

# US Patent & Trademark Office

## Patent Public Search | Text View

United States Patent Application Publication

20250254324

Kind Code

A1

Publication Date

August 07, 2025

Inventor(s)

PARK; Minwoo et al.

### DEVICE AND METHOD FOR ENCODING MOTION VECTOR, AND DEVICE AND METHOD FOR DECODING MOTION VECTOR

#### Abstract

A method, performed by an image decoding apparatus, of decoding a motion vector, including obtaining information indicating a motion vector resolution of a current block from a bitstream; selecting a first neighboring block from among neighboring blocks adjacent to the current block, by using the obtained information indicating the motion vector resolution of the current block; based on the current block referring to a reference picture in a list **0**, and the first neighboring block referring to the reference picture in the list **0**, determining a prediction motion vector of the current block using a motion vector of the first neighboring block; based on the current block referring to the reference picture in the list **0** and the first neighboring block referring to a reference picture in a list **1**, selecting a motion vector of a second neighboring block among the neighboring blocks as a basic motion vector, and determining the prediction motion vector of the current block using the determined basic motion vector; and determining a motion vector of the current block using the prediction motion vector of the current block.

**Inventors:** PARK; Minwoo (Suwon-si, KR), PARK; Minsoo (Suwon-si, KR), CHOI; Kwangpyo (Suwon-si, KR), CHOI; Kiho (Suwon-si, KR), PIAO; Yinji (Suwon-si, KR)

**Applicant:** SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD. (Suwon-si, KR)

**Family ID:** 77784884

**Assignee:** SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD. (Suwon-si, KR)

**Appl. No.:** 19/191788

**Filed:** April 28, 2025

## Foreign Application Priority Data

KR	10-2020-0044297	Apr. 10, 2020
KR	10-2021-0011031	Jan. 26, 2021

## Related U.S. Application Data

parent US continuation 18609123 20240319 parent-grant-document US 12316856 child US 19191788  
parent US continuation 17675410 20220218 parent-grant-document US 11997286 child US 18609123  
parent WO continuation PCT/KR2021/001070 20210127 PENDING child US 17675410

---

## Publication Classification

**Int. Cl.:** H04N19/139 (20140101); H04N19/105 (20140101); H04N19/11 (20140101);  
H04N19/172 (20140101); H04N19/176 (20140101); H04N19/52 (20140101)

**U.S. Cl.:**

**CPC** H04N19/139 (20141101); H04N19/105 (20141101); H04N19/11 (20141101);  
H04N19/172 (20141101); H04N19/176 (20141101); H04N19/52 (20141101);

---

## Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] This is a Continuation of U.S. Application No. 18/609,123 filed Mar. 19, 2024, which is a Continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 17/675,410 filed Feb. 18, 2022, which is a bypass continuation application of International Application No. PCT/KR 2021/001070, filed on Jan. 27, 2021, which claims priority to Korean Patent Application No. 10-2020-0044297, filed on Apr. 10, 2020, and Korean Patent Application No. 10-2021-0011031, filed on Jan. 26, 2021, in the Korean Intellectual Property Office, the disclosures of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entireties.

### BACKGROUND

#### 1. Field

[0002] The disclosure relates to the field of image encoding and decoding. More particularly, the disclosure relates to an apparatus and method for encoding and decoding a current motion vector by using its neighboring motion vector.

#### 2. Description of Related Art

[0003] In image encoding and decoding, an image is split into blocks, and each block is prediction-encoded and prediction-decoded through inter prediction or intra prediction.

[0004] Inter prediction is a method of removing temporal redundancy between images to compress the images. A representative example of inter prediction is motion estimation coding. Motion estimation coding predicts blocks of a current picture by using at least one reference picture. A reference block that is most similar to a current block is searched for within a preset search range by using a preset evaluation function. The current block is predicted based on the reference block, and a prediction block generated as a result of prediction is subtracted from the current block to generate a residual block. The residual block is then encoded. To more accurately perform the

prediction, interpolation is performed on the reference picture to generate pixels in a sub pel unit that is smaller than an integer pel unit, and inter prediction is performed based on the pixels in the sub pel unit.

[0005] In a codec, such as H.264 Advanced Video Coding (AVC) and High Efficiency Video Coding (HEVC), motion vectors of previously encoded blocks adjacent to a current block or blocks included in previously encoded images are used to predict a motion vector of the current block. Differential motion vectors, which are differences between motion vectors of the current block and the motion vectors of the previously encoded blocks, are signaled to a decoder side through a preset method.

#### SUMMARY

[0006] Provided is an apparatus and method for encoding a motion vector and an apparatus and method for decoding a motion vector, by which prediction accuracy of a motion vector of a current block is improved.

[0007] Provided is an apparatus and method for encoding a motion vector and an apparatus and method for decoding a motion vector, by which the size of a differential motion vector included in a bitstream is reduced.

[0008] In an apparatus and method for encoding a motion vector and an apparatus and method for decoding a motion vector, according to one or more embodiments, prediction accuracy of a motion vector of a current block may be improved.

[0009] In an apparatus and method for encoding a motion vector and an apparatus and method for decoding a motion vector, according to one or more embodiments, the size of a differential motion vector included in a bitstream may be reduced.

[0010] It should be noted that effects that can be achieved by the apparatus and method for encoding a motion vector and the apparatus and method for decoding a motion vector, according to an embodiment, are not limited to those described above, and other effects not mentioned will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art from the following descriptions.

[0011] Additional aspects will be set forth in part in the description which follows and, in part, will be apparent from the description, or may be learned by practice of the presented embodiments.

[0012] In accordance with an aspect of the disclosure, a method, performed by an image decoding apparatus, of decoding a motion vector includes obtaining information indicating a motion vector resolution of a current block from a bitstream; selecting a first neighboring block from among neighboring blocks adjacent to the current block, by using the obtained information indicating the motion vector resolution of the current block; based on the current block referring to a reference picture in a list **0**, and the first neighboring block referring to the reference picture in the list **0**, determining a prediction motion vector of the current block using a motion vector of the first neighboring block; based on the current block referring to the reference picture in the list **0** and the first neighboring block referring to a reference picture in a list **1**, selecting a motion vector of a second neighboring block among the neighboring blocks as a basic motion vector, and determining the prediction motion vector of the current block using the determined basic motion vector; and determining a motion vector of the current block using the prediction motion vector of the current block.

[0013] The prediction motion vector of the current block may be obtained using the motion vector of the first neighboring block based on determining that the first neighboring block is available according to first availability information corresponding to the first neighboring block.

[0014] An availability of the first neighboring block may be determined according to at least one from among a determination about whether a tile including the first neighboring block is different from a tile including the current block, a determination about whether the first neighboring block is located outside a current picture, a determination about whether the first neighboring block has been intra-predicted, and a determination about whether the first neighboring block is reconstructed.

[0015] The motion vector resolution may be included in a plurality of motion vector resolutions, and the plurality of motion vector resolutions may correspond to neighboring blocks at different locations.

[0016] A location of the second neighboring block may be determined based on information indicating availabilities of left neighboring blocks and right neighboring blocks of the current block.

[0017] The prediction motion vector of the current block may be determined using the basic motion vector based on determining that the second neighboring block is available according to second availability information indicating corresponding to the second neighboring block, and that the second neighboring block refers to the reference picture in the list **0**.

[0018] The prediction motion vector of the current block may be determined using the basic motion vector based on determining that the second neighboring block is not available according to the second availability information, or that the second neighboring block refers to the reference picture in the list **1**.

[0019] In accordance with an aspect of the disclosure, an image decoding apparatus includes an obtainer configured to obtain information indicating a motion vector resolution of a current block from a bitstream; a motion vector prediction unit configured to: select a first neighboring block from among neighboring blocks adjacent to the current block, by using the obtained information indicating the motion vector resolution of the current block, based on the current block referring to a reference picture in a list **0**, and the first neighboring block referring to the reference picture in the list **0**, determining a prediction motion vector of the current block using a motion vector of the first neighboring block, and based on the current block referring to the reference picture in the list **0** and the first neighboring block referring to a reference picture in a list **1**, select a motion vector of a second neighboring block among the neighboring blocks as a basic motion vector, and determine the prediction motion vector of the current block using the determined basic motion vector; and a motion vector reconstruction unit configured to determine a motion vector of the current block using the prediction motion vector of the current block.

[0020] In accordance with an aspect of the disclosure, a method, performed by an image encoding apparatus, of encoding a motion vector, includes determining a motion vector resolution of a current block; selecting a first neighboring block from among neighboring blocks adjacent to the current block, based on the motion vector resolution of the current block; based on the current block referring to a reference picture in a list **0** and the first neighboring block referring to the reference picture in the list **0**, determining a prediction motion vector of the current block using a motion vector of the first neighboring block based on the current block referring to the reference picture in the list **0** and the first neighboring block referring to a reference picture in a list **1**, selecting a motion vector of a second neighboring block among the neighboring blocks as a basic motion vector, and determining the prediction motion vector of the current block by using the determined basic motion vector; and generating a bitstream comprising information indicating the motion vector resolution of the current block, and a differential motion vector determined using the motion vector of the current block and the prediction motion vector of the current block.

---

## Description

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0021] The above and other aspects, features, and advantages of certain embodiments of the present disclosure will be more apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

[0022] FIG. **1** is a block diagram of an image decoding apparatus according to an embodiment;

[0023] FIG. **2** is a block diagram of an image encoding apparatus according to an embodiment;

[0024] FIG. **3** illustrates a process of determining at least one coding unit by splitting a current coding unit, according to an embodiment.

[0025] FIG. **4** illustrates a process of determining at least one coding unit by splitting a non-square coding unit, according to an embodiment;

[0026] FIG. **5** illustrates a process of splitting a coding unit based on at least one of block shape information and split shape mode information, according to an embodiment;

[0027] FIG. **6** illustrates a method of determining a preset coding unit from among an odd number of coding units, according to an embodiment;

[0028] FIG. **7** illustrates an order of processing a plurality of coding units when determining the plurality of coding units by splitting a current coding unit, according to an embodiment;

[0029] FIG. **8** illustrates a process of determining that a current coding unit is to be split into an odd number of coding units, when the coding units are not processable in a preset order, according to an embodiment;

[0030] FIG. **9** illustrates a process of determining at least one coding unit by splitting a first coding unit, according to an embodiment;

[0031] FIG. **10** illustrates that a shape into which a non-square second coding unit determined by splitting a first coding unit, is splittable is restricted when the second coding unit satisfies a preset condition, according to an embodiment;

[0032] FIG. **11** illustrates a process of splitting a square coding unit when split shape mode information does not indicate splitting in units of four square coding units, according to an embodiment;

[0033] FIG. **12** illustrates that a processing order between a plurality of coding units may be changed depending on a process of splitting a coding unit, according to an embodiment;

[0034] FIG. **13** illustrates a process of determining a depth of a coding unit as a shape and size of the coding unit change, when the coding unit is recursively split such that a plurality of coding units are determined, according to an embodiment;

[0035] FIG. **14** illustrates depths that are determinable based on shapes and sizes of coding units, and part indexes (PIDs) for distinguishing the coding units, according to an embodiment;

[0036] FIG. **15** illustrates that a plurality of coding units are determined based on a plurality of preset data units included in a picture, according to an embodiment;

[0037] FIG. **16** illustrates coding units of individual pictures, when the individual pictures have different split shape combinations of coding units, according to an embodiment;

[0038] FIG. **17** illustrates various shapes of coding units that can be determined based on split shape mode information that is expressed with a binary code, according to an embodiment;

[0039] FIG. **18** illustrates other shapes of coding units that can be determined based on split shape mode information that is expressed with a binary code, according to an embodiment;

[0040] FIG. **19** is a block diagram of an image encoding and decoding system, according to an embodiment;

[0041] FIG. **20** is a block diagram of an image decoding apparatus according to an embodiment;

[0042] FIG. **21A** illustrates locations of neighboring blocks when a left block of a current block is available, according to an embodiment;

[0043] FIG. **21B** illustrates locations of neighboring blocks when a left block and a right block of a current block are available, according to an embodiment;

[0044] FIG. **21C** illustrates locations of neighboring blocks when a right block of a current block is available, according to an embodiment;

[0045] FIG. **22** is a table showing a matching relationship between indexes of motion vector resolutions, the motion vector resolutions, and locations of neighboring blocks, according to an embodiment;

[0046] FIG. **23A** illustrates a case where a reference picture index of a first neighboring block in a same prediction direction as a prediction direction of a current block is not identical to a pre-

determined value, according to an embodiment;

[0047] FIG. 23B illustrates a case where the reference picture index of the first neighboring block in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is identical to the pre-determined value, according to an embodiment;

[0048] FIG. 23C illustrates a case where, when the prediction direction of the current block is a bidirection, one of the reference picture index of the first neighboring block in a list 0 direction and the reference picture index of the first neighboring block in a list 1 direction is identical to the pre-determined value and the other is not identical to the pre-determined value, according to an embodiment;

[0049] FIG. 24 is a flowchart of a method of decoding a motion vector, according to an embodiment;

[0050] FIG. 25 is a block diagram of an image encoding apparatus according to an embodiment;

[0051] FIG. 26 is a flowchart of a method of encoding a motion vector, according to an embodiment;

[0052] FIG. 27 is a view for explaining a process of obtaining a prediction motion vector, according to an embodiment; and

[0053] FIG. 28 is a view for explaining a process of obtaining a prediction motion vector, according to an embodiment.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0054] A method of decoding a motion vector, according to an embodiment, includes selecting a first neighboring block from among neighboring blocks adjacent to a current block, according to information obtained from a bitstream; when the first neighboring block is identified as being available by using information indicating the availability of the first neighboring block and a motion vector of the first neighboring block in the same prediction direction as a prediction direction of the current block does not exist, obtaining a prediction motion vector of the current block from a motion vector of a second neighboring block at a pre-determined location, the second neighboring block being adjacent to the current block; and obtaining a motion vector of the current block by combining the prediction motion vector of the current block with a differential motion vector.

[0055] When a reference picture index of the second neighboring block in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is -1, the motion vector of the first neighboring block in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block may not exist.

[0056] The availability of the first neighboring block may be determined according to at least one of whether a tile including the first neighboring block is different from a tile including the current block, whether the first neighboring block is located outside the current picture, whether the first neighboring block has been intra-predicted, and whether the first neighboring block is reconstructed.

[0057] The obtaining of the motion vector of the current block may include, when the first neighboring block is identified as being available by using the information indicating the availability of the first neighboring block, and the motion vector of the first neighboring block in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block exists, obtaining the prediction motion vector of the current block from the motion vector of the first neighboring block.

[0058] The information obtained from the bitstream may include information indicating a motion vector resolution of the current block from among a plurality of motion vector resolutions, and the plurality of the motion vector resolutions may be mapped with neighboring blocks at different locations.

[0059] The location of the second neighboring block may vary according to information indicating the availabilities of left and right neighboring blocks of the current block.

[0060] The obtaining of the prediction motion vector of the current block may include, when the

second neighboring block is identified as being available by using information indicating the availability of the second neighboring block and a reference picture index of the second neighboring block in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is identical to a reference picture index of the current block or the motion vector of the second neighboring block in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block exists, obtaining the prediction motion vector of the current block from the motion vector of the second neighboring block.

[0061] The obtaining of the prediction motion vector of the current block may include, when the second neighboring block is identified as not being available by using the information indicating the availability of the second neighboring block or the motion vector of the second neighboring block in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block does not exist, obtaining the prediction motion vector of the current block from a motion vector of a block decoded before the current block.

[0062] The obtaining of the prediction motion vector of the current block may include, when the first neighboring block is identified as not being available, obtaining the prediction motion vector of the current block from the motion vector of the second neighboring block.

[0063] An image decoding apparatus according to an embodiment includes a motion vector prediction unit configured to select a first neighboring block from among neighboring blocks adjacent to a current block, according to information obtained from a bitstream, and, when the first neighboring block is identified as being available by using information indicating the availability of the first neighboring block and a motion vector of the first neighboring block in the same prediction direction as a prediction direction of the current block does not exist, obtain a prediction motion vector of the current block from a motion vector of a second neighboring block at a pre-determined location, the second neighboring block being adjacent to the current block; and a motion vector reconstruction unit configured to obtain a motion vector of the current block by combining the prediction motion vector of the current block with a differential motion vector.

[0064] A method of encoding a motion vector, according to an embodiment, includes, when a first neighboring block selected from among neighboring blocks adjacent to a current block is identified as being available and a motion vector of the first neighboring block in the same prediction direction as a prediction direction of the current block does not exist, obtaining a prediction motion vector of the current block from a motion vector of a second neighboring block at a pre-determined location, the second neighboring block being adjacent to the current block; and generating a bitstream including a differential motion vector between the motion vector of a current block and the prediction motion vector of the current block, and information for indicating the first neighboring block.

[0065] As the disclosure allows for various changes and numerous embodiments, particular embodiments will be illustrated in the drawings and described in detail in the written description. However, this is not intended to limit the disclosure to particular modes of practice, and it is to be appreciated that all changes, equivalents, and substitutes that do not depart from the spirit and technical scope of the disclosure are encompassed in the disclosure.

[0066] In the description of embodiments of the disclosure, certain detailed explanations of the related art are omitted when it is deemed that they may unnecessarily obscure the essence of the disclosure. While such terms as “first,” “second,” “etc.,” may be used to describe various components, such components must not be limited to the above terms. The above terms are used only to distinguish one component from another.

[0067] When an element (e.g., a first element) is “coupled to” or “connected to” another element (e.g., a second element), the first element may be directly coupled to or connected to the second element, or, unless otherwise described, a third element may exist therebetween.

[0068] Regarding a component represented as a “portion (unit)” or a “module” used herein, two or more components may be combined into one component or one component may be divided into

two or more components according to subdivided functions. In addition, each component described hereinafter may additionally perform some or all of functions performed by another component, in addition to main functions of itself, and some of the main functions of each component may be performed entirely by another component.

[0069] Also, an 'image' or a 'picture' used herein may denote a still image of video or a moving picture (video).

[0070] Also, a 'sample' or 'signal' used herein means, as data assigned to a sampling location of an image, data to be processed. For example, pixel values on a spatial-domain image and transform coefficients on a transform domain may be samples. A unit including such one or more samples may be defined as a block.

[0071] Hereinafter, an image encoding method and apparatus and an image decoding method and apparatus based on coding units and transformation units having a tree structure according to an embodiment will be described with reference to FIGS. 1 through 19.

[0072] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an image decoding apparatus 100 according to an embodiment.

[0073] The image decoding apparatus 100 may include a bitstream obtainer 110 and a decoder 120. The bitstream obtainer 110 and the decoder 120 may include at least one processor. The bitstream obtainer 110 and the decoder 120 may include a memory storing instructions that are to be executed by the at least one processor.

[0074] The bitstream obtainer 110 may receive a bitstream. The bitstream may include information resulting from image encoding by an image encoding apparatus 200 which will be described in more detail below. The bitstream may be transmitted from the image encoding apparatus 200. The image decoding apparatus 100 may be connected to the image encoding apparatus 200 in a wired or wireless manner, and the bitstream obtainer 110 may receive a bitstream in a wired or wireless manner. The bitstream obtainer 110 may receive a bitstream from a storage medium, such as optical media, a hard disk, etc. The decoder 120 may reconstruct an image, based on information obtained from the received bitstream. The decoder 120 may obtain a syntax element for reconstructing an image from the bitstream. The decoder 120 may reconstruct the image, based on the syntax element.

[0075] Describing an example of an operation of the image decoding apparatus 100 in detail, the bitstream obtainer 110 may receive a bitstream.

[0076] The image decoding apparatus 100 may perform an operation of obtaining a bin string corresponding to a split shape mode of a coding unit from the bitstream. The image decoding apparatus 100 may perform an operation of determining a split rule of a coding unit. The image decoding apparatus 100 may perform an operation of splitting a coding unit into a plurality of coding units, based on at least one of the bin string corresponding to the split shape mode and the split rule. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine a first range which is an allowable size range of a coding unit, according to a ratio of a height to a width of the coding unit, in order to determine the split rule. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine a second range which is an allowable size range of a coding unit, according to a split shape mode of the coding unit, in order to determine the split rule.

[0077] Hereinafter, an example of splitting of a coding unit will be described in detail according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

[0078] First, one picture may be split into one or more slices or one or more tiles. One slice or one tile may be a sequence of one or more largest coding units, which may be or for example coding tree units (CTUs). According to an implementation example, one slice includes one or more tiles, or one slice may include one or more largest coding units. A slice including one tile or a plurality of tiles may be determined within a picture.

[0079] There is a largest coding block, which may be for example a coding tree block (CTB), conceptually compared to a largest coding unit (or CTU). The largest coding block (or CTB) denotes an  $N \times N$  block including  $N \times N$  samples (where  $N$  is an integer). Each color component may



be split into one or more largest coding blocks.

[0080] When a picture has three sample arrays (sample arrays for Y, Cr, and Cb components), a largest coding unit (or CTU) includes a largest coding block of a luma sample, two corresponding largest coding blocks of chroma samples, and syntax structures used to encode the luma sample and the chroma samples. When a picture is a monochrome picture, a largest coding unit includes a largest coding block of a monochrome sample and syntax structures used to encode the monochrome samples. When a picture is a picture encoded in color planes separated according to color components, a largest coding unit includes syntax structures used to encode the picture and samples of the picture.

[0081] One largest coding block (or CTB) may be split into  $M \times N$  coding blocks including  $M \times N$  samples ( $M$  and  $N$  are integers).

[0082] When a picture has sample arrays for Y, Cr, and Cb components, a coding unit (CU) includes a coding block of a luma sample, two corresponding coding blocks of chroma samples, and syntax structures used to encode the luma sample and the chroma samples. When a picture is a monochrome picture, a coding unit includes a coding block of a monochrome sample and syntax structures used to encode the monochrome samples. When a picture is a picture encoded in color planes separated according to color components, a coding unit includes syntax structures used to encode the picture and samples of the picture.

[0083] As described above, a largest coding block and a largest coding unit are conceptually distinguished from each other, and a coding block and a coding unit are conceptually distinguished from each other. In other words, a coding unit, or a largest coding unit, refers to a data structure including a coding block, or a largest coding block, including a corresponding sample and a syntax structure corresponding to the coding block, or the largest coding block. However, because it is understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that a coding unit, a largest coding unit, a coding block, or a largest coding block refers to a block of a preset size including a preset number of samples, a largest coding block and a largest coding unit, or a coding block and a coding unit are mentioned in the following specification without being distinguished unless otherwise described.

[0084] An image may be split into largest coding units (or CTUs). A size of each largest coding unit may be determined based on information obtained from a bitstream. A shape of each largest coding unit may be a square shape of the same size. However, embodiments of the disclosure are not limited thereto.

[0085] For example, information about a maximum size of a luma coding block may be obtained from a bitstream. For example, the maximum size of the luma coding block indicated by the information about the maximum size of the luma coding block may be one of  $4 \times 4$ ,  $8 \times 8$ ,  $16 \times 16$ ,  $32 \times 32$ ,  $64 \times 64$ ,  $128 \times 128$ , and  $256 \times 256$ .

[0086] For example, information about a luma block size difference and a maximum size of a luma coding block that may be split into two may be obtained from a bitstream. The information about the luma block size difference may refer to a size difference between a luma largest coding unit and a largest luma coding block that may be split into two. Accordingly, when the information about the maximum size of the luma coding block that may be split into two and the information about the luma block size difference obtained from the bitstream are combined with each other, a size of the luma largest coding unit may be determined. A size of a chroma largest coding unit may be determined by using the size of the luma largest coding unit. For example, when a Y:Cb:Cr ratio is 4:2:0 according to a color format, a size of a chroma block may be half a size of a luma block, and a size of a chroma largest coding unit may be half a size of a luma largest coding unit.

[0087] According to an embodiment, because information about a maximum size of a luma coding block that is binary splittable is obtained from a bitstream, the maximum size of the luma coding block that is binary splittable may be variably determined. In contrast, a maximum size of a luma coding block that is ternary splittable may be fixed. For example, the maximum size of the luma coding block that is ternary splittable in an I-picture may be  $32 \times 32$ , and the maximum size of the

luma coding block that is ternary splittable in a P-picture or a B-picture may be 64×64.

[0088] A largest coding unit may be hierarchically split into coding units, based on split shape mode information obtained from a bitstream. At least one of information indicating whether quad splitting is performed, information indicating whether multi-splitting is performed, split direction information, and split type information may be obtained as the split shape mode information from the bitstream.

[0089] For example, the information indicating whether quad splitting is performed may indicate whether a current coding unit is quad split (QUAD\_SPLIT) or not.

[0090] When the current coding unit is not quad split, the information indicating whether multi-splitting is performed may indicate whether the current coding unit is no longer split (NO\_SPLIT) or binary/ternary split.

[0091] When the current coding unit is binary split or ternary split, the split direction information indicates that the current coding unit is split in one of a horizontal direction and a vertical direction.

[0092] When the current coding unit is split in the horizontal direction or the vertical direction, the split type information indicates that the current coding unit is binary split or ternary split.

[0093] A split mode of the current coding unit may be determined according to the split direction information and the split type information. A split mode when the current coding unit is binary split in the horizontal direction may be determined to be a binary horizontal split mode

(SPLIT\_BT\_HOR), a split mode when the current coding unit is ternary split in the horizontal direction may be determined to be a ternary horizontal split mode (SPLIT\_TT\_HOR), a split mode when the current coding unit is binary split in the vertical direction may be determined to be a binary vertical split mode (SPLIT\_BT\_VER), and a split mode when the current coding unit is ternary split in the vertical direction may be determined to be a ternary vertical split mode (SPLIT\_TT\_VER).

[0094] The image decoding apparatus **100** may obtain, from the bitstream, the split shape mode information from one bin string. A form of the bitstream received by the image decoding apparatus **100** may include fixed length binary code, unary code, truncated unary code, predetermined binary code, or the like. The bin string is information in a binary number. The bin string may include at least one bit. The image decoding apparatus **100** may obtain the split shape mode information corresponding to the bin string, based on the split rule. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine whether to quad split a coding unit, whether not to split a coding unit, a split direction, and a split type, based on one bin string.

[0095] The coding unit may be smaller than or the same as the largest coding unit. For example, because a largest coding unit is a coding unit having a maximum size, the largest coding unit is one of the coding units. When split shape mode information about a largest coding unit indicates that splitting is not performed, a coding unit determined in the largest coding unit has the same size as that of the largest coding unit. When split shape mode information about a largest coding unit indicates that splitting is performed, the largest coding unit may be split into coding units. Also, when split shape mode information about a coding unit indicates that splitting is performed, the coding unit may be split into smaller coding units. However, the splitting of the image is not limited thereto, and the largest coding unit and the coding unit may not be distinguished. Examples of the splitting of the coding unit will be described in detail with reference to FIGS. **3** to **16**.

[0096] Also, one or more prediction blocks for prediction may be determined from a coding unit. The prediction block may be the same as or smaller than the coding unit. Also, one or more transform blocks for transformation may be determined from a coding unit. The transform block may be equal to or smaller than the coding unit.

[0097] The shapes and sizes of the transform block and prediction block may be unrelated to each other.

[0098] In another embodiment, prediction may be performed by using a coding unit as a predictor. A Iso, transformation may be performed by using a coding unit as a transform block.

[0099] Examples of the splitting of the coding unit will be described in detail with reference to FIGS. 3 to 16. A current block and a neighboring block of the disclosure may indicate one of the largest coding unit, the coding unit, the prediction block, and the transform block. Also, the current block of the current coding unit is a block that is currently being decoded or encoded or a block that is currently being split. The neighboring block may be a block reconstructed before the current block. The neighboring block may be adjacent to the current block spatially or temporally. The neighboring block may be located at one of the lower left, left, upper left, top, upper right, right, lower right of the current block.

[0100] FIG. 3 illustrates a process, performed by the image decoding apparatus 100, of determining at least one coding unit by splitting a current coding unit, according to an embodiment.

[0101] A block shape may include  $4N \times 4N$ ,  $4N \times 2N$ ,  $2N \times 4N$ ,  $4N \times N$ ,  $N \times 4N$ ,  $32N \times N$ ,  $N \times 32N$ ,  $16N \times N$ ,  $N \times 16N$ ,  $8N \times N$ , or  $N \times 8N$ . Here,  $N$  may be a positive integer. Block shape information is information indicating at least one of a shape, a direction, a ratio of width and height, or size of a coding unit.

[0102] The shape of the coding unit may include a square and a non-square. When the lengths of the width and the height of the coding unit are the same (i.e., when the block shape of the coding unit is  $4N \times 4N$ ), the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the block shape information of the coding unit as a square. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the shape of the coding unit to be a non-square.

[0103] When the width and the height of the coding unit are different from each other (i.e., when the block shape of the coding unit is  $4N \times 2N$ ,  $2N \times 4N$ ,  $4N \times N$ ,  $N \times 4N$ ,  $32N \times N$ ,  $N \times 32N$ ,  $16N \times N$ ,  $N \times 16N$ ,  $8N \times N$ , or  $N \times 8N$ ), the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the block shape information of the coding unit as a non-square shape. When the shape of the coding unit is non-square, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the ratio of the width and height among the block shape information of the coding unit to be at least one of 1:2, 2:1, 1:4, 4:1, 1:8, 8:1, 1:16, 16:1, 1:32, and 32:1. Also, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine whether the coding unit is in a horizontal direction or a vertical direction, based on the length of the width and the length of the height of the coding unit. Also, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the size of the coding unit, based on at least one of the length of the width, the length of the height, or the area of the coding unit.

[0104] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the shape of the coding unit by using the block shape information, and may determine a splitting method of the coding unit by using the split shape mode information. That is, a coding unit splitting method indicated by the split shape mode information may be determined based on a block shape indicated by the block shape information used by the image decoding apparatus 100.

[0105] The image decoding apparatus 100 may obtain the split shape mode information from a bitstream. However, embodiments are not limited thereto, and the image decoding apparatus 100 and the image encoding apparatus 200 may determine pre-agreed split shape mode information, based on the block shape information. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the pre-agreed split shape mode information with respect to a largest coding unit or a minimum coding unit. For example, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine split shape mode information with respect to the largest coding unit to be a quad split. Also, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine split shape mode information regarding the smallest coding unit to be “not to perform splitting”, or no split. In detail, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the size of the largest coding unit to be  $256 \times 256$ . The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the pre-agreed split shape mode information to be a quad split. The quad split is a split shape mode in which the width and the height of the coding unit are both bisected. The image decoding apparatus 100 may obtain a coding unit of a  $128 \times 128$  size from the largest coding unit of a  $256 \times 256$  size, based on the split shape mode information. Also, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the size of the smallest coding unit to be  $4 \times 4$ . The image decoding apparatus 100 may obtain split

shape mode information indicating “not to perform splitting” with respect to the smallest coding unit.

[0106] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may use the block shape information indicating that the current coding unit has a square shape. For example, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine whether not to split a square coding unit, whether to vertically split the square coding unit, whether to horizontally split the square coding unit, or whether to split the square coding unit into four coding units, based on the split shape mode information. Referring to FIG. 3, when the block shape information of a current coding unit **300** indicates a square shape, the decoder **120** may not split a coding unit **310a** having the same size as the current coding unit **300**, based on the split shape mode information indicating not to perform splitting, or may determine coding units **310b**, **310c**, **310d**, **310e**, or **310f** split based on the split shape mode information indicating a preset splitting method. In embodiments, coding units **310b**, **310c**, **310d**, **310e**, or **310f** may be determined or obtained by splitting current coding unit **300** based on the indicated splitting method.

[0107] Referring to FIG. 3, according to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine two coding units **310b** obtained by splitting the current coding unit **300** in a vertical direction, based on the split shape mode information indicating to perform splitting in a vertical direction. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine two coding units **310c** obtained by splitting the current coding unit **300** in a horizontal direction, based on the split shape mode information indicating to perform splitting in a horizontal direction. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine four coding units **310d** obtained by splitting the current coding unit **300** in vertical and horizontal directions, based on the split shape mode information indicating to perform splitting in vertical and horizontal directions. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine three coding units **310e** obtained by splitting the current coding unit **300** in a vertical direction, based on the split shape mode information indicating to perform ternary splitting in a vertical direction. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine three coding units **310f** obtained by splitting the current coding unit **300** in a horizontal direction, based on the split shape mode information indicating to perform ternary splitting in a horizontal direction. However, splitting methods of the square coding unit are not limited to the above-described methods, and the split shape mode information may indicate various methods. Examples of preset splitting methods of splitting the square coding unit will be described in detail below in relation to various embodiments.

[0108] FIG. 4 illustrates a process, performed by the image decoding apparatus **100**, of determining at least one coding unit by splitting a non-square coding unit, according to an embodiment.

[0109] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may use block shape information indicating that a current coding unit has a non-square shape. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine whether not to split the non-square current coding unit or whether to split the non-square current coding unit by using a preset splitting method, based on split shape mode information. Referring to FIG. 4, when the block shape information of a current coding unit **400** or **450** indicates a non-square shape, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine a coding unit **410** having the same size as the current coding unit **400** or coding unit **460** having the same size as the current coding unit **450**, based on the split shape mode information indicating not to perform splitting, or may determine coding units **420a** and **420b**, **430a** to **430c**, **470a** and **470b**, or **480a** to **480c** split based on the split shape mode information indicating a preset splitting method. In embodiments, coding units **420a** and **420b** or **430a** to **430c** may be determined or obtained by splitting current coding unit **400** based on the indicated splitting method, and coding unit **470a** and **470b**, or **480a** to **480c** may be determined or obtained by splitting current coding unit **450** based on the indicated splitting method. In embodiments, preset splitting methods of splitting a non-square coding unit will be described in detail below in relation to various embodiments.

[0110] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine a splitting

method of a coding unit by using the split shape mode information and, in this case, the split shape mode information may indicate the number of one or more coding units generated by splitting a coding unit. Referring to FIG. 4, when the split shape mode information indicates to split the current coding unit **400** or **450** into two coding units, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine two coding units **420a** and **420b** included in the current coding unit **400**, or **470a** and **470b** included in the current coding unit **450**, by splitting the current coding unit **400** or **450** based on the split shape mode information.

[0111] According to an embodiment, when the image decoding apparatus **100** splits the non-square current coding unit **400** or **450** based on the split shape mode information, the image decoding apparatus **100** may consider the location of a long side of the non-square current coding unit **400** or **450** to split a current coding unit. For example, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine a plurality of coding units by splitting the current coding unit **400** or **450** in a direction of splitting a long side of the current coding unit **400** or **450**, in consideration of the shape of the current coding unit **400** or **450**.

[0112] According to an embodiment, when the split shape mode information indicates to split a coding unit into an odd number of blocks, for example in a ternary split, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine an odd number of coding units included in the current coding unit **400** or **450**. For example, when the split shape mode information indicates to split the current coding unit **400** or **450** into three coding units, the image decoding apparatus **100** may split the current coding unit **400** into three coding units **430a**, **430b**, and **430c**, or split the current coding unit **450** into three coding units **480a**, **480b**, and **480c**.

[0113] According to an embodiment, a ratio of the width and height of the current coding unit **400** or **450** may be 4:1 or 1:4. When the ratio of the width and height is 4:1, the block shape information may indicate a horizontal direction because the length of the width is longer than the length of the height. When the ratio of the width and height is 1:4, the block shape information may indicate a vertical direction because the length of the width is shorter than the length of the height. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine to split a current coding unit into an odd number of blocks, based on the split shape mode information. Also, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine a split direction of the current coding unit **400** or **450**, based on the block shape information of the current coding unit **400** or **450**. For example, when the current coding unit **400** is in the vertical direction, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the coding units **430a**, **430b**, and **430c** by splitting the current coding unit **400** in the horizontal direction. Also, when the current coding unit **450** is in the horizontal direction, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the coding units **480a**, **480b**, and **480c** by splitting the current coding unit **450** in the vertical direction.

[0114] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine an odd number of coding units included in the current coding unit **400** or **450**, and not all the determined coding units may have the same size. For example, a preset coding unit **430b** from among the determined odd number of coding units **430a**, **430b**, and **430c** may have a size different from the size of the other coding units **430a** and **430c**, or a preset coding unit **480b** from among the determined odd number of coding units **480a**, **480b**, and **480c** may have a size different from the size of the other coding units **480a** and **480c**. That is, coding units which may be determined by splitting the current coding unit **400** or **450** may have multiple sizes and, in some cases, all of the odd number of coding units **430a**, **430b**, and **430c**, or **480a**, **480b**, and **480c** may have different sizes.

[0115] According to an embodiment, when the split shape mode information indicates to split a coding unit into the odd number of blocks, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the odd number of coding units included in the current coding unit **400** or **450**, and moreover, may put a preset restriction on at least one coding unit from among the odd number of coding units generated by splitting the current coding unit **400** or **450**. Referring to FIG. 4, the image decoding

apparatus **100** may set a decoding process regarding the coding unit **430b** located at the center among the three coding units **430a**, **430b**, and **430c**, generated as the current coding unit **400** is split, to be different from that of the other coding units **430a** and **430c**, or may set a decoding process regarding the coding unit **480b** located at the center among the three coding units **480a**, **480b**, and **480c** generated as the current coding unit **450** is split to be different from that of the other coding units **480a** and **480c**. For example, the image decoding apparatus **100** may restrict the coding unit **430b** or **480b** at the center location to be no longer split or to be split only a preset number of times, unlike the other coding units **430a** and **430c**, or **480a** and **480c**.

[0116] FIG. 5 illustrates a process, performed by the image decoding apparatus **100**, of splitting a coding unit based on at least one of block shape information and split shape mode information, according to an embodiment.

[0117] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine to split or not to split a square first coding unit **500** into coding units, based on at least one of the block shape information and the split shape mode information. According to an embodiment, when the split shape mode information indicates to split the first coding unit **500** in a horizontal direction, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine a second coding unit **510** by splitting the first coding unit **500** in a horizontal direction. A first coding unit, a second coding unit, and a third coding unit used according to an embodiment are terms used to understand a relation before and after splitting a coding unit. For example, a second coding unit may be determined by splitting a first coding unit, and a third coding unit may be determined by splitting the second coding unit. It will be understood that the relation of the first coding unit, the second coding unit, and the third coding unit follows the above descriptions.

[0118] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine to split or not to split the determined second coding unit **510** into coding units, based on the split shape mode information. Referring to FIG. 5, the image decoding apparatus **100** may split the non-square second coding unit **510**, which is determined by splitting the first coding unit **500**, into one or more third coding units **520a**, **520b**, **520c**, and **520d** based on the split shape mode information, or may not split the non-square second coding unit **510**. The image decoding apparatus **100** may obtain the split shape mode information, and may obtain a plurality of various-shaped second coding units (e.g., second coding unit **510**) by splitting the first coding unit **500**, based on the obtained split shape mode information, and the second coding unit **510** may be split by using a splitting method of the first coding unit **500** based on the split shape mode information. According to an embodiment, when the first coding unit **500** is split into the second coding units **510** based on the split shape mode information of the first coding unit **500**, the second coding unit **510** may also be split into the third coding units (e.g., **520a**, or **520b**, **520c**, and **520d**) based on the split shape mode information of the second coding unit **510**. That is, a coding unit may be recursively split based on the split shape mode information of each coding unit. Therefore, a square coding unit may be determined by splitting a non-square coding unit, and a non-square coding unit may be determined by recursively splitting the square coding unit.

[0119] Referring to FIG. 5, a preset coding unit (e.g., a coding unit located at a center location, or a square coding unit) from among an odd number of third coding units **520b**, **520c**, and **520d** determined by splitting the non-square second coding unit **510** may be recursively split. According to an embodiment, the non-square third coding unit **520b** from among the odd number of third coding units **520b**, **520c**, and **520d** may be split in a horizontal direction into a plurality of fourth coding units. A non-square fourth coding unit **530b** or **530d** from among the plurality of fourth coding units **530a**, **530b**, **530c**, and **530d** may be re-split into a plurality of coding units. For example, the non-square fourth coding unit **530b** or **530d** may be re-split into an odd number of coding units. A method that may be used to recursively split a coding unit will be described below in relation to various embodiments.

[0120] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may split each of the third

coding units **520a**, or **520b**, **520c**, and **520d** into coding units, based on the split shape mode information. Also, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine not to split the second coding unit **510** based on the split shape mode information. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may split the non-square second coding unit **510** into the odd number of third coding units **520b**, **520c**, and **520d**. The image decoding apparatus **100** may put a preset restriction on a preset third coding unit from among the odd number of third coding units **520b**, **520c**, and **520d**. For example, the image decoding apparatus **100** may restrict the third coding unit **520c** at a center location from among the odd number of third coding units **520b**, **520c**, and **520d** to be no longer split or to be split a settable number of times.

[0121] Referring to FIG. 5, the image decoding apparatus **100** may restrict the third coding unit **520c**, which is at the center location from among the odd number of third coding units **520b**, **520c**, and **520d** included in the non-square second coding unit **510**, to be no longer split, to be split by using a preset splitting method (e.g., split into only four coding units or split by using a splitting method of the second coding unit **510**), or to be split only a preset number of times (e.g., split only  $n$  times (where  $n > 0$ )). However, the restrictions on the third coding unit **520c** at the center location are not limited to the above-described examples, and may include various restrictions for decoding the third coding unit **520c** at the center location differently from the other third coding units **520b** and **520d**.

[0122] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may obtain the split shape mode information, which is used to split a current coding unit, from a preset location in the current coding unit.

[0123] FIG. 6 illustrates a method, performed by the image decoding apparatus **100**, of determining a preset coding unit from among an odd number of coding units, according to an embodiment.

[0124] Referring to FIG. 6, split shape mode information of a current coding unit **600** or **650** may be obtained from a sample of a preset location (e.g., a sample **640** or **690** of a center location) from among a plurality of samples included in the current coding unit **600** or **650**. However, the preset location in the current coding unit **600**, from which at least one piece of the split shape mode information may be obtained, is not limited to the center location in FIG. 6, and may include various locations included in the current coding unit **600** (e.g., top, bottom, left, right, upper left, lower left, upper right, lower right locations, or the like). The image decoding apparatus **100** may obtain the split shape mode information from the preset location and may determine to split or not to split the current coding unit into various-shaped and various-sized coding units.

[0125] According to an embodiment, when the current coding unit is split into a preset number of coding units, the image decoding apparatus **100** may select one of the coding units.

[0126] Various methods may be used to select one of a plurality of coding units, examples of which will be described below in relation to various embodiments.

[0127] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may split the current coding unit into a plurality of coding units, and may determine a coding unit at a preset location.

[0128] According to an embodiment, image decoding apparatus **100** may use information indicating locations of the odd number of coding units, to determine a coding unit at a center location from among the odd number of coding units. Referring to FIG. 6, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the odd number of coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c** or the odd number of coding units **660a**, **660b**, and **660c** by splitting the current coding unit **600** or the current coding unit **650**. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the middle coding unit **620b** or the middle coding unit **660b** by using information about the locations of the odd number of coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c** or the odd number of coding units **660a**, **660b**, and **660c**. For example, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the coding unit **620b** of the center location by determining the locations of the coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c** based on information indicating locations of preset samples included in the coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c**. In detail, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the coding unit **620b** at the center location by determining

the locations of the coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c** based on information indicating locations of upper-left samples **630a**, **630b**, and **630c** of the coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c**.

[0129] According to an embodiment, the information indicating the locations of the upper-left samples **630a**, **630b**, and **630c**, which are included in the coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c**, respectively, may include information about locations or coordinates of the coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c** in a picture. According to an embodiment, the information indicating the locations of the upper-left samples **630a**, **630b**, and **630c**, which are included in the coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c**, respectively, may include information indicating widths or heights of the coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c** included in the current coding unit **600**, and the widths or heights may correspond to information indicating differences between the coordinates of the coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c** in the picture. That is, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the coding unit **620b** at the center location by directly using the information about the locations or coordinates of the coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c** in the picture, or by using the information about the widths or heights of the coding units, which correspond to the difference values between the coordinates.

[0130] According to an embodiment, information indicating the location of the upper-left sample **630a** of the upper coding unit **620a** may include coordinates (xa, ya), information indicating the location of the upper-left sample **630b** of the middle coding unit **620b** may include coordinates (xb, yb), and information indicating the location of the upper-left sample **630c** of the lower coding unit **620c** may include coordinates (xc, yc). The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the middle coding unit **620b** by using the coordinates of the upper-left samples **630a**, **630b**, and **630c** which are included in the coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c**, respectively. For example, when the coordinates of the upper-left samples **630a**, **630b**, and **630c** are sorted in an ascending or descending order, the coding unit **620b** including the coordinates (xb, yb) of the sample **630b** at a center location may be determined as a coding unit at a center location from among the coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c** determined by splitting the current coding unit **600**. However, the coordinates indicating the locations of the upper-left samples **630a**, **630b**, and **630c** may include coordinates indicating absolute locations in the picture, or may use coordinates (dxb, dyb) indicating a relative location of the upper-left sample **630b** of the middle coding unit **620b** and coordinates (dxc, dyc) indicating a relative location of the upper-left sample **630c** of the lower coding unit **620c** with reference to the location of the upper-left sample **630a** of the upper coding unit **620a**. A method of determining a coding unit at a preset location by using coordinates of a sample included in the coding unit, as information indicating a location of the sample, is not limited to the above-described method, and may include various arithmetic methods capable of using the coordinates of the sample.

[0131] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may split the current coding unit **600** into a plurality of coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c**, and may select one of the coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c** based on a preset criterion. For example, the image decoding apparatus **100** may select the coding unit **620b**, which has a size different from that of the others, from among the coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c**.

[0132] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the width or height of each of the coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c** by using the coordinates (xa, ya) that is the information indicating the location of the upper-left sample **630a** of the upper coding unit **620a**, the coordinates (xb, yb) that is the information indicating the location of the upper-left sample **630b** of the middle coding unit **620b**, and the coordinates (xc, yc) that are the information indicating the location of the upper-left sample **630c** of the lower coding unit **620c**. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the respective sizes of the coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c** by using the coordinates (xa, ya), (xb, yb), and (xc, yc) indicating the locations of the coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c**. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the width of the upper coding unit **620a** to be the width of the current coding unit **600**.



The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the height of the upper coding unit **620a** to be  $y_b - y_a$ . According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the width of the middle coding unit **620b** to be the width of the current coding unit **600**. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the height of the middle coding unit **620b** to be  $y_c - y_b$ . According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the width or height of the lower coding unit **620c** by using the width or height of the current coding unit **600** or the widths or heights of the upper coding unit **620a** and middle coding unit **620b**. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine a coding unit, which has a size different from that of the other coding units, based on the determined widths and heights of the coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c**. Referring to FIG. 6, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the middle coding unit **620b**, which has a size different from the size of the upper coding unit **620a** and lower coding unit **620c**, as the coding unit of the preset location. However, the above-described method, performed by the image decoding apparatus **100**, of determining a coding unit having a size different from the size of the other coding units merely corresponds to an example of determining a coding unit at a preset location by using the sizes of coding units, which are determined based on coordinates of samples, and thus various methods of determining a coding unit at a preset location by comparing the sizes of coding units, which are determined based on coordinates of preset samples, may be used.

[0133] The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the width or height of each of the coding units **660a**, **660b**, and **660c** by using the coordinates ( $x_d$ ,  $y_d$ ) that are information indicating the location of an upper-left sample **670a** of the left coding unit **660a**, the coordinates ( $x_e$ ,  $y_e$ ) that are information indicating the location of an upper-left sample **670b** of the middle coding unit **660b**, and the coordinates ( $x_f$ ,  $y_f$ ) that are information indicating a location of the upper-left sample **670c** of the right coding unit **660c**. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the respective sizes of the coding units **660a**, **660b**, and **660c** by using the coordinates ( $x_d$ ,  $y_d$ ), ( $x_e$ ,  $y_e$ ), and ( $x_f$ ,  $y_f$ ) indicating the locations of the coding units **660a**, **660b**, and **660c**.

[0134] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the width of the left coding unit **660a** to be  $x_e - x_d$ . The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the height of the left coding unit **660a** to be the height of the current coding unit **650**. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the width of the middle coding unit **660b** to be  $x_f - x_e$ . The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the height of the middle coding unit **660b** to be the height of the current coding unit **650**. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the width or height of the right coding unit **660c** by using the width or height of the current coding unit **650** or the widths or heights of the left coding unit **660a** and middle coding unit **660b**. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine a coding unit, which has a size different from that of the other coding units, based on the determined widths and heights of the coding units **660a**, **660b**, and **660c**. Referring to FIG. 6, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the middle coding unit **660b**, which has a size different from the sizes of the left coding unit **660a** and right coding unit **660c**, as the coding unit of the preset location. However, the above-described method, performed by the image decoding apparatus **100**, of determining a coding unit having a size different from the size of the other coding units merely corresponds to an example of determining a coding unit at a preset location by using the sizes of coding units, which are determined based on coordinates of samples, and thus various methods of determining a coding unit at a preset location by comparing the sizes of coding units, which are determined based on coordinates of preset samples, may be used.

[0135] However, locations of samples considered to determine locations of coding units are not limited to the above-described upper left locations, and information about arbitrary locations of samples included in the coding units may be used.

[0136] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may select a coding unit at a preset location from among an odd number of coding units determined by splitting the current coding unit, by considering the shape of the current coding unit. For example, when the current

coding unit has a non-square shape, a width of which is longer than a height, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the coding unit at the preset location in a horizontal direction. That is, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine one of coding units at different locations in a horizontal direction and may put a restriction on the coding unit. When the current coding unit has a non-square shape, a height of which is longer than a width, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the coding unit at the preset location in a vertical direction. That is, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine one of coding units at different locations in a vertical direction and may put a restriction on the coding unit.

[0137] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may use information indicating respective locations of an even number of coding units, to determine the coding unit at the preset location from among the even number of coding units. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine an even number of coding units by splitting (binary splitting) the current coding unit, and may determine the coding unit at the preset location by using the information about the locations of the even number of coding units. An operation related thereto may correspond to the operation of determining a coding unit at a preset location (e.g., a center location) from among an odd number of coding units, which has been described in detail above in relation to FIG. 6, and thus detailed descriptions thereof are not provided here.

[0138] According to an embodiment, when a non-square current coding unit is split into a plurality of coding units, preset information about a coding unit at a preset location may be used in a splitting operation to determine the coding unit at the preset location from among the plurality of coding units. For example, the image decoding apparatus **100** may use at least one of block shape information and split shape mode information, which is stored in a sample included in a middle coding unit, in a splitting operation to determine a coding unit at a center location from among the plurality of coding units determined by splitting the current coding unit.

[0139] Referring to FIG. 6, the image decoding apparatus **100** may split the current coding unit **600** into the plurality of coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c** based on the split shape mode information, and may determine the coding unit **620b** at a center location from among the plurality of coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c**. Furthermore, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the coding unit **620b** at the center location, in consideration of a location from which the split shape mode information is obtained. That is, the split shape mode information of the current coding unit **600** may be obtained from the sample **640** at a center location of the current coding unit **600** and, when the current coding unit **600** is split into the plurality of coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c** based on the split shape mode information, the coding unit **620b** including the sample **640** may be determined as the coding unit at the center location. However, information used to determine the coding unit at the center location is not limited to the split shape mode information, and various types of information may be used to determine the coding unit at the center location.

[0140] According to an embodiment, preset information for identifying the coding unit at the preset location may be obtained from a preset sample included in a coding unit to be determined.

Referring to FIG. 6, the image decoding apparatus **100** may use the split shape mode information, which is obtained from a sample at a preset location in the current coding unit **600** (e.g., a sample at a center location of the current coding unit **600**) to determine a coding unit at a preset location from among the plurality of coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c** determined by splitting the current coding unit **600** (e.g., a coding unit at a center location from among a plurality of split coding units). That is, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the sample at the preset location by considering a block shape of the current coding unit **600**, may determine the coding unit **620b** including a sample, from which preset information (e.g., the split shape mode information) can be obtained, from among the plurality of coding units **620a**, **620b**, and **620c** determined by splitting the current coding unit **600**, and may put a preset restriction on the coding unit **620b**. Referring to FIG. 6, according to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the sample **640** at the center location of the current coding unit **600** as the sample from which the preset

information may be obtained, and may put a preset restriction on the coding unit **620b** including the sample **640**, in a decoding operation. However, the location of the sample from which the preset information can be obtained is not limited to the above-described location, and may include arbitrary locations of samples included in the coding unit **620b** to be determined for a restriction. [0141] According to an embodiment, the location of the sample from which the preset information may be obtained may be determined based on the shape of the current coding unit **600**. According to an embodiment, the block shape information may indicate whether the current coding unit has a square or non-square shape, and the location of the sample from which the preset information may be obtained may be determined based on the shape. For example, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine a sample located on a boundary for splitting at least one of a width and height of the current coding unit in half, as the sample from which the preset information can be obtained, by using at least one of information about the width of the current coding unit and information about the height of the current coding unit. As another example, when the block shape information of the current coding unit indicates a non-square shape, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine one of samples adjacent to a boundary for splitting a long side of the current coding unit in half, as the sample from which the preset information can be obtained.

[0142] According to an embodiment, when the current coding unit is split into a plurality of coding units, the image decoding apparatus **100** may use the split shape mode information to determine a coding unit at a preset location from among the plurality of coding units. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may obtain the split shape mode information from a sample at a preset location in a coding unit, and may split the plurality of coding units, which are generated by splitting the current coding unit, by using the split shape mode information, which is obtained from the sample of the preset location in each of the plurality of coding units. That is, a coding unit may be recursively split based on the split shape mode information, which is obtained from the sample at the preset location in each coding unit. An operation of recursively splitting a coding unit has been described above in relation to FIG. 5, and thus detailed descriptions thereof will not be provided here.

[0143] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine one or more coding units by splitting the current coding unit, and may determine an order of decoding the one or more coding units, based on a preset block (e.g., the current coding unit).

[0144] FIG. 7 illustrates an order of processing a plurality of coding units when the image decoding apparatus **100** determines the plurality of coding units by splitting a current coding unit, according to an embodiment.

[0145] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine second coding units **710a** and **710b** by splitting a first coding unit **700** in a vertical direction, may determine second coding units **730a** and **730b** by splitting the first coding unit **700** in a horizontal direction, or may determine second coding units **750a**, **750b**, **750c**, and **750d** by splitting the first coding unit **700** in vertical and horizontal directions, based on split shape mode information.

[0146] Referring to FIG. 7, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine to process the second coding units **710a** and **710b**, which are determined by splitting the first coding unit **700** in a vertical direction, in a horizontal direction order **710c**. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine to process the second coding units **730a** and **730b**, which are determined by splitting the first coding unit **700** in a horizontal direction, in a vertical direction order **730c**. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the second coding units **750a**, **750b**, **750c**, and **750d**, which are determined by splitting the first coding unit **700** in vertical and horizontal directions, according to a preset order by which coding units in a row are processed and then coding units in a next row are processed (e.g., a raster scan order or Z-scan order **750e**).

[0147] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may recursively split coding units. Referring to FIG. 7, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the plurality of coding units **710a** and **710b**, **730a** and **730b**, or **750a**, **750b**, **750c**, and **750d** by splitting the first

coding unit **700**, and may recursively split each of the determined plurality of coding units **710a**, **710b**, **730a**, **730b**, **750a**, **750b**, **750c**, and **750d**. A splitting method of the plurality of coding units **710a** and **710b**, **730a** and **730b**, or **750a**, **750b**, **750c**, and **750d** may correspond to a splitting method of the first coding unit **700**. Accordingly, each of the plurality of coding units **710a** and **710b**, **730a** and **730b**, or **750a**, **750b**, **750c**, and **750d** may be independently split into a plurality of coding units. Referring to FIG. 7, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the second coding units **710a** and **710b** by splitting the first coding unit **700** in a vertical direction, and may determine to independently split or not to split each of the second coding units **710a** and **710b**. [0148] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine third coding units **720a** and **720b** by splitting the left second coding unit **710a** in a horizontal direction, and may not split the right second coding unit **710b**.

[0149] According to an embodiment, a processing order of coding units may be determined based on an operation of splitting a coding unit. In other words, a processing order of split coding units may be determined based on a processing order of coding units immediately before being split. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine a processing order of the third coding units **720a** and **720b** determined by splitting the left second coding unit **710a**, independently of the right second coding unit **710b**. Because the third coding units **720a** and **720b** are determined by splitting the left second coding unit **710a** in a horizontal direction, the third coding units **720a** and **720b** may be processed in a vertical direction order **720c**. Because the left and right second coding units **710a** and **710b** are processed in the horizontal direction order **710c**, the right second coding unit **710b** may be processed after the third coding units **720a** and **720b** included in the left second coding unit **710a** are processed in the vertical direction order **720c**. An operation of determining a processing order of coding units based on a coding unit before being split is not limited to the above-described example, and various methods may be used to independently process coding units, which are split and determined to various shapes, in a preset order.

[0150] FIG. 8 illustrates a process, performed by the image decoding apparatus **100**, of determining that a current coding unit is to be split into an odd number of coding units, when the coding units are not processable in a preset order, according to an embodiment.

[0151] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine that the current coding unit is to be split into an odd number of coding units, based on obtained split shape mode information. Referring to FIG. 8, a square first coding unit **800** may be split into non-square second coding units **810a** and **810b**, and the second coding units **810a** and **810b** may be independently split into third coding units **820a** and **820b**, and **820c**, **820d**, and **820e**. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the plurality of third coding units **820a** and **820b** by splitting the left second coding unit **810a** in a horizontal direction, and may split the right second coding unit **810b** into the odd number of third coding units **820c**, **820d**, and **820e**.

[0152] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine whether any coding unit is split into an odd number of coding units, by determining whether the third coding units **820a** and **820b**, and **820c**, **820d**, and **820e** are processable in a preset order. Referring to FIG. 8, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the third coding units **820a** and **820b**, and **820c**, **820d**, and **820e** by recursively splitting the first coding unit **800**. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine whether any of the first coding unit **800**, the second coding units **810a** and **810b**, or the third coding units **820a** and **820b**, and **820c**, **820d**, and **820e** are split into an odd number of coding units, based on at least one of the block shape information and the split shape mode information. For example, a coding unit located in the right from among the second coding units **810a** and **810b** may be split into an odd number of third coding units **820c**, **820d**, and **820e**. A processing order of a plurality of coding units included in the first coding unit **800** may be a preset order (e.g., a Z-scan order **830**), and the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine whether the third coding units **820c**, **820d**, and **820e**, which are determined by splitting the right

second coding unit **810b** into an odd number of coding units, satisfy a condition for processing in the preset order.

[0153] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine whether the third coding units **820a** and **820b**, and **820c**, **820d**, and **820e** included in the first coding unit **800** satisfy the condition for processing in the preset order, and the condition relates to whether at least one of a width and height of the second coding units **810a** and **810b** is to be split in half along a boundary of the third coding units **820a** and **820b**, and **820c**, **820d**, and **820e**. For example, the third coding units **820a** and **820b** determined when the height of the left second coding unit **810a** of the non-square shape is split in half may satisfy the condition. It may be determined that the third coding units **820c**, **820d**, and **820e** do not satisfy the condition because the boundaries of the third coding units **820c**, **820d**, and **820e** determined when the right second coding unit **810b** is split into three coding units are unable to split the width or height of the right second coding unit **810b** in half. When the condition is not satisfied as described above, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine disconnection of a scan order, and may determine that the right second coding unit **810b** is to be split into an odd number of coding units, based on a result of the determination. According to an embodiment, when a coding unit is split into an odd number of coding units, the image decoding apparatus **100** may put a preset restriction on a coding unit at a preset location from among the split coding units. The restriction or the preset location has been described above in relation to various embodiments, and thus detailed descriptions thereof will not be provided herein.

[0154] FIG. **9** illustrates a process, performed by the image decoding apparatus **100**, of determining at least one coding unit by splitting a first coding unit **900**, according to an embodiment.

[0155] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may split the first coding unit **900**, based on split shape mode information, which is obtained through the bitstream obtainer **110**. The square first coding unit **900** may be split into four square coding units, or may be split into a plurality of non-square coding units. For example, referring to FIG. **9**, when the first coding unit **900** has a square shape and the split shape mode information indicates to split the first coding unit **900** into non-square coding units, the image decoding apparatus **100** may split the first coding unit **900** into a plurality of non-square coding units. In detail, when the split shape mode information indicates to determine an odd number of coding units by splitting the first coding unit **900** in a horizontal direction or a vertical direction, the image decoding apparatus **100** may split the square first coding unit **900** into an odd number of coding units, e.g., second coding units **910a**, **910b**, and **910c** determined by splitting the square first coding unit **900** in a vertical direction or second coding units **920a**, **920b**, and **920c** determined by splitting the square first coding unit **900** in a horizontal direction.

[0156] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine whether the second coding units **910a**, **910b**, **910c**, **920a**, **920b**, and **920c** included in the first coding unit **900** satisfy a condition for processing in a preset order, and the condition relates to whether at least one of a width and height of the first coding unit **900** is to be split in half along a boundary of the second coding units **910a**, **910b**, **910c**, **920a**, **920b**, and **920c**. Referring to FIG. **9**, because boundaries of the second coding units **910a**, **910b**, and **910c** determined by splitting the square first coding unit **900** in a vertical direction do not split the width of the first coding unit **900** in half, it may be determined that the first coding unit **900** does not satisfy the condition for processing in the preset order. Also, because boundaries of the second coding units **920a**, **920b**, and **920c** determined by splitting the square first coding unit **900** in a horizontal direction do not split the height of the first coding unit **900** in half, it may be determined that the first coding unit **900** does not satisfy the condition for processing in the preset order. When the condition is not satisfied as described above, the image decoding apparatus **100** may decide disconnection of a scan order, and may determine that the first coding unit **900** is to be split into an odd number of coding units, based on a result of the decision. According to an embodiment, when a coding unit is split into an odd number of coding units, the image decoding apparatus **100** may put a preset restriction on a coding unit at a

preset location from among the split coding units. The restriction or the preset location has been described above in relation to various embodiments, and thus detailed descriptions thereof will not be provided herein.

[0157] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine various-shaped coding units by splitting a first coding unit.

[0158] Referring to FIG. **9**, the image decoding apparatus **100** may split the square first coding unit **900** or a non-square first coding unit **930** or **950** into various-shaped coding units.

[0159] FIG. **10** illustrates that a shape into which a second coding unit is splittable is restricted when the second coding unit having a non-square shape, which is determined when the image decoding apparatus **100** splits a first coding unit **1000**, satisfies a preset condition, according to an embodiment.

[0160] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine to split the square first coding unit **1000** into non-square second coding units **1010a**, and **1010b** or **1020a** and **1020b**, based on split shape mode information, which is obtained by the bitstream obtainer **110**. The second coding units **1010a** and **1010b**, or **1020a** and **1020b** may be independently split. As such, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine to split or not to split each of the second coding units **1010a** and **1010b**, or **1020a** and **1020b** into a plurality of coding units, based on the split shape mode information of each of the second coding units **1010a** and **1010b**, or **1020a** and **1020b**. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine third coding units **1012a** and **1012b** by splitting the non-square left second coding unit **1010a**, which is determined by splitting the first coding unit **1000** in a vertical direction, in a horizontal direction. However, when the left second coding unit **1010a** is split in a horizontal direction, the image decoding apparatus **100** may restrict the right second coding unit **1010b** not to be split in a horizontal direction in which the left second coding unit **1010a** is split. When third coding units **1014a** and **1014b** are determined by splitting the right second coding unit **1010b** in a same direction, because the left and right second coding units **1010a** and **1010b** are independently split in a horizontal direction, the third coding units **1012a** and **1012b**, or **1014a** and **1014b** may be determined. However, this case serves equally as a case in which the image decoding apparatus **100** splits the first coding unit **1000** into four square second coding units **1030a**, **1030b**, **1030c**, and **1030d**, based on the split shape mode information, and may be inefficient in terms of image decoding.

[0161] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine third coding units **1022a** and **1022b**, or **1024a** and **1024b** by splitting the non-square second coding unit **1020a** or **1020b**, which is determined by splitting the first coding unit **1000** in a horizontal direction, in a vertical direction. However, when a second coding unit (e.g., the upper second coding unit **1020a**) is split in a vertical direction, for the above-described reason, the image decoding apparatus **100** may restrict the other second coding unit (e.g., the lower second coding unit **1020b**) not to be split in a vertical direction in which the upper second coding unit **1020a** is split.

[0162] FIG. **11** illustrates a process, performed by the image decoding apparatus **100**, of splitting a square coding unit when split shape mode information indicates that the square coding unit is not to be split into four square coding units, according to an embodiment.

[0163] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine second coding units **1110a** and **1110b**, or **1120a** and **1120b**, etc. by splitting a first coding unit **1100**, based on split shape mode information. The split shape mode information may include information about various methods of splitting a coding unit, but the information about various splitting methods may not include information for splitting a coding unit into four square coding units. According to such split shape mode information, the image decoding apparatus **100** may not split the square first coding unit **1100** into four square second coding units **1130a**, **1130b**, **1130c**, and **1130d**. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the non-square second coding units **1110a** and **1110b**, or

**1120a** and **1120b**, etc., based on the split shape mode information.

[0164] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may independently split the non-square second coding units **1110a** and **1110b**, or **1120a** and **1120b**, etc. Each of the second coding units **1110a** and **1110b**, or **1120a** and **1120b**, etc. may be recursively split in a preset order, and this splitting method may correspond to a method of splitting the first coding unit **1100**, based on the split shape mode information.

[0165] For example, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine square third coding units **1112a** and **1112b** by splitting the left second coding unit **1110a** in a horizontal direction, and may determine square third coding units **1114a** and **1114b** by splitting the right second coding unit **1110b** in a horizontal direction. Furthermore, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine square third coding units **1116a**, **1116b**, **1116c**, and **1116d** by splitting both of the left and right second coding units **1110a** and **1110b** in a horizontal direction. In this case, coding units having the same shape as the four square second coding units **1130a**, **1130b**, **1130c**, and **1130d** split from the first coding unit **1100** may be determined.

[0166] As another example, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine square third coding units **1122a** and **1122b** by splitting the upper second coding unit **1120a** in a vertical direction, and may determine square third coding units **1124a** and **1124b** by splitting the lower second coding unit **1120b** in a vertical direction. Furthermore, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine square third coding units **1126a**, **1126b**, **1126c**, and **1126d** by splitting both the upper and lower second coding units **1120a** and **1120b** in a vertical direction. In this case, coding units having the same shape as the four square second coding units **1130a**, **1130b**, **1130c**, and **1130d** split from the first coding unit **1100** may be determined.

[0167] FIG. **12** illustrates that a processing order between a plurality of coding units may be changed depending on a process of splitting a coding unit, according to an embodiment.

[0168] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may split a first coding unit **1200**, based on split shape mode information. When a block shape indicates a square shape and the split shape mode information indicates to split the first coding unit **1200** in at least one of horizontal and vertical directions, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine second coding units **1210a** and **1210b**, or **1220a** and **1220b**, etc. by splitting the first coding unit **1200**. Referring to FIG. **12**, the non-square second coding units **1210a** and **1210b**, or **1220a** and **1220b** determined by splitting the first coding unit **1200** in only a horizontal direction or vertical direction may be independently split based on the split shape mode information of each coding unit. For example, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine third coding units **1216a**, **1216b**, **1216c**, and **1216d** by splitting the second coding units **1210a** and **1210b**, which are generated by splitting the first coding unit **1200** in a vertical direction, in a horizontal direction, and may determine third coding units **1226a**, **1226b**, **1226c**, and **1226d** by splitting the second coding units **1220a** and **1220b**, which are generated by splitting the first coding unit **1200** in a horizontal direction, in a vertical direction. An operation of splitting the second coding units **1210a** and **1210b**, or **1220a** and **1220b** has been described above in relation to FIG. **11**, and thus detailed descriptions thereof will not be provided herein.

[0169] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may process coding units in a preset order. An operation of processing coding units in a preset order has been described above in relation to FIG. **7**, and thus detailed descriptions thereof will not be provided herein. Referring to FIG. **12**, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine four square third coding units **1216a**, **1216b**, **1216c**, and **1216d**, and **1226a**, **1226b**, **1226c**, and **1226d** by splitting the square first coding unit **1200**. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine processing orders of the third coding units **1216a**, **1216b**, **1216c**, and **1216d**, and **1226a**, **1226b**, **1226c**, and **1226d** based on a split shape by which the first coding unit **1200** is split.

[0170] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the third coding units **1216a**, **1216b**, **1216c**, and **1216d** by splitting the second coding units **1210a** and

**1210b** generated by splitting the first coding unit **1200** in a vertical direction, in a horizontal direction, and may process the third coding units **1216a**, **1216b**, **1216c**, and **1216d** in a processing order **1217** for initially processing the third coding units **1216a** and **1216c**, which are included in the left second coding unit **1210a**, in a vertical direction and then processing the third coding unit **1216b** and **1216d**, which are included in the right second coding unit **1210b**, in a vertical direction. [0171] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the third coding units **1226a**, **1226b**, **1226c**, and **1226d** by splitting the second coding units **1220a** and **1220b** generated by splitting the first coding unit **1200** in a horizontal direction, in a vertical direction, and may process the third coding units **1226a**, **1226b**, **1226c**, and **1226d** in a processing order **1227** for initially processing the third coding units **1226a** and **1226b**, which are included in the upper second coding unit **1220a**, in a horizontal direction and then processing the third coding unit **1226c** and **1226d**, which are included in the lower second coding unit **1220b**, in a horizontal direction.

[0172] Referring to FIG. 12, the square third coding units **1216a**, **1216b**, **1216c**, and **1216d**, and **1226a**, **1226b**, **1226c**, and **1226d** may be determined by splitting the second coding units **1210a** and **1210b**, and **1220a** and **1220b**, respectively. Although the second coding units **1210a** and **1210b** are determined by splitting the first coding unit **1200** in a vertical direction differently from the second coding units **1220a** and **1220b** which are determined by splitting the first coding unit **1200** in a horizontal direction, the third coding units **1216a**, **1216b**, **1216c**, and **1216d**, and **1226a**, **1226b**, **1226c**, and **1226d** split therefrom eventually show same-shaped coding units split from the first coding unit **1200**. As such, by recursively splitting a coding unit in different manners based on the split shape mode information, the image decoding apparatus **100** may process a plurality of coding units in different orders even when the coding units are eventually determined to be the same shape.

[0173] FIG. 13 illustrates a process of determining a depth of a coding unit as a shape and size of the coding unit change, when the coding unit is recursively split such that a plurality of coding units are determined, according to an embodiment.

[0174] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the depth of the coding unit, based on a preset criterion. For example, the preset criterion may be the length of a long side of the coding unit. When the length of a long side of a coding unit before being split is  $2n$  times ( $n > 0$ ) the length of a long side of a split current coding unit, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine that a depth of the current coding unit is increased from a depth of the coding unit before being split, by  $n$ . In the following descriptions, a coding unit having an increased depth is expressed as a coding unit of a lower depth.

[0175] Referring to FIG. 13, according to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine a second coding unit **1302** and a third coding unit **1304** of lower depths by splitting a square first coding unit **1300** based on block shape information indicating a square shape (e.g., the block shape information may be expressed as '0: SQUARE').

[0176] Assuming that the size of the square first coding unit **1300** is  $2N \times 2N$ , the second coding unit **1302** determined by splitting a width and height of the first coding unit **1300** in  $\frac{1}{2}$  may have a size of  $N \times N$ . Furthermore, the third coding unit **1304** determined by splitting a width and height of the second coding unit **1302** in  $\frac{1}{2}$  may have a size of  $N/2 \times N/2$ . In this case, a width and height of the third coding unit **1304** are  $\frac{1}{4}$  times those of the first coding unit **1300**. When a depth of the first coding unit **1300** is  $D$ , a depth of the second coding unit **1302**, the width and height of which are  $\frac{1}{2}$  times those of the first coding unit **1300**, may be  $D+1$ , and a depth of the third coding unit **1304**, the width and height of which are  $\frac{1}{4}$  times those of the first coding unit **1300**, may be  $D+2$ .

[0177] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine a second coding unit **1312** or **1322** and a third coding unit **1314** or **1324** of lower depths by splitting a non-square first coding unit **1310** or **1320** based on block shape information indicating a non-square shape (e.g., the block shape information may be expressed as '1: NS\_VER' indicating a non-square



shape, a height of which is longer than a width, or as '2: NS\_HOR' indicating a non-square shape, a width of which is longer than a height).

[0178] The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine a second coding unit **1302**, **1312**, or **1322** by splitting at least one of a width and height of the first coding unit **1310** having a size of  $N \times 2N$ . That is, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the second coding unit **1302** having a size of  $N \times N$  or the second coding unit **1322** having a size of  $N \times N/2$  by splitting the first coding unit **1310** in a horizontal direction, or may determine the second coding unit **1312** having a size of  $N/2 \times N$  by splitting the first coding unit **1310** in horizontal and vertical directions.

[0179] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the second coding unit **1302**, **1312**, or **1322** by splitting at least one of a width and height of the first coding unit **1320** having a size of  $2N \times N$ . That is, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the second coding unit **1302** having a size of  $N \times N$  or the second coding unit **1312** having a size of  $N/2 \times N$  by splitting the first coding unit **1320** in a vertical direction, or may determine the second coding unit **1322** having a size of  $N \times N/2$  by splitting the first coding unit **1320** in horizontal and vertical directions.

[0180] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine a third coding unit **1304**, **1314**, or **1324** by splitting at least one of a width and a height of the second coding unit **1302** having a size of  $N \times N$ . That is, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the third coding unit **1304** having a size of  $N/2 \times N/2$ , the third coding unit **1314** having a size of  $N/4 \times N/2$ , or the third coding unit **1324** having a size of  $N/2 \times N/4$  by splitting the second coding unit **1302** in vertical and horizontal directions.

[0181] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the third coding unit **1304**, **1314**, or **1324** by splitting at least one of a width and a height of the second coding unit **1312** having a size of  $N/2 \times N$ . That is, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the third coding unit **1304** having a size of  $N/2 \times N/2$  or the third coding unit **1324** having a size of  $N/2 \times N/4$  by splitting the second coding unit **1312** in a horizontal direction, or may determine the third coding unit **1314** having a size of  $N/4 \times N/2$  by splitting the second coding unit **1312** in vertical and horizontal directions.

[0182] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the third coding unit **1304**, **1314**, or **1324** by splitting at least one of a width and height of the second coding unit **1322** having a size of  $N \times N/2$ . That is, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the third coding unit **1304** having a size of  $N/2 \times N/2$  or the third coding unit **1314** having a size of  $N/4 \times N/2$  by splitting the second coding unit **1322** in a vertical direction, or may determine the third coding unit **1324** having a size of  $N/2 \times N/4$  by splitting the second coding unit **1322** in vertical and horizontal directions.

[0183] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may split the square coding unit **1300**, **1302**, or **1304** in a horizontal or vertical direction. For example, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the first coding unit **1310** having a size of  $N \times 2N$  by splitting the first coding unit **1300** having a size of  $2N \times 2N$  in a vertical direction, or may determine the first coding unit **1320** having a size of  $2N \times N$  by splitting the first coding unit **1300** in a horizontal direction. According to an embodiment, when a depth is determined based on the length of the longest side of a coding unit, a depth of a coding unit determined by splitting the first coding unit **1300** having a size of  $2N \times 2N$  in a horizontal or vertical direction may be the same as the depth of the first coding unit **1300**.

[0184] According to an embodiment, a width and height of the third coding unit **1314** or **1324** may be  $\frac{1}{4}$  times those of the first coding unit **1310** or **1320**. When a depth of the first coding unit **1310** or **1320** is  $D$ , a depth of the second coding unit **1312** or **1322**, the width and height of which are  $\frac{1}{2}$  times those of the first coding unit **1310** or **1320**, may be  $D+1$ , and a depth of the third coding unit **1314** or **1324**, the width and height of which are  $\frac{1}{4}$  times those of the first coding unit **1310** or **1320**, may be  $D+2$ .

[0185] FIG. 14 illustrates depths that are determinable based on shapes and sizes of coding units, and part indexes (PIDs) for distinguishing the coding units, according to an embodiment.

[0186] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine various-shape second coding units by splitting a square first coding unit **1400**. Referring to FIG. 14, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine second coding units **1402a** and **1402b**, **1404a** and **1404b**, and **1406a**, **1406b**, **1406c**, and **1406d** by splitting the first coding unit **1400** in at least one of vertical and horizontal directions based on split shape mode information. That is, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the second coding units **1402a** and **1402b**, **1404a** and **1404b**, and **1406a**, **1406b**, **1406c**, and **1406d**, based on the split shape mode information of the first coding unit **1400**.

[0187] According to an embodiment, depths of the second coding units **1402a** and **1402b**, **1404a** and **1404b**, and **1406a**, **1406b**, **1406c**, and **1406d** that are determined based on the split shape mode information of the square first coding unit **1400** may be determined based on the length of a long side thereof. For example, because the length of a side of the square first coding unit **1400** equals the length of a long side of the non-square second coding units **1402a** and **1402b**, and **1404a** and **1404b**, the first coding unit **1400** and the non-square second coding units **1402a** and **1402b**, and **1404a** and **1404b** may have the same depth, e.g., D. However, when the image decoding apparatus **100** splits the first coding unit **1400** into the four square second coding units **1406a**, **1406b**, **1406c**, and **1406d** based on the split shape mode information, because the length of a side of the square second coding units **1406a**, **1406b**, **1406c**, and **1406d** is  $\frac{1}{2}$  times the length of a side of the first coding unit **1400**, a depth of the second coding units **1406a**, **1406b**, **1406c**, and **1406d** may be D+1 which is deeper than the depth D of the first coding unit **1400** by 1.

[0188] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine a plurality of second coding units **1412a** and **1412b**, and **1414a**, **1414b**, and **1414c** by splitting a first coding unit **1410**, a height of which is longer than a width, in a horizontal direction based on the split shape mode information. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine a plurality of second coding units **1422a** and **1422b**, and **1424a**, **1424b**, and **1424c** by splitting a first coding unit **1420**, a width of which is longer than a height, in a vertical direction based on the split shape mode information.

[0189] According to an embodiment, a depth of the second coding units **1412a** and **1412b**, and **1414a**, **1414b**, and **1414c**, or **1422a** and **1422b**, and **1424a**, **1424b**, and **1424c**, which are determined based on the split shape mode information of the non-square first coding unit **1410** or **1420**, may be determined based on the length of a long side thereof. For example, because the length of a side of the square second coding units **1412a** and **1412b** is  $\frac{1}{2}$  times the length of a long side of the first coding unit **1410** having a non-square shape, a height of which is longer than a width, a depth of the square second coding units **1412a** and **1412b** is D+1 which is deeper than the depth D of the non-square first coding unit **1410** by 1.

[0190] Furthermore, the image decoding apparatus **100** may split the non-square first coding unit **1410** into an odd number of second coding units **1414a**, **1414b**, and **1414c** based on the split shape mode information. The odd number of second coding units **1414a**, **1414b**, and **1414c** may include the non-square second coding units **1414a** and **1414c** and the square second coding unit **1414b**. In this case, because the length of a long side of the non-square second coding units **1414a** and **1414c** and the length of a side of the square second coding unit **1414b** are  $\frac{1}{2}$  times the length of a long side of the first coding unit **1410**, a depth of the second coding units **1414a**, **1414b**, and **1414c** may be D+1 which is deeper than the depth D of the non-square first coding unit **1410** by 1. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine depths of coding units split from the first coding unit **1420** having a non-square shape, a width of which is longer than a height, by using the above-described method of determining depths of coding units split from the first coding unit **1410**.

[0191] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine PIDs for identifying split coding units, based on a size ratio between the coding units when an odd number

of split coding units do not have equal sizes. Referring to FIG. 14, a coding unit **1414b** of a center location among an odd number of split coding units **1414a**, **1414b**, and **1414c** may have a width equal to that of the other coding units **1414a** and **1414c** and a height which is two times that of the other coding units **1414a** and **1414c**. That is, in this case, the coding unit **1414b** at the center location may include two of the other coding unit **1414a** or **1414c**. Therefore, when a PID of the coding unit **1414b** at the center location is 1 based on a scan order, a PID of the coding unit **1414c** located next to the coding unit **1414b** may be increased by 2 and thus may be 3. That is, discontinuity in PID values may be present. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine whether an odd number of split coding units do not have equal sizes, based on whether discontinuity is present in PIDs for identifying the split coding units.

[0192] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine whether to use a specific splitting method, based on PID values for identifying a plurality of coding units determined by splitting a current coding unit. Referring to FIG. 14, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine an even number of coding units **1412a** and **1412b** or an odd number of coding units **1414a**, **1414b**, and **1414c** by splitting the first coding unit **1410** having a rectangular shape, a height of which is longer than a width. The image decoding apparatus **100** may use PIDs indicating respective coding units in order to identify the respective coding units. According to an embodiment, the PID may be obtained from a sample at a preset location of each coding unit (e.g., an upper-left sample).

[0193] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine a coding unit at a preset location from among the split coding units, by using the PIDs for distinguishing the coding units. According to an embodiment, when the split shape mode information of the first coding unit **1410** having a rectangular shape, a height of which is longer than a width, indicates to split a coding unit into three coding units, the image decoding apparatus **100** may split the first coding unit **1410** into three coding units **1414a**, **1414b**, and **1414c**. The image decoding apparatus **100** may assign a PID to each of the three coding units **1414a**, **1414b**, and **1414c**. The image decoding apparatus **100** may compare PIDs of an odd number of split coding units to determine a coding unit at a center location from among the coding units. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the coding unit **1414b** having a PID corresponding to a middle value among the PIDs of the coding units, as the coding unit at the center location from among the coding units determined by splitting the first coding unit **1410**. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine PIDs for distinguishing split coding units, based on a size ratio between the coding units when the split coding units do not have equal sizes. Referring to FIG. 14, the coding unit **1414b** generated by splitting the first coding unit **1410** may have a width equal to that of the other coding units **1414a** and **1414c** and a height which is two times that of the other coding units **1414a** and **1414c**. In this case, when the PID of the coding unit **1414b** at the center location is 1, the PID of the coding unit **1414c** located next to the coding unit **1414b** may be increased by 2 and thus may be 3. When the PID is not uniformly increased as described above, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine that a coding unit is split into a plurality of coding units including a coding unit having a size different from that of the other coding units. According to an embodiment, when the split shape mode information indicates to split a coding unit into an odd number of coding units, the image decoding apparatus **100** may split a current coding unit in such a manner that a coding unit of a preset location among an odd number of coding units (e.g., a coding unit of a center location) has a size different from that of the other coding units. In this case, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the coding unit of the center location, which has a different size, by using PIDs of the coding units. However, the PIDs and the size or location of the coding unit of the preset location are not limited to the above-described examples, and various PIDs and various locations and sizes of coding units may be used.

[0194] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may use a preset data unit where a coding unit starts to be recursively split.

[0195] FIG. 15 illustrates that a plurality of coding units are determined based on a plurality of preset data units included in a picture, according to an embodiment.

[0196] According to an embodiment, a preset data unit may be defined as a data unit where a coding unit starts to be recursively split by using split shape mode information. That is, the preset data unit may correspond to a coding unit of an uppermost depth, which is used to determine a plurality of coding units split from a current picture. In the following descriptions, for convenience of explanation, the preset data unit is referred to as a reference data unit.

[0197] According to an embodiment, the reference data unit may have a preset size and a preset shape. According to an embodiment, a reference data unit may include  $M \times N$  samples. Herein,  $M$  and  $N$  may be equal to each other, and may be integers expressed as powers of 2. That is, the reference data unit may have a square or non-square shape, and may be split into an integer number of coding units.

[0198] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may split the current picture into a plurality of reference data units. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may split the plurality of reference data units, which are split from the current picture, by using the split shape mode information of each reference data unit. The operation of splitting the reference data unit may correspond to a splitting operation using a quadtree structure.

[0199] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may predetermine the minimum size allowed for the reference data units included in the current picture. Accordingly, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine various reference data units having sizes equal to or greater than the minimum size, and may determine one or more coding units by using the split shape mode information with reference to the determined reference data unit.

[0200] Referring to FIG. 15, the image decoding apparatus **100** may use a square reference coding unit **1500** or a non-square reference coding unit **1502**. According to an embodiment, the shape and size of reference coding units may be determined based on various data units capable of including one or more reference coding units (e.g., sequences, pictures, slices, slice segments, tiles, tile groups, largest coding units, or the like).

[0201] According to an embodiment, the bitstream obtainer **110** of the image decoding apparatus **100** may obtain, from a bitstream, at least one of reference coding unit shape information and reference coding unit size information with respect to each of the various data units. An operation of splitting the square reference coding unit **1500** into one or more coding units has been described above in relation to the operation of splitting the current coding unit **300** of FIG. 3, and an operation of splitting the non-square reference coding unit **1502** into one or more coding units has been described above in relation to the operation of splitting the current coding unit **400** or **450** of FIG. 4. Thus, detailed descriptions thereof will not be provided herein.

[0202] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may use a PID for identifying the size and shape of reference coding units, to determine the size and shape of reference coding units according to some data units predetermined based on a preset condition. That is, the bitstream obtainer **110** may obtain, from the bitstream, only the PID for identifying the size and shape of reference coding units with respect to each slice, slice segment, tile, tile group, or largest coding unit which is a data unit satisfying a preset condition (e.g., a data unit having a size equal to or smaller than a slice) among the various data units (e.g., sequences, pictures, slices, slice segments, tiles, tile groups, largest coding units, or the like). The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the size and shape of reference data units with respect to each data unit, which satisfies the preset condition, by using the PID. When the reference coding unit shape information and the reference coding unit size information are obtained and used from the bitstream according to each data unit having a relatively small size, efficiency of using the bitstream may not be high, and therefore, only the PID may be obtained and used instead of directly obtaining the reference coding unit shape information and the reference coding unit size information. In this case, at least one of the size and shape of reference coding units corresponding to the PID for identifying the size

and shape of reference coding units may be predetermined. That is, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine at least one of the size and shape of reference coding units included in a data unit serving as a unit for obtaining the PID, by selecting the predetermined at least one of the size and shape of reference coding units based on the PID.

[0203] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may use one or more reference coding units included in a largest coding unit. That is, a largest coding unit split from a picture may include one or more reference coding units, and coding units may be determined by recursively splitting each reference coding unit. According to an embodiment, at least one of a width and height of the largest coding unit may be integer times at least one of the width and height of the reference coding units. According to an embodiment, the size of reference coding units may be obtained by splitting the largest coding unit  $n$  times based on a quadtree structure. That is, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the reference coding units by splitting the largest coding unit  $n$  times based on a quadtree structure, and may split the reference coding unit based on at least one of the block shape information and the split shape mode information according to various embodiments.

[0204] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may obtain block shape information indicating the shape of a current coding unit or split shape mode information indicating a splitting method of the current coding unit, from the bitstream, and may use the obtained information. The split shape mode information may be included in the bitstream related to various data units. For example, the image decoding apparatus **100** may use the split shape mode information included in a sequence parameter set, a picture parameter set, a video parameter set, a slice header, a slice segment header, a tile header, or a tile group header. Furthermore, the image decoding apparatus **100** may obtain, from the bitstream, a syntax element corresponding to the block shape information or the split shape mode information according to each largest coding unit or each reference coding unit, and may use the obtained syntax element.

[0205] Hereinafter, a method of determining a split rule, according to an embodiment of the disclosure will be described in detail.

[0206] The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine a split rule of an image. The split rule may be predetermined between the image decoding apparatus **100** and the image encoding apparatus **200**. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the split rule of the image, based on information obtained from a bitstream. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the split rule based on the information obtained from at least one of a sequence parameter set, a picture parameter set, a video parameter set, a slice header, a slice segment header, a tile header, and a tile group header. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the split rule differently according to frames, slices, tiles, temporal layers, largest coding units, or coding units.

[0207] The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the split rule based on a block shape of a coding unit. The block shape may include a size, shape, a ratio of width and height, and a direction of the coding unit. The image encoding apparatus **200** and the image decoding apparatus **100** may predetermine to determine the split rule based on the block shape of the coding unit. However, embodiments of the disclosure are not limited thereto. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the split rule based on the information obtained from the bitstream received from the image encoding apparatus **200**.

[0208] The shape of the coding unit may include a square and a non-square. When the lengths of the width and height of the coding unit are the same, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the shape of the coding unit to be a square. Also, when the lengths of the width and height of the coding unit are not the same, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the shape of the coding unit to be a non-square.

[0209] The size of the coding unit may include various sizes, such as  $4 \times 4$ ,  $8 \times 4$ ,  $4 \times 8$ ,  $8 \times 8$ ,  $16 \times 4$ ,  $16 \times 8$ , and to  $256 \times 256$ . The size of the coding unit may be classified based on the length of a long side of the coding unit, the length of a short side, or the area. The image decoding apparatus **100**

may apply the same split rule to coding units classified as the same group. For example, the image decoding apparatus **100** may classify coding units having the same lengths of the long sides as having the same size. Also, the image decoding apparatus **100** may apply the same split rule to coding units having the same lengths of long sides.

[0210] The ratio of the width and height of the coding unit may include 1:2, 2:1, 1:4, 4:1, 1:8, 8:1, 1:16, 16:1, 32:1, 1:32, or the like. Also, a direction of the coding unit may include a horizontal direction and a vertical direction. The horizontal direction may indicate a case in which the length of the width of the coding unit is longer than the length of the height thereof. The vertical direction may indicate a case in which the length of the width of the coding unit is shorter than the length of the height thereof.

[0211] The image decoding apparatus **100** may adaptively determine the split rule based on the size of the coding unit. The image decoding apparatus **100** may differently determine an allowable split shape mode based on the size of the coding unit. For example, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine whether splitting is allowed based on the size of the coding unit. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine a split direction according to the size of the coding unit. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine an allowable split type according to the size of the coding unit.

[0212] The split rule determined based on the size of the coding unit may be a split rule predetermined between the image encoding apparatus **200** and the image decoding apparatus **100**. Also, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the split rule based on the information obtained from the bitstream.

[0213] The image decoding apparatus **100** may adaptively determine the split rule based on a location of the coding unit. The image decoding apparatus **100** may adaptively determine the split rule based on the location of the coding unit in the image.

[0214] Also, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine the split rule such that coding units generated via different splitting paths do not have the same block shape. However, an embodiment is not limited thereto, and the coding units generated via different splitting paths have the same block shape. The coding units generated via the different splitting paths may have different decoding processing orders. Because the decoding processing orders is described above with reference to FIG. **12**, details thereof are not provided again.

[0215] FIG. **16** illustrates coding units of individual pictures, when the individual pictures have different split shape combinations of coding units, according to an embodiment.

[0216] Referring to FIG. **16**, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine different split shape combinations of coding units for individual pictures. For example, the image decoding apparatus **100** may decode an image by using a picture **1600** that can be split into four coding units, a picture **1610** that can be split into two or four coding units, and a picture **1620** that can be split into two, three, or four coding units, among at least one picture included in the image. The image decoding apparatus **100** may use only split shape information indicating splitting into four square coding units, in order to split the picture **1600** into a plurality of coding units. The image decoding apparatus **100** may use only split shape information indicating splitting into two or four coding units, in order to split the picture **1610**. The image decoding apparatus **100** may use only split shape information indicating splitting into two, three, or four coding units, in order to split the picture **1620**. The above-described split shape combinations are embodiments for describing operations of the image decoding apparatus **100**, and therefore, the above-described split shape combinations should not be interpreted to be limited to the above-described embodiments. It should be interpreted that various split shape combinations can be used for each preset data unit.

[0217] According to an embodiment, the bitstream obtainer **110** of the image decoding apparatus **100** may obtain a bitstream including an index representing a combination of split shape information for each preset data unit (for example, a sequence, a picture, a slice, a slice segment, a tile, a tile group, etc.). For example, the bitstream obtainer **110** may obtain an index representing a

combination of split shape information from a sequence parameter set, a picture parameter set, a slice header, a tile header, or a tile group header. The bitstream obtainer **110** of the image decoding apparatus **100** may use the obtained index to determine a split shape combination into which coding units can be split for each preset data unit, and accordingly, the bitstream obtainer **110** may use different split shape combinations for individual preset data units.

[0218] FIG. **17** illustrates various shapes of coding units that can be determined based on split shape mode information, and that can be expressed with a binary code, according to an embodiment.

[0219] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may split coding units into various shapes by using block shape information and split shape mode information obtained through the bitstream obtainer **110**. Shapes into which coding units can be split may be various shapes including shapes described above through the embodiments.

[0220] Referring to FIG. **17**, the image decoding apparatus **100** may split a coding unit having a square shape in at least one of a horizontal direction and a vertical direction, and may split a coding unit having a non-square shape in the horizontal direction or the vertical direction, based on split shape mode information.

[0221] According to an embodiment, when the image decoding apparatus **100** can split a coding unit having a square shape in the horizontal direction and the vertical direction to determine four square coding units, split shape mode information for a square coding unit may represent four split shapes. According to an embodiment, the split shape mode information may be expressed with a binary code of 2 digits, and each split shape may be assigned a binary code. For example, when a coding unit is not split, split shape mode information may be expressed as **(00)b**, when a coding unit is split in the horizontal direction and the vertical direction, split shape mode information may be expressed as **(01)b**, when a coding unit is split in the horizontal direction, split shape mode information may be expressed as **(10)b**, and when a coding unit is split in the vertical direction, split shape mode information may be expressed as **(11)b**.

[0222] According to an embodiment, when the image decoding apparatus **100** splits a coding unit having a non-square shape in the horizontal direction or the vertical direction, kinds of split shapes that can be represented by split shape mode information may depend on the number of coding units into which the coding unit is to be split. Referring to FIG. **17**, the image decoding apparatus **100** may split a coding unit having a non-square shape into up to three coding units, according to an embodiment. Also, the image decoding apparatus **100** may split a coding unit into two coding units. In this case, split shape mode information may be expressed as **(10)b**. The image decoding apparatus **100** may split a coding unit into three coding units. In this case, split shape mode information may be expressed as **(11)b**. The image decoding apparatus **100** may determine not to split a coding unit. In this case, split shape mode information may be expressed as **(0)b**. That is, the image decoding apparatus **100** may use Variable Length Coding (VLC), instead of Fixed Length Coding (FLC), in order to use a binary code representing split shape mode information.

[0223] According to an embodiment, referring to FIG. **17**, a binary code of split shape mode information representing that a coding unit is not split may be expressed as **(0)b**. In the case in which a binary code of split shape mode information representing that a coding unit is not split is set to **(00)b**, a binary code of split shape mode information of 2 bits may be all used although there is no split shape mode information set to **(01)b**. However, in the case in which three split shapes are used for a coding unit having a non-square shape, as shown in FIG. **17**, the image decoding apparatus **100** can determine that a coding unit is not split by using a binary code **(0)b** of 1 bit as split shape mode information, thereby efficiently using a bitstream. However, split shapes of a coding unit having a non-square shape, which are represented by split shape mode information, should be not interpreted to be limited to three shapes shown in FIG. **17**, and should be interpreted to be various shapes including the above-described embodiments.

[0224] FIG. **18** illustrates other shapes of coding units that can be determined based on split shape

mode information that can be represented with a binary code, according to an embodiment.

[0225] Referring to FIG. 18, the image decoding apparatus 100 may split a coding unit having a square shape in the horizontal direction or the vertical direction, and a coding unit having a non-square shape in the horizontal direction or the vertical direction, based on split shape mode information. That is, the split shape mode information may indicate splitting a coding unit having a square shape in one direction. In this case, a binary code of split shape mode information representing that a coding unit having a square shape is not split may be expressed as (0)b. In the case in which a binary code of split shape mode information representing that a coding unit is not split is set to (00)b, a binary code of split shape mode information of 2 bits may need to be all used although there is no split shape mode information set to (01)b. However, in the case in which three split shapes are used for a coding unit having a square shape, as shown in FIG. 18, the image decoding apparatus 100 can determine that a coding unit is not split by using a binary code (0)b of 1 bit as split shape mode information, thereby efficiently using a bitstream. However, split shapes of a coding unit having a square shape, which are represented by split shape mode information, should be not interpreted to be limited to three shapes shown in FIG. 18, and should be interpreted to be various shapes including the above-described embodiments.

[0226] According to an embodiment, block shape information or split shape mode information may be expressed by using a binary code, and the block shape information or split shape mode information may be generated directly as a bitstream. Also, block shape information or split shape mode information that can be expressed with a binary code may be used as an input binary code in context adaptive binary arithmetic coding (CABAC), instead of being generated directly as a bitstream.

[0227] A process in which the image decoding apparatus 100 obtains a syntax for block shape information or split shape mode information through CABAC, according to an embodiment, will be described. The image decoding apparatus 100 may obtain a bitstream including a binary code for the syntax through the bitstream obtainer 110. The image decoding apparatus 100 may de-binarize a bin string included in the obtained bitstream to detect a syntax element representing block shape information or split shape mode information. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may obtain a group of binary bin strings corresponding to a syntax element to be decoded, and decode the individual bins by using probability information. The image decoding apparatus 100 may repeat the operation until a bin string configured with the decoded bins is identical to one of previously obtained bin strings. The image decoding apparatus 100 may perform de-binarization on the bin string to determine a syntax element.

[0228] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may perform a decoding process of adaptive binary arithmetic coding to determine a syntax for the bin string, and the image decoding apparatus 100 may update a probability model for the bins obtained through the bitstream obtainer 110. Referring to FIG. 17, the bitstream obtainer 110 of the image decoding apparatus 100 may obtain a bitstream that represents a binary code representing split shape mode information, according to an embodiment. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine a syntax for the split shape mode information by using the obtained binary code having a size of 1 or 2 bits. The image decoding apparatus 100 may update a probability for each bit of the binary code of 2 bits, in order to determine the syntax for the split shape mode information. That is, based on whether a first bin of the binary code of 2 bits is has a value of 0 or 1, the image decoding apparatus 100 may update a probability that the next bin will have a value of 0 or 1 upon decoding.

[0229] According to an embodiment, in the process of determining the syntax, the image decoding apparatus 100 may update probabilities for the bins that are used in a process of decoding the bins of the bin string for the syntax, and the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine that a specific bit of the bin string has the same probability, without updating a probability of the specific bit.

[0230] Referring to FIG. 17, in a process of determining a syntax by using a bin string representing



split shape mode information for a coding unit having a non-square shape, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine a syntax for the split shape mode information by using a bin having a value of 0 in the case in which the coding unit having the non-square shape is not split. That is, when block shape information represents that a current coding unit has a non-square shape, a first bin of the bin string for the split shape mode information may be 0 in the case in which the coding unit having the non-square shape is not split, and may be 1 in the case in which the coding unit is split into two or three coding units. Accordingly, a probability that the first bin of the bin string of the split shape mode information for the coding unit having the non-square shape will be 0 may be  $\frac{1}{3}$ , and a probability that the first bin will be 1 may be  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Because split shape mode information representing that a coding unit having a non-square shape is not split can be expressed with a bin string of 1 bit having a value of 0, as described above, the image decoding apparatus **100** may only determine whether a second bin is 0 or 1 in the case in which the first bin of the split shape mode information is 1, to determine the syntax for the split shape mode information. According to an embodiment, when the first bin for the split shape mode information is 1, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine that a probability that the second bin will be **0** is equal to a probability that the second bin will be **1**, and decode the second bin.

[0231] Accordingly, the image decoding apparatus **100** may use, in the process of determining the bins of the bin string for the split shape mode information, various probabilities for the individual bins. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine different probabilities of bins for split shape mode information according to a width of a current coding unit or a length of a longer side of the current coding unit. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine different probabilities of bins for split shape mode information according to at least one of a shape of a current coding unit and a length of a longer side of the current coding unit. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine different probabilities of bins for split shape mode information according to at least one of a shape of a current coding unit and a length of a longer side of the current coding unit.

[0232] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine that probabilities of bins for split shape mode information are the same with respect to coding units that are equal to or larger than a preset size. For example, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine that probabilities of bins for split shape mode information are the same with respect to coding units of which lengths of longer sides are equal to or greater than 64 samples.

[0233] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus **100** may determine initial probabilities for bins constituting a bin string of split shape mode information based on a slice type (for example, an I slice, a P slice, or a B slice).

[0234] FIG. **19** is a block diagram of an image encoding and decoding system.

[0235] An encoder **1900** of an image encoding and decoding system may transmit an encoded bitstream of an image, and a decoder **1950** of the image encoding and decoding system may receive a bitstream and decode the bitstream to output a reconstructed image. Herein, the decoder **1950** may be a configuration that is similar to the image decoding apparatus **100**.

[0236] In the encoder **1900**, when a prediction mode of a current block is an inter prediction mode, an inter predictor **1905** generates motion information of the current block indicating a reference block of a reference picture temporally adjacent to a current picture. The inter predictor **1905** may determine prediction samples of a current block by using samples of reference blocks. To determine prediction samples of the current block by using neighboring samples spatially adjacent to the current block, the intra predictor **1910** may determine intra prediction information indicating a direction in which neighboring samples similar to the current block are located or a method of determining the prediction samples.

[0237] The inter predictor **1905** may determine reference samples that are to be used for predicting the current block, from among pre-reconstructed samples stored in a decoded picture buffer (DPB) **1948**.

[0238] A transformer **1920** outputs transform coefficients by performing transformation on residual sample values obtained by subtracting the prediction samples generated by the inter predictor **1905** or the intra predictor **1910** from an original sample of the current block. A quantizer **1925** quantizes the transform coefficients output by the transformer **1920** to output quantized transform coefficients. The entropy encoder **1930** may encode the quantized transform coefficients to residual syntax elements including level values to output the quantized transform coefficients in the form of a bitstream.

[0239] The quantized transform coefficients output by the quantizer **1925** may be inversely quantized and inversely transformed through an inverse-quantizer **1933** and an inverse transformer **1935**, and thus residual sample values may be generated again.

[0240] An adder adds the residual sample values to the prediction sample values to output a reconstructed sample value. A post-reconstruction filter **1940** may perform after-reconstruction filtering with respect to reconstructed samples, and reconstructed samples updated through after-reconstruction filtering may be used as reference sample values for intra prediction that is to be performed in the intra predictor **1910**. The post-reconstruction filter **1940** may perform Hadamard transform domain filtering or bilateral filtering on the reconstructed sample values.

[0241] An in-loop filter **1945** may perform at least one of deblocking filtering and adaptive loop filtering on the reconstructed samples updated through after-reconstruction filtering. Reconstructed sample values updated through the filtering of the in-loop filter **1945** may be stored in the DPB **1948** and may be used as reference sample values for inter prediction to be performed by the inter predictor **1905**.

[0242] An entropy decoder **1955** of the decoder **1950** may parse residual syntax elements including level values by performing entropy decoding on the received bitstream. The entropy decoder **1955** may reconstruct quantized transform coefficients from the residual syntax elements. The inverse-quantizer **1960** may output transform coefficients by performing inverse quantization on the quantized transform coefficients, and an inverse-transformer **1965** may output residual sample values by performing inverse transformation on the transform coefficients.

[0243] An inter predictor **1970** of the decoder **1950** may determine a reference picture temporally adjacent to a current picture by using motion information of a current block parsed by the entropy decoder **1955**, and may determine a reference block within the reference picture. The inter predictor **1970** may determine prediction samples of the current block by using samples of reference blocks. An intra predictor **1975** of the decoder **1950** may determine reference samples spatially adjacent to the current block by using intra motion information and motion information of the current block parsed by the entropy decoder **1955**, and may determine prediction samples of the current block by using the determined neighboring samples.

[0244] The inter predictor **1970** may determine reference samples that are to be used for predicting the current block, from among pre-reconstructed samples stored in a decoded picture buffer (DPB) **1990**.

[0245] An adder **1995** of the decoder **1950** adds the residual sample values to the prediction sample values to output a reconstructed sample value of the current block. A post-reconstruction filter **1980** of the decoder **1950** may perform Hadamard transform domain filtering or bilateral filtering on the reconstructed sample values. Reconstructed samples updated through the after-reconstruction filtering of the post-reconstruction filter **1980** may be used as reference sample values for intra prediction that is to be performed in the intra predictor **1975**.

[0246] An in-loop filter **1985** of the decoder **1950** may perform at least one of deblocking filtering and adaptive loop filtering on the reconstructed samples updated through after-reconstruction filtering. Reconstructed sample values updated through the filtering of the in-loop filter **1985** may be stored in the DPB **1990** and may be used as reference sample values for inter prediction to be performed by the inter predictor **1970**.

[0247] Various embodiments described above describe operations related to an image decoding

method that is performed by the image decoding apparatus **100**. Hereinafter, operations of the image encoding apparatus **200** that performs an image encoding method corresponding to a reverse order of the image decoding method will be described through various embodiments.

[0248] FIG. **2** is a block diagram of the image encoding apparatus **200** capable of encoding an image, based on at least one of block shape information and split shape mode information, according to an embodiment.

[0249] The image encoding apparatus **200** may include an encoder **220** and a bitstream generator **210**. The encoder **220** may receive an input image and encode the input image. The encoder **220** may encode the input image to obtain at least one syntax element. The syntax element may include at least one of a skip flag, a prediction mode, a motion vector difference, a motion vector prediction method (or index), a transform quantized coefficient, a coded block pattern, a coded block flag, an intra prediction mode, a direct flag, a merge flag, a delta QP, a reference index, a prediction direction, or a transform index. The encoder **220** may determine a context model, based on block shape information including at least one of a shape, a direction, a ratio of a height and a width, or a size of a coding unit.

[0250] The bitstream generator **210** may generate a bitstream, based on an encoded input image. For example, the bitstream generator **210** may generate a bitstream by performing entropy encoding on a syntax element based on a context model. The image encoding apparatus **200** may transmit the bitstream to the image decoding apparatus **100**.

[0251] According to an embodiment, the encoder **220** of the image encoding apparatus **200** may determine a shape of a coding unit. For example, a coding unit may have a square shape or a non-square shape, and information representing such a shape may be included in block shape information.

[0252] According to an embodiment, the encoder **220** may determine a shape into which a coding unit is to be split. The encoder **220** may determine a shape of at least one coding unit included in a coding unit, and the bitstream generator **210** may generate a bitstream including split shape mode information including information about the shape of the coding unit.

[0253] According to an embodiment, the encoder **220** may determine whether or not to split a coding unit. When the encoder **220** determines that a coding unit includes only one coding unit or that a coding unit is not split, the bitstream generator **210** may generate a bitstream including split shape mode information representing that the coding unit is not split. The encoder **220** may split a coding unit into a plurality of coding units included in the coding unit, and the bitstream generator **210** may generate a bitstream including split shape mode information representing that a coding unit is to be split into a plurality of coding units.

[0254] According to an embodiment, information representing the number of coding units into which a coding unit is split or a direction in which the coding unit is split may be included in the split shape mode information. For example, the split shape mode information may represent splitting in at least one direction of a vertical direction and a horizontal direction or may represent non-splitting.

[0255] The image encoding apparatus **200** may determine split shape mode information based on a split shape mode of a coding unit. The image encoding apparatus **200** may determine a context model, based on at least one of a shape, a direction, a ratio of a width and a height, or a size of the coding unit. The image encoding apparatus **200** may generate information about a split shape mode for splitting the coding unit as a bitstream based on the context model.

[0256] To determine the context model, the image encoding apparatus **200** may obtain an arrangement for corresponding at least one of a shape, a direction, a ratio of a width and a height, or a size of the coding unit to an index for the context model. The image encoding apparatus **200** may obtain the index for the context model, based on at least one of the shape, the direction, the ratio of the width and the height, or the size of the coding unit, from the arrangement. The image encoding apparatus **200** may determine the context model, based on the index for the context

model.

[0257] To determine the context model, the image encoding apparatus **200** may determine the context model further based on block shape information including at least one of a shape, a direction, a ratio of a width and a height, or a size of a surrounding coding unit adjacent to the coding unit. The surrounding coding unit may include at least one of coding units located on the left-lower side, left side, left-upper side, upper side, right-upper side, right side, or right-lower side of the coding unit.

[0258] To determine the context model, the image encoding apparatus **200** may compare a length of a width of an upper surrounding coding unit with a length of the width of the coding unit. The image encoding apparatus **200** may compare lengths of heights of left and right surrounding coding units with a length of the height of the coding unit. The image encoding apparatus **200** may determine the context model, based on results of the comparisons.

[0259] Operations of the image encoding apparatus **200** include may be similar to those of the image decoding apparatus **100** described above with reference to FIGS. **3** to **19**, and therefore, detailed descriptions thereof will be omitted.

[0260] FIG. **20** is a block diagram of a structure of an image decoding apparatus **2000** according to an embodiment.

[0261] Referring to FIG. **20**, the image decoding apparatus **2000** may include a bitstream obtainer **2010** and a prediction decoder **2030**. The prediction decoder **2030** includes a motion vector prediction unit **2032** and a motion vector reconstruction unit **2034**.

[0262] In embodiments, the bitstream obtainer **2010** shown in FIG. **20** may correspond to the bitstream obtainer **110** shown in FIG. **1**, and the prediction decoder **2030** may correspond to the decoder **120** shown in FIG. **1**.

[0263] The bitstream obtainer **2010** and the prediction decoder **2030**, according to an embodiment, may be implemented as at least one processor. The image decoding apparatus **2000** may include one or more memories for storing input and output data of the bitstream obtainer **2010** and the prediction decoder **2030**. The image decoding apparatus **2000** may include a memory controller for controlling data inputs and outputs of the memory.

[0264] The bitstream obtainer **2010** obtains a bitstream as a result of encoding of a picture. The bitstream obtainer **2010** obtains syntax elements for decoding a picture from the bitstream. Binary values corresponding to the syntax elements may be included in the bitstream according to a layer structure of a picture. The bitstream obtainer **2010** may obtain the syntax elements by entropy-decoding the binary values included in the bitstream.

[0265] The bitstream may include information about a prediction mode of a current block within a current picture. The current block may refer to a block of a largest coding unit, a coding unit, or a transformation unit split from the current picture desired to be decoded.

[0266] The prediction mode of the current block may include an intra prediction mode or an inter prediction mode. As described above, the inter prediction mode is a mode of reconstructing a current block from a reference block indicated by a motion vector of the current block within a reference picture.

[0267] The prediction decoder **2030** may reconstruct the current block by using intra prediction or inter prediction according to a prediction mode of the current block.

[0268] In the inter prediction mode, motion information may be used to reconstruct the current block. Motion information of the current block may include a prediction direction, a reference picture index, and a motion vector of the current block. The prediction direction, the reference picture index, and the motion vector of the current block may be confirmed from information included in the bitstream.

[0269] The prediction direction of the current block may be one of a list **0** direction, a list **1** direction, and a bidirection. The prediction direction being the list **0** direction refers to using a picture included in a reference picture list **0** as a reference picture of the list **0** direction, and the

prediction direction being the list **1** direction refers to using a picture included in a reference picture list **1** as a reference picture of the list **1** direction. The prediction direction being the bidirection refers to using a picture included in a reference picture list **0** as a reference picture of the list **0** direction and using a picture included in a reference picture list **1** as a reference picture of the list **1** direction.

[0270] The reference picture index indicates a picture used as a reference picture of a block from among pictures included in the reference picture list **0** and/or the reference picture list **1**. According to a reference picture index of the list **0** direction, a picture used as a reference picture of the reference picture list **0** is specified from among the pictures included in the list **0** direction.

According to a reference picture index of the list **1** direction, a picture used as a reference picture of the reference picture list **1** is specified from among the pictures included in the list **1** direction.

[0271] The motion vector specifies a location of the reference block within the reference picture. A motion vector of the list **0** direction means a motion vector indicating a reference block within a reference picture of the list **0** direction, and a motion vector of the list **1** direction means a motion vector indicating a reference block within a reference picture of the list **1** direction.

[0272] When the prediction direction of the current block is the list **0** direction, the motion information of the current block includes at least one of information indicating that the prediction direction of the current block is the list **0** direction, the reference picture index of the list **0** direction, and the motion vector of the list **0** direction. When the prediction direction of the current block is the list **1** direction, the motion information of the current block includes at least one of information indicating that the prediction direction of the current block is the list **1** direction, the reference picture index of the list **1** direction, and the motion vector of the list **1** direction. When the prediction direction of the current block is the bidirection, the motion information of the current block includes at least one of information indicating that the prediction direction of the current block is the bidirection, the reference picture index of the list **0** direction, the reference picture index of the list **1** direction, the motion vector of the list **0** direction, and the motion vector of the list **1** direction.

[0273] According to an embodiment, when the prediction mode of the current block is an inter prediction mode, the bitstream obtainer **2010** may obtain information indicating the prediction direction of the current block and the reference picture index of the current block from the bitstream. The prediction decoder **2030** may obtain a differential motion vector of the current block from the information included in the bitstream and combine a prediction motion vector of the current block with the differential motion vector to obtain a motion vector of the current block.

[0274] The prediction decoder **2030** may reconstruct the current block, based on the prediction direction, the reference picture index, and the motion vector of the current block.

[0275] An example of a method, performed by the prediction decoder **2030**, of obtaining the prediction motion vector of the current block will now be described in detail.

[0276] The motion vector prediction unit **2032** according to an embodiment may obtain the prediction motion vector by using motion vectors of neighboring blocks adjacent to the current block. The neighboring blocks, which are blocks at pre-determined locations used to obtain the prediction motion vector of the current block, are included in the current picture together with the current block.

[0277] The neighboring blocks may include a block **A0**, a block **A1**, a block **B0**, a block **B1**, and a block **B2**.

[0278] The motion vector prediction unit **2032** may identify locations of the block **A0**, the block **A1**, the block **B0**, the block **B1**, and the block **B2**, based on information indicating the availability of left and right blocks of the current block.

[0279] In a related art video codec, decoding in a raster scan direction may be conducted on a picture. In this case, the left block of the current block may be completely decoded before the current block and may be available for the current block, and the right block of the current block is

not completely decoded before the current block and may be not available for the current block.  
[0280] In embodiments, a direction of decoding blocks split from a picture may be adaptively determined. In other words, coding efficiency may be improved by decoding some of the blocks split from the picture in a direction from the right to the left instead of decoding all of the blocks split from the picture in a raster scan direction. Accordingly, the right block of the current block may be available and the left block of the current block may be not available, or the left and right blocks of the current block may both be available.

[0281] A determination about whether the left block and the right block are available may be made in the same manner as a determination about availability of a first neighboring block which is described below.

[0282] Locations of the neighboring blocks that vary according to the availability of the left and right blocks of the current block will be described below with reference to FIGS. **21A** through **21C**.

[0283] FIG. **21A** illustrates locations of neighboring blocks when a left block of a current block **2100** is available.

[0284] The locations of the neighboring blocks when the left block of the current block **2100** is available may be identical to locations of spatial neighboring blocks defined in the HEVC standard.

[0285] Referring to FIG. **21A**, the neighboring blocks may include a left lower corner block **A0**, a left lower block **A1**, a right upper corner block **B0**, a right upper block **B1**, and a left upper corner block **B2** of the current block **2100**. As shown in FIG. **21A**, the left lower block **A1** may be located above the left lower corner block **A0**, and the right upper block **B1** may be located on a left side of the right upper corner block **B0**.

[0286] FIG. **21B** illustrates locations of neighboring blocks when left and right blocks of the current block **2100** are both available.

[0287] Referring to FIG. **21B**, the neighboring blocks may include a right upper corner block **A0**, a left lower block **A1**, a left upper block **B0**, a right lower block **B1**, and a left upper corner block **B2** of the current block **2100**. As shown in FIG. **21B**, the left upper corner block **B2** may be located on a left side of the left upper block **B0**.

[0288] FIG. **21C** illustrates locations of neighboring blocks when the right block of the current block **2100** is available.

[0289] Referring to FIG. **21C**, the neighboring blocks may include a right lower corner block **A0**, a right lower block **A1**, a left upper corner block **B0**, a left upper block **B1**, and a right upper corner block **B2** of the current block **2100**. As shown in FIG. **21C**, the right lower block **A1** may be located above the right lower corner block **A0**, and the left upper block **B1** may be located on a right side of the left upper corner block **B0**.

[0290] The locations of the neighboring blocks shown in FIGS. **21A** through **21C** are merely an example. According to embodiments, the locations of the neighboring blocks and the number of neighboring blocks may vary.

[0291] The motion vector prediction unit **2032** may determine the availability of the left and right blocks of the current block, and may specify the locations of the neighboring blocks to be used to obtain the prediction motion vector of the current block, from the information indicating the availability of the left and right blocks of the current block.

[0292] According to an embodiment, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** selects the first neighboring block from information obtained from the bitstream. The first neighboring block may be one of a block **A0**, a block **A1**, a block **B0**, a block **B1**, and a block **B2** corresponding to the neighboring blocks.

[0293] According to an embodiment, the information obtained from the bitstream may be information indicating motion vector resolution of the current block. The motion vector prediction unit **2032** may confirm the information indicating motion vector resolution of the current block according to the information obtained from the bitstream from among a plurality of pre-determined motion vector resolutions, and may select the first neighboring block for obtaining the prediction

motion vector.

[0294] The motion vector resolution may refer to precision of a location of a pixel that may be indicated by a motion vector determined through inter prediction from among the pixels included in the reference picture (or an interpolated reference picture). The motion vector resolution having an N pixel unit (where N is a rational number) means that a motion vector may have precision of an N pixel unit. For example, motion vector resolution of a  $\frac{1}{4}$  pixel unit may mean that a motion vector may indicate a pixel of a  $\frac{1}{4}$  pixel unit (i.e., a subpixel unit) in an interpolated reference picture, and motion vector resolution of a 1 pixel unit may mean that a motion vector may indicate a pixel of a 1 pixel unit (i.e., an integer pixel unit) in an interpolated reference picture. A motion vector resolution capable of expressing the motion vector of the current block from among several motion vector resolutions may be adaptively determined.

[0295] According to an embodiment, the information indicating the motion vector resolution, which is obtained from the bitstream, may indicate a first neighboring block from among neighboring blocks at different locations while indicating one motion vector resolution from among several motion vector resolutions.

[0296] FIG. 22 is a table showing a matching relationship between indexes of motion vector resolutions, the motion vector resolutions, and locations of neighboring blocks.

[0297] Referring to FIG. 22, a motion vector resolution and a neighboring block corresponding to the first neighboring block may be determined according to the values of an AMVR index. For example, when the AMVR index is 0, the motion vector resolution of the current block may be selected as a  $\frac{1}{4}$ -pixel unit (pel), and the first neighboring block may be selected as the block A1. When the AMVR index is 1, the motion vector resolution of the current block may be selected as a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -pixel unit (pel), and the first neighboring block may be selected as the block B1.

[0298] In the HEVC standard, several neighboring blocks are included in a candidate list, and a motion vector of a neighboring block in the candidate list selected from information signaled through a bitstream is used as a prediction motion vector. However, according to embodiments, a first neighboring block used to obtain a prediction motion vector of a current block may be specified according to information obtained from a bitstream, namely, information indicating motion vector resolution of the current block. Accordingly, special information (for example, `mvp_10_flag` and `mvp_11_flag` in HEVC) indicating one neighboring block included in a candidate list is not included in a bitstream.

[0299] The motion vector prediction unit **2032** determines the availability of the first neighboring block selected according to the information indicating the motion vector resolution. In detail, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** determines the availability of the first neighboring block according to at least one of whether a tile including the first neighboring block is different from a tile including the current block, whether the first neighboring block is located outside the current picture, whether the first neighboring block has been intra-predicted, and whether reconstruction of the first neighboring block has been completed.

[0300] For example, when any one of the following four conditions is satisfied, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** may determine that the first neighboring block is not available.

[0301] (Condition 1) The tile including the first neighboring block is different from the tile including the current block.

[0302] (Condition 2) The first neighboring block is located outside the current picture.

[0303] (Condition 3) The first neighboring block is not reconstructed.

[0304] (Condition 4) The first neighboring block has been coded in an intra prediction mode or an intra block copy (IBC) mode.

[0305] In the IBC mode, a prediction block corresponding to the current block is searched from the current picture. The prediction block may be found through motion estimation with respect to the current picture. For example, the prediction block may be searched in the current picture in units of integer pixels, and a positional relationship between the current block and a found prediction block

may be signaled to a decoder.

[0306] According to an embodiment, when it is identified, from information indicating the availability of the first neighboring block, that the first neighboring block is available and a reference picture index of the first neighboring block of the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is not identical to a pre-determined value (for example, -1), the motion vector prediction unit **2032** may determine that the motion vector of the first neighboring block is available as the prediction motion vector. When the motion vector of the first neighboring block is available as the prediction motion vector, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** derives the prediction motion vector of the current block from the motion vector of the first neighboring block.

[0307] Even when it is identified, from the information indicating the availability of the first neighboring block, that the first neighboring block is not available or the first neighboring block is available, when the reference picture index of the first neighboring block of the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is identical to the pre-determined value, it may be determined that the motion vector of the first neighboring block is not available as the prediction motion vector. In this case, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** may obtain a default motion vector according to a default motion vector derivation procedure, an example of which is described below, and may obtain a prediction motion vector of the current block by using the default motion vector.

[0308] When the reference picture index of the first neighboring block of the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is not identical to the pre-determined value, this may mean that there is a motion vector of the first neighboring block that indicates a reference picture of the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block. On the other hand, when the reference picture index of the first neighboring block of the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is identical to the pre-determined value, this may mean that there are no motion vectors of the first neighboring block that indicate a reference picture of the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block.

[0309] The reference picture index of the first neighboring block includes a reference picture index of the list **0** direction and a reference picture index of the list **1** direction. The value of the reference picture index of the list **0** direction and the value of the reference picture index of the list **1** direction may be determined according to the prediction direction of the first neighboring block.

[0310] For example, when the prediction direction of the first neighboring block is the list **0** direction, the reference picture index of the list **0** direction is set as the value of an index (for example, ref\_idx\_I0) obtained from the bitstream, and the reference picture index of the list **1** direction is set as a pre-determined value. Because the pictures included in a reference picture list have indexes of 0 to n (where n is a natural number), the pre-determined value may be a value different from 0 to n, for example, -1.

[0311] When the prediction direction of the first neighboring block is the list **1** direction, the reference picture index of the list **1** direction is set as the value of an index (for example, ref\_idx\_I1) obtained from the bitstream, and the reference picture index of the list **0** direction is set as a pre-determined value.

[0312] When the prediction direction of the first neighboring block is a bidirection, the reference picture index of the list **0** direction and the reference picture index of the list **1** direction are both set as values of indexes (for example, ref\_idx\_10 and ref\_idx\_11) obtained from the bitstream.

[0313] An example of a case where the reference picture index of the first neighboring block of the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is identical to the pre-determined value or not identical to the pre-determined value will now be described with reference to FIGS. **23A** through **23C**.

[0314] FIG. **23A** illustrates a case where a reference picture index of a first neighboring block in



the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of a current block is not identical to a pre-determined value.

[0315] Referring to FIG. 23A, respective prediction directions of a current block **2312** and a first neighboring block **2314** are both the list **0** direction. Accordingly, a motion vector MV of the first neighboring block **2314** indicates a reference block within a reference picture **2330** included in a reference picture list **0**. A reference picture index of the first neighboring block **2314** in the list **0** direction is set according to the information obtained from the bitstream, and a reference picture index of the first neighboring block **2314** in the list **1** direction is set as a pre-determined value. Because the reference picture index of the first neighboring block **2314** in the same prediction direction, namely, the list **0** direction, as the prediction direction of the current block **2312** is not identical to the pre-determined value, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** obtains a prediction motion vector of the current block **2312** by using the motion vector M V of the first neighboring block **2314**.

[0316] Similarly, when the respective prediction directions of the current block **2312** and the first neighboring block **2314** are both the list **1** direction, because the reference picture index of the first neighboring block **2314** in the same prediction direction, namely, the list **1** direction, as the prediction direction of the current block **2312** is not identical to the pre-determined value, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** obtains a prediction motion vector of the current block **2312** by using the motion vector MV of the first neighboring block **2314**.

[0317] FIG. 23B illustrates a case where the reference picture index of the first neighboring block in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is identical to the pre-determined value.

[0318] Referring to FIG. 23B, the prediction directions of the current block **2312** is the list **1** direction and the prediction directions of the first neighboring block **2314** is the list **0** direction. The motion vector M V of the first neighboring block **2314** indicates a reference block within the reference picture **2330** included in the reference picture list **0**. A reference picture index of the first neighboring block **2314** in the list **0** direction is set according to the information obtained from the bitstream, and a reference picture index of the first neighboring block **2314** in the list **1** direction is set as a pre-determined value. Because the reference picture index of the first neighboring block **2314** in the same prediction direction, namely, the list **1** direction, as the prediction direction of the current block **2312** is identical to the pre-determined value, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** obtains a prediction motion vector of the current block **2312** by using a default motion vector which is described below.

[0319] Similarly, when the prediction direction of the current block **2312** is the list **0** direction and the prediction direction of the first neighboring block **2314** is the list **1** direction, because the reference picture index of the first neighboring block **2314** in the same prediction direction, namely, the list **0** direction, as the prediction direction of the current block **2312** is identical to the pre-determined value, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** obtains a prediction motion vector of the current block **2312** by using the default motion vector.

[0320] FIG. 23C illustrates a case where, when the prediction direction of the current block is a bidirection, one of the reference picture index of the first neighboring block in the list **0** direction and the reference picture index of the first neighboring block in the list **1** direction is identical to the pre-determined value and the other is not identical to the pre-determined value.

[0321] Referring to FIG. 23C, the prediction directions of the current block **2312** is a bidirection and the prediction directions of the first neighboring block **2314** is the list **1** direction. The motion vector M V of the first neighboring block **2314** indicates a reference block within a reference picture **2350** included in a reference picture list **1**. A reference picture index of the first neighboring block **2314** in the list **0** direction is set as a pre-determined value, and a reference picture index of the first neighboring block **2314** in the list **1** direction is set according to the information obtained from the bitstream. As described above, the prediction direction being a bidirection includes both

the list **0** direction and the list **1** direction. Because the reference picture index of the first neighboring block **2314** in the list **0** direction is identical to the pre-determined value, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** obtains a prediction motion vector of the current block **2312** in the list **0** direction by using the default motion vector. Because the reference picture index of the first neighboring block **2314** in the list **1** direction is not identical to the pre-determined value, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** obtains a prediction motion vector of the current block **2312** by using a motion vector MV of the first neighboring block **2314** in the list **1** direction.

[0322] When the prediction direction of the current block **2312** is a bidirection and the prediction direction of the first neighboring block **2314** is the list **0** direction, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** obtains a prediction motion vector of the current block **2312** in the list **1** direction by using a motion vector M V of the first neighboring block **2314** in the list **0** direction, and obtains a prediction motion vector of the current block **2312** in the list **1** direction by using the default motion vector.

[0323] In embodiments, when the first neighboring block is available and the reference picture index of the first neighboring block in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is not identical to the pre-determined value, it is determined that the motion vector of the first neighboring block is available as the prediction motion vector. A prediction motion vector of the current block is obtained from the motion vector of the first neighboring block.

[0324] When it is determined that the motion vector of the first neighboring block is available as the prediction motion vector, and only a condition that the first neighboring block should be available is satisfied, the prediction motion vector of the first neighboring block is likely to be set as a zero vector, namely, (0, 0). In other words, when the first neighboring block is available but there are no motion vectors of the first neighboring block in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block, the motion vector of the first neighboring block may not be used as the prediction motion vector of the current block. Thus, the prediction motion vector of the current block may be determined as a zero vector, and consequently the number of bits necessary for expressing a differential motion vector may be increased.

[0325] In embodiments, when a condition that the first neighboring block should be available, and also a condition that a motion vector of the first neighboring block in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block should exist are both satisfied, the prediction motion vector of the current block is obtained using the motion vector of the first neighboring block, leading to a reduction of the number of bits necessary for expressing a differential motion vector.

[0326] An example of a process of deriving the default motion vector when the motion vector of the first neighboring block is not available as a prediction motion vector will now be described.

[0327] According to an embodiment, when the motion vector of the first neighboring block is not available as the prediction motion vector, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** may set the motion vector of a second neighboring block at a pre-determined location as the default motion vector. In embodiments, there may be a plurality of second neighboring blocks. In this case, the motion vector of the second neighboring block may be set as the default motion vector through a determination of the availabilities of a plurality of second neighboring blocks.

[0328] The second neighboring block may correspond to at least one of neighboring blocks. For example, the second neighboring block may include the block **A1** and the block **B1**. As another example, the location of the second neighboring block may be different from the locations of the block **A0**, the **A1** block, the block **B0**, the **B1** block, and the **B2** block.

[0329] When the second neighboring block includes the block **A1** and the block **B1**, the locations of the block **A1** and the block **B1** may vary according to the availabilities of a left block and a right block of the current block, as described above. In detail, referring to FIGS. **21A** through **21C**, when the left block of the current block is available, the block **A1** may be located on a left upper side of the current block, and the block **B1** may be located on a right upper side of the current block. When

the left and right blocks of the current block are both available, the block A1 may be located on a left lower side of the current block, and the block B1 may be located on a right lower side of the current block. When the right block of the current block is available, the block A1 may be located on a right lower side of the current block, and the block B1 may be located on a left upper side of the current block.

[0330] The motion vector prediction unit **2032** may determine the availability of the block A1, and, when the block A1 is identified as being available according to information indicating whether the block A1 is available, may determine a motion vector of the block A1 as the default motion vector. When the block A1 is not available, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** may determine the availability of the block B1, and, when the block B1 is identified as being available according to information indicating whether the block B1 is available, may determine a motion vector of the block B1 as the default motion vector. In other words, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** may check whether the motion vectors of the block A1 and the block B1 may be used as the default motion vector in an order of the block A1, the block B1, or the block A1 followed by the block B1.

[0331] The availability of the block A1 and the availability of the block B1 may be determined based on the above-described four conditions for determining the availability of the first neighboring block.

[0332] According to an embodiment, when the second neighboring block is identified as being available according to information indicating whether the second neighboring block is available and a reference picture index of the second neighboring block in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is identical to a reference picture index of the current block or is not identical to a pre-determined value (i.e., when there is a motion vector of the second neighboring block in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block), the motion vector prediction unit **2032** may set the motion vector of the second neighboring block as the default motion vector.

[0333] When it is identified, from information indicating availability of the second neighboring block, that the second neighboring block is not available or there are no motion vectors of the second neighboring block in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** may set the motion vector of a block decoded before the current block as the default motion vector.

[0334] The motion vector prediction unit **2032** may determine the motion vector of the first neighboring block or the default motion vector as the prediction motion vector of the current block.

[0335] When the motion vector of the first neighboring block is determined as the prediction motion vector and the reference picture index of the first neighboring block in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is not identical to the reference picture index of the current block, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** may update the prediction motion vector of the current block by scaling the prediction motion vector of the current block according to a distance between the current picture and the reference picture of the current block and a distance between the current picture and the reference picture of the first neighboring block.

[0336] According to an embodiment, when the reference picture index of the second neighboring block (or for example the block decoded before the current block, which may be the block being used to obtain the default motion vector) in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is identical to the reference picture index of the current block, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** may determine the default motion vector as the prediction motion vector of the current block. When the reference picture index of the second neighboring block (or for example the block decoded before the current block, which may be the block being used to obtain the default motion vector) in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is not identical to the reference picture index of the current block, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** may scale the default motion vector according to the distance between the

current picture and the reference picture of the current block and a distance between the current picture and the reference picture of the second neighboring block (or the block decoded before the current block) and may determine the scaled default motion vector as the prediction motion vector of the current block.

[0337] After obtaining the prediction motion vector of the current block, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** may adjust the prediction motion vector of the current block when the motion vector resolution of the current block is different from a pre-determined motion vector resolution (for example, a minimum motion vector resolution from among a plurality of the motion vector resolutions). The reason for adjusting the prediction motion vector is to match the motion vector resolution of the current block with the resolution of the prediction motion vector.

[0338] In order to adjust a prediction motion vector expressed in a coordinate within a picture interpolated according to the minimum motion vector resolution to the motion vector resolution of the current block, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** may adjust the prediction motion vector so that the prediction motion vector indicates neighboring pixels instead of a pixel indicated by the prediction motion vector.

[0339] For example, when the minimum motion vector resolution is a  $\frac{1}{4}$  pixel unit and the motion vector resolution of the current block is a 1 pixel unit, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** may adjust a prediction motion vector of (19, 27) to (20, 28). This is because, when the minimum motion vector resolution is a  $\frac{1}{4}$  pixel unit, an integer pixel has a coordinate of ( $4n$ ,  $4m$ ) within an interpolated picture, where  $n$  and  $m$  may be integers.

[0340] According to an embodiment, when adjusting the prediction motion vector according to the motion vector resolution of the current block, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** may allow an adjusted prediction motion vector to indicate a pixel located on a right upper side of a pixel indicated by the prediction motion vector not yet adjusted. According to another embodiment, the motion vector prediction unit **2032** may allow the adjusted prediction motion vector to indicate a pixel located on a left upper side of the pixel indicated by the prediction motion vector not yet adjusted, a pixel located on a left lower side of the pixel indicated by the prediction motion vector not yet adjusted, or a pixel located on a right lower side of the pixel indicated by the prediction motion vector not yet adjusted.

[0341] Accordingly, when the motion vector of the first neighboring block is available as the prediction motion vector, the motion vector of the first neighboring block is determined as the prediction motion vector of the current block. When the reference picture index of the first neighboring block in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is not identical to the reference picture index of the current block, the prediction motion vector is scaled. When the motion vector resolution of the current block is not identical to a pre-determined motion vector resolution from among the plurality of motion vector resolutions, the prediction motion vector or the scaled prediction motion vector is adjusted according to the motion vector resolution of the current block.

[0342] When the motion vector of the first neighboring block is not available as the prediction motion vector, the default motion vector is derived. When the reference picture index of a block of the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block, which may be the block used to derive the default motion vector, is not identical to the reference picture index of the current block, the default motion vector is scaled, and the scaled default motion vector is determined as the prediction motion vector of the current block. When the motion vector resolution of the current block is not identical to the pre-determined motion vector resolution from among the plurality of motion vector resolutions, the prediction motion vector is adjusted according to the motion vector resolution of the current block.

[0343] The motion vector reconstruction unit **2034** obtains the motion vector of the current block by combining the prediction motion vector of the current block with a differential motion vector obtained from the bitstream. The motion vector reconstruction unit **2034** may obtain the motion

vector of the current block by adding the prediction motion vector of the current block to the differential motion vector.

[0344] The prediction decoder **2030** may reconstruct the current block by inter-predicting the current block according to the prediction direction, the reference picture index, and the motion vector of the current block.

[0345] FIG. **24** is a flowchart of a method of decoding a motion vector, according to an embodiment.

[0346] In operation **S2410**, an image decoding apparatus **2000** determines availability of the first neighboring block selected according to the information obtained from the bitstream from among the neighboring blocks adjacent to the current block.

[0347] According to an embodiment, the information obtained from the bitstream may include information indicating the motion vector resolution of the current block from among the plurality of motion vector resolutions.

[0348] In operation **S2420**, the image decoding apparatus **2000** determines whether the first neighboring block is available and the motion vector of the first neighboring block of the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block exists.

[0349] In operation **S2430**, when the first neighboring block is available and the motion vector of the first neighboring block of the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block exists, the image decoding apparatus **2000** obtains the prediction motion vector of the current block from the motion vector of the first neighboring block.

[0350] In operation **S2440**, when the first neighboring block is not available or the motion vector of the first neighboring block of the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block does not exist, the image decoding apparatus **2000** obtains the prediction motion vector of the current block from the motion vector of the second neighboring block.

[0351] As described above, when the second neighboring block is not available, the prediction motion vector of the current block may be obtained from the motion vector of the block decoded before the current block.

[0352] In operation **S2450**, the image decoding apparatus **2000** obtains the motion vector of the current block by combining the prediction motion vector of the current block with the differential motion vector.

[0353] FIG. **25** is a block diagram of a structure of an image encoding apparatus **2500** according to an embodiment.

[0354] Referring to FIG. **25**, the image encoding apparatus **2500** includes a prediction encoder **2510** and a bitstream generator **2530**. The prediction encoder **2510** may include a motion vector prediction unit **2512** and a motion vector encoding unit **2514**.

[0355] The prediction encoder **2510** may correspond to the encoder **220** shown in FIG. **2**, and the bitstream generator **2530** may correspond to the bitstream generator **210** shown in FIG. **2**.

[0356] The prediction encoder **2510** and the bitstream generator **2530**, according to an embodiment, may be implemented as at least one processor. The image encoding apparatus **2500** may include one or more memories for storing input and output data of the prediction encoder **2510** and the bitstream generator **2530**. The image encoding apparatus **2500** may include a memory controller for controlling data inputs and outputs of the memory.

[0357] The prediction encoder **2510** encodes a picture according to a prediction mode, and the bitstream generator **2530** generates a bitstream including information generated as a result of encoding the picture.

[0358] The prediction encoder **2510** may determine the prediction mode of the current block within the current picture. When the prediction mode of the current block is determined as an inter prediction mode, the bitstream generator **2530** includes motion information of the current block in the bitstream.

[0359] The motion vector prediction unit **2512** predicts the motion vector of the current block

encoded in the inter prediction mode.

[0360] The motion vector prediction unit **2512** according to an embodiment may obtain the prediction motion vector by using the motion vectors of the neighboring blocks adjacent to the current block. The locations of the neighboring blocks have been described above, and thus a detailed description thereof will be omitted.

[0361] According to an embodiment, the motion vector prediction unit **2512** selects the first neighboring block from the neighboring block. The first neighboring block may be one of the block **A0**, the block **A1**, the block **B0**, the block **B1**, and the block **B2** corresponding to the neighboring blocks.

[0362] According to an embodiment, the motion vector prediction unit **2512** may select the first neighboring block mapped with the motion vector resolution of the current block from the plurality of motion vector resolutions.

[0363] The motion vector prediction unit **2512** determines the availability of the first neighboring block. In detail, the motion vector prediction unit **2512** determines the availability of the first neighboring block according to at least one of whether a tile including the first neighboring block is different from a tile including the current block, whether the first neighboring block is located outside the current picture, whether the first neighboring block has been intra-predicted, and whether reconstruction of the first neighboring block has been completed.

[0364] According to an embodiment, when it is identified from the information indicating the availability of the first neighboring block that the first neighboring block is available and the reference picture index of the first neighboring block of the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is not identical to a pre-determined value, for example when the motion vector of the first neighboring block of the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block exists, the motion vector prediction unit **2512** may determine that the motion vector of the first neighboring block is available as the prediction motion vector. The pre-determined value may be, for example,  $-1$ . When the motion vector of the first neighboring block is available as the prediction motion vector, the motion vector prediction unit **2512** derives the prediction motion vector of the current block from the motion vector of the first neighboring block.

[0365] When it is identified from the information indicating the availability of the first neighboring block that the first neighboring block is not available or the reference picture index of the first neighboring block of the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is identical to the pre-determined value, it may be determined that the motion vector of the first neighboring block is not available as the prediction motion vector. In this case, the motion vector prediction unit **2512** may obtain the prediction motion vector of the current block by using the default motion vector.

[0366] According to an embodiment, when the motion vector of the first neighboring block is not available as the prediction motion vector, the motion vector prediction unit **2512** may set the motion vector of the second neighboring block at the pre-determined location as the default motion vector. In embodiments, there may be a plurality of second neighboring blocks. In this case, the motion vector of the second neighboring block may be set as the default motion vector through determination of the availability of a plurality of second neighboring blocks.

[0367] When the second neighboring block includes the block **A1** and the block **B1**, the motion vector prediction unit **2512** may determine the availability of the block **A1**, and, when the block **A1** is identified as being available according to information indicating whether the block **A1** is available, may determine a motion vector of the block **A1** as the default motion vector. When the block **A1** is not available, the motion vector prediction unit **2512** may determine the availability of the block **B1**, and, when the block **B1** is identified as being available according to information indicating whether the block **B1** is available, may determine a motion vector of the block **B1** as the default motion vector. In other words, the motion vector prediction unit **2512** may check whether

the motion vectors of the block A1 and the block B1 may be used as the default motion vector in an order of the block A1, the block B1, or the block A1 followed by the block B1.

[0368] According to an embodiment, when the second neighboring block is identified as being available according to information indicating whether the second neighboring block is available and a reference picture index of the second neighboring block in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is identical to a reference picture index of the current block or is not identical to a pre-determined value (i.e., when there is a motion vector of the second neighboring block in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block), the motion vector prediction unit **2512** may set the motion vector of the second neighboring block as the default motion vector.

[0369] When it is identified, from information indicating the availability of the second neighboring block, that the second neighboring block is not available or the reference picture index of the second neighboring block in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is identical to the pre-determined value, the motion vector prediction unit **2512** may set the motion vector of the block encoded before the current block as the default motion vector.

[0370] The motion vector prediction unit **2512** may determine the motion vector of the first neighboring block or the default motion vector as the prediction motion vector of the current block.

[0371] When the motion vector of the first neighboring block is determined as the prediction motion vector and the reference picture index of the first neighboring block in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is not identical to the reference picture index of the current block, the motion vector prediction unit **2512** may update the prediction motion vector of the current block by scaling the prediction motion vector of the current block according to the distance between the current picture and the reference picture of the current block and the distance between the current picture and the reference picture of the first neighboring block.

[0372] When the default motion vector is obtained, according to an embodiment, when the reference picture index of the second neighboring block (or for example the block decoded before the current block, which may be the block being used to obtain the default motion vector) in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is identical to the reference picture index of the current block, the motion vector prediction unit **2512** may determine the default motion vector as the prediction motion vector of the current block. When the reference picture index of the second neighboring block (or for example the block decoded before the current block, which may be the block being used to obtain the default motion vector) in the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is not identical to the reference picture index of the current block, the motion vector prediction unit **2512** may scale the default motion vector according to the distance between the current picture and the reference picture of the current block and the distance between the current picture and the reference picture of the second neighboring block (or for example the block decoded before the current block) and may determine the scaled default motion vector as the prediction motion vector of the current block.

[0373] After the prediction motion vector of the current block is obtained, the motion vector prediction unit **2512** may adjust the prediction motion vector of the current block when the motion vector resolution of the current block is different from the pre-determined motion vector resolution (for example, the minimum motion vector resolution from among the plurality of the motion vector resolutions).

[0374] The motion vector encoding unit **2514** obtains a differential motion vector between the motion vector of the current block and the prediction motion vector. The motion vector encoding unit **2514** may obtain the differential motion vector by subtracting the prediction motion vector from the motion vector of the current block.

[0375] The bitstream generator **2530** generates a bitstream including information indicating the differential motion vector and information indicating the first neighboring block from among the

neighboring blocks. As described above, the information indicating the first neighboring block may be information indicating the motion vector resolution of the current block from among the plurality of motion vector resolutions.

[0376] FIG. 26 is a flowchart of a method of encoding a motion vector, according to an embodiment.

[0377] In operation S2610, the image encoding apparatus 2500 determines the availability of the first neighboring block selected from the neighboring blocks adjacent to the current block.

According to an embodiment, the image encoding apparatus 2500 may select the first neighboring block corresponding to the motion vector resolution of the current block.

[0378] In operation S2620, the image encoding apparatus 2500 determines whether the first neighboring block is available and the motion vector of the first neighboring block of the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block exists.

[0379] In operation S2630, when the first neighboring block is available and the motion vector of the first neighboring block of the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block exists, the image encoding apparatus 2500 obtains the prediction motion vector of the current block from the motion vector of the first neighboring block.

[0380] In operation S2640, when the first neighboring block is not available or the motion vector of the first neighboring block of the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block does not exist, the image encoding apparatus 2500 obtains the prediction motion vector of the current block from the motion vector of the second neighboring block.

[0381] When the second neighboring block is not available, the prediction motion vector of the current block may be obtained from the motion vector of the block encoded before the current block.

[0382] In operation S2650, the image encoding apparatus 2500 obtains the differential motion vector between the motion vector of the current block and the prediction motion vector, and generates the bitstream including information indicating the differential motion vector and information indicating the first neighboring block. The information indicating the first neighboring block may be information indicating the motion vector resolution of the current block from among the plurality of motion vector resolutions.

[0383] FIGS. 27 and 28 are views for explaining a process of obtaining a prediction motion vector, according to an embodiment.

[0384] FIGS. 27 and 28 illustrate examples of the above-described embodiments. In FIGS. 27 and 28, LX included in mvpLX and mvLX indicate a prediction direction of a current block. In other words, when the prediction direction of the current block is a L0 direction, X is 0, and, when the prediction direction of the current block is an L1 direction, X is 1. When the prediction direction of the current block is a bidirection, X may sequentially have values of 0 and 1.

[0385] In S2710, a flag mvpA availFlag representing the availability of the prediction motion vector is set to be 0.

[0386] In S2720, a block to be used to obtain the prediction motion vector of the current block is specified according to information amvr\_idx indicating the motion vector resolution of the current block. In embodiments, a value of amvr\_idx may correspond to a value of the AMVR index shown in FIG. 22. For example, when the information amvr\_idx is 1, the block B1 is selected. The availability of the block B1 is determined. The determination as to the availability of the block B1 may be performed according to the above-described four conditions for determining the availability of a first neighboring block, and a result of the determination may be assigned to a coding block availability flag, which may be referred to as information availableB1. FIG. 27 illustrates only a process when amvr\_idx is 1, to omit a redundant description, but blocks at different locations are selected according to the value of amvr\_idx. For example, as shown in FIG. 22, a block mapped with the information amvr\_idx may be selected.

[0387] In S2730, when the block B1 is identified as being available from information availableB1



indicating the availability of the block B1 and a reference picture index of the block B1, which may be represented as RefIdxLX [ $\times$ NbB.sub.1] [yNbB.sub.1] of the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is not identical to -1, the flag mvpA\_vailFlag representing the availability of the prediction motion vector is set to be 1, and the motion vector of the block B1, which may be represented as M\_vLX [ $\times$ NbB.sub.1] [yNbB1], is set to be the prediction motion vector mvpLX.

[0388] In S2740, when a reference picture index refIdxLX of the current block is not identical to a reference picture index of the block B1 RefIdxLX [ $\times$ NbB.sub.1] [yNbB.sub.1], the prediction motion vector mvpLX is scaled according to a ratio distScaleFactorLX between a picture order count (POC) distance currPocDiffLX between a current picture currPic and a reference picture RefPicListX [RefIdxLX [ $\times$ NbB.sub.1] [yNbB.sub.1] of the block B1 and a POC distance targetPocDiffLX between the current picture and a reference picture RefPicListX [refIdxLX] of the current block. The POC distance currPocDiffLX may be a POC difference DiffPicOrderCnt between a POC of the current picture currPic and a POC of the reference picture RefPicListX [RefIdxLX [ $\times$ NbB.sub.1] [yNbB.sub.1] of the block B1. The POC distance targetPocDiffLX may be a POC difference DiffPicOrderCnt between the POC of the current picture currPic and a POC of the reference picture RefPicListX [refIdxLX] of the current block.

[0389] In S2750, when amvr\_idx is not 0, namely, when the motion vector resolution of the current block is different from a pre-determined motion vector resolution (for example, the minimum motion vector resolution), the prediction motion vector mvpLX is adjusted, for example using the relational expressions illustrated in FIG. 27. When amvr\_idx is 0, namely, when the prediction motion vector is obtained from the motion vector of the block A1, the prediction motion vector is not adjusted.

[0390] Next, referring to FIG. 28, in S2810, when the flag mvpA\_vailFlag representing the availability of the prediction motion vector is 0, namely, when the block B1 is identified as not being available from the information availableB1 indicating the availability of the block B1, or the reference picture index RefIdxLX [ $\times$ NbB.sub.1] [yNbB.sub.1] of the block B1 of the same prediction direction as the prediction direction of the current block is identical to -1, a process of deriving a default motion vector DefaultM\_vLX (where X is 0 or 1) including S2820 through S2890 is performed.

[0391] In S2820, the availability of the block A1 and the availability of the block B1 are determined. The determinations about the availability of the block A1 and the availability of the block B1 may be performed according to the above-described four conditions for determining the availability of a first neighboring block.

[0392] In S2830, an x-axis component and a y-axis component of a default motion vector DefaultM\_vLX are both set to be 0.

[0393] In S2840, when the block A1 is identified as being available from a coding block availability flag, which may be referred to as information availableA1, and the reference picture index refIdxLX of the current block is identical to a reference picture index of the block A1 RefIdxLX [ $\times$ NbA.sub.1] [yNbA.sub.1], the motion vector of the block A1 is set to be the default motion vector.

[0394] In S2850, when the condition mentioned in S2840 is not satisfied, the block B1 is identified as being available from the information availableB1, and the reference picture index refIdxLX of the current block is identical to the reference picture index of the block B1 RefIdxLX [ $\times$ NbB.sub.1] [yNbB.sub.1], the motion vector of the block B1 is set to be the default motion vector.

[0395] In S2860, when the condition mentioned in S2850 is not satisfied, the block A1 is identified as being available from the information availableA1, and the reference picture index RefIdxLX [ $\times$ NbA.sub.1] [yNbA.sub.1] of the block A1 is not identical to -1, the motion vector of the block A1 is set to be the default motion vector.

[0396] In S2870, when the condition mentioned in S2860 is not satisfied, the block B1 is identified

as being available from the information available B1, and the reference picture index RefldxLX [xNbB.sub.1] [yNbB.sub.1] of the block B1 is not identical to -1, the motion vector of the block B1 is set to be the default motion vector.

[0397] In S2880, when the motion vector of the block A1 or the motion vector of the block B1 is not set as the default motion vector, a motion vector of a block decoded before the current block is set as the default motion vector. For example, the motion vector of the block decoded before the current block may be one of a history motion vector candidates in a history motion vector candidate list HmvpCandList. In S2880, sps\_hmvp\_flag may indicate whether a history motion vector predictor could be used or not for a picture sequence including the current picture.

[0398] In S2890, when the reference picture index refldxL X of the current block is not identical to a default reference picture index DefaultRefldxLX, the default motion vector is scaled according to a ratio distScaleFactorLX between a distance currPocDiffLX between the current picture currPic and a picture RefPicListX [DefaultRefldxLX] indicated by the default reference picture index DefaultRefldxLX and a distance targetPocDiffL X between the current picture and the reference picture RefPicListX [refldxLX] of the current block. The default reference picture index DefaultRefldxL X may refer to a reference picture index of a block used to obtain the default motion vector.

[0399] In S2895, the default motion vector DefaultM vLX is set as the prediction motion vector mvpL X of the current block.

[0400] Although not shown in FIG. 28, when amvr\_idx is not 0, namely, when the motion vector resolution of the current block is different from a pre-determined motion vector resolution (for example, the minimum motion vector resolution), the prediction motion vector mvpLX is adjusted.

[0401] The above-described embodiments of the disclosure can be written as computer-executable programs, and the written computer-executable programs can be stored in a medium.

[0402] The medium may continuously store the computer-executable programs, or temporarily store the computer-executable programs for execution or downloading. Also, the medium may be any one of various recording media or storage media in which a single piece or plurality of pieces of hardware are combined, and the medium is not limited to a medium directly connected to a computer system, but may be distributed on a network. Examples of the medium include a magnetic medium (e.g., a hard disk, a floppy disk, or a magnetic tape), an optical medium (e.g., a compact disk-read-only memory (CD-ROM) or a digital versatile disk (DVD)), a magneto-optical medium (e.g., a floptical disk), and a ROM, a random-access memory (RAM), and a flash memory, which are configured to store program instructions. Other examples of the medium include recording media and storage media managed by application stores distributing applications or by websites, servers, and the like supplying or distributing other various types of software.

[0403] While one or more embodiments of the disclosure have been described with reference to the figures, it will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope as defined by the following claims.

## Claims

1. A method for decoding a motion vector by an image decoding apparatus, the method comprising: obtaining, from a bitstream, information indicating a motion vector resolution of a current block; selecting a first neighboring block among a plurality of neighboring blocks adjacent to the current block using the information indicating the motion vector resolution of the current block; when a list among a list 0 and a list 1 comprising a first reference picture referred by the current block and a list among the list 0 and the list 1 comprising a second reference picture referred by the first neighboring block are identical, determining a motion vector predictor of the current block using a first motion vector of the first neighboring block; when the list comprising the first reference

picture referred by the current block and the list comprising the second reference picture referred by the first neighboring block are different, determining a default motion vector based on a second motion vector of a second neighboring block among the plurality of neighboring blocks adjacent to the current block, and determining the motion vector predictor of the current block using the default motion vector; and determining a third motion vector of the current block using the motion vector predictor, wherein a current picture is split into a plurality of largest coding units, and a largest coding unit among the plurality of largest coding units is split into at least one coding unit comprising the current block.

2. A method for encoding a motion vector by an image encoding apparatus, the method comprising: determining a motion vector resolution of a current block; selecting a first neighboring block among a plurality of neighboring blocks adjacent to the current block using the motion vector resolution of the current block; when a list among a list **0** and a list **1** comprising a first reference picture referred by the current block and a list among the list **0** and the list **1** comprising a second reference picture referred by the first neighboring block are identical, determining a motion vector predictor of the current block using a first motion vector of the first neighboring block; when the list comprising the first reference picture referred by the current block and the list comprising the second reference picture referred by the first neighboring block are different, determining a default motion vector based on a second motion vector of a second neighboring block among the plurality of neighboring blocks adjacent to the current block, and determining the motion vector predictor of the current block by using the default motion vector; and generating a bitstream comprising information indicating the motion vector resolution of the current block, wherein a current picture is split into a plurality of largest coding units, and a largest coding unit among the plurality of largest coding units is split into at least one coding unit comprising the current block.

3. A method of transmitting a bitstream generated by an encoding method of a motion vector, wherein the method comprises transmitting the bitstream, wherein the encoding method comprises: determining a motion vector resolution of a current block; selecting a first neighboring block among a plurality of neighboring blocks adjacent to the current block using the motion vector resolution of the current block; when a list among a list **0** and a list **1** comprising a first reference picture referred by the current block and a list among the list **0** and the list **1** comprising a second reference picture referred by the first neighboring block are identical, determining a motion vector predictor of the current block using a first motion vector of the first neighboring block; when the list comprising the first reference picture referred by the current block and the list comprising the second reference picture referred by the first neighboring block are different, determining a default motion vector based on a second motion vector of a second neighboring block among the plurality of neighboring blocks adjacent to the current block, and determining the motion vector predictor of the current block by using the default motion vector; and generating the bitstream comprising information indicating the motion vector resolution of the current block, wherein a current picture is split into a plurality of largest coding units, and a largest coding unit among the plurality of largest coding units is split into at least one coding unit comprising the current block.

---