CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method encoding video into a bitstream comprising:

(a) receiving said video comprising a plurality of I frames, B frames, and P frames, where said I frames are each intra coded frames, where said P frames are each forward predicted frames, and said B frames are each bi-directionally predicted frames;

(b) determining whether one of said B frames is a repeat frame of an immediately preceding B frame of said encoded video;

(c) determining whether said immediately preceding B frame of said encoded video is a repeat from of an immediately preceding frame to said immediately preceding B frame;

(d) promoting said one of said B frames to either a P frame or an I frame if

(i) said one of said B frames is a repeat frame of said immediately preceding B frame of said encoded video; and

(ii) said immediately preceding B frame of said encoded video is not a repeat of said immediately preceding frame to said immediately preceding B frame;

(e) encoding said video into said bitstream including said I frames, said B frames, and said P frames.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising a pattern recognition process determining whether said video includes a repeating pattern of repeating frames having a sequence of 2 repeats and 3 repeats.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising said promoting said one of said B frames to either said P frame or said I frame is said P frame.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said promoted P frame is coded as a repeat frame of a previous frame.

5. A method encoding video into a bitstream comprising:

(a) receiving said video comprising a plurality of I frames, B frames, and P frames, where said I frames are each intra coded frames, where said P frames are each forward predicted frames, and said B frames are each bi-directionally predicted frames;

(b) determining whether a sequence of pairs of frames are repeats of one another;

(c) coding said sequence of pairs of frames based upon said determining as a sequence of pairs of P frames and B frames, where each of said B frames is coded as a repeat frame of a corresponding P frame;

(d) encoding said video into said bitstream including said I frames, said B frames, and said P frames.