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(54) Title: RATE CONTROL WITH PICTURE-BASED LOOKAHEAD WINDOW

(57) Abstract: A method of encoding frames of an uncompressed digital video stream includes analyzing a frame of the uncompressed digital video stream with a first algorithm (MPEG2) to measure a first value of the frame's complexity and to assign the frame's picture type, and estimating a second value of the frame's complexity using the first measured value as a parameter. The frame is then encoded with a distinct second algorithm (H.264) employing the second value of the frame's complexity and the first frame's picture type as parameters.