

BI-PREDICTION WITHOUT SIGNALING CU-LEVEL WEIGHTS

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

[0001] This present application claims the benefit of U.S. Patent Application No. 17/726,042, "BI-PREDICTION WITHOUT SIGNALING CU-LEVEL WEIGHTS" filed on April 21, 2022, which claims the benefit of priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 63/179,928, "BI-PREDICTION WITH CU-LEVEL WEIGHTS WITHOUT SIGNALING" filed on April 26, 2021. The disclosures of the prior applications are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] The present disclosure describes embodiments generally related to video coding.

BACKGROUND

[0003] The background description provided herein is for the purpose of generally presenting the context of the disclosure. Work of the presently named inventors, to the extent the work is described in this background section, as well as aspects of the description that may not otherwise qualify as prior art at the time of filing, are neither expressly nor impliedly admitted as prior art against the present disclosure.

[0004] Uncompressed digital video can include a series of pictures, each picture having a spatial dimension of, for example, 1920 x 1080 luminance samples and associated chrominance samples. The series of pictures can have a fixed or variable picture rate (informally also known as frame rate), of, for example 60 pictures per second or 60 Hz. Uncompressed video has specific bitrate requirements. For example, 1080p60 4:2:0 video at 8 bit per sample (1920x1080 luminance sample resolution at 60 Hz frame rate) requires close to 1.5 Gbit/s bandwidth. An hour of such video requires more than 600 GBytes of storage space.

[0005] One purpose of video coding and decoding can be the reduction of redundancy in the input video signal, through compression. Compression can help reduce the aforementioned bandwidth and/or storage space requirements, in some cases by two orders of magnitude or more. Both lossless compression and lossy compression, as well as a combination thereof can be employed. Lossless compression refers to techniques where an exact copy of the original signal can be reconstructed from the compressed original signal. When using lossy compression, the reconstructed signal may not be identical to the original signal, but the distortion between original and reconstructed signals is small enough to make

the reconstructed signal useful for the intended application. In the case of video, lossy compression is widely employed. The amount of distortion tolerated depends on the application; for example, users of certain consumer streaming applications may tolerate higher distortion than users of television distribution applications. The compression ratio achievable can reflect that: higher allowable/tolerable distortion can yield higher compression ratios.

[0006] A video encoder and decoder can utilize techniques from several broad categories, including, for example, motion compensation, transform, quantization, and entropy coding.

[0007] Video codec technologies can include techniques known as intra coding. In intra coding, sample values are represented without reference to samples or other data from previously reconstructed reference pictures. In some video codecs, the picture is spatially subdivided into blocks of samples. When all blocks of samples are coded in intra mode, that picture can be an intra picture. Intra pictures and their derivations such as independent decoder refresh pictures, can be used to reset the decoder state and can, therefore, be used as the first picture in a coded video bitstream and a video session, or as a still image. The samples of an intra block can be exposed to a transform, and the transform coefficients can be quantized before entropy coding. Intra prediction can be a technique that minimizes sample values in the pre-transform domain. In some cases, the smaller the DC value after a transform is, and the smaller the AC coefficients are, the fewer the bits that are required at a given quantization step size to represent the block after entropy coding.

[0008] Traditional intra coding such as known from, for example MPEG-2 generation coding technologies, does not use intra prediction. However, some newer video compression technologies include techniques that attempt, from, for example, surrounding sample data and/or metadata obtained during the encoding and/or decoding of spatially neighboring, and preceding in decoding order, blocks of data. Such techniques are henceforth called “intra prediction” techniques. Note that in at least some cases, intra prediction is using reference data only from the current picture under reconstruction and not from reference pictures.

[0009] There can be many different forms of intra prediction. When more than one of such techniques can be used in a given video coding technology, the technique in use can be coded in an intra prediction mode. In certain cases, modes can have submodes and/or parameters, and those can be coded individually or included in the mode codeword. Which codeword to use for a given mode, submode, and/or parameter combination can have an

impact in the coding efficiency gain through intra prediction, and so can the entropy coding technology used to translate the codewords into a bitstream.

[0010] A certain mode of intra prediction was introduced with H.264, refined in H.265, and further refined in newer coding technologies such as joint exploration model (JEM), versatile video coding (VVC), and benchmark set (BMS). A predictor block can be formed using neighboring sample values belonging to already available samples. Sample values of neighboring samples are copied into the predictor block according to a direction. A reference to the direction in use can be coded in the bitstream or may itself be predicted.

[0011] Referring to FIG. 1A, depicted in the lower right is a subset of nine predictor directions known from H.265's 33 possible predictor directions (corresponding to the 33 angular modes of the 35 intra modes). The point where the arrows converge (101) represents the sample being predicted. The arrows represent the direction from which the sample is being predicted. For example, arrow (102) indicates that sample (101) is predicted from a sample or samples to the upper right, at a 45 degree angle from the horizontal. Similarly, arrow (103) indicates that sample (101) is predicted from a sample or samples to the lower left of sample (101), in a 22.5 degree angle from the horizontal.

[0012] Still referring to FIG. 1A, on the top left there is depicted a square block (104) of 4 x 4 samples (indicated by a dashed, boldface line). The square block (104) includes 16 samples, each labelled with an "S", its position in the Y dimension (e.g., row index) and its position in the X dimension (e.g., column index). For example, sample S21 is the second sample in the Y dimension (from the top) and the first (from the left) sample in the X dimension. Similarly, sample S44 is the fourth sample in block (104) in both the Y and X dimensions. As the block is 4 x 4 samples in size, S44 is at the bottom right. Further shown are reference samples that follow a similar numbering scheme. A reference sample is labelled with an R, its Y position (e.g., row index) and X position (column index) relative to block (104). In both H.264 and H.265, prediction samples neighbor the block under reconstruction; therefore no negative values need to be used.

[0013] Intra picture prediction can work by copying reference sample values from the neighboring samples as appropriated by the signaled prediction direction. For example, assume the coded video bitstream includes signaling that, for this block, indicates a prediction direction consistent with arrow (102)—that is, samples are predicted from a prediction sample or samples to the upper right, at a 45 degree angle from the horizontal. In that case, samples S41, S32, S23, and S14 are predicted from the same reference sample R05. Sample S44 is then predicted from reference sample R08.

[0014] In certain cases, the values of multiple reference samples may be combined, for example through interpolation, in order to calculate a reference sample; especially when the directions are not evenly divisible by 45 degrees.

[0015] The number of possible directions has increased as video coding technology has developed. In H.264 (year 2003), nine different direction could be represented. That increased to 33 in H.265 (year 2013), and JEM/VVC/BMS, at the time of disclosure, can support up to 65 directions. Experiments have been conducted to identify the most likely directions, and certain techniques in the entropy coding are used to represent those likely directions in a small number of bits, accepting a certain penalty for less likely directions. Further, the directions themselves can sometimes be predicted from neighboring directions used in neighboring, already decoded, blocks.

[0016] FIG. 1B shows a schematic (110) that depicts 65 intra prediction directions according to JEM to illustrate the increasing number of prediction directions over time.

[0017] The mapping of intra prediction directions bits in the coded video bitstream that represent the direction can be different from video coding technology to video coding technology; and can range, for example, from simple direct mappings of prediction direction to intra prediction mode, to codewords, to complex adaptive schemes involving most probable modes, and similar techniques. In all cases, however, there can be certain directions that are statistically less likely to occur in video content than certain other directions. As the goal of video compression is the reduction of redundancy, those less likely directions will, in a well working video coding technology, be represented by a larger number of bits than more likely directions.

[0018] Video coding and decoding can be performed using inter-picture prediction with motion compensation. Motion compensation can be a lossy compression technique and can relate to techniques where a block of sample data from a previously reconstructed picture or part thereof (reference picture), after being spatially shifted in a direction indicated by a motion vector (MV henceforth), is used for the prediction of a newly reconstructed picture or picture part. In some cases, the reference picture can be the same as the picture currently under reconstruction. MVs can have two dimensions X and Y, or three dimensions, the third being an indication of the reference picture in use (the latter, indirectly, can be a time dimension).

[0019] In some video compression techniques, an MV applicable to a certain area of sample data can be predicted from other MVs, for example from those related to another area of sample data spatially adjacent to the area under reconstruction, and preceding that MV in

decoding order. Doing so can substantially reduce the amount of data required for coding the MV, thereby removing redundancy and increasing compression. MV prediction can work effectively, for example, because when coding an input video signal derived from a camera (known as natural video) there is a statistical likelihood that areas larger than the area to which a single MV is applicable move in a similar direction and, therefore, can in some cases be predicted using a similar motion vector derived from MVs of neighboring area. That results in the MV found for a given area to be similar or the same as the MV predicted from the surrounding MVs, and that in turn can be represented, after entropy coding, in a smaller number of bits than what would be used if coding the MV directly. In some cases, MV prediction can be an example of lossless compression of a signal (namely: the MVs) derived from the original signal (namely: the sample stream). In other cases, MV prediction itself can be lossy, for example because of rounding errors when calculating a predictor from several surrounding MVs.

[0020] Various MV prediction mechanisms are described in H.265/HEVC (ITU-T Rec. H.265, "High Efficiency Video Coding", December 2016). Out of the many MV prediction mechanisms that H.265 offers, described here is a technique henceforth referred to as "spatial merge".

[0021] Referring to FIG. 2, a current block (201) comprises samples that have been found by the encoder during the motion search process to be predictable from a previous block of the same size that has been spatially shifted. Instead of coding that MV directly, the MV can be derived from metadata associated with one or more reference pictures, for example from the most recent (in decoding order) reference picture, using the MV associated with either one of five surrounding samples, denoted A0, A1, and B0, B1, B2 (202 through 206, respectively). In H.265, the MV prediction can use predictors from the same reference picture that the neighboring block is using.

SUMMARY

[0022] Aspects of the disclosure provide methods and apparatuses for video encoding/decoding. In some examples, an apparatus for video decoding includes processing circuitry. For example, the processing circuitry decodes information of a coding block in a current picture from a bitstream. The information indicates a bi-prediction mode without weight signaling. Weights associated with the bi-prediction mode are not signaled in the bitstream. Further, the processing circuitry determines a first motion vector associated with a first reference picture and a second motion vector associated with a second reference picture for a bi-prediction of the coding block, and determine a first reference template in the first

reference picture based on a current template of the coding block and the first motion vector and a second reference template in the second reference picture based on the current template of the coding block and the second motion vector. The processing circuitry also calculates a weight for use in the bi-prediction mode based on the first reference template, the second reference template and the current template, and reconstructs the coding block using the bi-prediction with the calculated weight.

[0023] According to some aspects of the disclosure, the current template includes one or more reconstructed samples that are neighboring to the coding block. In some examples, the current template includes at least one of one or more rows of samples above the coding block, and one or more columns of samples to a left of the coding block. In some examples, the current template includes at least one of a row of samples that is immediately above the coding block and a column of samples that is immediately to a left of the coding block.

[0024] In some embodiments, the processing circuitry determines the weight that minimizes a predefined cost function that is based on the first reference template, the second reference template and the current template. In some examples, the predefined cost function is based on respective samples differences of the current template to a predicted current template that is predicted based on the first reference template and the second reference template using a predefined bi-prediction model with one or more weight parameters.

[0025] In some examples, the predefined bi-prediction model includes three weight parameters. The processing circuitry determines values of the three weight parameters in the predefined bi-prediction model by ordinary least squares.

[0026] In some examples, the predefined bi-prediction model includes two weight parameters. The processing circuitry determines values of two weight parameters in the predefined bi-prediction model by ordinary least squares.

[0027] In some examples, the predefined bi-prediction model includes one weight parameter. The processing circuitry determines a value of one weight parameter in the predefined bi-prediction model by ordinary least squares.

[0028] In some examples, the processing circuitry clips the weight(s) in predetermined ranges.

[0029] Aspects of the disclosure also provide a non-transitory computer-readable medium storing instructions which when executed by a computer for video decoding cause the computer to perform the method for video decoding.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0030] Further features, the nature, and various advantages of the disclosed subject matter will be more apparent from the following detailed description and the accompanying drawings in which:

[0031] FIG. 1A is a schematic illustration of an exemplary subset of intra prediction modes.

[0032] FIG. 1B is an illustration of exemplary intra prediction directions.

[0033] FIG. 2 is a schematic illustration of a current block and its surrounding spatial merge candidates in one example.

[0034] FIG. 3 is a schematic illustration of a simplified block diagram of a communication system (300) in accordance with an embodiment.

[0035] FIG. 4 is a schematic illustration of a simplified block diagram of a communication system (400) in accordance with an embodiment.

[0036] FIG. 5 is a schematic illustration of a simplified block diagram of a decoder in accordance with an embodiment.

[0037] FIG. 6 is a schematic illustration of a simplified block diagram of an encoder in accordance with an embodiment.

[0038] FIG. 7 shows a block diagram of an encoder in accordance with another embodiment.

[0039] FIG. 8 shows a block diagram of a decoder in accordance with another embodiment.

[0040] FIGs. 9A-9C show diagrams illustrating a uni-prediction of an inter coded coding block in some examples.

[0041] FIG. 10 shows a diagram of using bi-prediction for coding a video sequence according to some embodiments of the disclosure.

[0042] FIG. 11 shows a flow chart outlining a process of processing in a bi-prediction mode according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

[0043] FIG. 12 shows a flow chart outlining a process according to some embodiments of the disclosure.

[0044] FIG. 13 shows a flow chart outlining an encoding process according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

[0045] FIG. 14 shows a flow chart outlining a decoding process according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

[0046] FIG. 15 is a schematic illustration of a computer system in accordance with an embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

[0047] FIG. 3 illustrates a simplified block diagram of a communication system (300) according to an embodiment of the present disclosure. The communication system (300) includes a plurality of terminal devices that can communicate with each other, via, for example, a network (350). For example, the communication system (300) includes a first pair of terminal devices (310) and (320) interconnected via the network (350). In the FIG. 3 example, the first pair of terminal devices (310) and (320) performs unidirectional transmission of data. For example, the terminal device (310) may code video data (e.g., a stream of video pictures that are captured by the terminal device (310)) for transmission to the other terminal device (320) via the network (350). The encoded video data can be transmitted in the form of one or more coded video bitstreams. The terminal device (320) may receive the coded video data from the network (350), decode the coded video data to recover the video pictures and display video pictures according to the recovered video data. Unidirectional data transmission may be common in media serving applications and the like.

[0048] In another example, the communication system (300) includes a second pair of terminal devices (330) and (340) that performs bidirectional transmission of coded video data that may occur, for example, during videoconferencing. For bidirectional transmission of data, in an example, each terminal device of the terminal devices (330) and (340) may code video data (e.g., a stream of video pictures that are captured by the terminal device) for transmission to the other terminal device of the terminal devices (330) and (340) via the network (350). Each terminal device of the terminal devices (330) and (340) also may receive the coded video data transmitted by the other terminal device of the terminal devices (330) and (340), and may decode the coded video data to recover the video pictures and may display video pictures at an accessible display device according to the recovered video data.

[0049] In the FIG. 3 example, the terminal devices (310), (320), (330) and (340) may be illustrated as servers, personal computers and smart phones but the principles of the present disclosure may be not so limited. Embodiments of the present disclosure find application with laptop computers, tablet computers, media players and/or dedicated video conferencing equipment. The network (350) represents any number of networks that convey coded video data among the terminal devices (310), (320), (330) and (340), including for example wireline (wired) and/or wireless communication networks. The communication network (350) may exchange data in circuit-switched and/or packet-switched channels. Representative networks include telecommunications networks, local area networks, wide area networks and/or the Internet. For the purposes of the present discussion, the architecture

and topology of the network (350) may be immaterial to the operation of the present disclosure unless explained herein below.

[0050] FIG. 4 illustrates, as an example for an application for the disclosed subject matter, the placement of a video encoder and a video decoder in a streaming environment. The disclosed subject matter can be equally applicable to other video enabled applications, including, for example, video conferencing, digital TV, storing of compressed video on digital media including CD, DVD, memory stick and the like, and so on.

[0051] A streaming system may include a capture subsystem (413), that can include a video source (401), for example a digital camera, creating for example a stream of video pictures (402) that are uncompressed. In an example, the stream of video pictures (402) includes samples that are taken by the digital camera. The stream of video pictures (402), depicted as a bold line to emphasize a high data volume when compared to encoded video data (404) (or coded video bitstreams), can be processed by an electronic device (420) that includes a video encoder (403) coupled to the video source (401). The video encoder (403) can include hardware, software, or a combination thereof to enable or implement aspects of the disclosed subject matter as described in more detail below. The encoded video data (404) (or encoded video bitstream (404)), depicted as a thin line to emphasize the lower data volume when compared to the stream of video pictures (402), can be stored on a streaming server (405) for future use. One or more streaming client subsystems, such as client subsystems (406) and (408) in FIG. 4 can access the streaming server (405) to retrieve copies (407) and (409) of the encoded video data (404). A client subsystem (406) can include a video decoder (410), for example, in an electronic device (430). The video decoder (410) decodes the incoming copy (407) of the encoded video data and creates an outgoing stream of video pictures (411) that can be rendered on a display (412) (e.g., display screen) or other rendering device (not depicted). In some streaming systems, the encoded video data (404), (407), and (409) (e.g., video bitstreams) can be encoded according to certain video coding/compression standards. Examples of those standards include ITU-T Recommendation H.265. In an example, a video coding standard under development is informally known as Versatile Video Coding (VVC). The disclosed subject matter may be used in the context of VVC.

[0052] It is noted that the electronic devices (420) and (430) can include other components (not shown). For example, the electronic device (420) can include a video decoder (not shown) and the electronic device (430) can include a video encoder (not shown) as well.

[0053] FIG. 5 shows a block diagram of a video decoder (510) according to an embodiment of the present disclosure. The video decoder (510) can be included in an electronic device (530). The electronic device (530) can include a receiver (531) (e.g., receiving circuitry). The video decoder (510) can be used in the place of the video decoder (410) in the FIG. 4 example.

[0054] The receiver (531) may receive one or more coded video sequences to be decoded by the video decoder (510); in the same or another embodiment, one coded video sequence at a time, where the decoding of each coded video sequence is independent from other coded video sequences. The coded video sequence may be received from a channel (501), which may be a hardware/software link to a storage device which stores the encoded video data. The receiver (531) may receive the encoded video data with other data, for example, coded audio data and/or ancillary data streams, that may be forwarded to their respective using entities (not depicted). The receiver (531) may separate the coded video sequence from the other data. To combat network jitter, a buffer memory (515) may be coupled in between the receiver (531) and an entropy decoder / parser (520) ("parser (520)" henceforth). In certain applications, the buffer memory (515) is part of the video decoder (510). In others, it can be outside of the video decoder (510) (not depicted). In still others, there can be a buffer memory (not depicted) outside of the video decoder (510), for example to combat network jitter, and in addition another buffer memory (515) inside the video decoder (510), for example to handle playout timing. When the receiver (531) is receiving data from a store/forward device of sufficient bandwidth and controllability, or from an isosynchronous network, the buffer memory (515) may not be needed, or can be small. For use on best effort packet networks such as the Internet, the buffer memory (515) may be required, can be comparatively large and can be advantageously of adaptive size, and may at least partially be implemented in an operating system or similar elements (not depicted) outside of the video decoder (510).

[0055] The video decoder (510) may include the parser (520) to reconstruct symbols (521) from the coded video sequence. Categories of those symbols include information used to manage operation of the video decoder (510), and potentially information to control a rendering device such as a render device (512) (e.g., a display screen) that is not an integral part of the electronic device (530) but can be coupled to the electronic device (530), as was shown in FIG. 5. The control information for the rendering device(s) may be in the form of Supplemental Enhancement Information (SEI messages) or Video Usability Information (VUI) parameter set fragments (not depicted). The parser (520) may parse / entropy-decode

the coded video sequence that is received. The coding of the coded video sequence can be in accordance with a video coding technology or standard, and can follow various principles, including variable length coding, Huffman coding, arithmetic coding with or without context sensitivity, and so forth. The parser (520) may extract from the coded video sequence, a set of subgroup parameters for at least one of the subgroups of pixels in the video decoder, based upon at least one parameter corresponding to the group. Subgroups can include Groups of Pictures (GOPs), pictures, tiles, slices, macroblocks, Coding Units (CUs), blocks, Transform Units (TUs), Prediction Units (PUs) and so forth. The parser (520) may also extract from the coded video sequence information such as transform coefficients, quantizer parameter values, motion vectors, and so forth.

[0056] The parser (520) may perform an entropy decoding / parsing operation on the video sequence received from the buffer memory (515), so as to create symbols (521).

[0057] Reconstruction of the symbols (521) can involve multiple different units depending on the type of the coded video picture or parts thereof (such as: inter and intra picture, inter and intra block), and other factors. Which units are involved, and how, can be controlled by the subgroup control information that was parsed from the coded video sequence by the parser (520). The flow of such subgroup control information between the parser (520) and the multiple units below is not depicted for clarity.

[0058] Beyond the functional blocks already mentioned, the video decoder (510) can be conceptually subdivided into a number of functional units as described below. In a practical implementation operating under commercial constraints, many of these units interact closely with each other and can, at least partly, be integrated into each other. However, for the purpose of describing the disclosed subject matter, the conceptual subdivision into the functional units below is appropriate.

[0059] A first unit is the scaler / inverse transform unit (551). The scaler / inverse transform unit (551) receives a quantized transform coefficient as well as control information, including which transform to use, block size, quantization factor, quantization scaling matrices, etc. as symbol(s) (521) from the parser (520). The scaler / inverse transform unit (551) can output blocks comprising sample values, that can be input into aggregator (555).

[0060] In some cases, the output samples of the scaler / inverse transform (551) can pertain to an intra coded block; that is: a block that is not using predictive information from previously reconstructed pictures, but can use predictive information from previously reconstructed parts of the current picture. Such predictive information can be provided by an intra picture prediction unit (552). In some cases, the intra picture prediction unit (552)

generates a block of the same size and shape of the block under reconstruction, using surrounding already reconstructed information fetched from the current picture buffer (558). The current picture buffer (558) buffers, for example, partly reconstructed current picture and/or fully reconstructed current picture. The aggregator (555), in some cases, adds, on a per sample basis, the prediction information the intra prediction unit (552) has generated to the output sample information as provided by the scaler / inverse transform unit (551).

[0061] In other cases, the output samples of the scaler / inverse transform unit (551) can pertain to an inter coded, and potentially motion compensated block. In such a case, a motion compensation prediction unit (553) can access reference picture memory (557) to fetch samples used for prediction. After motion compensating the fetched samples in accordance with the symbols (521) pertaining to the block, these samples can be added by the aggregator (555) to the output of the scaler / inverse transform unit (551) (in this case called the residual samples or residual signal) so as to generate output sample information. The addresses within the reference picture memory (557) from where the motion compensation prediction unit (553) fetches prediction samples can be controlled by motion vectors, available to the motion compensation prediction unit (553) in the form of symbols (521) that can have, for example X, Y, and reference picture components. Motion compensation also can include interpolation of sample values as fetched from the reference picture memory (557) when sub-sample exact motion vectors are in use, motion vector prediction mechanisms, and so forth.

[0062] The output samples of the aggregator (555) can be subject to various loop filtering techniques in the loop filter unit (556). Video compression technologies can include in-loop filter technologies that are controlled by parameters included in the coded video sequence (also referred to as coded video bitstream) and made available to the loop filter unit (556) as symbols (521) from the parser (520), but can also be responsive to meta-information obtained during the decoding of previous (in decoding order) parts of the coded picture or coded video sequence, as well as responsive to previously reconstructed and loop-filtered sample values.

[0063] The output of the loop filter unit (556) can be a sample stream that can be output to the render device (512) as well as stored in the reference picture memory (557) for use in future inter-picture prediction.

[0064] Certain coded pictures, once fully reconstructed, can be used as reference pictures for future prediction. For example, once a coded picture corresponding to a current picture is fully reconstructed and the coded picture has been identified as a reference picture

(by, for example, the parser (520)), the current picture buffer (558) can become a part of the reference picture memory (557), and a fresh current picture buffer can be reallocated before commencing the reconstruction of the following coded picture.

[0065] The video decoder (510) may perform decoding operations according to a predetermined video compression technology in a standard, such as ITU-T Rec. H.265. The coded video sequence may conform to a syntax specified by the video compression technology or standard being used, in the sense that the coded video sequence adheres to both the syntax of the video compression technology or standard and the profiles as documented in the video compression technology or standard. Specifically, a profile can select certain tools as the only tools available for use under that profile from all the tools available in the video compression technology or standard. Also necessary for compliance can be that the complexity of the coded video sequence is within bounds as defined by the level of the video compression technology or standard. In some cases, levels restrict the maximum picture size, maximum frame rate, maximum reconstruction sample rate (measured in, for example megasamples per second), maximum reference picture size, and so on. Limits set by levels can, in some cases, be further restricted through Hypothetical Reference Decoder (HRD) specifications and metadata for HRD buffer management signaled in the coded video sequence.

[0066] In an embodiment, the receiver (531) may receive additional (redundant) data with the encoded video. The additional data may be included as part of the coded video sequence(s). The additional data may be used by the video decoder (510) to properly decode the data and/or to more accurately reconstruct the original video data. Additional data can be in the form of, for example, temporal, spatial, or signal noise ratio (SNR) enhancement layers, redundant slices, redundant pictures, forward error correction codes, and so on.

[0067] FIG. 6 shows a block diagram of a video encoder (603) according to an embodiment of the present disclosure. The video encoder (603) is included in an electronic device (620). The electronic device (620) includes a transmitter (640) (e.g., transmitting circuitry). The video encoder (603) can be used in the place of the video encoder (403) in the FIG. 4 example.

[0068] The video encoder (603) may receive video samples from a video source (601) (that is not part of the electronic device (620) in the FIG. 6 example) that may capture video image(s) to be coded by the video encoder (603). In another example, the video source (601) is a part of the electronic device (620).

[0069] The video source (601) may provide the source video sequence to be coded by the video encoder (603) in the form of a digital video sample stream that can be of any suitable bit depth (for example: 8 bit, 10 bit, 12 bit, ...), any colorspace (for example, BT.601 Y CrCb, RGB, ...), and any suitable sampling structure (for example Y CrCb 4:2:0, Y CrCb 4:4:4). In a media serving system, the video source (601) may be a storage device storing previously prepared video. In a videoconferencing system, the video source (601) may be a camera that captures local image information as a video sequence. Video data may be provided as a plurality of individual pictures that impart motion when viewed in sequence. The pictures themselves may be organized as a spatial array of pixels, wherein each pixel can comprise one or more samples depending on the sampling structure, color space, etc. in use. A person skilled in the art can readily understand the relationship between pixels and samples. The description below focuses on samples.

[0070] According to an embodiment, the video encoder (603) may code and compress the pictures of the source video sequence into a coded video sequence (643) in real time or under any other time constraints as required by the application. Enforcing appropriate coding speed is one function of a controller (650). In some embodiments, the controller (650) controls other functional units as described below and is functionally coupled to the other functional units. The coupling is not depicted for clarity. Parameters set by the controller (650) can include rate control related parameters (picture skip, quantizer, lambda value of rate-distortion optimization techniques, ...), picture size, group of pictures (GOP) layout, maximum motion vector search range, and so forth. The controller (650) can be configured to have other suitable functions that pertain to the video encoder (603) optimized for a certain system design.

[0071] In some embodiments, the video encoder (603) is configured to operate in a coding loop. As an oversimplified description, in an example, the coding loop can include a source coder (630) (e.g., responsible for creating symbols, such as a symbol stream, based on an input picture to be coded, and a reference picture(s)), and a (local) decoder (633) embedded in the video encoder (603). The decoder (633) reconstructs the symbols to create the sample data in a similar manner as a (remote) decoder also would create (as any compression between symbols and coded video bitstream is lossless in the video compression technologies considered in the disclosed subject matter). The reconstructed sample stream (sample data) is input to the reference picture memory (634). As the decoding of a symbol stream leads to bit-exact results independent of decoder location (local or remote), the content in the reference picture memory (634) is also bit exact between the local encoder and remote

encoder. In other words, the prediction part of an encoder "sees" as reference picture samples exactly the same sample values as a decoder would "see" when using prediction during decoding. This fundamental principle of reference picture synchronicity (and resulting drift, if synchronicity cannot be maintained, for example because of channel errors) is used in some related arts as well.

[0072] The operation of the "local" decoder (633) can be the same as of a "remote" decoder, such as the video decoder (510), which has already been described in detail above in conjunction with FIG. 5. Briefly referring also to FIG. 5, however, as symbols are available and encoding/decoding of symbols to a coded video sequence by an entropy coder (645) and the parser (520) can be lossless, the entropy decoding parts of the video decoder (510), including the buffer memory (515), and parser (520) may not be fully implemented in the local decoder (633).

[0073] An observation that can be made at this point is that any decoder technology except the parsing/entropy decoding that is present in a decoder also necessarily needs to be present, in substantially identical functional form, in a corresponding encoder. For this reason, the disclosed subject matter focuses on decoder operation. The description of encoder technologies can be abbreviated as they are the inverse of the comprehensively described decoder technologies. Only in certain areas a more detail description is required and provided below.

[0074] During operation, in some examples, the source coder (630) may perform motion compensated predictive coding, which codes an input picture predictively with reference to one or more previously coded picture from the video sequence that were designated as "reference pictures." In this manner, the coding engine (632) codes differences between pixel blocks of an input picture and pixel blocks of reference picture(s) that may be selected as prediction reference(s) to the input picture.

[0075] The local video decoder (633) may decode coded video data of pictures that may be designated as reference pictures, based on symbols created by the source coder (630). Operations of the coding engine (632) may advantageously be lossy processes. When the coded video data may be decoded at a video decoder (not shown in FIG. 6), the reconstructed video sequence typically may be a replica of the source video sequence with some errors. The local video decoder (633) replicates decoding processes that may be performed by the video decoder on reference pictures and may cause reconstructed reference pictures to be stored in the reference picture cache (634). In this manner, the video encoder (603) may store copies of reconstructed reference pictures locally that have common content as the

reconstructed reference pictures that will be obtained by a far-end video decoder (absent transmission errors).

[0076] The predictor (635) may perform prediction searches for the coding engine (632). That is, for a new picture to be coded, the predictor (635) may search the reference picture memory (634) for sample data (as candidate reference pixel blocks) or certain metadata such as reference picture motion vectors, block shapes, and so on, that may serve as an appropriate prediction reference for the new pictures. The predictor (635) may operate on a sample block-by-pixel block basis to find appropriate prediction references. In some cases, as determined by search results obtained by the predictor (635), an input picture may have prediction references drawn from multiple reference pictures stored in the reference picture memory (634).

[0077] The controller (650) may manage coding operations of the source coder (630), including, for example, setting of parameters and subgroup parameters used for encoding the video data.

[0078] Output of all aforementioned functional units may be subjected to entropy coding in the entropy coder (645). The entropy coder (645) translates the symbols as generated by the various functional units into a coded video sequence, by lossless compressing the symbols according to technologies such as Huffman coding, variable length coding, arithmetic coding, and so forth.

[0079] The transmitter (640) may buffer the coded video sequence(s) as created by the entropy coder (645) to prepare for transmission via a communication channel (660), which may be a hardware/software link to a storage device which would store the encoded video data. The transmitter (640) may merge coded video data from the video coder (603) with other data to be transmitted, for example, coded audio data and/or ancillary data streams (sources not shown).

[0080] The controller (650) may manage operation of the video encoder (603). During coding, the controller (650) may assign to each coded picture a certain coded picture type, which may affect the coding techniques that may be applied to the respective picture. For example, pictures often may be assigned as one of the following picture types:

[0081] An Intra Picture (I picture) may be one that may be coded and decoded without using any other picture in the sequence as a source of prediction. Some video codecs allow for different types of intra pictures, including, for example Independent Decoder Refresh (“IDR”) Pictures. A person skilled in the art is aware of those variants of I pictures and their respective applications and features.

[0082] A predictive picture (P picture) may be one that may be coded and decoded using intra prediction or inter prediction using at most one motion vector and reference index to predict the sample values of each block.

[0083] A bi-directionally predictive picture (B Picture) may be one that may be coded and decoded using intra prediction or inter prediction using at most two motion vectors and reference indices to predict the sample values of each block. Similarly, multiple-predictive pictures can use more than two reference pictures and associated metadata for the reconstruction of a single block.

[0084] Source pictures commonly may be subdivided spatially into a plurality of sample blocks (for example, blocks of 4x4, 8x8, 4x8, or 16x16 samples each) and coded on a block-by-block basis. Blocks may be coded predictively with reference to other (already coded) blocks as determined by the coding assignment applied to the blocks' respective pictures. For example, blocks of I pictures may be coded non-predictively or they may be coded predictively with reference to already coded blocks of the same picture (spatial prediction or intra prediction). Pixel blocks of P pictures may be coded predictively, via spatial prediction or via temporal prediction with reference to one previously coded reference picture. Blocks of B pictures may be coded predictively, via spatial prediction or via temporal prediction with reference to one or two previously coded reference pictures.

[0085] The video encoder (603) may perform coding operations according to a predetermined video coding technology or standard, such as ITU-T Rec. H.265. In its operation, the video encoder (603) may perform various compression operations, including predictive coding operations that exploit temporal and spatial redundancies in the input video sequence. The coded video data, therefore, may conform to a syntax specified by the video coding technology or standard being used.

[0086] In an embodiment, the transmitter (640) may transmit additional data with the encoded video. The source coder (630) may include such data as part of the coded video sequence. Additional data may comprise temporal/spatial/SNR enhancement layers, other forms of redundant data such as redundant pictures and slices, SEI messages, VUI parameter set fragments, and so on.

[0087] A video may be captured as a plurality of source pictures (video pictures) in a temporal sequence. Intra-picture prediction (often abbreviated to intra prediction) makes use of spatial correlation in a given picture, and inter-picture prediction makes uses of the (temporal or other) correlation between the pictures. In an example, a specific picture under encoding/decoding, which is referred to as a current picture, is partitioned into blocks. When

a block in the current picture is similar to a reference block in a previously coded and still buffered reference picture in the video, the block in the current picture can be coded by a vector that is referred to as a motion vector. The motion vector points to the reference block in the reference picture, and can have a third dimension identifying the reference picture, in case multiple reference pictures are in use.

[0088] In some embodiments, a bi-prediction technique can be used in the inter-picture prediction. According to the bi-prediction technique, two reference pictures, such as a first reference picture and a second reference picture that are both prior in decoding order to the current picture in the video (but may be in the past and future, respectively, in display order) are used. A block in the current picture can be coded by a first motion vector that points to a first reference block in the first reference picture, and a second motion vector that points to a second reference block in the second reference picture. The block can be predicted by a combination of the first reference block and the second reference block.

[0089] Further, a merge mode technique can be used in the inter-picture prediction to improve coding efficiency.

[0090] According to some embodiments of the disclosure, predictions, such as inter-picture predictions and intra-picture predictions are performed in the unit of blocks. For example, according to the HEVC standard, a picture in a sequence of video pictures is partitioned into coding tree units (CTU) for compression, the CTUs in a picture have the same size, such as 64x64 pixels, 32x32 pixels, or 16x16 pixels. In general, a CTU includes three coding tree blocks (CTBs), which are one luma CTB and two chroma CTBs. Each CTU can be recursively quadtree split into one or multiple coding units (CUs). For example, a CTU of 64x64 pixels can be split into one CU of 64x64 pixels, or 4 CUs of 32x32 pixels, or 16 CUs of 16x16 pixels. In an example, each CU is analyzed to determine a prediction type for the CU, such as an inter prediction type or an intra prediction type. The CU is split into one or more prediction units (PUs) depending on the temporal and/or spatial predictability. Generally, each PU includes a luma prediction block (PB), and two chroma PBs. In an embodiment, a prediction operation in coding (encoding/decoding) is performed in the unit of a prediction block. Using a luma prediction block as an example of a prediction block, the prediction block includes a matrix of values (e.g., luma values) for pixels, such as 8x8 pixels, 16x16 pixels, 8x16 pixels, 16x8 pixels, and the like.

[0091] FIG. 7 shows a diagram of a video encoder (703) according to another embodiment of the disclosure. The video encoder (703) is configured to receive a processing block (e.g., a prediction block) of sample values within a current video picture in a sequence

of video pictures, and encode the processing block into a coded picture that is part of a coded video sequence. In an example, the video encoder (703) is used in the place of the video encoder (403) in the FIG. 4 example.

[0092] In an HEVC example, the video encoder (703) receives a matrix of sample values for a processing block, such as a prediction block of 8x8 samples, and the like. The video encoder (703) determines whether the processing block is best coded using intra mode, inter mode, or bi-prediction mode using, for example, rate-distortion optimization. When the processing block is to be coded in intra mode, the video encoder (703) may use an intra prediction technique to encode the processing block into the coded picture; and when the processing block is to be coded in inter mode or bi-prediction mode, the video encoder (703) may use an inter prediction or bi-prediction technique, respectively, to encode the processing block into the coded picture. In certain video coding technologies, merge mode can be an inter picture prediction submode where the motion vector is derived from one or more motion vector predictors without the benefit of a coded motion vector component outside the predictors. In certain other video coding technologies, a motion vector component applicable to the subject block may be present. In an example, the video encoder (703) includes other components, such as a mode decision module (not shown) to determine the mode of the processing blocks.

[0093] In the FIG. 7 example, the video encoder (703) includes the inter encoder (730), an intra encoder (722), a residue calculator (723), a switch (726), a residue encoder (724), a general controller (721), and an entropy encoder (725) coupled together as shown in FIG. 7.

[0094] The inter encoder (730) is configured to receive the samples of the current block (e.g., a processing block), compare the block to one or more reference blocks in reference pictures (e.g., blocks in previous pictures and later pictures), generate inter prediction information (e.g., description of redundant information according to inter encoding technique, motion vectors, merge mode information), and calculate inter prediction results (e.g., predicted block) based on the inter prediction information using any suitable technique. In some examples, the reference pictures are decoded reference pictures that are decoded based on the encoded video information.

[0095] The intra encoder (722) is configured to receive the samples of the current block (e.g., a processing block), in some cases compare the block to blocks already coded in the same picture, generate quantized coefficients after transform, and in some cases also intra prediction information (e.g., an intra prediction direction information according to one or

more intra encoding techniques). In an example, the intra encoder (722) also calculates intra prediction results (e.g., predicted block) based on the intra prediction information and reference blocks in the same picture.

[0096] The general controller (721) is configured to determine general control data and control other components of the video encoder (703) based on the general control data. In an example, the general controller (721) determines the mode of the block, and provides a control signal to the switch (726) based on the mode. For example, when the mode is the intra mode, the general controller (721) controls the switch (726) to select the intra mode result for use by the residue calculator (723), and controls the entropy encoder (725) to select the intra prediction information and include the intra prediction information in the bitstream; and when the mode is the inter mode, the general controller (721) controls the switch (726) to select the inter prediction result for use by the residue calculator (723), and controls the entropy encoder (725) to select the inter prediction information and include the inter prediction information in the bitstream.

[0097] The residue calculator (723) is configured to calculate a difference (residue data) between the received block and prediction results selected from the intra encoder (722) or the inter encoder (730). The residue encoder (724) is configured to operate based on the residue data to encode the residue data to generate the transform coefficients. In an example, the residue encoder (724) is configured to convert the residue data from a spatial domain to a frequency domain, and generate the transform coefficients. The transform coefficients are then subject to quantization processing to obtain quantized transform coefficients. In various embodiments, the video encoder (703) also includes a residue decoder (728). The residue decoder (728) is configured to perform inverse-transform, and generate the decoded residue data. The decoded residue data can be suitably used by the intra encoder (722) and the inter encoder (730). For example, the inter encoder (730) can generate decoded blocks based on the decoded residue data and inter prediction information, and the intra encoder (722) can generate decoded blocks based on the decoded residue data and the intra prediction information. The decoded blocks are suitably processed to generate decoded pictures and the decoded pictures can be buffered in a memory circuit (not shown) and used as reference pictures in some examples.

[0098] The entropy encoder (725) is configured to format the bitstream to include the encoded block. The entropy encoder (725) is configured to include various information according to a suitable standard, such as the HEVC standard. In an example, the entropy encoder (725) is configured to include the general control data, the selected prediction

information (e.g., intra prediction information or inter prediction information), the residue information, and other suitable information in the bitstream. Note that, according to the disclosed subject matter, when coding a block in the merge submode of either inter mode or bi-prediction mode, there is no residue information.

[0099] FIG. 8 shows a diagram of a video decoder (810) according to another embodiment of the disclosure. The video decoder (810) is configured to receive coded pictures that are part of a coded video sequence, and decode the coded pictures to generate reconstructed pictures. In an example, the video decoder (810) is used in the place of the video decoder (410) in the FIG. 4 example.

[0100] In the FIG. 8 example, the video decoder (810) includes an entropy decoder (871), an inter decoder (880), a residue decoder (873), a reconstruction module (874), and an intra decoder (872) coupled together as shown in FIG. 8.

[0101] The entropy decoder (871) can be configured to reconstruct, from the coded picture, certain symbols that represent the syntax elements of which the coded picture is made up. Such symbols can include, for example, the mode in which a block is coded (such as, for example, intra mode, inter mode, bi-predicted mode, the latter two in merge submode or another submode), prediction information (such as, for example, intra prediction information or inter prediction information) that can identify certain sample or metadata that is used for prediction by the intra decoder (872) or the inter decoder (880), respectively, residual information in the form of, for example, quantized transform coefficients, and the like. In an example, when the prediction mode is inter or bi-predicted mode, the inter prediction information is provided to the inter decoder (880); and when the prediction type is the intra prediction type, the intra prediction information is provided to the intra decoder (872). The residual information can be subject to inverse quantization and is provided to the residue decoder (873).

[0102] The inter decoder (880) is configured to receive the inter prediction information, and generate inter prediction results based on the inter prediction information.

[0103] The intra decoder (872) is configured to receive the intra prediction information, and generate prediction results based on the intra prediction information.

[0104] The residue decoder (873) is configured to perform inverse quantization to extract de-quantized transform coefficients, and process the de-quantized transform coefficients to convert the residual from the frequency domain to the spatial domain. The residue decoder (873) may also require certain control information (to include the Quantizer

Parameter (QP)), and that information may be provided by the entropy decoder (871) (data path not depicted as this may be low volume control information only).

[0105] The reconstruction module (874) is configured to combine, in the spatial domain, the residual as output by the residue decoder (873) and the prediction results (as output by the inter or intra prediction modules as the case may be) to form a reconstructed block, that may be part of the reconstructed picture, which in turn may be part of the reconstructed video. It is noted that other suitable operations, such as a deblocking operation and the like, can be performed to improve the visual quality.

[0106] It is noted that the video encoders (403), (603), and (703), and the video decoders (410), (510), and (810) can be implemented using any suitable technique. In an embodiment, the video encoders (403), (603), and (703), and the video decoders (410), (510), and (810) can be implemented using one or more integrated circuits. In another embodiment, the video encoders (403), (603), and (603), and the video decoders (410), (510), and (810) can be implemented using one or more processors that execute software instructions.

[0107] Aspects of the disclosure provide techniques for bi-prediction without signaling CU level weights. Bi-prediction refers to techniques in inter prediction that perform prediction for a block in a current picture using two reference blocks that are respectively reside in two reference pictures. In some examples, one of the two reference pictures is before the current picture in a video sequence, and the other of the two reference pictures is after the current picture in the video sequence, and the bi-prediction is referred to as bi-directional prediction. According to some aspects of the disclosure, the bi-prediction techniques use prediction models with CU level weights. The CU level weights can be computed from previously decoded pixels, for example, by fixed-point arithmetic, and the CU level weights are not signaled in the bitstream.

[0108] In some related examples, bi-prediction with CU level weight (BCW) can use fixed weights or weights that are signaled from the encoder side to the decoder side at CU level (e.g., respectively for each CU).

[0109] In an example (e.g., HEVC), a bi-prediction signal (sample) is generated by averaging two prediction signals (samples) obtained from two different reference pictures and/or using two different motion vectors. For example, to predict a sample in a current picture using the bi-prediction, a first prediction signal is obtained by inter prediction based on a first reference picture and a first motion vector, and a second prediction signal is obtained by inter prediction based on a second reference picture and a second motion vector. Then, the bi-prediction signal in the current picture is obtained by averaging the first

prediction signal and the second prediction signal. The weights in the averaging are fixed and are 0.5 respectively for the first prediction signal and the second prediction signal.

[0110] In another example (e.g., VVC), the bi-prediction mode is extended beyond simple averaging to allow weighted averaging of the two prediction signals. For example, $P_0[i, j]$ denotes the first prediction signal for the pixel at the position (i, j) in the current CU and $P_1[i, j]$ denotes the second prediction signal for the pixel at the position (i, j) in the current CU. The first prediction signal is obtained by inter prediction based on the first reference picture and the first motion vector, and the second prediction signal is obtained by inter prediction based on the second reference picture and the second motion vector. The bi-prediction signal denoted by $P_{\text{bi-pred}}[i, j]$ for the pixel at the position (i, j) can be calculated according to Eq. (1):

$$P_{\text{bi-pred}}[i, j] = ((8 - w) \times P_0[i, j] + w \times P_1[i, j] + 4) \gg 3 \quad \text{Eq. (1)}$$

where w denotes the weight for the second prediction signal. In some examples, the weights are signaled from the encoder side to the decoder side using weight index. For example, five weights are allowed in the weighted averaging bi-prediction, $w \in \{-2, 3, 4, 5, 10\}$. A BCW weight index is coded in the bitstream at CU level and the BCW weight index can indicate one of the five weights to use in bi-prediction.

[0111] In some related examples, a technique that is referred to as local illumination compensation (LIC) is used. In an example, LIC is used in an inter prediction technique for uni-prediction of inter coded CUs. LIC is not applied to bi-prediction. LIC can model local illumination variation between current block and its reference block as a function of variation between current block template and reference block template.

[0112] FIGs. 9A-9C show diagrams illustrating a uni-prediction of an inter coded CU in some examples. In FIG. 9A, a current block (910) is located in a current picture for coding. To inter predict the current block (910), a reference block (920) in a reference picture is determined as a temporal prediction of the current block (910). The location of the reference block (920) in the reference picture can have a spatial shift from the location of the current block (910) in the current picture, such as illustrated by a motion vector (930) in FIG. 9A.

[0113] In FIG. 9B, current template and reference template respectively associated with the current block (910) and the reference block (920) are shown. In some examples, the current template of the current block (910) includes an above current template (911) and a left current template (912) as shown in FIG. 9B. The above current template (911) includes

adjacent pixels above the current block (910) in the current picture. The left current template (912) includes adjacent pixels to the left of the current block (910) in the current picture.

[0114] Similarly, the reference template of the reference block (920) includes an above reference template (921) and a left reference template (922) as shown in FIG. 9B. The above reference template (921) includes adjacent pixels above the reference block (920) in the reference picture. The left reference template (922) includes adjacent pixels to the left of the reference block (920) in the reference picture.

[0115] In some examples, an above template of a block includes one row of pixels immediately above the block, and a left template of a block includes one column of pixels immediately to the left of the block. As shown in FIG. 9B, the above current template (911) includes a row of pixels immediately above the current block (910) in the current picture; and the left current template (912) includes a column of pixels immediately to the left of the current block (910) in the current picture. The above reference template (921) includes a row of pixels immediately above the reference block (920) in the reference picture. The left reference template (922) includes a column of pixels immediately to the left of the reference block (920) in the reference picture.

[0116] In FIG. 9C, the reference block template (including the above reference template (921) and the left reference template (922)) can be considered as a temporal prediction of the current block template (including the above current template (911) and the left current template (912)) indicated by the motion vector (930) between the current block (910) and the reference block (920).

[0117] In some examples, according to the local illumination compensation (LIC), samples in a current block can be predicted by applying an LIC model on samples in the reference block. For example, the current block has width w and height h , the reference block also has width w and height h . For ease of description, the top left corner of the current block is assumed to have coordinates $(0,0)$, the top left corner of the reference block is assumed to have coordinates $(0,0)$. Further, $y[i, j]$ denotes sample value at location (i, j) in the current block for $0 \leq i < w$ and $0 \leq j < h$, $\hat{y}[i, j]$ denotes a prediction of the sample value at location (i, j) in the current block for $0 \leq i < w$ and $0 \leq j < h$, and $x[i, j]$ denotes reconstructed sample value at location (i, j) in the reference block for $0 \leq i < w$ and $0 \leq j < h$. In some examples, the LIC model can be represented using Eq. (2):

$$\hat{y}[i, j] = \alpha \cdot x[i, j] + \beta \quad \text{Eq. (2)}$$

where α denotes a scale parameter and β denotes an offset parameter that are used to compensate for illumination changes between the current block in the current picture and the reference block in the reference picture.

[0118] In some examples, the scale parameter α and the offset parameter β can be derived based on the current block template (e.g., (911) and (912)) and the reference block template (e.g., (921) and (922)). In an example, an LIC flag is signaled to indicate a use of LIC, and no signaling overhead is required for signaling the scale parameter α and the offset parameter β .

[0119] It is noted that LIC is an inter prediction technique for uni-prediction of inter coded CUs and is not applied to bi-prediction.

[0120] According to an aspect of the disclosure, the BCW in the related examples (e.g., VVC) has limited weight precision. In some examples, only a maximum of five values of weight are allowed in the weighted averaging bi-prediction. In addition, signaling the weight index in the bitstream can add signaling overhead in bitrate.

[0121] According to another aspect of the disclosure, LIC can model local illumination variation between a current block and a reference block of the current block as a function of illumination variation between a current block template of the current block and a reference block template of the reference block. LIC does not add overhead in bitrate to signal the scale parameter and the offset parameter. However, LIC is not applied to bi-prediction.

[0122] Some aspects of the disclosure provide techniques to use in bi-prediction with CU-level weights that are of higher weight precision (e.g., than in VVC) without signaling weights in the bitstream.

[0123] In some embodiments, in a bi-prediction mode, $P_0[i, j]$ denotes a first prediction signal for a pixel at a position (i, j) in a current CU and $P_1[i, j]$ denotes a second prediction signal for the pixel at the position (i, j) in the current CU. The bi-prediction signal denoted by $P_{\text{bi-pred}}[i, j]$ for the pixel at the position (i, j) can be calculated as weighted average of the first prediction signal and the second prediction signal, such as according to Eq. (3):

$$\begin{aligned} P_{\text{bi-pred}}[i, j] &= ((2^n - w) \times P_0[i, j] + w \times P_1[i, j] + 2^{n-1}) \gg n \\ &= P_0[i, j] + (w \cdot (P_1[i, j] - P_0[i, j]) + 2^{n-1}) \gg n \end{aligned} \quad \text{Eq. (3)}$$

where w denotes a weight and n denotes a pre-determined shift parameter. In some examples, the weight w is an integer and $0 < w < 2^n$. In an embodiment, n is set to 5 when

the first prediction signal P_0 and the second prediction signal P_1 are represented using 10 bits, thus the computation in Eq. (3) can be done with 16 bits signed arithmetic.

[0124] According to some embodiments, the weight w can be determined based on a current template of the current CU and reference templates of the reference CUs, and thus CU level weight signaling is not needed in some examples.

[0125] FIG. 10 shows a diagram of using bi-prediction for coding a video sequence (1000) according to some embodiments of the disclosure.

[0126] In the FIG. 10 example, the video sequence (1000) includes a plurality of picture frames, such as frames (1001)-(1003) and the like. The frame (1001) is a current frame for coding, and the frames (1002) and (1003) are coded (encoded or decoded) before the frame (1001). In some examples, one of the frames (1002) and (1003) is before the frame (1001) in a display order of the video sequence (1000), and the other of the frames (1002) and (1003) is after the frame (1001) in the display order. It is noted that additional frames may or may not exist between the frame (1002) and the frame (1001) or between the frame (1001) and the frame (1003). In some other examples, both of the frames (1002) and (1003) are before the frame (1001) in the display order or both of the frames (1002) and (1003) are after the frame (1001) in the display order.

[0127] In the FIG. 10 example, a current block (1010) is located in the current picture, such as the frame (1001), for coding. To inter predict the current block (1010) in a bi-prediction mode, a first reference block (1020) in a first reference picture, such as the frame (1002) and a second reference block (1030) in a second reference picture, such as the frame (1003) are determined. The location of the first reference block (1020) in the frame (1002) can have a first spatial shift from the location of the current block (1010) in the frame (1001), such as illustrated by a motion vector (1025) denoted by mv_0 in FIG. 10. The location of the second reference block (1030) in the frame (1003) can have a second spatial shift from the location of the current block (1010) in the frame (1001), such as illustrated by a motion vector (1035) denoted by mv_1 in FIG. 10. The first reference block (1020) can be referred to as a first prediction of the current block (1010), and can be denoted by P_0 . The second reference block (1030) can be referred to as a second prediction of the current block (1010), and can be denoted by P_1 . The current block (1010) can be predicted by weighted average of the first prediction P_0 and the second prediction P_1 .

[0128] In some embodiments, the current template of the current block (1020), the reference template of the first reference block (1020) and the reference template of the second reference block (1030) are used to determine the weight w in the bi-prediction mode.

[0129] In some examples, the current template of the current block (1010) is referred to as a current template T_c . The current template T_c includes decoded pixels that are adjacent to the current block (1010). In some examples, the current template T_c includes a row of pixels (e.g., shown by (1011)) that is immediately above the current block (1010) and includes a column of pixels (e.g., shown by (1012)) that is immediately left to the current block (1010).

[0130] The reference template of the first reference block (1020) is referred to as a first reference template T_0 . The first reference template T_0 includes decoded pixels that are adjacent to the first reference block (1020). In some examples, the first reference template T_0 includes a row of pixels (e.g., shown by (1021)) that is immediately above the first reference block (1020) and includes a column of pixels (e.g., shown by (1022)) that is immediately left to the first reference block (1020).

[0131] The reference template of the second reference block (1030) is referred to as a second reference template T_1 . The second reference template T_1 includes decoded pixels that are adjacent to the second reference block (1030). In some examples, the second reference template T_1 includes a row of pixels (e.g., shown by (1031)) that is immediately above the second reference block (1030) and includes a column of pixels (e.g., shown by (1032)) that is immediately left to the second reference block (1030).

[0132] It is noted that, in some examples, the current template T_c can have any suitable shape, and the first reference template T_0 and the second reference template T_1 corresponding to the current template T_c can be determined based on the motion vectors mv_0 and mv_1 .

[0133] According to an aspect of the disclosure, when coding (encoding or decoding) the current block (1010), the current template T_c has been reconstructed. The first reference picture (1002) and the second reference picture (1003) have been reconstructed, thus the first reference template T_0 and the second reference template T_1 are reconstructed. The weight w is then determined based on the current template T_c , the first reference template T_0 and the second reference template T_1 . The weight w can be computed at the encoder and the decoder, and thus in some examples, the weight w is not signaled in the bitstream.

[0134] It is noted that the weight w can be computed using any suitable techniques.

[0135] In some embodiments, a cost function can be formed with a cost depending on the weight w . Then, the weight w can be determined as an argument that minimizes the cost of the cost function.

[0136] In some examples, the first reference template T_0 and the second reference template T_1 are applied according to Eq. (3) to determine a predicted current template T_w as a function of the weight w . For example, the predicted current template T_w at a position (i, j) in the current template T_c can be calculated according to Eq. (4):

$$T_w[i, j] = T_0[i, j] + (w \times (T_1[i, j] - T_0[i, j]) + 2^{n-1}) \gg n \quad \text{Eq. (4)}$$

[0137] In an embodiment, a difference of $T_w[i, j]$ and $T_c[i, j]$ can be used to calculate a cost function.

[0138] In some examples, a cost function can be formed according to Eq. (5):

$$\begin{aligned} \text{cost function} &= \|T_c - T_w\|^2 \\ &= \sum_{\text{locations in the current template}} (T_c[i, j] - T_w[i, j])^2 \end{aligned} \quad \text{Eq. (5)}$$

The weight w is the argument which minimizes the cost of the cost function. In an example, the weight w is subject to the constraint that $0 < w < 2^n$, n is a positive integer. In an embodiment, n is set to 5 when the first prediction signal P_0 and the second prediction signal P_1 are represented using 10 bits, thus the computation in Eq. (4) and Eq. (5) can be done with 16 bits signed arithmetic.

[0139] In some examples, the weight w is determined approximately by ordinary least squares with fixed-point arithmetic and then clipped to the range $[a, b]$, where a and b are predetermined integers.

[0140] After the weight w is determined, the current block (1010) can be predicted in the bi-prediction mode as weighted average of the first prediction P_0 and second prediction P_1 , such as using Eq. (3).

[0141] FIG. 11 shows a flow chart outlining a process (1100) that is executed in a bi-prediction mode according to an embodiment of the disclosure. The process starts at (S1101) and proceeds to (S1110).

[0142] At (S1110), a current block (e.g., the current block (1010)) is determined for coding in the bi-prediction mode, then a first motion vector mv_0 , a first reference picture, a second motion vector mv_1 and a second reference picture are determined. Based on the first motion vector mv_0 and the first reference picture, the first prediction P_0 (e.g., the first reference block (1020)) is determined; and based on the second motion vector mv_1 and the second reference picture, the second prediction P_1 (e.g., the second reference block (1030)) is determined. Further, the current template T_c (e.g., (1011) and (1012)) is determined.

[0143] At (S1120), the first reference template T_0 and the second reference template T_1 are determined. In some examples, the first reference template T_0 is determined based on

the current template T_c and the first motion vector mv_0 ; and the second reference template T_1 is determined based on the current template T_c and the second motion vector mv_1 .

[0144] At (S1130), weight(s) to minimize the cost of the cost function is (are) determined. For example, the cost function can be formed based on Eq. (4) and Eq. (5) as a function of the weight w . Then, the weight w is determined to minimize the cost of the cost function.

[0145] At (S1140), then bi-prediction can be calculated as weighted average of the first prediction P_0 and the second prediction P_1 based on the determined weight(s).

[0146] According to an aspect of the disclosure, a plurality of weight parameters can be used in the bi-prediction mode.

[0147] In some examples, three weight parameters are used in the bi-prediction mode. For example, in the bi-prediction mode, the bi-prediction signal denoted by $P_{\text{bi-pred}}[i, j]$ for the pixel at the position (i, j) in the current CU (e.g., current block (1010)) can be calculated as weighted average of the first prediction signal $P_0[i, j]$ and the second prediction signal $P_1[i, j]$ according to a prediction model, such as a prediction model according to Eq. (6):

$$P_{\text{bi-pred}}[i, j] = (w_0 \times P_0[i, j] + w_1 \times P_1[i, j] + w_2) \gg n \quad \text{Eq. (6)}$$

where w_0, w_1, w_2 are weight parameters (also referred to as weights) of the prediction model and n is a pre-determined shift parameter. The weight parameters w_0, w_1, w_2 can be derived from the templates (e.g., the current template, the first reference template and the second reference template) by fixed-point arithmetic.

[0148] The values of the weight parameters w_0, w_1, w_2 can be determined based on the pixels in the current template T_c and in the first and second reference templates T_0 and T_1 . In an example, a predicted current template T_w can be formed as a function of the weight parameters. For example, the predicted current template T_w at a position (i, j) in the current template T_c can be represented according to Eq. (7):

$$T_w[i, j] = (w_0 \times T_0[i, j] + w_1 \times T_1[i, j] + w_2) \gg n \quad \text{Eq. (7)}$$

[0149] In some examples, a cost function can be formed according to Eq. (5) using the predicted template T_w and the current template T_c , and thus the cost function is a function of the weight parameters. In an example, the weight parameters w_0, w_1, w_2 can be determined as the argument which minimizes the cost of the cost function with the constraint that $0 \leq T_w[i, j] < 2^b$ (for all positions in the current template T_c) where b is the bit-depth of the pixels.

[0150] In an example, the weight parameters w_0, w_1, w_2 are determined approximately by ordinary least squares with fixed-point arithmetic using Cramer's rule. In

some examples, the values of the weight parameters can be clipped. In an example, w_i is clipped to the range $[a_i, b_i]$ where a_i and b_i are predetermined integers, $i \in \{0,1,2\}$.

[0151] In some examples, two weight parameters are used in the bi-prediction mode. For example, in the bi-prediction mode, the bi-prediction signal denoted by $P_{\text{bi-pred}}[i, j]$ for the pixel at the position (i, j) in the current CU (e.g., current block (1010)) can be calculated as weighted average of the first prediction signal $P_0[i, j]$ and the second prediction signal $P_1[i, j]$ according to a prediction model, such as a prediction model according Eq. (8):

$$P_{\text{bi-pred}}[i, j] = (w_0 \times P_0[i, j] + w_1 \times P_1[i, j] + C) \gg n \quad \text{Eq. (8)}$$

where w_0, w_1 are weight parameters (also referred to as weights) of the prediction model that can be derived from the templates (e.g., the current template, the first reference template and the second reference template) by fixed-point arithmetic. The parameter C is a predetermined value for rounding and n is a pre-determined shift parameter.

[0152] The values of the weight parameters w_0, w_1 can be determined based on the pixels in the current template T_c and in the first and second reference templates T_0 and T_1 . In an example, a predicted current template T_w can be formed as a function of the weight parameters. For example, the predicted current template T_w at a position (i, j) in the region of the current template T_c can be represented according to Eq. (9):

$$T_w[i, j] = (w_0 \times T_0[i, j] + w_1 \times T_1[i, j] + C) \gg n \quad \text{Eq. (9)}$$

[0153] In some examples, a cost function can be formed according to Eq. (5) using the predicted template T_w and the current template T_c , and thus the cost function is a function of the weight parameters. In an example, the weight parameters w_0, w_1 can be determined as the argument which minimizes the cost of the cost function with the constraint that $0 \leq T_w[i, j] < 2^b$ (for all positions in the current template T_c) where b is the bit-depth of the pixels.

[0154] In an example, the weight parameters w_0, w_1 are determined approximately by ordinary least squares with fixed-point arithmetic using Cramer's rule. In some examples, the values of the weight parameters can be clipped. In an example, w_i is clipped to the range $[a_i, b_i]$ where a_i and b_i are predetermined integers, $i \in \{0,1\}$.

[0155] According to an aspect of the disclosure, at the encoder side, weight parameter(s) for use in the bi-prediction mode can be determined jointly with the determination of the motion vectors mv_0 and mv_1 .

[0156] FIG. 12 shows a flow chart outlining a process (1200) according to some embodiments of the disclosure. In some examples, the process (1200) is used at an encoder side to jointly determine the weight parameter(s) and the first motion vector mv_0 and the

second motion vector mv_1 for use in the bi-prediction mode. The process (1200) performs motion vector refinements with an initial first motion vector mv_0' and an initial second motion vector mv_1' based on a pre-defined search pattern. The process (1200) can use a pre-defined bi-prediction model, and a pre-defined cost function based on fixed-point arithmetic to determine the best motion vectors mv_0 and mv_1 and the best weight(s). The best motion vectors mv_0 and mv_1 can be suitably informed to a decoder side, and the best weight(s) are not signaled to the decoder side. The decoder side can determined the weights based on the informed motion vectors (e.g., the best motion vectors mv_0 and mv_1). The process starts at (S1201) and proceeds to (S1210)

[0157] At (S1210), the initial first motion vector mv_0' , the initial second motion vector mv_1' and the current template T_c are determined, and a first refinement to mv_0' denoted by dmv_0 is initially set to 0, and a second refinement to mv_1' denoted by dmv_1 is initially set to 0. The initial first motion vector mv_0' and the initial second motion vector mv_1' can be determined by any suitable technique.

[0158] At (S1220), the refined first motion vector $\widehat{mv_0}$ is determined based on the initial first motion vector mv_0' and the first refinement dmv_0 , and the refined second motion vector $\widehat{mv_1}$ is determined based on the initial second motion vector mv_1' and the second refinement dmv_1 .

[0159] At (S1230), the first reference template T_0 is determined based on the current template T_c and the refined first motion vector $\widehat{mv_0}$, and the second reference template T_1 is determined based on the current template T_c and the refined second motion vector $\widehat{mv_1}$.

[0160] At (S1240), a predefined bi-prediction model with weight parameter(s) (e.g., Eq. (3), Eq. (6), Eq. (8)) can be used to represent the predicted template T_w based on the first reference template T_0 and the second reference template T_1 , such as shown in Eq. (4), Eq. (7) and Eq. (9). Thus, the predicted template T_w is represented as a function of the weight parameter(s). Then, a pre-defined cost function can be used to represent a cost based on the predicted template T_w and the current template T_c , such as according to Eq. (5). Thus, the cost is a function of the weight parameter(s). Further, the weight parameters(s) are calculated to minimize the cost of the cost function. The minimum cost associated with the present refinements dmv_0 and dmv_1 is referred to as newly calculated cost. The calculated weight parameter(s) is associated with the newly calculated cost. In some examples, the computation can be performed by ordinary least squares with fixed-point arithmetic using Cramer's rule.

[0161] At (S1250), the newly calculated cost is compared with previous best cost to update t best cost. In an example, when the newly calculated cost is smaller than the previous best cost, the newly calculated cost is stored as the best cost, the calculated weight parameter(s) associated with the newly calculated cost is kept as the best weigh(s) in association with the best cost, and the current refined motion vectors $\widehat{mv}_0$ and $\widehat{mv}_1$ (with the present refinements dmv_0 and dmv_1 applied on the initial motion vectors mv_0' and mv_1') associated with the newly calculated cost are kept as the best refined motion vectors in association with the best cost. In another example, when the newly calculated cost is equal or higher than the previous best cost, the previous best cost is still stored as the best cost and the previous best weight(s) associated with the previous best cost is still kept as the best weight(s) in association with the best cost and previous best refined motion vectors associated with the previous best cost are still kept as the best refined motion vectors in association with the best cost.

[0162] At (S1260), when the pre-defined search pattern is completely searched over, the process proceeds to (S1280); otherwise, the process proceeds to (S1270).

[0163] At (S1270), the first refinement dmv_0 and the second refinement dmv_1 are updated according to the pre-defined search pattern, and the process returns to (S1220).

[0164] At (S1280), the first prediction P_0 and the second prediction P_1 are determined (e.g., calculated) based on the best refined motion vectors in association with the best cost.

[0165] At (S1290), the bi-prediction can be computed based on the first prediction P_0 , the second prediction P_1 and the best weight(s) in association with the best cost.

[0166] FIG. 13 shows a flow chart outlining a process (1300) according to an embodiment of the disclosure. The process (1300) can be used in a video encoder. In various embodiments, the process (1300) is executed by processing circuitry, such as the processing circuitry in the terminal devices (310), (320), (330) and (340), the processing circuitry that performs functions of the video encoder (403), the processing circuitry that performs functions of the video encoder (603), the processing circuitry that performs functions of the video encoder (703), and the like. In some embodiments, the process (1300) is implemented in software instructions, thus when the processing circuitry executes the software instructions, the processing circuitry performs the process (1300). The process starts at (S1301) and proceeds to (S1310).

[0167] At (S1310), a bi-prediction mode without weight signaling is determined for coding a coding block in a current picture. In an example, the encoder may perform an

evaluation and based on the evaluation, determine to use the bi-prediction mode without weight signaling for coding the coding block.

[0168] At (S1320), motion vectors, such as a first motion vector associated with a first reference picture and a second motion vector associated with a second reference picture, and weight(s) for a bi-prediction of the coding block are determined.

[0169] In some embodiments, the first motion vector and the second motion vector are determined, and then weight(s) are determined. In some examples, after the motion vectors are determined, reference templates in the reference pictures are determined based on a current template of the coding block and the motion vectors. For example, a first reference template in the first reference picture is determined based on the current template of the coding block and the first motion vector; and a second reference template in the second reference picture is determined based on the current template of the coding block and the second motion vector.

[0170] According to an aspect of the disclosure, the current template of the current block includes one or more reconstructed samples that are neighboring to the coding block. In some examples, the current template includes one or more rows of samples above the coding block and/or one or more columns of samples to the left of the coding block. In an example, the current template includes a row of samples that is immediately above the coding block and/or a column of samples that is immediately to the left of the coding block.

[0171] In some embodiments, weight(s) for use in the bi-prediction mode is determined based on the first reference template, the second reference template and the current template.

[0172] In some embodiments, the weight(s) is determined to minimize a cost of a predefined cost function. The predefined cost function is based on the first reference template, the second reference template and the current template. For example, the predefined cost function is based on respective samples differences of the current template to a predicted current template, such as Eq. (5).

[0173] The predicted current template is predicted based on the first reference template and the second reference template using a predefined bi-prediction model with one or more weight parameters.

[0174] In some examples, the predefined bi-prediction model includes three weight parameters, the predicted current template can be represented, for example, according to Eq. (7). In an example, values of the three weight parameters in the predefined bi-prediction

model are determined by ordinary least squares, such as with fixed-point arithmetic using Cramer's rule.

[0175] In some examples, the predefined bi-prediction model includes two weight parameters, the predicted current template can be represented, for example, according to Eq. (9). In an example, values of the two weight parameters in the predefined bi-prediction model are determined by ordinary least squares, such as with fixed-point arithmetic using Cramer's rule.

[0176] In some examples, the predefined bi-prediction model includes one weight parameter, the predicted current template can be represented, for example, according to Eq. (4). In an example, a value of the weight parameter in the predefined bi-prediction model is determined by ordinary least squares, such as with fixed-point arithmetic.

[0177] In some examples, the value(s) of the weight parameters are clipped in predetermined ranges respectively for the weight parameters.

[0178] In some embodiments, the first motion vector, the second motion vector, and weight(s) are determined jointly. An example to determine the first motion vector, the second motion vector, and weight(s) jointly has been described with reference to FIG. 12.

[0179] At (S1330), the coding block is reconstructed using the bi-prediction with the weight(s). In some examples, the predefined bi-prediction model includes three weight parameters, the coding block can be reconstructed, for example, according to Eq (6). In some examples, the predefined bi-prediction model includes two weight parameters, the coding block can be reconstructed, for example, according to Eq (8). In some examples, the predefined bi-prediction model includes one weight parameter, the coding block can be reconstructed, for example, according to Eq (3).

[0180] At (S1340), information of the coding block is encoded in the bitstream without weight signaling. The information indicates the bi-prediction mode without weight signaling in the bitstream. Then, the process proceeds to (S1399) and terminates.

[0181] The process (1300) can be suitably adapted. Step(s) in the process (1300) can be modified and/or omitted. Additional step(s) can be added. Any suitable order of implementation can be used.

[0182] FIG. 14 shows a flow chart outlining a process (1400) according to an embodiment of the disclosure. The process (1400) can be used in a video decoder. In various embodiments, the process (1400) is executed by processing circuitry, such as the processing circuitry in the terminal devices (310), (320), (330) and (340), the processing circuitry that performs functions of the video decoder (410), the processing circuitry that

performs functions of the video decoder (510), and the like. In some embodiments, the process (1400) is implemented in software instructions, thus when the processing circuitry executes the software instructions, the processing circuitry performs the process (1400). The process starts at (S1401) and proceeds to (S1410).

[0183] At (S1410), information of a coding block in a current picture is decoded from a bitstream. The information indicates a bi-prediction mode without weight signaling.

[0184] At (S1420), motion vectors for a bi-prediction of the coding block are determined. For example, a first motion vector associated with a first reference picture and a second motion vector associated with a second reference picture are determined. The motion vectors can be determined by any suitable techniques. In some examples, the motion vectors can be determined based on indexes to candidate lists, the indexes can be decoded from the bitstream.

[0185] At (S1430), reference templates in the reference pictures are determined based on a current template of the coding block and the motion vectors. For example, a first reference template in the first reference picture is determined based on the current template of the coding block and the first motion vector; and a second reference template in the second reference picture is determined based on the current template of the coding block and the second motion vector.

[0186] According to an aspect of the disclosure, the current template of the current block includes one or more reconstructed samples that are neighboring to the coding block. In some examples, the current template includes one or more rows of samples above the coding block and/or one or more columns of samples to the left of the coding block. In an example, the current template includes a row of samples that is immediately above the coding block and/or a column of samples that is immediately to the left of the coding block.

[0187] At (S1440), a weight for use in the bi-prediction mode is determined based on the first reference template, the second reference template and the current template.

[0188] In some embodiments, the weight is determined to minimize a cost of a predefined cost function. The predefined cost function is based on the first reference template, the second reference template and the current template. For example, the predefined cost function is based on respective samples differences of the current template to a predicted current template, such as using Eq. (5).

[0189] The predicted current template is predicted based on the first reference template and the second reference template using a predefined bi-prediction model with one or more weight parameters.

[0190] In some examples, the predefined bi-prediction model includes three weight parameters, the predicted current template can be represented, for example, according to Eq. (7). In an example, values of the three weight parameters in the predefined bi-prediction model are determined by ordinary least squares, such as with fixed-point arithmetic using Cramer's rule.

[0191] In some examples, the predefined bi-prediction model includes two weight parameters, the predicted current template can be represented, for example, according to Eq. (9). In an example, values of the two weight parameters in the predefined bi-prediction model are determined by ordinary least squares, such as with fixed-point arithmetic using Cramer's rule.

[0192] In some examples, the predefined bi-prediction model includes one weight parameter, the predicted current template can be represented, for example, according to Eq. (4). In an example, a value of the weight parameter in the predefined bi-prediction model is determined by ordinary least squares, such as with fixed-point arithmetic.

[0193] In some examples, the value(s) of the weight parameters are clipped in predetermined ranges respectively for the weight parameters.

[0194] At (S1450), the coding block is reconstructed using the bi-prediction with the weight(s). In some examples, the predefined bi-prediction model includes three weight parameters, the coding block can be reconstructed, for example, according to Eq (6). In some examples, the predefined bi-prediction model includes two weight parameters, the coding block can be reconstructed, for example, according to Eq (8). In some examples, the predefined bi-prediction model includes one weight parameter, the coding block can be reconstructed, for example, according to Eq (3).

[0195] Then, the process proceeds to (S1499) and terminates.

[0196] It is noted that in some examples, when any of the neighborhoods of the coding block is not available, predetermined weights (e.g., defaults weights and the like) may be used.

[0197] The process (1400) can be suitably adapted. Step(s) in the process (1400) can be modified and/or omitted. Additional step(s) can be added. Any suitable order of implementation can be used.

[0198] The techniques described above, can be implemented as computer software using computer-readable instructions and physically stored in one or more computer-readable media. For example, FIG. 15 shows a computer system (1500) suitable for implementing certain embodiments of the disclosed subject matter.

[0199] The computer software can be coded using any suitable machine code or computer language, that may be subject to assembly, compilation, linking, or like mechanisms to create code comprising instructions that can be executed directly, or through interpretation, micro-code execution, and the like, by one or more computer central processing units (CPUs), Graphics Processing Units (GPUs), and the like.

[0200] The instructions can be executed on various types of computers or components thereof, including, for example, personal computers, tablet computers, servers, smartphones, gaming devices, internet of things devices, and the like.

[0201] The components shown in FIG. 15 for computer system (1500) are exemplary in nature and are not intended to suggest any limitation as to the scope of use or functionality of the computer software implementing embodiments of the present disclosure. Neither should the configuration of components be interpreted as having any dependency or requirement relating to any one or combination of components illustrated in the exemplary embodiment of a computer system (1500).

[0202] Computer system (1500) may include certain human interface input devices. Such a human interface input device may be responsive to input by one or more human users through, for example, tactile input (such as: keystrokes, swipes, data glove movements), audio input (such as: voice, clapping), visual input (such as: gestures), olfactory input (not depicted). The human interface devices can also be used to capture certain media not necessarily directly related to conscious input by a human, such as audio (such as: speech, music, ambient sound), images (such as: scanned images, photographic images obtain from a still image camera), video (such as two-dimensional video, three-dimensional video including stereoscopic video).

[0203] Input human interface devices may include one or more of (only one of each depicted): keyboard (1501), mouse (1502), trackpad (1503), touch screen (1510), data-glove (not shown), joystick (1505), microphone (1506), scanner (1507), camera (1508).

[0204] Computer system (1500) may also include certain human interface output devices. Such human interface output devices may be stimulating the senses of one or more human users through, for example, tactile output, sound, light, and smell/taste. Such human interface output devices may include tactile output devices (for example tactile feedback by the touch-screen (1510), data-glove (not shown), or joystick (1505), but there can also be tactile feedback devices that do not serve as input devices), audio output devices (such as: speakers (1509), headphones (not depicted)), visual output devices (such as screens (1510) to include CRT screens, LCD screens, plasma screens, OLED screens, each with or without

touch-screen input capability, each with or without tactile feedback capability—some of which may be capable to output two dimensional visual output or more than three dimensional output through means such as stereographic output; virtual-reality glasses (not depicted), holographic displays and smoke tanks (not depicted)), and printers (not depicted).

[0205] Computer system (1500) can also include human accessible storage devices and their associated media such as optical media including CD/DVD ROM/RW (1520) with CD/DVD or the like media (1521), thumb-drive (1522), removable hard drive or solid state drive (1523), legacy magnetic media such as tape and floppy disc (not depicted), specialized ROM/ASIC/PLD based devices such as security dongles (not depicted), and the like.

[0206] Those skilled in the art should also understand that term “computer readable media” as used in connection with the presently disclosed subject matter does not encompass transmission media, carrier waves, or other transitory signals.

[0207] Computer system (1500) can also include an interface (1554) to one or more communication networks (1555). Networks can for example be wireless, wireline, optical. Networks can further be local, wide-area, metropolitan, vehicular and industrial, real-time, delay-tolerant, and so on. Examples of networks include local area networks such as Ethernet, wireless LANs, cellular networks to include GSM, 3G, 4G, 5G, LTE and the like, TV wireline or wireless wide area digital networks to include cable TV, satellite TV, and terrestrial broadcast TV, vehicular and industrial to include CANBus, and so forth. Certain networks commonly require external network interface adapters that attached to certain general purpose data ports or peripheral buses (1549) (such as, for example USB ports of the computer system (1500)); others are commonly integrated into the core of the computer system (1500) by attachment to a system bus as described below (for example Ethernet interface into a PC computer system or cellular network interface into a smartphone computer system). Using any of these networks, computer system (1500) can communicate with other entities. Such communication can be uni-directional, receive only (for example, broadcast TV), uni-directional send-only (for example CANbus to certain CANbus devices), or bi-directional, for example to other computer systems using local or wide area digital networks. Certain protocols and protocol stacks can be used on each of those networks and network interfaces as described above.

[0208] Aforementioned human interface devices, human-accessible storage devices, and network interfaces can be attached to a core (1540) of the computer system (1500).

[0209] The core (1540) can include one or more Central Processing Units (CPU) (1541), Graphics Processing Units (GPU) (1542), specialized programmable processing units

in the form of Field Programmable Gate Areas (FPGA) (1543), hardware accelerators for certain tasks (1544), graphics adapters (1550), and so forth. These devices, along with Read-only memory (ROM) (1545), Random-access memory (1546), internal mass storage such as internal non-user accessible hard drives, SSDs, and the like (1547), may be connected through a system bus (1548). In some computer systems, the system bus (1548) can be accessible in the form of one or more physical plugs to enable extensions by additional CPUs, GPU, and the like. The peripheral devices can be attached either directly to the core's system bus (1548), or through a peripheral bus (1549). In an example, the screen (1510) can be connected to the graphics adapter (1550). Architectures for a peripheral bus include PCI, USB, and the like.

[0210] CPUs (1541), GPUs (1542), FPGAs (1543), and accelerators (1544) can execute certain instructions that, in combination, can make up the aforementioned computer code. That computer code can be stored in ROM (1545) or RAM (1546). Transitional data can be also be stored in RAM (1546), whereas permanent data can be stored for example, in the internal mass storage (1547). Fast storage and retrieve to any of the memory devices can be enabled through the use of cache memory, that can be closely associated with one or more CPU (1541), GPU (1542), mass storage (1547), ROM (1545), RAM (1546), and the like.

[0211] The computer readable media can have computer code thereon for performing various computer-implemented operations. The media and computer code can be those specially designed and constructed for the purposes of the present disclosure, or they can be of the kind well known and available to those having skill in the computer software arts.

[0212] As an example and not by way of limitation, the computer system having architecture (1500), and specifically the core (1540) can provide functionality as a result of processor(s) (including CPUs, GPUs, FPGA, accelerators, and the like) executing software embodied in one or more tangible, computer-readable media. Such computer-readable media can be media associated with user-accessible mass storage as introduced above, as well as certain storage of the core (1540) that are of non-transitory nature, such as core-internal mass storage (1547) or ROM (1545). The software implementing various embodiments of the present disclosure can be stored in such devices and executed by core (1540). A computer-readable medium can include one or more memory devices or chips, according to particular needs. The software can cause the core (1540) and specifically the processors therein (including CPU, GPU, FPGA, and the like) to execute particular processes or particular parts of particular processes described herein, including defining data structures stored in RAM (1546) and modifying such data structures according to the processes defined by the software.

In addition or as an alternative, the computer system can provide functionality as a result of logic hardwired or otherwise embodied in a circuit (for example: accelerator (1544)), which can operate in place of or together with software to execute particular processes or particular parts of particular processes described herein. Reference to software can encompass logic, and vice versa, where appropriate. Reference to a computer-readable media can encompass a circuit (such as an integrated circuit (IC)) storing software for execution, a circuit embodying logic for execution, or both, where appropriate. The present disclosure encompasses any suitable combination of hardware and software.

Appendix A: Acronyms

JEM: joint exploration model

VVC: versatile video coding

BMS: benchmark set

MV: Motion Vector

HEVC: High Efficiency Video Coding

SEI: Supplementary Enhancement Information

VUI: Video Usability Information

GOPs: Groups of Pictures

TUs: Transform Units,

PUs: Prediction Units

CTUs: Coding Tree Units

CTBs: Coding Tree Blocks

PBs: Prediction Blocks

HRD: Hypothetical Reference Decoder

SNR: Signal Noise Ratio

CPUs: Central Processing Units

GPUs: Graphics Processing Units

CRT: Cathode Ray Tube

LCD: Liquid-Crystal Display

OLED: Organic Light-Emitting Diode

CD: Compact Disc

DVD: Digital Video Disc

ROM: Read-Only Memory

RAM: Random Access Memory

ASIC: Application-Specific Integrated Circuit

PLD: Programmable Logic Device

LAN: Local Area Network

GSM: Global System for Mobile communications

LTE: Long-Term Evolution

CANBus: Controller Area Network Bus

USB: Universal Serial Bus

PCI: Peripheral Component Interconnect

FPGA: Field Programmable Gate Areas

SSD: solid-state drive

IC: Integrated Circuit

CU: Coding Unit

[0213] While this disclosure has described several exemplary embodiments, there are alterations, permutations, and various substitute equivalents, which fall within the scope of the disclosure. It will thus be appreciated that those skilled in the art will be able to devise numerous systems and methods which, although not explicitly shown or described herein, embody the principles of the disclosure and are thus within the spirit and scope thereof.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of video processing in a decoder, comprising:
 - decoding information of a coding block in a current picture from a bitstream, the information indicating a bi-prediction mode, wherein weights associated with the bi-prediction mode are not signaled in the bitstream;
 - determining a first motion vector associated with a first reference picture and a second motion vector associated with a second reference picture for a bi-prediction of the coding block;
 - determining a first reference template in the first reference picture based on a current template of the coding block and the first motion vector;
 - determining a second reference template in the second reference picture based on the current template of the coding block and the second motion vector;
 - calculating a weight for use in the bi-prediction mode based on the first reference template, the second reference template and the current template; and
 - reconstructing the coding block using the bi-prediction with the calculated weight.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the current template comprises one or more reconstructed samples that are neighboring to the coding block.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the current template comprises at least one of:
 - one or more rows of samples above the coding block; or
 - one or more columns of samples to a left of the coding block.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the current template comprises at least one of:
 - a row of samples that is immediately above the coding block; or
 - a column of samples that is immediately to a left of the coding block.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining the weight for use in the bi-prediction mode further comprises:
 - determining the weight that minimizes a predefined cost function that is based on the first reference template, the second reference template and the current template.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the predefined cost function is based on respective samples differences of the current template to a predicted current template that is

predicted based on the first reference template and the second reference template using a predefined bi-prediction model with one or more weight parameters.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining the weight for use in the bi-prediction mode further comprises:

determining values of three weight parameters in a predefined bi-prediction model by ordinary least squares.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining the weight for use in the bi-prediction mode further comprises:

determining values of two weight parameters in a predefined bi-prediction model by ordinary least squares.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining the weight for use in the bi-prediction mode further comprises:

determining a value of one weight parameter in a predefined bi-prediction model by ordinary least squares.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining the weight for use in the bi-prediction mode further comprises:

clipping the weight in a predetermined range.

11. An apparatus for video decoding, comprising processing circuitry configured to:

decode information of a coding block in a current picture from a bitstream, the information indicating a bi-prediction mode wherein weights associated with the bi-prediction mode are not signaled in the bitstream;

determine a first motion vector associated with a first reference picture and a second motion vector associated with a second reference picture for a bi-prediction of the coding block;

determine a first reference template in the first reference picture based on a current template of the coding block and the first motion vector;

determine a second reference template in the second reference picture based on the current template of the coding block and the second motion vector;

calculate a weight for use in the bi-prediction mode based on the first reference template, the second reference template and the current template; and
reconstruct the coding block using the bi-prediction with the calculated weight.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the current template comprises one or more reconstructed samples that are neighboring to the coding block.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the current template comprises at least one of:
one or more rows of samples above the coding block; or
one or more columns of samples to a left of the coding block.

14. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the current template comprises at least one of:
a row of samples that is immediately above the coding block; or
a column of samples that is immediately to a left of the coding block.

15. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the processing circuitry is configured to:
determine the weight that minimizes a predefined cost function that is based on the first reference template, the second reference template and the current template.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the predefined cost function is based on respective samples differences of the current template to a predicted current template that is predicted based on the first reference template and the second reference template using a predefined bi-prediction model with one or more weight parameters.

17. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the processing circuitry is configured to:
determine values of three weight parameters in a predefined bi-prediction model by ordinary least squares.

18. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the processing circuitry is configured to:
determine values of two weight parameters in a predefined bi-prediction model by ordinary least squares.

19. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the processing circuitry is configured to:
determine a value of one weight parameter in a predefined bi-prediction model by
ordinary least squares.

20. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the processing circuitry is configured to:
clip the weight in a predetermined range.