
**Information technology — Coded
representation of immersive media —
Part 3:
Versatile video coding**

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

Partie 3: Codage vidéo polyvalent

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Foreword

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

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Introduction

Purpose

This document specifies a video coding technology known as versatile video coding. It has been designed with two primary goals. The first of these is to specify a video coding technology with a compression capability that is substantially beyond that of the prior generations of such standards, and the second is for this technology to be highly versatile for effective use in a broader range of applications than that addressed by prior standards. Some key application areas for the use of this document particularly include ultra-high-definition video (e.g., with 3840×2160 or 7620×4320 picture resolution and bit depth of 10 bits as specified in Rec. ITU-R BT.2100), video with a high dynamic range and wide colour gamut (e.g., with the perceptual quantization or hybrid log-gamma transfer characteristics specified in Rec. ITU-R BT.2100), and video for immersive media applications such as 360° omnidirectional video projected using a common projection format such as the equirectangular or cubemap projection formats, in addition to the applications that have commonly been addressed by prior video coding standards.

Profiles, tiers, and levels

This document is designed to be versatile in the sense that it serves a wide range of applications, bit rates, resolutions, qualities, and services. Applications include, but are not limited to, video coding for digital storage media, television broadcasting, video streaming services, real-time communication. 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 is designed to 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", "tiers", 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 in 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 economical 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, "tiers" and "levels" are specified within each profile. A level of a tier is a specified set of constraints imposed on values of the syntax elements in the bitstream. Some of these constraints are expressed as simple limits on values, while others 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). A level specified for a lower tier is more constrained than a level specified for a higher tier.

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.

Encoding process, decoding process, and use of VUI parameters and SEI messages

Any encoding process that produces bitstream data that conforms to the specified bitstream syntax format requirements of this document is considered to be in conformance with the requirements of this document. The decoding process is specified such that all decoders that conform to a specified combination of capabilities known as the profile, tier, and level will produce numerically identical cropped decoded output pictures when invoking the decoding process associated with that profile for a bitstream conforming to that profile, tier and level. Any decoding process that produces identical cropped decoded output pictures to those produced by the process described herein (with the correct output order or output timing, as specified) is considered to be in conformance with the requirements of this document.

Rec. ITU-T H.274 | ISO/IEC 23002-7 specifies the syntax and semantics of the video usability information (VUI) parameters and supplemental enhancement information (SEI) messages that do not affect the conformance specifications in Annex C. These VUI parameters and SEI messages may be used together with this document.

Versions of this document

This is the first edition of this document.