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Abstract

This is an update of the white paper on HEVC which had been published as MPEG output document w15075 (February 2015), providing a summary of the developments of the HEVC standard until July 2024.

Introduction

High Efficiency Video Coding (HEVC) is a video compression standard developed jointly by ITU-T VCEG and ISO/IEC MPEG through their Joint Collaborative Team on Video Coding (JCT-VC) and their Joint Collaborative Team on 3D Video (JCT-3V), published as twin text in ISO/IEC 23008-2 and ITU-T Rec. H.265. Since 2020, ongoing developments in HEVC are conducted by the Joint Video Experts Team (JVET) of ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 29 and ITU-T SG16. The first version of HEVC was finalized in January 2013, and subsequent editions provided additional functionality. The HEVC project was launched to achieve major savings for equivalent visual quality relative to the bit rate needed by the widely used AVC [1] standard. For high-resolution video, where such additional compression is most urgently required, implementations of the current draft standard are already meeting or exceeding the targeted goal. This white paper reviews the architecture and building blocks of HEVC, which were carefully selected with regard to compression capability versus complexity and to enable parallelism for the signal processing operations. Given the benefits that HEVC provides, it is likely to become the new primary reference for video compression.

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