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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work. In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 29, *Coding of audio, picture, multimedia and hypermedia information*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO/IEC 23002-4:2014), which has been technically revised.

It also incorporates ISO/IEC 23002-4:2014/Amd.1:2014, ISO/IEC 23002-4:2014/Amd.2:2015, and ISO/IEC 23002-4:2014/DAmd.3[1].

The changes compared to the previous edition are as follows.

— FU description convention described in Clause 4 has been technically updated.

— Functional unit (FU) and FU network (FN) descriptions for graphics tool library (GTL) have been added according to ISO/IEC 23002-4:2014/Amd.1:2014. Clause 5, Clause 9, Annexes D, E, F, and G have been added.

— FU and FN descriptions for high efficiency video coding (HEVC) have been added according to ISO/IEC 23002-4:2014/Amd.2:2015. Clause 10 has been added and Annex B has been updated.

[1] Draft amendment approved in DAM ballot but not published.

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— FU and FN descriptions for parser instantiation from bitstream syntax description (BSD) have added. Clause 5 has updated and Annex I has added.

— A patent statement has been added in Annex H.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 23002 series can be found on the ISO website.

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Introduction

This document defines the MPEG video tool library, which contains tools drawn from existing MPEG coding standards, such as ISO/IEC 14496-2 and ISO/IEC 14496-10, and ISO/IEC 23001-4 defines the methods capable of describing codec configurations in the reconfigurable video coding (RVC) framework.

This document primarily addresses reconfigurable video aspects and will only focus on the description of representation of video codec configurations under the RVC framework, but could be extended to a more generic reconfigurable media coding (RMC) framework.

The objective of RVC is to offer a framework that is capable of configuring and specifying video codecs as a collection of "higher level" modules by using video coding tools. The video coding tools are defined in video tool libraries. This d defines the MPEG video tool library. The RVC framework principle could also support non-MPEG tool libraries, provided that their developers have taken care to obey the appropriate rules of operation.

For the purpose of framework deployment, an appropriate description is needed to describe configurations of decoders composed of or instantiated from a subset of video tools from either one or more libraries. As illustrated in Figure 1, the configuration information consists of

— bitstream syntax description, and

— network of functional units (FUs) description (also referred to as the decoder configuration)

that together constitute the entire decoder description.

Bitstreams of existing MPEG standards are specified by specific syntax structures and decoders are composed of various coding tools. Therefore, RVC includes support for bitstream syntax descriptions as well as video coding tools. As depicted in Figure 1, a typical RVC decoder requires two types of information, namely the decoder description and the encoded media (e.g. video bitstreams) data.

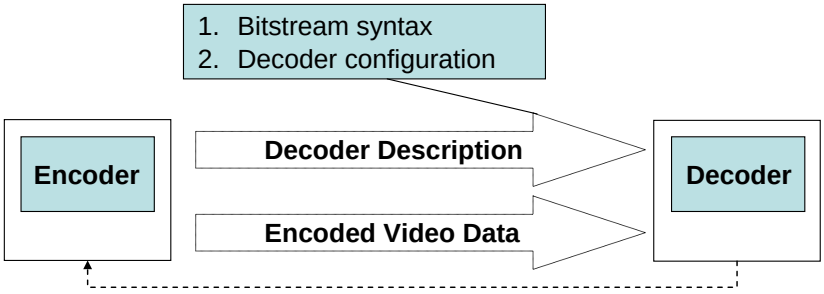

Figure 1 — Conceptual diagram of RVC

A more detailed description of the RVC decoder is illustrated in Figure 2. As shown in Figure 2, the decoder description is required for the configuration of a RVC decoder. The Bitstream Syntax Description (BSD) and FU Network Description (FND) (which compose the Decoder Description) are used to configure or compose an abstract decoder model (ADM) which is instantiated through the selection of FUs from tool libraries optionally with proper parameter assignment. Such ADM constitutes the behavioral reference model used in setting up a decoding solution under the RVC framework. The process of yielding a decoding solution may vary depending on the technologies used for the desired

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implementations. Examples of the instantiation of an ADM and generation of proprietary decoding solutions can be found in ISO/IEC 23001-4.

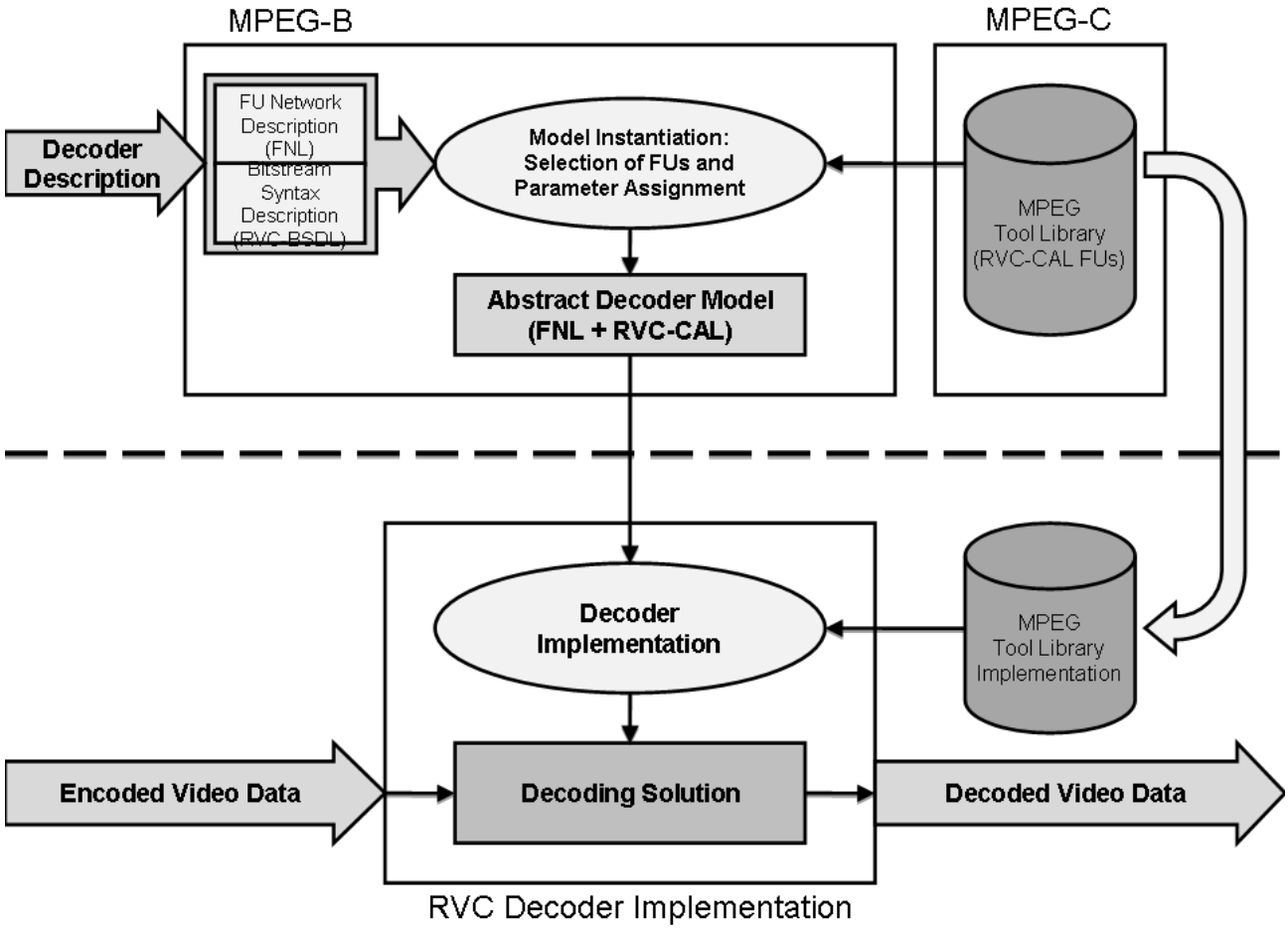

Figure 2 — Graphical representation of the process for setting up a decoding solution under the RVC framework

Within the RVC framework, the decoder description describes a particular decoder configuration and consists of the FND and the BSD. The FND describes the connectivity of the network of FUs used to form a decoder whereas the parsing process for the bitstream syntax is implicitly described by the BSD. These two descriptions are specified using two standard XML-based languages or dialects.

— Functional unit network language (FNL) is a language that describes the FND, known also as "network of FUs". The FNL specified normatively within the scope of the RVC framework is provided in ISO/IEC 23001-4.

— Bitstream syntax description language (BSDL), standardized in ISO/IEC 23001-5 (MPEG-B Part 5), describes the bitstream syntax and the parsing rules. A pertinent subset of this BSDL named RVC-BSDL is defined within the scope of the current RVC framework. This RVC-BSDL also includes possibilities for further extensions, which are necessary to provide complete description of video bitstreams. RVC-BSDL specified normatively within the scope of the RVC framework is provided in ISO/IEC 23001-4.

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The decoder configuration specified using FNL, together with the specification of the bitstream syntax using RVC-BSDL fully specifies the ADM and provides an “executable” model of the RVC decoder description.

The instantiated ADM includes the information about the selected FUs and how they should be connected. As already mentioned, the FND with the network connection information is expressed by using FNL. Furthermore, the RVC framework specifies and uses a dataflow-oriented language called RVC-CAL for describing FUs' behavior. The normative specification of RVC-CAL is provided in ISO/IEC 23001-4. The ADM is the behavioural model that should be referred to in order to implement any RVC conformant decoder. Any RVC compliant decoding solution/implementation can be achieved by using proprietary non-normative tools and mechanisms that yield decoders that behave equivalent to the RVC ADM.

The decoder description, the MPEG tool library, and the associated instantiation of an ADM are normative. More precisely, the ADM is intended to be normative in terms of a behavioural model. In other words, what is normative is the input/output behaviour of the complete ADM, as well as the input/output behaviour of all the FUs that are included in the ADM.

A statement concerning patents is included in Annex H of this document.

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