

Improved Attribute Support In Point Cloud Coding

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This patent application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 62/731,693, filed September 14, 2018 by Ye-Kui Wang, et. al., and titled “High-Level Syntax Designs for Point Cloud Coding,” which is hereby incorporated by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] The present disclosure is generally related to video coding, and is specifically related to coding of video attributes for point cloud coding (PCC) video frames.

BACKGROUND

[0003] The amount of video data needed to depict even a relatively short video can be substantial, which may result in difficulties when the data is to be streamed or otherwise communicated across a communications network with limited bandwidth capacity. Thus, video data is generally compressed before being communicated across modern day telecommunications networks. The size of a video could also be an issue when the video is stored on a storage device because memory resources may be limited. Video compression devices often use software and/or hardware at the source to code the video data prior to transmission or storage, thereby decreasing the quantity of data needed to represent digital video images. The compressed data is then received at the destination by a video decompression device that decodes the video data. With limited network resources and ever increasing demands of higher video quality, improved compression and decompression techniques that improve compression ratio with little to no sacrifice in image quality are desirable.

SUMMARY

[0004] In an embodiment, the disclosure includes a method implemented by a video decoder. The method comprises receiving, by a receiver, a bitstream comprising a plurality of coded sequences of point cloud coding (PCC) frames, wherein the plurality of coded sequences of PCC frames represent a plurality of PCC attributes including geometry, texture, and one or more of reflectance, transparency, and normal, and wherein each coded PCC frame is represented by one or more PCC network abstraction layer (NAL) units. The method further

comprises parsing, by a processor, the bitstream to obtain an indication for each of the PCC NAL units that indicates whether each of the PCC NAL units belongs to a corresponding one of the PCC attributes, and to which of the PCC attributes the PCC NAL unit belongs when the PCC NAL unit belongs to the corresponding PCC attribute. The method further comprises decoding, by the processor, the bitstream based on the indications. In some video coding systems, a PCC video stream contains a geometry attribute and a texture attribute. The present embodiment adds reflectance, transparency, and normal as optional attributes. Further, the present embodiment introduces data indicating the number of attributes and indicating the attributes actually included in the bitstream to allow a decoder to determine how to decode the PCC video stream. By adding additional PCC attributes, the encoder can describe more complex PCC frames, and the decoder can read, and hence display, more complex PCC frames. Further, adding additional attributes may simplify other attributes. Accordingly, processing resource usage may be decreased and coding efficiency may be increased. Increasing coding efficiency reduces memory usage as well as network resource usage while transmitting the bitstream between the encoder and decoder.

[0005] Optionally, in any of the preceding aspects, another implementation of the aspect provides, wherein each coded sequence of PCC frames is associated with a sequence-level data unit containing sequence-level parameters, wherein the sequence-level data unit comprises a first syntax element indicating a number of PCC attributes carried in the coded sequence of PCC frames and a second syntax element indicating each of the PCC attributes.

[0006] Optionally, in any of the preceding aspects, another implementation of the aspect provides, wherein the second syntax element is an attribute type element contained in a group of frames header in the bitstream.

[0007] Optionally, in any of the preceding aspects, another implementation of the aspect provides, wherein the first syntax element is a number of attributes element contained in a group of frames header in the bitstream.

[0008] Optionally, in any of the preceding aspects, another implementation of the aspect provides, wherein a group of frames header in the bitstream comprises a third syntax element indicating a number of streams for each of the PCC attributes.

[0009] Optionally, in any of the preceding aspects, another implementation of the aspect provides, wherein a group of frames header in the bitstream comprises an attributes first ordering flag set to indicate PCC network abstraction layer units for each of the PCC attributes are included in stream order within a corresponding PCC access unit.

[0010] Optionally, in any of the preceding aspects, another implementation of the aspect provides, wherein a group of frames header in the bitstream comprises an attributes first ordering flag set to indicate PCC network abstraction layer units for each of the PCC attributes are included in attribute order within a corresponding PCC access unit.

[0011] Optionally, in any of the preceding aspects, another implementation of the aspect provides, wherein each of the PCC access units includes zero to four attribute streams for each of the PCC attributes, and wherein at least one of the attribute streams includes a non-constant frame rate.

[0012] Optionally, in any of the preceding aspects, another implementation of the aspect provides, further comprising forwarding, by the processor, a decoded sequence of PCC frames from the bitstream toward a display for presentation.

[0013] In an embodiment, the disclosure includes a method implemented by a video encoder. The method comprising encoding, by a processor, a sequence of PCC frames into a bitstream, wherein the sequence of PCC frames represent a plurality of PCC attributes including geometry, texture, and one or more of reflectance, transparency, and normal, and wherein each PCC frame is encoded in a number of PCC NAL units. The method further comprises encoding, by the processor, an indication for each of the PCC NAL units that indicates whether each of the PCC NAL units belongs to a corresponding one of the PCC attributes, and to which of the PCC attributes the PCC NAL unit belongs when the PCC NAL unit belongs to the corresponding PCC attribute. The method further comprises transmitting, by a transmitter, the bitstream toward a video decoder. In some video coding systems, a PCC video stream contains a geometry attribute and a texture attribute. The present embodiment adds reflectance, transparency, and normal as optional attributes. Further, the present embodiment introduces data indicating the number of attributes and indicating the attributes actually included in the bitstream to allow a decoder to determine how to decode the PCC video stream. By adding additional PCC attributes, the encoder can describe more complex PCC frames, and the decoder can read, and hence display, more complex PCC frames. Further, adding additional attributes may simplify other attributes. Accordingly, processing resource usage may be decreased and coding efficiency may be increased. Increasing coding efficiency reduces memory usage as well as network resource usage while transmitting the bitstream between the encoder and decoder.

[0014] Optionally, in any of the preceding aspects, another implementation of the aspect provides, wherein the bitstream is associated with a sequence-level data unit containing sequence-level parameters, wherein the sequence-level data unit comprises a first syntax

element indicating a number of PCC attributes carried in the bitstream and a second syntax element indicating each of the PCC attributes.

[0015] Optionally, in any of the preceding aspects, another implementation of the aspect provides, wherein the second syntax element is an attribute type element contained in a group of frames header in the bitstream.

[0016] Optionally, in any of the preceding aspects, another implementation of the aspect provides, wherein the first syntax element is a number of attributes element contained in a group of frames header in the bitstream.

[0017] Optionally, in any of the preceding aspects, another implementation of the aspect provides, wherein a group of frames header in the bitstream comprises a third syntax element indicating a number of streams for each of the PCC attributes.

[0018] Optionally, in any of the preceding aspects, another implementation of the aspect provides, wherein a group of frames header in the bitstream comprises an attributes first ordering flag set to indicate PCC network abstraction layer units for each of the PCC attributes are included in stream order within a corresponding PCC access unit.

[0019] Optionally, in any of the preceding aspects, another implementation of the aspect provides, wherein a group of frames header in the bitstream comprises an attributes first ordering flag set to indicate PCC network abstraction layer units for each of the PCC attributes are included in attribute order within a corresponding PCC access unit.

[0020] Optionally, in any of the preceding aspects, another implementation of the aspect provides, wherein each of the PCC access units includes zero to four attribute streams for each of the PCC attributes, and wherein at least one of the attribute streams includes a non-constant frame rate.

[0021] In an embodiment, the disclosure includes a video coding device comprising a processor, a receiver coupled to the processor, and a transmitter coupled to the processor, the processor, receiver, and transmitter configured to perform the method of any of the preceding aspects.

[0022] In an embodiment, the disclosure includes a non-transitory computer readable medium comprising a computer program product for use by a video coding device, the computer program product comprising computer executable instructions stored on the non-transitory computer readable medium such that when executed by a processor cause the video coding device to perform the method of any of the preceding aspects.

[0023] In an embodiment, the disclosure includes an encoder comprising a frame encoding means for encoding a sequence of PCC frames into a bitstream, wherein the sequence of PCC

frames represent a plurality of PCC attributes including geometry, texture, and one or more of reflectance, transparency, and normal, and wherein each PCC frame is encoded in a number of PCC NAL units. The encoder further comprises a parameter encoding means for encoding an indication for each of the PCC NAL units that indicates whether each of the PCC NAL units belongs to a corresponding one of the PCC attributes, and to which of the PCC attributes the PCC NAL unit belongs when the PCC NAL unit belongs to the corresponding PCC attribute. The encoder further comprises a transmitting means for transmitting the bitstream toward a video decoder.

[0024] Optionally, in any of the preceding aspects, another implementation of the aspect provides, wherein the encoder is further configured to perform the method of any of the preceding aspects.

[0025] In an embodiment, the disclosure includes a decoder comprising a receiving means for receiving a bitstream comprising a plurality of coded sequences of PCC frames, wherein the plurality of coded sequences of PCC frames represent a plurality of PCC attributes including geometry, texture, and one or more of reflectance, transparency, and normal, and wherein each coded PCC frame is represented by one or more PCC NAL units. The decoder further comprises a parsing means for parsing the bitstream to obtain an indication for each of the PCC NAL units that indicates whether each of the PCC NAL units belongs to a corresponding one of the PCC attributes, and to which of the PCC attributes the PCC NAL unit belongs when the PCC NAL unit belongs to the corresponding PCC attribute. The decoder further comprises a decoding means for decoding the bitstream based on the indications.

[0026] Optionally, in any of the preceding aspects, another implementation of the aspect provides, wherein the encoder is further configured to perform the method of any of the preceding aspects.

[0027] For the purpose of clarity, any one of the foregoing embodiments may be combined with any one or more of the other foregoing embodiments to create a new embodiment within the scope of the present disclosure.

[0028] These and other features will be more clearly understood from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings and claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0029] For a more complete understanding of this disclosure, reference is now made to the following brief description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings and detailed description, wherein like reference numerals represent like parts.

[0030] FIG. 1 is a flowchart of an example method of coding a video signal.

[0031] FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram of an example coding and decoding (codec) system for video coding.

[0032] FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram illustrating an example video encoder.

[0033] FIG. 4 is a schematic diagram illustrating an example video decoder.

[0034] FIG. 5 is an example of point cloud media that can be coded according to PCC mechanisms.

[0035] FIG. 6 is an example of data segmentation and packing for a point cloud media frame.

[0036] FIG. 7 is a schematic diagram illustrating an example PCC video stream with an expanded attribute set.

[0037] FIG. 8 is a schematic diagram illustrating a mechanism of ordering PCC attributes by stream.

[0038] FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram illustrating a mechanism of ordering PCC attributes by attribute.

[0039] FIG. 10 is a flowchart of an example method of encoding a PCC video sequence with an expanded attribute set.

[0040] FIG. 11 is a flowchart of an example method of decoding a PCC video sequence with an expanded attribute set.

[0041] FIG. 12 is a schematic diagram of an example video coding device.

[0042] FIG. 13 is a schematic diagram of an example system for coding a PCC video sequence with an expanded attribute set.

[0043] FIG. 14 is a flowchart of another example method of encoding a PCC video sequence with an expanded attribute set.

[0044] FIG. 15 is of an example method of decoding a PCC video sequence with an expanded attribute set.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0045] It should be understood at the outset that although an illustrative implementation of one or more embodiments are provided below, the disclosed systems and/or methods may be implemented using any number of techniques, whether currently known or in existence. The disclosure should in no way be limited to the illustrative implementations, drawings, and techniques illustrated below, including the exemplary designs and implementations illustrated and described herein, but may be modified within the scope of the appended claims along with their full scope of equivalents.

[0046] Many video compression techniques can be employed to reduce the size of video files with minimal loss of data. For example, video compression techniques can include performing spatial (e.g., intra-picture) prediction and/or temporal (e.g., inter-picture) prediction to reduce or remove data redundancy in video sequences. For block-based video coding, a video slice (e.g., a video picture or a portion of a video picture) may be partitioned into video blocks, which may also be referred to as treeblocks, coding tree blocks (CTBs), coding tree units (CTUs), coding units (CUs), and/or coding nodes. Video blocks in an intra-coded (I) slice of a picture are coded using spatial prediction with respect to reference samples in neighboring blocks in the same picture. Video blocks in an inter-coded (P or B) slice of a picture may be coded by employing spatial prediction with respect to reference samples in neighboring blocks in the same picture or temporal prediction with respect to reference samples in other reference pictures. Pictures may be referred to as frames, and reference pictures may be referred to as reference frames. Spatial or temporal prediction results in a predictive block representing an image block. Residual data represents pixel differences between the original image block and the predictive block. Accordingly, an inter-coded block is encoded according to a motion vector that points to a block of reference samples forming the predictive block and the residual data indicating the difference between the coded block and the predictive block. An intra-coded block is encoded according to an intra-coding mode and the residual data. For further compression, the residual data may be transformed from the pixel domain to a transform domain. These result in residual transform coefficients, which may be quantized. The quantized transform coefficients may initially be arranged in a two-dimensional array. The quantized transform coefficients may be scanned in order to produce a one-dimensional vector of transform coefficients. Entropy coding may be applied to achieve even more compression. Such video compression techniques are discussed in greater detail below.

[0047] To ensure an encoded video can be accurately decoded, video is encoded and decoded according to corresponding video coding standards. Video coding standards include

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Standardization Sector (ITU-T) H.261, International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC) Motion Picture Experts Group (MPEG)-1 Part 2, ITU-T H.262 or ISO/IEC MPEG-2 Part 2, , ITU-T H.263, ISO/IEC MPEG-4 Part 2, Advanced Video Coding (AVC), also known as ITU-T H.264 or ISO/IEC MPEG-4 Part 10, and High Efficiency Video Coding (HEVC), also known as ITU-T H.265 or MPEG-H Part 2. AVC includes extensions such as Scalable Video Coding (SVC), Multiview Video Coding (MVC) and Multiview Video Coding plus Depth (MVC+D), and three dimensional (3D) AVC (3D-AVC). HEVC includes extensions such as Scalable HEVC (SHVC), Multiview HEVC (MV-HEVC), and 3D HEVC (3D-HEVC). The joint video experts team (JVET) of ITU-T and ISO/IEC has begun developing a video coding standard referred to as Versatile Video Coding (VVC). VVC is included in a Working Draft (WD), which includes JVET-K1001-v4 and JVET-K1002-v1.

[0048] PCC is a mechanism for encoding video of 3D objects. A point cloud is a set of data points in the 3D space. Such data points include parameters that determine, for example, a position in space and a color. Point clouds may be used in various applications such as real-time 3D immersive telepresence, content virtual reality (VR) viewing with interactive parallax, 3D free viewpoint sport replays broadcasting, geographic information systems, cultural heritage, autonomous navigation based on large-scale 3D dynamic maps, and automotive applications. The ISO/IEC MPEG codec for PCC may operate on lossless and/or lossy compressed point cloud data with substantial coding efficiency and robustness to network environments. The use of this codec allows point clouds to be manipulated as a form of computer data, stored on various storage media, transmitted and received over networks, and distributed on broadcasting channels. The PCC coding environment is classified into PCC category 1, PCC category 2, and PCC category 3. The present disclosure is directed toward PCC category 2, which is related to MPEG output documents N17534 and N17533. The design of the PCC category 2 codec seeks to leverage other video codecs to compress the geometry and texture information of a dynamic point cloud by compressing the point cloud data as a set of different video sequences. For example, two video sequences, one representing the geometry information of the point cloud data and another representing the texture information can be generated and compressed by using one or more video codecs. Additional metadata to support interpretation of the video sequences (e.g., an occupancy map and auxiliary patch information) can also be generated and compressed separately.

[0049] PCC systems may support a geometry PCC attribute containing position data and a texture PCC attribute containing color data. However, some video applications may include

other types of data, such as reflectance, transparency, and normal vectors. Further, PCC systems may code PCC video data in a bitstream, and segregate attribute data in attribute streams inside the bitstream. As only two attributes are supported, PCC systems may be limited to two geometry streams and a single texture stream. However, greater flexibility may be desirable, particularly when an expanded attribute set is available. In addition, PCC systems encode data in PCC access units (AUs). A PCC AU contains sufficient data to reconstruct a single PCC frame. PCC systems may be restricted to ordering data units within a PCC by stream. Specifically, PCC systems may be restricted to coding data units for the first geometry stream, then data units for the second geometry stream, and then data units for the texture stream. However, a more flexible ordering scheme may be desirable to support optimization of video coding in certain use cases. Also, PCC systems may require that data units be present for each PCC attribute stream in each PCC AU. Accordingly, if a PCC bitstream is set at a constant frame rate, the frame rate of each attribute stream would also be constant. This may not be desirable in some instances, for example when employing an expanded attribute set. The present disclosure addresses these and other issues with such PCC systems.

[0050] Disclosed herein are mechanisms to improve PCC. In one embodiment, an expanded set of attributes are made available to allow for more robust PCC functionality. The expanded set of PCC attributes includes geometry and texture. The expanded set of PCC attributes also includes reflectance, transparency, and normal vectors (referred to herein as normal). A reflectance attribute indicates an amount of light (e.g., colored light based on the texture attribute) that projects from a first data point onto adjacent data points in proximity to the first data point. A transparency attribute indicates an amount of light that can pass through a first data point (e.g., reflected from adjacent data points in proximity to the first data point). A normal attribute indicates a vector that is perpendicular to a surface created by corresponding data points (e.g., based on the geometry attribute). The reflectance, transparency, and normal attribute can contain data describing some or all data points in a PCC AU. Further, reflectance, transparency, and normal attributes are optional, and hence may occur individually or in combination for some PCC AUs and not for other PCC AUs in the same bitstream. The present disclosure further includes a mechanism for signaling attribute type and related information to support coding the expanded attribute set. In another embodiment, the present disclosure includes a mechanism for supporting a flexible number of attribute streams. For example, each attribute can include zero to four streams, which allows for complex usage of attributes or complete omission of such attributes, depending on the PCC frame being coded. As a specific example, a PCC video stream including a large number of shiny objects may

include many reflectance streams, such as different dedicated streams for different objects, different streams for even and odd frames, etc. Further, a PCC video stream including only matte objects may omit reflectance streams. In another embodiment, a flexible ordering scheme for PCC attributes is disclosed. Specifically, attributes may be ordered by stream so that a first stream of each available attribute is included first, then a second stream of each attribute is included, etc. Attributes may also be ordered in attribute order so that all streams of a first attribute are included, then all streams of a second attribute, etc. Different orders may be more optimal in different use cases. The order used can be specified by an ordering flag. The preceding embodiments can be employed alone or in combination. In addition, the expanded set of attributes includes optional attributes. As such, data units may not be present for each PCC attribute stream in each AU. Consequently, even if the entire PCC bitstream is of constant frame rate, the underlying PCC attribute streams may not include a constant frame rate in some cases. Further, syntax describing the usage of such embodiments can be included in sequence level data in a bitstream, for example in a group of frames network abstraction layer (NAL) unit positioned in each corresponding PCC AU. These and other examples are described in detail below.

[0051] FIG. 1 is a flowchart of an example operating method 100 of coding a video signal. Specifically, a video signal is encoded at an encoder. The encoding process compresses the video signal by employing various mechanisms to reduce the video file size. A smaller file size allows the compressed video file to be transmitted toward a user, while reducing associated bandwidth overhead. The decoder then decodes the compressed video file to reconstruct the original video signal for display to an end user. The decoding process generally mirrors the encoding process to allow the decoder to consistently reconstruct the video signal.

[0052] At step 101, the video signal is input into the encoder. For example, the video signal may be an uncompressed video file stored in memory. As another example, the video file may be captured by a video capture device, such as a video camera, and encoded to support live streaming of the video. The video file may include both an audio component and a video component. The video component contains a series of image frames that, when viewed in a sequence, gives the visual impression of motion. The frames contain pixels that are expressed in terms of light, referred to herein as luma components (or luma samples), and color, which is referred to as chroma components (or color samples). In some examples, the frames may also contain depth values to support three dimensional viewing.

[0053] At step 103, the video is partitioned into blocks. Partitioning includes subdividing the pixels in each frame into square and/or rectangular blocks for compression. For example, in

High Efficiency Video Coding (HEVC) (also known as H.265 and MPEG-H Part 2) the frame can first be divided into coding tree units (CTUs), which are blocks of a predefined size (e.g., sixty-four pixels by sixty-four pixels). The CTUs contain both luma and chroma samples. Coding trees may be employed to divide the CTUs into blocks and then recursively subdivide the blocks until configurations are achieved that support further encoding. For example, luma components of a frame may be subdivided until the individual blocks contain relatively homogenous lighting values. Further, chroma components of a frame may be subdivided until the individual blocks contain relatively homogenous color values. Accordingly, partitioning mechanisms vary depending on the content of the video frames.

[0054] At step 105, various compression mechanisms are employed to compress the image blocks partitioned at step 103. For example, inter-prediction and/or intra-prediction may be employed. Inter-prediction is designed to take advantage of the fact that objects in a common scene tend to appear in successive frames. Accordingly, a block depicting an object in a reference frame need not be repeatedly described in adjacent frames. Specifically, an object, such as a table, may remain in a constant position over multiple frames. Hence the table is described once and adjacent frames can refer back to the reference frame. Pattern matching mechanisms may be employed to match objects over multiple frames. Further, moving objects may be represented across multiple frames, for example due to object movement or camera movement. As a particular example, a video may show an automobile that moves across the screen over multiple frames. Motion vectors can be employed to describe such movement. A motion vector is a two-dimensional vector that provides an offset from the coordinates of an object in a frame to the coordinates of the object in a reference frame. As such, inter-prediction can encode an image block in a current frame as a set of motion vectors indicating an offset from a corresponding block in a reference frame.

[0055] Intra-prediction encodes blocks in a common frame. Intra-prediction takes advantage of the fact that luma and chroma components tend to cluster in a frame. For example, a patch of green in a portion of a tree tends to be positioned adjacent to similar patches of green. Intra-prediction employs multiple directional prediction modes (e.g., thirty-three in HEVC), a planar mode, and a direct current (DC) mode. The directional modes indicate that a current block is similar/the same as samples of a neighbor block in a corresponding direction. Planar mode indicates that a series of blocks along a row/column (e.g., a plane) can be interpolated based on neighbor blocks at the edges of the row. Planar mode, in effect, indicates a smooth transition of light/color across a row/column by employing a relatively constant slope in changing values. DC mode is employed for boundary smoothing

and indicates that a block is similar/the same as an average value associated with samples of all the neighbor blocks associated with the angular directions of the directional prediction modes. Accordingly, intra-prediction blocks can represent image blocks as various relational prediction mode values instead of the actual values. Further, inter-prediction blocks can represent image blocks as motion vector values instead of the actual values. In either case, the prediction blocks may not exactly represent the image blocks in some cases. Any differences are stored in residual blocks. Transforms may be applied to the residual blocks to further compress the file.

[0056] At step 107, various filtering techniques may be applied. In HEVC, the filters are applied according to an in-loop filtering scheme. The block based prediction discussed above may result in the creation of blocky images at the decoder. Further, the block based prediction scheme may encode a block and then reconstruct the encoded block for later use as a reference block. The in-loop filtering scheme iteratively applies noise suppression filters, de-blocking filters, adaptive loop filters, and sample adaptive offset (SAO) filters to the blocks/frames. These filters mitigate such blocking artifacts so that the encoded file can be accurately reconstructed. Further, these filters mitigate artifacts in the reconstructed reference blocks so that artifacts are less likely to create additional artifacts in subsequent blocks that are encoded based on the reconstructed reference blocks.

[0057] Once the video signal has been partitioned, compressed, and filtered, the resulting data is encoded in a bitstream at step 109. The bitstream includes the data discussed above as well as any signaling data desired to support proper video signal reconstruction at the decoder. For example, such data may include partition data, prediction data, residual blocks, and various flags providing coding instructions to the decoder. The bitstream may be stored in memory for transmission toward a decoder upon request. The bitstream may also be broadcast and/or multicast toward a plurality of decoders. The creation of the bitstream is an iterative process. Accordingly, steps 101, 103, 105, 107, and 109 may occur continuously and/or simultaneously over many frames and blocks. The order shown in FIG. 1 is presented for clarity and ease of discussion, and is not intended to limit the video coding process to a particular order.

[0058] The decoder receives the bitstream and begins the decoding process at step 111. Specifically, the decoder employs an entropy decoding scheme to convert the bitstream into corresponding syntax and video data. The decoder employs the syntax data from the bitstream to determine the partitions for the frames at step 111. The partitioning should match the results of block partitioning at step 103. Entropy encoding/decoding as employed in step 111 is now described. The encoder makes many choices during the compression process, such as selecting block partitioning schemes from several possible choices based on the spatial positioning of

values in the input image(s). Signaling the exact choices may employ a large number of bins. As used herein, a bin is a binary value that is treated as a variable (e.g., a bit value that may vary depending on context). Entropy coding allows the encoder to discard any options that are clearly not viable for a particular case, leaving a set of allowable options. Each allowable option is then assigned a code word. The length of the code words is based on the number of allowable options (e.g., one bin for two options, two bins for three to four options, etc.) The encoder then encodes the code word for the selected option. This scheme reduces the size of the code words as the code words are as big as desired to uniquely indicate a selection from a small sub-set of allowable options as opposed to uniquely indicating the selection from a potentially large set of all possible options. The decoder then decodes the selection by determining the set of allowable options in a similar manner to the encoder. By determining the set of allowable options, the decoder can read the code word and determine the selection made by the encoder.

[0059] At step 113, the decoder performs block decoding. Specifically, the decoder employs reverse transforms to generate residual blocks. Then the decoder employs the residual blocks and corresponding prediction blocks to reconstruct the image blocks according to the partitioning. The prediction blocks may include both intra-prediction blocks and inter-prediction blocks as generated at the encoder at step 105. The reconstructed image blocks are then positioned into frames of a reconstructed video signal according to the partitioning data determined at step 111. Syntax for step 113 may also be signaled in the bitstream via entropy coding as discussed above.

[0060] At step 115, filtering is performed on the frames of the reconstructed video signal in a manner similar to step 107 at the encoder. For example, noise suppression filters, de-blocking filters, adaptive loop filters, and SAO filters may be applied to the frames to remove blocking artifacts. Once the frames are filtered, the video signal can be output to a display at step 117 for viewing by an end user.

[0061] FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram of an example coding and decoding (codec) system 200 for video coding. Specifically, codec system 200 provides functionality to support the implementation of operating method 100. Codec system 200 is generalized to depict components employed in both an encoder and a decoder. Codec system 200 receives and partitions a video signal as discussed with respect to steps 101 and 103 in operating method 100, which results in a partitioned video signal 201. Codec system 200 then compresses the partitioned video signal 201 into a coded bitstream when acting as an encoder as discussed with respect to steps 105, 107, and 109 in method 100. When acting as a decoder codec system 200

generates an output video signal from the bitstream as discussed with respect to steps 111, 113, 115, and 117 in operating method 100. The codec system 200 includes a general coder control component 211, a transform scaling and quantization component 213, an intra-picture estimation component 215, an intra-picture prediction component 217, a motion compensation component 219, a motion estimation component 221, a scaling and inverse transform component 229, a filter control analysis component 227, an in-loop filters component 225, a decoded picture buffer component 223, and a header formatting and context adaptive binary arithmetic coding (CABAC) component 231. Such components are coupled as shown. In FIG. 2, black lines indicate movement of data to be encoded/decoded while dashed lines indicate movement of control data that controls the operation of other components. The components of codec system 200 may all be present in the encoder. The decoder may include a subset of the components of codec system 200. For example, the decoder may include the intra-picture prediction component 217, the motion compensation component 219, the scaling and inverse transform component 229, the in-loop filters component 225, and the decoded picture buffer component 223. These components are now described.

[0062] The partitioned video signal 201 is a captured video sequence that has been partitioned into blocks of pixels by a coding tree. A coding tree employs various split modes to subdivide a block of pixels into smaller blocks of pixels. These blocks can then be further subdivided into smaller blocks. The blocks may be referred to as nodes on the coding tree. Larger parent nodes are split into smaller child nodes. The number of times a node is subdivided is referred to as the depth of the node/coding tree. The divided blocks can be included in coding units (CUs) in some cases. For example, a CU can be a sub-portion of a CTU that contains a luma block, red difference chroma (Cr) block(s), and a blue difference chroma (Cb) block(s) along with corresponding syntax instructions for the CU. The split modes may include a binary tree (BT), triple tree (TT), and a quad tree (QT) employed to partition a node into two, three, or four child nodes, respectively, of varying shapes depending on the split modes employed. The partitioned video signal 201 is forwarded to the general coder control component 211, the transform scaling and quantization component 213, the intra-picture estimation component 215, the filter control analysis component 227, and the motion estimation component 221 for compression.

[0063] The general coder control component 211 is configured to make decisions related to coding of the images of the video sequence into the bitstream according to application constraints. For example, the general coder control component 211 manages optimization of bitrate/bitstream size versus reconstruction quality. Such decisions may be made based on

storage space/bandwidth availability and image resolution requests. The general coder control component 211 also manages buffer utilization in light of transmission speed to mitigate buffer underrun and overrun issues. To manage these issues, the general coder control component 211 manages partitioning, prediction, and filtering by the other components. For example, the general coder control component 211 may dynamically increase compression complexity to increase resolution and increase bandwidth usage or decrease compression complexity to decrease resolution and bandwidth usage. Hence, the general coder control component 211 controls the other components of codec system 200 to balance video signal reconstruction quality with bit rate concerns. The general coder control component 211 creates control data, which controls the operation of the other components. The control data is also forwarded to the header formatting and CABAC component 231 to be encoded in the bitstream to signal parameters for decoding at the decoder.

[0064] The partitioned video signal 201 is also sent to the motion estimation component 221 and the motion compensation component 219 for inter-prediction. A frame or slice of the partitioned video signal 201 may be divided into multiple video blocks. Motion estimation component 221 and the motion compensation component 219 perform inter-predictive coding of the received video block relative to one or more blocks in one or more reference frames to provide temporal prediction. Codec system 200 may perform multiple coding passes, e.g., to select an appropriate coding mode for each block of video data.

[0065] Motion estimation component 221 and motion compensation component 219 may be highly integrated, but are illustrated separately for conceptual purposes. Motion estimation, performed by motion estimation component 221, is the process of generating motion vectors, which estimate motion for video blocks. A motion vector, for example, may indicate the displacement of a coded object relative to a predictive block. A predictive block is a block that is found to closely match the block to be coded, in terms of pixel difference. A predictive block may also be referred to as a reference block. Such pixel difference may be determined by sum of absolute difference (SAD), sum of square difference (SSD), or other difference metrics. HEVC employs several coded objects including a CTU, coding tree blocks (CTBs), and CUs. For example, a CTU can be divided into CTBs, which can then be divided into CBs for inclusion in CUs. A CU can be encoded as a prediction unit (PU) containing prediction data and/or a transform unit (TU) containing transformed residual data for the CU. The motion estimation component 221 generates motion vectors, PUs, and TUs by using a rate-distortion analysis as part of a rate distortion optimization process. For example, the motion estimation component 221 may determine multiple reference blocks, multiple motion vectors, etc. for a

current block/frame, and may select the reference blocks, motion vectors, etc. having the best rate-distortion characteristics. The best rate-distortion characteristics balance both quality of video reconstruction (e.g., amount of data loss by compression) with coding efficiency (e.g., size of the final encoding).

[0066] In some examples, codec system 200 may calculate values for sub-integer pixel positions of reference pictures stored in decoded picture buffer component 223. For example, video codec system 200 may interpolate values of one-quarter pixel positions, one-eighth pixel positions, or other fractional pixel positions of the reference picture. Therefore, motion estimation component 221 may perform a motion search relative to the full pixel positions and fractional pixel positions and output a motion vector with fractional pixel precision. The motion estimation component 221 calculates a motion vector for a PU of a video block in an inter-coded slice by comparing the position of the PU to the position of a predictive block of a reference picture. Motion estimation component 221 outputs the calculated motion vector as motion data to header formatting and CABAC component 231 for encoding and motion to the motion compensation component 219.

[0067] Motion compensation, performed by motion compensation component 219, may involve fetching or generating the predictive block based on the motion vector determined by motion estimation component 221. Again, motion estimation component 221 and motion compensation component 219 may be functionally integrated, in some examples. Upon receiving the motion vector for the PU of the current video block, motion compensation component 219 may locate the predictive block to which the motion vector points. A residual video block is then formed by subtracting pixel values of the predictive block from the pixel values of the current video block being coded, forming pixel difference values. In general, motion estimation component 221 performs motion estimation relative to luma components, and motion compensation component 219 uses motion vectors calculated based on the luma components for both chroma components and luma components. The predictive block and residual block are forwarded to transform scaling and quantization component 213.

[0068] The partitioned video signal 201 is also sent to intra-picture estimation component 215 and intra-picture prediction component 217. As with motion estimation component 221 and motion compensation component 219, intra-picture estimation component 215 and intra-picture prediction component 217 may be highly integrated, but are illustrated separately for conceptual purposes. The intra-picture estimation component 215 and intra-picture prediction component 217 intra-predict a current block relative to blocks in a current frame, as an alternative to the inter-prediction performed by motion estimation component 221 and motion

compensation component 219 between frames, as described above. In particular, the intra-picture estimation component 215 determines an intra-prediction mode to use to encode a current block. In some examples, intra-picture estimation component 215 selects an appropriate intra-prediction mode to encode a current block from multiple tested intra-prediction modes. The selected intra-prediction modes are then forwarded to the header formatting and CABAC component 231 for encoding.

[0069] For example, the intra-picture estimation component 215 calculates rate-distortion values using a rate-distortion analysis for the various tested intra-prediction modes, and selects the intra-prediction mode having the best rate-distortion characteristics among the tested modes. Rate-distortion analysis generally determines an amount of distortion (or error) between an encoded block and an original unencoded block that was encoded to produce the encoded block, as well as a bitrate (e.g., a number of bits) used to produce the encoded block. The intra-picture estimation component 215 calculates ratios from the distortions and rates for the various encoded blocks to determine which intra-prediction mode exhibits the best rate-distortion value for the block. In addition, intra-picture estimation component 215 may be configured to code depth blocks of a depth map using a depth modeling mode (DMM) based on rate-distortion optimization (RDO).

[0070] The intra-picture prediction component 217 may generate a residual block from the predictive block based on the selected intra-prediction modes determined by intra-picture estimation component 215 when implemented on an encoder or read the residual block from the bitstream when implemented on a decoder. The residual block includes the difference in values between the predictive block and the original block, represented as a matrix. The residual block is then forwarded to the transform scaling and quantization component 213. The intra-picture estimation component 215 and the intra-picture prediction component 217 may operate on both luma and chroma components.

[0071] The transform scaling and quantization component 213 is configured to further compress the residual block. The transform scaling and quantization component 213 applies a transform, such as a discrete cosine transform (DCT), a discrete sine transform (DST), or a conceptually similar transform, to the residual block, producing a video block comprising residual transform coefficient values. Wavelet transforms, integer transforms, sub-band transforms or other types of transforms could also be used. The transform may convert the residual information from a pixel value domain to a transform domain, such as a frequency domain. The transform scaling and quantization component 213 is also configured to scale the transformed residual information, for example based on frequency. Such scaling involves

applying a scale factor to the residual information so that different frequency information is quantized at different granularities, which may affect final visual quality of the reconstructed video. The transform scaling and quantization component 213 is also configured to quantize the transform coefficients to further reduce bit rate. The quantization process may reduce the bit depth associated with some or all of the coefficients. The degree of quantization may be modified by adjusting a quantization parameter. In some examples, the transform scaling and quantization component 213 may then perform a scan of the matrix including the quantized transform coefficients. The quantized transform coefficients are forwarded to the header formatting and CABAC component 231 to be encoded in the bitstream.

[0072] The scaling and inverse transform component 229 applies a reverse operation of the transform scaling and quantization component 213 to support motion estimation. The scaling and inverse transform component 229 applies inverse scaling, transformation, and/or quantization to reconstruct the residual block in the pixel domain, e.g., for later use as a reference block which may become a predictive block for another current block. The motion estimation component 221 and/or motion compensation component 219 may calculate a reference block by adding the residual block back to a corresponding predictive block for use in motion estimation of a later block/frame. Filters are applied to the reconstructed reference blocks to mitigate artifacts created during scaling, quantization, and transform. Such artifacts could otherwise cause inaccurate prediction (and create additional artifacts) when subsequent blocks are predicted.

[0073] The filter control analysis component 227 and the in-loop filters component 225 apply the filters to the residual blocks and/or to reconstructed image blocks. For example, the transformed residual block from the scaling and inverse transform component 229 may be combined with a corresponding prediction block from intra-picture prediction component 217 and/or motion compensation component 219 to reconstruct the original image block. The filters may then be applied to the reconstructed image block. In some examples, the filters may instead be applied to the residual blocks. As with other components in FIG. 2, the filter control analysis component 227 and the in-loop filters component 225 are highly integrated and may be implemented together, but are depicted separately for conceptual purposes. Filters applied to the reconstructed reference blocks are applied to particular spatial regions and include multiple parameters to adjust how such filters are applied. The filter control analysis component 227 analyzes the reconstructed reference blocks to determine where such filters should be applied and sets corresponding parameters. Such data is forwarded to the header formatting and CABAC component 231 as filter control data for encoding. The in-loop filters component 225

applies such filters based on the filter control data. The filters may include a deblocking filter, a noise suppression filter, a SAO filter, and an adaptive loop filter. Such filters may be applied in the spatial/pixel domain (e.g., on a reconstructed pixel block) or in the frequency domain, depending on the example.

[0074] When operating as an encoder, the filtered reconstructed image block, residual block, and/or prediction block are stored in the decoded picture buffer component 223 for later use in motion estimation as discussed above. When operating as a decoder, the decoded picture buffer component 223 stores and forwards the reconstructed and filtered blocks toward a display as part of an output video signal. The decoded picture buffer component 223 may be any memory device capable of storing prediction blocks, residual blocks, and/or reconstructed image blocks.

[0075] The header formatting and CABAC component 231 receives the data from the various components of codec system 200 and encodes such data into a coded bitstream for transmission toward a decoder. Specifically, the header formatting and CABAC component 231 generates various headers to encode control data, such as general control data and filter control data. Further, prediction data, including intra-prediction and motion data, as well as residual data in the form of quantized transform coefficient data are all encoded in the bitstream. The final bitstream includes all information desired by the decoder to reconstruct the original partitioned video signal 201. Such information may also include intra-prediction mode index tables (also referred to as codeword mapping tables), definitions of encoding contexts for various blocks, indications of most probable intra-prediction modes, an indication of partition information, etc. Such data may be encoded by employing entropy coding. For example, the information may be encoded by employing context adaptive variable length coding (CAVLC), CABAC, syntax-based context-adaptive binary arithmetic coding (SBAC), probability interval partitioning entropy (PIPE) coding, or another entropy coding technique. Following the entropy coding, the coded bitstream may be transmitted to another device (e.g., a video decoder) or archived for later transmission or retrieval.

[0076] FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating an example video encoder 300. Video encoder 300 may be employed to implement the encoding functions of codec system 200 and/or implement steps 101, 103, 105, 107, and/or 109 of operating method 100. Encoder 300 partitions an input video signal, resulting in a partitioned video signal 301, which is substantially similar to the partitioned video signal 201. The partitioned video signal 301 is then compressed and encoded into a bitstream by components of encoder 300.

[0077] Specifically, the partitioned video signal 301 is forwarded to an intra-picture prediction component 317 for intra-prediction. The intra-picture prediction component 317 may be substantially similar to intra-picture estimation component 215 and intra-picture prediction component 217. The partitioned video signal 301 is also forwarded to a motion compensation component 321 for inter-prediction based on reference blocks in a decoded picture buffer component 323. The motion compensation component 321 may be substantially similar to motion estimation component 221 and motion compensation component 219. The prediction blocks and residual blocks from the intra-picture prediction component 317 and the motion compensation component 321 are forwarded to a transform and quantization component 313 for transform and quantization of the residual blocks. The transform and quantization component 313 may be substantially similar to the transform scaling and quantization component 213. The transformed and quantized residual blocks and the corresponding prediction blocks (along with associated control data) are forwarded to an entropy coding component 331 for coding into a bitstream. The entropy coding component 331 may be substantially similar to the header formatting and CABAC component 231.

[0078] The transformed and quantized residual blocks and/or the corresponding prediction blocks are also forwarded from the transform and quantization component 313 to an inverse transform and quantization component 329 for reconstruction into reference blocks for use by the motion compensation component 321. The inverse transform and quantization component 329 may be substantially similar to the scaling and inverse transform component 229. In-loop filters in an in-loop filters component 325 are also applied to the residual blocks and/or reconstructed reference blocks, depending on the example. The in-loop filters component 325 may be substantially similar to the filter control analysis component 227 and the in-loop filters component 225. The in-loop filters component 325 may include multiple filters as discussed with respect to in-loop filters component 225. The filtered blocks are then stored in a decoded picture buffer component 323 for use as reference blocks by the motion compensation component 321. The decoded picture buffer component 323 may be substantially similar to the decoded picture buffer component 223.

[0079] FIG. 4 is a block diagram illustrating an example video decoder 400. Video decoder 400 may be employed to implement the decoding functions of codec system 200 and/or implement steps 111, 113, 115, and/or 117 of operating method 100. Decoder 400 receives a bitstream, for example from an encoder 300, and generates a reconstructed output video signal based on the bitstream for display to an end user.

[0080] The bitstream is received by an entropy decoding component 433. The entropy decoding component 433 is configured to implement an entropy decoding scheme, such as CAVLC, CABAC, SBAC, PIPE coding, or other entropy coding techniques. For example, the entropy decoding component 433 may employ header information to provide a context to interpret additional data encoded as codewords in the bitstream. The decoded information includes any desired information to decode the video signal, such as general control data, filter control data, partition information, motion data, prediction data, and quantized transform coefficients from residual blocks. The quantized transform coefficients are forwarded to an inverse transform and quantization component 429 for reconstruction into residual blocks. The inverse transform and quantization component 429 may be similar to inverse transform and quantization component 329.

[0081] The reconstructed residual blocks and/or prediction blocks are forwarded to intra-picture prediction component 417 for reconstruction into image blocks based on intra-prediction operations. The intra-picture prediction component 417 may be similar to intra-picture estimation component 215 and an intra-picture prediction component 217. Specifically, the intra-picture prediction component 417 employs prediction modes to locate a reference block in the frame and applies a residual block to the result to reconstruct intra-predicted image blocks. The reconstructed intra-predicted image blocks and/or the residual blocks and corresponding inter-prediction data are forwarded to a decoded picture buffer component 423 via an in-loop filters component 425, which may be substantially similar to decoded picture buffer component 223 and in-loop filters component 225, respectively. The in-loop filters component 425 filters the reconstructed image blocks, residual blocks and/or prediction blocks, and such information is stored in the decoded picture buffer component 423. Reconstructed image blocks from decoded picture buffer component 423 are forwarded to a motion compensation component 421 for inter-prediction. The motion compensation component 421 may be substantially similar to motion estimation component 221 and/or motion compensation component 219. Specifically, the motion compensation component 421 employs motion vectors from a reference block to generate a prediction block and applies a residual block to the result to reconstruct an image block. The resulting reconstructed blocks may also be forwarded via the in-loop filters component 425 to the decoded picture buffer component 423. The decoded picture buffer component 423 continues to store additional reconstructed image blocks, which can be reconstructed into frames via the partition information. Such frames may also be placed in a sequence. The sequence is output toward a display as a reconstructed output video signal.

[0082] FIG. 5 is an example of point cloud media 500 that can be coded according to PCC mechanisms. A point cloud is a set of data points in space. Point clouds may be produced by 3D scanners, which measure a large number of points on the external surfaces of objects around them. A point cloud can be described in terms of a geometry attribute, a texture attribute, a reflectance attribute, a transparency attribute, a normal attribute, etc. Each attribute can be coded by a codec, such as a video codec system 200, an encoder 300, and/or a decoder 400, as part of method 100. Specifically, each attribute of a PCC frame can be coded separately at an encoder and decoded and recombined at the decoder to recreate the PCC frame.

[0083] The point cloud media 500 includes three bounding boxes 502, 504, and 506. Each of the bounding boxes 502, 504, and 506 represents a portion or segment of a 3D image from a current frame. While the bounding boxes 502, 504, and 506 contain a 3D image of a person, other objects may be included in the bounding boxes in practical applications. Each bounding box 502, 504, and 506 includes an x-axis, a y-axis, and z-axis that indicates a number of pixels occupied by the 3D image in the x, y, and z directions, respectively. For example, the x-axis and the y-axis depict about four-hundred pixels (e.g., from about 0-400 pixels) while the z-axis depicts about one-thousand pixels (e.g., from about 0-1000 pixels).

[0084] Each of the bounding boxes 502, 504, and 506 contains one or more patches 508, which are represented by cubes or boxes in FIG. 5. Each patch 508 contains a portion of the overall object within one of the bounding boxes 502, 504, or 506 and may be described or represented by patch information. The patch information may include, for example, two-dimensional (2D) and/or three-dimensional (3D) coordinates describing a location of the patch 508 within the bounding box 502, 504, or 506. The patch information may also include other parameters. For example, the patch information may include parameters such as a normalAxis, which is inherited for current patch information from a reference patch information. That is, one or more parameters from the patch information of the reference frame may be inherited for the patch information of the current frame. In addition, one or more metadata parts (e.g., patch rotation, a scale parameter, a material identifier, etc.) from the reference frame may be inherited by the current frame. The patches 508 may be interchangeably referred to herein as 3D patches or patch data units. A list of the patches 508 in each bounding box 502, 504, or 506 may be generated and stored in a patches buffer in descending order from the largest patch to the smallest patch. The patches can then be encoded by the encoder and/or decoded by the decoder.

[0085] The patches 508 can describe the various attributes of the point cloud media 500. Specifically, the position of each pixel on the x-axis, y-axis, and z-axis is that pixel's geometry.

Patches 508 containing the position of all of the pixels in the current frame can be coded to capture the geometry attribute for the current frame of the point cloud media 500. Further, each pixel may include a color value in the red, blue, and green (RGB) and/or the luminance and chrominance (YUV) spectrum. Patches 508 containing the color of all the pixels in the current frame can be coded to capture the texture attribute for the current frame of the point cloud media 500.

[0086] In addition, each pixel may (or may not) include some reflectance. Reflectance is an amount of light (e.g., colored light) that projects from a pixel to adjacent pixels. Shiny objects have a high reflectance, and hence spread the light/color of their corresponding pixels on other nearby pixel. Meanwhile matte objects have little or no reflectance, and may not affect the color/light level of adjacent pixels. Patches 508 containing the reflectance of all the pixels in the current frame can be coded to capture the reflectance attribute for the current frame of the point cloud media 500. Some pixels may also be partially to completely transparent (e.g., glass, clear plastic, etc.) Transparency is the amount of light/color of an adjacent pixel that can pass through a current pixel. Patches 508 containing the level of transparency of all of the pixels in the current frame can be coded to capture the transparency attribute for the current frame of the point cloud media 500. Further, the points of a point cloud media may create surfaces. A surface can be associated with a normal vector, which is a vector that is perpendicular to the surface. Normal vectors may be useful when describing object motion and/or interaction. Accordingly, in some cases a user may wish to encode normal vectors for surfaces to support additional functionality. Patches 508 containing the normal vectors for the surface(s) in the current frame can be coded to capture the normal attribute for the current frame of the point cloud media 500.

[0087] The geometry, texture, reflectance, transparency, and normal attribute can contain data describing some or all data points in a point cloud media 500, depending on the example. For example, the reflectance, transparency, and normal attributes are optional, and hence may occur individually or in combination for some point cloud media 500 examples and not for others, even in the same bitstream. As such, the number of patches 508, and further the number of attributes may vary from frame to frame and from video to video based on the filmed subject matter, video settings, etc.

[0088] FIG. 6 is an example of data segmentation and packing for a point cloud media frame 600. Specifically, the example of FIG. 6 depicts a 2D representation of the patches 508 of point cloud media 500. The point cloud media frame 600 includes a bounding box 602 corresponding to the current frame from a video sequence. The bounding box 602 is 2D as

opposed to the bounding boxes 502, 504, and 506 of FIG. 5, which are 3D. As shown, the bounding box 602 contains numerous patches 604. The patches 604 may be interchangeably referred to herein as 2D patches or patch data units. Collectively, the patches 604 in FIG. 6 are a representation of the image in bounding box 504 from FIG. 5. As such, the 3D image in the bounding box 504 in FIG. 5 is projected onto the bounding box 602 via the patches 604. The portions of the bounding box 602 that do not contain one of the patches 604 are referred to as empty space 606. The empty space 606 may also be referred to as void spaces, empty samples, etc.

[0089] Keeping the above in mind, it should be noted that video-based point cloud compression (PCC) codec solutions are based on the segmentation of 3D point cloud data (e.g., the patches 508 of FIG. 5) into 2D projection patches (e.g., the patches 604 of FIG. 6). Indeed, the coding methodology or process described above may be beneficially implemented for various types of technology such as, for example, immersive six degrees of freedom (6 DoF), dynamic Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality (AR/VR) objects, cultural heritage, Graphic Information Systems (GIS), Computer Aided Design (CAD), autonomous navigation, and so on.

[0090] The location for each patch (e.g., one of the patches 604 of FIG. 6) within the bounding box (e.g., the bounding box 602) can be determined by the size of the patch alone. For example, the largest of the patches 604 in FIG. 6 is projected onto the bounding box 602 first starting from top-left corner (0, 0). After the largest of the patches 604 has been projected onto the bounding box 602, the next-largest of the patches 604 is projected onto (a.k.a., filled into) the bounding box 602, and so on until the smallest of the patches 604 has been projected onto the bounding box 602. Again, only the size of each patch 604 is considered with this process. In some cases, patches 604 having a smaller size may occupy the space between larger patches and may end up having a position closer to the top, left corner of the bounding box 602 than the larger patches 604. During encoding, this process may be repeated for each relevant attribute until patches for each attribute in a frame are encoded into one or more corresponding attribute streams. The group of data units in the attribute streams that are used to recreate a single frame can then be stored in a bitstream in a PCC AU. At the decoder, these attribute streams are obtained from the PCC AU and decoded to create the patches 604. Such patches 604 can then be combined to recreate the PCC media. As such, the point cloud media frame 600 can be coded by a codec, such as a video codec system 200, an encoder 300, and/or or a decoder 400, as part of method 100 to compress the point cloud media 500 for transmission.

[0091] FIG. 7 is a schematic diagram illustrating an example PCC video stream 700 with an expanded attribute set. For example, a PCC video stream 700 may be created when a point cloud media frame 600 from point cloud media 500 is encoded according to method 100, for example by employing a video codec system 200, an encoder 300, and/or a decoder 400.

[0092] The PCC video stream 700 includes a sequence of PCC AUs 710. A PCC AU 710 includes sufficient data to reconstruct a single PCC frame. Data is positioned into PCC AUs 710 in NAL units 720. A NAL unit 720 is a packet sized data container. For example, a single NAL unit 720 is generally sized to allow for simple network transmission. A NAL unit 720 may contain a header indicating the NAL unit 720 type and a payload that contains the associated video data. The PCC video stream 700 is designed for an expanded attribute set, and hence contains several attribute specific NAL units 720.

[0093] The PCC video stream 700 may include a group of frames (GOF) header 721, an auxiliary information frame 722, an occupancy map frame 723, a geometry NAL unit 724, a texture NAL unit 725, a reflection NAL unit 726, a transparency NAL unit 727, and a normal NAL unit 728, each of which is a type of NAL unit 720. The GOF header 721 contains various syntax elements describing the corresponding PCC AU 710, the frame associated with the corresponding PCC AU 710, and/or other NAL units 720 in the PCC AU 710. A PCC AU 710 may contain a single GOF header 721 or may contain no GOF header 721, depending on the example. The auxiliary information frame 722 may contain metadata relevant to the frame, such as information related to the patches used to encode the attributes. The occupancy map frame 723 may contain further metadata relevant to the frame, such as an occupancy map indicating areas of the frame that are occupied with data versus areas of the frame that are empty. The remaining NAL units 720 contain the attribute data for the PCC AU 710. Specifically, the geometry NAL unit 724, texture NAL unit 725, reflection NAL unit 726, transparency NAL unit 727, and normal NAL unit 728 contain the geometry attribute, texture attribute, reflection attribute, transparency attribute, and normal attribute, respectively.

[0094] As noted above, the attributes can be organized into streams. For example, there may be from zero to four streams for each attribute. A stream may include logically separate portions of the PCC video data. For example, an attribute for different objects may be encoded into multiple attribute streams of the same type (e.g., a first geometry stream for a first 3D bound box, a second attribute stream for a second 3D bound box, etc.) In another example, an attribute associated with different frames may be encoded into multiple attribute streams (e.g., a transparency attribute stream for even frames and a transparency attribute stream for odd frames). In yet another example, patches may be placed in layers to represent a 3D object.

Accordingly, separate layers may be included in separate streams (e.g., a first texture attribute stream for a top layer, a second texture attribute stream for a second layer, etc.) Regardless of the example, a PCC AU 710 may contain zero, one, or a plurality of NAL units for a corresponding attribute.

[0095] It should also be noted that the expanded set of attributes includes optional attributes and may contain zero streams in some PCC AUs 710. As such, some of the listed NAL units 720 may not be present for some PCC attribute streams in some PCC AUs 710 and may be present in several streams in other PCC AUs 710. Consequently, even if the entire PCC video stream 700 has a constant frame rate, the underlying PCC attribute streams may include a non-constant frame rate.

[0096] The following is an example mechanism for implementing the abovementioned aspects. Definitions: A video NAL unit is a PCC NAL unit that has PccNalUnitType equal to GMTRY_NALU, TEXTURE_NALU, REFLECT_NALU, TRANSP_NALU, or NORMAL_NALU.

[0097] Bitstream formats: This clause specifies the relationship between the NAL unit stream and byte stream, either of which are referred to as the bitstream. The bitstream can be in one of two formats: the NAL unit stream format or the byte stream format. The NAL unit stream format is conceptually the more basic type, and includes a sequence of syntax structures called PCC NAL units. This sequence is ordered in decoding order. There are constraints imposed on the decoding order (and contents) of the PCC NAL units in the NAL unit stream. The byte stream format can be constructed from the NAL unit stream format by ordering the NAL units in decoding order and prefixing each NAL unit with a start code prefix and zero or more zero-valued bytes to form a stream of bytes. The NAL unit stream format can be extracted from the byte stream format by searching for the location of the unique start code prefix pattern within this stream of bytes. The byte stream format is similar to the format employed in HEVC and AVC.

[0098] The PCC NAL unit header syntax may be implemented as described in Table 1 below.

pcc_nal_unit_header() {	Descriptor
forbidden_zero_bit	f(1)
pcc_nal_unit_type_plus1	u(5)
pcc_stream_id	u(2)
}	

Table 1 PCC NAL unit header syntax

[0099] The group of frames header raw byte sequence payload (RBSP) syntax may be implemented as described in Table 2 below.

group_of_frames_header_rbsp() {	Descriptor
num_attributes	u(5)
if(num_attributes > 1)	
attributes_first_ordering_flag	u(1)
for(i = 0; i < num_attributes; i++) {	
attribute_type[i]	u(5)
identified_codec_for_attribute[i]	u(8)
num_streams_for_attribute[i]	u(2)
num_layers_for_attribute[i]	u(4)
for(j = 0; j < num_streams_for_attribute[i]; j++) {	
max_attribute_layer_idx[i][j]	u(4)
if((j == 0 && max_attribute_layer_idx[i][j] > 0) (j > 0 && max_attribute_layer_idx[i][j] > (max_attribute_layer_idx[i][j - 1] + 1)))	
attribute_layers_combination_mode[i][j]	u(4)
}	
for(j = 0; j < num_layers_for_attribute[i]; j++)	
regular_points_flag[i][j]	u(1)
}	
byte_alignment()	
pcc_profile_level()	
frame_width	u(16)
frame_height	u(16)
occupancy_resolution	u(8)
radius_to_smoothing	u(8)
neighbor_count_smoothing	u(8)
radius2_boundary_detection	u(8)
threshold_smoothing	u(8)
lossless_geometry	u(8)
lossless_texture	u(8)
no_attributes	u(8)
lossless_geometry_444	u(8)
absolute_d1_coding	u(8)
binary_arithmetic_coding	u(8)
gof_header_extension_flag	u(1)
if(gof_header_extension_flag)	
while(more_rbsp_data())	
gof_header_extension_data_flag	u(1)
rbsp_trailing_bits()	
}	

Table 2 group of frames header RBSP syntax

[00100] The PCC profile and level syntax may be implemented as described in Table 3 below.

pcc_profile_level() {	Descriptor
pcc_profile_idc	u(5)
pcc_pl_reserved_zero_19bits	u(19)
pcc_level_idc	u(8)
for(i = 0; i < num_attributes; i++)	
if(identified_codec_for_attribute[i] == CODEC_HEVC)	
hevc_ptl_12bytes_attribute[i]	u(96)
else if(identified_codec_for_attribute[i] == CODEC_AVC)	
avc_pl_3bytes_attribute[i]	u(24)
}	

Table 3 PCC Profile Syntax

[00101] The PCC NAL unit header semantics may be implemented as follows. A forbidden_zero_bit may be set equal to zero. The pcc_nal_unit_type_plus1 minus 1 specifies the value of the variable PccNalUnitType, which specifies the type of RBSP data structure contained in the PCC NAL unit as specified in Table 4 below. The variable NalUnitType is specified as follows:

$$\text{PccNalUnitType} = \text{pcc_nal_unit_type_plus1} - 1 \quad (7-1)$$

PCC NAL units that have nal_unit_type in the range of UNSPEC25..UNSPEC30, inclusive, for which semantics are not specified, shall not affect the decoding process specified herein. It should be noted that PCC NAL unit types in the range of UNSPEC25..UNSPEC30 may be used as determined by the application. No decoding process for these values of PccNalUnitType is specified in this disclosure. Since different applications might use these PCC NAL unit types for different purposes, particular care should be exercised in the design of encoders that generate PCC NAL units with these PccNalUnitType values and in the design of decoders that interpret the content of PCC NAL units with these PccNalUnitType values. This disclosure does not define any management for these values. These PccNalUnitType values might only be suitable for use in contexts in which collisions of usage (e.g., different definitions of the meaning of the PCC NAL unit content for the same PccNalUnitType value) are unimportant, not possible, are managed – e.g., defined or managed in the controlling application or transport specification, or by controlling the environment in which bitstreams are distributed.

[00102] For purposes other than determining the amount of data in the PCC AUs of the bitstream, decoders may ignore (remove from the bitstream and discard) the contents of all PCC NAL units that use reserved values of PccNalUnitType. This requirement may allow future definition of compatible extensions to this disclosure.

PccNalUnitType	Name of PccNalUnitType	Content of PCC NAL unit and/or RBSP syntax structure
0	GOF_HEADER	Group of frames header group_of_frames_header_rbsp()
1	AUX_INFO	Auxiliary information frame auxiliary_info_frame_rbsp()
2	OCP_MAP	Occupancy map frame occupancy_map_frame_rbsp()
3	GMTRY_NALU	The payload of this PCC NAL unit contains a NAL unit of the geometry attribute per the identified video codec.
4	TEXTURE_NALU	The payload of this PCC NAL unit contains a NAL unit of the texture attribute per the identified video codec.
5	REFLECT_NALU	
6	TRANSP_NALU	
7	NORMAL_NALU	
8..24	RSV_8..RSV_24	Reserved
25..30	UNSPEC25.. UNSPEC30	Unspecified

Table 4 PCC NAL unit type codes

[00103] The identified video codec (e.g., HEVC or AVC) is indicated in the group of frames header NAL unit that is present in the first PCC AU of each cloud point stream (CPS). The pcc_stream_id specifies the PCC stream identifier (ID) for the PCC NAL unit. When PccNalUnitType is equal to GOF_HEADER, AUX_INFO, or OCP_MAP, the value of pcc_stream_id is set equal to zero. In the definition of one or more sets of PCC profiles and levels, the value of pcc_stream_id may be constrained to be less than four.

[00104] The order of PCC NAL units and their association to PCC AUs is described below. A PCC AU includes of zero or one group of frame header NAL units, one auxiliary information frame NAL unit, one occupancy map frame NAL unit, and one or more video AUs carrying data units of PCC attributes such as geometry, texture, reflection, transparency, or normal. Let video_au(i, j) denote a video AU with pcc_stream_id equal to j for the PCC attribute with PCC attribute ID equal to attribute_type[i]. The video AUs present in a PCC AU may be ordered as follows. If attributes_first_ordering_flag is equal to one, for any two video AUs

video_au(i1, j1) and video_au(i2, j2) present in a PCC AU, the following applies. If i1 is less than i2, video_au(i1, j1) shall precede video_au(i2, j2) regardless of the values of j1 and j2. Otherwise if i1 is equal to i2 and j1 is greater than j2, video_au(i1, j1) shall follow video_au(i2, j2).

[00105] Otherwise (e.g., attributes_first_ordering_flag is equal to zero), for any two video AUs video_au(i1, j1) and video_au(i2, j2) present in a PCC AU, the following applies. If j1 is less than j2, video_au(i1, j1) shall precede video_au(i2, j2) regardless of the values of i1 and i2. Otherwise if j1 is equal to j2 and i1 is greater than i2, video_au(i1, j1) shall follow video_au(i2, j2). The above order of video AU results in the following. If attributes_first_ordering_flag is equal to one, the order of the video AUs, when present, within a PCC AU is as follows (in the order listed), wherein within a PCC AU, all PCC NAL units of each particular PCC attribute, when present, are contiguous in decoding order without being interleaved with PCC NAL units of other PCC attributes:

video_au(0, 0), video_au(0, 1), ..., video_au(0, num_streams_for_attribute[0]),

video_au(1, 0), video_au(1, 1), ..., video_au(1, num_streams_for_attribute[1]),

...

video_au(num_attributes - 1, 0), video_au(num_attributes - 1, 1), ...,

video_au(num_attributes - 1, num_streams_for_attribute[1]).

Otherwise (attributes_first_ordering_flag is equal to zero), the order of the video AUs, when present, within a PCC AU is as follows (in the order listed), wherein within a PCC AU, all PCC NAL units of each particular pcc_stream_id value, when present, are contiguous in decoding order without being interleaved with PCC NAL units of other pcc_stream_id values:

video_au(0, 0), video_au(1, 0), ..., video_au(num_attributes - 1, 0),

video_au(0, 1), video_au(1, 1), ..., video_au(num_attributes - 1, 1),

...

video_au(0, num_streams_for_attribute[1]), video_au(1, num_streams_for_attribute[1]),

..., video_au(num_attributes - 1, num_streams_for_attribute[1]).

[00106] Association of NAL units to a video AU and the order of NAL units within a video AU are specified in the specification of the identified video codec, e.g., HEVC or AVC. The identified video codec is indicated in the frames header NAL unit that is present in the first PCC AU of each CPS.

[00107] The first PCC AU of each CPS starts with a group of frames header NAL unit, and each group of frames header NAL unit specifies the start of a new PCC AU.

[00108] Other PCC AUs start with an auxiliary information frame NAL unit. In other words, an auxiliary information frame NAL unit, when not preceded by a group of frames header NAL unit, starts a new PCC AU.

[00109] The group of frames header RBSP semantics are as follows. The num_attributes specifies the maximum number of PCC attributes (such as geometry, texture, etc.) that may be carried in the CPS. Note that in the definition of one or more sets of PCC profiles and levels, the value of num_attributes may be constrained to be equal to five or less. The attributes_first_ordering_flag, when set equal to zero, specifies that, within a PCC AU, all PCC NAL units of each particular PCC attribute, when present, are contiguous in decoding order without being interleaved with PCC NAL units of other PCC attributes. The attributes_first_ordering_flag, when set equal to zero, specifies that, within a PCC AU, all PCC NAL units of each particular pcc_stream_id value, when present, are contiguous in decoding order without being interleaved with PCC NAL units of other pcc_stream_id values. The attribute_type[i] specifies the PCC attribute type of the i-th PCC attribute. The interpretation of the different PCC attribute types is specified in Table 5 below. In the definition of one or more sets of PCC profiles and levels, the value of attribute_type[0] and attribute_type[1] may be constrained to be equal to zero and one, respectively.

Value	Name of PCC attribute	The identified PCC attribute
0	ATTR_GEOMETRY	Geometry
1	ATTR_TEXTURE	Texture
2	ATTR_REFLECT	Reflectance
3	ATTR_TRANSP	Transparency
4	ATTR_NORMAL	Normal
5..31	CODEC_RSV_5.. CODEC_RSV_31	Reserved

Table 5 Specification of attribute_type[i]

[00110] The identified_codec_for_attribute[i] specifies the identified video codec used for coding of the i-th PCC attribute as shown in Table 6 below.

Value	Name of identified_codec	The identified video codec
0	CODEC_HEVC	ISO/IEC IS 23008-2 (HEVC)
1	CODEC_AVC	ISO/IEC IS 14496-10 (AVC)
2..255	CODEC_RSV_2.. CODEC_RSV_255	Reserved

Table 6 Specification of identified_codec_for_attribute[i]

[00111] The `num_streams_for_attribute[ i ]` specifies the maximum number of PCC streams for the *i*-th PCC attribute. Note that in the definition of one or more sets of PCC profiles and levels, the value of `num_streams_for_attribute[ i ]` may be constrained to be less than or equal to four. The `num_layers_for_attribute[ i ]` specifies the number of attribute layers for the *i*-th PCC attribute. Note that in the definition of one or more sets of PCC profiles and levels, the value of `num_layer_for_attribute[ i ]` may be constrained to be less than or equal to four. The `max_attribute_layer_idx[ i ][ j ]` specifies the maximum value of the attribute layer index of the PCC stream with `pcc_stream_id` equal to *j* for the *i*-th PCC attribute. The value of `max_attribute_layer_idx[ i ][ j ]` should be less than `num_layer_for_attribute[ i ]`. The `attribute_layers_combination_mode[ i ][ j ]` specifies the attribute layers combination mode for the attribute layers carried in the PCC stream with `pcc_stream_id` equal to *j* for the *i*-th PCC attribute. The interpretation of the different values for `attribute_layers_combination_mode[ i ][ j ]` is specified in Table 7 below.

Value	Name of combination mode	The identified combination mode
0	COMBIN_MODE_TEMP_I NTLV	Temporal interleaving mode, wherein each PCC AU contains one attribute layer of the PCC stream with <code>pcc_stream_id</code> equal to <i>j</i> for the <i>i</i> -th PCC attribute, and the attribute layers are temporally interleaved in different PCC AUs
1..15	COMBIN_MODE_RSV_1.. COMBIN_MODE_RSV_255	Reserved

Table 7 Specification of `attribute_layers_combination_mode[ i ][ j ]`

[00112] When `attribute_layers_combination_mode[ i ][ j ]` is present and equal to zero, the variable `attrLayerIdx[ i ][ j ]`, indicating the attribute layer index for the attribute layer of the PCC stream with `pcc_stream_id` equal to *j* for the *i*-th PCC attribute, the PCC NAL units of the attribute layer being carried in a video AU with picture order count value equal to `PicOrderCntVal` as specified in the specification of the identified video codec, is derived as follows.

`tmpVal = PicOrderCntVal % num_streams_for_attribute[ i ]`

`if( j == 0 )`

`attrLayerIdx[ i ][ j ] = tmpVal` (7-2)

`else`

`attrLayerIdx[ i ][ j ][ k ] = max_attribute_layer_idx[ i ][ j - 1 ] + 1 + tmpVal`

[00113] The `regular_points_flag[ i ][ j ]`, when equal to one, specifies that the attribute layer with layer index equal to *j* for the *i*-th PCC attribute carries regular points of a point cloud signal. The `regular_points_flag[ i ][ j ]`, when set equal to zero, specifies that the attribute layer

with the layer index equal to j for the i -th PCC attribute carries irregular points of a point cloud signal. Note that in the definition of one or more sets of PCC profiles and levels, the value of `regular_points_flag[i][j]` may be constrained to be zero. The `frame_width` indicates the frame width, in pixels, of the geometry and texture videos. The frame width should be a multiple of `occupancyResolution`. The `frame_height` indicates the frame height, in pixels, of the geometry and texture videos. The frame height should be multiple of `occupancyResolution`. The `occupancy_resolution` indicates the horizontal and vertical resolution, in pixels, at which patches are packed in the geometry and texture videos. The `occupancy_resolution` should be an even value multiple of `occupancyPrecision`. The `radius_to_smoothing` indicates the radius to detect neighbours for smoothing. The value of `radius_to_smoothing` should be in the range of zero to two hundred fifty five inclusive.

[00114] The `neighbor_count_smoothing` indicates the maximum number of neighbors used for smoothing. The value of `neighbor_count_smoothing` should be in the range of zero to two hundred fifty five inclusive. The `radius2_boundary_detection` indicates the radius for boundary point detection. The value of `radius2_boundary_detection` should be in the range of zero to two hundred fifty five inclusive. The `threshold_smoothing` indicates the smoothing threshold. The value of `threshold_smoothing` should be in the range of zero to two hundred fifty five inclusive. The `lossless_geometry` indicates lossless geometry coding. The value of `lossless_geometry`, when equal to one, indicates that point cloud geometry information is coded losslessly. The value of `lossless_geometry`, when equal to zero, indicates that point cloud geometry information is coded in a lossy manner. The `lossless_texture` indicates lossless texture encoding. The value of `lossless_texture`, when equal to one, indicates that point cloud texture information is coded losslessly. The value of `lossless_texture`, when equal to zero, indicates that point cloud texture information is coded in a lossy manner. The `lossless_geometry_444` indicates whether to use 4:2:0 or 4:4:4 video format for geometry frames. The value of `lossless_geometry_444`, when equal to one, indicates that the geometry video is coded in 4:4:4 format. The value of `lossless_geometry_444`, when equal to zero, indicates that the geometry video is coded in 4:2:0 format.

[00115] The `absolute_d1_coding` indicates how the geometry layers other than the layer nearest to the projection plane are coded. The `absolute_d1_coding`, when equal to one, indicates that the actual geometry values are coded for the geometry layers other than the layer nearest to the projection plane. The `absolute_d1_coding`, when equal to zero, indicates that the geometry layers other than the layer nearest to the projection plane are coded differentially. The `bin_arithmetic_coding` indicates whether binary arithmetic coding is used. The value of

`bin_arithmetic_coding`, when equal to one, indicates that binary arithmetic coding is used for all the syntax elements. The value of `bin_arithmetic_coding`, when equal to zero, indicates that non-binary arithmetic coding is used for some syntax elements. The `gof_header_extension_flag`, when equal to zero, specifies that no `gof_header_extension_data_flag` syntax elements are present in the group of frames header RBSP syntax structure. The `gof_header_extension_flag`, when equal to one, specifies that there are `gof_header_extension_data_flag` syntax elements present in the group of frames header RBSP syntax structure. Decoders may ignore all data that follow the value one for the `gof_header_extension_flag` in a group of frames header NAL unit. The `gof_header_extension_data_flag` may have any value, and the presence and value of the flag do not affect decoder conformance. Decoders may ignore all `gof_header_extension_data_flag` syntax elements.

[00116] The PCC profile and level semantics are as follows. The `pcc_profile_idc` indicates a profile to which the CPS conforms. The `pcc_pl_reserved_zero_19bits` is equal to zero in bitstreams conforming to this version of this disclosure. Other values for `pcc_pl_reserved_zero_19bits` are reserved for future use by ISO/IEC. Decoders may ignore the value of `pcc_pl_reserved_zero_19bits`. The `pcc_level_idc` indicates a level to which the CPS conforms. The `hevc_ptl_12bytes_attribute[ i ]` may be equal to the value of the twelve bytes from `general_profile_idc` to `general_level_idc`, inclusive, in the active sequence parameter set (SPS) when an HEVC bitstream for PCC attribute type equal to `attribute_type[ i ]` extracted as specified by the sub-bitstream extraction process is decoded by a conforming HEVC decoder. The `avc_pl_3bytes_attribute[ i ]` may be equal to the value of the three bytes from `profile_idc` to `level_idc`, inclusive, in the active SPS when an AVC bitstream for PCC attribute type equal to `attribute_type[ i ]` extracted as specified by the sub-bitstream extraction process is decoded by a conforming AVC decoder.

[00117] The sub-bitstream extraction process is as follows. Inputs to this process are a PCC bitstream `inBitstream`, a target PCC attribute type `targetAttrType`, and a target PCC stream ID value `targetStreamId`. The output of this process is a sub-bitstream. It may be a requirement of bitstream conformance for the input bitstream that any output sub-bitstream that is the output of the process specified in this clause with a conforming PCC bitstream `inBitstream`, `targetAttrType` indicating any type of PCC attributes present in `inBitstream`, and `targetStreamId` less than or equal to the greatest PCC stream ID value of the PCC streams present in `inBitstream` for the attribute type `targetAttrType` shall be a conforming video bitstream per the identified video codec specification for the attribute type `targetAttrType`.

[00118] The output sub-bitstream is derived by the following ordered steps. Depending on the value of targetAttrType, the following applies. If targetAttrType is equal to ATTR_GEOMETRY, all PCC NAL units with PccNalUnitType not equal to GMTRY_NALU or pcc_stream_id not equal to targetStreamId are removed. Otherwise, if targetAttrType is equal to ATTR_TEXTURE, all PCC NAL units with PccNalUnitType not equal to TEXTURE_NALU or pcc_stream_id not equal to targetStreamId are removed. Otherwise, if targetAttrType is equal to ATTR_REFLECT, all PCC NAL units with PccNalUnitType not equal to REFLECT_NALU or pcc_stream_id not equal to targetStreamId are removed. Otherwise, if targetAttrType is equal to ATTR_TRANSP, all PCC NAL units with PccNalUnitType not equal to TRANSP_NALU or pcc_stream_id not equal to targetStreamId are removed. Otherwise, if targetAttrType is equal to ATTR_NORMAL, all PCC NAL units with PccNalUnitType not equal to NORMAL_NALU or pcc_stream_id not equal to targetStreamId are removed. For each PCC NAL unit, the first byte may also be removed.

[00119] In an alternative embodiment of the first set of methods as summarized in above, the PCC NAL unit header is designed to use more bits for pcc_stream_id and allow for more than four streams for each attribute. In that case, add one more type to the PCC NAL unit header.

[00120] FIG. 8 is a schematic diagram illustrating a mechanism 800 of ordering PCC attributes by stream. For example, mechanism 800 can be employed to organize NAL units of a PCC video stream 700. Accordingly, mechanism 800 can be employed to organize attributes from an encoded point cloud media frame 600 based on a point cloud media 500. As such, mechanism 800 may be used by an encoder 300 to create a bitstream and by a decoder 400 when reading a bitstream. Accordingly, mechanism 800 can be employed by a codec system 200 and may be further employed to support method 100.

[00121] Mechanism 800 may cause PCC attributes to be organized based on the order of the attribute streams associated with the PCC frame, which is denoted herein as stream order. Further, usage of mechanism 800 may be signaled by setting an attributes_first_ordering_flag to zero, for example in a GOF header 821.

[00122] Mechanism 800 may place a GOF header 821, an auxiliary information frame 822, and an occupancy map frame 823 at the beginning of a PCC AU. Such NAL units may be substantially similar to GOF header 721, auxiliary information frame 722, and occupancy map frame 723, respectively. Mechanism 800 may then place an attribute from each stream in order. Each attribute may have from zero to four streams. Four streams for each attribute are depicted in FIG. 8 to show the most complex case. Specifically, the first stream of each

attribute are encoded first. Accordingly, a first stream geometry NAL unit 824, a first stream texture NAL unit 825, a first stream reflection NAL unit 826, a first stream transparency NAL unit 827, and a first stream normal NAL unit 828 are encoded first. Such NAL units are substantially similar to the geometry NAL unit 724, texture NAL unit 725, reflection NAL unit 726, transparency NAL unit 727, and normal NAL unit 728, respectively, and contain attribute data designated as part of the first stream for the corresponding attribute type.

[00123] Next the attributes associated with the second set of attribute streams are encoded. Specifically, a second stream geometry NAL unit 834, a second stream texture NAL unit 835, a second stream reflection NAL unit 836, a second stream transparency NAL unit 837, and a second stream normal NAL unit 838 are encoded after the first streams. Such items contain attributes in a manner similar to corresponding NAL units from the first stream, but contain data designated as part of the second stream.

[00124] Next the attributes associated with the third set of attribute streams are encoded. Specifically, a third stream geometry NAL unit 844, a third stream texture NAL unit 845, a third stream reflection NAL unit 846, a third stream transparency NAL unit 847, and a third stream normal NAL unit 848 are encoded after the second streams. Such items contain attributes in a manner similar to corresponding NAL units from the first and second streams, but contain data designated as part of the third stream.

[00125] Finally, the attributes associated with the fourth set of attribute streams are encoded. Specifically, a fourth stream geometry NAL unit 854, a fourth stream texture NAL unit 855, a fourth stream reflection NAL unit 856, a fourth stream transparency NAL unit 857, and a fourth stream normal NAL unit 858 are encoded after the third streams. Such items contain attributes in a manner similar to corresponding NAL units from the first, second, and third streams, but contain data designated as part of the fourth stream. As noted above, mechanism 800 shows the most complicated case as attributes may include fewer than four streams. Accordingly, streams for specified attributes may be omitted as desired.

[00126] FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram illustrating a mechanism 900 of ordering PCC attributes by attribute. For example, mechanism 900 can be employed to organize NAL units of a PCC video stream 700. Accordingly, mechanism 900 can be employed to organize attributes from an encoded point cloud media frame 600 based on a point cloud media 500. As such, mechanism 900 may be used by an encoder 300 to create a bitstream and by a decoder 400 when reading a bitstream. Accordingly, mechanism 900 can be employed by a codec system 200 and may be further employed to support method 100.

[00127] Mechanism 900 may cause PCC attributes to be organized based on the order of the attributes associated with the PCC frame, which is denoted herein as attribute order. Further, usage of mechanism 900 may be signaled by setting an `attributes_first_ordering_flag` to one, for example in a GOF header 921.

[00128] Mechanism 900 may place a GOF header 921, an auxiliary information frame 922, and an occupancy map frame 923 at the beginning of a PCC AU. Such NAL units may be substantially similar to GOF header 721, auxiliary information frame 722, and occupancy map frame 723, respectively. Mechanism 900 may then group common attributes together in attribute. Each attribute may have from zero to four streams. Four streams for each attribute are depicted in FIG. 9 to show the most complex case. Specifically, all of the streams of geometry attributes are encoded first. Accordingly, a first stream geometry NAL unit 924, a second stream geometry NAL unit 934, a third stream geometry NAL unit 944, and a fourth stream geometry NAL unit 954 are encoded. Such NAL units are substantially similar to the geometry NAL unit 724 and contain geometry attributes designated by corresponding streams.

[00129] Next, a first stream texture NAL unit 925, a second stream texture NAL unit 935, a third stream texture NAL unit 945, and a fourth stream texture NAL unit 955 are encoded. Such NAL units are substantially similar to the texture NAL unit 725 and contain texture attributes designated by corresponding streams. Then, a first stream reflection NAL unit 926, a second stream reflection NAL unit 936, a third stream reflection NAL unit 946, and a fourth stream reflection NAL unit 956 are encoded. Such NAL units are substantially similar to the reflection NAL unit 726 and contain reflection attributes designated by corresponding streams. Then, a first stream transparency NAL unit 927, a second stream transparency NAL unit 937, a third stream transparency NAL unit 947, and a fourth stream transparency NAL unit 957 are encoded. Such NAL units are substantially similar to the transparency NAL unit 727 and contain transparency attributes designated by corresponding streams. Finally, a first stream normal NAL unit 928, a second stream normal NAL unit 938, a third stream normal NAL unit 948, and a fourth stream normal NAL unit 958 are encoded. Such NAL units are substantially similar to the normal NAL unit 728 and contain normal attributes designated by corresponding streams. As noted above, mechanism 900 shows the most complicated case as attributes may include fewer than four streams. Accordingly, streams for specified attributes may be omitted as desired.

[00130] FIG. 10 is a flowchart of an example method 1000 of encoding a PCC video sequence with an expanded attribute set. For example, method 1000 can organize data into a bitstream according to mechanism 800 and/or 900 and designate such a mechanism in a GOF

header. Further, method 1000 may generate a PCC video stream 700 by encoding a point cloud media frame 600 based on a point cloud media 500. Further, method 1000 may be employed by a codec system 200 and/or an encoder 300 while performing the encoding steps of method 100.

[00131] Method 1000 may begin when an encoder receives a sequence of PCC frames containing point cloud media. The encoder may determine to encode such frames, for example in response to receiving a user command. At step 1001, the encoder encodes a sequence of PCC frames into a bitstream as a number of PCC access units.

[00132] At step 1003, the encoder encodes a sequence-level data unit containing sequence-level parameters into the bitstream. The sequence-level data unit contains parameters that a decoder can employ to interpret the data contained in the encoded bitstream. A sequence-level data unit is any data unit that carries underlying video data (e.g., a NAL unit). A sequence-level data unit is distinguished from video parameter headers (such as a sequence parameter set, a picture parameter set, a slice header, etc.) as such data are part of the underlying video carried by the sequence-level data units. As a specific example, the sequence-level data unit may be the GOF header NAL unit. The sequence-level data unit can comprise several syntax elements that describe corresponding PCC attributes. For example, the sequence-level data unit can comprise a first syntax element indicating a number of PCC attributes carried in the bitstream. Such PCC attributes may include geometry, texture, and one or more of reflectance, transparency, and normal. The first syntax element may be implemented as a number of attributes element contained in a group of frames header in the bitstream.

[00133] The sequence-level data unit can also comprise a second syntax element indicating each of the PCC attributes in the bitstream. For example, the second syntax element may be an attribute type element contained in a group of frames header in the bitstream. Further, each of the PCC access units may include zero to four attribute streams for each of the PCC attributes. The sequence-level data unit can also comprise a third syntax element indicating a number of streams for each of the PCC attributes. For example, the third syntax element may be a number of streams for attribute element contained in a group of frames header in the bitstream. The sequence-level data unit can also comprise a fourth syntax element indicating an attribute order in the PCC AU. For example, the fourth syntax element may be an attributes first ordering flag contained in a group of frames header in the bitstream. The first ordering flag can be set to indicate PCC NAL units for each of the PCC attributes are included in stream order according to mechanism 800 within a corresponding PCC AU. The first ordering flag can also be set to indicate PCC NAL units for each of the PCC attributes are included in attribute order according

to mechanism 900 within a corresponding PCC AU. In addition, as each of the PCC access units includes zero to four attribute streams for each of the PCC attributes, one or more of the attribute streams may include a non-constant frame rate (e.g., even when the frame rate of the sequence of PCC frames is constant).

[00134] The data in the sequence-level data unit (GOF header) can be used by a decoder to determine how to identify and decode the corresponding NAL units. Accordingly, the decoder can transmit the bitstream at step 1005 to support generation of a decoded sequence of PCC frames based on the sequence of coded PCC frames and the sequence-level parameters in the sequence-level data unit.

[00135] FIG. 11 is a flowchart of an example method 1100 of decoding a PCC video sequence with an expanded attribute set. For example, method 1100 can read data from a bitstream according to mechanism 800 and/or 900 upon determining an encoding order by reading parameters in sequence-level data such as in a GOF header. Further, method 1100 may reconstruct a point cloud media 500 by decoding a point cloud media frame 600 from a PCC video stream 700. Further, method 1100 may be employed by a codec system 200 and/or a decoder 400 while performing the decoding steps of method 100.

[00136] Method 1100 may be initiated when a decoder receives a bitstream containing PCC video data. Accordingly, a decoder can receive a bitstream comprising a coded sequence of PCC frames organized into a number of PCC access units at step 1101.

[00137] At step 1103, the decoder can parse the bitstream to obtain a sequence-level data unit containing sequence-level parameters. The sequence-level data unit contains parameters that instruct the decoder as to how to interpret the data contained in the encoded bitstream. As a specific example, the sequence-level data unit may be the GOF header NAL unit. The sequence-level data unit can comprise several syntax elements that describe corresponding PCC attributes. For example, the sequence-level data unit can comprise a first syntax element indicating a number of PCC attributes carried in the bitstream. Such PCC attributes may include geometry, texture, and one or more of reflectance, transparency, and normal. The first syntax element may be implemented as a number of attributes element contained in a group of frames header in the bitstream.

[00138] The sequence-level data unit can also comprise a second syntax element indicating each of the PCC attributes in the bitstream. For example, the second syntax element may be an attribute type element contained in a group of frames header in the bitstream. Further, each of the PCC access units may include zero to four attribute streams for each of the PCC attributes. The sequence-level data unit can also comprise a third syntax element indicating a number of

streams for each of the PCC attributes. For example, the third syntax element may be a number of streams for an attribute element contained in a group of frames header in the bitstream. The sequence-level data unit can also comprise a fourth syntax element indicating an attribute order in the PCC AU. For example, the fourth syntax element may be an attributes first ordering flag contained in a group of frames header in the bitstream. The first ordering flag can be set to indicate PCC NAL units for each of the PCC attributes are included in stream order according to mechanism 800 within a corresponding PCC AU. The first ordering flag can also be set to indicate PCC NAL units for each of the PCC attributes are included in attribute order according to mechanism 900 within a corresponding PCC AU. In addition, as each of the PCC access units includes zero to four attribute streams for each of the PCC attributes, one or more of the attribute streams may include a non-constant frame rate (e.g., even when the frame rate of the sequence of PCC frames is constant).

[00139] The decoder can read the syntax elements in the sequence-level data unit to determine which data is contained in which NAL units. Accordingly, the decoder can decode the coded sequence of PCC frames at step 1105 based on the sequence-level parameters in the sequence-level data unit in order to generate a decoded sequence of PCC frames.

[00140] FIG. 12 is a schematic diagram of an example video coding device 1200. The video coding device 1200 is suitable for implementing the disclosed examples/embodiments as described herein. The video coding device 1200 comprises downstream ports 1220, upstream ports 1250, and/or transceiver units (Tx/Rx) 1210, including transmitters and/or receivers for communicating data upstream and/or downstream over a network. The video coding device 1200 also includes a processor 1230 including a logic unit and/or central processing unit (CPU) to process the data and a memory 1232 for storing the data. The video coding device 1200 may also comprise optical-to-electrical (OE) components, electrical-to-optical (EO) components, and/or wireless communication components coupled to the upstream ports 1250 and/or downstream ports 1220 for communication of data via optical or wireless communication networks. The video coding device 1200 may also include input and/or output (I/O) devices 1260 for communicating data to and from a user. The I/O devices 1260 may include output devices such as a display for displaying video data, speakers for outputting audio data, etc. The I/O devices 1260 may also include input devices, such as a keyboard, mouse, trackball, etc., and/or corresponding interfaces for interacting with such output devices.

[00141] The processor 1230 is implemented by hardware and software. The processor 1230 may be implemented as one or more CPU chips, cores (e.g., as a multi-core processor), field-programmable gate arrays (FPGAs), application specific integrated circuits (ASICs), and digital

signal processors (DSPs). The processor 1230 is in communication with the downstream ports 1220, Tx/Rx 1210, upstream ports 1250, and memory 1232. The processor 1230 comprises a coding module 1214. The coding module 1214 implements the disclosed embodiments described above, such as methods 100, 1000, 1100, 1400, and 1500 as well as mechanisms 800 and 900, which may employ a point cloud media 500, a point cloud media frame 600, and/or a PCC video stream 700 and/or any other method/mechanism described herein. Further, the coding module 1214 may implement a codec system 200, an encoder 300, and/or a decoder 400. For example, the coding module 1214 can employ an expanded attribute set for PCC and can signal usage of such an attribute set along with corresponding stream usage in sequence level data. Hence, coding module 1214 causes the video coding device 1200 to provide additional functionality and/or flexibility when coding PCC video data. As such, coding module 1214 improves the functionality of the video coding device 1200 as well as addresses problems that are specific to the video coding arts. Further, coding module 1214 effects a transformation of the video coding device 1200 to a different state. Alternatively, the coding module 1214 can be implemented as instructions stored in the memory 1232 and executed by the processor 1230 (e.g., as a computer program product stored on a non-transitory medium).

[00142] The memory 1232 comprises one or more memory types such as disks, tape drives, solid-state drives, read only memory (ROM), random access memory (RAM), flash memory, ternary content-addressable memory (TCAM), static random-access memory (SRAM), etc. The memory 1232 may be used as an over-flow data storage device, to store programs when such programs are selected for execution, and to store instructions and data that are read during program execution.

[00143] FIG. 13 is a schematic diagram of an example system 1300 for coding a PCC video sequence with an expanded attribute set. The system 1300 includes a video encoder 1302, which comprises a frame encoding module 1301 for encoding a sequence of PCC frames into a bitstream as a number of PCC access units. The video encoder 1302 further comprises a parameter encoding module 1303 for encoding a sequence-level data unit containing sequence-level parameters into the bitstream, wherein the sequence-level data unit comprises a first syntax element indicating a number of PCC attributes carried in the bitstream and a second syntax element indicating each of the PCC attributes. The video encoder 1302 further comprises a transmitting module 1305 for transmitting the bitstream to support generation of a decoded sequence of PCC frames based on the sequence of coded PCC frames and the sequence-level parameters in the sequence-level data unit. The modules of the video encoder

1302 can also be employed to perform any of the steps/items described above with respect to method 1000 and/or 1400.

[00144] The system 1300 also includes a video decoder 1310, which comprises a receiving module 1311 for receiving a bitstream comprising a coded sequence of PCC frames organized into a number of PCC access units. The video decoder 1310 also comprises a parsing module 1313 for parsing the bitstream to obtain a sequence-level data unit containing sequence-level parameters, wherein the sequence-level data unit comprises a first syntax element indicating a number of PCC attributes carried in the bitstream and a second syntax element indicating each of the PCC attributes. The video decoder 1310 also comprises a decoding module 1315 for decoding the coded sequence of PCC frames based on the sequence-level parameters in the sequence-level data unit to generate a decoded sequence of PCC frames. The modules of the video decoder 1310 can also be employed to perform any of the steps/items described above with respect to method 1100 and/or 1500.

[00145] FIG. 14 is a flowchart of another example method 1400 of encoding a PCC video sequence with an expanded attribute set. For example, method 1400 can organize data into a bitstream according to mechanism 800 and/or 900 and designate such a mechanism in a GOF header. Further, method 1400 may generate a PCC video stream 700 by encoding a point cloud media frame 600 based on a point cloud media 500. Further, method 1400 may be employed by a codec system 200 and/or an encoder 300 while performing the encoding steps of method 100.

[00146] At step 1401, a sequence of PCC frames are encoded into a bitstream. The sequence of PCC frames represent a plurality of PCC attributes. The PCC attributes include geometry and texture. The PCC attributes also include one or more of reflectance, transparency, and normal. Each PCC frame is encoded in a number of PCC NAL units. At step 1403, an indication for each of the PCC NAL units is encoded. The indication indicates whether each of the PCC NAL units belongs to a corresponding one of the PCC attributes. Further, when the PCC NAL unit belongs to a PCC attribute, the indication indicates to which of the PCC attributes the PCC NAL unit belongs. At step 1405, the bitstream is transmitted toward a video decoder.

[00147] FIG 15 is of an example method 1500 of decoding a PCC video sequence with an expanded attribute set. For example, method 1500 can read data from a bitstream according to mechanism 800 and/or 900 upon determining an encoding order by reading parameters in sequence-level data such as in a GOF header. Further, method 1500 may reconstruct a point cloud media 500 by decoding a point cloud media frame 600 from a PCC video stream 700.

Further, method 1500 may be employed by a codec system 200 and/or a decoder 400 while performing the decoding steps of method 100.

[00148] At step 1501, a bitstream is received. The bitstream comprises a plurality of coded sequences of PCC frames. The plurality of coded sequences of PCC frames represent a plurality of PCC attributes. The PCC attributes include geometry and texture. The PCC attributes also include one or more of reflectance, transparency, and normal. Each coded PCC frame is represented by one or more PCC NAL units. At step 1503, the bitstream is parsed to obtain an indication for each of the PCC NAL units. The indication indicates whether each of the PCC NAL units belongs to a corresponding one of the PCC attributes. Further, when the PCC NAL unit belongs to a PCC attribute, the indication indicates to which of the PCC attributes the PCC NAL unit belongs. At step 1505, the bitstream is decoded based on the indications.

[00149] A first component is directly coupled to a second component when there are no intervening components, except for a line, a trace, or another medium between the first component and the second component. The first component is indirectly coupled to the second component when there are intervening components other than a line, a trace, or another medium between the first component and the second component. The term “coupled” and its variants include both directly coupled and indirectly coupled. The use of the term “about” means a range including $\pm 10\%$ of the subsequent number unless otherwise stated.

[00150] While several embodiments have been provided in the present disclosure, it may be understood that the disclosed systems and methods might be embodied in many other specific forms without departing from the spirit or scope of the present disclosure. The present examples are to be considered as illustrative and not restrictive, and the intention is not to be limited to the details given herein. For example, the various elements or components may be combined or integrated in another system or certain features may be omitted, or not implemented.

[00151] In addition, techniques, systems, subsystems, and methods described and illustrated in the various embodiments as discrete or separate may be combined or integrated with other systems, components, techniques, or methods without departing from the scope of the present disclosure. Other examples of changes, substitutions, and alterations are ascertainable by one skilled in the art and may be made without departing from the spirit and scope disclosed herein.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method implemented by a video decoder, the method comprising:
receiving, by a receiver of the decoder, a bitstream comprising a plurality of coded sequences of point cloud coding (PCC) frames, wherein the plurality of coded sequences of PCC frames represent a plurality of PCC attributes including geometry, texture, and one or more of reflectance, transparency, and normal, and wherein each coded PCC frame is represented by one or more PCC network abstraction layer (NAL) units;
parsing, by a processor of the decoder, the bitstream to obtain an indication for each of the PCC NAL units that indicates whether each of the PCC NAL units belongs to a corresponding one of the PCC attributes, and to which of the PCC attributes the PCC NAL unit belongs when the PCC NAL unit belongs to the corresponding PCC attribute; and
decoding, by the processor, the bitstream based on the indications.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein each coded sequence of PCC frames is associated with a sequence-level data unit containing sequence-level parameters, wherein the sequence-level data unit comprises a first syntax element indicating a number of PCC attributes carried in the coded sequence of PCC frames and a second syntax element indicating each of the PCC attributes.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the second syntax element is an attribute type element contained in a group of frames header in the bitstream.
4. The method of any of claims 2-3, wherein the first syntax element is a number of attributes element contained in a group of frames header in the bitstream.
5. The method of any of claims 2-4, wherein a group of frames header in the bitstream comprises a third syntax element indicating a number of streams for each of the PCC attributes.

6. The method of any of claims 2-5, wherein a group of frames header in the bitstream comprises an attributes first ordering flag set to indicate PCC network abstraction layer units for each of the PCC attributes are included in stream order within a corresponding PCC access unit.
7. The method of any of claims 2-6, wherein a group of frames header in the bitstream comprises an attributes first ordering flag set to indicate PCC network abstraction layer units for each of the PCC attributes are included in attribute order within a corresponding PCC access unit.
8. The method of any of claims 2-7, wherein each of the PCC access units includes zero to four attribute streams for each of the PCC attributes, and wherein at least one of the attribute streams includes a non-constant frame rate.
9. The method of any of claims 2-8, further comprising forwarding, by the processor, a decoded sequence of PCC frames from the bitstream toward a display for presentation.
10. A method implemented by a video encoder, the method comprising:
 - encoding, by a processor of the encoder, a sequence of point cloud coding (PCC) frames into a bitstream, wherein the sequence of PCC frames represent a plurality of PCC attributes including geometry, texture, and one or more of reflectance, transparency, and normal, and wherein each PCC frame is encoded in a number of PCC network abstraction layer (NAL) units;
 - encoding, by the processor, an indication for each of the PCC NAL units that indicates whether each of the PCC NAL units belongs to a corresponding one of the PCC attributes, and to which of the PCC attributes the PCC NAL unit belongs when the PCC NAL unit belongs to the corresponding PCC attribute; and
 - transmitting, by a transmitter of the encoder, the bitstream toward a video decoder.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein the bitstream is associated with a sequence-level data unit containing sequence-level parameters, wherein the sequence-level data unit comprises a first syntax element indicating a number of PCC attributes carried in the bitstream and a second syntax element indicating each of the PCC attributes.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the second syntax element is an attribute type element contained in a group of frames header in the bitstream.
13. The method of any of claims 11-12, wherein the first syntax element is a number of attributes element contained in a group of frames header in the bitstream.
14. The method of any of claims 11-13, wherein a group of frames header in the bitstream comprises a third syntax element indicating a number of streams for each of the PCC attributes.
15. The method of any of claims 11-14, wherein a group of frames header in the bitstream comprises an attributes first ordering flag set to indicate PCC network abstraction layer units for each of the PCC attributes are included in stream order within a corresponding PCC access unit.
16. The method of any of claims 11-15, wherein a group of frames header in the bitstream comprises an attributes first ordering flag set to indicate PCC network abstraction layer units for each of the PCC attributes are included in attribute order within a corresponding PCC access unit.
17. The method of any of claims 11-16, wherein each of the PCC access units includes zero to four attribute streams for each of the PCC attributes, and wherein at least one of the attribute streams includes a non-constant frame rate.
18. A video coding device comprising:
a processor, a receiver coupled to the processor, and a transmitter coupled to the processor, the processor, receiver, and transmitter configured to perform the method of any of claims 1-17.
19. A non-transitory computer readable medium comprising a computer program product for use by a video coding device, the computer program product comprising computer executable instructions stored on the non-transitory computer readable medium such that when executed by a processor cause the video coding device to perform the method of any of claims 1-17.

20. An encoder comprising:
- a frame encoding means for encoding a sequence of point cloud coding (PCC) frames into a bitstream, wherein the sequence of PCC frames represent a plurality of PCC attributes including geometry, texture, and one or more of reflectance, transparency, and normal, and wherein each PCC frame is encoded in a number of PCC network abstraction layer (NAL) units;
 - a parameter encoding means for encoding an indication for each of the PCC NAL units that indicates whether each of the PCC NAL units belongs to a corresponding one of the PCC attributes, and to which of the PCC attributes the PCC NAL unit belongs when the PCC NAL unit belongs to the corresponding PCC attribute; and
 - a transmitting means for transmitting the bitstream toward a video decoder.
21. The encoder of claim 20, wherein the encoder is further configured to perform the method of any of claims 10-17.
22. A decoder comprising:
- a receiving means for receiving a bitstream comprising a plurality of coded sequences of point cloud coding (PCC) frames, wherein the plurality of coded sequences of PCC frames represent a plurality of PCC attributes including geometry, texture, and one or more of reflectance, transparency, and normal, and wherein each coded PCC frame is represented by one or more PCC network abstraction layer (NAL) units;
 - a parsing means for parsing the bitstream to obtain an indication for each of the PCC NAL units that indicates whether each of the PCC NAL units belongs to a corresponding one of the PCC attributes, and to which of the PCC attributes the PCC NAL unit belongs when the PCC NAL unit belongs to the corresponding PCC attribute; and
 - a decoding means for decoding the bitstream based on the indications.
23. The decoder of claim 22, wherein the encoder is further configured to perform the method of any of claims 1-9.