

Claims:

1. A method of using a deblocking filter on video data, the method comprising:
obtaining a first reconstructed video block;
determining deblocking filter parameters for the video block based on at least one dimension of the size of the video block, the filter parameters comprising a filter to be applied or a number of pixels along a boundary with a neighboring block to which the filter is to be applied determined based on the at least one dimension; and
applying the deblocking filter to pixel samples of the video block based on the determined filter parameters.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the number of pixels on either side of the boundary is determined based on one or both of a dimension of the video block or a dimension of the neighboring block.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the number of pixels on either side of the boundary is determined based to be less than half of the minimum of a specified dimension of the video block and of the neighboring block, the minimum dimension being a width when the boundary is vertical and being a height when the boundary is horizontal.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the video block and the neighboring video block are coding units.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the deblocking filter parameters comprises determining whether to disable the deblocking filter, and wherein applying the deblocking filter to filter samples of the video block based on the determined filter parameters comprises filtering none of the pixel samples of the video block based on a determination to disable the deblocking filter for the video block.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the deblocking filter parameters comprising one or more of the number of pixels along the boundary to which the filter is to be applied, a length of the filter, or a function defining the filter.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the filter comprises determining whether to use one of a plurality of filters, the filters comprising a first, N, tap filter, or a second M, tap filter, with M and N being different numbers.

8. The method of claim 7, determining the one of the plurality of filters based on whether the minimum of a dimension of the video block and the minimum of the dimension of the neighboring block are both equal to or larger than a specified threshold.
9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
calculating a characteristic of pixel samples of the video block, wherein determining the deblocking filter parameters based on the calculated characteristic.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein determining the deblocking filter parameters is based on the calculated characteristic only for blocks of a specified size.
11. The method of claim 9, wherein calculating the characteristic of the pixel samples comprises calculating a function of all pixels of the video block.
12. The method of claim 9, wherein calculating the characteristic of the pixel samples comprises calculating a function of all pixels of the video block.
13. The method of claim 9, wherein calculating the characteristic of the pixel samples further comprises calculating a function of pixels of the neighboring video block.
14. The method of claim 9, wherein calculating the characteristic of the pixel samples further comprises calculating a function of less than all of the pixels of the video block.
15. The method of claim 9, wherein determining the deblocking filter parameters based on the calculated characteristic comprises comparing the function of the calculated characteristic to a threshold.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein the threshold is coded in a video bitstream for the video block.
17. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing a picture including the video block into a decoded picture buffer.
18. The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining the reconstructed block comprises:
predicting the video block; and
combining the predicted video block with a residual block.
19. The method of claim 18, wherein obtaining the reconstructed block comprises:
decoding data from a video bitstream for predicting the block;
decoding at least one transform coefficient from the video bitstream; and
generating the residual block from the at least one transform coefficient.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein obtaining the reconstructed block comprises:
determining and encoding data into a video bitstream for predicting the block;
and
encoding at least one transform coefficient indicative of the residual block into the video bitstream.
21. An apparatus for using a deblocking filter on video data, the apparatus comprising:
a memory configured to store a reconstructed video block and a neighboring block; and
a processor configured to:
obtain the first reconstructed video block;
determine deblocking filter parameters for the video block based on at least one dimension of the size of the video block, the filter parameters comprising a filter to be applied or a number of pixels along a boundary with the neighboring block to which the filter is to be applied determined based on the at least one dimension; and
apply the deblocking filter to pixel samples of the video block based on the determined filter parameters.
22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the number of pixels on either side of the boundary is determined based on one or both of a dimension of the video block or a dimension of the neighboring block.
23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the number of pixels on either side of the boundary is determined based to be less than half of the minimum of a specified dimension of the video block and of the neighboring block, the minimum dimension being a width when the boundary is vertical and being a height when the boundary is horizontal.
24. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the processor is configured to obtain the reconstructed block by:
predicting the video block; and
combining the predicted video block with a residual block.
25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the processor is further configured to:
decode data from a video bitstream for predicting the block;
decode at least one transform coefficient from the video bitstream; and

generate the residual block from the at least one transform coefficient.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising a display configured to display a picture including the reconstructed block.
27. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the processor is further configured to:
 - determine and encode data into a video bitstream for predicting the block; and
 - encode at least one transform coefficient indicative of the residual block into the video bitstream.
28. The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising a camera configured to capture a picture including the reconstructed block.