Claims

1. A method comprising:

   obtaining a bitstream (21) comprising a compressed version of a spatial component of a sound field (57), the spatial component defined in a spherical harmonic domain and generated by performing a linear decomposition with respect to a plurality of spherical harmonic coefficients,
   wherein the compressed version of the spatial component is represented in the bitstream using, at least in part, a field (262) specifying a prediction mode (237) used when compressing the spatial component.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the compressed version of the spatial component is further represented in the bitstream using, at least in part, one of:

   Huffman table information specifying a Huffman table used when compressing the spatial component;
   a Huffman code to represent a category identifier that identifies a compression category to which the spatial component corresponds;
   a sign bit identifying whether the spatial component is a positive value or a negative value; and
   a Huffman code to represent a residual value of the spatial component.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the decomposition comprises a singular value decomposition.

4. A device (16, 24) comprising one or more processors configured to:

   obtain a bitstream (21) comprising a compressed version of a spatial component of a sound field (57), the spatial component defined in a spherical harmonic domain and generated by performing a linear decomposition with respect to a plurality of spherical harmonic coefficients,
   wherein the compressed version of the spatial component is represented in the bitstream using, at least in part, a field (262) specifying a prediction mode (237) used when compressing the spatial component.

5. The device of claim 4, wherein the compressed version of the spatial component is further represented in the bitstream using, at least in part, Huffman table information specifying a Huffman table used when compressing the

spatial component.

6. The device of claim 4, wherein the compressed version of the spatial component is further represented in the bitstream using, at least in part, a Huffman code to represent a category identifier that identifies a compression category to which the spatial component corresponds.

7. The device of claim 4, wherein the compressed version of the spatial component is further represented in the bitstream using, at least in part, a sign bit identifying whether the spatial component is a positive value or a negative value.

8. The device of claim 4, wherein the compressed version of the spatial component is further represented in the bitstream using, at least in part, a Huffman code to represent a residual value of the spatial component.

9. The device of claim 4, wherein the decomposition comprises a singular value decomposition.

10. A method comprising:

generating a bitstream (21) comprising a compressed version of a spatial component of a sound field (57), the spatial component defined in a spherical harmonic domain and generated by performing a linear decomposition with respect to a plurality of spherical harmonic coefficients,
wherein the compressed version of the spatial component is represented in the bitstream using, at least in part, a field (262) specifying a prediction mode (237) used when compressing the spatial component.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein generating the bitstream comprises generating the bitstream to include one of:

Huffman table information specifying a Huffman table used when compressing the spatial component;
a Huffman code to represent a category identifier that identifies a compression category to which the spatial component corresponds;
a sign bit identifying whether the spatial component is a positive value or a negative value; and
a Huffman code to represent a residual value of the spatial component.

12. A device (16, 24) comprising one or more processors configured to:

generate a bitstream (21) comprising a compressed version of a spatial component of a sound field (57), the spatial component defined in a spherical harmonic domain and generated by performing a linear decomposition with respect to a plurality of spherical harmonic coefficients,
wherein the compressed version of the spatial component is represented in the bitstream using, at least in part, a field (262) specifying a prediction mode (237) used when compressing the spatial component.

13. The device of claim 12, wherein the one or more processors are configured to generate the bitstream to include one of:

    Huffman table information specifying a Huffman table used when compressing the spatial component;
    a Huffman code to represent a category identifier that identifies a compression category to which the spatial component corresponds;
    a sign bit identifying whether the spatial component is a positive value or a negative value; and
    a Huffman code to represent a residual value of the spatial component.

14. The device of claim 12, wherein the decomposition comprises a singular value decomposition.

15. A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium comprising instructions that when executed cause one or more processors to carry out any of claims 1 to 3, 10 and 11.