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Plan for subjective quality testing of the FGC SEI message

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Proposal

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Abstract

This document is a draft test plan to assess the visual impact of film grain synthesis, evaluating the potential reduction of bitrate on video content that originally contains grain, maintaining the artistic intent while video coding removes grain, and potentially improving perceived quality by increasing perceived sharpness and hiding coding artefacts in smooth areas. The test planned compares VVC Main 10 profile with and without film grain synthesis, making use of the FGC SEI message.

The contribution of existing or new candidate sequences containing different film grain characteristics for the purpose of this test activity is solicited.

Introduction

The film grain characteristics (FGC) SEI message [1] can be embedded in AVC, HEVC, and VVC bitstreams to convey parameters that a decoder can use to synthesize controlled film grain in a post-decoding stage.

Such film grain synthesis can be used to recreate a grain that is visually similar to the original, that has been lost due to compression, thus restoring the artistic intent. It can also be used to mask coding defects to some extent.

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ABSTRACT

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