

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

APPLE INC.,

Petitioner,

v.

ADVANCED CODING TECHNOLOGIES, LLC,

Patent Owner.

Patent No. 10,218,995

Filing Date: April 21, 2015

Issue Date: February 26, 2019

Inventor: Satoru Sakazume

Title: MOVING PICTURE ENCODING SYSTEM, MOVING PICTURE
ENCODING METHOD, MOVING PICTURE ENCODING PROGRAM,
MOVING PICTURE DECODING SYSTEM, MOVING PICTURE DECODING
METHOD, MOVING PICTURE DECODING PROGRAM, MOVING PICTURE
REENCODING SYSTEM, MOVING PICTURE REENCODING METHOD,
MOVING PICTURE REENCODING PROGRAM

PATENT OWNER'S PRELIMINARY RESPONSE

Case No. IPR2025-01158

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37 C.F.R. § 42.51(b)	13
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LIST OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit No.	Description of Document
2001	Third Amended Docket Control Order, Dkt. 42, <i>Advanced Coding Techs. LLC v. Apple Inc.</i> , Case No. 2:24-cv-00572-JRG (E.D. Tex. October 29, 2024)
2002	Apple Inc.'s Second Supplementary Invalidity Contentions in <i>Advanced Coding Techs. LLC v. Apple Inc.</i> , Case No. 2:24-cv-00572-JRG (E.D. Tex.), dated July 3, 2025
2003	Advanced Coding Technologies LLC's Infringement Contentions and P.R. 3-1 and 3-2 Disclosures in <i>Advanced Coding Techs. LLC v. Apple Inc.</i> , Case No. 2:24-cv-00572-JRG (E.D. Tex.), dated September 18, 2024
2004	Joint Claim Construction and Prehearing Statement, Dkt. 72, <i>Advanced Coding Techs. LLC v. Apple Inc.</i> Case No. 2:24-cv-00572-JRG (E.D. Tex.), filed August 21, 2025

I. INTRODUCTION

On June 13, 2025, Apple Inc. (“Petitioner” or “Apple”) submitted a Petition (Paper 2, “Petition” or “Pet.”) to institute *inter partes* review (“IPR”) of U.S. Patent No. 10,218,995 (APPLE-1001, the “’995 Patent”), challenging Claims 1, 5-6, 8-10 (the “Challenged Claims”). The Petition asserts that the Challenged Claims are rendered obvious over (i) the English Translation of Japanese Patent Publication No. P2007-316161A with Translation Certificate (“APPLE-1005” or “Phek”) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0156561 (“APPLE-1055” or “YuChuan”), and U.S. Patent Application Publication No.2008/0137753 (“APPLE-1008” or “He”); and (ii) Phek in view of YuChuan, He, and Martins et al., *A Unified Approach to Restoration, Deinterlacing and Resolution Enhancement in Decoding MPEG-2 Video*, IEEE Transactions on Circuits & Systems for Video Tech., Vol. 12, No. 9, September 2002 (“APPLE-1007” or “Martins”). Pet. at 1. The Board should deny the Petition for at least the reasons described briefly below.

Petitioner fails to show that any combination of Phek, YuChuan, Martins, and He discloses at least “a first resolution converter configured to work on the set of super-resolution enlarged pictures to implement a process for a first resolution conversion to create a set of super-resolution enlarged and converted pictures with a standard resolution,” “have the set of super-resolution enlarged and converted pictures from the first resolution converter as a set of encoding target pictures, the

set of decoded pictures from the first encoder as a set of first reference pictures, and the set of super-resolution enlarged and converted decoded pictures from the second resolution converter as a set of second reference pictures,” “select one of the set of first reference pictures and the set of second reference pictures to create reference picture selection information to identify the set of selected reference pictures to implement a second process for encoding to create a second sequence of encoded bits based on the set of encoding target pictures and the set of selected reference pictures,” and “wherein the set of encoding target pictures, the set of first reference pictures, and the set of second reference pictures have the same value in spatial resolution.”

First, the Petition is deficient because the Challenged Claims require the input data to the super-resolution enlarger to be a standard resolution, which is the same resolution that the first resolution converter needs to downscale to. However, Petitioner’s proposed combination of references, whether based on YuChuan or Martins, discloses a downsampled resolution merely to a user’s desired output format. Petitioner fails to show how a POSITA would have understood a generic disclosure of downscaling to a user’s desired output format to have any bearing on the requirement that the output of the resolution converter be the recited “standard resolution.” Therefore, Petitioner’s reliance on the system of YuChuan or Martins, where the amount of decimation in the downscaling is based on the resolution of the

desired *output* format renders the Petition deficient.

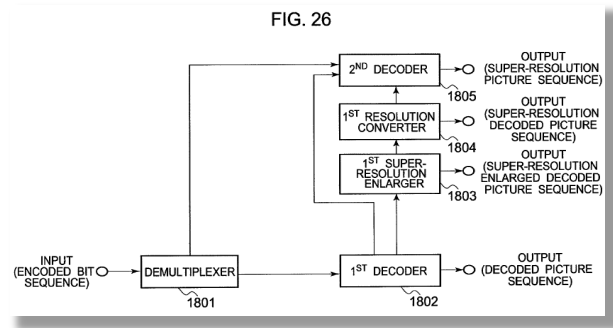
Second, the Petition is deficient because He's deblocking control flags are not the claimed "reference picture selection information," as the Petition incorrectly alleges. He's deblocking control flag merely selects between whether to use a deblock filter to remove block effects on the block boundaries of reconstructed frames or not. Further, He's selection between a filtered reconstructed frame and an unfiltered reconstructed frame is not a selection between reference frames. The system of He creates reference frames from only filtered reconstructed frames.

Accordingly, the Board should deny institution of the Petition.

II. THE '995 PATENT

The '995 Patent relates to moving picture encoding and decoding "adapted to work on moving picture sequences to implement processes such as those for super-resolution enlargement." '995 Patent, 1:23-31. The '995 Patent uses layered coding to increase coding efficiency and allow for the creation of high-resolution images. *Id.* The '995 Patent describes that in prior art systems, videos were processed into a "base layer" and an "enhancement layer," and frame predictions could be made only by using other frames from within its own layer. *Id.*, 1:35-53, 2:21-36. Known techniques using motion prediction to improve resolution upscaling were insufficient because they reduced encoding efficiencies and resulted in degraded image quality. *Id.*

The '995 Patent describes a system that maintains coding efficiency and image quality by disclosing a decoder ("2nd Decoder") which receives three inputs, as shown in FIG. 26.



Id., FIG. 26. It receives (1) the coded extension layer sequence from the demultiplexer, (2) the decoded base layer sequence at standard resolution, and (3) the decoded base layer sequence created by super-resolution enlarging (i.e., upscaling resolution and increasing the width/height) and then converting to standard resolution. *Id.* Either one of the two standard resolution decoded sequences, whether base layer or upsampled base layer, are used as sets of reference pictures by the second decoder to decode the coded extension layer sequence it received in order to create a sequence of super-resolution pictures decoded using standard resolution reference pictures. *Id.*, Claim 2, FIG. 26. As with the first resolution converter, the output sequence of the second decoder can also be put through a second resolution converter to obtain a second resolution higher than the standard resolution. *Id.*

III. THE ALLEGED PRIOR ART

A. Phek

Phek attempts to solve the problem of “provid[ing] a super-resolution processing method and device that improves the resolution and quality of image sequences and that reduces grid artifacts.” APPLE-1005, Abstract. Specifically, Phek explains how its “present invention is novel”:

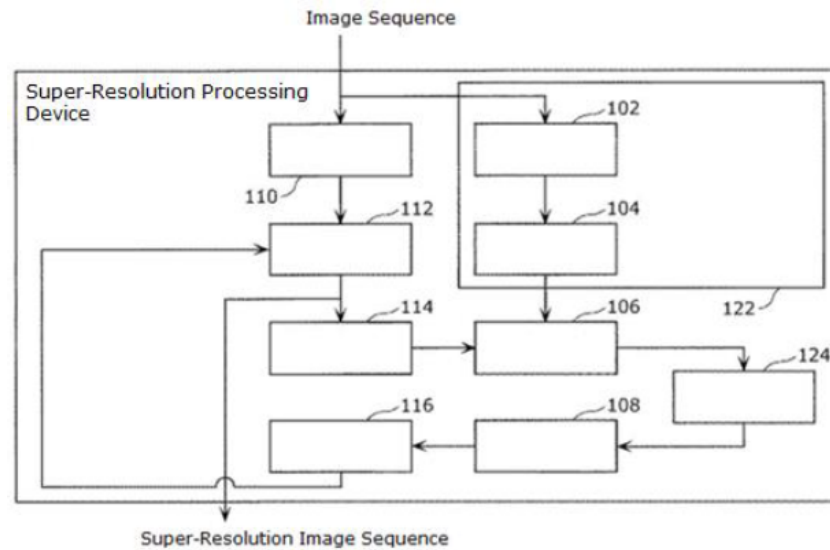
The present invention is novel in that it uses residual interpolation to prevent grid artifacts. Regularization can also prevent grid artifacts by adding smoothing constraints to high-resolution estimated images. However, because the smoothing constraints apply to the entire image, the smoothing strength has to be controlled. Blurring occurs in areas that do not require smoothing, and if the strength is not set properly, the blurring will be excessive or insufficient.

Since residual interpolation is performed on missing pixels, areas where no pixels are missing are not blurred. Also, the residual interpolation strength is established on the basis of the value of the residual itself. Hence, a larger residual value results in a larger interpolated value, and vice versa.

The result is a better super-resolution algorithm that produces sharper images compared to the use of regularization.

Residual interpolation can be combined with regularization. This combination can reduce the intensity of regularization and prevent excessive blurring.

Id., [0006]-[0009]. Fig. 1a shows an exemplary super-resolution process device of Phek:



- 102: Motion detection processing device
- 104: Registration processing device
- 106: Frame difference processing device
- 108: Point spreading inverse function processing device
- 110: Interpolation processing device
- 112: High-resolution buffer
- 114: Point spreading function processing device
- 116: High-resolution estimation processing device
- 124: Residual interpolation processing device

Id., Fig. 1a.

B. YuChuan

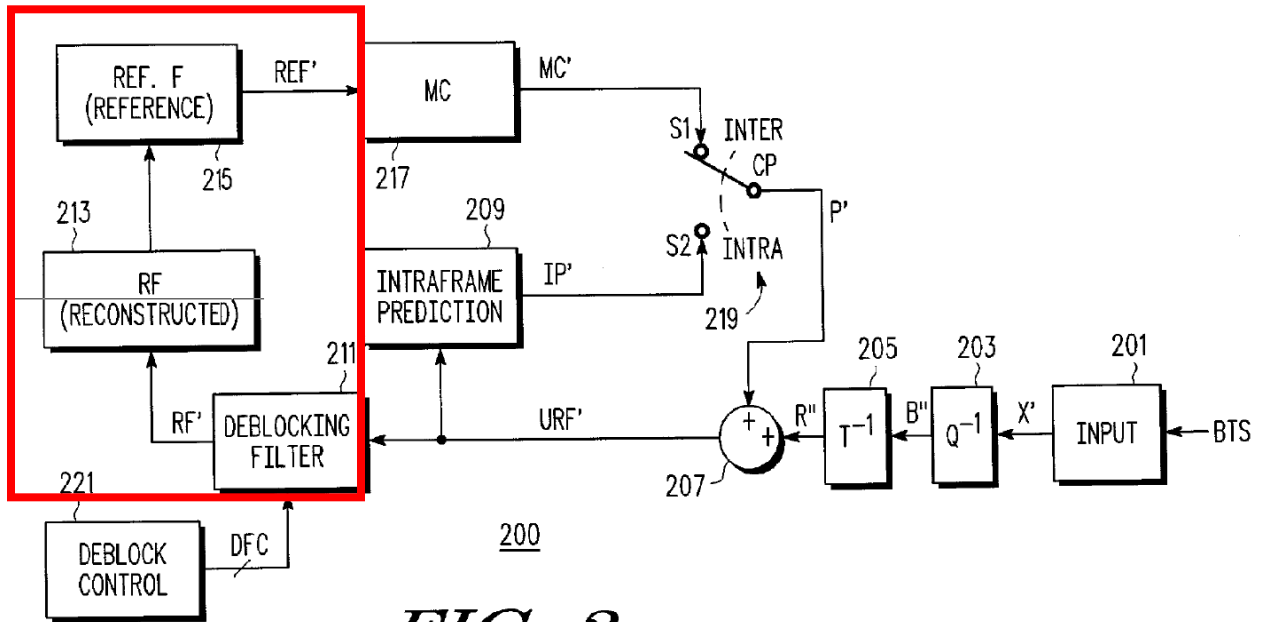
YuChuan “relates to an image processing method, and more particularly to a method for producing an enhanced-resolution image by use of a plurality of low-resolution images.” APPLE-1055, [0002]. YuChuan describes a process for adjusting the resolution of enhanced images to match a *user-defined output*, and specifically YuChuan’s down-sampling operation reduces the size or spatial resolution of the interpolated prototype image (i.e., a superresolution enlarged image). *Id.*, [0014], [0019], [0031], FIG. 1.

C. He

He “relates in general to video information processing, and more specifically to a system and method of determining a deblocking control flag of scalable video system for indicating presentation of deblocking parameters for multiple layers for reducing bits in the bitstream.” APPLE-1008, [0002].

He describes a deblocking control flag that enables and disables the use of a deblock filter on reconstructed frames. *Id.*, [0006]-[0008]. Specifically, He describes that “[t]he deblocking filter enhances the decoded picture quality and increases the encoding efficiency by removing the block effects in the boundary of each 4x4, 8x8, and/or 16x16 block.” *Id.*, [0006]. Therefore, at a fundamental level, He’s deblocking control flag merely selects between whether to use a deblock filter to remove block effects on the block boundaries of reconstructed frames or not. *Id.*

He’s FIG. 2 and its supporting disclosure show the creation of reference frames from filtered reconstructed frames but not unfiltered reconstructed frames:



Id., FIG. 2 (annotated), [0033] (“One or two previously encoded and decoded (and selectively filtered) frames from the RF buffer 213 are provided to a frame storage 215, which provides *reference information REF’ to the input of a motion compensation (MC) circuit 217.*”) (emphasis added).

He’s unfiltered reconstructed frame may act as an intra-predicted frame providing intraframe prediction information IP’:

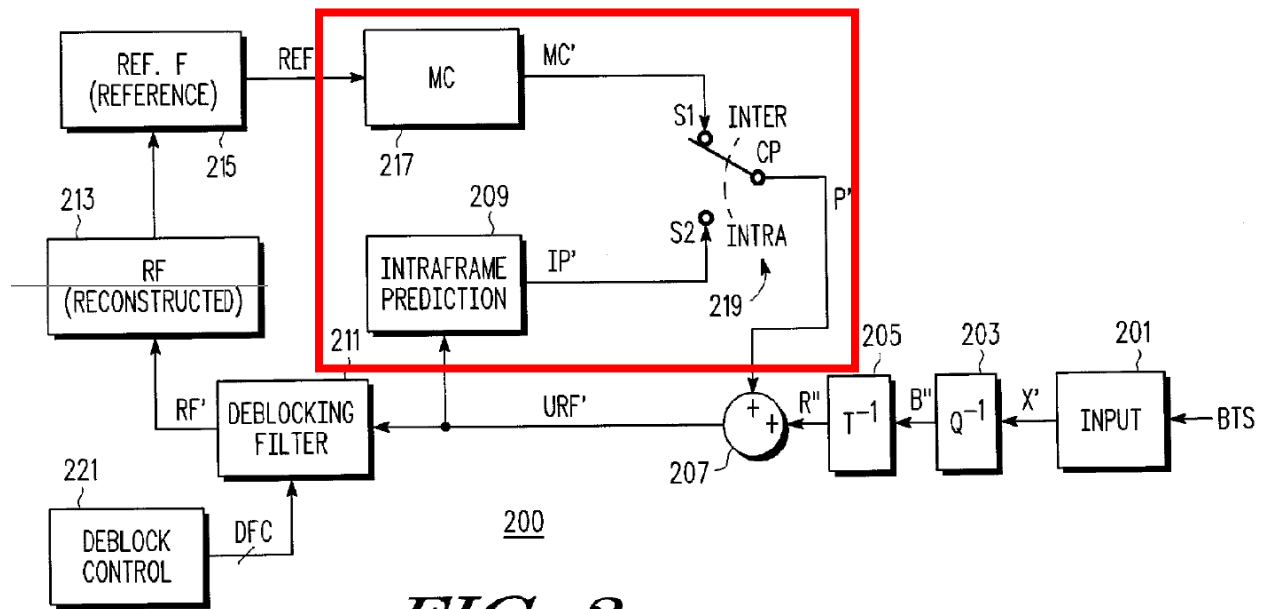


FIG. 2

Id., FIG. 2 (annotated), [0033] (“The intraframe prediction circuit 209 provides intraframe prediction information IP’ to the input terminal S2 of the switch 219. The switch 219 selects between the motion compensated prediction information MC’ and the intraframe prediction information IP’ and provides the selected prediction information P’. The input bitstream BTS provides mode information for controlling the switch 219 for selecting between interframe and intraframe prediction information as known to those of ordinary skill in the art.”). Therefore, the only selection described in the FIG. 2 decoder of He, outside of the selection to apply a deblocking filter to reconstructed frames, is between interframe prediction information (i.e., motion compensated prediction information) and intraframe prediction information. *Id.*

D. Martins

Martins is directed to addressing special problems associated with improving the quality and spatial resolution of video through super resolution. APPLE-1007, Abstract. Specifically, Martins proposes an algorithm which converts resolutions using upsampling and then decimation based on the supported output format (i.e., SDTV or HDTV). *Id.*, Abstract (“The algorithm is based on motion-compensated spatial upsampling from multiple images and *decimation to the desired format.*”) (emphasis added), 2 (“The algorithm has two steps. In the first step, a superresolution version (default is quadruple resolution) of each directly decoded picture is constructed. In the second step, the superresolution picture is *decimated to the desired format.*”) (emphasis added and footnote omitted).

Figs. 11 and 12 of Martins confirm that decimation occurs to obtain the resolution supported by the desired format on the output device. For example, “Fig. 11 depicts the result of using simple upsampling of a directly decoded sequence.”



Fig. 11. Direct progressive SDTV. Mobcal at 5 Mbs/s. Part of the I-picture (frame 24, top field). PSNR = 28.5 dB.

Id., 8-9, Fig. 11. For Martins’ Fig. 12 and Fig. 13, the level of decimation or downsampling is also dependent only upon the desired output format (*e.g.*, SDTV

or HDTV) rather than the resolution of the pictures that were the input for super-resolution:



Fig. 12. Enhanced to progressive SDTV. Mobcal at 5 Mb/s. Part of the I-picture (frame 24, top field). PSNR = 30.1 dB.



Fig. 13. Enhanced to progressive HDTV in 4:2:0. Mobcal at 5 Mb/s. Part of the I picture (frame 24, top field).

Id., Figs. 12 and 13.

The section of Martins referring to “IV. Decimation” also confirms that a resolution conversion caused by decimation is based on the desired output format of HDTV or SDTV by adjusting pixel parameters:

The last case in (17), where there is no MC superresolution (p_{mc}) pixel at the output sample position (m_0, n_0), may occur in *conversion to HDTV* and in chrominance upsampling. *Restoring SDTV* there will always be the directly decoded pixel at (m_0, n_0) ensuring a defined pixel in p_{mc} at (m_0, n_0).

Id., 6 (emphasis added).

IV. CLAIM CONSTRUCTION

Petitioner’s assertion that “no formal [claim] constructions are presently

necessary” in this proceeding (Pet. at 3) contradicts its positions in *Advanced Coding Techs. LLC v. Apple, Inc.*, Case No. 2:24-cv-00572-JRG (E.D. Tex.) (the “District Court Litigation”). In the District Court Litigation, both parties agreed to the following constructions:

Claim Term	Claims	Proposed Construction
“standard resolution”	’995 Patent, Claims 1-4, 8-11	“the spatial resolution of a picture input into an encoding system as an encoding target”
“decoding with an extension of the standard resolution”	’995 Patent, Claims 2-4, 11	“decoding with an enhancement layer based on standard resolution reference picture(s)”
“super-resolution enlarged decoded pictures”	’995 Patent, Claims 2-4, 11	“higher than standard resolution enlarged decoded pictures”

Ex. 2004, at 2. The Petition does not assume that the plain and ordinary meaning of these terms is as limited as the parties’ agreed-upon constructions, and the Petition’s analysis of the claim limitations containing these terms against the cited references does not indicate that those references disclose the aforementioned claim terms under Petitioner’s proposed constructions in the District Court Litigation.

If Petitioner believed that any claim terms required construction, it had a duty to identify “[h]ow the challenged claim is to be construed” in its Petition. 37 C.F.R. § 42.104(3); *see also* Patent Trial and Appeal Board Consolidated Trial Practice Guide, November 2019, at 48 (“The Board, in its claim construction determinations, will consider statements regarding claim construction made by patent owners and by

a petitioner filed in other proceedings, if the statements are timely made of record.”) (citations omitted). Instead, Petitioner chose to apply the plain and ordinary meaning in this proceeding, while agreeing to narrower constructions in the District Court Litigation. Therefore, the parties’ agreed-upon constructions in the District Court Litigation should be applied in this proceeding. Notably, Petitioner was aware of these agreed-upon constructions from a previous district court litigation. *See* Dkts. 87, 155, *Advanced Coding Techs. LLC v. LG Elecs Inc.*, 2:22-cv-00501-JRG (E.D. Tex.) (Lead Case); *Advanced Coding Techs. LLC v. Samsung Elecs. Co.*, 2:22-cv-00499-JRG (E.D. Tex) (Member Case).

For the purposes of this Preliminary Response, Patent Owner notes that since both Patent Owner and Petitioner agreed to the constructions of the above terms in the District Court Litigation, it is highly likely that the District Court will enter the agreed constructions. Patent Trial and Appeal Board Consolidated Trial Practice Guide, at 47 (citations omitted) (“Parties should submit a prior claim construction determination by a federal court or the ITC in an AIA proceeding as soon as that determination becomes available. Preferably, the prior claim construction determination should be submitted with the petition, preliminary response, or response, along with explanations. Submission of a prior claim construction determination is mandatory under 37 C.F.R. § 42.51(b), if it is ‘relevant information that is inconsistent with a position advanced by the party during the proceeding.’”).

V. LEVEL OF ORDINARY SKILL IN THE ART

For the purposes of this Preliminary Response only, Patent Owner utilizes Petitioner's proposed level of skill in the art: "at least a bachelor's degree in computer science, electrical engineering, computer engineering, or a related field, with 2-3 years of experience in digital video processing, or a related field. Additional graduate education could substitute for professional experience, and *vice versa*." Pet. at 4 (citations omitted).

VI. PETITIONER HAS NOT DEMONSTRATED A REASONABLE LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS FOR THE GROUNDS ADVANCED IN THE PETITION, AND THE PETITION SHOULD BE DENIED

The question of obviousness is resolved on the basis of underlying factual determinations, including: (1) the scope and content of the prior art, (2) any differences between the claimed subject matter and the prior art, (3) the level of skill in the art, and (4) so-called secondary considerations where in evidence. *Graham v. John Deere Co. of Kansas City*, 383 U.S. 1, 17-18 (1966); *KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 550 U.S. 398, 406 (2007). The question is not whether the differences themselves would have been obvious, but whether the claimed invention as a whole would have been obvious. *Stratoflex, Inc. v. Aeroquip Corp.*, 713 F.2d 1530, 1537 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

The Board has held that a failure to identify the differences between the claimed subject matter and the prior art is fatal to an obviousness challenge. *See*,

Apple, Inc. v. Contentguard Holdings, Inc., IPR2015-00355, Decision Denying Institution of *Inter Partes* Review, Paper 9 at 9-10 (P.T.A.B. June 26, 2015) (denying institution for failure to identify the differences between the claimed subject matter and the prior art).

In arriving at an obviousness determination, the Board must sufficiently explain and support the conclusions that the prior art references disclose all the elements recited in the Challenged Claims and a relevant, skilled artisan not only could have made, but would have been motivated to combine all the prior art references in the way the patent claims and reasonably expected success. *Pers. Web Techs., LLC v. Apple, Inc.*, 848 F.3d 987, 994 (Fed. Cir. 2017). That is, even if all the claim elements are found across a number of references, an obviousness determination must consider whether a person of ordinary skill in the art would have the motivation to combine those references. *Intelligent Bio-Sys., Inc. v. Illumina Cambridge Ltd.*, 821 F.3d 1359, 1368 (Fed. Cir. 2016); *Los Angeles Biomedical Rsch. Inst. at Harbor-UCLA Med. Ctr. v. Eli Lilly & Co.*, 849 F.3d 1049, 1067 (Fed. Cir. 2017) (vacating and remanding an obviousness determination, in part, because the Board did not make factual finding as to whether there was an apparent reason to combine all three prior art references to achieve the claimed invention and whether a person of skill in the art would have had a reasonable expectation of success from such a combination). This combinability determination, as supported by an

articulated motivation to combine, requires a plausible rationale as to why those prior art references would have worked together. *Broadcom Corp. v. Emulex Corp.*, 732 F.3d 1325, 1335 (Fed. Cir. 2013). Absent some articulated rationale, a “common sense” finding is no different than the conclusory statement “would have been obvious.” *In re Van Os*, 844 F.3d 1359, 1361 (Fed. Cir. 2017). Of additional importance, “knowledge of a problem and motivation to solve it are entirely different from motivation to combine particular references” *Innogenetics, N.V. v. Abbott Lab’ys.*, 512 F.3d 1363, 1373 (Fed. Cir. 2008).

A. Claim 1 Is Not Obvious Over Any Combination of Phek, YuChuan, Martins, and He

- 1. The Petition Does Not Show Any Combination of Phek, YuChuan, Martins, and He Discloses “a first resolution converter configured to work on the set of super-resolution enlarged pictures to implement a process for a first resolution conversion to create a set of super-resolution enlarged and converted pictures with a standard resolution,” as Required by Claim Element [1.3]**

Claim 1 of the ’995 Patent requires “a first resolution converter configured to work on the set of super-resolution enlarged pictures to implement a process for a first resolution conversion to create a set of super-resolution enlarged and converted pictures with a standard resolution.”

As noted above, Petitioner failed to propose a construction for “standard resolution,” despite agreeing to construe this term as “the spatial resolution of a

picture input into an encoding system as an encoding target” in the District Court Litigation. *See supra* Section IV.

The Petition is deficient because it does not show that any combination of Phek, YuChuan, Martins, and He disclose the recited “process for a first resolution conversion to create a set of super-resolution enlarged and converted pictures with a ***standard resolution***.” Claim 1 of the ’995 Patent requires the output data of the first resolution converter to be a standard resolution, whereas the proposed combination only discloses an output that is user-defined in the case of Phek-YuChuan-He or a downsampled resolution to an output device/format that may happen to be SDTV in the case of Phek-YuChuan-He-Martins.

First, Petitioner relies on YuChuan for “a process for adjusting the resolution of enhanced images to match a user-defined output.” Pet. at 46. Petitioner, without any evidence, merely assumes that such a disclosure is sufficient for a POSITA to match the resolution of the output of the claimed first resolution converter to the standard resolution that is first mentioned in Claim 1.1 (“a first encoder configured to work on a subsequence of a sequence of moving pictures with a standard resolution to implement a first combination of processes for an encoding and a decoding to create a first sequence of encoded bits and a set of decoded pictures with the standard resolution”). Instead, Petitioner admits that “YuChuan’s down-sampling operation reduces the size or spatial resolution of the interpolated

prototype image (i.e., a superresolution enlarged image).” Pet. at 27 (citing APPLE-1055, [0014], [0019], [0031], FIG. 1). Similarly, Petitioner’s expert fails to disclose how the system of YuChuan discloses or whether it would be obvious for a POSITA to specifically downsample to the claimed standard resolution, without the user intervention/definition that YuChuan requires. *See* Ex. 1003, ¶ 67.

Second, the Petition acknowledges that the decimation or downsampling of Martins is untethered to any “first combination of processes for an encoding and a decoding to create a first sequence of encoded bits and a set of decoded pictures with the standard resolution.” In particular, Petitioner admits that the “resolution converter” of Martins converts resolutions based only *on the supported output format* (i.e., SDTV or HDTV). Pet. at 75-78; *see also* APPLE-1007, Abstract (“The algorithm is based on motion-compensated spatial upsampling from multiple images and *decimation to the desired format.*”) (emphasis added), 2 (“The algorithm has two steps. In the first step, a superresolution version (default is quadruple resolution) of each directly decoded picture is constructed. In the second step, the superresolution picture is *decimated to the desired format.*”) (emphasis added and footnote omitted).

Petitioner’s own cites to Figs. 11 and 12 of Martins confirm that there is no “resolution conversion” based on the “standard resolution” (i.e., the same resolution as the input of the first super-resolution enlarger). Pet. at 76. Instead, Martins clearly

states that “Fig. 11 depicts the result of using simple upsampling of a directly decoded sequence.” APPLE-1007 at 8-9. In order to obtain the resolution of the SDTV in Fig. 11, the resolution of the input must have been *lower* if only upsampling was used.



Fig. 11. Direct progressive SDTV. Mobcal at 5 Mbs/s. Part of the I-picture (frame 24, top field). PSNR = 28.5 dB.

Id., Fig. 11. For Fig. 12 and Fig. 13 (ignored by Petitioner), where presumably Martins’ technique of upsampling and downsampling was used to obtain SDTV and HDTV respectively, Martins does not mention what the input resolution to the upsampling was during the technique because it does not matter for comparative purposes to Fig. 11. *See id.*, 8-9. The level of decimation or downsampling in Martins is dependent only upon the desired output format (*e.g.*, SDTV or HDTV) as compared to the super-resolution rather than the resolution of the pictures that were the input for super-resolution:



Fig. 12. Enhanced to progressive SDTV. Mobcal at 5 Mb/s. Part of the I-picture (frame 24, top field). PSNR = 30.1 dB.



Fig. 13. Enhanced to progressive HDTV in 4:2:0. Mobcal at 5 Mb/s. Part of the I picture (frame 24, top field).

Id., Figs. 12 and 13.

The section of Martins referring to “IV. Decimation” also confirms that a resolution conversion caused by decimation is based on the desired output format of HDTV or SDTV by adjusting pixel parameters:

The last case in (17), where there is no MC superresolution (p_{mc}) pixel at the output sample position (m_0, n_0), may occur in **conversion to HDTV** and in chrominance upsampling. **Restoring SDTV** there will always be the directly decoded pixel at (m_0, n_0) ensuring a defined pixel in p_{mc} at (m_0, n_0).

Id., 6 (emphasis added).

In any of Petitioner’s combinations, the “desired format” to be output or “supported **output** format” is clearly not “the spatial resolution of a picture **input** into an encoding system **as an encoding target**” under the proper construction of

“standard resolution.” Because Petitioner fails to address the proper construction of standard resolution, it also fails to address the proper construction of “super-resolution enlarged decoded pictures” (i.e., “higher than standard resolution enlarged decoded pictures”) and is deficient for that additional reason.

Because of these deficiencies, institution should be denied.

2. The Petition Does Not Show that Any Combination of Phek, YuChuan, Martins, and He Discloses “*have the set of super-resolution enlarged and converted pictures from the first resolution converter as a set of encoding target pictures, the set of decoded pictures from the first encoder as a set of first reference pictures, and the set of super-resolution enlarged and converted decoded pictures from the second resolution converter as a set of second reference pictures,*” as Required by Claim [1.6.i]

Claim 1 of the '995 Patent requires “have the set of super-resolution enlarged and converted pictures from the first resolution converter as a set of encoding target pictures, the set of decoded pictures from the first encoder as a set of first reference pictures, and the set of super-resolution enlarged and converted decoded pictures from the second resolution converter as a set of second reference pictures.”

As noted in Section VI.A.1 above, the Petition does not show that any combination of Phek, YuChuan, Martins, and He discloses “a first resolution converter configured to work on the set of super-resolution enlarged pictures to implement a process for a first resolution conversion to create a set of super-resolution enlarged and converted pictures with a standard resolution.” Therefore,

the Petition also cannot show that the combination discloses “have the set of super-resolution enlarged and converted pictures from the first resolution converter as a set of encoding target pictures, the set of decoded pictures from the first encoder as a set of first reference pictures, and the set of super-resolution enlarged and converted decoded pictures from the second resolution converter as a set of second reference pictures.”

Because of this deficiency, institution should be denied.

3. The Petition Does Not Show that Any Combination of Phek, YuChuan, Martins, and He Discloses “*select one of the set of first reference pictures and the set of second reference pictures to create reference picture selection information to identify the set of selected reference pictures to implement a second process for encoding to create a second sequence of encoded bits based on the set of encoding target pictures and the set of selected reference pictures,*” as Required by Claim Element [1.6.ii]

Claim 1 of the '995 Patent requires “select one of the set of first reference pictures and the set of second reference pictures to create reference picture selection information to identify the set of selected reference pictures to implement a second process for encoding to create a second sequence of encoded bits based on the set of encoding target pictures and the set of selected reference pictures.” The Petition fails to show that the prior art teaches this claim limitation for two reasons.

First, as noted in Section VI.A.2 above, the Petition is deficient because it

does not show that any combination of Phek, YuChuan, Martins, and He discloses “have the set of super-resolution enlarged and converted pictures from the first resolution converter as a set of encoding target pictures, the set of decoded pictures from the first encoder as a set of first reference pictures, and the set of super-resolution enlarged and converted decoded pictures from the second resolution converter as *a set of second reference pictures*.” Therefore, the Petition is also deficient because it does not show that any combination of Phek, YuChuan, Martins, and He discloses “select one of the set of first reference pictures and *the set of second reference pictures* to create reference picture selection information to identify the set of selected reference pictures to implement a second process for encoding to create a second sequence of encoded bits based on the set of encoding target pictures and the set of selected reference pictures.”

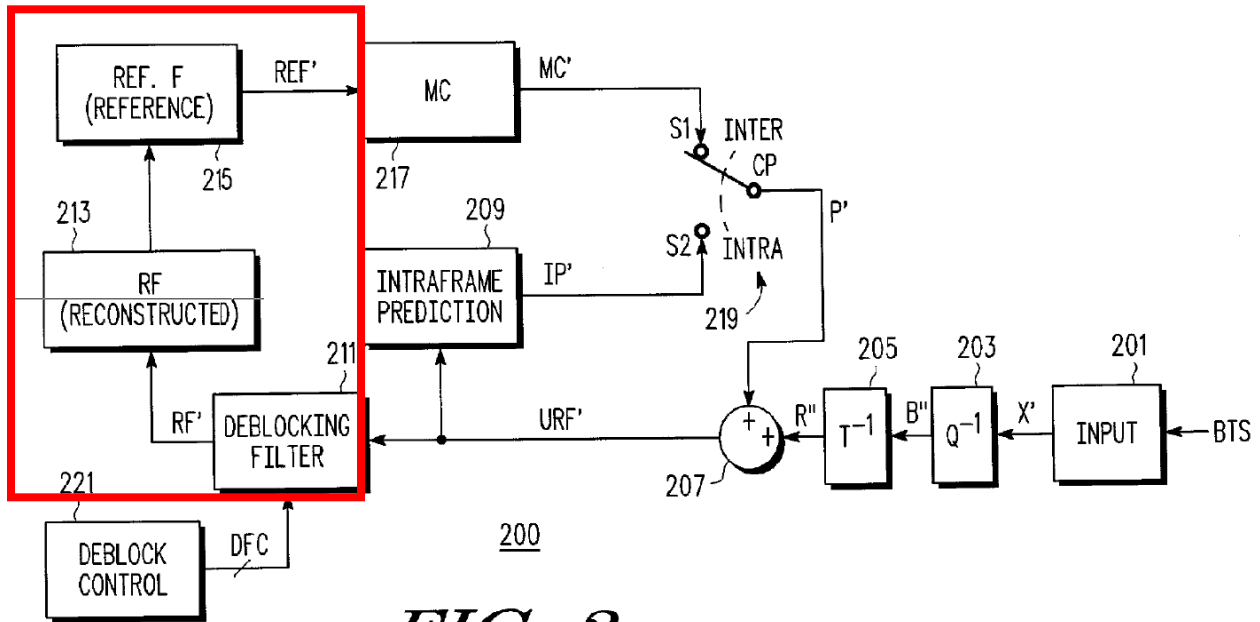
Second, as noted above, Petitioner failed to propose and apply a construction for “decoding with an extension of the standard resolution,” despite agreeing to construe this term as “decoding with an enhancement layer based on standard resolution reference picture(s)” in the District Court Litigation. *See supra* Section IV.

Third, the Petition is deficient because He’s deblocking control flags are not the claimed “reference picture selection information,” as the Petition incorrectly alleges. Pet. at 57-58. In fact, He’s deblocking control flags are irrelevant to

reference pictures. As the Petition notes, “[b]ased on the value of the deblocking control flag, the deblock control circuit 221 issues control signals to a deblocking filter 131 to selectively enable/disable the use of a deblock filter on reconstructed (decoded) frames.” Pet. at 59-60 (citing APPLE-1008, [0006]-[0008]¹). He describes that “[t]he deblocking filter enhances the decoded picture quality and increases the encoding efficiency by removing the block effects in the boundary of each 4x4, 8x8, and/or 16x16 block.” APPLE-1008, [0006]. Therefore, at a fundamental level, He’s deblocking control flag merely selects between whether to use a deblock filter to remove block effects on the block boundaries of reconstructed frames or not. *Id.*

Petitioner makes an unsupported illogical leap to conclude that the selection made by He’s deblock filter (whether to apply a deblocking filter to a reconstructed frame) constitutes a selection between alleged reference frames: a filtered reconstructed frame and an unfiltered reconstructed frame. Pet. at 60-61. He’s FIG. 2 and its supporting disclosure, which are relied upon by Petitioner (Pet. at 58-61), show only one creation of reference frames from filtered reconstructed frames:

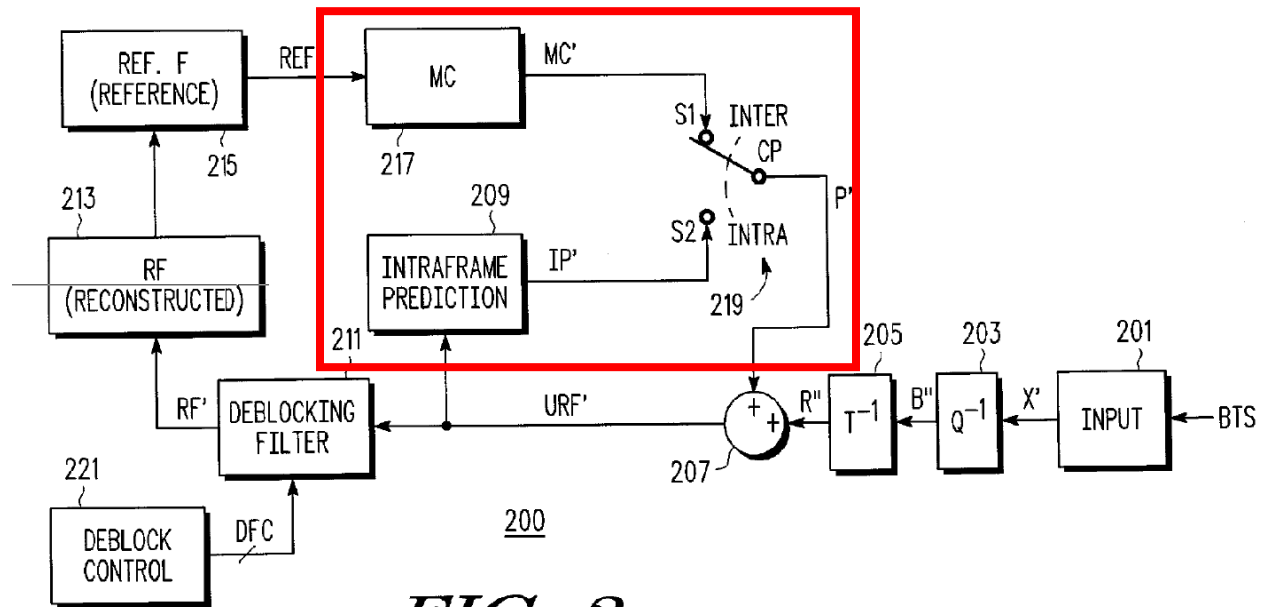
¹ Patent Owner notes that APPLE-1008, [0006]-[0008] does not correspond to a disclosure of He’s deblock control circuit 221 or deblocking filter 131.



APPLE-1008, FIG. 2 (annotated), [0033] (“One or two previously encoded and decoded (and selectively filtered) frames from the RF buffer 213 are provided to a frame storage 215, which provides *reference information REF’ to the input of a motion compensation (MC) circuit 217.*”) (emphasis added). Therefore, the motion compensation circuit 217 of FIG. 2 does not have a selection between different reference picture sets.

The Petition is completely incorrect when it states that “[w]hen the deblock filter is disabled, the original (unfiltered or non-enhanced) reconstructed frame is used as the reference picture for prediction of a subsequent frame.” Pet. at 60. As shown in FIG. 2 of He and its supporting disclosure, there is no reference picture associated with the unfiltered reconstructed frame because, if selected, the unfiltered reconstructed frame is an *intra*-predicted frame providing intraframe prediction

information IP' (i.e., there is no reference frame when the prediction takes place *within* the same frame):



APPLE-1008, FIG. 2 (annotated), [0033] (“The intraframe prediction circuit 209 provides intraframe prediction information IP' to the input terminal S2 of the switch 219. The switch 219 selects between the motion compensated prediction information MC' and the intraframe prediction information IP' and provides the selected prediction information P'. The input bitstream BTS provides mode information for controlling the switch 219 for selecting between interframe and intraframe prediction information as known to those of ordinary skill in the art.”). Therefore, the only selection described in the FIG. 2 decoder of He, outside of the unrelated selection to apply a deblocking filter to reconstructed frames, is between interframe prediction information (i.e., motion compensated prediction information) and

intraframe prediction information, not between different reference picture sets, as required by this claim limitation's "select[ing] one of the set of first reference pictures and the set of second reference pictures." '995 Patent, Claim 1.

Because of this deficiency, institution should be denied.

4. The Petition Does Not Show that Any Combination of Phek, YuChuan, Martins, and He Discloses “*wherein the set of encoding targets, the set of first reference pictures, and the set of second reference pictures have the same value in spatial resolution,*” as Required by Claim Element [1.7]

Claim 1 of the '995 Patent requires “wherein the set of encoding target pictures, the set of first reference pictures, and the set of second reference pictures have the same value in spatial resolution.”

As noted in Section VI.A.2 above, the Petition does not show that any combination of Phek, YuChuan, Martins, and He discloses “have the set of super-resolution enlarged and converted pictures from the first resolution converter as a set of encoding target pictures, the set of decoded pictures from the first encoder as a set of first reference pictures, and the set of super-resolution enlarged and converted decoded pictures from the second resolution converter as a *set of second reference pictures*.” Therefore, the Petition does not show that the combination of Phek, YuChuan, Martins, and He discloses “set of encoding targets, the set of first reference pictures, and the *set of second reference pictures* have the same value in

spatial resolution.”

Because of this deficiency, institution should be denied.

**B. Claims 5-6 and 8-10 Are Not Obvious Over Any
Combination of Phek, YuChuan, Martins, and He**

Claim 8 recites “[a] moving picture encoding method” that mirrors the claim limitations of Claim 1, which recites “[a] moving picture encoding system.” ’995 Patent, Claims 1, 8. In other words, Claim 8 discloses the method analogue of Claim 1. *Id.* For at least the same reasons as Claim 1, any combination of Phek, YuChuan, Martins, and He fails to render obvious Claim 8.

Claim 9 recites “[a] recording medium storing a moving picture encoding program comprising a non-transitory computer-readable medium” that mirrors the claim limitations of Claim 1, which recites “[a] moving picture encoding system.” ’995, Claims 1, 9. In other words, Claim 9 discloses the recording medium analogue of Claim 1. *Id.* For at least the same reasons as Claim 1, any combination of Phek, YuChuan, Martins, and He fails to render obvious Claim 9.

Claims 5-6 and 10 depend upon Claim 1, and for at least the same reasons as Claim 1, any combination of Phek, YuChuan, Martins, and He fails to render obvious Claim 5-6 and 10. ’995, Claims 5-6 and 10.

VII. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Patent Owner respectfully requests that the Board deny institution of the Petition in its entirety.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 24, 2025

By: /Peter Lambrianakos /
Peter Lambrianakos (Reg. No. 58,279)
Email: plambrianakos@fabricantllp.com
Lead Counsel for Patent Owner
Vincent J. Rubino, III (Reg. No. 68,594)
Email: vrubino@fabricantllp.com
Back-Up Counsel for Patent Owner
Joseph M. Mercadante (Reg. No. 64,077)
Email: jmercadante@fabricantllp.com
Back-Up Counsel for Patent Owner
FABRICANT LLP
411 Theodore Fremd Avenue
Suite 206 South
Rye, New York 10580
Tel. 212-257-5797
Fax. 212-257-5796

CERTIFICATE OF WORD COUNT

The undersigned hereby certifies that the portions of the above-captioned PATENT OWNER'S PRELIMINARY RESPONSE specified in 37 C.F.R. § 42.24 has 5,383 words in compliance with the 14,000 word limit set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 42.24. This word count was prepared using Microsoft Word for Office 365.

Respectfully submitted,

September 24, 2025

By: /Peter Lambrianakos /
Peter Lambrianakos (Reg. No. 58,279)
Lead Counsel for Patent Owner
FABRICANT LLP
411 Theodore Fremd Avenue
Suite 206 South
Rye, New York 10580
Tel. 212-257-5797
Fax. 212-257-5796
Email: plambrianakos@fabricantllp.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

A copy of the foregoing Patent Owner's Preliminary Response and Exhibits
2001 through 2004 have been served on Petitioner's counsel of record as follows:

W. Karl Renner
Email: IPR50095-0242IP2@fr.com
Jeremy J. Monaldo
Nicholas Stephens
FISH & RICHARDSON
60 South Sixth Street, Suite 3200
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

Attorneys for Apple Inc.

September 24, 2025

By: /Peter Lambrianakos /
Peter Lambrianakos (Reg. No. 58,279)
Lead Counsel for Patent Owner