JPEG Compression Standard

- Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG)
- ☐ The first international image compression standard
- Both an ISO standard and a CCITT Recommendation
 - O ISO IS 10918-1
 - o CCITT T.81
- □ 10:1 to 50:1 compression without visibly affecting image quality __energy 投集中な low-freg b 5 coefficient
- ☐ A DCT-based block coding algorithm
- Base algorithm of "motion JPEG"
- □ Codec = encoder + decoder

4hh define hy standard Eth dewding standard

Observations

☐ The design of the DCT transform coding method in JPEG is based on 3 major observations

Observation 1: Useful image contents change relatively slowly across the image, i.e., it is unusual for intensity values to vary widely several times in a small area, for example, within an 8×8 image block.

Much of the information in an image is repeated, hence there is "spatial redundancy."

Observation 2: Psychophysical experiments suggest that humans are much less likely to notice the loss of very high spatial frequency components than the loss of lower frequency components.

The spatial redundancy can be reduced by reducing the high spatial frequency contents.

Observation 3: Visual acuity (accuracy in distinguishing closely spaced lines) is much greater for luminance ("black and white") than for color.

Chroma subsampling (4:2:0) is used in JPEG.

References

☐ JPEG: Still Image Data Compression Standard, by Pennebaker and Mitchell

☐ Greg Wallace, "The JPEG still picture compression standard," CACM, Apr. 1991

4 Modes of Operations

☐ Sequential ("baseline JPEG")

Each image component is encoded in a single left-to-right, top-to-bottom scan.

□ Progressive

The image is encoded in multiple scans for applications in which transmission time is long, and the viewer prefers to watch the image being built up in multiple coarse-to-clear passes.

□ Lossless

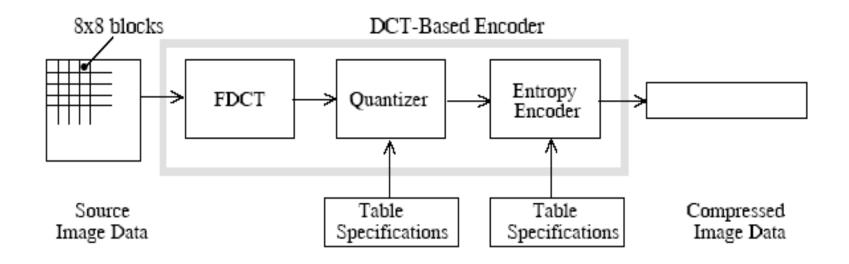
Each pixel value is exactly reconstructed without loss

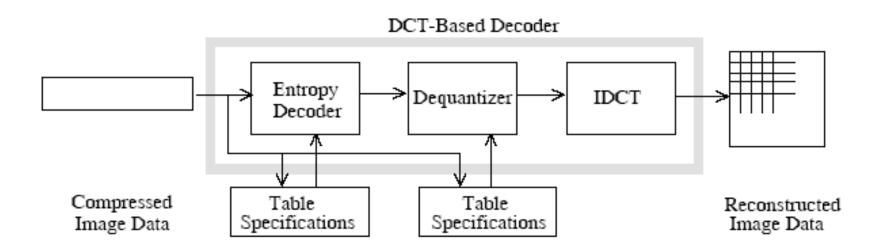
■ Hierarchical

The image is encoded at multiple resolutions so that lower-resolution versions may be accessed without first having to decompress the image at its full resolution.

公可伦照不同人对resolution自为需求,得送给他们多

System Block Diagram

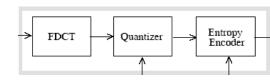




Main Steps in JPEG Compression

- □ DCT on image blocks
- Quantization
- □ Zig-zag ordering and run-length encoding
- Entropy coding

8x8 FDCT and IDCT



- ☐ At the input to the encoder the source image samples are
 - decomposed into 8x8 blocks
 - shifted from unsigned integer representation with range [0, 255] to signed integer with range [-128, 127]

□ FDCT

$$F(u,v) = \frac{1}{4}C(u)C(v) \left[\sum_{x=0}^{7} \sum_{y=0}^{7} f(x,y) * \cos \frac{(2x+1)u\pi}{16} \cos \frac{(2y+1)v\pi}{16} \right]$$

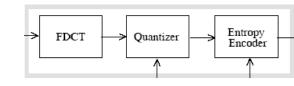
IDCT

$$f(x,y) = \frac{1}{4} \left[\sum_{u=0}^{7} \sum_{v=0}^{7} C(u)C(v)F(u,v) * \cos \frac{(2x+1)u\pi}{16} \cos \frac{(2y+1)v\pi}{16} \right]$$

where:
$$C(u)$$
, $C(v) = 1/\sqrt{2}$ for $u, v = 0$;

$$C(u)$$
, $C(v) = 1$ otherwise.

Quantization



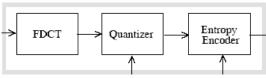
- To discard information that is not visually significant
- Quantization is defined as division of each DCT coefficient by its corresponding quantizer step size, followed by rounding to the nearest integer.

$$F^{Q}(u, v) = Integer Round \left(\frac{F(u, v)}{Q(u, v)}\right)$$

Inverse quantization

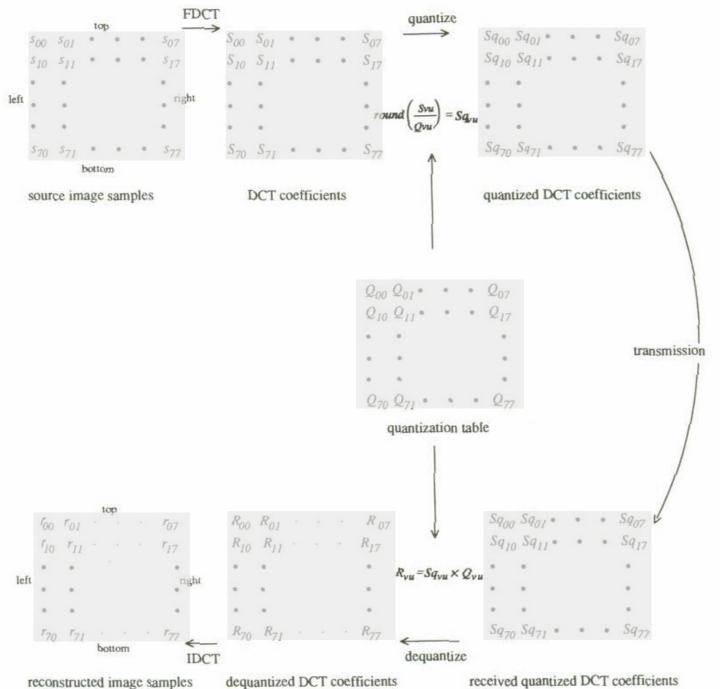
$$F^{Q'}(u, v) = F^{Q}(u, v) * Q(u, v)$$

Quantization Tables



- ☐ In ISO 10918-1, the two tables are provided as examples only, but not as a requirement
- Based on psychovisual thresholding.
- ☐ Derived empirically using luminance and chrominance and 2:1 horizontal subsampling

Tab	le K.1	Lur	ninan	ce qua	antiza	tion ta	ble
16 12 14 14 18 24 49 72	11 12 13 17 22 35 64 92	10 14 16 22 37 55 78 95	16 19 24 29 56 64 87 98	24 26 40 51 68 81 103 112	40 58 57 87 109 104 121 100	51 60 69 80 103 113 120 103	61 55 56 62 77 92 101 99
Tab	le K.2	Chro	omina	ince q	uantiz	ation	table
17 18 24 47 99 99	18 21 26 66 99 99	24 26 56 99 99 99	47 66 99 99 99 99	99 99 99 99 99 99	99 99 99 99 99 99	99 99 99 99 99 99	99 99 99 99 99 99





200 202 189 188 189 175 175 175	515	65	-12	4	1
200 203 198 188 189 182 178 175	-16	3	2	0	0
203 200 200 195 200 187 185 175	-12	6	11	-1	3
200 200 200 200 197 187 187 187	-8	3	-4	2	-2
200 205 200 200 195 188 187 175	0	-2	7	-5	4
200 200 200 200 200 190 187 175	0	-3	-1	0	4
205 200 199 200 191 187 187 175	3	-2	-3	3	3
210 200 200 200 188 185 187 186	-2	5	-2	4	-2
f(i, j)			I	F(u,	v)

JPEG compression for a smooth image block

2 -8 5

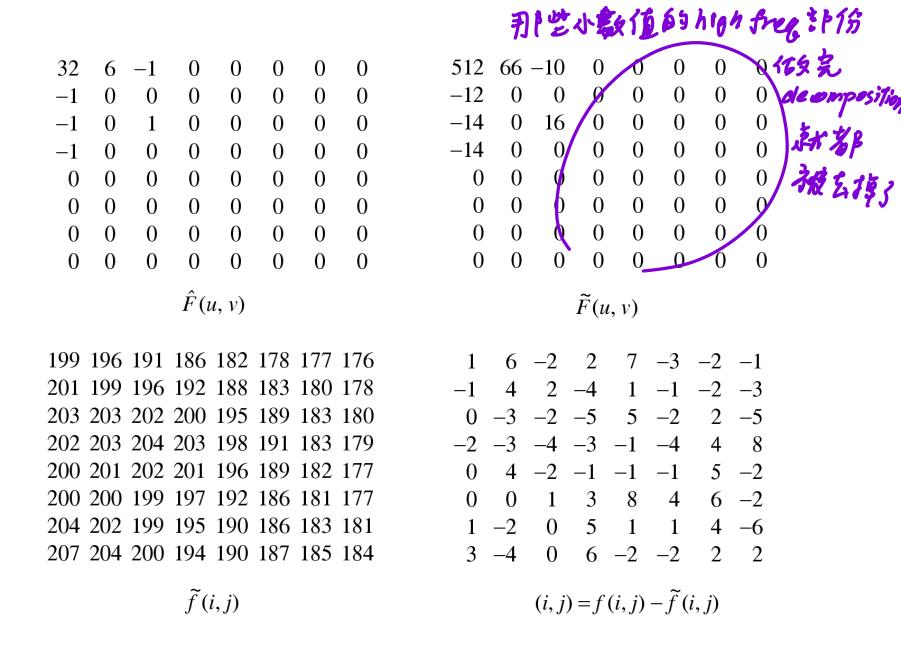
0 -1 -4

0 -11 -2 3 3 0 1 -2

-2 -3 -5 -2

3 -1 -1 3 -2 2 -3 0

4



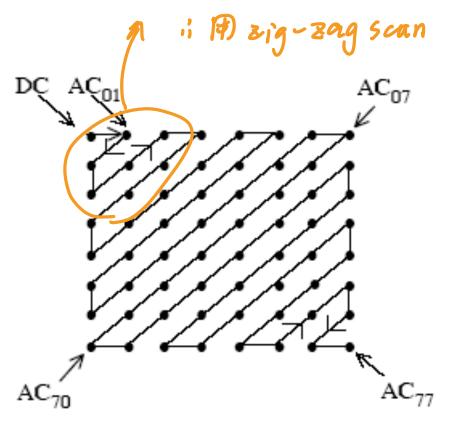
JPEG compression for a smooth image block

Entropy Coding of DCT Coefficients

- ☐ A two-step process:
 - The first step converts the zig-zag sequence of quantized coefficients into an intermediate sequence of symbols, turning the 8x8 matrix into a 64-vector. This increases the likelihood of creating a long run of zeros.
 - The second step converts the intermediate symbols into code stream
- ☐ The form and definition of the intermediate symbols is dependent on both the mode of operations and the entropy coding methods
- Entropy coding methods
 - Huffman coding
 - Arithmetic coding
- □ DC and AC coefficients are coded separately (but in a similar way) 半乳化不立一株、分開 たこ.

Zig-Zag Sequence

?有值的多在无上狗,那几个分都是。



0	1	5	6	14	15	27	28
2	4	7	13	16	26	29	42
3	8	12	17	25	30	41	43
9	11	18	24	31	40	44	53
10	19	23	32	39	45	52	54
20	22	33	38	46	51	55	60
21	34	37	47	50	56	59	61
35	36	48	49	57	58	62	63

Encoding AC Coefficients

Each nonzero AC coefficient is represented in combination with the "runlength" (consecutive number) of preceding zero-valued AC coefficients 次初面的 for a coefficient

Symbol_1 J

(RUNLENGTH, SIZE)

Non-zero coefficient

Symbol_2

(AMPLITUDE)

RUNLENGTH

- Represents zero-runs of length 0 to 15
- Zero-runs can be greater than 15. The value (15,0) for symbol-1 is used as an extension symbol with runlength=16.
- There can be up to 3 consecutive (15,0) extensions before the terminating symbol_1 whose RUNLENGTH value completes the actual runlength.
- The terminating symbol_1 is always followed by a single symbol_2, except for the case where the last run of zeros includes the last (63rd) AC coefficient.
- The special symbol_1 value (0,0) means EOB (end of block), which denotes that the remaining coefficients in the block are zero.

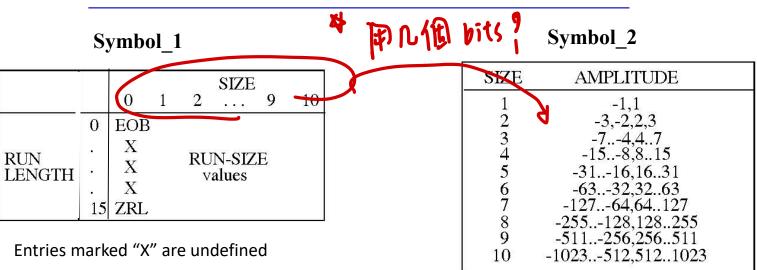


Range of AC Coefficients

- □ SIZE
 - The number of bits needed to represent the coefficient
- AMPLITUDE
 - Bit pattern of the nonzero AC coefficient amplitude
- ☐ For 8-bit integer source samples
 - \circ Range of input pixel value: [-2⁷, 2⁷-1]
 - Then range of the amplitude of quantized AC coefficient is $[-2^{10}, 2^{10}-1]$
 - So the symbol AMPLITUDE has 1 to 10 bits in length Hence,
 SIZE has values from 1 to 10.
 - O RUNLENGTH represents values from 0 to 15, as discussed earlier
- Separate Huffman tables for luminance and chrominance

以 Luminance 年中 chrominance 经生的本心学不同,所以程度用不同 table???

Structure of AC Code Table



- ☐ The composite value (RUNLENGTH, SIZE) of symbol_1 is Huffman coded, since smaller sizes occurred more often.
- Each Huffman code is followed by additional bits representing SYMBOL_2 that specify the sign and exact magnitude of the coefficient (denote it by ZZ(K)).
- ☐ The AC code table consists of one Huffman code for each possible composite value. The maximum length is 16 bits, excluding the additional bits.
- The value of SIZE gives the number of additional bits required to specify the sign and precise magnitude of the coefficient ZZ(K). The additional bits are either the low-order SIZE bits of the coefficient if it is positive or the low-order SIZE bits of ZZ(K)-1 if it is negative.

Huffman Table for Luminance AC

	Table K.5 T	able for luminance AC coefficients
Run/Size	Code length	Code word
0/0 (EOE	3) 4	1010
0/1	2	00
0/2	2 2 3	01
0/3	3	100
0/4	4	1011
0/5	5	11010
0/6	7	1111000
0/7	8	11111000
0/8	10	1111110110
0/9	16	1111111110000010
0/A	16	1111111110000011
1/1	4	1100
1/2	5	11011
1/3	7	1111001
1/4	9	111110110
1/5	11	11111110110
1/6	16	1111111110000100
1/7	16	11111111110000101
1/8	16	11111111110000110
1/9	16	1111111110000111
1/A	16	1111111110001000

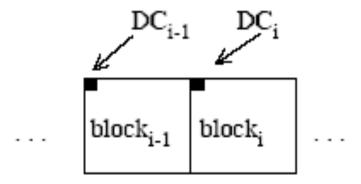
2/1	5	11100
2/2	8	11111001
2/3	10	1111110111
2/4	12	1111111110100
2/5	16	11111111110001001
2/6	16	11111111110001010
2/7	16	11111111110001011
2/8	16	11111111110001100
2/9	16	11111111110001101
2/A	16	111111111100011110
3/1	6	111010
3/2	9	111110111
3/3	12	111111110101
3/4	16	11111111110001111
3/5	16	11111111110010000
3/6	16	11111111110010001
3/7	16	1111111110010010
3/8	16	11111111110010011
3/9	16	1111111110010100
3/A	16	1111111110010101
4/1	6	111011

•

Encoding DC Coefficients (1/4)

- Each DC coefficient is coded differentially, using the quantized DC value of the most recently coded 8x8 block.
- ☐ The coefficient DIFF is obtained as follows:

$$DIFF = DC_i - DC_{i-1}$$



Encoding DC Coefficients (2/4)

☐ Each DPCM coded DC coefficient is represented by two symbols

- SIZE: Number of bits for representing the coefficient
- AMPLITUDE: Two's complement difference magnitude
- Example (using the code from the table on the next page)

- □ SIZE is Huffman coded since smaller sizes occurred more often
- ☐ AMPLITUDE is not Huffman coded. Its value can change widely so Huffman coding has no appreciable benefit

Encoding DC Coefficients (3/4)

- ☐ The two's complement difference magnitudes are grouped into 12 categories indicated by SIZE
- □ A Huffman code is created for each of the 12 categories 16 € € 1

SIZE	DIFF values
0	0
1	-1,1
2	-3,-2,2,3
3	-74,47
4	-158,815
5	-3116,1631
6	-6332,3263
7	-12764,64127
8	-255128,128255
9	-511256,256511
10	-1023512,5121023
11	-20471024,10242047

Table K.3	Table for lumi	nance DC difference
Category	Code length	Code word
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	2 3 3 3 3 4 5 6 7 8	00 010 011 100 101 110 1110 11110 111110 111111

Table K.4	Table for chron	ninance DC difference
Category	Code length	Code word
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	2 2 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	00 01 10 110 1110 11110 111110 11111110 111111

Encoding DC Coefficients (4/4)

- For each category, except SIZE=0, an additional bit field is appended to the code word to uniquely specify which difference in that category actually occurred.
- ☐ The number of extra bits is given by SIZE
- When DIFF is positive, the SIZE low-order bits of DIFF are transmitted.
- When DIFF is negative, the SIZE low-order bits of (DIFF-1) are transmitted.
- ☐ The most significant bit of the appended bit sequence is 0 for negative differences and 1 for positive differences.

Baseline Encoding Example (1/3)

139	144	149	153	155	155	155	155	235.6	-1.0	-12.1	-5.2	2.1	-1.7	-2.7	1.3	16	11	10	16	24	40	51	61
144	151	153	156	159	156	156	156	-22.6	-17.5	-6.2	-3.2	-2.9	-0.1	0.4	-1.2	12	12	14	19	26	58	60	55
150	155	160	163	158	156	156	156	-10.9	-9.3	-1.6	1.5	0.2	-0.9	-0.6	-0.1	14	13	16	24	40	57	69	56
159	161	162	160	160	159	159	159	-7.1	-1.9	0.2	1.5	0.9	-0.1	0.0	0.3	14	17	22	29	51	87	80	62
159	160	161	162	162	155	155	155	-0.6	-0.8	1.5	1.6	-0.1	-0.7	0.6	1.3	18	22	37	56	68	109	103	77
161	161	161	161	160	157	157	157	1.8	-0.2	1.6	-0.3	-0.8	1.5	1.0	-1.0	24	35	55	64	81	104	113	92
162	162	161	163	162	157	157	157	-1.3	-0.4	-0.3	-1.5	-0.5	1.7	1.1	-0.8	49	64	78	87	103	121	120	101
162	162	161	161	163	158	158	158	-2.6	1.6	-3.8	-1.8	1.9	1.2	-0.6	-0.4	72	92	95	98	112	100	103	99

source image samples

(b) forward DCT coefficients

-24

-14

-12

-13

(c) quantization table

•						
0	-1	0	0	0	0	0
						0
-1	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0 -1 -1 0 0 0	0 -1 -1 0 -1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 -1 0 -1 0 0 -1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 -1 0 0 -1 0 0 0 -1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 -1 0 0 0 -1 0 0 0 0 -1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 -1 0 0 0 0 -1 0 0 0 0 0 -1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

O

(f) reconstructed image samples

 <sup>144
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 158</sup>

⁽d) normalized quantized coefficients

⁽e) denormalized quantized coefficients

Baseline Encoding Example (2/3)

- □ DC coefficient
 - Assuming previous DC coefficient = 12
 - 0.15 12 = 3
 - \circ So the intermediate representation of the differential DC is (2,3). ~2.3.现前有1個0 That is, SIZE=2 and AMPLITUDE=3.
- AC coefficients
 - \circ First nonzero coefficient = -2; zero-run = 1
 - \circ 2nd nonzero coefficient = -1; zero-run = 0
 - \circ 3rd nonzero coefficient = -1; zero-run = 0
 - \circ 4th nonzero coefficient = -1; zero-run = 0
 - \circ 5th nonzero coefficient = -1; zero-run = 2
- ☐ The intermediate sequence of symbols is

$$(2,3), (1,2)(-2), (0,1)(-1), (0,1)(-1), (0,1)(-1), (2,1)(-1), (0,0)$$

(d) normalized quantized coefficients

- Codes of the sequence of symbols

(2)	\longrightarrow	011	
-----	-------------------	-----	--

VLC for luminance AC

$$\begin{cases}
(0,0) \to 1010 \\
(0,1) \to 00 \\
(1,2) \to 11011 \\
(2,1) \to 11100
\end{cases}$$

Amplitude

Amplitude
$$3 \rightarrow 11 \text{ by palby fill 1}$$

$$-2 \rightarrow 01 - 1'_{3} \text{ complement 6} \Rightarrow \text{ for the 8x8 block (31 bits)}$$
Bit stream for the 8x8 block (31 bits)

O Bit-stream for the 8x8 block (31 bits)

04444	4404404	000	000	000	444000	4040
<u>011</u> 11	<u>1101101</u>	000	<u>00</u> 0	<u>00</u> 0	<u>11100</u> 0	<u>1010</u>
(2,3)	(1,2) 2	(0,1)-1	(0,1)-1	(2,1) 1	(0,0)
		10	0,11-1			

Table K.3	lable for lumi	nance DC difference
Category	Code length	Code word
0	2	00
1	3	010
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	3	011
3	3	100
4	3	101
5	3	110
6	4	1110
7	5	11110
8	6	111110
9	7	1111110
10	8	11111110
11	9	111111110

Table K.5 Table for luminance AC coefficient		
Run/Size	Code length	Code word
0/0 (EOI	3) 4	1010
0/1	2	00
0/2	2 2 3	01
0/3	3	100
0/4	4	1011
0/5	5	11010
0/6	7	1111000
0/7	8	11111000
0/8	10	1111110110
0/9	16	11111111110000010
O/A	16	11111111110000011
1/1	4	1100
1/2	5	11011
1/3	7	1111001
1/4	9	111110110
1/5	11	11111110110
1/6	16	11111111110000100
1/7	16	11111111110000101
1/8	16	11111111110000110
1/9	16	1111111110000111
1/A	16	1111111110001000

Two's complement examples

- 3 → 011
- 2 → 010
- 1 → 001
- 0 → 000
- -1 → 111
- - 2 → 110
- -3 → 101

One's complement examples

- 3 → 011
- 2 → 010
- 1 → 001
- 0 → 000
- -1 → 110
- -2 → 101
- -3 → 100

Four JPEG Modes

- ☐ Sequential Mode
 - The default JPEG mode, implicitly assumed in the discussions so far.
 - Each graylevel image or color image component is encoded in a single left-to-right, top-to-bottom scan.
- ☐ Progressive Mode
- ☐ Hierarchical Mode
- Lossless Mode

Progressive Mode

Progressive JPEG delivers low quality versions of the image quickly, followed by higher quality passes. Two ways:

1.Spectral selection: Takes advantage of the "spectral" (spatial frequency spectrum) characteristics of the DCT coefficients: higher AC components provide detail information.

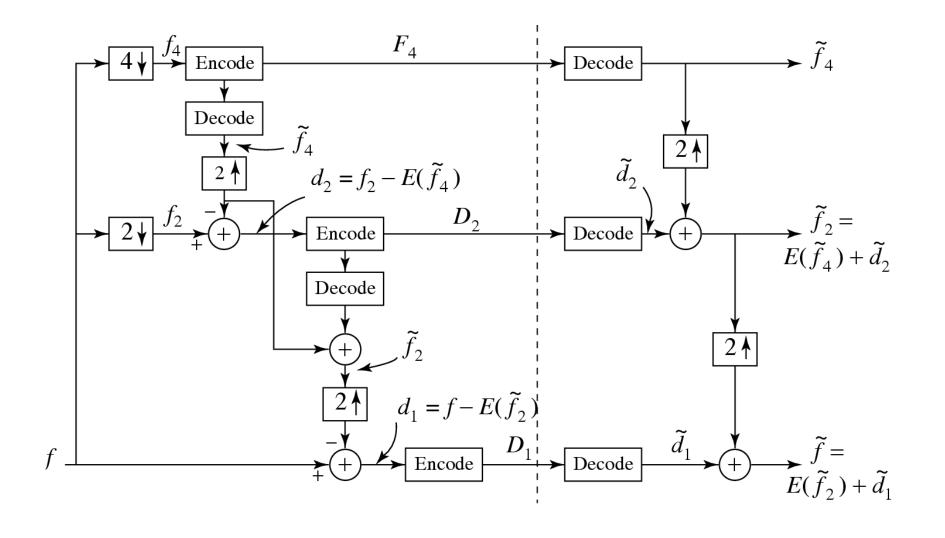
- Scan 1: Encode DC and first few AC components, e.g., AC1, AC2.
- Scan 2: Encode a few more AC components, e.g., AC3, AC4, AC5.
- **O** ...
- Scan k: Encode the last few ACs, e.g., AC61, AC62, AC63.

Progressive Mode (Cont'd)

- 2. Successive approximation: Instead of gradually encoding spectral bands, all DCT coefficients are encoded simultaneously but with their most significant bits (MSBs) first.
 - Scan 1: Encode the first few MSBs, e.g., Bits 7, 6, 5, 4.
 - Scan 2: Encode a few more less significant bits, e.g., Bit 3.
 - **O** ...
 - Scan m: Encode the least significant bit (LSB), Bit 0.

Hierarchical Mode

- ☐ The encoded image at the lowest resolution is basically a compressed low-pass filtered image, whereas the images at successively higher resolutions provide additional details (differences from the lower resolution images).
- Similar to Progressive JPEG, the Hierarchical JPEG images can be transmitted in multiple passes to progressively improve image quality.



Block diagram of three-level hierarchical JPEG

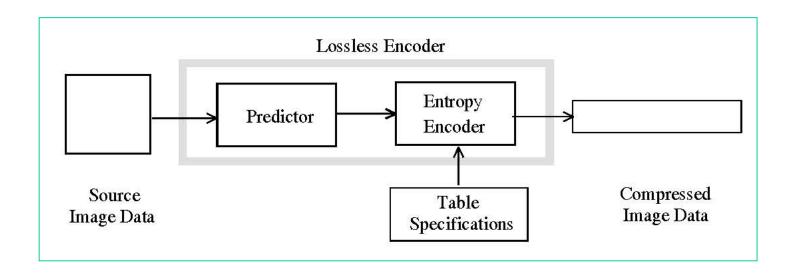
Encoder for a Three-Level Hierarchical JPEG

- 1. Reduction of image resolution:
- ■Reduce resolution of the input image f (e.g., 512×512) by a factor of 2 in each dimension to obtain f_2 (e.g., 256 × 256). Repeat this to obtain f_4 (e.g., 128 × 128).
- 2. Compress low-resolution image f_4 :
- \square Encode f_4 using any other JPEG method (e.g., Sequential, Progressive) to obtain F_4 .
- 3. Compress difference image d_2 :
- Decode F_4 to obtain . Use any interpolation method to expand to be of the same resolution as f_2 an \tilde{f}_4 call it E(
- \Box Encode difference usi\(\hat{\eta}_2\) g any other JPEG method (e.g., Sequential, Progressive) to generable $\partial_2 f_2 E(\tilde{f}_4)$
- 4. Compress difference image d₁:
- □ Decode D_2 to obtain ; add it to E() to get which is a version of f_2 after compression and $d\tilde{t}_2$ compression. \tilde{f}_4 $\tilde{f}_2 = E(\tilde{f}_4) + \tilde{d}_2$
- \square Encode difference using any other JPEG method (e.g., Sequential, Progressive) to generate $\mathcal{D}_{1}f E(\tilde{f}_{2})$

Three-Level Hierarchical JPEG Decoder

- Decompress the encoded low-resolution image F_4 Decode F_4 using the same JPEG method as in the encoder to obtain . \tilde{f}_4
- \square Restore image \tilde{f}_2 at the intermediate resolution Use $E(\tilde{f}_4) + \tilde{d}_2$ to obtain \tilde{f}_2 .
- \square 3. Restore image \tilde{f} at the original resolution Use $E(\tilde{f}_2) + \tilde{d}_1$ to obtain \tilde{f} .

Predictive Lossless Coding Mode



	12-2-17	
С	В	ē.
A	X	ž.

selection- value	prediction
0	no prediction
1	\mathbf{A}
2	В
3	C
4	A+B-C
5	A+((B-C)/2)
6	B+((A-C)/2)
7	(A+B)/2

9.1.3 JPEG Bitstream Structure

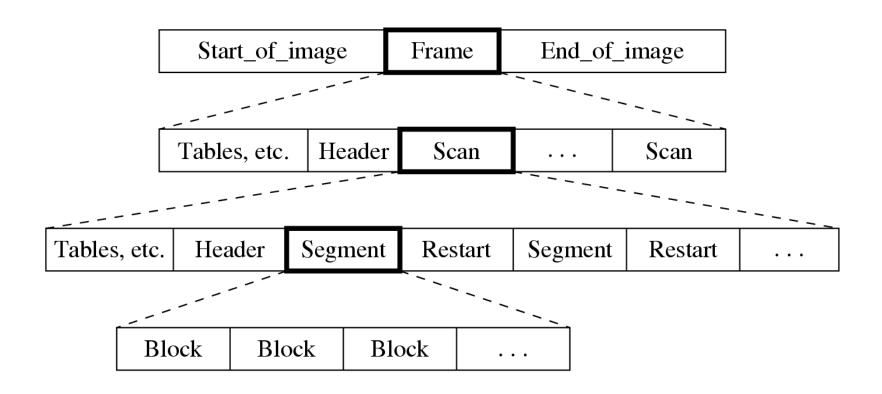


Fig. 9.6: JPEG bitstream.

Bitstream Syntax

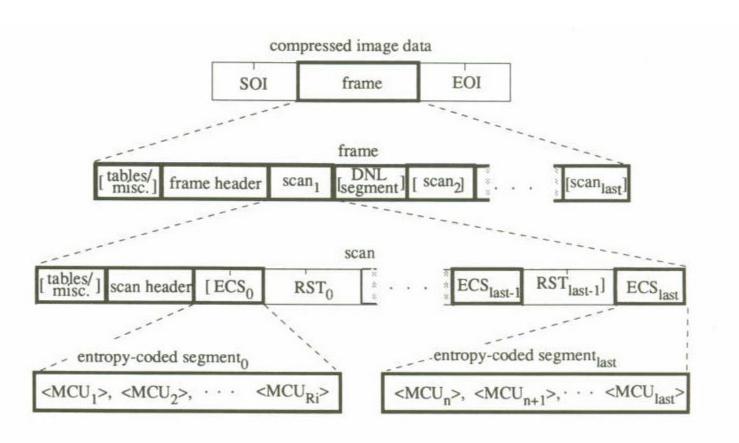


Figure B.2 - Syntax for sequential DCT-based, progressive DCT-based, and lossless modes of operation

SOI: Start of image EOI: End of image RST: Restart marker

ECS: Entropy-coded segment DNL: Define number of lines MCU: minimum coded unit

Syntax

The three markers shown in Figure B.2 are defined as follows:

SOI: start of image marker: marks the start of a compressed image represented in the interchange format.

EOI: end of image marker: marks the end of a compressed image represented in the interchange format.

RST_m: restart marker: an optional marker which is placed between entropy-coded segment only if restart is enabled. There are 8 unique restart markers (m=0-7) which repeat in sequence from 0 to 7 to provide a modulo 8 restart interval count.

A frame is a picture.

A scan is a pass through the pixels (eg. the red component).

A segment is a group of blocks.

A block consists of 8x8 pixels.

Picture Quality

Bit Rate (bits/pixel)	Quality
0.25-0.5	Moderate to good
0.5-0.75	Good to very good
0.75-1.5	Excellent
1.5-2.0	Visually indistinguishable from the original

- □ © 2014 EPFL
- □ 12.12.14 JPEG is the image format we use the most in the world, be it in our computers, smartphones or digital cameras. But it is actually more than that. JPEG is also an international group of experts, which recently elected as its head an EPFL Professor: Touradj Ebrahimi. The new President sheds light on the JPEG adventure and gives us an overview of new features in development.

Four letters, over twenty years in existence and a virtual world monopoly in image compression. The JPEG standard, which is used more than one billion times each day on social networks alone, recently elected as its Head the EPFL professor Touradj Ebrahimi. At its core, what is the significance of JPEG? Touradj Ebrahimi gives us an overview of this popular standard that has revolutionized our lives.

☐ JPEG is everywhere. The basis of this project, however, was laid out over 30 years ago...

This is true. JPEG is an image format created to address a major problem in the digital age. In the early 80s, no technology existed to copy or transmit electronic images. Minitel, invented by the French, only allows you to send text and simple graphics. We had to find a way to reduce the size of image files. It was the international standardization groups and telecommunications industry that provided the impetus for the creation of JPEG. In 1982, they brought world experts in image compression to the table to form the "Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG)." The JPEG format was created in 1992.

■ How does JPEG reduce image file sizes more that other formats?

Basically, JPEG relies on a lossy compression algorithm. When an image is compressed in JPEG, a portion of its contents is destroyed, but practically without being noticeable to the human eye. This technique makes it possible to reduce the image file size, so that it can be easily stored, copied and transmitted. Over the years, other formats with various technologies have been developed, such as JPEG2000, which can operate with or without loss. Lossless compression is used mainly in the medical settings, where it is crucial to preserve image details. The JPEG group is also working on a new standard called JPEG XT, which will allow efficient compression of High-Dynamic-Range images with a wide color gamut.

□ Why has JPEG become a global standard?

At the time of the emergence of Internet and digital devices, JPEG was the only international standard that was free and accessible to all. While other commercial compression formats were offered by private companies (e.g.: Kodak), JPEG was the only partially open format, suitable for all devices and software, requiring no royalties. Another reason for this success is that new JPEG formats, such as JPEG XT, are developed so as to be always readable with an old version of JPEG. It's important not to rush the consumers, because they do not like abrupt changes. The proof is that after 22 years of existence, JPEG has strengthened and is increasingly popular.

☐ If everything is open and free, what's the point of working on the development of standards such as JPEG?

There are several. When a format is free, developers and consumers are more inclined to use it. If it is also open source, it means that everybody can access the details of the algorithm, and try to improve it. For scientists, it is therefore easier to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the approach, and to propose new ideas to improve it.

□ What are your next challenges as President of JPEG?

Before the end of 2015, we plan to finalize the new JPEG XT format, for an efficient compression of High-Dynamic-Range (HDR) images, which are increasingly widespread. JPEG XT contains enough information to correct the shot when a picture taken by a digital camera is under-exposed or over-exposed resulting in a too dark or too bright image. Then, for the years 2015-2020, we will launch the basis of a new version of JPEG called JPEG Pleno, in reference to the term "plenoptic." The idea is to correct the focus of a picture after it has been taken, and to make any object in the image sharper even if it appears blurred in the initial picture. It will also be possible to look at any object in the picture, even from a different perspective than what the camera that captured it..

□ Why is image transmission so important to human beings?

To have value and meaning, an image must be shared and copied. Since the dawn of time, humans have sought to transmit images, whether by painting on cave walls, by copying illustrations manually or by mechanically reproducing them with the invention of the printing press. The instrument of JPEG is part of this mission of transmission, but this time in digital form. It has changed our world. Today, almost everyone has used JPEG, whether via computer, smartphone, tablet or camera. And yet, most of the time, people don't really know what it is.

■ How do you predict our relationship with images will evolve in the future? I hope JPEG Pleno can last for 20 to 30 years. Then, in my opinion, we will progress towards a point at which it's no longer necessary to go through the eye to access images. Images could for example be injected directly into the brain!