

**Abstract**

Block matching is well known as a robust and intuitively simple method of motion estimation for television pictures. The method works well when there is large or varied detail in each block, but can give incorrect results if the information in a block consists of a periodic structure. The problem is fundamental to the fact that typical television field rates constitute severe temporal undersampling, leading to aliasing and therefore ambiguity in determining exactly what is present in the original moving image sequence. If the goal of the motion estimation is to provide a prediction, for example in coding applications, the problem of periodic structures is usually unimportant because a good prediction can be obtained even using the 'wrong' motion vector. However, when the application is temporal interpolation, for example 50Hz to 100Hz upconversion, the effect on the interpolated picture of an erroneous vector in a periodic structure can be severe, often leading to a complete phase reversal of the information in the interpolated field.

According to the invention, the motion vectors resulting from block matching are corrected for periodic structures by taking a more reliable vector from the edge of a moving object containing the periodic structure. This is done by calculating and comparing different error combinations. The invention requires very little additional processing after the block matching itself.

**Fig.1**

---

This Sheet Has Been Replaced

