ISO/IEC FDIS 14496-10:~~202x (11th edition~~2025(en)~~)~~

Date: ~~2024-11-03~~2025-02-22

Information technology — Coding of audio-visual objects —

Part 10:
Advanced video coding

Technologies de l'information — Codage des objets audiovisuels — Partie 10: Codage visuel avancé

Contents

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 or www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs)

ISO and IEC draw attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO and IEC take no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO and IEC had received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at www.iso.org/patents and https://patents.iec.ch. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of 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 www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html. In the IEC, see www.iec.ch/understanding-standards.

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*, in collaboration with ITU-T (as ITU-T H.264).

This eleventh edition cancels and replaces the tenth edition (ISO/IEC 14496-10:2022), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

— the addition of support for neural-network post-filter characteristics, neural-network post-filter activation, phase indication SEI messages specified in Rec. ITU-T H.274 | ISO/IEC 23002-7, and additional colour type identifiers.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 14496 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 and www.iec.ch/national-committees.

Introduction

0.1 Prologue

As the costs for both processing power and memory have reduced, network support for coded video data has diversified, and advances in video coding technology have progressed, the need has arisen for an industry standard for compressed video representation with substantially increased coding efficiency and enhanced robustness to network environments. Toward these ends the ITU-T Video Coding Experts Group (VCEG) and the ISO/IEC Moving Picture Experts Group (MPEG) formed a Joint Video Team (JVT) in 2001 for development of a new Recommendation | International Standard. The standard has since been maintained and enhanced jointly by VCEG and MPEG.

0.2 Purpose

This Recommendation | International Standard was developed in response to the growing need for higher compression of moving pictures for various applications such as videoconferencing, digital storage media, television broadcasting, internet streaming, and communication. It is also designed to enable the use of the coded video representation in a flexible manner for a wide variety of network environments. The use of this Recommendation | International Standard allows motion video to be manipulated as a form of computer data and to be stored on various storage media, transmitted and received over existing and future networks and distributed on existing and future broadcasting channels.

0.3 Applications

This Recommendation | International Standard is designed to cover a broad range of applications for video content including but not limited to the following:

— CATV: cable TV on optical networks, copper, etc.
— DBS: direct broadcast satellite video services.
— DSL: digital subscriber line video services.
— DTTB: digital terrestrial television broadcasting.
— ISM: interactive storage media (optical disks, etc.).
— MMM: multimedia mailing.
— MSPN: multimedia services over packet networks.
— RTC: real-time conversational services (videoconferencing, videophone, etc.).
— RVS: remote video surveillance.
— SSM: serial storage media (digital VTR, etc.).

0.4 Publication and versions of this document

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 1 refers to the first approved version of this Recommendation | International Standard.

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 2 refers to the integrated text containing the corrections specified in the first technical corrigendum.

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 3 refers to the integrated text containing both the first technical corrigendum (2004) and the first amendment, which is referred to as the "Fidelity range extensions".

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 4 refers to the integrated text containing the first technical corrigendum (2004), the first amendment (the "Fidelity range extensions"), and an additional technical corrigendum (2005).

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 5 refers to the integrated version 4 text with its specification of the High 4:4:4 profile removed.

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 6 refers to the integrated version 5 text after its amendment to support additional colour space indicators.

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 7 refers to the integrated version 6 text after its amendment to define five new profiles intended primarily for professional applications (the High 10 Intra, High 4:2:2 Intra, High 4:4:4 Intra, CAVLC 4:4:4 Intra, and High 4:4:4 Predictive profiles) and two new types of supplemental enhancement information (SEI) messages (the post-filter hint SEI message and the tone mapping information SEI message).

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 8 refers to the integrated version 7 text after its amendment to specify scalable video coding in three profiles (Scalable Baseline, Scalable High, and Scalable High Intra profiles).

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 9 refers to the integrated version 8 text after applying the corrections specified in a third technical corrigendum.

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 10 refers to the integrated version 9 text after its amendment to specify a profile for multiview video coding (the Multiview High profile) and to define additional SEI messages.

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 11 refers to the integrated version 10 text after its amendment to define a new profile (the Constrained Baseline profile) intended primarily to enable implementation of decoders supporting only the common subset of capabilities supported in various previously-specified profiles.

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 12 refers to the integrated version 11 text after its amendment to define a new profile (the Stereo High profile) for two-view video coding with support of interlaced coding tools and to specify an additional SEI message specified as the frame packing arrangement SEI message. The changes for versions 11 and 12 were processed as a single amendment in the ISO/IEC approval process.

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 13 refers to the integrated version 12 text with various minor corrections and clarifications as specified in a fourth technical corrigendum.

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 14 refers to the integrated version 13 text after its amendment to define a new level (Level 5.2) supporting higher processing rates in terms of maximum macroblocks per second and a new profile (the Progressive High profile) to enable implementation of decoders supporting only the frame coding tools of the previously-specified High profile.

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 15 refers to the integrated version 14 text with miscellaneous corrections and clarifications as specified in a fifth technical corrigendum.

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 16 refers to the integrated version 15 text after its amendment to define three new profiles intended primarily for communication applications (the Constrained High, Scalable Constrained Baseline, and Scalable Constrained High profiles).

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 17 refers to the integrated version 16 text after its amendment to define additional supplemental enhancement information (SEI) message data, including the multiview view position SEI message, the display orientation SEI message, and two additional frame packing arrangement type indication values for the frame packing arrangement SEI message (the 2D content and tiled arrangement type indication values).

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 18 refers to the integrated version 17 text after its amendment to specify the coding of depth signals, including the specification of an additional profile, the Multiview Depth High profile.

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 19 refers to the integrated version 18 text after incorporating a correction to the sub-bitstream extraction process for multiview video coding.

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 20 refers to the integrated version 19 text after its amendment to specify the combined coding of video view and depth enhancement, including the specification of an additional profile, the Enhanced Multiview Depth High profile.

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 21 refers to the integrated version 20 text after its amendment to specify additional colorimetry identifiers and an additional model type in the tone mapping information SEI message.

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 22 refers to the integrated version 21 text after its amendment to specify multi-resolution frame-compatible (MFC) enhancement for stereoscopic video coding, including the specification of an additional profile, the MFC High profile.

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 23 refers to the integrated version 22 text after its amendment to specify multi-resolution frame-compatible (MFC) stereoscopic video with depth maps, including the specification of an additional profile, the MFC Depth High profile, and the mastering display colour volume SEI message, additional colour-related video usability information codepoint identifiers, and miscellaneous minor corrections and clarifications.

ITU-T Rec. H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 24 refers to the integrated version 23 text after its amendment to specify additional levels of decoder capability supporting larger picture sizes (Levels 6, 6.1, and 6.2), the green metadata SEI message, the alternative depth information SEI message, additional colour-related video usability information codepoint identifiers, and miscellaneous minor corrections and clarifications.

Rec. ITU-T H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 25 refers to the integrated version 24 text after its amendment to specify the Progressive High 10 profile; support for additional colour-related indicators, including the hybrid log-gamma transfer characteristics indication, the alternative transfer characteristics SEI message, the IC_TC_P colour matrix transformation, chromaticity-derived constant luminance and non-constant luminance colour matrix coefficients, the colour remapping information SEI message, and miscellaneous minor corrections and clarifications.

Rec. ITU-T H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 26 refers to the integrated version 25 text after its amendment to specify additional SEI messages for ambient viewing environment, content light level information, content colour volume, equirectangular projection, cubemap projection, sphere rotation, region-wise packing, omnidirectional viewport, SEI manifest, and SEI prefix indication, and miscellaneous minor corrections and clarifications.

Rec. ITU-T H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 27 refers to the integrated version 26 text after its amendment to specify additional SEI messages for annotated regions (through referencing to Rec. ITU-T H.274 | ISO/IEC 23002-7) and shutter interval information, and miscellaneous minor corrections and clarifications.

Rec. ITU-T H.264 | ISO/IEC 14496-10 version 28 (the current document) refers to the integrated version 27 text after its amendment to specify additional SEI messages for neural-network post-filter characteristics, neural-network post-filter activation, and phase indication (through referencing to Rec. ITU-T H.274 | ISO/IEC 23002-7), additional colour type identifiers, and miscellaneous minor corrections and clarifications.

This edition corresponds in technical content to the fifteenth edition in ITU-T (approved in August 2024).

0.5 Profiles and levels

This document is designed to be generic in the sense that it serves a wide range of applications, bit rates, resolutions, qualities, and services. Applications should cover, among other things, digital storage media, television broadcasting and real-time communications. In the course of creating this document, various requirements from typical applications have been considered, necessary algorithmic elements have been developed, and these have been integrated into a single syntax. Hence, this document will facilitate video data interchange among different applications.

Considering the practicality of implementing the full syntax of this document, however, a limited number of subsets of the syntax are also stipulated by means of "profiles" and "levels". These and other related terms are formally defined in Clause 3.

A "profile" is a subset of the entire bitstream syntax that is specified by this document. Within the bounds imposed by the syntax of a given profile it is still possible to require a very large variation in the performance of encoders and decoders depending upon the values taken by syntax elements in the bitstream such as the specified size of the decoded pictures. In many applications, it is currently neither practical nor economic to implement a decoder capable of dealing with all hypothetical uses of the syntax within a particular profile.

In order to deal with this problem, "levels" are specified within each profile. A level is a specified set of constraints imposed on values of the syntax elements in the bitstream. These constraints may be simple limits on values. Alternatively they may take the form of constraints on arithmetic combinations of values (e.g., picture width multiplied by picture height multiplied by number of pictures decoded per second).

Coded video content conforming to this document uses a common syntax. In order to achieve a subset of the complete syntax, flags, parameters, and other syntax elements are included in the bitstream that signal the presence or absence of syntactic elements that occur later in the bitstream.

0.6 Overview of the design characteristics

0.6.1 General

The coded representation specified in the syntax is designed to enable a high compression capability for a desired image quality. With the exception of the transform bypass mode of operation for lossless coding in the High 4:4:4 Intra, CAVLC 4:4:4 Intra, and High 4:4:4 Predictive profiles, and the I_PCM mode of operation in all profiles, the algorithm is typically not lossless, as the exact source sample values are typically not preserved through the encoding and decoding processes. A number of techniques may be used to achieve highly efficient compression. Encoding algorithms (not specified in this document) may select between inter and intra coding for block-shaped regions of each picture. Inter coding uses motion vectors for block-based inter prediction to exploit temporal statistical dependencies between different pictures. Intra coding uses various spatial prediction modes to exploit spatial statistical dependencies in the source signal for a single picture. Motion vectors and intra prediction modes may be specified for a variety of block sizes in the picture. The prediction residual is then further compressed using a transform to remove spatial correlation inside the transform block before it is quantized, producing an irreversible process that typically discards less important visual