CLAIMS:

1. A method (400) for deblocking filtering of vertical and/or horizontal block boundaries, the method being performed by an image or video encoder or an image or video decoder, the method comprising:

obtaining (s402) a first set of sample values comprising a first block of sample values and a second block of sample values, wherein the first block of sample values comprises a set of sample values B1_i,k for i=0-7 and k=0-3, and the second block of sample values comprises a set of sample values B2_j,k for j=0-7 and k=0-3; and

deciding (s404) whether or not to use a long filter to filter at least a subset of the first set of sample values, wherein deciding whether or not to use a long filter to filter at least a subset of the first set of sample values comprises:

calculating (s502) a first gradient value, maxGradB1_6,0, using sample value B1_6,0, wherein maxGradB1_6,0 equals Abs(B1_7,0 - B1_6,0 - B1_5,0 + B1_4,0 );

calculating (s504) a first pq value, pq1_0, using maxGradB1_6,0, wherein calculating pq1_0 comprises calculating a value sp, calculating a value sq, and calculating sp + sq, wherein pq1_0 = (sp + sq), and wherein calculating sp comprises calculating sp = (Abs(B1_0,0 – B1_3,0) + Abs(B1_3,0 – B1_7,0) + maxGradB1_6,0 + 1) >> 1, wherein the second block has a maximum filter length, maxFilterLengthQ,

if maxFilterLengthQ is equal to 7, then sq = (Abs(B2_0,0 – B2_3,0) + Abs(B2_3,0 – B2_7,0) + maxGradB2_6,0 + 1) >> 1, where maxGradB2_6,0 is a third gradient value,

if maxFilterLengthQ is equal to 5, then sq = (Abs(B2_0,0 – B2_3,0) + Abs(B2_3,0 – B2_5,0) + 1) >> 1, and

if maxFilterLengthQ is not equal to 7 and is not equal to 5, then sq = Abs(B2_0,0 – B2_3,0);

comparing (s508) pq1_0 to a threshold;

calculating a second gradient value, maxGradB1_6,3, using sample value B1_6,3;

calculating a second pq value, pq1_3, using maxGradB1_6,3; and

comparing (s508) pq1_3 to the threshold.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein maxGradB2_6,0 equals Abs(B2_7,0 – B2_6,0 – B2_5,0 + B2_4,0 ).

3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein calculating pq1_3 comprises calculating a value sp3, calculating a value sq3, and calculating sp3 + sq3, wherein pq1_3 = (sp3 + sq3), and wherein calculating sp3 comprises calculating sp3 = (Abs(B1_0,3 – B1_3,3) + Abs(B1_3,3 – B1_7,3) + maxGradB1_6,3 + 1) >> 1.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein maxGradB1_6,3 equals Abs(B1_7,3 - B1_6,3 - B1_5,3 + B1_4,3 ).

5. The method of any one of claims 1-4, wherein

the step of calculating pq1_0 using maxGradB1_6,0 is performed as a result of determining that a maximum filter length for the first block, maxFilterLengthP, is equal to 7.

6. The method of any one of claims 1-5, wherein

the step of calculating pq1_3 using maxGradB1_6,3 is performed as a result of determining that a max filter length for the first block, maxFilterLengthP, is equal to 7.

7. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein

when deblocking a vertical boundary, the i value identifies a column of a block and the k value identifies a row of the block, and

when deblocking a horizontal boundary, the k value identifies a column of the block and the i value identifies a row of the block.

8. The method of any one of claims 1-7, wherein the samples to filter by the long filter when maxFilterLengthP is equal to 7 are B1_0,0 to B1_6,0, B1_0,1 to B1_6,1, B1_0,2 to B1_6,2 and B1_0,3 to B1_6,3.

9. The method of any one of claims 1-8, wherein the samples to filter by the long filter when maxFilterLengthQ is equal to 7 are B2_0,0 to B2_6,0, B2_0,1 to B2_6,1, B2_0,2 to

B2_6,2 and B2_0,3 to B2_6,3.

10. A computer program (643) comprising instructions (644) which when executed by processing circuitry (602) causes the processing circuitry (602) to perform the method of any one of claims 1-9.

11. A carrier containing the computer program of claim 10, wherein the carrier is one of an electronic signal, an optical signal, a radio signal, and a computer readable storage medium (642).

12. An apparatus (600) for deblocking filtering of vertical and/or horizontal block boundaries, the apparatus being adapted to perform the method according to any of claims 1-9.