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A Fast Method to Choose the Reference Frame to Extract Inter- view Redundancy from Multiple Views

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Abstract: Multi-view video will become one of the most widely used video technology in the future digital video coding. Compression of multiple views to get the advantage of different use cases resulted in a lot of present research. Removal of inter-view redundancy results in the compression of multi-view videos. In this paper, we propose a method to get the relationship between any two views and apply the same relationship to other MacroBlocks prediction. This simplifies the inter-view prediction resulting in better compression by reducing the number of bits used for coding. Quantitative quality is measured by calculating the average PSNR in comparison to standard approaches

Keywords: Multiview, Redundancy, Inter-view, Reference frame, Compression

I. INTRODUCTION

The Advanced Video Coding (H.264/ AVC) standard is widely used in digital video application domains. A multi- view extension, known as Multi- view Video Coding (MVC), has been standardized as an annex to H.264/ AVC. In multi-view video coding, video sequences output from closely placed different cameras corresponding to different views is encoded into one bit-stream. The applications which make use of multi-view video coding are increasing and becoming more popular. So, there is a need for solutions that improve the efficiency and quality of multi-view video coding. Both inter prediction and inter- view prediction use principally the same motion-compensated prediction process. Inter- view reference pictures are fundamentally treated as long-term reference pictures in the different prediction processes.

The proposed methods prove to be improving the speed of prediction by 15% at an ignorable cost of quality. Actual coding of the multiple-views [3-4] can be explored with the standard HEVC or as for how K. Müller et al. proposed in [5]. In [6], K. Müller et al. proposed an intermediate view synthesis based on layer extraction and layer projection. But the direction based inter-view prediction speeds up the compression by at least 20% even when compared to the proposed methods in [7-16].

This paper is organized as follows. Section II describes a novel proposal to choose the reference view after finding a relationship between any two views and extending the same relationship for further predictions. The detailed algorithm steps and MB prediction in the reference view are explained. Experimental results are published in Section III. Conclusion and future scope are covered in Section IV and V respectively

II. PROPOSED METHOD

A relationship is understood from the temporal motions at different views and applied for prediction.

A. Abbreviations and Acronyms

MB: MacroBlock

MVC: Multiview Video Coding

SAD: Sum of Absolute Difference

B. Algorithm Steps

1. Store the reference frames 5 each for the current view, left and right camera views. As shown in Fig.1, These reference frames can be stored in the same buffer by ordering the first five frames to be of the current view followed by next five frames from the left camera view and right camera view.
2. Divide the current frame in to MB's. Find the exact match for the Current MB in the reference frames of current camera view, left camera view and right camera view in parallel.
3. If an exact match is found in the left camera's reference frame, attempt the same reference frame for the next sequence of MBs until the SAD crosses a particular threshold. Once the SAD reaches a threshold, repeat the process of bringing the relationship using step2. Fig.2 explains the process of selection of the reference frames.
4. If an exact match is not found in any of the three attempts, mark the MB as Intra.

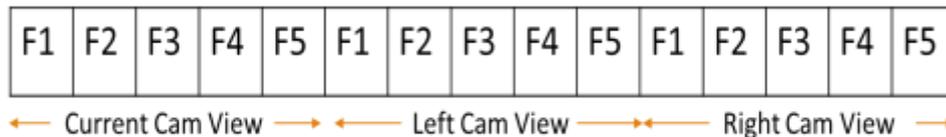


Fig. 1. Reference Frame Buffer

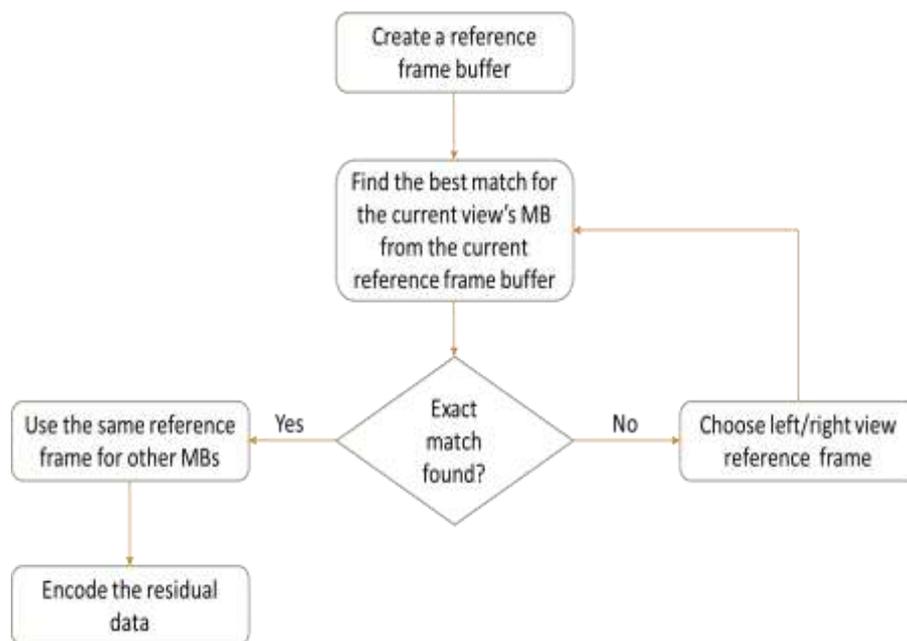


Fig. 2. Flowchart for Choosing the Reference Frames

III. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Table.1. Test Sequences Considered for Experimenting

Sequence	Object Motion	Frame Size	Frame Rate (fps)	GOP Length	No. of Frame
Ballroom	Medium	640x480	25	4	250
Flamenco2	Low	640x480	25	4	250

JMVC software is the reference software for the MVC project of the JVT. Among six tools provided by JMVC, this paper uses the encoder, the decoder, and the PSNR tools. The standard JMVC encoder, reference software version 8.5 is used to test the sequences with the same encoder parameters as shown in Table 1 above.

a) Test inputs

Considered two sequences for the test purposes. The sequence, Ballroom, and Flamenco2 are medium motion sequences with both of VGA resolution and 250 frames each. 7 views from Ballroom sequence and 4 views from the Flamenco2 sequence are considered as input to the JMVC encoder.

b) PSNR Comparison

The experimental results are given in Figure.3 and Figure.4. It is observed that the proposed fast method algorithm is not so better in comparison to the standard mentioned method. But the subjective quality was negligible.

a) Compression Comparison

The experimental results are given in Figure.5 and Figure.6. It is observed that the proposed fast method is better and increases the number of frames considered per video sequence.



Fig. 3. Ballroom Sequence PSNR Comparison

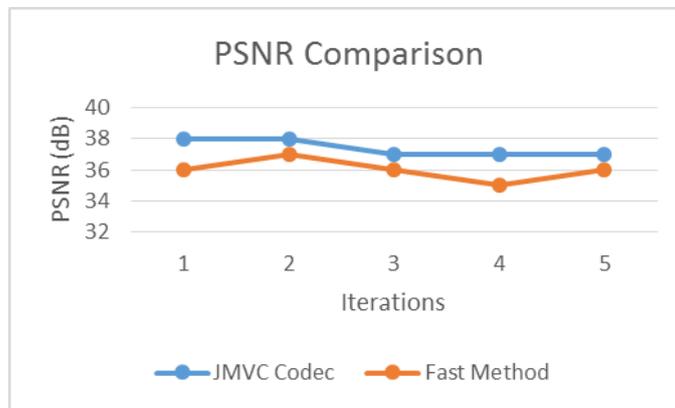


Fig. 4. Flamenco2 Sequence PSNR Comparison



Fig. 5. Ballroom Sequence Compression Comparison

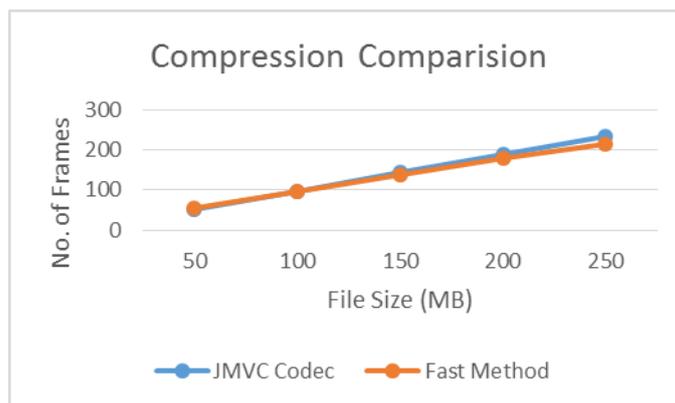


Fig. 6. Flamenco2 Sequence Compression Comparison

IV. CONCLUSION

There are many methods which are successful in extracting the inter-view redundancy but a great extent of research is ongoing to meet the demand of application which needs further compression. The proposed method does a simpler prediction by bringing in the relationship between views and mapping to further predictions. The proposed method is proved to be a better choice for the low to medium motion pictures with a 10% reduction in the number of bytes a file occupies with almost negligible subjective degradation. Our current proposal can be combined with other researches going in the area of faster prediction of multiview video coding.

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