

Learning-based Video Compression From TV to the Metaverse

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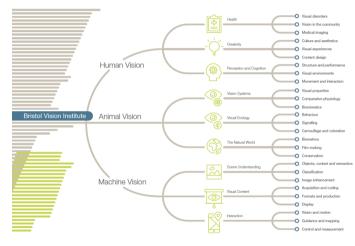
About Me

- 🕊 Professor in Signal Processing, UoB
- Kernet Founder Director, Bristol Vision Institute
- K Director, MyWorld, UK Strength in Places Fund
- **Author**, Bull and Zhang, Intelligent Image and Video Compression, Academic Press, 2021



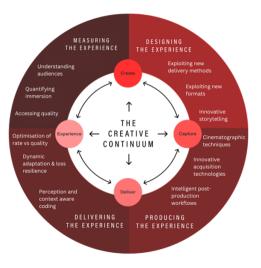
Bristol Vision Institute

- Ke Formed in 2008.
- Ke Hosting some **160** researchers.
- An intellectual landscape and practical facilities for **vision research**.
- Facilitates engineers and scientists working together with experts in medicine and creative arts.
- One of the largest inter-disciplinary groups in Europe.
- Successful attracting research income, stimulating new relationships and creating commercial impact.



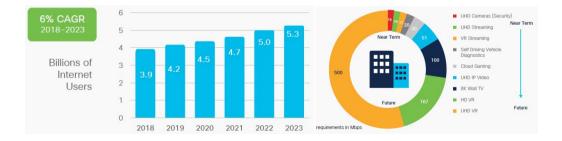
MyWorld

- A £30m investment under the UKRI Strength in Places Fund. Exploiting the production, technology and research strengths of the West of England's creative sector.
- K 25 new major international partnerships.
- K Additional funding leveraged ~£29M.
- ₭ 368 businesses supported to date.
- **6** 298 jobs created.
- 112,000 members of public engaged.
- **& 2036** individual learners.
- 22 awards, prizes and prestigious lectures.
- 129 academic outputs.



The Challenges of Video Compression

- Ke Huge amounts of video content consumed via steaming and social media: e.g. NETFLIX and TikTok.
- K Significantly increased demand for more immersive services, e.g. UHD/HFR/HDR, XR and 360°.
- Ke Consistent growth in the number of the global Internet users 5.3bn in 2023.



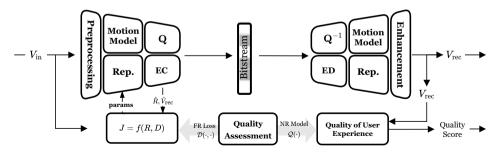
Example: Real-time Volumetric Video Delivery



[VIDEO] Live volumetric video delivery into the metaverse (https://condense.live).

A Video Compression Framework

- Motion model: motion estimation/compensation, advanced motion models, optical flows.
- **Representation**: transforms, feature extraction.
- K Quantisation and entropy coding: data compression for residual, latent or models.
- **Enhancement**: pre- and post-processing, super resolution.
- **W** Quality assessment: for rate-distortion optimisation (encoder) or QoE prediction.





Video Compression - pre Al

AI-based Video Compression

Reducing Complexity

Motion Models

Representation Models

Conclusion

Outline

Video Compression - pre AI

Al-based Video Compression

Reducing Complexity

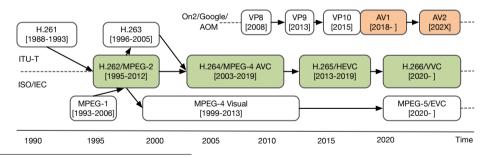
Motion Models

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Video Coding Standards

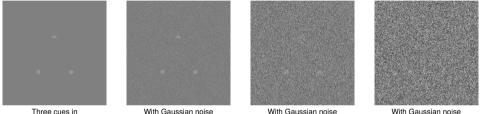
- VVC VTM achieves an average 29% bit rate saving against AOM AV1.
- K The latest MPEG JVET test model ECM outperforms VTM by more than 25% in BD-rate saving.
- K The new AOM codec **AVM** offers a 20%+ coding gain over AV1 libaom.



[Nguyen and Marpe, 2021] "Compression efficiency analysis of AV1, VVC, and HEVC for random access applications", APSIPA Transactions on Signal and Information Processing.

[Seregin et al., 2024] "JVET AHG report: ECM software development (AHG6)", JVET-Al0006.

Textures and Video Coding



a grev background

With Gaussian noise

 $(\mu = 0, \sigma = 0.001)$

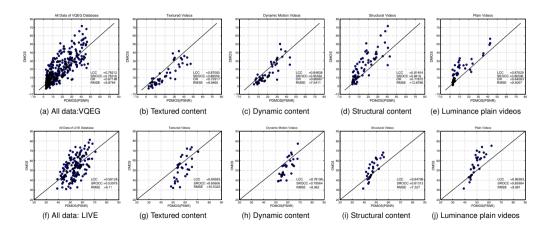
With Gaussian noise $(\mu = 0, \sigma = 0.0.01)$

With Gaussian noise $(\mu = 0, \sigma = 0.03)$

Quantisation Parameter (QP)	22	27	32	37	42
Static textures (bpp)	0.0278	0.0111	0.0051	0.0025	0.0012
Mixed textures (bpp)	0.2301	0.0684	0.0287	0.0133	0.0066
Dynamic textures (bpp)	0.3463	0.1904	0.0969	0.0473	0.0235

HEVC HM 16.4; Main Profile; Random access mode; BVI-Texture; 300 frames encoded.

Correlation between MSE/PSNR and Subjective Scores

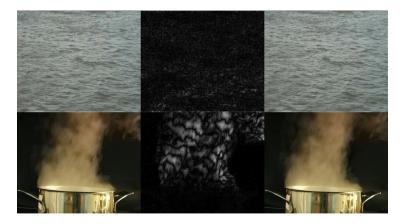


Textures and Video Coding - Static Textures



[VIDEO] Left: original texture. Right: warped texture. Middle: Absolute difference between left and right.

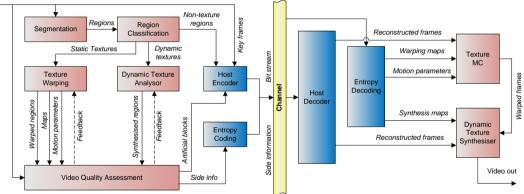
Textures and Video Coding - Dynamic Textures



[VIDEO] Left: original texture. Right: synthesised texture. Middle: Absolute difference.

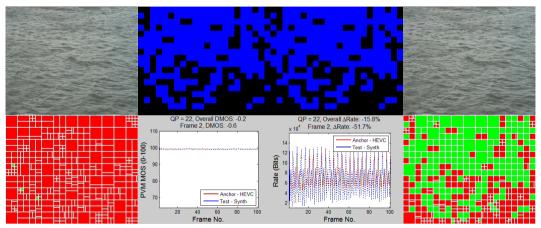
An Analysis-Synthesis Video Compression Framework

Video In



[Zhang and Bull, 2011] "A parametric framework for video compression using region-based texture models", IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Signal Processing.

Compression Results based on HEVC



[VIDEO] Left: HEVC; Right: HEVC+Synthesis; Middle: Synthesis maps and RD stats.

Outline

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AI-based Video Compression

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Deep Video Compression: Overview

Background

- Ke Deep neural networks now offer tractable solutions to many image processing problems.
- 🖗 They are being increasingly applied in image/video compression, demonstrating significant coding gains.
- Ke But often at the expense of increased complexity or latency.

Al-based video compression

- K Training databases.
- Deep video coding tools for standard codec enhancement: e.g., post processing, in-loop filtering and resolution adaptation.
- Kend-to-end learned video codecs: e.g., DVC, DCVC codecs.
- Kerceptual quality assessment.

Deep Video Compression: Training Databases

Motivation

- K DVC demands volumes of training materiel much greater than other machine learning methods.
- Ke They must include **diverse content** covering different formats and video texture types.
- Ke Most learning-based coding methods are currently trained on databases designed for image/video processing or computer vision applications.
- 🖗 These training databases cannot ensure network generalisation or optimum performance for DVC.

Popular training databases for DVC

- K DIV2K [Agustsson et al., 2019]: contains 1000 RGB images and was developed for super-resolution.
- K CD [Liu et al., 2017]: collects 29 video sequences from LIVE VQA, MCL-V and TUM 1080p.
- Kense [Nah et al., 2019a]: contains 300 video clips, and was developed for super-resolution.
- K Video Set [Wang et al., 2017]: includes 880 source videos, and was developed for quality assessment.
- K HIF [Li et al., 2019]: contains 182 video sequences, and was developed for deep video coding.

BVI-DVC: A Training Database for Deep Video Compression

- **BVI-DVC** contains 800 10bit video sequences at various spatial resolutions from 270p to 2160p.
- Ke It covers various video texture types, including static textures and dynamic textures.

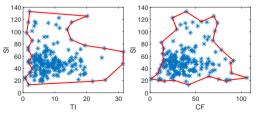


[Ma et al., 2021] D. Ma et al., BVI-DVC: A Training Database for Deep Video Compression, IEEE Trans. in Multimedia, 2021.

Feature Coverage and Distribution

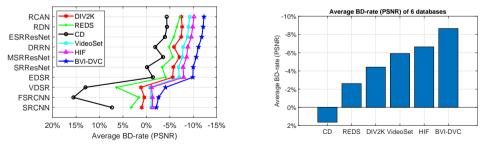
Training Databases	Image or Video?	Seq Number	Max Resolution	Bit Depth	Texture Diversity?
DIV2K [Agustsson and Timofte, 2017]	Image	1000	1152p	8	No
CD [Liu <i>et al.</i> , 2017]	Video	29	1080p	8	No
VideoSet [Wang et al., 2017]	Video	880	1080p	8	No
REDS [Nah <i>et al.</i> , 2019b]	Video	300	720p	8	No
HIF [Li <i>et al.</i> , 2019]	Video	182	1080p	8	No
BVI-DVC	Video	800	2160p	10	Yes

- Ke Features [Winkler, 2012]:
- K SI spatial information.
- K TI temporal information.
- Ker colourfulness.



BVI-DVC vs Existing Training Databases for DVC

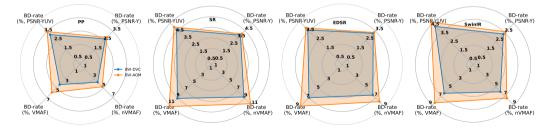
- K BVI-DVC has been compared to five databases for DVC: DIV2K, REDS, CD, Video Set and HIF.
- ₩ The evaluation was conducted for four CNN-based coding tools based on HEVC HM 16.20 and JVET CTC.
- Kernet Ten popular network architectures were used for evaluation.
- Ke The coding gains were calculated against the original HEVC HM.



K BVI-DVC is used in MPEG JVET for developing VVC neural network based tools .

BVI-AOM

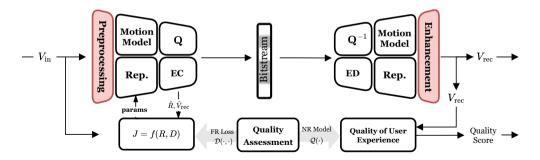
- K BVI-AOM extends BVI-DVC with additional content, e.g. dark or high-contrast scenes.
- Ke BVI-AOM offers improved performance (up to 2.98p.p.), with more flexible licensing terms.
- K A collaboration with Netflix (US), the database is available for public downloading.
- Kervice Section 2015 Experimental setup: two coding tools, two networks, four quality metrics and AOM CTCs.



[Nawała et al., 2024] "BVI-AOM: A New Training Dataset for Deep Video Compression Optimization", IEEE VCIP.

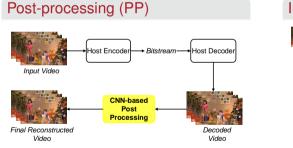
Conventional Coding Tools Enhancement

- K Deep learning techniques have been applied to the improve coding efficiencey of various existing coding tools.
- Ke Offering better performance when integrated into the **enhancement** modules.

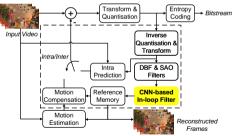


Enhancement of Coding Tools

Post-processing (PP) and in-loop filtering (ILF) provide more consistent coding gains compared to other coding modules.

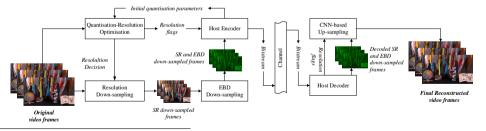


In-loop filtering (ILF)



ViSTRA: A Coding Framework based on Deep Learning

- K ViSTRA trades off the relationship between resolutions and quantisation within the coding loop.
- Ke Adaptation for spatial resolution (SRA), frame rate (for HFR only) and effective bit depth (EBDA).
- Kesolution up-sampling is achieved through CNN-based super resolution (MSRResNet).
- K Machine learning inspired QRO: spatial resolution adaptation based on quantisation and video content.



[Afonso et al., 2018] "Video Compression based on Spatio-Temporal Resolution Adaptation", IEEE Trans. on CSVT.

[Zhang et al., 2021] "ViSTRA2: Video coding using spatial resolution and effective bit depth adaptation", Signal Processing: Image Communication.

Perceptual Quality Comparison: ParkRunning



[VIDEO] Topleft: Reconstructed video of sequence ParkRunning for the HM anchor. Bottomleft: The corresponding video for ViSTRA-HM at the same bitrate. Middle: The video for the enlarged block of the top left video. Right: The video for the enlarged block of the bottom left video (the same location).

AI-based Coding Tools: links to Existing Standards

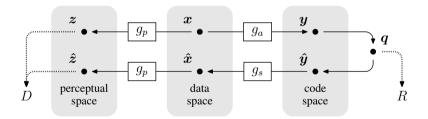
- K MPEG JVET are developing an Al-optimised video codec, **NNVC**, on top of VVC VTM 11.
- K NNVC (v-10.0) offers up to 14% coding gains over VTM, but with a high decoder complexity increase.
- K AOM is also considering neural network based solutions (complexity lower than 2k MACs/pixels).
- K One of the best AVM tools offers a 3.9% BD-rate saving in PSNR-Y, with a complexity of 1500 MACs/pixel.
- K Most of these tools are based on **post-processing** (or in-loop filtering) and/or **super-resolution**.
- K The trade-off between complexity and performance remains a challenge for this type of solution.

[Joshi et al., 2023] "Switchable CNNs for in-loop restoration and super-resolution for AV2", SPIE2023.

[[]Galpin et al., 2024] "JVET AHG report: NNVC software development AhG14", JVET-AJ0014.

Learned Video Compression via End-to-end Optimisation

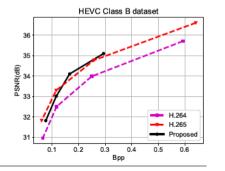
- Ke Traditional codec tool enhancements remains the dominant approach currently.
- Ke However, inspired by the success of end-to-end learned image compression [Ballé *et al.*, 2017, 2018]. significant advances in end-to-end learned **video** codecs are emerging, that are **holistically optimisable**.

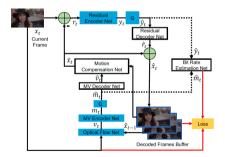


[[]Ballé et al., 2017] "End-to-end optimized image compression", International Conference on Learning Representations.

End-to-End Learned Video Codecs

- K DVC [Lu et al., 2019] was the first end-to-end deep video compression model.
- Keplaces the conventional video coding framework with several neural networks.
- Kerview Achieves a performance similar to x265 (veryfast preset).

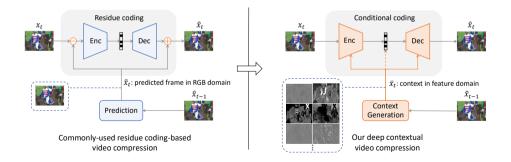




Deep Contextual Video Compression (DCVC)

₭ A series of neural video codecs that offer similar RQ performance to standard video codecs.

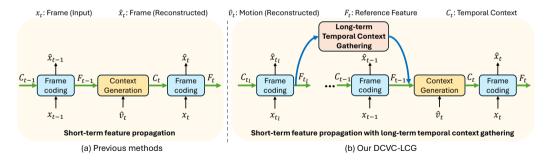
Ke Shift from a residue coding - to a **conditional coding-based** framework.



Source of figure: [Li et al., 2021] "Deep contextual video compression", NeurIPS.

DCVC Codecs

- Kernel Contexts [Li et al., 2023] better than ECM LD (RGB).
- K DCVC-FM: feature modulation [Li et al., 2024] better than ECM LD (RGB and YUV) .
- Keine DCVC-LCG: long-term temporal context gathering [Qi et al., 2024] 11.3% better than ECM LD (YUV).



Source of figure: [Qi et al., 2024] "Long-term Temporal Context Gathering for Neural Video Compression", ECCV.

Limitations of AI-based Video Coding Methods

Coding performance

- Keported results for (most) learned video codecs are not based on standard CTCs.
- K Conventional video codecs (RA mode) still lead in performance.

Complexity Issues

- Ke Pre-trained generic models typically require large model capacity.
- K This leads to significantly increased (decoding) complexity and large model sizes.

Non-standard pipelines

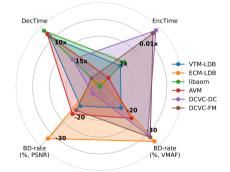
- K Existing neural video codecs adopt diverse pipelines/network architectures.
- **Compatibility** is essential in video coding (standardisation) and **convergence** is required.

Conventional and Learned Video Codecs - Benchmarking

Configuration: low delay, YUV420 and JVET/AOM test sequences.

Kernet Hardware: PC with single CPU (Intel i7-12700) and GPU (NVIDIA 3090).

	BD-rate (PSNR)	BD-rate (VMAF)	Encoding time	Decoding time
libaom	0%	0%	1 ×	1×
DCVC-DC	-11.2%	-31.1%	$0.008 \times$	13.180 imes
VTM-LDP	-13.4%	-18.2%	1.032×	2.723×
VTM-LDB	-19.2%	-22.5%	1.502×	2.675 imes
DCVC-FM	-20.8%	-33.1%	0.012×	20.735 imes
AVM	-21.4%	-25.6%	$12.301 \times$	2.246 ×
ECM-LDP	-29.0%	-30.4%	10.704 imes	21.394 imes
ECM-LDB	-33.9%	-34.2%	16.106×	21.725×



[Teng et al., 2024] "Benchmarking Conventional and Learned Video Codecs with a Low-Delay Configuration.", IEEE VCIP.

When will AI-based Methods be Acceptable?

Architecture and Complexity reduction

- K Significant complexity reduction, especially at the decoder.
- ₭ Performance should be maintained with low-complexity models.
- K Architectural convergence for standardisation.

Coding gains

Ke More significant and consistent coding gains over best standard codecs (ECM/AVM).

Rate quality optimisation

- K Exploitation of perceptual redundancy during coding.
- ₭ Better quality assessment methods and loss functions.

Outline

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Al-based Video Compression

Reducing Complexity

Motion Models

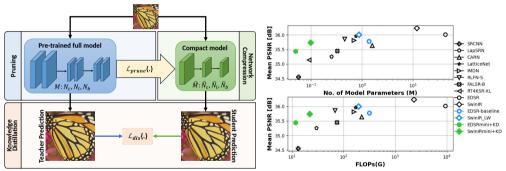
Representation Models

Conclusion

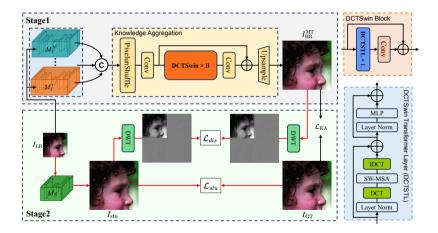
Model Compression and Knowledge Distillation - e.g. ISR

K Model complexity can be significantly reduced by model compression.

K Model performance after compression can be further improved through knowledge distillation.



MTKD: Multi-Teacher Knowledge Distillation



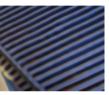
[Jiang et al., 2024a] "MTKD: multi-teacher knowledge distillation for image super-resolution", ECCV.

MTKD: Results

SwinIR vs SwinIR_lightweight [Liang et al., 2021] (90% complexity reduction)



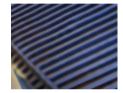
HR PSNR/SSIM



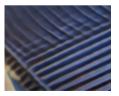
Full 24.81/.7928



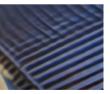
Compact 24.20/.7542



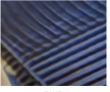
MT 24.93/.7865



KD 24.19/.7533



AT 24.19/.7530



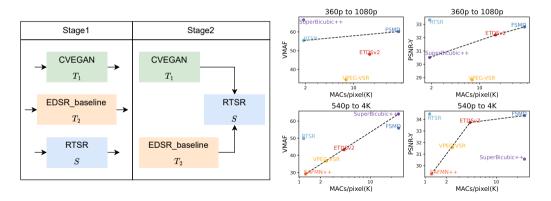
FAKD 24.14/.7526



MTKD (Ours) 24.34/.7622

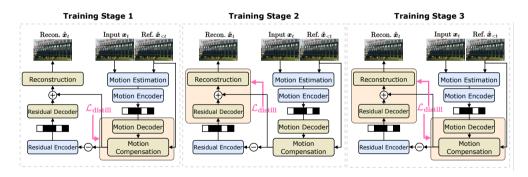
RTSR: Real-Time SR for Compressed Content

Extend from image super-resolution to video compression (AV1).



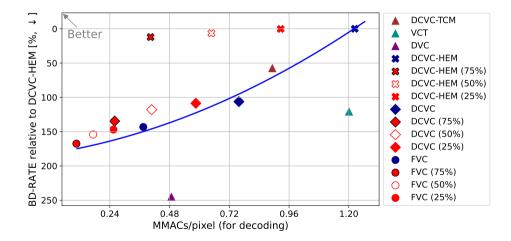
End-to-end Learned Video Codecs: Complexity Reduction

- 1. The multi-stage optimisation of learnt video codecs vs the global pruning objectives.
- 2. Split the distillation of sub-modules into **multi-stages** to regularise the student model.



[[]Peng et al., 2024] "Accelerating learnt video codecs with gradient decay and layer-wise distillation.", PCS.

Evaluation Results - Complexity vs Performance



Outline

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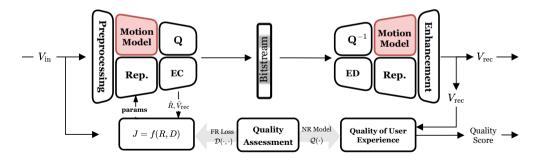
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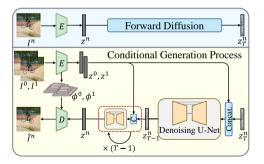
Motion Models in Video Compression

- Ke Accurate motion estimation is key in exploiting the temporal redundancy within videos.
- Video frame interpolation techniques offer potential solutions for improved motion modelling.



Perceptually-oriented VFI: LDMVFI

- L1/L2/VGG loss does not correlate with VFI perceptual quality.
- K Diffusion models have shown remarkable performance in generating perceptually-optimised images.
- Ke tailor latent diffusion models for VFI to achieve superior perceptual quality.

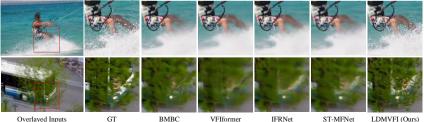


[[]Danier et al., 2024] "LDMVFI: Video Frame Interpolation with Latent Diffusion Models", AAAI.

LDMVFI: Performance

	Middlebury			UCF-101			DAVIS			VFITex			RT	#P
	LPIPS↓	FloLPIPS↓	FID↓	LPIPS↓	FloLPIPS↓	FID↓	LPIPS↓	FloLPIPS↓	FID↓	LPIPS↓	FloLPIPS↓	FID↓	(sec)	(M)
BMBC	0.023	0.037	12.974	0.034	0.045	33.171	0.125	0.185	15.354	0.220	0.282	50.393	0.51	11.0
AdaCoF	0.031	0.052	15.633	0.034	0.046	32.783	0.148	0.198	17.194	0.204	0.273	42.255	0.01	21.8
IFRNet	0.020	0.039	12.256	0.032	0.044	28.803	0.114	0.170	14.227	0.200	0.273	42.266	0.02	5.0
VFIformer	0.031	0.065	15.634	0.039	0.051	34.112	0.191	0.242	21.702	OOM	OOM	OOM	1.74	5.0
ST-MFNet	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.036	0.049	34.475	0.125	0.181	15.626	0.216	0.276	41.971	0.14	21.0
FLAVR	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.035	0.046	31.449	0.209	0.248	22.663	0.234	0.295	56.690	0.02	42.1
MCVD	0.123	0.138	41.053	0.155	0.169	102.054	0.247	0.293	28.002	OOM	OOM	OOM	52.55	27.3
LDMVFI	0.019	0.044	16.167	0.026	0.035	26.301	0.107	0.153	12.554	0.150	0.207	32.316	8.48	439.0

[Video] Visual comparison between different VFI models.



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Overlayed Inputs

VFIformer

IFRNet

ST-MFNet

LDMVFI (Ours)

Outline

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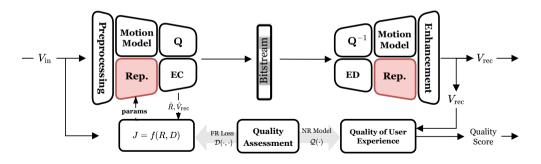
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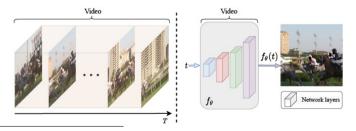
Advanced Representation Models

- K Existing end-to-end learned video codecs suffer from high computational complexity.
- Ke Amortised inference: hyperparameters are fixed and shared across diverse contents.
- Kernetwork Therefore more sophisticated architectures are required.



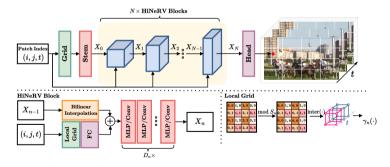
Neural Representation for Videos (NeRV)

- K Implicit Neural Representations offer a promising solution, overfitting the content during learning.
- Keural Radiance Field (NeRF): $f : f(x, y, z, \theta, \phi) = (r, g, b, \sigma)$.
- Keural Representation for Videos (NeRV): f : f(x, y, t) = (r, g, b).
- KeRV-based video codecs can offer very fast decoding speed.
- Ke However, existing INR models (e.g., NeRV [Chen *et al.*, 2021] and HNeRV [Chen *et al.*, 2023]) are **not competitive** against standard or other E2E learned codecs.



HiNeRV: Hierarchical Encoding-based Neural Representation

- K A new upsampling layer with bilinear interpolation and hierarchical encoding of feature grids.
- Ke A unified representation of frame- and patch-wise INR by adding padding for acceleration.
- K A refined training pipeline, with pruning- & quantisation-aware fine-tuning.



HiNeRV: Performance

- Kerver HiNeRV is the first INR-based codec that outperforms HEVC x265 (*veryslow*).
- K It also outperforms existing NeRV-based video codecs with up to 70% bit rate-savings.
- k and offers fast decoding speed up to **35FPS**.

Dataset	Metric	x265 (<i>veryslow</i>)	HM (<i>RA</i>)	DCVC	DCVC-HEM	VCT	NeRV	HNeRV
UVG	PSNR	-38.66%	7.54%	-43.44%	25.23%	-34.28%	-74.12%	-72.29%
	MS-SSIM	-62.70%	-41.41%	-34.50%	49.03%	-23.69%	-73.76%	-83.86%
MCL-JCV	PSNR	-23.39%	31.09%	-24.59%	35.83%	-17.03%	-80.19%	-66.56%
	MS-SSIM	-44.12%	-2.65%	-17.32%	80.73%	12.10%	-82.28%	-79.42%



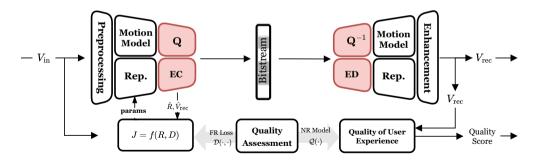
NeRV 31.4dB PSNR@0.099bpp



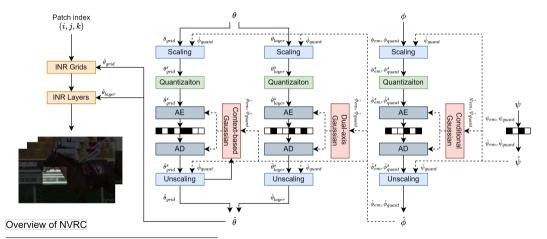
HNeRV 31.4dB PSNR@0.101bpp HiNeRV (ours) 36.6dB PSNR@0.051bpp

Improving Quantisation and Entropy Coding

- Ke Quantization creates lossy representations of input videos.
- Ke Accurate **entropy modelling** is also key to high compression ratios.



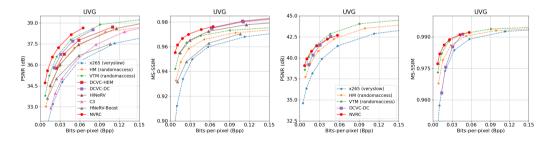
NVRC: Neural Video Representation Compression



[Kwan et al., 2024a] "NVRC: Neural Video Representation Compression", NeurIPS.

NVRC: Performance

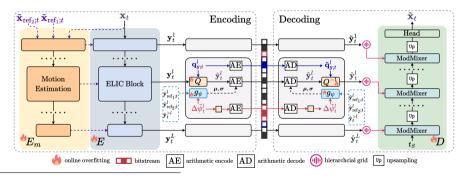
Color Space	Metric	x265 (<i>veryslow</i>)	HM (<i>RA</i>)	VTM (<i>RA</i>)	DCVC-HEM	DCVC-DC	HiNeRV	C3	HNeRV-Boost
RGB 4:4:4	PSNR MS-SSIM	-74.02% -80.79%	-51.00% -67.61%	-24.34% -50.08%	-41.30% -7.91%	-32.05% -12.58%	-50.73% -44.69%	-67.93% -	-66.78% -78.21%
YUV 4:2:0	PSNR MS-SSIM	-62.71% -59.49%	-34.83% -38.45%	-1.03% -15.38%	-	-62.28% -70.23%	-	-	-



[VIDEO] Visual Comparison between HM and NVRC.

PNVC: Towards Practical Neural Video Compression

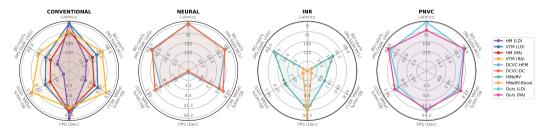
- 🕊 INR-based video codecs typically represent an entire video or a dataset with a single monolithic model.
- K This requires processing a large number of frames in each encoding, resulting in a high system latency.
- **PNVC**: a practical neural video coding framework, enabling **flexible coding configurations** (LD and RA).



[Gao et al., 2025] "PNVC: Towards Practical INR-based Video Compression", AAAI.

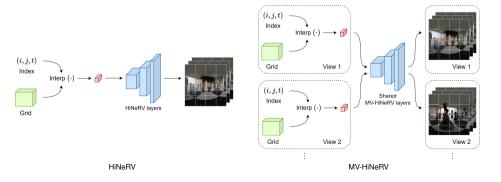
PNVC: Performance

- Well-rounded performance across multiple dimensions.
- ✓ 5%+ gain over VTM (LD) in PSNR and MS-SSIM.
- ✓ 10%+ gain over HiNeRV in PSNR and MS-SSIM.
- 20+FPS decoding speed for HD (1080P).
- Flexible coding/delay configurations (LD and RA).



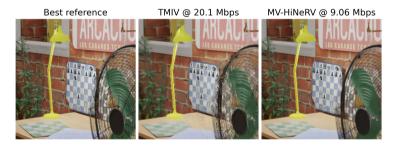
MV-HiNeRV - Extending HiNeRV to Immersive Videos

- K MV-HiNeRV [Kwan et al., 2024b] extends HiNeRV to the compression of immersive/volumetric videos.
- Ke It learns hierarchical feature grids per view, and shares the learned network parameters among all views.
- Ke This enables the model to effectively exploit the spatio-temporal and the inter-view redundancy.
- W-HiNeRV has achieved significant coding gains (up to 72.33%) over MPEG TMIV (based on VVenc).



MV-HiNeRV: Performance

BD-rate (%)	B02 D01	E01	J02	J04	W01	Overall
PSNR	-17.60 -65.93	3 -36.59	-59.96	-80.03	-35.48	-49.27
IV-PSNR	-38.11 -61.08	3 -6.28	-70.21	-72.33	-33.50	-46.92



[[]Kwan et al., 2024b] "Immersive Video Compression using Implicit Neural Representations", PCS.

Outline

Video Compression - pre Al

Al-based Video Compression

Reducing Complexity

Motion Models

Representation Models

Conclusion

Summary and Future Work

Learning-based video coding: Hope or Hype?

- Kep learning has made important contributions to video compression and quality assessment.
- Ke But significant issues remain include coding performance, complexity, and non-standard pipelines.
- 🕊 Generative methods: enable super-resolution and motion interpolation tools for near term advances.
- K INR-based frameworks: potential for the best trade-off between complexity, performance and practicality.
- Kervice Complexity reduction: enabled by model compression and knowledge distillation.

Future work

- Performance: demonstrate significant coding gains over ECM/AVM with lower model complexity.
- Evaluation: new metrics and benchmarking methods to compare techniques with varying performance characteristics, consistency and artefacts.
- K Convergence: stable architectures to drive investment in standards and hardware.
- **Compatibility**: with low cost integrated hardware: NPU and TPU acceleration.
- Konstant Street Street Street Street Karley Street Street

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Thank you! Q & A

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