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**Information technology — Coded  
representation of immersive media —**

**Part 5:  
Visual volumetric video-based coding  
(V3C) and video-based point cloud  
compression (V-PCC)**

*Technologie de l'information — Représentation codée de média  
immersifs —*

*Partie 5: Codage basé sur la vidéo volumétrique (V3C) et compression  
de nuage de points basée sur la vidéo (V-PCC)*

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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.

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 document 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](http://www.iso.org/directives) or [www.iec.ch/members\\_experts/refdocs](http://www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs)).

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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*. <https://www.iso.org/standards.html>

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC 23090-5:2021), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- Additions needed for ISO/IEC 23090-12 MPEG Immersive video
- Various minor improvements and corrections.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 23090 series can be found on the ISO and IEC websites.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html) and [www.iec.ch/national-committees](http://www.iec.ch/national-committees).

## Introduction

Advances in 3D capturing and rendering technologies have unleashed a new wave of innovation in Virtual/Augmented/Mixed reality (VR/AR/MR) content creation and communication, of which visual volumetric video is an integral part.

Visual volumetric video, a sequence of visual volumetric frames, if uncompressed, may be represented by a large amount of data, which can be costly in terms of storage and transmission. This has led to the need for a high coding efficiency standard for the compression of visual volumetric data.

Visual volumetric frames can be coded by converting the 3D volumetric information into a collection of 2D images and associated data. The converted 2D images can be coded using widely available video and image coding specifications, such as ISO/IEC 14492-10 and ISO/IEC 23008-2 and the associated data can be coded with mechanisms specified in this document. The coded images and the associated data can then be decoded and used to reconstruct the 3D volumetric information. This document specifies a generic mechanism for visual volumetric video coding, i.e. visual volumetric video-based coding. The generic mechanism may be used by applications targeting volumetric content, such as point clouds, immersive video with depth, mesh representations of visual volumetric frames, etc.

In addition to the generic mechanism of coding volumetric content, this document specifies one of the applications of visual volumetric video-based coding targeting point cloud representations of visual volumetric frames. In a point cloud sequence, each point cloud frame contains a collection of points. Each point has a 3D position, i.e., geometry information, and each point may also be associated with a number of attributes, such as colour, reflectance, surface normal, etc.

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# Information technology — Coded representation of immersive media —

## Part 5: Visual volumetric video-based coding (V3C) and video-based point cloud compression (V-PCC)

### 1 Scope

This document specifies the syntax, semantics, and decoding for visual volumetric media using video-based coding methods. Furthermore, this document specifies processes that may be needed for reconstruction of visual volumetric media, and may also include additional processes such as post-decoding, pre-reconstruction, post-reconstruction, and adaptation.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitute requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 10646, *Information technology — Universal coded character set (UCS)*

ISO/IEC 14496-10, *Information technology — Coding of audio-visual objects — Part 10: Advanced video coding*

ISO/IEC 14496-12, *Information technology — Coding of audio-visual objects — Part 12: ISO base media file format*

ISO/IEC 14496-15, *Information technology — Coding of audio-visual objects — Part 15: Carriage of network abstraction layer (NAL) unit structured video in the ISO base media file format*

ISO/IEC 23008-2, *Information technology — High efficiency coding and media delivery in heterogeneous environments — Part 2: High efficiency video coding*

ISO/IEC 23090-3, *Information technology — Coded representation of immersive media — Part 3: Versatile video coding*

ISO/IEC 23091-2, *Coding-independent code points for video signal type identification*

Rec. ITU-T T.35, *Procedure for the allocation of ITU-T defined codes for non standard facilities*

Rec. ITU-T H.271, *Video back-channel messages for conveyance of status information and requests from a video receiver to a video sender*

IEEE 754-2019, *IEEE Standard for Floating-Point Arithmetic*

IETF RFC 1321, *The MD5 Message-Digest Algorithm*

IETF RFC 5646, *Tags for Identifying Languages*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

### 3.1

#### **3D bounding box**

volume defined as a cuboid solid having six rectangular faces placed at right angles

### 3.2

#### **associated non-ACL NAL unit**

*non-ACL NAL unit* (3.81) that is associated with an *ACL NAL unit* (3.5) for the purpose of decoding or other operations specified by this document

### 3.3

#### **atlas**

collection of 2D bounding boxes and their associated information placed onto a rectangular frame and corresponding to a volume in 3D space on which volumetric data is rendered

### 3.4

#### **atlas bitstream**

sequence of bits that forms the representation of *atlas frames* (3.7) and associated data forming one or more *CASs* (3.35)

### 3.5

#### **atlas coding layer NAL unit**

##### **ACL NAL unit**

collective term for coded atlas tile layer *NAL units* (3.79) and the subset of *NAL units* (3.79) that have reserved values of *nal\_unit\_type* that are classified as being of type class equal to ACL in this document

### 3.6

#### **atlas coordinates**

two scalars (x, y) with finite precision and dynamic range that indicate the location of an atlas sample relative to the top left corner of an atlas frame, with x and y indicating the horizontal and vertical direction, respectively

### 3.7

#### **atlas frame**

2D rectangular array of atlas samples onto which *patches* (3.88) are projected and additional information related to the *patches* (3.88), corresponding to a *volumetric frame* (3.139)

### 3.8

#### **atlas frame parameter set**

##### **AFPS**

*syntax structure* (3.121) containing *syntax elements* (3.120) that apply to zero or more entire coded *atlas frames* (3.7) as determined by the content of a *syntax element* (3.120) found in each tile header

### 3.9

#### **atlas sample**

position on the rectangular frame onto which *patches* (3.88) that are associated with an *atlas* (3.3) are projected

### 3.10

#### **atlas sequence**

collection of *atlas frames* (3.7)



**3.11****atlas sequence parameter set****ASPS**

*syntax structure* (3.121) containing *syntax elements* (3.120) that apply to zero or more entire *coded atlas sequences* (3.34) as determined by the content of a *syntax element* (3.120) found in the AFPS referred to by a syntax element found in each tile header

**3.12****atlas sub-bitstream**

extracted *sub-bitstream* (3.109) from the *V3C bitstream* (3.129) containing a part of an atlas NAL bitstream

**3.13****atlas unit**

set of *NAL units* (3.79) that contain all *ACL NAL units* (3.5) of a *coded atlas* (3.33) and their *associated non-ACL NAL units* (3.2)

**3.14****attribute**

scalar or vector property optionally associated with each point in a *volumetric frame* (3.139) such as colour, reflectance, surface normal, transparency, material ID, etc.

**3.15****attribute access unit**

collection of *attribute maps* (3.17) and auxiliary attribute frames, if available, for a specific *attribute* (3.14) that correspond to the same time instance

**3.16****attribute frame**

2D rectangular array created through the aggregation of *patches* (3.88) containing values of a specific *attribute* (3.14)

**3.17****attribute map**

*attribute frame* (3.16) containing *attribute patch* (3.88) information projected at a particular depth indicated by the corresponding *geometry map* (3.64)

**3.18****auxiliary attribute frame**

2D rectangular array that is associated with *RAW patches* (3.104) and *EOM patches* (3.56), and contains values of a specific *attribute* (3.14)

**3.19****auxiliary geometry frame**

2D rectangular array that is associated with *RAW patches* (3.104) and contains *geometry* (3.61) values

**3.20****auxiliary video component**

*video component* (3.126) indicated as being of auxiliary type through an appropriate flag in the *VPS* (3.135) and containing data only associated with *RAW patches* (3.104) and/or *EOM patches* (3.56)

**3.21****auxiliary video sub-bitstream**

*video sub-bitstream* (3.128) indicated as being of auxiliary type through an appropriate flag in the *VPS* (3.135) and containing data only associated with *RAW patches* (3.104) and/or *EOM patches* (3.56)

**3.22****bitstream**

ordered series of bits that forms the coded representation of the data

### 3.23

#### **byte**

sequence of 8 bits, within which, when written or read as a sequence of bit values, the left-most and right-most bits represent the most and least significant bits, respectively

### 3.24

#### **broken link access access unit**

##### **BLA access unit**

access unit in which the *coded atlas* (3.33) with *nal\_layer\_id* equal to 0 is a *BLA coded atlas* (3.25)

### 3.25

#### **broken link access coded atlas frame**

##### **BLA coded atlas**

##### **BLA atlas frame**

*IRAP coded atlas* (3.75) frame for which each *ACL NAL unit* (3.5) has *nal\_unit\_type* equal to *NAL\_BLA\_W\_LP*, *NAL\_GBLA\_W\_LP*, *NAL\_BLA\_W\_RADL*, *NAL\_GBLA\_W\_RADL*, *NAL\_BLA\_N\_LP* or *NAL\_GBLA\_N\_LP*.

Note 1 to entry: A BLA coded atlas does not use inter prediction in its decoding process, and could be the first coded atlas in the bitstream in decoding order, or could appear later in the bitstream. Each BLA coded atlas begins a new CAS, and has the same effect on the decoding process as an instantaneous decoding refresh (IDR) coded atlas. However, a BLA coded atlas contains syntax elements that specify a non-empty DAB. When a BLA coded atlas frame for which each ACL NAL unit has *nal\_unit\_type* equal to *NAL\_BLA\_W\_LP* or *NAL\_GBLA\_W\_LP*, it may have associated random access skipped leading (RASL) coded atlas frames, which are not output by the decoder and may not be decodable, as they may contain references to atlas frames that are not present in the bitstream. When a BLA coded atlas frame for which each ACL NAL unit has *nal\_unit\_type* equal to *NAL\_BLA\_W\_LP* or *NAL\_GBLA\_W\_LP*, it may also have associated RADL coded atlas frames, which are specified to be decoded. When a BLA coded atlas frame for which each ACL NAL unit has *nal\_unit\_type* equal to *NAL\_BLA\_W\_RADL* or *NAL\_GBLA\_W\_RADL*, it does not have associated RASL coded atlas frames but may have associated random access decodable leading (RADL) coded atlas frames. When a BLA coded atlas frame for which each ACL NAL unit has *nal\_unit\_type* equal to *NAL\_BLA\_N\_LP* or *NAL\_GBLA\_N\_LP*, it does not have any associated leading coded atlas frames.

### 3.26

#### **byte-aligned**

positioned as an integer multiple of 8 bits from the position of the first bit in the *bitstream* (3.22)

### 3.27

#### **byte-aligned position**

position in a *bitstream* (3.22) that is *byte-aligned* (3.26)

### 3.28

#### **byte-aligned byte**

*byte* (3.23) that appears in a position in a *bitstream* (3.22) that is *byte-aligned* (3.26)

### 3.29

#### **Cartesian coordinates**

three scalars (*x*, *y*, *z*) with finite precision and dynamic range that indicate the location of a point relative to a fixed reference point (the origin)

### 3.30

#### **clean random access access unit**

##### **CRA access unit**

access unit in which the *coded atlas* (3.33) with *nal\_layer\_id* equal to 0 is a *CRA coded atlas* (3.31)

**3.31****clean random access coded atlas frame****CRA coded atlas****CRA atlas frame**

*IRAP coded atlas* (3.75) for which each *ACL NAL unit* (3.5) has *nal\_unit\_type* equal to *NAL\_CRA* or *NAL\_GCRA*

Note 1 to entry: A CRA coded atlas does not use inter prediction in its decoding process, and could be the first coded atlas in the bitstream in decoding order, or could appear later in the bitstream. A CRA coded atlas could have associated RADL or RASL coded atlas frames. When a CRA coded atlas has *NoOutputBeforeRecoveryFlag* equal to 1, the associated RASL coded atlas frames are not output by the decoder, because they might not be decodable, as they could contain references to coded atlas frames that are not present in the bitstream.

**3.32****codec**

specification, device, or system that specifies or uses well defined instructions for encoding or decoding a digital data, i.e. image or video, stream or signal

**3.33****coded atlas****coded atlas frame**

coded representation of an *atlas* (3.3)

**3.34****coded atlas access unit**

set of *atlas NAL units* (3.79) that are associated with each other according to a specified classification rule, are consecutive in decoding order, and contain all *atlas NAL units* (3.79) pertaining to one particular output time

**3.35****coded atlas sequence****CAS**

sequence of *coded atlas access units* (3.34), in decoding order, of an *IRAP coded atlas access unit* (3.74) with *NoOutputBeforeRecoveryFlag* equal to 1, followed by zero or more *coded atlas access units* (3.34) that are not *IRAP coded atlas access units* (3.74) with *NoOutputBeforeRecoveryFlag* equal to 1, including all subsequent *access units* (3.34) up to but not including any subsequent *coded atlas access unit* (3.34) that is an *IRAP coded atlas access unit* (3.74) with *NoOutputBeforeRecoveryFlag* equal to 1.

Note 1 to entry: An *IRAP coded atlas access unit* may be an *IDR coded atlas access unit*, a *BLA coded atlas access unit*, or a *CRA coded atlas access unit*. The value of *NoOutputBeforeRecoveryFlag* is equal to 1 for each *IDR coded atlas access unit*, each *BLA coded atlas access unit*, and each *CRA coded atlas access unit* that is the first coded atlas access unit in the atlas bitstream in decoding order, is the first coded atlas access unit that follows an end of sequence *NAL unit* in decoding order, or has *HandleCraAsBlaFlag* equal to 1.

**3.36****coded common atlas access unit**

set of common *atlas non-ACL NAL units* (3.81) that are associated with each other according to a specified classification rule, are consecutive in decoding order, and contain all common *atlas NAL units* (3.79) pertaining to one particular output time

**3.37****coded common atlas frame**

coded representation of a *common atlas frame* (3.44)

**3.38**

**coded common atlas sequence**

**CCAS**

sequence of *coded common atlas access units* (3.36), in decoding order, of an *IRAP coded common atlas access unit* (3.77), followed by zero or more *coded common atlas access units* (3.36) that are not *IRAP coded common atlas access units* (3.77), including all subsequent *access units* (3.36) up to but not including any subsequent *coded common atlas access unit* (3.36) that is an *IRAP coded common atlas access unit* (3.77)

**3.39**

**coded volumetric frame**

collection of coded representations of an *atlas* (3.3), *occupancy* (3.86), *geometry access unit* (3.62), and, for each available *attribute* (3.14), *attribute access unit* (3.15), pertaining to one particular time instance

**3.40**

**coded V3C sequence**

**CVS**

sequence of *V3C sub-bitstreams* (3.134) identified and separated by appropriate delimiters, required to start with a *VPS* (3.135), included in at least one *V3C unit* (3.136) or provided through external means, and contains one or more V3C units that can be factored into *V3C composition units* (3.132), where the first V3C composition unit is a *V3C IRAP composition unit* (3.133)

**3.41**

**coded representation**

data element as represented in its coded form

**3.42**

**coded sub-bitstream sequence**

*sub-bitstream IRAP composition unit* (3.111) followed by zero or more *sub-bitstream composition units* (3.110)

**3.43**

**coded V3C component**

coded representation of a *V3C component* (3.130)

**3.44**

**common atlas frame**

**CAF**

common information (e.g. projection parameters) that applies to all *atlas frames* (3.7) in a *volumetric frame* (3.139)

**3.45**

**common atlas sequence**

collection of *common atlas frames* (3.44)

**3.46**

**common atlas sub-bitstream**

extracted *sub-bitstream* (3.109) from the *V3C bitstream* (3.129) containing a part of a common atlas NAL bitstream

**3.47**

**component bitstream**

*bitstream* (3.22) representing a *V3C component* (3.130)

**3.48**

**component sub-bitstream**

portion of *component bitstream* (3.44)

**3.49**

**composition time**

time or time period at which a frame needs to be composed, used for reconstruction, or presented

**3.50****composition time index**

index to an ordered list of *composition times* (3.49)

**3.51****composition unit**

partition of a *bitstream* (3.22) that has a certain *composition time* (3.49)

**3.52****decoder under test****DUT**

decoder that is tested for conformance to this document by operating the hypothetical stream scheduler to deliver a conforming *bitstream* (3.22) to the decoder and to the hypothetical reference decoder and comparing the values and timing or order of the output of the two decoders

**3.53****decoding unit**

sub-set of a *coded atlas access unit* (3.34) consisting of one or more ACL NAL units in a *coded atlas access unit* (3.34) and the *associated non-ACL NAL units* (3.2)

**3.54****enhanced occupancy mode****EOM**

patch coding mode where a *patch* (3.88) is associated with enhanced occupancy information

**3.55****EOM coded points**

coded representation of 3D points located at intermediate depth positions for which *geometry* (3.61) values are stored as codewords in the *occupancy frame* (3.87) and their corresponding attributes values are stored in additional patches, referred to as *EOM patches* (3.56), in the *attribute frames* (3.16)

**3.56****EOM patch**

*patch* (3.88) with *patch mode* (3.90) equal to I\_EOM, P\_EOM, or P\_SKIP

**3.57****EOM patch type**

*patch type* (3.91) indicating an *EOM patch* (3.56)

**3.58****essential supplemental enhancement information****ESEI**

*SEI* (3.118) that is deemed as essential by the decoding process and should not be ignored or discarded

**3.59****essential supplemental enhancement information NAL unit****ESEI NAL unit**

*NAL unit* (3.79) corresponding to an *ESEI* (3.58) and has *nal\_unit\_type* equal to NAL\_PREFIX\_ESEI or NAL\_SUFFIX\_ESEI

**3.60****flag**

variable or single-bit syntax element that can take one of the two possible values: 0 and 1

**3.61****geometry**

set of *Cartesian coordinates* (3.29) associated with a *volumetric frame* (3.139)

**3.62**

**geometry access unit**

collection of *geometry maps* (3.64) and auxiliary geometry frames, if present, corresponding to the same time instance

**3.63**

**geometry frame**

2D array created through the aggregation of the *geometry* (3.61) information associated with each *patch* (3.88)

**3.64**

**geometry map**

*geometry frame* (3.63) containing *geometry patch* (3.88) information projected at a particular depth

**3.65**

**global broken link access coded atlas frame**

**GBLA atlas frame**

*IRAP coded atlas* (3.75) frame for which each *ACL NAL unit* (3.5) has *nal\_unit\_type* equal to NAL\_GBLA\_W\_LP, NAL\_GBLA\_W\_RADL, or NAL\_GBLA\_N\_LP respectively

**3.66**

**global clean random access coded atlas frame**

**GCRA atlas frame**

*IRAP coded atlas* (3.75) frame for which each *ACL NAL unit* (3.5) has *nal\_unit\_type* equal to NAL\_GCRA

**3.67**

**global instantaneous decoding refresh coded atlas frame**

**GIDR atlas frame**

*coded atlas* (3.33) for which each *ACL NAL unit* (3.5) has *nal\_unit\_type* equal to NAL\_GIDR\_W\_RADL, NAL\_GBLA\_N\_LP, or NAL\_GCRA, or in the range of NAL\_GBLA\_W\_LP to NAL\_GBLA\_N\_LP, inclusive, and specify a random access association between the current *coded atlas* and its corresponding coded video frames at the same composition time

**3.68**

**hypothetical reference decoder**

**HRD**

hypothetical decoder model that specifies constraints on the variability of conforming atlas *NAL unit* (3.79) streams or conforming *coded atlas* (3.33) sample streams that an encoding process may produce

**3.69**

**hypothetical stream scheduler**

**HSS**

hypothetical delivery mechanism used for checking the conformance of an *atlas sub-bitstream* (3.12) or a decoder with regards to the timing and data flow of the input of an *atlas sub-bitstream* (3.12) into the *hypothetical reference decoder* (3.68)

**3.70**

**instantaneous decoding refresh coded atlas access unit**

**IDR coded atlas access unit**

access unit in which the *coded atlas* (3.33) with *nal\_layer\_id* equal to 0 is an *IDR coded atlas* (3.71)