

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
19 July 2007 (19.07.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2007/080033 A1(51) International Patent Classification:
H04N 7/26 (2006.01) *H04N 7/68* (2006.01)

(74) Agent: RITTNER, Karsten; Thomson Holding Germany GmbH & Co. OHG, European Patent Operations, Karl-wiechert-allee 74, 30625 Hannover (DE).

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2006/069291(22) International Filing Date:
5 December 2006 (05.12.2006)

(25) Filing Language: English

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

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
06300020.2 10 January 2006 (10.01.2006) EP

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THOM-SON LICENSING [FR/FR]; 46 Quai A. Le Gallo, F-92100 Boulogne-billancourt (FR).

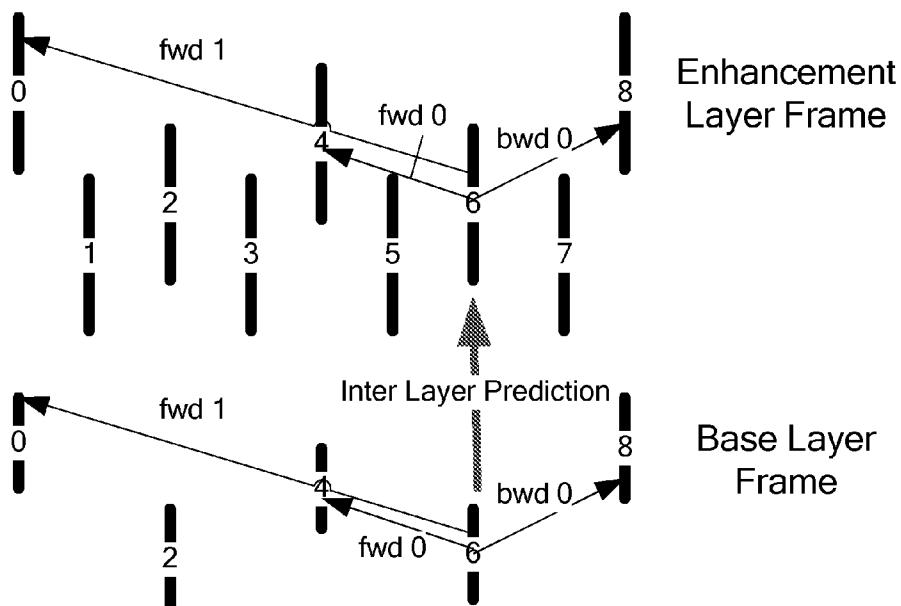
(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): CHEN, Ying [CN/CN]; Bld. 3, 103, Chenghua Yuan, Xue Qing Road, Hai Dian District, Beijing 100083 (CN). FRAN-COIS, Edouard [FR/FR]; 18 Allee Du Locar, F-35890 Bourgdes-comptes (FR). XIE, Kai [CN/CN]; Bld. 4a, 207 Shuangyushu North Road, Hai Dian District, Beijing 100086 (CN).

Published:
— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONSTRUCTING REFERENCE PICTURE LISTS FOR SCALABLE VIDEO



WO 2007/080033 A1

(57) Abstract: In video coding, prediction of P- and B-frames is based on reference frames, which are indicated by reference picture lists. Scalable video coding (SVC) requires this for both, base-layer and enhancement-layer. The invention describes a decoding process for reference picture list construction for spatial enhancement layer. With just one flag of syntax modification, it provides simpler and direct reference lists construction process. By using this, complicated RPLR and other syntaxes can be skipped, and the RPLR process for spatial enhancement layer can also be avoided. The process also can be used as for error concealment when the spatial enhancement layer slice is lost.



- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

Method and apparatus for constructing reference picture lists for scalable video

This invention relates to a method and an apparatus for
5 constructing reference picture lists for the spatial enhancement layer of scalable video.

In video coding, pictures can be intra-coded (I-frame), predicted (P-frame) or bi-directionally predicted
10 (B-frames). Prediction of P- and B-frames is based on previously encoded/decoded reference frames, and therefore reference picture lists are provided: P-frames have one list (list0), and B-frames have two lists (list0, list1). Since reference pictures are required for decoding other
15 pictures, they are stored after their own decoding. SVC provides reference picture list reordering (RPLR). Spatially scalable video coding (SVC) has a base layer (BL) and one or more enhancement layers (EL). Currently, EL
UPDATE has just been removed from SVC, i.e. the EL has also
20 hierarchical B-picture structure and temporally has very close syntax as the BL¹.

However, hierarchical B-picture structure is not mandatory, and decoders should support any GOP structure. So any form
25 of reference picture list construction should be allowed for BL and for EL. However, to take better advantage of the redundancy between corresponding pictures of two different spatial layers, the goal of the EL reference picture list construction (initialisation or RPLR) is to make the EL
30 reference picture list (list_0 or list_1) match the BL (or generally the lower spatial layer) list.

Currently, JSVM² addresses forced RPLR commands to specify the real reference picture lists, rather than just utilize the default reference picture list construction process

5 defined in chapter 8.2.4.2 "Initialisation process for reference picture lists" of the AVC³ specification and 8.2.4.2 of SVC working draft (WD) .

In the case that BL and spatial EL have the same frame

10 rate, actually the same RPLR commands should be used for both layers at the encoder. However, in the case that the EL frame rate is twice the BL frame rate, the RPLR commands are different.

15 In this proposal, a new decoding process for reference picture lists construction for spatial EL is introduced. With just one flag of syntax modification, it provides simpler and direct reference picture lists construction process. By using this, complicated RPLR and other syntaxes 20 can be saved/skipped, and the RPLR process for the spatial EL can also be avoided. Moreover, this method can be used to provide the same decoded YUV sequence as JSVM, with a little improvement in coding efficiency. The process can also be used as a strong tool for error concealment when 25 the spatial EL slice is lost.

For example, if the GOP size of the two layers is equal to 32, the BL frame rate is 15Hz and the EL frame rate is 30Hz (equal to the input frame rate), then BL frames with

picture order count (POC) 2, 6, 10, 14, 18, 22, 26, 30 in the first GOP are in the highest temporal level and have the same frame_num, since they are coded with nal_ref_idc equal to 0 successively. However, at the EL, pictures with 5 these POCs do not belong to the highest temporal level and the frame_num for those pictures will increase, since the nal_ref_idc for these frames are larger than 0 (they are also called B store pictures). POC numbers correspond to the display order of the pictures, ie. picture with POC=0 10 is displayed first, then POC=1 etc. while frame_num is a measure of the "importance" of a frame/picture in terms of serving as reference for others. In H.264, decoded reference pictures are marked as "used for short-term 15 reference" or "used for long-term reference", and short-term decoded reference pictures are identified by the value of frame_num.

As shown in the example above, the RPLR commands for EL and BL of each frame/picture with POC 2(2m+1) are different. 20 During inter layer prediction, the BL reference picture lists and the EL reference picture lists - that is: ref_idx_lx of the EL frame and the ref_idx_lx of BL frame corresponding to input frames with the same POC (or same display time) if these two values are the same - need to be 25 matched. Pictures are commonly also referred to as frames.

Exemplary embodiments of the invention are described with reference to the accompanying drawings, which show in Fig.1 temporal levels within BL and EL frames when GOP size 30 is 16; and Fig.2 inter-layer prediction of reference picture lists.

The following example (cf. Fig.1) shows first conventional encoding/decoding. The base layer frame rate is 15Hz and the enhancement layer frame rate is 30Hz. GOP (group-of-pictures) size is equal to 16.

Base layer									
Decoding order	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
nal_ref_idc	3	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
frame_num	0	1	2	3	4	5	5	5	5
POC	0	16	8	4	12	2	6	10	14

Tab.1: BL frames

Enhancement layer															
Decoding order	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
nal_ref_idc	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
frame_num	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	9	9	9	9	9
POC	0	16	8	4	12	2	6	10	14	1	3	5	7	9	11

Tab.2: EL frames

10 If the base layer picture with e.g. POC equal to 6 has its reference picture lists denoted by POCs, then RefPicList0 is {4,0} and RefPicList1 is {8,12,16}, see Fig.1: frame 6 has frames 0 and 4 as possible references (ie. pictures of lower temporal level) that are previously displayed

15 (forward prediction), and frames 8,12, and 16 as possible references that are later displayed (backward prediction). But if reference picture lists are denoted by frame_num, as listed in Tab.1, RefPicList0 is {3,0} (eg. for POC=4: frame_num=3) and RefPicList1 is {2,4,1}. For POC=6, current

20 frame_num is 5.

The RPLR commands for list_0 (BL) are:

reordering_of_pic_nums_idc type	Value
0	1 (5-3-1)

0	2 (3-0-1)
3	

That means: for a current frame_num=5, two values are transmitted/received: reordering_of_pic_nums_idc type = 0 and Value = 1. From these, the decoder can deduce that the next frame_num is 3, ie. POC=4 (see Tab.1). Similarly, a pair of reordering_of_pic_nums_idc type = 0 and Value = 2 with current frame_num=3 means that the next frame_num is 0. The next reordering_of_pic_nums_idc type = 3 means that the loop for reordering the reference picture list is finished (cf. Tab.7-4 in H.264). Thus, as shown in Fig.2, the forward reference frames for frame 6 are frames 4 and 0 (in terms of their POC).

The RPLR commands for list_1 (BL) are:

reordering_of_pic_nums_idc type	Value
0	2 (5-2-1)
1	1 (4-2-1)
0	2 (4-1-1)
3	

Enhancement layer picture (see Tab.2) with POC = 6 has the same lists as the BL (when denoted by POCs): RefPicList0 = {4,0}, RefPicList1 = {8,12,16}. If denoted by frame_num, RefPicList0 is {3,0} and RefPicList1 {2,4,1}. But for EL, with POC = 6, the current frame_num is 6 (while it was 5 on BL). Thus, different processing is required to construct the reference frame/picture list, and all RPLR commands need to be transmitted for each frame.

The RPLR commands for list_0 (EL) are:

reordering_of_pic_nums_idc type	Value
0	2 (6-3-1)
0	2 (3-0-1)

3	
---	--

The RPLR commands for list_1 (EL) are:

reordering_of_pic_nums_idc type	Value
0	3 (6-2-1)
1	1 (4-2-1)
0	2 (4-1-1)
3	

5 Thus, all these RPLR commands are complicated and the EL and BL need different RPLR commands. The solution according to the invention is to predict enhancement layer reference picture lists from the base layer reference picture lists. Thus, the reference picture lists construction is made

10 simpler by referring to POC values instead of referring to frame_num values, and bits are saved. According to one aspect of the invention, a flag is introduced into the slice header to indicate such prediction. The flag needs only a simple reference picture list construction process

15 for the spatial enhancement layer.

According to one aspect of the invention, a method for encoding video pictures with a first, spatially lower layer or BL, and at least one second, spatially higher layer or

20 EL, wherein frames are predicted or bi-directionally predicted from reference frames, comprises indicating the reference frames for the second layer by referring to the reference frames for the first layer.

25 The method can be further specified in that an indication or flag is included in the signal, indicating that the second layer inherits the reference picture list of the

first layer.

According to another aspect of the invention, a method for decoding video pictures with a first, spatially lower layer or BL and at least one second, spatially higher layer or EL, wherein frames are predicted or bi-directionally predicted from reference frames, comprises determining the reference frames for the second layer by evaluating the reference frame lists of the first layer.

10

The method for decoding can be further specified in that an indication is detected during decoding, wherein said determining the reference frames for the second layer is performed only upon said detection.

15

The methods for encoding or decoding can be further specified in that the indication refers to a slice of a picture.

20

The method for decoding can be further specified in that after a data loss detection a lost reference picture list of the spatially higher layer is reconstructed from a reference picture list of the spatially lower layer.

25

A corresponding apparatus for encoding video comprises means for performing said method for encoding.

A corresponding apparatus for decoding video comprises means for performing said method for decoding.

30

A corresponding video signal includes a first, spatially lower layer or BL and at least one second, spatially higher layer or EL including predicted and/or bi-directionally

predicted frames and indications of respective reference frames, wherein the indication of the reference frames for the second layer pictures indicates that the reference frames for the first layer pictures are to be reused.

5

The video signal can be further specified in that the indication refers to a slice of a picture.

Syntax for Reference Picture Lists Construction

10

Based on the above rational, a solution for the spatial enhancement layer RPLR commands is provided. In one embodiment, a flag is inserted into the slice header syntax (as defined in subclause G.7.3.3 of JVT-Q201¹), and a new processing method is introduced. It generates the sizes of the reference picture lists and then the reference picture lists based on the base layer reference picture lists, and if the flag is set to "true", the RPLR commands as specified in subclause G.8.2.4.3 "Reordering process for reference picture lists" of JVT-Q201¹ are not used. Thus, they can be skipped, so that the amount of data to be transmitted is reduced and processing at the encoder and at the decoder is simplified.

25 With this modification, the JSVM decoder will easily be able to construct the reference picture lists which are supposed to be provided by RPLR commands.

30 Although currently the JSVM decoder provides a default initialisation process for reference picture lists and this default process corresponds to the base layer reference picture lists which are generated by necessary RPLR commands, the decoding process later, as defined in

G.8.2.4.2.1, will be the same as the BL. The syntax element temporal_level of the picture is equal to or less than the syntax element temporal_level of the current picture.

5 So, usually, to support good performance of inter layer prediction, the EL has to adjust its reference picture lists by using RPLR just based on the BL reference picture lists, although we already know the effect of the RPLR. The proposed new solution is a better way which provides the
10 same reference picture lists, and same PSNR, but saves the bits for RPLR and processing time and effort. If each frame is coded in many slices, the advantage increases. The more slices a frame has, the more bits and processing effort are saved.

15

Syntax modification

The proposed reference picture list construction method can be implemented exemplarily in JVT by a small syntax
20 modification, as shown in Tab.3 which shows a slice header in scalable extension.

By insertion of lines 46-48 into the table, and thus usage of a "ref_pic_list_inherit_flag", the conventional
25 processing in the following lines 49-57 including conventional RPLR (ref_pic_list_reordering() in line 57) can be skipped for many frames.

It is clear from the syntax modification that the bits for
30 reference picture list sizes and ref_pic_list_reordering syntaxes are saved, since that part can be skipped if ref_pic_list_inherit_flag is set to "true" (see line 48 of Tab.3).

		C	Descriptor
1	<code>slice_header_in_scalable_extension() {</code>		
2	first_mb_in_slice	2	<code>ue(v)</code>
3	slice_type	2	<code>ue(v)</code>
4	if(slice_type == PR) {		
5	fragmented_flag	2	<code>u(1)</code>
6	if (fragmented_flag == 1) {		
7	fragment_order	2	<code>ue(v)</code>
8	if (fragment_order != 0)		
9	last_fragment_flag	2	<code>u(1)</code>
10	}		
11	if (fragment_order == 0) {		
12	num_mbs_in_slice_minus1	2	<code>ue(v)</code>
13	luma_chroma_sep_flag	2	<code>u(1)</code>
14	}		
15	}		
16	if (slice_type != PR fragment_order == 0) {		
17	pic_parameter_set_id	2	<code>ue(v)</code>
18	frame_num	2	<code>u(v)</code>
19	if(!frame_mbs_only_flag) {		
20	field_pic_flag	2	<code>u(1)</code>
21	if(field_pic_flag)		
22	bottom_field_flag	2	<code>u(1)</code>
23	}		
24	if(nal_unit_type == 21)		
25	idr_pic_id	2	<code>ue(v)</code>
26	if(pic_order_cnt_type == 0) {		
27	pic_order_cnt_lsb	2	<code>u(v)</code>
28	if(pic_order_present_flag && !field_pic_flag)		
29	delta_pic_order_cnt_bottom	2	<code>se(v)</code>
30	}		
31	if(pic_order_cnt_type = = 1 && !delta_pic_order_always_zero_flag) {		
32	delta_pic_order_cnt[0]	2	<code>se(v)</code>
33	if(pic_order_present_flag && !field_pic_flag)		
34	delta_pic_order_cnt[1]	2	<code>se(v)</code>
35	}		
36	}		
37	if(slice_type != PR) {		
38	if(redundant_pic_cnt_present_flag)		
39	redundant_pic_cnt	2	<code>ue(v)</code>
40	if(slice_type == EB)		
41	direct_spatial_mv_pred_flag	2	<code>u(1)</code>
42	base_id_plus1	2	<code>ue(v)</code>

Tab.3: Slice header in scalable extension

43	If(base_id_plus1 != 0) {		
44	adaptive_prediction_flag	2	u(1)
45	}		
46	if(slice_type == EP slice_type == EB) && base_id_plus1 != 0){		
47	ref_pic_list_inherit_flag	2	u(1)
48	if(base_id_plus1 == 0 !ref_pic_list_inherit_flag){		
49	if(slice_type == EP slice_type == EB) {		
50	num_ref_idx_active_override_flag	2	u(1)
51	if(num_ref_idx_active_override_flag) {		
52	num_ref_idx_l0_active_minus1	2	ue(v)
53	if(slice_type == EB)		
54	num_ref_idx_l1_active_minus1	2	ue(v)
55	}		
56	}		
57	ref_pic_list_reordering()	2	
58	}		
59	If((weighted_pred_flag && slice_type == EP)		
60	(weighted_bipred_idc == 1 && slice_type == EB)) {		
61	if(adaptive_prediction_flag)		
62	base_pred_weight_table_flag	2	u(1)
63	if(base_pred_weight_table_flag == 0)		
64	pred_weight_table()		
65	}		
66	if(nal_ref_idc != 0)		
67	dec_ref_pic_marking()	2	
68	cabac_init_idc	2	ue(v)
69	}		
70	if(slice_type != PR fragment_order == 0) {		
71	slice_qp_delta	2	se(v)
72	if(deblocking_filter_control_present_flag) {		
73	disable_deblocking_filter_idc	2	ue(v)
74	if(disable_deblocking_filter_idc != 1) {		
75	slice_alpha_c0_offset_div2	2	se(v)
76	slice_beta_offset_div2	2	se(v)
77	}		
78	}		
79	}		
80	if(slice_type != PR)		
81	if(num_slice_groups_minus1 > 0 &&		
	slice_group_map_type >= 3 && slice_group_map_type <= 5)		
82	slice_group_change_cycle	2	u(v)
83	if(slice_type != PR && extended_spatial_scalability > 0) {		
84	if(chroma_format_idc > 0) {		
85	base_chroma_phase_x_plus1	2	u(2)

Tab.3 (cont'd)

86	base_chroma_phase_y_plus1	2	u(2)
87	}		
88	if(extended_spatial_scalability == 2) {		
89	scaled_base_left_offset	2	se(v)
90	scaled_base_top_offset	2	se(v)
91	scaled_base_right_offset	2	se(v)
92	scaled_base_bottom_offset	2	se(v)
93	}		
94	}		
95	SpatialScalabilityType = spatial_scalability_type()		
96	}		

Tab.3 (cont'd)

Semantics modification

5

The **ref_pic_list_inherit_flag** will only be used for P- and B-slices of the EL (EP and EB slices).

10 The **ref_pic_list_inherit_flag** equal to 0 specifies that the num_ref_idx_active_override_flag, num_ref_idx_10_active_minus1, num_ref_idx_11_active_minus1 and ref_pic_list_reordering() syntax will be written and their related decoding processes are in effect.

15 The **ref_pic_list_inherit_flag** equal to 1 specifies that the num_ref_idx_active_override_flag, num_ref_idx_10_active_minus1, num_ref_idx_11_active_minus1 and ref_pic_list_reordering() syntax will not be written. num_ref_idx_10_active_minus1 and num_ref_idx_11_active_minus1 of the current slice will be the same as the values of lower spatial layer slices, and the new reference picture lists construction process will be 20 invoked to replace the initialisation process for reference picture lists and possibly the RPLR process.

Decoding Process for the spatial enhancement layer
reference picture lists construction

25

If `ref_pic_list_inherit_flag` is true for the enhancement layer, the new decoding process is invoked and the following process will be employed:

5 For the P or B slices, use the base layer reference `list_0` to construct the `list_0` of the current enhancement layer.

For B slices, use also the base layer reference `list_1` to construct the `list_1` of the current enhancement layer.

10

Assume we have a slice with its corresponding base layer `list_X` which is composed by $Lx_B = \{f_0, f_1, \dots, f_n\}$ and we need to construct the ordered `list_X` of the enhancement layer Lx_E . Now we have the candidate enhancement layer list L_E

15 that will be used to compose the reference picture list of the current enhancement layer slice. Usually L_E is composed by items in the short term list and long term list. The process for generation of Lx_E (which is initialized as NULL) is described as following:

20

```
for(i=0;i<=n;i++)
{
    Find  $f_{Ei} \in L_E$  so that  $f_{Ei}$  and  $f_i$  have the same POC number
    Insert  $f_{Ei}$  into the reference picture list  $Lx_E$ 
```

25 }

This process is simple and direct, and is exactly what the inter layer prediction wants. This process gives the same result as the conventional forced RPLR commands at the 30 spatial EL, but uses less data and simpler processing. This method is better than first reference picture lists initialisation plus RPLR processes.

Another example is shown in Fig.2, where two spatial layers have different frame rates. The input GOP size is 8 and the BL has the half frame rate of the EL. Suppose we have the reference picture list_0 of the BL and want to construct 5 the reference picture list_0 of the EL. What we really want to do is set the first reference as frame 4 (denoted by POC number) and the second reference as frame 0. RPLR commands can do this. However, just based on the POC values of the references in BL list_0, we can easily construct the EL 10 reference list_0.

Decoding Process for the spatial enhancement layer
reference picture lists construction for interlace only
spatial scalability

15

The syntax introduced here can also be extended to picture adaptive frame field (PAFF) coding. Here, only the decoding process for the interlace case is shown, when both the BL and the EL are field coded. It is more complicated to 20 generate the RPLR commands at the encoder.

Assume we have a slice with its corresponding BL list_X which is composed by an ordered field list $L_{XB}=\{f_0, f_1, \dots, f_n\}$, and we need to construct the ordered EL list_X L_{XE} . Now we 25 have the candidate EL list L_E that will be used to compose the reference picture list of the current EL slice. Usually L_E is composed by the fields that generated from the short term list and long term list. The process for generation of L_{XE} is described as following:

30

```
for(i=0;i<=n;i++)
{
```

Find $f_{Ei} \in L_E$ so that f_{Ei} and f_i have the same POC number and the same parity;

Insert f_{Ei} into the reference picture list Lx_E

}

5

The items (f_i) in Lx_E , Lx_B and L_E are fields.

Decoding process for error concealment

10 The proposed reference picture lists construction process can also be used to construct the reference picture lists for a lost packet of the spatial EL (error concealment).

15 As defined in JVT-Q046⁴, a BLSkip error concealment method is introduced into JSVM and gives the best performance among the proposed methods. This method can benefit from the corresponding BL motion information if the spatial EL packet is lost. The method also works well for multiple reference cases, because the current JSVM decoder provides 20 a default way to match the EL reference picture lists with the BL, and actually the EL does not use RPLR like the BL. During the error concealment implementation, only Key Pictures need to consider the RPLR issue to guarantee a lost Key Picture of the EL refers the previous Key picture.

25

But as defined in G.8.2.4.2.1¹, the restrictions used to guarantee the above default method for non-key pictures will be removed and the initialization process will be the same as the counterpart of AVC³.

30

⁴ Chen Ying, Jill Boyce, Xie Kai "Frame Loss Error Concealment for SVC", JVT-Q046, JVT of ISO/IEC MPEG & ITU-T VCEG, Nice, Oct. 2005

To give correct performance for BLSkip error concealment, the later JSVM version needs to generate virtual RPLR commands for the lost packet of the spatial EL. But as discussed above, the RPLR commands of the different spatial 5 layers can be different, and it is not straight-forward to predict the lost EL RPLR commands based on the received BL RPLR commands, because the kernel relationship between the two layer reference picture lists is based on POC numbers.

10 By defining the new reference picture list construction method, it is easy to guarantee that the reference picture lists constructed for the lost spatial enhancement layer packet match the corresponding base layer reference picture lists, so as to provide good performance also for BLSkip 15 error concealment.

The invention can be used in video encoding and/or video decoding. It is most advantageous for spatially scalable video, particularly if the base layer has a different 20 temporal resolution as the enhancement layer or layers.

Claims

1. Method for encoding video pictures with a first, spatially lower layer (BL) and at least one second, 5 spatially higher layer (EL), wherein intra-layer prediction is used for predicting (P,B) pictures of the first (BL) and the second layer (EL) from one or more reference pictures of the same layer and wherein lists of reference pictures are used, comprising the 10 steps of
 - generating a list of reference pictures for a picture of the second layer based on the list of reference pictures of the corresponding picture of the first layer;
 - generating an indication (ref_pic_list_inherit_flag) 15 indicating that and/or how the list of reference pictures for said picture of the second layer can be deduced from the list of reference pictures for the corresponding picture of the first layer; and
 - associating said indication with an encoded picture 20 of the second layer (EL) to which it refers.
2. Method according to claim 1, wherein an indication (ref_pic_list_inherit_flag) is included in the signal, 25 indicating that the second layer inherits the reference picture list of the first layer.
3. Method for decoding video pictures with a first, spatially lower layer (BL) and at least one second, spatially higher layer (EL), wherein a picture of the 30 second layer (EL) has a corresponding picture in the first layer (BL) and is predicted (P,B) from one or

more reference pictures of said second layer (EL), comprising the steps of

- detecting an indication (ref_pic_list_inherit_flag) indicating that and/or how a list of reference pictures for a picture of the second layer can be deduced from the list of reference pictures for the corresponding picture of the first layer; and
- generating or predicting the list of reference pictures for said picture of the second layer from the list of reference pictures for the corresponding picture of the first layer.

4. Method according to claim 3, wherein an indication (ref_pic_list_inherit_flag) is detected during decoding, and wherein said generating or predicting the list of reference pictures for the second layer is performed only upon said detection.
5. Method according to claim 2 or 4, wherein the indication refers to a slice of a picture.
6. Method for decoding video pictures according to one of the claims 3-5, wherein after data loss detection a lost reference picture list of the spatially higher layer is reconstructed from a reference picture list of the spatially lower layer.
7. Method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the lower spatial layer has also lower temporal resolution than the higher spatial layer.
8. Apparatus for encoding video pictures with a first, spatially lower layer (BL) and at least one second,

spatially higher layer (EL), wherein intra-layer prediction is used for predicting (P,B) pictures of the first (BL) and the second layer (EL) from one or more reference pictures of the same layer and wherein lists of reference pictures are used, comprising

5 - means for generating a list of reference pictures for a picture of the second layer based on the list of reference pictures of the corresponding picture of the first layer;

10 - means for generating an indication (ref_pic_list_inherit_flag) indicating that and/or how the list of reference pictures for said picture of the second layer can be deduced from the list of reference pictures for the corresponding picture of

15 the first layer; and

- means for associating said indication with an encoded picture of the second layer (EL) to which it refers.

20 9. Apparatus for decoding video pictures with a first, spatially lower layer (BL) and at least one second, spatially higher layer (EL), wherein a picture of the second layer (EL) has a corresponding picture in the first layer (BL) and is predicted (P,B) from one or more reference pictures of said second layer (EL), comprising

25 - means for detecting an indication (ref_pic_list_inherit_flag) indicating that and/or how a list of reference pictures for a picture of the second layer can be deduced from the list of reference pictures for the corresponding picture of

30 the first layer; and

- means for generating or predicting the list of reference pictures for said picture of the second layer from the list of reference pictures for the corresponding picture of the first layer.

5

10. Video signal including a first, spatially lower layer (BL) and at least one second, spatially higher layer (EL), including predicted (P) and/or bi-directionally predicted (B) pictures and indications of respective reference pictures, wherein the indication of the reference pictures for the second layer pictures indicates that the reference pictures for the first layer pictures are to be reused.

15 11. Video signal according to claim 10, wherein the indication refers to a slice of a picture.

20 12. Video signal according to claim 10 or 11, wherein the lower spatial layer has also lower temporal resolution than the higher spatial layer.

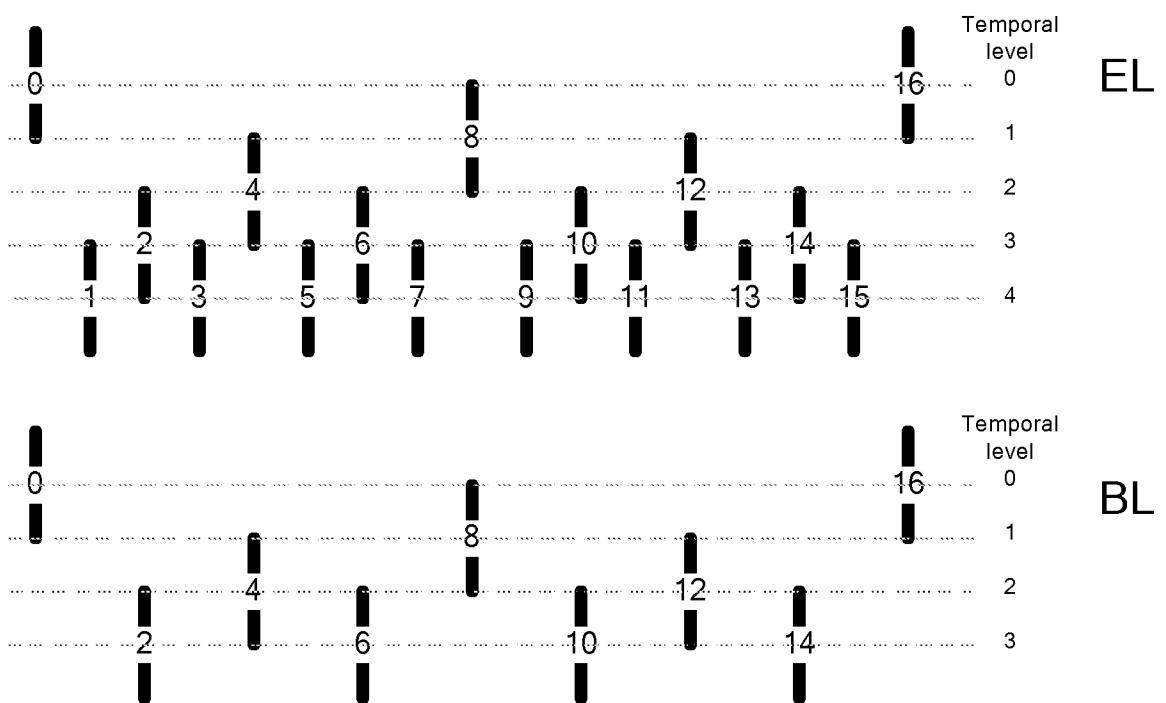


Fig.1

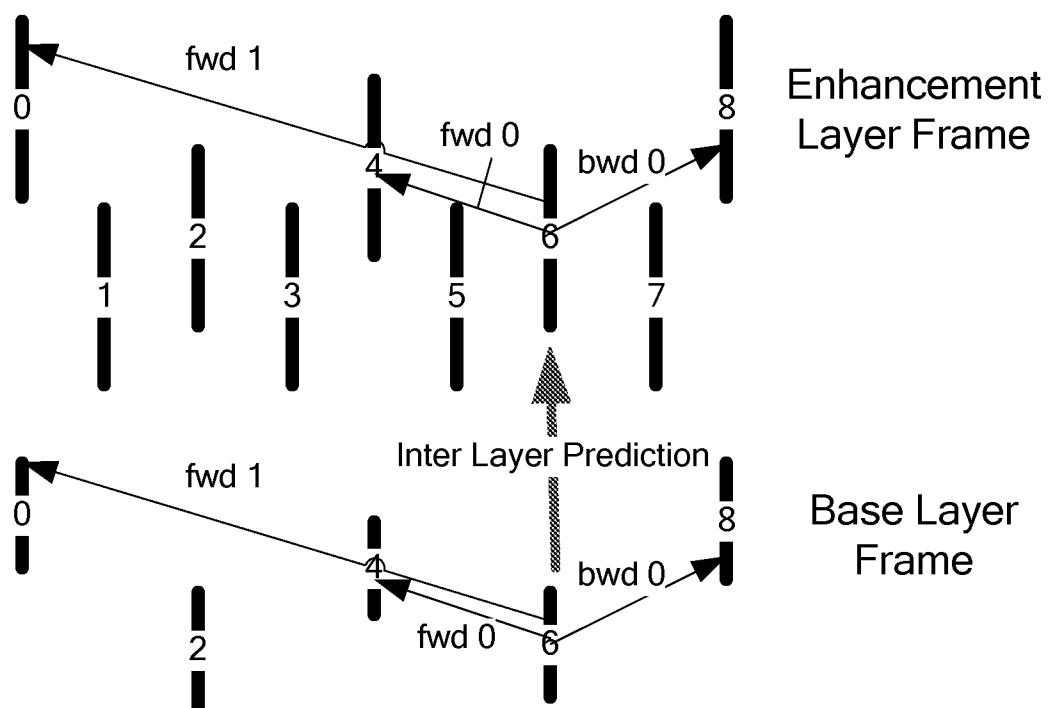


Fig.2

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2006/069291

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. H04N7/26 H04N7/68

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 03/075578 A (KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V) 12 September 2003 (2003-09-12) abstract; figure 1a -----	1-12
A	US 2005/195895 A1 (WU FENG ET AL) 8 September 2005 (2005-09-08) abstract -----	1-12
A	SULLIVAN G: "DRAFT TEXT OF RECOMMENDATION H.263 VERSION 2(H.263+) FOR DECISION" 27 January 1998 (1998-01-27), ITU-T DRAFT RECOMMENDATION H.263 VERSION 2, PAGE(S) COMPLETE , XP000982914 abstract ----- -/-	1-12

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *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

1 June 2007

Date of mailing of the international search report

18/06/2007

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Glasser, Jean-Marc

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2006/069291

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>ZHANG WANG: "Enh. Layer intra pred using lower layer" JOINT VIDEO TEAM, [Online] no. JVT-Q049, 21 October 2005 (2005-10-21), pages 1-4, XP002371945 Nice, France Retrieved from the Internet: URL:http://ftp3.itu.ch/av-arch/jvt-site/2005_10_Nice/JVT-Q049.zip [retrieved on 2006-03-14] abstract</p> <p>-----</p> <p>JVT-Q202_JOINT VIDEO TEAM, [Online] no. JVT-Q202, 31 October 2005 (2005-10-31), pages 1-41, XP002372058 Nice, France Retrieved from the Internet: URL:http://ftp3.itu.ch/av-arch/jvt-site/2005_10_Nice/ [retrieved on 2006-03-14] cited in the application page 9, paragraph 1.2.4 – page 10</p> <p>-----</p> <p>ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11 AND ITU-T SG16 Q.6: "Scalable Video Coding – Joint Draft 4" JVT-Q201_JOINT VIDEO TEAM (JVT), [Online] no. JVT-Q201, 31 October 2005 (2005-10-31), pages 1-137, XP002372100 Nice, France Retrieved from the Internet: URL:http://ftp3.itu.ch/av-arch/jvt-site/2005_10_Nice/ [retrieved on 2006-03-14] cited in the application abstract paragraph [G.7.3.3.1]</p> <p>-----</p>	6
A		5
A		1-12

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No
PCT/EP2006/069291

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)			Publication date
WO 03075578	A 12-09-2003	AU	2003206051	A1	16-09-2003
		CN	1640145	A	13-07-2005
		EP	1483917	A2	08-12-2004
		JP	2005519542	T	30-06-2005
		US	2003165331	A1	04-09-2003
US 2005195895	A1 08-09-2005	US	2005190834	A1	01-09-2005