

Effective Wipe Detection in MPEG Compressed Video Using Macroblock Type Information

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Abstract—For video scene analysis, the wipe transition is considered most complex and difficult to detect. In this paper, an effective wipe detection method is proposed using the macroblock (MB) information of the MPEG compressed video. By analyzing the prediction directions of B frames, which are revealed in the MB types, the scene change region of each frame can be found. Once the accumulation of the scene change regions covers most area of the frame, the sequence will be considered a motionless wipe transition sequence. Besides, uncommon intracoded MBs of the B frame can also be applied as an indicator of the motion wipe transition. A very simple analysis based on small amount of MB type information is sufficient to achieve wipe detection directly on MPEG compressed video. Easy extraction of MB type information, low-complex analysis algorithm and robustness to arbitrary shape and direction of wipe transitions are the great advantages of the proposed method.

Index Terms—MPEG, scene change, scene cut, wipe detection, video analysis.

I. INTRODUCTION

AS THE rapid development of multimedia applications, the video database is growing extremely huge. Nowadays, the video database management and video retrieval system have also become an urgent issue to be solved. To achieve the goal of video database management, how to parse a video sequence into a set of key frames plays a very important role. Video analysis, which detects those frames carrying significant information, such as scene changes or caption embedded frames, acts as the fundamental step to facilitate the video retrieval and browsing mechanism. Recently, as a result, the scene change detection method arouses more and more interests and many related algorithms have been proposed. Generally, scene changes are subjectively divided into two types, abrupt scene change and gradual scene change, each represents different characteristics and requires different detection methods. Abrupt scene change, defined as sudden change from one scene to another caused by the video editing action, can be detected either by histogram comparison [3], [9] on the uncompressed video, or by discrete cosine transform (DCT) coefficient comparison [4], [5], [8] and analysis on motion vectors [6], [7], [11], [12] on the compressed video. We also have proposed an effective abrupt scene change detection based on an analysis of macroblock information [23], which explores and reuses comparison opera-

tions of the motion estimation procedure and can be applied directly on the MPEG compressed video. Compared with abrupt scene changes, however, gradual scene changes not only require more complex detection method but also probably produce disturbances on the abrupt scene change detection. It is a transition from one scene to another, which may take from several to several tens of frames. Most of gradual scene change detection papers [10], [14], [15], [21], [27] have put their focus on the dissolve transition, during which the current scene gradually fades out and next scene gradually comes into sight. We also have proposed a dissolve sequence detection [23] using macroblock information of P and B frame in the MPEG coding scheme, which explore the relationship between dissolve formula and the statistics of interpolated MBs.

Besides the dissolve sequence, there also exists another common gradual scene change, the wipe transition. During the wipe transition, the next scene gradually shows up and wipes out the current scene. Compared with the dissolve sequence, the wipe sequence detection method is less discussed and much more complex. The difficulties of wipe detection lie in four respects, as follows.

- 1) The arbitrary shape. The wipe shape can be arbitrary, such as rectangular, circle, fencing, etc.
- 2) The arbitrary direction. The wipe direction can be arbitrary, such as bottom to top, top to bottom, bottom-left to top-right, etc.
- 3) The arbitrary speed. The wipe speed of a wipe transition can be arbitrary, which may spread over from several to several tens of frames.
- 4) Foreground or background movement. The next wipe-in scene or the current wipe-out scene can gradually appear or disappear with motion instead of motionless appearance or disappearance.

In order to explain this complexity, Figs. 1–5 illustrate the five different types of wipe transitions. Based on the above discussion, the richness of variety of wipe transitions makes it the most difficult gradual scene change to be detected. Some of related approaches perform the wipe detection based on uncompressed video [17], [18]. Although good performance is obtained, high computation load is required to handle the different shapes, directions and patterns of the wipe effects. Additionally, as the MPEG standard is widely adopted, more and more video data are compressed in order to save the storage space. In other words, uncompressed video wipe detection has to spend additional computation power to decompress MPEG coded video in advance. As a result, more and more recent researches focus on wipe detection directly on compressed video. Wu *et al.* [19] have proposed a wipe detection based on the DC sequence of

Manuscript received December 5, 2000; revised July 23, 2001. This work was supported by the National Science Council of Taiwan, R.O.C., under Contract NSC 91-2219-E-002-044. The associate editor coordinating the review of this paper and approving it for publication was Dr. Hong-Yuan Mark Liao.

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Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/TMM.2002.802841.



Fig. 1. Example of wipe transition from the left to right in rectangular shape.



Fig. 2. Example of wipe transition from the upper-right to bottom-left in rectangular shape.



Fig. 3. Example of wipe transition from center to spread out in circular shape.



Fig. 4. Example of fencing wipe transition from left to right.



Fig. 5. An example of motion wipe transition from the left to right in rectangular shape.

MPEG compressed video. But it is only capable to detect horizontal and vertical wipes.

Based on our effective method of abrupt scene change detection [23], we extend this idea to wipe detection. Taking advantage of the frame-based accuracy of abrupt scene change detection and precise locating capability of scene change positions, the wipe detection can be achieved by accumulating the scene change regions over a period of time. This method requires only macroblock type information and is robust to arbitrary shapes,

directions and speeds of wipe sequences. For another type of wipe sequence in which the next scene is moving onto the current one, the number of intracoded MBs in B and P frames can also perform as the indicator of the wipe sequence effectively. Compared with other proposed methods, this novel method benefits from easy extraction and simple analysis of MB type information. Above all, this proposed method works very effectively no matter where the initial location and in what direction or shape that the next scene wipes out the current one.

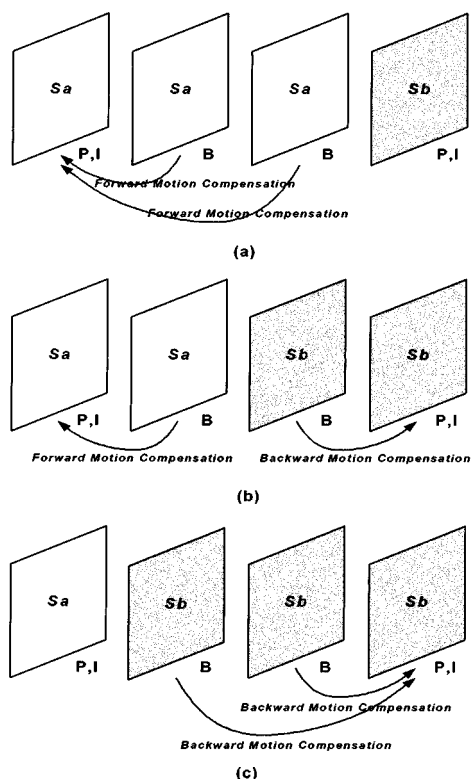


Fig. 6. Patterns of the prediction of B and P frame corresponding to different abrupt scene change positions.

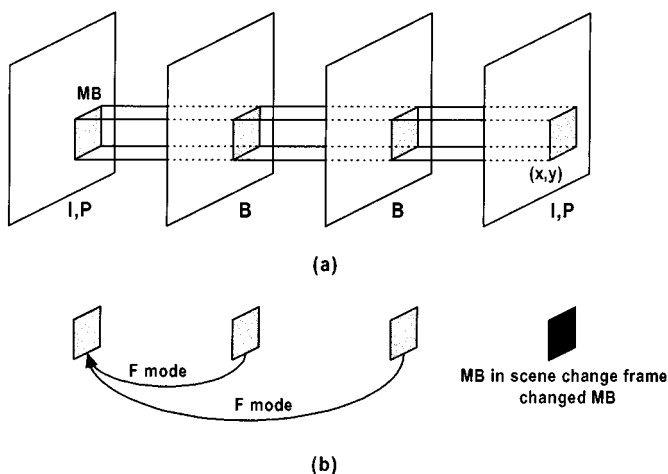


Fig. 7. Illustration of concept of MBGxy.

II. PROPOSED WIPE DETECTION METHOD

A. Abrupt Scene Change

We first introduce our proposed abrupt scene change detection, which is applied as the first step of wipe detection. This method [23] exploits the comparison operations performed in the motion estimation procedure, which results in specific characteristics of the MB type information when abrupt scene changes occur. In the MPEG coding scheme with the Group Of Pictures (GOP) structure of IBBPBBPBBPBBPBB ($M = 3, N = 15$), we define the PBBP, IBBP, or PBBP as a SubGroup Of Pictures (SGOP) to clarify the description of our algorithm. The patterns of the prediction of B and P frames

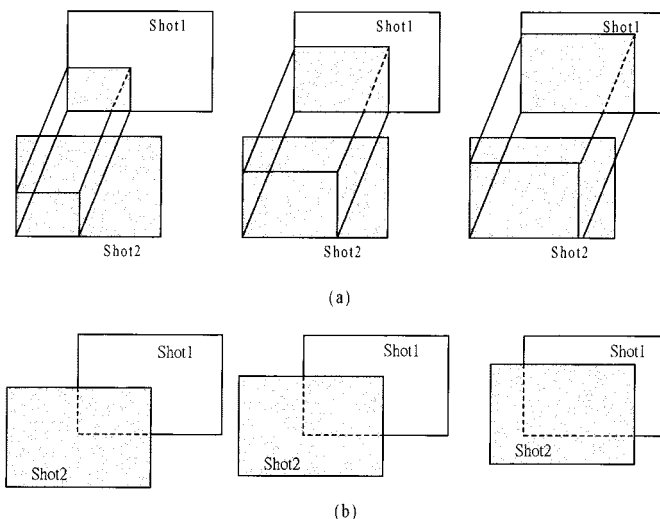


Fig. 8. Illustration of motion and motionless wipe transition. (a) Illustration of motionless wipe transition. (b) Illustration of motion wipe transition.

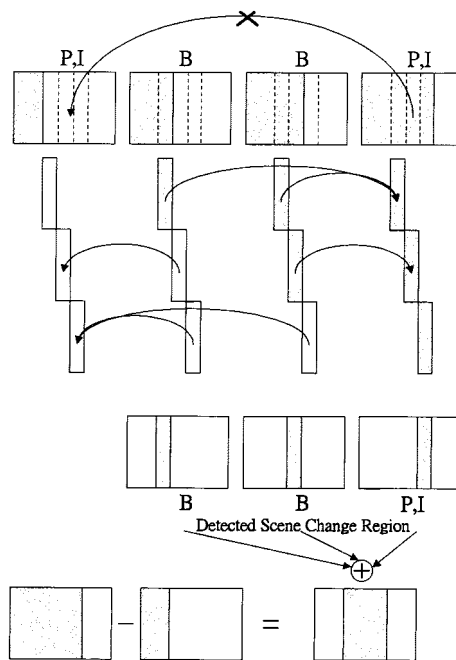


Fig. 9. Illustration of the proposed motionless wipe detection method.

corresponding to different abrupt scene change positions are illustrated in Fig. 6. Based on this concept, abrupt scene changes can be detected by a simple analysis.

In addition, we define that the MBs in specific geometric position (x, y) of each frame in a SGOP form a MB group (MBGxy). If the pattern of the MB types in a MBGxy follows the patterns shown in Fig. 6, a scene change MB in the location (x, y) is found. This idea, which is illustrated in Fig. 7, can help us not only to locate the scene change area but also to set up the threshold more easily. The concept of MBGxy has been applied to caption detection in our previous works [23] based on its ability to locate changed area.

It is worthwhile to note that our detection is in frame-based accuracy, in other words, our detection method can exactly indicates which areas have changed in each frame. This advantage

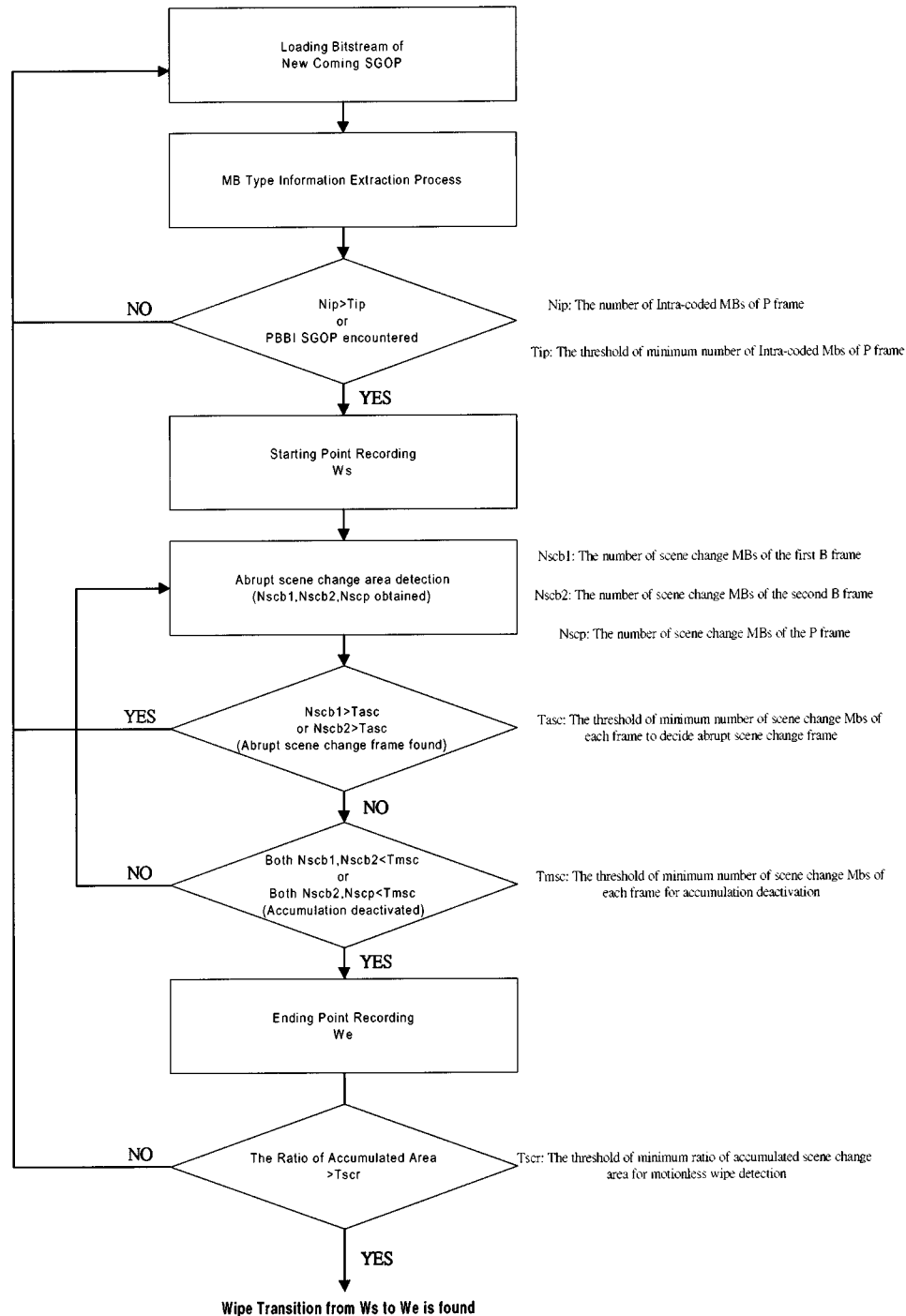


Fig. 10. Flowchart of proposed motionless wipe detection algorithm.

also provides us the opportunity to extend our method to detect wipe transition, which is a geometrically gradual scene change, based on accumulating scene change area.

B. Wipe Detection

Before introducing our wipe detection algorithm, we first classify the wipe transitions into two categories according to movement of the wipe-in or wipe-out scene. The motionless wipe transition, which is the most common form, is defined as the wipe transition without the foreground or background movement, that is to say, both wipe-in and wipe-out scene are

globally motionless. By contrast, in the motion wipe transition, the next wipe-in scene is moving onto the current wipe-out scene, or the current wipe-out scene is moving out and the next wipe-in scene shows up gradually. Fig. 8 illustrates these two categories of wipe transitions and the examples can be found in Figs. 1 and 5.

1) *The Motionless Wipe Detection:* As we have discussed, the advantage of frame-based detection accuracy and the capability to locate the scene change region facilitate the wipe detection. By our abrupt scene change detection, we can trace the changed area of each frame during the wipe transition. Once

the accumulation of changing area cover with significant ratio of the entire frame, the sequence will be judged as a wipe transition. Fig. 9 illustrates the proposed motionless wipe detection method. Two important issues should be taken into consideration in our method: When to trigger the accumulation mechanism and how long the accumulation should take. For the former issue, the simplest idea is to continuously monitor the detected scene change region, in other words, the accumulation mechanism is always activated. The computational load of this idea, however, is comparatively large. As a result, we adopt another solution that makes use of the significant number of intracoded MBs of the latter P frame of an SGOP. Because of the content change resulting from the wipe effect, the ineffectiveness of motion estimation will result in significant number of intracoded MBs in P frames. This characteristic, which is also illustrated in Fig. 9, can be used to trigger the accumulation mechanism. Once the ratio of the number of intracoded MBs to total number of MBs exceeds a predefined threshold T_{ip} , the accumulation mechanism will start to detect scene change region for wipe detection. This idea, which avoid continuous effort on monitoring change area, is practical because the latter P frame of the SGOP will be decoded in advance of the B frames during the MPEG decoding process.

For the second issue to decide how long the accumulation should take, it is difficult because the length of the wipe transition can be arbitrary. Consequently, a very large number of frames should be adopted as the threshold to cover all possible wipe transition lengths. This also costs a lot of computational power. In order to solve this dilemma, we change our strategy to set up the minimum threshold on the number scene change MB of the monitoring frame, instead of the fixed long monitoring length. Once the ratios of scene change MBs to total MBs of two consecutive frames drop smaller than the predefined threshold T_{msc} , the accumulation mechanism stops and the accumulation result is compared to the threshold T_{scr} . The motionless wipe detection is illustrated in the form of flowchart in Fig. 10, and Fig. 11 shows an experimental example based on proposed method, where each black dot represents a scene change MB. It is worthwhile to note that the scene change accumulation mechanism is triggered when I frames are encountered because there is no indication like what the intracoded MB of P frames shows.

There are two great advantages of the proposed method. First, the analysis of very low computational complexity can effectively achieve wipe detection, and most important of all, it can be directly applied on the MPEG compressed video. Second, the ability to track the change area of each frame and detection based on accumulation make our method robust to arbitrary shape and direction of the wipe effect. This advantage is illustrated in Fig. 12.

2) *The Motion Wipe Detection:* The detection of motion wipe transitions is a different case, in which the current wipe-out scene is gradually moving out of sight or the next wipe-in scene is gradually moving into sight. The characteristics of predictions, which exhibit in the MB types, depends on the moving speed. If the moving speed does not exceed the searching ability of the motion estimation, that is, the searching window, the patterns illustrated in Fig. 7 are still valid and the

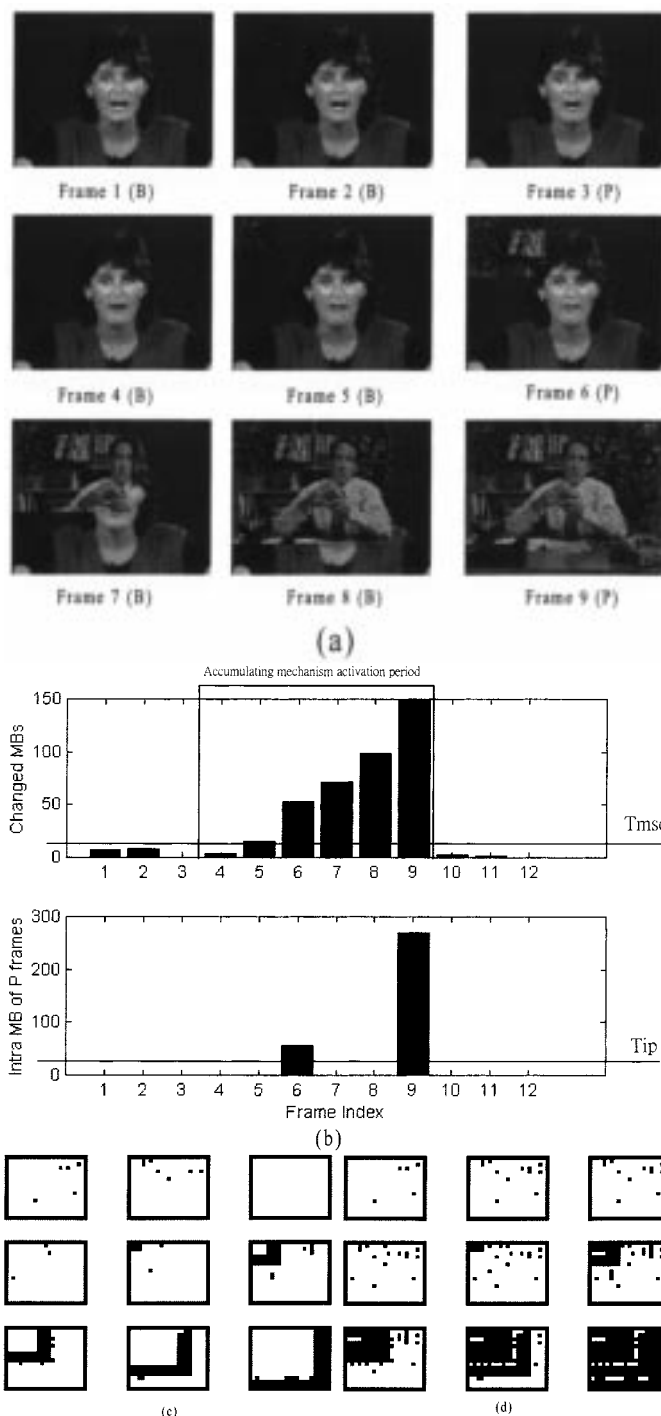


Fig. 11. Experimental example of motionless wipe detection. (a) Test sequence for motionless wipe detection. (b) Statistics of changed MBs and intracoded MBs of P frames. (c) Abrupt scene change detection results based on MBGxy, where each black dot represents a scene change MB. (d) Accumulation of abrupt scene change regions based on MBGxy, where each black dot represents a scene change MB.

motion wipe detection is exactly the same as the motionless wipe detection introduced in Section II-B1. Once the moving speed exceeds the searching ability, however, the ineffectiveness of motion estimation makes our proposed motionless wipe detection invalid for this case. Fast moving speed will make neither forward nor backward prediction of B frames adequate, but fortunately, the lack of adequate frames for prediction results

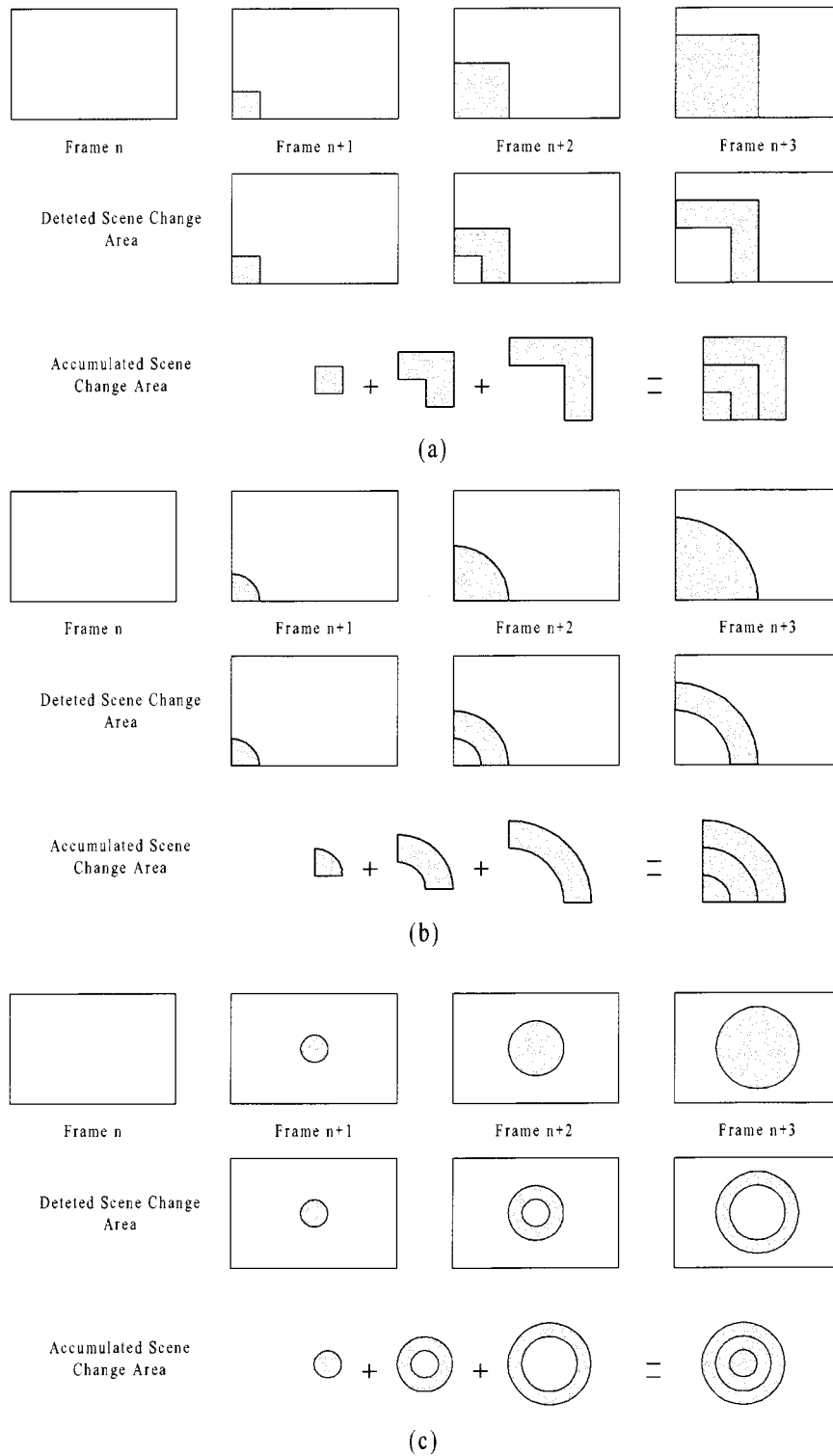


Fig. 12. Illustration of robustness of motionless wipe detection. (a) Rectangular wipe from bottom-left to top-right. (b) Circular wipe from bottom-left to top-right. (c) Circular wipe from center to edge.

in uncommon intracoded MBs of B frames. This phenomenon inspires us a new idea of motion wipe detection. The number of intracoded MBs of B frames can be used as the indicator to detect the motion wipe transition. Similar to motionless wipe detection, we have to decide when to trigger the monitoring mechanism to reduce the computational load. In practice, our method keeps on monitoring the number of intracoded MBs

of P frame to decide when to collect the MB type information of B frames. As we have described, this activation mechanism can be successful because the latter P is decoded in advance of B frames in an SGOP. Once the monitoring mechanism is triggered, the numbers of intracoded MBs of B frames will be collected and compared with a predefined threshold T_{ib} . If two consecutive B frames are found containing more than T_{ib} ratio

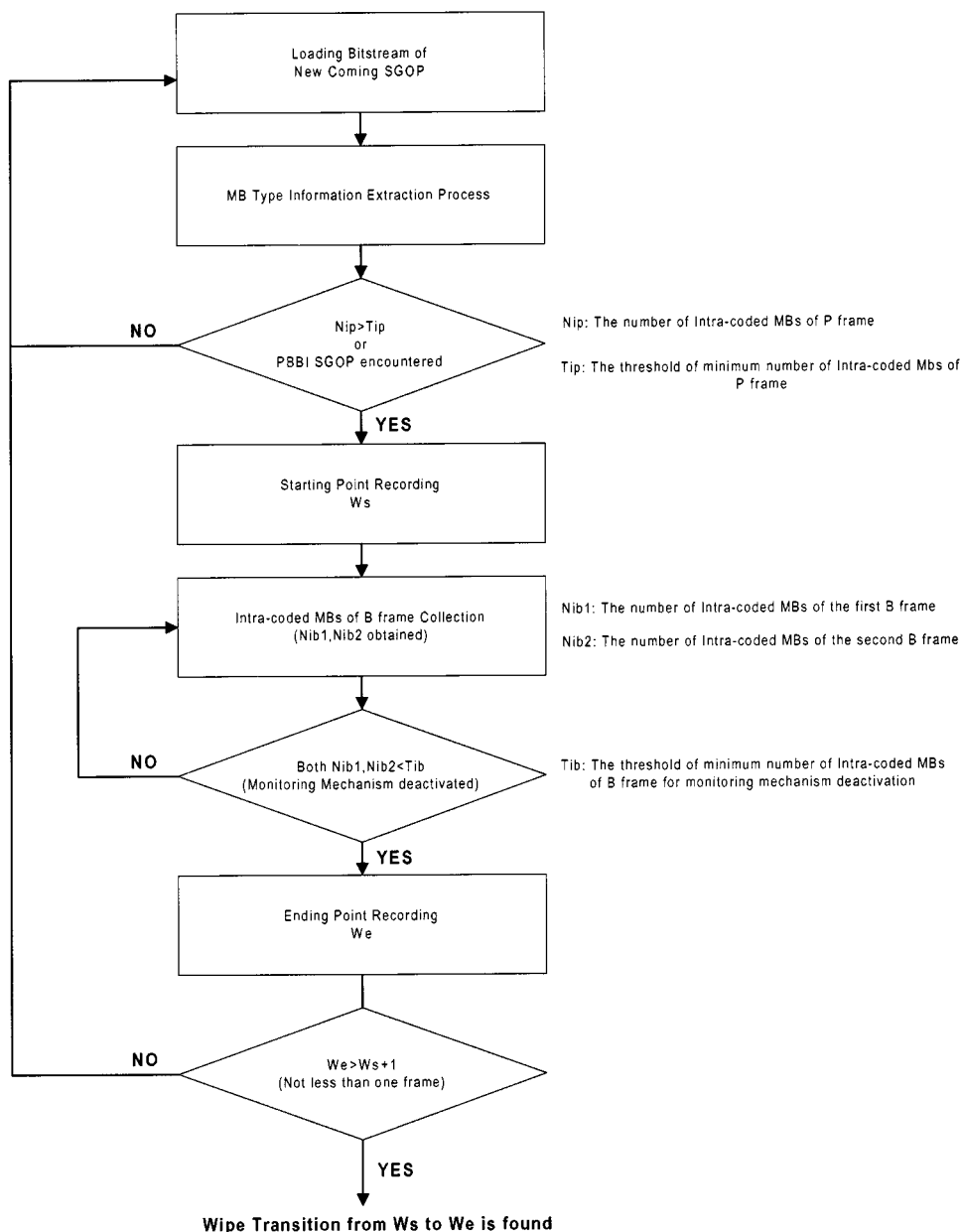


Fig. 13. Flowchart of proposed motion wipe detection algorithm.

of MBs are intracoded, our detection method will regard it as a wipe transition. Moreover, when two consecutive B frames are found containing less than T_{ib} ratio of MBs are intracoded during the monitoring activation period, ending point of a wipe transition is found. Fig. 13 shows the flowchart of our motion wipe detection algorithm and Fig. 14 shows an experimental example.

It is noted that our motion wipe detection is also robust to arbitrary shapes and directions of wipe transitions. It is because the decision is based on the quantity of intracoded MBs of B frames in which the shape or direction of wipe transitions has less influence. Besides, our motionless and motion wipe detection can be integrated easily. Both of them are triggered using the number of intracoded MBs of P frames, and thus the activation mechanism can be merged. Once the monitoring and collecting MB type information of the B frame starts, the inte-

grated algorithm detects and accumulates scene change area of each frame, and simultaneously monitors the ratio of intracoded MBs of B frames. The detection will be terminated either when an ending point of the wipe transition is found, or when this sequence is judged as nonwipe sequence.

III. SIMULATION RESULTS

A. Edited Video Sequence

In order to examine the proposed method, a series of video sequences are edited for experiments. Each frame of these sequences is in SIF (352×240) format and encoded using TM5 [16] ($M = 3, N = 15, 4$ Mbps). 45 wipe transitions (33 are motionless, other 12 are motion wipe transitions) are to be experimented, in which 30 are edited and 15 are digitized from real video. Inside this sequence, there are also 40 abrupt

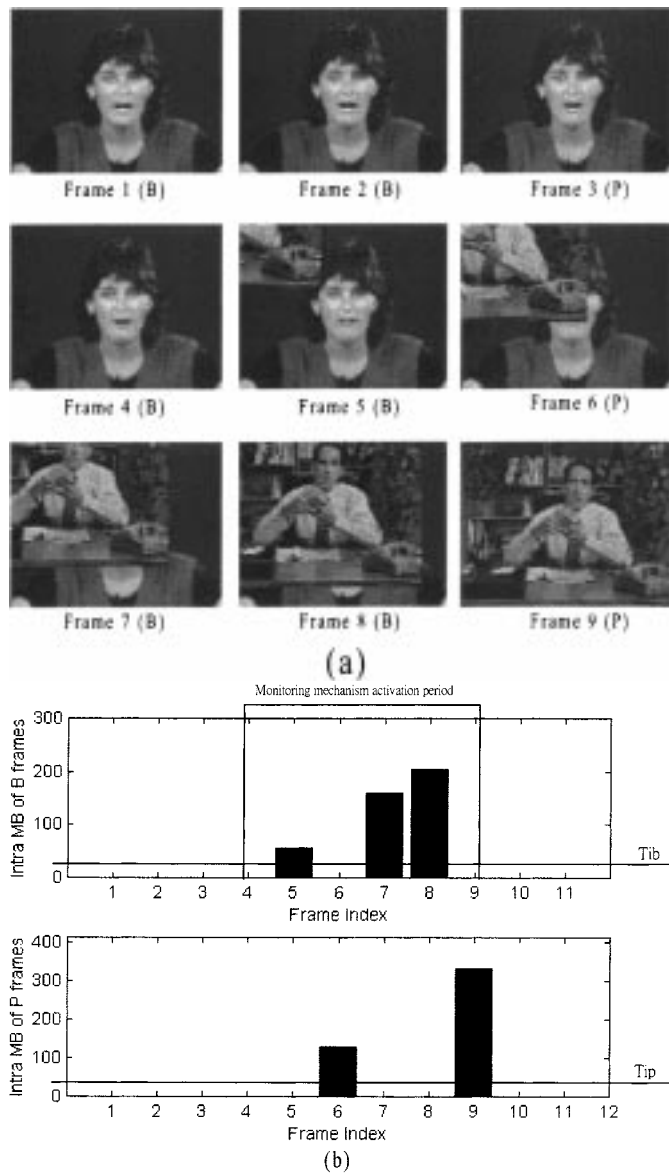


Fig. 14. Experimental example of motion wipe detection. (a) Test sequence of motion wipe detection. (b) Statistics of MB type information of P and B frames.

scene changes, 12 dissolve, five zooming, and seven panning sequences. Before detection, a set of five threshold parameters needs to be decided in advance. This set is listed in Table I. These parameters are left to system user to adjust the trade-off between detection accuracy and false alarm rate and will be discussed and experimented later.

We first adopt a threshold set of $\{T_{ip} = 15, T_{ib} = 10, T_{msc} = 15, T_{scr} = 75\%, T_{asc} = 75\%\}$ and the experimental results are shown in Table II. Fig. 15 has also shown how the detection method operates and how the thresholds are applied. From Table II, it is found that very satisfactory detection accuracy and acceptable false alarm rate is achieved. The only miss detection comes from a very long motionless wipe transition. It produces some small scene change area which will be rejected by threshold T_{msc} . The two false alarm comes from the very fast panning sequences and can be probably removed by increasing the threshold T_{ib} . Theoretically, adjusting the threshold can shift the tradeoff between false alarm and miss detection. In order to

TABLE I
LIST OF THRESHOLD PARAMETERS

Denotation	Description
T_{ip}	Threshold of the number of intra MBs of P frames
T_{ib}	Threshold of the number of intra MBs of B frames
T_{msc}	Threshold of the minimum number of scene change MBs
T_{scr}	Threshold of the minimum ratio of accumulated scene change area
T_{asc}	Threshold of the minimum ratio of scene change area of a single frame

TABLE II
EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS OF 45 WIPE TRANSITION DETECTION
($T_{ip} = 15, T_{ib} = 10, T_{msc} = 15, T_{scr} = 75\%, T_{asc} = 75\%$)

Types	Detected	False alarm	Miss
Motionless	32/33	0	1
Motion	12/12	2	0

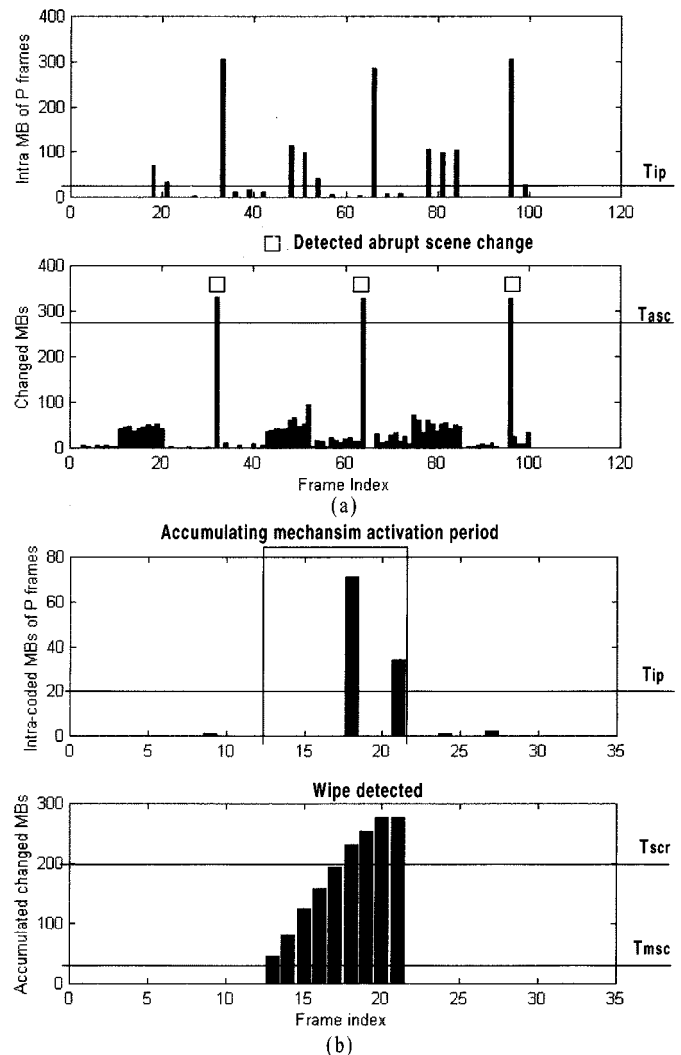


Fig. 15. Illustration of the proposed wipe detection method and the application of thresholds. (a) Statistics of intracoded macroblocks of P frames and the detected scene change MBs from frame 1 to frame 120 of the test sequence. (b) Experimental results of accumulating mechanism activation and accumulated scene change area.

understand the influence of these threshold parameters, a series of experiments are performed and shown in Table III to Table V.

The results of Tables III–V are not very difficult to explain. If the T_{msc} is large, the long wipe transition may be missed be-

TABLE III
EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS WITH THE DIFFERENT T_{msc}

Motionless	Detected	False alarm	Miss
$T_{msc}=10$	32/33	3	1
$T_{msc}=15$	32/33	0	1
$T_{msc}=20$	29/33	0	4

TABLE IV
EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS WITH DIFFERENT T_{scr}

Motionless	Detected	False alarm	Miss
$T_{scr}=60\%$	32/33	4	1
$T_{scr}=75\%$	32/33	0	1
$T_{scr}=85\%$	28/33	0	5

TABLE V
EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS WITH DIFFERENT T_{ib}

Motion	Detected	False alarm	Miss
$T_{ib}=5$	12/12	5	0
$T_{ib}=10$	12/12	2	0
$T_{ib}=20$	10/12	0	2

cause there is a very small change area of each frame. Nevertheless, when the small T_{msc} is adopted, the false alarm rate increases significantly. For T_{scr} , it can also be a very important factor to tune the tradeoff. If T_{scr} is large, the false alarm rate can be reduced but the miss detection increases. In contrast, small T_{scr} will induce more false alarm, primarily resulting from the camera motion or some large moving object, although the miss detection can be reduced significantly. T_{ib} has very similar effect to T_{scr} from the findings of Table V. Therefore, the decision of threshold set selection can be left to the system user to tune the tradeoff between false alarm and miss detection.

B. Simulation of Real Video Sequence

We adopt five real video sequences digitized from news and commercial clips for further experiments. In these sequences, each is 9000 frames long and a total of 46 wipe transitions are involved. The experimental results are shown in Table VI. Forty-three wipe transitions are detected with only three false alarms using threshold set of $\{T_{ip} = 15, T_{ib} = 10, T_{msc} = 15, T_{scr} = 75\%, T_{asc} = 75\%\}$. Similar to the former experiments, the false alarms come from fast panning sequences and the miss detections come from very slow wipe transitions. However, if you change the threshold set to $\{T_{ip} = 15, T_{ib} = 5, T_{msc} = 10, T_{scr} = 60\%, T_{asc} = 75\%\}$, 45 wipe transitions are found but false alarms also increase to nine.

IV. DISCUSSION

A. The Influence of Bit Rates

The bit rates of MPEG video streams can vary from one to several hundred Mbps. As a result, the influence of bit rates should be taken into account to verify the validity of the proposed method. Refer to the rate control mechanism of TM5, the rate is adjusted by changing the quantization scale and irrelevant to macroblock type decision. The macroblock type is determined by the temporal correlation between coding and reference

TABLE VI
EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS OF NEWS AND COMMERCIAL VIDEO
CORRESPONDING TO DIFFERENT THRESHOLD SETS

	Detected	False alarm	Miss
Threshold Set 1 ($T_{ip}=15, T_{ib}=10, T_{msc}=15, T_{scr}=75\%, T_{asc}=75\%$)	43/46	3	3
Threshold Set 2 ($T_{ip}=15, T_{ib}=5, T_{msc}=10, T_{scr}=60\%, T_{asc}=75\%$)	45/46	9	1
Threshold Set 3 ($T_{ip}=15, T_{ib}=20, T_{msc}=20, T_{scr}=80\%, T_{asc}=75\%$)	39/46	1	7

frames. Therefore, the influence of the variation of bit rates is insignificant and, in other words, our method can perform well on the video streams of different bit rates. An experiment based on different bit rates has been done in [23] and simulation results also support this point.

B. Different GOP Structure

In the MPEG standard, the encoder is not strictly defined so that different GOP structure can be used for MPEG coding. As a result, different type of prediction patterns of B frames should be adopted for different GOP structure. The algorithm of this paper is based on the $N = 15, M = 3$ GOP structure. As a result, here we also present the modifications of prediction patterns for different GOP structures, which are shown in Table VII.

C. Influence of Other Scene Change Detections

In practical applications, the proposed wipe detection should be able to be distinguished from other detections, such as abrupt scene change and dissolve transition detections. Table VIII shows the difference of different proposed effect detections and Table IX shows the MB patterns corresponding to different video scene contents. From Tables VIII and IX, we can find that five detection algorithms, which includes scene change, dissolve, wipe, flahsight and caption detections can be integrated without confusion.

V. CONCLUSION

A simple and efficient wipe detection algorithm is proposed using the MB type information. This method benefits from the easy extraction of MB type information, simple analysis, and robustness to arbitrary directions, shapes and foreground or background movement. Frame-based accuracy and the ability to locate the abrupt scene change area can be used to track the motionless wipe transitions by accumulating the scene change MBs. Besides, for the motion wipe detection, the number of intracoded MBs owing to the ineffectiveness of motion estimation can be used as the indicator. We have also discussed the influence of other effects, different bit rates and different GOP structures, and very satisfactory experimental results can be obtained. Last, we have to emphasize that this method is valid only when B frames are used in the MPEG coding process. As a result, the future work to integrate other methods using motion vectors or DCT coefficients is needed to cope with the sequence containing only I and P frames. Nevertheless, this situation is not common because most video sequence often contains B frames for the purpose of large storage space reduction.

TABLE VII
DIFFERENT MB PATTERNS CORRESPONDING TO DIFFERENT SGOP STRUCTURE

SGOP (PBBP): **Bold character means the scene change frame or the wipe transition sequence.**
 MB pattern : X: don't care, I,B,F,D: significant I,B,F,FB mode, **I,B,F,D**: dominant **I,B,F,FB** mode
 Motionless wipe detection: MB pattern modification corresponding to different GOP structures of abrupt scene change detection.

SGOP (PBBP): Bold character means the scene changes

SGOP(PBP)	PBP	PBP		
MB Pattern	XBI	XFI		
SGOP(PBBP)	PBBP	PBBP	PBBP	
MB pattern	XBBI	XBFI	XFFI	
SGOP(PBBBP)	PBBBP	PBBBP	PBBBP	PBBBP
MB Pattern	XBBBI	XFBBI	XFFBI	XFFFI

Motion wipe detection: MB pattern modification corresponding to different GOP structures.

SGOP(PBP)	PBPBPBP	BPBPBPB		
MB Pattern	XIIIII	XIIIIIX		
SGOP(PBBP)	PBBPBBPBPBP	PBBPBBPBPBP	PBBPBBPBPBP	
MB pattern	XIIIIIIII	XFIIIIIIBI	XFFIIIIIBI	
SGOP(PBBBP)	PBBBPBBBPBBBP	PBBBPBBBPBBBP	PBBBPBBBPBBBP	PBBBPBBBPBBBP
MB Pattern	XIIIIIIIIII	XFIIIIIIIIBI	XFFIIIIIIIBI	XFFFIIIIIIBI

TABLE VIII
DETECTION METHOD OF DIFFERENT EFFECTS OR SCENE CHANGES

Detection Type	Summary of proposed detection method
Abrupt scene change detection	Detection triggered by high ratio intra-coded MB of P frame or PBBI SGOP encountered Scene change area covers almost the entire frame at a specific frame where the scene change occurs.
Dissolve detection	Detection triggered by high ratio intra-coded MB of P frame or PBBI SGOP encountered High ratio of interpolative coded MB of B frames are found in dissolve transition.
Flashlight detection (At B frame)	Significant ratio of intra-coded MB of B frame is found at a specific frame where flashlight involved.
Flashlight detection (At P or I frame)	Detection triggered by high ratio intra-coded MB of P frame or PBBI SGOP encountered Two consecutive abrupt scene changes are found will be regard as flashlight.
Caption detection	Abrupt scene change over a selected caption occurrence region
Motion Wipe detection	Detection triggered by high ratio intra-coded MB of P frame or PBBI SGOP encountered Significant ratio of intra-coded MB of at least continuous 2 B frames is found
Motionless Wipe detection	Detection triggered by high ratio intra-coded MB of P frame or PBBI SGOP encountered Continous frames with significant scene change area and accumulated scene change area covers significant ratio of entire frame

TABLE IX
SUMMATION OF MB TYPE PATTERNS OF DIFFERENT DETECTIONS

Detection Type	High Intra of P	High Intra of B	High interpolative MB	Abrupt detection
Abrupt scene change detection	Yes	No	No	All all MB of a frame
Dissolve detection	Yes	No	Yes	No
Flashlight detection (At B frame)	No	Yes	No	No
Flashlight detection (At P or I frame)	Yes	No	No	Cover significant area of two consecutive frame
Caption detection	Yes	No	No	Small scene change area of a selected area
Motion Wipe detection	Yes	Yes	No	No
Motionless Wipe detection	Yes	No	No	Small scene change area of each frame and accumulated area cover almost entire frame

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