PARTIAL/FULL PRUNING WHEN ADDING A HMVP CANDIDATE TO MERGE/AMVP

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] Under the applicable patent law and/or rules pursuant to the Paris Convention, this application is made to timely claim the priority to and benefits of International Patent Application No. PCT/CN2018/093663, filed on June 29, 2018, International Patent Application No. PCT/CN2018/105193, filed on September 12, 2018, International Patent Application No. PCT/CN2018/117627, filed on November 27, 2018, and International Patent Application No. PCT/CN2019/071214, filed on January 10, 2019. For all purposes under the U.S. law, the entire disclosures of International Patent Application No. PCT/CN2018/093663, International Patent Application No. PCT/CN2018/105193, International Patent Application No. PCT/CN2018/117627, and International Patent Application No. PCT/CN2019/071214 are incorporated by reference as part of the disclosure of this application.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] This patent document relates to video coding and decoding techniques, devices and systems.

BACKGROUND

[0003] In spite of the advances in video compression, digital video still accounts for the largest bandwidth use on the internet and other digital communication networks. As the number of connected user devices capable of receiving and displaying video increases, it is expected that the bandwidth demand for digital video usage will continue to grow.

SUMMARY

[0004] This document discloses methods, systems, and devices for encoding and decoding digital video using a merge list of motion vectors.

[0005] In one example aspect, a method of video processing is provided to include: maintaining a set of tables, wherein each table includes motion candidates and each motion

candidate is associated with corresponding motion information; updating a candidate list based on motion candidates in one or more tables using a pruning operation on the motion candidates; and performing a conversion between a first video block and a bitstream representation of a video including the first video block using the constructed candidate list.

[0006] In another aspect, a method for video processing is provided to comprise: receiving a bitstream representation of a video including a first video block; and applying a pruning operation to motion candidates in one or more tables to update a candidate list, wherein each table includes motion candidates and each motion candidate is associated with corresponding motion information; performing a conversion between the bitstream representation and the first video block using the constructed candidate list.

[0007] In yet another representative aspect, the various techniques described herein may be embodied as a computer program product stored on a non-transitory computer readable media. The computer program product includes program code for carrying out the methods described herein.

[0008] In yet another representative aspect, a video encoding or decoding apparatus may implement a method as described herein.

[0009] The details of one or more implementations are set forth in the accompanying attachments, the drawings, and the description below. Other features will be apparent from the description and drawings, and from the claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing an example of a video encoder implementation

[0011] FIG. 2 illustrates macroblock partitioning in the H.264 video coding standard.

[0012] FIG. 3 illustrates an example of splitting coding blocks (CB) into prediction blocks (PU).

[0013] FIG. 4 illustrates an example implementation for subdivision of a CTB into CBs and transform block (TBs). Solid lines indicate CB boundaries and dotted lines indicate TB boundaries, including an example CTB with its partitioning, and a corresponding quadtree.

[0014] FIG. 5 shows an example of a Quad Tree Binary Tree (QTBT) structure for partitioning video data.

[0015] FIG. 6 shows an example of video block partitioning.

[0016] FIG. 7 shows an example of quad-tree partitioning.

[0017] FIG. 8 shows an example of tree-type signaling.

[0018] FIG. 9 shows an example of a derivation process for merge candidate list construction.

[0019] FIG. 10 shows example positions of spatial merge candidates.

[0020] FIG. 11 shows examples of candidate pairs considered for redundancy check of spatial merge candidates.

[0021] FIG. 12 shows examples of positions for the second PU of Nx2N and 2NxN partitions.

[0022] FIG. 13 illustrates motion vector scaling for temporal merge candidates.

[0023] FIG. 14 shows candidate positions for temporal merge candidates, and their co-located picture.

[0024] FIG. 15 shows an example of a combined bi-predictive merge candidate.

[0025] FIG. 16 shows an example of a derivation process for motion vector prediction candidates.

[0026] FIG. 17 shows an example of motion vector scaling for spatial motion vector candidates.

[0027] FIG. 18 shows an example Alternative Temporal Motion Vector Prediction (ATMVP) for motion prediction of a CU.

[0028] FIG. 19 pictorially depicts an example of identification of a source block and a source picture.

[0029] FIG. 20 shows an example of one CU with four sub-blocks and neighboring blocks.

[0030] FIG. 21 illustrates an example of bilateral matching.

[0031] FIG. 22 illustrates an example of template matching.

[0032] FIG. 23 depicts an example of unilateral Motion Estimation (ME) in Frame Rate Up Conversion (FRUC).

[0033] FIG. 24 shows an example of DMVR based on bilateral template matching.

[0034] FIG. 25 shows an example of spatially neighboring blocks used to derive spatial merge candidates.

[0035] FIG. 26 depicts an example how selection of a representative position for look-up table updates.

[0036] FIG. 27A and 27B illustrate examples of updating look up table with new set of motion information.

[0037] FIG. 28 is a block diagram of an example of a hardware platform for implementing a visual media decoding or a visual media encoding technique described in the present document.

[0038] FIG. 29 is a flowchart for an example method of video processing.

[0039] FIG. 30 is a flowchart for another example method of video processing.

[0040] FIG. 31 shows an example of a decoding flow chart with the proposed HMVP method.

[0041] FIG. 32 shows examples of updating tables using the proposed HMVP method.

[0042] FIGS. 33A and 33B show examples of a redundancy-removal based LUT updating method (with one redundancy motion candidate removed).

[0043] FIGS. 34A and 34B show examples of a redundancy-removal based LUT updating method (with multiple redundancy motion candidates removed).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0044] To improve compression ratio of video, researchers are continually looking for new techniques by which to encode video.

[0045] **1. Introduction**

[0046] The present document is related to video coding technologies. Specifically, it is related to motion information coding (such as merge mode, AMVP mode) in video coding. It may be applied to the existing video coding standard like HEVC, or the standard (Versatile Video Coding) to be finalized. It may be also applicable to future video coding standards or video codec.

[0047] **Brief discussion**

[0048] Video coding standards have evolved primarily through the development of the well-known ITU-T and ISO/IEC standards. The ITU-T produced H.261 and H.263, ISO/IEC produced MPEG-1 and MPEG-4 Visual, and the two organizations jointly produced the H.262/MPEG-2 Video and H.264/MPEG-4 Advanced Video Coding (AVC) and H.265/HEVC standards. Since H.262, the video coding standards are based on the hybrid video coding structure wherein temporal prediction plus transform coding are utilized. An example of a typical HEVC encoder framework is depicted in FIG. 1.

2.1 Partition Structure

2.1.1 Partition tree structure in H.264/AVC

[0049] The core of the coding layer in previous standards was the macroblock, containing a 16×16 block of luma samples and, in the usual case of 4:2:0 color sampling, two corresponding 8×8 blocks of chroma samples.

[0050] An intra-coded block uses spatial prediction to exploit spatial correlation among pixels. Two partitions are defined: 16x16 and 4x4.

[0051] An inter-coded block uses temporal prediction, instead of spatial prediction, by estimating motion among pictures. Motion can be estimated independently for either 16x16 macroblock or any of its sub-macroblock partitions: 16x8, 8x16, 8x8, 8x4, 4x8, 4x4 (see FIG. 2). Only one motion vector (MV) per sub-macroblock partition is allowed.

[0052] **2.1.2 Partition tree structure in HEVC**

[0053] In HEVC, a CTU is split into CUs by using a quadtree structure denoted as coding tree to adapt to various local characteristics. The decision whether to code a picture area using inter-picture (temporal) or intra-picture (spatial) prediction is made at the CU level. Each CU can be further split into one, two or four PUs according to the PU splitting type. Inside one PU, the same prediction process is applied and the relevant information is transmitted to the decoder on a PU basis. After obtaining the residual block by applying the prediction process based on the PU splitting type, a CU can be partitioned into transform units (TUs) according to another quadtree structure similar to the coding tree for the CU. One of key feature of the HEVC structure is that it has the multiple partition conceptions including CU, PU, and TU.

[0054] In the following, the various features involved in hybrid video coding using HEVC are highlighted as follows.

[0055] 1) Coding tree units and coding tree block (CTB) structure: The analogous structure in HEVC is the coding tree unit (CTU), which has a size selected by the encoder and can be larger than a traditional macroblock. The CTU consists of a luma CTB and the corresponding chroma CTBs and syntax elements. The size L×L of a luma CTB can be chosen as L = 16, 32, or 64 samples, with the larger sizes typically enabling better compression. HEVC then supports a partitioning of the CTBs into smaller blocks using a tree structure and quadtree-like signaling.

[0056] 2) Coding units (CUs) and coding blocks (CBs): The quadtree syntax of the CTU specifies the size and positions of its luma and chroma CBs. The root of the quadtree is

associated with the CTU. Hence, the size of the luma CTB is the largest supported size for a luma CB. The splitting of a CTU into luma and chroma CBs is signaled jointly. One luma CB and ordinarily two chroma CBs, together with associated syntax, form a coding unit (CU). A CTB may contain only one CU or may be split to form multiple CUs, and each CU has an associated partitioning into prediction units (PUs) and a tree of transform units (TUs).

[0057] 3) Prediction units and prediction blocks (PBs): The decision whether to code a picture area using inter picture or intra picture prediction is made at the CU level. A PU partitioning structure has its root at the CU level. Depending on the basic prediction-type decision, the luma and chroma CBs can then be further split in size and predicted from luma and chroma prediction blocks (PBs). HEVC supports variable PB sizes from 64×64 down to 4×4 samples. FIG. 3 shows examples of allowed PBs for a MxM CU.

[0058] 4) TUs and transform blocks: The prediction residual is coded using block transforms. A TU tree structure has its root at the CU level. The luma CB residual may be identical to the luma transform block (TB) or may be further split into smaller luma TBs. The same applies to the chroma TBs. Integer basis functions similar to those of a discrete cosine transform (DCT) are defined for the square TB sizes 4×4, 8×8, 16×16, and 32×32. For the 4×4 transform of luma intra picture prediction residuals, an integer transform derived from a form of discrete sine transform (DST) is alternatively specified.

[0059] FIG. 4 shows an example of a subdivision of a CTB into CBs [and transform block (TBs)]. Solid lines indicate CB borders and dotted lines indicate TB borders. (a) CTB with its partitioning. (b) corresponding quadtree.

[0060] **2.1.2.1 Tree-Structured Partitioning into Transform Blocks and Units**

[0061] For residual coding, a CB can be recursively partitioned into transform blocks (TBs). The partitioning is signaled by a residual quadtree. Only square CB and TB partitioning is specified, where a block can be recursively split into quadrants, as illustrated in FIG. 4. For a given luma CB of size M×M, a flag signals whether it is split into four blocks of size M/2×M/2. If further splitting is possible, as signaled by a maximum depth of the residual quadtree indicated in the SPS, each quadrant is assigned a flag that indicates whether it is split into four quadrants. The leaf node blocks resulting from the residual quadtree are the transform blocks that are further processed by transform coding. The encoder indicates the maximum and minimum luma TB sizes that it will use. Splitting is implicit when the CB size is larger than the maximum TB

size. Not splitting is implicit when splitting would result in a luma TB size smaller than the indicated minimum. The chroma TB size is half the luma TB size in each dimension, except when the luma TB size is 4×4, in which case a single 4×4 chroma TB is used for the region covered by four 4×4 luma TBs. In the case of intra-picture-predicted CUs, the decoded samples of the nearest-neighboring TBs (within or outside the CB) are used as reference data for intra picture prediction.

[0062] In contrast to previous standards, the HEVC design allows a TB to span across multiple PBs for inter-picture predicted CUs to maximize the potential coding efficiency benefits of the quadtree-structured TB partitioning.

[0063] **2.1.2.2 Parent and child nodes**

[0064] A CTB is divided according to a quad-tree structure, the nodes of which are coding units. The plurality of nodes in a quad-tree structure includes leaf nodes and non-leaf nodes. The leaf nodes have no child nodes in the tree structure (i.e., the leaf nodes are not further split). The, non-leaf nodes include a root node of the tree structure. The root node corresponds to an initial video block of the video data (e.g., a CTB). For each respective non-root node of the plurality of nodes, the respective non-root node corresponds to a video block that is a sub-block of a video block corresponding to a parent node in the tree structure of the respective non-root node. Each respective non-leaf node of the plurality of non-leaf nodes has one or more child nodes in the tree structure.

[0065] **2.1.3 Quadtree plus binary tree block structure with larger CTUs in JEM**

[0066] To explore the future video coding technologies beyond HEVC, Joint Video Exploration Team (JVET) was founded by VCEG and MPEG jointly in 2015. Since then, many new methods have been adopted by JVET and put into the reference software named Joint Exploration Model (JEM).

[0067] **2.1.3.1 QTBT block partitioning structure**

[0068] Different from HEVC, the QTBT structure removes the concepts of multiple partition types, i.e. it removes the separation of the CU, PU and TU concepts, and supports more flexibility for CU partition shapes. In the QTBT block structure, a CU can have either a square or rectangular shape. As shown in FIG. 5, a coding tree unit (CTU) is first partitioned by a quadtree structure. The quadtree leaf nodes are further partitioned by a binary tree structure. There are two splitting types, symmetric horizontal splitting and symmetric vertical splitting, in the binary tree

splitting. The binary tree leaf nodes are called coding units (CUs), and that segmentation is used for prediction and transform processing without any further partitioning. This means that the CU, PU and TU have the same block size in the QTBT coding block structure. In the JEM, a CU sometimes consists of coding blocks (CBs) of different colour components, e.g. one CU contains one luma CB and two chroma CBs in the case of P and B slices of the 4:2:0 chroma format and sometimes consists of a CB of a single component, e.g., one CU contains only one luma CB or just two chroma CBs in the case of I slices.

[0069] The following parameters are defined for the QTBT partitioning scheme.

- CTU size: the root node size of a quadtree, the same concept as in HEVC
- *MinQTSize*: the minimally allowed quadtree leaf node size
- *MaxBTSize*: the maximally allowed binary tree root node size
- *MaxBTDepth*: the maximally allowed binary tree depth
- *MinBTSize*: the minimally allowed binary tree leaf node size

[0070] In one example of the QTBT partitioning structure, the CTU size is set as 128×128 luma samples with two corresponding 64×64 blocks of chroma samples, the *MinQTSize* is set as 16×16, the *MaxBTSize* is set as 64×64, the *MinBTSize* (for both width and height) is set as 4×4, and the *MaxBTDepth* is set as 4. The quadtree partitioning is applied to the CTU first to generate quadtree leaf nodes. The quadtree leaf nodes may have a size from 16×16 (i.e., the *MinQTSize*) to 128×128 (i.e., the CTU size). If the leaf quadtree node is 128×128, it will not be further split by the binary tree since the size exceeds the *MaxBTSize* (i.e., 64×64). Otherwise, the leaf quadtree node could be further partitioned by the binary tree. Therefore, the quadtree leaf node is also the root node for the binary tree and it has the binary tree depth as 0. When the binary tree depth reaches *MaxBTDepth* (i.e., 4), no further splitting is considered. When the binary tree node has width equal to *MinBTSize* (i.e., 4), no further horizontal splitting is considered. Similarly, when the binary tree node has height equal to *MinBTSize*, no further vertical splitting is considered. The leaf nodes of the binary tree are further processed by prediction and transform processing without any further partitioning. In the JEM, the maximum CTU size is 256×256 luma samples.

[0071] FIG. 5 (left) illustrates an example of block partitioning by using QTBT, and FIG. 5 (right) illustrates the corresponding tree representation. The solid lines indicate quadtree splitting

and dotted lines indicate binary tree splitting. In each splitting (i.e., non-leaf) node of the binary tree, one flag is signalled to indicate which splitting type (i.e., horizontal or vertical) is used, where 0 indicates horizontal splitting and 1 indicates vertical splitting. For the quadtree splitting, there is no need to indicate the splitting type since quadtree splitting always splits a block both horizontally and vertically to produce 4 sub-blocks with an equal size.

[0072] In addition, the QTBT scheme supports the ability for the luma and chroma to have a separate QTBT structure. Currently, for P and B slices, the luma and chroma CTBs in one CTU share the same QTBT structure. However, for I slices, the luma CTB is partitioned into CUs by a QTBT structure, and the chroma CTBs are partitioned into chroma CUs by another QTBT structure. This means that a CU in an I slice consists of a coding block of the luma component or coding blocks of two chroma components, and a CU in a P or B slice consists of coding blocks of all three colour components.

[0073] In HEVC, inter prediction for small blocks is restricted to reduce the memory access of motion compensation, such that bi-prediction is not supported for 4×8 and 8×4 blocks, and inter prediction is not supported for 4×4 blocks. In the QTBT of the JEM, these restrictions are removed.

[0074] **2.1.4 Ternary-tree for VVC**

[0075] In some implementations, tree types other than quad-tree and binary-tree are supported. In the implementation, two more ternary tree (TT) partitions, i.e., horizontal and vertical center-side ternary-trees are introduced, as shown in FIG. 6, parts (d) and (e).

[0076] FIG. 6 shows: (a) quad-tree partitioning (b) vertical binary-tree partitioning (c) horizontal binary-tree partitioning (d) vertical center-side ternary-tree partitioning (e) horizontal center-side ternary-tree partitioning.

[0077] In some implementations, there are two levels of trees, region tree (quad-tree) and prediction tree (binary-tree or ternary-tree). A CTU is firstly partitioned by region tree (RT). A RT leaf may be further split with prediction tree (PT). A PT leaf may also be further split with PT until max PT depth is reached. A PT leaf is the basic coding unit. It is still called CU for convenience. A CU cannot be further split. Prediction and transform are both applied on CU in the same way as JEM. The whole partition structure is named ‘multiple-type-tree’.

[0078] **2.1.5 Partitioning structure in [8]**

[0079] The tree structure used in this response, called Multi-Tree Type (MTT), is a

generalization of the QTBT. In QTBT, as shown in FIG. 5, a Coding Tree Unit (CTU) is firstly partitioned by a quad-tree structure. The quad-tree leaf nodes are further partitioned by a binary-tree structure.

[0080] The fundamental structure of MTT constitutes of two types of tree nodes: Region Tree (RT) and Prediction Tree (PT), supporting nine types of partitions, as shown in FIG. 7.

[0081] FIG. 7 shows: (a) quad-tree partitioning (b) vertical binary-tree partitioning (c) horizontal binary-tree partitioning (d) vertical ternary-tree partitioning (e) horizontal ternary-tree partitioning (f) horizontal-up asymmetric binary-tree partitioning (g) horizontal-down asymmetric binary-tree partitioning (h) vertical-left asymmetric binary-tree partitioning (i) vertical-right asymmetric binary-tree partitioning.

[0082] A region tree can recursively split a CTU into square blocks down to a 4x4 size region tree leaf node. At each node in a region tree, a prediction tree can be formed from one of three tree types: Binary Tree (BT), Ternary Tree (TT), and Asymmetric Binary Tree (ABT). In a PT split, it is prohibited to have a quadtree partition in branches of the prediction tree. As in JEM, the luma tree and the chroma tree are separated in I slices. The signaling methods for RT and PT are illustrated in FIG. 8.

[0083] **2.2 Inter prediction in HEVC/H.265**

[0084] Each inter-predicted PU has motion parameters for one or two reference picture lists. Motion parameters include a motion vector and a reference picture index. Usage of one of the two reference picture lists may also be signalled using *inter_pred_idc*. Motion vectors may be explicitly coded as deltas relative to predictors, such a coding mode is called AMVP mode.

[0085] When a CU is coded with skip mode, one PU is associated with the CU, and there are no significant residual coefficients, no coded motion vector delta or reference picture index. A merge mode is specified whereby the motion parameters for the current PU are obtained from neighbouring PUs, including spatial and temporal candidates. The merge mode can be applied to any inter-predicted PU, not only for skip mode. The alternative to merge mode is the explicit transmission of motion parameters, where motion vector, corresponding reference picture index for each reference picture list and reference picture list usage are signalled explicitly per each PU.

[0086] When signalling indicates that one of the two reference picture lists is to be used, the PU is produced from one block of samples. This is referred to as ‘uni-prediction’. Uni-prediction

is available both for P-slices and B-slices.

[0087] When signalling indicates that both of the reference picture lists are to be used, the PU is produced from two blocks of samples. This is referred to as 'bi-prediction'. Bi-prediction is available for B-slices only.

[0088] The following text provides the details on the inter prediction modes specified in HEVC. The description will start with the merge mode.

[0089] **2.2.1 Merge mode**

[0090] **2.2.1.1 Derivation of candidates for merge mode**

[0091] When a PU is predicted using merge mode, an index pointing to an entry in the *merge candidates list* is parsed from the bitstream and used to retrieve the motion information. The construction of this list is specified in the HEVC standard and can be summarized according to the following sequence of steps:

- Step 1: Initial candidates derivation
  - Step 1.1: Spatial candidates derivation
  - Step 1.2: Redundancy check for spatial candidates
  - Step 1.3: Temporal candidates derivation
- Step 2: Additional candidates insertion
  - Step 2.1: Creation of bi-predictive candidates
  - Step 2.2: Insertion of zero motion candidates

[0092] These steps are also schematically depicted in FIG. 9. For spatial merge candidate derivation, a maximum of four merge candidates are selected among candidates that are located in five different positions. For temporal merge candidate derivation, a maximum of one merge candidate is selected among two candidates. Since constant number of candidates for each PU is assumed at decoder, additional candidates are generated when the number of candidates does not reach to maximum number of merge candidate (MaxNumMergeCand) which is signalled in slice header. Since the number of candidates is constant, index of best merge candidate is encoded using truncated unary binarization (TU). If the size of CU is equal to 8, all the PUs of the current CU share a single merge candidate list, which is identical to the merge candidate list of the 2N×2N prediction unit.

[0093] In the following, the operations associated with the aforementioned steps are detailed.

[0094] **2.2.1.2** Spatial **candidates derivation**

[0095] In the derivation of spatial merge candidates, a maximum of four merge candidates are selected among candidates located in the positions depicted in FIG. 10. The order of derivation is A_1, B_1, B_0, A_0 and B_2. Position B_2 is considered only when any PU of position A_1, B_1, B_0, A_0 is not available (e.g. because it belongs to another slice or tile) or is intra coded. After candidate at position A_1 is added, the addition of the remaining candidates is subject to a redundancy check which ensures that candidates with same motion information are excluded from the list so that coding efficiency is improved. To reduce computational complexity, not all possible candidate pairs are considered in the mentioned redundancy check. Instead only the pairs linked with an arrow in FIG. 11 are considered and a candidate is only added to the list if the corresponding candidate used for redundancy check has not the same motion information. Another source of duplicate motion information is the "*second PU*" associated with partitions different from 2Nx2N. As an example, FIG. 12 depicts the second PU for the case of N×2N and 2N×N, respectively. When the current PU is partitioned as N×2N, candidate at position A_1 is not considered for list construction. In fact, by adding this candidate will lead to two prediction units having the same motion information, which is redundant to just have one PU in a coding unit. Similarly, position B_1 is not considered when the current PU is partitioned as 2N×N.

[0096] **2.2.1.3 Temporal candidate derivation**

[0097] In this step, only one candidate is added to the list. Particularly, in the derivation of this temporal merge candidate, a scaled motion vector is derived based on co-located PU belonging to the picture which has the smallest POC difference with current picture within the given reference picture list. The reference picture list to be used for derivation of the co-located PU is explicitly signalled in the slice header. The scaled motion vector for temporal merge candidate is obtained as illustrated by the dashed line in FIG. 13, which is scaled from the motion vector of the co-located PU using the POC distances, tb and td, where tb is defined to be the POC difference between the reference picture of the current picture and the current picture and td is defined to be the POC difference between the reference picture of the co-located picture and the co-located picture. The reference picture index of temporal merge candidate is set equal to zero. A practical realization of the scaling process is described in the HEVC specification [1]. For a B-slice, two motion vectors, one is for reference picture list 0 and the other is for reference picture list 1, are obtained and combined to make the bi-predictive merge candidate. Illustration of motion vector scaling for temporal merge candidate.

[0098] In the co-located PU (Y) belonging to the reference frame, the position for the temporal candidate is selected between candidates C_0 and C_1, as depicted in FIG. 14. If PU at position C_0 is not available, is intra coded, or is outside of the current CTU, position C_1 is used. Otherwise, position C_0 is used in the derivation of the temporal merge candidate.

[0099] **2.2.1.4 Additional candidates insertion**

[00100] Besides spatio-temporal merge candidates, there are two additional types of merge candidates: combined bi-predictive merge candidate and zero merge candidate. Combined bi-predictive merge candidates are generated by utilizing spatio-temporal merge candidates. Combined bi-predictive merge candidate is used for B-Slice only. The combined bi-predictive candidates are generated by combining the first reference picture list motion parameters of an initial candidate with the second reference picture list motion parameters of another. If these two tuples provide different motion hypotheses, they will form a new bi-predictive candidate. As an example, FIG. 15 depicts the case when two candidates in the original list (on the left), which have mvL0 and refIdxL0 or mvL1 and refIdxL1, are used to create a combined bi-predictive merge candidate added to the final list (on the right). There are numerous rules regarding the combinations which are considered to generate these additional merge candidates.

[00101] Zero motion candidates are inserted to fill the remaining entries in the merge candidates list and therefore hit the MaxNumMergeCand capacity. These candidates have zero spatial displacement and a reference picture index which starts from zero and increases every time a new zero motion candidate is added to the list. The number of reference frames used by these candidates is one and two for uni and bi-directional prediction, respectively. Finally, no redundancy check is performed on these candidates.

[00102] **2.2.1.5 Motion estimation regions for parallel processing**

[00103] To speed up the encoding process, motion estimation can be performed in parallel whereby the motion vectors for all prediction units inside a given region are derived simultaneously. The derivation of merge candidates from spatial neighbourhood may interfere with parallel processing as one prediction unit cannot derive the motion parameters from an adjacent PU until its associated motion estimation is completed. To mitigate the trade-off between coding efficiency and processing latency, HEVC defines the motion estimation region (MER) whose size is signalled in the picture parameter set using the "log2_parallel_merge_level_minus2" syntax element. When a MER is defined, merge candidates

falling in the same region are marked as unavailable and therefore not considered in the list construction.

7.3.2.3 Picture parameter set RBSP syntax
7.3.2.3.1 General picture parameter set RBSP syntax

pic_parameter_set_rbsp( ) {	**Descriptor**
pps_pic_parameter_set_id	ue(v)
pps_seq_parameter_set_id	ue(v)
dependent_slice_segments_enabled_flag	u(1)
…	
pps_scaling_list_data_present_flag	u(1)
if(pps_scaling_list_data_present_flag)	
scaling_list_data( )	
lists_modification_present_flag	u(1)
log2_parallel_merge_level_minus2	ue(v)
slice_segment_header_extension_present_flag	u(1)
pps_extension_present_flag	u(1)
…	
rbsp_trailing_bits( )	
}	

log2_parallel_merge_level_minus2 plus 2 specifies the value of the variable Log2ParMrgLevel, which is used in the derivation process for luma motion vectors for merge mode as specified in clause 8.5.3.2.2 and the derivation process for spatial merging candidates as specified in clause 8.5.3.2.3. The value of log2_parallel_merge_level_minus2 shall be in the range of 0 to CtbLog2SizeY − 2, inclusive.

The variable Log2ParMrgLevel is derived as follows:

Log2ParMrgLevel = log2_parallel_merge_level_minus2 + 2 (7-37)

NOTE 3 – The value of Log2ParMrgLevel indicates the built-in capability of parallel derivation of the merging candidate lists. For example, when Log2ParMrgLevel is equal to 6, the merging candidate lists for all the prediction units (PUs) and coding units (CUs) contained in a 64x64 block can be derived in parallel.

[00104] 2.2.2 Motion vector prediction in AMVP mode

[00105] Motion vector prediction exploits spatio-temporal correlation of motion vector with neighbouring PUs, which is used for explicit transmission of motion parameters. It constructs a

motion vector candidate list by firstly checking availability of left, above temporally neighbouring PU positions, removing redundant candidates and adding zero vector to make the candidate list to be constant length. Then, the encoder can select the best predictor from the candidate list and transmit the corresponding index indicating the chosen candidate. Similarly with merge index signalling, the index of the best motion vector candidate is encoded using truncated unary. The maximum value to be encoded in this case is 2 (e.g., FIGs. 2 to 8). In the following sections, details about derivation process of motion vector prediction candidate are provided.

[00106] 2.2.2.1 Derivation of motion vector prediction candidates

[00107] FIG. 16 summarizes derivation process for motion vector prediction candidate.

[00108] In motion vector prediction, two types of motion vector candidates are considered: spatial motion vector candidate and temporal motion vector candidate. For spatial motion vector candidate derivation, two motion vector candidates are eventually derived based on motion vectors of each PU located in five different positions as depicted in FIG. 11.

[00109] For temporal motion vector candidate derivation, one motion vector candidate is selected from two candidates, which are derived based on two different co-located positions. After the first list of spatio-temporal candidates is made, duplicated motion vector candidates in the list are removed. If the number of potential candidates is larger than two, motion vector candidates whose reference picture index within the associated reference picture list is larger than 1 are removed from the list. If the number of spatio-temporal motion vector candidates is smaller than two, additional zero motion vector candidates is added to the list.

[00110] 2.2.2.2 Spatial motion vector candidates

[00111] In the derivation of spatial motion vector candidates, a maximum of two candidates are considered among five potential candidates, which are derived from PUs located in positions as depicted in FIG. 11, those positions being the same as those of motion merge. The order of derivation for the left side of the current PU is defined as A_0, A_1, and scaled A_0, scaled A_1. The order of derivation for the above side of the current PU is defined as B_0, B_1, B_2, scaled B_0, scaled B_1, scaled B_2. For each side there are therefore four cases that can be used as motion vector candidate, with two cases not required to use spatial scaling, and two cases where spatial scaling is used. The four different cases are summarized as follows.

- No spatial scaling
  - (1) Same reference picture list, and same reference picture index (same POC)
  - (2) Different reference picture list, but same reference picture (same POC)
- Spatial scaling
  - (3) Same reference picture list, but different reference picture (different POC)
  - (4) Different reference picture list, and different reference picture (different POC)

[00112] The no-spatial-scaling cases are checked first followed by the spatial scaling. Spatial scaling is considered when the POC is different between the reference picture of the neighbouring PU and that of the current PU regardless of reference picture list. If all PUs of left candidates are not available or are intra coded, scaling for the above motion vector is allowed to help parallel derivation of left and above MV candidates. Otherwise, spatial scaling is not allowed for the above motion vector.

[00113] In a spatial scaling process, the motion vector of the neighbouring PU is scaled in a similar manner as for temporal scaling, as depicted as FIG. 17. The main difference is that the reference picture list and index of current PU is given as input; the actual scaling process is the same as that of temporal scaling.

[00114] **2.2.2.3 Temporal motion vector candidates**

[00115] Apart for the reference picture index derivation, all processes for the derivation of temporal merge candidates are the same as for the derivation of spatial motion vector candidates (see, e.g., FIG. 6). The reference picture index is signalled to the decoder.

[00116] **2.2.2.4 Signaling of AMVP information**

[00117] For the AMVP mode, four parts may be signalled in the bitstream, i.e., prediction direction, reference index, MVD and mv predictor candidate index.

Syntax tables:

prediction_unit(x0, y0, nPbW, nPbH) {	**Descriptor**
if(cu_skip_flag[x0][y0]) {	
if(MaxNumMergeCand > 1)	
merge_idx[x0][y0]	ae(v)
} else { /* MODE_INTER */	
merge_flag[x0][y0]	ae(v)
if(merge_flag[x0][y0]) {	
if(MaxNumMergeCand > 1)	
merge_idx[x0][y0]	ae(v)
} else {	
if(slice_type == B)	
inter_pred_idc[x0][y0]	ae(v)
if(inter_pred_idc[x0][y0] != PRED_L1) {	
if(num_ref_idx_l0_active_minus1 > 0)	
ref_idx_l0[x0][y0]	ae(v)
mvd_coding(x0, y0, 0)	
mvp_l0_flag[x0][y0]	ae(v)
}	
if(inter_pred_idc[x0][y0] != PRED_L0) {	
if(num_ref_idx_l1_active_minus1 > 0)	
ref_idx_l1[x0][y0]	ae(v)
if(mvd_l1_zero_flag && inter_pred_idc[x0][y0] == PRED_BI) {	
MvdL1[x0][y0][0] = 0	
MvdL1[x0][y0][1] = 0	
} else	
mvd_coding(x0, y0, 1)	
mvp_l1_flag[x0][y0]	ae(v)
}	
}	
}	
}	

7.3.8.9 Motion vector difference syntax

mvd_coding(x0, y0, refList) {	**Descriptor**
abs_mvd_greater0_flag[0]	ae(v)
abs_mvd_greater0_flag[1]	ae(v)
if(abs_mvd_greater0_flag[0])	
abs_mvd_greater1_flag[0]	ae(v)
if(abs_mvd_greater0_flag[1])	
abs_mvd_greater1_flag[1]	ae(v)
if(abs_mvd_greater0_flag[0]) {	
if(abs_mvd_greater1_flag[0])	
abs_mvd_minus2[0]	ae(v)
mvd_sign_flag[0]	ae(v)
}	
if(abs_mvd_greater0_flag[1]) {	
if(abs_mvd_greater1_flag[1])	
abs_mvd_minus2[1]	ae(v)
mvd_sign_flag[1]	ae(v)
}	
}	

[00118] 2.3 New inter prediction methods in JEM (Joint Exploration Model)

[00119] 2.3.1 Sub-CU based motion vector prediction

[00120] In the JEM with QTBT, each CU can have at most one set of motion parameters for each prediction direction. Two sub-CU level motion vector prediction methods are considered in the encoder by splitting a large CU into sub-CUs and deriving motion information for all the sub-CUs of the large CU. Alternative temporal motion vector prediction (ATMVP) method allows each CU to fetch multiple sets of motion information from multiple blocks smaller than the current CU in the collocated reference picture. In spatial-temporal motion vector prediction (STMVP) method motion vectors of the sub-CUs are derived recursively by using the temporal motion vector predictor and spatial neighbouring motion vector.

[00121] To preserve more accurate motion field for sub-CU motion prediction, the motion compression for the reference frames is currently disabled.

[00122] 2.3.1.1 Alternative temporal motion vector prediction

[00123] In the alternative temporal motion vector prediction (ATMVP) method, the motion

vectors temporal motion vector prediction (TMVP) is modified by fetching multiple sets of motion information (including motion vectors and reference indices) from blocks smaller than the current CU. As shown in FIG. 18, the sub-CUs are square N×N blocks (N is set to 4 by default).

[00124] ATMVP predicts the motion vectors of the sub-CUs within a CU in two steps. The first step is to identify the corresponding block in a reference picture with a so-called temporal vector. The reference picture is called the motion source picture. The second step is to split the current CU into sub-CUs and obtain the motion vectors as well as the reference indices of each sub-CU from the block corresponding to each sub-CU, as shown in FIG. 18.

[00125] In the first step, a reference picture and the corresponding block is determined by the motion information of the spatial neighbouring blocks of the current CU. To avoid the repetitive scanning process of neighbouring blocks, the first merge candidate in the merge candidate list of the current CU is used. The first available motion vector as well as its associated reference index are set to be the ***temporal vector*** and the index to the motion source picture. This way, in ATMVP, the corresponding block may be more accurately identified, compared with TMVP, wherein the corresponding block (sometimes called collocated block) is always in a bottom-right or center position relative to the current CU. In one example, if the first merge candidate is from the left neighboring block (i.e., A_1 in FIG. 19), the associated MV and reference picture are utilized to identify the source block and source picture.

[00126] FIG. 19 shows an example of the identification of source block and source picture

[00127] In the second step, a corresponding block of the sub-CU is identified by the temporal vector in the motion source picture, by adding to the coordinate of the current CU the temporal vector. For each sub-CU, the motion information of its corresponding block (the smallest motion grid that covers the center sample) is used to derive the motion information for the sub-CU. After the motion information of a corresponding N×N block is identified, it is converted to the motion vectors and reference indices of the current sub-CU, in the same way as TMVP of HEVC, wherein motion scaling and other procedures apply. For example, the decoder checks whether the low-delay condition (i.e. the POCs of all reference pictures of the current picture are smaller than the POC of the current picture) is fulfilled and possibly uses motion vector MV_x (the motion vector corresponding to reference picture list X) to predict motion vector MV_y (with X being equal to 0 or 1 and Y being equal to 1−X) for each sub-CU.

[00128] 2.3.1.2 Spatial-temporal motion vector prediction

[00129] In this method, the motion vectors of the sub-CUs are derived recursively, following raster scan order. FIG. 20 illustrates this concept. Let us consider an 8×8 CU which contains four 4×4 sub-CUs A, B, C, and D. The neighbouring 4×4 blocks in the current frame are labelled as a, b, c, and d.

[00130] The motion derivation for sub-CU A starts by identifying its two spatial neighbours. The first neighbour is the N×N block above sub-CU A (block c). If this block c is not available or is intra coded the other N×N blocks above sub-CU A are checked (from left to right, starting at block c). The second neighbour is a block to the left of the sub-CU A (block b). If block b is not available or is intra coded other blocks to the left of sub-CU A are checked (from top to bottom, staring at block b). The motion information obtained from the neighbouring blocks for each list is scaled to the first reference frame for a given list. Next, temporal motion vector predictor (TMVP) of sub-block A is derived by following the same procedure of TMVP derivation as specified in HEVC. The motion information of the collocated block at location D is fetched and scaled accordingly. Finally, after retrieving and scaling the motion information, all available motion vectors (up to 3) are averaged separately for each reference list. The averaged motion vector is assigned as the motion vector of the current sub-CU.

[00131] FIG. 20 shows an example of one CU with four sub-blocks (A-D) and its neighbouring blocks (a–d).

[00132] 2.3.1.3 Sub-CU motion prediction mode signalling

[00133] The sub-CU modes are enabled as additional merge candidates and there is no additional syntax element required to signal the modes. Two additional merge candidates are added to merge candidates list of each CU to represent the ATMVP mode and STMVP mode. Up to seven merge candidates are used, if the sequence parameter set indicates that ATMVP and STMVP are enabled. The encoding logic of the additional merge candidates is the same as for the merge candidates in the HM, which means, for each CU in P or B slice, two more RD checks is needed for the two additional merge candidates.

[00134] In the JEM, all bins of merge index is context coded by CABAC. While in HEVC, only the first bin is context coded and the remaining bins are context by-pass coded.

[00135] 2.3.2 Adaptive motion vector difference resolution

[00136] In HEVC, motion vector differences (MVDs) (between the motion vector and

predicted motion vector of a PU) are signalled in units of quarter luma samples when use_integer_mv_flag is equal to 0 in the slice header. In the JEM, a locally adaptive motion vector resolution (LAMVR) is introduced. In the JEM, MVD can be coded in units of quarter luma samples, integer luma samples or four luma samples. The MVD resolution is controlled at the coding unit (CU) level, and MVD resolution flags are conditionally signalled for each CU that has at least one non-zero MVD components.

[00137] For a CU that has at least one non-zero MVD components, a first flag is signalled to indicate whether quarter luma sample MV precision is used in the CU. When the first flag (equal to 1) indicates that quarter luma sample MV precision is not used, another flag is signalled to indicate whether integer luma sample MV precision or four luma sample MV precision is used.

[00138] When the first MVD resolution flag of a CU is zero, or not coded for a CU (meaning all MVDs in the CU are zero), the quarter luma sample MV resolution is used for the CU. When a CU uses integer-luma sample MV precision or four-luma-sample MV precision, the MVPs in the AMVP candidate list for the CU are rounded to the corresponding precision.

[00139] In the encoder, CU-level RD checks are used to determine which MVD resolution is to be used for a CU. That is, the CU-level RD check is performed three times for each MVD resolution. To accelerate encoder speed, the following encoding schemes are applied in the JEM.

[00140] During RD check of a CU with normal quarter luma sample MVD resolution, the motion information of the current CU (integer luma sample accuracy) is stored. The stored motion information (after rounding) is used as the starting point for further small range motion vector refinement during the RD check for the same CU with integer luma sample and 4 luma sample MVD resolution so that the time-consuming motion estimation process is not duplicated three times.

[00141] RD check of a CU with 4 luma sample MVD resolution is conditionally invoked. For a CU, when RD cost integer luma sample MVD resolution is much larger than that of quarter luma sample MVD resolution, the RD check of 4 luma sample MVD resolution for the CU is skipped.

[00142] **2.3.3 Pattern matched motion vector derivation**

[00143] Pattern matched motion vector derivation (PMMVD) mode is a special merge mode based on Frame-Rate Up Conversion (FRUC) techniques. With this mode, motion information of a block is not signalled but derived at decoder side.

[00144] A FRUC flag is signalled for a CU when its merge flag is true. When the FRUC flag is false, a merge index is signalled and the regular merge mode is used. When the FRUC flag is true, an additional FRUC mode flag is signalled to indicate which method (bilateral matching or template matching) is to be used to derive motion information for the block.

[00145] At encoder side, the decision on whether using FRUC merge mode for a CU is based on RD cost selection as done for normal merge candidate. That is the two matching modes (bilateral matching and template matching) are both checked for a CU by using RD cost selection. The one leading to the minimal cost is further compared to other CU modes. If a FRUC matching mode is the most efficient one, FRUC flag is set to true for the CU and the related matching mode is used.

[00146] Motion derivation process in FRUC merge mode has two steps. A CU-level motion search is first performed, then followed by a Sub-CU level motion refinement. At CU level, an initial motion vector is derived for the whole CU based on bilateral matching or template matching. First, a list of MV candidates is generated and the candidate which leads to the minimum matching cost is selected as the starting point for further CU level refinement. Then a local search based on bilateral matching or template matching around the starting point is performed and the MV results in the minimum matching cost is taken as the MV for the whole CU. Subsequently, the motion information is further refined at sub-CU level with the derived CU motion vectors as the starting points.

[00147] For example, the following derivation process is performed for a $W \times H$ CU motion information derivation. At the first stage, MV for the whole $W \times H$ CU is derived. At the second stage, the CU is further split into $M \times M$ sub-CUs. The value of M is calculated as in (16), D is a predefined splitting depth which is set to 3 by default in the JEM. Then the MV for each sub-CU is derived.

$$M = \max\{4, \min\{\frac{M}{2^D}, \frac{N}{2^D}\}\} \quad (1)$$

[00148] As shown in the FIG. 21, the bilateral matching is used to derive motion information of the current CU by finding the closest match between two blocks along the motion trajectory of the current CU in two different reference pictures. Under the assumption of continuous motion trajectory, the motion vectors MV0 and MV1 pointing to the two reference blocks shall be proportional to the temporal distances, i.e., TD0 and TD1, between the current picture and the

two reference pictures. As a special case, when the current picture is temporally between the two reference pictures and the temporal distance from the current picture to the two reference pictures is the same, the bilateral matching becomes mirror based bi-directional MV.

[00149] As shown in FIG. 22, template matching is used to derive motion information of the current CU by finding the closest match between a template (top and/or left neighbouring blocks of the current CU) in the current picture and a block (same size to the template) in a reference picture. Except the aforementioned FRUC merge mode, the template matching is also applied to AMVP mode. In the JEM, as done in HEVC, AMVP has two candidates. With template matching method, a new candidate is derived. If the newly derived candidate by template matching is different to the first existing AMVP candidate, it is inserted at the very beginning of the AMVP candidate list and then the list size is set to two (meaning remove the second existing AMVP candidate). When applied to AMVP mode, only CU level search is applied.

[00150] **2.3.3.1 CU level MV candidate set**

[00151] The MV candidate set at CU level consists of:

(i) Original AMVP candidates if the current CU is in AMVP mode

(ii) all merge candidates,

(iii) several MVs in the interpolated MV field.

(iv) top and left neighbouring motion vectors

[00152] When using bilateral matching, each valid MV of a merge candidate is used as an input to generate a MV pair with the assumption of bilateral matching. For example, one valid MV of a merge candidate is (MVa, refa) at reference list A. Then the reference picture refb of its paired bilateral MV is found in the other reference list B so that refa and refb are temporally at different sides of the current picture. If such a refb is not available in reference list B, refb is determined as a reference which is different from refa and its temporal distance to the current picture is the minimal one in list B. After refb is determined, MVb is derived by scaling MVa based on the temporal distance between the current picture and refa, refb.

[00153] Four MVs from the interpolated MV field are also added to the CU level candidate list. More specifically, the interpolated MVs at the position (0, 0), (W/2, 0), (0, H/2) and (W/2, H/2) of the current CU are added.

[00154] When FRUC is applied in AMVP mode, the original AMVP candidates are also added to CU level MV candidate set.

[00155] At the CU level, up to 15 MVs for AMVP CUs and up to 13 MVs for merge CUs are added to the candidate list.

[00156] **2.3.3.2 Sub-CU level MV candidate set**

[00157] The MV candidate set at sub-CU level consists of:

(i) an MV determined from a CU-level search,

(ii) top, left, top-left and top-right neighbouring MVs,

(iii) scaled versions of collocated MVs from reference pictures,

(iv) up to 4 ATMVP candidates,

(v) up to 4 STMVP candidates

[00158] The scaled MVs from reference pictures are derived as follows. All the reference pictures in both lists are traversed. The MVs at a collocated position of the sub-CU in a reference picture are scaled to the reference of the starting CU-level MV.

[00159] ATMVP and STMVP candidates are limited to the four first ones.

[00160] At the sub-CU level, up to 17 MVs are added to the candidate list.

[00161] **2.3.3.3 Generation of interpolated MV field**

[00162] Before coding a frame, interpolated motion field is generated for the whole picture based on unilateral ME. Then the motion field may be used later as CU level or sub-CU level MV candidates.

[00163] First, the motion field of each reference pictures in both reference lists is traversed at 4×4 block level. For each 4×4 block, if the motion associated to the block passing through a 4×4 block in the current picture (as shown in FIG. 23) and the block has not been assigned any interpolated motion, the motion of the reference block is scaled to the current picture according to the temporal distance TD0 and TD1 (the same way as that of MV scaling of TMVP in HEVC) and the scaled motion is assigned to the block in the current frame. If no scaled MV is assigned to a 4×4 block, the block's motion is marked as unavailable in the interpolated motion field.

[00164] **2.3.3.4 Interpolation and matching cost**

[00165] When a motion vector points to a fractional sample position, motion compensated interpolation is needed. To reduce complexity, bi-linear interpolation instead of regular 8-tap HEVC interpolation is used for both bilateral matching and template matching.

[00166] The calculation of matching cost is a bit different at different steps. When selecting the candidate from the candidate set at the CU level, the matching cost is the absolute sum

difference (SAD) of bilateral matching or template matching. After the starting MV is determined, the matching cost C of bilateral matching at sub-CU level search is calculated as follows:

$$C = SAD + w \cdot (|MV_x - MV_x^s| + |MV_y - MV_y^s|) \quad (2)$$

[00167] where w is a weighting factor which is empirically set to 4, MV and MV^s indicate the current MV and the starting MV, respectively. SAD is still used as the matching cost of template matching at sub-CU level search.

[00168] In FRUC mode, MV is derived by using luma samples only. The derived motion will be used for both luma and chroma for MC inter prediction. After MV is decided, final MC is performed using 8-taps interpolation filter for luma and 4-taps interpolation filter for chroma.

[00169] **2.3.3.5 MV refinement**

[00170] MV refinement is a pattern based MV search with the criterion of bilateral matching cost or template matching cost. In the JEM, two search patterns are supported – an unrestricted center-biased diamond search (UCBDS) and an adaptive cross search for MV refinement at the CU level and sub-CU level, respectively. For both CU and sub-CU level MV refinement, the MV is directly searched at quarter luma sample MV accuracy, and this is followed by one-eighth luma sample MV refinement. The search range of MV refinement for the CU and sub-CU step are set equal to 8 luma samples.

[00171] **2.3.3.6 Selection of prediction direction in template matching FRUC merge mode**

[00172] In the bilateral matching merge mode, bi-prediction is always applied since the motion information of a CU is derived based on the closest match between two blocks along the motion trajectory of the current CU in two different reference pictures. There is no such limitation for the template matching merge mode. In the template matching merge mode, the encoder can choose among uni-prediction from list0, uni-prediction from list1 or bi-prediction for a CU. The selection is based on a template matching cost as follows:

If *costBi* <= *factor* * min (*cost*0, *cost1*)

bi-prediction is used;

Otherwise, if *cost*0 <= *cost1*

uni-prediction from list0 is used;

Otherwise,

uni-prediction from list1 is used;

[00173] where cost0 is the SAD of list0 template matching, cost1 is the SAD of list1 template matching and costBi is the SAD of bi-prediction template matching. The value of *factor* is equal to 1.25, which means that the selection process is biased toward bi-prediction.
The inter prediction direction selection is only applied to the CU-level template matching process.

[00174] **2.3.4 Decoder-side motion vector refinement**

[00175] In bi-prediction operation, for the prediction of one block region, two prediction blocks, formed using a motion vector (MV) of list0 and a MV of list1, respectively, are combined to form a single prediction signal. In the decoder-side motion vector refinement (DMVR) method, the two motion vectors of the bi-prediction are further refined by a bilateral template matching process. The bilateral template matching applied in the decoder to perform a distortion-based search between a bilateral template and the reconstruction samples in the reference pictures in order to obtain a refined MV without transmission of additional motion information.

[00176] In DMVR, a bilateral template is generated as the weighted combination (i.e. average) of the two prediction blocks, from the initial MV0 of list0 and MV1 of list1, respectively, as shown in FIG. 23. The template matching operation consists of calculating cost measures between the generated template and the sample region (around the initial prediction block) in the reference picture. For each of the two reference pictures, the MV that yields the minimum template cost is considered as the updated MV of that list to replace the original one. In the JEM, nine MV candidates are searched for each list. The nine MV candidates include the original MV and 8 surrounding MVs with one luma sample offset to the original MV in either the horizontal or vertical direction, or both. Finally, the two new MVs, i.e., MV0′ and MV1′ as shown in FIG. 24, are used for generating the final bi-prediction results. A sum of absolute differences (SAD) is used as the cost measure.

[00177] DMVR is applied for the merge mode of bi-prediction with one MV from a reference picture in the past and another from a reference picture in the future, without the transmission of additional syntax elements. In the JEM, when LIC, affine motion, FRUC, or sub-CU merge candidate is enabled for a CU, DMVR is not applied.

[00178] **2.3.5 Merge/Skip mode with Bilateral Matching refinement**

[00179] A merge candidate list is first constructed by inserting the motion vectors and reference indices of the spatial neighboring and temporal neighboring blocks into the candidate list with redundancy checking until the number of the available candidates reaches the maximum candidate size of 19. The merge candidate list for the merge/skip mode is constructed by inserting spatial candidates (FIG. 11), temporal candidates, affine candidates, advanced temporal MVP (ATMVP) candidate, spatial temporal MVP (STMVP) candidate and the additional candidates as used in HEVC (Combined candidates and Zero candidates) according to a pre-defined insertion order:

[00180] - Spatial candidates for blocks 1-4.

[00181] - Extrapolated affine candidates for blocks 1-4.

[00182] - ATMVP.

[00183] - STMVP.

[00184] - Virtual affine candidate.

[00185] - Spatial candidate (block 5) (used only when the number of the available candidates is smaller than 6).

[00186] - Extrapolated affine candidate (block 5).

[00187] - Temporal candidate (derived as in HEVC).

[00188] - Non-adjacent spatial candidates followed by extrapolated affine candidate (blocks 6 to 49, as depicted in FIG. 25).

[00189] - Combined candidates.

[00190] - Zero candidates

[00191] It is noted that IC flags are also inherited from merge candidates except for STMVP and affine. Moreover, for the first four spatial candidates, the bi-prediction ones are inserted before the ones with uni-prediction.

[00192] In [8], blocks which are not connected with the current block may be accessed. If a non-adjacent block is coded with non-intra mode, the associated motion information may be added as an additional merge candidate.

[00193] **3. Examples of Problems Addressed by Embodiments disclosed herein**

[00194] The current HEVC design could take the correlation of current block its neighbouring blocks (next to the current block) to better code the motion information. However, it is possible that that the neighbouring blocks correspond to different objects with different motion

trajectories. In this case, prediction from its neighbouring blocks is not efficient.

[00195] Prediction from motion information of non-adjacent blocks could bring additional coding gain with the cost of storing all the motion information (typically on 4x4 level) into cache which significantly increase the complexity for hardware implementation.

[00196] **4. Some Examples of technical solutions**

[00197] Embodiments of the presently disclosed technology overcome the drawbacks of existing implementations, thereby providing video coding with higher coding efficiencies. In the description in the present document, an LUT may be a table, a list, an array or another arrangement of indexed entries.

[00198] To overcome the drawbacks of existing implementations, LUT-based motion vector prediction techniques using one or more tables (e.g., look up tables) with at least one motion candidate stored to predict motion information of a block can be implemented in various embodiments to provide video coding with higher coding efficiencies. A look up table is an example of a table which can be used to include motion candidates to predict motion information of a block and other implementations are also possible. Each LUT can include one or more motion candidates, each associated with corresponding motion information. Motion information of a motion candidate can include partial or all of the prediction direction, reference indices/pictures, motion vectors, LIC flags, affine flags, Motion Vector Derivation (MVD) precisions, and/or MVD values. Motion information may further include the block position information to indicate from which the motion information is coming.

[00199] The LUT-based motion vector prediction based on the disclosed technology, which may enhance both existing and future video coding standards, is elucidated in the following examples described for various implementations. Because the LUTs allow the encoding/decoding process to be performed based on historical data (e.g., the blocks that have been processed), the LUT-based motion vector prediction can also be referred to as History-based Motion Vector Prediction (HMVP) method. In the LUT-based motion vector prediction method, one or multiple tables with motion information from previously coded blocks are maintained during the encoding/decoding process. These motion candidates stored in the LUTs are named HMVP candidates. During the encoding/decoding of one block, the associated motion information in LUTs may be added to the motion candidate lists (e.g., merge/AMVP candidate lists), and after encoding/decoding one block, LUTs may be updated. The updated LUTs are then

used to code the subsequent blocks. Thus, the updating of motion candidates in the LUTs are based on the encoding/decoding order of blocks. The examples below should be considered as examples to explain general concepts.

[00200] The examples below should be considered as examples to explain general concepts. These examples should not be interpreted in a narrow way. Furthermore, these examples can be combined in any manner.

[00201] Some embodiments may use one or more look up tables with at least one motion candidate stored to predict motion information of a block. Embodiments may use motion candidate to indicate a set of motion information stored in a look up table. For conventional AMVP or merge modes, embodiments may use AMVP or merge candidates for storing the motion information.

[00202] The examples below explain general concepts.

[00203] **Examples of look-up tables**

[00204] Each look up table may contain one or more motion candidates wherein each candidate is associated with its motion information.

[00205] **Selection of LUTs**

[00206] Example B1: For coding a block, partial or all of motion candidates from one look up table may be checked in order. When one motion candidate is checked during coding a block, it may be added to the motion candidate list (e.g., AMVP, merge candidate lists).

[00207] **Usage of look up tables**

[00208] The total number of motion candidates in a look up table to be checked may be pre-defined.

a. It may further depend on the coded information, block size, block shape and etc.
    1. For example, for the AMVP mode, only *m* motion candidates may be checked while for the merge mode, *n* motion candidates may be checked (e.g., m = 2, n = 44).
b. In one example, the total number of motion candidates to be checked may be signalled in Video Parameter Set (VPS), Sequence Parameter Set (SPS), Picture Parameter Set (PPS), Slice header, tile header, Coding Tree Unit (CTU), Coding Tree Block (CTB), Coding Unit (CU) or Prediction Unit (PU), region covering multiple CTU/CTB/CU/PUs.

[00209] Example C1: The motion candidate(s) included in a look up table may be directly inherited by a block.

a. They may be used for the merge mode coding, i.e., motion candidates may be checked in the merge candidate list derivation process.
b. They may be used for the affine merge mode coding.
    i. A motion candidate in a look up table can be added as an affine merge candidate if its affine flag is one.
c. Checking of motion candidates in look up tables may be enabled when:
    i. the merge candidate list is not full after inserting the TMVP candidate;
    ii. the merge candidate list is not full after checking a certain spatial neighboring block for spatial merge candidate derivation;
    iii. the merge candidate list is not full after all spatial merge candidates;
    iv. the merge candidate list is not full after combined bi-predictive merge candidates;
    v. when the number of spatial or temporal (e.g., including adjacent spatial and non-adjacent spatial, TMVP, STMVP, ATMVP, etc. al) merge candidates that have been put into the merge candidate list from other coding methods (e.g., the merge derivation process of HEVC design, or JEM design) is less than the maximumly allowed merge candidates minus a given threshold.
        1. in one example, the threshold is set to 1 or 0.
        2. Alternatively, the threshold may be signaled or pre-defined in SPS/PPS/sequence, picture, slice header/tile.
        3. Alternatively, the threshold may be adaptively changed from block to block. For example, it may be dependent on coded block information, like block size/block shape/slice type, and/or dependent on the number of available spatial or temporal merge candidates.
        4. In another example, when the number of a certain kind of merge candidates than have been put into the merge candidate list is less than the maximumly allowed merge candidates minus a given

threshold. The "certain kind of merge candidates" may be spatial candidates as in HEVC or non-adjacent merge candidates.

vi. Pruning may be applied before adding a motion candidate to the merge candidate list. In various implementations of this example and other examples disclosed in this patent document, the pruning may include a) comparing the motion information with existing entries for uniqueness, or b) if unique, then adding the motion information to the list, or c) if not unique, then either c1) not adding or c2) adding the motion information and deleting existing entry that matched. In some implementations, the pruning operation is not invoked when adding a motion candidate from a table to a candidate list.

1. In one example, a motion candidate may be pruned to all or partial of the available spatial or temporal (e.g., including adjacent spatial and non-adjacent spatial, TMVP, STMVP, ATMVP, etc. al) merge candidates from other coding methods in the merge candidate list.
2. a motion candidate may be NOT pruned to sub-block based motion candidates, e.g., ATMVP, STMVP.
3. In one example, a current motion candidate may be pruned to all or partial of the available motion candidates (inserted before the current motion candidate) in the merge candidate list.
4. Number of pruning operations related to motion candidates (e.g., how many times that motion candidates need to be compared to other candidates in the merge list) may depend on the number of available spatial or temporal merge candidates. For example, when checking a new motion candidate, if there are M candidates available in the merge list, the new motion candidate may be only compared to the first K (K<=M) candidates. If the pruning function returns false (e.g., not identical to any of the first K candidates), the new motion candidate is considered to be

different from all of the M candidates and it could be added to the merge candidate list. In one example, K is set to min (K, 2).

5. In one example, a newly appended motion candidate is only compared with the first N candidate in the merge candidate list. For example, N = 3, 4 or 5. N may be signaled from the encoder to the decoder.
6. In one example, a new motion candidate to be checked is only compared with the last N candidate in the merge candidate list. For example, N = 3, 4 or 5. N may be signaled from the encoder to the decoder.
7. In one example, how to select candidates previously added in the list to be compared with a new motion candidate from a table may depend on where the previously added candidates derived from.
    a. In one example, a motion candidate in a look-up table may be compared to candidates derived from a given temporal and/or spatial neighboring block.
    b. In one example, different entries of motion candidates in a look-up table may be compared to different previously added candidates (i.e., derived from different locations).

[00210] Example C2: The motion candidate(s) included in a look up table may be used as a predictor for coding motion information of a block.

a. They may be used for the AMVP mode coding, i.e., motion candidates may be checked in the AMVP candidate list derivation process.
b. Checking of motion candidates in look up tables may be enabled when:
    i. the AMVP candidate list is not full after inserting the TMVP candidate;
    ii. the AMVP candidate list is not full after selecting from spatial neighbors and pruning, right before inserting the TMVP candidate;
    iii. when there is no AMVP candidate from above neighboring blocks without scaling and/or when there is no AMVP candidate from left neighboring blocks without scaling

iv. Pruning may be applied before adding a motion candidate to the AMVP candidate list.

c. Motion candidates with identical reference picture to the current reference picture is checked.

i. Alternatively, in addition, motion candidates with different reference pictures from the current reference picture are also checked (with MV scaled).

ii. Alternatively, all motion candidates with identical reference picture to the current reference picture are first checked, then, motion candidates with different reference pictures from the current reference picture are checked.

iii. Alternatively, motion candidates are checked following the same in merge.

[00211] Example C3: Motion candidates of a look up table in previously coded frames/slices/tiles may be used to predict motion information of a block in a different frame/slice/tile.

[00212] **Update of look up tables**

[00213] Example D1: After coding a block with motion information (i.e., IntraBC mode, inter coded mode), one or multiple look up tables may be updated.

[00214] Example D2: If one block is located at a picture/slice/tile border, updating of look up tables may be always disallowed.

[00215] Example D3: Motion information of above LCU rows may be disabled to code the current LCU row.

[00216] Example D4: At the beginning of coding a slice/tile with a new temporal layer index, the number of available motion candidates may be reset to 0.

[00217] Example D5: The look up table may be continuously updated with one slice/tile/LCU row/slices with same temporal layer index.

[00218] Example D6: Look up table updating process may be invoked within different procedures.

[00219] **Additional Example Embodiments**

[00220] A history-based MVP (HMVP) method is proposed wherein a HMVP candidate is defined as the motion information of a previously coded block. A table with multiple HMVP candidates is maintained during the encoding/decoding process. The table is emptied when a new slice is encountered. Whenever there is an inter-coded block, the associated motion information is added to the last entry of the table as a new HMVP candidate. The overall coding flow is depicted in FIG. 31.

[00221] In one example, the table size is set to be L (e.g., L = 16 or 6, or 44), which indicates up to L HMVP candidates may be added to the table.

[00222] In one embodiment (corresponding to example 11.g.i), if there are more than L HMVP candidates from the previously coded blocks, a First-In-First-Out (FIFO) rule is applied so that the table always contains the latest previously coded L motion candidates. FIG. 32 depicts an example wherein the FIFO rule is applied to remove a HMVP candidate and add a new one to the table used in the proposed method.

[00223] In another embodiment (corresponding to invention 11.g.iii), whenever adding a new motion candidate (such as the current block is inter-coded and non-affine mode), a redundancy checking process is applied firstly to identify whether there are identical or similar motion candidates in LUTs.

[00224] Some examples are depicted as follows:

[00225] FIG. 33A shows an example when the LUT is full before adding a new motion candidate.

[00226] FIG. 33B shows an example when the LUT is not full before adding a new motion candidate.

[00227] FIG. 33A and 33B together show an example of redundancy-removal based LUT updating method (with one redundancy motion candidate removed).

[00228] FIG. 34A and 34B show example implementation for two cases of the redundancy-removal based LUT updating method (with multiple redundancy motion candidates removed, 2 candidates in the figures)

[00229] FIG. 34A shows an example case of when the LUT is full before adding a new motion candidate.

[00230] FIG. 34B shows an example case of When the LUT is not full before adding a new motion candidate

[00231] HMVP candidates could be used in the merge candidate list construction process. All HMVP candidates from the last entry to the first entry (or the last *K*0 HMVP, e.g., *K*0 equal to 16 or 6) in the table are inserted after the TMVP candidate. Pruning is applied on the HMVP candidates. Once the total number of available merge candidates reaches the signaled maximally allowed merge candidates, the merge candidate list construction process is terminated. Alternatively, once the total number of added motion candidates reaches a given value, the fetching of motion candidates from LUTs is terminated.

[00232] Similarly, HMVP candidates could also be used in the AMVP candidate list construction process. The motion vectors of the last *K1* HMVP candidates in the table are inserted after the TMVP candidate. Only HMVP candidates with the same reference picture as the AMVP target reference picture are used to construct the AMVP candidate list. Pruning is applied on the HMVP candidates. In one example, *K1* is set to 4.

[00233] FIG. 28 is a block diagram of a video processing apparatus 2800. The apparatus 2800 may be used to implement one or more of the methods described herein. The apparatus 2800 may be embodied in a smartphone, tablet, computer, Internet of Things (IoT) receiver, and so on. The apparatus 2800 may include one or more processors 2802, one or more memories 2804 and video processing hardware 2806. The processor(s) 2802 may be configured to implement one or more methods described in the present document. The memory (memories) 2804 may be used for storing data and code used for implementing the methods and techniques described herein. The video processing hardware 2806 may be used to implement, in hardware circuitry, some techniques described in the present document.

[00234] FIG. 29 is a flowchart for an example of a video processing method 2900. The method 2900 includes, at step 2902, maintaining a set of tables, wherein each table includes motion candidates and each motion candidate is associated with corresponding motion information. The method 2900 further includes, at step 2904, updating a motion candidate list based on motion candidates in one or more tables using a pruning operation on the motion candidates. The method 2900 further includes, at step 2906, performing a conversion between a first video block and a bitstream representation of a video including the first video block using the constructed motion candidate list.

[00235] FIG. 30 is a flowchart for an example of video processing method 3000. The method 3000 includes, at step 3002, receiving a bitstream representation of a video including a first

video block. The method 3000 further includes, at step 3004, applying a pruning operation to motion candidates in one or more tables to update a candidate list, wherein each table includes motion candidates and each motion candidate is associated with corresponding motion information. The method 3000 further includes at step 3006, performing a conversion between the bitstream representation and the first video block using the constructed candidate list.

[00236] Additional features and embodiments of the above-described methods/techniques are described below using a clause-based description format.

[00237] 1. A video processing method, comprising: maintaining a set of tables, wherein each table includes motion candidates and each motion candidate is associated with corresponding motion information; updating a candidate list based on motion candidates in one or more tables using a pruning operation on the motion candidates; and performing a conversion between a first video block and a bitstream representation of a video including the first video block using the constructed candidate list.

[00238] 2. A method for video processing, comprising: receiving a bitstream representation of a video including a first video block; and applying a pruning operation to motion candidates in one or more tables to construct a candidate list, wherein each table includes motion candidates and each motion candidate is associated with corresponding motion information; and performing a conversion between the bitstream representation and the first video block using the constructed candidate list.

[00239] 3. The method of clause 1 or 2, wherein at least one of the tables includes motion candidates derived from previously decoded video blocks that are decoded prior to the first video block.

[00240] 4. The method of clause 1 or 2, wherein the pruning operation is performed before adding a motion candidate from a table to the candidate list.

[00241] 5. The method of clause 3, wherein the candidate list corresponds to a merge candidate list.

[00242] 6. The method of clause 1 or 2, wherein the pruning operation includes comparing a motion candidate from a table to at least a part of available spatial or temporal merge candidates.

[00243] 7. The method of clause 1 or 2, wherein the pruning operation includes comparing a motion candidate from a table to all available spatial merge candidates.

[00244] 8. The method of clauses 1, 2, or 4, wherein the pruning operation is performed

without changing a motion candidate from a table to a sub-block based motion candidate.

[00245] 9. The method of clause 1 or 2, wherein the pruning operation includes comparing a motion candidate from a table to at least a part of available motion candidates in a merge candidate list before adding the motion candidate.

[00246] 10. The method of clause 1 or 2, wherein the pruning operation includes a number of operations, the number being a function of a number of spatial or temporal merge candidates.

[00247] 11. The method of clause 9, wherein the number of operations is such that in case that M candidates are available in a merge candidate list, then the pruning is applied only to K merge candidates where K<=M and where K and M are integers.

[00248] 12. The method of clause 10, wherein K is set to min (K, 2).

[00249] 13. The method of clause 1, wherein the pruning operation includes comparing a motion candidate from a table with first N candidates in the candidate list before adding the motion candidate to the candidate list, N being an integer.

[00250] 14. The method of clause 1 or 2, wherein the pruning operation includes comparing a motion candidate from a table to be checked with last N candidates in the candidate list before adding the motion candidate to the candidate list, N being an integer.

[00251] 15. The method of clause 12 or 13, further comprising signaling a value of N.

[00252] 16. The method of clause 1, wherein the pruning operation includes comparing a motion candidate from a table with a certain candidate in the candidate list based on how the candidate were derived.

[00253] 17. The method of clause 15, wherein the pruning operation includes comparing the motion candidate from a table with candidates derived from a given temporal or spatial neighboring block.

[00254] 18. The method of clause 15, wherein different entries of motion candidates in a table are compared with different previously added candidates that were derived from different locations.

[00255] 19. The method of clause 1, further comprising wherein the pruning operation is not invoked when adding a motion candidate from a table to the candidate list.

[00256]

[00257] 20. The method of any one of clauses 1-19, wherein the performing of the conversion includes generating the bitstream representation from the video block.

[00258] 21. The method of any one of clauses 1-19, wherein the performing of the conversion

includes generating the video block from the bitstream representation.

[00259] 22. The method of any one of clauses 1 to 21, wherein a motion candidate is associated with motion information including at least one of: a prediction direction, a reference picture index, motion vector values, an intensity compensation flag, an affine flag, a motion vector difference precision, or motion vector difference value.

[00260] 23. The method of any one of clauses 1-22, wherein the motion candidates correspond to motion candidates for intra prediction modes for intra mode coding.

[00261] 24. The method of any one of clauses 1-22, wherein the motion candidates correspond to motion candidates that include illumination compensation parameters for IC parameter coding.

[00262] 25. The method of any one of clauses 1 to 24, further comprising updating, based on the conversion, one or more tables.

[00263] 26. The method of clause 25, wherein the updating of one or more tables includes updating one or more tables based on the motion information of the first video block after performing the conversion.

[00264] 27. The method of clause 26, further comprising: performing a conversion between a subsequent video block of the video and the bitstream representation of the video based on the updated tables.

[00265] 28. An apparatus comprising a processor and a non-transitory memory with instructions thereon, wherein the instructions upon execution by the processor, cause the processor to implement the method in any one of clauses 1 to 27.

[00266] 29. A computer program product stored on a non-transitory computer readable media, the computer program product including program code for carrying out the method in any one of clauses 1 to 27.

[00267] From the foregoing, it will be appreciated that specific embodiments of the presently disclosed technology have been described herein for purposes of illustration, but that various modifications may be made without deviating from the scope of the invention. Accordingly, the presently disclosed technology is not limited except as by the appended claims.

[00268] The disclosed and other embodiments, modules and the functional operations described in this document can be implemented in digital electronic circuitry, or in computer software, firmware, or hardware, including the structures disclosed in this document and their structural equivalents, or in combinations of one or more of them. The disclosed and other

embodiments can be implemented as one or more computer program products, i.e., one or more modules of computer program instructions encoded on a computer readable medium for execution by, or to control the operation of, data processing apparatus. The computer readable medium can be a machine-readable storage device, a machine-readable storage substrate, a memory device, a composition of matter effecting a machine-readable propagated signal, or a combination of one or more them. The term "data processing apparatus" encompasses all apparatus, devices, and machines for processing data, including by way of example a programmable processor, a computer, or multiple processors or computers. The apparatus can include, in addition to hardware, code that creates an execution environment for the computer program in question, e.g., code that constitutes processor firmware, a protocol stack, a database management system, an operating system, or a combination of one or more of them. A propagated signal is an artificially generated signal, e.g., a machine-generated electrical, optical, or electromagnetic signal, that is generated to encode information for transmission to suitable receiver apparatus.

[00269] A computer program (also known as a program, software, software application, script, or code) can be written in any form of programming language, including compiled or interpreted languages, and it can be deployed in any form, including as a stand-alone program or as a module, component, subroutine, or other unit suitable for use in a computing environment. A computer program does not necessarily correspond to a file in a file system. A program can be stored in a portion of a file that holds other programs or data (e.g., one or more scripts stored in a markup language document), in a single file dedicated to the program in question, or in multiple coordinated files (e.g., files that store one or more modules, sub programs, or portions of code). A computer program can be deployed to be executed on one computer or on multiple computers that are located at one site or distributed across multiple sites and interconnected by a communication network.

[00270] The processes and logic flows described in this document can be performed by one or more programmable processors executing one or more computer programs to perform functions by operating on input data and generating output. The processes and logic flows can also be performed by, and apparatus can also be implemented as, special purpose logic circuitry, e.g., an FPGA (field programmable gate array) or an ASIC (application specific integrated circuit).

[00271] Processors suitable for the execution of a computer program include, by way of

example, both general and special purpose microprocessors, and any one or more processors of any kind of digital computer. Generally, a processor will receive instructions and data from a read only memory or a random-access memory or both. The essential elements of a computer are a processor for performing instructions and one or more memory devices for storing instructions and data. Generally, a computer will also include, or be operatively coupled to receive data from or transfer data to, or both, one or more mass storage devices for storing data, e.g., magnetic, magneto optical disks, or optical disks. However, a computer need not have such devices. Computer readable media suitable for storing computer program instructions and data include all forms of non-volatile memory, media and memory devices, including by way of example semiconductor memory devices, e.g., EPROM, EEPROM, and flash memory devices; magnetic disks, e.g., internal hard disks or removable disks; magneto optical disks; and CD ROM and DVD-ROM disks. The processor and the memory can be supplemented by, or incorporated in, special purpose logic circuitry.

[00272] While this patent document contains many specifics, these should not be construed as limitations on the scope of any invention or of what may be claimed, but rather as descriptions of features that may be specific to particular embodiments of particular inventions. Certain features that are described in this patent document in the context of separate embodiments can also be implemented in combination in a single embodiment. Conversely, various features that are described in the context of a single embodiment can also be implemented in multiple embodiments separately or in any suitable subcombination. Moreover, although features may be described above as acting in certain combinations and even initially claimed as such, one or more features from a claimed combination can in some cases be excised from the combination, and the claimed combination may be directed to a subcombination or variation of a subcombination.

[00273] Similarly, while operations are depicted in the drawings in a particular order, this should not be understood as requiring that such operations be performed in the particular order shown or in sequential order, or that all illustrated operations be performed, to achieve desirable results. Moreover, the separation of various system components in the embodiments described in this patent document should not be understood as requiring such separation in all embodiments.

[00274] Only a few implementations and examples are described and other implementations, enhancements and variations can be made based on what is described and illustrated in this patent document.

CLAIMS

1. A method for video processing, comprising:

maintaining a table, wherein the table comprises one or more candidates derived from one or more video blocks that have been coded, and arrangement of the candidates in the table is based on a sequence of addition of the candidates into the table;

constructing a candidate list, wherein at least one first candidate in the table is checked during the constructing, wherein a pruning operation is utilized for the at least one first candidate to determine whether to add the first candidate into the candidate list;

deriving motion information using the candidate list;

coding the current video block based on the motion information;

wherein the at least one first candidate is pruned with at least one second candidate which has been included in the candidate list, and each one of the at least one second candidate is selected from the candidate list based on where the each one is derived from, and the second candidate is a spatial candidate which is derived from a given spatial neighboring block of the current video block; and

wherein a total number of the at least one second candidate is K, wherein K is equal to or less than 2.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one second candidate comprises first one candidate or N candidates in the candidate list, N being an integer greater than 1.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one second candidate comprises at least one of : a spatial candidate derived from block A1 or a spatial candidate derived from block B1; wherein block A1 is a left neighboring block relative to the current video block and block B1 is an above neighboring block relative to the current video block.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one second candidate is a part of candidates that have been in the candidate list.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the part of candidates in the candidate list is a part of spatial candidates.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein if a candidate of the at least one first candidate is different from any one of the at least one second candidate, the candidate is added into the candidate list.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one second candidate excludes a sub-block based candidate.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the pruning operation is not invoked when adding a candidate from the table to the candidate list.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the candidate in the table is associated with motion information including at least one of: a prediction direction, a reference picture index, motion vector values, an intensity compensation flag, an affine flag, a motion vector difference precision, or motion vector difference value.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:
updating the table using the motion information of the current video block.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein a candidate in the table is deleted if the table is full before a candidate corresponding to the motion information is added into the list.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the candidate list is a merge candidate list.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the coding comprises encoding the current video block into a bitstream.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the coding comprises decoding the current video block from a bitstream.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein checking is terminated when a number of candidates in the candidate list reaches a maximumly allowed candidate number of the candidate list minus a threshold, wherein the threshold is a positive integer.

16. An apparatus for coding video data comprising a processor and a non-transitory memory with instructions thereon, wherein the instructions upon execution by the processor, cause the processor to:

maintain a table, wherein the table comprises one or more candidates derived from one or more previously coded video blocks that are coded prior to a current video block, and arrangement of the candidates in the table is based on a sequence of addition of the candidates into the table;

construct a candidate list wherein during the constructing using the table, a pruning operation is utilized for at least one first candidate in the table to determine whether to add the first candidate into the candidate list;

derive motion information using the candidate list;

code the current video block based on the motion information;

wherein the at least one first candidate is pruned with at least one second candidate which has been included in the candidate list, and each one of the at least one second candidate is selected from the candidate list based on where the each one is derived from, and the second candidate is a spatial candidate which is derived from a given spatial neighboring block of the current video block; and

wherein a total number of the at least one second candidate is K, wherein K is equal to or less than 2.

17. A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium storing instructions that cause a processor to:

maintain a table, wherein the table comprises one or more candidates derived from one or more previously coded video blocks that are coded prior to a current video block, and arrangement of the candidates in the table is based on a sequence of addition of the candidates into the table;

construct a candidate list wherein during the constructing using the table, a pruning operation is utilized for at least one first candidate in the table to determine whether to add the first candidate into the candidate list;

derive motion information using the candidate list;

code the current video block based on the motion information;

wherein the at least one first candidate is pruned with at least one second candidate which has been included in the candidate list, and each one of the at least one second candidate is selected from the candidate list based on where the each one is derived from, and the second candidate is a spatial candidate which is derived from a given spatial neighboring block of the current video block; and

wherein a total number of the at least one second candidate is K, wherein K is equal to or less than 2.

18. A non-transitory computer-readable recording medium storing a bitstream representation which is generated by a method performed by a video processing apparatus, wherein the method comprises:

maintaining a table, wherein the table comprises one or more candidates derived from one or more video blocks that have been coded, and arrangement of the candidates in the table is based on a sequence of addition of the candidates into the table;

constructing a candidate list, wherein at least one first candidate in the table is checked during the constructing, wherein a pruning operation is utilized for the at least one first candidate to determine whether to add the first candidate into the candidate list;

deriving motion information using the candidate list;

coding the current video block based on the motion information;

wherein the at least one first candidate is pruned with at least one second candidate which has been included in the candidate list, and each one of the at least one second candidate is selected from the candidate list based on where the each one is derived from, and the second candidate is a spatial candidate which is derived from a given spatial neighboring block of the current video block; and

wherein a total number of the at least one second candidate is K, wherein K is equal to or less than 2.