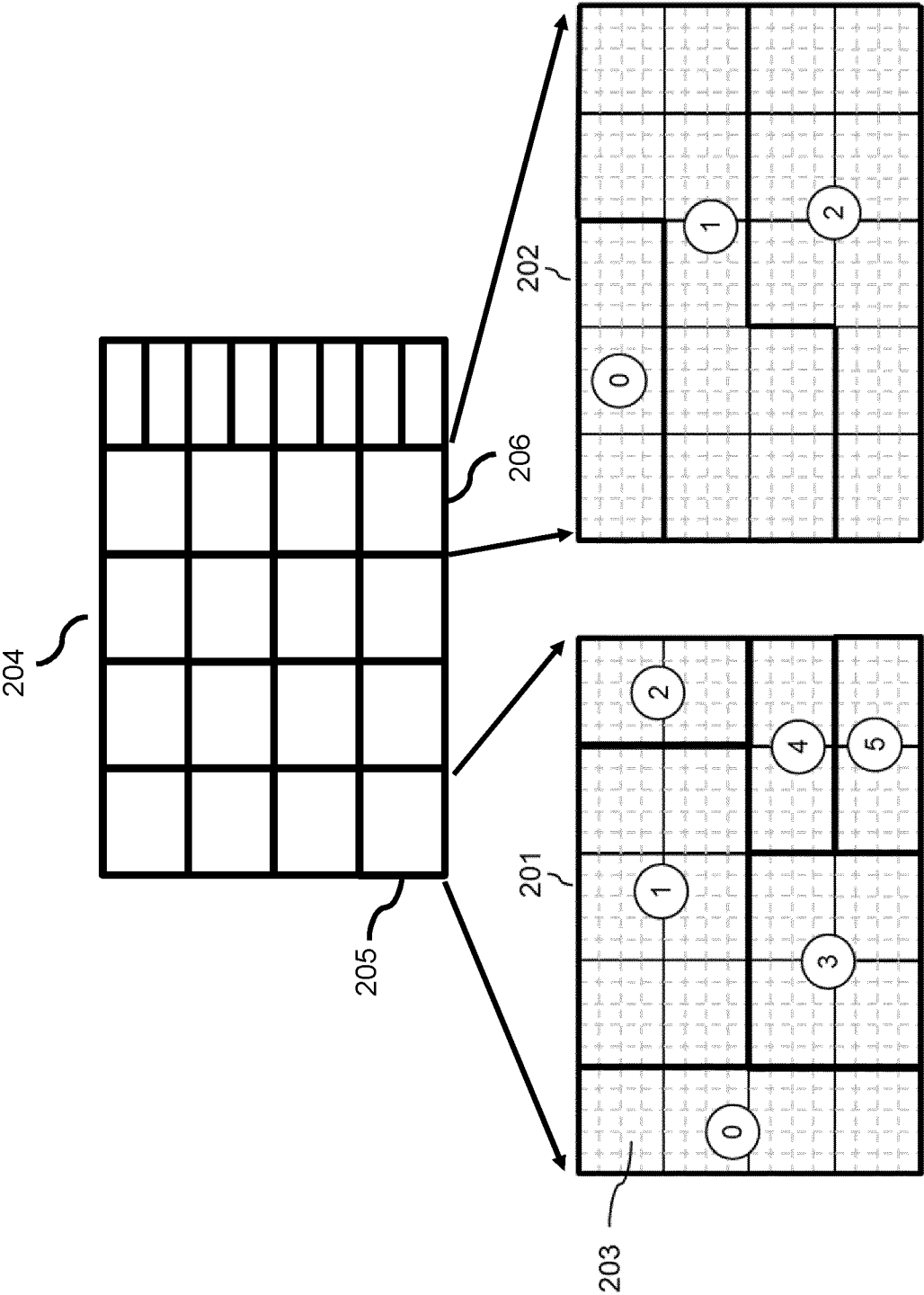


Fig. 2b

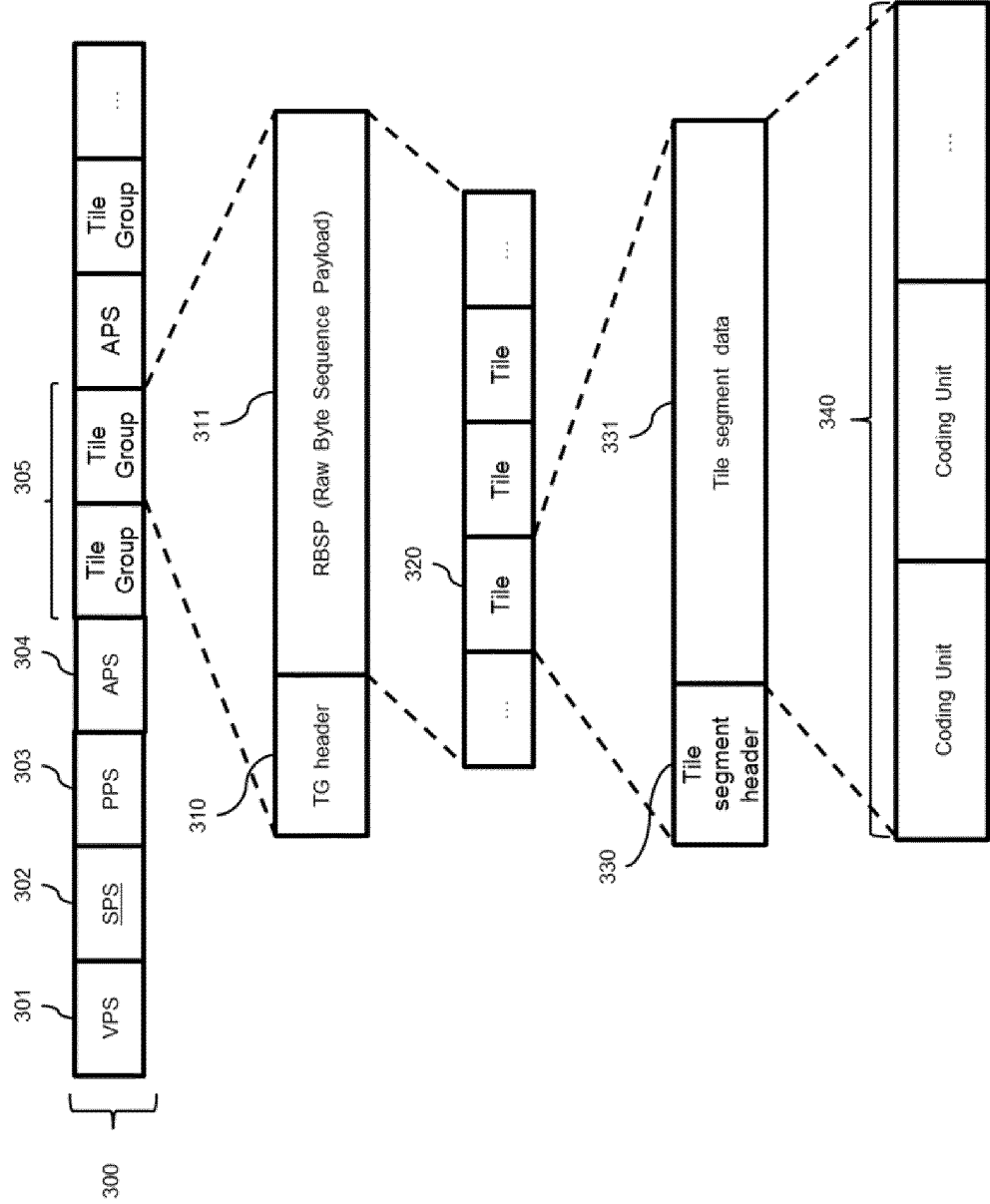


Fig. 3

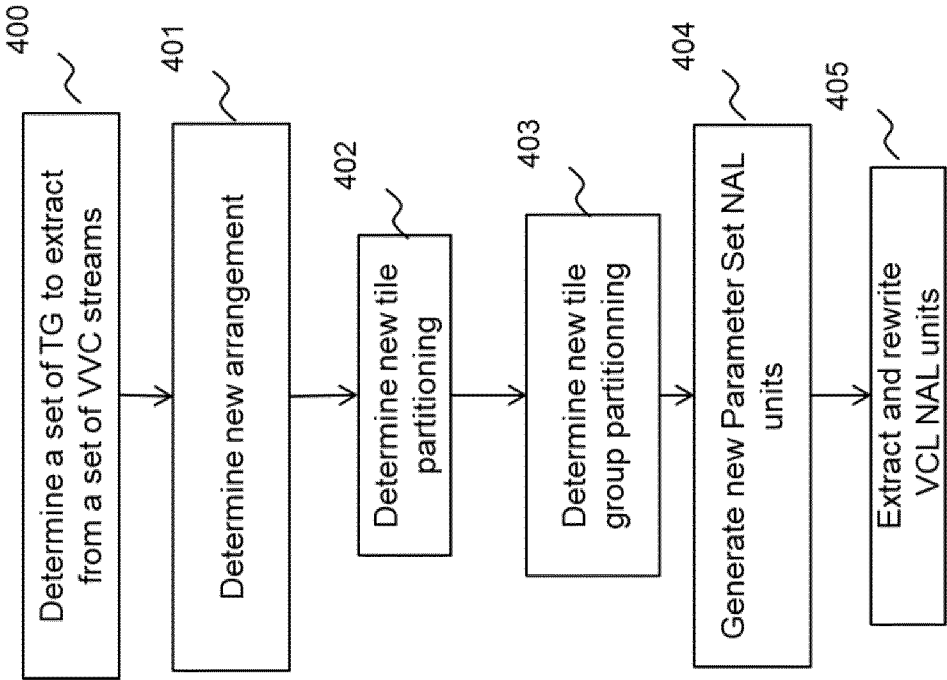


Fig. 4

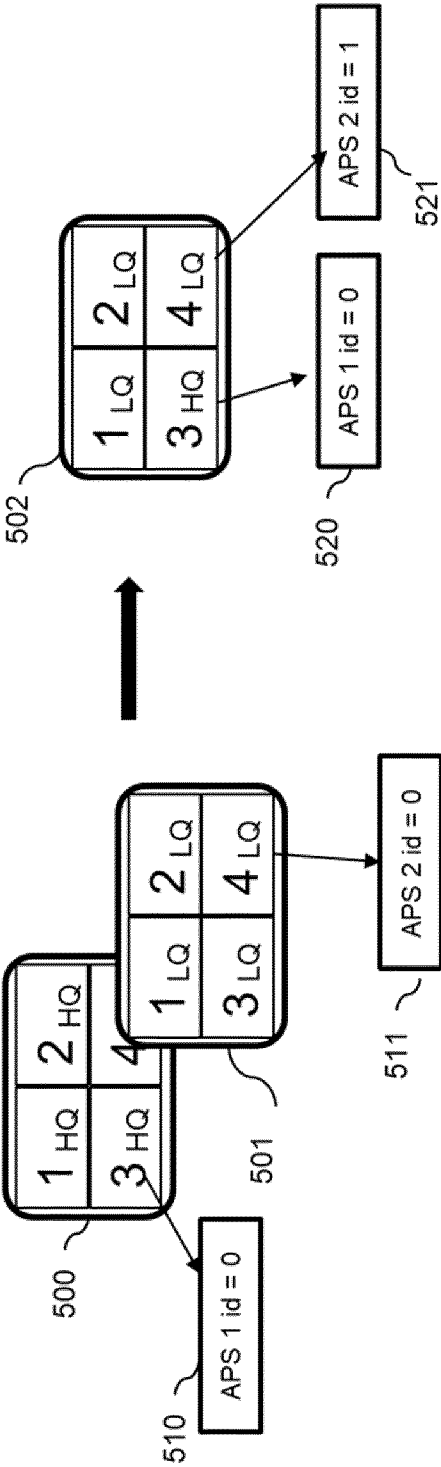


Fig. 5

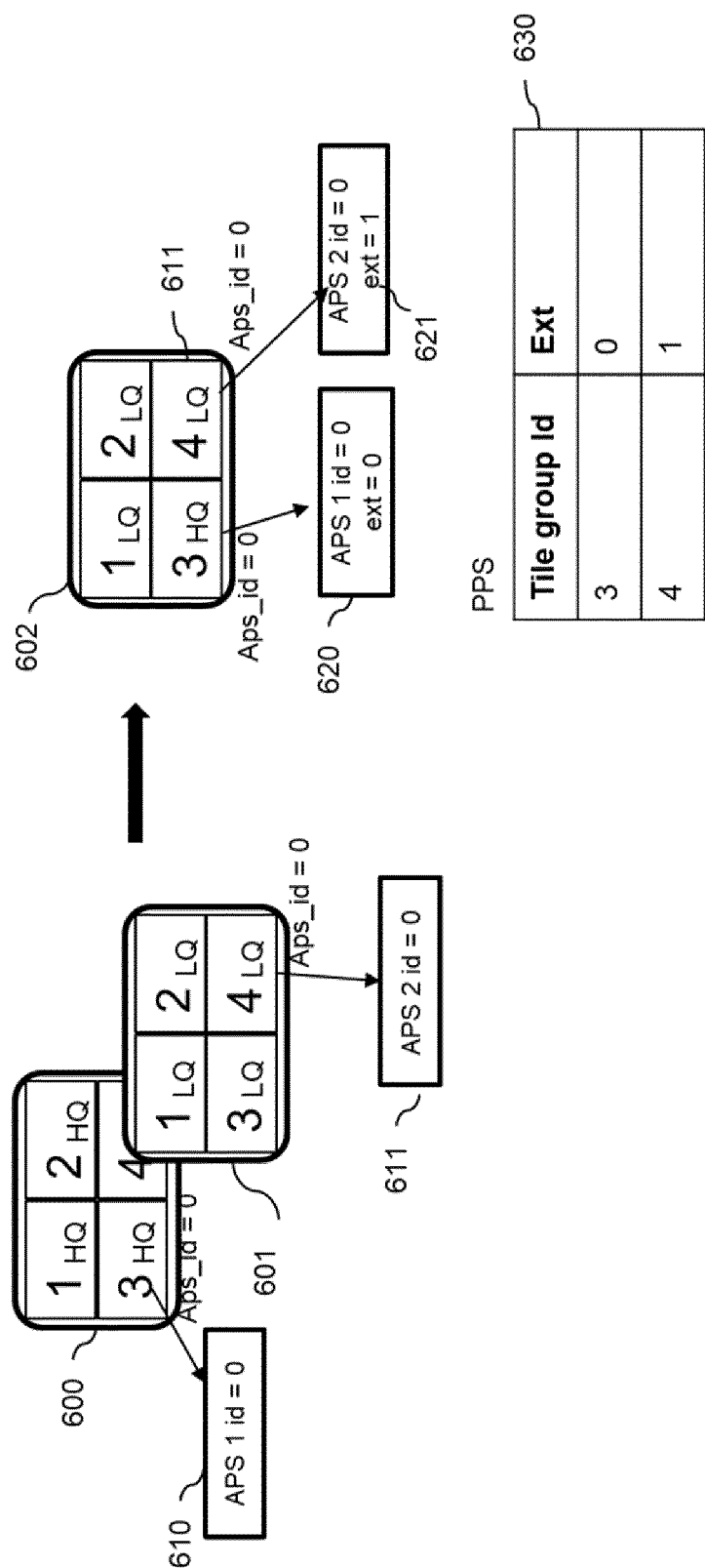


Fig. 6

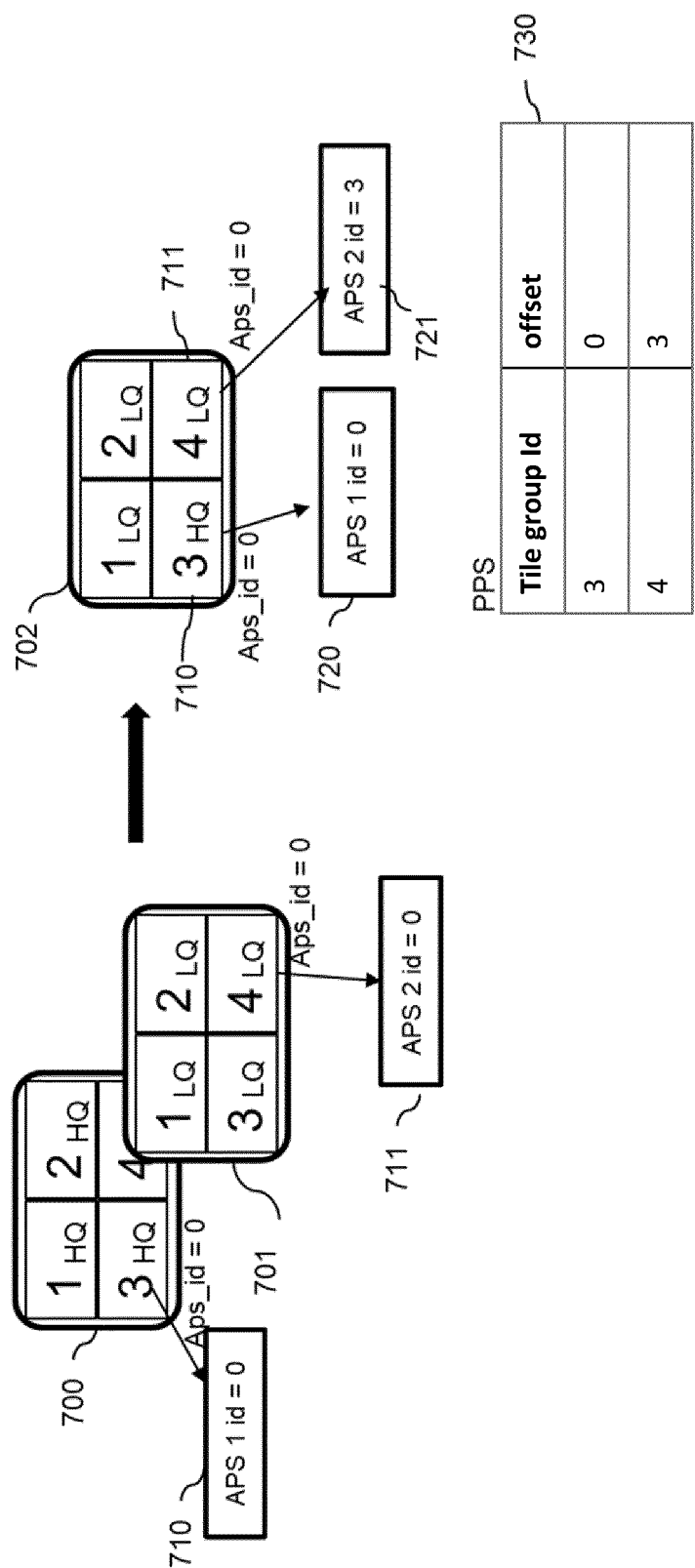


Fig. 7

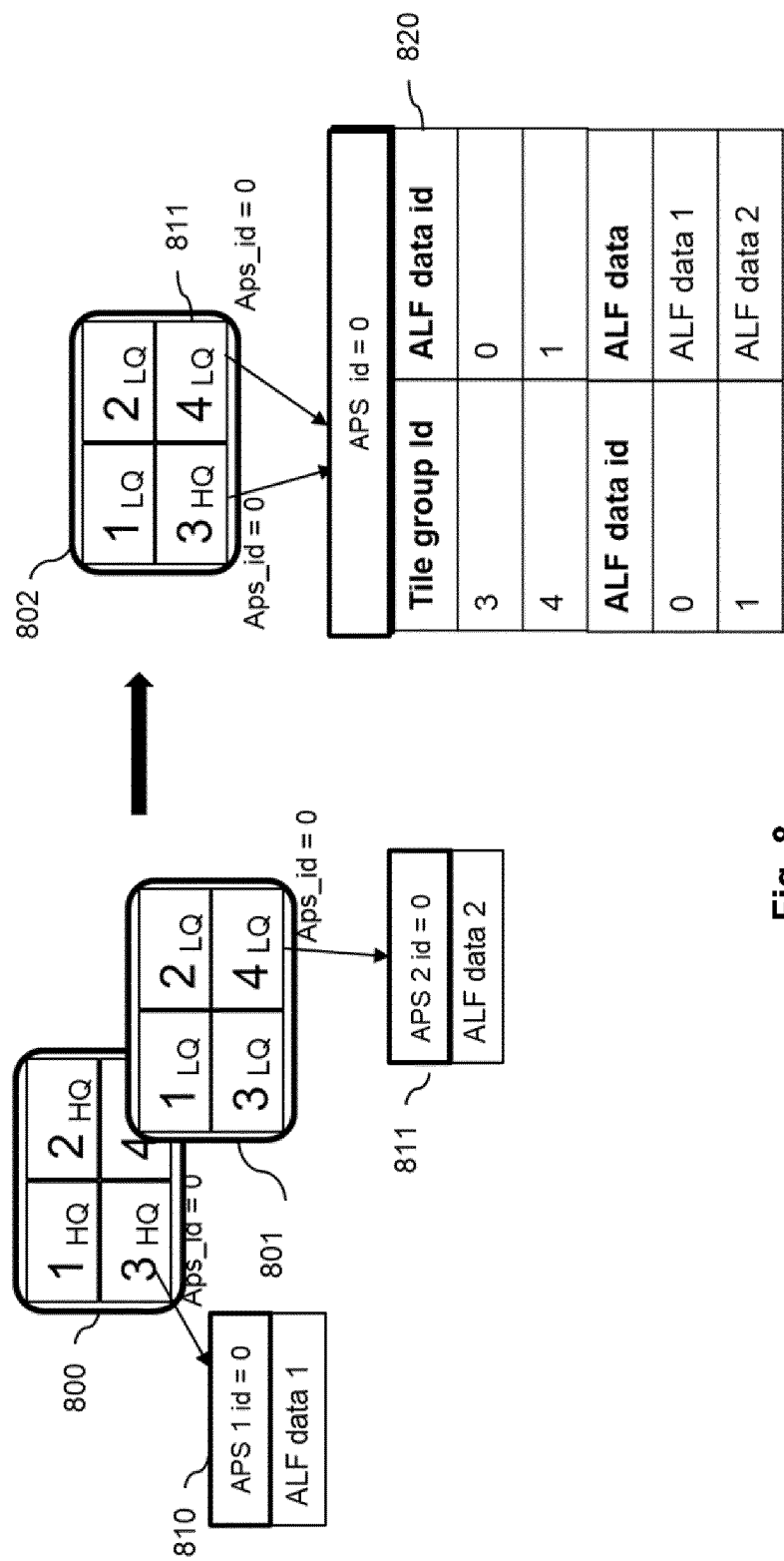


Fig. 8

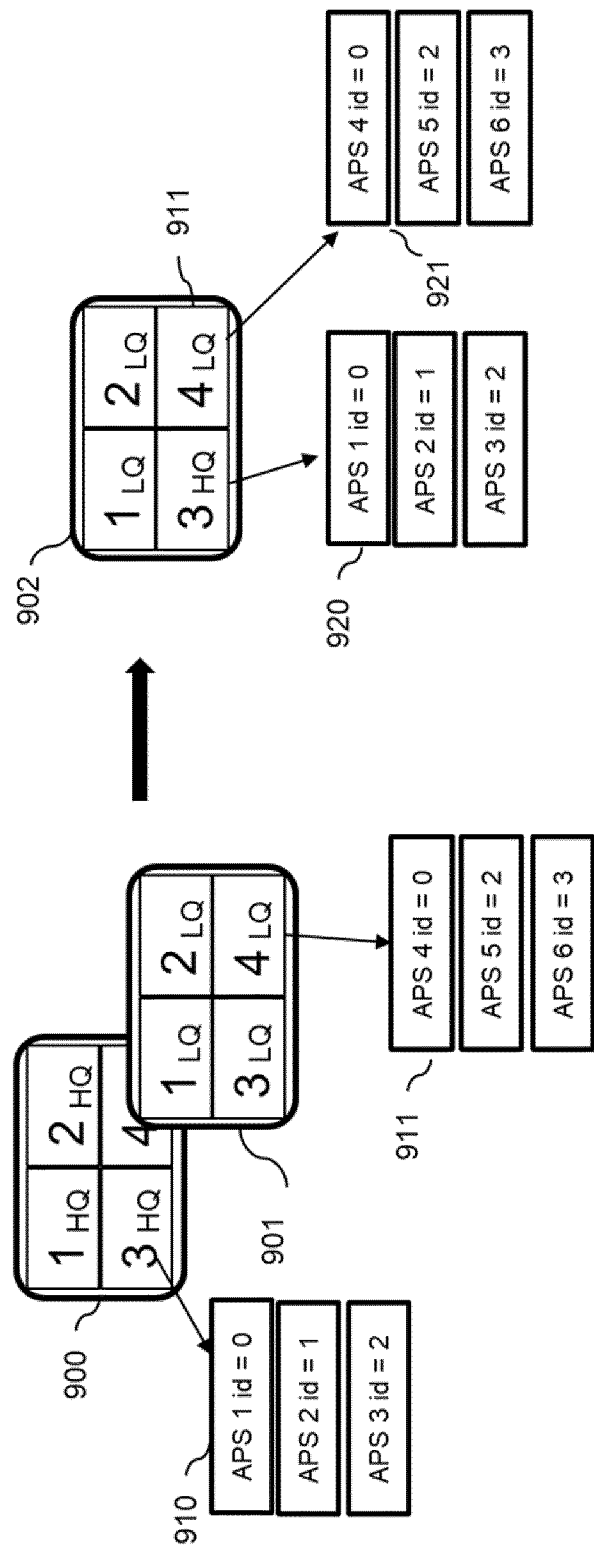


Fig. 9

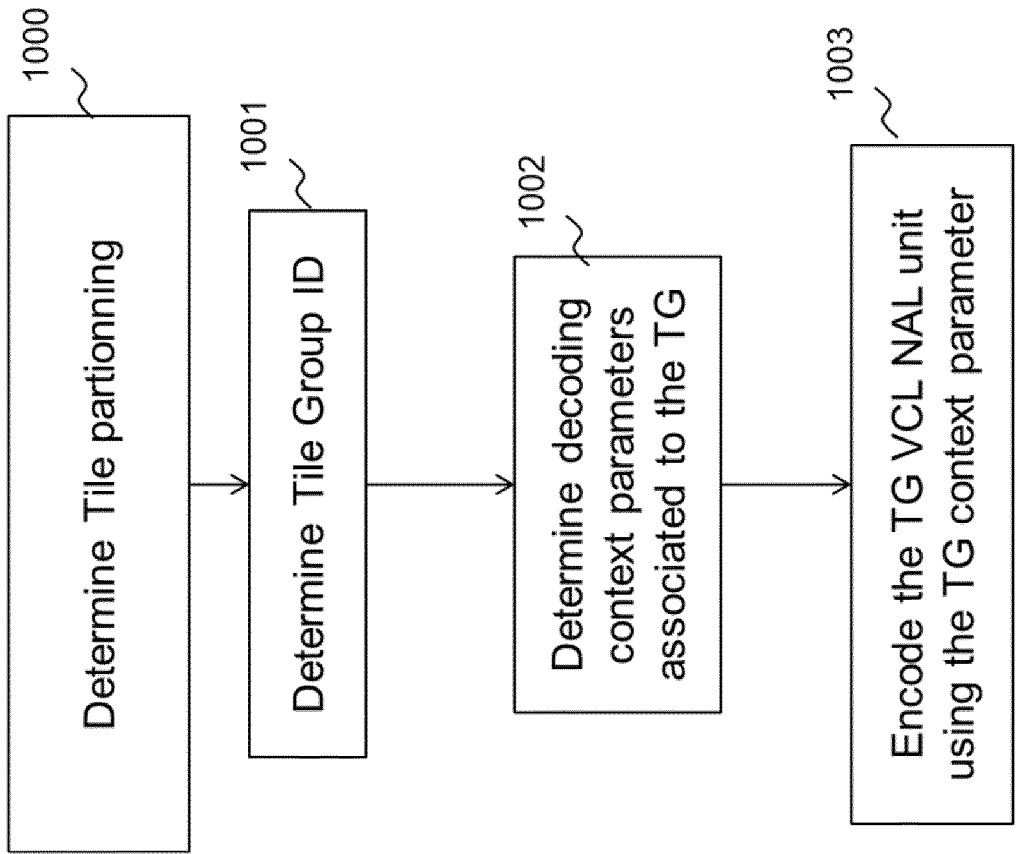


Fig. 10

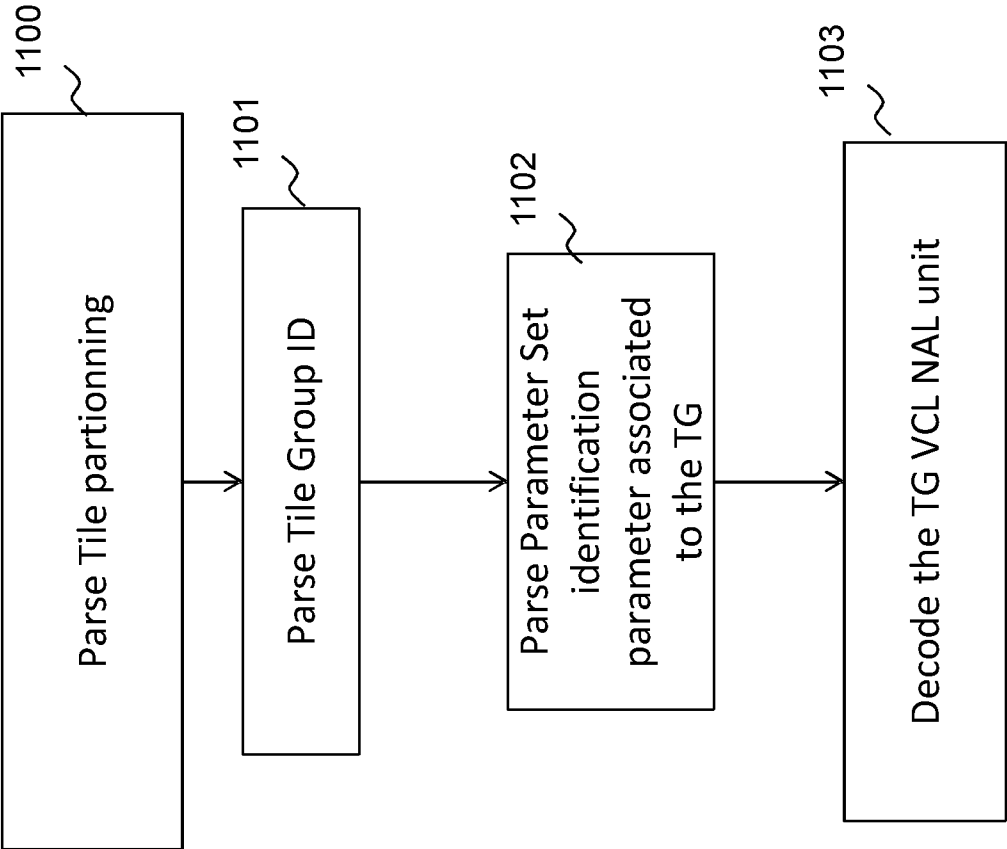


Fig. 11

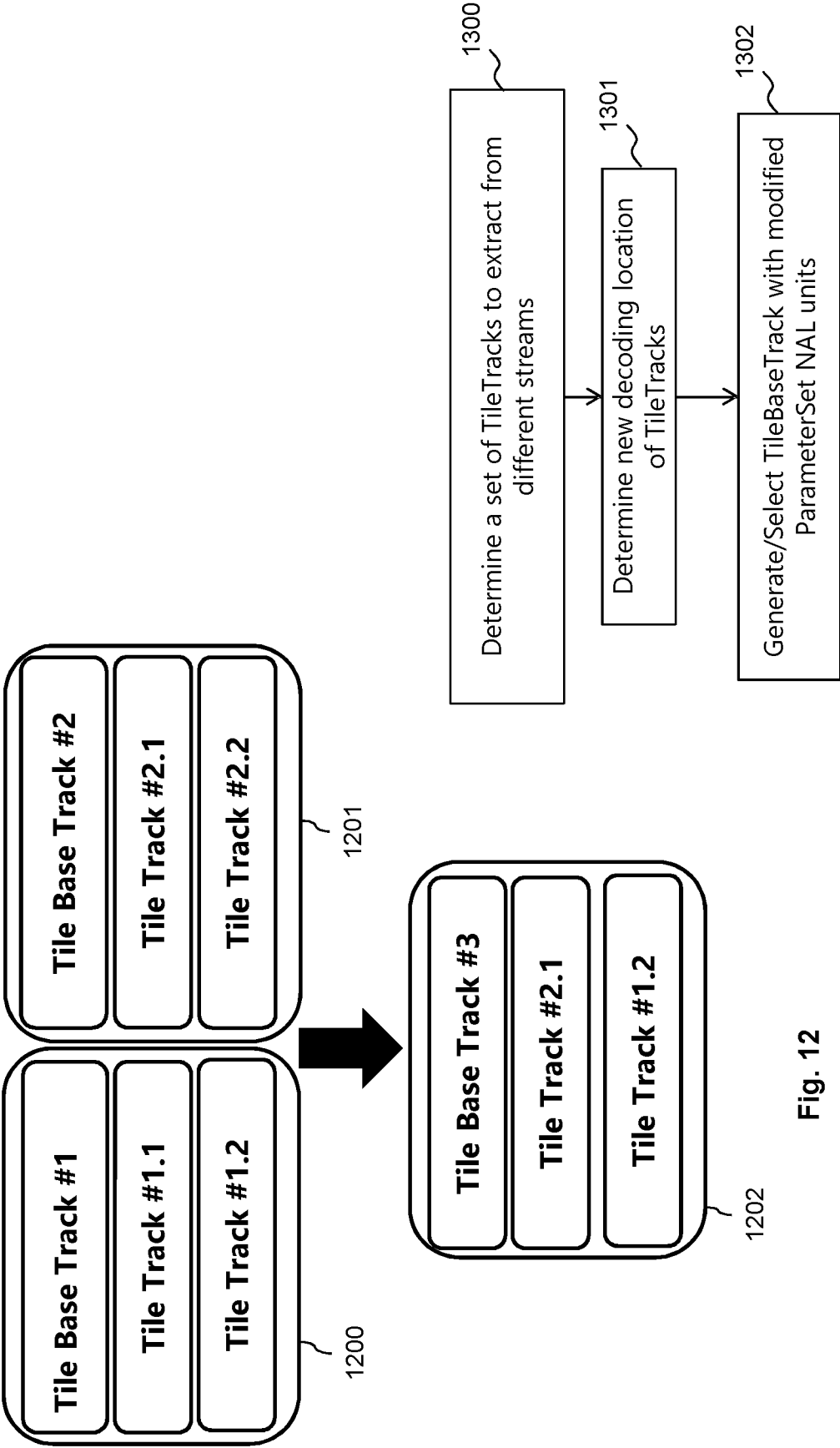


Fig. 13

Fig. 12

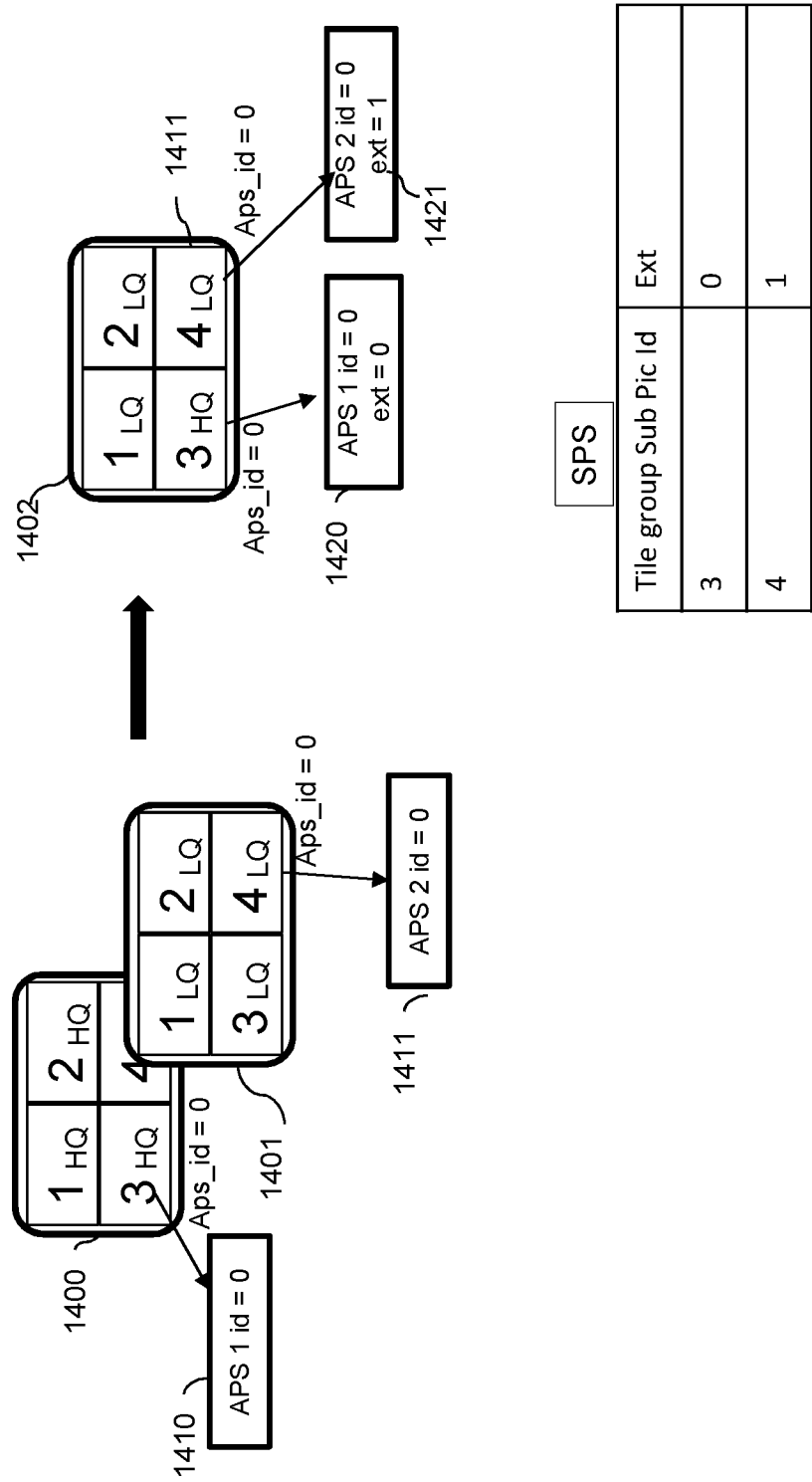


Fig. 14

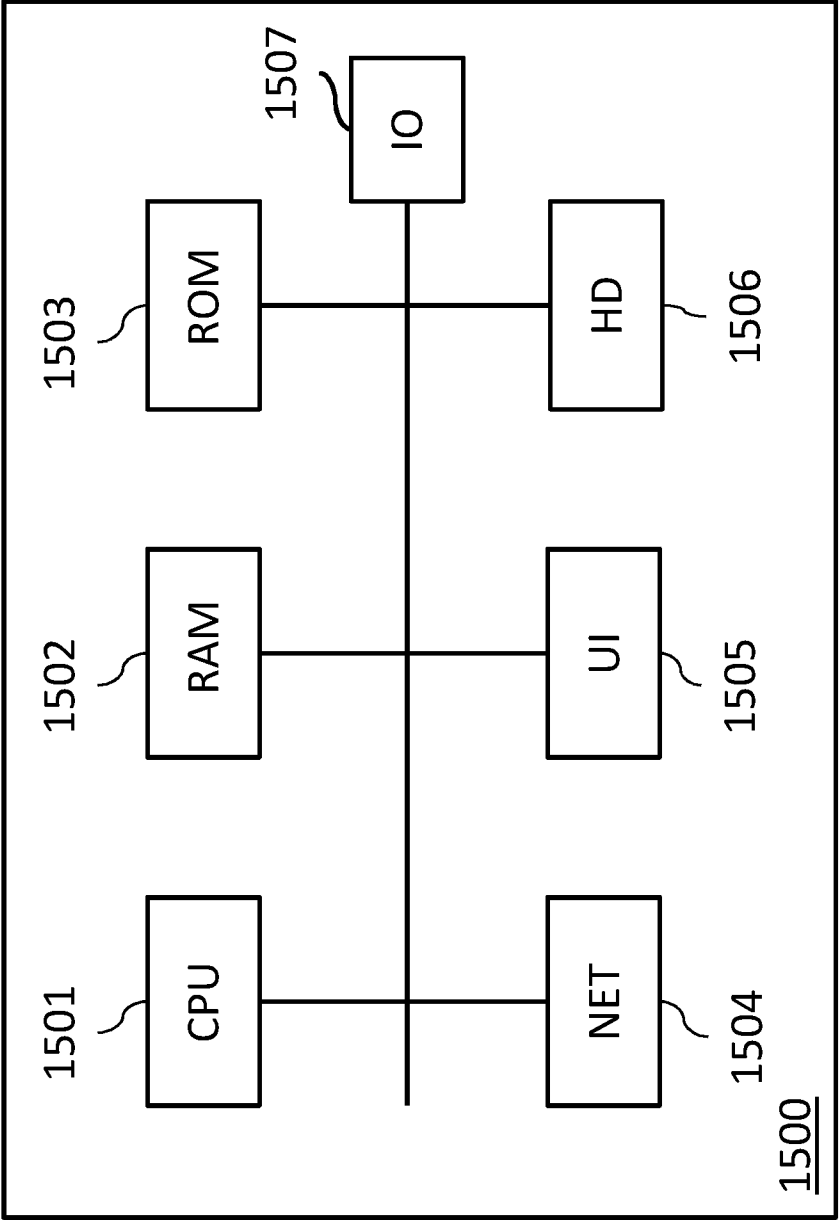


Fig. 15

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2020/054831

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. H04N19/119 H04N19/50 H04N19/70
ADD.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
H04N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	BROSS B ET AL: "Versatile Video Coding (Draft 4)", 13. JVET MEETING; 20190109 - 20190118; MARRAKECH; (THE JOINT VIDEO EXPLORATION TEAM OF ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11 AND ITU-T SG.16), , no. JVET-M1001 27 February 2019 (2019-02-27), XP030202598, Retrieved from the Internet: URL:http://phenix.int-evry.fr/jvet/doc_end _user/documents/13_Marrakech/wg11/JVET-M10 01-v5.zip JVET-M1001-v5.docx [retrieved on 2019-02-27] pages 17, 18, paragraph 6.3 pages 30, 31, paragraph 7.3.2.2 pages 34-35, paragraph 7.3.4.1 pages 55-56, paragraph 7.4.4.2; tables 7-1 -/--	1-34



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

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"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

20 March 2020

Date of mailing of the international search report

31/03/2020

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
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Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Di Cagno, Gianluca

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2020/054831

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,P	pages 31, 32, paragraph 7.3.2.3 ----- OUEDRAOGO N ET AL: "[AHG17/AHG12] On APS id for bitstream merging for VVC", 14. JVET MEETING; 20190319 - 20190327; GENEVA; (THE JOINT VIDEO EXPLORATION TEAM OF ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11 AND ITU-T SG.16) , , no. JVET-N0191 12 March 2019 (2019-03-12), XP030202674, Retrieved from the Internet: URL:http://phenix.int-evry.fr/jvet/doc_end _user/documents/14_Geneva/wg11/JVET-N0191- v1.zip JVET-N0191.docx [retrieved on 2019-03-12] the whole document -----	1-34