

# Early Determination of Zero-Quantized $8 \times 8$ DCT Coefficients

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**Abstract**—This paper proposes a novel approach to early determination of zero-quantized  $8 \times 8$  discrete cosine transform (DCT) coefficients for fast video encoding. First, with the dynamic range analysis of DCT coefficients at different frequency positions, several sufficient conditions are derived to early determine whether a prediction error block ( $8 \times 8$ ) is an all-zero or a partial-zero block, i.e., the DCT coefficients within the block are all or partially zero-quantized. Being different from traditional methods that utilize the sum of absolute difference (SAD) of the entire prediction error block, the sufficient conditions are derived based on the SAD of each row of the prediction error block. For partial-zero blocks, fast DCT/IDCT algorithms are further developed by pruning conventional 8-point butterfly-based DCT/IDCT algorithms. Experimental results exhibit that the proposed early determination algorithm greatly reduces computational complexity in terms of DCT/IDCT, quantization, and inverse quantization, as compared with existing algorithms.

**Index Terms**—Butterfly-based DCT, computational complexity, discrete cosine transform, sum of absolute difference, zero-quantized coefficients.

## I. INTRODUCTION

**M**OST VIDEO compression standards, such as MPEG-x and H.26x, are designed based on a hybrid video coding framework. In such a framework, video is first decor-

related by block-wise spatial prediction or temporal prediction with motion estimation (ME) and motion compensation (MC) and then, each prediction error block goes through DCT to exploit spatial redundancy. Finally, transform coefficients are quantized and fed into entropy encoder to yield desired video bit streams. At the decoder, the inverse sequential operations are performed to decode video for playback.

In video encoders such as H.263 [1] and MPEG-4 Part 2 [2], ME,  $8 \times 8$  DCT, quantization (Q), inverse quantization (IQ), and inverse DCT (IDCT) are usually computationally intensive [3], [4]. Many fast ME algorithms [5]–[13] have been proposed to reduce the encoding complexity. Consequently, saving the computational complexity for DCT, Q, IQ, and IDCT becomes important. In [14], according to the execution time distribution for the *Foreman* sequence, DCT/IDCT and Q/IQ accounts for approximately 40% of the total encoding time when the XVID encoder is used for evaluation with the PMVFAST ME algorithm [13] employed. It is also claimed in [14] that the execution time distribution is similar for other test sequences. On the other hand, as stated in [15], average time cost in terms of DCT/IDCT and Q/IQ accounts for 34.8% of the total encoding time when a software H.263 encoder (based on H.263 TMN-5) is used for testing.

Typically, a significant number of prediction error blocks will have all-zero coefficients after Q in low bit-rate video coding. Even in higher bit-rate video coding, some well-predicted blocks may have all-zero DCT coefficients after Q. If these blocks can be determined earlier, computations of DCT, Q, IQ, and IDCT can be completely skipped. Yu *et al.* [16] proposed a method of early predicting all-zero blocks by comparing SAD of the predicted error block with a predefined threshold to skip DCT, Q, IQ, and IDCT, where no additional SAD computations are required since the SAD values can be obtained after ME. However, the corresponding coding efficiency is highly dependent on the threshold selection mechanism and video quality can be degraded due to an improper threshold. Zhou *et al.* [17] performed a theoretical analysis on the dynamic range of DCT coefficients and proposed a sufficient condition to check whether a given prediction error block has all-zero coefficients based on the SAD of the prediction error. With this approach, DCT, Q, IQ, and IDCT can be completely skipped for all-zero blocks without video quality degradation. Hsueh *et al.* [18] derived a similar sufficient condition and applied a looser condition in the early determination of all-

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zero blocks. Sousa [19] developed a tighter sufficient condition than Zhou's model [17] by comparing sufficient conditions for different frequency components quantized to zeros. As a result, Sousa's model could detect all-zero blocks more efficiently and thus reduces the computational complexity furthermore. Jun *et al.* [20] proposed a new criterion for the early determination of all-zero blocks, where the sign of each predicted residual is considered. This method demands a higher computational overhead since it needs additional SAD calculation for the prediction error block (i.e., no SAD reuse in the ME stage) as well as a sign evaluation for each residual sample. All aforementioned models were designed for  $8 \times 8$  DCT used in H.263 and MPEG-4 Part 2. More recently, Wang *et al.* [21] applied Sousa's model [19] to the DCT-like  $4 \times 4$  integer transform in H.264/AVC. Kim *et al.* [22] proposed a novel all-zero blocks detecting algorithm for the DCT-like  $4 \times 4$  integer transform in H.264/AVC. Recently, Wang *et al.* [23] derived more effective sufficient conditions to early determination of all-zero  $4 \times 4$  blocks in H.264/AVC.

All methods reviewed above are only used to early determine all-zero blocks. However, although some of the prediction error blocks cannot be determined as all-zero ones under a sufficient condition, partial coefficients in those blocks can be quantized to zeros and determined by new sufficient conditions. For example, Wang *et al.* [4] proposed a new analytical model to eliminate redundant DCT, Q, IQ, and IDCT. By a finer analysis on the dynamic range of DCT coefficients, the model in [4] is capable of detecting zero-quantized coefficients at both block and individual frequency levels.

In this paper, we first perform a theoretical analysis on the dynamic range of  $8 \times 8$  DCT coefficients at different frequency positions, and then derive a more precise sufficient condition than Sousa's model [19] for early determination of all-zero blocks. As compared with existing analytical models, our proposed sufficient condition is not based on SAD of the entire prediction error block but that of each row of the prediction error block. Second, several sufficient conditions for early determination of partial-zero blocks are derived. For partial-zero blocks, fast DCT/IDCT pruning algorithms are further developed based on fast 8-point butterfly-based DCT/IDCT algorithms to save the computational complexity efficiently.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section II describes the proposed early determination of zero-quantized DCT coefficients in detail. In this section, Sousa's model [19] for  $8 \times 8$  all-zero block determination is first introduced and a more precise sufficient condition is derived to determine all-zero blocks and new sufficient conditions are derived to determine partial-zero blocks. Then, the fast DCT/IDCT algorithms for detected partial-zero blocks are presented. Experimental results are given in Section III, where the computational complexity of the proposed algorithm is compared with existing methods. Finally, Section IV concludes this paper and presents future research directions.

## II. PROPOSED EARLY DETERMINATION STRATEGY

### A. Sousa's Model for All-Zero Block Determination

When applying 2-D DCT to a given block  $f$  of  $N \times N$  samples, each frequency component  $F(u, v)$  can be calculated by

$$F(u, v) = C(u)C(v) \sum_{x=0}^{N-1} \sum_{y=0}^{N-1} f(x, y) \cos \left[ \frac{(2x+1)u\pi}{2N} \right] \times \cos \left[ \frac{(2y+1)v\pi}{2N} \right] \quad (1)$$

with

$$C(n) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{1}{N}}, & \text{for } n = 0 \\ \sqrt{\frac{2}{N}}, & \text{for } n > 0. \end{cases}$$

For an  $8 \times 8$  inter-block with motion-compensated prediction, its prediction error signals can be computed by

$$f(x, y) = s(x, y) - p(x, y), \quad \text{for } x, y = 0, 1, \dots, 7. \quad (2)$$

Here,  $s$  and  $p$  represent the original block and the motion-compensated prediction block, respectively.

In encoding, DCT coefficients of each prediction error block are quantized to represent them in a reduced range of values. For a uniform scalar quantization in H.263 [1] and MPEG-4 Part 2 [2], the quantized coefficient  $F_Q(u, v)$  can be obtained by

$$F_Q(u, v) = \text{sign}(F(u, v)) \left\lfloor \frac{|F(u, v)| - (Q_p/2)}{2Q_p} \right\rfloor \quad (3)$$

where  $Q_p$  is the quantization scalar and the symbol  $\lfloor \cdot \rfloor$  denotes rounding to the nearest integer. It can be observed for an  $8 \times 8$  block that when

$$\begin{aligned} |F(u, v)| &\leq C(u)C(v) \sum_{x=0}^7 \sum_{y=0}^7 |f(x, y)| \\ &\times \max \left| \cos \left( \frac{(2x+1)u\pi}{16} \right) \cos \left( \frac{(2y+1)v\pi}{16} \right) \right| \\ &= C(u)C(v) \times \text{SAD} \\ &\times \max \left| \cos \left( \frac{(2x+1)u\pi}{16} \right) \cos \left( \frac{(2y+1)v\pi}{16} \right) \right| \\ &< \frac{5}{2} Q_p. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

$F(u, v)$  will be quantized to zero. According to Sousa's model [19], all DCT coefficients of an  $8 \times 8$  block will be quantized to zero if

$$\text{SAD} < 10Q_p / \cos^2 \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right). \quad (5)$$

### B. New Sufficient Condition for All-Zero Block Determination

Sousa's model provides a sufficient condition to early determining zero-quantized coefficient before transform and quantization. The inequality (4) is achieved by analyzing the dynamic range of each frequency component based on the SAD of an entire block. In fact, within a predicted error block, the energy of predicted error signals in different parts is usually inhomogeneous and thus, it is possible to derive a more precise sufficient condition to early determining all-zero block-based on the SADs of partial blocks.

The condition in (4) for DCT coefficient  $F(u, v)$  quantized to zero can be further rewritten as follows:

$$|F(u, v)| \leq S^I(u, v) \leq C(u)C(v) \times SAD \times \max \left| \cos \left( \frac{(2x+1)u\pi}{16} \right) \cos \left( \frac{(2y+1)v\pi}{16} \right) \right| \quad (6)$$

with

$$S^I(u, v) = C(u)C(v) \sum_{x=0}^7 \left| \cos \left( \frac{(2x+1)u\pi}{16} \right) \right| SAD_x \times \max \left| \cos \left( \frac{(2y+1)v\pi}{16} \right) \right|$$

and

$$SAD_i = \sum_{y=0}^7 |f(i, y)|.$$

For each row of  $S^I(u, v)$  with row index  $u'$ , namely  $S^I(u', v)$ , its maximum item is

$$\begin{aligned} \max(S^I(u', v)) &= \max \left( C(u')C(v) \times \max \left( \left| \cos \left( \frac{(2y+1)v\pi}{16} \right) \right| \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times \sum_{x=0}^7 \left| \cos \left( \frac{(2x+1)u'\pi}{16} \right) \right| \times SAD_x \right) \\ &= S^I(u', v) \Big|_{v=1,3,5,7} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} C(u') \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x=0}^7 \left| \cos \left( \frac{(2x+1)u'\pi}{16} \right) \right| \\ &\quad \times SAD_x. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

According to (7), in each row with  $u = u'$ ,  $S^I(u', v) \Big|_{v=1,3,5,7}$  are the same and they should be no less than  $S^I(u', v) \Big|_{v \neq 1,3,5,7}$ . Consequently, the maximum item in all  $S^I(u, v)$  can be found from  $S^I(u, 1)$ . Let us first take care of items  $S^I(u, 1) \Big|_{u=1,3,5,7}$ . Apparently, the maximum item in  $S^I(u, 1) \Big|_{u=1,3,5,7}$  can be obtained by several comparisons among them. For example, to compare  $S^I(1, 1)$  with  $S^I(3, 1)$ ,

we have to calculate

$$\begin{aligned} S^I(1, 1) - S^I(3, 1) &= \frac{1}{4} \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \left\{ \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \left( \sum_{x=0,7} SAD_x - \sum_{x=2,5} SAD_x \right) \right. \\ &\quad + \cos \left( \frac{3\pi}{16} \right) \left( \sum_{x=1,6} SAD_x - \sum_{x=0,7} SAD_x \right) + \cos \left( \frac{5\pi}{16} \right) \\ &\quad \left. \left( \sum_{x=2,5} SAD_x - \sum_{x=3,4} SAD_x \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \cos \left( \frac{7\pi}{16} \right) \left( \sum_{x=3,4} SAD_x - \sum_{x=1,6} SAD_x \right) \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

However, this comparison is still complicated in computation. For further simplification, a new definition

$$S^{II}(u, v) = \frac{1}{4} \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \times \left( \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_0} SAD_x + \cos \left( \frac{5\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_1} SAD_x \right) \quad (9)$$

is introduced, in which for different sets  $X_0$  and  $X_1$ , we have definitions in (11) and (12).

It is obvious that  $S^I(u, 1)$  is not larger than  $S^{II}(u, 1)$  in (11) and (12). According to the appendix, a sufficient condition for all-zero block detection can be derived as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \max(S^{II}(u, 1) \Big|_{u=1,2,3,5,6,7}) &= \frac{1}{4} \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \left( \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_0} SAD_x + \cos \left( \frac{5\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_1} SAD_x \right) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{4} \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \left( \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_0} SAD_x + \frac{4}{7} \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_1} SAD_x \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{7} \cos^2 \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \left( \frac{7}{4} \sum_{x \in X_0} SAD_x + \sum_{x \in X_1} SAD_x \right) \\ &< \frac{5}{2} Q_p \\ &\Rightarrow SAD + \frac{3}{4} \sum_{x \in X_0} SAD_x \\ &= SAD + \left( \sum_{x \in X_0} SAD_x - \left( \left( \sum_{x \in X_0} SAD_x \right) \gg 2 \right) \right) \\ &< \frac{35}{2} Q_p / \cos^2 \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

Here, sets  $X_0$  and  $X_1$  are related to (11) and (12), shown at the bottom of the page and dependent on which one of  $S^{II}(u, 1) \Big|_{u=1,2,3,5,6,7}$  is the maximum. To reduce computations

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} S^{II}(1, 1) &= \frac{1}{4} \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \left( \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_0=(0,1,6,7)} SAD_x + \cos \left( \frac{5\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_1=(2,3,4,5)} SAD_x \right) \\ S^{II}(3, 1) &= \frac{1}{4} \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \left( \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_0=(0,2,5,7)} SAD_x + \cos \left( \frac{5\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_1=(1,3,4,6)} SAD_x \right) \\ S^{II}(5, 1) &= \frac{1}{4} \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \left( \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_0=(1,3,4,6)} SAD_x + \cos \left( \frac{5\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_1=(0,2,5,7)} SAD_x \right) \\ S^{II}(7, 1) &= \frac{1}{4} \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \left( \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_0=(2,3,4,5)} SAD_x + \cos \left( \frac{5\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_1=(0,1,6,7)} SAD_x \right) \end{aligned} \right. \quad (11)$$

and

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} S^{II}(2, 1) &= \frac{1}{4} \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \left( \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_0=(0,3,4,7)} SAD_x + \cos \left( \frac{5\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_1=(1,2,5,6)} SAD_x \right) \\ S^{II}(6, 1) &= \frac{1}{4} \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \left( \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_0=(1,2,5,6)} SAD_x + \cos \left( \frac{5\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_1=(0,3,4,7)} SAD_x \right) \end{aligned} \right. \quad (12)$$

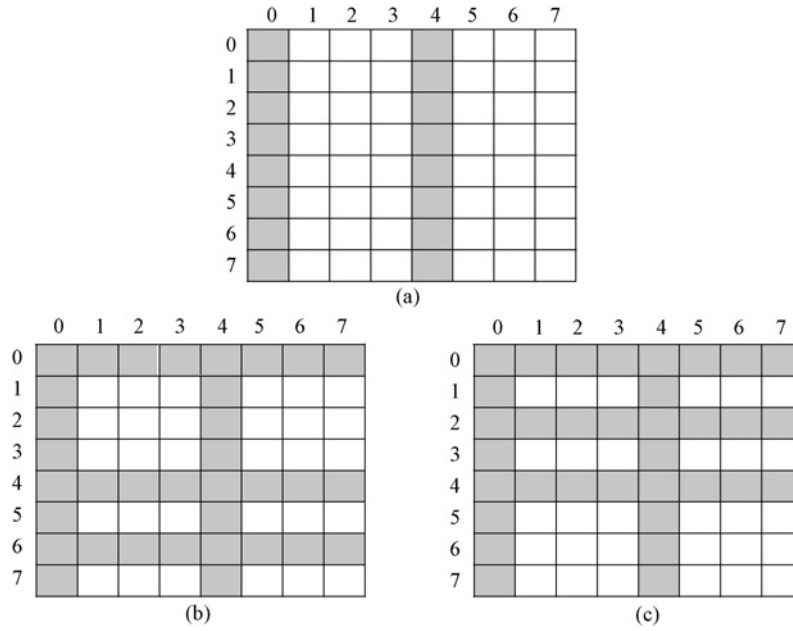


Fig. 1. Partial-zero block patterns (nonzero and zero-quantized frequency positions are indicated with blank and gray blocks, respectively). (a) Type-III. (b) Type-II with  $SI(2, 1) = SI(6, 1)$ . (c) Type-II with  $SI(2, 1) < SI(6, 1)$ .

TABLE I  
DIFFERENT THRESHOLDS FOR EARLY DETERMINING ZERO-QUANTIZED COEFFICIENTS IN AN  $8 \times 8$  BLOCK

Type	Conditions	Number of Zero-quantized Coefficients
I (all-zero block)	$SAD + \frac{3}{4} \sum_{x \in X_0} SAD_x < T_1 = \frac{35}{2} Q_p / \cos^2 \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right)$	64
II	$SAD < T_2 = 10\sqrt{2} Q_p / \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right)$	34
III	$SAD + \frac{3}{4} \sum_{x \in X_0} SAD_x < T_3 = \frac{35}{\sqrt{2}} Q_p / \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right)$	16
IV (Normal block)	Otherwise	0

in (11) and (12), during calculating SAD in ME,  $\sum_{x=0,7} SAD_x$ ,  $\sum_{x=1,6} SAD_x$ ,  $\sum_{x=2,5} SAD_x$ ,  $\sum_{x=3,4} SAD_x$  should be first computed and temporarily stored and then

$SAD = \sum_{x=0,7} SAD_x + \sum_{x=1,6} SAD_x + \sum_{x=2,5} SAD_x + \sum_{x=3,4} SAD_x$ . As a result, in (10), three addition and one shift operations are needed to get  $SAD + \frac{3}{4} \sum_{x \in X_0} SAD_x$  additionally. It should be noted that  $\frac{35}{2} Q_p / \cos^2 \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right)$  is only dependent on quantization parameter  $Q_p$  and thus, can be pre-computed.

Alternatively, the sufficient condition for all-zero block detection in (10) can also be equivalently derived as

$$\begin{aligned}
 SAD + \frac{3}{4} \sum_{x \in X_0} SAD_x &< \frac{35}{2} Q_p / \cos^2 \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \\
 &= \frac{7}{4} SAD - \frac{3}{4} \sum_{x \in X_1} SAD_x < \frac{35}{2} Q_p / \cos^2 \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \quad (13) \\
 \Rightarrow SAD &< \frac{3}{7} \sum_{x \in X_1} SAD_x + 10 Q_p \cos^2 \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right).
 \end{aligned}$$

Compared with (5), obviously, this sufficient condition for all-zero block detection is more precise than Sousa's model.

### C. Sufficient Conditions for Partial-zero Blocks Determination

Furthermore, to reduce the computational complexity for partial-zero blocks, new conditions are derived to check

whether DCT coefficients in a specified subgroup are all quantized to zeros. First, if  $S^{II}(u, v)|_{u=1,2,3,5,6,7, v=0,4}$  are defined as  $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{8} \left( \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_0} SAD_x + \cos \left( \frac{5\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_1} SAD_x \right)$ , similar to (10), a sufficient condition for zero-quantized  $F(u, v)|_{u=1,2,3,5,6,7, v=0,4}$  can be derived as

$$\begin{aligned}
 \max(S^{II}(u, v)|_{u=1,2,3,5,6,7, v=0,4}) & \\
 &= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{8} \left( \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_0} SAD_x + \cos \left( \frac{5\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_1} SAD_x \right) \\
 &\leq \frac{\sqrt{2}}{8} \left( \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_0} SAD_x + \frac{4}{7} \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \sum_{x \in X_1} SAD_x \right) \\
 &= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{14} \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right) \left( \frac{7}{4} \sum_{x \in X_0} SAD_x + \sum_{x \in X_1} SAD_x \right) \\
 &< \frac{5}{2} Q_p \\
 \Rightarrow SAD + \frac{3}{4} \sum_{x \in X_0} SAD_x &< \frac{35}{\sqrt{2}} Q_p / \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{16} \right). \quad (14)
 \end{aligned}$$

Similar to (28) in the Appendix, it can be proven that the larger one of  $S^{II}(2, v)|_{v=0,4}$  and  $S^{II}(6, v)|_{v=0,4}$  is not less than  $S^I(u, v)|_{u, v=0,4}$ . Thus, if the criterion in (14) is satisfied, all coefficients of the columns indexed with 0 and 4 in an  $8 \times 8$  block, as shown in Fig. 1(a), will be quantized to zeros.

In addition, as compared with (14), we have the following inequality:

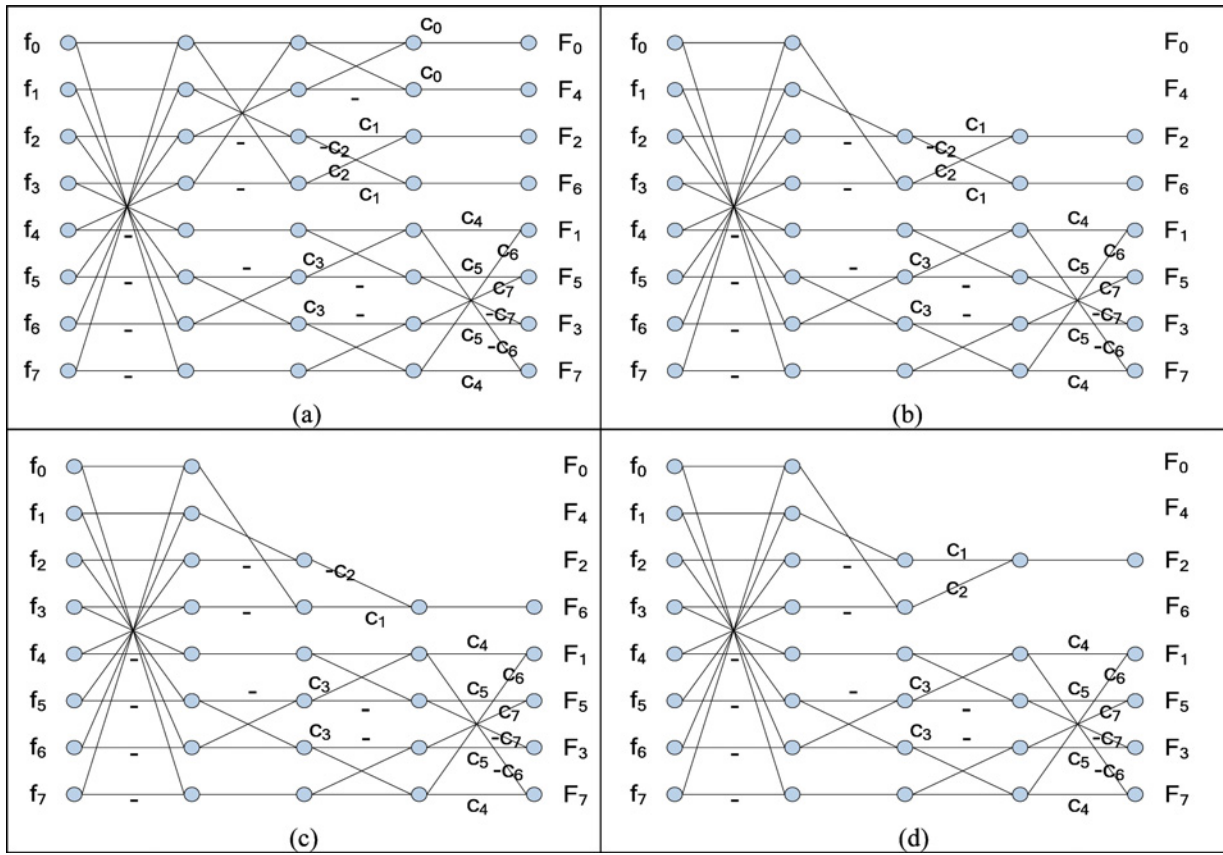


Fig. 2. Chen's 8-point DCT butterfly algorithm and its pruning ones.

$$\begin{aligned}
 S^I(u, 1)|_{u=0,4} &= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{8} \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{16}\right) SAD \\
 &\geq \frac{\sqrt{2}}{8} \left( \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{16}\right) \sum_{x \in X_0} SAD_x + \frac{4}{7} \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{16}\right) \sum_{x \in X_1} SAD_x \right) \quad (15)
 \end{aligned}$$

and according to the condition

$$\begin{aligned}
 S^I(2, 1) + S^I(6, 1) - 2S^I(u, 1)|_{u=0,4} &= \frac{1}{4} \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{16}\right) \sum_{x=0}^7 \\
 \left( \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{8}\right) + \cos\left(\frac{3\pi}{8}\right) - \sqrt{2} \right) SAD_x &\leq 0 \quad (16)
 \end{aligned}$$

the smaller one of  $S^I(u, 1)|_{u=2,6}$  is not larger than  $S^I(u, 1)|_{u=0,4}$ . As a result, if  $S^I(u, 1)|_{u=0,4} < \frac{5}{2} Q_p \Rightarrow SAD < 10\sqrt{2}Q_p / \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{16}\right)$ , all coefficients indicated by the blank box as shown in Fig. 1(b) or (c) will be quantized to zeros. Note that the comparison of  $S^I(u, 1)|_{u=2,6}$  can be directly derived by the comparison of  $S^{II}(u, 1)|_{u=2,6}$  by (23) in the Appendix and thus, no additional computation is needed. Finally, according to different sufficient conditions to determine zero-quantized coefficients, an  $8 \times 8$  block can be classified into four categories as shown in Table 1.

#### D. Fast DCT/IDCT Pruning Algorithms for Partial-Zero Blocks

As mentioned above, for Type-I, all DCT coefficients in an  $8 \times 8$  block can be early determined as zero-quantized and thus, DCT, Q, IQ, and IDCT are not needed. For Type-II and Type-III, only partial DCT coefficients in an  $8 \times 8$  block can be early determined as zero-quantized and thus,

DCT/IDCT cannot be completely skipped. For these two types, fast DCT/IDCT pruning algorithms are further proposed to reduce the computational complexity.

The 2-D  $N \times N$  DCT transform as described in (1) can also be expressed as

$$Y = AXA^T \quad (17)$$

where X and Y represent the  $N \times N$  input signal matrix and DCT coefficients matrix, respectively. A is an orthogonal  $N \times N$  transform matrix and  $A^T$  is the transpose matrix of A. Each element in A can be expressed by

$$A(i, j) = C(i) \cos\left(\frac{(2j+1)i\pi}{2N}\right)$$

with

$$C(i) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N}}, \quad \text{for } i = 0 \text{ and } C(i) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{N}}, \quad \text{for } i \neq 0.$$

Such a 2-D DCT can be obtained by applying a 1-D DCT to each row of the input coefficients matrix X and followed by a 1-D DCT to each column. Its corresponding Chen's 8-point butterfly-based 1-D DCT [25] is illustrated in Fig. 2(a). For Type-III, as illustrated in Fig. 1(a), DCT coefficients of two columns indexed with 0 and 4 in an  $8 \times 8$  block are all quantized to zeros and thus, the 8-point DCT butterfly pruning algorithm as illustrated in Fig. 2(b) can be applied to each row of X. Subsequently, the 1-D DCT transform for the columns indexed with 0 and 4 can be completely skipped and

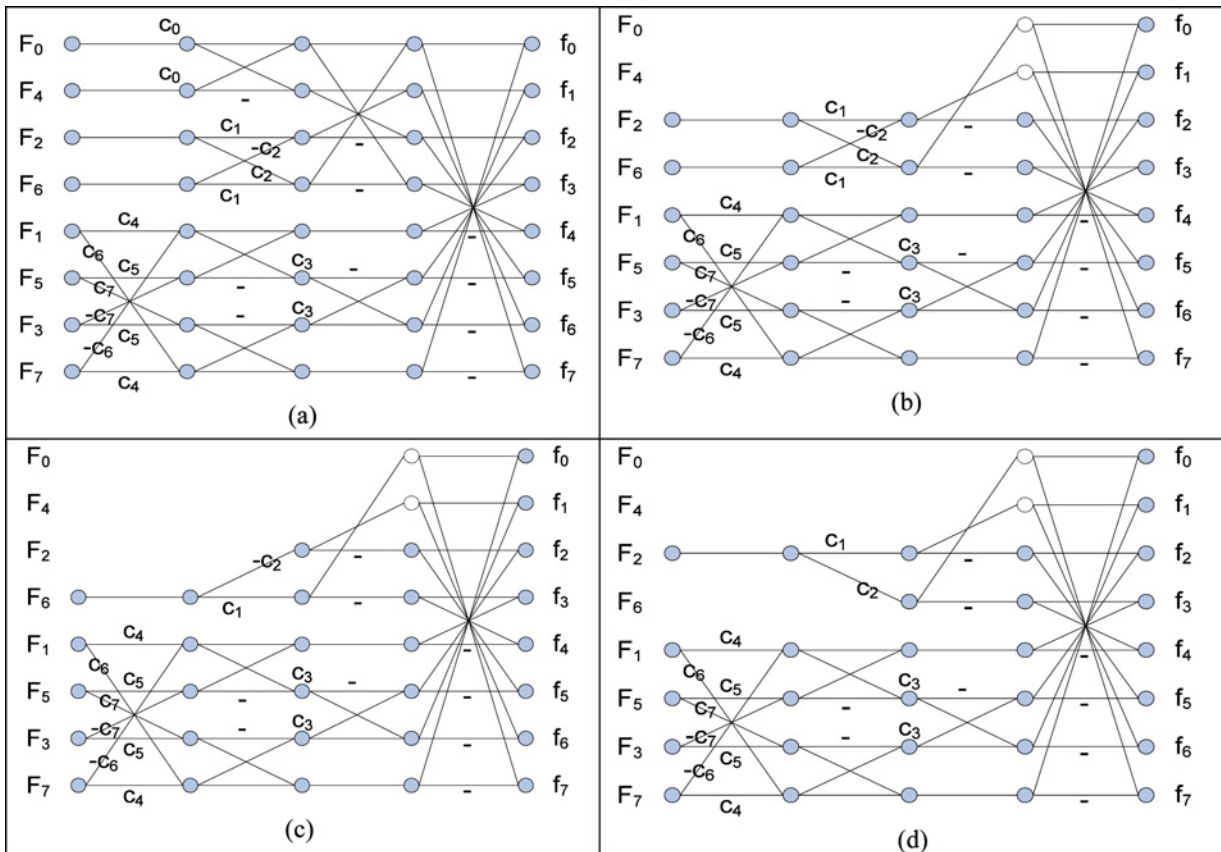


Fig. 3. 8-point Chen-Wang's IDCT butterfly algorithm and its pruning ones.

the normal 8-point butterfly-based 1-D DCT is used for the remaining columns. Correspondingly, for Type-II, the 8-point DCT pruning algorithm as illustrated in Fig. 2(b) is applied to each row of  $X$  and then, the 1-D DCT for the columns indexed with 0 and 4 can be completely skipped and the 8-point DCT pruning algorithm, as illustrated in Fig. 2(c) or (d), is used for the remaining columns. However, such a pruning algorithm is still not effective enough. According to the matrix transpose property, (17) can also be expressed as

$$Y = AXA^T = (AX^T A^T)^T. \quad (18)$$

Through (18), for Type-II, the 8-point DCT butterfly pruning algorithm as illustrated in Fig. 2(c) or (d) can be used for each row of the matrix  $X^T$  and then, the 1-D DCT for the columns indexed with 0, 4 and 2 or 6 can be completely skipped and meanwhile, the 8-point DCT pruning algorithm as illustrated in Fig. 3(b) is used for the remaining columns. Obviously, this approach has a higher computational complexity saving for Type-II.

On the other hand, to get the reconstructed prediction error block, a 2-D  $N \times N$  IDCT transform will be carried out on reconstructed DCT coefficients via

$$\hat{X} = A^T \hat{Y} A, \quad (19)$$

where “ $\hat{\cdot}$ ” is used to represent the reconstructed signal.

In terms of IDCT, the classical Chen-Wang's 8-point IDCT butterfly algorithm [25], [26] is illustrated in Fig. 3(a). For

Type-II, the 1-D DCT transform for the rows indexed with 0, 4 and 2 or 6 of  $\hat{Y}$  can be completely skipped and the 8-point

IDCT pruning algorithm as illustrated in Fig. 3(c) or (d) will be used for each column. Note that in Fig. 3(b), (c), and (d) circles with the dashed line are used to indicate that no operations are needed. For Type-III, for saving more computational complexity, IDCT will be carried out on matrix  $\hat{Y}^T$  based on

$$\hat{X} = (A^T \hat{Y}^T A)^T. \quad (20)$$

As a result, 1-D IDCT for rows indexed with 0 and 4 of  $\hat{Y}^T$  can be completely skipped and the normal 8-point IDCT butterfly algorithm as illustrated in Fig. 3(a) is still performed on the remaining rows of  $\hat{Y}^T$ . Subsequently, the fast 8-point IDCT pruning algorithm as illustrated in Fig. 3(b) is used for each column.

Finally, to summarize our above discussion, Fig. 4 depicts the procedure for the early determination of zero-quantized coefficients for an  $8 \times 8$  inter-block.

### III. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

To verify the efficiency of the proposed method in terms of the computational complexity saving, XVID 1.1.0 [27] is used for testing, which is an MPEG-4 Advanced Simple Profile (ASP) compliant video codec. PMVFAST in [13] is enabled for fast ME. The test sequences include *Foreman*, *Silent*, *Table\_tennis*, *News*, *Akiyo* and *Container* in CIF(352

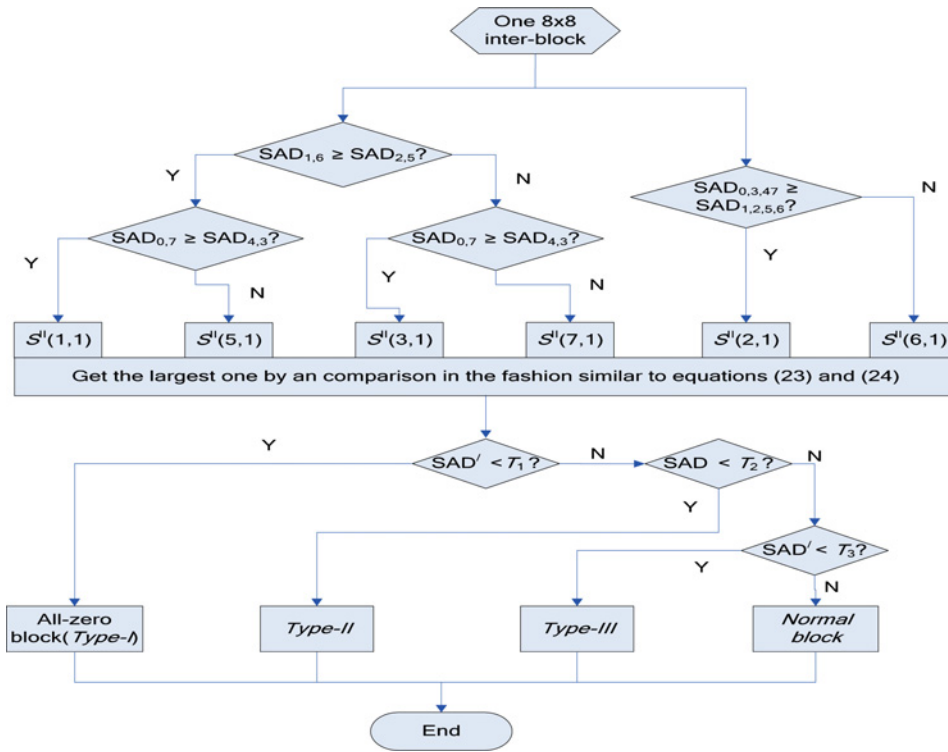


Fig. 4. Proposed early determination algorithm ( $SAD' = SAD + \frac{3}{4} \sum_{x \in X_0} SAD_x$ ).

TABLE II  
NUMBER OF OPERATIONS SAVED FOR DCT AND IDCT OF AN  $8 \times 8$  BLOCK AND ADDITIONAL OVERHEAD FOR DIFFERENT TYPES

	Type	DCT			IDCT			Overhead		
		Add	MUL	Shift	Add	MUL	Shift	Add	Shift	CMP
Proposed	All-zero (TYPE-I)	512	256	96	632	176	240	3	1	5
	TYPE-II	186	82	24	195	41	70	3	1	6
	TYPE-III	104	48	16	116	22	40	3	1	7
	Normal	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	7
Wang's	All-zero (TYPE-I)	512	256	96	632	176	240	0	0	1
	TYPE-II	304	136	48	264	68	64	0	0	3
	TYPE-III	148	64	28	164	28	52	0	0	4
	TYPE-IV	140	60	28	146	22	52	0	0	5
	TYPE-V	44	16	12	38	6	8	0	0	6
	TYPE-VI	12	4	4	10	0	4	0	0	6
	Normal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

$\times 288$ )@30Hz and the frame number for each sequence for testing is 300. Only I and P-frames are used for coding and quantization parameters ( $Q_p$ ) used for testing include 14, 21, and 28.

A. Definition for Basic Operations

Chen's 8-point butterfly-based DCT and Chen-Wang's 8-point butterfly-based IDCT algorithms are used for 2-D  $8 \times 8$  DCT and IDCT in XVID [27], respectively. To avoid floating-point computation, they are implemented by integer algorithm with proper scaling. Table II gives the number of basic operations saved by the pruned fast butterfly-based DCT and IDCT algorithms for each type in the proposed model and Wang's model [4], in which Type-I represents the all-zero block determination and the other types are used for the partial-zero

TABLE III  
NUMBER OF OPERATIONS PER SAMPLE IN (I)Q

		Add	MUL	Shift	CMP
Q	Zero	1			2
	Nonzero	1	1	1	2
IQ	Zero				1
	Nonzero	1	1		3

blocks determination. In Table II, *Add*, *MUL*, and *CMP* stand for the addition, multiplication, and comparison operations, respectively. The required computational overhead for the determination of zero-quantized coefficients in different types is also listed in Table II. For the proposed method, thresholds in Table I can be precalculated since they are constant for each  $Q_p$  and no additional computations are required. It can

TABLE IV  
CSRS FOR DIFFERENT TESTING METHODS

Sequences	$Q_p$	CSR (Proposed versus Original)				CSR (Proposed versus Sousa)				CSR (Proposed versus Wang)			
		Add	MUL	Shift	CMP	Add	MUL	Shift	CMP	Add	MUL	Shift	CMP
Foreman	14	34.37%	18.45%	31.14%	39.33%	14.22%	6.31%	11.39%	16.01%	8.82%	4.36%	6.84%	8.14%
	21	47.47%	25.95%	46.93%	53.09%	17.39%	7.14%	15.49%	19.29%	10.82%	4.93%	9.46%	9.58%
	28	55.76%	30.72%	57.65%	61.64%	18.85%	7.14%	18.06%	20.82%	11.73%	4.91%	11.03%	10.13%
Silent	14	30.27%	16.28%	29.47%	32.75%	13.04%	5.91%	11.38%	13.42%	8.16%	4.12%	6.74%	6.86%
	21	43.21%	23.32%	43.89%	47.55%	19.81%	8.39%	18.47%	22.07%	12.79%	5.88%	11.43%	12.32%
	28	54.00%	29.43%	56.56%	59.53%	25.75%	10.34%	25.80%	29.63%	16.96%	7.27%	16.84%	17.18%
Table_tennis	14	33.79%	18.12%	31.98%	37.75%	12.66%	5.43%	10.37%	13.74%	8.13%	3.84%	6.12%	7.51%
	21	50.30%	27.40%	50.39%	56.04%	23.37%	9.73%	21.80%	26.75%	14.97%	6.77%	13.97%	14.47%
	28	59.39%	32.84%	61.86%	65.53%	21.22%	7.93%	21.11%	23.69%	13.04%	5.40%	13.16%	11.19%
News	14	50.65%	27.68%	51.00%	56.23%	19.80%	7.94%	18.15%	22.13%	12.34%	5.44%	11.06%	11.06%
	21	58.43%	32.21%	61.02%	64.43%	18.87%	6.81%	18.23%	20.89%	11.85%	4.69%	11.02%	10.17%
	28	64.00%	35.42%	68.16%	70.18%	21.67%	7.41%	22.37%	24.28%	13.61%	5.08%	13.76%	11.59%
Akiyo	14	63.87%	35.18%	67.50%	70.44%	26.77%	9.54%	27.64%	31.43%	17.07%	6.51%	17.75%	16.68%
	21	70.13%	39.03%	76.08%	76.70%	24.21%	7.68%	27.59%	27.85%	15.52%	5.35%	17.96%	13.60%
	28	74.35%	41.44%	81.34%	81.12%	25.33%	7.30%	30.52%	29.62%	16.14%	5.03%	19.64%	13.57%
Container	14	43.55%	23.55%	43.38%	48.29%	19.52%	8.28%	17.74%	21.88%	12.50%	5.78%	10.99%	11.94%
	21	57.24%	31.45%	59.63%	63.09%	22.81%	8.69%	22.46%	25.84%	14.42%	5.97%	14.10%	13.29%
	28	64.32%	35.72%	68.90%	70.24%	21.40%	7.40%	22.65%	23.33%	13.07%	5.01%	13.89%	10.15%

TABLE V  
COMPARISON OF RATIOS FOR DIFFERENT TYPES IN THE PROPOSED MODEL AND WANG'S MODEL

	$Q_p$	Proposed				Wang's						
		Type-I	Type-II	Type-III	Normal	Type-I	Type-II	Type-III	Type-IV	Type-V	Type-VI	Normal
Foreman	14	38.54%	5.56%	9.23%	46.67%	30.76%	2.24%	2.50%	8.62%	2.88%	12.36%	40.64%
	21	52.14%	5.10%	7.77%	35.00%	44.32%	2.29%	2.48%	8.15%	2.40%	10.49%	29.87%
	28	60.38%	4.60%	7.33%	27.68%	53.45%	2.17%	2.07%	7.31%	2.18%	10.08%	22.73%
Silent	14	30.06%	5.21%	9.90%	54.83%	23.91%	1.65%	1.96%	7.76%	3.01%	14.42%	47.29%
	21	42.08%	7.24%	11.56%	39.12%	34.12%	2.00%	2.30%	10.90%	3.75%	16.14%	30.80%
	28	53.97%	6.86%	11.44%	27.73%	43.75%	2.84%	3.13%	11.10%	3.44%	15.54%	20.18%
Table_tennis	14	35.02%	5.20%	11.62%	48.16%	30.13%	1.27%	1.48%	7.35%	3.24%	16.36%	40.18%
	21	53.11%	6.84%	8.45%	31.60%	42.04%	3.07%	3.37%	11.48%	2.77%	10.26%	27.00%
	28	65.10%	4.19%	6.17%	24.54%	56.74%	2.89%	2.49%	7.16%	1.83%	8.89%	20.00%
News	14	53.96%	6.47%	7.52%	32.04%	45.92%	2.31%	2.55%	9.66%	2.89%	9.17%	27.49%
	21	62.64%	5.00%	7.36%	25.00%	56.81%	1.72%	1.95%	7.16%	2.42%	8.98%	20.96%
	28	68.40%	5.17%	6.12%	20.32%	62.06%	1.82%	1.83%	7.85%	2.07%	7.75%	16.62%
Akiyo	14	67.24%	6.16%	7.74%	18.87%	58.37%	3.07%	2.40%	9.55%	3.09%	7.57%	15.94%
	21	75.80%	3.58%	5.89%	14.74%	68.89%	1.97%	2.18%	6.34%	1.78%	7.07%	11.77%
	28	80.03%	4.20%	4.73%	11.04%	74.16%	1.60%	1.92%	6.56%	1.46%	5.57%	8.74%
Hall_monitor	14	53.80%	7.51%	9.89%	28.80%	40.16%	4.56%	4.47%	12.14%	3.33%	12.13%	23.20%
	21	66.24%	4.62%	7.70%	21.45%	59.84%	2.09%	2.11%	6.83%	2.37%	9.80%	16.96%
	28	71.99%	4.58%	6.26%	17.17%	66.13%	1.73%	1.79%	6.92%	1.92%	8.18%	13.34%
Container	14	44.09%	6.97%	10.49%	38.46%	35.63%	2.23%	2.65%	10.55%	3.39%	14.01%	31.54%
	21	60.32%	6.08%	7.65%	25.96%	51.89%	2.56%	2.86%	9.08%	2.68%	9.24%	21.69%
	28	69.41%	4.60%	4.84%	21.16%	62.55%	2.22%	2.08%	7.15%	1.78%	6.04%	18.17%

be clearly observed in Fig. 4 that several extra comparison operations are required in early determination of zero-quantized coefficients. Additionally, three *add* and one *shift* operations to calculate  $SAD + \frac{3}{4} \sum_{x \in X_0} SAD_x$  in (10) is required by calculating  $SAD + \sum_{x \in X_0} SAD_x - ((\sum_{x \in X_0} SAD_x) \gg 2)$ . Note that the calculation of  $SAD + \frac{3}{4} \sum_{x \in X_0} SAD_x$  in (14) is not needed any more, since it is the same as the one in (10). In addition, Table III enumerates the number of basic operations per sample in Q and IQ for zero-quantized and nonzero-quantized coefficients in the original algorithm [27]. Obviously, Q and IQ for each determined zero-quantized sample in different detection types of blocks can be skipped. On the other hand, since the early determination condition is sufficient but not necessary for all-zero block determination, the block not belonging to Type-I, after Q, still needs a check to see if it is an all-zero block. If a block has zero summation, IQ and IDCT will be skipped; otherwise, the normal or pruned IQ and IDCT algorithms will be further applied.

### B. Computational Complexity Comparison

To compare the computational complexity in terms of DCT, Q, IQ, and IDCT, the computational saving ratio (CSR) between the two different methods is defined by

$$CSR = \frac{TC_1 - TC_0}{TC_1} \% \quad (21)$$

where  $TC_0$  and  $TC_1$  represent the total calculations for two different methods. Table IV gives the comparisons of the proposed method against other existing methods in terms of the computational complexity based on the basic operation numbers listed in Tables II and III. In Table IV, it can be observed that the proposed method significantly saves the computational complexity as compared with the original algorithm. Especially, for the *Akiyo* sequence, up to 74.35% *add*, 81.34% *Shift*, and 81.12% *CMP* operations can be saved when  $Q_p$  is 28. On the other hand, it also can be found that with larger  $Q_p$ , CSR is also much higher since more DCT coefficients will be early determined as zero-quantized at low bit-rate coding.



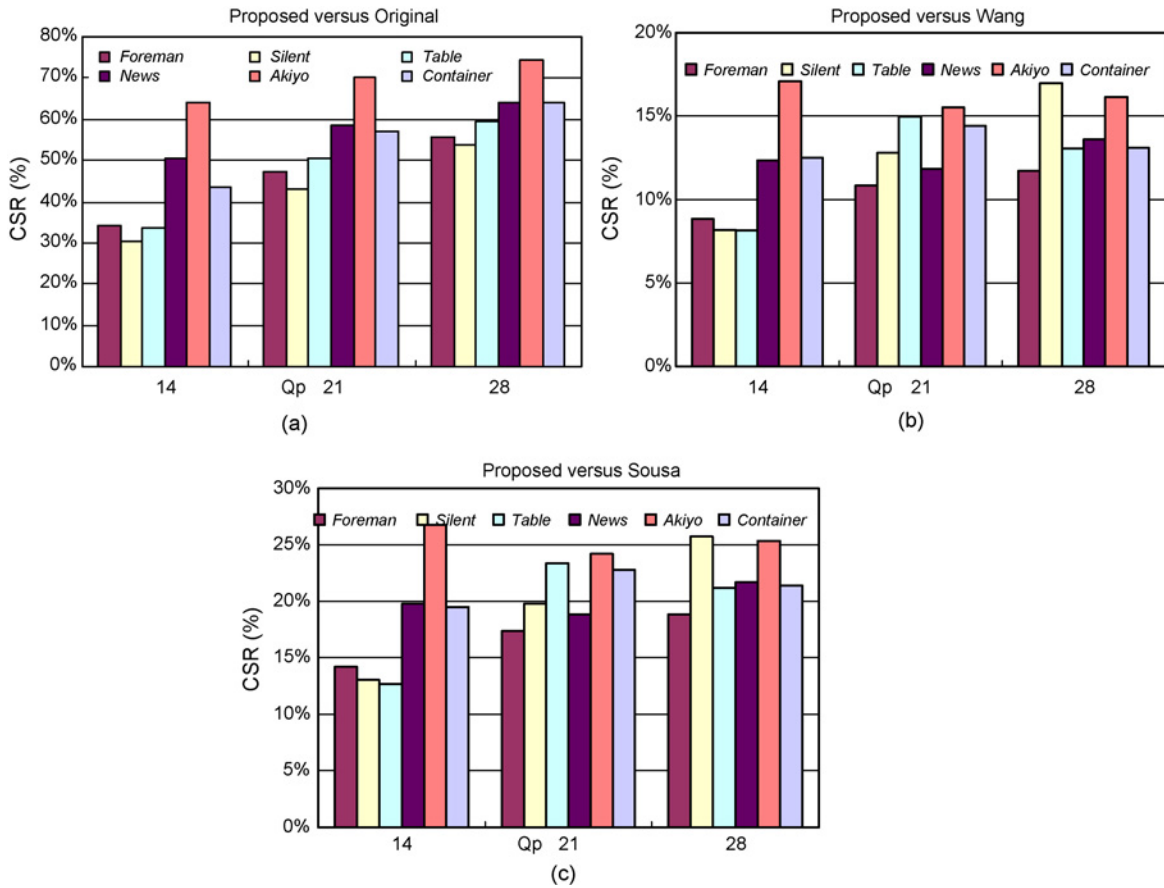


Fig. 5. Comparison of CSR of the proposed algorithm against the different methods in terms of the Add operation number for several test testing sequences.

This tendency can be clearly observed in Fig. 5(a), which gives CSR in terms of the number of *Add* operations.

Furthermore, the proposed method is compared with Sousa's [19] and Wang's [4] models. Sousa's model provides a sufficient condition for early determination of all-zero blocks and, Wang's model use the same condition as Sousa's model for all-zero blocks determination and further gives several sufficient conditions for partial-zero block determination. As compared with Sousa's model and Wang's model, our model provides a more precise sufficient condition for early determination of all-zero blocks. Table V gives the ratios for different types in the proposed model and Wang's model. It can be seen that the percentage of all-zero blocks (Type-I) in the proposed model is higher than Wang's model and Sousa's model. As shown in Table V for sequence *Table\_tennis* at  $Q_p = 21$ , only 42.04% blocks are determined as all-zero ones for Wang's mode while 53.11% for the proposed model. On the other hand, as compared with Wang's model for partial-zero blocks detection, Wang's model has more types for the partial-zero blocks determination by finer categorization. In fact, the proposed method can also adopt a similar fine categorization scheme. However, since some of types such as Type-V and Type-VI only save a limited amount of computational complexity, the proposed method only uses two types for partial-zero blocks detection. It can be observed that, although the proposed model has a higher percentage for normal blocks, as shown in Table V, it can still save the computational complexity more

efficiently than Wang's model. The detailed CSR comparisons of the proposed model and Sousa's model and Wang's models are given in Table IV and Fig. 5.

#### IV. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

A novel and efficient early determination scheme for zero-quantized DCT coefficients has been proposed in this paper. It provides more precise sufficient conditions for the early determination of all-zero and partial-zero blocks as compared with existing methods through a thorough theoretical analysis of the dynamic range of DCT coefficients based on row-based SAD. Furthermore, for partial-zero blocks, fast 8-point butterfly-based DCT and IDCT algorithms with pruning have been introduced to save more computational complexity. Experimental results demonstrated that the computational complexity of DCT, Q, IQ, and IDCT is further saved by the proposed approach against the original algorithm and other existing fast algorithms. Thus, the proposed model is more applicable for fast video encoding applications, especially for mobile wireless applications with low target bitrates.

It should be pointed out that in this paper, the proposed fast DCT/IDCT pruning algorithms for partial-zero blocks is implemented based on Chen's DCT in XVID codec. Certainly, in practical applications, other faster DCT algorithms [28], [29] can also be employed and even further implemented with quantization together.

On the other hand, the proposed model can also be combined with other statistical models such as [24], [30], and [31] to further reduce DCT, Q, IQ, and IDCT computations.

#### APPENDIX

In (11), the maximum item among  $S^{\text{II}}(u, 1)|_{u=1,3,5,7}$  can be obtained according to

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} S^{\text{II}}(1, 1) - S^{\text{II}}(3, 1) = S^{\text{II}}(5, 1) - S^{\text{II}}(7, 1) \\ = \frac{1}{4} \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{16}\right) \left( \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{16}\right) - \cos\left(\frac{5\pi}{16}\right) \right) \\ \left( \sum_{x=1,6} SAD_x - \sum_{x=2,5} SAD_x \right) \\ S^{\text{II}}(1, 1) - S^{\text{II}}(5, 1) = S^{\text{II}}(3, 1) - S^{\text{II}}(7, 1) \\ = \frac{1}{4} \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{16}\right) \left( \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{16}\right) - \cos\left(\frac{5\pi}{16}\right) \right) \\ \left( \sum_{x=0,7} SAD_x - \sum_{x=3,4} SAD_x \right). \end{array} \right. \quad (22)$$

In (12), the larger one of  $S^{\text{II}}(u, 1)|_{u=2,6}$  can be obtained by

$$S^{\text{II}}(2, 1) - S^{\text{II}}(6, 1) = \frac{1}{4} \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{16}\right) \left( \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{16}\right) - \cos\left(\frac{5\pi}{16}\right) \right) \\ \times \left( \sum_{x=0,3,4,7} SAD_x - \sum_{x=1,2,5,6} SAD_x \right). \quad (23)$$

For simplicity, assume the maximum item is  $S^{\text{II}}(1, 1)$  after the comparisons in (22).  $S^{\text{II}}(1, 1)$  can be further compared with the larger one of  $S^{\text{II}}(u, 1)|_{u=2,6}$  by

$$S^{\text{II}}(1, 1) - S^{\text{II}}(2, 1) = \frac{1}{4} \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{16}\right) \left( \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{16}\right) - \cos\left(\frac{5\pi}{16}\right) \right) \\ \times \left( \sum_{x=1,6} SAD_x - \sum_{x=3,4} SAD_x \right) \quad (24)$$

or

$$S^{\text{II}}(1, 1) - S^{\text{II}}(6, 1) = \frac{1}{4} \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{16}\right) \left( \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{16}\right) - \cos\left(\frac{5\pi}{16}\right) \right) \\ \times \left( \sum_{x=0,7} SAD_x - \sum_{x=2,5} SAD_x \right). \quad (25)$$

Note that the similar derivation procedure can be applied when the maximum item is  $S^{\text{I}}(3, 1)$ ,  $S^{\text{I}}(5, 1)$  or  $S^{\text{I}}(7, 1)$  after the comparisons by (21).

On the other hand, when comparing  $S^{\text{II}}(u, 1)|_{u=2,6}$  with  $S^{\text{I}}(u, 1)|_{u=0,4}$ , we have

$$S^{\text{II}}(2, 1) - S^{\text{I}}(u, 1)|_{u=0,4} \\ = \frac{1}{4} \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{16}\right) \left( \left( \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{16}\right) - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right) \sum_{x=0,3,4,7} SAD_x \right. \\ \left. + \left( \cos\left(\frac{5\pi}{16}\right) - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right) \sum_{x=1,2,5,6} SAD_x \right) \quad (26)$$

and

$$S^{\text{II}}(6, 1) - S^{\text{I}}(u, 1)|_{u=0,4} \\ = \frac{1}{4} \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{16}\right) \left( \left( \cos\left(\frac{5\pi}{16}\right) - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right) \sum_{x=0,3,4,7} SAD_x \right. \\ \left. + \left( \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{16}\right) - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right) \sum_{x=1,2,5,6} SAD_x \right). \quad (27)$$

As a result, the following inequality is satisfied:

$$S^{\text{II}}(2, 1) + S^{\text{II}}(6, 1) - 2S^{\text{I}}(u, 1)|_{u=0,4} = \\ \frac{1}{4} \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{16}\right) \left( \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{16}\right) + \cos\left(\frac{5\pi}{16}\right) - \sqrt{2} \right) \sum_{x=0}^7 SAD_x \geq 0. \quad (28)$$

This inequality implies that the larger one of  $S^{\text{II}}(2, 1)$  and  $S^{\text{II}}(6, 1)$  is always no less than  $S^{\text{I}}(u, 1)|_{u=0,4}$ .

According to the above derivation, all DCT coefficients will be quantized to zeros if

$$|F(u, v)| \leq S^{\text{I}}(u, v)|_{v=1,3,5,7} \\ \leq \max\left(S^{\text{II}}(u, 1)|_{u=2,3,4,5,6,7}\right) \\ < \frac{5}{2} Q_p. \quad (29)$$

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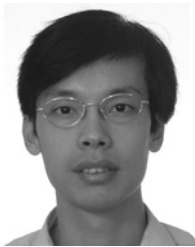
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